State Recreational Trails Program

Funding Recommendation

IOWA | DOT

Debra Arp
Local Systems Bureau, Grant Team Leader

09/21/2026

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 6/30/2028	**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:	
FY27 Legislative appropriation	$2,500,000
Additional funding available	$57,055
Total available funding	$2,557,055

Application Summary:	
Total number of projects	28
Total project costs	$53,443,184
Total amount requested	$13,884,709

List of Applications Recommended

PROJECT NAME	SPONSOR	SCORE	TOTAL PROJECT COST	REQUESTED AMOUNT (% of Total Project Cost)	RECOMMENDED AMOUNT (% of Total Project Cost)
Central Place Trail Phase 2	Des Moines	73	$4,130,000	$470,000 (11%)	$470,000 (11%)
Iowa River's Edge Trail Resurfacing & Bridge Replacement between Gifford & Union	Hardin County	72	$1,986,747	$413,119 (21%)	$413,119 (21%)
Raccoon River East Greenway Trail: 1st Street Recreation Area to Raccoon River Park	West Des Moines	70	$1,925,000	$400,000 (21%)	$400,000 (21%)
Tatanka Ska Trace Phase 5a	Dickinson County	67	$1,033,178	$535,000 (52%)	$475,000 (46%)

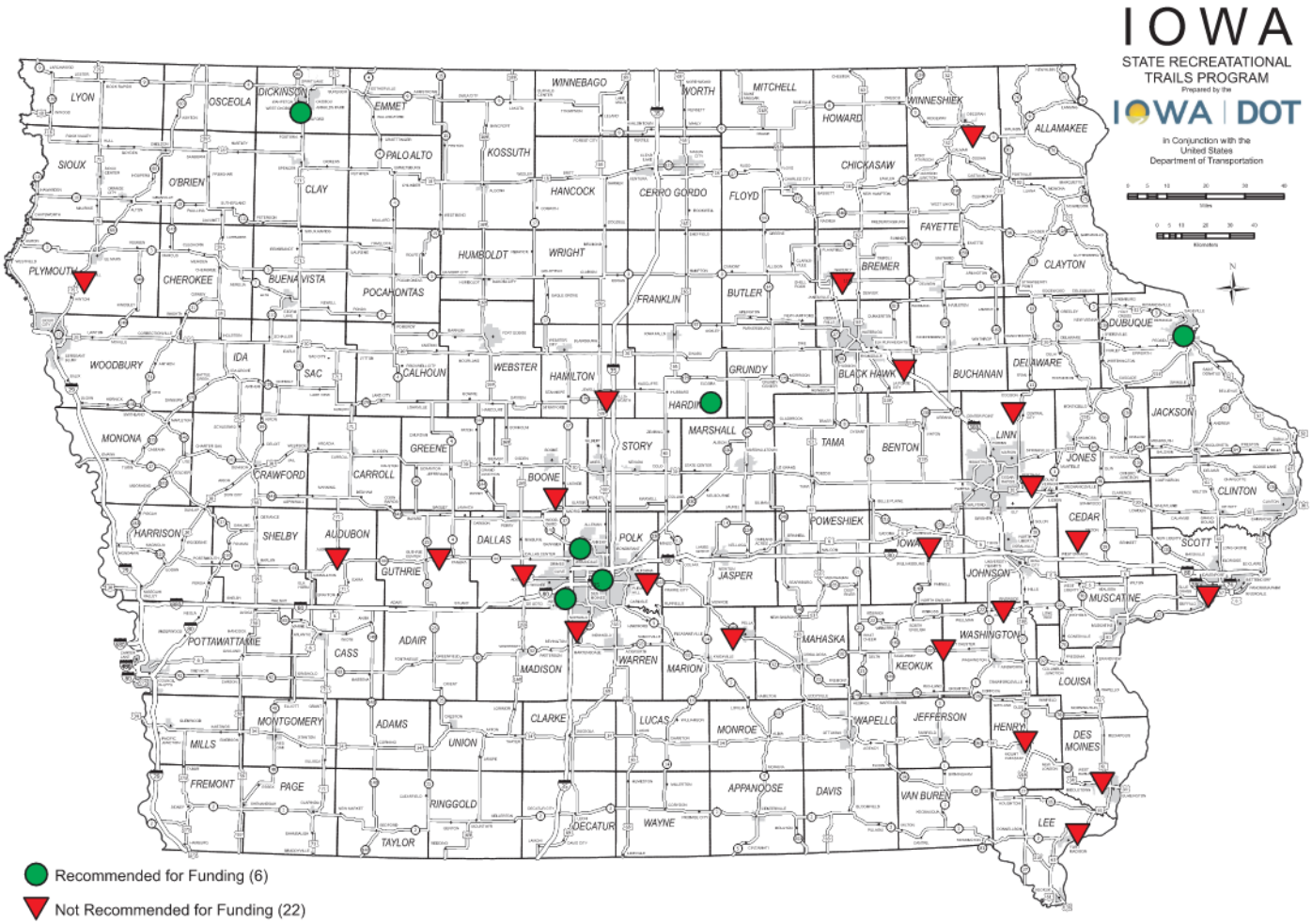
Jump to Applications Not Recommended for Funding

List of Applications Recommended

PROJECT NAME	SPONSOR	SCORE	TOTAL PROJECT COST	REQUESTED AMOUNT (% of Total Project Cost)	RECOMMENDED AMOUNT (% of Total Project Cost)
Neal Smith Trail Connection: NW 94th Avenue	Polk County Conservation Board	66	$831,000	$623,250 (75%)	$400,000 (48%)
White Street Two-Way Bicycle Track: 5th Street to 19th Street	Dubuque	66	$2,900,000	$500,000 (17%)	$398,936 (14%)

Jump to Applications Not Recommended for Funding

Map of Applications Received



Thank you!

Questions?

scott.flagg@iowadot.us

515-239-1252

Central Place Trail Phase 2 (Des Moines)

Construct 1.8 miles of paved trail from Franklin Avenue and 2nd Avenue through Prospect Park and the Ding Darling Greenway connecting to the Central Iowa Trail network, the Iowa Confluence Water Trails network and the American Discovery Trail. Project also includes construction of direct neighborhood access to these networks.

Total Cost: $4,130,000
Requested: $470,000 (11%)

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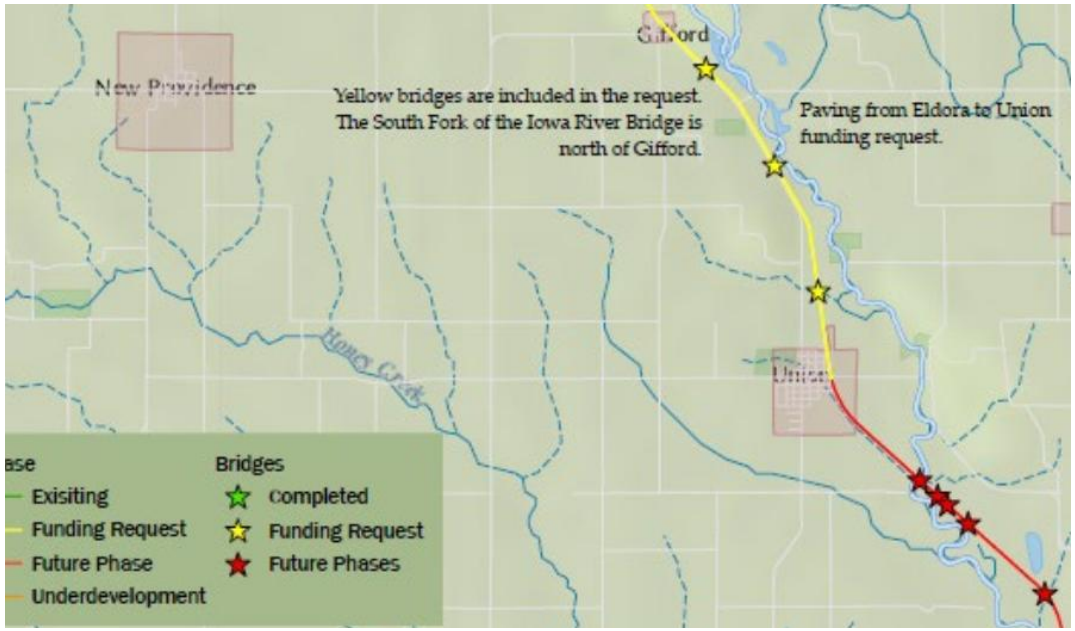
Iowa River's Edge Trail Resurfacing & Bridge Replacement between Gifford and Union (Hardin County)

Paving 3.6 miles of granular trail and reconstruct three bridges between Gifford and Union. 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: $1,986,747
Requested: $413,119 (21%)



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Raccoon River East Greenway Trail: 1st Street Recreation Area to Raccoon River Park (West Des Moines)

Construct 1.3 miles of paved trail from the 1st Street Recreation Area to Raccoon River Park along the Raccoon River Greenway. Project also includes construction of 100’ long trail bridge over Jordan Creek. Project is part of the 26.2-mile Marathon Loop Trail and part of the city’s Five Waters Project Initiative.

Total Cost: $1,925,000
Requested: $400,000 (21%)

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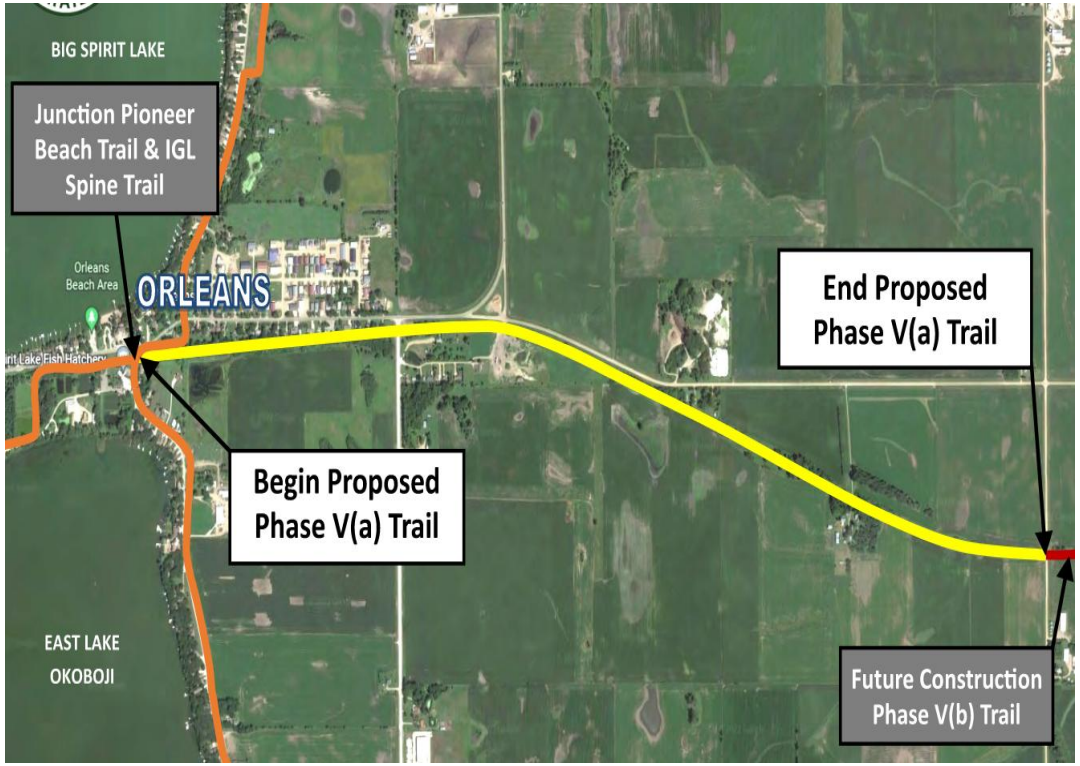
Tatanka Ska Trace Phase 5a (Dickinson County)

Constructs 2.2 miles of paved trail between 252nd Avenue in Orleans and 270th Avenue. This segment expands the existing 37-mile Tatanka Ska Trace Trail and connects to the Pioneer Beach Trail and Iowa Great Lakes Spine Trail networks.



Total Cost: $1,033,178
Requested: $535,000 (52%)
Recommended: $475,000 (46%)

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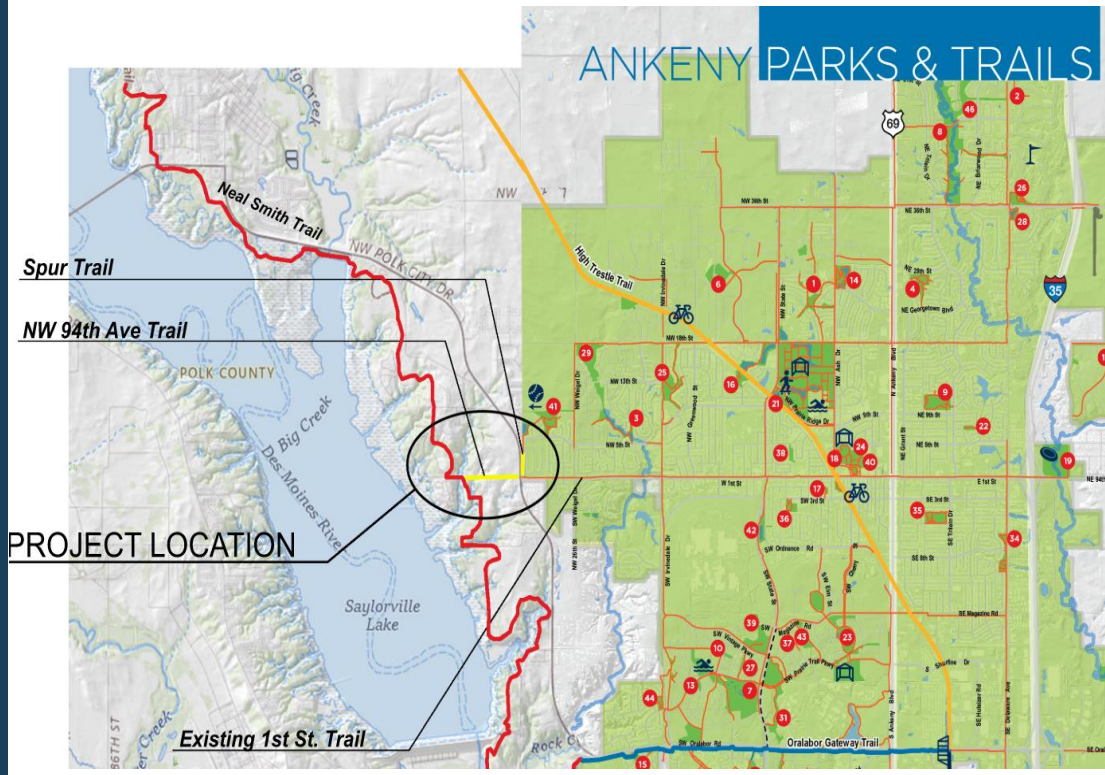
Neal Smith Trail Connection: NW 94th Avenue (Polk County Conservation Board)

Constructs 0.5 miles of paved trail starting at Iowa 415 filling the gap between 1st Street Trail and the Neal Smith Trail, connecting at the Cherry Glenn Campground at Saylorville Lake. An additional 0.09 miles of paved trail will be added along Iowa 415 to connect to the existing neighborhood park trail.

Total Cost: $831,000
Requested: $623,250 (75%)
Recommended: $400,000 (48%)



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White Street Two-Way Bicycle Track: 5th Street to 19th Street (Dubuque)

Project creates a grade-separated bike facility of 0.85 miles stretching from 5th Street to 19th Street. Track will run adjacent to a 6’ sidewalk and a 5’ buffer between the street to improve safety for cyclists, pedestrians and motorists.

Total Cost: $2,900,000
Requested: $500,000 (17%)
Recommended: $398,936 (14%)

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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)
Jewellsworth Trail Extension: Jewell to Little Wall Lake Park	Hamilton County Conservation Board	65	$1,734,000	$749,000 (43%)	$0
Swede Point Park Trail Phase 1B	Boone County Conservation Board	61	$131,680	$98,760 (75%)	$0
Old Man's Creek Trail Phase 2	Williamsburg	58	$285,193	$189,043 (66%)	$0
Kalona Trail Phase 1	Kalona	57	$500,000	$375,000 (75%)	$0
Interurban Trail Connection Phase 2: Cornell College to Bryant Park	Mount Vernon	57	$415,313	$250,313 (60%)	$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)
Gay Lea Wilson Connection: Sleepy Hollow Trail	Polk County Conservation Board	56	$1,026,000	$769,500 (75%)	$0
Great Western Trail Rehabilitation Phase 3	Warren County Conservation Board	53	$1,500,000	$500,000 (33%)	$0
Dry Run Trail	Winneshiek County Conservation Board	50	$500,000	$375,000 (75%)	$0
Cedar Valley Nature Trail: Blue Branch Creek Bridge & Trail Replacement	Black Hawk County Conservation Board	50	$990,103	$650,000 (66%)	$0
Riverview Park Access Trail & Railroad Crossing	Fort Madison	50	$1,484,000	$750,000 (51%)	$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)
Agency Road Trail Phase 1	West Burlington	50	$1,359,000	$640,000 (47%)	$0
Duck Creek Trail Underpass	Davenport	50	$382,683	$287,012 (75%)	$0
Raccoon River Valley Trail Resurfacing	Guthrie County Conservation Board	50	$4,876,400	$650,000 (13%)	$0
Volksweg Trail Extension at Red Rock Dam	Marion County	48	$14,786,408	$500,000 (3%)	$0
Washington-Grand Connector Trail	Mount Pleasant	48	$1,630,000	$800,000 (49%)	$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)
Herbert Hoover Highway Trail Connector	West Branch	46	$200,000	$150,000 (75%)	$0
Waverly Rail Trail – Interurban and Ivanhoe Bridge Replacements	Waverly	44	$813,500	$610,125 (75%)	$0
Wapsi Bluff Trail Phase 1: Pinicon Ridge Park to Central City	Linn County Conservation Board	43	$818,196	$550,000 (67%)	$0
Intra City Trail & Kewash Trailhead Connection Phase 1A & 1B	Keota	43	$547,000	$240,250 (44%)	$0
Raccoon River Valley Trail Phase V: South 18th Street to South 5th Street	Dallas County Conservation Board	42	$195,000	$146,250 (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)
Plywood Trail Phase 2	Plywood Trail Foundation	36	$4,912,000	$500,000 (10%)	$0
T-Bone Trail Resurfacing: Audubon to Hamlin	Audubon County Conservation Board	23	$1,550,783	$1,163,087 (75%)	$0

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