



# STRATEGIC PLAN

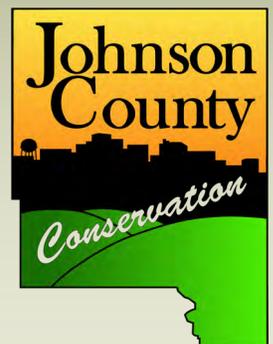
## JOHNSON COUNTY CONSERVATION

The Johnson County Conservation Board engaged thought leaders, environmental and conservation groups, and the public to identify the most important environmental and conservation needs in Johnson County. This process identified six focus areas:

- ◆ **Protect**
- ◆ **Restore**
- ◆ **Connect**
- ◆ **Water Quality**
- ◆ **Partnerships**
- ◆ **Sustainability**

The strategic plan focuses on these needs in a sustainable manner and provides quality stewardship of Johnson County's natural and financial resources.

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**“When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect.” - Aldo Leopold**

# VISION STATEMENT

The Vision of the Johnson County Conservation Board is a county where all citizens have access to a healthy landscape, environmental education and recreation opportunities; where the natural resources of the county are enhanced and protected; where conservation areas are restored and maintained at the highest standard and are safe; and where this vision is accomplished through partnerships with the public and private sector.





## Protect

- ◆ Grow JCCB's land holdings in a managed and sustainable manner, with a priority on bio-sensitive areas and lands along rivers and streams.
- ◆ Add lands to the public trust that connect to current holdings and reduce fragmentation or isolation of natural areas due to development.
- ◆ Acquire more land for trails.





# Restore



- ◆ Use sustainable land restoration and management practices to protect water quality and biodiversity.
- ◆ Restore ecosystems to their natural state.
- ◆ Apply restoration strategies that enhance wildlife habitat and reduce the spread of invasive species.



# Connect

- ◆ Expand education and outreach opportunities, especially for people who are not currently connected to nature.
- ◆ Provide a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities, with a priority on trails, to meet the diverse interests of Johnson County citizens.
- ◆ Engage people where they live through expanded outreach programs, including the social media, technology and regional opportunities.





## Water Quality

- ◆ Be a leader in water quality by using sound water management practices on our current and future holdings.
- ◆ Protect land along rivers and streams and implement management plans to restore native plant communities and promote nutrient recycling on the land.
- ◆ Provide educational opportunities that expand the understanding of water quality issues.
- ◆ Provide access to healthy aquatic communities for water-based outdoor recreation opportunities.





## Partnerships

- ◆ Partner with other governmental agencies, non-profit organizations, businesses, and residents when planning and managing natural and cultural resource projects.
- ◆ Work with the Friends of Johnson County Conservation to actively engage interested citizens in participating in and supporting the conservation program.
- ◆ Provide opportunities for volunteers to get involved in management and restoration of conservation areas and programs.





# Sustainability

- ◆ Use public funds in a wise and fiscally prudent manner.
- ◆ Leverage conservation bonding funds and other public funds with support from grant programs and donations.
- ◆ Develop and manage public lands in a manner sustainable for the long term.





### **Cedar River Crossing**

is a 407-acre floodplain with native relict prairie, forest and wetlands.

### **Ciha Fen**

is an 81-acre preserve with a very rare "nutrient poor" fen and native prairie and savanna remnants.

### **Clear Creek Area and Trail**

is an 80-acre floodplain forest with a 1.3 mile length, hard-surfaced trail.

### **F.W. Kent Park**

is a 1,052 acre, recreation area with native and re-established prairies, forests, wetlands, a campground, lake, shelters, miles of trails, playgrounds, beach and education center.

### **Frytown Conservation Area**

includes a 94 acre timber with a 30-acre tree and shrub planting.

### **Hills Access**

is a 40-acre park located along the Iowa River. Facilities include a boat ramp, campground, vault toilets, picnic tables and a playground.

### **Hoover Trail**

is a 6.0 mile segment of hard-surfaced trail – expected to be complete in 2017. A 3-mile segment of trail connects the village of Oasis to West Branch.

### **Iowa River Trail - Iowa City to North Liberty**

is 4.6 mile segment of hard-surfaced trail that connects Iowa City to North Liberty.

### **Iowa River Water Trail - Sturgis Access to the Tri-county Bridge**

is a 23 mile segment of water trail that connects Iowa City to the Mississippi River near Lake Odessa.

### **River Junction Access**

is a 12-acre area with a boat ramp, picnic tables and camping area along the Iowa River.

### **Scott Church Park**

is a five-acre roadside park with picnic tables, a vault toilet, drinking water and a reconstructed prairie.

### **Solon Prairie**

is a three-acre prairie relict with more than 157 native plant species.

### **Suttiff Bridge and Access**

is a historic bridge and boat ramp along the Cedar River. The bridge is visited by fans from around the world.

### **Walker Park**

is a three acre park with a picnic shelter, vault toilets, tables and grills. The Old Settlers Association assists with preservation of a historic log cabin and the Henry Walker Memorial Building, constructed in 1912.

### **Williams Prairie**

includes more than 320 species of prairie plants and was dedicated as a State Preserve in 1976. In 1973, the land was purchased by The Nature Conservancy. In 2014, the property was transferred to the Johnson County Conservation Board.



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## Friends of Johnson County Conservation

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INSTITUTE  
FOR CONSERVATION  
LEADERSHIP

Special thanks to Elaine Chaney, Consultant, for guiding the planning process.

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