

# Black Hawk County

## RESOURCE ENHANCEMENT AND PROTECTION (REAP) PLAN



Prepared by the Iowa Northland Regional Council of Governments  
Adopted March 8, 2016



## DOCUMENT REVISION SUMMARY

Date of Revision	Revised Section	Summary of Changes
1-16-19	Focus Area 3, D	Create and maintain a <b>state designated</b> water trail along Black Hawk Creek
1-16-19	Focus Area 3, F	Create <b>and maintain</b> a state designated water trail along the Cedar River
1-16-19	Focus Area 3, R	<b>Repair or replace the Cedar Valley Nature Trail Bridge in La Porte City</b> ; updated goal details
8-15-19	Recreation Areas, Cities (pg. 5)	The City of Cedar Falls <b>Public Works</b> <del>Parks</del> Department...
8-15-19	Focus Area 1, G, IV	Public art <b>has been installed</b> <del>is planned</del> near the intersection... <del>The City has identified</del> The Center Streetscape improvements <b>have started</b> <del>as a future goal</del> .
8-15-19	Focus Area 1, G, V	Added project description: <b>Priority projects are considered dependent on funding.</b>
8-15-19	Focus Area 3, A	Develop the Cedar Falls <b>Cedar River Recreation Area</b> <del>Whitewater Recreation Park and Course</del> ; ...between the <b>Main Center</b> -Street and West 1 <sup>st</sup> Street Bridge...Project benefits include <del>addressing safety issues associated with the low-head dam</del> improved fish passage...
8-15-19	Focus Area 3, J	Added project update: <b>An accessible fishing dock was installed at Big Woods Lake.</b>
8-15-19	Focus Area 5, B	Additional whitewater infrastructure at Gateway Park in Cedar Falls will <b>be available</b> <del>address safety issues with the low-head dam</del> .
8-5-20	Focus Area 1, D	Added update
8-5-20	Focus Area 1, H	Added update
8-5-20	Focus Area 1, Q	Added update
8-5-20	Focus Area 1, R	New project
8-5-20	Focus Area 2, F	Added update
8-5-20	Focus Area 2, J	New project
8-5-20	Focus Area 2, K	New project

Date of Revision	Revised Section	Summary of Changes
8-5-20	Focus Area 3, D	Added update
8-5-20	Focus Area 3, F	Added update
8-5-20	Focus Area 3, R	Added update
8-5-20	Focus Area 3, G, IV	New project
8-5-20	Focus Area 4, H	Added update
8-5-20	List of Accomplishments from REAP Initiatives	Added Hartman Reserve Interpretive Center Construction, Wolf Creek Bridge Replacement, West Fork Greenbelt Acquisition (38 acres)
1-20-21	Focus Area 3, N	Added update
1-20-21	Focus Area 3, O	Added update
1-20-21	Preserve Areas, State Recognized, Cedar Hills Sand Prairie	Formerly known as “Mark Sand Prairie”, this reserve <del>has been managed by the University of Northern Iowa Biological Preserves since its discovery in 1969</del> was discovered in 1969 and managed by University of Northern Iowa Biology faculty and students until the late 2000s. <del>Black Hawk County Conservation has entered into an agreement with the Nature Conservancy to take ownership of the Cedar Hills Sand Prairie in 2020</del> The Nature Conservancy transferred this property to Black Hawk County Conservation in 2020.
1-20-21	Preserve Areas, Local, University of Northern Iowa Biological Preserves System	University of Northern Iowa Biological Preserves <del>System</del> and Campus Trails. The University of Northern Iowa (UNI) Biological System consists of <del>seven</del> six tracts of land, of which approximately 76 acres are on-campus and <del>approximately 77</del> 2.5 acres are off-campus. The on-campus sites include the 8-acre University Avenue Preserve; a 9.2-acre reconstructed tallgrass prairie, <b>dedicated as Daryl Smith Prairie in 2019...</b> Off-campus is <del>Matala Preserve, a 75-acre native lowland forest on the floodplain of the Cedar River, and</del> the 2.5-acre Clay Prairie Preserve, a small remnant tallgrass prairie in Butler County... <del>New to the UNI Biological Preserves System in 2009 is a mowed grass walking path through the tallgrass prairie and lowland forest preserve. This path allows access for student groups and the public to experience the Preserves in a natural and education setting</del> The UNI Campus maintains mowed grass recreational trails through the Biological Preserves and adjacent natural areas, as well as through the Tallgrass Prairie Center seed production fields and around the Cedar Falls wetland complex north of the UNI Dome. These trails allow access for students and the public to study and enjoy nature within the urban environment.

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1-20-21	Focus Area 4, C	Added update
1-20-21	Recreation Areas, County	County Conservation currently manages <del>nearly</del> <b>over</b> 9,000 acres of parks...
1-20-21	Recreational Trail System, Shared - use Trails, American Discovery Trail	The ADT stretches for over 6,800 miles across 15 states and <del>is the only</del> <b>was the first</b> coast-to-coast non-motorized trail in the nation.
1-20-21	Recreational Trail System, Water Trails, Black Hawk County Water Trails Master Plan	Replaced “Cedar River Water Trail” and “Black Hawk Creek Water Trail” with <b>Black Hawk County Water Trails Master Plan</b> .
1-20-21	Focus Area 1, H	Project update
1-20-21	Focus Area 1, M	Project update
1-20-21	Focus Area 2, D, II	Added cover crops to description
1-20-21	Focus Area 2, F	<del>...and continues to work with County Building Maintenance to promote/encourage the installation of solar arrays on or at County facilities.</del> <b>County Conservation, in partnership with the County Alternative Energy Committee and the County Board of Supervisors, is working to install solar arrays on seven additional County facilities.</b>
1-20-21	Focus Area 2, J	Project update
1-20-21	Focus Area 2, K	Project update
1-20-21	Focus Area 3, F	...the signage for this trail is being ordered and brochures <del>are currently being produced</del> <b>have been created and distributed.</b>
1-20-21	Focus Area 3, G, II	...there remains a <del>22-mile</del> <b>20-mile</b> gap <b>from the McFarlane Park Trail Bridge to northwest of Center Point</b> that is not.
1-20-21	Focus Area 3, G, IV	Project update
1-20-21	Focus Area 3, L	Project update
1-20-21	Focus Area 3, Q	Project update



Date of Revision	Revised Section	Summary of Changes
1-20-21	List of Accomplishments from REAP Initiatives	West Fork Greenbelt Acquisition (6.58 acres); Wolf Creek Park and Trail, La Porte City
1-20-21	Focus Area 1, R	Project update
1-19-22	Focus Area 2, F	...County Conservation, in partnership with the County Alternative Energy Committee and the County Board of Supervisors, <del>is working to install</del> <b>installed</b> solar arrays on seven additional County facilities.
1-19-22	List of Accomplishments from REAP Initiatives	Meyers Lake Shoreline Rehabilitation, Greenbelt Lake Improvements (Phase I), Clay Street Park Water Quality Improvements, Dunkerton Prairie Wetland Acquisition, Dunkerton Land Acquisition and Enhancements, Dunkerton Riverwalk Trail
1-18-23	Recreational Trail System, Water Trails	... According to the Iowa DNR, there are currently <del>one</del> <b>three</b> state designated water trails, <del>two designated study areas,</del> and one potential study area in Black Hawk County...
1-18-23	Recreational Trail System, Water Trails	The Cedar River and Black Hawk Creek in Black Hawk County <del>will become</del> <b>are</b> state designated water trails <del>in 2021</del> <b>as of 2022</b> .
1-18-23	Focus Area 1, H	Black Hawk County has recently acquired another 26.43 acres along the West Fork of the Cedar River adding to the Turkey Ridge Wildlife Area and greenbelt.
1-18-23	Focus Area 1, M	Black Hawk County Conservation is underway with Casey Lake Restoration at Hickory Hills Park and will be including an ADA compliant fishing dock in the plans as well as fishing nodes which help get people closer to the water's edge for bank fishing opportunities. Construction is set to begin late summer, 2023.
1-18-23	Focus Area 1, P	Project update
1-18-23	Focus Area 2, F	The initiative has been completed and solar arrays are in place and operational.
1-18-23	Focus Area 2, J	The project has been let and Black Hawk County Conservation is awaiting protocol procedures to award contract.
1-18-23	Focus Area 2, K	Engineering is at approximately 75% and the current proposed project schedule is as follows: Engineering/Permitting completed by mid to late summer 2023; Phase I (construction to include Watershed BMP's) mid-summer 2023 thru spring 2024; Lake Drawdown to begin fall of 2023; Phase II (in lake construction/lake dredging, fish habitat structure placement) spring 2024 to summer 2025; Lake Refilling summer 2025 to 2026 (rain dependent).

Date of Revision	Revised Section	Summary of Changes
1-18-23	Focus Area 2, L	New project
1-18-23	Focus Area 2, M	New project
1-18-23	Focus Area 3, D	Dedicated as State Water Trail in fall 2022.
1-18-23	Focus Area 3, F	Dedicated as State Water Trail in fall 2022.
1-18-23	Focus Area 3, G, II	Project update
1-18-23	Focus Area 3, G, IV	Mud Creek Bridge on the currently unpaved portion of the trail is the next bridge that will be replaced and is currently under contract with demolition beginning the week of January 16th.
1-18-23	Focus Area 4, E	Project update
1-18-23	Focus Area 4, F	Project update
1-18-23	Focus Area 4, G	Project update
1-18-23	Attachment 2, List of REAP Expenditures in Black Hawk County	Updated with most recent information
1-17-24	Focus Area 2, N	New project
1-17-24	Focus Area 3, G	<del>Black Hawk County and Linn County Conservation Boards were successful with a Destination Iowa Grant to help with the completion of the paving of the final gap of the CVNT. Contractors are mobilizing on January 16<sup>th</sup> to begin work on the structures (Mud Creek Bridge and two box culverts) on the Black Hawk County Conservation portion of the trail. Linn County is preparing their "Structures" bid package and will soon be letting. The paving portion of the project will be completed after all structure work and erosion control measures are in place.</del> All structures have been replaced on the gravel portion of the trail along with several culvert replacements and improvements. Additionally, some erosion control measures have been completed. The paving is scheduled for Spring/Summer 2024. This was a partnership project along with Linn County who has completed the structures on their end of the trail from Bear Creek to just north of Urbana. The paving on their section is also scheduled for Spring/Summer 2024. This project was made possible, in part, by American Rescue Plan Act funds and a Destination Iowa Grant.



Date of Revision	Revised Section	Summary of Changes
7-31-24	County REAP Plan Update Process (new title)	<p>...The Black Hawk County REAP Committee voted unanimously to extend the plan to 2023 on August 5, 2020, and again to 2024 on January 17, 2024.</p> <p>At the July 31, 2024 meeting, the Committee unanimously decided to remove the timeframe from the document, given their effective biannual updates to the document and projects.</p>
7-31-24	REAP Funding	Funding totals have been removed from each category; detailed and up-to-date totals can be found in the historic funding by county provided by the Iowa DNR (see Attachment 2).
7-31-24	Recreational Trail System, Shared-use Trails, Cedar Valley Nature Trail	<p>...The trail is hard surfaced <del>from Evansdale to McFarlane Park just outside of La Porte City. The remainder of the trail in Black Hawk County is surfaced with compacted limestone aggregate. Black Hawk County Conservation is actively seeking funds to pave the remaining portion of the Cedar Valley Nature Trail within its jurisdiction</del> with the last 9 miles being paved in 2024.</p>
7-31-24	Focus Area 2, A	Black Hawk County Conservation is working to implement a stream restoration project in the Hartman Bluff Preserve with construction hopeful in 2024/2025.
7-31-24	Focus Area 2, J	This project was completed in 2024. The new mound with soil absorption field is complete and operational.
7-31-24	Focus Area 2, K	Contractors are continuing to finalize the dredging and have begun work on the watershed holding ponds. Fish habitat work will be completed late summer/early fall 2024. Currently on schedule for a project completion spring/summer 2025.
7-31-24	Focus Area 2, L	Preliminary engineering has been completed for the new pier. Final design engineering is underway with construction expected to begin fall 2024.
7-31-24	Focus Area 2, M	Preparing to apply for County REAP funds again in 2024. Concept design is complete, under contract for final design. Hoping for construction in late fall/winter 2024/2025.

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7-31-24	Focus Area 3, G, II	All structures have been replaced on the gravel portion of the trail along with several culvert replacements and improvements. Additionally, some erosion control measures have been completed. The paving is scheduled for Spring/Summer 2024. This was a partnership project along with Linn County who has completed the structures on their end of the trail from Bear Creek to just north of Urbana. The paving on their section is also scheduled for Spring/Summer 2024. This project was made possible, in part, by American Rescue Plan Act funds and a Destination Iowa Grant. Mainline paving is complete, with contractors working on shouldering and roadway crossings. Expected completion August 2024.
7-31-24	Focus Area 3, G, III	This project was completed in the fall of 2023.
7-31-24	Focus Area 3, G, IV	Wolf Creek Bridge has been replaced. Brandon Bridge has been repaired. <b>Mud Creek Bridge has been replaced. Miller Creek (C1), E3 and M1 bridges are all under contract for replacement. Work has begun on the Miller Creek Bridge replacement. All three are expected to be completed by summer 2025. Black Hawk County will continue to work to secure funding to replace the remaining 5 bridges. <del>Black Hawk County Conservation is actively seeking funding for repairs to Miller Creek Bridge. Mud Creek Bridge on the currently unpaved portion of the trail is the next bridge that will be replaced and is currently under contract with demolition beginning the week of January 16th.</del></b>
7-31-24	Focus Area 3, J	Project plans for the Casey Lake Restoration Project include the addition of an ADA accessible fishing dock. Plans are to add it when the lake is refilled.
7-31-24	Focus Area 5, E	Project plans for the Casey Lake Restoration Project include the addition of an ADA accessible fishing dock. Plans are to add it when the lake is refilled.
1-08-25	Focus Area 4, G	The <a href="https://www.blackhawkcounty.iowa.gov/245/Your-County-Roadsides">2024 Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management (IRVM) Plan</a> , along with past plans, can be found at <a href="https://www.blackhawkcounty.iowa.gov/245/Your-County-Roadsides">https://www.blackhawkcounty.iowa.gov/245/Your-County-Roadsides</a> .
7-30-25	Recreational Trail System, Shared-use Trails	Some portions of trails are granular limestone products, though these are minimal. <b>*Still accurate after paving of CVNT?</b>
7-30-25	Recreational Trail System, Shared-use Trails	Spelling: <del>trial</del> -trail
7-30-25	Recreational Trail System, Shared-use Trails	Washington State



Date of Revision	Revised Section	Summary of Changes
7-30-25	Table 2: Focus Areas and Project Updates for the Black Hawk County REAP Plan: Focus Area 1: Project A) Sustain funding for Wildlife Conservation Interns, Project Updates:	Established Friends of BHC Conservation endowment. Revenue from this endowment can help leverage Wildlife Interns
7-30-25	Table 2: Focus Areas and Project Updates for the Black Hawk County REAP Plan: Focus Area 2: Project R) Continue to work with Cedar Valley Monarch Zones Partners to convert and/or create more acres in Black Hawk County to pollinator plantings.	From 2019-2025 <del>0</del> , 59 * acres of pollinator habitat were planted. *UPDATE
7-30-25	Table 2: Focus Areas and Project Updates for the Black Hawk County REAP Plan: Focus Area 2: Project L) Beaver Valley Wetlands Viewing Pier.	Preliminary engineering has been completed for the new pier. Final design engineering <del>is underway</del> with construction <del>expected to begin fall 2024</del> completed in 2025.
7-30-25	Table 2: Focus Areas and Project Updates for the Black Hawk County REAP Plan: Focus Area 2: Project M) Hartman Bluff Preserve Erosion Control	Nearing completion summer of 2025; fall planting of tree stakes is all that remains on this project.
7-30-25	Table 2: Focus Areas and Project Updates for the Black Hawk County REAP Plan: Focus Area 3: Project G) Continue to expand & maintain the Black Hawk County regional trail and on-road accommodation system: II) Hard-surface the Cedar Valley Nature Trail between McFarlane Park and Center Point	Project is complete

Date of Revision	Revised Section	Summary of Changes
7-30-25	Table 2: Focus Areas and Project Updates for the Black Hawk County REAP Plan: Focus Area 3: Project G) Continue to expand & maintain the Black Hawk County regional trail and on-road accommodation system: IV) Maintain trail bridges	Wolf Creek Bridge has been replaced. Brandon Bridge has been repaired. Mud Creek Bridge has been replaced. Miller Creek (C1), Sink Creek E3 and M1 bridges have been replaced <del>are all under contract for replacement. Work has begun on the Miller Creek Bridge replacement. All three are expected to be completed by summer 2025.</del> Black Hawk County will continue to work to secure funding to replace the remaining 5 bridges.
7-30-25	Table 2: Focus Areas and Project Updates for the Black Hawk County REAP Plan: Focus Area 4: Project C) Increase watershed awareness through educational & research opportunities	Since 2015, the University of Northern Iowa Tallgrass Prairie Center <i>Prairie on Farms</i> program has partnered with watersheds and conservation professionals throughout the state to provide technical assistance for planting prairie as a part of watershed projects that reduce flooding and improve water quality. Signs have been placed near waterways identifying watersheds through grant opportunities through NRCS. <b>*Josh Balk will have more details on this</b>
7-30-25	Table 2: Focus Areas and Project Updates for the Black Hawk County REAP Plan: Focus Area 5: Project D) Expansion and continued maintenance of the interpretive signage	Subcategory addition: DI) Wayfinding signage along the CVNT
		<b>*REVIEW BLACK HAWK COUNTY LAND USE POLICY STATEMENTS</b>



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# OVERVIEW

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## Background

In May of 1989, the Iowa Legislature approved the Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Act with overwhelming bipartisan support. Since its inception, REAP has benefited every county in Iowa by supporting over 14,500 projects with more than \$264 million in investments; Black Hawk County alone has received \$9 million in REAP funding. REAP is divided into seven categories which are as follows:

- Open space preservation
- Land conservation
- Land management
- Historical preservation
- Open space acquisition and development
- Native roadside vegetation
- Soil and water enhancement

Each county in Iowa is required to have a REAP Committee to review and approve REAP grant applications. In the same year REAP was created, various members of local organizations joined together to create the Black Hawk County REAP Committee. In the years following the REAP Act of 1989, REAP Committees across Iowa remained active and worked diligently towards improving and protecting the natural and cultural resources in their county. During the 1990s, many REAP Committees became less involved in the grant review process, and the main responsibility of the Chairperson was to merely sign-off for grant applications without ample committee review and discussion.

Black Hawk County has realized the importance of having an involved REAP Committee for the revitalization and preservation of its natural areas. In 2007, Black Hawk County Conservation took proactive steps to redevelop a fully functional REAP Committee and adopt a new five-year REAP Plan for the years 2008-2012. Because of the historic flooding in the summer of 2008, outdoor recreation and preservation of natural areas in Black Hawk County changed drastically. In 2010, the REAP Committee adopted the 2011-2015 REAP Plan with emphasis placed on mitigation of flood damage by proactively planning what types of land use should be in flood plains, as well as the implementation of practices that reduce the volume of storm water runoff into creeks and rivers.



## Black Hawk County REAP Committee

One of the primary responsibilities of the Black Hawk County REAP Committee is to develop a plan to use the financial resources of the REAP Act. The plan should guide achievement of the goals set forward by the 1989 Iowa General Assembly as well as to develop a conservation and land ethic that will improve the quality of life for citizens and visitors of Black Hawk County. The REAP Committee was responsible for creating the 1990-1995, 2008-



2012, 2011-2015, and 2016-2024 REAP Plans to identify current trends of recreation and wildlife activities and highlight areas of Black Hawk County that were most in need of future REAP funds.

Currently, the REAP Committee meets biannually to determine upcoming REAP projects and address the critical environmental needs in the county. Special meetings may also be held to revise the REAP Plan as necessary. Black Hawk County REAP Committee meeting minutes, including meeting attendees, can be found in *Attachment 10*. Additional members serve on the committee periodically, as membership is flexible to include multiple interest groups at different times.

## County REAP Plan Update Process

On January 20, 2016, a REAP Committee meeting was held for the development of the 2016-2020 REAP Plan. Invitations to participate were extended to the Board of Supervisors, County Conservation, schools, mayors, city parks departments, historical organizations, environmental organizations, and outdoor recreation groups. The meeting was well attended, with 21 representatives in attendance. Committee members reviewed past Goals and Focus Areas and decided what to carry forward in the updated plan. Members were also encouraged to propose projects within the county that would be eligible for REAP funding within the next five years. All recommended revisions and additions incorporated into the draft document were approved by the committee.

Written and oral comments were solicited for the draft 2016-2020 REAP Plan. The public was provided a 20-day comment period starting February 17, 2016. On March 8, 2016 the Black Hawk County REAP Committee unanimously approved the 2016-2020 REAP Plan. The Black Hawk County REAP Committee voted unanimously to extend the plan to 2023 on August 5, 2020, and again to 2024 on January 17, 2024.

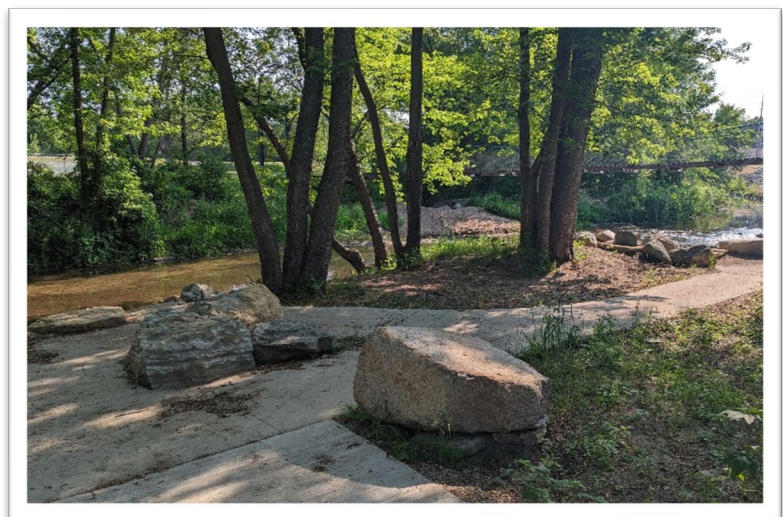
At the July 31, 2024 meeting, the Committee unanimously decided to remove the timeframe from the document, given their effective biannual updates to the document and projects.

## REAP Funding

A comprehensive list of historical REAP funding received by Black Hawk County is provided in *Attachment 2*.

### ***City Parks and Open Space (15 percent of REAP funds)***

This money is available to cities through competitive grants. Cedar Falls, Dunkerton, Elk Run Heights, Evansdale, Hudson, La Porte City, and Waterloo have all received Open Spaces Grants. Many of these projects were multi-phased. The largest of these were Big Woods Lake Recreation Area in Cedar Falls and Riverview Recreation Area in Waterloo, both of which involved land acquisition, trail development, and park enhancements.



### ***Conservation Education (first \$350,000 of REAP funds)***

A five-member board implements the Conservation Education Program (CEP), and they annually allocate approximately \$350,000 in grants for conservation education in Iowa. Grant recipients have included The Friends of Hartman Reserve, Iowa Academy of Science and the University of Northern Iowa for after school programs, workshops, and educational initiatives.

### ***County Conservation (20 percent of REAP funds)***

This money is available to counties for land easement or acquisition, capital improvements, stabilization and protection of resources, repair and upgrading of facilities, environmental education, and equipment. State funds are distributed to all counties as well as on a per population basis. Additional funds have been awarded under the competitive grant process for the Black Hawk Creek Greenbelt Addition, Cedar Valley Lakes Project Additions, and Fischer Forest Project.

### ***Iowa DNR Administration (1 percent of REAP funds)***

After the \$350,000 Conservation Education allotment, one percent of the remaining funds are transferred to the Iowa DNR to help defray costs of REAP administration.

### ***Iowa DNR Land Management (9 percent of REAP funds)***

These funds are available to the Iowa DNR for development and management of state conservation lands. This account serves as a substitute for the state park user permit receipts which were terminated by the legislature when REAP was enacted. To date, George Wyth Memorial State Park has been the only recipient of REAP Land Management funds in Black Hawk County.

### ***Historical Resource Development Program (5 percent of REAP funds)***

The State Historical Society in the Department of Cultural Affairs administers this portion of REAP funding. Grants are available to private individuals and businesses as well as to non-profit organizations and agencies of Certified Local Governments. Various individuals and public organizations have received funds for projects throughout Black Hawk County.

### ***Open Space Acquisition and Development (28 percent of REAP funds)***

This money is allocated to acquire and develop open spaces for public use.

### ***Roadside Vegetation (3 percent of REAP funds)***

These funds are available through the Iowa Department of Transportation for state, county, and city management of roadside vegetation. Numerous public agencies and organizations in Black Hawk County have received funds to use for roadside and trail enhancement plantings and informative workshops.

### ***Soil and Water Enhancement (20 percent of REAP funds)***

These funds are available to landowners for soil and water conservation and enhancement projects.

# BLACK HAWK COUNTY RESOURCE INVENTORY

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## Recreation Areas

### ***State***

At 909 acres, George Wyth Memorial State Park is the only state park in Black Hawk County and has been designated as a National Urban Wildlife Sanctuary. The park offers lake and river fishing, swimming, camping, picnicking, modern showers and restrooms, playground equipment, four open shelters, one enclosed shelter, and soft and hard-surfaced shared-use trails. George Wyth has several water areas: Brinker Lake (120 acres, open for power boating), George Wyth Lake (75 acres, no-wake lake with a handicapped accessible fishing pier), Fisher Lake (40-acre natural lake), Alice Wyth Lake (60 acres, electric motors only), and the Cedar River, which forms the southern border of the park. George Wyth Memorial State Park sustained substantial damage from the floods of 2008. Rebuilding efforts were completed in 2012 and included extensive work to the beach area and surrounding facilities.

### ***County***

Black Hawk County is fortunate to have a vast array of publicly owned open spaces (reference *Attachment 4*). County Conservation currently manages over 9,000 acres of parks, open spaces, and wildlife areas in and around Black Hawk County. Although not all parcels are under Black Hawk County ownership, cooperative efforts of Black Hawk County, the State of Iowa, the Waterloo Rotary Club, the cities of Waterloo and Cedar Falls, and individual landowners make access to these recreational areas possible.

Encompassing nearly 1,600 acres, Black Hawk Park is the largest tract of land that County Conservation manages, making it one of the largest county parks in Iowa. The park forms a greenbelt along the Cedar River from Cedar Falls to the Washington-Union Bridge, four miles to the north. Black Hawk Park also adjoins Railroad Lake and Beaver Creek Access to the west. Amenities include a campground with full hookups, picnic areas with fire grills, showers, open shelters, as well as river and creek boat access.

At 925 acres, the second largest area under County management is the Brett Klima Wildlife Area located north of La Porte City; 903 acres are open to public hunting. Numerous organizations and businesses in the Cedar Valley have helped in funding expansion of this wildlife area in recent years, as has REAP funding. This area also features river and creek access.

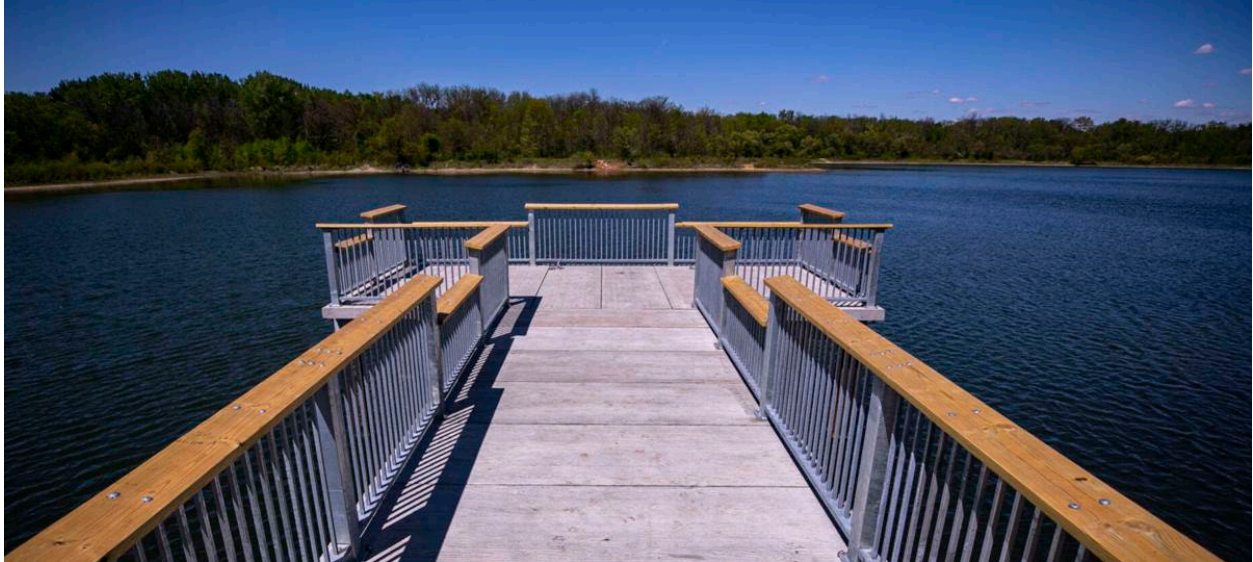
The third largest area under County management is Hickory Hills Park at 723 acres. Although it was established in Tama County in 1969, Black Hawk County Conservation owns and manages the area. Hickory Hills Park is located 12 miles south of Waterloo off IA-21. Amenities include a campground with full hookups, picnic areas with fire grills, showers, open shelters, seven cabins, and access to the 39-acre Casey Lake.

Another vital area under County management is the Hartman Reserve Nature Center. The Reserve is a wooded refuge located in the heart of metropolitan Black Hawk County. This 300-acre natural area extends from an upland bluff overlooking the Cedar River Valley down to the banks of the Cedar River. Within the forest are a series of gravel pits, backwater, vernal depressions, a small prairie, and an open meadow. The Reserve includes an Interpretive Center that is perched on a bluff above the river amid the upland forest. Year-round public educational activities for children and adults, as well as rental space, are available for private parties.



## Cities

The Waterloo/Cedar Falls metropolitan area offers numerous trails, parks, and open spaces for public enjoyment (see *Attachment 4*). The City of Cedar Falls Public Works Department manages 35 parks (over 1,100 acres), an 18-hole golf course, a 9-hole golf course, an aquatic center, and miles of shared-use trails.



The City of Waterloo Leisure Services manages 52 parks (approximately 3,000 acres), with the largest being the Leonard Katoski Greenbelt at 1,100 acres. The Greenbelt includes an eight-mile stretch of Black Hawk Creek, a prairie, a series of lakes, and miles of shared-use trails for non-motorized use. The Black Hawk Creek Water Trail is currently under development throughout the entire greenbelt. Additional recreation activities are provided by Waterloo's three golf courses, city pool, a sports complex, hockey rink, splash pads, and miles of shared-use trails.

Offering a different type of recreation, the Riverview Recreation Area serves as the only state sanctioned Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) Park in the Cedar Valley. The entire Recreation Area totals 395 acres with 180 being designated strictly for off-road vehicle use. Other amenities include fishing jetties, boat access, recreational trails, shelter and picnic area, restroom, and a beach. The Riverview Recreation Area is located within the Waterloo city limits and is one of only a few areas in Iowa where an OHV park is found in an urban setting.

The cities of Dunkerton, Elk Run Heights, Evansdale, Gilbertville, Hudson, Janesville, La Porte City, and Raymond also provide neighboring city parks, pools, golf courses, and other recreational facilities (reference *Attachment 4* and 5).



## Preserve Areas

### ***State Recognized***

*Cedar Hills Sand Prairie:* Found northwest of Cedar Falls in western Black Hawk County, this 36-acre preserve contains a sand prairie, sedge meadow, and small fen. Formerly known as 'Mark Sand Prairie', this reserve was discovered in 1969 and managed by University of Northern Iowa Biology faculty and students until the late 2000s. The property was acquired by the Iowa chapter of The Nature Conservancy in 1985 from Wayne Mark. The preserve was dedicated in 1985 for its biological and geological features. Located in the Iowan Surface landform region, the preserve sits atop a broad sandy divide between the Cedar River and Beaver Creek, and is one of a series of Aeolian (wind-formed) sandy ridges found along the Cedar River Valley. The Nature Conservancy transferred this property to Black Hawk County Conservation in 2020.

*Casey's Paha:* Located 13 miles south of Waterloo within the Hickory Hills Recreation Area, this 175-acre preserve highlights a half-mile portion of a 2.5-mile-long elongated hill known as a 'Paha'. This 170-acre area was purchased in 1974 by Black Hawk County Conservation. The western third was dedicated as a geological preserve in 1989 and named after the Caseys, an Irish family that originally settled in the area. The gentle hills provide most of the topographic relief in a region of the state known as the Iowan Surface landform region. The accumulation of wind-blown silt (loess) topping the narrow, elongated ridges reaches forty feet deep in places.

*Hartman Bluff State Preserve:* Found along the Cedar River within the Cedar Falls/Waterloo metropolitan area is this 46-acre area containing the most highly natural land within the 300-acre Hartman Reserve. Dedicated in 2004, the Reserve contains both upland and bottomland forest that have been relatively undisturbed since the 1930s. Their preservation in an urban setting is enhanced by interpretation through educational programming provided by the Hartman Reserve Nature Center located just outside of the Reserve.



### ***Local***

*Natural Areas Reserve Program:* Together, a total of 6,388 acres (736 parcels) of natural areas have been set aside in Black Hawk County under the Forest Reserve Program, of which 5,033 acres of land in private ownership have been put in protective status. The second largest set-aside area is open prairies, totaling 1,066 acres. Small preserve areas include 132 acres of forest cover, 85 acres of wetlands, 42 acres of native prairie, and almost 30 acres of wildlife habitat. Some of these private landowners have been assisted in their efforts to protect and create natural areas by Black Hawk County Conservation, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, and several private groups such as Pheasants Forever, Ducks Unlimited, Izaak Walton League, and the Cedar Valley Wetlands Foundation.



*University of Northern Iowa Biological Preserves and Campus Trails:* The University of Northern Iowa (UNI) Biological Preserves System consists of six tracts of land, of which approximately 76 acres are on-campus and approximately 2.5 acres are off-campus. The on-campus sites include the 8-acre University Avenue Preserve; a 9.2-acre reconstructed tallgrass prairie, dedicated as Daryl Smith Prairie in 2019; a 7.3-acre Campus Lowland Forest Preserve; seven acres of reforestation and riparian succession research along Dry Run Creek named the South Main Street Preserve; and the 35-acre Upland Forest Preserve. Off-campus is the 2.5-acre Clay Prairie Preserve, a small remnant tallgrass prairie in Butler County. The UNI

Preserves system provides students and the public an opportunity to observe the reconstruction, management, and preservation of these lands as well as serving the University's mission for research and education. The UNI campus maintains mowed recreational trails through the Biological Preserves and adjacent natural areas, as well as through the Tallgrass Prairie Center seed production fields and around the Cedar Falls wetland complex north of the UNI Dome. These trails allow access for students and the public to study and enjoy nature within the urban environment.



*Cedar Valley Arboretum and Botanical Gardens:* Started in 1995, the Arboretum has grown to 75 acres of leased land from Hawkeye Community College and contains an extensive plant collection in which trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plant materials are cultivated for scientific, education, and ornamental purposes. The Arboretum remains vibrant to this day with the help of volunteers and financial donations.



## Cultural Resources

*Grout Museum District:* Throughout its 60-year history, the Grout Museum of History and Science, widely acknowledged as one of the cornerstones of culture in Northeast Iowa, has worked to fulfill its mission to collect, preserve, and interpret the cultural and natural history of the region. The museum, named after Henry Whittemore Grout, was completed in 1956 and opened to the public as a private non-profit museum. Drawing from an extensive collection, the museum features many permanent exhibits including the Grout Planetarium, and ever-changing temporary exhibits. A major addition to the Grout Museum was completed in 2008: the Sullivan Brothers Iowa Veterans Museum. This museum honors the service and sacrifice of all Iowa veterans from the Civil War to the present. The Grout Museum District also includes the Carl A. and Peggy J. Bluedorn Science Imaginarium, the Rensselaer Russell House Museum, and the Snowden House. See *Attachment 5* for the museum's location.



*Waterloo Center for the Arts:* The Center for the Arts is a municipal non-profit institution dedicated to fostering community awareness and appreciation of the arts by acquiring, preserving, exhibiting, and interpreting significant works of art. Operating under the auspices of the Waterloo Cultural Arts Commission, the Center and its programs reflect the City's commitment to and support of arts and culture. The Center's permanent collection includes the largest collection of Haitian Art in the country, as well as Midwest Regionalist Art, Mexican Folk Art, International Folk Art, American Decorative Art, and Public Art. It features changing exhibitions in 11 art galleries throughout the building and offers over 100 classes and workshops for kids, adults, and families. The facility contains a digital arts lab, ceramics studio, and the Phelps Youth Pavilion, an interactive children's museum where art launches a world of wonder, discovery, and learning.

*Cedar Falls Historical Society:* The mission of the Cedar Falls Historical Society is to engage the community in the preservation, education, and celebration of Cedar Falls' heritage. Founded in 1962, the private, non-profit organization has acquired and cares for an extensive collection of objects, documents, and photographs of local significance. It preserves and interprets three historic museums: the Ice House Museum, the Victorian Home and Carriage House Museum, and the Little Red Schoolhouse. It also maintains the Behrens-Rapp Filling Station and Visitor Information Center. Each year, the society curates a new local history exhibition in its Carriage House gallery and offers an accompanying year-long program series with educational opportunities for all ages.





*Hearst Center for the Arts:* The Center for the Arts was opened to the public in 1989 after being bequeathed to the City of Cedar Falls in 1983. With hundreds of pieces by local and regional artists, the permanent collection provides a fascinating perspective on Iowa, the Midwest, and the nation. The Center also inspires local art through exhibitions, performances, programs, classes, and workshops. As part of the Center, the Hearst Sculpture Garden also features works of art by selected Iowa sculptors that capture the complementary beauties of natural and created art.

*University Museum:* The museum at the University of Northern Iowa was started in 1892 through the individual collecting of artifacts and specimens by faculty members for use in the classroom. These collections were initiated by those in the disciplines of geology and biology but were later expanded to include history (including institutional history), and world cultures/anthropology. The museum also manages the Rural School Collections which document the history of one-room schools in Iowa, and administers the Marshall Center School, an authentic one-room school. The Museum is currently part of the University's Rod Library, where it has exhibit space, classroom facilities, artifact storage, and staff offices. It also displays topical exhibits at satellite locations throughout campus. The Museum serves as an educational resource with the purpose of supporting the independent pursuit of knowledge of UNI students, researchers, and the public with diverse collections, ongoing research, innovative exhibits, and alignment with academic programming.

*Silos & Smokestacks:* The seed of a dream sprouted in 1991 when Silos & Smokestacks was formed. In 1996, the dream bloomed as a National Heritage Area. Northeast Iowa has a unique experience to offer all age groups of visitors and Iowans. The non-profit organization was created to support development of regional heritage tourism and share the story of American agriculture. Silos & Smokestacks is a 37-county region in Northeast Iowa covering over 20,000 square miles. A federally designated National Heritage area, it functions as an Affiliated Area of the National Park Service.



## Recreational Trail System

### Shared-use Trails

The current shared-use trail network in Black Hawk County is shown in *Attachment 3* and *5*. Most trails are off-road facilities connecting parks and other outdoor recreation destinations. Some trails utilize former railroad right-of-way as their alignment, such as the Cedar Valley Nature Trail. Most trails are ten feet in width and are hard surfaced with concrete or asphalt. Some portions of trails are granular limestone products, though these are minimal.

*American Discovery Trail:* The American Discovery Trail (ADT), a nationally significant trail, encompasses approximately 104 miles through Black Hawk County and neighboring Buchanan and Grundy Counties. The ADT stretches for over 6,800 miles across 15 states and was the first coast-to-coast non-motorized trail in the nation.



In Black Hawk County, most of the ADT is a paved off-road trail for non-motorized use only; the remaining segments of the trail feature on-road accommodations.

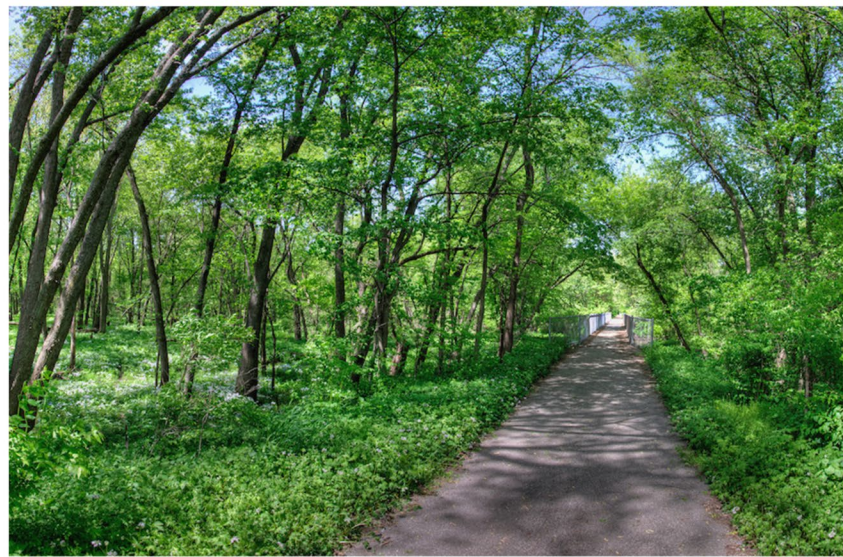
The alignment of the ADT highlights segments of regionally important trail loops. Many trail segments in Black Hawk County form loops that allow trail users to plan their trip in advance and end at the starting point. The Cedar River Loop features 16.3 miles of paved trails that parallel the Cedar River between downtown Waterloo and Cedar Falls. This scenic trail loop spans the river at several locations, one of which is a dedicated recreational trial bridge named Krieg's Crossing. Another trail segment that shares a portion of the ADT is the Cedar Prairie Loop. Totalling 17.1 miles, this paved loop follows Greenhill Road in Cedar Falls and Sergeant Road in Waterloo and connects south to Hudson.

*Great American Rail-Trail:* The Great American Rail-Trail, a project of the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, is the first trail that will be entirely bikeable across the country. Upon completion, the entire trail will be separated from vehicle traffic in its entirety. The trail stretches more than 3,700 miles between Washington, D.C., and Washington, and it includes 125 miles of existing trails, greenways, and other multi-use paths through the Cedar Valley.



[www.railstotrails.org/site/greatamericanrailtrail/content/iowa/](http://www.railstotrails.org/site/greatamericanrailtrail/content/iowa/)

*Cedar Valley Nature Trail:* Designated as part of the American Discovery Trail in the 1990s and the Great American Rail Trail in 2019, the Cedar Valley Nature Trail (CVNT) represents the first rail to trail conversion in the state of Iowa. Opened in 1982, this 52-mile trail provides non-motorized recreation between the Waterloo/Cedar Falls and Cedar Rapids metropolitan areas; 26 miles of the CVNT are owned and maintained by Black Hawk County Conservation, of which 21 miles are within Black Hawk County. The CVNT features two large bridges over the Cedar River, both of which were destroyed in the floods of 2008. Utilizing multiple funding sources, the Evansdale Trail Bridge was reconstructed in the summer of 2011, and the McFarlane Park Trail Bridge was reconstructed in the spring of 2013. The trail is hard surfaced with the last 9 miles being paved in 2024.





## ***Water Trails***

Water Trails are often considered an important recreational feature and add to the quality of life of the area. According to the Iowa DNR, there are currently three state designated water trails and one potential study area in Black Hawk County (reference *Attachment 6*). There are several components that may be included as part of a water trail:

- Access Points where users can enter and leave the water
- Signage to direct users to the water trail and its access points
- Signage to designate the trail and its access points
- Portages around shallow water areas or features such as dams

***Cedar Valley Paddlers Trail:*** The Cedar Valley Paddlers Trail is a state designated water trail loop that covers 10 miles (8.4 water trail and 1.6 portage) along the Cedar River and lakes in both state and county recreation areas in the Waterloo/Cedar Falls metropolitan area. The trail loop follows natural meanders of the Cedar River and four lakes within George Wyth Memorial State Park. Eight portages allow access between the river and various lakes, with optional routes for shorter distances and lakes in the scenic Harman Reserve. Multiple boat ramps are located along this trail on both the Cedar River and the lakes, providing easy access to the trail for all skill levels.



***Black Hawk County Water Trails Master Plan:*** From 2017-2021, Iowa Northland Regional Council of Governments (INRCOG) staff worked on developing the Water Trails Master Plan for Black Hawk County. This project was funded through the Iowa DNR and identifies site-specific improvements to over two dozen river accesses throughout the County. Many of these river accesses are situated near or along paved trails, creating multiple opportunities for “pedal paddle” trips. These are trips where a paddler drops off their bike at their take-out location, drives to the put-in location, paddles downstream, locks up their canoe or kayak, bicycles back to their vehicle, and returns with the vehicle to pick up their canoe or kayak.

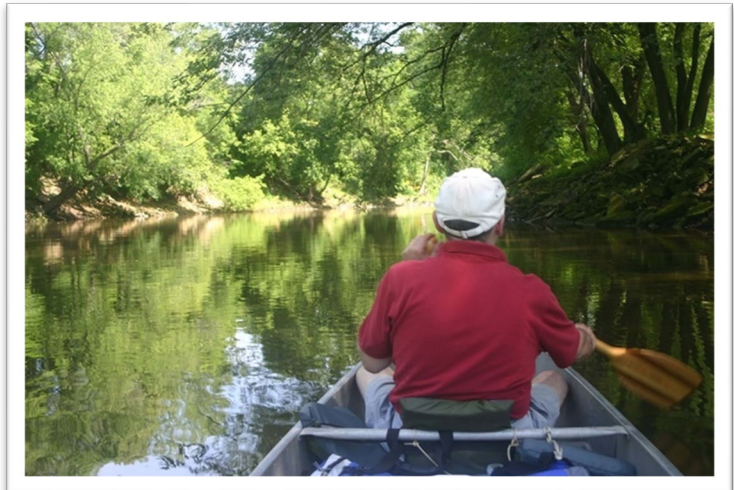


The planning process also included signage plans for on-land navigational signage, and on-water navigational signage. These include directional signs on roadways, dam warning signs, and signage to be installed at each entry point. This process required much coordination between each City, Black Hawk County, the Iowa DNR, and the Iowa DOT. The planning process also included meetings with elected officials to identify maintenance responsibilities for each government entity.



The Cedar River and Black Hawk Creek in Black Hawk County were officially recognized as state-designated water trails in 2022, marking a significant step in promoting recreational water activities and environmental conservation. This designation highlights the natural beauty and ecological importance of these waterways, encouraging both locals and visitors to explore and appreciate their scenic landscapes.

*Wapsipinicon River Water Trail:* The Wapsipinicon River Water Trail in Black Hawk County is identified as a potential study area. This trail would extend from Frederika in Bremer County southeast through Black Hawk County to Jesup in Buchanan County. The Wapsipinicon River Water Trail in Buchanan County is a state designated water trail. With a total length of almost 40 miles, the Wapsipinicon River Water Trail is one of the longest continuous stretches of natural and scenic river corridors in the state. Currently, there are five areas in Black Hawk County where paddlers can park and access the river: Siggelkow Park, Bruce Childs Access, Bruggeman Park, River Birch Bottoms, and Wapsi Bluff.



[www.cedarvalleywatertrails.wordpress.com/](http://www.cedarvalleywatertrails.wordpress.com/)

[www.iowadnr.gov/Things-to-Do/Canoeing-Kayaking/Water-Trail-Maps-Brochures](http://www.iowadnr.gov/Things-to-Do/Canoeing-Kayaking/Water-Trail-Maps-Brochures)



## Rivers and Lakes

The major water resources of Black Hawk County include the Cedar River, Wapsipinicon River, and Black Hawk Creek. The Wapsipinicon River is well-known for its quality backwater wetlands and associated woodland habitat, and as such is listed as a Protected Water Area. Large and small watersheds of Black Hawk County are shown on *Attachment 7*. The floodplain of the Cedar River is home to most of the open spaces and recreational areas in the county. Many of the remaining natural areas in the county are found near the Wapsipinicon River, Black Hawk Creek, and Beaver Creek.

The only major natural lake in public ownership is the 40-acre Fisher Lake. Several manmade lakes have been created along the Cedar River because of road construction and gravel mining. The larger lakes include George Wyth Lake, Alice Wyth Lake, and Brinker Lake in George Wyth Memorial State Park, and Big Woods Lake. Other smaller non-natural lakes include Prairie Lakes in Cedar Falls, Meyers Lake in Deerwood Park, Greenbelt Lake in the Leonard Katoski Greenbelt, and Casey Lake in Hickory Hills Park.

## Soils

The soils and drainage patterns of Black Hawk County have provided an excellent base for the intensive Midwest agriculture. There are seven major soil types existing in Black Hawk County, and *Table 1* provides descriptions of these soil types. *Attachment 8* provides a map of soil types in Black Hawk County.

*Table 1: Soil Types Found in Black Hawk County*

Soil Type	Description
Dinsmore-Klingmore-Maxmore	Nearly level and gently sloping, well drained to poorly drained silty soils formed in loess; on uplands.
Dinsdale-Klinger-Maxfield	Nearly level to moderately sloping, well drained to poorly drained silty soils formed in loess and the underlying glacial till; on uplands.
Kenyon-Clyde-Floyd	Nearly level to strongly sloping, moderately well drained to poorly drained loamy soils formed in loamy material and the underlying glacial till; on uplands.
Readlyn-Tripoli	Nearly level and very gently sloping, somewhat poorly drained and poorly drained loamy soils formed in loamy material and the underlying glacial till; on uplands.
Sparta-Finchford-Saude	Nearly level to moderately steep, excessively drained to well drained sandy and loamy soils formed in Aeolian (carried by the wind) sands or in Aeolian sands and the underlying glacial till; on uplands and terraces.
Coland-Spillville	Nearly level and gently sloping, excessively drained to poorly drained loamy soils formed in loamy alluvial (deposited by water) sediments; on bottom lands and terraces.
Marquis-Clyde-Floyd	Nearly level, poorly drained silty and loamy soils formed in silty and loamy alluvial sediments; on bottom lands and terraces.

# GOALS AND FOCUS AREAS FOR THE REAP PLAN

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Based on the mission of the REAP program, the Black Hawk County REAP Committee developed two broad county-wide goals. To meet these goals, focus areas and specific projects were identified to detail the priorities of the committee as well as to guide implementation of this plan and use of future REAP dollars. This section of the plan articulates the goals, focus areas, and specific projects identified by the committee.



## Goals

- 1) To meet the historical and outdoor recreational needs of the citizens of Iowa in Black Hawk County, while encouraging land stewardship, education, and preservation of existing and future assets.
- 2) To be consistent with and to implement the goals and objectives outlined in the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), the biannual REAP Congress, and the Iowa Open Spaces Plan.

## Focus Areas

- 1) Expand, acquire, and develop open spaces for the purpose of:
  - a. Recreation
  - b. Wildlife habitat
  - c. Preservation
  - d. Protection of environmentally sensitive areas
- 2) Improve soil and water quality through promotion and development of urban and rural best management practices and education with emphasis on a watershed scale.
  - a. Incorporate storm water management practices that are compatible with the project within the development of that project.
  - b. Support the establishment of the Middle Cedar River Watershed Authority.
- 3) Develop, enhance, and maintain water and land trail opportunities as supported by statewide, regional, and local planning initiatives.
- 4) Support and improve:
  - a. Environmental education
  - b. Roadside native vegetation opportunities
  - c. Historic preservation initiatives
  - d. Management of invasive species and integrated pest management
- 5) Expand and improve vertical infrastructure.

Table 2: Focus Areas and Project Updates for the Black Hawk County REAP Plan

Project	Project Description	Project Updates
<b>Focus Area 1: Expand, acquire, and develop open spaces for the purpose of recreation, wildlife habitat, preservation, and protection of environmentally sensitive areas</b>		
A) Sustain funding for Wildlife Conservation Interns	<i>Interns assist the full time Wildlife Conservationists with the management of wildlife habitat, native species, and environmentally sensitive areas on public and private lands across the county.</i>	
B) Update the Ranger Residence at Big Woods Lake Campground	<i>The 11.68-acre campground provides 52 full hook-up sites for recreational vehicles and camper/trailer units, three cabins, shower building, provisions for tent camping, a playground, and wireless internet. The existing Ranger Residence is an older home with limited living space and is unsuitable for a ranger with a family. The County intends to replace the residence in the future. The Big Woods Lake Recreation Area is located in the Cedar Falls city limits; the campground is managed by Black Hawk County Conservation. A long-term 28E agreement defining management and maintenance responsibilities between these agencies has been developed.</i>	
C) Continue development of the Deerwood Park Campground	<i>The 192 acre campground provides 38 full hook-up sites, 8 pull-through modern sites with electric and water, 104 electric sites, and 30 tent sites. In addition, the park offers a boat ramp with access to the Cedar River, playground, a shower and restroom house, and three shelters. Future improvements include installation of modern sanitary sewer and water service, construction of concrete camp pads, and paving existing access roads and campsite approaches.</i>	
D) Continue the creation of food plots on private/public property for wildlife habitat	<i>No specific properties are identified to house food plots, but Black Hawk County Conservation will seek to develop them as they come available, with assistance from Pheasants Forever.</i>	County Conservation has re-instated the “Landowner Assistance Program” that assists landowners with filter strip, buffer strip, terrace, prairie, pollinator, CRP and food plot plantings.
E) Acquire land for wildlife habitat adjacent to Klima Wildlife Area	<i>Just north of La Porte City, the Klima Wildlife Area currently covers 753 acres and is managed by County Conservation. Currently, 177 acres has been purchased by County Conservation. Additional land adjacent to the 177 acres has the potential to be purchased by County Conservation to expand this important wildlife area.</i>	
F) Purchase property to the southwest of Big Woods Lake	<i>In recent years, the Big Woods Lake Recreation Area has undergone significant trail and camping accommodation improvements. Acquiring additional land adjacent to the lake will allow for continued expansion and preservation of this public recreation area.</i>	
G) Continue to develop and manage flood buyout properties	<i>Numerous properties along the Cedar River are in the floodplain and therefore are prone to flooding. The flood of 2008 damaged many properties to the point where property owners sought a buyout. The cities of Waterloo and Cedar Falls will continue to buyout the flood-prone properties on a volunteer basis and develop them into open space in order to minimize impacts from future flooding.</i>	
I) Develop partnerships & Management Plans among municipalities for the coordinated development of flood buyout properties	<i>Continue cooperative work with the Board of Supervisors and their maintenance supervisor on rural buyouts in the Finchford, Weiden Road, Sunnyside and La Porte areas.</i>	
II) Work with the City of Waterloo to create a Comprehensive Plan for Sans Souci Island		
III) Work with the City of Waterloo & Black Hawk County Conservation to implement the Sherwood Park Master Plan		

Project	Project Description	Project Updates
IV) Work with the City of Cedar Falls to implement the North Cedar Master Plan	<i>Incremental progress continues on this project. With help from volunteers, the North Cedar Nature Reserve area continues to be developed. Public art has been installed near the intersection of Cedar Street and Center Street. The Center Streetscape Improvements have started.</i>	Public art has been installed at Cedar St/Center St; Center Streetscape improvements have started
V) Work with the City of Cedar Falls to continue buyouts in flood impacted areas & areas prone to future flooding	<i>Priority projects are considered dependent on funding.</i>	Added project description
VI) Coordinate with Black Hawk County Conservation, NRCS, INHF, & Iowa DNR to acquire & manage EWPP & WRP buyouts		
H) Acquire lands along Cedar River, West Fork of the Cedar River, Wapsipinicon River, & Black Hawk Creek	<i>The main purpose for acquiring lands along the major waterways in the region is for buffering of open space and preservation of scenic and historic areas. Although no specific parcels of land are currently identified, negotiations will be sought should land become available. In addition, conservation easements in flood-prone areas will be considered when available.</i>	County Conservation purchased two tracts of land along the West Fork of the Cedar River to add additional buffer to the West Fork Access greenbelt. One 38-acre tract and one 6.58-acre tract. Black Hawk County has recently acquired another 26.43 acres along the West Fork of the Cedar River adding to the Turkey Ridge Wildlife Area and greenbelt.
I) Expand & develop Cedar Valley Arboretum	<i>Currently, the Arboretum covers 75 acres of land including a Botanical Center. Although the Arboretum's programs remain strong, expansion and additional development of the site will allow for more programs and exhibits for its many visitors of all ages.</i>	
J) Increase urban open space	<i>Through neighborhood redevelopment projects and new construction, cities in the metropolitan area will strive to create inviting public open spaces where all citizens can relax or recreate.</i>	
K) Continue development of Riverview Recreation Area	<i>Currently, the 400-acre Riverview Recreation Area amenities include a boat ramp, fishing habitats, ATV park, wetlands area, recreation trail, picnic shelters, fishing jetty, natural beach area, and granular and hard surface recreation trail network. Future enhancements include paving portions of the granular trail and expanding the ATV park.</i>	
L) Increase boating amenities of the Cedar River including boathouse/marina improvements	<i>The new bladder dam allows for additional boating activities on the Cedar River through Waterloo. Additional boating amenities will increase river related recreation and encourage more boaters to view the Cedar River as a boating destination.</i>	
M) Development of handicapped-accessible hunting & fishing opportunities	<i>These opportunities are not site specific, but are meant to increase the availability of hunting and fishing areas to persons with disabilities.</i>	The City of Cedar Falls added an ADA-compliant fishing dock at Big Woods Lake. Black Hawk County Conservation is underway with Casey Lake Restoration at Hickory Hills Park and will be including an ADA compliant fishing dock in the plans as well as fishing nodes which help get people closer to the water's edge for bank fishing opportunities. Construction is set to begin late summer, 2023.
N) Purchase drainage corridors & wetlands	<i>To preserve natural buffer areas and ecologically sensitive areas, Black Hawk County Conservation and individual cities within the county will strive to purchase drainage corridors and wetlands for conservation purposes in a proactive approach before the development of previously undisturbed land. Such a strategy would include an inventory and prioritization of potential land to acquire.</i>	



Project	Project Description	Project Updates
O) Development of park & open space in all communities throughout Black Hawk County	<i>Cities should seek opportunities to build and renovate local parks that help preserve and promote local recreational, cultural, and natural amenities. City parks in smaller communities may also benefit by connecting to county managed parks, trails, and recreation areas.</i>	
P) Mitigate the detrimental effects of Emerald Ash Borer in public parks and recreational areas	<i>Emerald Ash Borer has been found in Black Hawk County and thousands of ash trees are beginning to die and decay. This program is to remove and replace ash trees in key locations along trails and in public parks to ensure public safety and future enjoyment of these areas. Lost ash trees would be replaced with a variety of tree species to promote diversity to help limit the effects of future tree insect or disease outbreaks.</i>	Replacing trees lost to Emerald Ash Borer and recent wind storms in Black Hawk Park with assistance of volunteers.
Q) Protect land adjacent to Hickory Hills Park for wildlife habitat, recreation, water quality, and the preservation of unique geologic features	<i>This area includes Casey's Paha State Preserve, 170 acres of land owned by the Iowa DNR but managed by Black Hawk County Conservation. This park is the largest tract of upland timber managed by County Conservation. It also includes a state preserve that preserves an example of a Paha, a unique geologic feature. The goal is to provide a buffer around the park by easement, lease, or purchase. A high priority would be to preserve a 64-acre tract of upland timber to the west of the state preserve.</i>	A conservation easement has been agreed upon, signed, and is in place on the 64-acre tract of land west of the state preserve.
R) Continue to work with Cedar Valley Monarch Zones Partners to convert and/or create more acres in Black Hawk County to pollinator plantings.	<i>The main purpose of this initiative is to add pollinator habitat to increase pollinator populations and reestablish the monarch population in the Cedar Valley. This will be accomplished through this partnership and the encouragement and involvement of both public and private landowners to rebuild the natural habitats for these extremely important pollinators.</i>	From 2019-2020, 59 acres of pollinator habitat were planted.
<b>Focus Area 2: Improve soil and water quality through promotion and development of urban and rural best management practices and education with emphasis on a watershed scale</b>		
A) Create and promote stream bank restoration, filter-strips, buffers, riparian zones & related practices in urban & rural areas	<i>Seek to establish these practices prior to the development of land for urban purposes in order to proactively address soil and water quality.</i>	Black Hawk County Conservation is working to implement a stream restoration project in the Hartman Bluff Preserve with construction hopeful in 2024/2025.
I) Along streams, creeks, rivers, and open bodies of water	<i>To prevent and reduce runoff through infiltration practices in order to improve water quality and reduce stream bank erosion.</i>	
II) Around greenbelts	<i>These environmentally sensitive areas provide habitat and serve as contiguous green space for soil, water and air quality benefits. Greenbelts require protection as a result of the degradation in water quality, along with increased quantity, associated with storm water issues and development problems. Rural and urban land uses can be modified to protect existing greenbelt areas; environmental land use can also be enhanced by the expansion of acreage devoted to greenbelts.</i>	
III) Buffers along water for both urban & rural land uses	<i>Work with private land owners, Black Hawk County Conservation, and other agencies or nonprofit organizations to purchase easements or establish land areas to serve as buffers along water for both urban and rural land uses.</i>	
B) Provide incentives for achieving minimum practice procedures which promote soil & water conservation in urban & agricultural areas	<i>Develop and implement urban development and farming practices that give land owners incentive to implement these types of practices, which would be linked to Conservation Plans and farm subsidy supports to encourage buffer strips, riparian zones, strip tillage, no till practices, cover crops, rain gardens, rain barrels, compacted soil restoration, and permeable pavers.</i>	

Project	Project Description	Project Updates
C) Discourage marginal farming & the removal of land from the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), and support & encourage continual capacity for putting lands in the CRP	<i>To combat the pressures that farmers face to maximize tillable acres, provide incentives to discourage the use of marginal areas (steep slopes, proximity to surface water, etc.) for intensive row crop plantings.</i>	
D) Permeable paving, bioswales, & rain gardens		
I) Student demonstration projects (school greenhouse)	<i>One student greenhouse project has been successful at Carver Academy. Additional funding will be sought to start additional programs at other schools in the metropolitan area.</i>	
II) Recognize projects that incorporate best management practices	<i>Explore new - and acknowledge existing - programs and practices to entice rural and urban land owners to recognize and promote infiltration-based best practices to control storm water runoff such as rain gardens, bioswales, cover crops, etc.</i>	
III) Establish a minimal runoff initiative	<i>The cities and county should establish a minimal runoff initiative by utilizing infiltration-based practices. Such an initiative would promote infiltration-based practices in order to reduce the volume of runoff to storm sewer systems and natural drainage passages. This policy may also create incentives for new development to integrate water infiltration infrastructure as part of new construction or redevelopment.</i>	
E) Create a campaign that ties everything back to land & water		
I) Educate & mobilize local citizens	<i>Develop a coordinated initiative among local organizations and stakeholders to educate and mobilize local citizens on issues related to soil and water quality and the importance of watershed management.</i>	
II) Coordinate a consistent message	<i>Engage various groups to coordinate a consistent message on the importance of watershed management.</i>	
III) Educate rural residents & farmers	<i>Educate rural residents and farmers on programs that prevent groundwater and runoff pollution. The Soil and Water Conservation District provides rural residents with educational brochures describing typical water pollution sources and preventable measures that can be easily accomplished.</i>	
F) Promote alternative energy production & energy efficiency	<i>Alternative forms of energy have been recognized for decades but have recently become a higher priority. Black Hawk County and cities within it should continue to support efforts to utilize alternate forms of energy where feasible.</i>	County Conservation has installed a roof top solar array at Hartman Reserve Nature Center. County Conservation, in partnership with the County Alternative Energy Committee and the County Board of Supervisors, installed arrays on seven additional County facilities. The initiative has been completed and solar arrays are in place and operational.
G) Promote & advocate the use of the Soil & Water Conservation funds for urban areas	<i>Soil and Water Conservation state cost share funds were approved in 2007 for allocation in urban areas for soil and water conservation practices. The cities within Black Hawk County and Black Hawk County Conservation should support these funds in urban areas.</i>	

Project	Project Description	Project Updates
H) Promote environmental quality & natural resources as economic development incentives	<i>With the assistance of REAP funding, cities and the county would be able to provide economic incentives for businesses that show support for environmental quality or preserving the natural resources that are abundant in Black Hawk County.</i>	
I) Create a countywide Watershed Conservationist Position	<i>Through a joint funding effort by Black Hawk County, Waterloo, and Cedar Falls, this position would focus on issues specific to improving water quality and quantity. Currently, this type of work is done by Soil and Water Conservation District staff when possible. By having a dedicated person focus on water quality and quantity issues, proper attention would be given to this important issue of improving the watersheds throughout the county.</i>	
J) Update Sewage Lagoon at Hickory Hills Park	<i>The sewage Lagoon at Hickory Hills Park is aging and will soon be considered undersized as we continue to see an increased volume of park users. Black Hawk County Conservation will work with Engineers and the Iowa DNR to gather pertinent data to create a facility plan for either a lagoon upgrade or replacement.</i>	This project was completed in 2024. The new mound with soil absorption field is complete and operational.
K) Casey Lake Restoration	<i>The 39-acre Casey Lake at Hickory Hills Park is on the State of Iowa's impaired waters listing. County Conservation has worked to establish wetlands in the upper watershed to help prevent runoff into the lake. The next step is to work with the Iowa DNR to assess the lake, the gullies around the lake, and determine the best way to eliminate the nitrogen from the lake with the least amount of disturbance to the natural resources including the fish populations, desirable aquatic plants, and surrounding area.</i>	Contractors are continuing to finalize the dredging and have begun work on the watershed holding ponds. Fish habitat work will be completed late summer/early fall 2024. Currently on schedule for a project completion spring/summer 2025.
L) Beaver Valley Wetlands Viewing Pier	<i>This project will involve the removal of the existing wooden viewing pier which has been negatively affected by time, multiple high-water events, and freeze/thaw cycles over the years. The plan would include engineering of a new viewing pier to ensure that the steel pilings supporting the pier are deep enough to contact and rest on suitable soils to prevent the "heaving" that is occurring with the existing structure. The design would include an open weave steel decking to allow water to flow through it ultimately lessening the force placed on the structure during high-water events and snow could more easily pass through. Black Hawk County Conservation will also be looking into the feasibility of adding a sidewalk from the parking lot to the viewing pier for easier access by all users regardless of ability level. This viewing pier is an important feature of the Beaver Valley Wetlands as it allows visitors a more submersible experience when viewing the multitude of migrating birds that frequent this area each year.</i>	Preliminary engineering has been completed for the new pier. Final design engineering is underway with construction expected to begin fall 2024.
M) Hartman Bluff Preserve Erosion Control	<i>Black Hawk County Conservation is currently under contract with an engineer to assess the extensive ravine erosion that is occurring in the Hartman Bluff Preserve. This has been an ongoing problem with stormwater runoff from the adjoining neighborhoods and roadways. The City of Cedar Falls is currently working on a project that will reconstruct several of the roadways in the area and thus, this was the perfect time to address the issue and address the runoff with the new road reconstruction plans. The project will include engineered solutions that are natural and aesthetically pleasing so as to not alter the natural features of the Preserve. Black Hawk County Conservation, the engineer, and the State Preserves Board will work together to compile a plan set that will serve to stop the erosion of the soils, protect this natural upland timber, and improve the water quality downstream of Hartman Bluff Preserve.</i>	Preparing to apply for County REAP funds again in 2024. Concept design is complete, under contract for final design. Hoping for construction in late fall/winter 2024/2025.
N) Road Crossings over Snag Creek in Black Hawk Park	<i>Reconstruction of the road crossings Over Snag Creek in Black Hawk Park.</i>	

Project	Project Description	Project Updates
<b>Focus Area 3: Develop, enhance, and maintain water and land trail opportunities as supported by statewide, regional, and local planning initiatives</b>		
A) Develop the Cedar Falls Cedar River Recreation Area	<i>Components of this project will include the construction of whitewater features on the Cedar River between the Main Street Bridge and the West 1<sup>st</sup> Street Bridge, public viewing areas, and access points at Gateway Park. Project benefits include improved fish passage, and economic and recreational benefits for the Cedar Valley.</i>	Updated project title and description elements
B) Safety modifications of low head dams	<i>With the increase in water trails along the Cedar River, low-head dams are a safety concern for boaters and water enthusiasts. Making safety modifications to the dams will allow better use of the river and attract more visitors to the area.</i>	
C) Develop a downtown white water course in Waterloo	<i>Several components of the River Renaissance project include water access for paddlers or special dam components for paddlers in anticipation of a white water course through Waterloo. This project, in combination with the other Cedar River amenities, will help make the Waterloo metropolitan area a boating destination for persons of all skill levels.</i>	
D) Create and maintain a state designated water trail along Black Hawk Creek	<i>The ongoing creation of a water trail along Black Hawk Creek from Hudson to Hope Martin Park will expand the existing water trail system and further emphasize the importance of scenic recreational opportunities. Development of the water trail will include access points, portages, and signage for paddlers.</i>	Working with the Iowa DNR and INRCOG, this trail is signed and brochures are currently being produced. Dedicated as State Water Trail in fall 2022.
E) Develop a water trail along Wolf Creek	<i>Wolf Creek runs through La Porte City to the Cedar River through the Bret Klima Wildlife Area and has potential to be a high-quality water trail for the region. Signage, access points and educational literature would be important enhancements for the creation of this water trail.</i>	
F) Create and maintain a state designated water trail along the Cedar River	<i>The Cedar River runs through Black Hawk and Bremer Counties and was identified in Iowa's state water trails plan as appropriate for consideration as a state water trail. Development of the multi-jurisdictional water trail will include signage, access points, and educational literature.</i>	Working with the Iowa DNR, INRCOG, Waterloo, Cedar Falls, Gilbertville, and Evansdale, the signage for this trail is being ordered and brochures have been created and distributed. Dedicated as State Water Trail in fall 2022.
G) Continue to expand & maintain the Black Hawk County regional trail and on-road accommodation system	<i>Although Black Hawk County currently has an extensive trail network, the cities and County Conservation continue to strive to connect the trails and develop new accommodations in high demand areas. To meet the future needs of both recreation-based and commuter-based non-motorized travel, it is recognized that a multi-tiered system is necessary. One tier consists of the continued development of the off-road trail system. Another tier is the identification and implementation of on-road facilities that will best accommodate bicyclists.</i>	
I) Cooperate with the greater Cedar Valley Region to expand trail systems	<i>The Cedar Valley Nature Trail spans multiple counties across Iowa. Expanding, paving, and maintaining this trail should continue in order to foster regional trail use. Other agencies involved with this significant trail corridor include the East Central Iowa Council of Governments and County Conservation of counties in which the trail currently exists, and could expand into.</i>	
II) Hard-surface the Cedar Valley Nature Trail between McFarlane Park and Center Point	<i>Although most of the Cedar Valley Nature Trail is hard-surfaced, there remains a 20-mile gap from the McFarlane Park Trail Bridge to northwest of Center Point that is not. Hard-surfacing this segment of trail will serve residents and recreational trail users of all abilities and will allow for a more complete connection to Cedar Rapids.</i>	All structures have been replaced on the gravel portion of the trail along with several culvert replacements and improvements. Additionally, some erosion control measures have been completed. The paving is scheduled for Spring/Summer 2024. This was a partnership project along with Linn County who has completed the structures on their end of the trail from Bear Creek to just north of Urbana. The paving on their section is also scheduled for Spring/Summer 2024. This project was made possible, in part, by American Rescue Plan Act funds and a Destination Iowa Grant. Mainline paving is complete, with contractors working on shouldering and roadway crossings. Expected completion August 2024.



Project	Project Description	Project Updates
III) Resurface the trail segment from Krieg's Crossing to the Lodge at George Wyth State Park	<i>One of the oldest hard-surfaced trail segments in the metropolitan area, this stretch is in need of resurfacing. Additionally, this portion of trail is only six feet in width and should be widened to at least eight feet.</i>	This project was completed in the fall of 2023.
IV) Maintain trail bridges	<i>An important aspect of the trail network is its multiple bridges. The Cities and County Conservation will continue to monitor the trail bridges to identify and repair deficiencies in an attempt to prevent lengthy trail closures should bridges fail.</i>	Wolf Creek Bridge has been replaced. Brandon Bridge has been repaired. Mud Creek Bridge has been replaced. Miller Creek (C1), E3 and M1 bridges are all under contract for replacement. Work has begun on the Miller Creek Bridge replacement. All three are expected to be completed by summer 2025. Black Hawk County will continue to work to secure funding to replace the remaining 5 bridges.
H) Complete American Discovery Trail in Black Hawk County	<i>The American Discovery Trail is a nationally recognized recreation trail that stretches across 15 states. Although the American Discovery Trail is almost entirely complete in Black Hawk County, a small section west of Hudson still needs to be developed. Additionally, eight miles of this trail from McFarlane Park to Brandon are crushed limestone; paving this section will increase the number of users and reduce maintenance.</i>	
I) Complete trail connections to the Rolling Prairie Trail	<i>In recent years, development of the Rolling Prairie Trail has been spurred by numerous grants made available to Humboldt, Wright, Franklin, Butler, and Bremer Counties. The Regional Trail Plan includes the connection of the Cedar Valley Trails system to the Rolling Prairie Trail from Waverly to Cedar Falls. When complete, the Rolling Prairie Trail will provide over 150 miles of non-motorized use between Pocahontas and Fayette counties.</i>	
J) Include handicapped accessibility in future projects	<i>Providing outdoor opportunities for persons of all skill levels and abilities is a key objective for Black Hawk County when developing new public establishments.</i>	An accessible fishing dock was installed at Big Woods Lake. Project plans for the Casey Lake Restoration Project include the addition of an ADA accessible fishing dock. Plans are to add it when the lake is refilled.
K) Connect Big Woods Lake to the Cedar River Water Trail	<i>Planned to complement the Cedar River Water Trail, the connection to the north end of Big Woods Lake would include the construction of a low-head dam, portage, and minimal excavation of Snag Creek if needed. This project would benefit users of both Big Woods Lake and the Cedar River Water Trail.</i>	
L) Connect Shaulis Road Trail to the Cedar Valley Nature Trail	<i>On the south side of Waterloo, Shaulis Road is anticipated to be extended to the east. This new construction will include the continued development of the Shaulis Road Trail.</i>	Two segments of the trail will be completed in 2021-2022: Cedar Valley Nature Trail west to Cedar Terrace Dr, and Isle of Capri Blvd east to US 218. Black Hawk County Conservation has executed a management agreement with the City of Waterloo for the portion of the trail that will be on County property near the Cedar Valley Nature Trail.
M) Expand ATV opportunities	<i>With the assistance of previous grants, the Riverview Recreation Area was developed to include an OHV park. The OHV park has become a large draw for the recreation area, and new OHV park development will increase the marketability of Black Hawk County as a major ATV destination.</i>	
N) Expand bike trail from Big Woods Lake to northern Cedar Falls neighborhoods	<i>This section of trail would most likely utilize the shoulder of Lake Street to provide an on-road accommodation. The potential project is consistent with the Cedar Falls Bike Master Plan. Currently, Lake Street does not have sufficient shoulders to provide a safe pedestrian route.</i>	The Lake Street Trail project is funded with Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funds through the Black Hawk County MPO in FY 2022.
O) Develop & maintain trails with the expansion of new development on the west side of Cedar Falls	<i>New development on the western edges of Cedar Falls should include trail accommodations to serve residents and recreational trail users from connections to the existing trail system, similar to trail accommodations found in the Pinnacle Prairie development.</i>	The City is expanding the Union Road Trail in FY 2021 with the use of Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funds through the Black Hawk County MPO. The City also added a trail along Arbors Drive with the new Aldrich Elementary School.
P) Continue developing & maintaining trail opportunities in Janesville	<i>The City of Janesville will be growing its trail network within and around the city and is in a key position for linking together regional trail systems in and around Black Hawk County. The completion of the bicycle and pedestrian bridge over the Cedar River provides a critical component in connecting the regional trail network. In addition to new trail systems, the city should expand upon its open space, especially near the Cedar River.</i>	

Project	Project Description	Project Updates
Q) Develop & maintain trail opportunities in La Porte City	<i>The Cedar Valley Nature Trail passes through the city, and serves as an important access point to this regionally important trail system. Future trail expansions in and around La Porte City are important to the regional trail network.</i>	In 2017, the City began efforts to restore the land around Wolf Creek near Main St. Land was acquired and the banks were cleared to make way for two kayak landings. In 2020, a paved parking lot, open air pavilion, and restrooms were added at Wolf Creek Park. In addition, a trail has been added from Wolf Creek Park to 8 <sup>th</sup> St, following the creek all the way to the Cedar Valley Nature Trail. The trail features lighting, benches, and a fishing overlook and seating area.
R) Repair or replace the Cedar Valley Nature Trail Wolf Creek Bridge in La Porte City	<i>In September 2015, the Wolf Creek Bridge was permanently closed to public use due to safety concerns. Early replacement and repair estimates ranged from \$1.5-2.5 million. Black Hawk County Conservation determined these options were not financially feasible. In 2017, County Conservation approved funding for preliminary engineering to further evaluate bridge repair or replacement options. Black Hawk County Conservation hired IIW in October 2017. The engineering firm was able to further refine the design and subsequently reduce the cost estimate to \$850,000. This was made possible by shortening the bridge span by 40 feet and using only one pier.</i>	The bridge has been replaced.
S) Develop & maintain trail opportunities in Dunkerton	<i>The City of Dunkerton will be growing its trail network within the city. The existing trail network is limited to the northern portion of the city. The City has experienced significant residential growth in the southeastern portion of town. Expanding the trail network to this residential area has been identified as a priority for the city.</i>	
T) Expand the Trolley Trail with a hard-surface connection to Castle Bluffs Park	<i>Access to the trail system from the area surrounding this neighborhood park is very difficult. A hard-surface connection at the park will allow greater access to and expanded use of the metropolitan trail network.</i>	
U) Develop BMX and soft trails in northern Cedar Falls	<i>A new BMX pump track will be constructed in the vicinity of 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Cedar Falls on flood buyout properties. The track will consist of berms, rollers, small jumps, and cross-overs laid out in such a way that users can “pump” around the track generating momentum without the need to pedal. A public parking area will be available as well. In the same vicinity, a short soft trail mountain bike path will be developed. This closed facility could eventually be connected to the soft trails in George Wyth State Park.</i>	
<b>Focus Area 4: Support and improve environmental education, roadside native vegetation opportunities, historic preservation initiatives, and management of invasive species and integrated pest management</b>		
A) Iowater Program and other water monitoring opportunities	<i>Encourage local citizens and organizations to become involved in the Iowater program as well as other water monitoring opportunities. As part of the program local residents will be encouraged to attend Iowater workshops and monitor water quality in their own areas.</i>	
B) Citizen based river cleanup programs	<i>Continue to support volunteer waterway cleanup events such as Project AWARE and the Cedar River Festival Group. These two programs focus on removing physical debris from the Cedar River, and rely on volunteers. Future efforts should target areas of the Cedar River further from the metropolitan area</i>	
C) Increase watershed awareness through educational & research opportunities	<i>Establish partnerships between Iowa Department of Natural Resources, University of Northern Iowa, University of Iowa Institute of Hydroscience Research and other interested research institutions to generate scientific data on the Cedar River Watershed. Utilize these partnerships and the results of research to promote awareness of the watershed to citizens and interested groups throughout Black Hawk County.</i>	Since 2015, the University of Northern Iowa Tallgrass Prairie Center <i>Prairie on Farms</i> program has partnered with watersheds and conservation professionals throughout the state to provide technical assistance for planting prairie as a part of watershed projects that reduce flooding and improve water quality.
D) Create unique visual water quality monitoring to increase awareness & education, and encourage citizens to participate in snap shot events	<i>As part of an educational component, an area along the Cedar River will be developed to allow visitors to see the changes in water quality over time with water samples taken from the river and gauges showing current contamination. The visuals will allow the public to monitor water quality and allow for more interaction with the quality of the Cedar River.</i>	

Project	Project Description	Project Updates
E) Litter program/campaign	<i>Keep roadsides and public open spaces clear of unwanted debris to draw new visitors and keep the environment healthy. A litter program would be established to clean up existing debris and educate citizens on the harmful effects of littering. The Cedar Valley Trails Partnership sponsors an annual trail clean up in April, and is a good example of how to develop new local litter programs.</i>	Black Hawk County Engineers, Conservation, and other local entities are working with Black Hawk County Solid Waste to gather information and apply for funding to support an 18 month awareness campaign to discourage illegal dumping and littering. This will include signage, education, and public messages.
F) Support coordination with schools in Black Hawk County to promote sustainability, conservation, & current skill development	<i>County naturalists, area museums, and other non-formal education providers should partner with local schools to promote awareness aimed at making a cleaner natural environment. Programs can be based on established curriculum such as Project WET™, Project Wild™, Project Learning Tree™, Iowa History and other recognized educational programs.</i>	Hartman Reserve Nature Center has recently become a partner in the “School of the Wild” initiative with the University of Iowa. Additionally, HRNC naturalists currently provide programming based on the National Science Standards providing hands-on learning to enhance the curriculum that the kids receive in the classroom.
G) Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management	<i>Explore possibility of creating a county Roadside Vegetation Manager position through the Black Hawk County Engineering department.</i>	This position has been created and the employee has been hired. The <a href="https://www.blackhawkcourt.gov/245/Your-County-Roadsides">2024 Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management (IRVM) Plan</a> , along with past plans, can be found at <a href="https://www.blackhawkcourt.gov/245/Your-County-Roadsides">https://www.blackhawkcourt.gov/245/Your-County-Roadsides</a> .
H) Management of invasive species and integrated pest management	<i>Encourage management of invasive species and integrated pest management in future development of and the overall management of parks and public lands throughout Black Hawk County.</i>	Black Hawk County Conservation utilizes goats for this purpose where feasible.
I) Develop new historical museum exhibitions	<i>Support Black Hawk County museums in their efforts to create new exhibitions that interpret their historical artifact collections for public education.</i>	
J) Preserve local historical assets	<i>Support local projects that help preserve significant historical buildings and districts within Black Hawk County.</i>	
<b>Focus Area 5: Expand and improve vertical infrastructure</b>		
A) Hartman Reserve Interpretive Center (Priority Project)	<i>Originally built in the early 1940s, the Hartman Reserve Interpretive Center was purchased by Black Hawk County Conservation in 1976. The new Education Center will be built between the Buckles Program Center and the Interpretive Center. The project will feature increased energy efficiency, hallways that connect each structure, more exhibit space, a separate meeting room, and increased technological abilities. Upon completion, the Interpretive Center’s east wing will be demolished and replaced with a small addition intended for offices.</i>	Completed February, 2018
B) Whitewater course infrastructure	<i>In conjunction with the dam improvements in downtown Waterloo, additional whitewater infrastructure below the dam will include obstacles for whitewater enthusiasts. Additional whitewater infrastructure at Gateway Park in Cedar Falls will be available.</i>	Updated project description
C) Waterloo Boathouse	<i>Phase I of the boathouse renovation recently established a new structure built to withstand flood events similar to levels seen in June 2008. However, another phase of this project is needed and calls for parking lot, shoreline, and general aesthetic improvements to complete the restoration. With the anticipated increase in visitors to the River Renaissance projects and Cedar River, the boating center will be heavily used as an access point.</i>	
D) Expansion and continued maintenance of the interpretive signage	<i>The metropolitan trail system will eventually connect virtually all of the metropolitan area’s natural, cultural, and historical attractions. Prairie Pathways was developed to interpret the story of those attractions for both the local and regional audience, as well as to develop a national audience. The vision for this project is to interpret sites, artifacts, people, and events that have shaped the development of Black Hawk County. A combination of kiosks, low profile exhibits and public art have been used to tell these stories along the trails. Maintaining and expanding these interpretive signs will benefit the growing trail system of the Cedar Valley.</i>	
E) Maintain & expand lake & river boat launches	<i>Numerous boating amenities exist along riverfronts and lakes in Black Hawk County. These attractions will be most beneficial if appropriate access is provided via well maintained boat launches throughout Black Hawk County. New boat launches should be built and expanded upon where most appropriate.</i>	Project plans for the Casey Lake Restoration Project include the addition of an ADA accessible fishing dock. Plans are to add it when the lake is refilled.

## FUTURE INITIATIVES

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### Long-Term Maintenance

Black Hawk County provides a vast array of natural resources, cultural resources, and recreational opportunities for the enjoyment of the public. Whether water resources, recreational trails, or museums and arts, the result is an enhanced quality of life that all can enjoy and take pride in. However, maintaining such a system takes a tremendous number of resources in the form of people and funding. The combination of existing and planned facilities will place a further financial strain on each entity responsible for maintenance.

Though there are several federal and state grant programs available for developing new projects, no such funding streams exist for sustaining those projects other than those generated at the local level.

To ensure long-term viability of these recreational and cultural amenities, it is necessary to identify a dedicated source of funding towards their

maintenance. Potential solutions may include leveraging private dollars, utilizing a portion of the one cent local option sales tax, creating a separate sales tax, expansions of the hotel/motel tax, or securing funding from the Black Hawk County Gaming Association. For this effort to be successful, extensive public outreach and education will likely be required



### Cedar River Watershed Coalition

As a result of the widespread devastation from the flood of 2008, a regional effort to raise awareness of the role of the watershed in flooding was created. The Cedar River Watershed Coalition has received the backing of several state legislators and public officials from many cities and counties bordering the Cedar River. This coalition is primarily concerned with enacting floodplain policies and practices that will reduce damage from future flood events and improve the overall water quality. Ideas stemming from this coalition relate to certain components of REAP but focus mostly on preservation of natural resources instead of recreation and historical efforts.

Members of this coalition extend well beyond the borders of Black Hawk County, making this a truly regional effort to improve the Cedar River watershed. One initiative of this coalition is setting a goal of retaining 100,000 acre-feet of surface water throughout the watershed. This goal is consistent with many initiatives identified in the Black Hawk County REAP Plan. Additional initiatives may include restored wetlands and prairies, less straightening of streams, expanded floodplains, and public purchase of open space near the river.





# LIST OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM REAP INITIATIVES

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The following projects are a direct result of past REAP initiatives, either through direct REAP funding or because of being included in past REAP plans:

- Brett Klima Wildlife Area – 177-acre addition
- Bruggeman Park on the Wapsi River Greenbelt – 128 acre prairie expansion
- Cedar River Initiative
- Cedar River included in Project Aware (2008)
- Hiring of a Wildlife Conservationist to Black Hawk County Conservation
- Cedar Falls Ice House Museum Restoration
- Big Woods Lake Campground
- Phelps Youth Pavilion
- Prairie Pathways Interpretive Signage
- River Renaissance Project, including development of Mark's Park
- Riverview Recreation Area
- Sullivan Brothers Iowa Veterans Museum
- Washington Park Restoration
- Waterloo Boat House Renovation (Phase I)
- Evansdale and McFarlane Park Trail Bridges
- Cedar River Recreation, Cedar Falls
- Fisher Forest Acquisitions
- Janesville Bicycle and Pedestrian Bridge
- McFarlane Maintenance Shop
- Finchford Boat Launch
- Cedar Falls Beach House
- Hartman Reserve Interpretive Center Construction
- Wolf Creek Bridge Replacement
- West Fork Greenbelt Acquisition (38 acres)
- West Fork Greenbelt Acquisition (6.58 acres)
- Wolf Creek Park and Trail, La Porte City
- Meyers Lake Shoreline Rehabilitation
- Greenbelt Lake Improvements (Phase I & II)
- Clay Street Park Water Quality Improvements
- Dunkerton Prairie Wetland Acquisition
- Dunkerton Land Acquisition and Enhancements
- Dunkerton Riverwalk Trail





# BLACK HAWK COUNTY LAND USE POLICY STATEMENTS

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The Land Use Policy Statements are general guidelines within which development decisions shall be made. These Statements are not absolutes, nor are they law, however, they should be followed unless unique or mitigating circumstance exist that would make a specific proposal infeasible. Only when said circumstances are proven shall a deviation from these policies be acceptable.

1. It shall be a policy of Black Hawk County that only agricultural uses or those uses incidental to agriculture shall be allowed on prime land. Prime land in Black Hawk County is defined as soil with a Land Evaluation and Site Assessment (LESA) System of two hundred forty-two (242) or above.
2. It shall be a policy of Black Hawk County to encourage residential, commercial, and industrial development to occur within incorporated areas or to unincorporated areas that have access to municipal utilities. Development in the unincorporated areas of the county shall be directed toward existing areas that have been rezoned for residential, commercial, and industrial uses but are vacant, or to areas identified for such use on the Future Land Use Map.
3. It shall be a policy of Black Hawk County that residential and other non-agricultural uses shall be developed only on land that is capable of supporting them. Criteria used to determine the suitability of soil for residential or other uses will include, but not be limited to, soil and water limitations and major soil features such as soil permeability, subsurface drainage, flooding potential, CSR, shrink-swell capacity, and Land Evaluation (LE) score from the LESA System. Land with a LE score of below 40 shall be considered unsuitable for development.
4. It shall be a policy of Black Hawk County to preserve, promote, and maintain a greenbelt system along all river and drainage systems in Black Hawk County as an aid to prevent soil erosion, and to limit development on active floodplains.
5. It shall be a policy of Black Hawk County to promote the development of shelterbelts, soil erosion stabilization methods, and habitat areas and to preserve the natural areas of the county for future generations.
6. It shall be a policy of Black Hawk County to promote the preservation of critical areas of ecological, geological, historical, and environmental significance. This shall be achieved through identifying such areas, informing the public of their significance, and promoting private or public retention or acquisition for the sole purpose of their preservation and protection.
7. It shall be a policy of Black Hawk County to encourage coordination and cooperation between Black Hawk County and the incorporated cities within the county, especially within the two-mile radius around each city where powers and responsibilities are shared.
8. It shall be a policy of Black Hawk County to work with the Natural Resource Conservation Service to encourage individual stewardship of the soils and to encourage the conservation of the county's soil resources so that soil losses will be less than the allowable limits as established by state law.

# REAP Projects by County

1989 - 2024

Region 7

\*\*\*\*\*Counties\*\*\*\*\*

Black Hawk



# Black Hawk County

## City Parks and Open Space

### Recipient: City of Cedar Falls

FY	1991	West Lake phase I acquisition	\$150,000
FY	1993	West Lake phase II acquisition	\$110,000
FY	1994	West Lake phase III acquisition	\$129,000
FY	1998	Big Woods Lake Trail	\$149,089
FY	1999	Big Woods Lake Trail	\$150,000
FY	2001	Lone Tree Road trail extension	\$120,820
FY	2004	Big Woods Lake Trail	\$100,000
FY	2007	Big Woods Lake campground	\$150,000
FY	2008	Big Woods Lake campground	\$150,000
FY	2015	Washington Park Trail	\$121,200
FY	2018	Clay Street Park water quality improvement	\$150,000
FY	2022	Cedar River recreation project	\$150,000

### Recipient: City of Dunkerton

FY	1999	Charma Park expansion & development	\$44,986
FY	2001	Prairie remnant acquisition	\$6,850
FY	2015	River Walk Trail	\$50,000
FY	2016	Restored prairie wetland acquisition	\$50,000
FY	2017	Riverwalk Trail extension	\$50,000
FY	2022	Dredge Crane Creek	\$50,000

### Recipient: City of Elk Run Heights

FY	2019	Elk Run Creek cleanup and park enhancement	\$71,540
FY	2020	Elk Run Creek cleanup and park enhancement	\$71,540

### Recipient: City of Evansdale

FY	1990	Meyers Lake acquisition/enhancement	\$75,000
FY	1991	Meyers Lake acquisition/enhancement	\$42,700
FY	2016	Meyers Lake shoreline rehabilitation	\$75,000
FY	2021	River Road Water Trail access	\$75,000

### Recipient: City of Hudson

FY	1997	Sergeant Road trail extension	\$74,600
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### Recipient: City of La Porte City

FY	2015	Wolf Creek reclamation and park develop	\$75,000
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### Recipient: City of Waterloo

FY	1992	East Lake trail development	\$190,540
FY	1994	Riverside trail dev. & acquisition	\$189,450
FY	2006	Riverview Recreation Area enhancements	\$200,000
FY	2011	Rearview Rec Area passive unit enhancements	\$171,902
FY	2012	Sherwood Park Rec Area & Hartman Reserve	\$193,400

FY	2013	Riverview Rec Area trail expansion	\$200,000
FY	2015	Sherwood Park Recreation Area	\$200,000
FY	2017	Boathouse enhancements	\$200,000
FY	2019	Greenbelt Lake improvements, phase 1 of 2	\$200,000
FY	2023	Greenbelt Lake improvements	\$193,890
		Total:	\$4,381,507

#### Conservation Education

##### Recipient: Friends of Hartman Reserve

FY	2006	Lions in Iowa!	\$32,395
FY	2007	Lions in Iowa!	\$17,136
FY	2007	Mussel restoration	\$11,243
FY	2008	Salute to Song Birds exhibit	\$53,250

##### Recipient: Friends of Hartman Reservoir

FY	2004	Lions in Iowa!	\$21,730
FY	2004	Hartman's after school program	\$10,775

##### Recipient: Hartman Reserve, Black Hawk CCB

FY	1990	Broaden scope of Hartman Reserve Nat Ctr	\$11,633
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##### Recipient: Iowa Academy of Science

FY	2007	Project WET workshops	\$26,626
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##### Recipient: University of Northern Iowa

FY	2004	Waste reduction initiative	\$14,154
FY	2004	Iowa 3 Rs initiative	\$8,463
FY	2004	Lost landscape prairie project	\$45,558
FY	2006	Iowa's neotropical birds, Mason City	\$19,892
FY	2014	Helping students protect the environment	\$19,910
FY	2014	Reclaim your holidays trainer tools	\$10,994
FY	2014	The way we live: using eLearning	\$13,262
FY	2015	Using amplification to ID needed EE strategies	\$12,117
		Total:	\$329,138

#### County Conservation

##### Recipient: Black Hawk County Conservation Board

FY	1990	Cedar Valley Lake Project additions	\$82,100
FY	1991	Cedar Valley Lake Project additions	\$60,825
FY	1995	Black Hawk Creek Greenbelt addition	\$52,000
FY	1997	Cedar Valley Lake Project additions	\$18,600
FY	2012	Fischer Forest	\$20,000
FY	2017	Beck's Forest acquisition	\$22,500

##### Recipient: County Special REAP Account

FY	1990	Per county allocations	\$9,086
FY	1990	Per population allocations	\$39,515
FY	1991	Per population allocations	\$56,213



FY	1991	Per county allocations	\$12,415
FY	1992	Per population allocations	\$27,725
FY	1992	Per county allocations	\$6,121
FY	1993	Per population allocations	\$22,340
FY	1993	Per county allocations	\$4,917
FY	1994	Per county allocations	\$4,288
FY	1994	Per population allocations	\$20,890
FY	1995	Per population allocations	\$22,283
FY	1995	Per county allocations	\$4,587
FY	1996	Per population allocations	\$25,935
FY	1996	Per county allocations	\$5,527
FY	1997	Per population allocations	\$28,458
FY	1997	Per county allocations	\$6,054
FY	1998	Per population allocations	\$28,598
FY	1998	Per county allocations	\$5,992
FY	1999	Per county allocations	\$5,785
FY	1999	Per population allocations	\$26,479
FY	2000	Per county allocations	\$6,695
FY	2000	Per population allocations	\$30,616
FY	2001	Per population allocations	\$30,918
FY	2001	Per county allocations	\$6,759
FY	2002	Per population allocations	\$20,848
FY	2002	Per county allocations	\$4,680
FY	2003	Per population allocations	\$811
FY	2003	Per county allocations	\$183
FY	2004	Per population allocations	\$29,950
FY	2004	Per county allocations	\$6,782
FY	2005	Per population allocations	\$29,817
FY	2005	Per county allocations	\$6,705
FY	2006	Per population allocations	\$31,000
FY	2006	Per county allocations	\$7,007
FY	2007	Per county allocations	\$6,901
FY	2007	Per population allocations	\$30,377
FY	2008	Per population allocations	\$42,216
FY	2008	Per county allocations	\$9,627
FY	2009	Per population allocations	\$49,015
FY	2009	Per county allocations	\$11,130
FY	2010	Per population allocations	\$47,610
FY	2010	Per county allocations	\$10,858
FY	2011	Per population allocations	\$41,464
FY	2011	Per county allocations	\$9,148
FY	2012	Per population allocations	\$32,574
FY	2012	Per county allocations	\$7,362
FY	2013	Per county allocations	\$6,893
FY	2013	Per population allocations	\$30,338

FY	2014	Per population allocations	\$41,560
FY	2014	Per county allocations	\$9,848
FY	2015	Per county allocations	\$9,653
FY	2015	Per population allocations	\$40,772
FY	2016	Per population allocations	\$41,012
FY	2016	Per county allocations	\$9,684
FY	2017	Per population allocations	\$42,182
FY	2017	Per county allocations	\$9,711
FY	2018	Per population allocations	\$31,444
FY	2018	Per county allocations	\$7,296
FY	2019	Per county allocations	\$6,125
FY	2019	Per population allocations	\$25,822
FY	2020	Per county allocations	\$7,421
FY	2020	Per population allocations	\$31,007
FY	2021	Per population allocations	\$30,969
FY	2021	Per county allocations	\$7,291
FY	2022	Per population allocations	\$28,705
FY	2022	Per county allocations	\$7,157
FY	2023	Per population allocations	\$29,180
FY	2023	Per county allocations	\$7,168
FY	2024	Per population allocations	\$32,382
FY	2024	Per county allocations	\$7,776
		Total:	\$1,631,682

#### Historical Resource Development

Recipient: Alan R. Brase

FY	1994	Litchfield country-residence restoration	\$20,000
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Recipient: Bennington No. 4 School Bd Of Directors

FY	2001	Bennington No. 4 school restoration	\$5,000
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Recipient: Bosnian Cultural Foundation

FY	2010	Fields of opportunity: Bosnian settlers	\$17,212
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Recipient: Cedar Falls Historical Society

FY	1990	Little Red Schoolhouse museum repairs	\$2,000
FY	1991	Repairing ice house	\$10,000
FY	1992	Archives and clothing collections pres.	\$8,000
FY	1993	Improved lighting - Ice House Museum	\$2,805
FY	2002	"R" Little Red Schoolhouse windows	\$4,668
FY	2004	Victorian home & Wyth House mus. preser	\$2,239
FY	2005	Probate and Will archival project	\$4,500
FY	2006	Design services for the Ice House Museum	\$3,778
FY	2010	Wood siding for Little Red Schoolhouse	\$4,760
FY	2015	Processing and preserving	\$5,540
FY	2018	Consolidating and preserving	\$14,563

Recipient: City of La Porte City			
FY	2007	Fire station and jail rehabilitation	\$17,449
FY	2009	Fire station and jail house rehabilitation	\$12,500
FY	2023	Historic fire station and jail masonry repair	\$9,642
Recipient: City of La Porte City, FFA Ag Museum			
FY	2007	FFA historical and ag museum artifacts	\$3,732
Recipient: Cultural Division, City of Cedar Falls			
FY	2005	Pres. the Cedar Falls art collection at Hearst	\$13,586
Recipient: Dan Tindall			
FY	2004	Black Hawk Hotel renovation	\$25,500
FY	2005	Black Hawk Hotel renovation	\$22,500
Recipient: Family YMCA of Black Hawk County			
FY	2018	Assessment and Digitization of the Black Ha	\$9,241
Recipient: Friends of Hartman Reserve			
FY	1990	Hartman Reserve Nature Center exhibits	\$6,667
FY	2017	Preservation and digitization of Hartman Reserve	\$2,265
Recipient: Grout Museum of History and Science			
FY	1990	High density, museum quality storage	\$30,000
FY	1991	Industrial Hall permanent exhibition	\$35,000
FY	1992	Library expansion & consolidation	\$4,540
FY	1995	Industrial Hall design	\$8,000
FY	1996	Waterloo: Engine of the Heartland exhibit	\$14,635
FY	1997	"Engine of the Heartland" exhibit	\$9,000
Recipient: H.W. Grout Trust			
FY	2010	Russell House Museum renovations	\$16,443
Recipient: H.W. Grout Trust, Waterloo			
FY	1993	Collections management	\$12,383
FY	1999	HVAC study & monitoring equipment	\$5,750
FY	2000	Restore two historic flags	\$11,890
Recipient: Hearst Center for the Arts, Cedar Falls			
FY	1994	Collect poetry works of James Hearst	\$4,700
FY	1995	Solar window film, update HVAC, storage	\$4,000
Recipient: Hudson Public Library			
FY	1999	Microfilm the Hudson Herald	\$6,750
Recipient: Link Christian Development			
FY	2020	Stabilization of Walnut Street Baptist Church	\$14,780
Recipient: Rensselaer Russell House Museum			

FY	1991	Restore & repair house	\$7,200
FY	1993	Restore grand piano	\$7,704
FY	1998	Window restoration and light control	\$6,650

Recipient: Resources Plus, Waterloo

FY	1995	Install environmental monitoring equipment.	\$2,500
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Recipient: UNI and Luther College

FY	2010	Postville project: community transition	\$10,840
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Recipient: UNI-CHRIEC

FY	2015	The Rural School collections	\$13,417
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Recipient: University of Northern Iowa

FY	1991	Interpretation of Iowa geology & ornithology	\$17,000
FY	2001	Books and costumes of rural schools	\$4,484
FY	2002	UNI student newspaper preservation	\$4,500
FY	2007	Marshall Center School window pres.	\$4,937
FY	2014	The Postville project: documenting a community	\$24,992
FY	2023	Lemberger collection digitization project	\$26,383
FY	2024	Fortepan Iowa Workshops	\$18,877

Recipient: Waterloo Center for the Arts

FY	2007	Grant's Farm	\$28,500
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Recipient: Waterloo Historic Preservation Comm.

FY	2006	Waterloo comp. hist. pres. plan 2006	\$25,000
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Recipient: Waterloo Museum of Art

FY	1993	Develop & renovate collection storage	\$10,000
FY	1996	Collection conservation project	\$8,000
FY	1998	Grant Wood paintings conservation	\$12,162

Recipient: Waterloo Public Library

FY	1991	Waterloo hist. map & photo pres. & disp.	\$2,500
FY	1992	Waterloo City directories microfilming	\$5,200
		Total:	\$646,864

### Land Management

Recipient: Cedar River at George Wyth

FY	2000	Fish habitat/bank stabilization	\$37,928
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Recipient: George Wyth State Park

FY	1994	Access road near existing boat ramp	\$17,510
FY	1994	Repair water line	\$5,366
FY	1994	Fishing access entrance & parking lot	\$7,217
FY	1997	Paving of dump station road & parking	\$17,354
FY	1997	Shower and toilet building	\$141,007



FY	1998	Shower and toilet building	\$17,942
FY	2000	Replace lift station	\$22,370
FY	2001	Playground equipment	\$11,325
FY	2007	Shower building	\$5,000
FY	2008	Shower room upgrades	\$5,000
FY	2009	Kiosk repair, shower hook-up	\$8,000
		Total:	\$296,019

#### Open Space

Recipient: Black Hawk County Treasurer

FY	2009	Local property tax reimbursement	\$1,920
FY	2010	Local property tax reimbursement	\$1,954

Recipient: George Wyth State Park

FY	1998	Trails	\$1,641
FY	2022	Fuel barrel replacement	\$20,675

Recipient: Wapsipinicon River

FY	2009	Duroe tract	\$158,763
		Total:	\$184,953

#### Roadside Vegetation

Recipient: Black Hawk County Conservation Board

FY	2009	Equipment	\$1,959
FY	2010	Equipment	\$1,632

Recipient: Black Hawk County

FY	1991	Mulch and tackifier	\$6,620
FY	1991	Special equipment	\$6,411
FY	1992	Equipment- hydro mulcher 800	\$4,428
FY	2006	LRTF meetings	\$1,195
FY	2006	Legislated funding	\$37,500
FY	2006	WSI web	\$1,105
FY	2006	Signs	\$2,499
FY	2006	Clear Creek Amana project	\$2,265
FY	2006	State Fair	\$1,994
FY	2007	GPS/GIS	\$3,082
FY	2007	Training in erosion and wetlands	\$3,240
FY	2007	West Okoboji City Hall and research	\$2,641
FY	2007	Meetings, communications, displays	\$5,735
FY	2007	Education materials	\$1,362
FY	2008	Equipment	\$1,640
FY	2008	Legislated funding	\$37,500
FY	2018	Equipment-John Deere 825i UTV	\$4,700
FY	2018	Equipment-F/S skid sprayer	\$1,027
FY	2019	Equipment - Dew Drop drill	\$2,124

Recipient: Black Hawk County Secondary Roads

FY	2009	Inventory	\$2,700
FY	2010	Inventory	\$2,250

Recipient: City of Cedar Falls

FY	1992	Gateway planting-Hudson Road	\$4,726
FY	1992	Gateway planting- hwy 218	\$1,254
FY	1993	Gateway planting	\$8,471
FY	1994	Gateway planting	\$271
FY	1995	Gateway planting- hwy 58	\$2,513
FY	1995	Wildlife enhancement	\$822
FY	1995	Gateway trail planting	\$5,216
FY	1996	Planting- Greenhill Rd corridor	\$12,840
FY	1997	Roadside enhancement	\$1,386
FY	2005	Bike trail and prairie enhancement	\$3,600
FY	2009	Trail planting	\$2,400
FY	2010	Trail planting	\$2,000
FY	2011	Prairie Lakes Park prairie pPlanting	\$6,715
FY	2015	North Cedar flood buyout prairie reconstruction	\$3,713

Recipient: City of Waterloo

FY	2000	Demonstration plantings	\$5,180
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Recipient: George Wythe State Park

FY	1992	Seed	\$13,750
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Recipient: Hartman Reserve Nature Center

FY	1995	Gateway planting- county park road	\$413
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Recipient: Hawkeye Community College

FY	2009	Demonstrating sustainability	\$7,500
FY	2010	Demonstrating sustainability	\$6,250

Recipient: Hawkeye Technical Institute

FY	1991	Prairie roadside & arboretum planting	\$17,750
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Recipient: Hudson

FY	1995	Gateway planting	\$1,327
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Recipient: Iowa Dept. of Transportation

FY	1997	Butterfly garden and prairie-Cedar Falls	\$745
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Recipient: Iowa State Patrol

FY	1995	Seed	\$53
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Recipient: University of Northern Iowa

FY	2005	Education materials	\$2,759
FY	2005	Burn training	\$5,346

FY	2005	Education materials	\$10,889
FY	2005	Legislated funding	\$75,000
FY	2005	Roadside conference	\$6,480
FY	2009	Root research of native plants	\$15,000
FY	2009	Legislated funding	\$45,000
FY	2009	UNI roadside program	\$12,000
FY	2009	Roadside conference	\$72,000
FY	2009	Professional development workshops	\$3,600
FY	2009	Raymond outcrop prairie restoration	\$2,786
FY	2009	Research	\$13,869
FY	2009	Research	\$13,156
FY	2009	Ecotype research	\$27,985
FY	2009	Teacher training, wet prairie	\$29,995
FY	2009	Research	\$13,740
FY	2010	Research	\$12,500
FY	2010	Legislated funding	\$37,500
FY	2010	UNI roadside program	\$10,000
FY	2010	Professional development workshops	\$3,000
FY	2010	Restoration	\$2,322
FY	2010	Ecotype project	\$23,322
FY	2010	Research	\$33,972
FY	2010	Teacher training, wet prairie	\$24,996
FY	2010	Roadside conference	\$6,000
FY	2019	Natural selections program stewardship 20	\$22,402
FY	2019	Education-2019 Iowa prairie conference	\$1,912
FY	2019	IRVM implementation	\$17,061
FY	2019	Education-2019 roadside conference	\$5,467
FY	2020	IRVM implementation	\$34,500
FY	2020	Source ID seed stakeholder communication	\$13,076
FY	2020	Foundation source ID seed production	\$27,349
FY	2020	2020 roadside conference	\$7,104
FY	2020	IRVM implementation	\$22,066
FY	2022	Source ID native seed stakeholder comm.	\$12,989
FY	2022	Foundation source - ID native seed product.	\$43,457
FY	2022	IRVM implementation	\$27,592
FY	2022	2022 roadside conference	\$9,044
FY	2022	UNI legislative support	\$43,166
FY	2023	Prairie roots project 2023	\$12,810
FY	2023	2023 roadside conference	\$8,730
FY	2023	2023 IRVM implementation	\$29,467
FY	2023	Source ID native seed stakeholder comm	\$11,972
FY	2023	Native seed ID stock seed production	\$43,443
FY	2024	Native source ID stock seed production	\$34,490
FY	2024	2024 seed purchase application	\$122,731
FY	2024	2024 roadside conference	\$7,154

FY	2024	Source-ID native seed stakeholder comm	\$9,451
FY	2024	2024 IRM implementation	\$25,436
FY	2024	Landowner video outreach	\$5,464

Recipient: Waterloo

FY	1995	Gateway planting- Franklin neighborhood	\$786
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Recipient: Waterloo Maintenance Garage

FY	1991	Shop plantings	\$829
FY	1994	Plantings- demonstration	\$874
FY	1995	Plantings- IDOT shop & hwy	\$811

Recipient: Waterloo/UNI Grout Museum

FY	2001	Gateway planting	\$4,709
		Total:	\$1,395,730

Soil and Water Enhancement

Recipient: Soil and Water Conservation District

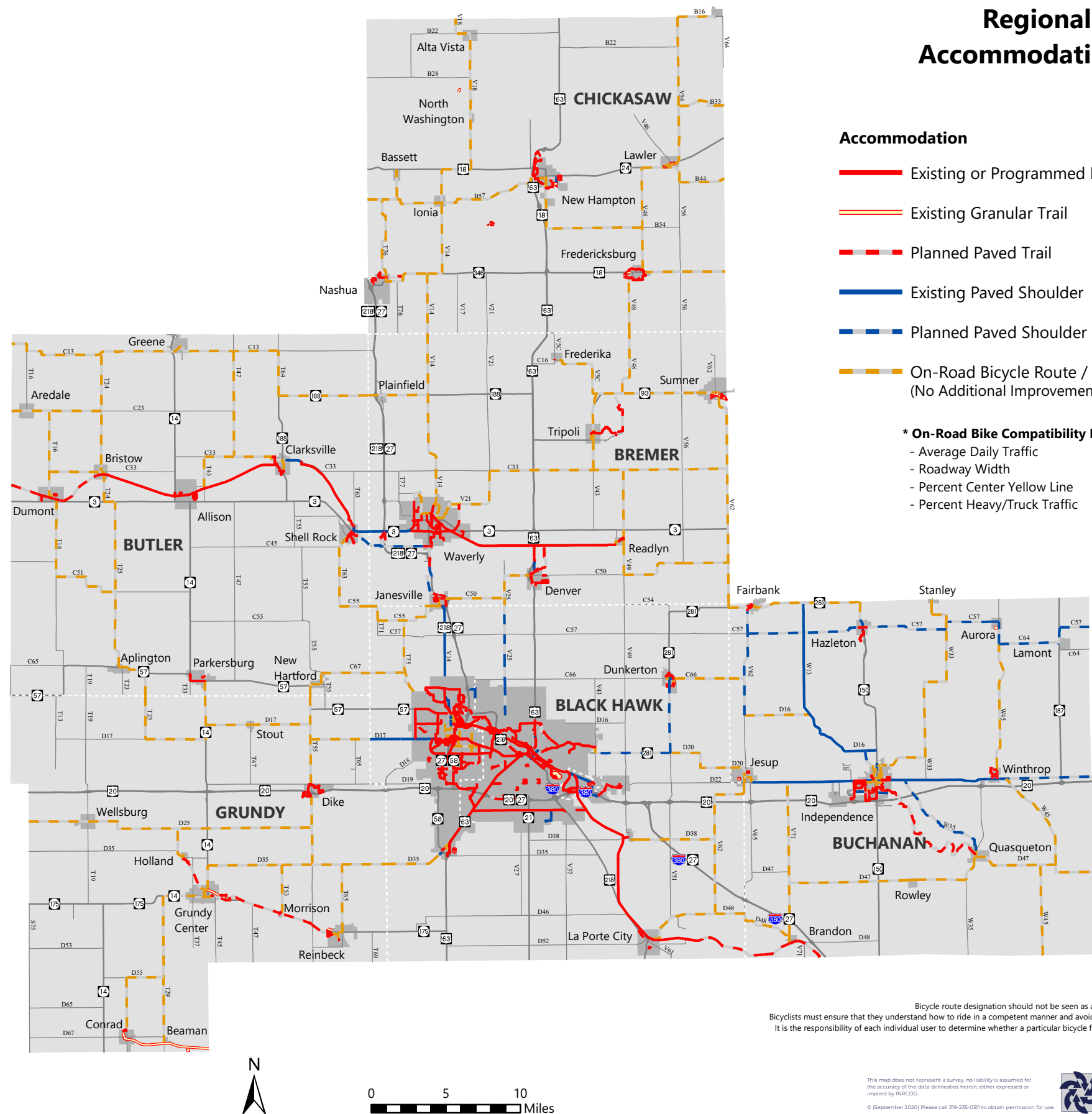
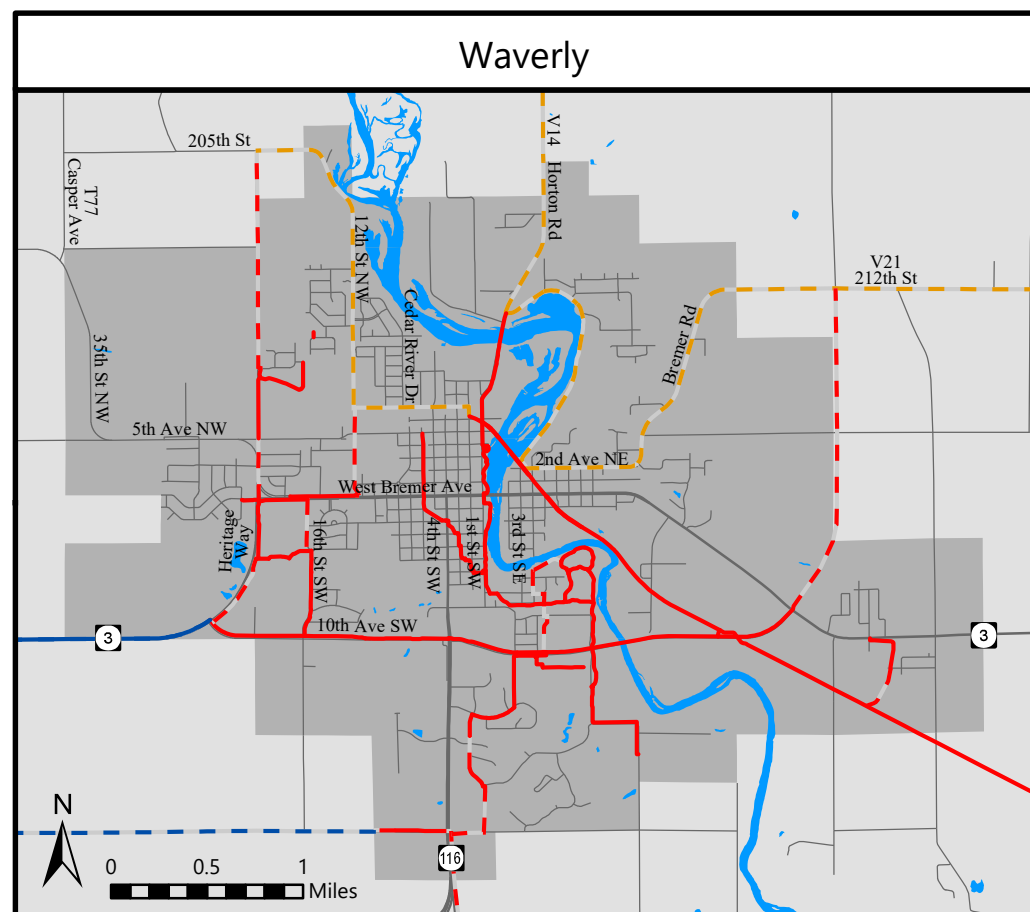
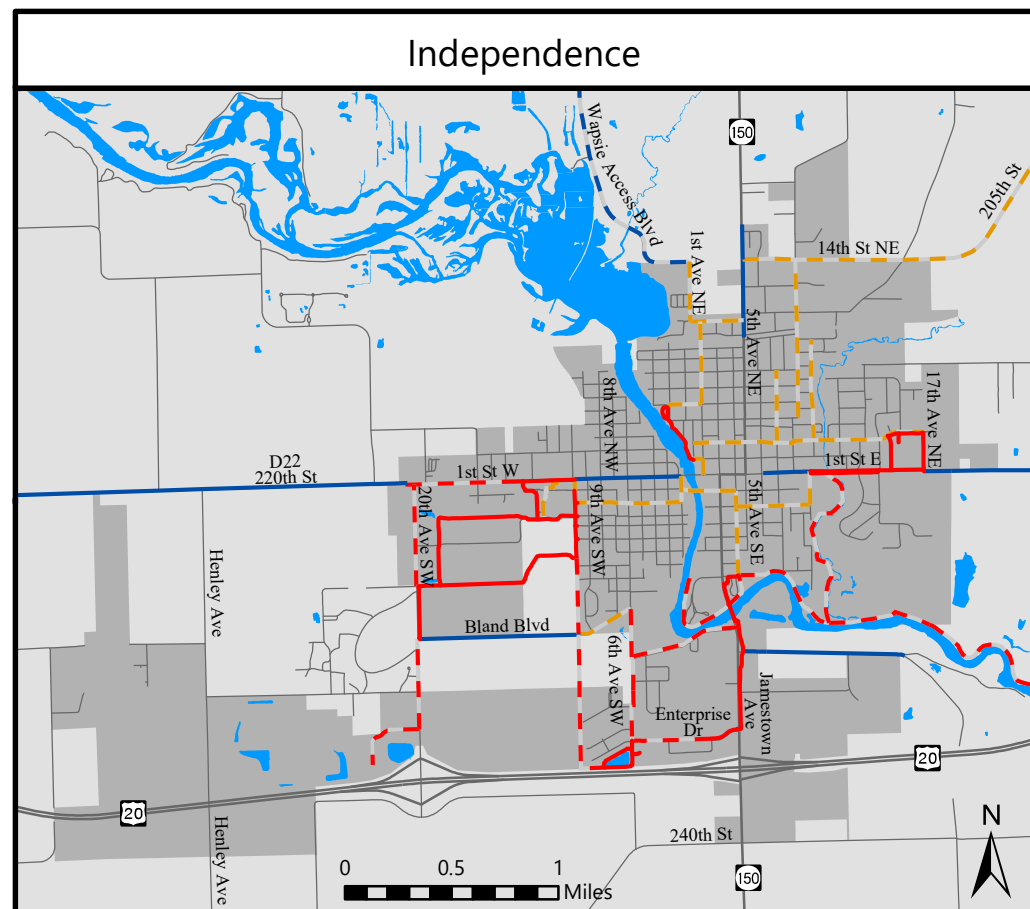
FY	1990	Allocations for practices	\$3,601
FY	1991	Allocations for practices	\$5,688
FY	1992	Allocations for practices	\$5,393
FY	1992	Forestry & native vegetation	\$1,523
FY	1993	Forestry & native vegetation	\$1,136
FY	1993	Allocations for practices	\$5,261
FY	1994	Forestry & native vegetation	\$5,704
FY	1994	Allocations for practices	\$13,799
FY	1995	Allocations for practices	\$3,874
FY	1995	Forestry & native vegetation	\$1,400
FY	1996	Forestry & native vegetation	\$1,908
FY	1996	Allocations for practices	\$7,349
FY	1997	Allocations for practices	\$5,615
FY	1998	Allocations for practices	\$2,661
FY	1998	Forestry & native vegetation	\$1,299
FY	1999	Allocations for practices	\$4,532
FY	2000	Forestry & native vegetation	\$1,811
FY	2000	Allocations for practices	\$1,875
FY	2001	Allocations for practices	\$2,983
FY	2001	Forestry & native vegetation	\$1,610
FY	2002	Allocations for practices	\$5,481
FY	2003	Allocations for practices	\$698
FY	2004	Allocations for practices	\$7,968
FY	2004	Forestry & native vegetation	\$1,992
FY	2005	Forestry & native vegetation	\$1,985
FY	2005	Allocations for practices	\$7,940
FY	2006	Forestry & native vegetation	\$2,010
FY	2006	Allocations for practices	\$8,041
FY	2007	Forestry & native vegetation	\$3,741



FY	2007	Allocations for practices	\$7,370
FY	2008	Forestry & native vegetation	\$3,576
FY	2008	Allocations for practices	\$13,653
FY	2009	Forestry & native vegetation	\$3,997
FY	2009	Dry Run Creek Water Protection	\$44,131
FY	2009	Allocations for practices	\$11,978
FY	2010	Allocations for practices	\$12,300
FY	2010	Dry Run Creek Water Protection	\$31,170
FY	2010	Forestry & native vegetation	\$4,100
FY	2011	Allocations for practices	\$9,828
FY	2011	Dry Run Creek Water Protection	\$29,500
FY	2011	Forestry & native vegetation	\$3,277
FY	2012	Forestry & native vegetation	\$2,476
FY	2012	Allocations for practices	\$7,429
FY	2013	Forestry & native vegetation	\$2,218
FY	2013	Allocations for practices	\$6,653
FY	2014	Forestry & native vegetation	\$3,283
FY	2014	Allocations for practices	\$10,461
FY	2015	Forestry & native vegetation	\$3,283
FY	2015	Allocations for practices	\$10,063
FY	2016	Allocations for practices	\$10,061
FY	2016	Forestry & native vegetation	\$3,357
FY	2017	Allocations for practices	\$12,091
FY	2017	Forestry & native vegetation	\$3,364
FY	2018	Forestry & native vegetation	\$2,424
FY	2018	Allocations for practices	\$7,274
FY	2019	Forestry & native vegetation	\$1,941
FY	2019	Allocations for practices	\$5,823
FY	2020	Forestry & native vegetation	\$2,267
FY	2020	Allocations for practices	\$6,863
FY	2021	Forestry & native vegetation	\$2,304
FY	2021	Allocations for practices	\$7,307
FY	2022	Forestry & native vegetation	\$2,658
FY	2022	Allocations for practices	\$7,965
FY	2023	Forestry & native vegetation	\$2,326
FY	2023	Allocations for practices	\$7,566
FY	2024	Forestry & native vegetation	\$2,591
FY	2024	Allocations for practices	\$7,789
		Total:	\$435,594

Total REAP Allocations in Black Hawk County: \$9,301,487
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Attachment 3  
**Regional Bicycle  
Accommodation Plan**

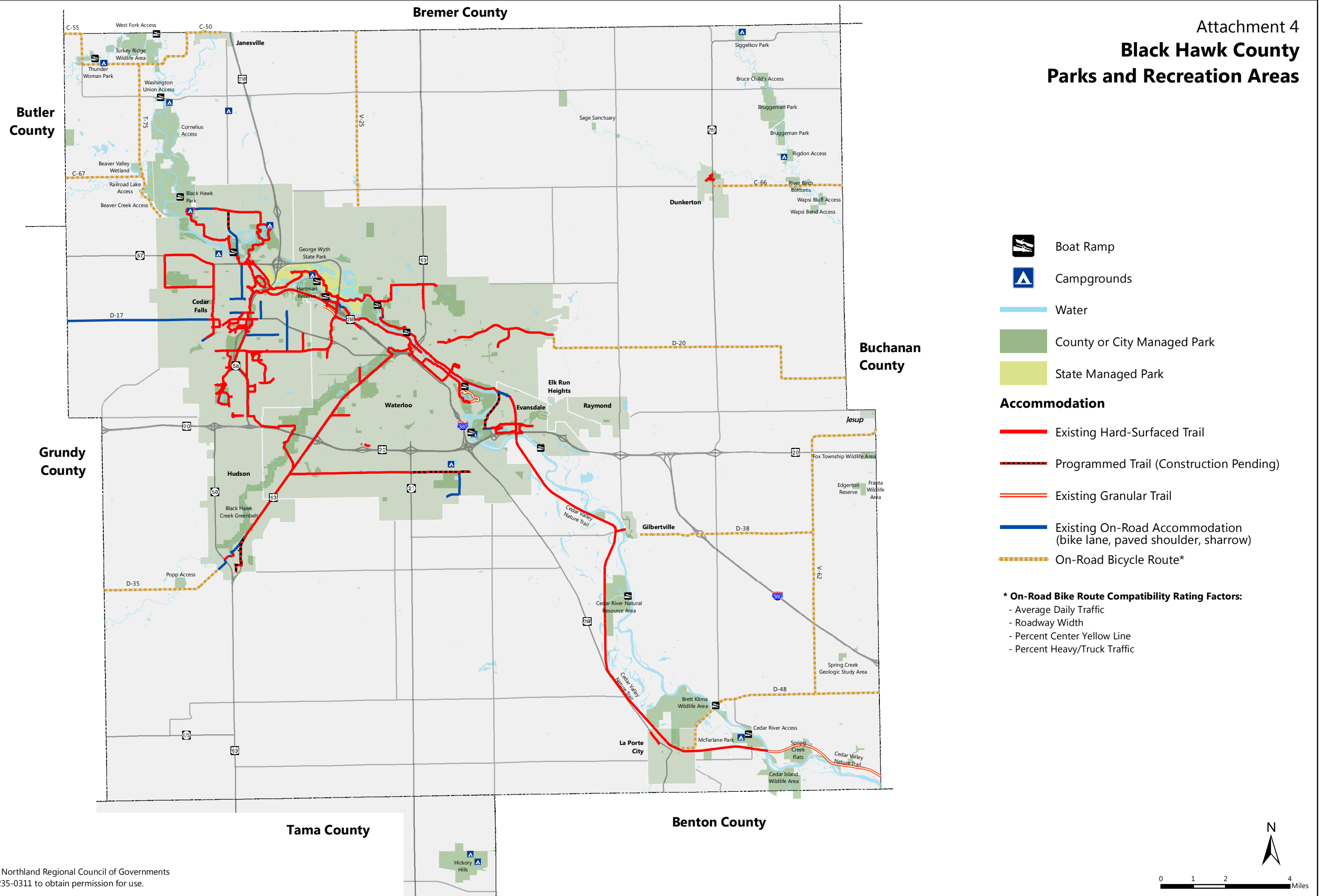


Bicycle route designation should not be seen as a guarantee against injury. Bicyclists must ensure that they understand how to ride in a competent manner and avoid routes with heavy traffic. It is the responsibility of each individual user to determine whether a particular bicycle facility is suitable for them.

This map does not represent a survey, no liability is assumed for the accuracy of the data delineated herein, either expressed or implied by INRCOG.



Attachment 4  
**Black Hawk County**  
**Parks and Recreation Areas**



Attachment 5

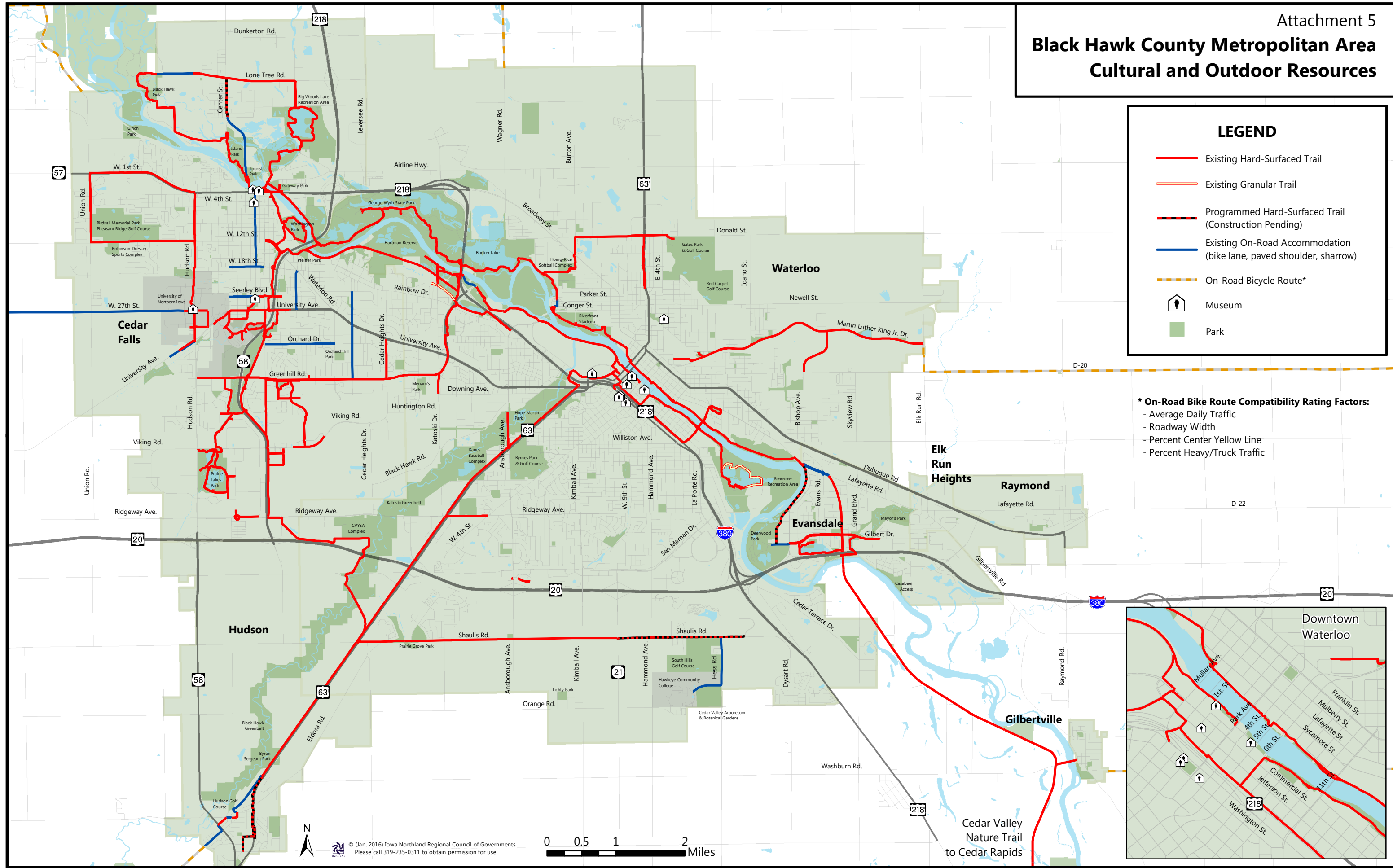
# Black Hawk County Metropolitan Area Cultural and Outdoor Resources

LEGEND

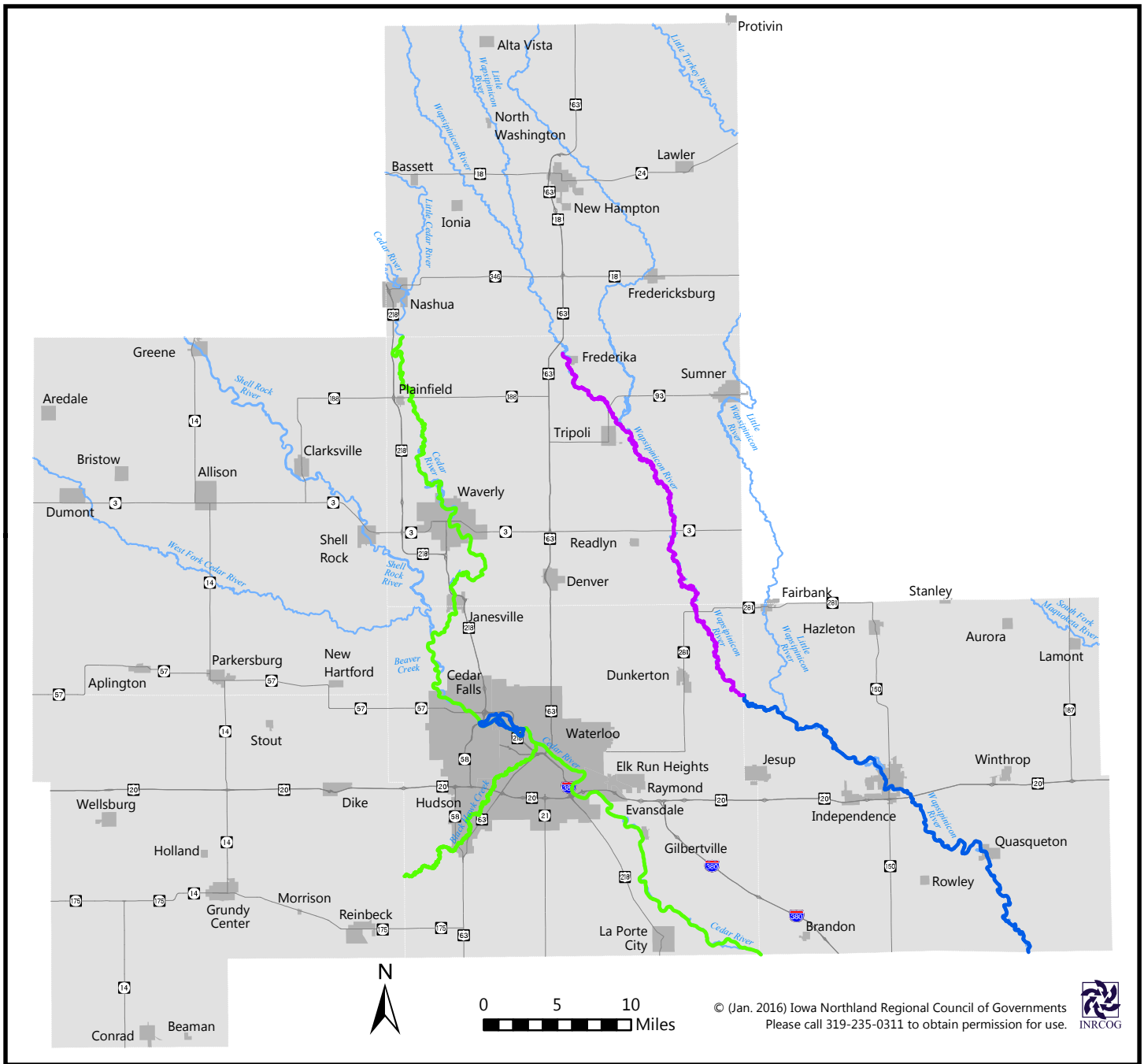
- Existing Hard-Surfaced Trail
- Existing Granular Trail
- Programmed Hard-Surfaced Trail (Construction Pending)
- Existing On-Road Accommodation (bike lane, paved shoulder, sharrow)
- On-Road Bicycle Route\*
- Museum
- Park

**\* On-Road Bike Route Compatibility Rating Factors:**

- Average Daily Traffic
- Roadway Width
- Percent Center Yellow Line
- Percent Heavy/Truck Traffic



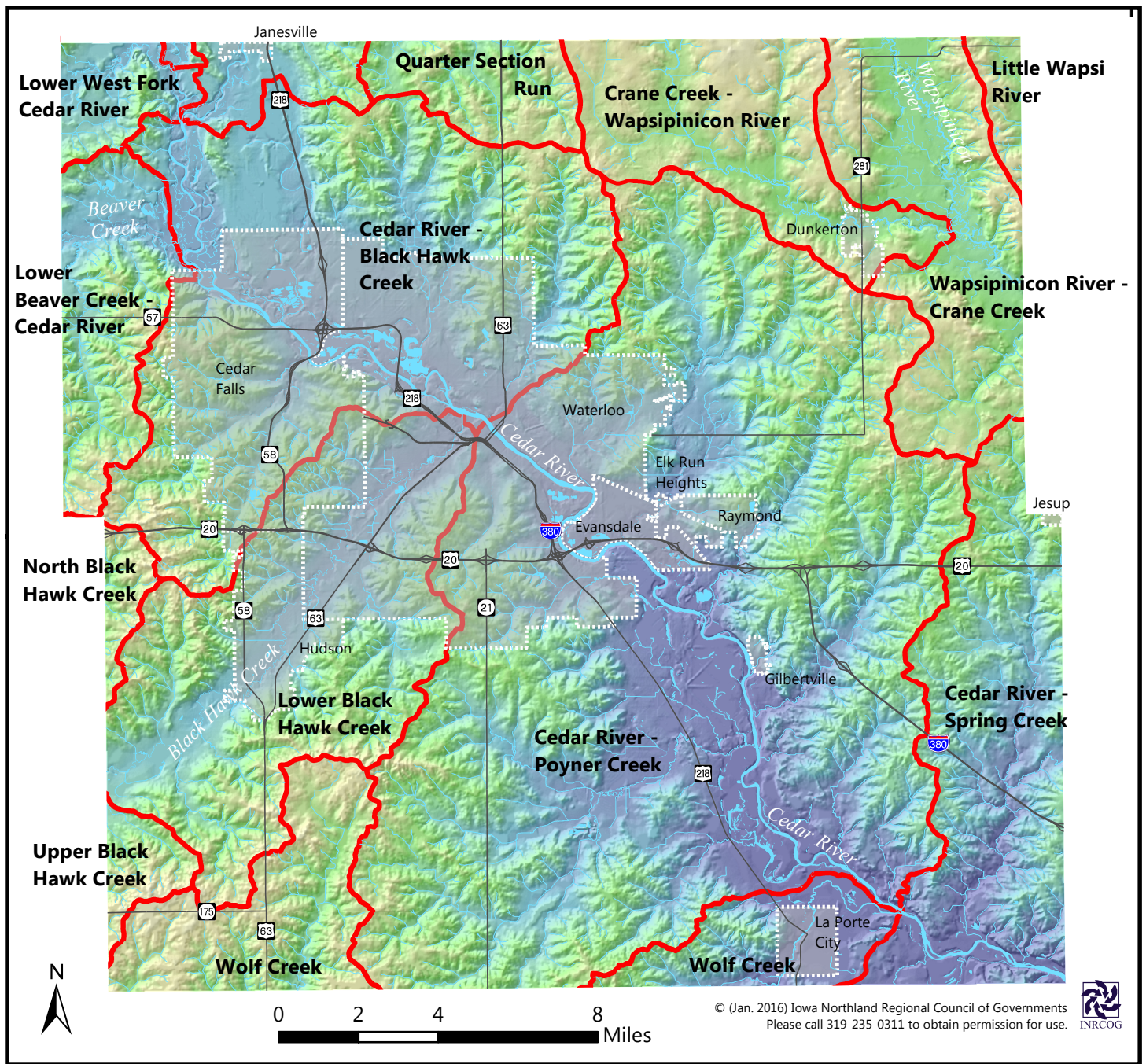




## Attachment 6 Water Trails Iowa Northland Region

### Water Trails

- State Designated Water Trail
- Water Trail Study Area
- Potential Study Area
- River



## Attachment 7 Black Hawk County Watersheds

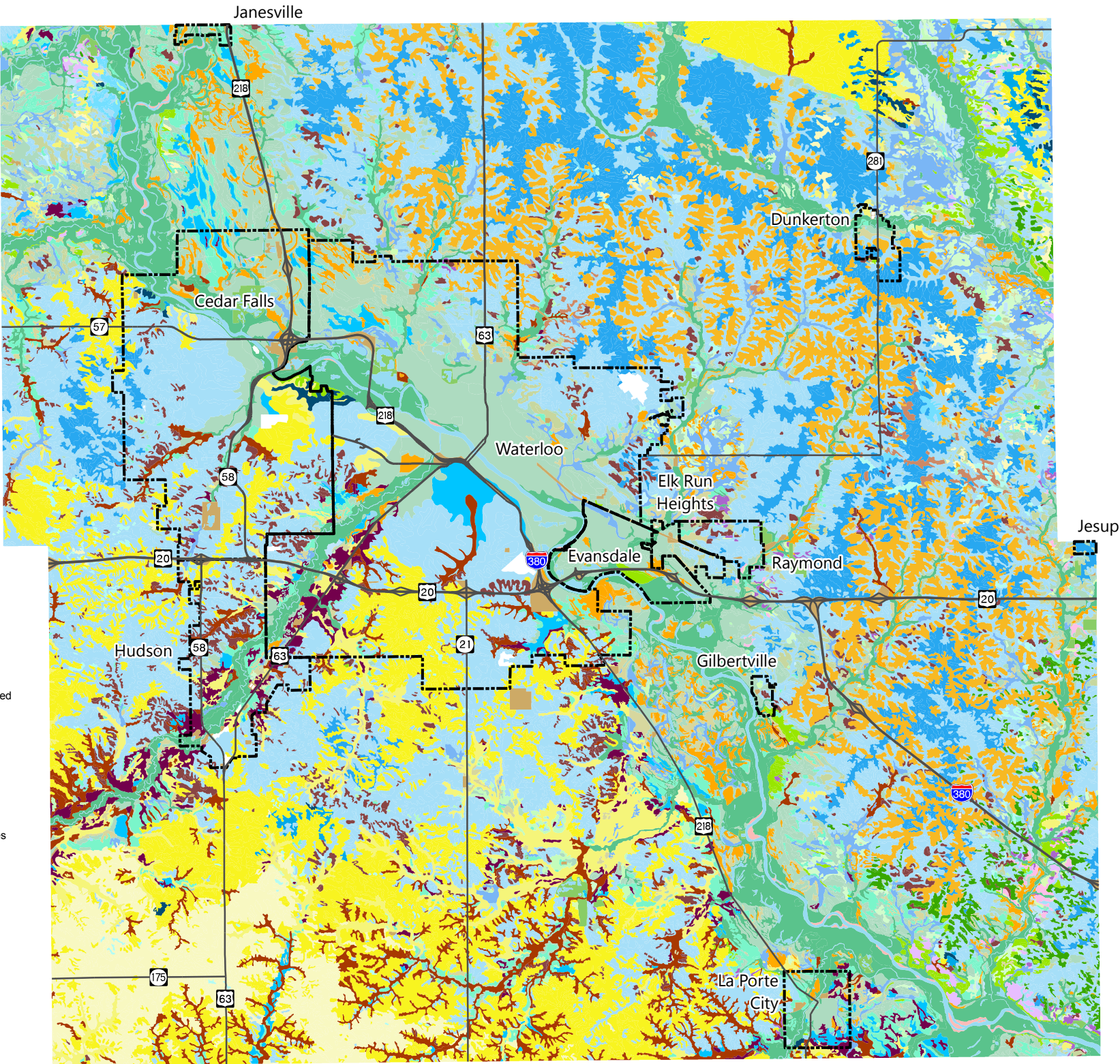
### Legend

- Watershed
- River
- Highway



Attachment 8  
Black Hawk County Soils

- Aquolls, ponded, 0 to 1 percent slopes
- Aredale loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes
- Aredale loam, 5 to 9 percent slopes
- Aredale loam, 5 to 9 percent slopes, moderately eroded
- Aredale-Urban land complex, 2 to 5 percent slopes
- Aredale-Urban land complex, 5 to 9 percent slopes
- Bassett loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes
- Bassett-Urban land complex, 2 to 5 percent slopes
- Bassett-Urban land complex, 5 to 14 percent slopes
- Bertram fine sandy loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes
- Billett sandy loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes
- Burkhardt-Bassett-Chelsea complex, 18 to 60 percent slopes
- Chelsea loamy fine sand, 2 to 5 percent slopes
- Chelsea loamy fine sand, 5 to 9 percent slopes
- Chelsea loamy fine sand, 9 to 14 percent slopes
- Chelsea-Urban land complex, 2 to 5 percent slopes
- Chelsea-Urban land complex, 5 to 9 percent slopes
- Chelsea-Urban land complex, 9 to 14 percent slopes
- Clyde silty clay loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes
- Clyde-Floyd complex, 1 to 4 percent slopes
- Clyde-Floyd-Urban land complex, 1 to 4 percent slopes
- Clyde-Urban land complex, 0 to 3 percent slopes
- Coland clay loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, occasionally flooded
- Coland, occasionally flooded-Urban land complex, 0 to 2 percent slopes
- Colo silty clay loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, occasionally flooded
- Colo, occasionally flooded-Urban land complex, 0 to 2 percent slopes
- Colo-Ely complex, 2 to 5 percent slopes
- Colo-Ely-Urban land complex, 2 to 5 percent slopes
- Dells silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes
- Dickinson fine sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes
- Dickinson fine sandy loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes
- Dickinson-Urban land complex, 0 to 2 percent slopes
- Dickinson-Urban land complex, 2 to 5 percent slopes
- Dinsdale silty clay loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes
- Dinsdale silty clay loam, 5 to 9 percent slopes
- Dinsdale silty clay loam, 5 to 9 percent slopes, moderately eroded
- Dinsdale-Urban land complex, 2 to 5 percent slopes
- Dinsdale-Urban land complex, 5 to 9 percent slopes
- Dinsmore silty clay loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes
- Donnan loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes
- Dunkerton sandy loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes
- Dunkerton sandy loam, 5 to 9 percent slopes
- Emeline loam, 2 to 9 percent slopes
- Finchford loamy sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes
- Finchford loamy sand, 2 to 9 percent slopes
- Finchford-Urban land complex, 0 to 2 percent slopes
- Finchford-Urban land complex, 2 to 9 percent slopes
- Flagler sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes
- Flagler sandy loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes
- Flagler-Urban land complex, 0 to 2 percent slopes
- Flagler-Urban land complex, 2 to 5 percent slopes
- Floyd loam, 1 to 4 percent slopes
- Floyd-Urban land complex, 1 to 4 percent slopes
- Franklin silt loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes
- Franklin-Urban land complex, 1 to 3 percent slopes
- Hayfield loam, 24 to 40 inches to sand and gravel, 0 to 2 percent slopes
- Kenyon loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes
- Kenyon loam, 5 to 9 percent slopes
- Kenyon loam, 5 to 9 percent slopes, moderately eroded
- Kenyon loam, 9 to 14 percent slopes, moderately eroded
- Kenyon-Urban land complex, 2 to 5 percent slopes
- Kenyon-Urban land complex, 5 to 9 percent slopes
- Kenyon-Urban land complex, 9 to 14 percent slopes
- Klinger silty clay loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes
- Klinger-Urban land complex, 1 to 3 percent slopes
- Klingmore silty clay loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes
- Klossner muck, 1 to 3 percent slopes
- Lawler loam, 24 to 40 inches to sand and gravel, 0 to 2 percent slopes
- Lawler-Urban land complex, 0 to 2 percent slopes
- Lilah sandy loam, 2 to 9 percent slopes
- Lourdes loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes
- Lourdes loam, 5 to 9 percent slopes, moderately eroded
- Marquis loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes
- Marshan clay loam, 24 to 40 inches to sand and gravel, 0 to 2 percent slopes
- Marshan-Urban land complex, 0 to 2 percent slopes
- Maxfield silty clay loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes
- Maxfield-Urban land complex, 0 to 2 percent slopes
- Maxmore silty clay loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes
- Nevin silty clay loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes
- Nevin-Urban land complex, 0 to 2 percent slopes
- Olin fine sandy loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes
- Olin fine sandy loam, 5 to 9 percent slopes
- Olin-Urban land complex, 2 to 5 percent slopes
- Olin-Urban land complex, 5 to 9 percent slopes
- Oran loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes
- Orthents, loamy
- Orthents, sanitary landfill
- Orthents-urban land complex
- Pits, limestone quarries
- Pits, sand and gravel
- Protivin loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes
- Protivin-Urban land complex, 1 to 3 percent slopes
- Psammaquents, frequently flooded
- Readlyn loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes
- Readlyn-Urban land complex, 1 to 3 percent slopes
- Rockton loam, 30 to 40 inches to limestone, 2 to 5 percent slopes
- Saude loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes
- Saude loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes
- Saude-Urban land complex, 0 to 2 percent slopes
- Saude-Urban land complex, 2 to 5 percent slopes
- Sawmill silty clay loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, occasionally flooded
- Sawmill, occasionally flooded-Urban land complex, 0 to 2 percent slopes
- Sigglekov-Fluvaquents, channeled-Aquents, ponded, complex, 0 to 2 percent slopes, frequently flooded
- Sparta loamy fine sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes
- Sparta loamy fine sand, 2 to 5 percent slopes
- Sparta loamy fine sand, 5 to 9 percent slopes
- Sparta loamy fine sand, 9 to 14 percent slopes
- Sparta-Urban land complex, 0 to 2 percent slopes
- Sparta-Urban land complex, 2 to 5 percent slopes
- Sparta-Urban land complex, 5 to 9 percent slopes
- Sparta-Urban land complex, 9 to 14 percent slopes
- Spillville loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, occasionally flooded
- Spillville, occasionally flooded-Coland, occasionally flooded-Urban land complex, 0 to 2 percent slopes
- Spillville-Coland complex, 0 to 2 percent slopes, occasionally flooded
- Spillville-Coland, channeled-Aquolls, ponded, complex, 0 to 2 percent slopes, frequently flooded
- Tripoli clay loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes
- Tripoli-Urban land complex, 0 to 2 percent slopes
- Wapsie loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes
- Waubek silt loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes
- Waubek-Urban land complex, 2 to 5 percent slopes
- Waubek-Urban land complex, 5 to 14 percent slopes
- Waukee loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes
- Waukee loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes
- Waukee-Urban land complex, 0 to 2 percent slopes
- Wiota silty clay loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes
- Wiota-Urban land complex, 0 to 2 percent slopes





## BLACK HAWK COUNTY ONE-YEAR FINANCIAL PLAN

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REAP funds are allocated through a combination of per county, per capita, and competitive grant applications. For Fiscal Year 2025, Black Hawk County anticipates receiving the following REAP funds:

<b>Funding Amount</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
\$7,154	University of Northern Iowa	2024 Roadside Conference
\$122,731	University of Northern Iowa	2024 Seed Purchase Application
\$34,490	University of Northern Iowa	Native Source ID Stock Seed Production
\$18,877	University of Northern Iowa	Fortepan Iowa Workshops
\$7,776	Black Hawk County Conservation	Per County Allocations
\$32,382	Black Hawk County Conservation	Per Population Allocations

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Funding Amount	Organization	Purpose
\$9,451	University of Northern Iowa	Source-ID Native Seed Stakeholder Communications
\$25,436	University of Northern Iowa	2024 IRM Implementation
\$5,464	University of Northern Iowa	Landowner Video Outreach
\$2,591	Soil and Water Conservation District	Forestry and Native Vegetation
\$7,789	Soil and Water Conservation District	Allocations for Practices

**BLACK HAWK COUNTY REAP COMMITTEE MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2016**

**MINUTES**

The January 20, 2016 meeting of the Black Hawk County REAP Committee was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Chair White.

Present were:	Linda Laylin	Black Hawk County, Board of Supervisors
	Vern Fish	Black Hawk County, Conservation Board
	Eric Sage	Black Hawk County, Farm Bureau
	Roger White	Black Hawk County, REAP Committee
	Josh Balk	Black Hawk County, Soil & Water Conservation District
	Sherman Lundy	Black Hawk County, Soil & Water Conservation District
	Karen Smith	Cedar Falls, Historical Society
	Tara Estep	Cedar Falls Community Schools
	Tim Swope	City of Elk Run Heights
	Chris Even	City of Jesup
	Jane Whittlesey	City of La Porte City
	Paul Huting	City of Waterloo, Leisure Services
	Aric Schroeder	City of Waterloo, Planning
	David Buhr	City of Waterloo, Resident
	Jerry Hageman	City of Waterloo, Resident
	Dick Lynch	Prairie Rapids Audubon Society
	Craig Ritland	Ritland Kuiper Landscape Architects
	Joel Haack	University of Northern Iowa
	Kyle Durant	INRCOG
	Codie Leseman	INRCOG
	Jacob Tjaden	INRCOG

The first item on the agenda was to review and consider approval of the January 20, 2016 meeting agenda. Fish recommended adding an update on the Cedar Valley Nature Trail realignment in La Porte City to the agenda. It was moved by Huting, seconded by Haack to approve the agenda as presented with the recommended addition. Motion carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was to review and consider approval of the August 5, 2015 meeting minutes. It was moved by Whittlesey, seconded by Huting to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Next on the agenda was a report by each entity on current and upcoming projects and activities related to REAP:

**City of Waterloo – Castle Bluff Park Improvement**

Huting said the Harold Getty Lake Trail project is complete and is expected to be closed out early spring. The design phase of the Whitewater Habitat and Improvement project is underway. Castle said the Castle Bluff Park Improvement project originated from nearby residents interested in adding a sidewalk from Rainbow Drive to the Trolley Car Trail. Slopes between the road and trail reach a 30 to 40 percent grade, whereas ADA requirements limit grades to eight percent. A couple of alignments have been considered including a six-foot wide trail along the east side of the property. However, this project would involve clearing the east side of the park and removing wildflowers and trees in the area. Other ground-level alignments also require significant disturbance of the area. The City is now considering a boardwalk over the existing gravel footpath. At approximately \$70 to \$90 per square foot for the boardwalk, the entire Castle Bluff Park Improvement project including a parking lot, sidewalk, and boardwalk to the trail is estimated between \$225,000 and \$250,000. Huting said the main accomplishment of this

project scope is that it minimizes disturbances to the trees and landscape. Castle said the width of the boardwalk will allow for a skid loader to construct the modular boardwalk and also allow access to the trail for maintenance. Haack said he appreciates the City's approach to this project of avoiding disturbances to the area.

#### **City of Evansdale – Meyers Lake Shoreline Rehabilitation**

Leseman said the City hopes to begin the project in February after the ground freezes in order to avoid tearing up the shoreline with heavy equipment. This will involve the cleanup of boulders and volunteer trees along the shoreline. This spring, the remainder of the trees and boulders will be removed. The City anticipates completing the project in late spring or early summer. This project was undertaken in order to open up a neglected dumping area and stabilize the shoreline along the north side of Meyers Lake.

#### **City of Dunkerton – Restored Prairie Wetland Acquisition**

Tjaden said the City was awarded REAP funds for the Restored Prairie Wetland Acquisition project, and is drawing up a purchase agreement with the landowner. Once the property is restored into a wetland and the easements are filed, they will look to execute that purchase. Last year, the River Walk Trail project which was funded through a REAP grant in 2014 was constructed. The only item left to do is some seeding this spring.

#### **City of La Porte City – Cedar Valley Nature Trail Realignment**

Fish said the Cedar Valley Nature Trail Bridge in La Porte City is being condemned and is closed to all pedestrian traffic. The bridge would cost \$2.5 million to replace or \$1.5 million to repair. The County Conservation Board has identified a potential realignment and has preliminary approval with the railroad, private landowners, and the Iowa DOT. The realignment would run along West Main Street and would include a trail along the south side of Wolf Creek which would be a good project for REAP funding. Two railroad crossings would be involved in the new alignment. The total project scope is estimated to cost \$500,000 which is much lower than the \$2.5 million required to replace the trail bridge. Since the soonest grant funding wouldn't be available until at least July 2017, a detour route along county roads is being worked on in the meantime. Whittlesey said the trail along the south side of Wolf Creek is part of the original Reclamation and Park Development Master Plan. The City is still working on Phase One which received REAP funding in 2014, but could still apply for the next phase this year. Fish said signage and proper markings on Main Street are included. White said small city grants are less competitive for REAP funds than other project categories. Fish said the advantages of this project are that it is already in the Master Plan and it is part of a regional trail. Hageman said as a bicycle rider, access to restaurants and bars is a plus, and business owners will benefit from this traffic. Fish said the County Conservation Board will be responsible for the removal of the trail bridge, which will be the first \$100,000 of the total \$500,000 project cost.

The next item on the agenda was to review the Draft 2016-2020 REAP Plan and consider any additions or changes. Durant said the draft plan was sent to the committee electronically. The first several pages on the plan are the narrative describing the committee, the programs and funding approved over the years, and the resource inventory of recreational areas, towns, cities, counties, preserve areas, cultural areas, trails, water resources, soils, and so on. This section would be carried over into the next five-year plan. Datasets and text have been updated in this section, and no comments were received. Fish said the County Conservation Board entered into an agreement with the Nature Conservancy to take management of the Cedar Hills Sand Prairie in the next five years, and that should be reflected in the narrative. Laylin asked if the County Conservation Board still manages 8,200 acres of land. Fish said that number is closer to 9,000 acres now.

White said that REAP is only in the State statute through 2021. If the program is not extended by June 30, 2021, it will no longer exist. This plan will still fit into that window.

Lundy said there is currently work underway to establish a Middle Cedar River Watershed Management Authority (WMA). This will give us a consortium of entities from where the Upper Cedar River WMA ends all the way to Iowa City. Lundy suggested adding "support establishment of the Middle Cedar River WMA" as a bullet point.

Durant said the committee should go through projects one by one and provide updates as needed. Durant displayed a table with the Potential Focus Area Projects from the last Black Hawk County REAP Plan update. The committee provided updates to each of the projects as follows:

**Focus Area One:** Expand, acquire, and develop open spaces for the purpose of: a.) recreation, b.) wildlife habitat, c.) preservation, and d.) protection of environmentally sensitive areas.

- A. **Sustain funding for Wildlife Conservationist Position** – The County Conservation Board expects to add a second position once posted. Keep the item as is. (Fish)
- B. **Continue Development of the Big Woods Lake Campground** – Everything on the list has been accomplished. One thing to add is the Big Woods Lake House, but the rest has been accomplished. (Fish)
- C. **Continue development of the Deerwood Park Campground** – The City received a grant for modernizing the campground's water and sewer lines. Keep the item until we can follow-up with them. (Durant)
- D. **Continue the creation of food plots on private/public property for wildlife habitat** – This is ongoing. (Fish)
- E. **Acquire land for wildlife habitat adjacent to Klima Wildlife Area** – This is still valid. (Fish)
- F. **Purchase property to the southwest of Big Woods Lake** – We can reach out to the City of Cedar Falls on this. (Durant)
- G. **Continue to purchase flood buyout properties** – The County has acquired all those so willing. (Fish) I think the City of Waterloo is done. (Schroeder)
  - 1. **Develop Partnerships and Management Plans among municipalities for the coordinated development of flood buyout properties** – Some have been done, but not all. Sherwood Park is done. (White) Cedar Falls has a management plan for Big Woods Lake. (Fish)
  - 2. **Work with the City of Waterloo to create a Comprehensive Plan for Sans Souci Island** – The City intends to do a master plan of Sans Souci Island. The City has added a parking lot and made use of a pre-existing shelter. The item needs to stay. (Huting)
  - 3. **Work with the City of Waterloo & the Black Hawk County Conservation Board to implement the Sherwood Park Master Plan** – Plans and specs went out today. (Ritland) Implementation should be this upcoming construction season. (Huting)
  - 4. **Work with the City of Cedar Falls to implement the North Cedar Master Plan** – We'll reach out to the City on this. (Durant)
  - 5. **Work with the City of Cedar Falls to continue buyouts in flood impacted areas & areas prone to future flooding** – We'll reach out to the City on this. (Durant)
  - 6. **Coordinate with the Black Hawk County Conservation Board, NRCS, INHF, & Iowa DNR to acquire & manage EWPP & WRP buyouts** – All available buyout areas have been dealt with. However we can't speak to whether there will be future opportunities, so it's best to leave it in. (Fish)
- H. **Acquire lands along Cedar River, West Fork of the Cedar River, Wapsipinicon River, and Black Hawk Creek** – We are still working with landowners. This item should stay. (Fish)
- I. **Expand and develop Cedar Valley Arboretum** – We will try reaching out to Hawkeye Community College on this one. (Durant)
- J. **Increase urban open space** – Leave this in. (White)
- K. **Continue development of Riverview Recreation Area** – The City still needs to close out on the Harold Getty Trail which has been constructed. Another lake is being created. We will work to update the item description accordingly. (Huting)
- L. **Increase boating amenities of the Cedar River including boathouse/marina improvements** – This is still in the works. (Huting)
- M. **Development of handicapped-accessible hunting and fishing opportunities** – Leave this in. (White)
- N. **Purchase drainage corridors and wetlands** – Leave this in. (Fish)
- O. **Development of park and open space in all communities throughout Black Hawk County** – This should stay. (White)

- P. **Mitigate the detrimental effects of Emerald Ash Borer in public parks and recreational areas** – Leave this in. (Huting)
- Q. **Protect land adjacent to Hickory Hills Park for wildlife habitat, recreation, water quality, and the preservation of unique geologic features** – This is still valid. (Fish)

**Focus Area Two:** Improve soil and water quality through promotion and development of urban and rural best management practices and education with emphasis on a watershed scale.

- A. **Create and promote stream bank restoration, filter-strips, buffers, riparian zones & related practices in urban & rural areas** – Leave this and all the sub-bullets in. This is an ongoing effort. (Lundy)
- B. **Provide incentives for achieving minimum practice procedures which promote soil & water conservation in agricultural areas** – We have gone from a few hundred to around 6,000 acres of cover crops, in large part due to the cost share value. We should keep this in. (Lundy) Discussion continued regarding soil conservation in urban areas, topsoil, and Dry Run Creek stormwater practices. The word “urban” should be added to the item. (Ritland) We should add cover crops to the list in the narrative and to the item description also. (White) Rain gardens, barrels, and soil quality restoration would help. (Balk)
- C. **Discourage marginal farming & the removal of land from the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)** – In the next couple years, there will be a proposed reduction in the maximum number of acres that can be enrolled in the CRP from 100,000 to 75,000. We should add “support and encourage continual capacity for putting lands in the CRP.” (Lundy)
- D. **Permeable paving, bioswales, & rain gardens** – This and all the sub-bullets should stay. (White)
- E. **Create a campaign that ties everything back to land & water** – Leave this in. (White)
- F. **Promote alternative energy production & energy efficiency** – Leave this in. (White)
- G. **Promote the use of the Soil & Water Conservation funds for urban areas** – We are trying to do this for projects such as Dry Run Creek, but this involves communicating to legislators. (Lundy) Should we add “and advocate for” to the item? (Leseman) Yes, add that in. (Lundy)
- H. **Promote environmental quality & natural resources as economic development incentives** – Leave this in. (Fish)
- I. **Create a countywide Watershed Conservationist Position** – This should stay. (White)

**Focus Area Three:** Develop, enhance, and maintain water and land trail opportunities as supported by statewide, regional, and local planning initiatives.

- A. **Develop Prairie Rapids White Water Park** – This is still valid. (Fish)
- B. **Safety modifications of low head dams** – This is still valid. (White)
- C. **Develop a downtown white water course in Waterloo** – This is still valid. (Huting)
- D. **Create & maintain a water trail along Black Hawk Creek** – This is still in progress. (Fish)
- E. **Develop a water trail along Wolf Creek** – This is still valid, but nothing has been done yet. (Fish)
- F. **Develop a state designated water trail along the Cedar River** – This is still valid. (Leseman)
- G. **Continue to expand & maintain the Black Hawk County regional trail system** – The bullets are still appropriate. Keep them. (White)
- H. **Complete American Discovery Trail in Black Hawk County** – This is still valid. (Fish) I will update the description. (Durant)
- I. **Complete trail connections to the Rolling Prairie Trail** – This is still a valid point. (Fish)
- J. **Include handicapped accessibility in future projects where reasonable** – Since this is required, keep it but eliminate “where reasonable”. (Schroeder)
- K. **Connect Big Woods Lake to the Cedar River Water Trail** – Mark this as to be discussed. (White)



- L. **Connect Shaulis Road Trail to the Cedar Valley Nature Trail** – This is ongoing. Keep it. (Schroeder)
- M. **Expand ATV opportunities** – This is still valid, but there is not a lot of property left to expand the OHV park footprint. There could be more amenities however, so we can still keep it. (Huting) Most other lands have deed restrictions, so expansion is unlikely. (Fish)
- N. **Expand bike trail from Big Woods Lake to northern Cedar Falls neighborhoods** – Leave this in. (White)
- O. **Develop & maintain trails with the expansion of new development on the west side of Cedar Falls** – This is still valid. (White)
- P. **Continue developing & maintaining trail opportunities in Janesville** – We could probably consider this complete. (Fish) We will follow-up with the City. (Durant)
- Q. **Develop & maintain trail opportunities in La Porte City** – We could add a bullet point for the trail along the river. (Whittlesey)
- R. **Expand the Trolley Trail with a hard-surface connection to Castle Bluffs Park and Castle Hill Park** – I thought we eliminated Castle Hill Park because we wanted a soft trail. (Haack) Lets change this to “hard-surface connection to Castle Bluffs Park” and get rid of Castle Hill Park. (Huting)

**Focus Area Four:** Support & improve environmental education, roadside native vegetation opportunities, historic preservation initiatives, and management of invasive species and integrated pest management.

- A. **Iowa Water Program** – Add “and other water monitoring opportunities”. (Lundy)
- B. **Iowa Nature Mapping** – This does not exist. (Fish)
- C. **Citizen based river cleanup programs** – This is still valid. (Fish)
- D. **Increase watershed awareness through educational & research opportunities** – This is still valid. (White)
- E. **Create unique visual water quality monitoring to increase awareness & education** – Add “encourage citizen participation in the snapshot events” to the item description. (Lundy)
- F. **Litter program/campaign** – This is still valid. (White)
- G. **Support coordination with schools in Black Hawk County to promote sustainability, conservation, & current skill development** – This should stay. (Fish)
- H. **Replace outdated equipment for roadside plantings** – Secondary Roads does this. I’m not sure it’s a valid concern. (Fish) This could probably be removed. (Laylin)
- I. **Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management** – This is still valid. (Fish)
- J. **Establish County Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Plan** – Secondary Roads plants the roadsides. Some are great examples of prairie. (Fish) Without objection, this will be removed. (White) I can check with the county. (Laylin)
- K. **Management of invasive species and integrated pest management** – We will keep working on this. (Fish)

There is no bullet for historic preservation. (White) I think it would be helpful to add something general like “support local preservation efforts.” (Smith) If everybody is okay with this, Karen will give us some wording for a historic preservation bullet point. (White)

**Focus Area Five:** Expand & improve vertical infrastructure.

- A. **Hartman Reserve Interpretive Center** – We are still moving forward with this. (Fish)
- B. **Whitewater course infrastructure** – Does this overlap the other bullet point? (White) It is vertical infrastructure. (Fish) Leave this in. (White)

- C. **Waterloo Boathouse** – The boathouse has been done for years. The City may resubmit a grant for improvements. (Huting)
- D. **Cedar Falls Beach House** – This should be moved to the list of accomplishments. (Tjaden)
- E. **Expansion and continued maintenance of the interpretive signage** – We modified this item recently and added “continued maintenance.” (Durant) Lets keep it. (Fish)
- F. **Maintain & expand lake & river boat launches** – Keep it. (Fish)
- G. **Reconstruct the McFarlane Maintenance Shop in a new location outside of the floodplain** – This one is done. (Fish)

Durant asked if there are any other items to be added. Fish mentioned the long-term maintenance of the trails system. All of the trails have bridges. A five-year study was done in 2012 and will be updated in 2017 to see where the next bridge failures will likely take place. There is also a need for wetland mitigation banks. Most of these are done on private land and turned over to a public agency for management. It’s going to take private efforts to make it happen. White said he would like to see trails connect to surrounding communities. Durant said connections outside of the metropolitan area are addressed in the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) Long Range Transportation Plan. That document can be attached to the REAP Plan. Now, with the REAP Plan update nearly complete, the thought was to have an interim meeting to adopt the plan, so it is in place during the August meeting when REAP grant applications will be reviewed. Discussion continued regarding funding availability for emerald ash borer treatment on private land. Fish said in the REAP Plan document, it should be noted that the Cedar River Initiative is complete, and the Watershed Coalition still meets quarterly. Durant said to provide him comments by February 17, and we will put the draft plan on the INRCOG website afterward for review. Three weeks after that, on March 8, we will meet to review and consider adoption of the plan.

The next item on the agenda was a report from the REAP Congress and the Legislative Program. White said the REAP Congress was held a week ago Saturday. Actions taken by the Congress include recommending that the Iowa Legislature fully fund the Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund through a three-eighths percent sales tax increase, reverting back to the 2010 wording passed by voters. That passed unanimously. The REAP Congress also requested an increase in REAP funding to \$40 million per year until 2021. That passed overwhelmingly. The REAP Congress recommended the formula for the various REAP programs should remain the same. At the local assembly here, attendees passed a motion urging a flat dollar amount be appropriated for Conservation Education, which is currently at \$350,000, and increased based on the 1989 purchasing value of that amount (approximately \$600,000). That amendment did not pass. Other increases and changes also did not pass. The REAP Congress did pass a resolution expressing gratitude to governors in the past who have supported REAP. A stream buffer initiative which included saturated buffers failed. The development of a report describing unfunded projects passed. The next REAP Congress will be held in two years.

Next on the agenda was other business. Fish said we are still on record in support of the three-eighths percent sales tax increase. White said as long as there is no objection he will lobby accordingly. That is the committee’s continuing position.

The next item on the agenda was setting the next meetings. White said the next meeting will be held on March 8 at 3:00 p.m. in the INRCOG board room, and the agenda items will be to approve the REAP Plan update and to provide an update on REAP grant applications. The following meeting will be held on August 3 at 3:00 p.m. also at the INRCOG board room, and the agenda will focus exclusively on reviewing the REAP grant applications.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Codie Leseman  
Acting Secretary

**BLACK HAWK COUNTY REAP COMMITTEE MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 2016**

**MINUTES**

The March 9, 2016 meeting of the Black Hawk County Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Committee was called to order at 3:05 p.m. by Chair White.

Present were:	Linda Laylin	Black Hawk County, Board of Supervisors
	Roger White	Black Hawk County, REAP Committee
	Josh Balk	Black Hawk County, Soil & Water Conservation District
	Bob Seymour	City of Cedar Falls
	Karen Smith	Cedar Falls Historical Society
	Doug Faas	City of Evansdale
	Jane Whittlesey	City of La Porte City
	Paul Huting	City of Waterloo, Leisure Services
	Lori Eberhard	George Wyth State Park
	Steve Robisky	Pheasants Forever
	Joel Haack	University of Northern Iowa
	Kyle Durant	INRCOG
	Codie Leseman	INRCOG

The first item on the agenda was to approve the agenda. It was moved by Faas, seconded by Huting to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was to review and consider approval of the January 20, 2016 meeting minutes. It was moved by Haack, seconded by Huting to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Next on the agenda was to review and consider approval of the final Black Hawk County 2016-2020 REAP Plan. Durant said one grammatical correction was mentioned by Haack. Other than that, all comments from the previous meeting have been incorporated into the document. All comments received after the meeting, from organizations and jurisdictions unable to attend the last meeting, have been incorporated as well. The updated document was since uploaded onto the INRCOG website, and no comments from the public have been received. Huting said on page 10, Martin Lake should be changed to Greenbelt Lake. Laylin asked if comments from the county engineer have been received. Durant said they have been received. Seymour said the City of Cedar Falls added a couple of projects: a whitewater park in the Cedar River and a BMX soft pump trail just northeast of downtown Cedar Falls.

White said the next step is to take the REAP Plan to the County Conservation Board to ask for endorsement, then to the county supervisors for their endorsement. Plans should also be given to each city council. Durant said the plan will also be sent to the Iowa DNR, and will be available on the INRCOG website. White asked if any changes have been made to the Long Term Maintenance section. Durant said no comments have been received, so the Long Term Maintenance and Cedar River Watershed Coalition sections are unchanged. The group then reviewed each of the maps included in the plan document. It was moved by Whittlesey, seconded by Seymour to approve the Final 2016-2020 Black Hawk County REAP Plan. Motion carried unanimously.

Next on the agenda was other business. White said there is a REAP environmental lobby day on March 22 starting at 8:30 a.m. There will be a gathering at the capitol building with instructions for attendees, key points to emphasize, and key legislators and committees to meet with. This is a statewide effort, and Black Hawk County REAP Committee members are encouraged to attend. There is also a rumor that there is an effort to defund the REAP program next fiscal year and transferring that money toward water quality initiatives.

The next Black Hawk County REAP Committee meeting will be on August 3 to review projects seeking REAP grant funding. Huting said the City of Waterloo is considering applying for their whitewater park project and/or the Castle Bluffs improvements project. Faas said the City of Evansdale hopes to complete their levee trail project this upcoming construction season. Whittlesey said the City of La Porte City might apply for the Cedar Valley Nature Trail realignment. Balk said the Soil and Water Conservation District is conducting a large outreach campaign about rain gardens which may generate additional interest in using REAP funds. This outreach is for residents living outside of the Dry Run Creek area. Huting said the contract has been let for the Sherwood Park project, which will include a picnic shelter, granular trail, and interpretive signage. That project should be completed in a couple months. Eberhard said George Wyth Memorial State Park may start offering concessions at the beach for the first time in years.

There being no further business, it was moved by Faas, seconded by Huting to adjourn the meeting. Motion approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Codie Leseman  
Acting Secretary

**BLACK HAWK COUNTY REAP COMMITTEE MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3, 2016**

**MINUTES**

The August 3, 2016 meeting of the Black Hawk County Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Committee was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Chair White.

Present were:	Roger White	Black Hawk County, REAP Committee
	Jim Weimer	Black Hawk County Conservation
	Josh Balk	Black Hawk County Soil & Water Conservation District
	Candice Kucera	Black Hawk County Soil & Water Conservation District
	Sherman Lundy	Black Hawk County Soil & Water Conservation District
	Mark Ripplinger	City of Cedar Falls
	Karen Smith	Cedar Falls Historical Society
	Tim Swope	City of Elk Run Heights
	Paul Huting	City of Waterloo, Leisure Services
	Eric Sage	Farm Bureau
	Lori Eberhard	George Wyth State Park
	Dick Lynch	Prairie Rapids Audubon
	Joel Haack	University of Northern Iowa
	Marcy Seavey	University of Northern Iowa / REAP CEP
	Rebecca Kauten	Public
	Kyle Durant	INRCOG
	Codie Leseman	INRCOG

The first item on the agenda was to review and consider approval of the agenda. Balk suggested amending the agenda to include adding comments on active REAP projects through the Black Hawk Soil and Water Conservation District and Dry Run Creek Watershed Improvement Project. Ripplinger suggested amending the agenda to change the City of Cedar Falls' REAP project from the Whitewater Park to ADA Accessible Fishing at Prairie Lakes Park. It was moved by Haack, seconded by Ripplinger to approve the agenda with the proposed amendments. Motion carried unanimously.

Next on the agenda was to review and consider approval of the March 9, 2016 meeting minutes. It was moved by Huting, seconded by Lundy to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Next was to review and consider approval of 2016 REAP Grant Applications:

**City of Waterloo – Boathouse Enhancements**

Huting said the City of Waterloo had originally intended to apply for funding for the Whitewater Park, but the project is still in design. The proposed boathouse enhancements include paving the parking lot, which will be paid for with local funds, a recreation trail extension, river overlook, patio, and pathway and parking lot lighting. Due to the project location and soil type, a permeable surface is not ideal for the parking lot. The City will be requesting \$200,000 in REAP funding. Balk inquired if the parking lot would impact the disc golf course, and Huting responded no impacts are anticipated. Durant noted the proposed project is specifically identified in the 2016-2020 REAP Plan under Focus Area Five. The enhancements have been in the works for over five years. Huting mentioned that the City intends to use native plantings along the shoreline in a future phase.

It was moved by Ripplinger, seconded by Eberhard to approve the Waterloo – Boathouse Enhancements REAP grant application. Motion carried unanimously. Huting abstained.



**City of Cedar Falls – ADA Accessible Fishing at Prairie Lakes Park**

Ripplinger said the project would involve leveling a portion of the shore, removing vegetation overgrowth, and adding ADA compliant pathways and fishing pier. The Iowa DNR stocks this lake, and it is heavily used by the public. The proposed cost is estimated at \$55,000. Durant noted the proposed project is identified in the 2016-2020 REAP Plan under Focus Area One – Development of handicapped-accessible hunting and fishing opportunities. Ripplinger said there is a handicapped-accessible fishing platform at the larger lake to the south of the project location, and the City has included a fishing platform for Big Woods Lake in their Capital Improvement Program. Lundy inquired if the City has a maintenance plan for the shoreline. Ripplinger said making this portion of the lake shallower will hopefully reduce the amount of vegetative cleanup required. Balk said the proposed project has the potential to receive funding from the Soil and Water Conservation District as it is situated along Dry Run Creek. Ripplinger said the City will be responsible for future maintenance of the project.

It was moved by Huting, seconded by Seavey to approve the Cedar Falls – ADA Accessible Fishing at Prairie Lakes Park REAP grant application. Motion carried unanimously.

**Dunkerton – Trail Extension**

Leseman said the City of Dunkerton's project is to extend their trail system from Jefferson St east and south to Dunkerton St. The proposed project will connect to the terminus of the Riverwalk Trail which was funded by REAP in 2014. The project will help connect the expanding residential development on the southeast side of town to the recreational resources on the north side. This includes the Riverwalk Trail, Charma Park, and 44 acres of land acquired with REAP funds that will be restored as a natural wetland. An additional segment is planned to extend the trail system from Dunkerton St south to the new residential developments. The City will be requesting \$50,000 in REAP funding.

It was moved by Kauten, seconded by Weimer to approve the Dunkerton – Trail Extension REAP grant application. Motion carried unanimously.

**Black Hawk County – Beck's Forest Acquisition**

Weimer said the property owner is trying to sell 15 acres of land situated along the Cedar River. The Iowa DNR owns and manages land north and west of the property. The rest of the land belongs to Black Hawk County Conservation. The 15 acres of land is surrounded by publicly owned land. Wood Turtles can be found in the project area, and they are listed as an endangered species in Iowa. The proposed project would help protect the Wood Turtle population. This land acquisition in conjunction with the 1,400 of acres of publicly owned land along the Cedar River provides for improved flood plain storage capacity as well as abundant recreation opportunities. Haack inquired if the land to be acquired would be used for public recreation. Weimer responded that the project site does not have sand bars or other features that would attract paddlers or hunters. The proposed project fits under the Black Hawk County REAP Plan Focus Area One – Expand, acquire, and develop open spaces for the purpose of recreation, wildlife habitat, preservation, and protection of environmentally sensitive areas, and Two – Improve soil and water quality through promotion and development of urban and rural best management practices and education with emphasis on a watershed scale. Weimer emphasized that the project would help protect a functioning floodplain.

It was moved by Lundy, seconded by Ripplinger to approve the Black Hawk County – Beck's Forest Acquisition REAP grant application. Motion carried unanimously.

Next was to discuss Iowa's Water and Land Legacy #FundTheTrust Initiative. White said the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust would be funded using three-eighths of one cent sales tax. The Black Hawk County REAP Committee endorsed this Trust Fund in 2015. The Fund the Trust Initiative was formed by the Iowa Water and

Land Legacy Coalition and the Iowa State Association of Counties. White unveiled a banner to support the initiative and asked individuals to sign the banner. White distributed petition postcards to send to local representatives. The key timeframe to contact local representatives in support of the initiative is after the election to January of 2017. Roger White and Vern Fish of Black Hawk County Conservation will work to obtain additional signatures on the banner.

The next agenda item was adding comments on active REAP projects through the Black Hawk Soil and Water Conservation District and Dry Run Creek Watershed Improvement Project. Balk presented on a rain garden project at the Hy-Vee Gas Station on University Avenue in Waterloo and two residential permeable driveway projects in Cedar Falls. The three projects will help to infiltrate approximately 82,000 gallons of stormwater a year and reduce Total Suspended Solids by 224 pounds annually. Balk noted there are many more opportunities for projects in the area to help improve soil and water quality.

Next was other business. Durant provided an update on the metropolitan-wide trails wayfinding signage project.

Next was to set the next meeting. The committee agreed to schedule the next meeting for Wednesday, January 18, 2017 at 3:00 pm at the INRCOG Center 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Board Room. Topics may include the revised trail identification system using the United States National Grid system, Legislative Breakfast, funding opportunities for improved soil and water quality, the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund, and REAP project updates. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Codie Leseman  
Acting Secretary

**BLACK HAWK COUNTY REAP COMMITTEE MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2017**

**MINUTES**

The January 18, 2017 meeting of the Black Hawk County Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Committee was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Chair White.

Present were:	Roger White	Black Hawk County, REAP Committee
	Vern Fish	Black Hawk County, Conservation Board
	Mike Hendrickson	Black Hawk County, Conservation Board
	Josh Balk	Black Hawk County Soil & Water Conservation District
	Sherman Lundy	Black Hawk County Soil & Water Conservation District
	Mike Henning	Cedar Prairie Sierra Group
	Larry Buchholz	Cedar Trails Partnership
	Rob Inouye	City of Cedar Falls, Fire and Rescue (via phone)
	David Sturch	City of Cedar Falls, Planning
	Karen Smith	Cedar Falls Historical Society
	Tim Swope	City of Elk Run Heights
	Jane Whittlesey	City of La Porte City
	Aric Schroeder	City of Waterloo, Planning
	Paul Huting	City of Waterloo, Leisure Services
	Jerry Hageman	City of Waterloo, Resident
	Lori Eberhard	George Wyth State Park
	Steve Robisky	Pheasants Forever
	Scott Garrett	Prairie Rapids Audubon
	Craig Ritland	Ritland Kuiper Landscape Architects
	Joel Haack	University of Northern Iowa
	Marcy Seavey	University of Northern Iowa / REAP CEP
	Kristine Nemec	University of Northern Iowa Tallgrass Prairie Center
	Kyle Durant	INRCOG
	Codie Leseman	INRCOG

The first item on the agenda was to review and consider approval of the agenda. It was moved by Lundy, seconded by Haack to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Next on the agenda was to review and consider approval of the August 13, 2016 meeting minutes. It was moved by Huting, seconded by Haack to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Next was a report by each entity on current and upcoming projects and activities related to REAP:

**City of Waterloo**

Huting said the City of Waterloo is working on three REAP projects. The crushed limestone trail around Harold Getty Lake has been completed. The project has been closed out with the Iowa DNR, but the trail experienced flooding immediately following. Some repairs may be needed. The Sherwood Park project was well underway when flooding took place. The soft trail along the river is essentially complete, rough grading has been done for the parking lot, and the shelter has been ordered. The City has requested a project extension, and the goal is to complete the project by next year. The City received \$200,000 in REAP funding for the Boathouse Enhancement project. Enhancements include paving the parking lot, a recreation trail extension, river overlook patio, and lighting. The City has additional funding secured as a match and is seeking a Black Hawk County Gaming

Association grant. Design work is underway for the whitewater project. White inquired if the City will be applying for funds this August, and Huting said it may be too soon to tell. The City has completed access improvements at Castle Bluff Park using local funding.

### **Black Hawk County**

Fish said the Conservation Board was successful in securing funds last year to acquire 15 acres of land along the Cedar River. The Conservation Board is in the process of negotiating the land purchase. The land is surrounded by publicly owned land, and wood turtles can be found in the project area. The Hartman Reserve Nature Center renovation is ongoing. White asked if the Conservation Board will have a grant application in August, and Fish said presently there is nothing in mind.

### **City of Cedar Falls**

Sturch said the City's application for improvements to Prairie Lakes Park was unsuccessful. The project included leveling a portion of the shore, removing vegetation overgrowth, and adding ADA compliant pathways and fishing pier. The City may reapply this year. The City is developing a master plan for the whitewater project from Center St to Washington Park, and that plan will likely go back to City Council for comments. There may be a REAP project come this August, but the project will more likely be focused on dam safety. Sturch said the Black Hawk County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Bicycle Accommodation Plan shows on-road accommodations along Union Rd from 12<sup>th</sup> St to 27<sup>th</sup> St, but the City may add an off-road trail instead.

### **City of La Porte City**

Whittlesey said the first phase of improvements along Wolf Creek is on hold. The Army Corps of Engineers is requiring permitting for all phases of the project, and the City is waiting on them. The City has until the end of 2017 to complete the project.

### **City of Dunkerton**

Durant said the City received funding last year to expand the trail further east.

Next on the agenda was a presentation by Josh Balk, Dry Run Creek Watershed Coordinator, on REAP practices. Projects discussed included the rain gardens at the Hy-Vee Gas Station on University Ave in Waterloo, and two residential permeable driveways in Cedar Falls. The Hy-Vee rain gardens help infiltrate over 21,000 gallons of stormwater and move 57 pounds of total suspended solids. Several residents throughout the Waterloo and Cedar Falls area have expressed interest in rain gardens, permeable pavement, native plantings, and soil quality restoration.

The next agenda item was to discuss the integration of the United States National Grid (USNG) into emergency response. Inouye said that a statewide process began three years ago when the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management put \$100,000 towards the development of a Task Force and training video series. They have also created a statewide mapping system using the USNG. The next step is to replace the existing 911 emergency markers with USNG markers. The Black Hawk County Sheriff's Office has committed \$1500 towards the project. The goal is to have all signs replaced this summer. Black Hawk County will be the second in the state to adopt USNG, and Waterloo/Cedar Falls will be the first metropolitan area. A second phase will include kiosk educational information on how to use the USNG system. Discussion continued about the trail wayfinding signs, kiosks, GPS on cell phones, emergency scenarios, jurisdictions willing to implement the project, and cell phone provider coverage.

Next was a report on the #FundTheTrust initiative. White said the Iowa Legislature voted in 2007-2008 to approval the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust which would be funded using three-eighths of one cent sales

tax. The Trust Fund will remain unfunded until the legislature acts. The Fund the Trust Initiative was formed by the Iowa Water and Land Legacy Coalition and the Iowa State Association of Counties in 2010, and this group signed a banner to support the initiative at the August 2016 meeting. The group is continuing its effort to see that the Trust Fund is funded.

Next was to discuss the Legislative Breakfast. White said the event will be in conjunction with the Legislative Public Forum on February 11. The forum officially starts at 10:00 am, and the breakfast is scheduled for 8:30 am. The atrium in the AEA 267 building in Cedar Falls has been reserve. This year's topic is "education". Invitations will be sent to area legislators. Food, beverage, and volunteers will be needed. Lundy asked if educational displays on past REAP projects, tangible projects, and accomplishments could be provided, and White said yes. White noted that \$7 million in REAP funding has been provided to communities in Black Hawk County, and those dollars have leveraged additional funding.

The next agenda item was other business. Lundy said the Middle Cedar River Watershed (MCRW) Management Authority has been established and is in the process of hiring a coordinator. The Watershed Management Authority was formed to bring partners together to address watershed concerns. The majority of Black Hawk County is in the MCRW. The regional collaboration will work towards reducing downstream flooding and improving water quality.

The next item on the agenda was to set the next meeting. The committee agreed to schedule the next meeting for Wednesday, August 9, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. at the INRCOG Center 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Board Room.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Codie Leseman  
Acting Secretary



**BLACK HAWK COUNTY REAP COMMITTEE MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9, 2017**

**MINUTES**

The August 9, 2017 meeting of the Black Hawk County Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Committee was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Chair White.

Present were:	Roger White	Black Hawk County, REAP Committee
	Linda Laylin	Black Hawk County, Board of Supervisors
	Mike Hendrickson	Black Hawk County, Conservation Board
	Jim Weimer	Black Hawk County, Conservation Board
	Sherman Lundy	Black Hawk County Soil & Water Conservation District
	Jerry Hageman	Black Hawk Union Assembly
	Mike Henning	Cedar Prairie Sierra Club
	Mark Ripplinger	City of Cedar Falls, Recreation & Community Programs
	Zach Pierce	City of Dunkerton
	Tim Swope	City of Elk Run Heights
	Doug Faas	City of Evansdale
	Deb Hanson	City of Janesville
	Jane Whittlesey	City of La Porte City
	Paul Huting	City of Waterloo, Leisure Services
	Lori Eberhard	George Wyth State Park
	Craig Ritland	Ritland Kuiper Landscape Architects
	Joel Haack	University of Northern Iowa
	Marcy Seavey	University of Northern Iowa / REAP CEP
	Kristine Nemec	University of Northern Iowa Tallgrass Prairie Center
	Kyle Durant	INRCOG
	Codie Leseman	INRCOG
	Jacob Tjaden	INRCOG

The first item on the agenda was to review and consider approval of the agenda. It was moved by Faas, seconded by Haack to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Next on the agenda was to review and consider approval of the January 18, 2017 meeting minutes. It was moved by Huting, seconded by Faas to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Next was to review and consider approval of 2017 REAP Grant Applications:

**City of Cedar Falls – Prairie Lakes Park Shoreline Improvements**

Ripplinger said the project is similar to what was submitted last year which did not receive funding. Last year's project included bank improvements on the north side, some fishing jetties, and an ADA-compliant fishing platform. This year's application does not include the fishing platform. The City works with the Walleye Club, Iowa DNR, and Impact Outdoors to promote a family fishing day each April. The project includes removal of vegetation along the shore which will improve shoreline fishing accessibility. Short trail connections will also be added to improve access to the lake.

It was moved by Huting, seconded by Seavey to approve the Cedar Falls – Prairie Lakes Park Shoreline Improvements REAP grant application. Motion carried unanimously.

**City of Dunkerton – Open Space Acquisition and Development**

Tjaden said the City previously received funding to extend a trail system along Crane Creek. This year's application is to acquire two parcels of land to be included as part of the trail system. The parcels have been appraised to Iowa DNR standards. The City will then construct approximately 1,800 feet of trail and add some plantings to help with infiltration

and drainage. Pierce said that the City would like to add a rain garden inside the trail loop, as that area experiences flooding. Tjaden said the total project cost is \$93,000, of which \$29,000 is required for the land acquisition. Lundy asked if the trail would be elevated which may act as a dam. Pierce said the trail will be along the outside of the parcels, about five feet from the property line. Lundy recommended adding a wetland as rain gardens can only handle an inch or two of storm water. Pierce said neighboring property owners may not prefer the aesthetics of a wetland which is why the City opted for a rain garden. Roger said the City may want to consider marking the adjacent roadway as a bike route to connect the trail system.

It was moved by Hageman, seconded by Haack to approve the Dunkerton – Open Space Acquisition and Development REAP grant application. Motion carried unanimously.

**City of Evansdale – Meyers Lake Shoreline Rehabilitation, Phase Two**

Faas said the retaining wall east of the causeway to Angels Memorial Park has collapsed, and it is estimated to cost \$70,000 to remove and properly rebuild. Phase One, which was funded by REAP, removed the riprap west of the causeway along the north side of Meyers Lake, and was designed to prevent erosion. The Park Board met to discuss a project to replace the causeway with a 150-foot boardwalk system with pilons every 12-15 feet. The City evaluated re-sloping the portion east of the causeway, but the consensus of the community was to keep the retaining wall. Once the boardwalk is constructed, the City will add back the retaining wall. The City is also looking to replace an ADA-accessible floating dock that was damaged.

It was moved by Ripplinger, seconded by Swope to approve the Evansdale – Meyers Lake Shoreline Rehabilitation, Phase Two REAP grant application. Motion carried unanimously.

**City of La Porte City – Wolf Creek Reclamation and Park Development, Phases Two and Three**

Whittlesey said Phase One, which included land acquisition, grading, landscaping, daylighting the storm sewer, and adding a canoe/kayak river access has been completed. Phase Two would include re-establishing the riverfront trail and adding new pedestrian lighting and benches. Leseman showed an aerial drone photo of the Wolf Creek Park parcel acquired in Phase One. Whittlesey said that since daylighting of the storm sewer went from Phase Two to One, the City Council asked that Phases Two and Three be combined into a single project.

It was moved by Hageman, seconded by Henning to approve the La Porte City – Wolf Creek Reclamation and Park Development, Phases Two and Three REAP grant application. Motion carried unanimously.

**City of Waterloo – Castle Bluffs Park Development and Trailhead**

Huting said the City considered applying for improvements to Castle Bluffs Park a couple of years ago. Since then, the City has rerouted the trail access and added a retaining wall at the parking lot. The City is planning to create a concrete trail connection and sidewalk to a shelter, paving the parking lot, installing a shelter, adding a retaining wall along part of the trail, and adding Prairie Pathways signage, bike rack, picnic tables, and benches. The estimated project cost is \$189,000. White asked if the shelter will have electricity. Huting said the City is not planning to provide electricity to the shelter. Huting said the trail connection will only be five feet wide to avoid impacting mature trees. Haack said this project would be a great improvement to the park. Hageman asked if the City has considered adding solar panels to various projects. Huting said that is a great idea, and the Mayor is working with committees to discuss solar power. Ripplinger said Cedar Falls has a solar powered light near the boat launch at Washington Park.

It was moved by Haack, seconded by Ripplinger to approve the Waterloo – Castle Bluffs Park Development and Trailhead REAP grant application.

The next item on the agenda was a report by each entity on current and upcoming projects and activities related to REAP:

**City of Waterloo**

Huting said development at Sherwood Park has been a little slow due to flooding, but the project is finally taking shape. The trail connection is formed and ready to be poured. The shelter is constructed using I-beams and is tall and sturdy. The City will be adding Prairie Pathways interpretive signage and will be constructed using aluminum substrate. The trail will consist of concrete and compacted limestone sections. The plans for the Boathouse enhancements and the permitting are nearly complete. The project is expected to be let this fall.

**Black Hawk County Conservation Board**

Weimer said the Beck's Forest acquisition along the Cedar River has been completed. The 15-acre natural area is situated across from a boat ramp at a park owned by the Black Hawk County Conservation Board. Wood turtle research has been completed for the area.

**City of Dunkerton**

Pierce said the contractor has approximately 300 feet left of the trail to complete. The project is anticipated to be completed next week.

White asked if there were any other upcoming projects. Ripplinger said Cedar Falls is meeting with consultants to continue the whitewater project. The City needs firmer numbers before proceeding. Huting said Waterloo's whitewater project is on hold due to escalating costs. The City was informed by the Iowa DNR that it will not approve the plan unless the entire face of the dam is mitigated (i.e. backfilled with stone or riprap) which adds another \$1 million in costs. The current project cost estimate is around \$6 million which is well beyond the original scope. The City is working towards a more shovel-ready project.

Sherman said the Middle Cedar River Watershed Management Authority has been established. A number of projects have been identified in Black Hawk County along the Black Hawk Creek which involve flood control and water quality improvement. There is potential for community REAP projects along Black Hawk Creek to add enhancements. Miller Creek and Dry Run Creek grants have been ensured which have helped fund various rain garden, permeable paver, and windbreak projects.

Next was planning for the Regional REAP assembly. White said the assembly is held every two years. Typically, the event includes display boards, handouts, and presentations on the benefits and success stories of REAP. At the assembly, delegates are elected to attend the REAP Congress held in January. The next Regional REAP Assembly will be held in September or October. White said he will invite area legislators and will contact the media.

Next on the agenda was other business. Lundy said that a public event will be held at the Morgan Quarry. The REAP Committee could setup a table to provide handouts about the benefits of REAP. The theme this year is "Everyone Lives in a Watershed".

The next item on the agenda was to set the next meeting. The committee agreed to schedule the next meeting for Wednesday, January 17, 2018 at 3:00 p.m. at the INRCOG Center 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Board Room.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Codie Leseman  
Acting Secretary

**BLACK HAWK COUNTY REAP COMMITTEE MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2018**

**MINUTES**

The January 17, 2018 meeting of the Black Hawk County Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Committee was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Chair White.

Present were:	Roger White	Black Hawk County, REAP Committee
	Linda Laylin	Black Hawk County, Board of Supervisors
	Mike Hendrickson	Black Hawk County, Conservation Board
	Kenneth Kuenstling	Black Hawk County Farm Bureau
	Josh Balk	Black Hawk County Soil & Water Conservation District
	Sherman Lundy	Black Hawk County Soil & Water Conservation District
	Jerry Hageman	Black Hawk Union Assembly
	Karen Smith	Cedar Falls Historical Society
	David Sturch	City of Cedar Falls, Planning
	Paul Huting	City of Waterloo, Leisure Services
	Lori Eberhard	George Wyth State Park
	Joel Haack	University of Northern Iowa
	Marcy Seavey	University of Northern Iowa / REAP CEP
	Kristine Nemec	University of Northern Iowa Tallgrass Prairie Center
	Kyle Durant	INRCOG
	Codie Leseman	INRCOG
	Jacob Tjaden	INRCOG

The first item on the agenda was to review and consider approval of the agenda. It was moved by Haack, seconded by Laylin to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Next on the agenda was to review and consider approval of the August 9, 2017 meeting minutes. White noted that page three of the minutes should read "...unless the entire dam is mitigated..." It was moved by Seavey, seconded by Huting to approve the minutes with the proposed change. Motion carried unanimously.

Next was a report by each entity on current and upcoming projects and activities related to REAP:

**City of Dunkerton**

Tjaden said the land acquisition project funded in 2016 has been completed. The river walk trail, which was funded in 2015, has since been completed. The most recently funded project involves land acquisition, drainage improvements, and development of a trail on the southeast side of town.

**City of Waterloo**

Huting said the Sherwood Park project is complete and in closeout. The boathouse enhancements project is 85 percent complete and includes some bioswales. Lundy recommended that the City add educational signage at the bioswales. Huting said the whitewater project is in preliminary design. The latest cost estimate is \$6 million, well above the original \$2.6 million estimate. The Iowa DNR is requiring the dam hazard to be completely mitigated. This would involve placing stone at the base of the dam across the entire width of the river. The project would also require additional flood wall work which is expensive. The City's goal is to have shovel-ready plans within the year and then evaluate the next steps.

**City of Cedar Falls**

Sturch said the City has entered into a contract with Riverwise Engineering out of Durango, Colorado to look at elements identified in the whitewater master plan. The City is focusing on the area between the Main St Bridge and the 1<sup>st</sup> Street Bridge. The consultant will be looking at riverbank improvements, jetties, and fishing improvements. A design may be presented to City Council next month. The City may opt to split out riverbank and in-river project components. Construction is likely a few years out, so it is unlikely that the City will apply for REAP funds this year.

White asked if there were any other upcoming projects. Huting said the City was thinking about improvements around Green Belt Lake. Durant noted that trail projects have not scored well in recent years. Seavey asked if there was a way to view past applications. Tjaden responded that the Iowa DNR has a link with past applications. Durant offered to email the link to the group along with the grant scoring sheet from last year. Leseman described the Water Trails Master Plan which will include project recommendations and materials that could be used in REAP grant applications. Lundy said that the Greenbrier Neighborhood in Waterloo experiences flooding due to stormwater runoff and drainage issues and wonders if there is a potential to address these issues. If the County can show REAP dollars are helping to address water quality index (WQI) issues, then politicians can see that these funds are for more than recreation. Discussion continued about water pumps and WQI issues.

The next item on the agenda was a report from REAP Congress and the Legislative Program. White said the REAP Congress had three primary motions: fund REAP at the full \$20 million level; retain the current REAP formula; and increase the sales tax by three-eighths of one cent to fund the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust. White said a report on the REAP Congress should be received soon and will be forwarded upon receipt.

Next was an update on the #FundTheTrust initiative. White said the fund remains alive in the legislature. Bills have been presented in both houses pertaining to Iowa's Water and Land Legacy (IWLL). A conference call will be held tomorrow from 3:00-3:30 pm and will be held every two weeks. The conference call will include legislative updates on key items related to the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust

Next on the agenda was other business. Hendrickson said the Conservation Board received the approval from the FEMA regional representative to move forward with repairs on the Cedar Valley Nature Trail. The trail experienced significant washouts in 2016 including a 150-foot section that severed the trail. The Conservation Board is working with IIW Engineering on the Wolf Creek Bridge project. White said the Conservation Board will be treating this area as a County Park, and a management plan is being assembled. Hendrickson said a trail restoration plan (Phase I) has been developed. The plan focuses on vegetation issues along the trail. Habitat was the top consideration of the plan. The Conservation Board prefers vegetation to be ten feet back from the trail on each side. Deterioration of the trail surface is caused partly by lack of sunlight and standing water. Phase II of the trail maintenance plan would include restoration and upkeep of the trail, and plans to complete the remaining unpaved section. Hageman asked if the washout repairs will have mitigation for future washouts, and Hendrickson said geotextile fabric will be put down to prevent erosion. Hendrickson said vegetation root systems can also damage trails and should be dealt with accordingly. Durant said that there were 19 REAP projects funded in 2017, of which six mention land acquisition, four mention park development, five were restoration projects, and only three projects had trails. Those projects with trails were part of a larger project that included land acquisition, new park development, or prairie development. White said the original fundraising goal for the Wolf Creek Bridge was \$50,000. To date, just under \$40,000 has been secured. White reminded the group that REAP license plates can be purchased which directly support the REAP program.

The next item on the agenda was to set the next meeting. The committee agreed to schedule the next meeting for Wednesday, August 1, 2018 at 3:00 p.m. at the INRCOG Center 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Board Room.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Codie Leseman  
Acting Secretary



**BLACK HAWK COUNTY REAP COMMITTEE MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 1, 2018**

**MINUTES**

The meeting of the Black Hawk County Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Committee was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Chair White.

Present were:	Roger White	Black Hawk County, REAP Committee
	Linda Laylin	Black Hawk County, Board of Supervisors
	Mike Hendrickson	Black Hawk County, Conservation Board
	Sherman Lundy	Black Hawk County Soil & Water Conservation District
	Jerry Hageman	Black Hawk Union Assembly
	Matthew Tolan	City of Cedar Falls
	Sushil Tuladhar	City of Cedar Falls
	Mark Ripplinger	City of Cedar Falls, Recreation & Community Programs
	Deb Hanson	City of Janesville
	Paul Huting	City of Waterloo, Leisure Services
	Joel Haack	University of Northern Iowa
	Marcy Seavey	University of Northern Iowa / REAP CEP
	Kristine Nemec	University of Northern Iowa Tallgrass Prairie Center
	Kyle Durant	INRCOG
	Codie Leseman	INRCOG
	Ryan McKinley	INRCOG

The first item on the agenda was to review and consider approval of the agenda. It was moved by Haack, seconded by Laylin to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Next on the agenda was to review and consider approval of the January 17, 2018 meeting minutes. It was moved by Lundy, seconded by Huting to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Next was to review and consider approval of 2018 REAP Grant Applications:

**City of Cedar Falls – Clay Street Park Water Quality**

Tolan said the project will include the installation of a permeable pavement system in the alley, the installation of an updated bioretention cell in the park, and a new bioretention cell upstream. The project will benefit the University Branch of the Dry Run Creek. Clay Street Park is one of the oldest parks in the city, and the 100-year-old storm water system cannot handle runoff. The project will help decrease runoff, sediments, and other contaminants carried by storm runoff. Over the past couple of years, the City has upgraded existing alleys with permeable pavement to help manage storm water quality. Lundy recommended that the potential reductions in total suspended solids and other pollutants be quantified and shared with the public to increase education. White said the project aligns with the Black Hawk County REAP Plan Focus Area 2: Improve soil and water quality through promotion and development of urban and rural best management practices and education with emphasis on a watershed scale, and Project D: Permeable paving, bioswales, and rain gardens. Haack said it is valuable to mention the Rotary Club of Cedar Falls' efforts to fundraise and construct the new pavilion at the park. This will show community support for improving the park and the community. Tolan said the total project cost is \$192,000, and the City is requesting \$150,000 in REAP funds. The City has the local match identified in its capital improvements program. Leseman encouraged committee members to submit letters of support for the project.

It was moved by Huting, seconded by Seavey to approve the Cedar Falls – Clay Street Park Water Quality REAP grant application. Motion carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was a report by each entity on current and upcoming projects and activities related to REAP:

**City of Waterloo**

Huting said the Sherwood Park project has been closed out. The park has been under water multiple times this year. The Boathouse enhancements project is nearly complete. The City has been facing drainage issues with bioswales, and high-water events this year have delayed landscaping and seeding. The City used a \$500,000 Black Hawk County Gaming Association grant, FEMA funds, and a \$200,000 REAP grant to complete the enhancements. The City is close to developing an application for improvements to Greenbelt Lake, but the City would like to develop a master plan before proceeding with grant applications. The City anticipates applying for REAP funds next year. Huting asked if cities will be invited to attend the grant review session in Des Moines. Durant said cities were not invited last year. Huting said it provides an opportunity for communities to address any questions or concerns the reviewing committee may have.

**City of Cedar Falls**

Ripplinger said the last project that was funded through REAP was Washington Park. The City was unsuccessful in securing funds for fishing improvements at Prairie Lakes Park.

**Black Hawk County Conservation Board**

Hendrickson said the County does not have any projects in development. The Conservation Board used county conservation REAP funds for the Hartman Reserve Nature Center and repairs to the Cedar Valley Nature Trail. Conservation Board staff will be discussing potential projects for the future.

Next was an update on the Cedar Valley Nature Trail repairs and Wolf Creek Bridge replacement. Hendrickson said the engineering firm that the Conservation Board has hired, IIW, has provided a cost estimate of \$850,000. A total of \$500,000 has been raised so far, and a State Recreational Trails grant application was submitted in July. The Conservation Board has developed a trail restoration plan for the Cedar Valley Nature Trail. The majority of flood repairs have been completed on the Cedar Valley Nature Trail which is now open from Evansdale to Gilbertville. The Conservation Board is clearing vegetation within 10 feet of the Cedar Valley Nature Trail to open it up, and public response has been positive. All private land that was disturbed will be replaced with pollinator seeding. Lundy asked if the Conservation Board has communicated with Clark Porter about Wolf Creek and the Middle Cedar River Watershed. Hendrickson said he would follow up with Mr. Porter.

Next on the agenda was an update on the Black Hawk County Water Trails Master Plan. Leseman said the first public input meeting was held at Island Park Beach House in Cedar Falls on Tuesday, and the second meeting will be held on Thursday at the Waterloo Boat House. There were over 50 people in attendance at the meeting in Cedar Falls. The next steps will include reviewing completed surveys, interpreting information, and meeting with Ritland+Kuiper Landscape Architects and communities to develop site designs. White said that it will be up to each jurisdiction to implement improvements identified in the plan. Additional information on the project can be found at [www.cedarvalleywatertrails.com](http://www.cedarvalleywatertrails.com) and [www.facebook.com/cedarvalleywatertrails](https://www.facebook.com/cedarvalleywatertrails). Durant asked if site improvements identified in the plan would be eligible for REAP funds. Leseman said yes, and the plan will include site plans that communities can use for applying for funds.

Next was other business. White reviewed the action items by the 2018 REAP Congress. It was recommended that the REAP sunset date be extended to 2036. Hageman asked if tiling is contributing to nutrient runoff. Lundy said the biggest concern is spring application of fertilizer, not necessarily tiling itself. Water typically reaches tiling in heavy rain events. Discussion continued about tiling and the Nutrient Reduction Strategy.

It was moved by Seavey, seconded by Huting that the Black Hawk County REAP Committee encourage the Iowa DNR to invite applicants to the REAP City Grant Review Committee meeting. In discussion, Huting said the original process provides an opportunity for communities to address any questions or concerns the reviewing committee may have.

Seavey said past Conservation Education Program (CEP) grant awards would change depending on community responses. Motion carried unanimously.

Ripplinger said the latest action by City Council on the Cedar Falls Whitewater project was to authorize the design consultant to continue with the design phase and to fine tune the project design and cost. The cost estimate remains at \$2.9-3.1 million. The City has funding identified in the capital improvements program, and the private fundraising component is \$1 million. There appears to be City Council support for river bank improvements, but the in-water improvements may be debated. Huting said the makeup of the Waterloo City Council has changed since initial approval of the design for the Waterloo Whitewater project. Project design is still underway with some funding from the Waterloo Development commission which is funded in turn through the Black Hawk County Gaming Association. The cost estimate remains at \$6 million, and public funding sources are in doubt.

Lundy said there is a need to communicate to legislators the importance of REAP. The concern is that funding is declining which shows legislators do not understand the importance of and support for the program. It was motioned by Lundy, seconded by Laylin that the Black Hawk County REAP Committee interview candidates for legislative office regarding support for REAP and share results from those interviews. Motion carried unanimously. Hageman, Lundy, and White volunteered to serve on the subcommittee. White will email the Black Hawk County REAP Committee to ask if anyone else would like to participate in the subcommittee.

The next item on the agenda was to set the next meeting. The committee agreed to schedule the next meeting for Wednesday, January 16, 2019 at 3:00 p.m. at the INRCOG Center 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room. Topics will include reviewing the current Black Hawk County REAP Plan, follow-up on the legislative interviews, and the election of officers.

There being no further business, it was moved by Hageman, seconded by Seavey to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Codie Leseman  
Acting Secretary

**BLACK HAWK COUNTY REAP COMMITTEE MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2019**

**MINUTES**

The meeting of the Black Hawk County Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Committee was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Chair White.

Present were:	Roger White	Black Hawk County, REAP Committee Chair
	Linda Laylin	Black Hawk County, Board of Supervisors
	Mike Hendrickson	Black Hawk County, Conservation Board
	Josh Balk	Black Hawk County Soil & Water Conservation District
	Sherman Lundy	Black Hawk County Soil & Water Conservation District
	Jerry Hageman	Black Hawk Union Assembly
	Mike Henning	Cedar Prairie Sierra Club
	Chrissi Wiersma	City of Hudson
	Todd Derifield	City of Waterloo, Leisure Services
	Paul Huting	City of Waterloo, Leisure Services
	Aric Schroeder	City of Waterloo, Planning
	Lori Eberhard	George Wyth State Park
	Joel Haack	University of Northern Iowa
	Marcy Seavey	University of Northern Iowa / REAP CEP
	Kristine Nemec	University of Northern Iowa Tallgrass Prairie Center
	Kyle Durant	INRCOG, REAP Committee Vice-Chair
	Codie Leleman	INRCOG

The first item on the agenda was to review and consider approval of the agenda. It was moved by Haack, seconded by Huting to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Next on the agenda was to review and consider approval of the August 1, 2018 meeting minutes. It was moved by Huting, seconded by Laylin to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Next was a report by each entity on current and upcoming projects and activities related to REAP:

**City of Cedar Falls – Clay Street Park Water Quality**

Balk said the Dry Run Creek Watershed Improvement Project partnered with the City of Cedar Falls on the Clay Street Water Quality project. The City developed a smaller bioretention cell several years ago, but it was unable to handle the volume of storm water runoff. The new project includes the installation of a larger bioretention cell in the park, and a new bioretention cell upstream, as well as the installation of a permeable pavement system in the alley, and plantings. The City was awarded \$150,000 in REAP funds last fall. The City has drafted a press release to send out in the coming weeks. Construction is scheduled for spring or summer 2019. Outreach and educational events are planned.

**City of Waterloo – Boathouse and Greenbelt Lake**

Huting said the City received a one-year extension for the Boathouse Enhancements project. The park has been under water multiple times over the past two years, and the high-water events have delayed landscaping and seeding. The City has developed a draft master plan for improvements to Greenbelt Lake. The draft plan and cost estimate were presented to the group. Derifield said the City has wanted to create fishing accesses around the lake. The area is also a birdwatching hotspot, and birding educational signs are being considered. The project may include a trail around the lake, wetland boardwalk, shelters, benches, educational signage, pollinators garden, and stormwater bioretention. Huting said the current cost estimate is approximately \$457,000, and the City would split the project into two phases with an application this fall. Haack commended Waterloo for being named Iowa's first Bird Friendly City. Lundy asked if

stormwater retention could be included into the project scope, and Huting said the City would work with the landscape architect and the Black Hawk County Soil & Water Conservation District to investigate. Lundy said funds may be available through the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) for such.

Next was an update on the Cedar Valley Nature Trail repairs and Wolf Creek Bridge replacement. Hendrickson said the Wolf Creek Bridge Replacement project is fully funded, provided that bids come in near the estimate. The project has \$360,000 in State Recreational Trails funds, \$386,000 in Iowa's Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funds, and over \$100,000 in private donations. The Cedar Valley Nature Trail Reconstruction project received \$129,000 in Federal Recreational Trails funds. The cost estimate is \$181,000. The project includes reconstructing 0.25 miles of the Cedar Valley Nature Trail at mile marker 13.75. Muskrats have burrowed under the trail causing portions of the surface to settle. Both projects are scheduled for letting this November. The Conservation Board has budgeted for annual analysis of the remaining bridges on the Cedar Valley Nature Trail in need of repairs. The largest bridges in need of repair are the Brandon Bridge (B2), and bridges C1 and E3. Leseman The Conservation Board should have information by April. The section of trail that was repaired using FEMA funds was completed haphazardly, and a significant rain event damaged the newly repaired section. The contractor will repair the damage this year.

Next on the agenda was an update on the Black Hawk County Water Trails Master Plan. Leseman said the contract with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) ended December 31, 2018. The Iowa DNR has approached INRCOG for a new contract for signing agreements with local jurisdictions. These agreements will provide a tangible benefit for water trails grant scoring. Details on over 24 river access areas are being finalized. Leseman will be presenting information on the project at Paddle Fest in Waverly on Saturday, January 26.

Next was a follow-up on legislative interviews. White, Hageman, and Lundy volunteered to interview candidates for legislative office regarding support for REAP. The group opted to send out a printed survey in lieu of conducting in-person interviews. The results were emailed to the REAP Committee. Legislators from the metropolitan area were responsive, but those representing the rural areas of Black Hawk County did not respond to the survey or follow-ups. Lundy said there are concerns that Iowa Senate File 512 may be dropped if Iowa's Water and Land Legacy (IWLL) is funded. Senate File 512 relates to water quality and creates a specific fund for water quality infrastructure. Retaining Iowa Senate File 512 and funding IWLL can provide substantial funding for projects that have environmental and recreational benefits. White noted the REAP sunset date is June 30, 2021.

The next agenda item was to consider any additions or changes to the 2016-2020 REAP Plan. Durant suggested the following changes: Focus Area 3D, add the text "state designated"; Focus Area 3F, add the text "and maintain"; Focus Area 3R, change to "Repair or replace the Cedar Valley Nature Trail Wolf Creek Bridge in La Porte City" and update the project description. It was moved by Schroeder, seconded by Seavey to approve the recommended changes as presented. Motion carried unanimously. Durant asked each committee member to review the focus areas and provide updates and suggested changes or additions before the next REAP Committee meeting.

Next was the election of officers. It was moved by Lundy, seconded by Haack to cease nominations and cast a unanimous ballot to retain the existing officers. Motion carried unanimously.

In other business, Hageman asked if INRCOG staff were affected by the Federal shutdown. Durant said that the Federal shutdown does impact INRCOG activities. The Executive Director is developing information on the varying activities that are impacted by the shutdown, and staff can forward this to the REAP Committee. Seavey said Cedar Falls High School Center for Advanced Professional Studies (CAPS) students researched and presented materials regarding environmental improvements to Island Park. CAPS is a partnership with local businesses to put students in a skilled career environment.

The next item on the agenda was to set the next meeting. The committee agreed to schedule the next meeting for Wednesday, August 7, 2019 at 3:00 p.m. at the INRCOG Center 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room. Topics will include reviewing



and considering approval of 2019 REAP grant applications, reports by each entity on upcoming projects and activities related to REAP, legislative updates, and considering any additions or changes to the 2016-2020 REAP Plan.

There being no further business, it was moved by Hageman, seconded by Huting to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Codie Leseman  
Acting Secretary

**BLACK HAWK COUNTY REAP COMMITTEE MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7, 2019**

**MINUTES**

The meeting of the Black Hawk County Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Committee was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Chair White.

Present were:	Roger White	Black Hawk County, REAP Committee Chair
	Mike Hendrickson	Black Hawk County Conservation
	Josh Balk	Black Hawk County Soil and Water Conservation District
	Jerry Hageman	Black Hawk Union Assembly
	Mark Ripplinger	City of Cedar Falls
	David Sturch	City of Cedar Falls
	Lisa Smock	City of Elk Run Heights
	Tim Swope	City of Elk Run Heights
	Jane Whittlesey	City of La Porte City
	Paul Huting	City of Waterloo
	Lori Eberhard	George Wyth State Park
	Joel Haack	University of Northern Iowa
	Marcy Seavey	University of Northern Iowa / REAP CEP
	Kyle Durant	INRCOG, REAP Committee Vice-Chair
	Codie Leseman	INRCOG

The first item on the agenda was to review and consider approval of the agenda. It was moved by Ripplinger, seconded by Haack to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Next on the agenda was to review and consider approval of the January 16, 2019 meeting minutes. It was moved by Haack, seconded by Seavey to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Next was to review and consider approval of 2019 REAP Grant Applications:

**City of Elk Run Heights, Elk Run Cleanup and Enhancement**

Durant said the project includes the cleanup of Elk Run Creek and enhancements to Mayor's Park. Project elements include removing dumped rubble and installing limestone for seating areas and erosion control, and adding a pollinator garden, native plantings, trail spur and patios to improve access to the creek, tables and benches, and educational and trail map signage. The project is part of the City's Master Plan to improve and enhance Mayor's Park. The City was awarded \$428,000 in Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funds to complete a trail loop within the park which is also part of the Master Plan. The total cost estimate for the REAP project is \$71,540, and the City is requesting this amount in REAP funds. Balk asked if the City is considering adding a disc golf course at the park. Smock said the Master Plan includes the addition of two disc golf courses, one of which would be located on property in Evansdale. Smock said the City of Evansdale will be resurfacing or reconstructing Lafayette Road, and the project will include a paved shoulder which will connect Mayor's Park to the metropolitan trail network. Seavey said with the TAP funds, this project should be attractive for REAP funds.

It was moved by Huting, seconded by Whittlesey to approve the Elk Run Heights Elk Run Cleanup and Enhancement REAP grant application. Motion carried unanimously.

**City of Waterloo, Greenbelt Lake**

Huting said the project includes the installation of shoreline stones to improve access to the lake water's edge, an accessible fishing pier with a short concrete trail to the parking area, and pollinator plantings. The application is the first

phase of a two-phase project. The second phase includes shelters, a wetland boardwalk, interpretive signage, benches, and a bike rack. Greenbelt Lake is popular for birdwatching and fishing, and the REAP project will enhance this destination area. The City of Waterloo is the first city in Iowa to be named a Bird Friendly City. The total cost estimate is \$202,185, and the City is seeking a REAP grant in the amount of \$200,000.

It was moved by Haack, seconded by Hageman to approve the Waterloo Greenbelt Lake REAP grant application. Motion carried unanimously.

Ripplinger encouraged jurisdictions to submit letters of support for both projects. Durant said he will send out project details to the REAP Committee mailing list, and letters of support can be directed his way.

Next was a report by each entity on current and upcoming projects and activities related to REAP:

#### **Black Hawk County Conservation Board**

Hendrickson said the County had the opportunity to purchase 38 acres of land along the West Fork Cedar River for greenbelt. The purchase has been finalized and the land will be open to the public soon. The County has a couple more opportunities for land acquisition along greenbelts that are being worked on by staff. The Iowa National Heritage Foundation sees these as valuable pieces of property to acquire. The County received Federal Recreational Trails funds to resurface a section of the Cedar Valley Nature Trail between La Porte City and the Cedar River. This section of trail has been damaged by muskrats burrowing beneath the surface. The project will be let in October, and work is scheduled for April 2020. The Wolf Creek Bridge Replacement project will be let in November. Demolition of the existing bridge will fit into winter work criteria, so that work may start this year. Analysis of Cedar Valley Nature Trail Bridges E3 and C1 has been completed. The County has started preliminary engineering on the Brandon Bridge repair project which is the last of the historical arch bridges on the Cedar Valley Nature Trail. Reconstruction work on the Cedar Valley Nature Trail funded by FEMA in 2016 has finally been completed.

#### **Black Hawk County Soil and Water Conservation District**

Balk said the Soil and Water Conservation District used REAP funds to complete almost 20 projects in the County. Five new applications have been received already this year. Significant public outreach has been conducted on stormwater treatment, and the Soil and Water Conservation District expects to use all of the REAP funds this year.

#### **George Wyth State Park**

Eberhard said that sections of the Cedar Valley Lakes Trail through George Wyth State Park between the Lodge and Krieg's Crossing have been washed out. The State Park is seeking funding to reconstruct this section of trail, and has applied for State Recreational Trails funds. The asphalt trail will be replaced with concrete.

#### **City of Cedar Falls**

Sturch said the City is continuing its planning efforts for the Cedar River Improvements Project from Main Street to just past the 1<sup>st</sup> Street Bridge. Ripplinger said the City is completing small pollinator projects with Pheasants Forever, and staff have started discussions of completing a more aggressive pollinator project. Cedar Falls is also looking into becoming a Bird Friendly Community.

#### **City of Waterloo**

Huting said the Boathouse Enhancements project is nearly complete, with seeding being the only remaining activity. The Young Family Foundation has encouraged this area to follow the Monarch Zones concept. Hendrickson said the Conservation Board has about 30 acres ready to seed in the spring. Huting said the City is looking to seed areas between Hope Martin Park and U.S. Hwy 63.

Next was an update on the Black Hawk County Water Trails Master Plan. Leseman said the draft signage plans for each site have been completed. The next steps include meeting with the elected officials to make them aware of sponsor

agreements. An application has been submitted to the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs to re-designate the Cedar Valley as a Great Place.

Next on the agenda was to consider any additions or changes to the 2016-2020 REAP Plan. White asked the group if we should hold off on redoing the 2016-2020 REAP Plan until next year. White suggested extending the plan one year to see what the Iowa legislature does. The group agreed with the suggestion. Durant encouraged each jurisdiction to review their projects and provide updates on what has been completed. At the January meeting, the document can be updated to include completed work.

In other business, Seavey said an event will be held on Sunday, October 6 at the BMC Morgan Quarry in Waterloo. The event is titled "The Earth Has a History". On Saturday, September 14, the UNI Tallgrass Prairie will be renamed the Daryl Smith Prairie. Durant said he will forward information on the two events to the REAP Committee mailing list. Ripplinger asked if the group has a strategy to lobby legislature for REAP funding. White described past lobbying efforts including legislative breakfasts and outreach to legislators and candidates. Discussion continued on suggestions for lobbying.

The next item on the agenda was to set the next meeting. The committee agreed to schedule the next meeting for Wednesday, January 15, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. at the INRCOG Center 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Codie Leseman  
Acting Secretary

**BLACK HAWK COUNTY REAP COMMITTEE MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2020**

**MINUTES**

The meeting of the Black Hawk County Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Committee was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Chair White.

Present were:	Roger White	Black Hawk County, REAP Committee Chair
	Mike Hendrickson	Black Hawk County Conservation
	Josh Balk	Black Hawk County Soil and Water Conservation District
	David Sturch	City of Cedar Falls
	Troy Beatty	City of Evansdale
	Chrissi Wiersma	City of Hudson
	Todd Derifield	City of Waterloo
	Lori Eberhard	George Wyth State Park
	Joel Haack	University of Northern Iowa
	Kyle Durant	INRCOG, REAP Committee Vice-Chair
	Codie Leseman	INRCOG

The first item on the agenda was to review and consider approval of the agenda. It was moved by Haack, seconded by Wiersma to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Next on the agenda was to review and consider approval of the August 7, 2019 meeting minutes. It was moved by Haack, seconded by Sturch to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Next was a report by each entity on current and upcoming projects and activities related to REAP:

**City of Elk Run Heights, Elk Run Cleanup and Enhancement**

Durant said the City was awarded \$71,540 in funding in 2019 for this project. The project is part of the City's Master Plan to improve and enhance Mayor's Park. The City was awarded \$428,000 in Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funds to complete a trail loop within the park.

**City of Waterloo, Greenbelt Lake**

Derifield said the City was awarded \$200,000 in funding in 2019 for this project. The project includes improving access to the lake water's edge, an accessible fishing pier with a short concrete path to the parking area, and pollinator plantings. The project is a first phase of a two-phase project.

**City of Cedar Falls**

Sturch said the City will be starting the Clay Street Park Water Quality Improvement project this summer. Project elements include updating the bioretention cell, and a permeable pavement system in the alley. The next REAP project for the City will be the Cedar River Recreation Area project which is planned for 2021.

**Black Hawk County Conservation Board**

Hendrickson said the County is completing flow monitoring for the lagoon at Hickory Hills Park. The County has hired Snyder and Associates to evaluate improvements. A couple of potential land acquisitions have presented themselves as well.

**Black Hawk County Soil and Water Conservation District**

Balk said all of the allocated REAP funds have been used this fiscal year. Staff are working on rain gardens, wind breaks, and permeable surface projects for next season.



**City of Evansdale**

Beatty said the City may have projects for consideration in the near future.

Next was an update on the Cedar Valley Nature Trail repairs and Wolf Creek Bridge replacement. Hendrickson said the County has developed a restoration plan for the Cedar Valley Nature Trail. The Wolf Creek Bridge replacement has been funded, and the preconstruction meeting was held last week with PCI. Weather permitting, demolition of the bridge may begin this month. Construction is expected in the spring. The County also has a reconstruction project for ¼ of a mile of trail that has been destroyed by muskrats burrowing beneath the trail. Work is planned for this April and May. The next bridge on the list of priorities is the Brandon Bridge. The structure has historical significance. The County hired a consultant to evaluate options, and repair of the structure is feasible. The County is seeking Black Hawk County Gaming Association funds, which would fully fund the project along with local dollars.

Next on the agenda was an update on the Black Hawk County Water Trails Master Plan. Leseman said he has been working on a signage plan for bridges. Signs installed on the sides of bridges will indicate the name of the roadway or trail and the distance to the next access. The next steps are to meet with elected officials, publish the Master Plan, develop sponsor agreements to identify maintenance responsibilities, and hold a State-designation event this year.

The next agenda item was a report from REAP Congress and the Legislative Program. White said the 2020 REAP Congress Report is not available yet. White handed out the 2019 REAP Assembly Report. A total of 18 REAP Assemblies were held, and there were six motions approved at four or more REAP Assemblies. The top three motions were supporting fully funding REAP at \$20 million, keeping the REAP formula the same, and eliminating the REAP sunset date. Governor Reynolds made a proposal yesterday to implement the Trust Fund, but there are discussions to change to formula which could negatively impact the amount of funds for outdoor recreation and trails. Nothing is definitive at this point, and any new information will be shared with the REAP Committee.

Next was to consider any additions or changes to the 2016-2021 REAP Plan. Durant said at the August REAP meeting, the Plan was extended one year to 2021 to see what the Iowa legislature does regarding REAP. White encouraged jurisdictions to propose amendments for upcoming projects that are not identified in the plan. Durant said he will email the Committee to request amendments for consideration at the next meeting.

In other business, White said since this region's REAP Assembly approved the motion to pass a 3/8<sup>th</sup> of a percent increase of Iowa's statewide sales tax, including keeping the current formula intact and fully funding REAP, that should be a focus of this group. The Iowa Legislative Forum will be held Friday, January 24 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. at the Hawkeye Community College Van G. Miller Adult Learning Center. Leseman encouraged jurisdictions to start thinking about potential REAP applications for 2020.

The next item on the agenda was to set the next meeting. The committee agreed to schedule the next meeting for Wednesday, August 5, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. at the INRCOG Center 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room.

There being no further business, it was moved by Hendrickson, seconded by Beatty to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Codie Leseman  
Acting Secretary

**BLACK HAWK COUNTY REAP COMMITTEE MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2020**

**MINUTES**

The meeting of the Black Hawk County Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Committee was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Chair White.

Present were:	Larry Wiele	AECOM
	Doug Schindel	AECOM
	Linda Laylin	Black Hawk County Board of Supervisors
	Mike Hendrickson	Black Hawk County Conservation
	Josh Balk	Black Hawk County Soil and Water Conservation District
	Jerry Hageman	Black Hawk Union Assembly
	Stephanie Houk Sheetz	City of Cedar Falls
	Daniel Loftus	City of Dunkerton
	Mike Schares	City of Dunkerton
	Kristi Lundy	City of Elk Run Heights
	Lisa Smock	City of Elk Run Heights
	Troy Beatty	City of Evansdale
	Chrissi Wiersma	City of Hudson
	Jane Whittlesey	City of La Porte City
	Noel Anderson	City of Waterloo
	Todd Derifield	City of Waterloo
	Paul Huting	City of Waterloo
	Aric Schroeder	City of Waterloo
	Joel Haack	University of Northern Iowa
	Chad Heinzl	University of Northern Iowa
	Marcy Seavey	University of Northern Iowa, REAP CEP
	Roger White	Resident (Chair)
	Kyle Durant	INRCOG (Vice-Chair)
	Codie Leseman	INRCOG

The first item on the agenda was to review and consider approval of the agenda. It was moved by Laylin, seconded by Haack to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Next on the agenda was to review and consider approval of the January 15, 2020 meeting minutes. It was moved by Beatty, seconded by Huting to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Next was to review and consider approval of 2020 REAP Grant Applications:

**City of Dunkerton, Riverwalk Trail Shelters**

Durant said the project includes the construction of two shelters along the Riverwalk Trail. The shelters will include solar lighting, and shrub plants will be added around the shelters. Shares said one shelter will be fairly close to Crane Creek, and the other one will be near the baseball diamonds, sand volleyball courts, and prairie. Loftus said the community volleyball courts and prairie area have easy access from the trail and the new gravel parking area. Seavey asked if the project will include native plantings. Schares said the shelter near the prairie can include native plantings. The shelter near the creek will be in a mowed area, and shrubs would be easier to maintain. The total project cost is \$43,956 and the City is requesting the full amount.

It was moved by Seavey, seconded by Whittlesey to approve the Dunkerton Riverwalk Trail Shelters REAP grant application. Motion carried unanimously.

**City of Elk Run Heights, Mayor's Park Enhancements**

Durant said this project is a continuation of the Mayor's Park Master Plan. The project includes replacing one shelter and constructing a new restroom facility. The new shelter will include two modern seating areas with LED solar lights. The seating areas and restrooms will be divided by rain gardens with educational signs about green storm water runoff treatment. The City has also applied for Land and Water Conservation (LWCF) funds through the Iowa DNR and anticipates a funding decision this month. Haack asked if the rain garden plantings would be native plantings. Smock said the City does not have plant details, but they will work with the landscape architect to identify native plantings to use. Balk said the Black Hawk County Soil and Water Conservation District can provide assistance on rain garden design and plants to use. The total project cost is \$94,067 and the City is requesting \$75,000.

It was moved by Huting, seconded by Schares to approve the Elk Run Heights Mayor's Park Enhancements REAP grant application. Motion carried unanimously.

**City of Evansdale, River Road Water Trail Access**

Leseman said the project includes the addition of a new river access on the Cedar River Water Trail along River Road. Project elements include a new boat ramp, parking area, walking path, and a bike rack for pedal-paddle trips. The new boat ramp will give paddlers more options and improve emergency response. White said people currently use this area as an informal access. Beatty said the City has received a letter of support from the Iowa DOT. The City has earmarked \$65,000 for the local match. Hendrickson asked if the project will be strictly for canoe and kayaks, and Beatty said that small motorized boats will be able to use the access as well. Leseman said the parking area design will accommodate vehicles with trailers and improve circulation. The total project cost is \$133,914 and the City is requesting \$75,000.

It was moved by Laylin, seconded by Houk Sheetz to approve the Evansdale River Road Water Trail Access REAP grant application. Motion carried unanimously.

**City of Waterloo, Downtown Marina Enhancements**

Wiele said the project includes a kayak rental facility, fenced storage area for around 50 kayaks, enhanced plaza with seating, pedestrian lighting, and Prairie Pathways signs. This project is a part of the overall revitalization of Downtown Waterloo. The facility will also include restrooms. An enhanced trailhead with seating area will be designed similarly to others downtown. The City will look to have a vendor lease the rental facility. Seavey suggested UNI Outdoor Recreation might be interested in leasing the space. Heinzl asked if the City's new parking lots would include permeable pavements. Wiele said the site is a former John Deere property that has an environmental covenant. Accordingly, the design includes a detention basin. Houk Sheetz asked how the remainder of the project would be funded, and Wiele said with local funds. The total project cost is \$700,000 and the City is requesting \$200,000.

It was moved by Haack, seconded by Lundy to approve the Waterloo Downtown Marina Enhancements REAP grant application. Motion carried unanimously.

**Black Hawk County Conservation, Hickory Hills Sewage Lagoon**

Hendrickson said this proactive water quality protection project will replace the old sewage lagoon, which was constructed in the 1970s, with a septic tank with mound soil absorption system. The County hired an engineer to evaluate the current lagoon system, and the new septic tank was chosen as the best option. The project has minimal negative environmental impacts and is simple to operate and maintain. The project coincides with other work the County has taken on to restore Casey Lake which was on the impaired water list. White said this is a proactive approach to improve water quality. Houk Sheetz asked if funds are set aside from camping fees for improvements. Hendrickson said camping revenues go into the general fund. County Conservation has discussed with the County the possibility of setting aside fees for repairs and improvements. The total project cost is \$438,000 and County Conservation is requesting \$373,000.

It was moved by Huting, seconded by Beatty to approve the Black Hawk County Conservation Hickory Hills Sewage Lagoon REAP grant application. Motion carried unanimously.

Next was a report by each entity on current and upcoming projects and activities related to REAP:

**University of Northern Iowa**

Heinzel said he is a geologist at UNI and is representing Thriving Earth Exchange. This organization empowers citizens around issues important to them, and his fellowship is in the Waterloo and Cedar Falls area. The concept is to rally citizens around prairies and prairie segments around the Cedar Valley, and to unify citizen concerns regarding sustainability. Thriving Earth Exchange can connect people with other communities on how to best maximize prairie areas ([thrivingearthexchange.org/projects](https://thrivingearthexchange.org/projects)).

**City of Waterloo, Greenbelt Lake**

Derifield said the City is working on engineering and design of the handicap accessible fishing pier and land abutment. Since the flooding of Black Hawk Creek this June, the design has been increased in height by one foot. The City hopes to let the project soon with construction in the winter. The project also includes around four acres of pollinator plantings and seven fishing areas with stone blocks around the lake.

**City of Cedar Falls**

Houk Sheetz said the Clay Street Park Water Quality Improvement project was let in July with Benton's Sand and Gravel as the low bidder at \$176,500 which is under the City's estimate.

**Black Hawk County Conservation Board**

Hendrickson said the County is continuing to work on the Cedar Valley Monarch Zones partnership. The initiative is working to add habitats to increase pollinator populations and reestablish the monarch population in the Cedar Valley. This includes partnerships with both public and private landowners to rebuild natural habitats. Casey Lake Restoration remains a top priority. County Conservation is continuing work on the Cedar Valley Nature Trail and bridge repairs and replacements.

**Black Hawk County Soil and Water Conservation District**

Balk said all of the \$10,000 in allocated REAP funds have been used one month into the fiscal year. This funding helped with 19 wind breaks, 4 wind gardens, and 2 permeable driveway projects. Most of the projects have already been completed. The current demand exceeds available funding.

Seavey asked if there are any plans to improve the field next to Tibbits Park in Waterloo. The area is overgrown and illegal dumping has worsened. Huting said this property may be owned by Waterloo Water Works. Derifield said he has approached Water Works to see if they are interested in monarch plantings for this area, but there has been no response.

Next on the agenda was an update on the Black Hawk County Water Trails Master Plan. Leseman said the river mile numbers for the Cedar River have been adjusted by DNR staff to ensure consistency from county to county, so much of the work on the signage plan has to be redone. The Cedar Valley Water Trails website had 687 views in July, the highest monthly viewership since the website was launched ([cedarvalleywatertrails.com](https://cedarvalleywatertrails.com)). The plan is to hold a State-designation and ribbon cutting event in 2021.

Next was a report on the future of REAP. White said REAP was extended two years to 2023 and funded at \$12 million each year. The Governor made several modifications to Iowa's Water and Land Legacy Trust Fund, and it was not funded. White recommended that the Committee consider extending the current Black Hawk County REAP Plan two years to 2023. It was moved by Seavey, seconded by Houk Sheetz to extend the Black Hawk County 2016-2021 REAP Plan to 2023. Motion carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was to consider any additions or changes to the 2016-2021 REAP Plan. Durant asked committee members to review the current document and provide updates for the next REAP Committee meeting.

In other business, White said the Great American Outdoors Act was passed in July and will fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund at \$900 million. This is intended to address many deferred needs. The House passed The Moving Forward Act in July and the Senate has yet to release their version of a federal transportation bill.

Next was to set the next meeting. The committee agreed to schedule the next meeting for Wednesday, January 20, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. at the INRCOG Center 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room.

There being no further business, it was moved by Hendrickson, seconded by Seavey to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 4:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Codie Leseman  
Acting Secretary

**BLACK HAWK COUNTY REAP COMMITTEE MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2021**

**MINUTES**

The meeting of the Black Hawk County Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Committee was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Chair White.

Present were:	Linda Laylin	Black Hawk County Board of Supervisors
	Mike Hendrickson	Black Hawk County Conservation
	Josh Balk	Black Hawk County Soil and Water Conservation District
	Sherman Lundy	Black Hawk County Soil and Water Conservation District
	Stephanie Houk Sheetz	City of Cedar Falls
	Thomas Weintraut	City of Cedar Falls
	Chrissi Wiersma	City of Hudson
	Jane Whittlesey	City of La Porte City
	Todd Derifield	City of Waterloo
	Paul Huting	City of Waterloo
	Joel Haack	University of Northern Iowa
	Marcy Seavey	University of Northern Iowa, REAP CEP
	Kristine Nemec	University of Northern Iowa, Tallgrass Prairie Center
	Roger White	Resident (Chair)
	Kyle Durant	INRCOG (Vice-Chair)
	Codie Leseman	INRCOG

The first item on the agenda was to review and consider approval of the agenda. It was moved by Seavey, seconded by Balk to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Next on the agenda was to review and consider approval of the August 5, 2020 meeting minutes. It was moved by Lundy, seconded by Haack to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Next was a report by each entity on current and upcoming projects and activities related to REAP:

**City of Waterloo**

Derifield said the Greenbelt Lake project that was awarded REAP funds is out to bid right now. The project includes two handicapped accessible parking stalls with hard surface, sidewalk, fishing pier, and fishing access improvements around the lake perimeter. The project is expected to be completed this summer.

**City of Evansdale**

Leseman said the River Road Water Trail Access project was awarded, and the City also applied for Water Trails Enhancements funds through the Iowa DNR for engineering and permitting work for that project. It is likely that construction will begin this summer which will coincide with the State designation of the Cedar River Water Trail.

**City of Elk Run Heights**

Durant said the Mayor's Park Enhancements project was not awarded funds.

**City of Dunkerton, Riverwalk Trail Shelters**

Durant said the Riverwalk Trail Shelters project was not awarded funds. The City is considering applying for REAP funds this year for a different project.



### Black Hawk County Conservation

Hendrickson said the Hickory Hills Sewage Lagoon project was not awarded funds. County Conservation will move on with the project and seek funds elsewhere including Land and Water Conservation Funds. Durant encouraged jurisdictions to write letters of support for this project. County Conservation met with a potential seller for 40-acres of land that include upland forest. No decisions have been made yet, but this could be a project for this year. County Conservation is also working on Casey Lake Restoration.

### City of Cedar Falls

Houk Sheetz said the City is considering applying for REAP funds this year for the next round of the Cedar River Improvements project. The City received funding from Iowa Great Places for the project. White asked if the Clay Street Park project has been completed. Balk said most of the construction was completed this fall. Touch-up work and informational signage will be completed this spring.

### Black Hawk County Soil and Water Conservation District

Balk said there was much interest and demand that exceeded available funding. Most of the funds were obligated within the first two months of the fiscal year. The Conservation District is looking to prioritize projects. A couple rain garden and 4 permeable driveway projects were completed. Additional rain garden projects and several wind breaks are in the works.

Next was an update on the Black Hawk County Water Trails Master Plan. Leseman said he is working on the signage plan and needs approval from a couple more jurisdictions. The sign order will be placed, and the Master Plan will be completed after the signs are approved. The website ([www.cedarvalleywatertrails.com](http://www.cedarvalleywatertrails.com)) will also have the Master Plan materials, and Leseman encouraged attendees to like the Cedar Valley Water Trails Facebook page. Information will be sent to this group as we get closer to the State-designation event which will likely be in August 2021.

Next was to consider any additions or changes to the 2016-2023 REAP Plan:

Revised Section	Summary of Changes
Preserve Areas, State Recognized, Cedar Hills Sand Prairie	Formerly known as "Mark Sand Prairie", this reserve <del>has been managed by the University of Northern Iowa Biological Preserves since its discovery in 1969</del> <b>was discovered in 1969 and managed by University of Northern Iowa Biology faculty and students until the late 2000s. Black Hawk County Conservation has entered into an agreement with the Nature Conservancy to take ownership of the Cedar Hills Sand Prairie in 2020. The Nature Conservancy transferred this property to Black Hawk County Conservation in 2020.</b>
Preserve Areas, Local, University of Northern Iowa Biological Preserves System	University of Northern Iowa Biological Preserves <del>System and Campus Trails.</del> The University of Northern Iowa (UNI) Biological System consists of <del>seven</del> <b>six</b> tracts of land, of which approximately 76 acres are on-campus and <del>approximately 77</del> <b>2.5</b> acres are off-campus. The on-campus sites include the 8-acre University Avenue Preserve; a 9.2-acre reconstructed tallgrass prairie, <b>dedicated as Daryl Smith Prairie in 2019...</b> Off-campus is <del>Matala Preserve, a 75-acre native lowland forest on the floodplain of the Cedar River, and</del> the 2.5-acre Clay Prairie Preserve, a small remnant tallgrass prairie in Butler County... <del>New to the UNI Biological Preserves System in 2009 is a mowed grass walking path through the tallgrass prairie and lowland forest preserve. This path allows access for student groups and the public to experience the Preserves in a natural and education setting</del> <b>The UNI Campus maintains mowed grass recreational trails through the Biological Preserves and adjacent natural areas, as well as through the Tallgrass Prairie Center seed production fields and around the Cedar Falls wetland complex north of the UNI Dome. These trails allow access for students and the public to study and enjoy nature within the urban environment.</b>

It was moved by Haack, seconded by Houk Sheetz to approve the changes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Revised Section	Summary of Changes
Recreation Areas, County	County Conservation currently manages <del>nearly over</del> 9,000 acres of parks...
Recreational Trail System, Shared -use Trails, American Discovery Trail	The ADT stretches for over 6,800 miles across 15 states and <del>is the only</del> was the first coast-to-coast non-motorized trail in the nation.
Recreational Trail System, Water Trails, Black Hawk County Water Trails Master Plan	Replaced “Cedar River Water Trail” and “Black Hawk Creek Water Trail” with <b>Black Hawk County Water Trails Master Plan</b> .

It was moved by Houk Sheetz, seconded by Seavey to approve the changes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Revised Section	Summary of Changes
Focus Area 2, F	<del>...and continues to work with County Building Maintenance to promote/encourage the installation of solar arrays on or at County facilities.</del> <b>County Conservation, in partnership with the County Alternative Energy Committee and the County Board of Supervisors, is working to install solar arrays on seven additional County facilities.</b>
Focus Area 3, F	...the signage for this trail is being ordered and brochures <del>are currently being produced</del> <b>have been created and distributed.</b>
Focus Area 3, G, II	...there remains a <del>22-mile</del> <b>20-mile</b> gap <del>from the McFarlane Park Trail Bridge to northwest of Center Point</del> that is not.
List of Accomplishments from REAP Initiatives	West Fork Greenbelt Acquisition (6.58 acres); Wolf Creek Park and Trail, La Porte City

It was moved by Seavey, seconded by Houk Sheetz to approve the changes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Seavey said she reached out to staff and professors for updates, and they believe a few potential museum projects could fit under current focus areas and projects. Derifield said the City has a 28-acre field west of Tibbitts Park that is farmed by an organic farmer, and the City is talking with them about turning it into a pollinator planting area. The City could also investigate a trail connection from the Greenbrier Neighborhood, and removing the existing Brinker Lake boat ramp and parking area off Donald St. Durant recommended that language be developed for specific projects for consideration at the August 2021 meeting. Seavey said that grants are missing from the list of projects for Black Hawk County, and she has contacted Iowa DNR staff to update the list. Durant encouraged each jurisdiction to review the list of projects for errors or omissions.

Next was the election of officers. It was moved by Lundy, seconded by Derifield to cease nominations and cast a unanimous ballot to retain the existing officers of Chair White and Vice-Chair Durant for a two-year term. Motion carried unanimously.

In other business, Lundy said the Governor’s budget only shows \$12 million for REAP funding. It was moved by Lundy, seconded by Seavey to contact legislators to urge additional REAP appropriations. In discussion, Lundy said that if we do not express the need for additional funds, then they may assume the proposed amount is adequate. White said he would compose a letter on behalf of the committee but urged each person to contact House and Senate representatives to increase REAP appropriation. Motion carried unanimously.

White said the Governor did not propose anything with the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund. Lundy said he has heard of no discussion on the matter which may indicate it is dead in the water this year. White said Black Hawk County legislative public forums will be held online this year. Information can be found on the League of

Women Voters of Black Hawk-Bremer Facebook page. White will provide additional information to the group as soon as possible.

Next was to set the next meeting. The committee agreed to schedule the next meeting for Wednesday, August 4, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. at the INRCOG Center 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room.

There being no further business, it was moved by Houk Sheetz, seconded by Seavey to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 3:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Codie Leseman  
Acting Secretary

**BLACK HAWK COUNTY REAP COMMITTEE MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4, 2021**

**MINUTES**

The meeting of the Black Hawk County Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Committee was called to order at 3:01 p.m. by Chair White.

Present were:	Linda Laylin	Black Hawk County Board of Supervisors
	Mike Hendrickson	Black Hawk County Conservation
	Cherrie Northrup	Black Hawk County Conservation
	Josh Balk	Black Hawk County Soil and Water Conservation District
	Sherman Lundy	Black Hawk County Soil and Water Conservation District
	Stephanie Houk Sheetz	City of Cedar Falls
	Thomas Weintraut	City of Cedar Falls
	Daniel Loftis	City of Dunkerton
	Mike Schares	City of Dunkerton
	Chrissi Wiersma	City of Hudson
	Aric Schroeder	City of Waterloo
	Todd Derifield	City of Waterloo
	Joel Haack	University of Northern Iowa
	Kristine Nemec	University of Northern Iowa, Tallgrass Prairie Center
	Roger White	Resident (Chair)
	Craig Ritland	Ritland + Kuiper Landscape Architects
	Aldina Dautovic	INRCOG
	Kyle Durant	INRCOG (Vice-Chair)
	Nick Fratzke	INRCOG

The first item on the agenda was to review and consider approval of the agenda. It was moved by Haack, seconded by Laylin to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Next on the agenda was to review and consider approval of the January 20, 2021 meeting minutes. It was moved by Balk, seconded by Laylin to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Next was to review and consider approval of 2021 REAP Grant Applications:

**City of Cedar Falls, Cedar River Improvements Project**

Weintraut said the project includes riverfront enhancements to the Cedar River and Gateway Park within walking distance to the downtown business district. The project will create an in-river recreation park and plaza areas for recreation and enjoyment. The project will provide direct access to the Cedar River for paddlers and parkgoers and will include instream and shoreline improvements. Project elements include put-in and take-out accesses that are handicap accessible, recreational kayak features, two landscaped plazas, riverbank terracing, and interpretive signage. The project will also improve the kayak attraction known as the "Clay Hole" which currently has safety issues. The total project cost is \$4.1 million, and the City is requesting \$150,000 in REAP funds.

White asked if the City plans to mitigate the dam above the project. Houk Sheetz said the Cedar River Improvements project is phase two of a two-phased project. The second phase would involve mitigating the dam. The improvements outlined in this application would not conflict with plans to mitigate the dam. Balk asked what the timeline is for the Cedar River Improvements project. Weintraut said work would start in river this winter, and the City hopes to have the project completed by this time next year. Haack asked if the elements are designed to withstand repeated flooding, and Weintraut said yes. White said this is an exciting project for the community.

It was moved by Balk, seconded by Schares to approve the Cedar Falls Cedar River Improvements REAP grant application. Motion carried unanimously.

**City of Dunkerton, Crane Creek Enhancements**

Schares said the project includes dredging a portion of Crane Creek along the southern edge of Lake Skimpus which is an old borrow pit north of the creek and east of Charma Park. The project also includes the construction of a trail spur to the creek, bench seating, tree plantings, paved pathway to a new shelter, and rip-rap improvements. The new shelter is being funded through a Black Hawk County Gaming Association grant. The paved pathway will improve public access to the creek, especially for those that are mobility challenged or wheelchair bound. The City has received preapproval from the Iowa DNR and Army Corps of Engineers. The total project cost is \$75,000, and the City is requesting \$50,000 in REAP funds.

White asked what will be done with the spoils removed from the creek. Schares said the material must be removed from the floodplain. The material may be used as fill for a new development. Haack asked if the project would have any negative impacts to aquatic wildlife. Schares said the project will focus on removing sand material only, and the City does not anticipate negative impacts to aquatic wildlife. Schares said the project will remove ten dead trees along the creek and plant new trees. White asked if the project will enhance water quality. Schares said that it has been recommended to remove the sand bar to help mitigate flooding issues.

It was moved by Houk Sheetz, seconded by Haack to approve the Dunkerton Crane Creek Enhancements REAP grant application. Motion carried unanimously.

**City of Waterloo, Greenbelt Lake Improvements Phase II**

Derifield said this application requests funding for Phase Two of a two-phased project. Phase two includes a 20' x 28' shelter, pit restroom, new kiosk and interpretive signs, limestone park identification sign, and sidewalk extension along the north side of the parking lot. This multi-phased improvement project was conceived and designed to provide access to the water's edge, improve pollinator habitat, add an education component about the animal and plant species in the park, and enhance the overall experience for visitors. Phase One was funded through REAP in 2019 and included an accessible fishing pier, shoreline stone seating, pollinator plantings (5.0 acres), paved trail to the fishing pier, and handicapped parking area. Phase One has been completed. The total project cost is \$201,125, and the City is requesting \$200,000 in REAP funds.

Haack said he is quite impressed with the new pier and fishing accesses. Haack asked if the City plans to construct a boardwalk through the wetland area as originally identified in the park development plan. Derifield said the City may implement waterway improvements in this area which could impact the boardwalk if constructed as planned. For the time being, the boardwalk project is on hold. White said Greenbelt Lake is a significant birding area, and the shelter and restroom will be a great enhancement for the park. Derifield said members of the Prairie Rapids Audubon Society have been asking for a shelter at Greenbelt Lake to serve as a meeting area for events.

It was moved by Hendrickson, seconded by Houk Sheetz to approve the Waterloo Greenbelt Lake Improvements Phase II REAP grant application. Motion carried unanimously.

Next was a report by each entity on current and upcoming projects and activities related to REAP:

**Black Hawk County Soil and Water Conservation District**

Balk said most of the new FY 2022 REAP funds allocated have been used one month into the fiscal year. FY 2021 funding helped with 10 wind breaks, 4 forest stands, 1 rain garden, and 4 permeable pavement projects. Some of the projects are underway. Photos will be provided at the next meeting. The current demand exceeds available funding, and there may be enough projects to request additional funding. Lundy said these projects help mitigate stormwater runoff and

flash flood issues, and they improve wildlife habitat. White asked if a variety of tree species are used for the forest stand projects. Balk said the NRCS incorporates a variety of plant and tree species into the design of each project.

**City of Waterloo**

Derifield said Phase One of the Greenbelt Lake Improvements project has been completed. Black Hawk County Conservation helped plant the pollinator area.

**City of Cedar Falls**

Balk said the informational signs have been delayed due to the shutdown of Iowa Prison Industry's sign shop in Anamosa.

**Black Hawk County Conservation**

Hendrickson said the County used REAP funds to purchase a new seed drill which was used at Greenbelt Lake. This year, the County planted nearly 40 acres of pollinators. Additional frost seeding will be completed this fall.

Next was an update on the Black Hawk County Water Trails Master Plan. Fratzke said he has been compiling the Plan which is mostly completed. The Iowa DNR has approved the memorandum of agreements for signatures by each jurisdiction. The next steps include ordering signs and planning the kick-off event. The signs for this project have been delayed as well. The Iowa DNR is pursuing additional vendors. White asked if INRCOG staff have considered presenting the final Master Plan to each jurisdiction to increase visibility of the document and identified projects. Fratzke said this certainly could be considered.

Next was to consider any additions or changes to the 2016-2023 REAP Plan. Durant encouraged each jurisdiction to review the current document and provide additions and changes prior to the next REAP Committee meeting. Durant said he would update the List of REAP Expenditures for the next meeting.

In other business, Durant strongly encouraged individuals to provide letters of support for the three REAP projects approved at today's meeting.

Next was to set the next meeting. The committee agreed to schedule the next meeting for Wednesday, January 19, 2022 at 3:00 p.m. at the INRCOG Center 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room.

There being no further business, it was moved by Schares, seconded by Lundy to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 4:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kyle Durant  
Acting Secretary



**BLACK HAWK COUNTY REAP COMMITTEE MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2022**

**MINUTES**

The meeting of the Black Hawk County Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Committee was called to order at 3:02 p.m. by Chair White.

Present were:	Linda Laylin	Black Hawk County Board of Supervisors
	Mike Hendrickson	Black Hawk County Conservation
	Ryan Brennan	Black Hawk County
	Josh Balk	Black Hawk County Soil and Water Conservation District
	Thomas Weintraut	City of Cedar Falls
	Mike Schares	City of Dunkerton
	Lisa Smock	City of Elk Run Heights
	Chrissi Wiersma	City of Hudson
	Aric Schroeder	City of Waterloo
	Paul Huting	Waterloo Leisure Services
	Joel Haack	University of Northern Iowa
	Marcy Seavey	University of Northern Iowa
	Roger White	Resident (Chair)
	Carter Baldwin	INRCOG
	Aldina Dautović	INRCOG
	Kyle Durant	INRCOG (Vice-Chair)
	Nick Fratzke	INRCOG

The first item on the agenda was to review and consider approval of the agenda. It was moved by Huting, seconded by Laylin to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Next on the agenda was to review and consider approval of the August 4, 2021 meeting minutes. It was moved by Haack, seconded by Schares to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Next was an update on the Black Hawk County Water Trails Master Plan. Fratzke said the project has been turned over to the DNR for review. All Memorandums of Agreement have been received except one, which is pending city council approval. The Water Trails Master Plan website is up to date, and signs have been ordered. Signs should be expected by spring. Fratzke added that planning for the DNR state designation event will begin soon.

Next was a report by each entity on current and upcoming projects and activities related to REAP:

**City of Dunkerton**

Schares said the Crane Creek Enhancement project is receiving bids and undergoing proper approval for enhancements through the DNR. The project is expected to begin in spring.

**City of Cedar Falls**

Weintraut said the Cedar River Recreational Improvements project is receiving bids and should be finalized next month. The project is expected to start in summer.

**Black Hawk County Soil and Water Conservation District**

Balk presented photos to show how REAP funds have been used for conservation projects. The funding helped complete 4 permeable driveway projects, 1 rain garden, and 6 windbreaks. The projects help mitigate stormwater runoff. Additional projects are lined up for later this year.

Next was a report from REAP Congress and the Legislative Program. Durant volunteered to attend the REAP Congress that took place in Des Moines, Iowa. There were 63 delegates present. Durant added that he will send out a complete copy of the meeting report to the group when it is signed. White commended our region for holding the record for highest number of REAP assembly participants. Durant added that Tammie Krausman has taken a different position at the DNR, and that Michelle Wilson is the new REAP coordinator.

Next on the agenda was to consider any additions or changes to the 2016-2023 REAP Plan. Laylin provided an update for focus area 2, saying that solar arrays have been completed. Huting said Phase I of Greenbelt has been completed and that Waterloo intends to reapply for Phase II funding. White encouraged each jurisdiction to review the current document and provide additions and changes prior to the next REAP Committee meeting. Hendrickson mentioned that Black Hawk County Conservation may apply for REAP funding for the Casey Lake restoration project; the project is currently in the engineering phase and some construction may begin in FY 2023. More information will be known by this summer. Seavey noted under-reporting from REAP while several committee members requested an updated report of expenditures from the DNR. Durant said he will relay the issue.

In other business, Smock said the Elk Run Creek Enhancements project has been progressing forward. Construction began last fall, and additional work along the bank along with creek side seating will take place in the spring. Smock added that conversation regarding the pollinator garden designs is underway.

Next was to set the next meeting. The committee agreed to schedule the next meeting for Wednesday, August 3rd, 2022 at 3:00 p.m. at the INRCOG Center 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room. If COVID conditions warrant meeting virtually, the meeting will take place online.

There being no further business, it was moved by Huting, seconded by Schares to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 3:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kyle Durant  
Acting Secretary

## BLACK HAWK COUNTY REAP COMMITTEE MEETING

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3, 2022

### MINUTES

Chair White called the meeting of the Black Hawk County Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Committee to order at 3:00 p.m.

Meeting Attendees:	Linda Laylin	Black Hawk County Board of Supervisors
	Cherrie Northrup	Black Hawk County Conservation
	Sherman Lundy	Black Hawk County Soil and Water Conservation District
	Thomas Weintraut	City of Cedar Falls
	Aric Schroeder	City of Waterloo
	Lori Eberhard	George Wyth State Park
	Joel Haack	Prairie Rapids Audubon Society
	Craig Ritland	Ritland + Kuiper Landscape Architects
	Marcy Seavey	University of Northern Iowa
	Todd Derifield	Waterloo Leisure Services
	Roger White	Resident (Chair)
	Kyle Durant	INRCOG (Vice-Chair)

The first item was approval of the agenda. It was moved by Lundy, seconded by Haack to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Next was to review and consider approval of the January 19, 2022 meeting minutes. It was moved by Laylin, seconded by Seavey to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Next was to review and consider approval of the 2022 REAP Grant Applications:

#### **City of Waterloo, Greenbelt Lake Enhancements Phase II**

Derifield said this application requests funding for the second phase of a two-phased project. Phase two includes a kayak launch, picnic shelter, interpretive signage around the perimeter of the lake and pollinator planting, information kiosk, park identification sign, and park entrance sidewalk from the parking lot to the existing paved path. Phase one was funded through REAP in 2019 and included an accessible fishing pier, shoreline stone seating, five-acre pollinator planting, paved trail to the fishing pier, and handicapped parking area. Phase one has been completed. The City applied for phase two last year but was unsuccessful. Waterloo staff decided to remove the restroom from this application.

Haack said he is impressed with the improvements completed and planned and commended the city for leaving the area natural. These low-impact improvements greatly enhance outdoor recreation at this park. Lundy commended the city for transforming a former borrow pit into an outdoor recreation destination and wildlife habitat, and he encouraged the city to include the story of the park's creation in the interpretive signage and/or kiosk.

It was moved by Seavey, seconded by Weintraut to approve the Waterloo Greenbelt Lake Enhancements Phase II REAP grant application. Motion carried unanimously.

Next was a report by each entity on current and upcoming projects and activities related to REAP:

#### **City of Cedar Falls**

Weintraut said the Cedar River Recreational and Riverbank Improvement project bid letting was last year and came in \$1.5 million over the engineer's estimate. The city opted to reject all bids received and to revisit the design. The city has since received a \$1.5 million U.S. Economic Development Administration grant for the project. The city will accept bids for the project again in late August of this year in hopes for construction to start this fall or winter.

### **Black Hawk County Conservation**

Northrup said they are moving forward with engineering for the Casey Lake Restoration project. The design will also include stone terracing for fishing. BHCC is considering applying for funds to improve fish habitat as well.

The Board of Supervisors has agreed to use American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to replace the old sewage lagoon at Hickory Hills Park. The bids came in way over budget, so the County is revising the design before rebidding.

BHCC is looking into options to replace the wood pier at Beaver Valley Wetlands. The project would replace the existing wooden viewing per with a new ADA accessible pier and sidewalk that will withstand future high-water events without causing harm to the existing habitat of the area.

Black Hawk County Conservation and Linn County Conservation were awarded \$3.5 million in Destination Iowa Outdoor Recreation funds to pave the last section of the Cedar Valley Nature Trail. The project will complete the original 52-mile trail, connecting the Waterloo/Cedar Falls and Cedar Rapids metropolitan areas entirely by nature trail. If you include the Hoover Trail to the city of Solon, the trail will span 75 miles. A future phase includes resurfacing currently paved sections of the trail and repairing, replacing, and/or removing old bridge structures.

### **Black Hawk Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)**

Durant read updates provided by Josh Balk who was unable to attend. In FY 2022, the Black Hawk SWCD utilized REAP funds to help implement five residential permeable paver driveways in combination with Dry Run Creek/Section 319 funds (4,224 sq ft), one residential native prairie landscaping project (200 sq ft), one residential rain garden project (144 sq ft), and four rural windbreak projects (208 shrubs, 129 trees).

### **University of Northern Iowa**

Seavery said UNI has a REAP Conservation Education Program Mini-grant to work with the Iowa DNR and Iowa Department of Education to address the portion of the Iowa Groundwater Protection Act about what water topics should be addressed in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Staff have conducted a series of webinars with stakeholders to learn more about what water issues are important to Iowans and different stakeholders. This information will be used along with Iowa's current Education Standards to create middle school recommendations. This may include ideas for using existing resources and curricula and identifying gaps that may lead to future projects.

Next was an update on the Black Hawk County Water Trails Master Plan. Durant read an update from Nick Fratzke who was unable to attend. An Iowa Water Trail State Designation is tentatively scheduled for September 28, 2022. The event would start at Gateway Park in the morning and end at the Waterloo Boat House for a luncheon and ceremony. Online registration for the event will be required. The event is contingent upon sign installation and inspection by INRCOG staff and Black Hawk County Conservation. All signs have been delivered to jurisdictions. Signs include dam warning, bridge structure identification, distance to next river access, access identification, and directions to accesses from the roadway.

Next was to consider any additions or changes to the 2016-2023 REAP Plan. Northrup asked to include information on the pier project at Beaver Valley Wetlands. Durant asked jurisdictions to provide information on proposed additions or changes at the next meeting.

In other business, Lundy said the annual Sunday at the Quarry Event will be held October 2<sup>nd</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m at the Raymond quarry. This year's theme is "Our Resourceful Earth".

Next was to set the next meeting. The committee agreed to schedule the next meeting for Wednesday, January 18, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. at the INRCOG Center 3<sup>rd</sup> floor conference room.

There being no further business, it was moved by Weintraut, seconded by Laylin to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 3:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kyle Durant  
Acting Secretary

## BLACK HAWK COUNTY REAP COMMITTEE MEETING

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2023

### MINUTES

Chair White called the meeting of the Black Hawk County Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Committee to order at 3:01 p.m.

Meeting Attendees:	Linda Laylin	Black Hawk County Board of Supervisors
	Mike Hendrickson	Black Hawk County Conservation
	Cherrie Northrup	Black Hawk County Conservation
	Sherman Lundy	Black Hawk County Soil and Water Conservation District
	Thomas Weintraut	City of Cedar Falls
	Michael Schares	City of Dunkerton
	Jane Whittlesey	City of La Porte City
	Becky Pint	City of Raymond
	Todd Derifield	City of Waterloo
	Aric Schroeder	City of Waterloo
	Josh Balk	Iowa DNR / Black Hawk Soil and Water Conservation District
	Lori Eberhard	Iowa DNR / George Wyth State Park
	Joel Haack	Prairie Rapids Audubon Society
	Roger White	Resident (Chair)
	Craig Ritland	Ritland + Kuiper Landscape Architects
	Marcy Seavey	University of Northern Iowa
	Aldina Dautović	INRCOG (Secretary)
	Kyle Durant	INRCOG (Vice-Chair)
	Nick Fratzke	INRCOG

The first item was approval of the agenda. It was moved by Lundy, seconded by Laylin to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Next was to review and consider approval of the August 3, 2022 meeting minutes. It was moved by Lundy, seconded by Haack to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Next was an update on the Black Hawk County Water Trails Master Plan. Fratzke said the Cedar River and Black Hawk Creek in Black Hawk County were officially state designated on September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022. A ribbon cutting ceremony took place at Washington Park in Cedar Falls followed by a paddling event down the Cedar River and a luncheon at the Waterloo Boathouse. INRCOG staff may contact the Iowa DNR to discuss the possibility of planning additional water trails in Black Hawk County and neighboring counties (i.e., Wolf Creek, Wapsipinicon River).

Next was a report by each entity on current and upcoming projects and activities related to REAP:

#### **Black Hawk County Conservation**

Hendrickson said 26.4 acres along the West Fork of the Cedar River were acquired, adding to the Turkey Ridge Wildlife Area. The land was purchased with local REAP funds. County Conservation is requesting to add two projects to the REAP Plan.

#### **City of Waterloo**

Derifield said the city was awarded \$193,890 in REAP funds for the Greenbelt Lake Enhancements Phase Two project. The project includes a kayak launch, picnic shelter, interpretive signage around the perimeter of the lake and pollinator planting, information kiosk, park identification sign, and park entrance sidewalk from the parking lot to the existing paved path. Phase one included a five-acre pollinator planting.

### **City of Cedar Falls**

Weintraut said the Cedar River Recreational and Riverbank Improvement project was sent out to bid for the second time and came back \$1 million over the cost estimate. The city council approved the contract, and the city is currently seeking an engineering firm to oversee the project. The city was awarded \$150,000 in REAP funds in 2021.

### **City of Dunkerton**

Schares said the city is wrapping up the Crane Creek Enhancements project which was awarded \$50,000 in REAP funds in 2021. The project includes dredging a portion of Crane Creek along the southern edge of Lake Skimpus which is an old borrow pit north of the creek and east of Charma Park, construction of a trail spur to the creek, bench seating, tree plantings, and rip-rap improvements. The city received an extension to complete the project by June 2023. Remaining work includes removing the rip-rap and planting trees.

### **Black Hawk Soil and Water Conservation District**

Balk said \$12,812 in REAP funds were spent in 2022 for conservation projects. The funding helped complete a handful of windbreak projects by planting 84 trees and 50 shrubs, 4 permeable driveway projects, native prairie landscaping, and a rain garden project.

Next was to consider any additions or changes to the 2016-2023 REAP Plan. Hendrickson requested adding two projects:

#### **Focus Area 2, Beaver Valley Wetlands Viewing**

This project will involve the removal of the existing wood viewing pier which has been negatively affected by time, multiple high-water events, and freeze/thaw cycles over the years. The plan would include engineering of a new viewing pier to ensure that the steel pilings supporting the pier are deep enough to contact and rest on suitable soils to prevent the “heaving” that is occurring with the existing structure. The design would include an open weave steel decking to allow water to flow through it ultimately lessening the force placed on the structure during high-water events and snow could more easily pass through. Black Hawk County Conservation will also be looking into the feasibility of adding a sidewalk from the parking lot to the viewing pier for easier access by all users regardless of ability level. This viewing pier is an important feature of the Beaver Valley Wetlands as it allows visitors a more submersible experience when viewing the multitude of migrating birds that frequent this area each year.

#### **Focus Area 2, Hartman Bluff Preserve Erosion Control**

Black Hawk County Conservation is currently under contract with an engineer to assess the extensive ravine erosion that is occurring in the Hartman Bluff Preserve. This has been an ongoing problem with stormwater runoff from the adjoining neighborhoods and roadways. The City of Cedar Falls is currently working on a project that will reconstruct several of the roadways in the area and thus, this was the perfect time to address the issue and address the runoff with the new road reconstruction plans. The project will include engineered solutions that are natural and aesthetically pleasing so as to not alter the natural features of the Preserve. Black Hawk County Conservation, the engineer, and the State Preserves Board will work together to compile a plan set that will serve to stop the erosion of the soils, protect this natural upland timber, and improve the water quality downstream of Hartman Bluff Preserve.

It was moved by Lundy, seconded by Seavey to approve the recommended changes to the 2016-2023 REAP Plan as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Next was legislative updates. Eberhard said that Governor Reynolds proposes to keep REAP funding at \$12 million this year. White said there may be a legislative proposal to end the one cent local option sales tax, establish it for all counties, and distribute funds to all communities for various purposes. This proposal was brought up last year with little to no support. Lundy said this type of proposal would generate conflict with REAP and conservation dollars.

Next was the election of officers. It was moved by Lundy, seconded by Laylin for the Secretary to cease nominations and cast a unanimous ballot to retain the officers of White for Chair and Durant for Vice-Chair. Motion carried unanimously.

Next was to set the next meeting. It was moved by Laylin, seconded by Pint to schedule the next meeting for Wednesday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. at the INRCOG Center 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room. Motion carried



unanimously.

There being no further business, it was moved by Pint, seconded by Weintraut to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Aldina Dautović  
Acting Secretary

## BLACK HAWK COUNTY REAP COMMITTEE MEETING

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2, 2023

### MINUTES

Chair White called the meeting of the Black Hawk County Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Committee to order at 3:00 PM.

Meeting Attendees:	Linda Laylin	Black Hawk County Board of Supervisors
	Cherrie Northrup	Black Hawk County Conservation
	Jerry Hageman	Black Hawk Union Council
	Thomas Weintraut	City of Cedar Falls
	Michael Schares	City of Dunkerton
	Becky Pint	City of Raymond
	Todd Derifield	City of Waterloo
	Aric Schroeder	City of Waterloo
	Lori Eberhard	George Wyth State Park
	Josh Balk	Iowa DNR / Black Hawk Soil and Water Conservation District
	Lori Eberhard	Iowa DNR / George Wyth State Park
	Joel Haack	Prairie Rapids Audubon Society
	Roger White	Resident (Chair)
	Aldina Dautović	INRCOG (Secretary)
	Kyle Durant	INRCOG (Vice-Chair)

The first item was approval of the agenda. It was moved by Haack, seconded by Laylin to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Next was to review and consider approval of the January 18, 2023 meeting minutes. It was moved by Balk, seconded by Haack to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Next was to review and consider approval of the 2023 REAP grant application. The only application submitted in 2023 was a Hartman Reserve Stream Restoration Project by Black Hawk County Conservation. Northrup said there is continuing erosion at the Hartman Bluff State Preserve Area. The city of Cedar Falls is working to reconstruct Timber Drive which is one of the sources of stormwater runoff into the ravine. The Hartman Bluff Preserve project includes restoring the stream bed to its historical elevation, excavation at high velocity “pinch points” to slow the velocity of the water flow, stream bank stabilization with erosion mat and seeding, installation of step pool structures, and vegetated rock toe armoring system with live stakes. The project also includes Timber Stand Improvement (TSI) to encourage forest floor vegetation to hold soils. The goal of the project is to restore the ravine by correcting identified erosion causes, fix erosion, and mitigate future erosion, all while being cognizant of the uniqueness of the area. Upon completion, the improvements will blend into the natural surroundings and look as if nothing was ever touched. The project cost estimate is \$550,000, and the County will likely seek \$300,000 in funding. It was moved by Pint, seconded by Schares to approve the 2023 REAP grant application. Motion carried unanimously.

Next was a report by each entity on current and upcoming projects and activities related to REAP:

#### **City of Waterloo**

Derifield said Phase II of Greenbelt Lake in Waterloo is underway. A picnic shelter and kiosk will be installed this fall, and the project is anticipated to be completed this fall.

#### **City of Dunkerton**

Schares said the city wrapped up the Crane Creek Enhancements project in June. The final elements included installing 14 new trees, rip-rap improvements, and removing the sandbar. Schares also noted that the Dunkerton Historical Society wants to move the old historical sites and install a rain garden.

### **Elk Run Heights**

Durant provided an update on the Mayor's Park project on behalf of the city. The project utilized REAP funds for creekside clean up and natural seating areas, and Land and Water Conservation funds from the DNR to implement a restroom facility with rain garden and educational signage. The city also used Transportation Alternatives Program funds to develop a paved trail loop that meanders through the park. Dirt trails are already established, and the city is currently working on adding woodchips along the pathways.

### **Black Hawk Soil and Water Conservation District**

Balk said Black Hawk County is looking for residential applications for rain gardens, permeable pavement, and windbreak projects. Anyone residing within the county is eligible to apply.

Next was to discuss Executive Order 10 (EO10) signed by the Governor on January 10, 2023, which requires state agencies to identify which administrative rule chapters will be retained or rescinded. White said he sent a letter to Michelle Wilson, REAP Coordinator, expressing his concerns with the proposed strikethroughs. In his opinion, the overwhelming majority are not improvements and should be rejected. Durant said there will be another opportunity for public comment when the Iowa DNR goes into formal rule making. The group discussed and decided to draft a letter to the Iowa DNR offering suggestions on how to improve the public input process, specifically citing Iowa code when removing duplicative language, and the reasoning for each strikethrough be provided. It was moved by Laylin, seconded to Hageman to approve drafting a letter from the Committee to send to the Department of Natural Resources. Motion carried unanimously.

Next was to consider any additions or changes to the [2016-2023 REAP Plan](#). There were no suggestions by the group.

In other business, Durant said he spoke with REAP Coordinator, Michelle Wilson, regarding the regional REAP Assemblies which are set to take place next year. While assemblies held in Black Hawk County have historically had high attendance, there are many other regions that do not. DNR staff are exploring holding assemblies at alternate times and virtual attendance options. Eberhard provided an update on the Cedar Valley Lakes Trail, noting that half of it has been paved. The trail is anticipated to be open before the end of September. Dautović said QR-code decals are currently being installed on 173 Wayfinding signs throughout the MPO. The QR-code leads to the [Interactive Trail Map](#). White said [natural resource license](#) plates are available at the County Treasurer's office. There is a \$45 initial fee and \$25 renewal fee, and proceeds go towards protecting and maintaining trails, habitat, parks, and wildlife.

Next was to set the next meeting. The committee agreed to schedule the next meeting for Wednesday, January 17th, 2024 at 3:00 PM at the INRCOG Center 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room.

There being no further business, it was moved by Schares, seconded by Pint to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Aldina Dautović  
Acting Secretary

## BLACK HAWK COUNTY REAP COMMITTEE MEETING

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2024

### MINUTES

Chair White called the meeting of the Black Hawk County Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Committee to order at 3:00 PM.

Meeting Attendees:

Linda Laylin	Black Hawk County Board of Supervisors
Mike Hendrickson	Black Hawk County Conservation (Online)
Cherrie Northrup	Black Hawk County Conservation (Online)
Cathy Nicholas	Black Hawk County Engineering (Online)
Thomas Weintraut	City of Cedar Falls (Online)
DeAnne Kobliska	City of Evansdale (Online)
Chrissi Wiersma	City of Hudson (Online)
Jane Whittlesey	City of La Porte City (Online)
Todd Derifield	City of Waterloo
Josh Balk	Iowa DNR / Black Hawk Soil and Water Conservation District
Joel Haack	Prairie Rapids Audubon Society
Barbara Sanders	Resident (Online)
Roger White	Resident (Chair)
Marcy Seavey	University of Northern Iowa, STEM Coordinator
Kyle Durant	INRCOG (Vice-Chair, Secretary)
Nick Fratzke	INRCOG

The first item was approval of the agenda. It was moved by Laylin, seconded by Haack to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Next was to review and consider approval of the August 2, 2023 meeting minutes. It was moved by Haack, seconded by Balk to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Next was the election of officers. Balk said that Sherman Lundy nominated him as Chair by proxy. There being no further nominations, it was moved by Haack, seconded by Seavey to cast a unanimous ballot for Josh Balk as Chair. Motion carried unanimously. Haack nominated Marcy Seavey for Vice-Chair. There being no further nominations, it was moved by Kobliska, seconded by Laylin to cast a unanimous ballot for Marcy Seavey as Vice-Chair. Motion carried unanimously.

Next was a report by each entity on current and upcoming projects and activities related to REAP:

#### **City of Waterloo**

Derifield said a picnic shelter and kiosk were installed at Greenbelt Lake last fall. This spring the installation of a kayak launch, stone park entrance sign, and a small stretch of sidewalk will complete the Greenbelt Lake Phase II project.

#### **City of Cedar Falls**

Weintraut said the contractor has completed the in-river elements on the north side of the river and is now in the process of building the cofferdam for the south side of the river. The project is slated to be completed in December of 2024.

Next was a report from REAP Congress. Hendrickson said that REAP Congress has been rescheduled to this coming Saturday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, owing to last week's extreme winter conditions. Durant requested that Hendrickson provide a concise overview of the meeting afterwards to be shared with the group via email, and Hendrickson agreed to the request.

Next was to consider any additions or changes to the [2016-2023 REAP Plan](#):

Revised Section	Summary of Changes
Focus Area 2, N (New Project)	Reconstruction of the road crossings over Snag Creek in Black Hawk Park
Focus Area 3, G) Continue to expand & maintain the Black Hawk County regional trail and on-road accommodation system	<del>Black Hawk County and Linn County Conservation Boards were successful with a Destination Iowa Grant to help with the completion of the paving of the final gap of the CVNT. Contractors are mobilizing on January 16<sup>th</sup> to begin work on the structures (Mud Creek Bridge and two box culverts) on the Black Hawk County Conservation portion of the trail. Linn County is preparing their "Structures" bid package and will soon be letting. The paving portion of the project will be completed after all structure work and erosion control measures are in place.</del> All structures have been replaced on the gravel portion of the trail along with several culvert replacements and improvements. Additionally, some erosion control measures have been completed. The paving is scheduled for Spring/Summer 2024. This was a partnership project along with Linn County who has completed the structures on their end of the trail from Bear Creek to just north of Urbana. The paving on their section is also scheduled for Spring/Summer 2024. This project was made possible, in part, through a Destination Iowa Grant.

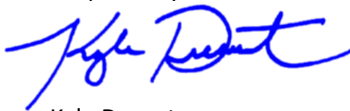
Northrup noted that the number of acres of pollinator habitat planted should be updated in Focus Area 1, R. Hendrickson said projects have been completed in Waterloo, Evansdale, Elk Run Heights, and La Porte City. White recommended updating the title of the Plan to the 2016-~~2023~~ **2024** REAP Plan. There being no further recommendations, it was moved by Laylin, seconded by Kobliska to approve the changes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

In other business, Durant shared the [Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan webpage](#) with the group. The page includes a [StoryMap](#) which features an interactive map highlighting various grants and funded projects. Durant expressed personal challenges in finding the information and interactive map, noting that it is likely even more challenging for the public to find. The group recommended that he contact Iowa DNR staff to encourage increased visibility of this valuable resource. Nicholas said Black Hawk County hired Griffin Cabalka, Roadside Biologist, who will be assisting in native roadside plantings. It was moved by Haack, seconded by Seavey to sincerely thank Roger White for his 14 years of service as Chair. Motion carried unanimously.

Next was setting the next meeting. The committee agreed to schedule the next meeting for Wednesday, July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024 at 3:00 PM at the INRCOG Center 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room.

There being no further business, it was moved by Kobliska, seconded by Seavey to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 3:39 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Kyle Durant  
Acting Secretary

## BLACK HAWK COUNTY REAP COMMITTEE MEETING

WEDNESDAY, JULY 31, 2024

### MINUTES

Chair Balk called the meeting of the Black Hawk County Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Committee to order at 3:00 PM.

Meeting Attendees:	Linda Laylin	Black Hawk County Board of Supervisors
	Mike Hendrickson	Black Hawk County Conservation
	Cherrie Northrup	Black Hawk County Conservation
	Thomas Weintraut	City of Cedar Falls
	Todd Derifield	City of Waterloo
	Josh Balk	Iowa DNR / Black Hawk Soil and Water Conservation District
	Lori Eberhard	Iowa DNR
	Joel Haack	Prairie Rapids Audubon Society
	Marcy Seavey	University of Northern Iowa, STEM Coordinator (Vice-Chair)
	Aldina Dautović	INRCOG (Secretary)
	Kyle Durant	INRCOG
	Nick Fratzke	INRCOG

The first item was approval of the agenda. It was moved by Laylin, seconded by Haack to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Next was to review and consider approval of the January 17, 2024 meeting minutes. It was moved by Hendrickson, seconded by Seavey to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Next was to review and consider approval of 2024 REAP Grant Applications. The group reviewed Black Hawk County Conservation's application for the Hartman Reserve Stream Restoration Project in the Hartman Bluff State Preserve Area. Hendrickson and Northrup stated that this project was originally identified in 2006 as a priority due to accumulating erosion, but the project did not have funding. The project consists of widening gulleys in specific locations to reduce water cutting and further erosion. A series of step pools will be included. The ask for the project is \$230,000. The group unanimously agreed that this project is essential to preserve and protect this unique urban nature area. There being no further discussion, it was moved by Derifield, seconded by Eberhard to approve Black Hawk County Conservation's REAP application as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Next was a report by each entity on current and upcoming projects and activities related to REAP:

#### **City of Waterloo**

Derifield said the City of Waterloo and Leisure Services is close to completing Phase II of the Greenbelt Lake project. Both parties are working with the contractor to complete punch list items and replace concrete. This season, a stone entrance sign, kayak launch, and sidewalk were installed.

#### **Black Hawk County**

Hendrickson said the pollinator program has been growing in popularity with private landowners. Feedback from the program's participants stressed the need for greater assistance in establishing the land. The pollinator program now provides greater guidance and maintenance 1-2 years after establishing it as natural land for pollinators. REAP funds were also used to purchase nearly \$7,000 worth of seeds and fund an archaeological study for the Cedar Valley Nature Trail project.

#### **City of Cedar Falls**

Weintraut said the City is nearing completion of the Cedar River project downtown. Despite construction delays due to high water, the second landing has been completed. The project is anticipated to close out by the end of the year.



**Black Hawk Soil and Water Conservation District**

Balk said REAP funds were allocated towards one prairie restoration project, three permeable pavement projects, and one rainwater garden project. Applications are already being submitted for next year.

Next was to consider any additions or changes to the [Black Hawk County REAP Plan](#). The committee decided to have INRCOG staff internally review and implement the changes and comments provided by the group. The committee also decided to remove the timeframe from the plan and update it as needed. The draft document will be presented at the January meeting.

In other business, Balk stated that over \$9 million dollars in REAP has been allocated to Black Hawk County. Seavey noted that she is a member of the [North American Association of Environmental Education](#) and will be nominating the Iowa Department of Natural Resource's [Conservation Education Program](#) (CEP) for recognition.

Next was setting the next meeting. The committee agreed to schedule the next meeting for Wednesday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 3:00 PM at the INRCOG Center 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room.

There being no further business, it was moved by Hendrickson, seconded by Haack to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 3:41 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aldina Dautović', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Aldina Dautović  
Secretary

## **BLACK HAWK COUNTY REAP COMMITTEE MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2025**

### **MINUTES**

Chair Balk called the meeting of the Black Hawk County Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Committee to order at 3:00 PM.

Meeting Attendees:	Mike Hendrickson	Black Hawk County Conservation
	Cherrie Northrup	Black Hawk County Conservation
	Cathy Nicholas	Black Hawk County Engineering
	Griffin Cabalka	Black Hawk County Secondary Roads
	Kirby Baumgard	Cedar Valley Cyclists
	Thomas Weintraut	City of Cedar Falls
	Michael Schares	City of Dunkerton
	DeAnne Kobliska	City of Evansdale (Online)
	Chrissi Wiersma	City of Hudson (Online)
	Jane Whittlesey	City of La Porte City
	Becky Pint	City of Raymond (Online)
	Todd Derifield	City of Waterloo
	Josh Balk	Iowa DNR / Black Hawk Soil & Water Conservation District (Chair)
	Joel Haack	Prairie Rapids Audubon Society
	Marcy Seavey	University of Northern Iowa, STEM Coordinator (Vice-Chair)
	Kyle Durant	INRCOG (Secretary)

The first item was approval of the agenda. It was moved by Haack, seconded by Weintraut to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Next was to review and consider approval of the July 31, 2024 meeting minutes. It was moved by Weintraut, seconded by Hendrickson to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Next was a report by each entity on current and upcoming projects and activities related to REAP:

#### **City of Cedar Falls**

Weintraut said the Cedar River Recreational Project was completed and closed out on December 31.

#### **Black Hawk County Conservation**

Hendrickson reported that the application for the Hartman Reserve Stream Restoration Project was unsuccessful for the second time. Despite this, the Conservation Board is proceeding with the project using local funds. The project has been put out for bids, and a preconstruction meeting took place today. Additionally, the Conservation Board utilized REAP funds to purchase equipment for establishing and managing prairies. A Water Recreation Access Cost-Share Program grant was also awarded to install docks at Casey Lake in Hickory Hills Park.

#### **Black Hawk Soil and Water Conservation District**

Balk said REAP funds were allocated towards one rain garden and one permeable paver driveway project.

#### **Black Hawk County Secondary Roads**

Cabalka reported that two grants from the Iowa Living Roadway Trust Fund were awarded, which were used to acquire a hydroseeder and a spray logging system.

#### **City of Waterloo**

Derifield said the city has asked for an extension for the Greenbelt Lake Phase II project. The city is working with a graphic designer for interpretive signage.

Next was to consider any additions or changes to the [Black Hawk County REAP Plan](#). Northrup noted that the strategic planning process undertaken by the Board of Supervisors could lead to updates or changes to the REAP Plan. Weintraut inquired whether unsuccessful grants are tracked, and Durant suggested this could be incorporated into the plan. Haack shared that the Prairie Rapids Audubon Society offers small grants for bird habitats. Weintraut reported that the city is developing a Park Master Plan, expected to be completed by the end of the year, and may consider updating the REAP Plan's project list in 2026. Cabalka mentioned that Black Hawk County has adopted a [2024 Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management \(IRVM\) Plan](#) and asked if it should be noted within the REAP Plan. Durant recommended adding an online link to the IRVM Plan under Focus Area 4, Project G: Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management.

Hendrickson moved, and Schares seconded, to update the Black Hawk County REAP Plan to include a link to the 2024 IRVM Plan under Focus Area 4, Project G. The motion carried unanimously.

In other business, Durant reported that the [Interactive Cedar Valley Trails Map](#) now includes a layer displaying the full route of the American Discovery Trail in Iowa. Turn-by-turn directions were obtained from the ADT statewide coordinator to ensure accuracy. The layer can be activated by selecting the Layer List button in the upper-left corner of the application. Durant is collaborating with the coordinator and local jurisdictions to propose changes and realignments, particularly where parallel trails can replace on-road sections.

Next was setting the next meeting. The committee agreed to schedule the next meeting for Wednesday, July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 3:00 PM at the INRCOG Center 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room.

There being no further business, it was moved by Derifield, seconded by Schares to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Kyle Durant  
Secretary

## **BLACK HAWK COUNTY REAP COMMITTEE MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2025**

### **MINUTES**

Chair Balk called the meeting of the Black Hawk County Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Committee to order at 3:00 PM.

Meeting Attendees:	Mike Hendrickson	Black Hawk County Conservation
	Cherrie Northrup	Black Hawk County Conservation
	Cathy Nicholas	Black Hawk County Engineering
	Griffin Cabalka	Black Hawk County Secondary Roads
	Kirby Baumgard	Cedar Valley Cyclists
	Thomas Weintraut	City of Cedar Falls
	Michael Schares	City of Dunkerton
	DeAnne Kobliska	City of Evansdale (Online)
	Chrissi Wiersma	City of Hudson (Online)
	Jane Whittlesey	City of La Porte City
	Becky Pint	City of Raymond (Online)
	Todd Derifield	City of Waterloo
	Josh Balk	Iowa DNR / Black Hawk Soil & Water Conservation District (Chair)
	Joel Haack	Prairie Rapids Audubon Society
	Marcy Seavey	University of Northern Iowa, STEM Coordinator (Vice-Chair)
	Kyle Durant	INRCOG (Secretary)

The first item was approval of the agenda. It was moved by Haack, seconded by Weintraut to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Next was to review and consider approval of the July 31, 2024 meeting minutes. It was moved by Weintraut, seconded by Hendrickson to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Next was a report by each entity on current and upcoming projects and activities related to REAP:

#### **City of Cedar Falls**

Weintraut said the Cedar River Recreational Project was completed and closed out on December 31.

#### **Black Hawk County Conservation**

Hendrickson reported that the application for the Hartman Reserve Stream Restoration Project was unsuccessful for the second time. Despite this, the Conservation Board is proceeding with the project using local funds. The project has been put out for bids, and a preconstruction meeting took place today. Additionally, the Conservation Board utilized REAP funds to purchase equipment for establishing and managing prairies. A Water Recreation Access Cost-Share Program grant was also awarded to install docks at Casey Lake in Hickory Hills Park.

#### **Black Hawk Soil and Water Conservation District**

Balk said REAP funds were allocated towards one rain garden and one permeable paver driveway project.

#### **Black Hawk County Secondary Roads**

Cabalka reported that two grants from the Iowa Living Roadway Trust Fund were awarded, which were used to acquire a hydroseeder and a spray logging system.

#### **City of Waterloo**

Derifield said the city has asked for an extension for the Greenbelt Lake Phase II project. The city is working with a graphic designer for interpretive signage.

Next was to consider any additions or changes to the [Black Hawk County REAP Plan](#). Northrup noted that the strategic planning process undertaken by the Board of Supervisors could lead to updates or changes to the REAP Plan. Weintraut inquired whether unsuccessful grants are tracked, and Durant suggested this could be incorporated into the plan. Haack shared that the Prairie Rapids Audubon Society offers small grants for bird habitats. Weintraut reported that the city is developing a Park Master Plan, expected to be completed by the end of the year, and may consider updating the REAP Plan's project list in 2026. Cabalka mentioned that Black Hawk County has adopted a [2024 Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management \(IRVM\) Plan](#) and asked if it should be noted within the REAP Plan. Durant recommended adding an online link to the IRVM Plan under Focus Area 4, Project G: Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management.

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In other business, Durant reported that the [Interactive Cedar Valley Trails Map](#) now includes a layer displaying the full route of the American Discovery Trail in Iowa. Turn-by-turn directions were obtained from the ADT statewide coordinator to ensure accuracy. The layer can be activated by selecting the Layer List button in the upper-left corner of the application. Durant is collaborating with the coordinator and local jurisdictions to propose changes and realignments, particularly where parallel trails can replace on-road sections.

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There being no further business, it was moved by Derifield, seconded by Schares to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted.



Kyle Durant  
Secretary