

# 2022 IMPACT REPORT

A LOOK AT WHAT WAS ACCOMPLISHED  
**THANKS TO YOU**

## With Your Help

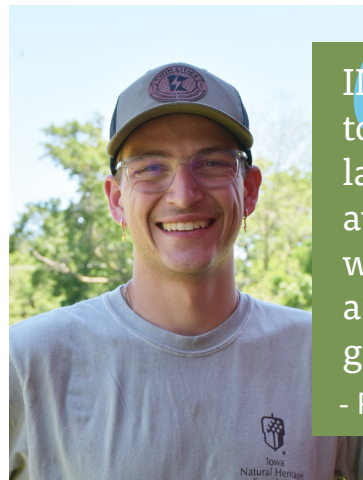
INHF was able to accomplish some incredible projects in 2022. **YOU** helped conserve nearly **5,000 acres**. Many of the places protected this year will become parks and wildlife areas where future generations of lowans can connect with nature. Let's take a look at all we've done, **because of YOU**.

## Enhancing Our Work

**900+ volunteers** donated their time and talents for a combined total of **2,700+ hours**. This includes new volunteer roles with increased responsibility — from conducting wildlife monitoring surveys to leading their own volunteer events.

## Building Leaders

Regarded as one of the most respected internship programs in the state, we focus on ensuring interns get as much as they give. **Twenty-three students** supported our mission through land stewardship, grant writing, communications, advocacy and data gathering.



INHF has given me so many tools to succeed in my future life of land stewardship, environmental awareness and care. The places we went, the people I've met and the amazing tasks I completed have really given me much to look forward to.

- Riley Marble, Blufflands Stewardship Crew

## Connecting the State

2022 brought continued progress on regional trails. As we celebrated ribbon cuttings on the Iowa River's Edge Trail and the Red Rock Prairie Trail, we heard story after story about how trails do more than connect destinations. They connect people with nature, and outdoor recreation with economic development.



The vision is that this trail is set to change our communities. If people come to play here, they're bound to think about living here.

- Chris Wieting, Former Chair of Hardin County Trails Commission

## Leveraging Support

Your support is leveraged to accomplish more. Nearly **\$1.5 million in grant funding** was awarded to INHF projects and programs this year. We helped our partners earn an additional \$1.3 million in state and federal grant funding, because good conservation is worth celebrating no matter who is doing the work.

## Advocating for Conservation

And your voice made a difference for conservation and recreation in Iowa. Your advocacy encouraged funding for natural resources, halted damaging bills and generated momentum to fund the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund.

## Protecting What's Left

As lowans migrate to urban areas, access to parks, trails and wildlife areas is more important than ever. In 2022, we opened The Narrows Preserve to the public (Dickinson County), began working with partners to safeguard much-needed habitat in our first project in Ida County, tied a bow on a years-long project at the Heritage Hills Wildlife Management Area dedication (Madison County) and asked for your help protecting a massive piece of Loess Hills wilderness at the Little Sioux Scout Ranch (Monona County). A total of **41** properties transferred from INHF to public partners to become new parks, trails and wildlife areas. INHF also worked with 6 private landowners to protect properties through conservation easements. INHF now holds and monitors more than **200** conservation easements, permanently protecting more than **25,000 acres** — showing that lowans are doing their part to set aside land for wildlife, water quality and future generations.

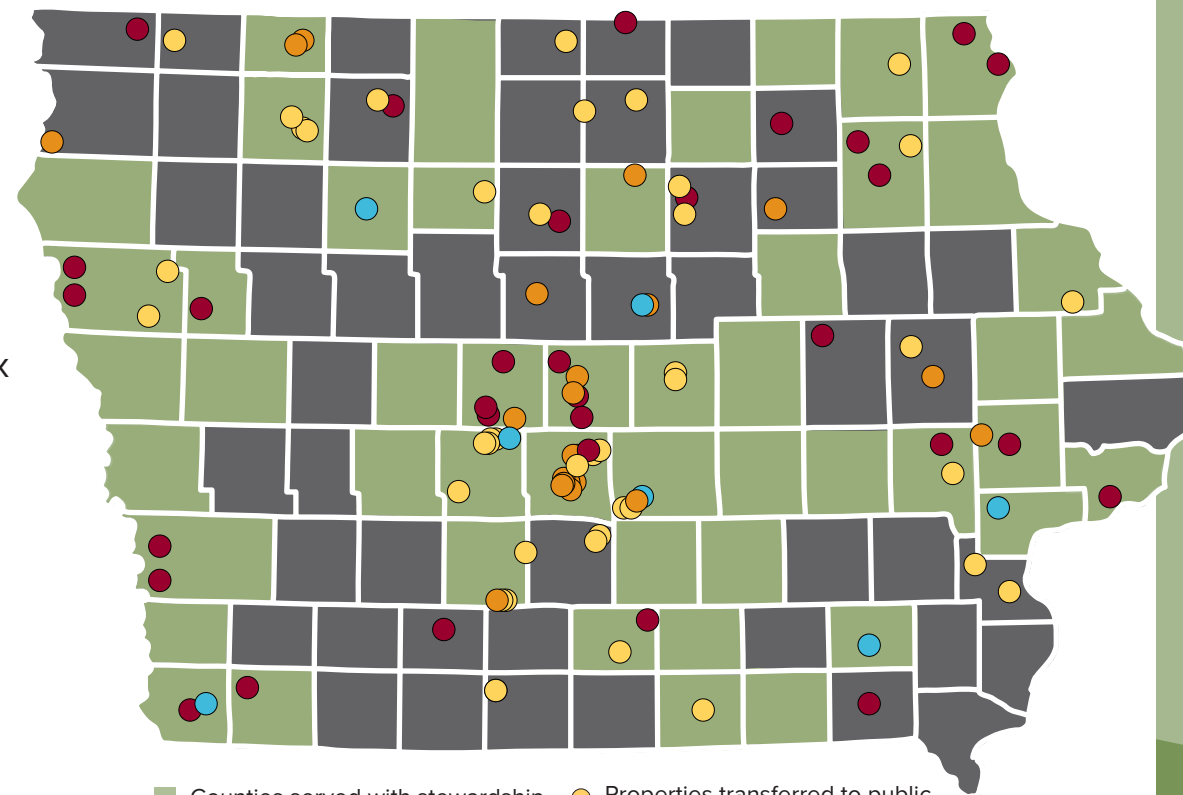


We visited Two Horse Farm with our Hike It Baby group on a sunny fall day. The kids and parents loved exploring the area — acorns, prairie grasses, tall oaks, a dry creek bed — it was a magical morning for all of us!

- Erin Payne-Christiansen,  
Johnson County Resident

**Two Horse Farm**, a 90-acre property now owned and managed by Johnson County Conservation, was partially donated by Erin and Brian Melloy. Its carefully restored woodland and prairie are already offering learning opportunities through conversations, organized events and impromptu hikes. The site is also fostering reconnection as a seven-acre circle in the heart of the park was rematriated to the Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska.

## Reaching Across the State in 2022



- Counties served with stewardship projects
- Land protection projects
- Trail projects and collaborations
- Properties transferred to public partners to become new parks, trails and wildlife areas
- Education and outreach events

## Healing Landscapes

Much of our stewardship work focuses on restoring balance so the land functions better and the water runs clearer. This year we were able to create **330 new acres of prairie** and rejuvenated **1,872 more** through prescribed fire. As a changing climate presents additional challenges, it's clear we need nature in more places than just parks. Lowans are recognizing the power and necessity of working with nature, rather than against it.

In 2022, INHF's Wallace and Bowers Nature Area, along the shore of Big Spirit Lake, underwent wetland restoration to improve water quality.



## Leaving a Legacy

In 2022, INHF received planned gifts ranging in size and scope, all with a common thread: a vision for what future generations of people and wildlife deserve.

Planned gifts can take many forms, but they all make a large impact on Iowa's future. One type of planned gift is including INHF in your will or estate plans. Anne Rapp became an INHF supporter in 1993 and as she followed our work she recognized the value of making a legacy gift to support INHF's work beyond her lifetime. By including INHF as a beneficiary in her will, Anne's planned gift acts as a continuation of her annual support and ensures the work being done today can continue.



## Looking Ahead

Reflecting on a year of reconnection has us feeling strong. Strong in our voice; strong in our commitment; strong in our ability to collaborate and leverage support; strong in our drive to find science-based solutions; strong **because of YOU**.

In the coming year, we'll call upon that unified strength — and your power as an individual — as we advocate for Iowa's wild places.

**Thank you** for protecting and restoring Iowa's land, water and wildlife.