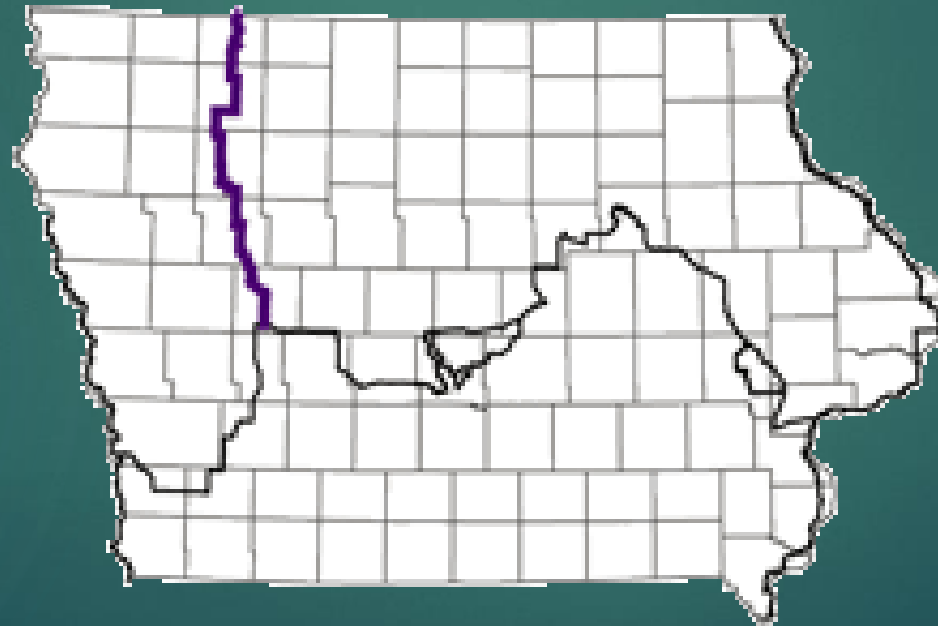


IOWA GREAT LAKES CONNECTION TRAIL

Kathy Renken, Clay County Trails Association & Erin Reed, Dickinson County Trails Board



“The trail is there for everyone at every phase of life.”

~ Jennifer Pharr Davis & Brew Davis, *Families On Foot*, 2017 ~

Dreaming, after all, is a form of planning...



Clay County Trails Association Mission Statement

“To enrich lives and healthy lifestyles by providing an enjoyable, accessible trail experience which promotes sustainable development, economic vitality and tourism.”

CLAY COUNTY TRAILS ASSOCIATION



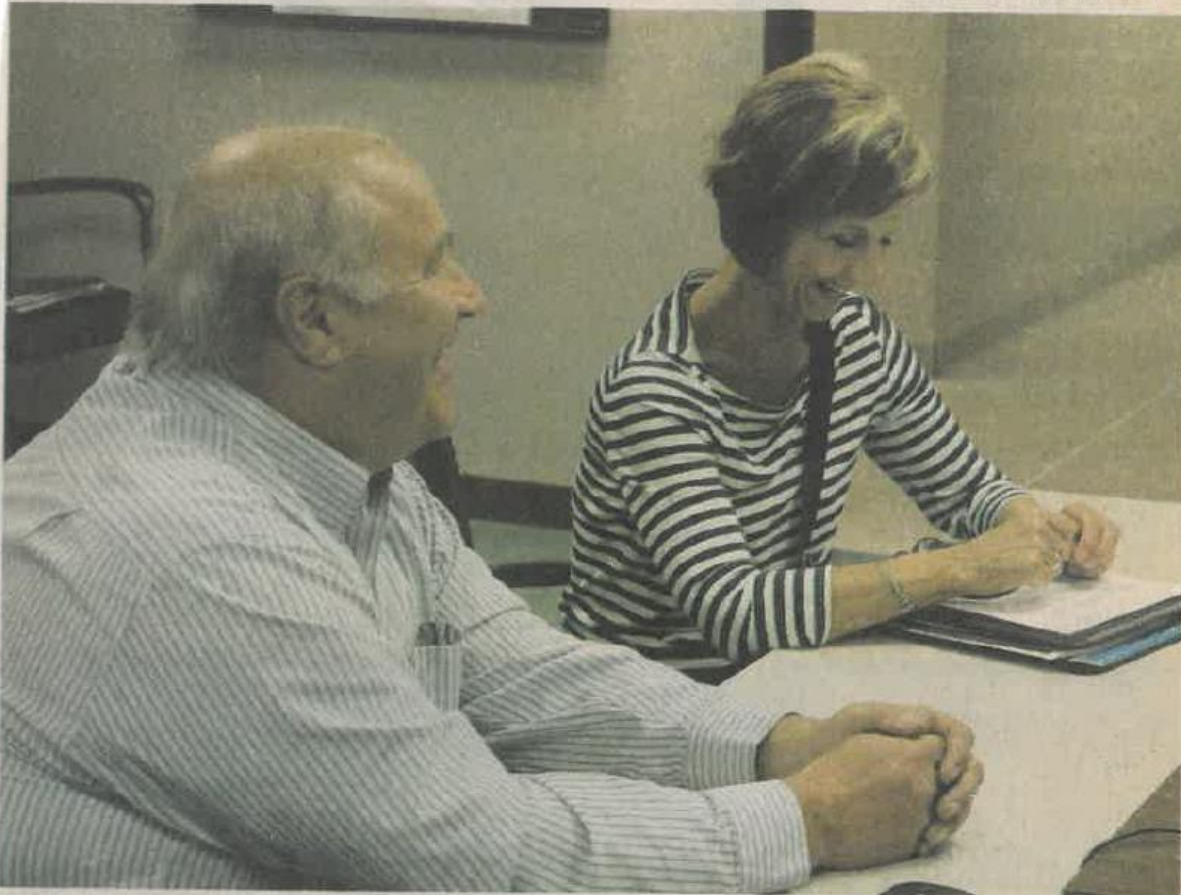
CLAY COUNTY TRAILS ASSOCIATION

- ▶ Clay County Trails Association formed in 2006.
- ▶ In 2008, the group began meeting on a regular basis and started planning to use the Spencer East 10th Street trail to continue north to Okoboji.
- ▶ By 2010, due to cost of farm land, the route was redirected to the west side of Highway 71 using the old railroad line from West 18th Street to the north city limits of Spencer.
- ▶ Some businesses along the old railroad disputed the development of the trail and started proceedings to stop it.
- ▶ Again, plans changed and the trail was moved one block to 4th Avenue West at the northeast corner of the Clay County Fairgrounds.



RESOLUTIONS OF SUPPORT

SUPERVISORS SUPPORT CLAY COUNTY BIKE GROUP



Spencer Park and Recreation Director Del Bredehoft and Kathy Fueston witnessed the signing of a letter of support for the Clay County Bike Group by the Clay County Board of Supervisors Tuesday morning. With this approval, Fueston said the group will be able to begin applying for grants to fund a bike trail from Spencer to Forstora. She continued by stating that she wants to have this portion of the trail done in the next two years. After grants, Fueston said the organization hopes to raise \$200,000 to \$300,000 more through fundraisers to support the project. She said there are also plans to connect the trail to Millford and extend it all the way to Des Moines. "Having the board of supervisors on board is huge for us, because we are a small community," Fueston said. "So we want to make sure we are all working together and they're out spreading the good word of the trail system with us." (Photo by Will Musgrove) -2015-

RESOLUTION No. 2015-19

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUPPORT FOR THE IOWA GREAT LAKES CONNECTION TRAIL PROJECT, COMMITTING TO PUBLIC OWNERSHIP AND MAINTENANCE, AND AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR TO SIGN APPLICATION MATERIALS SEEKING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE PROJECT.

WHEREAS, Clay County has identified and targeted a desire to complete the rural non-urban section of the Iowa Great Lakes Connection Trail adjacent to United States Highway 71; and,

WHEREAS, Clay County in its desire to complete the aforementioned trail project understands that this project will be a publically owned trail project benefitting all who may utilize the trail when complete; and,

WHEREAS, Clay County does not possess the necessary financial resources to conduct said project entirely on its own without financial assistance; and,

WHEREAS, Clay County has the ability to apply for various Federal and State of Iowa funded trail financial assistance programs.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Clay County endorses the development of the Iowa Great Lakes Connection Trail Project, commits to ownership and maintenance of the trail once the project is complete, and authorizes the County Board of Supervisors Chairperson to sign all application documentation necessary in the preparation of requests for funding assistance for said trail project.


PASSED AND APPROVED this 26th day of May, 2015.

The above and foregoing resolution was adopted by the Clay County Board of Supervisors and the vote thereon being as follows:

AYES: Supervisor Brockshus, Supervisor Skow, Supervisor Anderson, Supervisor Swanson.

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: Supervisor Matthews


Linda K. Swanson, Chairperson

ATTEST:


Clay County Auditor

CLAY COUNTY TRAILS ASSOCIATION



CONNECTING NORTHWEST IOWA BY TRAIL



JUNE 28

Perseverance/Victory

Perseverance is one of the finest qualities we can possess. It helps us keep on going when we feel like giving up. It nudges us to search out the good, no matter how hard the journey. It helps us love, even when we feel like throwing in the towel. Perseverance leads to success. We gain clarity and wisdom. We see grace and mercy.

We all feel like giving up at one time or another. Doubt and disillusionment are common enemies. It is not always easy to keep the faith, especially when the realization of our hopes and dreams is not in sight. But rest assured, uncertainty is not bad. We needn't fear the unknown. Instead, we can embrace the unseen beauty deep within.

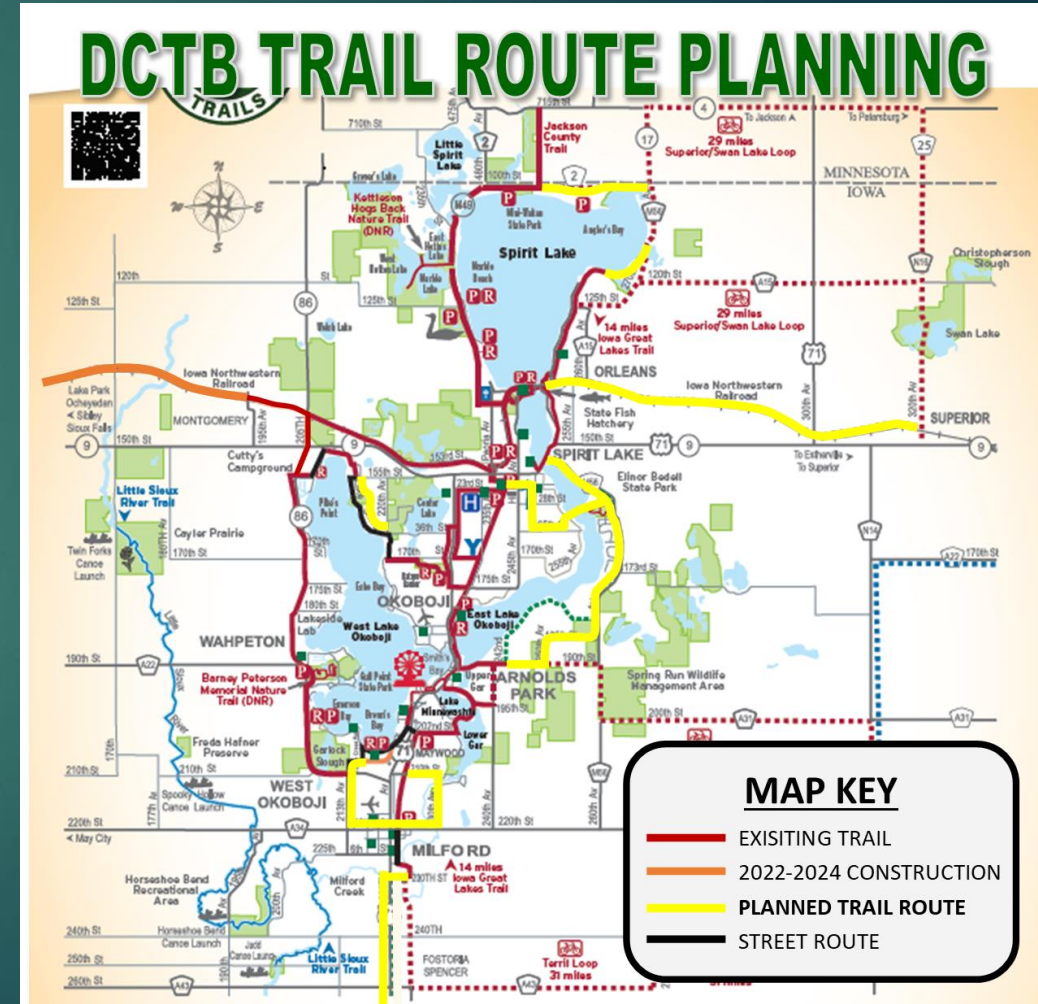
Perseverance helps us overcome all obstacles. It leads to victory. Each time we hold on, despite the challenge, we are one step closer to the gifts of tomorrow. Everything we do in love weaves together to make our greatest dreams and desires come true. This is our promise.



HISTORY OF THE IOWA GREAT LAKES TRAILS



- ▶ On November 1, 1988, Robert (Bib) Walters, Secretary of the Dickinson County Conservation Board brought 24 Dickinson County citizens together to announce a new RISE initiative funded by the Iowa Legislature. The program would provide \$1 Million annually for the development of recreational trails in Iowa. From this meeting, the Dickinson County Trails Association was formed.
- ▶ On October 31, 1989 the Iowa DOT approved DCTA's first grant of \$357,121 for the Spine Trail and a second IDOT grant of \$133,920 was awarded the following year for the construction of a bridge between Lower Gar State Park and Henderson Woods. Today this bridge serves an integral part of the Spine Trail.
- ▶ On January 1, 2006 DCTA reorganized under the county government and became the Dickinson County Trails Board. **Its mission is the acquire, develop, preserve and improve multi-purpose recreational trails in Dickinson County and to cooperate with adjoining counties in the development of regional trails financed through the combined support of local, state, federal, private and public resources.**



DCTB Structure & Operations

- ▶ 28E Agreement to share administration expenses between Dickinson County, Arnolds Park, Lake Park, Milford, Okoboji, Orleans, Spirit Lake, Wahpeton and West Okoboji.
- ▶ Each town and the county appoint a representative to the board along with an at-large member for a total of 10 directors.
- ▶ Meet the 2nd Friday of each month, committee meetings are held throughout the year as needed.
- ▶ Committees include Executive, Maintenance, Friends & Promotions and Rail Trail.
- ▶ Strategic planning meetings are held at the end of the year to determine development and maintenance priorities and which projects to apply to grants for the following year.

Finances & Budget

- ▶ State & Federal Recreational Trails Programs, foundation grants and private donations provide a majority of DCTB development funding.
- ▶ DCTB FY-2022 expenditures were \$1.9 Million for development, maintenance and administration.
- ▶ Dickinson County provides the maintenance budget that averages \$150,000/year.
FY22 County Contribution = \$150,000 FY22 Expenses = \$154,000
FY23 County Contribution = \$115,000 FY23 Expense Budget = \$201,400 (estimated)
- ▶ FY-2023 Budget includes \$2.9 Million in Expenditures & \$1.8 Million in Revenue.
- ▶ In FY-2022 DCTB brought in over \$3.6 Million in revenue. From that \$324,500 in revenue was provided by Dickinson County for Maintenance (\$150,000), Development (\$100,000) and Administration (\$74,500). The participating cities provided \$42,500 for administration. Total Local Funds = \$367,000 = 10% of total revenue.
- ▶ 2021-2023 Grant Funding = \$7,086,875 (Large influx of funds from local nonprofit Imagine Iowa Great Lakes)

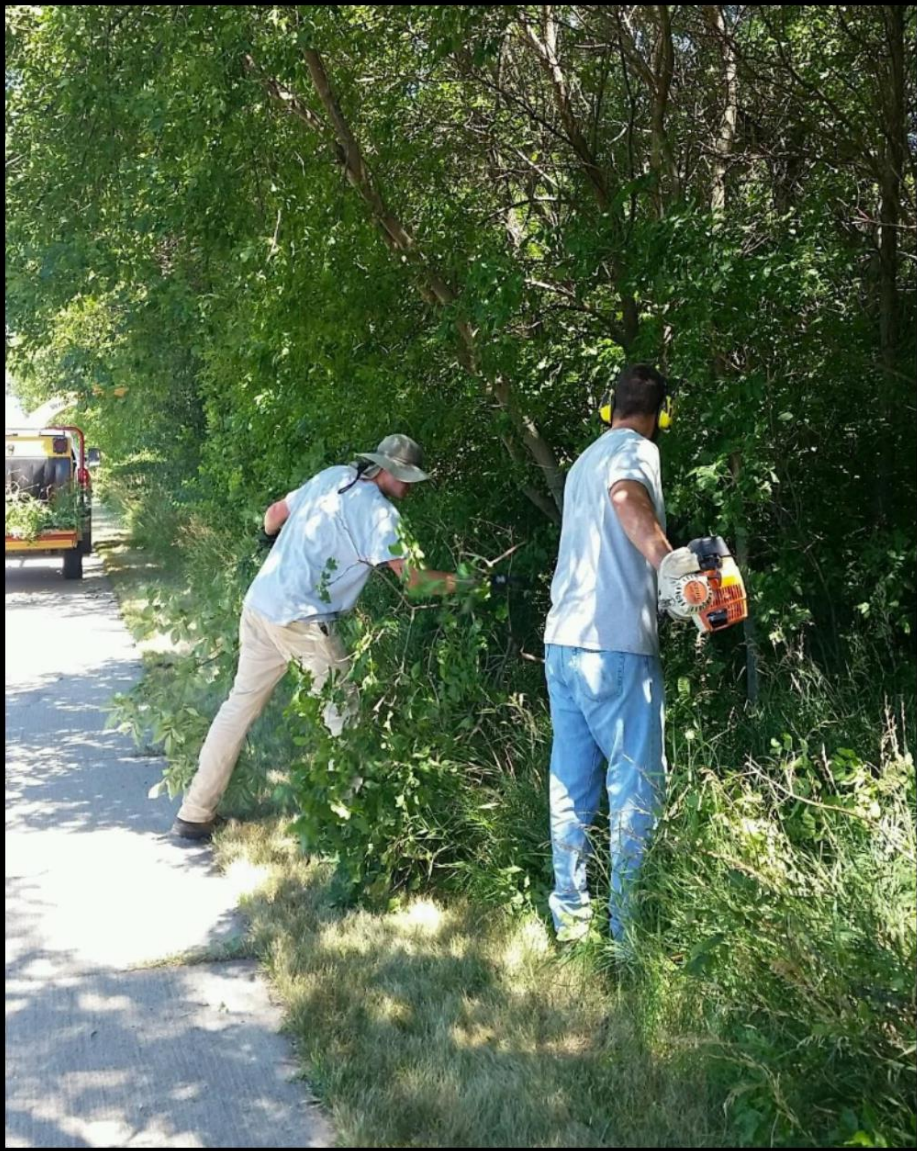
Development

- ▶ Funding comes from Private Foundations & Donations, State & Federal Rec Trail Programs, Iowa DNR REAP, Region 3 TAP, Okoboji Foundation, Wellmark Foundation & Imagine Iowa Great Lakes.
- ▶ Local match for grants: 20% - 30% Minimum. DCTB & Cities share in local match if the trail is within city limits.
 - ▶ **1 Mile of Trail = \$500,000-\$650,000 → 25% = \$125,000-\$162,500**

Maintenance

- ▶ General Maintenance is provided by Dickinson County Conservation Board.
- ▶ County provides budget for infrastructure maintenance that includes annual surface preservation, overlays, drainage and concrete repairs.
- ▶ DCTB also has an Endow Iowa Maintenance Fund through Okoboji Foundation.

Dickinson County Conservation Board

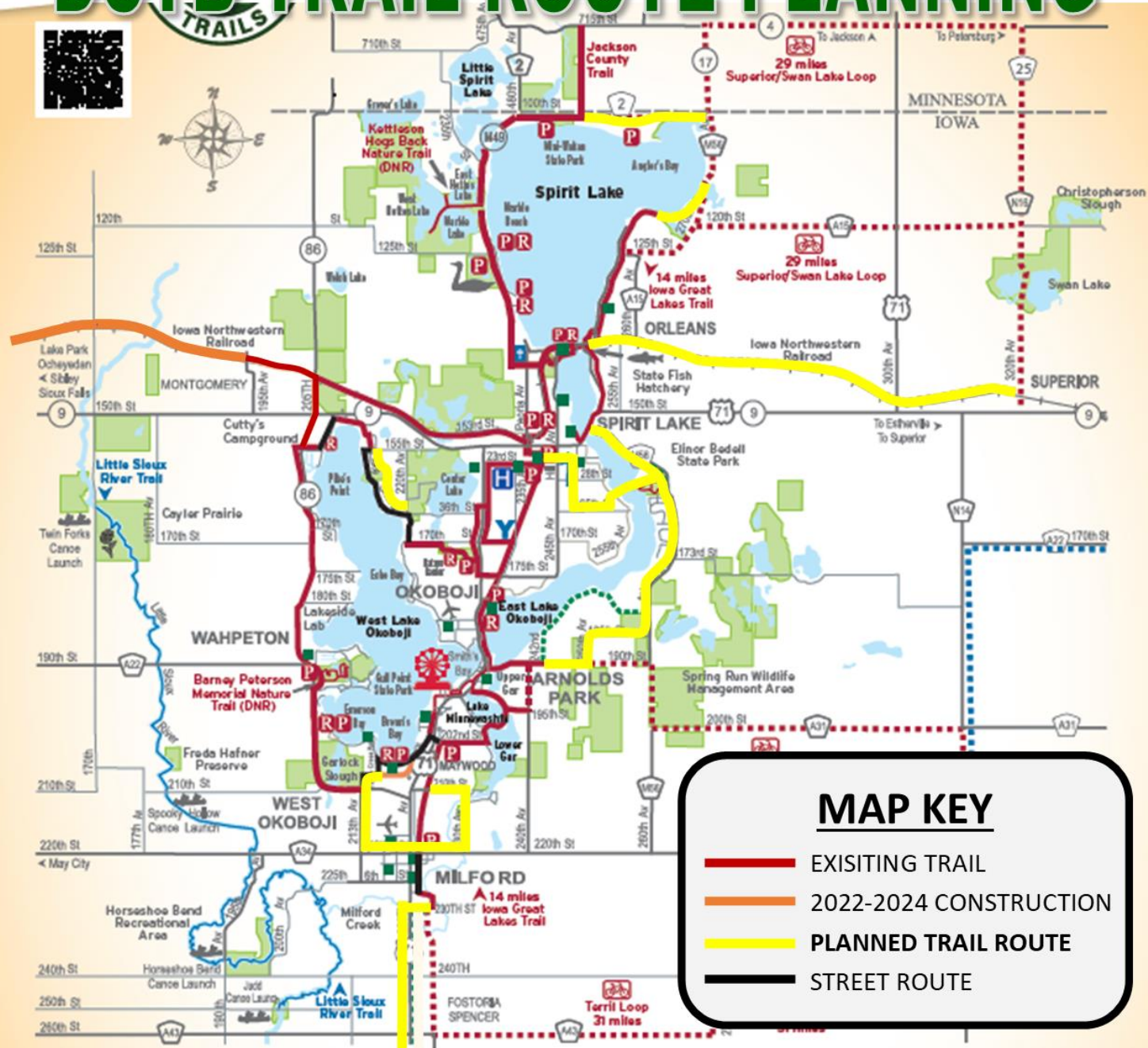


- ▶ General Maintenance includes tree trimming, weed control, trail sweeping, power washing, mowing trail shoulders and maintaining trailheads. They also manage sign replacements and minor surface repairs.
- ▶ Mowing 50 miles of trail shoulders is a full-time, 40 hours per week job.
- ▶ Maintain an additional 12 miles of railroad right of way.

S.A.L.T. PATROL



DCTB TRAIL ROUTE PLANNING

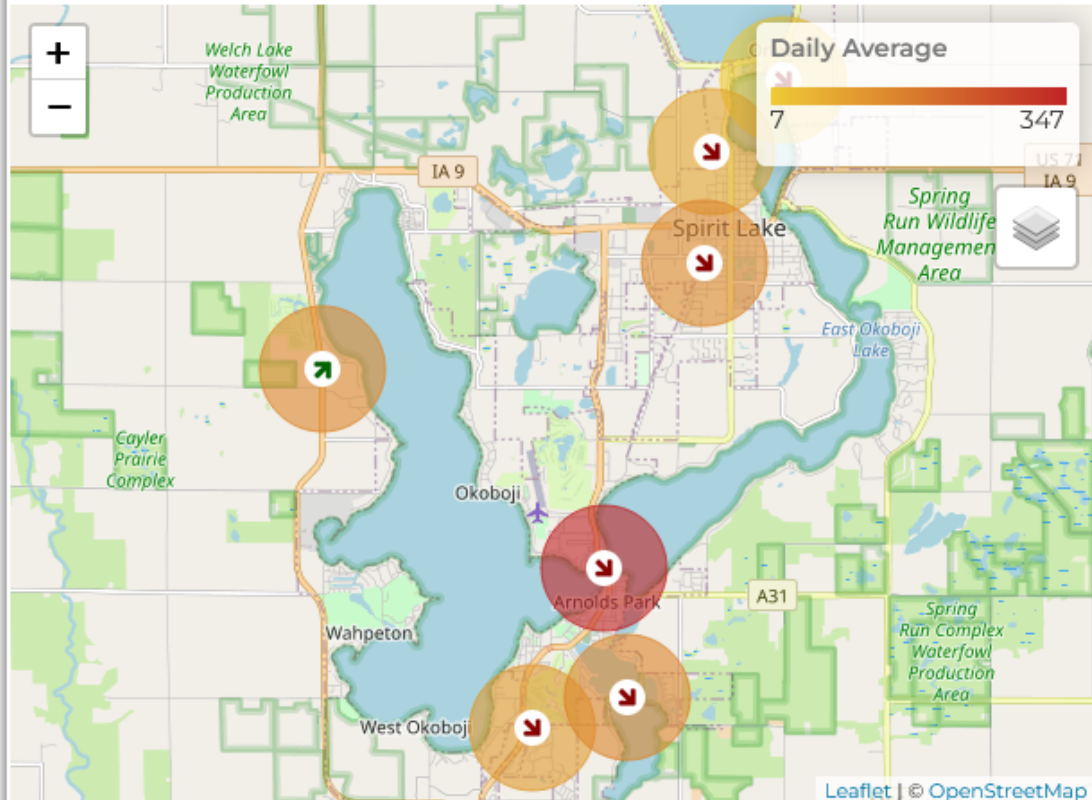


DCTB
PLANNING
ROUTES
&
RECENT
PROJECTS

Key Figures Map

Current Year

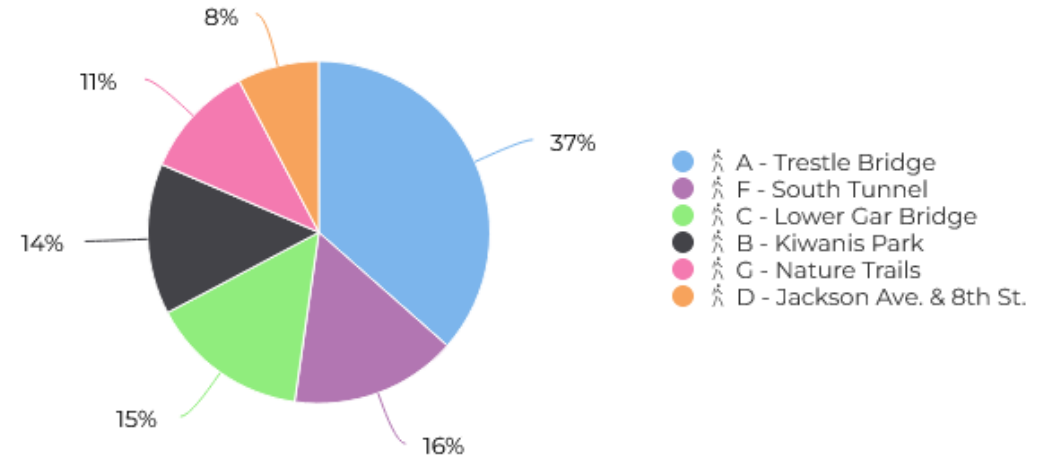
F - South Tunnel G - Nature Trails H - Pio...



Distribution

Current Year 8/12

F - South Tunnel G - Nature Trails D - Jac...



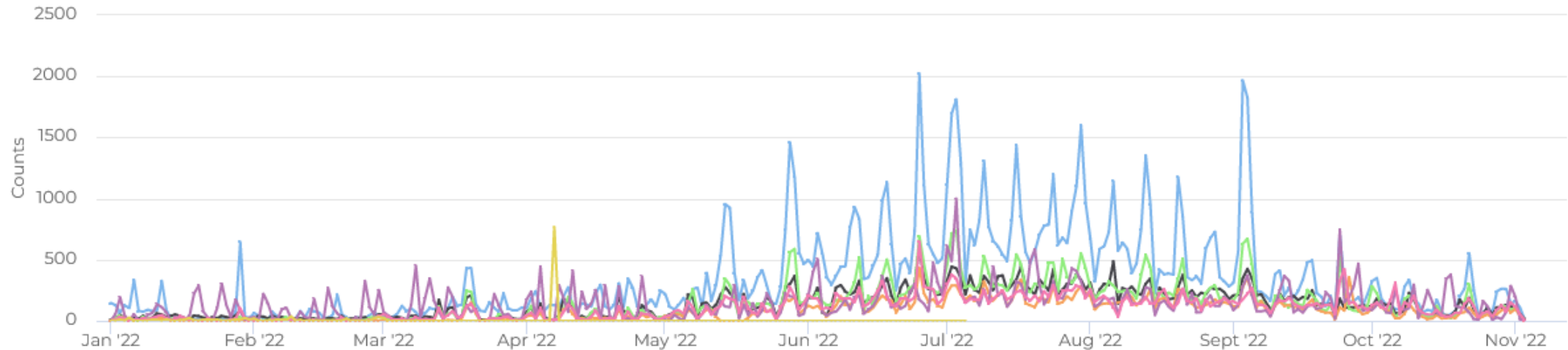
Key Figures

Current Year

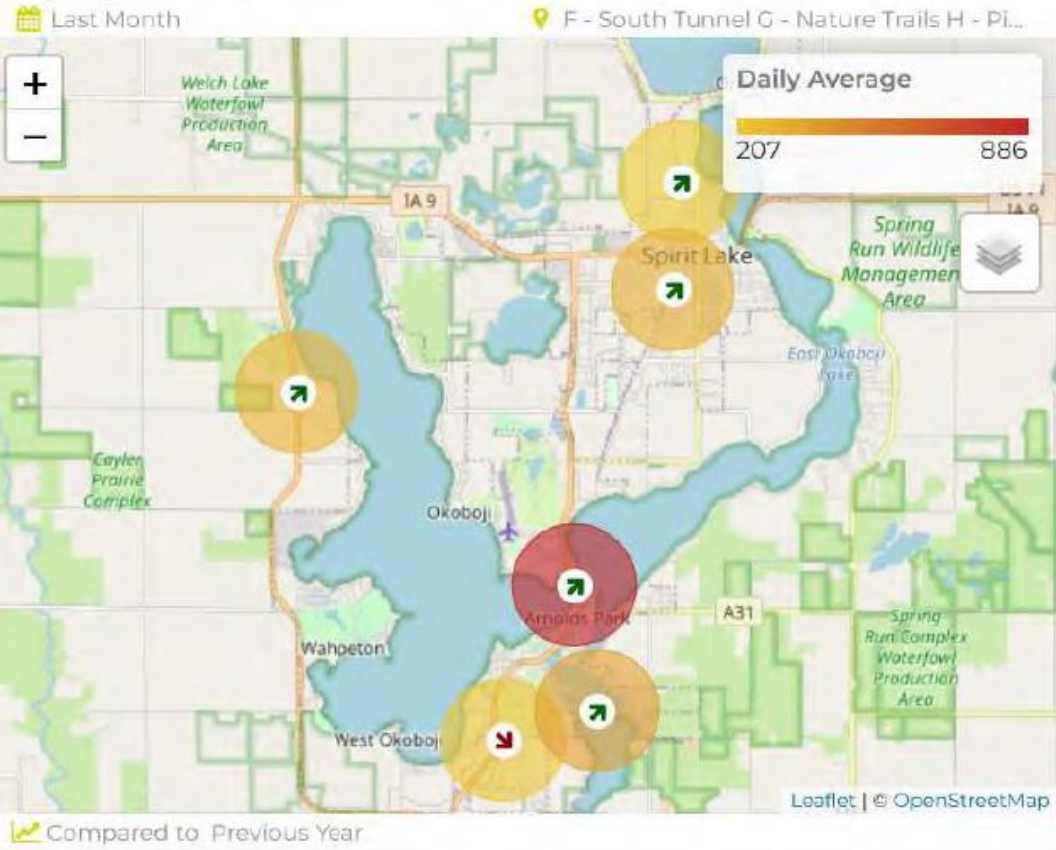
Pedestrian B - ...

Total **297,741** **-11.9%**

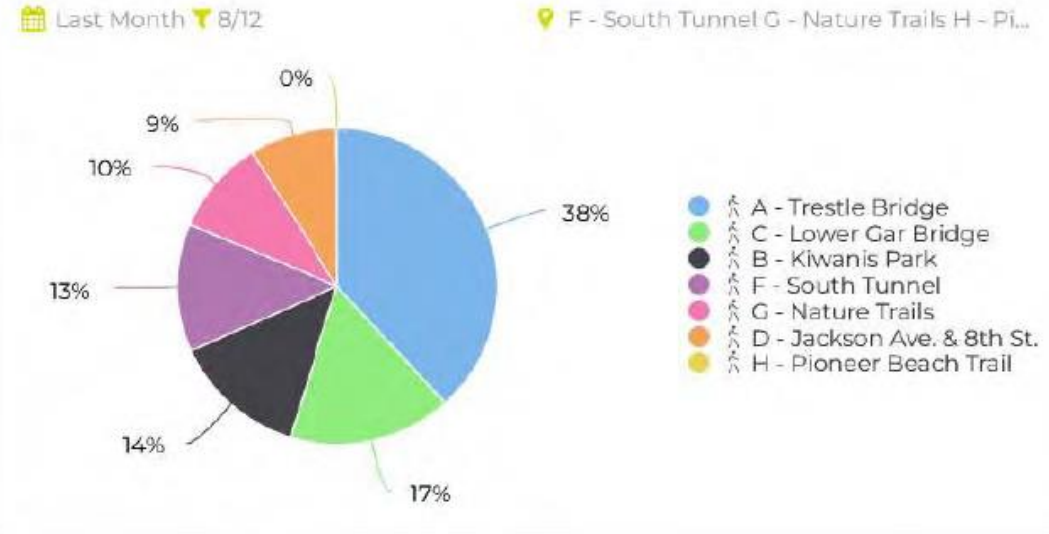
**Average 1,895 Users
Memorial Day
To Labor Day**



Key Figures Map



Distribution



Key Figures



Average 2,300 Users Per Day



TRAIL USE DATA



PROFILE PER PERIOD ↗

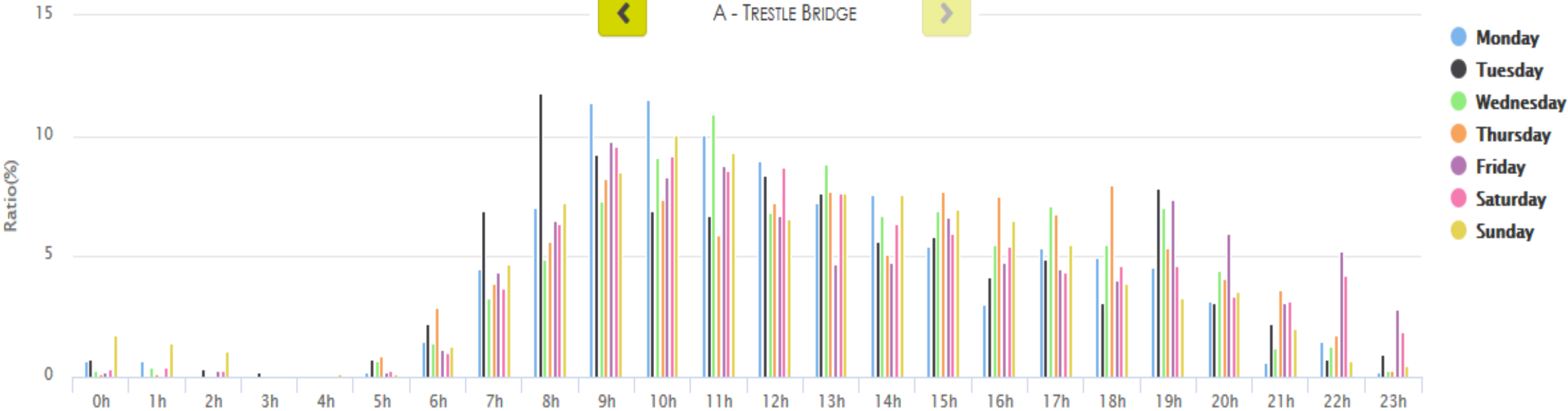


📅 Rolling Month

📍 A - Trestle Bridge B - Kiwanis Park C - Lower Gar Bridge D - Jackson Ave. & 8th St. E - Stakeo...

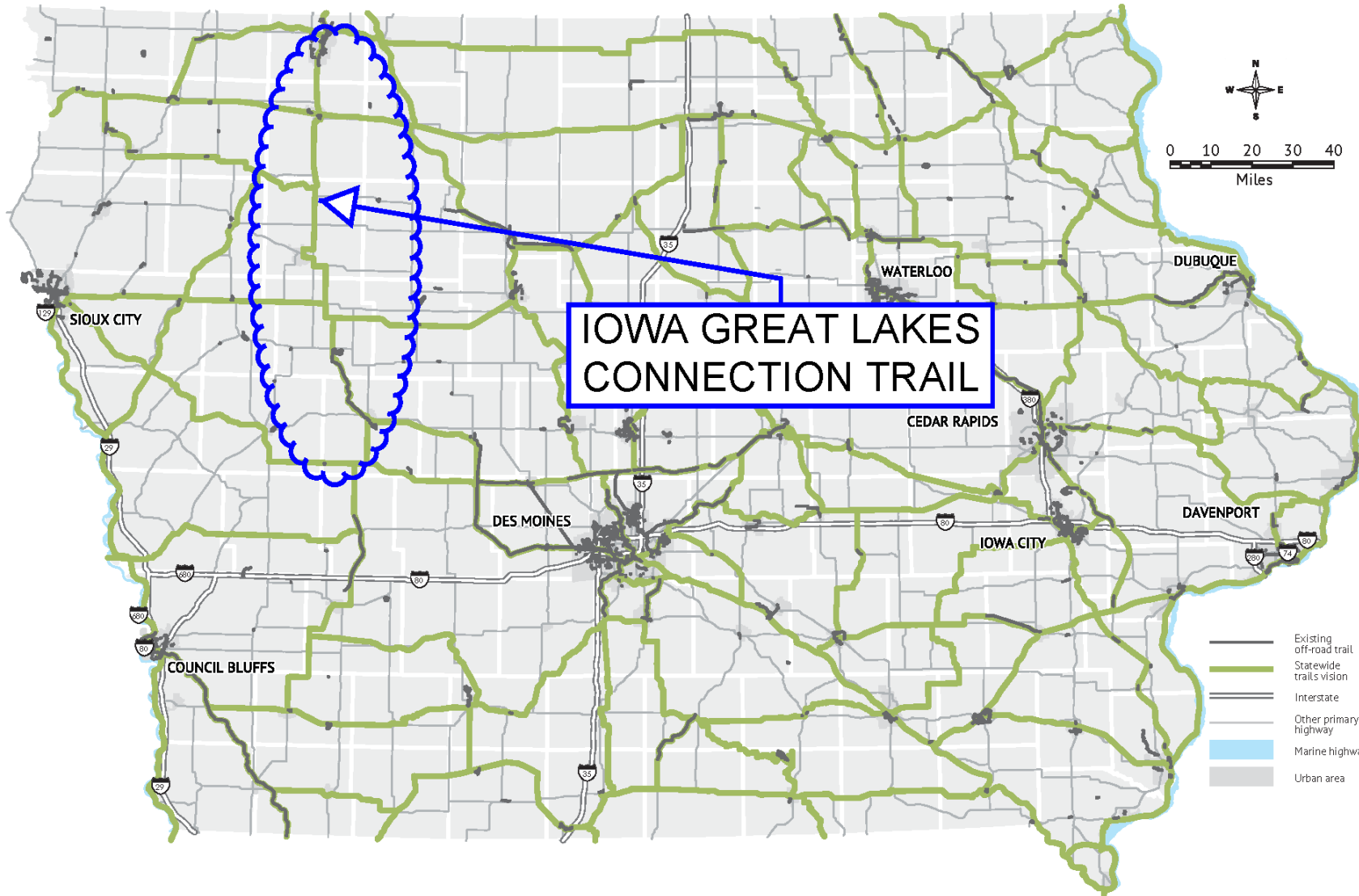
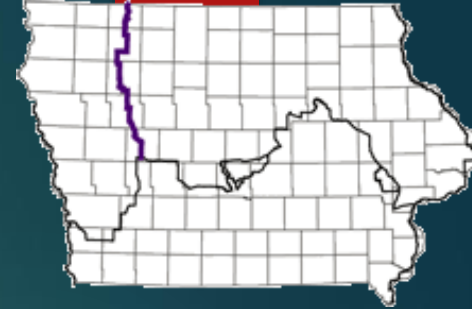


A - TRESTLE BRIDGE



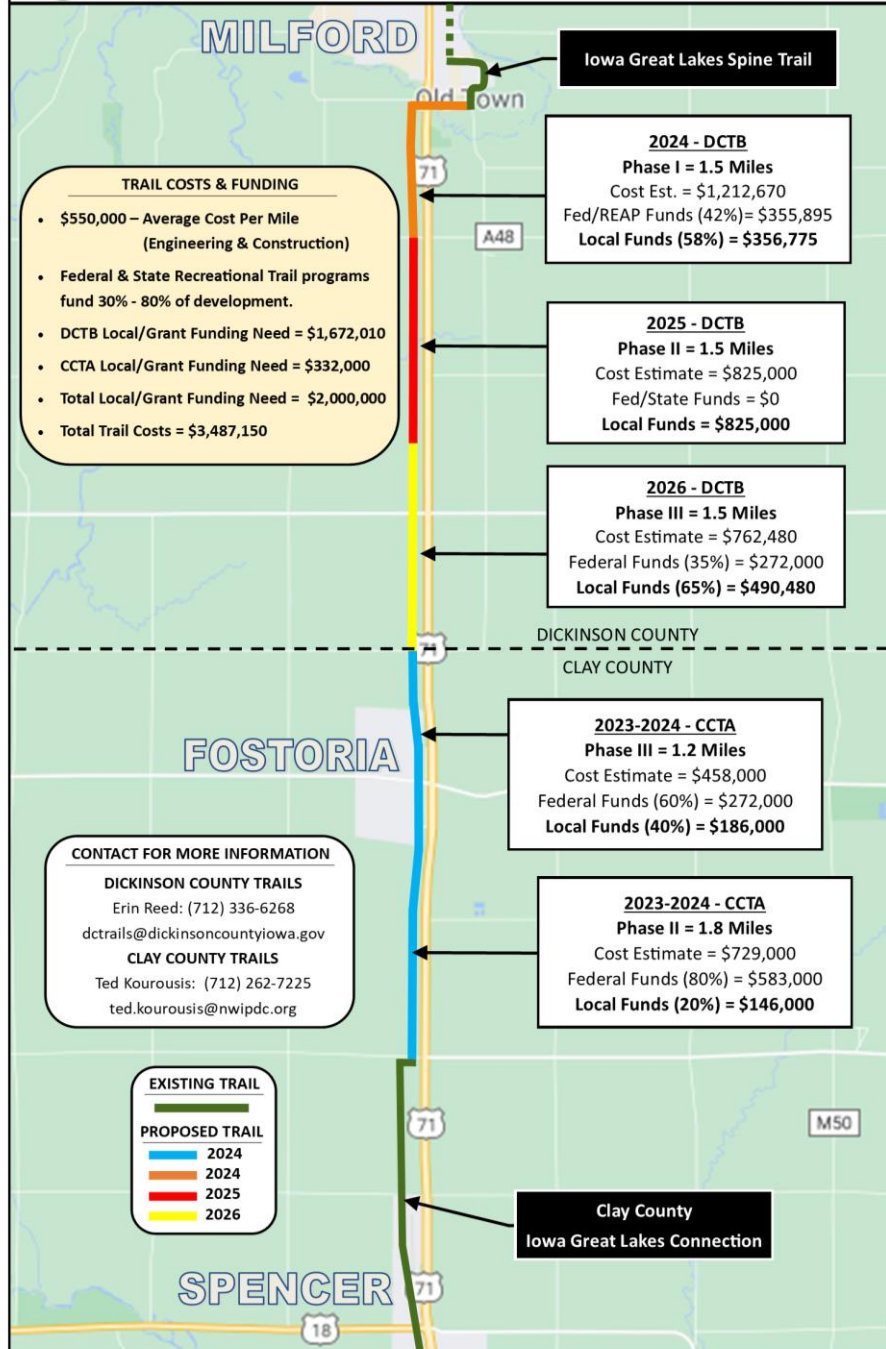
IOWA GREAT LAKES CONNECTION TRAIL

Figure 5.5: Statewide Trails Vision for multi-use trails





Dickinson County & Clay County Trails
IOWA GREAT LAKES CONNECTION TRAIL

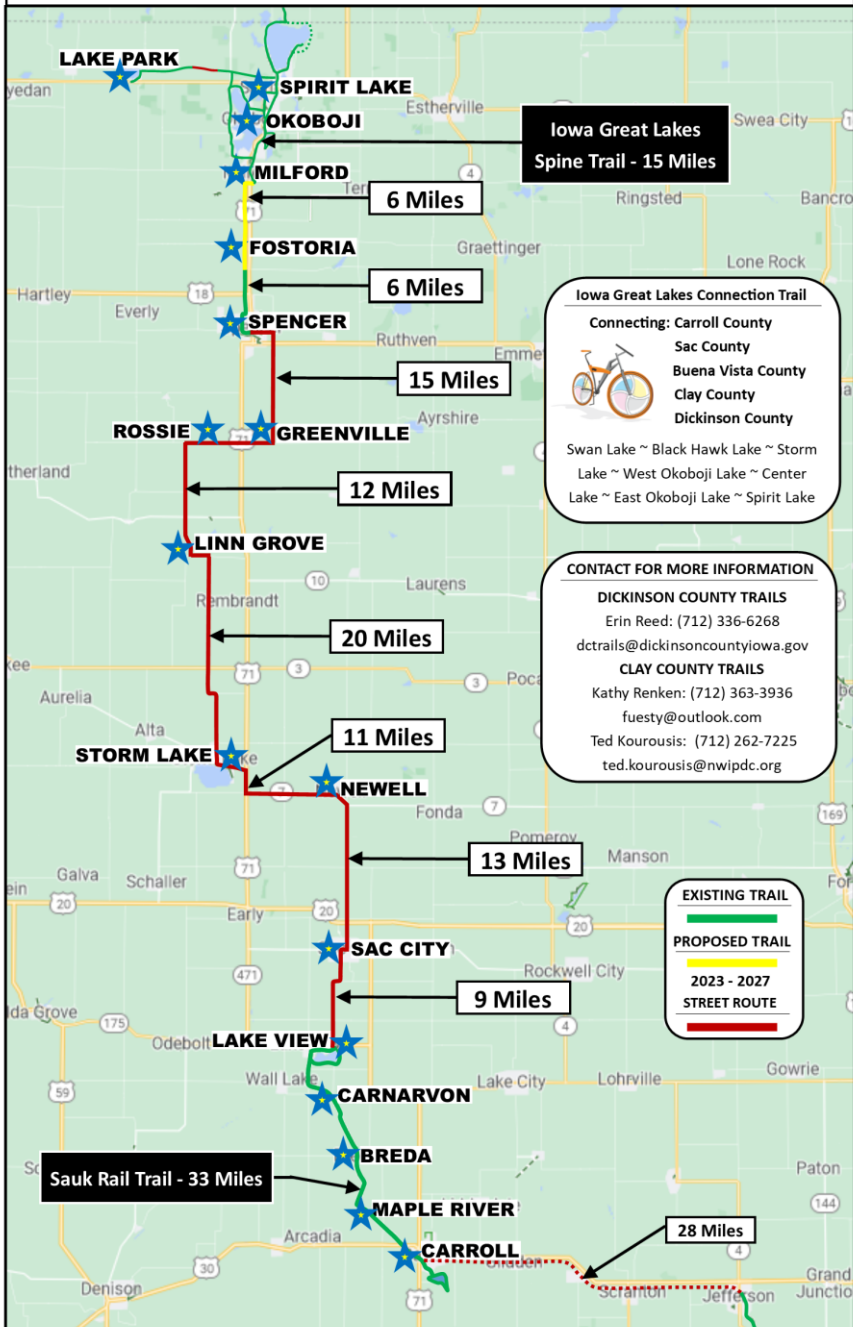


Dickinson County = 4.5 Miles



Clay County = 3.0 Miles

IOWA GREAT LAKES CONNECTION TRAIL



IOWA GREAT LAKES CONNECTION TRAIL



CONNECTING FIVE COUNTIES

Carroll ~ Sac ~ Buena Vista ~ Clay ~ Dickinson

*First meeting with 5-county group was September 2013

SEVERAL EXISTING TRAILS TO CONNECT

Sauk Rail Trail ~ Storm Lake Trail

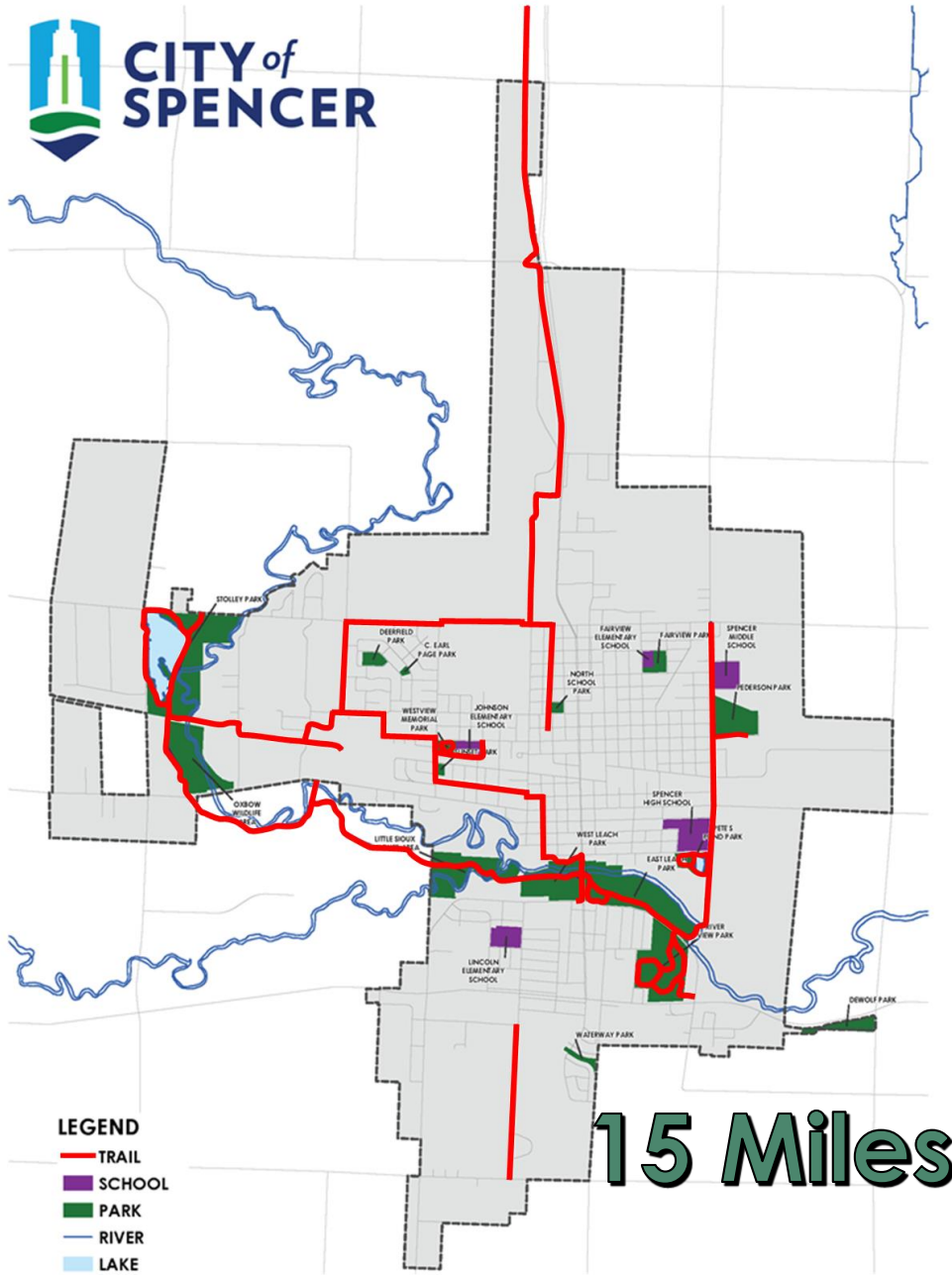
Spencer Recreational Trail ~ Iowa Great Lakes Trails

CONNECTING SEVEN LAKES

Swan Lake ~ Black Hawk Lake ~ Storm Lake ~ West Okoboji Lake ~ Center Lake ~ East Okoboji Lake ~ Spirit Lake

20 TOWNS ~ 135 MILES TOTAL

SPENCER TRAILS

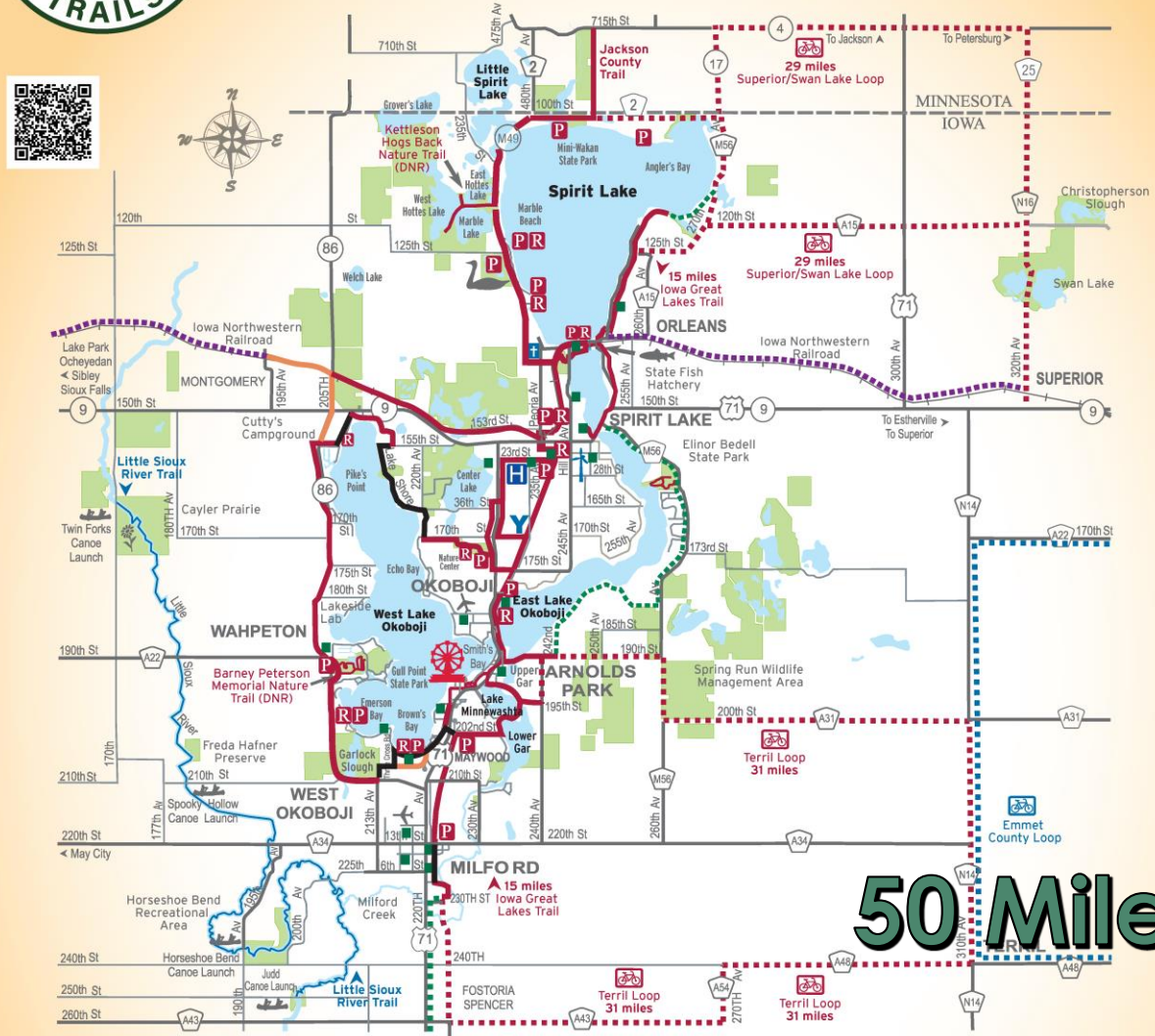


15 Miles

IOWA GREAT LAKES TRAILS



DICKINSON COUNTY RECREATIONAL TRAILS



50 Miles

SAUK RAIL TRAIL



STORM LAKE TRAIL



Connecting over 100 miles of existing trails!

IOWA GREAT LAKES TRAILS

Figure 5.5: Statewide Trails Vision for multi-use trails

