

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION ORDER

Transportation Development Division
Division/Bureau/Office Local Systems Bureau Order No. _____
Submitted by Debra Arp Phone No. 515-239-1681 Meeting Date November 12, 2025
Title State Recreational Trails Program Funding Recommendations

DISCUSSION/BACKGROUND:

Review of the current round of applications for funding from the State Recreational Trails Program has been completed. The following recommendations will be presented.

Clay County Connection Phase 3 (Dickinson County)	\$ 295,000
Grant Wood Trail Connection to Cedar Valley Nature Trail (Cedar Rapids)	\$ 200,000
Great American Rail Trail: Weston to Underwood (Pottawattamie County Conservation Board)	\$ 500,000
Great Western Trail Rehabilitation Phase 2 (Warren County Conservation Board)	\$ 543,200
Heritage Trail Bridge 30 Replacement (Dubuque County Conservation Board)	\$ 170,250
Neal Smith Trail Reconstruction and Birdland Park Connection (Des Moines)	\$ 200,000
Prairie Restoration Trail (Laurens)	\$ 433,927
Wabash Trace Rapp Park Connector Trail (Page County)	\$ 285,000
Waukee Regional Trail Connection and Safety Improvements Project (Waukee)	\$ 500,000
Total	\$3,127,377

PROPOSAL/ACTION RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended the Commission approve the State Recreational Trails Program funding recommendations, as listed.

COMMISSION ACTION:

Moved by _____ Seconded by _____

Division Director Legal State Director

	Aye	Vote Nay	Pass
Anderson	_____	_____	_____
Arnold	_____	_____	_____
Gaesser	_____	_____	_____
Juckette	_____	_____	_____
Mulgrew Gronen	_____	_____	_____
Quirk	_____	_____	_____
Stutsman	_____	_____	_____



State Recreational Trails Program

Funding Recommendation



State Recreational Trail Program

- Created in 1988
- Available to cities, counties, state agencies, local governments, or non-profit organizations through an application program
- Purpose is to establish recreational trails in Iowa for the use, enjoyment and participation of the public.

Project Evaluation Criteria

Criteria	Points
Need in terms of population to be served and existing trails in the area	16
Benefits of multiple uses and recreational opportunities	16
Project Readiness-project will be completed by 6/30/2027	12
Leverage of other funding sources-secured funding	12
Enhancement of economic and tourism benefits	10
Connectivity and completion of trail linkages	10
Alignment with local, regional or statewide plans	8
Improvements to accessibility	8
Long-term maintenance plan	8
MAXIMUM POINTS	100

Available Funding and Application Summary

Available Funding:

FY26 Legislative appropriation	\$2,500,000
Underruns from closed projects	\$130,585
Cancelled projects	\$600,082
Total available funding	\$3,230,667

Application Summary:

Total number of projects	22
Total project costs	\$47,475,493
Total amount requested	\$11,618,130

List of Applications Recommended

PROJECT NAME	SPONSOR	SCORE	TOTAL PROJECT COST	REQUESTED AMOUNT (% of Total Project Cost)	RECOMMENDED AMOUNT (% of Total Project Cost)
<u>Clay County Connection Phase 3</u>	Dickinson County	75	\$736,550	\$295,000 (40%)	\$295,000 (40%)
<u>Neal Smith Trail Reconstruction and Birdland Park Connection</u>	Des Moines	74	\$1,155,000	\$200,000 (17%)	\$200,000 (17%)
<u>Wabash Trace Rapp Park Connector Trail</u>	Page County	73	\$1,937,350	\$285,000 (15%)	\$285,000 (15%)
<u>Waukee Regional Trail Connection & Safety Improvements Project</u>	Waukee	67	\$5,588,000	\$500,000 (9%)	\$500,000 (9%)
<u>Heritage Trail Bridge 30 Replacement</u>	Dubuque County Conservation Board	62	\$227,000	\$170,250 (75%)	\$170,250 (75%)

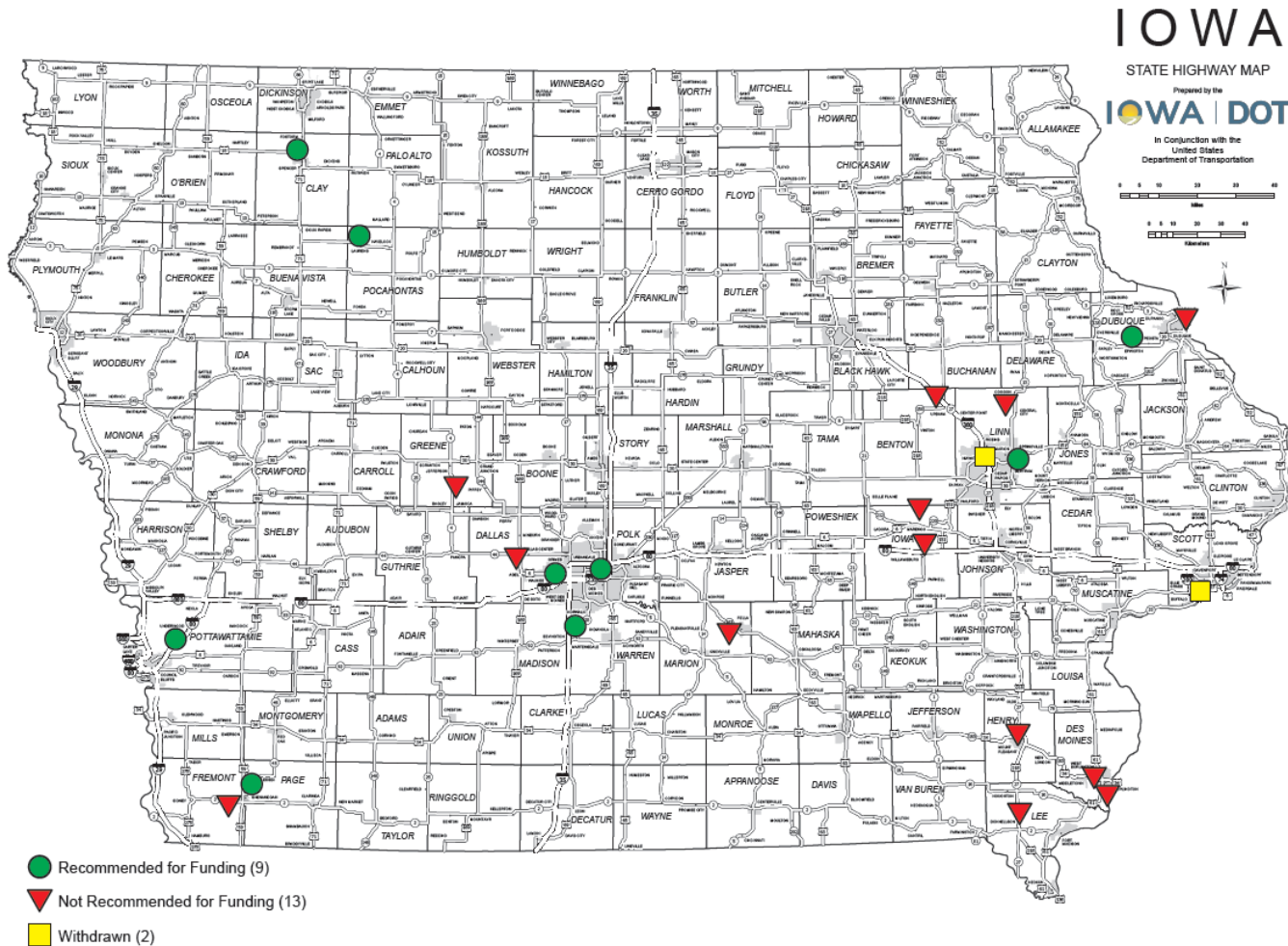
[Jump to Applications Not Recommended for Funding](#)

List of Applications Recommended

PROJECT NAME	SPONSOR	SCORE	TOTAL PROJECT COST	REQUESTED AMOUNT (% of Total Project Cost)	RECOMMENDED AMOUNT (% of Total Project Cost)
<u>Grant Wood Trail Connection to Cedar Valley Nature Trail</u>	Cedar Rapids	60	\$1,993,000	\$200,000 (10%)	\$200,000 (10%)
<u>Great American Rail Trail: Weston to Underwood</u>	Pottawattamie County Conservation Board	58	\$4,224,000	\$500,000 (12%)	\$500,000 (12%)
<u>Great Western Trail Rehabilitation Phase 2</u>	Warren County Conservation Board	57	\$826,000	\$543,200 (66%)	\$543,200 (66%)
<u>Prairie Restoration Trail</u>	Laurens	56	\$578,570	\$433,927 (75%)	\$433,927 (75%)

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Map of Applications Received



Thank you!

Questions?



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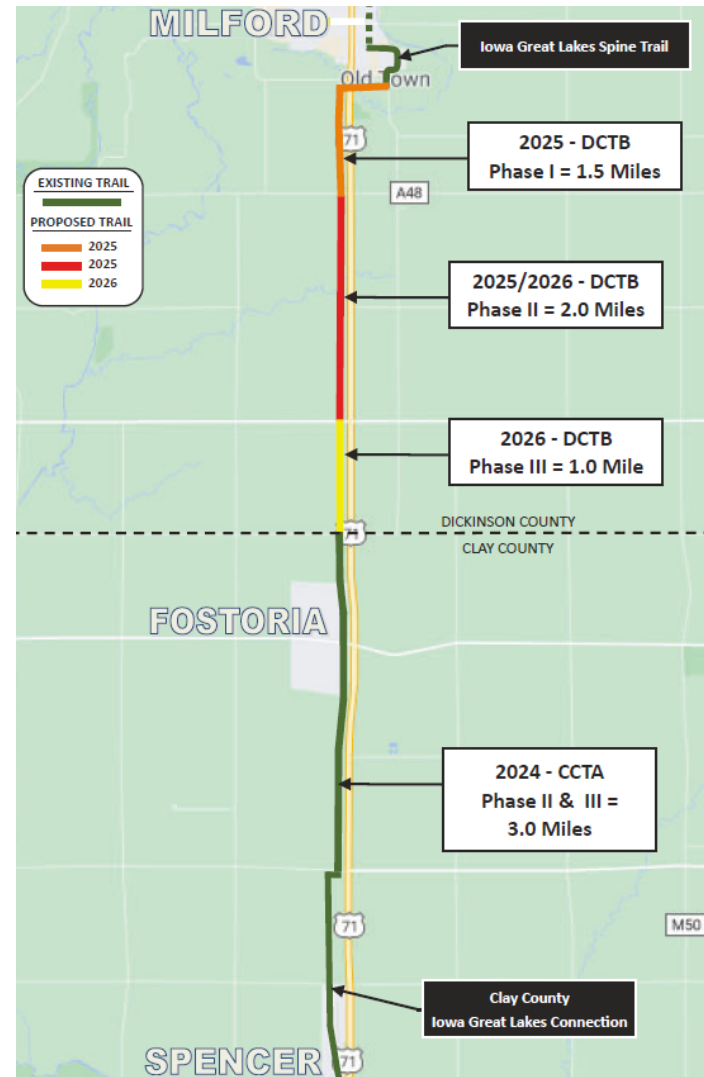
515-239-1252

Clay County Connection Ph. 3 (Dickinson County)

Construction of a 1-mile paved trail from 270th Street to 260th Street making the connection between 20 miles of trail in Clay County and the larger Iowa Great Lakes Trails system resulting in over 75 miles of adjoining trails in northwest Iowa.

Total Cost: \$736,550

Requested: \$295,000 (40%)

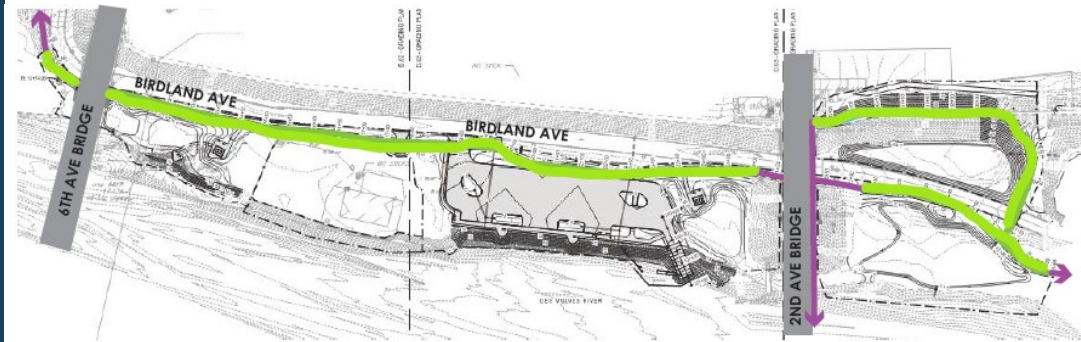


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Neal Smith Trail Reconstruction and Birdland Park Connection (Des Moines)

Reconstruction of 0.41 mile of the Neal Smith Trail, part of the American Discovery Trail, from 6th Avenue through Birdland Park. This project raises the existing trail to reduce future flood events and trail closures and is part of a larger Birdland Park redevelopment plan.

Total Cost: \$1,155,000
Requested: \$200,000 (17%)

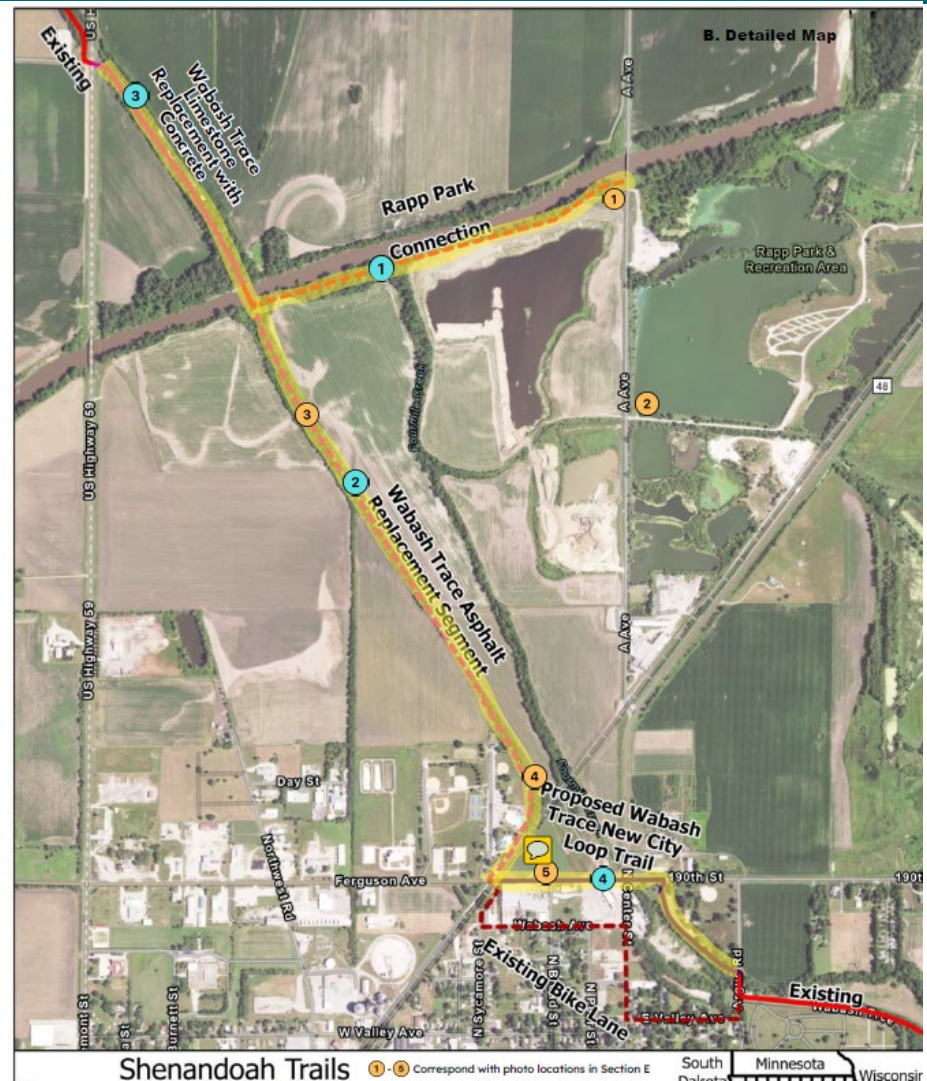


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Wabash Trace Rapp Park Connector Trail (Page County)

Construction of 0.75 mile of paved trail from A Avenue to Rapp Park and 0.35 mile east of the Wabash Trace Depot Trailhead as well as resurfacing 2 miles of trail from U.S. 59 and Cemetery Trailhead improving connections between the 63-mile Wabash Trace Nature Trail and Shenandoah.

Total Cost: \$1,937,350
Requested: \$285,000 (15%)



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Waukee Regional Trail Connection & Safety Improvements Project (Waukee)

This project will construct 0.84 mile of trail between the Raccoon River Valley Trail and the Heart of the Warrior Trail including trail underpasses at U.S. 6 and NW 10th Street in Waukee.

Total Cost: \$5,588,000
Requested: \$500,000 (9%)



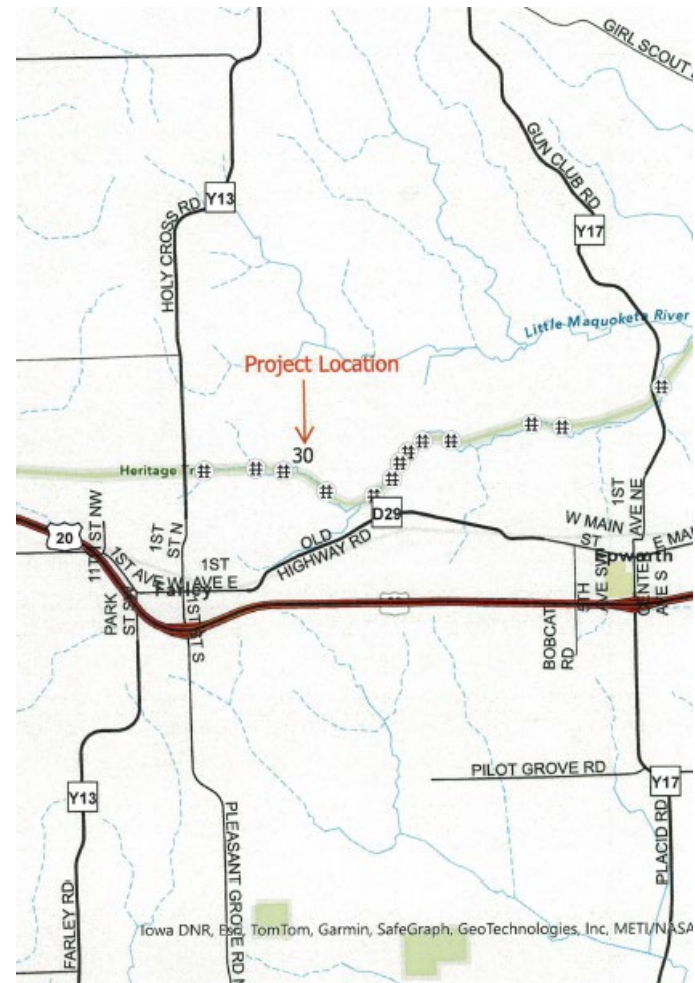
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Heritage Trail Bridge 30 Replacement (Dubuque County Conservation Board)

Replaces a 100-year-old 30-foot timber bridge northeast of Farley with a modern concrete bridge. The 29-mile Heritage Trail is located in the former Chicago Great Western Railroad corridor between Dubuque and Dyersville.

Total Cost: \$227,000

Requested: \$170,250 (75%)



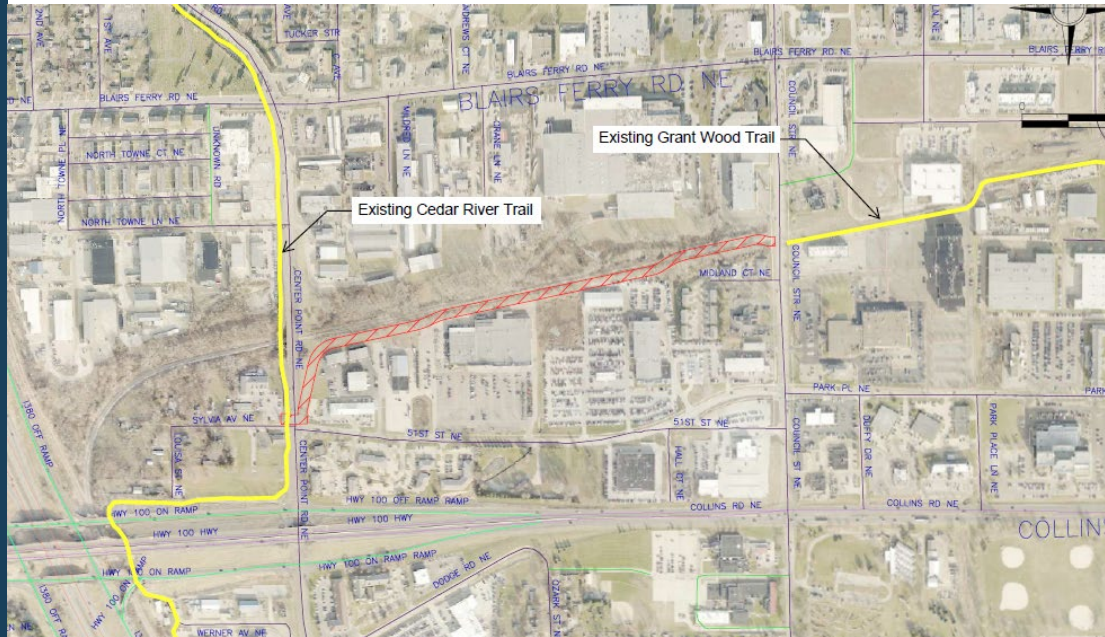
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Grant Wood Trail Connection to Cedar Valley Nature Trail (Cedar Rapids)

Extends the Grant Wood Trail 0.5 mile from Council Street NE to the 69-mile Cedar Valley Nature Trail at Sylvia Avenue NE and Center Point Road NE.

Total Cost: \$1,993,000

Requested: \$200,000 (10%)



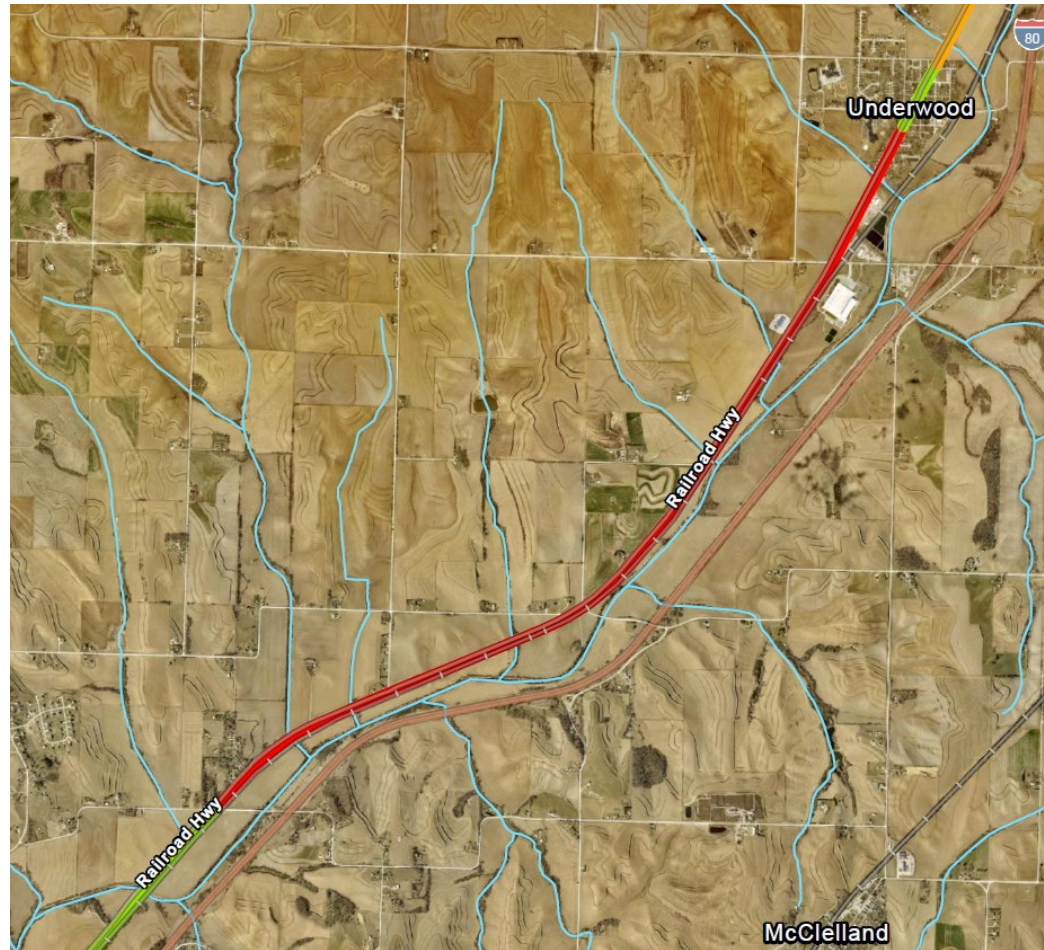
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Great American Rail Trail: Weston to Underwood (Pottawattamie County Conservation Board)

Constructs a 4.9-mile paved extension from Weston to Underwood of the 5-mile Railway Highway Trail. This project is part of the Great American Rail Trail, a planned 3,700-mile coast-to-coast trail from Washington, D.C., to Washington state.

Total Cost: \$4,224,000

Requested: \$500,000 (12%)



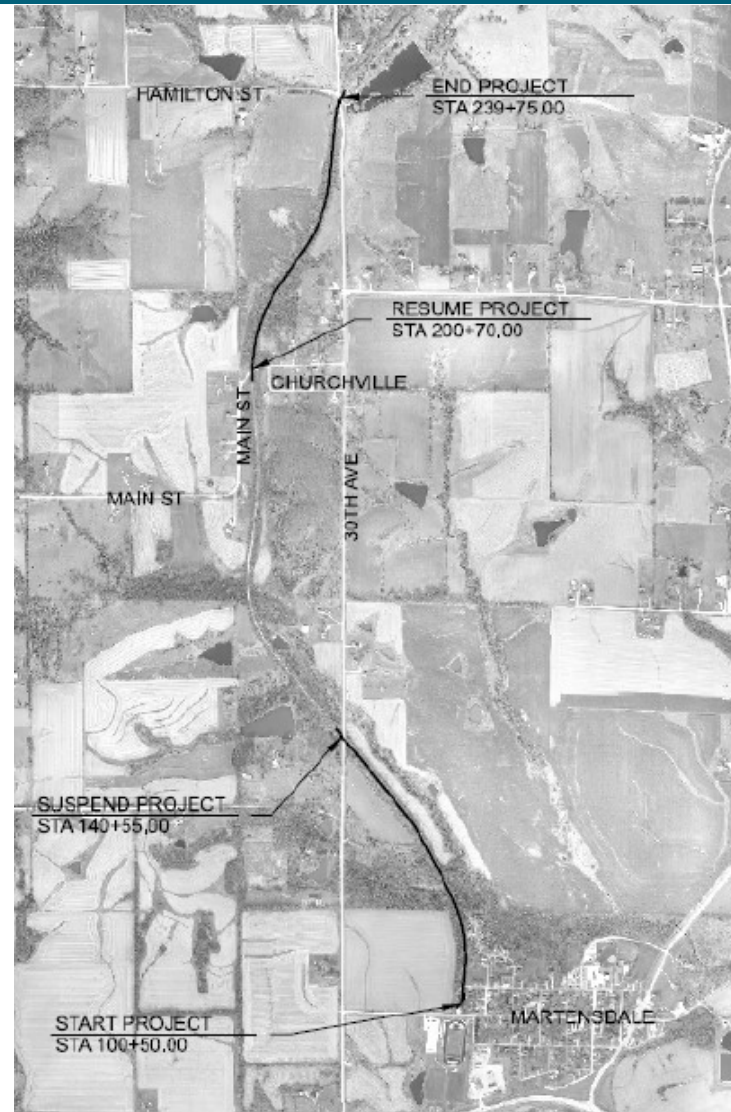
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Great Western Trail Rehabilitation Ph. 2 (Warren County Conservation Board)

Reconstruction of two segments of the Great Western Trail totaling 1.4 miles of paved trail from Iowa Avenue in Martensdale to 30th Avenue and from Main Street in Churchville to Hamilton Street. The 19-mile Great Western Trail connects to the Bill Riley Trail and the larger Central Iowa Trail network.

Total Cost: \$826,000

Requested: \$543,200 (66%)

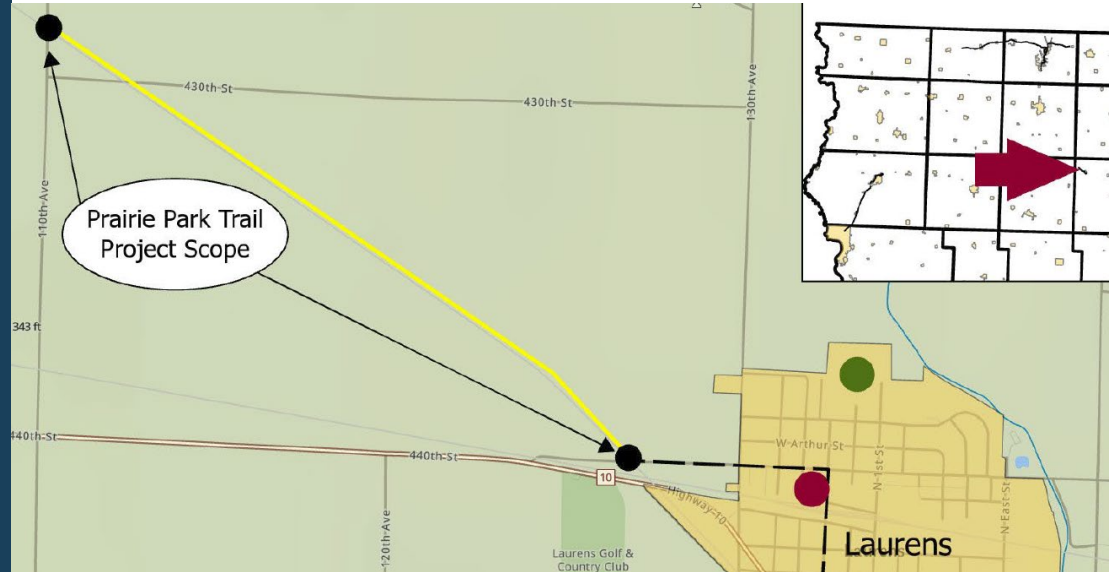


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Prairie Restoration Trail (Laurens)

Construction of 2.2 miles of granular trail from 440th Street to 110th Avenue along the former Union Pacific railroad corridor. The Prairie Restoration Trail will join 1.9 miles of existing bicycle and pedestrian routes through Laurens to create a 4.1-mile trail system.

Total Cost: \$578,570
Requested: \$433,927 (75%)



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List of Applications Not Recommended for Award

PROJECT NAME	SPONSOR	SCORE	TOTAL PROJECT COST	REQUESTED AMOUNT (% of Total Project Cost)	RECOMMENDED AMOUNT (% of Total Project Cost)
Volksweg Trail Extension at Red Rock Dam	Marion County	55	\$14,520,000	\$500,000 (3%)	\$0
Raccoon River Valley Trail Phase V: South 18th Street to South 5th Street	Dallas County Conservation Board	54	\$790,000	\$197,500 (25%)	\$0
Gateway Preserve Trail Expansion	Marengo Trails Foundation	54	\$329,500	\$242,928 (74%)	\$0
Old Man's Creek Trail Phase 2	Williamsburg	53	\$733,700	\$220,000 (30%)	\$0
Summer Street-Dankwardt Park Connector Trail	Burlington	52	\$942,000	\$706,500 (75%)	\$0

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PROJECT NAME	SPONSOR	SCORE	TOTAL PROJECT COST	REQUESTED AMOUNT (% of Total Project Cost)	RECOMMENDED AMOUNT (% of Total Project Cost)
Washington Grand Connector Trail	Mount Pleasant	51	\$1,647,100	\$1,235,325 (75%)	\$0
Waspi Bluff Trail	Linn County Conservation Board	47	\$460,913	\$345,000 (75%)	\$0
Westview Park Trail Phase 2	Donnellson	47	\$421,000	\$315,750 (75%)	\$0
Agency Road Trail	West Burlington	47	\$2,351,000	\$1,763,250 (75%)	\$0
Dubuque Area Mountain Biking Venue	Tristate Mountain Bike Riders	45	\$652,410	\$450,000 (69%)	\$0

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List of Applications Not Recommended for Award

PROJECT NAME	SPONSOR	SCORE	TOTAL PROJECT COST	REQUESTED AMOUNT (% of Total Project Cost)	RECOMMENDED AMOUNT (% of Total Project Cost)
Admiral Trail Phase 3: 390th Avenue to Iowa 2	Farragut	43	\$600,000	\$450,000 (75%)	\$0
55th Street Trail: Meadow View Drive to Richland Avenue	Urbana	42	\$1,886,000	\$1,414,500 (75%)	\$0
Raccoon River Valley Trail Resurfacing	Greene County Conservation Board	34	\$4,876,400	\$650,000 (13%)	\$0

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