

Green Valley State Park Anchors Popular Public Recreation Complex in Union County

from Iowa Department of Natural Resources

The 69-acre Gator Recreation Area, northeast of Green Valley State Park, received prescribed fire a few weeks ago targeting cool season grasses and to knock back cedars and the native vegetation has already returned. Photo courtesy of the Iowa DNR.

A young male turkey is slowly walking to the safety of a pile of downed cedar trees, near the entrance road to Green Valley State Park’s campground. The tree piles located around the park are part of a project reclaiming the hillsides for prairie, offering important nesting for grassland birds, and protecting the lake from sediment erosion.

“These transition periods can be a little visually messy but when finished, but when the prairie is back on the land and visitors can see the lake, it will be pretty neat,” said Chad Paup, wildlife biologist with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) nearby Grand River Unit.

The cedar tree piles are visual evidence of the work underway, opening the area up to prairie restoration. The piles will disappear over time as part of the DNR’s annual late winter early spring prescribed fire season. Evidence of existing prairie has been reappearing in the clearings, especially by the dam.

“This area is loaded with prairie blazing star,” Paup said.

The habitat work is a part of a long-term effort to knock back unwanted invaders and open up and return native prairie and savanna to the land.

“Bottle gentian was under the Reed canary grass and really showed after the invasives were burned, but it’s a constant battle with canary grass to keep it at bay,” he said.

Green Valley State Park, with its campsites, restrooms, playgrounds, fishing jetties and piers, boat ramps, cabins, canoe launch, fish cleaning stations, and miles of trails, is one piece of a larger complex in North-west Union County.

The outlet of Green Valley Lake is the water source for Summit Lake that flows through Mitchell Marsh, a 360-acre waterfowl and upland hunting area, connecting Green Valley to Creston.

Given its location and consistent water source, Mitchell Marsh is popular with duck hunters and paddlers. Summit Lake has a no wake restriction is also popular with paddlers and offers an opportunity to catch yellow perch, in addition to bluegills, crappies, and largemouth bass.

The complex has two areas that extend east of Green Valley Lake Road, with the largest being roughly 160 acres of Mitchell Marsh. This section of Mitchell Marsh is mostly prairie with food plots, a dove field, and a marsh that is popular

with hunters.

One and a half miles to its north is the 69-acre Gator Recreation Area, that was initially acquired to hold sediment removed from the most recent lake dredging project, around 15 years ago.

Today, it’s actively managed to provide pheasant and quail hunting, has a popular dove hunting plot that rotates between sunflowers and soybeans. A local farmer partners with the DNR to maintain all the food plots on the complex. The Gator tract received prescribed fire a few weeks ago targeting cool-season grasses and to knock back cedars and the native vegetation has already returned.

Driving into the park from the northwest side leads to a gravel parking lot next to the grassed surfaced trail section surrounding the lake. Two anglers are fishing from a boat near a silt dike, serenaded by spring peers and chorus frogs. Mourning doves can be heard cooing from a distance.

With the diverse, mixed-use public areas two miles north of Creston, visitors can experience mother nature with the comfort and convenience of nearby restaurants, retail shops, and hotels.

“Fall is a great time to be here, view fall colors in southern Iowa, make a weekend of fishing for panfish or bass at Green Valley or other nearby lakes,” Paup said. “When you put it all together, it’s pretty unique.”

Nature is Calling: Explore Iowa with the State Park Passport in 2025

from Iowa Department of Natural Resources

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The Iowa State Park Passport is back in 2025 and better than ever. With more than 60 state parks and forests featured on the Passport, visitors will love discovering hidden gems in the state park system.

Park visitors can sign up and download the State Park Passport onto a mobile device to earn points toward prizes and giveaway opportunities. In its sixth year through partnership with Travel Iowa, the Passport has been a popular way to explore new parks and track outdoor adventures.

How it works

To sign up, go to <https://www.traveliowa.com/iowa-state-park-passport-sign-up/> on your mobile device. Click on the blue “Sign Up” box on the page and follow the steps to check out and download. To see prizes and rules go

to: <https://www.iowadnr.gov/places-go/state-parks/parks-passport>

Earn prizes when you check in with the 2025 State Park Passport

Through October 31, passport holders can earn points by checking into dozens of state parks and forests using the online app. Each park has a different point value (either 100, 200, or 300 points), with remote or “hidden gem parks” earning higher points. Redeem points for various prizes.

- **500 points** – any pass holder redeeming at this level gets \$5.00 off an overnight camping stay
- **1,000 points** – the first 500 pass holders to redeem at this level get a beautiful and unique sticker. Created by Iowa artist Naomi Friend, choose from 20 different state park designs.
- **2,500 points** – first 300 pass holders to redeem at this level get a free

Iowa State Park t-shirt

Additionally, each check-in counts as an automatic entry into a sweepstakes drawing for a three-night at a four-bedroom cabin at Springbrook State Park.

Once points are redeemed, the pass holder resets to zero points and starts earning again to get any additional points, so cash in early, or bank for higher-level prizes.

The Passport, sticker, and t-shirt prizes are sponsored by Travel Iowa.

Hidden gems within each park

Also discover staff-selected “Hidden Gem” features within each park on the Passport, such as historical markers, scenic overlooks, and more!

Get ready for adventure this summer with the State Park Passport!

Previous pass holders will need to re-subscribe to take part in the 2025 Passport program.

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 375 degree F, and prepare the bottom and sides of a 9" pie plate with the softened butter.
2. Clean and dice rhubarb and put into the prepared pie plate.
3. Mix the remaining ingredients in a blender until well blended. Pour over the rhubarb in the pie plate.
4. Bake for 40 minutes at 375° F. The center will be just slightly soft when it's done, and will get firmer as it cools on the countertop.
5. Cool completely. Serve with a dollop of fresh whipped cream.

Union County Supervisors Meeting Minutes

REGULAR SESSION May 28, 2025

The Union County Board of Supervisors met in Regular Session on Wednesday May 28, 2025, at 9:00AM, with the following Board members present, Dennis Hopkins, Rick Friday and Dennis Brown.

AGENDA: Motion by Hopkins and seconded by Friday to approve the agenda. All voting aye, motion carried.

MINUTES: Motion by Friday and seconded by Hopkins to approve minutes from Wednesday, May 21st, 2025. All voting aye, motion carried.

DEPARTMENT	PRIOR APPROPRIATION	INCREASE DECREASE	AMENDED APPROPRIATION
Conservation	1,623,082	280,000	1,903,082
Sanitarian	163,317	25,200	188,517
Human Services	106,528	5,000	111,528
General Services	1,761,322	196,287	1,957,609

OPEN FORUM: No comments were made in open forum.

PUBLIC HEARING – UNION COUNTY BUDGET AMENDMENT:

Motion by Friday and seconded by Hopkins to open the Public Hearing at 9:10AM for the Union County FYR 24/25 Budget Amendment. Roll call vote: Friday aye, Hopkins aye, Brown aye, motion carried.

No written or oral comments were received from the public to the Auditor's Office or Board of Supervisors. Hysell went through and explained the budget amendment. There being no further comments, Motion Hopkins and seconded by Friday to close the public hearing at 9:13AM.

Budget Amendment Approval: Motion by Friday and seconded by Hopkins to approve the Budget Amendment for Fiscal Year 24/25. Roll call vote: Friday aye, Hopkins aye, Brown aye, motion carried.

ENGINEER: Union County Engineer, Christian Boehmer, presented and discussed the signing and awarding 2 bridge project contracts. Motion by Hopkins and seconded by Friday to approve Resolution #32 FYR 24/25 and signing the DOT Farm to Market System contract for bridge replacement on 240th St (Hester Bridge) as follows: WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors, hereafter referred to as “the Board”, believe the Hester Bridge, hereafter referred to as “the Project” is in the best interest of Union County, Iowa, and the residents thereof. The project is defined as a bridge replacement; and WHEREAS, the Board has sought appropriate professional guidance for the concept and planning for the project and followed the steps as required by the Code of Iowa for notifications, hearings, and bidding/letting; and WHEREAS, The Board finds this resolution appropriate and necessary to protect, preserve, and improve the rights, privileges, property, peace, safety, health, welfare, comfort, and convenience of Union County and its citizens, all as provided for in the permitted by section 331.301 of the Code of Iowa, and IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED that all other resolutions or parts of resolutions in conflict with this resolution are hereby repealed. If any part of this resolution is adjudged invalid or unconstitutional, such adjudication shall not affect the validity of the resolution or action of The Board as a whole or any part thereof not adjudged invalid or unconstitutional. This resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after the date of its approval as provided by law; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all other resolutions or parts of resolutions in conflict with this resolution are hereby repealed. If any part of this resolution is adjudged invalid or unconstitutional, such adjudication shall not affect the validity of the resolution or action of The Board as a whole or any part thereof not adjudged invalid or unconstitutional. This resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after the date of its approval as provided by law; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of Union County, Iowa, that after receiving the necessary contract documents, including but not limited to, the contractor's bond and certificate of insurance, Christian Boehmer, the County Engineer for Union County, Iowa, be and is hereby designated, authorized, and empowered on behalf of the Board of Supervisors of said County to execute the contracts in connection with the afore awarded construction project let through the DOT for this county. Roll call vote: Hopkins aye, Friday aye, Brown aye, motion carried.

Boehmer also presented and discussed the weekly maintenance activity report.

CROSSROADS: Brittany Palmer and Ashley Armstrong, Crossroads Behavioral Health Services, presented and discussed with the Board a proposal to formalize a partnership with Union County Law Enforcement in hopes to strengthen community response to mental health and substance use crises. With the partnership they would seek to divert individuals experiencing behavioral health crises away from the criminal justice system and toward appropriate care, aiming to reduce repeat encounters, improve outcomes for individuals, and enhance the safety and well-being of law enforcement personnel. Union County Sheriff Brian Bolton was also present and expressed his willingness to work with Crossroads and felt this partnership would be good for his staff and inmates needing the help. Motion by Hopkins and seconded by Friday for the chair to sign the Agreement between Crossroads ad Union County Law Enforcement and the Opioid money being used for the billing purposes. All voting aye, motion carried.

SHERIFF: Brian Bolton, Union County Sheriff, presented a new app that he would like to implement. The app would allow people to contact the Sheriff's Office, send notifications, allow inmate search, opioid & addiction resources and much more. Motion by Friday and seconded by Hopkins to approve the use of the opioid money for the implementation of the app and yearly maintenance, with a yearly review on the usage of the app. All voting aye, motion carried.

RESOLUTION #31 FYR 24/25 – APPROPRIATIONS: Motion by Hopkins and seconded by Friday to approve Resolution #31 FYR 24/25 – Appropriations as follows: NOW on this 28th day of May 2025, the matter of amending the fiscal year 2024-2025 appropriations comes before the Union County Board of Supervisors. WHEREAS it is now necessary to amend the fiscal year 2024-2025 appropriations for these changes, in accordance with section 331.434(6) of the Code of Iowa. BE AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the appropriations amendments for the following departments are as follows:

These changes are approved and signed on the 28th day of May 2025.

Roll call vote: Hopkins aye, Friday aye, Brown aye, motion carried.

TNF FIREWORKS LLC: Motion by Friday and seconded by Hopkins to approve the TNF

professional guidance for the concept and planning for the project and followed the steps as required by the Code of Iowa for notifications, hearings, and bidding/letting; and WHEREAS, The Board finds this resolution appropriate and necessary to protect, preserve, and improve the rights, privileges, property, peace, safety, health, welfare, comfort, and convenience of Union County and its citizens, all as provided for in the permitted by section 331.301 of the Code of Iowa; and IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED by Board to accept the bid from Dixon Construction

Co in the amount of \$768,171.60 ad awards the associated contract(s) to the same; BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all other resolutions or parts of resolutions in conflict with this resolution are hereby repealed. If any part of this resolution is adjudged invalid or unconstitutional, such adjudication shall not affect the validity of the resolution or action of The Board as a whole or any part thereof not adjudged invalid or unconstitutional. This resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after the date of its approval as provided by law; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of Union County, Iowa, that after receiving the necessary contract documents, including but not limited to, the contractor's bond and certificate of insurance, Christian Boehmer, the County Engineer for Union County, Iowa, be and is hereby designated, authorized, and empowered on behalf of the Board of Supervisors of said County to execute the contracts in connection with the afore awarded construction project let through the DOT for this county. Roll call vote: Hopkins aye, Friday aye, Brown aye, motion carried.

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Roll call vote: Hopkins aye, Friday aye, Brown aye, motion carried.

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Fireworks LLC application/ request to display a professional fireworks display at the Afton Pre-4th of July Celebration. All voting aye, motion carried.

WIND TURBINE DE-COMMISSIONING 5YR PLAN: Motion by Hopkins and seconded by Friday to table for a week. All voting aye, motion carried.

HOMESTEAD/MILITARY CREDIT ALLOWANCES: Motion by Hopkins and seconded by Friday to approve the Homestead/ Military Credit Allowances as presented by Union County Auditor Sandy Hysell. All voting aye, motion carried.

HOMESTEAD/MILITARY CREDIT DIS-ALLOWANCES: Motion by Friday and seconded by Hopkins to approve the Homestead/Military Credit Dis-Allowances. All voting aye, motion carried.

CLAIMS: Motion by Hopkins and seconded by Friday to approve paying Claim #155785 - #155852 for a grand total of \$236,739.75 as follows:

ACCESS ELEVATOR & LIFTS INC	395.00
ACCESS SYSTEMS LEASING	699.01
ACCESS SYSTEMS	3,834.29
AGRIVISION EQUIPMENT GROUP LLC	1,302.67
AKIN BUILDING CENTER	30.99
ALLIANT ENERGY	1,360.05
AXON ENTERPRISE, INC.	348.80
BM SALES	904.00
BRETT STREET POWERWASHING INC	160.00
BUSCH, KELLY	43.40
C&J WRECKER LLC.	300.00
CARLTON, KATIE	74.20
CINTAS CORPORATION NO 2	397.67
CITY LAUNDERING COMPANY	368.16
CITY OF LORIMOR	29.96
CONTINENTAL FIRE SPRINKLER CO	8,260.00
CRESTON MUNICIPAL UTILITIES	228.72
CRESTON PUBLISHING COMPANY	250.00
ELECTRONIC SERVICES SYSTEM	1,078.70
FENTON CONSTRUCTION	13,500.00
FIRSTNET/AT&T MOBILITY	851.23
GLOVE PRO PLUS	95.00
GREAT PLAINS UNIFORMS, LLC.	219.97
GREATER REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER	761.20
GREEN VALLEY PEST CONTROL & LAWN	253.10
HAGLE, HANNAH	121.54
HAWKEYE TRUCK EQUIPMENT CO INC.	791.96
HEARTLAND TIRE & AUTO	2,423.14
HERBERGER CONSTRUCTION CO, INC	122,744.77
HI CREST INC	150.00
HOUSBY MACK INC.	488.47
IOWA LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY	150.00
IOWA OFFICE OF STATE MEDICAL EXAMINER	1,915.00
JIMS SANITATION & TRUCK REPAIR	366.55
LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERS	860.00
LYNAM LAWN CARE LLC	680.09
MASTERCARD/ISSB	1,280.85
MEDIACOM	112.93
METLIFE	777.38
NAPA.	725.82
OMNITEL COMMUNICATIONS	348.45
PERU QUARRY INC	10,855.52
PETERSEN TIRE	16,238.00
PITNEY BOWES GLOBAL FINANCIAL SERVICES	337.65
PROVOST, KEVIN	400.00
RED OAK WELDING SUPPLIES	149.95
ROCKMOUNT RESEARCH & ALLOYS INC.	317.95
RONS PEST SOLUTIONS	48.67
SCHILDBERG CONSTRUCTION INC.	24,649.32
SIRWA	90.00
STAPLES.	46.33
THATCHER, CARL V	60.00
THINK POSITIVE GRAPHICS AND APPAREL.	184.00
TRUE VALUE	161.99
UNION COUNTY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION	413.68
UNION COUNTY PUBLIC FUNDING COUNCIL	9,500.00
UNION COUNTY SHERIFF	30.70
UNITY POINT CLINIC-OCCUP. MEDICINE	84.00
US CELLULAR	77.42
VISA CARD SERVICE	887.16
WINDSTREAM	75.35
WOLFE, MICHAEL J	120.00
WORISEK, JENNIFER M	200.00
ZIEGLER INC	2,128.99

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:39AM.

BY: **DENNIS J. BROWN, CHAIRMAN**

ATTTEST: **SANDY HYSELL, AUDITOR**