

# DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION

## COMPREHENSIVE PARKS, TRAILS AND OPEN SPACES MASTER PLAN

### VISION:

*A network of high-quality parks, habitats, trails and waters supported by communities passionate about nature*

- Outdoor engagement is a significant piece of the brand of Dubuque County and its many communities
- Family connections throughout the country are improved and enriched by connections with DCCB
- People achieve health and happiness through outdoor engagement
- Community members develop lifelong skills for enjoyment and protection of the outdoors, achieving a community of stewards—aware of the benefits of natural resources and ready to advocate on their behalf
- DCC has significant holdings, well-maintained for preservation and protection of habitat and water quality
- Ecology is a priority for the community and decision-makers, with all understanding people-to-people connections through an ecological lens

### MISSION:

*To engage the community's stewardship and enjoyment of its natural resources*

- Outstanding parks and gathering spaces that welcome all residents regardless of age, background or ability
- Up-to-date, well-maintained trails, parks and recreation facilities
- Connecting quality land trails and water trails for all
- Nature-based quiet places
- Land and water health/protection
- Useful, easy access to appropriate technology
- Engaging, proven programs of play, education and public health
- Well-staffed and resourced system
- Decision-making that includes the long view

### GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

- 1. Built to Last.**  
We work to advocate, promote and build a quality system we can affordably maintain and protect for the foreseeable future while making sure the public knows the system and the system's value.
- 2. Community, Science and Education Driven.**  
This system is built through voices of the community, employing best practices and sound natural science research along with a commitment to education. These approaches enhance community vitality, social systems, public health, safety and the community's education mission.
- 3. An Equitable System.**  
The system is intended to serve all residents, visitors and their ever-changing needs. This includes physical and social access.
- 4. Collaborative.**  
The conservation systems are supported by public and private partnerships, Dubuque County and its leaders.
- 5. A Caring, Engaged and Educated Public.**  
We depend on educators, volunteers and partners who understand and promote natural systems.

