

09

PRIORITIES, COSTS AND
IMPLEMENTATION

With all the public input, all the data, and knowing the work and costs associated with the many recommendations, how do we prioritize and plan out what should happen over a 20-year period? Our Master Plan works to balance the input and ideas of the public with the individual needs of each park. We want to work toward achieving the vision of Dubuque County Conservation, while always protecting the health, safety, and welfare of our park users.

PRIORITIES, COSTS AND IMPLEMENTATION

To prioritize projects and recommendations, we looked at each through the lens of these six considerations:

1. Strategic Direction: How closely does the project fit this plan's strategic direction?

Public input shaped the strategic direction, along with the desire to benefit the public's general health, safety and welfare.

2. Priorities: How does the project fit with the highest priorities identified by the public?

All of the key projects and initiatives we asked members of the public to help prioritize are addressed in the plan, but some were ranked higher than others.

3. Values: How well is the project aligned with the Values that were prioritized by public respondents?

4. Sequence: Do other projects need to happen first, for this project to occur?

For example, some projects are can only be done once a different project has been completed – or may need to happen first in order to meet current existing obligations or contractual requirements. For example, it's only possible to begin looking at paving the Heritage Trail

now that the County has completed bridge reconstruction projects along the trail.

5. Cost: What's the cost of the project, and where will the funds come from?

Some projects may have the potential for grant or private funding, or to be funded via a partnership with one or more entities to maximize the benefit. Higher cost projects can take more time and effort to find the funding – but they may also have higher return in terms of values, priorities and strategic direction. Balance is key.

6. Political Support: Is the project one that has been identified as a priority for the County's (and the associated City's) appointed or elected officials (DCCB, county Supervisors, Administrators, etc.)?

Park improvements have been planned to occur over a 20-year period. There's a practicality to this: it spreads the required investment out, allowing time to allocate or seek funds incrementally for the various projects rather than trying to fund the whole plan at once.

Projects are categories as:

- Near Term (in the next 0 to 5 years)

- Short Term (in the next 5 to 10 years)
- Medium Term (in the next 10 to 15 years)
- Long Term (in the next 15 to 20 years)

The top ten projects identified for overall county, to be implemented in the Short Term (the coming 5-10 years) include (in no particular order):

- **Stream Play and Restoration at Swiss Valley Park (see page 204)**

The eroding bluff has deposited sediment in the creek which impacts the Catfish Creek ford, a hotspot for families and children. Potential funding for this project may be available via the Catfish Creek Watershed Management Authority.

- **Parking Lot Enhancements at Interstate Power Preserve (see page 182)**

This area is one of most successful quality of life improvements in recent years in Dubuque County – so successful, in fact, that the small parking lot is regularly overwhelmed. Expansion and enhancement of this area can hopefully be accomplished in concert with ITC, which owns the surrounding land.

- **Tent Platforms at Swiss Valley Park and Preserve (see page 202)**

We see increased opportunities for “glamping” by providing above-ground platforms for tents.

- **Tent Platforms at Heritage Trail Twin Springs (see page 180)**

The public has asked for camping options along Heritage Trail, and the Twin Springs area offers a good site for tent platforms.

- **Pave the Heritage Trail (see page 174)**

This paving project has greatest potential return to the county in terms of both economic and quality of life benefits. It’s not a small project but may be the most impactful and meaningful project in the entire Master Plan.

- **Cabins at New Wine Park (see page 190)**

Once the Heritage Trail has been paved, great opportunities open up in this area, with its proximity to Field of Dreams and options for water play at New Wine Park.

- **Entry Drive and River Access Improvements at Finley’s Landing (see page 170)**

This is something of a deferred maintenance project, but its completion will enhance opportunities for fishing and beach access at Finley’s Landing, which is one of the few places where people can dip their toes into the mighty Mississippi River.

- **Disc Golf and Wetland Restoration at Proving Grounds (see page 192)**

These improvements are in line with obligations made by the County when this land was gifted by John Deere, Inc.

- **Create the Southwest Arterial Trail (see page 156)**

A new Highway 52 bypass around Dubuque has been in the works already. Earth has been graded and leveled for a trail, but the trail has not yet been paved. The city and county will need to work as partners to complete this project and create a full loop around city, connected to the Heritage Trail.

- **Develop the Little Maquoketa Greenway (see page 184)**

This area within the flood plain of the Little Maquoketa river offers great opportunities for long term preservation and enhancement and can become a significant flood storage area. The project is a prime one for potential partnerships between FEMA and the cities along the river.

require an approximate commitment of \$3,300,000 annually, to be expended on projects, deferred maintenance and land acquisition.

- Dubuque County Conservation should not bear the full cost from its own budget. Many projects present opportunities for partnerships, private or grant funding, or other funding sources. The goal here is that there be a minimum 50% match (and as much as 75% if possible) from other funding sources, to cover the annual cost commitment.
- This master plan should be revisited and updated every 5 years.
- When revisiting, all projected capital costs should be updated, as the costs in this plan are expressed in 2020 dollars.

A few notes regarding moving forward from here:

- The projects recommended in this Plan will

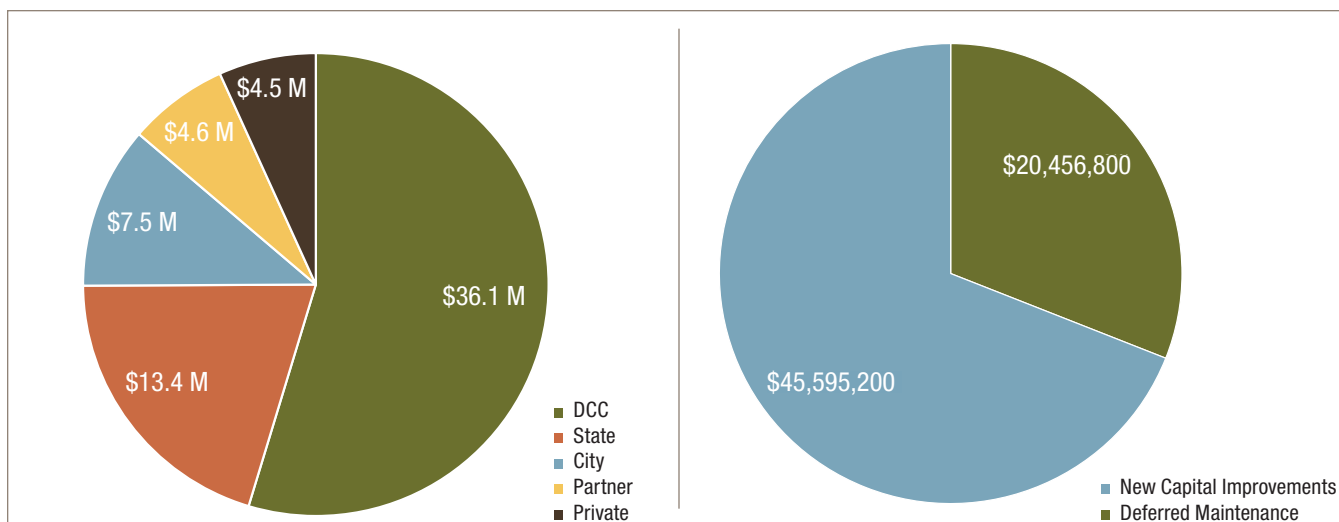


FIGURE 36 - FUNDING ALLOCATION

DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION - PROJECTS, PRIORITIZATION AND TOTAL COST

| Project Description | Prioritization (in Years) | | | | New Improvement Costs | Preferred Maintenance Updates | Total Cost |
|--|---------------------------|------|-------|-------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|-------------|
| | 0-5 | 5-10 | 10-15 | 15-20 | | | |
| Balltown Overlook | | | | | | | |
| Interpretive Outlooks | | | X | | \$1,920,000 | - | \$1,920,000 |
| Bankston Park | | | | | | | |
| Park Cabins | | X | X | | \$1,440,000 | - | \$1,440,000 |
| Pond Restoration/ADA Loop | X | | | | - | \$256,000 | \$256,000 |
| Campground Improvements | | X | | | - | \$288,000 | \$288,000 |
| Bowstring Wildlife Area | | | | | | | |
| Prairie Restoration | | X | | | - | Pheasants Forever, Other | \$44,800 |
| Kayak Launch/Access | | X | | | \$64,000 | REAP Grant | \$64,000 |
| Fillmore Golf Course | | | | | | | |
| Fairway/Drainage/Updates | | X | | | - | - | \$44,800 |
| Clubhouse Updates | | | X | | - | | \$64,000 |
| Finley's Landing | | | | | | | |
| Access Road Improvements | X | | | | - | \$128,000 | \$128,000 |
| Cabin Development/Land Acquisition | | X | | | \$2,432,000 | - | \$2,432,000 |
| Improve Beach Access & Restrooms | X | | | | - | \$160,000 | \$160,000 |
| Improve Marina & River Access | X | | | | - | \$448,000 | \$448,000 |
| Heritage Pond | | | | | | | |
| Campground Enhancements / Park Development | X | | | | - | \$416,000 | \$416,000 |
| Rental Pavilion/Restrooms | | | X | | \$1,088,000 | - | \$1,088,000 |
| Park Expansion Land Acquisition | | | X | | \$960,000 | - | \$960,000 |
| Heritage Trail | | | | | | | |
| Hybrid Option 10' Trail, 3' Shoulders/1' Shoulders | | | | | \$8,960,000 | - | \$8,960,000 |
| Heritage Trail - Durango Access | | | | | | | |
| Parking/Park/Stream/Kayak | X | | | | - | \$1,536,000 | \$1,536,000 |
| Signature Bridge | | | X | | \$3,200,000 | - | \$3,200,000 |

DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION - PROJECTS, PRIORITIZATION AND TOTAL COST

| Project Description | Prioritization (in Years) | | | | New Improvement Costs | Preferred Maintenance Updates | Total Cost |
|---|---------------------------|------|-------|-------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|
| | 0-5 | 5-10 | 10-15 | 15-20 | | | |
| Heritage Trail - Graf Park | | | | | | | |
| Public Water Supply | | | | | - | \$160,000 | \$160,000.00 |
| Primitive/Group Camp | | | X | | - | \$64,000 | \$64,000.00 |
| Heritage Trail - Twin Springs | | | | | | | |
| Tent Camping/Glamping | X | | | | \$44,800.00 | - | \$44,800.00 |
| Parking/Kayak/Trailhead | X | | | | \$128,000.00 | \$128,000.00 | \$256,000.00 |
| John Deere Marsh | | | | | | | |
| Improve/Develop Wetland Walkway | | X | | | - | \$64,000.00 | \$64,000.00 |
| Improve Parking/River Access | | X | | | - | \$160,000.00 | \$160,000.00 |
| Fishing Pier | | X | | | \$64,000.00 | - | \$64,000.00 |
| Improve Fishing/Sediment Removal | | | | | - | \$64,000.00 | \$64,000.00 |
| Massey Marina | | | | | | | |
| Develop Soft Trail | | | X | | - | \$12,800.00 | \$12,800.00 |
| Tent Platforms | | | X | | \$32,000.00 | - | \$32,000.00 |
| Mines of Spain Connection | | | X | | \$256,000.00 | - | \$256,000.00 |
| Miller McGrath WMA | | | | | | | |
| Stream Restoration | | | X | | - | \$320,000.00 | \$320,000.00 |
| Mud Lake Park | | | | | | | |
| Campground, Parking Lot Improvements | | X | | | - | \$256,000.00 | \$256,000.00 |
| New Wine Park | | | | | | | |
| Campground Upgrades | | X | | | - | \$160,000 | \$160,000 |
| Cabins/Infrastructure Updates - Phase 1 | X | X | | | \$2,304,000 | - | \$2,304,000 |
| Cabins/Infrastructure Updates - Phase 2 | | | X | | \$1,536,000 | - | \$1,536,000 |
| Kayak/Stream Access | | | X | | \$96,000 | - | \$96,000 |
| Trail Restoration/Development | | X | X | | \$32,000 | \$32,000 | \$64,000 |

DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION - PROJECTS, PRIORITIZATION AND TOTAL COST

| Project Description | Prioritization (in Years) | | | | New Improvement Costs | Preferred Maintenance Updates | Total Cost |
|---|---------------------------|------|-------|-------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|-------------|
| | 0-5 | 5-10 | 10-15 | 15-20 | | | |
| Swiss Valley | | | | | | | |
| Parking Lot & Entry Drive Redevelopment | X | | | | - | \$2,048,000 | \$2,048,000 |
| Nature Center Renovation & Addition | | X | | | \$2,432,000 | \$2,432,000 | \$4,864,000 |
| Swiss Valley Nature Preserve | | | | | | | |
| Bridge Replacement - Stream Bottom Trail | X | | | | - | \$448,000 | \$448,000 |
| Trail Improvements - Woodland Trail | X | | | | - | \$192,000 | \$192,000 |
| Fen Boardwalk Replacement | | X | | | - | \$128,000 | \$128,000 |
| Tent Platforms | X | | | | \$32,000 | - | \$32,000 |
| Stream Restoration/ Fishing Access | | | X | | - | \$1,152,000 | \$1,152,000 |
| Land Acquisition | X | | | | \$960,000 | - | \$960,000 |
| Swiss Valley Park/Campgrounds | | | | | | | |
| Stream Restoration/Fishing Access/Trail Development | X | | | | - | \$768,000 | \$768,000 |
| Prairie Restoration | | X | | | - | \$38,400 | \$38,400 |
| Camground Expansion | | | X | | \$448,000 | - | \$448,000 |
| New Shower House/ RV Station | | | X | | - | \$448,000 | \$448,000 |
| Reconstruct/Relocate Maintenance Facility | X | | | | - | \$3,840,000 | \$3,840,000 |
| Land Acquisition | | X | | | \$960,000 | - | \$960,000 |
| Whitewater Canyon | | | | | | | |
| Learning Pavilion & Restroom | X | | | | \$192,000 | - | \$192,000 |
| Land Acquisition | X | X | X | X | \$960,000 | - | \$960,000 |
| Little Maquoketa Greenway | | | | | | | |
| Land Acquisition | X | X | X | X | \$1,280,000 | - | \$1,280,000 |
| Wetland Development | X | X | X | X | \$2,560,000 | - | \$2,560,000 |
| Trail Improvements | X | X | X | X | \$320,000 | - | \$320,000 |

DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION - PROJECTS, PRIORITIZATION AND TOTAL COST

| Project Description | Prioritization (in Years) | | | | New Improvement Costs | Preferred Maintenance Updates | Total Cost |
|--|---------------------------|------|-------|-------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| | 0-5 | 5-10 | 10-15 | 15-20 | | | |
| Proving Grounds | | | | | | | |
| Parking Lot Expansion | | X | | | - | \$96,000 | \$96,000 |
| Frisbee Golf, Climbing | X | | | | \$102,400 | - | \$102,400 |
| Changing Facility, Water | | X | | | \$448,000 | - | \$448,000 |
| Interstate Power Preserve | | | | | | | |
| Parking Lot Expansion | X | | | | \$192,000 | - | \$192,000 |
| Changing Room/ Restroom/Water | | X | X | | \$448,000 | - | \$448,000 |
| Land Acquisition | X | | | | \$384,000 | - | \$384,000 |
| Mountain Bike Trail Expansion | | X | | | \$320,000 | - | \$320,000 |
| Park Signage/Wayfinding | | | | | | | |
| Signage and Wayfinding Plan | X | X | X | X | - | \$960,000 | \$960,000 |
| Catfish Creek Greenway | | | | | | | |
| Trail Development | | X | X | | \$6,000,000 | - | \$6,000,000 |
| Southwest Arterial Trail | | | | | | | |
| Pave Trail | X | X | | | - | \$3,000,000 | \$3,000,000 |
| Natural Areas Protection | | | | | | | |
| Wetland Restoration, Buffers, Invasive Species Removal | X | X | X | X | \$2,000,000 | - | \$2,000,000 |
| Water Trails | | | | | | | |
| Water Trail Plan | X | | | | - | \$100,000.00 | \$100,000 |
| Water Trail Implementation | | X | X | | \$1,000,000 | - | \$1,000,000 |
| TOTAL | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | \$45,595,200 | \$20,456,800 | \$66,052,000 |

DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION - PROPOSED FUNDING PARTNERS AND RESOURCES

| Project Description | Total Cost | Funding Partners | | | | | Partner/ Remarks |
|---|-------------|------------------|-------|------|---------|---------|-------------------------------------|
| | | DCC | State | City | Partner | Private | |
| Balltown Overlook | | | | | | | |
| Interpretive Outlooks | \$1,920,000 | 25% | 50% | 0% | 0% | 25% | Toursim, Byway Grant |
| Bankston Park | | | | | | | |
| Park Cabins | \$1,440,000 | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | |
| Pond Restoration/ADA Loop | \$256,000 | 50% | 50% | 0% | 0% | 0% | Iowa DNR, LWCF |
| Campground Improvements | \$288,000 | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | |
| Bowstring Wildlife Area | | | | | | | |
| Prairie Restoration | \$44,800 | 25% | 25% | 0% | 0% | 50% | Pheasants Forever, Other |
| Kayak Launch/Access | \$64,000 | 25% | 75% | 0% | 0% | 0% | REAP Grant |
| Fillmore Golf Course | | | | | | | |
| Fairway/Drainage/Updates | \$44,800 | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | |
| Clubhouse Updates | \$64,000 | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | |
| Finley's Landing | | | | | | | |
| Access Road Improvements | \$128,000 | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | |
| Cabin Development/ Land Acquisition | \$2,432,000 | 75% | 25% | 0% | 0% | 0% | |
| Improve Beach Access & Restrooms | \$160,000 | 25% | 50% | 0% | 25% | 0% | State of Iowa |
| Improve Marina & River Access | \$448,000 | 25% | 50% | 0% | 25% | 0% | State of Iowa |
| Heritage Pond | | | | | | | |
| Campground Enhancements/ Park Development | \$416,000 | 50% | 50% | 0% | 0% | 0% | |
| Rental Pavilion/Restrooms | \$1,088,000 | 50% | 25% | 0% | 0% | 25% | |
| Park Expansion Land Acquisition | \$960,000 | 50% | 50% | 0% | 0% | 0% | REAP |
| Heritage Trail | | | | | | | |
| Hybrid Option 10' Trail, 3' Shoulders/1' Shoulders | \$8,960,000 | 25% | 25% | 25% | 0% | 25% | DOT/Cities/State Partnership/Grants |
| Heritage Trail - Durango Access | | | | | | | |
| Parking/Park/Stream/Kayak | \$1,536,000 | 50% | 25% | 0% | 25% | 0% | |
| Signature Bridge | \$3,200,000 | 25% | 25% | 0% | 0% | 50% | Private Sponsorship |

DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION - PROPOSED FUNDING PARTNERS AND RESOURCES

| Project Description | Total Cost | Funding Partners | | | | | Partner/ Remarks |
|---|-------------|------------------|-------|------|---------|---------|------------------|
| | | DCC | State | City | Partner | Private | |
| Heritage Trail - Graf Park | | | | | | | |
| Public Water Supply | \$160,000 | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | |
| Primitive/Group Camp | \$64,000 | 50% | 50% | 0% | 0% | 0% | |
| Heritage Trail - Twin Springs | | | | | | | |
| Tent Camping/Glamping | \$44,800 | 50% | 0% | 0% | 50% | 0% | |
| Parking/Kayak/Trailhead | \$256,000 | 50% | 50% | 0% | 0% | 0% | REAP |
| John Deere Marsh | | | | | | | |
| Improve/Develop Wetland Walkway | \$64,000 | 25% | 50% | 0% | 25% | 0% | USFW/Corps |
| Improve Parking/River Access | \$160,000 | 25% | 0% | 0% | 75% | 0% | DNR/USFWS |
| Fishing Pier | \$64,000 | 50% | 50% | 0% | 0% | 0% | MFT/DNR |
| Improve Fishing/Sediment Removal | \$64,000 | 50% | 0% | 0% | 50% | 0% | |
| Massey Marina | | | | | | | |
| Develop Soft Trail | \$12,800 | 50% | 0% | 0% | 50% | 0% | MST |
| Tent Platforms | \$32,000 | 50% | 0% | 0% | 50% | 0% | MST |
| Mines of Spain Connection | \$256,000 | 50% | 50% | 0% | 0% | 0% | DNR/REAP |
| Miller McGrath WMA | | | | | | | |
| Stream Restoration | \$320,000 | 50% | 50% | 0% | 0% | 0% | |
| Mud Lake Park | | | | | | | |
| Campground, Parking Lot Improvements | \$256,000 | 50% | 50% | 0% | 0% | 0% | |
| New Wine Park | | | | | | | |
| Campground Upgrades | \$160,000 | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | |
| Cabins/Infrastructure Updates - Phase 1 | \$2,304,000 | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | |
| Cabins/Infrastructure Updates - Phase 2 | \$1,536,000 | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | |
| Kayak/Stream Access | \$96,000 | 50% | 50% | 0% | 0% | 0% | |
| Trail Restoration/Development | \$64,000 | 50% | 50% | 0% | 0% | 0% | |

DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION - PROPOSED FUNDING PARTNERS AND RESOURCES

| Project Description | Total Cost | Funding Partners | | | | | Partner/ Remarks |
|---|-------------|------------------|-------|------|---------|---------|------------------|
| | | DCC | State | City | Partner | Private | |
| Swiss Valley | | | | | | | |
| Parking Lot & Entry Drive Redevelopment | \$2,048,000 | 75% | 25% | 0% | 0% | 0% | |
| Nature Center Renovation & Addition | \$4,864,000 | 75% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 25% | |
| Swiss Valley Nature Preserve | | | | | | | |
| Bridge Replacement - Stream Bottom Trail | \$448,000 | 50% | 50% | 0% | 0% | 0% | |
| Trail Improvements - Woodland Trail | \$192,000 | 50% | 50% | 0% | 0% | 0% | |
| Fen Boardwalk Replacement | \$128,000 | 50% | 50% | 0% | 0% | 0% | |
| Tent Platforms | \$32,000 | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | |
| Stream Restoration/ Fishing Access | \$1,152,000 | 50% | 25% | 0% | 25% | 0% | |
| Land Acquisition | \$960,000 | 50% | 50% | 0% | 0% | 0% | |
| Swiss Valley Park/Campgrounds | | | | | | | |
| Stream Restoration/Fishing Access/Trail Development | \$768,000 | 75% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 25% | |
| Prairie Restoration | \$38,400 | 25% | 50% | 0% | 0% | 25% | |
| Campground Expansion | \$448,000 | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | |
| New Shower House/RV Station | \$448,000 | 50% | 50% | 0% | 0% | 0% | |
| Reconstruct/Relocate Maintenance Facility | \$3,840,000 | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | |
| Land Acquisition | \$960,000 | 50% | 50% | 0% | 0% | 0% | |
| Whitewater Canyon | | | | | | | |
| Learning Pavilion & Restroom | \$192,000 | 50% | 0% | 0% | 50% | 0% | |
| Land Acquisition | \$960,000 | 50% | 0% | 0% | 25% | 25% | |
| Little Maquoketa Greenway | | | | | | | |
| Land Acquisition | \$1,280,000 | 25% | 0% | 0% | 75% | 0% | |
| Wetland Development | \$2,560,000 | 25% | 0% | 0% | 75% | 0% | |
| Trail Improvements | \$320,000 | 75% | 0% | 0% | 25% | 0% | |

DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION - PROPOSED FUNDING PARTNERS AND RESOURCES

| <i>Project Description</i> | <i>Total Cost</i> | <i>Funding Partners</i> | | | | | <i>Partner/ Remarks</i> |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| | | <i>DCC</i> | <i>State</i> | <i>City</i> | <i>Partner</i> | <i>Private</i> | |
| Proving Grounds | | | | | | | |
| Parking lot expansion | \$96,000 | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | |
| Frisbee Golf, Climbing | \$102,400 | 50% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 50% | |
| Changing Facility, Water | \$448,000 | 50% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 50% | |
| Interstate Power Preserve | | | | | | | |
| Parking lot expansion | \$192,000 | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | |
| Changing Room/ Restroom/Water | \$448,000 | 50% | 0% | 0% | 50% | 0% | |
| Land Acquisition | \$384,000 | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | |
| Mountain Bike Trail Expansion | \$320,000 | 25% | 25% | 0% | 0% | 50% | |
| Park Signage/Wayfinding | | | | | | | |
| Signage and Wayfinding Plan | \$960,000 | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | |
| Catfish Creek Greenway | | | | | | | |
| Trail Development | \$6,000,000 | 25% | 25% | 50% | 0% | 0% | |
| Southwest Arterial Trail | | | | | | | |
| Pave Trail | \$3,000,000 | 25% | 0% | 75% | 0% | 0% | |
| Natural Areas Protection | | | | | | | |
| Wetland Restoration, Buffers, Invasive Species Removal | \$2,000,000 | 25% | 75% | 0% | 0% | 0% | |
| Water Trails | | | | | | | |
| Water Trail Plan | \$100,000 | 50% | 0% | 0% | 50% | 0% | |
| Water Trail Implementation | \$1,000,000 | 25% | 75% | 0% | 0% | 0% | |

