

JOHNSON COUNTY AVIAN ADVENTURE



FEBRUARY 5- MARCH 22

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Use the site maps below to plan your adventure.
2. Avian Adventure runs February 5 through March 22, 2026. Visit as many of the 12 Avian Adventure locations as possible and find the hidden mystery bird at each site.
3. Once you find the Avian Adventure Station at each location, read the posted instructions on where to find each bird. Look for a painted, wooden bird. The station signs give you information about habitat and behavior, which will help you find the hidden bird.
4. Once you find the bird you are looking for, take a selfie with the bird and post to social media (Instagram or Facebook). Be sure to use the hashtag **#2026AvianAdventure** and **set your account/post to public, so we can view the post**. Alternatively, email submissions to: MWiegand@JohnsonCountyIowa.gov

ADDITIONAL DETAILS

- With each station completed, you earn an entry into the Avian Adventure raffle. Participants who visit **10 stations** or more will be entered to win the grand prize.
- **Bonus Points:** Correctly identify the birds you find and you will receive a bonus point for each one!
- Avian Adventure winners will be announced at the Avian Adventure trivia night from 6-8 p.m. on Tuesday, March 24 at Big Grove Brewery in Iowa City. Trivia night is optional and you do not have to be present to win Avian Adventure prizes.

TRIVIA NIGHT
6-8 P.M. MARCH 24
BIG GROVE IN IOWA CITY



MORE INFO:

[JOHNSONCOUNTYIOWA.GOV/CONSERVATION/EVENTS](https://www.johnsoncountyiowa.gov/conservation/events)

JOHNSON COUNTY AVIAN ADVENTURE



RAFFLE PRIZES INCLUDE!

GRAND PRIZE:

Vortex Viper Binoculars & Various Vortex swag from **Vortex Optics** (\$730+ value)

**Visit 10 or more stations to be entered into the grand prize drawing*

ADDITIONAL PRIZES:

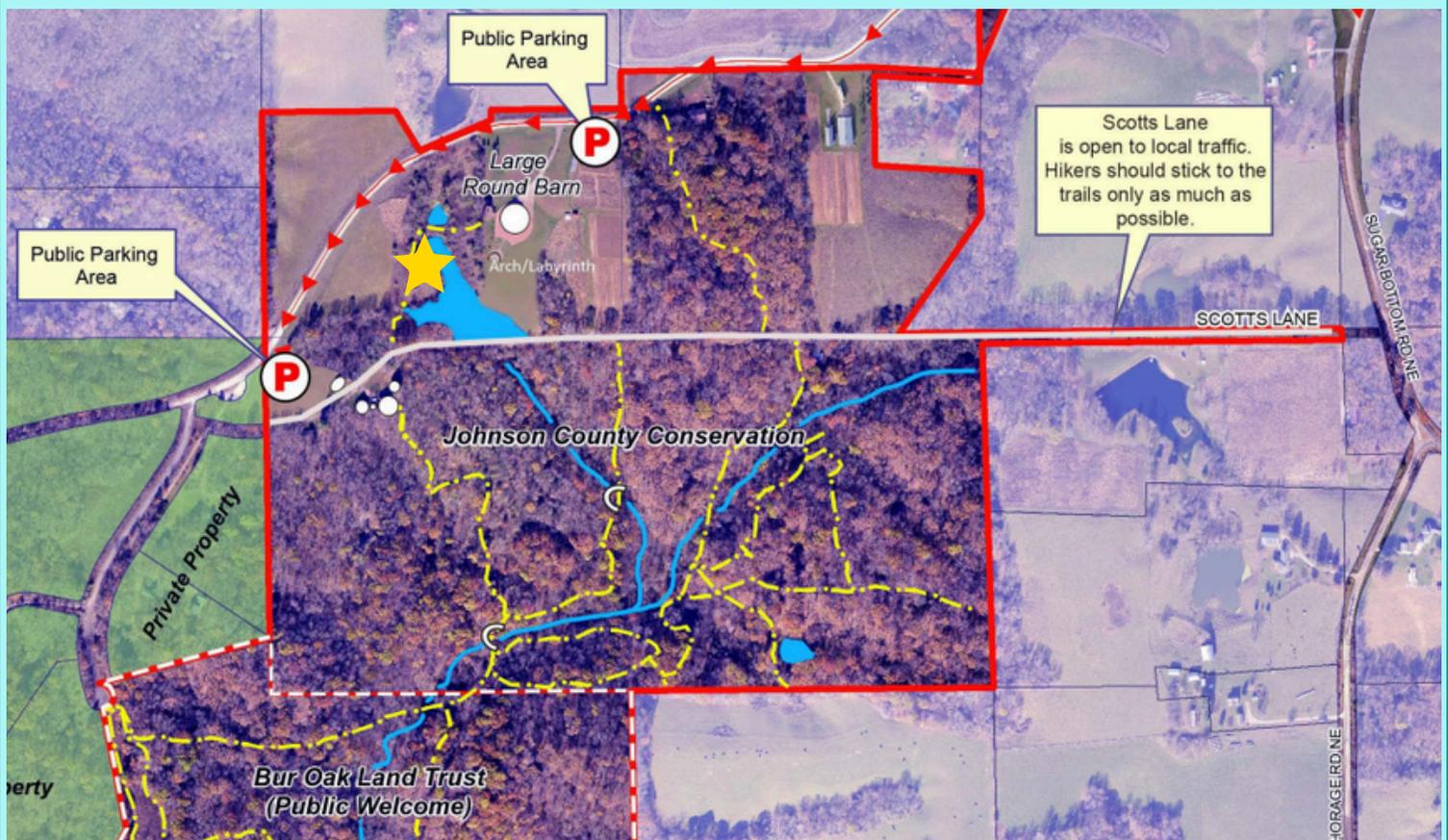
Bluebird mug & coffee - **Bluebird Cafe - North Liberty**, 4 tickets to The Music Man - **Coralville Center for Performing Arts**, 2 tickets to April 9 Loudon Wainwright III & Chris Smither - **Englert Theater**, movie date night package - **FilmScene**, 4 glass seat tickets to 2026-27 season - **Iowa Heartlanders**, a "Bird's-eye View" from **Hilton Garden Inn** & the **VUE Rooftop** (Hotel stay + \$50 VUE gift certificate), family day pass - **Iowa Children's Museum**, shepherd's hook & hummingbird feeder - **Lenoch & Cilek Ace Hardware**, assorted nature-themed package - **New Pioneer Food Coop**, a \$50 gift certificate to **Play it Again Sports**, basket assortment - **Prairie Kitchen Store**, bird bonanza seed mix - **Prairie Moon Nursery**, free t-shirt gift card - **Raygun**, a pair of Vortex Diamondback binoculars - **Scheels**, tube feeder & oriole feeder - **Theisen's**, \$100 gift card to **Wild Birds Unlimited**

Winners drawn at the Avian Adventure Trivia Night at Big Grove Brewery in Iowa City from 6-8 pm on Tuesday, March 24. You do not need to be present but it is sure to be fun!

CANGLESKA WAKAN

4045 245th St NE, Solon, IA 52333

If open, park at the second (west) parking lot when traveling from Sugar Bottom Rd. From the west parking lot, walk carefully northeast along Scotts Lane. You will pass a barn on the left and three round barns on the right. Just beyond the barns turn left on a small, steep trail. *The beginning of this trail is steep and can get very muddy after a thaw or rain. Use caution.* Look for the Avian Adventure station nearby. **Pro Tip:** This is one of the shortest Avian Adventure hikes but one of our largest, most beautiful park sites. Consider staying for a longer hike by exploring the trails on the other side of Scotts Lane.



TRAIL CONDITIONS & SITE FEATURES:

Trail Conditions: Steep terrain, unpaved and unplowed trails, can be muddy



Site Features: Forest, streams, and wetland pond habitats provides habitat and food resources to wildlife year-round. In addition to the three round barns near the entrance, be sure to stop by the large Celebration Barn and check out the amphitheater, stone archway, and labyrinth located near the first public parking area.

Parking: It is sometimes necessary to close the second parking lot if it becomes too muddy. If so, park at the first parking lot and look at the map to find where to start your adventure.

CEDAR RIVER CROSSING

***North Access* 5473 Sutliff Rd NE Solon, IA 52333**

We recommend parking at the north access for this station. From the first parking lot (near restrooms), head southwest and follow the red dotted line shown on the map. Stay below the ridge line and follow along where wetland area typically is seen between the trail and river. Look for the Avian Adventure station near the intersection of the upper and lower trails here. Consider following the upper trail to visit the astronomical clock after you find the avian adventure station (see oval shape with lines on the map below).



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.



TRAIL CONDITIONS & FEATURES:

Trail Conditions: The trail to the Avian Adventure station is flat & unpaved.

Site Features: Extend your visit by taking any number of other trails during your visit. This conservation area is 610 acres total and offers numerous opportunities for viewing wildlife in unique habitat, including relic sand prairie, river, and wetland habitats. Be sure to visit the astronomical clock just above the Avian Adventure station, as well.

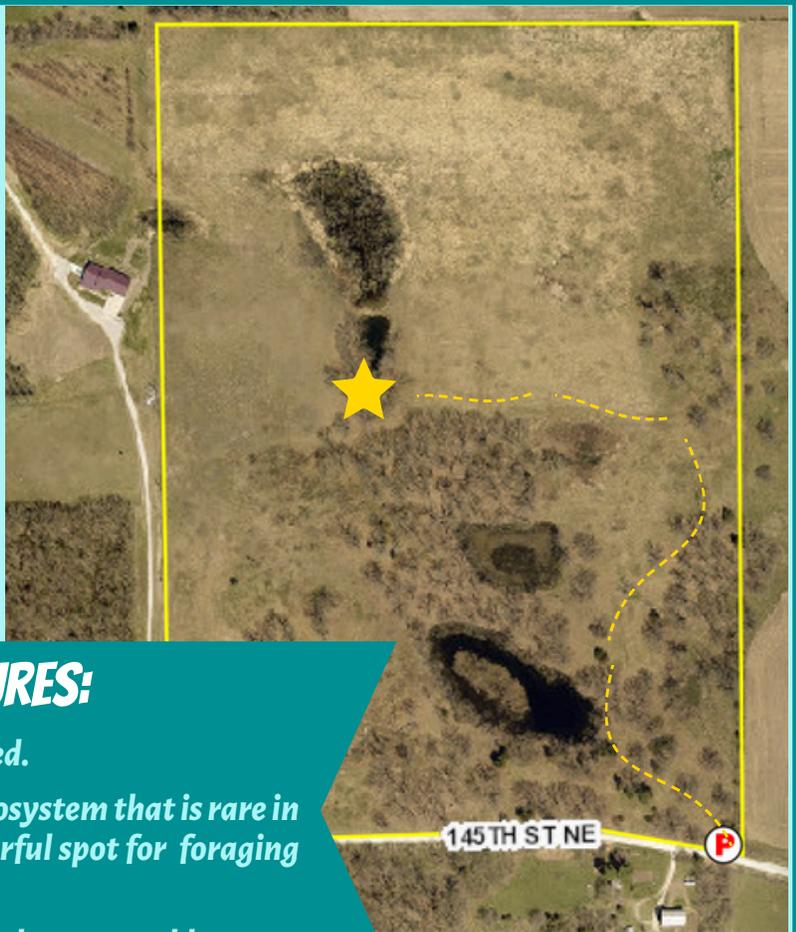
CIHA FEN PRESERVE

5656 145th St NE

Lisbon, IA 52253

From the parking lot, follow the trail going northwest up a small hill. At the top of the hill you will see an information panel where you can learn more about fens, a unique ecosystem to this site and our region.

Head north along the trail past a large habitat (dead) tree, downhill, then follow the trail west. You'll find this station at the edge of the woods.



TRAIL CONDITIONS & FEATURES:

Trail Conditions: Small incline, unpaved.

Site Features: Wind-deposited sandy ridge, fen ecosystem that is rare in the state of Iowa, and striking oak trees. A wonderful spot for foraging for raspberries and wild strawberries.

Parking: Park along road if parking pad is unplowed or too muddy.

CLEAR CREEK AREA & TRAIL

3196 Half Moon Avenue NW

Tiffin, IA 52340

Park at the Half Moon Ave. parking lot and head east on the trail. Follow along between the railroad tracks and the creek. The trail will turn slightly to be more surrounded by tree cover. Walk a short distance and keep an eye out for the Avian Adventure station there!



TRAIL CONDITIONS & FEATURES:

Trail Conditions: Flat, paved, used by cyclists & walkers but unplowed

Site Features: This paved trail is an extension of the Clear Creek Trail which runs throughout Coralville and into Tiffin. JCC is currently planning the next stage of trail construction which will eventually connect to Kent Park just down HWY 6.

FRYTOWN CONSERVATION AREA

2198 Angle Road SW, Kalona, IA 52247

See parking instructions below for when you arrive to this dreamy, 94-acre rolling landscape. Follow the trails below to where you find the star on the map. You will cross over a creek that, prior to Johnson County Conservation purchase, was once used as a dumping ground for old farm machinery and vehicles. That stream has since been cleaned up and visitors can enjoy a variety of outdoor activities all-year round, including bird-watching, foraging, hiking, and general nature observation. This is a beautiful site where we encourage you to extend your visit beyond your time finding the mystery bird. Come back in all seasons for a nice walk through the woods, to do some birding, maybe find some fungi, and more!



TRAIL CONDITIONS & FEATURES:

Trail Conditions: *Wide, unpaved and unplowed trails that can be hilly at times*

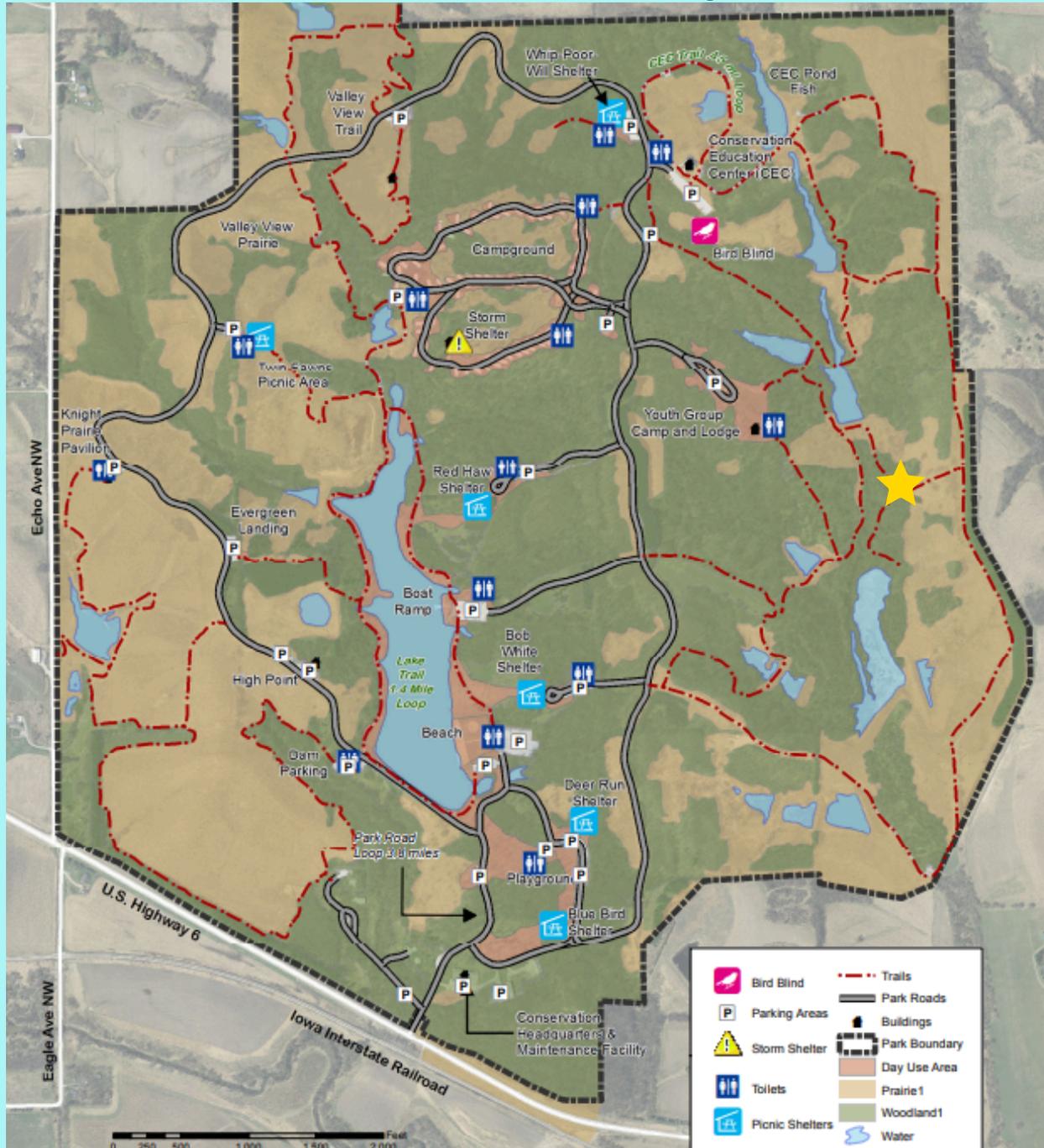
Site Features: *This site features wide trails for hiking and a rolling, hilly landscape. Frytown provides an important woodland corridor for wildlife and a restored stream running throughout provides needed resources for birds and many other wildlife you will find here, as well.*

Parking: *If main parking lot is unplowed or too muddy from snow melt, park in the pull-off along the road. Be mindful of traffic when exiting or entering your vehicle.*

F.W. KENT PARK

2048 US-6 NW, Oxford, IA 52322

Park at the Youth Group Camp and follow the red trails on the map. There are several ways to approach this site. **Fair warning: This bird is further from the station sign than others. Take your time and read the clues on the sign.**



TRAIL CONDITIONS & FEATURES:

Trail Conditions: Unpaved, hilly. Trails are groomed for XC skiing in snow. Be sure to walk along the far edge of the groomed trails.

Site Features: This hike features unique wetland, lake, and prairie habitat. Be sure to stop by the Bird Blind just off the Conservation Education Center parking lot when you visit!

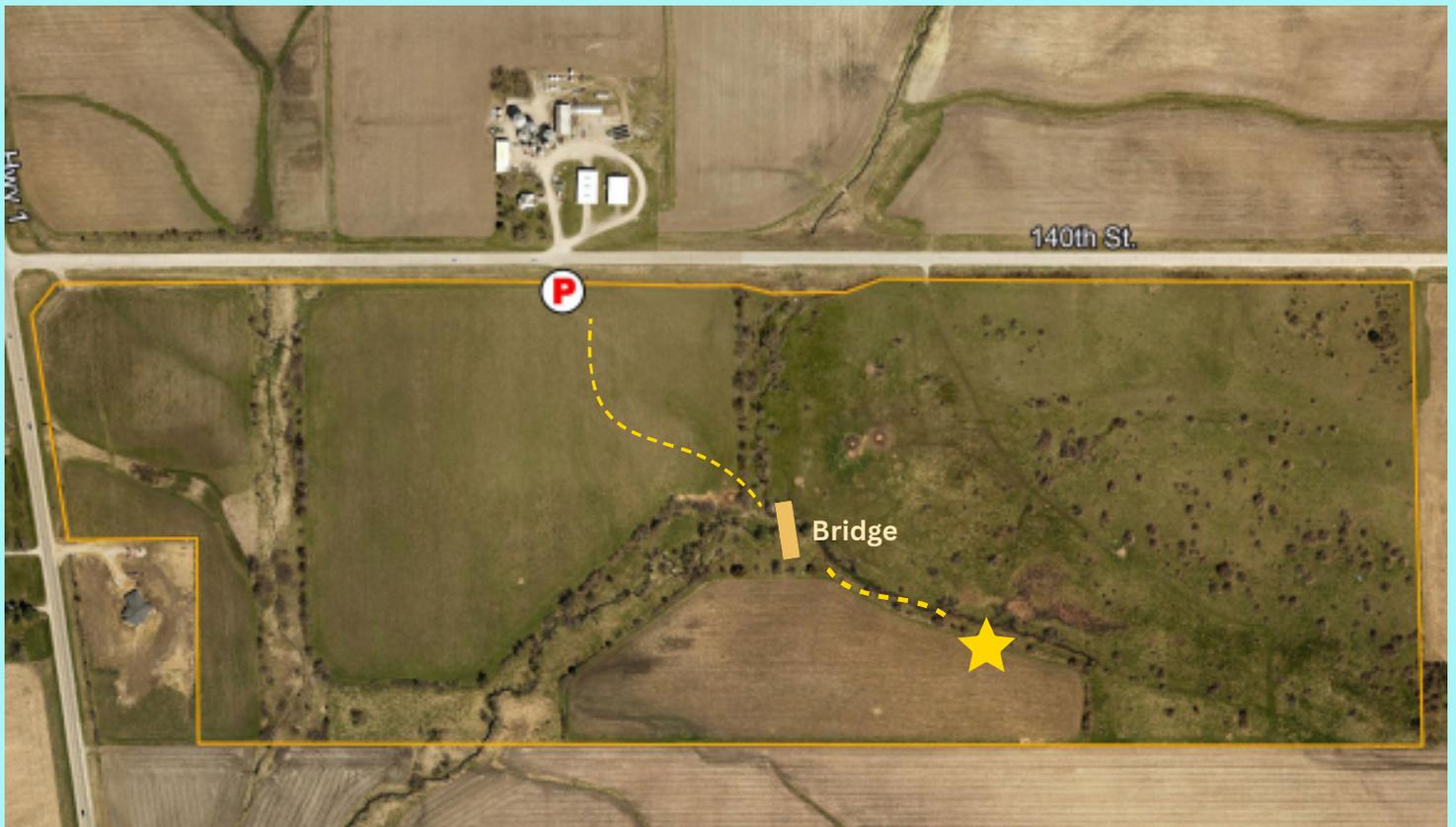


MALINDA REIF REILLY FEN & PRAIRIE

4495 140th NE St. Solon, IA 52333

Park in the public parking lot off 140th St. Walk downhill through the field. There is not an obvious trail to follow. Cross the bridge and walk along the shrub line to find the Avian Adventure station.

Extend your visit by exploring more of this gorgeous site- Johnson County Conservation's most recently acquired property.



TRAIL CONDITIONS & FEATURES:

Trail Conditions: Unpaved, unplowed, hilly terrain

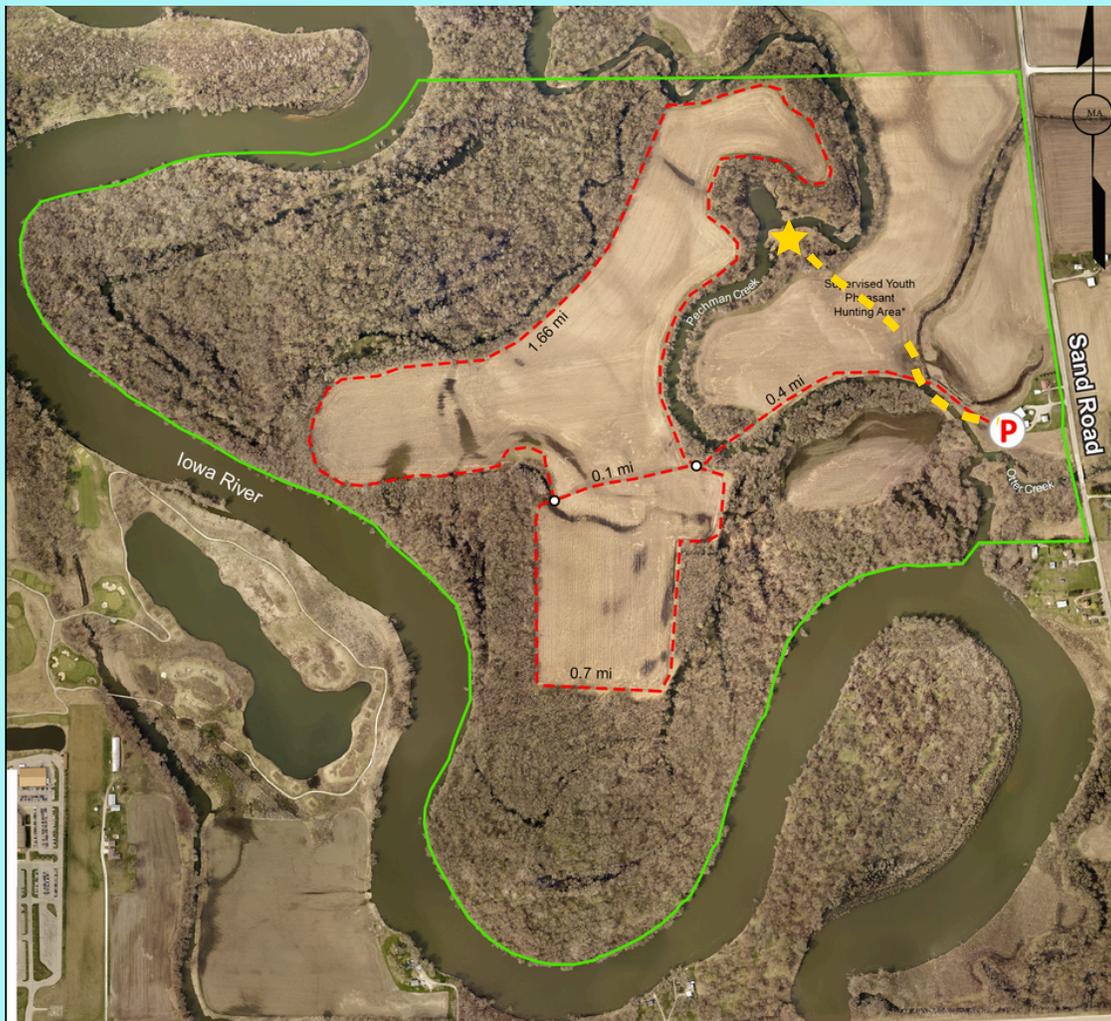
Site Features: Stay a little while at this 100- acre property north of Solon, Iowa. The property features 53 acres of relic prairie, wetland, and fen habitats, and the remaining 47 acres are currently in organic hay production. JCC will restore this portion of the property to native ecosystems in coming years, and will develop a parking area and hiking trails.

Parking: Parking in the designated parking area at the entrance of this site.

PECHMAN CREEK DELTA

5875 Sand Rd SE Lone Tree, IA 52755

Park in the public parking area behind the large shed behind the farmhouse. If this parking is too muddy from rain or snow melt, park closer to the farm house. Take the trail west and then head through the crop field and into the woods near the creek. Look for the station site near the water. **Note: Due to park construction, this bird has migrated to a new location at Pechman as of March 12, 2026.**



TRAIL CONDITIONS & FEATURES:

Trail Conditions: Unpaved, unplowed, flat terrain

Site Features: Plan to extend your trip to this site and enjoy a longer hike at this 380 acre property that will soon be the site of major restoration. This site borders the Iowa River and provides resources to an abundance of wildlife.

Parking: If main parking lot is closed due to mud or snow, park on more solid ground near the outbuildings.



PHEBE TIMBER

**4492 Kansas Avenue SW
Iowa City, IA 52240**

Follow the trail headed north toward Old Man's Creek, then turn right and head east along the creek. The Avian Adventure station can be spotted along the trail near a shrubby vegetation and fallen branches.

TRAIL CONDITIONS & FEATURES:



Trail Conditions: Flat terrain, unpaved, short distance

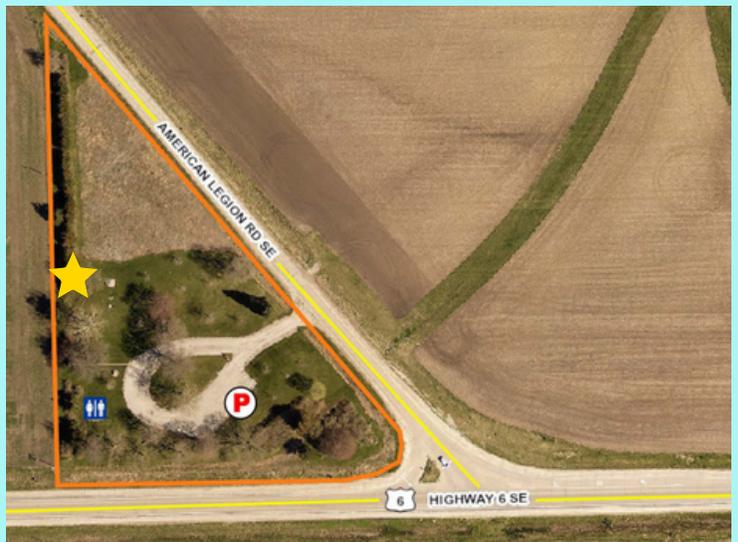
Site Features: 27 acres donated by the Williams family in 2021. A great place to see spring ephemerals in early spring.

Parking: There is a small gravel parking lot off Kansas Ave, which is unplowed in snow. Park along road if lot is unplowed or too muddy.

SCOTT CHURCH PARK

**5409 American Legion Rd. SE
Iowa City, IA 52240**

This small 5-acre site has the distinction of being the first county park operated by Johnson County Conservation. Established in 1965, the site once housed a church and a gas station. Today, the small prairie, trees, and hedges provide critical habitat in an area surrounded by row crop. Look for the Avian Adventure sign to get started!



TRAIL CONDITIONS & FEATURES:



Trail Conditions: Flat, unpaved, thick prairie vegetation.

Site Features: This small park has a picnic table, a small seeded prairie and "shelter-belt" of small shrubs and trees, and a pit toilet. This is a nice spot to stop for cyclists to stop for a picnic while traveling in this area and, while small, the prairie and shelter-belt provide a needed nesting and stopover location for birds and other wildlife in a more developed area of the county.

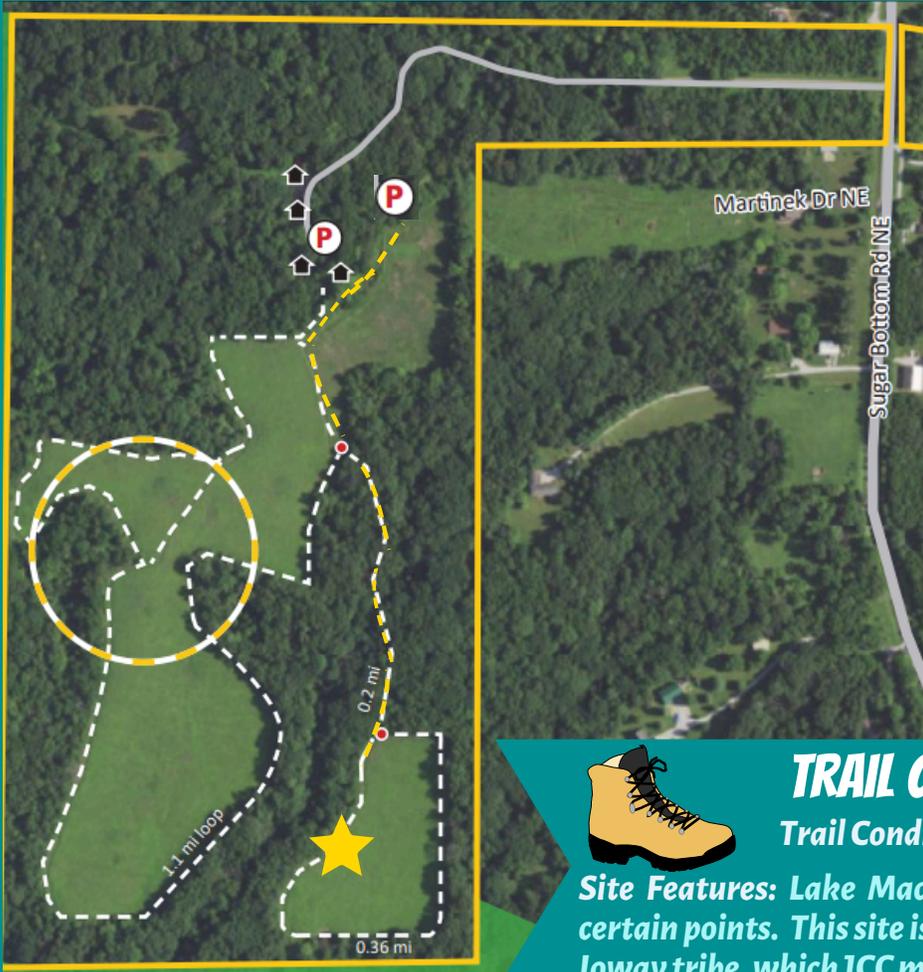
TWO HORSE FARM

2257 Sugar Bottom Rd. NE

Solon, IA 52333

Turn left at the end of the long driveway and park in the designated public parking lot. If this lot is too muddy, park near the farmhouse if conditions are better.

Head south through the prairie and you will pass the farmhouse on the right. Follow the yellow trail on the map up and downhill through woodland to more prairie at the top of the hill where you will find the Avian Adventure station.



TRAIL CONDITIONS & FEATURES:

Trail Conditions: Hilly terrain, unpaved

Site Features: Lake Macbride can be seen in the distance from certain points. This site is also home to a plot of land owned by the Ioway tribe, which JCC manages and is open to the public.

WALKER PARK

6078 Otter Creek Rd. SE Lone Tree, IA 52755

You will need to go “offroad” a little for this teeny park site. Follow the tree line behind the picnic shelter and then head into the woods. Look for dead trees and find your station.

Oaks, hickories, and maple trees provide important food and shelter resources for birds and extend the habitat. A historic cemetery borders the northern edge of the park.



TRAIL CONDITIONS & FEATURES:

Trail Conditions: You will go off trail and into the woods a bit. It's relatively clear and flat.

Site Features: This small, three-acre park is located in the village of River Junction. Walker Park predates the existence of JCC by more than 50 years. The park features a log cabin replica that was built in 1916.

Parking: This park shares a driveway with a private residence. Be sure to stay left and pull into the parking lot where you can park in front of the log cabin.