



SIoux COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

Volume 29
Issue 2 Spring 2020

4051 Cherry Ave Hawarden, IA 51023

www.siouxcountyparks.org

712-552-1047

Prairie Woods Nature Center

Summer Hours

April– October

Monday: Closed

Tuesday: 9 am- 4 pm

Wednesday: 9 am- 4 pm

Thursday: 1- 7 pm

Friday: 9 am- 4 pm

Saturday: 9 am- 4 pm

Sunday: 1- 4 pm

Winter Hours

November– March

Monday: Closed

Tuesday: 9 am- 4 pm

Wednesday: 9 am- 4 pm

Thursday: 1- 4 pm

Friday: 9 am- 4 pm

As of writing this article the Prairie Woods Nature Center has been open all of a good month. It has been a very busy month with the wrapping up of moving additional supplies that hadn't made it into the building prior to our open house. It has also been fun seeing how our visitors interact with the new facility and the expressions on their faces as they walk through the exhibit hall.

We started slow with a couple smaller open houses prior to our grand opening. We had a volunteer open house and training that took place early January to allow them a chance to meet and greet our new volunteers, they could view exhibit and learn what our current needs are. We held an teacher and activity director open house during winter break. Teachers were impressed and eager to get their name on the list for their class's field trips and senior citizen visits. We had our grand open house on January 11, 2020 for all to come and experience the center. We were thrilled with the turn out! Within the first hour of opening our doors, we already had 100 people in the building and that continued as the day went on averaging anywhere between 100-200 people in the door an hour. We celebrated at the end of the day with nearly 1,300 people visiting the Prairie Woods Nature Center! The building was buzzing and bustling from all the activity of the day.

Since the open house we have averaged a hand full of people in the center during the week days and on the weekends we have seen more families coming out to visit. With the approaching spring and adjustment of hours for the summer, we are excited for more families and individuals to take advantage of our evenings and weekend hours. We have officially had four field trip out at the center since opening and writing of this newsletter. We have a whole lot more on the docket in the coming months.

The SELF program that we are currently offering every third Tuesday of the month for those that are retired or happen to be available during that time has seen huge success.

We are looking forward to additional programming being offered in addition to what we have been offering for the summer. Read on to find out about additional programming options that are available in the county in the upcoming months. You may also check out our website for any new programs that get decided on after printing of this newsletter.



Sioux County Parks Updates:

The parks have been pretty quiet the last few months giving staff time to catch up on equipment maintenance and assuring everything is ready to run once the nicer spring weather hits. Along with time to update and make new signage around the parks. This past winter has been a busier one for the Oak Grove Staff despite the quietness. We spent the better part of late fall months packing and moving from our old office building to the new nature center and flipping the old office into a park ranger station/breakroom for the park rangers and summer maintenance staff. The moving and so forth went fairly smoothly with the nice winter weather we had this year. We have also been out to the ice fishing clinic hosted by our education department for the surrounding schools. In the weeks ahead we will be finishing up our main round of equipment maintenance, with nicer days in the forecast we will start getting additional firewood cut and of course those of us at flood prone parks will be monitoring the river levels. We are hoping for a gradual thaw up north this year to minimize the amount of flooding we will experience this spring. We look forward to watching the birds migrate through and anticipate a busy spring with controlled burns, extra traffic to the nature center, additional programming and if all goes well maybe an early camping season in April. Here are some highlights from our park rangers about their areas.



Oak Grove/Big Sioux Park

By: Myron Dekkers, Park Ranger

I would say we've been pretty spoiled this winter. Sure, we had some cold temps and some snow, but all in all, it could have been a lot worse.

Out here at Oak Grove, it has been a typical winter of doing some patrolling during the hunting seasons, snow removal, making some park signs, doing equipment maintenance, cutting firewood, cutting down cedar trees, along with a few other odds and ends. Time was also spent helping to move the administration offices to the nature center. By having the administration offices move over to the nature center, fellow Park Ranger Damon Anderson and myself moved into the old office building and have turned the building into our Ranger Station.

We will see how the Big Sioux River and the Rock River treat us this spring. It sounds like there is quite a bit of snow up north that will be making its way down the rivers. I am definitely hoping for a GRADUAL thaw, not only for us, but also for all of you who live/farm along these powerful forces of nature.

This spring, we are looking forward to seeing the results of our fall seeding of native grasses and forbs around the nature center. We were not able to get it all seeded, so there is definitely more landscaping in our immediate future.

Thank you to all who attended the grand opening of the Prairie Woods Nature Center this past January. The show of your support was remarkable. It is a great privilege seeing you and your families continuing to visit and enjoy the 24 parks and wildlife areas throughout the county.

I'll see you around.

Big Sioux Recreation Area

By: Alex Lynott, Park Ranger

Picture this it's December of 2018. Though the exposed bare skin of my face hardens and my lips crack beyond the point of relief from the frozen chap stick in my pocket, there is work to be done in the park and humans have yet to evolve into needing the whole hibernation thing, unfortunately. Bundled in enough layers that would warrant a search and rescue for me should I trip and fall, I throw my leg over the fallen tree very carefully to get to my project site for the day. With this many layers on, there is no getting back up should I go down. Hoping the chainsaw will start in one pull, I can quickly warm up and shed three of the five layers of insulation. The winter morning sun makes the frost on the trees glisten, lessens the biting cold air, and the songbirds start singing to warm themselves up. I lift my stocking hat to expose one ear and turn the chainsaw off and listen as the park says good morning. I take a break and load the cut logs so I can identify who all is talking and flying by me. Something in the sky catches my eye and is moving in my direction. The black dot gets bigger and turns into four dots. I'm now using my fingers to keep my tearing eyes open. I can sense this is something big coming my way. Four prehistoric looking, white feathered giants fly right over me, silently. There was no mistaking this identification, four Trumpeter Swans cruised over the Big Sioux Recreation Area in no hurry to any-



where specific, but I begged them to come back and land so I could officially count them in my ongoing bird species list for this park. When they became tiny black dots again, I shouted, "Yes!" so loud with a fist pump that all the little birds went silent and I swear all the frost fell off the trees.

Before Iowa was settled, Trumpeter Swans inhabited our wetlands in great numbers. When the settlers moved west, they drained wetlands for agriculture uses and hunted any and every species relentlessly. This decimated the Trumpeter Swan population all across the United States. In the 1930's, only 69 Trumpeter Swans were counted in the continental U.S. and all of them were found in southwest Montana. Up until 1998, the last known nesting pair of swans in Iowa was in 1883, southwest of Belmond in the now Twin Lakes Wildlife Area. In 1998, three baby swans (cygnets) hatched from a pair near Dubuque Iowa, breaking the 115 year absence.

In 1993, the Iowa DNR devised a reintroduction plan to restore their population with a goal of establishing 15 wild nesting pairs. To date, there are 50 DNR breeding sites across the state. These swans are marked with red and green neck and leg bands.



As there becomes more and more awareness of conservation issues affecting species such as the Trumpeter Swan, their populations continue to rebound and they find safe places to come back home. Like many species in the state, Trumpeter Swans are seen in very large migrating numbers in central and eastern Iowa. Northwest Iowa, with many species, seems to only be treated every once in a great while with the presence of a rarer species.

This winter, five Trumpeter Swans visited the Big Sioux Recreation Area for several weeks! Three adults and two darker juveniles that would have hatched in the spring of 2019. These are the first Trumpeter Swans documented here at the Big Sioux Rec Area and you can only imagine how happy it made me!

As the days get longer and the temperatures gradually rise with time, I look forward to spring migration and all the new species it may bring to the park! Who knows, maybe the loons will swing by again for a rest on the lake as they make the journey north back home!

Sandy Hollow Recreation Area

By: Taylor Deegan, Park Ranger

As we quickly approach the third month of 2020, the winter within this region seems to maintain fairly mild conditions. Moving forward into the rest of the season and early spring it will be interesting to keep an eye on precipitation levels as it is still pretty clear that there is quite a bit of ground saturation. While flooding and widespread rainfall seem to be almost a common occurrence during the past couple of years, we are confident that recent flood infrastructure changes and proactive water drainage will substantially decrease any damages out at Sandy Hollow. Flash flooding still remains somewhat challenging for us to control in the short term as surface water in drainage areas (virtually all of the wildlife/park areas) backs up. It still does remain manageable though due to these changes in lower areas to streamline watershed and won't create damage or potential hazards for the public.

Besides anticipating the upcoming season we have been keeping busy doing the following tasks and work: repainting in our rental and bathroom facilities, creation of outdoor animal enclosures for the Nature Center, finishing office and meeting room at Sandy Hollow, assisting in ice finishing clinics put on by our education department, updating and fixing signage at our parks and wildlife areas, hunting/fishing law enforcement, updating to our certifications, hiring seasonal employees, etc.

One of the benefits to living in a location like Northwest Iowa is that each season offers its unique set of tasks to be completed and conditions to do them in. While many people would see a climate like this as hard to live with, it really does offer a natural solution to the monotony that undoubtedly can enter our lives. While we have our favorite times of the year and specific days that we always seem to long for, the fact that we also don't have them and that we see the complete opposite ends of the weather spectrum in such a short period of time gives us a very valuable perspective that is almost refreshed every time of the year. It offers a deeper appreciation for the beautiful days and gratefulness for the simple necessities of life that make the unpleasant days tolerable.



Environmental Education Opportunities

Join the Sioux County Conservation Education Staff for a spring & summer full of fun! Pre-registration is required for some events please visit our website at www.mycountyparks.com/county/sioux.aspx to learn more about the programs or to register. Participants must attend complete event they are signed up for. If you cannot fulfill this please contact us to be removed from the registration list. Programs held at Prairie Woods Nature Center are indicated by  All other programs location noted in description. Cancellation of programs will be posted on our website, Facebook and on 93.9 FM.

April 1- Summer Camp Registration- Online only

\$5-10/class dependent

8 am

This is the day to sign your kids up for this year's summer camp season! Topics, dates and times will be posted prior to this date on www.siouxcountyparks.org. Registration will open at 8 am on mycountyparks.com April 1.

April 4- Beekeeping, what would you like to know?

9:30- 10:30 am

Have you ever wished you could ask an expert about bees or beekeeping? Now is your chance! Dr. Bajema has been beekeeping for 44+ years, and will give a hands-on presentation on all things bees! This presentation is geared for all ages, including those who know nothing about bees and for those of you who have some experience. Minimum participation is required to host program, pre-registration required for program.

April 17- Celebrate Earth Day with Teddy Roosevelt

6:30-7:30 pm

Join us in welcoming local historian, Duane Jundt, for a presentation on our nation's greatest president, Theodore Roosevelt. We will learn from him about TR the hunter-naturalist and how he acted save the American landscape, forests and birds at the start of the 20th century. We will explore how this legendary figure from our past remains very relevant today. Let's gather to recognize this important part of history as we celebrate Earth Day 2020. Cocoa and a light snack to be served.

April 21- Senior Environmental Learning and Fellowship (SELF)

9:30-10:30 am or 2-3 pm

Seniors! Looking for a great place to gather with friends? Coffee, treats and fellowship will follow a short presentation. Each month we will explore a different area of the natural world. We promise you will enjoy your-SELF!
Topic: Spring Wildflowers

May 2- Writing Nature- Using words to engage the natural world

\$10

9:30- 10:30 pm

Through this writing workshop attendees will improve their writing ability to perceive the natural world and to reflect on the meanings found in nature. Participants will learn through a series of short presentations, outdoor and indoor writing exercises, and group discussions. Ann Lundberg is a Professor of English at Northwestern College. She specializes in environmental and nature writing as taught for the Creation Care Studies Program in Kaikoura, New Zealand. A native of Colorado, she has a Bachelor's degree in geology from the University of Wyoming and has spent several summers working as a Ranger with the National Park Service. Pre-registration required, only 15 spots open. \$10 cost that may be paid at class. Ages teen through adult. Location is Prairie Woods Nature Center. After registration, a selection of readings will be emailed to do in advance of class.

May 19- Senior Environmental Learning and Fellowship (SELF)

9:30-10:30 am or 2-3 pm

Seniors! Looking for a great place to gather with friends? Coffee, treats and fellowship will follow a short presentation. Each month we will explore a different area of the natural world. We promise you will enjoy your-SELF!
Topic: Ecological Relationships

June 6- Family Fishing Clinic- Sandy Hollow Recreation Area

9 am- 12:30 pm

All ages are welcomed! Those 8 years and under must have an adult present. Join us at the shade shelter near the pond for a fun filled morning. Program will include fishing instruction, fishing, casting contest, ending with lunch and giveaways. Fishing poles and bait provided, or bring your own. No cost, entry fee to park waved for participants during event hours. Event is cosponsored with Sioux County Sportsmen's Club. Those 16 years of age and older must have a valid fishing license to actively fish.

June 11- Outdoor Skills Day- Oak Grove Park**8:30 am- 4 pm**

All ages, those 8 years and under must have an adult present. This is a fun-filled Thursday with sessions that may include: shotgun shooting, air rifles, archery, outdoor cooking, wrist rockets, deer hunting lessons, canoeing, improving outdoor skills, and much more! This event is cosponsored with 4-H Extension and Outreach and Sioux County Sportsmen's Club. Lunch will be provided for participants. No cost for event. You must preregister online. First 270 kids will be accepted. This is an annual event that kids always look forward to!

 **June 16– Senior Environmental Learning and Fellowship (SELF)****9:30-10:30 am or 2-3 pm**

Seniors! Looking for a great place to gather with friends? Coffee, treats and fellowship will follow a short presentation. Each month we will explore a different area of the natural world. We promise you will enjoy your-SELF!

Topic: Insects

 **June 20- Do You Want to be an Insect?****2:30- 4 pm**

What would your gigantic world be like? Where would you live, hide, eat or lay eggs? Let us explore the trails at Oak Grove Park with entomologist and Dordt Professor, Jeremy Hummel. We will be armed with nets and Ziploc bags for a catch and release hike. Trails are not stroller friendly, you will want to bring bug spray, sunscreen and water bottle. Indoor program planned if raining.

July 11- Family Fishing Clinic- Rivers Bend Campground, Rock Valley, IA**9- 11:30 am**

All ages are welcome, ages 8 and under must have an adult present. Fishing poles and bait will be available, or bring your own lucky fishing pole along. Those 16 years of age and older must have valid Iowa Fishing license to actively fish. Event is cosponsored with the City of Rock Valley. Phone in pre-registration is required please call 712/476-6065 after June 11 to register. No cost, entrance fee waived to participants during program.

 **July 21– Senior Environmental Learning and Fellowship (SELF)****9:30-10:30 am or 2-3 pm**

Seniors! Looking for a great place to gather with friends? Coffee, treats and fellowship will follow a short presentation. Each month we will explore a different area of the natural world. We promise you will enjoy your-SELF!

Topic: Prairie Flowers

August 1- Ringneck Rendezvous- Rock Valley Gun Club**\$10****4- 8:30 pm**

Ages 5-16 those ages 5-8 must have an adult present. Minnow races, archery, live animals, outdoor obstacle races, tossing games, water guns, bb guns, trapping, dog training, LOTS OF PRIZES and more can be found at this annual event in Rock Valley. We are welcoming trick shooter, Aaron Gould, back to the event. If you haven't seen his show, you MUST COME! A one handed push up while shooting a clay? That's small stuff! A \$10 registration fee for all youth and adults attending. **Must register by July 24th**. Pre-registration includes a cup, bag, and chances at door prizes. First 400 kids will be accepted. Event cosponsored by Sioux Prairie Pheasants Forever and Rock Valley Gun Club.

 **August 11- Hunter Safety Education Course****9 am- 7 pm**

All ages 11 and over are invited to join us for our annual Hunter Safety Education Course. Participants must attend full length of class. Must register for course online at www.register-ed.com. Once you have registered you will receive your Hunter Safety Manual. You will need to complete the review questions and bring them to class. Class will cover firearm safety, hunting ethics, first aid, hunting laws and much more. Students will need a sack lunch and snacks for the day, supper will be provided.

 **August 18- Senior Environmental Learning and Fellowship (SELF)****9:30-10:30 am or 2-3 pm**

Seniors! Looking for a great place to gather with friends? Coffee, treats and fellowship will follow a short presentation. Each month we will explore a different area of the natural world. We promise you will enjoy your-SELF!

Topic: Water Quality

 **September 5- Monarch Watch****9:30- 11 am**

Join us Saturday morning with the family to learn about monarch migration to Mexico. We will have an overview of Monarchs and their anatomy, their migration pattern, how and why we tag them. There is no cost for event, we have a limited number of nets for use. If you have your own net bring it along. Indoor program planned if raining.

September 8- Trick or Treat Camper Registration- phone registration only

8 am

If you are wishing to make reservations for our annual Trick or Treat hike this is the day to make your call. Please call our main office line at 712-552-1047 to make your reservation starting at 8 am. No other phone numbers, emails, messaging services or walk-ins will be used to register. This is to make reservations for the October 10th event. You may register yourself and one other camper. Reservations are for campsites at both Deer Run Campground and Turkey Ridge Campground. Campers will receive Friday and Saturday night free camping in exchange for enough candy/goodies for 800 children for our October 10 event.

Mark your calendar for upcoming programs:

September 12- Women in the Outdoors

October 17- Youth Hunt

September 15- SELF- Conservation Success Stories

October 20- SELF- Super Vision

September 19- Dutch Oven Gathering

November 17- SELF- Constellation

October 2- Centennial Book and Vintage Auto Tour

December 15- SELF- Sioux County History

October 10- Trick or Treat Hike



thank
you!

Cal De Ruyter, Adam and Steve De Ruyter: signage

Del Vander Zee: handmade table

Les Vander Lugt, Milt Wissink and Duane Pals: building shelves/cleaning

Gradert family: taxidermy on loan

Hope Haven of Hull: cleaning

Ice fishing and nature center volunteers

Jim Jonker and others: deer taxidermy display

Lena Vollink: floral arrangement

Ron and Carol Oostra: rock collection

Stan Oordt: building shelves/cleaning

Foundation Update

Sunday Ford, Assistant Director/Environmental Education Coordinator

The Sioux County Conservation Foundation is actively raising funds for the Prairie Woods Nature Center. This \$4.8 million project is not completely fundraised. Please consider a donation to the center through our website, stopping in the center, or emailing for a pledge card conservation@siouxcounty.org. In the months to come, a Friends group will be set up in order to support this cause.

The Nature Center is just the first project of the Sioux County Conservation Foundation. The mission of this nonprofit organization is "Providing resources for the enhancement, preservation, and enjoyment of nature in Sioux County." They have been an active group of "go-getters".



Summer Camps at Prairie Woods Nature Center

Join Sioux County Naturalist's this summer for outdoor adventures. Pre-registration required and will start April 1, 2020 at 8 am online only. Attendees must attend full length of camp signed up for. Space is limited for camps.

Ages 3-4- Budding Naturalist \$5

These little naturalists will have a hands-on introduction to nature. Parents/adult must attend with child. Includes games, crafts and trail hike.

Date available:

June 17 9- 11 am or 2-4 pm

July 7 9- 11 am or 2-4 pm

July 8 9- 11 am or 2-4 pm



Ages 10-12- Time Travelers \$10

Experience Iowa as Pioneers did. We will make candles, butter, ice cream, weaving and go fishing.

This two day camp will run from 9 am- 3 pm both days.

Dates available:

July 9- 10

July 21- 22



Ages 5-6- Herps Alive \$10

What is a herp, you say? Turtles, frogs, salamanders and yes....snakes! In this camp we will watch them wiggle, catch them in the pond and find their homes on the trails.

Dates available:

June 16- 17 9 am- noon or 1-4 pm

June 18- 19 9 am- noon

June 23- 24 9 am- noon or 1-4 pm

July 14- 15 9 am- noon

Ages 13- 15- Overnight Camp \$10

This overnight camp will give participants the opportunity to pass the Iowa Hunter Education Course (which is required for an Iowa hunting license). As well as participate in a fun overnight camp experience. Participants will learn firearm safety, shoot/don't shoot scenarios, hunting laws and more. We will also go on a night hike, catfish the river, try your hand at archery and make s'mores. Dinner will be potluck style.

Date available:

June 30 starting at 9:30 am through 1 pm on July 1

Ages 7-9- Adventure Camp \$10

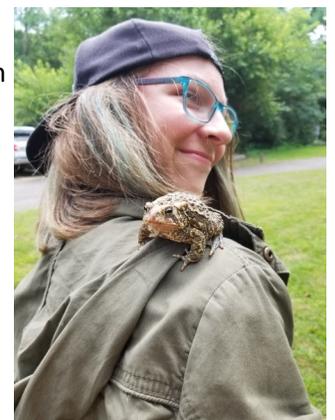
Are you the type that likes to explore, whittle soap, cook outdoors, canoe and kayak? Then this is your camp! Amazing adventures await you. This camp runs 9 am -2pm on both days.

Dates available:

June 18-19 July 14- 15

June 25-26 July 23- 24

June 30- July 1



Register for camps at www.mycountyparks.com

Sioux County Conservation Board is Hiring for Summer Help



Sioux County Conservation Board is looking to hire seasonal help at Oak Grove, Big Sioux Recreation Area and Sandy Hollow Recreation Area. Whether you are a college student looking for a summer job, high school student exploring career options or a retired adult looking for something to keep you busy during the summer months we have positions available. If you enjoy interacting with people and handing out information, the Registration Booth Attendant or Front Desk position is perfect for you. Hours vary including weekends, evenings, holiday and weekdays.

If you are one that enjoys mowing, working with your hands, cleaning and other projects the Seasonal Park Technician position is for you. Hours are Monday to Friday, with some variances as needed.

All applicants must have an interest in the outdoors and working with people of all ages, be able to effectively communicate orally and in writing, apply knowledge and common sense to solve problems and/or achieve work objectives. Must possess a current valid driver's license, be 16 years of age or older and undergo background checks in reference to driving record, criminal history and child abuse registry. Prefer education or training in environmental education, natural resources, wildlife biology, biology/ecology or related field is preferred, but not required. Interest in the outdoors and working with people of all ages is a must for all positions.

See below for further information on positions and starting wages.

Front Desk Receptionist- Prairie Woods Nature Center

This position is located at the Prairie Woods Nature Center at Oak Grove Park. Responsibilities include watching the exhibit hall of the nature center, greeting guests, answering questions, selling gift shop items and other items as available, cleaning of facility and other misc. tasks as assigned. Shifts available include weekdays, evenings, summer holidays and weekends.

Naturalist Internship- Oak Grove

As a summer Naturalist Intern you will use your talents and skills to impact public understanding and attitudes about nature and the environment. Assist naturalist with planning and implementing nature interpretations, outdoor recreation and environmental education programs and media for a wide range of audiences. Preferred education or training in environmental education, natural resources, wildlife biology, biology/ecology or related field is preferred, but not required. Typical work week Monday- Friday, some weekends and holidays.

Registration Booth Attendants- Big Sioux Rec. Area & Sandy Hollow Rec. Area

The Registration Booth Attendant will operate at either the Big Sioux Recreation Area, near Hawarden, IA and/or Sandy Hollow Recreation Area, near Sioux Center, IA. Primary responsibilities include: registering vehicles upon entering park, selling firewood and snacks, renting canoes/kayaks, cleaning of assigned areas and other tasks as assigned. Position to include: weekday, weekend, evening and holiday hours.

Seasonal Park Technician- Big Sioux Rec. Area, Oak Grove Park & Sandy Hollow Rec. Area

Seasonal Park Technicians will assist the full-time Park Ranger/Maintenance Technicians in day to day operations of the parks and facilities. Duties include but not limited to: mowing, cleaning restrooms and facilities, cutting firewood, staining, running farm equipment, register park users, maintain records and much more. Applicants interested in the Seasonal Park Technician position should have the ability to engage in physical work, previous experience with maintenance, landscaping and farm equipment. Typical work week Monday- Friday, some weekends and holidays.

Starting Wages for all positions: \$10.25/hour dependent on experience

Applications available online or by stopping at the Prairie Woods Nature Center.

Camping

Big Sioux Recreation Area

Electric/Water- \$20

Online Reservation- \$25

Full Hook up- \$22

Online Reservation- \$27

Bruce Schomaker Recreation Area

Electric/Water- \$20

Oak Grove

Electric- \$18

Online Reservation- \$23

Tent Site- \$13

Sandy Hollow Recreation Area

Electric- \$18

Electric/water- \$20

Full Hookup- \$22

Online Reservation- \$27

Cabins (online reservations only)

All located at Oak Grove, 2 night minimum stays available April 15– October 15 weather dependent.

Eagles Nest & Whitetail Lodge- \$65 a night

Bluegill Bungalow & Foxes Den- \$75 a night

Shelters

Open shelters located throughout the county no charge, first come first served.

Alton Roadside Park (online reservations only *new 2020)

Enclosed Shelter- \$45

Oak Grove (online reservations only)

Big Sioux Shelter- \$30

Oak Grove Lodge \$150 + \$200 damage deposit fee

Sandy Hollow Recreation Area (online reservations only)

Sandy Hollow Lodge- \$250 + \$250 damage deposit, and group entrance fee.

Volunteers for Prairie Wood Nature Center

If you love nature, teaching kids, getting out on the land, or simply lending a helping hand we have a place for you! We are seeking dynamic volunteers to fulfill a much-needed niche at the Prairie Woods Nature Center located at Oak Grove Park overlooking a spectacular vista. Inside is filled with interactive displays with information regarding our local habitats, history and culture for visitors to explore. Volunteers will greet guest as they visit, answer basic questions and assist in small nature center related tasks. Morning, afternoon and evening shifts available during week days, evenings, weekends and summer holidays.

We are looking for assistance with the following areas:

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Animal Care | Building & Grounds |
| Front Desk | Interpretive Trail |
| Program Development | Teaching Naturalist |
| Event Volunteer | Summer Camp Volunteer |

Other: baking/sewing/research/etc.

If interested in volunteering at the Prairie Woods Nature Center please visit us at our website for further descriptions. Fill out the volunteer application online or one can be picked up at the center. We will be happy to answer any of your questions please call us at 712-552-3057.



Staff

Robert Klocke- Executive Director
Sunday Ford- Assistant Director/EE Coordinator
Jessica Van Oort- Office Assistant
Myron Dekkers- Park Ranger/Maint. Tech.- Oak Grove
Zach Weyer- Park Ranger/Maint. Tech.- Sandy Hollow
Alex Lynott- Park Ranger/Maint. Tech.- Big Sioux Rec. Area
Damon Anderson- Park Ranger/Maint. Tech.- Oak Grove
Sarah Davelaar- Naturalist
Taylor Deegan- Park Ranger/Maint. Tech.- Sandy Hollow

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: Conservation Board meetings are held the first
: Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm in the
: Conservation Corner at the Prairie Woods Nature Center.
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Sioux County Conservation Board Members

Gordon Pottebaum- Chairperson
Dave Meylink- Vice Chairperson
Jerry Jensen- Secretary
Josh Boersma- Member
Jason Smith- Member



Sioux County Conservation Foundation Members

Brian VanEngen- Chairperson
Stan Hoekstra- Treasurer
Dawn DeWit- Secretary
Gordon Pottebaum- Member
Greg Hansen- Member



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Sioux County Conservation Board
Oak Grove Park
4051 Cherry Ave
Hawarden, IA 51023
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