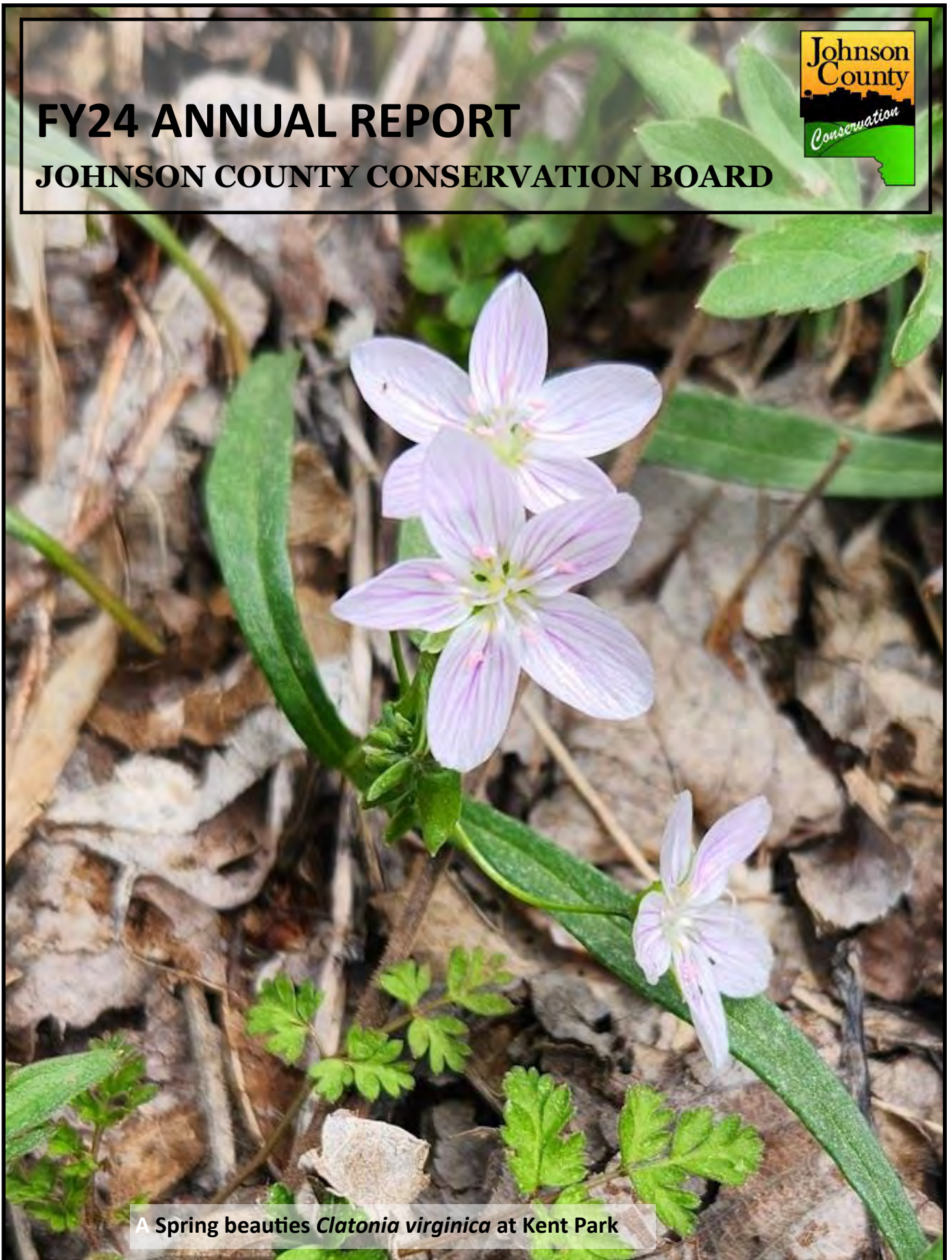




FY24 ANNUAL REPORT

JOHNSON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD



A Spring beauties *Clatonia virginica* at Kent Park



JOHNSON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD
Brad Freidhof, Conservation Director
2048 Highway 6 NW, Oxford, IA 52322-9211
Phone: 319.645.2315 Mobile: 319.331.7513
Bfreidhof@johnsoncountyiowa.gov
Web: www.johnsoncountyiowa.gov/conservation

Board Members
Bill Waldie
Carolyn Buckingham
Bonnie Winslow-Garvin
Connie Mutel
Zac Hall

March 18, 2025

To: Johnson County Board of Supervisors

The Conservation Board is proud to present the FY24 Annual Report for your review. This report provides information related to Conservation Board activities and projects that were completed during FY24. There were many accomplishments that occurred and none of them would have been possible without the continued support of the Board of Supervisors. The board and staff look forward to navigating the unprecedented and challenging times ahead with the continued support of the Johnson County Board of Supervisors and an inclusive team approach.

The Conservation Board and staff continue to focus on the priorities and goals identified in the strategic plan.

- **Protect** fragile and bio-sensitive sites, especially along rivers and streams.
- **Restore** natural resources focusing on the value and function of ecological relationships.
- **Connect** people to nature through outdoor recreation opportunities and education programs.
- Focus on improving **Water Quality** in everything we do.
- Develop a **Sustainable** program in terms of environmental efficiency and fiscal responsibility.
- Foster **Partnerships** that support teamwork and leverage resources.

Maintaining our focus on these priorities and working hard to serve Johnson County residents every day are keys to building a program that each and every one of us can be proud of. Thank you for your continued support.

Best regards,

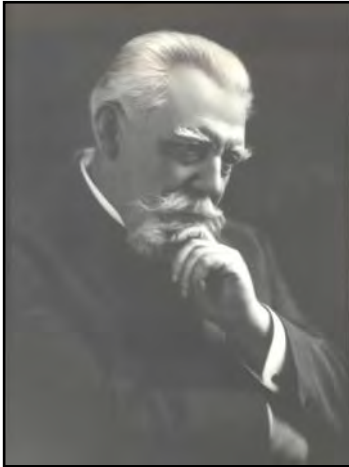
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Johnson County Conservation Board

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.”

FY24 Board of Supervisors



July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024: L to R. Jon Green, V. Fixmer-Oraiz, Lisa Green-Douglas, 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 & FY24 Officers



Gene Zdrazil, Lone Tree



Bill Waldie, Iowa City



Carolyn Buckingham, Iowa City



Connie Mutel, Solon



Bonnie Winslow-Garvin, North Liberty

Officers July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024

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

Fiscal Year 2024 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 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/department-of-conservation>

Legal Assistance

The Johnson County Attorney's Office provides legal assistance to the Conservation Board. Ryan Maas, Assistant County Attorney was the primary liaison for the fiscal year. Ryan worked closely with the Conservation Board, providing guidance for adherence to open meeting laws, executive sessions, land acquisitions, contract review and a variety of other needs.

Conservation Board Activities

14 Board Meetings in FY24:

12 regular meetings with 17 closed sessions

1 special meetings including:

A public hearing pursuant to Iowa Code 26.12 on the proposed plans, specifications, form of contract and cost estimate for phase 1 of the Shower House project at F.W. Kent Park.

1 special joint meeting:

A special joint meeting with the Board of Supervisors and staff to tour conservation projects.

Major Board Actions in FY24

- Motion to accept the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, R.D. McKinney, for the construction of the Kent Park Dump Station
- Motion to authorize the Conservation Director to sign the contract with R.D. Kinney
- Motion to approve the third reading and resolution of the Johnson County Conservation rules and regulations
- Review of JCCB Bylaws and Policy Manual
- Review of JCCB Employee Handbook
- Motion to approve Construction Services Agreement with Shive-Hattery for the Kent Park Dump Station Project
- Discussion regarding preparations for the gathering with the Iowa Tribe on October 13-15, 2023
- Review proposal from RES for design. Build of stream and wetland mitigation bank at Pechman Creek Delta
- Review Iowa DOT Agreement for the Clear Creek Trail Extension to Kent Park Project and federal funding
- Discussion regarding Hills Access Campground Winter management
- Approve authorizing Conservation Director to close on parcel adjacent to Sutliff Operations Center
- Review FY25 budget proposal
- Introductions of new staff to Board: Education Specialist—Michelle Wiegand, Natural Resource Management Technicians—Tim Kurt and Sabrina Peyton, and Custodian—Jacob Moss
- Motion to adopt 5-year capital plan
- Motion to enter into agreement with RES for the Pechman Creek Delta Stream and Wetland Mitigation Bank Design and Permitting
- Authorize Conservation Director to sign the contract with RES for the Pechman Creek Delta Stream and Wetland Mitigation Bank Design
- Election of Officers for the 2024 calendar year
- Approve resolution for plans, specifications, form of contract, cost estimate and notice to bidders for Phase 1 of the Campground Shower House at F.W. Kent Park
- Motion to approve resolution to submit a Destination Iowa grant for the Clear Creek Trail Extension to Kent Park project
- Review bids for phase 1 of the Campground Shower House at F.W. Kent Park project
- Motion to accept the bid of the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, Connolly Construction, for the construction of phase 1 of the Campground Shower House at F.W. Kent Park project
- Authorize staff to implement a special zone deer hunt at Kent Park
- Approve farming agreement with Brian Ulch for 34 acres at Cedar River Crossing
- Motion to submit the FY23 Annual Report to the Johnson County Board of Supervisors
- Motion to approve MOU with Amy Hasen for a summer camp at Kent Park
- Approve survey work on west fence line of Ciha Fen
- Review temporary and permanent easements needed for the Clear Creek Trail extension to F.W. Kent Park Project

Major Board Actions in FY24

- Approve professional services agreement with Stanley Consultants for the Hoover Trail Crossing along Ely Road
- Approve sponsorship of research project of the Iowa City sand prairie relic near Sand Road through Dr. Tom Rosburg, Drake University
- Ratification of appointment of Brad Freidhof, as Acting Conservation Director
- Motion to enter into a professional services agreement for the Celebration Barn Renovations with Shive-Hattery

FY24—Staff Changes



Marci Trana resigned her position as an Education Specialist on September 1, 2023.



Michelle Wiegand was hired as an Education Specialist on November 27, 2023



Sabrina Peyton was hired as a Natural Resource Management Technician on July 11, 2023



Tim Kurt was hired as a Natural Resource Management Technician on July 11, 2023

FY24—Staff Changes



Natalie Stowe changed roles, moving from the Custodian to a Natural Resource Management Technician on July 11, 2023.



Jacob Moss was hired as Custodian on August 28, 2023

Johnson County Conservation Board
Personnel Roster
July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024
FULL TIME STAFF

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>START DATE</u>	<u>END DATE</u>
Larry Gullett	Director	01/07/2013	
Dory Kjosa	Part Time Office Assistant	08/30/2010	12/29/2014
	Office Manager/Secretary	12/30/2014	
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		

Johnson County Conservation Board
Personnel Roster
July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024
FULL TIME STAFF

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>START DATE</u>	<u>END DATE</u>
Marci Trana	Education Specialist	11/16/2020	09/01/2023
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	07/10/2023
	Nat. Res. Technician	07/11/2023	
Sabrina Callahan	Nat. Res. Technician	07/11/2023	
Tim Kurt	Nat. Res. Technician	07/11/2023	
Jacob Moss	Custodian	08/28/2023	
Michelle Wiegand	Education Specialist	11/27/2023	

**Johnson County Conservation Board
Personnel Roster
July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024**

SEASONAL STAFF

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>START DATE</u>	<u>END DATE</u>
Maura Arnold	Naturalist Intern	04/17/2023	08/17/2023
Jasmine Crow	Naturalist Intern	04/17/2024	08/17/2024
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
Joey Bouska	Ranger Intern	03/04/2024	07/02/2024
Olivia Mayo	Ranger Intern	05/06/2024	09/06/2024
Noah Anderson	Ranger Intern	05/09/2024	09/09/2024
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
Sidney Feckers	Seasonal Park Worker	05/01/2023	09/01/2023
Camden Heimerman	Seasonal Park Worker	06/08/2023	08/08/2023
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
Damon Shutt	Seasonal Park Worker	04/10/2023	08/01/2023
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

Johnson County Conservation Board

Personnel Roster

July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024

SEASONAL STAFF

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>START DATE</u>	<u>END DATE</u>
Yutana Hughes	Seasonal Park Worker	01/03/2024	04/19/2024
Ryleigh Allgood	Seasonal Park Worker	06/03/2024	07/31/2024
Ivee Steere	Seasonal Park Worker	05/06/2024	07/01/2024
Mitchell Griffin	Seasonal Park Worker	03/11/2024	07/03/2024
Isabelle Shutt	Seasonal Park Worker	04/29/2024	08/06/2024
Ben Kelley	Seasonal Park Worker	05/28/2024	08/09/2024
Kyler Ninemire	Seasonal Park Worker	04/29/2024	08/02/2024
Ian McAreavy	Seasonal Park Worker	05/13/2024	08/23/2024
Elisabeth Hachtman	Seasonal Park Worker	06/03/2024	08/20/2024
Delsey Curtis	Seasonal Park Worker	04/15/2024	08/15/2024
Casey Anderson	Seasonal Park Worker	05/07/2024	08/23/2024
Dallon Whitehill	Seasonal Park Worker	05/13/2024	08/23/2024
Cale Mascher	Seasonal Park Worker	06/03/2024	08/23/2024
Galen Iverson	Seasonal Park Worker	05/15/2024	09/02/2024
Michael Dion	Seasonal Park Worker	05/20/2024	09/20/2024
Tom Gudenkauf	Seasonal Park Worker	05/28/2024	09/27/2024
Isaac Chen	Seasonal Park Worker	03/04/2024	11/01/2024

FY24 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

- Designed, constructed and installed entry sign
- Hosted a gathering with the Iowa Tribe of Nebraska and Kansas
- Repaired the septic system at the house

Cedar River Crossing Entryway Project

- New latrine completed

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.
- 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.

Malina Reif Reilly Fen and Prairie

- Designed, constructed, and installed entry sign

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.

Dump Station Project

- Coordinated funding of the project with American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) team.
- Installation was completed by R.D. McKinney and staff began training on operation of the new system
- Staff installed sidewalk and other amenities for the new dump station

Shower House Project

- Coordinated development of the project through Shive-Hattery consultants.
- Connolly Construction was selected as the lowest responsive, responsible bidder and began work on Phase 1 of the campground shower house project, which included the waste water system installation, solar array installation south of the lateral field, roadway install, and utility relocation in preparation for the next phase.

Operations and Trail Maintenance

- Repaired concrete at blow-outs along 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.

Natural Resource Mgmt.

- Completed prescribed burning on 518.6 acres
- Seeded 17.85 acres of prairie at Kent Park and Cedar River Crossing and collected 72.9 pounds of forbs, grass and wetland seed valued at \$10,694.
- 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
- Completed tree care and maintenance for trees, including 507 memorial trees.
- Conducted invasive species management

Two Horse Farm



Staff designed and constructed the new Two Horse Farm sign at Kent Park and then transport and install the sign at the entrance of Two Horse Farm. These plastic signs should have a long life and require minimum maintenance.

Two Horse Farm



Additional operation centers equates to more infrastructure and more repairs and maintenance on buildings and systems associated to those buildings. The Conservation Department has a knowledgeable and highly trained staff that is able to address many of these repairs and required maintenance tasks. Aging infrastructure can lead to repairs at inopportune times. Staff attempt to complete as much preventative maintenance on both infrastructure and equipment, but even with the best preventative maintenance program, repairs are needed. Staff attend trainings and continuing education courses to stay up-to-date on the current trends and changing regulations and requirements.



Gathering with the Iowa Tribe



Drummers and singers were brought to the Iowa Tribe gathering to celebrate the return of the Ioway people to the State of Iowa. Larry Gullett was instrumental in coordinating the land return from Brian and Erin Melloy to the Ioway and he explains the importance of returning the voices of the Native American community to the land as part of the land restoration process.



The ARPA funded dump station was completed in FY24. Staff are now training on the operation of the system and learning how the usage at Kent Park affects its operation. The removal of the old dump station and shower house wastewater field will help protect the watershed of Kent Park Lake.



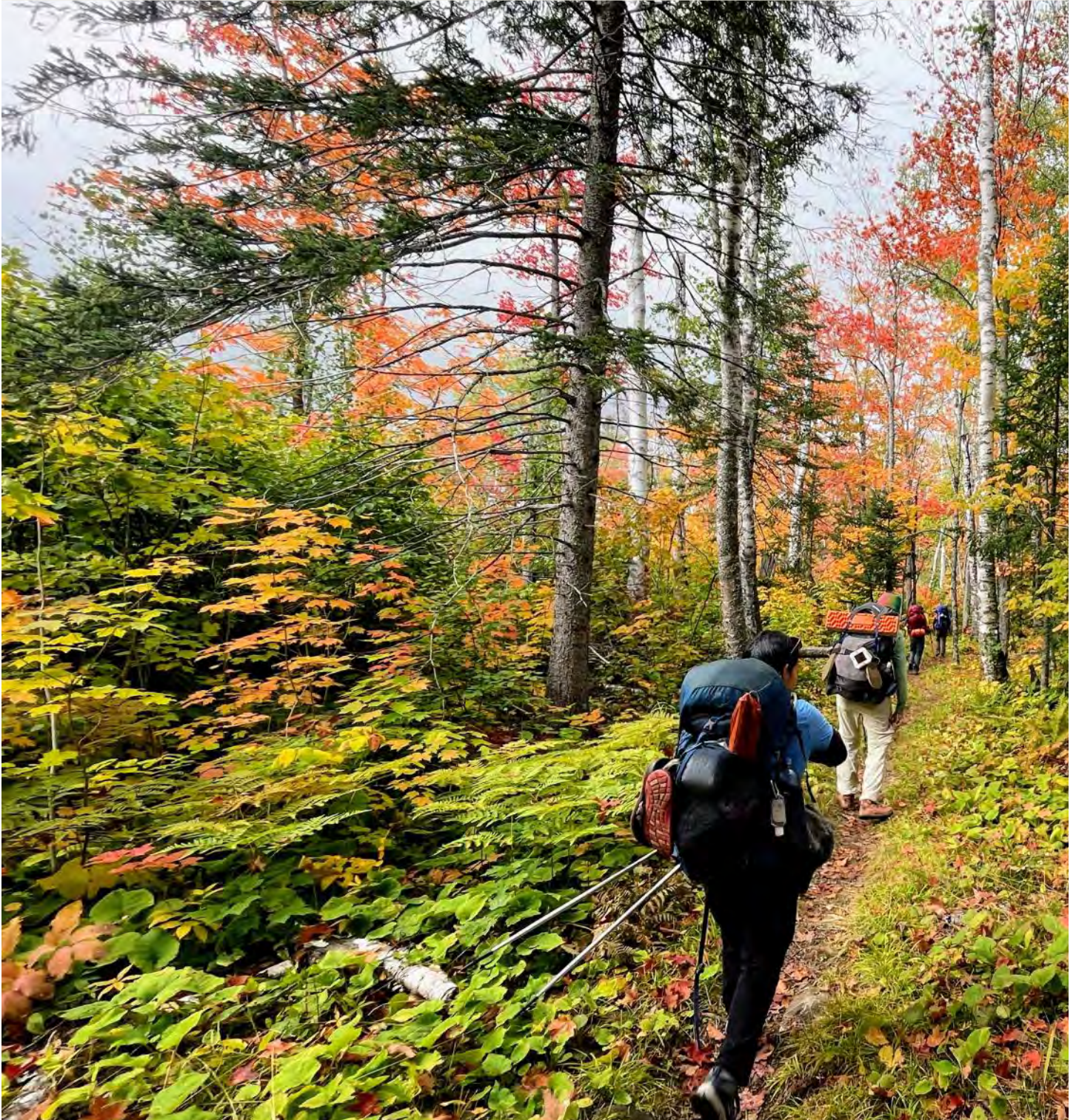


Staff completed the design, construction, and installation of the new entry sign at Malinda Reif Reilly Fen and Prairie. The sign was installed near the new gravel parking area. Natural Resource staff are using prescribed fire, invasive tree and shrub removal, and other management techniques to help the native grassland species return to this site.



Education Program

Presented 240 programs to 9,465 participants



The education staff lead programs for all group types and help them explore and connect to our natural areas. This photo show the ecology focused backpacking trip to the Superior Hiking Trail.

Eighty-two programs were presented to 3,335 school aged children during the year. Fourth graders from Alexander Elementary pose on the Fossil Bridge at Cangleska Wakan



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 explore one of the numerous wetlands at Kent Park, exploring the aquatic community and learning about the multitude of organisms that call this wetland their home.



The education staff also provide programs about “how-to” skills in different types of outdoor recreation. Archery is a great skill that teaches students patience, focus, and how to break processes down into smaller steps. These skills can be transfer to life and help students take difficult tasks and break them down into steps that they can practice and achieve success.



Students learning to kayak and exploring wetland plants 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 provides youth a chance to see the world in a whole new perspective, and it gives us a chance to see our future leaders.



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 and provides hikers beauty and tranquility, intended to create memories for a lifetime.



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, 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 six solar arrays located throughout the county.

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.



Natural Resources



The Natural Resource staff are responsible for restoration, management and preservation of native plant communities. Weather conditions can have severe impacts on natural resource communities and make restoration and management difficult. Drought conditions have both immediate impacts and long-term impacts, creating issues years following a drought. The staff restore prairie, wetland, savanna, forest and aquatic plant communities. Invasive species pose a great concern, but with proper management, native communities can thrive.





In addition to plant community management the natural resource staff also coordinate all the water quality monitoring and testing that occurs on JCCB properties. Addressing dying ash trees that cause potential hazards along trails and roadways continues to be addressed. Staff also work hard to be financially responsible, harvesting restored prairies to provide a base seed mix for additional projects.





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

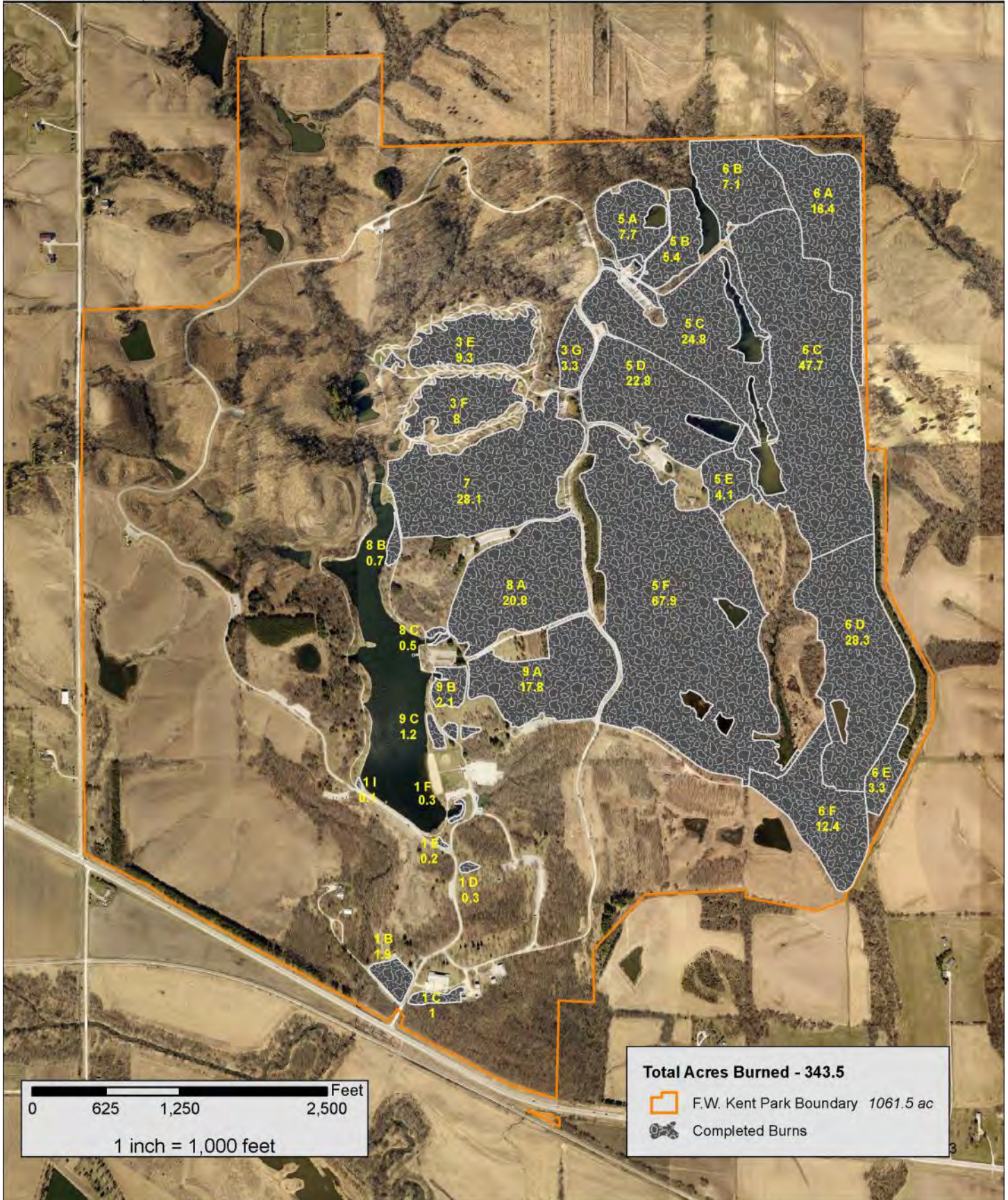
Cedar River Crossing Conservation Area — 206.4 Acres Burned

Malinda Reif Reilly Fen and Prairie — 25.25 Acres Burned



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

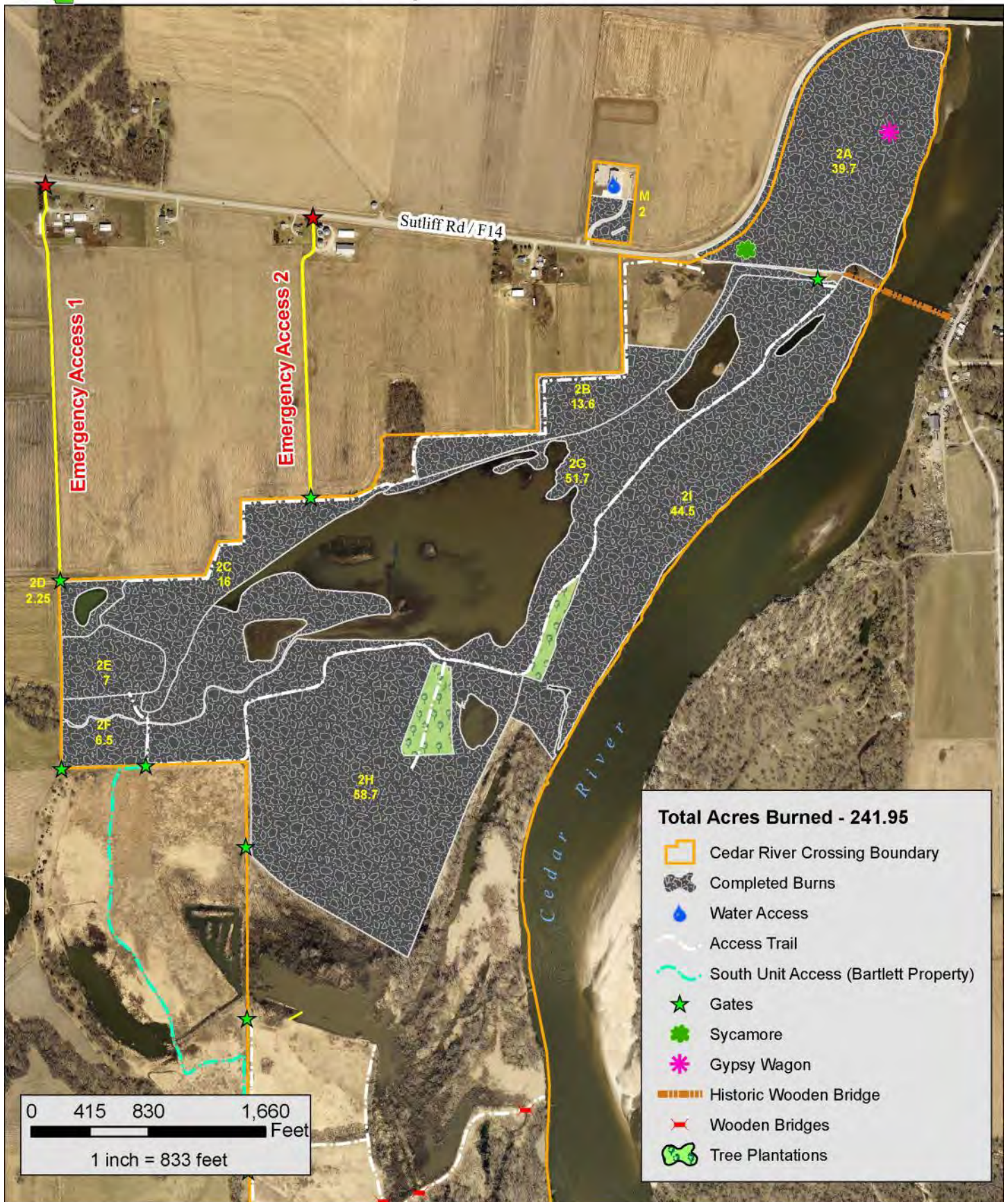
F.W. Kent Park Rx Fire Completed Burns 2023





North Access
5473 Sutliff Rd NE
Solon, Ia 52322

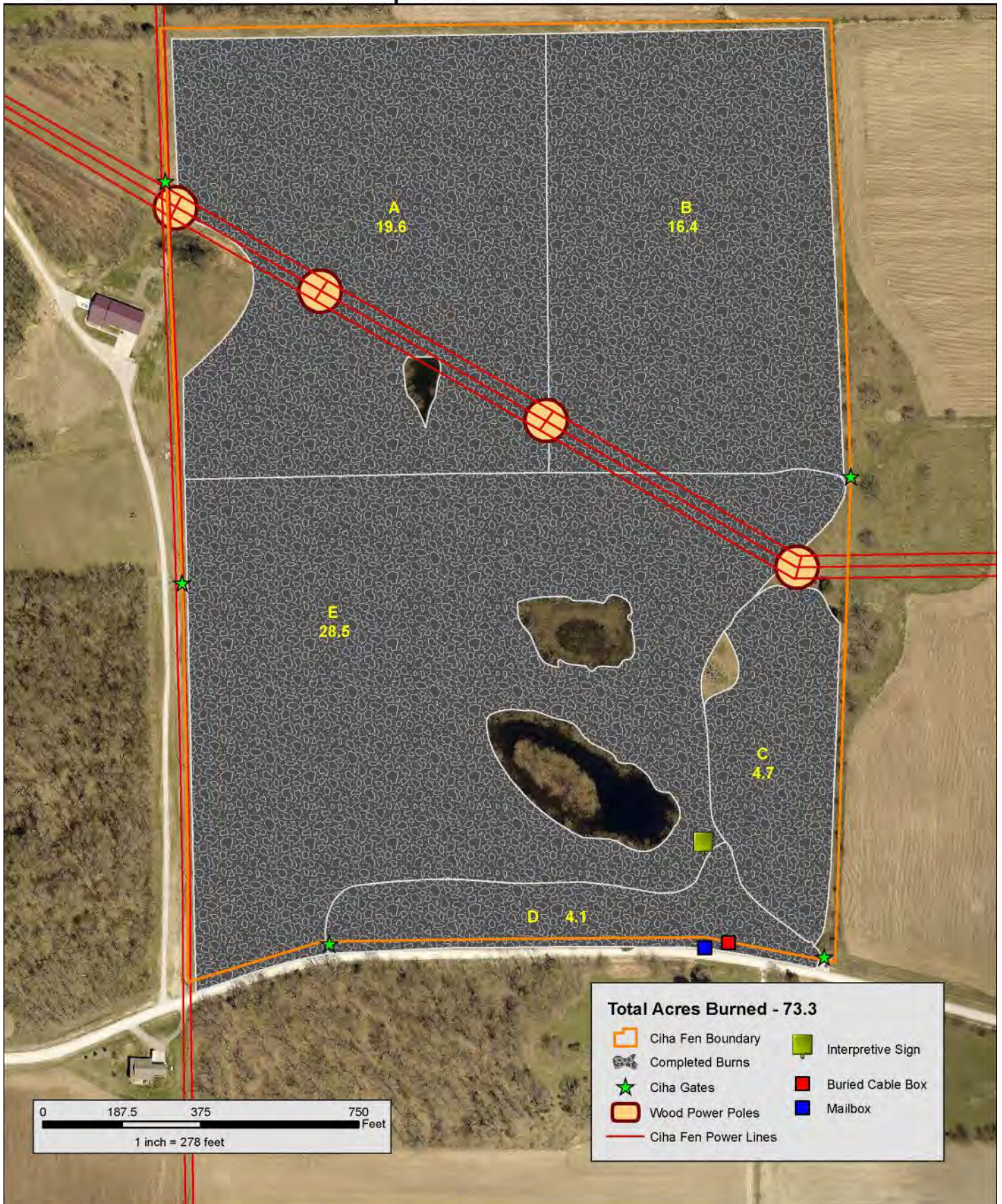
Cedar River Crossing Conservation Area Completed Burns 2023





5656 145th St NE
Lisbon, IA 52253

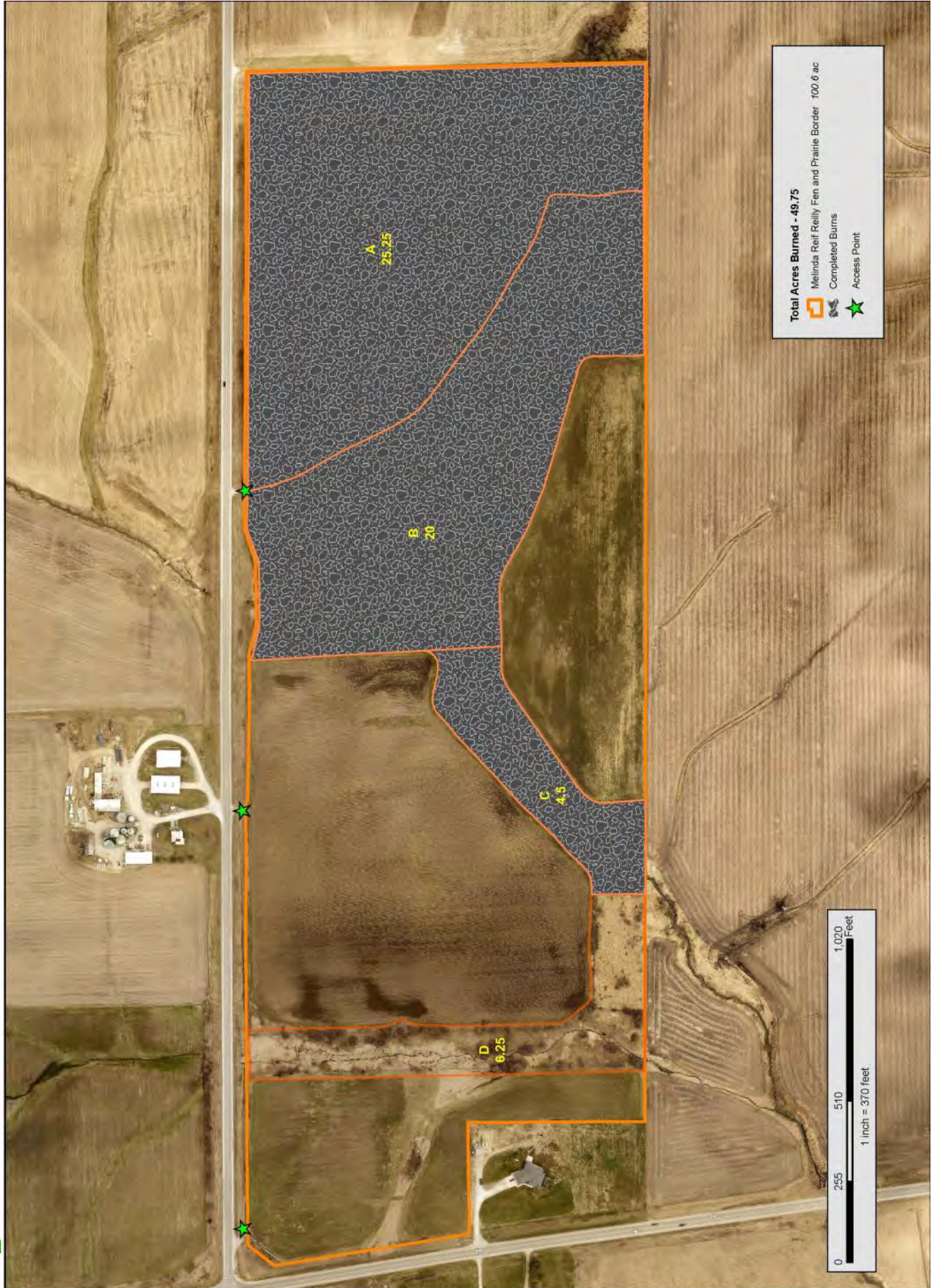
Ciha Fen Rx Burn Map Completed Burns 2023





4495 140th Street NE
Solon, IA 52333

Malinda Reif Reilly Fen & Prairie Completed Burns 2023



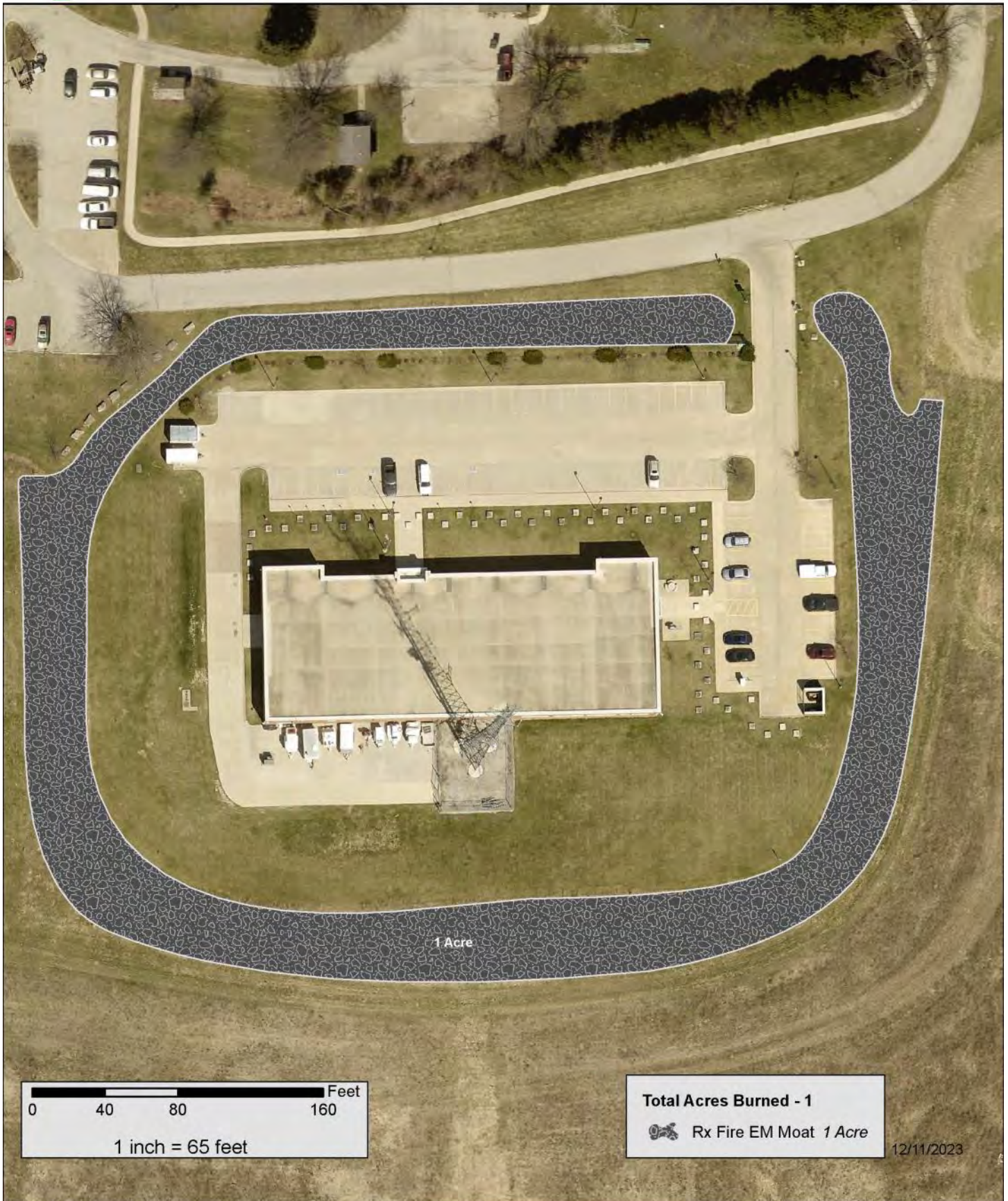


2298 Black Hawk Ave NW
Oxford, IA 52322

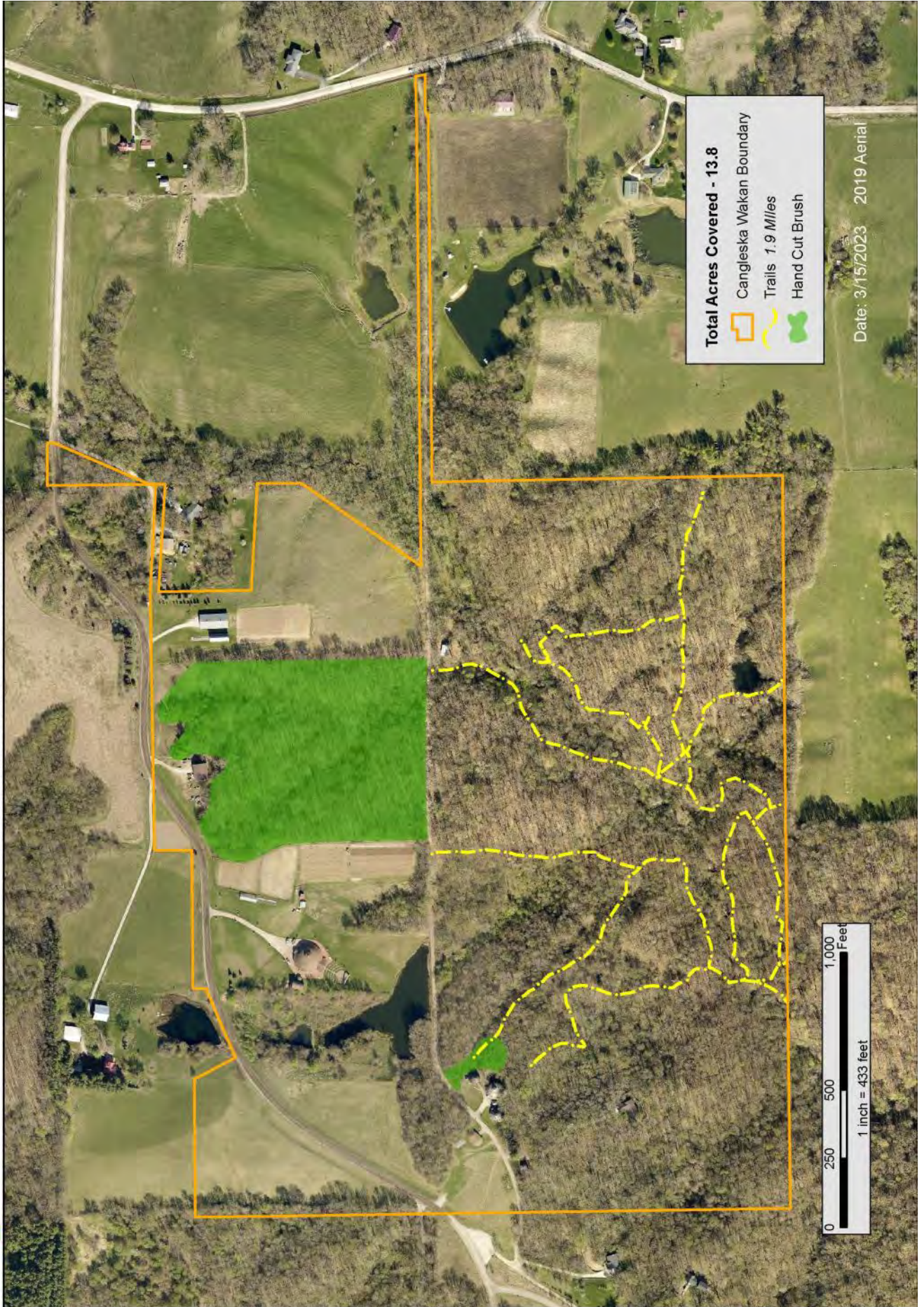
Williams Prairie Preserve Completed Burns 2023



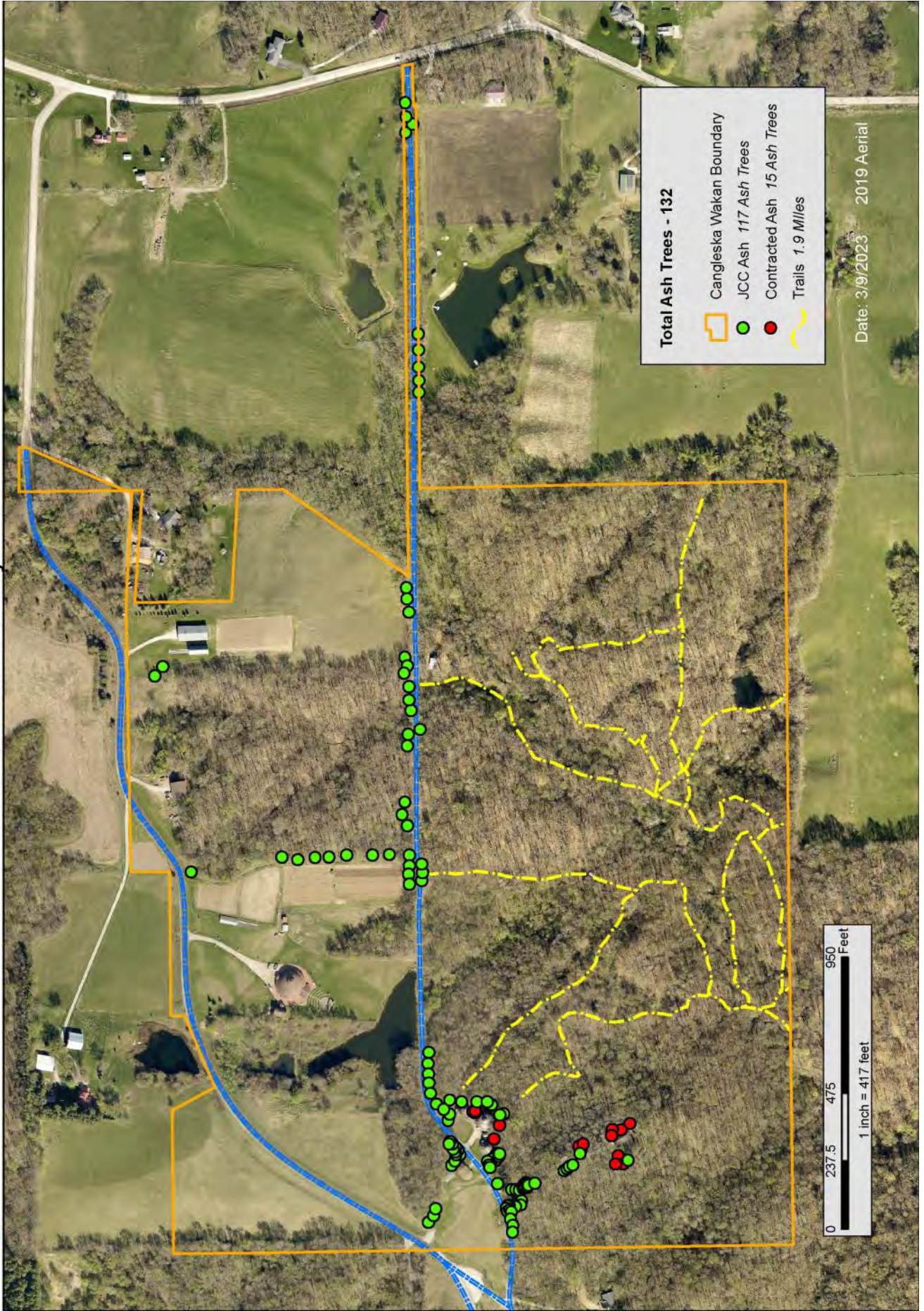
Emergency Management Rx Fire 2023



Cangleska Wakan Hand Cut Brush Winter 22 - 23



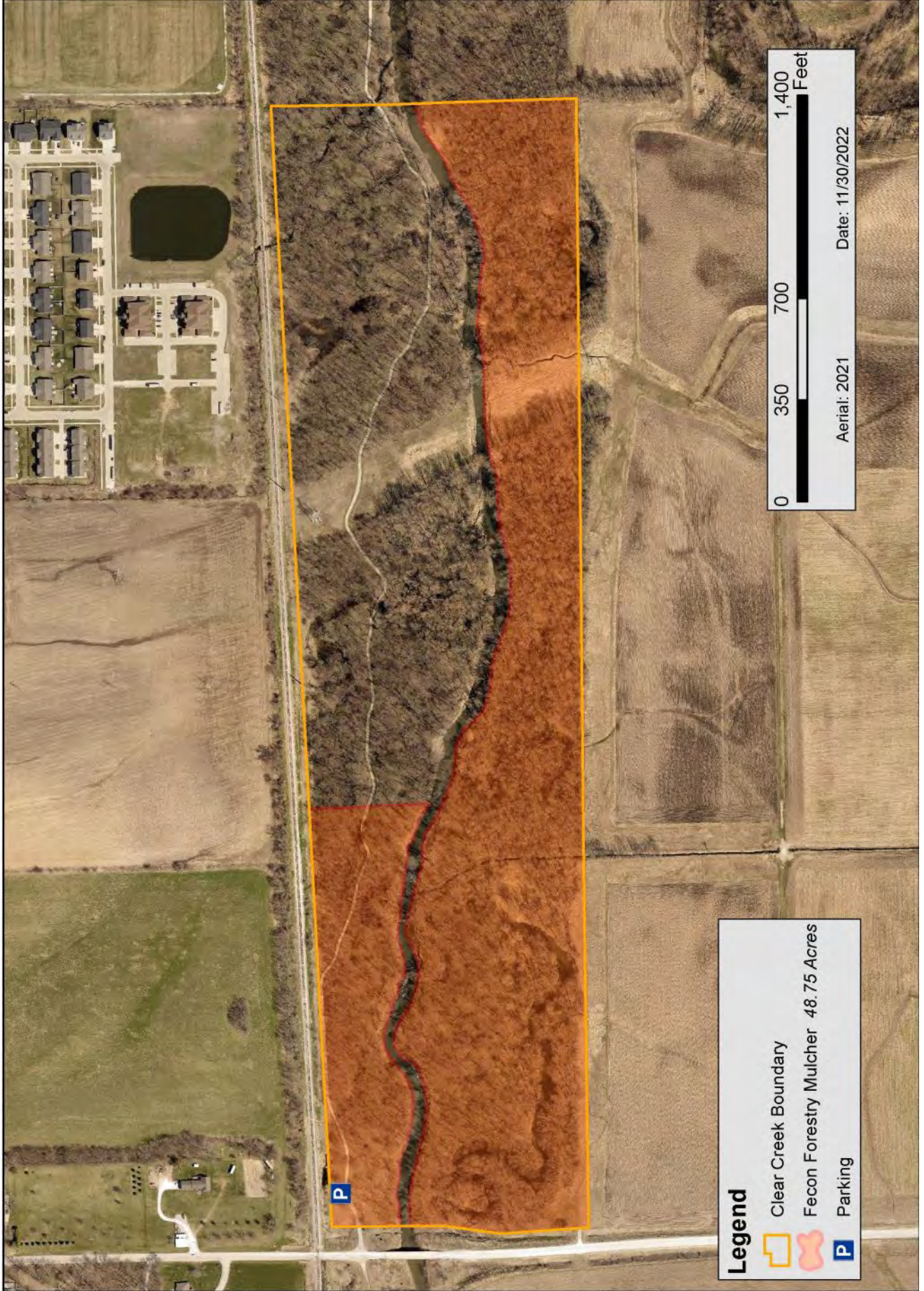
Cangleska Wakan Ash Removal Inventory



Ciha Fen Preserve Woody Brush and Tree Mowing Fall 2022

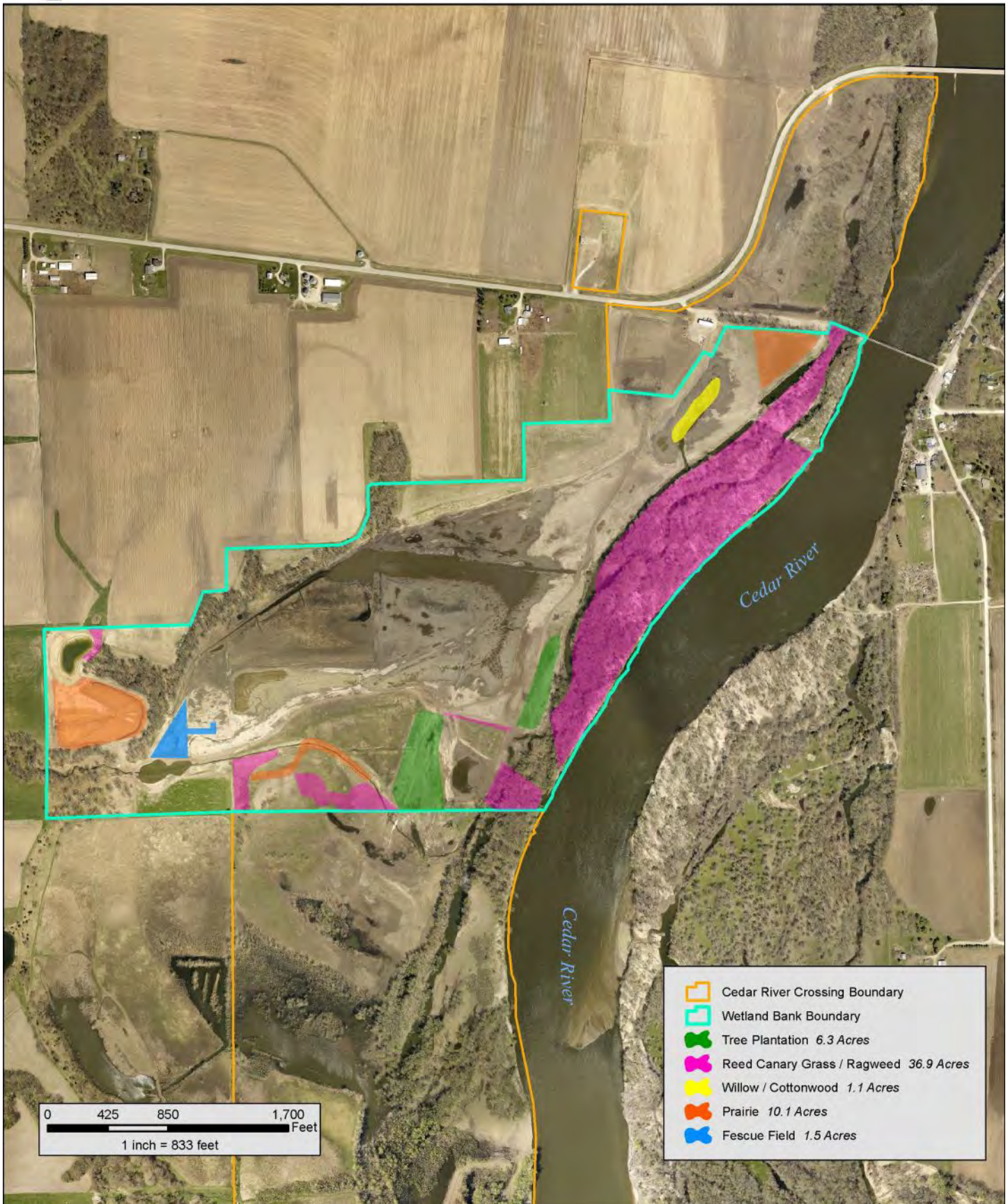


Clear Creek - Brush Mowing 2022

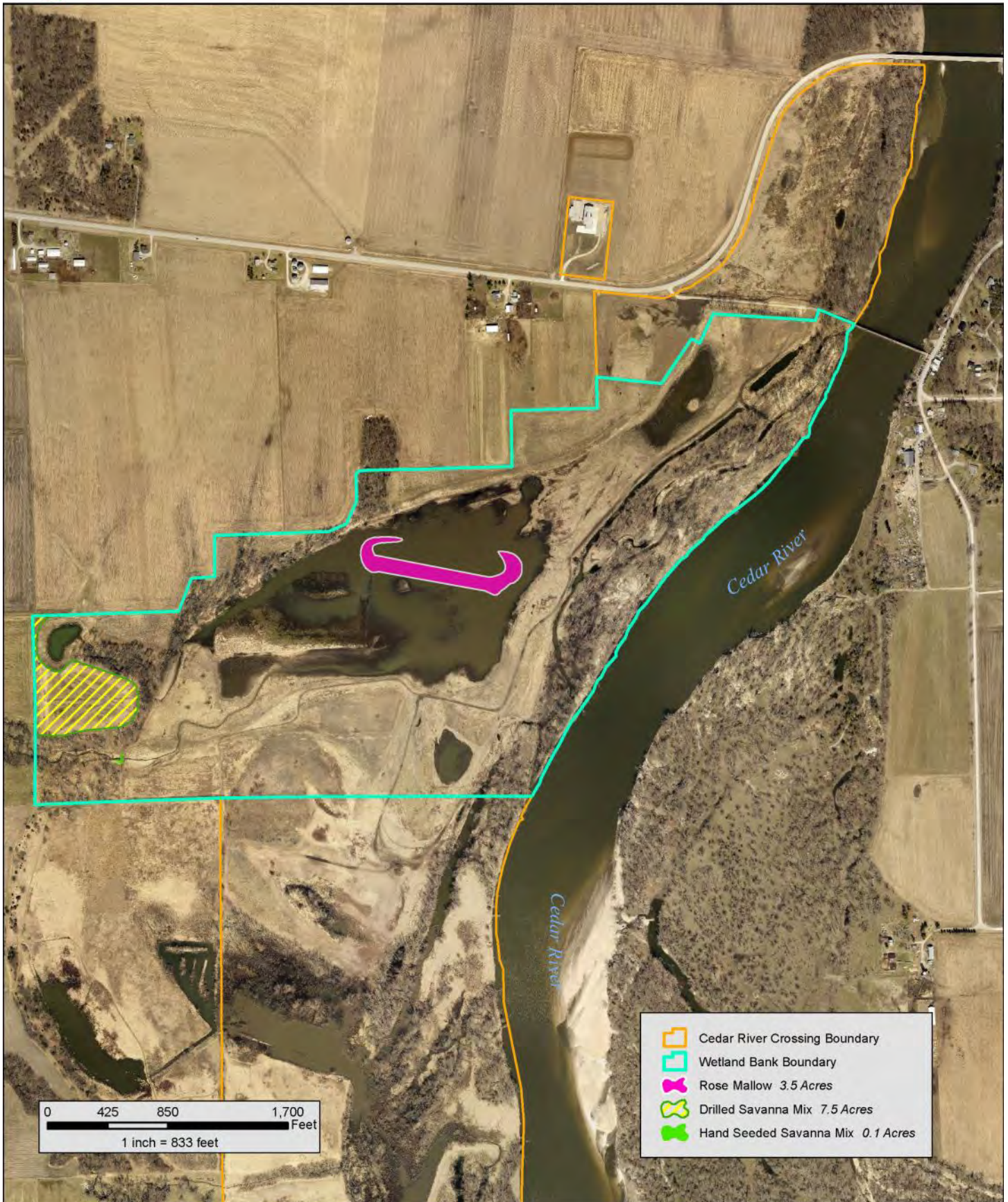




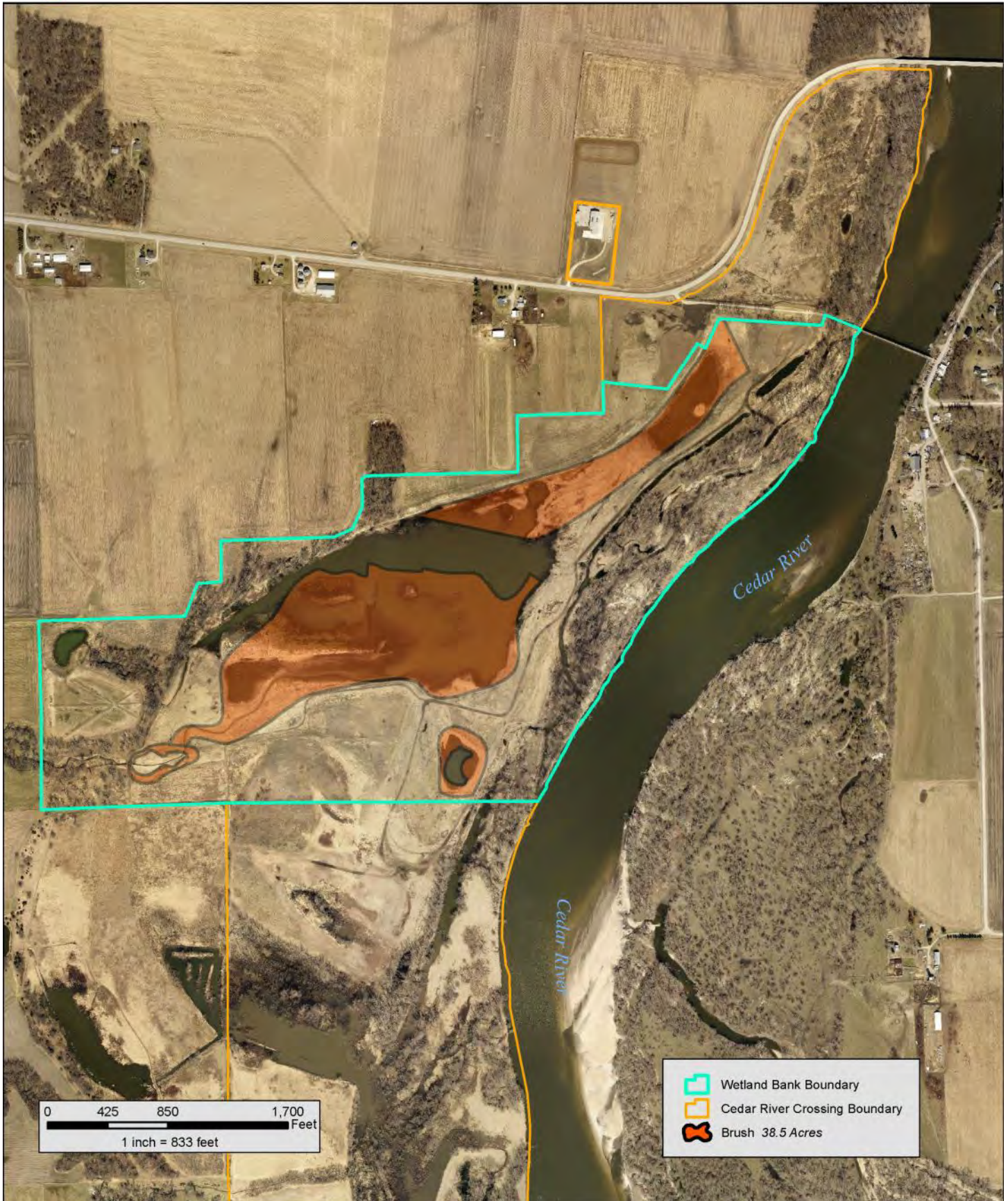
Cedar River Crossing Conservation Area Wetland Bank Management 2022 Mowing



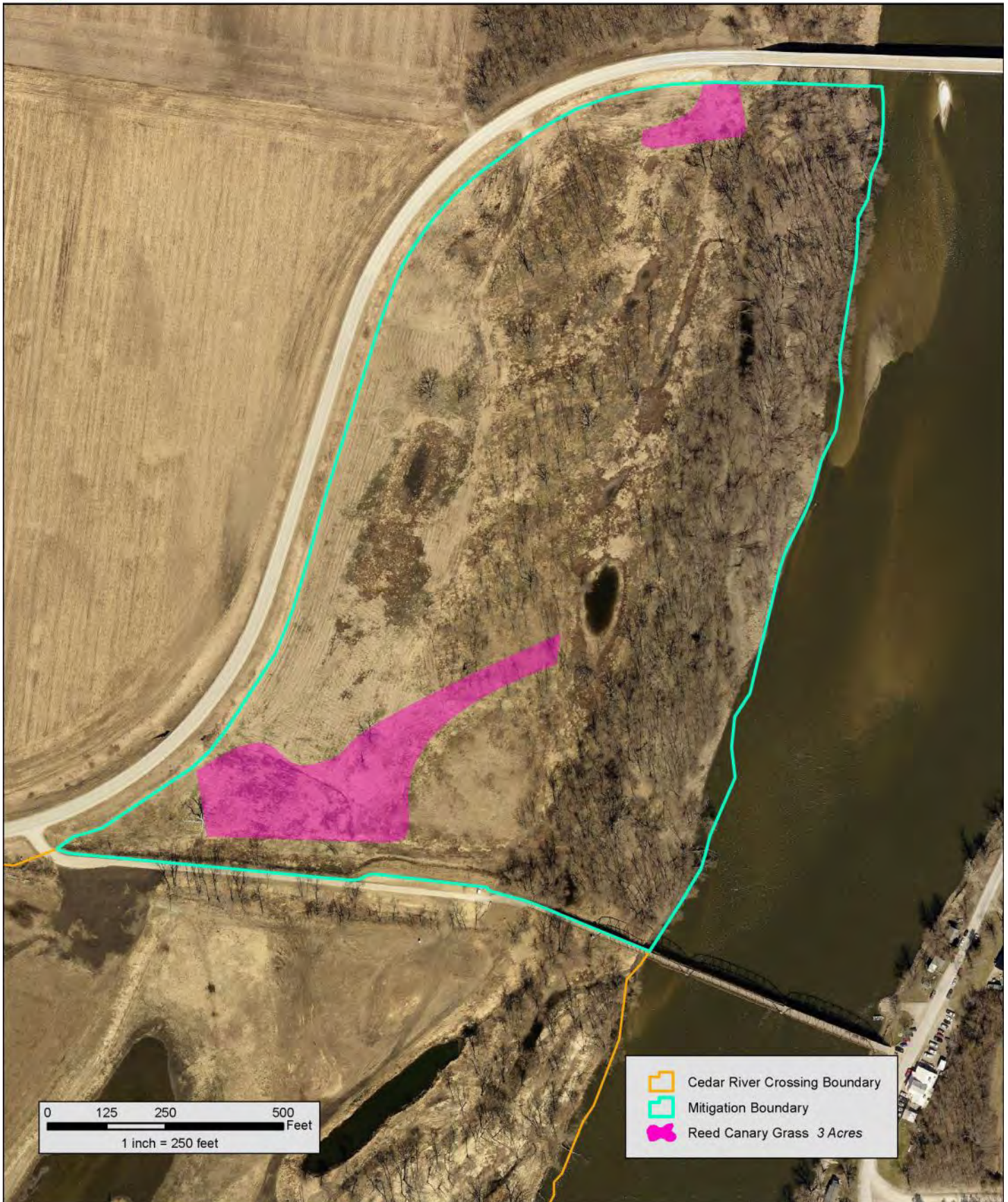
Cedar River Crossing Conservation Area Wetland Bank Management 2022 Seeding



Cedar River Crossing Conservation Area Wetland Bank Management 2022 Woody Spraying

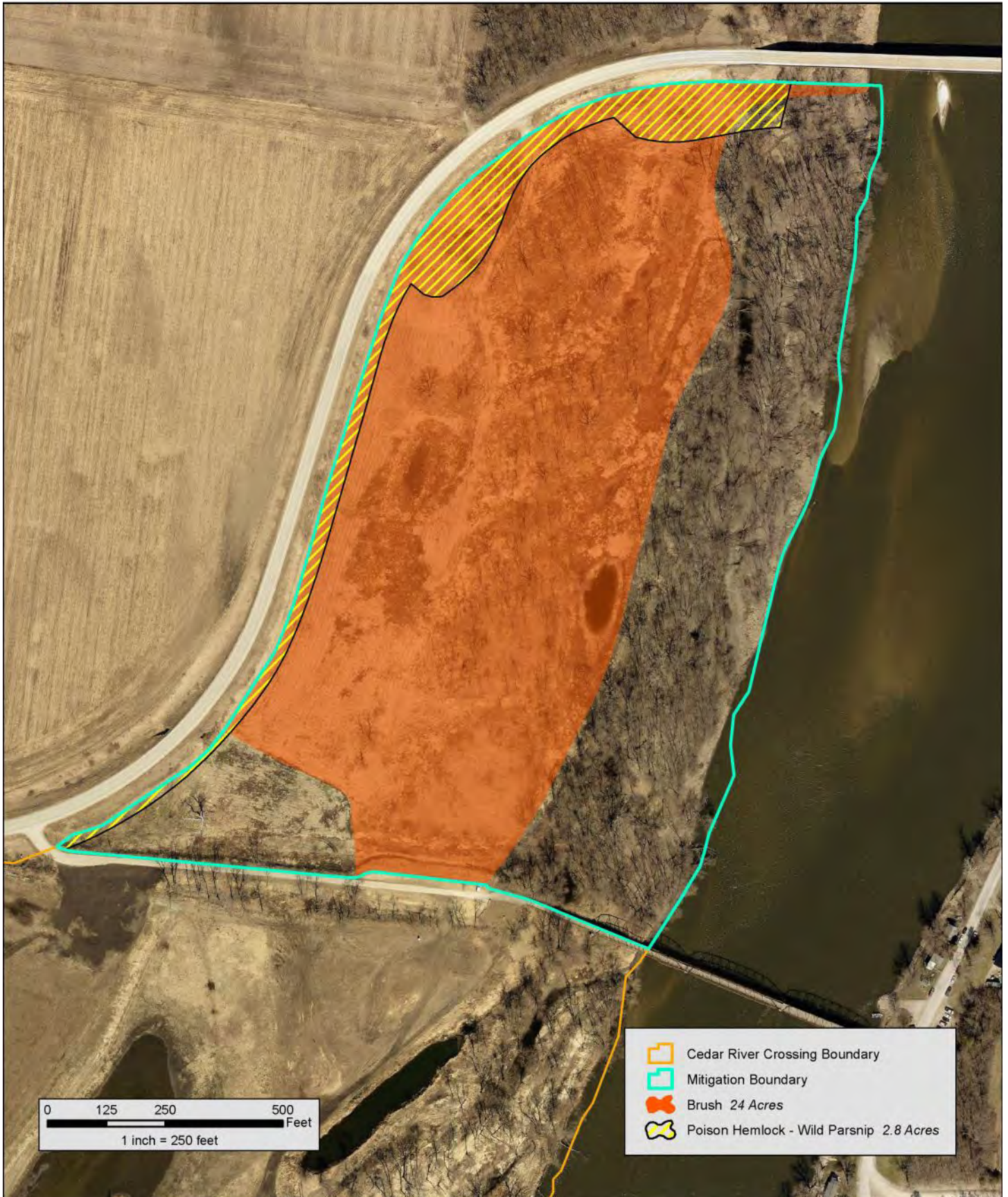


Hoover Nature Trail Ely Road Mitigation Management 2022 - Mowing

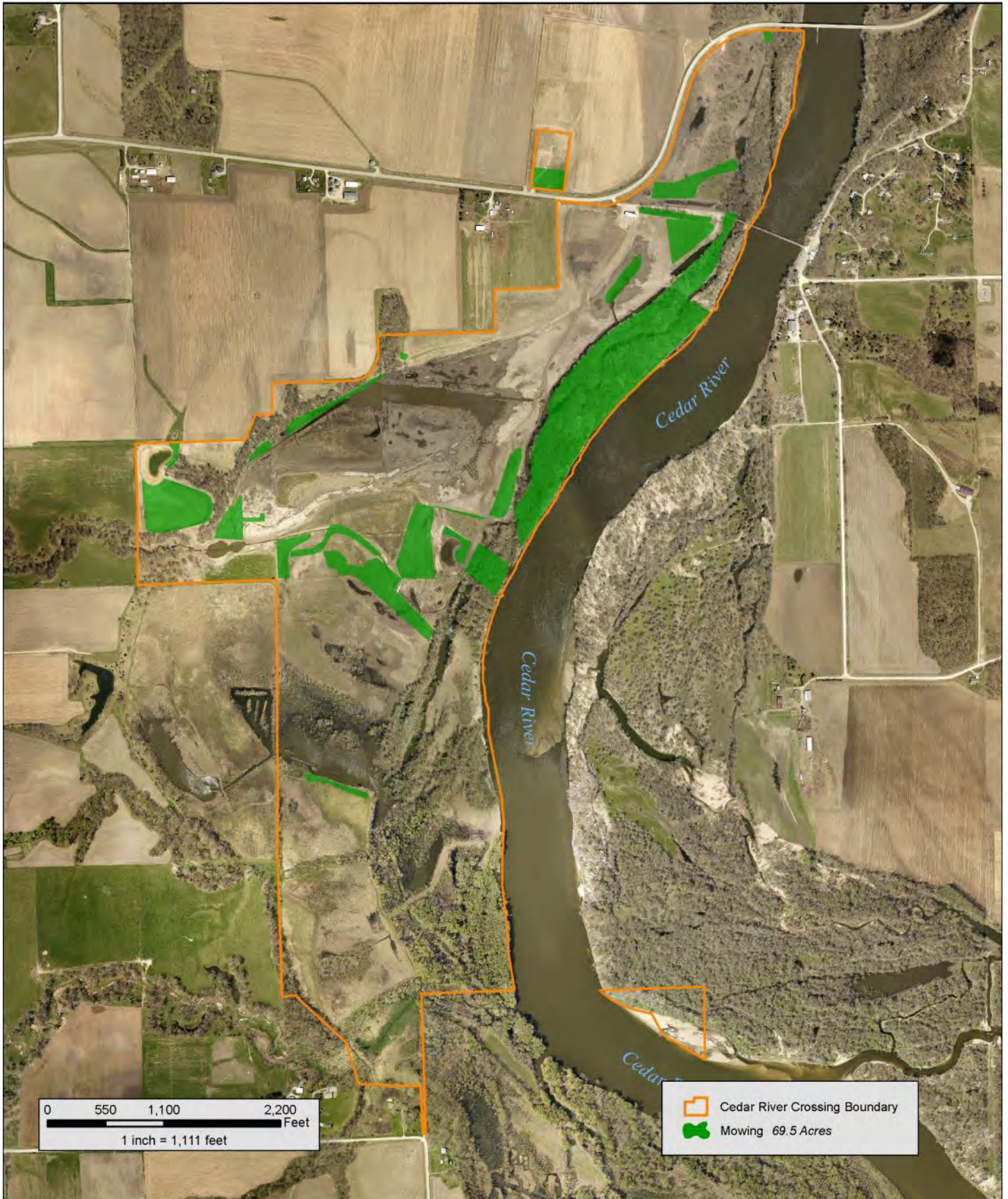




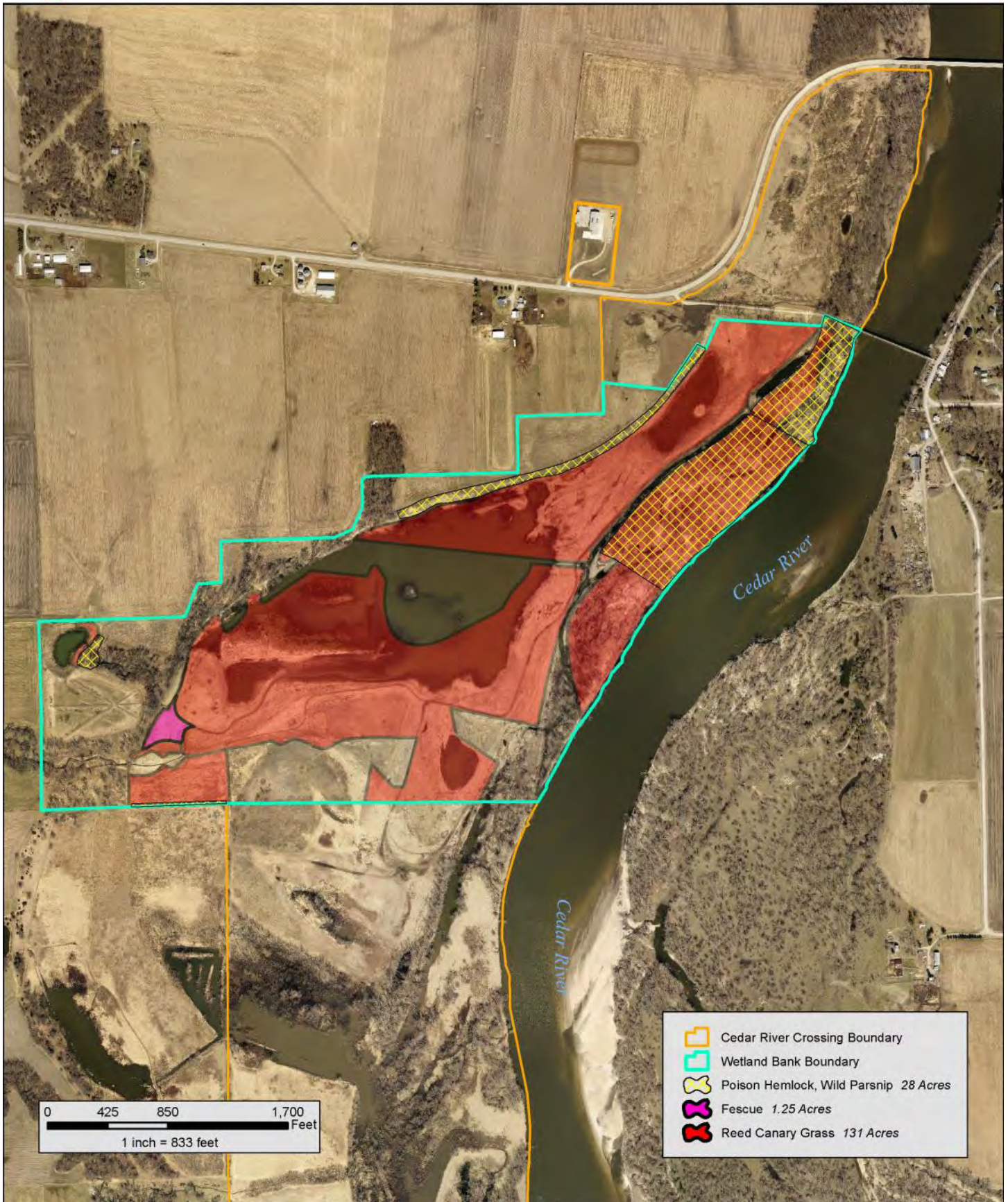
Hoover Nature Trail Ely Road Mitigation Management 2022 - Herbicide Application



Cedar River Crossing Conservation Area Mowing 2022-23

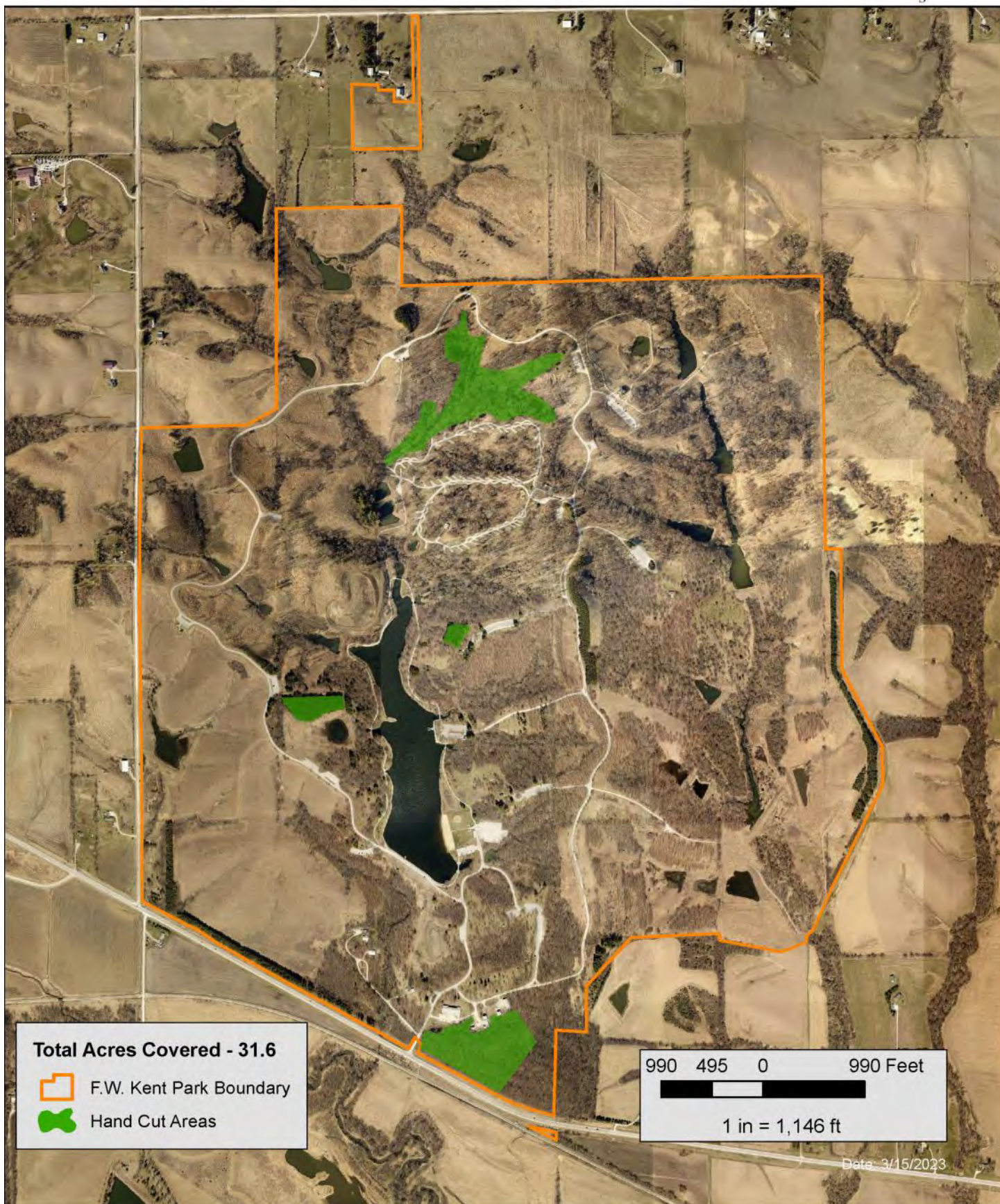


Cedar River Crossing Conservation Area Wetland Bank Management 2022 Herbaceous Spraying

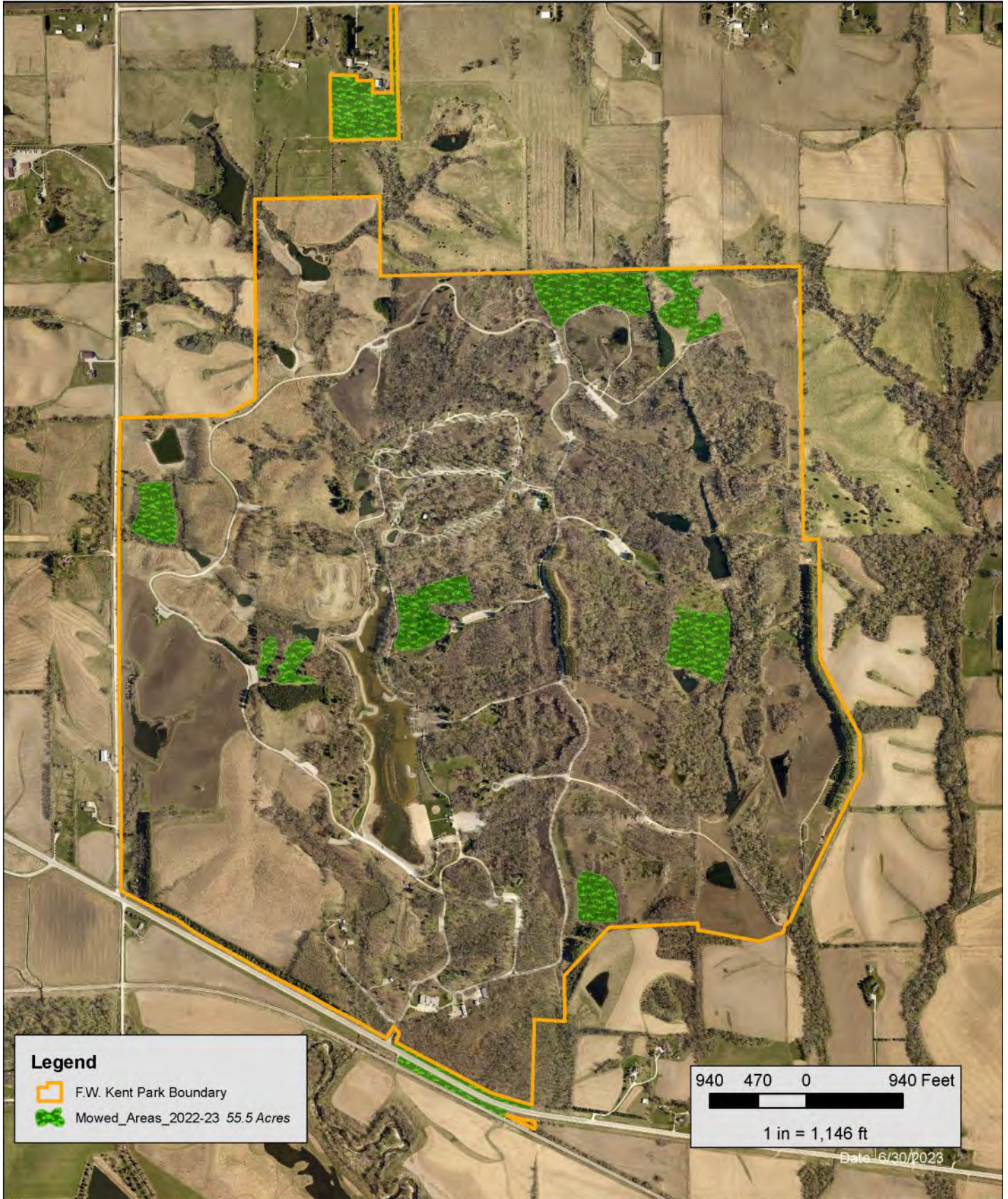




F.W. Kent Park Hand Cut Brush Winter 2022 - 23

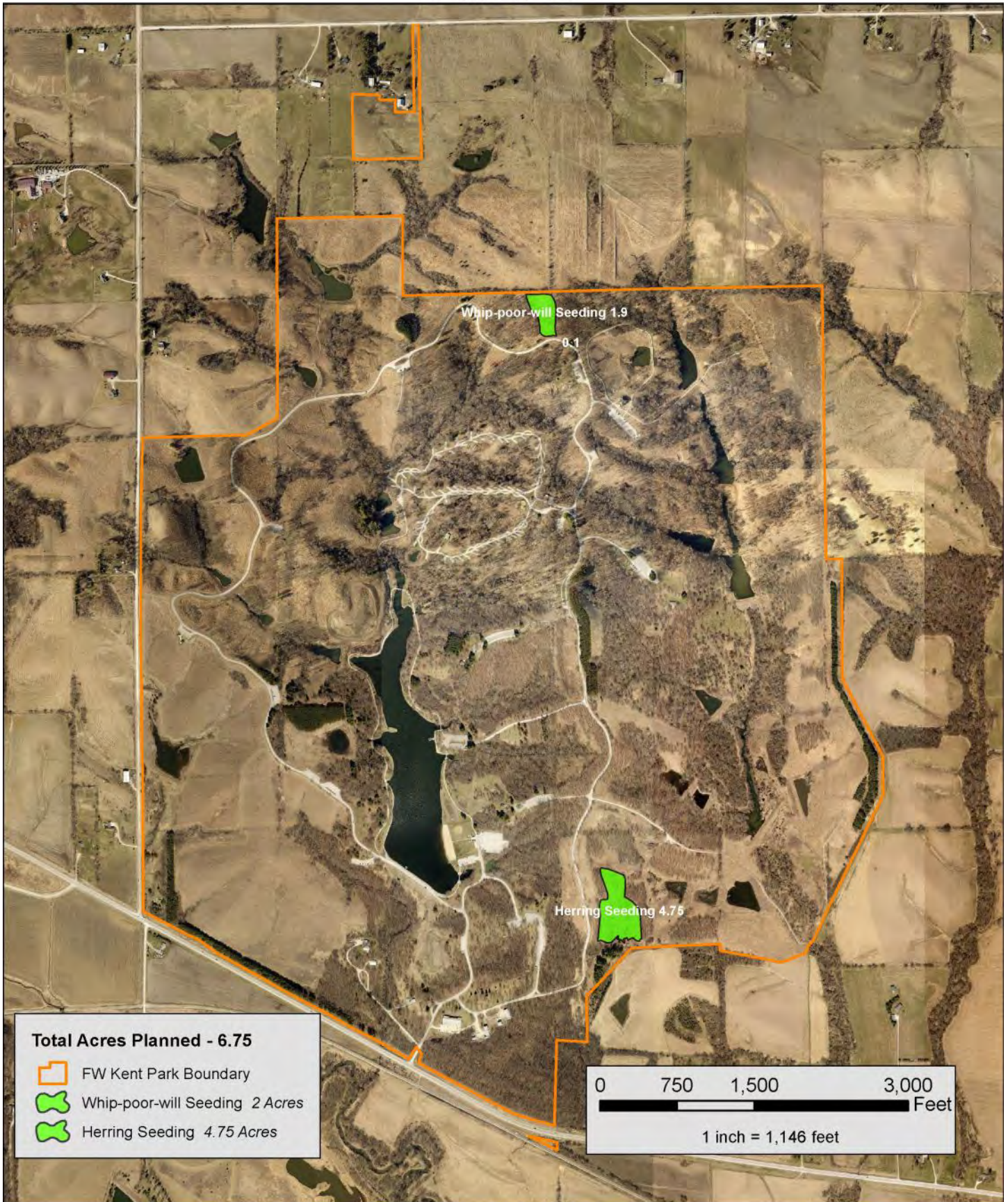


F.W. Kent Park Mowing 2022-23

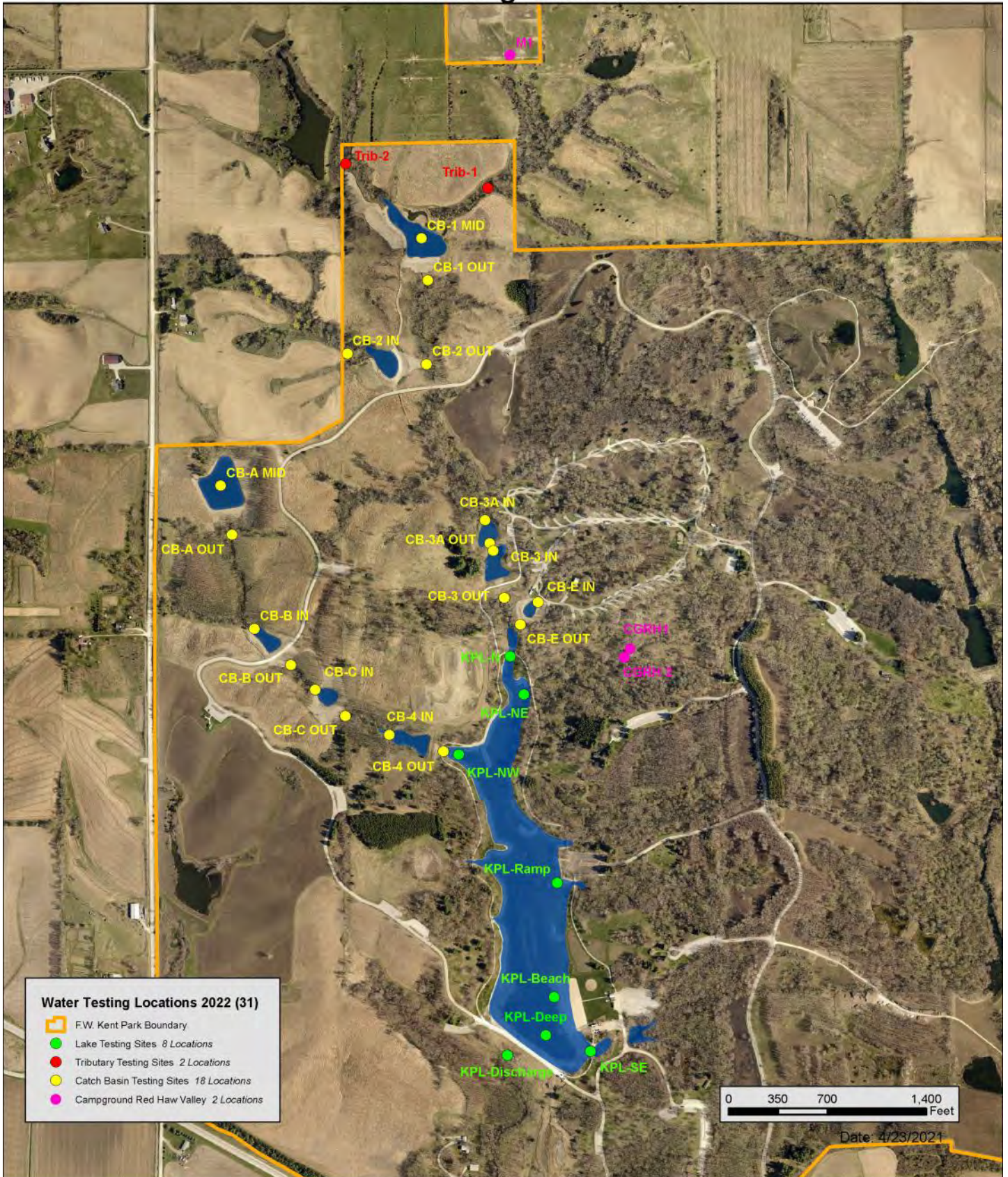




F.W. Kent Park Prairie Seedings Fall 2022



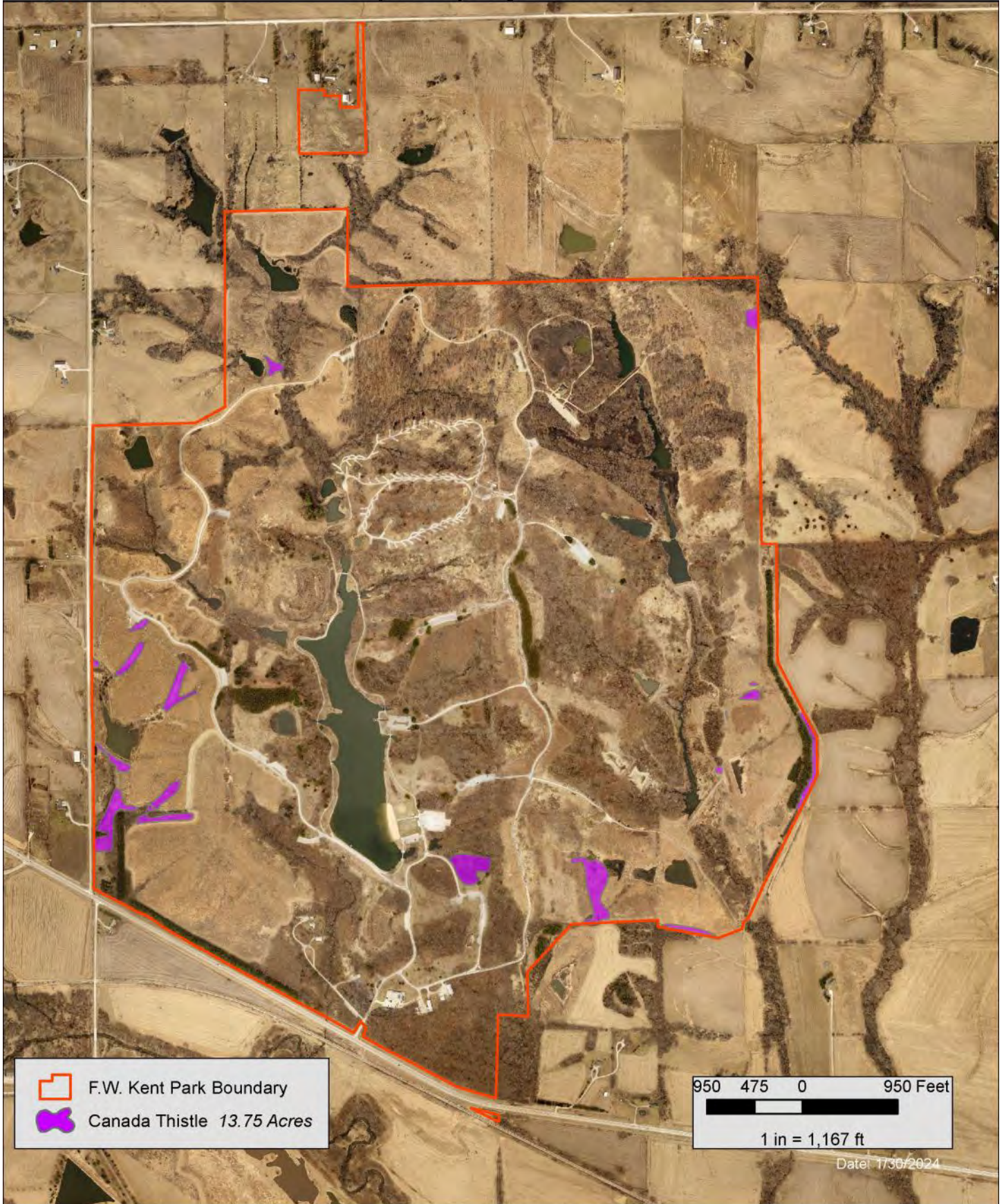
F.W. Kent Park Water Testing Sites 2022



Invasive Brush 2022 Spot Sprayed Areas



Canada Thistle 2022 Spot Sprayed Areas



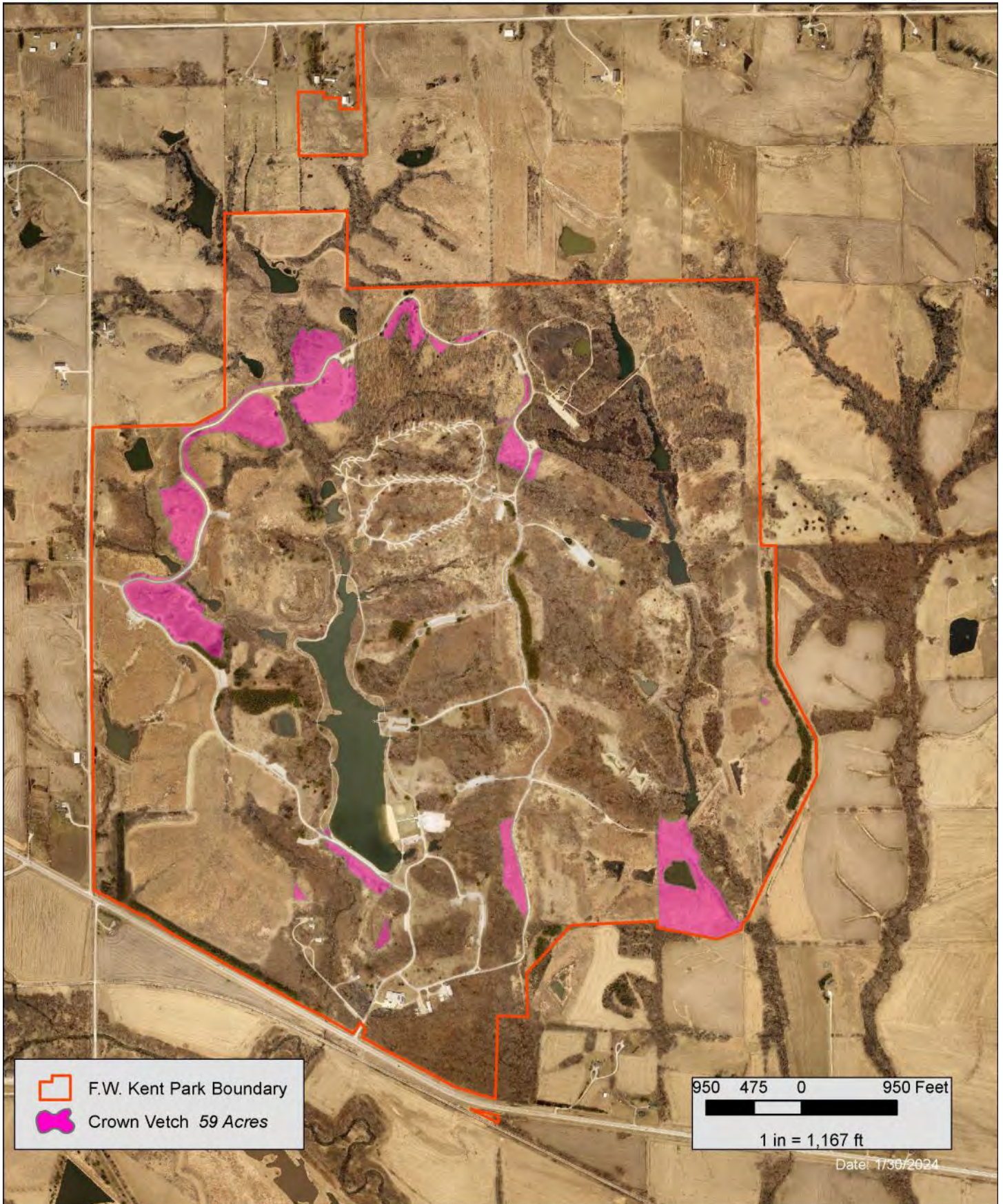


Chinese Bush Clover 2022 Spot Sprayed Areas

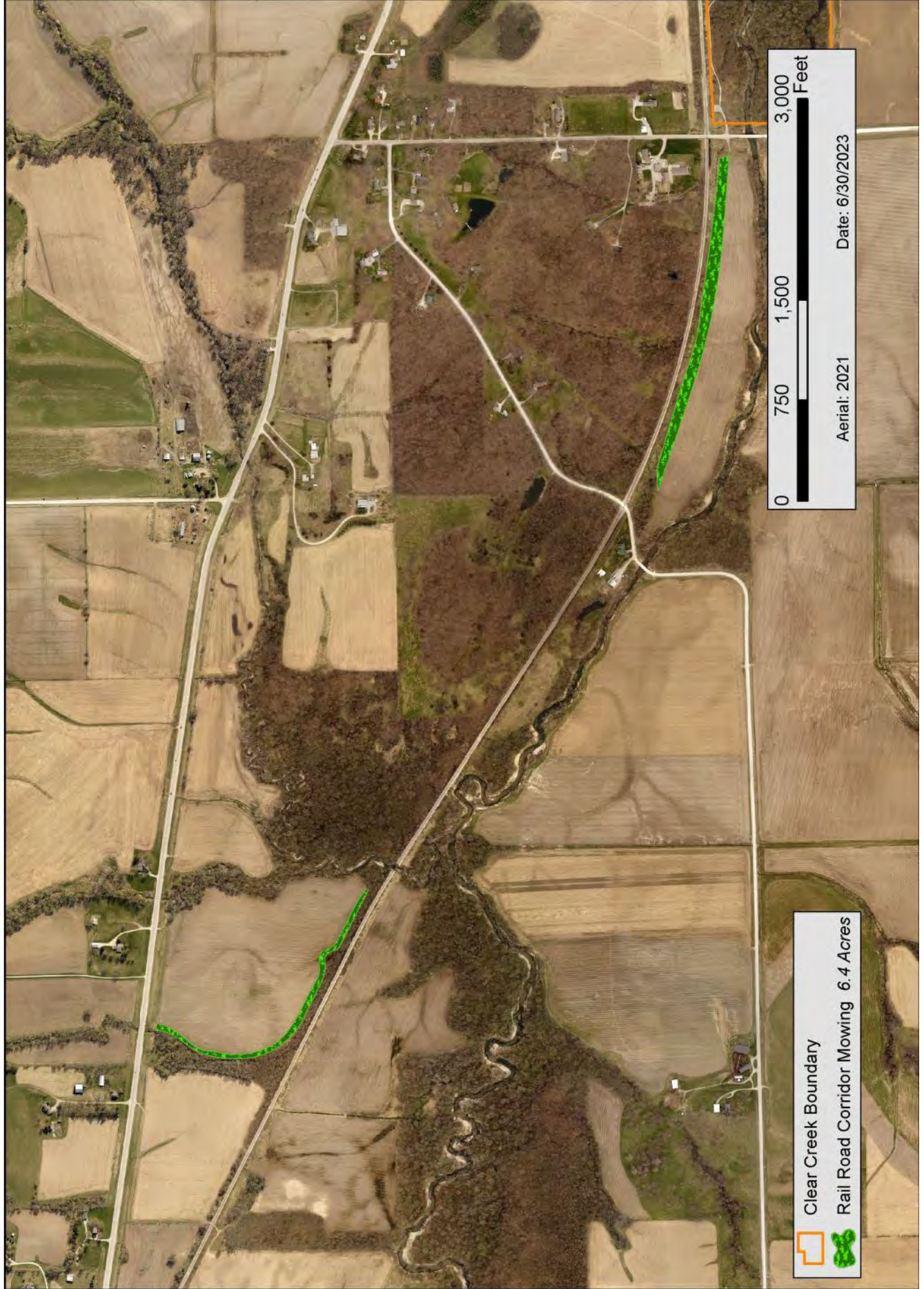




Crown Vetch 2022 Spot Sprayed Areas

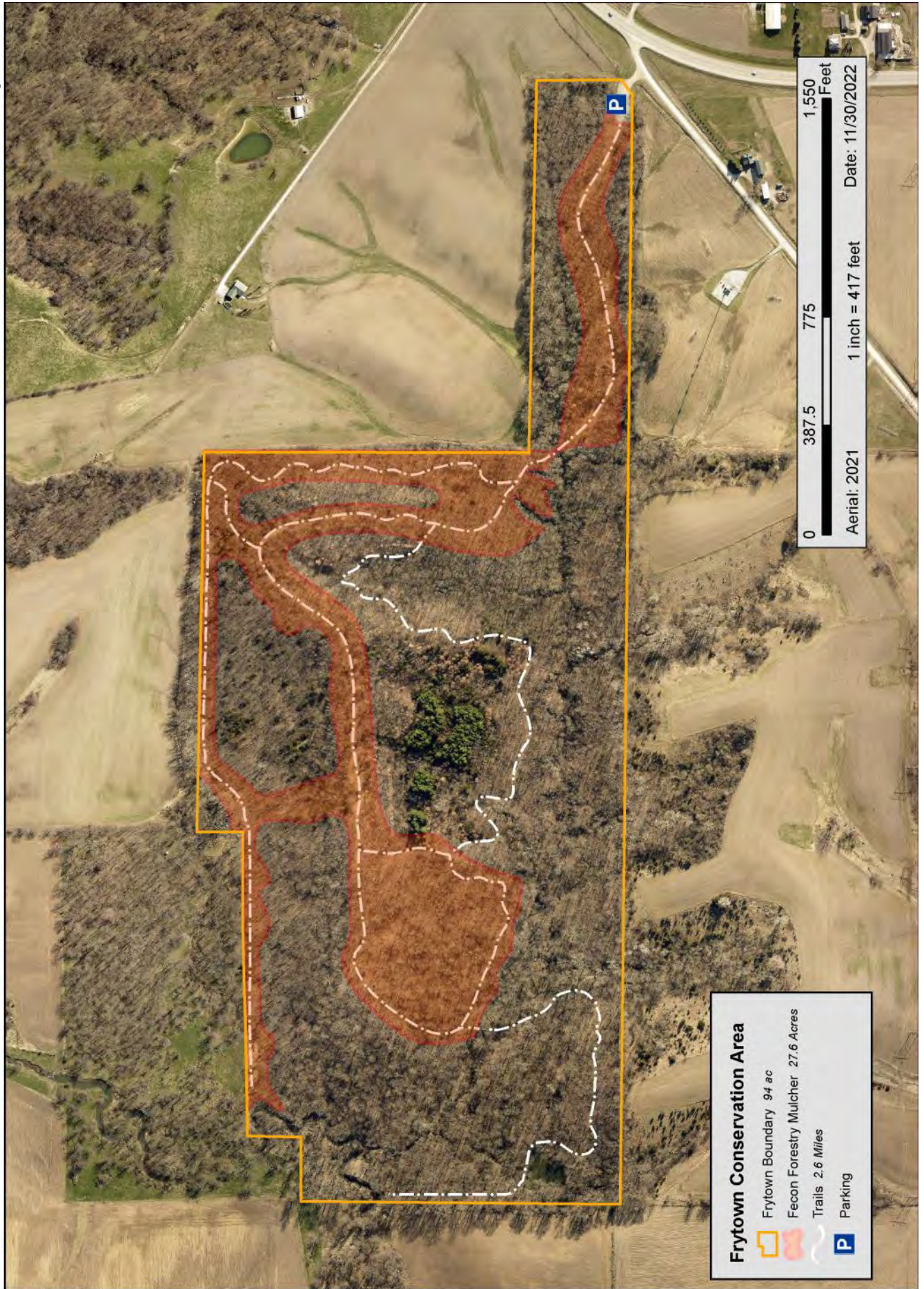


Rail Road Corridor- Mowing 2022-23





Frytown Conservation Area - Brush Mowing 2022






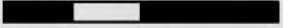
Hoover Trail - Honeysuckle Brush Control 2022-23



Legend

 Hoover Trail Mowing 2022-23 5 Acres

75 37.5 0 75 Feet





1 in = 93 ft

Date: 6/30/2023

Pechman Creek Delta - Mowing 2022-23



 Pechman Creek Delta Boundary
 Mowed 2022-23 .75 Acres

0 60 120 240 Feet
1 inch = 93 feet

Date: 6/30/2023 Aerial: 2021



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 2,797 acres, throughout all of Johnson County. The following is a list of facts and figures related to maintaining the conservation program.

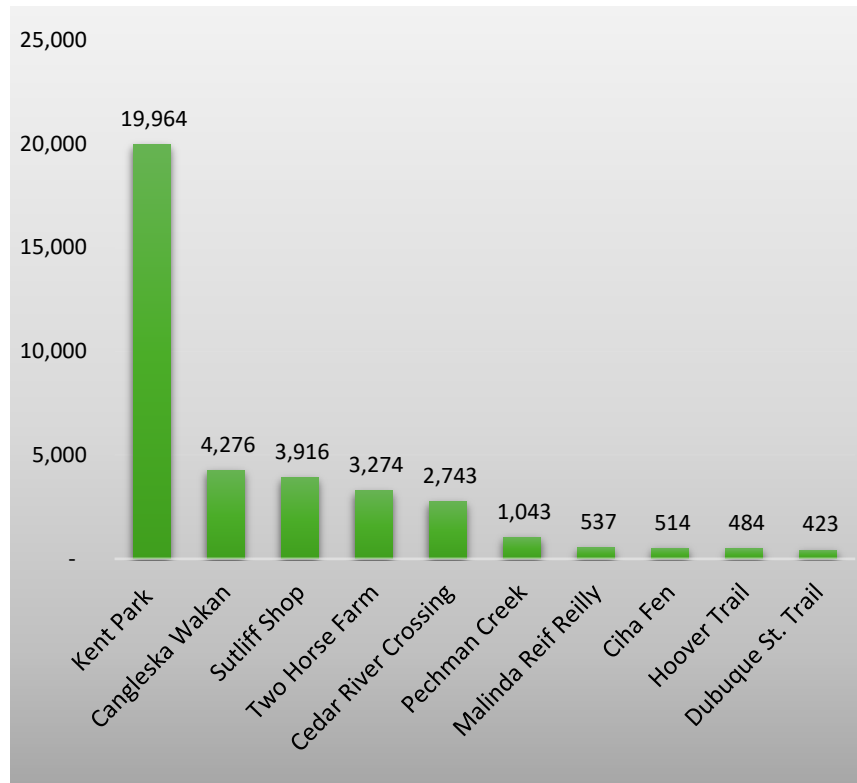
- 62.85 miles of park boundaries
- 50.73 acres of turf at 14 areas
- 4 operations buildings at 4 areas
- 29 water control structures at 4 areas
- 12.2 miles of hard surface trail on 3 different trail systems
- 2 staging areas to access 25 miles of water trail
- 1,262 signs at 23 properties, including:
 - 1,226 regulatory signs,
 - 21 interpretive signs, and
 - 15 entry signs
- 3 campgrounds at three areas
- 123 campsites
- 100 electric sites
- 22 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
- 279 picnic tables
- 149 fire rings/grills
- 20 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 eight different areas
- 12 waste water systems at five different sites
- 33 HVAC systems
- 2 commercial walk-in coolers
- 35 hand sanitizer units at two areas
- 14 water heaters
- 21 electrical transformers
- 4.47 miles of electrical line
- 4.07 miles of water line
- 2.72 miles of fiber optic cable
- 885 feet of LP gas line
- 32 septic systems with a combined capacity of 26,000 gallons
- 10 bulk fuel tanks at 4 areas
- 6 solar arrays at 4 areas
- 26 vehicles
- 65 other types of motorized equipment including:
 - ◊ 20 utility vehicles (UTVs)
 - ◊ 12 turf mowers.
 - ◊ 6 tractors
 - ◊ 1 backhoe
 - ◊ 1 Caterpillar fork lift
 - ◊ 1 bull dozer
 - ◊ 3 dump trucks (International, GMC, Peterbilt)
 - ◊ 5 skid loaders
 - ◊ 14 antique tractors
 - ◊ 4 antique cars
- 14 trailers
- 12 sprayers for prairie burning and herbicide application
- 40 other pieces of specialty equipment for park management (forestry mulcher, seeders, grapples, disks, harrows, etc.)

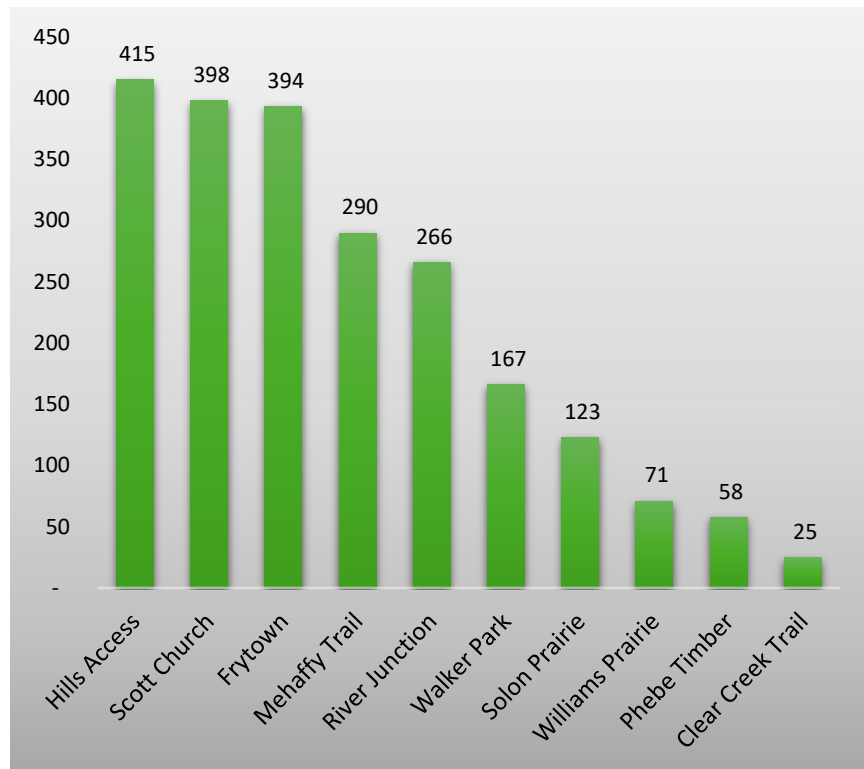
FY24 Labor Report per Area

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.

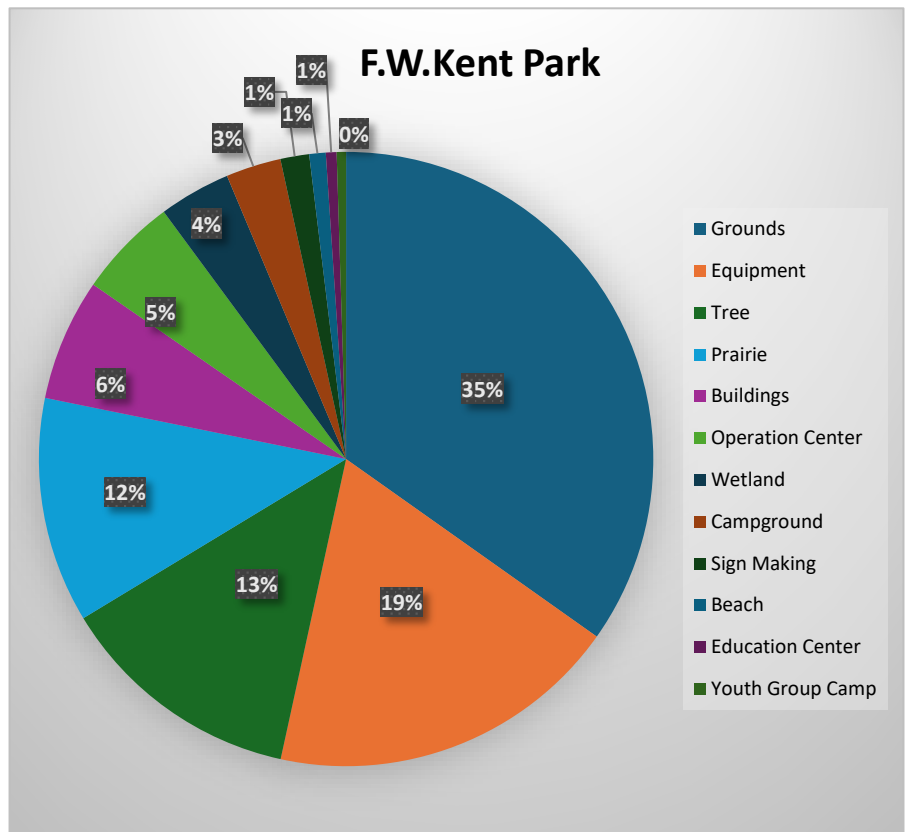
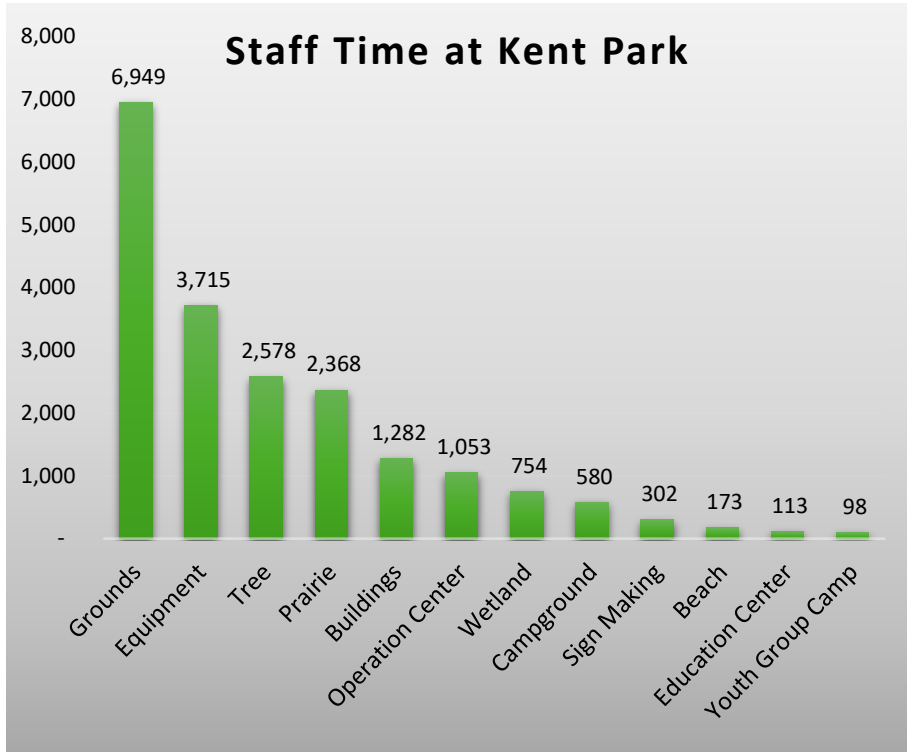
JCCB Area	Labor Hours
Kent Park	19,964
Cangleska Wakan	4,276
Sutliff Shop	3,916
Two Horse Farm	3,274
Cedar River Crossing	2,743
Pechman Creek	1,043
Malinda Reif Reilly	537
Ciha Fen	514
Hoover Trail	484
Dubuque St. Trail	423
Total	37,172



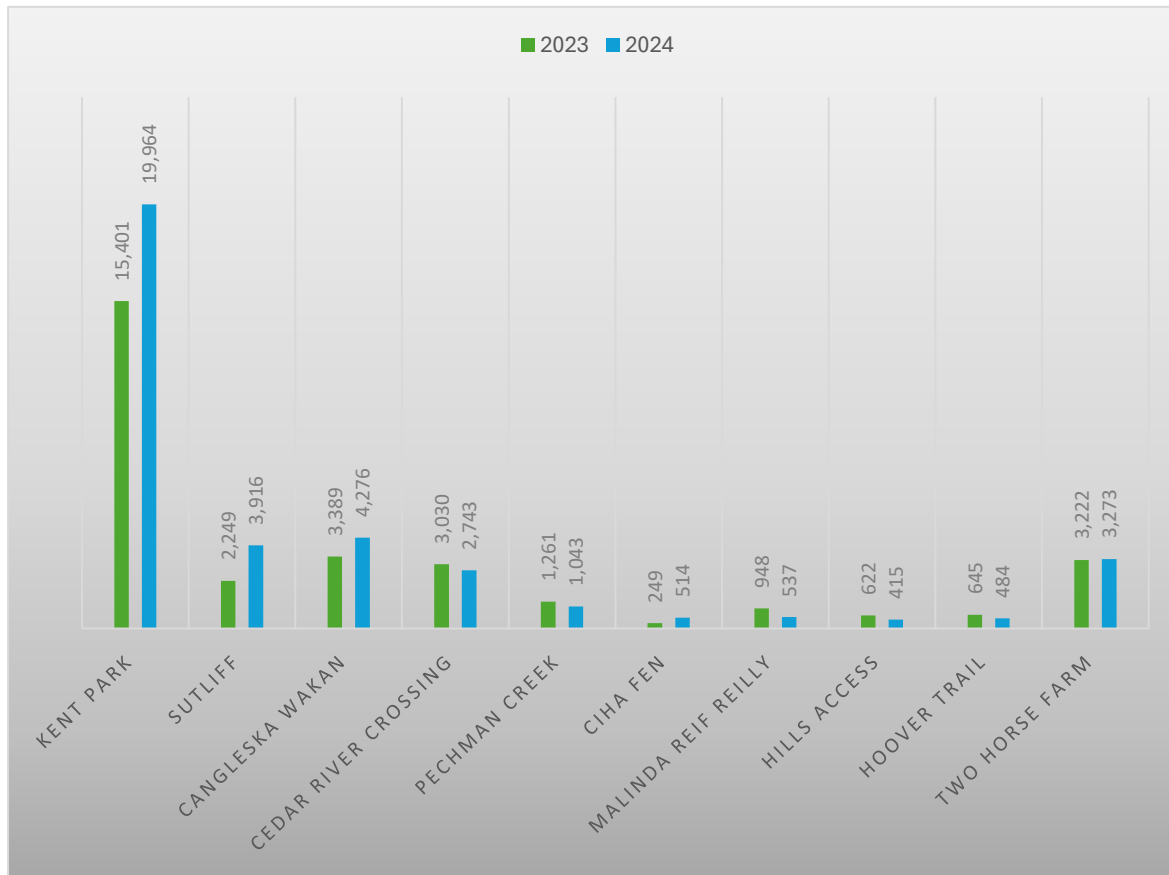
JCCB Area	Labor Hours
Hills Access	415
Scott Church	398
Frytown	394
Mehaffy Trail	290
River Junction	266
Walker Park	167
Solon Prairie	123
Williams Prairie	71
Phebe Timber	58
Clear Creek Trail	25
Total	2,206



Kent Park	Labor Hours
Grounds	6,949
Equipment	3,715
Tree	2,578
Prairie	2,368
Buildings	1,282
Operation Center	1,053
Wetland	754
Campground	580
Sign Making	302
Beach	173
Education Center	113
Youth Group Camp	98
Total	19,964



JCCB Area	2023	2024
Kent Park	15,401	19,964
Sutliff	2,249	3,916
Cangleska Wakan	3,389	4,276
Cedar River Crossing	3,030	2,743
Pechman Creek	1,261	1,043
Ciha Fen	249	514
Malinda Reif Reilly	948	537
Hills Access	622	415
Hoover Trail	645	484
Two Horse Farm	3,222	3,273





Environmental Education Program

Submitted by Education Specialists Kristen Morrow, Frances Owen, and Michelle Wiegand

FY24 Highlights by the Numbers:

Total Engagement: 9465 people served through 240 programs

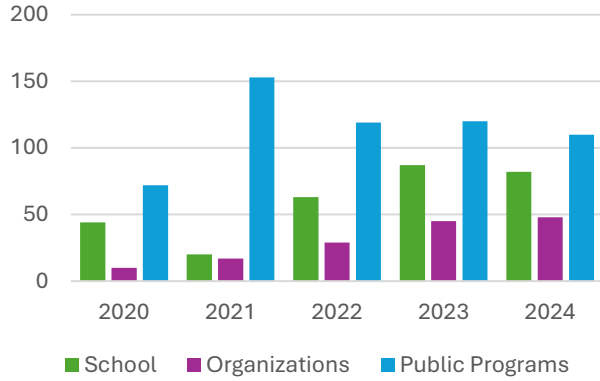
82 school field trips and programs, reaching 3406 kids

48 programs for organizations, reaching 739 people

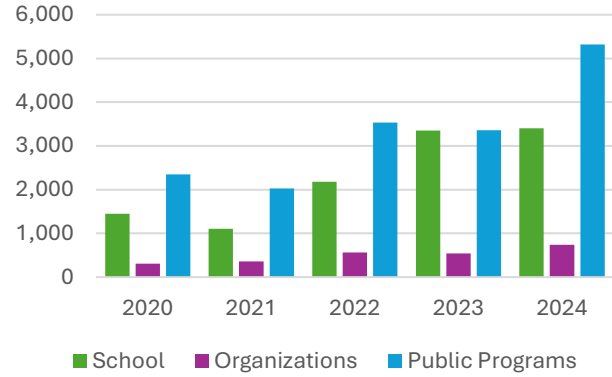
110 public events, reaching 5320 people

Education Overview FY24:

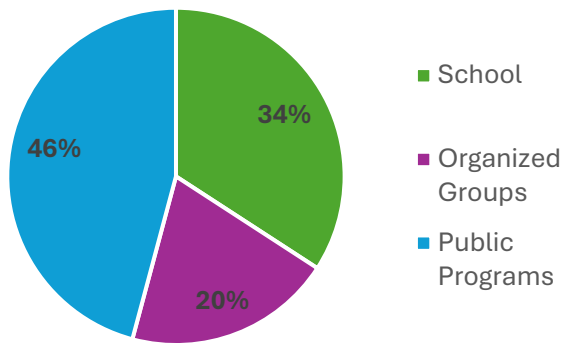
Programs by Fiscal Year



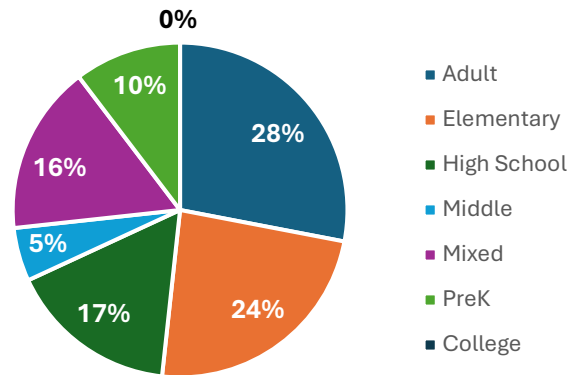
Participants by Fiscal Year



Program Type FY24



Programs by Age Category



School Programs

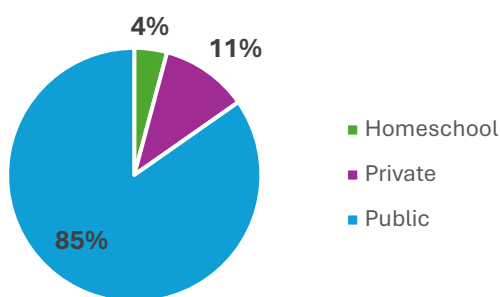
By the Numbers: 82 school programs serving 3406 kids

Special Highlights:

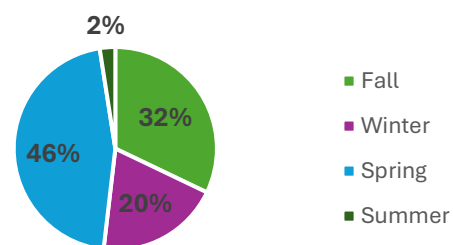
- Nature Buds with Neighborhood Centers of Johnson County – In FY24, JCC’s educators provided the first full school year of monthly nature programs for the three- and four-year-old classrooms at the Broadway and Pheasant Ridge Neighborhood Centers.
- Bus Scholarships – In spring of 2024, JCC educators were able to offer bus scholarships to five schools, eliminating the cost barrier for transportation. The bus scholarships were supported by community donations.
- Writing on the Environment Student Reading Celebration – In June 2024, Michelle Wiegand organized and led a Student Reading Celebration as a capstone to the Writing on the Environment program. 5th grade students who attended the W.O.E. field trips could submit a writing piece for consideration; student writings were selected and these students were invited to attend with their families for a reading and dinner at Cangleska Wakan.

New Programs: Frances Owen developed a new field trip program focused on maple syruping and led two school groups in these programs. These field trips were also the first held at Cedar River Crossing.

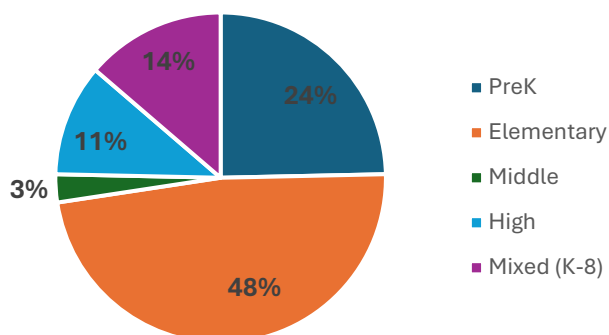
Schools by Category



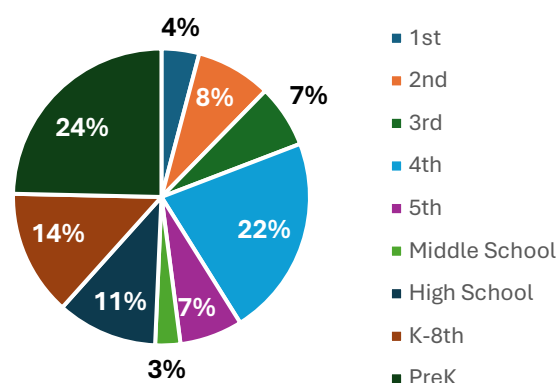
School Programs by Season



School Programs by Age Category



School Program Grades



Schools Served:

Iowa City School District:

- 40 programs total
 - 1 PreK programs: Kirkwood
 - 21 Elementary programs: Borlaug, Garner, Alexander, Kirkwood, Horn, Penn, Christine Grant, Van Allen, Mark Twain, Hills, Coralville Central, Lincoln
 - 0 Junior High programs
 - 3 High School Programs: Tate Alternative, City, West

Clear Creek Amana School District:

- 13 programs total
 - 13 Elementary programs: Oak Hill, North Bend, Clear Creek Elementary
 - 0 PreK, Junior High, or High School programs

Solon School District:

- 3 programs total
 - 3 High School
 - 0 PreK, Elementary, or Junior High programs

Lone Tree School District:0

Private Schools:

- 16 Neighborhood Centers of Johnson County PreK programs (*elsewhere we classify these as 'public school programs' as subsidized programs focusing on low-income populations.)
- 2 Hillside Christian K-8th field trips
- 3 Tamarack K-6th field trips
- 3 Faith Academy Elementary field trips
- 2 Our Redeemer PreK programs
- 1 Preucil PreK program

Home School Groups:

- 2 Wild and Free Elementary and Junior High field trips
- 2 Iowa City Home School Association Elementary and Junior High field trips

Out of County Schools:

- Prairie Crest Elementary (Linn County)
- Prairie View Elementary (Linn County)
- Prairie Heights Elementary (Linn County)
- Lisbon Elementary (Linn County)
- Mt. Vernon Elementary (Linn County)
- West Branch Middle School (Cedar County)
- Venture Academy High School (Linn County)
- Harris Lake Park High School (Dickinson County)
- Sibley-Ocheyedan High School (Dickinson County)
- Clay Central Everly Elementary (Dickinson County)



Top Left: Frances Owen holds up a deer bone in an animal tracks and signs class. **Top Right:** First grade students saw a luna moth up close during a birding class. **Middle:** Fourth grade students explore the prairie during a December field trip. **Bottom Left:** Fourth graders learn about animal tracks during a December field trip. **Bottom Right:** Second grade students explore under rotting logs at Cangleska Wakan.

Writing on the Environment Program

About Writing on the Environment: This project is a partnership between Johnson County Conservation, the Iowa Youth Writing Project, and the Iowa City School District. The project exposes 4th graders in select schools (schools were selected based on highest percentage of students receiving free or reduced lunch) to nature writing. The Iowa Youth Writing Project provides in-classroom nature journaling and poetry introductions. JCC leads a nature exploration field trip that incorporates nature journaling and poetry. In FY24, five schools participated in the program. Also in FY24, Michelle Wiegand organized and led the first celebratory Student Reading event at Cangleska Wakan the end of the school year for students and their families to attend.



FY2024 Public Programming

Total people served through public programming in FY2024: 5,321 (+58% from FY2023)

Total public programs led by naturalists in FY2024: 117 (-4% from FY2023)

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 FY24 can be categorized as follows:

Outdoor Adventure and Wilderness Education Programming

The naturalists led 12 public hikes throughout Johnson County, backpacking skills courses, foraging outings, fishing and fly-tying, hunter education, the multi-day Idaho Wilderness Trek, Yellow River State Forest Trek, and a new Superior Hiking Trail Trek.

Environmental Education/Citizen Science Programming

Many events are in depth natural science programs. In FY24, the naturalists led a moth night; four live raptor programs in partnership with Raptology; animal-specific programs including birds, beavers, snakes, cicadas, frogs and toads; five public Nature Buds programs for preschoolers; five Explorer programs for elementary kids; seven monarch tagging events; and three monarch monitoring events. New events and series' were added during FY24, including the Native Plant Series and frog and toad community science monitoring.

Wildcrafting, Woodworking, and Arts Programming

Wildcrafting programs are some of our most popular offerings and typically fill to capacity and beyond. In FY24, the naturalists led two classes on foraged clay pottery, three basket weaving classes, one class on making maple syrup, one woodworking for wildlife program, one nature writing class, and a new tree ring printing class.

Passive & Self-guided Programs

In addition to actively facilitating guided programming such as hikes, environmental education classes, and wildcrafting workshops, JCC Naturalists create passive learning and nature exploration experiences that the public can enjoy in a more self-guided, passive manner. These range from single-day events such as our annual Luminary Night Hike which engaged 250 people in FY24 to multi-week events that take place across multiple JCC sites. Examples of the latter include the Elf for Your Health program which engaged 350 people at five JCC sites and the new Avian Adventure which hosted 2,595 people across 12 JCC sites. The Avian Adventure program also closed with a Trivia Night event which 108 people attended.

Community Events & Partnerships

The naturalists are asked to attend numerous festivals and events in the area. In FY24, the naturalists facilitated three programs at local libraries and recreation centers. Naturalists established a new partnership with the Iowa City Senior Center (ICSC) and facilitated two presentations at the ICSC. This exciting new partnership has continued to grow in FY25.

Public Program Photos for FY2024



A family participates in the Johnson County Avian Adventure, a new county-wide bird themed event.



A parent and child participate in the JC Avian Adventure. Seen here at the Cangleska Wakan station.



Avian Adventurers at Two Horse Farm. Stations were located at 12 JCC sites.



A family works together to build a wooden birdhouse during a family woodworking for wildlife program.



Elf for Your Health program participants pose after finding Cricket the Elf.

“Our family had a great time “hunting” for the birds for the past few weeks! We enjoyed exploring many conservation areas that we had never visited before. We will definitely be back!”

John McWilliams



Community members participate in a public bird banding at Kent Park.



Some participants of the Winter Solstice Saunter pose at the astronomical clock at Cedar River Crossing.



Frances guides participants during a Maple Syrup program at Cedar River Crossing.



Kristen shares an ornate box turtle ambassador animal during a program at the Iowa City Public Library.



A father and son enjoy a catch during Family Fishing Night at Kent Park lake.



Participants enjoy a sunset view during a prairie night hike.



Families and school admin gather for a Writing on the Environment Student Showcase at Cangleska Wakan.

“We had a nice hike at Chia Fen this afternoon. Once again we want to thank the Johnson county conservation naturalists for setting up a fun way to get people outdoors in the cold winter months! We love discovering new places and observing the birds at this time of the year!”

Yukiko, Elf for Your Health participant



Volunteers harvest seed near the Conservation Education Center at Kent Park.

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 FY2024 (not including non-JCC properties):

- Kent Park – 46
- Cangleska Wakan – 10
- Two Horse Farm – 4
- Cedar River Crossing – 15
- Pechman Creek Delta – 2
- Williams Prairie - 3
- Phebe Timber – 2
- Ciha Fen Preserve – 2
- Clear Creek Conservation Area- 1

Photos of Programs Held at Various JCC Properties



A volunteer releases a tagged monarch butterfly at Cedar River Crossing.



A volunteer records data during an Integrated Monarch Monitoring Program at Cedar River Crossing.



Kristen and Frances install an Avian Adventure station at Ciha Fen.



Participants make pottery from clay harvested from Cangleska Wakan.



Volunteers from Johnson County Master Gardeners were partners on the new Native Plant Series, hosted at Kent Park.



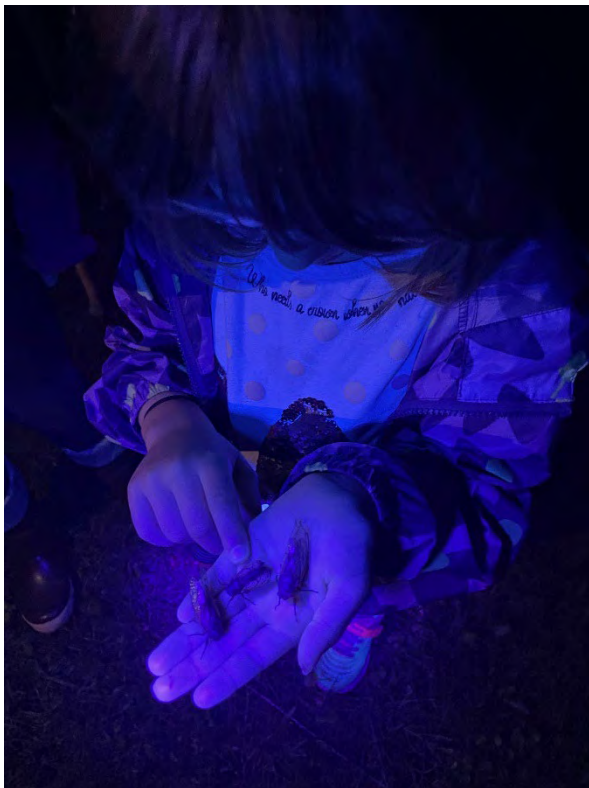
Volunteers from a Senior Seed Harvest.



Students explore the forest floor at Cangleska Wakan.

“I loved this series. I bought many plants and appreciated the lectures. It was just great to be amongst native plant lovers. It was a wonderful addition to the offerings for Johnson County- thank you for planning it!!!”

Anonymous- Native Plant Series participant from feedback survey



A child holds three cicadas during a public cicada program night hike.



Each Native Plant Series event featured informative presentations, along with a plant sale from a local native plant vendor.



Native Plant Series attendees listen to a presentation from Zac Hall, who spoke about native spring ephemerals.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Initiatives

The JCC environmental education team continues to prioritize equity-focused programming. Socially vulnerable populations, including people of color, individuals with limited English language proficiency, and low-income households, are amongst the groups most at risk for experiencing the adverse effects related to climate change. By prioritizing our work with these populations, members of these groups will be better equipped to take a lead role in designing and implementing solutions to challenges facing their own communities. While there are no restrictions on who participates in JCC education programs, the environmental education team prioritizes work with school groups and organizations that serve primarily under-recognized people.

FY24 marked the third year of the Writing on the Environment program, a multi-session, immersive program in partnership with the Iowa Youth Writing Project (IYWP) and the Iowa City Community School District (ICCS). ICCSD assisted in coordinating with five partner schools to participate in this program. These schools 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. In FY24, we added a student showcase where students were invited to read aloud their published works to friends and family at Cangleska Wakan, where their field trips were held. Around 108 people attended the evening showcase event.

Although our field trips are free, transportation is often a barrier for many schools. Johnson County Conservation worked to raise over \$2,000 for bus scholarships to serve area schools in need. JCC supported bus transportation for all five Writing on the Environment school, as well as a field trip for Kirkwood Elementary 2nd grade students.

Community partnerships allow us to reach diverse populations and leverage resources. Partnerships with organizations serving primarily non-white, LGBTQ+, and low-income people are our priority. The main organizations we worked with in FY24 include United Action for Youth, the Neighborhood Centers of Johnson County, Mariam Girl's Club, Queer Hikers of Iowa, Coralville Food Pantry, and Big Brothers Big Sisters.

One continued partnership is our Nature Buds program with the Neighborhood Centers of Johnson County (NCJC). The student population at these centers is nearly 100% non-white. Through Nature Buds, JCC naturalists provide free monthly nature programs to four preschool classes (two three-year old and two four-year old classrooms) at two NCJC sites in Iowa City. At the end of the school year, NCJC students attend a capstone field trip to Kent Park.

JCC also continued a strong partnership with United Action for Youth (UAY). In FY24, we provided 25 programs for UAY's SPARK program, a program aimed at middle and high school students who are students of color, LGBTQ+, or low income. Programs included single-day sessions ranging from archery to kayaking to foraging, as well as multi-day trips including a backpacking trip to Yellow River State Forest and an overnight canoe excursion on the Des Moines river.

In FY24, we established a partnership with the Coralville Food Pantry (CFP). JCC Naturalists visit the CFP during their summer lunch program, which is designed to alleviate hunger during the summer months when students do not have access to their school lunch program. JCC Naturalists provided drop-in style reptile programs during these lunch events. We will continue to expand this partnership in FY25.

Equity Initiative Program Photos: Nature Buds with NCJC



Preschool students at Neighborhood Centers of Johnson County observe a worm during “Worm Lab”.



Preschooler observes a worm during a “worm lab” at Neighborhood Centers of Johnson County.



Preschooler at Neighborhood Centers of Johnson County explores leaf litter and the critters who find homes there.



Students from NCJC visited the CEC at Kent Park in May following a school year full of programs at their sites.



Kristen introduces an ambassador fox snake to students at Neighborhood Centers of Johnson County.



NCJC students show off their beaver dam built during a beaver program.



Preschooler interacts with a leaf during a Neighborhood Centers of JC program.

Equity Initiative Program Photos: United Action for Youth SPARK Program



Participants in the 3-day Yellow River Backpacking Trip pause for lunch during their trek.



Participants in the 3-day Yellow River Backpacking Trip enjoy camp and time to visit.



A participant in the 3-day Yellow River backpacking Trip observes a trail critter.



Yellow River Backpacking Trip participants cross a creek.



UAY teens enjoy kayaking together at Kent Park lake.



Michelle gives kayaking introduction to youth from United Action for Youth at Kent Park lake.



A UAY participant aims at targets during an archery program.

Equity Initiative Program Photos: Misc Partnerships



Participants from Big Brothers Big Sisters enjoy the annual fishing evening event at Kent Park lake.



JCC partnered with United Action for Youth to host an overnight at Ledges State Park and river trip on the Des Moines River.



participant from an assisted living facility. This was the first time this individual touched a snake.



UAY youth learn how to T-rescue from canoes at Kent Park lake.

Adventure Programs

By the numbers: JCC led 3 multi-day backpacking trips, engaging 25 people.

FY24 Trips:

- **Idaho Wilderness Trek** is a 10-day wilderness trek for local high school teens out to the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness in Idaho. This was the 6th time this trip was held. On the trip, participants learn beginner backpacking skills through the trip and three preliminary events. Participants also learn trailwork skills and contribute to trail stewardship in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and the Selway-Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation. Eleven teens did the trip in FY24. Schools represented include City High School (6), West High School (2), Solon High School (1), Clear Creek Amana High School (1), and Liberty High School (1). Kristen Morrow and Frances Owen led the trip, with assistance from volunteer Jason Bies.
- **Women | Trans | Femme Superior Hiking Trail Trip** was held for the first time in FY24. This 7-day trip was focused on beginner backpackers and for people who identify as women, trans, or femme. Six participants attended and ranged in age from 22 to 65 years old. The trip included five days of backpacking 25 miles on the Superior Hiking Trail near Grand Marais, MN, and two days of travel.
- **Yellow River State Forest SPARK Trip**, a three-day backpacking trip held in partnership with United Action for Youth, was held for the second year in FY24. This trip is a free all-inclusive trip designed for teens underrepresented in the backpacking community, including low-income, LGBTQ, Black, and Latine youth. The trip takes place at the Yellow River State Forest in northeast Iowa, and includes two nights of camping, two days of backpacking, and one day of gear/skills preparation.



Left: Participants on the Yellow River SPARK trip pose before leaving the trailhead. **Right:** A participant on the Yellow River SPARK trip holds a slug for the first time.



“Thank you for helping her learn about her capacity to do hard work and big tasks. Thank you for increasing her comfort and confidence in being outside.” – Mother of 2023 Idaho Wilderness Trek participant



Top Left: Participants on the Idaho Wilderness Trek make pizza tortillas from the peak of a mountain they just climbed. **Top Right:** Frances Owen, Jason Bies, and Kristen Morrow led the trip. **Middle:** Crew members climbed onto a big rock in Idaho. **Bottom Left:** A participant saws through a tree that fell over the trail. **Bottom Right:** The close-knit crew crowded into a two-person tent for a card game.



“The Superior Hiking Trail experience was so fun, interesting, challenging, and empowering. I learned so much about backpacking and camping skills and about nature.” - Carol (participant on the WTF Superior Hiking Trail trek)

Top Left: Participants on the WTF Superior Hiking Trail Trip got to enjoy peak fall colors along the way. **Top Right:** A participant looks out at a lake view on the last day. **Middle:** The crew hiked to the shore of Lake Superior and a couple swam in the lake! **Bottom Left:** Fungus observations and enthusiasm was a big feature of the trip. **Bottom right:** Kristen Morrow, Volunteer Hai Huynh, and Frances Owen led this trip.

Volunteer Program

By the numbers: 977 hours of service completed by 103 people.

Project List:

- Bird Banding Ed. Program
- Snake Enrichment Board
- Caterpillar Care
- CEC Host
- Filled Feeders at Kent Park
- Fixed Fishing Poles
- Birding Workshop Assistance
- Idaho Wilderness Trek Backpacking Trip Leader
- Integrated Monarch Monitoring Program
- Maple Syrup Program Assist
- MAPS banding
- Monarch Tagging
- Monitored Bluebird Boxes
- Native Plant Series Assist.
- Put up bluebird boxes
- Raptor Program
- Reptile Rendezvous Assist.
- Seed Harvest
- Skull and Skin Prep
- Cangleska Wakan Trailwork
- Women|Trans|Femme Backpacking Trip Leader



Above: a volunteer releases a monarch at a tagging event. **Top right:** four volunteers pose with the turning tree display during the Native Plant Speaker Series. **Bottom right:** four volunteers came to a Senior Seed Harvest in November.



Marketing

Social Media Accounts we maintained (Final FY24 numbers)



Followers
6,915
+892



Followers
1,531
+158



Followers
245
NEW



Followers
513
+0



Subscribers
11
+2



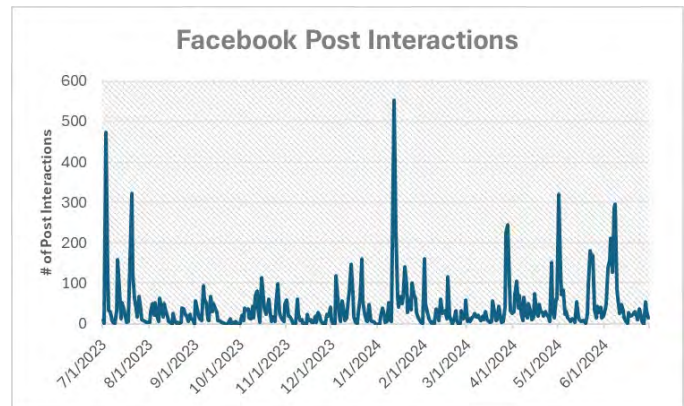
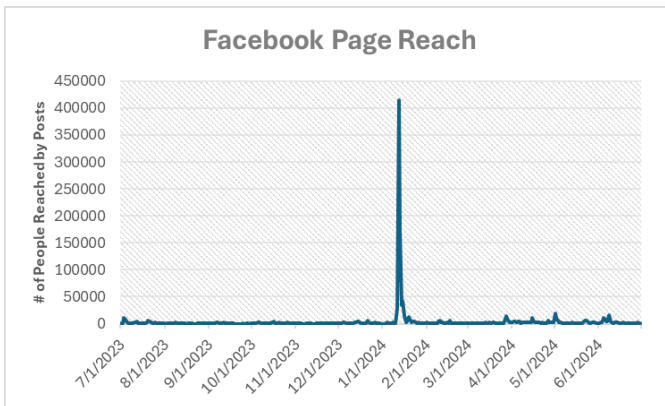
Followers
36
+9



Followers
56
+12

Facebook

Followers grew from **6,023 to 6,915** with an increase of **892** followers. Our Facebook page showed faster growth than during the previous fiscal year. 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 FY24 was up by 1,500% when compared to end FY23 (Figure 11). Spikes in reach are often tied to popular content being added to our page on or around the date of the spike (Figure 14). The posts with highest reach also had the highest post interactions. Facebook Post Interactions are 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.

Johnson County Conservation
 Posted by Kristen Nichole
 Jan 12, 2024 · 🌐

We have more beautiful snowy photos to share, this time from Cangleska Wakan. The snow-coated trees is magical to look at (those stressful for the trees and shrubs weighed down by the heavy load).

#CangleskaWakan #johnsoncountyconservation #johnsoncountyiowa #iowaoutdoors #iowawinter #snowshoe



See insights and ads Boost post

Like Comment Share

185

13 shares

Johnson County Conservation
 Posted by Kristen Nichole
 Jun 5, 2024 · 🌐

Artists wanted!

We're putting together a new pollinator-focused display at the CEC in Kent Park and we need the help of many artists to pull it off. We envision a wall filled with butterflies and moths, all larger than life, and painted on wood. We'll provide the wood cut-outs, but we need artists to sign up to paint one (or many!) of these lepidopterans. Differences in painting styles are welcome so long as biological accuracy is maintained.

If you are interested, you can browse and claim the species of your choice here:
https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A054EA4AD2BABFA7-48993313-butterfly?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMATAAR1VPaXIBeqtTI3-HN7v7bxH_o4Y5gxKFL4XNcDrYyE4Mt877Q3_XiriAYk_aem_AdwyAK1eLu6X9Swtq3xvHk.JRNj76V4Dk2Um9DXTCMmTt-dtlb5dG6HFQ5n1VDYpskAk9x38RvNwlghbTnZDs1y44#/

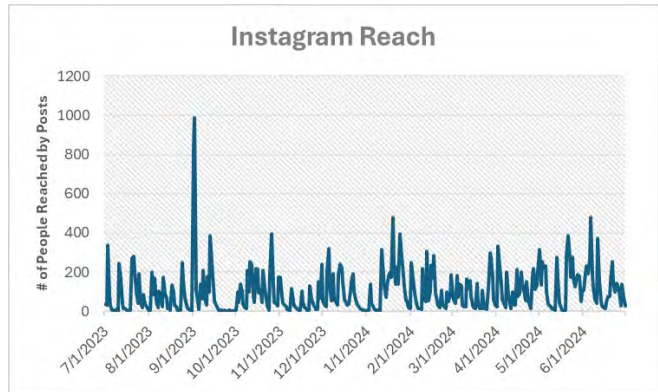
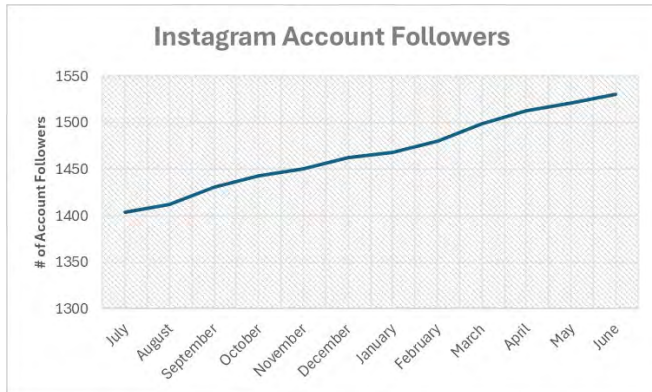
Please share with the local artists in your life!



Pictured left: A post of beautiful snowy landscape photos from Cangleska Wakan was associated with a spike in our page reach (414,376 on January 12th and 170,812 on January 13th) which lead to an increase of 58 new followers in a single day (the next largest day we gained followers was 20 on June 8th 2024-likely associated with the Community Art Project which was posted on June 5th). This really shows the value of beautiful feel-good photos to gain followers and increase our page reach. Additionally, there was great value in offering a new way for folks to volunteer with our organization and get involved.

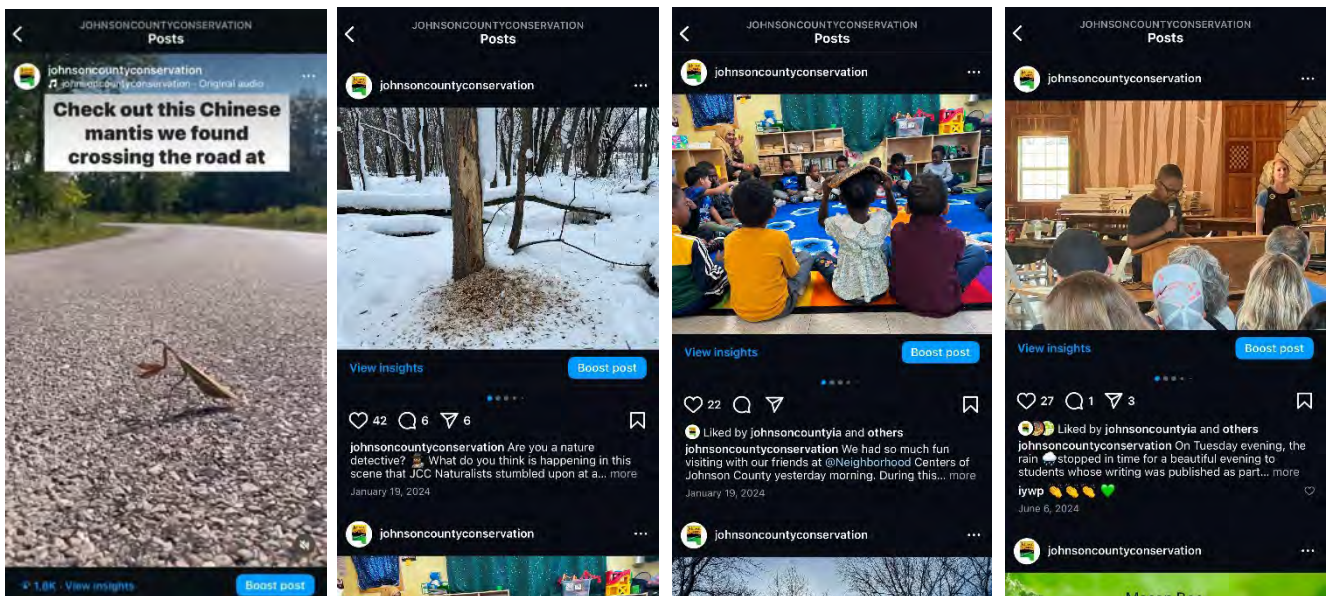
Instagram

Followers grew from **1,373 to 1,531** with an increase of **158** (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 FY24 was up by 191.6% when compared to end FY23 (Figure 15). Spikes in reach are often tied to popular content being added to our feed on or around the date of the spike (Figure 16).



Figures 14 (left) and 15 (right). Instagram trends over FY24 in followers, and page reach.

The spike in Instagram Reach (823 people on Sept 1st and 988 people on Sept 2nd) was associated with an educational video we created and posted about mantids on September 1st 2023 (below left). Videos tend to be higher performing than static photos for our account. Additional posts (left to right after mantids) are from spikes in reach of 478 people on January 19th (photo 2 & 3) and June 6th (far right).



Twitter

Followers remained at **513** for FY24 after losing followers in FY23. 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. Due to this, we are no longer maintaining or tracking this application.

Threads

We started a Threads account when our Twitter users began to drop. This account is tied to our Instagram account, so content can be easily cross posted between the two. Our followers grew from **118** when the account was opened in September of 2023, to **245** followers by the end of FY24.

Tik Tok

Our account followers increased slightly over FY24, from **27 to 36** followers. Our most popular video was viewed 2,000 times and received 14 likes (Figure 20). This account needs more content added to help growth.

YouTube

Subscribers increased from **9 to 11** and views increased significantly from 136 to 291 during FY23 (Figure 21). This account has not been used much. It is still valuable as a place for us to host our own videos for embedding in presentations and our blog.

LinkedIn

Our account followers increased from **44 to 56** by the end of FY24 (Figure 23). Despite very little activity, this platform has continued to slowly grow.

Park Ranger—Visitor Use Report

Park Ranger FY (Seasonal) 2024 Visitor Use Report

Compiled by Ranger Charles Bray and Ranger Aaron Ohlsen

2024 Season Report

Camping

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

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

Camping Permits issued- 2,110

Number of nights sold- 5,703

Number of campers- 5,497

Avg. nights stayed- 2.32

Based off the number of nights sold, overall camping use decreased 13.8% when compared to 2023.



A vintage camping photo from F.W. Kent Park, likely taken in the late 1970s or early 1980

Kent Park Camping

F.W. Kent Park Campground opened on April 21 and closed on September 24 in 2024. Kent Park Campground contains 86 campsites; all sites provide 30 and 50 amp electrical service and Wi-Fi internet access at a cost of \$20.00/night per camping unit. A modern restroom and shower facility are currently unavailable to registered campers.

Attendance:

Camping Permits issued- 1,466

Number of nights sold- 4,089

Number of campers- 4,036

Avg. nights stayed- 2.71

Based off the number of nights sold, camping use decreased at Kent Park 19% when compared to 2023.



Hills Access Camping

The Hills Access Campground offers 20 total campsites. Hills Access contains 13 campsites that provide 30 and 50 amp electrical service at a cost of \$15.00/night per camping unit. 7 sites at Hills Access are designated as primitive camping (non-electric) sites at a cost of \$10/night per camping unit. Hills Access was closed to camping on October 1 in 2024.

Attendance:

Camping permits issued- 512

Electric nights sold- 1,211

Non-electric nights sold- 184

Number of Campers- 1,178

Avg. nights stayed- 2.57

Based off the number of nights sold, camping use decreased 0.49% when compared to 2023.

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- 132

Non-electric nights sold- 219

Number of Campers- 283

Avg. nights stayed- 1.68

Based off the number of nights sold, use increased 33.5% when compared to 2023.

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)- 37

Number of campers- 1,380

Days stayed (sold)- 53

Average days stayed- 1.4

Based off the number of days sold, use decreased 52.6% when compared to 2023.

Group Use by month:

Jan-1 Feb-1 Mar-2 Apr-2 May-7 Jun-7 Jul-1 Aug-1 Sep-5 Oct-4 Nov-4 Dec-2

Visitor Interaction

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

2024 Training:

- Visitor Protection and Employee Safety
- 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 refresher
- Storm Spotter Training
- Sexual abuse, mental trauma recognition
- Reunification Training with EMS and Iowa City School District
- Active shooter training with local law enforcement, Fire, EMS, and the Clear Creek Amana School District



Rangers undergo significant training through the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy, County Conservation Peace Officers Association (CCPOA) and/or local training opportunities to help them maintain their skills to keep the public safe.

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

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

- Many calls for service not initiated by dispatch start as “out with a subject”. Depending on the interaction, the call can change to a different type of call. An example would be a call that began as out with subject, could upon further investigation become a motorist assist or intoxicated pedestrian call. Below is a list of call for service types Ranger Staff had in 2024
- Community policing (License Checks)
- General Animal Call
- Park Evictions Hills Access
- Park Evictions 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

Traffic Counter Summary

Traffic data is collected by the TRAFx counters. This innovative, reliable, compact vehicle counter uses an aerospace-quality magnetometer, and advanced embedded software, to detect passing vehicles. 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 at JCCB Areas stay active year-round. This is a great advantage over seasonal data collection only. The TRAFx counter was run simultaneously for one month with our old-style pneumatic counter in 2020, this was to ensure accuracy and consistency at the time of transition of counter methods. A standard formula used to calculate visitor numbers is by using the vehicles counted as a baseline. The formula used assumes there are 2.5 visitors (humans) in every vehicle counted, thus the “vehicle count” calculated by TRAFx, is multiplied by 2.5 to arrive at an assumed number of visitors.

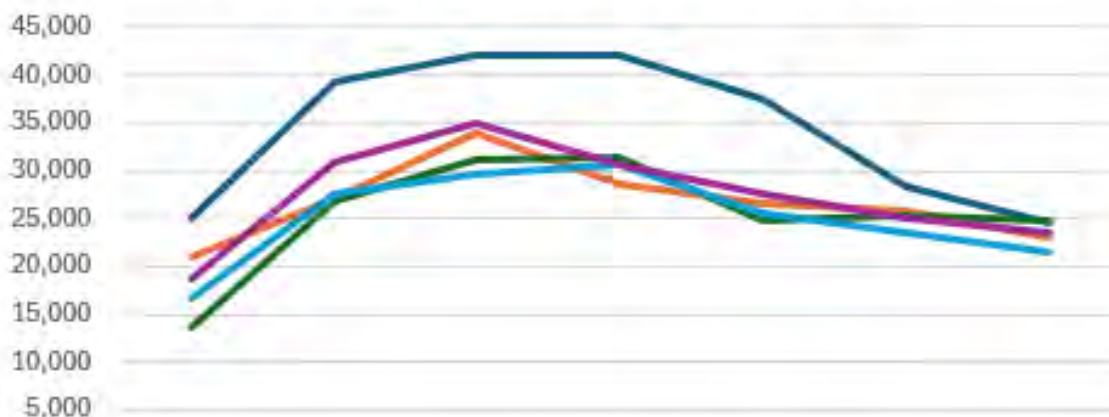
Kent Park:

The 2024 season showed a 9.2% percent increase in visitor counts when compared to the 2023 season. The graph below shows 2024 as the second highest visitor number collected In Kent Parks history. This is presumably due to the lake being at full pool, great fishing opportunities with high success rates, 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 2024. An increase in the visitor count has been observed in 2024 when compared to the 2023 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	2024 Vehicle Count	2024 Visitor Count
April	9,993.20	24,983	8,383.20	20,958	5,500.40	13,751	6,712.40	16,781	7,448	18,620
May	15,723.20	39,308	10,845.60	27,114	10,742.80	26,857	11,080.80	27,702	12,338	30,845
June	16,849.20	42,123	13,587.60	33,969	12,439.20	31,098	11,858.80	29,647	14,028	35,071
July	16,803.60	42,009	11,425.60	28,564	12,558.40	31,396	12,232.00	30,580	12,307	30,768
August	15,005.20	37,513	10,584.80	26,462	9,934	24,835	10,175	25,437	11,018	27,546
September	11,368	28,420	10,359.60	25,899	10,090.80	25,227	9,386.00	23,465	9,979	24,948
October	9,822	24,555	9,207.20	23,018	9,954.80	24,887	8,630.80	21,577	9,408	23,521
Totals	95,564.40	238,911	74,393.60	185,984	71,220.40	178,051	70,075.60	175,189	76,528	191,319

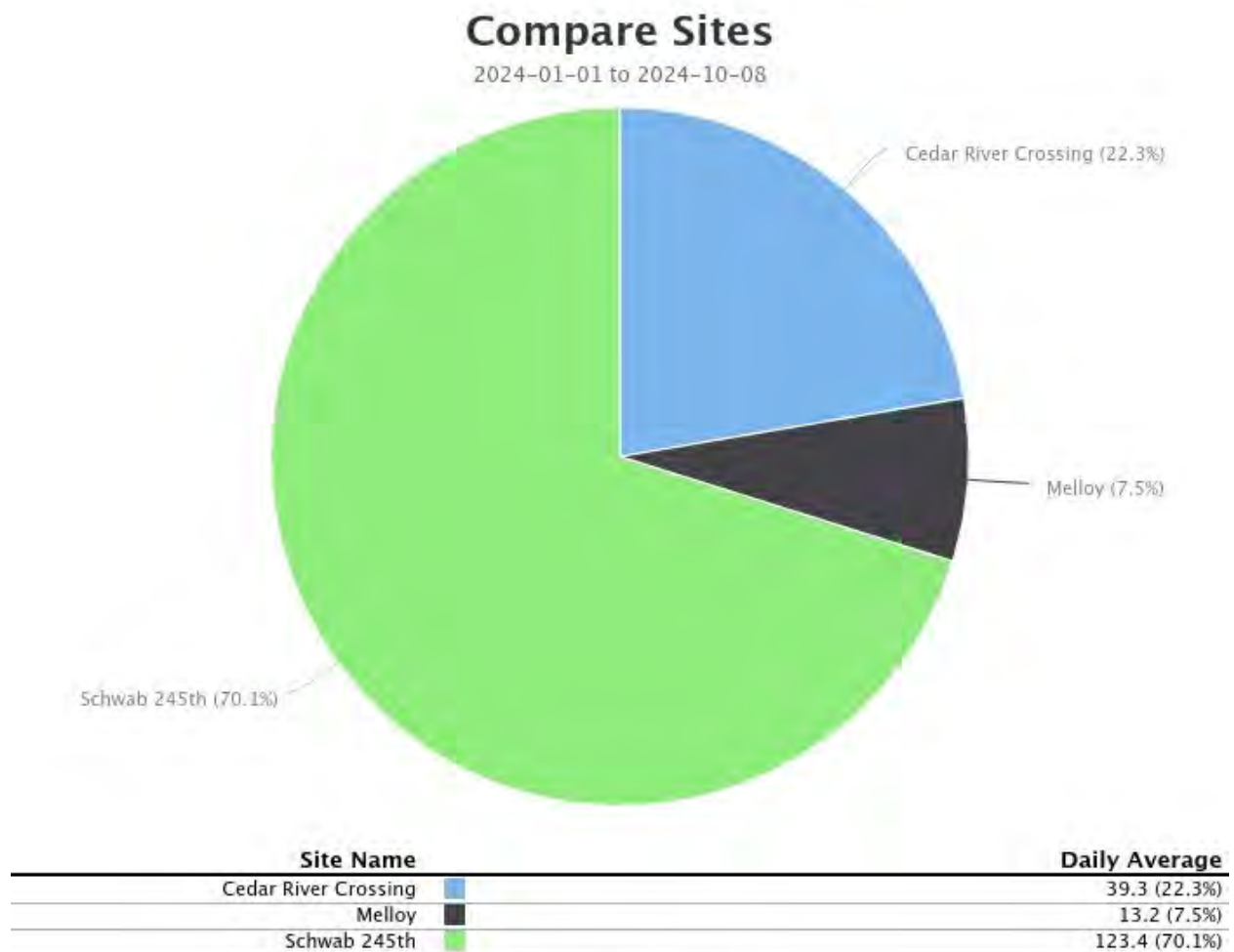
Kent Park Visitors April 1 - October 31



Traffic Data comparison of Cangleska Wakan (Schwab), Cedar River Crossing, and 2-Horse Farm (Melloy): Data Comparison takes place over the past year.

*Cangleska Wakan counter includes counts of all vehicles entering the Woodland Homeowner Association, as all vehicles entering that area must pass through the Cangleska Wakan Area. Hence there are counts included in the numbers that are not park users.

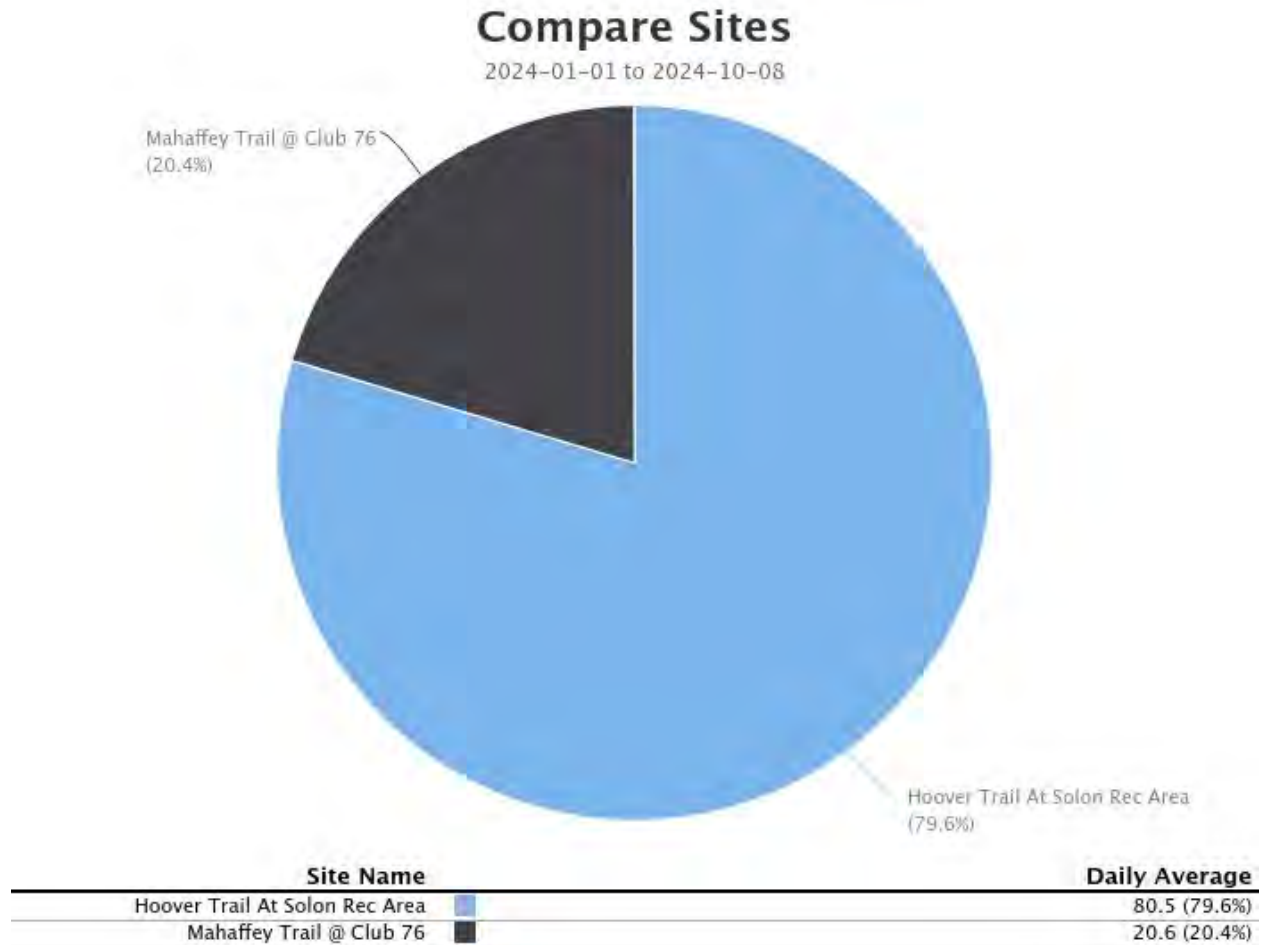
-Cedar River Crossing and 2-Horse Farm counts are taken at a parking area that is exclusive to those areas and vehicle traffic terminates and does not continue past that location.



(D) = divide by 2 applied

The TRAFx Infrared Trail Counter counts users on a designated trail site. It senses and detects the infrared wavelength that users (humans) emit.

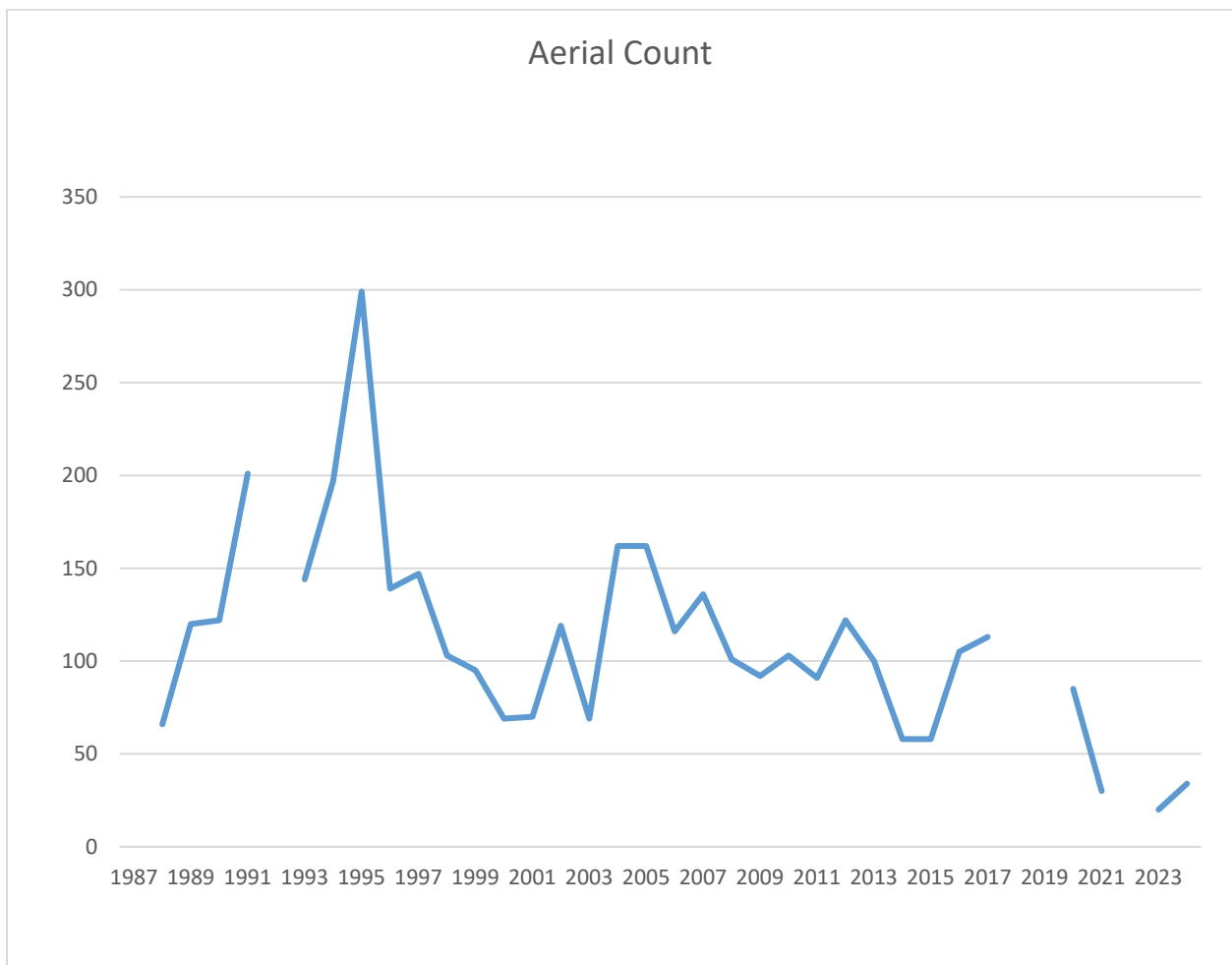
Below represents data compiled for 2024 on specific locations of the Mahaffey Trail and Hoover Trail.



2023-24 F. W. Kent Park (zone 26) Management Zone

F.W. Kent Park will remain zone 26 management zone indefinitely. Deer numbers within zone 26, the area around it, Johnson County and the state of Iowa are continuously monitored by Ranger staff.

For the 2023-24 season, F. W. Kent Park (zone 26) did not conduct an archery hunt. Rangers conduct an aerial deer count in and around F.W. Kent Park each year when conditions are favorable to count deer. Below is a graph of aerial counts for zone 26 throughout the years. Due to the lower wintering population counted in zone 26, the archery hunt was not conducted.



Johnson County Conservation Board

2024 Special Use Permits Issued

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

Section 26. Events and Activities Requiring Special Use Permits:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Special Use Permits Issued: (total permits issued)

2024-1 Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, collect acoustic data at CRC (after 10:30pm)

2024-2 Dick Lutz, access JCCB areas with personal vehicle to fly drone and collect data

2024-3 Aaron Baston, access JCCB areas with personal vehicle for research

2024-4 UI ROTC, use Kent Park for wayfinding training with soldiers (before sunrise opening)

2024-5 Iowa Amateur Radio Club, use of generators and antennas in Kent Park (training for a power outage)

2024-6 Iowa Performance Lab, fly a helicopter at Kent Park below the allowed ceiling (400ft altitude)

2024-6 UI Performance Lab, fly helicopter below ceiling at Kent Park

2024-7 Canoe Race, use Hills Access for Iowa River Canoe Race finish Line

2024-8 Big Rove Ride, use portions of JCCB trail system for sanctioned bicycle ride

2024-9 Core4, use sections of Hoover Trail for sanctioned bicycle ride

2024-10 Andrew Forbes, collect periodic hatch of Cicada's on JCCB areas for relocation

2024-11 Army National Guard, Kent Park, Ground Navigation

2024-12 Taproot Day Care, Kent Park, Harvesting Wildflowers

2024-13 Especially For You Cancer Walk, Kent Park, Beach RR's

2024-14 UI ROTC Kent Park, Navigation Training

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 Zone 26, F.W. Kent Park
- Patrol boat use, build, and maintenance
- Aerial deer herd surveys and spotlight deer herd and raccoon surveys
- Surrounding landowner deer herd surveys
- Submit recommendations for future deer seasons
- Issue/approve Special Use Permits for users that intend to use JCCB facilities for activities that fall outside normal intended use
- Use of Ranger worn body cameras
- Narcan to use in case of a Medical Emergency involving an opioid overdose.
- Provide access and maintenance to a tornado safe rooms at Kent Park main office and campground
- 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

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
- Conduct aerial counts of Deer in and in, close proximity to zone 26, F.W. Kent Park

Connect

- Connected 233 youth to the outdoors by Hosting 7 youth turkey hunts, 9 fishing events, 2 youth pheasant hunts, 1 youth duck hunt, and 2 Hunter Education Field Days.
- 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 and fat tire bike trails at Kent Park

Water Quality

- Maintain and promote the Kent Park Lake Restoration project
- Provide input for wetland mitigation projects on JBBC areas
- Close and clean the Kent Park Beach nightly during summer months
- Enforce rules and regulations that protect and promote water quality.

Partnerships

- Nordic Ski Club and Fat Tire Bike Club to groom several miles of cross-country ski and Fat tire bike trails at Kent Park
- Iowa Snowdrifters Inc., provide the areas and legal means for Iowa Snowdrifters club to mark and maintain snowmobile trails
- 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 provides pilot and fixed wing aircraft services at no charge to survey deer populations in and around zone 26, Kent Park
- Operator Performance Lab (OPL) of University of Iowa, provides pilot and helicopter services at no charge to survey deer populations in and around zone 26, Kent Park
- Johnson County Sheriff's Department for law enforcement assistance and investigations
- Provide areas for ROTC, Sheriff's Department, Iowa State Patrol, and First Responders and their K9's to train
- ICCSD Parent/Student Reunification Program
- Provide storage for First Responder boat at Pechman Creek Delta
- Kroul Farms for Campground Firewood supply

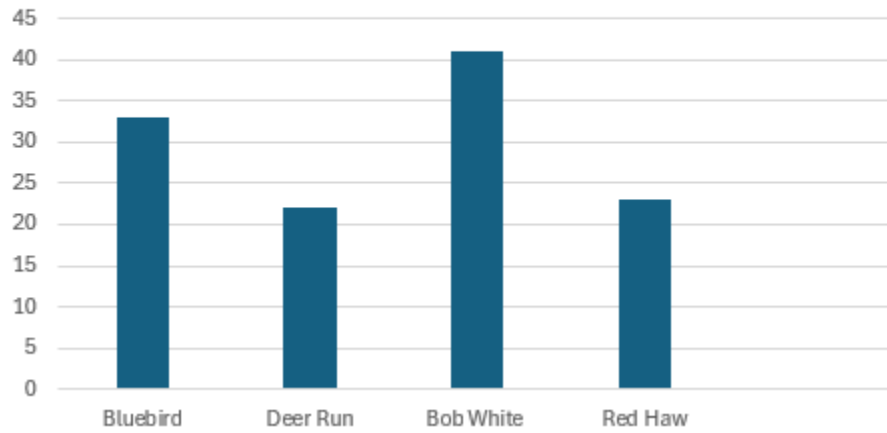
Sustainability

- Constant monitoring of the deer population in the Kent Park management zone (Zone 26)
- Continue to offer quality outdoor recreation opportunities in a safe setting
- Use public funds in a wise and fiscally prudent manner

Facility Reservation Summary

Annual Shelter Report

Kent Park Shelter Reservations
2024



Total times shelters were reserved: 119

JCCB Volunteer Program Information- FY 2024

Individual Names			Projects
Aaditya Deshpande	Gene Zdrzil	Lois Albrecht	Bird Banding
Aaron Basten	George Morden	Lori Dawson	Bird Feeder Filling/Maintenance
Addie Owen	Gina Bartelson	Loulwa Soweid	Birding Workshop Assistance
Alice Atkinson	Grace Kreger	Lynette Seigley	Bluebird Monitoring
Allison Donovan	Hai Huynh	Marci Trana	Botanical Inventory/Surveys
Amber Capps	Heather Baumgartner	Mark Bowman	Caterpillar Care Training
Arlen Breisholz	Jaci Falco	Mark Peno	CEC Host
Ben Rowold	Jaimlee Xiong	MaryAnn Reynolds	Event Assistance
Bill Pusateri	Jason Bies	Maura Arnold	Integrated Monarch Monitoring Program
Bill Waldie	Jean Wiese	Max Viner	Idaho Wilderness Trek
Bonnie Penno	Jennifer Pitkin	Mike Theobald	Monarch Tagging
Bonnie Winslow-Garvin	Jenny Hollis Miller	Morgan Anderson	Native Plant Series Assistance
Brandie Janssen	Jim Wiese	Nancy Parr	Raptor Program Assistance
Bree Arends	JJ Miller	Nate Baetz	Reptile Rendezvous Assistance
Cameron Miller	Joan Schnabel	Neil Bernstein	Seed Harvest
Caroline Donovan	Jodie Theobald	Nick Timmer	Skull & Skin Prep
Caroline Parris	John Boller	Nicole Sheldon	Snake Enrichment Board Building
Carolyn Buckingham	Jon Pitkin	Pat Ryan	Trail Stewardship
Cian Hammarmeister	Josh Ventling	Phyllis Black	Wilderness Trek Program
Clara Pitkin	Joyce Miller	Reannah Jones	
Colette Broderson	Karen Phillips	Regan Donovan	
Connie Aldridge	Kathryn Hall	Rhonda Roden	
Connie Mutel	Kathryn Prediger	Rob Bradley	
Craig Gibson	Kathy Martensen	Ryan McDonald	
Dan Bartelson	Katy Kaptfl	Sally Stutsman	
Dan Falco	Keegan Smith-Nichols	Sandy Eads	
Dan Hill	Ken Atkinson	Sharon Jeter	
Dave Bond	Laura Noiseux	Shawn Donovan	
Debbie Bryant	Laura Whitmore	Susan Lidiard	
Deborah Quade	Lauren Ruse	Teri Berg	
Denise Belvin	Lilly Andrews	Tom Birkenholtz	
Dick Lutz	Linda Nelson	Van Martensen	
Edith Griffin	Linda Schreiber	Vasilena Koteva	
Eli Morden	Lindsay Griffin	Vera Griffin	
Emma Schima	Lisa Leech	Yukiko Hill	
Eric Miller	Lisa Wilson		
Evan Pitkin	Liz McVey		
Finn Donovan	Lizzy Fitzsimmons		

Thank You Volunteers!

JCCB Volunteer Hours per Project

Project	Hours
Bird Banding	101
Bird Feeder Filling/Maintenance	70
Birding Workshop Assistance	11
Bluebird Monitoring	21
Botanical Inventory/Surveys	825
Caterpillar Care Training	2
CEC Host	72
Event Assistance	10
Integrated Monarch Monitoring Program	29
Idaho Wilderness Trek	240
Monarch Tagging	52
Native Plant Series Assistance	37
Raptor Program Assistance	10
Reptile Rendezvous Assistance	3
Seed Harvest	171
Skull & Skin Prep	3
Snake Enrichment Board Building	20
Trail Stewardship	11
Wilderness Trek Program	168
Total Hours	1,853

Natural Resources Program Report

2024 Fiscal Year

Compiled by David D. Wehde, Natural Resources Manager



The Takeuchi skid steer with Fecon mulching attachment is extremely important to open forestry units and remove invasive species. These openings allow staff to use herbicide treatments and prescribed fire to set back the invasive plant communities.



Natural Resource staff cutting firewood at Cangleska Wakan. The firewood is used to heat the Celebration Barn.

F.W. Kent Park

Installed Memorial/Honorary Trees blocks and inscribed plaques.

Mulched, staked, and installed protective tubes on existing Memorial/Honorary trees and other trees and shrubs installed by tree spade.

Watered Memorial/Honorary Trees and other transplants.

Updated Memorial-Honorary Tree records.

Sprayed around Memorial/Honorary Trees and transplants.

Repaired broken limbs Memorial/Honorary Trees.

Removed Memorial/Honorary Trees posts and plaques.

Installed and maintained firebreaks.

Installed and removed deer protective tubes on trees.

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

Removed over twenty EAB infected trees and five damaged or dying hazard trees.

Pruning and brush removal roadsides and firebreak/trail system.

Moved logs to public firewood cutting area.

Mowed invasive brush and cut and treated invasive brush.

Pruning

Site preparation sprayed Black Locust.

Finished Prairie Seed Collection Process.

Hand collected 72.9 lbs. of prairie forb, grass, and wetland seed with an estimated value of \$ 10,694.00

Haul trees to wood cutting area.

Dried seed.

Collected wetland seed.

Collected prairie seed.

Cleaned prairie seed.

Cleaned wetland seed.

Labeled prairie and wetland seed.

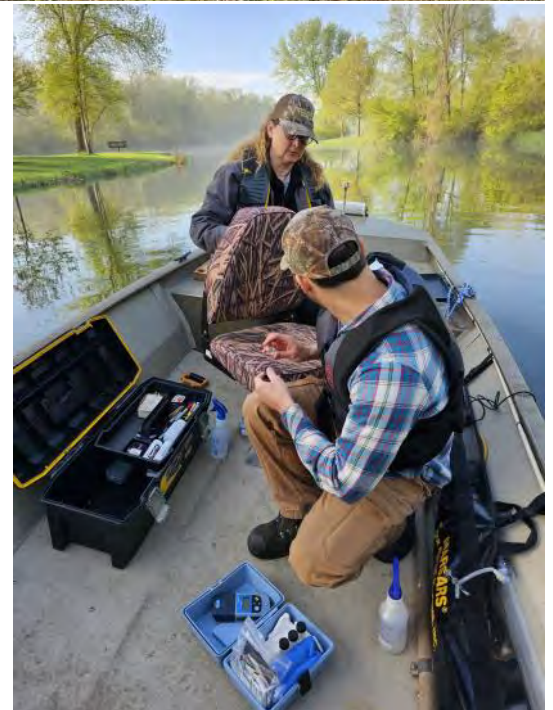
Place hand collected seed into storage.

Hand collected native seed inventory and report 2024.

Site preparation prairie reconstruction.
 Constructed seeding plans.
 Prairie seeding records.
 Prairie seeding map 2023.
 Write prairie seeding plan 2023.
 Volunteer Prairie Seed Collection Public Event.
 Prairie seeding prep. Meyer Prairie Tract RCG.
 Mowing Meyer Prairie Tract Seeding.
 Equipment check off list prescribed burning update.
 Composed and conducted the 2024 Prescribed Burn Plan.
 Reviewed Prescribed Burn Plan and mapping.
 Constructed Prescribed burn plan maps.
 Prescribed fire preparation.
 Post prescribed burn maps.
 Post prescribed burn records.
 Post prescribed burn reports IDNR.
 Prescribed burning was conducted on 518.6 acres of various habitat types.
 Mow prairie and wetland seeding.
 Updated Floristic Inventories all units.
 Conducted Grassland Curing Guide for Johnson County
 NWS Fire Danger Index.
 Mixed prairie seed.
 Conducted site checks on prairie seeding.
 Seed inventories.
 Ordered wetland seed.
 Site preparation prairie seeding's.
 Checked and repaired ponds and wetlands.
 Chainsaw maintenance and organize work bench.
 Mow and Treat invasive brush.
 F.W. Kent Park Water Testing Procedure update.
 Meeting Water Quality Survey.
 Water Quality Testing cost spread sheet.
 Constructed updated map F.W. Kent Park Water Testing sites 2024.
 Completed field forms F.W. Kent Park Water Testing.
 Water Quality Testing equipment inventory.
 Research and Purchase water quality testing supplies.
 Water Quality equipment set up.
 Report F.W. Kent Park Lake Water Quality.
 Water Quality Testing F.W. Kent Park Water Shed.
 Water Quality Data entry.
 Constructed Water Testing Map F.W. Kent Park Water Quality Project.
 F.W. Kent Park Lake Project Meetings.
 F.W. Kent Park Water Shed Project collected water samples at 31 locations.
 Administered Water Testing and Water Quality training staff.
 Conducted E. coil sampling F.W. Kent Park Watershed.
 Filled out applications for on-line reporting with the State Hygienic Lab
 Take water samples to the U of I State Hygienic Lab.
 Weekly Water Quality Report F.W. Kent Park Watershed.
 F.W. Kent Park Beach E. coil testing.
 Removed brush and trees fence lines.
 Completed State Habitat Survey 2024 and submit.
 Acquired and installed new sprayer parts.
 Removed hazard trees Lake Trail.



Staff collect and process thousands of dollars worth of prairie seed every year. These collections ensure local ecotype plant populations are used in future projects and the efforts save financial resources that can be used for other aspects of natural resource management.



The Natural Resource staff also conduct the water quality testing for the JCCB. Staff are shown conducting water testing on Kent Park Lake

Storm damage clean up limbs remove hanger.
 Clean/organize shop and work areas and chain saws.
 GIS Map updates.
 Removed storm damaged trees, dead trees campground and other locations.
 Collected Grassland Curing Guide Data NWS for Johnson County, Iowa.
 Completed IT computer safety course.
 Mobilized firefighting equipment.
 De-mobilized firefighting equipment.
 Safety training.
 Mulched trails.
 Monitored fire effects.
 Weed, mulch and sprayed entrance and islands.
 Completed pesticide applicator recertification.
 Invasive brush control acres treated map.
 Prepped equipment for seeding.
 Prairie Site Prep Meyer Unit.
 Brush removal roadways and trails.
 ARC/GSI Training.
 Ordered forestry equipment and supplies.
 Winterized spray equipment.
 Review and research pesticides.
 Update MSDS sheets pesticides.
 Updated pesticide records books.
 Ordered pesticides.
 Completed herbicide label reference folder.
 Attended Pesticide CEU training.
 Pesticide inventories.
 Completed RT-130 Annual Refresher Prescribed Fire Crew.
 Ornate Box Turtle Report 2023.
 Checked prescribed fire equipment.
 Documented and updated Endangered, Threatened and Special Concerned species IDNR.
 Removed dead trees.
 Built herbicide doobers and kill sticks.
 Tree identification training seasonal staff.
 Repaired trails, pruning trails, tree removal F.W. Kent Park trails, roadways, and firebreaks.
 NWS Storm Spotter Recertification.
 Created GIS Maps of invasive brush control F.W. Kent Park.
 Check Firelines.
 Checked outlet structures F.W. Kent Park Lake Project.
 Checked in and out flows all wetlands and ponds.
 Updated First Aid kits.
 NWCG Online training L-180/S-130/S-190.
 Removed dead fall day use areas.
 Mowed invasive brush.
 Acquired and installed new sprayer parts.
 Computer Safety Class.
 Hand cut weeds catch basins.
 Cut Reed Canary Grass.
 Sprayed Reed Canary Grass.
 Review information regarding Reed Canary Grass control.
 Removed down trees on trails.



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.

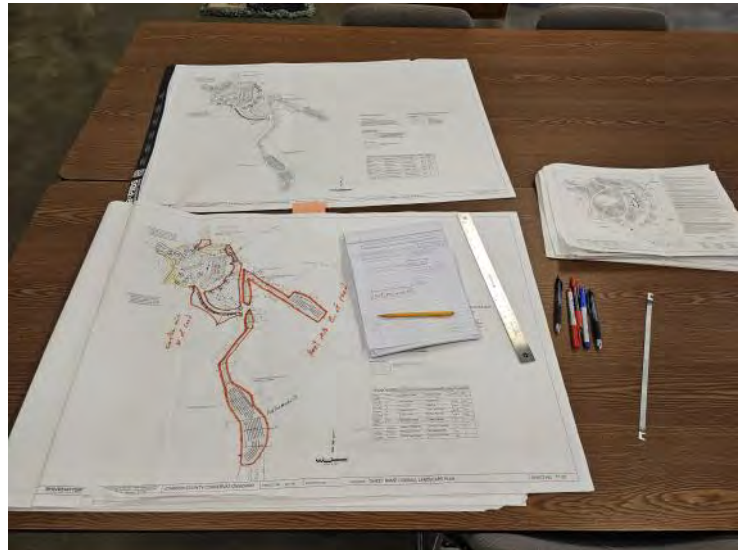


Above is a wild petunia growing in the prairie restoration below the dam at Kent Park—the project is a restoration after the lake restoration effort. To the left is a STEM Extern member performing water quality testing on Kent Park Lake.

- Winterized UTV sprayers.
- Winterized equipment.
- Fire supply inventory/ready purchase list.
- Firefighting PPE.
- Rehabbed Fire-fighting equipment.
- Rearrange equipment.
- Work Projects completed maps 2024.
- Equipment repair
- Pesticide usage request 2024 all parks and preserves.
- Updated prescribed burning equipment check list.
- Fire equipment preparation.
- Sprayed entrance weeds in mulch.
- Cut and treated invasive brush prairies and roadsides.
- Invasive species control prairie units.
- Unload and organize herbicides.
- Water quality meeting review data.
- Weed Bio Cells Boat Ramp.
- Organized and store forestry equipment.
- Installed Chipper Box on Dump Truck.
- Go through spray units for parts list.
- Input 2024 areas sprayed in GIS.
- Check for hazard and storm damage trees.
- Prepared woodland and prairie seed harvest list for Education Specialists.
- Mowing Meyer seeding.
- Monitor vegetation catch basins and lake.
- Clean/organize shop/work areas/saws.
- Invasive brush removal Hwy 6 prairie planting.



Invasive brush removal Knight Prairie.
 Mow invasive brush and tree plantations.
 Repair fence lines.
 Check for hazard and storm damaged trees.
 Mow invasive brush Forestry Plantations.
 Mowed brush roadsides.
 Check for Storm damage.
 Storm damage removal.
 Construct Check out sheet PPE.
 Sharpen blades brush saw.
 Prairie plantings site prep.
 Orchid survey.
 Pruning, road system and parking lot with lift.
 Takeuchi deep cleaning and maintenance.
 Organize chainsaw supplies.
 Remove the tree tubes.
 Order supplies for F.W. Kent Park Lake Water Quality Project.
 F.W. Kent Park Water Quality Testing Map.
 Organize chainsaw supplies.
 Sort water quality supplies.
 Clean up and grease backpack sprayers.
 Mark water quality test spots.
 Plant identification training seasonal employees.
 Prune trees.
 Request information regarding CDL driving school.
 Meeting Chemical Representative Van Diest Supply Company.
 Meet with Aaron Basten plant inventories.
 Weed front entrance and parking lot planting.
 Mow prairie planting.
 Check for hazardous and storm damaged trees.
 GIS/Computer work records.
 Work orders.
 Mow Prairie plantings F.W. Kent Park Roadside Prairie and Hwy 6 Railroad Right of Way.
 Construct a ski trail map.
 Fecon brush removal four acres C.G.
 Fecon ash cluster.
 Clean spray tractor with neutralizer.
 Burn Bobwhite brush pile.
 Complete RT-130 Annual Fireline Refresher.
 EAB tree removals.
 Prairie Seed Collection Report 2024.
 Seed collection records 2024.
 Site check thinning EAB removal project.
 Shade Tree Short Course Registration.
 Attend Shade Tree Short Course (Mike & Tim)
 F.W. Kent Park Campground and Shower House Project.
 Review Landscape Campground Shower house.
 Storm damage cleared up storm damage White Pines and other downfall.
 Repair Military Dump Truck.
 Attended the Kirkwood Job Fair.
 Check radios for RX fire.



Planning is an essential component of natural resource management. Habitat restoration can take years to reach full success.



Prescribed fire is an important tool in natural resource management. Staff have extensive training through the NWCG and conduct annual updates.



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

Ornate box turtle study 2024.

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

Fire training registration L-180 / S-130 / S-190 Field Day.

Prescribed fire records and yearly report to IDNR Forestry and Fire Management.

Update fire-fighting Certifications and Qualifications list.

Stock and clean up public firewood pile. (9 permits sold for \$900).

Flag trees planting site.

C/T Invasive Brush

C/T black Locust.

Prairie and Water Quality Presentation IDNR teachers.

HCWMA planning session Field Day 2024.

Conduct Grassland Curing Guide and Report to NWS Wildfire Danger Index.

Remove woody plant Bio Cells Boat Ramp.

Remove weeds Bio Cells Boat Ramp.

Mix prairie seed for plantings.

Drug and Alcohol Identification Course for Supervisors Recertification.

Work with Naturalist Volunteer Seed Collection Species list.

Update Native and Reconstructed Prairie Map for F.W. Kent Park.

Burn brush piles.

Check catch basins at Kent Park to make sure they are flowing/not flooding or damaging structure.

E-coil testing F.W. Kent Park Lake IDNR sign off.

A-54 Equipment Maintenance, change gear drive oil, track tension, replace window door seals, change hydraulic oil, clean pickup filters, gas struts for rear access door, fix oil leak, Rain X windows/clean interior, replace air dryer and cab filter.

Meeting with Dick and Aaron thistle species and other plant inventory topics.

Clean out old files.

Order water testing supplies.

Organize pictures for the Annual Report.

Set-up Water Quality OD meter.

Construct Prescribed Burning 2024 post burn maps.

Hawkeye Cooperative Weed Management Area Field Day June 2024.

Mow tree plantings.

Organize equipment.

Hazard tree removal (Woodland Trail)

Prairie seeding maintenance Meyer Tract, Herring Plantation and Whippoorwill seeding,

Prairie Site Prep. McCabe Plantation.

Spraying investigation.

Remove large hanger in tree.

Remove Dead Elms.

Weed whipped annual weeds at the new toilet.

C/T Willows

Prairie site prep McCabe Plantation.

Present at HCWMA Field Event and send crew.

Spray Sericea Lespedeza.

Cover crop seeding new entrance and shower house/utility bld. construction site.

Mow Red Haw brush pile area.

Prairie seeding map campground.



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 usually die back first and the trees try to compensate for the loss of leaves by producing clusters of smaller branches further down the trunk.

Review Bee and Butterfly habitat fund seed mix.
 Seeding Campground Entrance.
 Take Photos of Fecon Project.
 Gather and prepare mint.
 Check Wetlands.
 Prairie seeding site prep. McCabe Plantation.
 Fecon work North Ries Fence line.
 Mow out tree plantations F.W. Kent Park.
 Combine for seed harvest Linn County Conservation Board.
 Seeding plan for Buffalo Pasture and McCabe Plantation prairie planting.
 Seed collection.
 Accept prairie seed donation.
 Review Butterfly survey.
 Bring in hand collected seed.
 Mow and install firebreaks.
 Spray Dump Station prep for reconstruction prairie.
 Start CRCWB maps for RES Wetland bank report.
 Fire prep trees roadway.
 Stirred harvested seed in seed dyers.
 Seeding Plans for McCabe Planting.
 ARPA seeding. (Buffalo Pasture).
 Seeding order ARAP.
 F.W. Kent Park Public Seed Collection Event 40 people plus staff in attendance.
 Meet Amy NRCS regarding maintenance on Bio Cells.
 Johnson County Prairie Planting Program Research and Report.
 Remove Black Willow from Silt Pond.
 Safety Equipment order.
 Removed fallen Oak Hwy 6 gate.
 Chain saw order parts list and quotes.
 Remove fire hazard dead White Pine and Spruce.
 Remove logs and firewood Hwy 6 REC pruning and place on public firewood pile.
 Complete CRC Maps for RES Wetland Bank Report.
 Cleaned chain saws.
 REC Pruning Powerlines.
 Chainsaw part order list and quotes.
 Ash removal Ranger's Residence.
 Moved logs from F.W. Kent Park to Cangleska Wakan for milling.
 Pole saw maintenance.
 Brush saw and string trimmer maintenance.
 Chainsaw/Equipment order draft two.
 Herbicide records annual update.
 Volunteer worker coordination.
 Volunteer native seed cleaner.
 Prairie seed collection tool.
 Take Chipper to Vermeer for repairs.
 Black Cherry Logs DBH.
 Retrieve Black Cherry Logs.
 Repair C-11 Tree Spade and recondition.
 Information for newsletter.
 Plant Material Information Physical Plant. B.O.S.
 TSI F.W. Kent Park.



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



C/T invasive brush Whip-poor-will forestry/prescribed fire unit.
 C/T invasive brush Red Haw Valley.
 Figure acreages from blueprints.
 Contact Mark Bowman to remove bird netting material from trails and prescribed burn units.
 Map and letter to Scott Moats TNC Buffalo exhibit.
 Seeding plan campground and shower house and septic field.
 F.W. Kent Park Campground Seeding Plan order finalized.
 Enter water testing data from 2023.
 C/T Invasive brush Whip-poor-will forestry/prescribed fire unit.
 C/T Invasive brush Red Haw Valley.
 C/T Invasive brush boat ramp.
 Remove Ash Bobwhite Shelter and Ranger's Residence.
 Removed Memorial tree posts.
 Separate water quality supplies for the outlying areas and F.W. Kent Park.
 Water quality updates.
 Finalize 2024 water testing packet.
 Begin water testing F.W. Kent Park Watershed. 2024
 Filled water tanks for prescribed burning.
 Cleaned up around Cottonwood.
 Weather reports.
 Priced and ordered erosion control blankets.
 Prep for New Dump Station seeding.
 Seeding new dump station.
 Pick up erosion control matting to finish Dump Station seeding.
 Matting new dump station.
 Pulling and straighten newly planted Memorial Trees.
 Install rope barrier around the prairie seeding on the west end of the lake where people are cutting through.
 Checked all wetland and ponds.
 Answer questions regarding damage to sand prairie by former Conservation Board President.
 Site visit natural areas.
 Fire effects.
 Edit prescribed burning video.
 Accept invitation to conduct Forestry Program IDNR Waster Woodland Mangers Program IDNR/ISU Extension Service.
 Enter water testing data from 2024.
 Site visit Ruth Property.
 Invasive aquatic species research.
 Waterline campground construction.
 Install two River Birtch.
 Move Wild Roses to the dump station.
 Water Wild Roses.
 Present activity update Johnson County Conservation Board Meeting.
 Remove EAB infected trees fence line
 Prairie seeding west trail Buffalo Pasture.
 Site Visit Sherwood Forest.
 Seeding cover crop at old dump station.
 Add species to North Valley View Prairie Plant List.
 Mixed seed for new shower house seeding.
 Fecon around hazard tree Lake Trail.
 Hot weather safety training.
 Stop the bleeding safety training.



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.



CPR Safety Training.
 AED Training and refresher.
 Mow Meyer Unit fenceline.
 2024 State Habitat Improvement Survey Report for Johnson County Conservation Board.
 Attended spot forecast system webinar.
 Equipment order list for end of FY24 items.
 Pull silt fence at new dump station.
 Remove the silt fence from Buffalo Pasture Seeding.
 Gather parts from Pyramid's, Fastenal, AE outdoor.
 Remove brush by sign and treat.
 Herbicide application map.
 Pull Garden Phlox.
 Remove and place into storage tree bladders.
 C/T Black locust
 G/T Black locust.



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.

Invasive Species Control and Management

Conducted invasive species control on the following plant species.

Common Buckthorn
 Autumn Olive
 Bush Honeysuckle's Species
 Multiflora Rose
 Garlic Mustard
 Thistles (Nodding)
 Canada thistle
 Day Lily
 Black Mustard
 Black Locust
 Willow Species
 Japanese Hops
 Japanese Barberry

Sericea Lespedeza
 Smooth Brome Grass
 Soap Weed
 Reed Canary Grass
 Wild Parsnip
 Sweet Clover
 Crown Vetch
 Dame's Rocket
 Tree of Heaven
 White Mulberry
 Oriental Bittersweet
 Poison Hemlock
 Siberian Elm

Scott Church Park

Maintenance of Memorial/Honorary Trees.
 Mulched around trees.
 Sprayed around trees.
 Collected prairie seed.
 Sprayed invasive species.
 Installed and removed deer protective tubes on trees.
 Pruned trees.
 Checked prairie plantings.
 Cut and treat invasive brush in tree and prairie plantings.
 Check for tree damage.
 Install memorial tree blocks and plackets.
 Issue work orders.
 Site check.
 Installed no spray signs roadside prairie planting.

Walker Park

Maintenance of Memorial/Honorary Trees.
Mulch around trees.
Pruning ornamental trees and shrubs.
Installed new Memorial/Honorary tree plaquets.
Sprayed around trees.
Installed and removed deer protective tubes on trees.
Cut and treated invasive brush.
Removed Danes Rocket.
Check for tree damage.
Report dead hickory tree.

Frytown Conservation Area

Check for Tornado damage.
Updated Floristic Inventory of unit.
Trimmed out gate.
Mowed entrance.
Checked for storm damage.
Invasive species control.
Removed fallen trees on trails.
Checked fence line.
Pruned out trail system.
Checked trails.
Removed litter.
Checked site.
Checked crossing tubes for erosion.
Checked bridge.
Garlic Mustard Control.
Mowed trails.
Cut and treat invasive trees.
Sprayed Canada thistle.
C/T Invasive brush
Cut up log on trail for removal.
Mow invasive brush in prairie relict.
Checked fence line.
Repaired washouts.
Repair Rip rap washed out.
Repaired fence line.
Clean up storm damage.
Paint Gate.
Storm damage removed.
Removed trees from dam.
Sprayed brush.
Remove trees from culvert.
Remove and prune out around the bridge.
Fecun unwanted brush and trees.
Prune Oak main trail.
Other pruning.
Mow invasive brush (6.75 acres)

Solon Prairie

Invasive species control.
Pruned trees along border.
Removed litter.
Cut and treated invasive brush
Checked site
Collected prairie seed
Sprayed Bouncing Bet.
Sprayed Day Lilies.
Update Plant Inventory.
Brush removal map.
Mowed Prairie. (2.7 acres)
Checked for storm damage.
Prune out around border signs.
Information regarding Solon Prairie to IDNR for Solon Public Schools Teacher Science Group.

Hills Access

Maintenance on planted trees and Memorial/Honorary Trees.
Mulched around trees.
Pruning.
Sprayed around trees.
Deer protective tubes were installed on trees.
Removed deer protective tubes on trees.
Checked east side.
Site Check.
Checked for tree damage.
Cut the Black Locust poles
Flag Black Locust poles.
Debark Black Locust poles.
Check for storm damage.

River Junction

Maintenance on planted trees.
Pruning.
ITC Tree and brush removal right of way.
Remove dead limbs in Pin Oak above turning circle.
Check on ITC Powerline Right of way control.
County Secondary Road Department brush piles in ditch and issue report.

Cedar River Crossing Conservation Area

Water trees and shrubs.
Water Plugs in parking lot islands.
Water seedlings and Sweetgrass plantings.
Water prairie plugs in parking lot planting.
Water quality testing 2024
Mowed trail system.
Prep spray equipment.
Contact RES/Taylor Creek.
Installed replacement trees.
Firebreaks installed.
Prescribed fire prep.
Updated Floristic Inventory of the unit.

Collected wetland seed.
Sprayed invasive Willows and Cottonwoods.
Sprayed Canada Thistle.
Maintained bridges.
Reed Canary Grass Control.
Sprayed Canada thistle.
Removed Bull Thistle
Removed Musk Thistle.
Winterized Equipment.
Site visits and planning.
Cleaning and organizing shop area.
Checked on prairie seeding.
Sprayed brush.
Spray around wetland mitigation installed trees.
Check Wetland monitoring wells.
Open and close stop logs on control structure.
Conducted Wetland Monitoring CRCWMB
Prairie seeding maintenance.
Wetland seeding.
Equipment maintenance.
Greased Agco Tractor and Batwing mower.
Moved Agco Tractor and Batwing mower to F.W. Kent Park.
Pruning trail south unit.
Garlic Mustard Control.
Build new herbicide daubers.
Calibrate tractor sprayer.
Calibrate F/S sprayer.
Repaired sprayer
Seeding records Cedar River Crossing Wetland Mitigation Bank.
Repaired bridges.
Removed downed trees and limbs.
Fire extinguishers.
Litter removal roadsides.
Update on CRCCA Floristic Surveys.
Checked the south gate.
Fire tool construction.
Mobilized firefighting equipment.
Checked personal Firefighting PPE.
Checked water quality equipment.
Clean out Water Quality Equipment.
Litter Removal Sutliff Bridge Unit.
Restocked first Aid Kits.
Cleaned Herbicide sprayers and HTV.
Hydrological monitoring installed well.
Prescribed burning conducted 221.8 acres.
Mowed brush.
Mowed willows.
Mowed trails South Unit.
Adjusted Schulte mower.
Firebreaks installed.
Mapping.
Construct Prescribed Burn Plan
Prescribed burning maps 2024.
Activity Report for AES and ACOE CRCWMB Wetland Mitigation Bank 2024.

Water quality testing 2023-24.
Wetland Monitoring CRCWMB.
Checked Wetland Bank Monitoring wells.
Updated spread sheets Wetland Monitoring wells.
Management Plan Maps for 2024 Wetland Monitoring Report for CRCWB.
Met with ACOE and AES Cedar River Crossing Wetland Mitigation Bank.
Mowed black dirt stockpile.
Researched seed order.
Write Wetland Seeding Plan.
Entered water testing data.
Mowed around the shop.
Cut Nodding Thistle.
Sprayed Red Clover.
Sprayed Poison Hemlock.
C/T Invasive brush.
Repair F/S sprayer on mule.
Maintenance F/S sprayer.
Pull unwanted Willows.
GIS maps.
Mowed RCG.
Check Wetland Monitoring wells.
Hydrology data.
Mowed trials south unit.
Mowed out tree plantings.
Removed hazard tree.
Pesticide CEU's.
Over seeding of CRCWMB.
Review of Wetland Monitoring reports (RES).
Service fire pump.
Service firefighting spray unit.
Cleaned inside of Tanker Water Truck.
Changed oil in water wagon pump and Kawasaki mule sprayer pumps.
Removed debris from Wetland inlet tube.
Added well locations for data in the Wetland Bank.
Review ACOE Report Hydrology.
Native Plant I.D. Seasonal Employees.
UTV maintenance.
Pick up filters Titan Machinery.
Maintenance of storage shed.
Tour sites receive work orders.
Organize chemical storage area.
Equipment purchases.
Research chemicals.
Mowed shop area.
Repaired fence.
Reseed eroded areas with cover crop.
Backpacked sprayed unwanted grass shop seeding.
Remove invasive brush.
Spray Soapweed.
C/T Black Locust De-nitrification pond.
Equipment maintenance Kawasaki mule.
Remove debris from wetland inlet tube.
Cedar River Crossing South Unit, trails, bridges, and work projects.
Mowed Giant Ragweed.

Mowed Japanese Hops.
Spot sprayed Japanese Hops.
Sprayed Sand Bar Willow and unwanted Cottonwood.
Mowed weeds on black dirt pile.
Mow trails south unit.
Herbicide inventory.
Repair Mule.
Clean out around monument.
Pruned out trail system.
Put in control structure boards due to high water.
Maintenance on Schulte 20' batwing.
Pulled weeds in islands.
Mow horseweed.
Install firebreaks.
Wetland Mitigation and Data Collection.
Checked wells in wetland mitigation bank.
Harvest Rose Mallow seed..
Install trees and shrubs.
Water trees and shrubs.
Mulch trees and shrubs.
Cedar River Crossing Conservation Area Site Visit.
Check wetland monitoring wells for pool rise.
Looked up specifications on mowers.
Review of fall and winter projects.
Mow out tree plantations.
Rinsed and cleaned spray equipment.
Winterize equipment.
Update Prescribed Burn Plan.
Update Prescribed Burn Plan Maps.
Maintenance on brush cutters and chainsaw.
Prescribed fire prep.
Spraying records 2024.
Haul Fimco seeder to Kent Park.
C/T Honeysuckle Clark Savanna.
Place the prescribed fire unit into storage.
Complete Management Plan Maps for ACOE.
Cleaned and straightened the shop and office areas.
Clean saw chaps.
Check wells in wetland projects.
RES data check.
Order lime.
Spread lime clock.
Postfire maps.
Prescribed burn Report IDNR.
Deliver herbicide North Shop.
Prep for seasonal staff starting.
Post prescribed burn litter clean up all roadways.
Demobilize fire equipment.
Spray around trees Savanna Planting.
Pick up parts for Backpack sprayer.
Cleaned out debris from culvert by Clark Savanna.
Tree count Wetland Bank Monitoring CRCWB.
Cleaned and sharpened chainsaws.
RES Data check wetland monitoring wells.

Rehab. Saw.
Check for storm damage.
Spray Parsnip.
Spray Cottonwood.
Check for storm damage,
Safety Training.
Pick up safety equipment.
C/T invasive brush Clark Savanna Unit.
Water Testing.
Inventory and winterize water testing gear.
Spot spray soapweed and invasive brush.
Mow and treat stumps wetland bank.
Hawkeye Safety Meeting.
Repairs A-18.
Repair UAV.
Load mulch.
Mulch Parking Lot islands.
Remove Erosion Control Logs.
Mowed out Tree Plantings
Ordered trees.
Maintenance of Kawasaki Mule sprayer
Conduct site check CRCWB.
C/T Invasive brush Clark Savanna.
Change Fecon Teeth.
Attend Respectfully Work Force Environment Training.
Power wash equipment.
Painted new T posts.
Fueling equipment, A-18.
Water plants and trees.
Return Water Wagon to Peckman Creek Delta.
C/T Willows.
Spray CRCWB fescue area.
Pick up Water Wagon F.W. Kent Park.
The equipment needs to be listed for Sutliff Shop.
Cleaned out herbicide jugs for recycling.
Update 2024 files.
Clean and organize the welding area.
Review 2024 Wetland Monitoring Reports.
CRCWMB reports.
Review CRCWMB 2023 Vegetation Assessment Report.
Turn in travel receipts.
Clean vehicles.
Update plant species inventory.
Photos CRCWB.
RES.
Prescribed fire records.
Deliver equipment Sutliff Shop.
Went over UTV slip on fire unit.
Photos of Wetland Water Levels.
Went through the Water Wagon prepared for fire.
Calibrate data loggers with RES.
Maintenance on wetland test wells.
Installed trees and shrubs..
Pick up and install tree watering bags.

Monitor fires.
Check control structures.
Mix seed.
Checked for storm damage.
Clean up storm damage.
Mulch, water and stake trees.
Review of parks with seasonal staff.
Brought in hose and sprinklers.
Picked up replacement trees I.C. Landscaping.
Weed control seeding toilet and parking lot.
Mow ragweed patch.
Spray Poison Hemlock.
Pick up A-48.
A-48 maintenance and cleaning.
Chain saw maintenance.
Weed control seeding toilet and parking lot.
Pull weeds within islands.
Weed Sweetgrass.
Assess storm damage.
Collect data vegetation transects RES.
Weed whipped annual weeds at the new toilet.
MBI Review ACOE.
Picked up and installed a new timer to water Sweetgrass and other trees.
Constructed firebreaks Gillette Unit.
Spot sprayed buttonbush area.
Hauled A-46 from F.W. Kent Park.
Obtain Pesticide CEU's
Inventory in stock pesticides.
ARC GIS set up.
Blow Fireline's.
Maintenance and clean-up of spray equipment.
Conduct maintenance on mowers and tractors.
Prune and clear South gate and fenceline.
Number equipment according to the County Numbering List.
Fabricated tie down binders for new F/S slip in sprayers in Kubota UTV.
GIS training.
Training session trailer.
Water quality inventory and data.
Service backpack sprayers.
Changed oil and filter in case tractor.
Placed Case Tractor in Winter storage.
Snow removal shop. Historic bridge, parking lots toilet.
Chain saw chain sharpening.
Fixed leaking plumbing issues (B-71)
Wired mounting electrical to main panel for spray booms.
Worked on the GMC repairs.
Prepare shop for Winter Storm.
Snow removal clean equipment.
Training in Plant I.D. and Herbicide knowledge.
Clean snow removal equipment.
Cleaning and maintenance on A-48/A-58.
Jacto sprayer unit.
Check storm damaged riparian woodland.
Flagged wells Cedar River Crossing Wetland Bank.

Truck and trailer light maintenance.
Trailer backing practice.
CRC Plant Inventory.
USFWS seeding grant.
Change truck battery.
Clean up and organized shop for Environmental Education Program.
Picked up the Chipper at F.W. Kent Park.
Loaded firefighting equipment up and brought to F.W Kent Park.
Started building overhead storage rack for Kubota.
Stutsman parts list compiled for B-71.
Worked on A-4 Dump Truck.
Check wetland pool no change.
Clean debris off trails.
Bentonite wells on Wetland Bank.
Wood working.
Hauled used lumber away.
Deliver mowing trailer.
Changed oil A-58.
Water quality data organization.
Set up a meeting stems program.
Tree replacement CRC.
Pick up trees Iowa City
Documentation and damage report A-47.
Go through tree watering equipment.
Put together pricing needs for Sutliff Shop.
Pick up filters for Kubota UTV from Cove.
Rehab tree tubes.
Painted Kubota topper.
Worked on overhead storage rack for Kubota UTV.
Installed Boom on Kubota UTV.
Purchase approved items by Director.
Dig up Prairie Willow from Williams State Preserve and transplant to Sutliff Shop.
Pick up trees Iowa City Landscaping.
Spray Crown Vetch.
Clean sprayers mix herbicides.
Pick up 1952 8N tractor from Schwab property and haul to CRC for assessment and maintenance.
Fill tree bags.
Installed roof rack on Kubota UTV.
Installed Fire Extinguisher on Kubota UTV.
Purchase approved items.
Research past pesticide use on upcoming prairie reconstruction CRCWB.
Make maps of project areas.
Mow sweet clover and ragweed.
ARGCO/Case Tractor/Case Skid practice.
Worker on completing S-290 Intermediate Wildfire Behavior.

Clear Creek Area and Trail

Updated Floristic Inventory of unit.
Invasive species control.
Cut and treated invasive brush.
Review Project Maps for Clear Creek Area brush clearing project.
Cipco Utility Access.
Prune out parking lot and remove broken limb.

Checked site.
Mowed right of way.
Spray Poison Hemlock.
Garlic Mustard control.
Check fence line.
IAIS Seeding maintenance.
Meeting with ITC personnel.
Update Plant Species Inventory.
Spray Poison Hemlock
Feccon willows at entrance.
Prune out parking lot and remove broken limb.
Work with ITC Feccon work right of way.
Spray invasive shrubs.
Mark shrubs to be saved.
Remove Silver Maple on the hiking trail

Williams Prairie State Preserve

Updated Floristic Inventory of the unit.
Invasive species control.
Paint Gate.
Trimmed parking lot and barrier posts.
Sprayed parking lot.
Harvested Prairie seed.
Weeded parking lot.
Updated prescribed burn plan.
Updated prescribed burn plan map.
Cut and treated invasive brush.
Checked border signs.
Removed litter from the parking lot and ditch.
Checked the site for storm damage.
Spray parking lot.
Checked Site.
Clean out fenceline unwanted tree.
Repair fenceline.
Make all border signs visible.
Install firebreaks.
Fire prep.
Mow invasive brush and trees (2.5 acres)
Brush Removal Map 2024.
Clean out around poles.
Install firebreaks.
Drop down large tree on firebreak
Clean out under power poles.
Check for Green orchids.
Fence off Green orchids.
Check for storm damage.
Prepare for program.
Conduct Program for Iowa State Forestry Association/Iowa Woodland Managers.
Mobilized Prescribed fire crew.
Brief crew.
Prepare burning equipment.
Winterize and put away prescribed burn equipment.
Conduct prescribed burning.
Demobilize crew.

Review Williams Prairie State Preserve Prescribed Burn records.
Post Prescribed burn report issued to IDNR for Williams Prairie State Preserve.
Training in plant ID and Herbicide knowledge.
Prescribed Burning. 12 acres.
Plan ISFA Program Williams Prairie State Preserve.

Ciha Fen Preserve

Compiled information and updated Floristic Inventory of the unit.
Checked site.
Invasive species control.
Removed dead and unwanted trees.
C/T Black Locust
Repaired fenceline.
Sprayed invasive species.
Updated prescribed burn maps.
Report and update Prescribed Burn Plan ITC/UTC 2024.
Submit prescribed burn plan ITC.
Remove litter.
Pruning firelines.
Garlic mustard control.
Checked for storm damage.
Sprayed Miscanthus.
Sprayed Canada thistle.
Sprayed Reed Canary Grass.
ITC utility right of way.
Hauled wood to F.W. Kent Park.
Brush removal under powerlines.
Work instructions.
Cut treat invasive brush.
Sprayed soap weed.
Remove dying Ash trees.
C/T invasive brush.
Install Firebreaks
Update plant inventory.
Mow invasive brush (15 acres)
Brush Control Map Ciha Fen Preserve.
Give notice to ITC regarding intent to conduct prescribed burning.
Prescribed fire prep.
C/T trees fenceline.
Construct brush control map.
Update prescribed burn plan map.
Checked fenceline.
Remove the tree on fenceline under powerline.
Haul Brush Hog to F.W. Kent Park.
C/T Brush in the ditch.
Remove sign and post.
Replace the border sign.
Meeting with Director fenceline issues.
Checked site for fuel curing.
Remove hazards trees on border fence.
Update contact and meet with ITC.
Contact ITC.
Check for storm damage.
Haul brush and wood to F.W. Kent Park.

Photos of site.
Log new species of plant.
Photos of site.
Cut brush east fenceline.
Backpacked sprayed Canada Thistle.
Water testing.
Water quality records.
Write work orders.
Backpacked sprayed Soapweed.

Pechman Creek Delta

Updated floristic inventory of Unit.
Mowed Wild Parsnip roadside ditch.
Site check.
Water Testing supplies and inventory.
Water quality testing conducted by volunteer.
Gather water well supplies.
Removed fallen trees buffer.
Cut and Treat small invasive trees.
Monitor wells.
Input water test data.
Spray invasive species.
Spray Trumpet Vine.
Update map set for wells.
Peckman Creek Delta Wetland Bank / Streambank Feasibility Study.
Meet with RES Wetland, Streambank Restoration Plan.
Review maps.
Monitor wells.
Check for storm damage.
Preliminary well data report.
Inventory work.
Check test wells REC.
Cleaned and sharpened blade Brush Hog Mower.
Cut down trees.

Sutliff Access

Removed litter
Site visit
Check for storm damage

Hoover Nature Trail

Checked site.
Removed litter.
Work with ITC right of way tree removal and pruning powerlines.
Checked seeding.
Hoover Trail Spraying incident.
RES Research and vegetation damage report.
Prep load UAV RES Survey.
Herbicide spraying right of way incident.
Map spray incident.
Meeting herbicide spraying incident.
Matter of Record Report to the Director.
Hoover Trail herbicide damage maps.
Hoover Trail Vegetation Management Records.

Cangleska Wakan

Site check.
Garlic Mustard Control.
Garlic Mustard Control Map.
Constructed work maps of Cangleska Wakan.
C/T Amur Honeysuckle
C/T Oriental Bittersweet.
C/T Multiflora Rose.
Order water quality testing supplies.
Create water quality testing forms.
Create water quality testing maps.
Water quality testing Data entry.
Water quality testing.
Inventory water quality testing supplies.
Scout ash trees by barns.
Inventory ash in day use areas.
Cut up and stack firewood.
Split firewood.
Remove EAB infected trees Scott's Lane.
Open trails and fallen trees.
Remove dead fall on deer stand.
Scouted area by sawmill for location of prescribed firebreak.
Worked on a light plug-in adapter for chipper.
Sprayed invasive species.
Hooked in water wagon and brought it in to shop.
Firebreak prep.
Canada thistle control plan.
Research safety equipment for 8N.
Prepared for HCWMA event and presentation.
HCWMA Presentation.
Facon pond dam.
Treat stumps.
Made maps of projects.
Flagged trees for removal.
Contacted tree service to set up meeting for cost estimate.

Malinda Reif Reilly Fen and Prairie

Constructed Maps of Unit.
Plant inventory and photos.
Picked up litter in ditch.
Recorded inventory data.
Cut invasive Nodding Thistle.
Cut invasive Wild Parsnip.
Spray Poison Hemlock.
Cut and Treated Multi-flora rose.
Sprayed Canada thistle.
Update Floristic Inventory.
C/T Invasive Brush.
Site check.
Install firebreaks.
Construct Prescribed Burn Plan.
Construct Prescribed Burn Plan Map.
Sprayed Black Locust.

Remove interior fence.
Haul junk fence and poles to the landfill.
Stacked brush.
Complete fence removal.
C/T invasive brush and trees under powerlines.
C/T invasive brush and trees prairie and wetland area.
Remove wire.
Feccon fenceline.
Check Fireline's.
Remove trash.
Haul brush and trees to F.W. Kent Park.
Removed down trees.
Storm damage clean up.
Complete fence removal.
Pruned trees near powerlines.
Loaded trees with Skid Loader.
Hauled dirt to the main entrance and leveled out hole.
A-48 recall take in and return to the shop.
Check on flagged location of Osage Orange.
Water Quality Testing

Two Horse Farm

Site visit and tour.
Plant species inventory log data.
Update Plant Species Inventory.
Cut and removed fallen trees on hiking trail.
Ash removal inventory.
Remove hanging limb.
Meeting EAB Ash and tree removal by buildings.
Ash Trees infected Ash Trees..
Strip Locust pole.
Install pole.
Purchase and make banners.
Install banners on poles.
Remove the burn pile.
Remove trees.
Haul firewood and logs to Cangleska Wakan.
Chip brush.
Contact and meet contactors.
Add new plant species.
Meeting tree removal.
Installed reinforced bridge crossing.
Remove reinforced bridge crossing.
Contact Tree Guys.
Completed Ash and hazard tree removal project.
Haul logs to Cangleska Wakan.
Haul firewood to Cangleska Wakan.
Feccon invasive brush.
C/T Oriental Bittersweet.
Site clean-up.
Remove hazard trees roadway.
Site clean-up.
Meet with chainsaw artist.

Pruned trees along trail system.
Loaded and hauled Takeuchi Skid Loader with attachment from Two horse farm to F.W. Kent Park.
Removed fallen trees and limbs from trails.
Tree removal.
Cleaned up broken tree tops entrance and along roadways and trails.
Contact lowan People and plan volunteer day.
Meeting Supervisors Two Horse Barn.
Prepare for Chainsaw Art.
Chainsaw Artwork project plans.
Pick up trash can F.W. Kent Park brought to site.
Cut Garlic Mustard.
Sprayed Canada thistle.
Sprayed Lespedeza.
Sprayed Crown Vetch.
Mowed Lespedeza.
Pruned out trails.
Made maps of projects.
Flagged tree for removal.
Contacted tree service to set up meeting

Johnson County Emergency Management Building

Check site
C/T invasive bush and trees.

Phebe Timber

Update Floristic Inventory.
C/T invasive brush and tree species.
Construct 2024 management map
Pick up litter
Check trails

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**

**JOHNSON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD
 FINANCIAL REPORT
 CONSERVATION GENERAL FUND - DEPARTMENT 24
 July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024**

Expenditures:

Conservation Administration

01 24 6100000 10015	Director's Salary	\$ 164,900.99
01 24 6100000 10025	Conservation Program Manager Salary	\$ 101,426.92
01 24 6100000 10035	Rangers, Office Manager & Office Assistant	\$ 288,747.54
01 24 6100000 10105	Part Time Ranger Intern	\$ 28,691.00
01 24 6100000 11005	Employer FICA	\$ 44,268.42
01 24 6100000 11105	Employer IPERS	\$ 51,644.44
01 24 6100000 11315	Health Insurance	\$ 125,112.50
01 24 6100000 11325	Life Insurance	\$ 4,132.94
01 24 6100000 26005	Stationary - Forms	\$ 1,722.33
01 24 6100000 26105	Periodicals - Books	\$ 185.00
01 24 6100000 29405	Uniforms	\$ 1,271.77
01 24 6100000 40005	Advertising	\$ 9.93
01 24 6100000 40205	Printing	\$ 8,563.78
01 24 6100000 41205	Postage	\$ 174.27
01 24 6100000 41345	Staff Transportation	\$ 870.00
01 24 6100000 41355	Staff Meals & Lodging	\$ 1,488.14
01 24 6100000 41385	Board Meals & Lodging	\$ 554.40
01 24 6100000 41395	Board Mileage Reimbursements	\$ 817.67
01 24 6100000 41475	Cell Phone Service	\$ 12,850.33
01 24 6100000 42235	Staff Registration Fees	\$ 5,541.79
01 24 6100000 42245	Board Registration Fees	\$ 1,020.00
01 24 6100000 44405	Office Equipment Service	\$ 1,408.29
01 24 6100000 48005	Dues	\$ 4,495.16
01 24 6100000 63605	Office Equipment Purchase	<u>\$ 499.96</u>
		\$ 850,397.57

Conservation Maintenance & Operation

01 24 6110000 10025	Salaries	\$ 303,198.90
01 24 6110000 10035	Full-Time Wages	\$ 1,004,152.25
01 24 6110000 10105	Part-Time NB Wages	\$ 160,689.86
01 24 6110000 10115	Part-Time Reg Wages	\$ 49,064.19
01 24 6110000 11005	Employer FICA	\$ 114,314.42
01 24 6110000 11105	Employer IPERS	\$ 127,168.01
01 24 6110000 11315	Health Insurance	\$ 394,532.18
01 24 611000011325	Life Insurance	\$ 2,715.62
01 24 6110000 20205	Pesticides	\$ 17,820.38
01 24 6110000 20315	Nursery Supplies	\$ 10,364.46
01 24 6110000 21205	Road & Parking Lot Material	\$ 6,292.73
01 24 6110000 21405	Sign Materials	\$ 9,403.62
01 24 6110000 21905	Construction Material & Supplies	\$ 10,418.75
01 24 6110000 22105	Electric Supplies	\$ 4,923.46
01 24 6110000 23205	Custodial Supplies	\$ 13,059.15
01 24 6110000 24005	Shop Supplies	\$ 18,247.99
01 24 6110000 24015	Fixtures Material	\$ 112.70
01 24 6110000 24115	Plumbing Parts	\$ 7,003.10
01 24 6110000 24125	Heating Parts	\$ 1,044.95
01 24 6110000 25005	Fuels	\$ 61,565.04
01 24 6110000 25105	Motor Vehicle Fluids	\$ 4,851.73
01 24 6110000 25405	Equipment Parts	\$ 57,856.74
01 24 6110000 29005	Hand Tools	\$ 5,840.28
01 24 6110000 29305	Safety Supplies	\$ 19,703.74
01 24 6110000 29405	Uniforms	\$ 7,240.96
01 24 6110000 42705	Professional Fees	\$ 24,153.95
01 24 6110000 42845	Lab Service/Drug Testing	\$ 1,325.00
01 24 6110000 43005	Natural Gas	\$ 8,084.59
01 24 6110000 43105	Electricity	\$ 35,273.44
01 24 6110000 44005	Motor Vehicle Maintenance Contract	\$ (16.51)
01 24 6110000 44105	Contract Repair	\$ 7,850.12
01 24 6110000 44205	Heating Repair	\$ 331.00
01 24 6110000 44505	Plumbing Repair	\$ 3,755.98
01 24 6110000 44705	Electric Repair	\$ 1,022.00
01 24 6110000 45205	Equipment Rental	\$ 234.30
01 24 6110000 47405	Pest Control	\$ 81.03
01 24 6110000 47505	Septic Tank Service	\$ 5,389.50
01 24 6110000 49605	Landfill Fees	\$ 7,336.78
01 24 6110000 63005	Agr-Hort Equipment Purchase	\$ 15,673.46
01 24 6110000 63105	Construction Equipment Purchase	\$ 2,375.00
01 24 6110000 63505	Motor Vehicle Purchase	\$ 59,071.61
01 24 6110000 63835	Law Enforcement Equipment Purchase	<u>\$ 3,918.88</u>
		<u>\$ 2,587,445.34</u>

Rec & Environmental Services

01 24 6120000 21205	Sand	\$	<u>2,058.70</u>
		\$	2,058.70

Environmental Services

01 24 6121000 10025	Salaries	\$	213,944.80
01 24 6121000 10105	Part-Time NB Intern Naturalist	\$	10,391.76
01 24 6121000 11005	Employer FICA	\$	16,203.01
01 24 6121000 11105	Employer IPERS	\$	20,288.25
01 24 6121000 11315	Health Insurance	\$	70,555.88
01 24 6121000 11325	Life Insurance	\$	434.49
01 24 6121000 26105	Study Material Exhibit	\$	4,689.78
01 24 6121000 29405	Uniform	\$	927.20
01 24 6121000 33205	Food & Provisions	\$	<u>529.59</u>
		\$	337,964.76

DEPARTMENT 24 TOTALS	\$	3,124,351.42
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JOHNSON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD
REVENUE REPORT
CONSERVATION GENERAL FUND - DEPARTMENT 24
JULY 1, 2023 - JUNE 30, 2024

Revenue Sources:

		Conservation Administration			
01 24	6100000	81002	Donations	\$	2,082.19
01 24	6100000	92004	Surplus Property Sales	\$	<u>7,632.60</u>
				\$	9,714.79
		Conservation Maintenance & Operation			
01 24	6110000	52001	General Camping Fees	\$	114,905.00
01 24	6110000	52011	Youth Group Camp Fees	\$	4,120.00
01 24	6110000	52301	Shelter Fees	\$	21,700.00
01 24	6110000	52311	Two Horse Farm Rental	\$	3,298.80
01 24	6110000	52321	Celebration Farm Rental	\$	4,480.00
01 24	6110000	83901	Firewood Sales	\$	<u>3,127.80</u>
				\$	151,631.60
		Recreation Services			
01 24	6120000	52201	Boat Fees	\$	8,238.50
01 24	6120000	52901	Misc. Recreation Fees	\$	<u>1,543.17</u>
				\$	9,781.67
TOTALS					\$ 171,128.06

JOHNSON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD
 FINANCIAL REPORT
 SPECIAL RESOURCE ENHANCEMENT (REAP) - DEPARTMENT 32
 JULY 1, 2023 - JUNE 30, 2024

Expenditures:

Nonprogram & Other Uses
 Conservation Land Acquisition

09 32 0210000 29905	Education Program Supplies	\$	18,088.53
09 32 0210000 42705	Professional Fees	\$	7,382.18
09 32 0210000 60005	Land Acquisition	\$	<u>300.00</u>
DEPARTMENT 32 TOTALS			\$ 25,770.71

JOHNSON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD
 REVENUE REPORT
 SPECIAL RESOURCE ENHANCEMENT (REAP) - DEPARTMENT 32
 JULY 1, 2023 - JUNE 30, 2024

Revenue Sources:

Nonprogram & Other Uses
 Conservation Land Acquisition

09 32 0210000 26512	Special Resource Enhancement	\$	45,519.00
09 32 0210000 60004	Interest	\$	<u>18,236.12</u>
DEPARTMENT 32 TOTALS			\$ 63,755.12

JOHNSON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD
FINANCIAL REPORT
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES - DEPARTMENT 44
JULY 1, 2023 - JUNE 30, 2024

Budget:		\$	275,400.00
Expenses:	Trails Maintenance	\$	8,363.89
	Hills Solar Arrays	\$	230.00
	Land Acquisition	\$	250,316.21
	DEPARTMENT 44 TOTALS	\$	258,910.10

**JOHNSON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD
FINANCIAL REPORT
CONSERVATION TRUST - DEPARTMENT 82
JULY 1, 2023 - JUNE 30, 2024**

Expenditures:

**Nonprogram & Other Uses
Conservation Land Acquisition**

21 82 0210000 20335	Memorial Tree Program	\$	4,946.37
21 82 0210000 21905	Construction Material/Supplies	\$	31,170.95
21 82 0210000 29005	Minor Equip & Supplies/EE/Special Projects	\$	21,652.52
21 82 0210000 42325	Engineering & Professional Fees	\$	13,286.41
21 82 0210000 44105	Contracted Construction	\$	44,886.00
21 82 0210000 61005	Building Construction	\$	4,853.42
21 82 0210000 63005	Ag-Hort Equipment Purchase	\$	39,885.56

Wetland Mitigation Bank

21 82 0210100 42605	Other Prof. & Tech. Services/WMB	\$	5,405.00
21 82 0210100 48305	Ag & Hort Services/WMB	\$	45,200.00

DEPARTMENT 82 TOTALS	\$	211,286.23
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**JOHNSON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD
REVENUE REPORT
CONSERVATION TRUST - DEPARTMENT 82
JULY 1, 2023 - JUNE 30, 2024**

Revenue Sources:

**Nonprogram & Other Uses
Conservation Land Acquisition**

21 82 0210000 26503	State Grants & Reimbursements	\$	114,723.80
21 82 0210000 28902	Grants Received	\$	10,853.11
21 82 0210000 28903	Federal Reimbursement	\$	678,544.16
21 82 0210000 60004	Interest	\$	104,080.29
21 82 0210000 61004	Rent	\$	17,685.73
21 82 0210000 81002	Donations	\$	6,055.00
21 82 0210000 81042	Donations/Memorial Tree Program	\$	2,575.00
21 82 0210100 62901	Sale of Wetland Credits	\$	123,035.00

Perezek Bequest

21 82 0210200 60004	Interest	\$	51,605.11
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TOTALS	\$	1,109,157.20
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Transfer of Department 24 Revenue - FY 22	\$	222,807.00
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TOTALS	\$	1,331,964.20
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JOHNSON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD
FINANCIAL REPORT
CONSERVATION BOND - DEPARTMENT 83
JULY 1, 2023 - JUNE 30, 2024

Expenditures:

22 83 0210000 60005	Land Acquisition	\$	501,325.40
22 83 0210000 61005	Construction	\$	<u>724,039.01</u>
	DEPARTMENT 83 TOTALS	\$	1,225,364.41

JOHNSON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD
FINANCIAL REPORT
CAPITAL PROJECTS - DEPARTMENT 85
JULY 1, 2023 - JUNE 30, 2024

Budget:		\$	6,970.00
Expenses:	Sutliff Bridge/CRC West Project	\$	<u>6,970.00</u>
	DEPARTMENT 85 TOTALS	\$	6,970.00

FY24 CONSERVATION BUDGET

Expenditures

\$3,800,786.41 Department 24 - General Basic

\$25,770.71 Department 32 - Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP)

\$211,286.23 Department 82 - Conservation Trust

\$1,225,364.41 Department 83 - Conservation Bond

\$258,910.10 Department 44 - Capital Expenditures

\$6,970.00 Department 85 - Capital Fund

\$5,529,087.86 Total Expenditures FY24

Revenues

\$927,156.07 Grants and Wetland Credit Sales

\$404,808.13 Other Revenue (camping, shelters, donations, etc.)

\$63,755.12 REAP

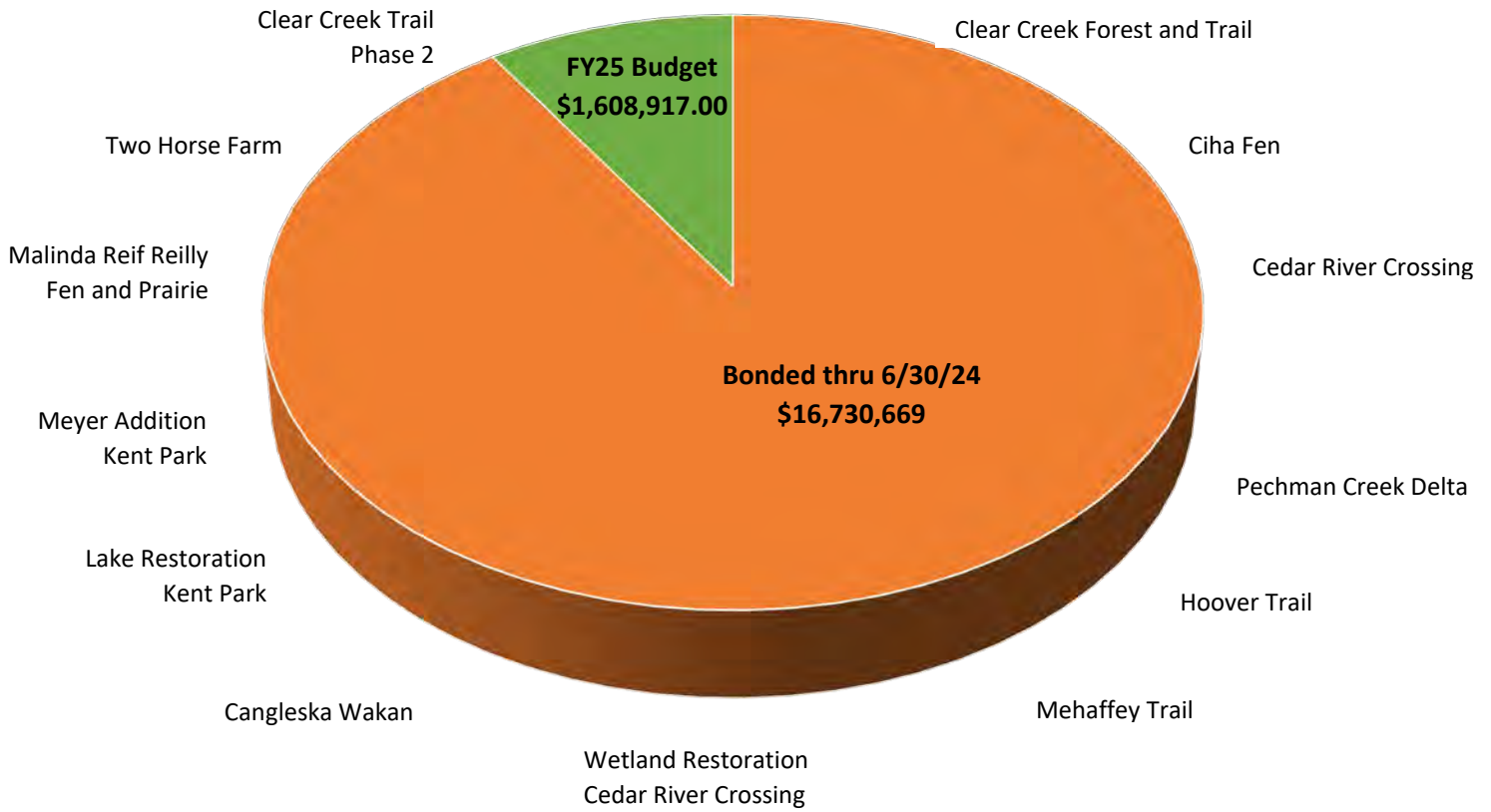
\$1,395,719.32 Total Generated Revenues FY24

**GRANTS, GIFTS, RENT, DONATIONS AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS
FISCAL YEAR 2024**

Interest	\$ 5,633.23
Interest - Perezek Bequest	\$ 4,197.79
Grant - Iowa DOT - Clear Creek Trail	\$ 10,853.11
Memorial Plaque - S Slaymaker	\$ 25.00
Memorial Tree - R Chalupa	\$ 525.00
Interest	\$ 5,188.57
Interest - Perezek Bequest	\$ 3,847.94
Women's Backpacking Trip Registrations	\$ 1,300.00
Fall ICCS Spouse Fee - C Zdrazil	\$ 255.00
FY 23 Department 24 Revenue Transfer	\$ 222,807.00
Wetland Bank Credit Sale - City of Coralville	\$ 31,525.00
Derecho - FEMA Reimbursement	\$ 114,723.80
Derecho - FEMA Reimbursement	\$ 678,544.16
Interest	\$ 5,715.92
Interest - Perezek Bequest	\$ 4,316.73
Farm Ground Rental - Westfall	\$ 6,843.75
Interest	\$ 6,567.63
Interest - Perezek Bequest	\$ 4,334.88
Farm Ground Rental - Bountiful Harvest Farms LLC	\$ 1,452.03
Interest	\$ 9,678.36
Interest - Perezek Bequest	\$ 4,212.69
Wetland Bank Credit Sale - City of Coralville	\$ 31,510.00
Interest	\$ 9,832.22
Interest - Perezek Bequest	\$ 4,229.82
Memorial Bench - Steckly	\$ 1,000.00
Wetland Bank Credit Sale - West Coralville Investments	\$ 10,185.00
Interest	\$ 10,219.45
Interest - Perezek Bequest	\$ 4,388.60
Farm Ground Rental - Tandy	\$ 100.00
Farm Ground Rental - Westfall	\$ 6,843.75
Wetland Bank Credit Sale - Greenbelt Trail LLC	\$ 23,765.00
Wetland Bank Credit Sale - Jerry's Homes	\$ 14,065.00
Interest	\$ 10,249.26
Interest - Perezek Bequest	\$ 4,407.05
Farm Ground Rental - Bountiful Harvest Farms LLC	\$ 321.20
Interest	\$ 9,571.75
Interest - Perezek Bequest	\$ 4,140.06
Farm Ground Rental - Ulch	\$ 2,125.00
Interest	\$ 10,427.76
Interest - Perezek Bequest	\$ 4,442.98
Memorial Tree - R Dietrich	\$ 250.00
Memorial Tree - L Dykstra	\$ 250.00
Memorial Tree - L Antill	\$ 250.00
Memorial Tree - J O'Brien	\$ 250.00
Idaho Trek Registrations	\$ 3,250.00
Wetland Bank Credit Sale - City of Clinton	\$ 11,985.00
Interest	\$ 9,986.37
Interest - Perezek Bequest	\$ 4,317.74
Idaho Trek Registrations	\$ 1,250.00
Memorial Plaque - J O'Brien	\$ 25.00
Interest	\$ 11,009.77
Interest - Perezek Bequest	\$ 4,768.83
TOTAL	\$ 1,331,964.20

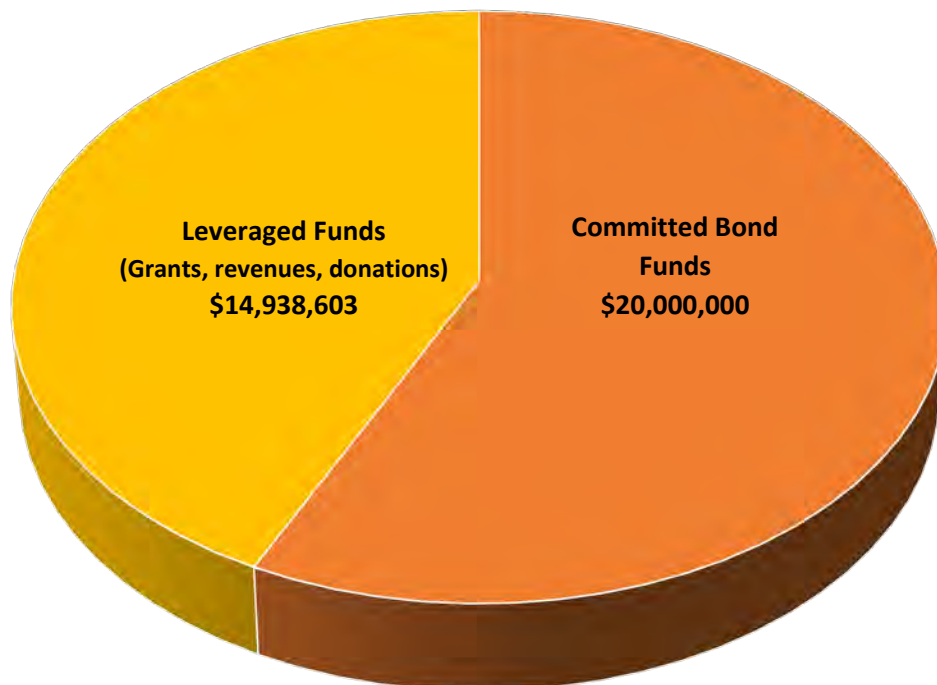
\$20 Million Conservation Bond

FY24 –06/30/2024



Bond Leverage Summary

FY24 –06/30/2024



Conservation Bonding Projects Implementation Schedule and Budget 06/30/2024

YEAR					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
	Lake Restoration	Ciha Fen 81 acres	Malinda Reif Reilly Fen & Prairie 100 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										646,319	399,600	21,680		98,187				5,313	1,225,364
2025												<i>100,000</i>		<i>1,508,917</i>					
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	2,959,439	818,667	1,778,731	118,969	921,080	1,217,030	176,950	20,435	16,730,669	
GRANTS DONATIONS REVENUE	1,554,150	172,145	400,000	512,642		1,098,000	1,257,441		300,000	3,037,054		5,500,000		431,524	675,647			14,938,603	
TOTAL	2,828,698	456,141	929,316	890,941	519,897	4,140,235	2,916,147	123,378	1,205,350	5,996,493	818,667	7,278,731	118,969	1,352,604	1,892,677	176,950	20,435	31,669,272	

Budget numbers are for committed & expended funds through June 30, 2024. Italics after 2024, 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

The Rod Dunlap Memorial Trail around F.W. Kent Park Lake is a favorite spot for many visitors. Whether your looking for a leisurely walk, a place to converse with a friend, or to take your four-legged friend out for some exercise we got you covered. If you like this trail, explore some of the other JCCB properties.

Cangleska Wakan



4045 245th St NE,
Solon, IA 52333

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

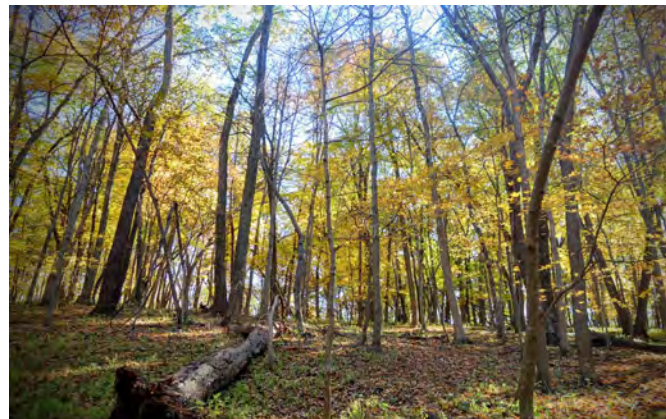
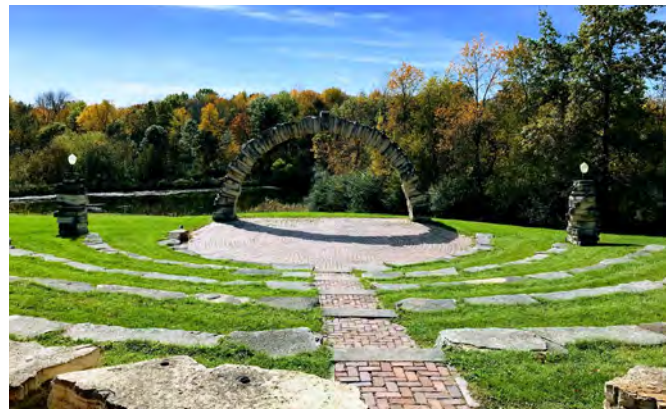
History: Cangleska Wakan was acquired by Johnson County Conservation (JCC) in 2018. The purchase was funded through the Johnson County Conservation Bond, established by county voters in 2008 to purchase and protect natural areas from development. JCC has been working on a master plan for this park's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

Features:

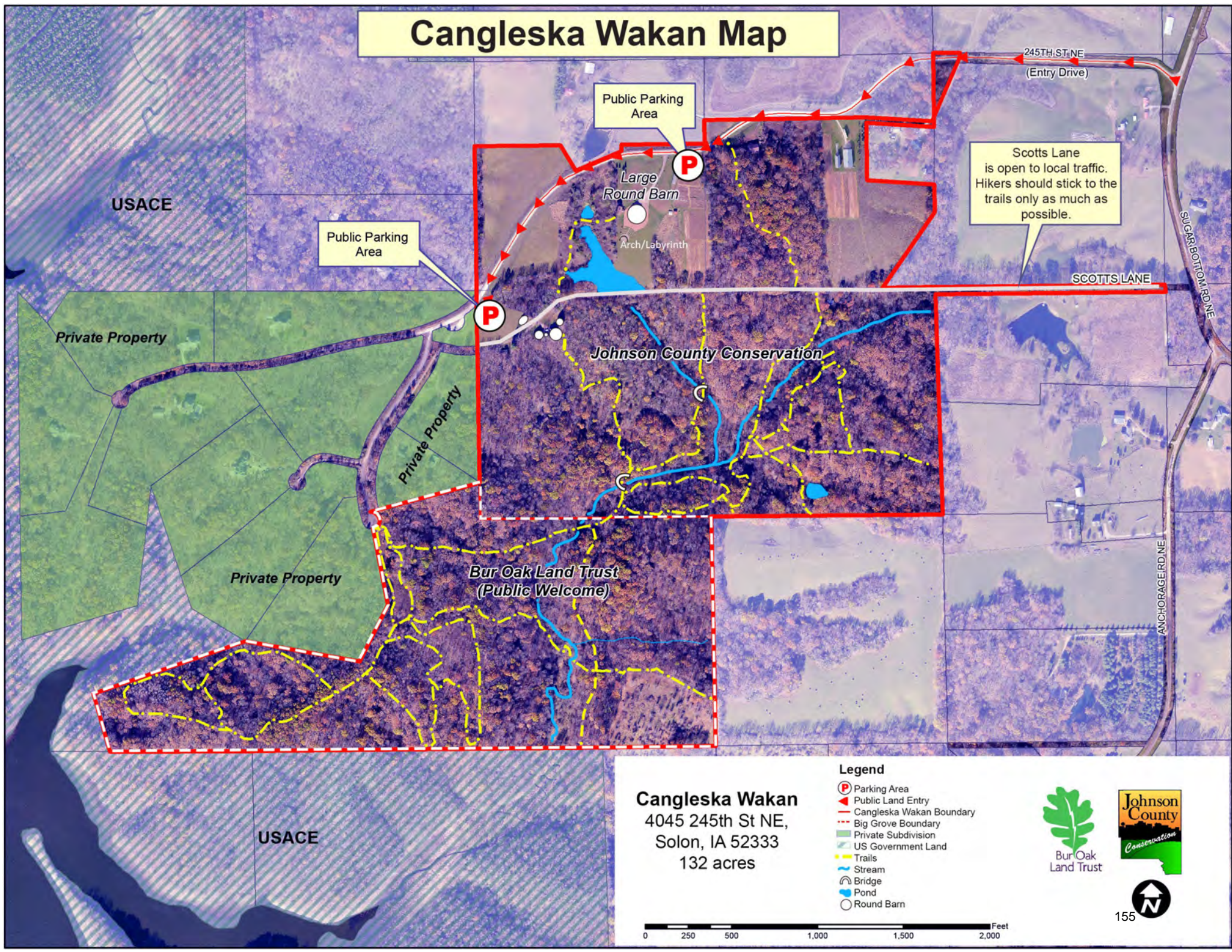
- The high-quality oak forest provides a fantastic place for birding and spring wild lower viewing. Hiking trails through the forests of Cangleska Wakan and Big Grove Preserve combine to create a 4+ mile trail network, all accessible to the public. Trails are for pedestrian use only.
- A brick labyrinth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



Photo credit: Gerald Denehy

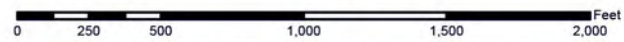


Cangleska Wakan Map



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

- Legend**
- 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 blanding's 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.





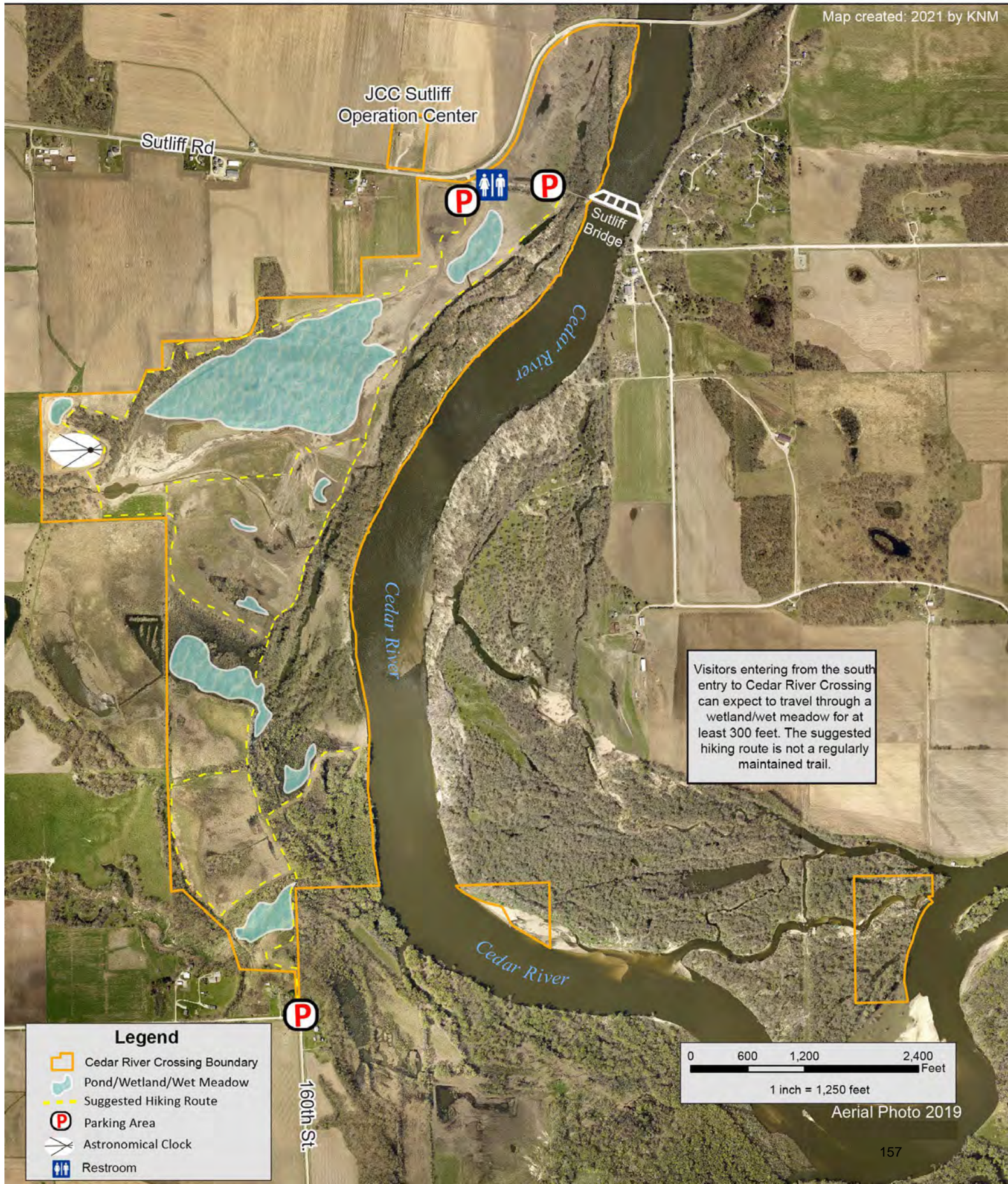
Cedar River Crossing Conservation Area

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



JCC Sutliff
Operation Center

Sutliff Rd



Cedar River

Cedar River

Cedar River

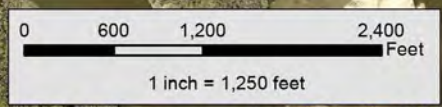


160th St

Visitors entering from the south entry to Cedar River Crossing can expect to travel through a wetland/wet meadow for at least 300 feet. The suggested hiking route is not a regularly maintained trail.


Legend

- Cedar River Crossing Boundary
- Pond/Wetland/Wet Meadow
- Suggested Hiking Route
- Parking Area
- Astronomical Clock
- Restroom



Aerial Photo 2019

Ciha Fen Preserve

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

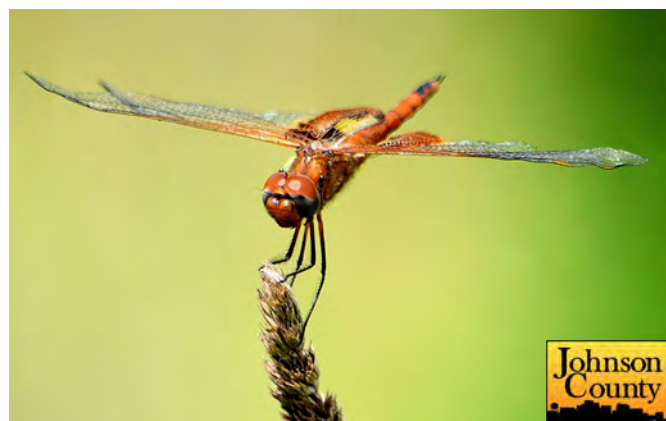
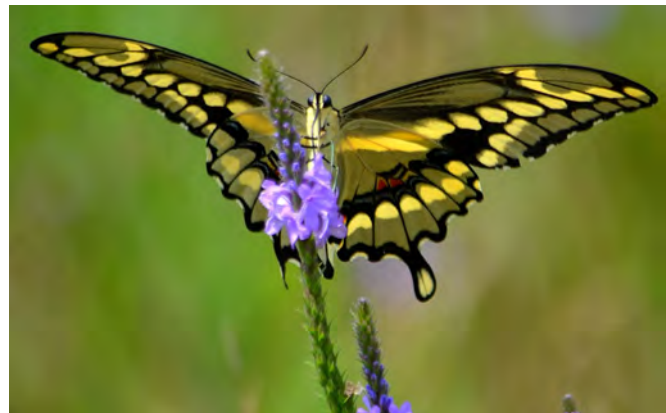
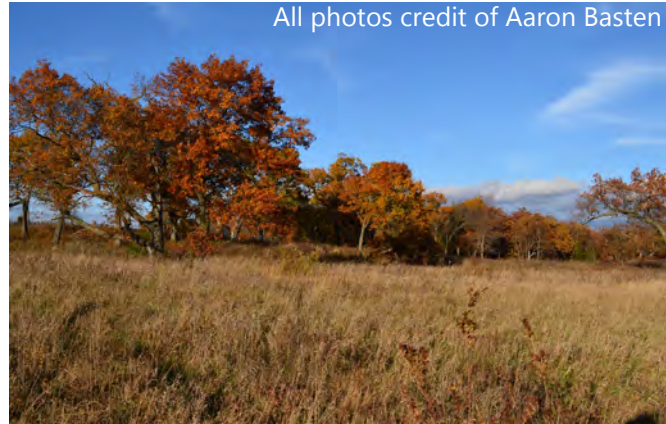
Overview: Ciha Fen Preserve is an 80-acre property located in the far northeast corner of the county. The preserve features a sand prairie/oak savanna complex on a wind-deposited sand ridge. It contains the Ciha Fen, which is one of the only two documented remaining nutrient-poor fens known in the state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

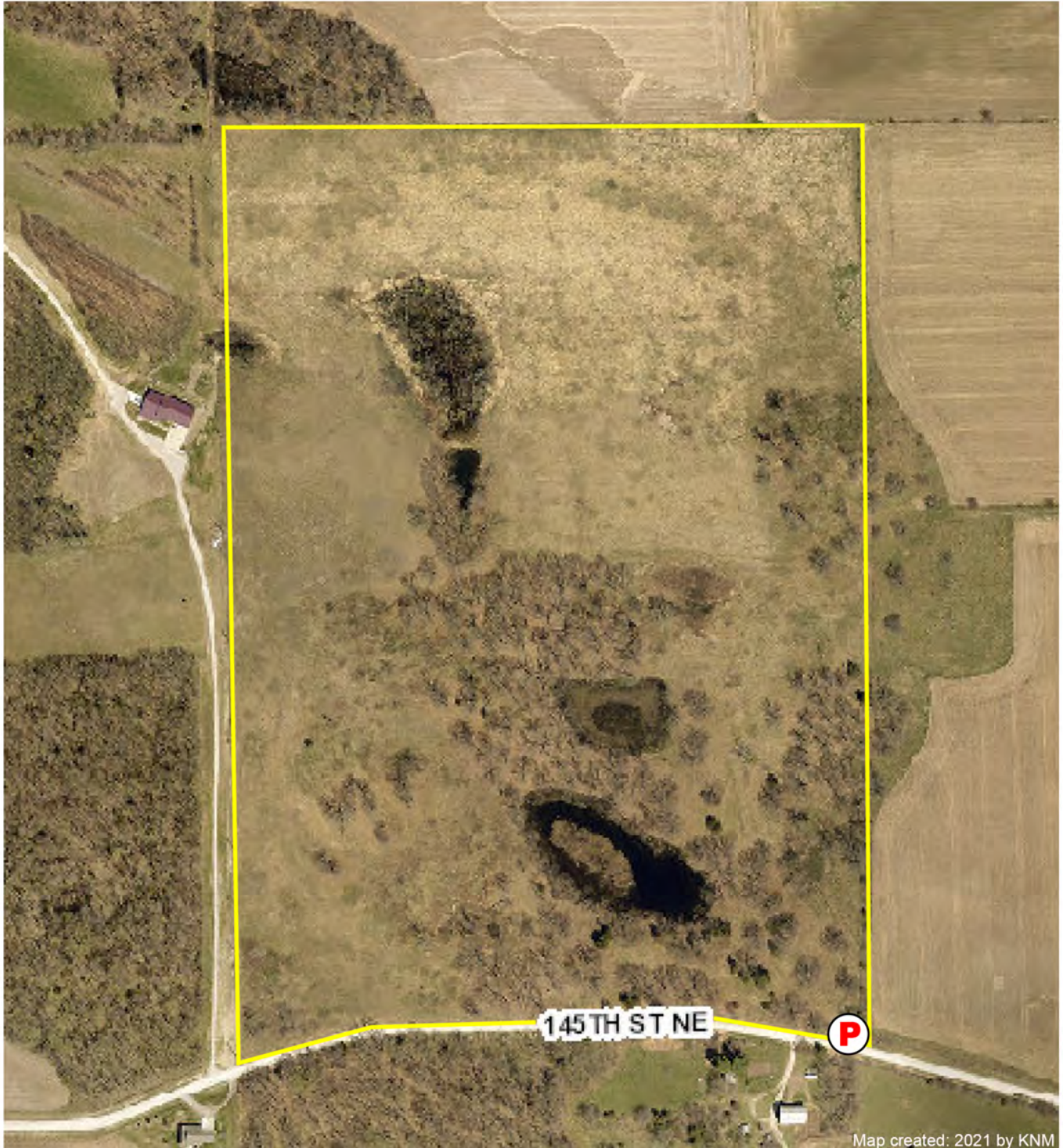
- 225 native plant species have been recorded onsite, including species of special concern such as Nodding Ladies' Tresses, Cleft Phlox, and Lance-leaved Violet.
- An abundance of wildlife find refuge at Ciha Fen Preserve, including species of Greatest Conservation Need, like Blanding's turtles, six-lined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

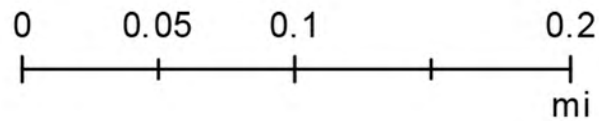
5656 145th St NE, Lisbon, IA 52253



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.

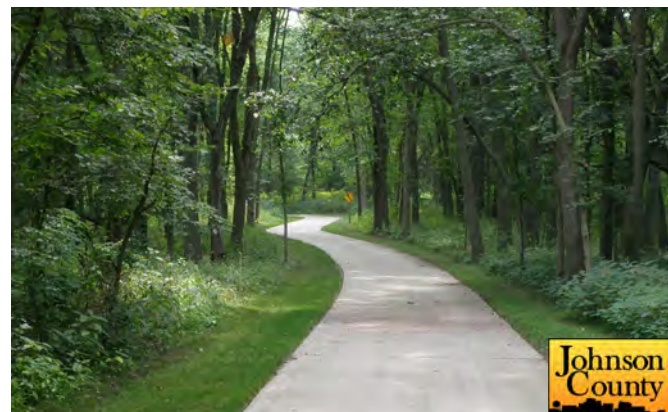


History: Johnson County Conservation acquired this property in 2009. This property was the first that JCC purchased utilizing funding from the Johnson County Conservation Bond, established by Johnson County voters in 2008 to purchase and protect natural areas from development. Funding also came through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

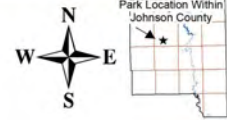
3196 Half Moon Ave NW
Tiffin, IA 52340



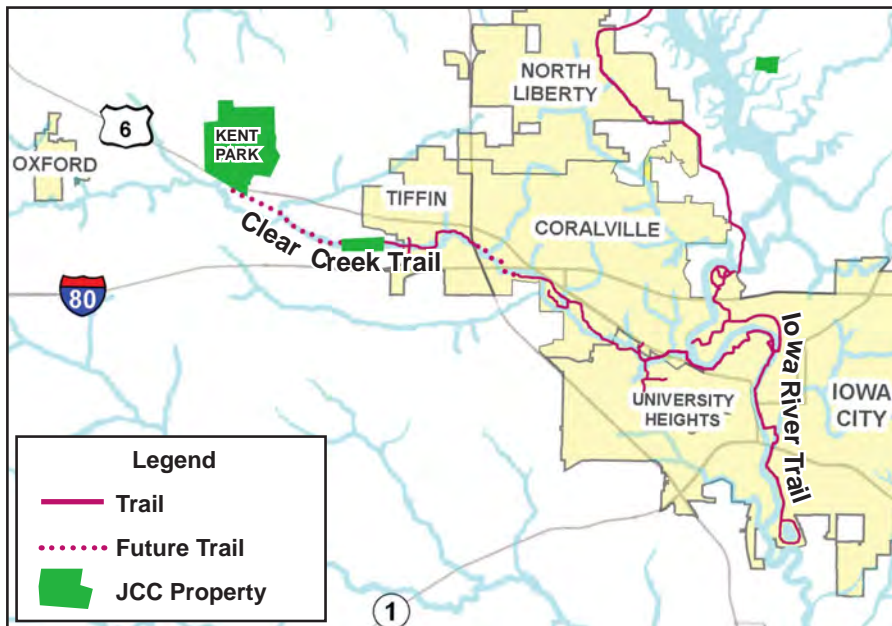
Legend

- 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 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.





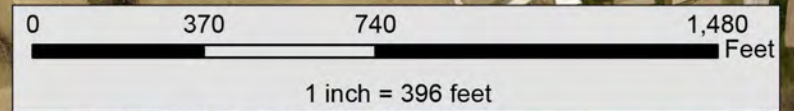
Frytown Conservation Area

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.

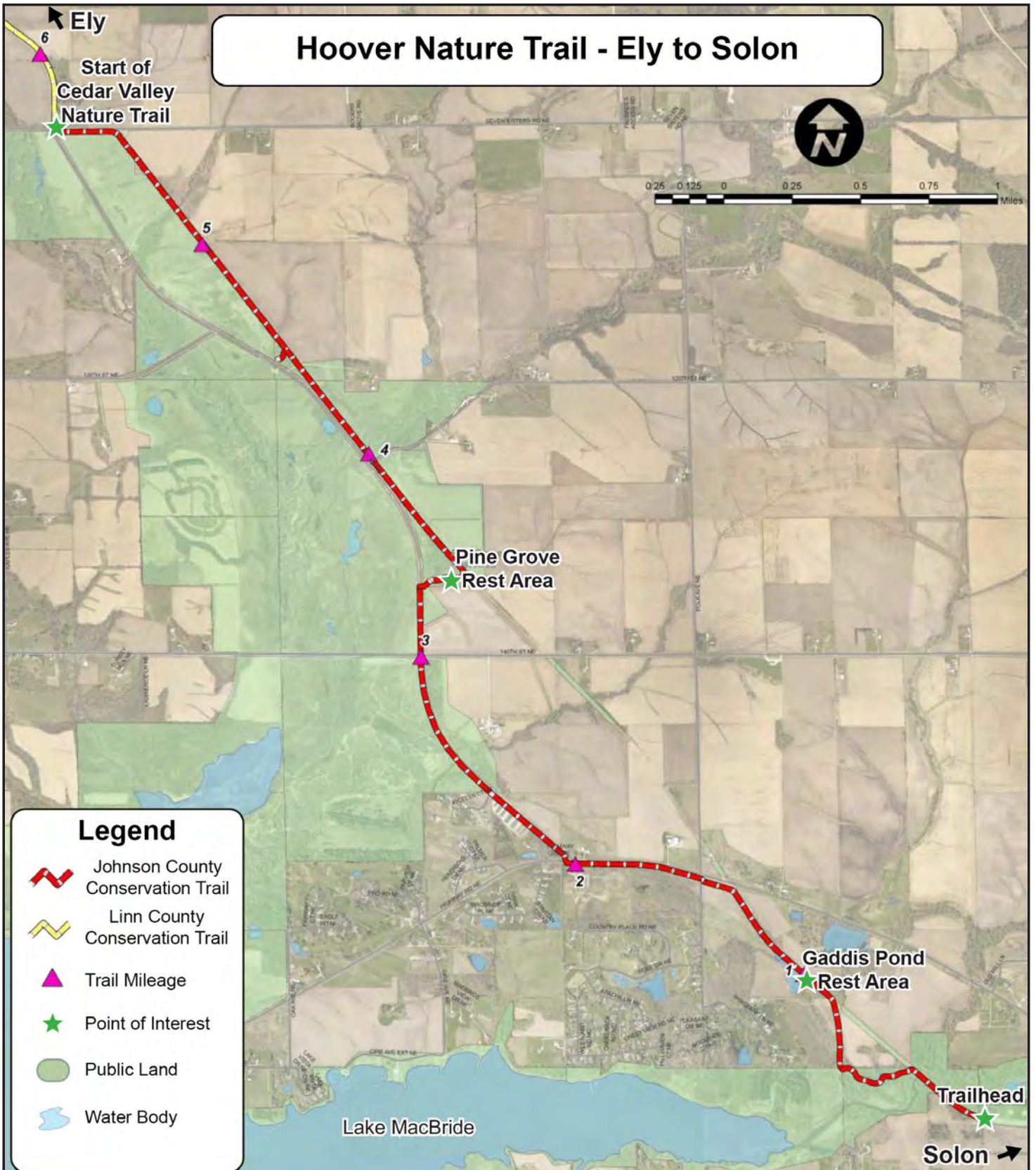
Johnson County Trail Segments:

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:

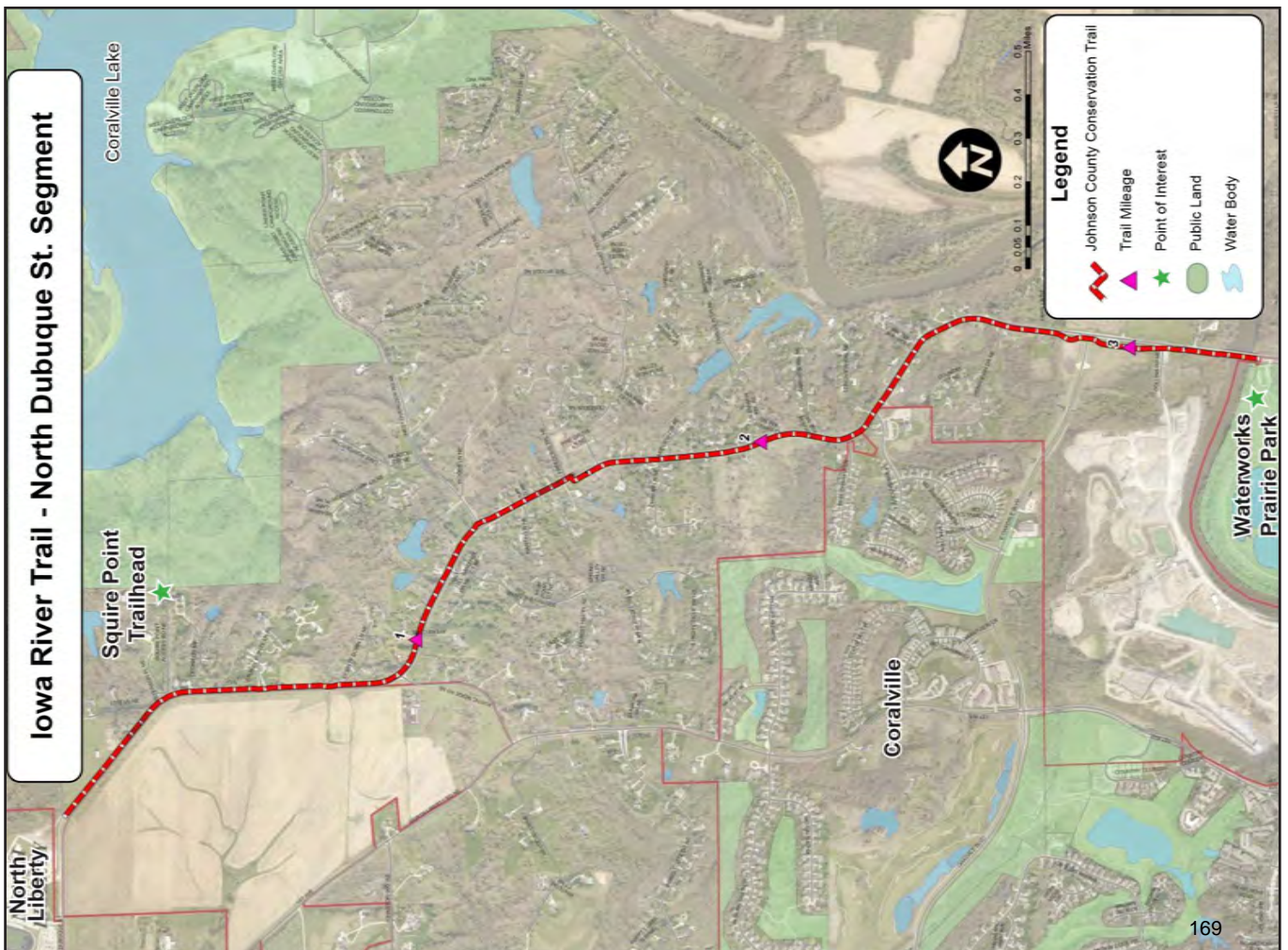
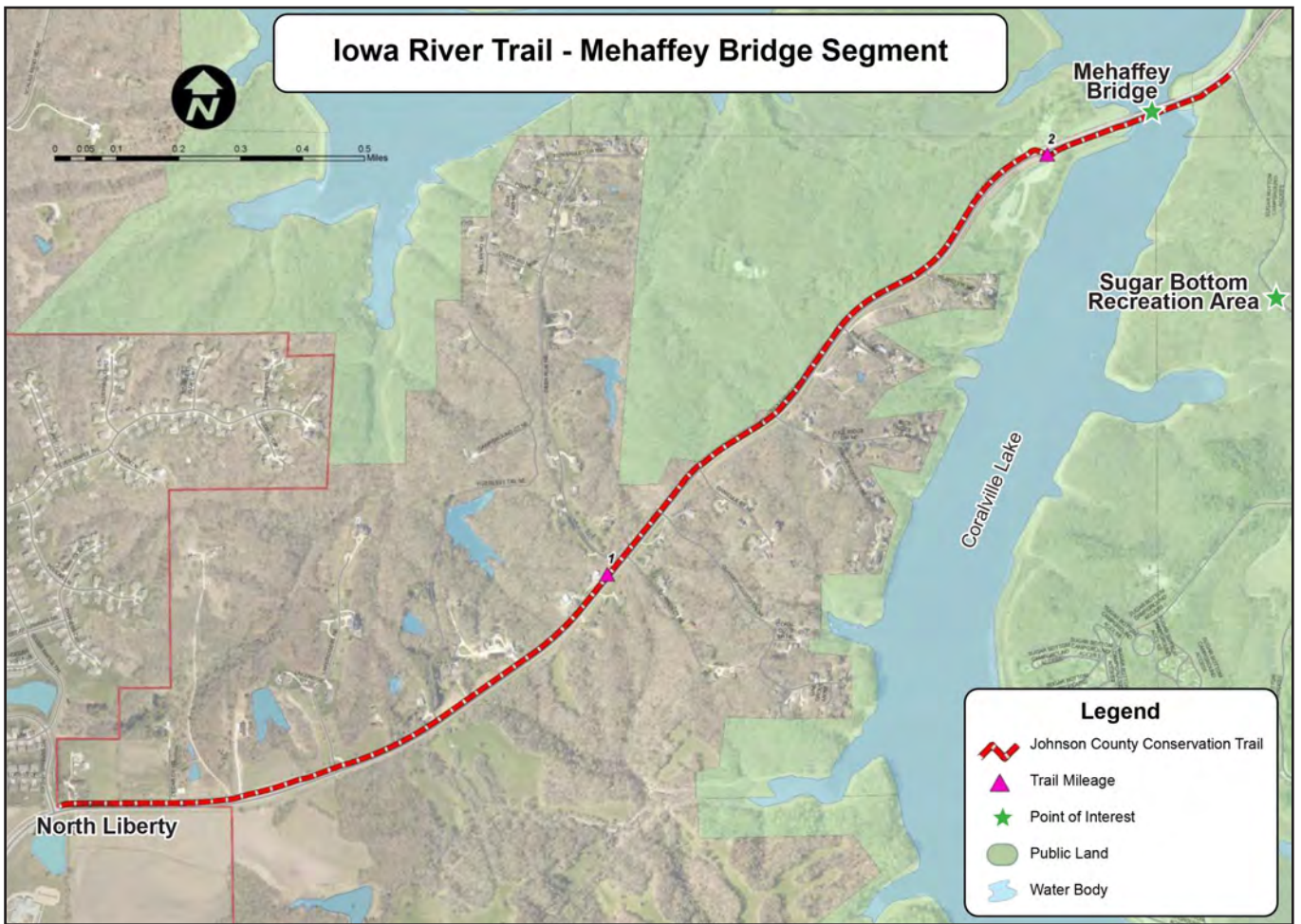
Terry Trueblood to Waterworks Prairie Park: The trail begins at Terry Trueblood Recreation Area, and heads north along the shady Iowa River shoreline. Along the way, the trail passes numerous parks such as Riverside Park and City Park, along with the University of Iowa Campus. At City Park, trail users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

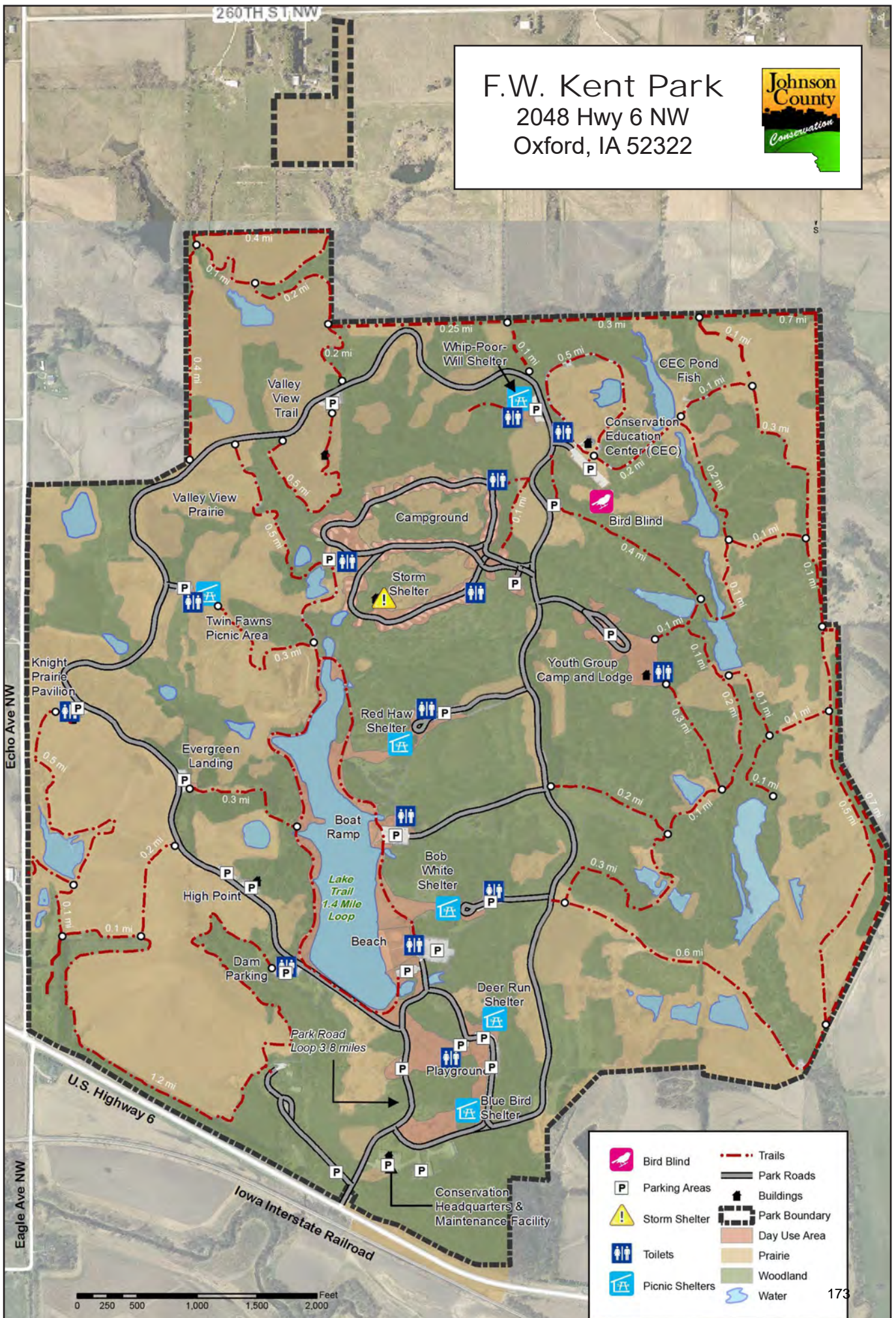
Features:

- 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



Malinda Reif Reilly Fen and Prairie



4495 140th Street NE
Solon, IA 52333

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



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



Features:

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





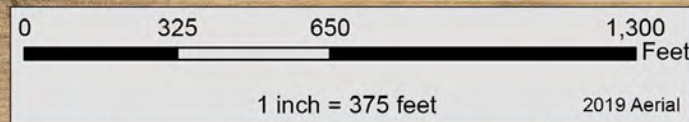
Malina Reif Reilly Fen & Prairie

4495 140th Street NE
Solon, IA 52333



Legend

-  Melinda Reilly Prairie Border
-  Parking Area



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

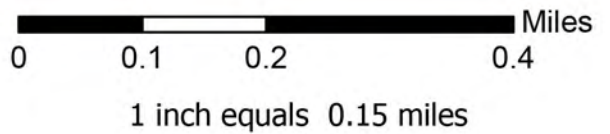


* The Supervised Youth Pheasant Hunting Only Area is restricted to the area between Sand Road and Pechman Creek. By state law no discharge of firearms is allowed within 200 yards of an occupied building or feedlot, without permission of the owner or tenant. The rest of the area is open to hunting according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

Map created: 2021 by KNM

Legend

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



Phebe Timber

4492 Kansas Ave SW
Iowa City, IA 52240

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

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

Features:

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



Phebe Timber
4492 Kansas Ave SW
Iowa City, IA 52240






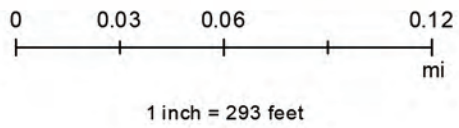
Map created: 2021 by KNM



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.

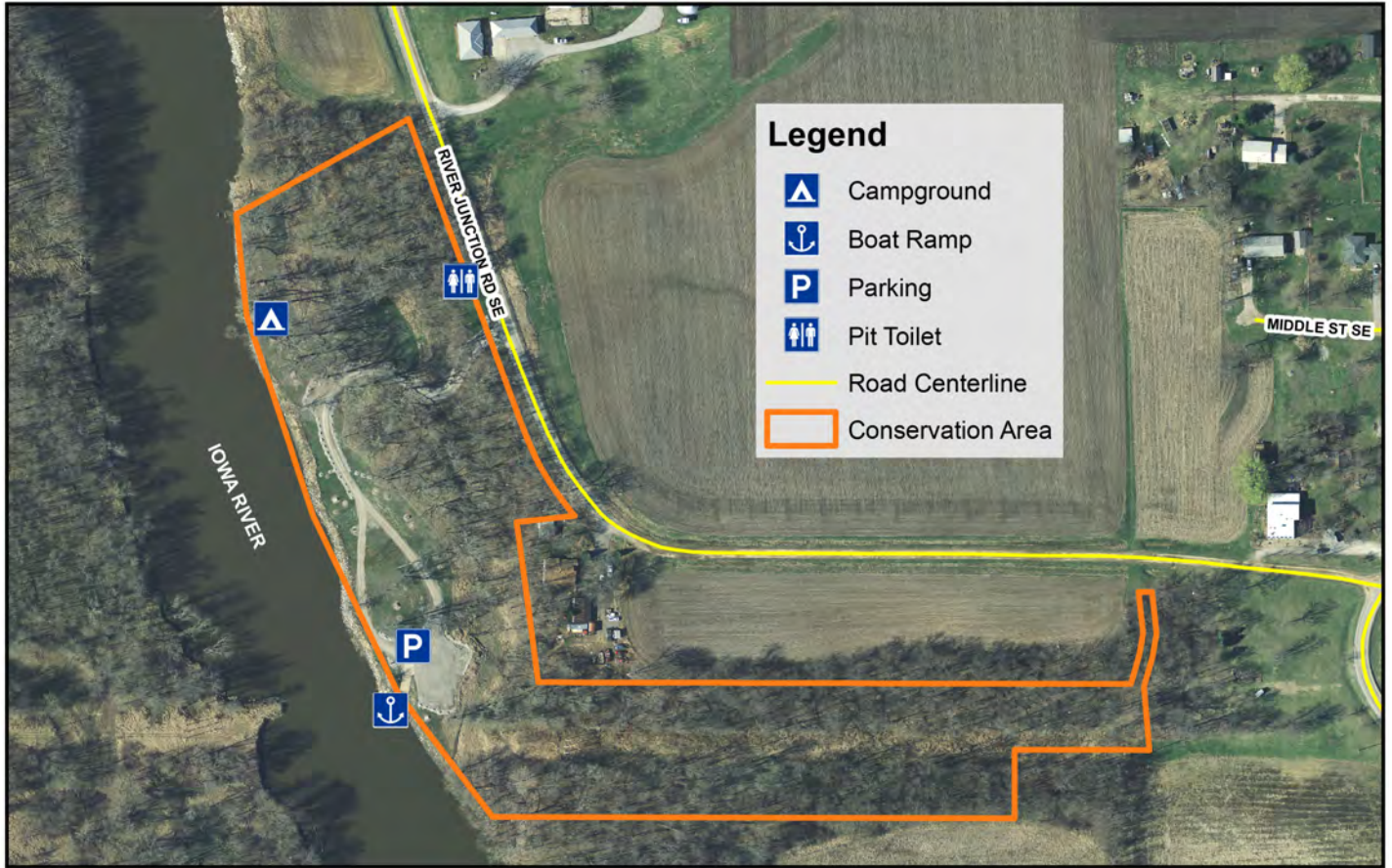


The camping fee is \$10 per unit per night for each of the 11 campsites with fire rings.



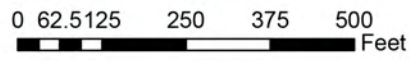
River Junction Campground & Access

6051 River Jct Rd SE
Lone Tree, IA 52755



Legend

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



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.



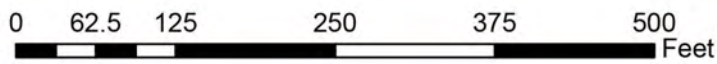
Scott Church Park

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.



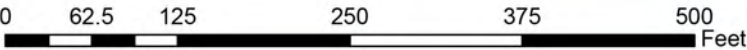
Solon Prairie

713 East 5th St
Solon, IA 52333



Legend

- Parking
- Conservation Area
- Road Centerline



Sutliff Access



1295 White Oak Ave NE
Lisbon, IA 52253

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

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

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



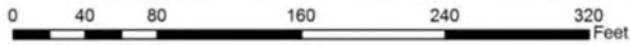
Sutliff Bridge and Access

1293/1295 White Oak Ave NE
Lisbon, IA 52253



Legend

- Property Boundary
- Parking Area
- Boat Ramp
- Road



Two Horse Farm

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

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



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



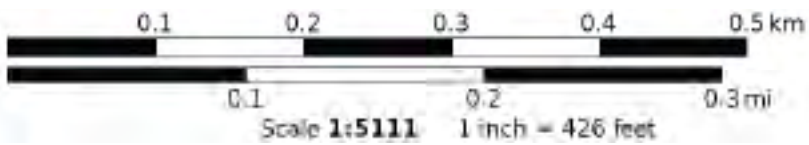
Features:

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



Two Horse Farm

2257 Sugar Bottom Rd NE, Solon IA 52333



Walker Park

6078 Otter Creek Rd SE
Lone Tree, IA 52755

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

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

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



Walker Park

6078 Otter Creek Rd SE
Lone Tree, IA 52755



0 25 50 100 150 200 Feet



Williams Prairie Preserve



2298 Black Hawk Ave NW
Oxford, IA 52322

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



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



Features:

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



Williams Prairie Preserve


2298 Black Hawk Ave NW
Oxford, IA 52322



Map created: 2021 by KNM



Legend

 Property Boundary

 Parking Area

