

GREEN RIBBON PROJECT



GLACIAL LAKES & PRAIRIE ESCAPES
OF NORTHWEST IOWA

SUPPLEMENTAL PLAN – 2018

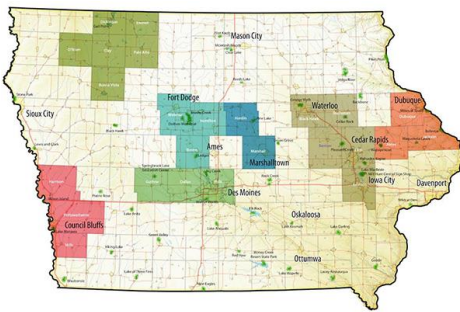
Planning & Technical Assistance Provided By:
Northwest Iowa Planning & Development Commission

REGIONAL MASTER PLAN

GLACIERS & PRAIRIES

Many of the celebrated natural resources in our region were the creation of glaciers nearly 12,000 years ago. As a result, when the last glaciers retreated, lakes, marshes, rich soils and diverse plant and animal life remained.

Though the prairies, wetlands, and water formations have been altered over time, what beauty remains should be enhanced and preserved for generations of residents and visitors of the region



GLACIAL LAKES & PRAIRIE ESCAPES OF NORTHWEST IOWA

OUR REGION: WHO WE ARE

SIX NEIGHBORING, YET DIVERSE COUNTIES CAME TOGETHER TO FORM THE GLACIAL LAKES & PRAIRIE ESCAPES REGION OF NORTHWEST IOWA

This includes:

BUENA VISTA COUNTY

CLAY COUNTY

DICKINSON COUNTY

EMMET COUNTY

O'BRIEN COUNTY

&

PALO ALTO COUNTY

*“The nation behaves well if it treats its **natural resources** as assets which it must turn over to the next generation increased, and not impaired, in value.”*

- Theodore Roosevelt

Speech to Colorado Livestock Association in Denver on August 29, 1910.

The Glacial Lakes
& Prairie Escapes Region
would like thank the efforts of
our committee members and
their associated cities,
counties and organizations.

PARTNERS IN PLANNING

The **Master Plan** for the **Glacial Lakes & Prairie Escapes Region of Northwest Iowa** could not have come to fruition without the involvement of community leaders, and public input who lent their time and talents to the completion of this project.

The plan received input from all 6 counties throughout the planning process. This cooperation and collaboration was essential to making a comprehensive plan with the greatest impact on our region.



Planning & Consultation Services Provided By:
NorthWest Iowa Planning & Development Commission

In an effort to hear all voices in the region, the group of stakeholders involved members from:
Cities, Counties, IDNR, Council of Governments, Tourism, the Scenic Byway,
Recreation Organizations, Economic Development Organizations, Community Leaders

A diverse group of representatives from all 6 counties in the Glacial Lakes and Prairie Escapes Region came together to form the Planning Committee.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Purpose for the Plan

MASTER PLAN

The Glacial Lakes and Prairie Escapes Region (GLAPER) is a collaboration between interested parties of six counties in northwest Iowa. The Region includes Buena Vista, Clay, Dickinson, Emmet, O'Brien and Palo Alto Counties. The name is generated from the shared natural heritage of the area, as all the landscapes of the participating counties were once blanketed by glaciers and fertile prairie land. Thanks to its historic roots, the GLAPER boost numerous natural resources, amenities, and unique features.

In becoming a Parks to People region, this group strives to “*enhance, promote, sustain, and connect*” the natural assets of the region. As financial resources are limited, participants in the Glacial Lakes and Prairies Escapes Region are committed to supporting the goals and initiatives of neighboring cities, counties and recreation areas.



PART I: Our Region

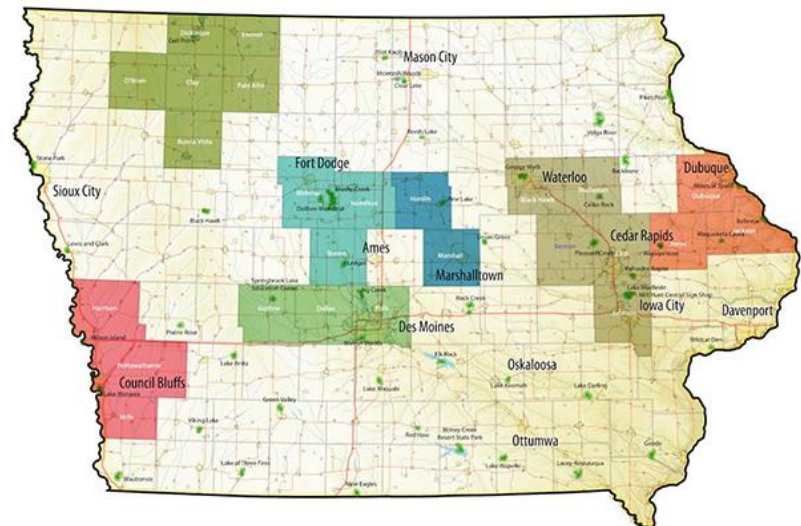
WHO WE ARE: THE GLACIAL LAKES & PRAIRIE ESCAPES REGION

It is difficult to adequately describe all the amenities the Region has to offer. Below is a summary of many of the resources, both natural and cultural, that are offered in the participating counties:

REGION RESOURCE INVENTORY*

- **COUNTIES:** Buena Vista, Clay, Dickinson, Emmet, O'Brien & Palo Alto
- **PARKS:** 740 ACRES City Parks; 2915 ACRES County Parks & 730 Acres State parks
- **MAJOR ROADS:** HWY 18, HWY 71, HWY 4, HWY
- **TRAILS:** 75 Miles of Dedicated Trails + Innumerable On-street trails
- **WATER TRAILS:** 80 miles West Fork of Des Moines River; 120 miles Little Sioux River
- **LAKES:** 42 Lakes; Approx. 30,700 Acres of Lakes
- **STATE PRESERVE:** 762 Acres
- **WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA (WMA):** Roughly 250 Areas
Approximately 36,000 Acres
- **WILDLIFE PRODUCTION AREA (WPA):** Roughly 70 Areas
Approximately 10,500 Acres
- **NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES:** 39 Locations
- **CULTURAL SITES:** 21
- **MUSEUMS:** 11
- **INCORPORATED CITIES:** 54
- **TOTAL POPULATION:** 87,715
- **TOTAL LABOR FORCE:** 47,262

*Inventory compiled December 2015



The following pages contain more a detailed inventory of what the Region has to offer.

INVENTORY: WHY IT MATTERS

The following pages contain more a detailed inventory of what the Region has to offer.

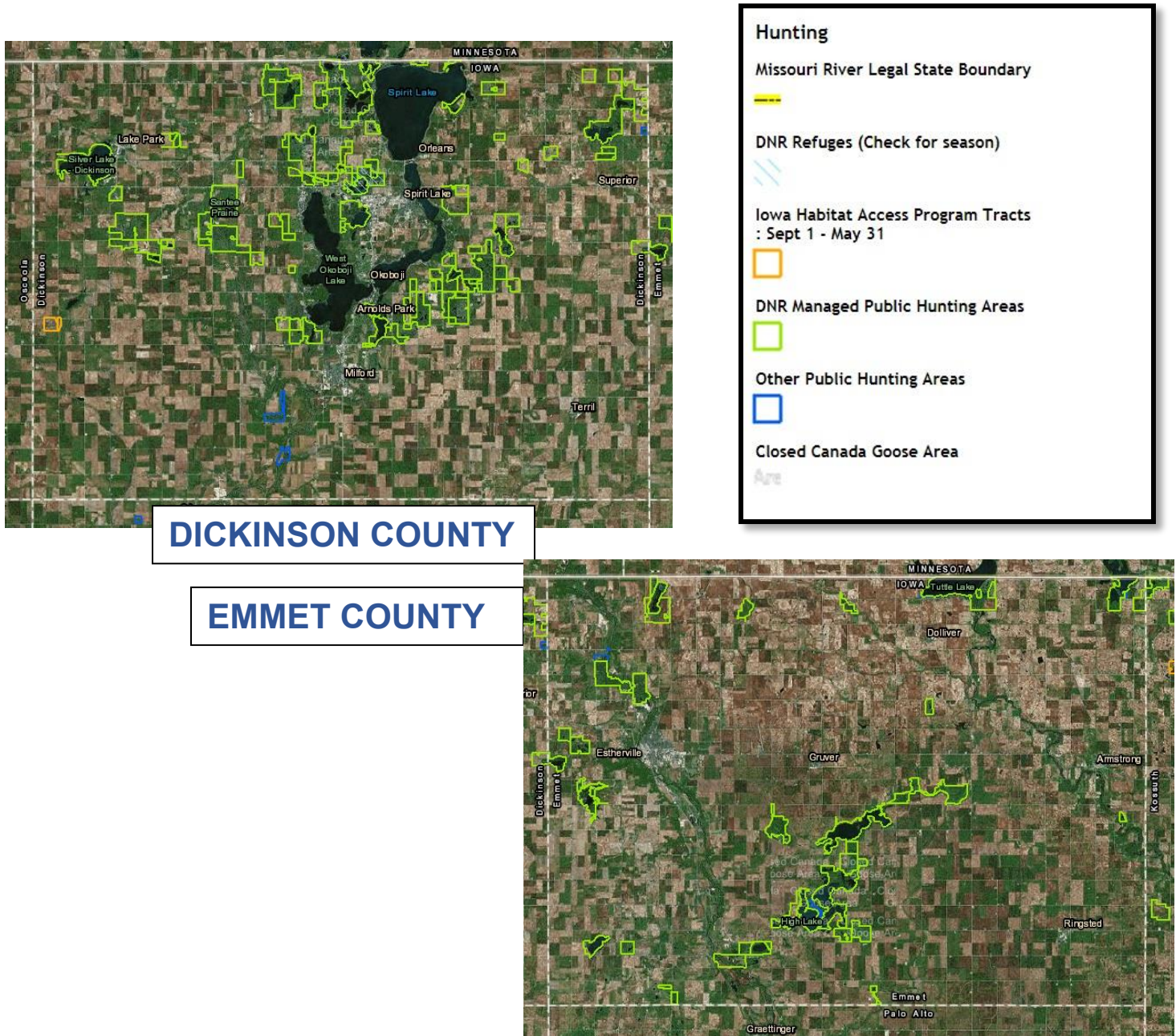
Compiling an extensive inventory of what is available to see, do, and experience within the Region is vital to understanding similarities that can be used to connect 6 seemingly-different counties

While there is no way to include all that there is to offer in the Glacial Lakes & Prairie Escapes Region, items in this inventory will be utilized throughout the planning process and, particularly, as an outline for the website

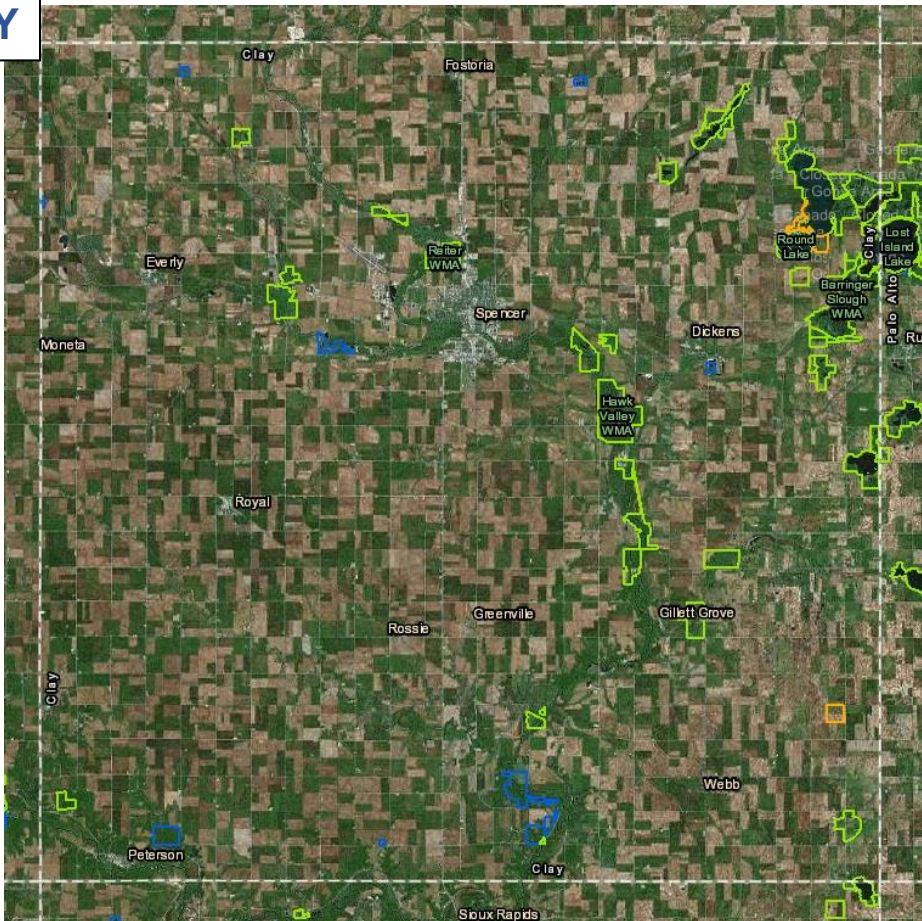
(See *ESCAPE to the PRAIRIES & LAKES of NORTHWEST IOWA* in outline of projects in the Master Plan.)

HUNTING AREAS IN GLAPE REGION

SOURCE: <https://programs.iowadnr.gov/maps/huntingatlas/default.html>

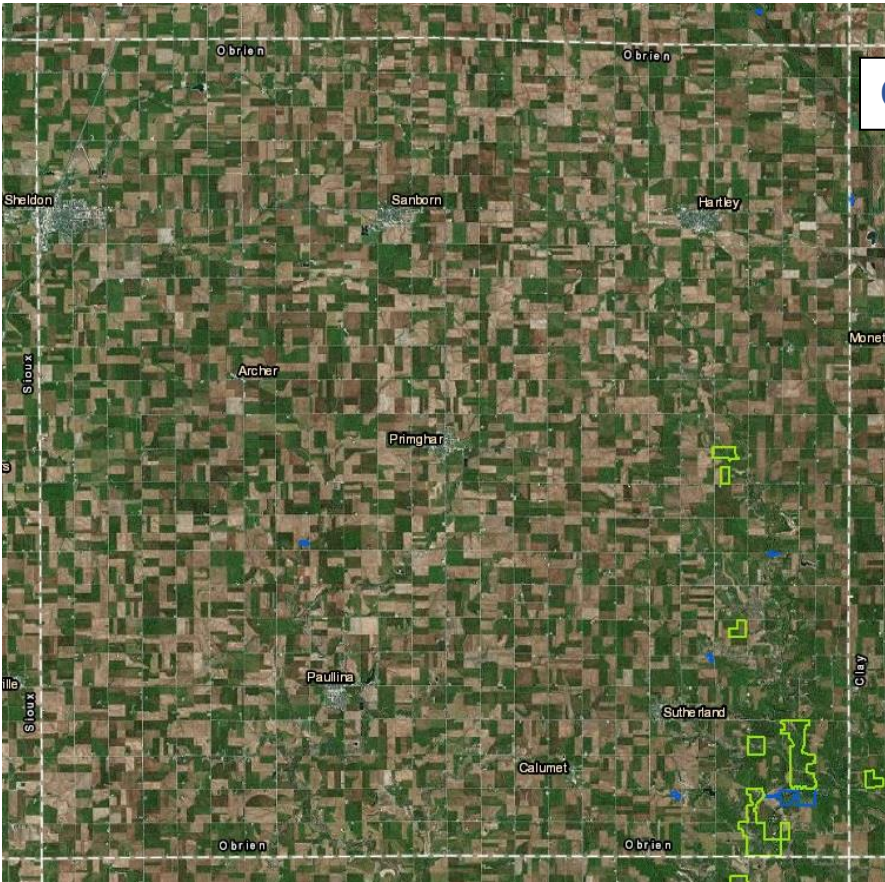


CLAY COUNTY

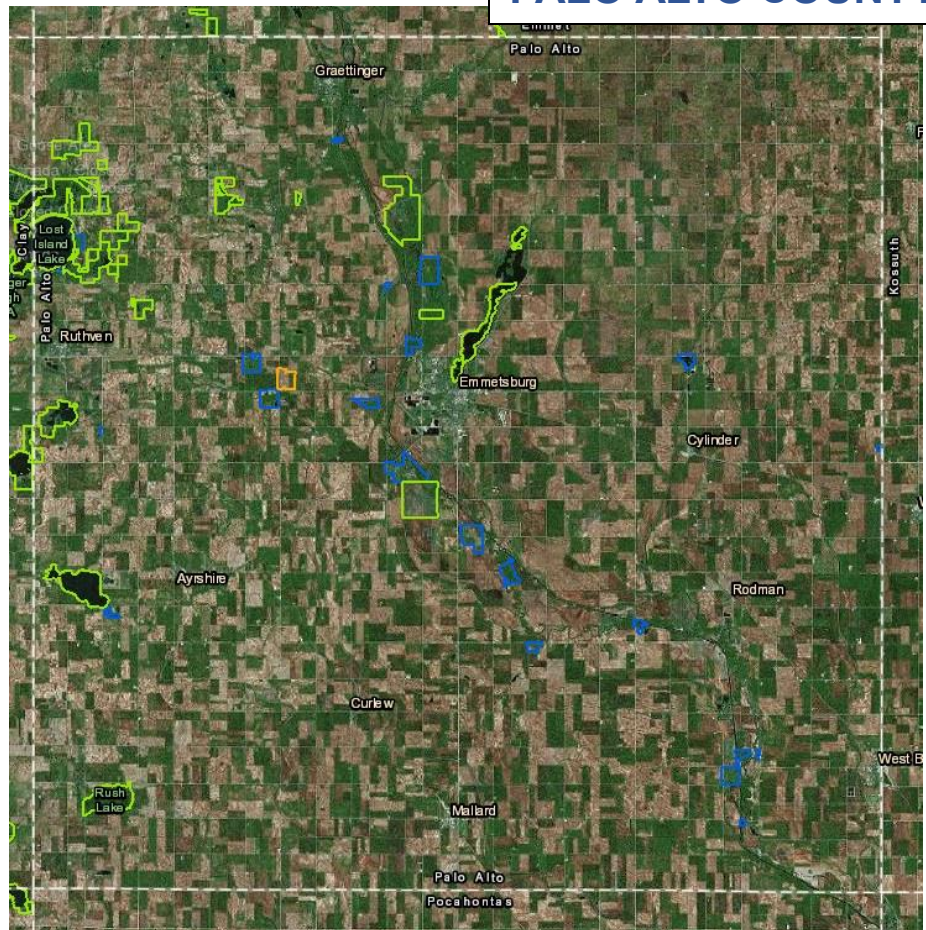


BUENA VISTA COUNTY





O'BRIEN COUNTY



PALO ALTO COUNTY

ATTRACTIONS IN GLAPE REGION

King's Pointe Waterpark Resort	Buena Vista County
Pirate's Pointe Mini Golf	Buena Vista County
Spencer Family Aquatic Center	Clay County
Arnolds Park Amusement Park	Dickinson County
Orleans Beach	Dickinson County
Queens II Excursion	Dickinson County
State Pier	Dickinson County
Treasure Village Mini Golf/ Children's Theater	Dickinson County
Wild Rose Casino and Resort	Palo Alto County

CONSERVATION CENTERS IN GLAPE REGION

Dickinson County Nature Center	Dickinson County
Emmet County Nature Center	Emmet County
Prairie Heritage Center	O'Brien County
Lost Island Prairie Wetland Nature Center	Palo Alto County

CULTURAL SITES IN GLAPE REGION

Buena Vista Historical Society	Buena Vista County
Hanover Historical Village	Buena Vista County
Living History Tree Museum	Buena Vista County
Santa's Castle	Buena Vista County
Witter Gallery/ Storm Lake Public Library	Buena Vista County
Arts On Grand	Clay County
Clay County Heritage Center	Clay County
Clay County Regional Events Center (Fairgrounds)	Clay County
Historic Peterson	Clay County
Jim's History Barn	Clay County
Spencer Community Theater	Clay County
Abbie Gardner State Historic Site	Dickinson County
Horseshoe Bend County Wildlife Preserve	Dickinson County
Okoboji Summer Theater	Dickinson County
Prairie Queen Museum	O'Brien County
Victorian Museum on Main	Palo Alto County
West Bend Historical Society	Palo Alto County

MUSEUMS IN GLAPE REGION

Sioux Rapids Area
Historical Association
Parker Historical Society
of Clay County
Higgins Museum
Iowa Great Lakes Maritime Museum
Iowa Rock'n Roll Music Museum
Lakes Art Center
Armstrong Heritage Museum
Emmet County Historical Society
Vander Haag's Past Memories
Vandervelde Primitive Cultures Collection

Buena Vista County

Clay County

Dickinson County

Dickinson County

Dickinson County

Dickinson County

Emmet County

Emmet County

O'Brien County

Palo Alto County

NATIONAL PLACE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION IN GLAPE REGION

Allee Jesse J. & Mary F. House	Buena Vista County
Brooke Creek Bridge	Buena Vista County
Chan-Ya-Ta Site	Buena Vista County
Chicago Milwaukee & Pacific Railroad Station	Buena Vista County
Danish Lutheran Church	Buena Vista County
Harker House	Buena Vista County
Illinois Central Passenger Depot	Buena Vista County
Sioux Theater	Buena Vista County
Storm Lake Public Library	Buena Vista County
Adams-Higgins House	Clay County
Clay County Courthouse	Clay County
Grand Avenue Historic District	Clay County
Kirchner Philip & Anna Parrish Log House	Clay County
Little Sioux River Bridge	Clay County
Logan Center School No. 5	Clay County
N. Grand Ave Residential Historic District	Clay County
Spencer High School and Auditorium	Clay County
Wanata State Park Picnic Shelter	Clay County
Antlers Hotel	Dickinson County
Gerome Clark House	Dickinson County
Gull Point State Park	Dickinson County
Iowa Lakeside Laboratory Historic District	Dickinson County
Mini-Wakan State Park Historic District	Dickinson County
Pikes Point State Park Shelter and Steps	Dickinson County
Spirit Lake Massacre Log Cabin	Dickinson County
Spirit Lake Public Library	Dickinson County
Trappers Bay State Park Picnic Shelter	Dickinson County
Brugield-Peterson	Emmet County
Family Farmstead District	Emmet County
Ellsworth Ranch Bridge	Emmet County
Thomsen Round Barn	O'Brien County
Carnegie Library	O'Brien County
O'Brien County Courthouse	O'Brien County
Sutherland Indian Village Site	O'Brien County

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS (PUBLIC) IN GLAPE REGION

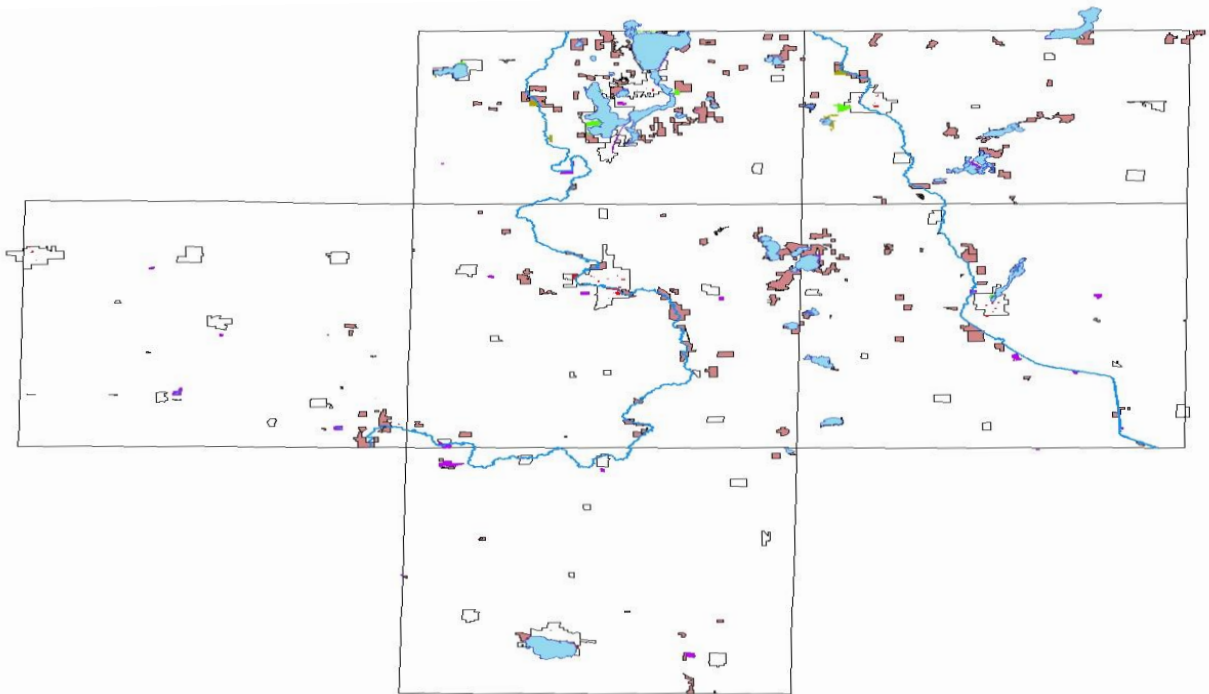
Bluebird Access	Buena Vista County
Leo Grau	Buena Vista County
Little Storm Lake	Buena Vista County
Pheasant Hills	Buena Vista County
Pickerel Lake	Buena Vista County
Barringer Slough	Clay County
Burr Access	Clay County
Dan Green Slough	Clay County
Dewey's Pasture	Clay County
Dry Mud Lake	Clay County
DU Marsh	Clay County
Elk Lake Complex	Clay County
Fen Valley	Clay County
Hawk Valley	Clay County
High Bridge	Clay County
Little Sioux	Clay County
Ocheyedan	Clay County
Reiter	Clay County
Thompson	Clay County
Tom Tuttle Marsh	Clay County
Cayler Prairie Complex	Dickinson County
Center Lake Complex	Dickinson County
Christopherson Slough Complex	Dickinson County
Cory Marsh	Dickinson County
Diamond Lake	Dickinson County
Dugout Creek	Dickinson County
Garlock Slough	Dickinson County
Hales Slough	Dickinson County
Jemmerson Slough Complex	Dickinson County
Kettleson Hogsback Complex	Dickinson County
Lower Gar Lake	Dickinson County
McClelland Beach	Dickinson County
Minnewashta Lak	Dickinson County
Santee Prairie	Dickinson County
Silver Lake	Dickinson County
Spring Run	Dickinson County
Trickle Slough	Dickinson County
Welch Lake	Dickinson County
West Okoboji Wetlands	Dickinson County
Yager Slough	Dickinson County
Anderson Prairie	Emmet County
Birge Lake	Emmet County
Burr Oak Lake	Emmet County
Cheever Lake	Emmet County

Eagle Lake	Emmet County
East Des Moines River Access	Emmet County
East Swan Lake	Emmet County
Four Mile Lake	Emmet County
Grass Lake	Emmet County
Ingham High Wetland Complex	Emmet County
Iowa Lake	Emmet County
Iowa Lake Marsh	Emmet County
Ryan Lake	Emmet County
Tuttle Lake Wetland Complex	Emmet County
Twelve Mile Lake	Emmet County
West Swan Lake	Emmet County
Waterman Creek	O'Brien County
Waterman Prairie	O'Brien County
Williams Wetland	O'Brien County
Blue Wing Marsh	Palo Alto County
Dewey's Pasture	Palo Alto County
Fallow Marsh	Palo Alto County
Five Island Lake	Palo Alto County
Perkin's Marsh	Palo Alto County
Rush Lake	Palo Alto County
Silver Lake	Palo Alto County
Virgin Lake	Palo Alto County
West Fork	Palo Alto County

STATE PRESERVES IN GLAPE REGION

Cayler Prairie (186 Acres)
Freda Haffner Kettlehole (112 Acres)
Silver Lake Fen (23 Acres)
Anderson Prairie (186 Acres)
Cheever Lake (275 Acres)
Wittrock Indian Village (5 Acres)

Dickinson County
Dickinson County
Dickinson County
Emmet County
Emmet County
O'Brien County



WEBSITE INFORMATION

Website domain name:

lakesandprairie.com



Site Outline

Menu Items:

- Home
 - Promo video (If one is taken or slide show of featured images)
 - Mission statement/ Purpose of the website
 - Choose an “escape” drop-down menu
 - Contact info
- About Us
 - History of the planning process
- Area Attractions
 - Alphabetized list of items on the website
- Map of the region
 - History of the planning process

PART II:
Planning + Process



PLANNING PROCESS

MEMBER MEETINGS

Members of the committee met regularly to discuss up-coming projects, budget information, and goals for the group to achieve in creating a Master Plan. Large meetings, at which all committee members were invited to attend and participate, were not the only type of meeting held, however. In addition to countless emails, phone-calls and conversations, leaders from county conservation groups, as well as the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) held individual meetings with NWIPDC staff. These ‘small group meetings’ allowed Planning Staff to gather detailed information from County Conservation Representatives, which was then summarized to all committee members.

The below table reflects meeting dates and times where all committee members met:

MEETING DATE	LOCATION	INVOLVED PARTIES
15 December 2015	NWIPDC Office – Spencer, Iowa	All Committee Members Invited
30 November 2017	NWIPDC Office – Spencer, Iowa	All Committee Members Invited
12 January 2017	NWIPDC Office – Spencer, Iowa	All Committee Members Invited
23 February 2017	NWIPDC Office – Spencer, Iowa	All Committee Members Invited
20 April 2017	NWIPDC Office – Spencer, Iowa	All Committee Members Invited
18 May 2017	NWIPDC Office – Spencer, Iowa	All Committee Members Invited
12 February, 2018	NWIPDC Office – Spencer, Iowa	All Committee Members Invited
3 March, 2018	NWIPDC Office – Spencer, Iowa	All Committee Members Invited

PUBLIC MEETINGS:

Several public meetings were held to collect input from community members. Attendees were residents of one of the 6 counties that comprise the Glacial Lakes and Prairies Escapes Region. At the meetings, the public was informed of the following items:

- Background on the Iowa Parks Foundation Parks to People Initiative
- How the Glacial Lakes and Prairies Escapes Region was formed; Past and present committee members
- Proposed project categories, description(s), and timelines
- How the Counties in the Region will benefit from joining together

Furthermore, the public meetings were an opportunity for those in attendance to ask questions and make their voices heard regarding what they most valued in the Region, as well as the projects they were most passionate about.

Meetings were as follows:

MEETING DATE	LOCATION	INVOLVED PARTIES	# ATTENDEES
February 12th, 2018	NWIPDC	Public Input	Public and Committee Members
March 3 rd , 2018	NWIPDC	Public Input	Public and Committee Members

PROJECT SELECTION:

There was no shortage of deserving projects to choose from in the Glacial Lakes and Prairie Escapes Region. The challenge came in narrowing the list of projects to a select few. Initially, planning staff gathered projects of varying sizes and scopes from all County Conservation groups and city representatives. The strategy became to link projects together, based on similarities, to achieve the greatest regional impact. Although not every project proposed to the Committee could be included in the final Master Plan, projects from each of the 6 counties are present.

When determining which projects to include, members were asked to consider the following criteria:

- **VIABILITY:** How likely is it the project will come to fruition. Factors, such as committed funds, pre-planning/ engineering and availability of resources were analyzed for this criterion.
- **REGIONAL IMPACT:** How significant is the project to the development of a **regional** system of amenities? Will it draw-in visitors from outside the region?
- **CONNECTIVITY:** How well does the project bring together other areas/ aspects of the **region**? Does it enhance current facilities/ educational programs/ infrastructure?

Some projects took little to no discussion, as most members were in agreement that they should be included in the plan. The remaining projects were asked to submit a summary for the group to read, analyze and score from 1-5, based on the above criterion. The projects were added into the Master Plan, with the highest-ranking projects being added first. As many projects as possible were included, while keeping in mind the need to submit a fiscally responsible budget that could, reasonably, be achieved.

Furthermore, projects were divided into the following timelines: **Priority Initiatives**, **Opportunity Projects**, and **Legacy Goals**.

PRIORITY INITIATIVES:

ESTIMATED COMPLETION: Less than 3 Years (2020)

Priority Initiatives are projects that met the following criteria:

- Provided **regional connectivity**, either physically or programmatically to other areas and/or amenities in the Region.
- Make an **impact** on amenities, both natural or human-created within the 6-county region
- Have committed funds and are near ready for construction. In some cases, work is in progress. This makes projects **viable** and likely to be completed.

While the projects included as **Priority Initiatives** are considered the most viable, regionally impactful, and provide regional connectivity with other areas and/or amenities in the Region, it is important to note that their timely completion depends on many outside influences

OPPORTUNITY PROJECTS:

ESTIMATED COMPLETION: More than 3 Years (Late 2020 or After)

Opportunity Projects are projects that met the following criteria:

- Provided **regional connectivity**, either physically or programmatically to other areas and/or amenities in the Region.
- Make an **impact** on amenities, both natural or human-created within the 6-county region
- May need additional work (ie: committed funds, engineering, etc...) to be completed and become more viable.

Opportunity Projects are closely related to **Priority Initiatives**. In some cases, they are later phases of the same project. While they are still regionally impactful, and provide regional connectivity to with other areas and/or amenities in the Region, some factors, be it a later completion date or lack of planning. **Opportunity Projects** are currently less viable. Cost estimates at this stage may be less reliable and require editing to be more accurate.

LEGACY GOALS:

ESTIMATED COMPLETION: 10 – 25+ Years in the Future

Legacy Goals are also related to **Priority Initiatives & Opportunity Projects**.

These projects have little, if any, planning completed at this time. However, as the Glacial Lakes and Prairie Escapes Region is committed to developing, improving, and preserving the assets of the Region, these projects serve as goals for the future. In most cases, details, such as cost estimates, engineering or committed funding, have not been completed at this time. Cost estimates at this stage are preliminary.

RESULTS OF PLANNING PROCESS: PLAN OUTLINE

The Master Plan has been broken-down into four (4) project approaches that serve to connect areas, amenities and resources in the Glacial Lakes and Prairie Escapes Region. While each approach or category focuses on a specific and unique characteristic of the Region, the overall goal of the plan remains consistent. Just as the Iowa Parks Foundation intended the mission of *Parks to People* to “connect citizens to nature”, the intention of the selected initiatives seek to achieve the goal of uniting people with the places, culture and amenities of Northwest Iowa

ESCAPE to the PRAIRIES & LAKES of NORTHWEST IOWA

Goals:

- Enhance and increase awareness of locations, points of interest, and cultural events within the Region; Connecting people with opportunities to experience Northwest Iowa.
- Implement new methods to reach people, both in and outside the Region.

Project: Interactive Glacial Lakes and Prairie Escapes Website that allows users to ‘Plan their Escape’.

Detailed Description: The website will serve as the main initiative to connect visitors with attractions in the Glacial Lakes & Prairie Escapes Region. In Fall of 2017 an application for Iowa Tourism grant funds was submitted to the Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA). The Region received their full request for \$5,000 in grant funds. The remaining cost of the website design will be provided by NWIPDC.

Total Cost: \$13,469.38

Key Element	Location	Cost Estimate (Total)	Committed & In-Kind Funds (Total)	P2P Allocation (5:1)
Website for the Glacial Lakes & Prairie Escapes Region	On-line	\$13,469.38	\$13,469.38	\$0.00

GLACIAL GETAWAYS & GATHERING PLACES

Goals:

- Provide places and spaces for residents and tourists alike to meet and gather throughout the Region. This initiative seeks to bring people together, as well as encourage the exploration of lesser-known areas of the region.

Project(s): Priority Initiatives include construction of cabins, campgrounds, and meeting places. (See Map)

Total Cost: \$7,166,952.93

Key Element	Location(s) (Priority Initiatives)	Cost Estimate (Total)	Committed & In-Kind Funds (Total)	P2P Allocation (5:1)
Facilities to meet, gather and stay	Buena Vista Co, Dickinson Co O'Brien Co Palo Alto Co	\$7,166,952.93	\$7,085,873.24	\$

TRANSVERSE TRAILS & LONGITUDINAL LINKS

Goals:

- Connect people and places throughout the Region with a vast network of trails, pathways and routes of travel.
- Enhance the quality of life in the Region through increased access to the outdoors through recreation and outdoor exercise

Project(s): Priority Initiatives include trails of varying length and scope, with emphasis being placed on routes that connect multiple communities.

Total Cost: \$9,265,000.00

Key Element	Location(s) <small>(Priority Initiatives)</small>	Cost Estimate <small>(Total)</small>	Committed & In-Kind Funds <small>(Total)</small>	P2P Allocation <small>(5:1)</small>
Facilities to meet, gather and stay	Clay Co, Dickinson Co Emmet Co. O'Brien Co Palo Alto Co	\$9,265,000.00	\$5,768,789.00	\$

WATER RECREATION of the NORTHWEST

Goals:

- Connect people and places with one of the Region's greatest natural resources: water.
- Provide places and spaces that enhance and encourage the recreational use of lakes and rivers.
- Provide improvements to areas to access water, such as boat ramps.

Project(s): Priority Initiatives include construction of cabins, campgrounds, and meeting places

Total Cost: \$2,743,761.77

Key Element	Location(s) <small>(Priority Initiatives)</small>	Cost Estimate <small>(Total)</small>	Committed & In-Kind Funds <small>(Total)</small>	P2P Allocation <small>(5:1)</small>
Places and spaces that encourage access and use of water	Buena Vista Co Emmet Co.	\$2,743,761.77	\$923,861.77	\$

*NOTE: All cost estimates were provided to Planning Staff by Committee Members associated with the Project.

PROJECT BUDGET: NOTES

According to Parks to People guidance, the required match for funds through the Green Ribbon Commission is 5:1. The previous Green Ribbon Region in eastern Iowa received \$1.9 million dollars to be applied towards projects. Due to the generosity of MidAmerican Energy, some funds have been allocated to projects in their service areas. Projects such as these have been denoted within the detailed budgets of the plan and are highlighted in **GREEN**.

PART III:
Short-term Projects
Priority Initiatives + Opportunity Projects



ESCAPE to the PRAIRIES & LAKES of NORTHWEST IOWA

Key Element	Project Champion	Location	Cost Estimate (Total)	Committed Funds (Total)	P2P Allocation (5:1)	Timeline
Website for the Glacial Lakes & Prairie Escapes Region	NWIPDC	On-line	\$13,469.38	13,469.38	\$0.00	Spring 2018

While no funds from the Green Ribbon Initiative will be used towards the creation of the website for the Glacial Lakes and Prairies Escapes Region, this is an essential component to the Master Plan. The website will allow for promotion of locations, amenities, and cultural activities within the Region, as well as local events. In addition, users will be able to connect with what is of greatest interest to them and virtually explore locations and events previously unknown to them in Northwest Iowa.

GLACIAL GETAWAYS & GATHERING PLACES

The

PRIORITY INITIATIVES						
Key Element	Project Champion	Location	Cost Estimate (Total)	Committed Funds (Total)	P2P Allocation (5:1)	Timeline
North & South Shelter Renovation @ Conservation Park	Buena Vista Co Conservation	Peterson, Buena Vista Co	\$150,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$	FY2019 - FY2021
Campground @ Five Island	City of Emmetsburg	Emmetsburg, Palo Alto Co	\$774,260.00	\$540,000.00	\$	Summer 2017
Sheldon Event Center + Wetland Trail (2016)	Sheldon City Council + Trails Board	Sheldon, O'Brien Co	\$5,626,692.93	\$5,405,873.24	\$	
Grain Bin Cabins (2) @ Dog Creek + Addition of picnic structures	O'Brien County Conservation	Sutherland, O'Brien County	\$300,000.00	\$300,000.00	\$	Summer 2017
Pollinator Addition	Dickinson County Conservation	Dickinson County	\$1,085,471.00	\$650,000.00		FY 2017-2018
Lodge @ County Park	Palo Alto County Conservation	Ruthven; Palo Alto Co	\$316,000.00	\$140,000.00		2019
TOTAL:			\$7,166,952.93	\$7,085,873.24	\$	

Priority Initiatives, such as. When funds become available, these projects would further the Regions mission of proving opportunities to appreciate area amenities, while connecting visitors and residents to natural resources.



OPPORTUNITY PROJECTS

Key Element	Project Champion	Location	Cost Estimate (Total)	Committed Funds (Total)	Timeline
Leach Park Campground Improvements	City of Spencer	Spencer; Clay County	\$1,200,000.00	N/A	TBD
TOTAL:			\$1,200,000.00	N/A	

TRANSVERSE TRAILS & LONGITUDINAL LINKS

Connecting points of interest within the Region is essential to the sustainability of our amenities. Trails also create vital infrastructure that greatly contribute to a positive quality of life, as well as healthy living.

PRIORITY INITIATIVES

Key Element	Project Champion	Location	Cost Estimate (Total)	Committed Funds (Total)	P2P Allocation (5:1)	Timeline
Proposed Rec. Trail 6th Ave S - 14th Ave N	City of Estherville	Estherville, Emmet Co	\$375,000.00	\$375,000.00	\$	2019 - 2020
Rail Trail (Phases I & II)	Dickinson County Trails	Dickinson County	\$2,900,000.00	\$2,028,000.00	\$	2017 - 2020
Milford to West Lake Trails	Dickinson County Trails	Dickinson County	\$650,000.00	\$650,000.00	\$	2018 - 2020
Land Trail	Dickinson Co Trails; City of Spencer	Spencer (Clay Co) to Fostoria (Clay Co)	\$4,000,000.00	\$2,599,645.00	\$	2018 - 2025
Move bridge to pylons (pedestrian trail over Little Sioux River)	O'Brien Co Conservation	Peterson, O'Brien Co	\$1,340,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$	2020
Five Island - East Trail	Five Island Trails Committee	Emmetsburg, Palo Alto Co		\$50,524.00	\$	2020
Lost Island Trail – Phase 6B	Lost Island Trails Committee	Ruthven, Palo Alto Co		\$61,620.00	\$	2020
TOTAL:			\$9,265,000.00	\$5,768,789.00	\$	



OPPORTUNITY PROJECTS

Key Element	Project Champion	Location	Cost Estimate (Total)	Committed Funds (Total)	P2P Allocation (5:1)	Timeline
Rail Trail (Phases III)	Dickinson County Trails	Dickinson County	\$2,800,000.00	\$	\$	2021 - 2030
Land Trail (6 miles of Trail)	Dickinson Co Trails; City of Spencer	Spencer (Clay Co) to Fostoria (Clay Co)	\$323,107.20	\$	\$	2021 - 2025
Trailhead	City of Fostoria	Fostoria, Clay Co	\$50,000.00	\$	\$	2021 - 2025
Recreation Trail	Dickinson Co Trails; City of Spencer	Fostoria to Milford	\$2,500,000.00			2025-2035
Five Island - East Trail	Five Island Trails Committee	Emmetsburg, Palo Alto Co	Unknown	Unknown	\$	
Lost Island Trail – Phase 6B	Lost Island Trails Committee	Ruthven, Palo Alto Co	Unknown	Unknown	\$	
TOTAL:			\$5,673,107.00		\$	



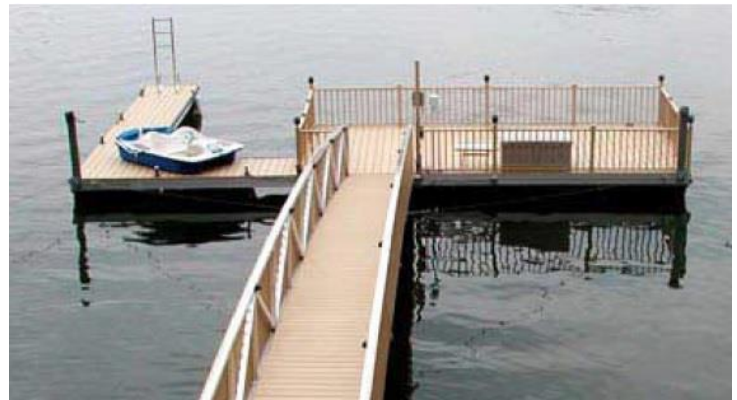
WATERWAY RECREATION OF THE NORTHWEST

As one of the Region's most valuable resources, water both attracts people to the area and connects us.

PRIORITY INITIATIVES						
Key Element	Project Champion	Location	Cost Estimate (Total)	Committed Funds (Total)	P2P Allocation (5:1)	Timeline
Canoe Access + Boat Access	City of Estherville	Estherville, Emmet Co	\$70,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$	2018 - 2020
Playground Equipment @ Joe Hoyer Park	City of Estherville	Estherville, Emmet Co	\$83,761.77	\$83,761.77	\$	2017 - 2018
Camping Area/ Campground	City of Estherville,	Estherville, Emmet Co		\$10,000.00	\$	2018 - 2020
Restrooms + Playspace @ Gustafson Lake	BV County Conservation	Gabrielson Park, BV County	\$75,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$	2019
Cabins + Camping	BV County Conservation	Linn Grove; BV County	\$715,000.00	\$ 600,000.00	\$	2017 - 2020
Cabins + Campsites @ State Marina	City of Storm Lake	Storm Lake; BV County	\$1,800,000.00	\$159,100.00	\$	2018 - 2020
TOTAL:			\$2,743,761.77	\$932,861.77		

OPPORTUNITY PROJECTS

Key Element	Project Champion	Location	Cost Estimate (Total)	Committed Funds (Total)	P2P Allocation (5:1)	Timeline
Cabins + Campsites @ State Marina	City of Storm Lake	Storm Lake; BV County	\$1,608,180.00	\$0	\$	
Improve canoe access @ Twin Forks)	Dickinson Co Conservation	Spirit Lake; Dickinson Co	\$75,000.00	\$0	\$	2020
TOTAL:			\$1,683,180.00	\$0		



KEY

- Fishing Cottages
- Restroom + Bathhouse
- Primitive Tent Site Area
- RV Camper Site Area
- DNR Fish Hatchery Building
- RV Camper Sites

15-20 RV CAMPSITES

10-15 FISHING COTTAGES

10-15 PRIMITIVE SITES

1 RESTROOM + BATHHOUSE

PART IV:
Long-term Projects
LEGACY GOALS



LOOKING AHEAD: FUTURE PROJECTS

The Glacial Lakes and Prairie Escapes Region of Northwest Iowa seeks to establish a lasting legacy of essential recreation areas. With careful planning and responsible use of resources, the Region can hope to sustain generations of lasting, long-term use and enjoyment.

Below are **Legacy Goals** the Region hopes to accomplish in the next 10 – 25 years:

TRANSVERSE TRAILS & LONGITUDINAL LINKS

Key Element	Project Champion	Location	Cost Estimate (Total)	Committed Funds (Total)	Timeline
Construct 18.3 Miles of Rail Trail	Dickinson County Trails Board	Lake Park to Sibley	\$6,500,000.00		2031 - '40
Reconstruct 5 Miles of existing limestone trail	Dickinson County Trails Board	Lake Park to Sibley	\$1,500,000.00		2031 - '40
Construct 6.7 Miles of Rail Trail	Dickinson County Trails Board	Spirit Lake to Superior	\$2,500,000.00		2041 - '50
Construct a Land Trail from Storm Lake (BV County) to Spencer (Clay County)	Buena Vista County	Lake Park to Sibley	No Cost Estimate at this time		2022+
Five Island & Lost Island 'Connection' Trail	Five Island/ Lost Island Trails Committees	Palo Alto County to Clay County	No Cost Estimate at this time		2025+
TOTAL:			\$10,500,000.00		

WATERWAY RECREATION OF THE NORTHWEST

Key Element	Project Champion	Location	Cost Estimate (Total)	Committed Funds (Total)	Timeline
Fishing Piers @ Crossroads Pond	City of Sheldon	Sheldon	No Cost Estimate at this time		2022+
ADA Accessible Dock	City of Sheldon	Sheldon	No Cost Estimate at this time		2022+
Shelter Houses	City of Sheldon	Sheldon	No Cost Estimate at this time		2022+
Park/ Playground Development	City of Sheldon	Sheldon	No Cost Estimate at this time		2022+
Riverwalk Development (Master Plan)	City of Spencer	Spencer	No Cost Estimate at this time		
Inkpaduta Trail (Canoe Route) Access points + Road bridge Locations	Clay County Conservation	Water Trail from Clay County to Buena Vista County	No Cost Estimate at this time		

PART V: Plan of Action

MOVING FORWARD: WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

WHO & WHERE?

NWIPDC will dedicate a staff person to overseeing the continued progress and efforts of the Iowa Parks to People initiative. This person will serve as a liaison for the entities involved in the project, with activities such as record keeping services and facilitation of meetings. Where appropriate, the staff person will also assist with applying for funding through appropriate programs that may complete **Priority Initiatives** and **Opportunity Projects**. In conjunction, NWIPDC will make groups aware of available funding that will enhance the goals and initiatives of the Region.



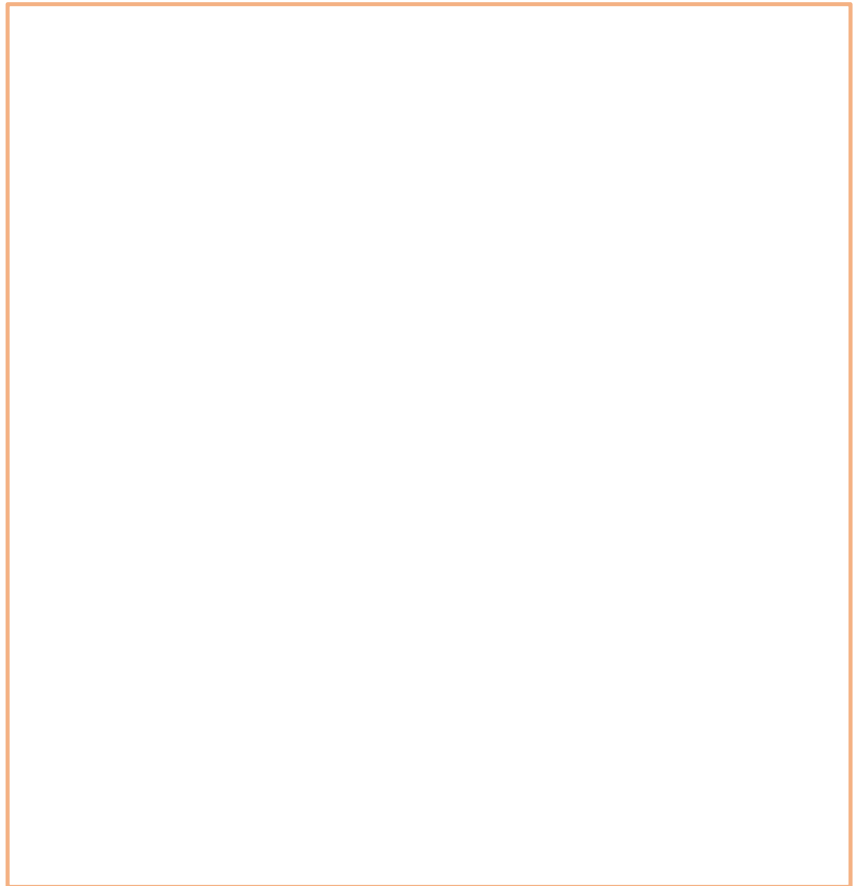
Other future activities, such as marketing, will be facilitated through the NWIPDC office and staff. Initially, the main component of this role will be working directly with the website development team to

WHAT?

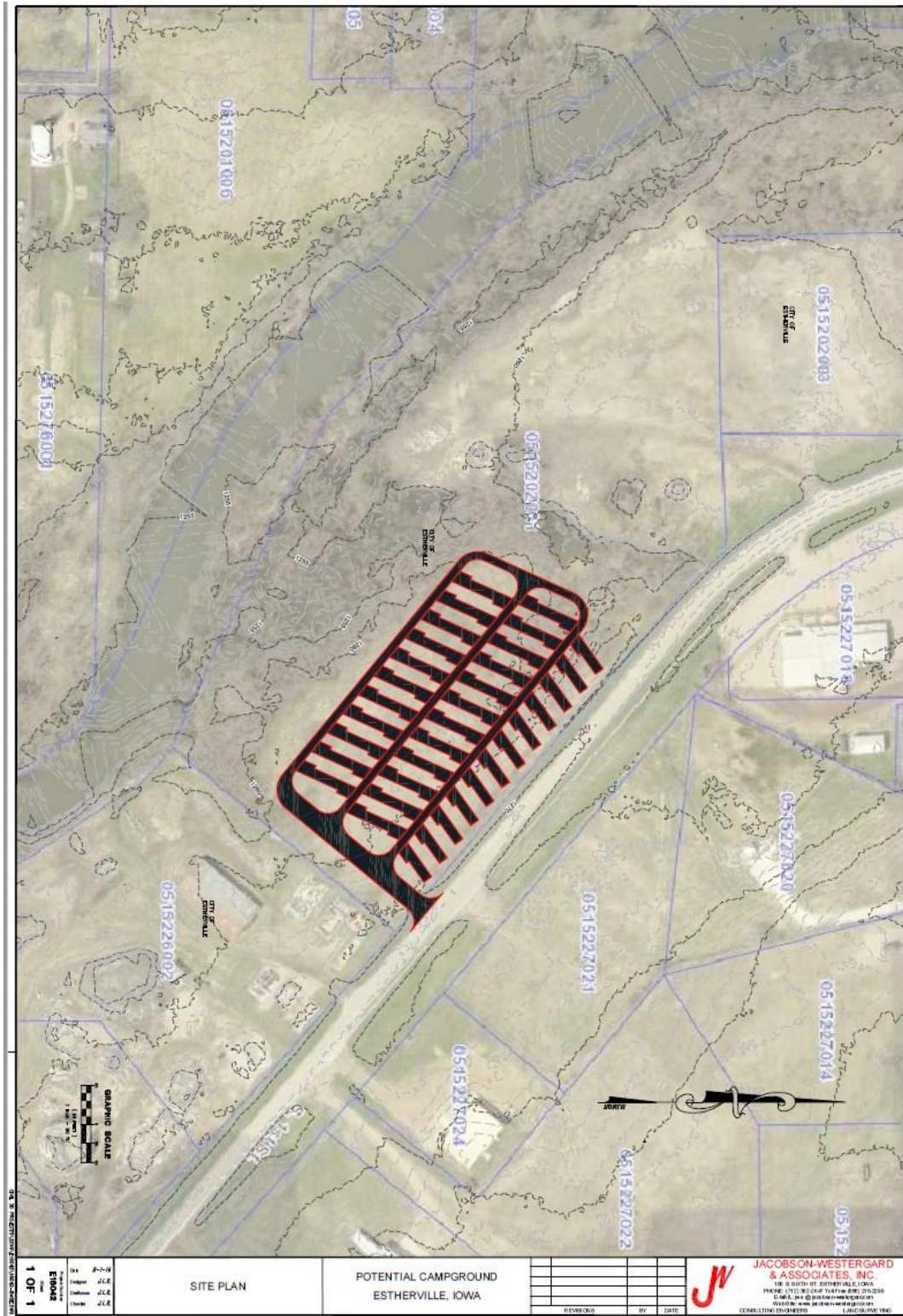
The Glacial Lakes and Prairie Escapes Region has proposed a large-scale, aggressive plan to facilitate collaboration in the Region. This Master Plan will serve as a catalyst to form future bonds between interested parties in the Glacial Lakes and Prairie Escapes Region. As partners, it is essential that the plan evolve, when needed, and allow for opportunities to become successes. Furthermore, it is critical that the “shared goal” of securing manageable funding, while protecting natural and cultural resources remains at the fore-front of our mission. Only through collaboration of all the involved entities will the initiative of attracting people to the amenities of the Glacial Lakes and Prairie Escapes Region be achieved.



APPENDICES



I. Preliminary Campground Layout for the City of Estherville



II. POLLINATORS OF THE PRAIRIE: Additional Drawings



BUTTERFLY HOUSE

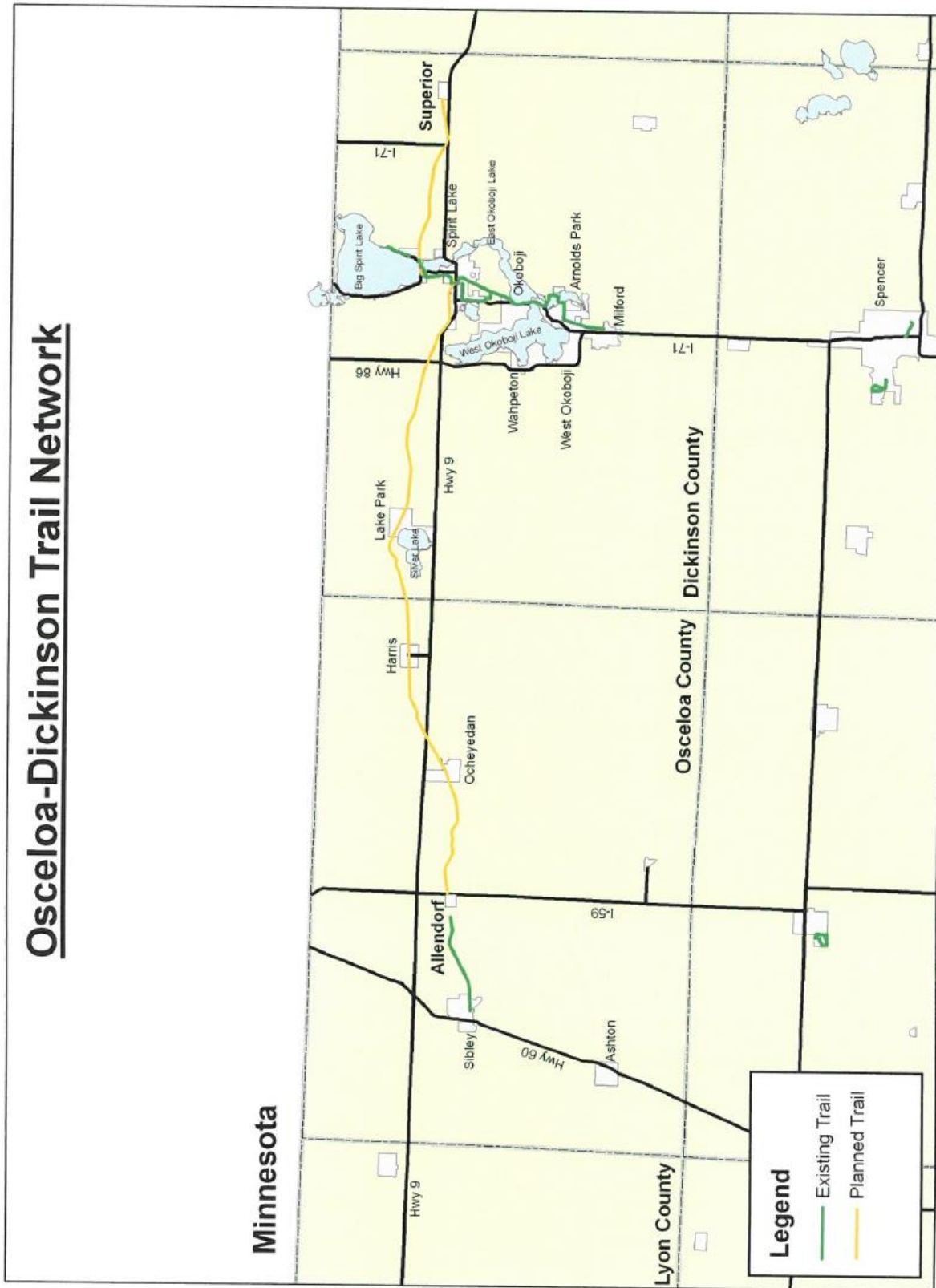


Option 4 - Floor Plan

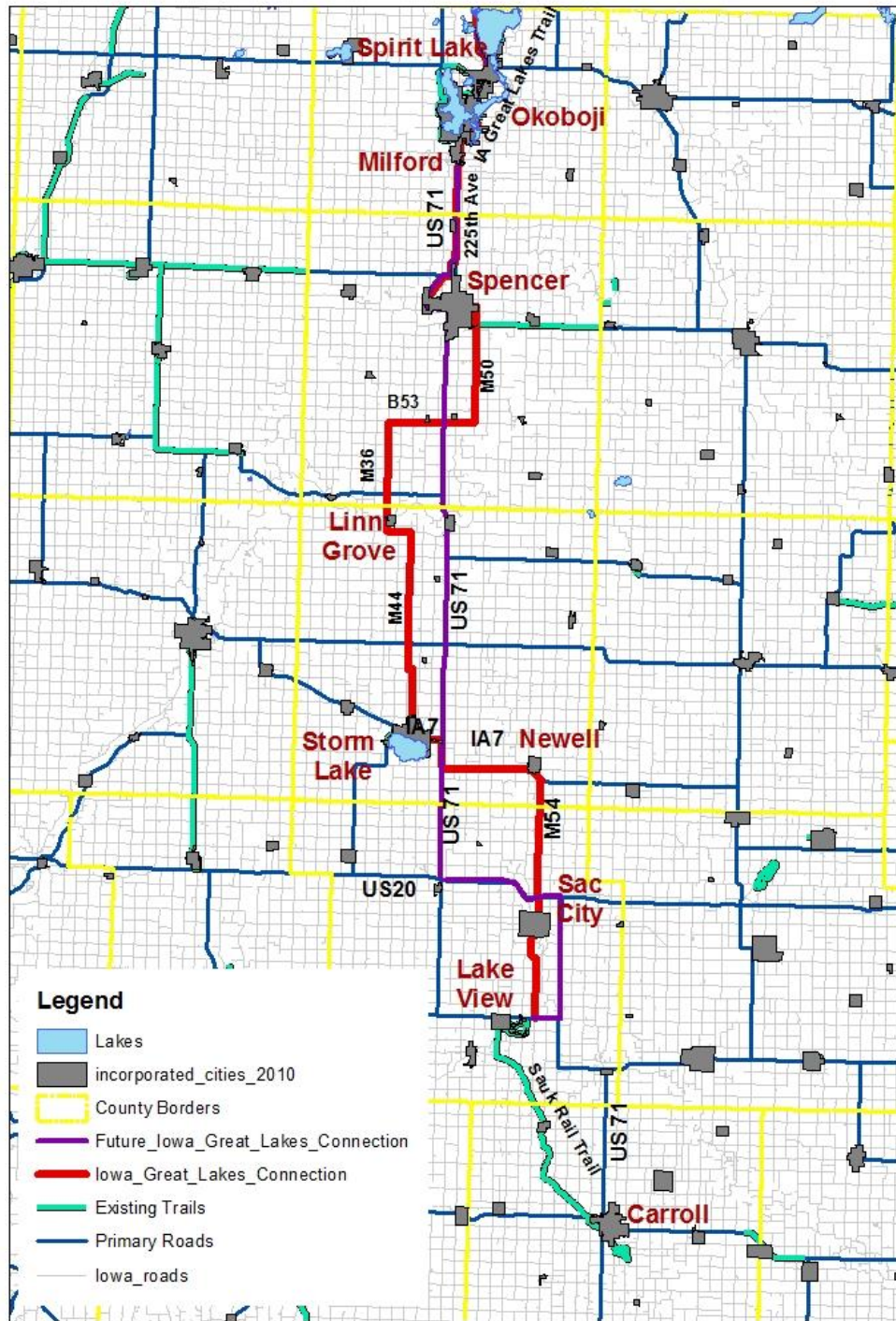
BUILDING: 2,960 SQ. FT.
STORAGE: 650 SQ. FT.



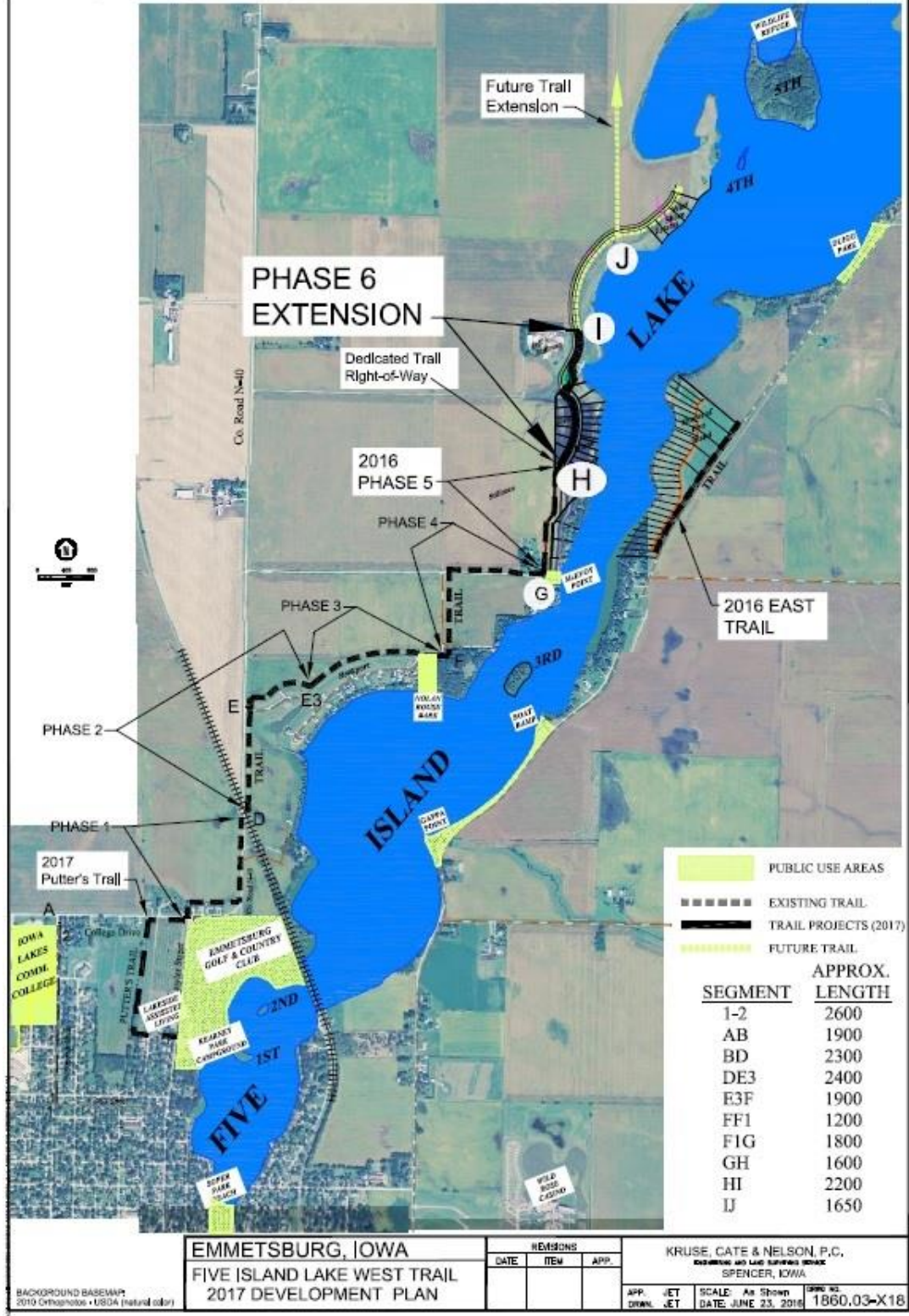
III. TRANSVERSE TRAILS & LONGITUDINAL LINKS Additional Drawings



Iowa Great Lakes Trail Connection



FIVE ISLAND LAKE WEST TRAIL PLAN



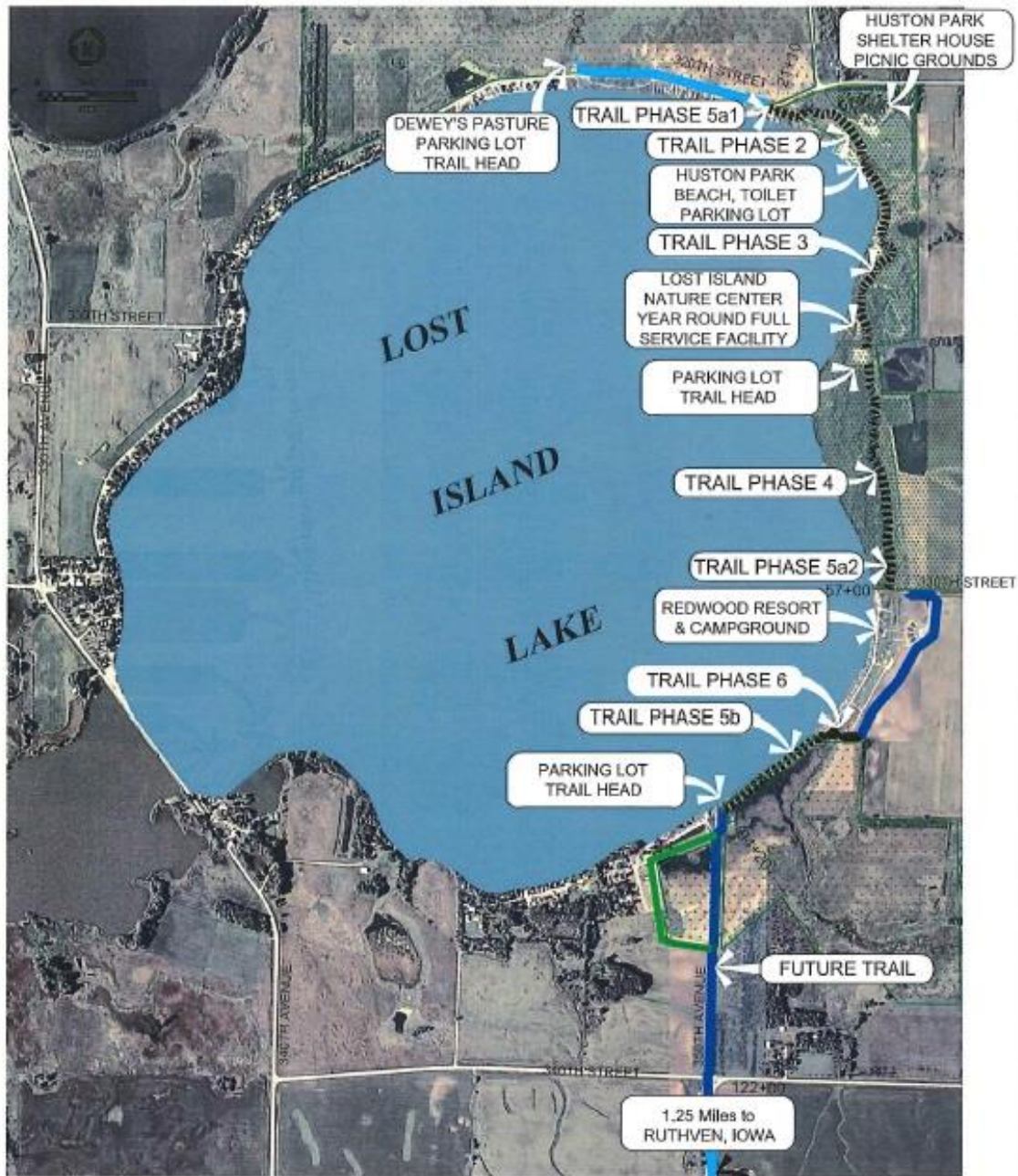
EMMETTSBURG, IOWA
 FIVE ISLAND LAKE WEST TRAIL
 2017 DEVELOPMENT PLAN

REVISIONS		
DATE	ITEM	APP.

KRUSE, CATE & NELSON, P.C.
 ENGINEERS AND LAND SURVEYORS
 SPENCER, IOWA
 APP. JET SCALE: As Shown DRAWN: JET DATE: JUNE 23, 2016 SHEET NO: 1860.03-X18

BACKGROUND BASEMAP:
 2010 Orthophoto • USGS (natural color)

LOST ISLAND LAKE TRAIL PLAN



-  PUBLICLY HELD LAND
-  COMPLETED TRAIL (PHASES 2-5)
-  PROPOSED TRAIL 2015 CONSTRUCTION (PHASE 6)
-  PROPOSED TRAIL (PHASES 7+)
-  ALTERNATE ROUTE
-  "SHARE THE ROAD" TRAIL



BACKGROUND BASEMAP:
2007 USDA/NRCS Orthophoto

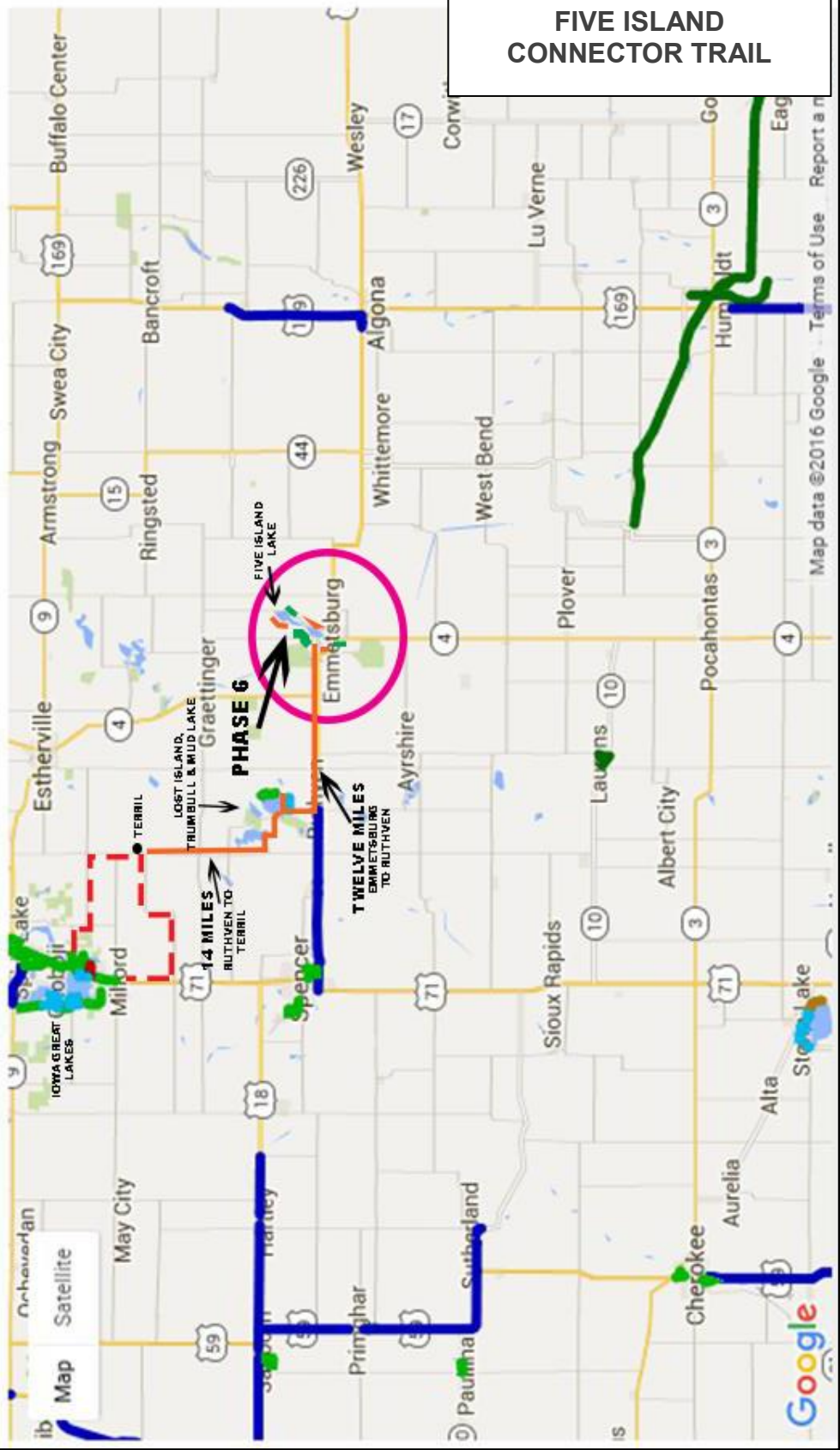
PALO ALTO COUNTY CONSERVATION
LOST ISLAND TRAIL
MASTER PLAN (2015)

REVISION			PROJECT: CATE & NELSON P.C. ENGINEER OF LAND SURVEY ENGINEER SPENCER, IOWA		
NO.	DATE	DESCRIPTION	APP.	DATE	SCALE

SKETCH 2

MAP LEGEND (Click text for description)

- █ Trail/Shared-use path (paved)
- █ Trail/Shared-use path (unpaved)
- █ Bicycle lane
- █ Paved shoulder
- █ Bicycle-friendly road
- █ SIDE PATH
- █ FUTURE TRAIL
- - - FUTURE TRAIL OF DICKI NEON COUNTY TRAILS
- WE ARE HERE



SIMPLIFIED MAP OF FUTURE PLAN FOR LOST ISLAND/ FIVE ISLAND CONNECTOR TRAIL

FIVE ISLAND LAKE CAMPGROUND: Additional Drawings



CAMPGROUND LOCATION AND LAYOUT AT FIVE ISLAND LAKE

