

Appendix B: State Plan Priorities

Iowa Wildlife Action Plan

A Vision for Iowa's Wildlife

Common species will continue to be common.

Populations of species of greatest conservation need will increase to viable (self sustaining) levels.

The abundance and distribution of wildlife will be balanced with its impact on the economic livelihood and social tolerance of Iowans.

A Vision for Wildlife Habitats

The amount of permanently protected wildlife habitat in Iowa will be doubled to 4% of the state's land area.

Protected habitats will be diverse, representative, native plant communities in large and small blocks on public and privately owned land and waters.

A Vision for Wildlife Management

Wildlife and fisheries management will be based on science.

A Vision for Wildlife-Associated Recreation

The number of Iowans participating in wildlife-associated recreation (wildlife viewing, photography, hiking, outdoor classrooms, hunting, fishing, etc.) should increase 50% by 2030.

Wildlife-associated recreation will be available to all Iowans on public lands near their home.

A Vision for Wildlife Education

Iowans will understand the relationships of:

- Land use, and its impacts on wildlife diversity and abundance

- Land use, and its impacts on quality of life for all citizens

- Land use, and its impacts on Iowa's economic sectors related to wildlife recreation

- Wildlife diversity & abundance, and its impacts on quality of life in Iowa

- Wildlife diversity & abundance, and its impacts on Iowa's economy

- Quality of life for all citizens, and its impacts on Iowa's economy

- Iowa's economic decisions and their impacts on wildlife-based contributions to quality of life for all citizens

A Vision to Fund Wildlife Conservation

Government (federal, state, and county) and private conservation spending will be increased so that the goals of this plan are reached by 2030.

Funding will be dependable, secure, and appreciated as a powerful economic and social investment.

Iowa's Forests Today: An Assessment of the Issues and Strategies for Conserving & Maintaining Iowa's Forests

Conservation of Biological Diversity

Loss of forest land
Loss of forest productivity
Changing Ownership
Lack of forest ecosystem diversity
Lack of well managed private or public forest land
Insufficient availability of professional forestry technical assistance
Lack of awareness the values trees provide people
Lack of community forest inventory data on both private and public areas
Lack of tree species diversity in communities
Lack of Management within the urban community forest resource
Lack of funding for urban forestry programs
Lack of locally adapted landscape nursery stock
Decline of oak-hickory forest types
Forest Fragmentation
Forest parcelization
Consistency and transparency in the development of landowner incentive programs
Lack of forest habitat for species of greatest conservation need
Changing landowner demographics
Economic viability of private and public sector nurseries
Maintaining a supply of native low cost conservation seedlings
Maintain a population of threatened native tree species on public land
Loss of early successional forest habitat

Productive Capacity of Forest Ecosystems

Decline in the number of loggers, timber buyers, sawmills and secondary wood processors
Lack of Understanding about the economic importance of the forest resource
Lack of awareness about forests
Development of woody biomass markets

Forest Ecosystem Health and Vitality

Forest health
Impact of EAB on urban trees and rural forests
Ozone monitoring

Invasive species
Forest regeneration challenges where localized heavy deer populations exist
Lack of trained fire personnel
Building homes in the wildland urban interface
Better oak management within fire dependent ecosystems
Lack of prescribed fire knowledge

Conservation & Maintenance of Soil and Water Resources

Availability of cost-share programs for forestry practices
Recognition about the role that forest cover has for maintaining/improving water quality
Community storm water runoff
Soil erosion
Deriving annual forest income from property

Forest Contributions to Global Carbon Cycles

Carbon sequestration

Forest Enhancement of Long-term Multiple Socioeconomic Benefits to Meet the Needs of Society

Lack of financial return for forest stand improvement activities
Lack of public forest land
Lack of funding for forest management on public land
Lack of applied research for silvicultural methods within Iowa
Lack of funding for forestry programs
Declining involvement with universities
Lack of forestry education in schools
Lack of stewardship plans written in relation to the amount of forest

Issues of Forest Related Planning, Policy and Law

Lack of policies or laws to encourage better management of forest land
Continuing education for foresters, loggers and consultants
Improve communication among forestry stakeholders
Green certification
Assist communities with forest resource management to minimize the effects on trees caused by natural disaster

Wetland Program Plan for Iowa

Monitoring and Assessment

Development of groundwater and open water wetland methods
Partner with Region 7 EPA and state partners on NWCA
Create an ambient wetland monitoring network

Develop data retention schedule and data sharing portal for the public
Mapping for fen sites
Enhance long term management of wetlands
Build upon the existing Iowa DNR "Wetlands" website

Voluntary Restoration and Protection

Identify critical wetland areas for higher priority in terms of protection and restoration
Increase wetland conservation work
Promote coordination of interagency and NGO functions impacting wetlands
Develop and implement fen protection/preservation project

Wetlands Regulatory Program

Improve 401 Water Quality Certification regulations, policies and guidance
Natural Resource Conservation Service oversees Farm Bill compliance for wetland protection
Iowa Department of Transportation wetland mitigation for road projects

Water Quality Standards

Iowa DNR works to develop a classification and water quality standards system

Education

Participate in meetings, workshops and outreach activities with interested parties to promote wetland resources

Cultivating the Future of Outdoor Recreation in Iowa

Improve Partnerships Among Agencies, Organizations and Industry to Collaboratively and Effectively Implement R3 Efforts

Host an annual R3 Summit for agencies, NGO's and outdoor industry stakeholders
Participate in industry-wide 60 in 60 campaign
Develop and host Iowa R3 web page on Iowa DNR website to allow access to resources and tools

Improve Agency and Organizational Capacity to Design, Implement and Evaluate Outcome Driven R3 Efforts

Maximize partner impact through an inventory of current programs/efforts, assist in evaluation efforts and adjust based on identified gaps and deficiencies
Define target audiences
Maintain outdoor participation and license trend data
Design and implement an R3 grant program

Increase Access and Opportunity for Outdoor Recreation in Iowa

Understand where outdoor recreationists live in relation to opportunities (determine recreational capacity)
Develop an urban planning tool to assist development in understanding the value of providing quality access
Expand the size of County Conservation Board parks, DNR State Parks & Recreation Areas, and Federal refuges to increase recreational opportunities
Provide diverse opportunities to fish in urban areas
Maximize marketing resources to promote opportunities to participate in outdoor recreation including but not limited to hunting, trapping, angling and recreational shooting activities across Iowa

Inventory public and private shooting ranges and create a structured plan for DNR owned ranges
Increase consistent technical and financial assistance with landowners to grant public access
Increase access to Access Easement Program resources through an online resource center (e.g., IHAP, water trails, urban ponds and trout streams)
Increase education and awareness of CRP, IHAP and other private lands programs through 1 on 1 meetings with local and state government officials

Educate, Train and Equip Partners with the Necessary Tools to Enhance R3 Efforts

Recruit new coaches and teams to shooting sports
Encourage participation among R3 partners in the development of a formal mentor training program that is replicable among entities and can focus on large audiences
Implement the national AFWA Conservation Education Strategy
Encourage participation among R3 partners in the development of a conservationist club that is replicable among entities and can serve target audiences within a community
Develop a program/process for recycling/reusing equipment to individuals that identify equipment as a barrier to participation

Increase Customer Engagement and Satisfaction Through Improved Customer Relationship Management Practices and Services

Gain understanding of who our current and potential customers are and what they need
Continue and improve communication with existing outdoor recreationists
Assess the usability of the Iowa DNR website and social media channels
Build a tool box that addresses limited public access: programs, access programs, equipment and planning development
Improve regulatory clarity, license buying and camping reservation experience while strengthening customer relationships
Develop a marketing strategy for license vendors to promote increased sales and participation in urban areas and also improve the quality of data collected
Analyze data collection points and systems within DNR and partners to determine our current capacity and what's needed to better track R3 programs/efforts going forward

Communicate Value of Outdoor Recreation to Expand Agency and Organizational Relevance

Create and distribute consistent marketing message and brand across agency and partner networks and communication channels
Clearly communicate the importance and value of increasing participation in outdoor recreation including but not limited to hunting, trapping, angling and recreational shooting

Connecting People with Water and Resources: The State Water Trails Plan

Provide Positive Water Trail Experiences Meeting User Expectations

Sensibly balance water trail experience options between urban and rural, landform region, historic and cultural resource context, and waterbody types
Provide information allowing water trail users to select routes meeting desired skill levels, time available and accessibility needs
Minimize limitations to water trail experiences based on users age and physical abilities
Enhance safety education fro water trail users including skill-building and hazard avoidance

Use Water Trail Development To Strengthen Natural Resource Conservation

- Avoid impact from intensive use to known highly-sensitive aquatic and land-based species and habitats
- Implement low - or no-impact design standards for water trail amenities including parking areas, trails and launches
- Foster a greater sense of public awareness of and inspire citizen participation in watershed and restoration efforts on Iowa's waterways
- Coordinate with other related existing programs to enhance conservation efforts including Iowa's Protected Water Areas, Iowa Streamkeepers, IOWATER volunteer water monitoring program, the Nationwide Rivers Inventory, and the National Park Service Wild and Scenic Rivers Program

Adapt Water Trail Development Techniques to the Waterway's Individual Character

- Minimize avoidable damage to new launches by locating them with consideration of flooding patterns, stream channel evolution, borrowing techniques from the field of stream restoration
- Choose construction methods and materials relative to ability to maintain launch
- Provide tools and training to public managers working in the river setting
- Encourage broad stakeholder participation in trail planning, development, and maintenance including landowners, volunteer groups, and liveries to consider unique, existing local features and develop within that context

Support Public Access to Water for Recreational Purposes

- Promote close-to-home recreation opportunities for Iowans
- Encourage healthy lifestyles related to exercise and relaxation
- Provide alternatives for local economic development particularly in rural communities

Create a Robust, Resilient System for Developing and Experiencing Water Trails

- Develop a systematic signage system for water trail users
- Develop and implement a comprehensive dam hazard warning signage system

Encourage Education in Outdoor Settings

- Integrate historic and cultural resources awareness with recreational opportunities
- Promote learning about landscape impacts resulting from land management choices, including water quality

Support Positive Water Trail Experiences by Initiating Strategies to Manage Intensively Used Areas

- Actively manage intensively-used areas at a higher level than in past
- Utilize training and education with emergency responders, law enforcement, and liveries for hazard mitigation, user conflicts and litter control

Iowa Bicycle and Pedestrian Long Range Plan

Policies and Practices

- Adopt and implement the complete streets policy that applies to all Iowa DOT projects
- Continue to ensure compliance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act on all transportation projects
- Update the Design Manual and Bridge Design Manual to increase the quality and consistency of accommodations design across the state
- Provide technical expertise in the Central Office
- Develop and implement maintenance guidelines to address bicyclist and pedestrian needs

Interagency Coordination

- Provide training for planners and engineers on how to effectively plan, select, and design appropriate and accessible accommodations
- Continue to develop and enhance coordination between the many agencies involved with developing a statewide network of trails
- Support the efforts of local and regional jurisdictions by sharing knowledge and providing guidance
- Encourage and support local and regional bicycle and pedestrian planning
- Encourage communities to apply for bicycle friendly and walk friendly community status

Network Planning

- Reduce barriers created by major highways and other transportation facilities in cities and metro areas
- Expand connected bicycle and pedestrian networks in cities and metro areas to increase access and improve safety
- Expand connected bicycle and pedestrian networks in rural areas to increase access and improve safety
- Encourage transit integration with bicycle and pedestrian networks
- Regularly assess bicycle and pedestrian network needs, identify gaps, and target improvements

Safety and Law Enforcement

- Identify key bicycle- and pedestrian- related enforcement issues based on crash data and other evidence
- Incorporate bicycle safety-related education into training for new and experienced law enforcement officers
- Enact legislation designed to protect vulnerable road users
- Evaluate key safety challenges pertaining to walking and bicycling and develop crash reduction strategies

Education and Encouragement

- Provide education for all users on traffic laws and the rights of bicyclists and pedestrians
- Encourage more people to walk and bicycle in conjunction with education efforts
- Coordinate education and encouragement efforts with partners and events to reach broader audiences
- Encourage the provision of incentives for people who choose to walk and bicycle to work

Healthy Iowans 2017 - 2021: Iowa's Health Improvement Plan

Health Equity/Social Determinants of Health

- Address health access and barriers in rural and agricultural communities
- Continue to promote and support efforts to address social determinants of health
- Ensure that Federally Qualified Health Center patients receive an assessment that includes socioeconomic factors affecting their health
- Assure access to high quality family planning services for low-income Iowans
- Increase health equity and quality of life for people with disabilities
- Improve health equity among Iowans in low and moderate-income communities by increasing access to healthy foods
- Reduce arthritis-related disparities in health and health care
- Reduce HIV-related disparities and heal inequities
- Increase access to care and improve health outcomes for persons living with HIV
- Increase health literacy among Iowans

Reduce African-American infant mortality rate

Continue to provide specialty care to lowans 200% below poverty level through the Polk County Medical Society Volunteer Physician Network Program

Health Equity/Social Determinants of Health - Safe Affordable Housing

Improve housing and infrastructure for low and moderate-income lowans

Life Course

Assure that children have a healthy start

Protect child health and water quality through pesticide reduction

Address all aspects of transition to adulthood for youth with special health care needs through transition planning

Increase awareness about Alzheimer's disease and the importance of early detection to increase early detection

Health System Improvement & Evidence-Based Decision Making

Increase person and family engagement in decision-making

Improve care provided by critical access hospitals and emergency medical service providers to patients presenting with sudden cardiac arrest

Increase the use of standardized methods to assess the development of young children

Increase the percentage of Iowa school districts and accredited non-public schools with concussion management protocol supporting students returning to the classroom following concussion

Improve the quality of cause of death data collected on mortality records

Assure equitable public health services across the state

Use data governance to ensure consistent practices at the Iowa Department of Public Health related to data

Increase the number of Data Sharing Agreements to ensure that data are being provided to internal and external Iowa Department of Public Health stakeholders to promote evidence-based decisions

Integrate services for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs

Expand the impact of the Iowa Public Health Tracking Portal in evidence-based decision-making

Increase participation in all services of the Iowa Health Information Network to create a complete network for health information exchange

Develop, sustain, and enhance laboratory-testing capabilities to detect and confirm novel anti-microbial resistance mechanisms to prevent transmission of difficult-to-treat pathogens

Increase the laboratory workforce in Iowa to meet future demands

Health System Improvement - Transportation

Provide transportation to health care services by making available State Transit Assistance Special Project funds to Iowa's 35 public transit agencies

Health System Improvement - Insurance Affordability & Coverage

Reduce the number of Iowa's children and pregnant women who are un-or under- insured

Health System Improvement - Lack of Primary Care Services

Coordinate care for children and youth with special health care needs through a medical home

Increase in the number of young children who receive a vision screening

Improve access to preventive care and chronic care management services through pharmacists in Iowa communities

Ensure a stable health and long-term care direct care workforce prepared to provide quality care and support to lowans

Acute Disease - Adolescent Immunizations

- Increase the number of adolescents 13-17 years of age who have received human papillomaviruses (HPV) vaccine
- Increase the number of adolescents in 7th and 12th grades who receive meningococcal vaccine
- Increase adolescent immunization rates by increasing access to adolescent vaccines administered by pharmacists

Acute Disease - Flu Immunizations

- Increase the number of health care workers who receive the influenza vaccine annually
- Increase influenza vaccinations in adults 65 years of age and older

Addictive Behaviors - Substance Abuse

- Decrease opioid-related overdoses/deaths
- Increase the availability of opioid reversal agents for patients at pharmacies across the state
- At the local level, share resources and education with multiple stakeholders addressing their issues of substance abuse
- Reduce excessive and disordered use of alcohol and other drugs, through prevention, treatment, and recovery supports
- Reduce the overall number of substance abuse illicit urinalysis and increase the number of self-referrals for substance abuse (alcohol and drug) in Iowa Army National Guard through urinalysis testing at the unit level, substance abuse screening, and prevention education/training

Addictive Behaviors - Tobacco/Nicotine Use

- Reduce tobacco use and the toll of tobacco-caused disease and death by preventing youth from starting, helping Iowans to quit, and preventing exposure to secondhand smoke

Chronic Disease - Cancer

- Increase colorectal cancer screening rates in Iowa
- Decrease incidence of lung cancer
- Follow nationally recognized guidelines to increase vaccination rates for all vaccines demonstrated to reduce the risk of cancer
- Increase protective behaviors from sun/ultraviolet exposure
- Decrease late state breast cancer diagnoses to reduce deaths due to breast cancer
- Increase the percentage of Iowa women receiving breast cancer and cervical cancer screening

Chronic Disease - Diabetes

- Prevent diabetes from occurring in Iowans
- Reduce the complications of type 2 diabetes

Chronic Disease - Heart Disease

- Decrease the rate of coronary heart disease as the primary cause of death
- Achieve a 75% blood pressure control rate at the Federally Qualified Health Centers

Environmental Health - Water Quality

- Ensure a healthy and safe environment for work and play
- Provide clean water to Iowa citizens and reduce health risks by eliminating contaminants
- Ensure that Iowans using private wells for water supply have a safe water supply
- Develop a public health workforce that is knowledgeable about the intersection of water quality and health

Increase efforts to clean up Iowa's surface and ground waters and prevent pollution, with a focus on protecting drinking water and popular recreation waters

Healthy Living - Obesity, Nutrition & Physical Activity

Increase the number of Iowans living active and healthy lifestyles

Reduce the number of Iowa children, youth, and adults who are obese

Improve access to nutritious meals, including access to fresh produce, for older Iowans ultimately empowering them to stay active and healthy

During the summer when school is not in session, increase the availability of meals for children

At a minimum, maintain the current level of participation in the Healthy Opportunities State employee wellness program

Increase fruit and vegetable consumption among low-income Iowans

Increase breastfeeding rates

Increase the percentage of Iowans who engage in the recommended amounts of physical activity

Improve the healthy weight status of all Iowans by creating supportive policy, systems, or environments for healthy eating and physical activity

Reduce the total number of Iowa Army National Guard soldiers flagged for not meeting the Army physical fitness standards, creating a healthier and ready force

Healthy Living - Lack of Oral Health/Dental Services

All Iowans will have access to optimally fluoridated water

By 2020, assure optimal oral health for aging Iowans

Iowans will have improved access to preventive oral health services through I-Smile Program expansion

Healthy Living - Sexually Transmitted Diseases

Reduce the burden of sexually transmitted diseases (STD) among disproportionately impacted populations

Injury and Violence - Falls

Decrease patient falls in the healthcare setting

Reduce falls in the elderly population

Reduce injuries and deaths from falls by expanding the availability of evidence-based programs

Injury and Violence - Motor Vehicle Crashes

Increase traffic safety

Injury and Violence - Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)/Trauma Informed Care

Reduce the number of children reporting risk factors associated with adverse childhood experiences

Build capacity at the local and state levels to recognize and respond to trauma across the lifespan

Assure that children and their caretakers affected by adverse childhood experiences receive relevant services

Injury and Violence - Occupational & Farm Safety

By 2020, reduce deaths from work-related injuries

Mental Health, Illness, & Suicide

Prevent suicide deaths
Reduce the bi-annual numbers of suicidal ideation (thoughts of engaging in suicide behavior) and the number of deaths by suicide in the Iowa Army National Guard
Increase access to behavioral health services across the continuum
Educate pharmacists to provide services to evaluate mental health pharmacotherapy and make referrals as appropriate
Reduce the use of prisons in Iowa to house individuals with chronic mental health issues
Improve state employees' health and wellbeing
By 2020, increase the number of Iowans who receive problem gambling treatment