› SEPTEMBER 15, 2026

DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION

COMPREHENSIVE PARKS, TRAILS AND OPEN SPACES PLAN *UPDATE*




DUBUQUE
COUNTY
CONSERVATION

INTRODUCTION

OVERVIEW & PROCESS

INTRODUCTION

In 2020, Dubuque County Conservation adopted its first Comprehensive Parks, Trails and Open Spaces Plan, serving as a strategic guide and roadmap for the county's programming, recreation, education and management efforts. The plan has been a huge success - park usage has increased, the community is visiting more frequently, and educational programming has grown tremendously.

In response to this success, and as the board looks ahead to the next 5 years (with insights beyond that), Dubuque County Conservation commissioned a comprehensive plan update focused on receiving public input to help prioritize the next set of projects, reposition projects that are not feasible (e.g. changing financial, environmental, or management capabilities), and identify new opportunities that may be emerging.

To assist with this effort, the Conservation Board worked with RDG Planning & Design to help lead the master plan update. The process included a series of park visits, public open houses, staff work sessions, public input surveys, and Board work sessions.

The findings from these efforts, along with the strategic framework and recommendations in the existing 2020 plan, directly informed the proposed improvements.

Notable differences between this update and the existing master plan include scaling back the proposed Swiss Valley Nature Center renovations and remaining neutral on the paving or not paving of Heritage Trail (this continues to be a divisive topic). Within this plan, a greater proportion of the funding is being allocated towards deferred maintenance, invasive species removal and ecological restoration, improving waterways and ponds, determining the feasibility of an ATV park, and land protection and acquisition.

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

Community engagement was a central element of the planning process. Four community engagement events were held through Dubuque County to provide community members with opportunities to share their feedback and ideas for the future of the park system.

- **Peosta:** Swiss Valley Nature Center, March 19, 2026
- **Asbury:** Asbury Public Library, March 31, 2026
- **Dubuque:** Backpocket Events Space, Millwork District, April 2, 2026
- **Cascade:** Cascade Public Library, April 2, 2026

More than 200 people attended the open houses and provided feedback on the Dubuque County park system. In addition, an online public input survey was promoted on social media and other outreach channels.* 586 respondents took the survey, a 270% increase from those who took the survey in 2020! Additionally, 97.2% of survey respondents strongly agree or somewhat agree that 'Funding County parks is a good use of my tax dollars, indicating strong support for Dubuque County Conservation.

Key findings identified through the open houses and survey:

- **Overall satisfaction with the park system remains high.** 85% of respondents rated the quality of Dubuque County Parks as "Excellent" or "Good," indicating that the system is generally well-maintained and valued by the community. The plan builds on these strengths by maintaining existing assets while identifying improvements that address unmet needs.
- **Some amenity needs are well met, while others are seen as limited.** Respondents felt that open lawn spaces and unpaved gravel trails are the most

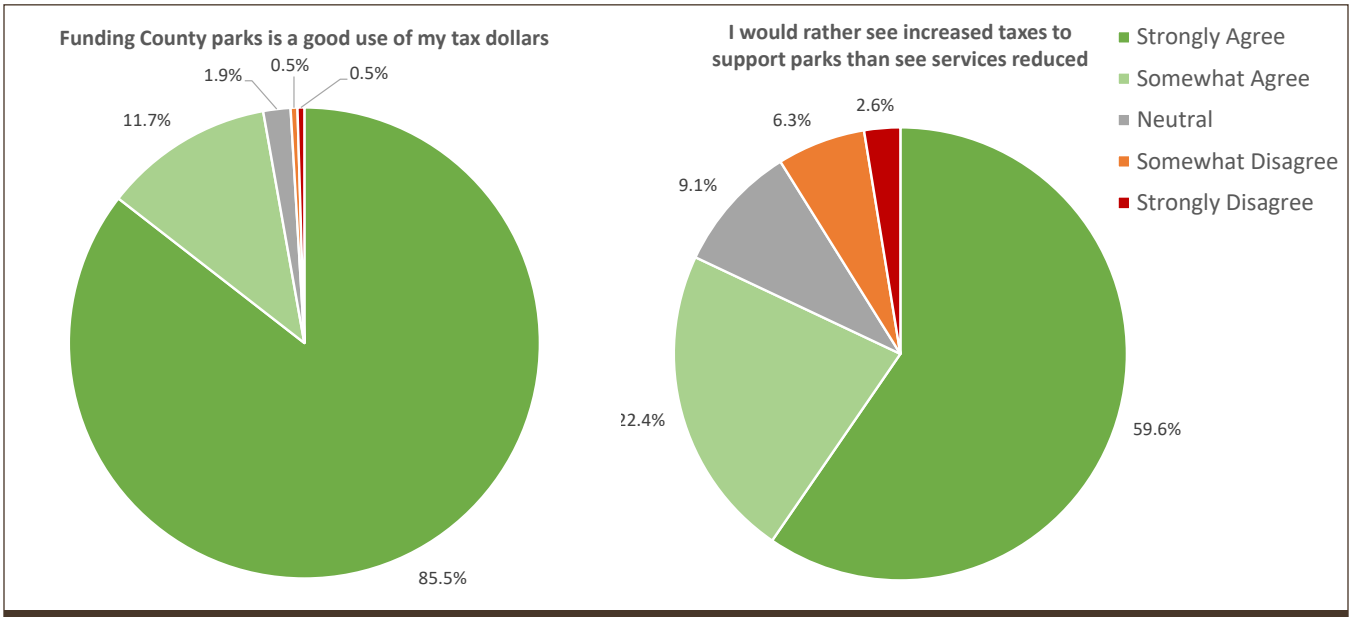


FIGURE 1: SURVEY QUESTION #5 PLEASE RATE YOUR LEVEL OF AGREEMENT WITH EACH OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS.

**Survey results, along with open house comments and preferences, are included in the appendix.*



COMMUNITY MEMBERS PROVIDED FEEDBACK AT THE CASCADE PUBLIC LIBRARY OPEN HOUSE ON APRIL 2, 2026.

fully met needs within the park system. In contrast, rock climbing, cabins, and archery facilities were identified as the least met needs. In response, the plan includes recommendations to evaluate the feasibility of rock climbing opportunities and potential locations for rental cabins at select parks.

- **Infrequent users are generally satisfied with park maintenance but seek additional reasons to visit.** Among respondents who visit parks once per month or less, the most common reasons for limited use were using other city, state, or private properties and a lack of desired features. The plan focuses on adding or evaluating new amenities and programming opportunities that fulfill unmet needs that may encourage more frequent visitation.
- **Trail Improvements, Habitat Preservation, and Land Protection/ Acquisition remain the County's highest priorities.** The top three priorities in the 2026 survey were the same as those identified in 2020, highlighting the importance of recommendations that reflect these: trail improvements, habitat preservation, and land protection/ acquisition. Numerous recommendations in the update include trail maintenance and expansion, ecological restoration and habitat management projects, and future opportunities for potential land acquisition and park system expansion.

- **Heritage Trail paving remains a divisive issue.** As in 2020, the future of Heritage Trail paving was one of the most divisive topics raised through the survey and open houses. While the issue remains important to many residents, this update does not make a recommendation regarding whether the Heritage Trail should be paved or remain unpaved. The topic may be considered through a future planning process.
- **The park system should serve a broad range of ages and household types.** Survey respondents in both 2020 and 2026 were most commonly ages 35–44, and 389 respondents indicated that children age 19 or younger live in their household, with most households including children age 14 or younger. At the same time, respondents ages 55–64 increased by 14 percent compared to 2020. These findings reinforce the need for parks that serve families, older adults, and visitors of varying abilities. The plan includes recommendations for improved accessibility, restrooms, shelters, benches, sidewalks, and other amenities that support an inclusive visitor experience.
- **Hiking trails and connectivity remain the most important amenity for households.** 59% of respondents identified hiking trails as the most important park amenity for their household. This finding supports the continued emphasis on trails from the 2020 plan. The update includes recommendations for new trail opportunities, trail maintenance, and feasibility studies for additional trail connections.
- **Rental cabins are a recurring interest.** Rental cabins emerged as a consistent theme across the survey and open house feedback, reflecting interest in more overnight and destination-oriented recreation opportunities. The plan identifies potential locations where cabins may be considered and recommends further evaluation of their feasibility.
- **Water access and water-based recreation are desired across the system.** Open house participants frequently requested kayak and canoe launches, improved fishing access, water trails, and better access to waterfront areas. The plan addresses these needs through recommendations for improved water access and expanded water-based recreation opportunities at parks where conditions are appropriate.
- **Ecological restoration and conservation are strongly supported.** Community members consistently expressed support for habitat preservation, native vegetation, invasive species management, wetland and prairie restoration, and protection of natural resources. This feedback aligns with habitat preservation and land protection being among the highest survey priorities. The plan includes ecological restoration and

resource management recommendations at multiple parks throughout the system.

- **Accessibility and basic amenities remain important to the visitor experience.** Open house participants identified needs for ADA improvements, sidewalk connections, restrooms, parking, buffering, and other basic park amenities. These improvements are integrated into park-specific recommendations to make parks more accessible and welcoming for visitors of all ages and abilities.
- **Residents want expanded outdoor recreation opportunities.** Requests for additional mountain biking, rock climbing, camping, cabins, and other outdoor recreation opportunities were common across the engagement process. These interests are generally consistent with the unmet amenity needs identified in the survey. The plan includes recommendations and feasibility studies for these uses at locations where they could be accommodated.

PARK VISITATION ANALYSIS

While community engagement provided insight into people's priorities and perceptions of the park system, visitation analysis was used to better understand how parks are currently used. The park visitation analysis was conducted using Placer.ai to better understand visitation patterns across the park system. The analysis found that total visitation of the park system has nearly doubled since 2019, demonstrating the importance of these facilities to both residents and visitors. Approximately 66% of visitors come from

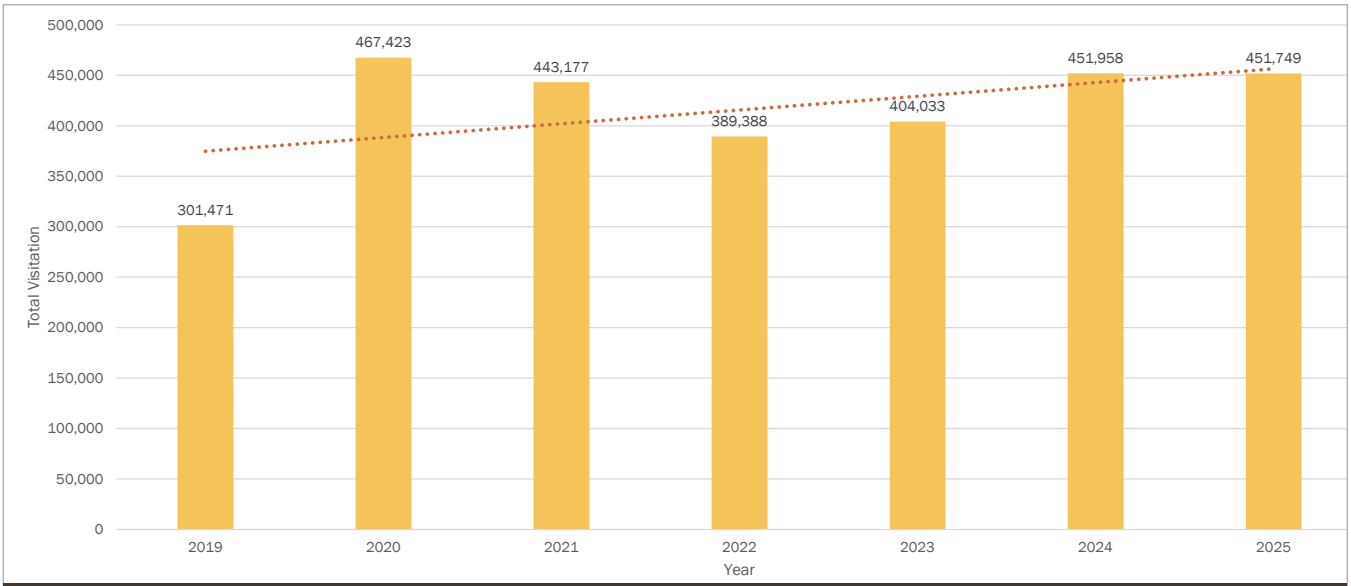


FIGURE 2: TOTAL PARK SYSTEM VISITATION FOR 2019-2025 YEAR-OVER-YEAR SHOWS A GROWING TREND.

family households, and most users are from Dubuque County – particularly the City of Dubuque – demonstrating strong local use. Lastly, parks with campgrounds and waterfront access tend to have higher overall visitation along with more non-local visitation. Full findings are included in the appendix.

The visitation analysis is a valuable planning tool for existing and future parks because it can identify and compare park use, understand visitor demographics, and other trends across the park system. This information can help identify amenities and experiences that are well used by the community, as well as gaps in facilities, programming, or geographic access.

All of this can also inform future investment decisions by helping the County prioritize improvements, evaluate opportunities for new amenities, and determine locations for future parks that will best serve the community.

CLASSIFYING PARKS

In addition to understanding visitation patterns, it is important to understand the different types of parks within the system to develop recommendations that reflect each property's purpose, character, and primary use. Dubuque County Conservation offers a diverse array of park types. These park types, or classifications, host a variety of programming and recreation opportunities. The park classifications identified below were developed to better understand the purpose and intended use of each park. Understanding the different park types can help guide the planning for future improvements and expansion. The following classifications are influenced by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) and the Iowa DNR but have been tailored to best suit Dubuque County Conservation. The classifications are intended to be flexible, and some properties may have characteristics of more than one category. Additionally, the principle use of a park was also considered when classifying it and may differ from its name. For example, Interstate Power Preserve is identified as a Recreation Park and not a Preserve because it primarily functions as a place for mountain biking and hiking.

The park classifications are characterized below:

- **Nature Preserves**
  - Prioritize protection of ecosystems and wildlife habitats
  - Serve as refuges for species
  - Minimize human interference
  - Aim to conserve biodiversity
  - Allow for scientific study and observation
  - Heavily emphasize conservation over human recreation
- **Wildlife Areas**
  - Support wildlife habitat and natural communities
  - Typically host nature-based recreation (e.g. fishing, hunting, trapping, hiking)
  - Limit recreation that is more disruptive to wildlife

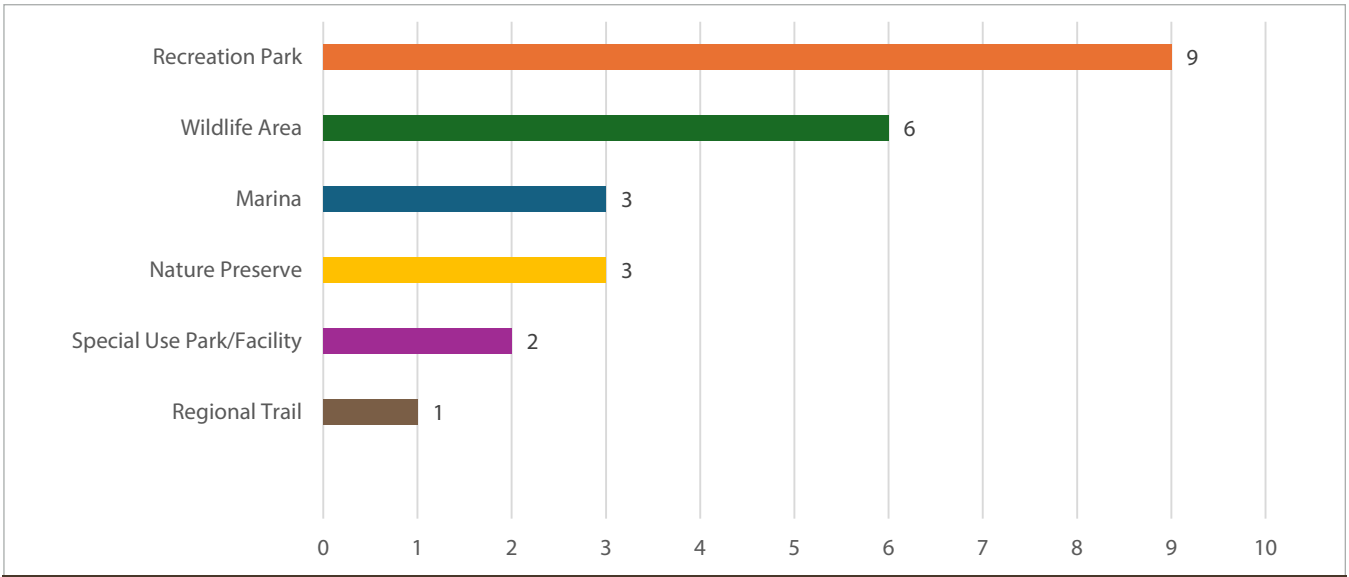


FIGURE 3: NUMBER OF PROPERTIES WITHIN EACH PARK CLASSIFICATION MANAGED BY DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION.

- **Marinas**
  - Center around prominent water features like rivers and lakes
  - Typically feature water-based recreation (e.g. kayaking, boating, fishing, etc.)
  - Offer additional forms of recreation
- **Regional Trails**
  - Offer trails as the sole feature, sometimes include supporting amenities like restrooms and water fountains
  - Are off-street linear connectors intended to support regional recreation
- **Recreation Parks**
  - Offer diverse opportunities for recreation
  - Developed for human recreation
  - Typically offer amenities like park shelters, playgrounds, etc.
  - May include areas for organized sports and informal natural areas for recreation
  - Vary in size
- **Special Use Parks/Facilities**
  - Encompass a broad range of park and facility types
  - Designed for a single type of use, purpose, attraction, or activity

Together, the community engagement findings, visitation analysis, and park classification system provide a foundation for evaluating and prioritizing future investments in the county park system. By combining community priorities with an understanding of current park use, the recommendations on the following pages identify opportunities to enhance recreation, conservation, and visitor experience across the park system.

PARK PLAN UPDATES

PARK PLAN LEGEND

Refer to this general legend when reviewing the park master plans on the following pages. Icons with a black background indicate existing elements, while icons with an orange background indicate proposed elements. Each improvement recommendation is also categorized by the type of improvement it represents and its project type. See the abbreviation key below.

TR = Trail Improvements

HP = Habitat Preservation & Restoration

LP = Land Protection & Acquisition of Sensitive Natural Areas / Hunting and Fishing Land Access

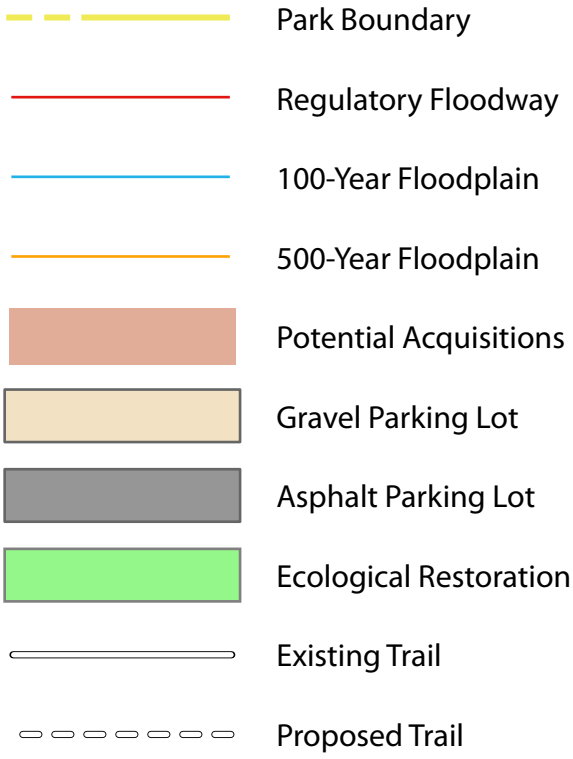
WQ = Water Quality Enhancements / Floodplain Management

PK = Park Infrastructure Enhancements

N = New Improvement

D = Deferred Maintenance / Code Compliance Improvements

L - Park & Preserve Land Acquisition







Existing	Proposed	
		Shelter
		Scenic Viewpoint
		Hiking/Trailhead
		Dog Park
		Caving
		Disc Golf
		Playground
		Golfing
		Rock Climbing
		Biking
		Mountain Biking
		Bike Repair Station
		Boat Launch

Existing	Proposed	
		Fishing
		Fishing Pier
		Kayaking/Kayak Launch
		Marina
		Drinking Water
		Food Service
		Pit Toilet
		Restrooms
		Showers
		Parking
		Benches/Seating
		Ecological Restoration
		Bridge

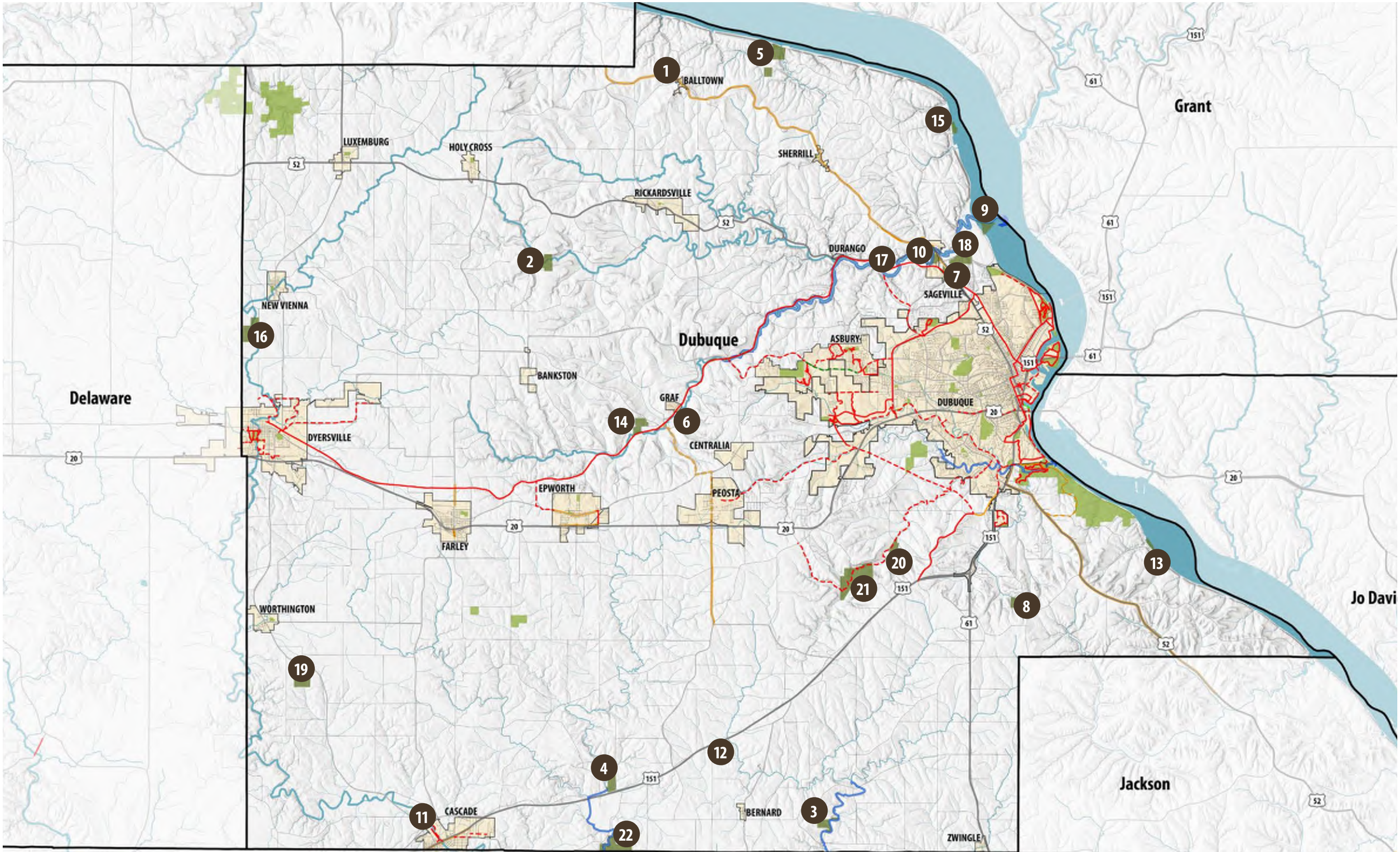
COUNTY PARK LOCATIONS



This map provides an overview of the Dubuque County Conservation park locations. In addition, a table of recommendations for general county wide improvements is below. These pertain to items such as future land acquisition, development of additional cabins, and other maintenance items.

1. **Balltown Overlook**
2. **Bankston Park**
3. **Bowstring Wildlife Area**
4. **Fillmore Recreation Area**
5. **Finley's Landing**
6. **Graf Park**
7. **Heritage Pond/Campground**
8. **Interstate Power Preserve**
9. **John Deere Marsh**
10. **Little Maquoketa River Mounds**
11. **Locher Recreation Area**
12. **McCarthy Wildlife Area**
13. **Massey Marina**
14. **Miller McGrath Wildlife Area**
15. **Mud Lake Park**
16. **New Wine Park**
17. **Pohlman Prairie**
18. **Proving Grounds**
19. **Ringneck Ridge Wildlife Area**
20. **Swiss Valley Park/Campground**
21. **Swiss Valley Nature Preserve**
22. **Whitewater Canyon**

Project Description	Project Type	Improvement Category	Prioritization (in years)				Remarks
			0-5	6-10	11+	Total Cost	
County Wide Improvements (Not Park Specific)			$ 6,000,000.00	$ 9,000,000.00	$ 3,000,000.00	$18,000,000.00	
ATV park development & land acquisition.	N	PK		$ 3,000,000.00			Repurpose degraded lands (avoid sensitive areas).
Park & preserve land acquisition.	L	LP	$ 3,000,000.00				
Park & preserve land acquisition.	L	LP		$ 3,000,000.00			
Park & preserve land acquisition.	L	LP			$ 3,000,000.00		
Maintenance facility relocation.	D	PK	$ 3,000,000.00				
Cabins.	N	PK		$ 3,000,000.00			



COUNTY PARK LOCATIONS

HERITAGE TRAIL



The following pages provide improvement recommendations for each of the eight Heritage Trail trailheads and access points based on community and staff feedback. Note: at this time, the plan update does not make recommendations for the future of Heritage Trail regarding paving. More detailed sets of recommendations for Graf and Sageville trailheads are located on the Graf Park and Heritage Pond & Campground park pages.

City Limits

Parks

City Park

County Park

State Park

Iowa DNR Trails

Multi Use Trail

Shared Road

Scenic Byway

Planned Regional Trails

[Data Source: ECIA]

Shared Road - Existing

Shared Road - Planned

Multi Use Trail - Existing

Multi Use Trail - Planned

Unpaved Trail - Existing

Waterway Trail - Existing

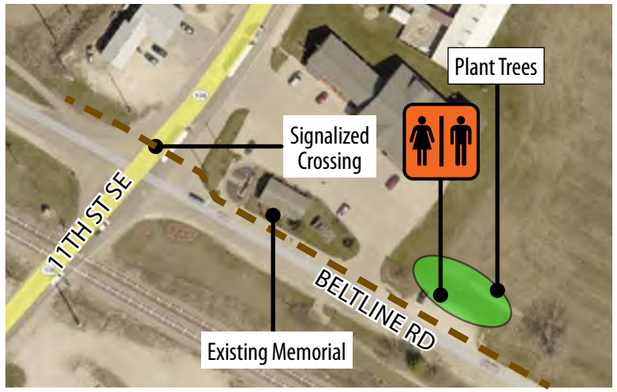
Bridge

*Potential Acquisition

*If land owner is a willing seller

Project Description	Project Type	Improvement Category	Prioritization (in years)				Remarks
			0-5	6-10	11+	Total Cost	
Heritage Trail			$ 105,000.00	$ 6,445,000.00	$ -	$ 6,550,000.00	
Dyersville Trailhead - Add restrooms.	N	PK	$ 35,000.00				
Dyersville Trailhead - Plant shade trees.	N	TR	$ 5,000.00				
Farley Access Point - Add parking lot.	N	PK		$ 20,000.00			
Graf Trailhead - Install public water supply and drinking fountain.	N	TR	$ -				Graf Trailhead line item costs included in Graf Park section.
Graf Trailhead - Install a bike repair station.	N	TR	$ -				Graf Trailhead line item costs included in Graf Park section.
Graf Trailhead - Enhance fishing access.	D	PK	$ -				Graf Trailhead line item costs included in Graf Park section.
Graf Trailhead - Add a ride/hike-in camping area with tent platforms.	N	PK	$ -				Graf Trailhead line item costs included in Graf Park section.

A. Dyersville Trailhead



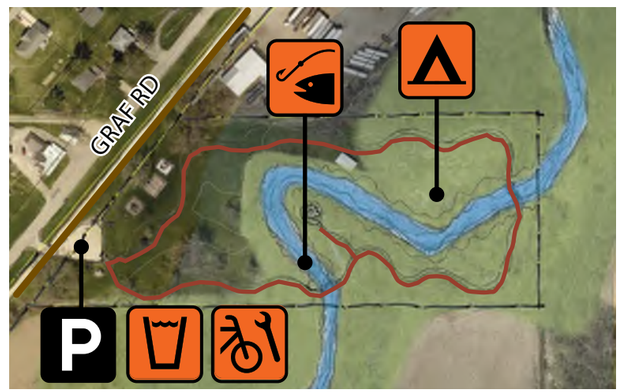
B. Farley Access Point

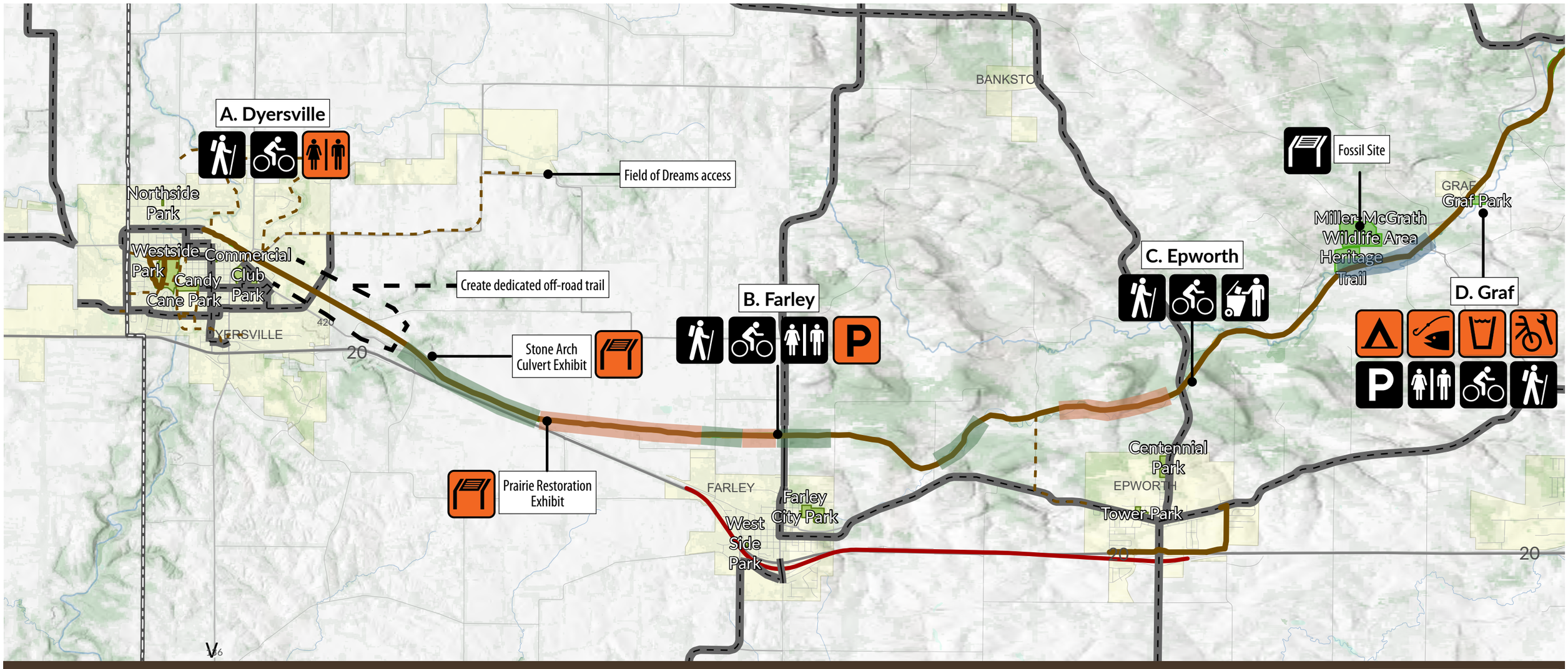


C. Epworth Access Point



D. Graf Trailhead





HERITAGE TRAIL - DYERSVILLE TO GRAF

N

0' 2,500' 5,000' 10,000'

HERITAGE TRAIL



City Limits

Parks

City Park

County Park

State Park

Iowa DNR Trails

Multi Use Trail

Shared Road

Scenic Byway

Planned Regional Trails

[Data Source: ECIA]

Shared Road - Existing

Shared Road - Planned

Multi Use Trail - Existing

Multi Use Trail - Planned

Unpaved Trail - Existing

Waterway Trail - Existing

Bridge

*Potential Acquisition

*If land owner is a willing seller

Project Description	Project Type	Improvement Category	Prioritization (in years)				Remarks
			0-5	6-10	11+	Total Cost	
Heritage Trail			$ 105,000.00	$ 6,445,000.00	$ -	$ 6,550,000.00	
Twin Springs Trailhead - Enhance kayak launch.	D	PK	$ 15,000.00				
Budd Road Trailhead - Enhance kayak launch.	D	PK	$ 15,000.00				
Budd Road Trailhead - Enhance fishing access.	D	PK		$ 5,000.00			
Durango Trailhead - Add restrooms.	N	PK	$ 35,000.00				
Durango Trailhead - Restore kayak access.				$ 15,000.00			
Durango Trailhead - Enhance fishing access.	D	PK		$ 5,000.00			
Sageville Trailhead - Add primitive camping with tent platforms.	N	PK	$ -				Sageville Trailhead improvement costs included in Heritage Pond & Campground section.
Streambank Restoration.	D	HP		$ 1,000,000.00			
Replace bridges #3 and #6.	D	TR		$ 4,000,000.00			
Replace bridge #11.	D	TR		$ 700,000.00			
Replace bridges #20 and #24.	D	TR		$ 700,000.00			

F. Budd Road

E. Twin Springs

Split Rock

G. Durango

1872 Bridge

Pohlman Prairie Preserve

H. Sageville

Remove Fence

Old Quarry

The Meadows Golf Club

Asbury City Park

Sunnyslopes Park

Usha Park

North Fork Park

Hillcrest Park

Flora Park

Falk Park

Welu Park

Medical Associates Greenbelt

Westbrook Park

Bergfeld Recreation Area

Riley Park

Alison-Henderson Park

Grandview Parkway

Dubuque Golf & Country Club

Waller-Cooper Park

Washington Park

Cleveland Park

Maus Park

Avon Park

Jackson Park

Orange Park

Pyatigorsk Park

Comiskey Park

Burden Park

Oakwood Park

Heritage Trail

Golf Course

Eagle Valley Park

Eagle Point Park

AY McDonald Park

Miller-Riverview Park

McAleece Athletic Complex

Four Mounds Park

Little Maquoketa Indian Mounds

Heritage Marsh Area

Heritage Pond

Proving Grounds

Wildlife

John Deere Marsh

Graf Park

DURANGO

SAGEVILLE

DUBUQUE

52

20

61

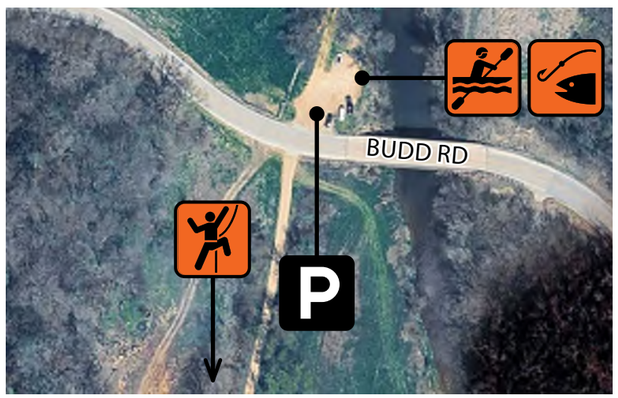
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6

E. Twin Springs Trailhead



F. Budd Road Trailhead



G. Durango Trailhead



H. Sageville Trailhead



HERITAGE TRAIL - TWIN SPRINGS TO SAGEVILLE

N

0' 2,500' 5,000' 10,000'

BALLTOWN OVERLOOK

600 Balltown Road | 0.06 acres

Special Use Park

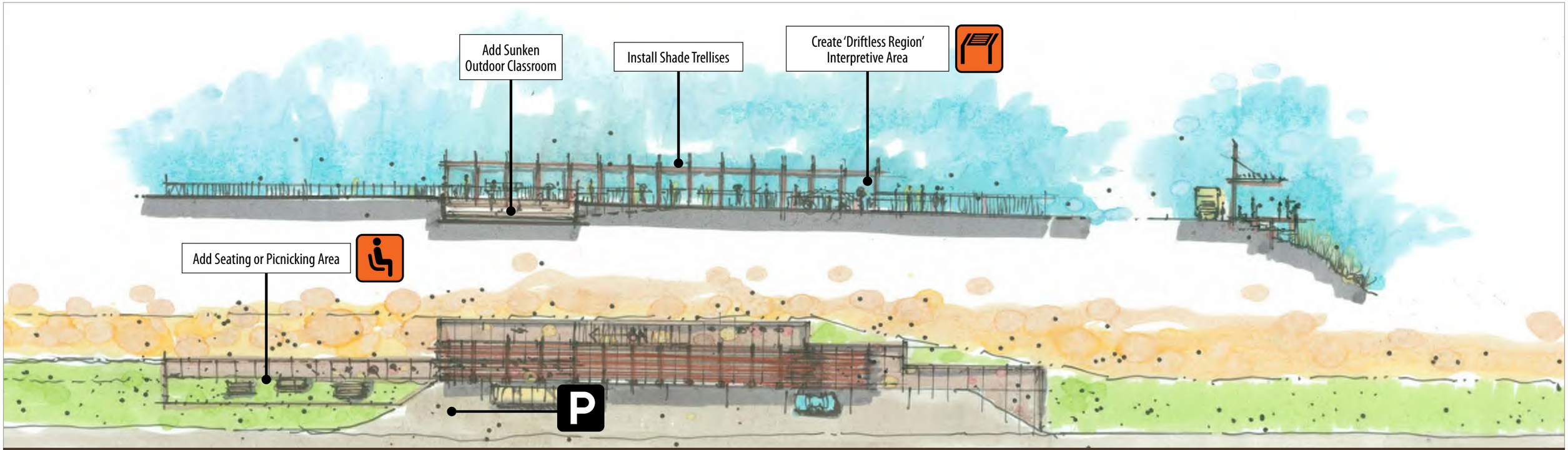
The Balltown Overlook is situated in Balltown in Northwest Dubuque County. This scenic overlook provides viewers with a vast view of the Driftless Region. The overlook includes amphitheater style seating, a telescope for viewing, and a picnic area. It's a frequent stop for residents and visitors who want to check out the vista at all times of year. Nearby local businesses benefit from the site's popularity.



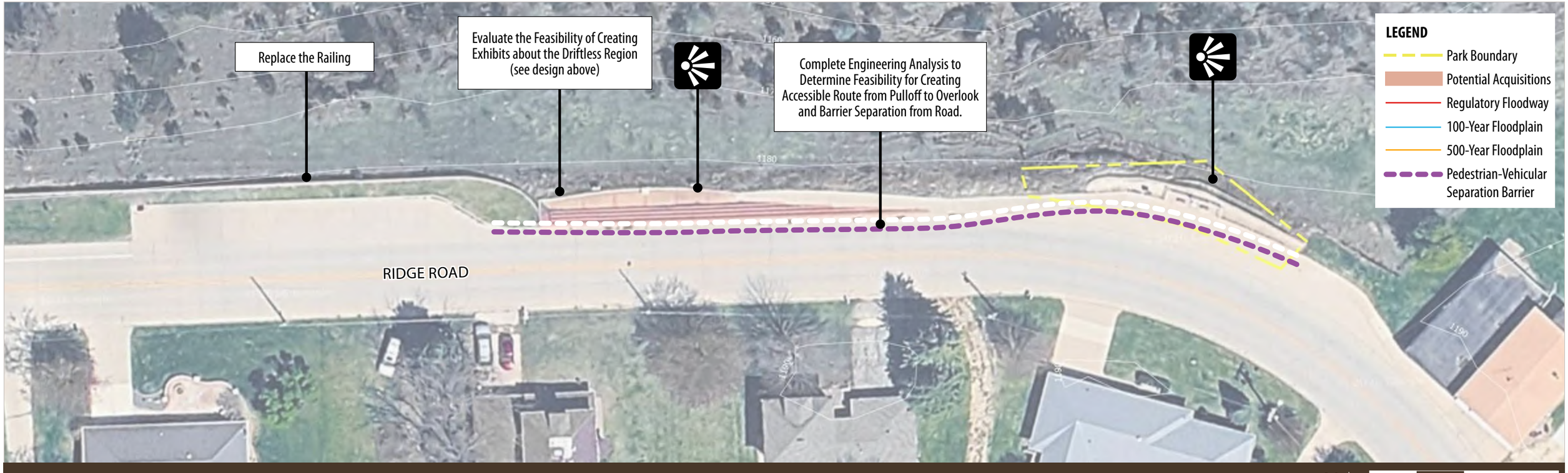
RECENT PROGRESS:

- Completed railing maintenance
- Performed sidewalk leveling

Project Description	Project Type	Improvement Category	Prioritization (in years)				Remarks
			0-5	6-10	11+	Total Cost	
Balltown Overlook			$ 25,000.00	$ 213,640.00	$ 25,000.00	$ 263,640.00	
Complete engineering analysis to determine feasibility for creating accessible route from pulloff to overlook and barrier separation from road.	D	PK	$ 25,000.00				Evaluate roadway changes to accommodate vertical separation and sidewalk.
Replace barrier railings.	D	PK		$ 75,000.00			
Create an accessible route from the vehicular pulloff to the overlook	D	TR		$ 38,640.00			
Create a pedestrian-vehicular barrier wall.	D	PK		$ 100,000.00			
Evaluate the feasibility of creating interpretive exhibits about the Driftless Region.	N	PK			$ 25,000.00		Interpretive area, shade trellises, and sunken outdoor classroom.



PLAN VIEW



BALLTOWN OVERLOOK

BANKSTON PARK

17826 Bankston Park Road | 142 acres

Recreation Park

Bankston Park is a rural woodland and meadow in northwest Dubuque County that offers an isolated getaway for primitive campers. The park also maintains a network of hiking trails with stream access for trout fishing. The wooded hilltop on the south side of Bankston Park has a high concentration of Karst Depressions, a sinkhole feature of the local geology, which feeds underground water reserves and cools the ground temperature. These unique conditions support a population of the endangered Pleistocene Snail.



RECENT PROGRESS:

- Trail construction
- Installed a group campfire at the north side of the park
- Raised outlet structure to improve the pond

Project Description	Project Type	Improvement Category	Prioritization (in years)				Remarks
			0-5	6-10	11+	Total Cost	
Bankston Park			$ 651,556.47	$ 60,000.00	$ 888,000.00	$ 1,599,556.47	
Install a pedestrian bridge.	N	PK	$ 225,000.00				Pre-engineered steel bridge over stream.
Add a new shower house.	N	PK			$ 600,000.00		
Add primitive group camping area and crushed stone on the East end of the park.	N	PK	$ 75,000.00				
Improve existing primitive campground.	D	PK			$ 288,000.00		Add gravel drives, formalize the camping area.
Land acquisition - to be determined.	L	LP					To be determined if adjacent landowner is willing to sell.
Forest restoration.	D	HP	$ 44,077.13				
Retire picnic area; maintain access to pump pit.	D	PK	$ 5,000.00				
Establish oak savanna interior to primitive camping area.	D	HP	$ 2,479.34				Shade and reduce mowing at campsite.
Connect trail system.	N	TR		$ 60,000.00			
Stream stabilization, fishing improvements.	D	WQ	$ 300,000.00				

LEGEND

- Park Boundary
- Potential Acquisitions
- Regulatory Floodway
- 100-Year Floodplain
- 500-Year Floodplain

Retire Picnic Area;
Maintain Access to Pump Pit

Establish Proposed Trail Loops

Add Primitive Group Camping & Crushed Stone

Stabilize Stream

BANKSTON PARK ROAD

Create Oxbow Interpretive Area

Add Gravel Campground Drives

Primitive Group Camping

Establish a Savanna at Campsite

Preservation Area

BANKSTON PARK

N

0' 150' 300' 600'

BOWSTRING WILDLIFE AREA

727 Creekbranch Lane | 88 acres

Wildlife Area

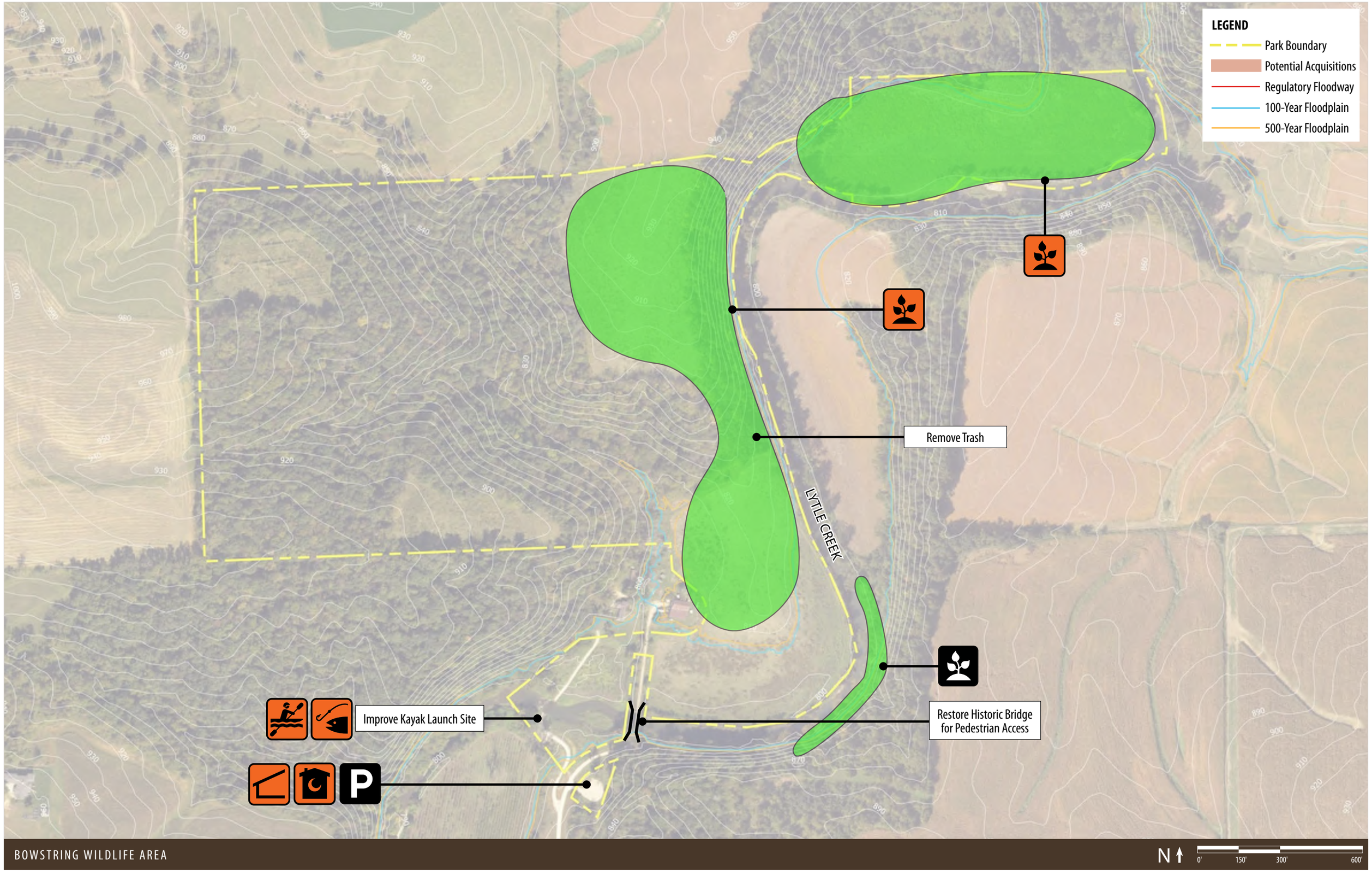
Bowstring Wildlife Area is one of Dubuque County Conservation's newest park areas, a rugged hunting and hiking area in southern Dubuque County between Bernard and Zwingle, with Lytle Creek meandering along the edge of the property. The park entrance is home to a unique "bowstring", historic tied arch bridge which sits at its original location over Lytle Creek.



RECENT PROGRESS:

- Created gravel parking lot

Project Description	Project Type	Improvement Category	Prioritization (in years)				Remarks
			0-5	6-10	11+	Total Cost	
Bowstring Wildlife Area			$ 458,402.20	$ 100,000.00	$ -	$ 558,402.20	
Install primitive toilet.	N	PK		$ 35,000.00			
Add a small shelter.	N	PK		$ 50,000.00			
Improve kayak launch site.	D	PK		$ 15,000.00			
Restore historic bridge for pedestrian access.	D	TR	$ 225,000.00				Evaluation underway at time of publication.
Remove trash from the park.	D	PK	$ 75,000.00				
Ecological Restoration.	D	HP	$ 158,402.20				



BOWSTRING WILDLIFE AREA

FILLMORE RECREATION AREA

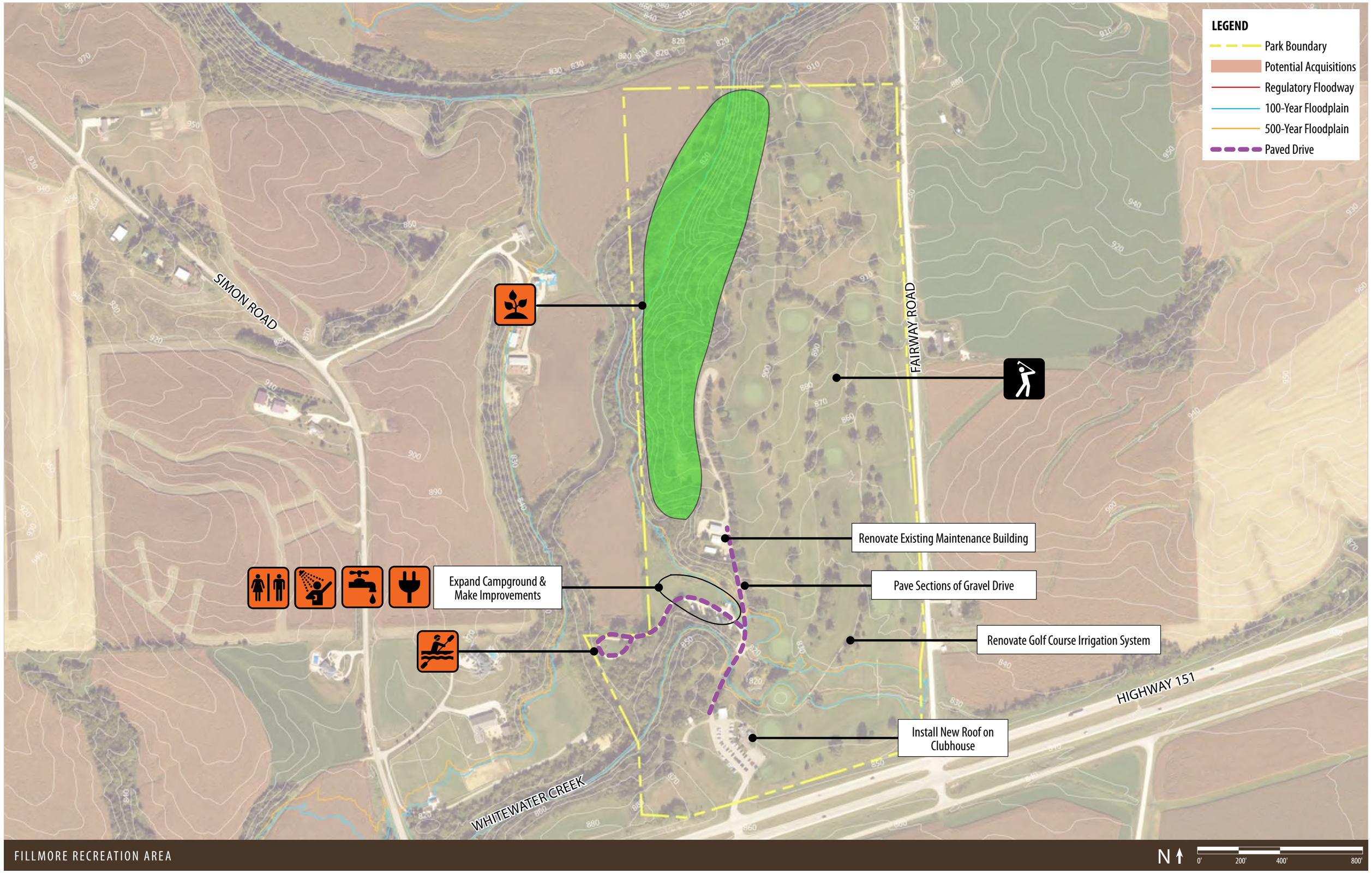
21655 Highway 151 | 105 acres

Recreation Park

This recreation area offers a nine hole golf course. The club house supports golfing and serves food and drinks as well as showers and restrooms. In addition to the golf course, park amenities like a playground, campground, and kayak launch area along White Water Creek provide a pleasant recreation experience.



Project Description	Project Type	Improvement Category	Prioritization (in years)				Remarks
			0-5	6-10	11+	Total Cost	
Fillmore Recreation Area			$ 225,000.00	$ 1,862,220.39	$ 350,000.00	$ 2,437,220.39	
Expand and make campground improvements.	D	PK			$ 350,000.00		Upgrade electrical service, water, add restroom and shower house.
Ecological restoration.	D	HP		$ 90,220.39			Woodland/stream bank on bluff west of the golf course; hand-work only.
Pave gravel drive and pads within campground.	D	PK		$ 192,000.00			
Install kayak access point and create water trails.	N	TR	$ 25,000.00				
Install a new roof for the clubhouse.	D	PK		$ 80,000.00			Evaluate replacing with a steel roof in the future.
Irrigation system renovation.	D	PK		$ 1,500,000.00			
Renovate existing golf course maintenance building.	D	PK	$ 200,000.00				



FILLMORE RECREATION AREA

FINLEY'S LANDING PARK

24709 Finley's Landing Road | 107 acres

Marina

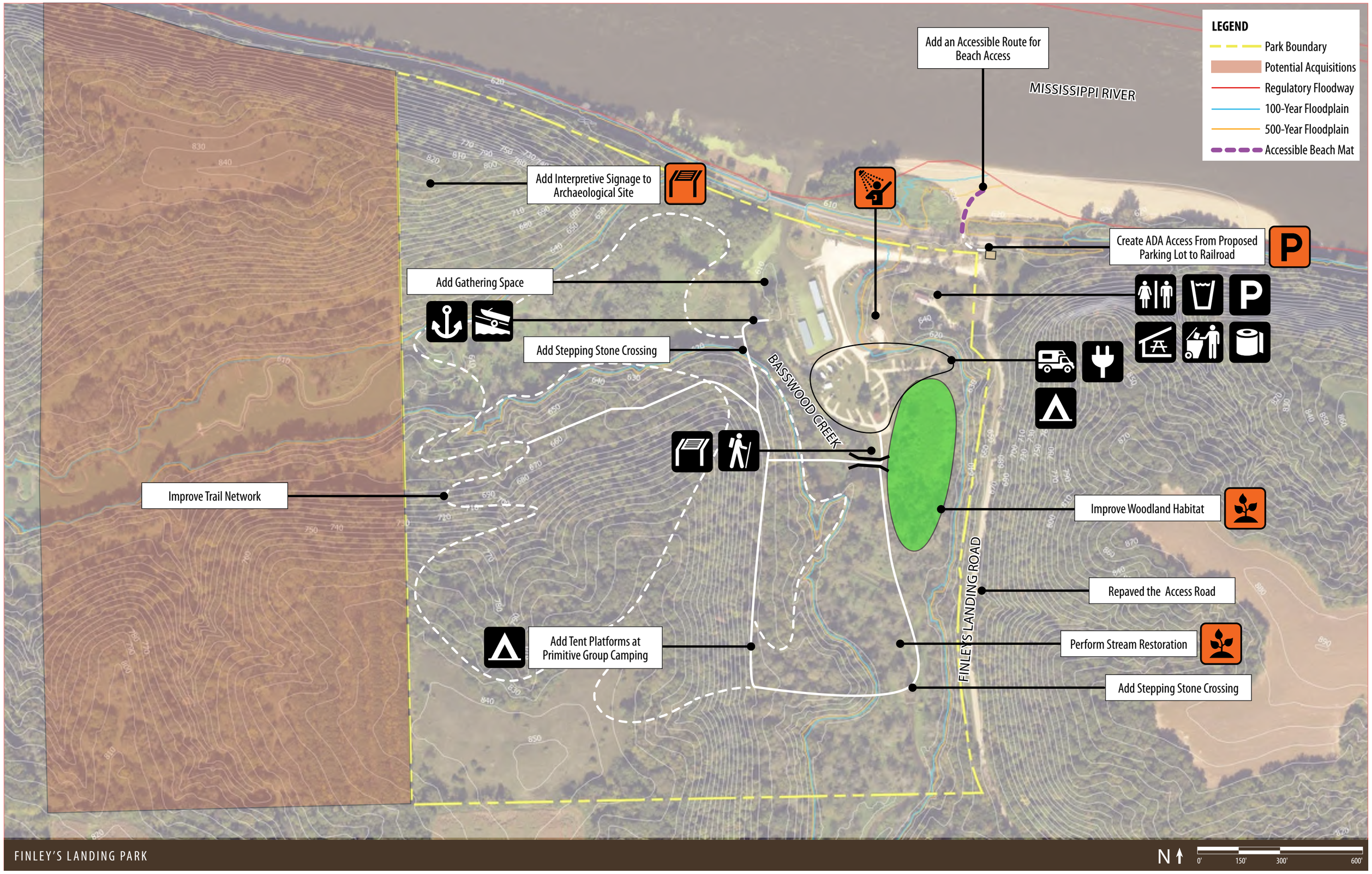
Finley's Landing is a remote park, beach, and marina located on the North end of Dubuque County. Its primary attraction is a large sand bar which offers close-up, immersive views of the Mississippi River. The park also hosts a small marina and boat ramp, making it a popular launching point for boats and fishermen. The campground, equipped with restrooms and electric sites, is an excellent addition for boaters and beachgoers alike, allowing for an extended stay at the isolated park. Additionally, an archaeological site exists at the northwest side of the park, providing opportunity for a future interpretive exhibit.



RECENT PROGRESS:

- Installed new bridge and bridge lighting
- Updated electric lines
- Repaved the roads

Project Description	Project Type	Improvement Category	Prioritization (in years)				Remarks
			0-5	6-10	11+	Total Cost	
Finley's Landing Park			$ 391,500.00	$ 75,000.00	$ 780,000.00	$ 1,246,500.00	
Ecological restoration.	D	HP		$ 60,000.00			Remove invasive species.
Land acquisition - to be determined.	L	LP					To be determined if adjacent landowner is willing to sell. Explore land protection for threatened and endangered species through private and/or public means.
Stabilize primitive trail system.	D	TR	$ 98,000.00				Trail maintenance; add wood chips.
Add primitive trails.	N	TR	$ 196,000.00				
Add ADA route for beach access.	D	TR	$ 19,500.00				Mobi-mat system - two 6.5' x 100' mats, plus staple extractor, plus shipping.
Add ADA parking for sand bar access.	D	PK	$ 18,000.00				
Add tent platforms at the hike-in campsite.	N	PK		$ 15,000.00			
Stream restoration.	D	WQ			$ 180,000.00		
Replace the showerhouse.	D	PK			$ 600,000.00		
Habitat improvements, restoration.	D	HP	$ 60,000.00				Ruffed grouse and woodland habitat.


LEGEND
Park Boundary
Potential Acquisitions
Regulatory Floodway
100-Year Floodplain
500-Year Floodplain
Accessible Beach Mat
Add an Accessible Route for Beach Access
MISSISSIPPI RIVER
Add Interpretive Signage to Archaeological Site
Create ADA Access From Proposed Parking Lot to Railroad
Add Gathering Space
Add Stepping Stone Crossing
BASSWOOD CREEK
Improve Trail Network
Improve Woodland Habitat
FINLEYS LANDING ROAD
Repaved the Access Road
Add Tent Platforms at Primitive Group Camping
Perform Stream Restoration
Add Stepping Stone Crossing
FINLEY'S LANDING PARK
N
0'
150'
300'
600'

GRAF PARK

490 Graf Road |8 acres

Recreation Park

Graf Park is situated along the midpoint of Heritage Trail. The general use park includes a playground, restrooms, rentable pavilion, and open space along the Little Maquoketa River.



Project Description	Project Type	Improvement Category	Prioritization (in years)				Remarks
			0-5	6-10	11+	Total Cost	
Graf Park			$ 600,000.00	$ 5,000.00	$ -	$ 605,000.00	
Enhance fishing access.	D	PK		$ 5,000.00			
Expand access throughout the park by adding trails.	N	TR	$ 20,000.00				
Add a ride/hike-in camping area with tent platforms.	N	PK	$ 15,000.00				
Install public water supply and drinking fountain.	N	PK	$ 250,000.00				Enhance regional appeal of heritage trail.
Install a bike repair station.	N	PK	$ 15,000.00				
Stream restoration.	D	WQ	$ 300,000.00				

LEGEND

- Park Boundary
- Potential Acquisitions
- Regulatory Floodway
- 100-Year Floodplain
- 500-Year Floodplain

Create Ride/Hike-In Camping Area with Tent Platforms

GRAF ROAD

HERITAGE TRAIL

LITTLE MAQUOKETA RIVER

P

GRAF PARK

N

0' 40' 80' 160'

HERITAGE POND & CAMPGROUND

11330 Rupp Hollow Road | 16 acres

Recreation Park

Located north of Dubuque in Sageville, Heritage Pond is the most highly frequented trailhead of the Heritage Trail, with easy access from Dubuque. This is where the Heritage Trail transitions from pavement to crushed limestone, moving from a more urban to a more rural feel. The pond is a popular fishing spot and offers easy waters for kayakers or stand-up paddleboards. The campground and picnic pavilions make extended stays and long rides on the trail a breeze for locals and visitors. As a trailhead, Heritage Pond is a central hub connecting to other parks in this region of the county, including Sageville Marsh, Proving Grounds Recreation Area, John Deere Marsh, and The Little Maquoketa River Mounds.



Project Description	Project Type	Improvement Category	Prioritization (in years)				Remarks
			0-5	6-10	11+	Total Cost	
Heritage Pond & Campground			$ 1,135,000.00	$ 975,000.00	$ -	$ 2,110,000.00	
Plant trees, buffer campground and pond.	N	HP	$ 50,000.00				Overstory and understory trees for campground and highway buffering.
Improve campground, renovate drive lanes, parking areas.	D	PK		$ 750,000.00			Repave/Redo individual sites (gravel or new concrete), add shower house.
Install a nature playground.	N	PK		$ 225,000.00			
Expand and renovate the existing parking lot.	D	PK	$ 455,000.00				
Perform shoreline restoration and erosion control along the south side of the pond.	D	WQ	$ 86,000.00				
Add pedestrian pathway along south and west side of pond.	N	TR	$ 168,000.00				
Evaluate the feasibility of rock climbing at the west side	N	PK		$ -			
Re-route trail around parking area.	N	TR	$ 42,000.00				
Add tent platforms, steps and formalize bike/hike and camping.	N	TR	$ 60,000.00				Camping around the base of the west side bluff, facing Sageville Marsh.
Add parking at tent platform area, remove shelter that is in disrepair.	N	PK	$ 49,000.00				
Create "Gateway to Heritage Trail" & interpretive exhibits.	N	TR	$ 225,000.00				Work with local partner to re-evaluate; create an immersive experience that explores the history of the former railroad.

LEGEND

- Park Boundary
- Potential Acquisitions
- Regulatory Floodway
- 100-Year Floodplain
- 500-Year Floodplain

Expand & Renovate the Parking Lot

Improve the Gateway to the Heritage Trail

Refurbish & Relocate Interpretive Signage Along Heritage Trail

Add Primitive Group Camping & Tent Platforms

Pull back parking area; Remove the Existing Shelter; Add Tent Platform Parking

Renovate & Repave Campsites

Plant Tree Buffer

Plant Tree Buffer

HERITAGE POND

HIGHWAY 52

RUPP HOLLOW ROAD

HERITAGE POND & CAMPGROUND

N

0' 100' 200' 400'

INTERSTATE POWER PRESERVE

7523 Olde Davenport Road | 83 acres

Recreation Park

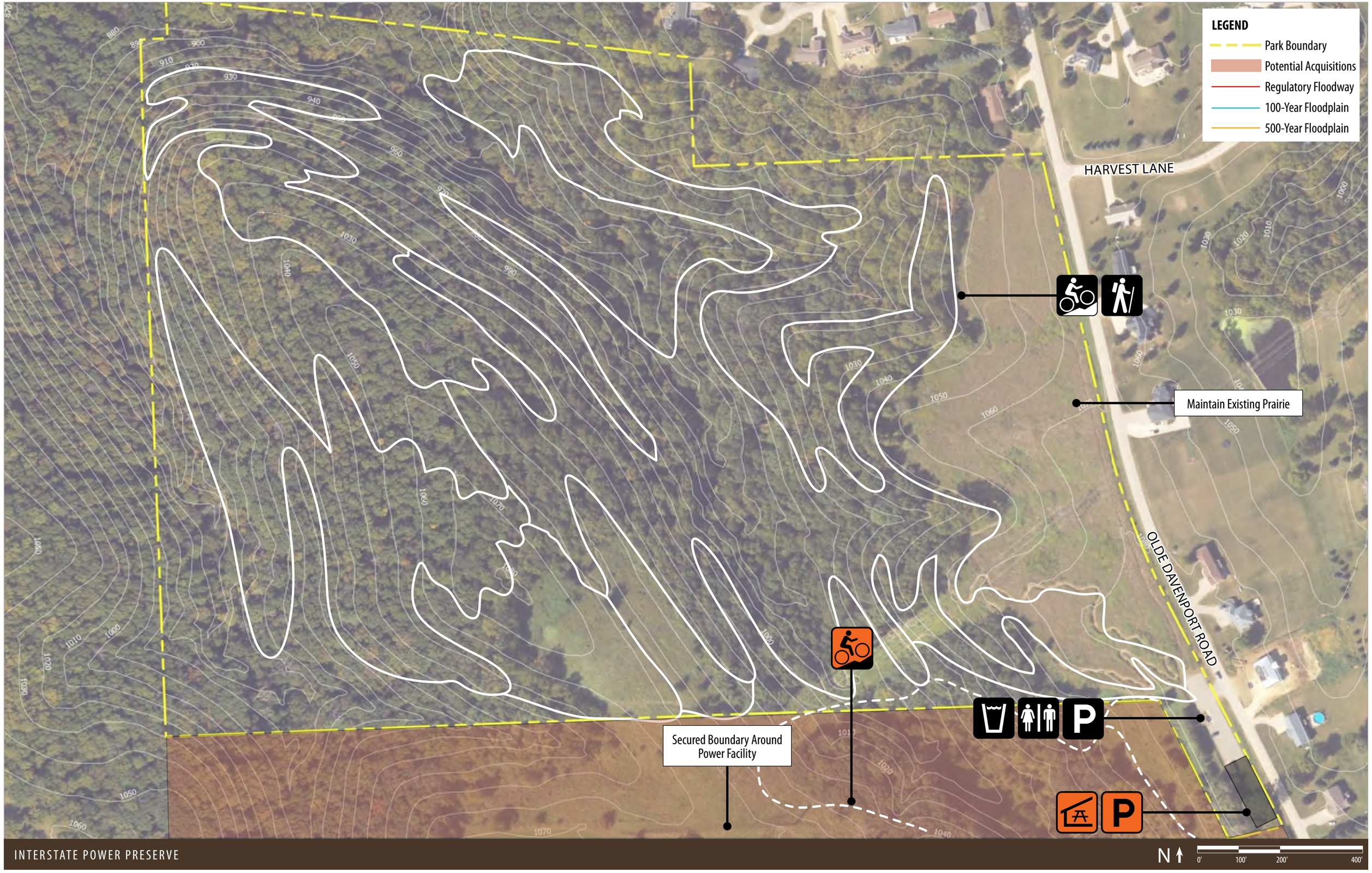
IPC Forest Preserve is in Southeast Dubuque County between Highway 61 and Highway 52. Hiking trails have been used locally since the property was donated by the Interstate Power Company in 1988. More recently, a network of mountain biking trails has been built by the Tri State Mountain Bike Riders and immensely increased use of the park. As a forest preserve, woodland management is a key priority, and installing bat houses would also be a positive improvement at this park. The county also maintains an 8-acre swath of restored prairie here.



RECENT PROGRESS:

- Installed a restroom

Project Description	Project Type	Improvement Category	Prioritization (in years)				Remarks
			0-5	6-10	11+	Total Cost	
Interstate Power Preserve			$ 154,435.26	$ -	$ 530,200.00	$ 684,635.26	
Land acquisition - to be determined.	L	LP					To be determined if adjacent landowner is willing to sell.
Expand parking lot.	N	PK			$ 130,200.00		
Add more mountain bike trails as park expands.	N	TR			$ 320,000.00		
Add shade shelter.	N	PK			$ 80,000.00		
Woodland restoration.	D	HP	$ 120,000.00				Remove invasive species.
Maintain existing prairie.	D	HP	$ 34,435.26				



INTERSTATE POWER PRESERVE

JOHN DEERE MARSH

18714 Riverside Road | 81 acres

Wildlife Area

John Deere Marsh is managed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and assisted by the Dubuque County Conservation board. The marsh attracts many bird and waterfowl species, making it a prime location for birding. Additionally, there is a hiking trail that goes through the area and a gravel boat ramp that allows small watercraft to access the Mississippi River.



Project Description	Project Type	Improvement Category	Prioritization (in years)				Remarks
			0-5	6-10	11+	Total Cost	
John Deere Marsh			$ -	$ 22,000.00	$ -	$ 22,000.00	
Ecological restoration.	D	HP		$ 18,000.00			
Improve water trail access.	D	TR		$ 4,000.00			



JOHN DEERE MARSH

LITTLE MAQUOKETA RIVER MOUNDS

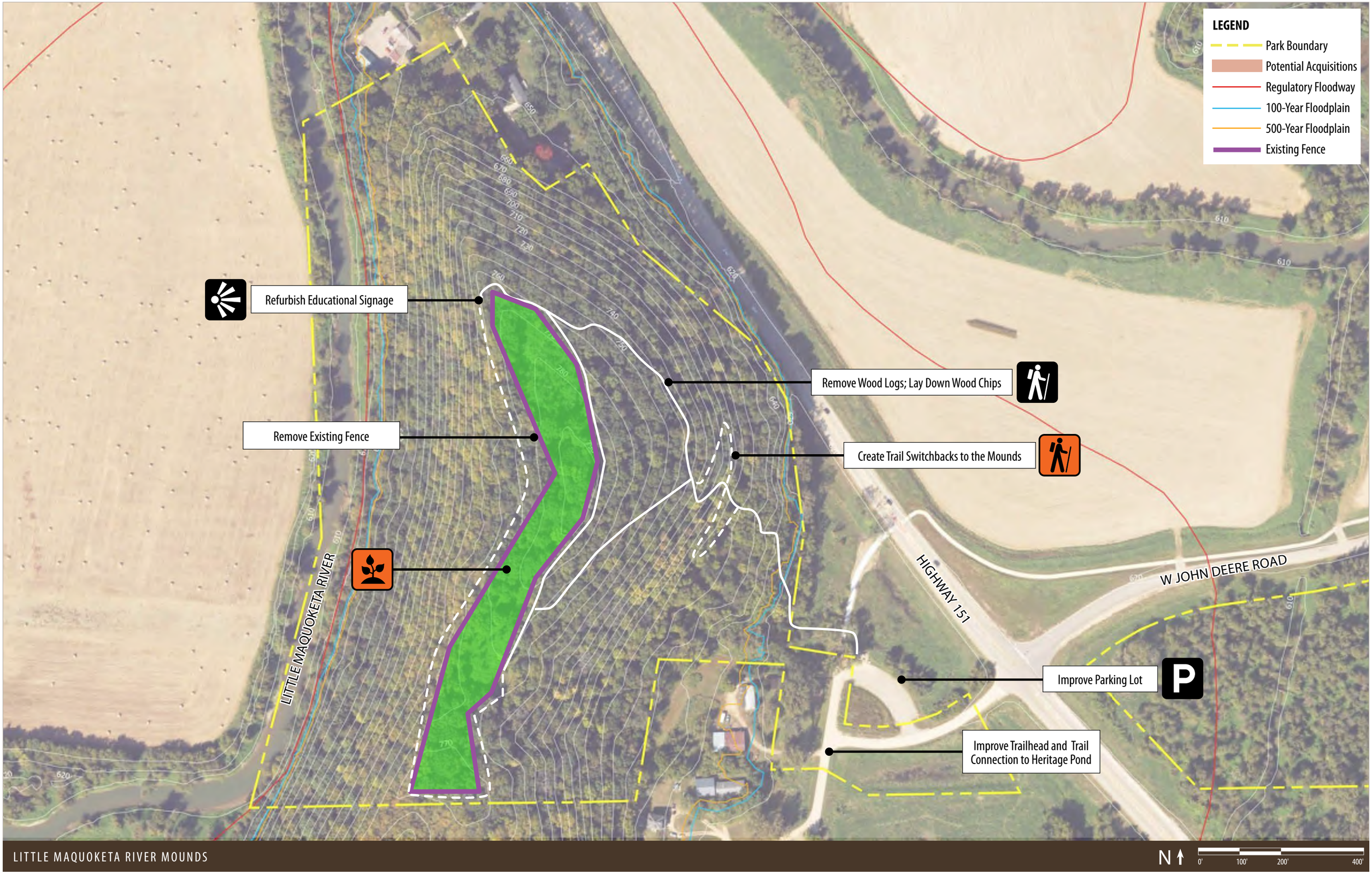
18062 Walking Way | 41 acres

Nature Preserve

Protection of the Little Maquoketa River Mounds represents an effort to preserve and conserve the extraordinarily beautiful lands along the Little Maquoketa River, stretching from Durango to the Mississippi River, and to help connect the Heritage Trail to additional significant historical, cultural, and natural areas.



Project Description	Project Type	Improvement Category	Prioritization (in years)				Remarks
			0-5	6-10	11+	Total Cost	
Little Maquoketa River Mounds			$ 603,000.00	$ 288,000.00	$ -	$ 891,000.00	
Ecological restoration.	D	HP		$ 72,000.00			Anticipate hand removal, spot spray, etc. over mounds; remove invasive species and woody vegetation; put on a cycle of prescribed burning; restore prairie.
Refurbish educational signage about the cultural significance and history of the mounds.	D	PK		$ 4,000.00			
Remove the fencing.	D	PK	$ 87,000.00				
Improve parking lot.	D	PK	$ 66,000.00				
Re-align trail to mounds.	D	TR		$ 28,000.00			Minimize structural / steps to Mounds.
Create a trail loop that goes around the mounds.	N	TR		$ 72,000.00			
Remove the wood timbers along the trail, stabilize grade with wood chips.	D	TR		$ 112,000.00			
Improve the trailhead and connection to Heritage Pond & Trail.	D	TR	$ 450,000.00				



LITTLE MAQUOKETA RIVER MOUNDS

LOCHER RECREATION AREA

116 acres

Recreation Park

Locher Recreation Area is a 117-acre parcel of land that has recently been acquired by Dubuque County Conservation - who was the benefactor of Eastern Iowa Conservation Foundation's efforts, as well as Pheasants Forever and the Department of Natural Resources. The area will become a new park space for the public featuring more nature-based recreation and activities.



Project Description	Project Type	Improvement Category	Prioritization (in years)				Remarks
			0-5	6-10	11+	Total Cost	
Locher Recreation Area			$ 6,684,355.37	$ 280,000.00	$ 395,000.00	$ 7,359,355.37	
Add parking lots.	N	PK	$ 672,000.00				
Add paved access drives.	N	PK	$ 546,000.00				
Establish prairie.	N	HP	$ 42,355.37				
Add a large pavilion with restrooms and fire pits.	N	PK	$ 1,050,000.00				
Add public water supply.	N	PK	$ 225,000.00				
Add a small shelter.	N	PK		$ 80,000.00			
Add riprap fishing nodes/fish habitat.	N	WQ	$ 180,000.00				
Perform shoreline restoration around Locher Lake.	N	WQ	$ 2,100,000.00				
Perform shoreline restoration at the North Fork Maquoketa River.	N	WQ	$ 300,000.00				
Install bird blinds.	N	HP			$ 20,000.00		
Install boardwalk overlook.	N	PK			$ 150,000.00		
Add a pedestrian bridge across the river.	N	PK			$ 225,000.00		
Establish a self-serve kayak rental stand.	N	PK		$ 50,000.00			
Add a boat launch.	N	PK	$ 125,000.00				
Add an ADA-accessible kayak launch.	N	PK	$ 60,000.00				
Add pit toilets near the boat launch.	N	PK	$ 35,000.00				
Add a 10' wide path around Locher Lake.	N	TR	$ 1,120,000.00				
Add a single-track companion trail around lake	N	TR	$ 80,000.00				
Create walking trails to the south of the lake.	N	TR	$ 124,000.00				
Create an additional access drive on the southwest side of the property off HWY 136.	N	PK		$ 150,000.00			
Evaluate and Study alternative routes, future trail connection to Cascade.	N	TR	$ 25,000.00				

LEGEND

- Park Boundary
- Regulatory Floodway
- 100-Year Floodplain
- 500-Year Floodplain

Self-Serve Kayak Rental

MACOMBER ROAD

Establish Prairie

LOCHER LAKE

Install Bird Blinds

Add Additional Access Drive

HIGHWAY 136

Add Trail Connection to Cascade

LOCHER RECREATION AREA

N

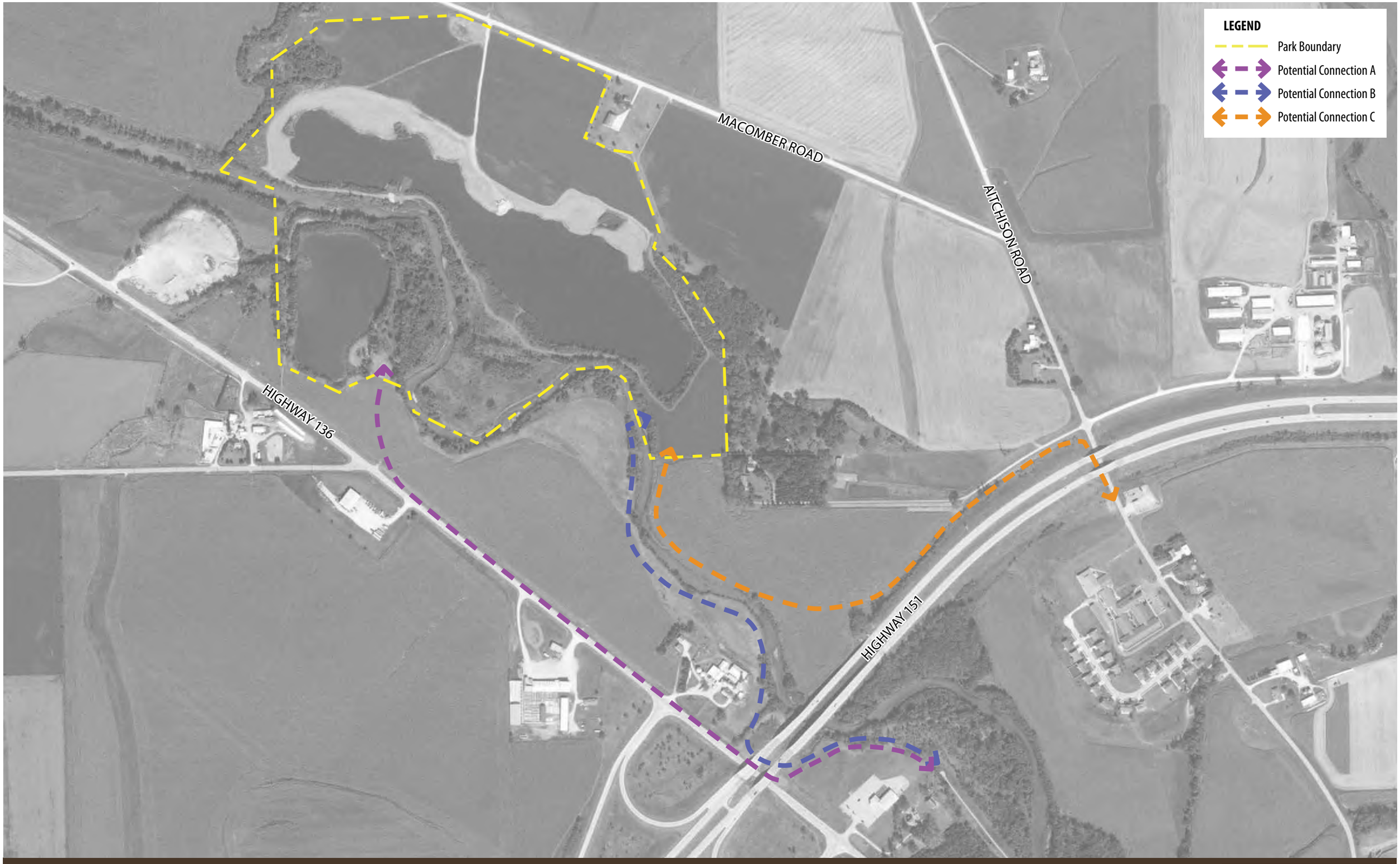
0' 50' 100' 200'

LOCHER RECREATION AREA

116 acres

Recreation Park

Several potential trail routes to connect to Cascade are presented on the following page. Specifically, a trail that connects to the Cascade Riverfront Trail would create a connection into town. As the park is developed, a more thorough feasibility study to evaluate a connection should be completed to understand the potential costs, strengths, and weaknesses of each route.



LOCHER RECREATION AREA TRAIL CONNECTION TO CASCADE

MASSEY MARINA

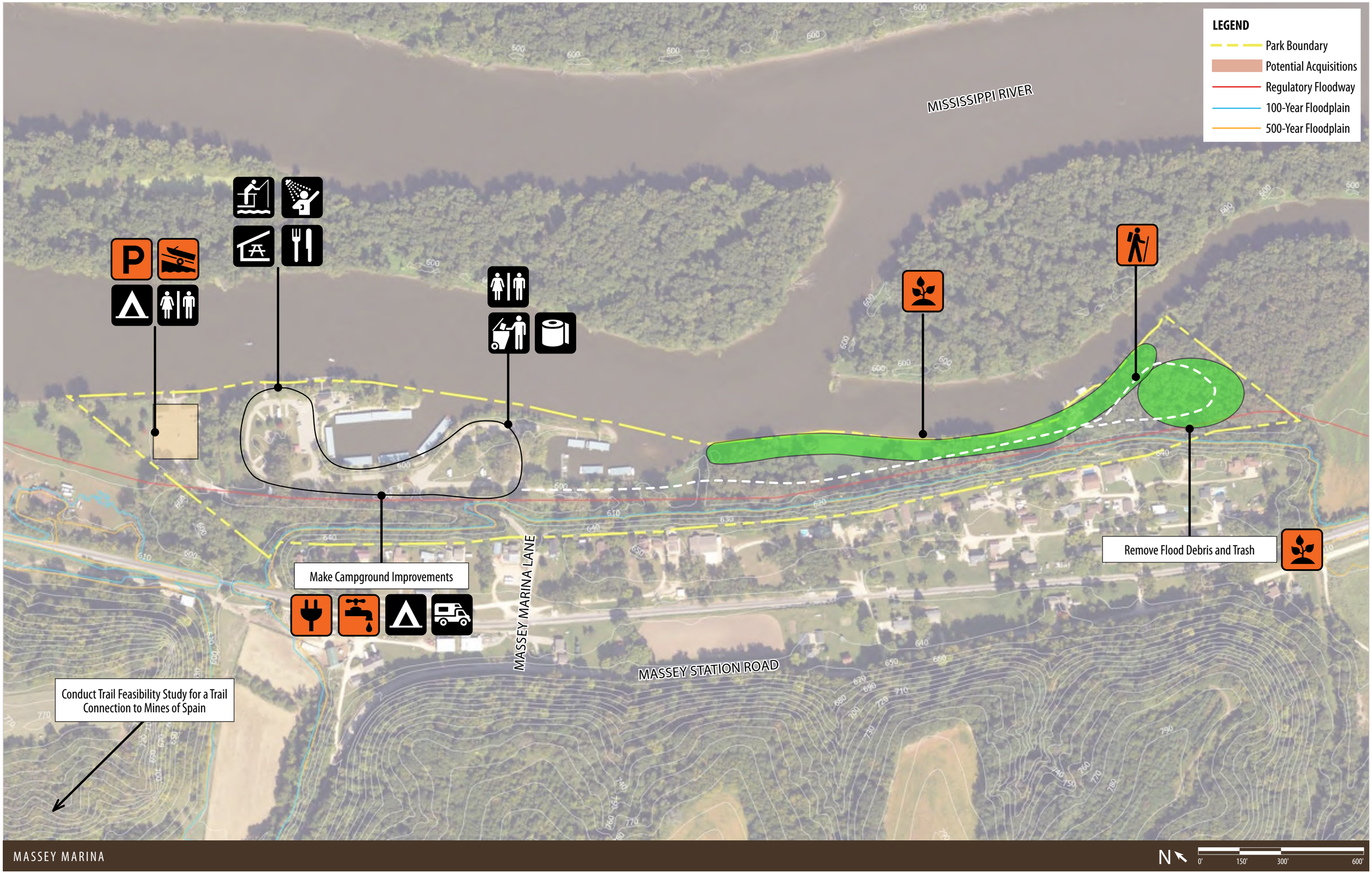
9526 Massey Station Road | 36 acres

Marina

Massey Marina is a riverfront park on the eastern edge of Dubuque County. The park is primarily used as a marina and has many amenities for boats including two harbors and a gas dock. The expansive campground makes it easy for tent and RV campers to spend a night on the river. Fishing accommodations include piers and a fish cleaning station. A concession stand and shelter make Massey Marina the ideal spot for a picnic on the river.



Project Description	Project Type	Improvement Category	Prioritization (in years)				Remarks
			0-5	6-10	11+	Total Cost	
Massey Marina			$ 292,330.58	$ 62,000.00	$ 264,000.00	$ 618,330.58	
Stream restoration.	D	WQ	$ 102,000.00				
Conduct trail feasibility study to link Massey Marina to Mines of Spain.	N	TR	$ 25,000.00				Conduct a study with State of Iowa to create a trail connection to Mines of Spain.
Install more inland trails at bottomland hardwood forest.	N	TR		$ 62,000.00			
Campground improvements.	D	PK	$ 155,000.00				Paving, upgrade electrical service, fix water lines, add tent platforms, reconfigure the dumpstation.
New parking lot and boat ramp.	D	PK			$ 264,000.00		
Land acquisition - to be determined.	L	LP					To be determined if adjacent landowner is willing to sell.
Woodland restoration.	D	HP	$ 10,330.58				At the bottomland hardwood site.



MASSEY MARINA

MCCARTHY WILDLIFE AREA

100 acres

Wildlife Area

This wildlife area is open to public hunting during state hunting seasons. The area was a former crop field and was recently planted with native prairie. Additionally, there is a shelter belt to prevent wind erosion. Future goals include planting trees and establishing wetlands.



Project Description	Project Type	Improve-ment Category	Prioritization (in years)				Remarks
			0-5	6-10	11+	Total Cost	
McCarthy Wildlife Area			$ 25,000.00	$ 160,000.00	$ -	$ 185,000.00	
Wetland design & permitting.	N	WQ	$ 25,000.00				
Wetland development.	N	WQ		$ 160,000.00			



MCCARTHY WILDLIFE AREA

MILLER MCGRATH WILDLIFE AREA

20909 Millville Road | 93 acres

Wildlife Area

This wildlife area is adjacent to the Heritage Trail and is comprised of prairies and wooded ravines. The pond is stocked with game fish and provides good opportunities for anglers. Additionally, the area is open to public hunting during designated hunting seasons.



RECENT PROGRESS:

- Installed an ADA-accessible path to the cabin

Project Description	Project Type	Improvement Category	Prioritization (in years)				Remarks
			0-5	6-10	11+	Total Cost	
Miller McGrath Wildlife Area			$ 925,000.00	$ 133,200.00	$ -	$ 1,058,200.00	
Land acquisition - to be determined.	L	LP					To be determined if adjacent landowner is willing to sell.
Develop trails throughout the park.	N	TR		$ 83,200.00			
Evaluate feasibility for more cabins.	N	PK	$ 10,000.00				
Evaluate trail connections to Heritage trail.	N	TR	$ 10,000.00				
Evaluate feasibility of adding public water supply.	N	PK	$ 5,000.00				
Add additional cabins.	N	PK	$ 900,000.00				
Forest restoration.	D	HP		$ 20,000.00			
Prairie restoration.	D	HP		$ 30,000.00			

Forest Restoration

Dubuque County Law Enforcement Shooting Range

GIRL SCOUT ROAD

Evaluate Feasibility for More Cabins & Public Water Supply

Prairie Restoration

MILLVILLE ROAD

Evaluate Connections to Heritage Trail

HERITAGE TRAIL

LEGEND

- Park Boundary
- Potential Acquisitions
- Regulatory Floodway
- 100-Year Floodplain
- 500-Year Floodplain

MILLER MCGRATH WILDLIFE AREA

N

0' 150' 300' 600'

MUD LAKE PARK

22312 Golf Lake Road | 30 acres

Marina

Mud Lake Park is a popular riverside campground and marina in northwest Dubuque County, with grand views of the Mississippi. Several shelters and a playground make it a wonderful location to picnic and camp right next to the river. Boat ramps and fishing piers also offer opportunities for anglers. The View Bar & Grill, located within the park, helps make the marina a lively destination during the boating season, and the parking lot and boat slips are often full of RV campers and leisure boats. A long dike paralleling the Mississippi River holds back Mud Lake, the park's namesake, which becomes a popular destination for ice fishing in the winter.



Project Description	Project Type	Improvement Category	Prioritization (in years)				Remarks
			0-5	6-10	11+	Total Cost	
Mud Lake Park			$ -	$ 699,000.00	$ -	$ 699,000.00	
Replace the old tower.	D	PK		$ 325,000.00			
Convert the former park ranger house into a rentable cabin.	D	PK		$ 300,000.00			
Dredge at fishing access pier to remove sediment.	D	WQ		$ 50,000.00			
Add a parking lot at Playground.	N	PK		$ 24,000.00			

MISSISSIPPI RIVER

Dredge to Remove Sediment

Replace the Old Tower

GOLF LAKE ROAD

MUD LAKE ROAD

Convert Former Ranger House to Cabin

LEGEND

- Park Boundary
- Potential Acquisitions
- Regulatory Floodway
- 100-Year Floodplain
- 500-Year Floodplain

MUD LAKE PARK

N

0' 100' 200' 400'

NEW WINE PARK

15971 New Wine Park Lane | 170 acres

Recreation Park

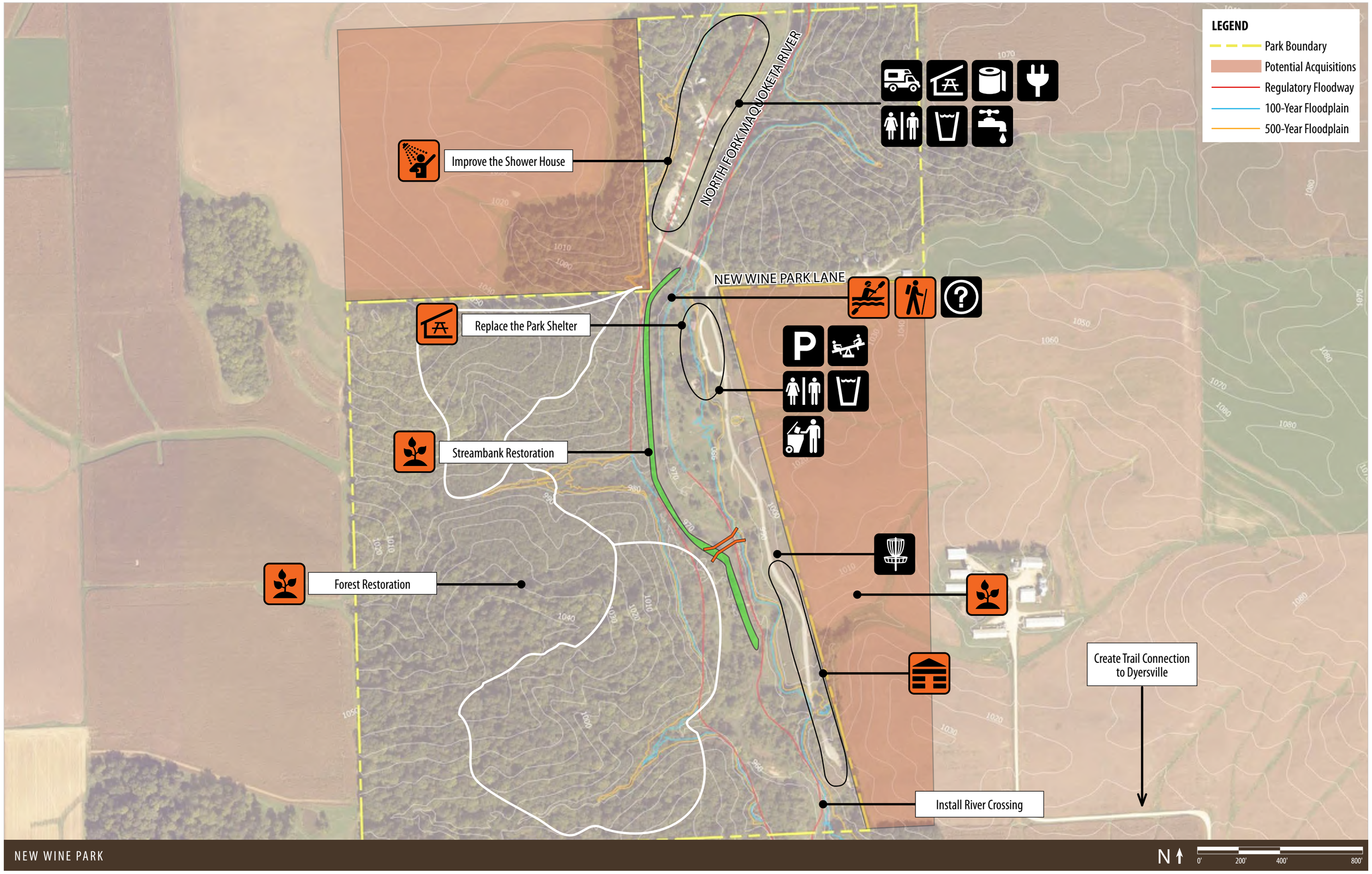
Just North of Dyersville on the Western end of the county is New Wine Park. This park has a diverse program that attracts campers, picnickers, hikers and more. An expansive mown lawn area with several shelters and playgrounds provides plenty of room for family picnics. A network of trails guides hikers over the North Fork Little Maquoketa River and up into the dense, wooded slopes. The large campground is fully equipped with restrooms, showers and RV hookups. Disc golfers also frequent the course located at the park.



RECENT PROGRESS:

- Installed additional campsites
- New road paving is underway
- Added an ADA-accessible pavilion

Project Description	Project Type	Improvement Category	Prioritization (in years)				Remarks
			0-5	6-10	11+	Total Cost	
New Wine Park			$ 1,332,000.00	$ 2,580,000.00	$ -	$ 3,912,000.00	
Evaluate a trail connection into Dyersville and Field of Dreams.	N	TR	$ 100,000.00				Planning only.
Install a bridge.	N	PK		$ 225,000.00			
Develop water trails and hiking trailhead.	N	TR	$ 10,000.00				
Install a river crossing.	N	TR		$ 25,000.00			
Replace turf with native ground cover.	N	HP	$ 2,000.00				
Replace the shelter.	D	PK	$ 80,000.00				
Install cabins.	N	PK		$ 2,250,000.00			
Land acquisition - to be determined.	L	LP					To be determined if adjacent landowner is willing to sell.
Improve the shower house.	D	PK	$ 600,000.00				
Forest restoration.	D	HP		$ 80,000.00			
Stream restoration.	D	WQ	$ 540,000.00				



NEW WINE PARK

POHLMAN PRAIRIE PRESERVE

13 acres

Nature Preserve

Pohlman Prairie Preserve contains native prairie remnants, bottomland forest, and it overlooks the Little Maquoketa River Valley. Additionally, there is a ½ mile trail that leads to the top of the limestone bluffs. Hunting is prohibited at the preserve.



Project Description	Project Type	Improvement Category	Prioritization (in years)				Remarks
			0-5	6-10	11+	Total Cost	
Pohlman Prairie Preserve			$ 15,000.00	$ -	$ -	$ 15,000.00	
Improve trail access into prairie.	N	TR	$ 15,000.00				Widen or improve the surface of the
Land acquisition - to be determined.	L	LP					To be determined if adjacent landowner is willing to sell.



POHLMAN PRAIRIE PRESERVE

PROVING GROUNDS

10616 West John Deere Road | 145 acres

Recreation Park

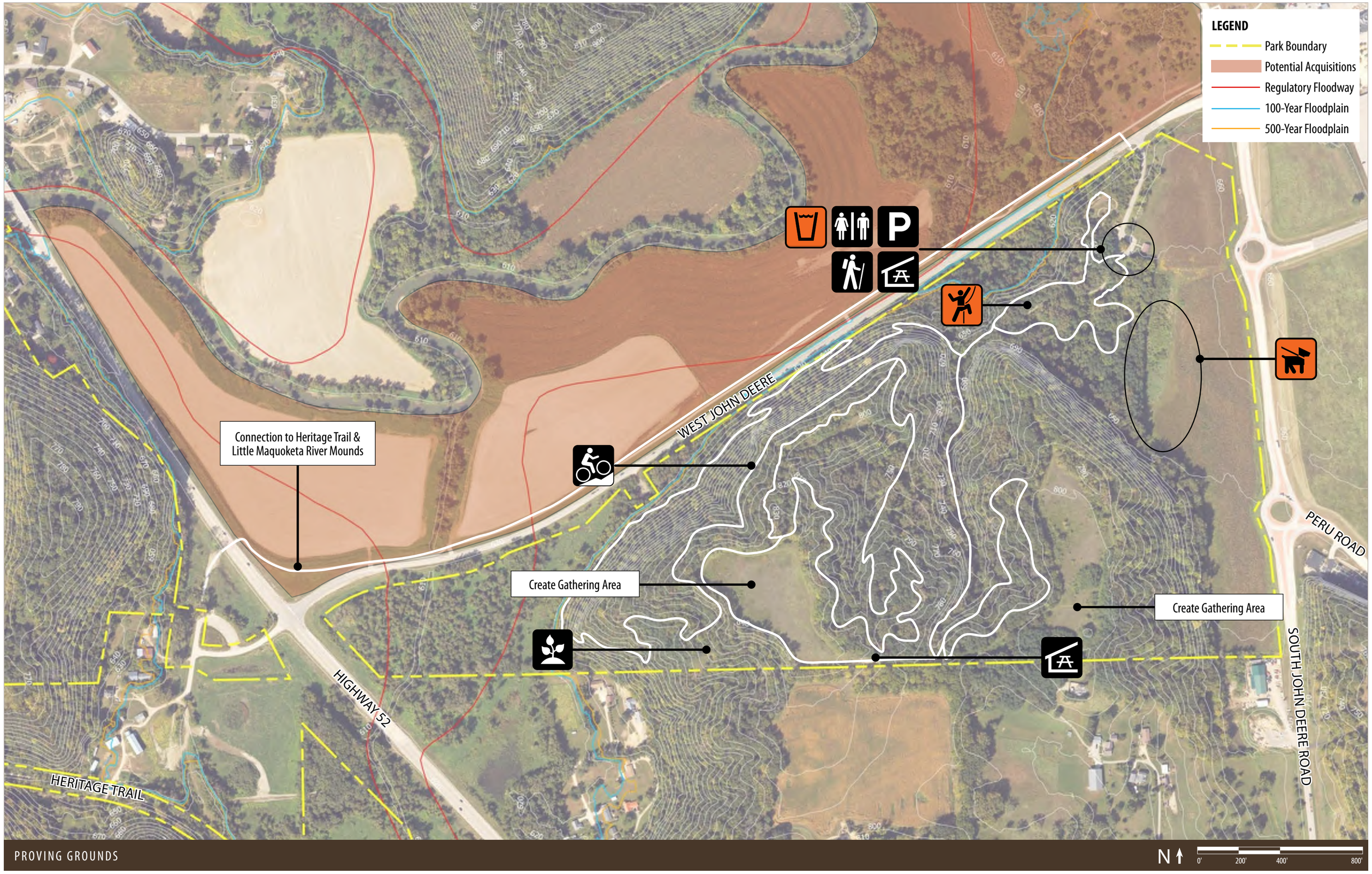
The Proving Grounds is located North of Dubuque between Heritage Pond and John Deere Marsh. Trails take park goers from the lowland prairies up the wooded slopes to a restored upland prairie where walking trails guide hikers across the ridge of the bluff. Single track trails built by the Tri-state Mountain Bike Riders have made this park a popular destination for mountain bikers. Established on land donated by John Deere corporation, the 140-acre Proving Grounds area will eventually be a contributor to the Little Maquoketa Greenway.



RECENT PROGRESS:

- Installed a new park shelter
- Performed prairie restoration
- Created mountain biking trails
- Added connection to Heritage Trail via West John Deere Road

Project Description	Project Type	Improvement Category	Prioritization (in years) 0-5	6-10	11+	Total Cost	Remarks
Proving Grounds			$ 110,000.00	$ 75,000.00	$ 200,000.00	$ 385,000.00	
Add public water supply.	N	PK			$ 200,000.00		
Create a dog park.	N	PK	$ 50,000.00				
Create gathering areas on the hilltops.	N	PK	$ 60,000.00				
Evaluate the feasibility of rock climbing.	N	PK	$ -				
Ecological restoration.	D	HP		$ 75,000.00			


LEGEND
Park Boundary
Potential Acquisitions
Regulatory Floodway
100-Year Floodplain
500-Year Floodplain
Connection to Heritage Trail & Little Maquoketa River Mounds
Create Gathering Area
Create Gathering Area
WEST JOHN DEERE
PERU ROAD
SOUTH JOHN DEERE ROAD
HIGHWAY 52
HERITAGE TRAIL
PROVING GROUNDS
N
0'
200'
400'
800'

RINGNECK RIDGE WILDLIFE AREA

158 acres

Wildlife Area

This wildlife area contains vast restored prairie. The pond on the south side of the area offers fishing access, and it attracts waterfowl. The area is open to public hunting during designated hunting season.



Project Description	Project Type	Improvement Category	Prioritization (in years)				Remarks
			0-5	6-10	11+	Total Cost	
Ringneck Ridge Wildlife Area			$ -	$ 60,000.00	$ -	$ 60,000.00	
Ecological restoration.	D	HP		$ 60,000.00			



RINGNECK RIDGE WILDLIFE AREA

N

SWISS VALLEY PARK/ CAMPGROUNDS

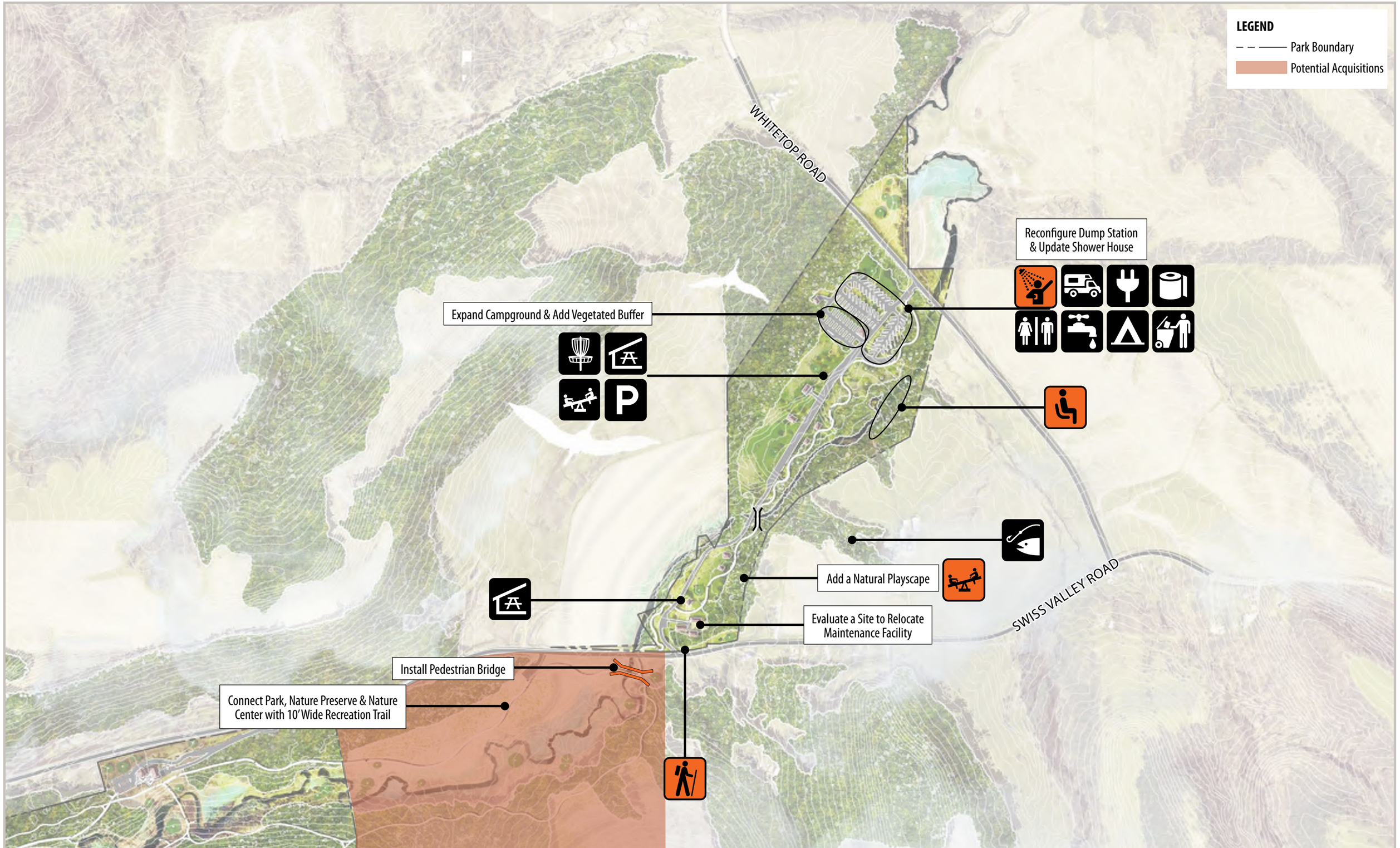
13069 Swiss Valley Road | 66 acres

Recreation Park



Most Dubuque area people know Swiss Valley. In fact, the Swiss Valley complex is often the one place residents think of when considering Dubuque County Conservation. It is in many ways the gateway to the county's park system: people often come first as one of the 2,000 school children who visit annually on field trips. Swiss Valley includes miles of hiking trails and includes one of top five destination trout fisheries in Iowa. Swiss Valley Park is located just down the road from Swiss Valley Nature Center and Preserve. While the Preserve focuses on conservation, Swiss Valley Park provides more opportunity for recreation. Across the park there are several shelters, picnic areas, playgrounds, and plenty of flexible lawn space. Disc golfers often come to play the nine-hole course on site. The north side of the park has a sizeable, highly popular campground.

Project Description	**Project Type**	**Improve-ment Category**	**Prioritization (in years)**				**Remarks**
			0-5	**6-10**	**11+**	**Total Cost**	
Swiss Valley Park/Campgrounds			$ 2,450,000.00	$ 1,050,000.00	$ 1,300,000.00	$ 4,800,000.00	
Land acquisition - to be determined.	L	LP					To be determined if adjacent landowner is willing to sell.
Add a 10' wide recreation trail connecting the park, nature preserve, and nature center.	N	TR			$ 960,000.00		
Add a natural playscape.	N	PK	$ 350,000.00				
Add benches.	N	PK			$ 15,000.00		
Update the shower house.	D	PK	$ 1,200,000.00				
Add landscape and buffering around campground.	N	HP		$ 50,000.00			
Campground expansion.	N	PK	$ 800,000.00				
Reconfigure the dump station.	D	PK	$ 100,000.00				Relocate to accommodate expansion and improved turning radius.
Install an underpass for connecting recreation trail.	N	TR		$ 1,000,000.00			
Replace / Install pedestrian bridge.	N	PK			$ 325,000.00		



SWISS VALLEY PARK/CAMPGROUNDS

SWISS VALLEY NATURE PRESERVE

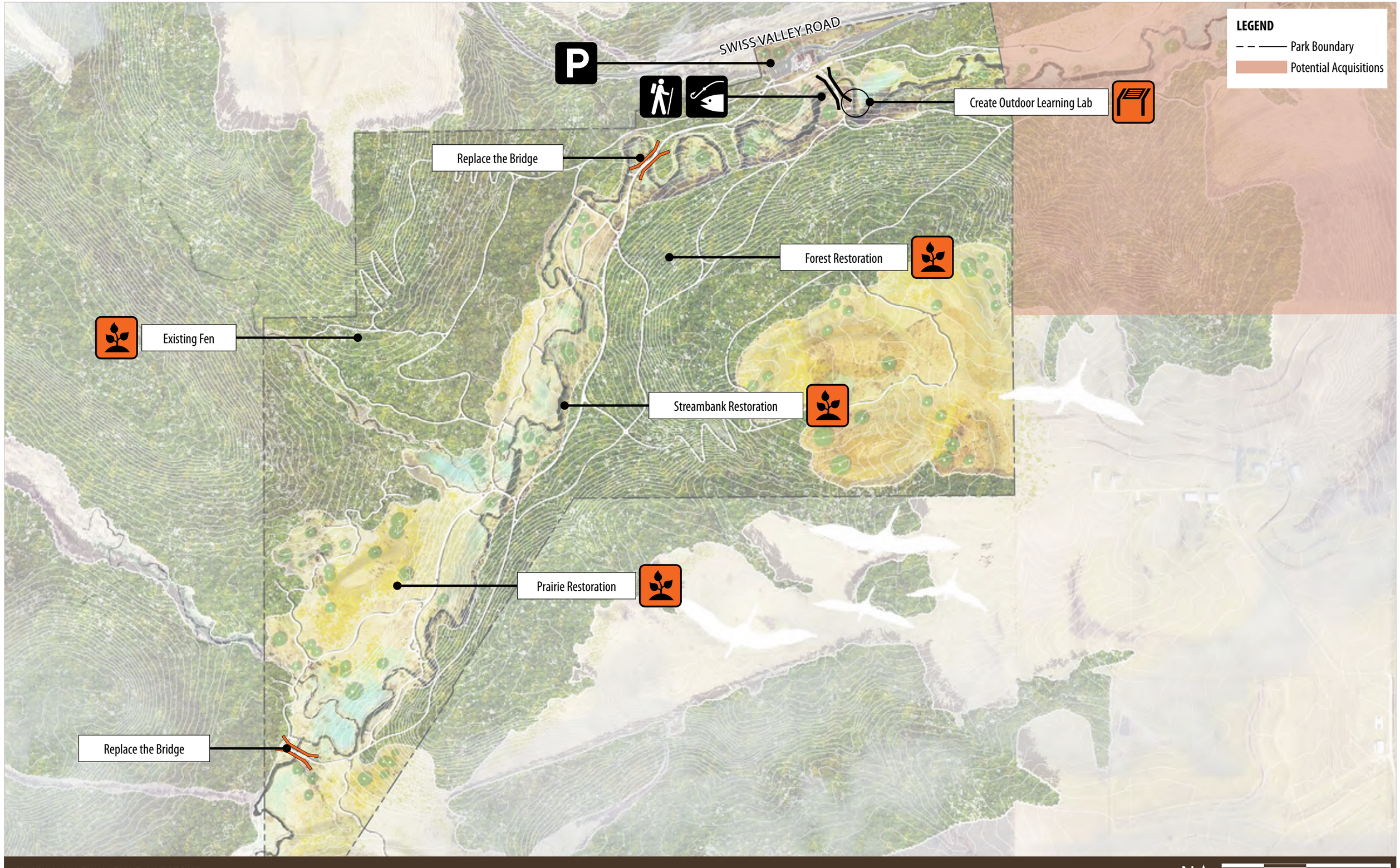
13606 Swiss Valley Road | 418 acres

Nature Preserve

Swiss Valley Nature Preserve is Dubuque County Conservation's premiere attraction and the front door to the county park system. Its 10 miles of hiking trails provide endless entertainment for the hikers who frequent the park. Trails are groomed for cross country skis in the winter to provide year-round appeal. The spring fed Catfish Creek which runs through the preserve is a favorite spot for trout fishing and is regularly stocked. To improve the park system, this plan proposes to link the preserve with Swiss Valley Park, a half mile down the road, with an accessible paved trail. This link will make the resources in both parks easier to access and help promote the idea of a unified park system. Additional improvements in the preserve include addressing parking issues, replacing bridges to minimize flood washouts, and offering opportunities for backcountry hike-in camping.



Project Description	Project Type	Improvement Category	Prioritization (in years)				Remarks
			0-5	6-10	11+	Total Cost	
Swiss Valley Nature Preserve			$ 450,000.00	$ 735,000.00	$ -	$ 1,185,000.00	
Streambank restoration.	D	HP		$ 550,000.00			Remove invasive species.
Prairie restoration.	D	HP		$ 60,000.00			
Forest restoration.	D	HP		$ 100,000.00			
Create outdoor learning lab.	N	PK		$ 25,000.00			
Replace pedestrian bridges in the preserve.	D	TR	$ 450,000.00				



SWISS VALLEY NATURE PRESERVE

WHITEWATER CANYON

29912 9th Avenue | 557 acres

Wildlife Area

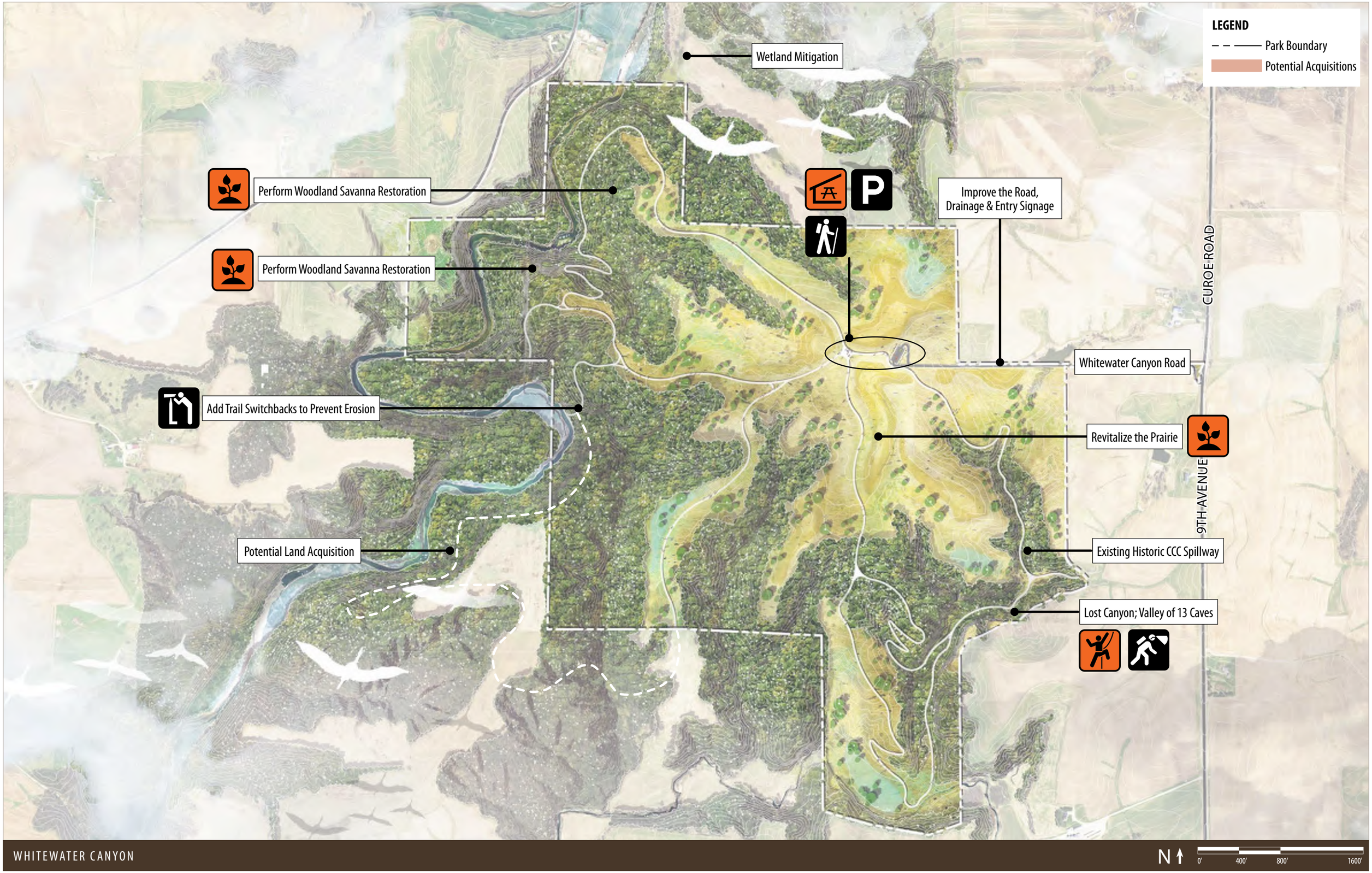
Whitewater Canyon is at the convergence of Dubuque, Jackson, and Jones Counties and home to some of the grandest views in the region. It is one of three true canyons in the state of Iowa. Hiking trails guide park goers through the upland prairie, onto the wooded slopes, and down into the canyon where one can find a historic Civilian Conservation Corps dam, unique landforms, several caves, and Whitewater Creek which carves through the base of the valley. Most of the park is undeveloped and will stay that way – it remains one of the last great escapes from civilization in Dubuque County. Currently it is a popular spot for hunting, fishing, and wildlife observation.



RECENT PROGRESS:

- Installed a restroom
- Developed a new forestry management plan

Project Description	Project Type	Improvement Category	Prioritization (in years)				Remarks
			0-5	6-10	11+	Total Cost	
Whitewater Canyon			$ 122,000.00	$ 320,000.00	$ -	$ 442,000.00	
Prairie restoration.	D	HP		$ 60,000.00			
Woodland restoration.	D	HP		$ 240,000.00			Remove invasive species.
Improve the road and entry signage.	D	PK		$ 20,000.00			
Add rock climbing access.	N	PK		$ -			
Land acquisition - to be determined.	N	LP					To be determined if adjacent landowner is willing to sell.
Perform trail maintenance.	D	TR	$ 60,000.00				repair / reroute trails in erodible areas.
Fix the drainage at the entry road to prevent washing out.	D	WQ	$ 50,000.00				
Add switchbacks to the trail system to overlook (reduce trail maintenance, erosion).	D	TR	$ 12,000.00				



WHITEWATER CANYON

PROPOSED BUDGET

BUDGET PROCESS

Several factors drove the budget and prioritization process. These included:

- **Public Input:** Feedback from both the public input survey and community open houses offered insight into what community members want and value most in the park system. Additionally, it identified need gaps and opportunities for new amenities.
- **Visitation Analysis:** The analysis using Placer.ai helped to determine which parks have high visitation and therefore might warrant more investment in amenities and routine maintenance.
- **State of Repair:** Park visits and conversations with the Conservation Board gave insight into current park conditions and provided an understanding of necessary maintenance and amenity lifecycles.
- **Sequence:** Certain improvement recommendations, especially those that are larger and more costly, were separated into phases. This helps to make large projects more manageable and realistic to undertake, doing so in a way that makes chronological sense for a park's development.

INVESTMENT BY PARK CLASSIFICATION

The majority of infrastructure and capital expenditures occur at properties classified as Recreation Parks, Regional Trails, and Marinas. More expensive recommendations include campground improvements, nature center renovations, trail improvements, and new cabins. Additionally, county wide improvements were allocated a large portion of the budget to encompass items like short-, medium-, and long-term land acquisition, new cabins, and a new maintenance facility.

INVESTMENT BY PROJECT TYPE

Improvement recommendations were also identified as either a New Improvement (N), a Deferred Maintenance/Code Compliance Improvement (D), or a Park and Preserve Land Acquisition (L) improvement. This resulted in a relatively even split between New and Deferred Improvements (both totaled 42%) and 16% of costs designated to Park and Preserve Land Acquisition.

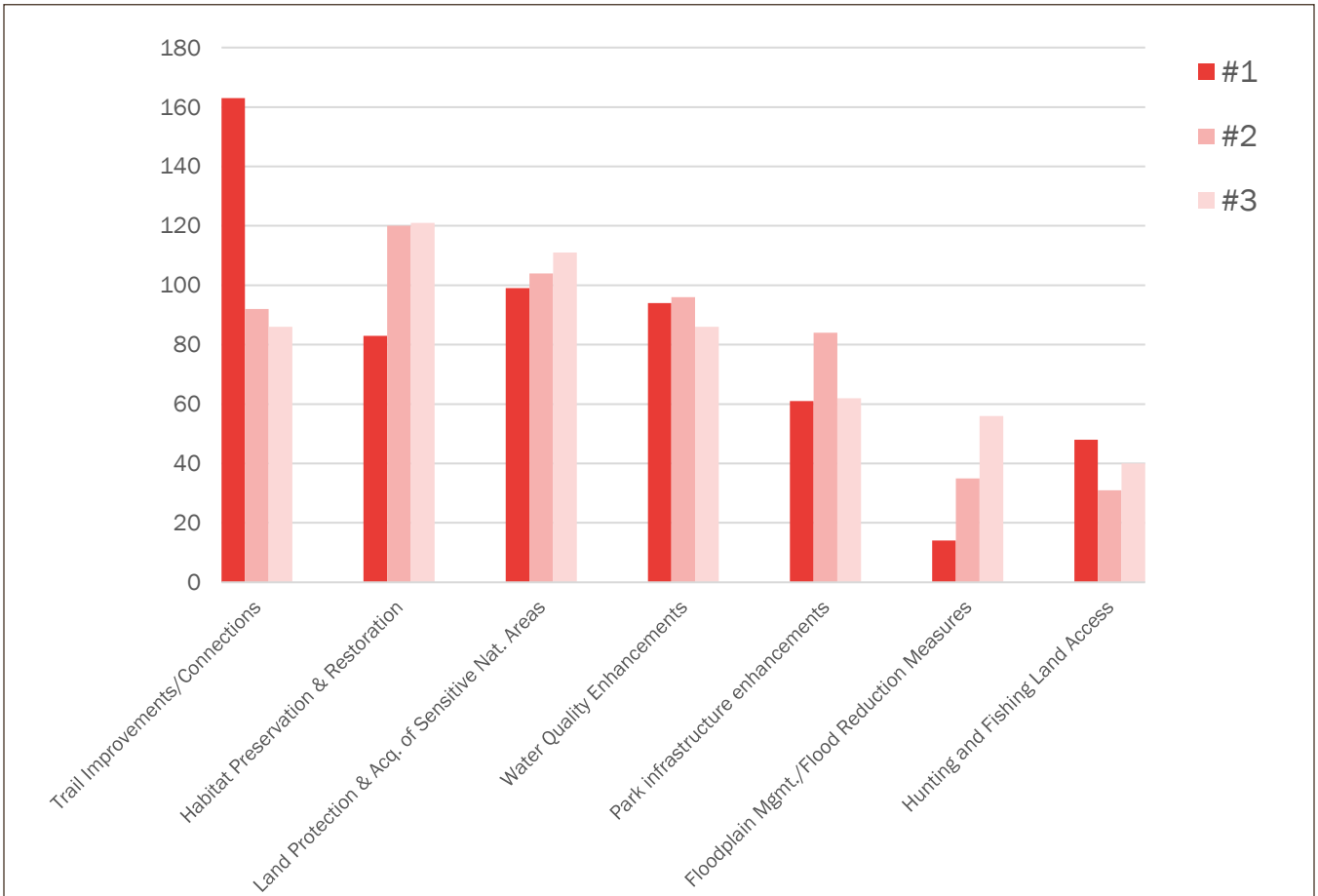


FIGURE 4: SURVEY QUESTION 4 - WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR THE FUTURE? PLEASE RANK THE FOLLOWING FROM 1-7 (MOST TO LEAST IMPORTANT).

INVESTMENT BY IMPROVEMENT CATEGORY

The budget priorities generally align well with the public's priorities as confirmed in the 2026 and 2020 surveys. The survey asked respondents to rank their priorities for the future. Figure 4 above shows the results of the survey in 2026, revealing the top three priorities to be Trail Improvements/Connections, Habitat Preservation & Restoration, and Land Protection & Acquisition of Sensitive Natural Areas.

Each improvement was categorized based on which priority it responds to as a way to generally understand how public input corresponds with the budget*. However, these categories does not factor in that different categories will inherently differ in cost. For example, Park Infrastructure Enhancements received the largest portion of funding, but ranked lower in the public input. This is because improvements within this category generally are more costly than improvements within some of the other categories. Additionally, the

**Some budget categories were consolidated for clarity. Floodplain Management/Flood Reduction Measures was combined with Water Quality Enhancements, and Hunting and Fishing Land Access was combined with Land Protection & Acquisition of Sensitive Natural Areas.*

categories do not factor in that opportunities for certain improvements will differ across the park system. For example, there is less opportunity for Water Quality Enhancements across the park system than there is for Trail Improvements. Given this, the budget priorities overall align with the public's priorities.

See corresponding figures on pgs. 77-79.

Project Description	Project Type	Improvement Category	Prioritization (in years) 0-5	6-10	11+	Total Cost	Remarks
Balltown Overlook			$ 25,000.00	$ 213,640.00	$ 25,000.00	$ 263,640.00	
Complete engineering analysis to determine feasibility for creating accessible route from pulloff to overlook and barrier separation from road.	D	PK	$ 25,000.00				Evaluate roadway changes to accommodate vertical separation and sidewalk.
Replace barrier railings.	D	PK		$ 75,000.00			
Create an accessible route from the vehicular pulloff to the overlook	D	TR		$ 38,640.00			
Create a pedestrian-vehicular barrier wall.	D	PK		$ 100,000.00			
Evaluate the feasibility of creating interpretive exhibits about the Driftless Region.	N	PK			$ 25,000.00		Interpretive area, shade trellises, and sunken outdoor classroom.
Bankston Park			$ 651,556.47	$ 60,000.00	$ 888,000.00	$ 1,599,556.47	
Install a pedestrian bridge.	N	PK	$ 225,000.00				Pre-engineered steel bridge over stream.
Add a new shower house.	N	PK			$ 600,000.00		
Add primitive group camping area and crushed stone on the East end of the park.	N	PK	$ 75,000.00				
Improve existing primitive campground.	D	PK			$ 288,000.00		Add gravel drives, formalize the camping area.
Land acquisition - to be determined.	L	LP					To be determined if adjacent landowner is willing to sell.
Forest restoration.	D	HP	$ 44,077.13				
Retire picnic area; maintain access to pump pit.	D	PK	$ 5,000.00				
Establish oak savanna interior to primitive camping area.	D	HP	$ 2,479.34				Shade and reduce mowing at campsite.
Connect trail system.	N	TR		$ 60,000.00			
Stream stabilization, fishing improvements.	D	WQ	$ 300,000.00				
Bowstring Wildlife Area			$ 458,402.20	$ 100,000.00	$ -	$ 558,402.20	
Install primitive toilet.	N	PK		$ 35,000.00			
Add a small shelter.	N	PK		$ 50,000.00			
Improve kayak launch site.	D	PK		$ 15,000.00			
Restore historic bridge for pedestrian access.	D	TR	$ 225,000.00				Evaluation underway at time of
Remove trash from the park.	D	PK	$ 75,000.00				
Ecological Restoration.	D	HP	$ 158,402.20				
Fillmore Recreation Area			$ 225,000.00	$ 1,862,220.39	$ 350,000.00	$ 2,437,220.39	
Expand and make campground improvements.	D	PK			$ 350,000.00		Upgrade electrical service, water, add restroom and shower house.
Ecological restoration.	D	HP		$ 90,220.39			Woodland/stream bank on bluff west of the golf course; hand-work only.
Pave gravel drive and pads within campground.	D	PK		$ 192,000.00			
Install kayak access point and create water trails.	N	TR	$ 25,000.00				
Install a new roof for the clubhouse.	D	PK		$ 80,000.00			Evaluate replacing with a steel roof in the future.

Project Description	Project Type	Improve-ment Category	Prioritization (in years)				Remarks
			0-5	6-10	11+	Total Cost	
Irrigation system renovation.	D	PK		$ 1,500,000.00			
Renovate existing golf course maintenance building.	D	PK	$ 200,000.00				
Finley's Landing Park			$ 391,500.00	$ 75,000.00	$ 780,000.00	$ 1,246,500.00	
Ecological restoration.	D	HP		$ 60,000.00			Remove invasive species.
Land acquisition - to be determined.	L	LP					To be determined if adjacent landowner is willing to sell. Explore land protection for threatened and endangered species through private and/or public means.
Stabilize primitive trail system.	D	TR	$ 98,000.00				Trail maintenance; add wood chips.
Add primitive trails.	N	TR	$ 196,000.00				
Add ADA route for beach access.	D	TR	$ 19,500.00				Mobi-mat system - two 6.5' x 100' mats, plus staple extractor, plus shipping.
Add ADA parking for sand bar access.	D	PK	$ 18,000.00				
Add tent platforms at the hike-in campsite.	N	PK		$ 15,000.00			
Stream restoration.	D	WQ			$ 180,000.00		
Replace the showerhouse.	D	PK			$ 600,000.00		
Habitat improvements, restoration.	D	HP	$ 60,000.00				Ruffed grouse and woodland habitat.
Graf Park			$ 600,000.00	$ 5,000.00	$ -	$ 605,000.00	
Enhance fishing access.	D	PK		$ 5,000.00			
Expand access throughout the park by adding trails.	N	TR	$ 20,000.00				
Add a ride/hike-in camping area with tent platforms.	N	PK	$ 15,000.00				
Install public water supply and drinking fountain.	N	PK	$ 250,000.00				Enhance regional appeal of heritage trail.
Install a bike repair station.	N	PK	$ 15,000.00				
Stream restoration.	D	WQ	$ 300,000.00				
Heritage Pond & Campground			$ 1,135,000.00	$ 975,000.00	$ -	$ 2,110,000.00	
Plant trees, buffer campground and pond.	N	HP	$ 50,000.00				Overstory and understory trees for campground and highway buffering.
Improve campground, renovate drive lanes, parking areas.	D	PK		$ 750,000.00			Repave/Redo individual sites (gravel or new concrete), add shower house.
Install a nature playground.	N	PK		$ 225,000.00			
Expand and renovate the existing parking lot.	D	PK	$ 455,000.00				
Perform shoreline restoration and erosion control along the south side of the pond.	D	WQ	$ 86,000.00				
Add pedestrian pathway along south and west side of pond.	N	TR	$ 168,000.00				
Evaluate the feasibility of rock climbing at the west side	N	PK		$ -			

Project Description	Project Type	Improvement Category	Prioritization (in years) 0-5	6-10	11+	Total Cost	Remarks
Re-route trail around parking area.	N	TR	$ 42,000.00				
Add tent platforms, steps and formalize bike/hike and camping.	N	TR	$ 60,000.00				Camping around the base of the west side bluff, facing Sageville Marsh.
Add parking at tent platform area, remove shelter that is in disrepair.	N	PK	$ 49,000.00				
Create "Gateway to Heritage Trail" & interpretive exhibits.	N	TR	$ 225,000.00				Work with local partner to re-evaluate; create an immersive experience that explores the history of the former railroad.
Heritage Trail			$ 105,000.00	$ 6,445,000.00	$ -	$ 6,550,000.00	
Dyersville Trailhead - Add restrooms.	N	PK	$ 35,000.00				
Dyersville Trailhead - Plant shade trees.	N	TR	$ 5,000.00				
Farley Access Point - Add parking lot.	N	PK		$ 20,000.00			
Graf Trailhead - Install public water supply and drinking fountain.	N	TR	$ -				Graf Trailhead line item costs included in Graf Park section.
Graf Trailhead - Install a bike repair station.	N	TR	$ -				Graf Trailhead line item costs included in Graf Park section.
Graf Trailhead - Enhance fishing access.	D	PK	$ -				Graf Trailhead line item costs included in Graf Park section.
Graf Trailhead - Add a ride/hike-in camping area with tent platforms.	N	PK	$ -				Graf Trailhead line item costs included in Graf Park section.
Twin Springs Trailhead - Enhance kayak launch.	D	PK	$ 15,000.00				
Budd Road Trailhead - Enhance kayak launch.	D	PK	$ 15,000.00				
Budd Road Trailhead - Enhance fishing access.	D	PK		$ 5,000.00			
Durango Trailhead - Add restrooms.	N	PK	$ 35,000.00				
Durango Trailhead - Restore kayak access.				$ 15,000.00			
Durango Trailhead - Enhance fishing access.	D	PK		$ 5,000.00			
Sageville Trailhead - Add primitive camping with tent platforms.	N	PK	$ -				Sageville Trailhead improvement costs included in Heritage Pond & Campground section.
Streambank Restoration.	D	HP		$ 1,000,000.00			
Replace bridges #3 and #6.	D	TR		$ 4,000,000.00			
Replace bridge #11.	D	TR		$ 700,000.00			
Replace bridges #20 and #24.	D	TR		$ 700,000.00			
Interstate Power Preserve			$ 154,435.26	$ -	$ 530,200.00	$ 684,635.26	
Land acquisition - to be determined.	L	LP					To be determined if adjacent landowner is willing to sell.
Expand parking lot.	N	PK			$ 130,200.00		
Add more mountain bike trails as park expands.	N	TR			$ 320,000.00		
Add shade shelter.	N	PK			$ 80,000.00		

Project Description	Project Type	Improvement Category	Prioritization (in years)				Remarks
			0-5	6-10	11+	Total Cost	
Woodland restoration.	D	HP	$ 120,000.00				Remove invasive species.
Maintain existing prairie.	D	HP	$ 34,435.26				
John Deere Marsh			$ -	$ 22,000.00	$ -	$ 22,000.00	
Ecological restoration.	D	HP		$ 18,000.00			
Improve water trail access.	D	TR		$ 4,000.00			
Little Maquoketa River Mounds			$ 603,000.00	$ 288,000.00	$ -	$ 891,000.00	
Ecological restoration.	D	HP		$ 72,000.00			Anticipate hand removal, spot spray, etc. over mounds; remove invasive species and woody vegetation; put on a cycle of prescribed burning; restore prairie.
Refurbish educational signage about the cultural significance and history of the mounds.	D	PK		$ 4,000.00			
Remove the fencing.	D	PK	$ 87,000.00				
Improve parking lot.	D	PK	$ 66,000.00				
Re-align trail to mounds.	D	TR		$ 28,000.00			Minimize structural / steps to Mounds.
Create a trail loop that goes around the mounds.	N	TR		$ 72,000.00			
Remove the wood timbers along the trail, stabilize grade with wood chips.	D	TR		$ 112,000.00			
Improve the trailhead and connection to Heritage Pond & Trail.	D	TR	$ 450,000.00				
Locher Recreation Area			$ 6,684,355.37	$ 280,000.00	$ 395,000.00	$ 7,359,355.37	
Add parking lots.	N	PK	$ 672,000.00				
Add paved access drives.	N	PK	$ 546,000.00				
Establish prairie.	N	HP	$ 42,355.37				
Add a large pavilion with restrooms and fire pits.	N	PK	$ 1,050,000.00				
Add public water supply.	N	PK	$ 225,000.00				
Add a small shelter.	N	PK		$ 80,000.00			
Add riprap fishing nodes/fish habitat.	N	WQ	$ 180,000.00				
Perform shoreline restoration around Locher Lake.	N	WQ	$ 2,100,000.00				
Perform shoreline restoration at the North Fork Maquoketa River.	N	WQ	$ 300,000.00				
Install bird blinds.	N	HP			$ 20,000.00		
Install boardwalk overlook.	N	PK			$ 150,000.00		
Add a pedestrian bridge across the river.	N	PK			$ 225,000.00		
Establish a self-serve kayak rental stand.	N	PK		$ 50,000.00			
Add a boat launch.	N	PK	$ 125,000.00				
Add an ADA-accessible kayak launch.	N	PK	$ 60,000.00				
Add pit toilets near the boat launch.	N	PK	$ 35,000.00				
Add a 10' wide path around Locher Lake.	N	TR	$ 1,120,000.00				
Add a single-track companion trail around lake	N	TR	$ 80,000.00				

Project Description	Project Type	Improvement Category	Prioritization (in years)				Remarks
			0-5	6-10	11+	Total Cost	
Create walking trails to the south of the lake.	N	TR	$ 124,000.00				
Create an additional access drive on the southwest side of the property off HWY 136.	N	PK		$ 150,000.00			
Evaluate and Study alternative routes, future trail connection to Cascade.	N	TR	$ 25,000.00				
Massey Marina			$ 292,330.58	$ 62,000.00	$ 264,000.00	$ 618,330.58	
Stream restoration.	D	WQ	$ 102,000.00				
Conduct trail feasibility study to link Massey Marina to Mines of Spain.	N	TR	$ 25,000.00				Conduct a study with State of Iowa to create a trail connection to Mines of Spain.
Install more inland trails at bottomland hardwood forest.	N	TR		$ 62,000.00			
Campground improvements.	D	PK	$ 155,000.00				Paving, upgrade electrical service, fix water lines, add tent platforms, reconfigure the dumpstation.
New parking lot and boat ramp.	D	PK			$ 264,000.00		
Land acquisition - to be determined.	L	LP					To be determined if adjacent landowner is willing to sell.
Woodland restoration.	D	HP	$ 10,330.58				At the bottomland hardwood site.
McCarthy Wildlife Area			$ 25,000.00	$ 160,000.00	$ -	$ 185,000.00	
Wetland design & permitting.	N	WQ	$ 25,000.00				
Wetland development.	N	WQ		$ 160,000.00			
Miller McGrath Wildlife Area			$ 925,000.00	$ 133,200.00	$ -	$ 1,058,200.00	
Land acquisition - to be determined.	L	LP					To be determined if adjacent landowner is willing to sell.
Develop trails throughout the park.	N	TR		$ 83,200.00			
Evaluate feasibility for more cabins.	N	PK	$ 10,000.00				
Evaluate trail connections to Heritage trail.	N	TR	$ 10,000.00				
Evaluate feasibility of adding public water supply.	N	PK	$ 5,000.00				
Add additional cabins.	N	PK	$ 900,000.00				
Forest restoration.	D	HP		$ 20,000.00			
Prairie restoration.	D	HP		$ 30,000.00			
Mud Lake Park			$ -	$ 699,000.00	$ -	$ 699,000.00	
Replace the old tower.	D	PK		$ 325,000.00			
Convert the former park ranger house into a rentable cabin.	D	PK		$ 300,000.00			
Dredge at fishing access pier to remove sediment.	D	WQ		$ 50,000.00			
Add a parking lot at Playground.	N	PK		$ 24,000.00			
New Wine Park			$ 1,332,000.00	$ 2,580,000.00	$ -	$ 3,912,000.00	
Evaluate a trail connection into Dyersville and Field of Dreams.	N	TR	$ 100,000.00				Planning only.
Install a bridge.	N	PK		$ 225,000.00			

Project Description	Project Type	Improvement Category	Prioritization (in years)				Remarks
			0-5	6-10	11+	Total Cost	
Develop water trails and hiking trailhead.	N	TR	$ 10,000.00				
Install a river crossing.	N	TR		$ 25,000.00			
Replace turf with native ground cover.	N	HP	$ 2,000.00				
Replace the shelter.	D	PK	$ 80,000.00				
Install cabins.	N	PK		$ 2,250,000.00			
Land acquisition - to be determined.	L	LP					To be determined if adjacent landowner is willing to sell.
Improve the shower house.	D	PK	$ 600,000.00				
Forest restoration.	D	HP		$ 80,000.00			
Stream restoration.	D	WQ	$ 540,000.00				
Pohlman Prairie Preserve			$ 15,000.00	$ -	$ -	$ 15,000.00	
Improve trail access into prairie.	N	TR	$ 15,000.00				Widen or improve the surface of the
Land acquisition - to be determined.	L	LP					To be determined if adjacent landowner is willing to sell.
Proving Grounds			$ 110,000.00	$ 75,000.00	$ 200,000.00	$ 385,000.00	
Add public water supply.	N	PK			$ 200,000.00		
Create a dog park.	N	PK	$ 50,000.00				
Create gathering areas on the hilltops.	N	PK	$ 60,000.00				
Evaluate the feasibility of rock climbing.	N	PK	$ -				
Ecological restoration.	D	HP		$ 75,000.00			
Ringneck Ridge Wildlife Area			$ -	$ 60,000.00	$ -	$ 60,000.00	
Ecological restoration.	D	HP		$ 60,000.00			
Swiss Valley Park/Campgrounds			$ 2,450,000.00	$ 1,050,000.00	$ 1,300,000.00	$ 4,800,000.00	
Land acquisition - to be determined.	L	LP					To be determined if adjacent landowner is willing to sell.
Add a 10' wide recreation trail connecting the park, nature preserve, and nature center.	N	TR			$ 960,000.00		
Add a natural playscape.	N	PK	$ 350,000.00				
Add benches.	N	PK			$ 15,000.00		
Update the shower house.	D	PK	$ 1,200,000.00				
Add landscape and buffering around campground.	N	HP		$ 50,000.00			
Campground expansion.	N	PK	$ 800,000.00				
Reconfigure the dump station.	D	PK	$ 100,000.00				Relocate to accommodate expansion and improved turning radius.
Install an underpass for connecting recreation trail.	N	TR		$ 1,000,000.00			
Replace / Install pedestrian bridge.	N	PK			$ 325,000.00		
Swiss Valley Nature Center			$ 1,701,600.00	$ 474,000.00	$ -	$ 2,175,600.00	
Land acquisition - to be determined.	L	LP					To be determined if adjacent landowner is willing to sell.
Create a small parking lot and additional access point to the west.	N	PK		$ 74,000.00			
Parking lot maintenance/improvements.	D	PK	$ 201,600.00				

Project Description	Project Type	Improvement Category	Prioritization (in years)				Remarks
			0-5	6-10	11+	Total Cost	
Nature center deferred maintenance.	D	PK	$ 1,500,000.00				Siding, roof, and windows, restrooms
Nature center exhibit refresh.	D	PK		$ 400,000.00			Interpretive exhibit refresh.
Swiss Valley Nature Preserve			$ 450,000.00	$ 735,000.00	$ -	$ 1,185,000.00	
Streambank restoration.	D	HP		$ 550,000.00			Remove invasive species.
Prairie restoration.	D	HP		$ 60,000.00			
Forest restoration.	D	HP		$ 100,000.00			
Create outdoor learning lab.	N	PK		$ 25,000.00			
Replace pedestrian bridges in the preserve.	D	TR	$ 450,000.00				
Whitewater Canyon			$ 122,000.00	$ 320,000.00	$ -	$ 442,000.00	
Prairie restoration.	D	HP		$ 60,000.00			
Woodland restoration.	D	HP		$ 240,000.00			Remove invasive species.
Improve the road and entry signage.	D	PK		$ 20,000.00			
Add rock climbing access.	N	PK		$ -			
Land acquisition - to be determined.	N	LP					To be determined if adjacent landowner is willing to sell.
Perform trail maintenance.	D	TR	$ 60,000.00				repair / reroute trails in erodible areas.
Fix the drainage at the entry road to prevent washing out.	D	WQ	$ 50,000.00				
Add switchbacks to the trail system to overlook (reduce trail maintenance, erosion).	D	TR	$ 12,000.00				
County Wide Improvements (Not Park Specific)			$ 6,000,000.00	$ 9,000,000.00	$ 3,000,000.00	$18,000,000.00	
ATV park development & land acquisition.	N	PK		$ 3,000,000.00			Repurpose degraded lands (avoid sensitive areas).
Park & preserve land acquisition.	L	LP	$ 3,000,000.00				
Park & preserve land acquisition.	L	LP		$ 3,000,000.00			
Park & preserve land acquisition.	L	LP			$ 3,000,000.00		
Maintenance facility relocation.	D	PK	$ 3,000,000.00				
Cabins.	N	PK		$ 3,000,000.00			

The following tables and graphs provide greater clarity into how the improvements are classified, where the budget is allocated, and how they impact each facility.

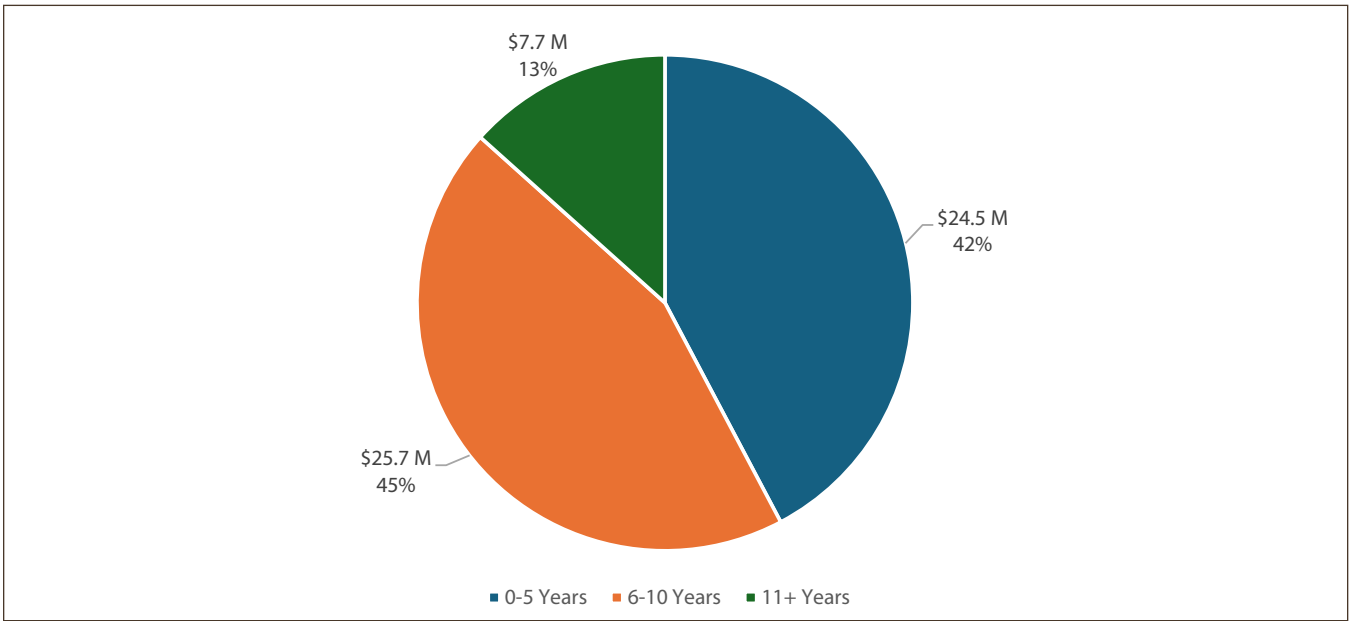


FIGURE 5: INVESTMENT PRIORITIZATION.

Improvements were budgeted/allocated in five-year blocks, providing clarity to those necessary in the short-, medium-, and long-term.

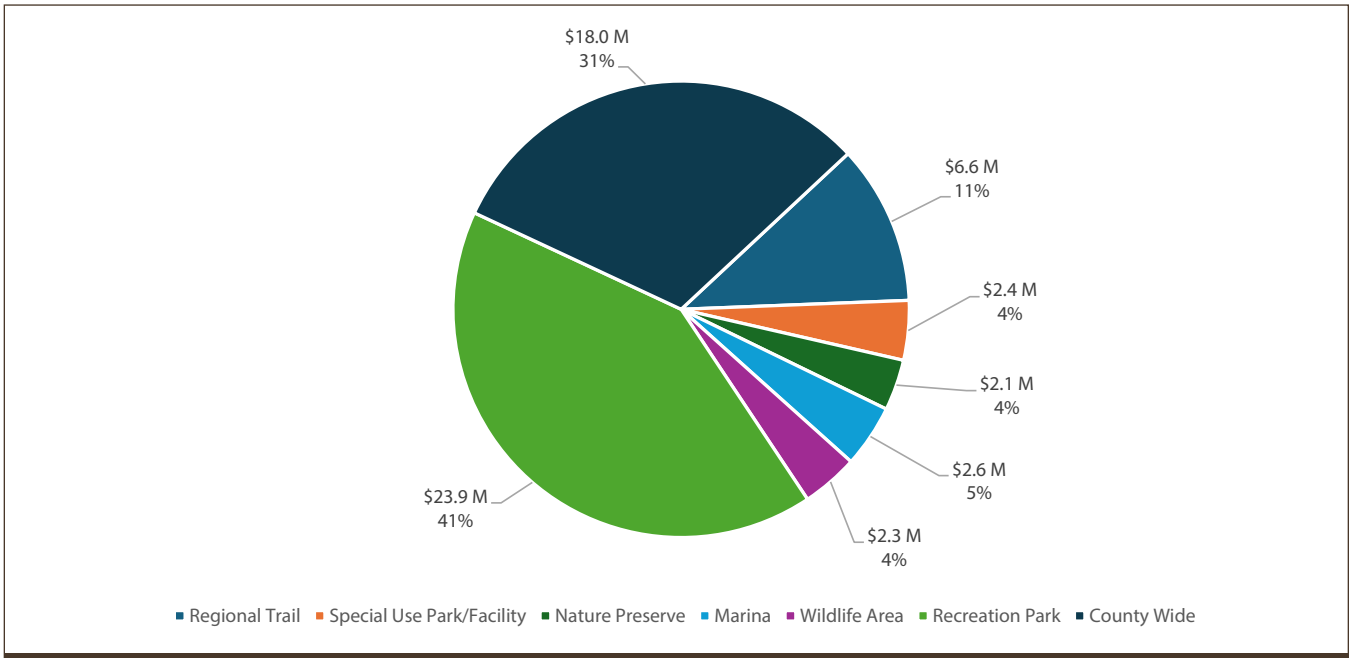


FIGURE 6: INVESTMENT BY PARK/FACILITY TYPE.

Parks with more amenities and infrastructure (also those that typically receive the most visits) often require more maintenance and investment.

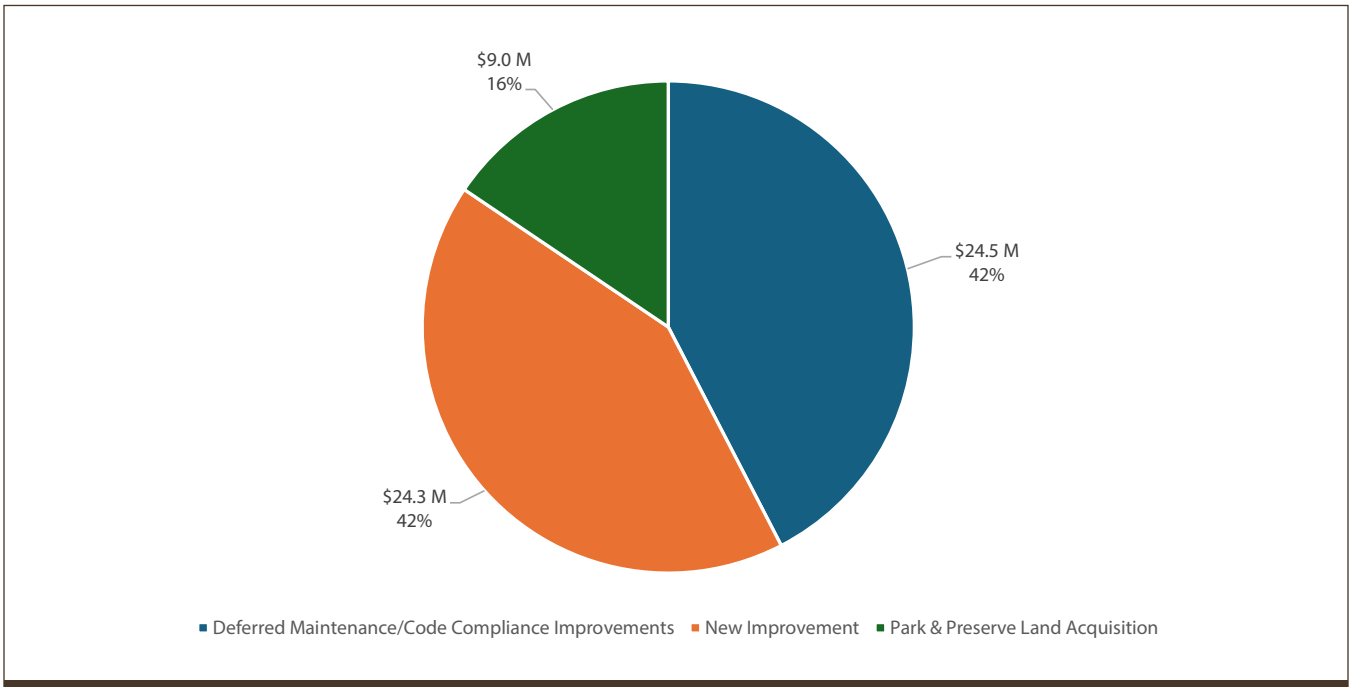


FIGURE 7: INVESTMENT BY PROJECT TYPE.

Maintaining the current assets and investing in new amenities are proposed to be nearly equal.

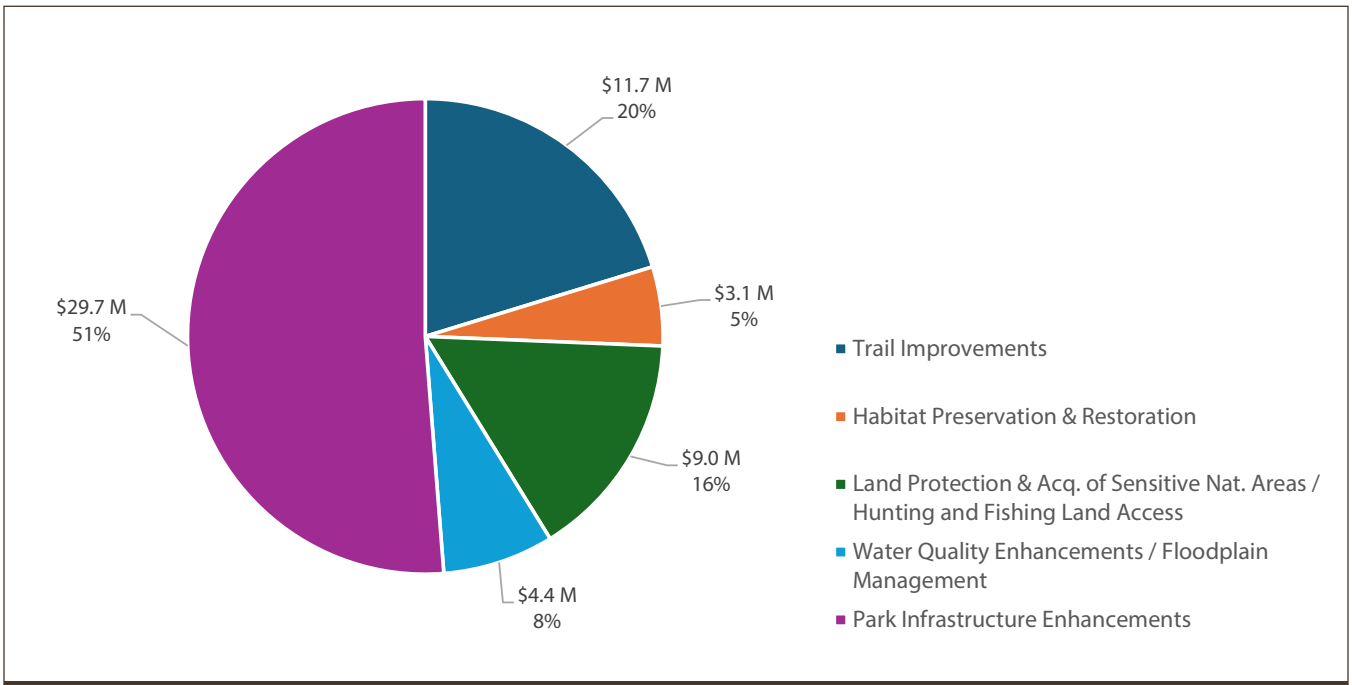


FIGURE 8: INVESTMENT BY IMPROVEMENT CATEGORY.

Given the age of many parks, along with the condition and amenity location, investing in infrastructure to support use is the largest category.

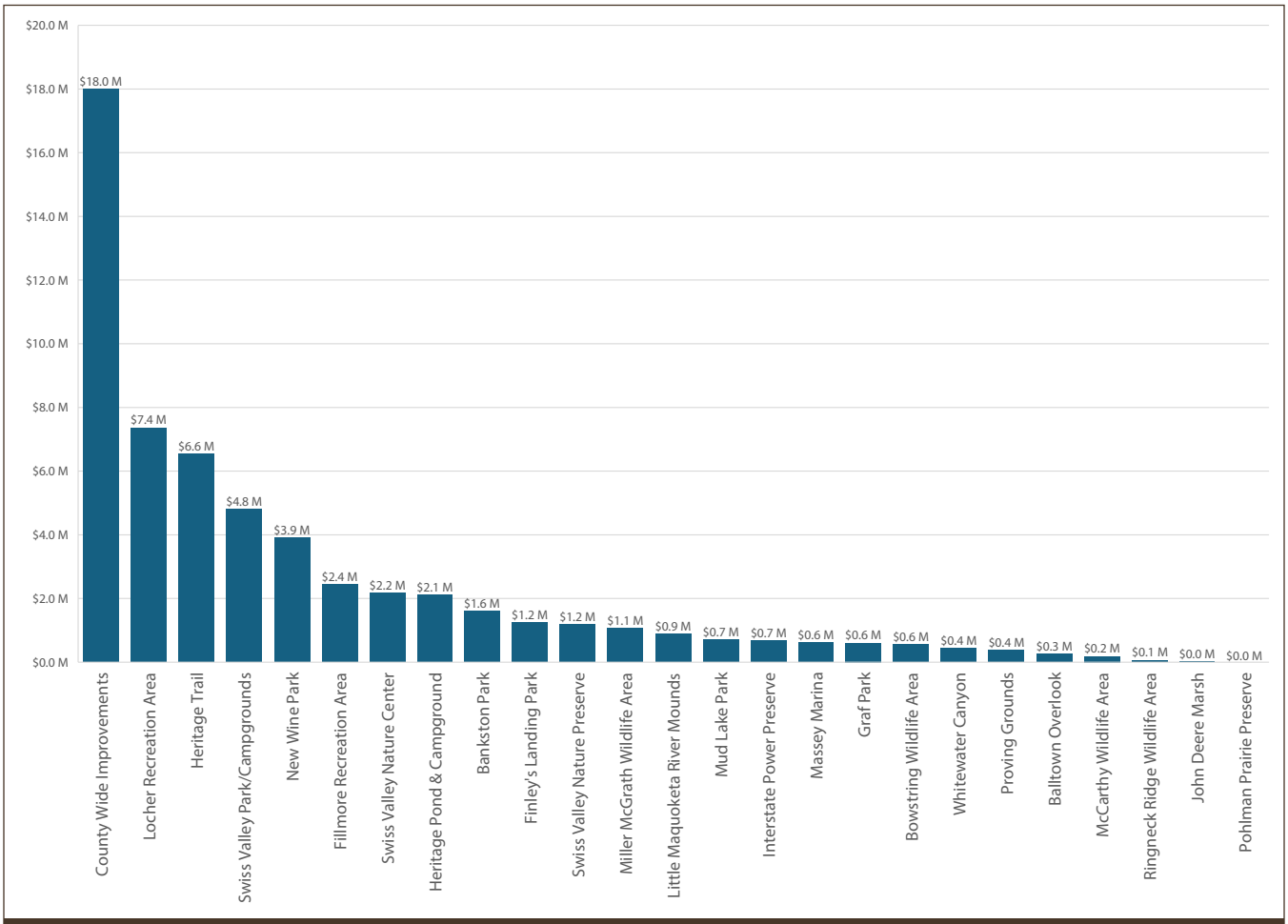


FIGURE 9: INVESTMENT BY PARK.

Investments across the County, followed by Locher Recreation Area (a new park) and the Heritage Trail (including trailheads and Heritage Pond/ Campground), have been allocated the largest portion of the budget.

APPENDIX

- Visitation Analysis
- Public Input Survey Results
- Open House Boards
- Maintenance Building Existing Conditions

VISITATION ANALYSIS

VISITATION ANALYSIS PROCESS

Step 1:

RDG uses GIS software to geofence the park locations and sends them as shapefiles to Placer.ai.

Step 2:

Placer.ai returns visitation data on the geofenced park locations.

Step 3:

RDG reviewed and projected the visitation data.

Step 4:

High-level conclusions were distilled from the data for consideration in park improvement planning.

WHAT IS PLACER.AI?

Placer.ai

- An AI-powered location analytics platform that uses anonymized mobile location data
- Apps in partnership with Placer.ai pick up users' locations and send them to nearby cell towers
- Helps businesses and entities make informed decisions based on things like visitation trends and visitor demographics
    - *Example: Target could use Placer.ai to determine which stores need more marketing and investment or which areas are prime locations for new store openings.*



VISITOR VS. VISITATION: HOW ARE THEY DEFINED?

RDG used Placer.ai to analyze total visitation to Dubuque County Parks.

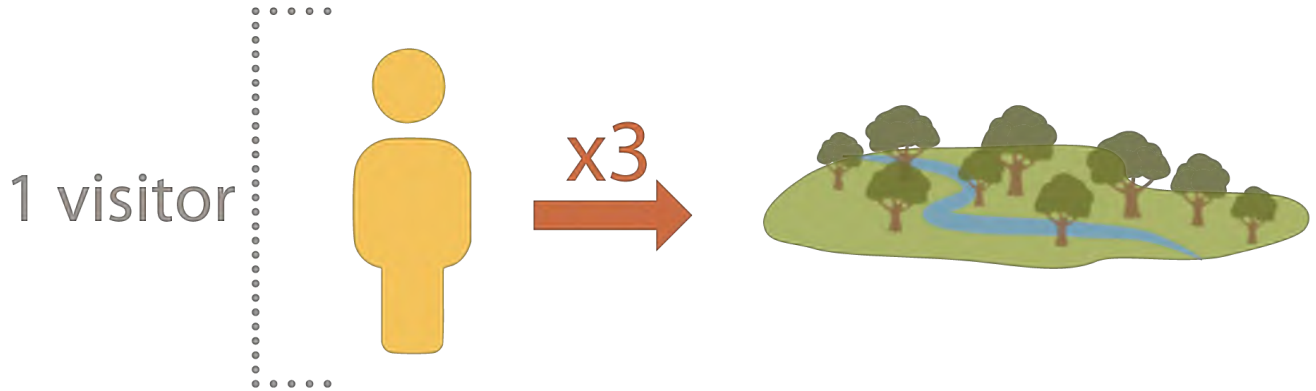
Visitor:

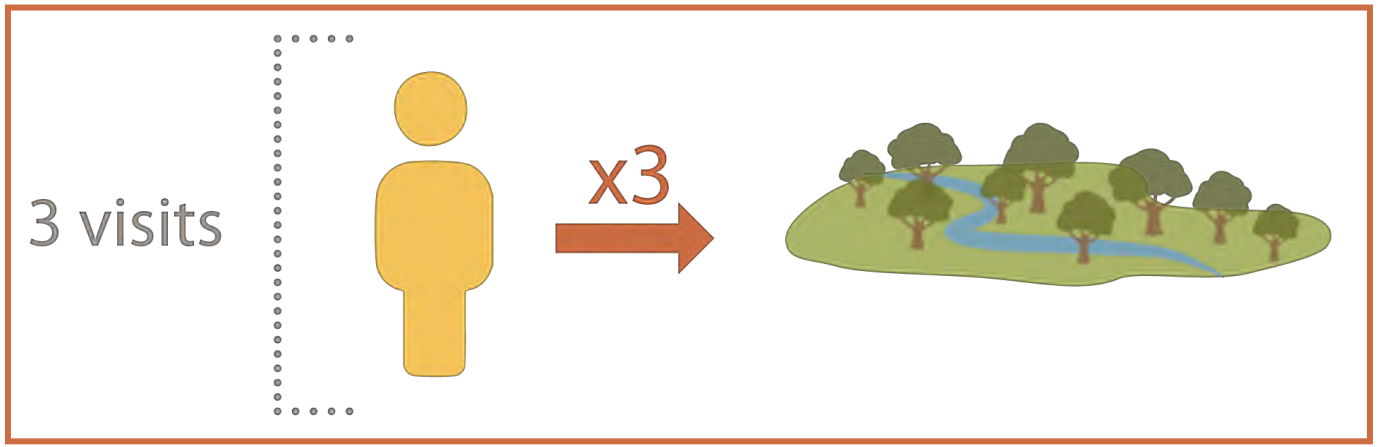
The number of people who travel to a destination.

Total Visitation (over 10 minutes):

The number of times people travel to a destination. Visits that lasted *over* 10 minutes were counted.

Example: A single visitor who goes to a park 3 times made 3 visits – 3 is the total visitation.





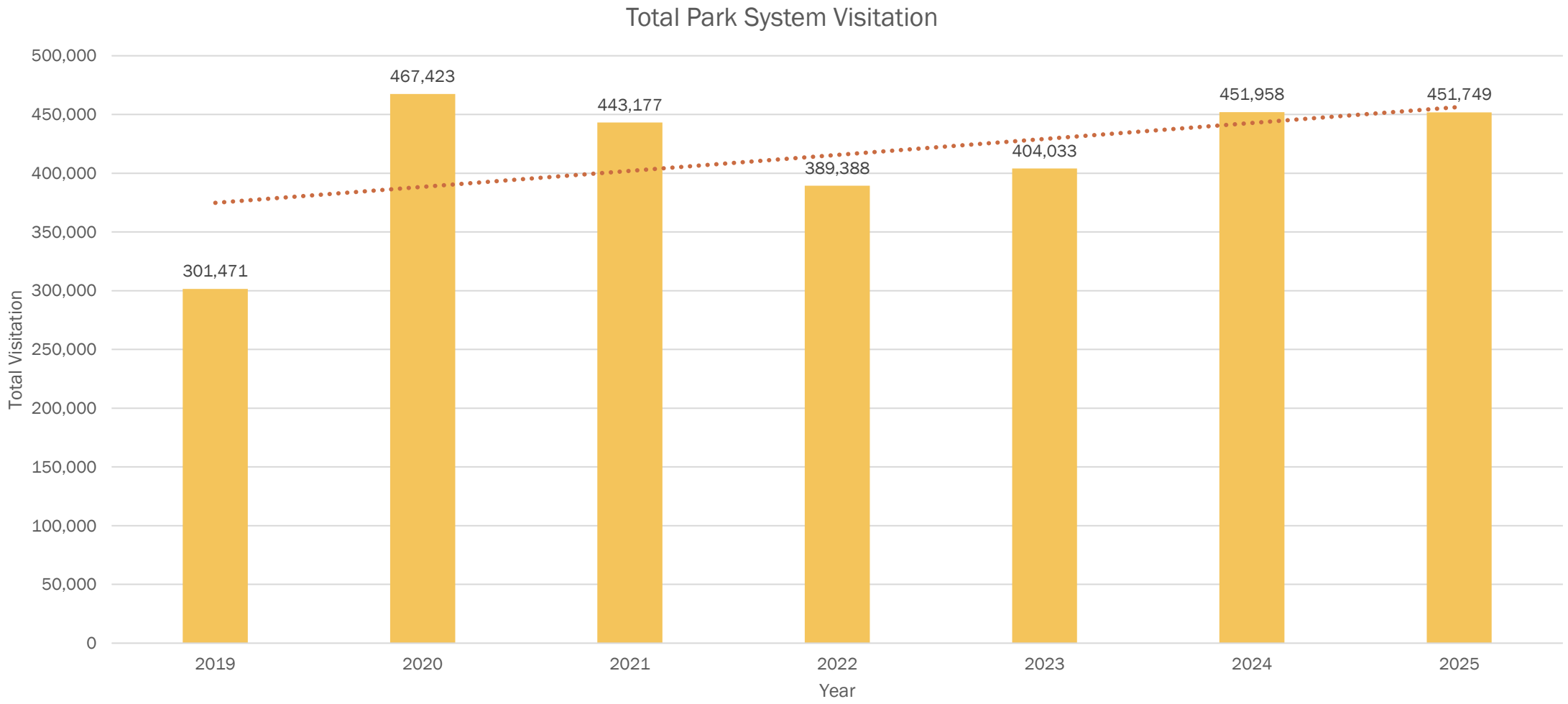
ALL PARKS, YEARLY VISITATION

Since 2019, park usage has increased 50%.

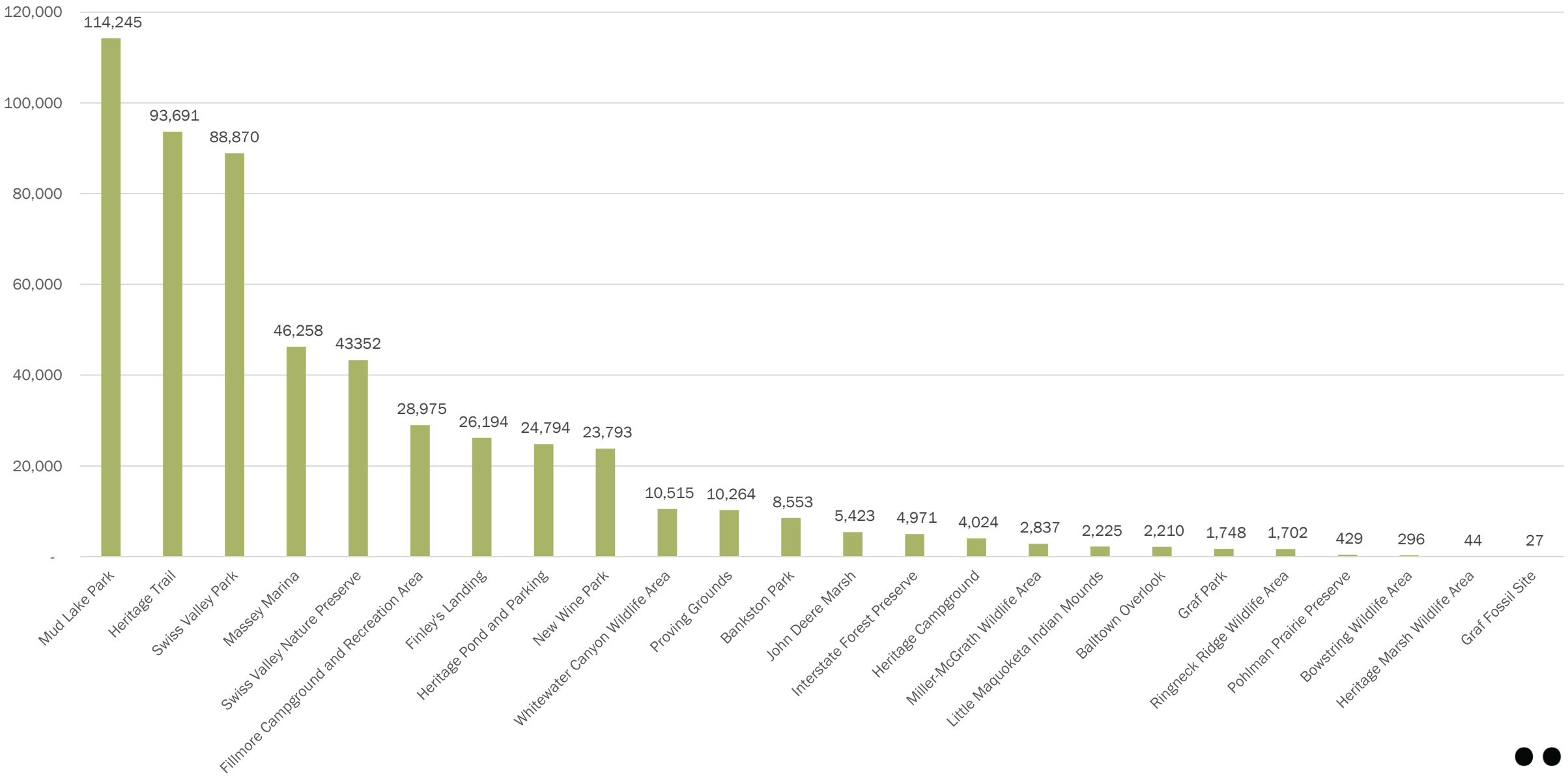
$79K
Household Median Income

66%
of visitors come from family households

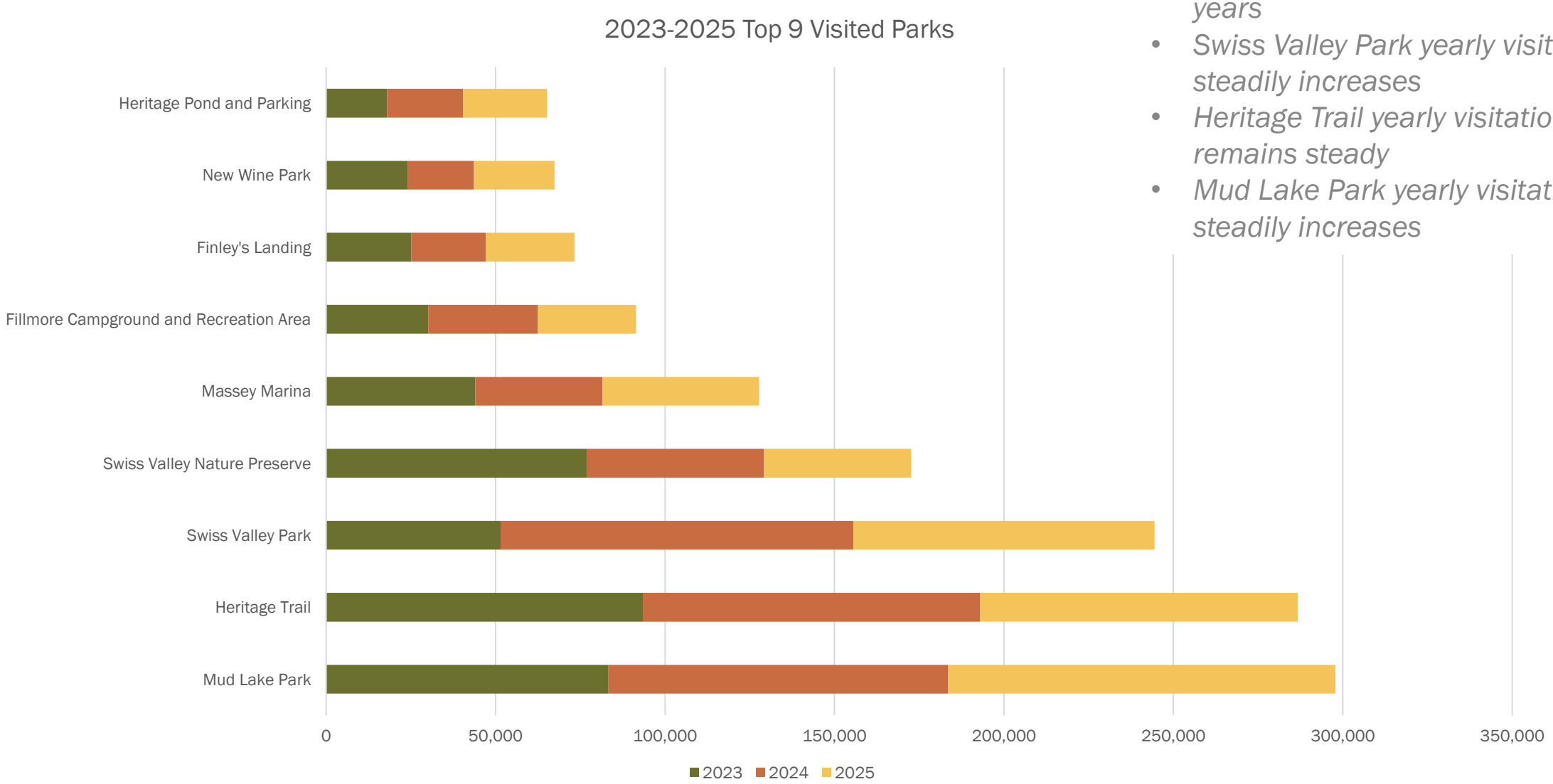
31.9%
of visitors have a Bachelor's Degree or higher



2025 PARK VISITATION RANKINGS



TOP 9 VISITED PARKS YEAR-OVER-YEAR

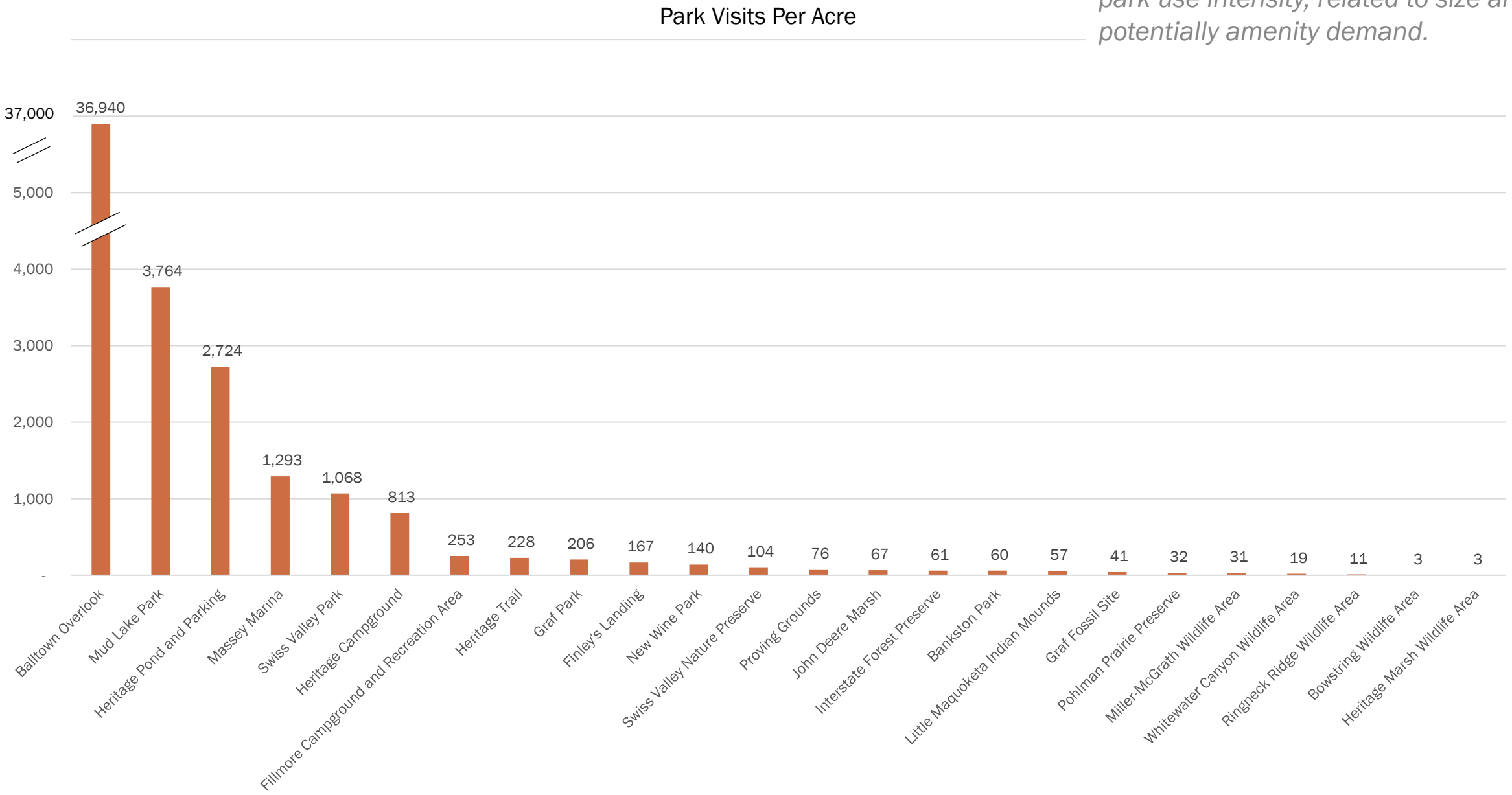


Notable Observations:

- *Swiss Valley Nature Preserve visitation has decreased in recent years*
- *Swiss Valley Park yearly visitation steadily increases*
- *Heritage Trail yearly visitation remains steady*
- *Mud Lake Park yearly visitation steadily increases*

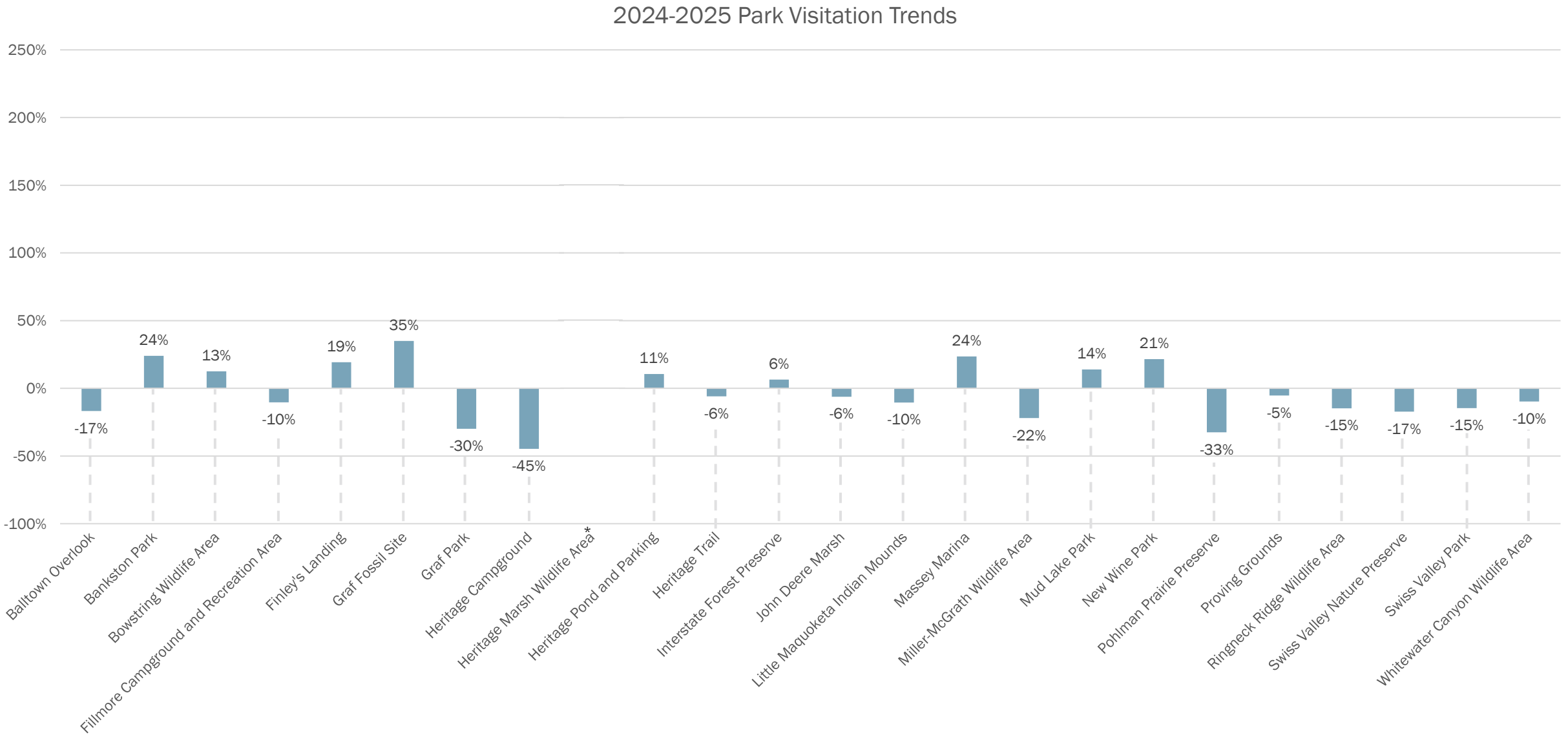
VISITS PER ACRE

Visits per acre provides insight into park use intensity, related to size and potentially amenity demand.



YEAR-OVER-YEAR CHANGE PARK VISITATION

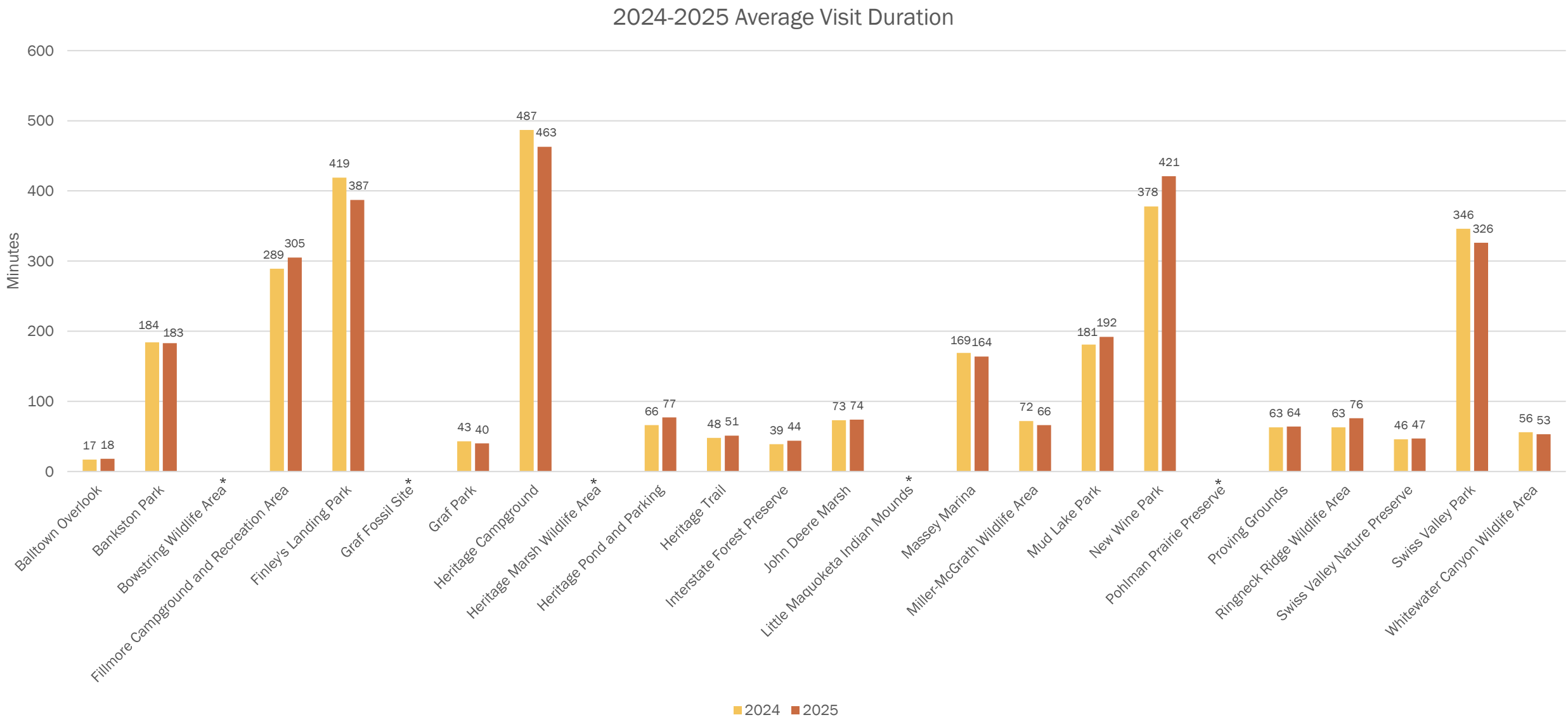
Parks with campgrounds and access to the Mississippi River are showing increasing usage.



*Insufficient data

YEAR-OVER-YEAR CHANGE PARK VISITATION

Visit duration over the past couple of years has remained relatively steady.



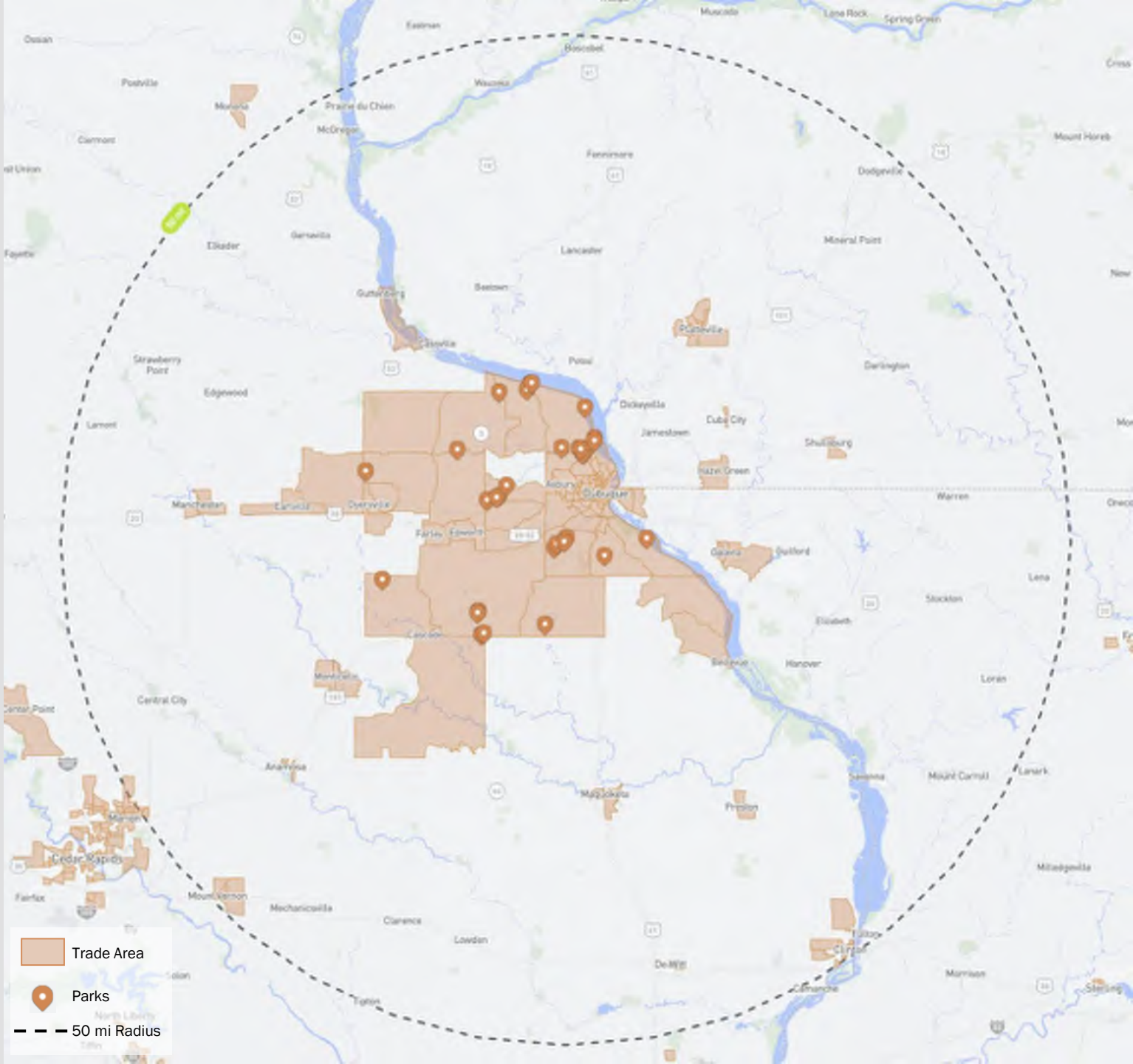
*Insufficient data

TRADE AREA MAP

Trade Area:

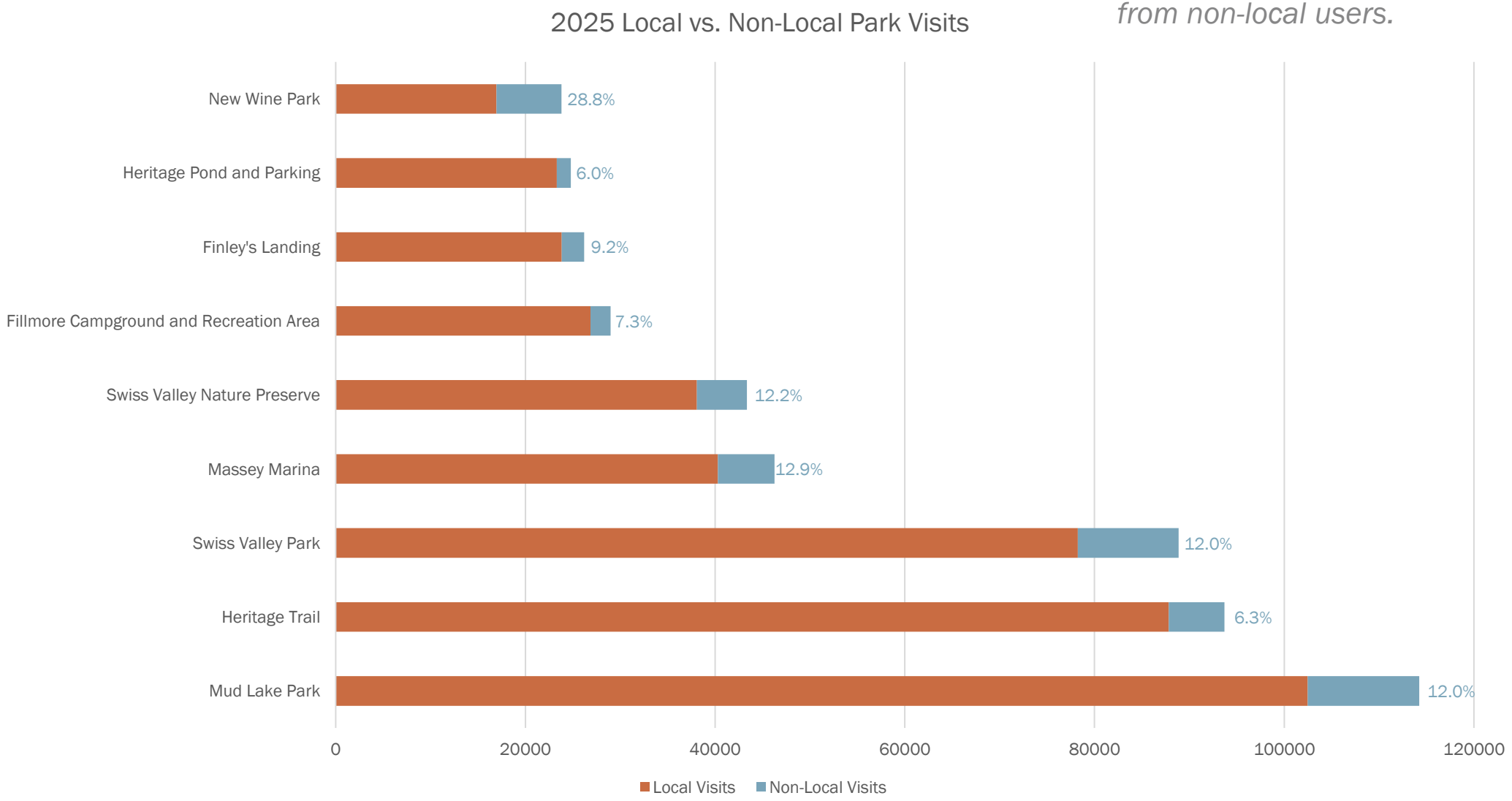
A Trade Area refers to the geographic region or zone from which properties or businesses draw their visitors.

Most visitors traveled to Dubuque County Parks from within Dubuque County.



LOCAL VS. NON-LOCAL VISITS

Evaluating local versus non-local visits shows that parks with campgrounds and marinas have the greatest demand from non-local users.



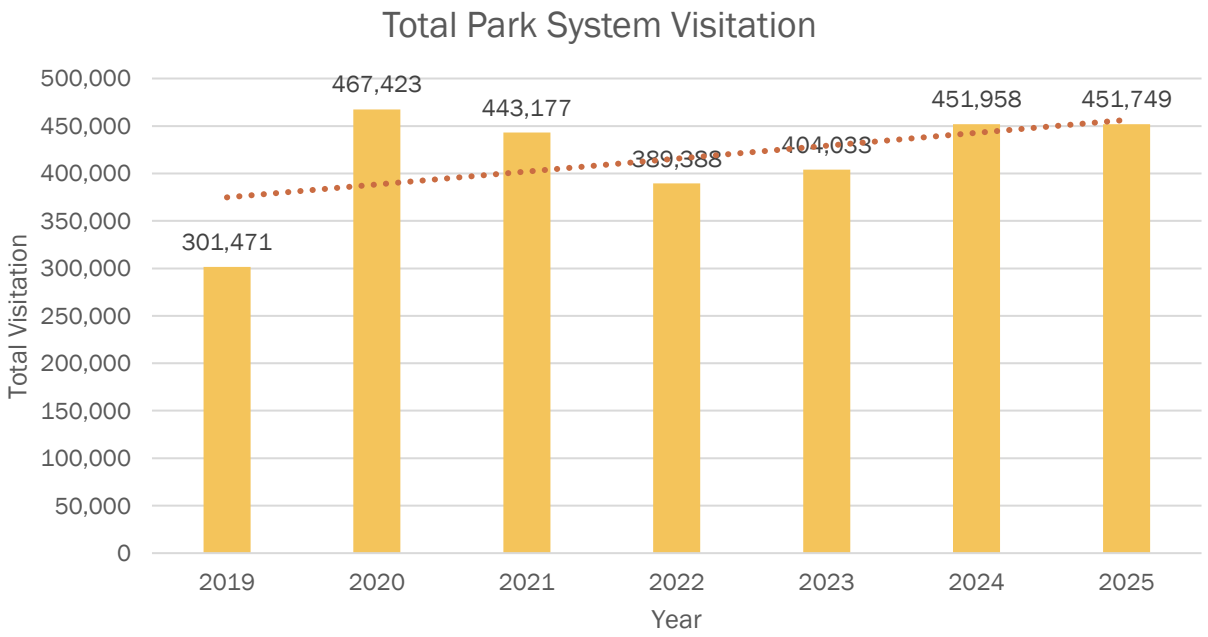
CONCLUSION & TAKEAWAYS

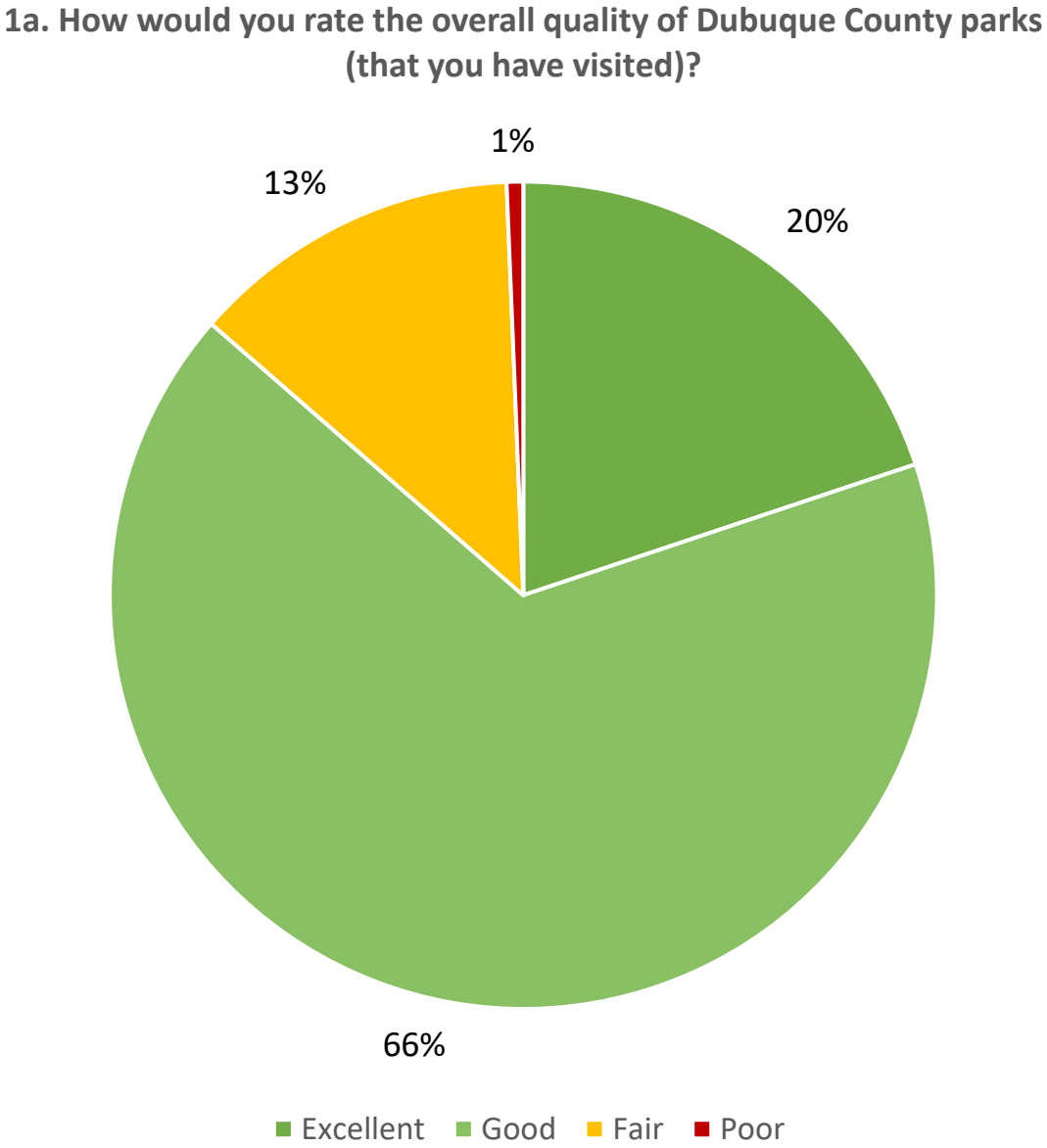
- The Dubuque County Park System has seen a steady rise in usage over the past 6 years with visitation increasing over 50%!
- Most park users come from Dubuque County and specifically Dubuque.
- Parks that contain campgrounds and provide waterfront access tended to have higher visitation overall along with more non-local visitation.
- Most non-overnight visits last about an hour.

PUBLIC INPUT SURVEY RESULTS

OVERVIEW

- 586 survey respondents in 2026!
  - ~270% increase from 2020
- 219 survey respondents in 2020
- 86% of respondents rated the quality of Dubuque County Parks ‘Excellent’ or ‘Good’

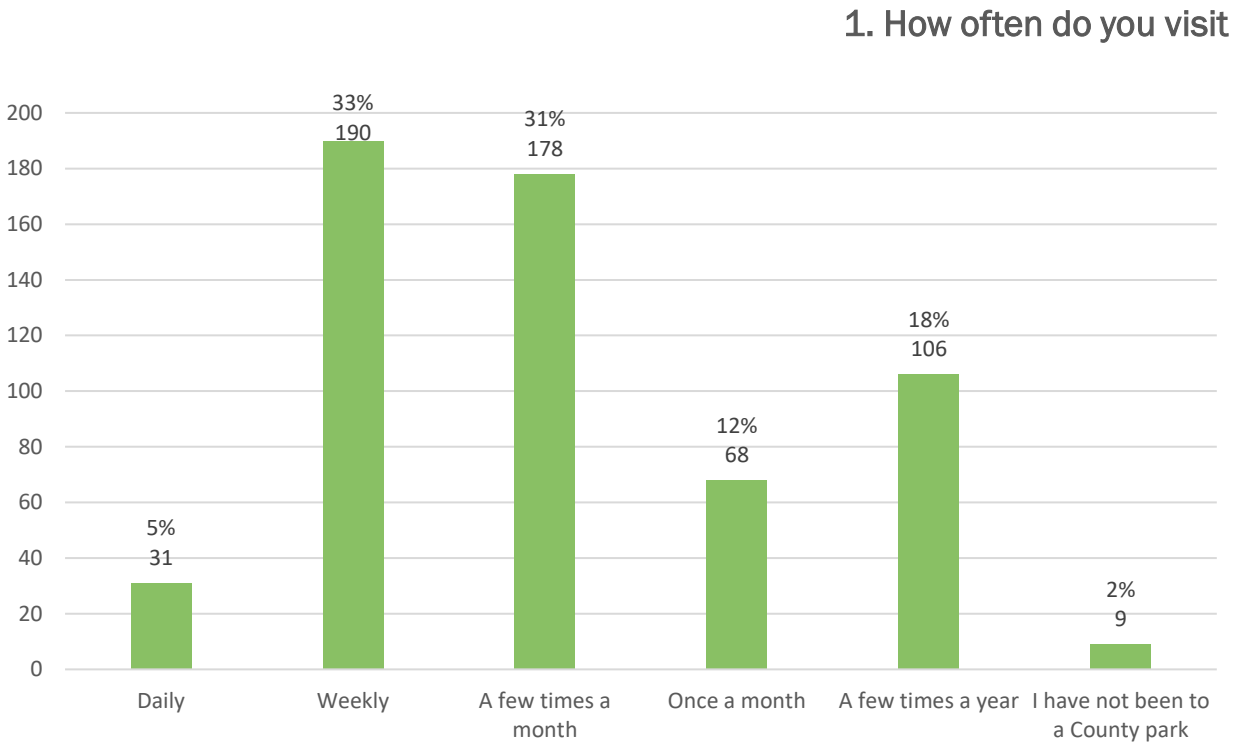




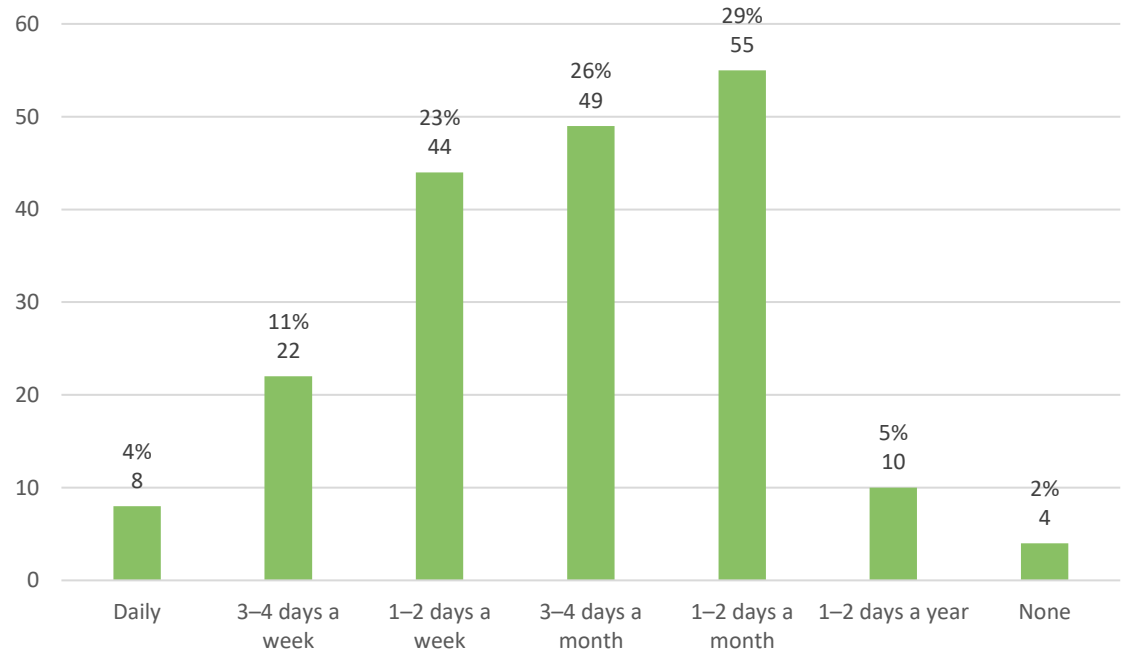
**Percentages on the following graphs represent those who answered the survey question; it omits those who skipped the question from the total count*

VISITATION COMPARISON 2020 VS. 2026

- Percentage of respondents who visit Daily and Weekly has remained the same (38% vs. 38%)
- There was a slightly lower percentage of 2026 respondents who visit Monthly (43% vs. 55%)
- There was an increase in respondents who visit A Few Times a Year (18% vs. 5%)



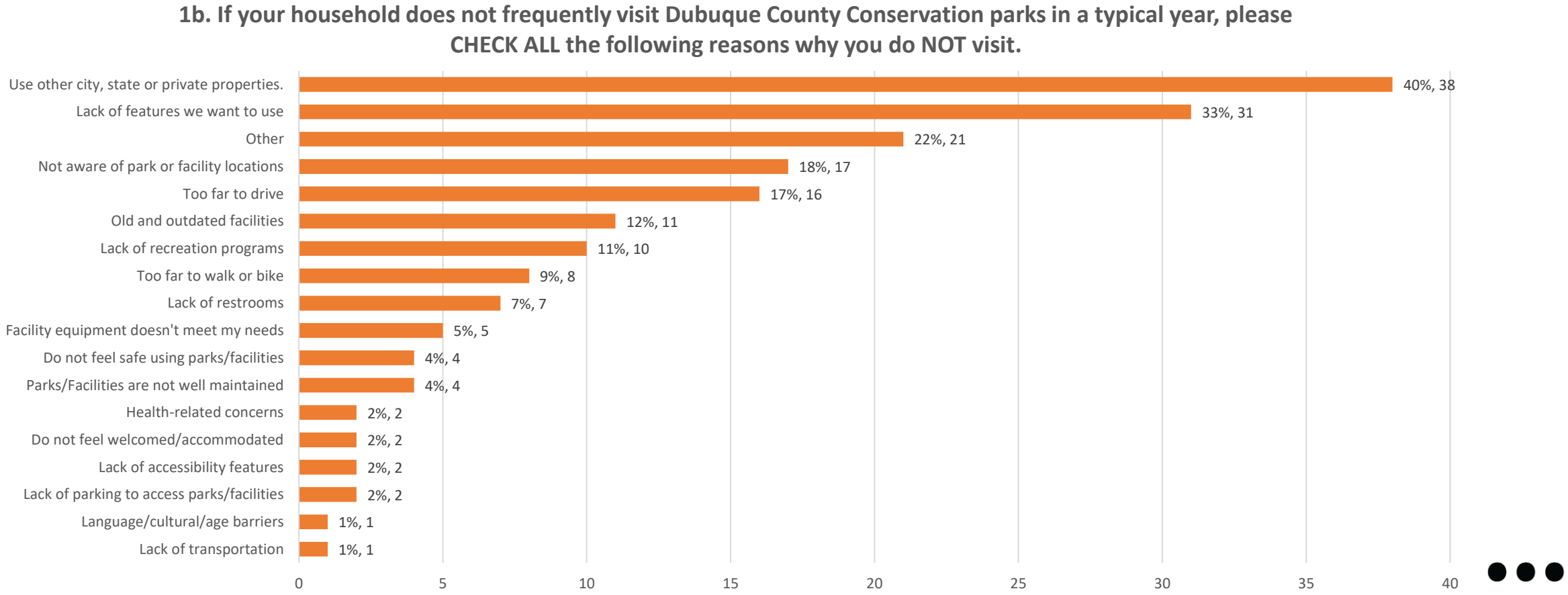
2026



2020

BARRIERS TO VISITATION

- Top factors for those who visit parks once per month or less are using other outdoor spaces, lack of desired features, lack of awareness, and ‘other’ reasons.
- Park maintenance and parking availability were not top barriers to visitation
- Distance to parks, outdated facilities, lack of programs and restrooms were medium barriers to visitation



BARRIERS TO VISITATION

- Other factors that prevent people from visiting are:
  - Time constraints
  - Distance/location of parks
  - Awareness & information gaps
  - Lack of specific amenities/activities (climbing, paved trails)

"When hunting is allowed within the park system, it doesn't feel like a safe place to 'get out in nature'. I don't know when the different types of hunting seasons begin and end. That information isn't readily posted."

"Would use Heritage often if it was paved."

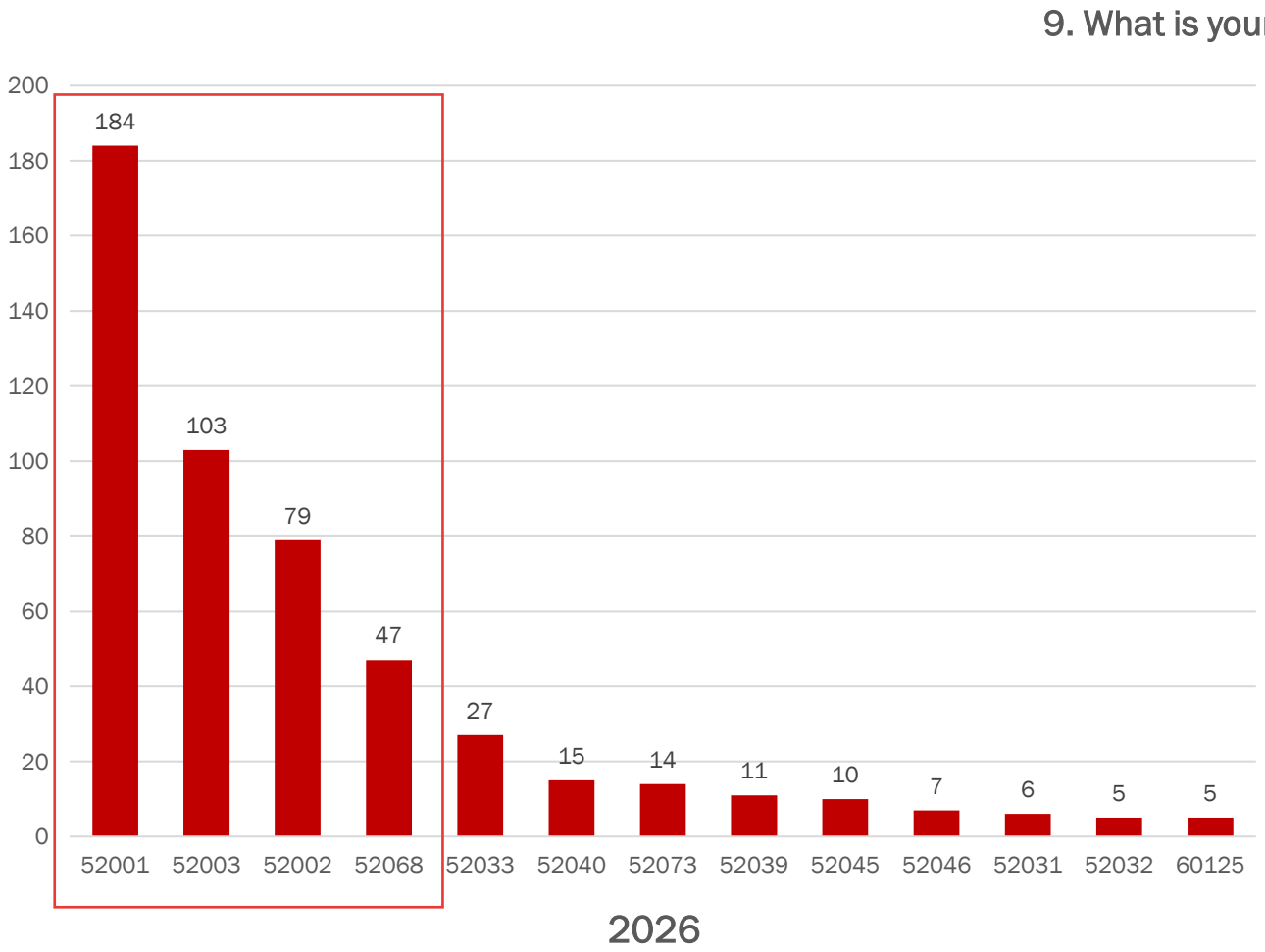
"I am 80 years old… I am reluctant to drive 25 miles to Mines of Spain or another venue unless I have a carful of people."

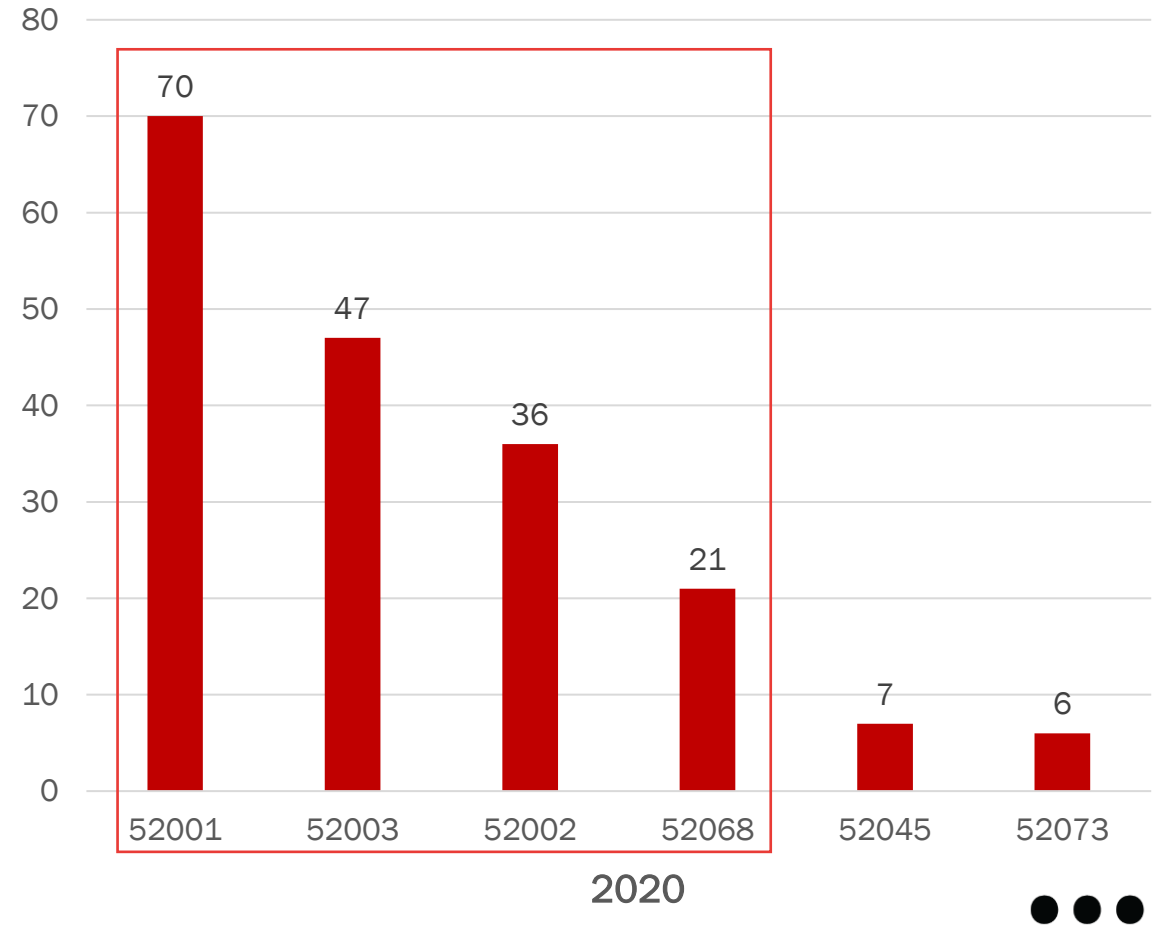
"Afraid to get lost - would love to see more signage."

"I work a lot of hours so I don't get a lot of time to visit as often as I would like."

DEMOGRAPHICS COMPARISON 2020 VS. 2026

- Most survey takers in 2026 and 2020 live in Dubuque County, meaning that audience is still primarily local



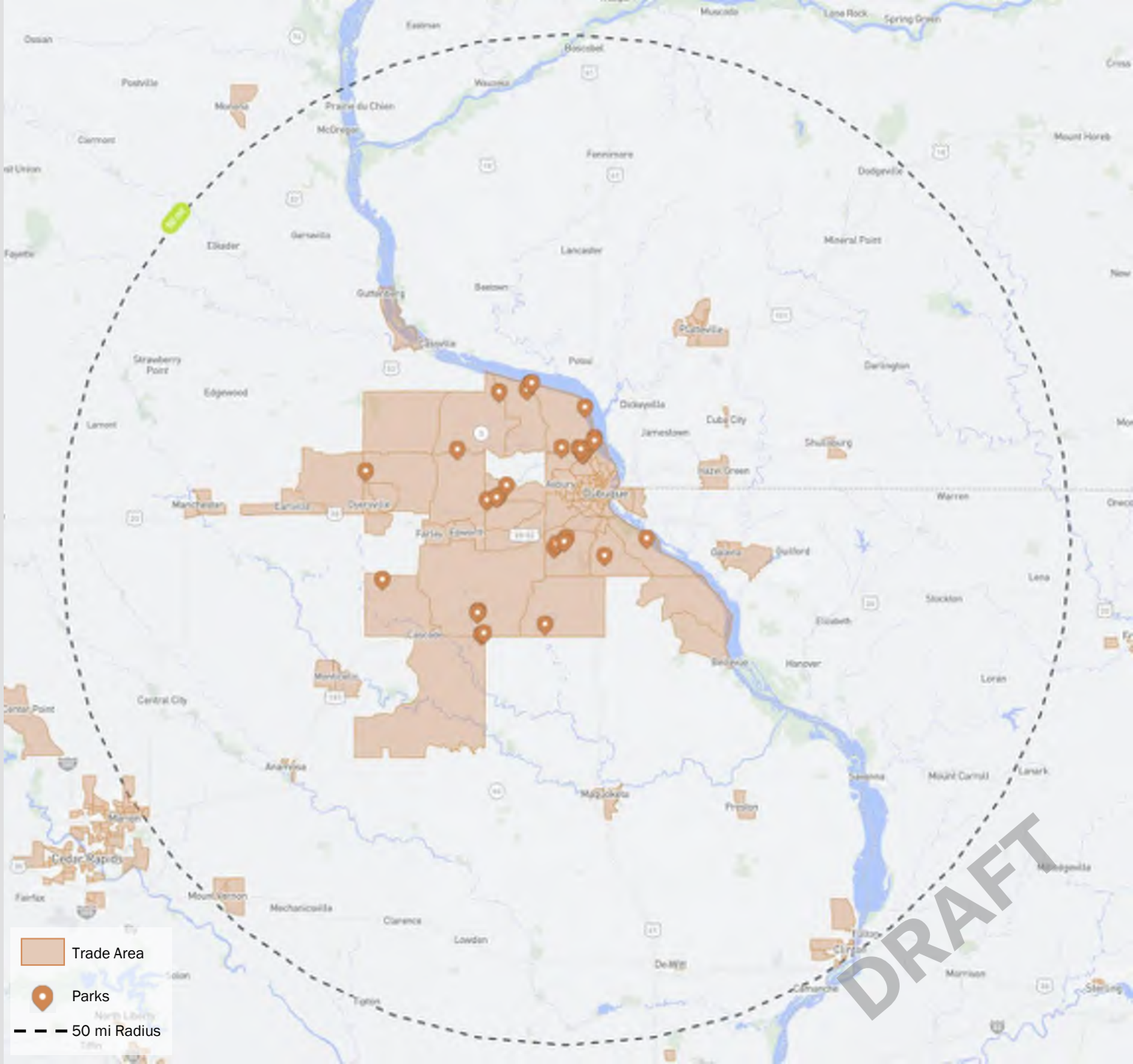


TRADE AREA MAP

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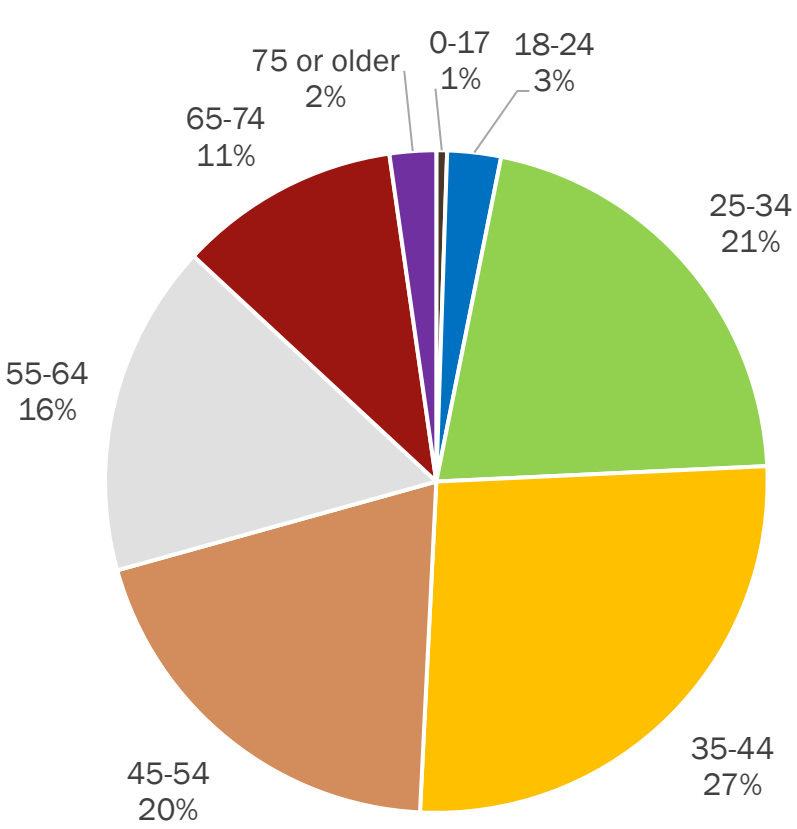
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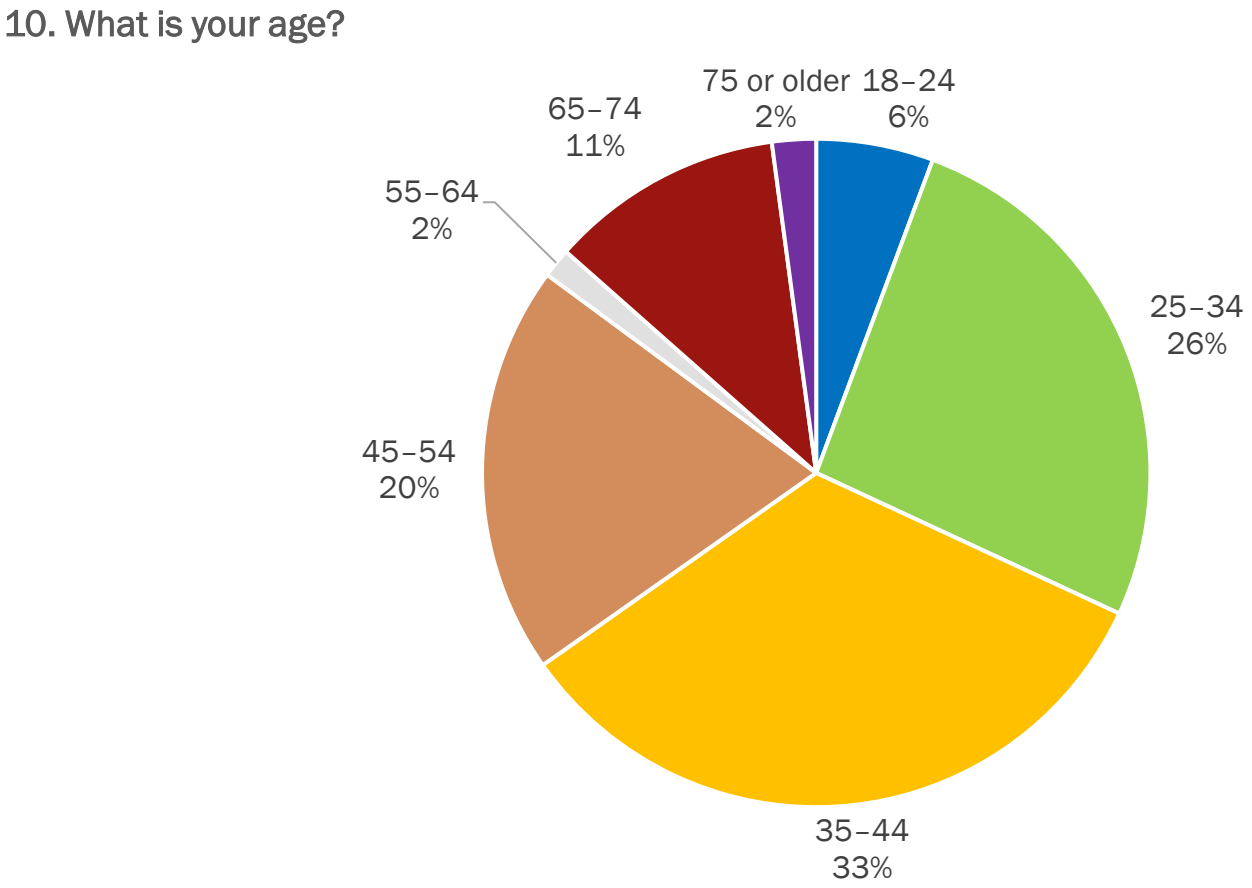


DEMOGRAPHICS COMPARISON 2020 VS. 2026

- Most survey takers in 2026 and 2020 are ages 35-44.
- There was a 14% increase in respondents ages 55-64, and a slight decrease in ages 0-24



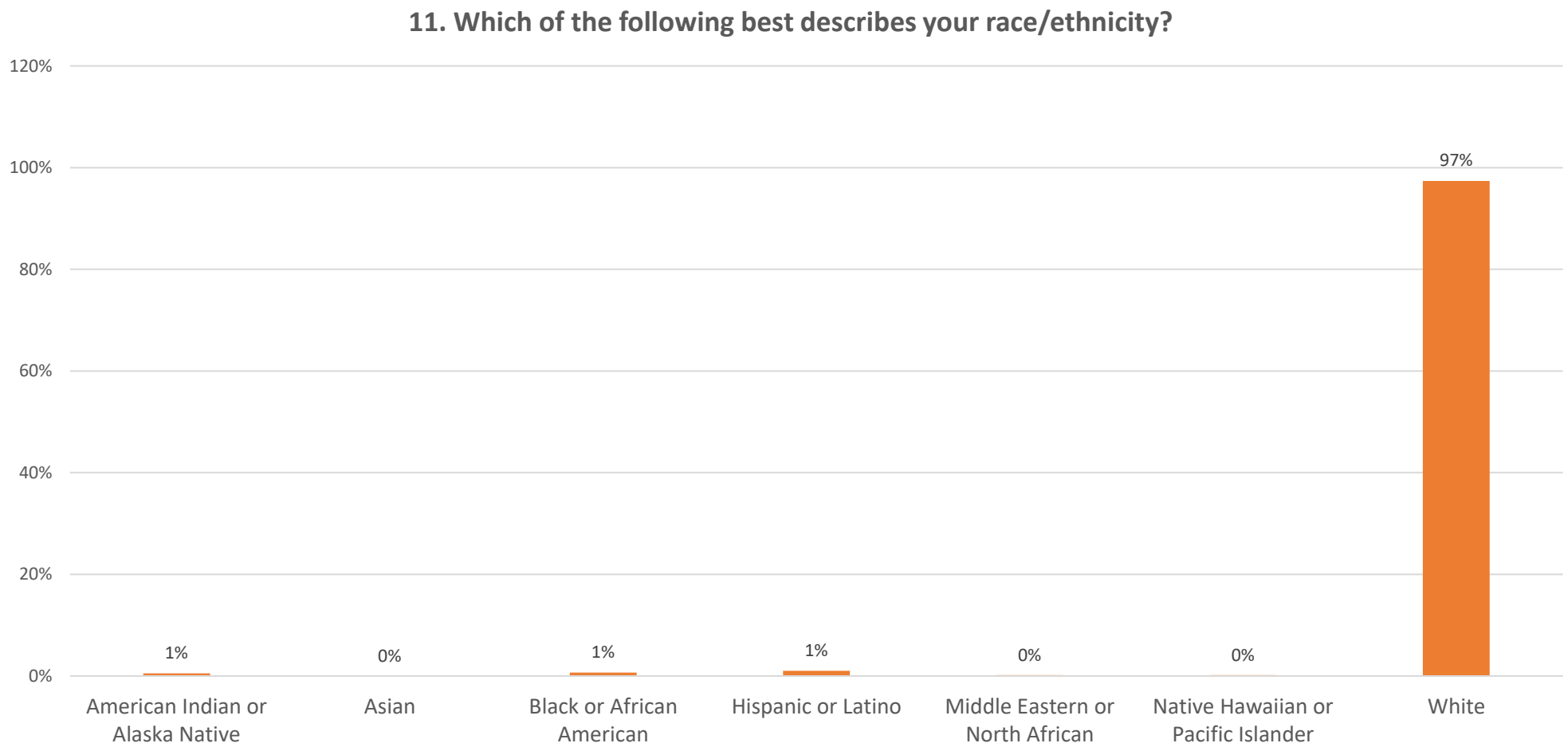
2026



2020

DEMOGRAPHICS

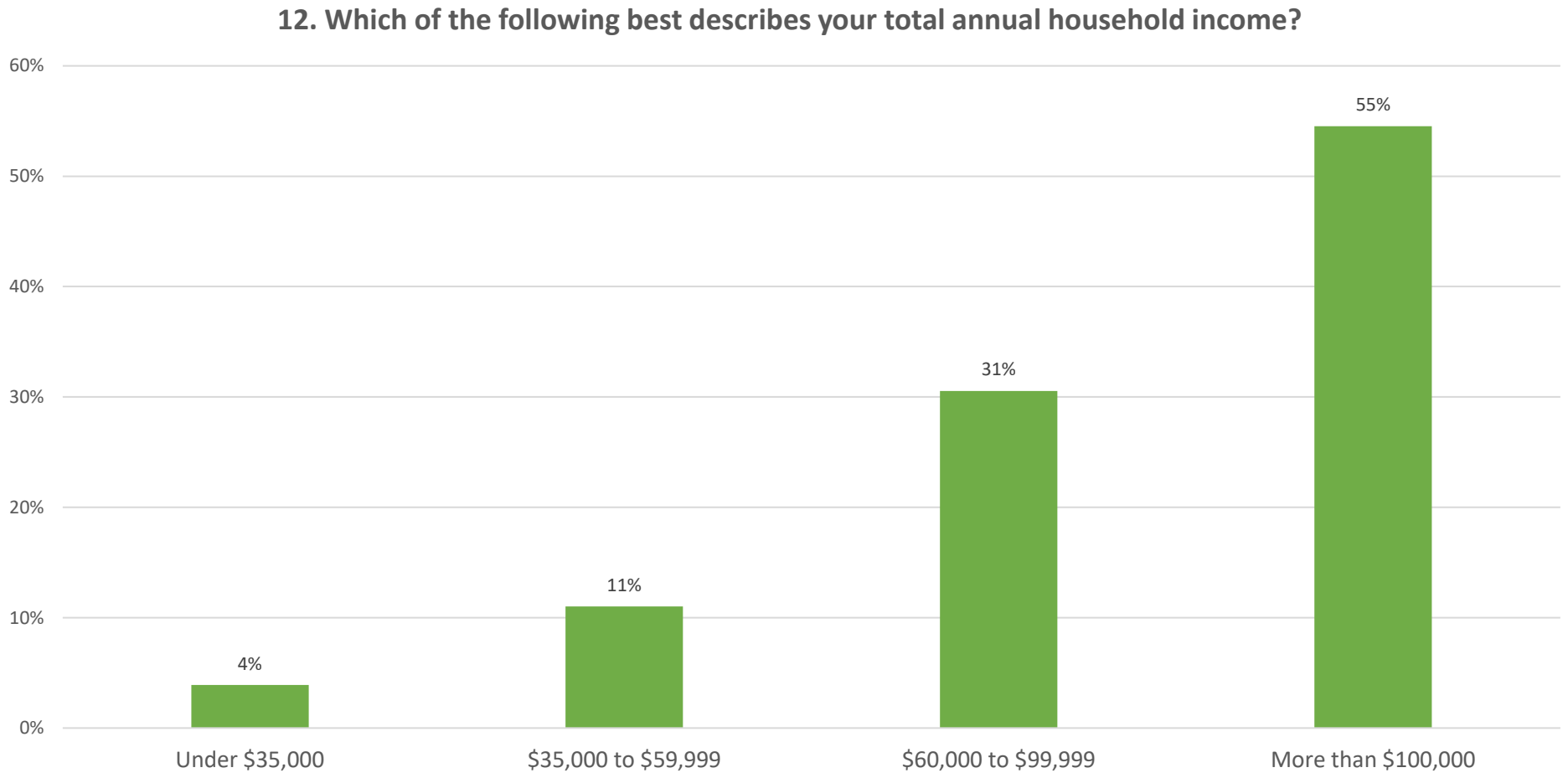
- 97% of respondents are white, compared to *91.4% of Dubuque County residents.
- Survey respondents were mostly representative of Dubuque County's racial makeup.



*According to the United States Census Bureau

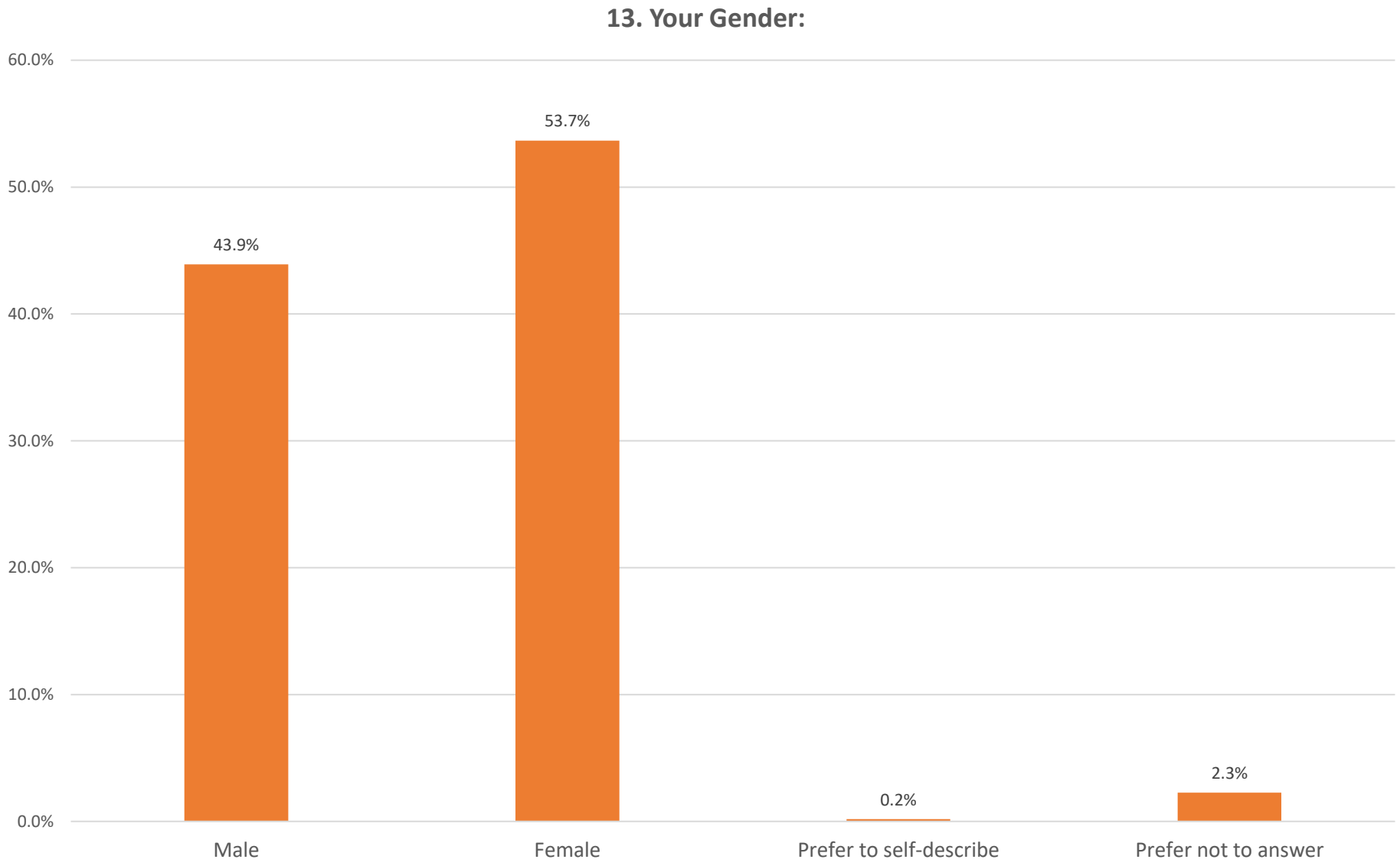
DEMOGRAPHICS

- Most respondents earn more than the *median household income for Dubuque County ($77,630).
- Respondent demographics are not representative of the average Dubuque County resident.



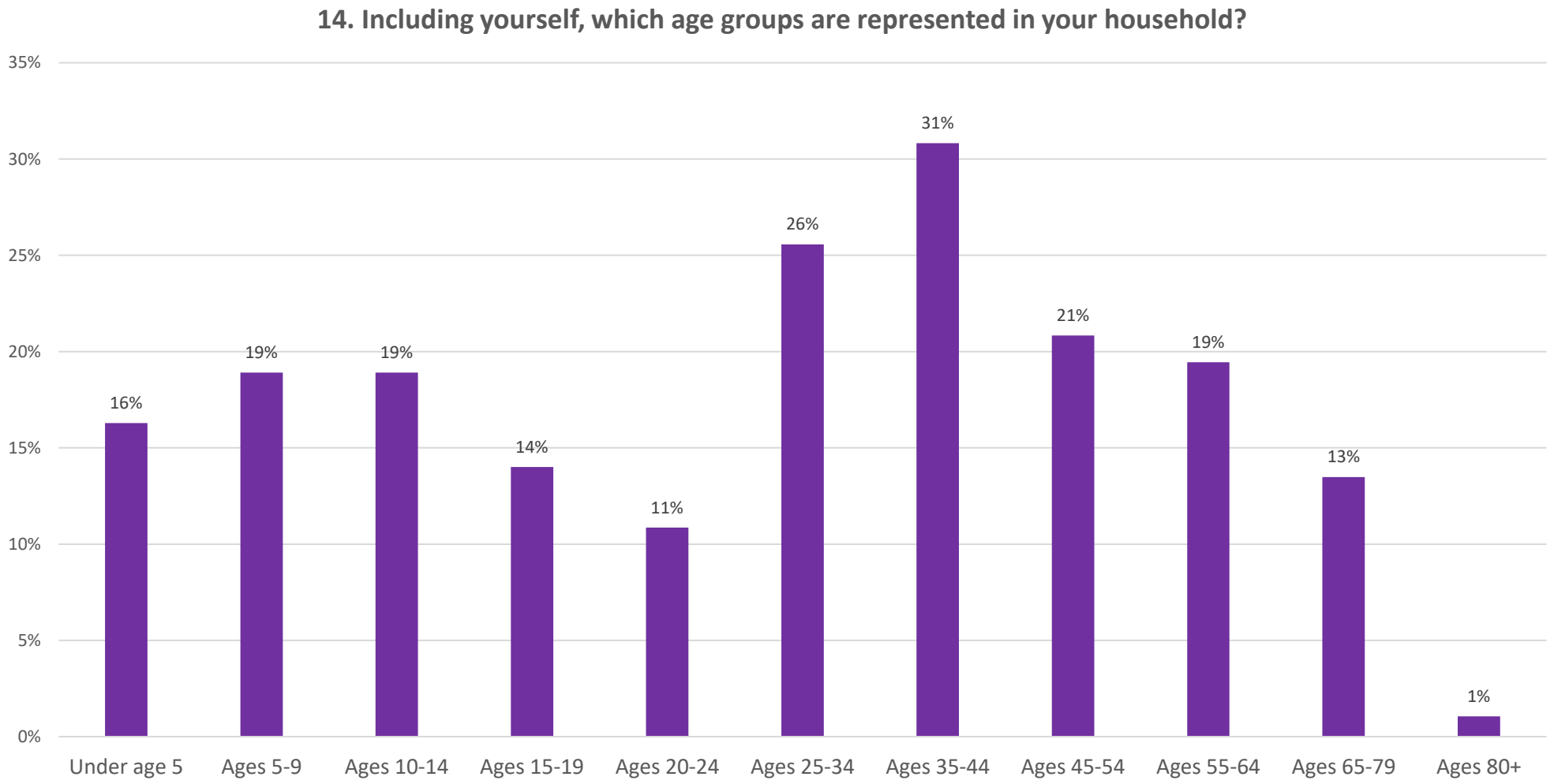
*According to the United States Census Bureau

DEMOGRAPHICS



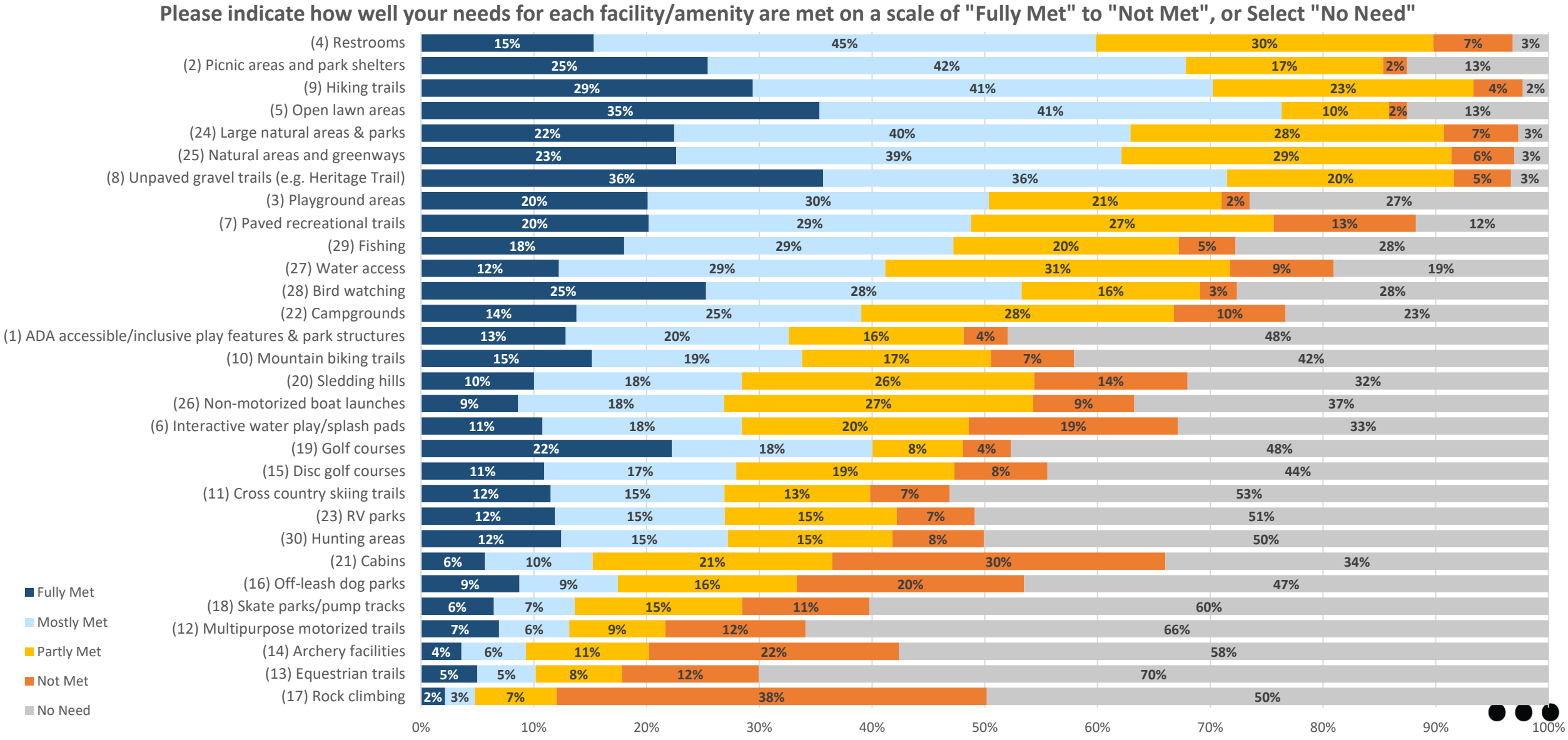
DEMOGRAPHICS

- 389 age responses indicate children 19 and under are present in households, which a majority of these children being 14 and under.



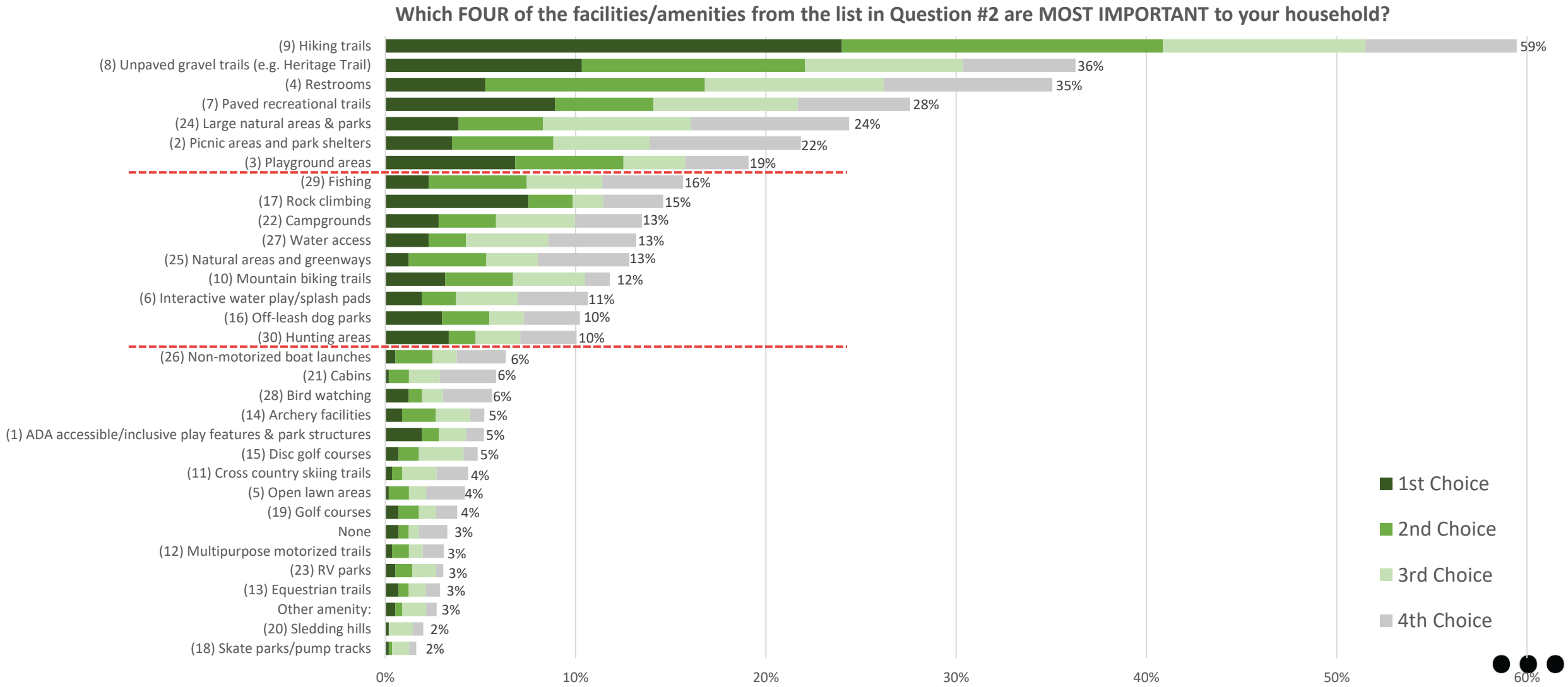
FACILITY/AMENITY NEEDS

- Open lawn spaces and unpaved gravel trails are most fully met, while rock climbing, cabins, and archery facilities are least met



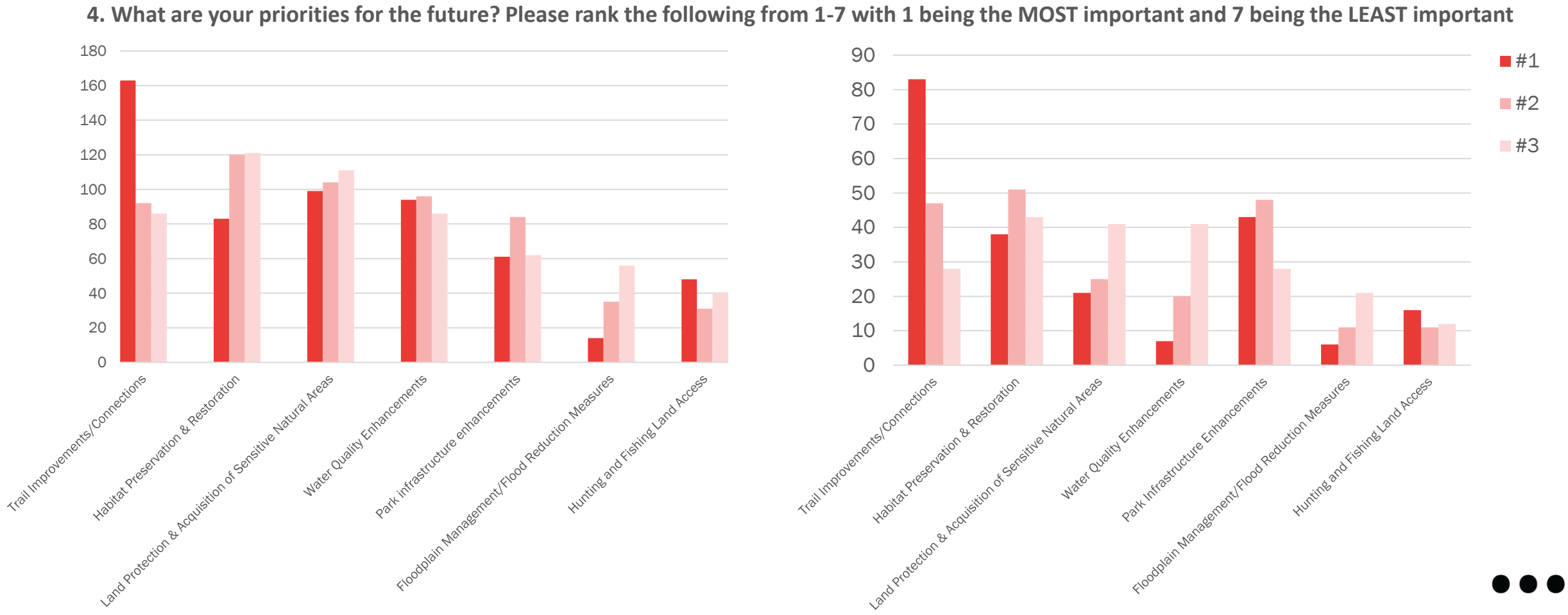
TOP MOST IMPORTANT FACILITIES/AMENITIES

- 59% of respondents selected Hiking Trails as the most important amenity to their households
- Top choices are for supporting park amenities like restrooms and shelters, while middle choices are primarily active recreation/activities

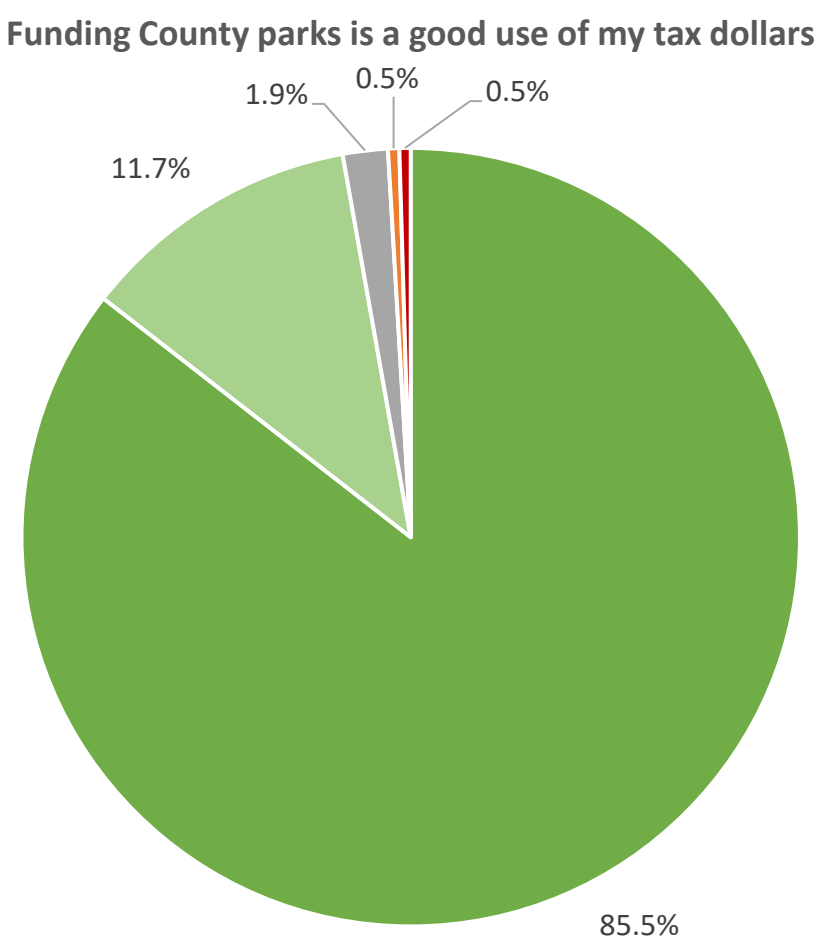


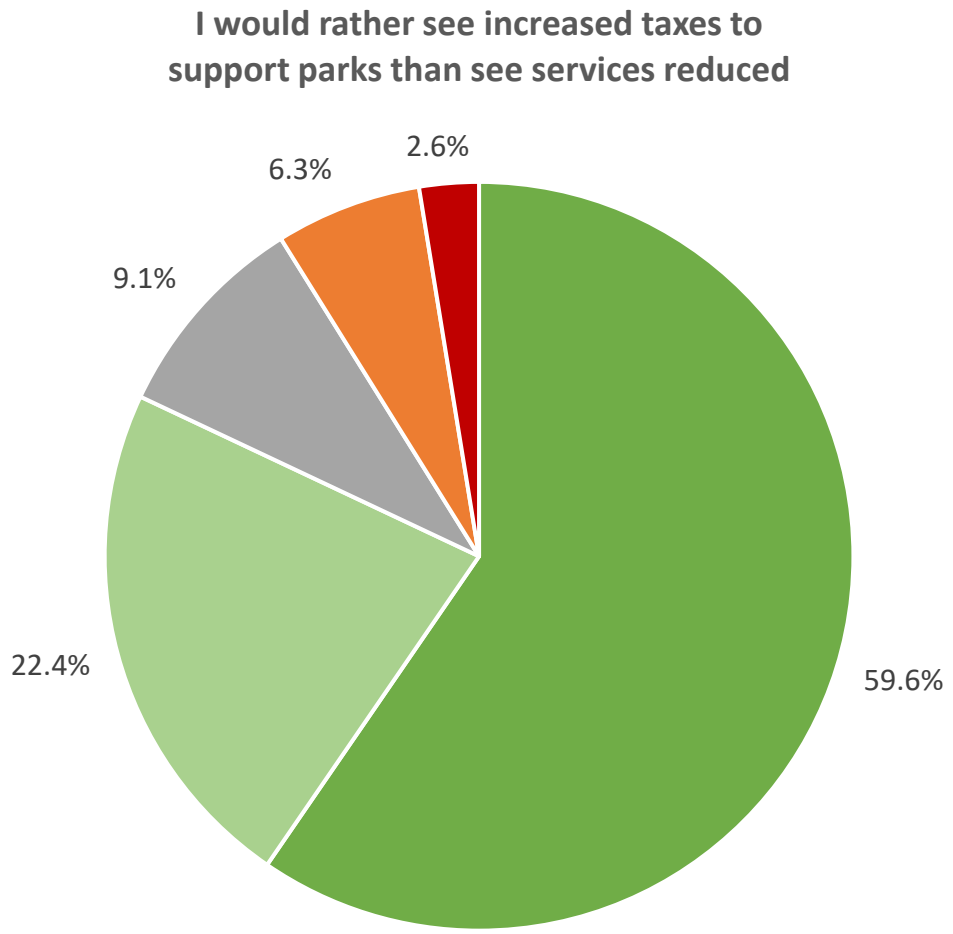
PRIORITIES COMPARISON 2026 VS. 2020

- Top three priorities remained the same for both 2026 and 2020 (Trail Improvements, Habitat Preservation, Land Protection/Acquisition).
- There has been an increase of 2026 respondents who prioritize environmental protection (Water Quality, Land Protection, and Floodplain Management)



FUNDING SUPPORT





ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

"If there was more climbing access in Dubuque county I would regularly use the park system. I think it's a beautiful part of the state but as I think is the case with most climbers in the area I know little about where / whether climbing is allowed within the county."

"Hire more staff to give the team the resources they need to do more programming and environmental stewardship. Better publicize events and programming."

"More summer sessions for children. I completely understand small group sizes to ensure safety and engagement. Maybe two sessions a month instead of one?"

"Keep the off leash dog park cleaner... people don't clean up after themselves... And maybe offer another one closer to the west end."

"I would love to see more signage when walking the trails. Every time I go, I feel like if I make a wrong turn, I will get lost."

"More programming for families and children. You do a great job and I love it so much that I want more of it."

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Main takeaways from comments:

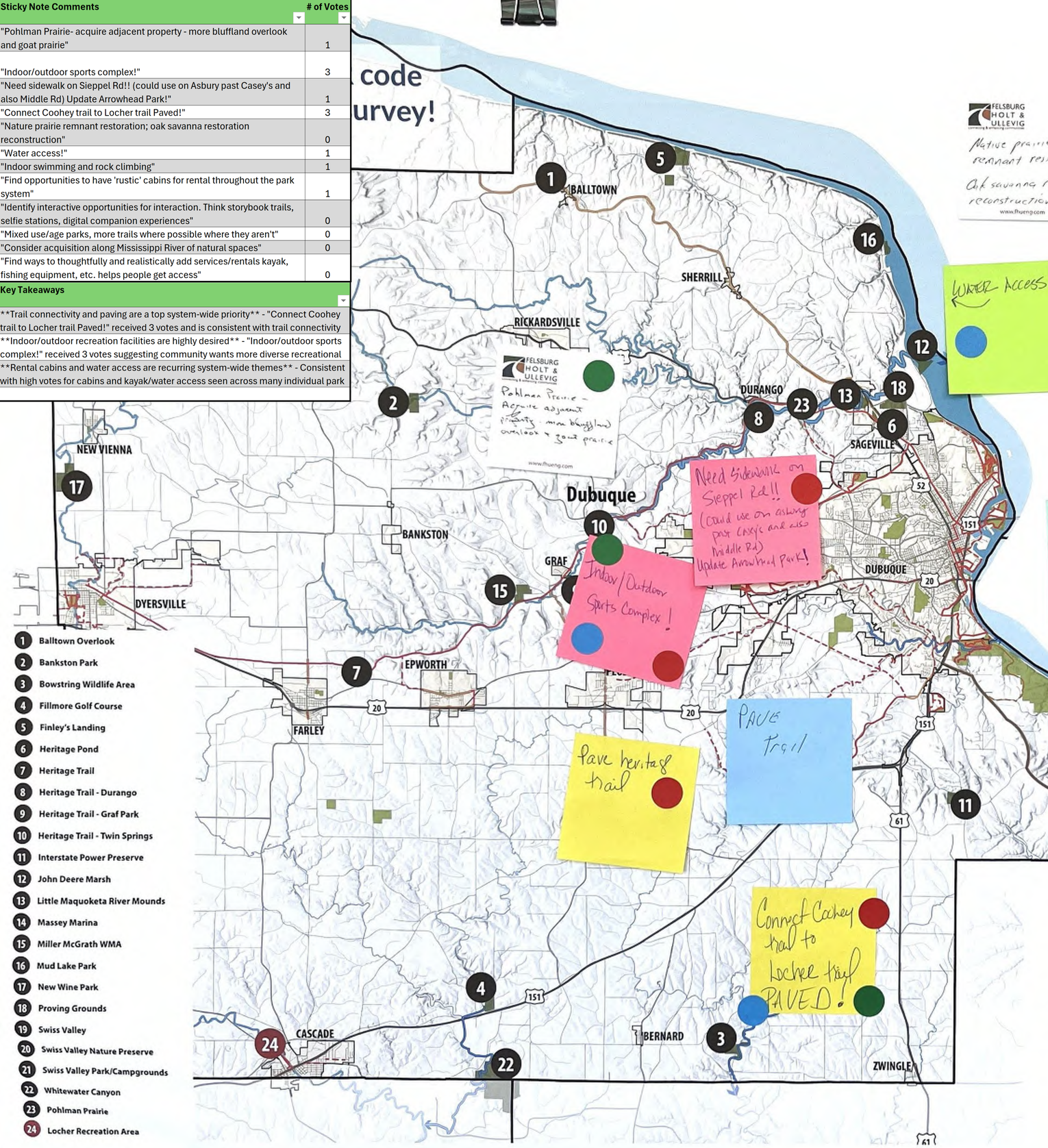
- **Heritage Trail paving is the most divisive topic** — strong opinions on both sides; supporters cite tourism, safety, and accessibility while opponents value its use for snowmobiling, fat biking, cross-country skiing, and running on soft surfaces
- **Rock climbing access is a major unmet need** — a large, organized group of respondents advocate for climbing at Whitewater Canyon and other areas
- **Trail connectivity is a top priority** — residents want trail connections between parks, communities, and downtown Dubuque
- **Facility improvements needed** — more restrooms, better signage, updated infrastructure at Swiss Valley and EB Lyons
- **Dog policy** — both sides represented; some want more off-leash areas, others want stronger leash law enforcement
- **Staffing, programming, and awareness** — residents want more family/youth programming, better marketing, and more staff

OPEN HOUSE BOARDS

DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION

Sticky Note Comments	# of Votes
"Pohlman Prairie- acquire adjacent property - more bluffland overlook and goat prairie"	1
"Indoor/outdoor sports complex!"	3
"Need sidewalk on Sieppel Rd!! (could use on Asbury past Casey's and also Middle Rd) Update Arrowhead Park!"	1
"Connect Coohey trail to Locher trail Paved!"	3
"Nature prairie remnant restoration; oak savanna restoration reconstruction"	0
"Water access!"	1
"Indoor swimming and rock climbing"	1
"Find opportunities to have 'rustic' cabins for rental throughout the park system"	1
"Identify interactive opportunities for interaction. Think storybook trails, selfie stations, digital companion experiences"	0
"Mixed use/age parks, more trails where possible where they aren't"	0
"Consider acquisition along Mississippi River of natural spaces"	0
"Find ways to thoughtfully and realistically add services/rentals kayak, fishing equipment, etc. helps people get access"	0

Key Takeaways
Trail connectivity and paving are a top system-wide priority - "Connect Coohey trail to Locher trail Paved!" received 3 votes and is consistent with trail connectivity
Indoor/outdoor recreation facilities are highly desired - "Indoor/outdoor sports complex!" received 3 votes suggesting community wants more diverse recreational
Rental cabins and water access are recurring system-wide themes - Consistent with high votes for cabins and kayak/water access seen across many individual park



1. Balltown Overlook
2. Bankston Park
3. Bowstring Wildlife Area
4. Fillmore Golf Course
5. Finley's Landing
6. Heritage Pond
7. Heritage Trail
8. Heritage Trail - Durango
9. Heritage Trail - Graf Park
10. Heritage Trail - Twin Springs
11. Interstate Power Preserve
12. John Deere Marsh
13. Little Maquoketa River Mounds
14. Massey Marina
15. Miller McGrath WMA
16. Mud Lake Park
17. New Wine Park
18. Proving Grounds
19. Swiss Valley
20. Swiss Valley Nature Preserve
21. Swiss Valley Park/Campgrounds
22. Whitewater Canyon
23. Pohlman Prairie
24. Locher Recreation Area

Project Overview

Since 2020, Dubuque County Conservation has completed numerous projects—ranging from improving fishing access and enhancing campgrounds, to restoring streams and expanding natural areas. These efforts have been guided by the Comprehensive Parks, Trails and Open Spaces Plan. As the County Conservation Board looks ahead to the next five years, your feedback on the priorities, improvements and actions is desired.

Public engagement is an important part of any community p
That's why we need to hear from you!

Mission

A network of high quality parks, habitats, trails, and waters supported by communities passionate about nature.

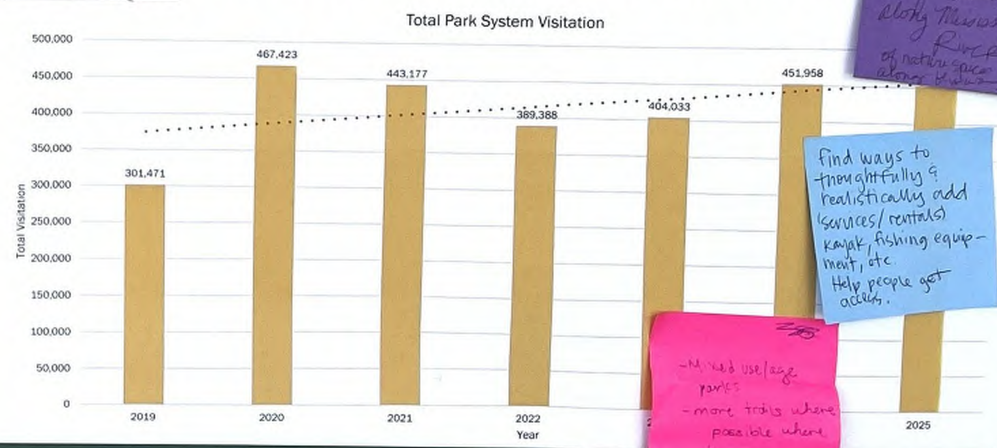
Vision

To engage the community's stewardship and enjoyment of its natural resources.

What Is Placer.ai?

An AI-powered location analytics platform tha
location data. It helps businesses and entities m
decisions based on things like visitation trends and visitor demographics.

Since 2019, park system usage has increased 50%.



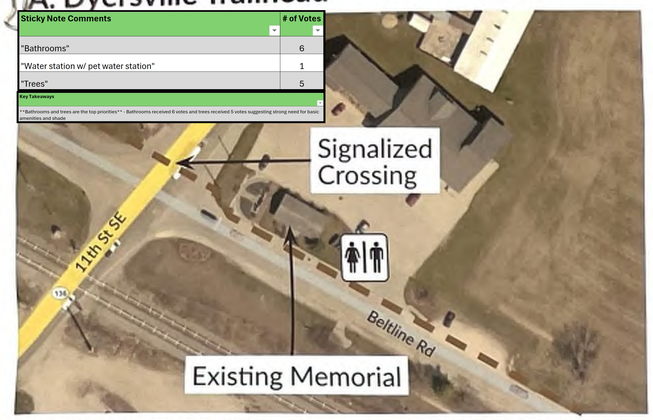
COMPREHENSIVE PARKS, TRAILS, AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN UPDATE

A. Dyersville Trailhead

Sticky Note Comments	# of Votes
"Bathrooms"	6
"Water station w/ pet water station"	1
"Trees"	5

Key Takeaways

Bathrooms and trees are the top priorities - Bathrooms received 6 votes and trees received 5 votes suggesting strong need for basic amenities and shade



B. Farley Access Point

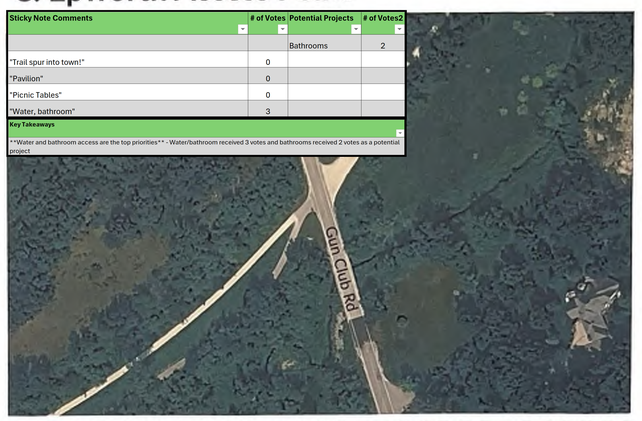


C. Epworth Access Point

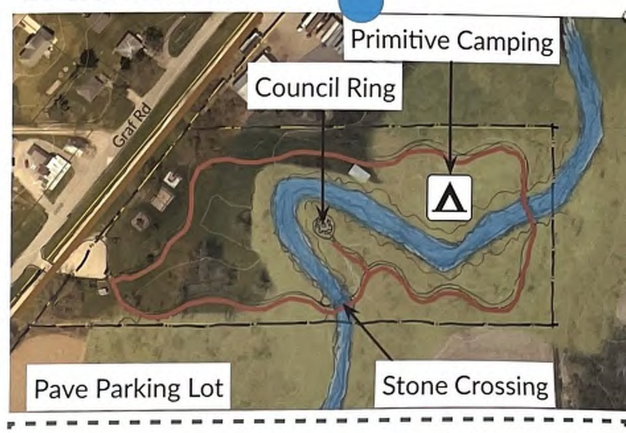
Sticky Note Comments	# of Votes	Potential Projects	# of Votes2
		Bathrooms	2
"Trail spur into town!"	0		
"Pavilion"	0		
"Picnic Tables"	0		
"Water, bathroom"	3		

Key Takeaways

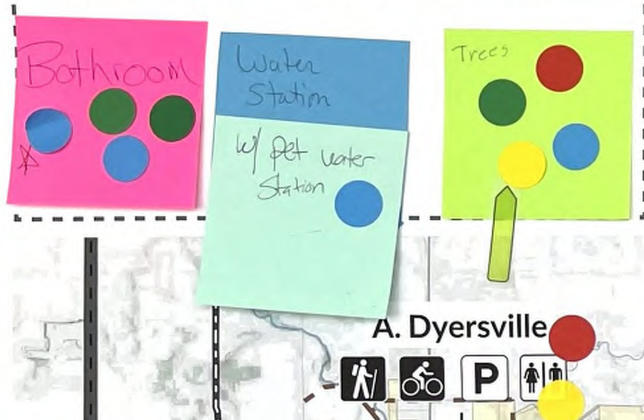
Water and bathroom access are the top priorities - Water/bathroom received 3 votes and bathrooms received 2 votes as a potential project



D. Graf Trailhead



What would You Like to See at this Trailhead?



What would You Like to See at this Access Point?



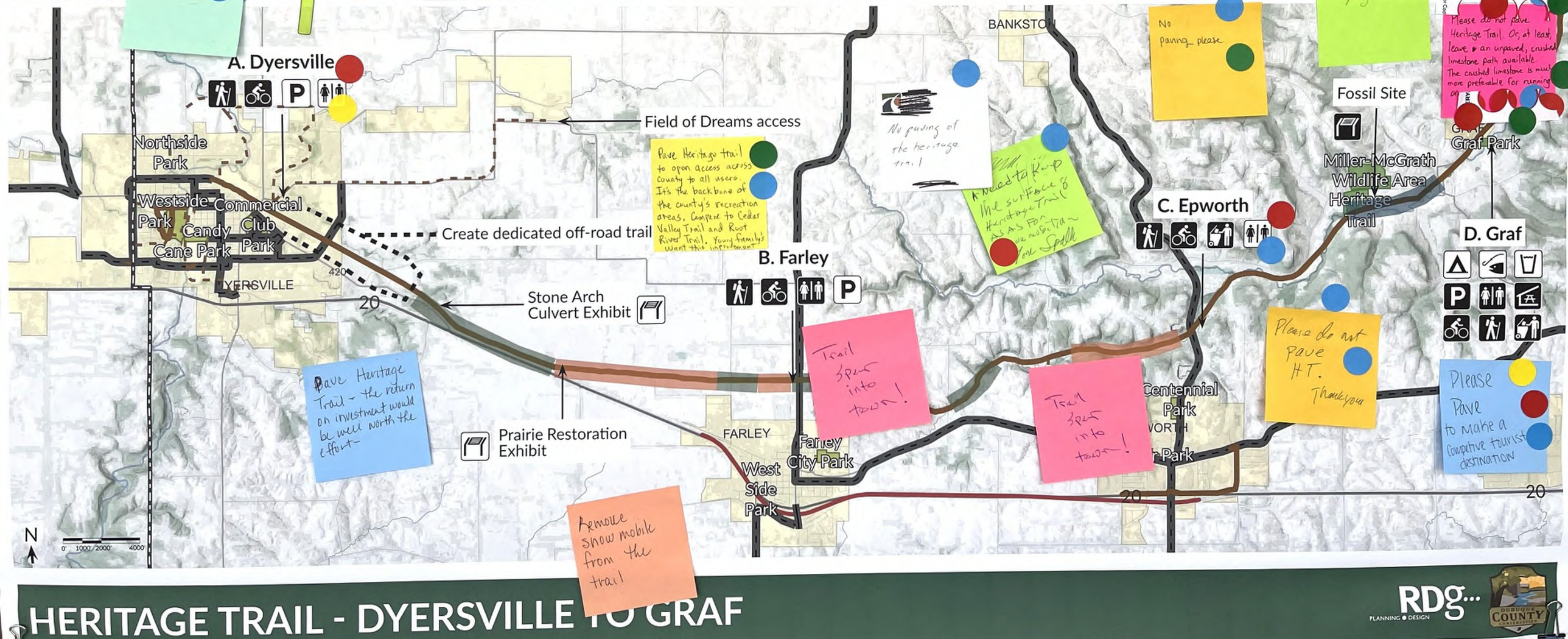
Sticky Note Comments	# of Votes
"Trail spur into town!"	0
"Love the pavilion and bathroom"	0

What would You Like to See at this Access Point?



What would You Like to See at this Trailhead?

Potential Projects	# of Votes2	Key Takeaways
Primitive Camping	1	**Primitive camping is the only voted project** - Received 1 vote suggesting mild interest in overnight facilities



HERITAGE TRAIL - DYERSVILLE TO GRAF

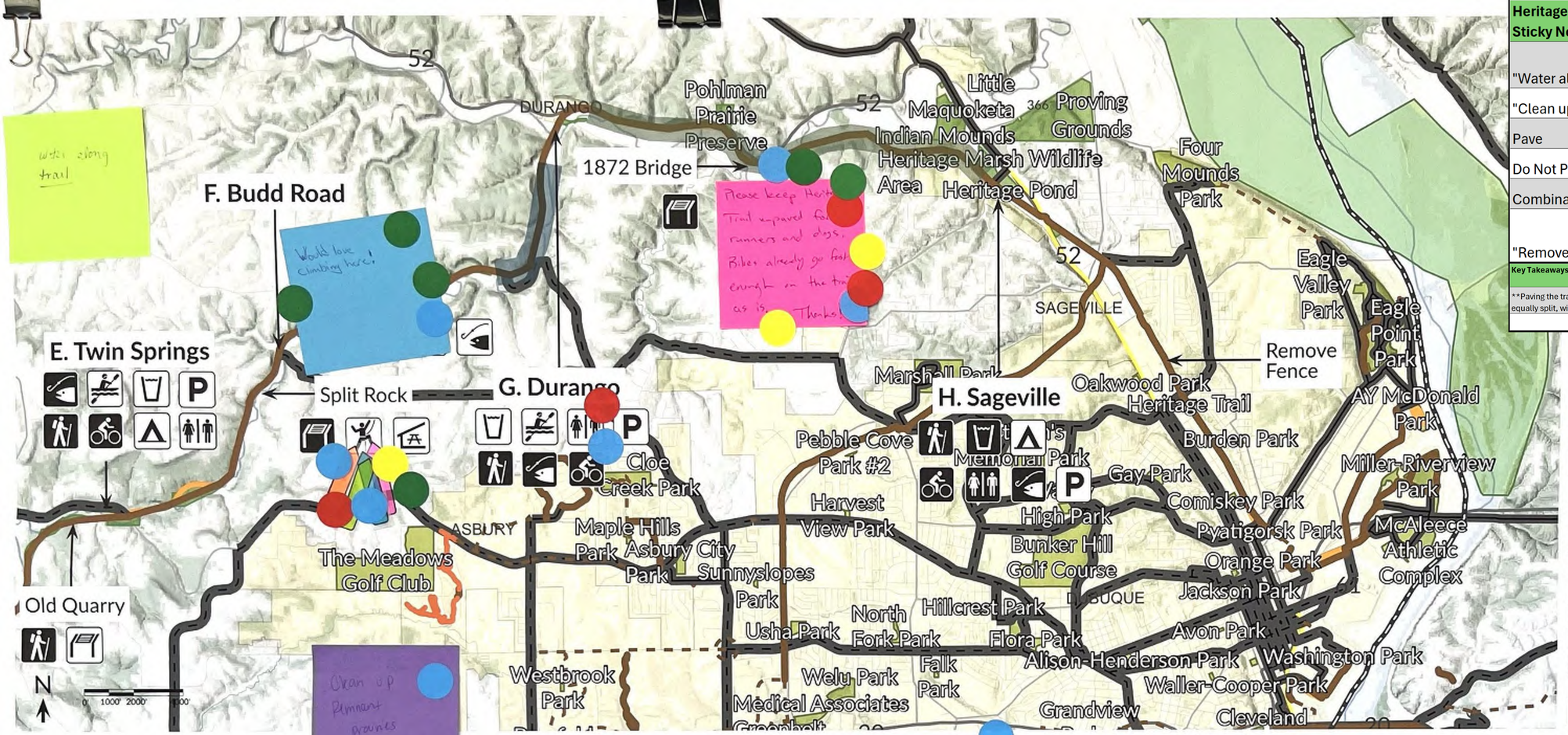
RDG PLANNING • DESIGN

DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION

Heritage Trail - Overall Sticky Note Comments	# of Votes
"Water along trail"	0
"Clean up remnant prairies"	1
Pave	30
Do Not Pave	30
Combination	13
"Remove snow mobile from the trail"	0

Key Takeaways

Paving the trail is the most divisive system-wide issue - Pave and Do Not Pave each received 30 votes showing the community is equally split, with Combination receiving 13 votes as a compromise

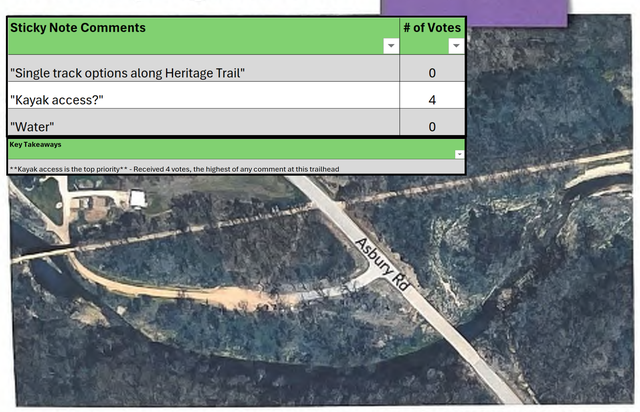


E. Twin Springs Trailhead

Sticky Note Comments	# of Votes
"Single track options along Heritage Trail"	0
"Kayak access?"	4
"Water"	0

Key Takeaways

Kayak access is the top priority - Received 4 votes, the highest of any comment at this trailhead



F. Budd Road Trailhead

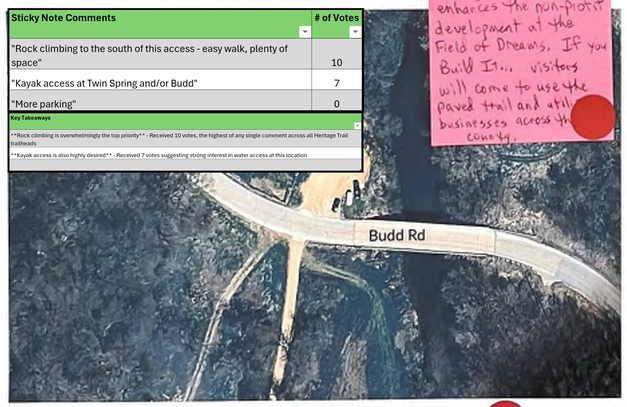
Sticky Note Comments	# of Votes
"Rock climbing to the south of this access - easy walk, plenty of space"	10
"Kayak access at Twin Spring and/or Budd"	7
"More parking"	0

Key Takeaways

Rock climbing is overwhelmingly the top priority - Received 10 votes, the highest of any single comment across all Heritage Trail trailheads

Kayak access is also highly desired - Received 7 votes suggesting strong interest in water access at this location

Paving Heritage Trail enhances the non-profit development at the Field of Dreams. If you Build It... visitors will come to use the paved trail and utilize businesses across the county.

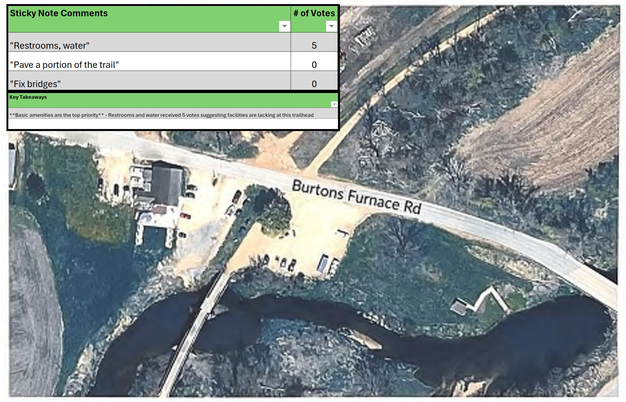


G. Durango Trailhead

Sticky Note Comments	# of Votes
"Restrooms, water"	5
"Pave a portion of the trail"	0
"Fix bridges"	0

Key Takeaways

Basic amenities are the top priority - Restrooms and water received 5 votes suggesting facilities are lacking at this trailhead

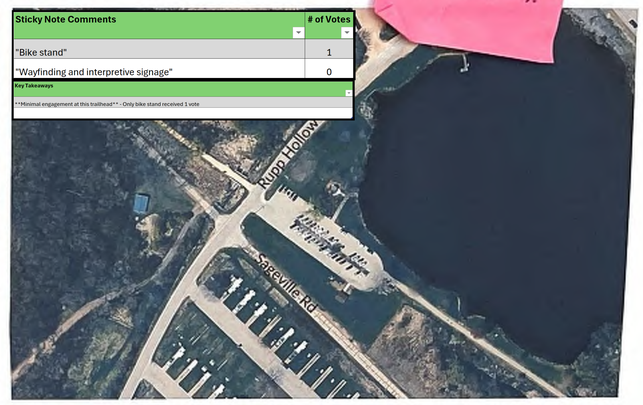


H. Sageville Trailhead

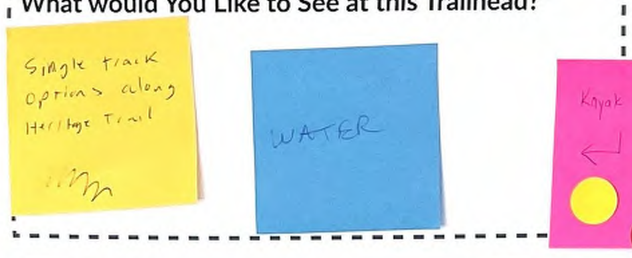
Sticky Note Comments	# of Votes
"Bike stand"	1
"Wayfinding and interpretive signage"	0

Key Takeaways

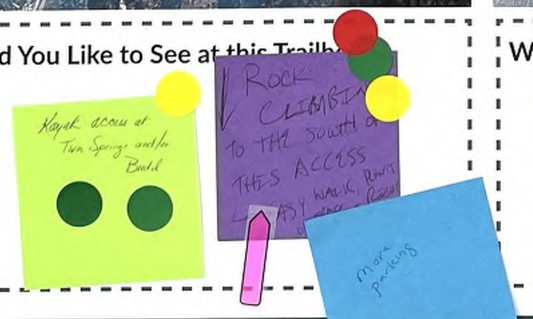
Minimal engagement at this trailhead - Only bike stand received 1 vote



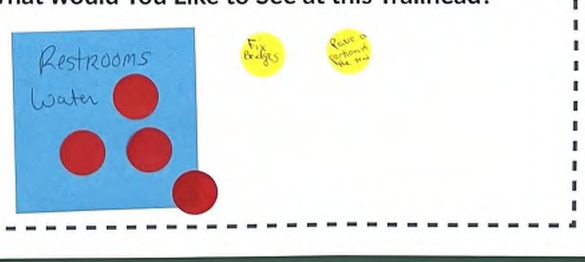
What would You Like to See at this Trailhead?



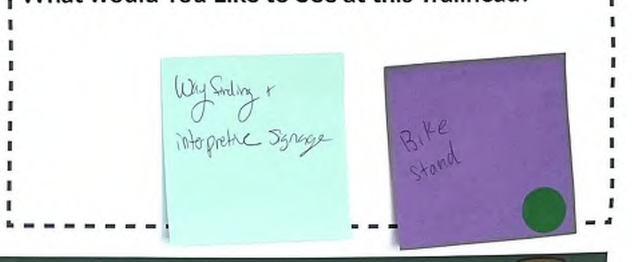
What would You Like to See at this Trailhead?



What would You Like to See at this Trailhead?



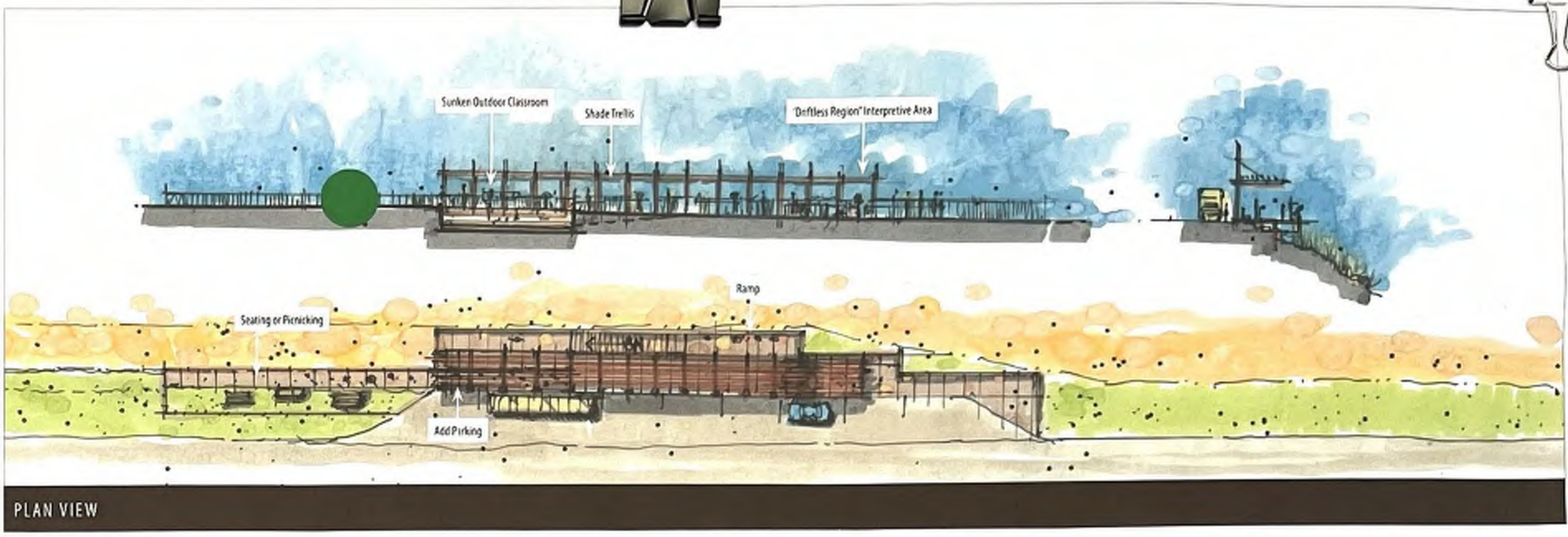
What would You Like to See at this Trailhead?



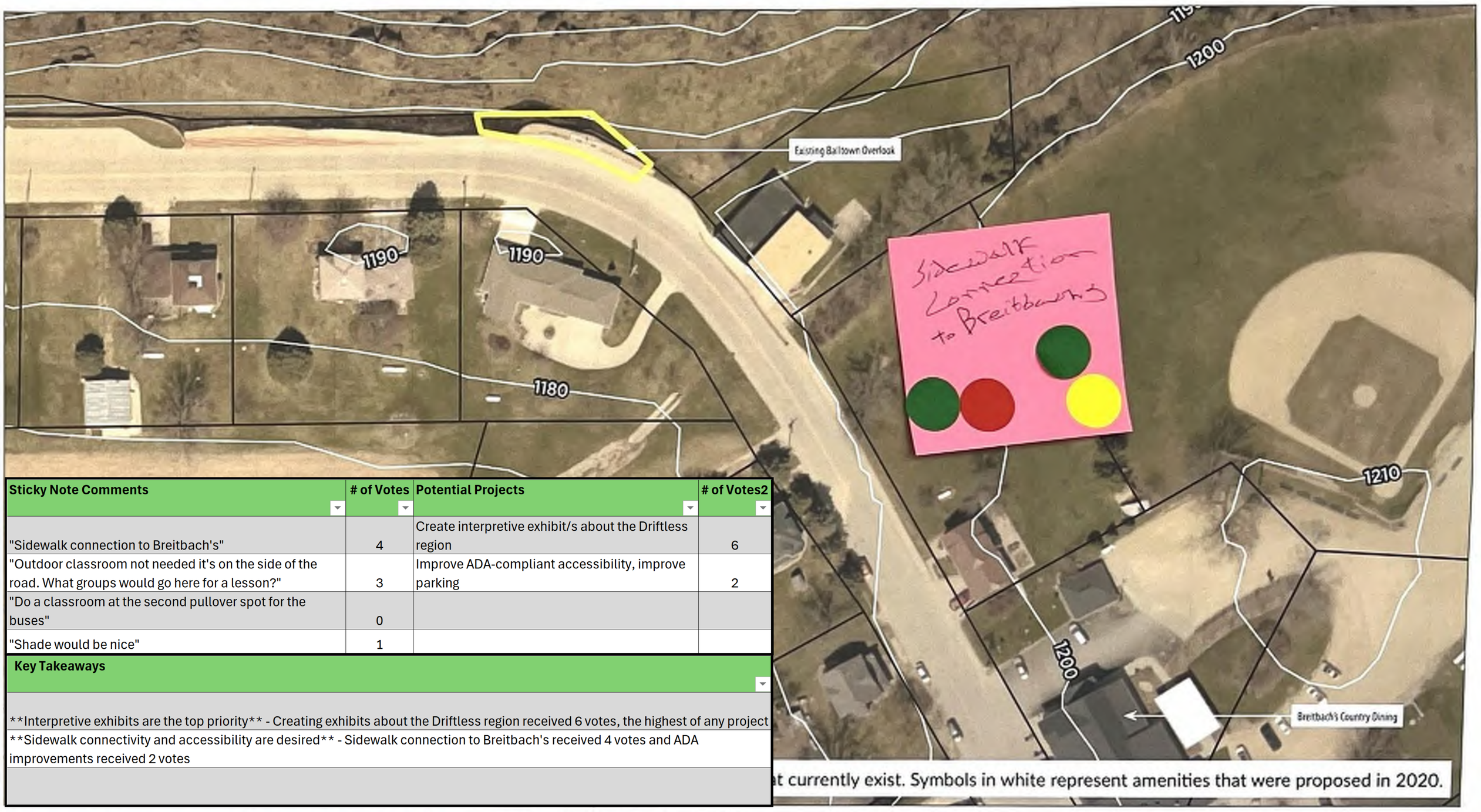
HERITAGE TRAIL - TWIN SPRINGS TO SAGEVILLE

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PLAN VIEW



Sticky Note Comments	# of Votes	Potential Projects	# of Votes2
"Sidewalk connection to Breitbach's"	4	Create interpretive exhibit/s about the Driftless region	6
"Outdoor classroom not needed it's on the side of the road. What groups would go here for a lesson?"	3	Improve ADA-compliant accessibility, improve parking	2
"Do a classroom at the second pullover spot for the buses"	0		
"Shade would be nice"	1		

Key Takeaways

Interpretive exhibits are the top priority - Creating exhibits about the Driftless region received 6 votes, the highest of any project

Sidewalk connectivity and accessibility are desired - Sidewalk connection to Breitbach's received 4 votes and ADA improvements received 2 votes

Recently Completed Park Improvements

- Completed railing maintenance and sidewalk leveling

Potential Projects

- Create interpretive exhibit/s about the Driftless region
- Improve outdoor classroom/seating and add shade structures
- Improve ADA-compliant accessibility, improve parking

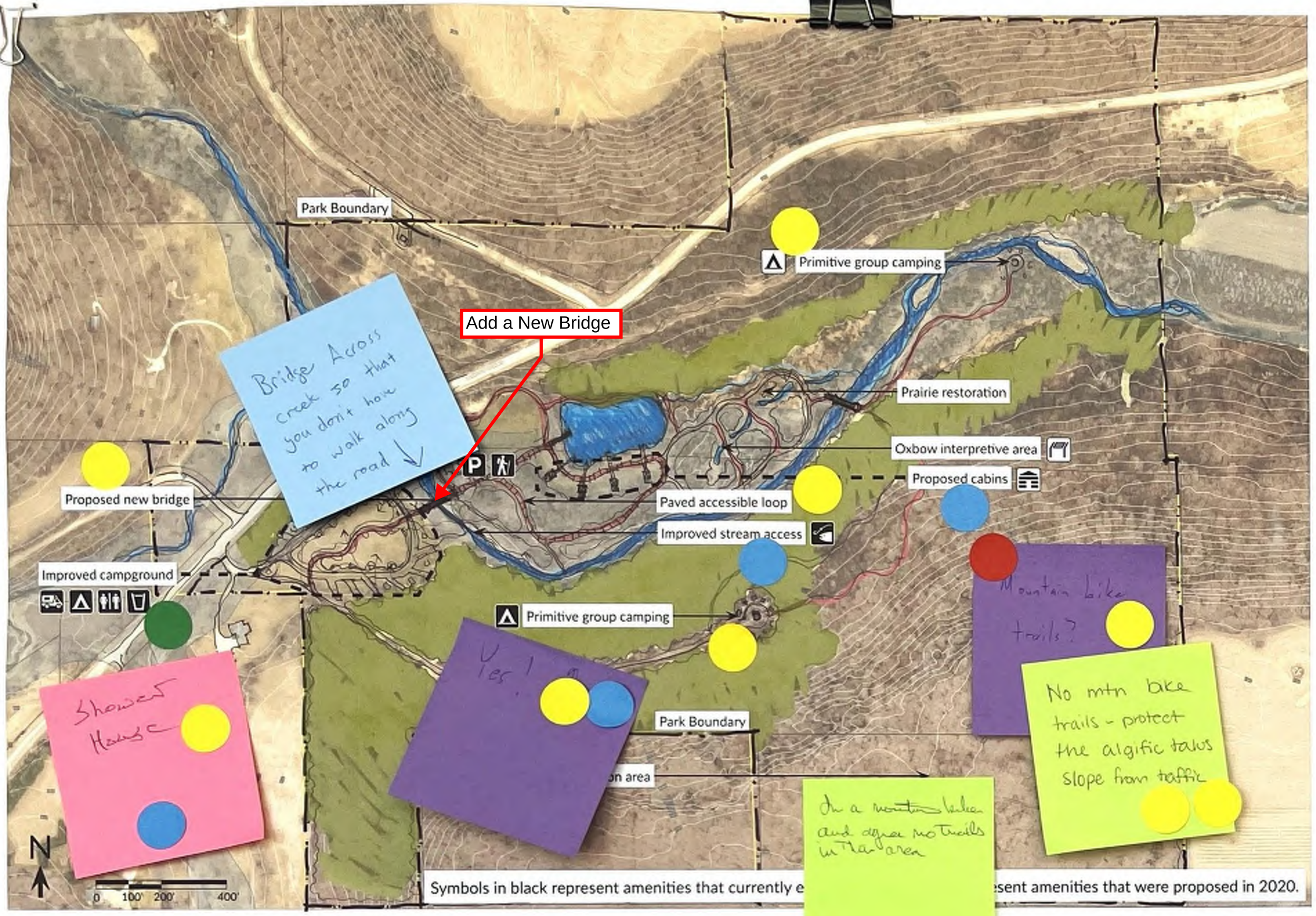
What would You Like to See at this park? Leave Your Comments Below:



BALLTOWN OVERLOOK

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Recently Completed Park Improvements

- Trails are currently being construc
- Installed a group campfire at the north of the park
- Raised outlet structure to improve pond

Potentia

- Add a new bridge
- Improve campground, add a group camping area, and consider adding cabins
- Add ADA-compliant walking route to provide access to fishing for all people
- Vegetation management in flood plain, meadow and woodlan
- Stream and prairie restoratio
- Add interpretive displays about Karst Depressions
- Acquire surrounding properties to protect drinking water and preserve sensitive ecological areas, including Karst Depressio

What would You Like to See at this park? Leave Your Comments Below:

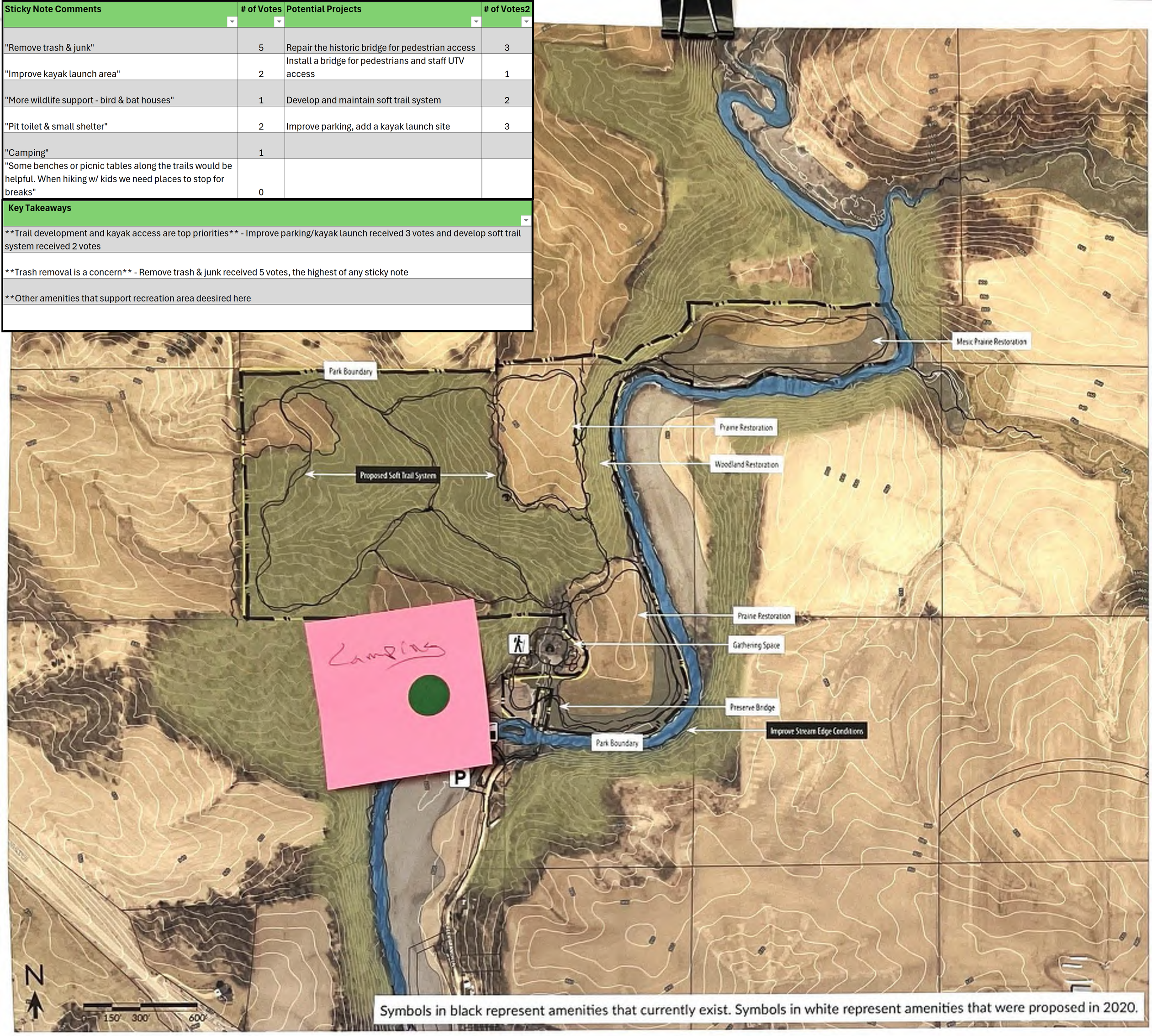
Sticky Note Comments	# of Votes	Potential Projects	# of Votes2
"Bridge Across creek so that you don't have to walk along the road"	0	Add a new bridge	3
"Yes!" [primitive group camping]	2	Vegetation management in flood plain, meadow and woodland	2
"Shower House"	2	Stream and prairie restoration	2
"No mtn bike trails - protect the algific talus slope from traffic"	2	Add interpretive displays about Karst Depressions	1
"I'm a mountain biker and agree no trails in this area"	0	Acquire surrounding properties to protect drinking water and preserve sensitive ecological areas, including Karst Depressions	2
"Mountain bike trails?"	2	Improved campground, add a group camping area, and consider adding cabins	1
		Primitive group camping	2
		Proposed cabins	1
		Paved accessible loop	1
		Improved stream access	1

Key Takeaways
Bridge and vegetation management are top priorities - Both received 3 and 2 votes respectively
Protection of sensitive ecological areas is valued - Acquiring surrounding properties to protect Karst Depressions received 2 votes
Mountain biking is controversial - Two sticky notes oppose mountain bike trails while one supports them suggesting a divided community

BANKSTON PARK

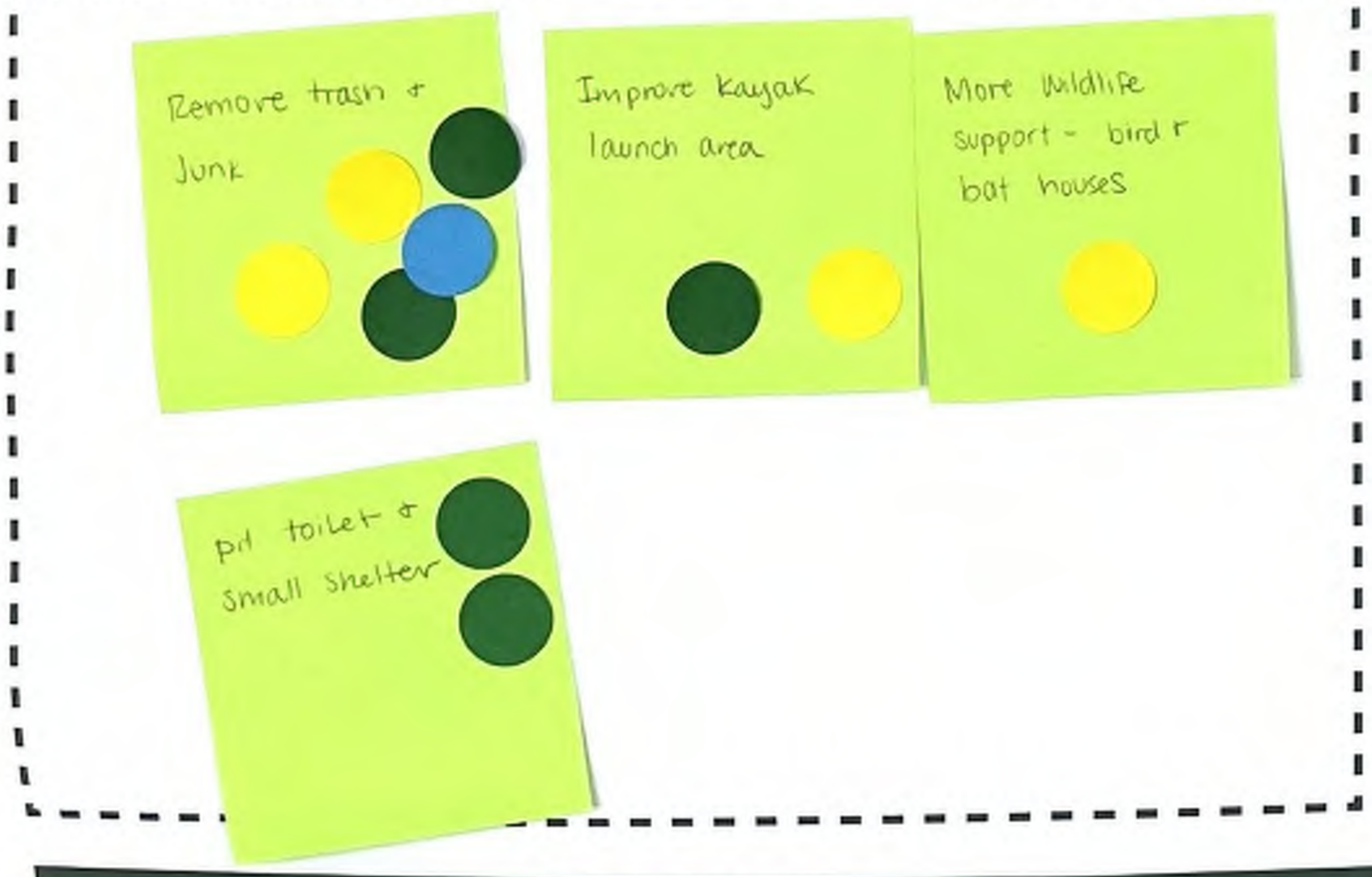
Sticky Note Comments	# of Votes	Potential Projects	# of Votes2
"Remove trash & junk"	5	Repair the historic bridge for pedestrian access	3
"Improve kayak launch area"	2	Install a bridge for pedestrians and staff UTV access	1
"More wildlife support - bird & bat houses"	1	Develop and maintain soft trail system	2
"Pit toilet & small shelter"	2	Improve parking, add a kayak launch site	3
"Camping"	1		
"Some benches or picnic tables along the trails would be helpful. When hiking w/ kids we need places to stop for breaks"	0		

Key Takeaways
Trail development and kayak access are top priorities - Improve parking/kayak launch received 3 votes and develop soft trail system received 2 votes
Trash removal is a concern - Remove trash & junk received 5 votes, the highest of any sticky note
**Other amenities that support recreation area deesired here



Symbols in black represent amenities that currently exist. Symbols in white represent amenities that were proposed in 2020.

What would You Like to See at this park? Leave Your Comments Below:



Potential Projects

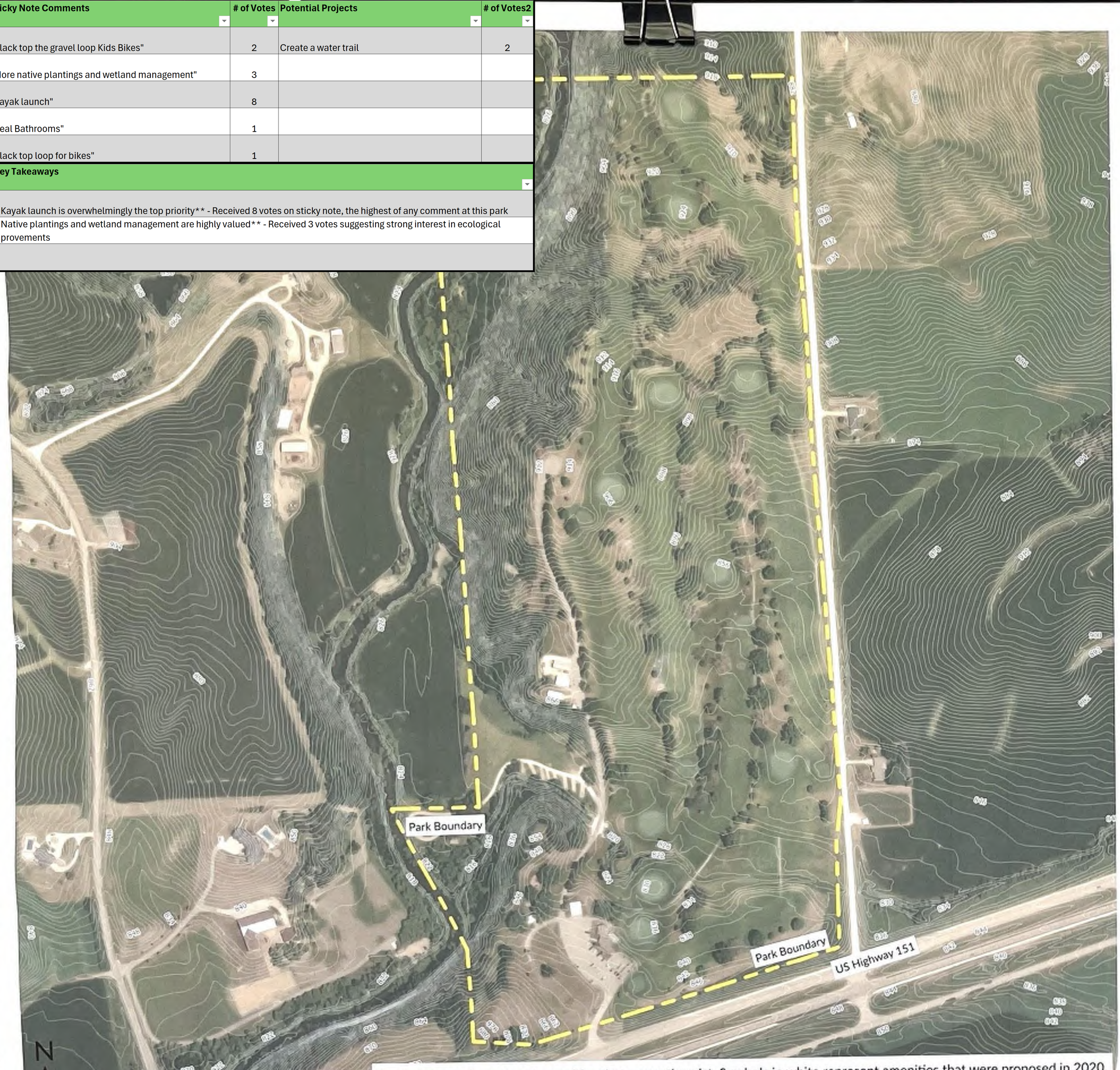
- Repair the historic bridge for pedestrian access
- Install a bridge for pedestrians and staff UTV access
- Develop and maintain soft trail system
- Improve parking, add a kayak launch site



BOWSTRING WILDLIFE AREA

Sticky Note Comments	# of Votes	Potential Projects	# of Votes2
"Black top the gravel loop Kids Bikes"	2	Create a water trail	2
"More native plantings and wetland management"	3		
"Kayak launch"	8		
"Real Bathrooms"	1		
"Black top loop for bikes"	1		

Key Takeaways
Kayak launch is overwhelmingly the top priority - Received 8 votes on sticky note, the highest of any comment at this park
Native plantings and wetland management are highly valued - Received 3 votes suggesting strong interest in ecological improvements



Symbols in black represent amenities that currently exist. Symbols in white represent amenities that were proposed in 2020.

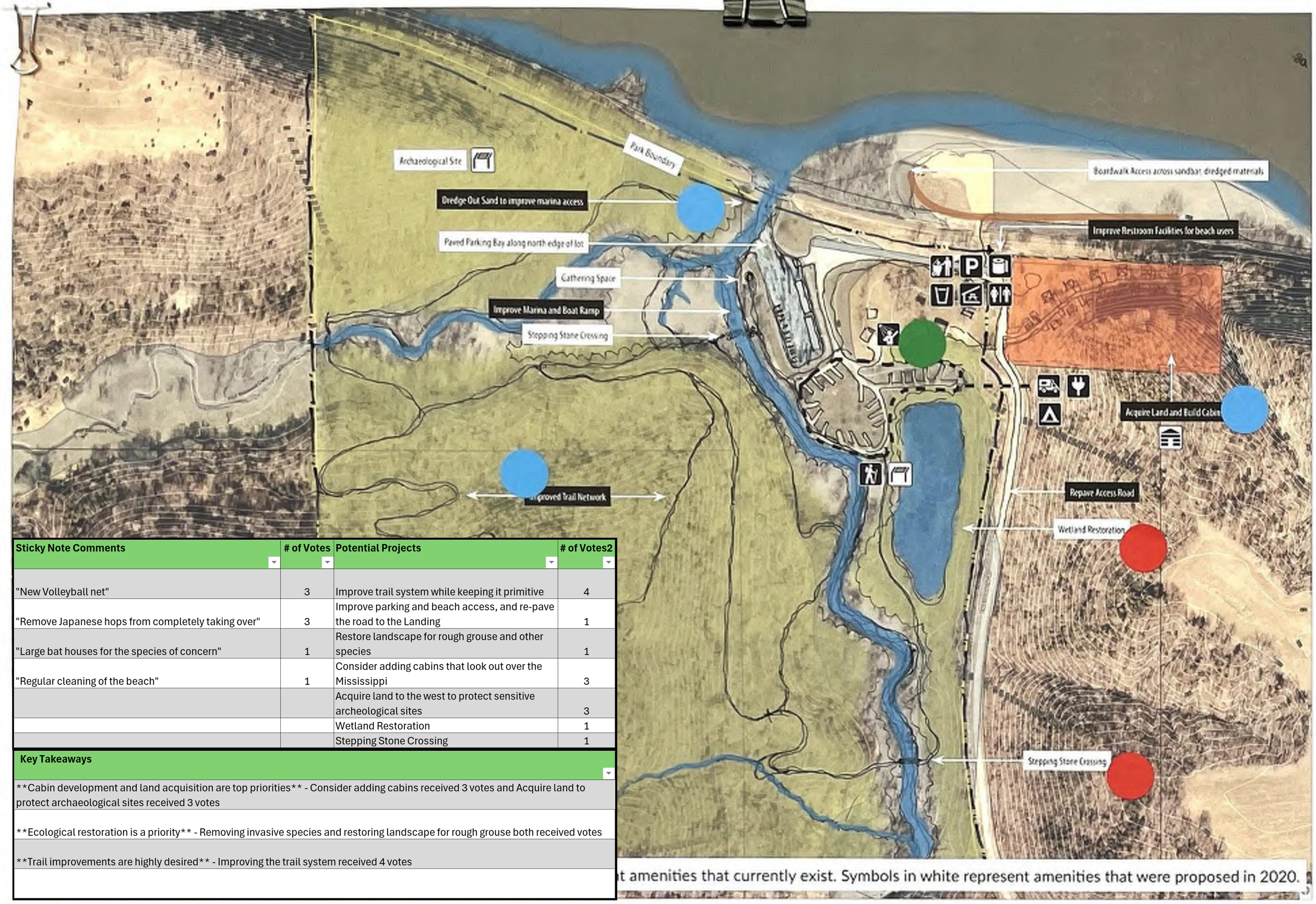
What would You Like to See at this park? Leave Your Comments Below:



Potential Projects

- Upgrade electric lines to 50 A
- Install a new roof for clubhouse
- Complete a kayak launch
- Create a water trail
- Expand the number of camp sites
- Install a new maintenance facility

FILLMORE CAMPGROUND & REC. AREA



t amenities that currently exist. Symbols in white represent amenities that were proposed in 2020.

Sticky Note Comments	# of Votes	Potential Projects	# of Votes2
"New Volleyball net"	3	Improve trail system while keeping it primitive	4
"Remove Japanese hops from completely taking over"	3	Improve parking and beach access, and re-pave the road to the Landing	1
"Large bat houses for the species of concern"	1	Restore landscape for rough grouse and other species	1
"Regular cleaning of the beach"	1	Consider adding cabins that look out over the Mississippi	3
		Acquire land to the west to protect sensitive archeological sites	3
		Wetland Restoration	1
		Stepping Stone Crossing	1

Key Takeaways
Cabin development and land acquisition are top priorities - Consider adding cabins received 3 votes and Acquire land to protect archaeological sites received 3 votes
Ecological restoration is a priority - Removing invasive species and restoring landscape for rough grouse both received votes
Trail improvements are highly desired - Improving the trail system received 4 votes

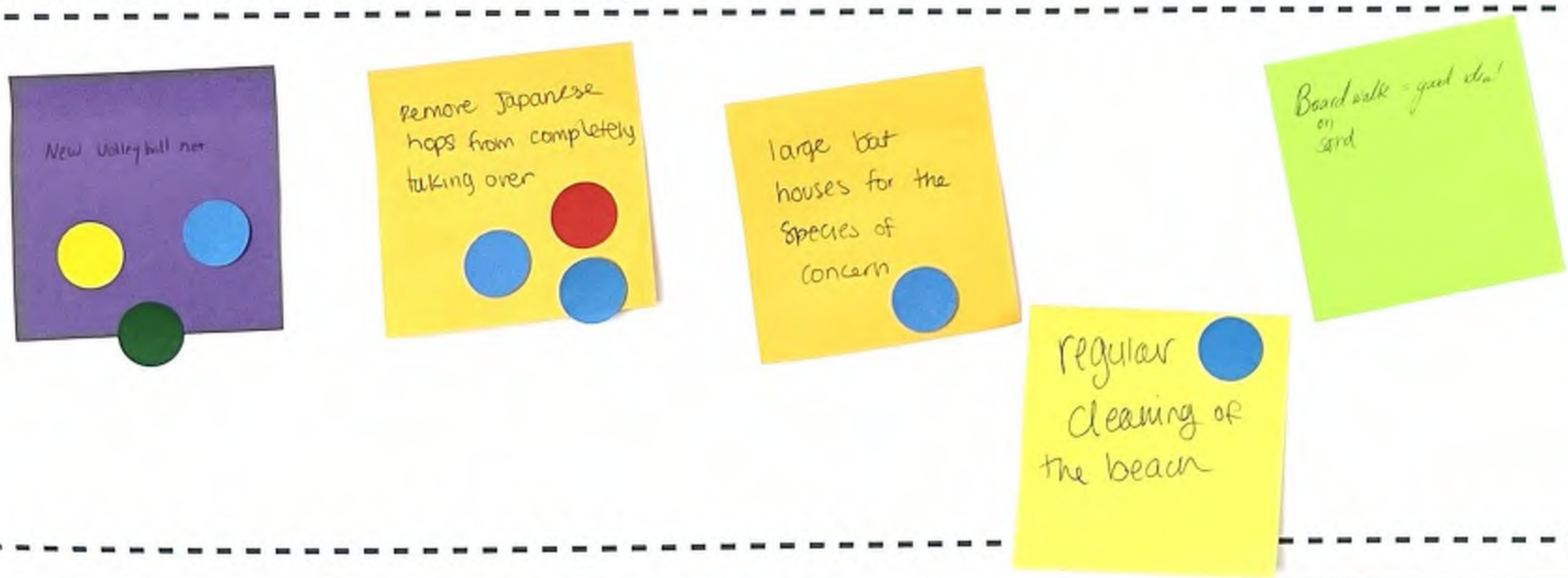
Recently Completed Park Improvements

- Bridge has been installed and lit
- Electric lines have been updated

Potential Projects

- Improve trail system while keeping it primitive
- Improve parking and beach access, and re-pave the road to the Landing
- Restore landscape for rough grouse and other species
- Acquire land to the west to protect sensitive archaeolog sites
- Consider adding cabins that look out over the Mississippi

What would You Like to See at this park? Leave Your Comments Below:



FINLEY'S LANDING



Symbols in black represent amenities that currently exist. Symbols in white represent amenities that were proposed in 2020.

What would You Like to See at this park? Leave Your Comments Below:









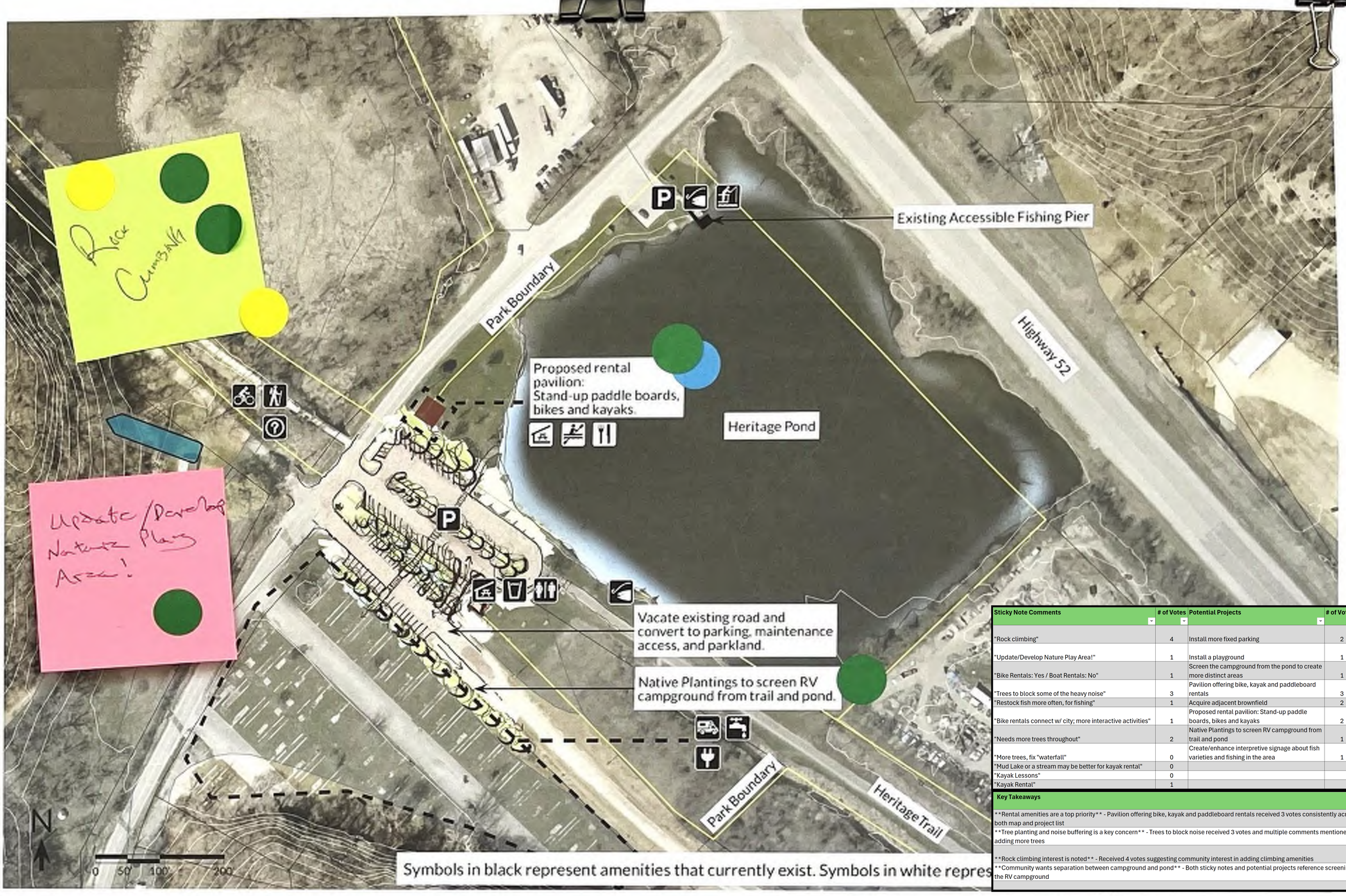
Potential Projects

- Remove the old pavilion
- Improve stream access for fishing
- Expanding permanent camping facilities
- Add a council ring
- Pave the parking lot

Sticky Note Comments	# of Votes	Potential Projects	# of Votes2
"Ride/Hike in - Camp Spot"	2	Improve stream access for fishing	4
"Water please"	3	Expanding permanent camping facilities	1
"Didn't know this park was so big!"	1		
"Access to entire property - trails?"	5		
"hiking trails"	1		

Key Takeaways
Stream access for fishing is the top priority - Received 4 votes, the highest of any project
Trail access to entire property is highly desired - Access to entire property - trails! received 5 votes, the highest sticky note
Water availability is a concern - Water please received 3 votes suggesting lack of water access at the park

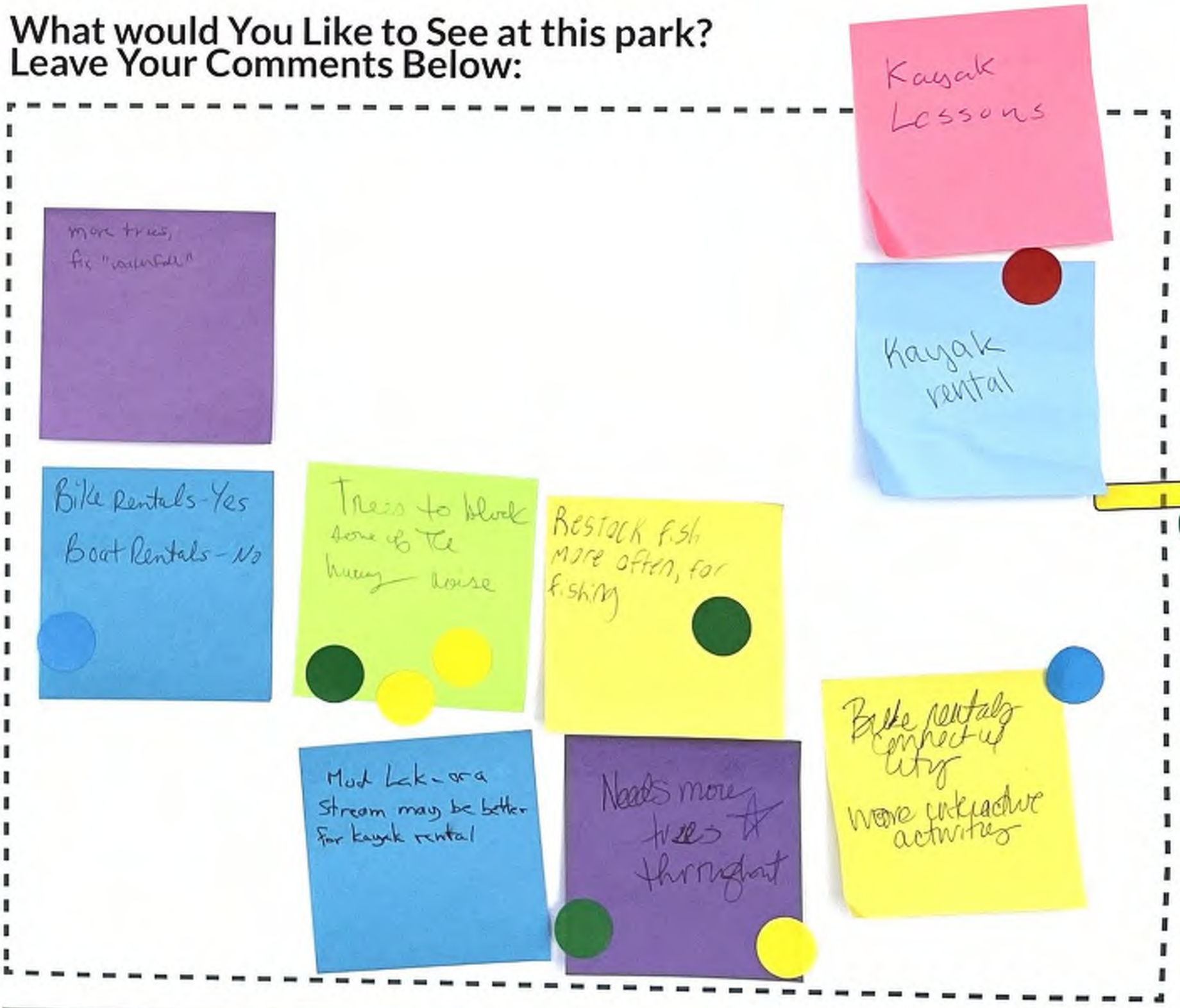
GRAF PARK



Sticky Note Comments	# of Votes	Potential Projects	# of Votes2
"Rock climbing"	4	Install more fixed parking	2
"Update/Develop Nature Play Area!"	1	Install a playground	1
"Bike Rentals: Yes / Boat Rentals: No"	1	Screen the campground from the pond to create more distinct areas	1
"Trees to block some of the heavy noise"	3	Pavilion offering bike, kayak and paddleboard rentals	3
"Restock fish more often, for fishing"	1	Acquire adjacent brownfield	2
"Bike rentals connect w/ city; more interactive activities"	1	Proposed rental pavilion: Stand-up paddle boards, bikes and kayaks	2
"Needs more trees throughout"	2	Native Plantings to screen RV campground from trail and pond	1
"More trees, fix "waterfall""	0	Create/enhance interpretive signage about fish varieties and fishing in the area	1
"Mud Lake or a stream may be better for kayak rental"	0		
"Kayak Lessons"	0		
"Kayak Rental"	1		

Key Takeaways
Rental amenities are a top priority - Pavilion offering bike, kayak and paddleboard rentals received 3 votes consistently across both map and project list
Tree planting and noise buffering is a key concern - Trees to block noise received 3 votes and multiple comments mentioned adding more trees
Rock climbing interest is noted - Received 4 votes suggesting community interest in adding climbing amenities
Community wants separation between campground and pond - Both sticky notes and potential projects reference screening the RV campground

What would You Like to See at this park? Leave Your Comments Below:



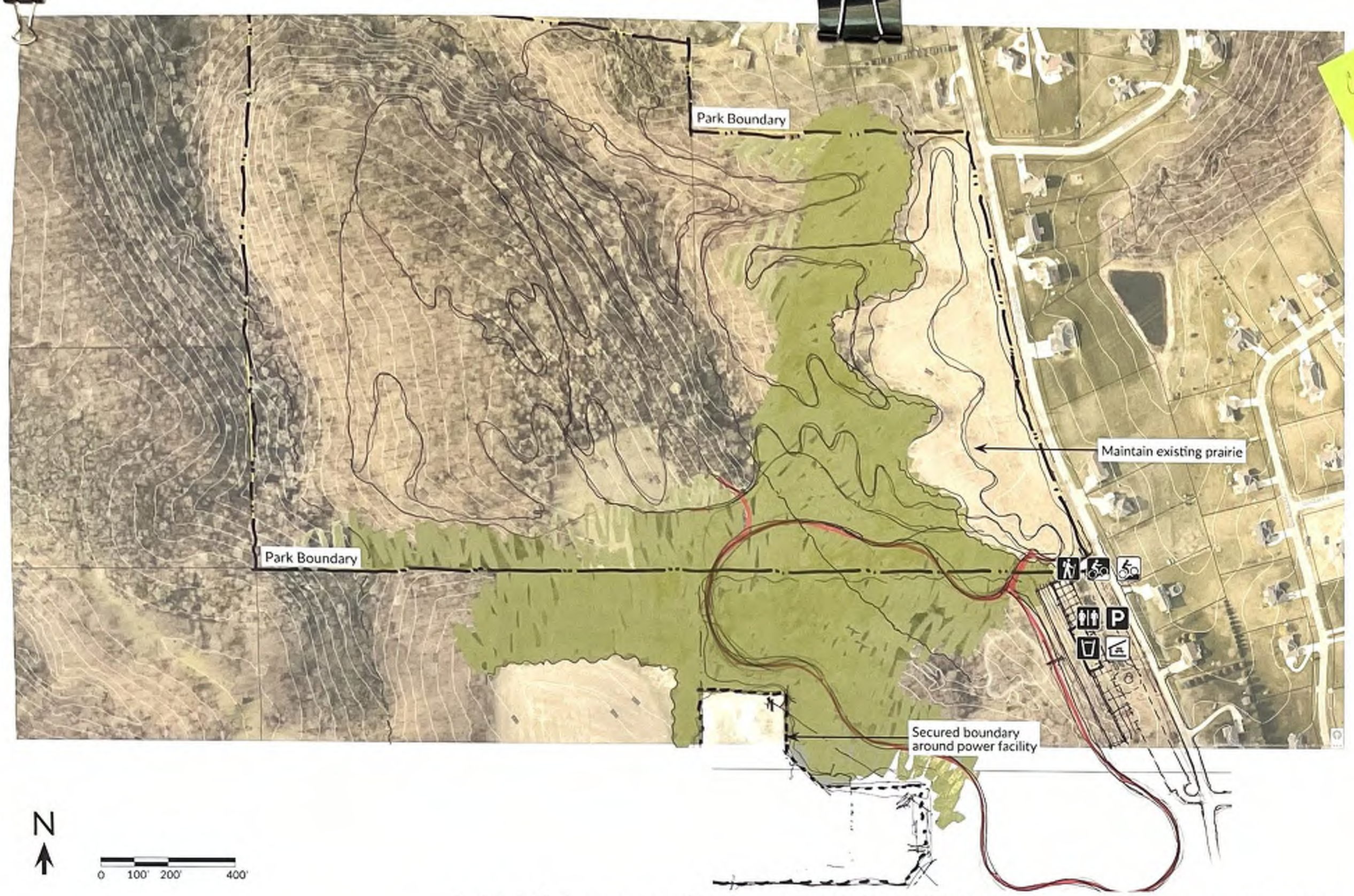
Potential Projects

- Install more fixed parking
- Repair the south side of the pond bank
- Install a playground
- Add a maintenance facility
- Screen the campground from the pond to create more distinct areas
- Create/enhance interpretive signage about fish varieties and fishing in the area
- Pavilion offering bike, kayak and paddleboard rentals
- In-stream restoration
- Acquire adjacent brownfield

HERITAGE POND/CAMP.

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DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION



Symbols in black represent amenities that currently exist. Symbols in white represent amenities that were proposed in 2020.

Recently Completed Park Improvements

- Added a restroom

Potential Projects

- Add more mountain bike trails



What would You Like to See at this park? Leave Your Comments Below:



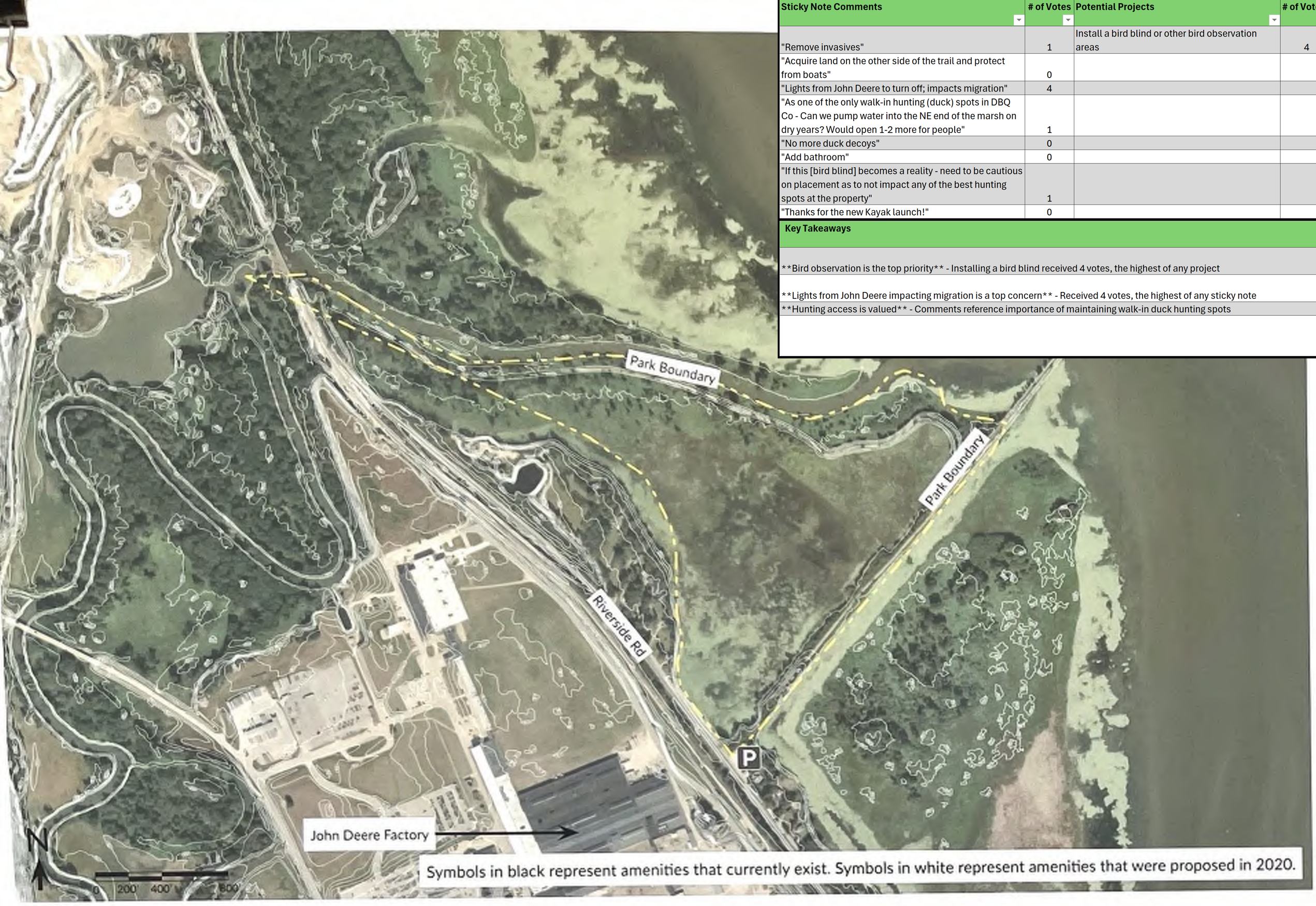
Sticky Note Comments	# of Votes	Potential Projects	# of Votes2
"This is one of my favorite parks, lets get more property from ITC and add more trails!"	3	Add more mountain bike trails	5
"Wildlife support such as bird and bat houses"	3		
"Create open grass space - this is what prevents our youth MTN Bike team mfrom practicing here"	0		
"Overflow parking area; more access; green/pavilions for other use"	0		

Key Takeaways
Mountain biking is the clear top priority - Adding more mountain bike trails received 5 votes, the only potential project listed
Wildlife habitat support is valued - Bird and bat houses received 3 votes
Open grass space is desired - Community notes lack of open space prevents youth mountain bike team from practicing

INTERSTATE POWER PRESERVE

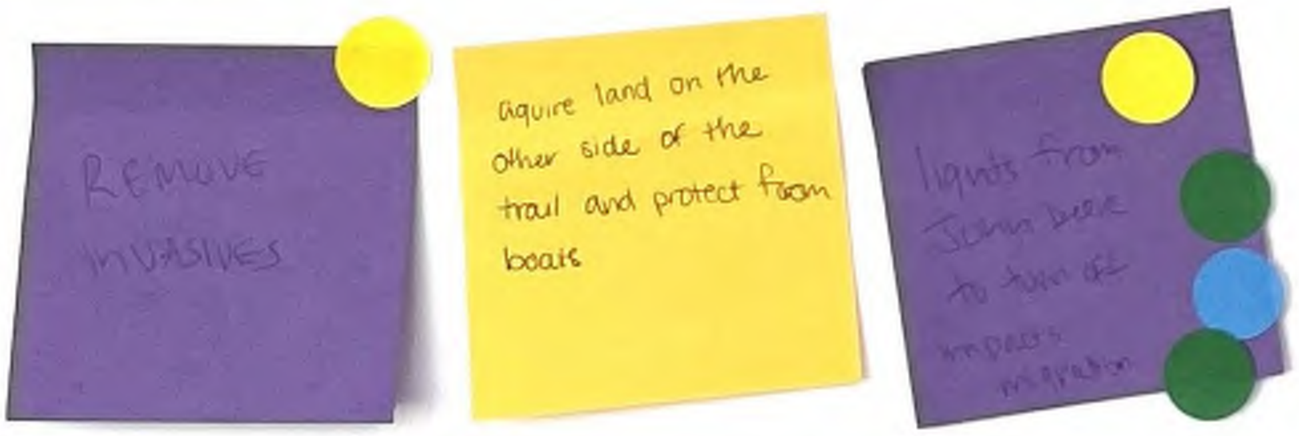
Sticky Note Comments	# of Votes	Potential Projects	# of Votes2
"Remove invasives"	1	Install a bird blind or other bird observation areas	4
"Acquire land on the other side of the trail and protect from boats"	0		
"Lights from John Deere to turn off; impacts migration"	4		
"As one of the only walk-in hunting (duck) spots in DBQ Co - Can we pump water into the NE end of the marsh on dry years? Would open 1-2 more for people"	1		
"No more duck decoys"	0		
"Add bathroom"	0		
"If this [bird blind] becomes a reality - need to be cautious on placement as to not impact any of the best hunting spots at the property"	1		
"Thanks for the new Kayak launch!"	0		

Key Takeaways
Bird observation is the top priority - Installing a bird blind received 4 votes, the highest of any project
Lights from John Deere impacting migration is a top concern - Received 4 votes, the highest of any sticky note
Hunting access is valued - Comments reference importance of maintaining walk-in duck hunting spots



Symbols in black represent amenities that currently exist. Symbols in white represent amenities that were proposed in 2020.

What would You Like to See at this park? Leave Your Comments Below:



Potential Projects

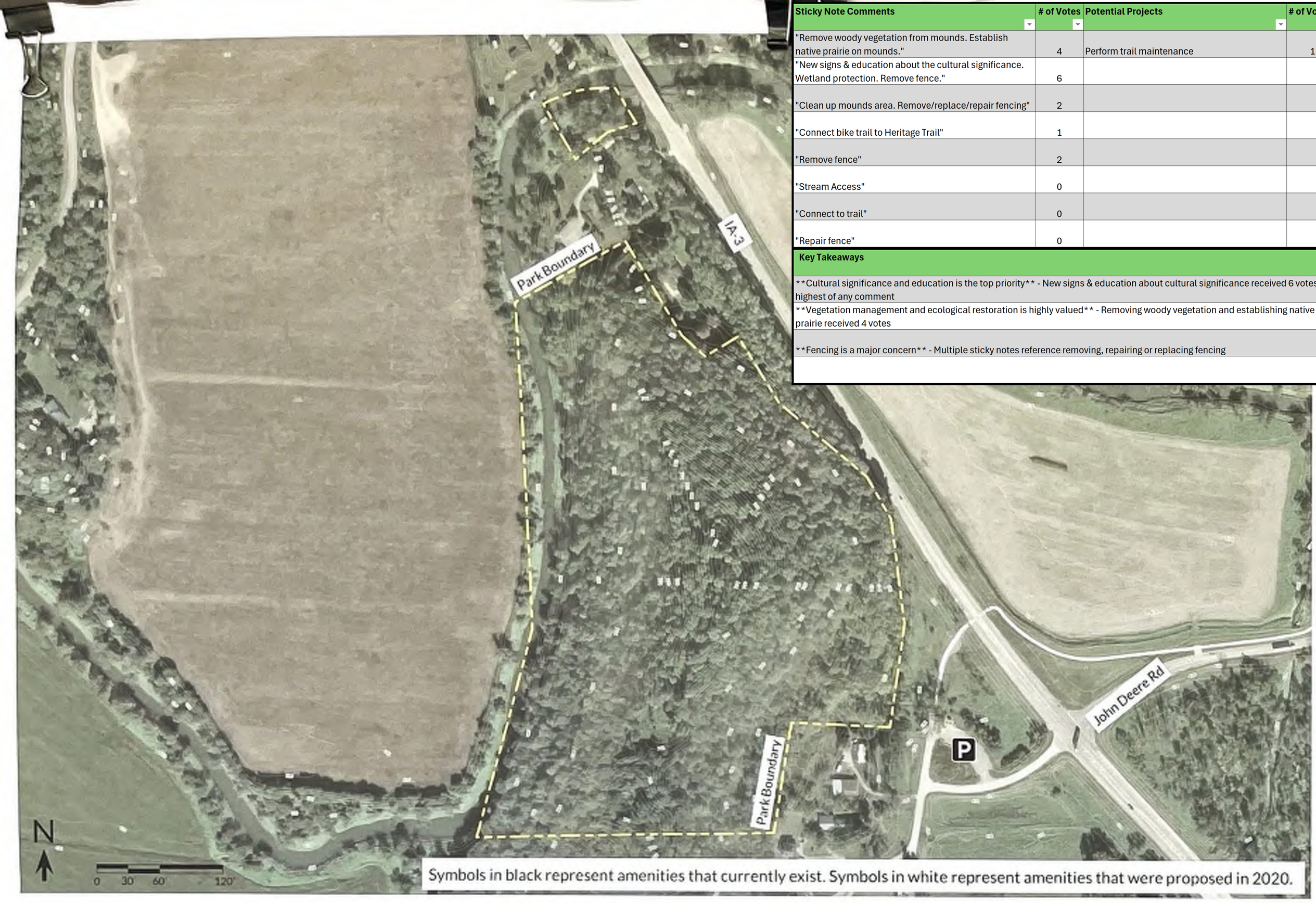
- Install a bird blind or other bird observation areas



JOHN DEERE MARSH

Sticky Note Comments	# of Votes	Potential Projects	# of Votes2
"Remove woody vegetation from mounds. Establish native prairie on mounds."	4	Perform trail maintenance	1
"New signs & education about the cultural significance. Wetland protection. Remove fence."	6		
"Clean up mounds area. Remove/replace/repair fencing"	2		
"Connect bike trail to Heritage Trail"	1		
"Remove fence"	2		
"Stream Access"	0		
"Connect to trail"	0		
"Repair fence"	0		

Key Takeaways
Cultural significance and education is the top priority - New signs & education about cultural significance received 6 votes, the highest of any comment
Vegetation management and ecological restoration is highly valued - Removing woody vegetation and establishing native prairie received 4 votes
Fencing is a major concern - Multiple sticky notes reference removing, repairing or replacing fencing

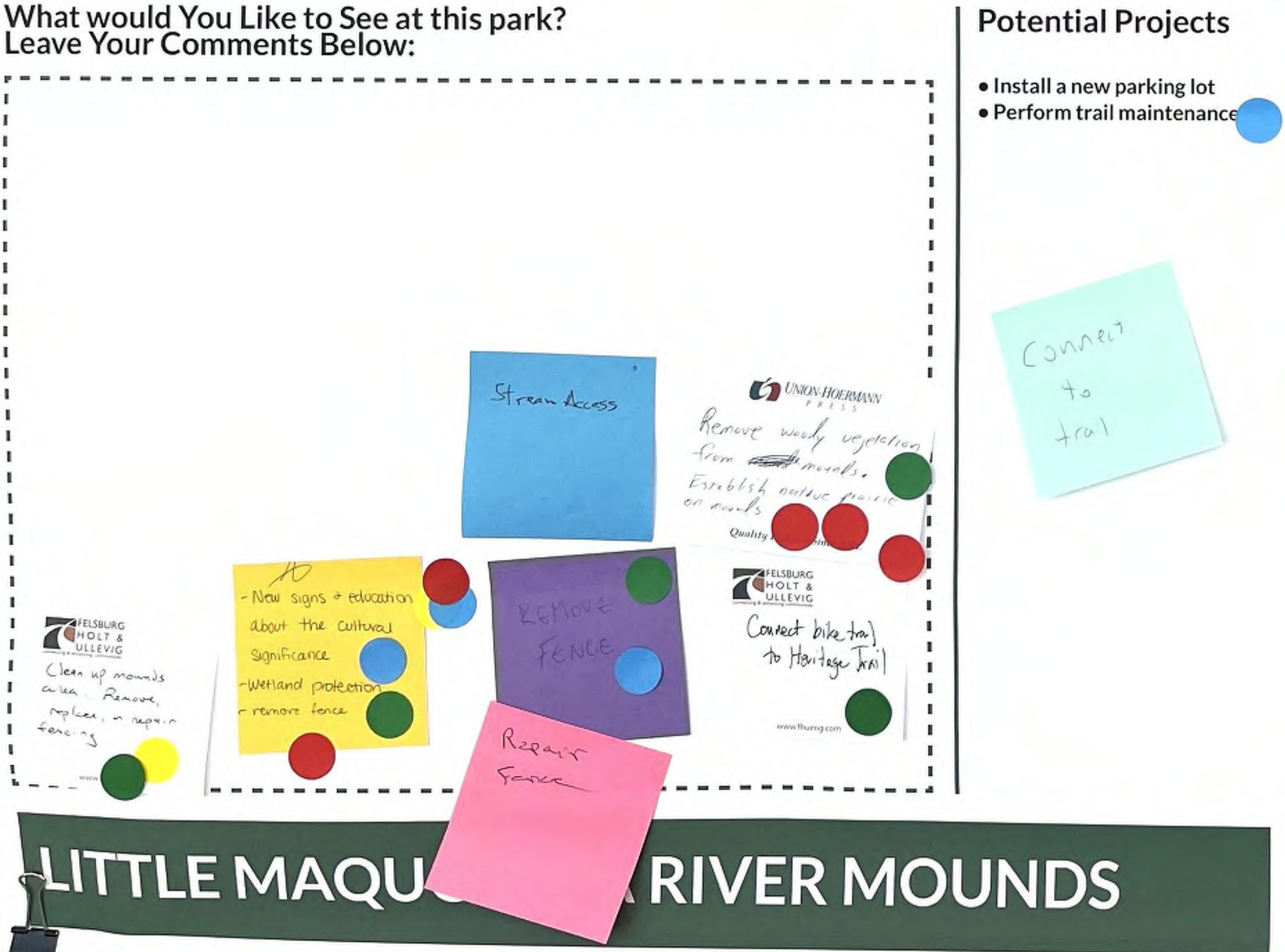


Symbols in black represent amenities that currently exist. Symbols in white represent amenities that were proposed in 2020.

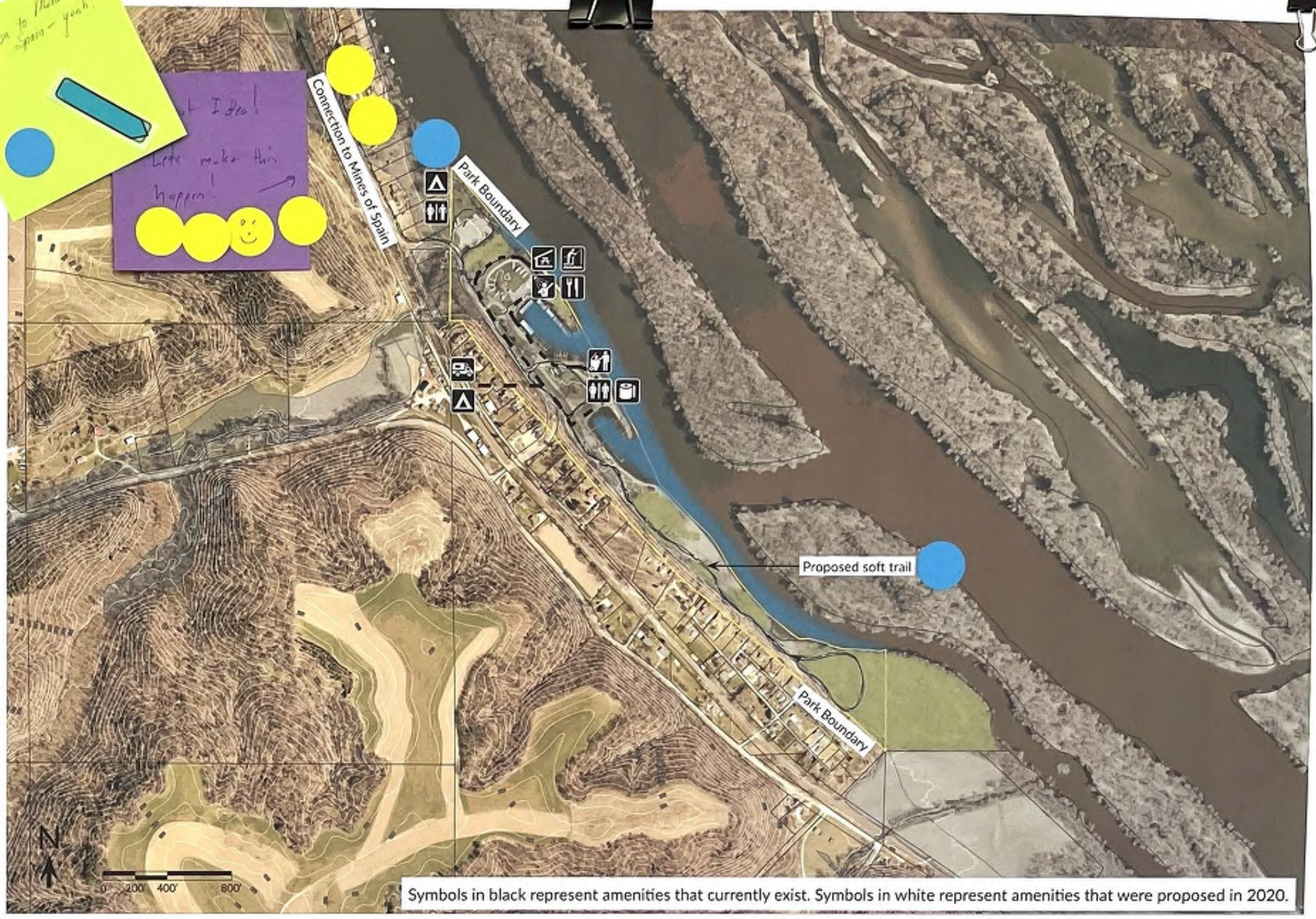
What would You Like to See at this park? Leave Your Comments Below:

Potential Projects

- Install a new parking lot
- Perform trail maintenance

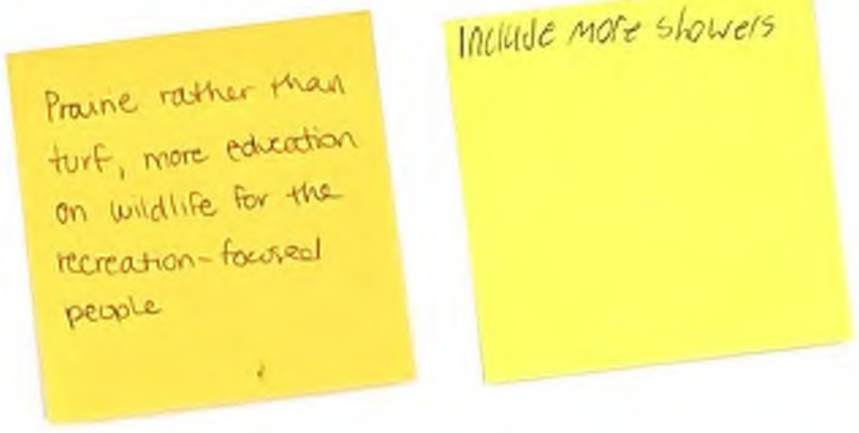


LITTLE MAQU[illegible] RIVER MOUNDS



Symbols in black represent amenities that currently exist. Symbols in white represent amenities that were proposed in 2020.

What would You Like to See at this park? Leave Your Comments Below:



Sticky Note Comments	# of Votes	Potential Projects	# of Votes2
"Connection to Mines of Spain - yeah!"	2	Pave camping sites	1
"Great idea [connection to Mines of Spain] - let's make this happen!"	7	Update RV electrical service lines to 50 Amps	1
"Prairie rather than turf, more education on wildlife for the recreation-focused people"	0	Reconfigure the dump station	1
"Include more showers"	0	Plant trees	2
		Long term: collaborate with State of Iowa to connect park with trails to Mines of Spain	8
		Add hiking trails toward inland areas of park	2
		Add tent platforms to keep campers in the floodplain dry	1
		Proposed soft trail	1

Key Takeaways
Trail connection to Mines of Spain is overwhelmingly the top priority - Received 8 votes on potential projects list and 7 votes on sticky note
Planting trees is moderately desired - Received 2 votes suggesting community wants more greenery
Campground improvements are moderately desired - Multiple campground upgrades received votes

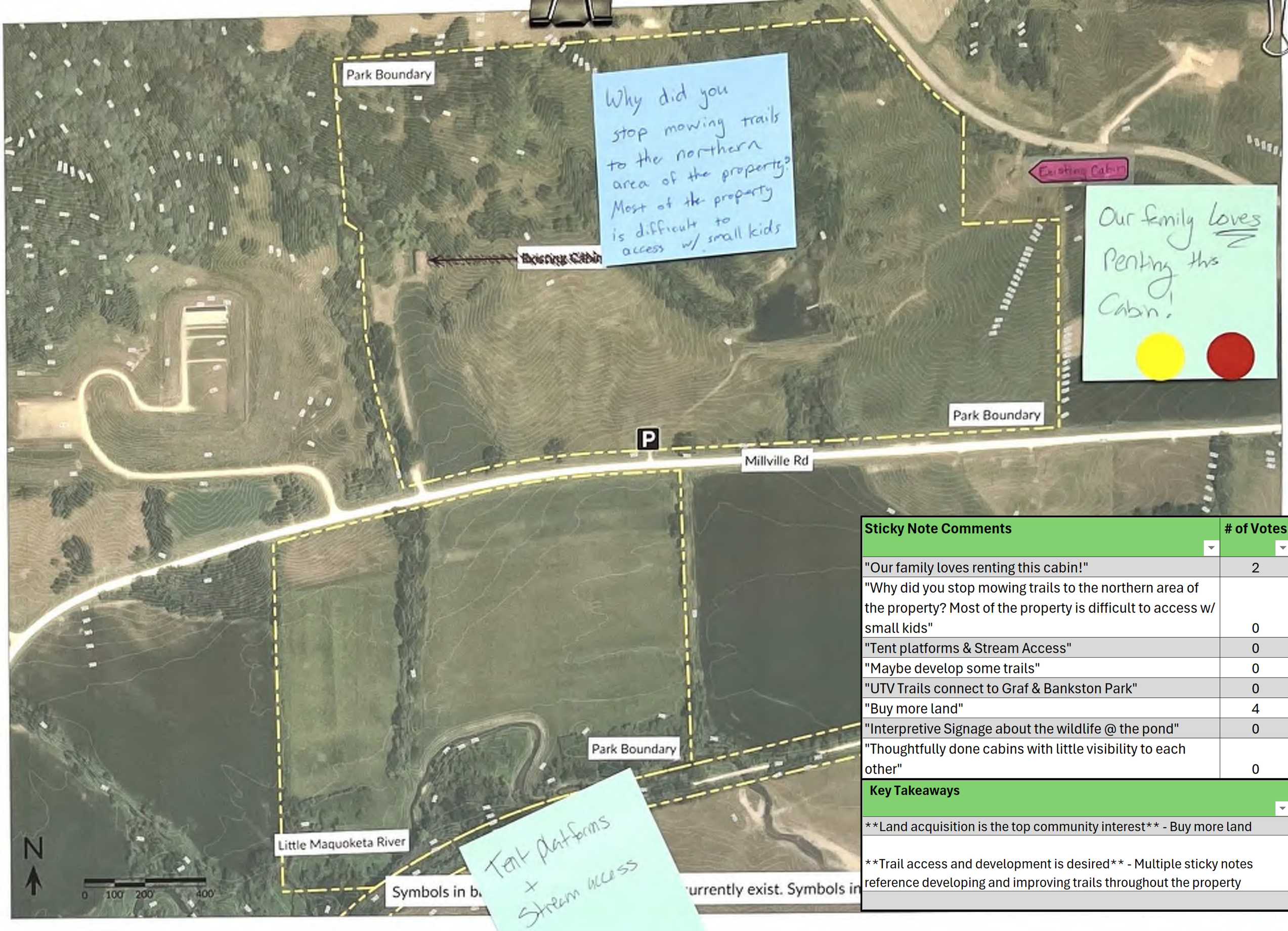
Potential Projects

- Pave camping sites
- Update RV electrical service lines to 50 Amps
- Reconfigure the dump station
- Restore the land along the southeast bank
- Plant trees
- Install fishing access and trail at southeast bank
- Add a new boat ramp
- Long term: collaborate with State of Iowa to connect park with trails to Mines of Spain
- Improvements to marina
- Add hiking trails toward inland areas of park
- Add tent platforms to keep campers in the floodplain dry

MASSEY MARINA

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DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION



Sticky Note Comments	# of Votes
"Our family loves renting this cabin!"	2
"Why did you stop mowing trails to the northern area of the property? Most of the property is difficult to access w/ small kids"	0
"Tent platforms & Stream Access"	0
"Maybe develop some trails"	0
"UTV Trails connect to Graf & Bankston Park"	0
"Buy more land"	4
"Interpretive Signage about the wildlife @ the pond"	0
"Thoughtfully done cabins with little visibility to each other"	0

Key Takeaways
Land acquisition is the top community interest - Buy more land
Trail access and development is desired - Multiple sticky notes reference developing and improving trails throughout the property

Recently Completed Park Improveme

- Installed ADA accessible path to the cabin

Potential Projects

- Build more cabins
- Dig a well for water access
- Tear down the house

Thoughtfully done Cabins with little visibility to eachother

What would You Like to See at this park? Leave Your Comments Below:

Maybe develop some trails

UTV Trails Connect to Graf + Bankston PK

Buy more land

Interpretive Signage about the wildlife @ the pond

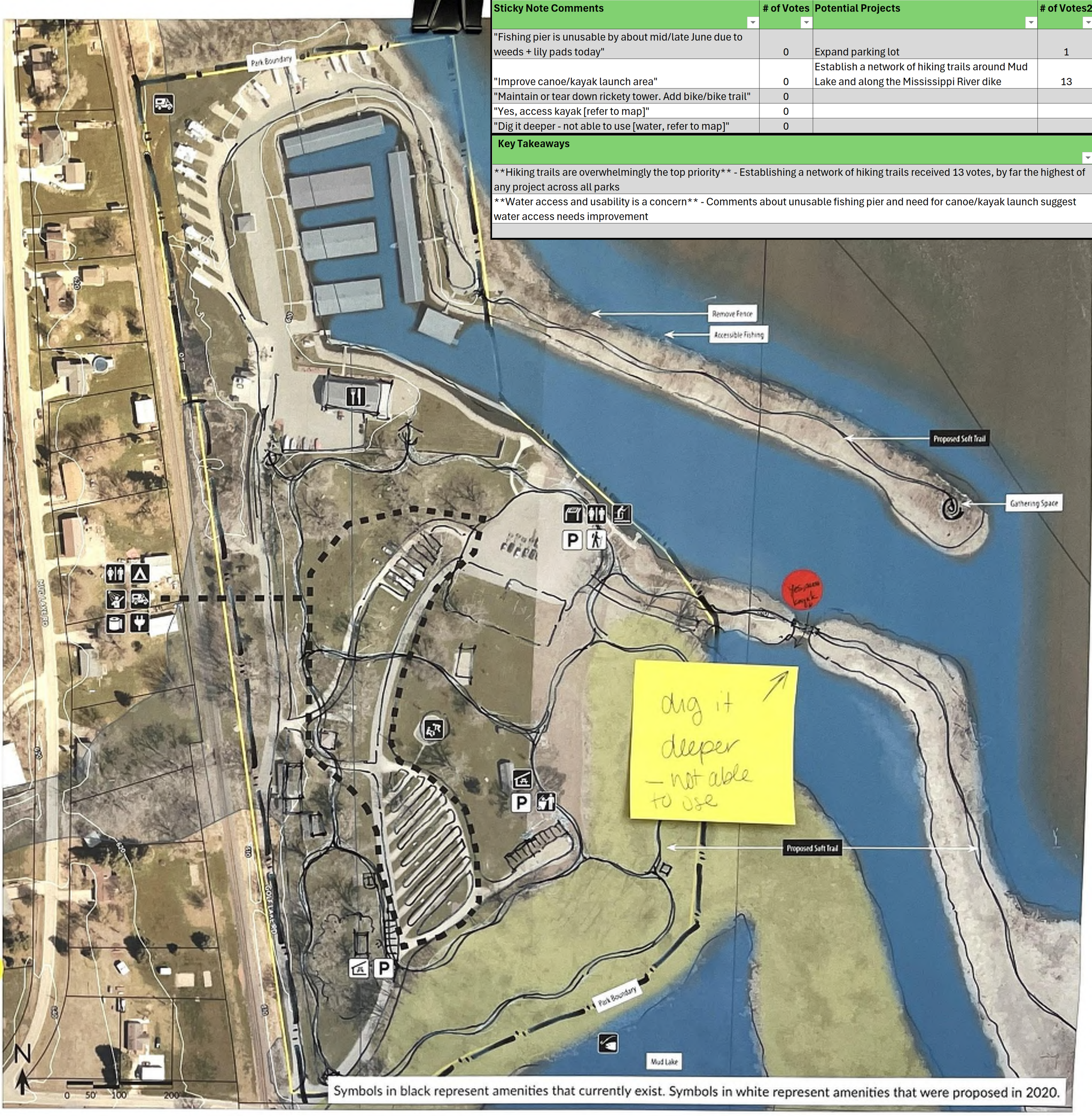
MILLER-MCGRATH PARK

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DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION

Sticky Note Comments	# of Votes	Potential Projects	# of Votes2
"Fishing pier is unusable by about mid/late June due to weeds + lily pads today"	0	Expand parking lot	1
"Improve canoe/kayak launch area"	0	Establish a network of hiking trails around Mud Lake and along the Mississippi River dike	13
"Maintain or tear down rickety tower. Add bike/bike trail"	0		
"Yes, access kayak [refer to map]"	0		
"Dig it deeper - not able to use [water, refer to map]"	0		

Key Takeaways
Hiking trails are overwhelmingly the top priority - Establishing a network of hiking trails received 13 votes, by far the highest of any project across all parks
Water access and usability is a concern - Comments about unusable fishing pier and need for canoe/kayak launch suggest water access needs improvement



Symbols in black represent amenities that currently exist. Symbols in white represent amenities that were proposed in 2020.

What would You Like to See at this park? Leave Your Comments Below:

Fishing pier is unusable by about mid/late June due to weeds + lily pads today.

Improve canoe/ Kayak launch area

Maintain or tear down rickety tower

Add bikable trail

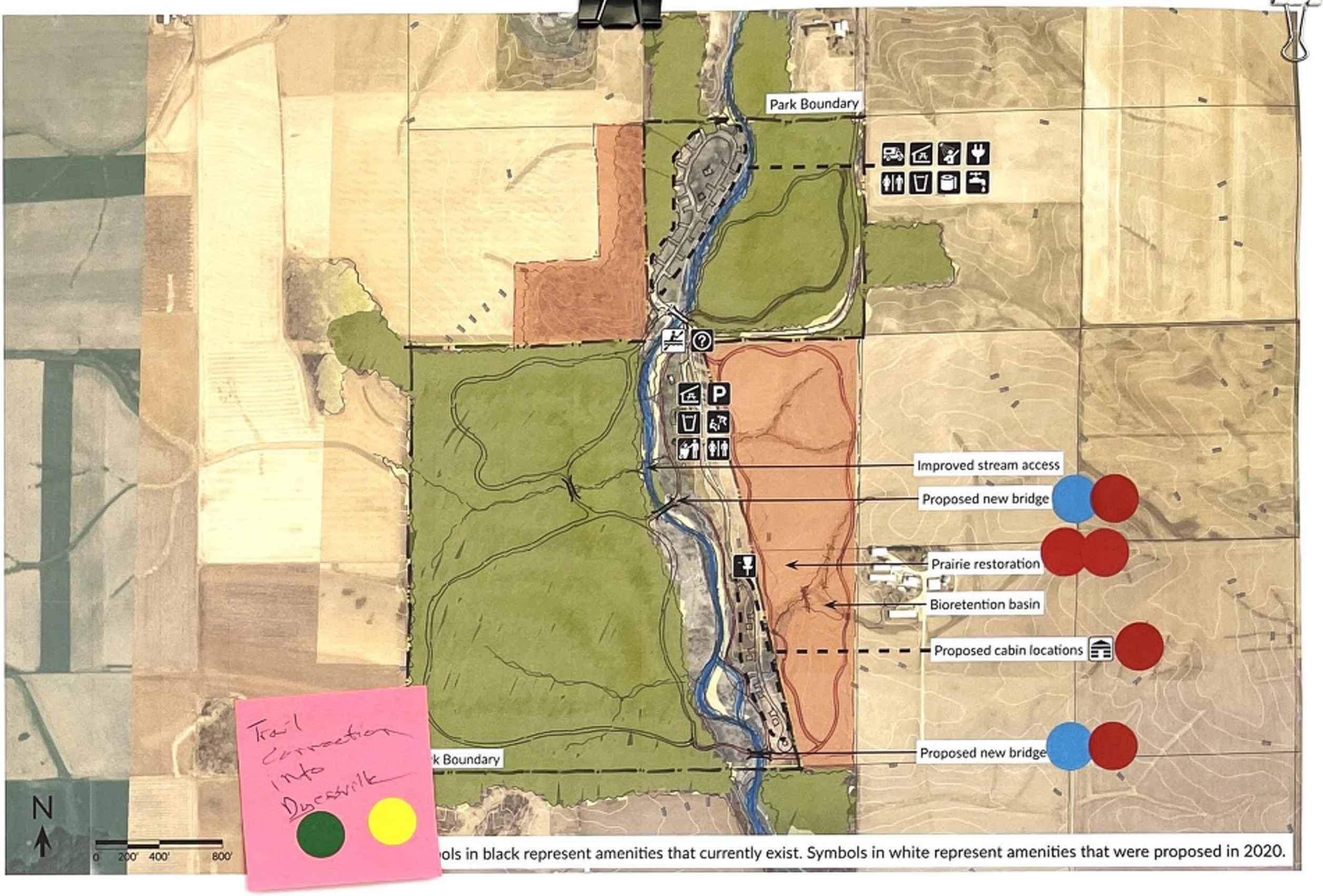
Potential Projects

- Expand parking lot
- Establish a network of hiking trails around Mud Lake and along the Mississippi River dike

MUD LAKE PARK

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ols in black represent amenities that currently exist. Symbols in white represent amenities that were proposed in 2020.

Recently Completed Park Improvements

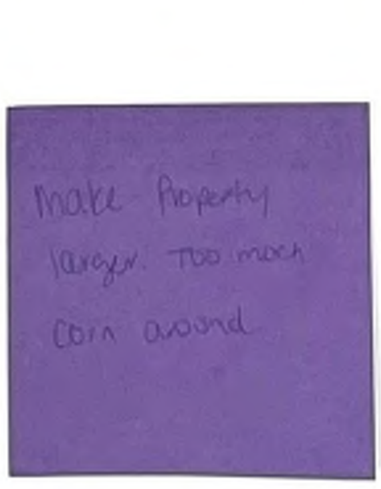
- Installed additional campsites
- New road paving is underway
- Added an ADA-accessible pavilion



Potential Projects

- Shelter needs to be replaced/removed
- Evaluate need to fix the shower house
- Fix the stream banks at the south side of the park
- Add a new bridge at the south side of the park
- Evaluate the park as a possible location for cabins
- Add access to the stream for water trails
- Create as a trailhead for hiking and paddli
- Manage flood plain vegetation with riverbank cleanup

What would You Like to See at this park? Leave Your Comments Below:





Sticky Note Comments	# of Votes	Potential Projects	# of Votes2
"Trail connection into Dyersville"	2	Create as a trailhead for hiking and paddling	3
"Trail to Dyersville"	0	Proposed new bridges	4
"Plant more native ground cover instead of turf"	3	Prairie restoration	2
"Make property larger. Too much corn around"	0	Proposed cabin locations	1

Key Takeaways
Water trail and trailhead development are top priorities - Create as a trailhead for hiking and paddling received 3 votes and proposed new bridges received 4 votes
Trail connectivity to Dyersville is desired - Multiple sticky notes reference connecting to Dyersville via trail
Native ground cover is preferred over turf - Received 3 votes suggesting strong interest in ecological improvements

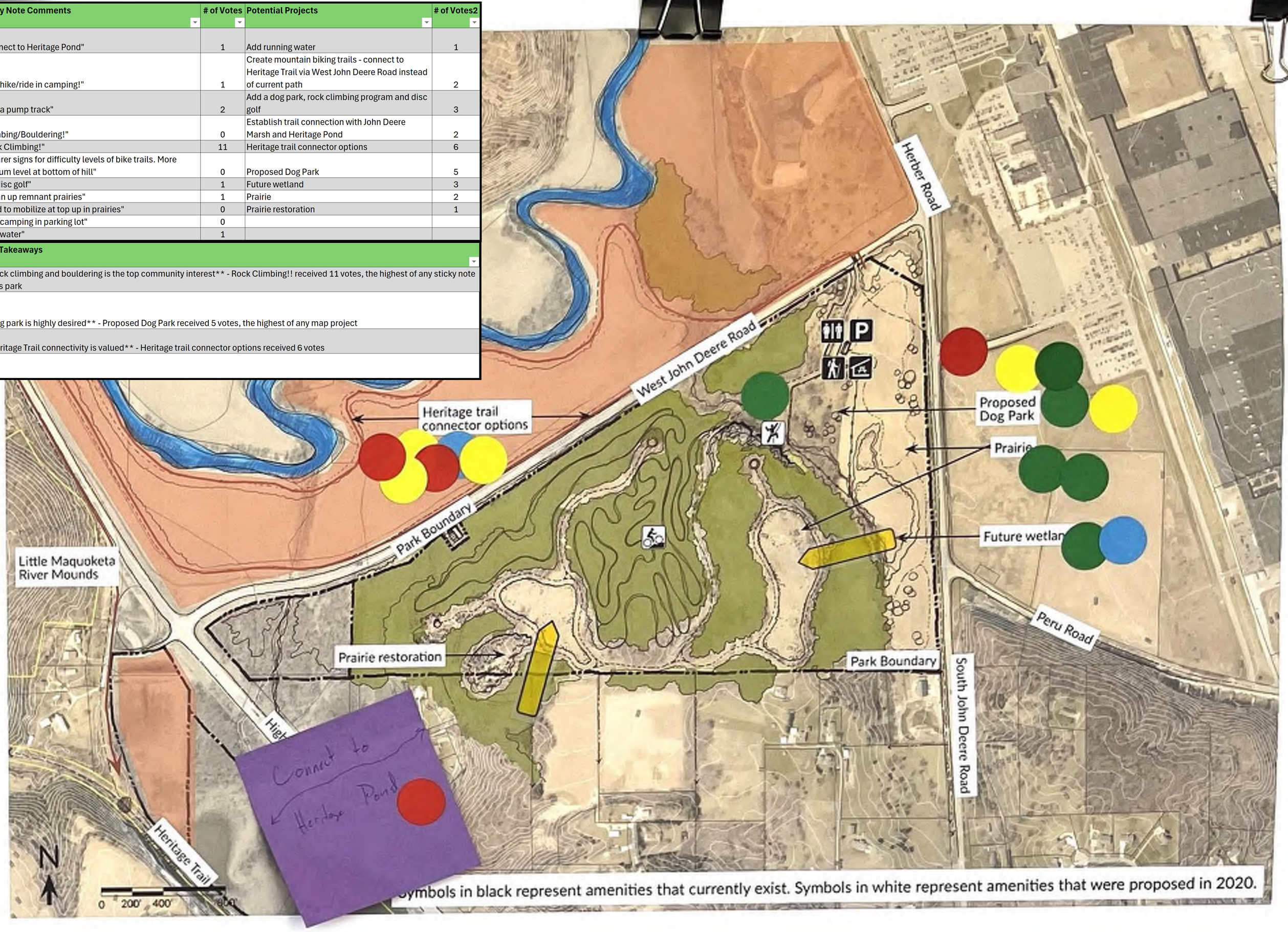
NEW WINE PARK

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DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION

Sticky Note Comments	# of Votes	Potential Projects	# of Votes2
"Connect to Heritage Pond"	1	Add running water	1
"Add hike/ride in camping!"	1	Create mountain biking trails - connect to Heritage Trail via West John Deere Road instead of current path	2
"Add a pump track"	2	Add a dog park, rock climbing program and disc golf	3
"Climbing/Bouldering!"	0	Establish trail connection with John Deere Marsh and Heritage Pond	2
"Rock Climbing!"	11	Heritage trail connector options	6
"Clearer signs for difficulty levels of bike trails. More medium level at bottom of hill"	0	Proposed Dog Park	5
"No disc golf"	1	Future wetland	3
"Clean up remnant prairies"	1	Prairie	2
"Hard to mobilize at top up in prairies"	0	Prairie restoration	1
"Add camping in parking lot"	0		
"Add water"	1		

Key Takeaways
Rock climbing and bouldering is the top community interest - Rock Climbing!! received 11 votes, the highest of any sticky note at this park
Dog park is highly desired - Proposed Dog Park received 5 votes, the highest of any map project
Heritage Trail connectivity is valued - Heritage trail connector options received 6 votes



Recently Completed Park Improvements

- Installed a park shelter

Potential Projects

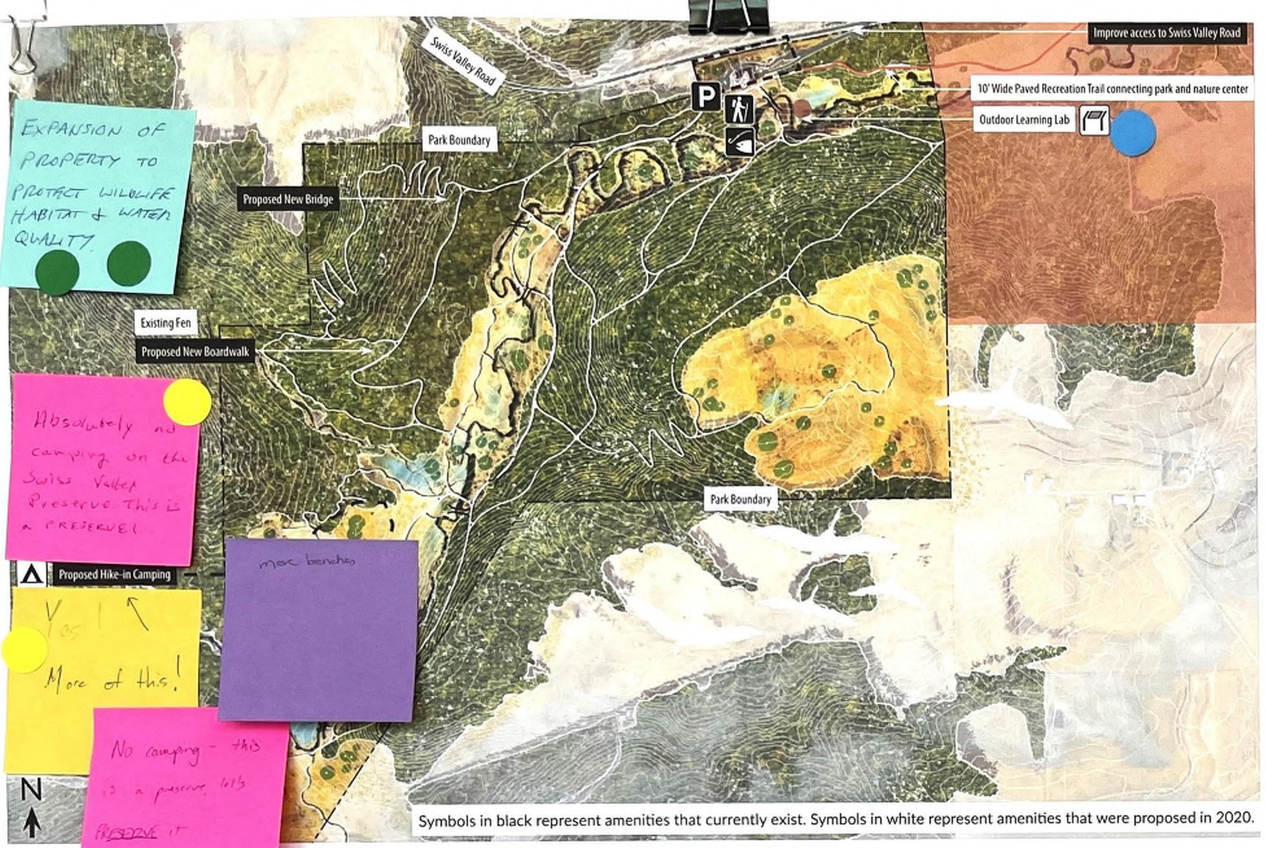
- Expand parking lot
- Add running water
- Create mountain biking trails – connect to Heritage Trail via West John Deere Road instead of current path
- Add a dog park, rock climbing program and disc golf
- Establish trail connection with John Deere Marsh and Heritage Pond

What would You Like to See at this park? Leave Your Comments Below:



PROVING GROUNDS

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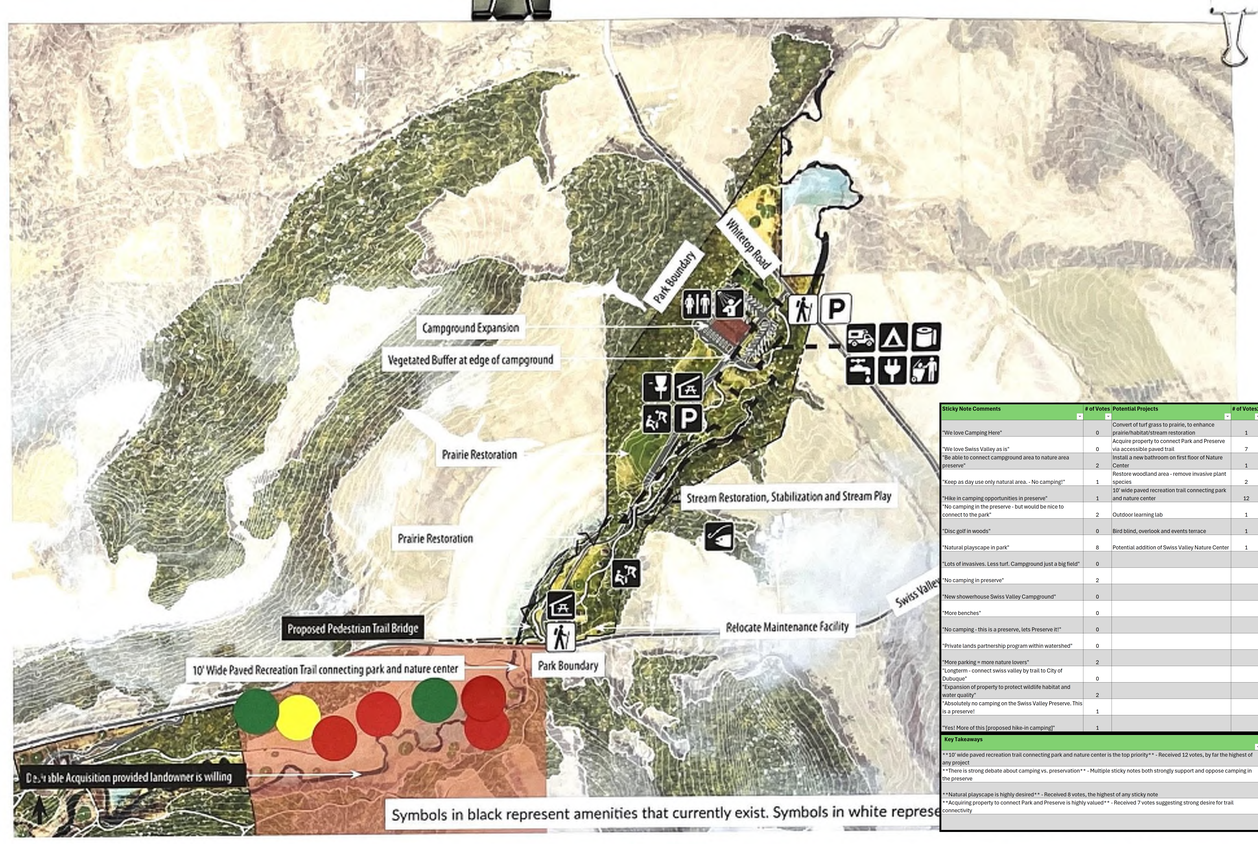
EXPANSION OF PROPERTY TO PROTECT WILDLIFE HABITAT & WATER QUALITY.

Absolutely no camping on the Swiss Valley Preserve. This is a PRESERVE!

Yes! More of this!

mac benches

No camping - this is a preserve, lets PRESERVE IT



Sticky Note Comments	# of Votes	Potential Projects	# of Votes2
		Convert of turf grass to prairie, to enhance prairie/habitat/stream restoration	1
"We love Camping Here"	0	Acquire property to connect Park and Preserve	
"We love Swiss Valley as is"	0	via accessible paved trail	7
"Be able to connect campground area to nature area preserve"	2	Install a new bathroom on first floor of Nature Center	1
"Keep as day use only natural area. - No camping!"	1	Restore woodland area - remove invasive plant species	2
"Hike in camping opportunities in preserve"	1	10' wide paved recreation trail connecting park and nature center	12
"No camping in the preserve - but would be nice to connect to the park"	2	Outdoor learning lab	1
"Disc golf in woods"	0	Bird blind, overlook and events terrace	1
"Natural playscape in park"	8	Potential addition of Swiss Valley Nature Center	1
"Lots of invasives. Less turf. Campground just a big field"	0		
"No camping in preserve"	2		
"New showerhouse Swiss Valley Campground"	0		
"More benches"	0		
"No camping - this is a preserve, lets Preserve it!"	0		
"Private lands partnership program within watershed"	0		
"More parking = more nature lovers"	2		
"Longterm - connect swiss valley by trail to City of Dubuque"	0		
"Expansion of property to protect wildlife habitat and water quality."	2		
"Absolutely no camping on the Swiss Valley Preserve. This is a preserve!"	1		
"Yes! More of this [proposed hike-in camping]"	1		
Key Takeaways			

10' wide paved recreation trail connecting park and nature center is the top priority - Received 12 votes, by far the highest of any project

There is strong debate about camping vs. preservation - Multiple sticky notes both strongly support and oppose camping in the preserve

Natural playscape is highly desired - Received 8 votes, the highest of any sticky note

Acquiring property to connect Park and Preserve is highly valued - Received 7 votes suggesting strong desire for trail connectivity



What would You Like to See at this park? Leave Your Comments Below:



Potential Projects

- Expand camping and RV opportunities, renovate shower house, update RV dump stations, improve circulation paths for RVs
- Add a new maintenance facility nearby
- Acquire property to connect Park and Preserve via an accessible, paved trail
- Add trail along stream to the small trailhead along Whitetop Road
- Convert of turf grass to prairie, to enhance prairie /habitat /stream restoration
- Add interpretive exhibits on the trail between Park and Preserve
- Reconfigure the parking lot
- Create outdoor water access
- Install a new bathroom on first floor of Nature Center
- Acquire property to connect Park and Preserve via and accessible, paved trail
- Develop an accessible learning lab to be used as an outdoor classroom for researchers and school groups
- Add an ADA-compliant pathway down to the flood plain
- Rebuild boardwalks where needed
- Restore woodland area – remove invasive plant species

SWISS VALLEY NATURE PRESERVE, PARK, AND CAMP

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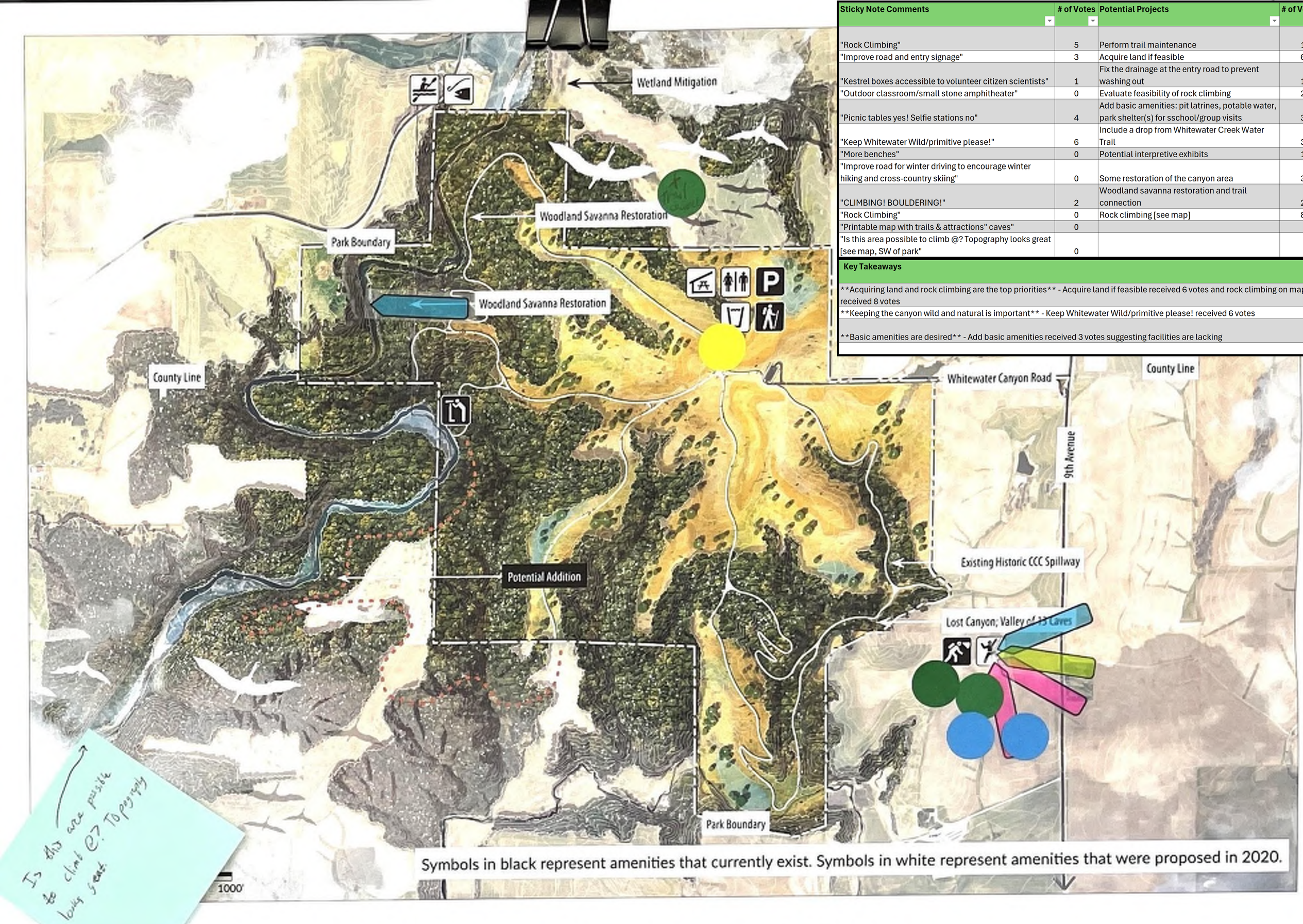
Sticky Note Comments	# of Votes	Potential Projects	# of Votes2
"Rock Climbing"	5	Perform trail maintenance	1
"Improve road and entry signage"	3	Acquire land if feasible	6
"Kestrel boxes accessible to volunteer citizen scientists"	1	Fix the drainage at the entry road to prevent washing out	1
"Outdoor classroom/small stone amphitheater"	0	Evaluate feasibility of rock climbing	2
"Picnic tables yes! Selfie stations no"	4	Add basic amenities: pit latrines, potable water, park shelter(s) for sschool/group visits	3
"Keep Whitewater Wild/primitive please!"	6	Include a drop from Whitewater Creek Water Trail	3
"More benches"	0	Potential interpretive exhibits	1
"Improve road for winter driving to encourage winter hiking and cross-country skiing"	0	Some restoration of the canyon area	3
"CLIMBING! BOULDERING!"	2	Woodland savanna restoration and trail connection	2
"Rock Climbing"	0	Rock climbing [see map]	8
"Printable map with trails & attractions" caves"	0		
"Is this area possible to climb @? Topography looks great [see map, SW of park"	0		

Key Takeaways

Acquiring land and rock climbing are the top priorities - Acquire land if feasible received 6 votes and rock climbing on map received 8 votes

Keeping the canyon wild and natural is important - Keep Whitewater Wild/primitive please! received 6 votes

Basic amenities are desired - Add basic amenities received 3 votes suggesting facilities are lacking



Symbols in black represent amenities that currently exist. Symbols in white represent amenities that were proposed in 2020.

Recently Completed Park Improvements

- Installed a restroom

Potential Projects

- Perform trail maintenance
- Acquire land if feasible
- Fix the drainage at the entry road to prevent washing out
- Evaluate feasibility of rock climbing
- Add basic amenities: pit latrines, potable water, park shelter(s) for school/group visits
- Include a drop from Whitewater Creek Water Trail
- Potential interpretive exhibits
- Some restoration of the canyon area
- Add a series of Selfie Stations

What would You Like to See at this park? Leave Your Comments Below:





Stream Restoration



Prairie Restoration



Shoreline Restoration



Fish Habitat



Small Boat Launch



Paved Trail



Bird Watching



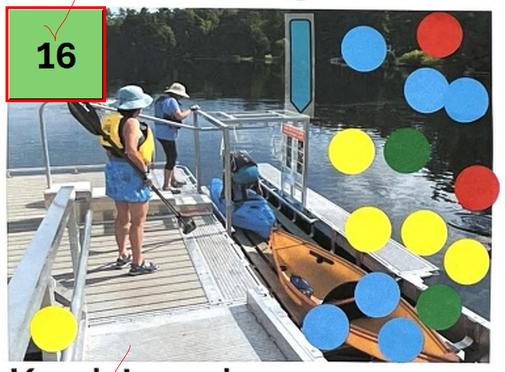
Hiking Trails



Fire Pits



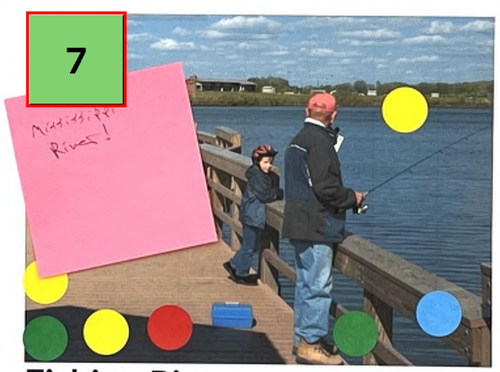
Large Shelter



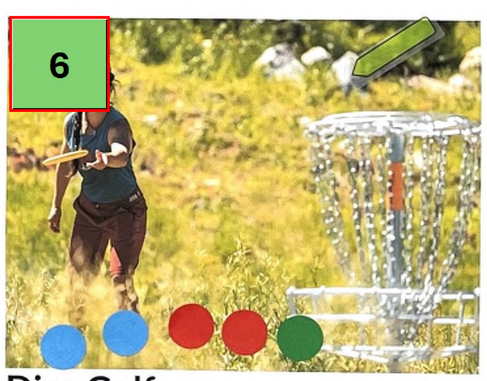
Kayak Launch



Small Shelter



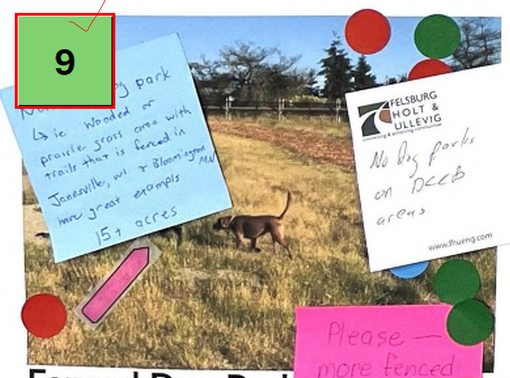
Fishing Pier



Disc Golf



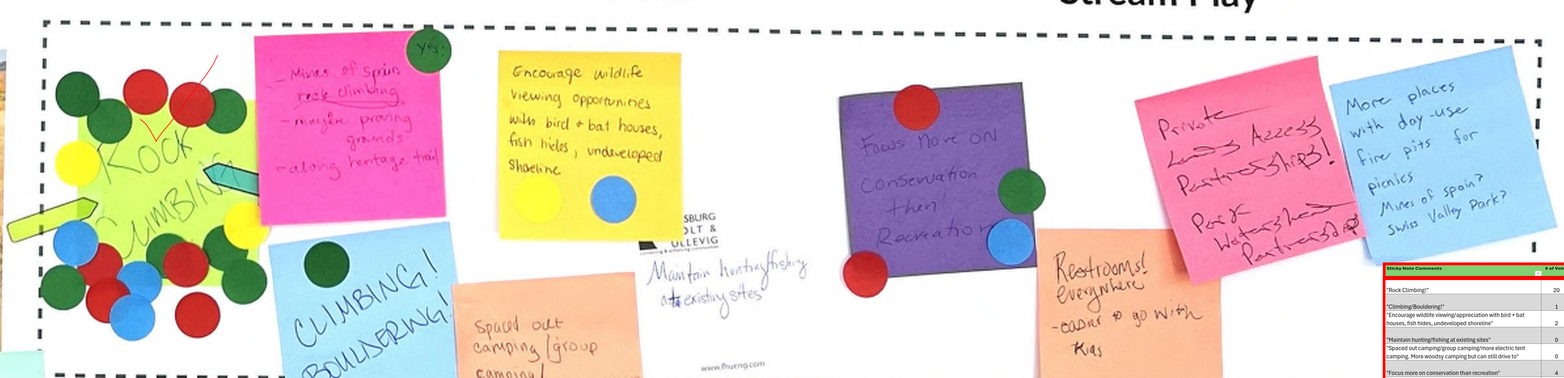
Stream Play



Fenced Dog Park



Mountain Bike Trails



Write Your Own

PROGRAM PRECEDENTS

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Sticky Note Comments	# of Votes
"Rock Climbing!"	20
"Climbing/Bouldering!"	1
"Encourage wildlife viewing/appreciation with bird + bat houses, fish hides, undeveloped shoreline"	2
"Maintain hunting/fishing at existing sites"	0
"Spaced out camping/group camping/more electric tent camping. More woodsy camping but can still drive to"	0
"Focus more on conservation than recreation"	4
"Restrooms! Everywhere - easier to go with kids"	0
"Private land access partnerships! Park watershed partnerships"	0
"More places with day-use fire pits for picnics. Mines of Spain? Swiss Valley Park?"	0
"More good fishing holes and access county wide!"	2
"All wildlife habitat"	0
"[small boat launch] with inner tubing"	9
"Mississippi River! [fishing pier]"	0
"[Natural dog park i.e wooded or prairie grass area with trails that is fenced in. Janesville, WI or Bloomington MN have great examples 15+ acres"	0
"No dog parks on DCCB areas"	0
"Please more fenced dog parks, close to Dog City"	2
"Single track MTB trails"	1

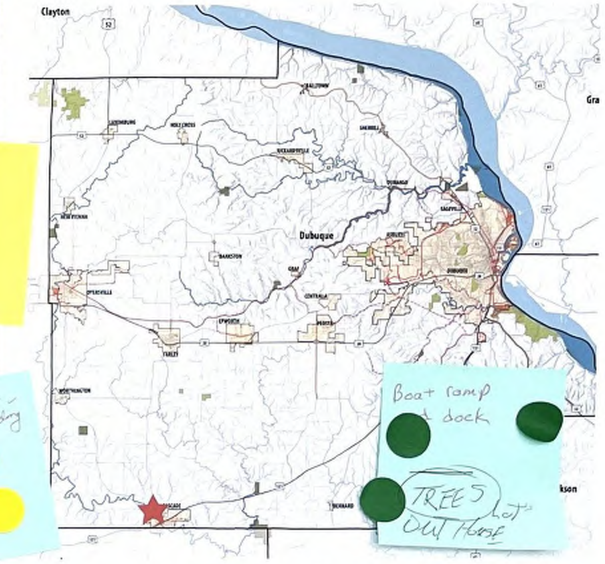
Sticky Note Comments	# of Votes
"Baseball/softball fields"	3
"Please monitor water quality wherever fishing or swimming is allowed - thanks"	1
"Walk bridge from town to get there over river"	4
"A trail loop around park"	0
"Bathroom water fountain"	1
"Trails, prairie restoration, camping!"	2
"Limit development and alteration as much as possible"	4
"Kayak launch, beach for kids, fishing"	13
"Swimm access"	4
"beverages/edible landscape"	0
"Single track trails, hike and potentially bike"	6
"City/county trail connection"	11
"Keep as natural as possible - add handicap access for fishing - plant remainder of crop land in prairie"	3
"Mountain bike trails w/ master plan to connect various areas - check out Bentonville, Arkansas"	0
"A great area to include ATV riding"	5
"Boat ramp and dock, trees, lots out here"	3
"Cut across? W/ kayaks [see map]"	1
"Kayak launch"	0

Key Takeaways
Stream Play and Prairie Restoration are the top precedent votes - Stream Play received 28 votes and Prairie Restoration received 24 votes, the highest of any precedents
Hiking Trails and Mountain Bike Trails are highly desired - Hiking Trails received 25 votes and Mountain Bike Trails received 21 votes
Kayak launch is a top priority - Kayak Launch received 16 votes on precedents and 13 votes on sticky note
City/county trail connection is highly desired - Received 11 votes, the highest of any write-in sticky note

About Locher Recreation Area

Locher Recreation Area is a 117 acre parcel of land that has recently been acquired by Dubuque County Conservation - who was the benefactor of Eastern Iowa Conservation Foundation's efforts, as well ad Pheasants Forever and the Department of Natural Resources. The area will become a new park space for the public featuring more nature-based recreation and activities. Please leave any ideas you have on a sticky note, and use sticky dots to share your preference on elements that you would like to see in this new park space!

Location



What would You Like to See at this Park? Leave Your Comments Below:



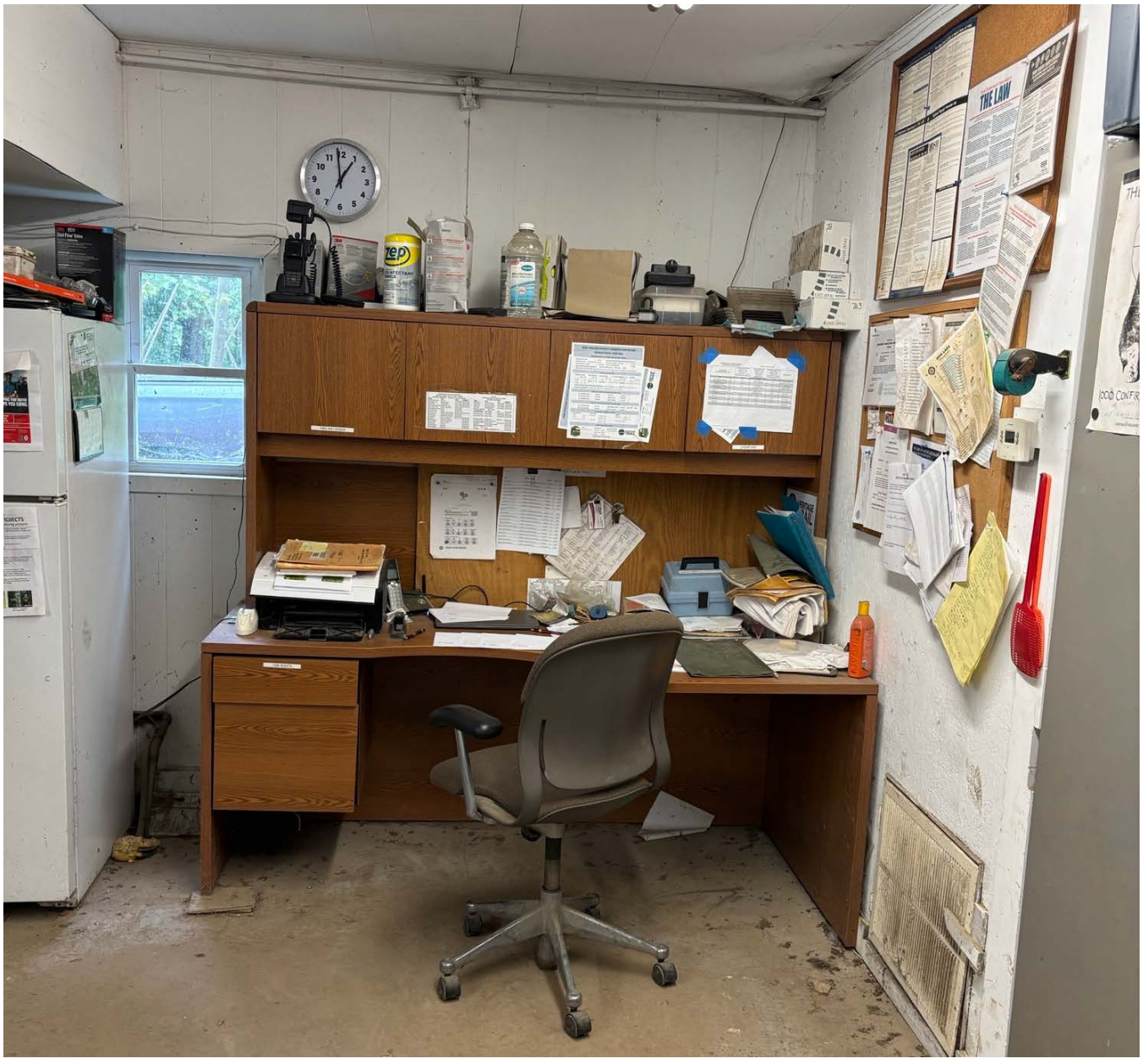
LOCHER RECREATION AREA

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MAINTENANCE BUILDING EXISTING CONDITIONS

MAINTENANCE BUILDING

The existing facility does not adequately support current operational needs of the Dubuque County Conservation Board. Limited heating, no air conditioning, and insufficient on-site storage require materials and equipment to be housed at multiple locations throughout the county. In addition, the narrow driveway creates circulation issues and makes maneuvering multiple trailers difficults. The following images document these existing conditions and demonstrate the need for a new, centrally located county maintenance building.



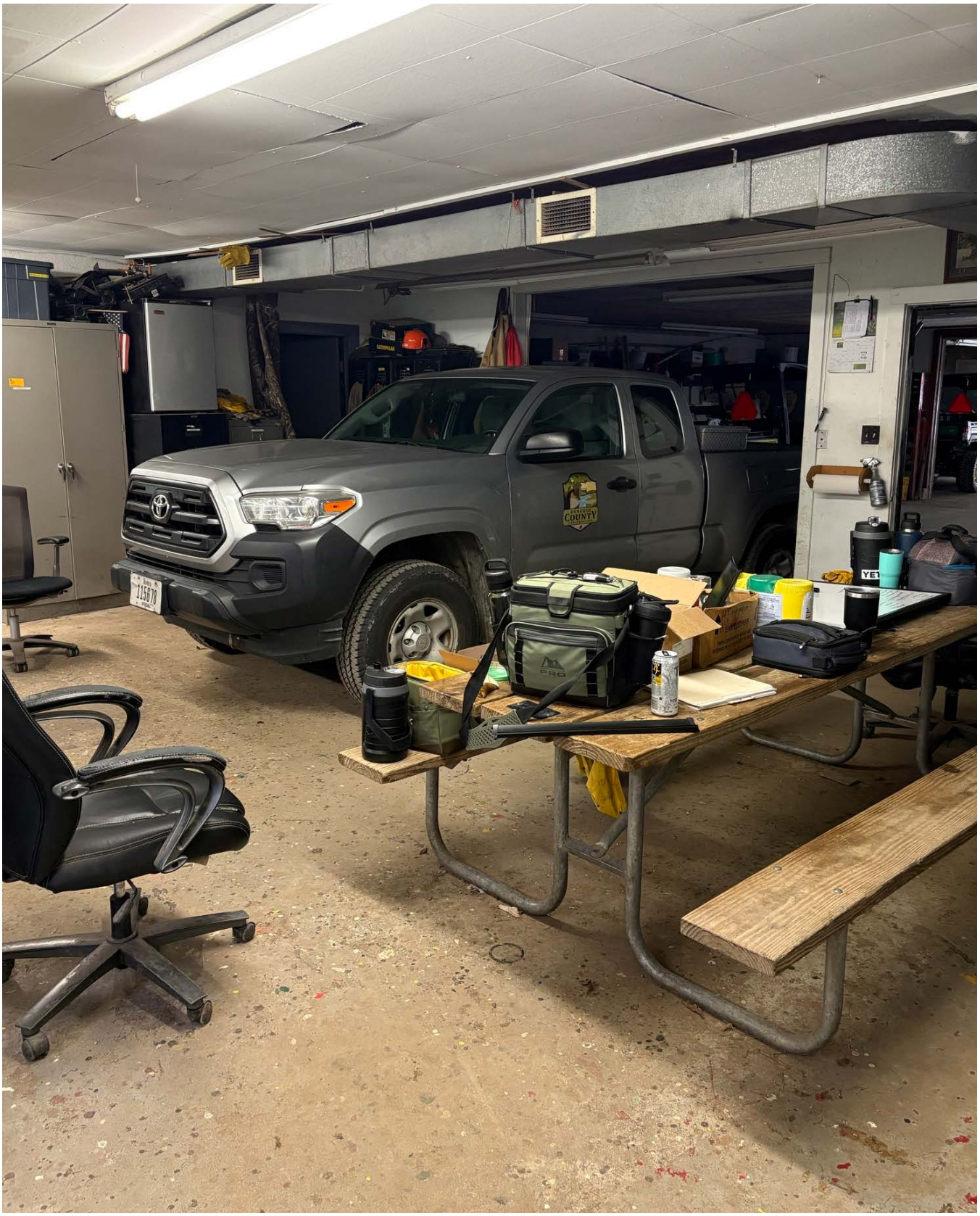
CURRENT OFFICE SPACE CONSISTS OF ONE DESK SHARED BY NINE EMPLOYEES, WITH INADEQUATE ROOM FOR PAPERWORK. FUTURE IMPROVEMENTS SHOULD PROVIDE SEPARATE WORKSTATIONS OR OFFICES FOR PARK RANGER AND MAINTENANCE STAFF WITH APPROPRIATE STORAGE.



THE RESTROOM CONTAINS THE ONLY EYEWASH STATION, HANDWASHING STATION, AND CHEMICAL WASH AREA. THIS PRESENTS AN EMERGENCY ACCESS CONCERN IF THE RESTROOM IS OCCUPIED. THIS IS ALSO THE ONLY TOILET SERVING NINE FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES AND UP TO FIVE SEASONAL EMPLOYEES DURING THE SUMMER.



VEHICLES ARE PARKED END-TO-END, WHICH CREATES OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES WHEN A VEHICLE OR PIECE OF EQUIPMENT IS NEEDED. THE FACILITY ALSO HAS NO FLOOR DRAINS OR DESIGNATED WASH BAY, WHICH SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN A FUTURE FACILITY.



A SINGLE PICNIC TABLE WITHIN THE FACILITY SERVES AS THE STAFF BREAK AREA, HOWEVER, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT ARE PARKED TIGHTLY END-TO-END WHICH LEAVES LITTLE ROOM FOR EMPLOYEES TO COMFORTABLY SIT OR TAKE LUNCH BREAKS.



EXISTING STORAGE SPACE IS INSUFFICIENT FOR STAFF EQUIPMENT, WITH GEAR STORED ON TOP OF LOCKERS DUE TO LIMITED CAPACITY. THERE IS NO SPACE AVAILABLE FOR PART-TIME OR SEASONAL EMPLOYEES.

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