



GRANT WOOD LOOP MASTER PLAN



Grant Wood Mississippi River Region
Plan Update
Adopted June 15, 2022

Introduction

The Grant Wood Mississippi River Region (GWMRR) is a multi-jurisdictional, bi-partisan, public-private partnership intended to create exceptional places and experiences for Iowans and visitors alike. This collaboration, Iowa's first Parks to People initiative, is working together to erase the boundaries and "enhance, promote, sustain, and connect" the region's cultural, natural, and park assets. The region encompasses a three-county area now known as the Grant Wood Loop.

Grant Wood Loop

The Grant Wood Loop encompasses Dubuque, Jackson, and Jones counties and a population of just under 140,000. Our natural resources and thriving arts communities provide a perfect canvas for investing in our people, parks, and future. Town after town, park after park, offer the kind of experience that give residents and visitors alike the opportunity to connect with the outdoors, connect to friends and family, and create memories that will last a lifetime.

At the convergence of the Paleozoic Plateau, the Iowa Surface, and the Southern Iowa Drift Plain, the region is a rarity, boasting carved river valleys, majestic limestone bluffs and rolling hills historically dominated by prairie and timber. This diverse terrain has led directly to a region of rivers. The Mississippi, Maquoketa and Wapsipinicon Rivers come first to mind, but waterways dominate the landscape. Today, the ancient natural formations exist side by side with modern rural agriculture and river towns. These idyllic landscapes were the inspiration for many of Grant Wood's greatest works.

The region boasts a wealth of assets and opportunities for a collaborative effort to connect parks to people and places: unique and ancient land formations; 4,390 miles of waterways; four state parks, 50+ county parks and scores of city parks ranging in scale from regional to pocket parks; and innumerable cultural and arts events and facilities. Throughout the plan, these assets are discussed in the context of potential opportunities to expand and improve upon their existing qualities.

Purpose of the Plan

The Grant Wood Loop Master Plan (GWLMP) is not a land use, operating, or capital improvement plan for any individual entity or facility. It is a roadmap and living document for collaboration toward a shared vision within the region to enact over the next 20 years. The Master Plan is both a guide for the sustaining stakeholders and a resource for residents and visitors. The Master Plan's purpose is to establish and implement an ambitious vision of connecting people to their communities and to each other through parks, trails, quality-of-life assets, and healthy living programming. We consider not just natural resources, but also the built environment; not just economics, but also public health; not just social gathering spaces, but also cultural events and assets. The Master Plan reflects these values through established strategic directions and identified priority initiatives.

What (and Who) is Parks to People?

In 2014, a group consisting of Governor Branstad's Green Ribbon Commission, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, and the Iowa Parks Foundation released the Parks to People Plan. The plan looked ahead to the year 2020—the 100th anniversary of the state park system—and emphasizing connectivity and sustainable funding sources to create a premier park system. In preparation for release of the plan and the start of its implementation, Governor Branstad and the Iowa Legislature set aside \$2 million for a pilot project.

In late summer 2014, the Parks to People selection committee toured potential pilot regions. In September of 2014, the Governor announced that the Grant Wood Mississippi River Region (consisting of Jones, Jackson and Dubuque counties) had been selected as the first Parks to People region. After being selected as the pilot region, stakeholders involved in the initial application and tour formed the Leadership Team.

With guidance from the Iowa Parks Foundation and RDG Planning and Design, the Leadership Team laid out a process to create a Grant Wood Loop Master Plan (GWLMP) and to establish mechanisms for implementing the plan with the allocated \$1.9 million and 5:1 local match. Development of the plan included many partners and stakeholders, and implementation would require many more.



Parks to People funding helped build the Mountain Bike Trails at the Interstate Power Company Forest Preserve in Dubuque County.

Strategic Framework

As part of the planning process for the original Master Plan, the Stakeholder Group held several sessions to develop a strategic direction for GWMRR as an organization as well as for implementation of Grant Wood Loop projects. Mission, vision and strategic directions were developed that encompass where the region wants to be in 20+ years. These strategic directions included potential early wins and indicators of success. Every project and initiative identified in this plan ties back to these strategic directions.

Mission: To enhance, promote, sustain, and connect our region’s cultural, natural and park and other recreation assets.

Vision: Our vision for the Grant Wood Loop is that the residents of the region and the visiting public will... Engage. Reflect. Return. Whether you paddle, pedal, stride, ride or rest, our region has developed a national model of public-private partnership, inviting all to find their personal meaning and lasting memories with connections to:

- Dramatic, timeless landscapes
- Inspiring parks and pathways
- Rivers, creeks and lakes
- Arts, culture and history
- Historic communities and places
- Local food and agriculture
- Interpretive, educational and recreational programs for all ages

Through this master plan update the GWMRR Board is reaffirming its commitment to the mission and vision established in the original Grant Wood Loop Master Plan. The region will continue to strive to achieve its vision for the future by working to implement the projects identified in the original master plan and by continuing to advocate for baseline sustainable funding for our parks system, stewardship of our natural and cultural resources, and inclusion of healthy parks and healthy people in infrastructure development.



Central Park Lake (top) Jones County used Parks to People funding to dredge the lake and make habitat improvements at Central Park.
Prairie Creek Park (bottom) Parks to People funding helped Jackson County develop a recently-donated parcel of land into a new park.

2022 Master Plan Update

What began as a vision for Iowa's parks, has been realized in the Grant Wood Loop region through the hard work and dedication of the region's partners and the implementation of the GWLMP. Communities in the region matched the State of Iowa's initial \$1.9 million investment into the Grant Wood Loop Region, not by the required 5:1 ratio, but over 10:1 with more than \$54 million dollars invested in 32 projects throughout the region.

Planning and Implementation

Looking back, we can certainly say that the State of Iowa's investment in the Grant Wood Loop region was an overwhelming success based on the amount of leveraged dollars that were invested in to the region and based on the positive effect the resulting projects have had on communities. As the initiative started in 2015, there were some doubts about the region's ability to meet the 5:1 match requirement and to have all the Parks to People grant funds the funds obligated within two years.

The region was able to meet the grant funding timeline and exceed the local match target by developing the master plan that identified the region's most immediate needs and shovel-ready projects. The planning process consisted of one year of planning and discovery to identify the region's brand, obtain public input, and develop a list of priority projects throughout the region. Leveraging funds with local dollars or other grant programs was critical to completing projects within the two-year window.

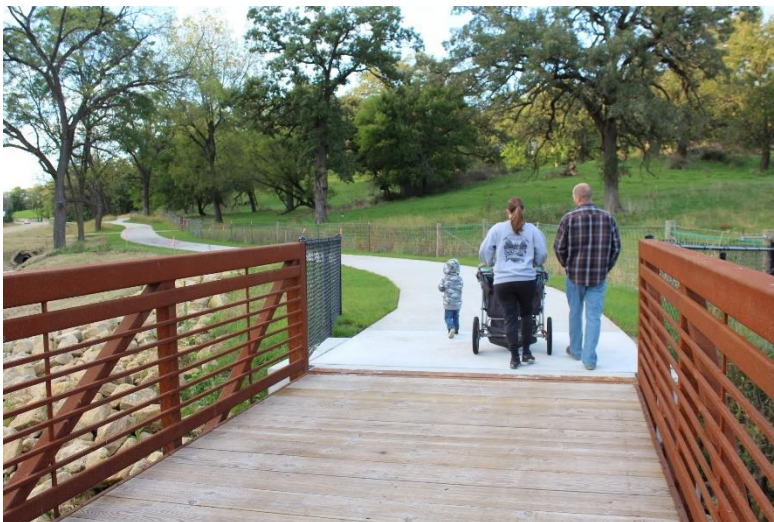
The Region owes its success to a project tracking and implementation process that ensured projects would be completed on time. With two years to disburse \$1.9 million across three counties, the project list was constantly a moving target. Projects were added or removed from the list based on project readiness and funding availability.

While the project has been a success overall, there were some setbacks that prevented the region from achieving all of its goals and objectives and implementing all of its priority projects. Projects had to be removed from the original project list because funding sources fell through or delays would prevent the project from being completed before the deadline. Public support of a project waivered. Permitting of projects would exceed the deadline. None of this deterred the GWMRR from completing their commitment to the State of Iowa and the Iowa Park Foundation.

Through this update, the GWMRR Board will address unmet needs and opportunity projects and revitalize the regional implementation process the identifying a new slate of exciting projects that communities can work together to find funding for and implement.



The Felderman Park Trail in Bellevue (top), the Wapsipinicon Trail in Anamosa (bottom left) and the Miracle League field in Dubuque (bottom right) all received Parks to People funding



Lessons Learned

Through this process we have learned that the Parks to People designation and the \$1.9 million state investment into the region was a very effective motivating factor that brought the region together to accomplish shared goals. Now that those dollars are invested and the initial list of developments has been completed where does the Grant Wood Loop go next? That is the \$1.9 million dollar question!

This experience has also taught us the 5:1 minimum match was not only obtainable but our local investment far exceeded initial expectations for this program. We proved the Parks to People pilot program was successful and could be implemented in other areas of the state. We know what brings all of the agencies and partners together is the opportunity to make a difference in your local community. The Parks to People initiative did just that in the Grant Wood Loop.

We have learned what can be accomplished when we work together for our own community and our neighbors to improve outdoor recreation opportunities in our three counties. We believe we can replicate the success of the original Master Plan.

The Success Story

This update to the Grant Wood Loop Master Plan has two primary objectives 1) tell the region's success story by recapping the GWMRR Board's key activities and listing the projects completed as a result of the original master plan and 2) identify a new list of priorities, projects, and future initiatives that can help move the region closer to the Master Plan's vision for the future.

Branding and Marketing

Grant Wood Loop has made many strides in branding itself as a region made for exploration. Taking inspiration from the local geography, culture, and connectivity, the name 'Grant Wood Loop' was established in 2015 along with a branding system. This system included a logo, color scheme, typography, and other branding elements that created a persona centered in nature, outdoors, and culture. Since this endeavor, an interactive website with robust mapping has been developed along with signage, social media platforms, advertising, and more. Most recently in 2022, a seasonal marketing campaign was launched to help inspire individuals to connect with and explore the beautiful landscapes of the Grant Wood Loop.

Gwloop.com

Facebook.com/GWMRR

Hometown Pride

The GWMRR began with idea of bringing people together to work towards achieving a common vision. Partnerships formed the foundation of the original Master Plan and have been integral to the organization's accomplishments. In the years since the original Master Plan was adopted, GWMRR has worked to strengthen relationships among its members and to identify new opportunities for collaboration.

Soon after the Master Plan was adopted, the GWMRR formed a key partnership with Keep Iowa Beautiful (KIB), a statewide nonprofit organization, that was established in 2000 by former Iowa Governor Robert D. Ray and Donald F. Lamberti, founder and retired chairman of Casey's. The two envisioned a program that would enhance the image and appearance of the countryside and Iowa communities by improving their economic health and cultural vitality. KIB created the Hometown Pride program in 2012 as an effort to improve the appearance of, and encourage a sense of pride in, Iowa's communities.

The mission of the five-year Hometown Pride program is to build capacity in communities through coaching. Between 2017 and 2022, East Central Intergovernmental Association and Jackson County Economic Alliance staff coached communities in Dubuque, Jackson and Jones counties in collaboration with the GWMRR Board. Community coaches helped guide communities in volunteer recruitment, meeting facilitation, project planning, fundraising, grant writing, and project management. This assistance has helped local champions in towns across the region complete some of their community's top priority projects. Communities in the three GWMRR counties have completed their first five-year term in the Hometown Pride program, and a new collection of area communities, comprised of existing and new Hometown Pride members, have reached an agreement with KIB to extend the partnership for an additional five years

Project Updates

As the initial planning process began for the Grant Wood Loop, the region was divided into three priority initiatives. Under those priority initiatives there were multiple projects listed as either priority or opportunity projects to be accomplished within the set timeline. Those priority initiatives included: Mississippi Circuit, Prairie Creek Connections, and Crossing the Wapsi: Bridging History. As the process evolved and funding opportunities either presented or dissolved those priority initiatives moved forward or were replaced with opportunity projects on the list.

Completed projects are listed in the following tables by county. The tables list the project's primary sponsor, the total project cost, the amount of public, private, and in-kind local match contributed to the project, and the total amount of Parks to People (P2P) funding allocated to the project.

Dubuque County Completed Projects

Project	County	Project Sponsor	Public Match	Private Match	In-Kind Match	Total Match	P2P Funding	Total Project Cost
Asbury Bike Repair Stations	Dubuque	City of Asbury	\$1,215	\$0	\$0	\$1,215	\$214	\$1,429
Bee Branch Linear Park and Trail	Dubuque	City of Dubuque	\$31,662,066	\$0	\$0	\$31,662,066	\$0	\$31,662,066
Bee Branch Linear Park and Trail - for Bioswale Boardwalk; match previously reported	Dubuque	City of Dubuque	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$10,000	\$0
Cloie Creek Mountain Bike Trail	Dubuque	City of Asbury	\$10,000	\$36,750	\$3,306	\$50,056	\$7,500	\$57,556
Cloie Creek Pavilion	Dubuque	City of Asbury	\$63,624	\$8,000	\$0	\$71,624	\$12,300	\$83,924
Creek Wood Park	Dubuque	City of Dubuque	\$195,920	\$0	\$0	\$195,920	\$34,574	\$230,494
Dubuque Co Mountain Bike Park	Dubuque	Dubuque County	\$102,044	\$0	\$571,673	\$673,717	\$78,000	\$751,717
Dubuque Skatepark	Dubuque	City of Dubuque	\$597,101	\$134,475	\$0	\$731,576	\$128,400	\$859,976
Eagle Point Park water lines	Dubuque	City of Dubuque	\$86,255	\$0	\$0	\$86,255	\$15,000	\$101,255
Flora Park Playground	Dubuque	City of Dubuque	\$51,459	\$0	\$0	\$51,459	\$9,081	\$60,540
Flora Park Tree Enhancements	Dubuque	City of Dubuque	\$6,479	\$0	\$0	\$6,479	\$900	\$7,379
Heritage Trail Parking Lot	Dubuque	City of Dubuque	\$50,486	\$0	\$0	\$50,486	\$0	\$50,486
HWY 52 bike route phase (1)	Dubuque	Iowa DOT	\$430,000	\$0	\$86,000	\$516,000	\$0	\$516,000
IPP Mountain Bike Park (1)	Dubuque	Dubuque County	\$14	\$91,799	\$0	\$91,813	\$16,202	\$108,015
IPP Mountain Bike Park (2)	Dubuque	Dubuque County	\$0	\$21,033	\$0	\$21,033	\$8,278	\$29,310
Kelly Oaks Disc Golf	Dubuque	City of Peosta	\$11,510	\$0	\$0	\$11,510	\$2,055	\$13,565
Kelly Oaks Park Development	Dubuque	City of Peosta	\$27,017	\$1,856	\$13,456	\$42,329	\$6,400	\$48,729
Maple Hill Ball Fields Renovation	Dubuque	City of Asbury	\$20,094	\$0	\$0	\$20,094	\$3,588	\$23,682
Mines of Spain A/C	Dubuque	Iowa DNR	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,982	\$5,982
Mines of Spain Expansion	Dubuque	Iowa DNR	\$871,038	\$682,448	\$0	\$1,553,485	\$0	\$1,553,485
Mines of Spain road repair	Dubuque	Iowa DNR	\$103,162	\$0	\$0	\$103,162	\$0	\$103,162
Mines of Spain wildlife blinds	Dubuque	Iowa DNR	\$5,836	\$0	\$0	\$5,836	\$0	\$5,836
Miracle Field Ball Diamond Phase 1	Dubuque	City of Dubuque	\$0	\$99,815	\$0	\$99,815	\$10,000	\$109,815
Pine Chapel Restoration	Dubuque	Iowa DNR	\$0	\$34,853	\$6,264	\$41,117	\$2,326	\$43,443
Valentine Park Acquisition	Dubuque	City of Dubuque	\$177,315	\$0	\$0	\$177,315	\$27,129	\$204,444
Valentine Park Development	Dubuque	City of Dubuque	\$36,618	\$0	\$0	\$36,618	\$6,462	\$43,080
Veterans Park Pickleball Court	Dubuque	City of Dubuque	\$90,647	\$0	\$0	\$90,647	\$12,000	\$102,647
		Dubuque Co. Totals	\$34,599,898	\$1,111,029	\$680,699	\$36,391,626	\$396,392	\$36,778,018

Jackson County Completed Projects

Project	County	Project Sponsor	Public Match	Private Match	In-Kind Match	Total Match	P2P Funding	Total Project Cost
Bellevue Ballparks (Cole & Ensign)	Jackson	City of Bellevue	\$122,314	\$88,741	\$0	\$211,055	\$10,000	\$221,055
Bellevue Freedom Rock	Jackson	City of Bellevue	\$53,833	\$0	\$0	\$53,833	\$0	\$53,833
Bellevue Freedom Rock (2)	Jackson	City of Bellevue	\$0	\$156,336	\$12,070	\$168,406	\$0	\$168,406
Bellevue RV Park	Jackson	City of Bellevue	\$19,987	\$1,436,458	\$0	\$1,456,445	\$0	\$1,456,445
Bellevue State Park Lodge Improvements	Jackson	Iowa DNR	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$8,792	\$8,792
Bellevue State Park Overlook trail paving	Jackson	Iowa DNR	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$16,975	\$16,975
Bellevue State Park residential landscaping	Jackson	Iowa DNR	\$24,634	\$0	\$0	\$24,634	\$0	\$24,634
Bellevue State Park shower building	Jackson	Iowa DNR	\$242,876	\$0	\$0	\$242,876	\$0	\$242,876
Bellevue State Park well repair	Jackson	Iowa DNR	\$10,504	\$0	\$0	\$10,504	\$0	\$10,504
Bellevue Trail northend	Jackson	City of Bellevue	\$767,393	\$47,411	\$0	\$814,805	\$0	\$814,805
Cole Park Playground	Jackson	City of Bellevue	\$32,551	\$163,774	\$19,629	\$215,954	\$37,500	\$215,954
Felderman Park Trail-Bridge (1)	Jackson	City of Bellevue	\$153,042	\$0	\$0	\$153,042	\$22,956	\$175,998
Felderman Park Trail-Bridge (2)	Jackson	City of Bellevue	\$701,523	\$128,066	\$0	\$829,589	\$203,038	\$1,032,627
Goodenow Field Trail Connector	Jackson	City of Maquoketa	\$23,518	\$4,556	\$12,354	\$40,428	\$5,835	\$46,263
Hurstville Park Lot	Jackson	Jackson County	\$43,541	\$0	\$0	\$43,541	\$7,684	\$51,225
Hurstville Trail (1)	Jackson	Jackson County	\$55,000	\$0	\$0	\$55,000	\$8,415	\$63,414
Hurstville Trail (2)	Jackson	Jackson County	\$247,259	\$86,731	\$0	\$333,990	\$36,951	\$370,942
Ice Cave steps	Jackson	Iowa DNR	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,480	\$4,480
Maquoketa Art Experience Façade	Jackson	City of Maquoketa	\$100,000	\$159,238	\$0	\$259,238	\$0	\$259,238
Maquoketa Caves State Park Concession Building	Jackson	Iowa DNR	\$0	\$3,259	\$0	\$3,259	\$585	\$3,844
Maquoketa Caves State Park fire rings	Jackson	Iowa DNR	\$4,020	\$0	\$0	\$4,020	\$0	\$4,020
Maquoketa Caves State Park low water crossing	Jackson	Iowa DNR	\$5,134	\$0	\$0	\$5,134	\$0	\$5,134
Maquoketa Caves State Park residence window repair	Jackson	Iowa DNR	\$3,275	\$0	\$0	\$3,275	\$0	\$3,275
Maquoketa Caves State Park Restroom	Jackson	Iowa DNR	\$177,091	\$0	\$0	\$177,091	\$0	\$177,091
Maquoketa Caves State Park road and campsite improvements	Jackson	Iowa DNR	\$504,595	\$0	\$0	\$504,595	\$0	\$504,595
Maquoketa Pedestrian Bridge	Jackson	City of Maquoketa	\$311,493	\$58,269	\$0	\$369,762	\$66,207	\$435,969
Maquoketa Skate Park Upgrades	Jackson	City of Maquoketa	\$9,585	\$0	\$0	\$9,585	\$1,438	\$11,023
Maquoketa Wayfinding Project	Jackson	City of Maquoketa	\$204,561	\$0	\$0	\$204,561	\$0	\$204,561
Prairie Creek Park additional parking	Jackson	Jackson County	\$12,193	\$0	\$0	\$12,193	\$2,152	\$14,344
Prairie Creek Park Development	Jackson	Jackson County	\$411,798	\$50,000	\$0	\$461,798	\$80,348	\$542,146
Prairie Creek Park footbridge	Jackson	Jackson County	\$10,215	\$0	\$0	\$10,215	\$0	\$10,215
Prairie Creek Park Land Donation	Jackson	Jackson County	\$0	\$0	\$1,231,400	\$1,231,400	\$0	\$1,231,400
Prairie Creek Park Pavilion (1)	Jackson	Jackson County	\$20,000	\$88,397	\$0	\$108,397	\$16,290	\$124,687
Prairie Creek Park Pavilion (2)	Jackson	Jackson County	\$0	\$35,070	\$0	\$35,070	\$7,295	\$42,365
Prairie Creek Pedestrian Bridge	Jackson	Jackson County	\$46,708	\$0	\$0	\$46,708	\$8,311	\$55,019
Preston Two Good Park	Jackson	City of Preston	\$500	\$100,538	\$0	\$101,038	\$12,500	\$113,538
Preston Walking Trail	Jackson	City of Preston	\$95,964	\$83,621	\$0	\$179,585	\$31,613	\$211,198
Spruce Creek Restroom Building	Jackson	Jackson County	\$178,486	\$0	\$0	\$178,486	\$26,773	\$205,259
US 52 shoulder widening from north of Bellevue (MP 26.10) to the south end of St. Donatus (MP 35.87), and St. Donatus to Dubuque County line	Jackson	Iowa DNR	\$1,434,737	\$0	\$0	\$1,434,737	\$93,651	\$1,528,388
Jackson Co. Totals			\$6,028,329	\$2,690,465	\$1,275,452	\$9,994,246	\$709,789	\$10,666,535

Jones County Completed Projects

Project	County	Project Sponsor	Public Match	Private Match	In-Kind Match	Total Match	P2P Funding	Total Project Cost
9-11 Memorial Refurbishment	Jones	City of Monticello	\$1,188	\$0	\$1,036	\$2,225	\$437	\$2,662
Central Park Kiosks-Ponds-Parking lot	Jones	Jones County	\$127,390	\$11,000	\$0	\$138,390	\$18,207	\$156,597
Central Park Lake Restoration	Jones	Jones County	\$1,941,391	\$159,755	\$0	\$2,101,146	\$372,973	\$2,474,119
Eby's Mill Wildlife Area Access & Acquisition	Jones	Jones County	\$988	\$2,400	\$24,500	\$27,888	\$3,000	\$30,888
God Bless America Statue	Jones	City of Anamosa	\$2,000	\$15,000	\$0	\$17,000	\$3,000	\$20,000
Maquoketa River Acquisition	Jones	Jones County	\$0	\$236,017	\$110,245	\$346,262	\$54,000	\$400,262
Mon-Maq Dam Modification Project	Jones	Jones County	\$186,546	\$0	\$0	\$186,546	\$33,978	\$220,524
Monticello Pocket Park	Jones	City of Monticello	\$238,751	\$118,295	\$13,420	\$370,466	\$47,863	\$418,329
Oxford Junction acquisition	Jones	Jones County	\$199,243	\$366,348	\$44,798	\$610,389	\$20,000	\$630,389
Oxford Junction Wildlife Area expansion	Jones	Jones County	\$0	\$131,319	\$13,545	\$144,864	\$25,564	\$170,428
Renovate fountain at Fountain Park	Jones	City of Anamosa	\$25,316	\$0	\$0	\$25,316	\$4,467	\$29,783
Wapsi Trail Phase 1	Jones	Jones County	\$195,896	\$186,500	\$5,000	\$387,396	\$145,442	\$532,838
Wapsi. State Park - Hale Bridge lift & access to Shaw Dr	Jones	Iowa DNR	\$7,286	\$20,125	\$0	\$27,411	\$0	\$27,411
Wapsi. State Park Rotary Lodge	Jones	Iowa DNR	\$6,072	\$2,500	\$0	\$8,572	\$0	\$8,572
Wapsi. State Park septic system	Jones	Iowa DNR	\$31,575	\$0	\$0	\$31,575	\$0	\$31,575
Wapsi. State Park streambank stabilization	Jones	Iowa DNR	\$59,199	\$0	\$0	\$59,199	\$0	\$59,199
Willow Park Trail/Disc Golf	Jones	City of Monticello	\$70,563	\$0	\$3,827	\$74,390	\$12,000	\$86,390
Picnic Tables			\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$9,336	\$9,336
SP Wayfinding			\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$9,475	\$9,475
Wetland Trail delineation			\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,920	\$4,920
		Jones Co. Totals	\$3,093,403	\$1,249,259	\$216,371	\$4,559,033	\$764,663	\$5,323,696
		Regional Totals	\$43,721,629	\$5,050,753	\$2,172,522	\$50,944,905	\$1,870,844	\$52,768,249

Future Priorities and Projects

Communities in the Grant Wood Loop region were able to complete the region's top priority park and recreation projects through the Grant Wood Loop Master Plan. With the initial set of projects completed, the GWMRR Board has collected input from its partners in the region and has identified additional priorities and projects that will continue to move the Region closer to its vision for the future.

As with the original, the updated Master Plan is a plan for the whole region. The Master Plan is meant to highlight the region's assets, identify our opportunities as a community, and advocate for and support the effort of all groups in the region who are working on connecting people to each other and to great spaces and great experiences. The Master Plan is a collection of projects and initiatives. The Region must work together across jurisdictions to implement the shared vision and bring new and expanded opportunities to our communities.

The GWMRR Board created the list of Future Priorities on the right to help guide project implementation. The list outlines the general objectives that the group hopes to achieve through the implementation of the projects listed in this Master Plan.

In addition to addressing its future priorities and implementing specific projects, the region will also continue working on lasting legacy efforts. This includes advocating for sustainable and reliable funding for parks, recreation, and natural and cultural resources. It is especially imperative that those passionate about the vision demand resources to bring our current infrastructure up to standards, and for its continued maintenance. The group will also focus on developing a brand, marketing the region, connecting assets and events to a regional identity and developing coordinated cultural arts programming.



Maquoketa Caves State Park in Jackson County

Future Priorities

Expand programming in and around parks and trails including natural resource education, nature and cultural interpretation, and outdoor recreation.

Expand marketing of outdoor recreational parks and assets that also incorporates experiential tourism and ecotourism efforts.

Expand outdoor education opportunities and connect more with the natural environment.

Reforest areas and cities devastated by storms and pests such as the derecho and Emerald Ash Borer.

Promote outdoor recreation and parks friends groups to grow the base of advocates and volunteers for natural resources and programming.

Preserve and/or acquire unique natural, cultural, and recreational assets of the region, especially those containing sensitive environmental spaces.

Preserve and/or acquire areas affected by creeks and rivers and by weather, rain, and flood events to increase resiliency and decrease devastation.

Promote the relationship between outdoor spaces and public health, especially brain health.

Preserve and/or acquire unique areas related to the Mississippi River Corridor.

Future Projects

The following tables lists the Region's future projects. Projects are grouped by the county in which they are located and by the primary sponsor of the project. The tables list project cost estimates, if one is available, the amount of funding that has already been committed to the project, and the amount of additional funding needed to complete the project. The GWMRR Board and its community partners have identified a total of 107 projects with a total cost of over \$65 million.

Dubuque County Future Projects

Project Title	County	Sponsor	Project Description	Total Est. Cost	Committed Funding	Funding Needed
Coohey Trail	Dubuque	City of Cascade	Resurface the Coohey Trail	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$0
Dog Park	Dubuque	City of Cascade	Construction of a new dog park	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$0
Riverview Park Gazebo	Dubuque	City of Cascade	New gazebo at Riverview Park	\$75,000	\$20,000	\$55,000
Riverside Pavilion	Dubuque	City of Cascade	Gathering area just off the river with new parking area, small pavilion, Coohey Trail extensions, and sidewalk	-	-	-
Chaplain Schmitt Island Development and Trail Connection	Dubuque	City of Dubuque	Connection of trail to Bee Branch and Jaycee Trail. Outdoor recreation development.	\$1,000,000	\$250,000	\$750,000
Comiskey Park Redevelopment: Phase 2	Dubuque	City of Dubuque	Addition of parking lot, basketball courts, small pavilions, trees, park amenities, and landscaping.	\$1,400,000	\$0	\$1,400,000
Dubuque Bluff Land Acquisition	Dubuque	City of Dubuque	Land acquisition and/or preservation of the bluffs along the Mississippi River and its flyway	-	-	-
Dubuque Tree Planting	Dubuque	City of Dubuque	Tree planting and species diversity related to Emerald Ash Borer tree loss.	-	-	-
Eagle Point Park Enhancements and Renovations	Dubuque	City of Dubuque	Accessible walkways, renovate current pavilions and restrooms, clear bluff views, and light trails in this historic park.	\$1,500,000	\$1,000,000	\$500,000
Eagle Valley Park Development	Dubuque	City of Dubuque	New park development.	\$238,000	\$0	\$238,000
Eight (8) Park Playground Replacements	Dubuque	City of Dubuque	Hilltop, Marshall, Valley High, Teddy Bear, Gay, Madison, StoryBook Zoo, and Jackson Parks - replace playground unit and install a poured in place safety surfacing.	\$1,250,000	\$1,000,000	\$250,000
English Ridge Park Development	Dubuque	City of Dubuque	New park development.	\$238,000	\$0	\$238,000
Granger Creek Trail	Dubuque	City of Dubuque	Conversion of mowed trail to hard surface trail in Technology Park.	\$350,000	\$0	\$350,000
Lower Bee Branch Park Development	Dubuque	City of Dubuque	Conversion of brown field site to urban park.	\$8,000,000	\$0	\$8,000,000
Madison Park	Dubuque	City of Dubuque	Renovation of current pavilion.	\$44,000	\$0	\$44,000
Miller Riverview Campground Park Upgrades	Dubuque	City of Dubuque	Paving of campsites, upgrade of electricity, and quick connects on the campsite electrical pedestals.	\$300,000	\$0	\$300,000
Native Planting and Ecological Restoration	Dubuque	City of Dubuque	Additions of native plantings and pollinators to areas such as Dubuque Industrial Center West and South and Eagle Point Park. Additional restoration work at Eagle Point Park.	\$170,000	\$50,000	\$120,000
New Splash Pad	Dubuque	City of Dubuque	Development and addition of second splash pad.	\$350,000	\$0	\$350,000
North Fork Trail Park Development	Dubuque	City of Dubuque	New park development.	\$214,000	\$0	\$214,000
Port of Dubuque, Downtown, and Bee Branch Trail Connections	Dubuque	City of Dubuque	Connecting trails with Millwork District, Port of Dubuque, and downtown locations.	\$1,142,000	\$200,000	\$942,000
Pebble Cove Park Development	Dubuque	City of Dubuque	New park development.	\$214,000	\$0	\$214,000
Roosevelt Park Development	Dubuque	City of Dubuque	Phase 1 Park Development.	\$300,000	\$35,000	\$265,000
Southwest Arterial Trail	Dubuque	City of Dubuque	Connecting at Seippel Road to current bike lanes in Key West via Southwest Arterial Corridor.	\$6,000,000	-	\$6,000,000

Project Title	County	Sponsor	Project Description	Total Est. Cost	Committed Funding	Funding Needed
Usha Park Amenity Additions	Dubuque	City of Dubuque	Complete development of park with additional amenities.	\$250,000	\$115,000	\$135,000
Valentine Park Pavilion Addition	Dubuque	City of Dubuque	Addition of pavilion to this popular park.	\$50,000	\$0	\$50,000
Westbrooke Park Development	Dubuque	City of Dubuque	New park development.	\$214,000	\$0	\$214,000
Baseball field improvements	Dubuque	City of Dyersville	Candy Cane Softball/Baseball field improvements	-	-	-
Bear Creek improvement	Dubuque	City of Dyersville	Bear Creek Restoration	-	-	-
Beltline Trail	Dubuque	City of Dyersville	Beltline Trail Expansion	-	-	-
Dyersville Band Shell	Dubuque	City of Dyersville	City Square Bandshell/Park	-	-	-
Dyersville Water Trail	Dubuque	City of Dyersville	FOD water trail	-	-	-
Pedestrian Trail Expansion	Dubuque	City of Dyersville	Increase pedestrian trails within community—connect schools to parks, connect outlying subdivision and hospital (across highway) to downtown.	\$7,000,000	\$0	\$7,000,000
Riverwalk Trail Dyersville	Dubuque	City of Dyersville	The Landing Riverwalk Trail	-	-	-
Vorwald Trail	Dubuque	City of Dyersville	Vorwald Bridge walking trail	-	-	-
Bowstring Prairie Development	Dubuque	Dubuque County	Convert hay fields into native prairies at Bowstring Wildlife Area.	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$0
Farley Park Improvements	Dubuque	City of Farley	Complete revitalization of Farley City Park	\$1,400,000	\$1,200,000	\$200,000
Farley Park Trails	Dubuque	City of Farley	Construct trails in Farley City Park	-	-	-
Heritage Trail Connection	Dubuque	City of Farley	Construct trail connecting the city to the Heritage Trail	-	-	-
Heritage Pond Campground Improvements	Dubuque	Dubuque County	Park development and campground improvements at the Heritage Pond Campground. A shower building/restroom facility and playground equipment are just some of the amenities that are needed.	\$416,000	\$0	\$416,000
Heritage Trail Improvements Rupp Hollow to Dyersville	Dubuque	Dubuque County	Hybrid Option for hard surfacing Heritage Trail from Rupp Hollow Road to Dyersville. A 10' wide portion of the trail will be hard surfaced and a 3' shoulder will be crushed limestone for runners and walkers who prefer a lower impact surface.	\$8,960,000	\$0	\$8,960,000
Heritage Trail Tent Camping	Dubuque	Dubuque County	Develop a small, bike/walk in tent camping area next to Heritage Trail, located in the Twin Springs area.	\$44,800	\$25,000	\$19,800
IPP parking	Dubuque	Dubuque County	Improve and expand the parking lot at the Interstate Power Preserve. The area has become very popular now that the mountain bike trails are completed.	\$192,000	\$0	\$192,000
Lytle Creek access	Dubuque	Dubuque County	Create a kayak access to Lytle Creek, located at the Bowstring Wildlife Area.	\$64,000	\$25,000	\$39,000
New Wine Park trail improvements	Dubuque	Dubuque County	Restore the existing hiking trails at New Wine Park. Additional trails would be added along with more trailheads to more easily access these amenities.	\$32,000	\$0	\$32,000
Proving Grounds Disc Golf	Dubuque	Dubuque County	Add a frisbee golf course and rock climbing area to the Proving Grounds Recreation Area.	\$102,400	\$0	\$102,400
Proving Grounds Parking	Dubuque	Dubuque County	Add parking at the very popular Proving Grounds Recreation Area.	\$96,000	\$0	\$96,000
Swiss Valley Stream Stabilization	Dubuque	Dubuque County	Bank stabilization in portions of the stream located in Swiss Valley Park. Stream access will be created for more recreational opportunities and alleviate the problem of patrons playing in the vehicle creek crossing.	\$550,000	\$550,000	\$0
Swiss Valley Tent Camping Improvements	Dubuque	Dubuque County	Construct of tent camping platforms at the Swiss Valley Nature Preserve. These platforms will be used for hike-in tent camping only.	\$32,000	\$0	\$32,000
Water Trails	Dubuque	Dubuque County	Promote canoe and kayak opportunities on the county's water trails	-	-	-
Whitewater Improvements	Dubuque	Dubuque County	Add a learning pavilion and restroom at the Whitewater Canyon Wildlife Area. Our Naturalists would be able to conduct more environmental education programs once these facilities are created. They would also be available for area visitors to utilize.	\$192,000	\$0	\$192,000
Dubuque County Total				\$42,545,200	\$4,635,000	\$37,910,200

Jackson County Future Projects

Project Title	County	Sponsor	Project Description	Total Est. Cost	Committed Funding	Funding Needed
Quarry Trail Paving	Jackson	Bellevue State Park	Finish paving the Quarry trail from the Butterfly garden to Felderman Park.	-	-	-
Nelson Unit to Dyas Unit Trail	Jackson	Bellevue State Park	Construct a trail connecting the Nelson Unit and the Dyas Unit of Bellevue State Park.	-	-	-
Bellevue Bike Rental Program	Jackson	City of Bellevue	Bellevue Bike Rental Program. Bellevue BIG is researching ideas and how other communities use a bike rental program.	-	-	-
Bellevue Municipal Boat Ramp and Parking Improvements	Jackson	City of Bellevue	City of Bellevue Municipal Parking Lot Improvements: Boat Ramp (completed) & dry handicap loading ramp (waiting CORE application approval) both through DNR grant. Lifejacket rental program (Bellevue BIG, waiting CORE approval).	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$0
Bellevue State Park Butterfly Garden Improvements	Jackson	City of Bellevue	State Park, butterfly garden improvements, ongoing. A group of volunteers started improvements last fall and look to continue to improve the area.	-	-	-
Bellevue Tree Improvements	Jackson	City of Bellevue	City of Bellevue Tree Board, tree planting in city parks. Ongoing effort to replant diversity and correct trees due to Emerald Ash Borer taking out so many trees in town. We have an active Tree Board and plan in place for future trees in the parks.	-	-	-
Ensign Playground	Jackson	City of Bellevue	Small playground equipment at Ensign Ball Diamonds in Bellevue. This is a goal for the Bellevue Ball Association.	\$25,000	\$0	\$25,000
Felderman Park Improvements	Jackson	City of Bellevue	Felderman Park improvements. Committee has been formed and project ideas have been received. Completion time depends on funding sources & moving compost sight.	-	-	-
Mill Creek Riverbank Improvements	Jackson	City of Bellevue	Felderman Park: bank erosion & stabilization project. Will take place as weather allows. Funding through DNR REAP grant.	\$39,500	\$39,500	\$0
Riverview Park Gazebo	Jackson	City of Bellevue	Bellevue, north Riverview Park, new gazebo. The Medinger family donated land that extends the Riverview Park and they would like to look at putting up a gazebo in their family's honor.	-	-	-
Downtown Trail	Jackson	City of Preston	Trail connecting Genos (ball diamonds) to downtown	-	-	-
Peppermint Park Improvements	Jackson	City of Preston	The goal is to revamp and re-organize the layout of Peppermint Park, eliminate safety issues that pose risk to the community, create an environment that is inviting and usable to individuals and families of all ages by updating the play equipment.	\$60,000	\$27,000	\$33,000
Westside Park Ninja Course	Jackson	City of Preston	Adding a Ninja Course (Fit Core Course) to Westside Park. It included 15 pieces of equipment that promote strength and agility for all ages.	\$112,000	\$16,797	\$95,203
Horseshoe Pond Master Plan	Jackson	City of Maquoketa	Continued dog park development, walking path around pond, dredging the pond, annual stocking (IKES), removing invasive species, adding name plates for plantings, new blacktop, and possible walking bridge over creek	-	-	-
Parks Master Plan	Jackson	City of Maquoketa	Removing and replacing old/dated park equipment, new walking paths, benches, plantings, etc.	-	-	-
YMCA Facility Expansion (2027)	Jackson	City of Maquoketa	Maquoketa Family YMCA: outdoor splash pad or zero-depth Pool, group exercise/multi-use room, and child watch component.	\$6,000,000	\$0	\$6,000,000
Sabula Municipal Dock	Jackson	City of Sabula	Improvements to the Sabula Municipal Boat Landing including pavilion, ramp, dock, and restrooms.	\$350,000	-	\$350,000
Bridgeport Access Improvements	Jackson	Jackson County	Water Trails - Bridgeport Access 2 phases. 1. Grade and place paved ramp. 2. Pave parking area and access road. Place latrine. Planning and design in process.	\$300,000	\$0	\$300,000

Project Title	County	Sponsor	Project Description	Total Est. Cost	Committed Funding	Funding Needed
Canton Access improvements	Jackson	Jackson County	Pave Ramp, pave parking lot and lane, place latrine, sidewalk along placed fishing habitat.	\$300,000	\$0	\$300,000
Hurstville Trail Phase 3	Jackson	Jackson County	Connect trail from 55th St. to 63rd St.	\$500,000	\$0	\$500,000
Joinerville Park Improvements	Jackson	Jackson County	Replace boat launch and build parking area.	\$50,000	\$0	\$50,000
North Fork Maquoketa River Access	Jackson	Jackson County	Acquire land. Build primitive access along Teeters Bridge on the North Fork Maquoketa River.	\$50,000	\$0	\$50,000
Papke Wildlife Area Improvements	Jackson	Jackson County	Papke wildlife area. Build fishing ponds. Land access.	\$150,000	\$90,000	\$60,000
Pine Valley Land Acquisition	Jackson	Jackson County	Land acquisition Pine Valley WMA. 20 acres to provide public access to north half of area	\$100,000	\$12,000	\$88,000
Prairie Creek Recreation Area Enhancements	Jackson	Jackson County	Improvements to Prairie Creek Recreation area. Prairie Creek water quality and recreation improvements, shelter, restrooms, parking, expanded trail system with pedestrian bridges, and disk golf course.	\$2,000,000	-	\$2,000,000
Royertown Access Improvements	Jackson	Jackson County	Pave lane and parking area. Upgrade access.	\$200,000	\$0	\$200,000
Sabula Lake Improvements	Jackson	Jackson County	Middle Sabula Lake renovation. Sallow lake fish control structure. Dredge over wintering areas. Build parking and ramp. Create shore fishing access.	\$20,000	\$0	\$20,000
Spruce Harbor Renovation	Jackson	Jackson County	Replace existing Boat ramp. Extend Parking Area. Replace south wall of Harbor.	\$500,000	\$10,000	\$490,000
Jackson County Total				\$10,956,500	\$395,297	\$10,561,203

Jones County Future Projects

Project Title	County	Sponsor	Project Description	Total Est. Cost	Committed Funding	Funding Needed
Anamosa Art Enhancements	Jones	City of Anamosa	Mural/ Art project connection Anamosa via trails, sidewalks, etc.	\$100,000	\$0	\$100,000
Art Run Events	Jones	City of Anamosa	Run/Walk/ Activities to showcase art in above project	-	-	-
Dubuque Road Overpass Trail	Jones	City of Anamosa	Trail/sidewalk when Dubuque Road overpass is built.	-	-	-
God Bless America statue	Jones	City of Anamosa	Secure permanent home for God Bless America statue in Anamosa	\$500,000	\$30,000	\$470,000
Grant Wood Promotion	Jones	City of Anamosa	Promotion of Anamosa's connection to Grant Wood—Antioch School, Gallery, Burial Place, God Bless America Statue	\$25,000	\$0	\$25,000
Lawrence Community Center Improvements	Jones	City of Anamosa	Lawrence Community Center Improvements: roof, creek bank, gardens	\$150,000	\$0	\$150,000
Park Improvements Anamosa	Jones	City of Anamosa	Add art, renovate fields, resurface tennis courts, add pickle ball and other (future connect to Wapsi trail)	\$200,000	\$0	\$200,000
Pocket Park	Jones	City of Anamosa	Pocket Park in Main Street Ally, continue renovating nodes and streetscapes	\$100,000	\$0	\$100,000
Remley Park Improvements	Jones	City of Anamosa	Add trails, playground, and disc golf to Remley Park	\$150,000	\$0	\$150,000
School to Walworth Fields Trail	Jones	City of Anamosa	Trail/large sidewalk from School District Office Neighborhood to Walworth Fields.	\$750,000	\$0	\$750,000
Swimming pool renovations	Jones	City of Anamosa	Renovate City of Anamosa Swimming Pool starting with waterslide	-	-	-
Monticello Inclusive Playground	Jones	City of Monticello	11,000 square foot All-Inclusive Playground, to be located on city property adjacent to the aquatic center. This playground will bring a much needed space for kids play and interact to the Monticello Community. The Parks and Recreation Department has partnered with the Austin Strong Foundation and recently begun fundraising for this project.	\$500,000	\$2,000	\$498,000

Project Title	County	Sponsor	Project Description	Total Est. Cost	Committed Funding	Funding Needed
Central Park Campground Renovation	Jones	Jones County	Enlargement of campsites, additional electric and water campsites, roadway renovation, cabin construction, playground upgrades, waterless restroom replacement, and shower house/family style bathroom installation.	\$4,000,000	\$19,000	\$3,981,000
Central Park damaged Tree Removal and Replacement	Jones	Jones County	Remove and replace trees damaged during the 2020 Derecho	\$200,000	\$50,000	\$150,000
Central Park Lake Watershed Protection	Jones	Jones County	Convert more of the watershed to perennial vegetative cover. Renovate the existing Pearson Addition pond, and add additional ponds and wetlands where possible.	-	-	-
Central Park Pavilion Replacement	Jones	Jones County	Central Park pavilion replacement project.	\$750,000	\$0	\$750,000
Central Park Shelter Replacement	Jones	Jones County	Central Park shelter replacement project.	\$300,000	\$0	\$300,000
Dillon-Military Bridge	Jones	Jones County	Dillon-Military Bridge over the Wapsi on the Wapsi Trail Loop	-	-	-
Fremont Mill Bridge improvements	Jones	Jones County	Central Park Historic Fremont Mill Bridge metal rehabilitation and abutment replacement	\$275,000	\$0	\$275,000
Grant Wood Trail	Jones	Jones County	Grant Wood Trail connection from Linn County to Martelle to Morley	-	-	-
Invasive Species Removal	Jones	Jones County	Continually working to remove invasive species from land, ponds, and wetlands.	\$600,000	\$0	\$600,000
Jones County Land Acquisition	Jones	Jones County	Acquire public land to further provide outdoor recreation opportunities and provide vital habitat for Iowa's wildlife populations.	-	-	-
Jones County River Access Improvements	Jones	Jones County	Improving access to Wapsipinicon and Maquoketa Rivers. Replace aging boat ramps with more accessible boat and paddling ramps, and parking areas.	\$2,500,000	\$0	\$2,500,000
Oxford Mills River Access	Jones	Jones County	Stabilize the access and Wapsipinicon River by working on the shorelines, remnant dam, and remaining mill structure.	-	-	-
Stone City Information/Visitors Center	Jones	Jones county	Construct an information / visitors center at Stone City.	-	-	-
Wapsi Trail Connection	Jones	Jones County	Connect Wapsipinicon Trail to Monticello and Springville	-	-	-
Wapsipinicon State Park River Access	Jones	Jones County	Complete renovation of the Wapsipinicon River Access at Wapsipinicon State Park. New boat and paddling ramp; and new parking area.	\$450,000	\$0	\$450,000
Jones County Total				\$11,550,000	\$101,000	\$11,449,000
Regional Total				\$65,051,700	\$5,131,297	\$59,920,403

Let's Make it Last

The Grant Wood Loop Master Plan and this plan update have laid out an aggressive plan to begin implementing the shared vision; but this is only a rough roadmap to get us started. This plan is a living, breathing document set at one place in time.

While the vision remains the same, the plan—and the region—will continue to evolve. The tremendous work that will come out of this plan will not have been possible without the dedication and input of the partners, the GWMRR Board, and the citizens of the region. As a collaborative region, successes, failures and opportunities will allow us to adjust the plan as needed to productively meet our Strategic Directions and to fulfill our shared vision.

The region will continue to advocate for sustainable funding for our parks system, stewardship of our natural and cultural resources, and inclusion of healthy parks and healthy people in infrastructure development.

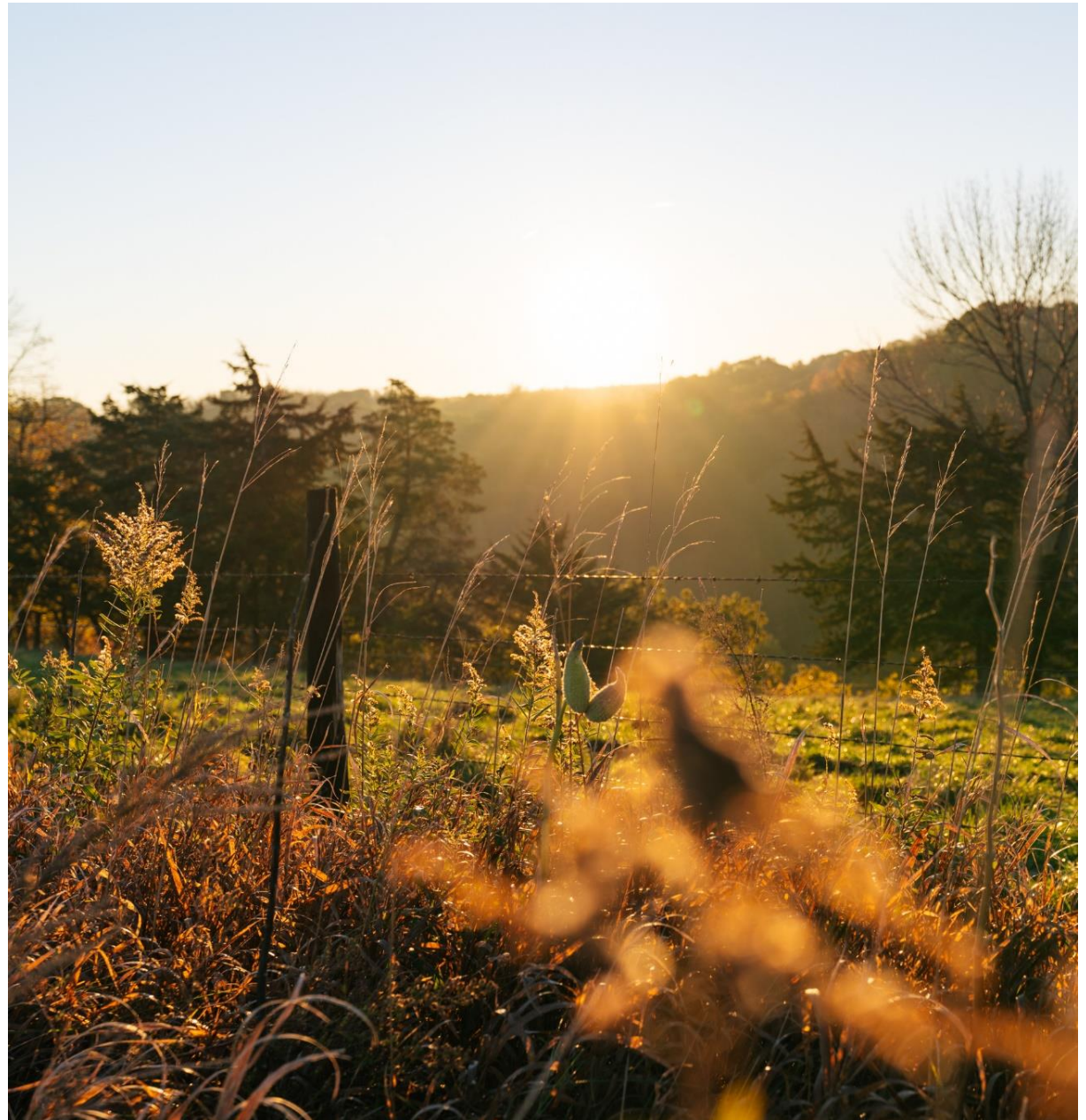
A Final Note

A special thank you goes out to the backbone organization that shepherded the success of the GWLMP, Jackson County Economic Alliance and its staff. Dave Heiar and Nic Hockenberry had a vision, saw opportunity, and worked tirelessly with many people and partners. That hard work resulted in the success outlined in the GWLMP update. We are extremely grateful.

Thanks also goes to the various staff members at East Central Intergovernmental Association, involved from the beginning assisting communities, managing the finances, and providing expertise as subject matter experts on a variety of topics.

And lastly, to all the past and present members of the Grant Wood Mississippi River Region Board. You all believed in the mission and executed on the plan.

Our journey and work continue in the original GWLMP, 2016 and now in this GWL Master Plan Update 2022. The region is stronger and has even more outdoor recreation opportunities in Jackson, Jones and Dubuque Counties and there is more to come!



White Water Canyon Wildlife Area bridges the lines between Dubuque, Jackson, and Jones counties