

Little Sioux Valley Conservation Association
PO Box 74
Peterson IA 51047

Non-Profit
Organization
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Paullina IA

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

OCCB STRATEGIC PLAN

All members of the public are welcome to attend a public planning meeting to provide input for O'Brien County Conservation.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

July 30, 2024	5:00PM-6:30PM	Mill Creek Park Lodge
August 20, 2024	5:00PM-7:30PM	Prairie Heritage Center (Bison Burger Picnic)

We need your input! Please take time to complete our public survey that will guide the strategic plan public meetings. Online and print versions of the survey are available.

<https://forms.gle/AFLzPKw2qr5Wphw48>

[SURVEY](#)



Youth Program Information can be found on our Facebook page or by visiting
www.prairieheritagecenter.org

SUMMER 2024 Little Sioux Wanderings

A newsletter from the O'Brien County Conservation Board
in partnership with the Little Sioux Valley Conservation Association



FROM THE DESK OF THE DIRECTOR: MARK WILSON

Summer of Opportunities!

There are great days ahead at O'Brien County Conservation as we look into the future and develop a strategic plan that will help guide us for the next 5 years! OCCB staff and board members are working hard to create a strategic plan that will identify and focus our mission and vision for the future of the O'Brien County parks and natural areas. We need your input so be sure to take the time to fill out our public survey and attend a public meeting this summer so we know your thoughts!

We're not sitting idle as we develop the strategic plan as many projects are continuing to progress this summer. After renovating the campground and adding trails at Tjossem Park last year, this year we are building a modern shower and bath house and installing a playground at this hidden gem of a park south of Primghar.

At Dog Creek we've continued habitat restoration efforts on the hills and have replaced the dock at the boat ramp with a larger brand new dock that has greatly improved access to the lake.

Mill Creek Park visitors have enthusiastically enjoyed a new patio at the beach, including an outdoor shower to wash that sand away before you go back to your vehicle or campsite.

FROM THE DESK OF THE DIRECTOR: MARK WILSON

We had the opportunity to begin connecting Mill Creek Park to the City of Paullina's sanitary sewer system last fall and jumped at the chance. Visitors will soon see progress on this project as the first phase is being surveyed and engineered right now! Infrastructure projects are boring, expensive, and can be challenging but the dream to have a modern sanitary sewer system that will eventually allow all 48 campsites on site sewer connections is coming closer to a reality. Funding will not allow that to happen in this phase of the project but fully completing this project is an OCCB priority.

Finally, thanks to a generous donation from the Struve family, we have the opportunity to completely renovate the main floor exhibits at the Prairie Heritage Center. The OCCB has contracted with a professional and experienced firm to complete this project. Interactive exhibits and engaging graphics are sure to make your visit to PHC completely different than before! Read more about this project later in the newsletter to find out how you or your business can contribute to make this opportunity a success.

SUMMER FACES

HUDSON OOLMAN

Hudson is returning to O'Brien County Conservation for another summer season as a park technician. He spent the school year at ISU majoring in Aerospace Engineering.



IAN OLIVER

A recent South O'Brien Schools graduate, Ian will be working as a summer naturalist. Ian enjoys fishing, being outdoors and will attend SDSU majoring in Natural Resource Law Enforcement and Wildlife and Fisheries Management.



LEO SELLS

Leo is returning to O'Brien County Conservation for another summer season as a park technician. He spent the school year at Iowa majoring in Sport Media and Mass Communications.



The O'Brien County Conservation Board does not discriminate against anyone on the basis of race, color, sex, creed, national origin, age or handicap. If anyone believes that he or she has been subjected to such a discrimination, he or she may file a complaint with either the O'Brien County Conservation Board or the Office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240

ADULT PROGRAMS

SELF-Senior Environmental Learning & Fellowship

July 10– Local Wildlife at the Mill Creek Park Lodge

August 14– Aquatic Life at the Mill Creek Park Lodge

Join Naturalist, Lindsey Kleinhesselink, for a short educational program while enjoying coffee, treats and conversation. Program times are 9:30am-11:00am

Falconry

July 30 at Mill Creek Park Lodge 7:00pm

Explore the fascinating realm of raptors and discover the art of training a Red-tailed Hawk with local expert Eric Harold.

FAMILY PROGRAMS

Dutch Oven Cooking

July 12 at Dog Creek Park 6:00pm

Enjoy cooking over an open fire in a Dutch Oven pot. Meal will consist of an appetizer, main course and dessert with enough for everyone to try out your cooking skills. All supplies will be provided.

Family Survivor Camp

July 20 at Mill Creek Park 9:00-11:00am

Work together as a family to experience what it takes to survive in the wilderness. Skills of fire starting, teamwork and GPS will be needed for the challenge, but there is no experience necessary for the competition.

Discover Documentaries

August 2 at the Prairie Heritage Center 7:00pm

An outdoor experience with popcorn included. Bring a blanket, chair or something to sit on while you enjoy an educational flick.

Bison Burger

August 20 5:00-7:30PM at the Prairie Heritage Center. Enjoy a meal, live music and more!

Staff:

Mark Wilson: Director

Luke Davison: : Operations Supervisor

Bryce Batien: Park Ranger

Joe Feekes :Park Technician

Lindsey Kleinhesselink: Naturalist

Sarah Fiddelke: Office Manager

Environmental Protection Agency: 712-336-1840

Conservation Officers: John Sells: 712-260-1019

Joe Yarkosky: 712-260-1004

TIP (Turn In Poachers): 1-800-532-2020



Notes from the Little Sioux Valley Conservation Association

Funds have been used to purchase a bottle filler and drinking fountain inside at the Prairie Heritage Center. A baby changing station can be found in the basement bathroom at the Prairie Heritage Center.

Current Board members are comprised of Dave Stoll, Linn Grove, Dorothy Wegner, Spencer, Lynn Burmakow, Paullina, Dan Verrips, Sanborn, Patty Vollink, Sanborn and Jenny Johnson, Sutherland.

The annual big fundraiser is a bison burger picnic held the 3rd Tuesday in August of each year at the Prairie Heritage Center. This year on August 20, 2024 you can enjoy the center, live music outside by Larry Heschke or catch a cart ride out to the Waterman cemetery. Free will offering for a meal of Bison burger, chips, beans, watermelon and water.

The gift shop inside of the Prairie Heritage Center is run by LSVCA with funds generated going to needs of the association. New youth and adult t-shirts and a variety of stuffed animals can be found.

Anyone interested in donating money, memorials, or Thrivent dollars to this worthy cause will be accepted.

Donations for the LSVCA can be mailed to:

President: Dave Stoll
Treasurer: Dorothy Wegner
Member: Lynn Burmakow
Jenny Johnson
Dan Verrips
Patty Vollink

www.lvca.org

LSVCA
PO Box 74
Peterson, IA 51047



Help us raise money for the Prairie Heritage Center Main Floor Exhibit Renovation!

At the Little Sioux Valley Conservation Association, we seek to help the O'Brien County Conservation Board by providing funds to acquire, develop, maintain and make available educational public access, conservation of natural resources, and to cultivate good citizenship by providing adequate programs to the public. The Prairie Heritage Center opened it's doors in 2006 and has remained an excellent presence for school groups, adult programs and youth to learn about the Prairie, history and environmental education.

We need your support for the Main Floor Exhibit Renovation Project. Completion of the project is estimated to be done Summer 2025! Please consider donating any amount to the LSVCA for the project.

Donations in amounts larger than \$5,000 will be able to have a donors name listed on an exhibit section.

Individual or business sponsorships of entire exhibit sections are available!

More information about the Main Floor Exhibit Renovation can be found at the prairieheritagecenter.org webpage or by calling the Prairie Heritage Center to request more information or design elements.

Photos of the project can be found on the next page of the newsletter.

President: Dave Stoll
Treasurer: Dorothy Wegner
Member: Lynn Burmakow
Jenny Johnson
Dan Verrips
Patty Vollink

www.lvca.org

Donations for the Renovation can be mailed
to:
LSVCA
Attn: Renovation Project
PO Box 74
Peterson, IA 51047

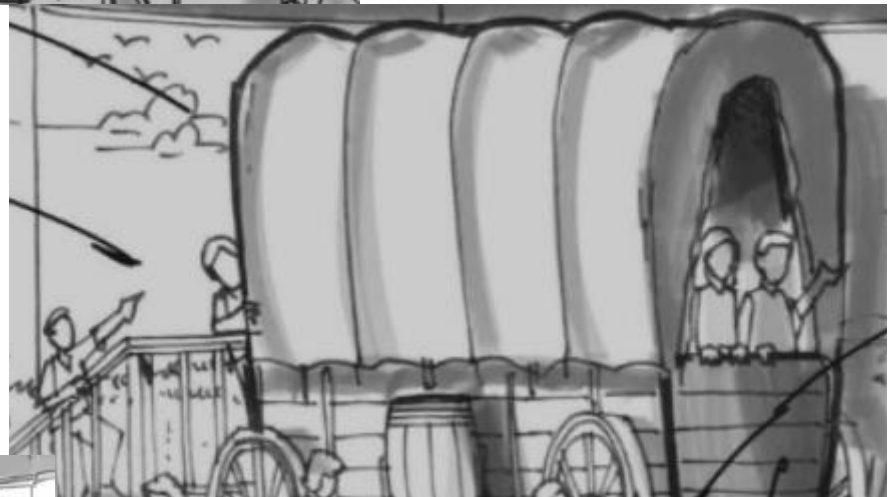
THE PRAIRIE HERITAGE CENTER

Main Floor Exhibit Renovation Project



Our main floor Bison will still be featured in the center piece, but expect more foliage of native fall flowers and an oak tree. Native animal taxidermy will be found throughout the main room. Crawl through a tunnel or explore through a microscope.

Explore how the Pioneers lived on the Prairie. The interactive exhibits will appeal to youth and adults as you experience a covered wagon, sod house and a Mill Creek Dwelling.



The Main Floor Exhibits will all feature hands-on experiences, local history, native plants and animals, and a cultural experience only found at the Prairie Heritage Center.

Project completion estimated for
SUMMER 2025

DONATIONS FOR THE PROJECT

LOOKING TO SPONSOR AN ENTIRE EXHIBIT AREA? CONTACT INFORMATION AND DESIGNS FOR EACH AREA CAN BE FOUND

www.prairieheritagecenter.org or email
occb@dobriencounty.iowa.gov



1 Email

2 What city in O'Brien County do you live in? *Mark only one*

- Hartley
- Paullina
- Primghar
- Sanborn
- Sheldon
- Sutherland
- Outside of O'Brien County
- Out of State

3 What are the ages in your household? *Check all that apply*

- Under 4 years old
- 5-10 years old
- 11-18 years old
- 19-24 years old
- 25-50 years old
- 51 and older

4 What activities do household members participate in? *Check all that apply*

- Biking
- Canoe/kayak/boating
- Camping
- Driving/sightseeing
- Fishing
- Hiking
- Hunting
- Picnicking/Day use
- Swimming/Beach use

Trails-The following questions relate to O'Brien County Conservation trails

5 Which location do you use the trails at? *Check all that apply*

- Dog Creek Park
- Mill Creek Park
- Prairie Heritage Center
- Tjossem Park
- Other

6 What trail improvements would you like? *Check all that apply*

- Dog Creek -Trail around the entire lake
- Douma-Add trail around the park
- Maps of the trails at all parks
- Mill Creek-Hard surface or paved trails
- Tjossem Trail connecting to Primghar along Sneakers Run Trail
- Other

7 What trail development in O'Brien County would you like to see occur? *Check all that apply*

- Biking
- Equestrian
- Hiking
- Multi-vehicle use (OHV)
- Walking
- Other

8 What opportunities do you see for additional trails?

9 What are the weaknesses within the O'Brien County trail system?

Parks-The following questions relate to O'Brien County Conservation Parks

10 Which O'Brien County Parks do you visit? *Check all that apply*

- Dog Creek Park
- Douma Park
- Prairie Heritage Center
- Tjossem Park

Mill Creek Park

11 How can we increase accessibility within the parks? *Check all that apply*

- Added services for vision or hearing impairments
- Improved beach access
- Improved parking areas
- Improved road surfacing
- Improved shoreline access

12 What are the barriers that limit you from using O'Brien County Parks?

13 What are the greatest strengths in the parks? *Check all that apply*

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beaches | <input type="checkbox"/> Park Maintenance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Campgrounds | <input type="checkbox"/> Playground |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day use/Picnic areas | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Recreation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Educational Opportunities | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing | |

14 What services and conveniences would you like added to the parks? *Check all that apply*

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Additional Shelter Houses | <input type="checkbox"/> More Full Hook Up Sites |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Additional Shower Houses | <input type="checkbox"/> Online Reservation for Camping |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Educational Opportunities | <input type="checkbox"/> Primitive Sites/Tenting Sites |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Internet Connectivity Improvements | <input type="checkbox"/> Security Lighting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> More Cabins | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

15 What should our main priority be for O'Brien County Campgrounds and Parks? *Check all that apply*

- Additional cabins
- Campground improvements-full hook ups, expanded pads, improved amenities within campgrounds
- Continued maintenance with no new developments
- Expansion of existing campgrounds and parks for development
- Focus on improvements to water quality, fishing and lake access
- Other

16 What are the weaknesses within the O'Brien County park system?

17 How can we improve year round access to the O'Brien County Parks?

Wildlife and Natural Areas-The following questions relate to O'Brien County Conservation wildlife and natural areas

18 Which of O'Brien County wildlife areas do you visit? *Check all that apply*

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bruegemann | <input type="checkbox"/> Negus |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crosbie Wildlife & Youth Nature Area | <input type="checkbox"/> Railroad Areas |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Litka | <input type="checkbox"/> Waterman Wildlife Area |
| <input type="checkbox"/> McCormack | <input type="checkbox"/> Weale |

19 How important are the following to you? *Mark only one per row*

- | | Very Important | Somewhat | Less Important | Not Important |
|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Habitat Restoration | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Land Protection | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

- Public Hunting Access
- River Access
- Water Quality
- Youth Only Hunting Areas

20 What should our main priority be for O'Brien County Wildlife and Natural Areas? *Check all that apply*

- Additional Public Land Access
- Increased Habitat Restoration
- Current Management
- Mapping

21 What are the weaknesses within the O'Brien County Wildlife and Natural Areas system?

22 What opportunities do you see for O'Brien County Wildlife and Natural Areas system?

Educational and The Prairie Heritage Center-The following questions relate to O'Brien County Conservation Educational aspects and The Prairie Heritage Center

23 Have you visited the Prairie Heritage Center?

- Yes
- No

24 Why have you visited The Prairie Heritage Center? *Check all that apply*

- Meeting Location
- Public Program or Event
- Noticed the Sign/Curiosity
- School Field Trip
- Personal Visit

What are the barriers for participating in Educational Programs with O'Brien County Conservation?

25 *Check all that apply*

- Location of Programs
- Unaware of Programs
- Time of Day
- Other

What should our main priority be of O'Brien County Conservation Educational Programs? *Check all*

26 *that apply*

- Adult Programs
- In-School Programming
- Family Programs
- Prairie Heritage Center Programs & Exhibits
- Field Trips
- Youth Programs
- Guided Outdoor Recreation Programs
- Other

27 What are the weaknesses within the O'Brien County Educational Program system?

What opportunities do you see for O'Brien County Educational Programs and The Prairie Heritage

28 Center?

Drop off or Mail completed survey to:
 OCCB
 4931 Yellow Ave
 Peterson, IA 51047