

Cass Co. Cons. Bd
57744 Lewis Rd
Lewis, IA 51544



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People Making a Difference...

Thank you to everyone that took part in our **Soiree with the Swans!**
Thank you to the **ISU Extension Cass County and 4-H Leadership Council** for helping our winter camps a success!
Thank you to **Robin Loring** for all of her hard work over the past year at our Hitchcock Recreational Area.

Cass County Conservation on Facebook!

Search [Cass County Conservation](#) and "like" us on Facebook! Easy way to keep up on events and wildlife sightings around Cass County! Make sure you are getting this in your inbox! Email Lora at lkanning@casscoia.us and let her know to add your email to get the email/PDF version of the Conservation Quarterly!

Cass County Conservation Board Members

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Conservation Quarterly Cass County Conservation Board Spring 2024

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Results of 2024 Great Backyard Bird Count

Overall it was a great year for Iowa in the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC). The Cass County Birders were 13th in the State! Iowa overall was lower in checklists happening, but our showing of 24 checklists was not enough to beat top BIG counties in the state 1st place Polk County with 114 checklists, with Scott, Story, Woodbury, Johnson, Linn, Dubuque, and Black Hawk behind them. We were right behind Dallas county who only had 28 checklists this year. With the new eBird system the record keeping is by county so I cannot really tell you anymore the species reported for each town unless we record them, but Cass County as a whole. Iowa as a whole had 113 species reported and 1,466 checklists! United States reported 681 species and 212,673 checklists. The GBBC is a global bird count sponsored by the National Audubon Society and Cornell Lab of Ornithology, globally 7,920 species and 384,400 checklists. Since 2002 the Cass County Conservation Board has advertised this bird count throughout the county encouraging citizens to participate. Typically participants submit their checklists on the internet, however, for those that are not comfortable using computers, the Conservation Board collects the data and enters the checklists for them. You can explore the results at <https://ebird.org/gbbc/places>.

Cass County Results

Town	# of Checklists Submitted	35 Species Reported total	
Anita	5		
Atlantic	9		
Cumberland	2	Griswold	3
Lewis	2	Marne	0
Massena	1	Wiota	2

More results: American Robins, Snow Geese, White-fronted geese, and lots of hawk species counted in Cass County! Trumpeter Swans were counted just not in their usual quarry spot. Also of note, wild turkeys and Ring necked pheasant individuals were back on the count.

Park Highlights

If you'll notice, we do not have a native plant sale this year. We are taking the year off and supporting our neighbor Montgomery County Conservation in holding a sale this spring. Their order form can be found here: <https://montgomeryccb.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Native-Plant-sale-form-1.pdf>

What a year of projects getting done! Construction and rehabilitation of our main pond out at our Outdoor Educational Classroom is done! This was made possible by a District Fish Habitat Grant. Our Hitchcock House basement wall restoration was finished before the snow of the winter set in. Our volunteers will be busy this month finishing up interior walls & floors that were affected by the basement reconstruction...then we'll be moving all the furniture back into the parlor & dining room. We may not have all the cosmetics done by May 1, but we'll still open! Also, please use caution on the south lawn, as it will be re-seeded as soon as the weather permits. We plan to rope off that area & we appreciate you not disturbing the new grass as it grows. Be aware of the Spring hunting seasons while enjoying our parks where we allow hunting. Don't forget our Standup Paddleboards programs will be on the last Saturday of every month, ending Labor Day Weekend with that Saturday August 31st. We only have 5 currently, so you must pre-register for your spot! To register, call 769-2372, or email to sign up lkanning@casscoia.us. Anyone under 16 must have a parent with them at all times. During the date/times listed for standup paddleboards we will have our new Kayaks available for checkout. You may reserve a spot ahead of time by calling or emailing! We are excited to expand our watersport offerings here in Cass County! These 4 sit in kayaks and 4 sit on top kayaks were made possible by our Cass County Community Foundation grant! We are excited to bring Smokey Bear to Cass County this summer! We will email out another summer update with some summer Reading program opportunities including Smokey Bear! Cold Springs Campground is open for camping for the 2024 season!! Traffic change of note: The road up the hill into the campground is open to foot traffic only. All campers enter the campground off Park Rd. Come join us this year! Our frequent camper card program, stay 6 nights get the 7th FREE- ask our staff! Camping coupon books are now available! \$150 for 11 nights of camping at Cold Springs Park good until Oct 31, 2022. Making Shelter Reservations- To reserve the shelter at Cold Springs Park, contact Ryan Lockwood at 769-2372. Don't forget we take reservations for our Outdoor Educational Classroom Lodge for meetings and events. Please contact the office if you are interested in reserving.

Summer Camps

The Cass County Conservation Board has joined with the Cass County ISU Extension Office to sponsor summer camps for the youth of Cass County. These camps were developed to give children a chance to have fun exploring and learning about nature. Registration fee is \$10 includes a cloth bag. If you have questions, please call Lora at 769-2372 or Katie at 243-1132. Registration Information: See attached forms or you can register by scanning the QR code. If your children are home schooled, register online or using the form.

K-2nd Grade*: Dig those Dinosaurs~ Youth will learn and play as we explore dinosaurs. Make crafts, friends and play games!

3rd-5th Grade*: Water Wonders ~ Youth will explore all things water!

6th-8th Grade*: Outdoor Adventure Camp ~ For children that have completed 6th, 7th, or 8th grade. This camp highlights a Natural Resource job and an outdoor recreation activity. Activities this year include Wildlife activities, Archery, and Dutch Oven Cooking.

Busing is available from Cass Co. Community center.

To Register: Print the form or register online, and return with \$10 per camp to the Cass County Extension Office to complete your registration. Questions: Call 243-1132! *Please Note- grade listed above refer to grade just completed.

2024 Nature Tots Preschool Summer Programs

Get outside with your tots this summer!! This is open to preschoolers only (3, 4, and 5 yr olds who have NOT attended Kdg yet), and they must be accompanied by an adult or caregiver!



Choose your date, it is the same program per week. FREE, space is limited, must Pre-register see attached registration form or register on-line here: <https://www.mycountyparks.com/County/Cass/Events.aspx> ! We hope to see you there!

Upcoming Events



Denotes an Oak Stroller approved event! All Cass County Programs are FREE unless otherwise stated! Donations for programs are accepted.



Wildflower Walk
Saturday, April 27th- 9AM
Pellett Memorial Woods

Join us for our annual Spring Wildflower Walk with our naturalist!



Hitchcock Pioneer Skills Festival- The 30th annual Pioneer Skills Festival is scheduled for **Saturday, May 4th**. Come visit the famous Hitchcock House (a National Landmark and former stop on the Underground Railroad) just west of Lewis and see tin punching, rope-making, butter making and many other skills that were vital to pioneer survival. This event will be open to the public from **1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m.** There will be a \$5 fee for a tour of the Hitchcock House. B.Y.O.M. for some apple cider!



Bike to School Day is May 8th

Save some gas and bike around that day or all week!

Movie in the Park

May 24th 9PM- Cold Springs Park Campground Shelter- Migration

Come out for a movie under the stars! Bring a blanket or chair, Dress for the weather and if it RAINS it will be CANCELLED.

National Trails Day

June 1st 10AM-12PM

Meet at the Schildberg Rec. Area- Campground Shelter.

Bike, walk, strollers, everyone is welcome at the Schildberg Rec. Area in support of Nishna Valley Trails group and National Trails Day. Local Kiwanis group will have their lunch trailer there! Follow us on facebook for a list of activities as the event approaches.



Lake Anita Kids' Fishing Day

Kids, come to Lake Anita on **Saturday, June 8th** for a fun morning of fishing (bring your poles) and information! Learn about the fish in Lake Anita, followed by hands on fishing! Prizes will be awarded to participants, no child will leave empty handed! Registration starts at 9:30 a.m. near at the beach parking lot, fishing starts at 10AM.



Cass County Fishing Derby

June 15th Fishing starts at 9AM

Cold Springs Park

Please pre-register, derby is limited to 50 participants, 15 years old and younger. Pre-register by calling 769-2372.

Standup Paddleboard Demonstration- see information on page 2. Kayaks available for check out.

Cold Springs Park- Beach 1pm- 4pm

May 25th 1pm- 5 Spots available

2:30PM- 5 Spots available

June 29th 1pm- 5 Spots available

2:30pm- 5 Spots available

Stay tuned for more on the July programs and more in the Summer Newsletter.

