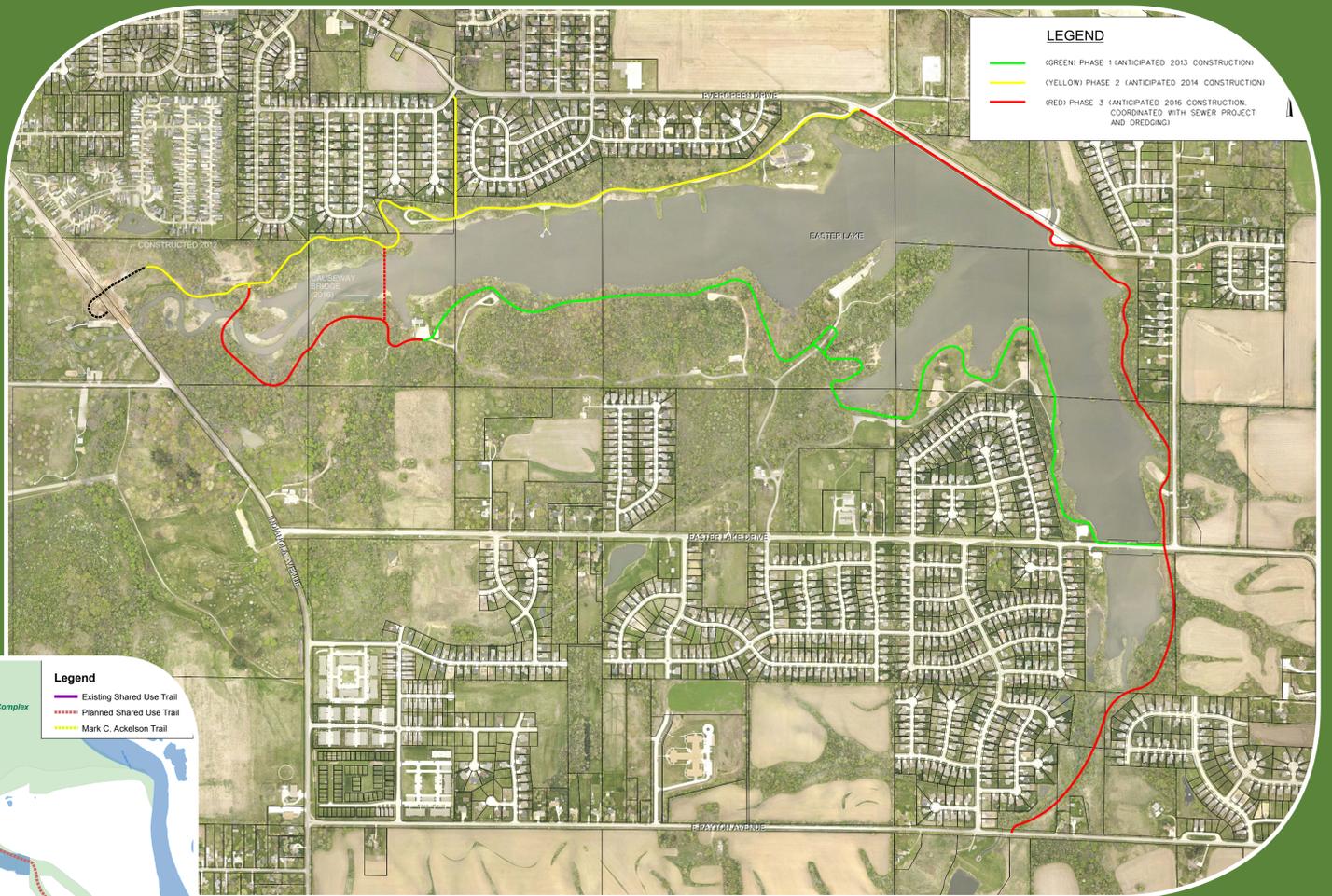


Mark C. Ackelson Trail

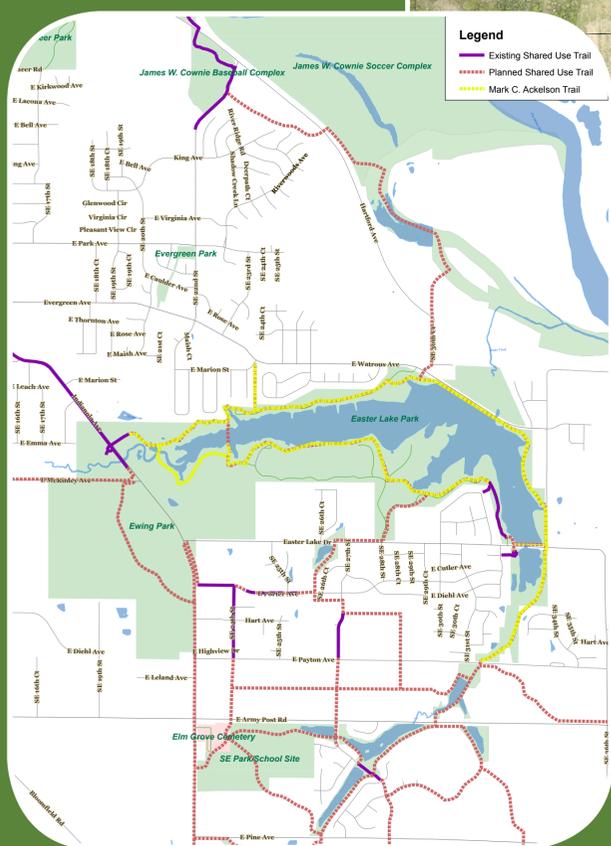
Map A >>

The new Mark C. Ackelson Trail surrounding Easter Lake



Map B >>

Proposed trail connections to Des Moines and Carlisle



Trail users will be delighted with the new five mile Mark C. Ackelson Trail that will loop around Easter Lake and improve the quality of life in southeastern Polk County. This 10 foot wide paved recreation trail will allow walkers, runners, bicyclists, and rollerbladers to access scenic views of Easter Lake and pass through Polk County's only remaining covered bridge.

The completed trail will be over five miles of off-road paved trail eventually connecting the popular Ewing and Easter Lake parks to downtown Des Moines and Carlisle (see Map B). Park users and neighbors will appreciate greater access to the park, enhanced outdoor recreation opportunities, and safe commuter connections.

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 the Mark C. Ackelson Trail. This project is in partnership with the City of Des Moines, Polk County Conservation, and many local, state and federal grant funding agencies.

Mark C. Ackelson blazed the way for Iowa's trail system. He led efforts to create most of Iowa's first trails in the 1980s. During his three-decade career at the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, he helped protect over 130,000 acres of Iowa's prairies, woodlands, lakes and rivers. Ackelson is noted for his ability to build broad coalitions and to find positive, creative solutions to complex problems. His visionary leadership to protect Iowa's land, water and wildlife is recognized throughout Iowa and the nation.

Summer 2013

- Phase I trail construction (see Map A)

Summer 2014

- Phase II trail construction (see Map A)

2015 / 2016

- Phase III trail construction – *in conjunction with lake restoration and sewer improvements* (see Map A)

