

Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

Iowa County, WI

April, 2022



PLANNING ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY



SOUTHWESTERN WISCONSIN
REGIONAL PLANNING
COMMISSION

RESOLUTION NO 11-422

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION
PLAN**

TO THE HONORABLE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF IOWA COUNTY, WISCONSIN
MEMBERS,

WHEREAS, Iowa County has recognized the need for a Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan based upon an inventory of outdoor recreation facilities and natural resources within Iowa County and its municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the development of the plan will serve as a guide for making future decisions related to outdoor recreation in Iowa County and through its adoption will make the county eligible to participate in state and federal recreation aid programs; and

WHEREAS this comprehensive outdoor recreation plan has been prepared for the Iowa County Board of Supervisors by Southwestern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission; and

WHEREAS, this recreation plan is based on sound planning principles and long-range goals and objectives for the county's recreational development;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors for Iowa County hereby go on record to adopt the Iowa County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan as the county's guide for future outdoor recreation improvements and development;

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Iowa County Board of Supervisors requests the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to provide eligibility to Iowa County for participation in the state and federal cost-sharing programs for an additional five-year period.

Dated this 19th day of April, 2022

IOWA COUNTY

John M Meyers

John M. Meyers, Board Chair

Kristy K. Spurley

Kristy Spurley, Clerk

ATTEST:

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the resolution passed by the Iowa County Board of Supervisors at the regular meeting thereof held on this 20th day of April, 2022.

Kristy Spurley

Kristy Spurley, Clerk

STAFF

Troy Maggied
Executive Director
Kate Koziol
*Economic Development
Specialist*
Matthew Honer
Associate Planner
Griffin Koziol
Associate Planner
Cory Ritterbusch
Associate Planner
Jaclyn Essandoh
Planner/GIS Specialist
Tasha Blindert
Office Manager

COMMISSIONERS

Grant County

Robert Keeney*
Eileen Nickels
Jerry Wehrle

Green County

Arthur Carter*
Nathan Klassy
Erica Roth

Iowa County

John Meyers*
Todd Novak
Carol Anderson

Lafayette County

Jack Sauer*
Timothy McGettigan
Raymond Spellman

Richland County

Marty Brewer*
Melissa Luck
Raymond Schmitz

* denotes County Board Chair



SOUTHWESTERN WISCONSIN
REGIONAL PLANNING
COMMISSION

P.O. Box 262

Platteville WI 53818

p: 608.342.1636 • f: 608.342.1220

e: info@swwrpc.org

www.swwrpc.org

Table of Contents

Introduction	4
Goals and Objectives	6
Recommendations for Improving Recreation Facilities	7
Plan Process	10
Summary of State, Regional, & Local Planning Efforts	12
Description of the Planning Region	15
Standards for Park and Recreation Planning.....	27
Outdoor Recreation Supply Inventory.....	29
Capital Improvements Schedule.....	41
Maintenance and Operations Schedule	42
Appendix A: NRPA Standards	43
Appendix B: Capital Improvement Schedule.....	50
Appendix C: Maintenance and Operations Schedule.....	52
Appendix D: Maps.....	53

Introduction

The county, by virtue of this plan, has placed itself in a position of leadership among all providers of recreation in the county. It's most basic responsibility will be to lead a program that protects public and private investment, insures wise use of natural resources, and provides its citizens and their guests with the most fulfilling recreation experiences possible. As such, the county will serve as the coordinator and facilitator of partners and projects geared towards creating and maintaining recreation opportunities in the county.

Iowa County is very conducive to outdoor recreation. It's topography, low population density and location from populated cities makes it a popular spot. The county also has a long tradition as a recreational area. However, Iowa County's role in providing and promoting the development of outdoor recreational opportunities is varied because of its intermediate position between federal, state, town and municipal governments. In addition, private enterprise which is becoming an emerging market often provides recreation opportunities similar to those offered by the county.

This plan will consider the contributions of all providers of recreation, evaluate these contributions in relation to demands for them, and develop recommendations for action to satisfy recreational deficiencies identified by this study. Both quantity and quality of opportunities are considered and have direct bearing on decisions for specific recommendations. The county will not be responsible for implementing all recommendations. Many, in fact, will be aimed at other units of government and private enterprise.

Parks can serve a limited neighborhood area, the entire community, and the region as a whole. They provides outdoor recreation for both residents and visitors. **Open spaces** are not limited to parks but also include greenbelts, wetlands, scenic overlooks, and floodplains. Open space can also serve many functions for a community in addition to recreation, such as:

- Preservation of scenic and natural resources
- Flood management
- Protecting the area's water resources
- Preserving prime agricultural land
- Limiting development that may occur
- Buffering incompatible land uses
- Structuring the community environment

Image 1: Governor Dodge State Park in Iowa County, WI



Plan Purpose

This plan is an update of the Iowa County's Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP) 1981 – 1986. The purpose of this plan is to guide the development and improvement of the county's outdoor recreation facilities over the next five years in order to meet the recreational needs and growing demands of the county.

Policy decisions made by the Iowa County Board of Supervisors for outdoor recreation programs and improvement shall be guided by the goals, objectives, findings, and recommendations of this adopted plan. Actual public policy decisions or choices are contingent on funding sources, new opportunities and ideas, changing growth patterns, budget priorities as well as changing county needs and desires. For this reason, the plan should be reviewed annually, and a detailed update such as this should be completed every five years. Updating the plan every five years is also a requirement of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) for a jurisdiction such as Iowa County to stay eligible for matching government funds for parkland acquisition and facility improvements. But just as importantly, Iowa County needs to set a course of action for continued improvement of its outdoor recreational system.

Image 2: The Pendarvis historic site located in Mineral Point, Iowa County, WI.



Goals and Objectives

This plan is designed to provide a feasible program for meeting the recreational needs of Iowa County. Agreement upon basic goals and objectives is necessary to set the general direction for developing this program. Four goals related to recreational and resource protection are outlined below. The goals point toward final ends while the eight objective statements are more directly related to achieving those ends through specific actions.

Goals

- To preserve the county's open space resources and to protect them from visual blight and degradation of quality.
- To provide quality parks and recreational facilities to meet the needs of county residents.
- To provide opportunities for nonresident recreational activity to an extent compatible with preserving irreplaceable resources.
- To identify and preserve sites having scientific, historic, or archaeological significance.

Objectives

- To use multiple approaches to resource protection, including acquisition and easements through partnerships with other entities when appropriate.
- To combine resource protection with park and recreation development, where feasible, through multi-purpose projects.
- To coordinate the county's recreation program with the programs of other levels of government and with private enterprise in order to achieve maximum public benefit.
- To provide areas and facilities for those activities specified in the plan as a county responsibility.
- To develop a coordinated system of river access points emphasizing resource-based recreation areas.
- To maintain the quality of recreational experiences offered within the county by adhering to the standards contained in the plan.
- To encourage quality development of privately owned recreation facilities, particularly for nonresident-oriented activities.
- To maintain the county's eligibility to participate in federal and state financial and technical aid programs having recreation planning requirements.

Image 3: Avoca Lake within the Village of Avoca, Iowa County, WI



Recommendations for Improving Recreation Facilities

The following recommendations for improvement by the Iowa County Land Conservation Committee follow the proposed Capital Improvement Plan (Appendix B). These recommendations will be completed based on availability of county funding and grants.

Bloomfield Prairie property:

Several improvements are needed on the Bloomfield Prairie property. Recommendations for individual projects or activities are listed below:

1. Pond area:

- Dredge (or start with feasibility study for dredging)
- Weed/algae control
- Install canoe launch
- Build longer accessible pier (to reach deeper water/fewer weeds)
- Brush/weed control around the edge
- Rework trail and repair/rebuild footbridge just north of the Pond
- Possibly expand shelter (or maintain/repair as needed)
- Add pit toilet
- Add electricity (or solar panels) to the pond shelter so users could have light.

2. Non-CRP/CREP areas:

- Create accessible trails
- Create bike-able trails
- Create interpretive signs
- Add footbridges in pasture for public access to eastern fields
- Upgrade/replace other bridges (3)
- New or updated kiosks
- Create off-leash dog area

- Improve existing and add additional parking areas

3. Red shed:

- Add pit toilet/bathroom
- Preserve red barn; modify to a shelter or meeting facility
- Add electricity (or solar panels) to the red shed

4. White shed:

- Add a cement floor and more garage doors to the white shed.

5. General:

- Increased management of invasive brush and herbaceous invasive weeds, including but not limited to wild parsnip, Canada thistle, crown vetch, and bush honeysuckle.

Blackhawk Lake Recreation Area:

Several improvements are needed on the Blackhawk Lake Recreation Area. Recommendations for individual projects or activities are listed below:

1. Pit toilet repairs/Remodel
2. Weed/Algae control in beach swimming area
3. Roof replacement on pavilions
4. Retaining wall at beach area
5. Cabin repairs/Rebuilds
6. Parking lot maintenance
7. Shower house repairs and remodels
8. Nature Center improvements/Taxidermy
9. New playground equipment
10. Walk bridge replacement on hiking trail

Military Ridge State Trail:

Several improvements are needed on the Military Ridge State Trail. Recommendations for individual projects or activities are listed below:

1. Increase trail repair/ maintenance on Military Ridge State Trail.
2. Provide dog waste station along trail.
3. Provide bore benches along trail for walking people to sit.
4. Provide more trash cans along trail.

Additional recreation needs/recommendations:

1. The County owns some properties in the Mifflin area along the Pecatonica River and CTH E; which could be made into a park if there is interest to do so, otherwise should consider selling.

2. There is some additional right of way also owned by the county at Factory road and CTH II which could be an access point for fishing easements or a park along Otter Creek.
3. The County and the DNR should continue to work on a cooperative basis to enhance recreational opportunities in the State Riverway and on other public lands for residents of the County. This effort should include on a regional level, integrating a future planned Wisconsin DNR trail along the lower Wisconsin River between Muscoda and Avoca. The proposed trail could link the recreational park and boat launches in Avoca as well as that in Muscoda. Both of these facilities have been constructed in the past two years. This would greatly enhance the recreational opportunities for both of these communities and increase tourism and economic development for this region. Additional recreation needs to be implemented within Pulaski township include:
 - Trail to the Avoca Prairie, possibly some interpretive trail, with signs talking about its unique ecosystem/flora/fauna.
 - Improving/fixing the bridge to cross the river/creek to get out to the Avoca Prairie.
 - Trail/loop in the Avoca prairie.
 - Improvement/building out sand for their beach on the Wisconsin River in Avoca.
 - Life jacket library for the beach.
 - A canoe/kayak launch or some canoe/kayak access on the Wisconsin River.
4. Continue to provide and enhance public access to the Lower Wisconsin Riverway.
5. Continue to upgrade the parks and recreational areas the county owns or manages by bringing all facilities up to ADA standards over the next five to ten years.
6. Consider including paved shoulders as part of future road reconstruction projects to allow safer passing of slower moving vehicles which would benefit ATV/UTV, bicycle, and farm implement traffic.
7. Use the University of Wisconsin Platteville engineering students for any future park project(s). SWWRPC should help guide the process in pairing Iowa County with a suitable team.
8. Explore the feasibility of a trap shooting facility. If feasible, develop a location and facility for youth clubs and school-based teams.
9. Assess the current needs and opportunities for kayaking and canoeing, and, if feasible, develop additional kayak/canoe facilities.
10. The Land Conservation Committee should review the plan at least once a year to assess progress.

Plan Process

This section of the report gives a brief description of the sequences of events that took place during the development of the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP). It also describes the process that can be used to amend the plan.

Description of Process

Iowa County has had an Outdoor Recreation Plan since 1971. However, there is always a need to evaluate progress and update the plan to meet the future goals for recreation in this county. Therefore, the Iowa County Land Conservation Department (the agency currently responsible for park and recreational development in Iowa County) met to discuss what had been done since the last plan. After the Committee understood what had been accomplished in the past, they looked to the future. Results from the Iowa County Land Conservation Committee meeting were shared with the Iowa County Highway Department (the department responsible for maintaining some of the park and recreational amenities in Iowa County). Feedback from the Iowa County Highway Department were compiled and added to the project recommendations proposed by the Iowa County Land Conservation Committee. Additional public comments which have also been included in the plan were received from members of the public via email. A complete list of recommendations can be found on pages 7-9 of this plan.

The Committee with assistance from the Southwest Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SWWRPC) then developed a preliminary draft of the updated Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, based on the recommendation of the Committee, the Highway Department, and the general public.

The updated report was reproduced in draft form and copies given to members of the Land Conservation Committee for their review and comment. After suggesting any minor revisions to the planning document, the Land Conservation Committee were then asked to endorse the draft Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan as their guide for future decisions related to park development in Iowa County. The Land Conservation Committee then submitted an updated report to the Public Works Committee for consideration and approval. The Land Conservation Committee reviewed a proposed resolution to be taken to the Iowa County Board of Supervisors regarding adoption of the planning document. Following this meeting the Land Conservation Committee produced the final report and provided copies to all County Board members for their review and comments. The County Board was also given a copy of the proposed resolution recommending adoption of the plan as the county's official park and recreation plan for the next five year period. Upon adoption, the plan was submitted to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources requesting re-certification for participation in the state's park and recreation cost sharing programs.

Amending the Plan

Plan amendments are common and should be considered part of the planning process. They frequently represent good implementation or plan usage and should be acceptable for consideration by local decision makers. Amendments must follow the same process as when the original plan was prepared. Amendments generally prolong the effectiveness of the original plan.

The following steps will ensure any new amendment is approved with respect to state statues and to the citizens of Iowa County:

1. **Initial meetings/framing the amendment:** Depending on the size and scope of the amendment, the Land Conservation Committee will meet several times to discuss the proposed amendment.

2. **Opportunity for Public Input:** A public forum should be provided with ample time for the community to know about the proposed changes to the plan. Then a public meeting should be held so the community can understand the need for amendment and have an opportunity to provide direct feedback on the proposed changes.
3. **Draft Amendment:** The Land Conservation Committee develop a draft amendment that still captures the need for the amendment and feedback from the public.
4. **Amendment Adoption:** At an official public meeting, the County Board will vote to approve the plan amendment with the recommendation of the Land Conservation Committee.
5. **WIDNR Approval:** The board action on the plan amendment should be sent in writing to the WIDNR for recertification of the county's Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan with the new changes. The plan amendment will not be effective until a letter is received from DNR indicating their approval.

Image 4: Blackhawk Lake Recreation Area in Iowa County, WI



Summary of State, Regional and Local Planning Efforts

Image 4: View of the Wisconsin River in Iowa County, WI



Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

“Our effectiveness in meeting future recreation needs will be shaped by many factors including the shifting demographics of our population, the quality of habitats and the impacts from invasive species and changing climate conditions, our ability to improve the compatibility between and among recreation participants, and sustainable financial resources. Parks and nature preserves, wildlife areas and refuges, and forests and trails connect people to the natural environment. These places, from small neighborhood parks to the large national, state and county forests, are the stages on which we enjoy the outdoors, improve our health, protect our air and water, and provide a large economic boost, particularly to our rural areas. – Wisconsin Statewide Outdoor Recreation Plan

The 2019-2023 Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), provides recommendations to guide public outdoor recreation policy, planning decisions, the use of Land and Water Conservation Fund money, and other WIDNR administered Iowa programs.

High-quality outdoor recreation experiences available in Wisconsin contribute to our exceptional quality of life; reflected in sustained economic growth and in outdoor recreation traditions passed down through generations. From community river walks to expansive public forests, public recreation lands and facilities enhance our lives, draw millions of visitors, and support businesses large and small. The economic, social, and health benefits of outdoor recreation in Wisconsin far outweigh the investment.

To support the development of SCORP, a statewide survey of Wisconsin residents was conducted regarding outdoor recreation participation and frequency, as well as opinions about future needs. In addition, WIDNR undertook an assessment of recreation opportunities and needs in each region of the state. Together, these supporting documents show that an estimated 95% of Wisconsin adults participated in some type of outdoor recreation in the past year. Activities in which residents most frequently engaged tend to be those that require little preparation or travel time and can provide a

high-quality experience in a limited amount of time. Examples include hiking and walking on trails, fishing, bicycling, dog walking, and bird/wildlife watching.

SCORP goals include:

- Boost participation in outdoor recreation.
- Grow partnerships.
- Provide high-quality experiences.
- Improve data to enhance visitor experiences and benefits.
- Enhance funding and financial stability.

Additionally, the SCORP highlights regional recreational demands that supports Iowa County’s priorities for its location in the Southern Gateways Region. The top ten (10) most frequently identified recreation opportunities, needed in the Southern Gateways Region, based on public input gathered during the SCORP Recreation Opportunities Analysis (ROA) process include:

- More trails for motorized recreation (ATVs, UTVs, off-road motorcycles, etc.)
- More hiking/walking/running trails
- More natural surface (dirt) bicycling trails
- More paved bicycling trails
- More rustic/quiet campgrounds (pit toilets, no electricity or generators)
- More public shore access to lakes & streams
- More developed campgrounds (electric hook-ups, flush toilets, showers)
- More local parks and playgrounds
- More horse trails
- More public shooting ranges

Regional Planning Efforts

In 2010, SWWRPC initiated a regional visioning and planning project titled “Grow Southwest Wisconsin” as part of the Sustainable Communities program of the U.S. Departments of Housing and Urban Development, Transportation, and Environmental Protection Agency. Goal 3 of the Culture and Creativity element is to “Attract people from outside Southwestern Wisconsin through regional branding and marketing,” with Strategy 3.5.2 recommending that the region’s leaders “Connect the marketing of arts and culture opportunities with recreational trails such as bike and ATV.” Goal 2 of the Transportation element also recognizes the importance of prioritizing safety in all transportation projects with Strategy 2.2.1 recommending the needs of all users in road construction projects. Strategy 2.2.3 of the same goal also recommends adhering to or exceeding the Americans with Disabilities Act standards.

Summary of Previous Outdoor Recreation Plan

Iowa County’s previous Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan was completed in 1981 by the Iowa County Board of Supervisors, with technical assistance from the Southwestern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission. The plan was prepared with the intent of guiding the future recreation programs of the county and the communities located within it. The plan was divided into two parts--the county plan and the community plans for Dodgeville, Mineral Point, Arena, Avoca, Barneveld, Cobb, Highland, Hollandale, Linden, Rewey, and Ridgeway. Consideration of park facilities and needs of smaller unincorporated Iowa County communities were covered under the county portion of the plan. The most significant

recommendation in the 1981 plan which has since been implemented is the Military Ridge State Trail. The 40-mile Military Ridge State Trail, in Iowa and Dane counties, connects Dodgeville and Madison by way of an 1855 military route between Verona and Dodgeville. The trail runs along the southern borders of Governor Dodge and Blue Mound state parks passing by agricultural lands, woods, wetlands and prairies, and provides a public trail opportunity for biking, hiking, and snowmobiling.

Description of the Planning Region

Social characteristics of Iowa County

According to the 2020 Census, the population of the Iowa County is 23,709, which is up 22 persons from the 2010 US Census count. Iowa County’s racial composition is largely homogenous; 94.2% of the County’s population being white. The remaining 5.8% is split between the “Some Other Race” “Asian”, and “Black or African American” categories. Iowa County’s lack of racial diversity is standard for the southwestern Wisconsin region, and lags behind the state average, with 80.4% white and a 19.6% split of other races, black being the highest at 6%.

Iowa County maintains a median age of 42.8, similar to many communities in southwestern Wisconsin. Table 2 illustrates that roughly 57% of the community is between 20 and 64 years old. This wide working-age base helps ground the community economically and provides stability. Unlike most surrounding counties, Iowa County has a sufficient youth population to have population growth projected out to 2035.

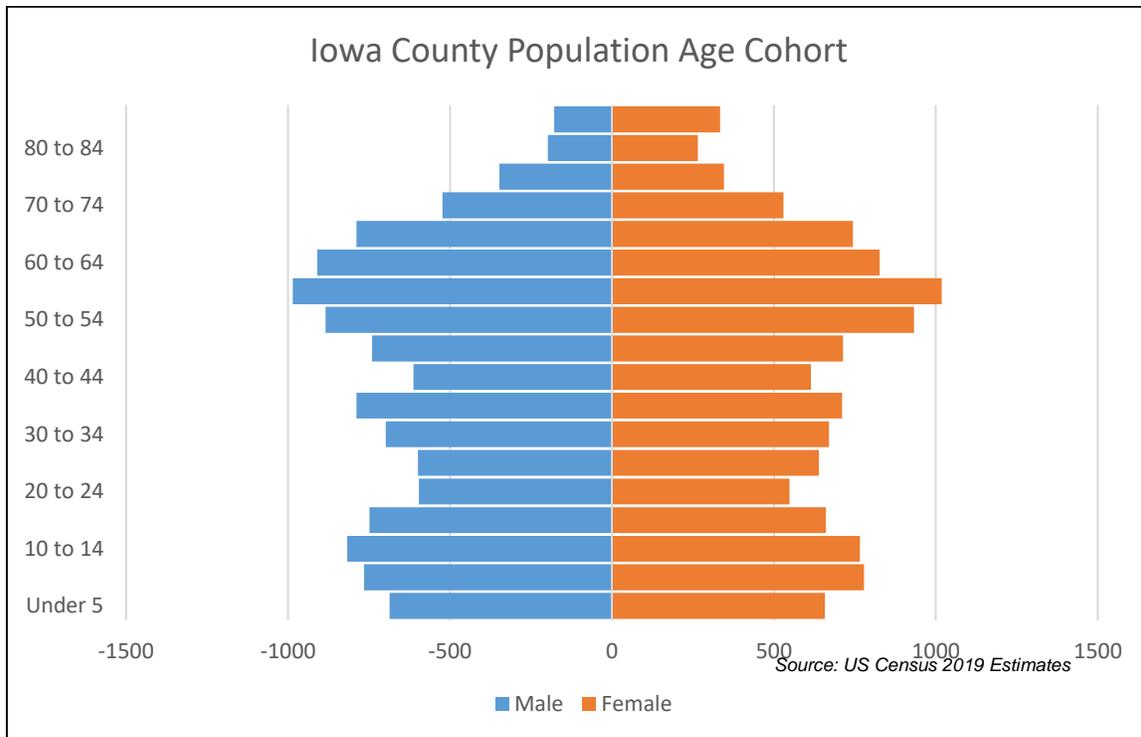
Table 1: Iowa County Age Cohorts

	Total Population		Total Male		Total Female			
Total Population	23618	100%	11865	50.24%	11753	49.76%		
Under 5 years	1343	5.7%	686	5.8%	657	5.6%	5,877 Total "youth" population	24.9% of total population
5 to 9 years	1543	6.5%	765	6.4%	778	6.6%		
10 to 14 years	1583	6.7%	817	6.9%	766	6.5%		
15 to 19 years	1408	6%	748	6.3%	660	5.6%		
20 to 24 years	1144	4.8%	596	5%	548	4.7%	13,487 Total working- age population	57.1% of total population
25 to 29 years	1238	5.2%	599	5%	639	5.4%		
30 to 34 years	1368	5.8%	698	5.9%	670	5.7%		
35 to 39 years	1500	6.4%	789	6.6%	711	6%		
40 to 44 years	1227	5.2%	613	5.2%	614	5.2%		
45 to 49 years	1453	6.2%	740	6.2%	713	6.1%		
50 to 54 years	1817	7.7%	884	7.5%	933	7.9%		
55 to 59 years	2003	8.5%	985	8.3%	1018	8.7%		
60 to 64 years	1737	7.4%	910	7.7%	827	7%		
65 to 69 years	1533	6.5%	789	6.6%	744	6.3%	4,254 Total retired-age population	18% of total population
70 to 74 years	1053	4.5%	523	4.4%	530	4.5%		
75 to 79 years	693	2.9%	347	2.9%	346	2.9%		
80 to 84 years	463	2%	198	1.7%	265	2.3%		
85 years and over	512	2.2%	178	1.5%	334	2.8%		

Source: US Census 2019 Estimates

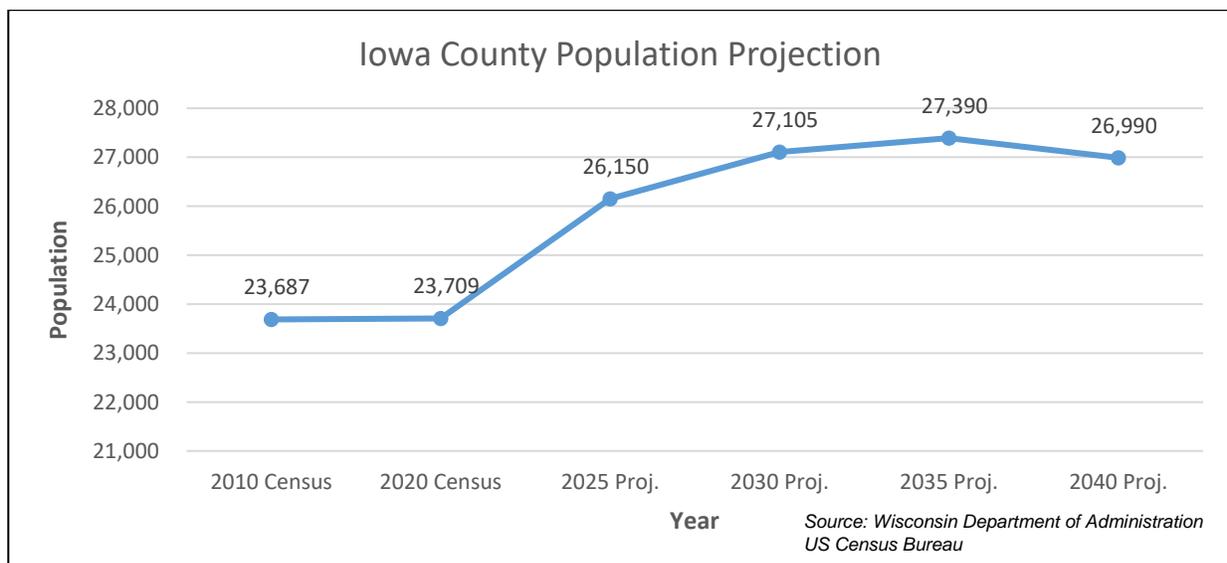
Figure 1 is a population pyramid that shows a snapshot of Iowa’s population taken from the 2019 US Census Estimates. As mentioned previously, the largest portion of the pyramid is the “working-age” population between 20 and 64 years. The middle of the pyramid is bloated and the top and bottom are narrow. This means that while the County’s population is currently stable, in the future it will decline, unless more residents move into the County.

Figure 1: Iowa County Population Pyramid



These findings are consistent with information from the Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA), which is believed to provide a more accurate reflection of population growth estimates. The Wisconsin DOA estimates are based on the 2010 Census and analysis of contemporary data including housing units, dormitory and institutional populations, automobile registrations, and other indicators of population change. According to the DOA, Iowa County’s population will increase slightly from 2010 to 2035, but as the large “working-age” population advances in age, there will not be enough of a youth population to support their loss and the community will lose residents from 2035 to 2040. Figure 3 illustrates the potential rise and decline thereafter in population.

Figure 2: Iowa Population Projection



Economy

Within Iowa County, the local economy is driven by businesses within the “Educational services, and health care and social assistance”, “Retail trade”, and “Manufacturing” industries. The Iowa County has an estimated 2.8% unemployment rate according to the 2019 US Census estimates and approximately 8.8% of people at or below the poverty level. The median household income for people living within the County is \$64,124 according to the 2019 US Census estimates.

Physical Characteristics of Iowa County

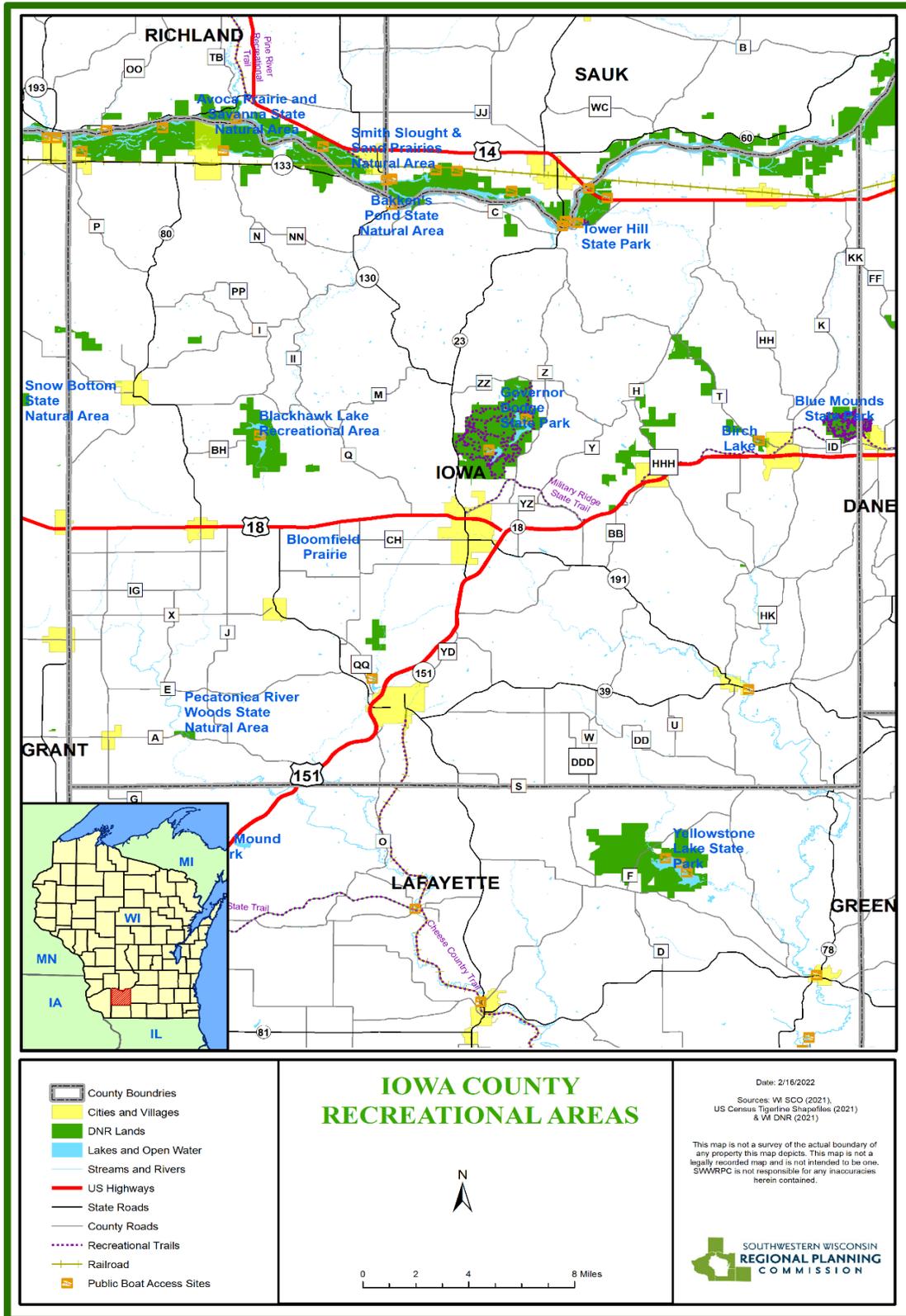
Location

Iowa County is located in the southwestern part of the state bounded on the north by the Wisconsin River (beyond which are Richland and Sauk Counties), on the east and southeast by Dane and Green Counties, on the west by Grant County, and on the south by Lafayette County.

Figure 3 shows some recreational opportunities in Iowa County. The county is well-positioned to provide residents with a variety of recreation activities, including Bloomfield Prairie, Governor Dodge State Park, Blackhawk Lake Recreational Area, Birch Lake Park, Tower Hill State Park, Blue Mounds State Park, among others. Within 50 miles, residents can utilize Yellowstone Lake State Park, Wyalusing State Park, Nelson Dewey State Park, O’Leary’s Lake Recreational Area, Snow Bottom State Natural Area, and more. Many also utilize the numerous smaller rivers and streams. This makes outdoor recreation a large part of the local economy. The locations of all public access lands and state parks in Iowa County can be found at the following websites:

Wisconsin’s Public Access Lands Web Map:
[https://dnrm.wisconsin.gov/H5/?Viewer=Public Access Lands](https://dnrm.wisconsin.gov/H5/?Viewer=Public%20Access%20Lands)

Figure 3: Recreation Opportunities in Iowa County



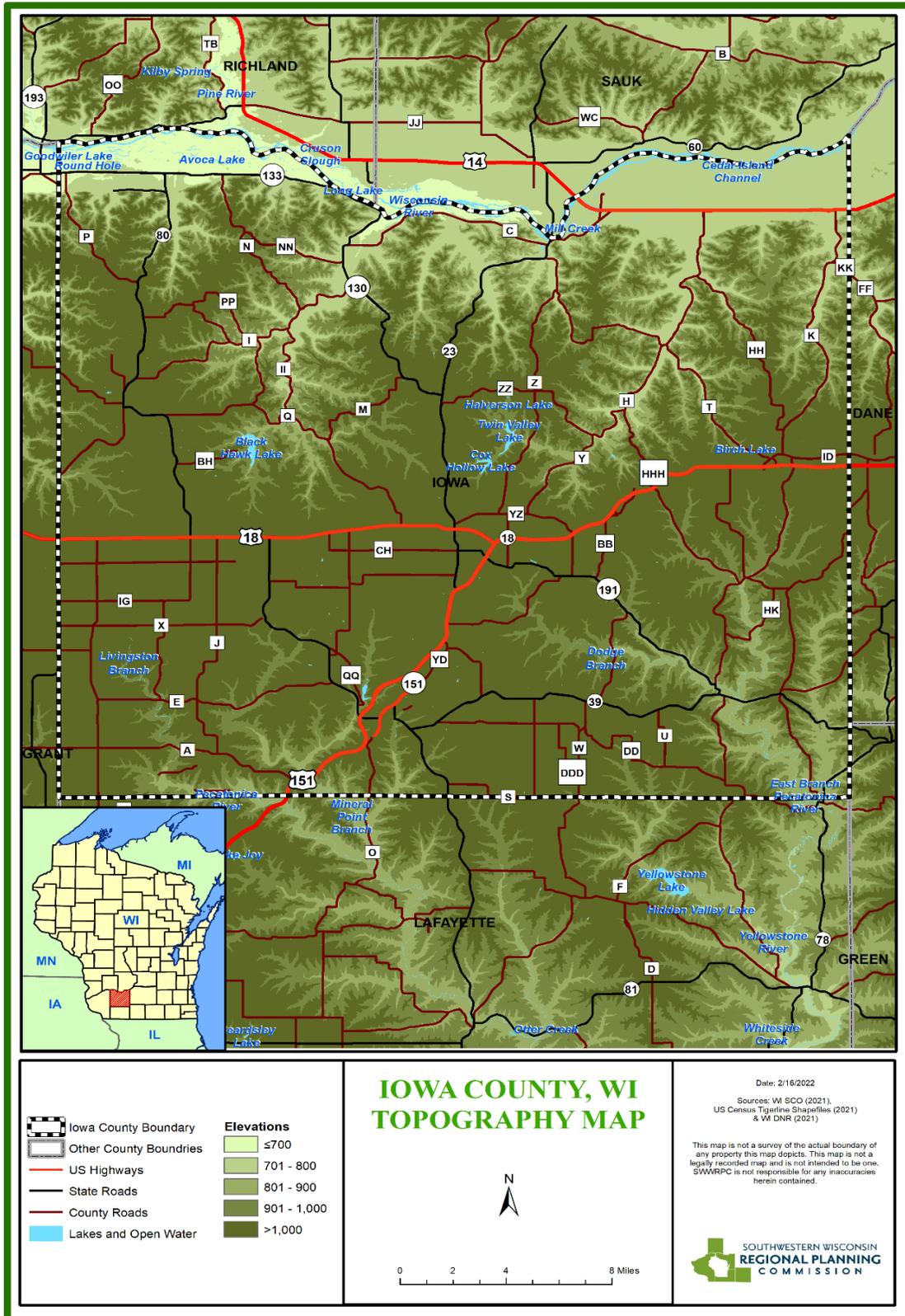
Topography

Iowa County is located entirely within the Western Upland. The Western Upland is a geographical region covering much of the western half of Wisconsin. It stretches from southern Polk County in the north to the state border with Illinois in the south, and from Rock County in the east to the Mississippi River in the west. Wisconsin's Western Upland is a rugged, hilly region deeply dissected by rivers and streams. The area is characterized by rocky outcroppings and numerous small caves, as well as sharp and frequent changes in altitude. The average elevation in the region is between 900 to 1,200 feet above sea level, where the area immediately adjacent to the highland averages 600 to 900 feet in elevation. Aside from the Upland itself, the strongest topographic features of the region are the trenches of the Mississippi and Wisconsin Rivers and their numerous branches. One of the most dominant topographic features of the region is Military Ridge. The Ridge is the divide between the north flowing tributaries of the Wisconsin River and the south flowing tributaries to the Rock and Mississippi Rivers. It has also been important to the region's history.

The entire region, with the exception of the eastern half of Green County and a small portion of southeast Lafayette County, is characterized by rugged, steep-walled valleys and high relief. The region is referred to as the Driftless Area which preserves a large sample of what the rest of Wisconsin, as well as the northern and eastern United States were like before the Glacial Period.

Figure 4 is a topographic map for Iowa County, a prime example of the topography of the Driftless Region.

Figure 4: Iowa County Topographic Features



Climate

Iowa County's climate is continental and typical of the central areas of a continent in the middle latitudes. Winters are relatively cold and snowy with extended periods of rain during the spring and autumn and intermittent periods of hot humid summer weather. Air temperatures within the county are subject to large seasonal change and yearly variations. Precipitation in the county for the six-month period from April through September may range in intensity and duration from showers to destructive thunderstorms. The snow fall average for Iowa County is about 40 inches annually which has risen in the past few decades. Prevailing winds are westerly in winter and southerly in summer.

Soils

The soils of Iowa County can be characterized as generally being underlain by dolomite (limestone) or sandstone bedrock with a mantle of loess (silty, wind-blown material) ranging from 1 to more than 10 feet in thickness. The soils of the upland ridges formed partly in this loess and partly in materials weathered from the underlying bedrock. On the lowest stream terraces along the Wisconsin River, sandy glacial outwash is exposed. This is parent material of the Plainfield and Sparta soils.

Flora and Fauna

Iowa County includes both the "Southwest Savanna" and "Western Coulee and Ridges" ecological landscapes in Wisconsin. Both landscapes were once dominated by fire-dependent natural communities of Prairie, Oak Savanna, Oak Woodland and Oak Forest. They are now predominately dominated by agriculture, however, remnants of the former natural communities do exist but typically in small low-quality pieces. Three-percent of the land in the Western Coulee and Ridges eco-region are in public ownership so care for the public lands are important. The Western Coulee and Ridges eco-region also includes high quality streams. On the other hand, less than one-percent of the land in the Southwest Savanna eco-region are in public ownership. The WIDNR believes the Southwest Savanna landscape offers the best opportunity in the state for large scale grassland management and restoration. The Southwest Savanna ecosystem also has high quality streams, and so making buffer zones adjacent to them is very important.

Threats from invasive plant species have been increasing and control of them should be considered in both ecosystems. Invasive plants reduce opportunities for recreation, increase chances for erosion, decrease habitat, and lessen the aesthetics of areas. Some of these invasive plants include: Garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolate*), Spotted knapweed (*Centaurea stoebe*), Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), Crown vetch (*Coronilla varia*), Common teasel (*Dipsacus sylvestris*), Autumn olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*), Burning bush (*Euonymus alatus*), Dame's rocket (*Hesperis matronalis*), Tartarian honeysuckle (*Lonicera tatarica*), Purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), White mulberry (*Morus alba*), Wild parsnip (*Pastinaca sativa*), Reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), Black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*), Multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*). Any plant that is dominating an area could be considered as invasive.

Common trees of the area historically would include fire tolerant Oaks, Shagbark Hickory and Hazelnut undergrowth. In ravines and near waterways would have been Maple, Basswood dominated. However, due to mesophication, woodlands are becoming dominated by other low-quality tree species.

Both landscapes contain public lands which provide abundant recreation opportunities with some of the most popular being surface trail bicycling, paddle sports, fishing and hiking, and walking or running on trails. The cold and cool water streams are also vital to recreation opportunities and their protection and enhancement should be imperative to any land use decision. Warm water streams with small mouth bass populations should also be prioritized.

Water Resources

In general, the county is divided into two drainage areas by the Military Ridge, which runs east and west across the middle of the county. North of the ridge surface waters drain into the Wisconsin River. The main streams of this north-flowing system are the Blue River and Morrey, Otter, Sneed, Lowery, Rush, Mill, and Blue Mounds Creeks.

Almost all of the surface waters south of the ridge drain in a southeasterly direction into the east and west branches of the Pecatonica River. Some tributaries of the Platte River also have their beginnings in Iowa County and flow southwesterly toward the Mississippi River.

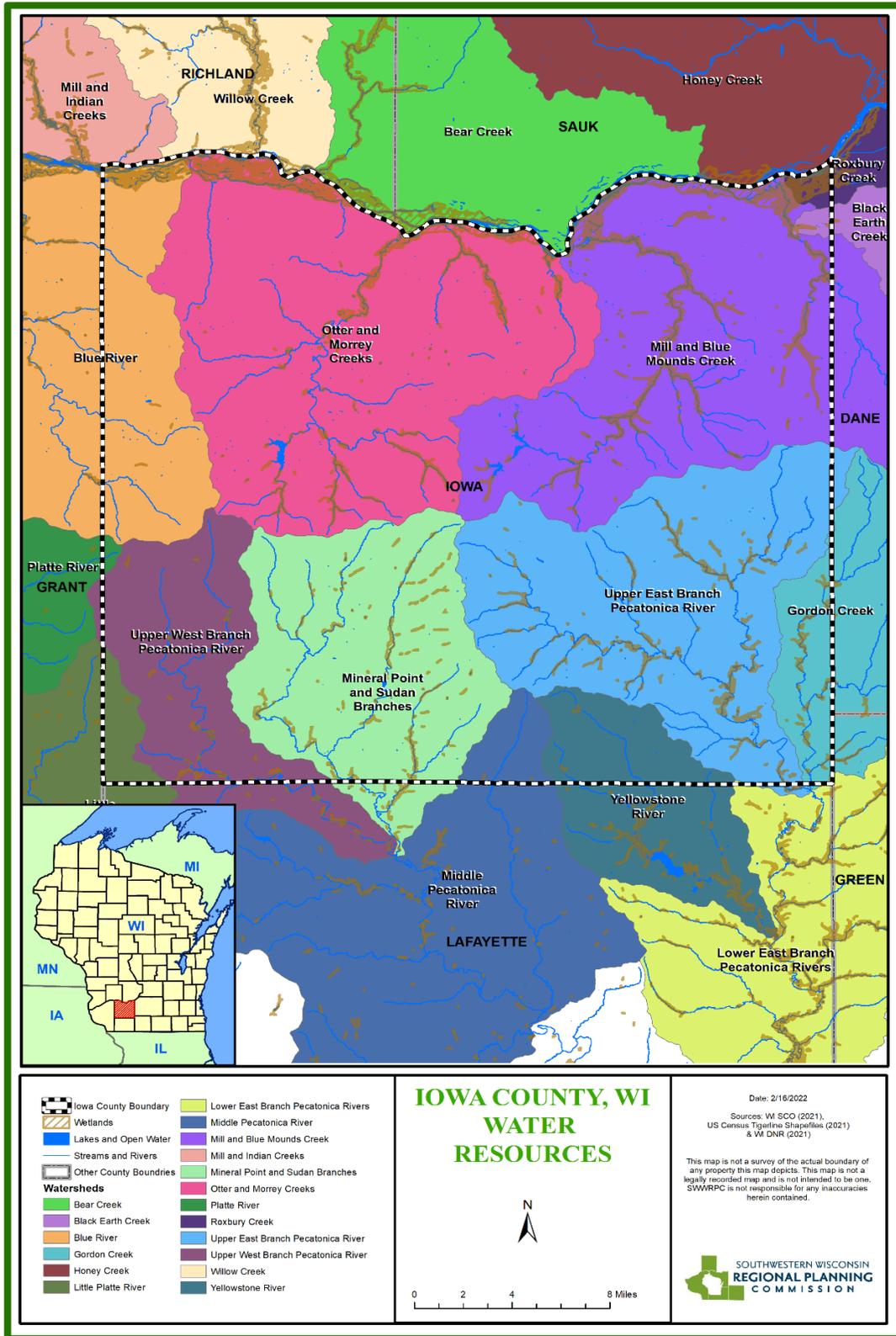
Since Iowa County lies wholly within the Driftless Area, there are few natural lakes. Oxbows and meander scrolls in the floodplain of the Wisconsin River and man-made impoundments comprise all of the lakes in the county (including Blackhawk Lake opened in 1972).

The surface water features of Iowa County total 7,093 acres, excluding farm ponds, and comprise 1.4% of the county area. Perennial streams account for 6,500 acres and lakes and sloughs comprise 592 acres. The Wisconsin River, which forms the northern border of the county, has about 5,600 acres of the total. The total stream length is 600 miles including 76 miles of the Wisconsin River. The lakes range in size from 6.4 acres to the 220 acre impoundment of Blackhawk Lake which has, to date, exhibited excellent water quality.

The county has an abundant supply of underground water. All of the geological formations underlying the soils contain water, the main source being the Upper Cambrian sandstone. Springs are numerous and furnish cold, clear water with a high mineral content. The springs support a good trout fishery in the upper reaches of many of the streams.

Wetlands in Iowa County include all marshes and swamps and those areas which are excluded from cultivation or other use because they are intermittently wet. Most wetland areas are subject to periodic flooding. The most extensive and productive wetlands for wildlife are located in the bottom lands bordering the Wisconsin River. The values of wetlands are many. In addition to providing filtration of pollutants from surface water and providing flood water storage capacity, the wetlands and the transitional areas between wetland and upland provide habitat for many wildlife species. Although there is only a relatively small wetland area in Iowa County, it is a resource which is much sought after for recreational purposes.

Figure 5: Iowa County's Water Resources



Fish and Game

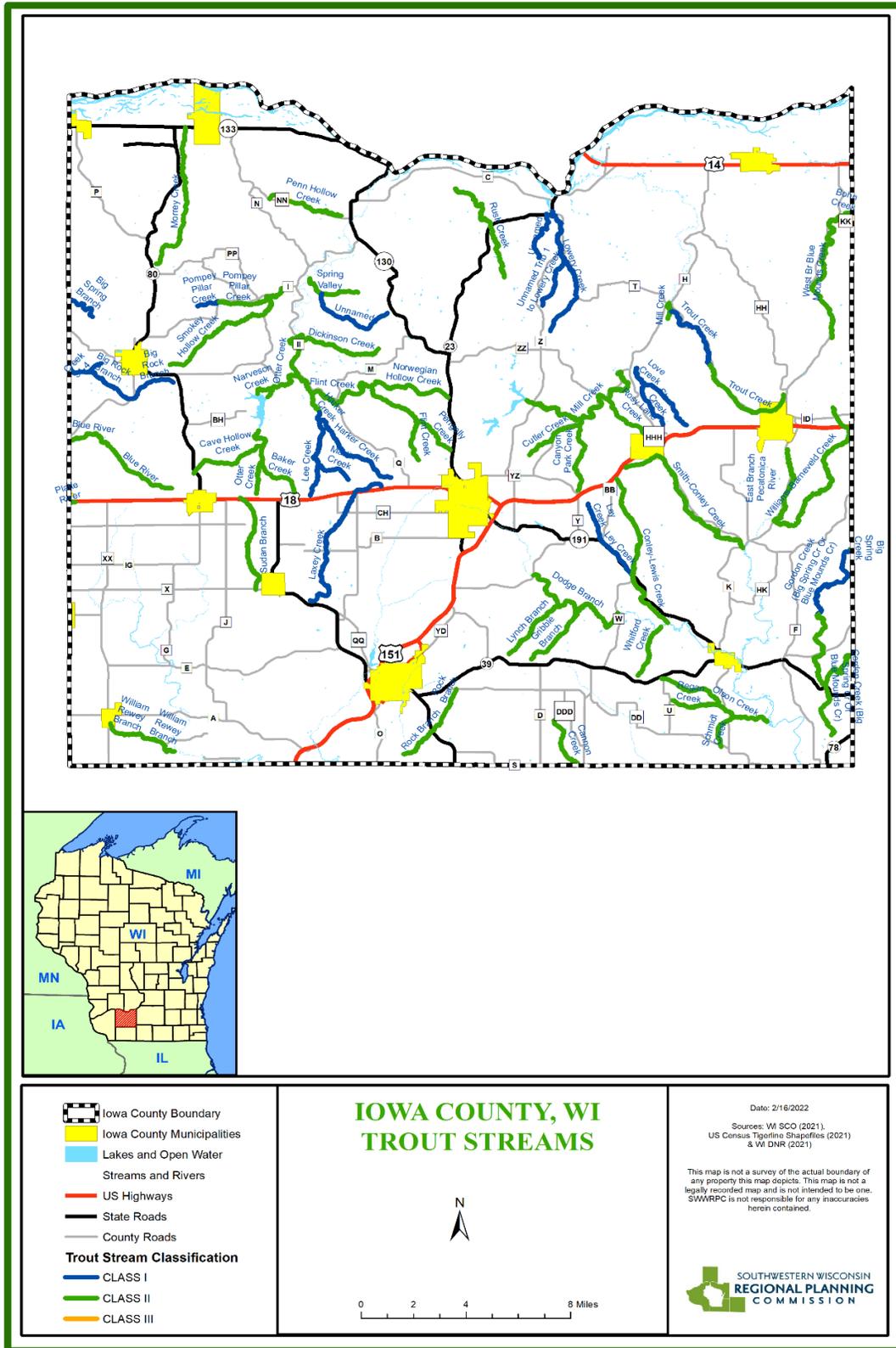
Numerous species of fish are found in Iowa County streams and lakes. Sport fish include largemouth and smallmouth bass, northern pike, walleye, catfish, white sucker, and several species of trout.

Rainbow, brook, and brown trout are abundant in Iowa County trout streams shown on Figure 6. There are 49 trout streams stretching a total distance of 254 miles in Iowa County. The majority of these stream miles have been designated Class II, or streams that have native trout but require moderate to heavy stocking for high quality fishing opportunities. Class I streams indicates that conditions are favorable for natural reproduction and that little or no stocking of hatchery fish is required. Usually these streams are of short length and have small trout, especially in their headwaters. Class III streams are marginal trout habitat and require extensive stocking of legal trout to sustain fishing opportunities.

Topography plays an important role in determining the amount and distribution of wildlife in Iowa County, For instance, water fowl are the most abundant along the Wisconsin River and its attendant sloughs and marshes. Land use in northern Iowa County has become more recreationally oriented while the influence of agriculture in the area has declined. As grasslands and bush as well as woodlands have become more common, the wildlife population has expanded. White-tailed deer, for example, have made substantial increases in the size of the herd. Substantial populations of ruffed grouse and squirrel are also located in the northern part of the county. Southern Iowa County contains habitat areas for pheasant, squirrel, and Hungarian partridge.

Further discussions of fish and game and their relationship to recreational activities are contained in later sections of this plan.

Figure 6: Iowa County's Trout Streams



Land Use

The amount of land specifically devoted to recreational purposes is minor in relationship to the total land area of Iowa County. However, it is recognized that a considerable amount of farm acreage is used for extensive forms of recreation, like hunting, hiking, nature study, and snowmobiling. These activities seldom require elaborate recreation facilities or a financial investment of consequence.

Agriculture has long been the major land use and principle industry in Iowa County. About 70% of the county's total land area is used for agriculture and open land. Nearly all of the forest land in the county is in private, farm ownership and, therefore, has been assigned to agricultural use. Forestry has a positive impact on recreation. Forests complement numerous outdoor recreation activities, like sightseeing, nature study, and hunting, and provide visual variety to the agricultural landscape. They also protect the soils and water supplies of the county. While there are many important oak dominated woodlands in the north, there are also significant prairies, savannas, and grasslands particularly in the south of the county. Within many of these grass-dominated habitats there are many critical habitats for endangered or declining insects and birds. For example, the Mounds View Grassland north of Hollandale is a remnant prairie serving as vital habitat for the Wisconsin-endangered Regal Fritillary Butterfly as well as declining grassland birds such as the Dickcissel, Upland Sandpiper and Bell's Vireo.

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) owns and manages approximately 21,609 acres of recreational land within Iowa County including a great deal of land located along the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway. There is also a significant amount of land open to the public for recreation that is owned and managed by non-profit organizations such as the Driftless Area Land Conservancy, The Prairie Enthusiasts, and The Nature Conservancy.

Recent population trends and the influx of new business into Iowa County are expected to reduce the amount of land dedicated to agrarian and forestry purposes and to recreation in general. Land lost to growth may be less than significant quantitatively. Nevertheless, growth must be controlled because of its cumulative effects and because it may occur on properties best suited to other purposes.

Standards for Park and Recreation Planning

The standards system is a method of assessing an area's outdoor recreation needs. The National Recreation and Park Association developed standards to provide a scale against which the existing recreation system can be measured. Standards can be used to create guidelines for future needs. Typically, standards link park acreage to the area's population, or link the number of recreation facilities to the population. In addition, service area standards are also used to determine recreational needs.

Recreation Open Space Standards

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) has endorsed a park and open space classification system which will serve as a guide throughout much of this plan. These standards pertain only to parks, recreation lands, and other open spaces discussed in this plan. Standards can be a good starting point or reference when determining a county's outdoor recreation land and facility needs. However, each county's needs are different based on such factors as the county's demographic profile and what types of facilities and outdoor recreation priorities the citizenry deem important. Resident input in the form of surveys and/or public hearings are also important when recreation and park planners look at future development and/or preservation of public lands.

NRPA's standards have been modified to more accurately define park, recreation land and open spaces within Iowa County. For example, NRPA recommends that a County Park have a desirable size of 15+ acres. In Iowa County, most parks of this nature are in the 5 to 100+ acres range. This has been noted in the definition section below. All parks, recreation lands and open space under the jurisdiction of Iowa County have been assigned one primary classification or code using the following titles and abbreviations: (CP) County Park; (LP) Linear Park; (SU) Special Use Area.

- CP: County Park
 - Desirable/Typical Size: 5 to 100+ acres
 - Service Area: 1 – 15 miles.
 - Acres/1,000 Population: Variable.
 - Use: Area of diverse environmental quality. This may be an area of natural quality for outdoor recreation such as walking, viewing, sitting or picnicking. It may be any combination of the above depending upon site suitability and community need.
 - Site Characteristics: May include natural features, such as water bodies and areas suited for intense development. The site has easy access by all modes of transportation.
- SU: Special Use Area
 - Desirable/Typical Size: Variable depending on type of facility.
 - Service Area: Entire County, or part of the county.
 - Acres/1,000 Population: Variable.
 - Use: Areas for specialized or single purpose recreational activities such as golf courses, nature centers, marinas, zoos, conservancies, arboreta, display gardens, arenas, outdoor theaters, gun ranges, and downhill ski areas. Also includes plazas or squares in or near commercial centers, boulevards, or parkways.
 - Site Characteristics: Located within the county.
- LP: Linear Park
 - Desirable/Typical Size: Sufficient width to protect resources and to provide maximum use.
 - Service Area: No applicable standard.
 - Acres/1,000 Population: Variable.

- Use: Area developed for one or more varying modes of recreational travel or activity such as hiking, biking, snowmobiling, horseback riding, fitness trails/skiing and canoeing. May include active play areas.
- Site Characteristics: Built on natural corridors such as utility or railroad right-of-way, bluff lines, vegetation patterns, and roads that link other components of the recreation system or community facilities such as school, libraries, commercial areas, and other park areas.

Recreational Facility Development Standards

Standards for the development of recreation facilities, similar to open space standards are expressed in facility units per population ratio. The purpose of evaluating a recreation system is to determine the amount of needed facilities in each recreation area.

Recreation facility development standards serve as an excellent resource guide when local officials are developing a new park or are upgrading an existing recreation area. These standards provide recommendations regarding space requirements for various recreation activities. They also provide recommendations regarding size and dimensions for each activity, the best orientation to avoid sunlight in the eyes, a recommended service radius for each activity, and other criteria to be considered when locating a recreation facility/activity.

Age, income and education all contribute to people's recreational preferences, yet facility standards sometimes ignore these variables. Another problem with using standards is that they have been developed primarily for urban communities and have limited application to rural areas. Despite these problems, facility development standards have a place in recreation planning. County leaders use them to approximate the adequacy of their parks systems.

A listing of the NRPA's park and open space standards and suggested facility development standards can be found in Appendix A of this report. Included in the listing of recreation facility development standards are such activities as baseball, softball, football, field hockey, soccer, volleyball, tennis, badminton, ice hockey, archery range, golf-driving range, and track running.

Outdoor Recreation Supply Inventory

To determine what course of action county officials must take to provide comprehensive outdoor recreational opportunities, it is necessary to evaluate the supply of existing areas and facilities. This section of the report provides an inventory of Iowa County's recreational facilities. Recreational opportunities in Iowa County are provided by the state, county, communities, and private enterprise. For ease of presentation, activities based on land resources are discussed separately from those based on water resources.

Land-Based Activities

Golfing

There are three privately owned golf courses in Iowa County. The Dodge-Point Golf Course is a 18-hole facility located between the cities of Dodgeville and Mineral Point. The Springs Golf Course located south of Spring Green is an 27-hole championship course. The former facility primarily serves the resident population of south central Iowa County whereas the latter serves residents of northern Iowa County and southern Sauk County as well as a substantial number of tourists.

Golf courses at Spring Green, New Glarus, and Mt. Horeb, while not located in Iowa County, do have service areas that extend into Iowa County and serve portions of the resident population.

Pleasure Driving and Sightseeing

Iowa County offers uniquely scenic landscapes for the traveling public. Northern Iowa County contains forested hills, spectacular rock formations, trout streams, and picturesque farms. The southern portion of the county is more agrarian in character with its beautiful pastoral scenes of well-maintained farms, woodlots, and rolling hills that are dissected by the area's stream network. Several wayside areas along major travel routes in Iowa County serve to enhance pleasure driving and sightseeing. Certain communities like the Village of Cobb have parks located adjacent to travel routes which also serve travelers.

Skiing

The rolling topography of Iowa County is excellently suited to skiing. However, the county lies below the snow belt which creates a problem in developing ski hills. Without snow making equipment, ski hills cannot operate on an economical basis in southern Wisconsin. There has historically been a ski resort in the county, but it is no longer in operation.

Cross-country skiing, a sport rapidly gaining in popularity, should also be mentioned here. This activity requires neither hills nor deep snow. Only adequate space and light snow cover are necessary. Trails for cross-country skiing are located at Governor Dodge State Park, Blackhawk Lake, and Blue Mound State Park.

Camping

A summary of campgrounds is made in Table 2. More than one-half of the total camping units are located in the three state parks in the county. Governor Dodge State Park has the most campsites of any one campground with 269 units. The majority of the campsites are in public ownership, although one-third of the campgrounds are privately owned. Group or backpack campsites were not included in this inventory although it should be noted that several parks in the county do maintain facilities for, this type of camping. It also should be mentioned that certain businesses like motels, taverns, and gas stations allow overnight camping but these places as well were not included in the inventory.

Table 2: Campground Inventory of Iowa County

Name of Campground	Ownership
Avoca Lakeside Park	Village of Avoca
Birch Lake Park	Village of Barneveld
Spring Valley Trails	Private
Hideaway Acres	Private
Toms Campground	Private
Blackhawk Lake Recreation Area	State of Wisconsin
Governor Dodge State Park	State of Wisconsin
Tower Hill State Park	State of Wisconsin
Blue Mound State Park	State of Wisconsin

Hunting

There are 6,995 acres of land open to hunting by the public in Iowa County. Most of this acreage is found in five public reserve areas--the Avoca Unit of the Wisconsin River Wildlife Area, the Blackhawk Lake Area, the Helena Marsh Wildlife Area, Trout Creek and Love Creek. In addition, there are 112 acres- in the Hollandale Wildlife Area (see Table 3).

Table 3: Public Hunting Areas in Iowa County

Name of Area	Acreage
Avoca Unit--Lower Wisconsin River Wildlife Area	3,873
Blackhawk Lake Recreation Area	1,495
Helena Marsh Wildlife Area	636
Trout Creek	679
Love Creek	200
Hollandale Wildlife Area (Pecatonica River Reserve)	112

The Avoca Unit is the largest of the six areas and, together with the Helena Marsh Area, is managed for hunting and wildlife habitat using several techniques including food and cover plantings and prescribed burning. The area has good hunting for deer, grouse, ducks, and pheasants as well as trapping. There is also good access for fishing. Both the State of Wisconsin and Iowa County Land Conservation Department manage portions of Blackhawk Lake Recreation Area. The Department of Natural Resources retains the right of fish and game management in all the tracts of land. This includes hunting as the areas have been operated and managed as a public hunting reserve.

Love Creek and Trout Creek are primarily fish habitat areas along trout streams. Both are open to the public for hunting and fishing and are managed by the WIDNR. In addition to the six public areas identified above, some private owners permit hunting on their land, occasionally on a fee basis. However, this involves a relatively limited number of tracts of land.

Picnicking

Picnicking supply is difficult to determine since a picnic table per se does not necessarily reflect the recreational opportunity. Some highway waysides and municipal parks, for example, have picnic tables, but they were omitted from the inventory because they are underutilized or because they lack the support facilities necessary for enjoyable picnicking. Every local park that is mentioned has picnic tables, but the number fluctuates with the use or movement by need or other reasons. The picnic areas considered to have an impact on outdoor recreation on a countywide basis are listed below.

Nearly all of the picnic areas inventoried offer recreational opportunities in addition to picnicking.

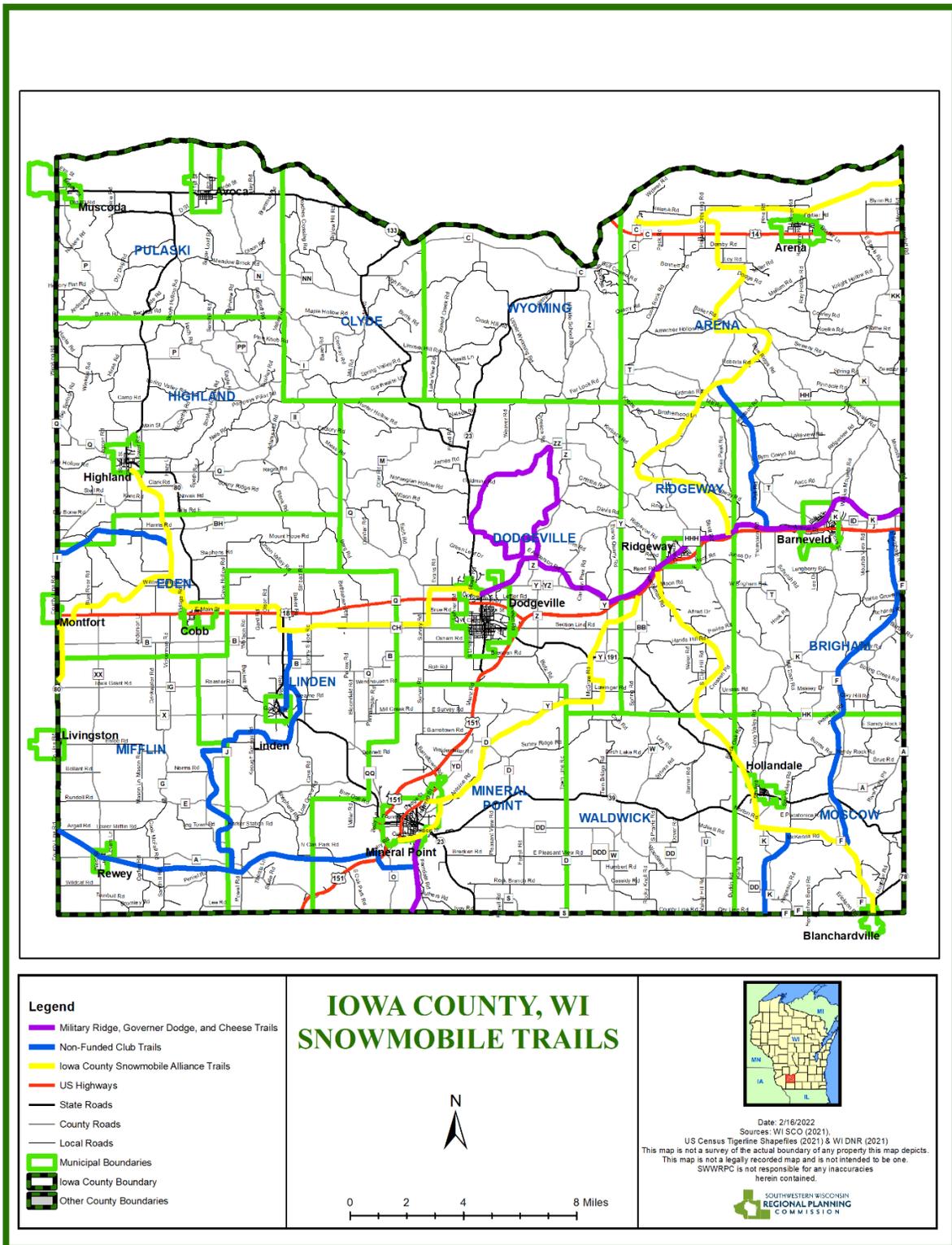
Table 4: Picnic Area Inventory of Iowa County

Name of Area	Ownership
Soldiers Memorial Park	City of Mineral Point
Water Tower Park	City of Mineral Point
John Wilson Memorial Park	City of Dodgeville
Centennial Park	City of Dodgeville
Scheper Park	Village of Cobb
Village Park	Village of Cobb
Village Park	Village of Linden
Jonesdale Sportsman's Club	Organizational
Rewey Community Park	Village of Rewey
Wis. Power & Light Co. Park	Private/Public
Valley View Park	Hollandale
Birch Lake Park	Village of Barneveld
Village Park	Village of Ridgeway
Lakeside Park	Village of Avoca
Highland Park	Village of Highland
Highway Wayside (Arena)	State of Wisconsin
Highway Wayside (Dodgeville)	State of Wisconsin
Highway Wayside (Mineral Point)	State of Wisconsin
Highway Wayside (Mazomanie)	State of Wisconsin
Lost River Cave & Campground	Private
Blackhawk Lake Recreation Area	State of Wisconsin
Governor Dodge State Park	State of Wisconsin
Tower Hill State Park	State of Wisconsin
Blue Mound State Park	State of Wisconsin

Snowmobiling

There are currently 120.3 miles of public trails eligible for state funding with an additional 54+ miles of club funded trails. All trails are maintained and groomed by volunteers with the clubs that are members of the Association of Iowa County Snowmobile Clubs, Inc. In addition, Iowa County has several privately owned or sponsored snowmobile areas including the Ski Timberline and Spring Valley Trails. Snowmobiling also takes place on right-of-ways of public highways but safety problems are involved with this. This recreational activity is also carried on over private lands with local snowmobile clubs owning or having been given permission to use some of these areas. Snowmobiling provides a tourism draw during an otherwise slow period. Figure 7 shows existing snowmobile trails in Iowa County.

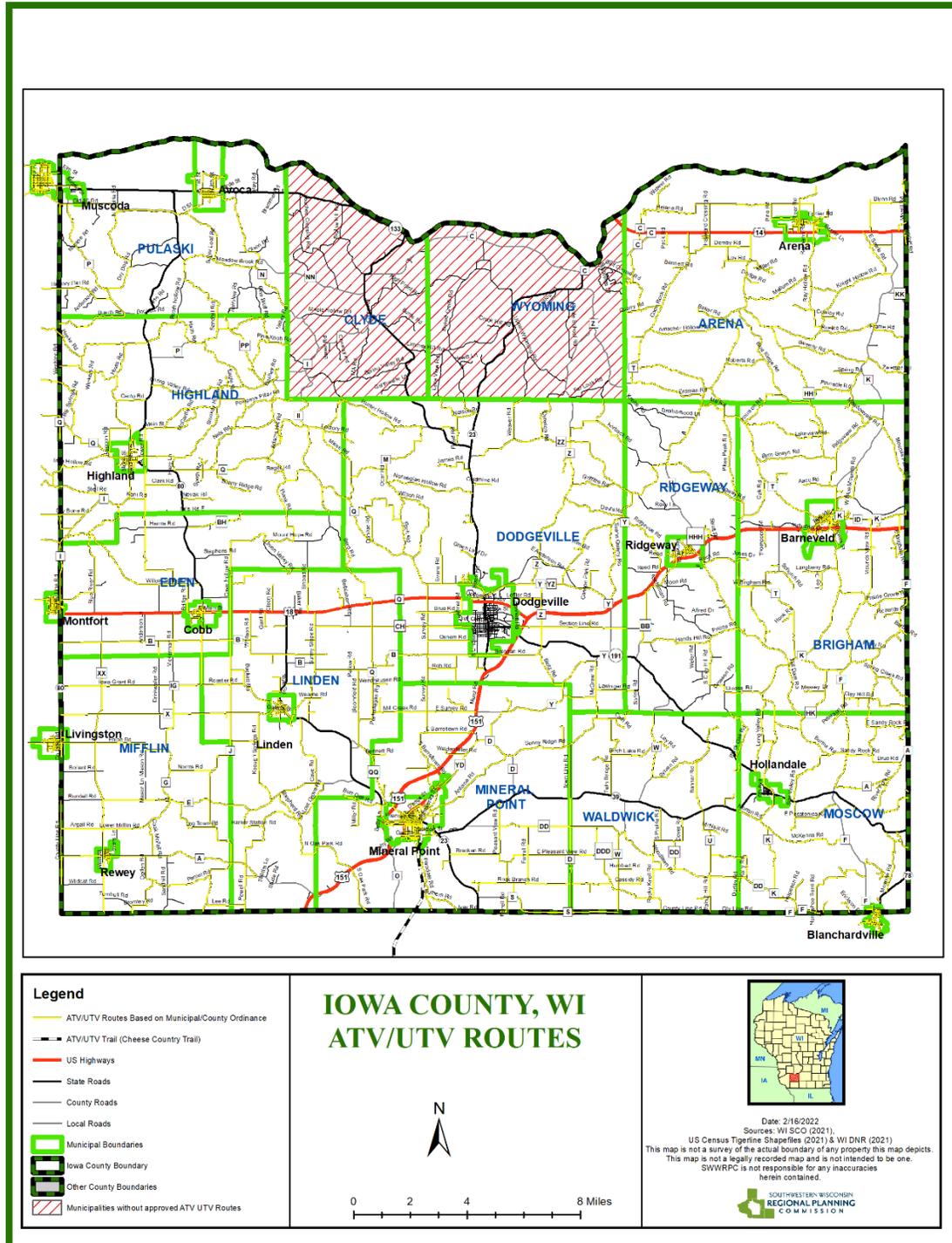
Figure 7: Snowmobile Trails in Iowa County



ATV/UTV Routes

Figure 8 shows existing ATV/UTV routes in Iowa County which include approximately 936 miles of county, town, and municipal roads open to ATV/UTV use. Proper signage and access to information is crucial to the expansion of this market.

Figure 8: ATV/UTV Trails in Iowa County



Water-Based Activities

Fishing

The State of Wisconsin maintains overall responsibility for the management of fishery resources. The state, Iowa County, and local units of government share the responsibility for providing public access to water resources and for the adoption and enforcement of measures that serve to preserve the quality of our water resources.

There are 67 streams and 15 lakes in Iowa County with a combined water surface of 6,769 acres. The Wisconsin River forms the northern boundary of the county. Public access points along the Wisconsin River, other streams, and lakes are shown on Figure 3.

There are 49 listed trout streams in Iowa County, several of which have naturally reproducing trout. There are several small mouth bass streams and panfishing occurs in a few lakes and farm ponds. Largemouth bass, walleyes, channel catfish, white suckers, and northern pike are also found in certain Iowa County lakes and streams.

Inadequate public access points for those desiring to fish and pursue other water-related recreational activities is a small problem. Poor water quality at certain locations is another problem that limits the quality of recreational experiences.

Canoeing and Boating

Few lakes in Iowa County are suitable for boating because of size limitations. The Wisconsin River and its backwater lakes are the only bodies of water that are truly adequate for this type of recreational pursuit. Physically limiting factors such as sandbars act to restrict recreational boating even on the Wisconsin River. Non-motorized boating is possible on some of Iowa County's larger bodies of water like branches of the Pecatonica River, Cox Hollow and Twin Valley lakes in Governor Dodge State Park, and on Blackhawk Lake.

Canoeing is possible on 44 miles of Iowa County streams including the East and West Branches of the Pecatonica River, Mineral Point Branch, Dodge Branch, Mill Creek, Otter Creek, and the Wisconsin River which stretches a distance of 34.8 miles along the northern Iowa County line. These streams are gentle and slow moving, being suitable for canoeists of all ability levels. The natural resources of Iowa County can be viewed from a different perspective that most certainly proves to be aesthetically pleasing for those persons making a canoe trip.

Swimming

Supervised swimming pools within the municipalities provide swimming opportunities in Iowa County. Public pools are located in Dodgeville, Mineral Point, Muscoda, Montfort, and Blanchardville. In addition to the pools, there are public beaches located within the county at the Avoca Lakeside Park, Birch Lake Park, Governor Dodge State Park, and Blackhawk Lake Recreation Area. The total land area of beaches is 3.05 acres of which 1.8 acres are found at the two swimming beaches in Governor Dodge State Park, 0.20 acres at the Avoca Lakeside Park, 0.30 acres at the Birch Lake Park, and 0.75 acres at the Blackhawk lake Recreation area. Iowa County is located in the Driftless Area of Wisconsin where there are few naturally occurring lakes which explains why there is a relatively small number of swimming beaches compared to parts of northern Wisconsin where glaciation did occur.

County Owned/Managed Parks and Recreational Facilities

The list of county owned or managed parks and recreational facilities can be found below:

- **Blackhawk Lake Recreation area:** Blackhawk Lake Recreation Area is owned by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) with an operational easement granted to Iowa County. The WDNR has jurisdiction of the lake and designated wildlife areas. The Cobb-Highland Recreation Commission, consisting of ten board members, five from Cobb and five from Highland, oversee the operations of the recreational area. Blackhawk Lake Recreation Area is not part of the Wisconsin State Park System, and therefore, does not receive any funding from State or County tax dollars. The Blackhawk Lake Recreation Area consists of over 2,050 total acres. The lake itself is 220 acres and full of bluegill, crappie, northern pike, walleye, and largemouth bass. The recreation area is a total of 330 acres, which includes the campground, boat launch, and picnic areas. The recreation area also consists of 1,500 acres of designated wildlife area that is used for hiking and seasonal public hunting.
- **Bloomfield Prairie:** The Bloomfield Prairie is an over 400 acre swath of land that is free and open to the public year round. The prairie is owned by Iowa County, and co-managed by Driftless Area Land Conservancy, Iowa County Prairie Recreation and Prairie Restoration, and Iowa County. Located approximately five miles west of Dodgeville on County CH and County Farm Road, the restored prairie is home to dozens of species of plants and animals, including several rare and declining grass dwelling birds. Students from area schools, including Mineral Point, Highland and Iowa-Grant, also visit the prairie in the Fall as part of a Youth Conservation Day.
- **Tri-County Trail (Mineral Point Section):** Tri-County Trails offers a unique multi-use trail system that connects Lafayette to Iowa and Green Counties in southwestern Wisconsin. Included are the Cheese Country Trail - with 47 miles from Monroe to Mineral Point in Iowa County, and the Pecatonica State Trail - with 10 miles from Calamine to Belmont. The Cheese Country and Pecatonica State trails are maintained by the Tri-County ATV Club and its members. The multi-use trails are open to hiking, biking, ATV's, UTV's, snowshoeing, horseback riding, snowmobiling, and more.
- **Boat launch (off of Hwy 130 on the WI River - Town of Clyde)**
- **Boat launch (DNR owned, Town of Arena)**
- **Historic marker – STH 23 scenic lookout**
- **Historic marker – CTH YZ Military Ridge**
- **Historic marker – STH 14 wayside**
- **Historic marker – Dane County line**

Other Major Recreational Areas within the County

Iowa County is particularly fortunate to have three other major parks located within its boundaries. They are Governor Dodge in the central part of the county north of Dodgeville, Tower Hill in northern Iowa County along the Wisconsin River, and Blue Mound State Park in the extreme eastern portion of the county. Brief descriptions of each park are presented below:

Blue Mound State Park

Blue Mound State Park, located northwest of the Village of Blue Mounds, is the highest point in southern Wisconsin at 1,716 feet above sea level. Two 40 foot high observation towers and four scenic vistas offer panoramic views of the surrounding countryside. The park which contains 1,102 acres of land offers spectacular views and unique geological features. A swimming pool is available during summer. Over 20 miles of scenic hiking, off-road biking and cross-country ski trails, as well as a family campground, access to the Military Ridge State Trail with bike-in campsites and a rustic cabin for people with disabilities make Blue Mound a popular destination year-round.

Governor Dodge State Park

Located north of Dodgeville, Governor Dodge State Park is one of the most beautiful parks in the state park system with its rugged tree line, sandstone bluffs, and cliffs towering over green valleys. The park sprawls over 5,029 acres which makes it one of the largest state parks in Wisconsin.

There are two man-made lakes at Governor Dodge--Cox Hollow Lake and Twin Valley Lake. Both lakes offer high quality fishing opportunities as Cox Hollow is stocked with bass, bluegills, crappies, and walleyes, with Twin Valley containing bass, crappies, bluegills, and the official state fish, the elusive muskellunge. Boat launching facilities are found at the park and electric motors are permitted. Both lakes have swimming beaches approximately 300 feet in length. The Cox Hollow and Twin Valley campgrounds have a combined total of 269 campsites. Toilets, showers, playground areas, and a dumping station compose the support facilities at the two campgrounds.

Five different types of trails wind their ways through the grounds of Governor Dodge. They include the White Oak Hiking Trail which is 3.5 miles long, the 1.5 mile long White Pine Self-Guided Nature Trail, a 14.05 mile cross country ski run, and a combination snowmobile trail/bridle path that is 20 miles in length. Deer hunting is allowed on the park grounds through the party permit system during the November deer gun season. Several picnic areas have been developed at Governor Dodge.

Tower Hill State Park

Located near Spring Green, historic Tower Hill State Park is 75 acres in size. It is a beautiful site on the south bank of the Wisconsin River adjacent to the Helena Marsh Wildlife Area. Lead was melted down and made into lead shot here during the 1800's. A house where lead was smelted has been restored and is now open to the general public for inspection. A picnic area and shelter, hiking trails, canoe landing on the Wisconsin River and a small campground are all available.

Birch Lake Park: Birch Lake is located North of the Village of Barneveld on Hwy T. The 11 acre Birch Lake was built in 1965 and is in the Trout Creek Watershed. It has a maximum depth of 15 feet. Fish include Panfish and Largemouth Bass. The park offers two shelters with electricity, two sand volleyball courts, a softball field, and children's play equipment. Birch Lake is open from May 1st to September 30th each year.

Scientific and Natural Areas

State natural areas (SNAs) protect outstanding examples of Wisconsin's native landscape of natural communities, significant geological formations and archeological sites. Encompassing 406,000 acres on lands owned by the state and its many partners, including land trusts, local and county governments, and private citizens, Wisconsin's natural areas are valuable for research and educational use, the preservation of genetic and biological diversity and for providing benchmarks for determining the impact of use on managed lands. They also provide some of the last refuges for rare plants and animals. There are 7 registered scientific areas in Iowa County. The following descriptions are provided by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR):

Arena Pines and Sand Barrens

Location: Within the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway, Iowa County. T8N-R5E, Sections 8, 9. 93 acres.

Major Features: Arena Pines and Sand Barrens features a somewhat overgrown example of sand barrens vegetated with jack pine, black oak, and river birch. Found along the edge of numerous sand blows scattered throughout the site is the evergreen false heather shrub, which helps stabilize the shifting sands. Also present are a diversity of dry prairie species including little blue-stem, June grass, three-awn grass, flowering spurge, hoary puccoon, venus'-looking-glass, blue toadflax, lyrate rock cress, and prairie coreopsis. Arena Pines and Sand Barrens is owned by the DNR and was designated a State Natural Area in 1991.

Avoca Prairie and Savanna

Location: Within the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway, Iowa County. T8N-R1E, Sections 1, 2, 3, 12. T8N-R2E, Sections 5-8. T9N-R1E, Sections 34, 35, 36. 2,208 acres.

Major Features: Located on an extensive outwash sand terrace along the Wisconsin River, Avoca Prairie and Savanna contains the largest natural tallgrass prairie east of the Mississippi River. Frequent flooding has created braided stream topography characterized by low, sandy ridges interspersed with small linear wetlands giving a local relief of 4 feet. The moist prairie and wetland swales contain more than 200 species of vascular plants including large numbers of rattlesnake master, Michigan lily, and prairie blazing-star. Big blue-stem, prairie cord grass, Indian grass, and sedges dominate the wet areas while little blue-stem, prairie drop-seed, and June grass are common on the drier ridges. Permanent and ephemeral swales contain aquatic species such as sweet-flag, yellow water buttercup, and common bur-reed. Some of the showy species include sweet grass, white wild indigo, flowering spurge, prairie smoke, bottle gentian, cardinal flower, and swamp candles. Oak openings, with large open-grown black and bur oaks, are an outstanding feature of this natural area looking much as they did during the original land survey of 1833. Even today, from many points on the prairie, the same presettlement character has been preserved, with completely natural vistas still accessible in all directions. Avoca Prairie and Savanna is owned by the DNR and was designated a State Natural Area in 1968.

Barneveld Prairie

Location: Iowa and Dane Counties. T6-R5E, Sections 8, 13, 16 17, 22, 24. T6-R6E, Section 18, 19. 955 acres.

Major Features: Barneveld Prairie features a remnant of the vast tallgrass prairies and savannas that once covered most of southern Wisconsin. It is located within the Driftless Area of Wisconsin, a region recognized as the global center for dry prairies and dry-mesic prairies. The natural area lies within the heart of the Military Ridge Prairie Heritage Area (MRPHA) – an extensive grassland landscape supporting a high concentration of prairie remnants. MRPHA also includes patches of

untilled prairie pasture and surrogate grasslands that combine with the natural area in providing habitat for many grassland-restricted species. It has been identified as the highest priority for landscape-scale grassland protection and management in Wisconsin and represents one of the best opportunities to protect grassland birds that are among the fastest and most consistently declining birds in North America. Three parcels – Thomas Pasture, Thomson prairie, and the Botham tract, currently make up Barneveld Prairie. The Botham tract is the single largest contiguous property located within MRPHA and contains a diverse mix of prairie remnant, prairie pasture, oak savanna, wetlands, and wooded draws. This gradient of habitat types supports a diversity of plant and animal species, including rare prairie invertebrate specialists. Thomson Prairie is a dry prairie remnant that was never plowed due to the limestone bedrock lying just below the soil surface making it too difficult to cultivate. More than 68 species of plants have been identified and 34 species of birds nest or feed here. Barneveld Prairie is owned by The Nature Conservancy of Wisconsin and was designated a State Natural Area in 2003.

Pecatonica River Woods

Location: Iowa County. T4N-R1E, Sections 2, 11. 106 acres.

Major Features: Pecatonica River Woods features a mosaic of natural community types including southern dry, dry-mesic, and mesic forest; floodplain forest; and a three-quarter mile segment of the Pecatonica River. This site supports numerous rare or uncommon plant species. Other plants include Short's aster, great waterleaf, toothed cress, and grass sedge. A three-quarter mile stretch of the Pecatonica River flows through the site flanked by floodplain forest of silver maple and ash. To the east is a hillside with second-growth dry to mesic forest with white oak near the ridgetop and red oak, black cherry, black walnut, and sugar maple sloping down to the river. Pecatonica River Woods is owned by the DNR and was designated a State Natural Area in 1992.

Pine Cliff

Location: Within Governor Dodge State Park, Iowa County. T6N-R3E, Section 11. 23 acres.

Major Features: Located within Wisconsin's Driftless Area, Pine Cliff features an unusual southern pine relict community perched atop several sandstone cliffs and adjacent north-facing slopes. Although one of many small relicts known in this area, Pine Cliff is important because all three species of pine native to the state, red, white, and jack, occur here together, disjunct from their typical range in Wisconsin. White pine dominates the site, but red and jack pines grow on the exposed, droughty summit. All three are successfully reproducing. More mesic north-facing slopes provide suitable habitat for numerous ferns, mosses, and lichens, particularly the noticeable smooth rock tripe (*Umbellicaria*). Away from the cliffs is a southern dry-mesic forest composed of red oak, white oak, basswood, white birch, and black cherry. The pines supply habitat for more northerly bird species including black-throated green and Blackburnian warblers. Pine Cliff is owned by the DNR and was designated a State Natural Area in 1953.

Ridgeway Pine Relict

Location: Iowa County. T6N-R4E, Sections 3, 9, 10, 11, 15, 16. 546 acres.

Major Features: Ridgeway Pine Relict features a spectacular site with eight separate pine relicts set among soaring sandstone cliffs, numerous rock outcrops, shallow caves and rockshelters. Pine relicts are southern Wisconsin pine forests that have persisted since the last glacier receded some 12,000 years ago when a cooler climate was favorable for the growth of pine forests. As the climate warmed prairie and oak woodlands replaced the pine and today, remnant pine forests remain only on steep slopes and rocky cliffs in the Driftless Area. These rocky outcrops protected the pine remnants

from fire and allowed the pines to reach old-growth status. The relict communities are unlike the northern pine forests because they contain both northern and southern plant species. Within the pine relict areas, white pine is generally more abundant than red pine, but there is good reproduction of both species. Jack pine is also present. Sugar maple, mountain maple, yellow birch, and hemlock constitute a smaller component. The ground flora includes pipsissewa, shin-leaf, wintergreen, huckleberry, and Canada mayflower. There is also a high diversity of ferns present including bracken, bulblet bladder, marginal wood, and interrupted fern. Between the relicts and surrounding them is forested land dominated by white oak with bur and red oak, black cherry, white birch, and shagbark and bitternut hickory. Other significant features include sandstone cliffs with shaded and open plant communities, diverse spring runs, sedge meadows, and dry-mesic prairie. Ridgeway Pine Relicts is owned by the DNR and was designated a State Natural Area in 1998.

Tower Hill Bottoms

Location: Within the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway, Iowa County. T8N-R4E, Section 20. 481 acres.

Major Features: Tower Hill Bottoms features an excellent example of an undisturbed floodplain forest of silver maple, river birch, American elm, green ash, and swamp white oak located along the Lower Wisconsin River. Shrubs range from sparse under the closed canopy to quite dense in areas where natural gaps have occurred with buttonbush, prickly ash, and silky dogwood dominating. Especially common are climbing vines of grape, woodbine, wild yam, carrion flower, and poison ivy, which climb into the canopy giving the tree trunks a leafy appearance. By mid-summer, the groundlayer contains an abundance of wood nettle along with sawtooth sunflower, cardinal flower, sensitive fern, fringed loosestrife, and green dragon. Bird life is diverse, and includes pileated woodpecker and tufted titmouse. Tower Hill Bottoms is owned by the DNR and was designated a State Natural Area in 1958.

Historic Sites

Sites, events, and other mementos of historic interest are important components of a community or county recreation program. Throughout southwestern Wisconsin, intensive efforts have been made to protect areas of outstanding historical importance. Examples of areas (and sites) of this level of importance already identified are included in Table 5 below:

Table 5: State and National Resisted Historic Places in Iowa County, WI

Jurisdiction	State and National Listings
Town of Arena	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • William Henry Brisbane House • Sawle Mound Group Archeological District
Town of Brigham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carden Rockshelter • DNR #2, #3, #4 Rockshelters • DNR #5 Archeological Site • Hole-In-The-Wall #1 Cave • Rainbow Cave • Thomas Stone Barn
Town of Clyde	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shiprock Rockshelter
Town of Dodgeville	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mayland Cave
Town of Highland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gottschall Site
Town of Mineral Point	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spensley Farm
Town of Moscow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • McCoy Rock Art Site
Town of Ridgeway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plum Grove Primitive Methodist Church • Hyde Chapel
Town of Wyoming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shot Tower • Taliesin • Unity Chapel
Village of Linden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linden High School Monument • Linden Methodist Church
Village of Barneveld	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cassidy Farmhouse • Grove Street Historic District • Harris House • Ihm House • Kittleson House • Roberts House • Roethlisberger House
City of Mineral Point	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mineral Point Hill • Mineral Point Historic District • Pendarvis • Spensley Farm
City of Dodgeville	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Iowa County Courthouse • Iowa Street

Capital Improvements Schedule

This section is designed to serve as a guide over the next five years to assist Iowa County to charting the course of future park and recreation facility development. The Capital Improvement Schedule (CIS) for the county parks and recreational areas included in Appendix B is located at the back of this plan. It was prepared by the Iowa County Land Conservation Committee. The CIS prioritizes each facility as to which year during the five year period the improvement will take place.

Project costs will be examined more closely when particular improvement plans are being developed. It is recommended that this portion of the plan be updated on an annual basis by the Iowa County Land Conservation Committee. Changes will be made that reflect changing user trends, citizen interest, the economy and county budget considerations. Before capital improvement projects are undertaken, Iowa County staff will: analyze all proposed projects and determine priorities each year; determine cost estimates for each development project; determine project budgetary limitations and potential funding sources, and partner with local conservation and recreation organizations as needed to implement the plan.

The Iowa County Land Conservation Committee is hopeful that a number of the recommended improvements to the county owned/managed parks and recreational areas can be carried out with financial assistance from the Department of Natural Resource Stewardship Funds and/or other Federal Park Development funds. At the same time, however, the county recognizes that a considerable investment will also be required at the county level if the recommendations discussed in this plan are ever going to be carried out. The CIS provides a good indication of what level of assistance is going to be required during any particular year in the planning period.

Maintenance and Operations Schedule

The county recognizes the value of having a maintenance and operations schedule for the county parks system. Such a schedule not only evaluates the on-going maintenance responsibilities at the parks and recreational areas, it also considers the implications of the CIS on the county's future operation and maintenance capabilities. All work required in the parks are listed for each year, by season. An attempt is also made to break the list down to individual work items, and below each work item, list the tasks required to complete the work item. The Operation and Maintenance Schedule for Iowa County is included in Appendix C.

Appendix A

NATIONAL RECREATION AND PARK ASSOCIATION (NRPA) PARK AND OPEN SPACE STANDARDS RECOMMENDED CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM FOR LOCAL AND REGIONAL RECREATION OPEN SPACE

A. LOCAL/CLOSE TO HOME SPACE:

- M-P: Mini Park (or Tot Lot)
 - Desirable/Typical Size: 1 acre or less.
 - Service Area: 1/8 – 1/4 mile.
 - Acres/1,000 Population: 0.5 – 1.0 acre.
 - Use: Specialized facilities to serve a concentration of limited population or groups such as senior citizens or young children.
 - Site Characteristics: Within neighborhoods and in close proximity to concentrations of family or senior housing.

- NP/P: Neighborhood Park/Playground
 - Desirable/Typical Size: 1 to 10 acres.
 - Service Area: 1/4 – 1/2 mile radius.
 - Acres/1,000 Population: 2 – 3 acres.
 - Use: Area for intense recreational activities such as field games, court games, crafts, playground apparatus area, ice skating, picnicking, volleyball, etc.
 - Site Characteristics: Suited for intense development; easily accessible to neighborhood population; geographically centered with safe walking and biking access. May be developed as a joint school/park facility.

- C/CP: Community Park
 - Desirable/Typical Size: 10 to 25 acres.
 - Service Area: 1 – 2 miles.
 - Acres/1,000 Population: 6 - 9 acres.
 - Use: Area of diverse environmental quality. May include areas suited for intense recreational facilities such as athletic complexes or large swimming pools. May be an area of natural quality for outdoor recreation such as walking, viewing, sitting, and picnicking. May be any combination of the above depending on site suitability and community need.
 - Site Characteristics: May include natural features such as water bodies and areas suited for intense development. Easy access by all modes of transportation.

B. REGIONAL SPACE:

- Regional/Metropolitan Parks
 - Desirable/Typical Size: 200+ acres
 - Service Area: Several communities, 1 hour driving time.
 - Acres/1,000 Population: 5-10 acres.
 - Use: Area of natural or ornamental quality for outdoor recreation, such as picnicking, boating, fishing, swimming, camping, and trail uses; may include play areas.
 - Site Characteristics: Contiguous to or encompassing natural resources.

- Regional Park Reserve
 - Desirable/Typical Size: 1,000+ acres; sufficient area to encompass the resource to be preserved and managed.
 - Service Area: Several communities, 1 hour driving time.
 - Acres/1,000 Population: Variable
 - Use: Area of natural quality for nature-oriented outdoor recreation, such as viewing, and studying nature, wildlife habitat, conservation, swimming, picnicking, hiking, fishing, boating, camping, and trail uses. May include active play areas. Generally, 80% of the land is reserved for conservation and natural resource management, with less than 20% used for recreation development.
 - Site Characteristics: Diverse or unique natural resources, such as lakes, streams, marshes, flora, fauna, and topography.

C. SPACE THAT MAY BE LOCAL OR REGIONAL AND IS UNIQUE TO EACH COMMUNITY:

- SU: Special Use Area
 - Desirable/Typical Size: Variable depending on type of facility.
 - Service Area: Entire Community.
 - Acres/1,000 Population: Variable.
 - Use: Areas for specialized or single purpose recreational activities such as golf courses, nature centers, marinas, zoos, conservancies, arboreta, display gardens, arenas, outdoor theaters, gun ranges, and downhill ski areas. Also includes plazas or squares in or near commercial centers, boulevards, or parkways.
 - Site Characteristics: Located within the community.

- C: Conservancy
 - Desirable/Typical Size: Sufficient to protect the resource.
 - Service Area: No applicable standard.
 - Acres/1,000 Population: Variable.
 - Use: Protection and management of the natural/cultural environment with recreation use as a secondary objective.
 - Site Characteristics: Variable, depending on the resource being protected.

- LP: Linear Park
 - Desirable/Typical Size: Sufficient width to protect resources and to provide maximum use.
 - Service Area: No applicable standard.
 - Acres/1,000 Population: Variable.
 - Use: Area developed for one or more varying modes of recreational travel or activity such as hiking, biking, snowmobiling, horseback riding, fitness trails/cross-country skiing and canoeing. May include active play areas.
 - Site Characteristics: Built on natural corridors such as utility or railroad right-of-way, bluff lines, vegetation patterns, and roads that link other components of the recreation system or community facilities such as school, libraries, commercial areas, and other park areas.

NRPA's SUGGESTED OUTDOOR FACILITY DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

Activity Format	Recommended Size and Dimensions	Recommended Space Requirements	Recommended Orientation	Service Radius and Location Notes	Number of Units per Population
Badminton	Singles – 17' x 44' Doubles – 20' x 44' width 5' unobstructed area on both sides	1,622 sq. ft.	Long axis north – south	¼ mile usually in school recreation center or church facility. Safe walking or biking access.	1 per 5,000
Basketball 1. Youth 2. High School 3. Collegiate	46' – 50' x 84' 50' x 94' 50 x 94 with 5' unobstructed space all sides	2400-3036 sq. ft. 5040-7280 sq. ft. 5600-7980 sq. ft.	Long axis north-south	¼- ½ mile. Same as badminton. Outdoor courts in neighborhood /community parks, plus active recreation areas in other park settings.	1 per 5,000
Handball (3-4 wall)	20' x 40' with a minimum of 10' to rear of 3-wall court. Minimum of 20' overhead clearance	800 sq. ft. for 4-wall 1000 sq. ft. for 3-wall	Long axis is north- south. Front wall at north end	15-30 min. travel time. 4-wall usually indoor as part of multipurpose building. 3-2 all usually in park or school setting	1 per 20,000
Ice hockey	Rink 85' x 200' (Min. 85' x 185').	22,000 sq. ft. including support area.	Long axis is north- south if outdoors	½ - 1 hour travel time. Climate important consideration affecting no. of units. Best as part of multipurpose facility.	Indoor – 1 per 100,000 Outdoor – depends on climate
Tennis	36' x 78'. 12 ft. clearance on both ends.	Min. of 7,200 sq. ft. single court area (2 acres per complex)	Long axis north-south	¼ - ½ mile, best in batteries of 2-4. Located in neighborhood / community park or near school site.	1 court per 2,000
Volleyball	30' x 60'. Minimum of 6' clearance on all sides	Minimum 4,000 sq. ft.	Long axis north-south	½ - 1 mile	1 per 5,000
Field Hockey	180' x 300' with a minimum of 10' clearance on all sides	Minimum 1.5 A	Fall season – Long axis northwest or southeast. For longer periods north/south.	15-30 minute travel time. Usually part of baseball, football, soccer complex in community park or adjacent to high school.	1 per 20,000

Activity Format	Recommended Size and Dimensions	Recommended Space Requirements	Recommended Orientation	Service Radius and Location Notes	Number of Units per Population
¼ mile running track	Over-all width – 276' Length – 600' Track width for 8-4 lanes is 32'	4.3 A.	Long axis in sector from north to south to northwest – southeast, with finish line at north end	15-30 minute travel time. Usually part of a high school or community park complex in combination with football, soccer, etc.	1 per 20,000
Softball	Baselines: 60' Pitching Dist: 45' / 40' women Fast Pitch Field radius from plate: 225' Slow pitch 275' (men) 250' (women).	1.5 – 2.0 A	Same as baseball	¼ - ½ Mile. Slight differences in dimensions for 16" slow pitch. May also be used for youth baseball.	1 per 5,000 (if also used by youth baseball).
Trails	Well defined head maximum 10' width, maximum average grade is 5% not to exceed 15%, Capacity Rural trails – 40 hikers/day/mile. Urban Trails – 90 hikers/day/mile	N/A	N/A	N/A	1 system per region
Golf Par 3 (18 hole) 9-hole Standard 3.18-hole standard	Average length varies – 600 – 2700 yards. Average length 2250 yards. Average length 6500 yards.	50-60 A Minimum of 50 A Minimum 110 A	Majority of holes on north/south axis.	½ - 1 hour travel time 9-hole course can accommodate 350 people/day Course may be located in community, district or regional/metro park.	1 per 25,000 1 per 50,000

Activity Format	Recommended Size and Dimensions	Recommended Space Requirements	Recommended Orientation	Service Radius and Location Notes	Number of Units per Population
Swimming pools	Teaching – min. 25 yds x 45’ even depth of 3 - 4 ft. Competitive min. 25m x 16m. Min of 25 sq. Ft. water surface per swimmer. Ratio of 2 to 1 deck to water	Varies on size of pool and amenities. Usually 1-2 A sites, relation to afternoon sun	None, but care must be taken in sitting lifeguard stations in relation to afternoon sun.	15 to 30 minute travel time. Pools for general community use should be planned for teaching competitive and recreational purposes with enough to accommodate 1m and 3m Diving boards. Located in community park or school site.	1 per 20,000 (pools should accommodate 3 to 5% of total population at a time)
Beach Areas	Beach area should have 50 sq. ft. of land and 50 sq. ft. of water per user. Turnover rate is 3. There should be a 3-4 acre supporting area per acre of beach.	N/A	N/A	½ to 1 hour travel time. Should have a sand bottom with a maximum slope of 5% Boating areas completely segregated from swimming areas. Locate in Regional/metro parks.	N/A

Appendix B

IOWA COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEDULE

Park	Recommendation	Year
Bloomfield Prairie property (Pond Area)	Dredge (or start with feasibility study for dredging)	2025
	Weed/algae control	2023
	Install canoe launch	2024
	Build longer accessible pier (to reach deeper water/fewer weeds)	2024
	Brush/weed control around the edge	2023
	Rework trail and repair/rebuild footbridge just north of the Pond	2026
	Possibly expand shelter (or maintain/repair as needed)	2026
	Add pit toilet	2025
	Add electricity (or solar panels) to the pond shelter so users could have light.	2025
Bloomfield Prairie property (Non-CRP/CREP areas)	Create accessible trails	2026
	Create bike-able trails	2026
	Create interpretive signs	2023
	Add footbridges in pasture for public access to eastern fields	2026
	Upgrade/replace other bridges (3)	2026
	New or updated kiosks	2025
	Create off-leash dog area (near Bloomfield buildings)	2024
	Improve existing and add additional parking areas	2024
Bloomfield Prairie property (Red Shed)	Add pit toilet/bathroom	2025
	Preserve red barn; modify to a shelter or meeting facility	2024
	Add electricity (or solar panels) to the red shed	2025
Bloomfield Prairie property (White Shed)	Add a cement floor and more garage doors to the white shed.	2024
Bloomfield Prairie property (General)	Increased management of invasive brush and herbaceous invasive weeds, including but not limited to wild parsnip, Canada thistle, crown vetch, and bush honeysuckle.	2024
Blackhawk Lake Recreation Area	Pit toilet repairs/Remodel	2025
	Weed/Algae control in beach swimming area	2024
	Roof replacement on pavilions	2025
	Retaining wall at beach area	2026
	Cabin repairs/Rebuilds	2025
	Parking lot maintenance	ongoing
	Shower house repairs and remodels	2024
	Nature Center improvements/Taxidermy	2025
	New playground equipment	2025
Walk bridge replacement on hiking trail	2024	

Park	Recommendation	Year
Military Ridge State Trail	Increase trail repair/ maintenance on Military Ridge State Trail.	ongoing
	Provide dog waste station along trail.	2024
	Provide bore benches along trail for walking people to sit.	2024
	Provide more trash cans along trail.	2023
Additional recreation needs/recommendations:	The County owns some properties in the Mifflin area along the Pecatonica River and CTH E; which could be made into a park if there is interest to do so, otherwise should consider selling.	2025
	There is some additional right of way also owed by the county at Factory road and CTH II which could be an access point for fishing easements or a park along Otter Creek.	2025
	Trail to the Avoca Prairie, possibly some interpretive trail, with signs talking about its unique ecosystem/flora/fauna.	2026
	Improving/fixing the bridge to cross the river/creek to get out to the Avoca Prairie.	2026
	Trail/loop in the Avoca prairie.	2026
	Improvement/building out sand for the Avoca Lake beach on the Wisconsin River.	2026
	Life jacket library for the Avoca Lake beach.	2026
	A canoe/kayak launch or some canoe/kayak access on the Wisconsin River.	2026
	Trail linking the recreational park and boat launches in Avoca as well as that in Muscoda.	2026
	Continue to provide and enhance public access to the Lower Wisconsin Riverway.	ongoing
	Continue to upgrade the parks and recreational areas the county owns or manages by bringing all facilities up to ADA standards over the next five to ten years.	ongoing
	Consider including paved shoulders as part of future road reconstruction projects to allow safer passing of slower moving vehicles which would benefit ATV/UTV, bicycle, and farm implement traffic.	NA
	Use the University of Wisconsin Platteville engineering students for any future park project(s). SWWRPC should help guide the process in pairing Iowa County with a suitable team.	NA
	Explore the feasibility of a trap shooting facility. If feasible, develop a location and facility for youth clubs and school-based teams.	NA
	Assess the current needs and opportunities for kayaking and canoeing, and, if feasible, develop additional kayak/canoe facilities.	NA
The Land Conservation Committee should review the plan at least once a year to assess progress.	annually	

Appendix C

IOWA COUNTY LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION SCHEDULE

The following is an overview of the Iowa County Land and Water Conservation Commission annual maintenance and operation schedule, including task performed.

PARK/RECREATIONAL MAINTENANCE AREAS

1. Blackhawk Lake Recreation area
2. Birch Lake
3. Bloomfield Prairie
4. Tri-County Trail (Mineral Point Section)
5. Boat launch (off of Hwy 130 on the WI River - Town of Clyde)
6. Boat launch (DNR owned, Town of Arena)
7. Historic marker – STH 23 scenic lookout
8. Historic marker – CTH YZ Military Ridge
9. Historic marker – STH 14 wayside
10. Historic marker – Dane County line

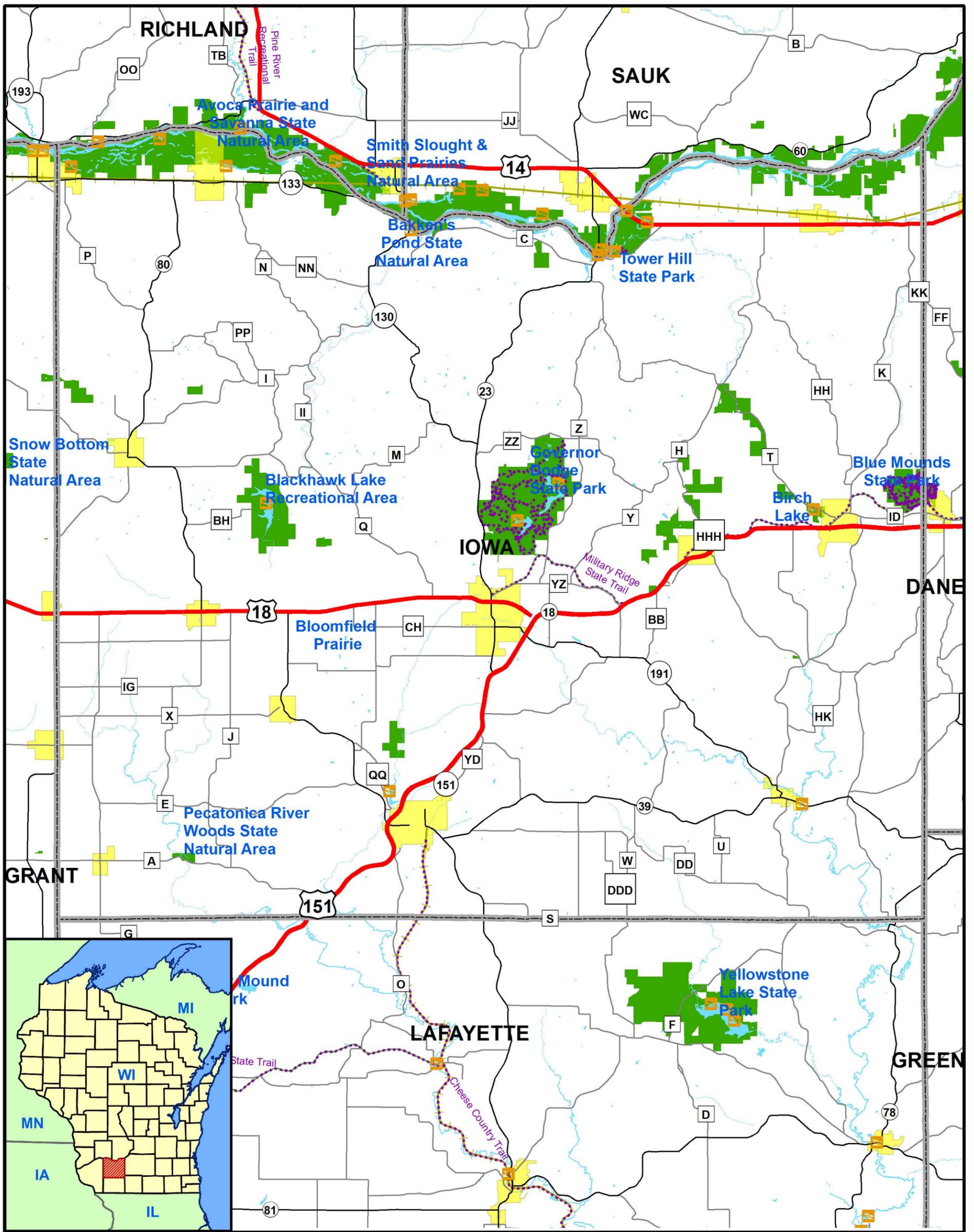
PARKS/RECREATIONAL ANNUAL MAINTENANCE

April – October

Tasks performed:

- Mowing and trimming
- Cleaning and painting
- Cleaning restrooms and shelters
- Equipment inspection and complete all necessary repairs
- Remove garbage and recyclables
- General maintenance
- Small capital improvements

Appendix D



-  County Boundaries
-  Cities and Villages
-  DNR Lands
-  Lakes and Open Water
-  Streams and Rivers
-  US Highways
-  State Roads
-  County Roads
-  Recreational Trails
-  Railroad
-  Public Boat Access Sites

IOWA COUNTY RECREATIONAL AREAS



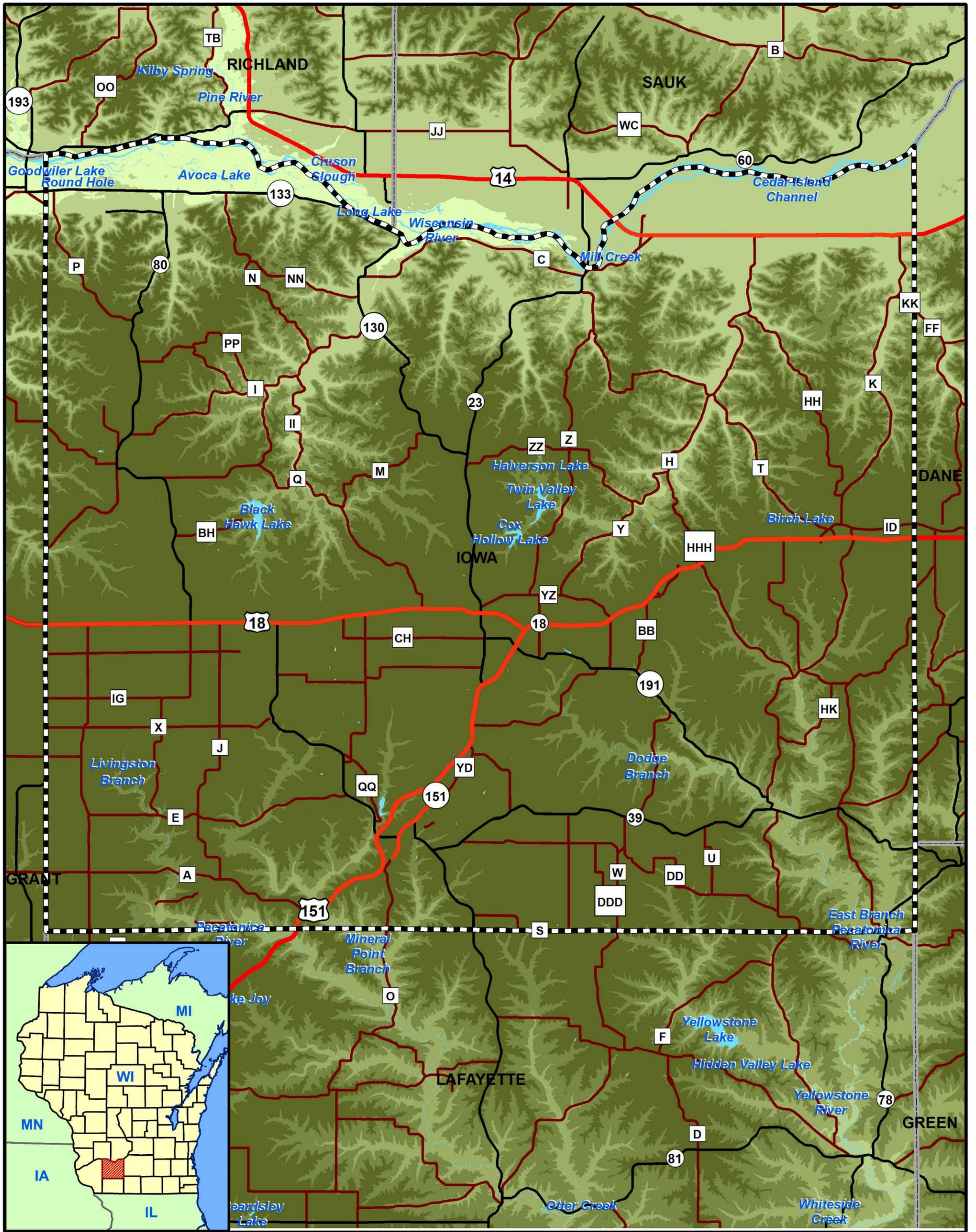
0 2 4 8 Miles

Date: 2/16/2022

Sources: WI SCO (2021),
US Census Tigerline Shapefiles (2021)
& WI DNR (2021)

This map is not a survey of the actual boundary of any property this map depicts. This map is not a legally recorded map and is not intended to be one. SWWRPC is not responsible for any inaccuracies herein contained.





Iowa County Boundary	Elevations
Other County Boundaries	≤700
US Highways	701 - 800
State Roads	801 - 900
County Roads	901 - 1,000
Lakes and Open Water	>1,000

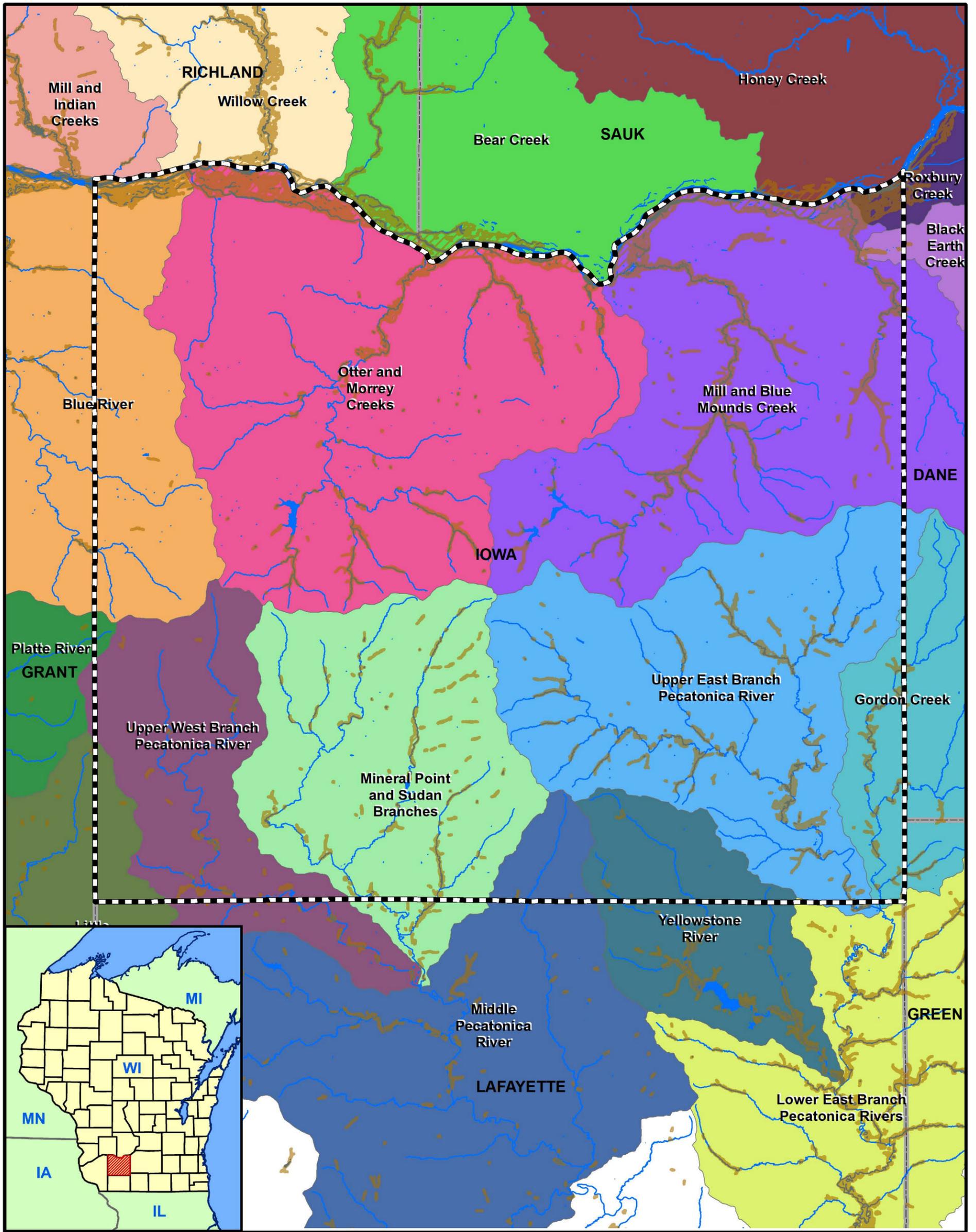
IOWA COUNTY, WI TOPOGRAPHY MAP

Date: 2/16/2022

Sources: WI SCO (2021),
US Census Tigerline Shapefiles (2021)
& WI DNR (2021)

This map is not a survey of the actual boundary of any property this map depicts. This map is not a legally recorded map and is not intended to be one. SWWRPC is not responsible for any inaccuracies herein contained.

**SOUTHWESTERN WISCONSIN
REGIONAL PLANNING
COMMISSION**



Iowa County Boundary	Lower East Branch Pecatonica Rivers
Wetlands	Middle Pecatonica River
Lakes and Open Water	Mill and Blue Mounds Creek
Streams and Rivers	Mill and Indian Creeks
Other County Boundries	Mineral Point and Sudan Branches
Watersheds	Otter and Morrey Creeks
Bear Creek	Platte River
Black Earth Creek	Roxbury Creek
Blue River	Upper East Branch Pecatonica River
Gordon Creek	Upper West Branch Pecatonica River
Honey Creek	Willow Creek
Little Platte River	Yellowstone River

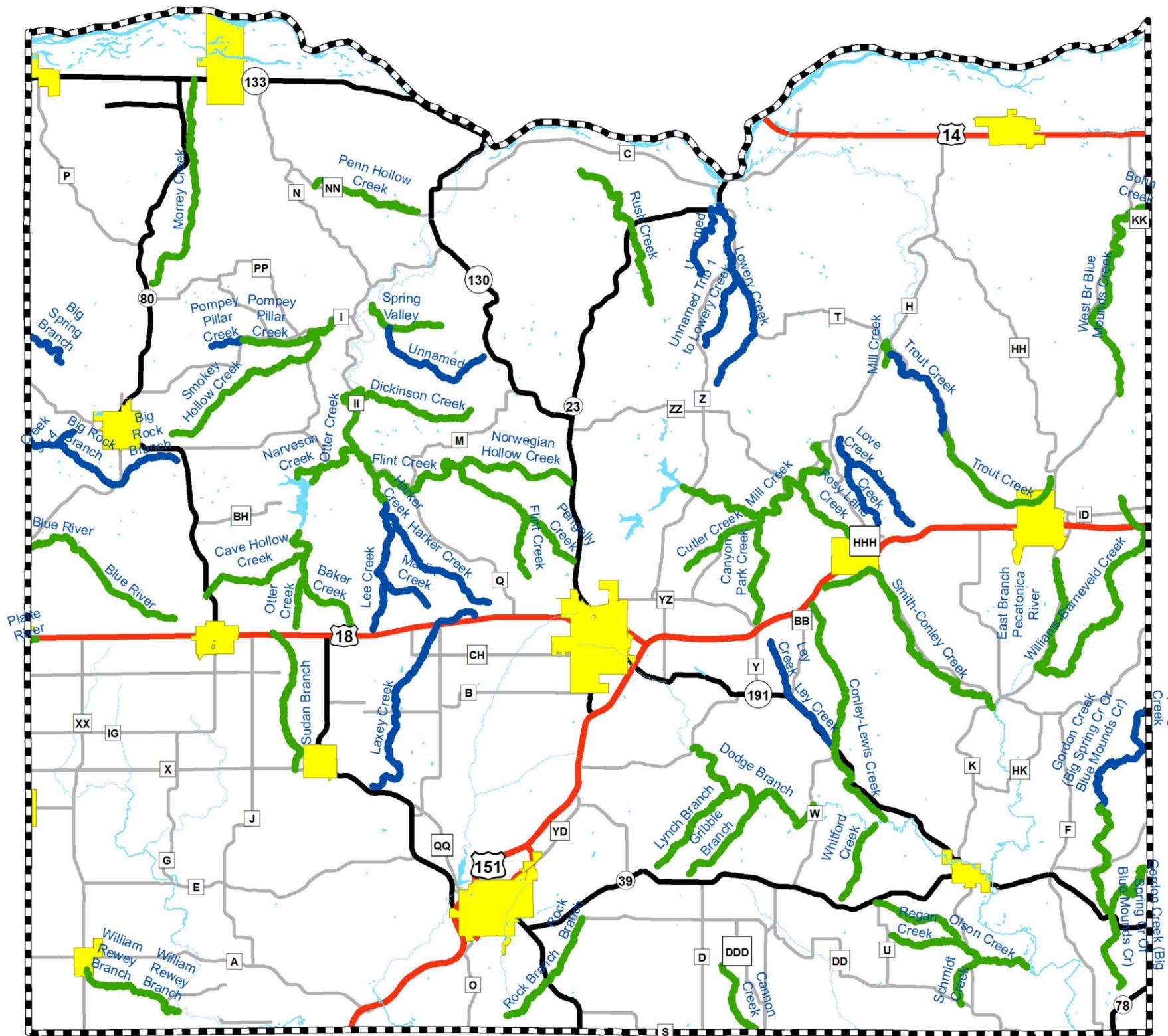
IOWA COUNTY, WI WATER RESOURCES

Date: 2/16/2022

Sources: WI SCO (2021),
US Census Tigerline Shapefiles (2021)
& WI DNR (2021)

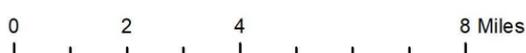
This map is not a survey of the actual boundary of any property this map depicts. This map is not a legally recorded map and is not intended to be one. SWWRPC is not responsible for any inaccuracies herein contained.

**SOUTHWESTERN WISCONSIN
REGIONAL PLANNING
COMMISSION**



- Iowa County Boundary
- Iowa County Municipalities
- Lakes and Open Water
- Streams and Rivers
- US Highways
- State Roads
- County Roads
- Trout Stream Classification**
- CLASS I
- CLASS II
- CLASS III

IOWA COUNTY, WI TROUT STREAMS

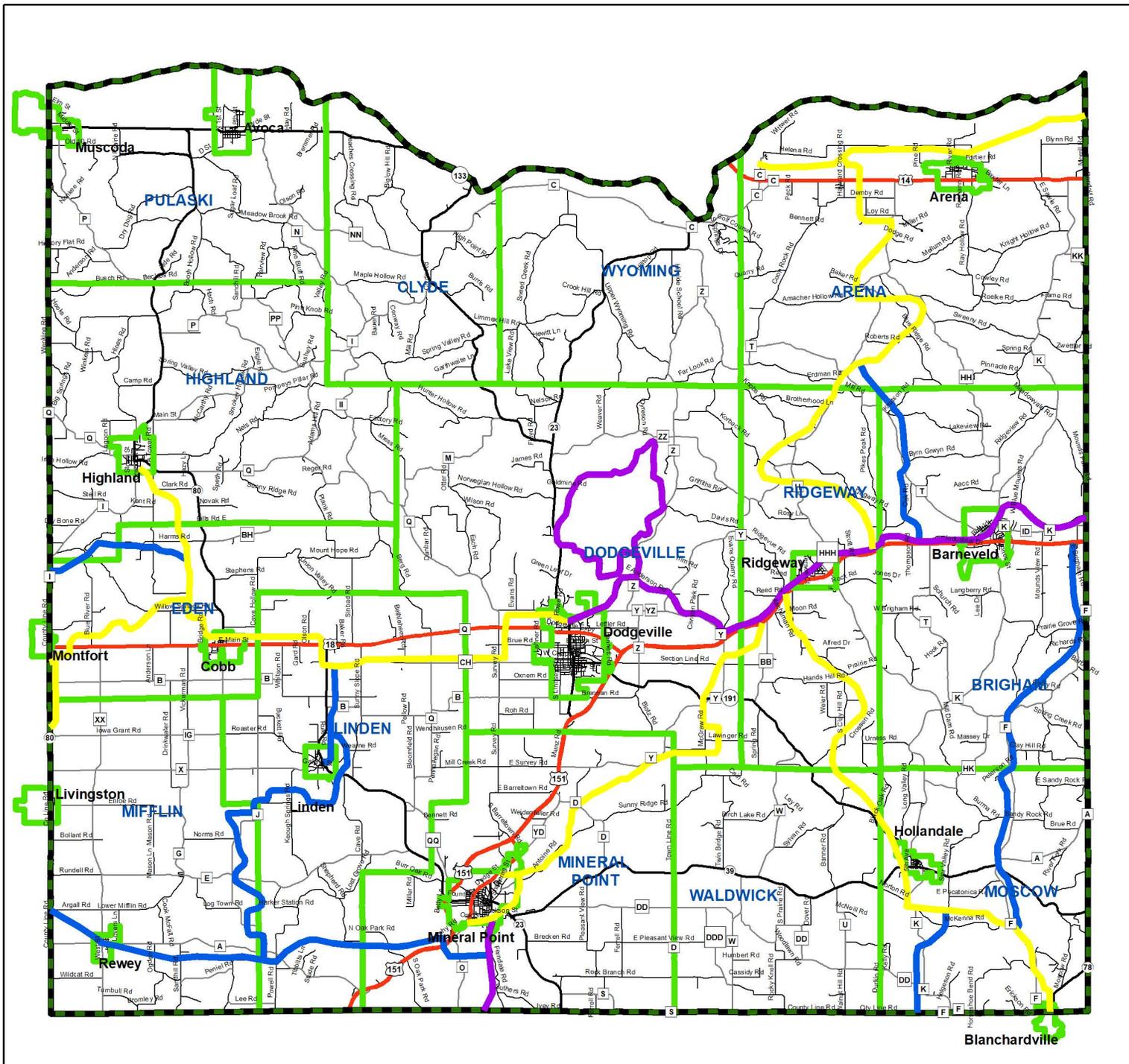


Date: 2/16/2022

Sources: WI SCO (2021),
US Census Tigerline Shapefiles (2021)
& WI DNR (2021)

This map is not a survey of the actual boundary of any property this map depicts. This map is not a legally recorded map and is not intended to be one. SWWRPC is not responsible for any inaccuracies herein contained.

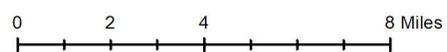




Legend

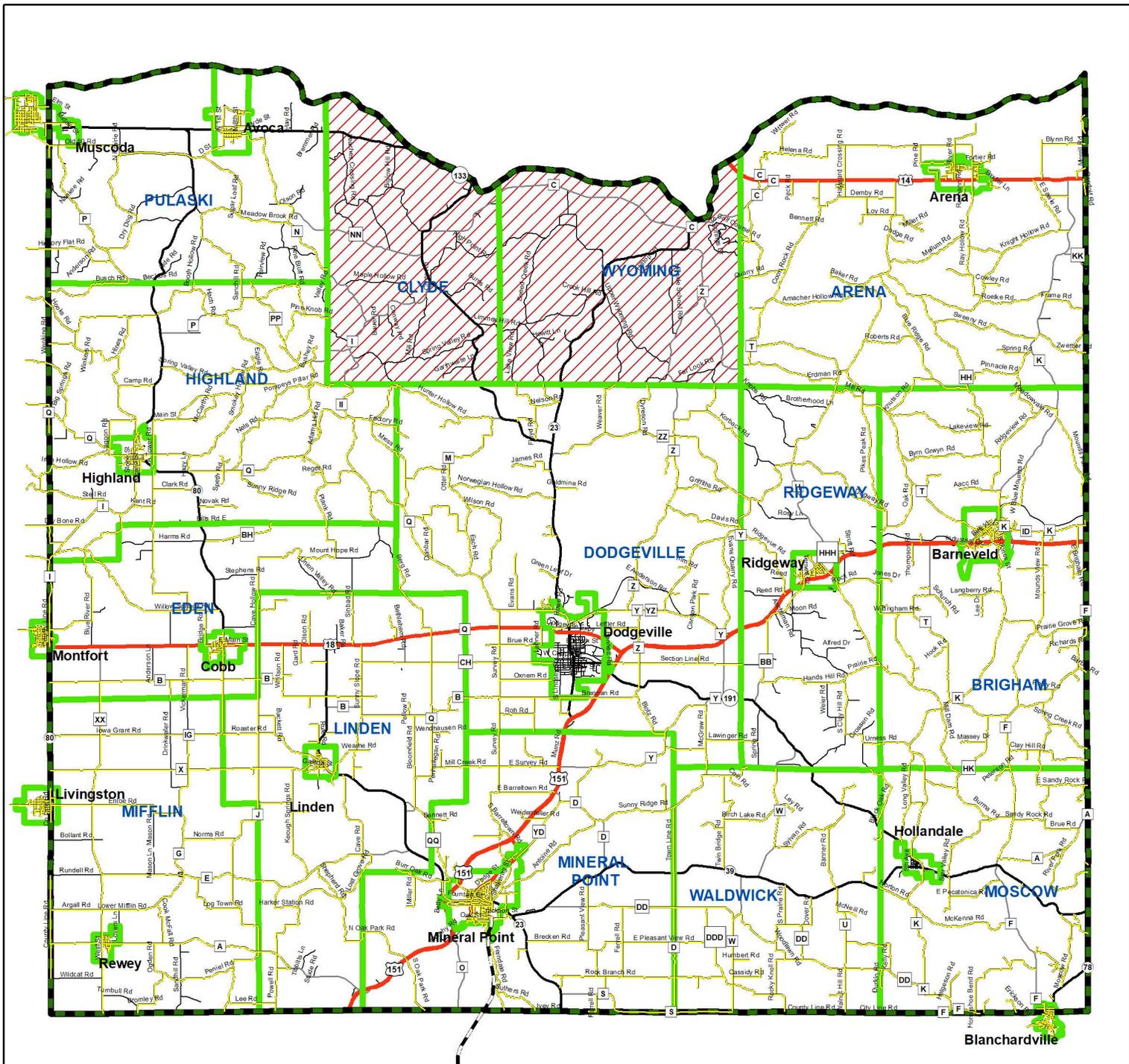
- Military Ridge, Governer Dodge, and Cheese Trails
- Non-Funded Club Trails
- Iowa County Snowmobile Alliance Trails
- US Highways
- State Roads
- County Roads
- Local Roads
- Municipal Boundaries
- Iowa County Boundary
- Other County Boundaries

IOWA COUNTY, WI SNOWMOBILE TRAILS



Date: 2/16/2022
 Sources: WI SCO (2021),
 US Census Tigerline Shapefiles (2021) & WI DNR (2021)
 This map is not a survey of the actual boundary of any property this map depicts.
 This map is not a legally recorded map and is not intended to be one.
 SWWRPC is not responsible for any inaccuracies herein contained.

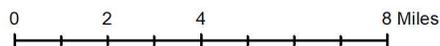




Legend

- ATV/UTV Routes Based on Municipal/County Ordinance
- ATV/UTV Trail (Cheese Country Trail)
- US Highways
- State Roads
- County Roads
- Local Roads
- Municipal Boundaries
- Iowa County Boundary
- Other County Boundaries
- Municipalities without approved ATV/UTV Routes

IOWA COUNTY, WI ATV/UTV ROUTES



Date: 2/16/2022
 Sources: WI SCO (2021),
 US Census Tigerline Shapefiles (2021) & WI DNR (2021)
 This map is not a survey of the actual boundary of any property this map depicts.
 This map is not a legally recorded map and is not intended to be one.
 SWWRPC is not responsible for any inaccuracies herein contained.