

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION ORDER

Division/Bureau/Office Transportation Development Division  
Systems Planning Bureau Order No. TD-2024-31  
Submitted by Debra Arp Phone No. 515-239-1681 Meeting Date January 9, 2024  
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 funding recommendations will be presented.

Central Place Levee Trail Phase 1 (Des Moines)	\$ 500,000
Connecting Fort Madison! Phase IV 48 <sup>th</sup> Street Trail Connector (Fort Madison)	\$ 125,000
Off-Highway Vehicle Park Equipment (Iowa Department of Natural Resources)	\$ 340,000
Snowmobile Trail Maintenance (Iowa State Snowmobile Association)	\$ 346,399
Support for Bicycle Summit (Iowa DOT)	\$ 6,000
 Total	 \$1,317,399

**PROPOSAL/ACTION RECOMMENDATION:**

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

<b>COMMISSION ACTION:</b>		Vote	
		Aye	Nay
		Pass	
Moved by _____	Arnold	_____	_____
Seconded by _____	Fehrman	_____	_____
	Gaesser	_____	_____
	Juckette	_____	_____
	Rielly	_____	_____
	Stutsman	_____	_____
	Yanney	_____	_____
_____ Division Director	_____ Legal	_____ State Director	



Federal Recreational Trails Program  
**Funding Recommendation**



# Federal Recreational Trail Program

- **Federal 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

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

# Available Funding and Application Summary

- **Available Funding:**
  - Annual appropriation: **\$1,300,000**
  - Underruns from closed projects: **\$20,433**
  
- **Application Summary:**
  - Total number of projects: **15**
  - Total project costs: **\$17,218,789**
  - Total amount requested: **\$8,777,063**

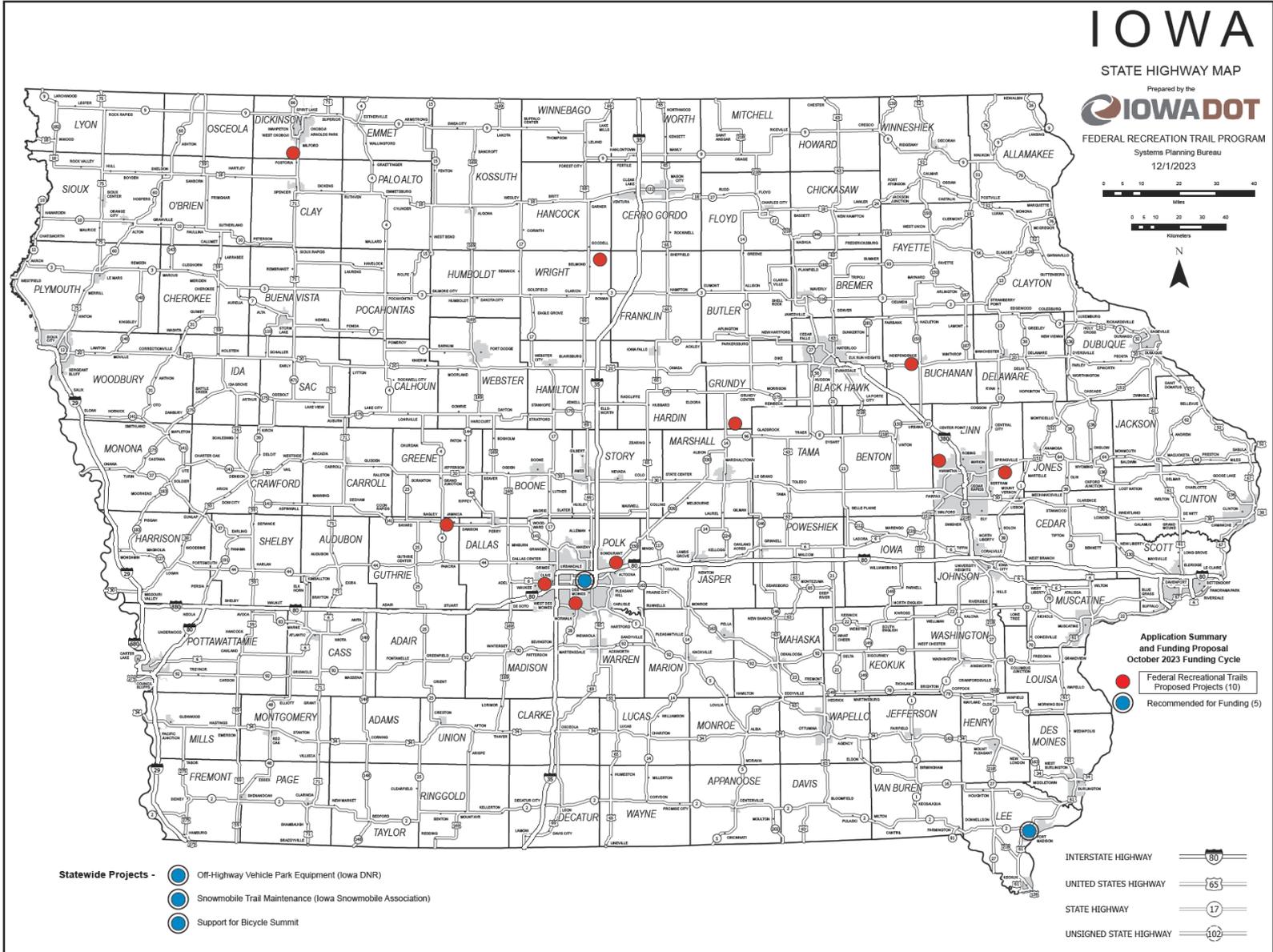
# List of Motorized Applications Recommended

PROJECT NAME	SPONSOR	SCORE	TOTAL PROJECT COST	REQUESTED AMOUNT (% of Total Project Cost)	RECOMMENDED AMOUNT (% of Total Project Cost)
<a href="#"><u>Snowmobile Trail Maintenance</u></a>	Iowa State Snowmobile Association	59.57	\$432,999	\$346,399 (80%)	\$346,399 (80%)
<a href="#"><u>Off-Highway Vehicle Park Equipment</u></a>	Iowa Department of Natural Resources	55.17	\$425,000	\$340,000 (80%)	\$340,000 (80%)

# 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>Support for Bicycle Summit</u></a>	Iowa DOT	N/A	\$7,500	\$6,000 (80%)	\$6,000 (80%)
<a href="#"><u>Central Place Levee Trail Phase 1</u></a>	Des Moines	69.71	\$1,508,000	\$500,000 (33%)	\$500,000 (33%)
<a href="#"><u>Connecting Fort Madison! Phase IV 48<sup>th</sup> Street Trail Connector</u></a>	Fort Madison	67.29	\$631,388	\$125,000 (20%)	\$125,000 (20%)

# Map of Applications Received





QUESTIONS?



Scott Flagg, Federal Recreational Trails Program Manager

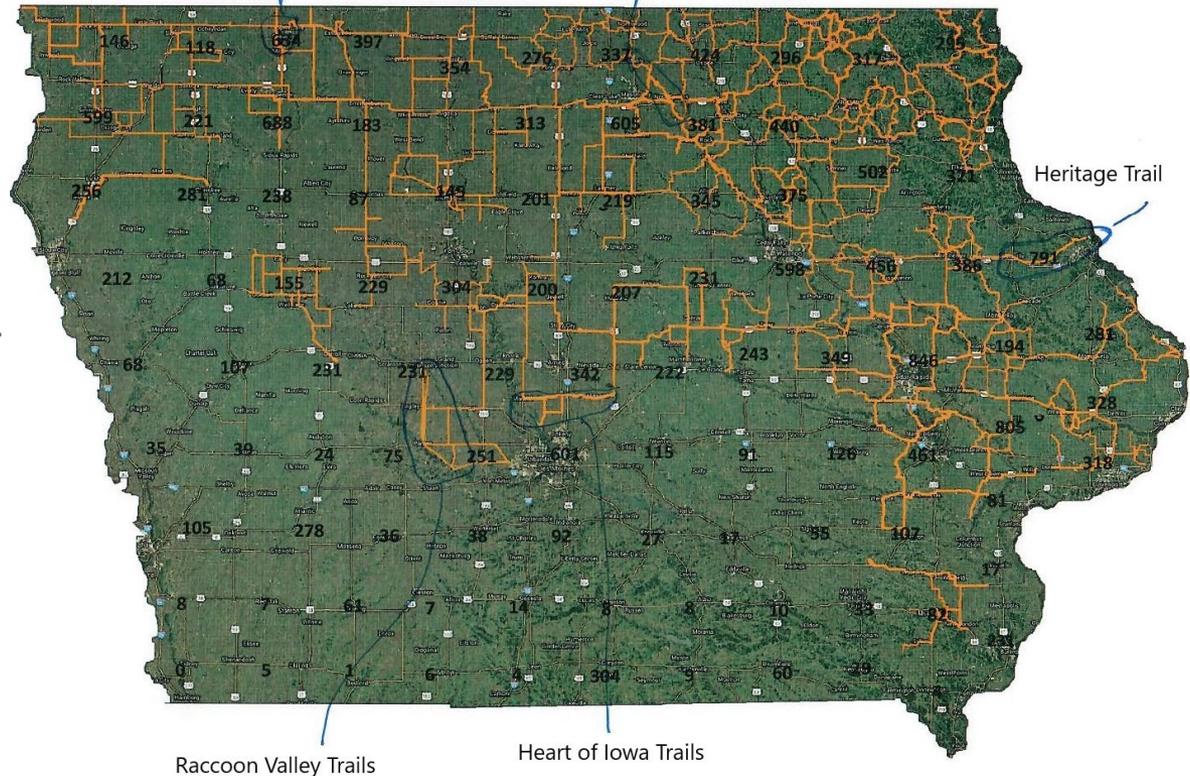
[scott.flagg@iowadot.us](mailto:scott.flagg@iowadot.us)

515-239-1252

# Snowmobile Trail Maintenance (Iowa State Snowmobile Association)

This project will create and maintain snowmobile trails in 63 counties across Iowa for the winter of 2024-2025.

Total Cost: \$432,999  
Requested: \$346,399 (80%)

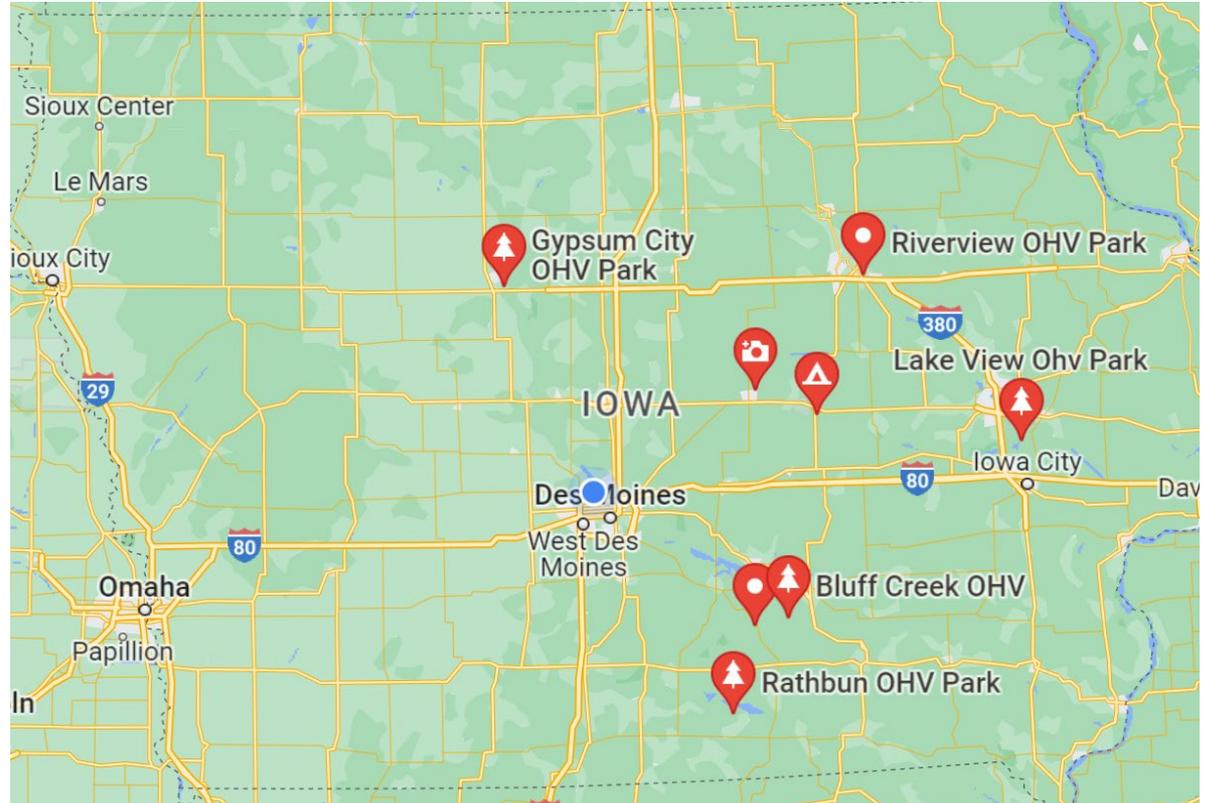


## ISSA STATE SNOWMOBILE TRAIL

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

This project will purchase 10 pieces of trail maintenance equipment (tractors, bobcats and brushcats) for use at designated OHV parks.

**Total Cost: \$425,000**  
**Requested: \$340,000 (80%)**



## Support for Bicycle Summit (Iowa DOT)

This project provides funding to pay for costs related to the 2025 Iowa Bicycle Summit. The Iowa Bicycle Summit is an annual conference providing education on the latest bicycle facilities, technology, and programming. It brings national speakers to Iowa to share bicycle facility successes and best practices from around the United States. Many of the lessons learned at the summit have manifested into trail facilities and safety.

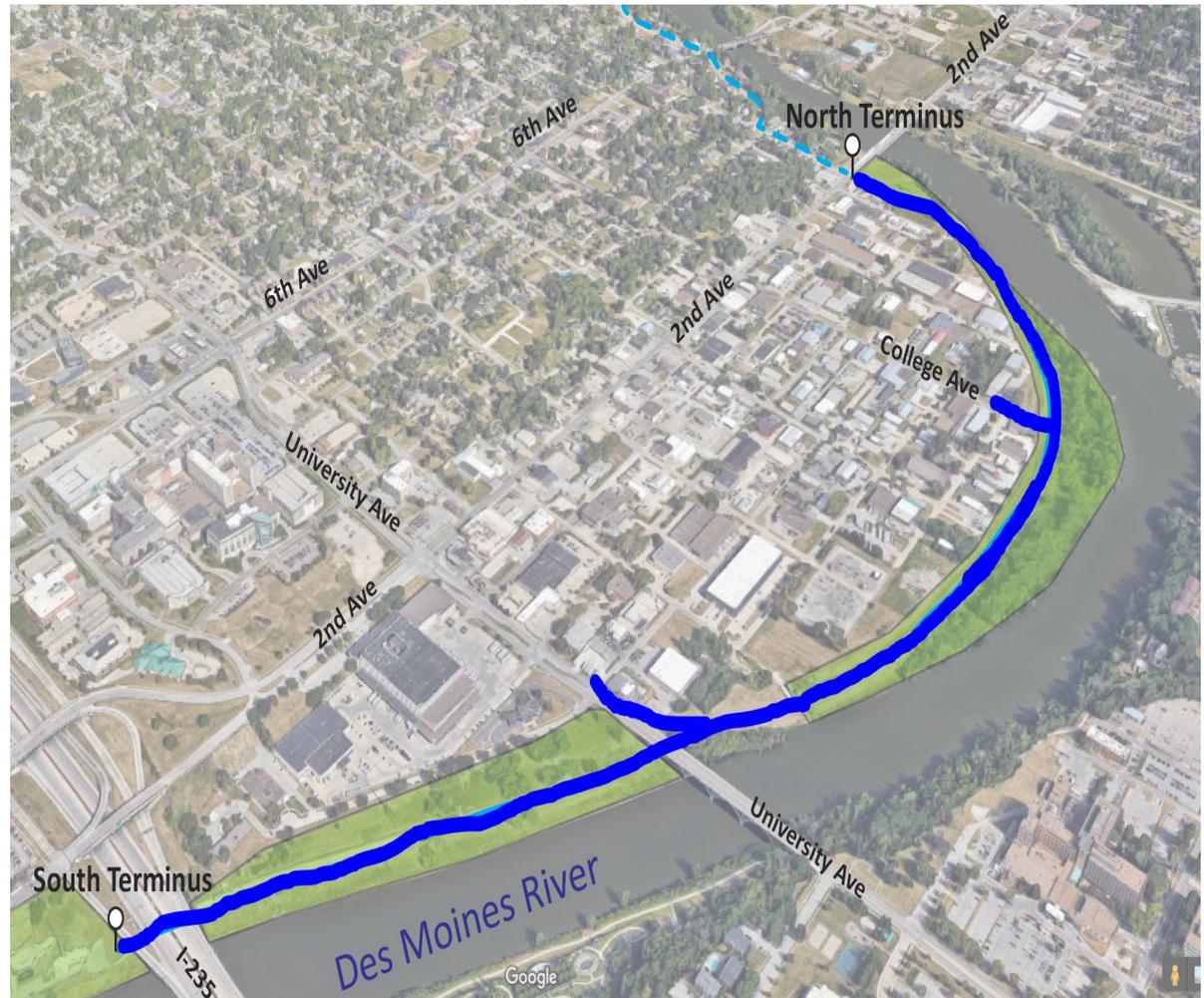
**Total Cost:** \$7,500  
**Requested:** \$6,000 (80%)



## Central Place Levee Trail Phase 1 (Des Moines)

This project includes a 1.5-mile trail along the Des Moines River connecting Lauridsen Skatepark and the intersection of Franklin Avenue and 2nd Avenue as well as sidewalk connections to the adjacent neighborhood and wayfinding.

**Total Cost:** \$1,508,000  
**Requested:** \$500,000 (33%)



— Central Place Levee Trail Phase 1

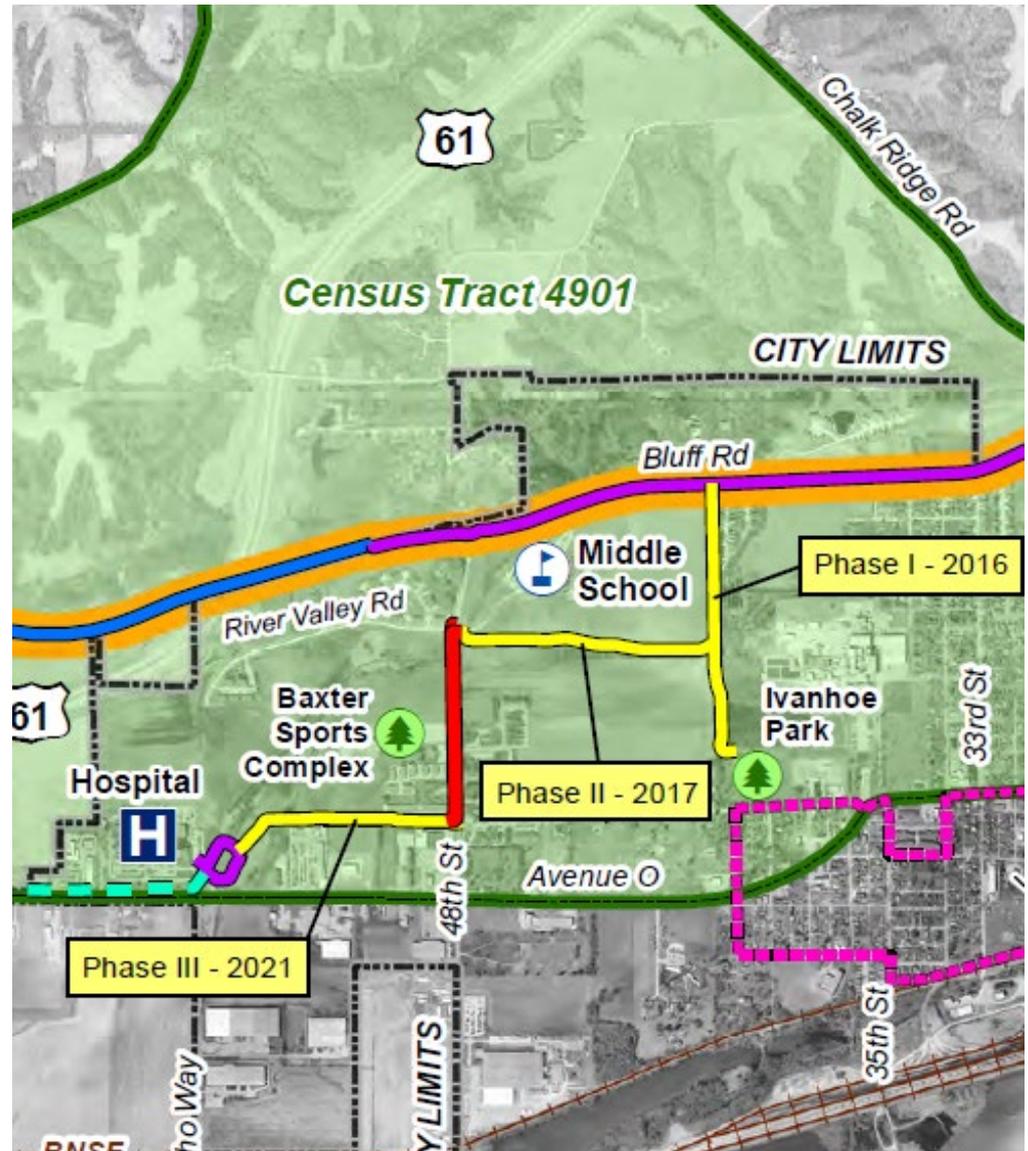
- - - Central Place Levee Trail Phase 2

## Connecting Fort Madison! Ph IV 48th Street Trail Connector (Fort Madison)

This trail will run alongside 48th Street between Avenue L and River Valley Road and connect to the Baxter Sports Complex and existing trail linkages.

**Total Cost: \$631,388**

**Requested: \$125,000 (20%)**



# 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)
Clay County Connection Phase II	Dickinson County	67.00	\$1,407,545	\$490,000 (35%)	\$0
Grant Street South Trail and Underpass	Bondurant	60.71	\$2,968,265	\$250,000 (8%)	\$0
Prairie Lands Trail Extension	Wright County Conservation Board	59.71	\$1,283,100	\$1,026,480 (80%)	\$0
Grant Wood Trail: Paralta Road to Springville Road	Linn County Conservation Board	59.43	\$900,000	\$400,000 (44%)	\$0
Clive Greenbelt to Raccoon River Valley Trail Connection	Clive	57.57	\$1,400,000	\$470,000 (34%)	\$0

# 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)
Comet Trail Extension and Trailhead	Conrad	55.86	\$153,550	\$122,840 (80%)	\$0
Palo Connector Trail System	Palo	50.00	\$2,650,000	\$2,120,000 (80%)	\$0
Enterprise Drive Trail Extension - Phase 2	Independence	47.00	\$631,692	\$401,544 (64%)	\$0
Raccoon River Valley Trail Resurfacing Project	Guthrie County Conservation Board	45.57	\$2,216,000	\$1,772,800 (80%)	\$0
Great Western Trail Improvements Project	Polk County Conservation Board	40.86	\$596,000	\$400,000 (67%)	\$0