



Location	Prairie	Wetland	Forest or Riparian	Vegetation type(s)
1. Waterworks Park	X	X	X	230
2. Peninsula Parkland				140
3. Hickory Hill Park	X	X	X	185
4. Longfellow Trail Prairie				<1
5. Rohret Road Prairie	X			1.3
6. Sand Prairie (native)	X			38
7. Whispering Meadows Wetland Park	X	X		18
8. Terry Trueblood Recreational Area	X			207
9. Ryerson Woods Park	X			49
10. Scamore Greenspace	X	X		106
11. Oxeye Prairie	X			22
12. Riverfront Crossings	X			17
13. Hunters Run	X			27

Iowa City Natural Areas Acres & Vegetation Types

See the table below for a list of the areas and the vegetation types they contain.

The City owns over 1,000 acres of prairie, wetlands, and forested areas within several different properties. Some are located within city parks, while others are non-park natural areas. These properties host plants and animals native to Iowa while providing recreation opportunities.

Natural Areas in Iowa City

Natural Areas of Iowa City

A reference guide of Natural Areas managed by the Iowa City Parks and Recreation Department.

March 2019



- Opportunities for a variety of outdoor
- Opportunities
- Species diversity and protection of endangered or threatened species
- Reduced floods and flood impacts
- Educational opportunities
- Protection and enhancement of water quality
- Decreased soil loss and erosion
- Improved soil quality and fertility
- High-quality habitat for a variety of organisms
- Carbon sequestration

Environmental Value of Natural Areas



Get involved:

Visitors can enjoy nature walks on our trail system, join the local bird club, or investigate the landscape and discover the different species of flowers, trees, and insects they hold. Several volunteer events to remove invasive species, collect prairie seeds, and pick up garbage occur during the year. Residents interested in volunteering should email or call for more information. Remember - please do not remove any plants or other materials from the City's natural areas on your own unless you have permission from City staff.

For more information contact:

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Related links:

Parks and Recreation Master Plans:

www.icgov.org/parksrecmasterplan

Iowa City Trails map:

www.icgov.org/trails

Monarchs in Iowa City:

www.icgov.org/icmonarchs



Hickory Hill Park is a 185-acre wooded area located in the north eastern part of the city. Hickory Hill began as a 4-acre park in 1967 and has continued to expand over the years. The park is a popular destination for day hikers, dog walkers, and cross country skiers.



- Woodland Restoration
- Prairie Restoration
- Trail Work
- Updated Bridges
- Signage
- Creek Restoration

Improvements include:

In 2017 and 2018, the Iowa City Parks and Recreation Department was awarded two grants of \$200,000 each from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) program. These REAP grants were received for Hickory Hill Park for improvement of the natural areas.



Hickory Hill Park Improvement



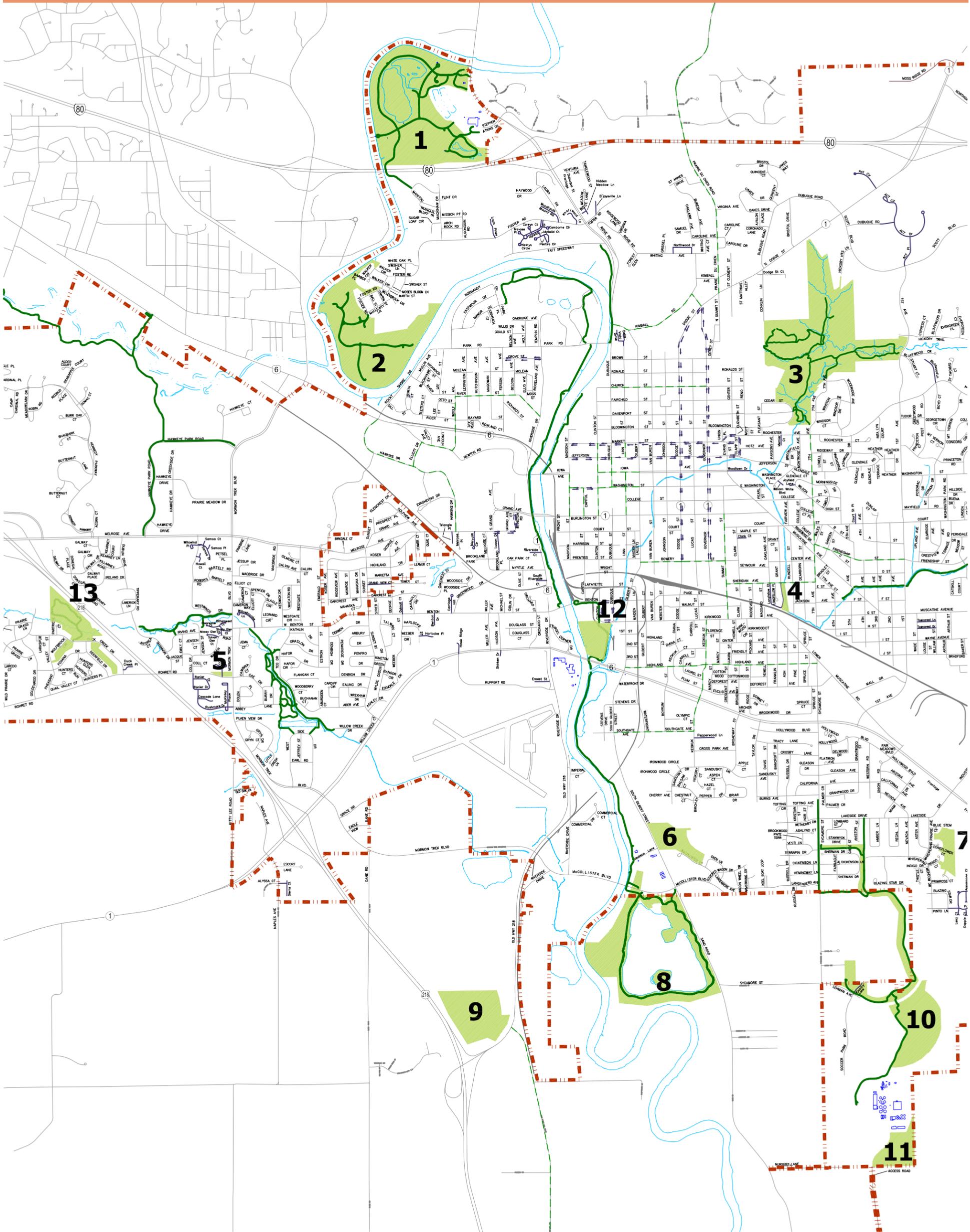
Connecting with Our Natural Heritage

Over 100 hundred years ago, 83% of Iowa's land was covered with prairie vegetation, while forests and wetlands occupied the remainder of the land. In Johnson County, the early historic landscape was dominated by prairie prior to European settlement and forests were present along most valleys where rivers or extensive wet areas protected them from fire. Wetlands and lakes were small and concentrated along valleys.

In a span of around 70 years, ending in about 1900, 97% of our state was converted to farmland. Because of this dramatic and rapid transformation, very little of the original ecosystem exists, and what remnants have survived, are unique and valuable resources to our community. The City's reconstructed prairies and wetlands are now habitats that contain species of plants, animals and insects native to Iowa's landscape.



Natural Areas of Iowa City



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|------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Waterworks Park | 7. Whispering Meadows Wetland Park | 10. Sycamore Greenspace |
| 2. Peninsula Parkland | 8. Terry Trueblood Recreation Area | 11. Oxeye Prairie |
| 3. Hickory Hill Park | 9. Ryerson Woods | 12. Riverfront Crossings Park |
| 4. Longfellow Prairie | | 13. Hunters Run Park |
| 5. Rohret Road Prairie | | |
| 6. Sand Prairie | | |



NOT TO SCALE