

Press Release

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Johnson County Conservation Department
Phone: (319) 645-2315
E-mail: bfreidhof@johnsoncountyiowa.gov

Freidhof Selected as the New Johnson County Conservation Director

The Johnson County Conservation Board announced that Brad Freidhof has been selected for the position of Executive Director. He will succeed Larry Gullett who passed away on September 6, 2024, following a courageous battle with cancer. Gullett served as the Johnson County Conservation Executive Director for 11 years.

Freidhof has 27 years of experience in the conservation field. He began his career as the Pocahontas County Conservation Board Naturalist in 1997. In 2002 he was hired by Conservation Director Harry Graves to become the Johnson County Naturalist and served in that role until 2014. Freidhof was then selected to fill the role of Conservation Program Manager for Johnson County. This position allowed Brad to continue a supervisory role with the education program but also allowed him an opportunity to write and administer grants for trail development and other special projects. Brad has a long history with the Johnson County Conservation Board and was involved in the passage of 2008 and 2024 Conservation Bonds.

The Johnson County Conservation Board, established in 1964 by the citizens of Johnson county, manages a variety of natural resources and outdoor recreation areas throughout the county including native prairies, river access areas, small community parks, and the 1,062 acre F.W. Kent Park. Brad Freidhof will be the fourth Executive Director in the history of the Johnson County Conservation Board with Rod Dunlap serving as the first Director from 1970 to 2001, Harry Graves serving from January 2001 to June 2013, Larry Gullett serving from July 2013 until September 2024.

Brad brings strong communication and community outreach skills to the position. He is experienced in working with community organizations, government agencies and the public to create and nurture conservation programs. He has written and administered successful grant applications from federal, state and non-profit sources, resulting in more

than \$6 million in outside funding for the Johnson County Conservation Board and looks to continue those efforts.

Freidhof looks forward to continuing the legacy the Johnson County Conservation Board has created, focusing on ecological protection and restoration, connecting people to the land, and linking communities.

Brad can be reached at the Johnson County Conservation Headquarters at (319) 645-2315. He will also be accessible by email at bfreidhof@johnsoncountyiowa.gov or by cell phone at (319) 331-7513.