

Agenda

Natural Resource Commission

Thursday, May 14, 2026

Teleconference: 361-245-0121 PIN: 803 292 109#

Video Conference: meet.google.com/smw-cnju-drz

Butch Olofson Shooting Range

11652 NW Nissen Dr, Polk City, IA 50266

Thursday, May 14, 2026

9:30 AM – NRC Business Meeting

Public participation begins at approximately 10:00am. If you are unable to attend the business meeting, comments regarding agenda items may be submitted for public record to Alicia Plathe at Alicia.Plathe@dnr.iowa.gov or 6200 Park Ave Ste 200, Des Moines IA 50321 up to 24 hours prior to the business meeting.

1.	Approval of Agenda	Decision	Commission
2.	Election of Officers	Decision	Commission
3.	Approval of the Minutes	Decision	Commission
4.	Director's Remarks	Information	Kayla Lyon
5.	Division Administrator's Remarks	Information	Pete Hildreth
6.	Brass Bluegill Award	Information	Gus Elliott
7.	Contract with Insight Public Sector, Inc.- Parks, Forests, and Preserves Asset Management System	Decision	Andrew Place
8.	2025-2026 Deer Management Annual Report for Iowa City	Decision	Kirk Lehmann Iowa City Assistant City Manager
9.	Small Construction Projects: Hendrickson Marsh Lake Enhancements; Shelter and Restroom Demolitions at Big Creek State Park	Information	Travis Baker
10.	Large Construction Projects	Decision	Travis Baker
10.1	Spring Run Wildlife Complex (Reed Farm), Wetland Restoration – Dickinson Co.		
10.2	Swan Lake State Park, Draw Down Structure – Carroll County		
10.3	George Wyth State Park, Office and Shop Building – Black Hawk County		
11.	Contract with the Lyon County Conservation Board (Lake Pahoja Recreation Area)	Decision	Travis Baker
12.	Contract Amendment with Shive-Hattery (Wastewater Facility Design)	Decision	Travis Baker
13.	Contract Amendment with Shive-Hattery, Inc. (Springbrook Slide Geotech and Design)	Decision	Travis Baker
14.	Contract with Shive-Hattery, Inc. (Red Rock WMA, OK Hill Rd Bridge Replacement)	Decision	Travis Baker
15.	Chapter 30 - Waters Cost-Share and Grants Program, Low-Head Dam Public Hazard Grant Recommendations	Decision	Travis Baker
16.	General Discussion		

Upcoming NRC Meeting Dates

- June 10-11, Cerro Gordo County
- July 9, Des Moines

For details on the NRC meeting schedule, visit:
<http://www.iowadnr.gov/InsideDNR/BoardsCommissions/NaturalResourceCommission.aspx>

Comments during the public participation period regarding proposed rules or notices of intended action are not included in the official comments for that rule package unless they are submitted as required in the Notice of Intended Action.

Any person attending the public meeting and has special requirements such as those related to mobility or hearing impairments should contact the DNR or ADA Coordinator at 515-725-8200, Relay Iowa TTY Service 800-735-7942, or Webmaster@dnr.iowa.gov, and advise of specific needs.

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, English-language proficiency, disability, or age in the administration of its programs or activities in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. DNR will not tolerate discrimination, intimidation, threats, coercion, or retaliation against any individual or group because they have exercised their rights protected by federal or state law.

**MINUTES OF THE
NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION
MEETING**

April 9, 2026

**Rathbun Fish Hatchery Meeting Room
15053 Hatchery Place, Moravia, IA, 52571 and
Teleconference**

Approved by the Commission **TBD**

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Initials	<u> </u>

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Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Natural Resource Commission (Commission or NRC) was called to order by Chairperson Tom Prickett at 9:00 am on April 8, 2026 via video/teleconference attendees.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

- Tom Prickett
- KR Buck
- Laura Kudej
- Bill Moritz
- Tammi Kircher

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

- Uriah Hansen
- Collin Brecher

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda included:

- * 5. Donations
- *8. Chapter 16, “Docks and Other Structures on Public Waters” – Final Rule
- *9. Chapter 60, “State Preserves” – Final Rule
- *10. Chapter 76, “Unprotected Nongame” – Final Rule
- *12. Chapter 78, “Ginseng Harvesting and Sale” – Final Rule
- *13. Chapter 79, “Fish Stocking Procedures and Fees for Private Waters” – Final Rule
- *14. Chapter 80, “Salvage of Fish and Game” – Final Rule
- *15. Chapter 81, “Fishing Regulations” – Final Rule
- *16. Chapter 82, “Commercial Fishing” – Final Rule
- *17. Chapter 83, “Scuba and Skin Spearing of Rough Fish” – Final Rule
- *18. Chapter 84, “Promiscuous Fishing” – Final Rule
- *19. Chapter 86, “Turtles” – Final Rule
- *20. Chapter 87, “Mussel Regulations” – Final Rule
- *21. Chapter 89, “Aquaculture” – Final Rule
- *22. Chapter 90, “Aquatic Invasive Species” – Final Rule
- *23. Chapter 93, “Commercial Use of Captive-Reared Waterfowl” – Final Rule
- *24. Chapter 95, “Game Harvest Reporting and Landowner-Tenant Registration” – Final Rule
- *25. Chapter 98, “Wild Turkey Hunting” – Final Rule
- *26. Chapter 103, “Mobile Radio Transmitters” – Final Rule
- *27. Chapter 111, “Natural Resources Collector Permits: Research, Education, Wildlife Rehabilitation” – Final Rule
- *28. Chapters 104, 115, and 112, “Hunting Preserves” – Final Rule
- *29. Chapter 113, “Restitution for Pollution Causing Injury to Wild Animals” – Final Rule
- *30. Chapter 116, “Help Us Stop Hunger Program Administration” – Final Rule
- *34. Public Land Management Project-Easement Conveyance-Union County-Southern Iowa Rural Water Association
- *37. Chapter 15, “General License Regulations” (Lifetime Furharvester SF253 Addition)-Final Rule

Motion was made by Bill Moritz to approve the agenda and consent agenda as presented. Seconded by Laura Kudej.

The Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the agenda by saying aye. There were no nay votes.

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

*Motion was made by KR Buck to approve the March 2026 meeting minutes as presented. Seconded by Laura Kudej.
The Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the agenda by saying aye. There were no nay votes.*

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

DIRECTOR’S REMARKS

- Director Lyon thanked DNR staff for all of their assistance with the April 8th NRC tour.
- Director Lyon provided a brief overview of the Gift to Iowa celebration at the State Capitol.
- Director Lyon concluded her remarks by providing a quick update on the legislative session, noting that budget discussions have started.

DIVISION ADMINISTRATOR’S REMARKS

- Division Administrator (DA) Pete Hildreth also thanked staff for all of their hard work and assistance with the April 8th NRC tour.
- DA Hildreth shared his recent experiences at the North American Natural Resource conference as well as the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife committee meetings recently held at Jester Park.
- DA Hildreth concluded his remarks by highlight the upcoming Spring turkey seasons.

IOWA FOREST RESILIENCY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS

Kelsey Fleming requested Commission approval for grant recommendations for the Iowa Forest Resiliency Partnership Program.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments – None

*Motion was made by Tammi Kircher to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Bill Moritz.
The Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the agenda item by saying aye. There were no nay votes.*

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

CHAPTER 15, “GENERAL LICENSE REGULATIONS” – FINAL RULE

Joe Larscheid requested Commission approval for the final rule for Chapter 15. Several Commissioners thanked staff for their hard work on updating Chapter 15 and stakeholders for their input on the license fee increase.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments-None

*Motion was made by KR Buck to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Laura Kudej.
The Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the agenda item by saying aye. There were no nay votes.*

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

CHAPTER 77, “ENDANGERED AND THREATENED PLANTS AND ANIMAL SPECIES” – FINAL RULE

Travis Baker requested Commission approval for the final rule for Chapter 77. Commissioner Prickett asked for clarification on the various lists previously located in Chapter 77 and where each list would be maintained in the future. Travis Baker noted that the list of species of special concern will be included in Iowa’s Wildlife Action Plan moving forward. Commissioner Moritz also shared with the Commission that the Midwest Landscape Initiative also maintains a regional list of species of special concern.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments-None

Motion was made by Tammi Kircher to approve the item as presented. Seconded by KR Buck.

The Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the agenda item by saying aye. There were no nay votes.

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

RATHBUN WILDLIFE UNIT – ROAD MAINTENANCE – APPANOOSE COUNTY

Travis Baker requested Commission approval for road maintenance project at the Rathbun Wildlife Unit.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments-None

Motion was made by Bill Moritz to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Tammi Kircher.

The Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the agenda item by saying aye. There were no nay votes.

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

OTTER CREEK MARSH WMA – ROAD MAINTENANCE – TAMA COUNTY

Travis Baker requested Commission approval for road maintenance project at Otter Creek Marsh WMA.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments-None

Motion was made by KR Buck to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Bill Moritz.

The Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the agenda item by saying aye. There were no nay votes.

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

CEDAR ROCK STATE PARK – TUCKPOINT AND RETAINING WALL – BUCHANAN COUNTY

Travis Baker requested Commission approval for the construction of a retaining wall at Cedar Rock State Park. Sherry Arntzen and Detra Dettman responded to questions regarding the trust fund used for the project.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments-None

Motion was made by Tammi Kircher to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Laura Kudej.

The Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the agenda item by saying aye. There were no nay votes.

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

CODY SHOOTING COMPLEX - PHASE 2 - SCOTT COUNTY

Travis Baker requested Commission approval for the phase 2 construction at Cody Shooting Complex.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments-None

Motion was made by KR Buck to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Bill Moritz.

The Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the agenda item by saying aye. There were no nay votes.

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

LEDGES STATE PARK – ROAD MAINTENANCE - BOONE COUNTY

Travis Baker requested Commission approval for a road maintenance project at Ledges State Park.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments-None

Motion was made by Tammi Kircher to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Bill Moritz.

The Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the agenda item by saying aye. There were no nay votes.

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

CHAPTER 30 - WATERS COST-SHARE AND GRANTS PROGRAM, WATER TRAILS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS

Travis Baker requested Commission approval for grant recommendation for the Water Trail Development Program. Travis Baker stated than any remaining funds that exceed the awards will roll over into the Rivers Program funding.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments-None

Motion was made by Tammi Kircher to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Bill Moritz.

The Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the agenda item by saying aye. There were no nay votes.

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

CONTRACT AMENDMENT WITH THE CITY OF GRINNELL (ARBOR LAKE & LAKE NYANZA)

Ben Dodd requested Commission approval for a contract amendment with the City of Grinnell for work on Arbor Lake and Lake Nyanza.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments-None

Motion was made by KR Buck to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Bill Moritz.

The Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the agenda item by saying aye. There were no nay votes.

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

CAMPING DESIGNATION AT CEDAR ROCK STATE PARK FOR JULY 23-24, 2026

Sherry Arntzen requested Commission approval for camping designation at Cedar Rock State Park for July 23-24, 2026. Sherry Arntzen responded the questions about the site usage during RAGBRAI and any other previous, similar designations.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments-None

Motion was made by Tammi Kircher to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Bill Moritz.

The Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the agenda item by saying aye. There were no nay votes.

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

GENERAL DISCUSSION

- Commissioners thanked staff for the great field tour and complimented staff on their professionalism and dedication to the local resource.
- Commissioners shared about their upcoming Spring outdoor planned activities.
- Commissioner Kudej also thanked all of the donors that were recognized at the Gift to Iowa celebration.
- Commissioner Buck noted a recent sandhill crane sighting in eastern Iowa and shared about his experience at the Outdoor Day at the Capitol.
- Commissioner Moritz shared about the Wildlife Management Institute’s endeavor to review the fundamental elements of North American conservation and management. Commissioner Moritz invited attendees to visit fundamentalelements.org to learn more about the endeavor and provide their input.

ADJOURN

Chairperson Tom Prickett adjourned the Natural Resources Commission meeting at 10:02 am on April 9, 2026.

ADJOURNED

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission

Decision Item

7. **Contract with** Insight Public Sector, Inc.

Commission approval is requested for a contract with Insight Public Sector, Inc. of Chandler, AZ.

Contract Terms

Amount: Not to exceed \$128,455.32

Dates: Effective as of date of final signature (anticipated May 21, 2026), remains in effect for one year from date of signature

Software license agreement may be extended for successive one-year periods upon approval by DNR.

Funding Source(s): 100% General Fund

Contract Purpose:

The State Parks, Forests, and Preserves Bureau requires a cloud hosted asset management system in order to more efficiently manage maintenance and lifecycle of facilities and infrastructure. The Bureau manages approximately 1,800 capital assets including buildings, roads, boat ramps, parking lots, playgrounds, trails, water and wastewater treatment and distribution systems, and land improvements. Currently, inventory and condition data are fragmented across various disconnected spreadsheets and legacy systems. This lack of centralization prevents the Bureau from conducting complex data analysis, hindering our ability to make informed, data-driven decisions regarding maintenance, replacement, and long-term infrastructure health. To ensure fiscal prudence, manage risk, and maximize return on investment this data must be housed and managed in one robust system.

This contract includes an annual license agreement for VUEWorks Enterprise Asset Management (\$48,920.33) which will house inventory of all critical assets managed by the State Parks, Forests, and Preserves Bureau as well as maintenance records, inspection records, condition assessments, and preventative maintenance schedules for those assets. The system will allow park staff, supervisors, and program administration staff to monitor maintenance needs, condition, and lifecycle costs of assets in real time. Technical support services are included with the annual license agreement.

Initial implementation services (\$79,534.99) provided by the vendor include integration with existing GIS data, configuration of standard and unique asset types, configuration of work order and preventative maintenance forms, creation of user roles and accounts, and training of key staff.

Asset management is a core function of the state parks system and the need for an improved asset management system has been identified as a priority in the Department's FY2025-2026 Strategic Plan. Insight Public Sector currently provides several IT products and services to the Department and other State Agencies. VUEWorks Enterprise Asset Management is currently used by Missouri Department of Conservation and Arkansas Game and Fish.

Selection Process Summary: This agreement was negotiated by DOM IT Vendor Management under an existing IT Master Agreement (2023-BUS-2011)

Criteria Reviewed: N/A (IT Master Agreement)

Proposal Due Date: N/A (IT Master Agreement)

of Proposals Received: N/A (IT Master Agreement)

Recommendation: Insight Public Sector, Inc.

Andrew Place, Capital Asset Manager, State Parks, Forests, and Preserves Bureau
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting Date: May 14, 2026

2025 - 2026 DEER MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT



Intersection of River Street and Blackhawk Street

The Iowa City City Council adopted its second 5-year Deer Management Plan in 2024. This plan was developed based on local public input in collaboration with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and was approved through the Iowa Natural Resource Commission (NRC). The Plan includes ongoing non-lethal management efforts, five years of urban bow hunts, and a single sharpshooting event subject to NRC approval between 2026 and 2029. To learn more, visit www.icgov.org/deer.

CONTENTS

- Background
- Deer-Related Calls and Complaints
- Collisions & City Interactions with Deer
- Non-Lethal Deer Management
- Deer Depredation
- Aerial Deer Surveys
- Analysis & Next Steps

Photo of backyard by resident, Heron Circle

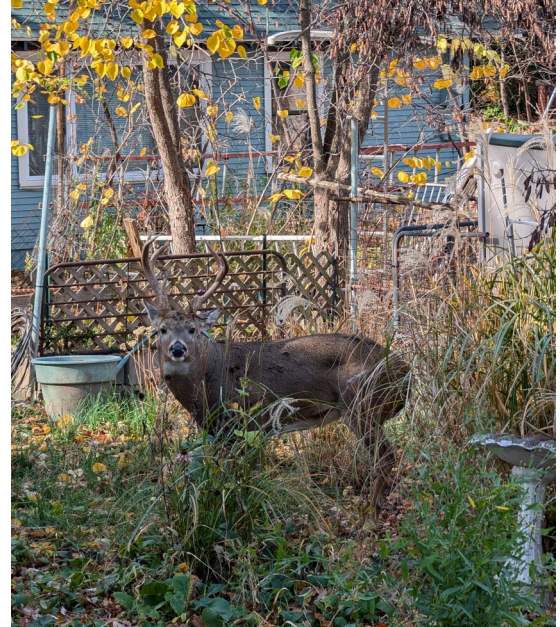


Photo of backyard by resident, Beldon Ave

BACKGROUND

Iowa City's Deer Management Plan was formed in response to resident concerns about deer in urban and suburban areas. A deer count survey conducted in 2018 revealed the urban deer population had tripled since the City ceased its deer management program in 2010.

The City reestablished its deer management program in 2019 with the adoption of a Deer Management Plan after coordinating with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and soliciting public input. This plan was approved by the Iowa Natural Resource Commission (NRC) and included one year of professional sharpshooting, four years of urban bow hunts, and ongoing public education.

In July 2024, City Council adopted an updated 5-year Deer Management Plan after approval by the NRC. The new plan allows the City to continue its non-lethal deer management activities and annual urban bow hunt over the next five years, in addition to one possible professional sharpshoot subject to NRC approval between 2026 and 2029. A full timeline, the City's Deer Management Plan, and annual reports are available at www.icgov.org/deer.

Public Input

The City's deer management program is based on several years of public conversations and feedback. The process began with the formation of a deer committee consisting of City staff and local stakeholders in 2018 and a public meeting on deer management attended by 60 community members. The input provided by the public, in addition to the DNR and NRC, formed the basis for the 5-year deer management plan approved by City Council in 2019. This was followed by a regular process of working with stakeholders and soliciting feedback from the public to refine the City's deer management program, including:

- **2020:** Collaborating with Iowa City Deer Friends on urban bow hunt rules and receiving feedback over 4 Council meetings about said rules and deer feeding ordinance.
- **2022:** Holding a Deer Management Listening Session for the public (a summary of comments is available in the 2022-2023 Deer Management Annual Report).
- **2023:** Soliciting public input through a Virtual Listening Post (a summary of comments is available in the 2023-2024 Deer Management Annual Report).
- **2025:** Inviting feedback about our deer management program (included with the discussion on public complaints and feedback on p. 4)

Members of the public are invited to provide ongoing input on the City’s deer management activities by contacting deermanagement@iowa-city.org. Typically, feedback is received after a property owner experiences a deer-related issue. This year, hunters who participated in the 2025-2026 hunt are also being surveyed about their experiences to help inform future improvements. In addition, annual reports are provided to Council and the public on deer management efforts, and residents may directly address councilors during the public comment period at any regular Council meeting.

State Collaboration

In 2024, the City developed and adopted a new 5-year Deer Management Plan based on feedback from the NRC and DNR staff. This plan allows the City to continue its non-lethal deer management activities and annual urban bow hunt over the next five years but also allows for the possibility of a professional sharpshoot subject to NRC approval between 2026 and 2029. This approach is intended to provide long-term population control through consistent hunting efforts, while recognizing that a focused professional sharpshoot may be needed. Data appears to suggest that sharpshooting in targeted areas is necessary to manage growing deer levels in the short-term while the Urban Bow Hunt program continues to gain traction over the long-term.

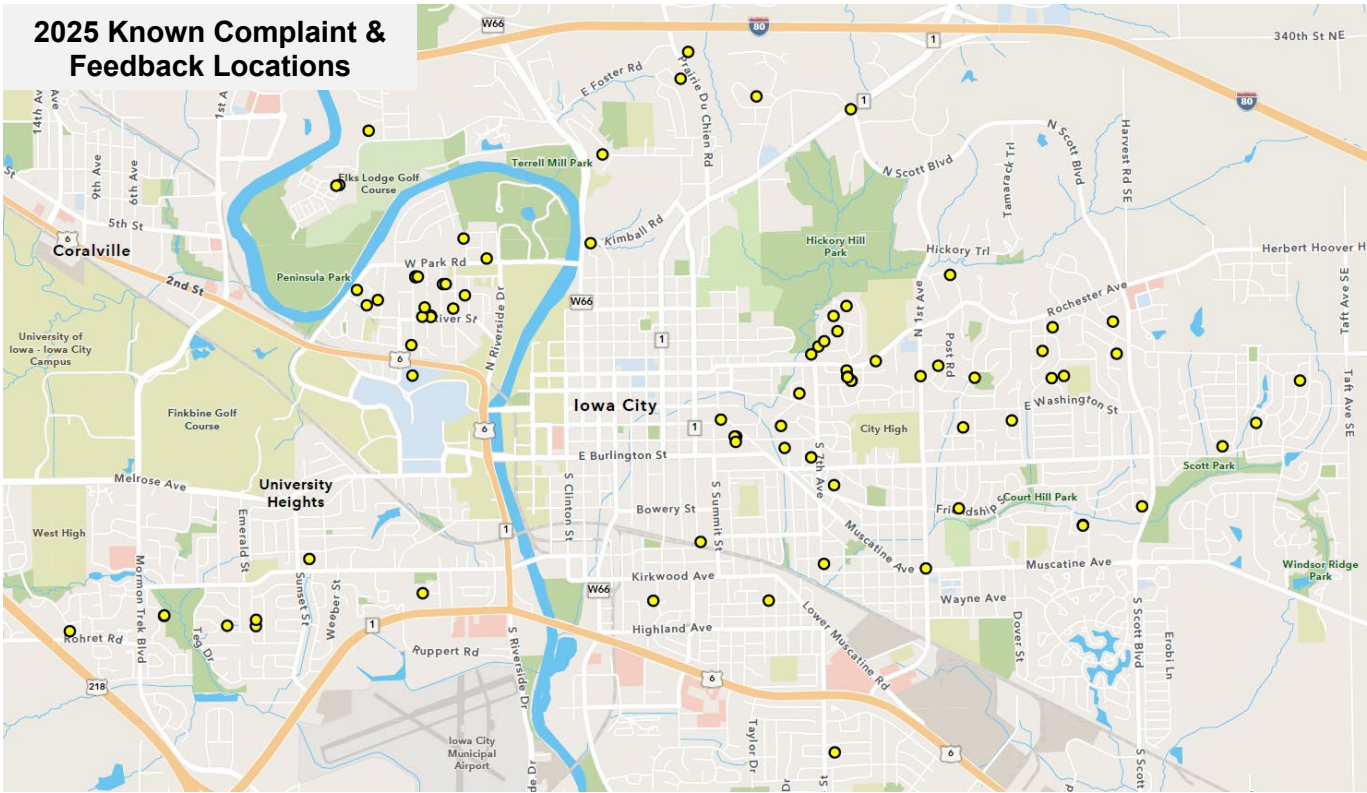
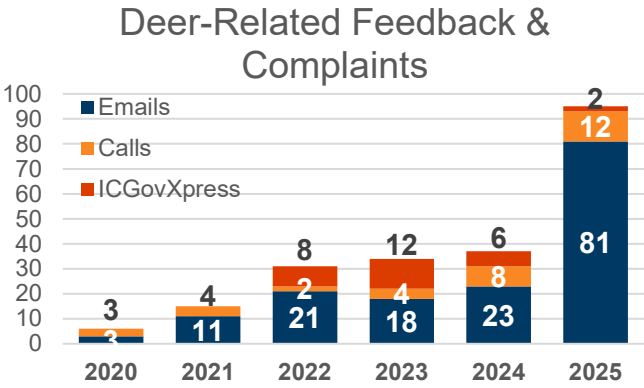
The City also maintains close collaboration with DNR staff as it continues refining and expanding its Urban Bow Hunt. The City solicits input from DNR staff before and after its urban bow hunt seasons to enhance programmatic success. In preparation for this bow hunt season, the City identified and opened additional public lands for bow hunting and worked closely with interested hunters and landowners to increase participation and engagement. More detail is available in the Deer Depredation section below. However, both City and DNR staff recognize that shifting social and political comfort levels with the program in Iowa City is a work in progress. The City looks forward to continue collaborating with the DNR and NRC to improve the bow hunt program.

In addition, the City has been working with DNR staff to identify additional data sources that can help ensure more accurate tracking of deer populations and community impacts and help assess the success of management efforts over time. This report incorporates enhanced data collection efforts started in 2025, including the results of an aerial drone survey and additional statistics regarding interactions with deer.



DEER-RELATED CALLS AND COMPLAINTS

The City documented 81 emailed comments and complaints related to deer in 2025, which include 48 emails received between Aug. 15 and Sept. 5 following an invitation for feedback. In addition, the City met with 2 parties and received 12 phone calls and 2 deer-related complaints submitted through ICgovXpress, a digital platform allowing residents to report general concerns to the City. Even excluding invited feedback, this is the highest number of complaints documented since tracking began.



Nearly all feedback expresses frustrations that the deer population is too high, concerns about traffic hazards and Lyme’s disease, complaints about landscaping and property damage, and views that the City needs to enhance its deer management activities. Notably, multiple complaints mentioned that deer are acclimated to humans which increases fears of physical harm, and complaint locations are more distributed throughout the City. In addition, many note that deer-related issues are the worst they have seen with herds of a dozen deer regularly seen in neighborhoods. 6 residents indicated they do not support lethal deer management activities.

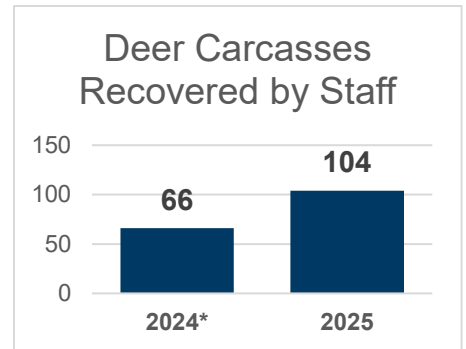
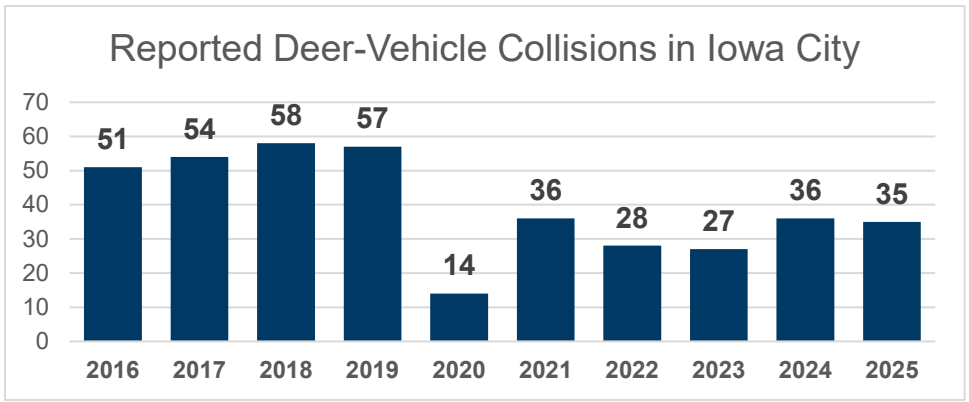
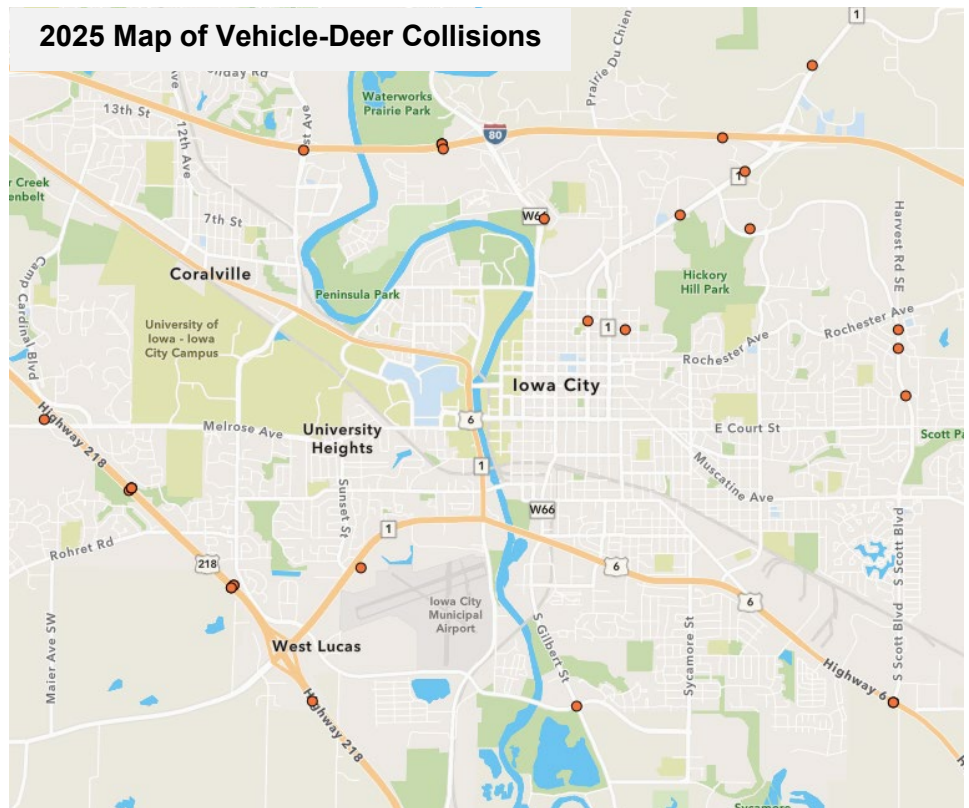
In addition to public concerns, City staff report that deer remain a significant threat to public landscaping and urban tree health, including frequent damage to public trees and landscaping.

COLLISIONS & CITY INTERACTIONS WITH DEER

In 2025, the Iowa City Police Department received 35 calls for service involving vehicular collisions with deer. Associated damage estimates totaled \$142,401. A full list of reported accidents is included in Appendix 1. An interactive map showing locations of vehicle-deer collisions over the years is available at www.icgov.org/deer.

The chart to the right shows the number of deer-vehicle collisions reported to the Iowa City Police Department by year. While the data suggests a stable trend, the number of accidents seems to be related to more careful driving habits rather than a reduction of the deer population. Even when deer-vehicle accidents occur, many do not result in calls-for-service to the police. Minor collisions are often addressed without police involvement.

To help address this data gap, the Department of Public Works began tracking the number of deer carcasses picked up by its Streets and Refuse divisions. Staff began tracking data in June 2024. In 2025, Streets and Refuse staff picked up 104 deer carcasses. Comparing June through December in 2024 to June through December in 2025, the number of deer carcasses recovered increased 20%, which supports that stable numbers do not appear to be due to deer populations decreasing.



*June through December

NON-LETHAL DEER MANAGEMENT

Iowa City's 5-Year Deer Management Plan includes a series of activities that the City continues to implement to help manage interactions with deer. These include:

- Publishing of a comprehensive set of deer management related content at www.icgov.org/deer, which includes background information, FAQs, non-lethal management tips, links to resources, a map of deer-vehicle collisions, and other content referenced in the 5-Year Deer Management Plan.
- Passing an ordinance which prohibits the feeding of deer and issuing periodic communications notifying residents.
- Issuing utility-bill inserts, news releases, and social media posts that advise residents how to minimize deer damage using non-lethal methods.



There are also several Deer Crossing signs that advise motorists to take extra caution. The City owns one on Dubuque Street, south of the I-80 bridge; two on Rochester Avenue between First Avenue and Scott Boulevard; and four on Scott Boulevard, between Hickory Heights Lane and just east of Tamarack Trail. In addition, the State owns a Deer Crossing on Dodge Street, west of ACT Circle, and the County owns one on Dubuque Street, north of Linder Road. Signage in addition to education appears to be effective in reducing deer-vehicle collisions.

To deter deer from browsing on plantings, the City plants allium species in place of more deer-friendly vegetation, such as hostas, and encourages residents to do the same. This has proven less effective than other interventions as the deer population continues expanding. The City has received reports of deer consuming roses or plants typically avoided by deer.

Protect your yard and garden from deer

Plant a diversity of plants. Ensure any plants that deer find appealing won't be available in high numbers. Deer don't like to search long for their favorite plants and may be deterred if they don't find something tasty right away.

Consult with nursery and garden center professionals. They can point out options that are less appealing to deer.

Consider deer repellent. These are most effective when applied frequently.

Use fencing. Deer rarely jump fences that are at least 8' high or into spaces they perceive to be enclosed. If you are considering installing a fence, review the Fences, Walls, and Hedges standards in the City Code (14-4C-2, part L) first. To see if you need a permit, call Neighborhood and Development Services at 319-356-5120.

Remember: Feeding deer is prohibited in Iowa City. This includes putting out grain, fodder, salt licks, fruit, vegetables, nuts, hay or other edible materials (including bird feed), which may be reasonably expected to result in deer feeding.

i For more information, including the City's Annual Deer Management Reports, visit icgov.org/Deer.



Sample Utility Insert, May 2025

DEER DEPREDATION

The 2019-2024 Deer Management Plan included one year of professional sharpshooting and a bow hunt in years 2020 through 2024. The new 5-Year Deer Management Plan approved by the NRC and adopted by City Council in July 2024 includes annual urban bow hunts over the next five years, in addition to one possible professional sharpshoot subject to NRC approval between 2026 and 2029. A summary of recent deer depredation efforts can be seen below.

Deer Harvest Summary by Year				
Year	Hunters Participating	Tags Purchased	Buck Incentive Earned	Deer Harvested
2019 – 2020 Sharpshooting	n/a	n/a	n/a	500
2020 – 2021 Urban Bow Hunt	5	14	0	3
2021 – 2022 Urban Bow Hunt	5	15	1	4
2022 – 2023 Urban Bow Hunt	12	46	6	29
2023 – 2024 Urban Bow Hunt	16	51	7	32
2024 – 2025 Urban Bow Hunt	20	67	10	44
2025 – 2026 Urban Bow Hunt	22	107	11	62

2019 – 2024 Deer Management Plan

The City contracted with White Buffalo Inc., a wildlife management organization, to conduct the 2019-2020 professional sharpshooting deer cull. Around 500 deer were harvested, and the meat was tested for safety by the DNR, then processed and donated to local food banks.

The sharpshoot was followed by four years of urban bow hunts, during which the City worked to increase the number of deer harvested each year. During the first two years, the hunt struggled to gain traction with only 7 deer harvested in total, all on private property. After limited success, the City made rule changes to promote participation based on recommendations by DNR staff.

The next two years saw increased success with 29 deer harvested in the 2022-2023 season and 32 deer harvested in the 2023-2024 season. To increase momentum, the City enhanced outreach based on DNR feedback and best practices. These included inviting private property owners in key areas to participate and connecting them with approved hunters, while also collaborating with a local outfitter to promote the hunt. The City also adopted a process to allow hunting on specified public lands. The first public property on which hunting was allowed was Sand Prairie Park (1150 Covered Wagon Drive) for the 2023-2024 season.

2024 – 2025 Urban Bow Hunt

In total, 20 hunters harvested 44 deer during the 2024-2025 bow hunt season. This increase was driven in part by expanding hunting opportunities on public property prior to the season. Council added four public properties to the hunt and approved hunting at City Park, the Ned Ashton house, and land maintained for flood mitigation, subject to additional restrictions due to heavy public usage. The City also provided targeted outreach to residents of the Manville Heights neighborhood and revised rules to expand eligibility for hunting on private property by removing a limit on the number of property line waivers allowed for a single property.

2025 – 2026 Urban Bow Hunt

Prior to the season, City Council again expanded hunting opportunities on public property. In addition to previously authorized properties, Council added property west of Shannon Drive and allowed hunting at Ryerson Woods, Peninsula Park, and Scott Park, and the Hickory Hill Park expansion. A full list of public properties that allow hunting is included as Appendix 2.

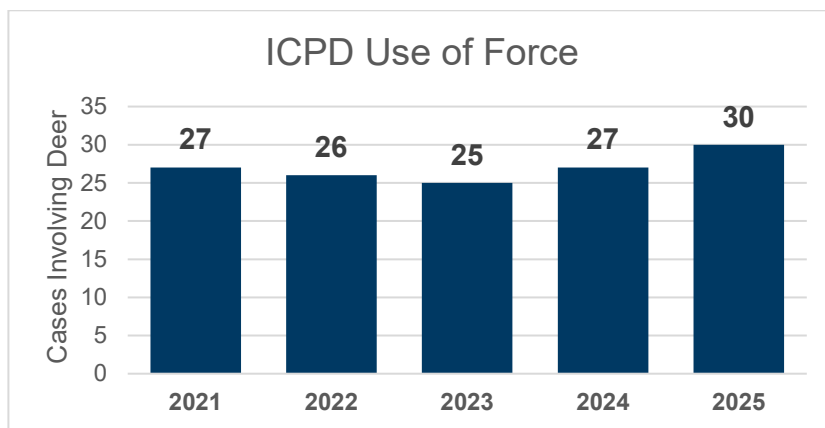
Iowa City's bow hunt season began on September 20, 2025, and ended January 10, 2026. Two minor changes to the hunt rules were implemented this year: the hunter application deadline was removed and the number of tags that can be issued at a time was increased from 3 to 5.

Overall, 22 hunters harvested deer in the hunt. All approved hunters held a valid DNR hunting license, completed the required qualifications at Fin & Feather (a local outdoor recreation store), and appropriately registered their qualifications and hunt locations with the City. A total of 107 tags were purchased, 97 of which were for antlerless deer. In total, 62 deer were harvested during the hunt, 9 of which were on public property and a few of which were facilitated by separation distance waivers with public property. 11 hunters harvested 3 or more does and earned buck incentive tags, which makes them eligible for a buck tag for the 2026-2027 urban bow hunt season. A full report of the number of deer harvested by hunter is available in Appendix 3.

Continued policy evolution, the use of public land, and the continued voluntary participation of large private property owners resulted in a higher number of deer harvested. The City received no complaints from residents about the bow hunt and no reporting violations occurred. The City continues to recognize the importance of expanding the use of public lands for the 2026-2027 bow hunt following the process set by City Council as participation by private property owners could change from year to year.

Iowa City Police Department Use-of-Force on Deer

In addition to deer depredation through the bow hunt, the Iowa City Police Department (ICPD) are also called out to respond to incidents involving incapacitated or injured deer. When a response results in the humane dispatch of deer, this is considered a use of force and is captured in the ICPD statistics. The following chart shows ICPD use of force incidents related to deer back to 2021.



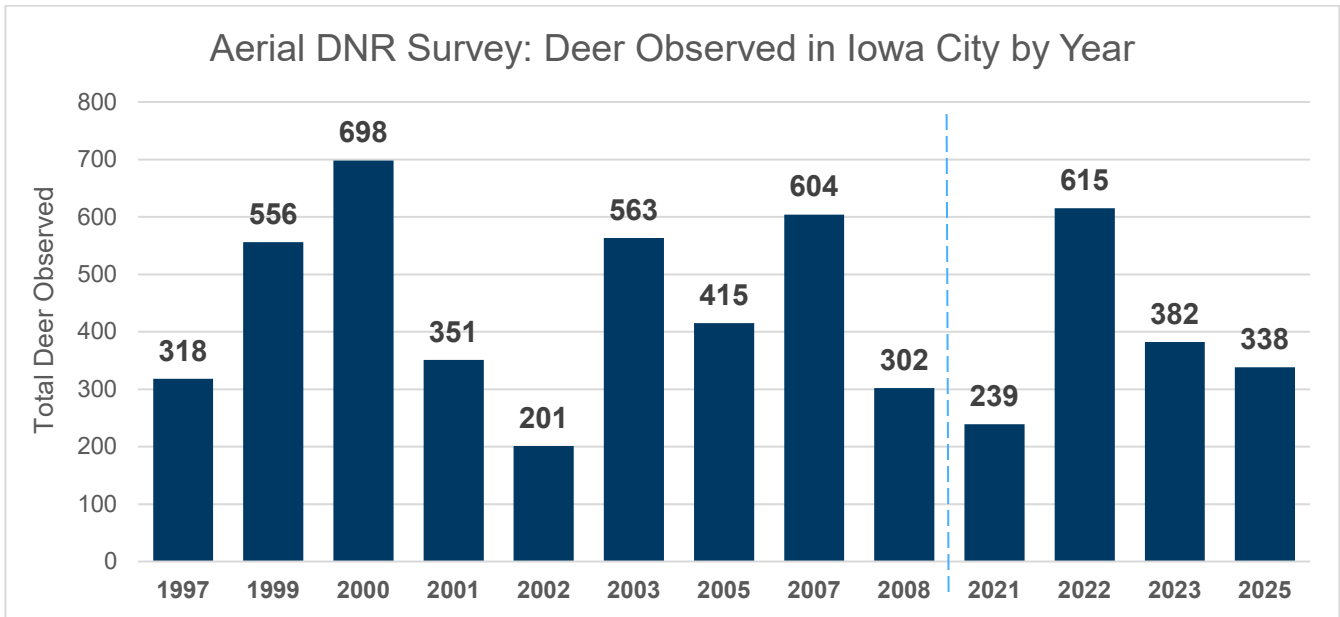
AERIAL DEER SURVEYS

When conditions allow, the City conducts an aerial survey each year in conjunction with the DNR to determine deer population and density. Because weather conditions in 2024 did not allow for an aerial helicopter deer survey and the NRC requested the City to provide additional data, the City began utilizing alternative survey methods to prevent reliance on a single source of data and provide another methodology to identify deer trends. For 2026, this included a drone survey of areas with a high number of deer-related complaints for the second year.

Aerial DNR Survey

The Iowa DNR was unable to conduct an aerial deer survey in Iowa City for 2026 due to uncondusive weather conditions. The most current data is from February 20, 2025, at which time a helicopter deer survey observed 338 deer in all zones. Deer density estimates are provided by zone on the next page, with several zones exceeding the City’s targeted deer population density of 25 deer per square mile. The areas with the highest deer densities tend to be on the north side of Iowa City.

DNR staff cautions that observed trends in deer numbers over a long time is the best datapoint while deer concentration numbers are a less reliable measure. This is because aerial surveys provide a snapshot of population levels, but a variety of factors influence the day-to-day movement of deer throughout an area. Variance in numbers from aerial surveys year to year can be due to variables such as weather, food availability, days of snow cover, or other factors. As a result, this survey is most valuable for studying population trends over time, but it is not a perfect measure as achieving comparable conditions over multiple years is unlikely.



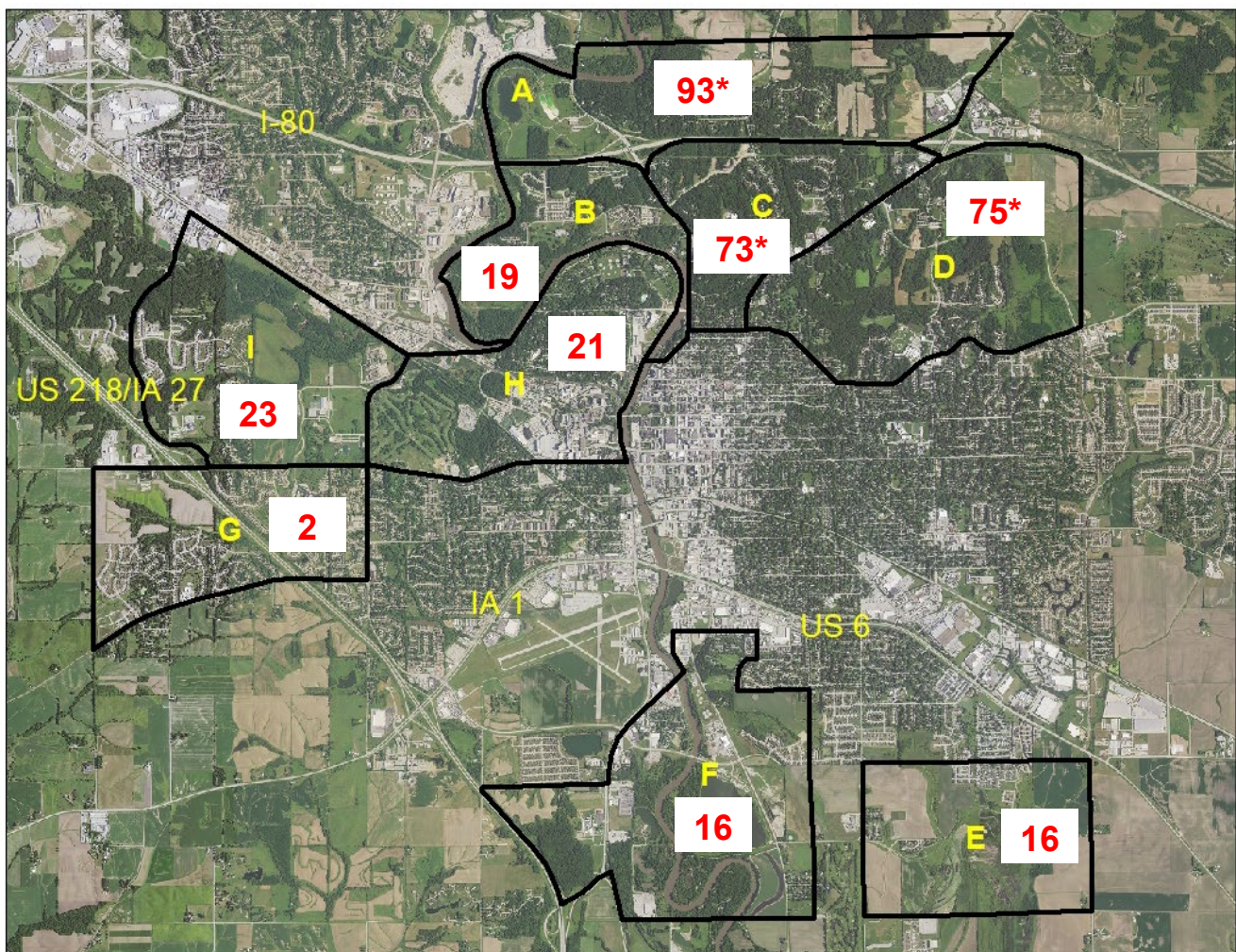
Note: Professional sharpshooting to manage deer occurred in 2000 – 2009 and ceased in 2010. One year of professional sharpshooting was again completed in 2020 and culled approximately 500 deer.

Iowa City Aerial Surveys and Deer Observed

Zone	Acres	Sq Miles	1997	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2005	2007	2008	2021	2022	2023	2025
A	1,398	2.18	37	60	74	64	29	76	71	170	80	15	180	72	93*
B	669	1.05	69	154	81	33	30	30	19	5	2	3	20	9	19
C	808	1.26	78	90	99	39	36	60	43	46	33	30	87	125	73*
D	1,489	2.33	65	127	140	38	25	100	88	65	36	103	130		75*
E	958	1.50	0	0	7	12	0	12	9	41	19	21	79	49	16
F	1,594	2.49	11	15	48	42	15	74	65	80	32	19	66	30	16
G	993	1.55	3	0	4	0	0	0	5	43	35	13	4	6	2
H	1,187	1.85	6	31	48	24	23	42	6	53	26	20	24	58	21
I	1,239	1.94	49	79	197	99	43	169	109	101	39	15	25	33	23
Total			318	556	698	351	201	563	415	604	302	239	615	382	338

* Zone is over the target density of 25 deer per square mile.

2025 Iowa City Aerial Survey Zone Map (with number of deer observed added in RED)

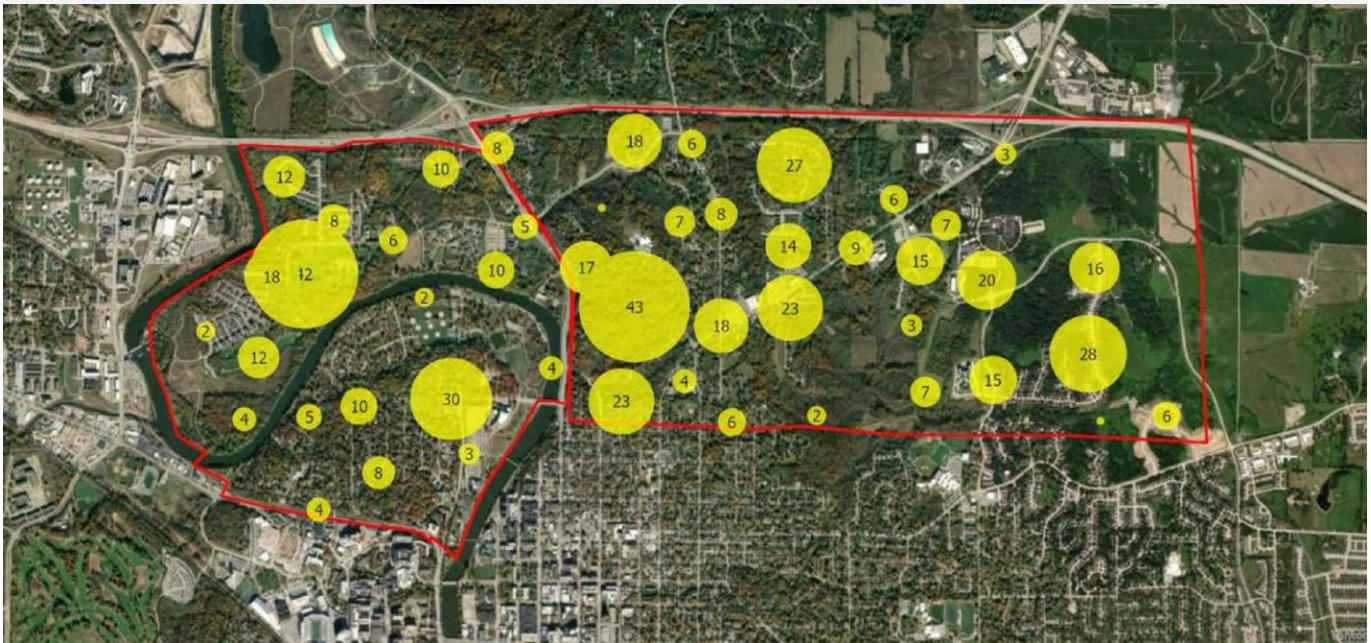


Targeted Aerial Drone Survey

From February 11 through February 12, the City contracted with White Buffalo, Inc. to conduct an aerial drone survey for northern Iowa City, which experiences the most deer-related issues. The survey used infrared and visual confirmation to identify 556 deer across the 4.8 square mile survey area, an increase of 16% from the 480 counted in 2025. The study area and cluster map of all deer count locations are shown in the following map.

556 deer
in 4.8 mile area
per Targeted Aerial
Drone Survey

2026 Targeted Aerial Drone Survey Results



While the density of deer across the study area varied, the overall density was approximately 116 deer per square mile, which is approaching five times the 25 deer per square mile target set by the City's Deer Management Plan. The full drone survey report is available on the City's website at www.icgov.org/deer.

The 556 deer identified during the drone survey in northern Iowa City is 16% higher than the 480 counted last year and significantly more than the deer counted City-wide during the most recent helicopter survey. This discrepancy may be due to the advantages drones can have over helicopters, such as the ability to fly lower and slower which can allow for more precise observations. However, to accurately track population trends over time, conducting surveys using the same methodology across multiple years is recommended as a single year's data only provides a snapshot of the population. This marks the second year Iowa City has utilized drone surveys to supplement helicopter survey data.

Based on available survey data, the portion of the City that experiences the highest rate of deer-related complaints, i.e. northern Iowa City, has a deer population well above the City's target deer population. This corroborates what the City hears from its residents and can help the City focus additional hunting efforts where it will be most effective. The City will also continue exploring other methods of tracking deer populations in collaboration with DNR staff.

ANALYSIS & NEXT STEPS

The City of Iowa City adopted its second 5-Year Deer Management Plan in 2024 to control the deer population through a mix of lethal and non-lethal interventions. Since then, the City has continued to provide education and expand its urban bow hunt program which includes increased outreach to property owners and hunters, streamlined rules, and the addition of public lands that help reduce reliance on private property access. As a result, the bow hunt harvested a record number of deer as the program has matured. However, on-the-ground observations and operational interactions with deer suggest that the bow hunt alone is currently not sufficient to reduce deer density to the City's adopted target.

Drone and helicopter surveys confirm sustained high concentrations in north and northeast Iowa City. Furthermore, City interactions with deer and the drone survey suggest an increasing trend, despite higher levels of hunter activity during the 2025-2026 season. As deer population levels increase, deer appear to be redistributing into denser residential neighborhoods along creek beds where a safe archery harvest is not possible. Residents continue to report significant concerns relating to deer, including traffic hazards, Lyme's disease, landscaping and property damage, and personal safety.

The adopted plan anticipated that a significant population reduction may be necessary to reach a sustainable density that can then be maintained through the bow hunt. Professional sharpshooting during the winter of 2026-2027 would provide a controlled, targeted reduction which is especially valuable in areas unsuitable for archery harvest. The goal is to reset herd density to a manageable level and allow the now-established urban bow hunt program to serve as the long-term maintenance strategy.

To that end, the City is requesting authorization for a professional sharpshoot during the winter of 2026-2027, after the City's bow hunt season. Approval will help advance the objectives of the 5-Year Deer Management Plan while improving herd health and reducing the significant impacts residents currently face. The City is initiating a hunter feedback survey to ensure the success of future bow hunting by understanding and mitigating potential impacts of a sharpshoot should it be approved.



Photo of backyard by resident of 12 Bella Vista PI

APPENDIX 1: VEHICLE DEER COLLISIONS

2025 Vehicle-Deer Collisions		
Date	Location of Deer Collision	Total Estimated Damage
1/3/2025	FOSTER RD	\$2,500
1/6/2025	UNLISTED	\$3,000
1/15/2025	GILBERT ST AND MCCOLLISTER BLVD	\$2,000
3/25/2025	1275 HWY 1 W	\$6,000
3/27/2025	IA 1 S	\$5,000
4/2/2025	1100 N DUBUQUE ST	\$500
4/20/2025	US 218 S	\$7,000
4/25/2025	I 80 E	\$5,000
5/13/2025	US 6 E	\$10,000
5/15/2025	US 218 N	\$5,000
5/15/2025	US 218 S	\$5,000
6/4/2025	US 218 S	\$1,500
6/5/2025	2600 N SCOTT BLVD	\$2,000
6/20/2025	US 6 E	\$10,000
6/20/2025	RAMP W 66, N TO N TO STATE OF IOWA, I 80 W	\$1,700
6/21/2025	US 218 N	\$3,000
6/23/2025	I80	Unlisted
6/26/2025	US 218 S	\$3,000
7/13/2025	I 80 E	\$2,000
7/13/2025	I 80 E	\$4,000
8/5/2025	RAMP I 80 W TO W 66, N	\$10,000
8/27/2025	I 80 W/244	\$5,000
9/4/2025	US 218 N	\$10,000
9/18/2025	US 218 S	\$5,000
10/4/2025	IA 1 S	\$1,500
10/17/2025	US 218 N	\$5,500
10/22/2025	N DODGE ST/RONALDS ST	\$3,000
11/3/2025	US 6 W	\$1,501
11/4/2025	ROCHESTER AVE	\$4,500
11/10/2025	MIDDLEBURY RD AND SCOTT BLVD	\$8,000
11/10/2025	US 218 S/ MM92	\$5,000
11/14/2025	IA 1 N	\$1,500
11/14/2025	SCOTT BOULEVARD/LOWER WEST BRANCH ROAD	\$500
11/14/2025	1300 N DODGE ST	\$1,500
11/18/2025	S SCOTT BLVD/E WASHINGTON ST	\$1,700

Source: Iowa City Police Department

APPENDIX 2: 2025-2026 BOW HUNT ELIGIBLE PUBLIC PROPERTIES

Address/Description	Parcel Number(s)	Date Approved
1150 Covered Wagon Drive	1022402001	Sept. 5, 2023
2510 N Dodge Street	0736327001	July 18, 2024
2099 Bristol Drive	0735355001	July 18, 2024
101 McCollister Boulevard	1022353001 & 1027226001	July 18, 2024
Sycamore Greenway south of Lehman Avenue	1026403002, 1026403001, 1025326003, 1025326004, 1025326005, 1025351003, & 1026476009	July 18, 2024
820 Park Road* (i.e. Ned Ashton House)	1004376002, 1004376004, 1004377002, 1004377004, 1004377005, 1004377008, 1004377009, 1004377010, 1004378001, & 1004378002	Oct. 10, 2024
200 Park Road* (i.e. City Park)	1003351001, 1004403001, 1004403002, 1004403003, 1004403004, 1004403005, 1004403006, 1004404001, 1004478001, 1004478002, 1004478003, 1004478004, & 1004476001	Oct. 10, 2024
West of Shannon Drive	1018432001	July 24, 2025
Ryerson Woods	1028426002	July 24, 2025
Hickory Hill Park Expansion	1002477001	July 24, 2025
Peninsula Park	1004351003, 1004351004, & 1005477001	July 24, 2025
Scott Park	0918233001	July 24, 2025
Total		

* Subject to additional restrictions due to high public usage

APPENDIX 3: 2025-2026 URBAN BOW HUNT HARVEST RESULTS BY HUNTER

DNR #	Doe	Button Buck	Buck	Total Harvest
866190879	3	1	0	4
712186386	1	0	0	1
3083128	3	0	0	3
1738095	3	0	0	3
2672145 - 455268	3	0	1	4
9583300938	2	0	0	2
2617694	0	0	1	1
1000277157	1	0	0	1
1000406124	6	1	1	8
1000333634	4	0	1	5
1000389712	3	2	1	6
61654539	5	0	1	6
381594928	1	0	0	1
626058457	1	0	0	1
851616581	1	0	0	1
314137100	1	0	0	1
4477345	1	0	0	1
378828859	0	1	0	1
4446548	2	1	0	3
74814468	3	0	0	3
933908929	3	0	0	3
553514425	3	0	0	3
Total harvested:	50	6	6	62

Source: Iowa City Police Department

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission**

Information Item

9. Construction - Small Projects

The following Engineering managed projects:

Bid Date	Project No.	Location	County	Summary	Cost Estimate	Bids
4/23/26	26-05-64-01	HENDRICKSON MARSH	MARSHALL	LAKE ENHANCEMENTS This project consists of retrofitting the existing water control structure with stoplog bays; and, install of a fish exclusion barrier and hand rail.	\$126,500	\$90,000.00 \$111,650.00 \$159,000.00
4/2/26	25-02-77-04	BIG CREEK STATE PARK	POLK	SHELTER AND RESTROOM DEMOLITIONS This project consists of demolishing two restrooms, one picnic shelter, and one picnic shelter slab.	\$70,000	\$22,000.00 \$23,690.00 \$24,500.00 \$29,000.00 \$43,232.00 \$48,140.00 \$49,000.00 \$49,955.00 \$51,900.00 \$59,500.00 \$67,250.00 \$68,540.00 \$70,000.00 \$97,219.96

Travis Baker, Land and Waters Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting Date: May 14, 2026

Engineering Project #: 26-01-30-06
Cost Estimate: \$357,325.00
Operating Bureau: Wildlife
Funding Source: 100% Lakes Restoration
Bid Letting Date: 04/23/2026
Construction Completion Date: 10/01/2026
Number of Bids Received: 17

Bidders

Bedrock Gravel, Inc	Schleswig, IA	\$273,625.00
Anderson Drainage & Excavation LLC	Humboldt, IA	\$275,225.00
Midwest Concrete & Excavating LLC	Letcher, SD	\$275,713.00
Marlin Concrete LLC	West Okoboji, IA	\$282,505.00
Gerhold Construction LLC	Columbus, NE	\$283,932.70
Laubenthal Excavation	Bradgate, IA	\$301,568.46
Diamond Concrete & Construction, Inc	Spirit Lake, IA	\$315,984.97
Healy Excavation	Lake View, IA	\$321,060.00
Leroy & Sons, Inc.	Arcadia, IA	\$322,295.00
Aaron Crane Construction LLC	Manchester, IA	\$340,588.00
JB Holland Construction Inc	Decorah, IA	\$353,435.00
Minnesota Native Landscapes Inc	Otsego, IA	\$354,946.35
Cole Excavating LLC	Greene, IA	\$365,859.00
Three Oaks Construction Inc	North Sioux City, SD	\$380,185.00
Mega Inc	Ocheyedan, IA	\$401,508.50
Dornbier Inc	Wesley, IA	\$436,867.40
H Johnson Services LLC	Creston, IA	\$446,615.00

Upon Engineering's review of bids, DNR recommends awarding the contract to Bedrock Gravel, Inc.

10.2 Swan Lake State Park, Draw Down Structure – Carroll County

The Department requests Commission approval of the following construction project:

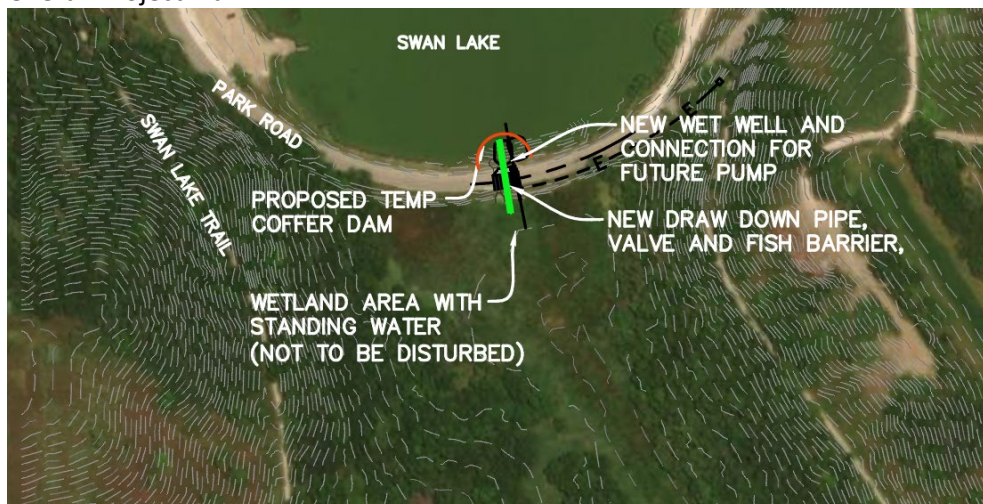
Project Background: Swan Lake State Park is managed by the Carroll County Conservation Board and encompasses a 510-acre multi-use recreation area, including a 110-acre lake. The property was acquired by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources in 1933. The lake is surrounded by wooded areas that provide habitat for white-tailed deer, wild turkey, small mammals, and a variety of birds, making the park a popular destination for wildlife viewing.

The lake has experienced ongoing issues with excessive aquatic vegetation and algae growth. As part of the long-term management plan, local biologists propose drawing down the lake by approximately 4 feet every 5–10 years. This controlled drawdown encourages the growth of emergent macrophytes and enhances overall biodiversity. The most recent drawdown, completed in 2014, required six months of continuous monitoring and maintenance of a diesel-powered pumping system.

Design Summary: The proposed project involves the installation of a wet well and drawdown valve adjacent to the existing spillway. To facilitate future drawdowns, an electric service line will be installed to power an electric pump. Due to grade constraints, the valve and outlet pipe will be installed at a depth of 2 feet. All work will be completed using a temporary cofferdam, allowing us to maintain the current lake level throughout the process.

This configuration will allow future drawdowns to be accomplished through a combination of gravity and pumping. The new system will significantly reduce staff time requirements and maintenance costs compared to the diesel pumping system used in previous drawdowns.

Overall Project Plan:



Engineering Project #: 23-02-14-01

Cost Estimate: \$130,000

Operating Bureau: Parks, Forests and Preserves

Funding Source: 100% Lake Restoration

Bid Letting Date: 04/23/2026

Construction Completion Date: 09/30/2026

Number of Bids Received: 3

Bidders

Lejas Corporation	Tempe, AZ	\$186,138.00
Peterson Contractors, Inc	Reinbeck, IA	\$234,874.00
High Plains Structural Group	Lincoln, NE	\$413,829.00

Upon Engineering's review of bids, DNR recommends awarding the contract to Lejas Corporation.

10.3 George Wyth State Park, Office and Shop Building – Black Hawk County

The Department requests Commission approval of the following construction project:

Project Background: George Wyth State Park offers Waterloo and Cedar Falls residents an urban escape into the Iowa outdoors. The park is situated within the city limits of Waterloo and hosts hundreds of local and visiting guests daily. Park amenities and activities include: Bird watching, hiking trails, playgrounds, a swimming beach, boating and fishing, rentable shelters, rentable campsites and campground, and restrooms and showering facilities. Over 500,000 people visit the park each year.

The current Park Office and shop buildings need replacement. Constructed in the 1950's and 60's, the existing buildings are outdated, costly to maintain, and near the end of their service life. The Park Office grounds, entry, and site need improvement to be more organized, functional, and appealing for staff and guests.

Design Summary: This project involves the removal of existing buildings and the construction of a new office with an attached 5-bay shop building. The scope of work includes earthwork, paving, site utilities, and related incidental tasks.

The building construction features concrete slab floors and foundations, wood-framed walls and roofing, exterior sheet metal cladding, gutters, windows, and doors. Interior work includes finishes, shop heating and ventilation, office HVAC, plumbing, electrical systems, communication cabling, and fire alarm systems.

Sitework entails the demolition of existing structures and concrete pads, site grading, new paving, and the relocation of a fuel tank, security gate, and signage. Additionally, the project includes utility modifications and the installation of a new flagpole.

Engineering Project #: 24-03-07-01

Cost Estimate: \$1,430,677

Operating Bureau: Parks, Forests and Preserves

Funding Source: Funding Source: 85% Park Infrastructure / 15% Coast Guard

Bid Letting Date: 04/23/2026

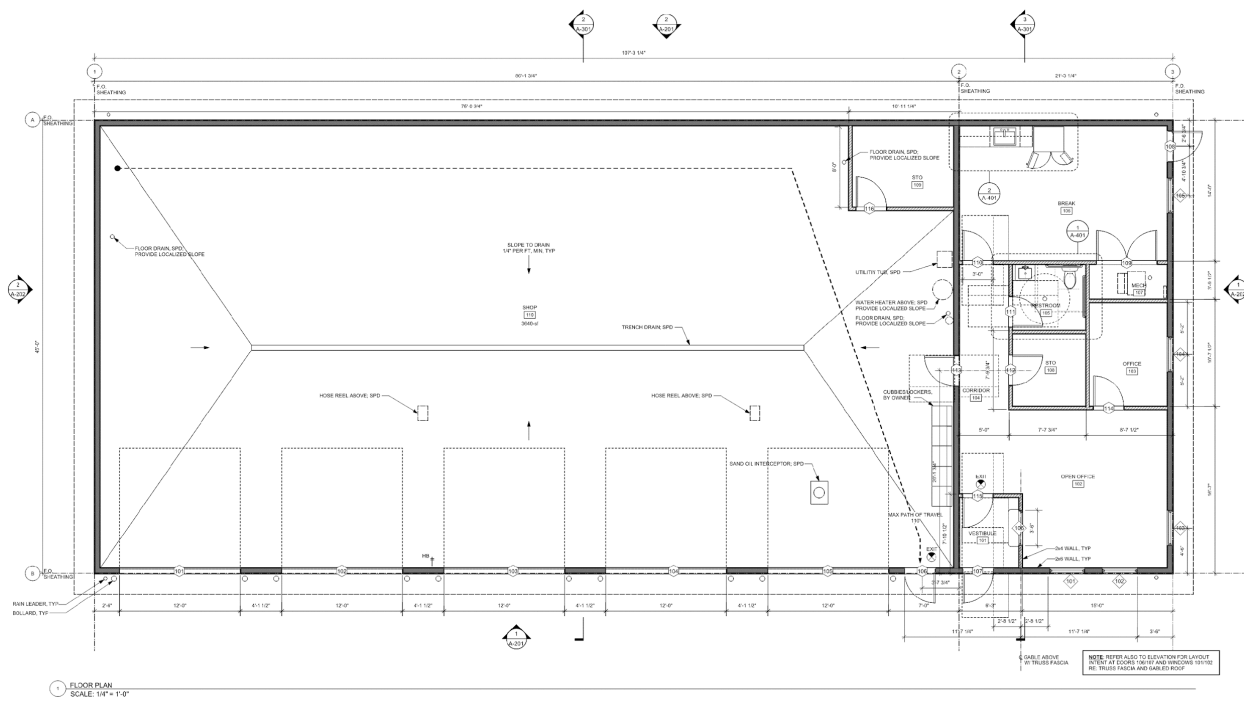
Construction Completion Date: 02/28/2027

Number of Bids Received: 7

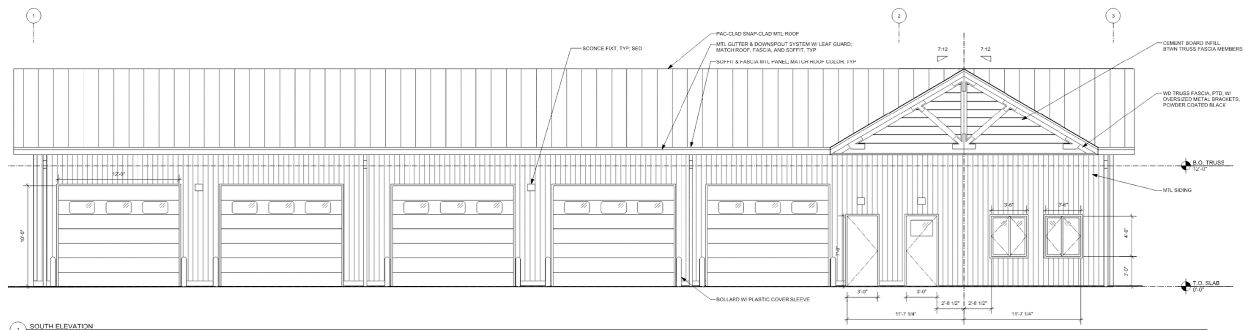
Bidders

Matt Construction Inc	Sumner IA	\$948,313.87
Steege Construction, Inc	Waverly IA	\$959,583.00
Peters Construction Corporation	Waterloo IA	\$997,887.00
Cardinal Construction	Waterloo IA	\$1,054,293.00
Rice Companies, Inc	Cedar Falls IA	\$1,148,217.00
Huff Contracting, Inc	Waterloo IA	\$1,151,658.45
N.B. Koch General Contractors	Cedar Falls IA	\$1,187,100.00

Upon Engineering's review of bids, DNR recommends awarding the contract to Matt Construction Inc.



2 NORTH ELEVATION
SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"



Travis Baker, Land & Waters Bureau Chief
 Conservation and Recreation Division
 May 14, 2026

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission

Decision Item

11. **Contract with the Lyon County Conservation Board (Lake Pahoja Recreation Area)**

Commission approval is requested for a contract with the Lyon County Conservation Board, Inwood, IA.

Contract Terms:

Amount: Not to exceed \$114,952.50

Dates: May 14, 2026 – March 31, 2027

DNR shall have the option to extend this Contract for up to six years from the beginning date of the original contract by executing a signed amendment prior to the expiration of this Contract.

Funding Source(s): Lake Restoration Program

Background: Lake Pahoja is a 64-acre lake constructed in the 1970s and surrounded by a 300-acre recreation area, which offers fishing, camping, paddling, hunting, swimming, and is home to the Lyon County Conservation Board (LCCB) nature center. The lake is a locally important destination for recreation, drawing over 18,000 visitors annually.

Lake Pahoja has a 3,877-acre watershed that is predominantly row-crop agriculture (lake to watershed ratio of 59:1). The lake is currently listed on Iowa's Impaired Waters List due to poor water quality attributed to elevated levels of indicator bacteria (*E. coli*). In the past, the lake has also been impaired for excessive algae growth (chlorophyll-a) and high pH (>9). A TMDL and Water Quality Improvement Plan were completed in 2016, but the lake continues to struggle with algae blooms and poor water quality, which impact recreation and the quality of the fishery.

The lake has a maximum depth of 26 feet and a mean depth of 9.3 feet, but 15% (118.5 ac ft) of the lake's volume was lost over the course of 13 years (2007 to 2020), due to sedimentation. Managers suspect that the lake periodically mixes during intense rain or wind events, releasing phosphorus from the hypolimnion and causing subsequent algae blooms following brief periods of stratification, particularly in the hot summer months. In September of 2012, the lake experienced a multi-week fish kill, presumably caused by low dissolved oxygen concentrations and high levels of ammonia, associated with fall turnover. LCCB and DNR need assistance assessing the feasibility and longevity of potential restoration practices for Lake Pahoja and its watershed.

Contract Purpose: The purpose of this agreement is to work with the LCCB to hire a qualified engineering firm to complete a diagnostic and feasibility study and assess the viability of lake restoration practices to improve water quality, infrastructure, habitat, and recreational opportunities at Lake Pahoja. This study will include an assessment of current conditions in the lake and watershed, a cost-benefit analysis, and preliminary engineering design for recommended restoration practices.

Budget:

DNR Contribution	\$ 114,952.50
Lyon County Conservation Board Contribution	\$ 32,317.50
Total budget	\$ 147,270.00

Anticipated Future Work: The DNR and LCCB intend to partner on a comprehensive restoration plan to improve water quality and recreational opportunities at Lake Pahoja Recreation Area. Total anticipated costs for restoration construction is \$4-5 million, and will likely include a combination of targeted dredging, shoreline restoration, dam and outlet upgrades, stormwater management, wetland and pond restoration, and fish habitat improvements.

Selection Process Summary: Intergovernmental contracting with the LCCB is authorized under 11 IAC 118.4.

Travis Baker, Land & Waters Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting Date: May 14th, 2026

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission

Decision Item

12. Contract Amendment with Shive-Hattery (Wastewater Facility Design)

Commission approval is requested for a service contract amendment with Shive-Hattery Inc, of West Des Moines, IA.

Amendment Number 2 to CONTRACT 25CRDLWBGANTO-0013

Terms:

Amendment Amount: \$55,800.00

Amendment Dates: May 14, 2026 to July 31, 2029

Funding Source(s): Parks Infrastructure.

Amendment Purpose:

Changes in scope and fee related to services needed to address project design requirements identified during design development.

- Analysis during the Facility Plan stage identified that the lagoons were not achieving the expected treatment levels for ammonia treatment. The added scope includes evaluation and design of aeration alternatives, integration with current lagoon, electrical and control considerations, and updates to the plans, specifications, and cost opinions.
- Based on the historical flowrates we needed to increase the design flows for the Lacey-Keosauqua lagoon system, which will require an increase in lagoon size. This requires additional engineering design regarding lagoon sizing and configuration, grading, lagoon piping elevations, lagoon structure elevations, and lagoon sludge removal specifications.
- Based on feedback received from park staff regarding difficulties with sample collection and operation, additional effort will be required during final design and preparation of construction documents to design new sampling and flow metering locations at each state park. This work includes revising layouts and developing details.

Original Contract Purpose:

Volga, Wapello, Lacey-Keosauqua and Ledges State Parks each have their own wastewater treatment systems that need renovation to meet their new NPDES permit discharge limits. Shive-Hattery was hired to prepare final designs, including drawings, specifications and cost estimates. The firm is responsible for all aspects of design, from developing the facility plans through the construction bidding process, and will be retained to provide construction administration support during the construction process.

Original Selection Process:

The Department solicited proposals from targeted small businesses and published a request of proposals (RFP) on the Department of Administrative Services website. Commission approved contracting with Shive-Hattery on March 13, 2025.

Contract History:

Original Contract Terms: Amount \$ 254,500.00; Timeframe: March 17, 2025 to February 28, 2028

Amendment 1; Terms: Amount: \$19,100.00; Timeframe: September 19, 2025 to July 31, 2029;

Purpose: Additional analysis and revisions to the conceptual plan

Travis Baker, Land and Waters Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting Date: May 14, 2026

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission

Decision Item

13. Contract Amendment with Shive-Hattery, Inc. (Springbrook Slide Geotech and Design)

Commission approval is requested for a service contract amendment with Shive-Hattery, Inc. of West Des Moines, IA.

Amendment Number 1 to Contract 25CRDLWBMALDR-0001

Terms:

Amendment Amount: \$133,100

Amendment Dates: April 28, 2026 to November 1, 2027

Funding Source(s): Parks and Institutional Roads Fund

Amendment Purpose:

Per the initial Request for Proposals and resulting original contract, the Department retained the right to move forward with services related to implementation of Phase 2, developing final design and related construction documents that efficiently stabilize the damage. The Department decided that it is in best interest of the Department to proceed with Phase 2.

Original Contract Purpose: Shive-Hattery, Inc. provided a certified Geotechnical Investigative Report (GIR) of the site assessing current slope stability, results of soil testing, possible cause of roadway failure, risk of future slides at the site, short (~5 years) and long (>15 years) term recommendations.

Original Selection Process: The Department solicited proposals from targeted small businesses and also published a request of proposals (RFP) on the Department of Administrative Services website.

Contract History:

Original Contract Terms: Amount \$51,500; Timeframe: September 2, 2025 to August 31, 2026

Amendment-1 Terms: Amount \$133,100; Timeframe: April 28, 2026 to November 1, 2027

Purpose: Proceed with Phase 2 and contract to develop final design and related construction documents that efficiently stabilize the damage.

Travis Baker, Land and Waters Bureau Chief

Conservation and Recreation Division

NRC Meeting Date: May 14, 2026

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission**

Decision Item

14. Contract with Shive-Hattery, Inc. (Red Rock WMA, OK Hill Rd Bridge Replacement)

Commission approval is requested for a service contract with Shive-Hattery, Inc, of West Des Moines, IA.

Contract Terms:

Amount: Not to exceed \$82,350

Dates: June 1, 2026 to December 1, 2027

Funding Source(s): Parks and Institutional Roads Fund

Contract Background: The DNR Seeks to Purchase: Engineering services from a qualified engineering consulting firm for the design of a bridge replacement project at the Red Rock Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in Marion County.

Contract Purpose: The Red Rock WMA is a 31,041-acre area located approximately 45 miles SE of the Des Moines metro area, and comprised of ¼ marsh and lake, ¼ timber and ½ upland. This diverse area provides habitat for deer, squirrel, pheasant, waterfowl and dove. Red Rock WMA provides access for hiking, bird watching, fishing, hunting and nature enthusiasts as well as access to boat ramps and parking areas for numerous activities.

The bridge scheduled for replacement, was constructed prior to the development of Red Rock Lake in the 1960s, is located on the OK Hill Road and serves as an access to a boat ramp. The bridge is also used by heavy vehicles with trailers and construction equipment for maintenance purposes. The 24'x30' Reinforced Concrete Beam Bridge needs to be replaced due to observed structural deficiencies.

Proposals for the design of the structure were received on April 15, 2026 and scored on April 27, 2026.

Selection Process Summary: The department solicited proposals from targeted small businesses and published a Request for Proposals (RFP) on the Department of Administrative Services website.

Proposal Due Date: April 15, 2026

Scoring Criteria: Proposals were scored based on the criteria as described in the RFP, which included their ability to complete the scope of work within the desired timeline, comprehensive work plan, description and quality of previous and applicable work experience, and cost.

Proposals Received: 4

Recommendation: Shive-Hattery, Inc.

Consultant	Location (City, State)	Total Score (100 pts)	Cost
Shive-Hattery, Inc.	West Des Moines, IA	85	\$82,350
Foth IE	Des Moines, IA	78	\$103,000
Olsson, Inc.	Des Moines, IA	78	\$59,600
Snyder & Assoc, Inc.	Ankeny, IA	70	\$189,500

Travis Baker, Land and Waters Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting Date: May 14, 2026

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission**

Decision Item

15. Chapter 30 - Waters Cost-Share and Grants Program, Low-Head Dam Public Hazard Grant Recommendations

The Commission is requested to approve the following grant recommendation pursuant to Chapter 30, Waters Cost-share and Grants Programs.

Grant Purpose: The purpose of the Low-Head Dam Public Hazard Program is to reduce drowning hazards and promote fish passage on Iowa's navigable rivers. Eligible applicants include any owner of a low-head dam or a partner organization. As outlined in rule, grants are issued at least annually if funding is available. The last grants were issued in February, 2025. The project recommended for funding will overall cost \$57,400,000.

Funding Source(s): Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund (RIIF)

Grant Funding Available: \$300,000

Summary of Selection Process: As directed by criteria under Chapter 30, the grant review and selection committee scored applications and to provide recommendations for the grant award.

Number of Applications Received: 1

Selection Committee Members: The review and selection committee consisted of five members:

- Citizen stakeholders (2)
- DNR Staff (3)

Recommendations: The committee recommends funding to this project as it ranked high enough to show a high-quality project. If the highest ranked projects decline the funding, the Department requests authority to offer those funds to the next highest scored projects that meet the grant criteria or return the funds to the grant program for distribution in the next grant cycle.

DEVELOPMENT GRANT				
Ranked by Score	Grant Applicant	Project Description	Grant Amount Requested	Recommended Award
92	Iowa Confluence Water Trails	ICON Scott Avenue Dam: Construction of safety, fish passage and recreation features to replace urban dam.	\$300,000	\$300,000
DEVELOPMENT GRANT TOTALS			\$300,000	\$300,000

Travis Baker, Land and Waters Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting Date: May 14, 2026
