

## Jester Park Two Dam Pond Improvements

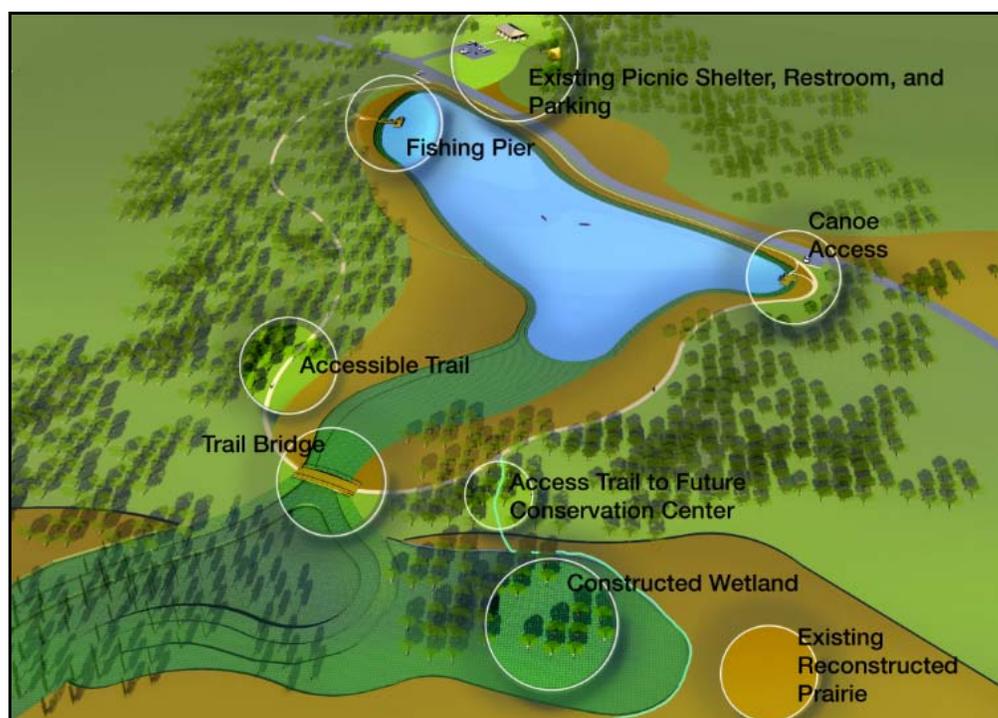
Jester Park visitors will see some exciting park improvements taking shape to the Two Dam Pond area through the Fall of 2013. This 2.8-acre pond, adjacent from Shelter #5, is a popular location for fishing and school field trips. It is in close proximity to the natural playscape, elk and bison wildlife exhibit, bird viewing blind, hiking trails, and the proposed nature cabins and Conservation Education Center. Improvements to Two Dam Pond are part of a large-scale plan in the northern section of Jester Park. Accessible amenities at Two Dam Pond will provide a wide range of experiences that benefit the public in general as well as provide the opportunity for access to our parkland for all visitors.

The following three goals were identified in the 2009 Jester Park Master Plan:

- Provide improved accessibility for visitors with disabilities
- Improve the park trail system
- Enhance opportunities for on-site passive and active environmental education activities.

With these goals in mind Polk County Conservation applied for and received a Land and Water Conservation Fund (LAWCON) Grant and a Fish Habitat Grant from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. These grants will allow Polk County Conservation (PCC) to add recreational opportunities to Jester Park that comply with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards. These opportunities include a hiking trail with a bridge, fishing pier, canoe access, and parking improvements. A one-acre wetland will be constructed to help improve Two Dam Pond's water quality and expand our ability to provide interpretive and environmental educational opportunities at the site. Improvements also include parking spurs adjacent to the main park road that will create access to the accessible fishing pier and canoe ramp.

Dredging will occur on the southwest corner of the pond. This activity, in conjunction with the creation of a wetland and streambed stabilization techniques, will improve fishing as well as water quality. Additionally, Polk County will be working with staff from Drake University to study the ecological process on how animals colonize newly created habitats. Testing will also occur to check for nitrates, phosphates and E. coli both on the inflow and outflow of the newly created wetland. Collectively, the information from these studies will help PCC manage its resources more effectively.



### What you can expect to see...

- Summer 2012– finish clearing for the trail; relocate fish; start draining pond
- Fall 2012– begin wetland construction; installation of grade stabilization structures; begin dredging; begin trail construction; pour concrete headwalls and support structures for fishing pier, canoe launch and boardwalk; install culvert and pave parking area
- Fall/Winter 2012– dormant seed wetland and sediment holding area
- Spring 2013 – finish trail and boardwalk
- Spring-Summer 2013– restock fish and restore natural vegetation; install fishing pier and canoe launch
- Fall 2013- project completion

For more information about this project, contact Polk County Conservation at 515-323-5300.  
Thank you for your patience while these improvements are taking place.



Graphic illustration of proposed Accessible Fishing



Graphic illustration of proposed Accessible Canoe Access