

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.

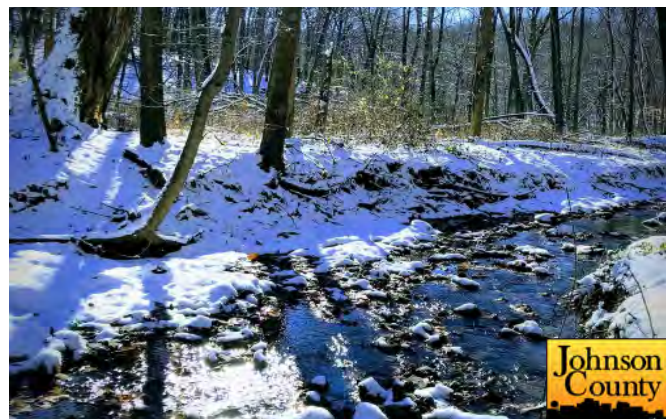
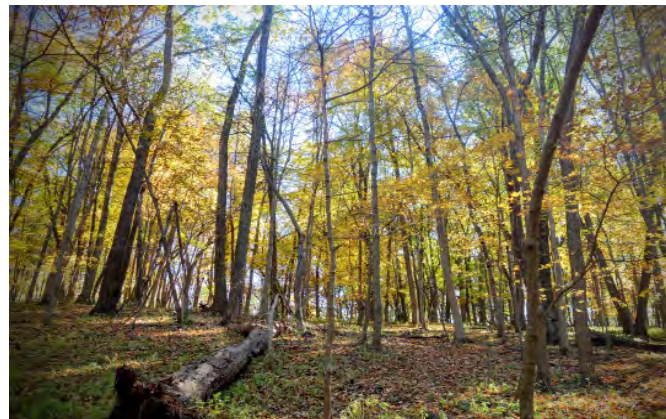
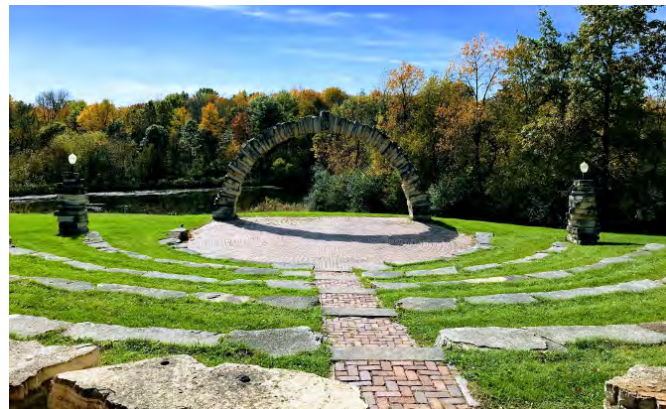
History: Cangleska Wakan was acquired by Johnson County Conservation (JCC) in 2018. The purchase was funded through the Johnson County Conservation Bond, established by county voters in 2008 to purchase and protect natural areas from development. JCC has been working on a master plan for this park's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

Features:

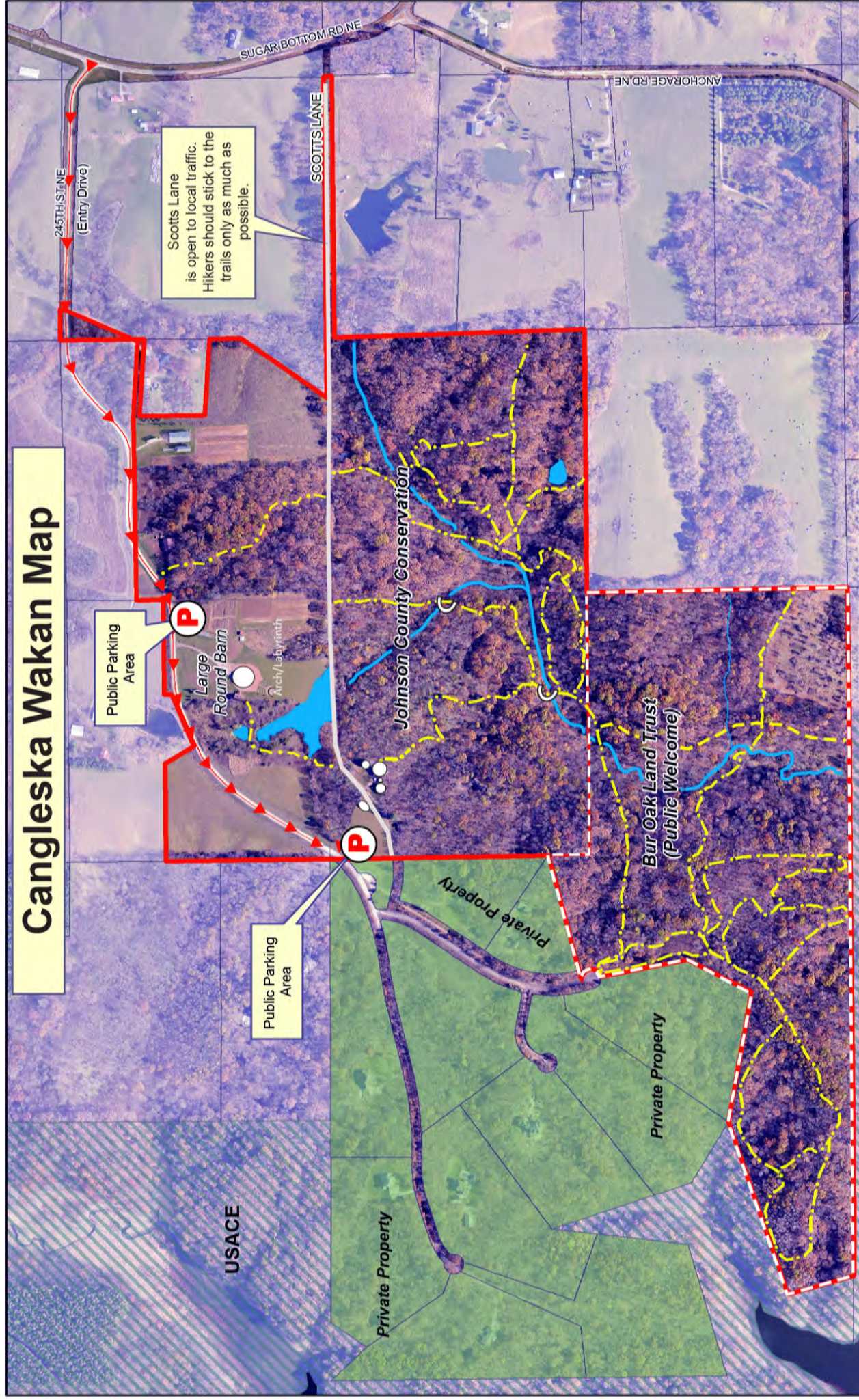
- The high-quality oak forest provides a fantastic place for birding and spring wildflower viewing. Hiking trails through the forests of Cangleska Wakan and Big Grove Preserve combine to create a 4+ mile trail network, all accessible to the public. Trails are for pedestrian use only.
- A brick labyrinth 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.
- 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, and a collection of antique tractors and cars.
- Archery hunting is allowed at this property and restricted to south of Scotts Lane.



Photo credit: Gerald Denehy



Cangleska Wakan Map



Scotts Lane is open to local traffic. Hikers should stick to the trails only as much as possible.

Public Parking Area

Large Round Barn
Arch/Labyrinth

Public Parking Area

Private Property

Private Property

Private Property

Johnson County Conservation

Bur Oak Land Trust
(Public Welcome)

USACE

SUGAR BOTTOM RD NE

ANCHORAGE RD NE

SCOTTS LANE

245TH ST NE
(Entry Drive)



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

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



Cedar River Crossing

5473 Sutliff Rd NE
Solon, IA 52333

Overview: Cedar River Crossing is a 610-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 floodplain. During floods, the natural ecosystem acts as a sponge, absorbing and filtering floodwaters. Cedar River Crossing is named to honor a historic fording area located on the site. The crossing was used by both Native Americans and settlers. 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 2014-2023. 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 blanding's turtles have been recorded here.
- The wetland complex and backwater channels on this landscape are 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 near the 'astronomical clock' collects 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.
- Nearly 5 miles of trail wind through the north and south halves of the property. Trails in the south half may be seasonally submerged in wetlands. A latrine is at the north entrance.
- The property is open for hunting and trapping. By JCCB policy, hunters must use non-lead projectiles and shot to help prevent lead poisoning in wildlife that inadvertently consumes lead while ingesting the carcasses of animals.

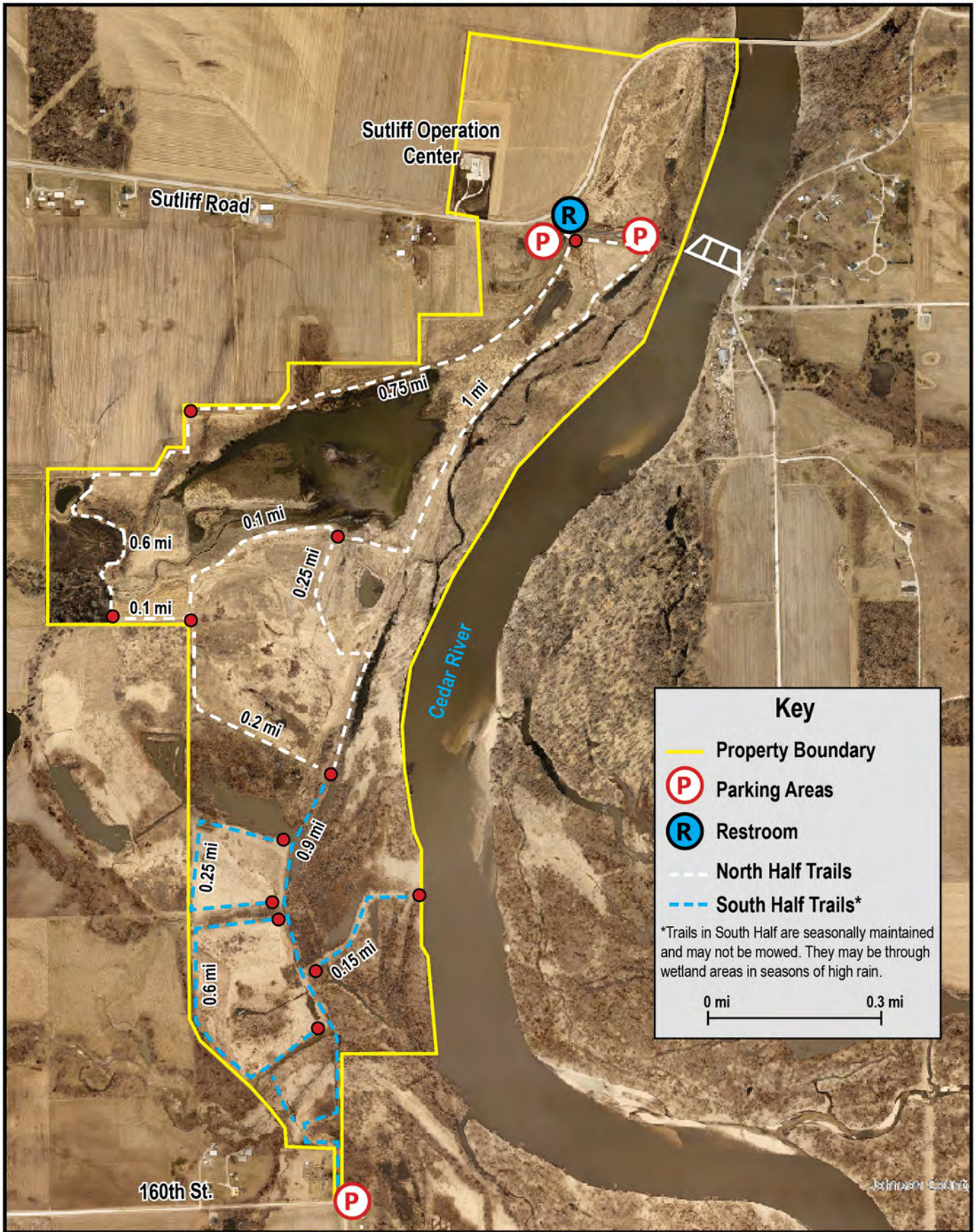





Cedar River Crossing

North Entrance: 5473 Sutliff Road NE, Solon, IA 52333

South Entrance: 5398 160th St. NE, Solon, IA 52333



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:

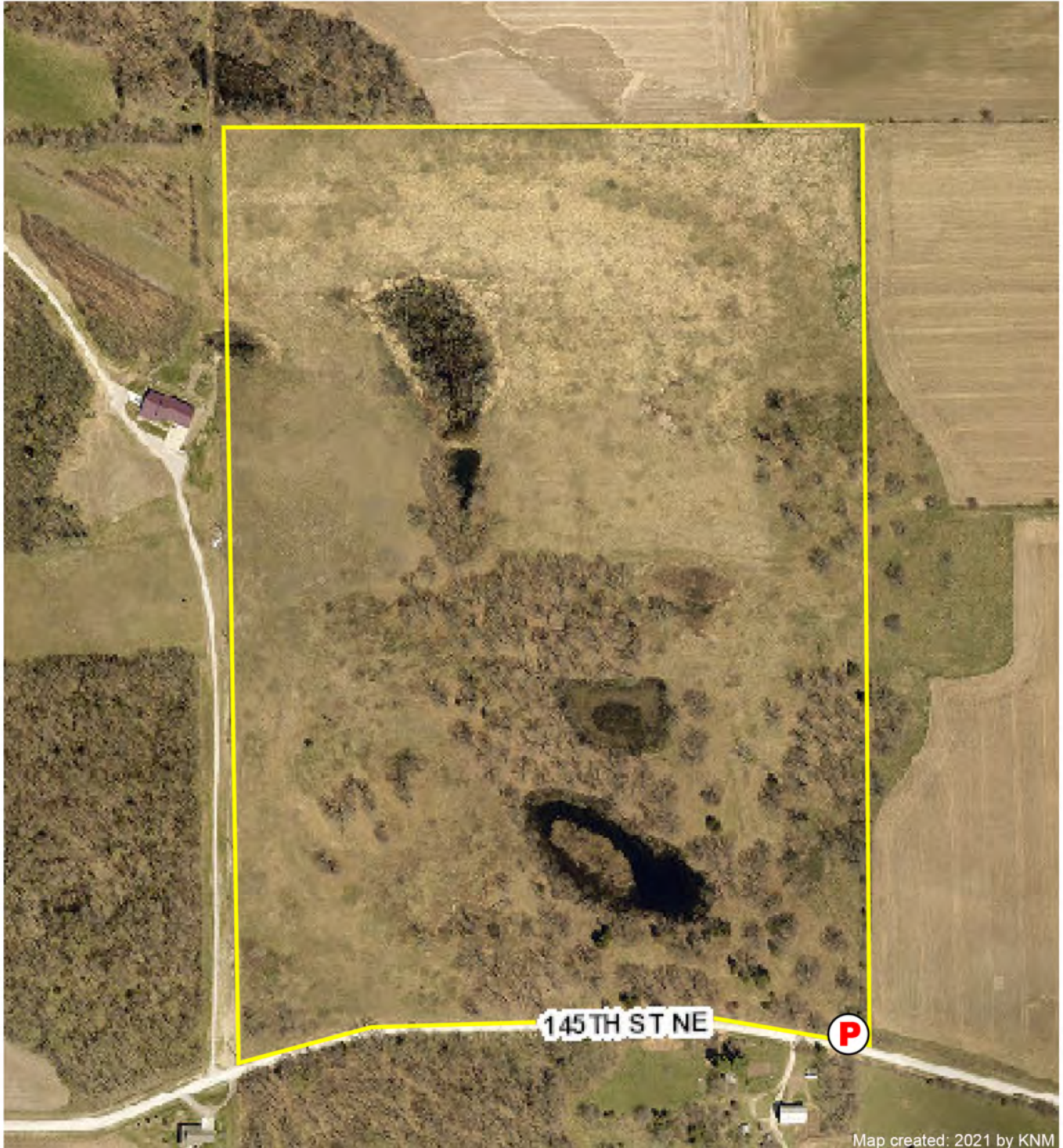
- 225 native plant species have been recorded onsite, including species of special concern such as Nodding Ladies' Tresses, Cleft Phlox, and Lance-leaved Violet.
- An abundance of wildlife find refuge at Ciha Fen Preserve, including species of Greatest Conservation Need, like Blanding's turtles, six-lined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

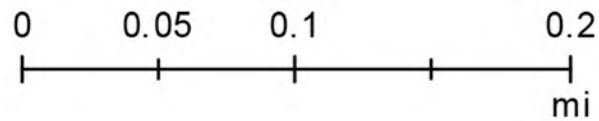
5656 145th St NE, Lisbon, IA 52253



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.

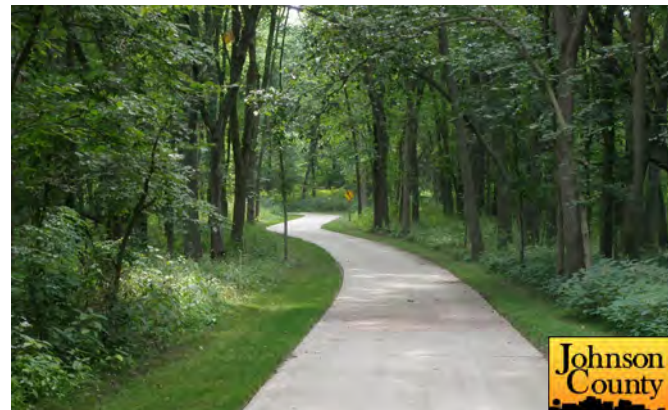


History: Johnson County Conservation acquired this property in 2009. This property was the first that JCC purchased utilizing funding from the Johnson County Conservation Bond, established by Johnson County voters in 2008 to purchase and protect natural areas from development. Funding also came through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

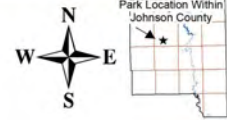
3196 Half Moon Ave NW
Tiffin, IA 52340



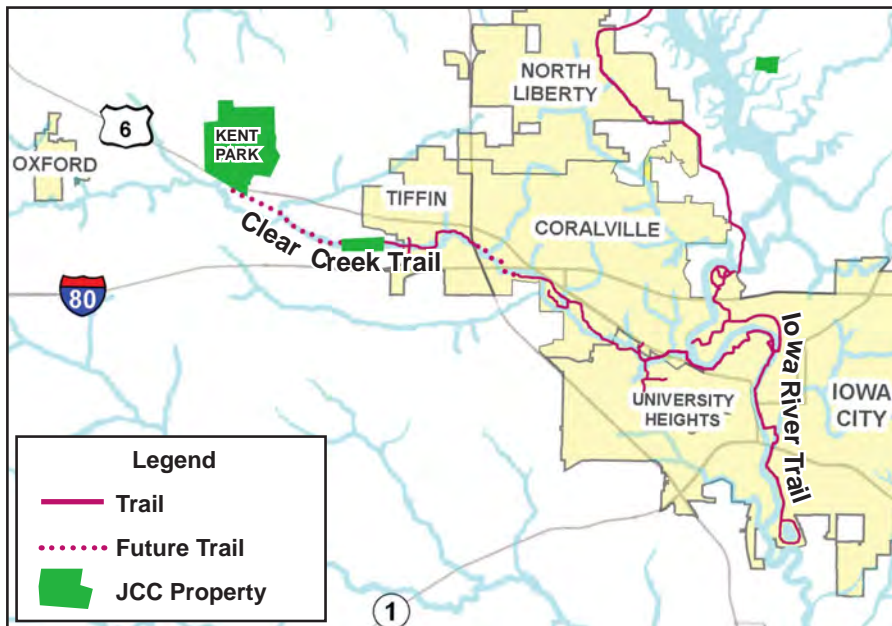
Legend

- Property Boundary
- Clear Creek Trail
- P Parking Area
- - - - Future Trail Extension
- 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.

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:

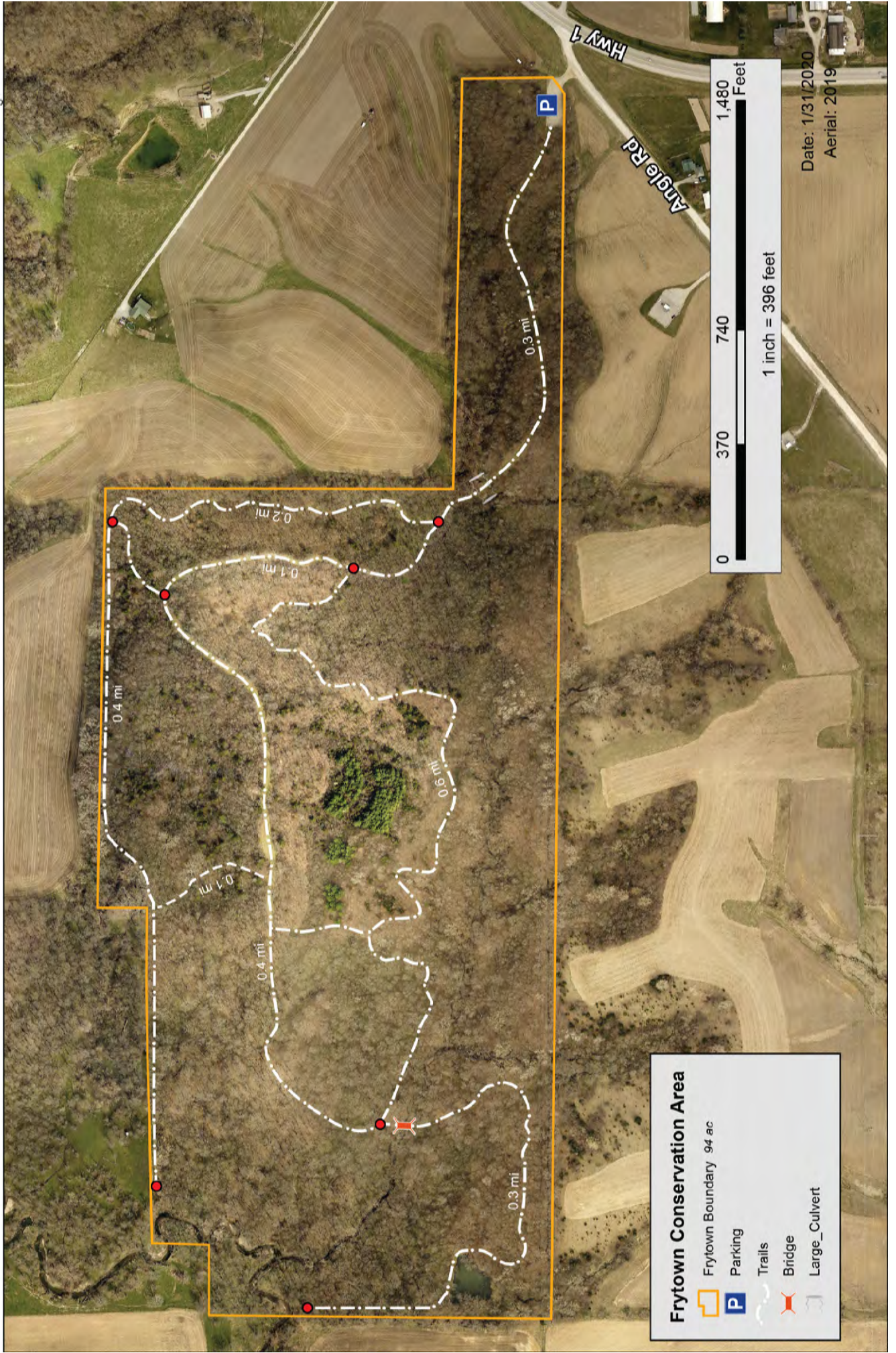
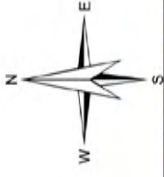
- Frytown is a wildlife haven and a popular hunting area. The forested land of this property connects to the forest corridor surrounding Old Man's Creek, and allows for safe passage between habitats for wildlife.
- Timber stand improvement projects in recent years have helped to open the understory of the forest, improving overall forest health, and making for great spring wildflower viewing.
- 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.
- Frytown Conservation Area is open to public hunting and trapping. By JCCB policy, hunters must use non-lead projectiles and shot to help prevent lead poisoning in wildlife that inadvertently consumes lead while ingesting the carcasses of animals.





Frytown Conservation Area

2198 Angle Rd SW
Kalona, Ia



Frytown Conservation Area

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

0 370 740 1,480 Feet

1 inch = 396 feet

Date: 1/31/2020
Aerial: 2019

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.

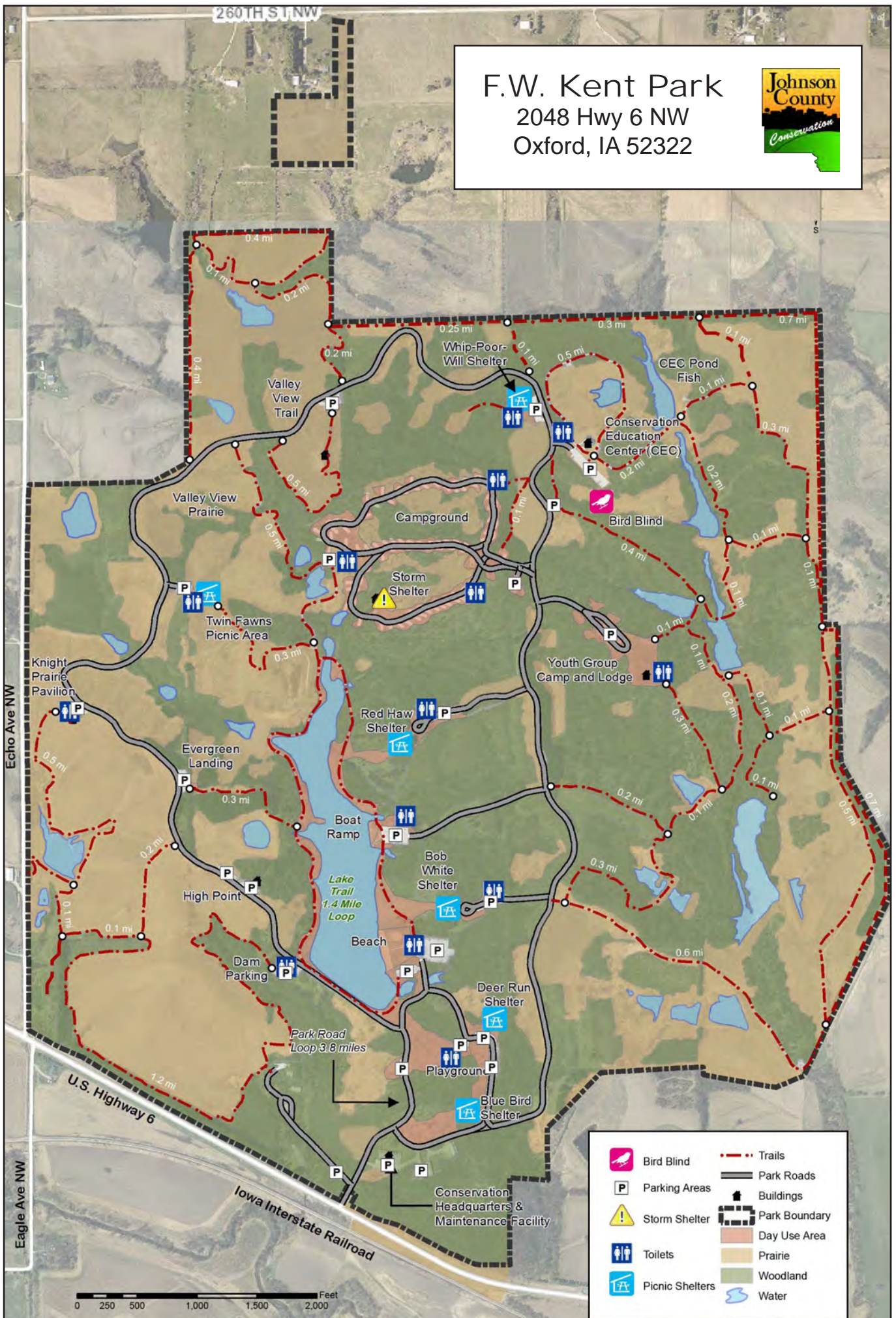
Features:

- 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.

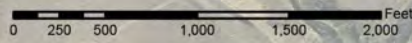


F.W. Kent Park

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



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.



The area of Hills Access on the east side of the Iowa River is open to hunting with the use of archery equipment or falconry only.

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



Hoover Trail

Overview: The Hoover Trail is currently made up of a 5.8-mile segment between the communities of Ely and Solon, a 3.7-mile segment between the communities of Oasis and West Branch, and several short disconnected segments between West Branch and Burlington. The trail is a rails-to-trails project, and much of the trail corridor is built along the old Chicago, Rock Island, and Pacific Railroad right-of-way. These trail segments are part of a larger Eastern Iowa trail project with a vision to connect Cedar Rapids to Burlington. 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:

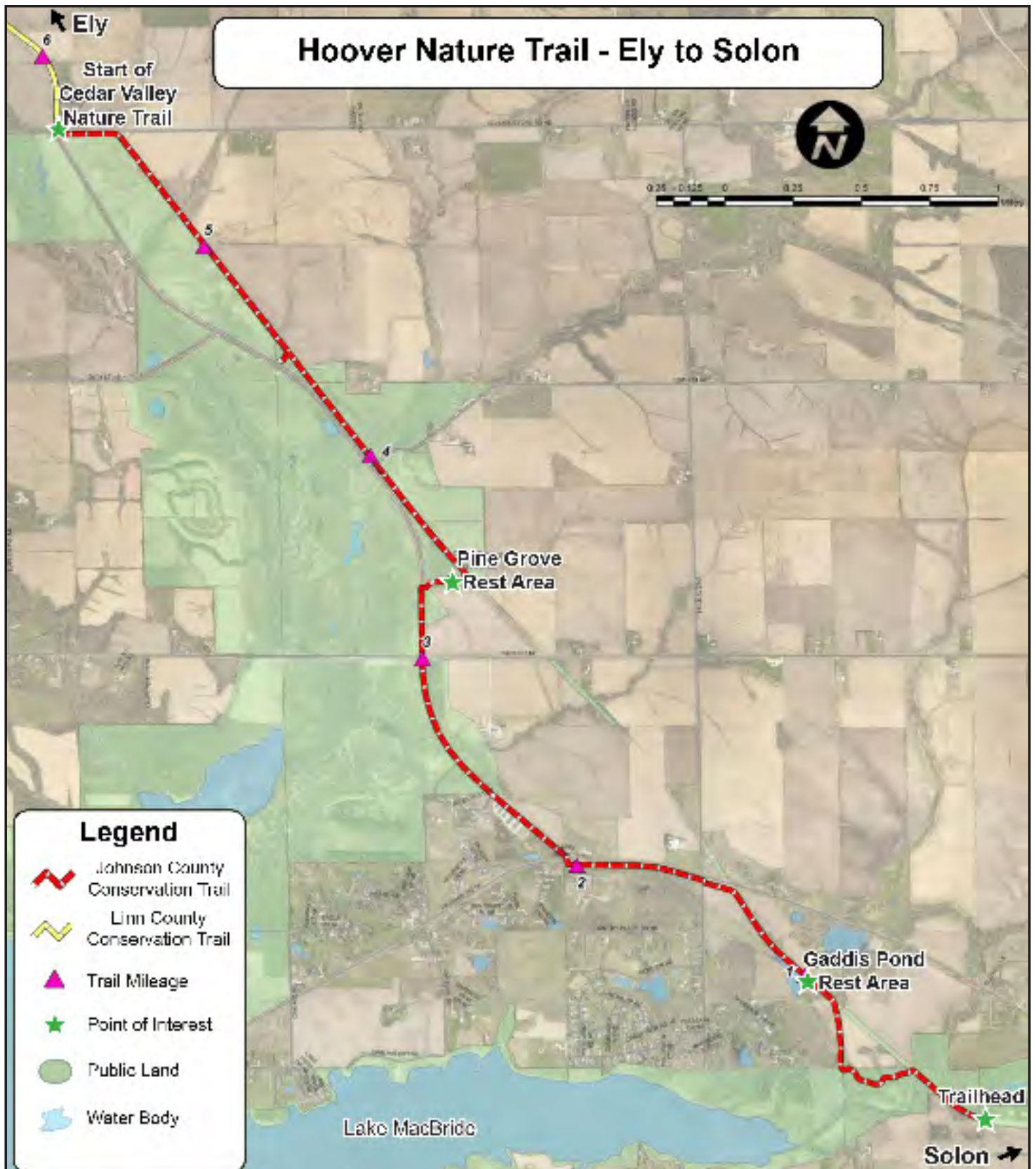
Linn County to Solon: The paved northernmost segment of the trail runs from Seven Sisters Road on the Johnson/ Linn County line down to Solon. The trail offers wide open views of farmland and bridges over Lingle Creek and Mill Creek. At its southern endpoint, it intersects with the North Shore Trail, which follows along the northern shore of the north arm of Lake Macbride. This section is maintained by Johnson County Conservation. North of the county line, the trail seamlessly continues as the Cedar Valley Nature Trail to Ely and further to Cedar Rapids and beyond. The Hoover Trail corridor north of 140th Street and east of Ely Road, to Seven Sisters Road, is open to public hunting as permitted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

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.



Hoover Nature Trail - Ely to Solon



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:

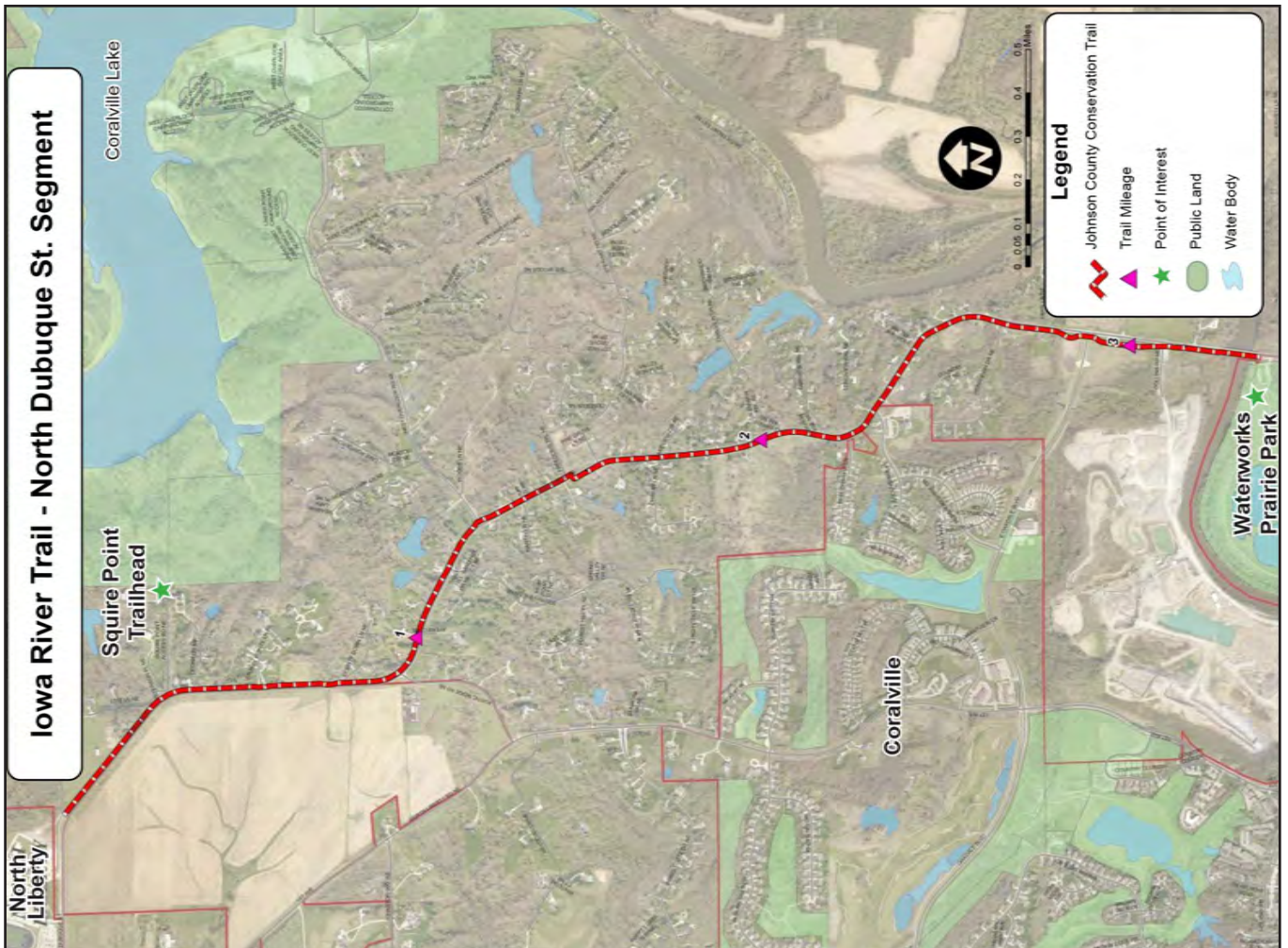
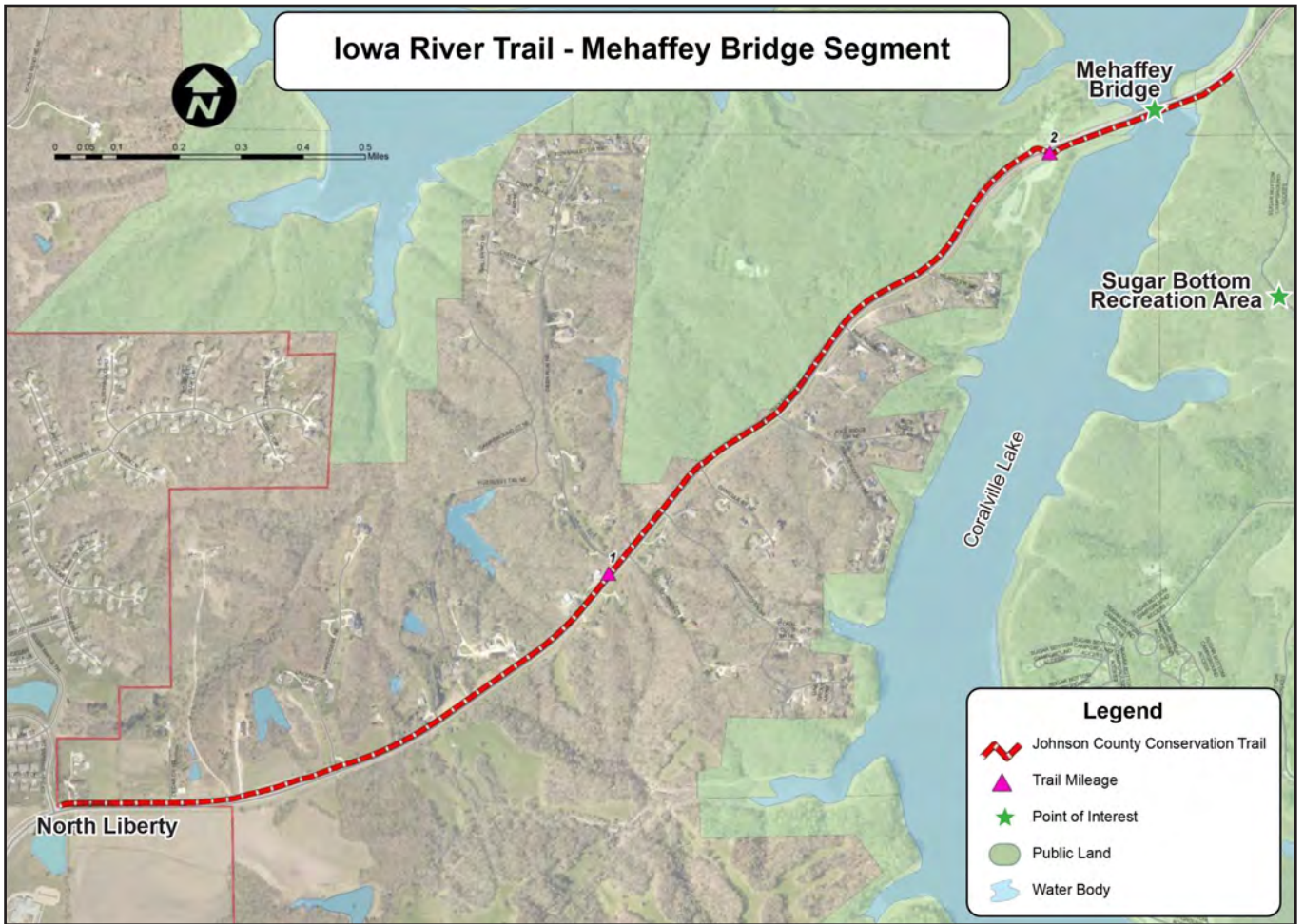
Terry Trueblood to Waterworks Prairie Park: The trail begins at Terry Trueblood Recreation Area, and heads north along the shady Iowa River shoreline. Along the way, the trail passes numerous parks such as Riverside Park and City Park, along with the University of Iowa Campus. At City Park, trail users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

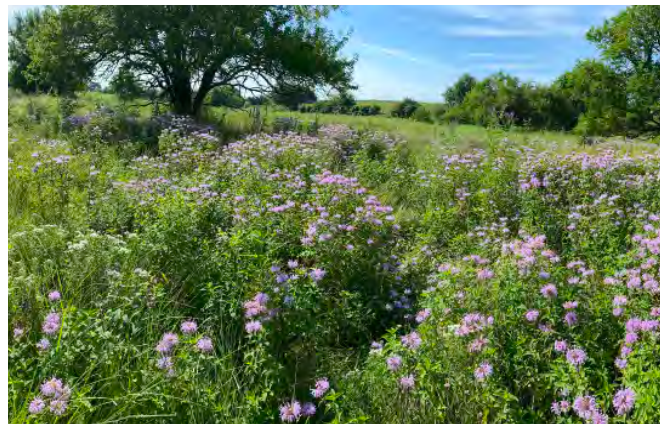


Malinda Reif Reilly Fen and Prairie

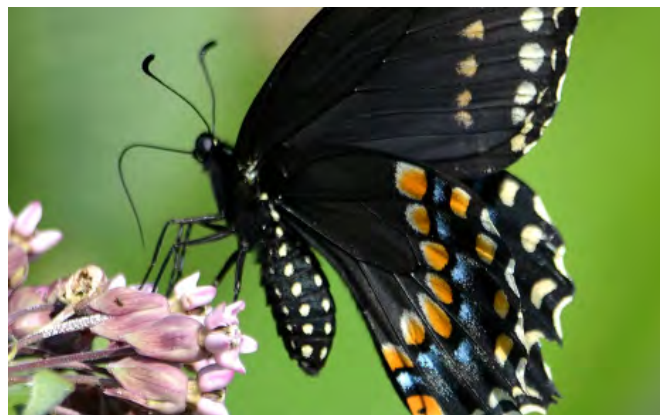


4495 140th Street NE
Solon, IA 52333

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:

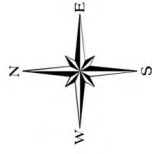
- 225 plant species have been recorded on-site, including rare native species such as: Tall Green Milkweed (*Asclepias hirtella*) and Hill's Thistle (*Cirsium hillii*).
- This site is primitive and undeveloped. There are no bathrooms or structures on-site. There is a developed parking area. Visitors 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 a 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 led to the sale of this property to public lands. The farmed areas of the property will be restored to a prairie/wetland complex.

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.
- 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.
- The property is open for hunting and trapping. By JCCB policy, hunters must use non-lead projectiles and shot to help prevent lead poisoning in wildlife that inadvertently consumes lead while ingesting the carcasses of animals.



Pechman Creek Delta

5875 Sand Rd SE, Lone Tree, IA 52755

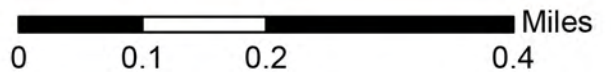


* The Supervised Youth Pheasant Hunting Area is restricted to the northeast quadrant of the park. By state law, hunters are required to maintain a 200 yd buffer from surrounding homes and cattle-lots. At Pechman, that buffer is maintained by staying between Pechman Creek and the unnamed creek on the property.

Map created: 2021 by KNM

Legend

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



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.
- A 1/2 mile two-track trail runs through the property along Old Man's Creek, with another short spur trail running through the forest. This area is a good place to view spring wildflowers. Hikers should be mindful of park boundaries and not trespassing onto adjacent private property.
- 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.
- The property is currently open to bow hunting.



Phebe Timber
4492 Kansas Ave SW
Iowa City, IA 52240






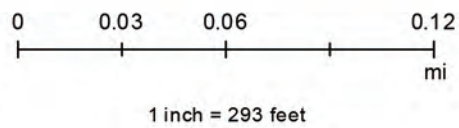
Map created: 2021 by KNM



Johnson Co

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.

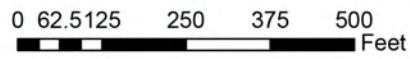
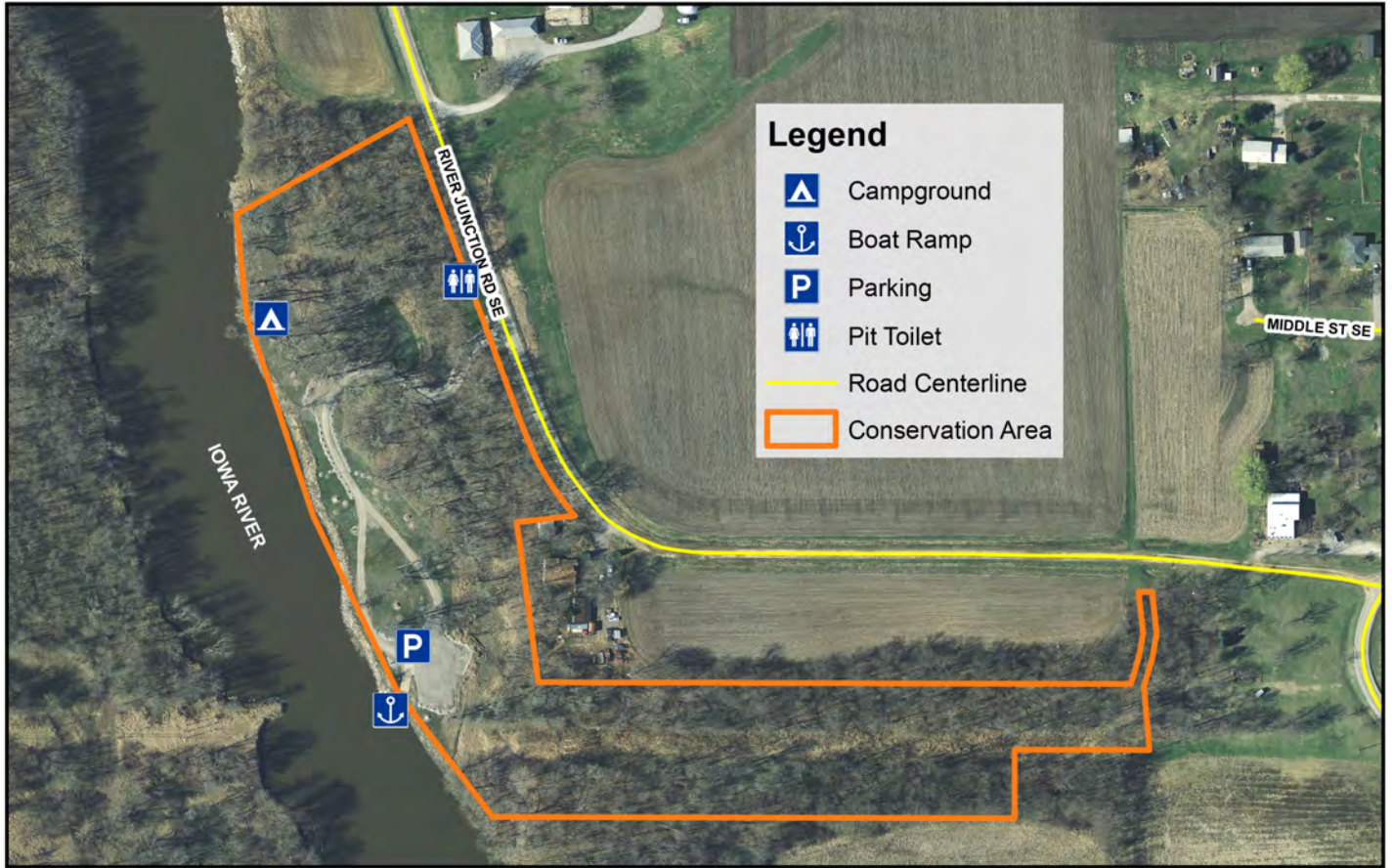
Features: Facilities on the site include the boat ramp, picnic tables, ten primitive campsites and a latrine.

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



Scott Church Park

5409 American Legion Rd SE
Iowa City, IA 52240

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

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

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

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



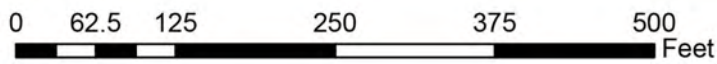
Scott Church Park

5409 American Legion Rd SE
Iowa City, IA 52240



Legend

- Parking Area
- Property Boundary
- Restroom
- Road



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.

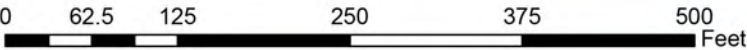


Features: The Prairie is a living natural history museum and gives the visitor a microcosmic view of the predominant vegetation of 80% of the state of Iowa at the time of settlement. It is a valuable outdoor classroom, and a great place for nature study and bird watching.



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.







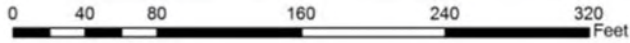
Sutliff Bridge and Access

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.

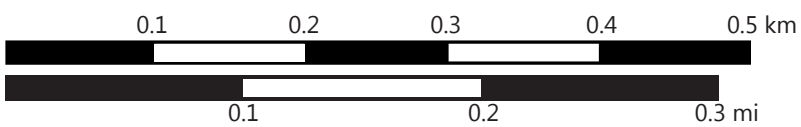
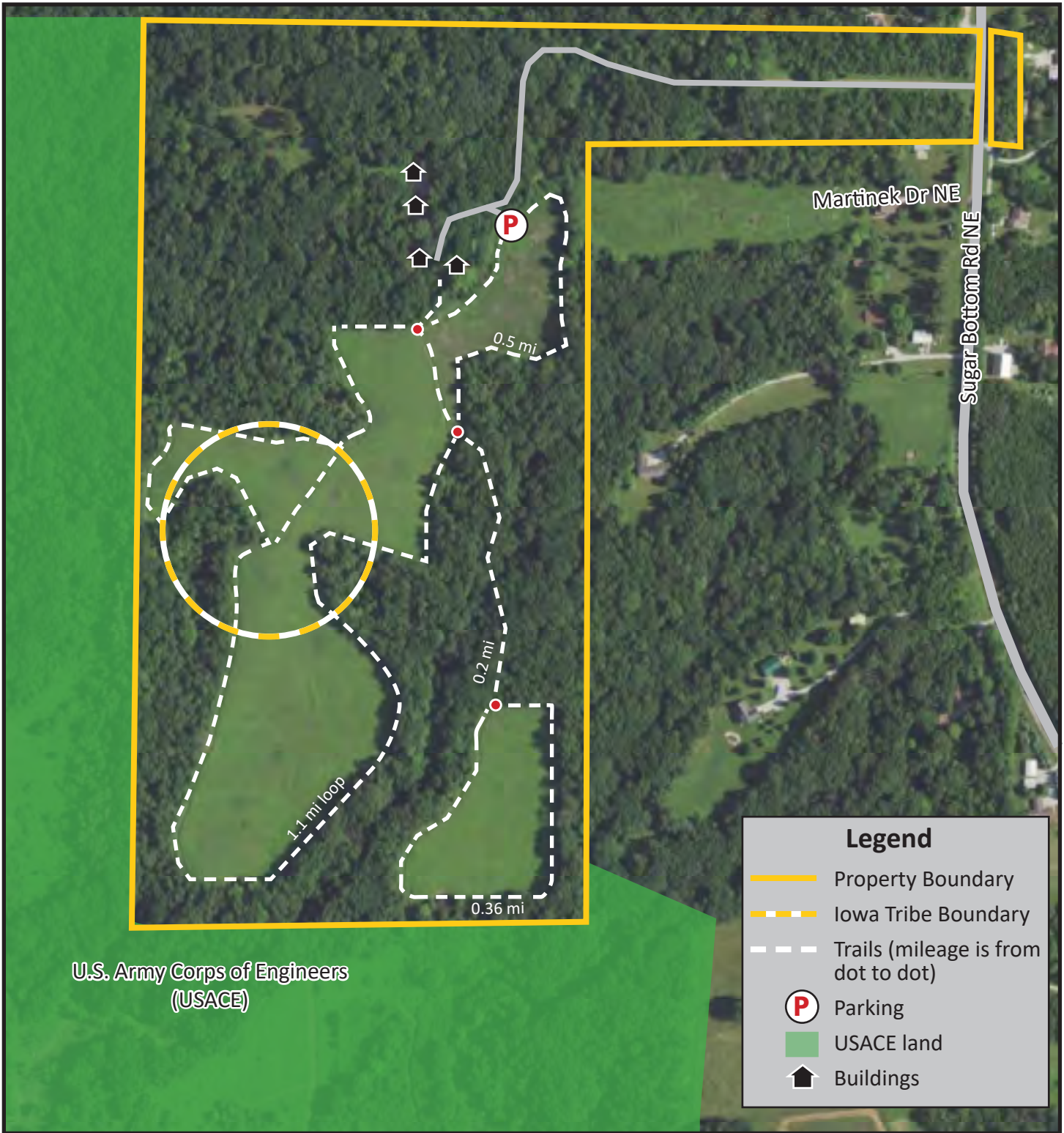
Features:

- 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.
- This property is open to archery hunting.



Two Horse Farm

2257 Sugar Bottom Rd NE, Solon IA 52333



Scale 1:5111 | 1 inch = 426 feet



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.

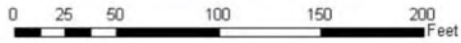
History: Walker Park predates the existence of the Johnson County Conservation (JCC) by more than fifty years! The park's namesake, Henry Walker, was amid the first Euro-americans to colonize the county. Walker donated the land for the site of the former River Junction Methodist Chapel and the adjoining 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



Map created: 2021 by KNM



Legend

 Property Boundary

 Parking Area

