

Polk County
Water & Land
Legacy

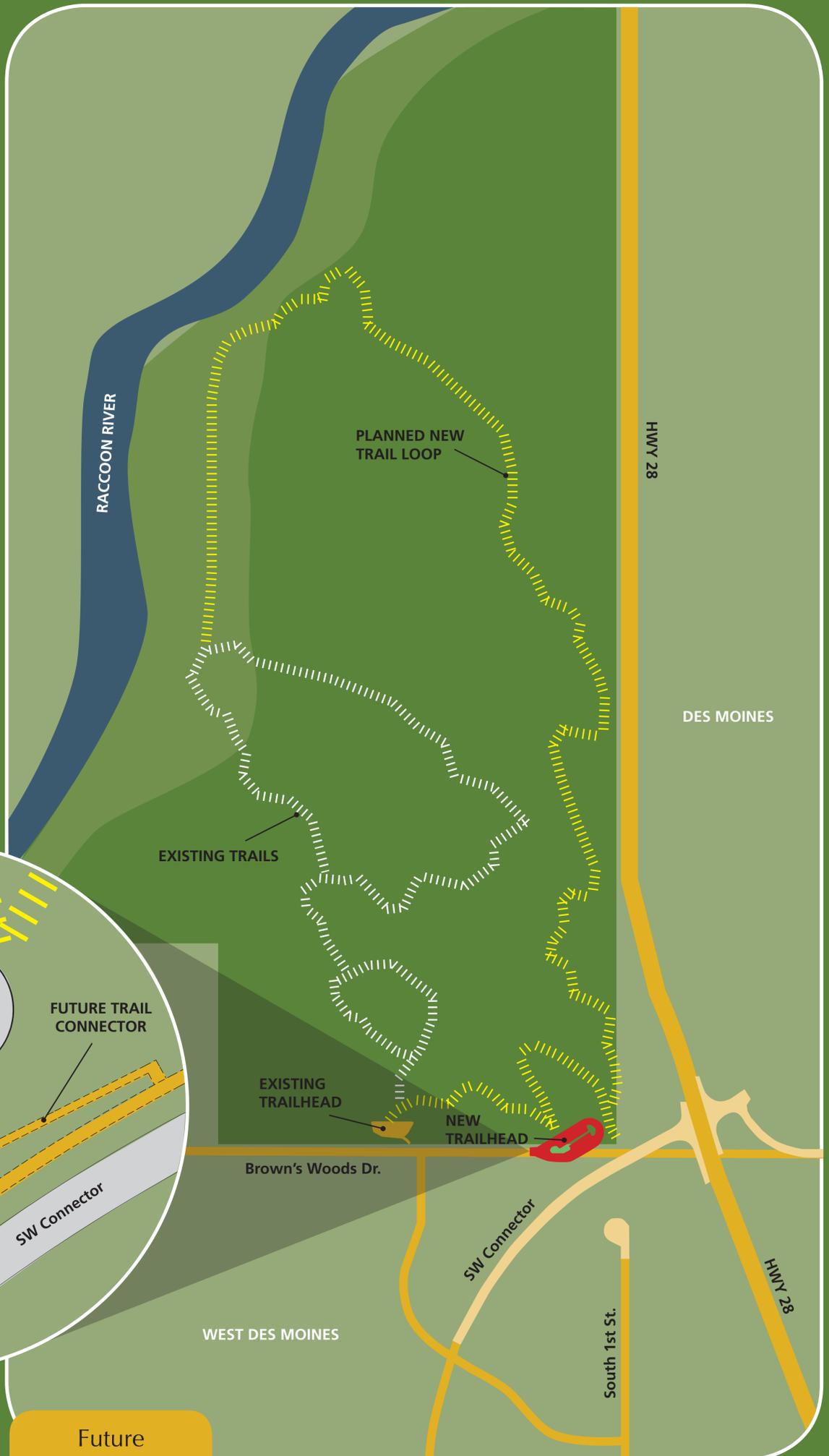
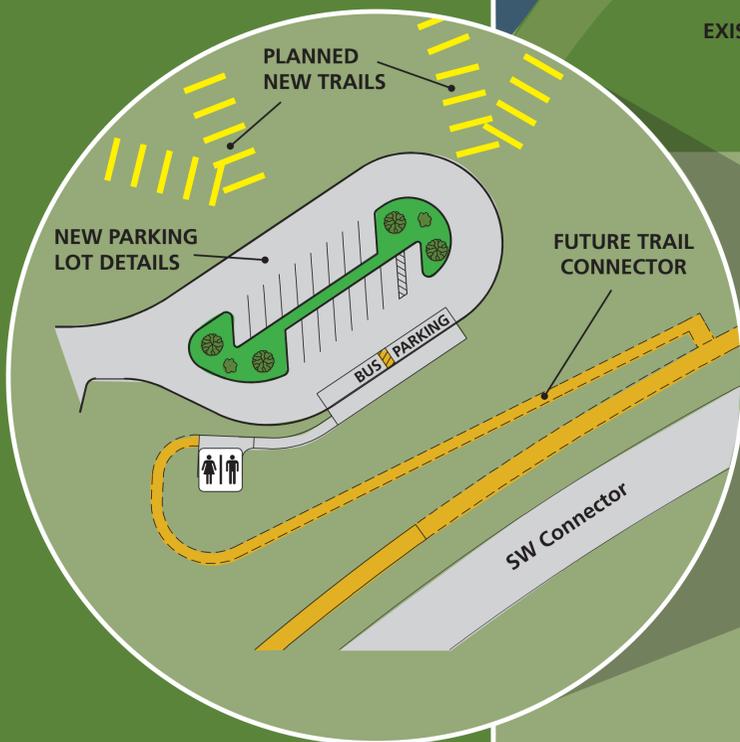
Improvements to Brown's Woods

Brown's Woods is Iowa's largest urban forest preserve totaling more than 484 acres. It offers visitors two miles of scenic hiking through a mature oak and hickory woodland and alongside peaceful winding streams.

Public access to this urban jewel is difficult. The park entrance is not visible, which creates safety issues, and larger vehicles such as school buses cannot access the park due to inadequate parking and steep terrain. No modern amenities exist for the public.

Passage of the Polk County Water and Land Legacy bond referendum in November of 2012 has allowed us to move forward with many priority projects such as this one in Browns' Woods. This project is designed to improve access and use of Brown's Woods. Lighting and improved visibility will provide increased safety for park users and neighbors. A new parking lot will handle both vehicular and bus parking and provide safe access for school children. New amenities include a modern toilet, water fountain, and additional trails. Expanded natural surface trails will provide access to an under-used portion of the park and will include interpretive information. Accessible parking and access to the Southwest Connector trail system will provide additional opportunities for paved trail users.

This project is in partnership with the City of West Des Moines, Polk County Public Works, and Polk County Conservation.



Summer/Fall 2013

- Pave trailhead parking lot
- Begin nature trail expansion
- Completion of the Southwest Connector Phase III

Spring 2014

- Install trailhead amenities
- Close existing parking lot and open new trailhead

Future

- Connect Great Western Trail to new trailhead



For more information about this project, contact Polk County Conservation at **515-323-5300** or visit our website at leadingyououtdoors.org. Thank you for your patience while these improvements are taking place.