

Buchanan County

Resource Enhancement and Protection Plan

2015-2020



"The mission of the Buchanan County Resource Enhancement and Protection Committee is to protect and enhance the environment and quality of life of current and future citizens and visitors of Buchanan County. This will be accomplished through the responsible management of natural and historic resources, providing recreation and leisure activities, and through educational and stewardship programs."

Adopted August 6, 2015

**Prepared By:
Iowa Northland Regional Council of Governments**



INRCOG

Table of Contents

Background.....	1
Planning Process.....	1
REAP Programs and Local Funding	2
Buchanan County Resource Inventory	3
Cultural and Historic Resources.....	3
State Lands.....	5
County Parks	5
City Park.....	6
Natural Areas and Preserves	7
River Trail and Access Points	9
Land Trails.....	10
Soils	11
Local Management Resources.....	11
Mission Statement.....	13
Goals	13
Goal A) Maintain and Develop Cultural and Historic Resources	13
Goal B) Protect and Preserve Natural Resources	14
Goal C) Provide Conservation and Land Stewardship Education.....	16
Goal D) Maintain and Expand Recreational Assets	17
Goal E) Partner and Collaborate with Regional and Statewide Initiatives	19
Attachments	
Attachment 1: Historic REAP Expenditures in Buchanan County	
Attachment 2: One-Year Financial Plan	
Attachment 3: Buchanan County Drainage Basins	
Attachment 4: Regional Trail Map	
Attachment 5: Buchanan County Trail Map	
Attachment 6: Buchanan County Parks and Recreation Areas	
Attachment 7: Buchanan County Soils Map – Soil Taxonomy Order	
Attachment 8: Buchanan County Soils Map – Land Capability Class	
Attachment 9: S.W.O.T Analysis from Planning Meetings	

Background

In May of 1989 the Iowa Legislature approved the Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Act with overwhelming bipartisan support which created the REAP program. The program focuses state investment in natural and cultural resources.

REAP is funded from the Environment First Fund, which is generated from the state's gaming receipts, and the sale of natural resources license plates. The original 1989 program authorization was for \$30 million annually. In 1996, the legislature changed the authorized amount to \$20 million annually and extended the program through 2021. Historically funding levels have fallen below the authorized amount. Full funding for the REAP program remains a top priority of local REAP committees and the REAP Congress.

In 2014 the REAP program celebrated its 25th anniversary. During those 25 years, REAP has funded \$264 million of state investment through 14,535 projects across every county in Iowa. In 2015, REAP was appropriated \$16 million, which is allocated proportionately into eight categories:

- State Open Spaces (28%)
- County Conservation (20%)
- Soil and Water Enhancement (20%)
- City Parks and Open Space (15%)
- Public Land Management (9%)
- Historical Resources (5%)
- Roadside Vegetation (1%)
- Conservation Education (first \$350,000)

Following the program's creation, various members of local Buchanan County organizations joined together to create the Buchanan County REAP Committee and write the county's first REAP plan. The committee has continued to meet annually to review projects and approve grant applications.

In recent years, Buchanan County has realized the importance of having an involved REAP Committee for the revitalization and preservation of its natural areas. To that end, in 2015 the Buchanan County Conservation Board (BCCB) took proactive steps to reenergize the REAP committee and develop a new REAP plan. The BCCB, with financial support from the cities of Independence, Lamont, Fairbank, and Quasqueton, contracted with the Iowa Northland Regional Council of Governments (INRCOG) to lead planning meetings and develop a new 5-year plan for 2015-2020.

Planning Process

From February through May 2015 INRCOG held a series of meetings with the REAP committee and stakeholder groups to gather input. The first planning meeting for the 2015-2020 Buchanan County REAP Plan was held February 5, 2015 at the Independence Public Library where thirteen members from the public attended. Representatives during the planning meetings included a member of the board of supervisors, mayors, county conservation board, schools, economic development, as well as stakeholders from historical societies, hunting interest, and environmental groups.

The initial planning meeting focused on conducting an S.W.O.T analysis to identify the **S**trengths, **W**eaknesses, **O**pportunities, and **T**hreats of the resources and programs throughout the county. This process was used to bring the wide range of interests and expertise of group members into one working document. The items identified in the S.W.O.T analysis were used to identify need as well as the types of projects that would benefit the county. Committee members also began formulating the first drafts of the committee's mission statement and goals.

In addition, INRCOG held meetings with other interested parties including the county conservation board, cities, and stakeholder groups. After compiling this input, two additional planning meetings with the REAP committee were held on May 6 and May 20, 2015. These meetings focused on refining the mission statement, goals, and objectives (projects). Members were also encouraged to propose projects that would be eligible for REAP funding within the next five years.

On August 6, 2015 the Buchanan County REAP Committee reviewed and adopted this plan.

REAP Programs and Local Funding

This section includes a summary of the types of REAP funding that have had an impact in the county. A detailed list of REAP funded projects between 1989 and 2014 can be found in Attachment 1.

Private/Public Open Space Acquisition (28% of REAP funds): This portion of funds is allocated exclusively to the DNR for state acquisition and development of land and waters. The county does not receive funding from this source.

County Conservation (20% of REAP funds): These monies are available to counties for land easements or acquisition, capital improvements, stabilization and protection of resources, repair and upgrading of facilities, environmental education, and equipment. The County receives an annual allocation based on population. The County Conservation Board has also received funding for six specific projects. Since 1990, the county has received \$725,984 of in funding from this category.

Soil and Water Enhancement (20% of REAP funds): These funds are available to landowners for soil and water conservation and enhancement projects. The Buchanan County Soil and Water Conservation District has received funds through this program. Uses of funds have included projects focused on forestry, native vegetation, and water quality improvements. From 1990 through 2013, the Soil and Water Conservation District received \$313,473 in funding in this area.

City Parks and Open Space (15% of REAP funds): This allocation is available to cities through competitive grants. From 1990 through 2014 the cities of Fairbank, Independence, and Quasqueton have received funding totaling \$263,654.

DNR Land Management (9% of REAP funds): These monies are available to the DNR for development and management of state conservation lands. This account serves as a substitute for the state park user permit receipts, which were terminated by the legislature when REAP was enacted.

Historical Resource Development Program (5% of REAP funds): The State Historical Society in the Department of Cultural Affairs administers this portion of REAP funding. Grants are available to private individuals and businesses, as well as to non-profit organizations and agencies of Certified Local Governments. Several organizations have received Historical Development grants through the REAP program within Buchanan County. The Wapsipinicon Mill has received four grants totaling \$68,660 and the Cedar Rock House and Boat House have also received two grants for a total of \$70,000. From 1990-2014 six organizations have received \$203,670 in historical development funds.

Roadside Vegetation (3% of REAP funds): This funding is available through the Department of Transportation for state, county, and city management of roadside vegetation. Funding focuses on research and demonstration projects, equipment purchases, and seeding. The county and the Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management (IRVM) department have received \$27,093 since 1990.

Conservation Education Program (CEP) (\$350,000 of REAP funds): A five-member board implements the Conservation Education Program (CEP) and is annually allocated approximately \$350,000 in grants for conservation education in Iowa.

DNR Administration (1% of REAP funds): After the \$350,000 CEP allotment, 1 percent of the remaining funds are transferred to the DNR to help defray costs of REAP administration.

Buchanan County Resource Inventory

The following section of the plan offers an overview of the county's existing natural, recreational, historic and cultural amenities. The county inventory includes:

- Cultural and Historic Resources
- State Lands
- County Parks
- City Parks
- Natural Areas and Preserves
- River Trail and Access Points
- Land Trails
- Soils

Cultural and Historical Resources

This section of the plan provides a description of the various cultural and historic resources throughout the county.

Amish Community – The Amish Community, located west of Hazleton, is one of the oldest and largest Amish communities. The community includes a number of businesses including quilt stores, general and furniture shops, and bakeries.

Aurora Historical Museum, Aurora – Located in an old two story bank building, the museum features many aspects of the city's history. Displays include: city switchboard, school memorabilia, military display, and a collection of over 500 hats that were owned by the local "Hat Lady", Faith Mitchell.

Brandon Area Historical Society, Brandon – Located in the renovated Brandon Bank Building, the museum offers insight to the city and surrounding local history.

Buchanan County Courthouse, Independence – The courthouse is one of nine Iowa county courthouses built in the state with Public Works Administration (PWA) funds during the New Deal Era. The courthouse is considered to be, "a well-preserved example of PWA Modern Style of public building architecture that dominated the 1930s and early 1940s." according to National Register of Historic Places.

Buchanan County Historical Society, Independence – The purpose of the society is to, "...discover, collect, conserve and secure for the future Generations properties, artifacts, and information significant to the heritage of Buchanan County, Iowa and to serve the educational needs of its citizens by preserving these historical resources and making them available to the public." The Historical Society is located in the Wapsipinicon Mill which also serves as a museum.

Captain D.S. Lee Mansion, Independence – Named after the first Mayor of Independence, the mansion's architecture is considered to be a classic example of the Italianate Style and is locally significant. It's simple squire form and symmetrical proportions speak of a formal, yet gracious, style of living.

Hazleton Museum, Hazleton - The museum consists of a one-room school house and features collectibles from the school's classes and history. Viewings are available by appointment.

Heartland Acres Agribition Center, Independence – This attraction features exhibits illustrating the story of agriculture innovation and heritage. Museum exhibits include: agriculture implements from horse-drawn implements, to historic tractors and modern equipment; one-room schoolhouse; and a classic car collection.

Illinois Central Depot, Independence – The 1892 Illinois Central Station depot has been restored and relocated to Independence and is the home of Buchanan County Tourism. Enhancements funds through the Iowa Northland Regional Transportation Authority were used to relocate a locomotive, cargo car and caboose for display.

Iowa's Largest Frying Pan, Brandon – Built in 2004, the pan was a promotion for the Brandon Area Community's Club's semi-annual "Cowboy Breakfast". The pan's rim spans 9' 3" with a 5' handle bringing the total length of the pan to 14'3".

Lamont Museum, Lamont – The privately owned museum is open during town events and by appointment. Located in former Lamont Bank Building, displays include antiques and a military exhibit.

Littleton-Chatham Historical Society and Museum – This unique museum focuses on the unincorporated areas of the county. The mission of the society is to "... accurately document, promote, and preserve the history of the Littleton and Chatham area to cultivate interest and educational understanding for future generations." The museum recently relocated to the former Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church which was built in 1907.

Lowell and Agnes Walter House – Designed by architect Frank Lloyd Wright, the house is considered to be one of Wright's most complete designs. According to the Friends of Cedar Rock, who manages the house, the Walter house is, "...is a beautiful example of the well-preserved signature Frank Lloyd Wright Usonian estate." Wright design also included the furniture, selected the carpets, draperies, and picked the accessories. The Walter House is open seasonally from Memorial Day Weekend into October. In 2014, Friends of Cedar Rock received \$50,000 for upgrades to the property's boat house.

Mental Health Institute (MHI) Museum, Independence – MHI opened in 1873 as the Iowa Hospital for the Insane. Today, MHI is operated by the Iowa Department of Human Services as a 181-bed psychiatric hospital for adults and children of northeastern and eastern Iowa. The museum, featuring the Institute's history, is located on the top floor of the five-story structure. Tours of MHI can be scheduled for schools, groups, and other organizations.

Richardson-Jakway House – Built in 1849 by Abiathar Richardson, the first settler of what became known as Buffalo Township in Buchanan County lived at the site. The historic site provides insight into 19th century living. Interpretive signage has been established around the house explaining its history. The house is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Quasqueton Area Historical Museum, Quasqueton – The museum offers a number of exhibits featuring Quasqueton and Buchanan County history. Exhibits include: medical office, church, fire department, opera house, and school display. The museum is open seasonally on weekends.

Rowley Historical Museum, Rowley – The museum is open seasonally and during city celebrations. Museum displays include: farm and household antiques, military, and the Rowley school.

Wapsipinicon Feed Mill and Dam, Independence - Built between 1874 and 1876 of timber and brick the mill is five stories tall, 122 feet long and 62 feet wide. Originally built as a flour and grain mill, the mill served in this capacity for over 100 years. However, the mill is now owned by the Buchanan County Historical Society and is open seasonally mid-May through mid-September. The mill features a number of photo exhibits, interactive displays, interpretive exhibits, and pioneer artifacts.

The Mill received REAP funding in 1991, 2002, and 2005. Most recently, in 2014, the Mill received \$15,000 in REAP funds for brick repairs.



Wapsipinicon Feed Mill and Dam, Independence

Winthrop Historical Center, Winthrop– Located in the Winthrop Bank Building, the museum opened in 2007. A number of displays provide a lookback at the history of Winthrop and Buchanan County. Some of the exhibit focus areas include: antiques, the East Buchanan School, local businesses, and military.

State Lands

Buckles-Clay Area – Consists of a 115-acre timber tract adjacent to the county's Anderson Addition and Cutshall Area conservation areas.

Cedar Rock State Park – The 448-acre park is located northwest of Quasqueton along the Wapsipinicon River and is the only state park in the county. The park also includes the well-known Walter House, designed by world-renowned architect Frank Lloyd Wright.

Cutshall Bridge Area – Located two miles west of Littleton, the 27-acre timber track provides opportunities for hunting, fishing, and boating.

Otterville Bridge Area – The 185-acre area, west of Otterville, offers opportunities for fishing and hunting as well as a concrete boat ramp.

Troy Mills Area – Located northwest of Troy Mills, the 323-acre area includes river bottom timber and is a popular destination for fishing and hunting. The BCCB manages the Troy Mills Access provides boat access next to the area.

County Parks

Buchanan County residents are fortunate to have access to a number of county parks. A brief overview of these parks is included in this element of the plan.

Boeis Bend Area – The 26-acre park is located west of Quasqueton on the Wapsipinicon River and features a number of available activities, including: stream fishing, hunting, picnic area, shelter with electricity, fire pits, primitive camping, and restrooms.

Buffalo Creek Park Area – The 80-acre park is located along Buffalo Creek and offers: stream fishing, hunting, groomed ski trails during winter months, hiking trail, picnic area, a shelter with electricity, primitive camping, and vault toilets. The park is located immediately east of Winthrop. In 2014 the BCCB began the process of restoring the area back to a wildlife area.

Cutshall Area – The 85 acres of this park includes woods and open space. Visitors of the park often participate in stream fishing, hunting, picnicking, primitive camping, and may also take advantage of a shelter with electricity and restrooms.

Fontana Park – The 134-acre park is also home to the Fontana Interpretive Nature Center. The park features interactive wildlife and conservation displays, live animal exhibits, conservation programming, as well as houses the county conservation board.

Jakway Forest – South of Aurora, this 315-acre park offers self-guided hiking trails, ski trails, picnic area, shower house, camping facilities, nine-hole disc golf course, playground, fishing access, observation blind and access to the Richardson-Jakway historic site.

Lime Creek Area - Lime Creek is located northeast of Brandon just a short distance from the Cedar Valley Nature Trail along Lime Creek. The park offers both electric and non-electric campsites. Other amenities include: fishing, hunting, picnicking, shelter with electricity, fire pits, and a playground.

Otter Creek Roadside Park - The 13-acre park is located along Otter Creek. Features include picnic tables, grills, fire pit, trails for hiking during warm months that are open to cross country skiers during the winter, river access, and a small pond for fishing.

City Parks

In addition to county parks, Buchanan County municipalities offer a variety of parks and recreational resources to the public. The information that follows provides a brief overview of these amenities by community.

Aurora

Aurora City Park is a 13.8 acre park in the southwest corner of the city. The park features a picnic shelter, swings, playground equipment, basketball courts, open field, restrooms, and trail.

Brandon

Brandon City Park is situated in the northern portion of the city and includes a ball diamond, grills, and playground equipment. In addition, the regional Cedar Valley Nature Trail travels through the southeast portion of the city and brings through a number of visitors to the city annually. Amenities provided by the city include restrooms and a drinking fountain.

Fairbank

The city maintains six city parks. Located on the west bank of the Wapsipinicon River, the city received \$75,000 in REAP funding in 2000 for the development of Riverside and West Bentley Parks. Riverside Park includes a walking trail, gazebo, and butterfly garden, while West Bentley Park includes a small walking path and open space. Island Park features a picnic shelter, bathrooms, and a canoe ramp. East Bentley Park, which is on the east bank of the Wapsipinicon River, includes picnic tables, and bridge access to Island Park. Playground equipment and a shelter are available at Veteran's Park in the east part of town. The Fairbank Family Aquatic Center is open seasonally.



Island Park, Fairbank

Hazleton

City Park, located in the northern part of the community, adjacent to city hall, includes picnic shelters, playground equipment, tennis courts, basketball courts, and restrooms. Hazleton City Park is on the east side of town and has picnic tables and shelter. The city recently constructed a fishing pier west of town next to the C57 Bridge. Veteran's Memorial Park is currently in development and is to be located on city property where a creamery once stood.

Independence

The City of Independence Parks and Recreation Department has 21 parks throughout the city. Park areas include: basketball courts, open air shelters, band shell, trails, picnic areas with tables and grills, playgrounds, boat and fishing access, softball and baseball fields, tennis courts, sand volleyball courts, horseshoe courts, disc golf course, and batting cages, and much more.

The recently established Orchard Park includes a community fruit orchard with 120 fruit bearing trees and 250 fruit bearing bushes as well as community garden plots.

The Independence RV Park & Campground, located on Highway 150 along the Wapsipinicon, is open seasonally from April 1 to November 1. Amenities include: 42 campsites with cable, sewer, water, and electric hookups; walking trail; fire pit and picnic tables; playgrounds; and areas for primitive camping.

Jesup

The city has four city parks that it manages and maintains. Land of Corn Park, located in the center of town, includes three pavilions, playground equipment, picnic area, open shelter, swing set, and a gazebo. J-Hawk Park features public tennis courts, while Parker-Munsey Park includes a walking trail, playground equipment, open field, and flower gardens. Finally, the Liberty Volunteer Park has a walking path and playground.

Lamont

Scout Park is located southeast quadrant of the city and offers tennis, basketball, volleyball, and horseshoe courts; picnic shelter; and playground equipment. The park also has six modern camping sites with electric hookups as well as areas for primitive camping. An enclosed year-round shelter is available to rent as well.

Quasqueton

Veteran's Memorial Park is located on the east side of the city, on either side of the Wapsi. The park includes two boat launches, a playground, and shelter. The park is a popular destination for fishing and is accessible to persons with disabilities. Recent updates include new restroom and shower facilities as well as 16 new water and electric hookups in addition to 60 existing hookups. Camping rates are \$12/night for full hook up and \$10/night for a tent.

The Quasqueton Dam was recently converted into a rock arch rapids by covering the dam with rocks and constructing rock weirs.

Rowley

The Rowley City Park is located in the heart of the city. The park includes open field, picnic areas, shelter house, playground and restrooms. A ball diamond is also located on the north edge of the park.

Winthrop

Winthrop City Park includes new playground equipment, a ball diamond, two park shelters, restrooms and the community is in the process of developing local trails.



Veteran's Memorial Park, Quasqueton

Natural Areas and Preserves

There are numerous natural and preservation area throughout the county. A summary of these resources are described below. A map of the county's natural areas and preserves can be found in Attachment 5.

Anderson Addition to Cutshall Area— A 24-acre natural area connected to the Cutshall area. Visitors explore the forests and walk along the Wapsipinicon River to bird watch and enjoy nature. The area is a popular destination for stream fishing and is open year-round for all hunting seasons.

Bearbower Sand Prairie— The 40-acre area features small clumps of trees that cover the sand prairie which offer refuge to singing birds and deer. Prairie birds and small wooded areas for turkey and deer offer a variety of hunting opportunities as well.

Blazing Star Prairie— A 7.5-acre natural prairie similar to those native to Iowa's landscape, the prairie provides natural habitat to many birds and insects.

Bryantsburg Prairie Area — This area Includes a 1.5 acres of prairie with a variety of wildflowers including wild roses, asters, daisies, spiderwort.

Buffalo Creek Wildlife Area – This area comprises 60 acres along Buffalo Creek. Popular activities include fishing and hunting squirrels, turkey and deer in the wooded habitat.

Cortright Wildlife Area – This 190-acre site includes ponds, wooded area, and opens fields. Hunting of woodland animals is allowed on 152 acres. Other available activities include fishing the Wapsipinicon River, using the picnic area with tables and walking or hiking on the mowed trails along the river.

Crumbacher Wildlife Area – The area consists of 368 acres of prairie, forested areas, and wetlands. Popular activities include hiking and bird watching during the summer months and upland bird, turkey, and deer hunting in the fall and winter. The wetlands also provide habitat for amphibians and waterfowl.

Fairbank Fen – One of two fens in the county, the 40-acre wetland provides habitat for wildlife and wetland plants.

Frogville Access, Troy Mills – This area includes 135 acres located along the Wapsipinicon River and boasts a diverse group of birds, animals, insects, and plant life. River fishing and hunting are common activities in the Access.

Ham Marsh – Ham Marsh offers 54 acres containing glacial marsh, sedge meadow, and reconstructed prairie popular with waterfowl and other bird life. Visitors can enjoy hunting, hiking trails, and using the observation blind to wildlife watching.

Hodges and North Wildlife Area - Sixty-Six (66) acres of open land returned to natural habitat offering opportunities for hunting and picnicking

Hoover Area, Quasqueton – This area includes 20 acres of woodland and wildlife habitat that is popular for bird watchers and nature photography,

Koutny Pond/ Hoffman Woods - The pond is a popular location for fishing either on-shore or by boat. A walking trail runs along the perimeter of the pond, and the surrounding area includes 160 acres of prairie.

Mickey Fox Area - Ninety-seven (97) acres of natural habitat, near Jesup, provides opportunities from stream fishing and hunting.

Newton Township Area - Located along Buffalo Creek the 158-acre area features stream fishing, boating, and hunting opportunities.

Nibeck Wildlife Preserve, Hazleton - This 25-acre forested marsh can be enjoyed by trail.

Otter Creek Wildlife Preserve - A100-acre area is a popular destination for nature appreciation. The preserve provides wildlife habitat and offers stream fishing.

Patton Prairie – This prairie contains 45 acres of natural prairie.

Pine Creek Area – Consists of 40 acres of along Pine Creek and the Wapsipinicon River.

Putty Root Preserve - – This preserve includes 15 acres of natural prairie featuring several types of wild flowers, insects, and birds.

Rowley Fen, Rowley - The fen is considered a unique wetland because ground water constantly flows to the surface.



Patton Prairie

Sand Creek Area, Quasqueton – Eighty (80) acres of wildland sits along the joining of Sand Creek and the Wapsipinicon River.

Schneider - Hieneck-Rowe Area - - A 20-acre marsh that is known for a variety of amphibians, reptiles, and deer trails.

Swartz Preserve - – This preserve contains four (4) acres of creek bed habitat and is popular among bird watchers.

Three Elms Area and Access, Independence - Situated along the Wapsipinicon River, the 75 acres of woodlands features, picnic tables, drinking water access, vault toilets, a concrete boat ramp, and fishing area.

Quigley-Slattery Heritage Prairie – Located northeast of Winthrop, the 33-acre natural prairies is home to over 90 native species. The site provides wildlife habitat, public recreation, hunting and nature appreciation.

Van Laningham Wildlife Preserve - Three (3) acres of preserve featuring several plant and wildlife species.

Wehner Woods - The area consists of 30 acres of river bottom and upland timber, and riverine wetlands that are open to the public for hunting and includes a nature trail.

River Trail and Access Points

River resources in Buchanan County center along with Wapsipinicon River. The entire length of the Wapsipinicon River in Buchanan County is a state designated water trail. Entering in the northwest corner of the county, the Wapsi travels through Independence and Quasqueton before exiting in the southeastern part of the county. Several of the county's smaller streams are tributaries to the Wapsi. A map of Buchanan County rivers, streams, and drainage basins are located in Attachment 2: Buchanan County Drainage Basins.

Bathing Beach Park, Independence – The city park offers a boat access and dock on the river. Other park features include: fishing access, playground, open air shelter with electricity and picnic tables, swings, restrooms, and benches.



Wapsipinicon River, Independence

Iron Bridge Access - This historic bridge is one of only a few remaining in the state. The bridge was moved from its original location in Independence. The bridge also provides an access point to the Wapsi River trail, as well as fishing.

Island Park, Fairbank - The popular city park includes a canoe launch onto the river.

Knott's Landing, Independence – Located along the Wapsi, the city park offers boat access and is a popular portage for canoers.

Robert "Chic" McGlaughlin Easement Access at Littleton Dam - A river portage located at the Littleton Dam

Rock Arch Rapids, Quasqueton – In 2014, the city converted the 6-foot 1932 Quasqueton Dam, located on the Wapsipinicon River, into an arch rock rapids by covering the dam with rock and constructing rock weirs.

Three Elms Area, Independence – A concrete boat ramp provides access to the Wapsipinicon River among the 75 acres of woodlands

Troy Mills Wapsi Access, Quasqueton – This access features 63 acres adjacent to the river that is available for hiking, fishing, boating access, and other recreation activities.

Veteran's Park, Quasqueton – Along with the campground, the park along the Wapsipinicon includes two boat launches.

Land Trails

In addition to the Wapsipinicon River water trail, a number of local trails exist throughout the county. A number of the county park and natural areas also include non-paved walking paths. A map of existing and proposed county trails can be found in Attachment 4: Buchanan County Trails Map. A summary of these trails is provided in this section.

All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) and Off-Road Utility Vehicles (UTV) Routes, Buchanan County – In 2014, the Buchanan County Board of Supervisors passed an ordinance allowing ATV's access to designated gravel roads throughout the county. The cities of Brandon, Jesup, Rowley, and Quasqueton have also adopted designated ATV routes within city limits.

Aurora City Park Trail, Aurora – The paved walking trail travels around the perimeter of the city park.

Cedar Valley Nature Trail (CVNT) - The 52-mile recreational trail extends from Cedar Rapids to Waterloo follows an abandoned railroad. A portion of the trail travels through southwestern Buchanan County and the City of Brandon. The CVNT, managed by the Black Hawk and Linn County Conservation Boards, is part of the American Discovery Trail, a national trail which travels over 6,800 miles through 15 states. The American Discovery Trail is the only non-motorized coast-to-coast recreational trail in the country.

Fontana Park Trail, Hazleton – The paved trail extends from the southern portion of Hazleton along Fontana Lake to the Fontana Interpretive Nature Center.

Liberty Trail, Independence – Also known as the "American Trotter's Trail" the trail is located in the southeastern portion of the city next to the Independence school campus

Liberty Volunteer Park Trail, Jesup – Consists of a walking path located in the southwestern edge of the city.

Parker Munsey Pioneer Park Trail, Jesup – The paved trail meanders around the perimeter of Parker Munsey Pioneer Park.

Riverside Park Trail, Fairbank – The multi-use trail provides a scenic route through Riverside Park and West Bentley Park along the western banks of the Wapsipinicon River.

River Walk Park, Independence – A concrete trail connects several city parks along the Wapsipinicon River.

Triangle Park, Independence - The park has an asphalt trail along its perimeter in addition to a stocked pond that is open for public fishing.

Soils

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) there are four taxonomy orders of soils in Buchanan County. The list of soils and a brief description from the NRCS are below. A Buchanan County soil taxonomy order map can be found in Attachment 7.

Alfisols – These soils result from weathering process that leach clay minerals and other constituents out of the surface layer and into the subsoil, where they can hold and supply moisture and nutrient to plants. They formed primarily under forest or mixed vegetative covers and are productive for most crops.

Entisols – Occur in areas of recently deposited parent materials or in areas where erosion and deposition rates are faster than the rate of soil development; such as dunes, steep slopes, and flood plains. They occur in many environments. Entisols make up about 16 percent of the world’s ice-free land surface.

Histosols – Have a high content of organic matter and no permafrost. Most are saturated year round, but a few are freely drained. Histosols are commonly called bogs, moors, peats, or muck. Histosols form in decomposed plant remains that accumulate in water forest litter, or moss faster than they decay. If these soils are drained and exposed to air, microbial decomposition is accelerated and the soils may subside dramatically.

Mollisols – Is common on the Great Plains and the western states. Nearly all Mollisols have a mollic epipedon. Most have supported grass vegetation at some time, although many apparently have been forested in the past. Mollisols are used mainly as cropland. Generally, grains and sorghum are grown in the drier regions and corn and soybeans in the warmer, humid regions.

Local Management Resources

Buchanan County Conservation Board (BCCB) – The BCCB mission is to “improve quality of life through programs of conservation and education”. The BCCB manages 40 areas throughout the county totaling 2,960 acres. The acreage is primarily managed for nature appreciation, wildlife habitat, and parks and recreation. The Fontana Interpretive Nature Center and Wildlife Display are managed by the BCCB and is also the location of their offices. The BCCB offers a variety of resources to Buchanan County residents including providing planting assistance to private landowners, businesses, and schools to improve wildlife habitat. In addition, the BCCB sponsors recreation and conservation programs with an attendance of approximately 18,000 per year.

The Buchanan County Conservation Board consists of five county residents who are appointed by the Board of Supervisors and serve staggered five year terms. The Executive Director, Dan Cohen, can be contacted at (319) 636-2617 or bccbdan@iowatelecom.net. The BCCB offices are located at Fontana Park, 1883 125th St. in Hazleton.

Buchanan County Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management (IRVM) – IRVM is a strategic approach to roadside vegetation management that controls weeds, prevents erosion, and provides wildlife habitat through a combination of native tallgrass prairie plantings and spot spraying weeds. IRVM manages vegetation in public rights-of-way.

The Buchanan County IRVM Manager is Sherlyn Hazen, who can be contacted by phone at (563) 920-2581 or email at shazen@co.buchanan.ia.us. The IRVM office is located at 1511 1st St Independence, IA 50644.

Buchanan Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) – The Buchanan Soil & Water Conservation District offers free technical assistance to landowners regarding land management, drainage, wetlands, soils information, best management practices, and other land resource problems. The SWCD maintains a close partnership with the NRCS, which funds many SWCD programs and employees. Other partnerships that help deliver service and funding include: Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, USDA Farm Services Agency, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, and Pheasants Forever.

Buchanan Soil and Water Conservation District offices are located at 503 17th St. SE Independence, IA 50644. The District can also be reached by phone at (319) 334-4105 or buchananswcd@gmail.com.

Department of Natural Resources District Wildlife Supervisor – The DNR’s wildlife management staff manages over 350,000 acres of public land. Buchanan County is part of the Cedar-Wapsi Wildlife District, which also includes the counties of: Floyd, Chickasaw, Butler, Bremer, Grundy, and Black Hawk.

The District Supervisor is Jason Auel can be contracts at Jason.ael@dnr.iowa.gov or (319) 882-4252.

Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) – Part of the Department of Agriculture, the Buchanan County NRCS offers voluntary agricultural related conservation programs through their Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). The focus areas in Buchanan County include: air quality impacts, degraded plant condition, excess water, fish and wildlife, inefficient energy use, insufficient water, livestock production limitation, soil erosion, soil quality degradation, and water quality degradation.

The Buchanan County USDA Service Center is located at 503 17th St. SE Independence, IA 50644 and can be reached by phone at (319) 334-4105.

The following section of the plan contains the mission statement, goals, and objectives of the Buchanan County REAP Committee. It is important to recognize that under each goal, there are projects identified that implement the goals of the committee.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Buchanan County Resource Enhancement and Protection Committee is to protect and enhance the environment and quality of life of current and future citizens and visitors of Buchanan County. This will be accomplished through responsible management of natural and historical resources, providing recreation and leisure activities, and through educational and stewardship programs.

Goals

This mission will be achieved through the following goals:

- A) MAINTAIN AND DEVELOP CULTURAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES**
- B) PROTECT AND PRESERVE NATURAL RESOURCES**
- C) PROVIDE CONSERVATION AND LAND STEWARDSHIP EDUCATION**
- D) MAINTAIN AND EXPAND RECREATIONAL ASSETS**
- E) PARTNER AND COLLABORATE WITH REGIONAL AND STATEWIDE INITIATIVES**

By working to achieve these goals, the REAP committee will continue to maintain and advance the historic, cultural, environmental, and recreational assets of the county. For each goal statement, objectives were identified as to what actions should be undertaken to achieve each particular goal. It should be noted the numbering of goals does not represent priority. The goals and their objectives are detailed in this section.

A) MAINTAIN AND DEVELOP CULTURAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES

A.1) Maintain existing cultural and historical sites across the county

A.1.1) Make upgrades to Richardson-Jakway Historic Site interior displays, and maintain the historic site structures. The historic house provides insight to 19th century living. Interpretive signage has been established around the house explaining its history

A.1.2) Maintain and expand city museums and historical sites- The county and several cities have museums and historical sites unique to Buchanan County. These resources, which catalog Buchanan County history, should be maintained, and when possible, expanded or new resources acquired.

A.1.3) Develop a railroad and community museum in Jesup- The city was originally founded as a railroad community. Developing with the railroad, a rich community history is tied to the rail system. A museum celebrating this history would be an added cultural and historic resource to the community.

A.2) Further develop and acquire new cultural and historical assets

A.3) Connect people to local historic and cultural resources

A.3.1) *Coordinate marketing efforts to inform residents and visitors of available resources*

A.3.2) *Develop kiosks and interpretive signage recognizing cultural and historic areas as well as natural areas*

B) PROTECT AND PRESERVE NATURAL RESOURCES – *The committee supports efforts to protect the land, water, plant, and wildlife resources within the county. This includes preserving existing and acquiring new lands, partnering with private land owners, promoting responsible land management practices, increasing the amount and quality of wildlife habitat, protecting and managing vegetation, using renewable energy, and practicing sustainability.*

B.1) Where applicable, convert floodplains, flood damaged areas, and empty or abandoned city lots into useful green or recreational spaces – *Potential options including, but not limited to: gardens, native plantings, wildlife habitat, green space, campgrounds, trails, and other and recreational resources.*

B.1.1) *Acquire floodplain forests in the Wapsipinicon River Corridor to provide protected wildlife habitat, public recreation, and functioning wetlands*

B.1.2) *Acquire parcels of land in Perry and Liberty Townships that will connect with existing public lands to form large wildlife area complexes*

B.2) Implement conservation practices on private and public lands – *Conservation practices should include, but are not limited to, those that address: improving soil, water, air quality, wetlands, fish and wildlife habitat; reducing flooding and soil erosion; improving woodlands; and reestablishing native habitat.*

B.2.1) *Provide planting assistance and equipment for private landowner use in implementing conservation projects on their property*

B.2.2) *Assist landowners with conservation planning, technical, and financial assistance*

B.3) Preserve, restore, reclaim and enhance wetlands

B.3.1) *Acquire farmed wetlands for restoration back to functioning wetlands*

B.3.2) *Partner with landowners to implement wetland restoration*

B.3.3) *Identify projects that incorporate best management practices – Explore new , and acknowledge existing, programs and practices for rural and urban land use that promote infiltration best practices for controlling storm water runoff such as rain gardens, bio swales, bio retention cells, native landscaping, permeable pavement, and soil quality restoration.*

B.3.4) *Acquire wetlands for restoration or reclamation along the Wapsipinicon River*

B.4) Protect lands with unique ecosystems, plants or endangered species

B.5) Acquire new lands for conservation, public access, and recreation with an emphasis on lands adjacent to existing city, county, or state lands

B.5.1) *Prioritize areas that create corridors include Fontana Park, Crumbacher Wildlife Area and other areas of special benefit to diverse wildlife populations*

B.5.2) *Acquire lands along rivers and streams that may create wildlife corridors and greenbelts* - These environmentally sensitive areas provide habitat and serve as a continuous green space for soil, water, and air quality benefits. Greenbelts also serve as a buffer, improving water quality by slowing and filtering runoff and storm water.

B.5.3) *Create a recreational corridor*- Many of the county's natural and recreational resources are scattered throughout the county. Expansion corridors, with both habitat and trails, are needed to connect these resources.

B.6) Increase native prairie plantings and vegetation to support pollinators, pheasants, and general wildlife and plant diversity- Plantings should include public areas, such as city and county parks, but also support programs assisting private landowners.

B.6.1) *Provide adequate staff and equipment to manage prairie areas* – This should include but not be limited to, vehicles and equipment to safely conduct burns on numerous management areas, mowing, and for removing invasive species.

B.6.2) *Construct community butterfly gardens*- Additional habitat will help mitigate and hopefully reverse the population loss of honeybees, butterflies, and pollinators, which are critical for healthy plant life.

B.6.3) *Maintain and expand seeding of public and private lands*

B.7) Support and expand use of local foods, farmer's markets, community gardens, orchards, and food plots- Coordinate with communities and organizations to use and produce more local foods. Many communities have already taken action supporting farmer's markets, gardens, and orchards. These efforts should be continued and expanded upon, whenever feasible.

B.7.1) *Develop and support growing food and educating youth with school greenhouses as well as other farm-to-school programs*

B.8) Address the spread of invasive species- Steps should be taken to reduce and eliminate the spread of existing invasive species. Actions should include: creating a plan, educating the public, training for identification, development of an invasive species crew, and removal of species.

B.10) Improve timber stands

B.10.1) *Timber stand improvements should have an emphasis on oak-hickory forestry*- Several factors, including disease, insects, and invasive species have contributed to their decline.

B.10.2) *Provide adequate staff and equipment to properly conduct timber stand improvements (TSI), including, but not limited to, vehicles and equipment needed to thin and remove trees, plant seedlings, as well as remove invasive species.*

B.10.3) *Mitigate the detrimental effects of Emerald Ash Bore by strategically treating or removing Ash trees as appropriate* - Thousands of Ash trees are at risk of dying and decaying as the Emerald Ash Borer

spreads across the state. Removed ash trees should be replaced with a variety of tree species that promote diversity and help limit the effects of future tree insect or disease outbreaks.

B.10.4) Maintain and expand tree planting programs on public lands as well as with private landowners

B.11) Replace outdated equipment for roadside plantings and management - Replacing aging equipment will enable better plantings and greater planting potential in the county.

B.12) Identify and implement best practices for watershed improvements- The County consists of three watersheds, these include: Maquoketa, Upper Wapsipinicon, and Middle Cedar. Initiatives should be pursued that may reduce flooding, erosion, sediment, and improve water quality.

C) PROVIDE CONSERVATION AND LAND STEWARDSHIP EDUCATION - *Provide education and awareness programs for all age groups, including school programs, mentoring, interpretive centers, outreach, programs, and land management programs.*

C.1) Provide water trail education, including safety, how to access, and educational resources - Awareness and training regarding signage, access points, portages, and general education are needed for all users.

C.2) Continue, and expand whenever possible, educational opportunities for the following activities:

- *Bringing and connecting youth to the outdoors*
- *School Field Trips*
- *School prairies and outdoor classrooms*
- *Student demonstration projects (school greenhouse)*
- *Programming that provides environmental sensitivity, knowledge of local flora, fauna, and physical environment, natural cycles, environment, climate change, mentoring, problems solving skills, and ethics*
- *Practicing environmental sustainability*
- *Improving environmental literacy*
- *Outdoor classrooms*
- *Providing people with “experiences of a lifetime” in important natural areas*
- *Showcasing local natural, environmental, and cultural resources*
- *Educating the public on the impact of illegal dumping in waterways and ditches*

C.3) Increase educational resources in the field; provide passive signage, web and phone based applications, interpretive kiosks/signs/virtual tours and way-finding signs at important natural areas- Interpretive signage and tools tell Buchanan County’s story to residents and visitors. Maintaining and expanding these resources and projects will benefit the existing and growing recreational and cultural resources of the county.

C.3.1) Priority areas for these enhancements include, but are not limited to, Jakway Forest, Nibeck Preserve, Crumbacher Wildlife Area, Rowley Fen, Fontana Park, and Wapsipinicon River Water Trail Accesses, and future acquisitions

C.3.2) Develop signage and interpretive areas along Liberty Trail in Independence

C.3.3) Place navigational and interpretive signage along local and regional trails – Signage may help users navigate and connect to other trails and resources. Interpretive signage opportunities exist that could highlight natural, cultural, and historic attractions.

C.3.4) Develop historical and environmental interpretive areas throughout cities and the county

C.4) Continue, and expand when possible, rural and urban land management education programs

C.5) Expand education regarding climate change and renewable energy- Awareness of climate change is critical if the county is going to mitigate or prevent its impacts.

C.6) Expand outdoor classrooms, learning centers, and plantings that foster natural science learning at county school districts

D) MAINTAIN AND EXPAND RECREATION ASSETS - Pursue opportunities that link the county's resources through water and land trails as well as provide infrastructure for outdoor activities and to improve quality of life.

D.1) Maintain existing county and city recreational assets

D.1.2) Maintain and develop exhibits in the Fontana Interpretive Nature Center.

D.1.3) Maintain the Fontana Interpretive Nature Center as the hub for outdoor education in Buchanan County

D.1.4) Replace the "duck Building", pave walkways, and make other improvements to the Fontana Park Wildlife Display.

D.1.5) Pave heavily used park roads at Fontana Park.

D.1.6) Replace existing parking lot with permeable pavement in Hazleton

D.1.7) Increase the number of sustainable living cabins at Fontana Park, Koutny Pond, and other county recreation areas. Sustainability cabins provide an environmentally responsible means of enjoying recreational activities as well as serving as an educational and demonstration tool to visitors.

D.2) Develop new, and make improvements to, existing recreational areas and campgrounds

D.2.1) Develop new recreational amenities along the Little Wapsipinicon River in Fairbank, including: a park shelter, walking paths, kayak launches, and new bridge

D.2.2) Acquire land and develop a modern campground near Koutny Pond in southern Buchanan County.

D.2.3) Provide individual camp sites in existing campgrounds at Jakway Forest, Fontana Park, and Lime Creek, as appropriate

D.2.4) Provide direct water hookup at campgrounds, where appropriate

D.2.5) Update electrical needs in campgrounds

D.2.6) Provide water hookups and shower house at Lime Creek Campground

D.2.7) New county, city, and organizational projects should consider the environmental impact and strive to reduce the use of fossil fuels- Material and energy costs to operate structures should be kept to a minimum, if feasible. Considerations should include the use of recycled and environmentally friendly building materials as well as energy efficient measures and use of renewable energy.

D.2.8) Use solar energy to provide electrical needs for new park shelters

D.2.9) Develop an off-road bike trail and archery range at Three Elms Park.

D.2.10) Develop a trail- head in Brandon at the Cedar Valley Nature Trail (CVNT)

D.3) Maintain and develop access points to land and water resources- Development should include access points, portages, and signage for paddlers.

D.3.1) Develop a kayak park and kayak launches in Fairbank

D.3.2) Create public access from the Wapsipinicon River to Cedar Rock State Park - The 400+ acres state park, including a Frank Lloyd Wright designed residence, is located in southeast portion of the county close to the City of Quasqueton. River access will increase the availability of visitors to access the park grounds.

D.3.3) Focus should be placed on creating additional river access in Buchanan County - During the planning process the need to increasing access points, especially in the southern portion of the county, was consistently mentioned as a need.

D.3.4) Develop an access between the City of Quasqueton and Troy Mills Wildlife Management Area

D.3.5) Create a portage along the Wapsipinicon River near the dam in Independence – Currently, the river is limited, as there is not access around the Independence Dam. Kayakers and canoes must exit the river and arrange a shuttle to continue down the river.

D.4) Connect existing city, county and state trails and lands with bicycle lanes, local trails, and regional trails- Many of the county's resources are spread across the county and are not linked. It is believed that connection of these resources, through trails, will increase accessibility. Trails increase quality of life, attract tourism, and connect residents and visitors to the outdoors. Urban trails and bike lanes benefit communities by encouraging healthy lifestyles and offering alternative transportation routes.

Priority trail developments include, but are not limited to, those between:

D.4.1) Fontana Park and the City of Hazleton

D.4.2) Fontana Park and the City of Independence

D.4.3) Fontana Park and the City of Oelwein

D.4.4) Fontana Park and the Amish community

D.4.5) City of Independence and the City of Jesup

D.4.6) Within the City of Independence: Expand 3rd Ave Trail; connect Liberty Trail, River Walk Trail and 1st Street Trail; and HWY 150 Trail

D.4.7) Connect trails to the regional Cedar Valley Nature Trail, which is part of the American Discovery Trail

D.4.8) Complete the trail loop in Winthrop City Park

D.4.9) Build a community trail around the City of Winthrop, which connects to walking trails, bicycle lanes, and regional trails.

D.4.10) Develop trail connections between Jesup, Cutshall Area, Mickey Fox County Park, and Littleton

D.4.11) A city wide trail that travels through and connects with the Soccer Complex in Jesup

D.4.12) Construct a trail along the Wapsipinicon from Independence to Quasqueton

D.4.13) Build a trail in Quasqueton connecting the city, campgrounds, and access points of the Wapsipinicon River

D.4.14) Connect the City of Lamont and Backbone State Park

D.5) Continue to develop city and county park, including land acquisitions, to meet the quality of life needs of citizen - Cities and the county should seek opportunities to build and renovate local parks that help preserve and promote local recreational, cultural, and natural amenities. City parks in smaller communities may also benefit by connecting to county managed parks, trails, and recreation areas.

D.5.1) Upgrade the Lamont Shelter House in Scout Park; the enclosed park shelter requires updates to siding, flooring, and heating equipment. Accessibility can also be improved by installing ramps. The shelter supports the park which includes: electrical and primitive camping, tennis court, volleyball court, playground, picnic tables, woodlands, and access to stream.

D.5.2) Construct a new shelter, gathering space, and enclosed fireplace in Fairbank.

D.5.3) Acquire a pond or other flat-water areas to expand fishing access

D.6) Develop new recreation assets to meet the growing demands and interests of communities- These recreational facilities include, but are not limited to: fishing piers and jetties; indoor archery range; geocaching sites and events; shooting range; off-road biking; picnic shelters; and lodges

D.7) Include handicapped accessibility in future projects where reasonable – Providing outdoor opportunities for persons of all skill levels and abilities is an objective for Buchanan County when developing new public establishments

D.8) Develop handicapped-accessible hunting and fishing opportunities – When possible increase availability for fishing and hunting areas to persons with disabilities

E) PARTNER AND COLLABORATE WITH REGIONAL AND STATEWIDE INITIATIVES

E.1) Collaborate with other agencies and stakeholder groups to support statewide programs- These programs include: REAP, Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) funding, Iowa Water & Land Legacy (IWILL) and also providing funding to the constitutionally protected Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund.

E.2) Maintain and continue to improve Cedar Valley Nature Trail (CVNT) - The 52-mile trail extends from Cedar Rapids to Waterloo follows an abandoned railroad. A portion of the trail travels through Brandon and southwest Buchanan County. The CVNT is part of the American Discovery Trail, which travels 6,800 miles through 15 states. The American Discovery Trail is the only non-motorized coast-to-coast recreational trail in the county.

E.2.1) *Pave the remaining stretch of the CVNT, which includes the section that runs through Buchanan County.* The northern 16 miles and southernmost 4 miles of the CVNT have been paved with asphalt; the remaining section of trail has a limestone-chip surface. No portion of the trail, through Buchanan County, has been paved.

E.2.2) *Build trails to and develop resources along the CVNT to attract users to other resources through Buchanan County-* A regional and national trail provide great opportunity to connect users with communities and resources in Buchanan County.

E.3) *Be consistent with and implement the goals and objectives outlined in the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), REAP Congress, and Iowa Open Spaces Plan*

E.4) Participate in and support watershed initiatives that impact the county - Watersheds expand beyond city, county, and often state borders. Several jurisdictions have impact on and are affected by a watershed. Because of this, regional coordination is required. There are three watershed in Buchanan County, including: Maquoketa, Upper Wapsipinicon, and Middle Cedar. The REAP committee will participate in and support watershed initiatives throughout the county. These undertakings should include:

- Assessing and reducing risks in the watershed;
- Assessing and improving water quality in the watershed;
- Educating residents of the watershed regarding flood risks and water quality; and
- Providing leadership and coordination with the Upper Wapsipinicon River Watershed Authority, Cedar River Watershed Alliance, and any future watershed authorities

E.5) Connect Buchanan County recreational resources within and outside of the county - Buchanan County offers a variety of state, county, city, and organizational resources throughout the county. A long-term goal of the REAP committee is to not only to improve connectivity of resources within the county but also linking resources to neighboring jurisdictions outside of the county for regional and statewide connections.

Priority areas should include, but not be limited to:

- Increasing accessibility by connecting resources with multi-use trails;
 - Increasing connectivity to Cedar Valley Nature Trail and support its expansion
 - Developing a trail connecting Fontana Park, Hazleton and Oelwein
 - Developing a trail linking Buchanan County and the Waterloo/Cedar Falls metro trails system
 - Developing a trail between the City of Lamont and Backbone State Park
 - Expanding the Wapsi Water Trail to Mississippi
- Expanding the existing land and water resources by focusing on acquiring adjacent properties;
- Developing greenbelts and corridors to support wildlife and vegetation; and
- Developing recreational areas along rivers and streams

Buchanan County

City Parks and Open Space

Recipient: City of Fairbank

FY	1990	Little Wapsipinicon River Development	\$49,917
FY	2000	West Bentley & Riverside Parks Improve	\$75,000

Recipient: City of Independence

FY	2014	Independence Riverfront	\$100,000
----	------	-------------------------	-----------

Recipient: City of Quasqueton

FY	1999	Dam Fishway & Riverside Park Improveme	\$38,737
			Total: \$263,654

County Conservation

Recipient: Buchanan CCB

FY	1998	Newton Township Natural Area Acquisition	\$58,714
FY	1999	Patton Prairie	\$40,506
FY	2004	Anderson Additions	\$37,646
FY	2008	Cortright Wildlife Area	\$150,000
FY	2010	Cortright Wildlife Area	\$78,375
FY	2013	Johnson Addition to Mickey Fox Area	\$37,500

Recipient: County Special REAP Account

FY	1990	Per county allocations	\$9,086
FY	1990	Per population allocations	\$6,919
FY	1991	Per county allocations	\$12,415
FY	1991	Per population allocations	\$9,465
FY	1992	Per population allocations	\$5,146
FY	1992	Per county allocations	\$6,121
FY	1993	Per county allocations	\$4,917
FY	1993	Per population allocations	\$3,761
FY	1994	Per population allocations	\$3,517
FY	1994	Per county allocations	\$4,288
FY	1995	Per county allocations	\$4,587
FY	1995	Per population allocations	\$3,752
FY	1996	Per county allocations	\$5,527
FY	1996	Per population allocations	\$4,367
FY	1997	Per population allocations	\$4,792
FY	1997	Per county allocations	\$6,054
FY	1998	Per county allocations	\$5,992
FY	1998	Per population allocations	\$4,815
FY	1999	Per county allocations	\$5,785
FY	1999	Per population allocations	\$4,458

FY	2000	Per population allocations	\$5,155
FY	2000	Per county allocations	\$6,695
FY	2001	Per county allocations	\$6,759
FY	2001	Per population allocations	\$5,206
FY	2002	Per county allocations	\$4,680
FY	2002	Per population allocations	\$3,435
FY	2003	Per county allocations	\$183
FY	2003	Per population allocations	\$134
FY	2004	Per county allocations	\$6,782
FY	2004	Per population allocations	\$4,935
FY	2005	Per population allocations	\$4,913
FY	2005	Per county allocations	\$6,705
FY	2006	Per population allocations	\$5,108
FY	2006	Per county allocations	\$7,007
FY	2007	Per population allocations	\$5,005
FY	2007	Per county allocations	\$6,901
FY	2008	Per population allocations	\$6,956
FY	2008	Per county allocations	\$9,627
FY	2009	Per population allocations	\$8,076
FY	2009	Per county allocations	\$11,130
FY	2010	Per county allocations	\$10,858
FY	2010	Per population allocations	\$7,845
FY	2011	Per county allocations	\$9,148
FY	2011	Per population allocations	\$6,832
FY	2012	Per county allocations	\$7,362
FY	2012	Per population allocations	\$5,367
FY	2013	Per population allocations	\$4,999
FY	2013	Per county allocations	\$6,893
FY	2014	Per county allocations	\$9,848
FY	2014	Per population allocations	\$6,644
FY	2015	Per population allocations	
FY	2015	Per county allocations	\$9,653
FY	2015	Per population allocations	\$6,518
Total:			\$725,864

Historical Resource Development

Recipient: Buchanan CCB

FY	2007	Richardson-Jakway Historic Site Mapping	\$13,000
----	------	---	----------

Recipient: Buchanan County Historical Society

FY	2013	Tuck pointing, window and sill restoration	\$20,000
----	------	--	----------

FY	2014	Wapsipinicon Mill Brick Repair - Upper W	\$15,000
----	------	--	----------

Recipient: County Genealogical Society

FY	1998	Buchanan County newspaper microfilming	\$2,010
Recipient: County Historical Society			
FY	1991	Wapsipinicon Mill	\$30,000
FY	1991	Stab. east wall & foundation-Wapsi Mill	\$30,000
FY	2002	Wapsipinicon Mill	\$19,700
FY	2005	Wapsipinicon Mill	\$3,960
Recipient: Friends of Cedar Rock			
FY	2014	Cedar Rock Boat House	\$50,000
Recipient: Walter Charitable Trust			
FY	2001	Cedar Rock House Roofing System	\$20,000
			Total: \$203,670

Open Space

Recipient: Boone River PWA			
FY	2007	Land Exchange for Cedar Rock	\$5,488
Recipient: Buchanan County Treasurer			
FY	1992	Local property tax reimbursement	\$278
FY	1993	Local property tax reimbursement	\$310
FY	1994	Local property tax reimbursement	\$336
FY	1995	Local property tax reimbursement	\$688
FY	1996	Local property tax reimbursement	\$732
FY	1997	Local property tax reimbursement	\$700
FY	1998	Local property tax reimbursement	\$710
FY	1999	Local property tax reimbursement	\$700
FY	2000	Local property tax reimbursement	\$754
FY	2001	Local property tax reimbursement	\$814
FY	2002	Local property tax reimbursement	\$872
FY	2003	Local property tax reimbursement	\$884
FY	2004	Local property tax reimbursement	\$820
FY	2005	Local property tax reimbursement	\$820
FY	2006	Local property tax reimbursement	\$824
FY	2007	Local property tax reimbursement	\$824
FY	2008	Local property tax reimbursement	\$818
FY	2009	Local property tax reimbursement	\$762
FY	2010	Local property tax reimbursement	\$772
FY	2011	Local property tax reimbursement	\$910
FY	2012	Local property tax reimbursement	\$930
FY	2013	Local property tax reimbursement	\$988
FY	2014	Local property tax reimbursement	\$1,474
Recipient: Cannon			
FY	2006	Cedar Rock	\$4,285

Recipient: Cedar Rock State Park

FY	2001	Roy & Sheila Payne tract	\$2,750
----	------	--------------------------	---------

Recipient: Kremer

FY	2006	Cedar Rock	\$18,870
----	------	------------	----------

Recipient: Pheasants Forever

FY	1994	Troy Mills Wildlife Area Addition	\$15,078
----	------	-----------------------------------	----------

Recipient: Wapsipinicon River PWA

FY	1991	Frye tract	\$58,227
----	------	------------	----------

FY	2006	Wapsipinicon River	\$9,351
----	------	--------------------	---------

FY	2008	McGlaughlin Tract	\$15,875
----	------	-------------------	----------

Total:			\$147,644
--------	--	--	-----------

Roadside Vegetation

Recipient: Buchanan County

FY	1991	Native Grass Seed	\$8,807
----	------	-------------------	---------

FY	1994	Native Grass Seed	\$2,050
----	------	-------------------	---------

FY	1994	Equipment- Specialized Seeder	\$410
----	------	-------------------------------	-------

FY	1998	Seeding equipment	\$5,445
----	------	-------------------	---------

FY	1999	Seeding equipment	\$500
----	------	-------------------	-------

FY	2000	GPS/GIS	\$2,250
----	------	---------	---------

FY	2006	Seeding equipment	\$1,839
----	------	-------------------	---------

FY	2007	Equipment	\$2,188
----	------	-----------	---------

FY	2008	Equipment	\$344
----	------	-----------	-------

Recipient: Buchanan County IRVM

FY	2005	Seeding equipment, storage	\$1,500
----	------	----------------------------	---------

FY	2009	Equipment	\$960
----	------	-----------	-------

FY	2010	Equipment	\$800
----	------	-----------	-------

Total:			\$27,093
--------	--	--	----------

Soil and Water Enhancement

Recipient: Soil and Water Conservation District

FY	1990	Forestry & native vegetation	\$2,096
----	------	------------------------------	---------

FY	1990	Allocations for practices	\$9,488
----	------	---------------------------	---------

FY	1991	Forestry & native vegetation	\$12,178
----	------	------------------------------	----------

FY	1991	Allocations for practices	\$5,070
----	------	---------------------------	---------

FY	1992	Allocations for practices	\$5,385
----	------	---------------------------	---------

FY	1992	Forestry & native vegetation	\$1,092
----	------	------------------------------	---------

FY	1993	Forestry & native vegetation	\$756
----	------	------------------------------	-------

FY	1993	Allocations for practices	\$4,149
----	------	---------------------------	---------

FY	1994	Allocations for practices	\$15,072
----	------	---------------------------	----------

FY	1994	Forestry & native vegetation	\$6,580
----	------	------------------------------	---------

FY	1995	Allocations for practices	\$2,056
FY	1995	Forestry & native vegetation	\$2,604
FY	1996	Allocations for practices	\$11,736
FY	1996	Forestry & native vegetation	\$4,519
FY	1997	Forestry & native vegetation	\$4,358
FY	1997	Allocations for practices	\$5,993
FY	1998	Forestry & native vegetation	\$2,484
FY	1998	Allocations for practices	\$7,854
FY	1999	Forestry & native vegetation	\$1,826
FY	1999	Allocations for practices	\$5,323
FY	2000	Forestry & native vegetation	\$3,620
FY	2000	Allocations for practices	\$7,708
FY	2001	Allocations for practices	\$6,432
FY	2001	Forestry & native vegetation	\$3,329
FY	2002	Allocations for practices	\$3,880
FY	2002	Upper Maquoketa Water Quality	\$16,669
FY	2003	Forestry & native vegetation	\$4,954
FY	2003	Allocations for practices	\$3,792
FY	2004	Forestry & native vegetation	\$7,166
FY	2004	Allocations for practices	\$10,058
FY	2004	Upper Maquoketa Water Quality	\$1,082
FY	2005	South Fork Maquoketa River Water Quality	\$8,400
FY	2005	Forestry & native vegetation	\$1,985
FY	2005	Allocations for practices	\$10,890
FY	2006	Allocations for practices	\$8,041
FY	2006	Forestry & native vegetation	\$2,010
FY	2007	Forestry & native vegetation	\$3,234
FY	2007	South Fork Maquoketa River Water Quality	\$634
FY	2007	Allocations for practices	\$10,807
FY	2008	South Fork Maquoketa River Water Quality	\$334
FY	2008	Allocations for practices	\$17,168
FY	2008	Forestry & native vegetation	\$3,956
FY	2009	South Fork Maquoketa River Water Quality	\$333
FY	2009	Forestry & native vegetation	\$3,997
FY	2009	Allocations for practices	\$11,978
FY	2010	South Fork Maquoketa River Water Quality	\$250
FY	2010	Forestry & native vegetation	\$4,100
FY	2010	Allocations for practices	\$12,300
FY	2011	Forestry & native vegetation	\$3,277
FY	2011	South Fork Maquoketa River Water Quality	\$1,867
FY	2011	Allocations for practices	\$9,828
FY	2012	Forestry & native vegetation	\$2,476

FY	2012	Allocations for practices	\$7,429
FY	2013	Allocations for practices	\$6,653
FY	2013	Forestry & native vegetation	\$2,218
Total:			\$313,473

Total REAP Allocations in Buchanan County	\$1,681,398
---	-------------

Attachment 2: One-Year Financial Plan

REAP funds are allocated through a combination of per county, per capita, and competitive grant applications. Buchanan County expects to spend their per capita and per county REAP allocation for Fiscal Year 2016, as follows:

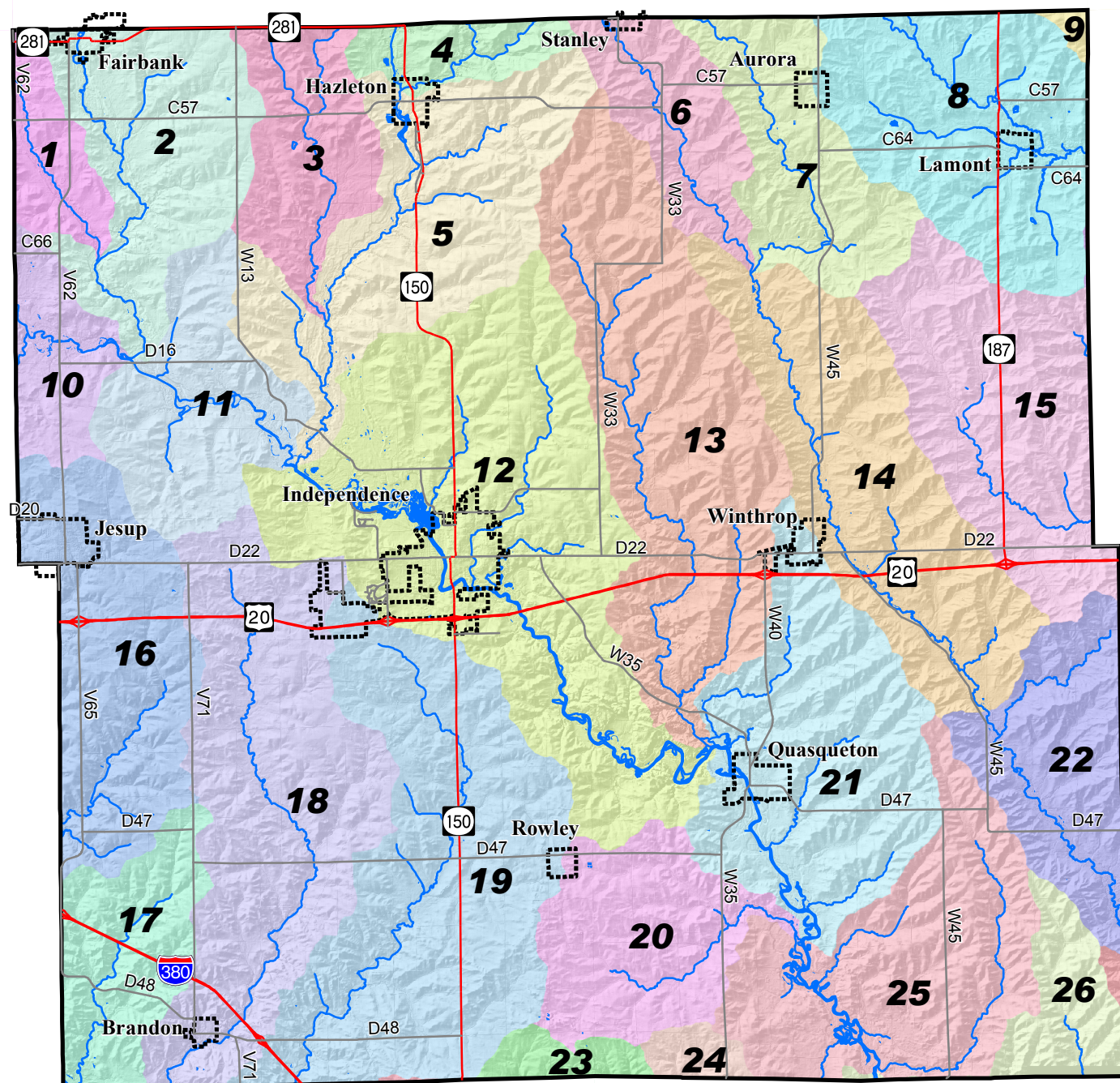
<u>\$ Amount</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
\$16,837	SWCD	REAP Program Practices
\$5,798	SWCD	REAP Forestry and Native Grasses Programs
\$5,500	BCCB	Building upgrades – doors and geothermal at Nature Center
\$4,000	BCCB	Wehner Woods purchase installment
\$4,000	BCCB	Subsidize naturalist intern position
\$4,000	BCCB	Potential land acquisition
\$3,710	IRVM	Diversity Seed Mix
<u>\$1,720</u>	IRVM	Cleanout Seed Mix
\$45,565		

SWCD = Buchanan County Soil and Water Conservation District

BCCB = Buchanan County Conservation Board

IRVM = Buchanan County Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management

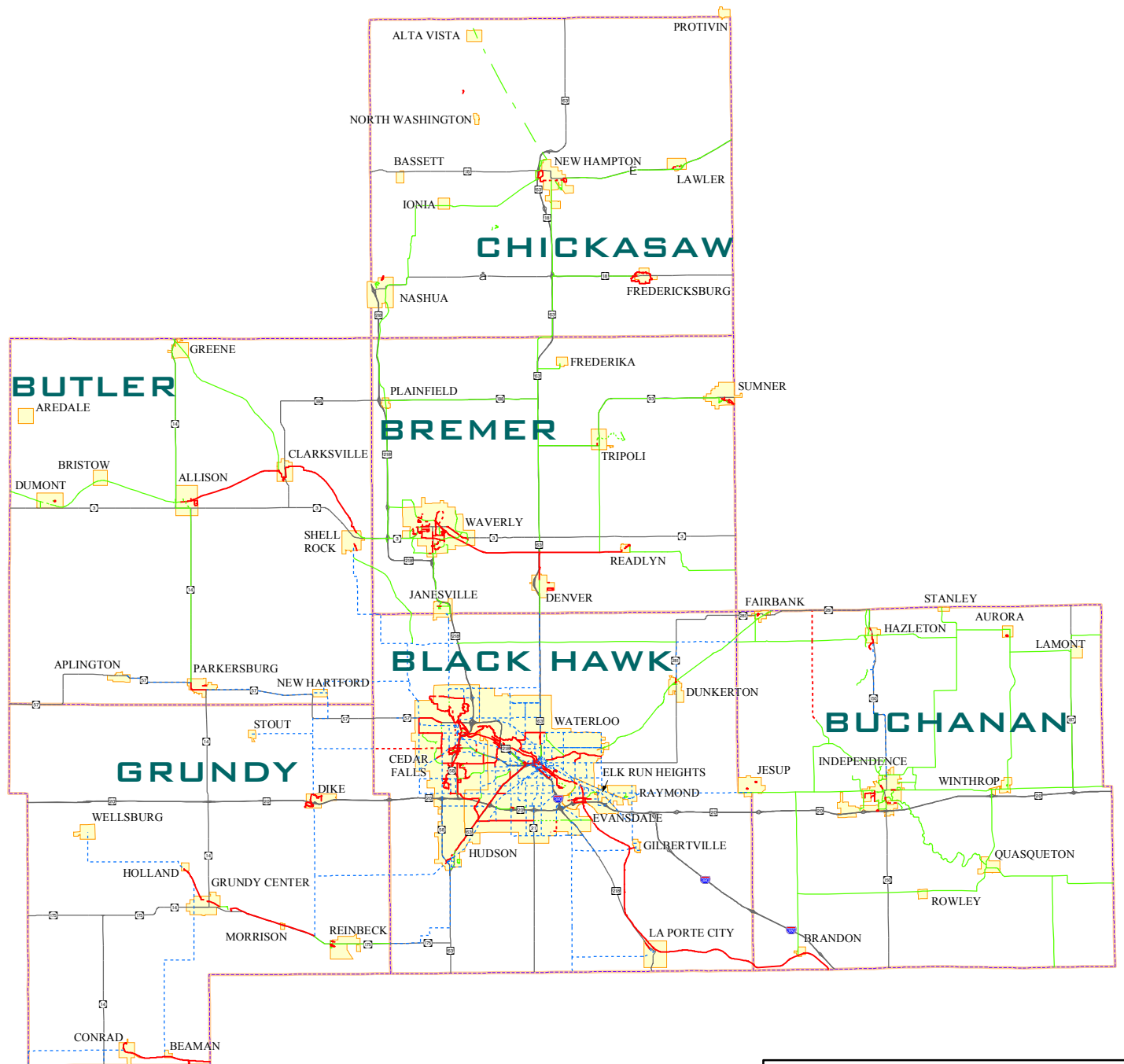
Buchanan County Drainage Basins



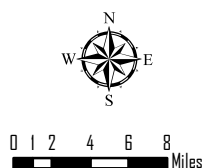
STREAM NAME	TRIBUTARY TO	STREAM NAME	TRIBUTARY TO
1. Buck Creek	Little Wapsipinicon River	14. Buffalo Creek	Wapsipinicon River
2. Little Wapsipinicon River	Wapsipinicon River	15. Prairie Creek	Maquoketa River
3. Hunter Creek	Otter Creek	16. Spring Creek	Cedar River
4. Hazleton Creek	Otter Creek	17. Mud Creek	Cedar River
5. Otter Creek	Wapsipinicon River	18. Lime Creek	Cedar River
6. West Buffalo Creek	Buffalo Creek	19. Bear Creek	Cedar River
7. East Branch Buffalo Creek	Buffalo Creek	20. Sand Creek	Wapsipinicon River
8. South Fork Maquoketa River	Maquoketa River	21. Smith Creek	Wapsipinicon River
9. Fenchel Creek	Maquoketa River	22. Silver Creek	Buffalo Creek
10. Camp Creek	Wapsipinicon River	23. Blue Creek	Cedar River
11. Wapsipinicon River		24. East Branch Blue Creek	Cedar River
12. Malone Creek	Wapsipinicon River	25. Dry Creek	Wapsipinicon River
13. Pine Creek	Wapsipinicon River	26. Walton Creek	Wapsipinicon River



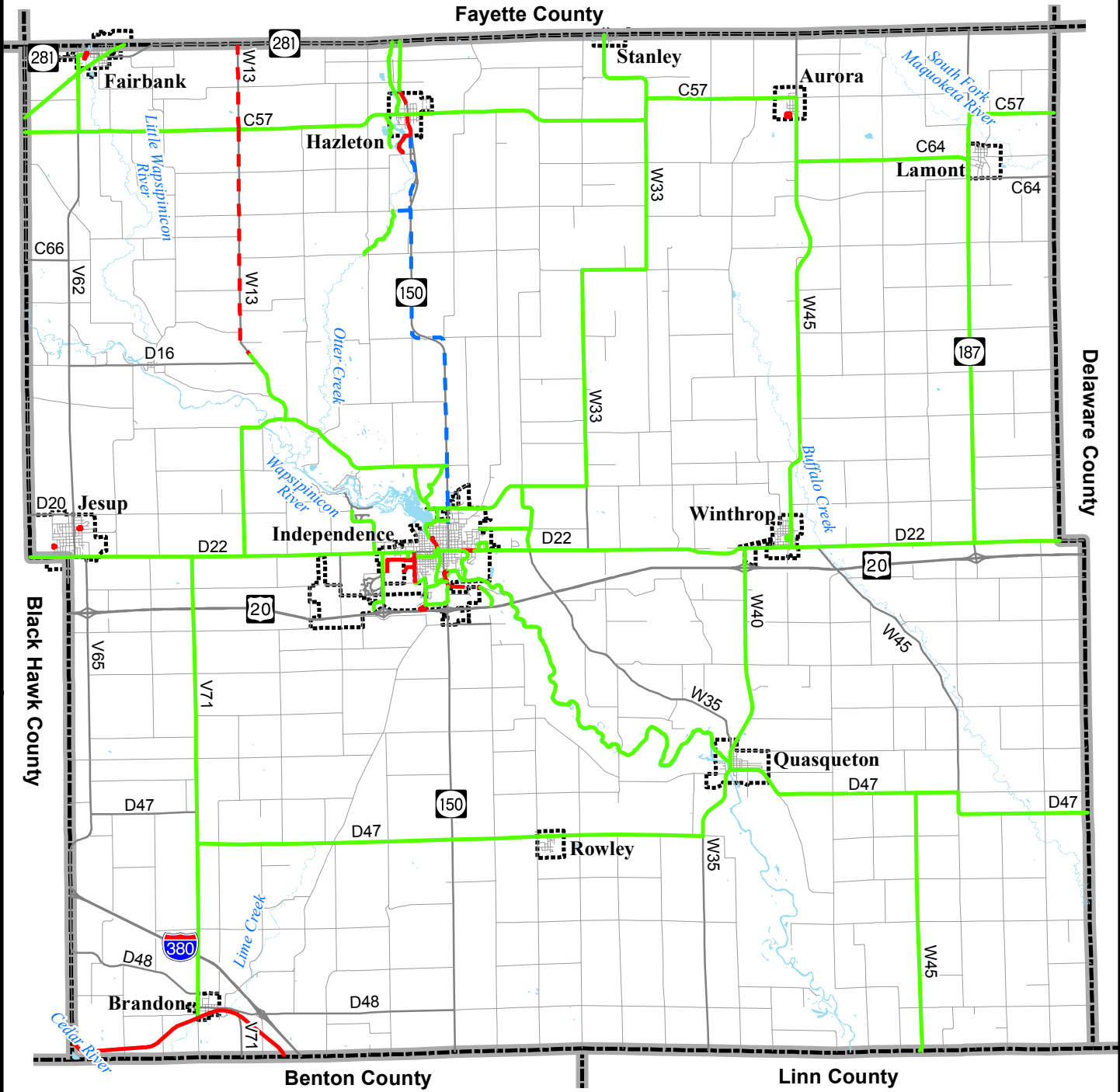
Iowa Northland Regional Trail Plan



LEGEND	
	COUNTIES
	Incorporated Areas
	Major Roads
Trails	
	Existing Trail
	Existing Paved Shoulder
	Programmed Trail (Construction Pending)
	Planned Trail
	Accommodation Type to be Determined



Buchanan County Trail Map



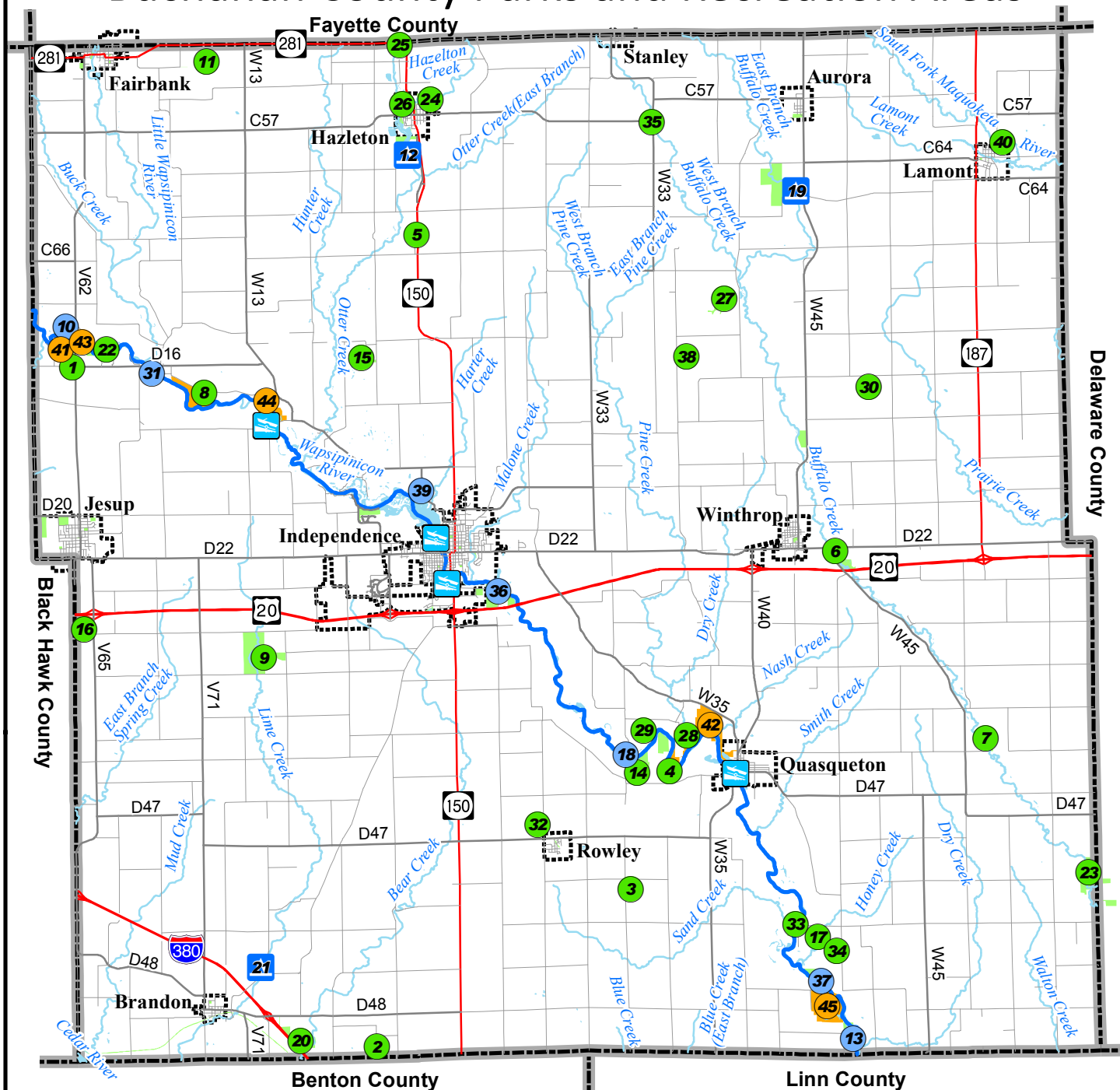
LEGEND

- Incorporated Areas
- Major Roads
- Trails**
 - Existing Trail
 - Existing Paved Shoulder
 - Programmed Trail (Construction Pending)
 - Planned Trail
 - Accommodation Type to be Determined



0 0.5 1 2 3 4 Miles

Buchanan County Parks and Recreation Areas



LEGEND

- | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|
| 1 Anderson Addition | 13 Frogville Access | 25 Otter Creek Roadside Park | 37 Troy Mills Wapsi Access | Boat Ramp |
| 2 Bearbower Sand Prairie | 14 Guy Grover Tree Plantings | 26 Otter Creek Wildlife Area | 38 Van Lanningham Preserve | Parks |
| 3 Blazing Star Prairie | 15 Ham Marsh | 27 Patton Prairie | 39 Wapsipinicon River Access | Iowa DNR Lands |
| 4 Boies Bend Area | 16 Hodges and North Wildlife Area | 28 Pine Creek Wildlife Area | 40 Wehner Woods | Water Trail |
| 5 Bryantsburg Area | 17 Hoover Wildlife Area | 29 Putty Root Preserve | 41 Buckles & Clay WMA (DNR) | Area Type |
| 6 Buffalo Creek Area | 18 Iron Bridge River Access | 30 Quigley-Slaterry Heritage Prairie | 42 Cedar Rock State Park (DNR) | Campground |
| 7 Buffalo Creek Wildlife Area | 19 Jakway Forest | 31 Robert "Chic" McLaughlin Access | 43 Cutshall Bridge WMA (DNR) | DNR Lands |
| 8 Cortright Wildlife Area | 20 Kounty Bond / Hoffman Woods | 32 Rowley Fen | 44 Otterville Bridge WMA (DNR) | Natural Area |
| 9 Crumbacher Wildlife Area | 21 Lime Creek Area | 33 Sand Creek Area | 45 Troy Mills WMA (DNR) | River Access |
| 10 Cutshall Area | 22 Mickey Fox Area | 34 Schneider-Heinick-Rowe Area | | |
| 11 Fairbank Fen | 23 Newton Township Natural Area | 35 Swartz Preserve | | |
| 12 Fontana Park | 24 Nibeck Wildlife Preserve | 36 Three Elms Access | | |



Buchanan County Soils Map - Soil Taxonomy Order

LEGEND

Soil Taxonomy Order

- No Data
- Alfisols
- Entisols
- Histosols
- Mollisols

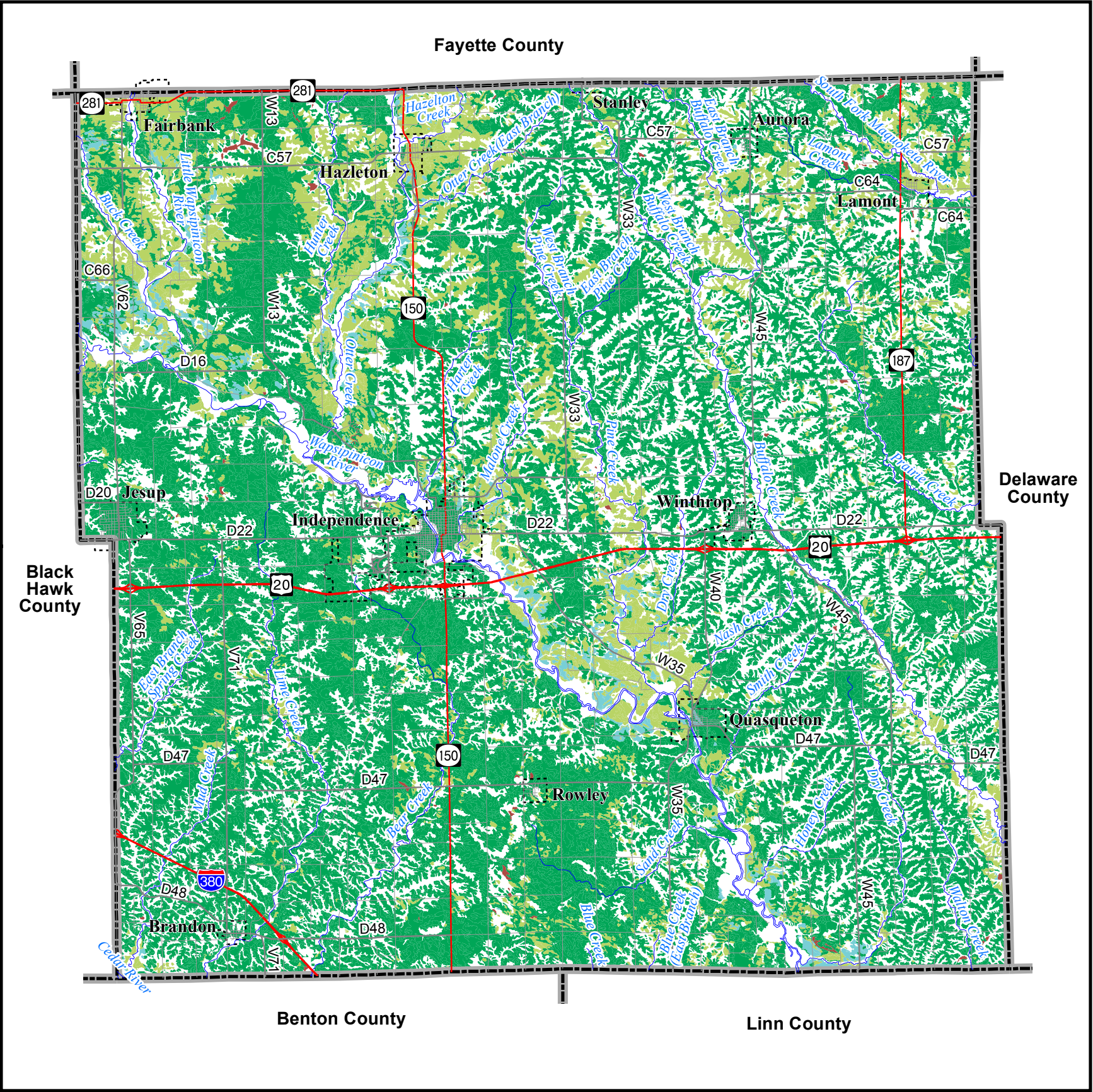
Alfisols – These soils result from weathering process that leach clay minerals and other constituents out of the surface layer and into the subsoil, where they can hold and supply moisture and nutrient to plants. They formed primarily under forest or mixed vegetative covers and are productive for most crops. Alfisols make up about 10 percent of the world’s ice-free land surface.

Entisols – Occur in areas of recently deposited parent materials or in areas where erosion and deposition rates are faster than the rate of soil development; such as dunes, steep slopes, and flood plains. They occur in many environments. Entisols make up about 16 percent of the world’s ice-free land surface.

Histosols – Have a high content of organic matter and no permafrost. Most are saturated year round, but a few are freely drained. Histosols are commonly called bogs, moors, peats, or muck. Histosols form in decomposed plant remains that accumulate in water forest litter, or moss faster than they decay. If these soils are drained and exposed to air, microbial decomposition is accelerated and the soils may subside dramatically. Histosols make up about 1 percent of the world’s ice-free land surface.

Mollisols – Is common on the Great Plains and the western states. Nearly all Mollisols have a mollic epipedon. Most have supported grass vegetation at some time, although many apparently have been forested in the past. Mollisols are used mainly as cropland. Generally, grains and sorghum are grown in the drier regions and corn and soybeans in the warmer, humid regions.















Soil Data Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Soil Survey Geographic (SSURGO) database 2005



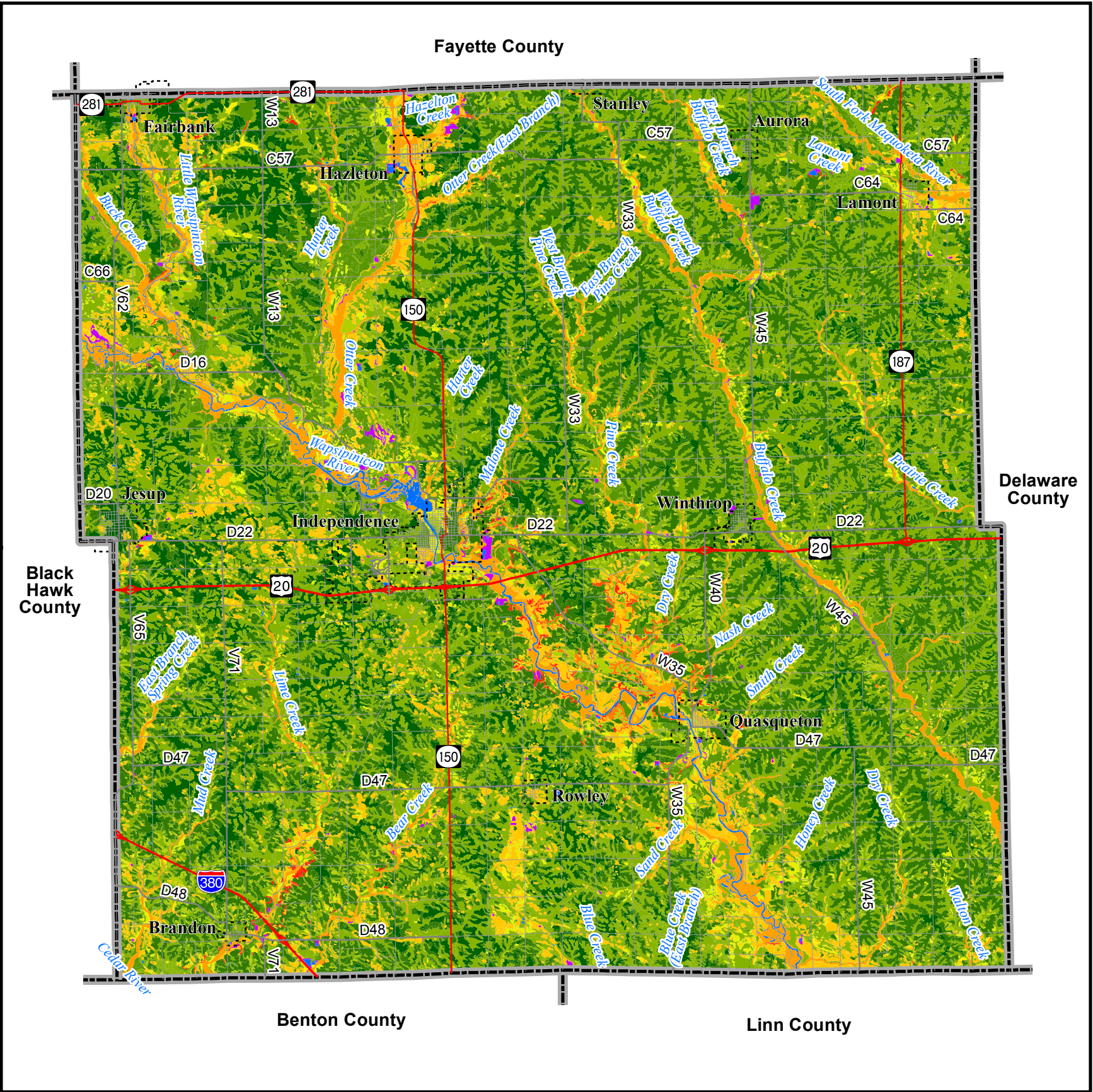
Buchanan County Soils Map - Land Capability Class

LEGEND

Land Capability Class

-  Mosly Water
-  Mostly Quarry or Wetland
-  1 - Soils have few limitations that restrict their use.
-  2E - Soils have moderate limitations that reduce the choice of plants or that require moderate conservation practices. Subclass E = Risk of erosion unless close-growing plant cover is maintained.
-  2S - Soils have moderate limitations that reduce the choice of plants or that require moderate conservation practices. Subclass S = Shallow, droughty, or stony.
-  2W - Soils have moderate limitations that reduce the choice of plants or that require moderate conservation practices. Subclass W = Water in or on the soil interferes with plant growth or cultivation (in some soils wetness can be partly corrected by artificial drainage).
-  3E - Soils have severe limitations that reduce the choice of plants or that require very careful management or both. Subclass E = Risk of erosion unless close-growing plant cover is maintained.
-  3S - Soils have severe limitations that reduce the choice of plants or that require very careful management or both. Subclass S = Shallow, droughty, or stony.
-  3W - Soils have severe limitations that reduce the choice of plants or that require very careful management or both. Subclass W = Water in or on the soil interferes with plant growth or cultivation (in some soils wetness can be partly corrected by artificial drainage).
-  4S - Soils have very severe limitations that reduce the choice of plants or that require very careful management or both. Subclass S = Shallow, droughty, or stony.
-  5W - Soils are not likely to erode but have other limitations, impractical to remove, that limit their use. Subclass W = Water in or on the soil interferes with plant growth or cultivation (in some soils wetness can be partly corrected by artificial drainage).
-  6E - Soils have severe limitations that make them generally unsuitable for cultivation. Subclass E = Risk of erosion unless close-growing plant cover is maintained.
-  6S - Soils have severe limitations that make them generally unsuitable for cultivation. Subclass S = Shallow, droughty, or stony.
-  7S - Soils have very severe limitations that make them unavailable for cultivation. Subclass S = Shallow, droughty, or stony.

Soil Data Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Soil Survey Geographic (SSURGO) database 2005



Attachment 9: S.W.O.T. Analysis

The following appendix includes a summary of the S.W.O.T Analysis that was conducted at the initial REAP planning meeting, with the Buchanan County Conservation Board, and a meeting of local resource professionals. Participants were asked to identify the **S**trengths, **W**eaknesses, **O**pportunities, and **T**hreats that could impact the county's resource protection and enhancement efforts in the next five years. This information was shared during the May 6 and May 20 planning sessions to help identify and develop goals and projects to further enhance and protect the county's resources.

REAP Committee

This section includes the S.W.O.T analysis that was conducted with the Buchanan County REAP committee at the initial February 5 planning meeting. Thirteen members of the committee participated.

Strengths

Education

- Interpretive Centers
 - Fontana Park (2)
 - Jakway Park
 - Heartland Acres Agribition Center

Youth

- School Prairie / Farm to school programs
- Youth education
- Youth involvement

Human Capital

- Land management knowledge
- Conservation groups collaborating (3)
- Local political support
- Volunteerism
- Several groups of volunteers
- Community support
- Trail groups
- Farmers Market

Financial Impact / Funding

- Economic Impact

Infrastructure

- River and access to it
- Geographic balance of amenities
- Trails/water/camping access
- Trail connections
- American Discovery Trail
- City Parks
- Cedar Rock State Park
- Sustainable Cabins at Fontana Park
- Community Centers
- Museums
- Rock rapids (Quasqueton)

Land Management / Wildlife / Habitat /

Environmental Concerns

- Acquiring properties with grants
- Wapsi River and Cedar Valley watershed programs
- New orchard in Independence
- Conservation/wildlife habitat
- Water Quality

Marketing / Coordination

- Promoting local history and museums
- Advertising (events & fundraising)

Weaknesses

Education

- Lack of climate change education
- Signage (parks, natural areas, river accesses)

Youth

- Connecting youth to nature

Human Capital

- Population loss , including seasonal and youth
- Community involvement
- Keeping public interest
- Frequency of events and time commitments required
- Access and availability of to state and regional experts – high demand for (e.g. forestry)

Financial Impact / Funding

- Lack of funding (4)
- Knowledge of available funding
- Rising costs

- Discrepancy in ease/access to funding
- Lack of non-tax financed funding

Infrastructure

- Fractured natural areas and trails
- Adequate employment/ affordable housing

Land Management / Wildlife / Habitat /

Environmental Concerns

- Labor pool to manage invasive species
- Watershed
- Lack of waterways
- Soil erosion due to lack of wetlands
- Destruction of habitat
- Utilizing renewable energy

Marketing / Coordination

- Coordination of marketing
- Advertising costs
- Coordination with entities outside of the county – state and regional efforts
- Lack of county-wide shared focus

Opportunities

Education

- Educational programming
- Signage
- Educating about native plantings (threat of Emerald Ash-borer)

Youth

- Youth programs
- Promote grade-school fieldtrips – nature, volunteer, historic venues
- School education / outdoor classrooms

Human Capital

- Volunteer awareness
- Attitudes/public opinion
- Amish Community

Financial Impact / Funding

- IWiLL funding
- Grant opportunities
- Lack of resources to meet public demand
- Tourism

- Economic opportunities/impact

Infrastructure

- Renewable/solar energy
- Land/water trail access points
- River
- Rock rapids (Quasqueton)
- Independence aquatic center
- Expanding fishery

Land Management / Wildlife / Habitat /

Environmental Concerns

- Prairie plantings
- Public shooting range
- Archery Clubs – high demand but lack facilities

Marketing / Coordination

- Branding/Marketing
 - Community marketing
-

Threats

Education

- N/A

Youth

- Competing influences with youth

Human Capital

- C.A.V.E mentality
- Staffing (lack of funding)
- Lack of political will
- Apathy / lack of leadership

- Shrinking volunteer base

- Population loss

Financial Impact / Funding

- Lack of Funding (3)
- Lack of legislative support
- Lack of funding at state level to oversee programs
- Unmet community needs (2)
- **Infrastructure**
- Impact of potential pipelines or power lines

- Low-head dams Private property preventing trail connections
- Absentee ownership/land management
- Deteriorating infrastructure

Land Management / Wildlife / Habitat /

Environmental Concerns

- Volatility of land and commodity values affecting land use
- Invasive species
- Climate change
- Drainage / watershed
- River (flooding)
- Impacts of chemicals, pollutants, and solid waste
- Farming practices
- Loss of bio-diversity
- Loss of pollinators (monarchs and bees)

Marketing / Coordination

- N/A
-

Resource Professionals

This section includes the S.W.O.T analysis that was conducted with the Buchanan County resource professionals on February 23. Attendees included staff representatives from: BCCB, DNR Fisheries, DNR Forestry, DNR Wildlife, and Pheasants Forever.

Strengths

Education

- N/A

Youth

- School habitats and natural areas

Human Capital

- Environmental and habitat support groups
- Active Conservation Board (4)
- Public interest in natural resources
- Citizen value the land
- Two county naturalists
-
- Partnerships with private landowners
- Landowners are concerned with land management

Financial Impact / Funding

- Leveraging grant dollars with local support groups

Infrastructure

- River accesses

- Geographical balance of resources across county
- Several land and water trail sections
- Park development
- Wapsipinicon River
- Amount of recreational opportunities
- Continued updates and improvements to existing facilities
- Park development
- Renewable energy - solar cabins at Fontana Park (2)
- Camping
- Historic features (The Mill, Jakway Park, Cedar Rock Park)

Land Management / Wildlife / Habitat /

Environmental Concerns

- Land acquisitions
- Existing public lands

Marketing / Coordination

- N/A

Weaknesses

Education

- Sustainable education for urban living
- Lack of public engagement

Youth

- N/A

Human Capital

- Lack of political will at state level
- Being able to meet a high number of landowners with interest in land management

Financial Impact / Funding

- Funding (4)
- Staffing levels (3)

Infrastructure

- Lack of connection among resources, both habitat and trails
- Lack of large block areas/connections outside of the Wapsi
- Urban sustainability infrastructure

Land Management / Wildlife / Habitat /

Environmental Concerns

- Lakes and ponds water quality
- Land of upland areas to acquire (2)
- Invasive species awareness (2)

Marketing / Coordination

- N/A
-

Opportunities

Education

- Education – all types

Youth

- N/A

Human Capital

- Citizen involvement (2)

Financial Impact / Funding

- IWILL / Funding
- Commodity market trends create opportunity to improve land management practices

Infrastructure

- Upgrade infrastructure and add additional facilities
- Extend and connect surface trails
- Cedar Rock expansion and opportunity to emphasize natural resources
- Renewable energy (wind, solar)

Land Management / Wildlife / Habitat /

Environmental Concerns

- Expand lakes and ponds
- Wetland restoration
- Federal funds to purchase and manage land
- Acquiring/expanding land adjacent to existing county land
- Improve public lands
- Public and private land planning and management (2)
- River corridor enhancements, including access and aquatics resources on private and public land (2)
- High pressure on public lands due to lack of access to private lands
- Forest management (products, wildlife)

Marketing / Coordination

- N/A

Threats

Education

- N/A

Youth

- N/A

Human Capital

- C.A.V.E mentality
- Lack of staffing
- Political leadership (3)
- Dwindling citizen connection with the land and understanding its value

Financial Impact / Funding

- Lack of conservation funding priority at all levels of government
- Farm economy influence(4)

Infrastructure

- N/A

Land Management / Wildlife / Habitat /

Environmental Concerns

- Fluctuation of agriculture and commodity markets affecting land use (4)
- Invasive species (8)
- Vegetation / Wildlife disease (2)
- Climate change
- Water quality / watersheds
- Severity and frequency of flooding
- Affects Chemical applications
- Agriculture cycles influencing water quality and soil erosion
- Land management contributing to soil loss along with high sediment and nutrient levels in water
- Loss of oak and hickory trees
- Lack of private land management and education to landowners

Marketing / Coordination

- N/A
-

Buchanan County Conservation Board

This section includes the S.W.O.T analysis that was conducted with the Buchanan County Conservation Board at their February 28 meeting.

Strengths

Education

- Educational programs – especially “My Side of the Mountain” cooperation with schools and libraries and outreach and visits to schools

Youth

- N/A

Human Capital

- Local support groups
- Strong BCCB and staff
- Public support for
- BCCB volunteer programs

Financial Impact / Funding

- N/A

Infrastructure

- Fontana Park Nature Center
- Land and water trails throughout the county
- Water accesses – however not always available due to flooding

Land Management / Wildlife / Habitat /

Environmental Concerns

- Land acquisitions
- Public hunting areas
- Outdoor activity programs available throughout the year
- Geographically diverse county for activities

Marketing / Coordination

- N/A

Weaknesses

Education

- Public awareness of public lands and resources available

Youth

- N/A

Human Capital

- Legislative climate
- Agricultural attitudes and awareness of land management impacts

Financial Impact / Funding

- Funding levels (3)
- Staffing levels limited by funding

Infrastructure

- Lack of interconnectedness of trails , public land, and communities – land in county very parceled making it difficult to connect

- Existing dams limiting water trails
- Kayak / canoe access points – often use boat ramps
- Lack of balance in communities regarding efforts and activities

Land Management / Wildlife / Habitat /

Environmental Concerns

- Wetlands
- Sedimentation of rivers and creeks
- Farming practices and land management impacts (e.g. removing waterways and fence lines)
- Lack of flat water and pond fishing

Marketing / Coordination

- Lack of community marketing
-

Opportunities

Education

- BCCB instruction and naturalist programs – bringing youth to outdoors

Youth

- Continue to offer opportunities to all generations
- Improving the quality of life in the County through classes and reaching out to youth

Human Capital

- Local river cleanup efforts and Project Aware partnership

Financial Impact / Funding

- IWILL Funding

Infrastructure

- Expand campgrounds and cabins (2)
- Park and trail development

Land Management / Wildlife / Habitat / Environmental Concerns

- Adaptive reuse of flood plains and areas damaged by floods (e.g wetlands, green space, etc.)
- Wetlands – improving existing and acquiring
- Continuing land acquisitions
- Continue relationships with landowners and land managers
- Water quality improvements
- Wapsi River and purchasing land around

Marketing / Coordination

- N/A

Threats

Education

- Not being able to access all people for education programs
- Public less open-minded to learning new things through education

Youth

- N/A

Human Capital

- Attitude of public and farmers

Financial Impact / Funding

- Political will – decision makers not listening to public in regards to funding and priorities

Land Management / Wildlife / Habitat / Environmental Concerns

- Changing agricultural economy affecting land use and management
- Loss of trees / forestry and disease threats (e.g. Emerald Ash-borer)
- Invasive species (3)
- Climate change
- Flooding
- Pollution of river
- Sedimentation caused by farming / land management practices (e.g. Lime Creek fill in)
- Irresponsible landowners
- Uncooperative land owners
- Disappearing greenbelts, wetlands, and roadside vegetation
- Wapsi River
 - Water quality
 - Sedimentation
 - Aquatic life
- Severe weather impacts

Marketing / Coordination

- N/A
-