

IOWA NATURAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION LAND PROTECTION REPORT

July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022

New Land Protection Projects

Allamakee County

15 acres of woodland near Dorchester. Protects 650 feet of Waterloo Creek, a premier cold-water trout stream supporting all three native Iowa trout species. *(Donated to INHF by Dale Peterson subject to a reserved life estate)*

Boone County

59 acres of mature woodland, grassland and a sacred cultural site northwest of Boone. Protects existing wildlife habitat and water quality of the nearby Des Moines River. Expands protected land in the river valley. *(Conservation easement donated by Rex Heer)*

Butler County

Big Marsh WMA Addition

142 acres of riparian woodland in the Big Marsh Wildlife Management Area (WMA) complex near Dumont. This key piece will allow for enhanced management, provide water quality benefits to the West Fork of the Cedar River and protect important floodplain. *(Proposed public ownership)*

Chickasaw County

205 acres of riparian and upland habitat along the Wapsipinicon River near New Hampton. This property provides water quality benefits and protects habitat for wildlife such as sandhill cranes, river otters and potentially eastern massasauga rattlesnakes. *(Portion of land value donated by Loretta Koenigsfield. Proposed public ownership)*

Clarke & Madison counties

453 acres of mixed habitat including pasture, wetlands and timber near Truro. Preserves open space and grasslands while ensuring protection from subdivision and development. Provides excellent habitat for insects, birds and mammals. *(Conservation easement donated by the late Joan Ghrist)*

Clay County

Riverton Wildlife Area Addition

35 acres of floodplain along the Ocheidan River. Expands protected land along the river corridor, benefits water quality and helps mitigate flooding within the watershed. *(Proposed public ownership)*



The Narrows Preserve, Dickinson County

Protecting and restoring Iowa's land, water and wildlife

Clayton County

244 acres of grassland with pockets of prairie and wooded draws near McGregor. Provides outstanding habitat for grassland birds and other species. Protects land for continued sustainable and innovative farming practices. *(Portion of agricultural land easement value donated by Phil and Sharon Specht)*

Dallas County

Raccoon River Valley Trail/High Trestle Trail Connectors

Three separate purchases combine to a total of 43.5 acres of critical trail corridor that will help link the Raccoon River Valley Trail and the High Trestle Trail, two of Iowa's most popular multi-use trails. *(Proposed public ownership)*

Decatur County

DeKalb WMA Addition

80 acres of oak savanna and grassland located north of Leon. Adjacent to the 2,100-acre DeKalb WMA, both of which lie within the Sand Creek Bird Conservation area. *(Proposed public ownership)*

Dickinson County

The Narrows Preserve

50 acres of undeveloped East Okoboji Lake shoreline adjacent to Elinor Bedell State Park. Lies within the Spring Run Bird Conservation Area, which has over fifty documented Species of Greatest Conservation Need. Protection of this property will provide benefits to the water quality through soil stabilization as well as preserve valuable oak savanna and prairie habitat. *(Owned and managed by INHF, conservation easement donated by INHF)*

Dubuque County

100 acres in southern Dubuque County bequeathed to INHF by Robert McCarthy with the intent to provide a public recreation area. The property will be restored to native prairie by Dubuque County Conservation and partners this winter/spring. *(Owned and managed by Dubuque County Conservation)*

Fayette County

155 acres of fen wetland, sedge meadow, woodland and agricultural land near Waucoma. One of the largest remaining fen wetlands in northeast Iowa, this property protects uncommon species like tall cotton grass, crested fern, fringed gentian and dwarf red raspberry. *(Owned and managed by INHF)*

16 acres of prairie and wetland habitat adjacent to Fritz Prairie near Hawkeye. Builds on existing public land and important wildlife habitat, including for sandhill cranes. *(Proposed public ownership)*

Guthrie County

A 1.6-acre corridor allowing for the extension of the Raccoon River Valley Trail west towards Coon Rapids and Whiterock Conservancy. This segment aligns with the Great American Rail-Trail and American Discovery Trail routes. *(Proposed public ownership)*

Ida County

The first INHF project in this county! 103 acres of grassland and woodland adjacent to Crawford Creek Recreation Area near Battle Creek. Builds on existing public land and will positively impact the water quality of a nearby public lake. *(Portion of land value donated by Sue Smith. Proposed public ownership)*

Johnson County

Harvest Preserve: 100 acres of woodland and grassland within the city limits of Iowa City. Protects the private preserve as urban green space while allowing for future amenity additions for the benefit of its members. *(Conservation easement donated by Harvest Preserve Foundation, Inc.)*



Linn County

95 acres along Otter View Road near Cedar Rapids. 32 acres of crop, 4 acres hay ground and 55 acres of woodland, meadow and a house site. Otter Creek, a tributary of the Cedar River, traverses the southeast corner of the property. Improves wildlife habitat, water quality and soil health within the Cedar River watershed. *(Donated to INHF with reserved life estate by Marjorie Andrews)*

Louisa County

Lake Odessa WMA Addition: 101 acres of riparian woodland near the confluence of the Iowa and Mississippi Rivers. Protects wildlife habitat and water quality of nearby Lake Odessa, a popular duck hunting destination in the area. Diamond-back watersnakes, a state-threatened species found only in the southeastern part of Iowa, have also been spotted here. *(Proposed public ownership)*

Lucas County

215 acres of grassland and wooded draws near Williamson. In addition to being located within a target watershed for the protection of bat habitat, the property is adjacent to Stephens State Forest and within Stephens Forest Bird Conservation Area. *(Owned and managed by INHF)*

Mahaska County

Pleasant Grove Savanna: 7 acres of oak savanna near Hawthorn Lake WMA. Provides outstanding habitat for a variety of birds and other declining savanna species, and adds onto a patchwork of previously protected land in that area. *(Donated by Pleasant Grove Land Preservation, Inc. subject to a reserved life estate)*

Marshall County

144 acres along the Iowa River northwest of Marshalltown. Includes riparian woodland and remnant wetlands that provide excellent wildlife habitat for migratory waterfowl and an assortment of mammals including mink, river otter and beaver. Restoration of other parts of the floodplain will help mitigate flooding downstream. *(Proposed public ownership)*

71 acres of grassland adjacent to Timmons Grove and the Iowa River. Provides opportunity for prairie and wetland restoration, offering protection against soil loss and the benefit of nutrient treatment and flood retention. *(Proposed public ownership)*

Palo Alto County

170 acres of reconstructed and remnant prairie near Emmetsburg. Protection of grass and open space will positively impact Cylinder Creek and the Des Moines River watershed. *(Conservation easement donated by Clinton and Suzanne Young)*

Polk County

Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt Additions: After four purchases, a total of 632 acres, primarily along the South Skunk River, were protected. The land has significant potential for wetland, prairie and oxbow restoration and expands on wildlife habitat, flood mitigation and water quality protections. One piece with close proximity to HWY 330 presents a unique opportunity to consider the creation of a future hub for interpretation and ecological research activities at Chichaqua. *(Proposed public ownership)*

66 acres of floodplain along Fourmile Creek Greenway in Pleasant Hill. Includes prairie restoration and heavy wooded areas. Protection in this floodplain will help stabilize erodible banks, preserving Iowa's soil. *(Proposed public ownership)*

Pottawattamie County

28 acres near Council Bluffs including a 13-acre remnant prairie. The property will become a valuable seed source for Loess Hills prairie restorations. *(Donated by Joann Gohlinghorst. Owned and managed by INHF)*

43 acres of mature timber north of Council Bluffs in the heart of the Loess Hills. Preserves old-growth bur oaks and other valuable habitat for the 120 bird species documented on the property. *(Donated by Bert Fritzsich and Dominique Crapon De Caprona subject to a reserved life estate. Owned and managed by INHF)*

Scott County

40 acres of reconstructed prairie, woodland and a man-made pond south of Bettendorf. Provides important wildlife habitat for pollinators, birds and small mammals including otter, muskrats and painted turtles in an area largely dominated by conventional agriculture. *(Donated by Richard Kuehl. Owned and managed by INHF)*

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Story County

320 acres along the west side of the South Skunk River. Native vegetation restoration of floodplain cropland will reduce soil erosion during flooding events and increase groundwater infiltration. Currently, 90 acres of Conservation Reserve Program land (CRP) provide habitat for birds, small mammals and reptiles. Protection of the property will allow for additional wetland/oxbow restoration. *(Owned and managed by INHF)*

86 acres of South Skunk River Greenbelt near Ames. Adjacent to existing public land, this property expands on wildlife habitat and protects the riverbank. Riparian grasslands and woodland provide a permanent buffer for the Skunk River corridor. *(Bequeathed by Dr. Harold Albers, owned and managed by INHF)*

Stargrass: 80 acres of restored prairie, wetland and riparian area southeast of Ames. The high-quality prairie has been carefully restored with local-origin seed and will remain a seed source for nearby restoration projects. The land is in the Skunk River watershed, and its permanent protection helps connect other nearby habitat into a valuable wildlife corridor. *(Donated to INHF by Cindy Hildebrand and Roger Maddux subject to a reserved life estate)*

68 acres along the South Skunk River near Cambridge. Protection and restoration will aid flood retention and reduce erosion while providing habitat for various birds, reptiles and amphibians. *(Portion of land value donated by Maxwell Farms, Inc. Proposed public ownership)*

56 acres along the South Skunk River near Cambridge. Contains oxbows and the former river channel. Protection and restoration will aid water quality and provide wildlife habitat. *(Proposed public ownership)*

32 acres adjacent to Ada Hayden Heritage Park in Ames. Draining directly into Ada Hayden's lakes, protection and restoration of this property will not only benefit water quality but will offer additional habitat for nesting and migratory birds that frequent the area. *(Proposed public ownership)*

Tama County

520 acres of wooded Iowa River corridor near Chelsea. Adjacent to existing public lands, protection of this expansive property connects habitat, expands recreational opportunities and protects the floodplain's soil integrity. *(Proposed public ownership)*

Iowa River Corridor WMA: 515 acres of riparian woodland, unaltered oxbows and river channels along the Iowa River. Expands, connects and protects large tracts of surrounding public lands within the Iowa River Corridor and Otter Creek WMAs, and provides quality wildlife habitat and water quality benefits, particularly during flood events. *(Proposed public ownership)*

Warren County

Coal Creek Marsh Addition: Two purchases for a total of 137 acres of prairie grasses, forbs and CRP will become part of a 700-acre marsh restoration in the floodpool of Lake Red Rock. Protection and restoration of this area will provide critical waterfowl habitat once restoration is complete. *(A bargain sale by Alec Pendry and Stephen Pendry and portion of land value donated by Charles Furnal. Proposed public ownership)*



Coal Creek Marsh Addition, Warren County

Land Transferred to Public Partners

Appanoose County

Sedan Bottoms WMA Addition: 200 acres of grassland and quality oak-hickory woodland within the Sedan Bottoms Bird Conservation Area near Centerville. Builds on one of the larger wildlife complexes in the state, providing additional wildlife habitat and recreation opportunities. *(Owned and managed by Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR))*

Benton County

Edna Shain Fen and Wildlife Area: 160 acres near Vinton including a fen and remnant pasture. Unique fen species such as bog willow (state-threatened), safe willow, swamp thistle, and tall cottongrass (state species of concern) have been documented. A wetland restoration project will provide flood storage and soil runoff reduction, and a prairie reconstruction will provide much needed wildlife habitat for the area. *(Owned and managed by Benton County Conservation)*

Boone County

Over several transactions, 609 acres of the former Iowa 4-H camp located along the Des Moines River near Madrid. Contains high quality oak-hickory woodlands, more than a dozen miles of hiking trails and ancient Native American burial mounds. This 1,011-acre-complex will be a mix of public and private ownership. *(Owned and managed by the Iowa DNR)*

Butler County

Big Marsh WMA Addition: Nearly 50 acres of riparian woodland and wetland along the West Fork of the Cedar River. Protects additional habitat for state endangered wood turtles, found only in this region of the Cedar River. *(Owned and managed by Iowa DNR)*

35 acres along Boylan Creek near Aredale. Expands outdoor recreation opportunities in northwest and provides quality habitat and floodplain protection. *(Owned and managed by Butler County Conservation)*

Cerro Gordo County

Kingfisher Hollow Wildlife Area Addition: 114-acre addition to wildlife area near Mason City. Includes oxbows, oak savannas, and more than one mile of the Winnebago River. Provides vital habitat for wildlife, including belted kingfishers, mink and otters. *(Owned and managed by Cerro Gordo County Conservation)*

Clay County

Hawk Valley WMA Addition: A 64-acre expansion of the existing WMA complex near Spencer. Protects a remnant sedge meadow wetland in the Little Sioux River watershed. *(Owned and managed by Iowa DNR)*

Little Sioux WMA Addition: 171 acres of scenic valley along the Little Sioux River. Offers a great mix of habitats and protection of a variety of wildlife and a vulnerable floodplain. *(Owned and managed by Iowa DNR)*

Fayette County

Hackmann Natural Resource Area: 66 acres of diverse habitat in the Turkey River Corridor including woodland and remnant sand prairie, important habitat for the endangered ornate box turtle. Future wetland and prairie reconstructions will have a positive impact on water quality and build on the nearby complex of public land. *(Bargain sale by Rowland and Barb Hackmann. Owned and managed by Fayette County Conservation).*

Fremont County

Green Hollow WMA Addition: 99 acres on the western slope of the Loess Hills. Harboring a mostly burr oak woodland with several pockets of remnant prairie. This will be an addition to the 608-acre Blackburn and Green Hollow WMA. *(Owned and managed by Iowa DNR)*

Guthrie County

Middle Raccoon River WMA Addition: 12 acres of oak woodland half a mile south of Panora. Expands access to the adjacent Middle Raccoon River WMA, protects wildlife habitat and provides water quality benefits to the nearby Middle Raccoon River, one of Iowa's five Protected Water Areas. *(Owned and managed by Iowa DNR)*

Hancock County

Dutch and Tom's Access: 67 acres of restorable habitat adjacent to Ventura Marsh WMA. Following restoration, the property will provide water quality benefits to Ventura Marsh and needed habitat for migrating waterfowl. *(Owned and managed by Iowa DNR)*

Humboldt County

Prairie Creek Wildlife Area: 80 acres of a future 390-acre complex near Renwick. Bisected by Prairie Creek, this wooded floodplain provides important habitat and resting areas for migrating waterfowl. Old oxbow channels offer habitat for Topeka shiners, a federally endangered fish species. *(Owned and managed by Humboldt County Conservation)*

Johnson County

Two Horse Farm: 90 acres of woodland and restored prairie near Coralville Lake. Provides water quality benefits, recreational opportunities and valuable wildlife habitat. Boasts 364 documented plant species including two species of orchids considered threatened in Iowa. *(Portion of land value donated by Brian and Erin Melloy. Proposed public ownership including 7 acres that will be rematriated to the Iowa Tribe)*



Louisa County

Deadwood WMA: 333 acres of quality habitat along the Iowa River between Columbus Junction and Wapello. Includes woodlands, grasslands, wetlands and oxbows, all critical habitat located within the historical floodplain. *(Owned and managed by Iowa DNR)*

Madison County

Heritage Hills WMA: 126 acres of woodland and savanna on rolling hills. This is the final piece to transfer in a 1,021 complex providing critical habitat and recreation opportunities near the Des Moines metro. *(Owned and managed by Iowa DNR)*

Marion County

Coal Creek Marsh: 136 acres adjacent to Red Rock WMA destined to be part of a 700-acre marsh complex. Restoration will provide excellent habitat for migrating waterfowl. *(Owned and managed by Iowa DNR)*

Palo Alto County

West Fork WMA Addition: 58 acres of restored wetland near Emmetsburg. Builds on existing public land offering important prairie pothole habitat. *(Owned and managed by Iowa DNR)*

Pocahontas County

120 acres of riparian woodland and former cropland along the Des Moines River. Located between Struthers Wildlife Area and Hams Wildlife Area. Permanent protection of the property will preserve the riverine habitat for species such as wood ducks, river otters and a multitude of reptiles and amphibians. *(Owned and managed by Iowa DNR)*

Polk County

Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt Addition: 10 acres adjacent to existing public land with the potential for future education and interpretation activities. *(Owned and managed by Polk County Conservation)*

Winneshiek County

Falcon Springs WMA Addition: 67 acres of woodland and restored prairie near Decorah. Provides additional habitat for the rusty-patched bumble bee, a federally endangered species, and offers excellent outdoor recreation opportunities. *(Owned and managed by Iowa DNR)*

Woodbury County

Salsness Conservation Area: 240 acres of woodland adjacent to Oak Ridge Conservation Area near Oto. Provides connection between existing public land, creating over 2,200 contiguous acres of habitat and recreational land. *(Owned and managed by Woodbury County Conservation)*

109 acres of Little Sioux River bottom, steep uplands and mixed oak woodlands adjacent to Copeland Park and Sioux Bend WMA near Correctionville. Located in the world's second deepest deposit of loess soil, this property holds significant restoration potential, and its protection will have a positive water quality impact on the adjacent river. *(Owned and managed by Woodbury County Conservation)*



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Heritage Hills Wildlife Management Area, Madison County

