

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION ORDER

Transportation Development Division  
Division/Bureau/Office Local Systems Bureau Order No. TD-2026-48  
Submitted by Debra Arp Phone No. 515-239-1681 Meeting Date January 13, 2026  
Title Federal Recreational Trails Program Funding Recommendations

**DISCUSSION/BACKGROUND:**

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

Off-Highway Vehicle Park Maintenance Equipment (Iowa Department of Natural Resources)	\$ 291,600
Pinicon Ridge Park Wapsi Bluff Trail Connector (Linn County Conservation Board)	\$ 325,000
Skunk River Bridge Repair (Polk County Conservation Board)	\$ 468,000
Snow Trail Maintenance Equipment (Iowa State Snowmobile Association)	\$ 264,000
Total	\$1,348,600

**PROPOSAL/ACTION RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**COMMISSION ACTION:**

Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by \_\_\_\_\_

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

Division Director \_\_\_\_\_ Legal \_\_\_\_\_ State Director \_\_\_\_\_



# Federal Recreational Trails Program

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Funding Recommendation



# Federal Recreational Trail Program

- Created in 1991
- Available to federal, state, and local government agencies. Private individuals and organizations may apply with a government co-sponsor.
- Purpose is to develop and maintain recreational trails and trail related facilities for both motorized and non-motorized trail users.
- Eligible projects include:
  - Maintenance and restoration of existing trails, development of trailside and trailhead facilities, purchase of trail construction and maintenance equipment, construction of new trails and acquisition of land for trails.

# Project Evaluation Criteria

Criteria	Points
Degree to which motorized and non-motorized trail use are accommodated	10
Greatest number of compatible multi-purpose uses	10
Access and use for persons with disabilities, older citizens, economically challenged and other special populations or groups	10
Provides development of trail linkages	10
Opportunities for new partnerships between trail users and private interests	10
Identified in or furthers a specific goal of a state, regional, or local plan	10
Leverages greater public or private investments	10
Citizen involvement in the project's conception and implementation.	10
Degree to which project ties into other trails	10
Public/private partnerships to continue operation and maintenance	15
Trails with national designation or resulting in the cleanup of an area	10
<b>MAXIMUM POINTS</b>	<b>115</b>

# Available Funding and Application Summary

## Available Funding:

Annual appropriation	\$1,300,000
Underruns from closed projects	\$77,833
Total available funding	\$1,377,833

## Application Summary:

Total number of projects	11
Total project costs	\$11,758,997
Total amount requested	\$6,053,800

# List of Motorized Applications Recommended

PROJECT NAME	SPONSOR	SCORE	TOTAL PROJECT COST	REQUESTED AMOUNT (% of Total Project Cost)	RECOMMENDED AMOUNT (% of Total Project Cost)
<a href="#"><u>Snow Trail Maintenance Equipment</u></a>	Iowa State Snowmobile Association	59	\$330,000	\$264,000 (80%)	\$264,000 (80%)
<a href="#"><u>Off-Highway Vehicle Park Maintenance Equipment</u></a>	Iowa Department of Natural Resources	49	\$364,500	\$291,600 (80%)	\$291,600 (80%)

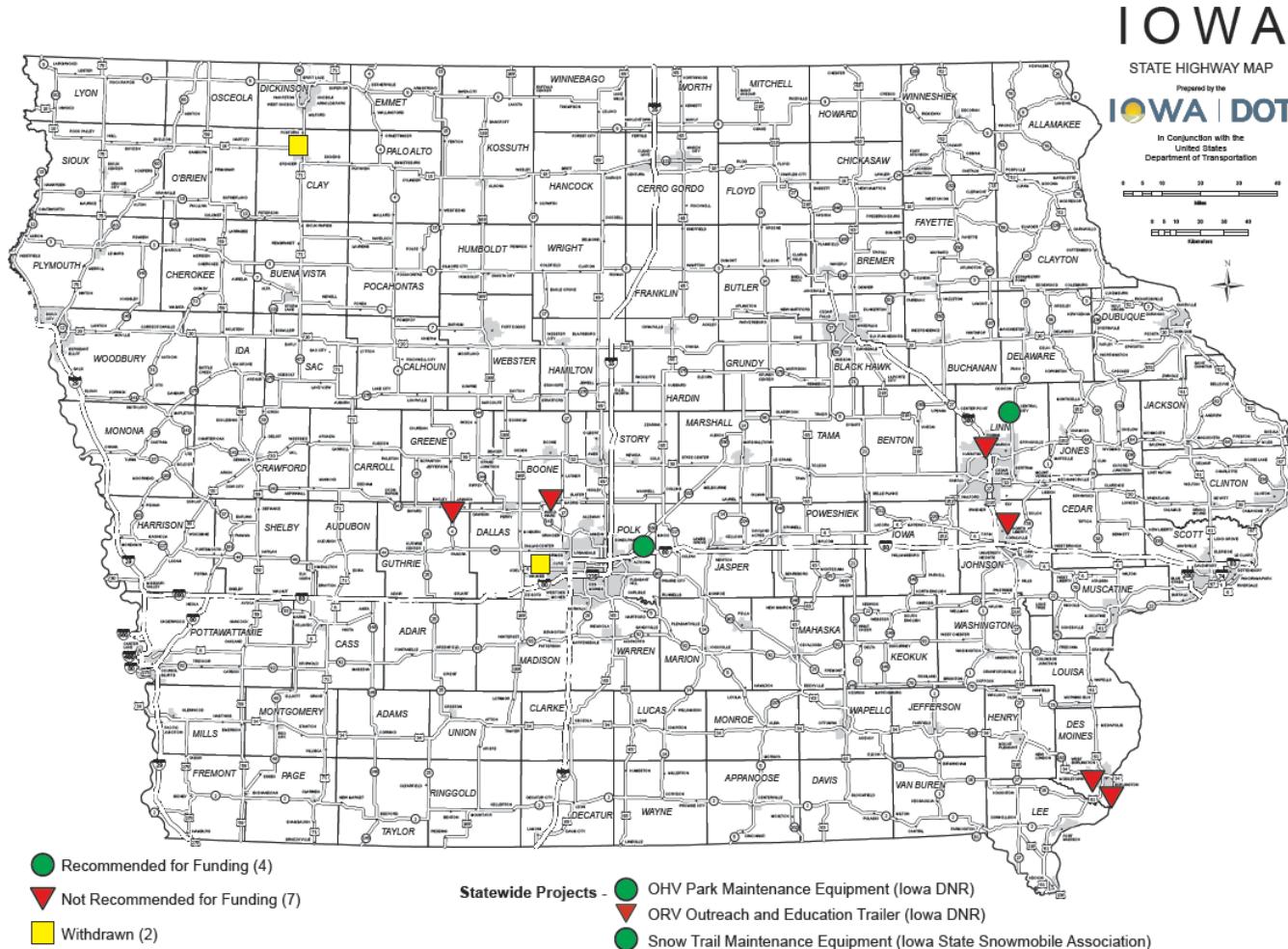
[Jump to Applications Not Recommended for Funding](#)

# List of Non-motorized Applications Recommended

PROJECT NAME	SPONSOR	SCORE	TOTAL PROJECT COST	REQUESTED AMOUNT (% of Total Project Cost)	RECOMMENDED AMOUNT (% of Total Project Cost)
<a href="#"><u>Skunk River Bridge Repair</u></a>	Polk County Conservation Board	73	\$885,000	\$468,000 (53%)	\$468,000 (53%)
<a href="#"><u>Pinicon Ridge Park Wapsi Bluff Trail Connector</u></a>	Linn County Conservation Department	65	\$460,000	\$325,000 (71%)	\$325,000 (71%)

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

# Map of Applications Received



*Thank you!*

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Questions?



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515-239-1252

# Snow Trail Maintenance Equipment (Iowa State Snowmobile Association)

Purchase of snow cat power units and drags to maintain 8,800 miles of snowmobile trails across 63 counties.

**Total Cost: \$330,000**

**Requested: \$264,000 (80%)**



# Off-Highway Vehicle Park Maintenance Equipment (Iowa Department of Natural Resources)

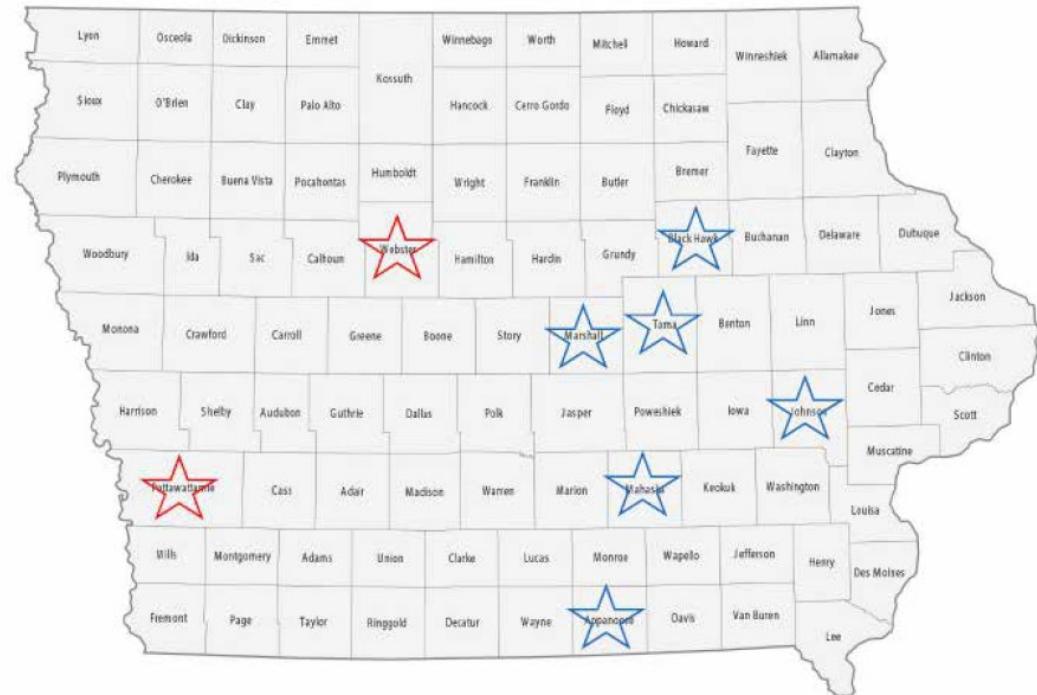
Purchase 10 pieces of equipment for trail maintenance and track development at 6 designated OHV parks across Iowa. Combined, these OHV parks offer more than 1,200 acres of public OHV recreation areas.

**Total Cost: \$364,500**

**Requested: \$291,600 (80%)**

## Iowa Off-Highway Vehicle Parks

\*Parks assisted by this request in blue\*



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# Skunk River Bridge Repair (Polk County Conservation Board)

Provides structural repairs and replaces existing wood decking with concrete on 100-year-old, 453-foot timber bridge located northeast of Mitchellville on the Chichaqua Valley Trail. The 26-mile Chichaqua Valley Trail is located on the former Chicago Pacific Railroad corridor between Berwick and Baxter.

**Total Cost:** \$885,000

**Requested:** \$468,000 (53%)



# Pinicon Ridge Park Wapsi Bluff Trail Connector (Linn County Conservation Board)

Constructs 0.75 mile of paved trail in two sections within the 1,018-acre Pinicon Ridge Park and is part of a 3-mile loop trail that connects Pinicon Ridge Park with Central City.



**Total Cost: \$460,000**  
**Requested: \$325,000 (71%)**

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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)
Trail Maintenance Equipment	Friends of Coralville Lake	74	\$130,000	\$104,000 (80%)	\$0
Swede Point Park Trail Phase IB	Boone County Conservation Board	60	\$833,000	\$383,000 (46%)	\$0
Summer Street-Dankwardt Park Connector Trail Phase I	Burlington	59	\$4,490,000	\$800,000 (18%)	\$0
Raccoon River Valley Trail Resurfacing Project	Guthrie County Conservation Board	55	\$520,497	\$415,000 (80%)	\$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)
ITC Midwest Trail	Robins	54	\$1,363,000	\$1,090,400 (80%)	\$0
Agency Road Trail	West Burlington	43	\$2,351,000	\$1,880,800 (80%)	\$0
ORV Outreach and Education Trailer	Iowa Department of Natural Resources	32	\$32,000	\$32,000 (100%)	\$0

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