

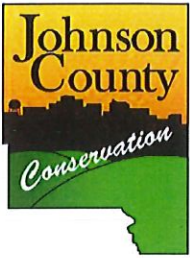
# FY22 ANNUAL REPORT

## JOHNSON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD



Board members and staff explore the forest and trail system at Two Horse Farm.





## JOHNSON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

Larry Gullett, Executive Director

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Phone – 319.645.2315

E-mail – lgullett@johnsoncountyiowa.gov

Web – www.johnsoncountyiowa.gov/conservation

### Board Members

Carolyn Buckingham

Bonnie Winslow-Garvin

Bill Waldie

Connie Mutel

Gene Zdrazil

April 17, 2023

To: Johnson County Board of Supervisors,

The Johnson County Conservation Board is pleased to present this FY22 Annual Report for your review and use. The report includes information related to Conservation Board actions and activities during the fiscal year and highlights special projects completed during the year. If you have questions about the report content or would like additional information please let us know. The Board is thankful for the strong, collaborative working relationship between the Supervisors and Conservation Board.

With the continued increase in population, demand for open space and recreational opportunities is also increasing. Balancing the needs of an increasing population with protecting wildlife and habitat continues to be challenging within the county. Managing undeveloped and protected, "wild" areas, while at the same time providing recreational and education opportunities is something the Conservation Board continues to balance.

Thank you for your continued support of the conservation and recreation program in Johnson County.

Sincerely,

Brad Freidhof  
Jeremy Kist  
W.A.  
Ed Kring  
Wade Schultz  
David Wehde  
Bray  
Kerr  
Alicia Claus-Bartlett  
Larry Gullett  
Marcia Trana  
Ben Olters  
Kristen Monow  
Lynn Owen  
Dany Kysa  
B92  
Kerry Kinner  
Paul Bouska  
Natalie Stowe  
Dale Gustafson  
Seth Sovorell  
Blake



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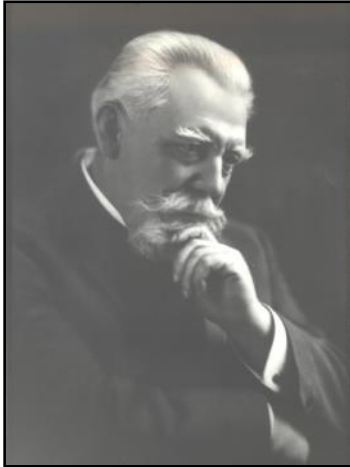
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# Johnson County Conservation Board

## **Background**



Pioneer Iowa Conservationist and University of Iowa President Thomas Huston MacBride first conceptualized the county park system when he described his idea for a statewide system of county or rural parks before his colleagues in the Iowa Academy of Sciences in 1895.

However, it was not until 1955, that the 56<sup>th</sup> General Assembly passed the County Conservation Law, Chapter 111A, now Chapter 350, of the Code of Iowa, which made it possible for county residents to establish their own “county conservation board”.

The citizens of Johnson County voted to establish their County Conservation Board in the general election of November 3, 1964. The vote was 9,811 yes and 1,935 no.

## **Johnson County Conservation Board Vision:**

The Vision of the Johnson County Conservation Board is a county where all citizens have access to a healthy landscape, environmental education and recreation opportunities; where the natural resources of the county are enhanced and protected; where conservation areas are restored and maintained at the highest standard and are safe, and where this vision is accomplished through partnerships with the public and private sector.

## **Johnson County Conservation Board Mission:**

Chapter 350 of the Iowa Code defines the Mission of the County Conservation Board.

“To acquire, develop, maintain and make available to the inhabitants of the county, public museums, parks, preserves, parkways, pathways, playgrounds, recreation centers, county forests, wildlife and other conservation areas, and to promote and preserve the health and general welfare of the people and to encourage the orderly development and conservation of natural resources, and to cultivate good citizenship by providing adequate programs of public recreation.”



## **FY22 Board of Supervisors**



July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022: L to R. Lisa Green-Douglas, Rod Sullivan, Pat Heiden, Jon Green and Royceann Porter.

The Board of Supervisors appoint residents to serve 5 year terms on the Conservation Board, provide input on special projects, strategic planning, and appropriate funding to support the conservation program.

## **Your County Conservation Board**

The Conservation Board consists of five county residents appointed to five year staggered terms by the Board of Supervisors. Members of the board are selected and appointed on the basis of their demonstrated interest in conservation matters, and serve without compensation. The board operates as a corporate body. They make decisions regarding the preservation of local natural resources and the development of a well-organized program of public recreation. The Conservation Director, who is responsible to the Board, implements the conservation program.

County Conservation Boards are agencies of county government created by statute and governed by an appointed independent, non-partisan board. They have broad responsibilities in the area of local conservation and recreation programs. Few conservation agencies have such a broad discretionary authority in regard to program content and direction. The Conservation Board addresses such diverse matters as parks, preserves, resource management and conservation education.



## **Members of the Conservation Board & FY22 Officers**



Gene Zdrazil, Lone Tree



Bill Waldie, Iowa City



Carolyn Buckingham, Iowa City



Connie Mutel, Solon



Bonnie Winslow-Garvin, North Liberty

### **Officers July 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021**

Gene Zdrazil, President  
Bill Waldie, Vice-President  
Carolyn Buckingham, Secretary

### **Officers January 1, 2022 to June 30, 2022**

Carolyn Buckingham, President  
Bill Waldie, Vice-President  
Bonnie Winslow-Garvin, Secretary

## **Fiscal Year 2022 Board Roster**

	Appointed Date	Term Ending
Bill Waldie, Iowa City	06/20/13	12/31/26
Connie Mutel, Solon	01/01/17	12/31/22
Gene Zdrazil, Lone Tree	06/21/17	12/31/23
Carolyn Buckingham, Iowa City	01/01/20	12/31/24
Bonnie Winslow-Garvin, North Liberty	01/01/21	12/31/25

## **Conservation Board Meetings**

Monthly meetings of the Board are held in the Conservation Headquarters Building at F.W. Kent Park from April through October. During the winter months of November through March, meetings are held in the first floor meeting room of the Johnson County Administration Building, 913 South Dubuque Street, Iowa City or in other locations as posted. Regular board meetings are scheduled for the third Tuesday of each month and start at 5:30 PM. Special meetings are scheduled as needed. All meetings are open to the public. Meeting notices are posted on the county web page and in the local media.

All Board Meeting agendas and minutes are available to view or download through the County's website at: *(Ctrl Click on the following links or copy and paste into your browser)*

<https://www.johnsoncountyiowa.gov/agendas-minutes>

Special reports, newsletters and other information is also available through the County's website at:

<https://www.johnsoncountyiowa.gov/departments-conservation>

## **Legal Assistance**

The Johnson County Attorney provides legal assistance to the Conservation Board. Susie Nehring, Assistant County Attorney, worked closely with the Conservation Board, providing guidance for adherence to open meeting laws, executive sessions, land acquisitions, contract review and a variety of other needs.

## **Conservation Board Activities**

17 Board Meetings in FY22:

12 regular meetings

5 special meetings including:

A public hearing to review bids for reroofing the Celebration Barn

A special meeting for review of a donation from the Ruby Perezek Estate

A special joint meeting with the Supervisors and tour of four conservation areas in the northern part of Johnson County.

A special meeting to approve acquisition of land for the Clear Creek Trail, access agreement with Linn County REC, approve an agreement for planning services at Pechman Creek Delta and to review bids for the campground shower house project.

A public hearing to review bid documents for the entry improvements at Cedar River Crossing



## Major Board Actions:

Agreement with Shive-Hattery for design and bidding services for the entry way at Cedar River Crossing.

Approved a Request for Bids for re-roofing the Celebration Barn damaged by derecho.

Approved submission of a REAP grant for acquisition of the Two Horse Farm.

Adopted a Policy Statement for trail crossings and connections to the trail system managed by the Board.

Agreement with McClure Engineering for design of a trail crossing along the Hoover Trail.

Accepted a bequest from the Ruby Perezek Estate.

Approved an amendment to the agreement with Stanley Consultants for determining the feasibility of an alternative route to the Clear Creek Trail.

Accepted a bid and executed a contract with WRH Construction for the entry way project at Cedar River Crossing.

Agreement with RES for completing an environmental assessment of the shower house and wastewater system project.

Agreement with the Office of the State Archaeologist for completing a cultural resources impact assessment of the shower house and wastewater system project.

Agreement with Shive-Hattery for updating construction and bid documents for the shower house and wastewater system project.

Agreement with the Iowa DNR for a REAP grant to acquire the Two Horse Farm.

Agreement with Shive-Hattery for design and bid documents for the dump station at Kent Park.

Agreement with Shive-Hattery for construction services for the entry way project at Cedar River Crossing.

Approved the acquisition of 2.93 acres from Linn County REC for routing of the Clear Creek Trail.

Agreement with Erin and Brian Melloy for living in the residence at the Two Horse Farm during the transition from private to public ownership.

Land use agreement with Raptor Advocacy Rehabilitation Education (RARE) for use of facilities at the Two Horse Farm.

Authorized closing on acquisition of 83 acres from Erin and Brian Melloy.

Approved an ingress and egress agreement with Peter Byler for access to the Byler Stream Mitigation Bank.

Approved an update to the five year capital plan.

Accepted a conservation easement on the Byler Stream Mitigation Bank.

Agreement with RES for developing a feasibility study for development of natural resources at Pechman Creek Delta.

Supplemental agreement with Stanley Consultants for design, engineering and bid documents for the Clear Creek Trail alternative route.

Approved language for a management plan agreement with the Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska for the Two Horse Farm.

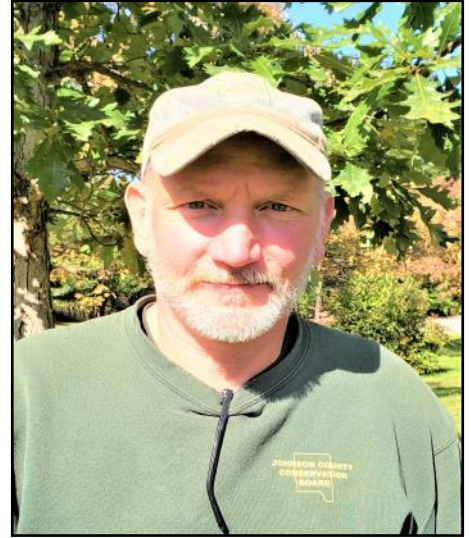
## FY22—Staff Changes



Brad Herrig, was hired as the Utility Person and began work on 11/22/21.



Emily Allen, resigned as the Office Assistant, on 4/15/22.



Dave Gustafson, was promoted from the Utility Person to Assistant Operations Superintendent and began his new duties on 8/9/21.



Brittney Bandy was hired as the Office Assistant, on 6/15/22, to fill the vacancy created when Emily Allen resigned.



Josh DeWild, was hired as a Mechanic, on 8/30/21, to fill the vacancy created when Josh Allen resigned.



**Johnson County Conservation Board****Personnel Roster****July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022****FULL TIME STAFF**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>POSITION</b>	<b>START DATE</b>	<b>END DATE</b>
Larry Gullett	Director	01/07/2013	
Dory Kjosa	Part Time Office Assistant	08/30/2010	12/29/2014
	Office Manager/Secretary	12/30/2014	
Emily Allen	Part Time Office Assistant	03/16/2015	06/28/2019
	Office Assistant	06/29/2019	04/15/2022
Brittney-Anne Bandy	Office Assistant	06/15/2022	
Charlie Bray	Park Ranger I	03/25/2013	03/27/2016
	Park Ranger II	03/28/2016	
Aaron Ohlsen	Park Ranger I	03/11/2019	
Brad Freidhof	Naturalist	09/03/2002	06/21/2014
	Conservation Program Mgr.	06/22/2014	
Dave Wehde	Vegetation Specialist	06/09/1986	10/24/2012
	Natural Resource Mgr.	10/25/2012	
Jeremy Rieck	Vegetation Specialist	05/17/2004	11/20/2012
	Nat. Resource Specialist	11/21/2012	
Wade Schultz	Mechanic	06/23/1997	09/19/2012
	Operations Superintendent	09/20/2012	
Terry Kinney	Field Worker I	11/06/1989	06/30/2002
	Field Worker II	07/01/2002	
Dave Gustafson	Field Worker I	03/15/2004	06/30/2009
	Field Worker II	07/01/2009	08/28/2011
	Utility Person	08/29/2011	08/09/2021
	Asst. Operations Supt.	08/09/2021	
Ed Kringle	Field Worker I	10/17/2011	02/28/2015
	Trails Field Worker II	03/01/2015	
Kristen Morrow	Education Specialist	08/12/2015	
Ben Woltz	Field Worker II	04/07/2015	
Mike Alexander	Nat. Resource Specialist	08/01/2016	
Blake Harris	Nat. Resource Specialist	08/21/2017	
Frances Owen	Education Specialist	05/21/2018	
Seth Somerville	Field Worker II	07/02/2018	
Paul Bouska	Custodian	07/15/2019	11/09/2020
	Maintenance Specialist	11/09/2020	
Kevin Halemeyer	Nat. Resource Specialist	09/23/2019	
Marci Trana	Education Specialist	11/16/2020	
Alicia Claus-Bartels	Custodian	12/21/2020	
Josh DeWild	Mechanic	08/30/2021	
Brad Herrig	Utility Person	11/22/2021	

**Johnson County Conservation Board**  
**Personnel Roster—Seasonal Staff**  
**July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>POSITION</b>	<b>START DATE</b>	<b>END DATE</b>
Alexis Hook-Kealey	Naturalist Intern	04/19/2021	08/19/2021
Elizabeth McVey	Naturalist Intern	04/20/2022	08/18/2022
Jack Davis	Ranger Intern	05/10/2021	09/10/2021
Jacob Moss	Ranger Intern	05/03/2021	09/03/2021
Noah Anderson	Ranger Intern	05/06/2022	09/05/2022
Jacob Moss	Ranger Intern	05/13/2022	09/13/2022
Sherry Frantz	Campground Attendant	05/10/2021	10/18/2021
Bill Frantz	Campground Attendant	05/10/2021	10/18/2021
Ethan Aamodt	Seasonal Park Worker	05/14/2021	08/13/2021
John Aschenbrenner	Seasonal Park Worker	04/25/2021	07/29/2021
Rebecca Bartlett	Seasonal Park Worker	05/03/2021	09/03/2021
Tim Beemer	Seasonal Park Worker	04/26/2021	08/25/2021
John Castle	Seasonal Park Worker	06/01/2021	10/01/2021
Joshua Gaffey	Seasonal Park Worker	06/01/2021	08/12/2021
Laura Haima	Seasonal Park Worker	04/19/2021	08/19/2021
Gage Hazen-Faber	Seasonal Park Worker	04/19/2021	07/09/2021
Jace Kauffmann	Seasonal Park Worker	04/19/2021	08/19/2021
Audrey Keith	Seasonal Park Worker	07/06/2021	11/05/2021
Ethan Krueger	Seasonal Park Worker	06/2021	01/06/2022
Leon Lintz	Seasonal Park Worker	05/10/2021	11/05/2021
Michael Martens	Seasonal Park Worker	03/08/2021	07/08/2021
Sabrina Peyton	Seasonal Park Worker	05/11/2021	09/10/2021
Mitchell Schmieder	Seasonal Park Worker	05/17/2021	08/20/2021
Emily Schultz	Seasonal Park Worker	05/17/2021	08/12/2021
Abigail Smith	Seasonal Park Worker	06/07/2021	08/13/2021
Gage Zvonik	Seasonal Park Worker	04/19/2021	08/19/2021
Rebecca Bartlett	Seasonal Park Worker	05/02/2022	09/02/2022
John Castle	Seasonal Park Worker	04/18/2022	08/18/2022
Luke Clark	Seasonal Park Worker	04/18/2022	08/18/2022
Rhys Clay	Seasonal Park Worker	05/16/2022	08/18/2022
Nolan Cochran	Seasonal Park Worker	05/16/2022	08/18/2022
Mason Deja	Seasonal Park Worker	12/06/2021	04/06/2022
Joshua Gaffey	Seasonal Park Worker	05/23/2022	08/19/2022
Noah Jedlicka	Seasonal Park Worker	05/16/2022	07/22/2022
Jace Kauffmann	Seasonal Park Worker	04/18/2022	08/18/2022
Kristin Krumm	Seasonal Park Worker	03/09/2022	05/27/2022
Timothy Kurt	Seasonal Park Worker	05/03/2022	01/03/2023
Quartney LaRue	Seasonal Park Worker	05/09/2022	07/06/2022
Leon Lintz	Seasonal Park Worker	04/25/2022	10/25/2022
Ian McAreavy	Seasonal Park Worker	05/05/2022	08/19/2022
Eli Naylor	Seasonal Park Worker	04/28/2022	06/21/2022
Chloe Proffitt	Seasonal Park Worker	05/16/2022	07/01/2022
Emily Schultz	Seasonal Park Worker	05/23/2022	08/17/2022
Natalie Stowe	Seasonal Park Worker	10/18/2022	02/18/2022
Joseph Strako	Seasonal Park Worker	05/16/2022	08/12/2022
Heather Sutherland	Seasonal Park Worker	05/16/2022	08/09/2022
Gage Zvonik	Seasonal Park Worker	06/06/2022	10/06/2022



## **FY22 Program Highlights**

The following pages include images of *special projects* the Board and staff worked on during the fiscal year. In addition to these projects the staff also maintained 19 park and recreation areas throughout the county, including high use recreation areas, natural areas, trails and the education program.

- **Derecho**

On August 10, 2020, a derecho producing winds estimated at 80 to 110 mph, hit northern Johnson County for an estimated 30 to 60 minutes in duration. During FY22, the staff continued to facilitate repairs, debris removal and coordinated documentation of the damages with officials from FEMA/Iowa Homeland Security and the County's insurance carrier.

- ◇ Completed debris removal in forested areas at Cangleska Wakan.
- ◇ Administered development of an RFB for reroofing the Celebration Barn and executed a contract with Metal Monsters to complete the project.
- ◇ Reroofed 5 barns, replaced the lean-to and high tunnel and rebuilt doors on 3 barns.
- ◇ Worked with the County's insurance carrier and finance team to continue coverage from ICAP.
- ◇ Provided detailed and comprehensive information about the disaster and clean-up activities multiple times to staff of FEMA.

- **Received the National Honor Award from the American Academy of Environmental Engineers and Scientists for the lake restoration project.**

- **Received the first place award from the Iowa Isaak Walton League for the Natural Resources and Habitat Restoration Program among 99 counties.**

- **Acquisition of the Two Horse Farm**

- ◇ Secured a \$300,000 REAP grant and coordinated acquisition of the area with the Melloy's and INHF.
- ◇ Coordinated development of the agreement with RARE to use facilities at the site.
- ◇ Coordinated development of the residence agreement with Melloy's.
- ◇ Completed the appraisal and survey processes for acquisition and parceling off the 7 acres going to the Iowa Tribe.
- ◇ Facilitated a cultural resources assessment, botanical inventory and GIS mapping analysis of the site.
- ◇ Coordinated communication with the Iowa Tribe to facilitate the project and worked with Susie Nehring in development of a management agreement.
- ◇ Relocated a library of books about Native American culture donated by Bill Hall to the Melloy residence from Dallas County Conservation.
- ◇ Worked with Erin and Brian Melloy to develop a strategy for transitioning the area from private to public use and management.
- ◇ Met with officials from a property management company to discuss renting the residence as "cabin rental" and assess amenities inside the house.
- ◇ Facilitated naming of the property between the Melloy's and Conservation Board.

- **Completed the donation of the Phebe Timber from the Williams Family and host a dedication and tour at the site.**
- **Cedar River Crossing and Sutliff Bridge Entry Project**
  - ◇ Developed an agreement with Shive-Hattery to update the engineering and design documents, RFB and let a contract for construction and completed all three.
  - ◇ Secured all necessary permits for construction from the USACE, IDNR and Johnson County PDS.
  - ◇ Began construction of the project with installation of water lines, electric lines, culverts and rough grading of the site.
  - ◇ Worked with officials from the GIS department to map the trail systems and develop an overall map of the site.



- **Clear Creek Trail Extension from Half Moon Ave. to Kent Park**
  - ◇ Completed the acquisition of 2.93 acres from Linn County REC and an access agreement with the REC.
  - ◇ Facilitated a planning effort to address sensitive cultural resource sites and change the overall route alignment and coordinated with the IDOT.
  - ◇ Executed two supplemental agreements with Stanley Consultants to address additional planning efforts.
  - ◇ Authorized the archiving of artifacts discovered along the original route in the OSA's archive system.
- **Kent Park Shower House and Wastewater System Project**
  - ◇ Worked with the ARPA planning team and Board of Supervisors to review 4 projects and get the shower house project adopted for funding.
  - ◇ Completed an environmental impact assessment study of the project through AES.
  - ◇ Completed a cultural resources impact assessment through the OSA.
  - ◇ Updated the construction documents, completed development of an RFB and advertised for bids.
  - ◇ Removed about 2 acres of trees and brush from the project site in preparation of construction activities.
  - ◇ Coordinated drafting and submission of a sensitive areas report through Shive-Hattery and the Johnson County PDS department.
  - ◇ Developed and executed two agreements with Shive-Hattery to develop construction documents for a dump station and update the shower house plan set.
  - ◇ Completed an overall project summary and submitted 2 quarterly reports and to the ARPA team.
  - ◇ Reviewed 2 years of water monitoring and water usage data to assess impact of the existing wastewater systems on Kent Park Lake.
- **Finalized the engineering documents and began construction on two new solar arrays at the Kent Park Education Center and Hills Access.**
- **Removal monoculture stands of Emerald Ash Borer infested trees at Kent Park.**



- Host two new STEM teachers during the summer of 2022 and focused on water quality at Kent Park.
- Worked with officials from the Perezek Estate and received a donation of \$985,646.78 donation from Ruby Perezek.
- Coordinated the restoration of the Meyer Addition to Kent Park with officials from the Eastern Iowa Airport and Wings2Water program.



## Derecho—re-roofing barns & forest clean-up



The derecho damaged all 5 barns on site. Replacement of all the shingles and repair of the barn doors was completed in FY22. Pictured is a drone photograph of the Celebration Barn during re-roofing and the completed project.





Work on reroofing the 3 small round barns was completed in FY22. The lean-to at the site was also completed destroyed by derecho and was rebuilt in the spring of 2022.







The forested areas at Cangleska Wakan were badly damaged by derecho. In many places along the timbered trail system dangerous hangers and leaning trees needed to be removed. The work was completed in February 2022, when the ground was frozen to prevent damage to the plant community.







The high tunnel was also destroyed by derecho and was replaced in March 2022. The new high tunnel is used to produce vegetables and herbs by a CSA that operates at the site.



# Acquisition of the Two Horse Farm



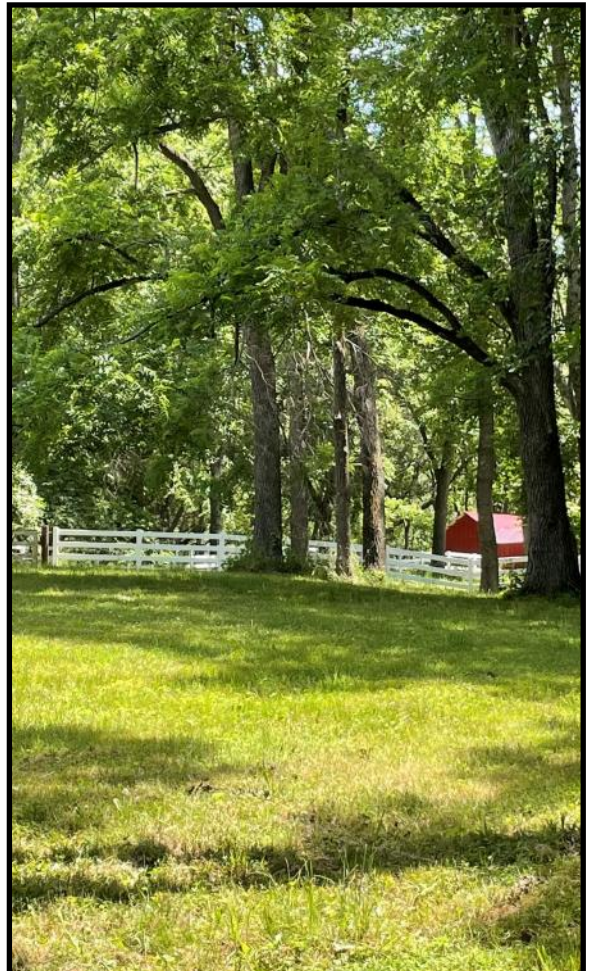
The Conservation Board closed on the acquisition of 83 acres from Erin and Brian Melloy on April 27, 2022. A REAP grant of \$300,000 was awarded to the JCCB to help offset the acquisition cost.



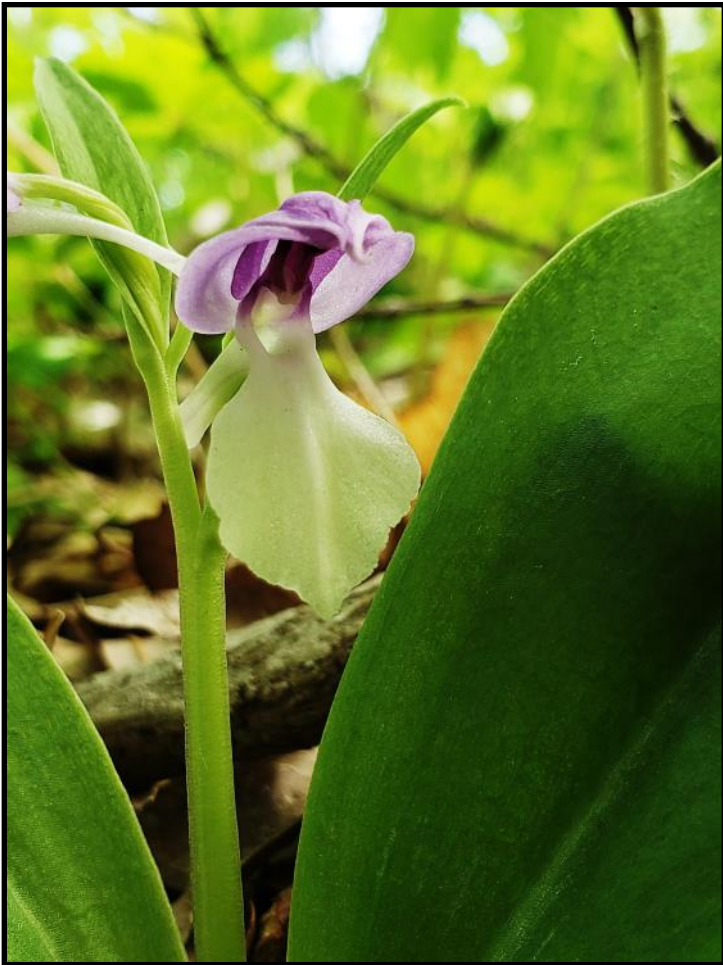




Jodene Cancilla restored about 25 acres of prairie and wildflowers in the 1970's on previously row cropped land. The Melloy's continued to manage the prairie through frequent burning to keep woody invaders from encroaching. The project also includes about 60 acres of savanna and forest that has been managed to promote regeneration of the oak and mast producing community. Near the farmstead site a 1-2 acre pasture provides a park like setting.







345 species of plants have been documented on site, including 5 species of orchid and several unique or uncommon savanna species. A mowed trail system winds through the woodland, savanna and prairie habitats.







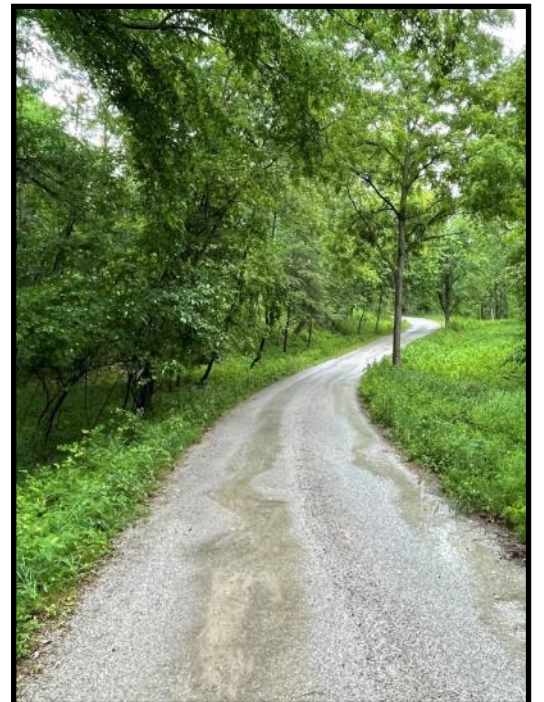
The farmstead site includes a beautifully maintained house originally constructed in 1910. An addition in 1992 follows the original architectural theme. Surrounding the house are gardens with many native and non-native perennials and annuals. A water feature with a stream and pond provides a tranquil setting among the gardens.







A barn, constructed in 1890, has been modified to provide flight pens for rehabilitation of birds of prey by the RARE, non-profit group.





# Donation & Dedication of the Phebe Timber



Phebe C. Williams (Davis)

The area was donated by the Williams family on July 2, 2021 and a dedication was held on April 30, 2022. The area was named in honor of Phebe Williams, who was deeded the property from Zachary Taylor, 12th President of the United States, in 1850. It is very rare for a family to still own property that was deeded directly to their family during the settlement of the United States and the Conservation Board is grateful for the donation. A good time was had by all at the dedication with attendees representing the Williams family from around the United States



Area will be managed to provide a corridor for wildlife, floodplain protection, hiking and environmental appreciation activities. Is open to archery hunting

Parking area and signage in summer of 2022.

THANK YOU AGAIN TO THE ENTIRE WILLIAMS FAMILY!

Phebe  
Timber







The 26 acres includes about 24 acres of bottomland forest and 2 acres of Old Man's Creek river channel. The area is known locally for its rich diversity of spring ephemeral wildflowers. The bottomland area includes several wetland inclusions similar to the picture of buttonbush—pictured on the left.







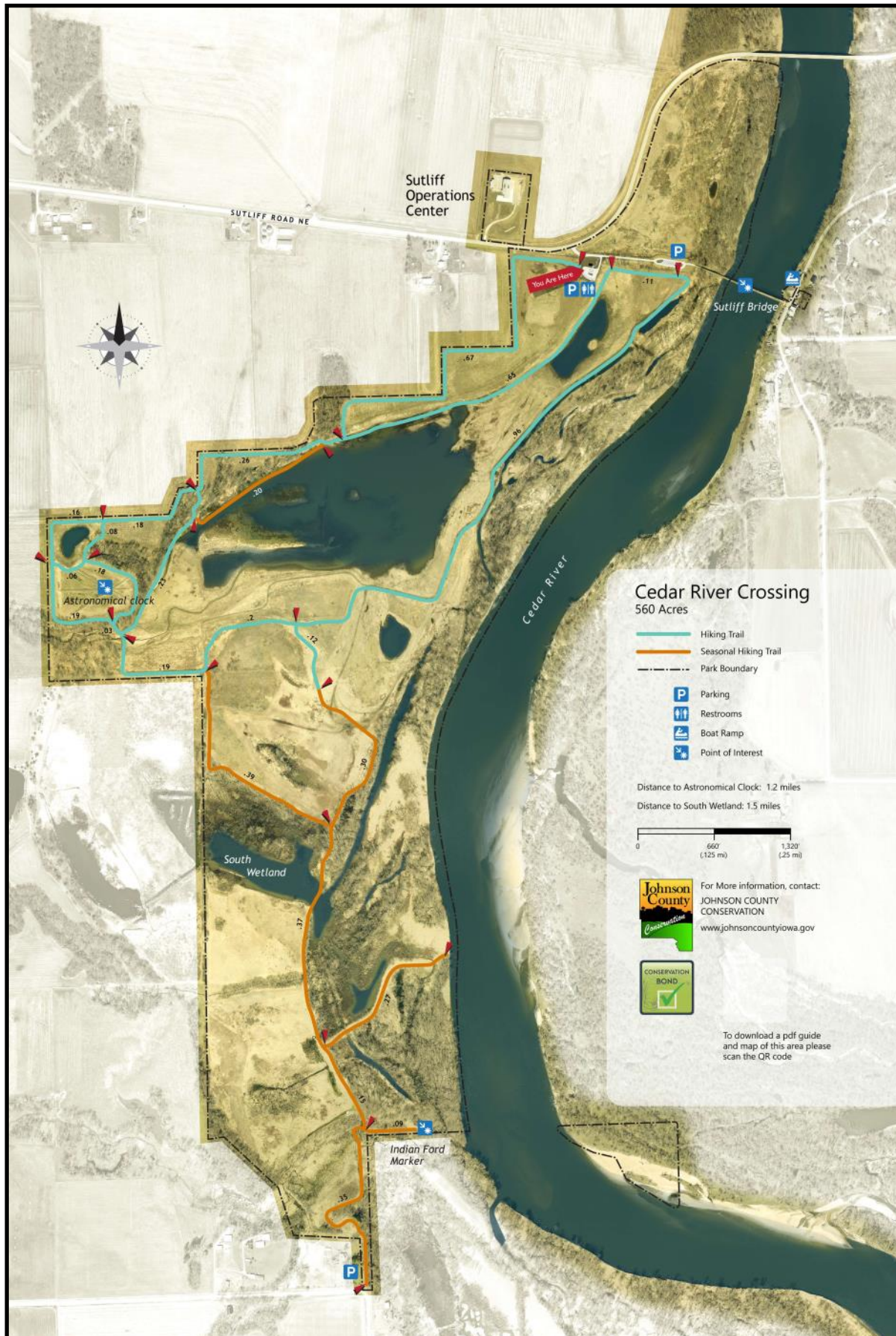
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Iowa City, IA 52240

# Phebe Timber



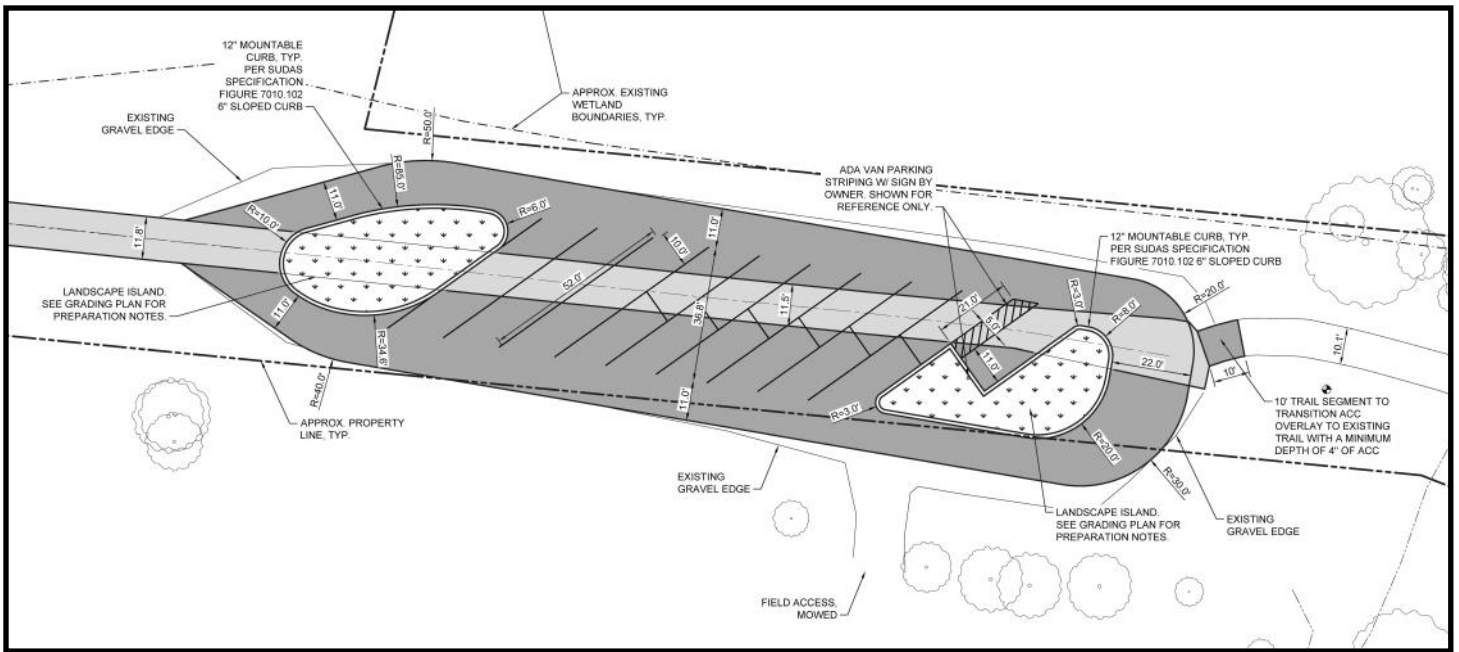


# Cedar River Crossing & Sutliff Bridge Entry Project

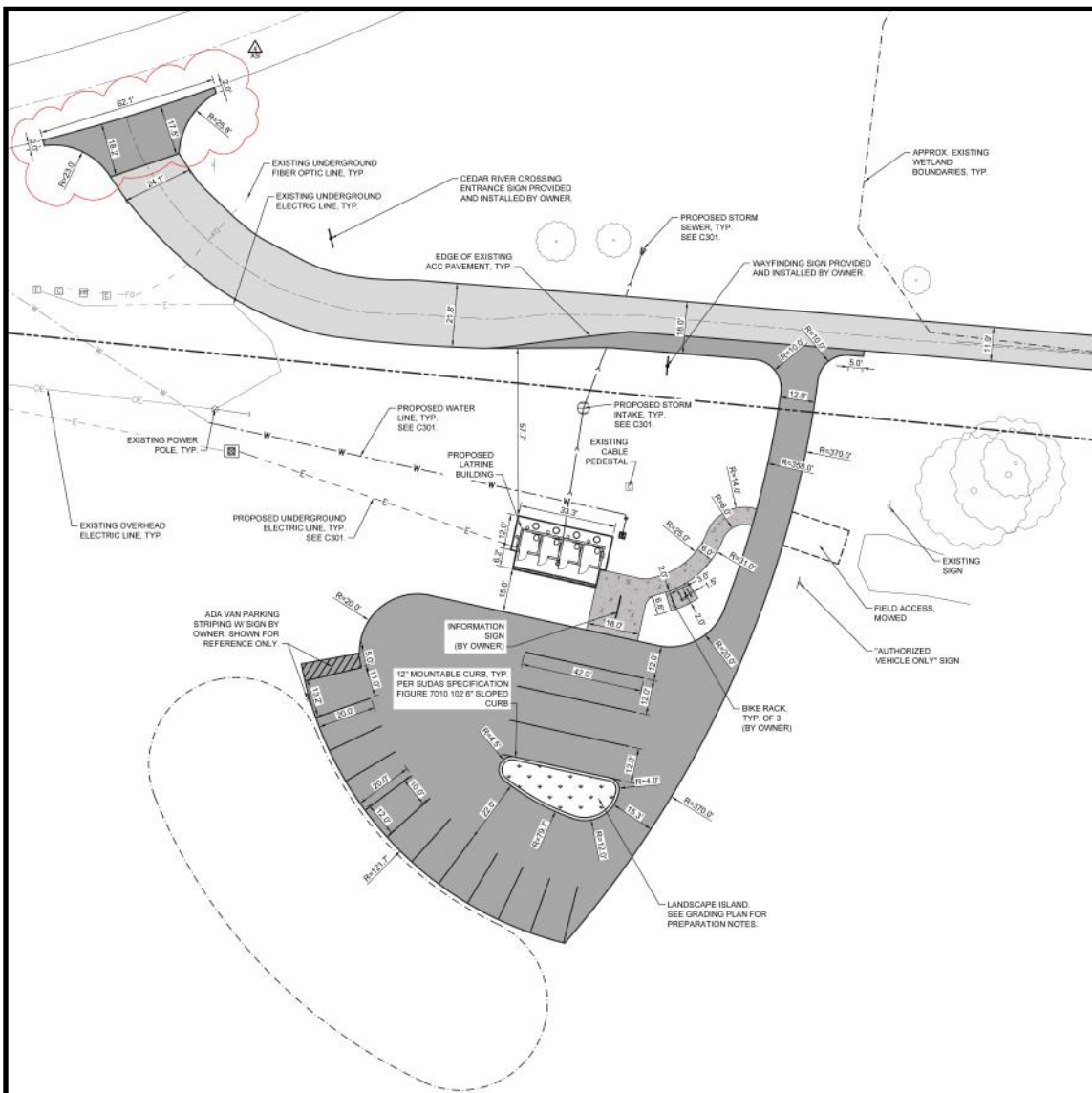


Shive-Hattery was hired to develop construction documents for improvements to the entry way at Cedar River Crossing the west end of the historic Sutliff Bridge. Part of the project includes development of an information area with mapping at the new latrine facility.





Above: The parking area at the west end of the historic Sutliff Bridge will accommodate vehicles and trailers and provide ADA parking access to the bridge and community of Sutliff.



Improved parking, an information area, bike rack and latrine will provide amenities to those visiting Cedar River Crossing. Overflow parking for vehicles and boat trailers will help alleviate parking issues at the boat ramp on the east side of the river.



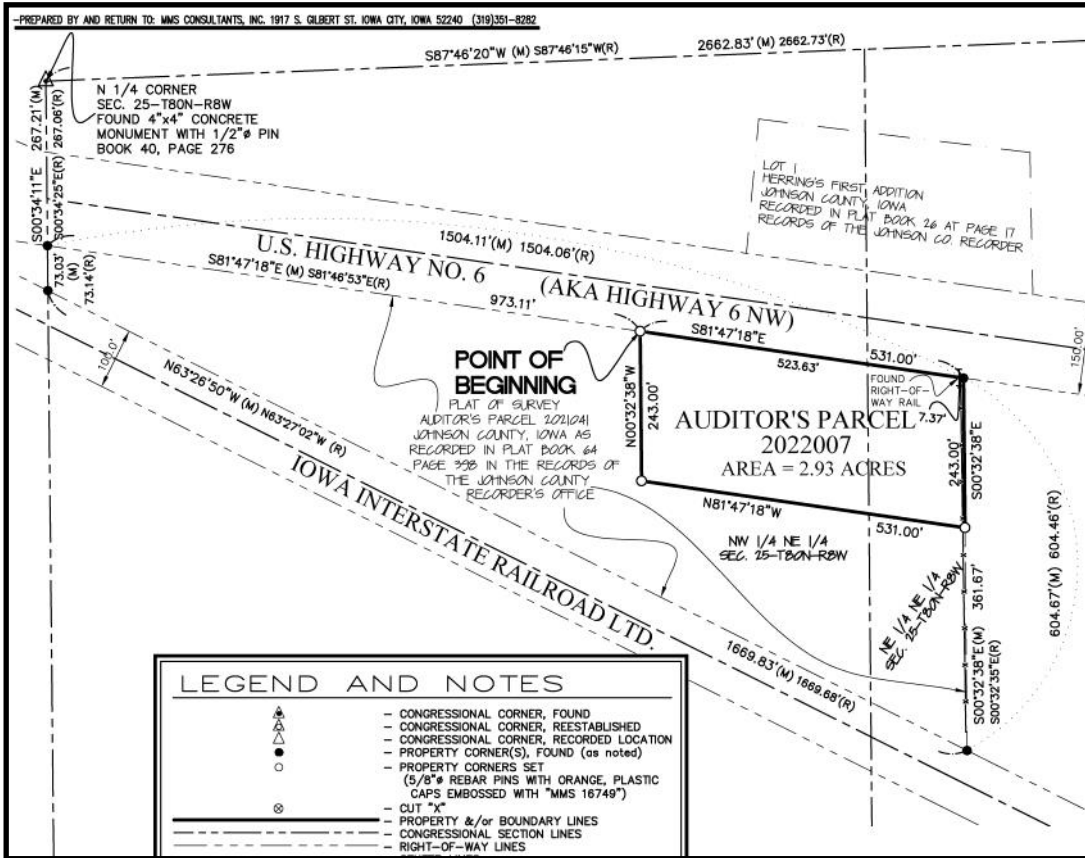


Improvements to the entry area are focused on providing adequate parking, a latrine or restroom facility and an information area. In June of 2022 the contractor began the project with grading and installation of curbs along the road system.





# Clear Creek Trail Extension from Half Moon to Kent Park



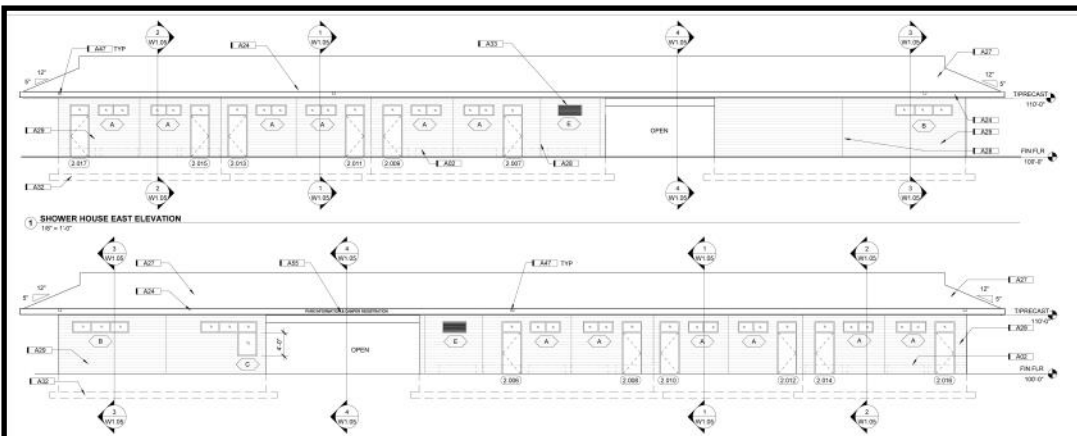
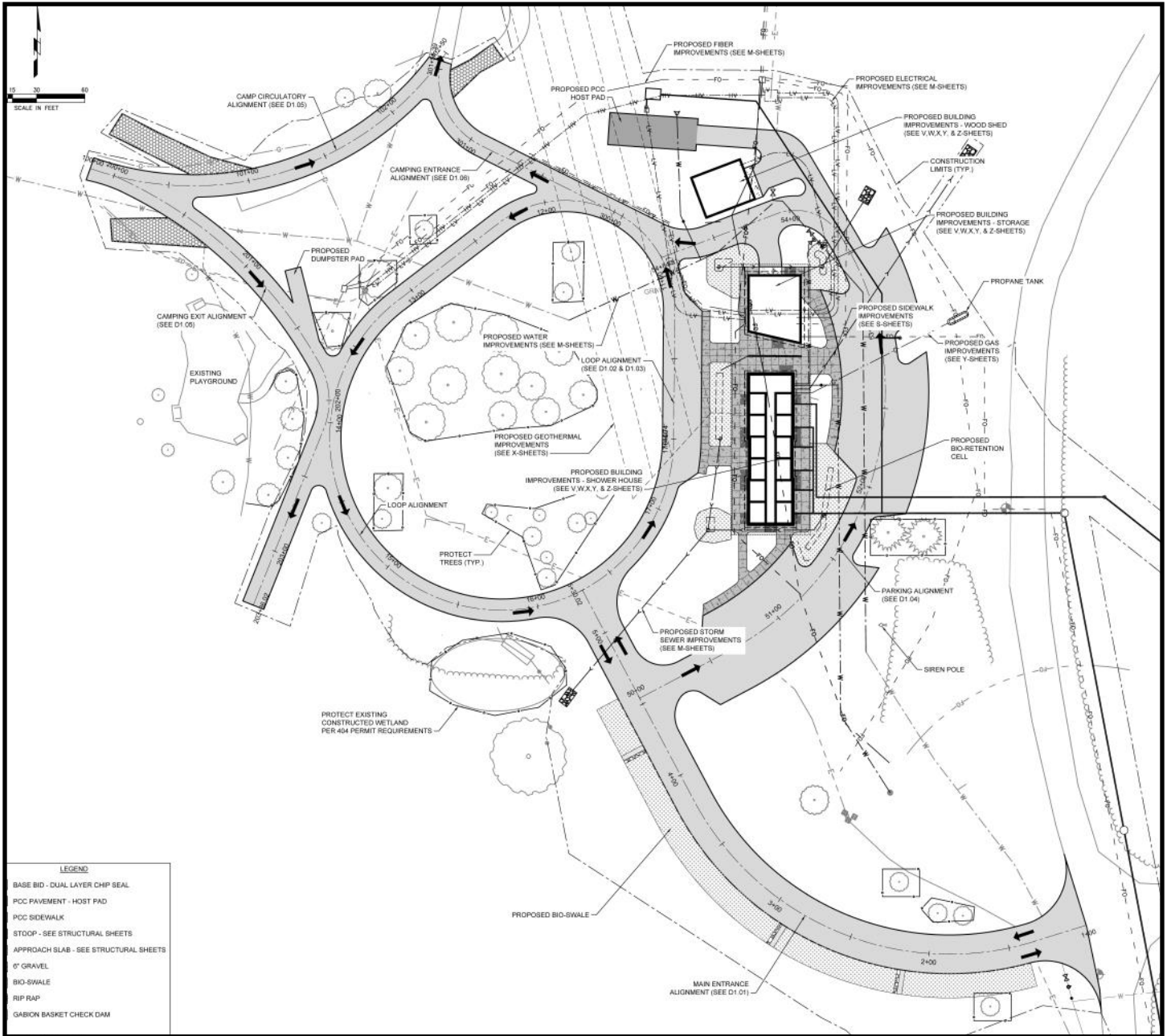
On June 21, 2022, the JCCB closed on acquisition of 2.93 acres from the Linn County REC. This parcel was the final piece needed to construct the trail connection to Kent Park and provides space for building a tunnel under highway 6 for trail user safety.

Seven cultural sites were discovered along the proposed route so an alternative route along Highway 6 was selected to reduce impact on the sensitive cultural sites.

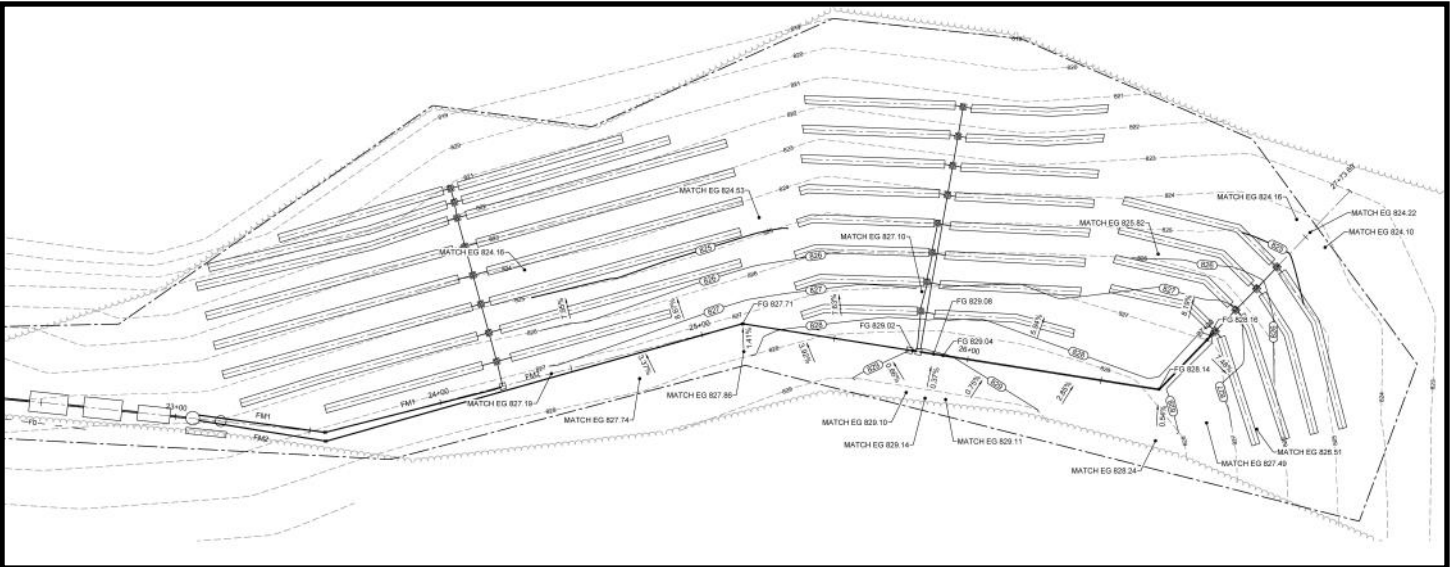




# Kent Park Shower House and Wastewater System Project



As part of the American Rescue Plan Act the campground shower house and wastewater system were scheduled to be replaced as the old system was polluting Kent Park Lake with excess nutrients. Construction documents were prepared by Shive-Hattery.



Above: The project includes a new wastewater system which is located outside the watershed of Kent Park Lake.

In preparation for construction the old shower house and garage was demolished and materials recycled for use in other projects.



Approximately 1.5 acres of trees and brush were removed during the winter months to prepare for construction of the new facility and road system.





Contractors removing trees and brush to make space for the new shower house.



The entrance to the campground will be relocated to provide additional space needed for the new facility and wastewater system.



## Restoration of the Meyer Addition to Kent Park



Staff and volunteers planted 500 wetland plants in the swale areas of the Meyer Addition to Kent Park. Funding and donations from the Eastern Iowa Airport's Wings to Water Program was used to acquire the plant material and seed for the restoration project.

The area was previously a cattle feed lot with runoff directly into Kent Park Lake.



In addition to started plants, 9.5 acres was seeded to a diverse mix of grasses, forbs, legumes and sedges.





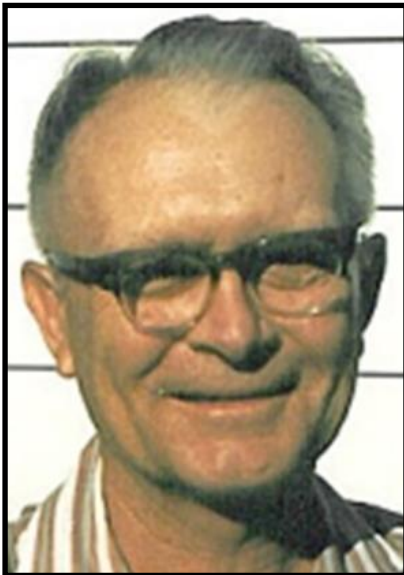
# Perezek Donation to the Conservation Board

In September 2021, the JCCB received the largest cash donation in it's history from the Estate of Ruby Pezerek. According to the will and last testament of Ruby Pezerek, the donation of \$985,646.78, will be used to benefit conservation and recreation projects and land acquisitions in the southern half of Johnson County, Iowa.



**Ruby Darlene (Rath) Perezek:** Born January 30, 1922 - Died April 3, 2021.

Ruby passed away at the age of 99 in the Bickford Senior Living Center in Iowa City. She graduated from Riverside High School in 1939. She married Leslie Perezek on October 31, 1939 in Iowa City. They lived on the family farm north of Lone Tree before moving to town in 1982 (203 S. Center St. Lone Tree, Iowa). Ruby was a member of the Trinity United Methodist Church and was the Pianist for Sunday School and Youth Fellowship. She enjoyed visiting with friends, music, sewing, gardening, flowers, and the outdoors.



**Leslie Charles Perezek:** Born October 31, 1916 [Lone Tree, Iowa] - died August 19, 2022 [Lone Tree, Iowa]. Leslie was 85 years old when he died after complications from a stroke. He farmed the family farm in rural Lone Tree before moving to town in 1982. He was a life-long member of the NRA and was a member of the First Methodist Church. He loved the outdoors.

<b>Hills Bank</b> and Trust Company 1-800-HILLSBK		<b>OFFICIAL CHECK</b>		200416974	
REMITTER:	RUBY PEREZEK ESTATE		DATE	9/14/21	
PAY TO THE ORDER OF	JOHNSON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD				
EXACTLY **985,646 AND 78/100 DOLLARS			\$	*****985,646.78	
<small>NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS IN THE EVENT THIS CHECK IS LOST, STOLEN OR DESTROYED, A 90 DAY WAITING PERIOD MAY BE REQUIRED PRIOR TO THE ISSUANCE OF A REPLACEMENT CHECK.</small>					
Hills Bank and Trust Company, Hills, IA			CUSTOMER COPY		
MEMO:			NOT NEGOTIABLE		



## **Education Program**

**Presented 211 Programs to 6,282 Participants**





Intro to backpacking trip to Yellow River State Forest



Miriam Girl's Club—first time kayaking trip to Kent Park







The LGBTQ+ adventure group hiked Malinda Reif Reilly Fen and Prairie with guides John Reilly and Gene Zdrzil.

Cangleska Wakan was the hub for all of the 5th grade writing on the environment day long spring field trips.







# JOHNSON COUNTY CONSERVATION

## Acres Burned Spring of 2022



Malinda Reif Reilly Fen and Prairie  
Photo by Brad Freidhof  
4/11/2022

Total Acres Burned — 723.35 Acres

F.W. Kent Park — 491.7 Acres Burned

Cedar River Crossing Conservation Area — 206.4 Acres Burned

Malinda Reif Reilly Fen and Prairie — 25.25 Acres Burned



# F.W. Kent Park Rx Fire Acres Burned 2022



## 491.7 of 667.7 Acres Burned

- F.W. Kent Park Boundary 1061.5 ac
- Burn Plan 1 All 170.8 Acres Burned
- Burn Plan 3 All 150.1 Acres Burned
- Burn Plan 4 41.6 Acres Unburned
- Burn Plan 5 24.8 of 43.6 Acres Burned
- Burn Plan 6 70.6 Acres Unburned
- Burn Plan 7 All 28.1 Acres Burned
- Burn Plan 8 All 21.3 Acres Burned
- Burn Plan 9 All 21.1 Acres Burned
- Burn Plan 10 32.6 of 33.6 Acres Burned
- Burn Plan 11 42.9 of 86.9 Acres Burned

Date: 4/27/2022

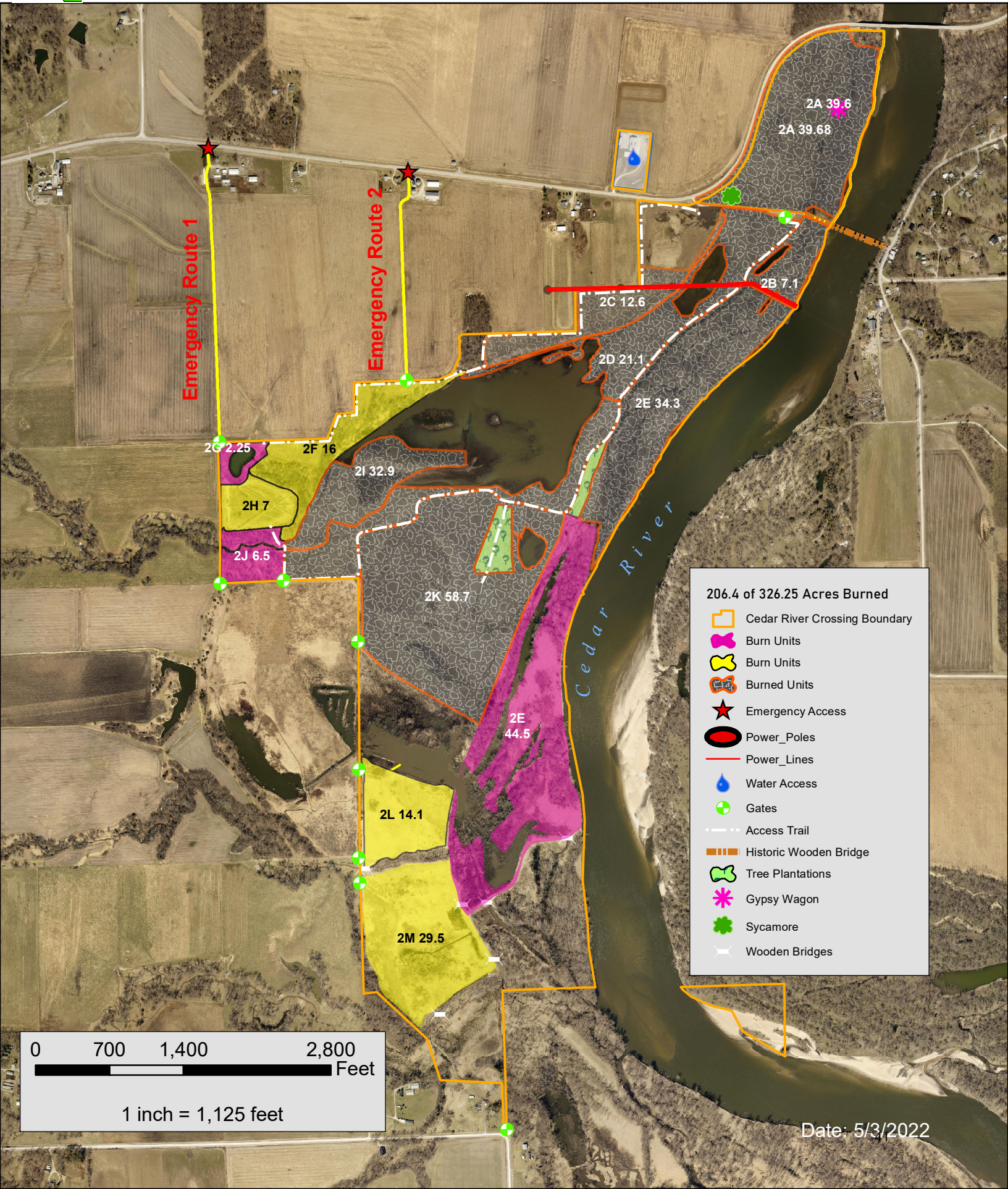
0 650 1,300 2,600 Feet

1 inch = 1,063 feet



# Cedar River Crossing Conservation Area

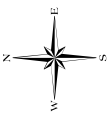
## Acres Burned 2022





# Malinda Reif Reilly Fen & Prairie

## Post Burn - Burn Plan 15



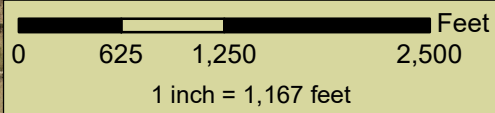
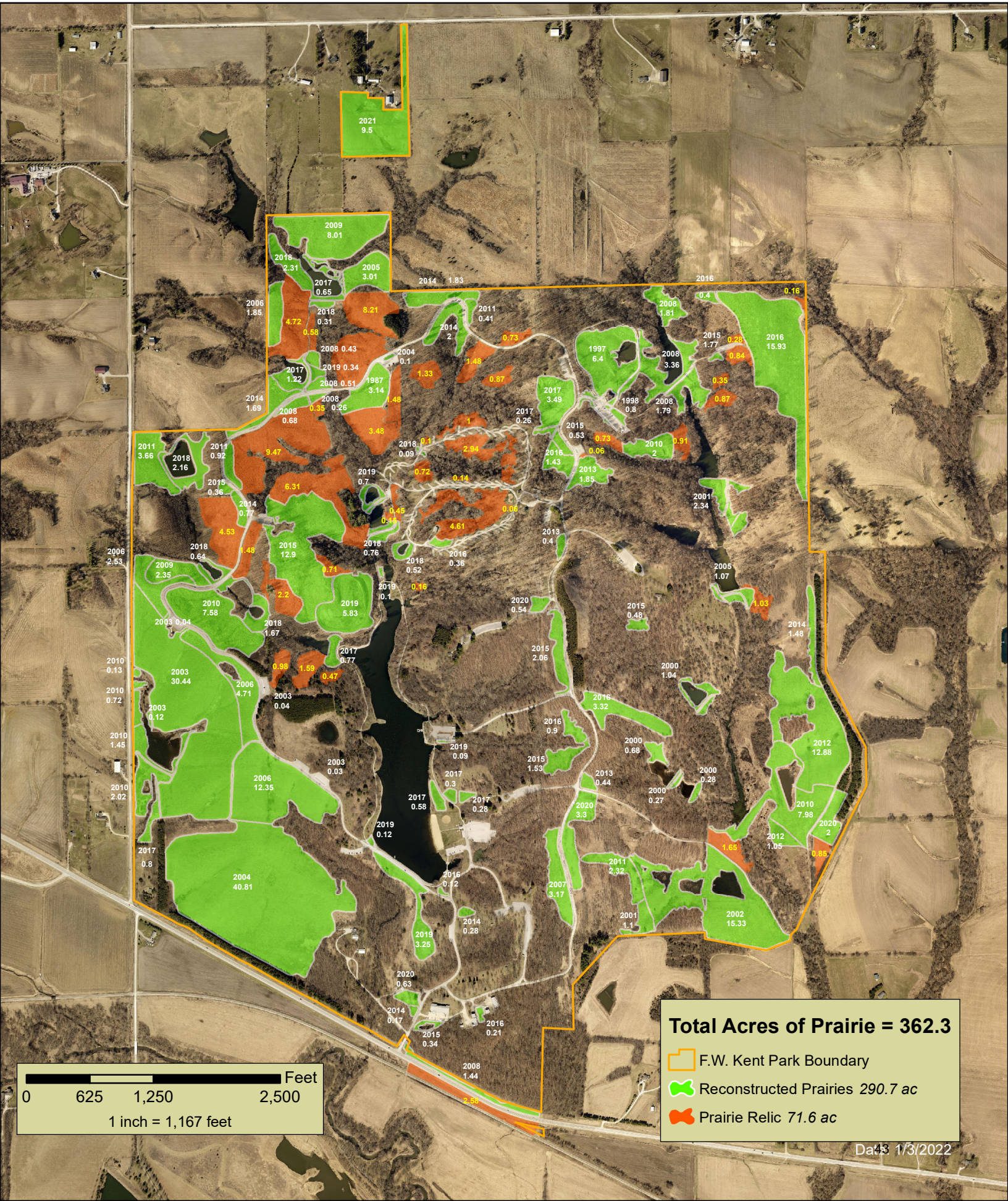
Melinda Reif Reilly Fen and Prairie Border 100.6 ac

Burn Plan '15 25.25 Acres Burned

Access Point







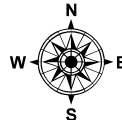
**Total Acres of Prairie = 362.3**

- F.W. Kent Park Boundary
- Reconstructed Prairies 290.7 ac
- Prairie Relic 71.6 ac



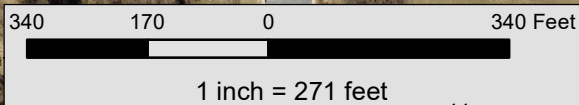
# Ciha Fen Preserve

## Woody Brush and Tree Mowing Fall 2021



Ciha Fen Boundary

Mowed Areas 19.2 Acres





## Addressing Climate Change—Solar Arrays

The Johnson County Conservation Board currently has five solar arrays. The last two arrays (Conservation Education Center at Kent Park and Hills Access) did not come on-line until after FY22, but were under construction in FY22.

Together, the three arrays which were on-line in FY22, saved CO<sub>2</sub> emission from the equivalent of burning 5,640 gallons of gas, or 4,924 gallons of diesel, or 23 tons of coal.

If you combined all three solar arrays together they would be equal to the recycling of CO<sub>2</sub> from 828 trees.

To monitor real time production of energy from the solar arrays go to;

<https://www.johnsoncountyiowa.gov/departments-of-conservation>

And click on the Solar Energy menu on the right side of the screen.

Construction of the solar arrays at the Conservation Education Center at Kent Park and Hill's Access and Campground included driving of pilings and then construction of an arbor holding the solar panels above parking areas.





## **Operations and Maintenance Facts and Figures**

In addition to implementation of special projects the staff also maintained 23 properties during the year. The following is a partial list of what the staff maintains and operates throughout the year.

- 23 properties totaling 2,747 acres
- 64.3 miles of park boundary
- 50.5 acres of turf at 14 areas
- 5 operations buildings at 5 areas
- 29 water control structures at 4 areas
- 12.2 miles of hard surface trail on 3 different trail systems
- 2 staging areas to access 25 miles of water trail
- 1,262 signs at 23 properties, including:
  - 1,226 regulatory signs,
  - 21 interpretive signs, and
  - 15 entry signs
- 3 campgrounds at three areas
- 123 campsites
  - 101 electric sites
  - 27 non-electric sites
- 66 roofed structures at 8 different areas, including but not limited to:
  - Youth Group Lodge
  - 7 picnic shelters at two sites
  - 4 gazebos including the Knight Prairie Pavilion
  - Bird Blind at F.W. Kent Park
  - Campground Storm Shelter at F.W. Kent Park
  - 4 round barns, one double round barn and a traditional barn
  - 20 vault toilets at six areas
  - 11 operation related structures
  - Administration Building at F.W. Kent Park
  - Conservation Education Center at F.W. Kent Park
  - 3 raptor cage structures
  - 3 houses
- 275 picnic tables
- 149 fire rings/grills
- 23 drinking fountains – indoor and outdoor
- 10 modern restroom facilities at three areas
- 4 playgrounds at two areas
- 4 boat ramps at four areas
- Two miles of gravel road
- 6.9 miles of hard surfaced roadway (chip seal and asphalt)
- 36 parking areas at fourteen areas – covering 8.35 acres and parking for 882 vehicles
- 19 trail bridges
  - 9 – historic bridges on pedestrian trails at two areas
  - 2 – Kent Park Conservation Education Center trail
  - 1 – Frytown Trail
  - 4 – Clear Creek Trail



New doors were made for the caboose building at Cangleska Wakan.



### 3 – Hoover Trail

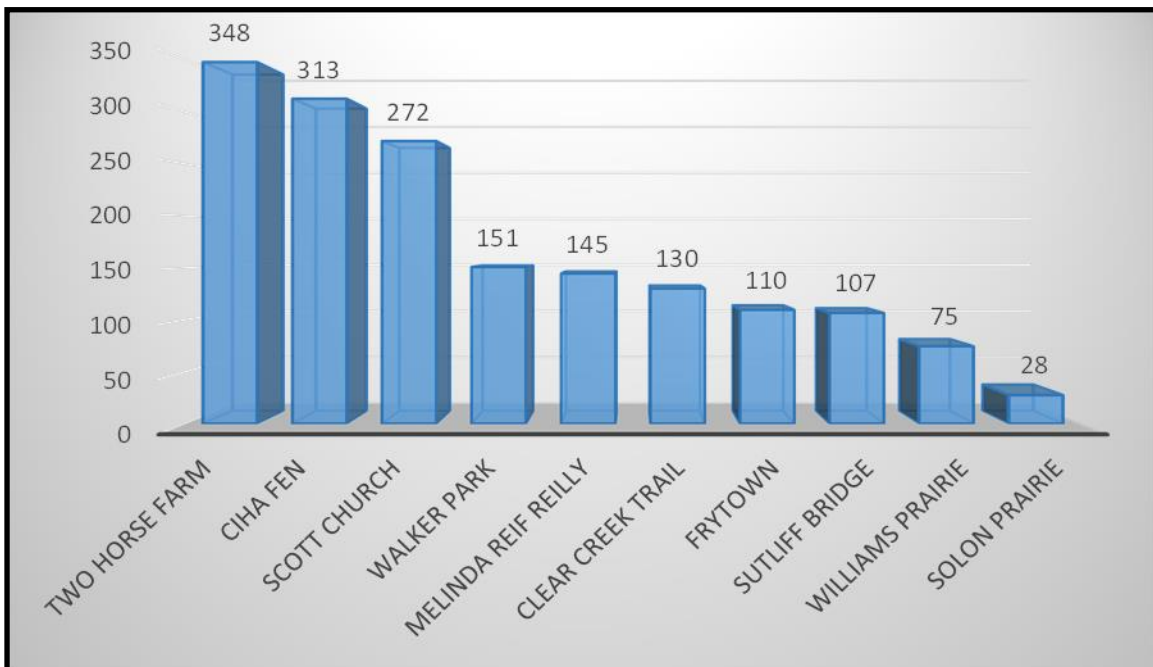
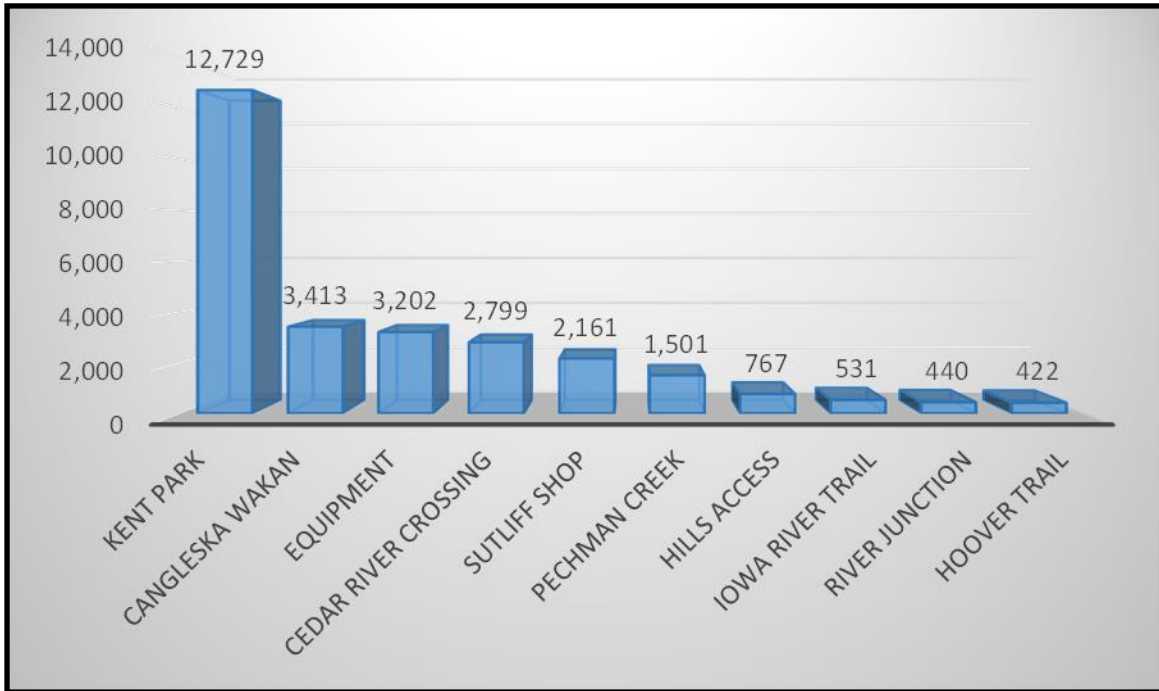
- 10 wells at seven different areas
- 12 waste water systems at five different areas
- 31 HVAC systems
- 2 commercial walk-in coolers
- 35 hand sanitizer units at two areas
- 14 water heaters
- 22 electrical transformers
- 4.39 miles of electrical line
- 3.97 miles of water line
- 2.72 miles of fiber optic cable
- 860 feet of LP gas line
- 32 septic tanks with a combined capacity of 26,000+ gallons
- 10 bulk fuel tanks at 4 areas
- 5 solar arrays at 4 areas
- 26 vehicles
- 65 other types of motorized equipment including:
  - 19 utility vehicles (UTVs)
  - 12 turf mowers.
  - 7 tractors
  - 1 backhoe
  - 1 bull dozer
  - 3 dump trucks
  - 5 skid loaders
  - 14 antique tractors
  - 5 antique cars
- 14 trailers
- 10 sprayers for prairie burning and herbicide application





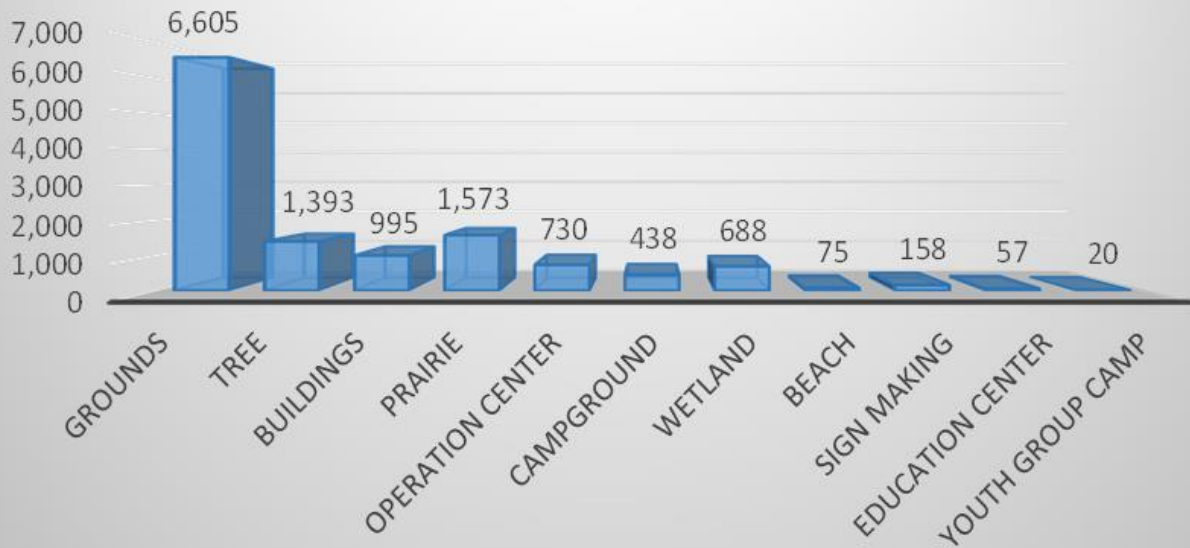
## ***FY22 Labor Report per Area or Task***

The following graphs and charts are provided to show comparisons related to how much time the staff spends in different areas throughout the County. The information is related only to hourly employees and not program area supervisors or employees that are exempt from FLSA.

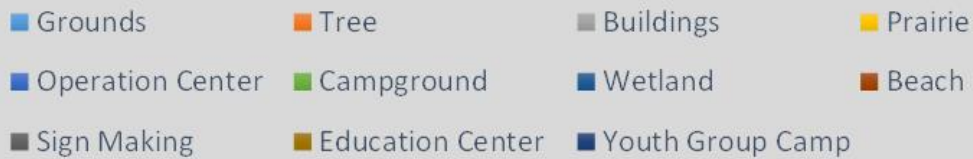
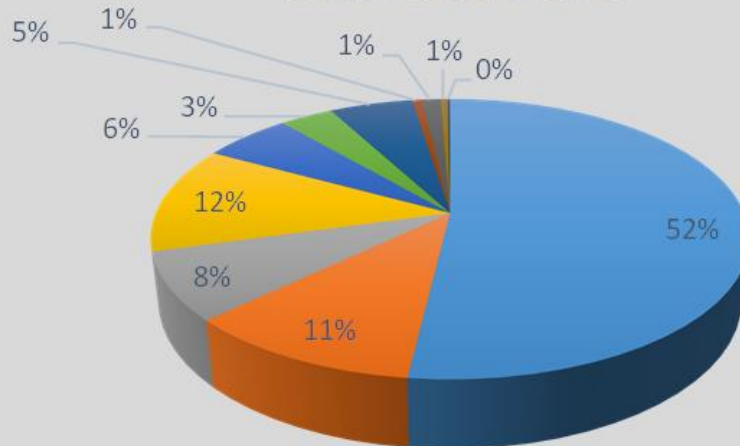




## F.W. Kent Park Labor Hours



## F.W. Kent Park





# Environmental Education Report

Compiled by: Naturalists Kristen Morrow, Frances Owen, and Marci Trana

## Strategic Plan Connection



We routinely visit newly acquired areas to learn both the natural and cultural history. This knowledge helps convey how these new acquisitions fit the “Protect” JCCB focus area. During FY2022, we hosted events at two newly acquired areas. These events included a hike at Melinda Reif Reilly Fen and Prairie as well as a co-host for the dedication of Phebe Timber. Additionally, injured animals found at our areas are an opportunity for us to engage the public as we organize rescue plans with the help of local rehabilitators.



Bringing the public in to assist with restoration projects remains a high priority increasing the public’s connection and investment in JCC’s conservation areas. Restoration programs and events for FY2022 included eight planned prairie seed harvests, a river clean up on the Iowa River, an oak tree planting, and a wetland planting co-hosted with other JCC staff.



The education staff and our valued partners engaged 6,282 people in 211 programs or events in FY2022. Both these numbers exceed those of any previous years in JCC history. We continue to work diligently on initiatives to reach more diverse audiences. In FY2022, we served a wide variety of ages and increased programming to underserved groups by building numerous community partnerships.



In FY2022, we provided 65 programs, covering various aspect of water quality. These programs included those connecting participants with water ways through recreation or by learning directly about the flora and fauna who depend on water bodies for survival. These events included paddling, wetland exploration, restoration, fishing, backpacking, river clean-up, citizen science, hunting, art, and wilderness education.



We continued to collaborate with numerous existing partners and added several new partnerships in FY2022. This year, we placed a large emphasis on promoting JCC to underrepresented groups. These partnerships are invaluable and continue to be the most effective way of reaching hard-to-reach audiences. Collaborating with many of our partners remains a highlight of our year.



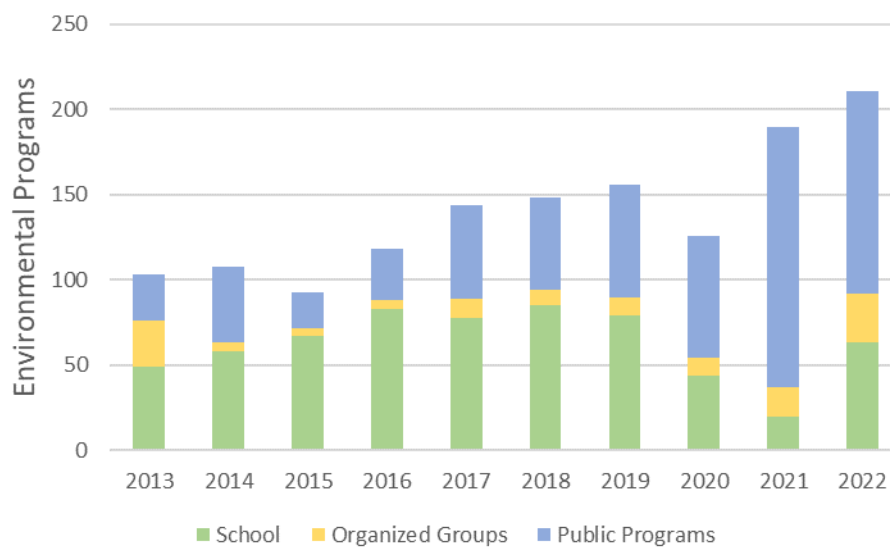
Sustainability is woven into all aspects of educational programming. We promote sustainable living through wildcrafting, hunting, fishing, foraging, wilderness and Leave No Trace education, use of recycled/reused items for crafts, art, and outdoor structures and encouraging the promotion of native plant and native animal care by promoting native plantings in our public spaces.



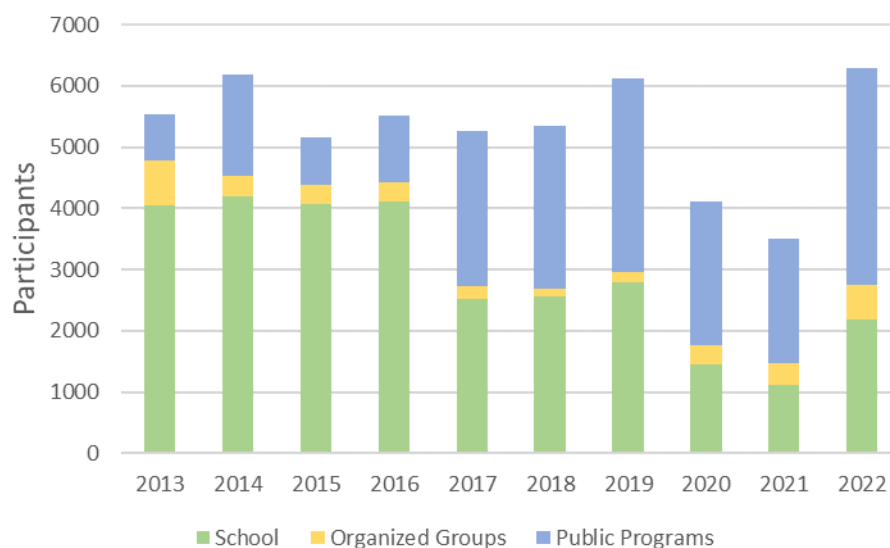
## Education Programming – By the Numbers

- Total programs led by naturalists in FY2022: **211** (Figure 1)
- Total people served through direct programming in FY2022: **6,282** (Figure 2)

Both the number of programs and the participants served increased even when compared to pre-pandemic data. Public programs offered were down by 22% than the previous year FY2021 but the number of school and organized group programs increased by 68% and 42% respectively (Figure 3). Diversity in age groups represented continuing balance adding more adults, senior citizens, middle school, high school, and college age participants while still maintaining a high level of elementary students mostly through field trip seasons (Figure 4).

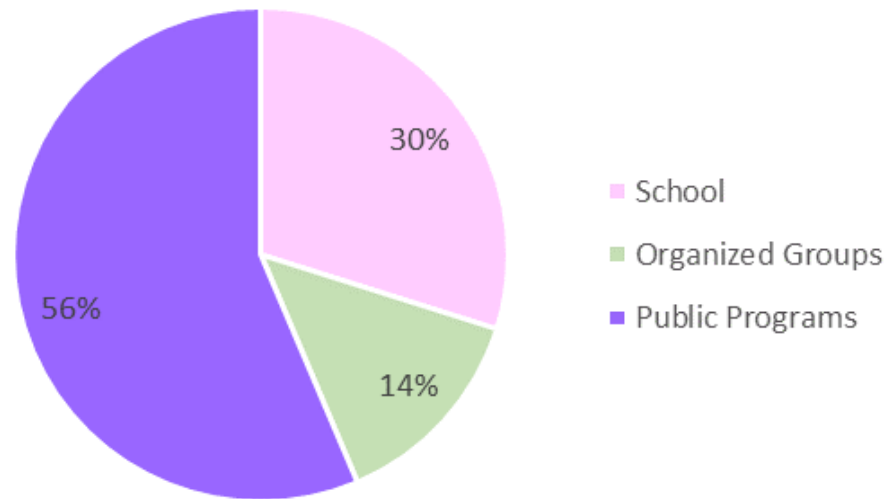


**Figure 1.** Number of environmental education programs, by type, offered in fiscal year 2022.

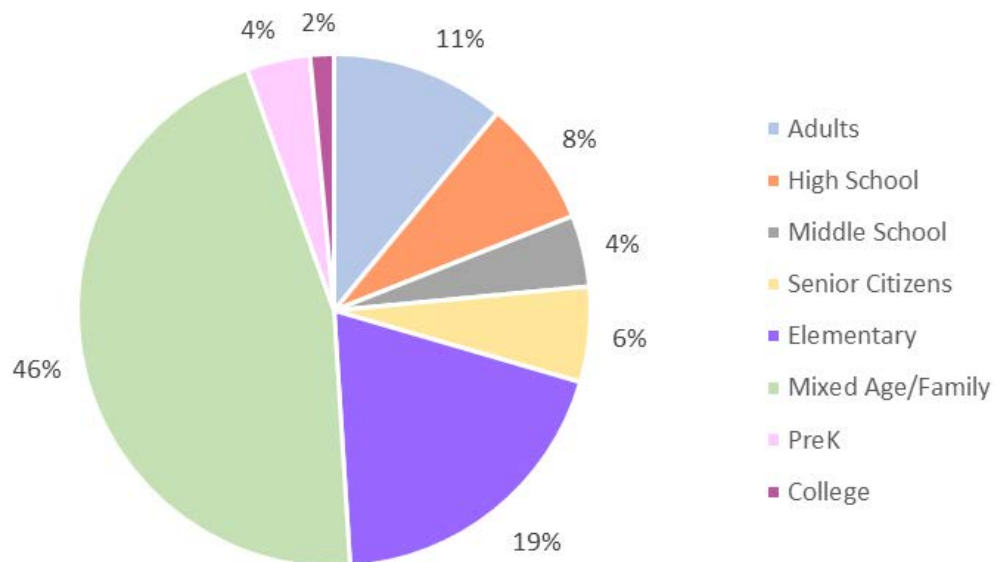


**Figure 2.** Number of participants reached, by program type, in fiscal year 2022.





**Figure 3.** Program type in percent of total offered in fiscal year 2022.



**Figure 4.** Participant age demographics by percent for fiscal year 2022.



## **FY2022 School Programming**

- Total people served through school programming in FY2022: **2,183**
- Total school field trips led by naturalists in FY2022: **63**
- Numbers were similar to pre-pandemic

### **Age Demographics**

Elementary students make up the majority of both field trips conducted and volume of students in school programs (Figures 5 and 6). The JCC Education crew strives to balance the age demographics of programs through forming organization partnerships and creating public programs marketing to underserved age categories. For example, in FY2022, the Education crew started regular programs with United Action for Youth and Miriam Girls Club. Two partners allowing meaningful connections between JCC staff and conservations area with underrepresented youth.

### **School Type**

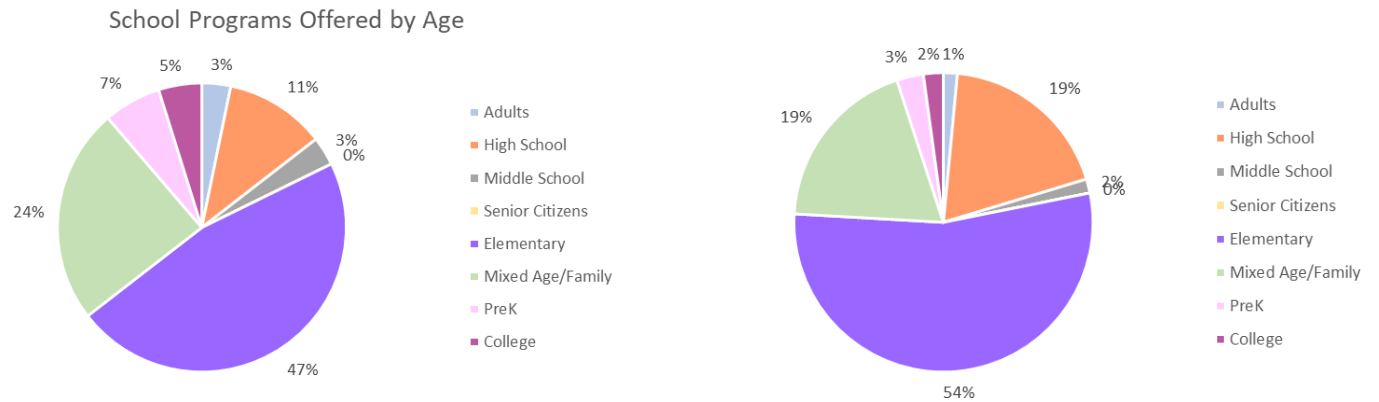
Public schools maintain the majority in both programs offered and participants reached. Homeschool and private schools are fairly equal in programs and participants but private schools groups tend to have smaller group sized making up a smaller number of participants reached (Figures 7 and 8).

### **Season**

The naturalists have been working to spread fieldtrips options throughout all seasons by expanding program offerings. This effort provides more outdoor learning options for county residents while also lessening the intensity of peak fieldtrip season, decreasing staff burnout in any particular season. In FY2022, naturalists encouraged teachers and leaders of school groups to schedule in seasons other than spring and fall. Winter programs are not easy to promote but winter participant numbers were higher overall when compared to summer and fall showing cold temperature are not deterring school groups (Figures 9 and 10).

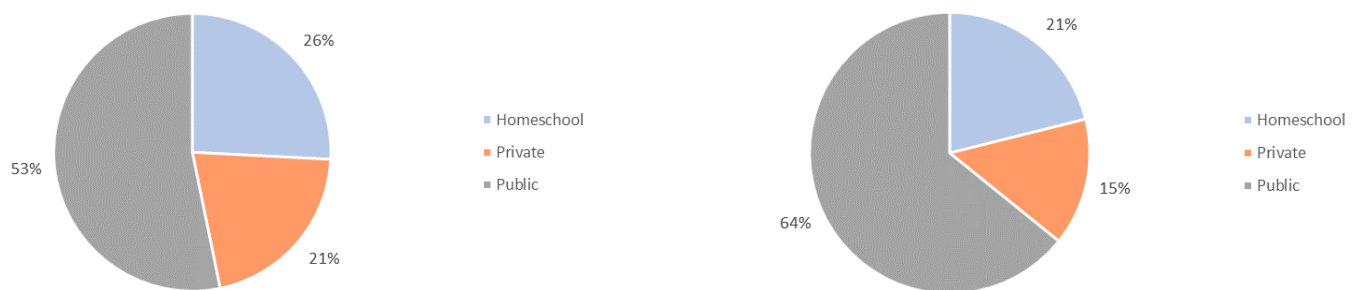


### FY2022 School Programs by Age



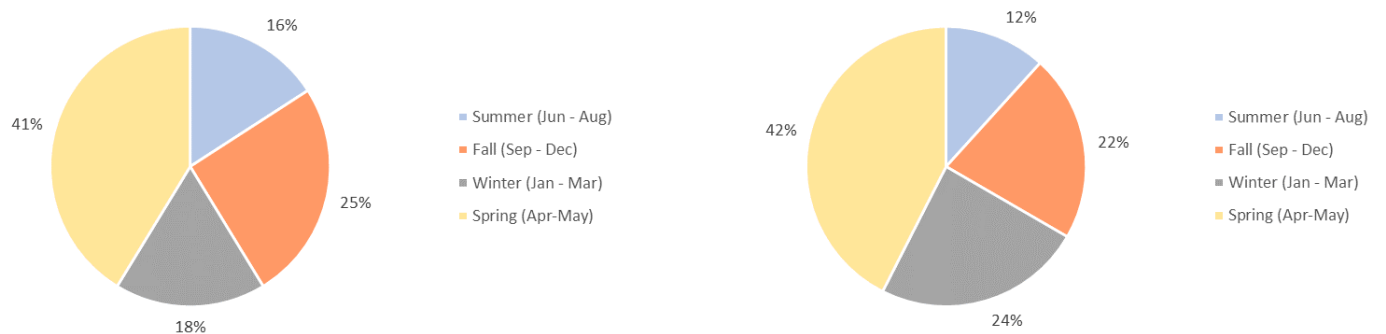
Figures 5 (left) and 6 (right). School program offerings by age and school program participants by age for fiscal year 2022.

### FY2022 School Programs by Type



Figures 7 (left) and 8 (right). Programs offered by school type and participants reached

### FY2022 School Programs by Season



Figures 9 (left) and 10 (right). School program offerings by season for fiscal year 2022



## School Field Trip Photos FY2022



Students with Hillside Christian School learn about the prairie and harvest prairie seeds.



Iowa City Community School District build forts in the woodlands.



Williams 4<sup>th</sup> graders spend a whole day learning about woodland survival.



Mid Prairie Homeschool families process invasive honeysuckle bark to make paper.



Marion Homeschool families weave stars from willow twigs.



West Branch 5<sup>th</sup> graders come annually in January to learn all about bird banding.





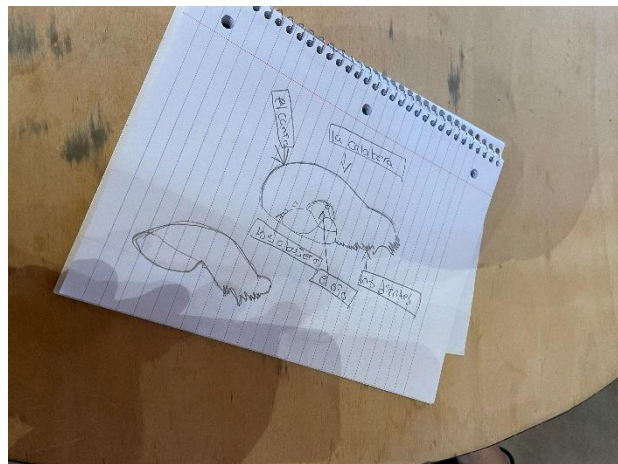
5th graders with Hills Elementary wait out the rain on their field trip to Cangleska Wakan.



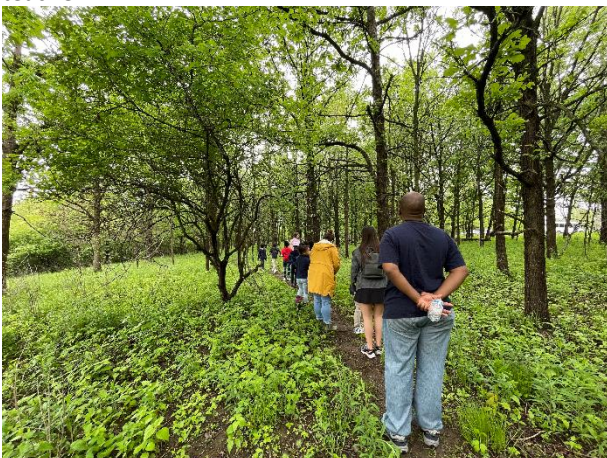
A 5th grader from Mark Twain Elementary journals about the forest.



A 5th grader who was non-communicative was more engaged academically, socially, and verbally on this fieldtrip than he had been all year, according to the teacher.



A writing on the environment student labels a skull they drew in Spanish.



Ornithology class bird hunt with Faith Academy 1st graders.



Solon Zoology student holding a tiny painted turtle during pond study at Cangleska Wakan.





Marci investigates wetland creatures with Hills 5th graders.



Solon Zoology students identifying benthic macroinvertebrates with microscopes at Cangleska Wakan.



## **FY2022 Public Programming**

Total people served through public programming in FY2022: **3,537** (+43% from FY2021)

Total public programs led by naturalists in FY2022: **119** (-22% from 2021)

In addition to the the large jump in school program requests following several seasons of school closures, naturalist continued to offer a diverse array of public programs and reached far more participants per program in 2022 when compared to any previous year in JCC history.

### **Outdoor Adventure and Wilderness Education Programming**

Among the adventure focused programs, the naturalists hosted nine paddling programs, 21 guided hikes, two wilderness survival programs. We formed a new partnership with the Iowa City Bike Library's Woman, Trans, Femme (WTF) group to offer bikepacking aiming to increase awareness of fossil fuel free transportation to local recreation areas. The Outdoor Skills, grant funded courses started in FY2021, wrapped up the grant related activities by providing additional fishing and hunting related programs in FY2022. Additionally, a three day beginner backpacking trip was hosted for the public at Yellow River State Forest. Finally, after two years of cancelling the Idaho wilderness trek due to the pandemic, preparation and recruitment for the 2022 wilderness trek began, with eight programs held in FY2022 to prepare students for the rigor of the Idaho Wilderness.

### **Environmental Education/Citizen Science Programming**

We hosted 21 environmental education programs covering ten different topics, including animal signs, raptors with Raptology, birds, frogs, bugs, mud, Monarchs, prairie seed cultivation, mushroom cultivation, wetland exploration, fireflies, and exploration of the CEC. We hosted and co-hosted two ongoing citizen science projects including more than six general bird banding surveys, initiated a trial season of Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship bird banding, and completed Integrated Monarch Monitoring Program surveys at Cedar River Crossing.

### **Wildcrafting and Woodworking Programming**

We hosted two wildcrafting programs (maple syrup making and basket weaving) as well as two wood working for wildlife programs (bat houses and solitary bee houses).

### **Art and Literature Programming**

We hosted 20 programs focused on encouraging the intersection of art and literature with nature. These events included nature journaling, nature book club, story times, fly-tying, and displaying the junior duck stamp exhibit at the CEC classroom.

### **Restoration Programming**

11 programs focused on restoration activities including the Iowa River clean-up, wetland plantings, and prairie seed harvests.



### **Hunting and Angling Programming**

We offered a public fishing program as well as two hunting programs. An Iowa DNR Fish Iowa! program was co-hosted by the education staff. Additionally, in FY2022 a new partnership was formed with the DNR's Field to Fork program to host the Johnson County 2022/23 cohort of students.

### **Social, Marketing, and Conservation area Recruitment Programming**

Several self-guided seek and find events have been added each year to the programming roster. These include looking for wooden bird replicas, a painted pumpkin hike near Halloween, as well as the "Elf for Your Health" seek and find event where participants are encouraged with a list of hints in hand to get into the holiday spirit and outside in winter by finding our very own elf, Cricket. The naturalists also co-hosted a dedication for Phebe Timber, offered a health through nature virtual talk, hosted booths at the Eastern Iowa RV Show, County Fair, Kirkwood Community College Career Day, Kirkwood Community Colleges Earth Day, and held a campfire picnic for the LGBTQ+ community.

### **Public Program Photos for FY2022**



Delicately hand painted, these wooded birds serve as accurate replicas. In FY22, a bird scavenger hunt was up for a week as a fun self-guided family activity around the CEC.



Kristen leads an adventure hike at the south side of Cedar River Crossing.





The naturalists adopted out 40 monarch caterpillars to 15 families, along with milkweed seeds and information about monarchs. They also released 40 outside of the CEC.



Intro to backpacking program group prior to the start of the trip, all ready to hike in Yellow River State Forest.



Kristen teaching camp stove operation, Leave No Trace, and safety on backpacking course trip.



Prepping chicken of the woods mushrooms on backpacking trip.



A very busy CEC patio during our fall public bird banding event.



Public introduction to hunting course offered at the Youth Group Camp.

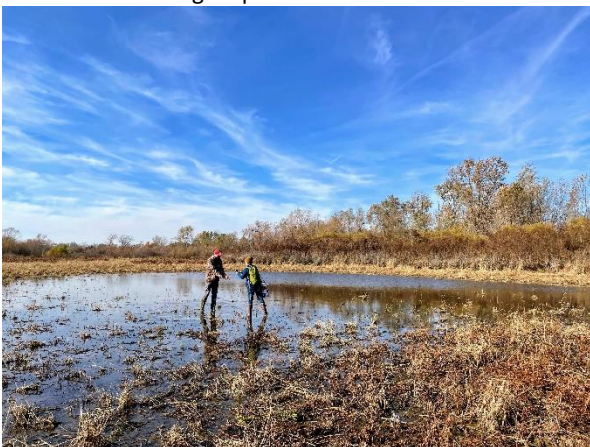




Kristen held monthly nature journaling programs, which have a dedicated group of attendees.



The annual pumpkin scavenger hunt drew out hundreds of people to take a fall hike at Kent Park.



While harvesting seeds at the Cedar River Crossing Adventure Seed Harvest, volunteers discovered remains of a pelican! Parts were salvaged for educational purposes.



Seeds gathered from just one volunteer seed harvest event! The species here are Culver's Root, Tall Coreopsis, and Slender Mountain Mint.



Many dogs find the "Elf for your Heath" each week as well.

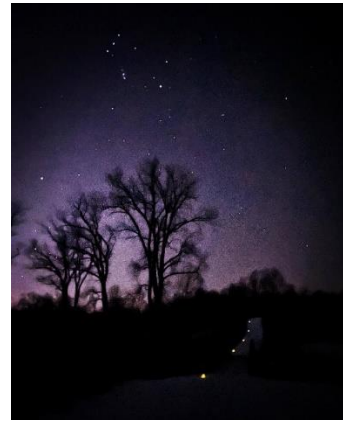


Annual Solstice Sunrise at the Astronomical Clock, Cedar River Crossing.





Family enjoys ice-fishing at Kent Park Lake.



The Luminary Night Hike was beautiful - over 150 people came out for it, even on a bitter cold night!



The naturalists started a new monthly program designed for K-4 called Junior Explorers. This month explored animal tracks and signs.



A Junior Explorers participant measures herself against the wingspans of various Iowa raptors.



A parent and child team make flies in the fly tying program.



Father and son work on the bat house together.





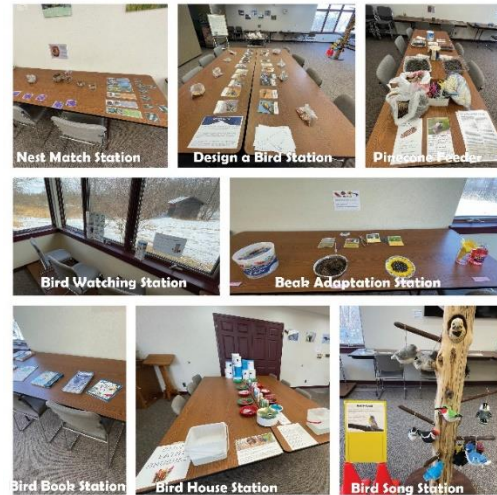
About 30 people came out on this beautiful 9 degree day to learn how to tap maple trees.



The Turkey Vulture wowed the Junior Explorers participants by sunning himself every chance he got.



LBBTQ+ Forts and Fires event at the youth group camp.



The Nature Buds and Junior Explorers programs each feature numerous hands-on activities in arts, stewardship, environmental science, and more.



Ribbon cutting at Phebe Timber Dedication.



Bus ride from Connie Williams to the property - Williams Family members.





60 People signed up for the always popular Froggin' Fun event, a program that encourages hands on discovery and intimate connections with living creatures.



A couple learns about Growing Mushrooms on your trash, recycled paper and spent coffee grounds.



Kristen talks over gear and packing recommendations for the Wilderness Trek.



IMMP Volunteers walk through the Wetland at Cedar River Crossing.



These county employees were three of the over 50 attendees at the Firefly Night Hike.



MAPS banding bench. Instruction by Mark Bowman.



## Programming throughout the County

We strive to offer programs throughout the county, and do so whenever there are appropriate site conditions/accessibility for public programs. The following list breaks down program locations and quantity for FY2022:

- Kent Park – 66
- Cangleska Wakan – 6
- Pechman Creek Delta – 1
- Cedar River Crossing – 14
- Hills Campground & Access – 1
- River Junction Campground & Access -1
- Malinda Reif Reilly Fen & Prairie – 1
- Phebe Timber – 1
- Iowa River Water Trail - 2
- Off-site or virtual - 17

### Photos of Programs Held at Various JCC Properties and beyond



Bikepacking out to Kent Park from the Iowa City Bike Library and archery practice and overnight campout at Kent Park's Youth Group Camp.



Cangleska Wakan was the hub for all of the 5<sup>th</sup> grade writing on the environment day long spring field trips.



Pechman Creek Delta served as a stopover hike location for the Woman/Trans\*/Femme Bikepacker program before heading on to River Junction Campground for an evening talk on Woman in Conservation and an overnight stay.



Cedar River Crossing's large maple tree population serves as the perfect place to teach the public how to tap, collect, and process maple syrup.





Hills Campground and Access serves as a perfect location to end a day of paddling, and in this case, jug fishing too!



The ribbon cutting and dedication of Phebe Timber kicks off anticipation for this new public land.



The LGBTQ+ adventure group hiked Malinda Reif Reilly Fen & Prairie with John Reilly and Gene Zdrazil as additional guides.



Locations like Lake McBride Recreation area serve as a space where extended hiking and paddling experiences can help the public take their outdoor skills to the next level.



## **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Initiatives**

Globally, environmental education programs primarily serve the middle to upper-class, white, older individuals. The lack of diversity is shown in those facilitating as well as those receiving programs. The JCC environmental education staff is increasingly aware of the need to be more inclusive particularly to those residing within our community but not represented in our programs, events, staff, volunteers, and public use areas. We are dedicated to providing a welcoming and safe space for all members of Johnson County. To reach this objective, we have made concerted efforts to boost diversity in our programs and events, attended trainings and workshops, and made connections to those in the community with close social or organizational ties to these underrepresented groups and individuals. We are primarily focused on age, racial, gender, sexual orientation, and disability disparities but we remain vigilant for disparities we are not yet aware of. During FY2022 over 86% of programming with organized groups were with underrepresented individuals. We hope that by building strong partnerships within our community and by offering programs designed to serve underrepresented groups, we are able to relay a message of welcome and safety to these underrepresented groups. The following sections show these efforts for FY2022.

### **LGBTQ+**

We hosted five public programs for the LGBTQ+ community as well as started partnerships with the Iowa City Bike Library to provide bikepacking adventures for their Woman/Trans/Femme (WTF group). A partnership with Queer Hikers of Iowa was also established in FY2022 with the first QHI hike held at Kent Park's east side at the end of the fiscal year.

### **Minority Youth and Minority Youth Mentors**

We hosted 14 events/programs capturing minority and underserved youth and their mentors. These events included those offered through collaborative efforts with other local organizations. Topics included hunting, shooting sports, fishing, kayaking, hiking, firefly hike, reptiles, and seeds. A new partnership was also made with the Iowa Youth Writers Workshop and the ICCSD to provide in-classroom preparation on nature journaling as well as a daylong spring field trip focused on writing on the environment. The schools selected for this programming were primarily those with higher underrepresented groups. Planning to continue hosting regular programs for these groups and organizations also occurred within FY2022.

### **People with Disabilities**

We hosted a program for the Village Community. This is an area we would like to expand in future years. In hopes of expanding our programming with this group we met with three staff from the Grant Wood AEA to generate ideas and solutions for recruiting individuals from this demographic. The take home points from this meeting were to consider the purchase of track chairs, provide a quiet location in the CEC with soft music for individuals to dissimulate. To rearrange the displays in the CEC for wheel chair accessibility and to consider mowing a path through the prairie near the CEC for prairie programs. Some accommodations above were made easily others will take time, and financial or JCC staff assistance to implement.



## Senior Citizens 65+

We hosted 11 events/programs for those 65 years or older. These programs included the newly launched OWLS program, group hikes, in-person lectures, fishing, a fall colors tour, live reptiles programs, birding, and kayaking. Future planning with these groups and organizations also occurred with in FY2022.

## List of Partnerships, Collaborations, and Connections Designed to Boost Program Diversity

- Big Brothers Big Sisters:
  - Event/program planning and marketing
- Iowa DNR:
  - Partner for Outdoor Skills Course
  - Preparation to host the Field to Folk program
- Corridor Outdoor Adventures:
  - Partner for Outdoor Skills Courses and beyond
- Neighborhood Centers of Johnson County:
  - Event planning and marketing, programs
- United Action for Youth (BIPOC and LGBTQ+):
  - Event planning and marketing
  - Wilderness Trek recruitment
- TRAIL (Tools and Resources For Active Independent Living):
  - Event planning and marketing
- UIRA (University of Iowa Retiree Association):
  - Event planning and marketing
- Melrose Meadows Retirement Community:
  - Event planning and marketing
- Miriam Girl's Club
  - Event planning and marketing
- Iowa State University Extension and Outreach 4-H Youth Development:
  - Event planning and marketing
- Youth Writers Workshop and the ICCSD
  - Partner to provide writing on the environment programs for 5th grade

## Partnerships Gained and Maintained in FY2022



Our partnership with Queer Hikers of Iowa resulted in the first QHI hike in Johnson County on Kent Park's southeast loop.



Our partnership with the University of Iowa Retiree's Association remains one of the highlights of our year. They are so grateful, engaged, and kind that we always leave with our cups filled.





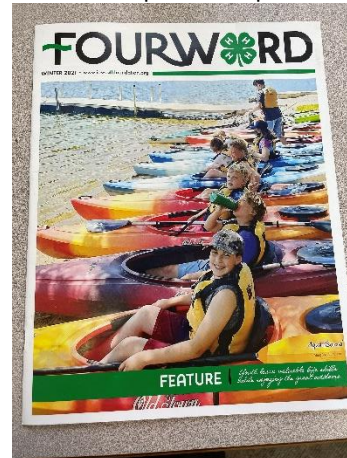
A youth member of Big Brothers Big Sisters takes in a spectacular stormy sky. One of many amazing moments we have witnessed in our partnership with BBBS.



Young woman with the Miriam Girl's Club, finally at ease in their kayaks pose for a group photo. These first experiences are a joy to bring to this all Muslim girls club, another treasured partnership.



United Action for Youth group participants play a kayak game to help them learn to stay nimble in their boats. We look forward to more meaningful experiences with these youth.



JCC's partnership with the local 4-H groups made the front of Iowa's 4-H Magazine! Our partnership is now serving as the model for statewide programs!



## New Resources, Curriculum, and Initiatives

In addition to facilitating and preparing for educational programs, we spend significant time creating new resources. The creation of these resources serves many purposes, including offering a greater diversity of field trip curriculum options, creating educational incentives for the public to head outdoors and explore JCC properties, and providing safe and engaging outdoor activities that families can enjoy. The following lists the newly formed materials and offerings for the FY2022.

- **New curriculum focused on wildcrafting** activities, including a two part maple syrup making course
- **Kick off to start snorkeling programs** include the purchase through donation of a set of six snorkels and flippers as well as scheduling training of staff with Diventures
- **Orienteering course was added to Kent Park's Youth Group Camp** area, find all the points and you complete a poem written by a present day famous woman, minority, writer in conservation.
- **Writing on the environment program** partnership with the Youth Writer's Workshop and the ICCSD to provide immersive day long field trips in early spring for 5<sup>th</sup> graders and high diversity public schools.
- **Start of Junior Duck Stamp Display** held at Kent Park, CEC classroom for a month long exhibit.
- **Re-start of the Great Iowa River Race and the Idaho Wilderness Trek**
- **Book Drive at Sidekick Coffee** helped supply the CEC and education crew with a fresh new set of children's books related to nature and conservation
- **Kick off of the first MAPS trial season** in hopes of starting a full MAPS station at Kent Park in upcoming years
- **Planning for the Woman's Confidence in Woodworking Course** in partner with local woodworkers and Kirkwood Community College
- **Kick off of backpacking in Iowa** hosted one public trip in FY2022 and began planning for a trip with youth from UAY, Miriam Girl's Club, and G-world at the same location.



## Volunteer Programs

By the numbers: **1,574 hours of service** completed by **94 people**

### Project/Task List

- Seed harvests
- LGBTQ+ hike leader
- Iowa River Clean up
- Education animal care
- Pelican rescue
- Book drive and reptile program
- Fishing pole repairs
- Bluebird box monitoring and Bluebird trail overhaul
- Filling bird feeders at F. W. Kent Park
- CEC host
- Raptor programs
- Great Iowa River Race
- Data collection for the Integrated Monarch Monitoring Program
- Bird banding, MAPS banding, and bird banding programs
- Youth archery program
- Special projects: craft prep, creation of nature exploration backpacks, wingspan mural, filling Nature Bags and sewing fabric bags for clay pottery program

### JCC Volunteer Photos from FY2022



The bird banding team remains willing volunteers in co-hosting meaningful bird programs to JCC.



The naturalists asked Volunteer Melinda Turnbull to paint a wingspan mural for raptor programs. The resource turned out amazing!





One of many wonderful volunteers who help us keep our gear in tip top shape.



Joan with Raptology remains a avid volunteer in helping us bring raptor education to the public.



Tina with Corridor Outdoor Adventures consistently helps co-host with us to hunting, angling, and outdoor skills programs to the public.



Volunteers make programs like the Integrated Monarch Monitoring Program possible at Cedar River Crossing.





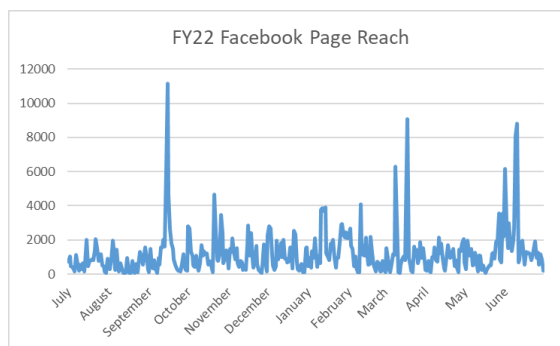
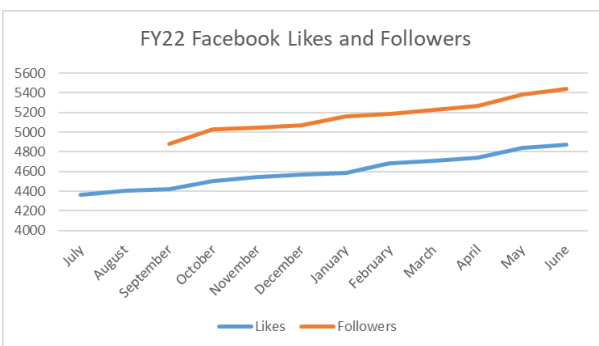
Prairie seed harvest volunteers remain some of the most dedicated and consistent volunteer bodies for JCC.



## Marketing Report

### Facebook

Page likes grew from **4,360** in July 2021 to **4,876** in June 2022 with an increase of **516** page likes. Followers grew from **4,879** to **5,437** with an increase of **558** (Figure 11). When new visitors click “like” at the top of our Facebook page, they are showing support for our Page and content. Our Page will show up as being liked in the about section of that person's profile. They will automatically follow our page as well, which means our content will show up in their news feed. However, people can choose to unfollow our content while still liking our page and vice/versa. Page reach is defined as the number of people who viewed our page on any given day. Our reach for FY22 was up by 313% when compared to FY21 (Figure 12). Spikes in reach are often tied to popular content being added to our page on or around the date of the spike (Figure 13).



**Figures 11 (left) and 12 (right).** Facebook trends over FY22 in likes, followers, and page reach.



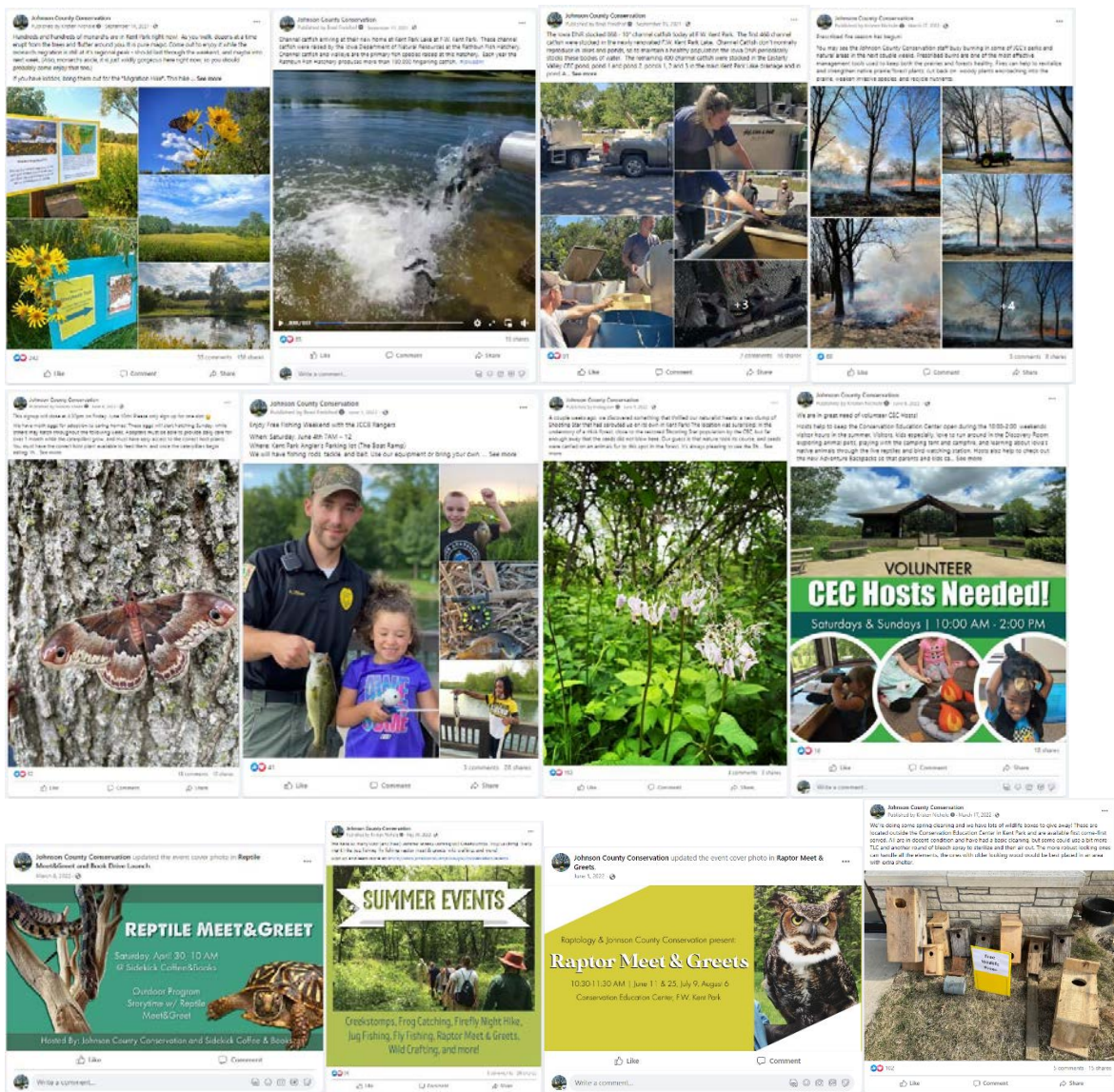
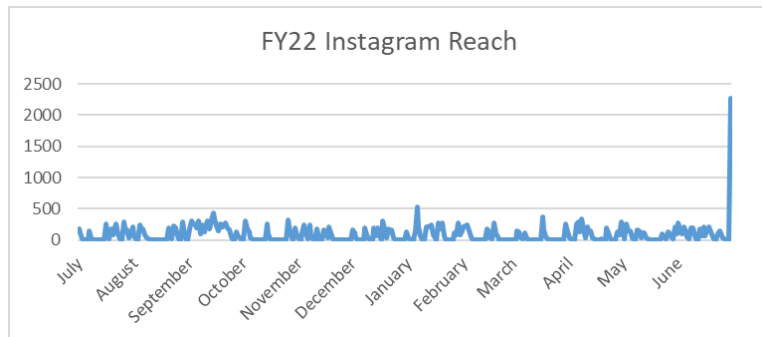
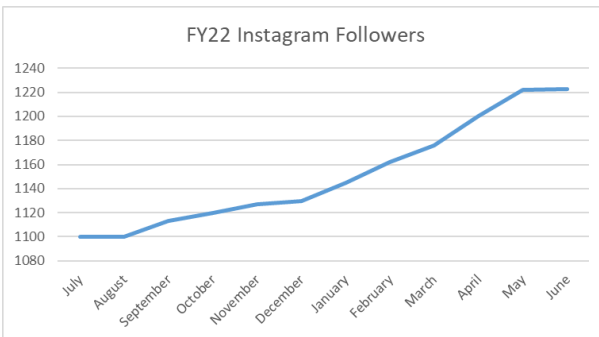


Figure 13. Facebook content associated with peak reach (2K+) dates in FY22



## Instagram

Followers grew from **1,100** to **1,223** with an increase of **123** (Figure 14). When a person follows our profile, our posts appear in their Instagram feed. Profile reach is defined as the number of people who viewed our Instagram profile on any given day. Reach for FY22 was up by 400% when compared to FY21 (Figure 15). Spikes in reach are often tied to popular content being added to our feed on or around the date of the spike (Figure 16).



Figures 14 (left) and 15 (right). Instagram trends over FY22 in followers and profile reach.

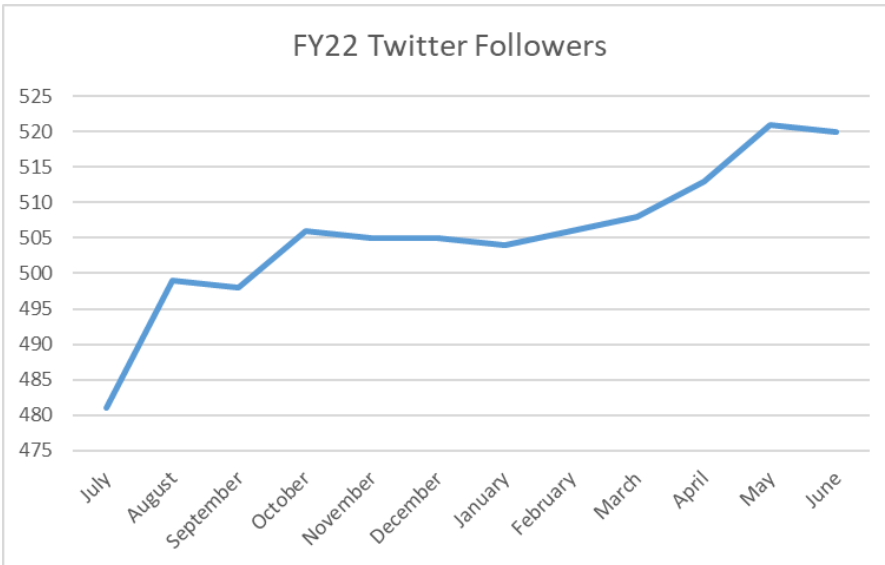


Figure 16. Instagram content associated with peak reach (500+) dates in FY22



## Twitter

Followers grew from **481** to **520** with an increase of **39** (Figure 17). Our top tweet had **35** likes and **10** retweets (Figure 18). When a person follows our account, our posts appear in their news feed. Additional cross posted content and tweeting more regularly would likely increase the rate of new followers and increase visibility.



**Figure 17.** Twitter followers over FY22.

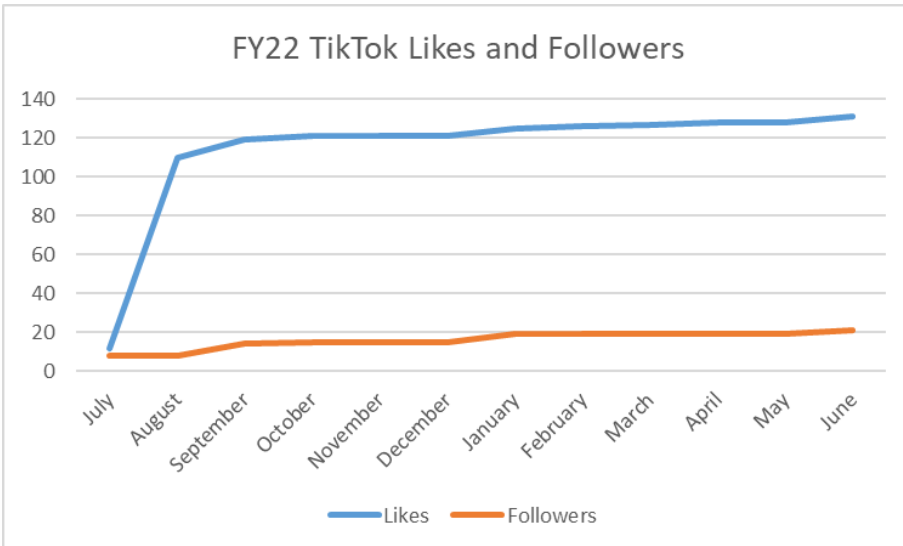


**Figure 18.** Top Tweet of FY22.

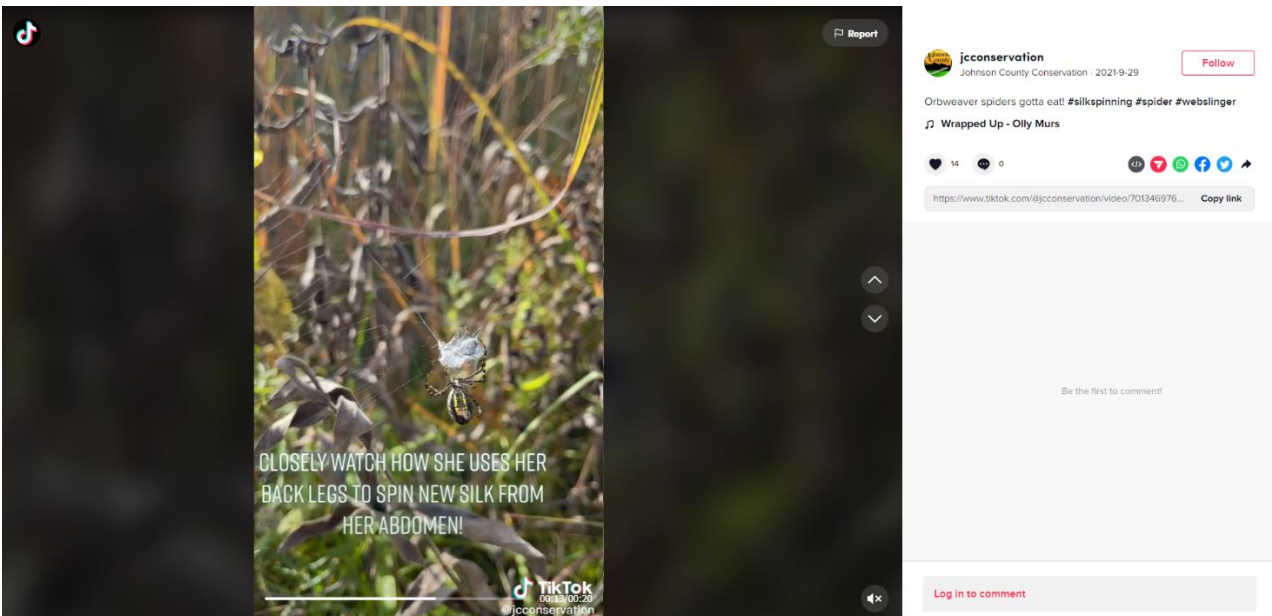


## TikTok

Our account followers increased gradually over FY22, beginning with **8** and ending with **21** followers. Profile likes increased significantly from **12** in July to **131** by June (Figure 19). Our most popular video was viewed **745** times and received **14** likes (Figure 20).



**Figure 19.** TikTok likes and followers over FY22.

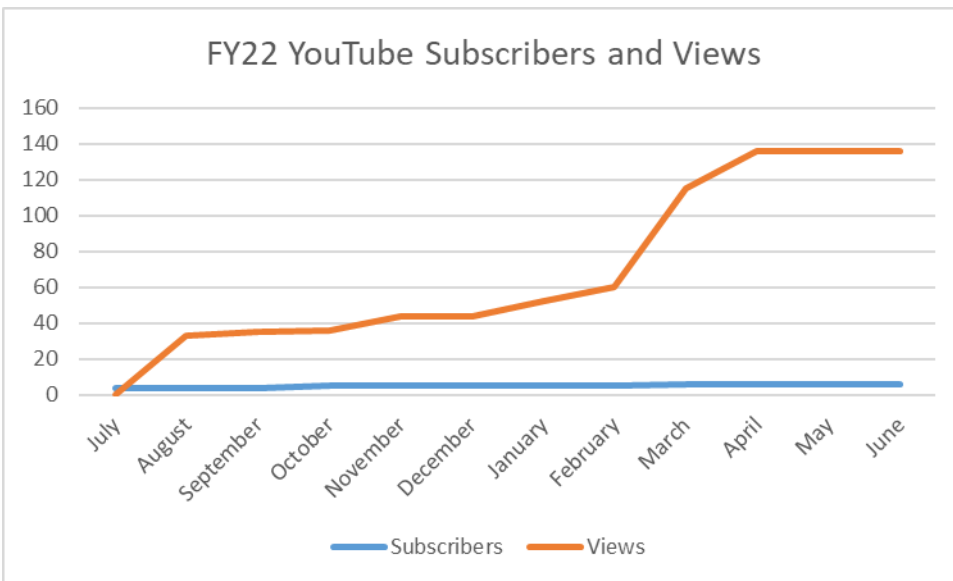


**Figure 20.** Top TikTok post of FY22



## YouTube

Subscribers increased from **four** to **six** and views increased significantly from **zero** to **136** during FY22 (Figure 21). Our most popular video was viewed **60** times (Figure 22).



**Figure 21.** YouTube Subscribers and Views over FY22.

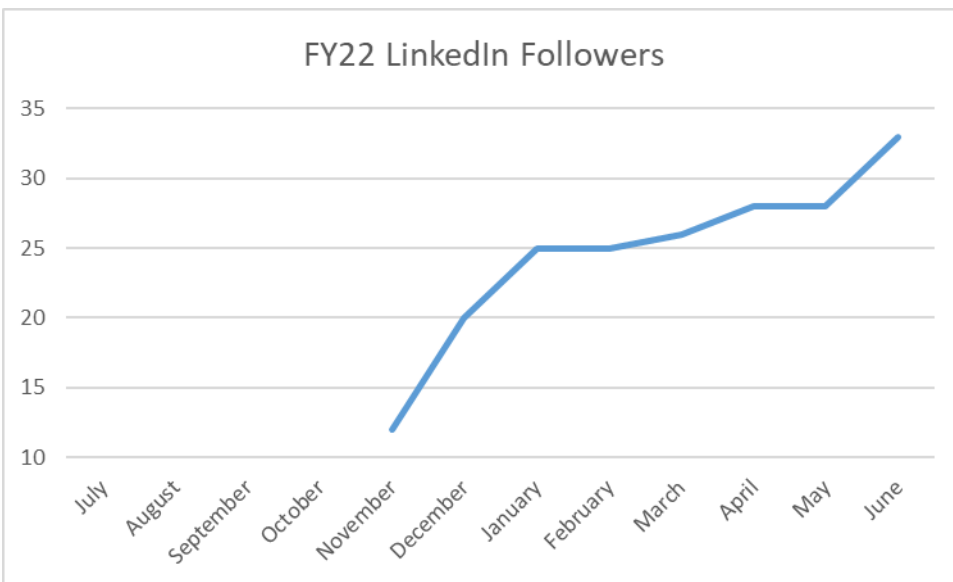


**Figure 22.** Top TikTok post of FY22



## LinkedIn

Our account followers increased from **12** in November, when we created the account, to **33** by the end of the fiscal year (Figure 23). The top post of FY22 had 103 impressions (Figure 24). Increasing posts on LinkedIn would improve its viewership considerably, specifically by advertising job postings.



**Figure 23.** LinkedIn followers during FY22.

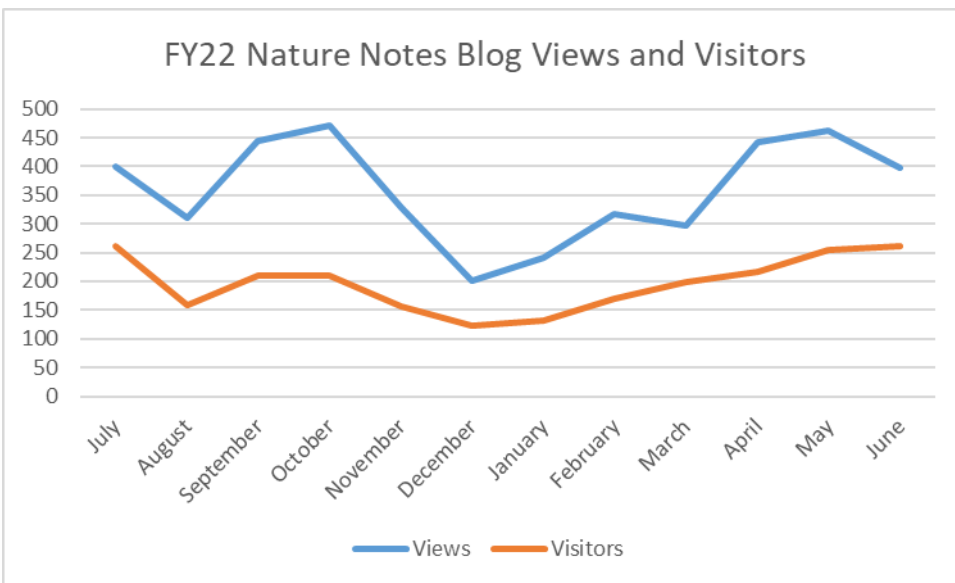


**Figure 24.** Top TikTok post of FY22



## Nature Notes Blog

We add content periodically to the Nature Notes Blog. This content often highlights how to explore a particular area or takes a closer look at some aspect of ecology and the environment. Views and visitors vary throughout the year and are often tied to a program prompting viewers to use the clues provided in the blog article to find something (Figure 25). The Great Yeti Hunt is an example of this type of program/event. So far we have published 32 articles. The series of articles on “how to explore” a given area tend to be the most popular articles (Figure 26).



**Figure 25.** Nature Notes Blog Views and Visitors for FY22.

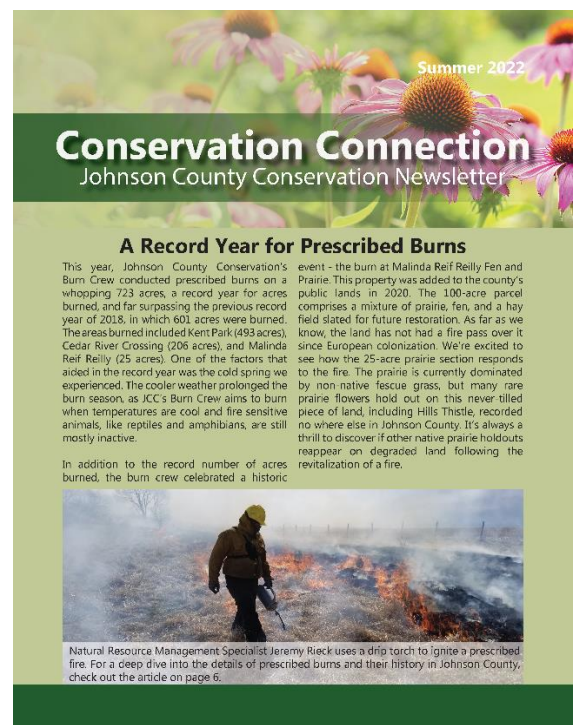
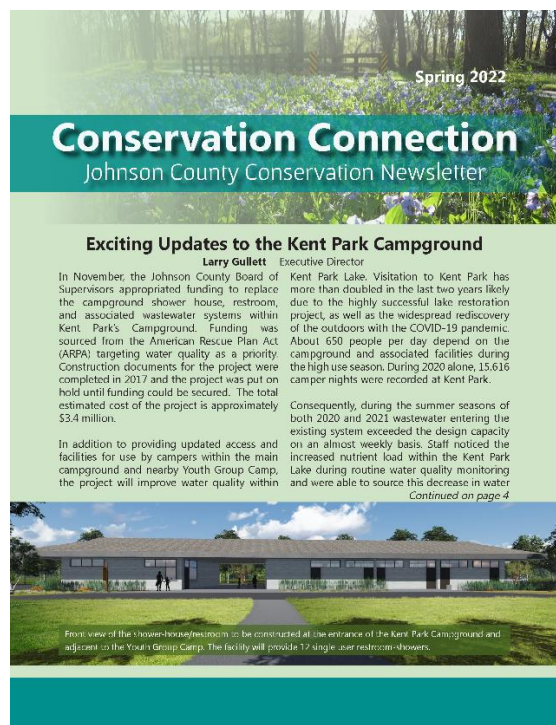
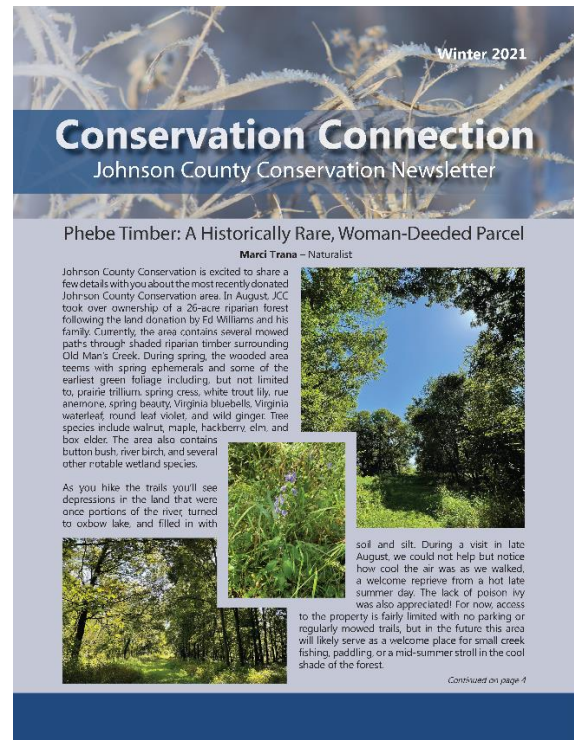


**Figure 26.** Nature Notes blog post and pages by views for all time.



## JCC Newsletter Content and Marketing

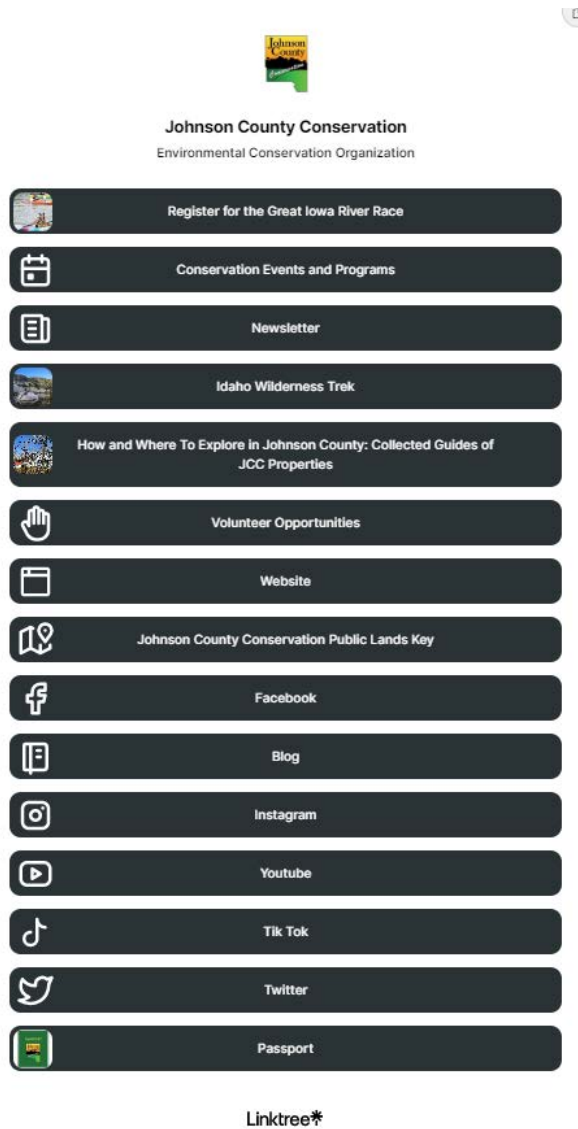
We create and publish four newsletters each year. For FY22 we generated 68 pages of content for placement in the newsletter. Subscribers of the newsletter started at 177 and increased to 252 in FY22.





## Linktree Connection Account

Linktree accounts serve as an index for connecting all the JCC social media pages together. It servers Instagram users most due to the fact that you cannot place links within Instagram posts (Figure 27). The lifetime analytics for the Linktree are 717 views and 622 clicks.



**Figure 27.** Linktree home page to connect all JCC social media accounts together in a single location.



# Park Ranger—Visitor Use Report

Park Ranger FY (Seasonal) 2022 Visitor Use Report

Compiled by Ranger Charles Bray and Ranger Aaron Ohlsen

2022 Season Report

## Camping

Johnson County Conservation has four campgrounds in three separate areas. Kent Park Campground and the Youth Group Campground are both located at F.W. Kent Park. Hills Access Campground is located just east of the town of Hills on 520th Street. River Junction Access is located three miles west of the town of Lone Tree off of Highway 22 in the very Southeast part of the county.

Total of all campgrounds combined: \*Youth Group Campground not included

Camping Permits issued- 2,974

Number of nights sold- 7,418

Number of campers- 7,101

Avg. nights stayed- 2.1

Camper Nights Generated- 17,775

Based off of the number of nights sold, overall camping use decreased 30% when compared to 2021.





### **Kent Park Camping**

F.W. Kent Park Campground opened on April 4 and closed on November 16 in 2022. Kent Park Campground contains 86 campsites; all sites provide 30 and 50 amp electric service and Wi-Fi internet access at a cost of \$20.00/night per camping unit. A modern restroom and shower facility is currently unavailable to registered campers.

#### **Attendance:**

Camping Permits issued- 2,340

Number of nights sold- 5,874

Number of campers- 5,631

Avg. nights stayed- 2.5

Camper Nights Generated- 14,135

Use decreased 30% when compared to 2021.

### **Hills Access Camping**

The Hills Access Campground offers 18 total campsites. Hills Access contains 13 campsites that provide 30 and 50 amp electric service at a cost of \$15.00/night per camping unit. Five sites at Hills Access are designated as primitive camping (non-electric) sites at a cost of \$10/night per camping unit. Hills Access was closed to camping this year on November 11.

#### **Attendance:**

Camping permits issued- 555

Electric nights sold- 1,226

Non-electric nights sold- 202

Number of Campers- 1,296

Avg. nights stayed- 2.25

Camper Nights Generated- 3,385

Use decreased 28% when compared to 2021.



### **River Junction Camping**

The River Junction Access Campground is open year-round and offers 12 campsites. All of River Junction Access is designated as primitive camping (non-electric) sites at a cost of \$10/night per camping unit.

#### **Attendance:**

Camping permits issued- 79

Non-electric nights sold- 116

Number of Campers- 174

Avg. nights stayed- 1.5

Camper Nights Generated- 255

Use decreased 38% when compared to 2021.

### **Youth Group Campground**

The Youth Group Campground is located at F.W. Kent Park. It is open year round and offers five primitive (non-electric) campsites that allow 20 campers per site at a cost of \$25.00/night per site. A heated lodge style building is available in the Youth Group Campground at a rental fee of \$25.00 per day without heat, or \$60.00 per day with heat.

#### **Attendance:**

Number of groups (permits)- 32

Number of campers- 1,430

Days stayed (sold)- 130

Average days stayed- 4.0

Camper days generated- 5,577

Use decreased 45% when compared to 2021.

#### **Group Use by month:**

Jan-2 Feb-3 Mar-2 Apr-2 May-5 Jun-3 Jul-3 Aug-1 Sep-4 Oct-4 Nov-2 Dec-0



## Visitor Interaction

Full time Park Rangers are Certified Peace Officers through the state of Iowa. A main focus of Park Ranger Staff is visitor assistance. Throughout the year Ranger Staff makes contacts with the public, perform public service duties, and assists other agencies as requested. Iowa Certified Peace Officers are required to attend and document a minimum of 12 hours of annual training in addition to annual firearms qualification and annual Emergency Care Provider training to maintain Peace Officer Certification. JCCB Rangers acquire well over the 12 hour minimum required annually.

### 2022 Training:

- Visitor Protection and Employee Safety
- Daytime firearms qualification
- Subdued light firearms qualification
- Legal updates for Fish, Game, and Parks
- Iowa Law Enforcement Emergency Care Provider training and updates
- HAZ-MAT mandated training
- Mental Health Awareness mandated training
- Implicit Bias / De-escalation Training
- Commercial Pesticide Applicator recertification
- Annual Wildland Firefighter refresher
- Storm Spotter Training
- Stop The Bleed Training
- Sexual abuse, mental trauma recognition
- Reunification Training with EMS and Iowa City School District

Much of the day to day contacts and public service duties Park Ranger Staff perform do not make it to the yearly report, however many interactions are recorded and documented through dispatch and Tac.10 software.

**Documented public interaction: Two full-time Rangers logged 134 calls for service through the Johnson County Dispatch Center and have 267 other documented public interactions.**

- Many calls for service not initiated by dispatch start as “out with a subject”. Depending on the interaction the call can change to a different type of call. An example would be a call that began as out with subject, could upon further investigation become a motorist assist or intoxicated pedestrian call. Below is a list of call for service types Ranger Staff had in 2022
- Community policing (License Checks)
- General Animal Call
- Park Evictions Hills Access
- Park Eviction Kent Park
- Out with Subject

- Suspicious Activity/Persons
- Suicidal Subjects
- Parking Issues
- Intoxicated Pedestrian
- Illegal Dumping
- Assist in Death Investigation
- Medical Assistance
- Traffic Stops
- Motor Vehicle Accidents
- Crisis Center Referrals
- Noise Complaints
- River Recovery on Iowa River
- Violation No Contact Orders
- Trespass Warnings Issued
- Motorist Assists
- Assist Other Agency
- Hunting Violations

### **2022 F.W. Kent Park Traffic Counter Summary**

During the 2020 season a new traffic data collection method was implemented. Data is now collected by the TRAFx counters. TRAFx counters are used all over the world, but more importantly they are used by other agencies in our area, and are now the standard method of collection in parks. We are able to share and compare data with any agency that uses TRAFx. The TRAFx counter at Kent Park stays active year round. This is a great advantage over seasonal data collection only. The TRAFx counter was run simultaneously for one month with the old style counter to ensure accuracy.

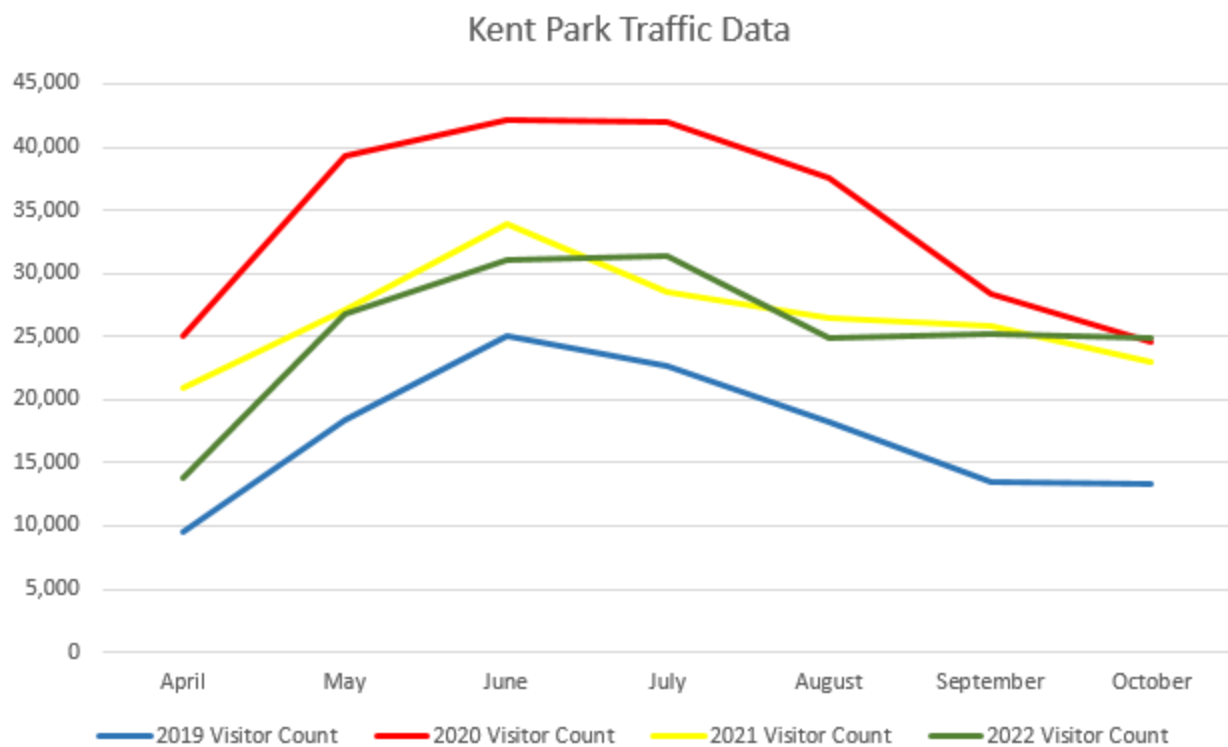
#### **Kent Park:**

**The 2022 season showed a 4.4% percent decrease when compared to the 2021 season.** Despite this decrease, the graph below still shows 2022 as the third highest visitor number collected in Kent Parks history. This is presumably due to the lake being at full pool, an increase in amenities that weren't previously available during the lake restoration project, and a lack of rainy/bad weather days throughout the busy season.

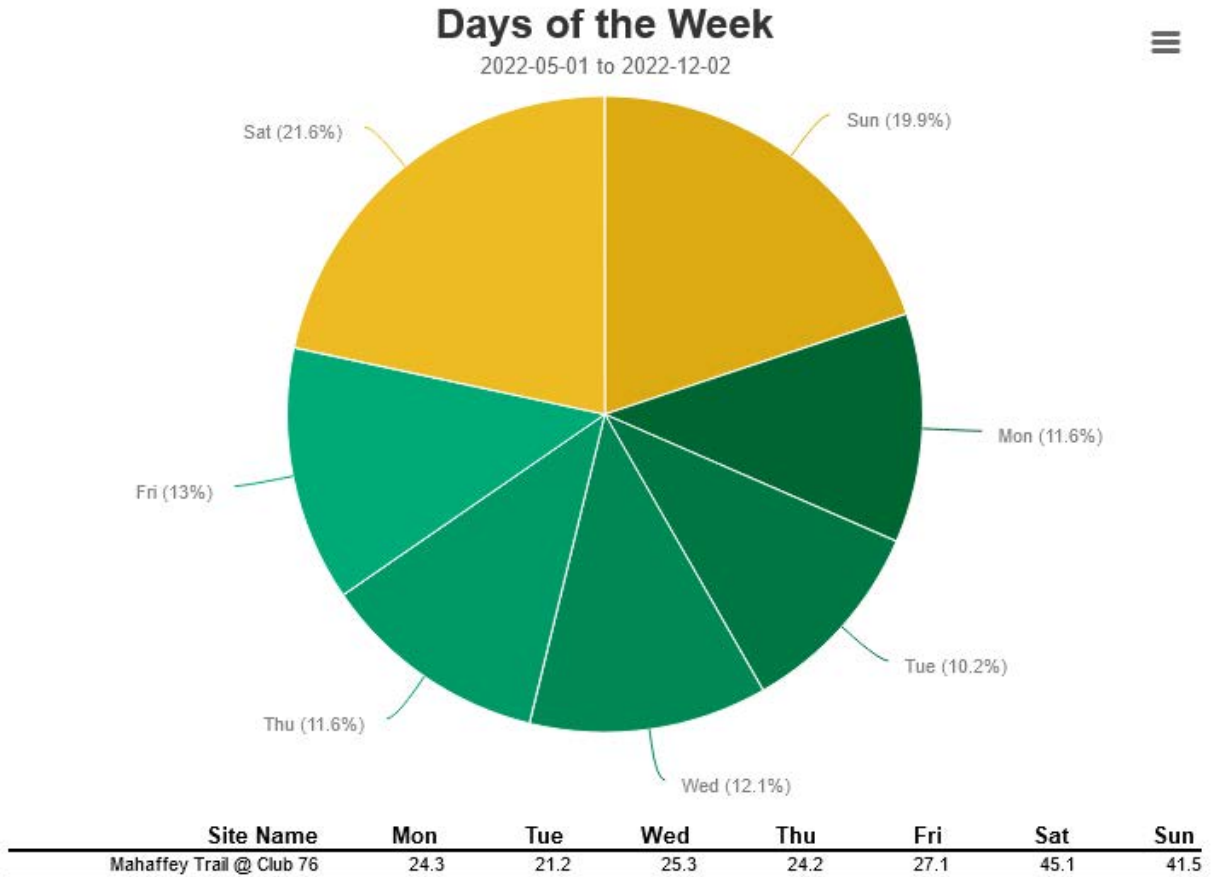


Month	2019 Vehicle Count	2019 Visitor Count	2020 Vehicle Count	2020 Visitor Count	2021 Vehicle Count	2021 Visitor Count	2022 Vehicle Count	2022 Visitor Count
April	3,804.4	9,511	9,993.2	24,983	8,383.2	20,958	5,500.4	13,751
May	7,326.8	18,317	15,723.2	39,308	10,845.6	27,114	10,742.8	26,857
June	9,993.2	24,983	16,849.2	42,123	13,587.6	33,969	12,439.2	31,098
July	9,062	22,655	16,803.6	42,009	11,425.6	28,564	12,558.4	31,396
August	7,266	18,165	15,005.2	37,513	10,584.8	26,462	9,934	24,835
September	5,366.8	13,417	11,368	28,420	10,359.6	25,899	10,090.8	25,227
October	5,327.6	13,319	9,822	24,555	9,207.2	23,018	9,954.8	24,887
<b>Totals</b>	<b>48,146.8</b>	<b>120,367</b>	<b>95,564.4</b>	<b>238,911</b>	<b>74,393.6</b>	<b>185,984</b>	<b>71,220.4</b>	<b>178,051</b>

The graph below shows visitor count data at Kent Park from 2019 to 2022. A slight decrease in the visitor count has been observed in 2022 when compared to the 2021 season.



**Mahaffey Trail by Club 76:** In 2022 a TRAFx trail counter was in place From May to December at the Mahaffey trail by Club 76. The pie graph below shows the average counts for days of the week. As expected, weekends show higher usage than weekdays. This counter will stay active through the winter in an attempt to collect snowmobile usage. Snowmobiles are allowed on this particular trail.





## 2021-22 F. W. Kent Park (Zone 26) Archery Hunt

The 2021-22 F. W. Kent Park Archery Hunt (Zone 26) opened on October 1, 2021 and closed on January 10, 2022. There were thirty slots available to participating hunters this year. The slots were offered on a first come first served basis. Twenty-one available slots were filled at the orientation. According to our records, five of the twenty-one hunters chose not to buy a license to participate in the hunt after attending the required orientation.

As in years past, one hundred antlerless tags were available for the duration of the hunt. Three incentive (any-deer) tags for next year's hunt were available to the first three hunters to harvest three female deer. Two hunters succeeded in harvesting at least three female deer, incentive tags will be available to them at the beginning of the 2022-23 hunt.

There were three hunters that earned incentive, any-deer tags, during the 2020-21 hunt, they began the 2021-22 season with the incentive tags, and two of the three hunters were successful in harvesting mature bucks (pictured below).



Keith McCain Buck



Sarah McCain Buck

### Break Down of 2021-22 harvest:

**Adult Does-5**

**Fawn Does-6**

**Fawn Bucks-2**

**Adult Bucks-2**

**Total Harvest-15** (35% decrease from 2020-21 harvest)

## **Johnson County Conservation Board**

### **2022 Special Use Permits Issued**

Under Section 26 of the Johnson County Conservation Board Rules and Regulations, certain events and activities may only take place on Johnson County Conservation Board controlled property after a fully executed special use permit is issued and approved by the Johnson County Conservation Board Director or authorized representative.

#### **Section 26. Events and Activities Requiring Special Use Permits:**

It shall be unlawful to engage in any activity listed below on any board controlled property except by contract or special use permit issued by the Board, its Director or authorized representative.

A. Community events or activities that are promoted in any public media format as being open to all members of the public who wish to attend.

B. General public events or activities that require closing part of a public area to public use.

C. Any event or activity that may interfere with traffic flow or impede the use of an area by the public.

D. Any event or activities that require the uses of an area that would not typically be allowed pursuant to the JCCB Rules and Regulations.

The Board, its Director or authorized representatives are authorized to take action to terminate any activity or event listed above for which a special use permit was not obtained prior to the time and date scheduled for the event or activity.

#### **Special Use Permits Issued: (total permits issued)**

#2022-1 Richard Lutz to access JCCB areas with personal vehicle

#2022-2 Aaron Basten to access JCCB areas with personal vehicle

#2022-3 Steve Charlton, Herp study by sound at Kent Park

#2022-4 JCCB, Great Iowa River Race

#2022-5 U of I ROTC for training at Kent Park

#2022-6 U of I ROTC for training at Kent Park

#2022-7 U of I for helicopter training at Kent Park

#2022-8 Nordic club to groom X-Country ski trails at Kent Park

#2022-9 Snow Drifters, grooming trails for snowmobile use on designated JCCB areas



## Johnson County Conservation Board has identified six focus areas:

Protect  
Restore  
Connect  
Water Quality  
Partnerships

Below is a breakdown of Park Ranger activities by focus area

### ***Protect***

- Develop and enforce JCCB rules and regulations as well as Iowa State laws on all JCCB areas
- Facilitate the White-tailed Deer Management Program for F.W. Kent Park
- Patrol boats stationed in two areas
- Special archery-only deer hunt
- Aerial deer herd surveys and spotlight deer herd and raccoon surveys
- Surrounding landowner deer herd surveys
- Submit recommendations for future deer seasons
- Issue/approve Special Use Permits for users that intend to use JCCB facilities for activities that fall outside normal intended use
- Use of Ranger worn body cameras
- Narcan to use in case of a Medical Emergency involving an opioid overdose
- Provide public access to a tornado safe room at Kent Park
- Provide clean and sanitary areas for park users
- Install and maintain boundary markers on JCCB areas
- Invasive plant removal with volunteer groups
- Facilitate CPR/First Aid training and refreshers for all JCCB staff (full-time and part-time)
- Made stop the bleed kits available at every JCCB facility and for every chainsaw crew
- Certified in drone operation and storage of drone for search and rescue purposes.
- Provide and maintain AED's at 8 locations
- Perform monthly playground safety inspections
- Protect the watershed from Canada goose infestation



## ***Restore***

- Special archery deer hunt at Kent Park to control the deer population and aid in restoration of native flora and fauna
- Restore high quality fishing opportunities at Kent Park
- Fish surveys and stocking in Kent Park water bodies
- Maintain/restore fish habitat structures in Kent Park Lake, and new catch basins
- Maintain/restore 19 Wood Duck boxes at Kent Park
- Maintain and document usage of Wood duck nest structures on JCCB areas



## ***Connect***

- Hosted 2 Hunters Education classes connecting over 60 students to the outdoors
- Connected youth to the outdoors through multiple free fishing and ice fishing programs
- Continuing to expand the use of a mobile computer in the Ranger Patrol Program
- Tac.10 software to provide real time connection to all emergency services and dispatch in Johnson County
- Use of MACH and Tracs software through IDOT
- Accurate record keeping of all law enforcement activities
- Access and storage of all camping activities through Johnson County network
- JCCB employees have the ability access live camping use reports
- Enter park user data into live real-time spreadsheets
- Long term storage of park user data in cloud storage
- Engage campers and park visitors on a daily basis
- Write newsletters and articles to connect people to the outdoors
- Provide job shadow and ride-a-long opportunities to the public that offers hands on ranger experience
- Facilitate the grooming of several miles of cross country ski and fat tire bike trails at Kent Park





## ***Water Quality***

- Collect monthly water samples from all JCCB public water sources to ensure safe drinking water
- Trained Natural Resource staff to preform beach water sampling
- Maintain and promote the Kent Park Lake Restoration project
- Provide input for wetland mitigation projects on JBBC areas
- Clean and close the Kent Park Beach nightly during summer months
- Enforce rules and regulations that protect and promote water quality
- Program that effectively and legally removes Canada geese from Kent Park Lake when it negatively affects water quality



## ***Partnerships***

- Nordic Ski Club and Fat Tire Bike Club to groom several miles of cross country ski and Fat tire bike trails at Kent Park
- Provide the areas and legal means for Snow Drifters club to mark and maintain snowmobile trails
- Workplace Learning Center for employee recruitment
- Kirkwood Community College for employee recruitment
- University of Iowa Performance Lab for use of helicopter for deer herd surveys around Kent Park
- Johnson County Sheriff's Department for law enforcement assistance and investigations
- Provide areas for ROTC, Sheriff's Department, Iowa State Patrol, and First Responders and their K9's to train
- ICCSD Parent/Student Reunification Program
- Provide storage for First Responder boat at Pechman Creek Delta
- Kroul Farms for Campground firewood supply
- Outdoor mentors for introducing youth to hunting and fishing



## ***Sustainability***

- Use public funds in a wise and fiscally prudent manner
- Constant monitoring of the deer population in the Kent Park management zone
- Hold a special deer hunt in Kent Park to maintain a healthy deer herd
- Continue to offer quality outdoor recreation opportunities in a safe setting
- Campground firewood program that serves the public and sustains natural resources

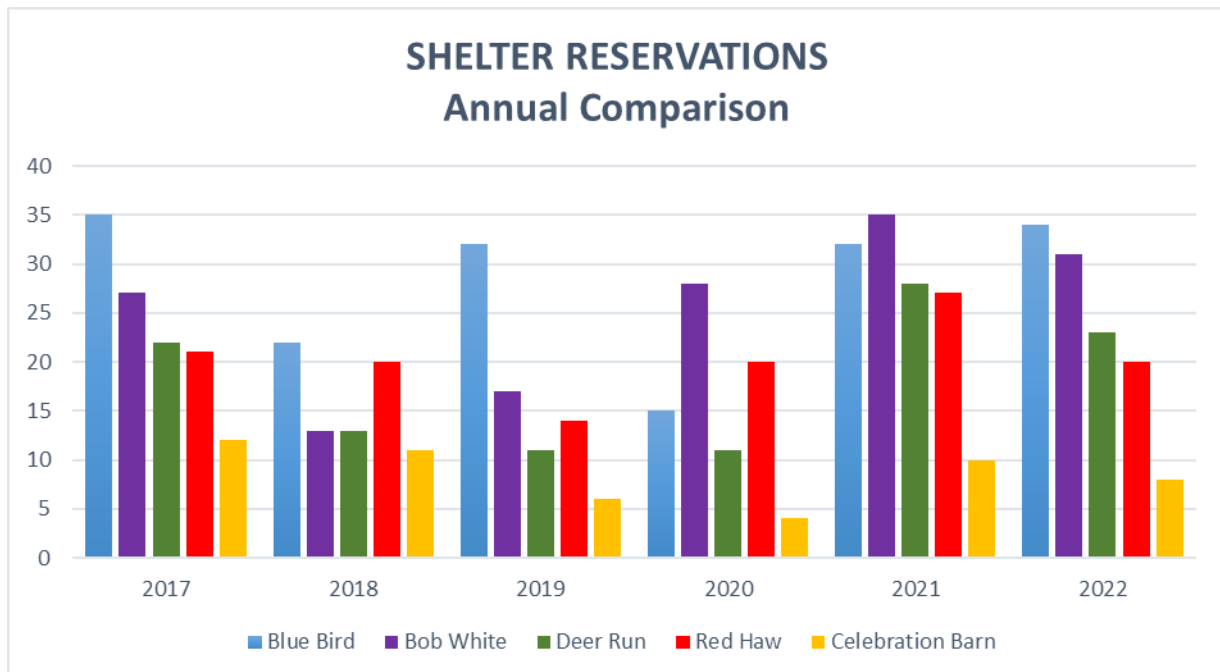




## ***Facility Reservation Summary*** **Annual Shelter Report 2022**

SHELTER RESERVATIONS - Monthly 2022							
	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Blue Bird	2	4	6	6	7	8	2
Bob White	1	3	7	7	5	5	2
Deer Run	1	4	4	4	3	6	1
Red Haw	0	3	6	3	3	5	0
Celebration Barn	1	0	0	0	1	3	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>8</b>

SHELTER RESERVATIONS - Annual Comparison						
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Blue Bird	35	22	32	15	32	34
Bob White	27	13	17	28	35	31
Deer Run	22	13	11	11	28	23
Red Haw	21	20	14	20	27	20
Celebration Barn	12	11	6	4	10	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>116</b>



# JCCB Volunteer Program Information – FY 2022

INDIVIDUAL VOLUNTEERS			ACTIVITIES/EVENTS
Aaron Basten	Freya Evans	Marcie Maser	Bird Banding / MAPS research
Aditya	Gene Drazil	Mark Bowman	Bluebird Box Monitoring
Alex Kealey	Griffin Noiseux	Mary Flannigan	Bluebird Box Preparation
Alice Atkinson	Hai Huynh	Mary McMurray	Botanical Inventory
Amrei Blaesing	Hattie Trana	MaryAnn Reynolds	CEC Host
Amy Foster	Hayes Noiseux	Melinda Turnbull	Caboose Maintenance
Arlen Breisholz	Ian Perkins	Melissa Serenda	Drone Photography/ Photography
Avigail Rodriguez	Ike Edgerton	Mike Morton	Educational Programming
Bailey Goldberg	Jason Bies	Mike Theobald	Filling Bird Feeders
Ben Rowald	Jason Taylor	Mike Wolfe	Fishing Equipment Repair
Benjamin Elwood	Jennie Morton	Nancy Richard	Great Iowa River Race
Bill Kohler	Jenny Hollis Miller	Nikita Bailey	Grounds Maintenance
Bill Pusateri	Jenny Trana	Pat Ryan	Integrated Monarch Monitoring
Bill Waldie	Jerry Mennenga	Phyllis Black	Iowa River Clean-up
Bonnie Winslow-Garvin	Joan Schnabel	Rob Bradley	Live Animal Care at the CEC
Candida Pagan	Jodie Theobald	Rob Fischer	Pelican Rescue at CRC
Carol Mennenga	Joyce Miller	Sandy Mueller	Seed Harvest
Carolyn Buckingham	Judy Heckman	Sara Pitcher	Vehicle Maintenance
Chris Olney	Kali Ravenlock	Sara Harris	Water Quality Monitoring
Colette Brodersen	Kamden Trana	Shelby Miller	
Collin Underwood	Kathy Broghammer	Stephanie Lane	
Connie Aldridge	Kathy Martensen	Sue Manworren	
Connie Mutel	Ken Atkinson	Susie Nehring	
Corey Monson	Ken Heckman	Suzanne Blanchard	
Dave Gallaher	Laura Noiseux	Suzanne Micheau	
Debbie Bryant	Lindsey Evans	Tom McMurray	
Doran Pearson	Lisa Green-Douglass	Van Martensen	
Eric Miller	Lisa Leech	Zoe Leone	
Evie Trana	Lisa Stark	Pelican Rescue	
Ezra Edgerton	Lois Albrecht	Raptology	
Fred Harris	Lynette Seigley	Cub Scout Pack 22	

## Thank You Volunteers!



# JCCB Volunteer Hours per Project

TASK	HOURS
Bird Banding and MAPS Research	1,161
Bluebird Box Monitoring	50.5
Bluebird Box Preparation	8
Botanical Inventory	825
CEC Host	166
Caboose Maintenance	80
Drone Photography/Photography	750
Educational Programming	73
Filling Bird Feeders	37.5
Fishing Equipment Repair	7

TASK	HOURS
Great Iowa River Race	206
Grounds Maintenance	24
Integrated Monarch Monitoring	177
Iowa River Clean-Up	248
Live Animal Care at the CEC	9
Pelican Rescue	38
Seed Harvest	120
Vehicle Maintenance	4
Water Quality Monitoring	34
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,018</b>

# Natural Resources Report

2022 Fiscal Year

Compiled by David D. Wehde, Natural Resources Manager

## F.W. Kent Park

Monthly work completed report NRM.

Administered and maintained the memorial and honorary tree program

Installed and maintained firebreaks.

Installed and removed deer protective tubes on trees.

Removed storm damaged, hazard trees and unwanted trees and shrubs.

Moved logs to public firewood cutting area.

Treated stumps.

Mowed invasive brush and Cut and Treated invasive brush (19.8 acres).

Pruning ornamental trees and shrubs.

Pruning and brush removal roadsides and firebreak/trail system.

Pruning North Fenceline.

Updated forestry plans F.W. Kent Park.

Cut up logs for firewood processing.

Stump grind unwanted stumps.

Site preparation sprayed black locust.

Hand collected and cleaned and labeled 72 lbs. of prairie forb, grass, and wetland seed with an estimated value of \$22,323.30.

Seeded prairie nine acres.

Prairie seeding map 2022.

Prairie seeding prep. Meyer Tract.

Composed and conducted the 2022 Prescribed Burn Plan.

Administered the departments prescribed burn program and conducted on 493.60 acres of various habitat types.

Updated Floristic Inventories all units.

Conducted Grassland Curing Guide for Johnson County NWS Fire Danger Index.

Wetland monitoring wells and repairs.

Completed Wetland Monitoring Report for Clear Creek Trail wetland mitigation sites MA-1A Forested.

Invasive species control Clear Creek Trail Wetland Mitigation.

Interviewed and hired seasonal staff.

Administered the STEMS teacher externship program focused on water quality monitoring

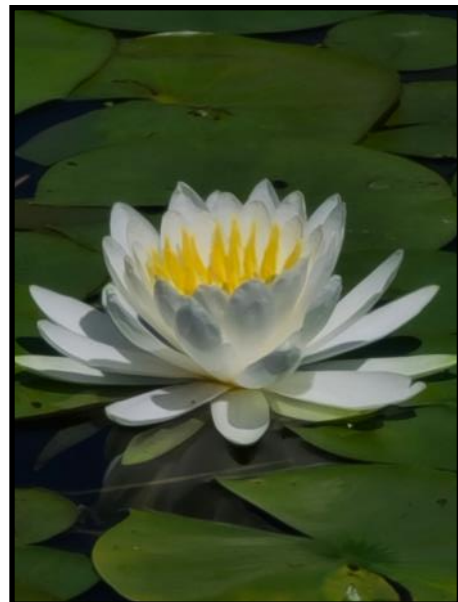
Full time and seasonal staff training plant identification.

Installed road stone trails.

Aquatic vegetation survey of the lake reefs.

Administered the water quality monitoring program on all areas.

Write and conduct work reviews.



A white water lily blooming in one of the catch basins at Kent Park.



Completed State Habitat Survey 2021-2022 and submit. (Awarded First place)

Removed hazard trees lake trail.

Administered and conducted removal of EAB invested trees at Kent Park with Miller Logging..

Mulched trails and islands in park.

Completed pesticide applicator recertification.

Attended diversity training.

Administered the herbicide program

NWS Storm Spotter Recertification.

Mow and Treat invasive brush (64 acres).

Weed Bio Cells Boat Ramp.

Orchid survey.

Completed seeding of 9.3 acres Prairie on the Meyer Unit.

Coordinated Aaron Basten plant inventories.

Paw paw Grove Map and Zebra Shallowed tailed Butterfly reintroduction proposal.

Administered the arborist program for all of Kent Park—prune and lift trees.

Coordinated planting of 500 wetland plants on the Meyer Unit.

USGS Meeting F.W. Kent Park Water Quality Project.

Construct Ski Trail Map.

Submit Clear Creek Trail Wetland Monitoring Report 2021 ACOE/IDNR.

Miller Logging Campground and Septic Field site clearing.

EAB tree removals Bobwhite Hill, Lower Hickory Hill, and Lake Trail.

Remove 19 EAB infected Ash Trees from Bobwhite Shelter.

Updated all floristic inventory / Floristic Quality / Assessment for JCCB properties

Ornate box turtle study 2022.

Stock and clean up public firewood pile. (12 permits sold 1,200 dollars).

Reseed trail section. Southwest Lake Trail and installed erosion control matting.

Tree planting Cosgrove 4-H Spring 2022 tree planting.

The staff removing hazard trees along the Mehaffey Bridge Trail.



## **Invasive Species Control and Management**

Common Buckthorn	Sericea Lespedeza
Autumn Olive	Smooth Brome Grass
Bush Honeysuckle's Species	Soap Weed
Multiflora Rose	Reed Canary Grass
Garlic Mustard	Wild Parsnip
Thistles (Nodding)	Sweet Clover
Canada thistle	Crown Vetch
Day Lily	Dame's Rocket
Black Mustard	Tree of Heaven
Black Locust	White Mulberry
Willow Species	Oriental Bittersweet
Japanese Hops	Poison Hemlock
Japanese Barberry	Siberian Elm

### **Scott Church Park**

Maintenance of Memorial/Honorary Trees.

Collected and cleaned prairie seed.

Sprayed invasive species.

Installed and remove deer protective tubes on trees.

Pruned trees.

Install firebreaks.

Mow Prairie Planting 2 acres

### **Walker Park**

Maintenance on Memorial/Honorary Trees.

Pruning ornamental trees and shrubs.

Installed and removed deer protective tubes on trees.

Removed Danes Rocket.

### **Frytown Conservation Area**

Updated Floristic Inventory of unit.

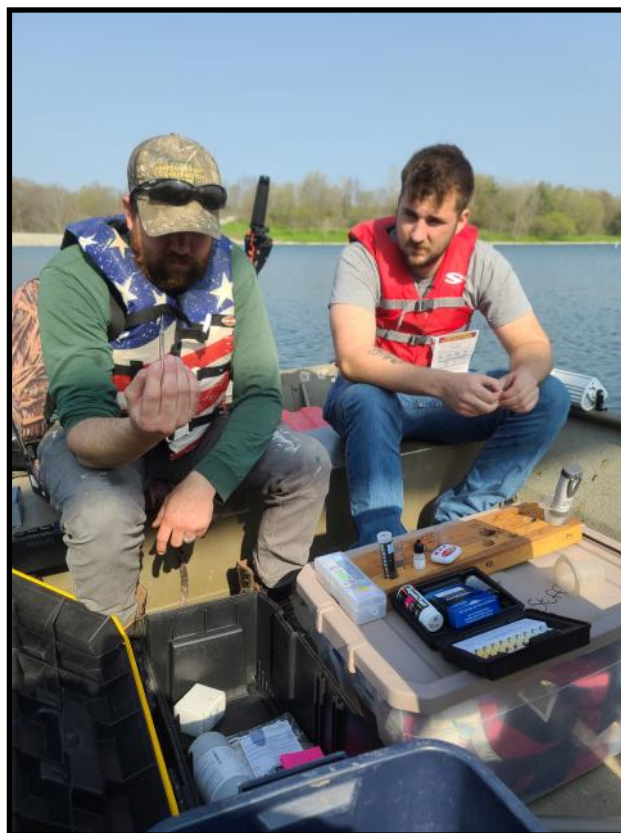
Trimmed out gate.

Invasive species control.

Removed fallen trees on trails and fence line.

Pruned out trail system.

Water quality testing in the lake at Kent Park provides information about the effectiveness of the lake restoration effort.





### **Solon Prairie**

Invasive species control.

Collected prairie seed.

Prescribed mowing prairie (2 acres).

### **Hills Access**

Maintenance on planted trees and Memorial/Honorary Trees.

Installed and removed deer protective tubes on trees.

Removed EAB infected trees.

### **River Junction**

Pruning.

Installed and removed deer protective tubes on trees.

### **Cedar River Crossing Conservation Area**

Prairie and Wetland seeding.

Installed firebreaks.

Administered the prescribed fire program

Updated Floristic Inventory of the unit.

Collected wetland seed.

Sprayed invasive willows and Cottonwoods.

Installed and maintained bridges.

Invasive species control

Spray around wetland mitigation installed trees.

Weekly check Wetland monitoring wells.

Open and close stop logs on control structure.

Conducted Wetland Monitoring field survey for Wetland Bank and Ely Road and Hoover Trail Wetland mitigation.

Pruning trail south unit.

Sutliff Shop prairie seeding two acres.

Update on CRCCA Floristic Surveys.

Hauled dirt new shop to prepare for seeding.

Installed Hydrological monitoring wells.

Prescribed burning conducted 206.4 acres.

Mowed trails South Unit.

Snow removal.

Water quality testing 2022.

Removed debris from Wetland inlet tube.

Monarch Butterfly Conservation Management History Cedar River Crossing Conservation Area. South Unit for study.

Maintenance on storage shed.



Re-seeding of prairie and spreading lime on the clock area prairie at Cedar River Crossing. The prairie seeding was not doing well in areas and it was discovered the borrow area fill soils were acidic. Application of lime to help neutralize the soils acidity and then re-seeding should help the prairie to become established.



Repaired fence.  
 Seasonal employee training.  
 Clean out around monument.  
 Harvest Rose Mallow seed.  
 Install, mulch and water trees and shrubs.  
 Spray Astronomical Clock seeding for clover infestation.  
 Made desks from lumber at Cangleska Wakan  
 Spread lime clock.  
 Prescribed Burning 206.4 acres.  
 Build shelf for hose reel at work bench.  
 Pick up rented Truax No-till drill from IDNR Hawkeye Wildlife Area.  
 Cleaned out debris from culvert by Clark Savanna.  
 Assist with John Larson (RES) Hoover Trail / Ely Road Wetland Mitigation.

#### **Clear Creek Area and Trail**

Updated Floristic Inventory of unit.  
 Invasive species control.  
 Managed Cipco Utility Access.  
 Meet with landowner fenceline issue.

#### **Williams Prairie State Preserve**

Updated Floristic Inventory of the unit.  
 Invasive species control.  
 Maintained the parking lot and barrier posts.  
 Harvested Prairie and wetland seed.  
 Administered the burn plan for the site.  
 Checked border signs.  
 Clean out fenceline unwanted tree.  
 Remount and install Preserve signs.  
 Mow invasive brush and trees (5.1 acres)  
 Fence off Green Orchids

#### **Ciha Fen Preserve**

Updated Floristic Inventory of the unit.  
 Invasive species control.  
 Removed dead and unwanted trees.  
 Administered prescribed burn program for the site.  
 Mow invasive brush (19.2 acres)  
 Savanna thinning Black and White Oak.  
 Remove EAB infected Ash trees.



Clean-up of trees damaged by the derecho at the Cangleska Wakan trail system took about 3 weeks. Seventeen saw logs and a lot of material for processing into firewood was salvaged from the operation.



Below: The rare, Nodding Ladies Tresses Orchid flowering at Ciha Fen Preserve. Floristic inventories of each area are updated annually.





### **Pechman Creek Delta**

Updated floristic inventory of Unit.

Administered and implemented the water testing and supply inventory.

Cut and Treat small invasive trees.

Helped with the Pechman Creek Delta Wetland Bank/Stream Feasibility Study.

### **Sutliff Access**

Pruned Memorial Tree.

Remove EAB infected Ash Trees.

### **Johnson County Historic Poor Farm**

Consultation for the Prairie Management Plan.

Site checks for invasive species.

Correspondence.

### **Hoover Nature Trail**

Sprayed invasive species.

Removed litter.

Work with ITC tree removal and pruning powerlines.

Remove and chip brush and trees in Cedar County/Johnson County line.

### **Dubuque Street Trail**

Removed fallen trees.

### **Mehaffey Bridge Trail**

Remove fallen tree.

Used lift to top out adjoining trees

Pulled hanging tree out of adjoining tree with skid loader.

### **Cangleska Wakan**

Control invasive species

Boy Scouts of America Eagle Scout Work Project Event removed Garlic Mustard.

Derecho damage clean up with Miller Logging.

Update Floristic Inventory.

Water quality testing and training of Seth Somerville.



Natural Resource staff helped with the dedication of Phebe Timber, leading a hike through the bottomland forest.



After the first burn at the Malinda Reif Reilly Fen and Prairie, Shooting Star was found flowering. It is hoped that with burning the areas original native prairie plant community will rebound.



### **Malinda Reif Reilly Fen and Prairie**

Plant inventory and photos.

Invasive species control

Work with Volunteers regarding survey work.

Coordinated a Pollinator inventory by Mandy Duffey

Administered the prescribed burn program.

### **Two Horse Barn**

Plant species inventory and log data.

### **Phebe Timber**

Update Floristic Inventory.

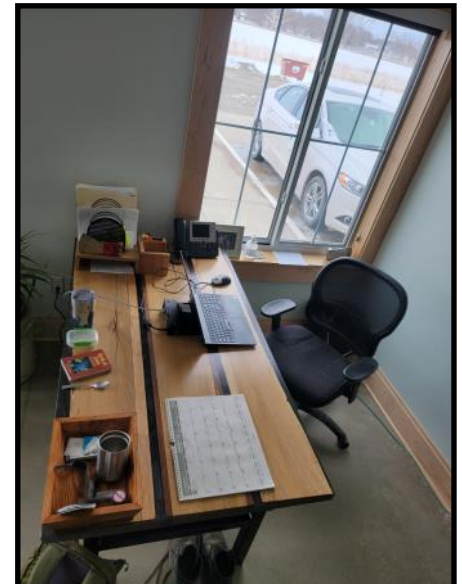
Produce map of unit.



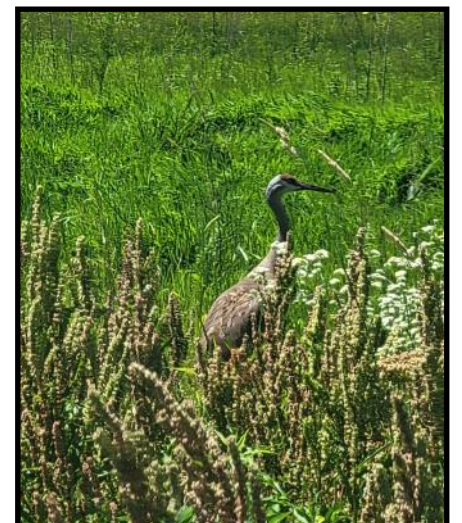
Staff made their desks at the new Sutliff Operations Center from wood salvaged from derecho.



Above: A prescribed fire briefing before the days burning at Kent Park. Below: Burning of the prairie on the west side of Kent Park.



Below: A Sandhill Crane in the wetlands at Cedar River Crossing.





### Memorial & Honorary Trees Planted 2022 Fiscal Year

<u>Donated by</u>	<u>In Memory of or In Honor of</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Location</u>
Mary Greiner	Cosgrove 4-H Club	Sugar Maple	West Lake Trail
Vicki Lane	Debby Simonson	Red Oak	Hickory Hill
Kim Wall	Mary Wall	Chinkapin Oak	Whip-poor-will
Evelyn Rodriquez	Jose Enriquez Rodriquez	Chinkapin Oak	Red Haw Hillside
Karen Fesler	Kimberly L. Fesler	Red Maple	West Lake Trail
Elaine Shalla	Dennis Shalla	Red Maple	West Lake Trail
Clara Hogan	Mark Hogan	Red Maple	West Lake Trail
Ronda Feters	William A. Feters	Sugar Maple	Bobwhite Hill
Frank Fleming	John Caylor	Chinkapin Oak	Whip-poor-will
Debbie Bryant	Nona Walker	White Oak	East Lake Trail

Total trees planted by year since the conception of the program.

Total trees planted 2001	23	Total trees planted 2010	41	Total trees planted 2019	1
Total trees planted 2002	27	Total trees planted 2011	56	Total trees planted 2020	5
Total trees planted 2003	9	Total trees planted 2012	127	Total trees planted 2021	3
Total trees planted 2004	22	Total trees planted 2013	13	Total trees planted 2022	11
Total trees planted 2005	23	Total trees planted 2014	19	TOTAL SINCE 2001:	506
Total trees planted 2006	24	Total trees planted 2015	20		
Total trees planted 2007	25	Total trees planted 2016	6		
Total trees planted 2008	32	Total trees planted 2017	4		
Total trees planted 2009	14	Total trees planted 2018	1		



Natalie Stallman cleaning around a memorial tree at Kent Park.

# **FY22 CONSERVATION BUDGET**

**by Dory Kjosa**

## **Expenditures**

\$3,124,351.42	Department 24—General Basic
\$19,580.82	Department 32—Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP)
\$795,215.21	Department 82—Conservation Trust
\$1,436,053.85	Department 83—Conservation Bond
\$38,000.00	SERF Fund
\$21,365.80	Department 85—Capital Fund
\$172,535.50	Department 44—Capital Fund
\$5,607,102.60	Total Expenditures FY22

## **Revenues**

\$344,855.68	Grants and Wetland Credit Sales
\$1,409,696.47	Other Revenue (camping, shelters, donations, etc.)
\$42,093.87	REAP
\$115,073.02	Insurance Reimbursement
\$1,911,719.04	Total Generated Revenues FY22



**JOHNSON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD  
FINANCIAL REPORT  
CONSERVATION GENERAL FUND - DEPARTMENT 24  
July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022**

Expenditures:

**Conservation Administration**

01 24 6100000 10015	Director's Salary	\$146,393.31
01 24 6100000 10025	Conservation Program Manager Salary	\$ 94,975.72
01 24 6100000 10035	Rangers, Office Manager & Office Assistant	\$251,120.56
01 24 6100000 10105	Part Time Ranger Intern	\$ 32,316.58
01 24 6100000 11005	Employer FICA	\$ 39,598.15
01 24 6100000 11105	Employer IPERS	\$ 45,844.27
01 24 6100000 11315	Health Insurance	\$134,776.22
01 24 6100000 11325	Life Insurance	\$ 3,445.01
01 24 6100000 26005	Stationary - Forms	\$ 2,698.24
01 24 6100000 26105	Periodicals - Books	\$ 74.75
01 24 6100000 29405	Uniforms	\$ 2,036.46
01 24 6100000 40005	Advertising	\$ 392.86
01 24 6100000 40205	Printing	\$ 3,774.67
01 24 6100000 41205	Postage	\$ 426.47
01 24 6100000 41345	Staff Transportation	\$ 40.54
01 24 6100000 41355	Staff Meals & Lodging	\$ 1,735.52
01 24 6100000 41385	Board Meals & Lodging	\$ 900.48
01 24 6100000 41395	Board Mileage Reimbursements	\$ 1,349.53
01 24 6100000 41405	Telephone	\$ 100.72
01 24 6100000 41475	Cell Phone Service	\$ 10,535.39
01 24 6100000 42235	Staff Registration Fees	\$ 4,540.38
01 24 6100000 42245	Board Registration Fees	\$ (205.00)
01 24 6100000 44405	Office Equipment Service	\$ 1,671.06
01 24 6100000 48005	Dues	\$ 2,775.00
01 24 6100000 63205	DP Hardware Purchase	\$ 174.99
01 24 6100000 63865	AV Equipment Purchase	\$ 40.94
		<u>\$781,532.82</u>

**Conservation Maintenance & Operation**

01 24 6110000 10025	Salaries	\$	251,344.49
01 24 6110000 10035	Full-Time Wages	\$	696,302.37
01 24 6110000 10105	Part-Time NB Wages	\$	174,172.54
01 24 6110000 10115	Part-Time Reg Wages	\$	41,688.19
01 24 6110000 11005	Employer FICA	\$	87,369.15
01 24 6110000 11105	Employer IPERS	\$	93,566.73
01 24 6110000 11315	Health Insurance	\$	301,296.96
01 24 6110000 11325	Life Insurance	\$	1,972.61
01 24 6110000 20205	Pesticides	\$	18,669.20
01 24 6110000 20315	Nursery Supplies	\$	34.00
01 24 6110000 21005	Asphalt	\$	11,165.00
01 24 6110000 21205	Road & Parking Lot Material	\$	6,056.40
01 24 6110000 21405	Sign Materials	\$	14,711.33
01 24 6110000 21905	Construction Material & Supplies	\$	24,317.37
01 24 6110000 22105	Electric Supplies	\$	3,194.18
01 24 6110000 23205	Custodial Supplies	\$	15,681.82
01 24 6110000 24005	Shop Supplies	\$	15,390.07
01 24 6110000 24115	Plumbing Parts	\$	3,039.64
01 24 6110000 24125	Heating Parts	\$	2,021.35
01 24 6110000 25005	Fuels	\$	55,098.93
01 24 6110000 25105	Motor Vehicle Fluids	\$	7,571.38
01 24 6110000 25405	Equipment Parts	\$	55,214.89
01 24 6110000 29005	Hand Tools	\$	7,503.05
01 24 6110000 29015	Machine Tool Purchase	\$	4,690.69
01 24 6110000 29305	Safety Supplies	\$	18,231.44
01 24 6110000 29405	Uniforms	\$	4,510.80
01 24 6110000 42705	Professional Fees	\$	7,896.15
01 24 6110000 42845	Lab Service/Drug Testing	\$	306.00
01 24 6110000 43005	Natural Gas	\$	9,937.38
01 24 6110000 43105	Electricity	\$	33,873.87
01 24 6110000 44005	Motor Vehicle Maintenance Contract	\$	2,299.18
01 24 6110000 44105	Contract Repair	\$	10,134.19
01 24 6110000 44505	Plumbing Repair	\$	9,775.50
01 24 6110000 44705	Electric Repair	\$	1,138.86
01 24 6110000 47405	Pest Control	\$	346.45
01 24 6110000 47505	Septic Tank Service	\$	5,470.75
01 24 6110000 49605	Landfill Fees	\$	6,103.50
01 24 6110000 63005	Agr-Hort Equipment Purchase	\$	23,014.14
01 24 6110000 63835	Law Enforcement Equipment Purchase	\$	2,394.35
		\$	2,027,504.90



### **Rec & Environmental Services**

01 24 6120000 21205	Sand	\$	<u>4,852.52</u>
		\$	4,852.52

### **Environmental Services**

01 24 6121000 10025	Salaries	\$	201,308.60
01 24 6121000 10105	Part-Time NB Intern Naturalist	\$	9,057.75
01 24 6121000 11005	Employer FICA	\$	14,828.23
01 24 6121000 11105	Employer IPERS	\$	19,003.45
01 24 6121000 11315	Health Insurance	\$	65,189.28
01 24 6121000 11325	Life Insurance	\$	423.29
01 24 6121000 26105	Study Material Exhibit	\$	4,897.71
01 24 6121000 29405	Uniform	\$	338.39
01 24 6121000 42705	Professional Fees	\$	<u>267.00</u>
		\$	315,313.70

<b>DEPARTMENT 24 TOTALS</b>	<b>\$ 3,124,351.42</b>
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**JOHNSON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD  
REVENUE REPORT  
CONSERVATION GENERAL FUND - DEPARTMENT 24  
JULY 1, 2021 - JUNE 30, 2022**

Revenue Sources:

<b>Conservation Administration</b>		
01 24 6100000 81002	Donations	\$ 207.48
01 24 6100000 92004	Surplus Property Sales	<u>\$ 6,005.45</u>
		\$ 6,212.93
<b>Conservation Maintenance &amp; Operation</b>		
01 24 6110000 52001	General Camping Fees	\$ 162,131.00
01 24 6110000 52011	Youth Group Camp Fees	\$ 3,185.00
01 24 6110000 52301	Shelter Fees	\$ 40,115.70
01 24 6110000 83901	Firewood Sales	<u>\$ 5,888.00</u>
		\$ 211,319.70
<b>Recreation Services</b>		
01 24 6120000 52201	Boat Fees	\$ 7,342.50
01 24 6120000 52901	Misc. Recreation Fees	<u>\$ 2,738.51</u>
		\$ 10,081.01
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>\$227,613.64</b>



**JOHNSON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD  
FINANCIAL REPORT  
SPECIAL RESOURCE ENHANCEMENT (REAP) - DEPARTMENT 32  
JULY 1, 2021 - JUNE 30, 2022**

Expenditures:

**Nonprogram & Other Uses  
Conservation Land Acquisition**

09 32 0210000 21905	Construction Material	\$ 9,007.69
09 32 0210000 29905	Education Program Supplies	\$ 1,809.29
09 32 0210000 42705	Professional Fees	<u>\$ 8,763.84</u>
<b>DEPARTMENT 32 TOTALS</b>		<b>\$ 19,580.82</b>

**JOHNSON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD  
REVENUE REPORT  
SPECIAL RESOURCE ENHANCEMENT (REAP) - DEPARTMENT 32  
JULY 1, 2021 - JUNE 30, 2022**

Revenue Sources:

**Nonprogram & Other Uses  
Conservation Land Acquisition**

09 32 0210000 26512	Special Resource Enhancement	\$ 40,584.00
09 32 0210000 60004	Interest	<u>\$ 1,509.87</u>
<b>DEPARTMENT 32 TOTALS</b>		<b>\$ 42,093.87</b>

**JOHNSON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD  
FINANCIAL REPORT  
CONSERVATION TRUST - DEPARTMENT 82  
JULY 1, 2021 - JUNE 30, 2022**

Expenditures:

<b>Nonprogram &amp; Other Uses Conservation Land Acquisition</b>			
21 82 0210000 20335	Memorial Tree Program	\$	2,682.42
21 82 0210000 29005	Minor Equip & Supplies/EE/Special Projects	\$	737.04
21 82 0210000 42325	Engineering & Professional Fees	\$	191,004.15
21 82 0210000 44105	Contracted Construction	\$	116,300.10
21 82 0210000 61025	Tornado Saferoom Constr. - FEMA Elig.	\$	327,543.47
21 82 0210000 63105	Const. Equipment Purchase	\$	110,000.00
21 82 0210000 63505	Motor Vehicle Purchase	\$	34,076.00
<b>Wetland Mitigation Bank</b>			
21 82 0210100 48305	Ag & Hort Services/WMB	\$	12,872.03
DEPARTMENT 82 TOTALS		\$	<b>795,215.21</b>

**JOHNSON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD  
REVENUE REPORT  
CONSERVATION TRUST - DEPARTMENT 82  
JULY 1, 2021 - JUNE 30, 2022**

Revenue Sources:

<b>Nonprogram &amp; Other Uses Conservation Land Acquisition</b>			
21 82 0210000 28902	Grants Received	\$	171,081.68
21 82 0210000 60004	Interest	\$	3,318.65
21 82 0210000 61004	Rent	\$	14,946.69
21 82 0210000 81002	Donations	\$	25,000.00
21 82 0210000 81042	Donations/Memorial Tree Program	\$	6,535.00
21 82 0210000 84301	Recoveries on Insured Losses	\$	115,073.02
21 82 0210000 91000	Bond Proceeds	\$	146,000.00
21 82 0210100 62901	Sale of Wetland Credits	\$	173,774.00
<b>Perezek Bequest</b>			
21 82 0210200 60004	Interest	\$	1,983.35
21 82 0210200 81003	Donation	\$	985,646.78
<b>TOTALS</b>		\$	<b>1,643,359.17</b>
Transfer of Department 24 Revenue - FY 21		\$	226,266.00
<b>TOTALS</b>		\$	<b>1,869,625.17</b>



**JOHNSON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD  
FINANCIAL REPORT  
SERF FUND  
JULY 1, 2021 - JUNE 30, 2022**

Budget:		\$	38,000.00
Expenses:	Solar Projects	\$	<u>38,000.00</u>
<b>SERF Fund TOTALS</b>		<b>\$</b>	<b>38,000.00</b>

**JOHNSON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD  
FINANCIAL REPORT  
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES - DEPARTMENT 44  
JULY 1, 2021 - JUNE 30, 2022**

Budget:		\$	187,216.41
Expenses:	Solar Projects	\$	78,765.00
	Emerald Ash Borer	\$	93,770.50
<b>DEPARTMENT 44 TOTALS</b>		<b>\$</b>	<b>172,535.50</b>

**JOHNSON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD  
FINANCIAL REPORT  
CAPITAL PROJECTS - DEPARTMENT 85  
JULY 1, 2021 - JUNE 30, 2022**

Budget:		\$	101,699.80
Expenses:	Sutliff Operations Center	\$	<u>21,365.80</u>
<b>DEPARTMENT 85 TOTALS</b>		<b>\$</b>	<b>21,365.80</b>

**JOHNSON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD  
FINANCIAL REPORT  
CONSERVATION BOND - DEPARTMENT 83  
JULY 1, 2021 - JUNE 30, 2022**

Expenditures:

22 83 0210000 60005	Land Acquisition	\$ 1,250,701.77
22 83 0210000 60105	Land Improvements	\$ 63,668.05
22 83 0210000 61005	Construction	<u>\$ 121,684.03</u>

**DEPARTMENT 83 TOTALS      \$ 1,436,053.85**

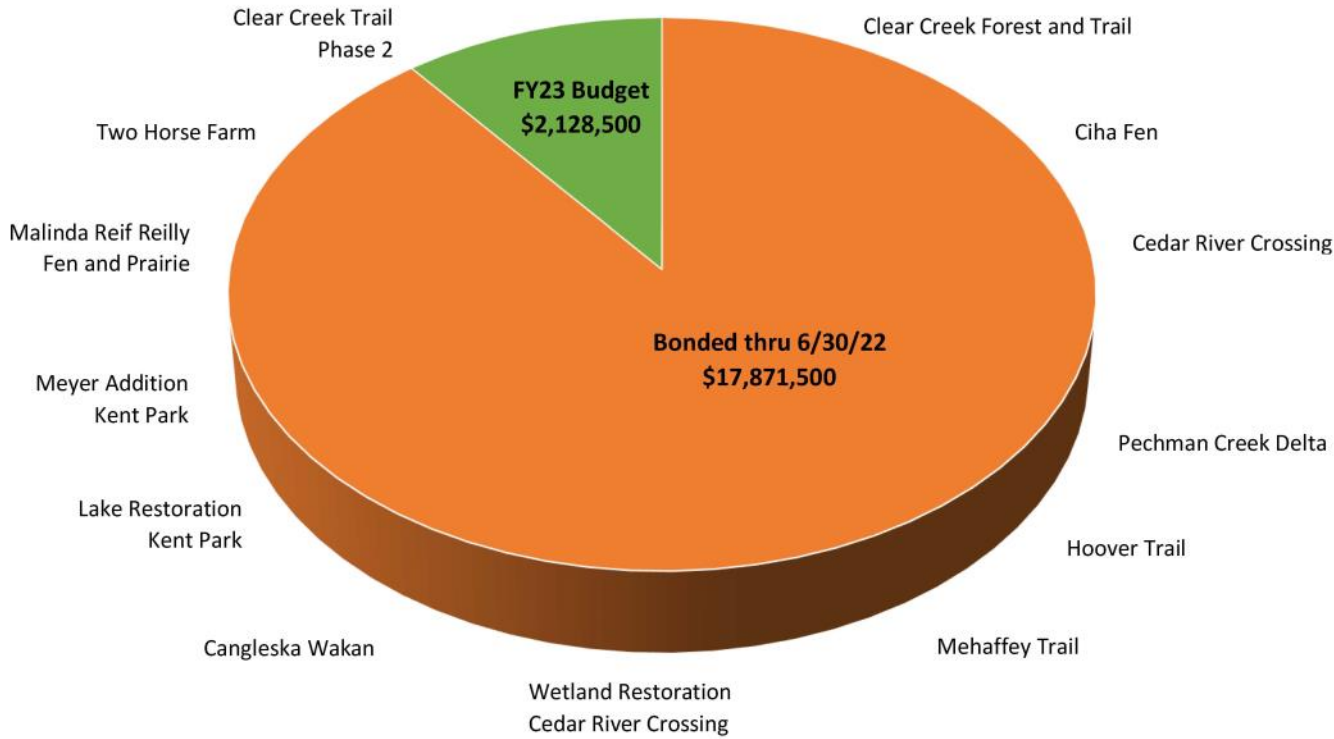


The Conservation Bond sign was developed to identify areas and projects that are funded through the Conservation Bond Program. The signs are posted throughout the county at Ciha Fen, Cedar River Crossing, Pechman Creek Delta, Clear Creek Trail, Hoover Trail, Mehaffey Trail, Kent Park Lake Restoration, Cangleska Wakan and the Malinda Reif Reilly Fen and Prairie.



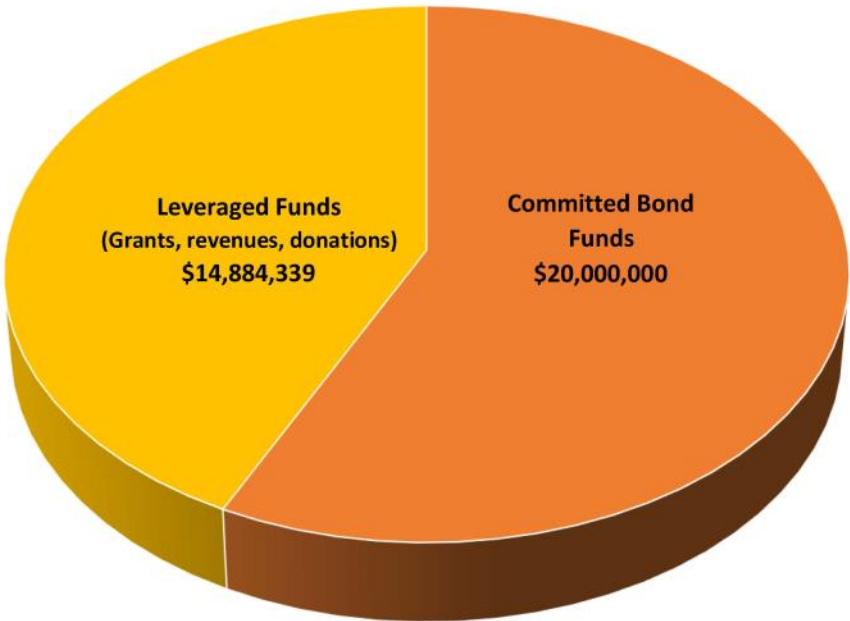
**\$20 Million Conservation Bond**

FY23 – July 1, 2022



**Bond Leverage Summary**

FY23 – July 1, 2022



# Conservation Bonding Projects Implementation Schedule and Budget

03/30/2023

YEAR	Lake Restoration	Ciha Fen 81 acres	Malinda Reif Rellly Fen & Prairie 100 acres	Clear Creek Trail I 83 acres	KP Shower House, Beach, Entry, ADA Restrooms	Schwab Burford Acquis. 99 acres	Mehaffey Bridge Trail	Land Acquis.	Two Horse Farm 83 acres	Hoover Trail I 49.5 acres	Cedar River Cross. 174 acres	Clark's & Wetland Bank CRC 61 acres	Sutliff Bridge Access	Clear Creek Trail II 22.2 acres	Pechman Creek Delta 380 acres	Hoover Trail II 8.5 acres	Admin.	TOTAL 958.2 acres
2010				289,281														289,281
2011																	11,324	11,324
2012		283,966		11,364														295,330
2013				77,654														77,654
2014					130,118					16,142	1,250		2,776				2,000	152,286
2015	6,300				366,012			452		272,693	415,312		26,659	35,929	2,600	1,625		1,127,582
2016	62,700				5,369		76,150	2,944		140,349	2,505	73,401	84,799	18,755	1,214,430			1,681,401
2017	94,765				17,501		78,872	11,446		28,840		216,906	4,200	157,628				610,157
2018	523,665				897	4,500	161,291			409,330		1,308,282		130,682		16,617	1,799	2,557,063
2019	587,118					1,857,400	1,165,411	1,000		739,639		70,128		89		100,727		4,521,512
2020	1,000			53		1,180,335	176,982	98,700		529,124		26,318				8,313		2,020,825
2021	62,798		929,316					8,836		61,801		23,546		5,590		49,668		448,019
2022			2,590						1,205,350	100,806		20,878		106,430				1,436,054
2023														500,000				
2024											300,000			3,000,000				
2025																		
2026																		
2027																		
2028																		
BONDING	1,275,548	283,996	531,906	378,352	519,897	3,042,235	1,658,706	114,542	905,350	2,298,724	419,067	1,739,459	118,969	455,103	1,217,030	127,282	15,123	15,219,488
GRANTS																		
DONATIONS	1,554,150	172,145	400,000	512,642		1,098,000	1,257,441		300,000	3,037,054		5,500,000		377,260	675,647			14,584,339
REVENUE																		
TOTAL	2,828,698	456,141	929,316	890,941					1,205,350						1,892,677			29,812,827

Budget numbers are for committed & expended funds through March 3, 2023. Italics after 2023, represent project commitments. Revenues projected from development of the wetland bank project are \$5,500,000.



**GRANTS, GIFTS, RENT, DONATIONS AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS**  
**FISCAL YEAR 2022**

Memorial Tree - D Shalla Donations	\$ 1,205.00
Interest	\$ 299.03
Interest	\$ 262.69
Memorial Tree - D Shalla Donations	\$ 370.00
Wetland Bank Credit Sale - Mellinger & Sons Construction	\$ 63,050.00
Interest	\$ 241.09
FY 21 Department 24 Revenue Transfer	\$ 226,266.00
Wetland Bank Credit Sale - City of Coralville - 10% Downpayment	\$ 1,330.00
Perezek Donation	\$ 985,646.78
Interest	\$ 160.62
Farm Ground Rental - Westfall	\$ 6,843.75
Memorial Tree - J Geraghty Donations	\$ 660.00
Interest - Perezek Bequest	\$ 450.82
Interest	\$ 183.64
Donation - Bond Proceeds	\$ 146,000.00
Interest - Perezek Bequest	\$ 364.60
Interest	\$ 219.69
Grant - Iowa DOT - Hoover Trail	\$ 6,802.51
Interest - Perezek Bequest	\$ 376.89
Interest	\$ 213.59
Grant - TAP - Clear Creek Trail	\$ 164,279.17
Interest - Perezek Bequest	\$ 377.04
Interest	\$ 169.56
Wetland Bank Credit Sale - Auburn Ridge LLC	\$ 39,599.00
Interest - Perezek Bequest	\$ 340.67
Farm Ground Rental - Westfall	\$ 6,843.75
Farm Ground Rental - Bountiful Harvest Farms LLC	\$ 929.89
Interest	\$ 183.23
Wetland Bank Credit Sale - City of Coralville - Balance	\$ 11,685.00
Wetland Bank Credit Sale - Cedar County	\$ 10,160.00
Wetland Bank Credit Sale - City of Cedar Rapids	\$ 47,950.00
Interest - Perezek Bequest	\$ 377.31
Interest	\$ 197.58
Memorial Tree - K Wall	\$ 250.00
Memorial Tree - E Rodriguez	\$ 250.00
Memorial Tree - K Fesler Donations	\$ 300.00
Memorial Trees - V Lane	\$ 750.00
Memorial Tree - F Fleming	\$ 250.00
Idaho Trek Registrations	\$ 5,000.00
Interest - Perezek Bequest	\$ 377.46
Interest	\$ 219.42
Memorial Tree - R Fethers	\$ 250.00
Memorial Tree - C Hogan	\$ 250.00
Donation - P Byler - Easement	\$ 20,000.00
Memorial Bench - M Ball	\$ 1,000.00
Memorial Bench - L Lintz	\$ 1,000.00
Insurance Reimbursement - Derecho	\$ 115,073.02
Interest - Perezek Bequest	\$ 365.42
Interest	\$ 250.95
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 1,869,625.17</b>



# ***AREAS & FACILITIES***



The rare Prairie Phlox, *Phlox pilosa*, at Williams Prairie



# Cangleska Wakan



4045 245th St NE,  
Solon, IA 52333

**Overview:** Cangleska Wakan (*chan – gle' ska – wa kan'*) is a 132-acre park that features high quality oak forest and unique architecture, including several round barns, a stone arch, a stone amphitheater, and a brick labyrinth. Cangleska Wakan is a Lakota Sioux phrase that translates to 'Sacred Hoop' or 'Sacred Circle,' referring to the interconnectedness of all things. This property is adjacent to the 80-acre Big Grove Preserve, owned and managed by Bur Oak Land Trust.

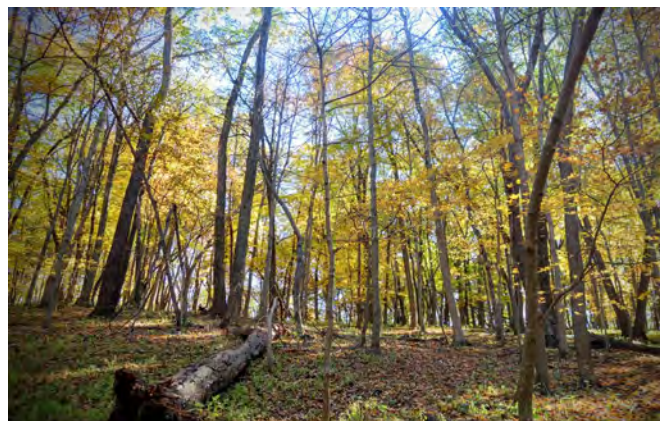
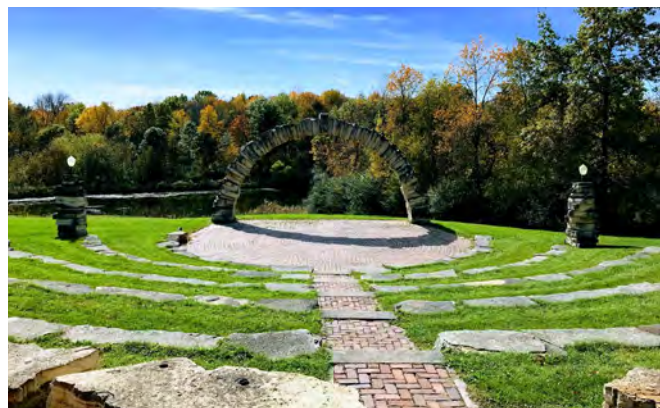
**History:** Cangleska Wakan was acquired by Johnson County Conservation (JCC) in 2018. The purchase was funded through the Johnson County Conservation Bond, established by county voters in 2008 to purchase and protect natural areas from development. JCC has been working on a master plan for this park's public use; the public can expect exciting changes and upgrades in years to come.

## Features:

- The high-quality oak forest provides a fantastic place for birding and spring wild lower viewing. Hiking trails through the forests of Cangleska Wakan and Big Grove Preserve combine to create a 4+ mile trail network, all accessible to the public. Trails are for pedestrian use only.
- A brick labyrinth and stone arch stand out as unique features. The labyrinth is modeled after the famous labyrinth of Chartres, France, constructed in the 13th century. The stone arch is one of the largest free-standing, mortar-less arches in North America.
- The 100-foot diameter Celebration Barn is available to the public for special event rentals. At this time, the only modern restroom facilities are in the barn, and only accessible when the barn is unlocked and not reserved for private use.
- In coming years, several additional on-site features may become accessible to the public, including a working sawmill, an exquisitely restored 1925 caboose, a restored baggage wagon, a replica railroad hand pump cart, a collection of antique tractors and cars, and a local food operation.



Photo credit: Gerald Denehy

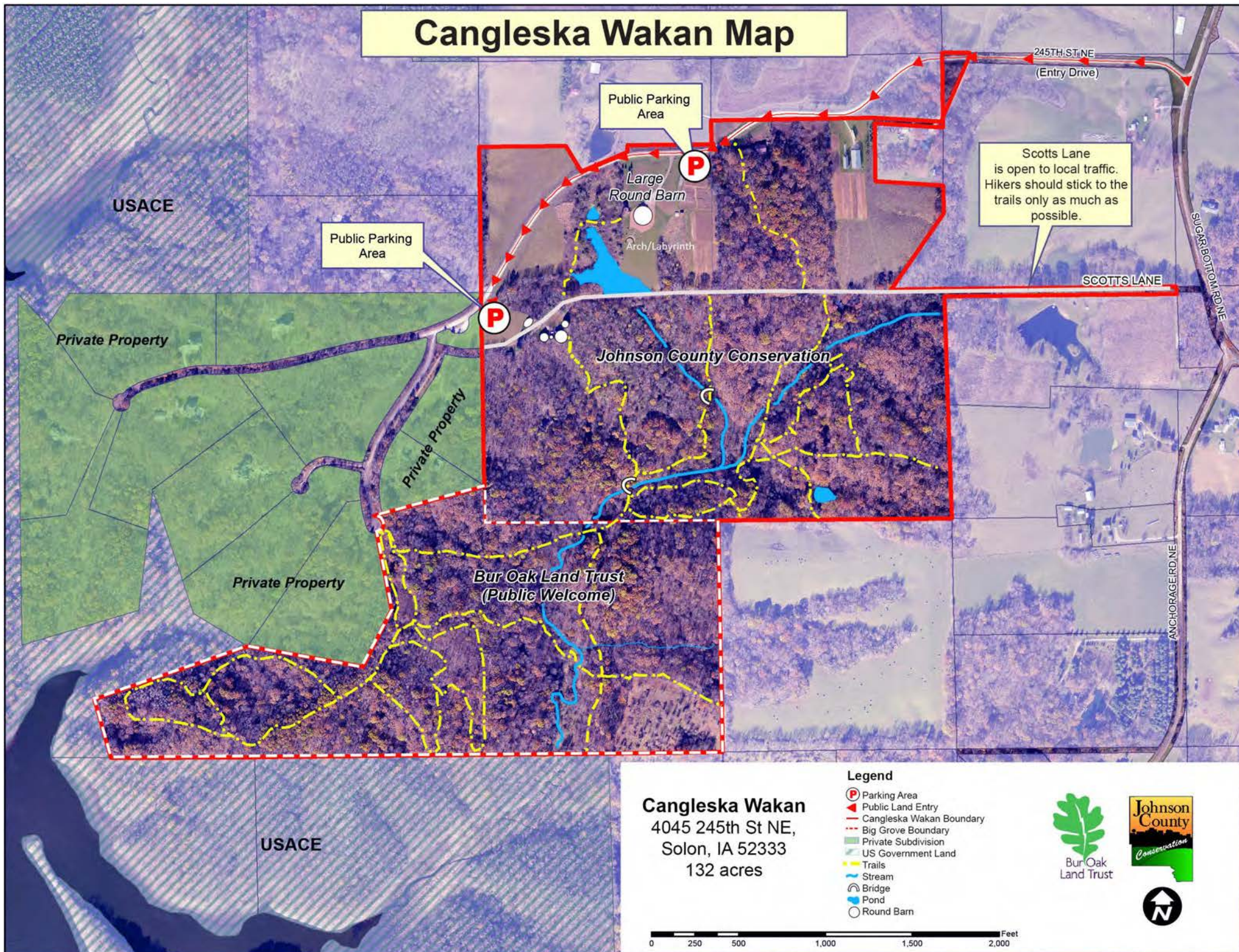


Johnson County Conservation | [www.johnsoncountyiowa.gov/conservation](http://www.johnsoncountyiowa.gov/conservation) | 319-645-2315





# Cangleska Wakan Map





# Cedar River Crossing



5473 Sutliff Rd NE  
Solon, IA 52333

**Overview:** Cedar River Crossing is a 560-acre property comprised of wetland, riparian forest, upland oak savanna, and both relic and restored prairie. The property is bordered by the Cedar River for over two miles, and lies within the river's floodplain. During flood events, the natural ecosystem acts as a sponge, absorbing and filtering floodwaters. Cedar River Crossing is named to honor the historic river fording area located on the site. The crossing was used by both Native Americans and Euroamerican colonizers. A limestone monument is located in the southern portion of the property near the crossing.



**History:** Johnson County Conservation acquired the first portion of Cedar River Crossing in 1999, and the remaining parcels were added between 2014-2017. Much of the land was used for row crop production and cattle pasture prior to JCC's ownership. In 2019, JCC completed an intensive project to restore 144 acres of wetland, 79 acres of prairie, and 71 acres of oak savanna in the north half of the property. A half-mile stream corridor was also restored and remeandered through the project area.



## Features:

- Wildlife is abundant in this habitat corridor. Species of special conservation concern, such as eastern hognose snakes and blundings turtles are regularly recorded here. The property is also a popular hunting location.
- The wetland complex and backwater channels on this landscape are particularly attractive to shorebirds, providing a birding hotspot.
- A large astronomical clock is built into the landscape. This feature allows visitors to connect with the annual cycles of the earth, as the lines of the clock align with the sunrise/sunset on the solstices and equinoxes.
- A denitrification basin serves as a collection point for water drained off 800 acres of surrounding farmland. The natural microbial communities in this basin metabolize nutrients before they enter the wetlands and Cedar River below.
- This site is primitive. There are no bathrooms or structures onsite currently. Visitors are welcome to hike throughout the property (there are no regularly maintained trails at this time). Other recreational features of the preserve include nature study of the area's prairie, wetland, and forest habitats.







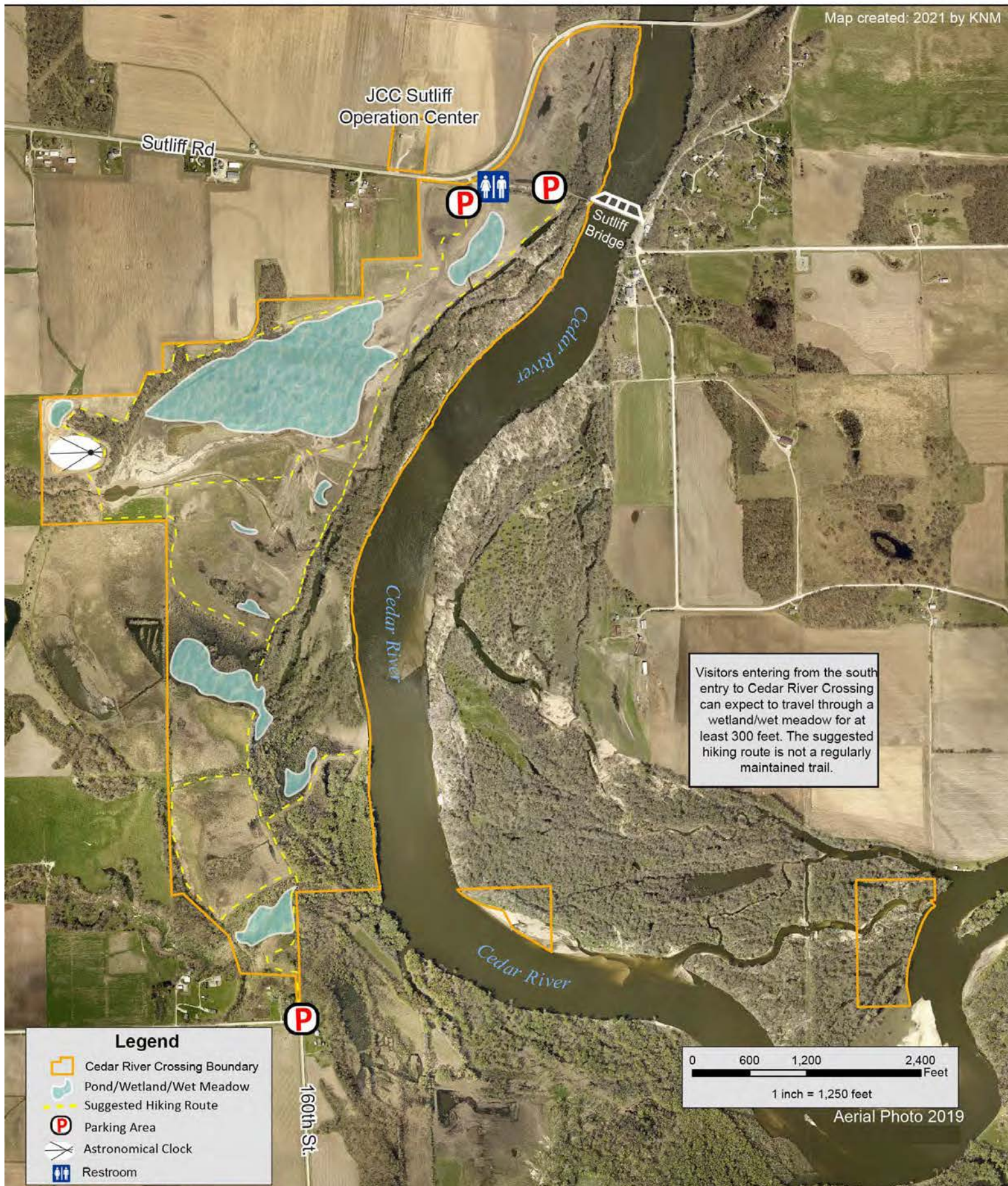
# Cedar River Crossing Conservation Area

North Parking Area: 5473 Sutliff Rd NE, Solon, IA 52333

South Parking Area: 5398 160th St NE, Solon, IA 52333




Map created: 2021 by KNM





# Ciha Fen Preserve

 **5656 145th St NE**  
**Lisbon, IA 52253**

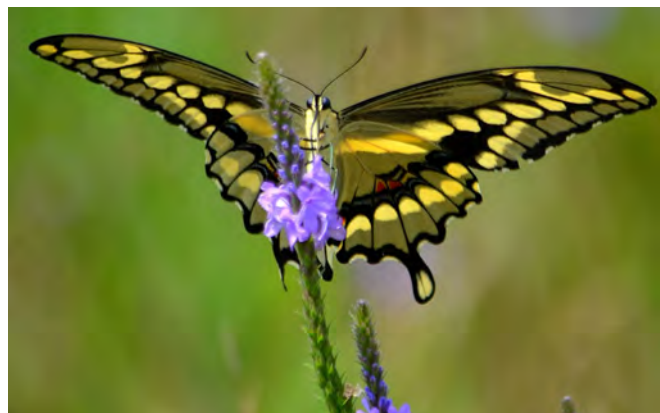
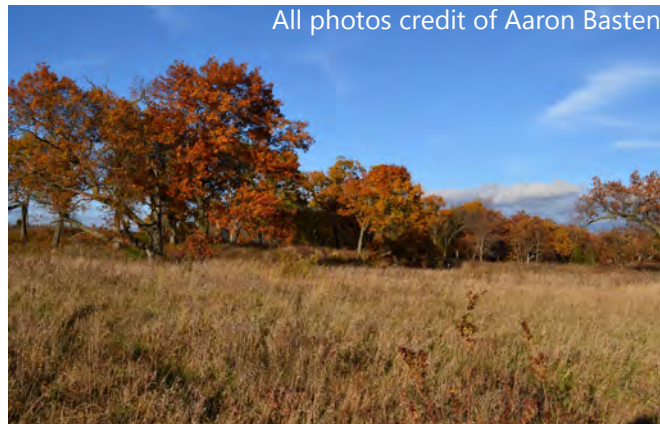
**Overview:** Ciha Fen Preserve is an 80-acre property located in the far northeast corner of the county. The preserve features a sand prairie/oak savanna complex on a wind-deposited sand ridge. It contains the Ciha Fen, which is one of the only two documented remaining nutrient-poor fens known in the state of Iowa. The area is also home to numerous rare plant and animals species.

**History:** This land's history with Johnson County Conservation (JCC) dates back to 2011 when the property was purchased from the Ciha family. The property was purchased in part with funding from the Johnson County Conservation Bond, established by Johnson County voters in 2008 to purchase and protect natural areas from development, in addition to funding through an Iowa DNR Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) grant. Prior to JCC's ownership of the land, the area was utilized as pasture ground and for agricultural production. JCC has since worked to enhance the native plant communities here through management of invasive species and regular prescribed burns.

## Features:

- 225 native plant species have been recorded onsite, including species of special concern such as Nodding Ladies' Tresses, Cleft Phlox, and Lance-leaved Violet.
- An abundance of wildlife find refuge at Ciha Fen Preserve, including species of Greatest Conservation Need, like Blanding's turtles, six-lined race runners, black-crowned night heron, and bull snakes. Hunting is not permitted.
- An interpretive panel near the fen describes the unique geological and hydrological properties of Ciha Fen. In addition to the fen, two other wetlands are onsite.
- This site is primitive and undeveloped. There are no bathrooms or structures onsite. Visitors are welcome to hike throughout the property (there are no maintained trails). Other recreational features of the preserve include bird-watching, photography, and nature study of the area's geology, hydrology, botany, and wetland habitats.

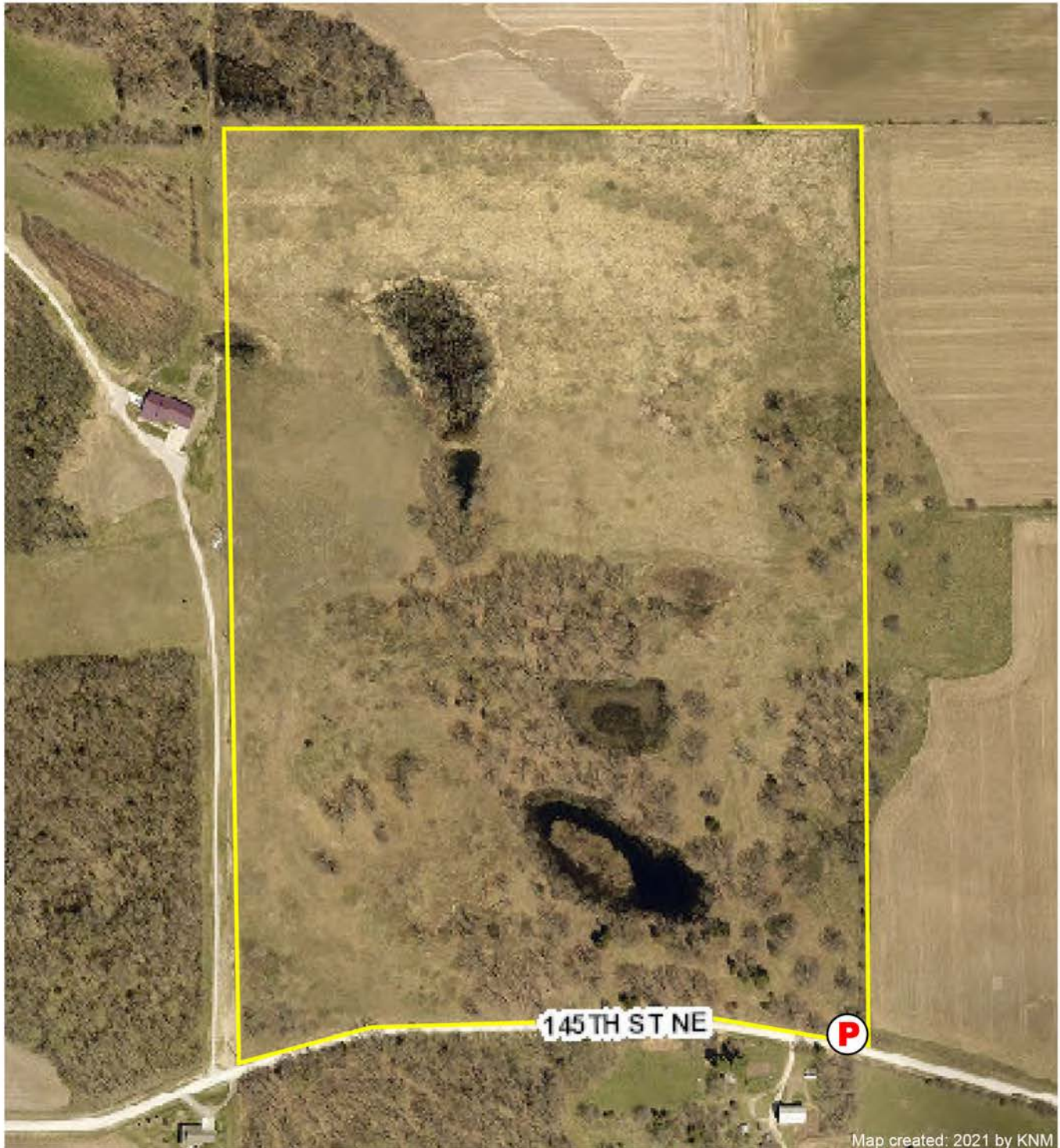
All photos credit of Aaron Basten





# Ciha Fen Preserve

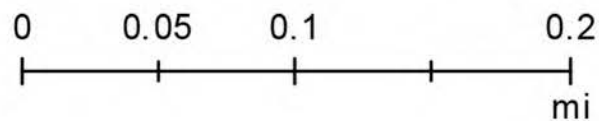
5656 145th St NE, Lisbon, IA 52253



Map created: 2021 by KNM

## Legend

- Property Boundary
- Parking Area





# Clear Creek Area & Trail

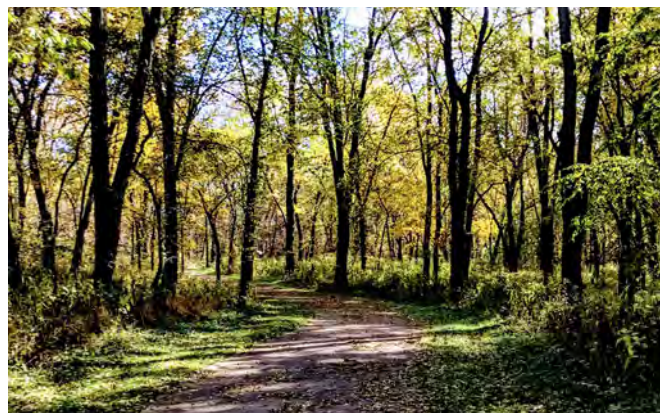


**3196 Half Moon Ave NW**  
**Tiffin, IA 52340**

**Overview:** The Clear Creek Area is an 87-acre riparian forest that buffers Clear Creek, a tributary of the Iowa River. The Clear Creek Trail, a paved multi-use trail, runs through the property, allowing visitors to easily enjoy this forest corridor. Johnson County Conservation (JCC) manages the ecosystem on this property as well as the 1.3 mile trail that runs from Ireland Avenue to Half Moon Avenue. JCC will oversee and manage the extension of the trail from Half Moon Avenue to F.W. Kent Park. This extension is expected to be complete in 2023.

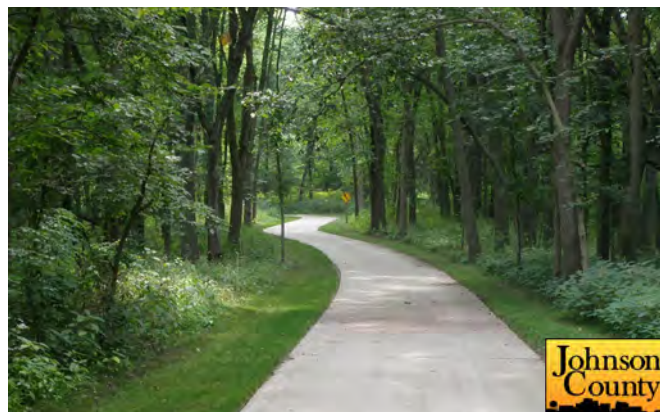


**History:** Johnson County Conservation acquired this property in 2009. This property was the first that JCC purchased utilizing funding from the Johnson County Conservation Bond, established by Johnson County voters in 2008 to purchase and protect natural areas from development. Funding also came through an Iowa DNR Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) grant.



## Features:

- JCC manages a 1.3-mile trail segment that runs through this property. The trail continues east through the outskirts of Tiffin, where it will be connected to the Clear Creek Trail segment through Coralville. This trail network from Kent Park to the Iowa River Trail in Iowa City is expected to be complete in 2024, following construction of the underpass under Interstate 80.
- The forest on this property is a high-quality riparian forest with numerous ephemeral wetlands and oxbow lakes. In the spring, an array of wildflowers can be found here.
- There are no bathrooms or structures on-site. Visitors are welcome to hike on or off trail. Primary recreational features of the property include hiking, biking, bird-watching and nature study of the area's forest habitats. The area south of Clear Creek is open to archery hunting only.





## Clear Creek Area & Trail

3196 Half Moon Ave NW  
Tiffin, IA 52340



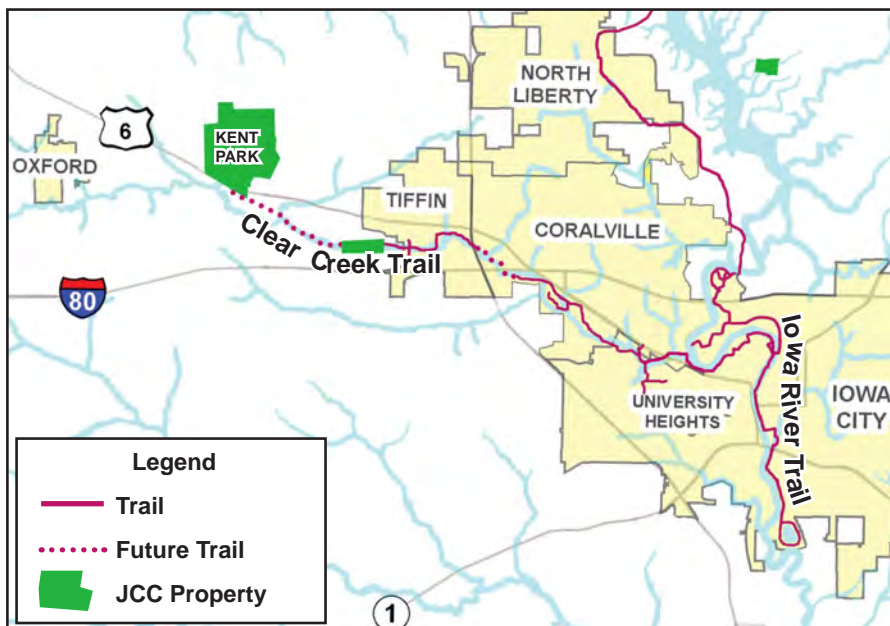
### Legend

- Property Boundary
- Clear Creek Trail
- ⋯ Future Trail Extension
- P Parking Area
- Roads

0 250 500 1,000 1,500 2,000 Feet



## Area Clear Creek Trail Map



The Clear Creek Trail is developed and managed by the following agencies:

**Johnson County Conservation (JCC):** management of the trail from Ireland Ave. in Tiffin, west to Half Moon Ave. JCC will manage the extension of the trail west from Half Moon Ave. to Kent Park.

**City of Tiffin:** management of the trail between Ireland Ave and the I-80 underpass.

**City of Coralville:** management of the trail from the I-80 underpass to Rocky Shore Drive. The Coralville segment of the Clear Creek Trail will connect to the Iowa River Trail by mid 2021.



# Frytown Conservation Area



2198 Angle Rd SW  
Kalona, IA 52247

**Overview:** Frytown Conservation Area is a 94-acre property in the southwest portion of the county. This forested property includes mature oak/hickory stands and younger tree and shrub plantations planted by JCC for wildlife habitat.



**History:** Johnson County Conservation acquired Frytown Conservation Area in 1973. Prior to JCC's ownership, this rolling landscape was used as pastureland. A severely eroding stream was also used as a dumping site for old vehicles and farm machinery. In 1995, JCC planted 30 acres of former pastureland to hardwood trees and shrubs.



## Features:

- Frytown is a wildlife haven and a popular hunting area. The forested land of this property connects to the forest corridor surrounding Old Man's Creek, and allows for safe passage between habitats for wildlife.
- Visitors can enjoy 2.5 miles of wide grass trails that wind through the forest.
- Other recreational activities that can be enjoyed in this area include foraging, bird-watching, and nature study of the forest habitat. Abundant decomposing logs serve as great learning laboratories for children to explore, and a plethora of wind-blown sticks and branches make for excellent fort-building materials.
- This site is primitive. There are no bathrooms or structures on-site.

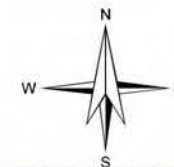






# Frytown Conservation Area

2198 Angle Rd SW  
Kalona, Ia





# Hills Access & Campground



4210 520th St SE  
Iowa City, IA 52240

**Overview:** Hills Access & Campground is a popular 40-acre park along the Iowa River, one-half mile east of the town of Hills. Substantial river shoreline provides good fishing access to the Iowa River. Hills Access & Campground is also along the Iowa River Water Trail and is a popular ending or launch point for paddlers enjoying the river. The Johnson County segment of the Iowa River Water Trail starts at Sturgis Ferry Park in Iowa City and ends at the Tri-County Bridge at the southern corner of the county. Sturgis Ferry Park to Hills Access & Campground is a 9.25-mile paddle. Hills Access & Campground to River Junction Access & Campground is a 9.8-mile paddle.



**History:** It was acquired by the county in 1973.

**Features:** Facilities include a boat ramp, picnic tables, a latrine, a playground, and both non-electric and electric camping sites. Boating, fishing, camping and picnicking are popular activities here.



The fees for camping at Hills Campground are \$15.00 per night for electric sites (14 sites) or \$10 per non-electric site (7 sites). Seven of the sites can accommodate pull-through campers.





# Hills Campground & Access

4210 520th St SE  
Iowa City, IA 52240



Hills Campground & Access Overall Map



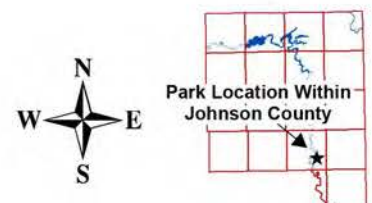
Hills Campground & Access Map



## Legend

- Property Boundary
- Road
- Parking Area
- Boat Ramp
- Playground

- The area on the east side of the Iowa River is open to archery only deer hunting.





# Hoover Trail

**Overview:** The Hoover Trail is a 5.8-mile length segment between the communities of Ely and Solon and a 3.7-mile segment between the communities of Oasis and West Branch. Much of the trail corridor is built along the old Chicago, Rock Island, and Pacific Railroad right-of-way. The trail segment from Solon to Ely connects to Cedar Rapids and Cedar Falls through a 70 mile length, trail network. The Hoover Trail is also a part of both the Great American Rail-Trail and The American Discovery Trail, coast-to-coast trail networks that link non-motorized trails across the country.

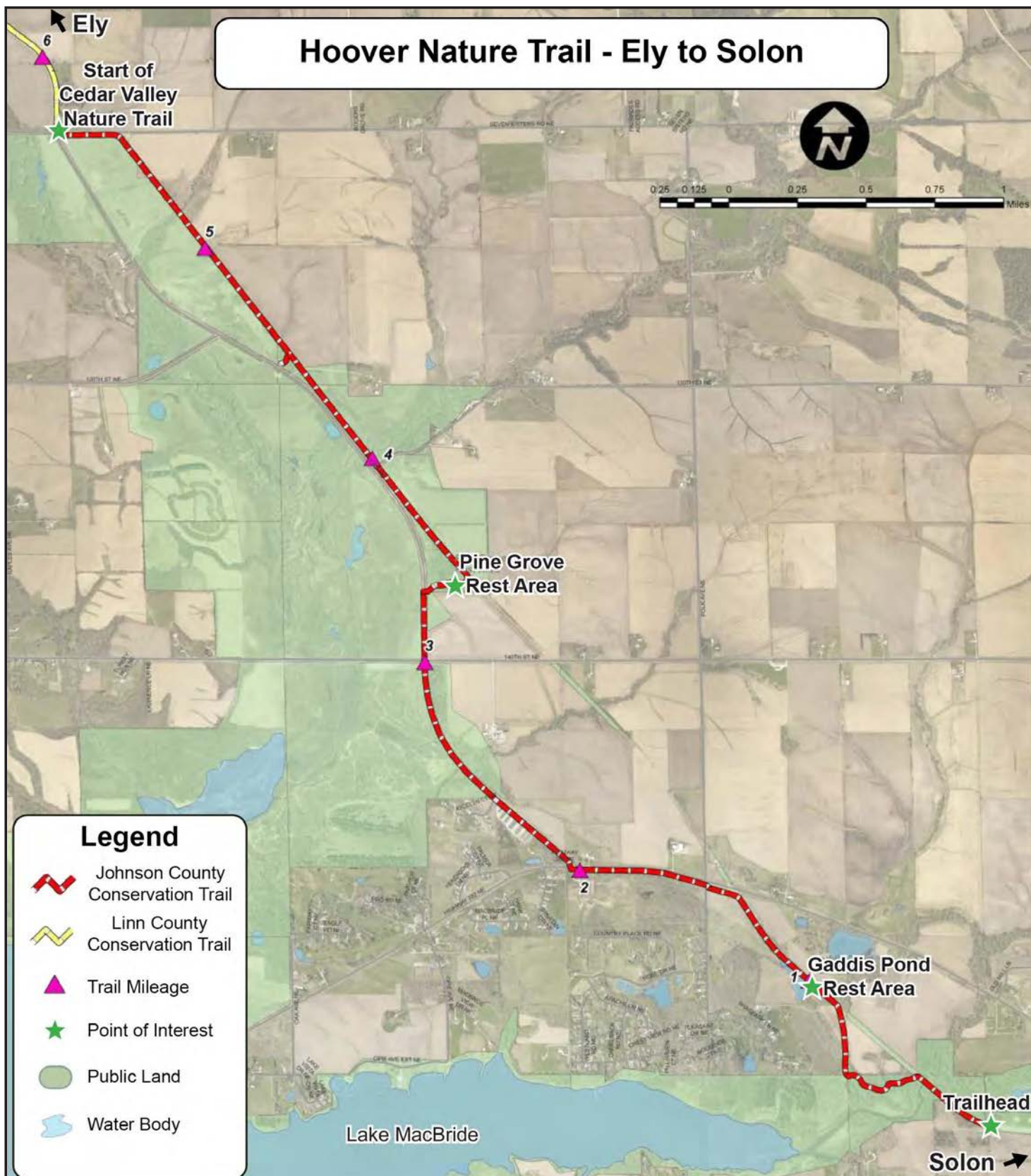
## Johnson County Trail Segments:

**Linn County to Solon:** The paved northernmost segment of the trail runs from Seven Sisters Road on the Johnson/Linn County line down to Solon. The trail offers wide open views of farmland and bridges over Lingle Creek and Mill Creek. Near its southern endpoint, it intersects with the North Shore Trail, connecting to Lake Macbride State Park. North of the county line, the trail seamlessly continues as the Cedar Valley Nature Trail to Ely and further to Cedar Rapids and Cedar Falls.

**Oasis to West Branch:** This segment of the trail connects two counties, Johnson and Cedar, and two towns, Oasis and West Branch. Much of the route is tree-canopied so you'll have a pleasant, shady ride on this crushed-stone pathway. On the occasions when you pop out of the trees, you'll see the surrounding agricultural landscape. The Hoover Trail is named after former president and native Iowan, Herbert Hoover. Trail users can visit the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library and Museum in Hoover's hometown of West Branch. This section is maintained by Cedar County Conservation.

**Trailheads/Parking:** Ely City Park, Solon Recreation and Nature Area, West Branch Dog Park, and Wapsi Creek Park.







# Iowa River Trail

**Overview:** The Iowa River Trail is a 16-mile paved multi-use trail network that runs primarily along the Iowa River, connecting the communities of Iowa City, Coralville, and North Liberty. The southern terminus of the trail is Iowa City's Terry Trueblood Park, and the northern terminus is currently the east end of the Mehaffey Bridge over Coralville Lake. Johnson County Conservation manages six miles of the trail, including the 3.3-mile North Dubuque Street segment and the 2.3-mile Mehaffey Bridge segment.

## Trail Segments:

**Terry Trueblood to Waterworks Prairie Park:** The trail begins at Terry Trueblood Recreation Area, and heads north along the shady Iowa River shoreline. Along the way, the trail passes numerous parks such as Riverside Park and City Park, along with the University of Iowa Campus. At City Park, trail users can cross to the eastern river bank, where the trail follows Dubuque Street up and over Interstate 80 to Waterworks Prairie Park. This trail segment is maintained by the City of Iowa City.

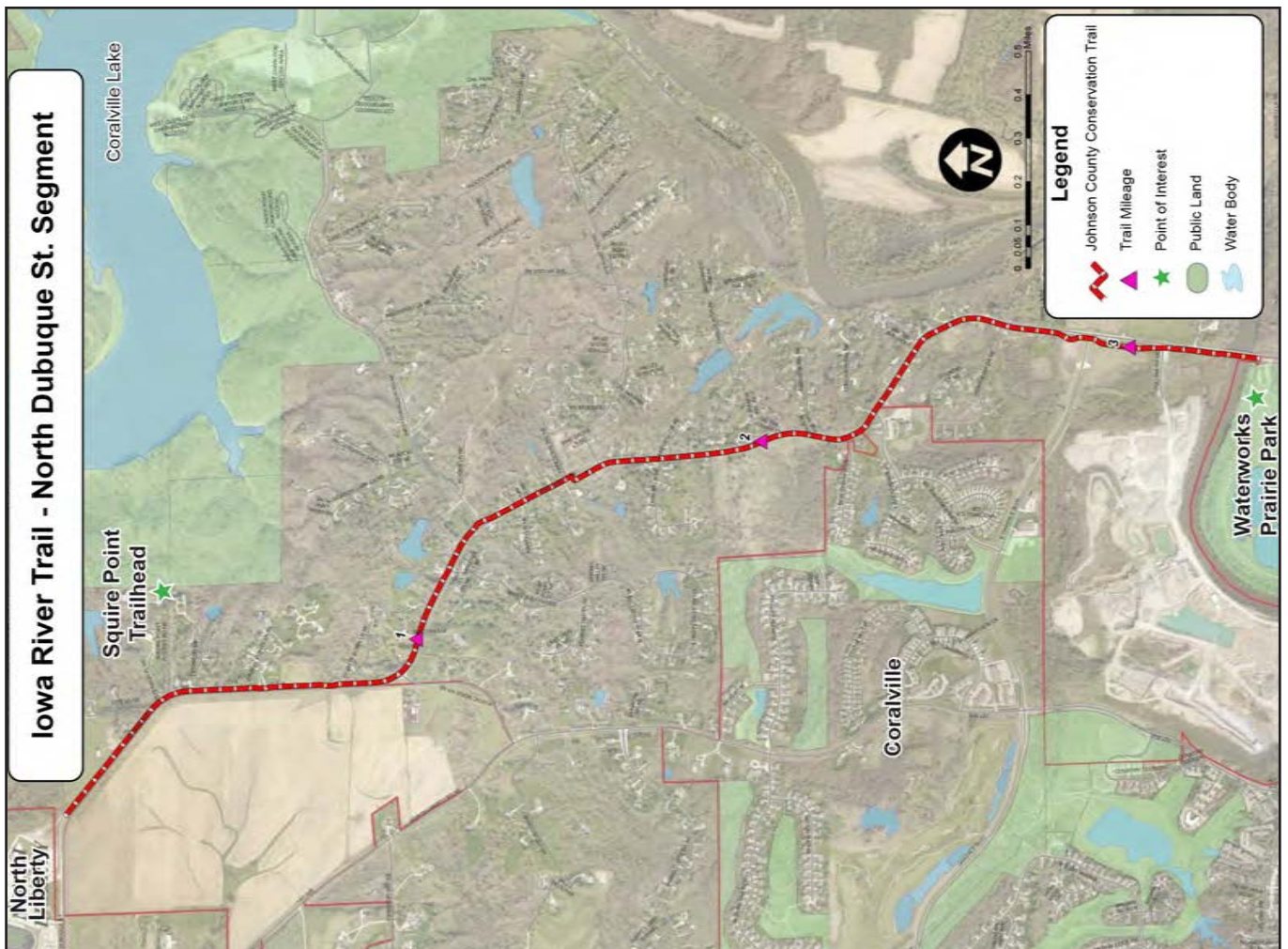
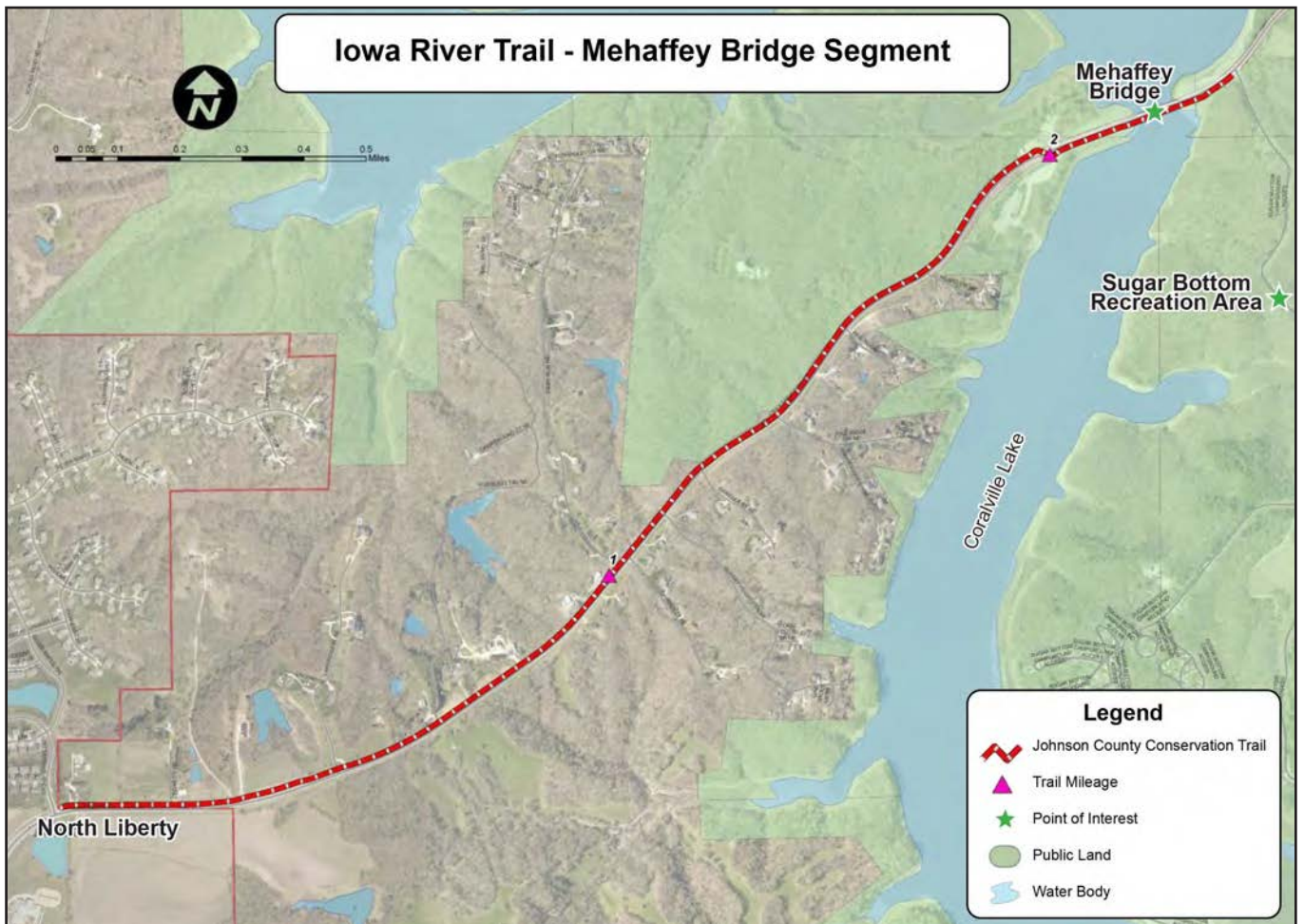
**Waterworks Prairie Park to North Liberty:** This trail segment, called the Dubuque Street Trail Segment, connects Iowa City and North Liberty. The trail follows Dubuque Street through residential developments. Trail users will pass the turn off for the Squire Point Trail network, managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. This trail segment is maintained by Johnson County Conservation. The trail continues through North Liberty to the northern outskirts, with the in-town segment maintained by the City of North Liberty.

**North Liberty to Mehaffey Bridge:** This trail segment, called the Mehaffey Bridge Trail Segment, continues along Mehaffey Bridge Road to the scenic Mehaffey Bridge that spans the Coralville Reservoir. The northern terminus is at the eastern side of the bridge, near the entrance to the Sugar Bottom Recreation Area, a park that features a mountain bike trail network. This trail segment is maintained by Johnson County Conservation.

**Trailheads/Parking:** Terry Trueblood Park, Napoleon Park, Riverside Park, City Park, Waterworks Prairie Park, Penn Meadows Park, & Mehaffey Bridge Boat Ramp.









# Iowa River Water Trail

**Overview:** The full expanse of the Iowa River Water Trail is a 72-mile stretch of river that starts in Iowa City and ends in Louisa County, where the Iowa River drains into the Mississippi River. The Iowa River Water Trail travels for 24 miles through Johnson County and passes three Johnson County Conservation (JCC) properties, Hills Access and Campground, Pechman Creek Delta, and River Junction Access and Campground. Both Hills Access and River Junction Access provide entry or take out points for the Iowa River Water Trail.

## Water Trail Segments in Johnson County:

**Sturgis Ferry Park to Hills Access (9.25 miles):** The trail begins at Sturgis Ferry Park, in Iowa City. The park, managed by the City of Iowa City, consists of a boat ramp and parking. The first half of this stretch of the river takes paddlers past light industry and cabin-lined river banks. The latter half features longer stretches of bottomland forest lined banks. Hills Access and Campground, a JCC property, features a boat ramp, parking, electric and non-electric camping, water, restrooms, and a playground.

**Hills Access to River Junction Access (9.8 miles):** This trail segment stretches between Hills Access and another JCC property, River Junction Access and Campground. This section of the river is highly sinuous and expansive bottomland forest lines most of the eastern shoreline. Paddlers will pass Pechman Creek Delta in the last third of this segment. The Iowa River borders this JCC property for over 2 miles, though there is no river access here. River Junction Access and Campground is 1.5 miles downstream from Pechman and features a boat ramp, parking, non-electric camping, and restrooms.

**River Junction Access to the Tri-County Bridge (6.5 miles):** This trail segment runs through remote countryside and no dwellings are found along the shoreline through this section. Shorelines on both sides are mostly forested. The Tri-County Bridge sits at the boundary between Johnson, Louisa, and Washington Counties. There is no developed river access or parking here. The next developed access is 17 miles downriver at River Forks Access in Fredonia, IA.









# F.W. Kent Park



2048 Hwy 6 NW  
Oxford, IA 52322

**Overview:** F.W. Kent Park is 1,062 acres, the largest property owned by Johnson County Conservation (JCC), and agency's headquarters. High quality relic and reconstructed prairie, oak savanna, and forests cover the landscape, along with numerous wetlands. A 27-acre constructed lake centers the park.

**History:** Kent Park, established in 1966, was amid the first of JCC's parks. The park started out with a 186-acre acquisition from the Larew family, and a 21-acre parcel from the Woods family. The lake was constructed on these parcels, and surrounding acreage was added over the following decades. Kent Park is named after Frederick Wallace Kent, a prominent photographer and birder in the county. Mr. Kent assisted JCC in the early years by helping to determine wildlife areas for preservation.

## Features:

- 13+ miles of hiking trails wind through the landscape. Trails are open to hikers and mt. bikers, and in the winter many are groomed for cross country skiing, fatbiking, and snowshoeing.
- Kent Park Lake is open to canoeing, kayaking, fishing, and swimming at the beach. The beach is free and open from Memorial Day to Labor Day. An accessible fishing pier is located at the Boat Ramp parking area.
- The campground provides 86 electric sites, restroom and shower facilities, and a playground. Additionally, the Youth Group Camp has a lodge and 5 campsites; all can be reserved by organized youth groups.
- The Conservation Education Center (CEC) is used to host educational programs and is open summer weekends for visitation. A Storybook Trail around the 1/2 mile CEC trail loop is a draw for young hikers from spring to fall. Kent Park provides a variety of nature-study opportunities.
- A bird blind is open to the public year-round. It is located on the east end of the CEC parking lot.
- Six picnic shelters (four are reservable), picnic tables, and grills are available throughout the park. A large playground is located near the Bluebird Picnic Shelter.



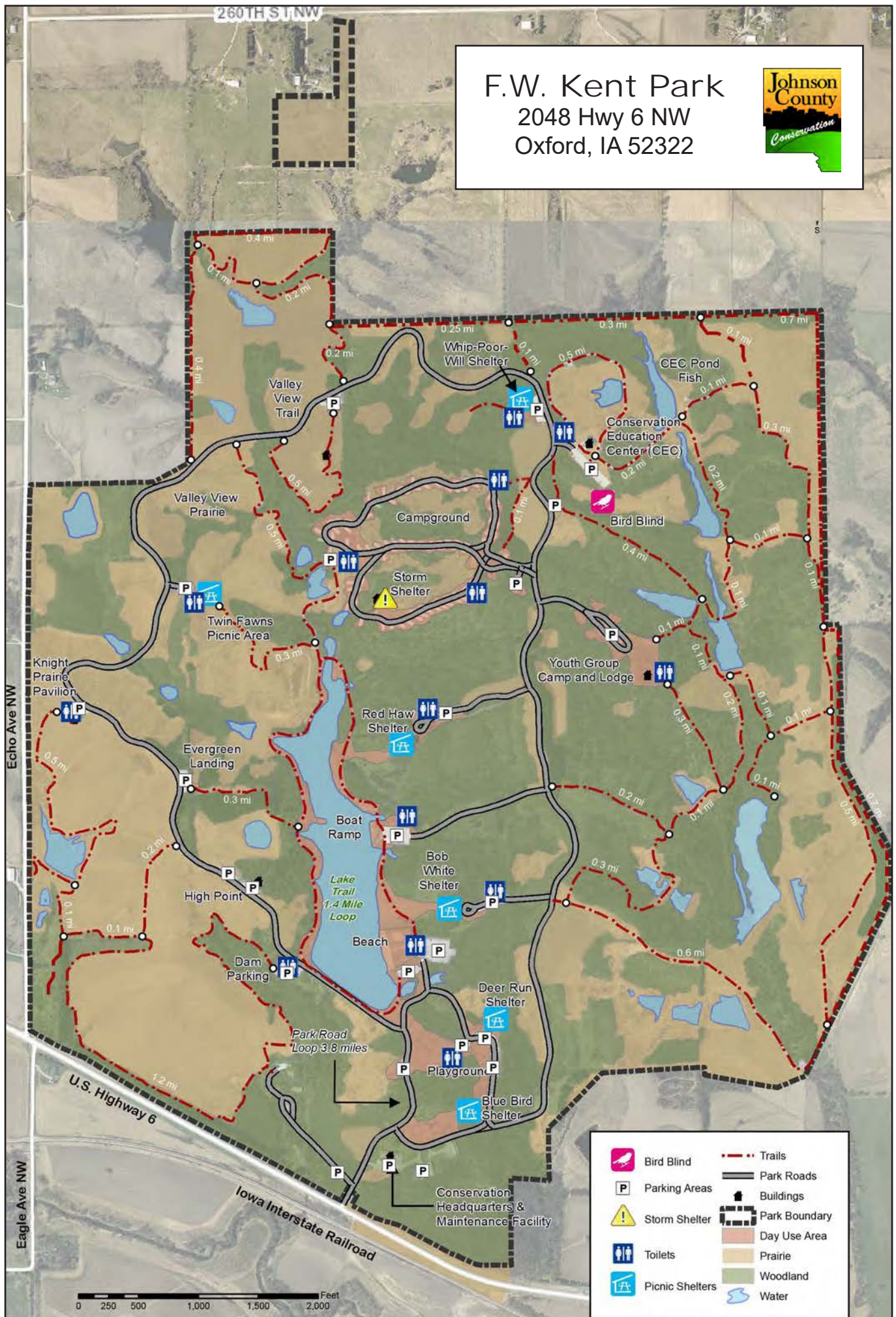
Johnson County Conservation | [www.johnsoncountyiowa.gov/conservation](http://www.johnsoncountyiowa.gov/conservation) | 319-645-2315





# F.W. Kent Park

2048 Hwy 6 NW  
Oxford, IA 52322





# Malinda Reif Reilly Fen and Prairie



**4495 140th Street NE**  
**Solon, IA 52333**

**Overview:** The Malinda Reif Reilly Fen and Prairie is a 100-acre property north of Solon, Iowa. The property, which is located on a Paha Ridge, features 53 acres of relic prairie, wetland, and fen habitats, and the remaining 47 acres are currently in organic hay production. Johnson County Conservation (JCC) will restore this portion of the property to native ecosystems in coming years, and will develop a parking area and hiking trails. The property will be managed as a nature preserve, open for hiking and other nature appreciation activities.



**History:** The Malinda Reif Reilly Fen and Prairie was acquired by Johnson County Conservation in 2020. The property is named in memory of its previous owner and nature-loving steward of the land. Malinda's family had farmed here without use of chemicals and resisted its conversion to row crop agriculture since 1900. Botanists have known of the site for over a quarter century and have cataloged its 225 plant species, including several that are uncommon or rare. Johnson County Conservation was awarded an Iowa DNR Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) grant to help fund the purchase. The purchase was also funded in part by the Johnson County Conservation Bond, established by county voters in 2008 to purchase and protect natural areas from development.



## Features:

- 225 plant species have been recorded on-site, including rare native species such as: Tall Green Milkweed (*Asclepias hirtella*) and Hill's Thistle (*Cirsium hillii*).
- This site is primitive and undeveloped. There are no bathrooms or structures on-site and no developed parking area currently. Visitors are welcome to hike throughout the property (there are no maintained trails at this time). Other recreational features of the preserve include bird-watching, and nature study of the area's botany and fen, wetland, and stream habitats.



**Johnson County Conservation | [www.johnsoncountyiowa.gov/conservation](http://www.johnsoncountyiowa.gov/conservation) | 319-645-2315**





# Malina Reif Reilly Fen & Prairie

4495 140th Street NE  
Solon, IA 52333





# Pechman Creek Delta

5875 Sand Rd SE  
Lone Tree, IA 52755

**Overview:** Pechman Creek Delta is a 380-acre property in southern Johnson County along the floodplain of the Iowa River. Water is abundant throughout the property. The Iowa River borders the property for 2.4 miles, and three tributaries, Pechman Creek, Otter Creek, and a small unnamed creek meander through the property before joining and draining into the Iowa River. Old oxbows found in the vast riparian forest on-site serve as ephemeral wetlands.

**History:** Johnson County Conservation acquired Pechman Creek Delta in 2016 using funds from the Johnson County Conservation Bond, established by Johnson County voters in 2008 to purchase and protect natural areas from development, in addition to an Iowa DNR Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) grant and donation from Whitetails Unlimited. This property was previously owned by the Kruse and Westfall families, and much of the land was used for row crop production. The increasing frequency and intensity of the Iowa River flood cycles inspired the sale of this property to public lands. The farmed areas of the property will be restored to a prairie/wetland complex in coming years.

## Features:

- Pechman Creek Slough offers recreational opportunities for paddlers and anglers. The slough, a flat-water portion of Pechman Creek, is located 1/2 mile into the property along a pedestrian-only dirt path.
- Wildlife is abundant in this habitat corridor. The property is also open to hunting. A section of the eastern part of the property is restricted to youth pheasant hunting only.
- Hikers can enjoy a 3-mile grass path around the exterior of the farmed areas. Visitors can also hike through the vast forest areas, though there are no maintained trails.
- This site is undeveloped at this time. There are no public-access bathrooms or structures on-site. Other recreational features of the property include bird-watching, and nature study of the area's hydrology, wetland, and forest habitats.





# Pechman Creek Delta

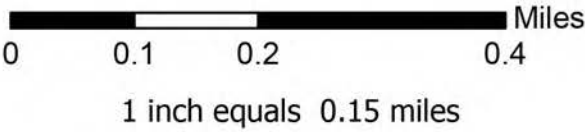
5875 Sand Rd SE, Lone Tree, IA 52755



\* The Supervised Youth Pheasant Hunting Only Area is restricted to the area between Sand Road and Pechman Creek. By state law no discharge of firearms is allowed within 200 yards of an occupied building or feedlot, without permission of the owner or tenant. The rest of the area is open to hunting according to state hunting regulations.

## Legend

- JCC Boundary
- Trail (mileage is from dot to dot)
- P = Parking





# Phebe Timber

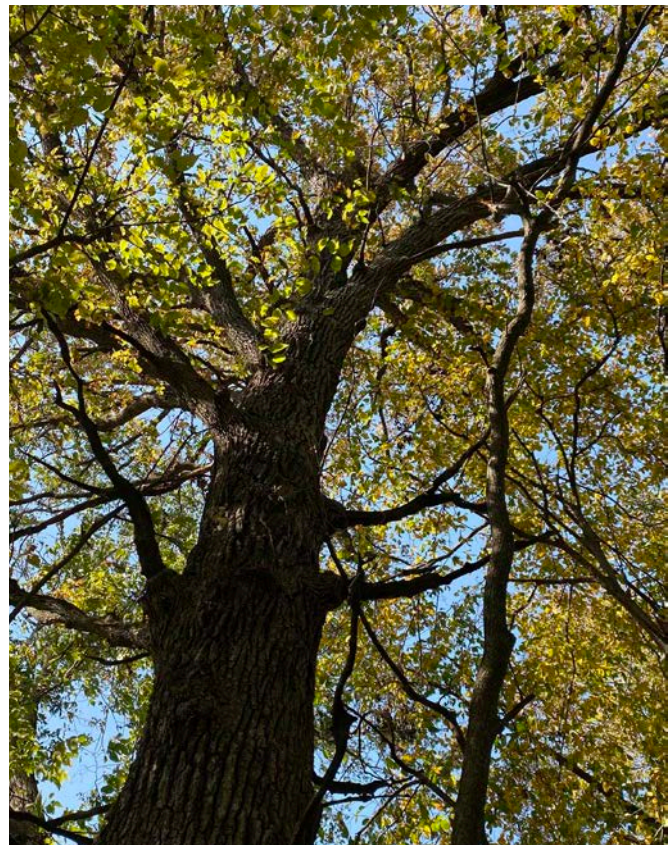
4492 Kansas Ave SW  
Iowa City, IA 52240

**Overview:** Phebe Timber is a 27-acre property that was donated to Johnson County Conservation in 2021. The property is located in south central Johnson County and consists of forested land, with Old Man's Creek running through the parcel.

**History:** Phebe Timber was donated to JCC by the William's family in 2021. The land had been in the William's family since January 1, 1850, when the property was transferred from the U.S. government by President Zachary Taylor, 12th president of the United States, to Phebe (Williams) Davis. This donation is unique as it is the first donation to JCC representing land from a family that received the property directly from the U.S. government as part of the nation's westward expansion and colonization by Euro-Americans.

## Features:

- A total of 24 acres of forest land is found on the property, with high quality bottomland forest ecosystem made up of silver maple, walnut, hackberry, cottonwood, and river birch. A few native hawthorns and oaks remain as reminders of the original oak savanna that once blanketed the county's river valleys.
- Old Man's Creek runs through the property, and the stream channel makes up the remaining 2 acres of the site.
- The property features a diverse array of spring ephemeral wildflowers, including trout lily, prairie trillium, rue anemone, spring beauty, bluebells, violets, and wild ginger, among others.
- This property is adjacent to private land that remains in natural habitat. These lands together create connected habitat and wildlife migration corridors. Stream and river corridors represent most of Iowa's connected wildlife habitat today, and thus, these properties are especially important to protect and preserve.
- A parking area and trails may be developed in the future to make this site more accessible to the people of Johnson County.
- The property is currently open to bow hunting.





**Phebe Timber**  
4492 Kansas Ave SW  
Iowa City, IA 52240

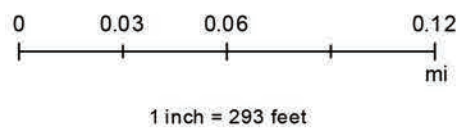


Map created: 2021 by KNM



**Legend**

- Property Boundary
- Road
- Parking Area





# River Junction Access & Campground



6051 River Jct. Rd SE  
Lone Tree, IA 52755

**Overview:** River Junction is a 12-acre property located along the Iowa River in the southern part of the county. This property features a primitive campground and boat ramp. River Junction is bordered by the Iowa River to the west. Just a few hundred feet south of the park, the English River flows into the Iowa, and the confluence serves as the park's namesake. Mature trees provide shaded relief and make this area a peaceful oasis for campers and anglers alike. River Junction Access & Campground is along the Iowa River Water Trail. The Johnson County segment of the Iowa River Water Trail starts at Sturgis Ferry Park in Iowa City and ends at the Tri-County Bridge at the southern corner of the county. Paddlers can enjoy a 9.8-mile distance from Hills Access to River Junction Access.



**History:** Johnson County Conservation acquired this property in 1971.

**Features:** Facilities on the site include the boat ramp, picnic tables, ten primitive campsites and a latrine.

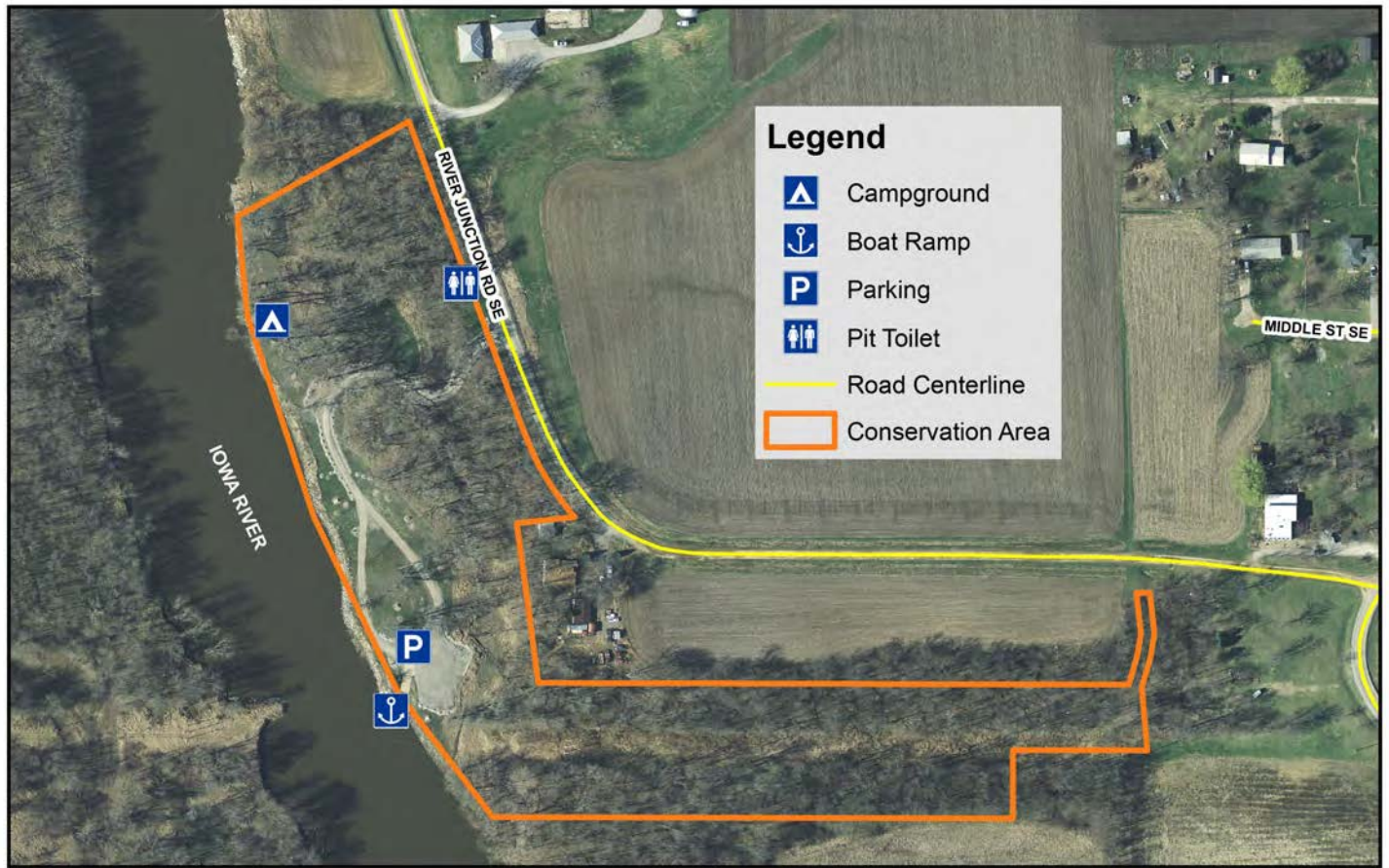


The camping fee is \$10 per unit per night for each of the 11 campsites with fire rings.



# River Junction Campground & Access

6051 River Jct Rd SE  
Lone Tree, IA 52755



## Legend

- Campground
- Boat Ramp
- Parking
- Pit Toilet
- Road Centerline
- Conservation Area

0 62.5 125 250 375 500 Feet





# Scott Church Park

5409 American Legion Rd SE  
Iowa City, IA 52240

**Overview:** Scott Church Park is a five-acre roadside park located six miles southeast of Iowa City at the junction of American Legion Road and Highway 6. The park is best used as a picnic area or a place for quiet retreat.

**History:** Scott Church Park has the distinction of being the first county park for Johnson County Conservation (JCC). It was acquired and developed by the fledgling Johnson County Conservation Board in 1965 under a sponsoring agreement from the Iowa Highway Commission for the development of a highway safety rest area. Over the years, JCC has enhanced the land by restoring native species. In 2001, a triangular-shaped area, approximately one half-acre in size was seeded to native grasses and forbs. A multiple-row shelter-belt composed of Red Cedar, Norway Spruce, High Bush Cranberry and Ninebark was planted along the property line. The prairie and shelter-belt provide badly needed nesting and winter cover for wildlife in a locale of intense row-crop agriculture.

**Features:** Facilities include a picnic area, a swing set, a mowed play area, potable water supply and a latrine.

An aerial view of Scott Church Park in 1955.  
Note the original gas station at the intersection of Highway 6 and American Legion Road and the church located near the back of the property.





# Scott Church Park

5409 American Legion Rd SE  
Iowa City, IA 52240



## Legend

- Parking Area
- Property Boundary
- Restroom
- Road

0 62.5 125 250 375 500 Feet





# Solon Prairie



**713 East 5th St  
Solon, IA 52333**

**Overview:** Solon Prairie is a three-acre wet-mesic prairie. This prairie is a relict, meaning that it has never been plowed. Though often overlooked, this small park is a gem, and provides visitors with a dazzling display of color each year. 157 native plant species have been recorded on site. The prairie is located within the Solon city limits and is surrounded by housing developments.



**History:** The Solon Gun Club acquired the property in 1966 from the Kessler family, who had owned it since 1876. For the next seventeen years the land was used for a trapshooting range and a small clubhouse was located there. In 1983, the Solon Gun Club conveyed ownership to Johnson County Conservation (JCC). The area is preserved as a natural prairie and is available for public use as a botanical study area. A prairie management plan was developed for it in 1984, which includes a quadrennial burn management program, used to control invaders and enhance native species. Much native grass and wildflower seed has been gathered from this area for establishment in other JCC areas.



**Features:** The Prairie is a living natural history museum and gives the visitor a microcosmic view of the predominant vegetation of 80% of the state of Iowa at the time of settlement. It is a valuable outdoor classroom, and a great place for nature study and bird watching.



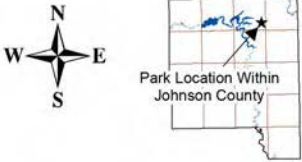
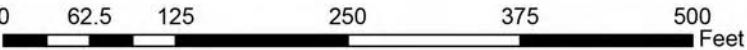


**Solon Prairie**  
713 East 5th St  
Solon, IA 52333



**Legend**

- Parking
- Conservation Area
- Road Centerline





# Sutliff Access



1295 White Oak Ave NE  
Lisbon, IA 52253

**Overview:** Sutliff Access is one-half acre area located in the village of Sutliff. The property includes a boat ramp and picnic area. The property also includes access to Sutliff Bridge, a local tourist attraction that draws motorists, bikers, and cyclists. On most weekends during pleasant weather, the bridge is filled with visitors enjoying a picnic lunch on the many picnic tables available. The bridge is closed to vehicles but may be walked and biked across. Along the bridge, educational panels describe the watershed, the area's history, and information about the 2008 floods.

**History:** Sutliff Access is owned by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. Johnson County Conservation (JCC) has operated the area since 1986 under a management agreement. The historic Sutliff Bridge was built in 1898 and restored after the 2008 floods. The bridge is maintained by Johnson County Conservation and the day-to-day management is performed by the Sutliff Bridge Authority, a private, non-profit organization.

**Features:** Facilities on the site include the boat ramp and picnic tables. Just across the bridge from the boat ramp is the JCC's Cedar River Crossing Conservation Area. Visitors to the Sutliff Area can cross over the bridge to hike and explore the vast wetland-prairie complex and bottomland forests of Cedar River Crossing. A multi-stall restroom facility is located at the parking area for Cedar River Crossing.



**Sutliff Bridge and Access**  
1293/1295 White Oak Ave NE  
Lisbon, IA 52253



**Legend**

- Property Boundary
- Parking Area
- Boat Ramp
- Road





# Two Horse Farm

 **2257 Sugar Bottom Rd NE  
Solon, IA 52333**

**Overview:** Two Horse Farm is an 83-acre park that features restored prairie and oak-hickory forest. The property is a former farm and several buildings on site remind the visitor of that history. A 7-acre circle in the center of the property was donated to the Iowa Tribe of Nebraska and Kansas. Sugar Bottom Recreation Area, owned and managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, surrounds the property on two sides, creating an extensive habitat corridor.

**History:** Two Horse Farm was acquired by JCC in 2022 through purchase and donation. The purchase was funded through the Johnson County Conservation Bond, established by county voters in 2008 to purchase and protect natural areas from development, and a State of Iowa REAP Grant Program. The land was managed as a family farm throughout the late 1800s and 1900s.

## Features:

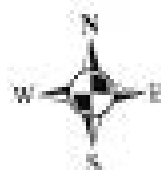
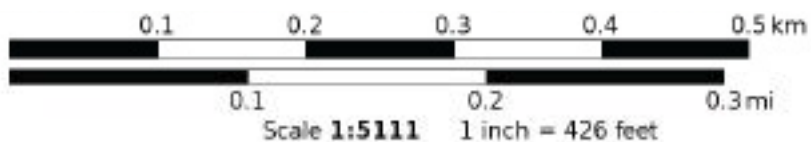
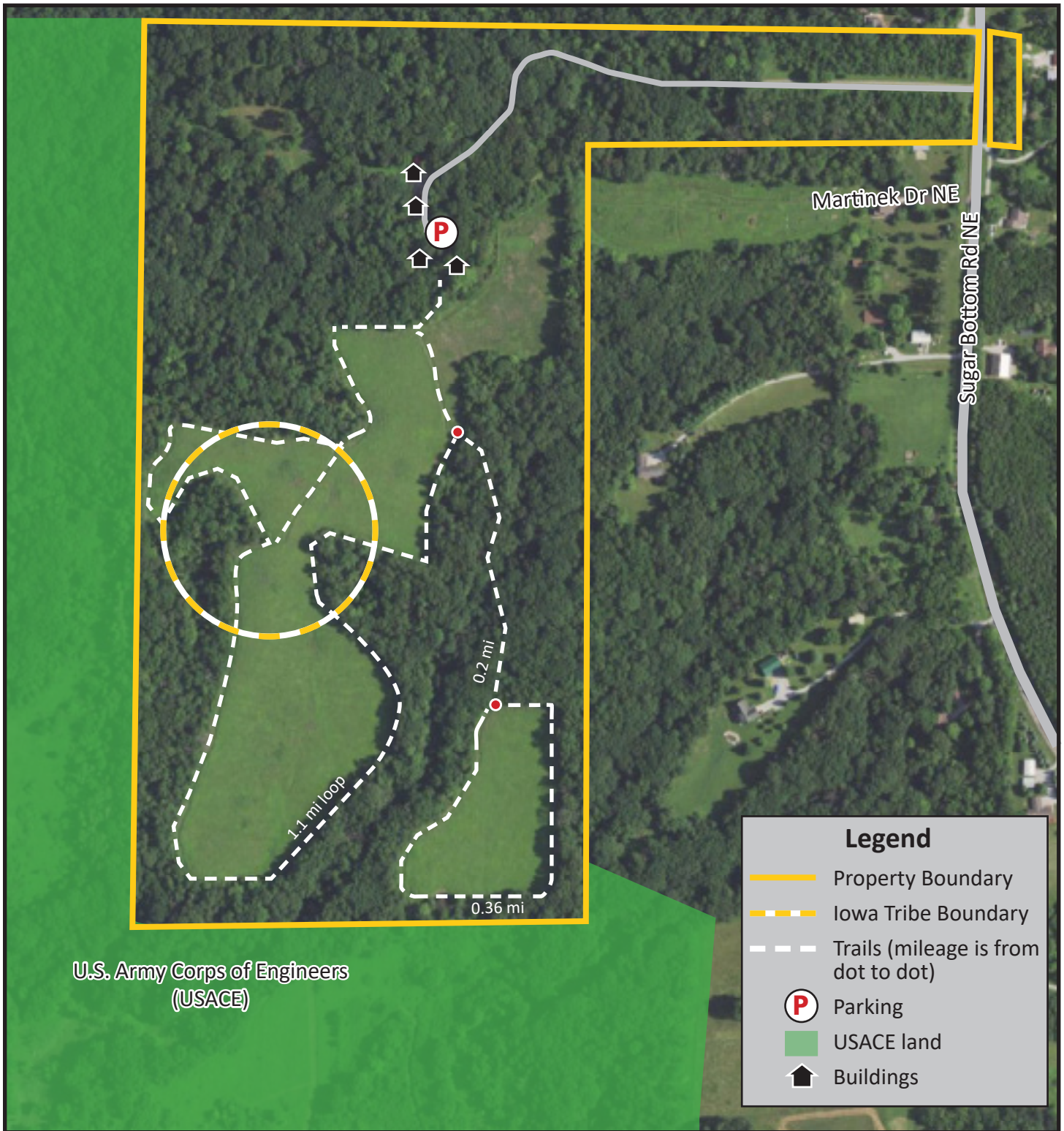
- This property features 64 acres of oak-hickory forest, 15.5 acres of reconstructed prairie, and a 3.5-acre farmstead. The site includes 364 species of plants including at least 14 rare and notable species. Both the forest and prairies will continue to be restored and enhanced by JCC.
- Two miles of grassed trail wind around the prairie areas. Trails are for pedestrian use only.
- An 1890 farm house, thought to be an original Sears-Roebuck & Co. kit house, is still on the property, surrounded by English gardens. A restored 1913 barn, granary, and a corn crib are also on site.
- Raptor Advocacy Rehabilitation and Education (RARE), an organization devoted to raptors, is based out of the property, and raptor education programs may take place on the property for school groups and the general public.
- Seven acres of prairie was gifted to the Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska in 2022. This donation to the Iowa Tribe is historic - currently, the Iowa Tribe has no other land holdings in the state of Iowa.





# Two Horse Farm

2257 Sugar Bottom Rd NE, Solon IA 52333





# Walker Park

 **6078 Otter Creek Rd SE**  
**Lone Tree, IA 52755**

**Overview:** This three-acre park is located in the village of River Junction. The park includes a replica pioneer cabin and a picnic area. A historical cemetery borders the property to the north.

**History:** Walker Park predates the existence of the Johnson County Conservation (JCC) by more than fifty years! The park's namesake, Henry Walker, was amid the first Euro-americans to colonize the county. Walker donated the land for the site of the former River Junction Methodist Chapel and the adjoining three acres for a park (the church building was removed many years ago). A concrete block building, known as the Henry Walker Memorial Building, was erected there in 1912. The building originally housed artifacts and antiques of the pioneer era. In 1916 a replica log cabin was built as "a rustic monument to pioneer days." The Old Settlers Picnics are an annual event with a history of more than 100 years and the Old Settler's Organization maintained the park before transferring it to Johnson County. Walker Park was deeded to the JCCB in 1971.

**Features:** Facilities on the site include a picnic shelter and picnic tables, a replica pioneer cabin, and interpretive signage.



# Walker Park

6078 Otter Creek Rd SE  
Lone Tree, IA 52755



0 25 50 100 150 200 Feet





# Williams Prairie Preserve



2298 Black Hawk Ave NW  
Oxford, IA 52322

**Overview:** Williams Prairie Preserve is a 21-acre property located in the northwest corner of the county. This preserve, which is best classified as a wet sedge meadow, is a biological gem and contains 315 native species!

**History:** The wet conditions of this property likely saved it from more intensive agricultural activity. John Williams, the property's namesake purchased this land in the early 1900's. He used the land primarily as a hayfield and possibly for grazing, but the land was never plowed. This site was discovered by University of Iowa botanists in the 1960s. In 1973, the land was deeded to The Nature Conservancy for protection, and the site was dedicated as a Biological State Preserve in 1976. Johnson County Conservation (JCC) managed the site in partnership with The Nature Conservancy for many years, before the property was deeded to JCC to 2013.

## Features:

- 315 native vascular plant species and eight bryophytes (mosses and liverworts) have been documented on-site. One especially noteworthy flower found here is Marsh Marigold (top picture). These flowers can be found in expansive clusters in late April.
- Williams Prairie Preserve is also the home for several threatened and endangered animal species, including the Ornate Box Turtle. Hunting is not permitted.
- This site is primitive and undeveloped. There are no bathrooms or structures on-site. Visitors are welcome to hike throughout the property, but there are no maintained trails and by nature, the ground is often saturated throughout much of the property. Primary recreational features of the preserve include bird-watching, and nature study of the area's botany, and wetland habitats.



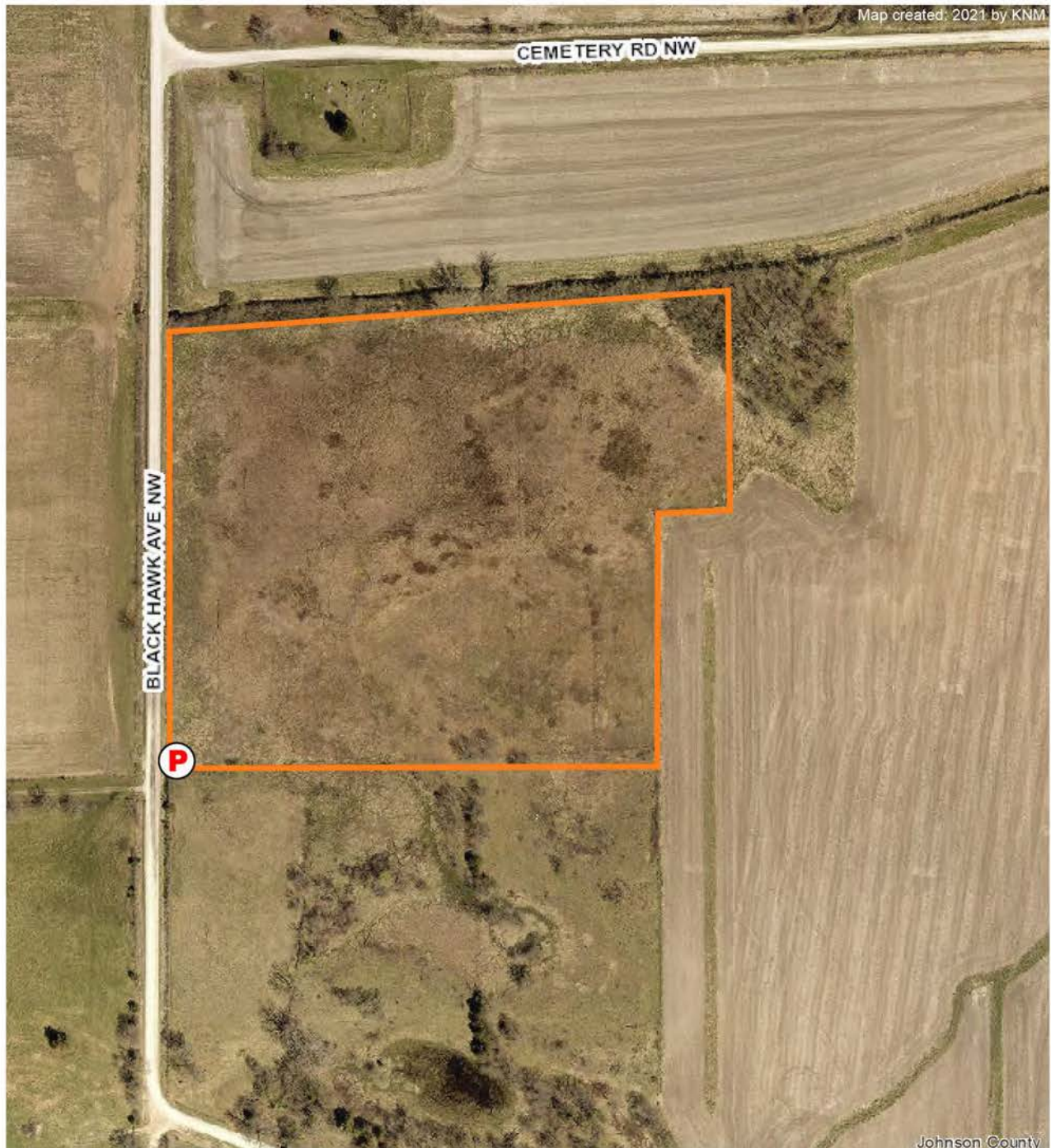


# Williams Prairie Preserve


2298 Black Hawk Ave NW  
Oxford, IA 52322



Map created: 2021 by KNM



## Legend

 Property Boundary

 Parking Area

