



DECORAH PARKS & RECREATION

January 2015

The Decorah Parks and Recreation Department is excited to begin the New Year by releasing its first ever newsletter.

2014 was filled with new programs, park improvements, and facility updates, but it is only through the many people, businesses, and organizations that support our department that we are able to provide you with these services and facilities. We in turn dedicate this first newsletter to those that make our department a success including:

- **Sponsors:** Whose financial support of recreation programs keep program fees affordable for all.
- **Volunteers:** In 2014, 596 volunteers participated in over 3,400 hours of service coaching youth sports, working on trails, eradicating invasive species, and beautifying our parks.
- **Users:** Hopefully you, enjoying our programs and our parks!
- **Supporters:** Those who provide long term support through the Parks & Recreation Memorial Fund and the new Parks & Recreation Endowment Fund.
- **Partners:** Decorah Schools, Luther College, Iowa DNR, Winneshiek County Conservation, Decorah Library and other city departments.

Thank you for your tremendous support. We look forward to another great year!



Phelps Park Bridge Nov 2014 ~ picture by Ellen MacDonald

Dates to Keep in Mind:

February 13 - Spring Brochure is available

April 1 – Pulpit Rock Campground opens

May 1 – Summer Brochure is available

May 24 – Municipal Swimming Pool opens

Did You Know . . .

- The Decorah Parks System boasts 21 parks and recreational areas
- Dunning's Spring will be on the cover of the 2015 Iowa Tourism Guide
- Pickleball is one of the fastest growing sports in America and it was invented by a congressman as a game for his family to play (named after his dog Pickles who had a habit of stealing the ball while they were playing)
- The daily pool attendance is always higher in June (when cooler) than in August (when hotter)
- In 2014 the Pulpit Rock Campground brought in over a quarter of a million dollars in revenue
- The Decorah Parks System has more than 20 miles of off-road trails (non-paved) maintained by the Decorah Human Powered Trails organization

NEW ENDOWMENT FUND



The Decorah Parks and Recreation Board has established a new permanent endowment fund with the Winneshiek County Community Foundation to support the future of the Decorah Parks System. The purpose of the endowment fund is to help maintain and enhance Decorah's many parks and trails, its recreational facilities, the campground and swimming pool.

The Parks and Recreation Board established the fund with an initial \$10,000 investment. The endowment fund will be made up of donations from people and organizations interested in supporting and enhancing the quality of life in Decorah. Through a \$50,000 challenge gift, Decorah Bank & Trust hopes to encourage the community to invest in this fund. This challenge gift is a much appreciated boost for the newly established fund that gives the Decorah Parks and Recreation Board a source of revenue to maintain and improve facilities and programs in perpetuity.

Financial gifts of any size are welcome and all gifts are tax-deductible (gifts may qualify for Endow Iowa 25% state income tax credit). Gifts can be mailed to the WCCF administrative office at 425 Cedar Street, Suite 310, Waterloo, IA 50701 or dropped off at Decorah Bank and Trust or the Decorah Parks and Recreation Office located in City Hall. Make checks payable to the Decorah Parks and Recreation Endowment Fund. Gifts can also be made on WCCF's secure website by going to www.winneshiekcfc.org.

How can YOU get involved?

- Decorah Park-Rec. Endowment Fund
- Memorial Donations
- Program/Special Event Sponsorships
- Volunteering

Decorah Parks and Recreation
(563) 382-4158
parkrec@decorahia.org
www.decorahia.org

Stay Up To Date



Like Decorah Parks & Recreation on Facebook



Follow us on Twitter
[@DecorahParkRec](https://twitter.com/DecorahParkRec)

2014 Highlights

- Established the Decorah Parks and Recreation Endowment Fund.
- Developed Vennhjem Park.
- Collaborated with the Decorah School District to construct new dugouts on diamond one and a concession stand with tennis equipment storage on diamond 2.
- Improved the Will Baker Athletic Fields by increasing parking.
- Replaced the #3 shelter in Phelps Park.
- Repaved the entrance and parking lot at Whalen Cabin.
- Replaced the bridge on Phelps Park Trail.
- Improved Pulpit Rock Campground by remodeling the registration building, adding camping spots, and making the water system safer.
- Expanded community gardens to the city prairie area
- Added programming for adults with special needs with G2G special events.
- Conducted a professional study of the condition of the swimming pool.