



# WASHINGTON COUNTY REGIONAL TRAILS AND RECREATION PLAN



# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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A special thanks to the Washington County Riverboat Foundation, Washington County Conservation Board, Washington County Board of Supervisors, Washington Economic Development Group, and City of Washington for supporting the planning process and to all participants who helped provided feedback during the process.

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Washington City Park

# 1

## INTRODUCTION

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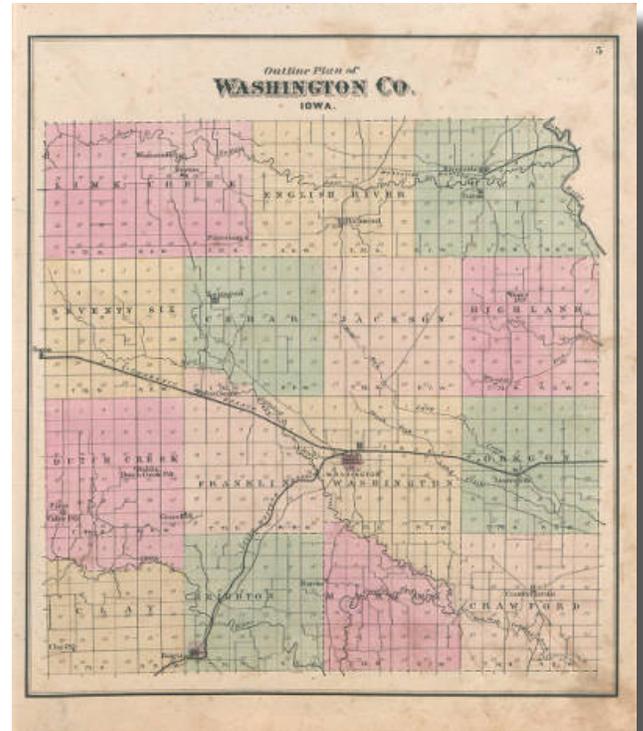
# A SNAPSHOT OF THE REGION

## Why plan?

It is difficult to know what the future may bring for Washington County, or for any community. As residents and businesses come and go, and economic trends rise and fall, changes will occur. The purpose of this plan is to establish a shared vision for Washington County in a regional context to guide future actions and decisions regarding parks and trails. This guidance provides predictability and consistency over time, which encourages investment. We plan so that we can act and react in a changing world with a confident understanding of our common values and goals.

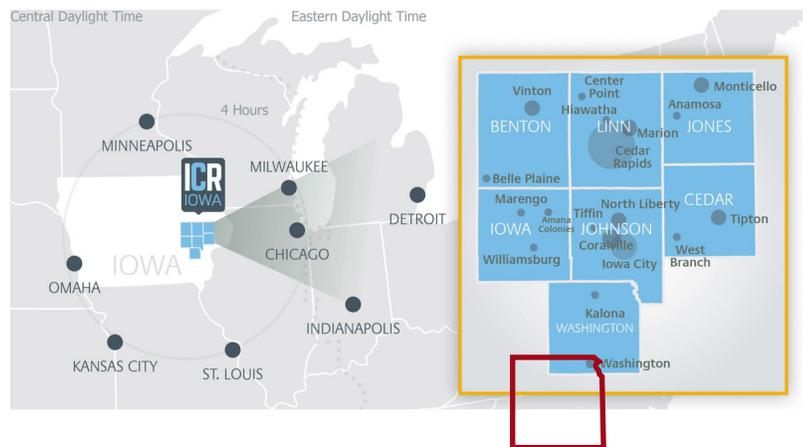
## History of Washington County

Washington County was originally named Slaughter County, and the land was founded in 1838. It was renamed Washington County to honor our country's first president (Breen, 2017). Washington County has many waterways that help to shape the natural landscape. These are the Iowa River, Skunk River, English River, Goose Creek, Smith Creek, Camp Creek, Crooked Creek, and Davis Creek. Washington County also has an abundance of valuable parks and natural lands that are preserved, cared for, and visited by the local citizens. The various cities and towns in Washington County have strong foundations in history, culture, tourism, agriculture, revitalization, and last but not least, natural amenities and beauty. Today, Washington County retains a total population of about 22,017 people, but is growing.



## Regional Context

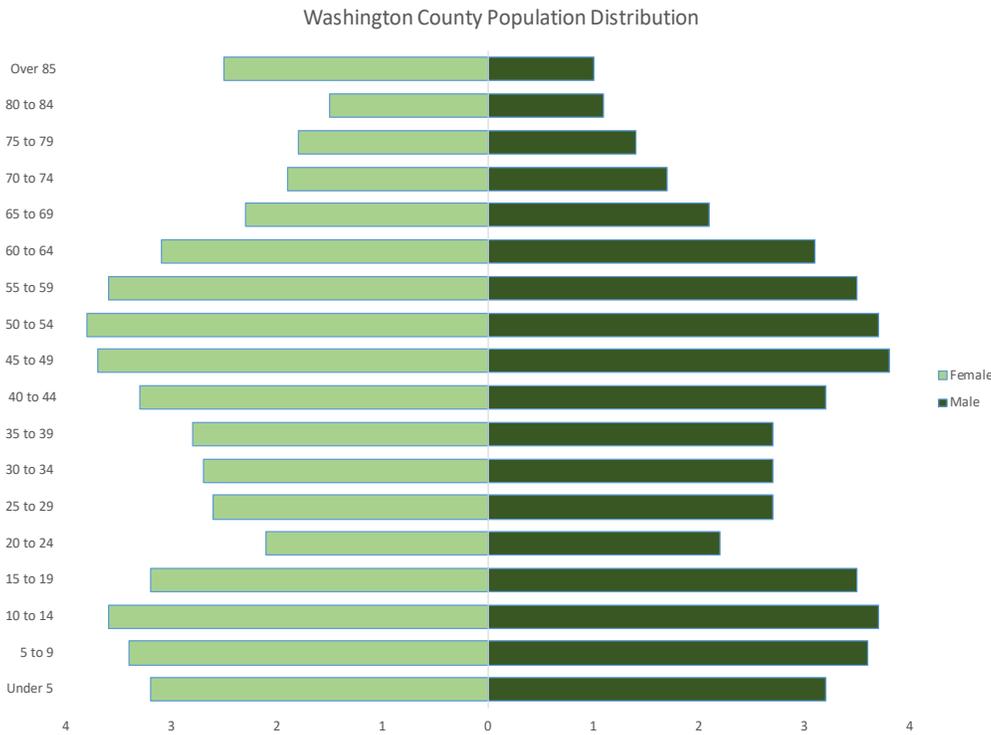
Washington County is located in the Metropolitan Statistical Area for the Cedar Rapids - Iowa City Region. It is also surrounded by four nearby Micropolitan Statistical Areas of Fairfield, Burlington, Muscatine, and Oskaloosa. This puts Washington County and its residents in a prime area for growth and it is necessary to consider the regional affects on the new parks and recreation amenities created in the county.



Source: <https://www.cedarrapids.org/our-region>

## Population Distribution

Washington County has a population distribution with a majority of the people being children or middle-aged adults. There is a lack of young adults from age 20-39. There is a high population of females over the age of 85. Patrons of trails are most often people ages 16-25 and 55-65.

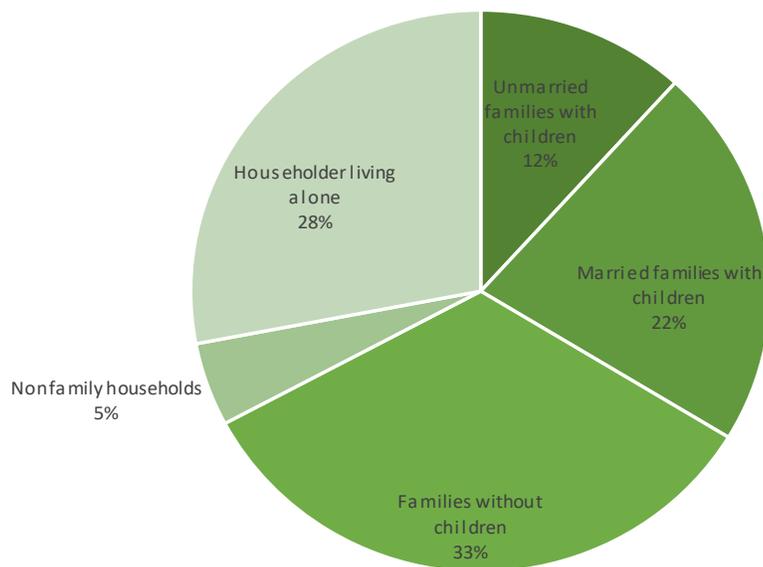


Source: [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)

## Household Types

Families without children make up the largest group of household types in Washington County. This usually includes married couples. The second largest group is householders living alone.

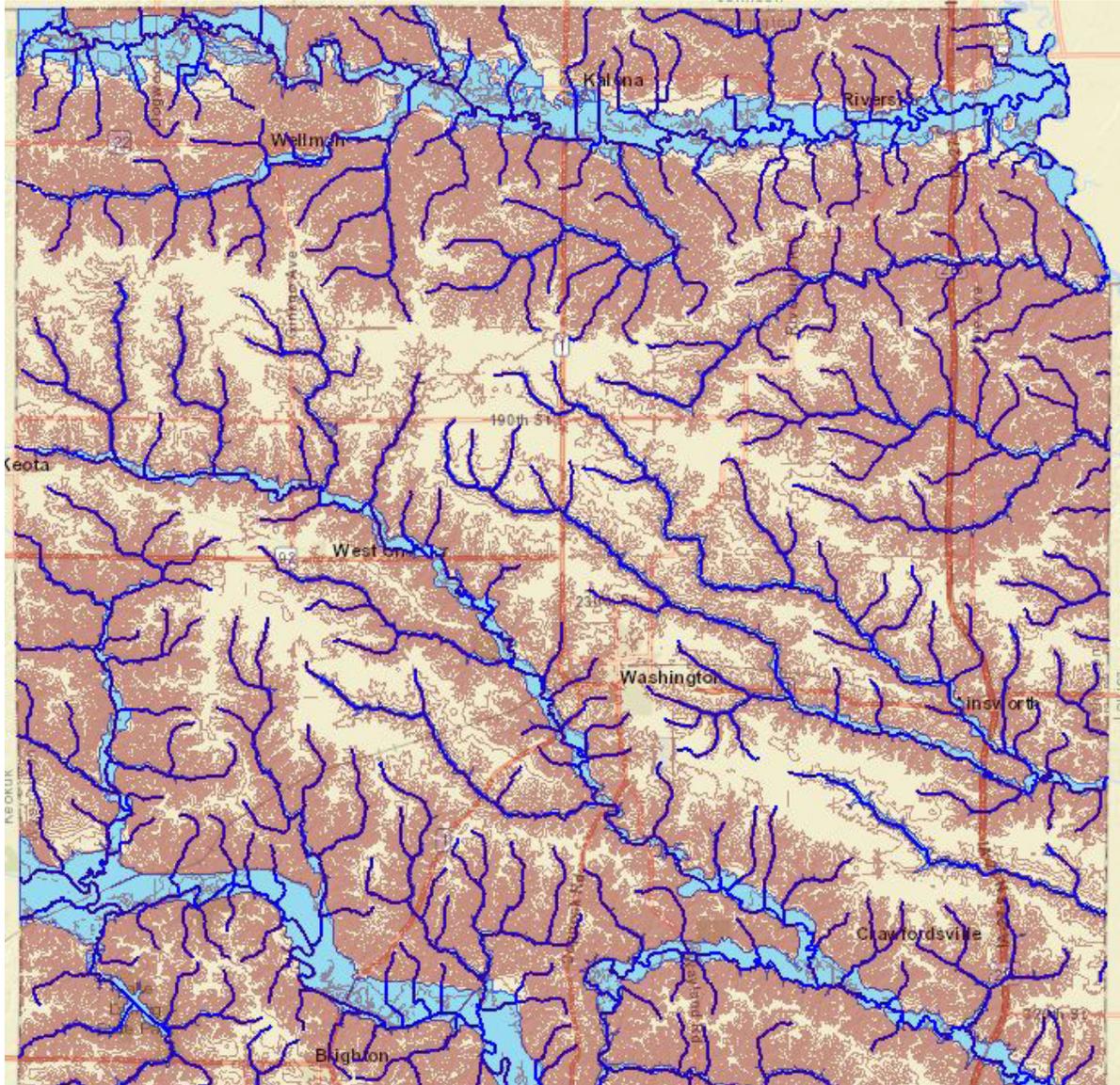
Household Types in Washington County



Source: [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)



## Washington County Floodplain Areas and Buffers



Source: Washington County



When considering parks, recreation, and trails for any area it is important to use consideration for sensitive areas like floodplains, wetlands, and their buffers. These areas are sensitive, but are often prime areas for recreation development and conservation.

Buffers refer to the area between a sensitive ecological system and the edge of a development or construction related to development. It is an area in which no development should occur, with the exception of restoration, management, and stewardship of natural resources. Managing storm water through the use of natural infiltration techniques can occur in this zone if it is done in harmony with the natural systems that are found on the site.

# VISION, MISSION, AND GOALS

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## Vision

People across Washington County will cooperate to provide and maintain a recreational network that will continue to grow to serve more users in more ways for more of their lives.

## Mission Statements

- To acquire, develop, maintain, and make available to the inhabitants of Washington County the public parks, preserves, parkways, playgrounds, recreation centers, county forests, wildlife and other conservation areas
- To promote and preserve the health and general welfare of the people of Washington County
- To encourage the orderly development and conservation of natural resources
- To cultivate good citizenship by providing programs of public recreation

As time goes by, it is always a good idea to revisit these statements to see if they continue to fit with the current goals and operation of the organization. Alternatively, it is wise to revisit the statements to ensure that the mission and vision is being followed and achieved. Although mission and vision statements rarely come into play in everyday park operations and the current mission statement is sufficient, updating a mission statement and creating a vision statement can provide the impetus to make subsequent adjustments to park facilities and programs to reflect changing attitudes.

## REGIONAL GOALS

The following are the goals for the Washington County Regional Trails and Recreation Plan:

**Goal 1: Continue proper maintenance and funding of existing trails**

**Goal 2: Expand the use of the existing regional trail system and create linkages or loops**

**Goal 3: Maintain and expand recreational opportunities for County residents and regional visitors**

**Goal 4: Prepare a Master Plan for a new trail from Brighton to Lake Darling**

**Goal 5: Prepare a Master Plan for the Kewash Trail**

**Goal 6: Encourage and support the establishment of connections to regional trails from residential and commercial areas wherever possible**

**Goal 7: As it becomes available, acquire land for trail alignment in an opportunistic manner**

Washington County, governmental jurisdictions, and other stakeholders should work in partnership to address the land acquisition challenges of developing a county-wide network of interconnected non-motorized recreation assets, trails and alternative transportation routes.

Within the next decade, growth in Washington County will likely continue at a steady, yet manageable pace, bringing along with it new demands for parks, open spaces, athletic facilities, and trails. Thoughtful and prudent implementation of the system plan will be critical to being successful in meeting needs in a fiscally responsible and balanced manner. By taking an assertive role in managing implementation of the plan in sync with community development, the County and all impacted jurisdictions can gain greater assurance that the quality of life values held by residents will be realized in the future. Success in this regard will require insightful leadership and a willingness to use a variety of approaches to managing development and leveraging financial resources (public and private) to achieve desired public values.



Wellman Community Park



# 2

## PROCESS AND ENGAGEMENT

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# OVERVIEW OF THE PLANNING PROCESS

## Planning Process

A transparent public engagement process was the foundation in the creation of this plan, and will remain essential for its implementation. Elements of public engagement for the Washington County Trails and Recreation Plan process included:

- Plan Steering Committee Meetings
- Public Workshops and SWOT Analysis Sessions (four)
- County Wide Survey
- Online Mapping Resources
- Youth Survey
- Pop-Up Meetings (two)
- Public Draft Plan Workshops (four)
- Public Open House
- 

The goals and policies of the Trails and Recreation plan support the region’s vision for the future and address barriers to realizing this vision. Elements of the plan have been crafted from previous planning documents, individual participant’s ideas, discussions and debates among committee members and the past experiences of the region as a whole.

## Incorporating Input into the Plan

The input outlined in this chapter allows for the identification of underlying themes as a frame for the plan, and provides information on what specific issues and ideas are most important to Washington County citizens. This foundation ensures that the plan is not just a hollow document, but a guide for future decisions in the region that are in line with ideals. From this foundation, Washington County recreational opportunities will continue to grow and thrive.



## Planning Process Schedule

### Washington County Regional Trails and Recreation Plan Schedule

Month	Task
<b>JULY 2017</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Steering Committee Meeting #1: Kickoff Meeting</li> <li>• Begin Existing Plan Review and Inventorying Recreational Amenities</li> <li>• Launch Project Website</li> <li>• Pop-Up Meeting #1 – Gather Input on Issues and Opportunities at Washington County Fair</li> </ul>
<b>OCTOBER</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Steering Committee Meeting #2: Survey &amp; Stakeholder Questions</li> <li>• Open Online Survey</li> <li>• Continue Existing Plan Review and Inventorying Recreational Amenities</li> </ul>
<b>NOVEMBER - JANUARY 2018</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare Draft Plan I</li> </ul>
<b>FEBRUARY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public Input Workshops in Washington</li> </ul>
<b>MARCH</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public Input Workshops at Lake Darling, Marr Park and in Kalona</li> </ul>
<b>APRIL</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key Stakeholder Interviews/Focus Groups</li> <li>• Complete Draft Plan I</li> </ul>
<b>MAY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Steering Committee Meeting #3: Review Public Engagement Findings, Goals and Policies</li> <li>• Prepare Final Plan with Edits/Comments from Steering Committee</li> </ul>
<b>JUNE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Steering Committee Meeting #4 - Presented Draft and Recommended Improvements/Expansions</li> </ul>
<b>JULY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pop-Up Meeting #2 at County Fair</li> <li>• Wellmand and Riverside Draft Plan Open Houses</li> </ul>
<b>AUGUST</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Washington and Lake Darling Draft Plan Open Houses</li> </ul>
<b>NOVEMBER/DECEMBER</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Steering Committee Meeting #5: Review Draft Plan II and Feedback from Draft Plan Workshops and Pop-Up Meeting #2.</li> <li>• Final Plan Open House</li> <li>• Plan Completion</li> </ul>

# PARTICIPATION METHODS

## Project Website

A project website was developed where posts and feedback were shared such as the project schedule and draft documents. It also provided a venue to share draft materials and solicit comments throughout the planning process. This aspect of the communication and participation strategy was important for transparency, and for sharing information with stakeholders who were unable to attend meetings.



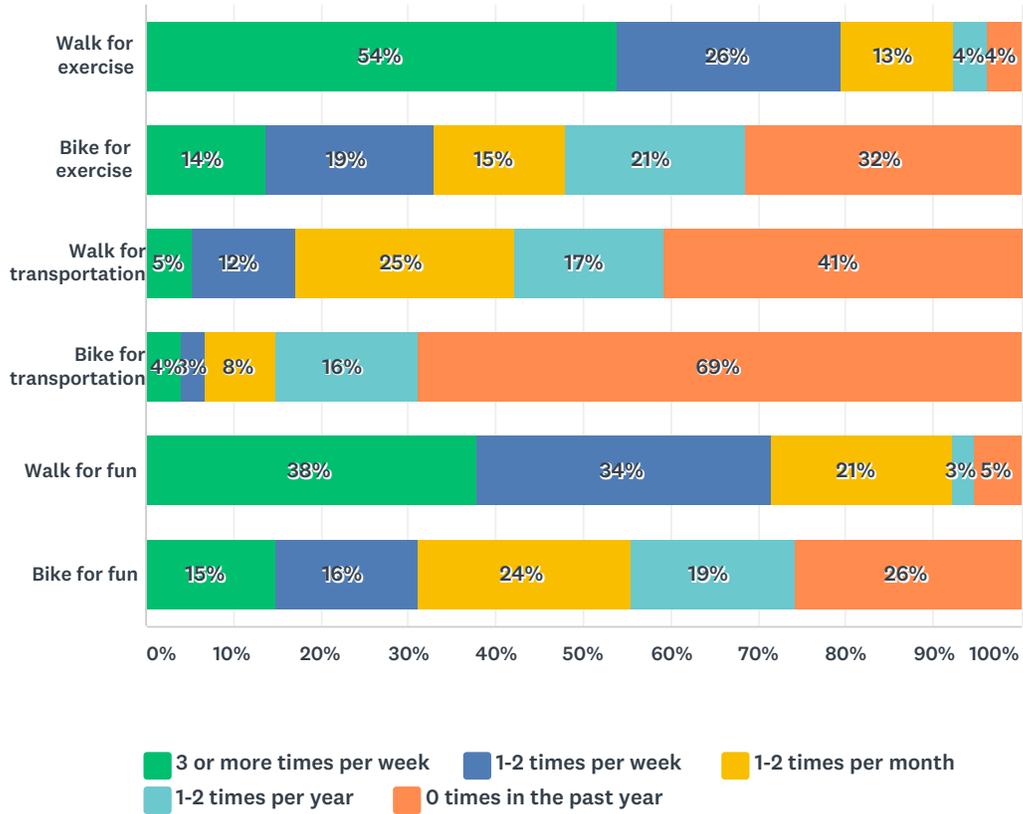
## Steering Committee

A Plan Steering Committee was established by the region to oversee the process and ensure that the established goals and objectives were being accomplished in a timely manner. The Plan Steering Committee, comprised of 12 community members, was also the primary review body throughout the planning process. The steering committee held five meetings during the course of the planning process. These meetings were open to the public. Plan Steering Committee presentation materials were posted on the project website for public access.

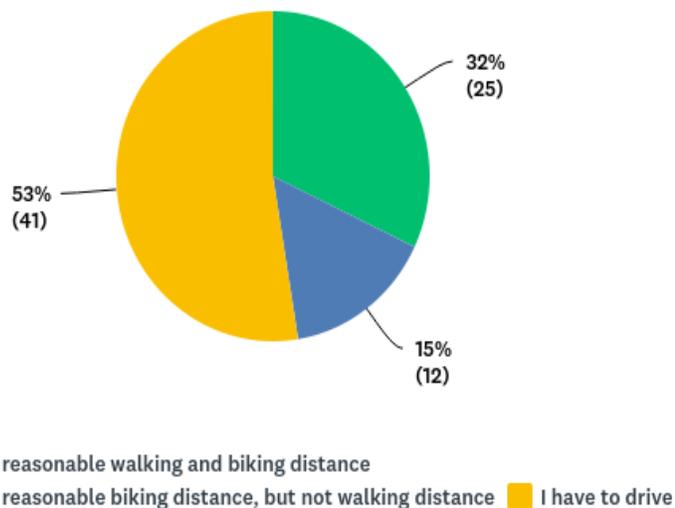


## Q5 How often do you....

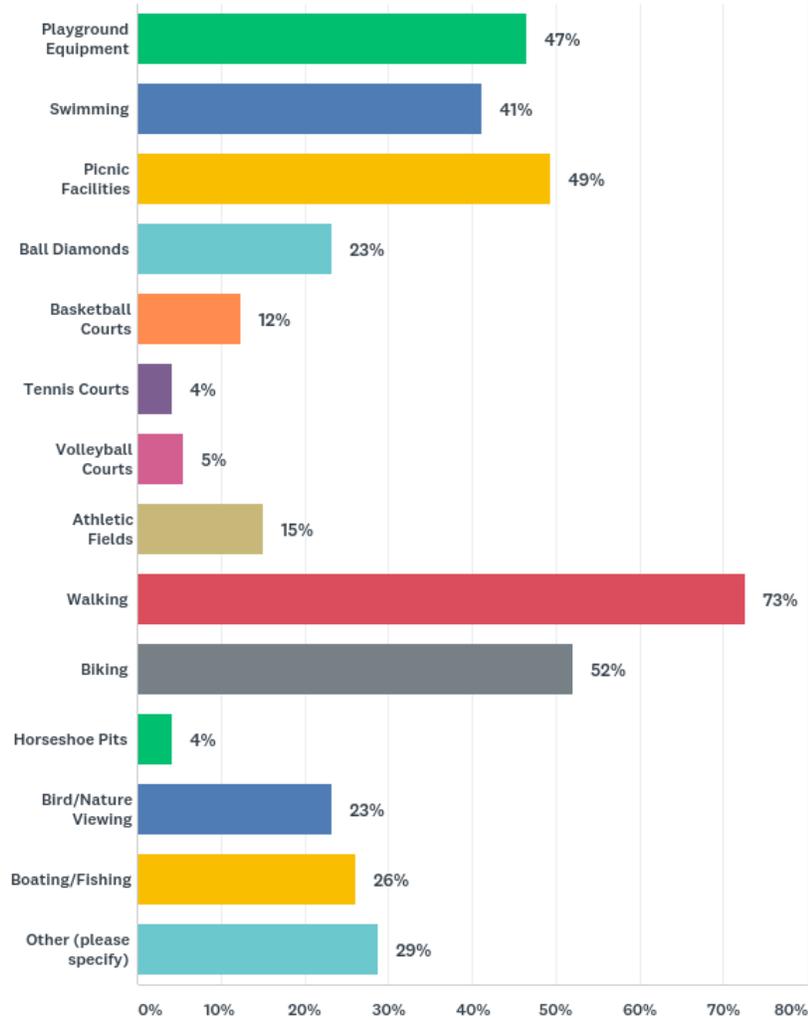
Answered: 81 Skipped: 12



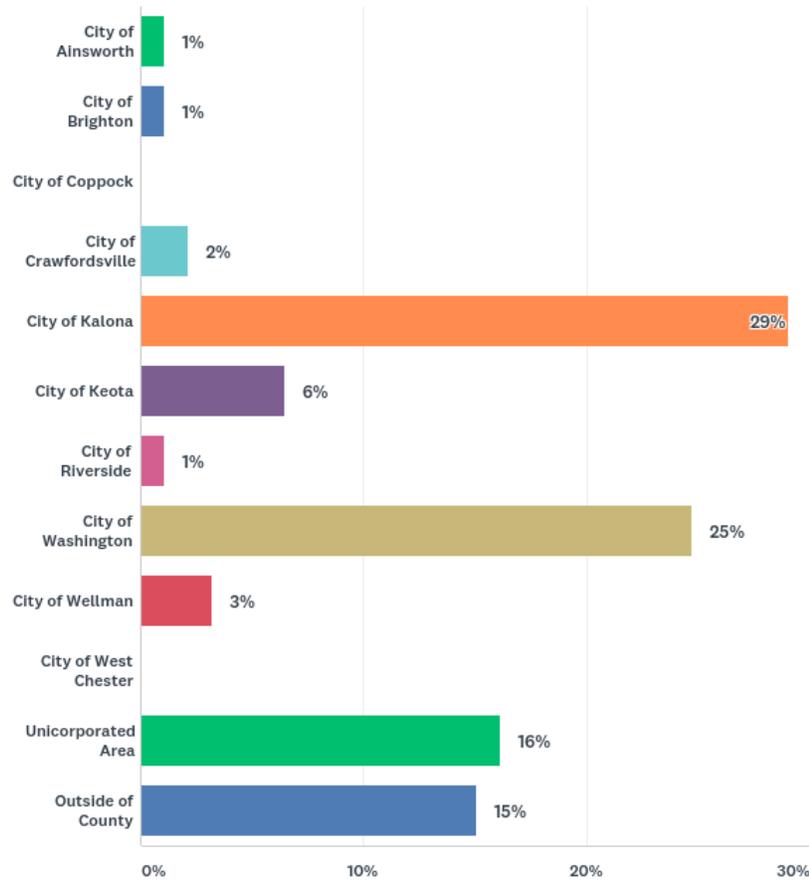
## Q8 How close is the nearest park or trail to your home?



Q9 When visiting the region's parks, which activities or facilities do you or members of your household most commonly participate in or use? Check all that apply.

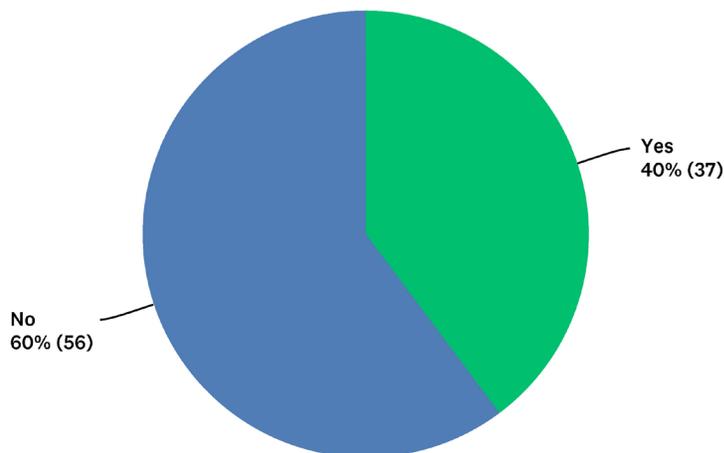


### Q3 Where do you live?



### Q2 Do you have any children living in your home that are under the age of 18?

Answered: 93 Skipped: 0



Q11 What is your favorite park to visit in the region?

A word cloud of blue text representing favorite parks. The most prominent words are 'Lake Darling' and 'Park'. Other visible words include 'Britton', 'Timber', 'Kewash Trail', 'County', 'Terry Trueblood', 'Brinton', 'Washington', and 'Sunset'.

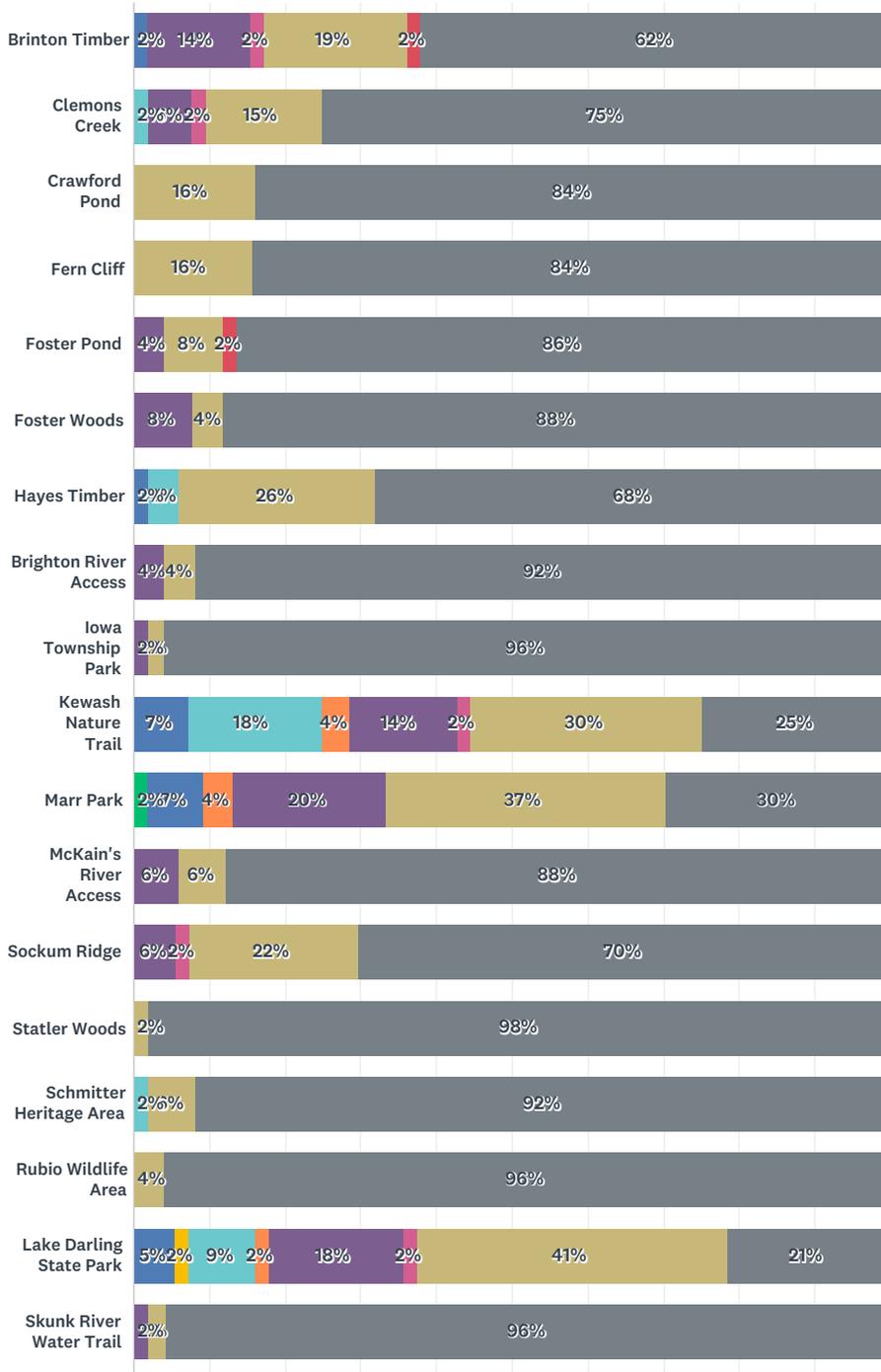
Q12 Why is this park your favorite park to visit in the region and why?

A word cloud of blue text representing reasons for favorite parks. The most prominent words are 'Trails', 'Walking', 'Nature', and 'Beautiful'. Other visible words include 'Horseback Riding', 'Camping', 'Biking', 'Fishing', 'Facilities', 'Quiet', 'Play', 'Playground', 'Equipment', 'Nice', 'Location', 'Ride Our Horses', 'Options', 'Amenities', 'Closest', 'Path', and 'Appealing'.

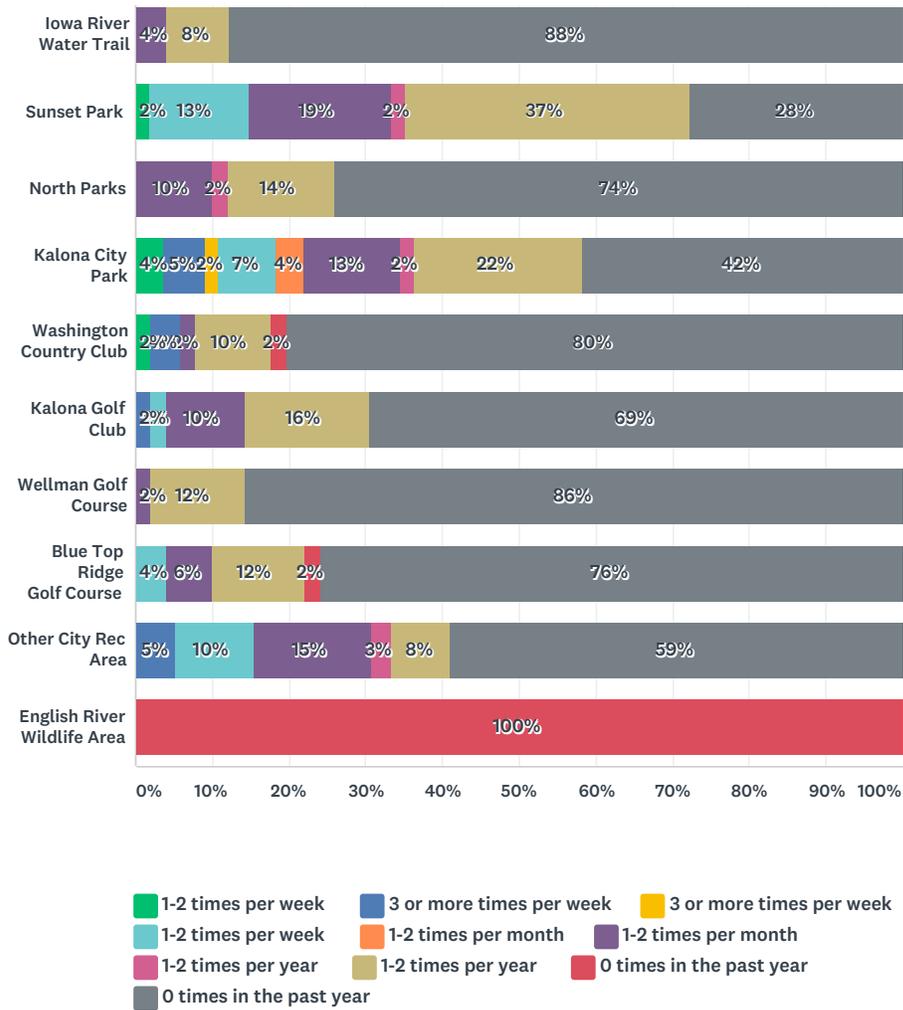
Washington County Regional Trails & Recreation Plan Survey

Q14 Excluding the winter months or season closures, how often do you or members of your household visit or use...?

Answered: 69 Skipped: 24



Washington County Regional Trails & Recreation Plan Survey



# PUBLIC WORKSHOPS



## Washington County Trails and Recreation Plan Public Meeting

**6:00 PM  
Monday  
February 26th, 2018**

**Washington Library  
115 W Washington St,  
Washington, IA 52353**

The consulting firm MSA Professional Services, Inc. is working with the Washington County Economic Development Group to complete a Trails and Recreation plan for the entire county. MSA will be facilitating a public meeting to gather input from you! Please join us to provide your feedback.



## Washington County Trails and Recreation Plan Public Meeting

**6:00 PM  
Monday  
March 5th, 2018**

**Lake Darling Lodge  
111 Lake Darling Rd,  
Brighton, IA 52540**

The consulting firm MSA Professional Services, Inc. is working with the Washington County Economic Development Group to complete a Trails and Recreation plan for the entire county. MSA will be facilitating a public meeting to gather input from you! Please join us to provide your feedback.

<https://washingtoncountyrecplan.com/>



## Washington County Trails and Recreation Plan Public Meeting

**6:00 PM Conservation Education Center  
Thursday 2943 Highway 92  
March 15th, 2018 Ainsworth, Iowa 52201**

The consulting firm MSA Professional Services, Inc. is working with the Washington County Economic Development Group to complete a Trails and Recreation plan for the entire county. MSA will be facilitating a public meeting to gather input from you! Please join us to provide your feedback.

<https://washingtoncountyrecplan.com/>



## Washington County Trails and Recreation Plan Public Meeting

**6:00 PM  
Tuesday  
March 20th, 2018**

**Kalona Library  
510 C Ave  
Kalona, IA 52247**

The consulting firm MSA Professional Services, Inc. is working with the Washington County Economic Development Group to complete a Trails and Recreation plan for the entire county. MSA will be facilitating a public meeting to gather input from you! Please join us to provide your feedback.

<https://washingtoncountyrecplan.com/>

Four Public Workshops were held in February and March of 2018. The purpose of the meeting was to gather input on the County’s strengths, concerns and opportunities to provide direction to the comprehensive planning process. Many citizens shared their opinions on the future of Trails and Recreation in Washington County.

The first part of the workshops focused on educating the attendees about the purpose of the plan, the process of the plan, and a brief existing conditions overview.

The second part of the workshop explored issues and opportunities for the county using a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis. The three focus topics were Natural Resources and Areas, Recreation Facilities and Parks, and Trails. Consultants and Steering Committee members were available to discuss topics and answer questions about the plan and planning process. The following pages provide a brief summary of the feedback and comments collected from each category.

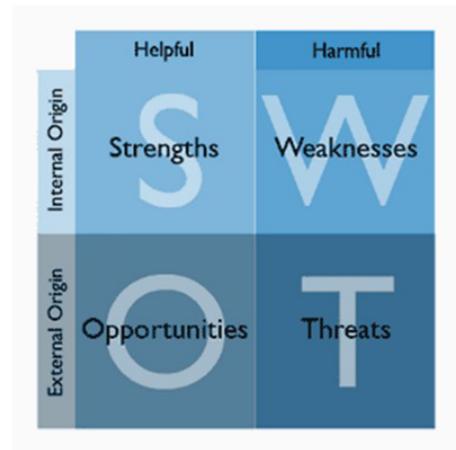


## Topic Categories for Issues & Opportunities Discussion/SWOT Analysis

1. Natural Resources and Areas
2. Recreation Facilities and Parks
3. Trails

### ***Overall Questions to be answered through the planning process?***

- *What existing recreational assets need to be improved to be viable over the next 20 years?*
- *What is the County missing that will require long-term commitments to develop?*
- *What will be connected within and to Washington County by trails over the next 20 years?*



# PUBLIC WORKSHOPS

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## Washington Location

### Natural Resources and Areas

#### Opportunities/Strengths (+)

- Something to share with neighbors
- County System
- State Park
- Naturally beautiful areas
- Brinton Timber
- Sockum Ridge
- Brinton Timber multi-use trails
- Brinton Timber
- Natural resource diversity
- Sockum Ridge multi-use trails
- Kewash Trail
- Easy to stay in home county
- Wellness Park
- Variety and geographic locations
- Lake Darling
- Significant interest in development
- Family Safety

#### Issues/Threats/Weaknesses (-)

- Water Quality
- Lack of conservation
- Lack of Skunk River Utilization
- Lack of cooperation with adjoining land owners at Brinton Timber
- Trails are messy at Sockum Ridge
- Eroded trails at Brinton Timber
- Citizen Apathy
- Lack of vision
- Costs related to ongoing maintenance and improvements
- Funding
- Financial Prioritization
- Funding cuts
- Poor parking and camping at Brinton Timber
- Affects wildlife
- Environmental impact
- No camping at Sockum Ridge
- Poor parking at Sockum Ridge
- No trails that connect with
- Brinton Timber at Schmitter's Heritage

## Washington Location

### Recreation Facilities and Parks

#### Opportunities/Strengths (+)

- Utilized to entertain guests
- Over 2000 acres of county land
- Existing parks
- Water tower park
- Central park
- Wellness Park
- Sunset Park is multi recreational
- Lake Darling is growing in great fashion
- Variety, something for everyone
- Kewash development on both sides
- Relaxing Oasis
- Lake Darling is multi recreational
- Desirable
- Lake Darling
- Safe Family Place
- Marr Park, county areas
- YMCAs

#### Issues/Threats/Weaknesses (-)

- Degradation of resources through, abuse, and vandalism
- Vandalism
- Not being utilized fully
- Maintenance costs
- Safety and security
- Limited choices
- Poor restroom facilities at Sockum Ridge
- Finding proper staffing
- Costs related to ongoing maintenance and improvements
- Cost
- Poor restroom facilities at Brinton Timber
- No camp lighting at Brinton Timber
- Repetitive
- Not unique
- Washington YMCA fields need improvements

## Washington Location

### Trails

#### Opportunities/Strengths (+)

- Convenience in time spent
- Marr Park trail to Ainsworth
- Used by many
- Kewash Trail
- Kewash Trail
- Trail around Lake Darling
- Marr Park
- Relaxing and Beautiful
- Kewash Trail
- Trails around Lake Darling
- Trail from Brighton to Lake Darling
- Kewash improvements
- Existing Regional Trail (Kewash)
- Variety of Trails (water, equestrian, snowmobile, pedestrian, bike)
- Many grass trails
- Ainsworth to Marr Park
- Brighton
- Sockum Ridge

#### Issues/Threats/Weaknesses (-)

- Horse Trail Design
- Maintenance Costs
- Can be inaccessible
- Trail systems that can't be accessed from nearest other trail systems
- Safety & Security
- Need more areas for multiuse trails
- Schmitters & English River Wildlife Area
- Kewash Trail not Multi-use
- Lack of safe routes to school in some areas
- Boring
- Lake Darling Trails not multiuse
- Limited opportunities
- No trail loops
- Lack of dedicated funding for maintenance
- Poor lighting

## Lake Darling Location

### Natural Resources and Areas

#### Opportunities/Strengths (+)

- Young generations more accepting of trails & recreation
- State, city, county parks already here
- Lake Darling redevelopment
- Connect communities to parks
- Wider shoulders are great
- Increased quality of life
- Need better road and shoulders near riverside
- Need trail from Rubio Road to Brighton

#### Issues/Threats/Weaknesses (-)

- Farmers opposed to ROW acquisition
- Counties nearby may compete for economic opportunities (Jefferson, Johnson, Louisa, Keokuk)
- Takes funding and maintenance
- Highway riding is very dangerous
- Kewash needs better maintenance
- Stable funding source
- Existing signage around Lake Darling non-existent
- Funding
- Hills and no shoulder are a bad combination
- Land owner reservation

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## Lake Darling Location

### Recreation Facilities and Parks

#### Opportunities/Strengths (+)

- Keeps money local
- Parks attract families
- Rural setting
- Fewer people, less crowded facilities
- Good to connect assets along existing highway
- Skunk river trail might also work from Washington to Brighton
- Kewash trail
- Lake Darling improvements like cabins or fishing
- Lake Darling is a showcase for county and cities
- Family-based recreation

#### Issues/Threats/Weaknesses (-)

- Funding
- Might attract people with illegal/bad intentions
- Risk mitigation for public safety
- How do we reach people? We need to reach out and use more publicity

## Lake Darling Location

### Trails

#### Opportunities/Strengths (+)

- Yearly additions on a smaller scale
- Providing connectivity from trails & cities
- Jefferson county opens trails for cars on certain days – we could do the same
- Riverside road is a nice ride
- Great trails attract 5ks and walk/runs
- Many connection opportunities
- Washington County to Iowa City
- Brighton has HW1 frontage
- **Well maintained**

#### Issues/Threats/Weaknesses (-)

- Other more established regional trails will compete
- with Washington County Trails
- Advertising trail heads
- Handicap Accessible trail options can be taken advantage
- of by some who may not need the accessibility
- Need Funding for trail improvements and maintenance
- 
- Need maintenance
- Can't find all the trails, need visibility
- Need a map of trails that's easy to find
- Trailheads

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## Marr Park Location

### Natural Resources and Areas

#### Opportunities/Strengths (+)

- Wildlife preservation
- Few sensitive areas where disturbance should be worried about
- Improvements to areas – Foster Woods
- Attempt to provide various options to people
- Possible need to create own funding, foundation? Not just casino \$
- Attempt to get “free” money from state? Feds? Casino? Others?
- Undeveloped areas – more natural for viewing wildlife & for the wildlife to live
- There is access to ride bikes from Fern Cliff to Sockum Ridge on highway or gravel road
- Opportunity to participate – we have parks available all over the county & easily accessible
- Opportunity to enhance quality of life
- Opportunity to attract people & businesses
- Diversity of habitats & educational activities

#### Issues/Threats/Weaknesses (-)

- Weed control – invasive species
- Is there too much property for current staff to maintain
- Access to private land for hiking trail from Fern Cliff to Sockum Ridge
- Not connected
- Few wildlife coordinators
- Impact
- Deer problems
- We’re not well enough informed
- Financial resources – a problem
- People who are anti-park or anti-trail
- Knowledge of location
- Varying degrees of accessibility

## Marr Park Location

### Recreation Facilities and Parks

#### Opportunities/Strengths (+)

- Education center at Marr Park
- More visible opportunities
- Higher use
- Ways to get youth involved to build next generation
- A lot of variety
- Lake Darling – Paddle boats, swimming, boating, trails, camping, cabins
- Marr Park – pavilion use & paved trail use camping
- No user fees for many activities
- Beautiful parks
- Opportunity to grow our park system, links and loops
- Marr Park to Washington
- Kewash to Lake Darling
- Park around Washington
- People love our parks
- Good play equipment
- All parks constantly trying to improve

#### Issues/Threats/Weaknesses (-)

- Expenses – staff and time
- Missing elements – ATV trails, bike trail at Sockum, no splash pad
- Need separation of use types
- Traffic impact
- State funding cuts – lots of Lake Darling left unmoved
- Trails unable to be maintained – funding issues
- Not garnering enough volunteers, is that a liability?
- Some trails too short
- More bike trails
- Could attract people who vandalize, loiter, party-drinking, and littering
- People negative to the facility, anti-recreation
- Potable water availability
- Need more camping spots
- Shelter facilities - not all parks have some

+/-

## Marr Park Location

### Trails

#### Opportunities/Strengths (+)

- Kewash Trail – good distance
- Kewash Trail – Great Intersection improvements
- Marr Park - Paved
- Possibility for more access to abandoned railroad
- Lake Darling trails are very scenic
- We have opportunity to make Kewash hard surface
- Trails are safer places to ride and walk
- Nice variety of dirt horse trails
- Kewash provides wildlife coordinator
- No ATV trails (they cause a lot of damage and disturbance)
- Horse trails, love the scenic areas
- Kewash Trail
- Ainsworth to Marr Park, new & lovely
- Opportunity to reclaim old railroad beds
- Use of state highway right of ways

#### Issues/Threats/Weaknesses (-)

- Wish Marr Park Trail was paved
- Certain groups of people question Kewash Trail (farmers, Landowners, non-users)
- Trails should be better promoted (huge tourism possibility)
- Open trails/along roads – open to weather, wind, no view
- Little reason to use except for distance or to get from point A to point B
- Who to contact? Need better communication
- Nothing is connected
- Need more bike trails
- Safety – potholes due to animals
- Takes so long to create a new trail & it is so expensive
- Requires condemnation of many farmers' lands
- Not enough horse trails
- Need more paved trails, more miles for safer biking
- (Ainsworth to Washington?)
- Would be great if trails/parks were linked so you could ride
- more miles, town to town
- Some trails not usable in wet weather
- Washington to Ainsworth missed trail opportunity

+/-

## Marr Park Location

### Wishlist

#### Opportunities/Strengths (+)

- Connect to Johnson County trails & other counties
- More horse trails
- Get to Kalona by gravel roads
- Trail from Marr Park to Washington 5+ miles for horses and bikes
- Trail signs at Sockum Ridge
- Pave more of Kewash Trail
- Larger parking areas
- Wet weather trail for horses, rock bed
- Trail from Riverside Casino to Kalona, along English River
- Pave Kewash Trail
- Dog splash pad/water park
- Connect all trails
- More off-road bike trails
- Connecting trails to other surrounding counties
- More \$ for trails
- Develop more friends of parks (volunteers)
- Needs in NE corner of county – nothing is there
- Dust control on gravel roads to parks
- Pathway 4' to 6' wide from Washington to Marr Park on one side of the road
- River/water trail from Sockum Ridge to Fern Cliff
- More staff to take care of what we have Better parking at Brinton Timber
- More consistent funding
- Splash Pad

## Kalona Location

### Natural Resources and Areas

#### Opportunities/Strengths (+)

- Kewash trail
- Southern part of the county
- Good hunting
- Marr Park, home of WCCB
- Recreation
- Wildlife habitats
- Exercising
- Marr Park bike trail
- Marr park nature center
- Pam Holtz's newspaper articles about nature and animals
- Good wildlife habitat
- Good mix of hunting and wildlife refuges

#### Issues/Threats/Weaknesses (-)

- Limited access
- Need more parks in North Washington County
- Location
- Not aware of natural resource areas in the county
- Need better marketing
- Limited fishing
- Limited access to rivers
- No support for Bunker Mill Bridge
- Closing Nutmeg Ave
- Foster Woods need improvements

+/-

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## Kalona Location

### Recreation Facilities and Parks

#### Opportunities/Strengths (+)

- Great Marr Park
- Lake Darling
- Good City Parks
- Lake Darling
- Kewash Trail
- English River Access, opportunity to provide
- 3 community centers for indoor activities
- Marr Park, home of WCCB
- Golf Course
- Each community has excellent parks
- Kewash Trail
- YMCA
- Soccer Fields
- Wellman Golf Course
- Lake Darling
- Kalona Park & pool

#### Issues/Threats/Weaknesses (-)

- Man power to maintain
- Not enough money to create better/more recreation areas
- Need funding source
- No support from county supervisors in Kalona-Richmond Trail
- YMCA Washington Soccer Fields need development/concessions/etc.
- Distance to Lake Darling
- No exhibits at Lake Darling
- Lack of trail funding

---

## Kalona Location

### Trails

#### Opportunities/Strengths (+)

- Kewash Trail
- Keota trailhead
- Marr Park Trail
- Highway 1 widening
- Great horse trails a Brinton Timber
- Kewash
- Marr Park to Ainsworth
- Good hiking at several parks and areas
- Riverside trail could connect to old 2018

#### Issues/Threats/Weaknesses (-)

- Not enough – need more options
- Off-road trails
- Maintenance of trails
- Need trails to connect communities and to Iowa City
- Trail development within communities such as Ainsworth
- Trails connecting parks & residences to schools (such as the Wellman High School)
- Funding
- Upkeep
- Not enough horse trails

## Kalona Location

### Wishlist

#### Opportunities/Strengths (+)

- Connect to Johnson County trails & other counties
- More horse trails
- Get to Kalona by gravel roads
- Trail from Marr Park to Washington 5+ miles for horses and bikes
- Trail signs at Sockum Ridge
- Pave more of Kewash Trail
- Larger parking areas
- Wet weather trail for horses, rock bed
- Trail from Riverside Casino to Kalona, along English River
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- More staff to take care of what we have Better parking at Brinton Timber
- More consistent funding
- Splash Pad

# FOCUS GROUPS

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On April 23, 2018 stakeholder and focus group interviews were held at the Iowa State University Extension and Outreach building. Discussion was focused around a pre-distributed questionnaire for participants. There were several hour-long focus group sessions, and stakeholder interviews. A summary of questions and answers are included below:

## **Describe your connection to Washington County—what does your business/organization do and what is your role in the business/organization?**

- YMCA
- Recreational programming
- Cleaning up parks
- Maintaining parks
- New land acquisition
- Park protection
- County parks
- State parks
- Serving community
- Love biking
- Bike all around the county

## **What are the positive and negative aspects of the region's trails and recreational facilities across Washington County; including within cities?**

- Existing county and city parks are good
- Recent Lake Darling improvements are great
- Not enough trails around the county
- Kewash is a nice asset
- Kewash is not well maintained
- Existing assets are disjointed and not connected
- Not many opportunities for regional recreation programming
- Parks and recreation entities are not familiar with the needs and wants of users
- Signage is not adequate

## **What are your top five priorities for amenities that should be added to the trail and recreation system in Washington County?**

- Splash pad
- More trees
- Paving the entirety of the Kewash
- Wellness Park
- Trails within cities
- Trails connecting adjacent counties
- Water trails or floating opportunities
- Maintenance
- Marr Park to Kewash linkage
- 12th St to G36 route safety
- More loop trail routes
- Signage for parks
- Education on the needs of different types of users

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## What problems/concerns do you have regarding the trails and recreational facilities throughout Washington County?

- Not enough money for maintenance of current trails
- Need long term funding plans for any new projects
- Not enough thoughtful design in current projects
- Removing too many trees around the county
- Too much gravel
- Focus on equestrian users
- Importance of recreation is absent in policy
- Cyclists have been hit on the highways
- Safety
- Age inclusivity
- Current marketing and outreach efforts

## If you were promoting the region's trail and recreation to your friends what elements of the system would be important to include as assets/opportunities in this plan?

- Kewash
- County Parks
- Places to hunt and fish
- South Park in Wellman
- New YMCAs
- Bent rock
- Brinton Timber Trails
- Marr Park
- Washingtons parks and trails
- Fern Cliff

## What types of trail and recreation amenities are needed or missing from the county?

- Neighborhood parks
- Areas for small children to play
- Sports fields in growing communities
- Age diversity
- Increase outreach
- Not as many partnerships as there could be
- Amenities in the northeastern part of the county
- Cross-country skiing - if there were more snow
- Splash Pad
- Areas for swimming that aren't in public pools
- Winter rec opportunities
- Water trails

## Are there any particular trail and recreation amenities that need reinvestment?

- Existing sports programs
- Connections of existing
- Hayes Timber Paths
- Every single facility needs maintenance
- Organization of volunteers to maintain things
- Water access points that aren't private
- More official water trails
- Signage is confusing and poor at most parks, and bad at county parks
- Horse trails need more maintenance, they are important but they need to be maintained more than other trails

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**What are some of the major trail and recreation projects in the County in the last 5 years? How were they successful? What could have been done differently?**

- Wellness Park concept
- Marr Park to Ainsworth Trail
- All Marr Park trails
- Kewash projects, the paving
- Lake Darling new pedestrian bridge
- City of Washington trail system
- Lake Darling trails

**If given \$1 million for the betterment of trail and recreation amenities in the region, how would you spend it?**

- Wellness Park
- Connected trails to YMCAs and other recreation amenities
- YMCA improvements
- New trail mileage
- Safe access and crossings for trails
- More gyms or indoor facilities
- North Park in Wellman
- Quarry park near Riverside
- Lake Darling trails extension
- Work on what we already have
- Brighton to Lake Darling trail

**If given \$10,000 for the betterment of trail and recreation amenities in the region, how would you spend it?**

Source: MSA Aerial Solutions - Wellman Community Park

- Better sand volleyball courts
- Horseshoe pits
- More parks marketing
- Better online resources
- Better paper resources
- Better promotion
- Better signage
- Financial plans to keep budgeting plausible
- Maintenance versus new projects budgeting and planning
- Lifecycle costs attention
- Maps



Iowa Township Park/Riverside Conservation Park

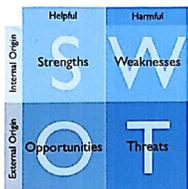
# POP-UP MEETINGS

MSA facilitated two (2) Pop-Up Meetings during the planning process. The first Pop-Up Meeting was held at the Washington County Fair, in July 2017, and included displays introducing the planning efforts, handouts directing people to the project website for online engagement, a SWOT Analysis interactive display and a visual preference survey of recreational activities.

The second Pop-Up Meeting was held again at the Washington County Fair in July 2018 and included displays showing the elements of the plan, copies of the draft plan chapters and another visual preference survey for booth attendees.

We had number of families stop by our booths and received plenty of great feedback for inclusion into the plan. The people that stopped browsed draft materials and we engaged them in the process without taking up an evening of their time. Below and on the next page are some of the materials displayed at the Pop-Up Meeting booths.

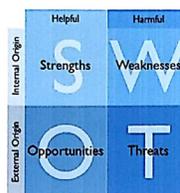
## Washington County Regional Trails and Recreation Plan



Tell us about the **WEAKNESSES** and **THREATS** you see for Trails and Recreational Development in the Washington County Region...

- Trails NOT CONNECTED TO Iowa City Metro - Econ Dev.
- Water Quality Swim Hole at Lake Danna
- Washburn - Plan to Connect Hartsen to town.
- Needs more Park Trails
- more play grounds
- concern with vehicle traffic/sharing road
- Road Trails - STREETS / SOFT TRAILS -> Runways
- Trail Start to Anisworth from Washington  
Main Street
- Bathrooms at the soccer fields ✓✓
- Concession Stand Soccer fields ✓✓
- Pool House near net good for Community Families
- Showers on Hwy 22 W of Washburn
- Washington needs a new water park - Slides, water pool, Lazy River  
- Zebra Swims

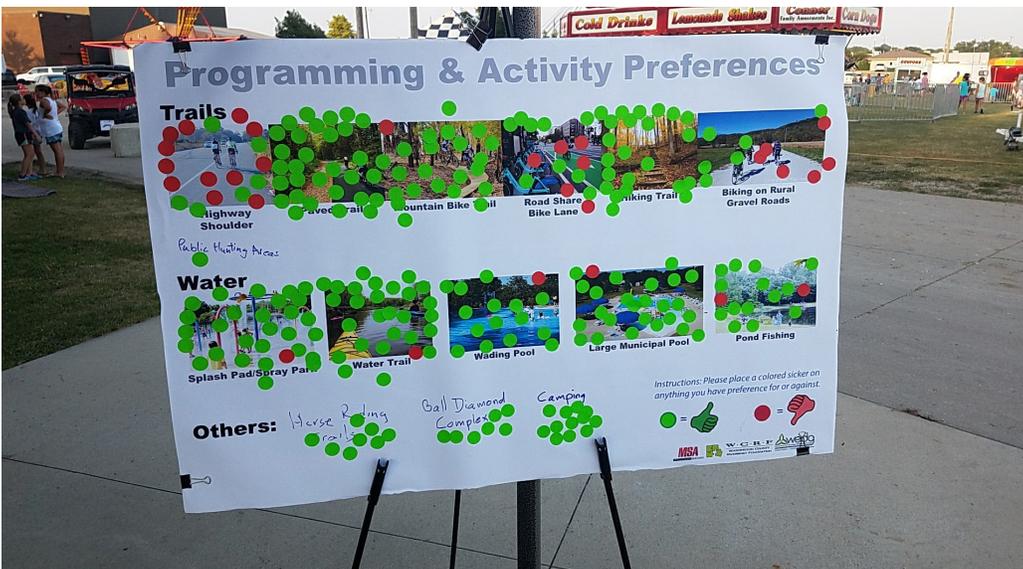
## Washington County Regional Trails and Recreation Plan



Tell us about the **STRENGTHS** and **OPPORTUNITIES** you see for Trails and Recreational Development in the Washington County Region!

- NEW FAMILIES Looking for Rec Amenities in Cities: County
- WE LOVE WASHINGTON'S POOL!
- THE NEW YMCA BEARS A NEW INDOOR POOL ✓✓✓
- NEW YMCA in Washburn ✓
- Ashcroft to Mores Park Trail
- Kellwood Trail is a good asset
- Love Marr Park!
- Rocket Slide!
- Sockum Ridge Trails!
- Miller Trail from Brighton to Park on old Hwy 1





# DRAFT PLAN WORKSHOPS

Four Draft Plan Workshops were held in Riverside, Wellman, Washington and at Lake Darling in July and August of 2018. The focus of the workshops was to review the draft plan and get feedback from attendees on the goals, policies, regional project and priorities.

The Draft Plan workshops included the setup of several stations, each station focused on a different aspects of the plan.

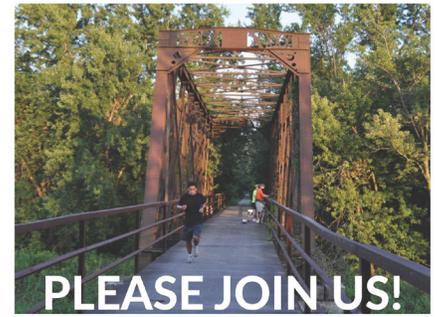


Washington County Trails and Recreation Plan Open House

**6:30 PM**  
**Tuesday**  
**August 7th, 2018**

**Lake Darling Lodge**  
**111 Lake Darling Rd,**  
**Brighton, IA 52540**

MSA's Planning & Design Studio is working with the Washington County Economic Development Group to complete a Trails and Recreation plan for the entire county. MSA will be facilitating a public open house to review the draft plan. Please join us to provide your feedback!



Washington County Trails and Recreation Plan Open House

**6:30 PM**  
**Monday**  
**August 6, 2018**

**Washington Public Library**  
**316 8th Avenue**  
**Washington, IA 52356**

MSA's Planning & Design Studio is working with the Washington County Economic Development Group to complete a Trails and Recreation plan for the entire county. MSA will be facilitating a public open house to review the draft plan. Please join us to provide your feedback!



## Station 1

1: Where would you walk?



Station #1 focused on what residents would like to see in the walking trails for Washington County. Participants expressed an interest in both more natural and unpaved trails and paved, connective, trails.

A part of the Draft Plan Workshops also included visual preference surveys using dot voting with images. These boards had a wider variety of categories and the voting was more sporadic on most of the categories. As regional communities and the County move forward with future park area improvements these visual preference are a helpful start at developing concept plans on the look and feel of facilities.

**POCKET PARKS**



**TRAILS**



**PARK SIGNAGE**



**COUNTY PARKS**



**GARDENS & LANDSCAPING**



**PARK SHELTERS**



**WATER AMENITIES**



**VISUAL PREFERENCE SURVEY**

**MSA**

## Station 2

1: What and where are opportunities for redevelopment of parks, recreation spaces, or trails in Washington County?

- EMERGENCY CALL BOOTH ALONG KENWASH AT TRAILHEAD
- Green lights along Kenwash

2: What and where are opportunities for new development of parks, recreation spaces, or trails in Washington County?

- SOUTH OF WASHINGTON ALONG OLD RR ROW (BRIGHAMTON TO AINSWORTH)
- SPAN ON MADISON AVE ON THE DISTRICT - SPAN PARK / KENWASH PARK

Station #2 gave residents the opportunity to share where they thought existing parks, recreation spaces and trails could be redeveloped in the area. It also asked for ideas of where new development could occur.

Station #3 had residents focus on what they wanted to see in the parks, trails and recreation areas in order to keep the same quality of life and improve it.

## Station 3

1: In order to maintain a good quality of life, what parks, recreation, and trail amenities does Washington County need?

- GREEN PARK / GREEN PARK
- HAVE ENTIRE KENWASH TRAIL W/ EXTENSION SOUTH SIMILAR FOR JOGGING
- USE KENWASH TRAIL FOR AN ECONOMIC DRIVER FOR RECREATION, WASHINGTON AND WEST VIRGINIA

SWOT Analysis	
Opportunities/Strengths (+)	Issues/Threats/Weaknesses (-)
• _____	• _____
• _____	• _____
• _____	• _____
Keep people active Seeking for community number/perspective residents Visual appeal	Cost Resistance to change Washington Co. and still has some opportunities/opportunities

A final SWOT Analysis was also included as part of the review of the Draft Plan Chapters in the round of workshops. Several people agreed the county's parks and trails should be well maintained and kept clean so that perspective residents are attracted to the area. Growth is big in Washington County and many new residents, families and active adults are looking for recreational opportunities. Also, attendees expressed that while the updating of the parks is important, they were concerned about the cost of improvements and know that there may be other priorities across the regions that the public's money should be spent on.

Please leave your thoughts!



Kalona City Park

# FINAL OPEN HOUSE

This event was held on Monday December 3 from 5:30-7:30 at the Washington County Library. Posters were displayed around the room representing the important aspects of the plan. We also provided copies of the draft to the public to read through. This final draft open house allowed community members to give their input and ask questions before the final plan was published.

## OVERVIEW OF THE PLANNING PROCESS

### PROJECT TIMELINE

Washington County Regional Trails and Recreation Plan Schedule	
<b>MEETINGS</b>	Planning Committee Meeting #1: Kick-off Meeting (Planning Committee Members, Board of Commissioners, and Public Members)
<b>JULY 2017</b>	Planning Committee Meeting #2: Public Meeting (Public Members)
<b>OCTOBER</b>	Public Meeting #2: Public Meeting (Public Members)
<b>NOVEMBER - JANUARY 2018</b>	Public Meeting #3: Public Meeting (Public Members)
<b>FEEDBACK</b>	Public Meeting #4: Public Meeting (Public Members)
<b>MARCH</b>	Public Meeting #5: Public Meeting (Public Members)
<b>APRIL</b>	Public Meeting #6: Public Meeting (Public Members)
<b>MAY</b>	Planning Committee Meeting #3: Review Public Meeting Feedback, Draft Plan, and Finalize Plan
<b>JUNE</b>	Public Meeting #7: Public Meeting (Public Members)
<b>JULY</b>	Public Meeting #8: Public Meeting (Public Members)
<b>AUGUST</b>	Public Meeting #9: Public Meeting (Public Members)
<b>NOVEMBER/DECEMBER</b>	Public Meeting #10: Public Meeting (Public Members)

### PROJECT WEBSITE

The project website is an essential resource for community members and stakeholders throughout the duration of the project. Information such as the link to the survey, public meeting times and dates, and plan draft documents were posted here. This allowed everyone in the community to stay involved and up-to-date, even if they were not able to attend the meetings.



### PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Various public engagement activities were essential to the completion of this plan including a community wide survey, public workshops, focus group meetings, pop-up meetings, and draft plan workshops. This allowed for public input and for community members to review the plan before the final draft was completed.



Q11 What is your favorite park to visit in the region?

Wellman, Lake Darling, Brinton, Timber, Sunbelt



## PROPOSED TRAILS AND RECREATION IMPROVEMENT AREAS

### PARK, ATHLETIC FACILITIES AND OPEN SPACE

- Sockem Ridge**  
Improve Signage; Improve Trail Diversity; Continue maintenance of trails due to wear from bikes and horses
- Brinton Timber**  
Improve Signage; Improve Trail Diversity; Continue maintenance of trails due to wear from bikes and horses
- Lake Darling**  
Continue park wide trail extension; Improve quality of existing trails; Reinforce the core recreation areas for swimming, fishing, and boating; Continue and improve youth and unprivileged programming
- Proposed County Park Near Riverside Casino**  
New opportunity for recreation in the northeastern portion of the county near the Casino and existing recreational assets in that area; Near border to Johnson and Louisiana counties
- Wellman North Park**  
Improve facilities, provide bathrooms, update play equipment, add fitness facilities
- Ainsworth East City Park**  
Outdated park, needs improvements
- Brighton City Park**  
Improve select aging park facilities



WASHINGTON COUNTY REGIONAL TRAILS & RECREATION PLAN Proposed Trail & Recreational Improvements



- ### Water Trails
- English River Water Trail**  
Add access points to the trail north of Wellman, south of Kalona and to the east of Riverside. Improve the initial access point at the start of the river in the northwest corner of the county.
  - Skunk River Trail**  
Expand state water trail designation from Jefferson County into Washington County. Improve existing access points along the river.

### Surface Trails

- Kewash Trail Maintenance**  
Continue to work on paving the entirety of Kewash; Plan for an allocation of funds for occasional asphalt repairs; Maintain and protect existing landscape and foliage around the trail
- Lake Darling to Brighton**  
Connect existing trails to the City of Brighton; Pave trail, add signage for trail
- Kewash Trail Improvements**  
Add more signage to indicate mileage, approaching towns, or rest areas, and possibly extend Kewash into Washington to Marr Park trail.
- Riverside Loop**  
Create a trail loop for the county from Riverside up to the Casino, down to the River junction access point, near the English River back to Riverside and the beginning of the loop.
- Riverside to Kalona**  
Connect for regional trail
- Kalona to Wellman**  
Connect for regional trail.

7. Extension to Jefferson County  
Jefferson County has extensive trail systems that county residents travel to use, creating connections could increase quality of life for the entire region.

## RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

### PARKS, FACILITIES, AND OPEN SPACE OBJECTIVES

- Preserve and improve the Quality and Biodiversity of Existing Open Space
- Maintain regional partnerships to connect and expand the recreation facilities
- Identify and preserve large tracts of land that are largely undeveloped and valued for their aesthetic, ecological and passive recreational attributes
- Identify and preserve land that becomes available in the English River corridor for open space preservation and enhancement of wildlife
- Preserve strategically located agricultural land to preserve the county's farming heritage while making trails and recreation a priority
- Secure adequate resources to better manage and maintain open space.
- Work with the surrounding counties to connect recreational resources
- Update land development ordinances as needed to require park/conservation land dedication for new land developments.



### SURFACE TRAIL OBJECTIVES

- Continue proper maintenance and funding of existing trails
- Improve the Effectiveness and Use of Trails
- Expand the Existing Regional Trail System and Create Linkages or Loops
- Maintain Inventory of Mapped Trails
- Prepare a Master Plan for a new trail from Brighton to Lake Darling
- Prepare a Master Plan for the Kewash Trail
- Encourage and support the establishment of connections to regional trails from residential and commercial areas wherever possible
- As it becomes available, acquire land for trail alignment in an opportunistic manner; Washington County, governmental jurisdictions, and other stakeholders should work in partnership to address the land acquisition challenges of developing a county-wide network of interconnected non-motorized recreation trails and alternate transportation routes.



### WATER TRAIL OBJECTIVES

- Continue proper maintenance of existing water trails and existing points of access
- Improve the effectiveness and use of trails by adding additional points of access in other areas of the county
- Prepare a Master Plan for the English River Water Trail
- Encourage and support the establishment of additional points of access
- Acquire state designation for the English and Skunk River; Washington County, governmental organizations and other stakeholders should work in partnership to address challenges in obtaining state designation of the water trails.



# 3

## RECREATIONAL INVENTORY

<b>Chapter Overview</b>	<b>3-2</b>
<b>Ainsworth</b>	<b>3-4</b>
<b>Brighton</b>	<b>3-6</b>
<b>Kalona</b>	<b>3-8</b>
<b>Keota</b>	<b>3-12</b>
<b>Riverside</b>	<b>3-16</b>
<b>Washington</b>	<b>3-20</b>
<b>Wellman</b>	<b>3-24</b>
<b>Washington County Conservation Board</b>	<b>3-28</b>
<b>Iowa Department of Natural Resources</b>	<b>3-40</b>
<b>Analysis</b>	<b>3-42</b>

# CHAPTER OVERVIEW

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This chapter (Chapter 3) of the Washington County Regional Trails and Recreation Plan includes information about parks, recreational facilities, amenities and existing plans for reference and comparison. The information is separated by jurisdiction/community within the county, facilities maintained by the county, and state parks. This chapter should be updated as recreational facilities and plans are updated throughout the County.

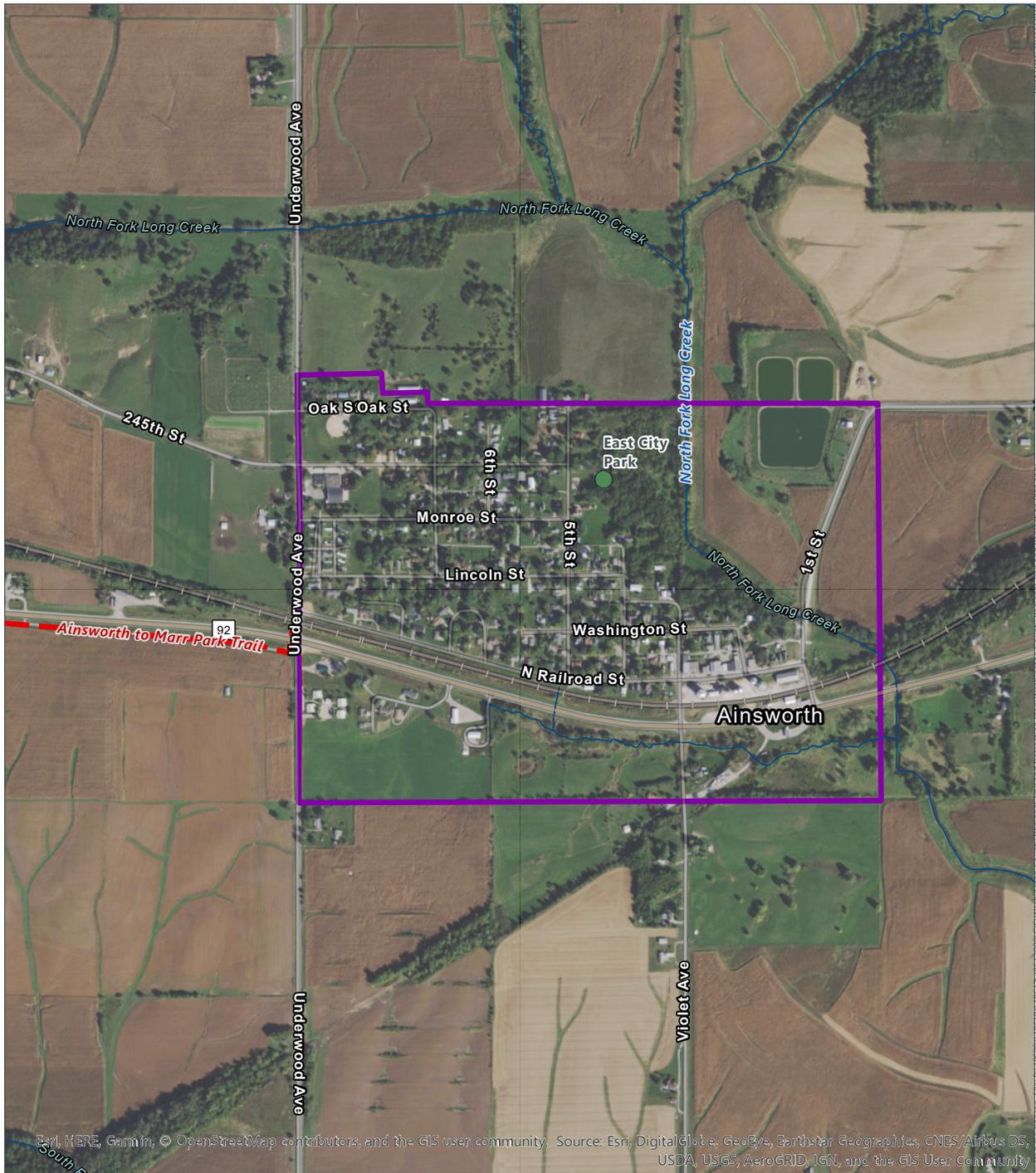
The jurisdictions analyzed are as follows:

- Ainsworth
- Brighton
- Kalona
- Keota
- Riverside
- Washington
- Wellman
- Washington County - Washington County Conservation
- State of Iowa - Lake Darling





# AINSWORTH



## AINSWORTH EXISTING RECREATIONAL ASSETS

- Trails
- Streams
- ★ Water Access Points
- Assets
- City Boundary
- County Boundary



### Washington County Regional Trails and Recreation Plan

Washington County, Iowa

## Inventory

### Ainsworth City Park

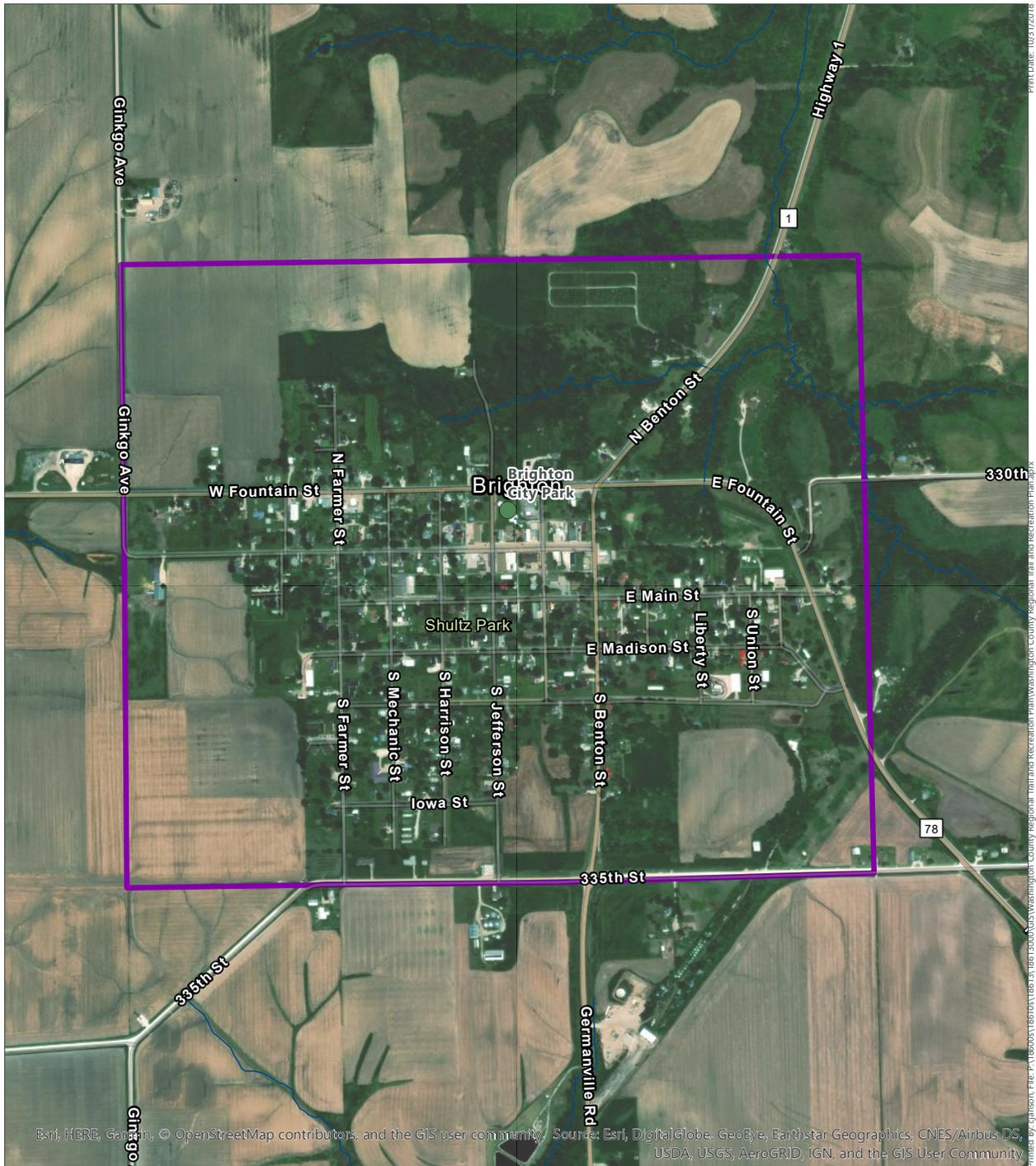
The Ainsworth City Park includes a sand volleyball court, a small pavilion with plenty of picnic tables, a frisbee golf course, play equipment and many sitting areas.



## Existing Plans

No existing plans at this time.

# BRIGHTON



## BRIGHTON EXISTING RECREATIONAL ASSETS

### Washington County Regional Trails and Recreation Plan

Washington County, Iowa

- Trails
- Streams
- ★ Water Access Points
- City Boundary
- Assets



# Inventory

## Brighton City Park

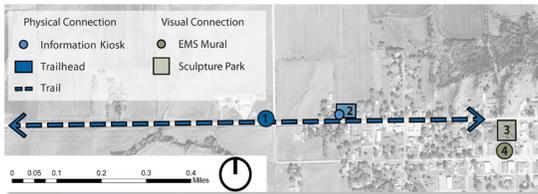
This is a small city park near the edge of town. This park includes a playground, a pavilion, and a handball court.



# Existing Plans

## Brighton Community Visioning - 2011

This plan discussed a trail connection between Lake Darling and Brighton complete with a trail-head.



**Lake Darling Connection Overview**  
 Lake Darling State Park, located only three miles west of town, has become part of the identity of Brighton. Unfortunately, the only thing in town that relates to Lake Darling, apart from the highway, is a monument sign located in the park. References to Ding Darling, the park's namesake, and his artwork would strengthen the relationship between Brighton and the park. Some of these references will be more visual and artistic while others are based on recreation and provide a physical connection to the park. These new connections to Lake Darling State Park will strengthen the statement that Brighton is the "Home of Lake Darling".



Iowa wildlife silhouette sculptures

**Visual Connection**  
 The city park in downtown is visible from Highway 1 and would be a suitable place for a series of iron sculptures reflecting the artwork of Ding Darling. Nearby buildings downtown have "empty" walls that would allow for murals depicting iconic Darling illustrations. In addition to enhancing the downtown district, the wildlife artwork would help to connect the rural identity of Brighton with the conservation ethics Darling upheld. Metal silhouettes could be mounted on a small metal pole or rod with a ball bearing connection so the image could move with the wind in a weather vane fashion.



City park. Source: Ryan Anderson



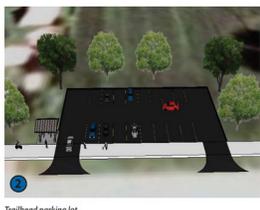
Pathway, sculptures and lights



EMS building. Source: Ryan Anderson



Ding Darling duck stamp mural



Trailhead parking lot



Trailhead kiosk



HWY 1 and 78 ROW. Source: Michael Buh



Trail to Lake Darling looking west

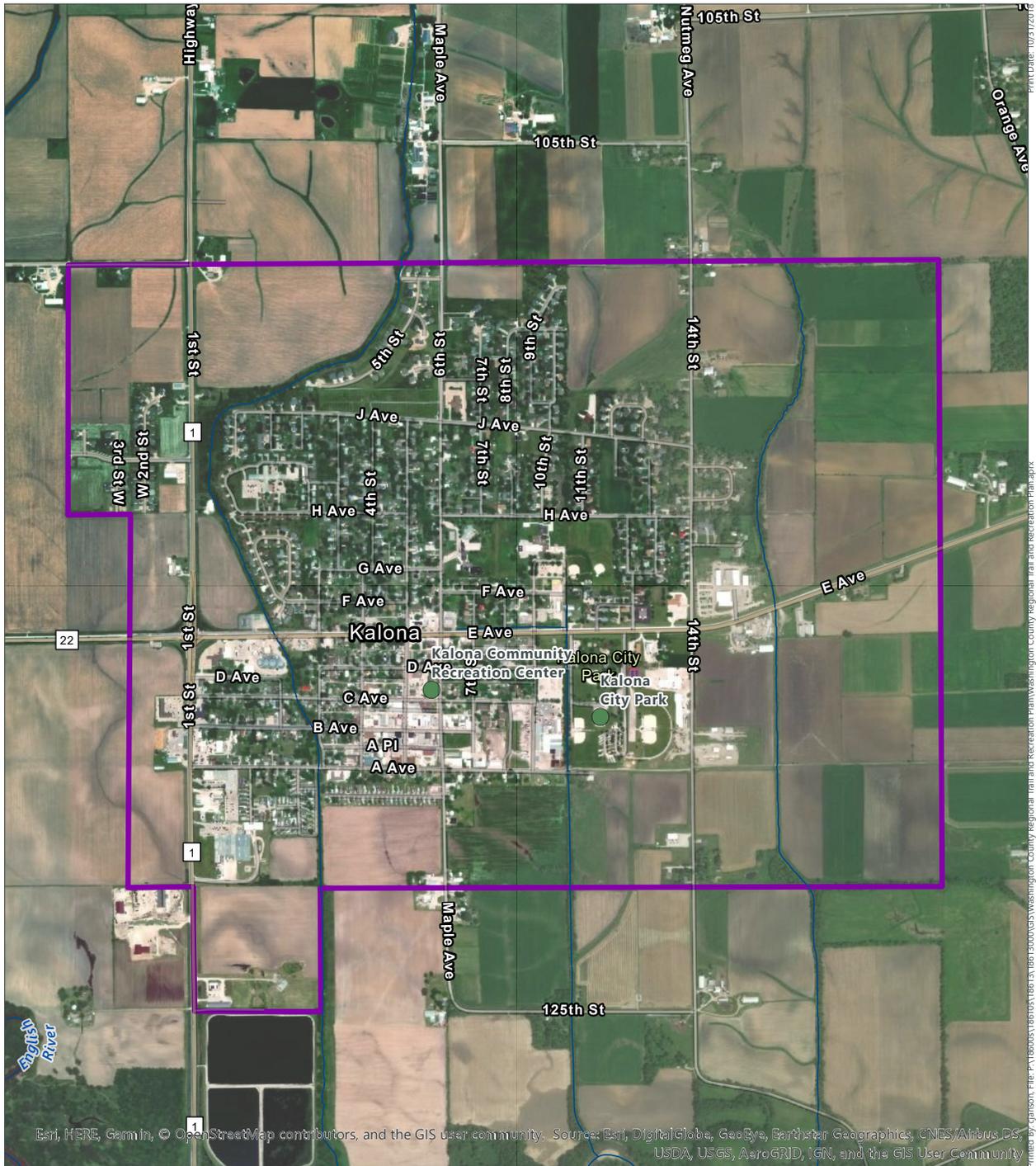
**Physical Connection**  
 Once a trail is established between Brighton and Lake Darling State Park, a trailhead could be built for visitors using the trail. The suggested trailhead would include parking as well as an information kiosk containing information about Brighton and Lake Darling. The trail presents an opportunity to plant native prairie plants that can be easily maintained and help mitigate drainage issues.

# Brighton Lake Darling Connection

Landscape Architect: Al Bohling, FASLA, Shive-Hattery  
 LA Intern: Ryan Anderson & Michael Buh, ISU Landscape Architecture Extension  
 Iowa Department of Transportation   Trees Forever   ISU Landscape Architecture Extension   ISU Extension Community and Economic Development



# KALONA



## KALONA EXISTING RECREATIONAL ASSETS

- Trails
- Streams
- ★ Water Access Points
- City Boundary
- Assets



### Washington County Regional Trails and Recreation Plan

Washington County, Iowa

## Inventory

### Kalona City Park

This large city park includes a campground, a pool, baseball fields, tennis courts, a basketball court, shelters, and many playground areas.



### Kalona Community Center

The Kalona Community Center has recently expanded thanks to grants from the Washington County Riverboat Foundation and others. The facility also houses a branch of the YMCA of Washington County to provide additional recreational opportunities for the citizens of Kalona and Washington County. The facility serves the community as City Hall and Civic Center. It is also a premier health and wellness facility located in a central location - in Downtown Kalona across from the Library and next to the Post Office.



# KALONA

## Existing Plans

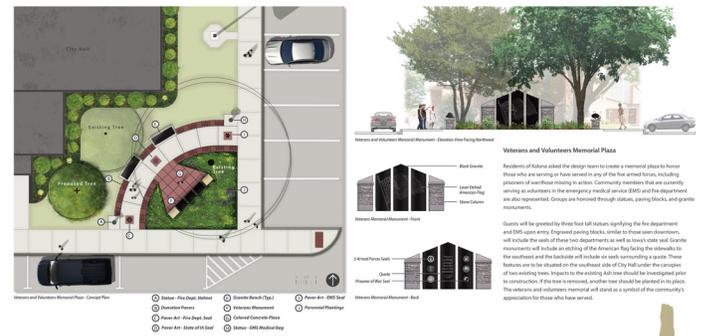
### Kalona Community Visioning - 2016

This plan called for many improvements to Kalona's trails and recreation. First, the plan discusses new pedestrian connections in the community and talks about a trail along Salvesen Creek. The plan also calls for a park along Salvesen Creek and provides a concept plan. Next, the plan proposes a Veterans and Volunteers Memorial Plaza, which has been accomplished. Lastly, the plan provides a concept for a park in a vacant lot owned by KCTC.



City Lot Near Salvesen Creek - Concept Plan

- A) Prairie / Native Plantings
- B) Perennial Plantings
- C) Pergolas
- D) Mini Library
- E) Limestone Bench (Typ.)
- F) Lighting (Typ.)



### Kalona Veterans and Volunteers Memorial Plaza

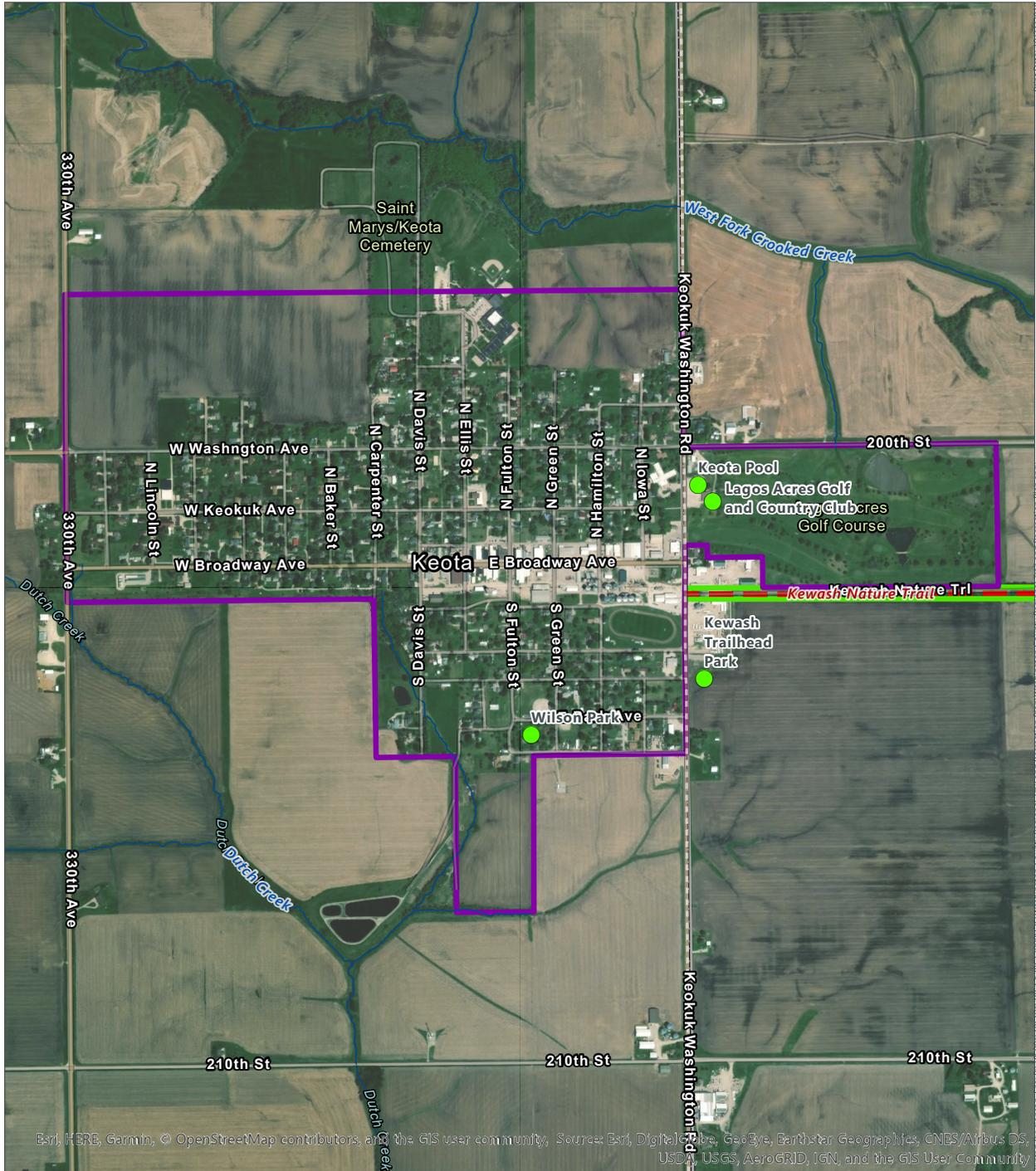
Landscape Architect: Dylan Jones, PLA, LEED GA - Bolton & Menk  
 IA Intern: Hannah Schmitz - Bolton & Menk  
 Iowa Department of Transportation Trees Forever ISU Landscape Architecture Extension ISU Extension Community and Regional Development



### Kalona KCTC Park

Landscape Architect: Dylan Jones, PLA, LEED GA - Bolton & Menk  
 IA Intern: Hannah Schmitz - Bolton & Menk  
 Iowa Department of Transportation Trees Forever ISU Landscape Architecture Extension ISU Extension Community and Regional Development





## KEOTA EXISTING RECREATIONAL ASSETS

- - - Trails
- Streams
- Recreational Lands
- \* Water Access Points
- City Boundary
- Assets
- County Boundary



### Washington County Regional Trails and Recreation Plan

Washington County, Iowa

## Inventory

### Wilson Memorial Park

This city park features a full size ball diamond with a fenced in field and dugouts, bleachers, concession stand, restrooms, and batting cage. Nearby is a second small ball field for peewee games. The fully shaded park and playground has a picnic shelter with a dozen tables, grills, basketball court, and water.



### Lagos Acres

Lagos Acres Golf and Country Club at the east edge of Keota features a nine hole golf course. The gently rolling 40 acre course features 2 ponds, tree lined fairways, cart rentals, and a clubhouse. Regular summer events are men’s league on Wednesday evenings, women’s league on Tuesday mornings, and couple’s league every other week. There are also a variety of weekend tournaments. The Keota pool is also right next to the golf course.



### Kewash Trail-head

The Kewash Trail-head in Keota has recently been expanded and is now much more welcoming to guests and provides a better representation of the valued trail that follows it. It now includes a hard surface parking lot and signage to attract people to the trail. Additional improvements are planned.



# Existing Plans

## Keota Community Visioning - 2013

This plan provided a route for an intra-city trail loop. The idea uses existing sidewalks and forms connections between important places in the community. The plan also envisioned conceptual drawings and plans for how the trail might look and what it might include.

### 5' Urban Trail Typology

Much of the intra-city trail utilizes existing sidewalk infrastructure, while rebuilding connections that have deteriorated over time. This urban trail typology differs from average Keota sidewalks in the fact that it is two feet wider than average Keota sidewalks. This would allow users to walk side by side and provide extra space for bicyclers. In addition, trail intersections with roads are striped with crosswalks, and the entire walk is demarcated by trail-specific signage.



### 6' Rural Trail Typology

The intra-city trail proposal takes advantage of Keota's natural resources to create a dynamic experience that includes a paved path, native plantings, and shade trees. The rural typology would utilize trail-specific signage.



Intersection of Washington Street and Adams Street looking west.



Rock Island railbed at Davis Street looking west.

## Keota Intra-City Trail Detail

Landscape Architect: Brett Douglas, ASLA, & Bob Slipka, ASLA, Genus Landscape Architects

LA Interns: Rachel Johnson, Chris Riggert, ISU Landscape Architecture Extension

Iowa Department of Transportation Trees Forever ISU Landscape Architecture Extension ISU Extension Community and Economic Development

IOWA'S  
LIVING  
ROADWAYS  
Summer 2013

## The Keota Comprehensive Plan - 2012

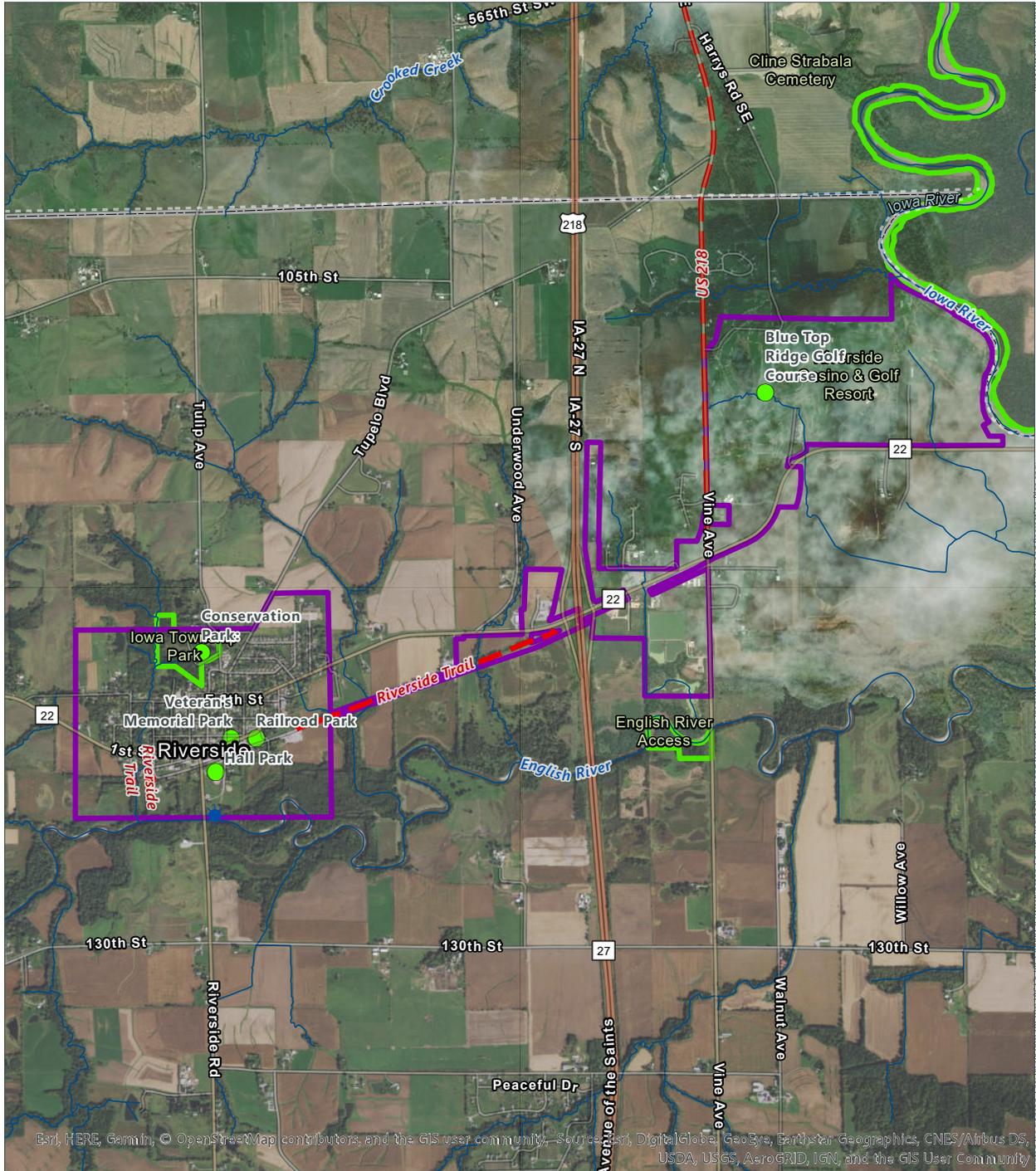
In September of 2012 MSA wrote a 20 year comprehensive plan for Keota. The plan recreational goals and policies such as:

- Protect and enhance the parks and recreational opportunities for Keota's residents and visitors.
- Support the continued maintenance of the Kewash Trail.
- Establish trail linkages between important community facilities and neighborhoods.
- Develop an attractive trailhead for the Kewash Trail that allows people within the community and visitors to enjoy the trail.
- Use existing open space in the southwest corner of Broadway and Fulton as a park with trees, shrubs, sidewalk, and signage.
- Use the public land south of Broadway between Davis and Fulton for a multipurpose park including space for a farmer's market and Kewash Nature Trail-head.
- Create and support a Parks and Recreation Board to drive maintenance and improvements to community recreation facilities.
- Continue to promote and maintain existing parks and public open spaces.
- Develop a Park, Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Plan to include recommendations for an on street trail system connecting area parks, community facilities, and other locales and link this trail to the existing Kewash Trail.

The City will work to meet the recreational needs of its residents, and coordinate City activities through its website. The City will create and maintain a Five-Year Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan to coordinate and prioritize long-term park and recreation improvements, and to maintain eligibility for park acquisition and improvement grant programs. The City encourages the connectivity of local parks and recreational facilities with regional facilities, via off-street trails or marked routes on existing roads. The City requires all proposed residential subdivision developments to dedicate land, or pay a fee in lieu thereof, for public parks, recreation and open space acquisition and development (in accordance with state statutes).



# RIVERSIDE



## RIVERSIDE EXISTING RECREATIONAL ASSETS

- - - Trails
- Streams
- Recreational Lands
- ★ Water Access Points
- City Boundary
- Assets
- County Boundary



### Washington County Regional Trails and Recreation Plan

Washington County, Iowa

## Inventory

### Railroad Park

This park is located on Highway 22 across from the Riverside Museum. The park offers modern safe playground equipment, a restored early 1900's merry go-round, shelter house and modern clean restrooms.



### Veteran's Memorial Park

Also located on Highway 22, this beautiful park was a community effort to honor our troops both past and current. Sit by the peaceful water feature and reflect on how much our forces have done for all of us.



### Hall Park

This park is the hub for most summer activities in Riverside. The Riverside Ball Association organizes and plays all kinds of baseball from Spring to Fall. The Annual Trek Fest celebration is held here the last full weekend of June each year. The Fest features many Star Trek related events, such as costume contests, viewing of Trek episodes and live entertainment. The Annual State Fair Talent Show is held each year and many of Riverside Winners have gone to capture the State Fair Title. Beautiful covered shelter house is part of an old barn. Modern restroom facilities and a kid friendly playground.



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## Iowa Township Park/Riverside Conservation Park

This beautiful rustic park is what nature lovers want. A large well stocked pond is ready to be fished. A handicapped accessible fishing deck is also a wonderful place to just sit and enjoy the peace and quiet. Rustic restrooms are available and running water. A small shelter house with tables make this a great destination for a family picnic.



## Blue Top Ridge Golf Course

The Blue Ridge Golf Course is an 18 hole course open to the public and was designed by Rees Jones. After all, it was designed by Rees Jones, a designer of championship golf courses. The Course spans over 7,400 yards and overlooks two rivers. The course includes several man made lakes and has a diverse terrain. The course is located in the City of Riverside just west of Riverside Casino on the Riverside Casino & Golf Resort campus.



# Existing Plans

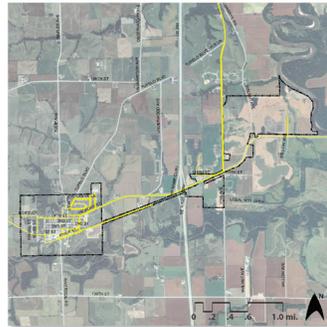
## Riverside Community Visioning - 2009

This plan conducted a survey to address the recreational patterns of residents in Riverside. By doing this, the plan was able to find trends in the way that residents use recreation, and find possible opportunities for improvement or existing strengths. The patterns analyzed were biking, walking, and running.

### Recreational Patterns

In an online survey conducted by Iowa State University, Riverside residents were asked to identify what activities they engaged in for exercise. Those who bike, run and/or walk were also asked to indicate their favorite routes for these activities on an aerial map of the community. In order to understand the links between local experience and recreation routes selected, the survey was conducted in conjunction with focus groups from five demographic areas: senior citizens, parents, youth, adults who engage in active recreation, and visioning committee members.

The maps here illustrate the biking, running and walking routes that Riverside residents identified, as well as the frequency that the routes are used. The number of users for the various routes are indicated on each map by gradations in line thickness. The least frequently used routes are depicted by thin lines. The route depictions become thicker as the number of users increases.



### Biking Patterns

Thirty-three percent of Riverside focus group participants bike for exercise. Of the various demographic groups, youth bike the most (67 percent and senior citizens bike the least 8 percent.)

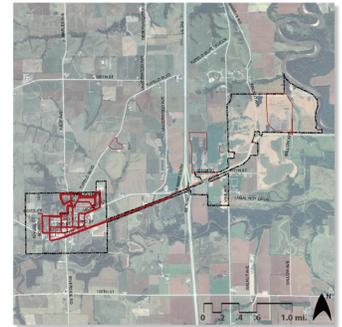
The town of Riverside has very few established bike trails; therefore the majority of the biking takes place along U.S. Highway 22. Several residents also ride in the neighborhoods near the school on Schnoebelen Street, Buckeye Lane and Ash Street. There is also an old railroad corridor that is currently used as a bike trail.



### Running Patterns

Running is the least popular form of exercise in Riverside with less than 15% of the participants regularly engaging in the activity. It is the most popular with the youth of which 25 percent are runners. None of the seniors or active adults indicated that they run.

The primary running locations in town are near the school, with Schnoebelen Street being the main thoroughfare for runners. Some running is also done west of town on U.S. Highway 22.

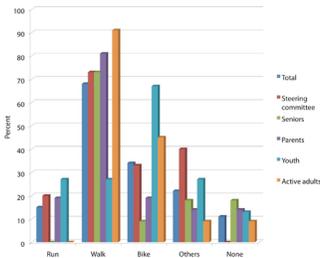


### Walking Patterns

Nearly 68 percent of participants in all the focus groups walk for exercise. More than 90 percent of those in the parents, senior citizens and steering committee focus groups walk. Walking is the most popular form of exercise among all the groups, except the active adults.

According to the surveys taken in Riverside, Township Park and its surrounding streets appear to be one of the most popular walking loops in town. The northwest edge of town and the abandoned rail corridor are also popular walking trails.

What Riverside Respondents Do for Exercise



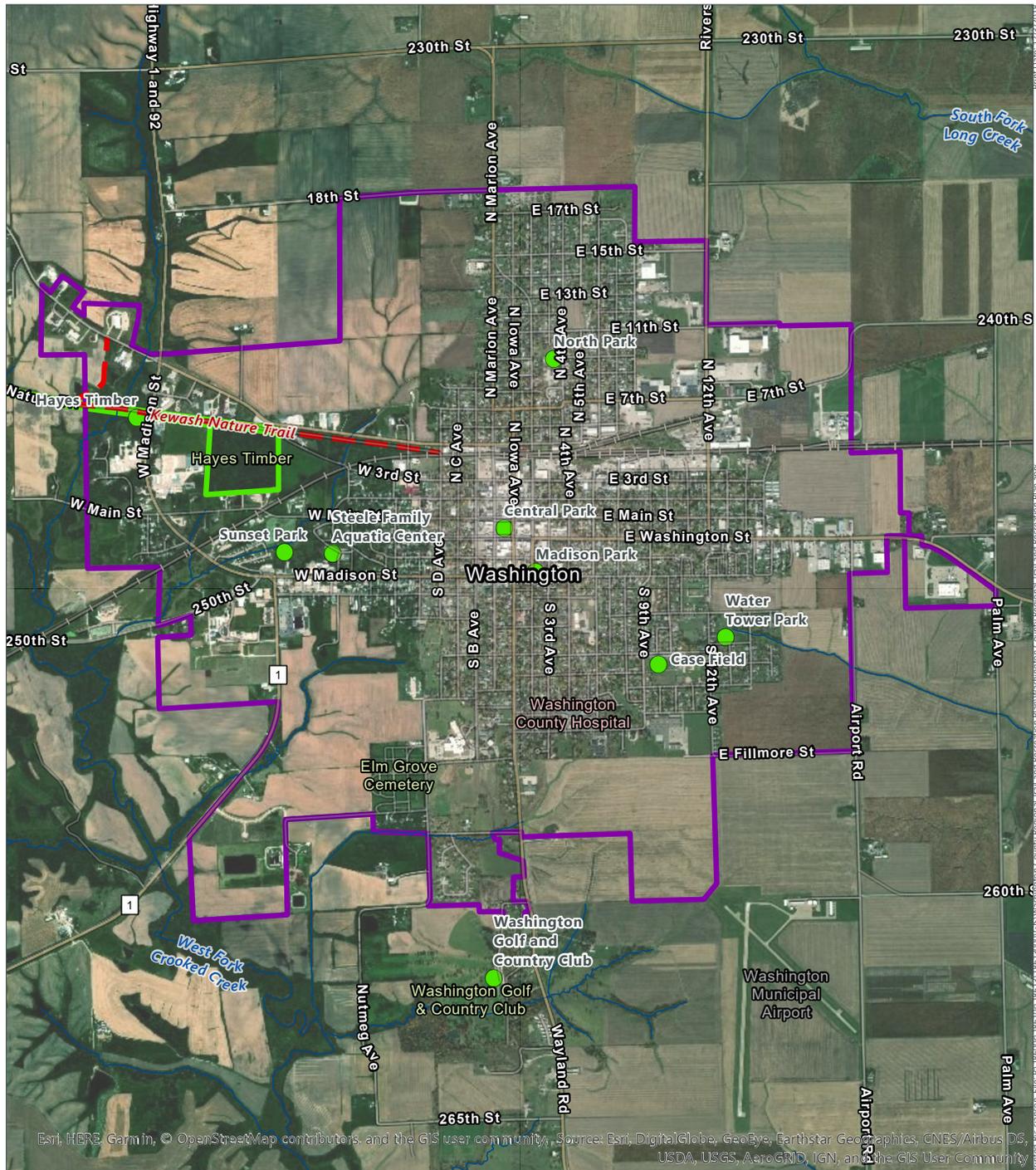
# Riverside

## Overview of Recreational Patterns

Landscape Architect: Loren Hoffman, ASLA, Hoffman Design Consultants, Inc.  
 LA Intern: Luke Ness, ISU Landscape Architecture Extension  
 Iowa Department of Transportation | Trees Forever | ISU Landscape Architecture Extension | ISU Extension Community and Economic Development



# WASHINGTON



## WASHINGTON EXISTING RECREATIONAL ASSETS

- Trails
- Streams
- Recreational Lands
- ★ Water Access Points
- City Boundary
- County Boundary
- Assets



### Washington County Regional Trails and Recreation Plan

Washington County, Iowa

## Inventory

### Sunset Park

This park is home to the Washington - Steele Family Aquatic Center, New Dawn Playground, large skateboard area, basketball courts and the longest 9-hole Frisbee Golf course in the State of Iowa. Sunset Park also offers an excellent dog park. Easy access to the 13-mile Kewash Nature Trail from Sunset Park offers excellent hiking, biking, and cross-country skiing opportunities.



### Case Field

Case field is a recreational area with a football field, a running track, soccer fields, tennis courts, baseball fields, and a small playground equipment.



### Madison Park

Madison park is a small pocket park located on a corner lot in downtown. It includes plenty of places to sit, and admire or explore bountiful plantings, trees, and shrubs.



### North Park

North Park is a small neighborhood park, located north of Stewart Elementary School along North 4th Avenue.

### Water Tower Park

Tower Park is a small park located in the southeast part of town, between South 12th and South 14th Avenues and East Adams and East Van Buren Streets.

## Central Park

Central Park is the showcase of downtown Washington. The fountain was erected in 1939 to commemorate Washington's one hundred year celebration. Thanks to volunteers, this one of a kind fountain continues to be the centerpiece of downtown Washington. It is still in operation today and features a beautiful water display, and a colorful lighting display in the evening. Central Park also serves as a hub for many community activities during warm weather. Included is the weekly - and very popular - farmer's market, art and craft events, car shows, Relay for Life and band concerts.



## Wellness Park

Phase 1 of Washington's Wellness Park is currently under construction and will cost about \$2.1 million to complete. The project will be completed over several phases and will include the following features: outdoor exercise area, extensive accessible internal trail system, connection to the Kewash Nature Trail, stormwater retention pond, fishing pier, pavilions, shelters, concession facilities, restrooms, four baseball diamonds, numerous soccer fields and a tournament field. Additionally, the new Washington YMCA is under construction just southeast of the Wellness Park.



# Existing Plans

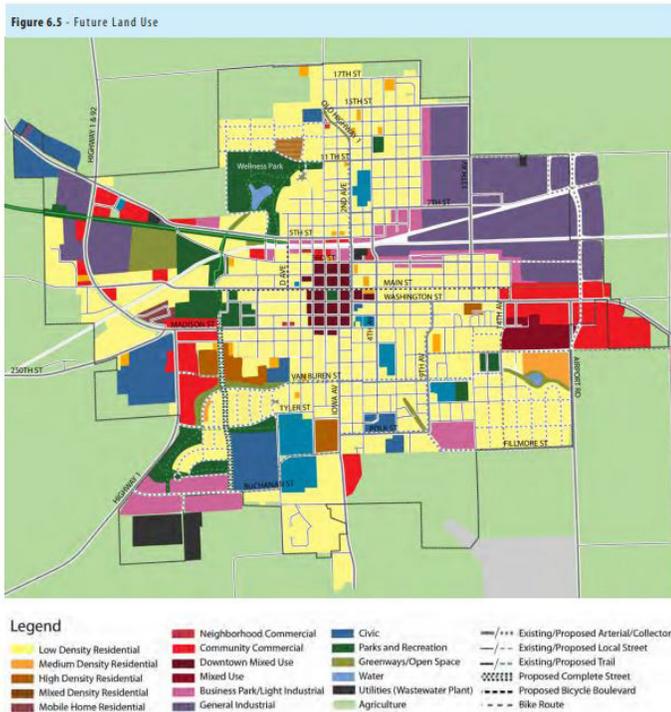
## Washington Community Visioning - 2005

This plan is over ten years old and provides an outline for how to install and complete a water tower park in the city of Washington.



## Washington Comprehensive Plan - 2012

This plan is still fairly recent and provided Washington with an existing layout of their parks as well as opportunities to improve and expand their parks system.



**Establish consistency in signage, furnishings, and amenities.** While Sunset Park offers a wide variety of recreational opportunities to multiple generations of users, the Park lacks a consistent vocabulary of signage, furnishings, and amenities. Recommendations for improvements include development of a comprehensive wayfinding and identification signage system for the entire Park to enhance Park user's ability to navigate throughout the Park and create a sense of place and identity of each major element. This wayfinding and identification signage system could be developed in conjunction with the recommended community-wide park, trail, and open space plan and provide consistent messaging throughout the entire Washington park system. Another option would be for this wayfinding and identification signage system to be developed on a community-wide level and apply to all public facilities and wayfinding, including parks.

Below and Right: Consistent signage and identity markers, like these in Windsor Heights Iowa, help tie the park system together.

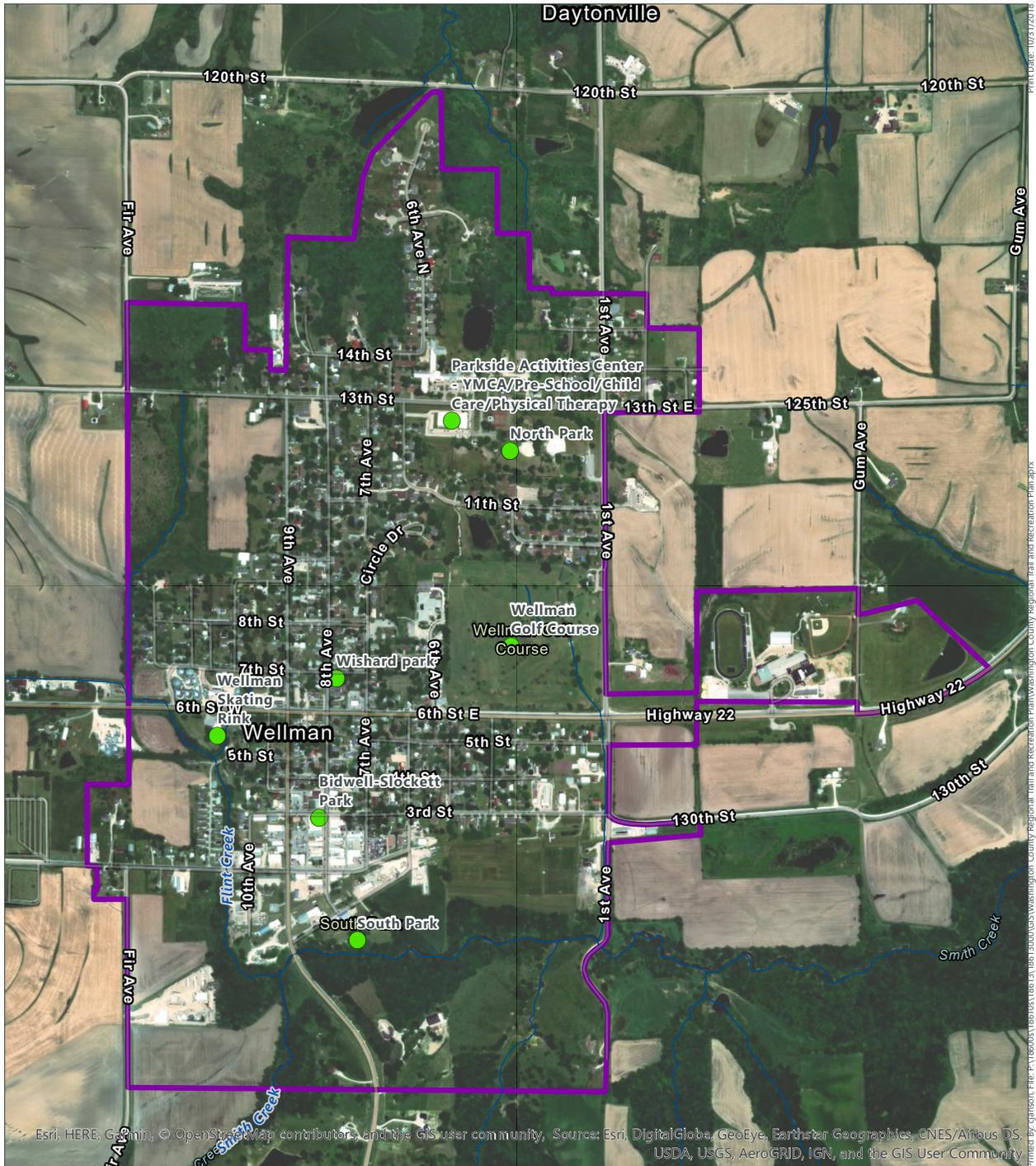


**Water Tower Park**



Water Tower Park is not currently connected to city sidewalks or regional trails. The majority of the park is open space in turf grass and is used for field sports practices and other pick-up games.

**Add Neighborhood Park Amenities.** While Water Tower Park provides open space for the southeast quadrant of the Washington community, several improvements could be made to make this a true neighborhood park. These improvements could include connections to city sidewalks and the regional Kewash Nature Trail, off-street parking, playground, internal trail loop, benches, trash receptacles, and signage.



## WELLMAN EXISTING RECREATIONAL ASSETS

- Trails
- Streams
- Recreational Lands
- \* Water Access Points
- City Boundary
- County Boundary
- Assets



### Washington County Regional Trails and Recreation Plan

Washington County, Iowa

## Inventory

### Wellman Community Park/North Park

North Park is home to baseball, softball, tennis, sand volleyball, park shelters, the Wellman Bandshell, Frisbee Golf, walking trails, and three different playground areas. In 2010 a brand new trail extension was installed — this connection is part of an overall Master Trail Plan for Washington County and this segment connects North Park (and the New Parkside Activities Center) with the Wellman Elementary School.



### Mini Park

Otherwise known as Bidwell-Slockett Park, this charming park is located at the intersection of 8th Avenue and 3rd Street in the downtown area. A perennial garden, trees, bushes, park benches, a four-way facing historic street clock, and a limestone sitting wall are available for citizen enjoyment.



### Parkside Activities Center

The Parkside Activities Center is a 38,900 square foot multi-level, multi-purpose facility with professional child care; a Mid-Prairie Pre-School; a 320+ person banquet hall; an activities room with a Wii, pool table, bumper pool table, and other activities; a regulation basketball court; two smaller practice basketball courts; a regulation volleyball court; two practice volleyball courts; JET Physical Therapy, and a health club style gym facility featuring the latest treadmills, ellipticals, and weight equipment.



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## Wellman Golf Course

The Wellman Golf Course is a privately owned nine-hole sand greens course. There are only two sand green courses in Iowa and visitors are welcome to try this unique golfing experience. Several tournaments are scheduled throughout the season.



## Wishard Park

A residential park located on 8th Avenue a block north of Highway 22 — offering picnic tables and tether-ball.



## South Park

South Park is located on 1st Street between 8th and 9th Avenues. This park has provided a site for picnics, reunions, and celebrations for nearly one-hundred years.

With many large trees a cool shady place is provided for those summer picnics. After North Park was opened the Community Club revived usage of South Park by construction of a concession stand; announcers stand; and organizing horse shows, demo derbies, and tractor pulls.



## Existing Plans

### Wellman Community Visioning - 2007

This plan discusses improvements to South Park and the addition of a soccer field. It also discussed the provisions for a Wellman community park, which is now completed.





# The Wellman Sustainability Plan

2010 - 2020



 Graduate Program in  
 Urban & Regional Planning

Created By: Sheila Knoploh-Odole, Bart Knox, Ashley McDonald, Blake Mosher, Jake Rosenberg, Andrew Ward, and Elizabeth Westlake

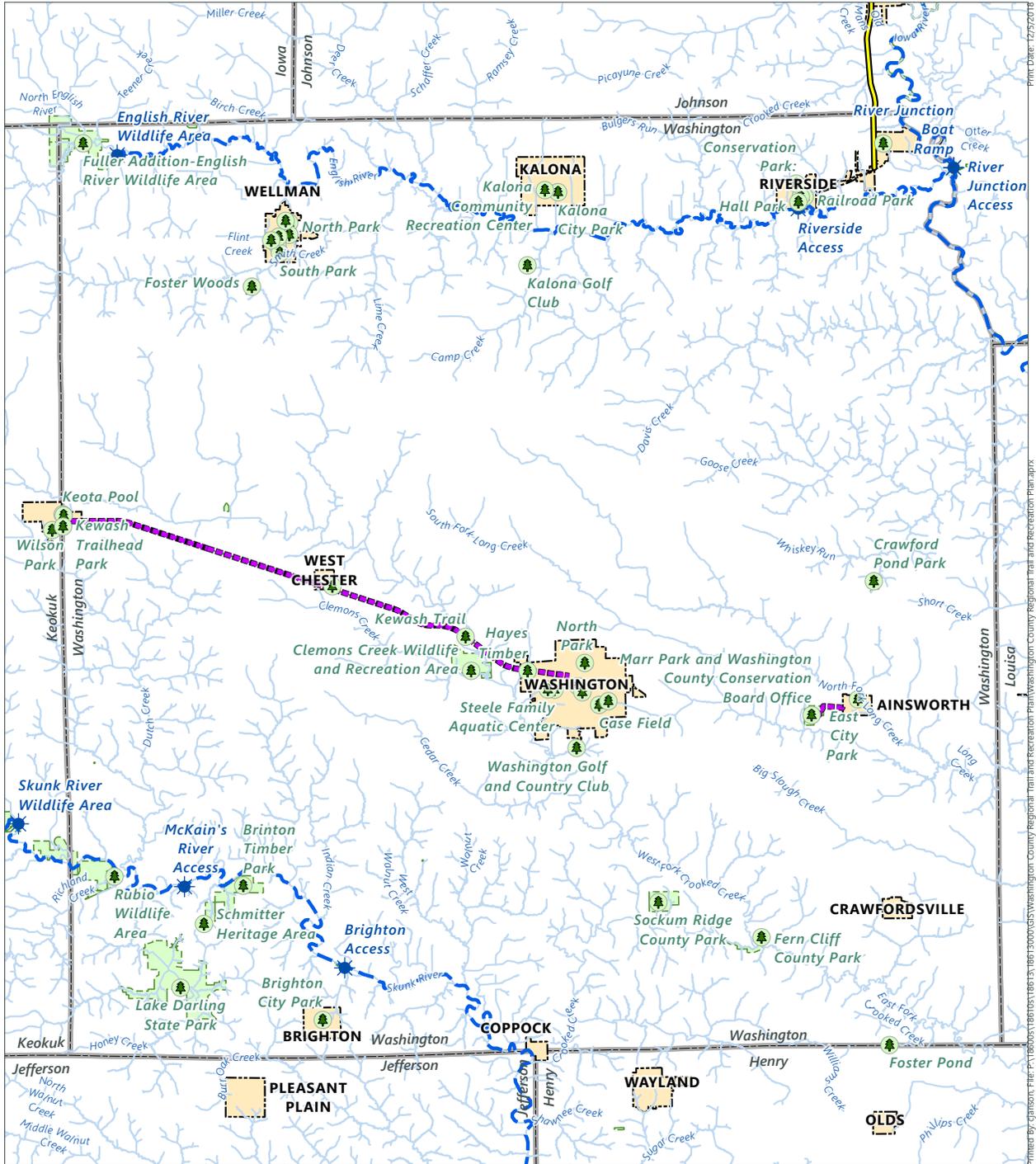
### Wellman Sustainability Plan - 2010

The Wellman Sustainability Plan had the following recommendations related to Trail and Recreational improvements:

- Improve sidewalks across the community
- Build a splash pad or indoor/outdoor swimming pool
- Create Events Programming specifically for Parks
- Reduce Walking Track Fee at Parkside
- Create Parks & Rec. Interactive Calendar
- Create a hiking/biking path around Smith Creek
- Neighborhood Parks
- Resource Conservation
- Regular Environmental Plantings and a Community Garden

The City of Wellman lacks a public swimming pool. Question 32 of the survey asked respondents if there was anything they felt the city could do to improve the quality of life in Wellman. Of the 67 write-in responses, 7, being 10.45 percent specifically noted public pools as an amenity they believed would improve the quality of life. This was the second most noted response, behind only improvement of sidewalks.

# WASHINGTON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD



## EXISTING RECREATIONAL ASSETS

- Assets
- Water Access Points
- Existing Paved Shoulder
- Recreational Lands
- Existing Water Trails
- City Boundary
- Existing Multi-Use Trails
- Streams
- County Boundary

### Washington County Regional Trails and Recreation Plan

Washington County, Iowa



Print Date: 12/25/2018  
 Prepared by: Johnson, P:\186001\186001\186013\18613000\DCS\Washington County Regional Trails and Recreation Plan\Washington County Regional Trails and Recreation Plan.aprx

## Inventory

### Brinton Timber

Brinton Timber encompasses 320.5 acres northeast of Brighton where horseback riding is particularly popular. Additionally, there is a 12.5 acre white oak timber dedicated to the memory of Bill V Horton, bringing the total acreage in this preserve to 333. The entire property is a preserve and wildlife refuge with many outstanding natural features as well as over 6 miles of hiking and horseback riding trails divided into 6 distinct loops. The equestrian user group developed hitching rails and camping pads in the parking lot. Brinton Timber remains a hugely scenic and popular destination for numerous users.



### Brighton Boat Access

Brighton Boat Access lies 2 miles north of Brighton and west of Highway 1. It is used by fisherman, campers, and pleasure boaters. This Skunk River Water Trail access point lies 8 miles below McKain's River Access and about 18 miles above Mac Coons Acces in Jefferson County.



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## Clemons Creek

The Clemons Creek Wildlife and Recreation Area is a great collaborative project of 290 acres. Development and funding for Clemons Creek has been supported by the Fish and Wildlife Service, Ducks Unlimited, DNR Habitat Stamp Grant, Izaak Walton League, Pheasants Forever, and the Wild Turkey Federation. The trails at the Clemons Creek Wildlife & Recreation Area were created by staff to accommodate hikers. Many of the field trails double as fire breaks. Clemons Creek has archery and firearm ranges that are open to certified users only. Primary usage is by local equestrian riders, hunters & archers, and a few hikers.



## Crawford Pond

Through the generosity of the Crawford Family, the area now called Crawford Pond has long been known for its big bass, plentiful bluegills, crappies, red-eared sunfish, and large channel catfish.



## English River Wildlife Area

If you enjoy hunting, trapping, hiking, or horseback riding in areas which are rugged and undeveloped, then the English River Wildlife Area is for you. This 782-acre mini-wilderness features the junction of the North English and South English Rivers, several marshes, and a good interspersions of bottomland timber, crops, and grassland.



## Fern Cliff

Fern Cliff is a 56 acre wooded multi-use area located west of Crawfordsville. As its name implies, this property features a steep bluff (cliff) overlooking the junction of the two forks of Crooked Creek. It is a multi-purpose recreation area popular with hunters, fishermen, and families.



**Foster Woods**

Foster Woods (18.7 acres southwest of Wellman) was donated to Washington County in the late 1960's and features a mature upland oak timber and recently rebuilt pond. It continues to be highly utilized by the WCCB'S Environmental Education Program, and features two shelters and some scenic grass & woodland trails.



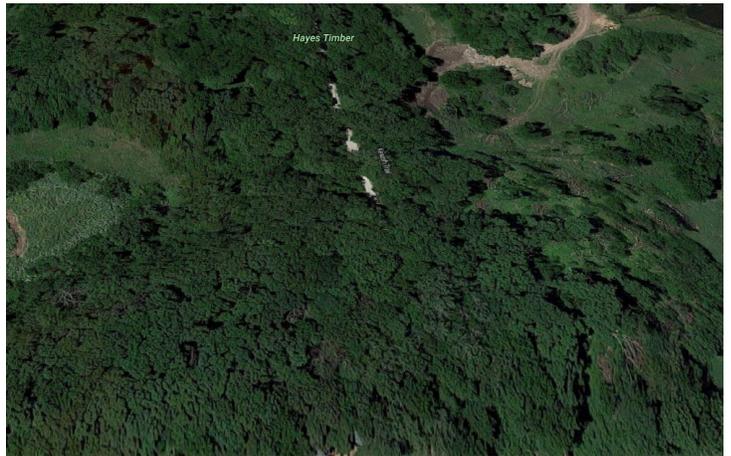
**Foster Pond**

Foster Pond (12 acres) lies just east of Highway 218 as it enters Washington County from the south. It was made possible through the generosity of the Floyd Foster Family, and features a 4 acre fishing pond and approximately one mile of trails.



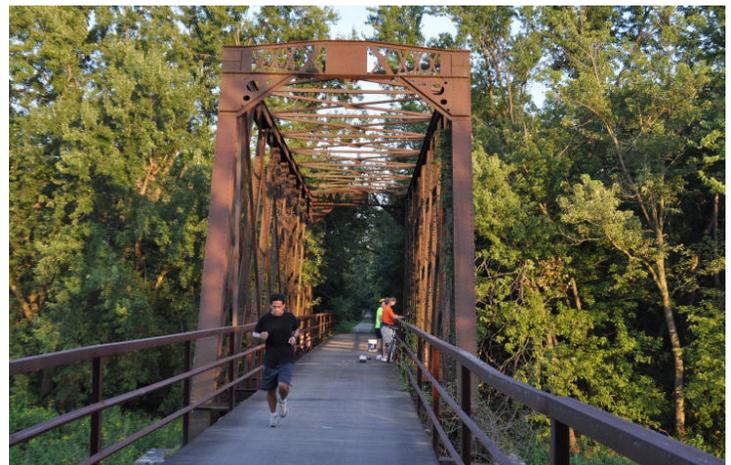
**Hayes Timber**

Caroline Hayes Willed Hayes Timber to Washington County in 1925, stating she wanted this to be kept and maintained in its native state in so far as practicable to do so. In honoring her wishes, the WCCB has limited our management to maintenance of approximately 1.5 miles of trails within this 33 acre woodland preserve. The timber is conveniently located within the city limits of Washington, bordered by the Kewash Nature Trail to the north and the Washington's 14 acre restored prairie to the east.



**Kewash Nature Trail**

The Kewash Nature Trail is the primary trail in Washington County. The trail runs nearly 14 miles between Keota and Washington. The WCCB took over operation of this abandoned railroad in 1989 after grass roots efforts developed it into a trail. There is approximately 2 miles of this trail that are paved, with the remainder being 3/8" minus crushed limestone. It is open and popular for use by runners, hikers, bicyclists, and other non-motorized users.



## Marr Park

Willed by Mary Marr to Washington County in 1957, the Thomas & Sarah Marr Home Haven Farm has become the headquarters and nucleus of the WCCB program. The primary trail is paved and connects the nearest city (Ainsworth) to and through Marr Park, around Thomas Marr Lake, & to the Conservation Education Center. There are also a variety of other grass trails which are maintained and utilized by many patrons. Other amenities in this 125 acre park include a modern campground, reservable shelters, fishing, and much more.



## McKain's River Access

McKain's River Access provides boat access to the Skunk River just west of Dogwood Avenue, thus lying 4 miles east of the Washington/Keokuk County Line. It is used by campers, fishermen, and pleasure boaters. It is part of the Skunk River Water Trail, lying approximately 15 river miles downstream of the Washington/Keokuk County Line and 8 miles upstream from Brighton Boat Access.



## Rubio Wildlife Area

Just north of the railroad tracks from the little town of Rubio lies the 103 acres called the Rubio Wildlife Area. It is predominantly flood prone grassland from the Skunk River with some lowland timber. Hunters may expect reasonable numbers of pheasants, deer, and rabbits. Wild turkeys are occasionally seen crossing the Northern end of wildlife area. This area is especially good for pheasants later in the season. Crossing the creek may be a challenge unless the water is low.



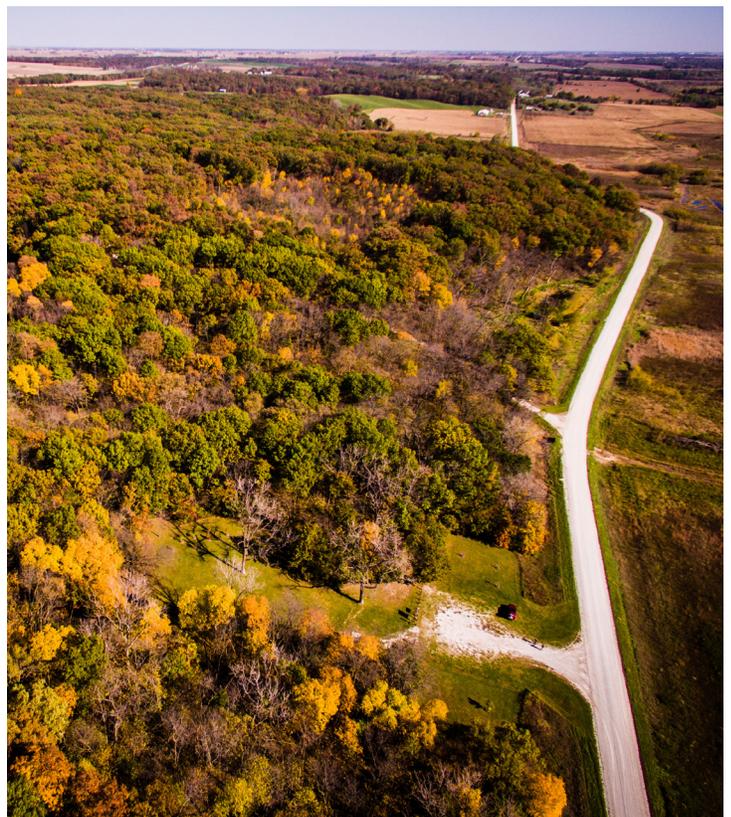
### Schmitter Heritage Area

The 80 acre Schmitter Heritage Area was donated to the Washington County Conservation Board in 1997 and features approximately 2 miles of trails winding through features including ponds stocked with fish, deep draws, prairie, woodlands, and brushy areas. Game and nongame wildlife abound.



### Sockum Ridge

Sockum Ridge is a 215 acre multipurpose upland timber dominated recreation area. Approximately 50 acres of this woodland are being actively managed to insure regeneration of this incredible resource. There are several miles of trails available within this timber which vary in the amount of their maintenance and management. These trails are popular with hikers, mountain bikers, and even horseback riders. Good numbers of forest game and nongame wildlife species are present.



### Willow Pond

Willow Pond now has a huge variety of fish habitat features, making it an excellent destination for anglers looking for channel catfish, largemouth bass (15" minimum length limit applies) and bluegills.



## Existing Plans

### Washington County Comprehensive Plan - 2008

This plan has a separate chapter on parks and recreation that includes goals, policies, and specific objectives. It also lays out specifics for a conservation design framework that is useful for reviewing proposed residential development near existing rural recreation facilities or in developing new area. Developers and the rural home-owners associations could be tasked with assisting with the maintenance of new recreational facilities.

#### Conventional development

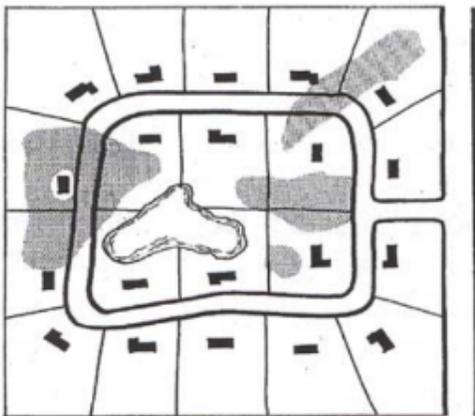


Figure A (rated by 25% as "rural")

44 acre parcel  
20 lots (2 acres each)  
No open space  
No pond access except from four lots

#### Conservation Development

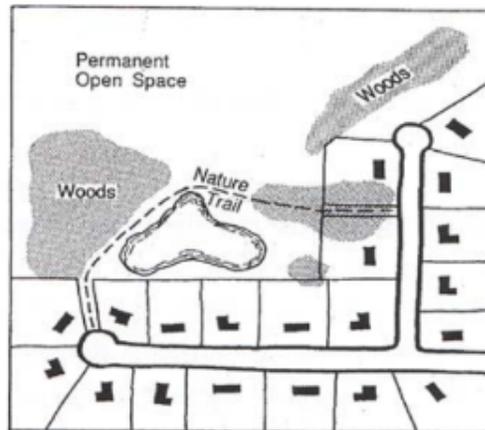
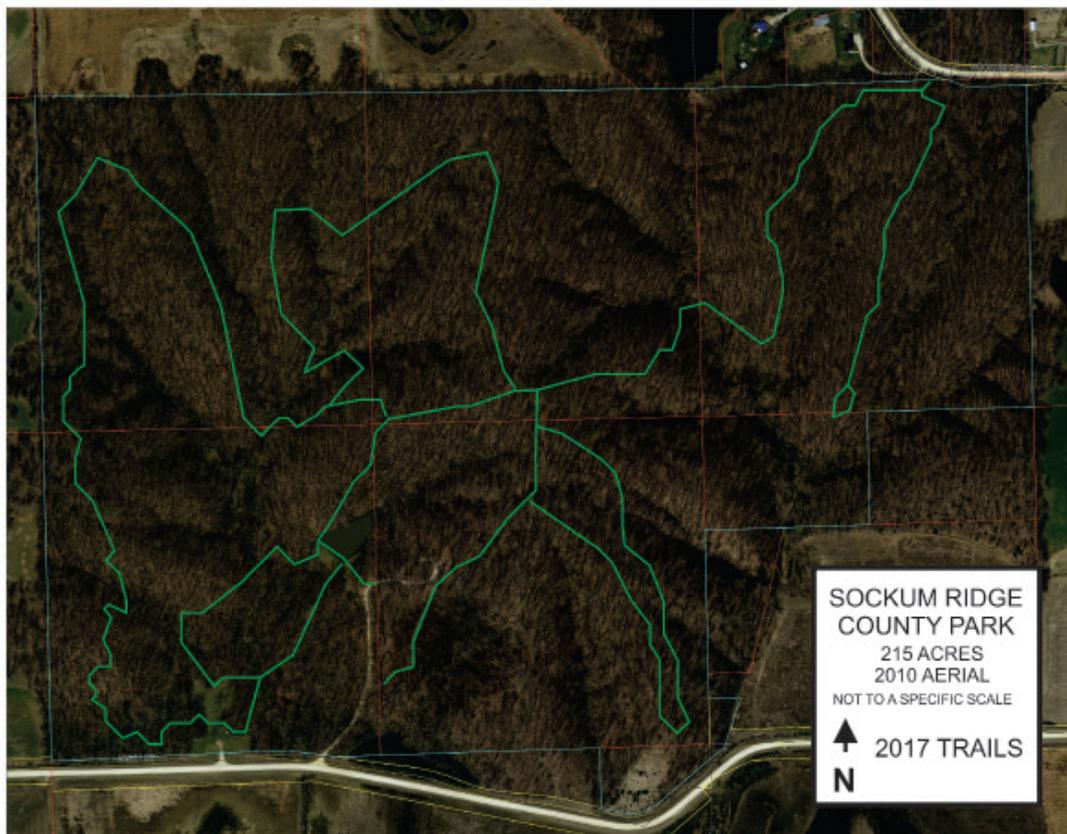
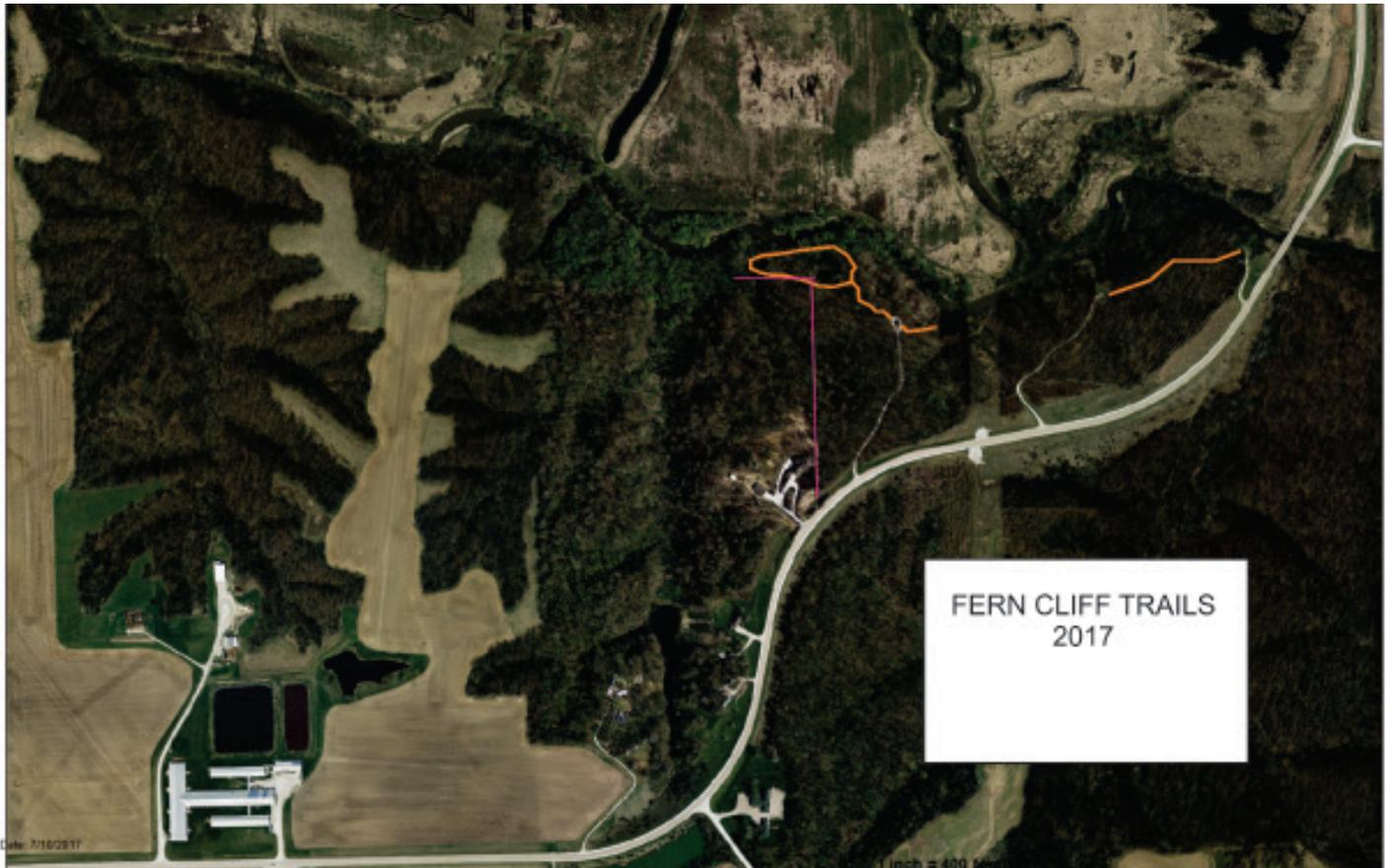


Figure B (rated by 75% as "rural")

44 acre parcel  
20 lots (3/4 acre each)  
25 acres of open space  
Pond access for all residents

The Conservation Design Framework incorporates the desire for rural housing development with the concept of natural areas to enhance the quality of life in the rural setting. Figure A represents the large lot idea type of development that many people associate with current rural housing. It fragments the natural areas and increases the cost of infrastructure. Figure B represents an alternative approach that utilizes the natural landscape features to enhance the rural atmosphere and maintain a balance between houses and common recreation areas.





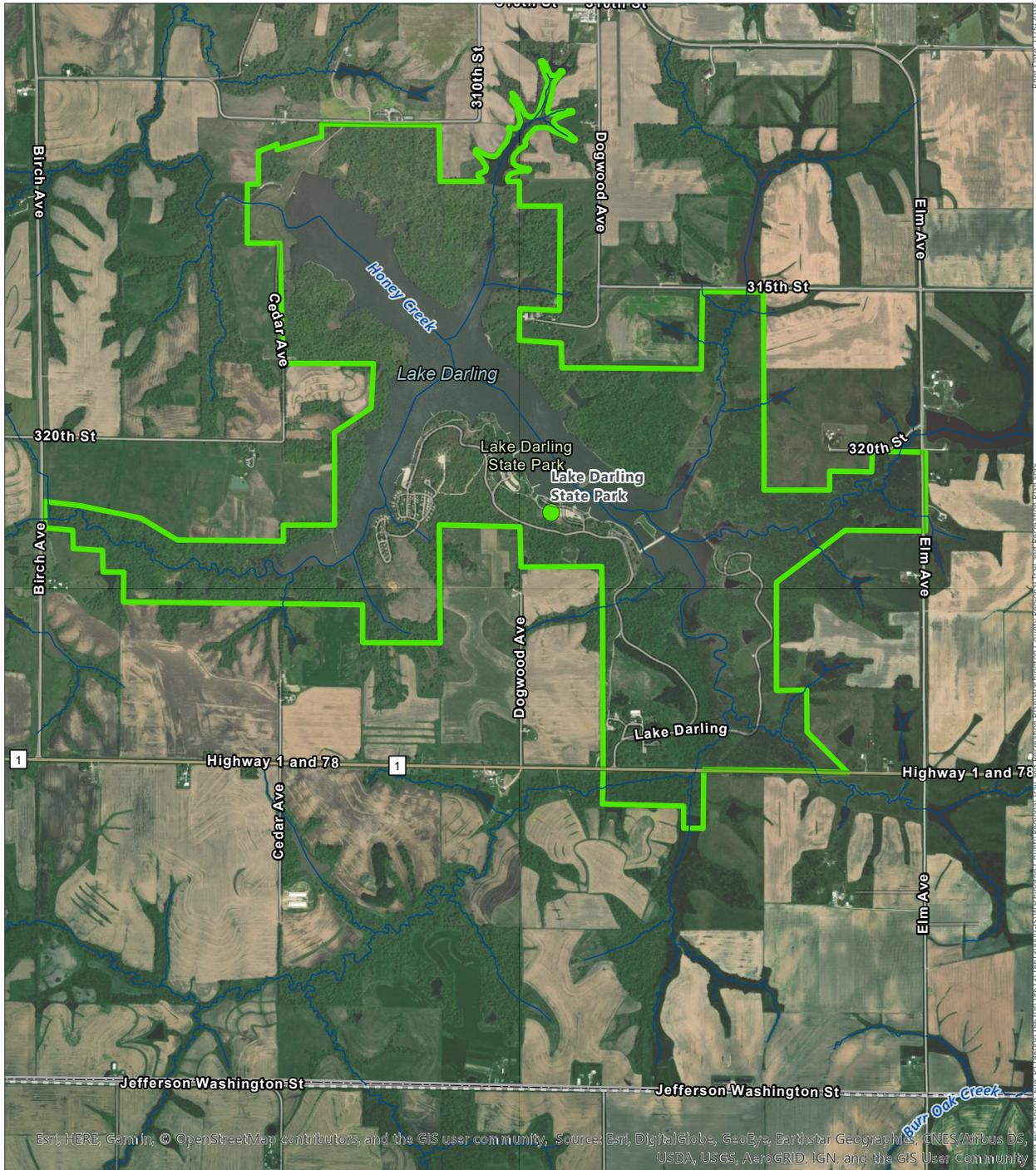






2013 New Map

# IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



## LAKE DARLING RECREATIONAL ASSETS

- - - Trails
- Streams
- Recreational Lands
- \* Water Access Points
- City Boundary
- County Boundary
- Assets



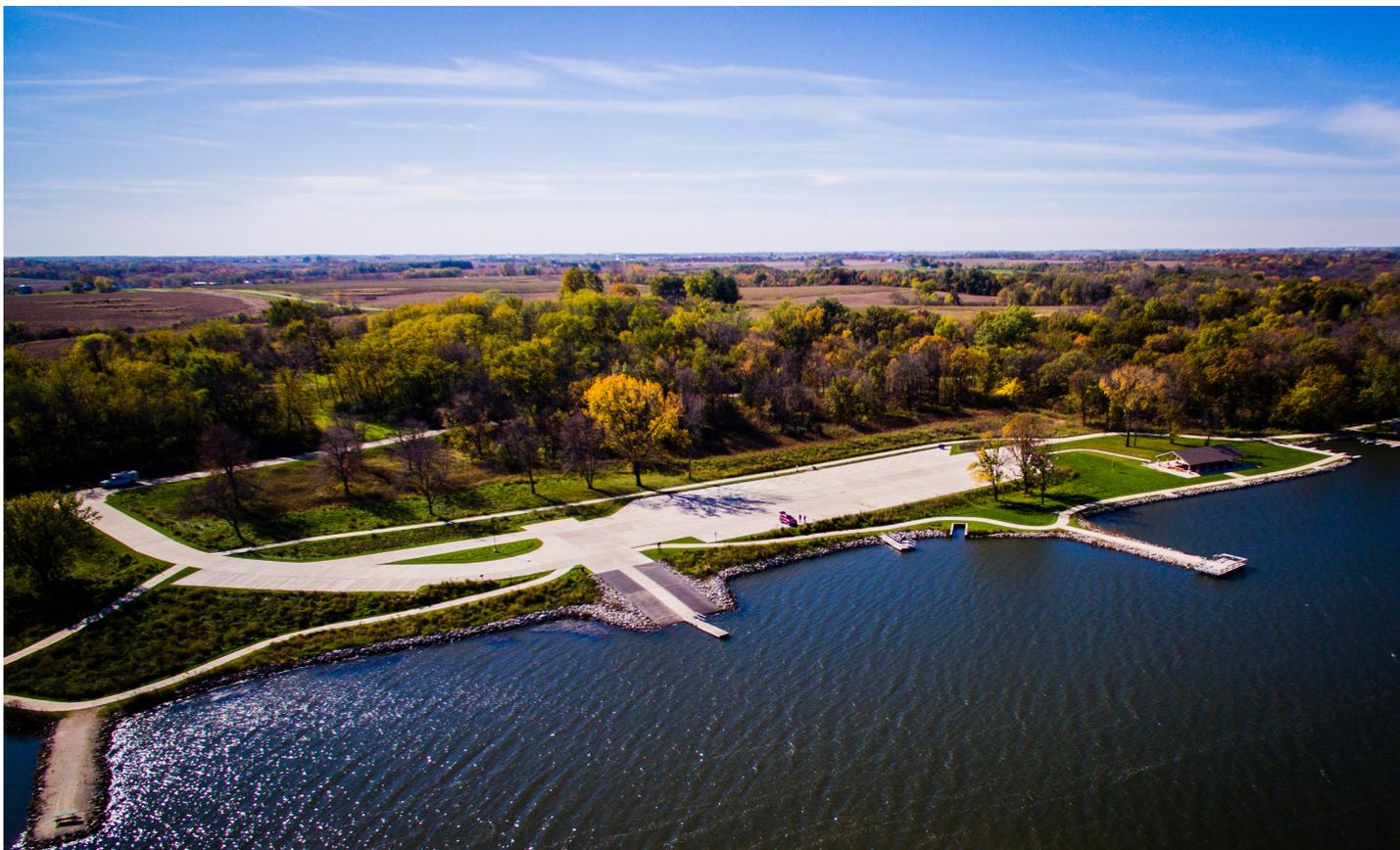
### Washington County Regional Trails and Recreation Plan

Washington County, Iowa

## Inventory

### Lake Darling

This lake is the location of the only state park in Washington County. This park is nearly 1,500 acres and has a large lake in the center. The park includes cabin rentals, campgrounds, and shelters. There are also many trails around the park. The lake is also available for swimming, boating, and fishing.



# ANALYSIS

## Recreational Amenities

The existing parks in Washington County seem to fulfill the needs of many residents and visitors. However, trails in the area leave something to be desired. Many of the residents and visitors of Washington County express a significant interest in trails. Specifically trails that accommodate special uses such as biking or equestrian use. Trails that make connections or loops are also highly favorable to the residents. Trails could make connections to the already existing system of city, county, and state parks.

## Plans

The feasibility of the existing plans often partially depends on their recency. The more recent the plan is, the more recent the data is. The data is used to influence any community opinions and strategies. The more recent they are, the more applicable the goals and policies in the plan probably are. It is important to amend any plan as applicable when the course of the concerned area is no longer on track with the direction of the plan. It is also important to refresh or update a plan every 10-20 years to keep consistent with updates and statistics that change over time.



# 4

## RECOMMENDED TRAIL AND RECREATION IMPROVEMENTS

<b>Recommendations</b>	<b>4-2</b>
<b>Parks, Athletic Facilities, Open Space Trails Plan</b>	<b>4-4</b>
<b>Water Trails Plan</b>	<b>4-9</b>
<b>Regional Priorities</b>	<b>4-13</b>
<b>Regional Priorities Map</b>	<b>4-14</b>
<b>Improvement Areas</b>	<b>4-16</b>
<b>Plan Implementation</b>	<b>4-18</b>
<b>Funding</b>	<b>4-20</b>
<b>Funding Resources Links</b>	<b>4-22</b>

# RECOMMENDATIONS

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After a combination of thorough public engagement processes, discussions with community and county leaders, and analysis many recommendations for the future of trails and recreation in Washington County have gained priority. The analysis led to conclusions that are representative of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats in the county and the communities within it. The chapter is split into two sections:

- **Parks, Athletic Facilities, and Open Space Plan**
- **Trail System Plan**

With changes in the economy including increasing gas prices and the downward trend of discretionary dollars, the provision of outdoor recreation and trails close to home has become increasingly more important. The current mainstreaming of active outdoor lifestyles is characterized by wellness and quality time with family and friends. To meet this new and changing demand people are looking for ways to be outdoors yet close to home, while connecting to these areas by non-motorized means. Due to time demands of family and jobs, convenience and accessibility to recreational opportunities are important considerations. If the County can deliver a quality recreational experience by connecting its unique open spaces, allowing access to rivers and other water bodies, all while providing functional options for commuters, it will have a competitive advantage in retaining residents and businesses and attracting tourists.

Many assets of the existing trails and recreation in Washington County are positive additions to the region and are recognized for their success. The assets are recommended to continue to evolve as they have been, with no abrupt plans for change.

A major opportunity of this plan is also to explore areas within the existing parks, trails, and recreation of Washington County wherein improvements can be made. These points of action are recommended to be top priorities of the plan, and guide decision making on behalf of the plan.

## Recreational Assets

- Golf Courses
- Recreation Facilities
- Pools/Aquatic Centers
- Range in types of County, State, and Community Parks and Recreational Facilities

## Points for Action

- Location
- Funding Allocation
- Connectivity
- Lack of Trails
- Variety of Activity Specific Trails



Blue Top Ridge Golf Course - Riverside

# PARKS, ATHLETIC FACILITIES, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

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This section considers parks, athletic facilities, and open space areas. The plan is based on current and anticipated needs of residents as defined in earlier chapters. Although the public process provided a sound basis for system planning, the plan still remains dynamic and will require adjustments as changes occur in trends and resident expectations as the region continues to evolve.

## Protection Strategy for Open Space

The extent to which land highlighted as part of a conservation greenway system will actually be protected will be based on many factors, the most important being the incentives and flexibility the County and Cities may give to landowners and developers in exchange for protecting portions of their properties as open space. The ever-increasing value of land, the demand for new households across Washington County, and the limited financial resources available to jurisdictions underscores the importance of collaborating with private developers to preserve open space as development occurs.

Realistically, only select portions of developable lands can be set aside as protected open space as part of a conservation greenway. As a baseline, preserving a wide-enough corridor for the destination trails should be the minimum acceptable. A minimum conservation greenway width of 100 feet is recommended, with 500 feet or more being optimal. Anything less than 100 feet does not provide the desired separation between the trail and the built environment and the critical mass needed for a legitimate natural conservation greenway. As a reference, typical conservation developments guidelines often seek a minimum of 50% of the total land area within a development be set aside as open space. However, that standard is conditional and based on individual site circumstances and economic realities. The key goal is to set aside more land as open space through a collaborative development approach than would otherwise be achievable under traditional development controls.

Setting aside land for the conservation greenway system will require approaches beyond those typically used for acquiring individual parks.

The following provides an overview of various strategies for this purpose. The use of any of these will be dictated by the circumstances associated with a given development project and land area.

## Standard Regulatory Land Use Controls

Although the County does not have zoning: the land use guidelines, traditional development policies ordinances in place will continue to play a key role in managing development in many of the communities across Washington County, including protecting open spaces. Specifically, this includes:

- **Municipal Land Use Zoning Ordinances:** Establish densities and land uses that are based, in part, on their compatibility with the system plan, especially conservation greenways/open spaces.
- **Subdivision and Platting Ordinances:** Among other provisions, these establish setbacks and protection mechanisms for preserving natural areas. Provisions include, at a minimum, ordinances related to wetland protection, tree preservation, shore land protection, floodplains, site grading, and setbacks between built and natural landscape features.

Ordinances and land use controls will continue to provide the regulatory strength behind jurisdictional management of development. Stringent ordinances will also provide the incentive for developers to be more receptive to collaborating with jurisdictions to maximize the public values from a private development in an economically-viable way.

## Other Strategies for Protecting and Managing Natural Resources

There are a number of other strategies and tools that can be used to preserve open space, depending on the circumstances and level of collaboration between the County/Community and prospective developers. These include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following:

- **Direct Purchase/Fee Simple Acquisition:** Relates to purchasing the property when the parcel meets the long-term preservation objectives of the community and the parcel can be integrated into the larger parks, open space, and trail system. Priority is typically given to larger parcels. With limited fiscal resources, direct purchase is typically considered only after other protection methods have proven to be unsuccessful.
- **Conservation Easement:** Restricts development of land while permitting the landowner to retain ownership of the property. It is filed in the public records of the property and binds current and future property owners. The landowner may sell or donate the easement to a conservation organization, but it is not required. Where the easement is donated to a qualified charitable organization, a tax benefit may occur to the owner.
- **Purchase or Transfer of Development Rights:** A city, land trust, or other developer purchases the development rights to a property, while the landowner continues to maintain ownership. Once the rights are purchased, the land can only be used for a specified purpose other than development. The land would typically be protected under a subsequent conservation easement or other protection program. Transfer of development rights refers to protecting the natural values of one property by transferring or selling the right to develop that property to other properties within the city under strict guidelines. Both of these approaches ensure that there is no economic harm to the landowner or developer and that the city retains its desired development density.
- **Overlay Zoning:** Refers to a type of resource protection zoning that is superimposed over traditional zoning to protect defined natural resource areas while still allowing the underlying use in an appropriate form. A flood plain zoning district is an example of this.
- **Bonus/Incentive Zoning:** Is similar to transferring development rights except that the landowner or developer rights are used by the developer on the same property rather than purchased by another developer for some other property. This could allow a developer to develop at a higher density than normally allowed if the developer sets aside land in a conservation easement or greenway.
- **Clustering:** Allows developers to cluster development on smaller lots to allow for the provision of conservation easements and greenways.
- **Natural Resource Protection Zones:** Allows the city to impose a buffer along sensitive environmental areas. The buffer width varies depending on the situation, and can be fixed or flexible.
- **Land Trusts:** Property owners can donate their property or a conservation easement to a conservation program. A number of these programs exist at the local, state, and national level. However, because of participation requirements (particularly with regards to parcel size), land trusts are sometimes of limited use.
- **Deed Restrictions/Mutual Covenants:** Establish legally defined limits on the use of a property. They are put in place by the property owner or land developer and are carried forward by the owner or a legally established association. Typically, they need renewal after 30 years.
- **Stewardship Program:** Land management



English River Wildlife Area

practices may be voluntarily undertaken by a landowner to preserve open space. In some instances, a landowner may “register” their property with a conservation organization, thereby entering into a non-binding agreement to follow good land management practices. A landowner may also enter into a management agreement with a conservation organization, specifying how land will be managed.

## **Collaborative Approach to Land Development**

The previously defined strategies are most effectively used as part of a collaborative approach to land development, which is often defined as a “public values collaborative approach” or an “open space design/ conservation development approach”. Under this context, the County and cities allow themselves more flexibility to work with developers to achieve the desired public values within the context of the economic viability of a development.

The County, and cities, in collaboration with landowners or developers, will undoubtedly need to rely more heavily on the use of a well-managed collaborative process if they are to achieve the vision for the open space system. The main value of this approach is that it allows for more creativity in development planning to accommodate specific public values being sought

by the County and cities consistent with their vision. Consistent with this plan, the public values being sought typically include:

- Preserving natural open spaces and greenways
- Preserving or enhancing the quality of local ecological systems
- Establishing a privately-funded endowment program for long-term natural resources stewardship
- Managing stormwater/improving water

quality through natural infiltration techniques

- Providing public park and trail opportunities
- Preserving the overall aesthetic quality and rural character of the community

## **Park Signage Program**

Comprehensive signage programs carried uniformly throughout the county parks and trail system within cities, and sometimes the entire region, are important to providing a consistent message and information to park and trail visitors. Typically, a signage program includes park and trail names, direction to features, general information and rules, and ecological stewardship program and interpretive information. To ensure it remains an ongoing priority, an annual signage investment program is recommended.

## **Park Master Planning and Facility Design Quality/Development Standards**

The quality standard for built features within the park system should be consistent with industry standards for safety and durability. This is especially the case with play equipment, outdoor furniture, and other site amenities where strict standards apply.

The design of individual parks should also be of a consistent quality. Master plans should be prepared for each park prior to their development to ensure that the right mix of amenities are provided and the park’s design is cohesive with and complementary to the design for other parks and public spaces. City and County standard practices for public participation in the planning process should continue to be used for each park development project.

# PARKS, FACILITIES, AND OPEN SPACE OBJECTIVES

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1. Preserve and Improve the Quality and Biodiversity of Existing Open Space
2. Maintain and expand regional partnerships to connect and expand the interest in Washington County's trails and recreation facilities.
3. Identify and preserve large tracts of land that are largely undeveloped and valued for their aesthetic, ecological, and passive recreational attributes, and that are regionally important for wildlife habitat, watershed, view-shed, or of other ecological significance.
4. Identify and preserve land that becomes available in the English River corridor for open-space preservation, connectivity, and enhancement of wildlife habitat.
5. Preserve strategically located agricultural land to preserve the county's farming heritage while making trails and recreation a priority.
6. Secure adequate resources to better manage and maintain open space.
7. Work with the surrounding counties of Jefferson, Keokuk, Henry, Louisa and Johnson to connect recreational resources and assets with trails (off-street, on-road, and water).
8. Update land development ordinances (zoning, subdivision, other) as needed or as is feasible to require park/conservation land dedication for new developments or subdivisions.

As with parks, athletic facilities, and open spaces, the trail system is underpinned by the common vision of the plan. The overarching objectives of the trail system are to:

- Develop an interlinking system of high value trails throughout the County that connect with current regional and city trails
- Provide reasonable trail access to the natural resource amenities within the County without unduly compromising their integrity and natural qualities
- Provide an appropriate level of universal accessibility to trails throughout the system

Well planned and designed trails offer several significant benefits to Washington County and communities. Along with recreational opportunities, trails promote healthier lifestyles and provide non-motorized connections to destinations in and around the County. This section discusses trail-related benefits and public interest in trails, provides a description of the County and its land uses and physical characteristics, and summarizes trail providers and advocates within the County.

## General Trail Planning, Design, and Development Guidelines

The trail system plan is consistent with MN DNR's Trail Planning, Design, and Development Guidelines for designing and developing sustainable trails. These guidelines were chosen because of the consistency of application to Iowa trails. These guidelines were also chosen because the Iowa DNR lacks a resource such as this one. The MNDNR guidelines are recognized as the most comprehensive standards for trails and address trail planning, design, and development.

A key concept of the trail guidelines is maximizing the value of trails to local residents. The values ascribed to trails are important because they are at the core of why a person uses a particular trail on a repeat basis. Studies clearly indicate that trail users make a distinction between trails based on their perception of value.

### Safety

A sense of physical and personal safety is the most important trail value in that without it people are disinclined to use a trail irrespective of how many other values it might provide. Physical safety can be relatively assured through good trail design. Personal safety, which relates to a sense of well-being while using a trail, is a less tangible yet still important factor that cannot be taken lightly.

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## **Economic Impact**

Trails are a desirable amenity as they provide inexpensive transportation options and increase property values. With the continued and projected rise of gas prices and the desire to saving money, individuals and families are turning to less expensive modes of transportation. Trails can also increase property values. According to the National Association of Home Builders trails have become the top ranking outdoor community asset. Their study found that 57% of prospective home-buyers would like to see trails in their new community. This could be attributed to the recreation, transportation, property and aesthetic value trails can bring to a community. Well planned and designed trails can also benefit local businesses with increased tourism by attracting bicyclists, equestrians and other outdoor enthusiasts.

## **Convenience**

Convenience is important to day-to-day use of a trail. Studies have shown that the vast majority of shared-use paved trails are used by those living within a few miles of the trail they use most frequently.

Although convenience is important, its influence is still tempered by recreational value. No matter how convenient, a poorly designed trail in an uninteresting setting will have limited recreational value. Alternatively, a well-designed trail in an interesting setting might draw users from some distance. The point is that trails should be located where they are both convenient and offer the recreational amenities that users are seeking.

Transportation systems in cities and counties today are tasked not only with efficient and effective circulation networks, but with promoting a community's livability. A well designed trail system reduces reliance on personal vehicle travel and reduces traffic congestion.

An approach to transportation planning that is gaining popularity is the concept of 'Complete Streets' which safely incorporates pedestrian, bicycle and transit modes of travel into the design and development of all roadways. Complete Streets create an inviting environment for cyclists and pedestrians with separated wide sidewalks and marked street shoulders for cyclists. The development of complete streets can contribute to creating connections in urban areas to off-street trail corridors, while at the same time making active transportation—bicycling and walking—a viable option for residents.

## **Sustainability**

The two major non-fuel consuming and nonpolluting forms of transportation are bicycling and walking. Increasing non-motorized transportation modes can decrease the cumulative effects of motorized transportation on the environment. Vehicle exhaust and carbon monoxide impact air quality and can lead to respiratory disease symptoms. Diesel particulate matter has acute short-term impacts and a disproportionate effect on the elderly, children and persons with illness. Storm water runoff collects motor oil, metals and other chemicals from streets and parking lots and pollutes water systems, negatively impacting drinking water quality and wildlife habitat. With motorized transportation accounting for one-third of the U.S. carbon dioxide emissions—impacting climate and air quality 1—communities are implementing trail programs and educational campaigns encouraging active transportation and individual and environmental health.

## **Recreation**

Of all the values ascribed to a trail, its recreational value is the most important in terms of predicting its level of use, assuming that safety and convenience are not issues. In general, trails

offering a high-quality recreational experience are those that:

- Are scenic and located in a pleasant park-like setting, natural open space, or linear corridor away from traffic and the built environment
- Provide a continuous and varying experience that takes visitors to a variety of destinations and is a destination unto itself
- Offer continuity with limited interruptions and impediments to travel

This underscores that trail planning must be based on criteria that go beyond simply providing miles of trail – with considerable emphasis on the quality of the trail experience as much or more than quantity.

In Washington County, creating trails with high recreational value inherently affects community planning and development. Planning for trails that follow greenways that seamlessly traverse public open spaces and private developments alike is considerably different than planning for trails that follow road rights-of-way. While greenway-based trails often pose more challenges to plan and implement, the value of these trails to the community has proven to be very high and worth the investment. Cities that have successfully integrated these types of trails often highlight them as key aspects of the community's quality of life.

## **Fitness**

Fitness is a growing value that cannot be overlooked. Fortunately, this value is generally achieved if safety, convenience, recreational, and transportation values are met. Most critical to accommodating this value is developing an interlinking trail system that provides numerous route options with trail lengths necessary for the types of uses envisioned.

Trails provide an opportunity for physical activity and promote healthy lifestyles. Trail facilities can provide safe locations for activities such as running, walking and bicycling. Communities with convenient access to trails offer residents low cost options to get active and enjoy the benefits of physical activity. The health benefits of physical activity include a reduced risk of premature mortality and reduced risks of cardiovascular disease, hypertension, stroke, some cancers and diabetes. Active lifestyles and regular physical activity can also reduce obesity, depression, stress and anxiety. Trails and trail related activities also create healthy families by offering places parents can bicycle or walk with their children.

# TRAIL OBJECTIVES

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1. Continue proper maintenance and funding of existing trails
2. Improve the effectiveness and use of trails
3. Expand the existing regional trail system and create linkages or loops
4. Maintain inventory of mapped trails
5. Prepare a Master Plan for a new trail from Brighton to Lake Darling
6. Prepare a Master Plan for the Kewash Trail
7. Encourage and support the establishment of connections to regional trails from residential and commercial areas wherever possible.
8. As it becomes available, acquire land for trail alignment in an opportunistic manner. Washington County, governmental jurisdictions, and other stakeholders should work in partnership to address the land acquisition challenges of developing a county-wide network of interconnected non-motorized recreation trails and alternative transportation routes.



The water trails portion of the plan aligns with the common vision of the plan just as parks, athletic facilities, open spaces and surface trails did. The overall objectives of the waters trails system are to:

- Provide access in more areas to the English River water trail without compromising the integrity and natural qualities
- Update the current access points with more signage for ease of finding the location
- Obtain state designation of water trails for the English River
- Expand state designation of Skunk River water trail from Jefferson County into Washington County

Strategically planned access additions to water trails offer several benefits to Washington County and communities. Along with surface trails and the other recreation opportunities, this would promote diversity in opportunities for recreation and living a healthier lifestyle as well as an alternate way to experience the natural environment that the English and Skunk River offer. Obtaining state designation of the water trails would add benefits such as statewide promotion and funding assistance.

## Water Trail Planning, Design, and Development Guidelines

The water trails portion of this plan is consistent with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources Water Trails Plan and Development Guide. These guidelines were chosen so that any additions or development of these areas could be easily coordinated with the state. The Iowa DNR specifies water trails into four different categories. The English and Skunk River would fit into the category of “Recreational Experience” based on the scale, impact and site of the rivers. The existing trails of the English and Skunk river in Washington County are encouraged by the DNR to consider their eligibility for designation by possible modification of certain existing elements.

Water trails form a unique option for outdoor recreation, yet the ability to reach the water's edge is a challenge. With multiple opportunities for new access points on the English river water trail, residents will be able to maximize the water trail on the river even further. When developing these additions it is important that the county follow the development guidelines set forth by the Iowa DNR.

## Water Trail Objectives

1. Continue proper maintenance of existing water trails and existing points of access.
2. Improve the effectiveness and use of trails by adding additional points of access in other areas of the county.
3. Prepare a Master Plan for the English River Water Trail.
4. Encourage and support the establishment of additional points of access.
5. Acquire state designation for the English and Skunk River. Washington County, governmental organizations and other stakeholders should work in partnership to address challenges in obtaining state designation of the water trails.

# REGIONAL PRIORITIES

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The following is a collective list of projects, sorted by jurisdiction, that are a priority for the region. The list was derived from public engagement process and will serve the region in the future as an action plan for implementation of this plan. These are capital projects from across the region that will require additional budgeting, grants funding, design, estimating and construction to complete. This is not an exhaustive list and will be updated from time to time as projects are complete and needs change. A map of these proposed projects has been included for reference on pages 4-18 and 4-19.

## Washington County Priorities

1. Upgrades to the Kewash Nature Trail, including the creation of its own plan with inputs from West Chester, Keota, Washington, and all citizens.
2. Upgrades to the existing woodland based multi-purpose recreation trails (especially Brinton Timber & Sockum Ridge).
3. Find a suitable and sustainable funding source for trail developments as well as their operation and maintenance.

## Lake Darling State Park Facilities Priorities

1. Expand the trail from the Silt Dam to the southeast corner of the park, and then when possible, loop it back.
2. Partner with DOT to widen the shoulders for share the road bike lanes from Lake Darling State Park to the town of Brighton.
3. Prepare a Master Plan for a new trail from Brighton to Lake Darling.

## City of Washington Priorities

1. An additional looping trail back from Kirkwood to Kewash
2. Complete the planned trails within the new Wellness Park, connect the Wellness Park to existing Washington City trails and the Kewash Trail.
3. Initiate a study for a trail connection between the City of Washington with Jefferson County's trail system.

## City of Wellman Priorities

1. Trail extension from North Park to the Mid-Prairie High School.
2. Trail connection from Wellman to Kalona.
3. Trail from South Park to Soccer Fields with improvements to recreation facilities.

## City of Kalona Priorities

1. Explore and support viable trail connection opportunities to connect to Wellmand and Riverside trail systems.
2. Explore a trail and new parkland opportunities along Selveson Creek.
3. Considered parkland expansion as land continues to develop to the North and Northeast portions of the community.

## City of Riverside Priorities

1. Improve trail connections to existing parks, Johnson County's regional trail system, and create looping trails.
2. Improve the existing access to the North English River to classify as a Water Trail Access point.
3. Explore and support system compatible options for a Regional Recreation opportunity south of Riverside Casino and east of HWY 218.

## City of Keota Priorities

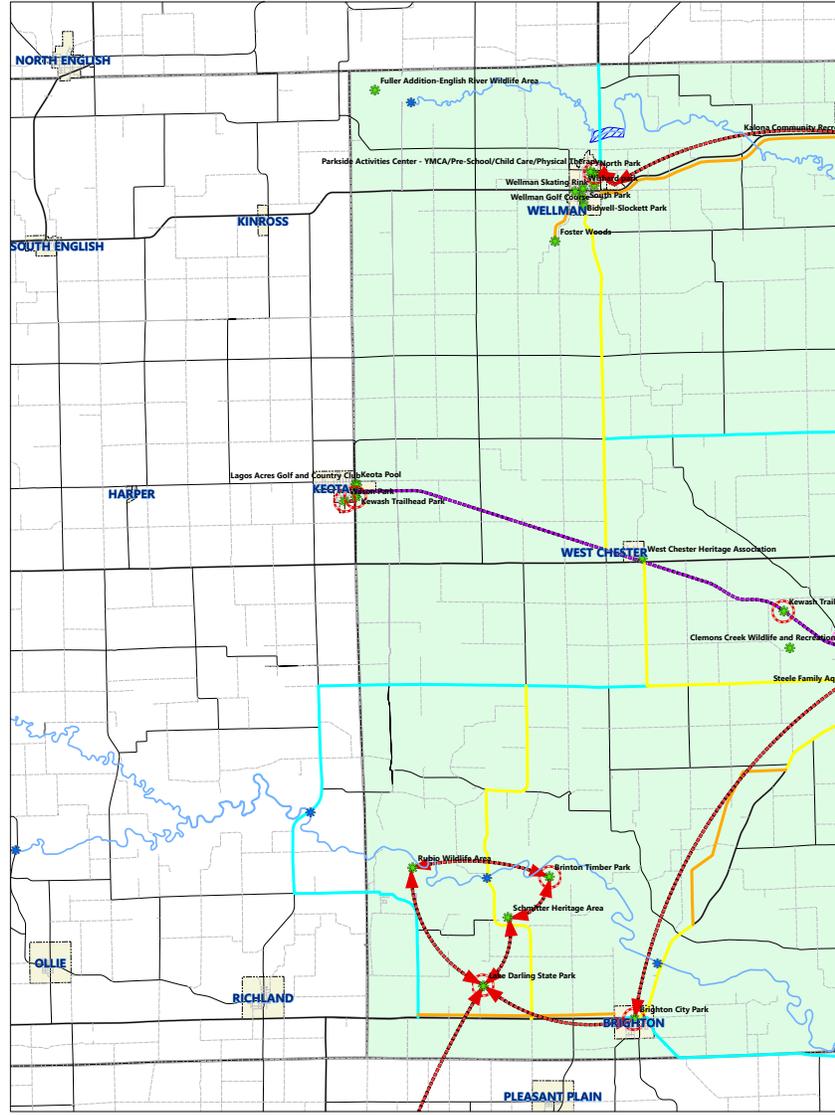
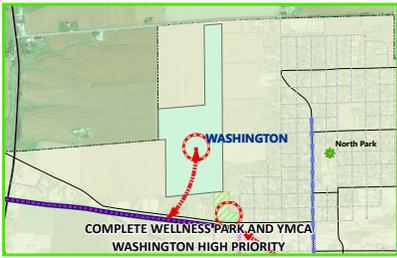
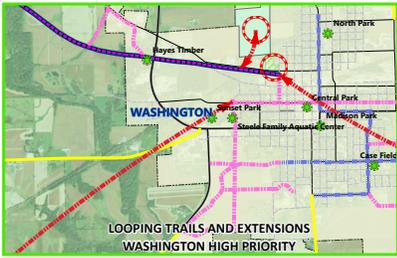
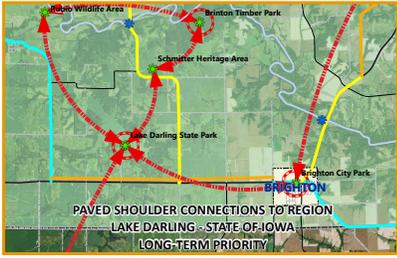
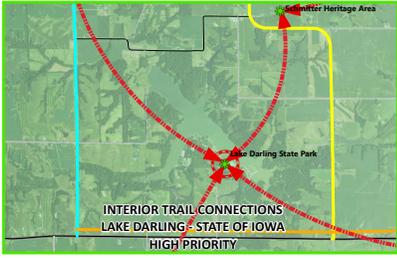
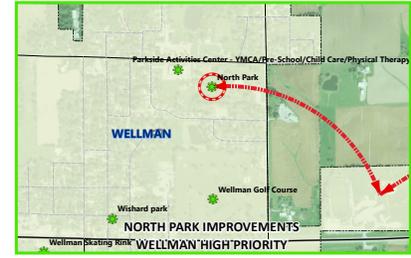
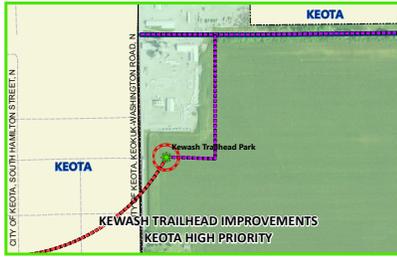
1. Continued development and upgrades to the Kewash Nature Trailhead.
2. Keota City Park improvements, such as lighting.
3. Keota City Park and Kewash Trail connection.

## City of Brighton Priorities

1. Partner with DOT to widen the shoulders for share the road bike lanes from Lake Darling State Park to the town of Brighton
2. Continue to maintain and upgrade Brighton City Park's facilities and equipment.
3. Explore and support options to improve on-shoulder and off-street connections to Washington and the general region, especially connecting Brighton to Fairfield/Jefferson County Trails.

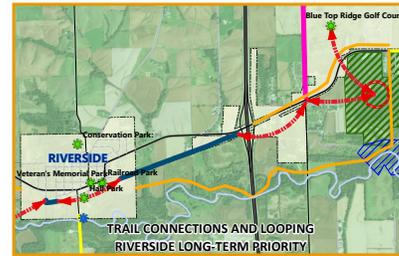
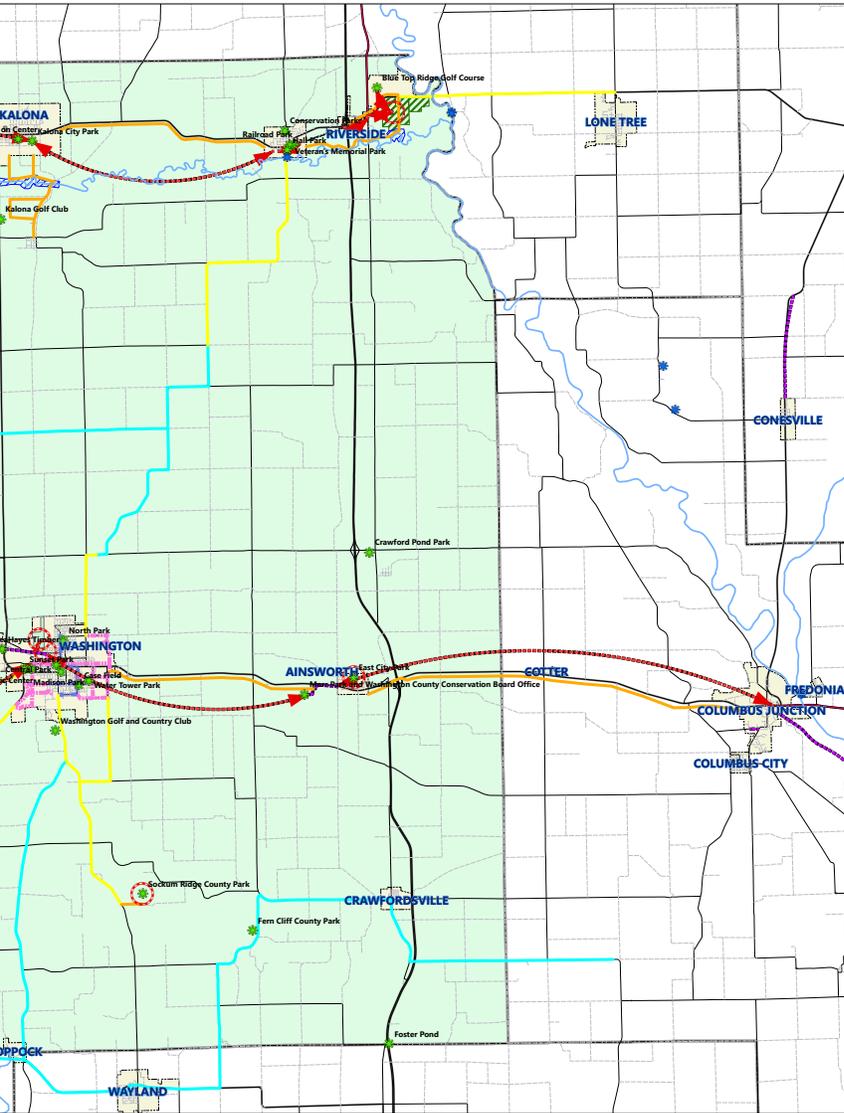
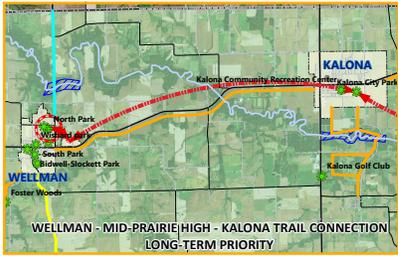
## City of Ainsworth Priorities

1. Continue to maintain and upgrade Ainsworth City Park's facilities and equipment.
2. Explore and support options to improve on-shoulder and off-street connections to Washington (from Marr Park) and the general region, especially connecting Ainsworth to Louisa County recreational assets.
3. Maintain connection to Marr Park.



# WASHINGTON COUNTY REGIONAL Proposed Trail & Recreation

- Proposed Water Trail Access Area
- Planned Park Improvements
- Planned City Bike Trails
- Existing Water Access
- Potential Regional Park Area
- Planned Regional Trail Connection
- Existing Water Trails
- Existing Recreational Assets
- Existing On-Road Bike Route



# REGIONAL TRAILS & RECREATION PLAN

## Additional Improvements

- Existing Multi-Use Trails
- County Planned Trail - Paved Shoulder
- County Planned Trail
- County Planned Trail
- County Planned Trail - On Road



# PROPOSED TRAILS AND RECREATION IMPROVEMENT AREAS

## Parks, Athletic Facilities, and Open Space

### 1. Sockum Ridge

Improve Signage; Improve Trail Diversity; Continue maintenance of trails due to wear from bikes and horses.

### 2. Brinton Timber

Improve Signage; Improve Trail Diversity; Continue maintenance of trails due to wear from bikes and horses.

### 3. Lake Darling

Continue park wide trail extension; Improve quality of existing trails; Reinforce the core recreation areas for swimming, fishing, and boating; Continue and improve youth and underprivileged programming.

### 4. Proposed County Park Near Riverside and Casino

New opportunity for recreation in the north-eastern portion of the county; Near Casino and existing recreational assets in that area; Near border to Johnson and Louisa counties.

### 5. Wellman North Park

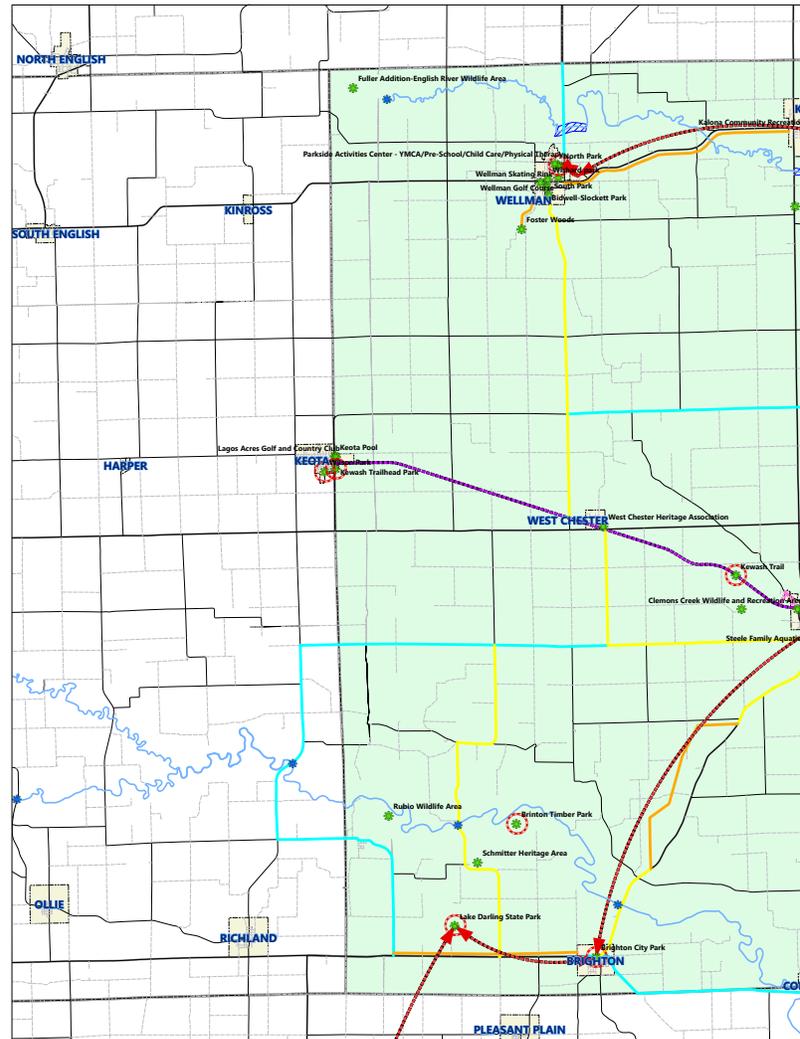
Improve facilities, provide bathrooms, update play equipment, add fitness facilities.

### 6. Ainsworth East City Park

Outdated park; needs many improvements.

### 7. Brighton City Park

Improve select aging park facilities as needed.



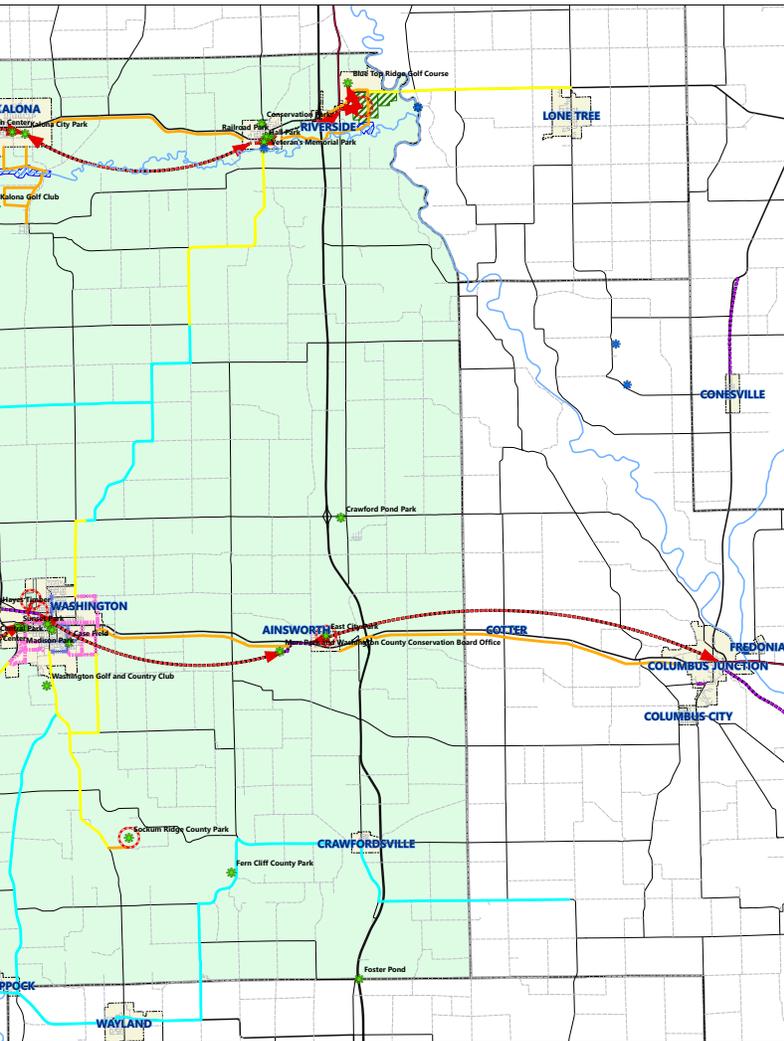
## WASHINGTON COUNTY REGION Proposed Trail & Recreation



## Water Trails

### 1. English River Trail

Add access points to the trail north of Wellman, near Kalona and to the south of Riverside Casino. Improve the initial access point at the start of the river in the northwest corner and in the City of Riverside.



## REGIONAL TRAILS & RECREATION PLAN Additional Improvements



## Surface Trails

### 1. Kewash Trail Maintenance

Continue work on paving the entirety of Kewash; Plan for an allocation of funds for occasional asphalt repairs; Maintain and protect existing landscape and foliage around trail.

### 2. Lake Darling to Brighton

Connect existing trails to the City of Brighton; Pave trail, add signage for trail.

### 3. Kewash Trail Improvements

Add more signage to indicate mileage, approaching towns, or rest areas, and possibly extend Kewash in Washington to Marr Park trail.

### 4. Riverside Loop

Create a trail loop for the county from Riverside up to the Casino, down to the River junction access point, near the English River back to Riverside and the beginning of the loop.

### 5. Riverside to Kalona

Connect for regional trail.

### 6. Kalona to Wellman

Connect for regional trail.

### 7. Extension to Jefferson County

Jefferson County has extensive trail systems that county residents travel to use, creating connections could increase quality of life for the entire region.

### 2. Skunk River Trail

Expand state water trail designation from Jefferson County into Washington County. Improve existing access points along the river

# PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

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## Purpose + Plan and Process Overview

The purpose of this plan is to establish a shared vision for Washington County in a regional context to guide future actions and decisions regarding trail and recreation. The planning process, as described in the Chapter 2 included many engagement activities and methods to bring the process to the people of Washington County - to identify the future desires and needs for recreation across the region. Many people participated in the planning process, led by a Steering Committee comprised of members from the Washington County's cities, County Staff, and a representative from the Iowa DNR (Lake Darling State Park).

Chapter 3 includes an extensive analysis of the region's existing recreation facilities and previous planning activities dealing with trail development and recreational improvements. Using Chapter 3 as a baseline, Chapter 4 has been developed for the region to use as a guide for improving trails and recreation opportunities. The information contained in Chapter 3, backed by the supportive feedback from Chapter 2 and lead by the project priorities and objectives of Chapter 4 makes for a powerful document.

The shared vision for the Washington County Regional Trails and Recreation plan is that People across Washington County will cooperate to provide and maintain a recreational network that will continue to grow to serve more users in more ways for more of their lives. Chapter 4 provides a listing by jurisdiction or both short-term (high priority) actions as well as long-term actions to support and reach the region's vision. This guidance provides predictability and consistency over time, which encourages investment.

## Updating and Amending the Plan

We plan so that we can act and react in a changing world with a confident understanding of our common values and goals. Change is really the only constant in the world and the trails and recreation facilities, as well as the governmental units that champion them, will adapt. Many projects in Chapter 4 will be completed, some may not, some may change and some may be delayed. The actions steps/priority projects contain in this plan (Chapter 4) should be reviewed by the members communities and conservation department every year to assure that plan is current.

What will be more static over the coming years are the Goals, Objectives and Policies outlined in this plan. Proposals, opportunities and improvements that may not be listed as potential projects should still be reviewed to see if they meet the needs of the people of Washington County. If they are agreeable with the vision of this plan they could be pursued. It is the responsibility of all the jurisdictions to take ownership of this plan, leverage it to expand the region's trails and parks and in turn, improve quality of life.

## **Regional Collaboration**

### **Avoiding Waste**

When testing the potential of new types of facilities, it is recommended that a limited number be constructed in order to observe how they are used before committing to large scale development. Jurisdictions across the County should work to share information and use data. This approach will allow the region to move slowly and methodically toward meeting demand, thereby reducing the possibility of creating underused facilities with limited resources.

### **Adaptive & Inclusive Services**

In order to improve services for people with disabilities, opportunities should be explored to expand the County's role as the regional service provider for adaptive recreation services. This includes expanding adaptive program offerings in County recreation facilities, partnering with municipalities and other agencies, and studying various models for establishing County adaptive facilities.

### **Collaboration with School Districts**

Collaboration with School Districts School districts own and maintain many properties that contain park and recreation amenities that benefit Washington County residents. To some degree, these resources mitigate the statistical deficiencies for these amenities. Examples of recreation amenities provided by the school districts include children's playgrounds, gymnasiums, multipurpose sports fields, tennis courts, running tracks, and various other amenities. Providing public access to these facilities is a definite benefit to County residents, and there is a need to explore additional opportunities to increase the cooperative use of school district facilities to better meet current demand and leverage tax dollars.

The County and school districts should also explore the possibility of cooperatively planning and constructing sports facilities, which could benefit both while conserving resources. Washington County should work more closely with the school districts to identify additional opportunities and to achieve better equity in the sharing of costs and the use of facilities.

# FUNDING

This section summarizes the resources that the county and cities can use to fund the implementation and improvement of parks, athletic facilities, opens space and trails discussed previously.

## Maintenance and Operations Funding

Maintenance and operational expenses of the City, County and State parks are generally funded through taxes and user fees. As the park system grows and improves in Washington County the need for various jurisdictions to increase funding in order to meet basic maintenance and operational costs grows.

## Grant Funding

Grant are an essential source of funding for recreational improvements across the state. In Iowa, recreation improvements sometimes are jointly funded from general funds, users fees and grants. Grants are primarily provided competitively from foundations, donors, state and federal agencies. Washington County and the communities within are fortunate to have the Washington County Riverboat Foundation which has awarded millions to communities to complete improvements.

There are other options and well for funding improvements to consider as well. The table that starts below and continues onto the next page provides a list of public and private grants for parks and recreation projects available. More in-depth information on the grant and its requirements are provided on the agencies websites

Funding Program	Award Details and Requirements	Description/Eligible Projects	Application Due Date	Granting Agency
<b>Iowa Foundation for Parks and Recreation Mini Grant</b>	-1,000 dollars - Match of 50% -Population must be less than 10,000	-Must be used for park projects, recreation programs or events -Encourage small Iowa communities to enhance or add leisure facilities	- February 1st	Iowa Foundation for Parks and Recreation (Non-Profit)
<b>Washington County Riverboat Foundation - Competitive Fund</b>	-Match of 50%	-Special interested areas include: Community Development and Beautifications, Economic Development, Education and Arts, Human and Social Needs	-Fall -Spring	Washington County Riverboat Foundation

<b>Funding Program</b>	<b>Award Details and Requirements</b>	<b>Description/Eligible Projects</b>	<b>Application Due Date</b>	<b>Granting Agency</b>
<b>Land and Water Conservation Fund</b>	-50 % Local Match -Washington- 100,000 -Kalona, Riverside and Wellman - 75,000 -Ainsworth, Brighton and Keota - 50,000	Outdoor recreation projects such as but not limited to; shelters, swimming, camping and sight seeing facilities	March 15, application review will take place in April	Iowa Department of Natural Resources
<b>Recreational Trails Program - Federal Level</b>	-20 % match -Reimbursement program -Must be identified in further goal of the Iowa Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan	-Maintaining and restoration of trails -Development of trail heads and trail linkages -Construction of new trails -Acquisition of easements of property for trails	October 1 Review process is three months	Iowa Department of Transportation
<b>Recreational Trails Program - State Level</b>	25 % Match -County gov and local gov are eligible	-Involve a public use trail -Proposed trails must be part of a local, area -wide or regional plan -Route shall be designated for scenic view and historical points	July 1st Review Process is three months	Iowa Department of Transportation
<b>Resource Enhancement Protection (REAP)</b>	-Washington Maximum- 100,000 -Kalona, Riverside, and Wellman Maximum- 75,000 -Anisworth, Brighton and Keota Maximum - 50,000	-100 Percent funding of parkland expansion and multi-purpose outdoor-related recreation development -	- August 15 - Review is early September - Applicants must attend a review session to answer questions for the review committee	- Iowa Department of Natural Resources
<b>Community Attraction and Tourism (CAT) Program</b>	-20 Percent of the total project costs -50 Percent match commitment -No more than 50% of the project costs can be from state sources	-Funding provided to assist communities in the development and creation of multi-purpose attraction or tourism facilities -Eligible project - Recreation Trails	- Accepted quarterly - January, April, July, October	Iowa Economic Development Authority, Enhance Iowa
<b>Keep Iowa Beautiful</b>	-5,000 dollar maximum -No match required, but suggested - Population under 5,000	-Funding provided for community beautification and enhancement projects - Litter prevention, removal, implementation - Flower or tree planting	-March 20 -Announced April 24th	Keep Iowa Beautiful (Non-Profit)

## Resources

Funding Source	Website
<b>Iowa Foundation for Parks and Recreation Mini Grant</b>	<a href="https://www.iapra.org/foundation.htm">https://www.iapra.org/foundation.htm</a>
<b>Washington County Riverboat Foundation- Competitive Fund</b>	<a href="http://www.washingtoncountyriverboat-foundation.org/">http://www.washingtoncountyriverboat-foundation.org/</a>
<b>Land and Water Conservation Fund (Iowa DNR)</b>	<a href="https://www.iowadnr.gov/About-DNR/Grants-Other-Funding/Land-Water-Conservation-Fund">https://www.iowadnr.gov/About-DNR/Grants-Other-Funding/Land-Water-Conservation-Fund</a>
<b>Recreational Trails Program (Federal Level)</b>	<a href="https://www.transportation.gov/Grants">https://www.transportation.gov/Grants</a>
<b>Recreational Trails Program (State Level)</b>	<a href="https://iowadot.gov/pol_leg_services/funding-guide">https://iowadot.gov/pol_leg_services/funding-guide</a>
<b>Resource Enhancement Protection</b>	<a href="https://www.iowadnr.gov/Conservation/REAP/REAP-Funding-at-Work/City-Parks-Open-Spaces">https://www.iowadnr.gov/Conservation/REAP/REAP-Funding-at-Work/City-Parks-Open-Spaces</a>
<b>Community Attraction and Tourism Program (CAT)</b>	<a href="https://www.iowaeconomicdevelopment.com/userdocs/documents/ieda/catapplication.pdf">https://www.iowaeconomicdevelopment.com/userdocs/documents/ieda/catapplication.pdf</a>
<b>Keep Iowa Beautiful</b>	<a href="https://keepiowabeautiful.com/grants-awards/kib-awards/">https://keepiowabeautiful.com/grants-awards/kib-awards/</a>

### Community Fund-Raising and Volunteer Groups

Community groups and civic organizations in the area are sometimes willing to organize fund-raising efforts to assist with parks and recreation costs. They also might be able to gather volunteers to assist with labor on small projects such as play ground installations or park clean up. Another place to look is the older age group schools, many students are often looking for volunteer hours. Local business and corporate support should also be sought, as improvements to the communities where they are located is economically beneficial to them. These different organizations can be awarded for their help and support with acknowledgment on a plaque or sign at the site.

### 501(C)3 Foundations

Jurisdictions can set up an endowment fund as an additional means of providing continual financial support for park, open space and trail acquisition, development, redevelopment and improvement. This fund would work like a savings account, the amount individuals give is never spent. Only the interest income, thereby providing a continual source of funds. A park endowment fund can provide a means for residents to either commit a one time donation or give ongoing donations to the park system. There is a certainty that this money will only be used for the advancement of the areas recreation. Gifts to an endowment fund are generally tax deductible under federal and state law.

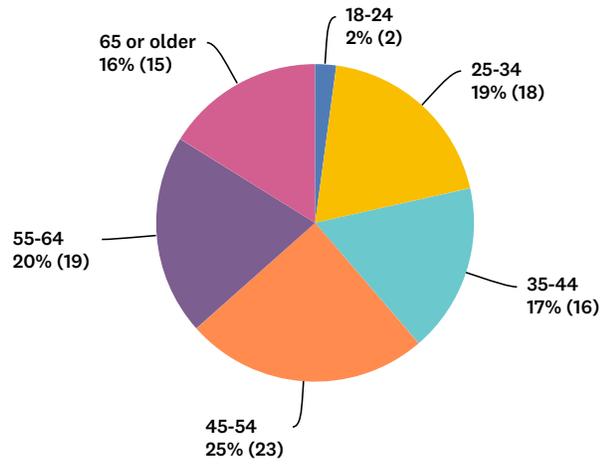
# APPENDIX

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Washington County Regional Trails & Recreation Plan Survey

### Q1 What is your age?

Answered: 93 Skipped: 0

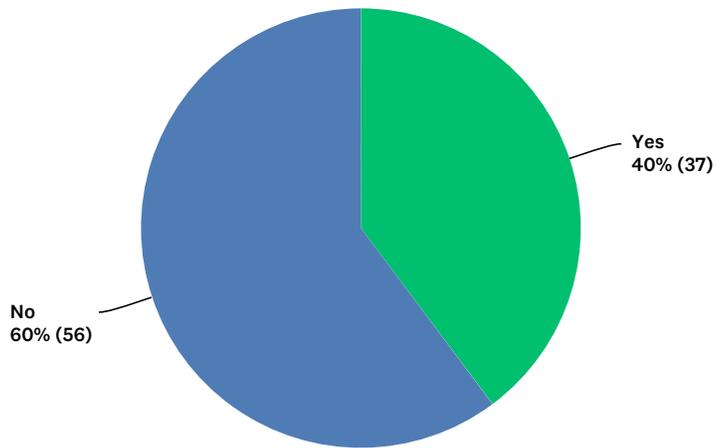


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Washington County Regional Trails & Recreation Plan Survey

Q2 Do you have any children living in your home that are under the age of 18?

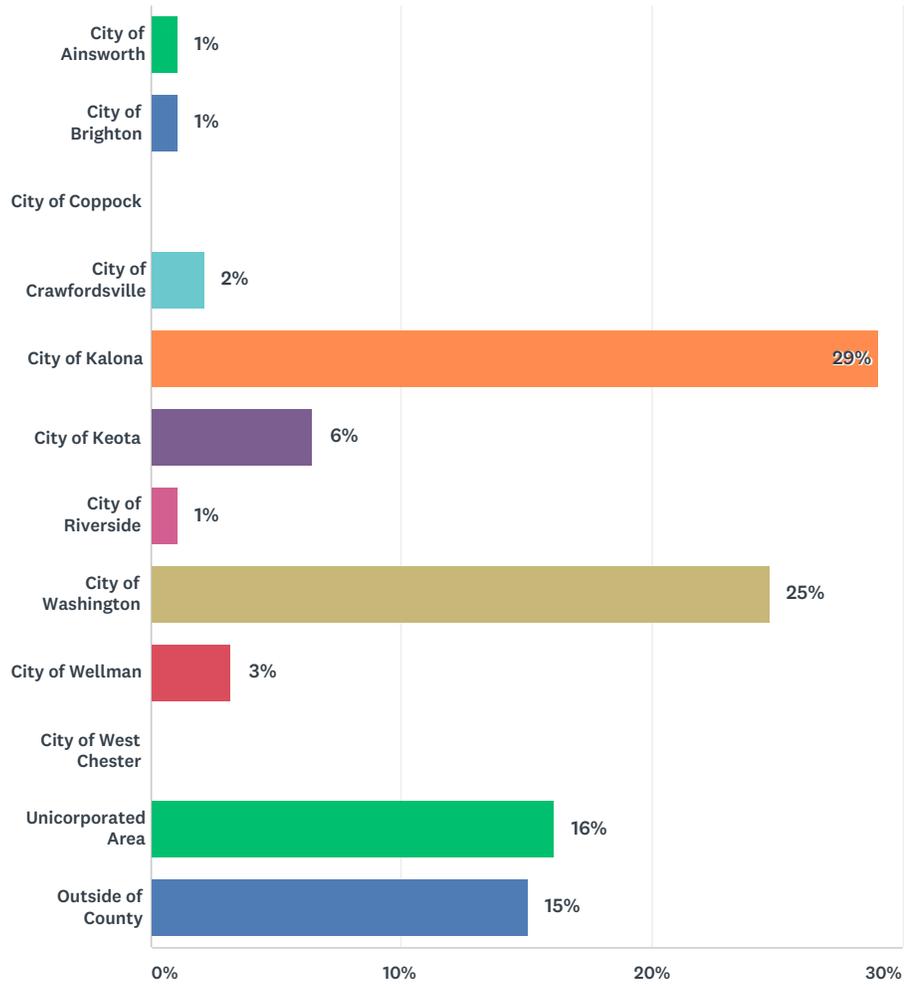
Answered: 93 Skipped: 0



Washington County Regional Trails & Recreation Plan Survey

### Q3 Where do you live?

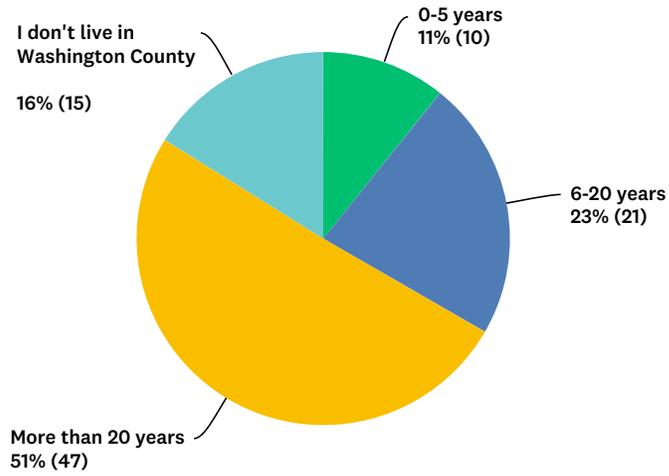
Answered: 93 Skipped: 0



Washington County Regional Trails & Recreation Plan Survey

Q4 How long have you lived in Washington County?

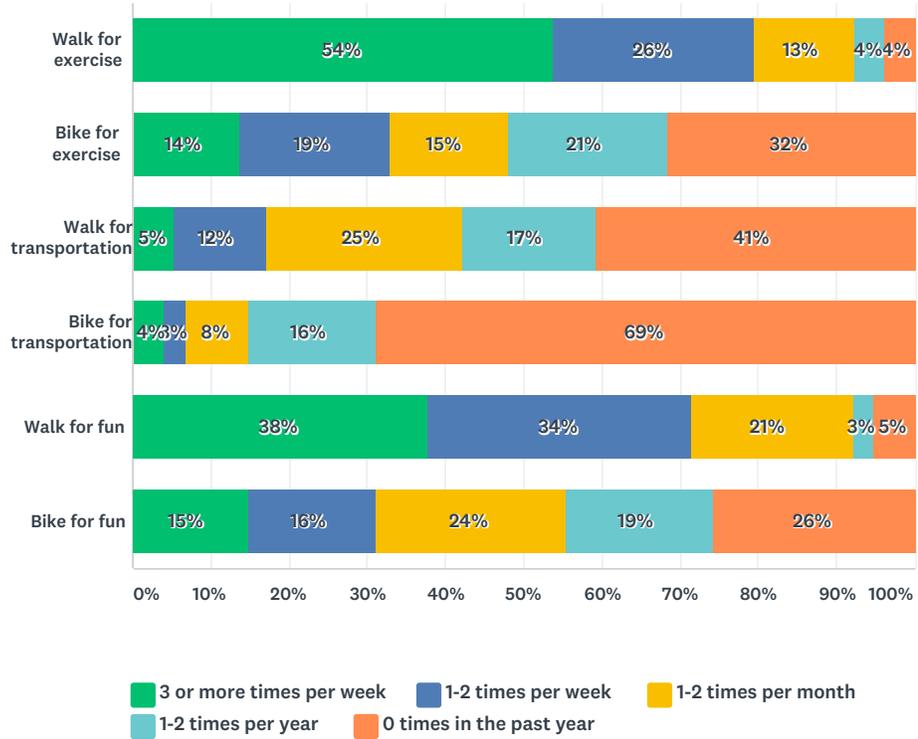
Answered: 93 Skipped: 0



Washington County Regional Trails & Recreation Plan Survey

Q5 How often do you....

Answered: 81 Skipped: 12



Washington County Regional Trails & Recreation Plan Survey

**Q6 Name a specific location or destination in the region that needs to be improved for bicycle or pedestrian safety.**

Answered: 50 Skipped: 43

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Along roads/routes to schools	8/6/2018 10:13 AM
2	north side of Washington	8/4/2018 9:44 AM
3	Highways	7/10/2018 4:10 PM
4	Crossing highway to kewash trailhead	7/1/2018 10:11 PM
5	In general sidewalks. Kewash trail could use some improvements like shelters etc....to make it more friendly for family to walk it/jog with small children in strollers.	6/27/2018 12:02 AM
6	I feel the entire county needs bike trails. We use Ainsworth and have also used trail in Washington, but so many other communities have wonderful trails. In the summer, we more often bike in other counties because of the trails.	3/24/2018 12:38 PM
7	A route from Washington to Kalona, Washington to Ainsworth, and have the Wayland Road shoulders fully paved from Washington to Wayland.	3/21/2018 10:45 AM
8	Highway 1 from Washington to Kalona Highway 22 Wellman to Kalona	3/20/2018 5:21 PM
9	Connections between cities, especially Wellman to Kalona to Riverside. Established trails to/from the city of Washington and the northern part of the county.	3/19/2018 10:00 PM
10	I think it maybe an interesting concept including/connecting a couple of the independent living senior facilities like the UP Home and Halcyon House. Often senior citizens are not included in trail needs. Another option maybe to allow senior citizens to ride electrified scooters on the trails. Add charging stations. Cameras and solar lighting.	3/19/2018 8:26 PM
11	I would love to see county road g36 and hwy 22 have more accommodations for cyclists. Hwy 1, riverside road, ginkgo ave, and old hwy 218 are all great for cycling, but there are not really safe connections between. If g36 and hwy 22 were safer for cyclists, it would be easy to create a "loop" for cycling rather than just going out and back on one of the bike friendly roads.	3/19/2018 2:08 PM
12	Kewash trail needs improvement from West Chester to Keota. Wish the Marr Park trail was longer.	3/19/2018 7:57 AM
13	Northern Wash Co around Riverside, Kalona, and WeLlman. Both future eater and land trails would provide safer access and recreational opportunities.	3/18/2018 6:30 AM
14	Hwy 1 in Washington	3/17/2018 12:10 PM
15	Town of Washington. There is nowhere to walk, run or ride for any distance (6+ miles) that feels safe. Kewash trail is too rough, not taken care of, and inconsistent when the weather is bad. I have to go to other towns to find a good trail system.	3/17/2018 9:24 AM
16	Connection Washington County trails to Johnson County trials via Hwy 22 or Riverside Trail to Vine Ave. One of the most traveled areas with a very short distance for bike and vehicle safety. Along with this a walk/bike crossing on Hwy 22 in Riverside..very much a safety issue for bikers, walkers and school children	3/17/2018 9:10 AM
17	KE WASH	3/16/2018 2:56 PM
18	On-road bike trails are dangerous because of vehicle speed, texting, phone use, just plain carelessness and drivers who don't like to see bicycles on their roadway.	3/16/2018 10:50 AM
19	The northern cities	3/15/2018 8:28 PM
20	Walmart,Kirkwood/transitional housing	3/15/2018 9:23 AM
21	Walmart,Kirkwood	3/15/2018 9:15 AM
22	Kewash nature trail	3/14/2018 3:32 PM

## Washington County Regional Trails & Recreation Plan Survey

23	east side of city of Washington; no bicycle path to Walmart; only two streets cross the railroad tracks; no bicycle paths on north side of city	3/13/2018 5:16 PM
24	Kewash Nature Trail. It often seems neglected.	3/13/2018 2:41 PM
25	Unsure	3/13/2018 2:14 PM
26	Riverside	3/10/2018 9:53 PM
27	Kewash trail	3/8/2018 9:57 AM
28	All of the shared roadway trails are of concern to me regarding user safety.l	3/7/2018 7:30 AM
29	Connect the communities together with trails. Wellman needs a safe path from the town to the high school and from the YMCA to the high school.	3/2/2018 2:08 PM
30	Kalona city park	3/2/2018 12:07 PM
31	Looking for Equestrian trails	2/28/2018 9:14 AM
32	Trail from Kalona to Richmond/Bunker Mill Bridge	2/27/2018 5:39 PM
33	Interested in equestrian trails	2/27/2018 9:01 AM
34	n/a	2/26/2018 9:37 PM
35	Downtown Kalona	12/3/2017 8:20 AM
36	Highways 1 & 22.	12/3/2017 8:11 AM
37	J Ave	12/2/2017 11:34 PM
38	North marion	11/30/2017 3:55 PM
39	Northern Washington county	11/30/2017 7:37 AM
40	Crossing 22 in Kalona to reach the city park. There are no county parks in the north part of the county!!!	11/30/2017 4:57 AM
41	Kewash trail. Make it paved so safer for road bikes. Hwy 22 and Washington/riverside road	11/29/2017 10:27 PM
42	Washington/Riverside Road and Hwy 22	11/29/2017 10:24 PM
43	Kalona area Kalona area	11/29/2017 10:07 PM
44	Hwy 22 from Welman to Riverside, especially within Kalona city limits	11/29/2017 9:34 PM
45	Crawfordsville	11/29/2017 8:47 PM
46	Kalona	11/29/2017 8:29 PM
47	I think that having more lit up signage where the kewash crosses 1/92 by the Hometown Inn and Suites would be helpful	11/29/2017 4:24 PM
48	We don't have any good places to bike in the first place. There are no paved bike trails in the county and highways are very unsafe. No good shoulders and traffic tends to be unfriendly to bicyclists.	11/29/2017 2:50 PM
49	Kalona and Riverside	11/29/2017 1:50 PM
50	The ball fields and mini park at the Washington Football complex.	11/29/2017 9:23 AM

Washington County Regional Trails & Recreation Plan Survey

Q7 Where would you prioritize the location of new bike facilities, routes, or trails?

Answered: 58 Skipped: 35

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	I would like to see trails incorporated at the new wellness park.	8/6/2018 10:13 AM
2	near schools	8/4/2018 9:44 AM
3	Northern Washington county	7/10/2018 4:10 PM
4	Very high	7/1/2018 10:11 PM
5	Kewash trail between Keota and Washington.	6/27/2018 12:02 AM
6	I think there needs to be a comprehensive plan for a large county-wide trail. It can connect businesses in the smaller towns, and provide an additional income source for them.	3/24/2018 12:38 PM
7	Washington to Kalona, Washington to Ainsworth	3/21/2018 10:45 AM
8	Kalona	3/20/2018 5:21 PM
9	Connecting the various towns. Also a good connection from Kalona to Iowa City/Johnson County would draw traffic down into Washington county!	3/19/2018 10:00 PM
10	I think it would be nice to include a couple shopping outlets.	3/19/2018 8:26 PM
11	Creating these loops between hwy 1, g36, hwy 22, and old 218 could benefit cyclists from several towns in our county including Washington, Kalona, Wellman and Riverside (West Chester would be part of the loop as well, via the Kewash Trail).	3/19/2018 2:08 PM
12	I would love a trail from Marr Park to Washington. I would bike to work, to the store etc if that were available.	3/19/2018 7:57 AM
13	The future bike trail around Riverside and to Kalona. My family and friends would really love this and use it. Cyclists from the area would have a safer way to bike from Iowa City through upper Washington County. Might help Riverside and Kalona food and other businesses.	3/18/2018 6:30 AM
14	from Brighton to Lake Darling	3/17/2018 12:10 PM
15	Anywhere between Riverside, Ainsworth, Kalona and Washington. A system that would connect the towns. Need to have place where we don't have to stop for traffic or run in the street. I train for marathons.	3/17/2018 9:24 AM
16	Safety issues on Hwy 22 prevents many bikers using this method of transportation for work, stores, restaurants, and school.	3/17/2018 9:10 AM
17	Ke Wash	3/16/2018 2:56 PM
18	Any off-road trail location	3/16/2018 10:50 AM
19	The northern end of the county.	3/15/2018 8:28 PM
20	To Marr Park	3/15/2018 9:23 AM
21	Marr Park from Washington	3/15/2018 9:15 AM
22	Connect Marr Park and the Kewash trails	3/14/2018 4:37 PM
23	Kewash nature trail paving	3/14/2018 3:32 PM
24	I would like to see the focus on making the trail routes along side river and creeks if all possible. Then use them to interconnect with our state parks and local towns as a "gateway" to these trails. It would be great to see in the future if we can make the trail a giant loop around the whole county and maybe connect with the Iowa City trails. That may encourage Johnson Co. residents to visit our smaller towns as they ride through increasing our exposure.	3/13/2018 10:09 PM
25	as above, the city of Washington needs a comprehensive bicycle path plan	3/13/2018 5:16 PM

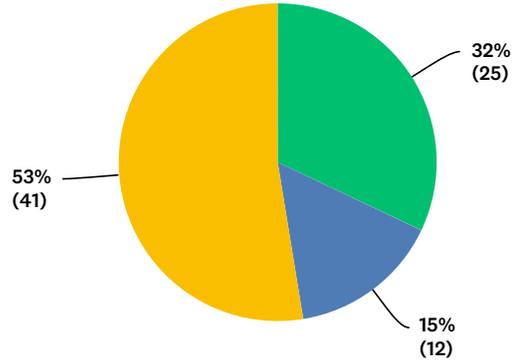
## Washington County Regional Trails & Recreation Plan Survey

26	Any off road locations/routes. On road bike trails don't feel safe.	3/13/2018 2:41 PM
27	Unsure	3/13/2018 2:14 PM
28	Riverside	3/10/2018 9:53 PM
29	Any where people are already traveling and need a safe place off main roads (designating a road as a "trail", in my opinion, is one of signage only and changes nothing. If along the road, there should be better markings and a riding path, otherwise, it is just like every other road).	3/7/2018 12:07 PM
30	Within existing parks with trails. In immediate proximity to each significant town.	3/7/2018 7:30 AM
31	Lake Darling. I live 8 miles away on secondary roads which are not safe for bicycles so I drive there to hike or ride my bike.	3/2/2018 7:33 PM
32	Connecting the communities together with a safe trail.	3/2/2018 2:08 PM
33	Lake Darling State Park	3/2/2018 12:07 PM
34	Trails connecting to the kalona park	3/2/2018 12:01 PM
35	Looking for Equestrian trails	2/28/2018 9:14 AM
36	Need more equestrian trails	2/27/2018 9:01 AM
37	Equestrian Trails in natural areas	2/26/2018 9:37 PM
38	Kalona to Richmond	12/3/2017 9:52 AM
39	In the center of the county	12/3/2017 8:20 AM
40	Trails to connect cities within the county.	12/3/2017 8:11 AM
41	North to Sharon center from kalona	12/2/2017 11:34 PM
42	Kalona area	12/2/2017 11:32 PM
43	Low	11/30/2017 3:55 PM
44	Kalona	11/30/2017 7:37 AM
45	In the North part of the county. There is nothing!!	11/30/2017 4:57 AM
46	Wellman to Kalona to Riverside	11/29/2017 10:27 PM
47	Wellman to Kalona to Riverside etc	11/29/2017 10:24 PM
48	Kalona area	11/29/2017 10:07 PM
49	In the north part of the county where we have NO county park!!!	11/29/2017 9:34 PM
50	Not sure	11/29/2017 8:47 PM
51	A place that's not along side the highway	11/29/2017 8:29 PM
52	kalona to golf course, kalona to sunset hills	11/29/2017 6:25 PM
53	In Kalona	11/29/2017 5:45 PM
54	I would pave further on the kewash from washington to west chester	11/29/2017 4:24 PM
55	Kalona	11/29/2017 2:56 PM
56	Kalona to Wellman to Washington.	11/29/2017 2:50 PM
57	Bike trail from Kalona to Riverside	11/29/2017 1:50 PM
58	Washington municipal area.	11/29/2017 9:23 AM

Washington County Regional Trails & Recreation Plan Survey

Q8 How close is the nearest park or trail to your home?

Answered: 78 Skipped: 15

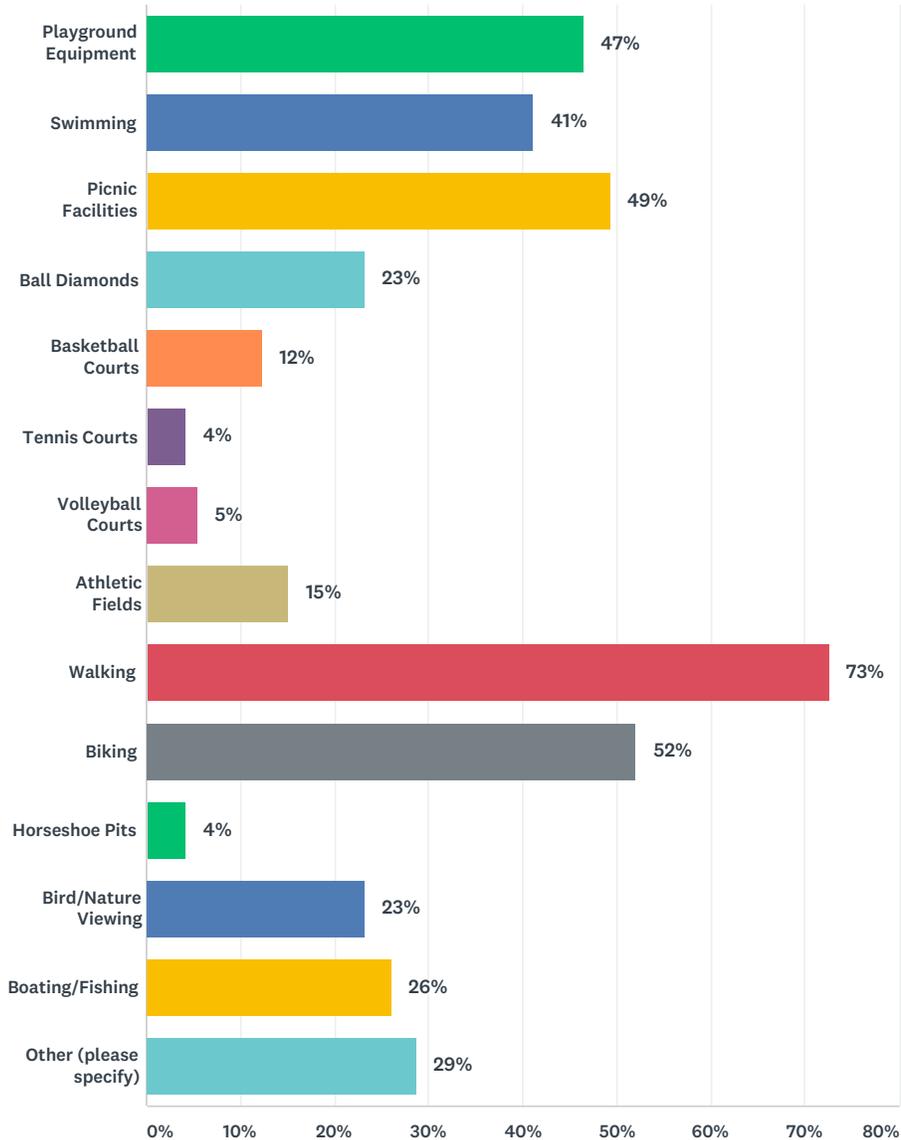


- Within reasonable walking and biking distance
- Within reasonable biking distance, but not walking distance
- I have to drive

Washington County Regional Trails & Recreation Plan Survey

Q9 When visiting the region's parks, which activities or facilities do you or members of your household most commonly participate in or use? Check all that apply.

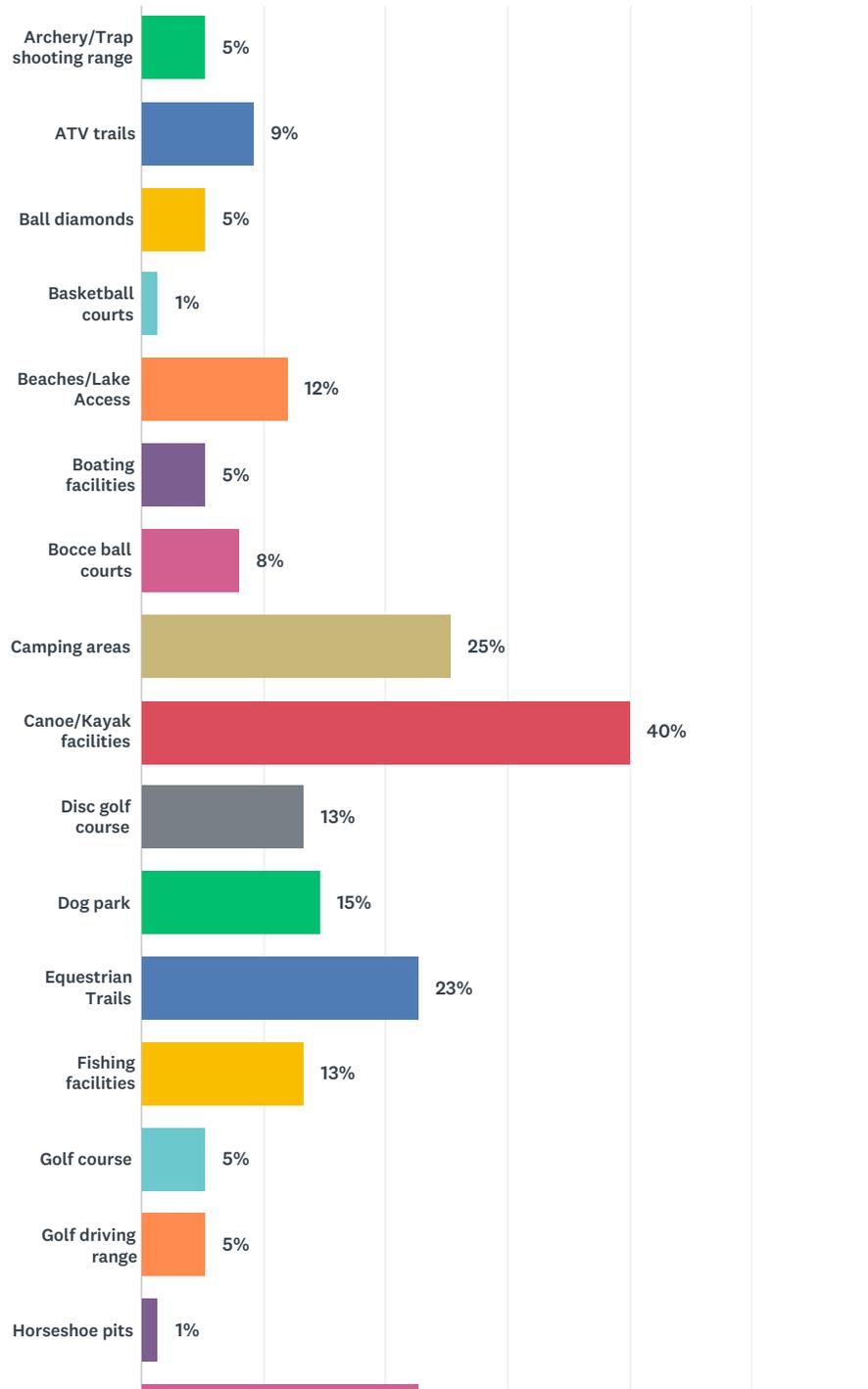
Answered: 73 Skipped: 20



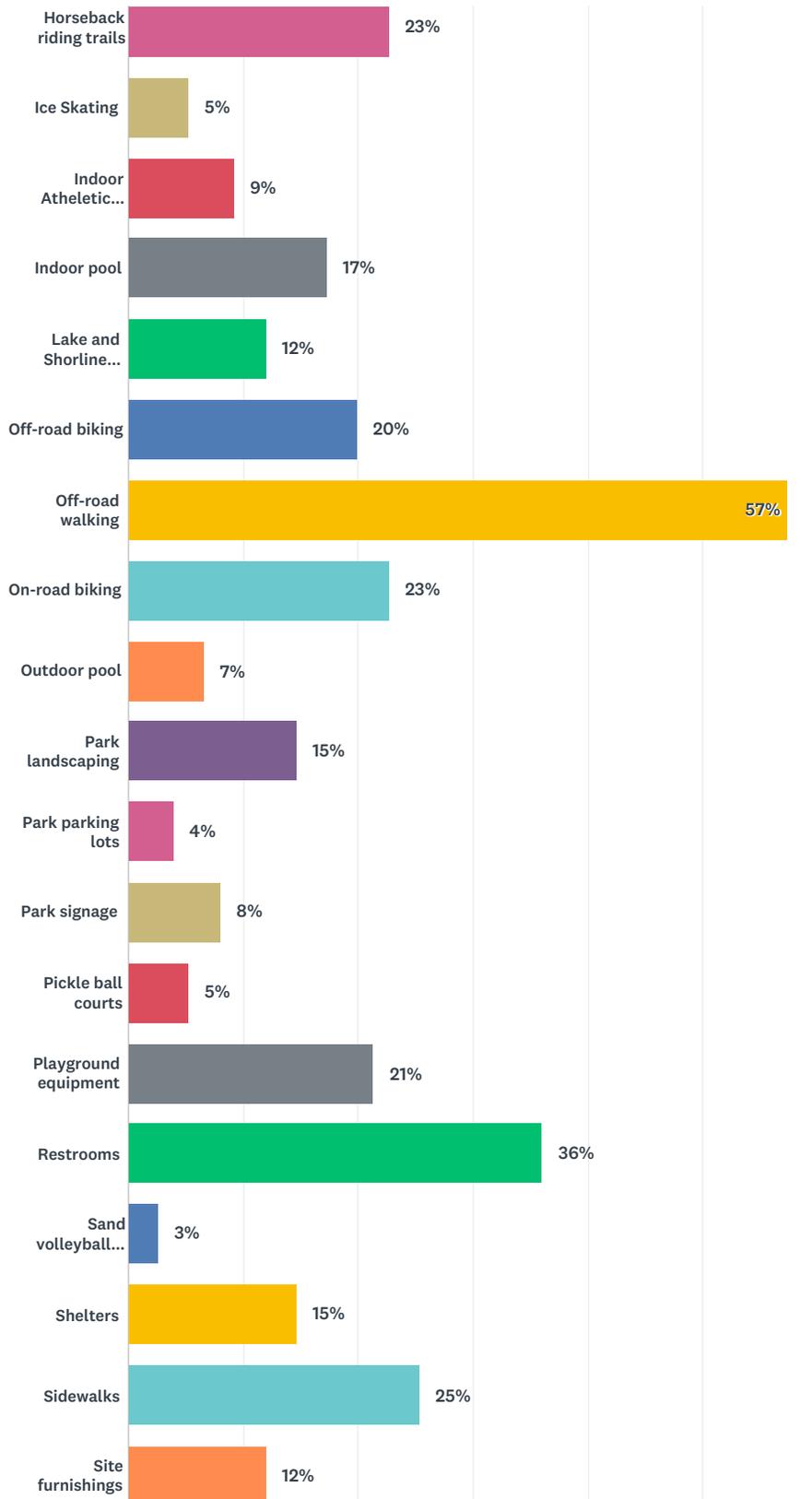
Washington County Regional Trails & Recreation Plan Survey

Q10 Which of the following amenities would you like to be added, improved or expanded within the region? Mark up to 6 preferences.

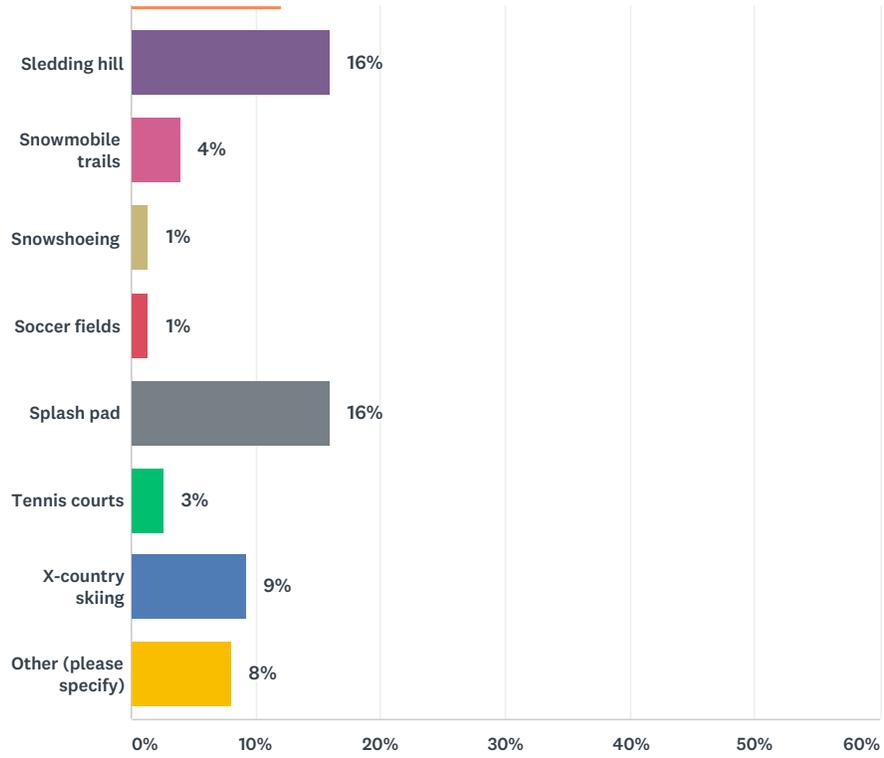
Answered: 75 Skipped: 18



### Washington County Regional Trails & Recreation Plan Survey



### Washington County Regional Trails & Recreation Plan Survey



Washington County Regional Trails & Recreation Plan Survey

Q11 What is your favorite park to visit in the region?

Answered: 61 Skipped: 32

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Lake Darling	8/6/2018 10:16 AM
2	Lake Darling	8/4/2018 9:49 AM
3	Lake Darling	7/10/2018 4:11 PM
4	Keota city park	7/1/2018 10:17 PM
5	Mer park in Ainsworth	6/27/2018 12:05 AM
6	Marr Park	3/24/2018 12:39 PM
7	Marr Park	3/21/2018 10:47 AM
8	Marr Park	3/20/2018 5:23 PM
9	Lacey Keosaqua state park; Palisades; Terry Trueblood, Lake Darling	3/19/2018 10:04 PM
10	Lake Darling	3/19/2018 8:30 PM
11	Sunset Park	3/19/2018 2:11 PM
12	Lake Darling	3/19/2018 7:59 AM
13	Railroad Park in Riverside	3/18/2018 6:35 AM
14	Lake Darling	3/17/2018 12:14 PM
15	Lake Darling	3/17/2018 9:31 AM
16	Riverside Park then Marr Park	3/17/2018 9:15 AM
17	Sunset	3/16/2018 2:58 PM
18	Kewash Trail	3/16/2018 10:50 AM
19	Kalona city park	3/15/2018 8:35 PM
20	Fern Cliff	3/15/2018 9:26 AM
21	Fernando Cliff	3/15/2018 9:20 AM
22	Kewash nature trail	3/14/2018 3:38 PM
23	Lake Darling	3/13/2018 10:14 PM
24	Washington Central Park	3/13/2018 5:18 PM
25	Kewash Nature Trail	3/13/2018 2:44 PM
26	Lake Darling	3/13/2018 2:18 PM
27	Belva Deer Park	3/8/2018 10:01 AM
28	Hayes Timber	3/7/2018 12:12 PM
29	Multiple Different Parks	3/7/2018 7:33 AM
30	Lake Darling	3/2/2018 7:36 PM
31	Kewash Trail	3/2/2018 2:10 PM
32	Lake Darling State Park	3/2/2018 12:10 PM
33	Terry trueblood	3/2/2018 12:03 PM
34	Briton Timber	2/28/2018 9:17 AM
35	Brinton Timber	2/27/2018 9:55 PM

## Washington County Regional Trails & Recreation Plan Survey

36	Briton timbers	2/27/2018 8:41 PM
37	Brinton Timber	2/27/2018 6:51 PM
38	Lake Darling State Park	2/27/2018 5:42 PM
39	Brinton Timber	2/27/2018 11:21 AM
40	Britton Timber	2/27/2018 9:04 AM
41	Brinton Timber	2/27/2018 9:00 AM
42	Britton Timber	2/27/2018 7:28 AM
43	Brinton Timber	2/27/2018 7:14 AM
44	Brinton timber	2/26/2018 11:03 PM
45	Brinton Timber	2/26/2018 9:40 PM
46	Kalona	12/3/2017 9:54 AM
47	Lake Darling	12/3/2017 8:22 AM
48	Kalona City Park	12/3/2017 8:22 AM
49	Sunset	11/30/2017 4:00 PM
50	Kalona Park	11/30/2017 5:32 AM
51	Marr Park...but we don't go often due to distance.	11/30/2017 5:02 AM
52	Kalona Park	11/29/2017 10:29 PM
53	Coralville Lake	11/29/2017 10:12 PM
54	Only close park is Kalona City park. No county park in north part of county.	11/29/2017 9:38 PM
55	Lake Darling	11/29/2017 8:50 PM
56	Sun set	11/29/2017 8:33 PM
57	Lake Darling	11/29/2017 5:49 PM
58	1. Sunset 2. West Chester 3. Redlinger	11/29/2017 4:38 PM
59	None in Washington County.	11/29/2017 2:51 PM
60	Riverside or Kalona	11/29/2017 1:52 PM
61	Lake Darling	11/29/2017 9:27 AM

Washington County Regional Trails & Recreation Plan Survey

Q12 Why is this park your favorite park to visit in the region and why?

Answered: 60 Skipped: 33

	RESPONSES	DATE
	The diversity of recreational options.	8/6/2018 10:16 AM
1	It's nice for a drive and to look at wildlife or get out and walk around a bit	8/4/2018 9:49 AM
2	Nice lake and good trails	7/10/2018 4:11 PM
3	Close to home. My children play softball there.	7/1/2018 10:17 PM
4	Closest by besides Belvedere/Lake Darling.	6/27/2018 12:05 AM
5	The newer trails	3/24/2018 12:39 PM
6	I like the trails that surround it.	3/21/2018 10:47 AM
7	Closeness to my house and multiple camping boating/fishing/walking opportunit	3/20/2018 5:23 PM
8	Trails for walking, running and biking. Also kayaking and fishing.	3/19/2018 10:04 PM
9	Beach Kayaking Canoeing Bbq Trails	3/19/2018 8:30 PM
10	Great playground for the kids, disc golf course, close to trail system, pool. Very well maintained and visually appealing.	3/19/2018 2:11 PM
11	There have been so many improvements over the last several years. Nice to see what's all happening.	3/19/2018 7:59 AM
12	Because it is within walking distance of home, is near the bike path, has playground & restroom. We would visit Hall Park more of the river access was improved. Most of the year it is weedy and overgrown. I wish they would make a decent river access area and landscape with native plants.	3/18/2018 6:35 AM
13	quiet and the various walking and biking trails	3/17/2018 12:14 PM
14	Paved path	3/17/2018 9:31 AM
15	RP it is close and offers a variety of options. MP for camping, biking and larger shelters.	3/17/2018 9:15 AM
16	Walk and take family to play area s	3/16/2018 2:58 PM
17	Like to bike off-road.	3/16/2018 10:50 AM
18	It's closer to my home, it has ball fields, pool, playground equipment, and shelters.	3/15/2018 8:35 PM
19	Creek,hill,hiking,view,several levels,quiet	3/15/2018 9:26 AM
20	Quiet,great view,several levels,Crooked Creek	3/15/2018 9:20 AM
21	It is very beautiful with all the shade and vegetation and I enjoy biking.	3/14/2018 3:38 PM
22	It's been a nice place to walk and have a family event without being exposed to a highway.	3/13/2018 10:14 PM
23	Farmer's market, near library, and downtown	3/13/2018 5:18 PM
24	Love biking and walking. Being able to do that in rural natural setting.	3/13/2018 2:44 PM
25	There is a lot of space and it is spread out so you don't have to be around a lot of people.	3/13/2018 2:18 PM
26	Cause of the lake and amenities and how nice its kept	3/8/2018 10:01 AM
27	conveniently located and a rather nice timber area for its small size	3/7/2018 12:12 PM
28	Any of them with more remote fishing opportunities	3/7/2018 7:33 AM
29	Because it's beautiful, and the effort that is being done to improve it just make it more appealing.	3/2/2018 7:36 PM
30	Only trail close by for running or biking	3/2/2018 2:10 PM
31	It has the most to offer	3/2/2018 12:10 PM

## Washington County Regional Trails & Recreation Plan Survey

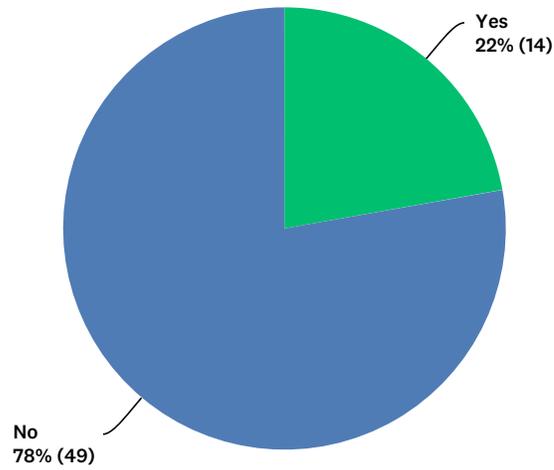
33	Close to nature but modern amenities	3/2/2018 12:03 PM
34	It has Equestrian facilities	2/28/2018 9:17 AM
35	It has lovely, well cared-for trails for horseback riding or walking.	2/27/2018 9:55 PM
36	Horseback riding	2/27/2018 8:41 PM
37	Lovely horse trails to ride.	2/27/2018 6:51 PM
38	Close by, and very beautiful	2/27/2018 5:42 PM
39	nearby (I live near Trenton, Henry County), natural setting, equestrian trails and hitching rails, would like a picnic table	2/27/2018 11:21 AM
40	Very nice equestrian trails and within an hour from home	2/27/2018 9:04 AM
41	Has horseback riding trails and camping	2/27/2018 9:00 AM
42	We love to ride our horses and be out in nature. This park is beautiful with lots of wildlife. We enjoy going with our 4h club and friends on trail rides throughout the year.	2/27/2018 7:28 AM
43	The horse trails with beautiful scenery. I like that the trails are semi challenging and not over groomed. The fact that Hunters are not allowed in the Timber makes it feel safer & more enjoyable. I have ridden at Volga & Pleasant Creek and passed hunters who were not friendly. I greet everyone I meet on the trails for safety & to be friendly.	2/27/2018 7:14 AM
44	Live the equestrian trail.	2/26/2018 11:03 PM
45	It's beauty and rock outcroppings, plus the ability to ride our horses in the timber.	2/26/2018 9:40 PM
46	Closest to home	12/3/2017 9:54 AM
47	Great trails	12/3/2017 8:22 AM
48	It has many great activities (baseball/softball, basketball, swimming, tennis, playground equipment, etc.), all in one convenient area. And it's not run down.	12/3/2017 8:22 AM
49	Quiet and family oriented.	11/30/2017 4:00 PM
50	location	11/30/2017 5:32 AM
51	We like the nature and trails.	11/30/2017 5:02 AM
52	Location	11/29/2017 10:29 PM
53	Camping and boating	11/29/2017 10:12 PM
54	See 11.	11/29/2017 9:38 PM
55	It has lots to do. Nice facilities	11/29/2017 8:50 PM
56	Has the better play equipment for the kids	11/29/2017 8:33 PM
57	Because of the fishing and kayaking and paved walking/biking trails.	11/29/2017 5:49 PM
58	Sunset - Multiple playground offerings so we can spend more time there, plus there is room to walk while kids play. West Chester because it's shaded and we usually have it to ourselves. Redlinger Field Park because the equipment is low to the ground for our younger children.	11/29/2017 4:38 PM
59	Nice playground at both, also Kalona pool	11/29/2017 1:52 PM
60	The variety of outdoor recreation facilities	11/29/2017 9:27 AM

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Washington County Regional Trails & Recreation Plan Survey

Q13 Do you have any concerns about safety or accessibility in any of the region's park and if so why?

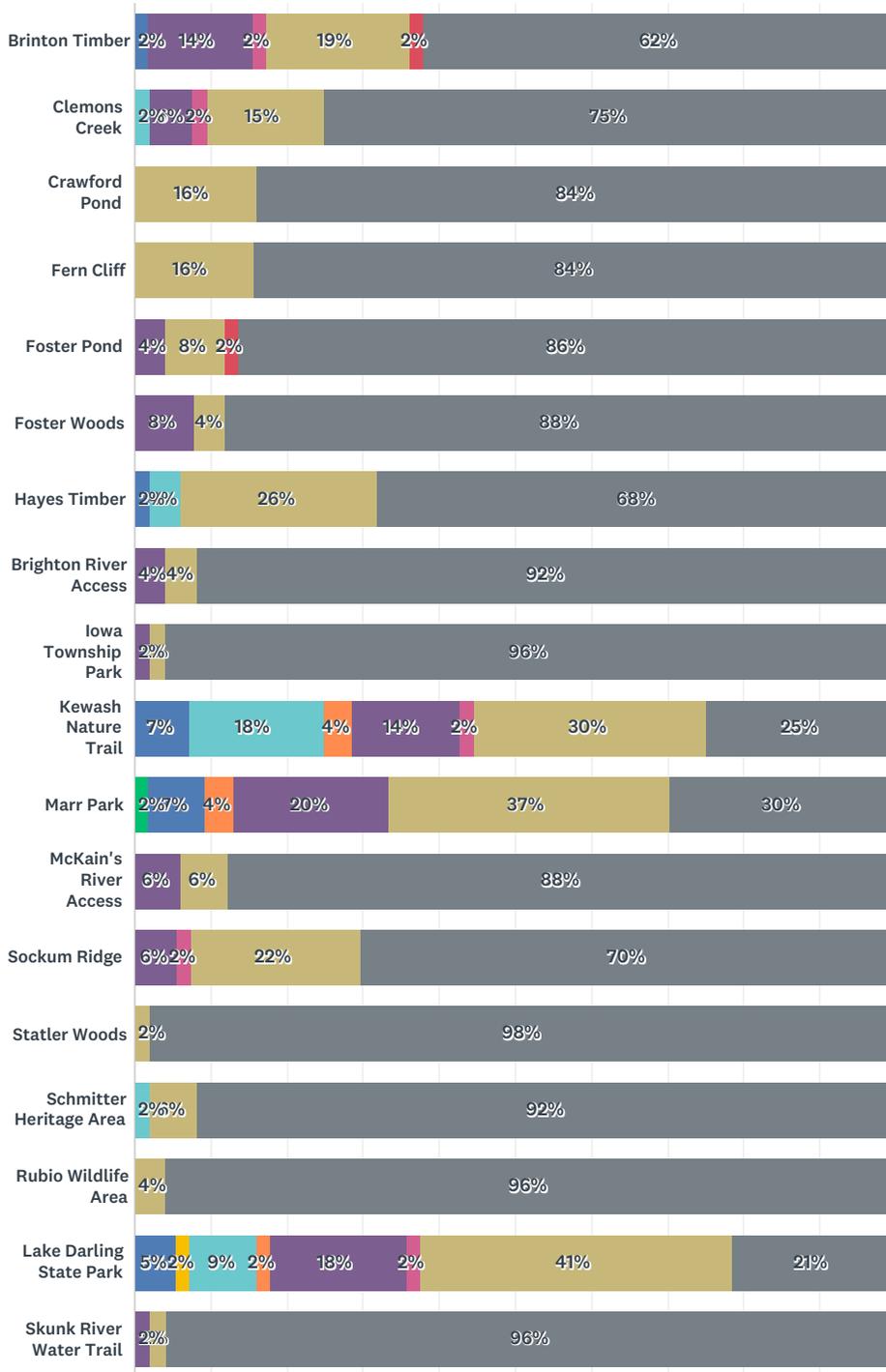
Answered: 63 Skipped: 30



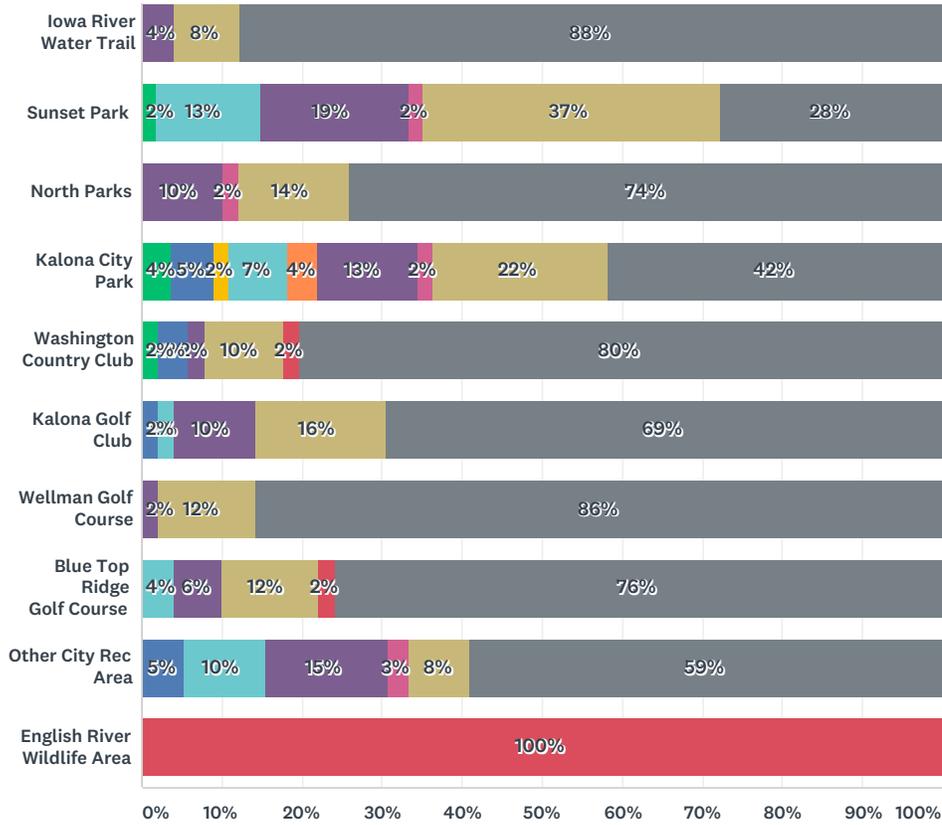
Washington County Regional Trails & Recreation Plan Survey

Q14 Excluding the winter months or season closures, how often do you or members of your household visit or use...?

Answered: 69 Skipped: 24



### Washington County Regional Trails & Recreation Plan Survey



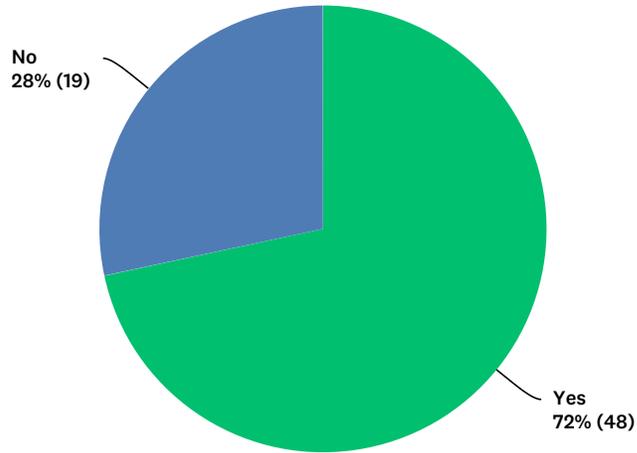
■ 1-2 times per week    ■ 3 or more times per week    ■ 3 or more times per week  
■ 1-2 times per week    ■ 1-2 times per month    ■ 1-2 times per month  
■ 1-2 times per year    ■ 1-2 times per year    ■ 0 times in the past year  
■ 0 times in the past year

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Washington County Regional Trails & Recreation Plan Survey

Q15 Do you or members of your household commonly (an average of at least once per month) drive somewhere outside of Washington County to use specific recreational facilities?

Answered: 67 Skipped: 26

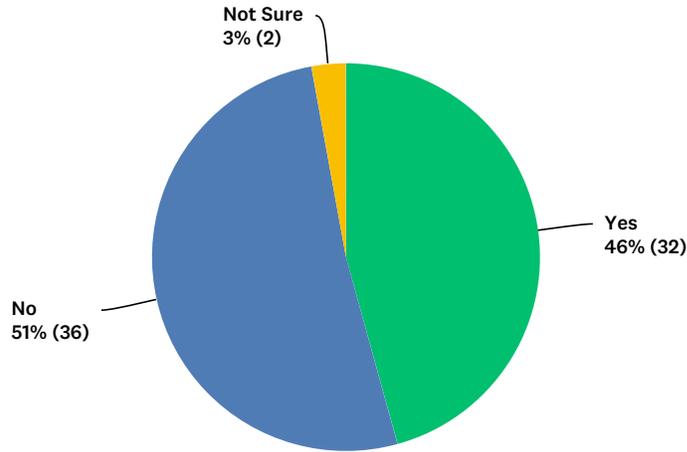


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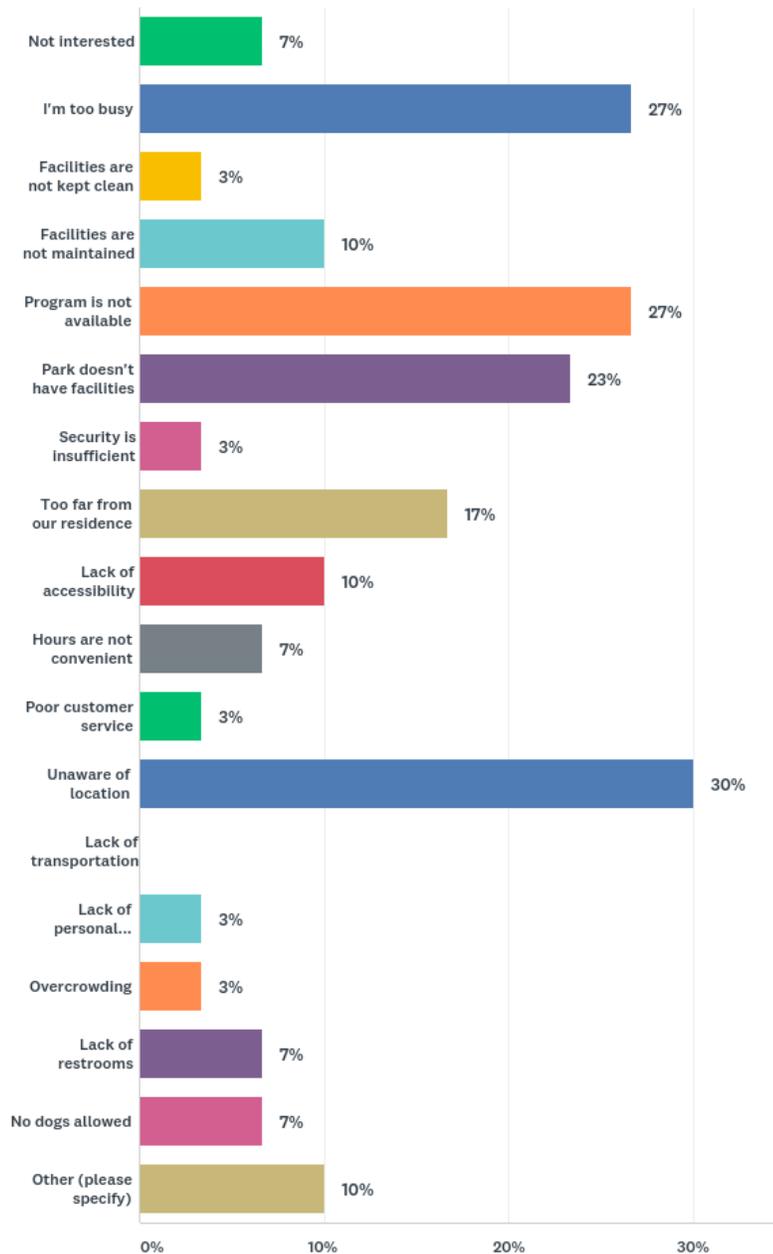
Washington County Regional Trails & Recreation Plan Survey

Q16 Did anyone in your household participate in any sponsored recreation programs in the past year (e.g. youth sports, adult sports, dance, etc.)

Answered: 70 Skipped: 23



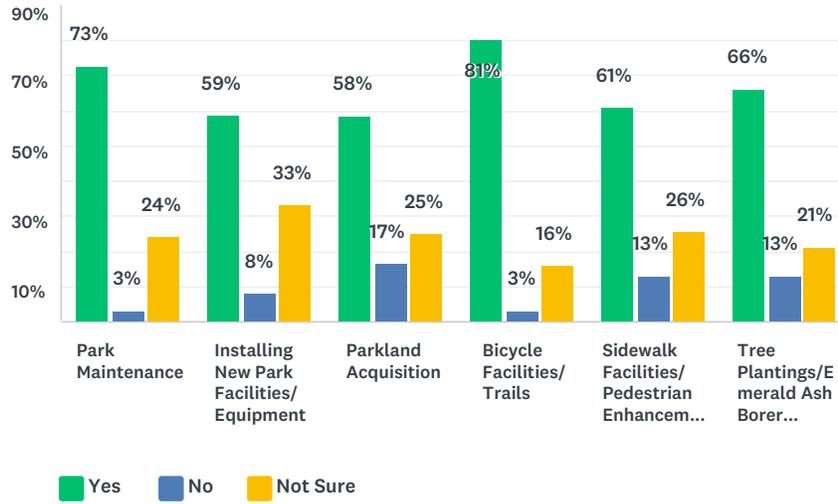
Q17 Are there any reasons that you or members of your household cannot participate in recreational activities? If yes, check all that apply.



Washington County Regional Trails & Recreation Plan Survey

Q18 Should your community allocate additional funds to be spent on?

Answered: 69 Skipped: 24



Washington County Regional Trails & Recreation Plan Survey

**Q19 Please use the space provided below to identify a type of new recreation program or service that the region should consider offering.**

Answered: 27 Skipped: 66

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Iceskating. Pumpkin/berry patch.	6/27/2018 12:14 AM
2	Splash pad. Bike/hiking trails to connect the towns	3/20/2018 5:29 PM
3	Multi use trails for all year use.	3/19/2018 10:09 PM
4	paved biking trails	3/19/2018 2:22 PM
5	Membership to Lone Tree or Kalona new Rec facilities.	3/18/2018 6:41 AM
6	Parkland Acq when opportunity arise to add space to current facilities. Perfect example would be Riverside adding space to the east end of their park...needed for years!	3/17/2018 9:32 AM
7	Pave the entire Kewash Trail, or at the very least maintain a better surface.	3/16/2018 10:52 AM
8	Bike trails between the communities at the northern end of the county.	3/15/2018 8:39 PM
9	Yearly drive through of remote little used areas or advertising a little used park each month. Incorporate fine arts into the parks or child friendly activities (hike to the puppet show)	3/15/2018 9:43 AM
10	Additional biking opportunity.	3/14/2018 3:50 PM
11	Provide bike paths between all cities in the county	3/13/2018 5:22 PM
12	Convert Washington Golf Club to non-private.	3/13/2018 2:50 PM
13	Disc golf facility	3/8/2018 10:05 AM
14	Nature playground instead of manmade materials	3/7/2018 12:19 PM
15	Work on creating loop trails of varying distances for bikers and hikers around existing cities and parks.	3/7/2018 7:38 AM
16	Getting information to the public about what recreation opportunities are available to them	3/2/2018 12:19 PM
17	More trails Dog waste bins Mom/baby swings	3/2/2018 12:07 PM
18	Increase in Equestrian Parks trails and camping	2/28/2018 9:20 AM
19	Off road ATV/motorcycle trail riding and horse trail riding	2/27/2018 2:44 PM
20	More equestrian trails would bring added revenue to Washington County	2/27/2018 9:12 AM
21	improved camping in equestrian trail areas	2/26/2018 9:48 PM
22	Would really enjoy trails in northern part of county (kalona area)	12/3/2017 10:00 AM
23	How about Kalona just use the money that was supposedly already allocated as stated in the comprehensive plan on the website from several years ago	12/2/2017 11:47 PM
24	Trail/s	11/30/2017 5:42 AM
25	The existing ball fields at Stewart and especially Lincoln are worn out. As a parent, I can attest to the value of having the fields near one another. Many times I have had to miss portions of my children's activities because I have to drive back and forth between all the locations. If they were all centrally located I would not have this issue and I believe other resources could be used more efficiently as well (Restrooms, concessions, playgrounds)	11/29/2017 4:50 PM
26	More bike trails	11/29/2017 1:56 PM
27	More emphasize on our connection to the land - Leopold's conservation ideas.	11/29/2017 9:40 AM

Washington County Regional Trails & Recreation Plan Survey

**Q20 Please use this space to provide any other comments relating to pedestrian, bicycle, park and recreation services or facilities in the region.**

Answered: 30 Skipped: 63

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Beginner fishing workshops for children.	6/27/2018 12:14 AM
2	I don't know if Washington residents are willing to pay more tax dollars for anything right now. Funding for projects like this should come from donations and grants. Up keep could come partially from local organizations/schools/community service projects.	3/19/2018 8:44 PM
3	I really think there's been a lot of action and improvement in the parks and rec in the past several years but just need trails to be connected or lengthened so we have more distance that we can ride or walk.	3/19/2018 8:03 AM
4	Please improve English River area in Riverside. Build trail from Riverside to Kalona suitable for bicycling.	3/18/2018 6:41 AM
5	Need longer bike and walking trails and preferably paved or at least sealcoat. Restrooms and benches along the trails would be nice. Take a look at either Iowa city or Cedar Rapids routes to get ideas, They are nice	3/17/2018 12:26 PM
6	Biking and running paths need added. I listed several examples of places we go to run and bike because ours are not good. I intentionally go out of town and stay on hotels and use their city's restaurants to do this. If I could have facilities local, I wouldn't have to leave town to train and enjoy weekend exercise.	3/17/2018 9:37 AM
7	Glad progress is being made and encourage healthy lifestyles.	3/17/2018 9:32 AM
8	Enjoy the Ke wash trail, just needs some updating	3/16/2018 3:02 PM
9	Iowa needs a law that mandates traffic to move left a COMPLETE lane when passing anything, be it another car, farm equipment or bicycles. This would improve safety on on-road bike trails.	3/16/2018 10:52 AM
10	Future new home additions should have a trail incorporated.	3/15/2018 9:43 AM
11	It would be great to have the Kewash Trail paved for bike use for a longer period other than the summer months. Spring months the trail is too soft to use.	3/14/2018 4:41 PM
12	Hard surface for the Kewash trail.	3/14/2018 3:50 PM
13	Elected and/or administrative personnel don't fully support some of the facilities we already have. Hunting and fishing seem to take precedence over hiking/biking.	3/13/2018 2:50 PM
14	A phone app for the county trail system would be great and easy to access.	3/13/2018 2:22 PM
15	If no agency can guarantee the funds to maintain the trails, it would be unwise to create new ones. That generally means more tax dollars, which is usually unfavorable by the public. Developing is easy; keeping it going is not.	3/7/2018 12:19 PM
16	Trails connecting parks to communities and other parks are of the most interest to me	3/2/2018 12:19 PM
17	Desperately need more trails in/around kalona	3/2/2018 12:07 PM
18	Would like to see more facilities and trails for Equestrian	2/28/2018 9:20 AM
19	I strongly encourage you to sustain and improve as needed the fine equestrian trails that you have available. Equestrians using the trails will be from both Washington and counties within about an hours drive. Such facilities help provide an important recreational activity for families that enjoy and have horses. They share trails with hikers in all seasons as both enjoy the beauty of nature whether hiking or riding.	2/27/2018 10:02 PM
20	Service and clean bathroom facilities	2/27/2018 12:54 PM
21	Pleased with Brinton Timber, just need additional Equestrian trails	2/27/2018 9:12 AM
22	I have never seen bike riders at Brinton Timber. I have seen a single hiker on several occasions.	2/27/2018 7:20 AM

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## Washington County Regional Trails & Recreation Plan Survey

23	More multi use trails with nice restrooms, parking, and picnic areas, and defined camping areas.	2/26/2018 9:48 PM
24	The comprehensive plan on the website stated there was money for three projects in Kalona one was the downtown beautification project one was the sidewalks project and the other was the trails project while the only one that has been completed is the downtown beautification project where did the money is go	12/2/2017 11:47 PM
25	Holding out hope that a bike trail gets developed. Old River Bridge to Richmond from Kalona seems like a great idea	11/30/2017 5:42 AM
26	The possibilities of facilities are not visible to the average citizens. I've lived in Kalona for 15 years and some of the locations in this survey are the FIRST time I have ever heard of the places. That is baffling.	11/30/2017 5:11 AM
27	Think it would enhance local tourism to create some kind of trail system between the communities of Kalona/wellman/Riverside. Nice 7-10 mile rides with adequate places to stop on your rides. Just need a safe place to ride.	11/29/2017 10:36 PM
28	I think we need more bike riding spots like the keywash to help keep bikers safe and to attract more people to the community. And more wooded walking and biking trails so people can go in joy the outdoor life and to stay healthy	11/29/2017 8:45 PM
29	We just need to invest in bike trails. They bring in money and add to the culture and economy.	11/29/2017 2:55 PM
30	More emphasize on managing for ecological connections/plantings and ecological education.	11/29/2017 9:40 AM