

## Jackson County Conservation Summer 2020—Weekly Nature Activity Series

We hope that our weekly nature activities can provide some outdoor fun for you and your family this summer. You are welcome to gather your own supplies for the activities or pick up materials at the Hurstville Interpretive Center. Materials will be available in the outdoor classroom on the south side building on Monday mornings beginning at 9 am and are available while supplies last.

### **Week 1: June 8-12**

*Materials we are providing this week: clay pots*

# Toad Houses

*Provide shelter for the toads in your yard!*

## Materials

- Garden space: find a shady place in the garden, near a tree or a shrub where the toad can hide
- Trowel
- Clay pot (or reuse a plastic plant pot or other container)
- Small saucer or lid
- Optional: paint, small rocks, shells

## Instructions

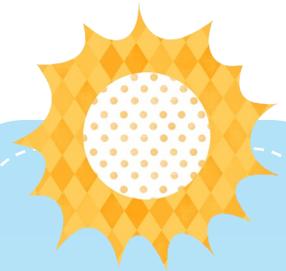
While the toads may not appreciate the extra work, it is a lot of fun to decorate your toad house first. You can glue on rocks, shells or other natural materials or paint the pot.

Dig a hole, lay your clay pot on its side so that half of the pot is below ground. Take the extra dirt and bury the back end of the pot. Make sure there is an entrance for the toad to go in and out. Place the small saucer or lid nearby and fill it with water. Alternatively, you can place your pot upside down and hammer out a small hole for an entrance. See photos.

Check your toad house regularly to see if a toad has found it. Having the saucer of water nearby may help in attracting a toad.



*We'd love to see what you created! Send photos to [jess@jacksonccb.com](mailto:jess@jacksonccb.com).*



## American Toad



The American toad is a common resident of backyards across Iowa.

Toads are amphibians and live near a water source for reproduction. However, they spend most of their time on land away from water.

They are more active at night, especially during hot and humid weather. During dry periods, they may burrow under the ground. Toads eat a variety of insects and small critters.

## Contact Us

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