



FY23 ANNUAL REPORT

JOHNSON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD



A water garden located at the Two Horse Farm.



JOHNSON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD
Larry Gullett, Executive Director
2048 Highway 6 NW, Oxford, IA 52322-9211
Phone – 319.645.2315
E-mail – lgullett@johnsoncountyiowa.gov
Web – www.johnsoncountyiowa.gov/conservation

Members of the Board

Carolyn Buckingham
Bonnie Winslow-Garvin
Bill Waldie
Connie Mutel
Gene Zdrazil

March 19, 2024

To: Johnson County Board of Supervisors

The Conservation Board and staff are pleased to submit this FY2023 Annual Report to the Board of Supervisors and want to thank you for your continued strong support of the Conservation Program.

The department is comprised of six sections which work as a team to implement the overall program. These sections are comprised of the Conservation Board, Administration, Operations and Maintenance, Natural Resources, Education, and Visitor Assistance/Law Enforcement. The staff is outstanding and includes an impressive level of expertise that can collectively address almost any challenge that needs attention.

If you have any questions about any of the projects or information included in this Annual Report, please contact us at anytime.

Thank you again for your continued support of the program.

Sincerely,

Larry Gullett
Michelle Hylton
Brad Freidhof
Alice Claus-Bartlett
Don Kissa
Reese Kisser
Wade Schultz
Ed King
Labruna Peyton
Paul Bouska
Natalie Stowe
David Wehde
Kristen Monow
Wade Schultz
Ben Datta
Dee. Gustafson
Bray
Lynn Owen
Seth Soverville
Kevin
Blake

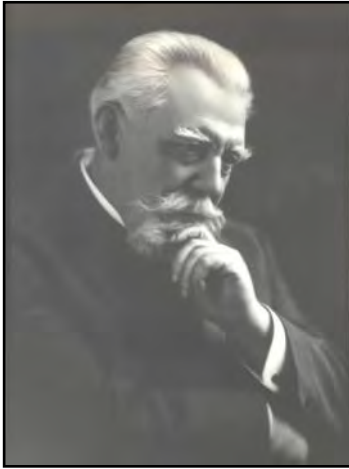
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Johnson County Conservation Board

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 56th 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.”

FY23 Board of Supervisors



July 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022: L to R. Lisa Green-Douglas, Rod Sullivan, Pat Heiden, Jon Green and Royceann Porter.



January 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023: L to R. Jon Green, V. Fixmer-Oraiz, Lisa Green-Douglas, Rod Sullivan, Royceann Porter and Rod Sullivan.

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 & FY23 Officers



Gene Zdrazil, Lone Tree



Bill Waldie, Iowa City



Carolyn Buckingham, Iowa City



Connie Mutel, Solon



Bonnie Winslow-Garvin, North Liberty

Officers July 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022

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

Officers January 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023

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

Fiscal Year 2023 Board Roster

	Appointed Date	Term Ending
Bill Waldie, Iowa City	06/20/13	12/31/26
Connie Mutel, Solon	01/01/17	12/31/27
Gene Zdrazil, Lone Tree	06/08/17	12/31/28
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-of-conservation>

Legal Assistance

The Johnson County Attorney's Office provides legal assistance to the Conservation Board. Susie Nehring, Assistant County Attorney was our primary liaison for the first half of FY23 and then Ryan Maas, Assistant County Attorney, became our primary liaison in the second half of the fiscal year. The attorneys worked closely with the Conservation Board and Director, providing guidance for adherence to open meeting laws, executive sessions, land acquisitions, contract review and a variety of other needs.

Conservation Board Activities

16 Board Meetings in FY23:

12 regular meetings with 6 executive sessions to discuss potential land acquisitions, legal matters and an employee evaluation.

4 special meetings including:

Two public hearings to review design and bid documents for the Kent Park Shower House project.

A public hearing to review design and bid documents for the Kent Park Dump Station project.

A special joint meeting and retreat with the Board of Supervisors and staff to review accomplishments, program needs and strategic planning.

Major Board Actions in FY23

- Motion to proceed with dump station engineering/design, permitting and bid documents
- Motion to approve the plans and bid package for the Shower House project – 2nd bidding
- Approved a license to Iowa Interstate Railroad for accessing a bridge replacement site
- Approved Jones County to use the value of the Phebe Timber donation to leverage NAWCA grant funds
- Approved the Director to work with the IDNR to manage the special zone deer hunt at Kent Park
- Approved an agreement with JCG Land Agents to develop easements needed for the CCT extension to Kent Park
- Reviewed the Pechman Creek Feasibility Study from RES
- Rejected all bids for the Shower House project—2nd bidding
- Approved submission of the FY22 Annual Report
- Authorized RES to develop a proposal for a wetland and stream mitigation bank at Pechman Creek Delta
- Approved an update to the Rules and Regulations addressing needs at new conservation areas in the County
- Approved implementing a phased approach for construction of the CCT extension to Kent Park
- Approved the plans, specifications and bid package for the dump station project
- Approved a management agreement with the Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska for 7 acres at the Two Horse Farm.
- Approved an agreement with Kirkwood Community College to facilitate a Women in Woodworking construction course at Cangleska Wakan
- Approved submission of a Destination Iowa Grant for construction of the CCT extension to Kent Park
- Approved the plans and bid package for the Kent Park Campground Shower House and Wastewater System – 3rd letting
- Approved an agreement with a landowner to graze cattle on a parcel of land acquired for the CCT
- Rejected all bids for the Campground Shower House and Wastewater System – 3rd letting
- Approved recording of a Notice of Use Restriction on the Two Horse Farm as required by the IDNR REAP Grant program
- Approved a residency policy for Rangers living in residence at Kent Park
- Approved an easement acquisition with the City of Solon to install a water main along the Hoover Trail
- Participated in a retreat with the staff and Board of Supervisors at Cangleska Wakan
- Approved an agreement amendment with Shive-Hattery to repackage the Shower House and Wastewater System bid documents
- Approved the 5-year capital plan
- Approved an agreement with the Institute for Conservation Leadership for facilitating a retreat with the Board of Supervisors.
- Approved moving forward with an investigation of herbicide damage to plant communities along the Hoover Trail
- Approved a management agreement with Pace Property Mgmt. to manage the house as a retreat rental at Two Horse Farm

FY23—Staff Changes



Alexis "Ally" Skidmore was hired as the Office Assistant on 4/17/23.



Alicia Claus-Bartels transferred from the Custodian position to the Field Worker II position at Two Horse Farm on 7/1/22.



Natalie Stowe was hired as the Custodian on 7/1/22.



Brittney Bandy resigned her position as Office Assistant on 1/27/23.

Johnson County Conservation Board
Personnel Roster
July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023
FULL TIME STAFF

NAME	POSITION	START DATE	END DATE
Larry Gullett	Executive Director	01/07/2013	
Dory Kjosa	Part Time Office Assistant	08/30/2010	12/29/2014
	Office Manager/Secretary	12/30/2014	
Brittney-Anne Bandy	Office Assistant	06/15/2022	01/27/2023
Alexis Skidmore	Office Assistant	04/17/2023	
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
	Natural Resource	11/21/2012	
	Mgmt. Specialist		
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	Natural Resource	08/01/2016	
	Mgmt. Specialist		
Blake Harris	Natural Resource	08/21/2017	
	Mgmt. Specialist		
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	Natural Resource	09/23/2019	
	Mgmt. Specialist		
Marci McTrana	Education Specialist	11/16/2020	
Alicia Claus-Bartels	Custodian	12/21/2020	07/01/2022
	Field Worker II	07/01/2022	
Josh DeWild	Mechanic	08/30/2021	
Brad Herrig	Utility Person	11/22/2021	
Natalie Stowe	Custodian	07/01/2022	

Johnson County Conservation Board

Personnel Roster

July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023

SEASONAL STAFF

NAME	POSITION	START DATE	END DATE
Elizabeth McVey	Naturalist Intern	04/20/2022	08/18/2022
Maura Arnold	Naturalist Intern	04/17/2023	08/17/2023
Noah Anderson	Ranger Intern	05/06/2022	09/05/2022
Jacob Moss	Ranger Intern	05/13/2022	09/13/2022
Noah Anderson	Ranger Intern	04/01/2023	08/01/2023
Olivia Mayo	Ranger Intern	05/04/2023	09/04/2023
Electra Miller	Ranger Intern	05/15/2023	08/01/2023
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
John Castle	Seasonal Park Worker	05/01/2023	09/01/2023
Cameron Chavez	Seasonal Park Worker	04/19/2023	07/13/2023
Isaac Chen	Seasonal Park Worker	03/27/2023	07/27/2023
Mason Deja	Seasonal Park Worker	12/19/2022	03/10/2023
Sidney Feckers	Seasonal Park Worker	05/01/2023	09/01/2023
Chase Gehrke	Seasonal Park Worker	09/19/2022	12/19/2022
Camden Heimerman	Seasonal Park Worker	06/08/2023	08/08/2023
Yutana Hughes	Seasonal Park Worker	09/12/2022	01/12/2023
Tim Kurt	Seasonal Park Worker	05/01/2023	07/11/2023
Leon Lintz	Seasonal Park Worker	04/24/2023	10/24/2023
Cody Marmet	Seasonal Park Worker	04/17/2023	08/17/2023
Ian McAreavy	Seasonal Park Worker	05/08/2023	08/18/2023
Luke Miller	Seasonal Park Worker	05/08/2023	08/18/2023
Addison Owen	Seasonal Park Worker	04/17/2023	08/11/2023
Sabrina Peyton	Seasonal Park Worker	04/03/2023	07/11/2023
Michaela Pinter	Seasonal Park Worker	04/17/2023	08/11/2023
Emily Schultz	Seasonal Park Worker	05/22/2023	06/30/2023
Damon Shutt	Seasonal Park Worker	04/10/2023	08/01/2023
Paul Slaymaker	Seasonal Park Worker	08/01/2022	12/01/2022
Adam Smith	Seasonal Park Worker	06/06/2023	08/09/2023
Amana Stallman	Seasonal Park Worker	04/17/2023	08/17/2023
Logan White	Seasonal Park Worker	06/06/2023	10/06/2023

FY23 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 20 park and recreation areas throughout the county, including high use recreation areas, natural areas, trails and the education program.

Two Horse Farm

- Updated the interior of house in preparation for renting as a retreat—including painting, hardware, lighting and furnishings.
- Converted the garage for use as a shop including insulation, furnace, wall treatments and painting.
- Developed and executed a management plan with the Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska and facilitated the transfer of property from the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation to the tribe.
- Administered and received reimbursement of a REAP grant and recorded a Notice of Use Restriction on the property.
- Remodeled two out-buildings for use in rehabilitating and housing injured birds of prey.
- Constructed a new public parking area and installed signage for public use.
- Developed a Park Guide and mapped the trail system with assistance from the GIS department.
- Developed and adopted a 3rd party Management Agreement with Pace Property Mgmt. to manage the residence as a reservable retreat for use by families and organized groups.

Cedar River Crossing Entryway Project

- Constructed a new roadway and parking system in the entry area.
- Constructed a new latrine and public information area as part of the entry area.
- Developed and installed the new signage plan including an information kiosk and entry sign.
- Completed the landscaping and erosion control plan for the site.
- Administered the contractual agreement with a contractor and consultant and closed the project.
- Constructed and installed a bridge over a creek in the SW corner of Cedar River Crossing.

Retreat with the Board of Supervisors and Staff

- Completed the planning and facilitation of a retreat with Supervisors, staff and Conservation Board.
- Completed a survey of participants and a summary report of the gathering.
- Executed an agreement with the Institute for Conservation Leadership to help facilitate the gathering.

Education Program

- Planned and facilitated Wilderness trips for high school students and adult groups.
- Implemented an education program with focus on diversity and inclusion of underserved groups.
- Programming types
- Produced several publications including a newsletter, blogs and specialized newsletters for educators and volunteers.
- Coordinated and worked with volunteers to implement the education program including staffing of facilities, maintaining the bird blind, maintaining a bluebird house trail and presentation of programs—bird banding, etc.

Climate Change

- Installed solar arrays to mitigate use of fossil fuels for electricity at Hill's Access Campground and the Education Center at Kent Park.
- Continued to promote use of electric cars and reduced dependence on fossil fuels through marketing and use of our electric Chevy Bolt.
- Restoration of native plant communities, including wetlands, prairie and savanna habitat types that serve as carbon sinks, trapping and storing excess carbon.

Ranger Duties

- Addressed sensitive and complicated issues associated with people that are homeless using public campgrounds.
- Provided visitor assistance and education programs to the general public.
- Administered the annual deer management hunt at Kent Park and enforced rules and regulations at all conservation areas.
- Updated the Rules and Regulations to address needs of new conservation areas in the county, including Cangleska Wakan, Two Horse Farm, Phebe Timber and Malinda Reif Reilly Fen and Prairie.

Dump Station Project

- Completed the design, engineering and bid documents for a new dump station.
- Completed the permitting requirements through the IDNR Wastewater Section and the required environmental and cultural impact assessments and stormwater management plan.
- Coordinated funding of the project with American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) team.

Shower House Project

- Facilitated development of two bidding, design and public hearing processes, including changes in project scope for each process.
- Completed the permitting requirements with IDNR Wastewater and Stormwater section.
- Coordinated development of the project through Shive-Hattery consultants.

Walters Property

- Provided information about future use and donation of the property to the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation.
- Worked with the donor and adjacent landowner in development of easement for public access.

Operations and Trail Maintenance

- Installed concrete at the Solon Recreation Area trailhead to accommodate more efficient use of the trail.
- Repaired concrete at blow-outs along Hoover, Mehaffey and Dubuque street trails.
- Assessed and developed a plan to mitigate herbicide damage to native plant communities along the Hoover Trail by a private contractor working for the Central Iowa Power Cooperative.
- Cleaned up storm damage to grounds and facilities at parks throughout the county.

Clear Creek Trail

- The Conservation Board made the decision to complete the project in phases based on cost and funding availability.
- Construction documents and preliminary plans for Phase 1 were completed.
- An agreement was executed with JCG Land Agents to negotiate and acquire 22 temporary and 2 permanent easements with landowners along the trail.
- A license was granted to Iowa Interstate Railroad for accessing a bridge replacement along the railroad.
- A livestock grazing agreement was made with a landowner along the original, but abandoned trail route.

Phebe Timber

- An entry sign and boundary signage was installed at the property
- A new parking area, entry road and culvert installation was completed near the entry.

Pechman Creek Delta

- A feasibility study for a stream and wetland mitigation bank was completed by RES.
- Eleven groundwater monitoring wells were installed and monitored during the growing season to prepare for wetland basin planning and development.
- Planning for development of construction documents, permitting through the USACE, development of an MBI and tour for officials from the USACE was completed.

Natural Resource Mgmt.

- Completed prescribed burning on 721.5 acres at six public areas.
- Seeded 17.85 acres of prairie at Kent Park and Cedar River Crossing and collected 54.6 pounds of forbs, grass and wetland seed valued at \$12,546.
- Planted 34 large caliper trees and shrubs, 1,032 sweet grass plants and 1,620 forb, grass and legume plants.
- Performed water quality monitoring at 39 sites throughout the growing season at Kent Park, Cedar River Crossing, Pechman Creek Delta and Cangleska Wakan.
- Implemented Invasive species removal on 344.2 acres at public areas throughout the county.
- Removed trees infected with Emerald Ash Borer at Kent Park, Cangleska Wakan and Hill's Access.
- Received the statewide Honorary Award from the Iowa Storm Water Education Partnership for urban conservation practices associated with the lake restoration effort at Kent Park.
- Received 2nd place in the statewide Isaak Walton League Award for natural resource restoration and protection.

Derecho

- Received reimbursement from FEMA and Homeland Security for most expenses associated with the storm.

Two Horse Farm

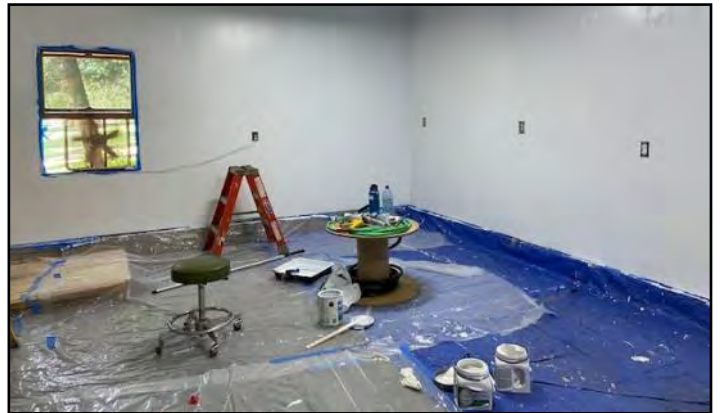


The interior of the residence was painted and furnished to support conversion to a retreat rental for families and organized groups. Rental of the residence is facilitated by a third party that is responsible for scheduling, cleaning and coordination with the staff of JCC.





Two full time staff, including a Field Worker and Education Specialist, work out of the 1890's portion of the residence. Below: The garage was insulated and finished and a donated furnace was installed to provide a place to store and work on equipment. Entry and information signage was added to the site to accommodate public use.





A new parking lot for the public was installed, culvert installed and seeded with a cover crop to stabilize the site. Electric and water lines were trenched in to serve the flight cages for rehabilitation of raptors. The new electric lines and water lines will make it much easier to take care of the raptors during the winter season.





Two outbuildings previously used for horses were remodeled to provide additional pens for raptors. The remodeling included installing new doors to prevent escape from the cages, installing hardware cloth and pea gravel on the floor, wall treatments and hardware cloth around the rafter tails. Steps into the house were also replaced with new material.



JCCB Resolution # CB6-08/16/22-74
Executive Committee Resolution# 22-R-23

**JOINT RESOLUTION
ESTABLISHING AN INITIAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE JOHNSON COUNTY
CONSERVATION BOARD AND THE IOWA TRIBE OF KANSAS AND NEBRASKA FOR
MANAGEMENT OF TRIBAL LAND LOCATED WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE TWO
HORSE FARM**

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
502 E. 9TH STREET DES MOINES, IA 50319

RESOURCE ENHANCEMENT AND PROTECTION FUND
GRANT AGREEMENT-ACQUISITION

GRANTEE:	JOHNSON CCB
PROJECT TITLE:	TWO HORSE FARM ACQUISITION
CONTACT PERSON:	LARRY GULLETT 319-645-2315
GRANT AWARD:	\$300,000.00
DNR CONTACT/PHONE#:	Kathleen Moench 515-725-8213

- I. **PURPOSE.** The purpose of this REAP Acquisition Grant Agreement is to enable the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR), acting for the State of Iowa, to assist the JOHNSON CCB (Grantee) in the acquisition of land for the enhancement and protection of open space areas.

**WARRANTY DEED
(CORPORATE GRANTOR)
Recorder's Cover Sheet**

Preparer Information: Ross A. Baxter, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, 505 5th Ave. STE 444, Des Moines, IA 50309, Phone: (515) 288-1846

Taxpayer Information: Johnson County Conservation Board, FW Kent Park, 2048 Hwy 6 NW, Oxford IA 52322

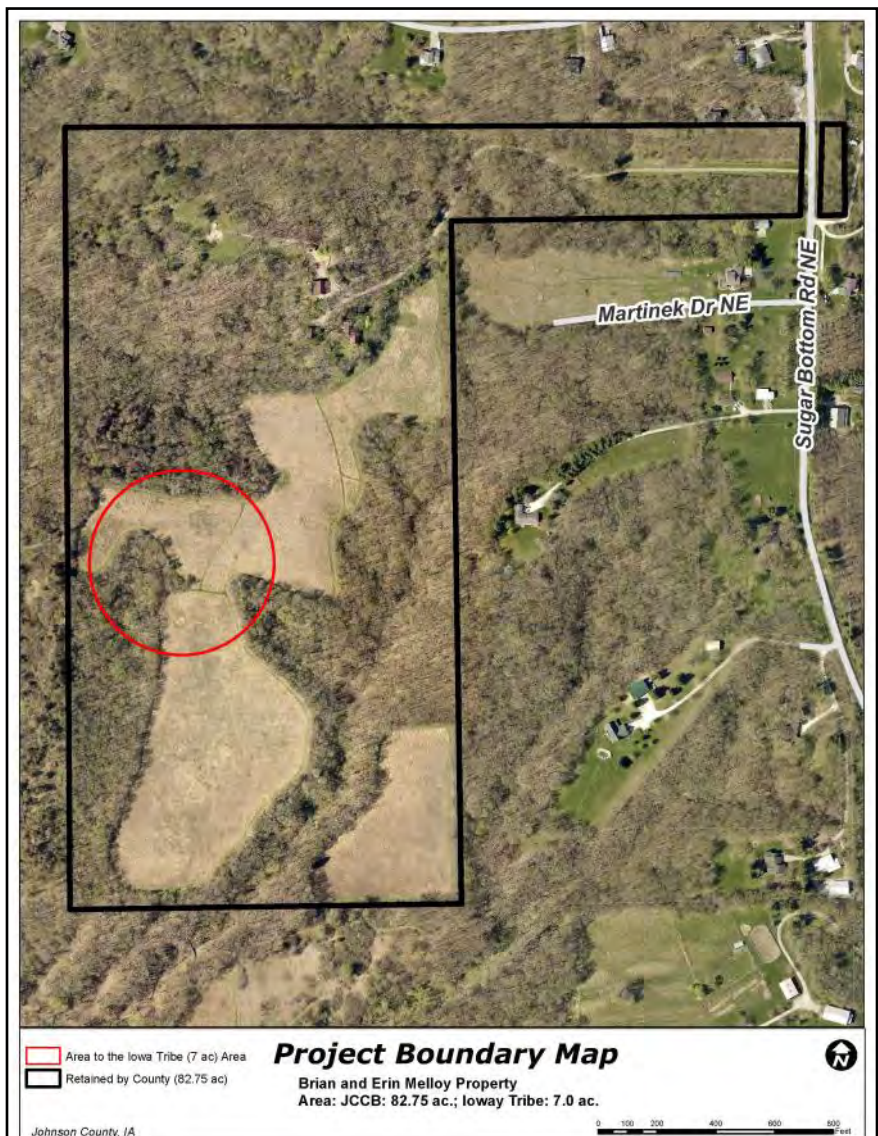
Mailing Address & Return Document To: Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska, 3345 B Thrasher Rd., White Cloud, Kansas 66094

Grantors:
Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation

Grantees:
Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska

Three significant administrative tasks were completed during the fiscal year for the Two Horse Farm.

- The \$300,000 REAP Grant was reimbursed to Johnson County for acquisition of the site. \$1.9 appraised value, bargain sale at \$1.2 million, \$300,000 REAP Grant and \$900,000 Conservation Bond.
- The Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation transferred 7 acres of the project site to the Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska. This land transfer was a returning of land to the loway people since they were pushed out of the state in 1832, 191 years ago.
- The JCCB entered into to management agreement with the Iowa Tribe to manage the 7 areas seamlessly with the remaining 83 acres of the Two Horse Farm.

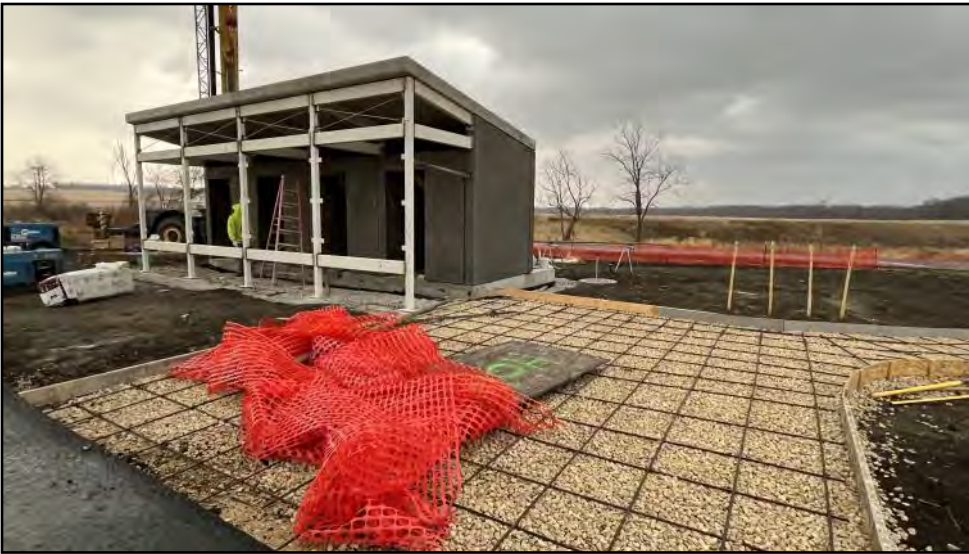


Cedar River Crossing Entry Way Improvements



The entryway project at Cedar River Crossing began in FY22, but most of the work was completed in FY23. This included construction of the new roadway and parking system, construction of the latrine, landscaping and seeding, installation of entry an informational signage elements, including installation of the entry sign at the Sutliff Operations Center.





The new latrine is ADA accessible and includes an information kiosk in the plaza area with a map of the site and rules and regulations. The staff seeded the entry area into a diverse prairie mid height mix and hand planted 2,676 plants, including 24 trees and shrubs, 1,032 sweet grass plants and 1,620 prairie plants in the islands within the parking areas. Due to the drought during the summer of 2023, all of the plant materials were watered all summer.





The plantings in the islands are doing very well and include swamp white oak trees, many forbs and a few grasses. The sweet grass planting is located in a bioswale that receives rainwater from the roof of the Sutliff Operations Center—the site was finish graded with a sandy loam soil to provide an ideal soil for the sweet grass. The staff also fabricated and installed the entry signs at the Sutliff Operations



Retreat with the Board of Supervisors



In November 2022, the Conservation Board, Board of Supervisors and staff met at Cangleska Wakan to review the needs of each organization and assess how the department is doing relative to implementing the strategic plan. Peter Lane, with the Institute with Conservation Leadership (ICL) led the activities and discussions. To prepare for the gathering the ICL conducted a pre-meeting survey to identify important talking points for the day.

Survey Results

- Natural Resource Preservation and Management and the Education Program were identified as the two most important functions of the department to continue building.
- 85% of the participants feel we need more staff to implement the conservation program.
- The majority of the participants recommend providing more natural resource areas, trails and education centers.
- Water quality, climate change and invasive species control were identified as the most important issues facing Johnson County residents.



Education Program

Presented 252 programs to 7,259 participants



The education staff lead programs for all group types into natural resource areas exploring the wildlands and plant communities. This group hiked into secluded wetlands at Cedar River Crossing to view the large stands of Rose Mallow.

Eighty-seven programs were presented to 3,353 school aged children during the year. Third graders from Tiffin Elementary helped learn about the prairie ecosystem by hand collecting seed to use in future restoration projects.





A primary focus of the school programs is to get the students outside to experience nature first hand. The students on this field trip did some “creek stomping” at Cangleska Wakan, exploring the aquatic community of small streams.

The education staff also provide programs about “how-to” participate in different types of outdoor recreation. Ice fishing clinics are sponsored at F.W. Kent Park where people learn to become more comfortable on ice, in addition to learning how to fish.



People learn how to canoe and kayak on the lake at F.W. Kent Park.



Students explore and learn about a myriad of life forms on field trips. Aquatic and terrestrial invertebrates form the base of the food chain and help convert nutrients from plant materials and detritus into useable energy for larger animals.



The education staff lead trips into the wilderness for high school through adult age groups. The experiences impact the participants for a lifetime, giving them the confidence needed to adapt to a variety of challenges in life. The trips also teach the participants to see the place in which they live through the eyes of another place.



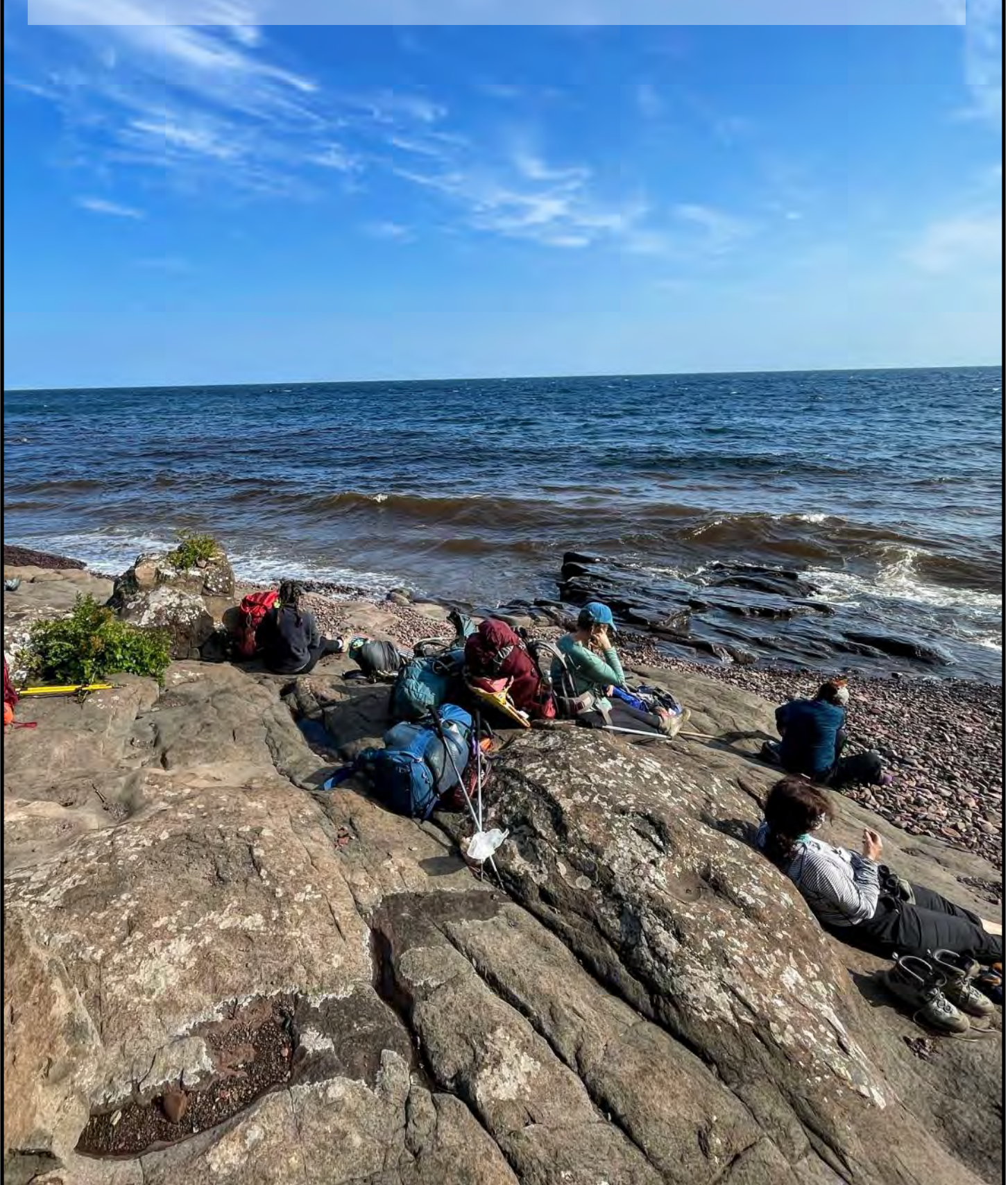
The annual trip to the Selway Bitterroot Wilderness in Idaho includes clearing trails in areas managed by the US Forest Service.



Backpacking trips to the Yellow River State Forest in NE Iowa are provided for youth in Johnson County. These trips provide an opportunity for young people to participate in a semi-wilderness experience—increasing their connection to nature.



Trips to the Superior Hiking Trail along the north shore of Lake Superior are offered for adult groups. Most of the trail traverses boreal forest but occasionally connects to the lakeshore as seen in this great resting place.



Addressing Climate Change



The department is implementing a multi-pronged approach to address climate change, through providing electric vehicles, installation of solar arrays, improved insulation and high efficiency doors and windows in facilities, carpooling to work sites and establishing carbon sinks through establishment of prairies, wetlands and savanna habitat types.



Two new solar arrays were brought on-line at the Kent Park Education Center and at the Hill's Access and Campground.

Solar Array Energy Production and Reduction on CO₂ Emissions

The Conservation Board currently operates five solar arrays located throughout the county. The most recent arrays were installed in FY22 and began production in FY2023. These arrays are located at the Conservation Education Center at Kent Park and at Hills Access.

Together the five arrays saved CO₂ emission from the equivalent of burning 7,247 gallons of natural gas or 6,326 gallons of diesel or 36 tons of coal in FY23.

If you combined all five solar arrays together they would equal the recycling of CO₂ from 10,650 trees.

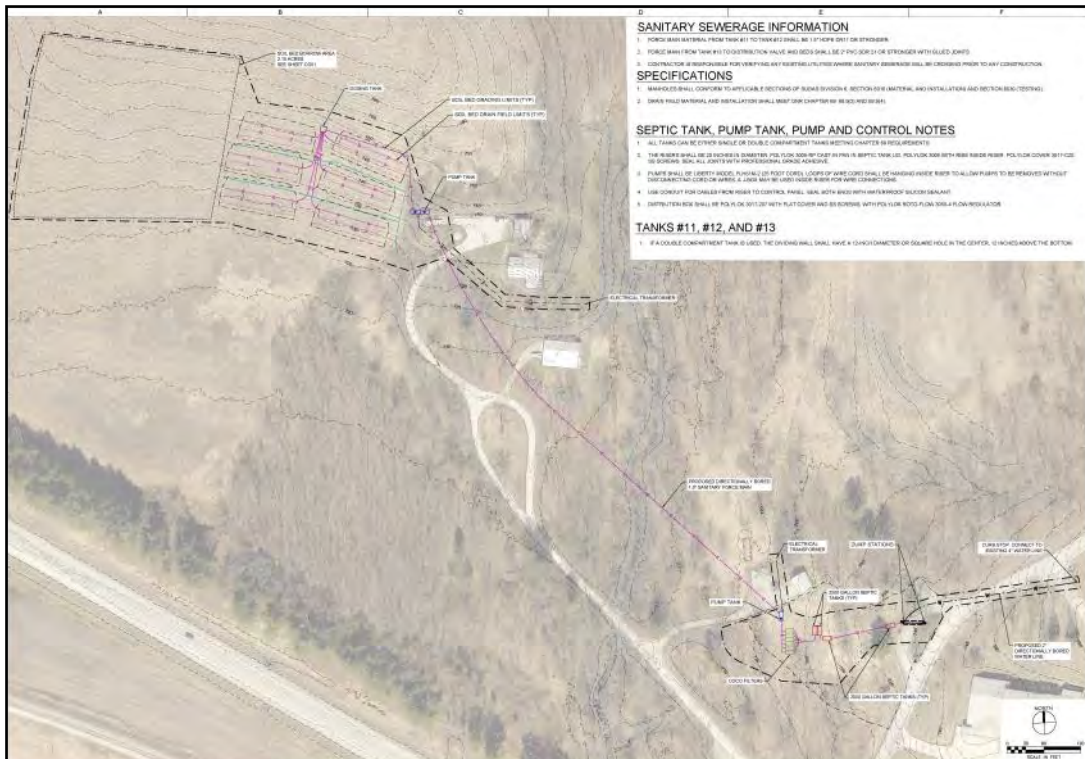
To monitor real time production of energy from the solar arrays go to;
<https://www.johnsoncountyiowa.gov/departments-of-conservation>

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

The restoration of prairie and wetlands throughout the county provide a critical role in addressing climate change. These plant communities store large amounts of carbon in their root system and soil through using CO₂ from the atmosphere in the process of photosynthesis—then storing the food products and carbon in their perennial root systems and soil.



Improving Water Quality through Upgrading of the Dump Station and Shower House at Kent Park



The design, engineering, construction documents and permitting were completed for replacement of the dump station and shower house at Kent Park. The bidding process for the dump station was successfully implemented and a contract let for construction. The shower house project was bid two times and both times the bids were rejected because of costs well above the consultants estimate.

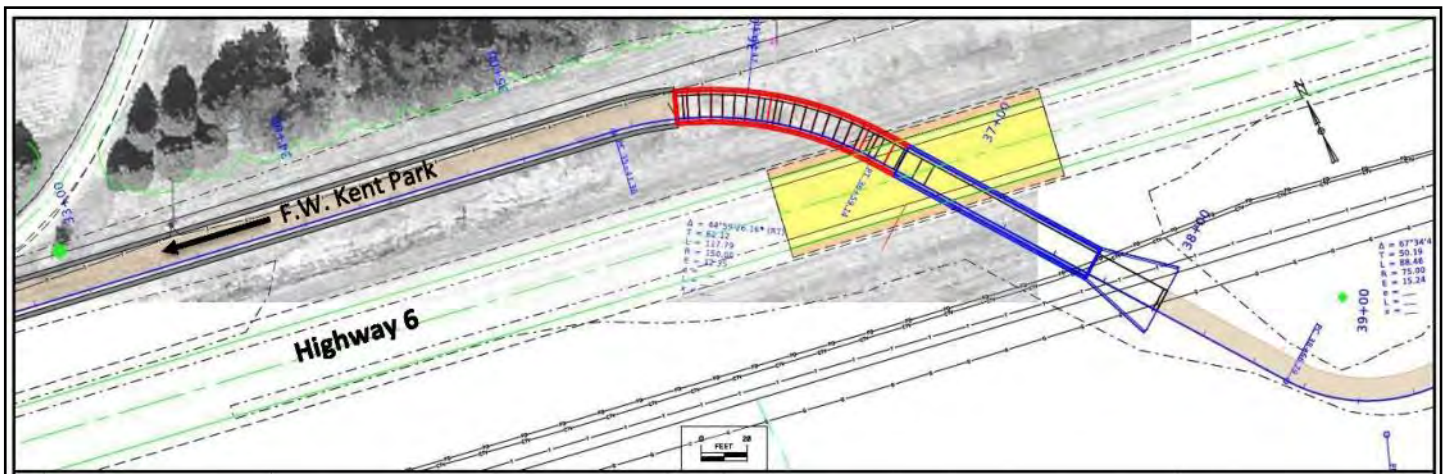


Clear Creek Trail Extension from Half Moon to Kent Park

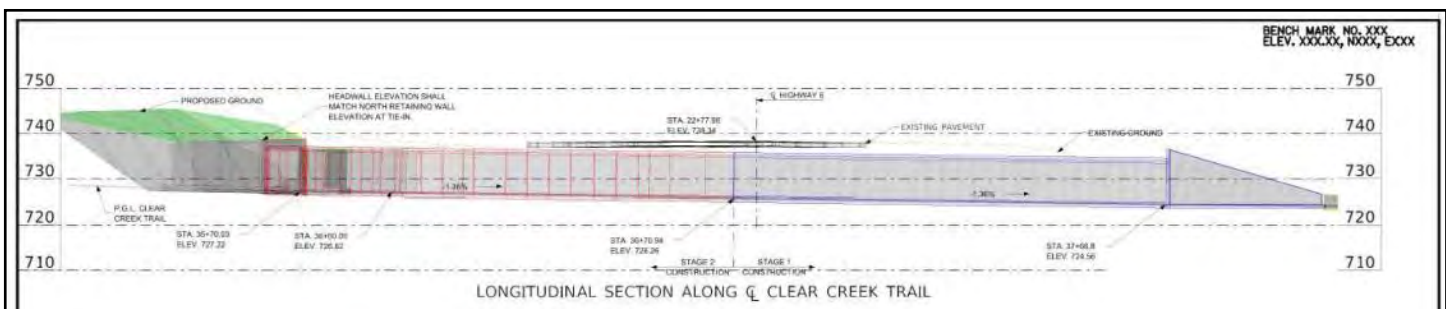


After four historic sites were discovered along the original proposed route an alternative route along Half Moon Ave. and Highway 6 was selected by the Board. Due to increased costs the project was divided into phases for construction. Phase 1 will include the section along Half Moon Ave. and construction of the Highway 6 underpass - areas shown in blue and red on the map.

Completed design of the tunnel under Highway 6 for safe crossing by trail users.



Below: A longitudinal section of the 200' long tunnel underpass.



Operations and Maintenance Projects



The Operations and Maintenance staff keep all the parks clean and useable for the public. Significant work is completed each year on maintaining the trail system throughout the county. The staff replaced a section of concrete at the Solon Trailhead along the Hoover Trail and made custom imprints for stamping the concrete. On average, we have about three or four concrete blow outs each year along the trail system on the Mehaffey Trail, Dubuque Street Trail Clear Creek Trail and Hoover Trail.



The staff built a new entry road, parking area and entry sign at Phebe Timber and also replaced several signs at Kent Park with new, recycled plastic signs to replace the old, wooden and painted signs.





To help reduce costs of building the new shower house at Kent Park the staff demolished the old structure and cleaned the site through grubbing out old root systems and brush. This effort saved the department more than \$100,000 in demolition costs based on bids by contractors.



The beach is cleaned a minimum of two times each day through the high use season and includes removal of trash, geese feces and leveling of the sand.



Most of the latrines at Kent Park were built in the 1970's and require a lot of maintenance to keep them in good condition. The O & M staff also install and maintain the beach marker buoys and boat docks.



A temporary water control structure at Pechman Creek Delta requires regular maintenance until a new one is built to maintain water levels in the slough and backwater areas.

Pechman Creek Delta



Pechman Creek Delta Wetland & Stream Mitigation Bank Feasibility Analysis



A study was completed to assess the feasibility of developing a stream and wetland mitigation bank in restoration of the natural resources at Pechman Creek Delta. Resource Environmental Solutions (RES) developed two concepts for wetland restoration and three concepts for stream restoration. Costs associated with development were compared to revenue generated from the sale of stream and wetland credits.

Table 5. Iowa Stream Mitigation Method Credits by Proposed Stream Concept.

	Concept A		Concept B		Concept C	
	In-Stream*	Buffer	In-Stream*	Buffer	In-Stream*	Buffer
Buck Creek	4131.2	7746.0	4131.2	7746.0	4131.2	7746.0
Pechman Creek	21659.1	36484.8	12327.1	36484.8	6358.0	36484.8
Unnamed Tributary	8114.4	17166.6	8114.4	17166.6	8114.4	17166.6
Total	95,302.1		85,970.1		80,001.0	

*NOTE: An additional estimated 200 to 800 aquatic life passage credits may be negotiated with USACE on a case-by-case basis for restoring aquatic organism access to 2.82 miles of Pechman Creek.



Table 9. Preliminary OPC for Concept B for the PC Corridor as a Stream Mitigation Bank.

CONCEPT B	Qty	Unit	Unit Cost	Extended
Mobilization	1	LS	\$53,452	\$53,452
Tracking Pad & Staging Area	1	LS	\$11,270	\$11,270
Silt Fence	8,000	LF	\$3.77	\$30,160
Brush Removal, Clearing & Grubbing	32	AC	\$6,519	\$208,608
Site Prep, Herbaceous Control	52	AC	\$836	\$43,472
Dewatering	1	LS	\$80,729	\$80,729
Bank Shaping - Pechman Creek	12,412	LF	\$39	\$484,068
Bank Shaping - Tributary	3,850	LF	\$33	\$127,050
Channel Fill	500	CY	\$51	\$25,500
Remove Existing Crossing, Restore Streambed	1	LS	\$11,298	\$11,298
Rock Riffle Install	4	EA	\$35,408	\$141,632
Rock Arch Rapids	1	EA	\$109,443	\$109,443
Wood Toe Revestment	1,215	LF	\$56	\$68,040
Soil Lift above Wood Toe 3', live lift area 5'	4,989	LF	\$71	\$354,219
Large Wood Debris	33	EA	\$801	\$26,433
Surface Fabric	47,800	SY	\$4.84	\$231,352
Riparian Corridor Tree Planting	500	EA	\$109	\$54,500
Riparian Livestakes, below stream crossing	3750	EA	\$21	\$78,750
Stream Margin Restoration Plant Plugs	12,800	EA	\$5.87	\$75,136
Buttonbush Livestakes in Pechman Creek Riparian Wetland	6,600	EA	\$15.76	\$104,016
Riparian, Woodland Seed	52	AC	\$2,728	\$141,856
Total				\$2,460,984
Contingency - 20%				\$492,197
TOTAL WITH CONTINGENCY				\$2,953,181
Management 10 years	10	EA	20,000	200,000
Monitoring 10 years	10	EA	25,000	250,000
Design and permitting	1	LS	200,000	200,000
Total				3,603,181
85,000 credits generated @ \$35.450/credit = 2,975,000.				
\$4,250,000 in potential revenue				

Figure 3. Pechman Creek Delta Stream Restoration Concept C.

RIPARIAN BUFFER WORKSHEET (version 2.0)									
Project Name		Pechman Creek Delta - Concept A				Date		2/9/2023	
Instructions - For each stream reach, enter dimensions of buffers and choose factor types from the dropdown lists provided. ONLY change values in the blue boxes. All scores and values will be calculated automatically.									
Name/Description		Buffer Area 1 Buck Creek		Buffer Area 2 Pechman Creek		Buffer Area 3 Pechman Creek		Buffer Area 4 Unnamed Tributary	
Buffer Dimensions (for info only)		all measurements in feet		all measurements in feet		all measurements in feet		all measurements in feet	
Average width of buffer (side A)		122		148		129		129	
Average width of buffer (side B)		140		118		9		120	
Stream length		1291		4038		194		1794	
Factor	Type	Score	Type	Score	Type	Score	Type	Score	
Net Benefit	C) Enhancement	0.50	B) Restoration/Re-establishment	1.30	A) Creation/Establishment	1.50	A) Creation/Establishment	1.50	
Functional Zone	Zone 1	1.30	Zone 1	1.30	Zone 1	1.30	Zone 1	1.30	
Site Protection	3rd Party Grantee	0.20	3rd Party Grantee	0.20	3rd Party Grantee	0.20	3rd Party Grantee	0.20	
Temporal Lag Factor	B) Combination Primary/Secondary	0.20	B) Combination Primary/Secondary	0.20	B) Protected Creation	0.50	B) Protected Creation	0.50	
Sum of Factors		2.00		2.40		2.30		2.30	
Buffer area in square feet		256,200		363,400		30,400		346,300	
Buffer Credit Subtotal		3164.00		23654.40		1500.20		13444.40	
Supplemental (Buffer on both sides)		2) Work on both sides		2) Work on both sides		2) Work on one side		2) Work on both sides	
In-kind vs. Out-of-kind		**Choose One**		**Choose One**		**Choose One**		**Choose One**	
Credits Generated		7746.00		31461.90		3001.20		17186.60	
Additional comments or description:									
TOTAL MITIGATION CREDITS EARNED: 1117.40									

IN-STREAM BENEFITS WORKSHEET (version 2.0)							
Project Name		chman Creek Delta - Concept A			Date		2/9/2023
Instructions - For each stream reach, choose factor types from the dropdown lists provided and input linear feet of impact.							
ONLY change values in the blue boxes. All scores and values will be calculated automatically.							
Name/Description	Stream Reach 1		Stream Reach 2		Stream Reach 3		
	Buck Creek		Pechman Creek		Unnamed Tributary		
Factor	Type	Score	Type	Score	Type	Score	
Stream Type	Perennial (3rd and 4th order)	0.40	Perennial (3rd and 4th order)	0.40	Perennial (1st and 2nd order)	0.30	
Priority Waters	B) Secondary	0.20	B) Secondary	0.20	B) Secondary	0.20	
Net Benefit	B) Good	2.40	A) Excellent	3.50	A) Excellent	3.50	
Site Protection	3rd Party Grantee	0.20	3rd Party Grantee	0.20	3rd Party Grantee	0.20	
Sum of Factors (M)		3.20		4.30		4.20	
Linear Feet of Benefit (LF)	1291		5037		1932		
Reach Credits Generated (RC)		4131.20		21659.10		8114.40	
Project Credit Subtotal		33904.70					
In-Kind vs. Out-of-Kind	**Choose One**	1.00					
TOTAL MITIGATION CREDITS EARNED		33904.70					



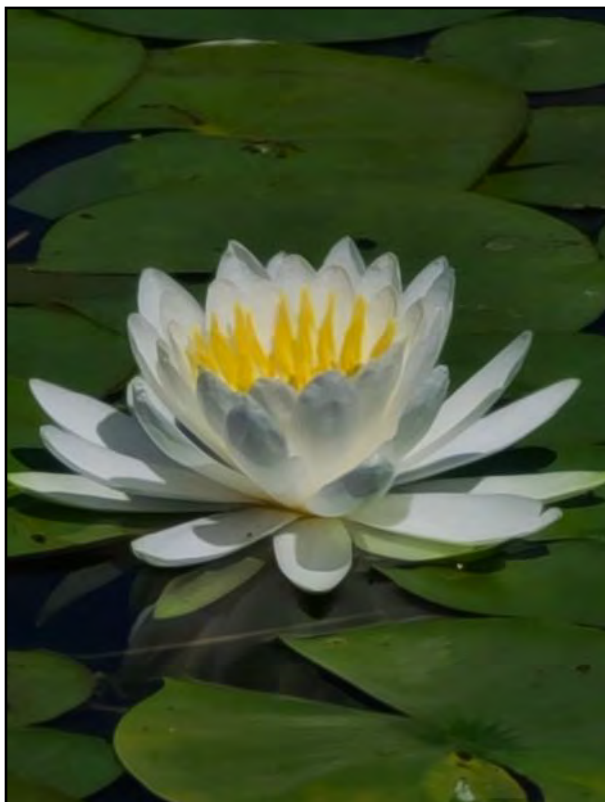
The Board chose to proceed with development as a mitigation site with development of wetlands and restoration of the stream corridor to better connect the aquatic community of the Pechman Creek and Slough with the Iowa River.

To prepare for development of the engineering and design plans the staff installed and monitored 11 groundwater wells during the growing season. This data gathered is used to design wetlands and improve function of the wetland system

Natural Resources

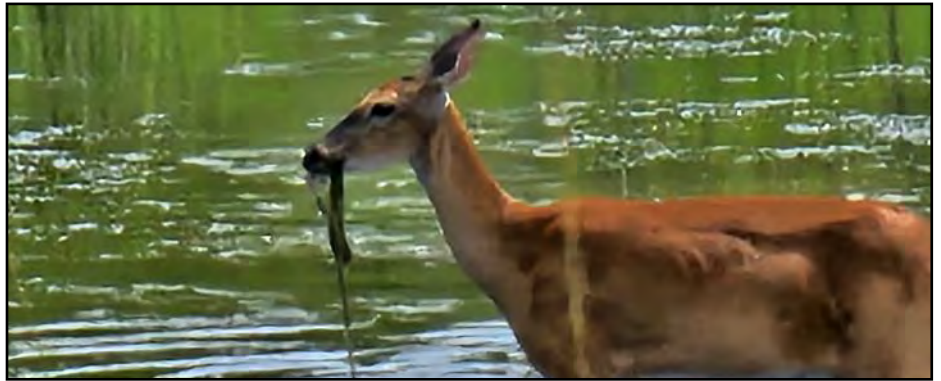


The Natural Resource staff are responsible for restoration, management and preservation of native plant communities. The Kent Park Twin Fawns restoration is doing very well in the third year after seeding. The staff restore prairie, wetland, savanna, forest and aquatic plant communities. In addition to plant community management the staff also coordinate all water quality monitoring and testing in four public areas—including data collection at 38 sites. Science teachers participating in the State of Iowa STEM program conduct most of the water testing at 31 sites in Kent Park.





Maintaining performance standards for restoration is an important part of managing the wetland bank at Cedar River Crossing. Monitoring groundwater levels and inventory of native vs. invasive species is required in management of the wetlands. Keeping brush from over-taking the fragile plant communities is a primary management objective. The staff also manage trees and shrubs in landscaped areas and installed the boundary markers of the Iowa Tribe's property at Two Horse Farm.





JOHNSON COUNTY CONSERVATION

Prescribed Fire Maps Post Burn 2023



Total Acres Burned - 721.5

F.W. Kent Park - 343.5

Cedar River Crossing - 241.95

Ciha Fen - 73.3

Malinda Reif Reilly Fen and Prairie - 49.75

Williams Prairie - 12

Johnson County Emergency Management - 1



JOHNSON COUNTY CONSERVATION

Acres Burned Spring of 2022



Total Acres Burned — 723.35 Acres

FW.Kent Park — 491.7 Acres Burned

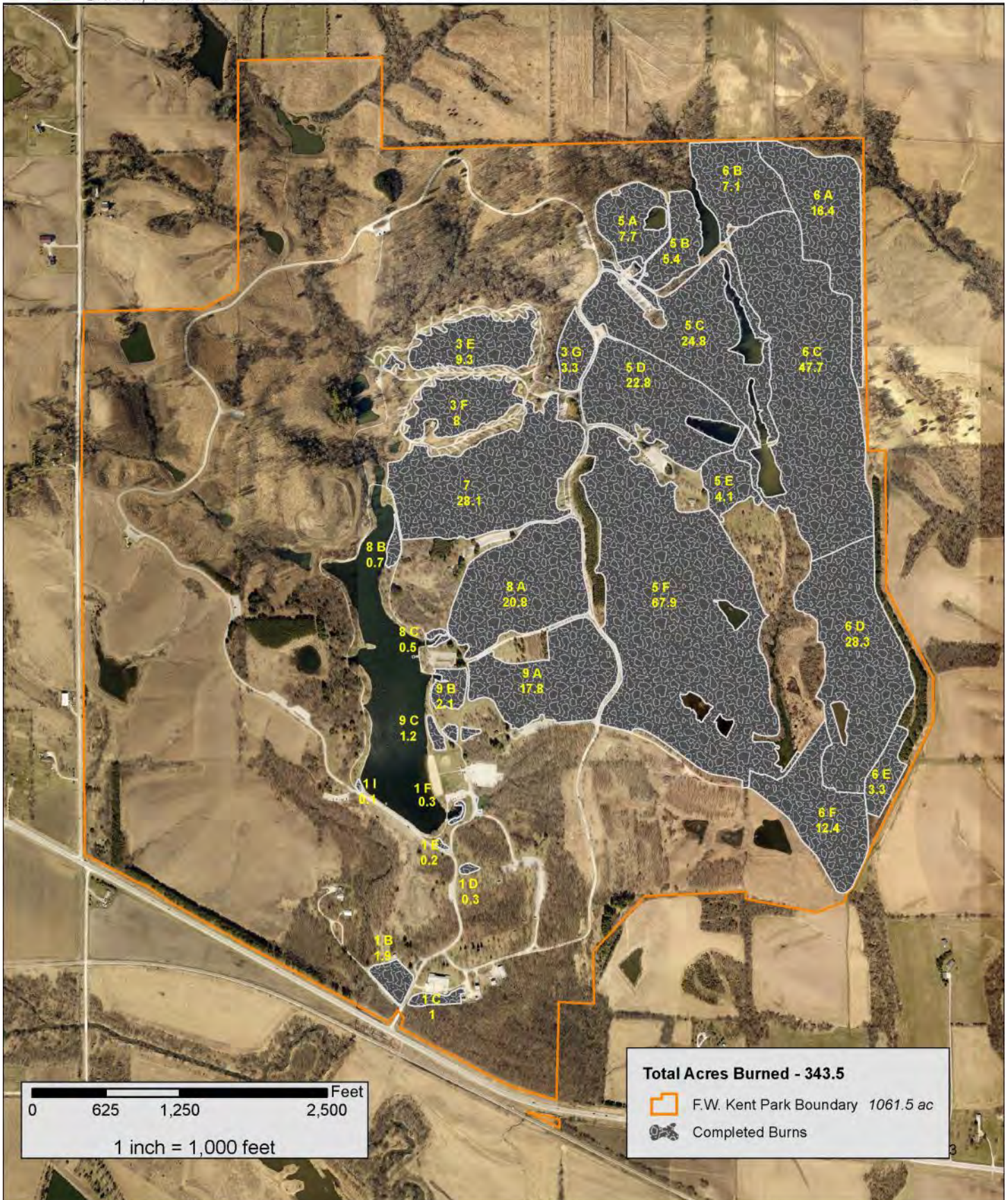
Cedar River Crossing Conservation Area — 206.4 Acres Burned

Malinda Reif Reilly Fen and Prairie — 25.25 Acres Burned



F.W. Kent Park
2048 Hwy 6 NW
Oxford, Iowa 52322

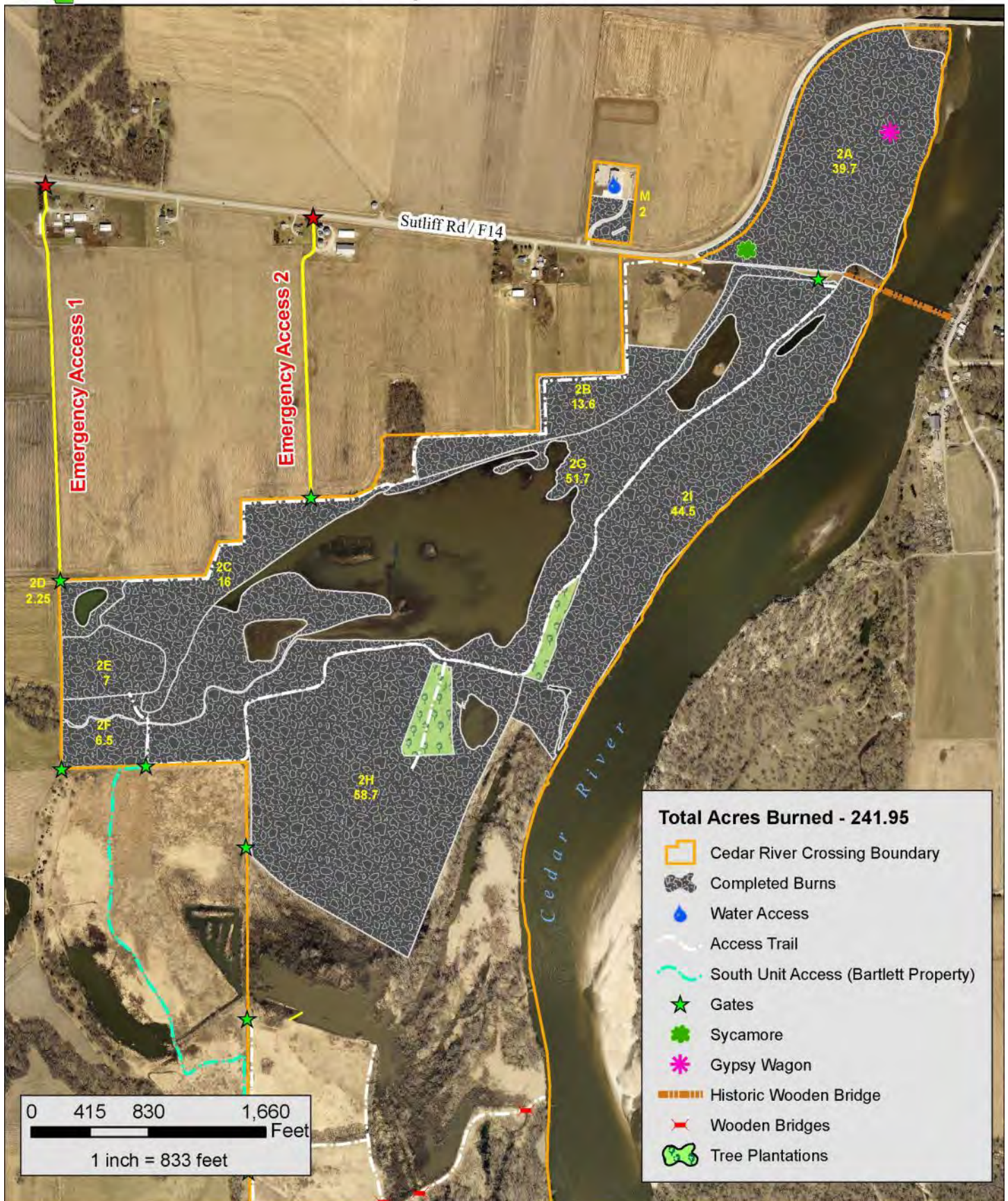
F.W. Kent Park Rx Fire Completed Burns 2023





North Access
5473 Sutliff Rd NE
Solon, Ia 52322

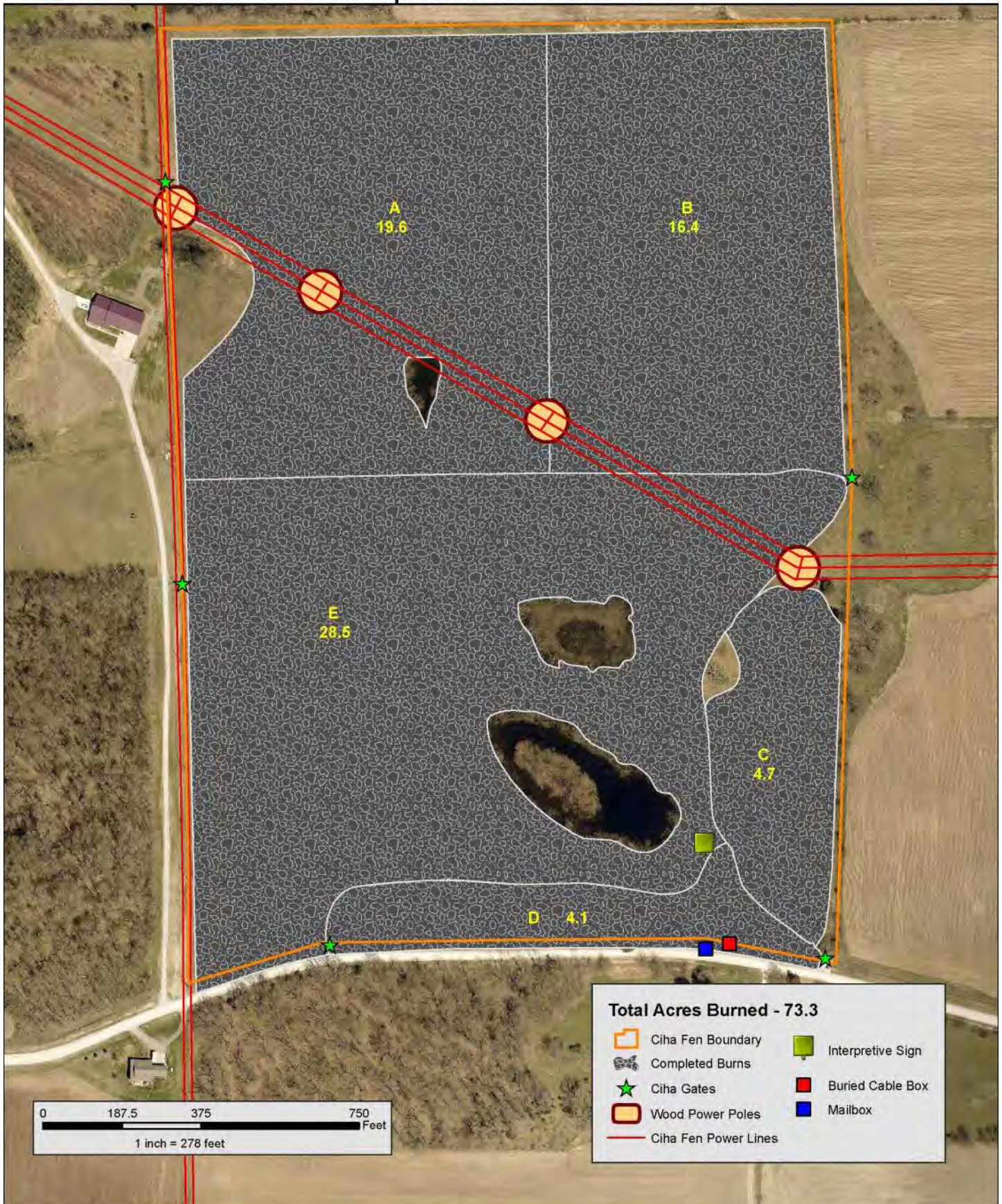
Cedar River Crossing Conservation Area Completed Burns 2023



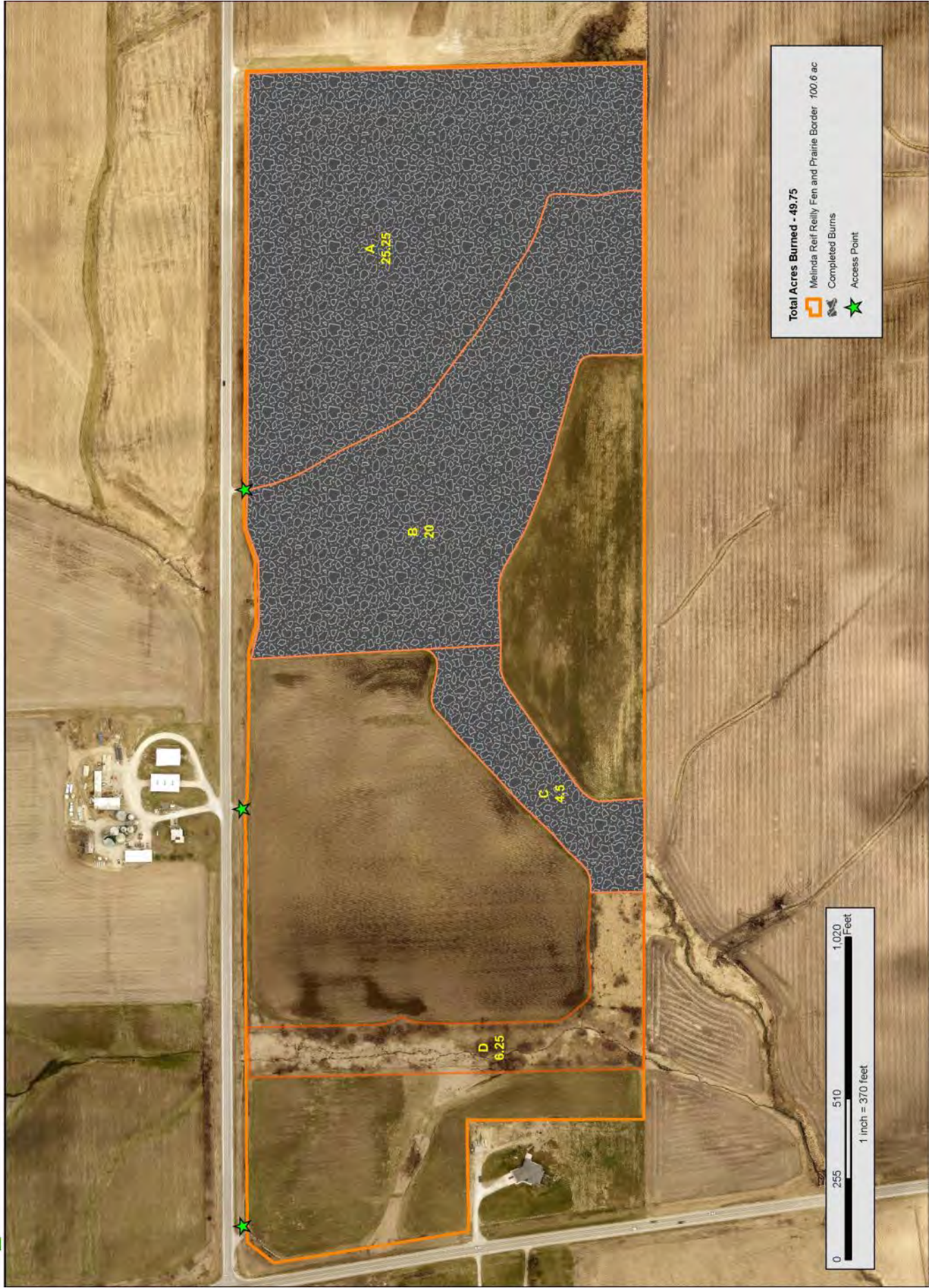


5656 145th St NE
Lisbon, IA 52253

Ciha Fen Rx Burn Map Completed Burns 2023



Malinda Reif Reilly Fen & Prairie Completed Burns 2023





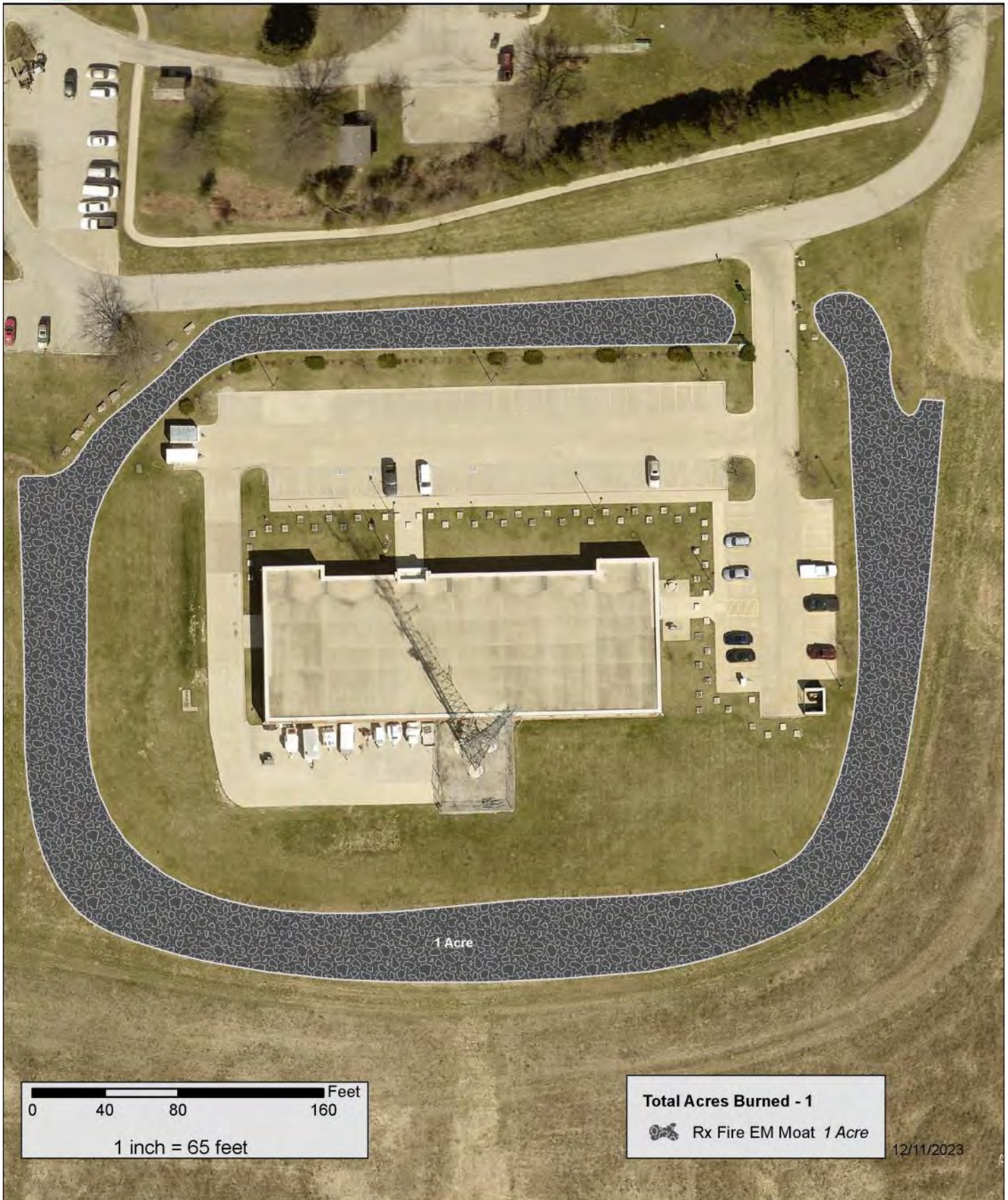
2298 Black Hawk Ave NW
Oxford, IA 52322

Williams Prairie Preserve Completed Burns 2023

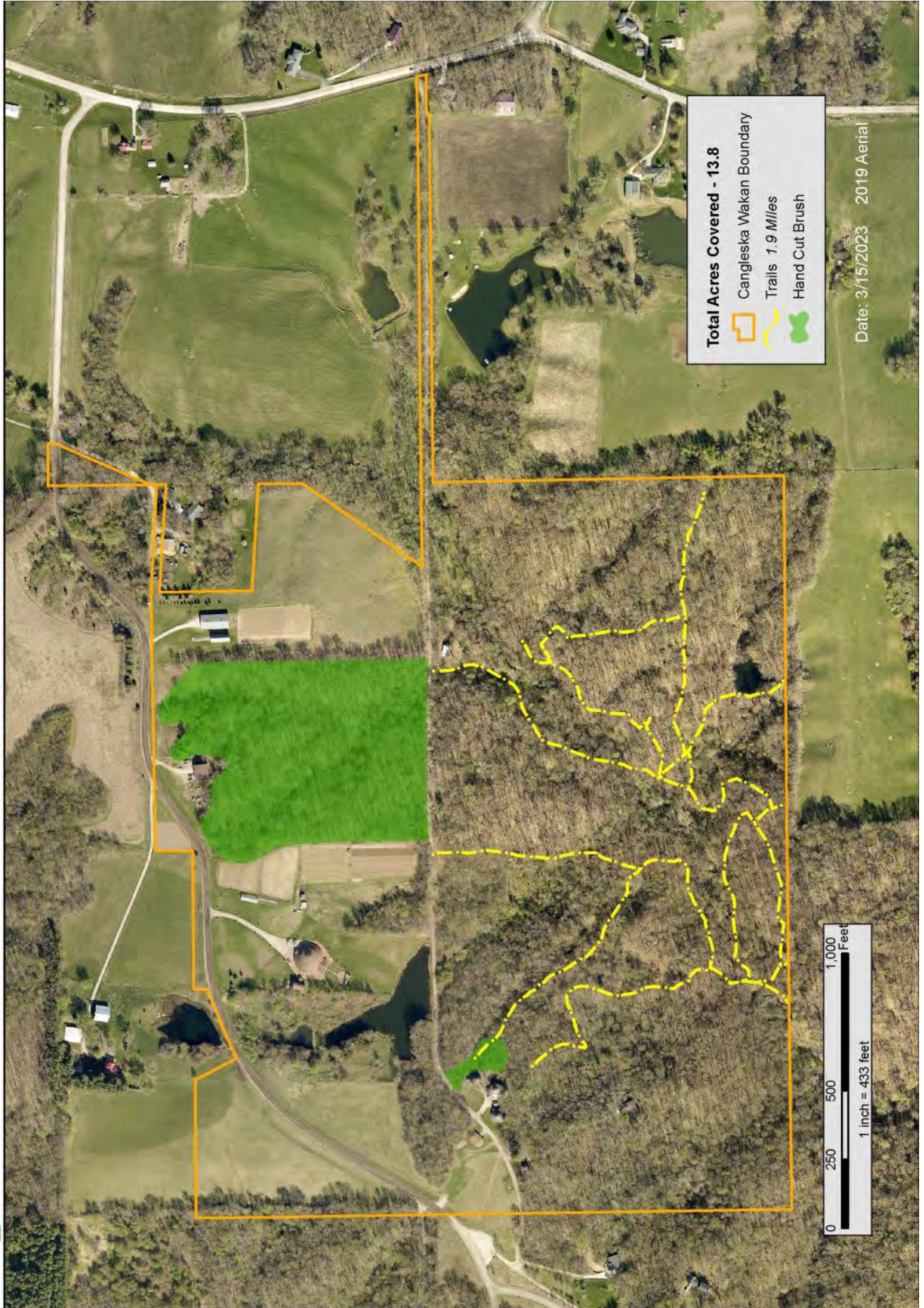




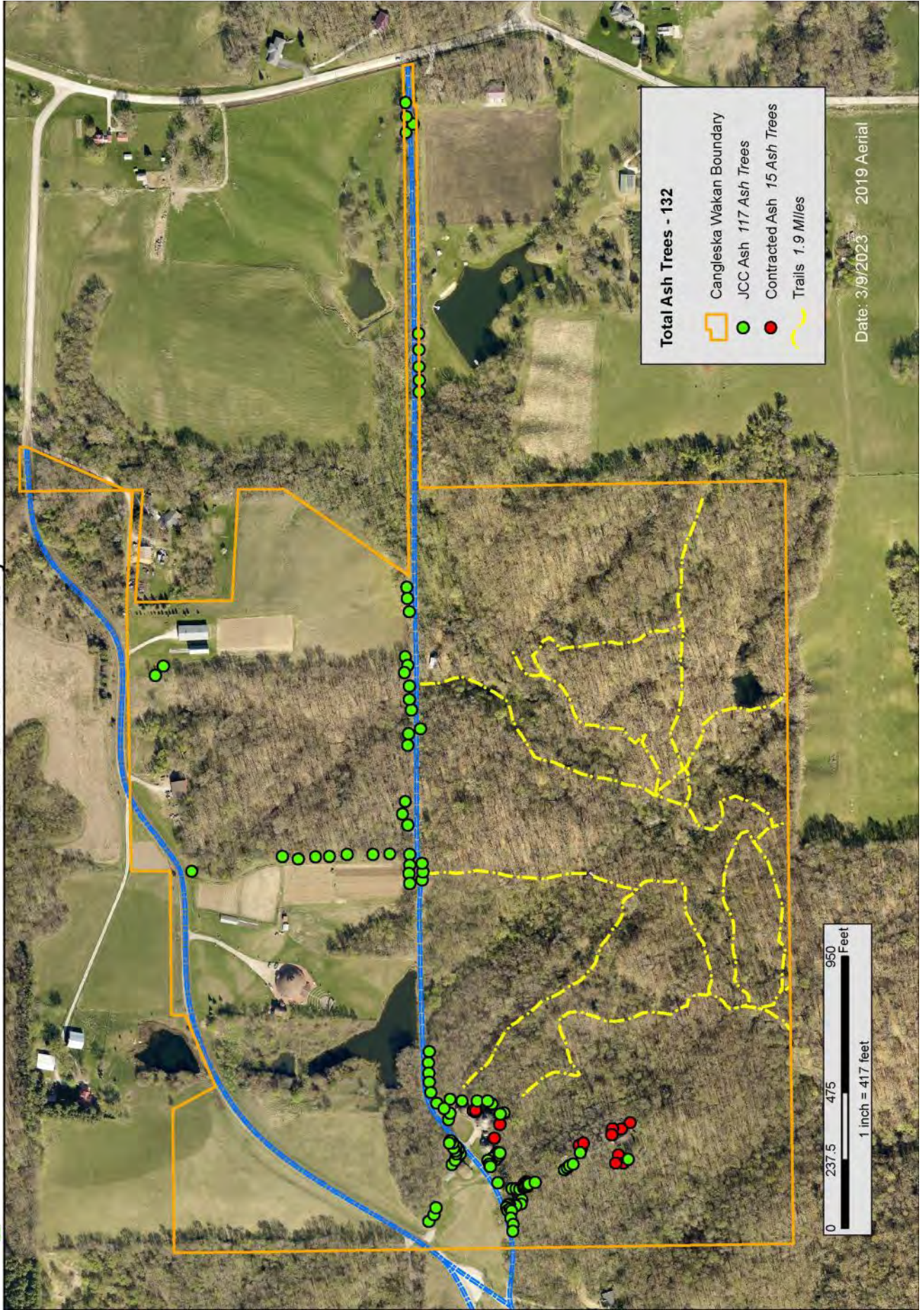
Emergency Management Rx Fire 2023



Cangleska Wakan Hand Cut Brush Winter 22 - 23



Cangleska Wakan Ash Removal Inventory



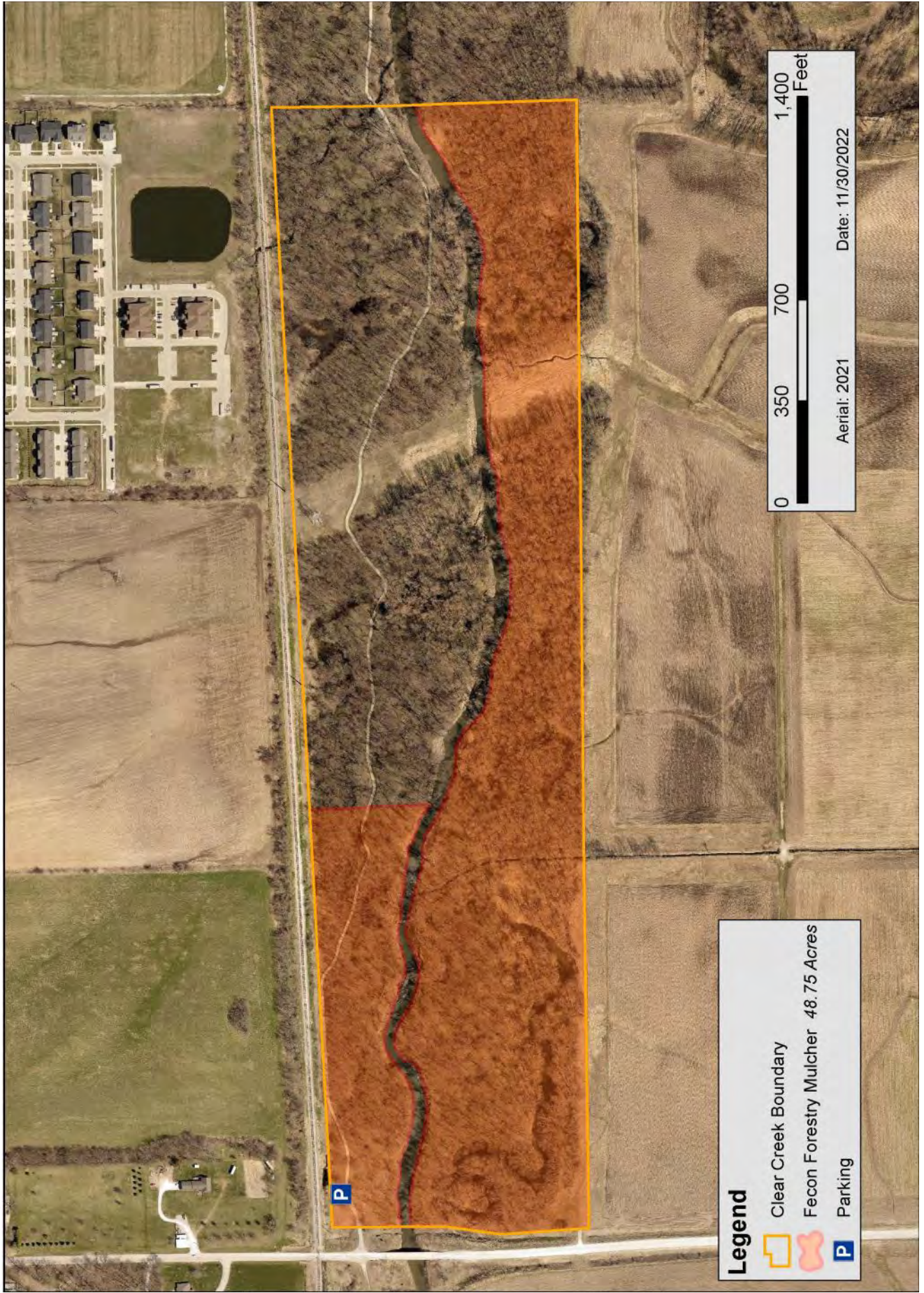
Ciha Fen Preserve

Woody Brush and Tree Mowing Fall 2022








Clear Creek - Brush Mowing 2022



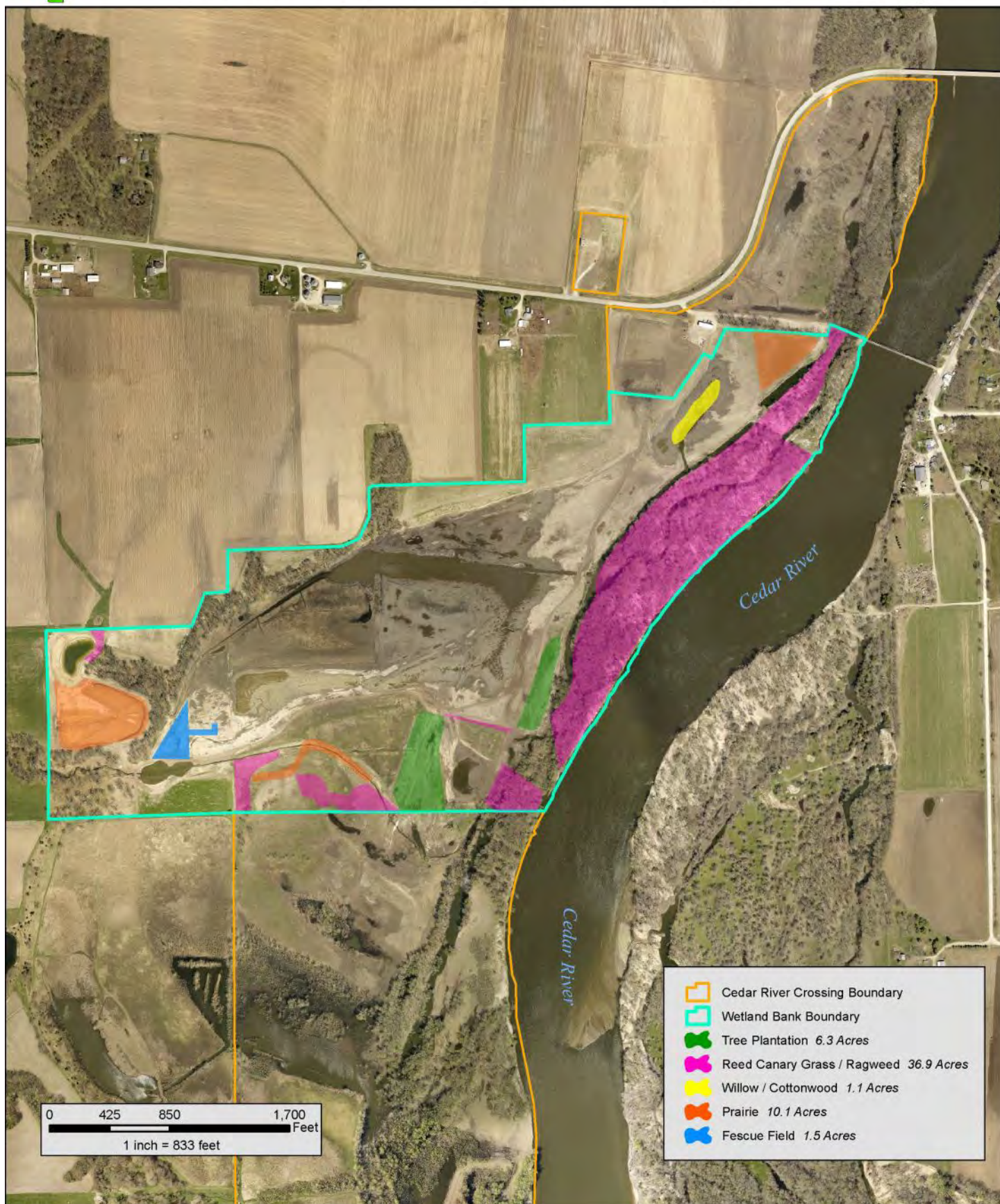
Legend

-  Clear Creek Boundary
-  Fecon Forestry Mulcher 48.75 Acres
-  Parking

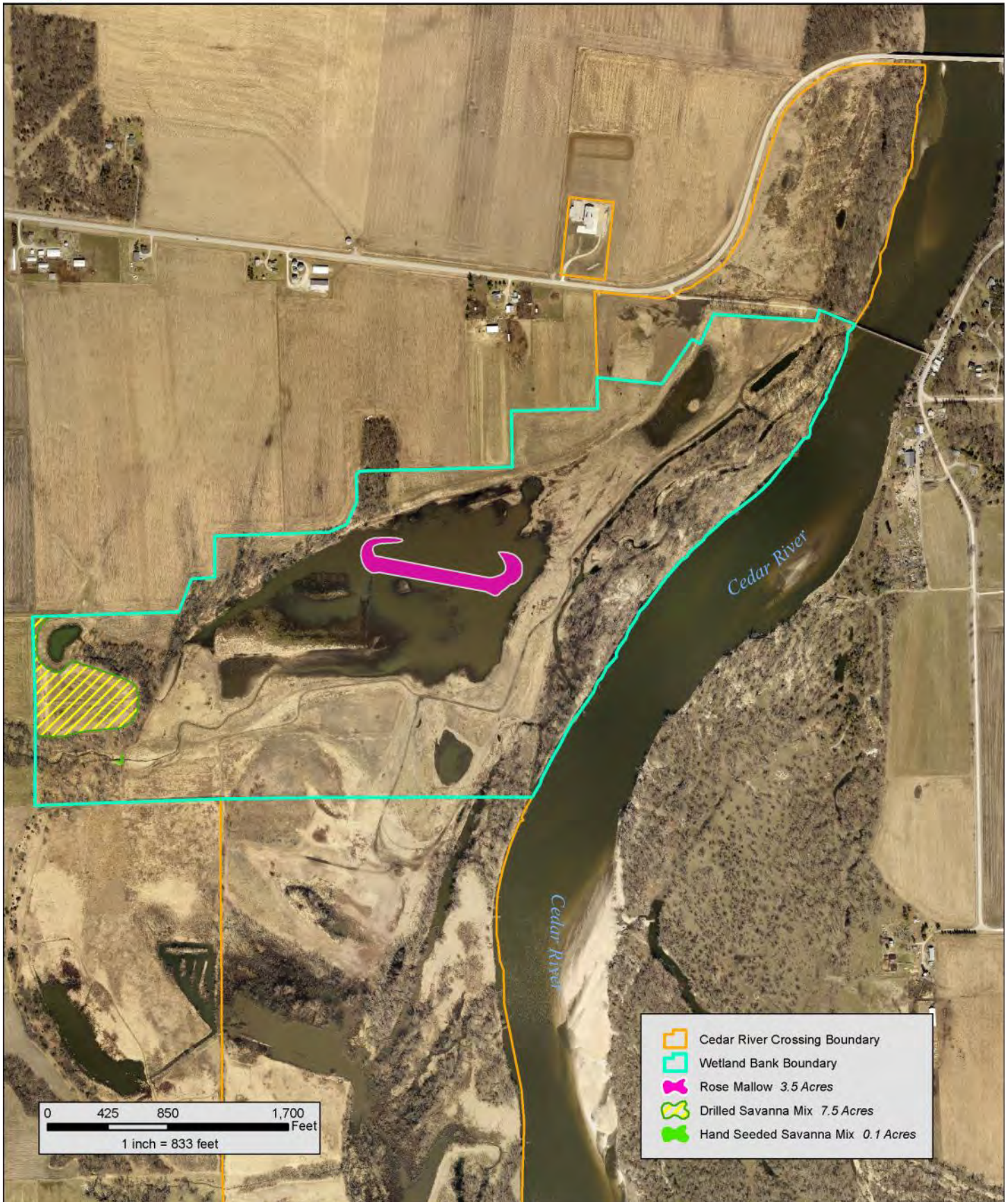
0 350 700 1,400 Feet

Aerial: 2021 Date: 11/30/2022

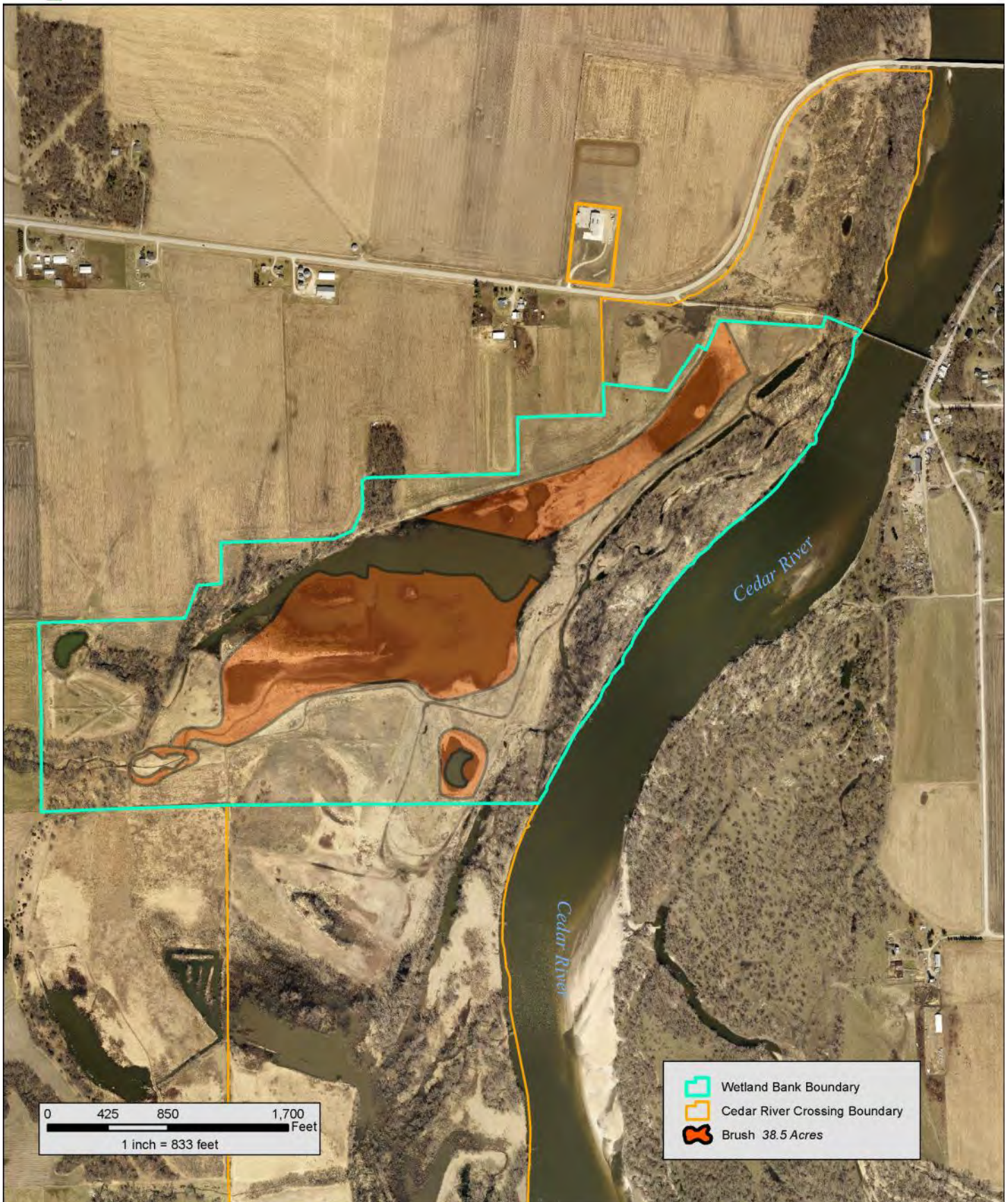
Cedar River Crossing Conservation Area Wetland Bank Management 2022 Mowing



Cedar River Crossing Conservation Area Wetland Bank Management 2022 Seeding

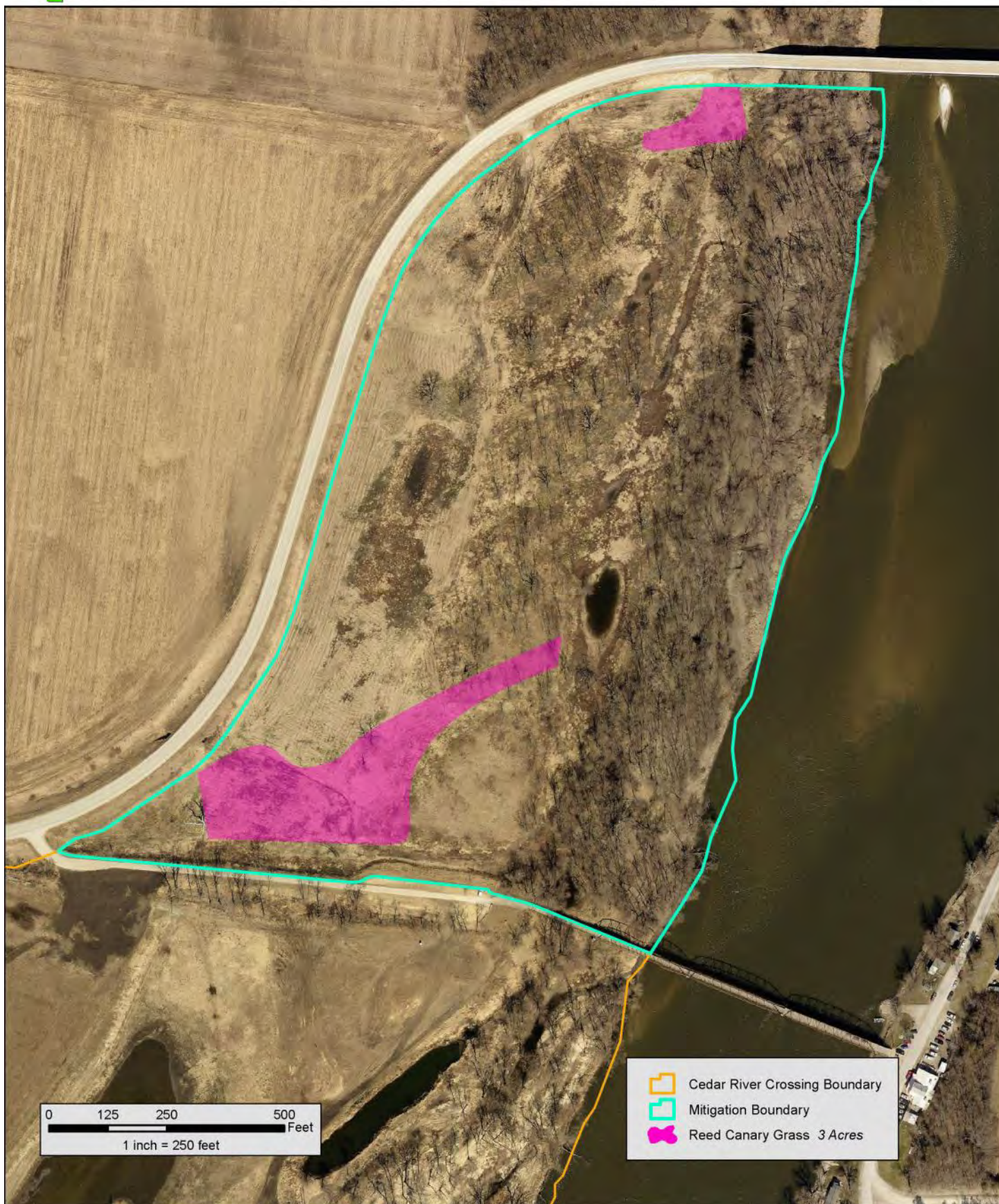


Cedar River Crossing Conservation Area Wetland Bank Management 2022 Woody Spraying

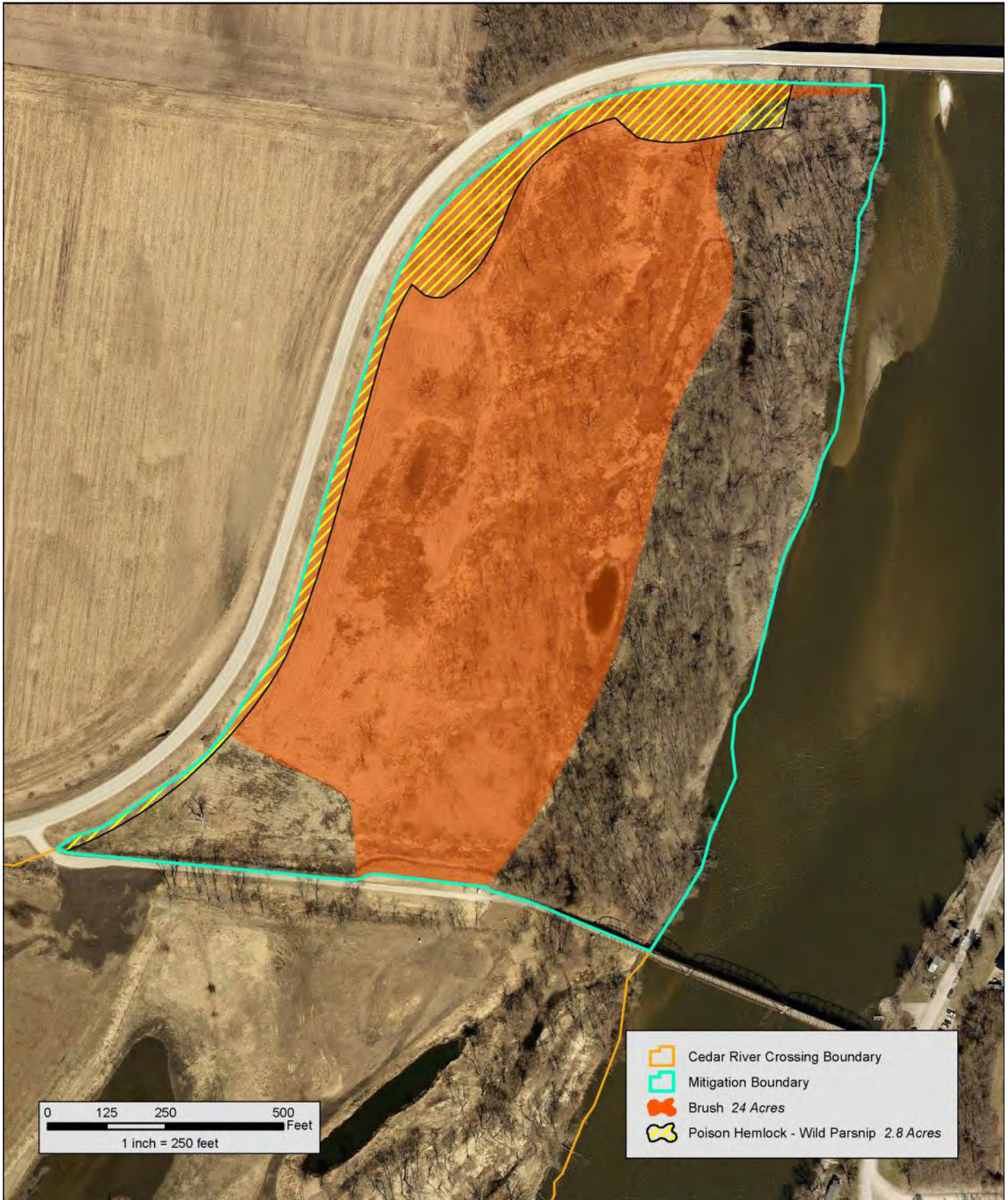




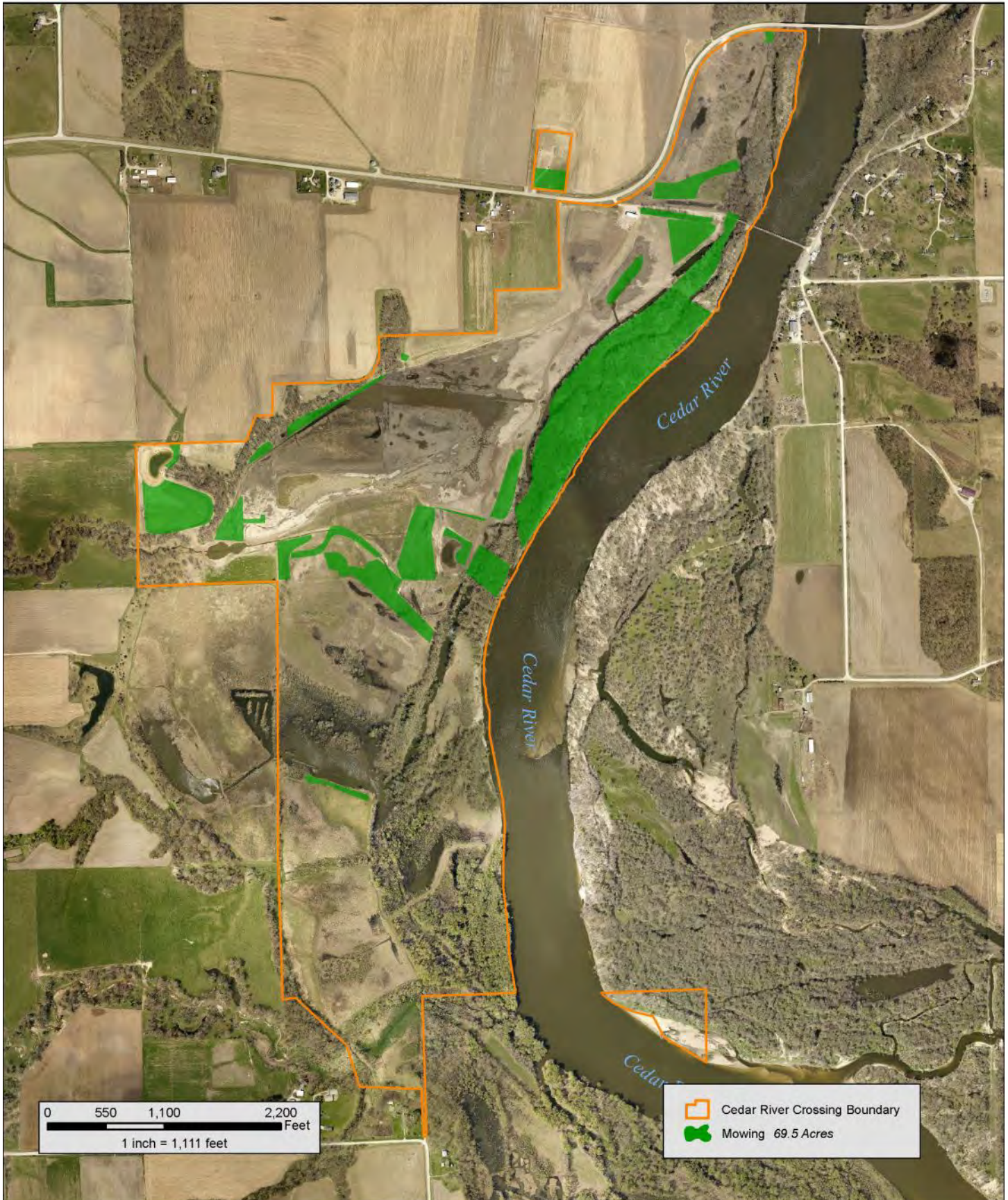
Hoover Nature Trail Ely Road Mitigation Management 2022 - Mowing



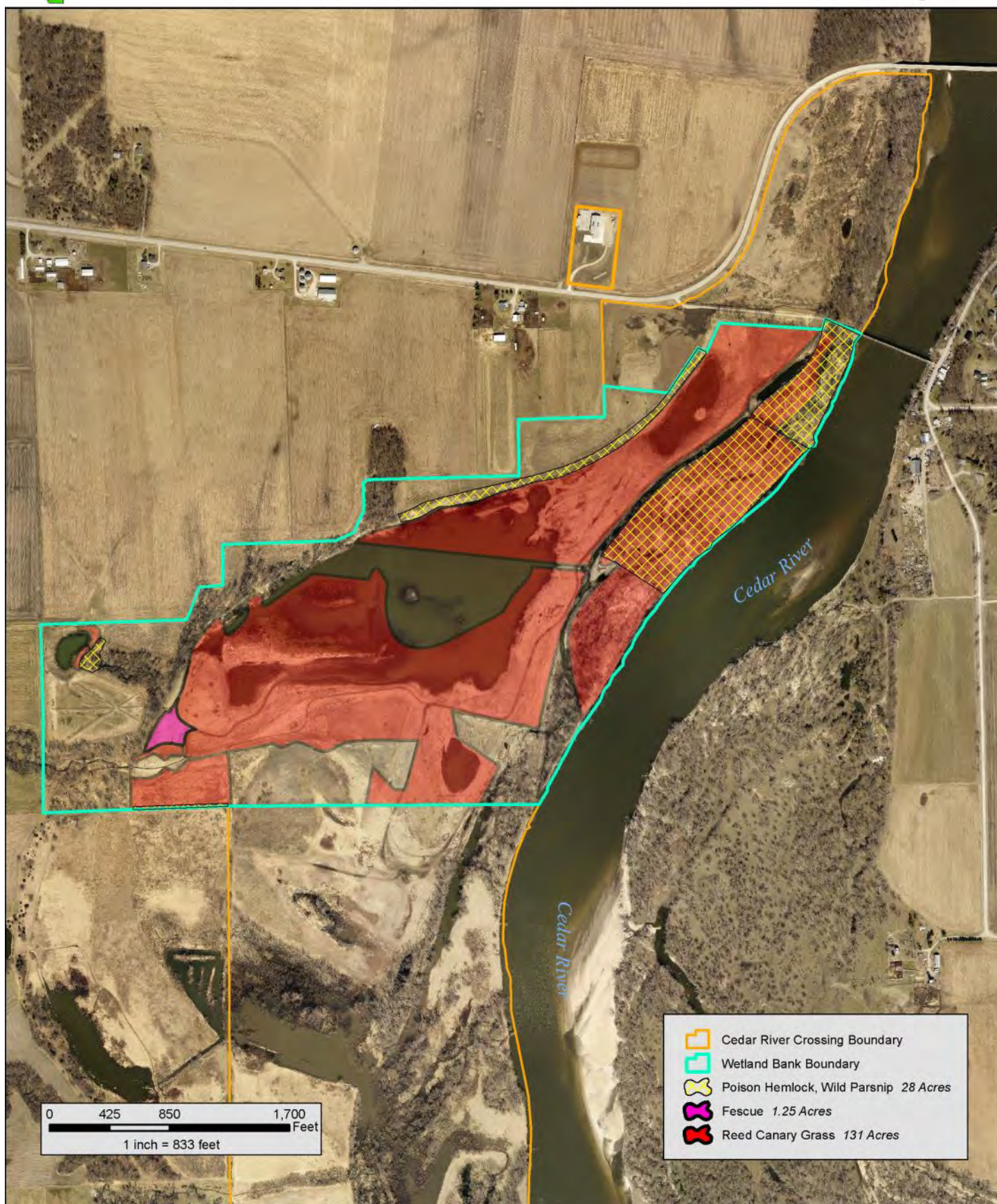
Hoover Nature Trail Ely Road Mitigation Management 2022 - Herbicide Application



Cedar River Crossing Conservation Area Mowing 2022-23

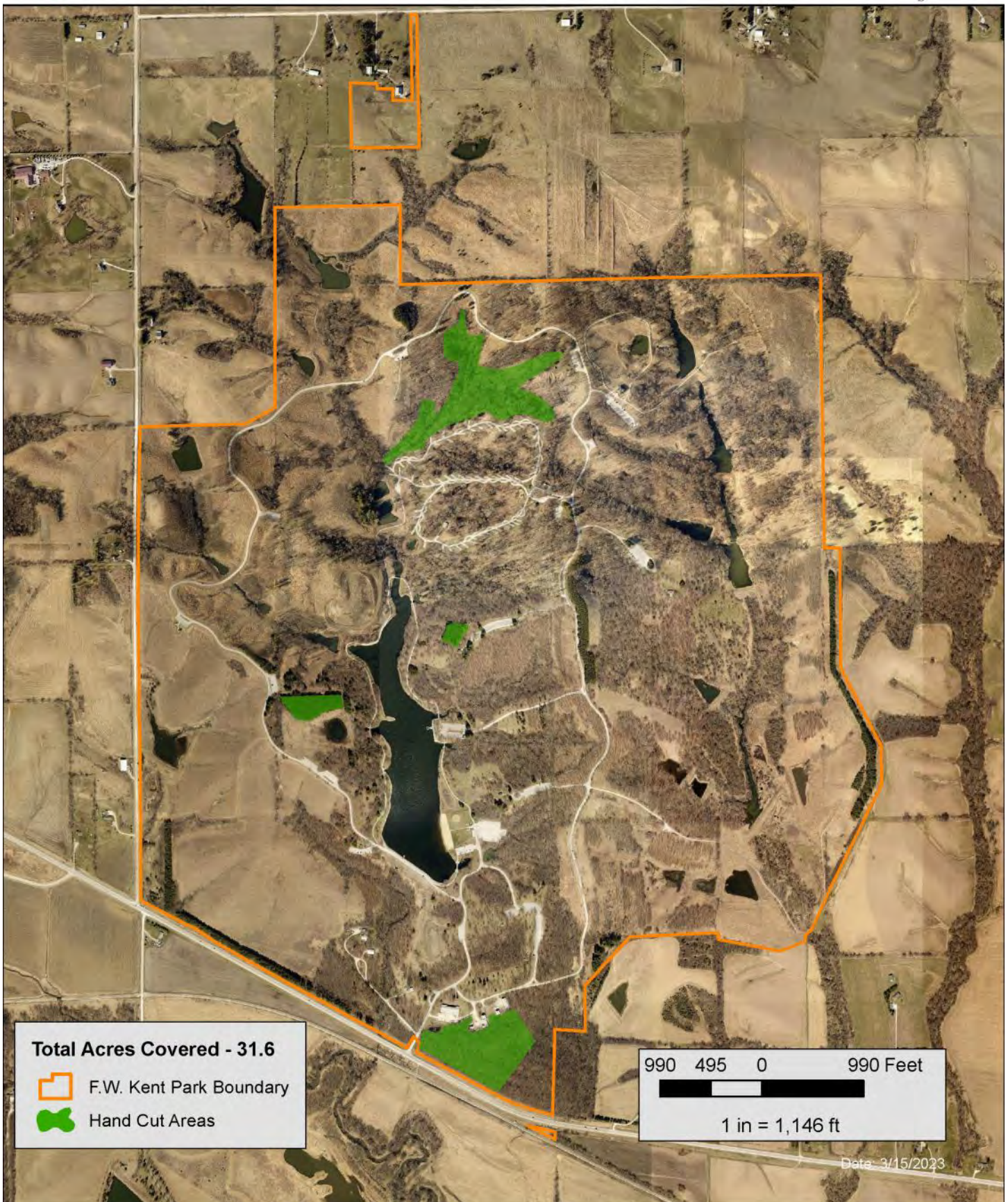


Cedar River Crossing Conservation Area Wetland Bank Management 2022 Herbaceous Spraying

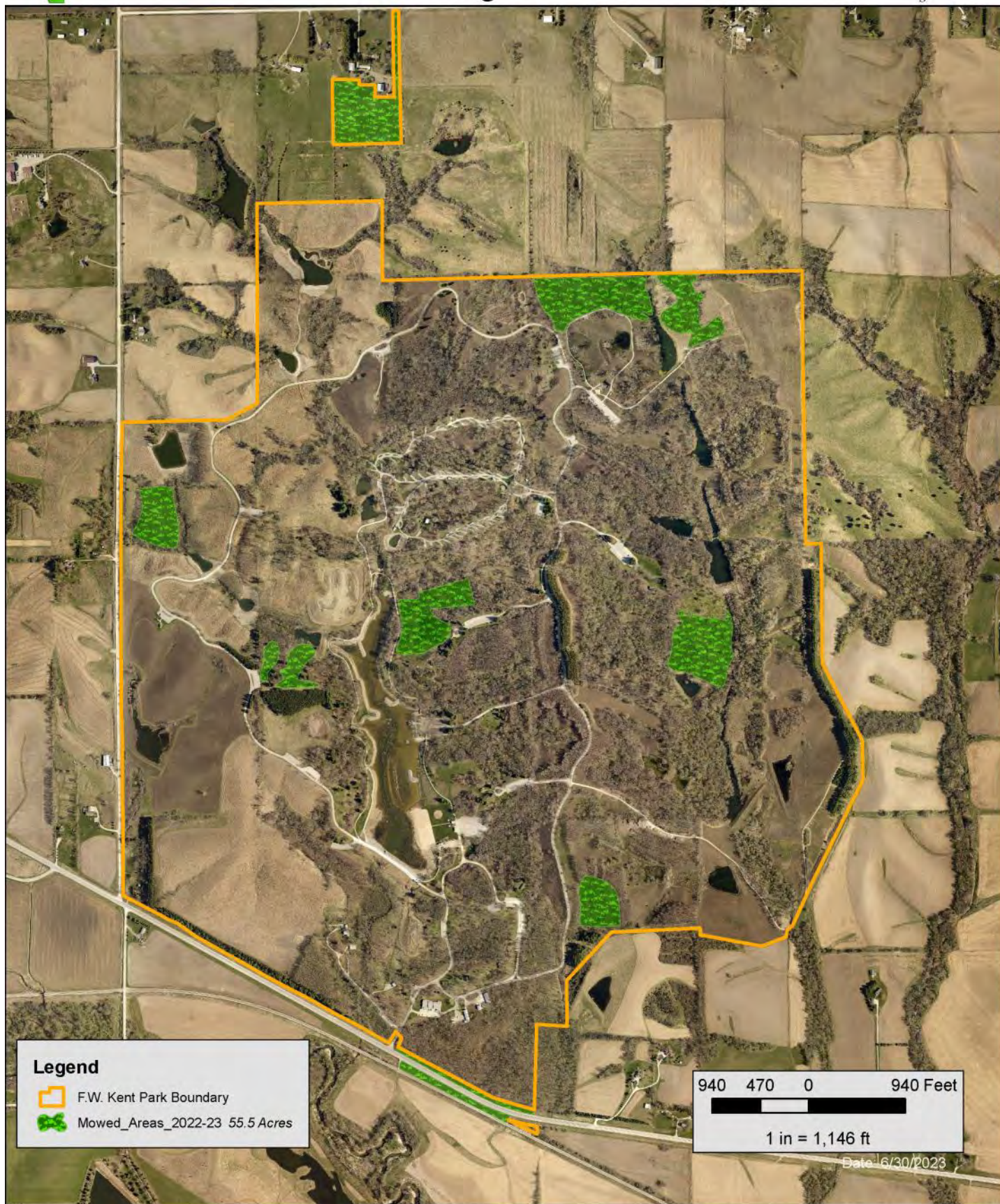




F.W. Kent Park Hand Cut Brush Winter 2022 - 23

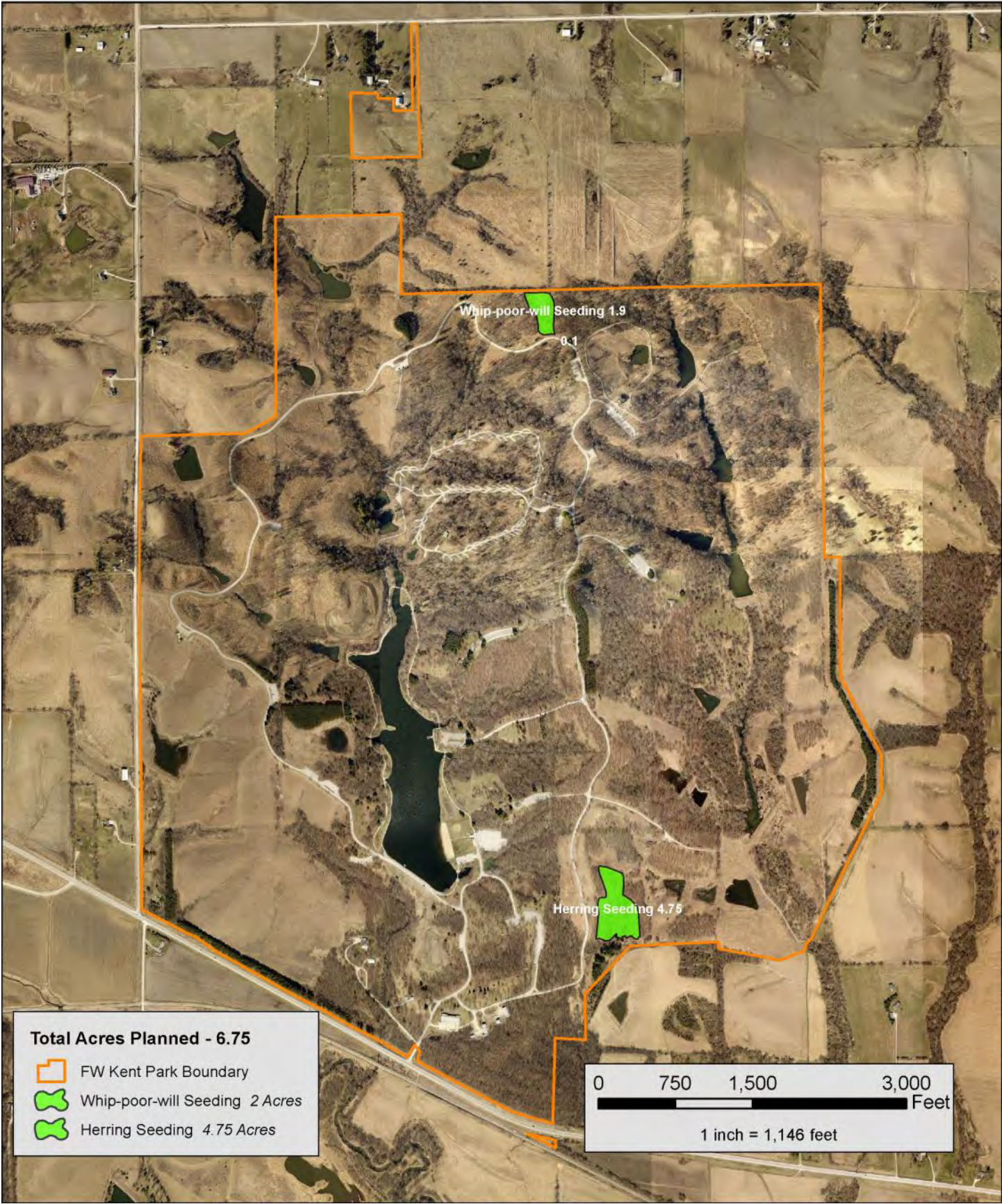


F.W. Kent Park Mowing 2022-23

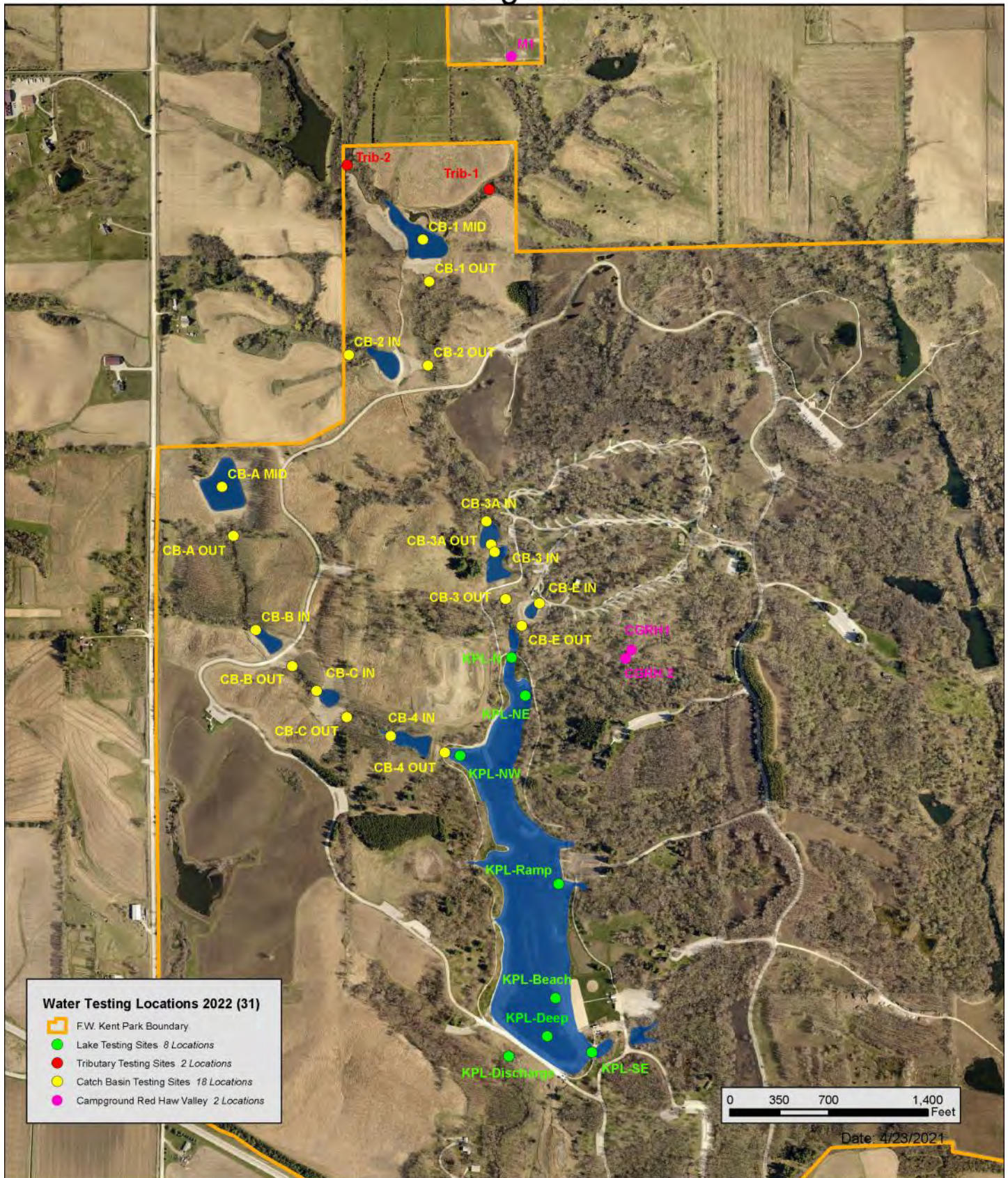




F.W. Kent Park Prairie Seedings Fall 2022



F.W. Kent Park Water Testing Sites 2022

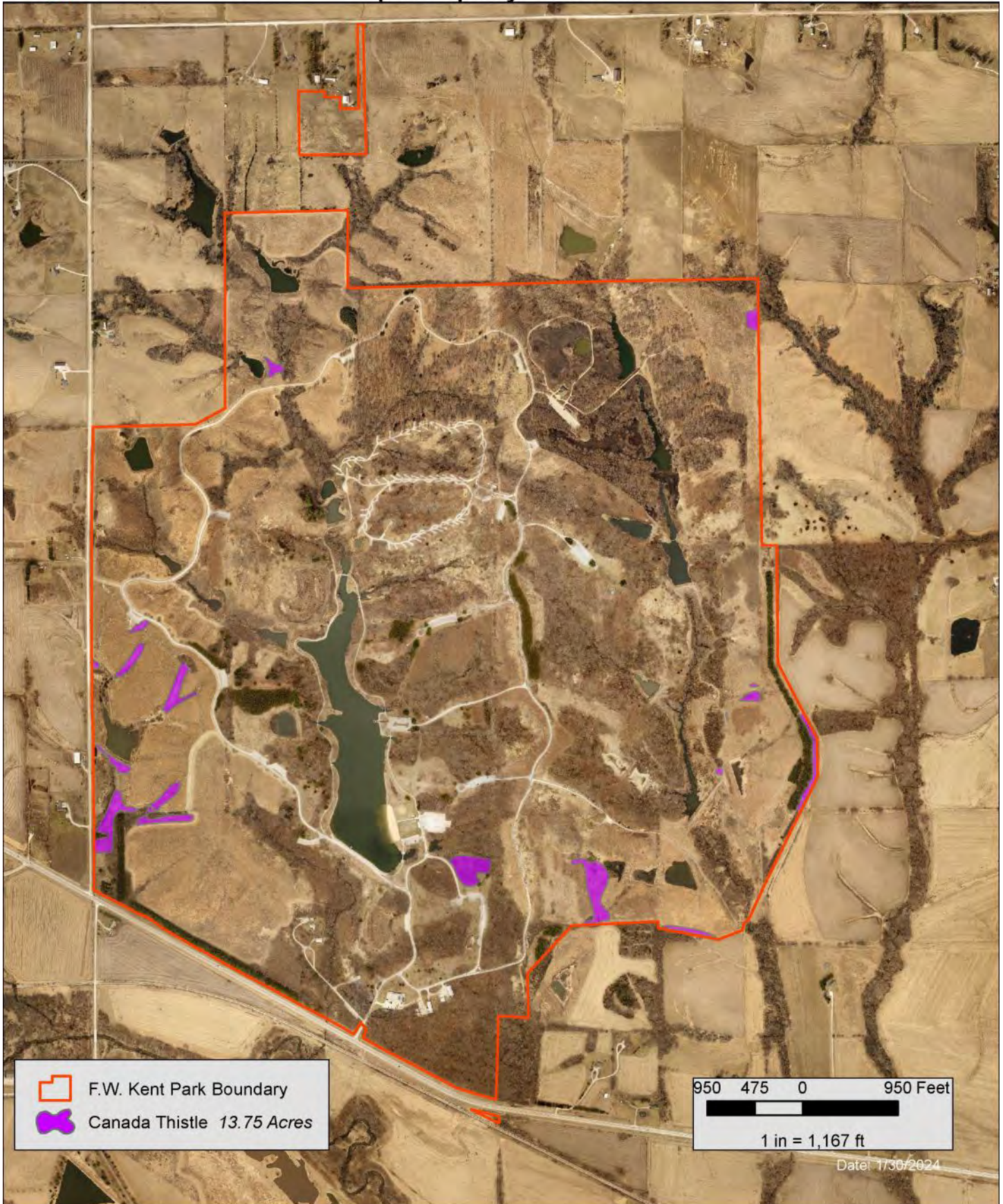




Invasive Brush 2022 Spot Sprayed Areas



Canada Thistle 2022 Spot Sprayed Areas



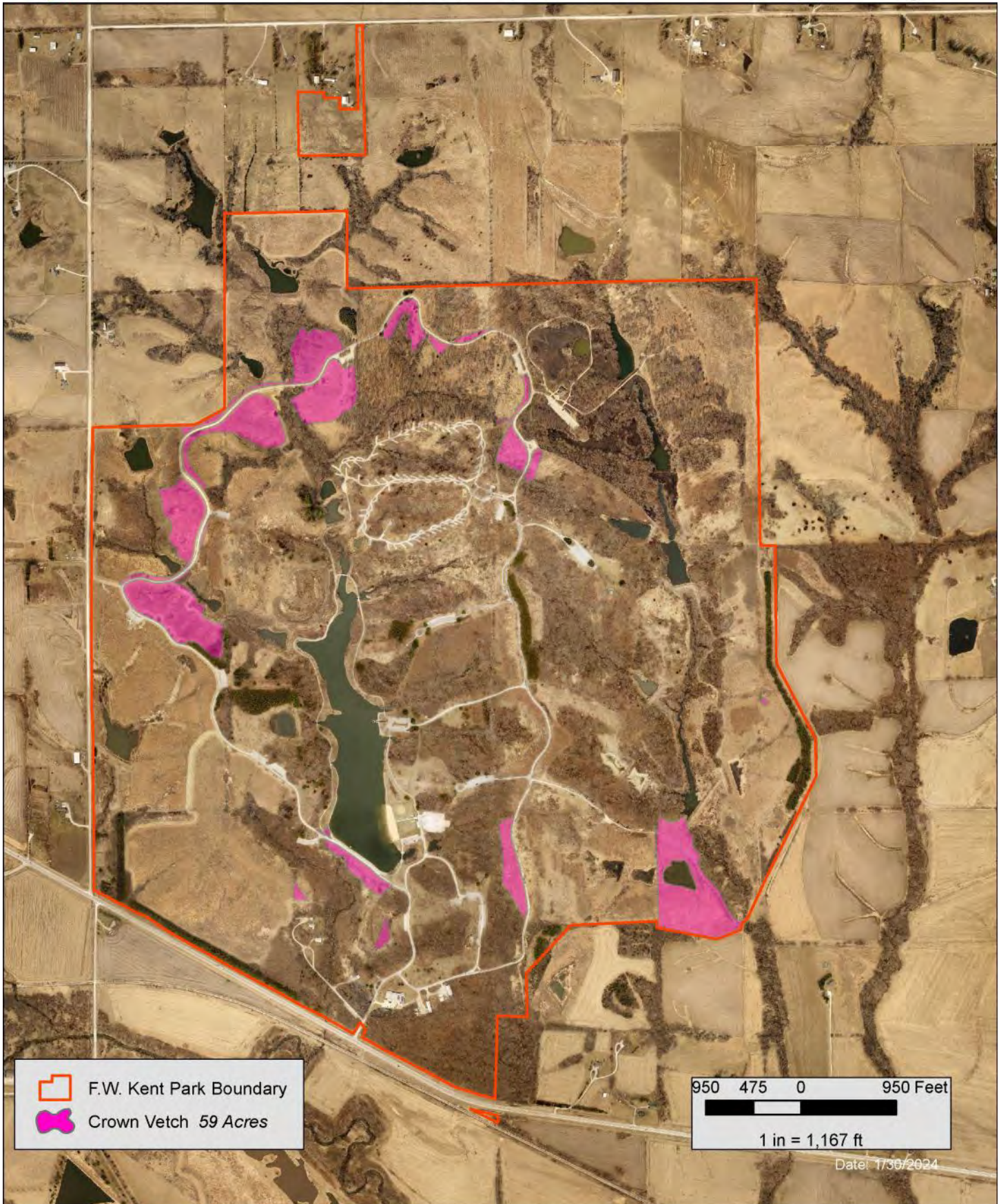


Chinese Bush Clover 2022 Spot Sprayed Areas

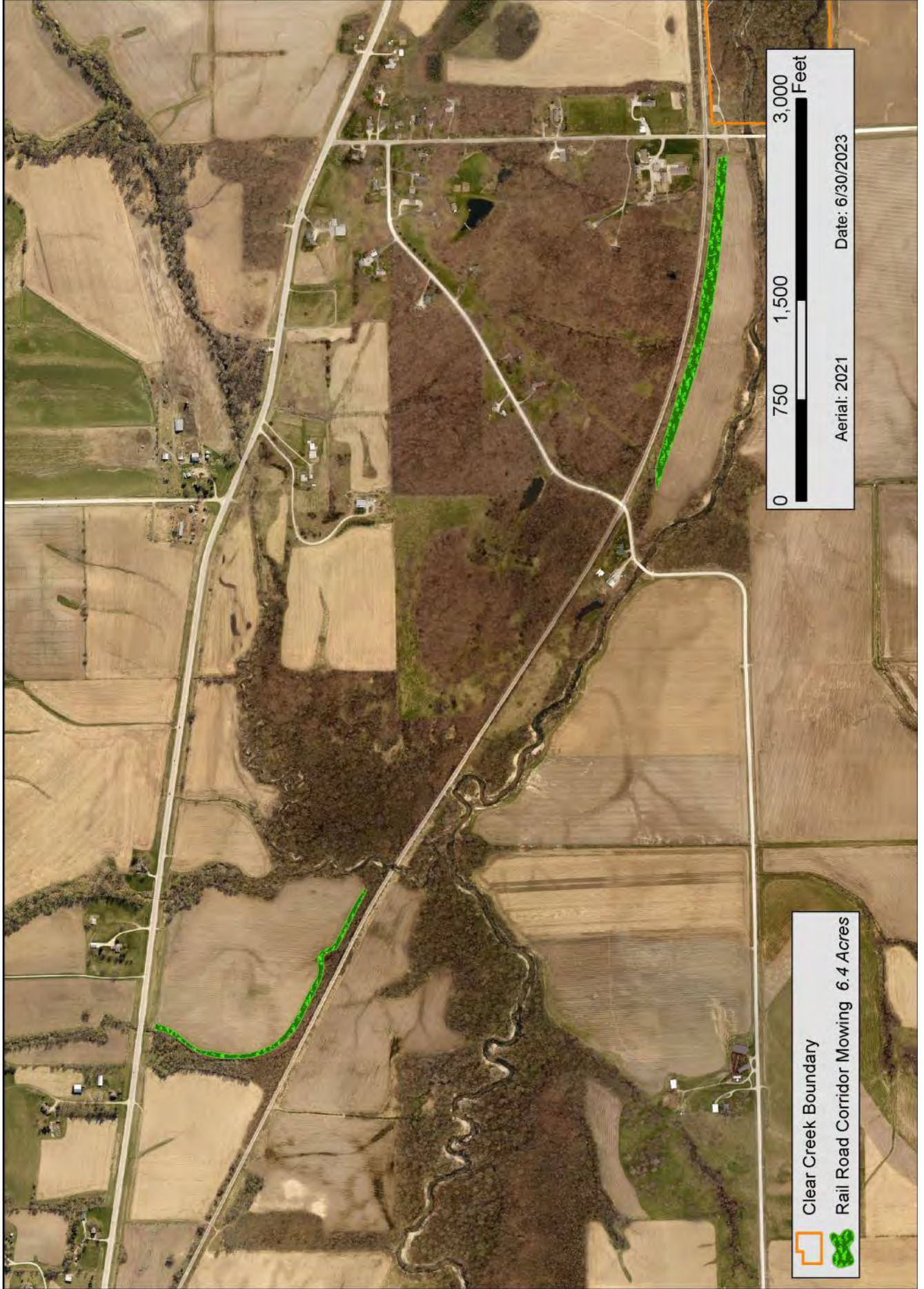




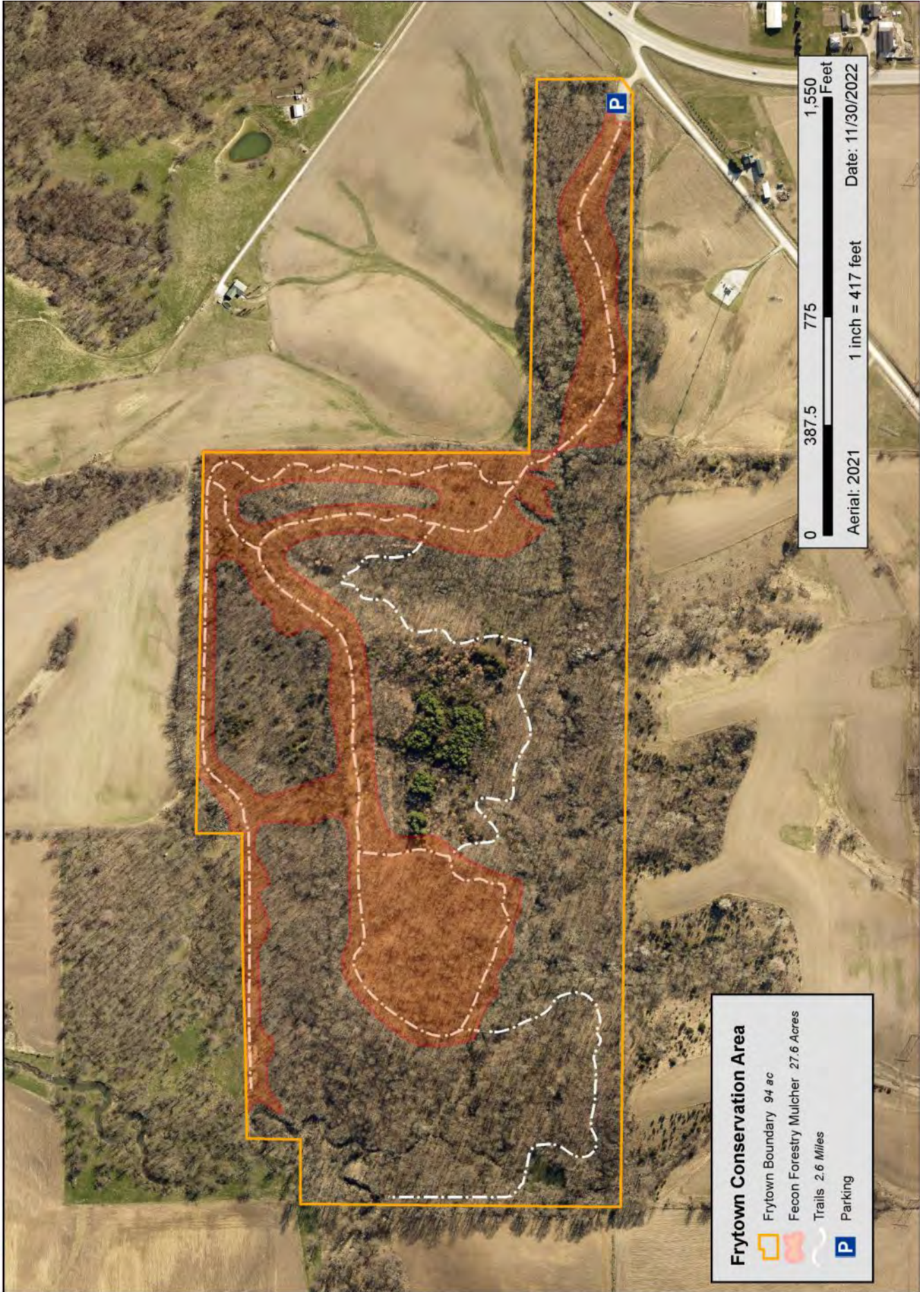
Crown Vetch 2022 Spot Sprayed Areas



Rail Road Corridor- Mowing 2022-23



Frytown Conservation Area - Brush Mowing 2022





Hoover Trail - Honeysuckle Brush Control 2022-23



Pechman Creek Delta - Mowing 2022-23





4492 Kansas Ave Sw
Iowa City, IA 52240

Phebe Timber Hand Cut Brush Winter 2022 - 23





Scott Church - Mowing 2022-23



Solon Prairie Mowing 2022-23



Williams Prairie Preserve - Mowing 2022-23



Conservation Department—Facts and Figures

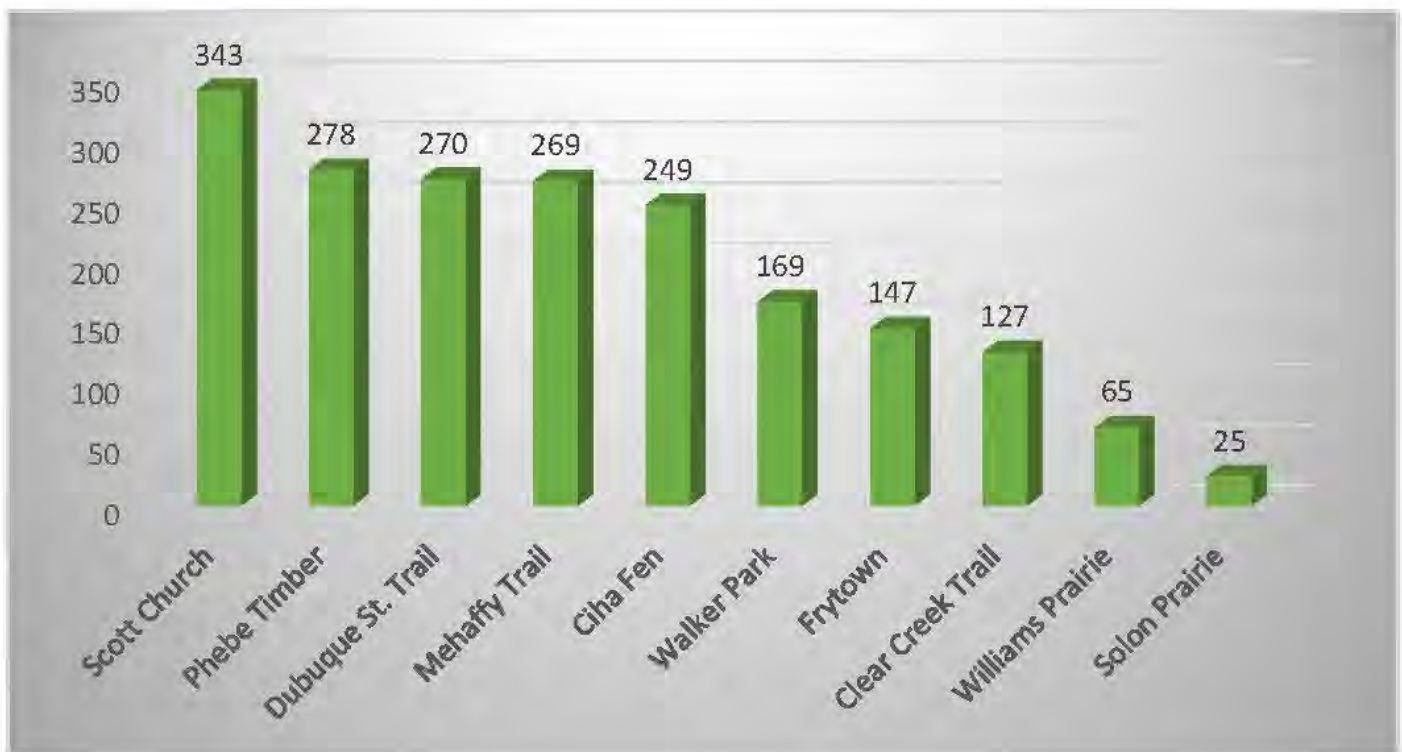
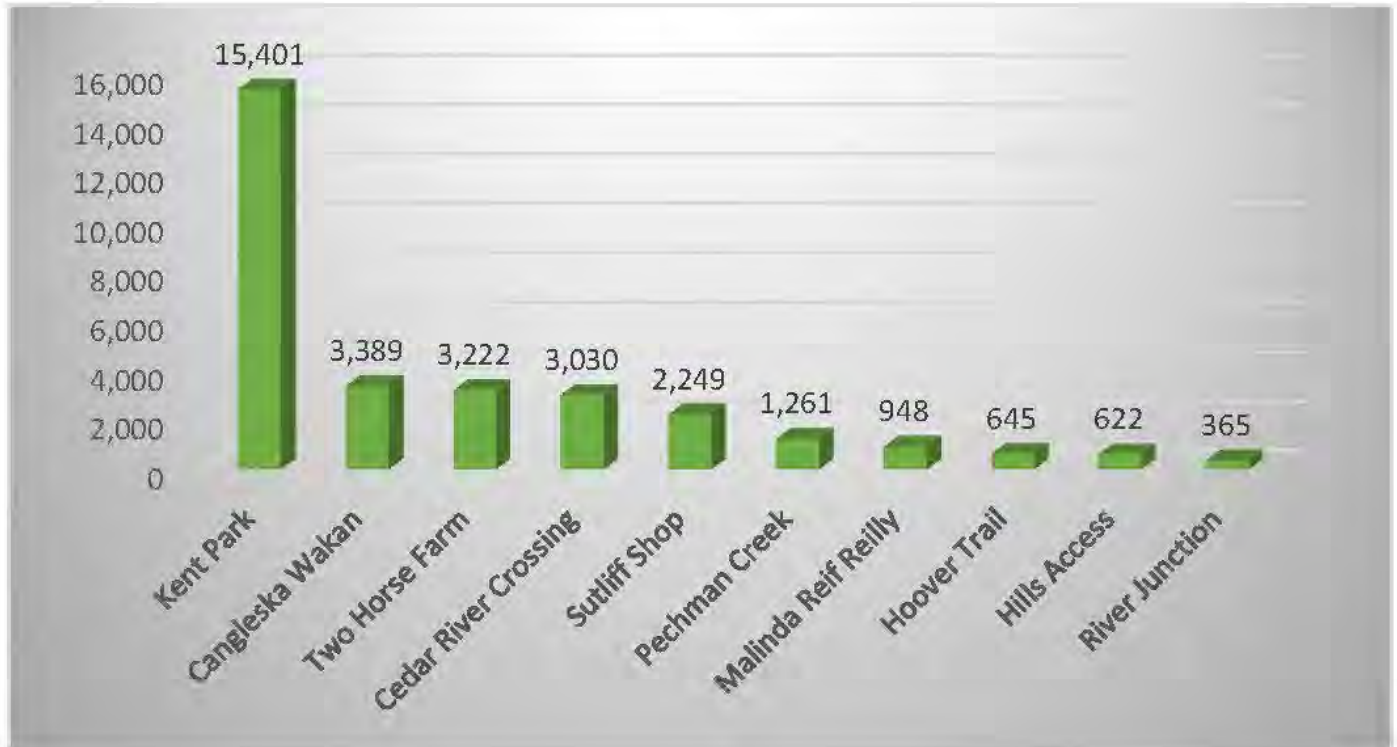
The staff maintains 23 properties encompassing 2,747 acres, throughout all of Johnson County. The following is a list of facts and figures related to maintaining the conservation program.

- 64.3 miles of park boundaries
- 48.5 acres of turf at 13 areas
- 4 operations buildings at 4 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
- 61 roofed structures at 7 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 and one double round 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
- 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
- 6.7 miles of hard surfaced roadway (chip seal and asphalt)
- 35 parking areas at thirteen areas – covering 8.3 acres and parking for 878 vehicles
- 19 trail bridges
- 9 historic bridges on pedestrian trails at two areas

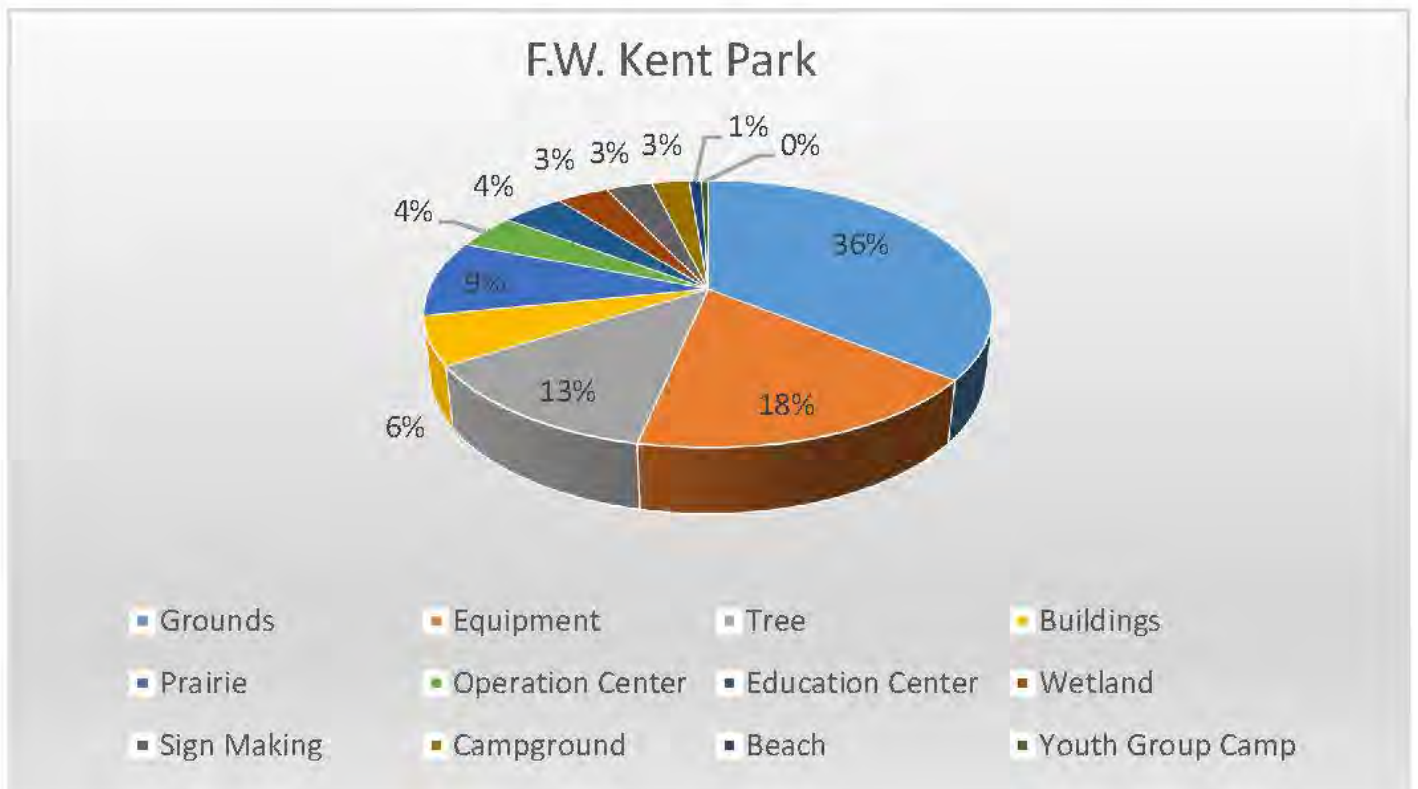
- 2 Kent Park Conservation Education Center Trail
- 1 Frytown Trail
- 4 Clear Creek Trail
- 3 Hoover Trail
- 10 wells at seven different areas
- 12 waste water systems at five different sites
- 31 HVAC systems
- 2 commercial walk-in coolers
- 35 hand sanitizer units at two areas
- 13 water heaters
- 21 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 systems 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:
 - ◊ 18 utility vehicles (UTVs)
 - ◊ 11 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
- 40 other pieces of specialty equipment for park management (forestry mulcher, seeders, grapples, disks, harrows, etc.)

FY23 Labor Report per Area

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.



FY23 Labor Analysis for Kent Park



Environmental Education Report

Compiled by: Naturalists Kristen Morrow and Frances Owen

Strategic Plan Connection



JCC Naturalists help the public to understand the importance of protecting natural areas throughout the county. One of the primary ways to do that is helping people connect to the land in a hands-on way. In FY23, JCC naturalists led 14 public hikes to JCC properties to help people get to know and love these county public lands.



The naturalist crew aims to engage the public in the process of restoration. Involving people in prairie restoration by hosting seed harvesting events is an easy and valuable way to do that. In FY23, JCC naturalists hosted seven seed harvest events at three JCC properties.



Connecting the public to the natural world around them is the heart of what JCC naturalists do. In FY23, the team reached 7,259 people across 252 programs, field trips, and events. Nearly all of these programs focus on hands-on activities designed to immerse individuals into the environment.



In FY2023, we provided 56 programs, covering various aspects 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, fishing, citizen science and wilderness education.



Partnerships allow JCC to reach and engage a much more diverse array of people. We continued long-held partnerships and forged new ones in FY23. Partners include United Action for Youth, the Neighborhood Centers of Johnson County, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Miriam Girls Club, the Iowa City Bike Library, the Coralville Food Pantry, the City of Iowa City, City of Coralville, City of North Liberty, and all local libraries.

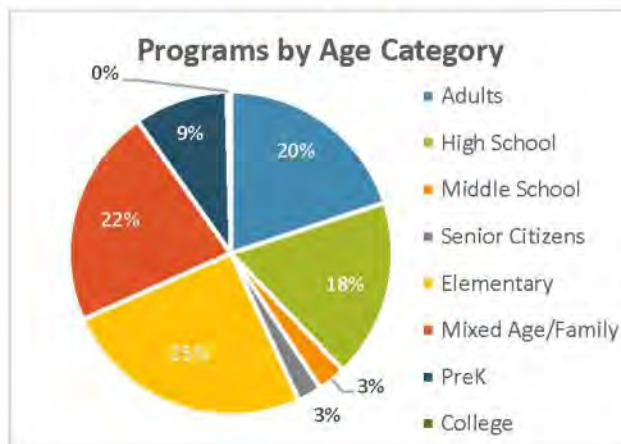
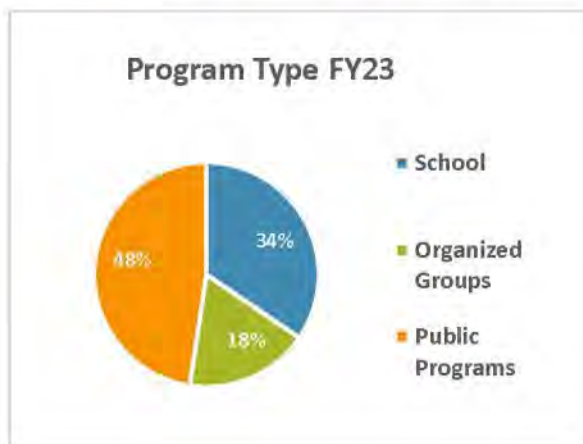
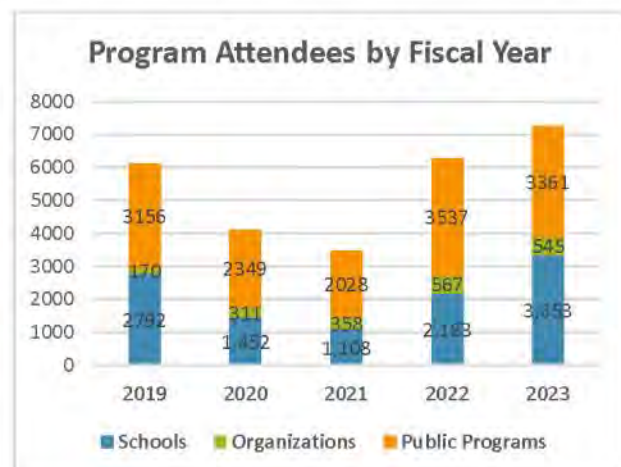
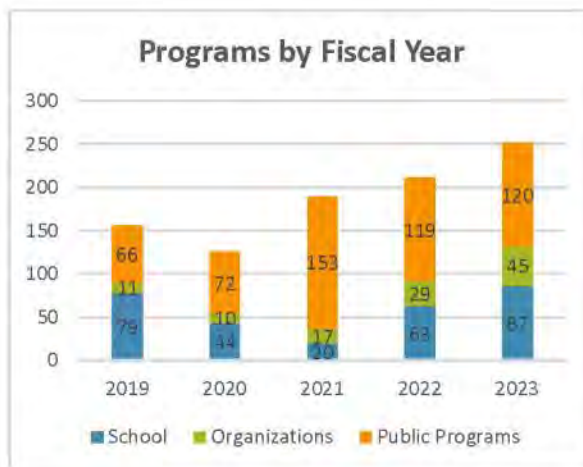


One aspect of sustainability that we build into JCC education programming is how we design, format, and schedule programs. The heart of a sustainable program is a long-term team of staff that remain passionate, ambitious, and driven. To promote longevity and passion, JCC is strategic in planning who we partner with and how we work to ensure we continue to have the drive to reach ever more people.

Education Programming – By the Numbers

- Total programs led by naturalists in FY2023: **252**
- Total people served through direct programming in FY2023: **7259**

Both program offerings and program attendees grew in FY23 across nearly all categories. From FY22 to FY23, the number of school programs offered grew by 38% and attendees grew by 53.6%. From FY22 to FY23, the number of programs for organizations grew by 55%, though the number of attendees decreased by 3.8%. Public programs remained constant from FY22 to FY23, though overall attendees dropped by 5%. We continue to work on balancing programming across different age groups to engage citizens at all life stages in county nature programs.



FY2023 School Programming

- Total people served through school programming in FY2023: 2,183 (+34% from FY22)
- Total school field trips led by naturalists in FY2023: 87 (+38% from FY22)

Age Demographics

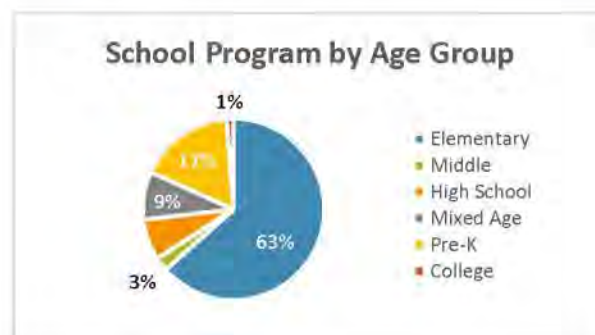
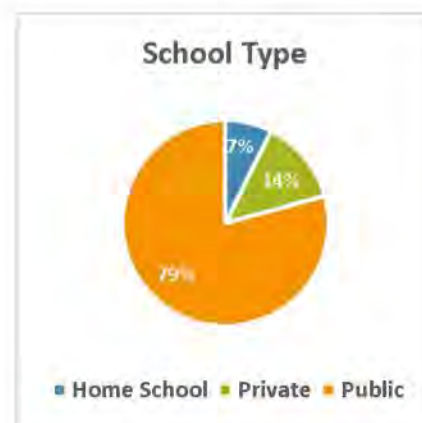
Elementary students made up the majority of field trip programming in FY23, as in every year. The education crew is working to diversify ages engaged in field trip programming.

Season

The JCC education crew is working to spread out field trips across all seasons in order to accommodate more schools per year. In FY23, spring remained the dominate field trip season.

School Type

Public schools maintain the majority in both programs offered and participants reached.



Schools Served in Field Trip Programming in FY23

Preschool:

- Neighborhood Centers of Johnson County
- Our Redeemer Preschool
- Good Shepherd Preschool
- Kirkwood School for Children

Elementary:

Iowa City Community School District:

- Lincoln Elementary (1st)
- Borlaug Elementary (1st)
- Penn Elementary (2nd)
- Van Allen Elementary (2nd, 3rd, 4th)
- Kirkwood Elementary (2nd and 5th)
- Coralville Central Elementary (2nd and 5th)
- Mark Twain Elementary (5th)
- Alexander Elementary (5th)
- Lucas Elementary (5th)
- Grant Wood Elementary (5th)
- Hills Elementary (5th)
- Horn Elementary (5th)
- Longfellow Elementary (5th)
- Horace Mann (Summer Camp) (K-6th)

Clear Creek Amana School District:

- Clear Creek Elementary (3rd)
- Tiffin Elementary (3rd)
- North Bend Elementary (3rd)
- Oak Hill Elementary (5th and 4th)

College Community School District:

- Prairie View Elementary (4th)
- Prairie Heights Elementary (4th)
- Prairie Ridge Elementary (4th)
- Prairie Crest Elementary (4th)
- Prairie Hill Elementary (4th)

Private Schools/Home School Coops:

- Montessori Children's Garden (K-5th)
- Ambleside Home School Coop (K-6th)

- Good Earth (K-5th)
- Faith Academy (1st, 3rd, 4th)
- Heritage Christian (1st)
- Iowa City Home School Association (K-8th)
- Hillside Christian (K-8th)
- Marion Home School Association (K-8th)
- Greir Home School Coop (K-8th)

Non-Johnson County:

- Williamsburg Elementary (4th)
- Mary Welsh Elementary (5th)

Middle:

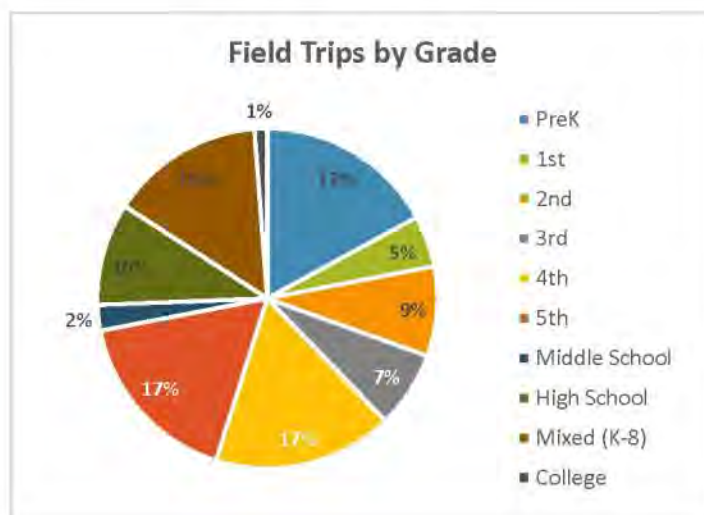
- West Branch Middle School

High School:

- West High School
- City High School
- Linn-Marr High School

College:

- University of Iowa (Honors Program)



School Field Trip Photos FY2023



Students with Prairie Ridge Elementary work through a custom JCC dichotomous key to identify leaves.



4th graders with Prairie View Elementary conduct tests to explore soil compaction and infiltration.



Kids with Hillside Christian explore an amazing oak during a day of shelter and fire building.



AmeriCorps Naturalist Liz McVey helps a student from Oak Hill Elementary release a banded bird during School of the Wild at Kent Park.



A high school student with the West High AP Env. Sci class observes an aquatic macroinvertebrate under the microscope. The class caught the organisms in the wetland while studying water quality.



Clear Creek Elementary 3rd grade students study soil traits.



4th graders from Clear Creek Amana learn about skull ID before they head out to explore for animal signs.



5th graders with Longfellow Elementary create nature journal entries for wetland discoveries during the Writing on the Environment field trip series.

“My class also loved the field trip and had so much fun exploring the forest and the wetland area. I also heard from a few parents that I saw at arrival/dismissal that their children could not stop talking about the trip that night due to all the fun that they had.” -Andrea Ryan (Lucas Elementary 5th grade teacher)



A 5th grader holds a dragonfly nymph he caught.



A 5th grader discovers a baby turtle.



A 5th grader discovers a baby turtle.



A 5th grader looks for aquatic macroinvertebrates.



A 5th grader holds a baby turtle.



A 5th grader holds a great American millipede.



A 5th grader tests her balance on a fallen tree during the Writing on the Environment field trips.



5th graders work on forest poetry during the Writing on the Environment field trips.



2nd graders from Coralville Central finish a foraging program with a tea ceremony with tea made from bergamot and mint.



Frances instructs 3rd graders from Van Allen Elementary in the basics of fire-building.

I just wanted to reach out on behalf of the 3rd graders and teachers from Van Allen that were out at Kent Park today to say thank you. I've heard nothing but positive things about our trip. The students loved it, and your team did an amazing job!! - Aaron Gruwell (Van Allen Elementary 3rd grade teacher)



Frances instructs the City High AP Env. Science class in the basics of foraging before a day of harvest and preparation.



2nd graders with Kirkwood Elementary examine under logs for insect life.

FY2023 Public Programming

Total people served through public programming in FY2023: **3,361** (-5% from FY2022)

Total public programs led by naturalists in FY2023: **120** (+0% from FY2022)

The education team aims to provide a diverse array of public programs that meet the needs and interests of a diverse populace. The public programs in FY23 can be categorized as follows:

Outdoor Adventure and Wilderness Education Programming

The naturalists led 14 hikes on JCC properties, a compass orienteering course, a shelter and fire building program, a weekend bikepacking adventure in partnership with the Iowa City Bike Library, a beginner archery class, and the multi-day Idaho Wilderness Trek and Yellow River State Forest Trek.

Environmental Education/Citizen Science Programming

Many events are in depth natural science programs. In FY23, the naturalists led a moth night, six live raptor programs in partnership with Raptology, two reptile programs, six Nature Buds programs for preschoolers, six Explorer programs for elementary kids, two monarch tagging events, two monarch monitoring events, six MAPS bird banding days, a winter tree ID class, and Insect Week, a week long celebration of insects with daily activities and culminating in a visit from the Iowa State University Insect Zoo.

Wildcrafting and Woodworking Programming

Wildcrafting programs are amid the most popular offerings and regularly fill to capacity and beyond. In FY23, the naturalists led two foraging programs, a paper making class, a paint making class, two classes on foraged clay pottery, an intensive 3-week woodworking course, two classes on making maple syrup, one woodworking for wildlife program, two classes on mushroom cultivation, one basket-weaving class, and one chlorophyll printing class.

Hunting and Angling Programming

Marci Trana led the programming themed on hunting and fishing and led four fishing programs, two Field to Fork programs in partnership with the Iowa DNR, and one class on cooking wild meats in partnership with Corridor Outdoors and the Iowa DNR.

Festivals and Workshops

The naturalists are asked to attend numerous festivals in the area. In FY23, the naturalists participated in six local community festivals, one Women in Science conference, and provided eight classes for the Becoming an Outdoor Woman workshop in partnership with the Iowa DNR.

Public Program Photos for FY2022



Participants trek across the ice on Kent Park Lake for a Beginner Ice Fishing program.



A volunteer with Raptology presents with their turkey vulture to a full house at the CEC.



A family poses with the yeti; 70 people found the yeti at each of the hiding places this year.



350 people came out to enjoy the Luminary Night Hike on a single-digit night.

“We had a wonderful snowshoe hike today- a flock of trumpeter swans flew overhead, and we watched two eagles flying over the river. Thank you for encouraging us to try out a new place to hike in Johnson County with the Yeti hunt!!” - Dan and Yukiko Hill



Participants haul harvested willow for a basket weaving class Frances led at Cedar River Crossing.



Racers gather at the start for the Great Iowa River Race.



Hikers admired thousands of rose mallow at peak bloom at Cedar River Crossing.



Women participating in the Women's Woodworking Confidence Course learn about the sawmill at Cangleska Wakan.



Volunteers who attended the Full Moon Seed Harvest gather to watch the moon rise above the prairie.



Volunteers who attended the Sunset Seed Harvest were treated to a magnificent sunset over Knight Prairie!

Programming throughout the County

We strive to offer public programs and field trips 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 FY2023 (not including non-JCC properties):

- Kent Park – 135
- Cangleska Wakan – 26
- Two Horse Farm – 10
- Cedar River Crossing – 10
- Pechman Creek Delta – 3
- Williams Prairie - 3
- Phebe Timber – 2
- Hills Campground & Access - 2
- Iowa River Water Trail - 1
- Ciha Fen Preserve - 1

Photos of Programs Held at Various JCC Properties



"Thank you for setting up this yeti hunt, we enjoyed learning about parks in our county and hunting for and finding the yeti. Looking forward to the next 3 clues"

The Yeti Hunt drew nearly 100 people to independently explore Cihra Fen, including this couple.



Marci led a class called Cooking Wild Meats at Two Horse Farm.



A field trip group enjoyed exploring the forests of Cangleska Wakan for the day.



These 5th graders are some of the 300 kids that explored Cangleska Wakan as part of the Writing on the Environment field trip series.



Kristen leads a public hike at Cedar River Crossing.



Hikers enjoying sunset during a Prairie Night Hike at Valley View Prairie in Kent Park.



Participants during a spring migration hike check out birds in the distance at Cedar River Crossing.



Frances led a hike at Two Horse Farm for a group of over 50 senior citizens with the University of Iowa Retirees Association.



The Williams family pose next to the new Phebe Timber sign during a Mother's Day hike that drew 30 participants.



Attendees at the Becoming a Better Birder Workshop observe eagles at Hills Campground.



Kristen led a Prairie Seed Harvest event at Williams Prairie.



Frances led another season of the Integrated Monarch Monitoring Program at Cedar River Crossing.

Adventure Programming: Idaho Wilderness Trek

In July 2022, all three JCC naturalists led the 4th Idaho Wilderness Trek for Johnson County, an introductory backpacking and conservation trek. Ten local high school students were on the trip, representing City High, West High, Liberty High, Solon High, and West Branch High Schools.



Adventure Programming: Yellow River State Forest Trip

In August 2022, Frances Owen and Kristen Morrow co-led a 3-day trip to the Yellow River State Forest in northeast Iowa. This trip was led in partnership with United Action for Youth and the Neighborhood Centers of Johnson County. Twelve local high school students came on the trip, and nearly all were both camping and backpacking for the first time in their lives.



Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Initiatives

In FY23, the JCC environmental education crew continued to prioritize equity-focused programming. This means allocating more time to school groups and organizations that serve primarily under-recognized people in nature programming. In the past year, we especially focused on groups that serve non-white, LGBTQ+, and low-income individuals.

To prioritize these individuals with school groups, we worked with the Iowa City Community School district to recruit the nine lowest-income schools in the district into the Writing on the Environment field trip program. These schools also serve a majority non-white student population. Dates were reserved at the start of the year to make sure each school could have a field trip date before the spring calendar filled to capacity.

We also worked to find donors to establish JCC's first Bus Scholarship. Though our field trips are free, covering the transportation costs to get students to a JCC property can be a limiting factor for low-income schools. In the spring of 2023, we provided our first bus scholarship to Kirkwood Elementary, making it possible for their 2nd grade class to attend an all-day field trip to Kent Park.

Partnering with organizations is a vital step in reaching under-recognized members of the community with nature programming. In FY23, we have continued to prioritize programming time to organizations that serve non-white, LGBTQ+, and low-income people. We grew the number of programs we provide for organizations by 35.5% from FY22, providing 49 programs in all. The main organizations we worked with in FY23 include United Action for Youth, the Neighborhood Centers of Johnson County, Miriam Girl's Club, Queer Hikers of Iowa, and Big Brothers Big Sisters.

At the start of 2023, we launched a new partnership with the Neighborhood Centers of Johnson County (NCJC), called Nature Buds with NCJC. The student population at these centers is nearly 100% non-white. In this ongoing program, JCC naturalists provide free monthly nature programs to four preschool classes in two NCJC centers in Iowa City, serving 64 kids per month. These kids will receive monthly programming for two full years before entering kindergarten. The goal of this program is to help connect kids with nature by reaching them at young ages and providing continuous exposure. At the end of the year, the kids attend a cap-stone field trip to Kent Park.

The JCC Education crew also prioritized our partnership with United Action for Youth (UAY). In FY23, we provided 25 programs for UAY's SPARK program, a program targeted to middle and high school students who are students of color, LGBTQ+, or low income, and designed to spark interests in new hobbies and career interests through immersive exposure. We also provided two programs for UAY's Transitional Living Program, a program that serves teens experiencing homelessness. Of these programs, we co-hosted a free 3-day beginner backpacking trip for high school students to the Yellow River State Forest in northeast Iowa. Thanks to this trip, we were able to recruit one attendee to participate in the 10-day Idaho Wilderness Trek as a next step, and we were able to provide a full scholarship to that student to attend the trip.

Equity Initiative Program Photos: Nature Buds with NCJC



AmeriCorps Naturalist Liz McVey introduces a class of 3-year-olds to the milk snake, Lucy.



Some girls in the 4-year-old classroom meet a snake for their first time.



A student observes a worm during "Worm Lab!"



Students search for and practice identifying animal tracks hidden in their classroom.



Girls in the 4-year-old class blow seeds during their field trip to Kent Park.



Students in the 3-year-old class discovered parts of a deer skull while exploring the prairie.

Equity Initiative Program Photos: United Action for Youth SPARK Program



Participants in the 3-day Yellow River Backpacking Trip pause for a rest after climbing a big hill.



Participants in the 3-day Yellow River Backpacking Trip pause for a rest after climbing a big hill.



A participant during a fishing camp poses with his catch.



These teens got to meet turtles and snakes for the first time when they visited the CEC with the SPARK program.



A participant of UAY's Transitional Living Program went from petrified to confident during her first time kayaking.



A participant in a kayak camp holds a painted turtle found swimming under the kayaks at Kent Park Lake.

Equity Initiative Program Photos: Misc Partnerships



The Miriam Girls Club spent two days practicing archery with JCC naturalists in FY23. Due to cold temperatures, we partnered with Fin and Feather to provide a warm indoor space for the program.



The Coralville Library Teen Club came out for numerous programs in FY23, including a kayaking program on Kent Park Lake.



UAY's SPARK program came out to a JCC Ice Fishing Event in January of 2023.



Kristen and Marci led a group from the West Branch Dream Catchers in a day of kayaking and fishing.

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, updating and improving the displays in the Conservation Education Center, and providing safe and engaging outdoor activities that families can enjoy. The following lists the newly formed materials and offerings for the FY2023.

- **New animal enclosure stand in CEC:** Frances led the education crew in the construction of a new custom-built stand to house the animal tanks in the CEC. The stand is built from Cangleska Wakan wood and has a larger footprint than the previous stand, making animal care easier to facilitate. The stand also houses 40-gallon tanks, double the previous size to improve the quality of life for the education animals. This was a large project that took nearly three months to complete with multiple naturalists working on it each day.
- **New curriculum to fit new two-hour lesson format:** new lesson plans and resources were developed for Tree-tectives (a tree ID and nature art program), Soil Science Lab (an investigative soil science class), Foraging for Beginners (a hands-on foraging class for ages down to second grade).
- **Woodworking Confidence Course for Women:** Frances created and led this course, designed to help women gain skills in woodworking. The course was held at the Cangleska Wakan woodshop.
- **Films featuring land donors/past owners:** Frances and Marci worked with Fourth Wall Films to create filmed interviews with the Melloy family at Two Horse Farm, John Reilly at Malinda Reif Reilly Fen and Prairie, and the Williams family at Phebe Timber.
- **Launched UAY-JCC Yellow River Backpacking Trip:** Frances and Kristen co-led 12 teens on a 3-day trip to the Yellow River State Forest, with the goal of making this an annual event.
- **Created Nature Buds with NCJC curriculum:** Kristen launched a monthly nature program with the Neighborhood Centers of Johnson County and created monthly lesson plans and resources.



Construction of the new animal enclosures was a huge project in FY23, taking over two months to complete. Frances led the project, from the design and construction schematics to the processing of raw Cangleska Wakan lumber, and to the assembly and finishing touches. Frances also led the other naturalists in the process, teaching them new woodworking skills. The new enclosure provides larger living spaces for all of the animals and is more functional for the naturalists to provide care and routine maintenance.

Volunteer Programs

By the numbers: **908 hours of service** completed by **75 people**

Project/Task List

- Seed harvests
- Education animal care
- MAPS bird banding program
- Fishing pole repairs
- Bluebird box monitoring and maintenance
- Filling bird feeders at F. W. Kent Park
- CEC host
- Raptor programs
- Great Iowa River Race
- Data collection for the Integrated Monarch Monitoring Program
- Monarch tagging
- Cangleska Wakan trail stewardship
- Special projects: craft prep, bookshelf construction, butterfly raising sleeves.

JCC Volunteer Photos from FY2022



A mom and son pair helps at the Sunset Seed Harvest.



Volunteer Jason Bies constructed the bookshelf for the CEC nature reading nook.



Long-time volunteer Lois Albrecht harvests seed during a volunteer event at Knight Prairie.



Frances teaches a volunteer how to tag a monarch butterfly.



Volunteer Bird Bander Mark Bowman shows off a sharp-shinned hawk to a field trip group.



Volunteers work to tag monarch butterflies at Cedar River Crossing.



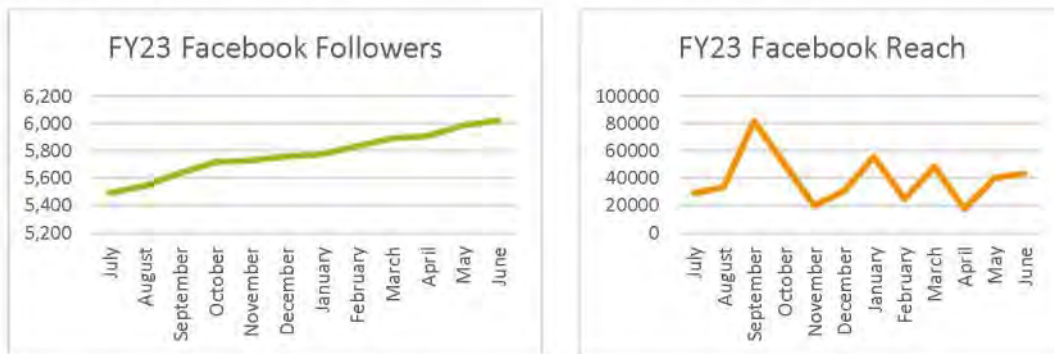
Volunteer Ben Rowold compiles data along the Bluebird Trail.

Environmental Education

Marketing Report

Facebook

Followers grew from 5,490 to 6,023 with an increase of 533 (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 FY23 was up by 63.8% when compared to end FY22 (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). The posts with highest reach also had the highest post engagement. Facebook engagement is measured as any action someone takes on a post. These can be reactions (including likes), comments and shares, but it can also include saves, viewing a video or clicking on a link.



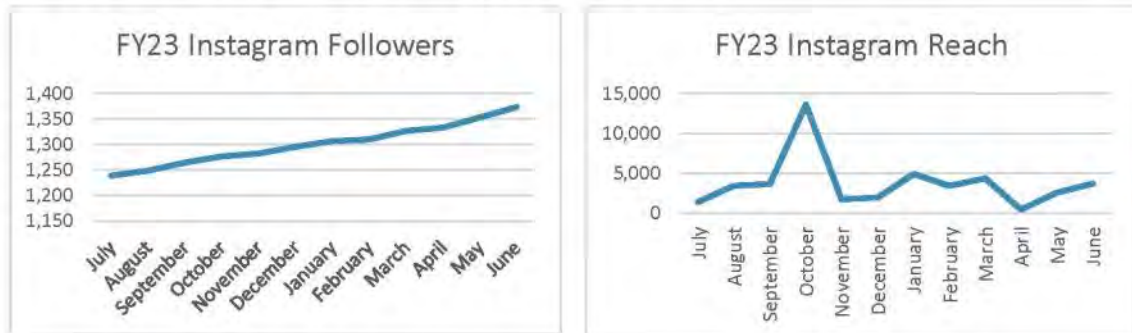
Figures 11 (left) and 12 (right). Facebook trends over FY23 in likes, followers, and page reach.



Figure 13. Facebook content associated with peak reach (10K+) dates in FY23. Arranged from greatest to lowest people reached.

Instagram

Followers grew from **1,239** to **1,373** with an increase of **134** (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 FY23 was up by 328.7% when compared to end FY22 (Figure 15). Spikes in reach are often tied to popular content being added to our feed on or around the date of the spike (Figure16).



Figures 14 (left) and 15 (right). Instagram trends over FY23 in followers and profile reach.

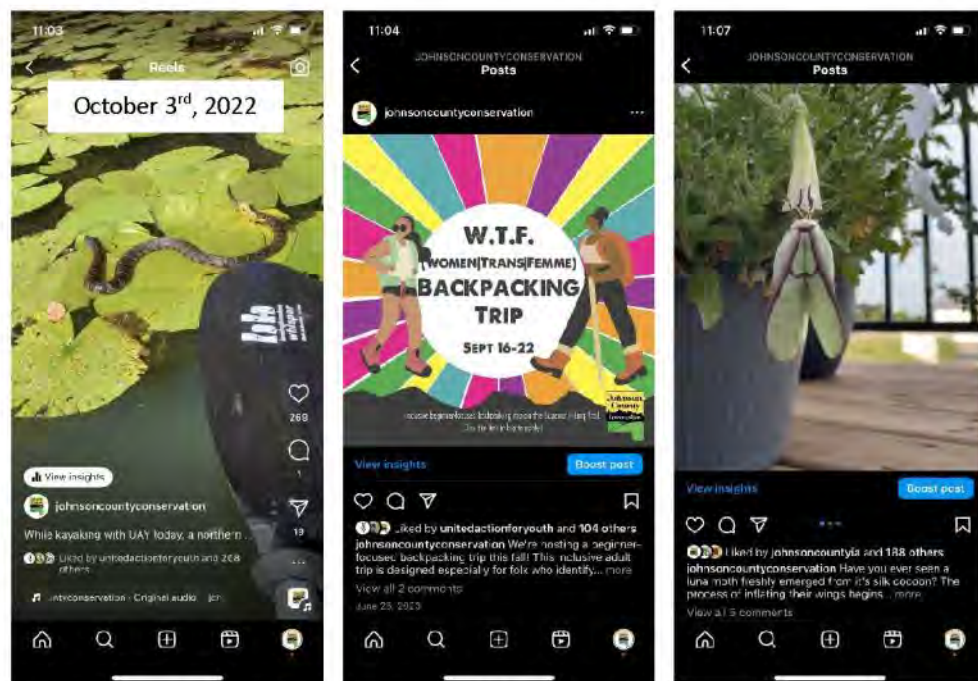


Figure 16. Instagram content associated with peak reach (800+) dates in FY23.

Twitter

Followers decreased overall from 525 to 513, with a total drop of 12 (Figure 17). When a person follows our account, our posts appear in their news feed. The drop in Twitter followers directly follows the acquisition of Twitter and subsequent rebranding to “X.” Users are leaving the platform for other options. Our top tweet had 3 likes and 2 retweets and was viewed 551 times (Figure 18).

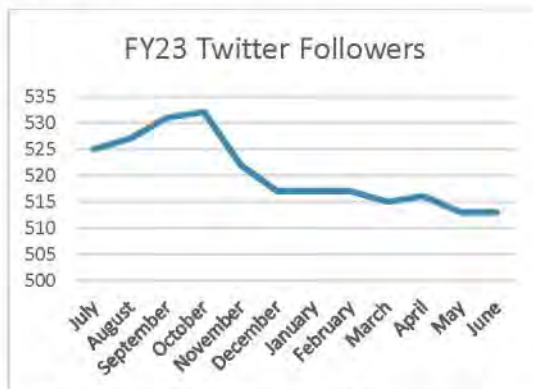


Figure 17. Twitter followers over FY23.



Figure 18. Top Tweet of FY23.

TikTok

Our account followers increased gradually over FY23, beginning with **22** and ending with **27** followers. Profile likes increased from **131** in July to **144** by June (Figure 19). Our most popular video was viewed **300** times and received **6** likes (Figure 20).

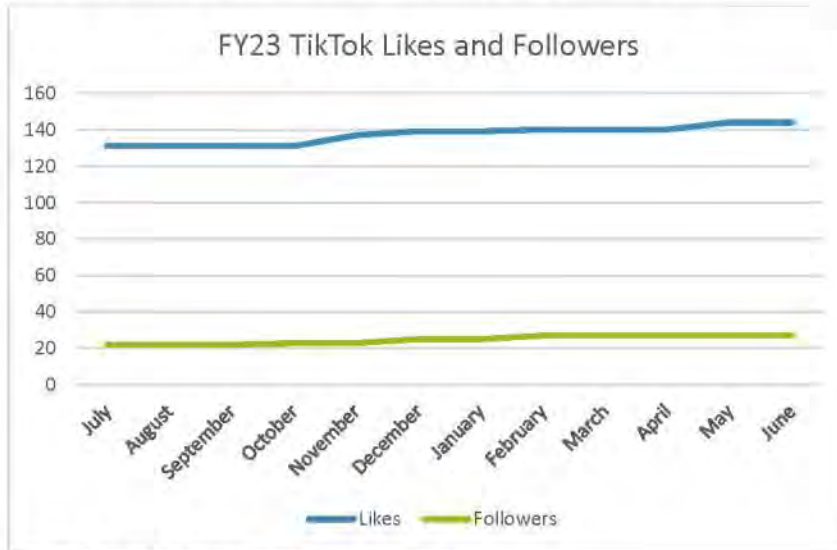


Figure 19. TikTok likes and followers over FY23.



Figure 20. Top TikTok post of FY23

YouTube

Subscribers increased from **6** to **9** and views increased significantly from **136** to **291** during FY23 (Figure 21). Our most popular video was viewed **60** times (Figure 22).

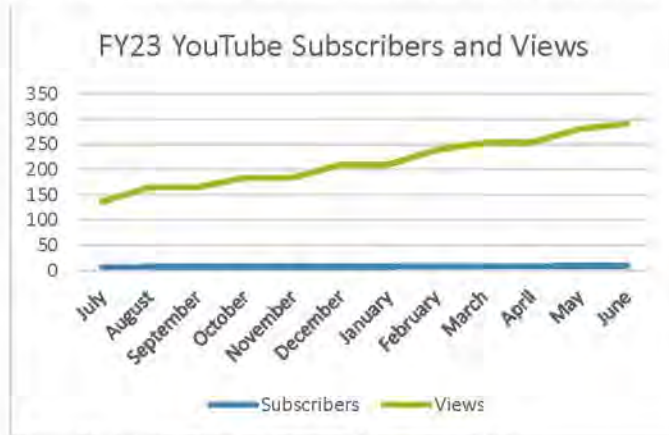


Figure 21. YouTube Subscribers and Views over FY23.

LinkedIn

Our account followers increased from **33** to **44** by the end of FY23 (Figure 23). Despite very little activity, this platform has continued to slowly grow.

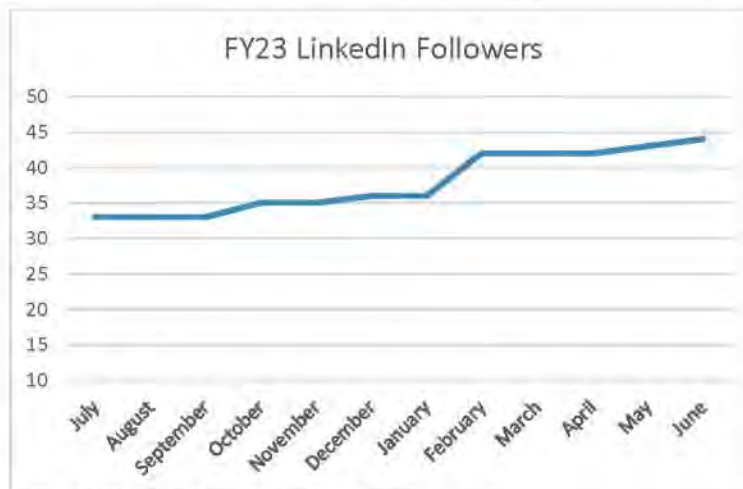


Figure 23. LinkedIn followers during FY23.

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). Searching for Cricket the Elf is an example of this type of program/event. So far we have published 36 articles (4 new for FY 23). The series of articles on “how to explore” a given area tend to be the most popular articles, and the collected Guides of JCC Properties are the highest read with a total of 3,829 since it was published May 7th 2020 (Figure 26). Our viewership has grown with a peak of monthly viewership in January 2023 of 2,160 views versus the largest monthly viewership in FY 22 of 472 in October of 2022.



Figure 25. Nature Notes Blog Views and Visitors for FY23.

JCC Newsletter Content and Marketing

We create and publish four newsletters each year. Subscribers of the newsletter started at 252 and increased to 333 in FY23.



Linktree Connection Account

Linktree accounts serve as an index for connecting all the JCC social media pages together. It serves Instagram users most due to the fact that you cannot place links within Instagram posts (Figure 27). The lifetime analytics for the Linktree are 845 (+128 from FY22) views and 799 (+177 from FY22) 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 2023 Visitor Use Report

Compiled by Ranger Charles Bray and Ranger Aaron Ohlsen

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 Highway 22 in the very Southeast part of the county.

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

Camping permits issued- 2,521

Number of nights sold- 6,618

Number of campers- 6,539

Avg. nights stayed- 2.2

Camper nights generated- 14,386

Based off the number of nights sold, overall camping use decreased 10.8% when compared to 2022.



Kent Park 1983

Kent Park Camping

F.W. Kent Park Campground opened on April 14 and closed on November 26 in 2023. 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- 1,915

Number of nights sold- 5,052

Number of campers- 4,985

Avg. nights stayed- 2.49

Camper nights generated- 12,413

Based off the number of nights sold, camping use decreased at Kent Park 14% when compared to 2022. This is most likely due to the absence of a shower house for camper use.



F.W. Kent Park Campground 1978

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 open year-round in 2023.

Attendance:

Camping permits issued- 513

Electric nights sold- 1,185

Non-electric nights sold- 217

Number of campers- 1,300

Avg. nights stayed- 2.55

Camper nights generated- 3315

Based off the number of nights sold, camping use decreased 1.8% when compared to 2022.

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- 93

Non-electric nights sold- 164

Number of campers- 254

Avg. nights stayed- 1.63

Camper nights generated- 414

Based off the number of nights sold, use increased 29% when compared to 2022.



River Junction Access, taken by public. Nov 2022

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)- 45

Number of campers- 1,402

Days stayed (sold)- 112

Average days stayed- 2.5

Camper days generated- 3,505

Based off the number of days sold, use decreased 14% when compared to 2022.

Group Use by month:

Jan-3 Feb-3 Mar-4 Apr-3 May-6 Jun-6 Jul-2 Aug-6 Sep-4 Oct-2 Nov-4 Dec-2



Intern Noah Anderson mowing at Kent Park

Visitor Interaction

Full time Park Rangers are Certified Peace Officers through the state of Iowa. A focus of Park Ranger Staff is visitor assistance. Throughout the year Ranger Staff makes contacts with the public, performs public service duties, conducts education programs, 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. Examples of some law enforcement training are implicit bias, de-escalation, and annual emergency care provider training to maintain Peace Officer Certification. JCCB Rangers acquire well over the 12 hour minimum required annually.

Park Rangers also maintain certification through training and experience in Hunter Education, Commercial Pesticide Application, Wildfire and Fireline Safety, Outdoor Mentors, CPR and AED use, Fish Iowa, Iowater, and Commercial Driver License.

2023 Training:

- Visitor Protection and Employee Safety
- Use of drug Narcan, recognize when Narcan is needed
 - Carry Narcan when on duty
- Daytime 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 recertification
- Storm Spotter Training
- Vehicle Close Quarter Combat Training
- Sexual abuse, mental trauma recognition
- Part 107 unmanned aircraft operation
- Hunter Education Instructor
- Reunification Training with EMS and Iowa City School District

Much of the day-to-day contacts are recorded and documented through dispatch, body worn cameras, and Tac.10 software. The majority of contacts are not recorded and include providing information to park users.

Documented public interaction: Two full-time Rangers logged 85 calls for service through the Johnson County Dispatch Center.

- 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 2023
- 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
- Medical assistance
- Traffic stops
- Crisis center referrals
- Noise complaints
- Violation no contact orders
- Trespass warnings issued
- Motorist assists
- Assist other agency



Rangers at training. Demonstrating how to approach an occupied vehicle when occupants are unresponsive to ensure safety and any nearby subjects.

2023 Traffic/Trail Counter Summary

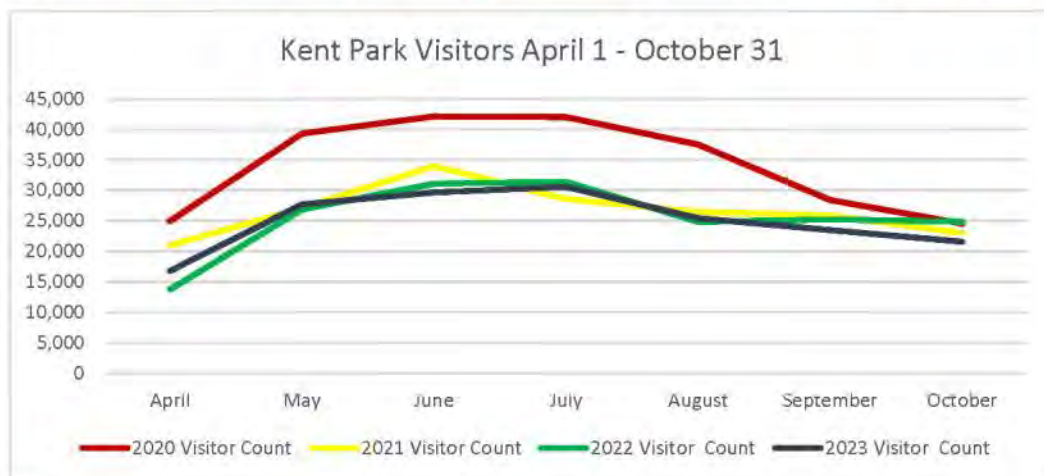
During the 2020 season a new traffic and trail data collection method was implemented. Data is now collected by the TRAFx counters. TRAFx counters are used all over the world, but more importantly they are used by other agencies in our area and are now the standard method of collection in parks. We are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

Kent Park:

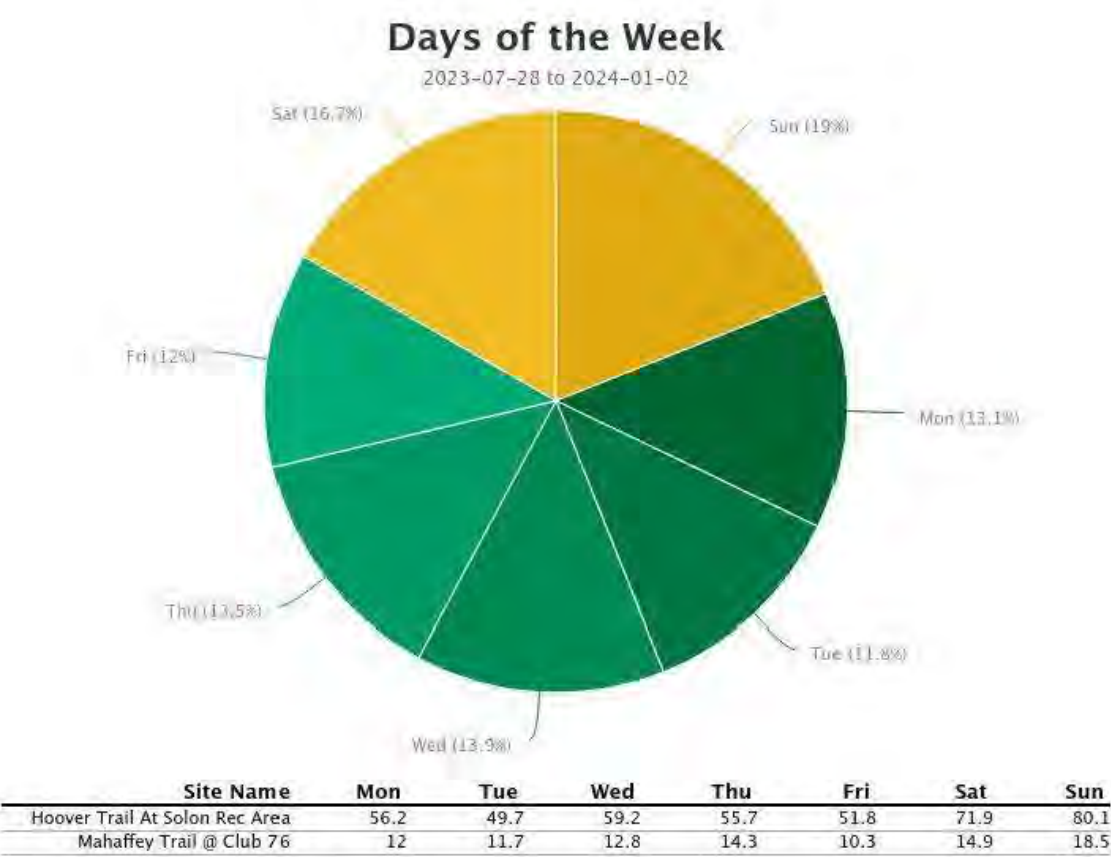
The 2023 season showed a 1.6% percent decrease when compared to the 2022 season. Despite this decrease, the graph below still shows 2022 as the fourth highest visitor number collected in Kent Parks history. This is presumably due to the lake being at full pool, and a lack of rainy/bad weather days throughout the busy season.

The graph below shows visitor count data at Kent Park from 2020 to 2023. A slight decrease in the visitor count has been observed in 2023 when compared to the 2022 season.

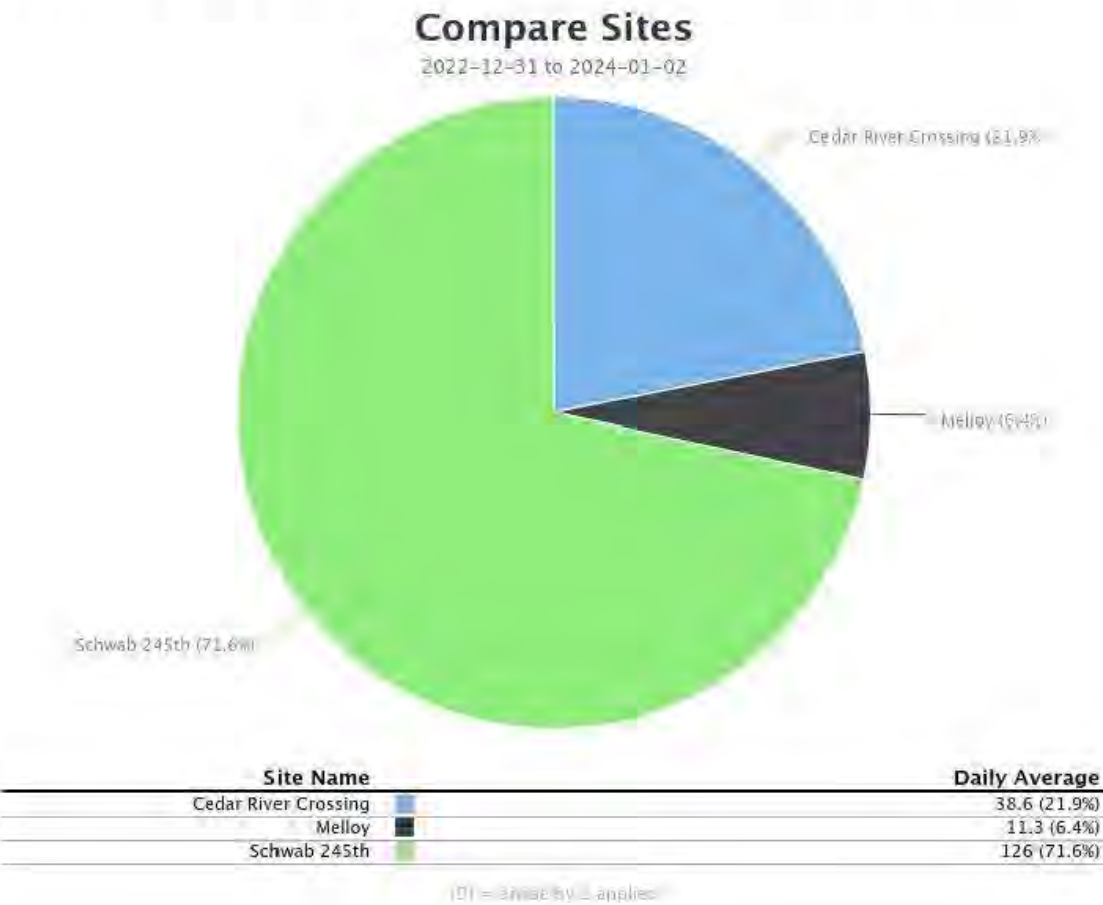
Month	2020 Vehicle Count	2020 Visitor Count	2021 Vehicle Count	2021 Visitor Count	2022 Vehicle Count	2022 Visitor Count	2023 Vehicle Count	2023 Visitor Count
April	9,993.20	24,983	8,383.20	20,958	5,500.40	13,751	6,712.40	16,781
May	15,723.20	39,308	10,845.60	27,114	10,742.80	26,857	11,080.80	27,702
June	16,849.20	42,123	13,587.60	33,969	12,439.20	31,098	11,858.80	29,647
July	16,803.60	42,009	11,425.60	28,564	12,558.40	31,396	12,232.00	30,580
August	15,005.20	37,513	10,584.80	26,462	9,934	24,835	10,175	25,437
September	11,368	28,420	10,359.60	25,899	10,090.80	25,227	9,386.00	23,465
October	9,822	24,555	9,207.20	23,018	9,954.80	24,887	8,630.80	21,577
Totals	95,564.40	238,911	74,393.60	185,984	71,220.40	178,051	70,075.60	175,189



Mahaffey Trail by Club 76 and Trail Head at Solon Recreation Area: In 2023 a TRAFx trail counter was in place at both areas. The pie graph below shows the average percentage 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 both stretches of trail.



Cangleska Wakan on 245th St, Two Horse Farm (near the public parking lot), Cedar River Crossing (near the restroom); Traffic data was collected at these areas during 2023. Please note that the counter at Cangleska Wakan also counts all vehicles on the park road that enter and leave the Woodland Home Owners Association. The pie graph shows a percentage comparison of the three areas and below the graph is average total of vehicles counted per day at each area.



2022-23 F. W. Kent Park (Zone 26) Archery Hunt

The 2022-23 F. W. Kent Park Archery Hunt (Zone 26) opened on October 1, 2022 and closed on January 10, 2023. There were thirty slots available to participating hunters this year. The slots were offered on a first come first served basis. Eighteen slots were filled at the orientation. According to our records, two of the eighteen 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. Two incentive (any-deer) tags for next year's hunt were available to the first two hunters to harvest three female deer. One hunter succeeded in harvesting at least three female deer, the incentive tag will be available to that hunter at the beginning of the 2023-24 hunt.

There were two hunters that earned incentive, any-deer tags, during the 2021-22 hunt, they began the 2022-23 season with incentive tags, and one of those two hunters were successful in harvesting a mature buck (pictured below).



Mitch Wood Buck

Break Down of 2022-23 harvest:

Adult Does-5

Fawn Does-1

Fawn Bucks-3

Adult Bucks-1

Total Harvest-10

(33% decrease from 2021-22 harvest)

Johnson County Conservation Board

2023 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 25. Events and Activities Requiring Special Use Permits:

It shall be unlawful to engage in any activity listed below on any area except by contract or special use permit issued by the Director or authorized representative.

1. 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.
2. General public events or activities that require closing part of a public area to public use.
3. Any event or activity that may interfere with traffic flow or impede the use of an area by the public.
4. Any event or activities that require the uses of an area that would not typically be allowed pursuant to the Johnson County Conservation Board 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)

- #2023-1 Richard Lutz to access JCCB areas with personal vehicle
- #2023-2 Aaron Basten to access JCCB areas with personal vehicle
- #2023-03 Scott Shaw to collect dust for analysis from the area in and around Kent Park Lake.
- #2023-04 UI ROTC To conduct Ground Navigation Training at Kent Park.
- #2023-05 Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation for Collection of acoustical data for bat research At Cedar River Crossing
- #2023-06 IA DNR to survey herps by sound at Kent Park
- #2023-07 Todd Hubbard with the University of Iowa to sample and collect invertebrates for study purposes at Chia Fen and Pechman Creek Delta
- #2023-08 Johnson County Conservation for the Great Iowa River Race (Canoe, Kayak and SUP race on the Iowa River)
- #2023-09 Noah Anderson at Chia Fen, Cedar River Crossing, Rief – Riley, Two Horse Farm Areas for the purpose of picking berries, nuts, and mushrooms.
- #2023-10 Core4 Cycling event on Johnson County Hoover Trail sections
- #2023-11 04 UI ROTC To conduct Ground Navigation Training at Kent Park.
- #2023-12 Abby Ryon to collect Insects by pan/trap for Entomology Class at University of Iowa at Solon and Williams Prairie
- #2023-13 Nordic Ski Club to groom cross country ski trails using a snowmobile and pull behind groomer at Kent Park.

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 boat use
- 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 use in 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 bleeding 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 9 locations
- Perform monthly playground safety inspections



Ranger Charlie Bray installing a boundary sign at Phebe Timber.

Restore

- Fish surveys and stocking in Kent Park water bodies
- Maintain 19 Wood Duck boxes at Kent Park
- Maintain fish habitat structures in Kent Park Lake, and new catch basins
- Maintain and document usage of Wood duck nest structures on JCCB areas
- Maintain deer herd through management program at Kent Park and surrounding areas

Connect

- Connected 84 youth to the outdoors by hosting 6 youth turkey hunts, 4 fishing events, and one ice fishing event.
- Instructed deer and turkey hunting courses through the IA DNR programs Field to Fork and Becoming an Outdoor Woman, which connected 12 adults to the outdoors
- 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 trails at Kent Park

F.W. Kent Park Lake in 1978



Water Quality

- Collect monthly water samples from all JCCB public water sources to ensure safe drinking water
- Trained Natural Resource staff to perform beach water sampling
- Maintain and promote the Kent Park Lake Restoration project
- Provide input for wetland mitigation projects on JBBB areas
- Close and clean the Kent Park Beach nightly during summer months
- Implement program to safely remove Canada geese from Kent Park Lake
- Enforce rules and regulations that protect and promote water quality.

Partnerships

- Nordic Ski Club to groom several miles of cross-country ski trails at Kent Park
- Workplace Learning Center for employee recruitment
- Pass it on! Outdoor Mentors to get mentor youth in hunting and fishing events
- IA DNR Field to Fork and Becoming an Outdoor Woman Program to introduce adults to turkey and deer hunting
- Kirkwood Community College for employee recruitment
- Greencastle Airport and Iowa Performance Lab for aerial deer population survey
- 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

Sustainability

- Constant monitoring of the deer population in the Kent Park management zone
- Continue to offer quality outdoor recreation opportunities in a safe setting
- Use public funds in a wise and fiscally prudent manner
- Ensure public drinking water sources are above state standards

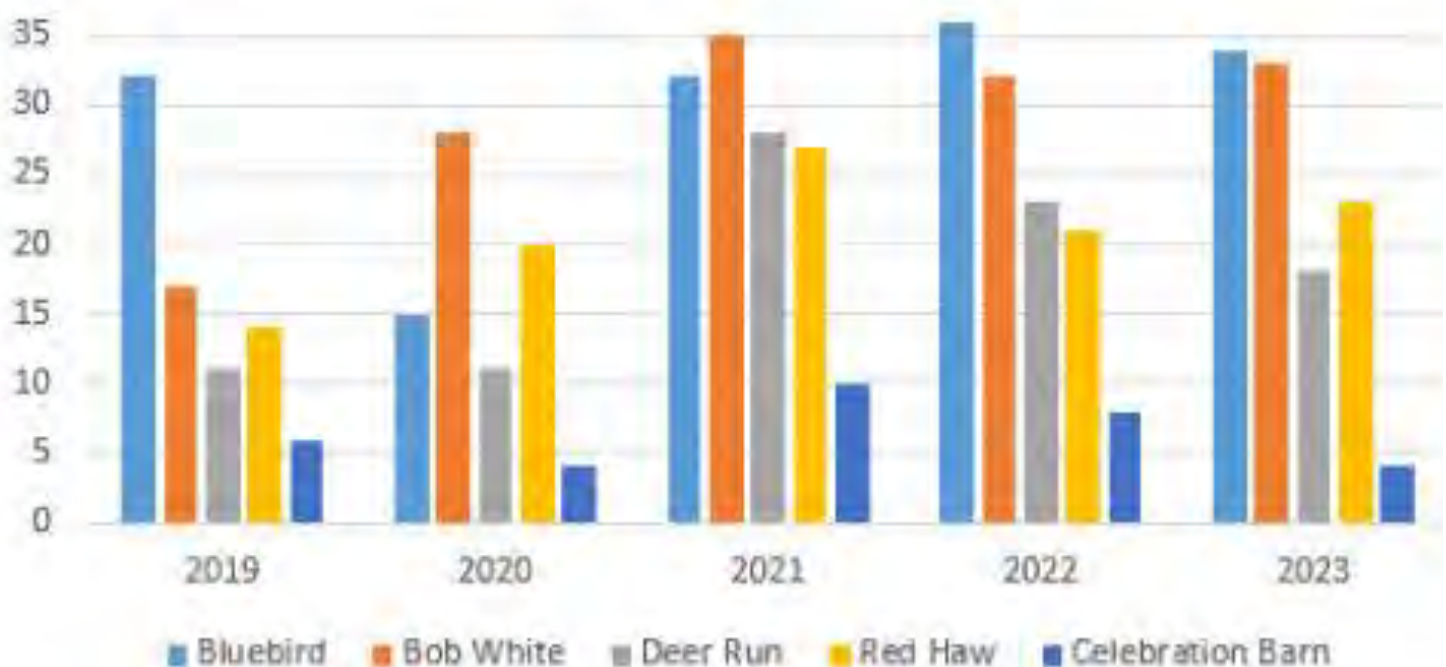


Helicopter used for counting deer in F.W. Kent Park provided by Iowa Performance Lab.

Facility Reservation Summary Annual Shelter Report 2023

	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	Total
Blue Bird	1	3	8	7	7	6	2	34
Bob White	0	3	9	6	6	6	3	33
Deer Run	1	5	6	1	2	3	0	18
Red Haw	0	4	7	3	5	3	1	23
Celebration Barn	0	1	0	2	0	0	1	4

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Bluebird	32	15	32	36	34
Bob White	17	28	35	32	33
Deer Run	11	11	28	23	18
Red Haw	14	20	27	21	23
Celebration Barn	6	4	10	8	4
Total	80	78	132	120	112



JCCB Volunteer Program Information – FY 2023

Individual Names			Projects
Aaron Basten	Eric Miller	Lori Dawson	Bird Banding/MAPS Research
A.J. McBride	Eric Thomas	Loulwa Sowied	Bluebird Monitoring
Aditya Deshpande	Everly Eldeen	Mari Wharff	Botanical Inventory
Alice Atkinson	Gene Zdrazil	Mark Bowman	CEC Host
Andrew Miller	Griffin Noiseux	Mary McMurray	Filling Bird Feeders
Arlen Breischolz	Hayes Noiseux	MaryAnn Reynolds	Integrated Monarch Monitoring Prog
Ben Rowold	Hillary Schofield	Mike Theobold	Monarch Tagging
Benjamin Elwood	Janice Allen	Morgan Anderson	Rain Poncho Creation
Beth Cullen	Jen Belyew	Neil Bernstein	Raptology Program
Bill Pusateri	Jenny Hollis Miler	Nikkita Bailey	Salvage Inventory
Bill Waldie	JJ Hollis Miller	Pat Ryan	Seed Harvest
Bonnie Winslow-Garvin	JJ Miller	Penny Podhajsky	Skull and Skin Prep Research
Carolyn Buckingham	Joan Schnabel	Phyllis Black	Trail Stewarding
Chase Talbert	Jodie Theobald	Rob Bradley	
Chelsea Cozad	Kathryn Prediger	Ruby Sanchez	
Chris Olney	Kathy Martensen	Ruth Watchel	
Colette Broderson	Kelly Kisner	Sandy Mueller	
Connie Alderidge	Ken Atkinson	Sara Pitcher	
Connie Mutel	Kobie Long	Stephan Jan	
Craig Gibson	Laura Noiseux	Susan Nehring	
Dave Gallaher	Lisa Green-Douglass	Suzanne Micheau	
Debbie Bryant	Lisa Leech	Tom McMurray	
Dianne Funk	Lisa Wilson	Van Martensen	
Dick Lutz	Lois Albrecht		

Thank You Volunteers!

JCCB Volunteer Hours per Project

Project	Hours
Bird Banding/MAPS Research	435
Bluebird Monitoring	53
Botanical Inventory	825
CEC Host	124
Filling Bird Feeders	24
Integrated Monarch Monitoring Program	31
Monarch Tagging	16
Rain Poncho Creation	30
Raptology Program	13
Salvage Inventory	12
Seed Harvest	95
Skull and Skin Prep Research	10
Trail Stewarding	17
Total Hours	1,685

Natural Resources Program Report

2023 Fiscal Year

Compiled by David D. Wehde, Natural Resources Manager



Lifts were used to remove tin and other debris from trees after the tornado did significant damage to Kent Park.



Staff clearing and chipping trees damaged from the tornado in May 2023.

F.W. Kent Park

Ordered and installed new Memorial-Honorary Trees and installed plaques on new trees and deteriorating posts and plaques.

Mulched, staked, and installed protective tubes on the trees throughout landscaped areas.

Watered Memorial/Honorary Trees and other transplants.

Updated Memorial-Honorary Tree records.

Sprayed around Memorial/Honorary Trees and transplants and pruned.

Installed and maintained firebreaks.

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

Pruning and brush removal roadsides and firebreak/trail system.

Moved logs to public firewood cutting area.

Treated stumps.

Mowed invasive brush and cut and treated invasive brush (19.8 acres).

Updated forestry plans F.W. Kent Park.

Cut up logs for firewood processing.

Stump grind unwanted stumps.

Site preparation for prairie and sprayed black locust.

Hand collected, dried and labeled 54.6 lbs. of prairie forb, grass, and wetland seed with an estimated value of \$ 12,546.18.

Site preparation prairie reconstruction.

Purchased prairie seed for restoration projects.

Developed seeding plans and prairie seed maps.

Assist with Volunteer Prairie Seed Collection Public Event.

Prairie seeding prep. Meyer Prairie Tract RCG.

Mowed the Meyer Prairie Tract Seeding.

Composed and conducted the 2023 Prescribed Burn Plan on 343.5 acres.

Updated Valley View Prairie Plant Inventory.

Maintained the Post prescribed burn maps and records and submitted to IDNR.

Mowed prairie and wetland seedings.

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

Ordered wetland seed.

Updated Clear Creek Trail Wetland mitigation records and prepared for upcoming data collection.

Maintained all Natural Resource equipment including chainsaws and other specialized equipment.

Interviewed and hired seasonal staff.

Coordinated the STEMS program and trained the externs.

Full-time and seasonal staff training on plant identification.

Revised the F.W. Kent Park Water Testing Procedure.

Aquatic vegetation survey of the lake reefs.

Coordinated the Water Quality Testing program and maintained the data base for 31 test sites in the park.

Entered the Wetland Mitigations Well Data.

Conducted E. coli sampling F.W. Kent Park Watershed.

Completed applications for on-line reporting with the State Hygienic lab—Stem Externs and staff.

Delivered water samples to the U of I State Hygienic Lab.

Write and conduct work reviews.

Completed State Habitat Survey 2022-2023—(Received Second Place Statewide Award)

Removed hazard trees lake trail.

Burned brush piles.

Completed IT computer safety course.

Safety training.

Mulched trails and parking lot islands.

Completed Annual Report Natural Resources Management Crew FY 2022.

Completed pesticide applicator recertification.

Training Natural Resource Management crew and seasonal staff.

ARC/GSI Training.

Attended diversity training and hearing tests.

Update MSDS sheets pesticides and maintained records of applications.

Completed RT-130 Annual Refresher Prescribed Fire Crew and NWCG Online training L-180/S-130/S-190.

Completed the Ornate Box Turtle Report.

NWS Storm Spotter Recertification.

Mowed invasive brush (55.5 acres).



A forestry brush mulcher is used to manage honeysuckle and autumn olive from taking over and shading out the ground level herbaceous layer. Pictured above is the staff using the mulcher and below is a picture of the forest after the brush removal.



Pesticide usage request 2023 all parks and preserves.

Storm damage removal.

Organized and store forestry equipment.

Installed Chipper Box on Dump Truck.

Weed Bobwhite Hill prairie planting.

Invasive brush removal Hwy 6 prairie planting.

Repair trail tile Buffalo pasture.

Update information hand out Black Locust control for IDNR District Forester.

Construct ski trail map and installed the trails.

Attended Winterfest training.

Host a Chainsaw Safety Course.

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

Attended the Shade Tree Short Course in Ames.

Provided input to the F.W. Kent Park Campground and Shower House Project.

Attended Kirkwood Job Fair.

Completed ARCGIS Pro Course.

Updated all floristic inventory / Floristic Quality / Assessment for JCCB properties that currently have completed inventories / assessment, which includes updating the Conservation Coefficient numbers, names, acronyms, phenology, distribution, wetness rating and floristic index.

CDL renewal

Send one month notice to ITC for intent to conduct Prescribed burning Ciha Fen.

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

Take Wetland Monitoring Report to printer, pick up and mail out.

Submit CCTWM Report to ACOE

Submit CCTWM Report to IDNR.

File letter of completion CCTWM Report.

Order seed.

Order plants.

Install firebreaks.

Installed firebreaks at the Sutliff shop.

Removed debris from the parking lot.

Girl Scout Tree planting program.

Check in equipment.

Clear Creek Trail Wetland Data Collection and Tree count for Wetland Monitoring Report ACOE.

Removed woody plant Bio Cells Boat Ramp.

Meet with Mark Bowman Bird Banding Locations.

Boy Scouts Troop 250 Prairie Seed Collection Program.



Staff are fully certified in pesticide application and treat specimen ash trees to reduce mortality due to Emerald Ash Borer in high use recreation areas.



Above is a wild petunia growing in the prairie restoration below the dam at Kent Park which was part of the lake restoration effort. To the right is a staff member performing water quality testing near a catch basin in the watershed.



- Drug and Alcohol Identification Course for Supervisors
- Recertification. Conservation Board Tour Jim Walters Property.
- Training active shooter.
- Lift and Forklift training.
- Assist private landowner with Conifer Planting.
- Install new side boards Military Dump Truck Project.
- Attended CPR Class.
- Riverside Quarry safety training and certification.
- Mow and Treat Sandbar Willows around the new catch basins.

Invasive Species Control and Management

Conducted invasive species control on the following plant species.

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 and installed plackets.

Mulched and sprayed around trees.

Collected prairie seed.

Sprayed invasive species.

Installed and removed deer protective tubes on trees.

Pruned trees and planted a new memorial tree.

Mow Prairie Plantings (2 acres)

Remove EAB infected trees and treated specimen trees.



The forestry mulcher was also used at Frytown Conservation Area to remove invading honeysuckle. Below is a staff member beginning to remove a large ash tree that died at Scott Church Park from Emerald Ash Borer.

Walker Park

Maintenance of Memorial/Honorary Trees and installed plackets.

Mulch and sprayed around trees and pruned trees.

Installed and removed deer protective tubes on trees.

Cut and treated invasive brush.

Frytown Conservation Area

Updated Floristic Inventory of unit.

Trimmed out gate and pruned the trail system.

Mowed entrance.

Invasive species control.

Removed fallen trees on trails and fence lines.

Removed litter.

Mowed trails.



Cut up log on trail for removal.
Fecon Invasive Brush. (15 acres).
Repaired washouts.
Repaired fence line.
Clean up storm damage and salvaged logs for the sawmill.

Solon Prairie

Invasive species control.
Pruned trees along border.
Collected prairie seed.
Update Plant Inventory.
Mowed Prairie. (2.7 acres)

Hills Access

Maintenance on planted trees and Memorial/Honorary Trees.
Mulched and sprayed around trees.
Pruning of landscape area trees.
Installed and removed deer protective tubes on trees.
Cleaned up storm damaged trees.
Marked specimen Green Ash for treatment for EAB and removed infected trees.
Harvested Black Locust poles for use at Two Horse Farm.
Salvaged a 14'x 24" log to mill at Cangleska Wakan

River Junction

Mulched and sprayed around trees.
Pruning in landscape areas.
Installed and removed deer protective tubes on trees.

Cedar River Crossing Conservation Area

Installed 24 trees and shrubs.
Watered trees, shrubs and prairie plugs in the islands.
Water quality testing
Updated the seeding plan and map.
Prairie and Wetland seeding.
Mowed trail system.
Installed 1,032 Sweet grass plugs.
Planted and seeded Sweetgrass.
Installed two replacement trees.
Installed firebreaks and applied prescribed fire.
Updated Floristic Inventory of the unit.



Many ash trees are dying throughout the park and recreation areas. Here is one of many dying at the Hill's Access Campground. The tops die back first and the trees try to compensate for the loss of leaves by producing clusters of smaller branches further down the trunk.

Collected wetland seed.

Sprayed invasive Willows and Cottonwoods.

Installed and maintained bridges.

Sprayed invasive species and brush.

Checked and monitored the groundwater wells.

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

Equipment maintenance.

Pruning trail south unit.

Completed the Sutliff Shop prairie seeding of 2 acres.

Removed downed trees and limbs from storm damage.

Litter removal roadsides.

Mowed, cut and treat invasive brush.

Prescribed burning conducted 241.95 acres.

Completed an Activity Report for AES and ACOE Wetland Mitigation Bank.

Management Plan Maps for 2022 Wetland Monitoring Report for CRCWB.

Met with ACOE and AES Cedar River Crossing Wetland Mitigation Bank.

Mowed out tree plantings.

Removed hazard tree.

Removed debris from Wetland inlet tube.

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

Repaired fence lines.

Clean out around monument.

Harvest Rose Mallow seed.

Spread lime on the clock prairie.

Prescribed Burning 241.95 acres.

Cleaned out debris from culvert by Clark Savanna.

Tree count Wetland Bank Monitoring CRCWB.

Install 1,620 prairie plants in three parking lot islands.

Ash Tree Removal along fireline by Historic Bridge.

Calibrated the groundwater data loggers with RES.

Performed invasive species control throughout the area.



Virginia Bluebells in the savanna enhancement project at Cedar River Crossing. The area is a primary resting and stop-over area for waterfowl during the spring and fall migrations.



Clear Creek Area and Trail

Updated Floristic Inventory of unit.

Invasive species control.

Remove down trees from fenceline.

Feccon Brush removal 51.5 acres.

CIPCO Utility Access coordination and management.

Meet with landowner about fence line issue.

Meeting with ITC personnel too review damage to site during right of way access.

Williams Prairie State Preserve

Updated Floristic Inventory of the unit.

Invasive species control.

Trimmed and sprayed parking lot and barrier posts.

Harvested Prairie seed.

Updated prescribed burn plan.

Checked border signs.

Clean out fence line unwanted trees and repaired the fence.

Mow invasive brush and trees (5.2 acres)

North American Prairie Conference Field Trip Plan IDNR.

Documented Green orchids.

Ciha Fen Preserve

Compiled information and updated Floristic Inventory of the unit.

Invasive species control.

Removed dead and unwanted trees including along fence lines.

Repaired fenceline.

Report and update Prescribed Burn Plan ITC/UTC 2023.

Submit prescribed burn plan ITC – high line owner.

Brush removal under powerlines.

Mow invasive brush (22.5 acres)

Prescribed Burning 73.3 acres and completed the post burn report.

Paint barrier posts and installed lock and chain with reflectors on gate.

Work with Butterfly survey volunteer.

Worked with U of I Biologist regarding inventory work at Ciha Fen Preserve.

Pechman Creek Delta

Updated floristic inventory of Unit.

Control of invasive species.

Pruning.

Monitored groundwater wells and sent data to AES.

Removed fallen trees in the buffer.

Input water quality test data.

Mow prairie planting. (1 acre)

Pechman Creek Delta Wetland Bank / Streambank Feasibility Study.



A beautiful sunset at Ciha Fen after a long day of prescribed fire to help stimulate the native plant community. Below is a clumped floret of Marsh Marigold at Williams Prairie, which is designated as a State Preserve in Iowa.



Meet with RES Wetland, Streambank Restoration Plan.
Staffed the Pechman Creek Delta High School Volunteer Day.

Sutliff Access

Pruning of trees.

Hoover Nature Trail

Work with ITC right of way tree removal and pruning powerlines.

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

Mowed roadside prairie seeding.

Gaddis Tract Fecon Trees and Brush.

Assist with assessment of herbicide spraying right of way incident.

Cangleska Wakan

Invasive species control

Created water quality testing maps and input data.

Inventory ash in day use areas.

Malinda Reif Reilly Fen and Prairie

Control of invasive species.

Update Floristic Inventory.

Construct and implemented the Prescribed Burn Plan.

Remove interior fence.

Install gate.

Clean up Tornado damage.

Two Horse Farm

Prepared and installed boundary poles of the Iowa Tribe property.

Update Plant Species Inventory.

Pruned American Plum trees that were damaged.

Cut and removed fallen trees on hiking trail.

EAB ash removal inventory.

Johnson County Emergency Management Building

Install Firebreaks and implemented the burn plan

C/T invasive bush and trees.

File and submit prescribed burn plan to State Fire Marshal, City of Iowa City.



Regular meetings are held to focus on safety in the workplace. Operating chainsaws, skid steers, forestry mowers and many other specialized types of equipment is a dangerous job and employees are encouraged to always focus on safety.



The last task of cleaning up from the derecho included removing downed trees at Cangleska Wakan. Above are the salvaged saw logs ready for processing at the sawmill and below is a stockpile of trees ready for cutting into firewood. The staff were required to measure and document all materials removed from the storm.





Phebe Timber

Update Floristic Inventory.
C/T invasive brush and tree species.

Invasive honeysuckle was removed from 50+ acres at the Clear Creek Natural Area. The Clear Creek Area is a hidden gem in terms of a great example of a flood plain savanna within eastern Iowa.



Memorial & Honorary Trees Planted 2023 Fiscal Year

<u>Donated by</u>	<u>In Memory of or In Honor of</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Location</u>
Mike Wurth	Audrey & Michael Beelner	Red Maple	N.E. Lake Trail
Mike Wurth	Arlin Ayala Wurth	Redbud	N.E. Lake Trail
Diane Baker	Foster and Betty Baker	River Birch	N.E. Lake Trail
Kathleen Thornton	Clara Bell Vittetoe	Blue Beech	East Lake Trail
Family of Jean Berglund	Marilyn Jean Berglund	Sugar Maple	Boat Ramp
Robin White	Florence Helen White	Sugar Maple	Lower Beach Parking Lot
Kenneth Prather	Arlene Prather	Royal Raindrop Crab	Lake Trail Bobwhite Hillside
Anonymous Donation	Brother	Giant Sequia Pine	Bluebird Hill

Total Memorial & Honorary Trees installed 2023 **8**

Total Memorial & Honorary Trees installed since adoption of program in 2001 **500**

FY23 CONSERVATION BUDGET

by Dory Kjosa, Office Manager

JOHNSON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD
FINANCIAL REPORT
CONSERVATION GENERAL FUND - DEPARTMENT 24
July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

Expenditures:

Conservation Administration

01 24 6100000 10015	Director's Salary	\$ 155,747.97
01 24 6100000 10025	Conservation Program Manager Salary	\$ 103,270.35
01 24 6100000 10035	Rangers, Office Manager & Office Assistant	\$ 266,379.14
01 24 6100000 10105	Part Time Ranger Intern	\$ 31,792.25
01 24 6100000 11005	Employer FICA	\$ 42,134.83
01 24 6100000 11105	Employer IPERS	\$ 48,661.05
01 24 6100000 11315	Health Insurance	\$ 131,633.60
01 24 6100000 11325	Life Insurance	\$ 3,723.87
01 24 6100000 26005	Stationary - Forms	\$ 2,726.12
01 24 6100000 26105	Periodicals - Books	\$ 95.39
01 24 6100000 29405	Uniforms	\$ 729.55
01 24 6100000 40005	Advertising	\$ 533.88
01 24 6100000 40205	Printing	\$ 3,202.32
01 24 6100000 41205	Postage	\$ 209.62
01 24 6100000 41345	Staff Transportation	\$ 26.00
01 24 6100000 41355	Staff Meals & Lodging	\$ 884.55
01 24 6100000 41385	Board Meals & Lodging	\$ 909.14
01 24 6100000 41395	Board Mileage Reimbursements	\$ 628.72
01 24 6100000 41475	Cell Phone Service	\$ 11,390.49
01 24 6100000 42235	Staff Registration Fees	\$ 5,624.72
01 24 6100000 42245	Board Registration Fees	\$ 1,136.00
01 24 6100000 44405	Office Equipment Service	\$ 1,715.32
01 24 6100000 48005	Dues	\$ 4,521.22
01 24 6100000 63215	DP Software Purchase	\$ 500.00
01 24 6100000 63605	Office Equipment Purchase	\$ 1,652.94
01 24 6100000 63865	AV Equipment Purchase	\$ 3,943.96
		<u>\$ 823,773.00</u>

Conservation Maintenance & Operation

01 24 6110000 10025	Salaries	\$	292,454.46
01 24 6110000 10035	Full-Time Wages	\$	845,226.41
01 24 6110000 10105	Part-Time NB Wages	\$	199,179.79
01 24 6110000 10115	Part-Time Reg Wages	\$	46,282.85
01 24 6110000 11005	Employer FICA	\$	102,973.66
01 24 6110000 11105	Employer IPERS	\$	111,074.91
01 24 6110000 11315	Health Insurance	\$	349,777.48
01 24 6110000 11325	Life Insurance	\$	2,347.57
01 24 6110000 20205	Pesticides	\$	8,248.62
01 24 6110000 20305	Fertilizer	\$	458.20
01 24 6110000 20315	Nursery Supplies	\$	5,912.31
01 24 6110000 21205	Road & Parking Lot Material	\$	8,679.16
01 24 6110000 21405	Sign Materials	\$	7,414.01
01 24 6110000 21905	Construction Material & Supplies	\$	14,841.15
01 24 6110000 22105	Electric Supplies	\$	4,923.78
01 24 6110000 23205	Custodial Supplies	\$	16,020.14
01 24 6110000 24005	Shop Supplies	\$	10,760.13
01 24 6110000 24015	Fixtures Material	\$	1,728.48
01 24 6110000 24115	Plumbing Parts	\$	1,904.34
01 24 6110000 24125	Heating Parts	\$	2,390.71
01 24 6110000 25005	Fuels	\$	71,849.87
01 24 6110000 25105	Motor Vehicle Fluids	\$	6,625.77
01 24 6110000 25405	Equipment Parts	\$	45,022.06
01 24 6110000 29005	Hand Tools	\$	11,486.28
01 24 6110000 29305	Safety Supplies	\$	15,206.20
01 24 6110000 29405	Uniforms	\$	6,426.78
01 24 6110000 42705	Professional Fees	\$	4,103.57
01 24 6110000 42845	Lab Service/Drug Testing	\$	1,170.00
01 24 6110000 43005	Natural Gas	\$	16,941.89
01 24 6110000 43105	Electricity	\$	34,404.54
01 24 6110000 44005	Motor Vehicle Maintenance Contract	\$	291.63
01 24 6110000 44105	Contract Repair	\$	15,642.45
01 24 6110000 44205	Heating Repair	\$	208.99
01 24 6110000 44505	Plumbing Repair	\$	89.00
01 24 6110000 45205	Equipment Rental	\$	56.49
01 24 6110000 47405	Pest Control	\$	447.40
01 24 6110000 47505	Septic Tank Service	\$	4,004.00
01 24 6110000 49605	Landfill Fees	\$	7,258.42
01 24 6110000 63005	Agr-Hort Equipment Purchase	\$	65,545.92
01 24 6110000 63105	Construction Equipment Purchase	\$	5,810.00
01 24 6110000 63505	Motor Vehicle Purchase	\$	46,625.00
01 24 6110000 63835	Law Enforcement Equipment Purchase	\$	102.88
		\$	<u>2,391,917.30</u>

Rec & Environmental Services

01 24 6120000 21205	Sand	\$	2,934.24
		\$	2,934.24

Environmental Services

01 24 6121000 10025	Salaries	\$	220,090.33
01 24 6121000 10105	Part-Time NB Intern Naturalist	\$	11,484.88
01 24 6121000 11005	Employer FICA	\$	16,564.40
01 24 6121000 11105	Employer IPERS	\$	20,776.68
01 24 6121000 11315	Health Insurance	\$	67,288.80
01 24 6121000 11325	Life Insurance	\$	444.92
01 24 6121000 26105	Study Material Exhibit	\$	7,352.36
01 24 6121000 29405	Uniform	\$	726.30
01 24 6121000 33205	Food & Provisions	\$	21.21
		\$	344,749.88

DEPARTMENT 24 TOTALS \$ 3,124,351.42

JOHNSON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD REVENUE REPORT CONSERVATION GENERAL FUND - DEPARTMENT 24 JULY 1, 2022 - JUNE 30, 2023

Revenue Sources:

Conservation Administration

01 24 6100000 81002	Donations	\$	2,695.54
01 24 6100000 92004	Surplus Property Sales	\$	247.00
		\$	2,942.54

Conservation Maintenance & Operation

01 24 6110000 52001	General Camping Fees	\$	147,889.00
01 24 6110000 52011	Youth Group Camp Fees	\$	5,435.00
01 24 6110000 52301	Shelter Fees	\$	47,197.44
01 24 6110000 83901	Firewood Sales	\$	3,750.00
		\$	204,271.44

Recreation Services

01 24 6120000 52201	Boat Fees	\$	6,832.50
01 24 6120000 52901	Misc. Recreation Fees	\$	8,760.00
		\$	15,592.50

TOTALS \$ 222,806.48

**JOHNSON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD
FINANCIAL REPORT
SPECIAL RESOURCE ENHANCEMENT (REAP) - DEPARTMENT 32
JULY 1, 2022 - JUNE 30, 2023**

Expenditures:

**Nonprogram & Other Uses
Conservation Land Acquisition**

09 32 0210000 21905	Construction Material	\$ 6,508.79
09 32 0210000 29905	Education Program Supplies	\$ 8,971.75
09 32 0210000 42705	Professional Fees	<u>\$ 19,813.11</u>
DEPARTMENT 32 TOTALS		\$ 35,293.65

**JOHNSON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD
REVENUE REPORT
SPECIAL RESOURCE ENHANCEMENT (REAP) - DEPARTMENT 32
JULY 1, 2022 - JUNE 30, 2023**

Revenue Sources:

**Nonprogram & Other Uses
Conservation Land Acquisition**

09 32 0210000 26512	Special Resource Enhancement	\$ 41,179.00
09 32 0210000 60004	Interest	<u>\$ 10,643.32</u>
DEPARTMENT 32 TOTALS		\$ 51,822.32

**JOHNSON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD
FINANCIAL REPORT
CONSERVATION TRUST - DEPARTMENT 82
JULY 1, 2022 - JUNE 30, 2023**

Expenditures:

		Nonprogram & Other Uses Conservation Land Acquisition	
21 82 0210000 20335	Memorial Tree Program	\$	6,502.81
21 82 0210000 29005	Minor Equip & Supplies/EE/Special Projects	\$	4,104.09
21 82 0210000 42325	Engineering & Professional Fees	\$	74,956.28
21 82 0210000 44105	Contracted Construction	\$	8,552.89
21 82 0210000 61005	Building Construction	\$	58,303.73
21 82 0210000 63005	Ag-Hort Equipment Purchase	\$	53,838.57
21 82 0210000 63505	Motor Vehicle Purchase	\$	31,365.80
		Wetland Mitigation Bank	
21 82 0210100 42605	Other Prof. & Tech. Services/WMB	\$	36,450.00
DEPARTMENT 82 TOTALS		\$	274,074.17

**JOHNSON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD
REVENUE REPORT
CONSERVATION TRUST - DEPARTMENT 82
JULY 1, 2022 - JUNE 30, 2023**

Revenue Sources:

		Nonprogram & Other Uses Conservation Land Acquisition	
21 82 0210000 28902	Grants Received	\$	114,665.01
21 82 0210000 28903	Federal Reimbursement	\$	353,970.00
21 82 0210000 60004	Interest	\$	34,716.22
21 82 0210000 61004	Rent	\$	14,646.67
21 82 0210000 81002	Donations	\$	5,250.00
21 82 0210000 81042	Donations/Memorial Tree Program	\$	3,025.00
21 82 0210000 84301	Recoveries on Insured Losses	\$	31,050.22
21 82 0210100 62901	Sale of Wetland Credits	\$	134,015.00
		Perezek Bequest	
21 82 0210200 60004	Interest	\$	30,395.79
TOTALS		\$	721,733.91
Transfer of Department 24 Revenue - FY 22		\$	227,614.00
TOTALS		\$	949,347.91

**JOHNSON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD
FINANCIAL REPORT
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES - DEPARTMENT 44
JULY 1, 2022 - JUNE 30, 2023**

Budget:		\$	46,000.00
Expenses:	Solar Projects	\$	45,810.00
DEPARTMENT 44 TOTALS		\$	45,810.00

**JOHNSON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD
FINANCIAL REPORT
CAPITAL PROJECTS - DEPARTMENT 85
JULY 1, 2022 - JUNE 30, 2023**

Budget:		\$	850,000.00
Expenses:	Sutliff Bridge/CRC West Project	\$	<u>690,914.74</u>
DEPARTMENT 85 TOTALS		\$	690,914.74

GRANTS, GIFTS, RENT, DONATIONS AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS
FISCAL YEAR 2023

Grant - Fed Rec Trail - Hoover Trail	\$ 6,802.52
Memorial Tree - D Bryant	\$ 250.00
Interest	\$ 394.76
Interest - Perezek Bequest	\$ 507.71
Memorial Bench - P Heiden	\$ 1,000.00
Wetland Bank Credit Sale - Huegerich Construction	\$ 15,070.00
Interest	\$ 745.86
Interest - Perezek Bequest	\$ 1,007.82
FY 22 Department 24 Revenue Transfer	\$ 227,614.00
Farm Ground Rental - Tandy	\$ 100.00
Wetland Bank Credit Sale - Bowman Properties	\$ 84,390.00
Interest	\$ 1,332.98
Interest - Perezek Bequest	\$ 1,619.04
Derecho - Insurance Reimbursement	\$ 31,050.22
Interest	\$ 1,659.85
Interest - Perezek Bequest	\$ 1,756.14
Farm Ground Rental - Westfall	\$ 6,843.75
Farm Ground Rental - Bountiful Harvest Farms LLC	\$ 465.25
Grant - Iowa DOT - Clear Creek Trail	\$ 107,862.49
Interest	\$ 2,158.76
Interest - Perezek Bequest	\$ 2,130.70
Memorial Plaque - G. Pidgeon	\$ 25.00
Interest	\$ 2,818.00
Interest - Perezek Bequest	\$ 2,638.41
Derecho - FEMA Reimbursement	\$ 117,990.00
Derecho - FEMA Reimbursement	\$ 117,990.00
Farm Ground Rental - Bountiful Harvest Farms LLC	\$ 293.65
Interest	\$ 3,393.49
Interest - Perezek Bequest	\$ 3,143.04
Interest	\$ 3,638.72
Interest - Perezek Bequest	\$ 3,358.66
Farm Ground Rental - Tandy	\$ 100.00
Memorial Tree - M Wurth	\$ 500.00
Farm Ground Rental - Westfall	\$ 6,843.75
Derecho - FEMA Reimbursement	\$ 117,990.00
Interest	\$ 3,990.81
Interest - Perezek Bequest	\$ 3,195.16
Memorial Tree - R White	\$ 250.00
Memorial Tree - P Berglund	\$ 250.00
Memorial Tree - K Thornton	\$ 250.00
Memorial Tree - D Baker	\$ 250.00
Interest	\$ 4,908.21
Interest - Perezek Bequest	\$ 3,826.52
Idaho Trek Registrations	\$ 3,500.00
Memorial Tree - K Prather	\$ 250.00
Wetland Bank Credit Sale - Clear Creek Amana School District	\$ 19,885.00
Wetland Bank Credit Sale - City of Coralville - 10% Down	\$ 1,500.00
Interest	\$ 4,407.28
Interest - Perezek Bequest	\$ 3,286.78
Idaho Trek Registrations	\$ 1,750.00
Wetland Bank Credit Sale - City of Coralville - Balance	\$ 13,170.00
Interest	\$ 5,267.50
Interest - Perezek Bequest	\$ 3,925.81
TOTAL	\$ 949,347.64



**JOHNSON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD
FINANCIAL REPORT
CONSERVATION BOND - DEPARTMENT 83
JULY 1, 2022 - JUNE 30, 2023**

Expenditures:

22 83 0210000 60005	Land Acquisition	\$ 9,519.60
22 83 0210000 60105	Land Improvements	\$ 363,310.49
22 83 0210000 61005	Construction	<u>\$ 31,987.92</u>

DEPARTMENT 83 TOTALS \$ 404,818.01

FY23 CONSERVATION BUDGET SUMMARY

Expenditures

\$3,585,394.42 Department 24 - General Basic

\$35,293.65 Department 32 - Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP)

\$274,074.17 Department 82 - Conservation Trust

\$404,818.01 Department 83 - Conservation Bond

\$45,810.00 Department 44 - Capital Expenditures

\$690,914.74 Department 85 - Capital Fund

\$5,036,304.99 Total Expenditures FY23

Revenues

\$248,680.01 Grants and Wetland Credit Sales

\$669,617.41 Other Revenue (camping, shelters, donations, etc.)

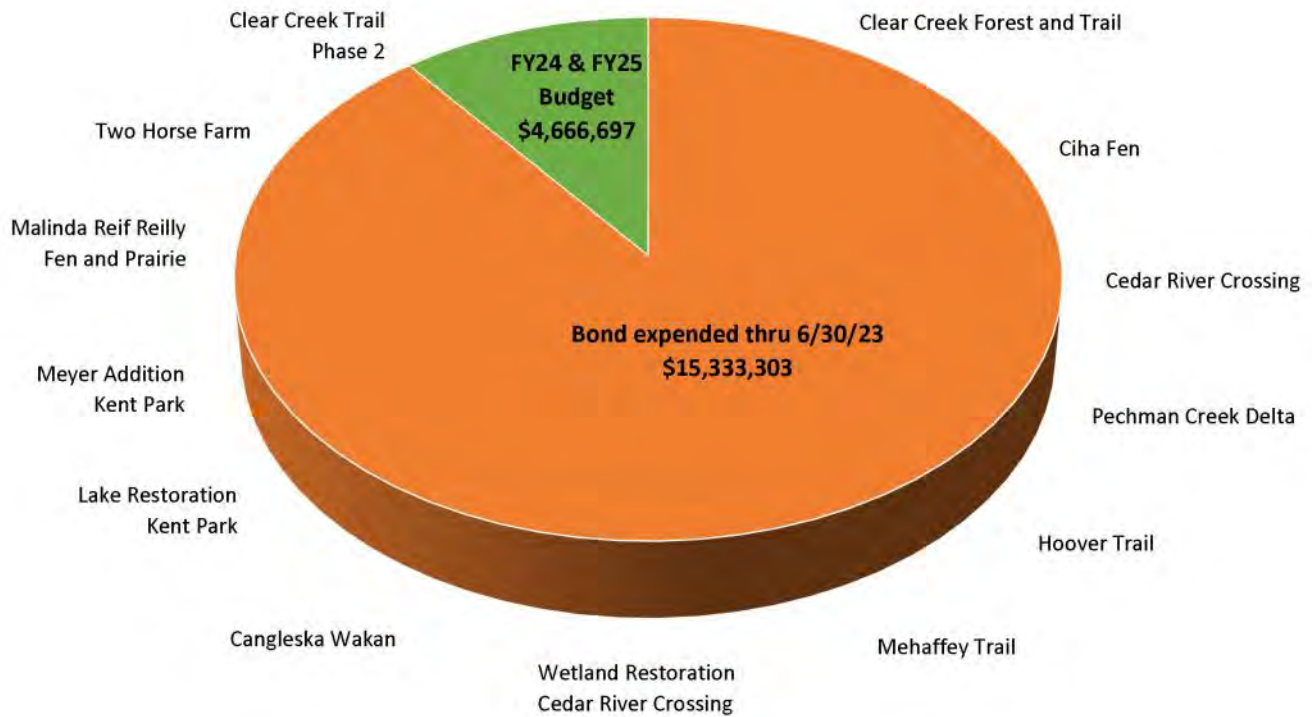
\$51,822.32 REAP

\$31,050.22 Insurance Reimbursement

\$1,001,169.96 Total Generated Revenues FY23

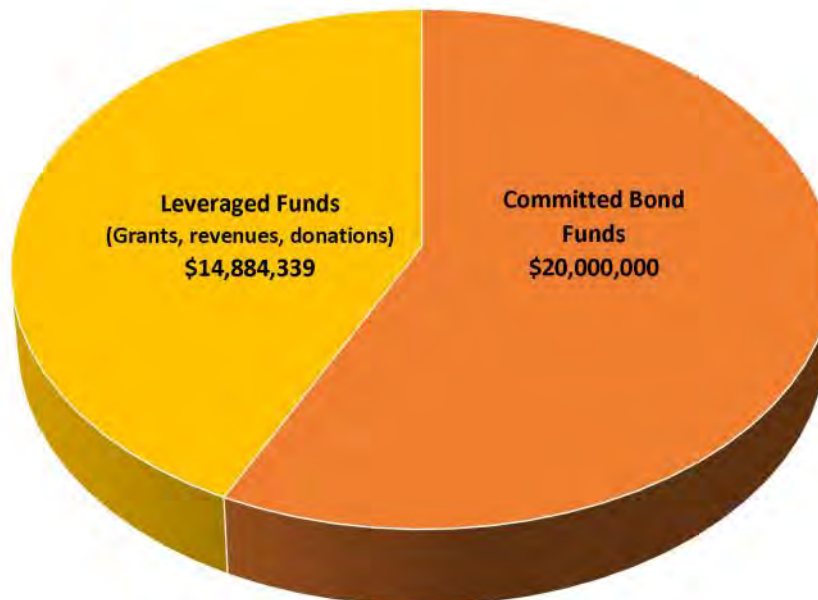
\$20 Million Conservation Bond

FY23 – June 30, 2023



Bond Leverage Summary

FY23 – June 30, 2023



Conservation Bonding Projects Implementation Schedule and Budget

03/04/2024

YEAR	Lake Restoration	Ciha Fen 81 acres	Malinda Reif 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, 50 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									5,040	14,396		17,592		367,790				104,818
2024										636,319		438,273		123,750				
2025												100,000		3,368,355				
2026																		
2027																		
2028																		
BONDING	1,275,548	283,996	531,906	378,352	519,897	3,042,235	1,658,706	123,378	905,350	2,313,120	419,067	1,757,051	118,969	822,893	1,217,030	176,950	15,123	15,333,303
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			14,884,339
REVENUE																		
TOTAL	2,828,698	456,141	929,316	890,941	519,897	4,140,235	2,916,147	123,378	1,205,350	5,350,174	419,067	7,257,051	118,969	1,200,153	1,892,677	176,950	15,123	30,381,763

Budget numbers are for committed & expended funds through June 30, 2023. Italics after 2023, represent project cost estimates, grant and bond funds combined, and are used for budgeting purposes only. ¹ Represents revenues projected from development of the wetland bank project. Projects with blank totals at the bottom are on-going projects.

AREAS & FACILITIES



A prairie buffer near the shoreline of Kent Park Lake—the buffers cleanse runoff, provide habitat for a variety of wildlife and beautify the landscape around the lake.

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.

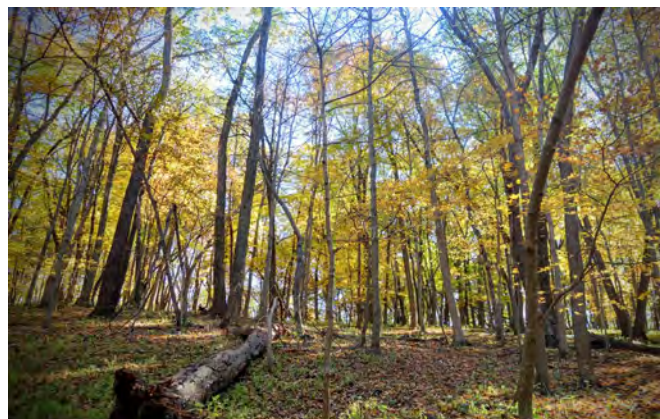
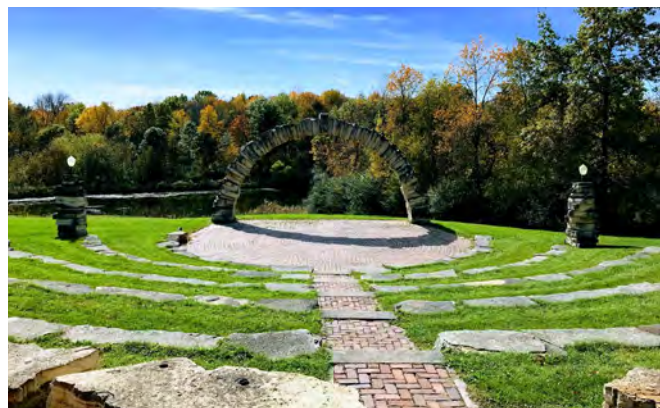
History: Cangleska Wakan was acquired by Johnson County Conservation (JCC) in 2018. The purchase was funded through the Johnson County Conservation Bond, established by county voters in 2008 to purchase and protect natural areas from development. JCC has been working on a master plan for this park's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

Features:

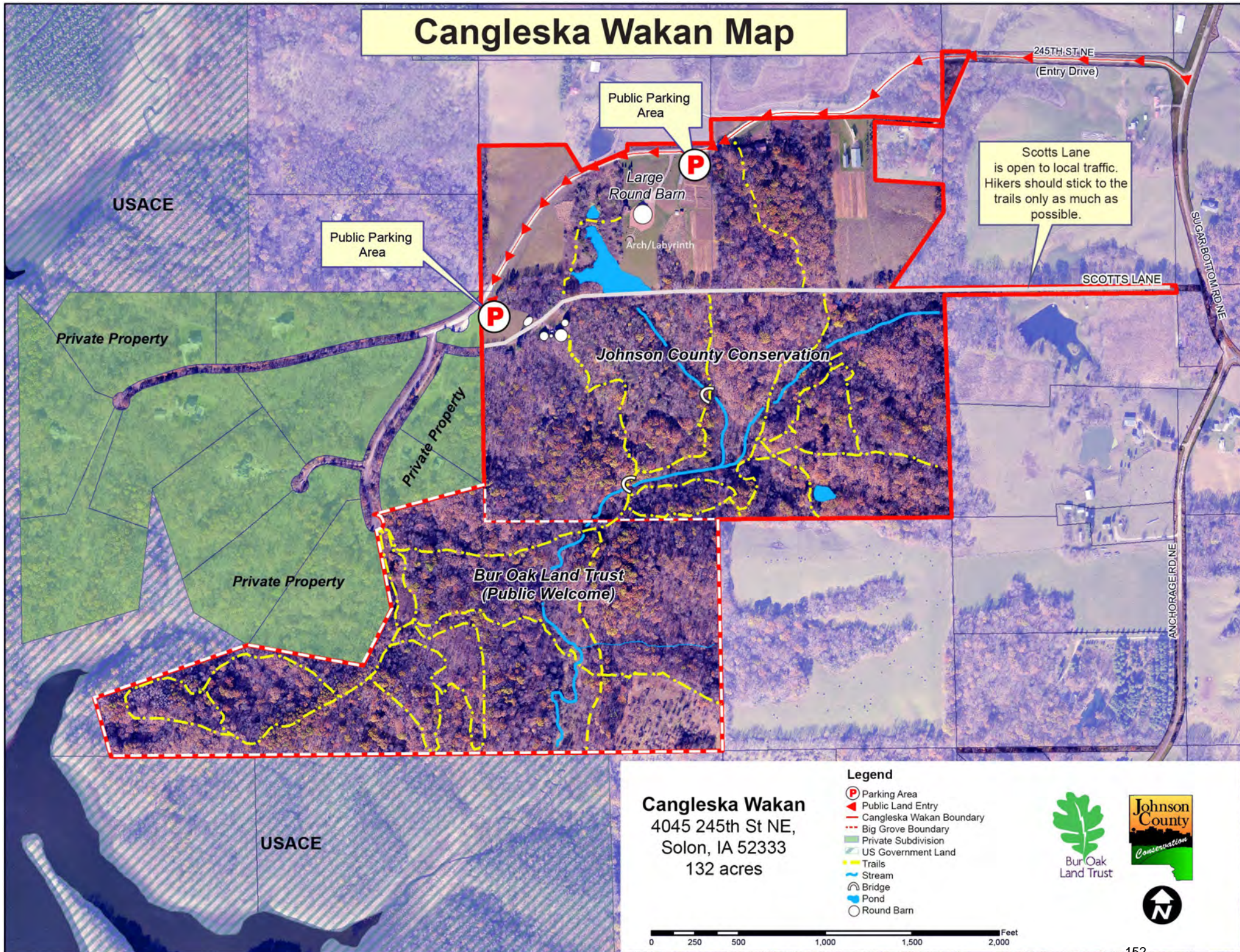
- The high-quality oak forest provides a fantastic place for birding and spring wildflower viewing. Hiking trails through the forests of Cangleska Wakan and Big Grove Preserve combine to create a 4+ mile trail network, all accessible to the public. Trails are for pedestrian use only.
- A brick labyrinth 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



Cangleska Wakan Map



Cangleska Wakan
4045 245th St NE,
Solon, IA 52333
132 acres

Legend

- P Parking Area
- ▶ Public Land Entry
- Cangleska Wakan Boundary
- Big Grove Boundary
- Private Subdivision
- US Government Land
- Trails
- ~ Stream
- Bridge
- Pond
- Round Barn



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.





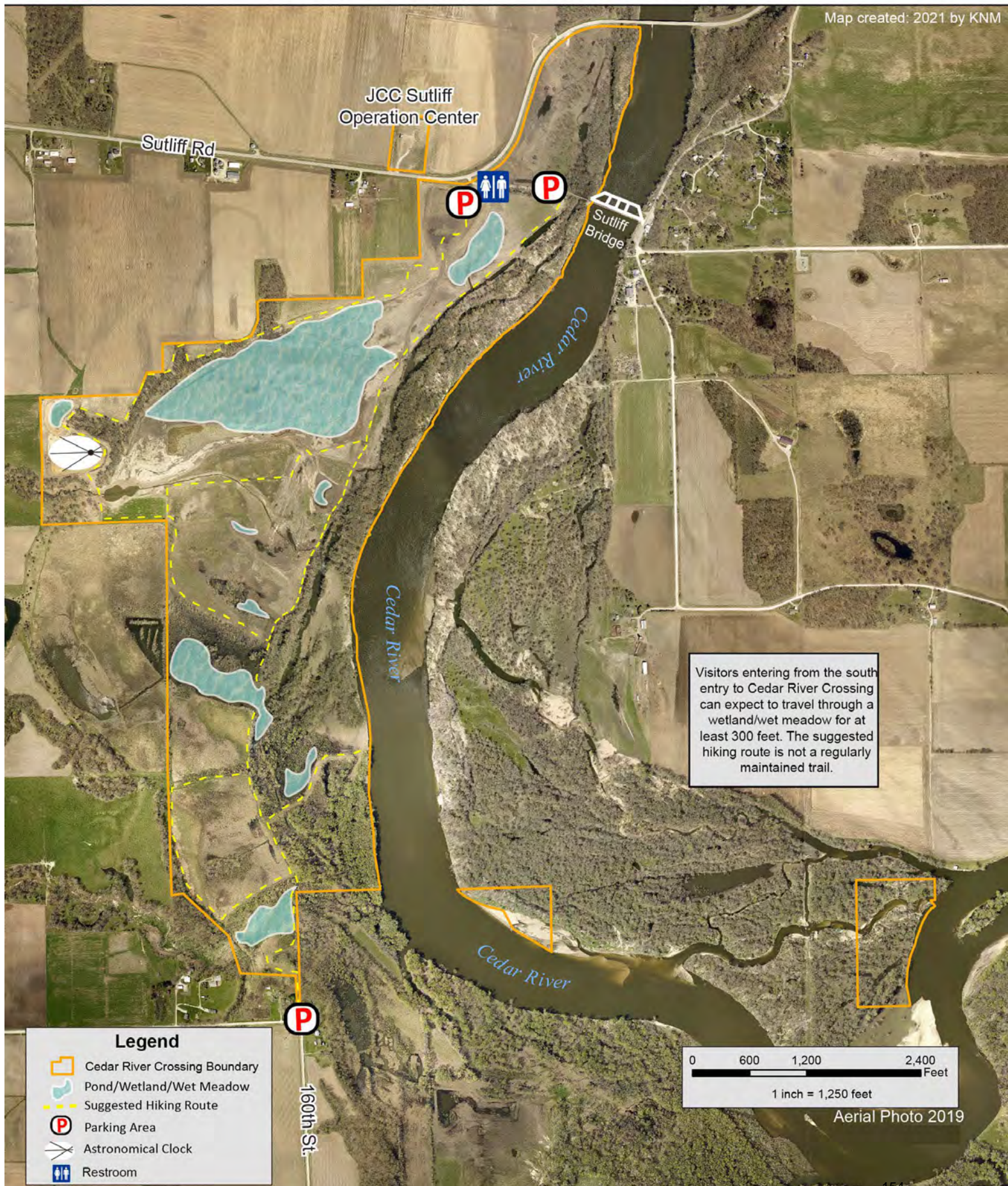
Cedar River Crossing Conservation Area

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

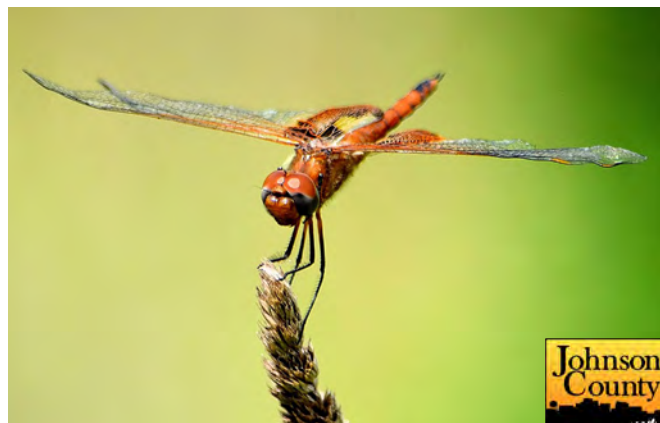
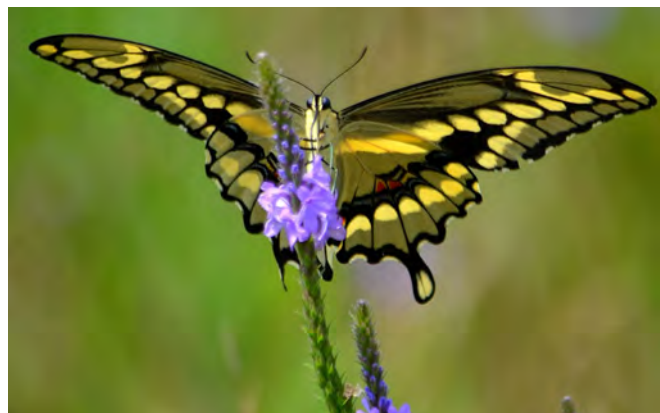
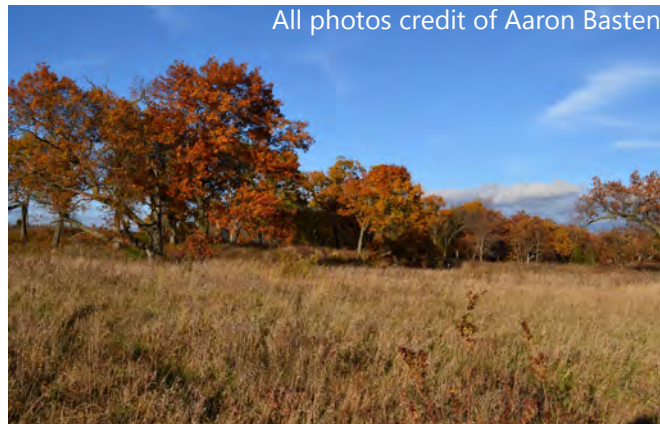
Overview: Ciha Fen Preserve is an 80-acre property located in the far northeast corner of the county. The preserve features a sand prairie/oak savanna complex on a wind-deposited sand ridge. It contains the Ciha Fen, which is one of the only two documented remaining nutrient-poor fens known in the state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

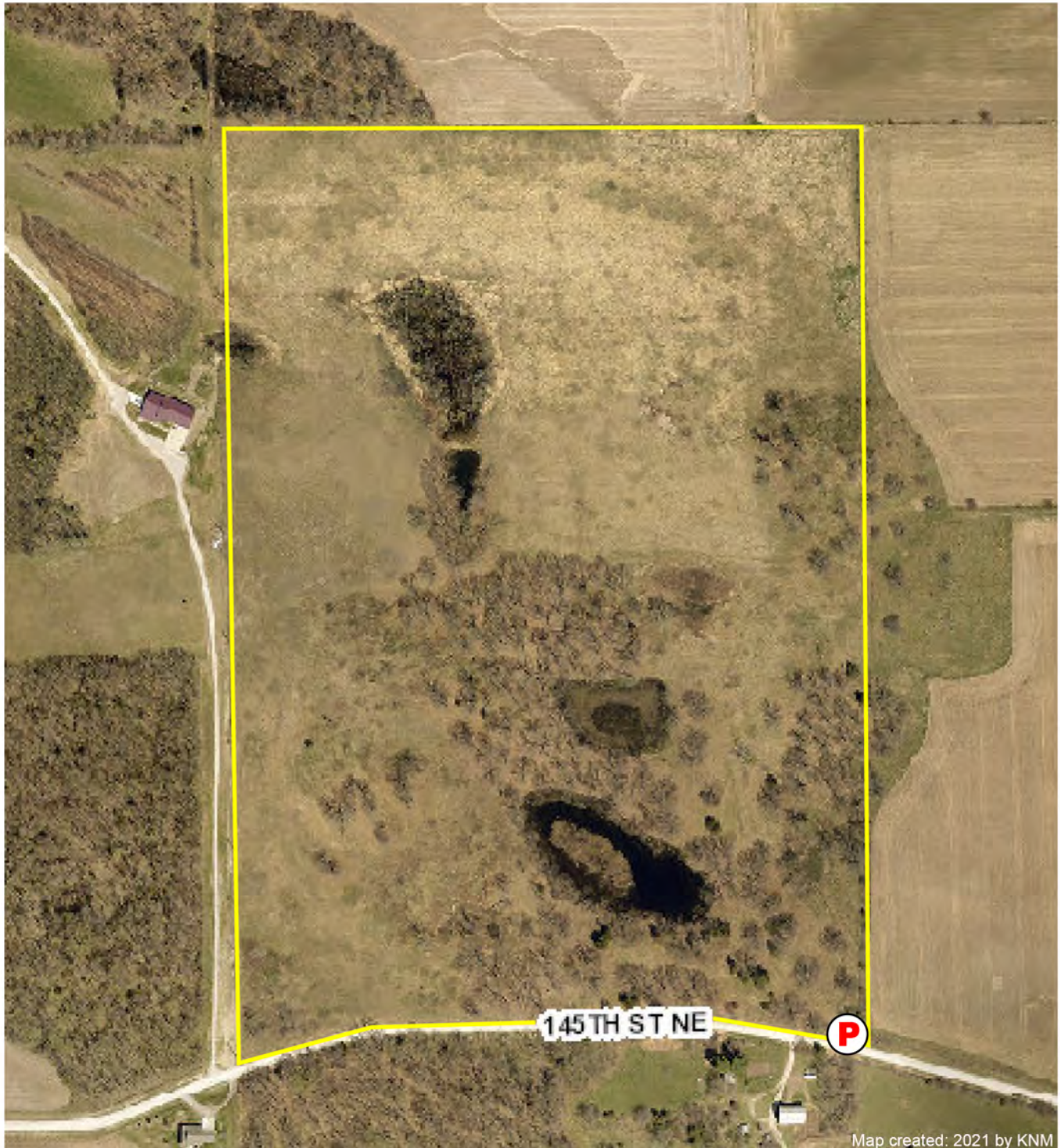
- 225 native plant species have been recorded onsite, including species of special concern such as Nodding Ladies' Tresses, Cleft Phlox, and Lance-leaved Violet.
- An abundance of wildlife find refuge at Ciha Fen Preserve, including species of Greatest Conservation Need, like Blanding's turtles, six-lined 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

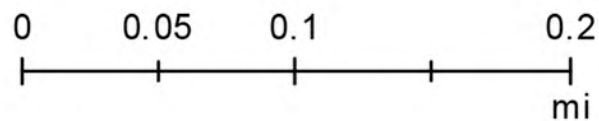
5656 145th St NE, Lisbon, IA 52253



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.

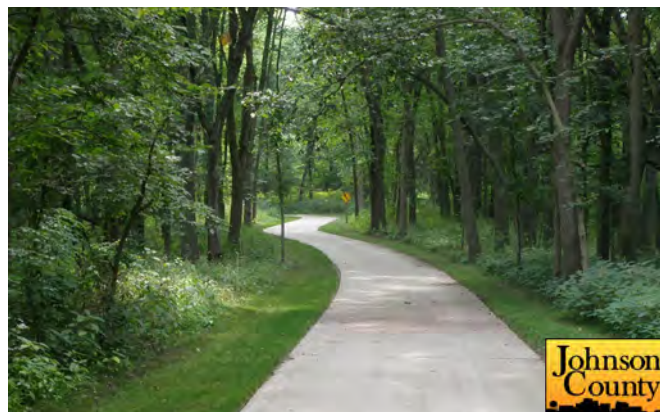


History: Johnson County Conservation acquired this property in 2009. This property was the first that JCC purchased utilizing funding from the Johnson County Conservation Bond, established by Johnson County voters in 2008 to purchase and protect natural areas from development. Funding also came through 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

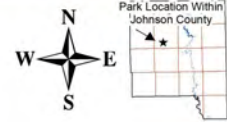
3196 Half Moon Ave NW
Tiffin, IA 52340



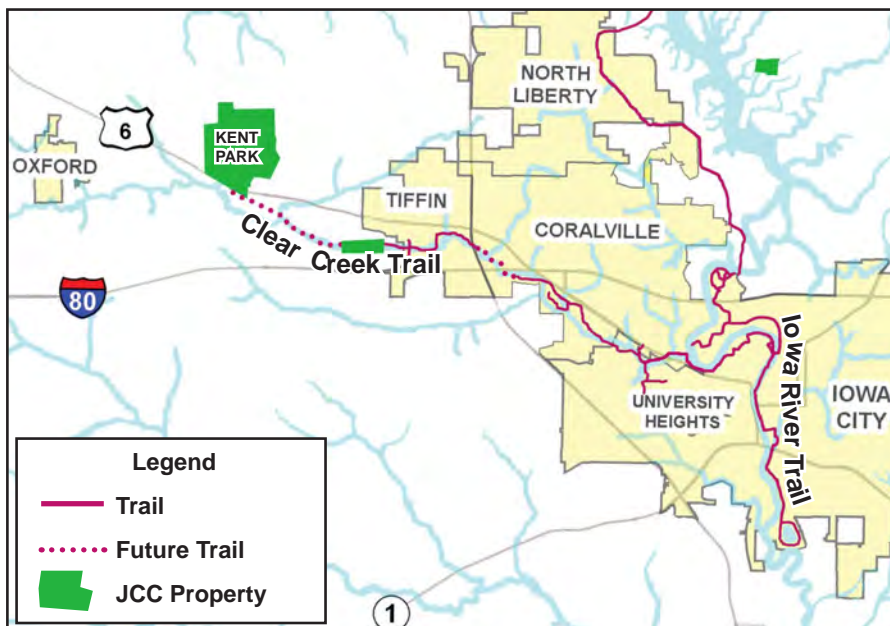
Legend

- 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



Frytown Conservation Area

- Frytown Boundary 94 ac
- Parking
- Trails
- Bridge
- Large_Culvert

Date: 1/31/2020
Aerial: 2019

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



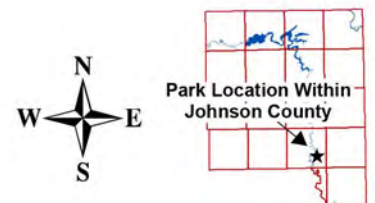
Hills Campground & Access Map



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.

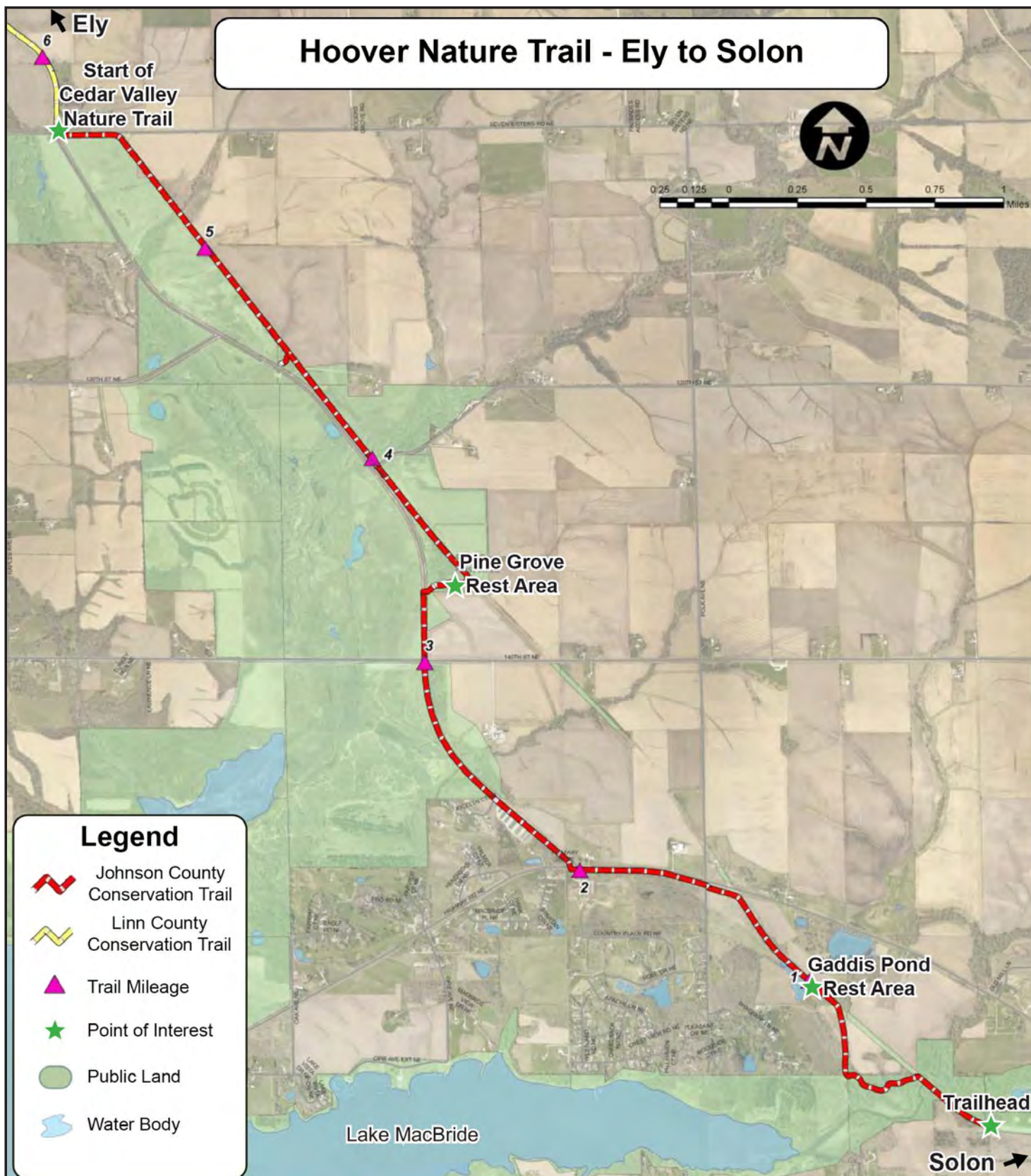
Johnson County Trail Segments:

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:

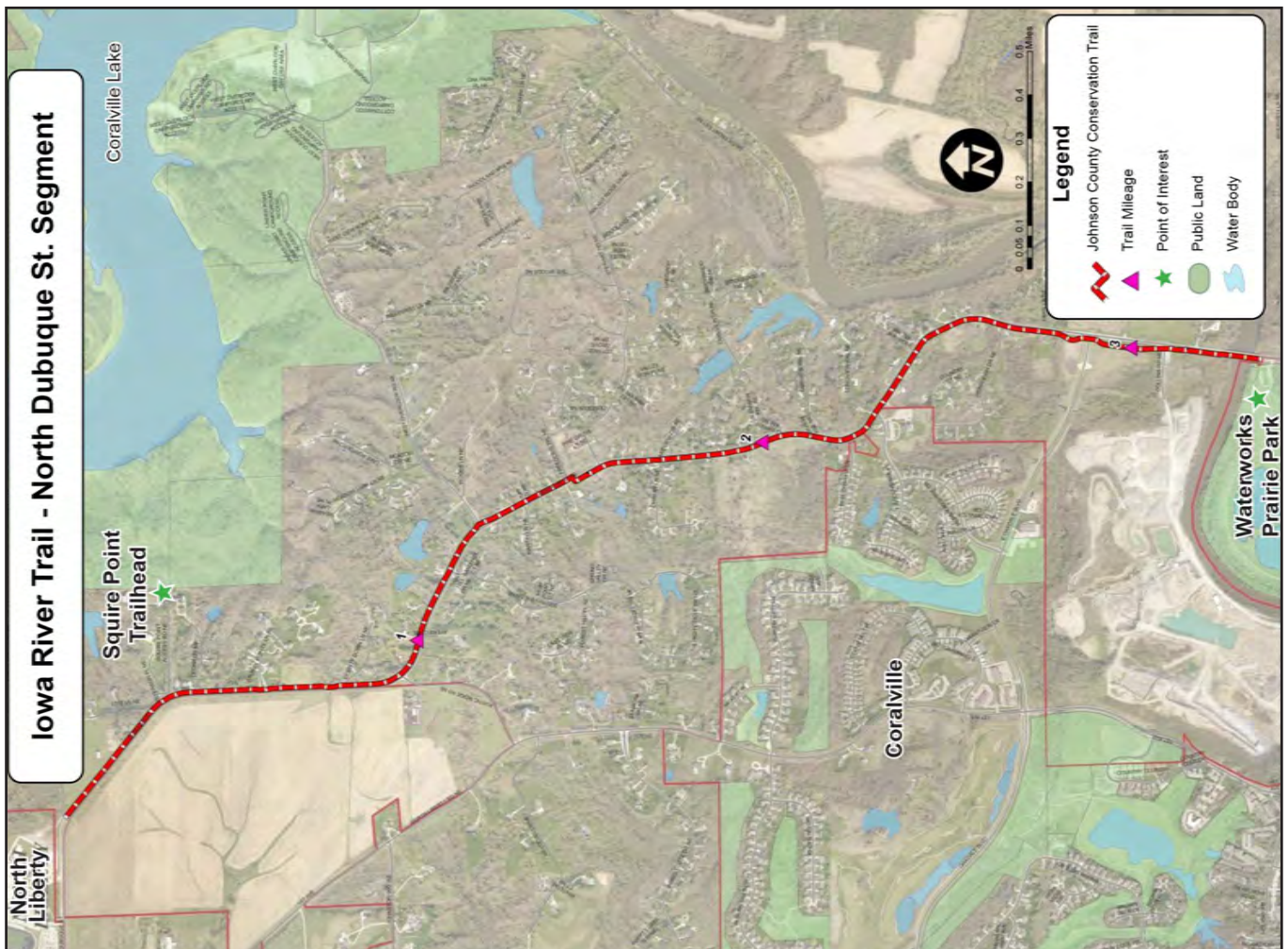
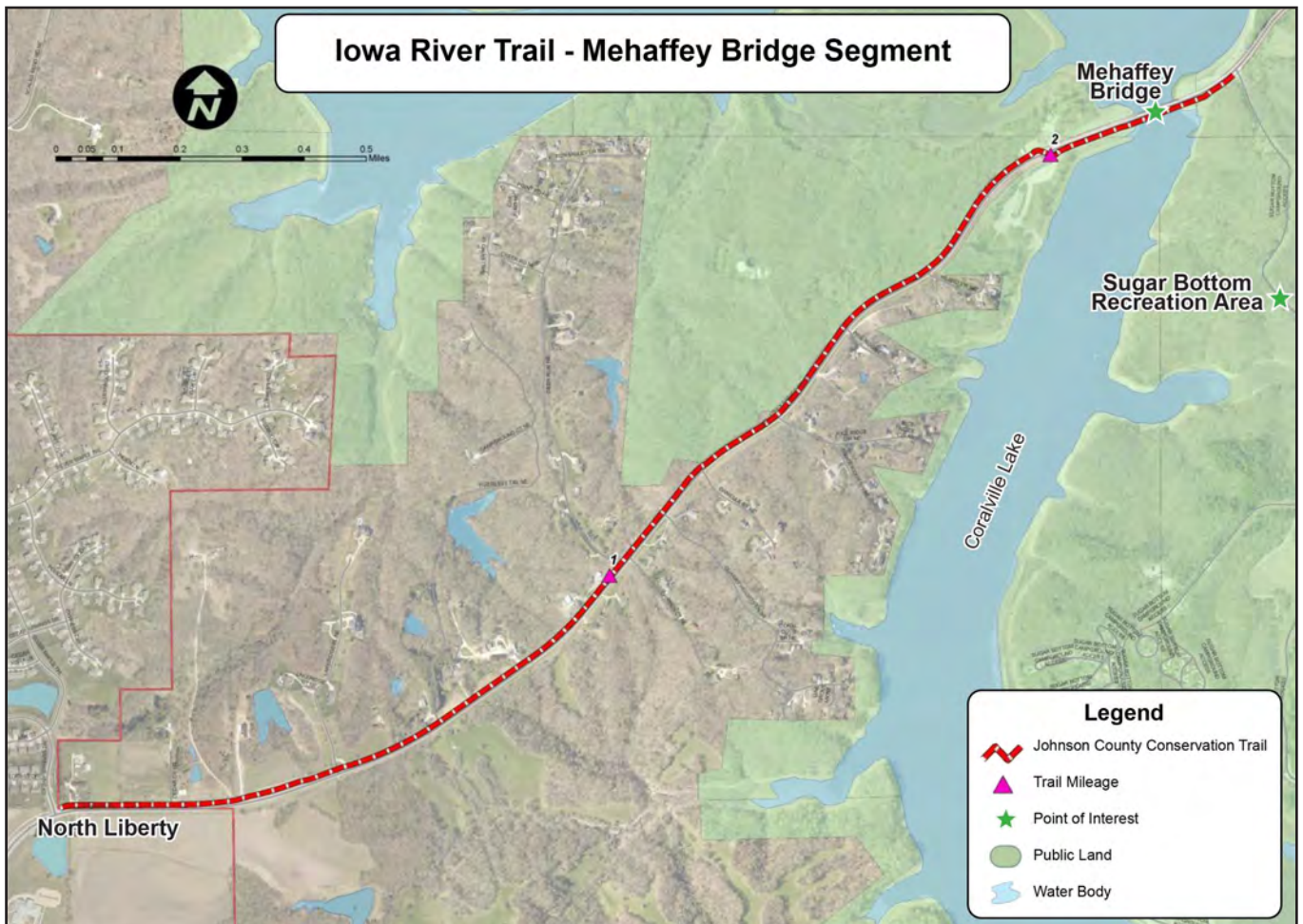
Terry Trueblood to Waterworks Prairie Park: The trail begins at Terry Trueblood Recreation Area, and heads north along the shady Iowa River shoreline. Along the way, the trail passes numerous parks such as Riverside Park and City Park, along with the University of Iowa Campus. At City Park, trail users 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.





Map above created by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR). To see the full Iowa DNR Iowa River Water Trail brochure, along with other state Water Trail brochures, scan the QR code to the right.



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.

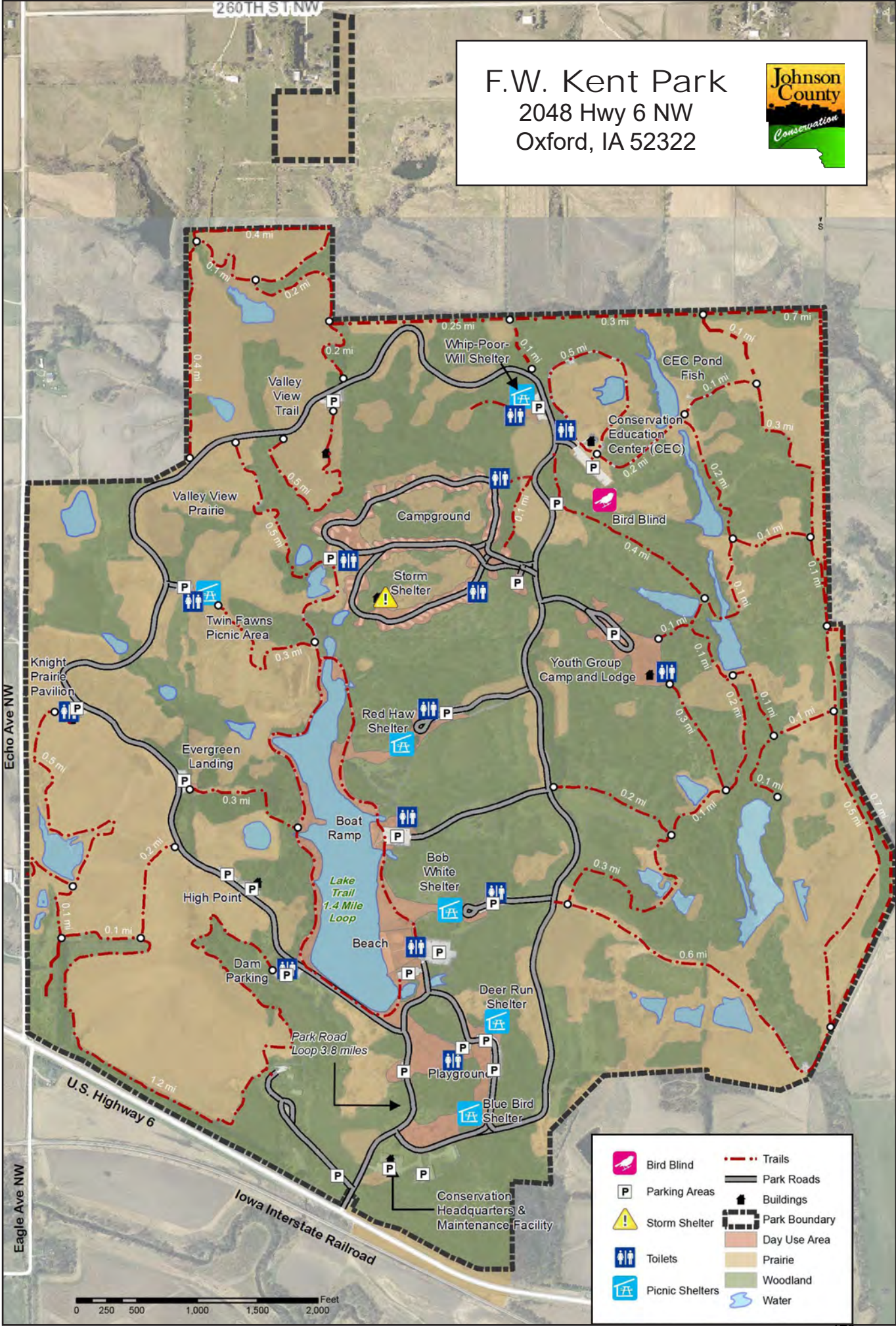
Features:

- 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.



F.W. Kent Park

2048 Hwy 6 NW
Oxford, IA 52322



- | | | | |
|--|-----------------|--|---------------|
| | Bird Blind | | Trails |
| | Parking Areas | | Park Roads |
| | Storm Shelter | | Buildings |
| | Toilets | | Park Boundary |
| | Picnic Shelters | | Day Use Area |
| | | | Prairie |
| | | | Woodland |
| | | | Water |

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.



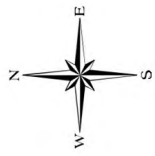
Features:

- 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. There is a developed parking area. 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.
- This area is closed to hunting.






Malinda Reif Reilly Fen & Prairie
4495 140th Street NE
Solon, IA 52333



Legend

 Property Boundary

 Parking Area

0 325 650 1,300 Feet

1 inch = 375 feet

2019 Aerial

Date: 1/14/2020

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



Legend

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

0 0.1 0.2 0.4 Miles
1 inch equals 0.15 miles

Phebe Timber

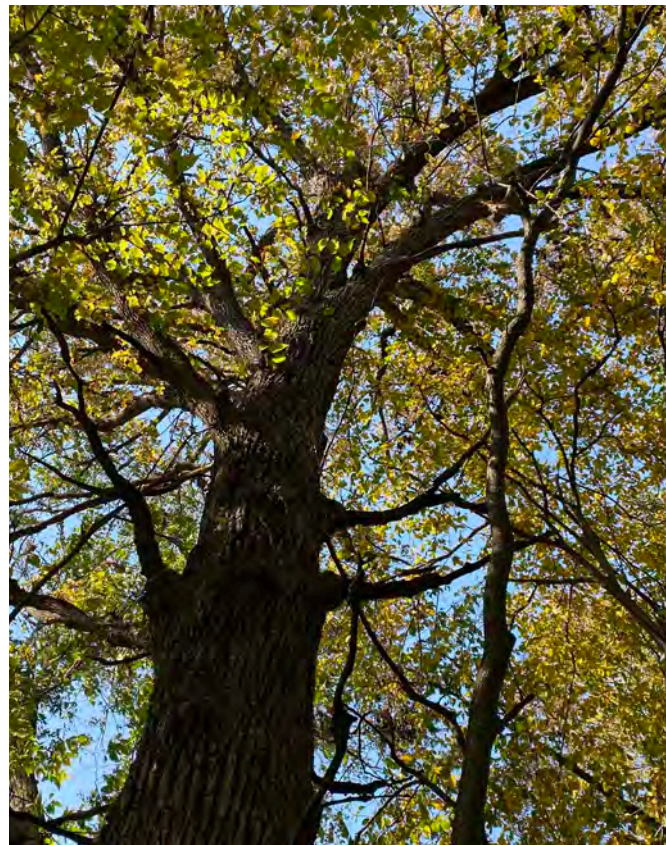
4492 Kansas Ave SW
Iowa City, IA 52240

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

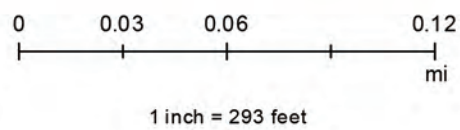


Map created: 2021 by KNM



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.

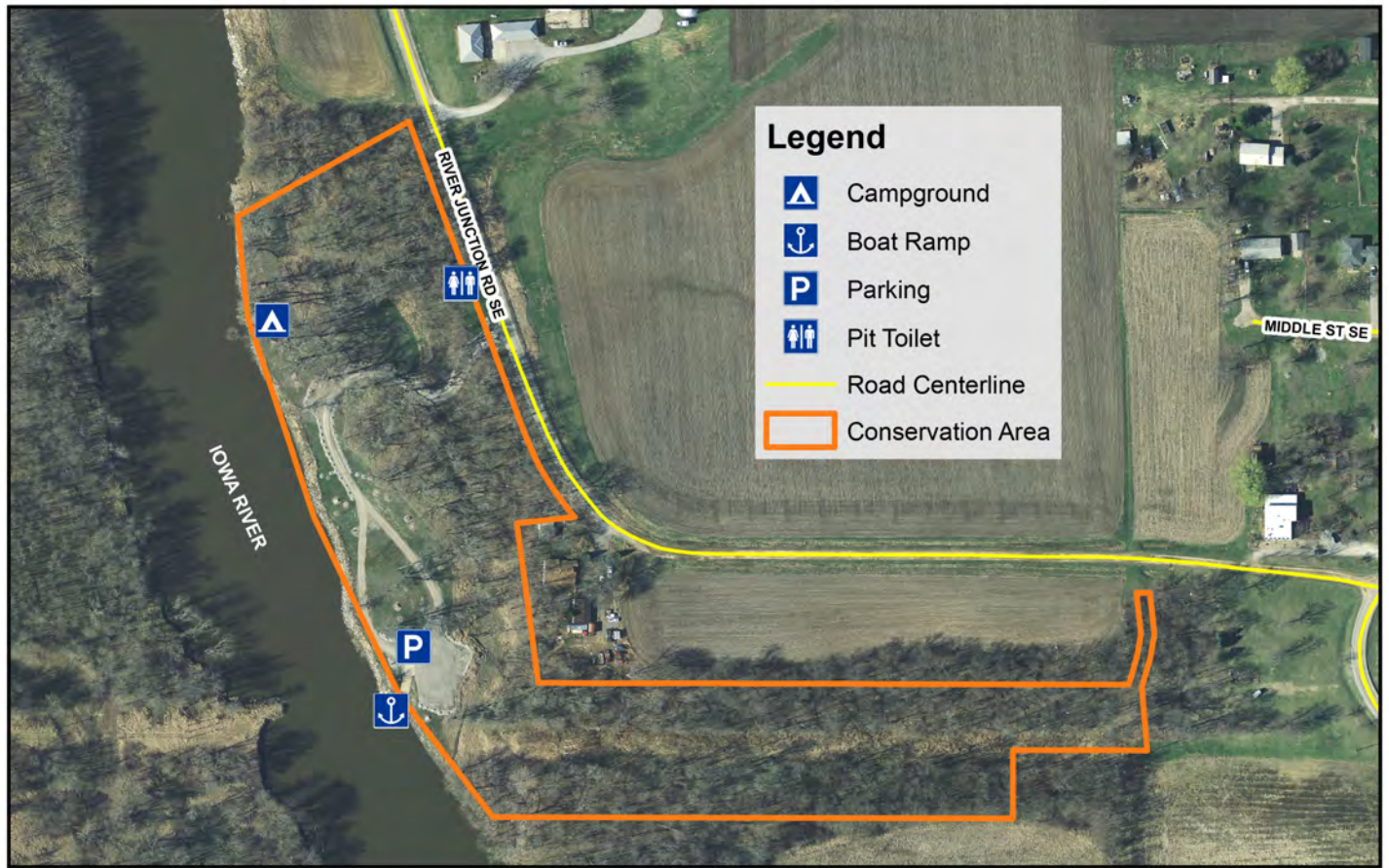


The camping fee is \$10 per unit per night for each of the 11 campsites with fire rings.



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). Before becoming a public park, the land featured a gas station and church, as shown in the black and white photo to the right. The land 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.



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



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.

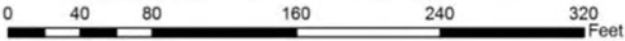


Sutliff Bridge and Access
1293/1295 White Oak Ave NE
Lisbon, IA 52253



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.

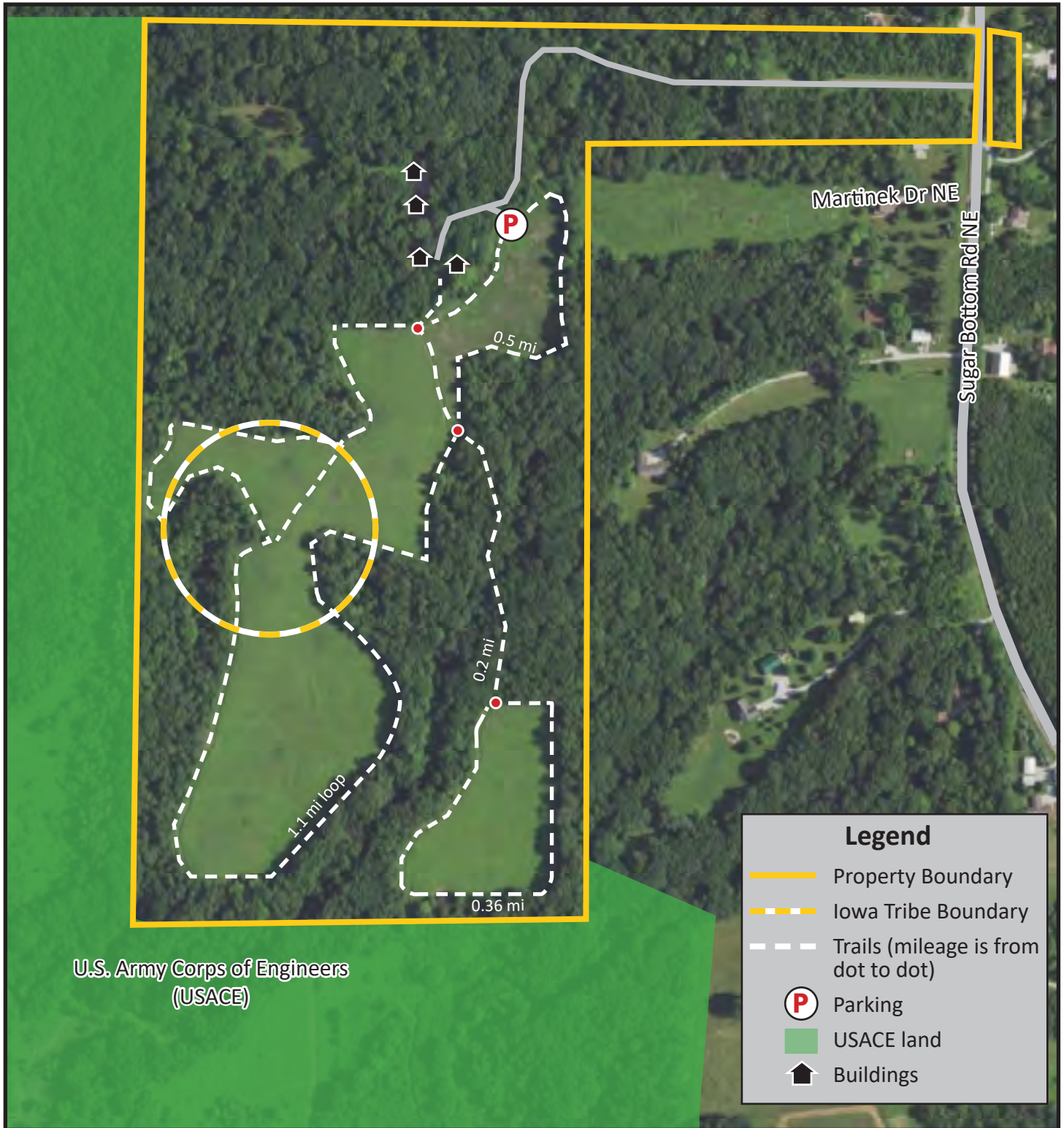
Features:

- 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



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.

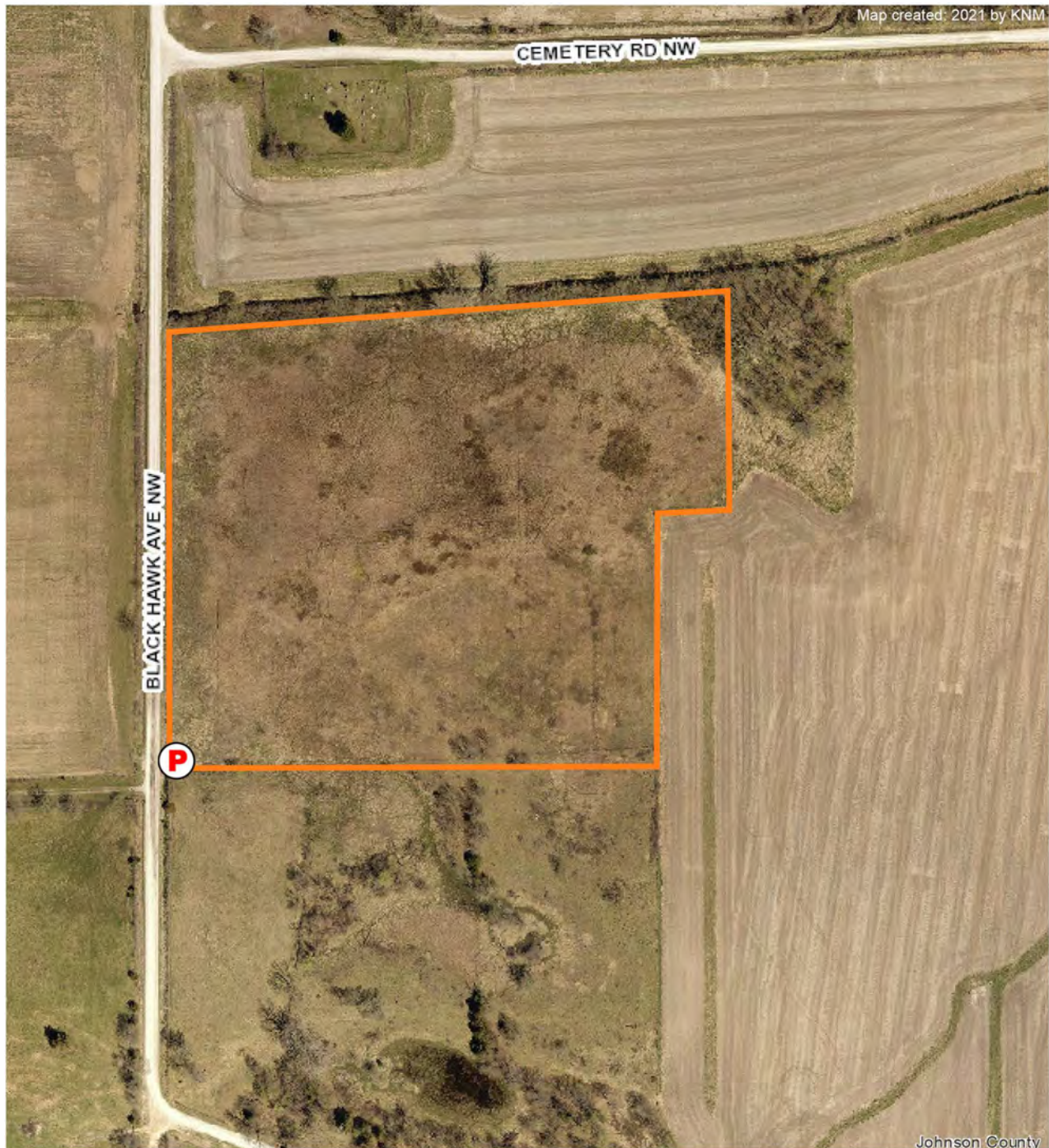
Features:

- 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



Legend

— Property Boundary

Ⓟ Parking Area

