

Agenda

Natural Resource Commission

Thursday, June 11, 2026

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

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

Best Western Holiday Lodge

2023 7th Ave N, Clear Lake, IA 50266

Thursday, June 11, 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 the Agenda Consent Agenda: *5. Donations *12. Public Land Management Projects (12.1-12.4) *13. Publicly Owned Lakes Watershed Eligibility Program-FY27	Decision	Commission
2.	Approval of the Minutes	Decision	Commission
3.	Director's Remarks	Information	Kayla Lyon
4.	Division Administrator's Remarks	Information	Pete Hildreth
*5.	Donations	Decision	Pete Hildreth
6.	Chapter 51, "Game Management Areas" – Notice of Intended Action	Decision	Todd Bishop
7.	Proposed County Antlerless Quota Changes for the 2026-27 Seasons	Decision	Todd Bishop
8.	2025-2026 Deer Management Zone Hunts	Decision	Todd Bishop
9.	Small Construction Projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessibility Improvements at Lacey-Keosauqua State Park • Boat Ramp/ADA Improvements at Lacey-Keosauqua State Park • Wetland Restoration Project at Silver Lake Wildlife Management Area • Frog Hollow Bridge Redecking Project at Volga River Recreation Area 	Information	Travis Baker
10.	Large Construction Project-Backbone State Park, Wastewater Improvements-Delaware County	Decision	Travis Baker
11.	Public Land Acquisition Projects	Decision	Travis Baker
11.1	Saylorville WMA, Boone County – Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation		
11.2	Searryls Cave State Preserve, Jones County – Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation		
11.3	Red Rock WMA, Warren County – Alec and Stephen Pendry		
11.4	Spur Island WMA, Louisa County – The Nature Conservancy		
11.5	Heritage Hills WMA, Madison & Clarke County – Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation/Pheasants Forever		
11.6	Iowa River Corridor WMA, Iowa County – Marvel Schafbuch		
11.7	Iowa River Corridor WMA, Iowa County – Charles and Kandy Johnson, Darrel and Margaret Johnson, Elizabeth and Lawrence Thompson		
11.8	Iowa River Corridor WMA, Iowa County – Charles and Kandy Johnson, Darrel and Margaret Johnson, Elizabeth and Lawrence Thompson		

*12.	Public land Management Projects	Decision	Travis Baker
*12.1	Management Agreement – Cinder Path Recreational Trail – Wayne County Conservation Board – Wayne County		
*12.2	Management Agreement – Cinder Path Recreational Trail – Wayne CCB – Wayne County		
*12.3	Chapter 17 Lease — John and Linda Thomsen – Union County		
*12.4	Chapter 17 Lease — Interstate Power and Lights Company- Allamakee County		
*13.	Publicly Owned Lakes Watershed Eligibility Program– FY27	Decision	Travis Baker
14.	Contract with the Kossuth County Conservation Board (Smith Lake Park)	Decision	Travis Baker
15.	General Discussion		
Upcoming NRC Meeting Dates			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● July 9, Des Moines ● August 13, 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.

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**MINUTES OF THE
NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION
MEETING**

May 14, 2026

**Butch Olofson Shooting Range
111652 NW Nissen Dr, Polk City, IA, 50266 and
Teleconference**

Approved by the Commission **TBD**

RECORD COPY	
File Name	<u>Admin 01-05</u>
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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 May 14, 2026 via video/teleconference attendees.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

- Tom Prickett
- KR Buck
- Laura Kudej
- Bill Moritz
- Tammi Kircher
- Uriah Hansen (9am-11:30am)
- Collin Brecher

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

<i>Motion was made by Uriah Hansen to approve the agenda and consent agenda as presented. Seconded by KR Buck.</i>
<i>The Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the agenda by saying aye. There were no nay votes.</i>

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

ELECTION OF NRC OFFICERS

<i>Motion was made by Tammi Kircher to nominate Tom Prickett for Chair, seconded by KR Buck.</i>
<i>The Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the agenda by saying aye. There were no nay votes.</i>
<i>Motion passes.</i>
<i>Motion was made by KR Buck to nominate Uriah Hansen for Vice Chair, seconded by Tom Prickett.</i>
<i>The Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the agenda by saying aye. There were no nay votes.</i>
<i>Motion passes.</i>
<i>Motion was made by Uriah Hansen to nominate Tammi Kircher for Secretary, seconded by Collin Brecher.</i>
<i>The Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the agenda by saying aye. There were no nay votes.</i>
<i>Motion passes.</i>

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

<i>Motion was made by Tammi Kircher to approve the April 2026 meeting minutes as presented. Seconded by Laura Kudej.</i>
<i>The Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the agenda by saying aye. There were no nay votes.</i>

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

DIRECTOR’S REMARKS

- Director Lyon provided a brief legislative recap to the Commissioners, stating that the budget passed largely as status quo with an increased \$1 million designation for the derelict building program. Director Lyon highlighted several passed bills of interest including the DNR clean-up bill, which gives the authority of the Preserves Advisory Board to the Natural Resource Commission, a bill regarding tree stands on public property and beaver dam removal on private property, and a bill designating a new fee for the lifetime fur harvester license.

DIVISION ADMINISTRATOR’S REMARKS

- Division Administrator (DA) Pete Hildreth wished all meeting attendees and Commissioners a belated Happy Mother’s Day.
- DA Hildreth gave an update on the 2026 Spring Turkey season, noting that the public can track harvest through the harvest reporting system located on the DNR website.
- DA Hildreth announced that it was a record year for gillnetting for DNR Fisheries teams across the state.
- DA Hildreth gave updates on several Spring activities and work-related topics including the National R3 Symposium, the Outdoor Day at the Iowa Cubs game, the NW Iowa Cooperative Burn week, and the nonresident deer license application period. DA Hildreth concluded his remarks by thanking the Customer and Employee Services Bureau and the Licensing team for their work assisting with the nonresident deer applications.

BRASS BLUEGILL AWARD

Gus Elliott presented the Brass Bluegill Award for 2026 to Danny Adams with the Wapsi-Valley school district. Mr. Elliott outlined the work of Mr. Adams within the school district that helps promote fishing and other outdoor recreation in the state of Iowa.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments – None

INFORMATION

CONTRACT WITH INSIGHT PUBLIC SECTOR, INC.-PARKS, FORESTS, AND PRESERVES ASSET MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Andrew Place requested Commission approval for a contract with Insight Public Sector for an asset management system.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments-None

<i>Motion was made by Bill Moritz to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Uriah Hansen.</i>

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

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

2025-2026 DEER MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT FOR IOWA CITY

Kirk Lehman, Iowa City Assistant City Manager, presented their annual deer management report and requested the permission to have a sharp shoot in the winter of 2027 to assist with their deer management efforts. Mr. Lehman responded to several questions from the Commission regarding their outreach efforts to grow their bow hunter population, the data presented, hunting areas acquired, and management goals.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments-None

<i>Motion was made by Collin Brecher to approve the requested sharp shoot. Seconded by Bill Moritz.</i>

<i>The Chairperson asked for a roll call vote. Laura Kudej-no, Uriah Hansen-no, KR Buck-no, Bill Moritz-yes, Collin Brecher-no, Tammi Kircher-no, Tom Prickett-no.</i>
--

MOTION DID NOT PASS

SMALL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS: HENDRICKSON MARSH LAKE ENHANCEMENTS; SHELTER AND RESTROOM DEMOLITIONS AT BIG CREEK STATE PARK

Travis Baker presented a pair of small construction projects to the Commission as information items.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments-None

INFORMATION

LARGE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT: SPRING RUN WILDLIFE COMPLEX (REED FARM), WETLAND RESTORATION-DICKINSON CO.

Travis Baker requested Commission approval for a wetland restoration project at the Spring Run Wildlife Complex.

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

LARGE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT: SWAN LAKE STATE PARK, DRAWN DOWN STRUCTURE-CARROLL COUNTY

Travis Baker requested Commission approval for a drawn down structure project at Swan Lake State Park.

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

LARGE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT: GEORGE WYTH STATE PARK, OFFICE AND SHOP BUILDING-BLACK HAWK COUNTY

Travis Baker requested Commission approval for an office and shop building project at George Wyth State Park.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments-None

Motion was made by Collin Brecher 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

CONTRACT WITH THE LYON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD (LAKE PAHOJA RECREATION AREA)

Michelle Balmer requested Commission approval for a contract with the Lyon County Conservation Board.

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 WITH SHIVE-HATTERY (WASTEWATER FACILITY DESIGN)

George Antoniou requested Commission approval for a contract with Shive-Hattery for wastewater facility design services for Volga, Wapello, Lacey-Keosauqua, and Ledges State Parks.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments-None

Motion was made by Laura Kudej 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 WITH SHIVE-HATTERY (SPRINGBROOK SLIDE GEOTECH AND DESIGN)

George Antoniou requested Commission approval for a contract with Shive-Hattery for Springbrook slide Geotech and design services.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments-None

Motion was made by Tammi Kircher to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Collin Brecher.

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

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

CONTRACT WITH SHIVE-HATTERY (RED ROCK WMA, OK HILL RD BRIDGE REPLACEMENT)

George Antoniou requested approval for a contract with Shive-Hattery for a bridge replacement project at the Red Rock Wildlife Management Area.

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

CHAPTER 30-WATERS COST-SHARE AND GRANTS PROGRAM, LOW HEAD DAM PUBLIC HAZARD GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS

Nate Hoogeveen requested Commission approval for the grant recommendations presented for the Waters Cost-Share and Grants Program.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments-None

Motion was made by Collin Brecher 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

GENERAL DISCUSSION

- Commissioners thanked staff for the great field tour and for the April field tour.
- Commissioners shared about their upcoming Spring outdoor planned activities.
- Commissioner Kircher shared about her experience at the R3 Symposium.

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

***Item #5** (**indicates proposed consent item*)

Donations

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to approve the following donations:

Donation to:	Amount	Description	Donation Provided by:
Ledges State Park	\$1,500.00	Six new ground fire rings for Ledges State Park.	Friends of the Ledges, Inc.
Lake Macbride State Park	\$4,844.00	Labor and equipment to clean brush along Osprey Trail.	Jay Proffitt; Jay Proffitt Construction, In.
Iowa's State Parks	\$50.00	Donation to support the Iowa State Parks system.	Nancy Blow
East Okobojo Beach	\$1392. 90	Donation of a concrete bench.	Kathleen Carlson
Lake Macbride State Park	\$1,000.00	Memorial picnic bench for Lake Macbride State Park.	Dan Ochs
Lake Macbride State Park	\$600.00	Memorial tree for Lake Macbride State Park.	Irene Solomon
Big Marsh Wildlife Unit	\$2,400.00	120 units of seed corn for Big Marsh Wildlife Unit.	Eply Bros. Hybrids
Wildlife Diversity	\$32.00	Donation to the Wildlife Diversity Fund.	Shawn Blaesing
Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund	\$50.00	Donation to the Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund.	Byron Ludington
Wildlife Diversity	\$100.00	Donation to the Wildlife Diversity Fund.	Donald Bustell
Wildlife Diversity	\$50.00	Donation to the Wildlife Diversity Fund.	Kathy Wilker
State Parks	\$17,552.97	Round up donations through the Iowa State Parks Reservation System: January-May 2026.	
Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund	\$125.00	Donation to the Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund.	Barry Shaw
Wildlife Diversity	\$25.00	Donation to the Wildlife Diversity Fund (Chickadee Checkoff).	Evelyn Liles
Ledges State Park	\$50.00	Donation to Ledges State Park on behalf of the ISU Women's Club Nature Study Group.	Rebecca Coats
Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund	\$500.00	Donation to the Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund.	John Morgan
Wildlife Diversity	\$50.00	Donation to the Wildlife Diversity Fund.	Ken and Miriam Saunders

Wildlife Diversity	\$25.00	Donation to the Wildlife Diversity Fund (Chickadee Checkoff).	Joyce Franklin
Wildlife Diversity	\$50.00	Donation to the Wildlife Diversity Fund (Chickadee Checkoff).	Mark and Sheryl Hurley

Pete Hildreth, Division Administrator
Conservation and Recreation Division.
NRC Meeting Date: June 11, 2026

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission

Decision Item

6. Chapter 51, “Game Management Areas” – Notice of Intended Action

The Commission is requested to approve the Notice of Intended Action for Chapter 51.

Chapter 51 designates State-owned lands and waters under the jurisdiction of the Natural Resource Commission (Commission) as game management areas (GMAs). The proposed rulemaking defines “trail camera” and prohibits the use of trail cameras on GMAs, except when specifically authorized by permit or when used directly by the Department or its designated agents. This prohibition is consistent with the ethical hunting principle of fair chase, ensuring that a hunter does not gain an improper or unfair technological advantage over game. Furthermore, the proliferation of trail cameras has generated numerous concerns and complaints from the public. This measure will protect the recreational experience of sportsmen and sportswomen and other visitors to these wild areas.

Todd Bishop, Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation
Meeting Date: June 11, 2026

Attached: Chapter 51 - NOIA

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION[571]

Notice of Intended Action

The Natural Resource Commission (Commission) hereby proposes to amend Chapter 51, “Game Management Areas,” Iowa Administrative Code.

Legal Authority for Rule Making

This rule making is proposed under the authority provided in Iowa Code sections 481A.6 and 455A.5(6)“a.”

State or Federal Law Implemented

This rule making implements, in whole or in part, Iowa Code sections 456A.24(2)“a,” 481A.6 and 481A.39.

Purpose and Summary

Chapter 51 designates state lands and waters under the jurisdiction of the Commission as game management areas (GMAs), as authorized by Iowa Code section 481A.6. This designation helps effect sound wildlife management and preserve biological balance, both of which are required by law. To that end, Chapter 51 contains the allowable uses of GMAs. These use restrictions are established to protect the primary purpose of GMAs, which is to create and protect fish and wildlife habitat and to promote fish- and wildlife-based recreation.

The proposed rulemaking defines “trail camera” and prohibits the use of trail cameras on GMAs, except when specifically authorized by permit or when used directly by the Department or its designated agents. This prohibition is consistent with the ethical hunting principle of fair chase, ensuring that a hunter does not gain an improper or unfair technological advantage over game. Furthermore, the proliferation of trail cameras has generated numerous concerns and

complaints from the public. This measure will protect the recreational experience of sportsmen and sportswomen and other visitors to these wild areas.

Regulatory Analysis

A Regulatory Analysis for this rulemaking was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on April 29, 2026. A public hearing was held on the following date(s):

- May 19, 2026

Fiscal Impact

This rule making has no fiscal impact to the state of Iowa. There are no associated compliance costs since the proposed amendments only restrict the use of a particular piece of equipment. The only costs generated by the rules are related to education and enforcement, and those will be borne by the Department.

Jobs Impact

After analysis and review of this rule making, no impact on jobs has been found.

Waivers

Any person who believes that the application of the discretionary provisions of this rule making would result in hardship or injustice to that person may petition the Commission for a waiver of the discretionary provisions, if any, pursuant to 571-Chapter 11.

Public Comment

Any interested person may submit comments concerning this proposed rule making. Written comments in response to this rule making must be received by the Department no later than 4:30 p.m. on July 28, 2026. Comments should be directed to:

Chris Ensminger
Iowa Department of Natural Resources
6200 Park Avenue, Suite 200

Des Moines, Iowa 50321

Phone: 515.250.6886

Email: Chris.Ensminger@dnr.iowa.gov

Free language access: If you speak a non-English language, the Department offers you language assistance services free of charge. Contact the Department at Chris.Ensminger@dnr.iowa.gov.

Asistencia lingüística gratuita: Si habla un idioma que no sea el inglés, los servicios de asistencia lingüística están disponibles de forma gratuita. Comuníquese con el Departamento al Chris.Ensminger@dnr.iowa.gov.

Public Hearing

A public hearing at which persons may present their views orally or in writing will be held as follows:

July 28, 2026	6200 Park Avenue, Second Floor
1 to 2 p.m.	Des Moines, Iowa

Persons who wish to make oral comments at the public hearing may be asked to state their names for the record and to confine their remarks to the subject of this proposed rule making.

Any persons who intend to attend the hearing and have special requirements, such as those related to hearing or mobility impairments, should contact the Department and advise of specific needs.

Free language assistance: If you need assistance in a language other than English, contact the Department at Chris.Ensminger@dnr.iowa.gov or civilrights@dnr.iowa.gov or by telephone at 515.210.3408 at least seven days before the event.

Asistencia lingüística gratuita: Si necesita ayuda en un idioma que no sea inglés, comuníquese con el Departamento al Chris.Ensminger@dnr.iowa.gov o civilrights@dnr.iowa.gov o por teléfono a 515.210.3408 al menos siete días antes del evento.

Review by Administrative Rules Review Committee

The Administrative Rules Review Committee, a bipartisan legislative committee which oversees rule making by executive branch agencies, may, on its own motion or on written request by any individual or group, review this rule making at its regular monthly meeting or at a special meeting. The Committee's meetings are open to the public, and interested persons may be heard as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.8(6).

The following rule-making action is proposed:

ITEM 1. Adopt the following **new** definition of "Trail camera" in rule **571—51.1(481A)**:

"Trail camera" or *"game camera"* means any remote motion-activated or infrared camera in which the shutter is activated by sound triggers, proximity sensation, radio transmitters, or a self-timer built into the trail or game camera.

ITEM 2. Amend rule 571—51.6(481A), catchwords, as follows:

571—51.6(481A) Use of blinds, ~~and~~ decoys, and trail cameras on game management areas.

ITEM 3. Adopt the following **new** subrule 51.6(5):

51.6(5) *Trail cameras.* Trail cameras are prohibited on game management areas unless specifically authorized by permit or when used directly by the department or its designated agents.

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

Information Item

7. Proposed County Antlerless Quota Changes for the 2026-27 Seasons

The following county antlerless quota changes are proposed for the 2026-27 deer hunting seasons. Changes are proposed where population indices, wildlife bureau staff and hunter observations indicate the population is above or below goal.

County	Quota	County	Quota	County	Quota
Adair	<u>950 550</u>	Floyd	250	Monona	0
Adams	<u>500 400</u>	Franklin	100	Monroe	<u>2250 1850</u>
Allamakee	3800	Fremont	0	Montgomery	0
Appanoose	<u>2500 2300</u>	Greene	0	Muscatine	<u>1000 1100</u>
Audubon	0	Grundy	0	O'Brien	0
Benton	325	Guthrie	<u>2000 1700</u>	Osceola	0
Black Hawk	0	Hamilton	100	Page	0
Boone	500	Hancock	100	Palo Alto	0
Bremer	300	Hardin	200	Plymouth	0
Buchanan	400	Harrison	0	Pocahontas	0
Buena Vista	0	Henry	<u>1050 950</u>	Polk	<u>1200 900</u>
Butler	400	Howard	<u>450 550</u>	Pottawattamie	0
Calhoun	0	Humboldt	0	Poweshiek	<u>200 300</u>
Carroll	0	Ida	0	Ringgold	<u>1350 1250</u>
Cass	0	Iowa	450	Sac	0
Cedar	775	Jackson	1100	Scott	200
Cerro Gordo	100	Jasper	<u>400 500</u>	Shelby	0
Cherokee	0	Jefferson	<u>1500 1350</u>	Sioux	0
Chickasaw	475	Johnson	1100	Story	150
Clarke	<u>2100 1800</u>	Jones	<u>1100 1200</u>	Tama	200
Clay	0	Keokuk	<u>500 350</u>	Taylor	<u>1200 1000</u>
Clayton	4000	Kossuth	0	Union	<u>1100 800</u>
Clinton	400	Lee	1900	Van Buren	<u>2300 2100</u>
Crawford	0	Linn	1000	Wapello	<u>1500 1300</u>
Dallas	<u>1700 1500</u>	Louisa	<u>875 975</u>	Warren	<u>3000 2750</u>
Davis	<u>1900 1750</u>	Lucas	<u>2250 2050</u>	Washington	<u>1200 1000</u>

County	Quota	County	Quota	County	Quota
Decatur	2200 1900	Lyon	0	Wayne	2450 1950
Delaware	1300	Madison	3300 3000	Webster	100
Des Moines	1100 1200	Mahaska	475	Winnebago	0
Dickinson	0	Marion	2050 1800	Winneshiek	2700
Dubuque	1200	Marshall	150	Woodbury	0
Emmet	0	Mills	0	Worth	0
Fayette	2500	Mitchell	200 250	Wright	0

Proposed quotas were published on the DNR website at www.iowadnr.gov/Hunting/Deer-Hunting on June 1, 2026 as required by IAC 571-106.10(5).

Todd Bishop, Wildlife Bureau Chief
 Conservation and Recreation Division
 NRC Meeting Date: 6/11/2026

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

Decision Item

8. 2025-2026 Deer Management Zone Hunts

The Commission is requested to approve the Deer Management Zone Hunts for the upcoming season as required by 571 Iowa Administrative Code 105.3. The list includes zones to be open to hunting, season dates, legal weapons, license types and quotas, and other information required by rule. Representatives for all of the cities on the list have indicated they want to be included in the list of special hunts. There will be 61 different locations, although several will have multiple hunts on them.

2026-2027 DEER MANAGEMENT ZONES
Cancelled or new hunts, as well as quota changes from last year, are highlighted.

Zone Name	Zone #	Season	Season Number	Season Begin	Season End	Zone Quota	Any Deer
Allamakee County (CWD Perimeter)	102	Youth	1	9/19/2026	10/4/2026		
Allamakee County (CWD Perimeter)	102	Disabled	2	9/19/2026	10/4/2026		
Allamakee County (CWD Perimeter)	102	Bow	3	10/1/2026	1/10/2027		
Allamakee County (CWD Perimeter)	102	Early Muzzle	4	10/17/2026	10/25/2026	100	
Allamakee County (CWD Perimeter)	102	Reg Gun 1	5	12/5/2026	12/9/2026		
Allamakee County (CWD Perimeter)	102	Reg Gun 2	6	12/12/2026	12/20/2026		
Allamakee County (CWD Perimeter)	102	Late Muzzle	7	12/21/2026	1/10/2027		
Allamakee County (CWD Perimeter)	102	January	8	1/11/2027	1/24/2027		
Amana Colonies Zone	1	Youth	1	9/19/2026	10/4/2026		
Amana Colonies Zone	1	Disabled	2	9/19/2026	10/4/2026		
Amana Colonies Zone	1	Bow	3	10/1/2026	1/10/2027		
Amana Colonies Zone	1	Early Muzzle	4	10/17/2026	10/25/2026	150	
Amana Colonies Zone	1	Reg Gun 1	5	12/5/2026	12/9/2026		
Amana Colonies Zone	1	Reg Gun 2	6	12/12/2026	12/20/2026		
Amana Colonies Zone	1	Late Muzzle	7	12/21/2026	1/10/2027		
Ames (City)	2	Bow	3	9/19/2026	1/10/2027	75	9
Ames (Perimeter)	3	Youth	1	9/19/2026	10/4/2026		
Ames (Perimeter)	3	Disabled	2	9/19/2026	10/4/2026		
Ames (Perimeter)	3	Bow	3	10/1/2026	1/10/2027		
Ames (Perimeter)	3	Early Muzzle	4	10/17/2026	10/25/2026		
Ames (Perimeter)	3	Reg Gun 1	5	12/5/2026	12/9/2026	50	
Ames (Perimeter)	3	Reg Gun 2	6	12/12/2026	12/20/2026		
Ames (Perimeter)	3	Late Muzzle	7	12/21/2026	1/10/2027		
Appanoose County (CWD Perimeter)	120	Youth	1	9/19/2026	10/4/2026		
Appanoose County (CWD Perimeter)	120	Disabled	2	9/19/2026	10/4/2026		
Appanoose County (CWD Perimeter)	120	Bow	3	10/1/2026	1/10/2027		
Appanoose County (CWD Perimeter)	120	Early Muzzle	4	10/17/2026	10/25/2026	100	
Appanoose County (CWD Perimeter)	120	Reg Gun 1	5	12/5/2026	12/9/2026		
Appanoose County (CWD Perimeter)	120	Reg Gun 2	6	12/12/2026	12/20/2026		
Appanoose County (CWD Perimeter)	120	Late Muzzle	7	12/21/2026	1/10/2027		
Appanoose County (CWD Perimeter)	120	January	8	1/11/2027	1/24/2027		
Atlantic	80	Archery	3	9/19/2026	1/10/2027	50	1
Backbone State Park	4	Reg Gun 1**	5	12/5/2026	12/7/2025	200	
Bettendorf & Riverdale (City)	7	Bow	3	9/19/2026	1/10/2027	125	8
Black Hawk-Bremer (Perimeter)	122	Youth	1	9/19/2026	10/4/2026	150	

	122	Disabled	2	9/19/2026	10/4/2026		
	122	Bow	3	10/1/2026	1/10/2027		
	122	Early Muzzle	4	10/17/2026	10/25/2026		
	122	Reg Gun 1	5	12/5/2026	12/9/2026		
	122	Reg Gun 2	6	12/12/2026	12/20/2026		
	122	Late Muzzle	7	12/21/2026	1/10/2027		
Bobwhite State Park - WCCB	91	Bow	3	9/19/2026	1/10/2027	50	
Burlington (City)	97	Bow	3	9/19/2026	1/10/2027	200	9
Cedar Rapids (City)	8	Bow	3	9/19/2026	1/10/2027	400	22
Cedar Rapids (Perimeter)	40	Youth	1	9/19/2026	10/4/2026		
Cedar Rapids (Perimeter)	40	Disabled	2	9/19/2026	10/4/2026		
Cedar Rapids (Perimeter)	40	Bow	3	10/1/2026	1/10/2027		
Cedar Rapids (Perimeter)	40	Early Muzzle	4	10/17/2026	10/25/2026		
Cedar Rapids (Perimeter)	40	Reg Gun 1	5	12/5/2026	12/9/2026	500	
Cedar Rapids (Perimeter)	40	Reg Gun 2	6	12/12/2026	12/20/2026		
Cedar Rapids (Perimeter)	40	Late Muzzle	7	12/21/2026	1/10/2027		
Clayton/Fayette (CWD Perimeter)	103	Youth	1	9/19/2026	10/4/2026		
Clayton/Fayette (CWD Perimeter)	103	Disabled	2	9/19/2026	10/4/2026		
Clayton/Fayette (CWD Perimeter)	103	Bow	3	10/1/2026	1/10/2027		
Clayton/Fayette (CWD Perimeter)	103	Early Muzzle	4	10/17/2026	10/25/2026	100	
Clayton/Fayette (CWD Perimeter)	103	Reg Gun 1	5	12/5/2026	12/9/2026		
Clayton/Fayette (CWD Perimeter)	103	Reg Gun 2	6	12/12/2026	12/20/2026		
Clayton/Fayette (CWD Perimeter)	103	Late Muzzle	7	12/21/2026	1/10/2027		
Clinton (City)	9	Bow	3	9/19/2026	1/10/2027	75	1
Coralville (City)	10	Bow	3	9/19/2026	1/10/2027	200	13
Coralville (Perimeter)	25	Youth	1	9/19/2026	10/4/2026		
Coralville (Perimeter)	25	Disabled	2	9/19/2026	10/4/2026		
Coralville (Perimeter)	25	Bow	3	10/1/2026	1/10/2027		
Coralville (Perimeter)	25	Early Muzzle	4	10/17/2026	10/25/2026	600	
Coralville (Perimeter)	25	Reg Gun 1	5	12/5/2026	12/9/2026		
Coralville (Perimeter)	25	Reg Gun 2	6	12/12/2026	12/20/2026		
Coralville (Perimeter)	25	Late Muzzle	7	12/21/2026	1/10/2027		
Corydon (CWD Incentive Perimeter)	89	January	8	Cancelled			
Council Bluffs (City)	69	Bow	3	9/19/2026	1/24/2027	150	7
Davenport (City)	11	Bow	3	9/19/2026	1/10/2027	250	16
Decatur-East County (CWD Perimeter)	117	Youth	1	9/19/2026	10/4/2026		
Decatur-East County (CWD Perimeter)	117	Disabled	2	9/19/2026	10/4/2026		
Decatur-East County (CWD Perimeter)	117	Bow	3	10/1/2026	1/10/2027		
Decatur-East County (CWD Perimeter)	117	Early Muzzle	4	10/17/2026	10/25/2026	100	
Decatur-East County (CWD Perimeter)	117	Reg Gun 1	5	12/5/2026	12/9/2026		
Decatur-East County (CWD Perimeter)	117	Reg Gun 2	6	12/12/2026	12/20/2026		
Decatur-East County (CWD Perimeter)	117	Late Muzzle	7	12/21/2026	1/10/2027		
Decatur-East County (CWD Perimeter)	117	January	8	1/11/2027	1/24/2027		
Denison (City)	12	Bow	3	Cancelled			
DeSoto NWR	13	Late Muzzle	7	Cancelled			
Dubuque (City)	16	Bow	3	9/19/2026	1/10/2027	250	26
Dubuque (CWD Perimeter)	17	Youth	1	9/19/2026	10/4/2026		

		Disabled	2	9/19/2026	10/4/2026		
		Bow	3	10/1/2026	1/10/2027	400	
		Early Muzzle	4	10/17/2026	10/25/2026		
		Reg Gun 1	5	12/5/2026	12/9/2026		
		Reg Gun 2	6	12/12/2026	12/20/2026		
		Late Muzzle	7	12/21/2026	1/10/2027		
Dubuque (CWD Incentive Perimeter)	115	January	8	Cancelled			
Eldora (City)	42	Bow	3	10/1/2026	1/10/2027	50	
Elk Rock State Park	18	Late Muzzle	7	Cancelled			
Fort Dodge	113	Bow	3	9/19/2026	1/10/2027	100	10
Green Valley State Park	20	Early Muzzle	4	11/8/2025	11/9/2025	35	
Harpers Ferry (CWD Incentive Perimeter)	88	January	8	Cancelled			
Honey Creek State Park	85	Reg Gun 1**	5	Cancelled			
IAAP	21	Youth	1	9/19/2026	10/4/2026		
IAAP	21	Disabled	2	9/19/2026	10/4/2026		
IAAP	21	Bow	3	10/1/2026	1/10/2027		
IAAP	21	Early Muzzle	4	10/17/2026	10/25/2026	1200	
IAAP	21	Reg Gun 1	5	12/5/2026	12/9/2026		
IAAP	21	Reg Gun 2	6	12/12/2026	12/20/2026		
IAAP	21	Late Muzzle	7	12/21/2026	1/10/2027		
IAAP	22	Early Muzzle	4	10/17/2026	10/25/2026	50	
Iowa City (City)	101	Bow	3	9/19/2026	1/10/2027	300	11
Iowa Falls (Perimeter)	23	Youth	1	9/19/2026	10/4/2026		
Iowa Falls (Perimeter)	23	Disabled	2	9/19/2026	10/4/2026		
Iowa Falls (Perimeter)	23	Bow	3	10/1/2026	1/10/2027		
Iowa Falls (Perimeter)	23	Early Muzzle	4	10/17/2026	10/25/2026		
Iowa Falls (Perimeter)	23	Reg Gun 1	5	12/5/2026	12/9/2026	30	
Iowa Falls (Perimeter)	23	Reg Gun 2	6	12/12/2026	12/20/2026		
Iowa Falls (Perimeter)	23	Late Muzzle	7	12/21/2026	1/10/2027		
Iowa Falls (City)	24	Bow	3	9/19/2026	1/10/2027	80	2
Jackson (CWD Perimeter)	105	Youth	1	9/19/2026	10/4/2026		
Jackson (CWD Perimeter)	105	Disabled	2	9/19/2026	10/4/2026		
Jackson (CWD Perimeter)	105	Bow	3	10/1/2026	1/10/2027		
Jackson (CWD Perimeter)	105	Early Muzzle	4	10/17/2026	10/25/2026	250	
Jackson (CWD Perimeter)	105	Reg Gun 1	5	12/5/2026	12/9/2026		
Jackson (CWD Perimeter)	105	Reg Gun 2	6	12/12/2026	12/20/2026		
Jackson (CWD Perimeter)	105	Late Muzzle	7	12/21/2026	1/10/2027		
Jefferson County Park	64	Bow	3	10/1/2026	1/10/2027	25	4
Jones County Central Park	65	Bow	3	10/1/2026	1/10/2027	50	
Kent Park	26	Bow	3	10/1/2026	1/10/2027	100	
Keokuk (City)	83	Bow	3	9/19/2026	1/10/2027	125	13
Knoxville (City)	75	Bow	3	9/19/2026	1/10/2027	25	
Lacey Keosauqua State Park	28	Bow	3	10/1/2026	1/10/2027	50	3
Lake Aquahbi State Park	19	Bow	3	10/17/2026	1/10/2027	30	
Lake Darling State Park	30	Reg Gun 1	5	12/5/2026	12/6/2026	100	
Lake Macbride State Park	32	Bow	3	Cancelled			
Lake Wapello State Park	38	Reg Gun 1	5	12/5/2026	12/7/2026	50	
Ledges State Park	39	Bow	3	10/1/2026	12/31/2025	40	
Lucas County (CWD Perimeter)	118	Youth	1	9/19/2026	10/4/2026		

Lucas County (CWD Perimeter)	118	Disabled	2	9/19/2026	10/4/2026		
Lucas County (CWD Perimeter)	118	Bow	3	10/1/2026	1/10/2027		
Lucas County (CWD Perimeter))	118	Early Muzzle	4	10/17/2026	10/25/2026	100	
Lucas County (CWD Perimeter)	118	Reg Gun 1	5	12/5/2026	12/9/2026		
Lucas County (CWD Perimeter)	118	Reg Gun 2	6	12/12/2026	12/20/2026		
Lucas County (CWD Perimeter)	118	Late Muzzle	7	12/21/2026	1/10/2027		
Lucas County (CWD Perimeter)	118	January	8	1/11/2027	1/24/2027		
Marshalltown (City)	78	Bow	3	9/19/2026	1/10/2027	60	
Marshalltown (Perimeter)	79	Youth	1	9/19/2026	10/4/2026		
Marshalltown (Perimeter)	79	Disabled	2	9/19/2026	10/4/2026		
Marshalltown (Perimeter)	79	Bow	3	10/1/2026	1/10/2027		
Marshalltown (Perimeter)	79	Early Muzzle	4	10/17/2026	10/25/2026	40	
Marshalltown (Perimeter)	79	Reg Gun 1	5	12/5/2026	12/9/2026		
Marshalltown (Perimeter)	79	Reg Gun 2	6	12/12/2026	12/20/2026		
Marshalltown (Perimeter)	79	Late Muzzle	7	12/21/2026	1/10/2027		
Mason City (City)	92	Bow	3	9/19/2026	1/10/2027	100	12
Mount Pleasant (City)	41	Bow	3	9/19/2026	1/10/2027	50	1
Monroe County (CWD Perimeter)	119	Youth	1	9/19/2026	10/4/2026		
Monroe County (CWD Perimeter)	119	Disabled	2	9/19/2026	10/4/2026		
Monroe County (CWD Perimeter)	119	Bow	3	10/1/2026	1/10/2027		
Monroe County (CWD Perimeter)	119	Early Muzzle	4	10/17/2026	10/25/2026	100	
Monroe County (CWD Perimeter)	119	Reg Gun 1	5	12/5/2026	12/9/2026		
Monroe County (CWD Perimeter)	119	Reg Gun 2	6	12/12/2026	12/20/2026		
Monroe County (CWD Perimeter)	119	Late Muzzle	7	12/21/2026	1/10/2027		
Monroe County (CWD Perimeter)	119	January	8	1/11/2027	1/24/2027		
Muscatine (City)	43	Bow	3	9/19/2026	1/10/2027	150	8
Oskaloosa (City)	6	Bow	3	9/19/2026	1/10/2027	100	2
Ottumwa (City)	44	Bow	3	9/19/2026	1/10/2027	175	23
Panorama (Perimeter)	112	Cancelled					
Palisades Kepler State Park	45	Bow	3	10/1/2026	1/10/2027	50	
Pike's Peak S							
Park/McGregor/Marquette	46	Bow	3	10/1/2026	1/10/2027	100	12
Pine Lake State Park	47	Bow	3	10/1/2026	1/10/2027	30	1
Polk/Dallas Archery Only Zone	48	Bow	3	9/19/2026*	1/24/2027*	1000	52
<i>Licenses valid within</i>							
<i>Polk/Dallas Urban deer</i>							
<i>management zone in urban</i>							
<i>areas, Polk CCB properties</i>							
<i>and certain Saylorville Federal</i>							
<i>lands. Local ordinances or rules</i>							
<i>apply.</i>							
Scott County Park	50	Bow	3	10/1/2026	1/10/2027	50	
Smith Wildlife Area	110	Bow	3	10/1/2026	1/10/2027	10	
Smith Wildlife Area	66	Reg Gun 1	5	12/5/2026	12/9/2026	3	
Smith Wildlife Area	67	Reg Gun 2	6	12/12/2026	12/20/2026	3	
Smith Wildlife Area	68	Late Muzzle	7	12/21/2026	1/10/2027	3	
Springbrook State Park	51	Bow	3	10/1/2026	1/10/2027	10	
Stone State Park	82	Bow	3	9/19/2026	11/30/2025	15	
Tosanak Recreation Area	121	Bow	3	10/19/2026	1/10/2027	50	
Wanatee Park	53	Bow	3	10/1/2026	1/10/2027	100	11

(formerly Squaw Creek)

Waterloo/Cedar Falls Metro	56	Bow	3	10/6/2025	1/10/2027	300	35
Wayne County (CWD Perimeter)	107	Youth	1	9/19/2026	10/4/2026		
Wayne County (CWD Perimeter)	107	Disabled	2	9/19/2026	10/4/2026		
Wayne County (CWD Perimeter)	107	Bow	3	10/1/2026	1/10/2027		
Wayne County (CWD Perimeter)	107	Early Muzzle	4	10/17/2026	10/25/2026		
Wayne County (CWD Perimeter)	107	Reg Gun 1	5	12/5/2026	12/9/2026	50	
Wayne County (CWD Perimeter)	107	Reg Gun 2	6	12/12/2026	12/20/2026		
Wayne County (CWD Perimeter)	107	Late Muzzle	7	12/21/2026	1/10/2027		
Wayne County (CWD Perimeter)	107	January	8	1/11/2027	1/24/2027		
Winneshiek County (CWD Perimeter)	108	Youth	1	9/19/2026	10/4/2026		
Winneshiek County (CWD Perimeter)	108	Disabled	2	9/19/2026	10/4/2026		
Winneshiek County (CWD Perimeter)	108	Bow	3	10/1/2026	1/10/2027		
Winneshiek County (CWD Perimeter)	108	Early Muzzle	4	10/17/2026	10/25/2026		
Winneshiek County (CWD Perimeter)	108	Reg Gun 1	5	12/5/2026	12/9/2026	100	
Winneshiek County (CWD Perimeter)	108	Reg Gun 2	6	12/12/2026	12/20/2026		
Winneshiek County (CWD Perimeter)	108	Late Muzzle	7	12/21/2026	1/10/2027		
Winneshiek County (CWD Perimeter)	108	January	8	1/11/2027	1/24/2027		
Woodbury County (CWD Perimeter)	109	Cancelled					

Cancelled
New or Changed

Youth	1
Disabled	2
Bow	3
Early Muzzleloader	4
Gun 1	5
Gun 2	6
Late Muzzleloader	7
January	8

Todd Bishop, Wildlife Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting Date: 06/11/2026

**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
5/21/2026	25-06-89-04	LACEY-KEOSAUQUA	VAN BUREN	ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS This project includes concrete paving, tile line installation, stump grubbing/removals, ADA signage and threshold modifications, and seeding.	\$82,500	\$60,890.97 \$62,895.00 \$70,701.00
5/21/2026	24-06-89-01	LACEY-KEOSAUQUA	VAN BUREN	BOAT RAMP/ADA IMPROVEMENTS This project includes concrete paving, ADA signage and installation.	\$70,500	\$50,728.00 \$56,010.00 \$62,262.75
5/14/2026	21-01-74-01	SILVER LAKE WMA	PALO ALTO	WETLAND RESTORATION This project is designed to restore four wetland pool areas. Work includes dike construction, excavation, tile investigation, tile breaks, and water control structures with associated piping.	\$53,000	\$43,592.00 \$50,389.00 \$51,226.00 \$54,268.28 \$58,890.25 \$69,870.21 \$75,751.00
5/7/2026	26-03-33-01	VOLGA RIVER RECREATION AREA	FAYETTE	FROG HOLLOW BRIDGE REDECKING Work consists of removing and replacing existing guard rail and bridge deck.	\$26,000	\$13,880.00 \$14,400.00 \$18,325.00 \$67,900.00

Travis Baker, Land and Waters Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting Date: June 11, 2026

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission

Decision Item

Construction Item

10 Backbone State Park, Wastewater Improvements – Delaware County

The Department requests Commission approval of the following construction project:

Project Background: Dedicated in 1920 as Iowa’s first state park, Backbone State Park offers a variety of amenities, including a 125-site campground, 16 cabins, day-use picnic shelters, and a lodge. Additionally, the park features a 21-mile hiking and biking trail system, a museum, and a trout stream.

Design Summary: The park currently utilizes two separate wastewater systems: a lagoon system for the campground and a septic tank-sand filter system for the cabins. We are initiating a project to ensure both systems remain in compliance with their NPDES permit requirements.

While the lagoon system was previously improved in 2001, it now requires further upgrades to provide necessary disinfection and ammonia removal. Additionally, this project will include the replacement of the baffle curtain and fencing.

The current septic tank-sand filter system, originally constructed by the CCC, is in poor condition and has exceeded its useful life. To address this, the existing system will be replaced. The new installation will include a lift station, septic tanks, and a recirculating sand filter with disinfection to serve the cabins.



Existing Sand Filter

Engineering Project #: 25-03-28-01

Cost Estimate: \$1,314,000

Operating Bureau: Parks, Forests and Preserves

Funding Source: 100% Park Infrastructure

Bid Letting Date: 05/21/2026

Construction Completion Date: 06/30/2027

Number of Bids Received: 3

Bidders

F L Krapfl Inc	Dyersville IA	\$1,279,611.50
Boomerang Corp	Anamosa IA	\$1,557,370.00
Top Grade Excavating Inc	Farley IA	\$1,566,178.50

Upon Engineering’s review of bids, DNR recommends awarding the contract to F L Krapfl Inc.

Travis Baker, Land & Waters Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
June 11, 2026

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

Decision Item

11. Public Land Acquisition Projects

11.1 Saylorville WMA, Boone County – Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation

The Natural Resource Commission's approval is requested to purchase a tract of land located adjacent to Saylorville WMA in Boone County.

Seller: Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation

Acreage: 250 acres M/L

Appraised Value: \$1,851,000

DNR Purchase Price: \$1,388,250

Property Description:

This property is located 4 miles northwest of Madrid in southeastern Boone County. Converted native prairie covers approximately 33 acres. The remaining acreage has steep ravines and side slopes that are primarily heavy timbered. Two tributaries of the Richardson Branch of the Des Moines River converge in the middle of the property.

Purpose:

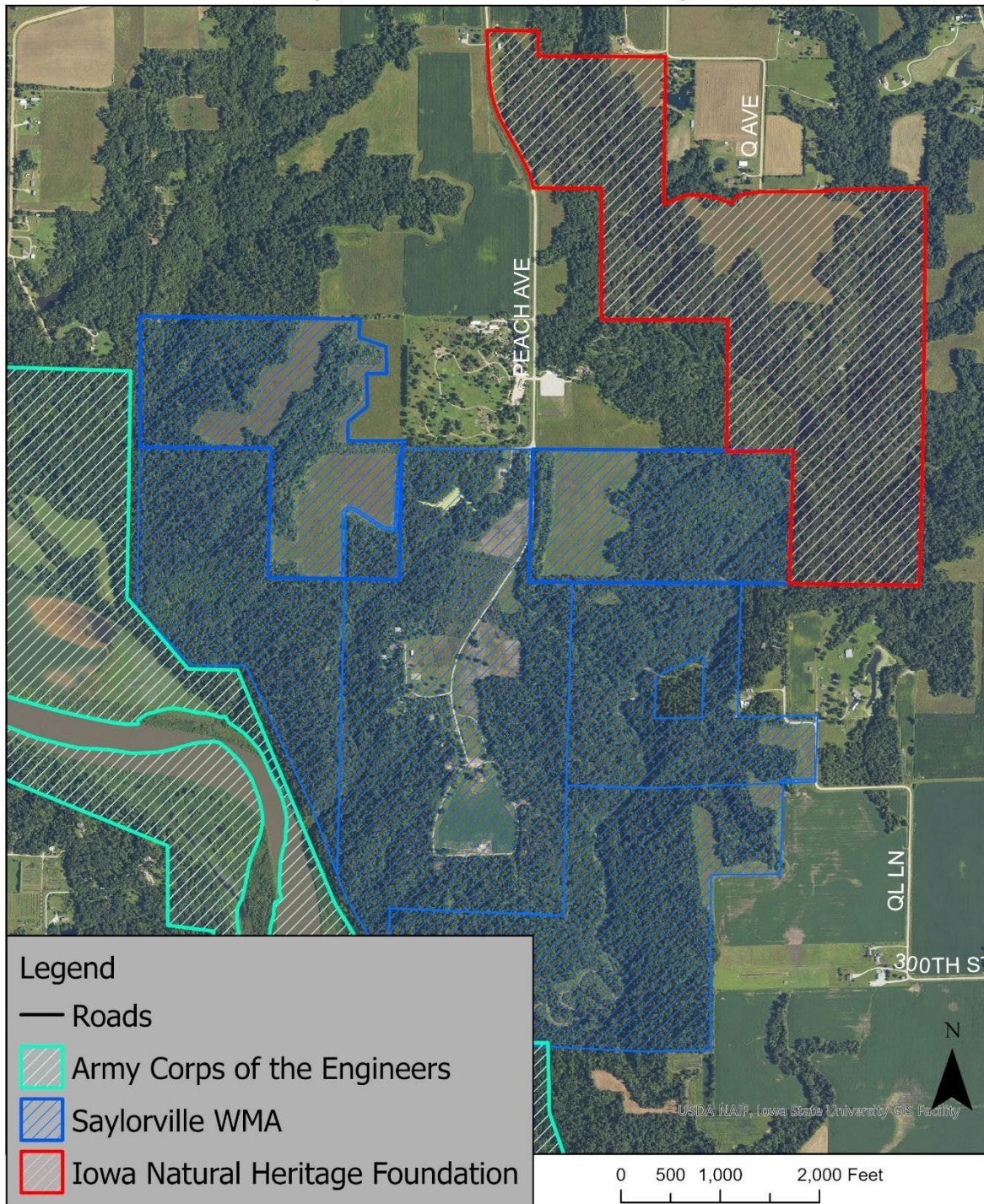
This aesthetic tract will continue to protect one of the largest contiguous regions of upland forest in central Iowa. It will provide public access to outdoor recreation and hunting opportunities. This property will provide habitat for several state and federal threatened and endangered species, such as the Barn Owl, Cerulean Warbler, Red-shouldered Hawk, Long-eared Owl, and Northern Long-eared Bat. The property will also provide habitat for Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) that include the Regal Fritillary, Gray Fox, Bullsnake, and the Southern Flying Squirrel. Public access is provided from Peach Avenue on the west and at two points on 'Q' Avenue on the north side.

DNR Property Manager: Wildlife Bureau

Funding Source(s): \$1,388,250 USDA Forest Legacy Grant, \$462,750 Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation Donation (Bargain Sale)

Incidental Costs: Incidental closing costs will be the responsibility of the Department.

Realty Services / Saylorville WMA
Boone County / Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation



11.2 Searryls Cave State Preserve, Jones County – Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation

The Natural Resource Commission's approval is requested to purchase a tract of land located adjacent to Searryls Cave State Preserve in Jones County.

Seller: Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation

Acreage: 231.38 acres

Appraised Value: \$1,735,000

DNR Purchase Price: \$1,735,000

Property Description:

This irregular shaped property is located approximately 9 miles southeast of Cascade in northeastern Jones County. The North Fork of the Maquoketa River runs through the property. This stretch of the North Fork of the Maquoketa River is the longest stretch of river in Iowa that is uninterrupted by dams or bridges which provides a "wild" experience for paddlers and other river users. There are 14 acres of CRP in two contracts that will expire in 2030 located on the property. This property has Karst aquifers that are underlain by limestone and are characterized by sinkholes, underground streams and caves. They are highly susceptible to contamination from agricultural activities because water flows quickly through it receiving little filtration. The tract has a towering limestone bluff, a cave and a rare Algific Talus Slope. The woodlands are made up of white and red oak, white ash, black walnut, silver and sugar maple, and basswood. The age classes vary and are healthy.

Purpose:

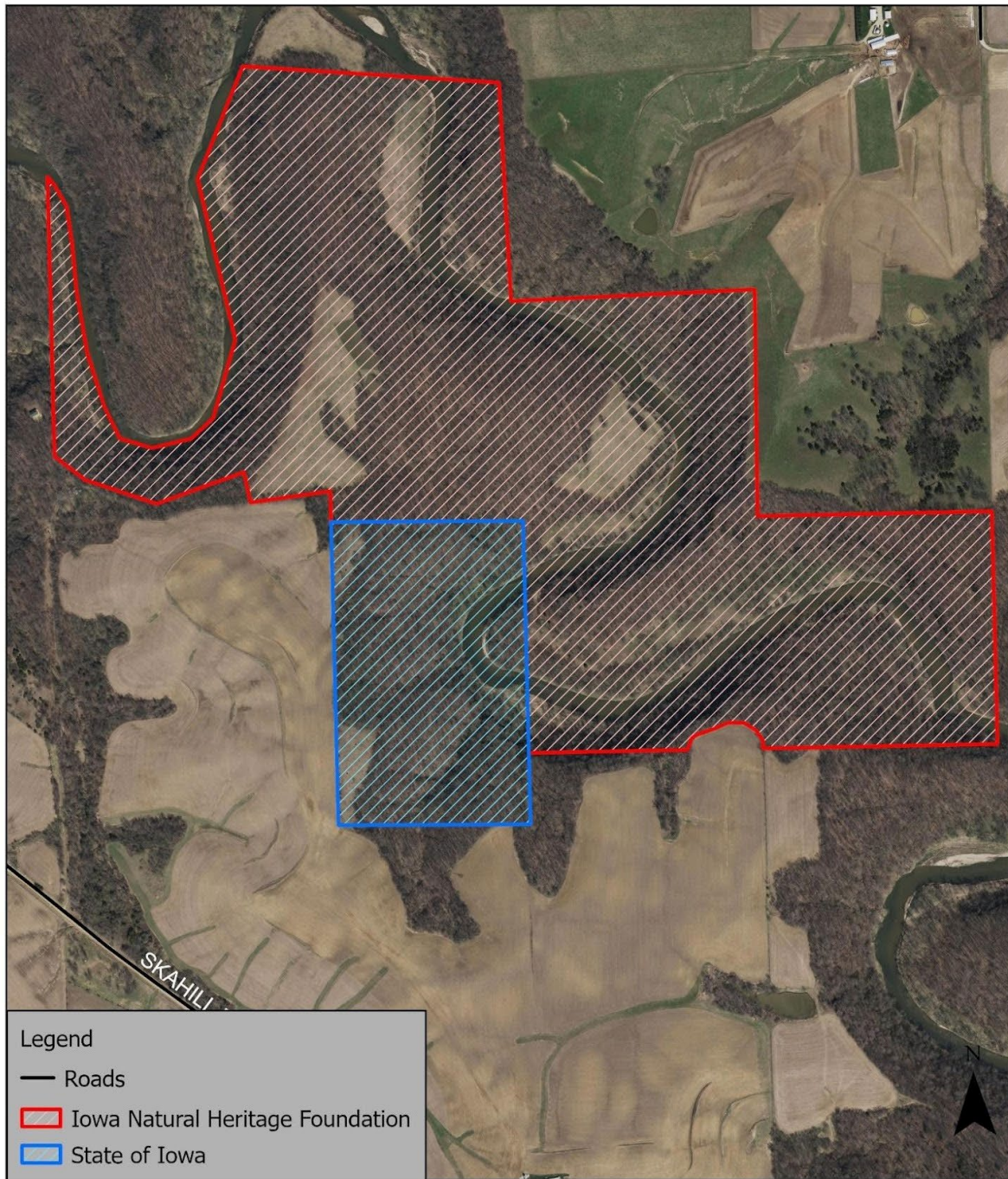
This acquisition is an aesthetic tract that will protect 2.7 miles of the Maquoketa River, limestone bluffs, two caves, and an Algific Talus Slope. The adjacent Searryls Cave is home to the largest population of overwintering bats in Iowa, including the declining Little Brown Bat and the federally endangered Northern Long-Eared Bat. This acquisition will protect the forest which provides habitat for these bat species. Outdoor recreation, including public hunting, will be permitted on this property. Public access will be provided through an access easement from Skahill Road across the neighboring private property.

DNR Property Manager: Wildlife Bureau

Funding Source(s): \$1,301,250 USDA Forest Legacy Grant, \$428,750 REAP Open Spaces, \$5,000 National Wild Turkey Foundation

Incidental Costs: Incidental closing costs will be the responsibility of the Department. The property will remain on property tax rolls in Jones County.

Realty Services / Searryls Cave State Preserve
Jones County / Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation



0 500 1,000 2,000 Feet

11.3 Red Rock WMA, Warren County – Alec and Stephen Pendry

The Natural Resource Commission's approval is requested to purchase a tract of land located adjacent to Red Rock WMA in Warren County.

Seller: Alec and Stephen Pendry

Acreage: 8 acres M/L

Appraised Price: \$40,800 (\$5,100/ ac)

DNR Purchase Price: \$32,800 (\$5,100/Ac Pending Survey)

Property Description:

This irregular shaped property is located approximately 2 miles southeast of Hartford in Northeastern Warren County. The acquisition will border the Red Rock WMA on three sides. The acres being offered are currently enrolled in CRP (4 years remaining) and consist of native wetland habitat.

Purpose:

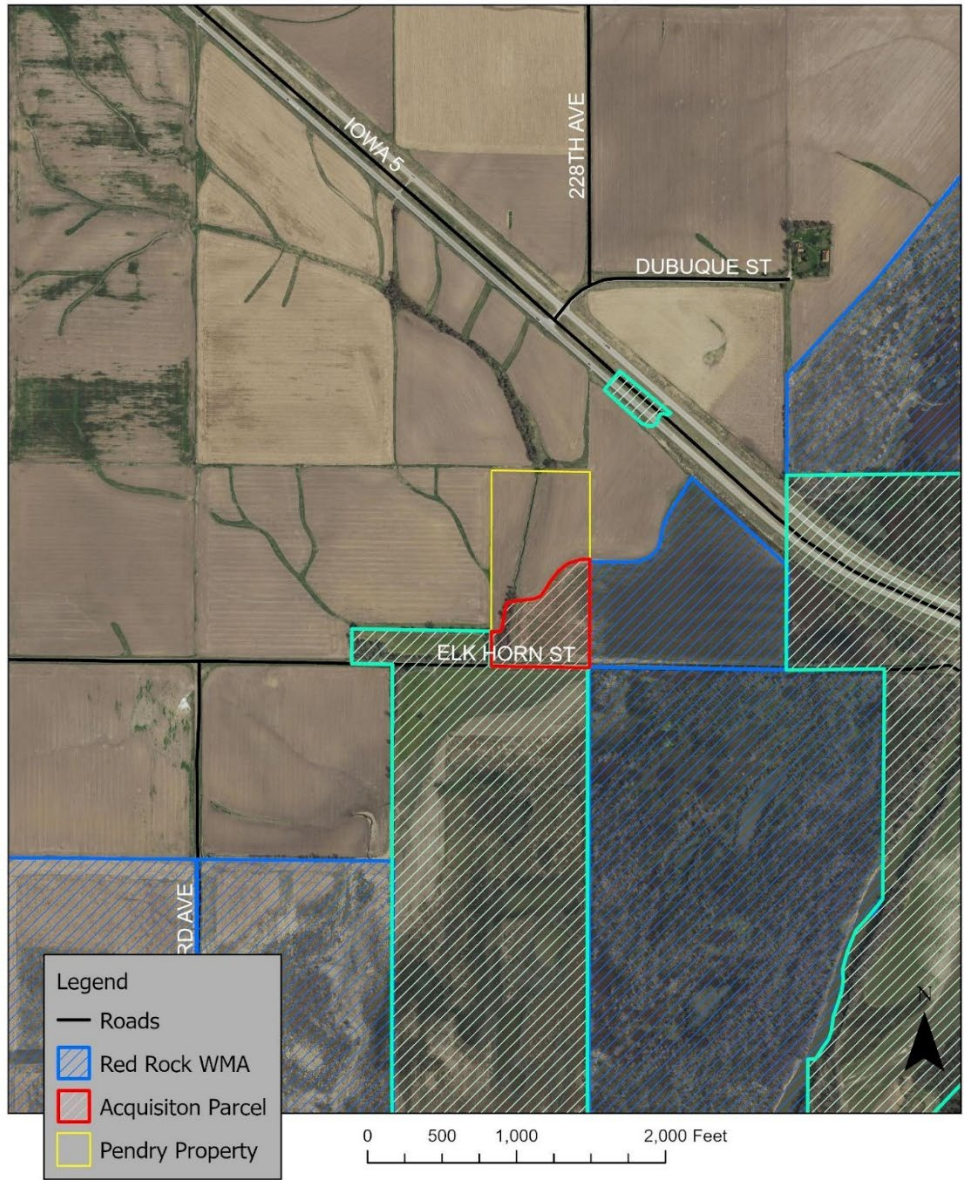
By acquiring these 8 acres, the Department can expand a North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) funded restoration project by an additional 95 acres, resulting in a total footprint of 285-acre wetland. Outdoor recreation including public hunting will be permitted on this property. The parcel will remain on property tax rolls, and access will be provided by Elkhorn Street, a county gravel Road.

DNR Property Manager: Wildlife Bureau

Funding Source(s): \$32,800 Wildlife Habitat Stamp, \$8,000 Alec and Stephen Pendry Donation (Bargain Sale)

Incidental Costs: Seller will retain CRP Payments for 2026 and 2027. A land survey and other incidental closing costs will be the responsibility of the Department.

Realty Services / Red Rock WMA
Warren County / Alec and Stephen Pendry



11.4 Spur Island WMA, Louisa County – The Nature Conservancy

The Natural Resource Commission's approval is requested to purchase a tract of land located in Louisa County adjacent to Spur Island Wildlife Management Area (WMA).

Seller: The Nature Conservancy

Acreage: 31.87

Appraised Price: \$125,000.00

DNR Purchase Price: \$100,500.00

Property Description:

This property is located in north central Louisa County about 3.5 miles north of Columbus Junction. The property is bordered to the west by Spur Island WMA. This property is located within the floodplain of the lower Iowa River. The property is nearly all forested wetlands.

Purpose:

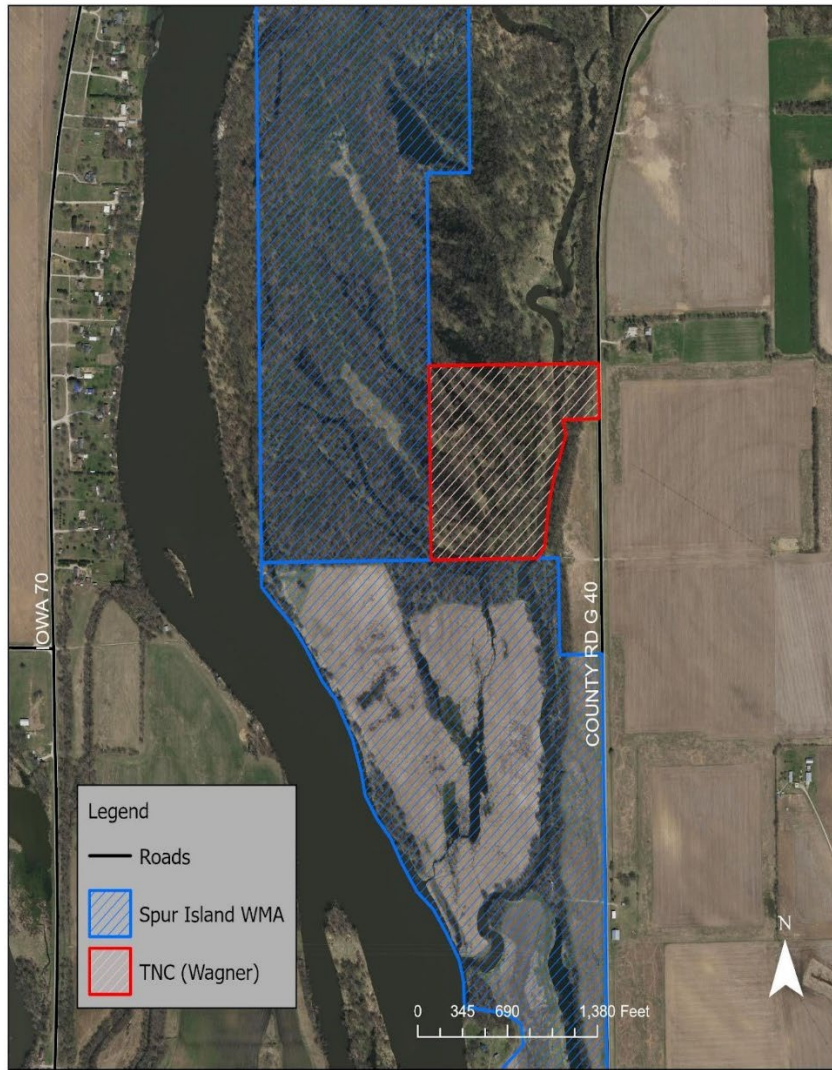
The property is located within a recognized Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (PARC) Area. Protecting this specific wetland ecosystem is critical for the long-term survival and breeding success of water-dependent reptiles and amphibians native to the Iowa River basin. This acquisition prevents future fragmentation of the river corridor and creates a larger, contiguous block of protected habitat. The purchase of this property by the Department of Natural Resources will ensure proper long-term management for wildlife as well as providing additional public recreation and hunting opportunities.

DNR Property Manager: Wildlife Bureau

Funding Source(s): \$100,000 NAWCA, \$150 Louisa Pheasants Forever, \$150 Louisa Quail Forever, \$200 North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association – ILLOWA Chapter, \$24,500 TNC Donation of Value (Bargain Sale)

Incidental Costs: Incidental closing costs will be the responsibility of the Department.

Realty Services / Spur Island WMA
Louisa County / The Nature Conservancy



11.5 Heritage Hills WMA, Madison & Clarke County – Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation/Pheasants Forever

The Natural Resource Commission's approval is requested to purchase a tract of land located adjacent to Heritage Hills WMA in Madison County.

Seller: Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation/Pheasants Forever

Acreage: 422 acres

Appraised Value: \$2,788,000

DNR Purchase Price: \$2,448,000

Property Description:

This rectangularly shaped property is located approximately 10 miles northwest of Murray in the northwest corner of Clarke County and Southcentral Madison County. This tract is primarily remnant prairie, savanna and timber. There are about 180 acres of woodland, over 160 acres of remnant prairie and 43 acres of row crop. The woodlands are young but have bur and white oak components along with shagbark and bitternut hickory. This tract lies within a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) area for bat recovery. The woodland composition as well as the vicinity to riparian corridors provides good opportunities for bat use.

Purpose:

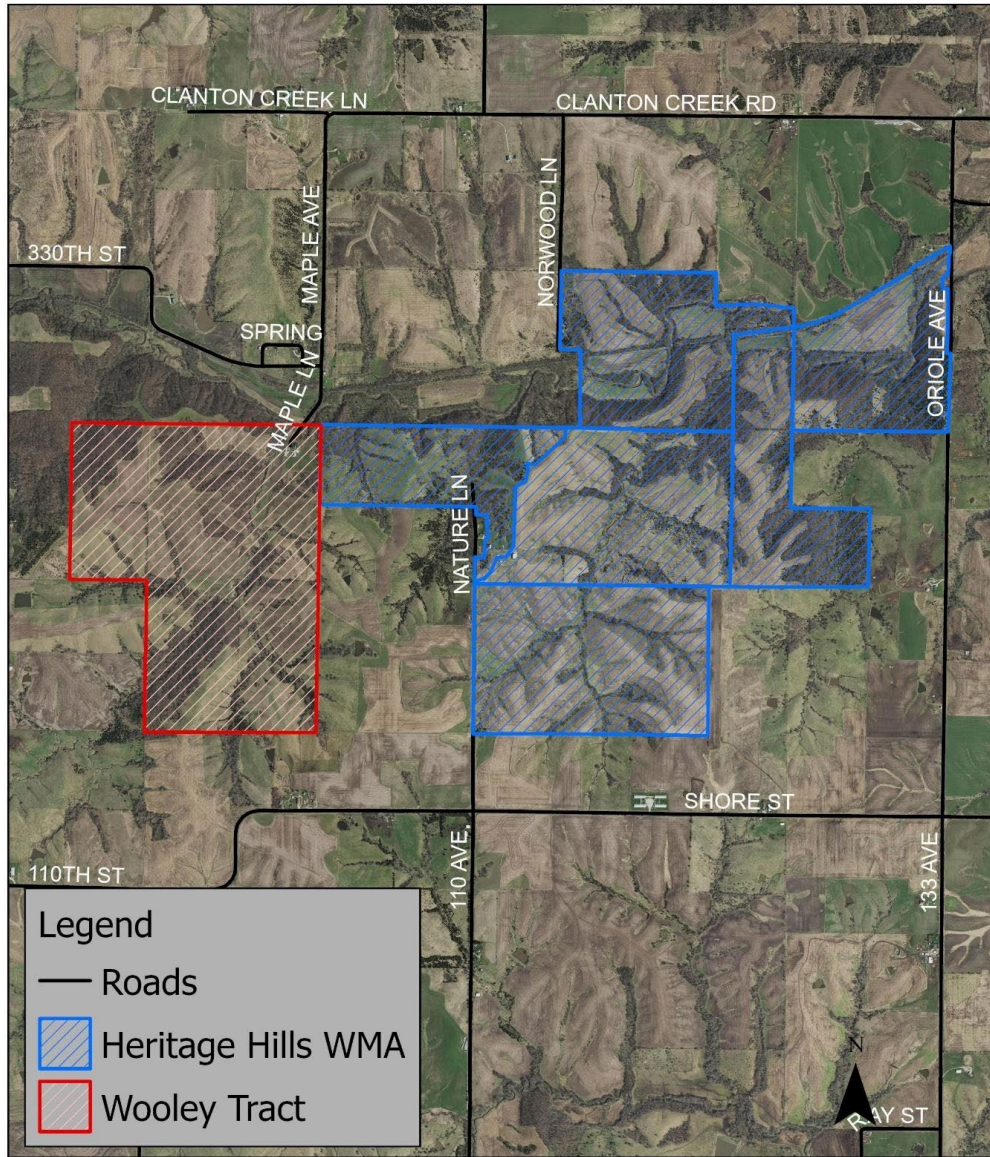
This acquisition will continue the Department's efforts to increase access to outdoor recreation close to large urban areas. Additionally, this acquisition will protect the woodlands and remnant prairie on this property from conversion to agricultural production or housing. The woodlands provide habitat for the endangered Indiana Bat, which has been documented on the adjacent Heritage Hills WMA. This property will be managed as a Wildlife Management Area and provide outdoor recreational opportunity, including hunting. Public access will be provided through adjacent WMA property and from 330th Street to the north.

DNR Property Manager: Wildlife Bureau

Funding Source(s): \$2,091,000 Wildlife Restoration Federal Land Grant, \$357,000 Wildlife Habitat Stamp, \$340,000 Donated Land Value

Incidental Costs: Incidental closing costs will be the responsibility of the Department. This property will remain on the property tax rolls in both Clarke and Madison Counties.

Realty Services/ Heritage Hills WMA Clarke-Madison County/ INHF & PF



0 1,000 2,000 4,000 Feet

11.6 Iowa River Corridor WMA, Iowa County – Marvel Schafbuch

The Natural Resource Commission's approval is requested to purchase a tract of land located adjacent to Iowa River Corridor WMA in Iowa County.

Seller: Marvel Schafbuch

Acreage: 17.1 acres M/L

Appraised Value: \$25,700

Purchase Price: \$25,700 (\$1,503/ac pending survey)

Property Description:

This irregular shaped property is located approximately 8 miles southeast of Belle Plaine in northwest corner of Iowa County. The Iowa River provides the south boundary of this parcel. A portion of this property (5.5 acres) was enrolled in the USDA NRCS Emergency Wetland Reserve Program in 1995, following the 1993 floods. The remainder of the property is riparian timber.

Purpose:

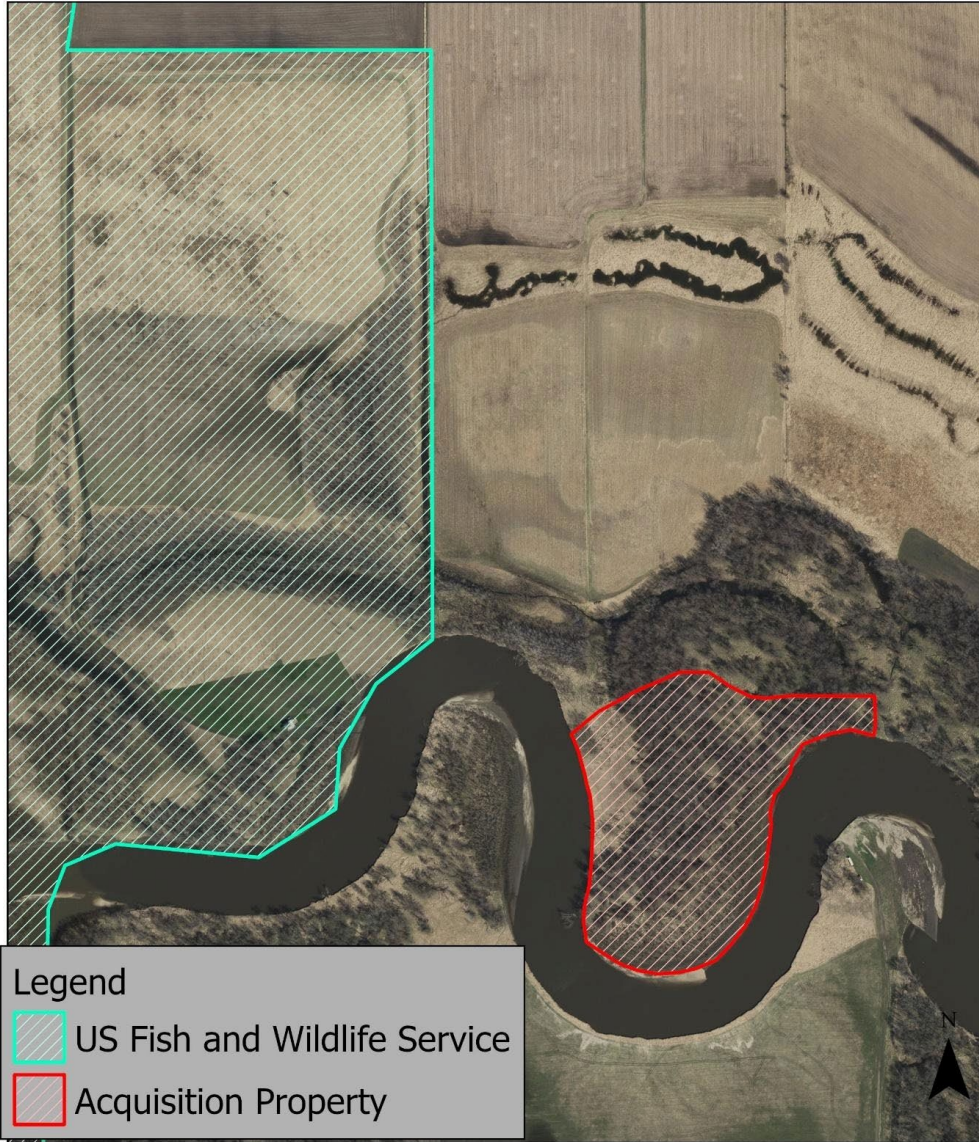
This acquisition will protect riparian habitat adjacent to the westernmost stretch of the Iowa River to be mapped as a sovereign River. The property will provide outdoor recreation opportunities, including hunting and fishing. Public access will be provided thought adjacent Iowa River Corridor public land and the Iowa River.

DNR Property Manager: Wildlife Bureau



Funding Source(s): \$25,700 Wildlife Habitat Stamp

Incidental Costs: A land survey and incidental closing costs will be the responsibility of the Department. This property will remain on the property tax rolls in Iowa County.

**Realty Services/ Iowa River Corridor WMA
Iowa County/ Marvel Schafbuch**



Legend

-  US Fish and Wildlife Service
-  Acquisition Property

0 400 800 1,600 Feet

11.7 Iowa River Corridor WMA, Iowa County – Charles and Kandy Johnson, Darrel and Margaret Johnson, Elizabeth and Lawrence Thompson

The Natural Resource Commission's approval is requested to purchase a tract of land located adjacent to Iowa River Corridor WMA in Iowa County.

Seller: Charles and Kandy Johnson, Darrel and Margaret Johnson, Elizabeth and Lawrence Thompson

Acreage: 18.38 acres M/L

Appraised Value: \$27,600 (\$1,502.00/ac)

DNR Purchase Price: \$27,600 (\$1,502/ac pending survey)

Property Description:

This irregular shaped property is located approximately 8 miles southeast of Belle Plaine in northwest corner of Iowa County. This parcel is adjacent to the Iowa River Corridor WMA, and the meandered Iowa River runs through a portion of the property. A portion of this property (11.17 acres) was enrolled in the USDA NRCS Emergency Wetland Reserve Program in 1995, following the 1993 floods. The remainder of the property is riparian timber.

Purpose:

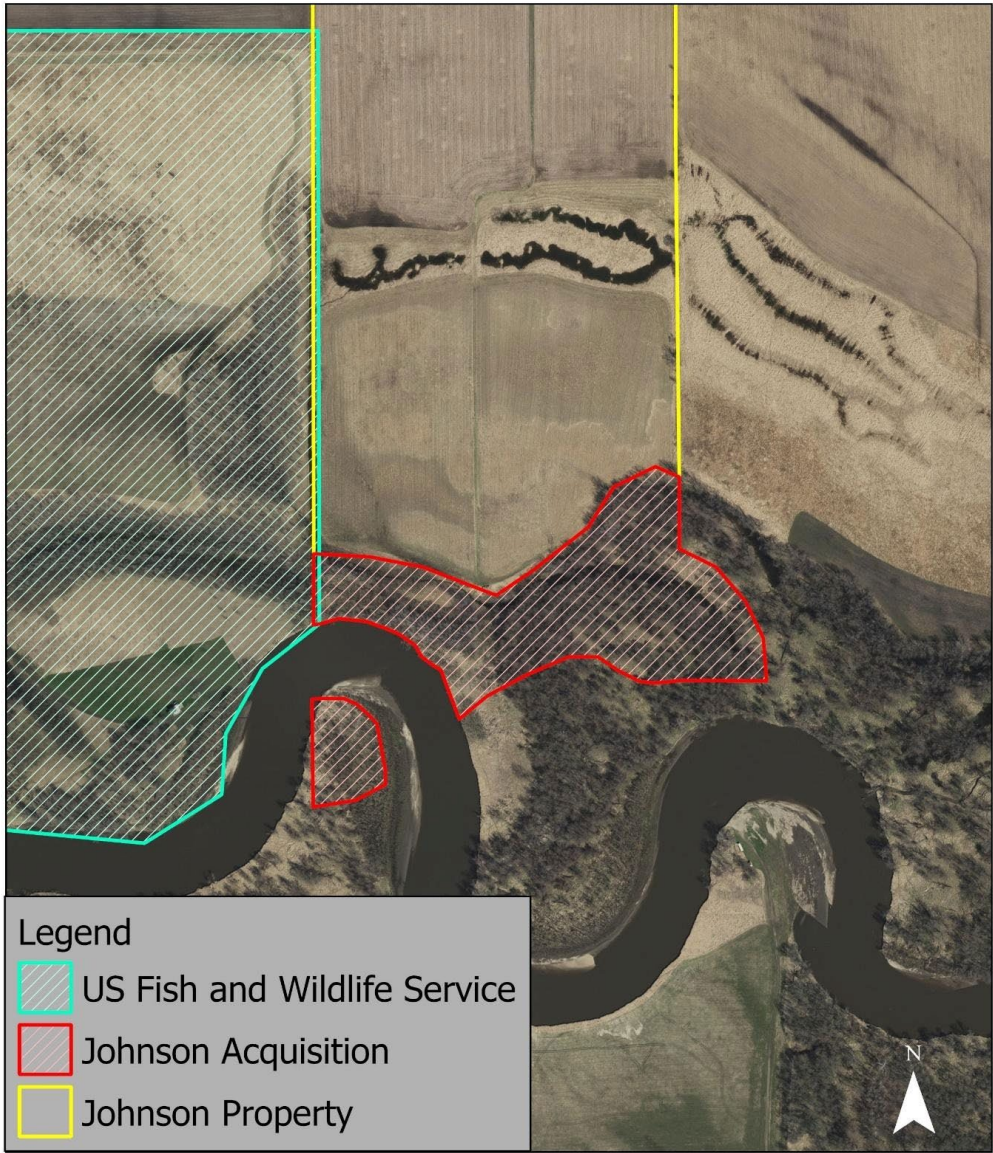
This acquisition will protect riparian habitat adjacent to the westernmost stretch of the Iowa River to be mapped as a sovereign River. The property will provide outdoor recreation opportunities, including hunting and fishing. Public access will be provided through adjacent Iowa River Corridor public land and the Iowa River.

DNR Property Manager: Wildlife Bureau

Funding Source(s): \$27,600 Wildlife Habitat Stamp

Incidental Costs: A land survey and incidental closing costs will be the responsibility of the Department. This property will remain on the property tax rolls in Iowa County.

**Realty Services / Iowa River Corridor WMA
Iowa County / Charles Johnson Et al**



- Legend
-  US Fish and Wildlife Service
 -  Johnson Acquisition
 -  Johnson Property

0 400 800 1,600 Feet

11.8 Iowa River Corridor WMA, Iowa County – Charles and Kandy Johnson, Darrel and Margaret Johnson, Elizabeth and Lawrence Thompson

The Natural Resource Commission's approval is requested to purchase an easement for permanent access across a tract of land located in Iowa County adjacent to Iowa River Corridor WMA.

Seller: Charles and Kandy Johnson, Darrel and Margaret Johnson, Elizabeth and Lawrence Thompson
DNR Purchase Price: \$2,000

Property Description:

This property is located approximately 8 miles southeast of Belle Plaine in northwest corner of Iowa County. This access easement will follow an existing farm road extending from 108th St South to the Johnson Acquisition.

Purpose:

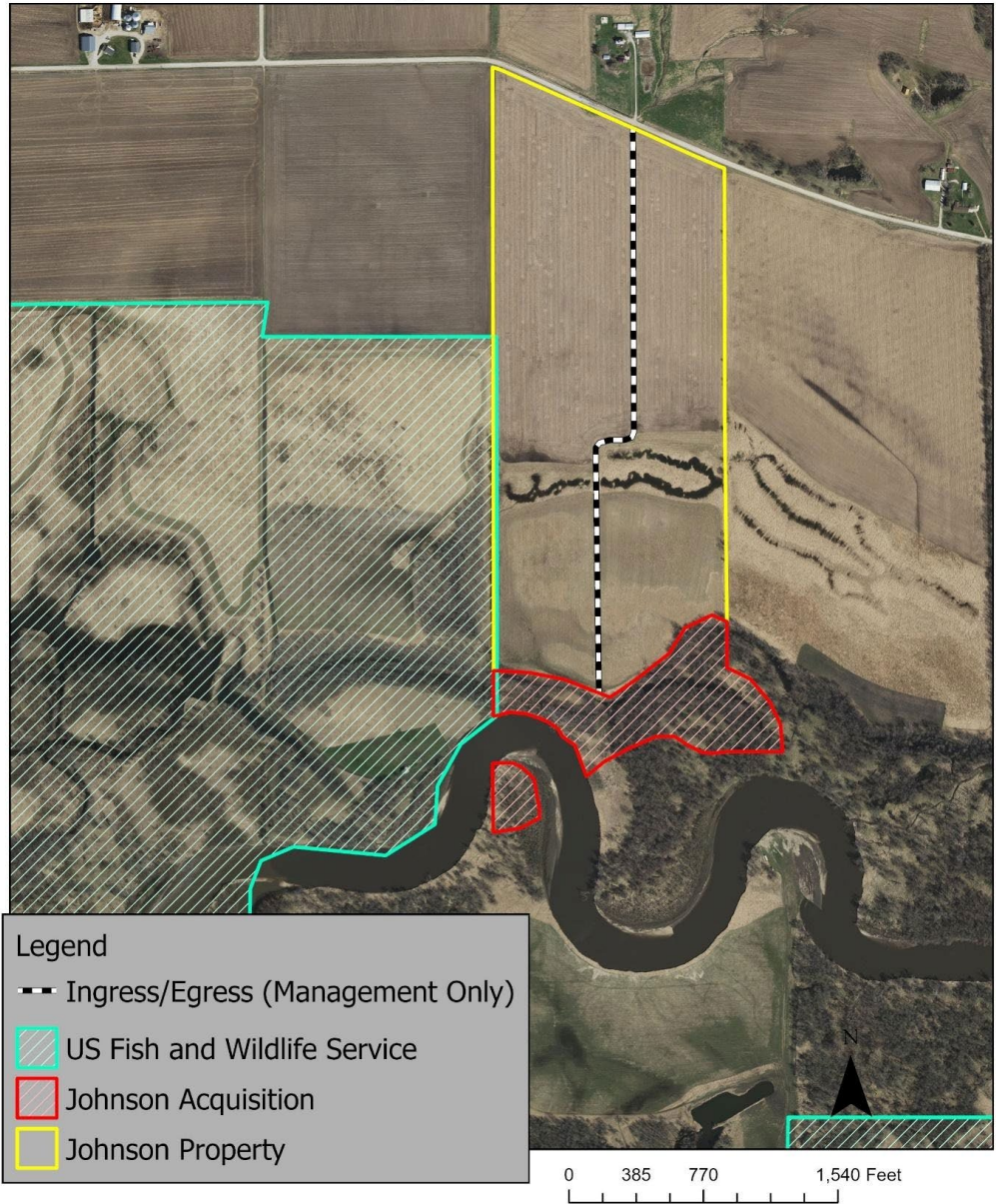
This permanent access easement will be restricted for use by DNR employees or DNR contractors for the purposes of maintenance and management. The easement will allow the Wildlife Bureau staff to better manage the WMA.

DNR Property Manager: Wildlife Bureau

Funding Source(s): \$2,000 Wildlife Habitat Stamp

Incidental Costs: A land survey and incidental closing costs will be the responsibility of the Department.

**Realty Services/ Iowa River Corridor WMA
Iowa County/ Charles Johnson Et al**



Travis Baker, Land & Waters Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
6/11/2026

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission

Decision Item (* indicates proposed consent item)

***12. Public Land Management Projects**

***12.1 Management Agreement – Cinder Path Recreational Trail – Wayne County Conservation Board – Wayne County**

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to approve the Management Agreement with the City of McGregor for the McGregor Waterfront Access located in Clayton County.

Location: The portion of the sovereign bed of the Mississippi River lying between the ordinary high water line and the normal pool elevation between the North and South corporate limits of the City of McGregor in Township 95 North, Range 3 West of the 5th P.M., Clayton County, Iowa.

Site Purpose: This property is used for public access for outdoor recreation in the same manner as state owned recreation areas.

Management History: This property has been under a management agreement with the City of McGregor since 1997.

Management Agreement Term: This standard Management Agreement is with the City of McGregor for 25 years.

This agreement was approved by the McGregor City Council on May 20, 2026.

***12.2 Management Agreement – Cinder Path Recreational Trail – Wayne CCB – Wayne County**

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to approve the Management Agreement with the Wayne County Conservation Board for the Cinder Path Recreational Trail located in Wayne County.

Location: This property runs from the north end of the City of Humeston to the Lucas/Wayne County line in Sections 3, 10, and 15, Township 70 North, Range 23 West of the 5th P.M. in Wayne County, Iowa.

Site Purpose: This 14-acre property is used for access area for outdoor recreation in the same manner as state owned recreation areas.

Management History: This property has been under a management agreement with the City of Humeston since 1993.

Management Agreement Term: This standard Management Agreement is with the Wayne County Conservation Board for 25 years.

This agreement was approved by the Wayne County Board of Supervisors on May 12, 2026.

***12.3 Chapter 17 Lease — John and Linda Thomsen – Union County**

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to approve the new Chapter 17 Lease (#141-N) with John Thomsen and Linda Thomsen, husband and wife.

Location: A parcel approximately 20' by 31' in size and adjacent to Green Valley State Park, located the Southeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 26, Township 73 North, Range 31 West of the 5th P.M., Union County, Iowa.

Site Purpose: The site will be used as a gravel driveway for access to private property.

Lease History: The site was previously a field access and not under lease.

Lease Fee and Term: The annual fee of the lease is \$163.50. The term of the lease will be five years.



***12.4 Chapter 17 Lease – Allamakee County – Interstate Power and Lights Company**

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to approve a new Chapter 17 lease 10-R with Interstate Power and Lights Company.

Location: A portion of the bed of the Mississippi River approximately 600 feet in frontage and 400 feet in depth with an appendage of 50 feet in depth and 70 feet in frontage at river mile 660.0 in Sections 2 & 3, Township 98 North, Range 3 East of the 5th P.M. in Allamakee County, Iowa.

Site Purpose: Interstate Power and Lights Company intends to construct a Batter Energy Storage System (BESS). Construction of the BESS involves civil preparation of the site and installation of foundations, battery containers, and power conversion systems, as well as related equipment, wiring, and conduit to support their function. Interstate Power and Lights Company has received their Sovereign Lands Construction Permit 2026-0047SL-01.

Lease History: The site was previously held under a 50-year lease originating in 1974. Following its expiration in 2024, a subsequent five-year lease was executed to facilitate the decommissioning and remediation of the existing coal pile. This new five-year lease is for the construction of the BESS over the remediated area.

Lease Fee and Term: The annual fee is \$15,924.90. The term of the lease will be five years.



Travis Baker, Land & Waters Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting Date: June 11, 2026

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

Decision Item (**indicates proposed consent item*)

***13. Publicly Owned Lakes Watershed Eligibility Program– FY27**

Purpose:

This process establishes a priority list of watersheds above significant public lakes where private landowners are eligible to receive cost-share moneys to establish soil and water conservation practices. Funds for these practices are set aside in appropriations to the Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS), Division of Soil and Water Conservation.

In order to be eligible to receive IDALS’s Publicly Owned Lakes Watershed (POLW) Program funds, an applicant must be a soil and water conservation district and apply for POLW priority designation to IDALS - Division of Soil and Water Conservation. Applications are submitted annually, as specified by the Division. The Division then forwards applications to the Department for determination of program eligibility.

The Department reviews applications based on compliance with application requirements. For example, the application requests a map of the watershed identifying the sources and estimated sediment delivery to the lake; and, description, location, estimated costs and estimated reduction of sediment delivery for each planned practice that will be implemented pending program funding. The purpose is to target locations within the watersheds that contribute significant sediment to the lake for installation of permanent or management soil conservation practices.

Summary of Selection Process: As outlined in Iowa Administrative Code 571, Chapter 31, Publicly Owned Lakes Watershed Program, the DNR is responsible for the application review and recommendation process. The DNR is to then submit the recommended list of watersheds above significant public lakes eligible under the program for the upcoming year to the Natural Resource Commission for approval. The Review and Selection Committee evaluated applications based on the criteria above.

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

- 5 IDNR Staff – Conservation and Recreation Division (2); Environmental Services Division (3)
- 1 IDALS Staff

Number of Applications Received: 6

Recommendations: In accordance with the administrative rules, the Review and Selection Committee has determined that the following meet program requirements and recommends approval of the following list of watersheds for program eligibility:

- West Lake, Clarke SWCD
- Lake Icaria, Adams SWCD
- Lake Miami, Monroe SWCD
- Three Mile Lake, Union and Adair SWCD’s
- Twelve Mile Lake, Union and Adair SWCD’s
- Badger Creek Lake, Madison and Dallas SWCD’s

Travis Baker, Land & Waters Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting Date: June 11, 2026

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission

Decision Item

14. Contract with the Kossuth County Conservation Board (Smith Lake Park)

Commission approval is requested for a contract with the Kossuth County Conservation Board, Algona, IA.

Contract Terms:

Amount: Not to exceed \$327,825.00

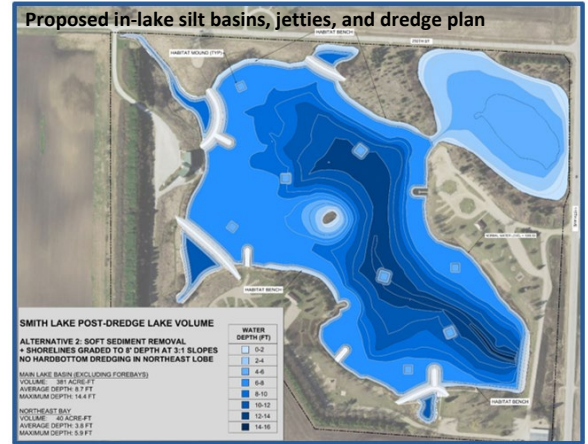
Dates: July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2028

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: Smith Lake is a 57-acre lake in a 775-acre watershed, which is dominated by row crop agriculture. The lake was constructed in 1965/1966, and it is located within the 124-acre Smith Lake County Park. The park is a destination for camping, fishing, and is regional hub for recreation. The park is also home to the Kossuth County Conservation Board (KCCB) and nature center.

Smith Lake is currently listed on Iowa’s Impaired Waters List poor water quality attributed to excessive algae growth. The lake was first impaired in 2002, and a TMDL for the lake was completed in 2005. Smith Lake continues to struggle with algae blooms, excessive sedimentation, and poor water quality. Because the lake has also lost considerable depth over time (average depth today is just under 5ft), the lake also has challenges with excessive vegetation, which negatively impact recreation and the fishery. A watershed assessment was completed in 2023 and was to identify areas in the watershed that would benefit from additional watershed BMPS. As a result of this assessment, the CCB constructed a bioswale on park property to capture runoff from the parking lot and nature center directly above the lake.



The lake restoration program began meeting with the Kossuth County Conservation Board in 2022 in hopes of developing a larger scale restoration project. Project partners hired an engineering firm in 2025 to complete a diagnostic and feasibility study that assessed water quality issues in the park and to develop a restoration plan that would improve water quality, update infrastructure, and enhance recreational opportunities at Smith Lake. A public meeting was held in the spring of 2026 to discuss restoration opportunities and project partners are now ready to move forward with engineering design and permitting needed to for construction.

Contract Purpose: The purpose of this agreement is to work with the KCCB to hire a qualified consultant to provide the KCCB with planning, engineering, permitting, and cost estimation services associated with meeting the restoration goals outlined in the diagnostic and feasibility study. Engineering services provided under this contract include the evaluation and design of potential in-lake and watershed practices that include targeted dredging, shoreline stabilization, dam and outlet upgrades, in-lake silt basin construction, wetland restoration, and enhanced recreational opportunities (such as fishing jetties).

Budget:

DNR Contribution (75%)	\$ 327,825.00
Kossuth County Conservation Board Contribution (25%)	\$ 109,275.00
Total budget	\$ 437,100.00

Anticipated Future Work: Upon completion of engineering design, project partners plan to move forward with construction in late 2027 through 2029. Total anticipated costs are \$4-5 million, and will construction will include a combination of targeted dredging, shoreline stabilization, dam and outlet upgrades, wetland restoration, fish habitat work, and improved recreational access.

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

Travis Baker, Land & Waters Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting Date: June 11, 2026