



Appanoose County

One of Iowa's
Great Places



Appanoose County - A Great Place

Appanoose County is a **great place** because throughout history it has continued to recreate itself as economic and cultural changes occur.

This ability to recreate ourselves is because our people possess extraordinary **diversity, vision and energy.**

We're now on our way to becoming a major **tourist destination.** We welcome your partnership.



Appanoose County's Puzzle Pieces

The four major projects we are currently working on are designed to better the lives of our residents, our newcomers and our guests.

FUNDED



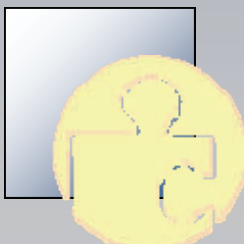
Developments at Rathbun Lake include two sizeable expansions. The Honey Creek Resort State Park is the state's first destination park. The Rathbun Lighthouse will be completed at the Lake as well. Both projects are funded.



The Ritz Theatre in the Historic Courthouse Square District is both a center for regional performers and will offer venue entertainment for all ages as well.



Appanoose County Recreational System includes a new aquatic center, a totally new complex of ball fields, and enhancements to the existing Lelah Bradley Park.



Connector Trail System in Appanoose County is a collaborative program to build trails in the Rathbun Lake area, the city of Centerville, and the county. It will connect the city of Centerville in the south to Rathbun Lake, Sharon Bluffs State Park, and the public wetlands of the Sedan Bottom.

Sense of Place

There is a unique sense of place when you enter Appanoose County that comes from a tradition of embracing change and having big visions for the future.

This tradition of embracing change has been a part of Appanoose County from the very beginning. The county was converted from a hazel brush prairie to rolling farmland by the hands of industrious farmers thus leaving a diverse landscape. Also, a town square twice the size of any other in the state was built for the town that Centerville was destined to become.

As Appanoose County developed, three new economic trends developed in addition to farming. One of these trends was the growing prosperity of the mercantile community situated on the huge town square. Over 40 retail establishments, four banks, five restaurants, and two hotels occupied the first floor of the buildings on the square. Professional offices were above the stores and barbershops were below. Another trend, was that our county became a hub for over six different railroads. There were passenger trains to Chicago and Kansas City and freight trains going in all directions. You could take the California Zephyr all the way to Los Angeles. The final trend was the proliferation of coal mining in our county. At one time there were nearly 100 coal mines in our county employing over 4200 miners.





citizen owned railroad, the Appanoose County Community Railroad. (*This very railroad was to later secure the Rubbermaid plant for us.*) Next, we consulted Kenneth Stone, Iowa State University economist and implemented his suggestions of selling quality goods and increasing the level of customer service.

In the mid-1990's, the people of Appanoose decided to recreate themselves yet again. The maintenance of a manufacturing base was becoming more and more difficult and

Even though these economies started to collapse in the 1940's, Centerville adapted. Centerville Light and Traction persevered and became the Iowa Southern Utilities Company, providing electricity and gas throughout most of Southern Iowa. The retail businesses on the square were still healthy and continued to provide the goods necessary to our citizenry. However, there were now only two department stores, instead of five. Farming methods adapted because of the competition from the large corporate farming in northern Iowa. The family farm of Appanoose still flourished; only now they were mostly cow/calf operations.



a new movement to become a destination for visitors was started. Beautification and preservation of the Courthouse Square and development of businesses attractive to visitors became a priority. Sustainable agricultural programs were piloted in the county to attract visitors and the Biomass Program encouraged local farmers to plant switchgrass. It was also

during the 90's that a group of local officials developed the local and state government support to get a \$40,000,000 state destination park built at Rathbun Lake.

In the 1960's there was a huge effort to recruit manufacturing facilities. The efforts paid off. The first big plant to open was Union Carbide and Young Radiator would follow in the 70's. Another huge community effort paid off when the Army Corps of Engineers built Rathbun Lake in 1971. In the 1980's and early 1990's, three major reversals could have caused a terrible downturn in our economy: Wal-Mart was coming to town, and the railroad service to Centerville was terminated and endangered our manufacturing facilities, and Iowa Southern Utilities merged with Alliant Energy, resulting in the relocation of their headquarters. However, our community's problem solving skills rescued us. First, we started our own

Engaging Experiences

Appanoose County provides and supports authentic, credible, and varied opportunities for individual and community expression, interaction and common experiences.

Our festivals were created to appeal to people of every background and age group. In the summer, we have Community Band Concerts, Heritage Days, Train rides, Children's Arts Festival, the County Fair, Summer Splash at Rathbun Lake, Fourth of July celebration at Exline and Croatianfest. And that's only in the summer! In the fall each of the smaller communities hosts it's own festival. These events are each very different; however they provide fun for every age group. Some are held to raise money and some are just to celebrate. Even more importantly, each of these events is run by a different volunteer organization, so they maintain their appeal!

The volunteer base of our community is one of our strongest features. Not only does this volunteer base run events; it also completes the physical work on many of our construction projects. They donate food for funeral dinners, paint churches, restore historic properties, pick up litter on Saturday morning on the Square, re-upholster furniture for home tours, drive the elderly for doctor's appointments and landscape the Courthouse lawn.

Another 200 citizens serve as mentors at the public school or coach sports in the community. There's something for everyone to become involved in and something for everyone to just enjoy.

Mary Milani, one of our most active

volunteers, said of our events "I don't know what's more fun, working these events or just going and enjoying myself." On the last weekend of September, our community hosts an event called **Pancake Day** that is attended by over 25,000 people and is run by over 800 local volunteers. This is a free event for all who attend. The man hours in preparing for this event stagger the imagination. Instead of this being a burden to a county populated by only 14,000, we take pride in entertaining all of our visitors well.

There is such extensive involvement by such a large percentage of the population of our county that everyone feels a real commitment to the place where they live. We do not live in an environment where we can just attend events. We must create our events, we must organize the events, we must run the events and finally we get to attend them as well.



Rich, Diverse Social Fabric

In Appanoose County there is a rich, diverse social fabric that promotes and encourages social interaction - formal and informal throughout the community or place, with equal opportunity for all people.

The history of Appanoose County reflects that of our nation. In Appanoose County there have been 52 nationalities that have made their home here. This assimilation in such a small community makes us unique. We do not have ethnic neighborhoods. We live, work, prosper and celebrate together.

The first immigrants were Scotch Irish farmers and peddlers that moved with them through the country. They would build strong Baptist, Methodist and Christian churches in all our communities. The early merchant class would become Presbyterian. With the influx of a sizeable Jewish population, a truly impressive retail center was formed in our county and they built their own synagogue. With the advent of mining in our county, several waves of immigrants would come. Many former slaves moved up from Missouri, partly because of the reputation that our county built as a stop on the Underground Railroad. They too, become miners. They founded two Baptist churches, one in Centerville and one in Mystic. The early managers of the mines were Welsh and many of the early miners were Swedish. Two churches, the Lutheran and the Swedish Evangelical Covenant were started to serve this group. Shortly after that a new wave of Italian miners came. They would become known for vineyards and bootlegging. A very strong Roman Catholic Church was formed to nurture these immigrants. The largest group, the Croats, came after the turn of the 20th Century. They formed small towns all over the county and many of these communities sported their own Catholic Church.

We are a community that is proud of this heritage. Every summer we celebrate Croationfest. Another example would be the restoration of the Second Baptist Church. An inter-racial group decided to save the original Second Baptist Missionary Church founded by the black coal miners in 1902. All the reconstruction work was completed by eight former veterans of WWII and the Korean War;



these men worked on the project for three years. In the fall of 2003 the church was dedicated with a gospel sing that was led by Simon Estes, a former member of that church. Simon is an internationally renowned opera star.

The Indian Hills Community College campus in Centerville has a diverse population, including several international students. Many of these are here getting their education and some are newly immigrated to the area with plans to reside here. There are over 20 countries represented in a student body of only 400. In an effort to educate the rest of the community of the heritage of these students, a International Tasting Festival was held at the college. Students from all the nationalities prepared food native to their home and served it to local residents. The event was a great success.



Vital, Creative Economy

Appanoose County contains a balanced, growing, transformative mix of rewarding jobs and sustaining capital.

The Appanoose County School Systems and Indian Hills Community College have been producing a consistently skilled workforce since the founding of IHCC in 1930. The balance of general academic and technical training has developed an exceptional workforce. Some examples of this are the Metal/Machining Curriculum at the Centerville High School and the CAD/Virtual Reality Curriculum at IHCC. Both programs produce highly trained, highly employable graduates that earn excellent wages. This training and the strong work ethic our area is known for make our workforce extraordinary. Our major employers in the area are expanding because they appreciate the caliber of our workforce.

However, Appanoose County has had much success in providing a variety of job opportunities for our workforce that is drawn from six surrounding counties, two of which are in Missouri. The major employers in the county offer a mix of professional, administrative, service, retail, and factory jobs. These major employers are the public school systems, medical complex, manufacturing plants, retail/wholesale, public utilities, and transportation. This diversity of employment opportunity has been the result of a concerted effort to transform the workforce with the advent of new economic developments.

Appanoose County has and continues to be a center for entrepreneurial business development. This county is the home to a high percentage of family owned businesses. More than 65% of commercial, retail and professional businesses are independently owned.

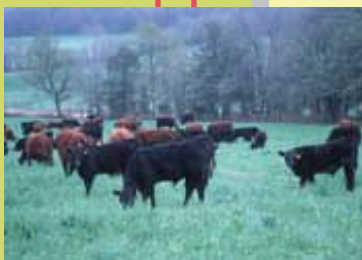
The family owned farm continues to thrive in Appanoose County; traditional cow-calf operations and some of the new sustainable agriculture programs such as growing switchgrass help preserve the stability of our family farms.

Another innovation has been that of “functional restoration” of historic buildings, turning them into useful business and service providers. As a result of this activity, Centerville’s retail businesses are continuing to grow, providing unique gifts for visitors and convenient full-service shopping for residents. This strong emphasis on entrepreneurial development will compliment the development of tourist related businesses in the future.

Our economic growth has been a result of very pro-active organizations such as the



Appanoose Economic Development Corporation and the Appanoose Industrial Corporation. Another factor is one locally owned bank, two regional banks, and one national money-center bank that all believe in supporting local initiatives. Another contributor to this development has been the helpful local quasi-governmental agencies; Chariton Valley Resource Conservation and Development, Rural Development, Area 15 Council of Government, Chariton Valley Economic Development, Indian Hills Small Business Center have helped develop the creative financing needed for start-up.



Pleasing Environment

Appanoose County offers clean, healthy and accessible natural and built environments that enhance the quality of life.

The mix of farmland, lakes and ponds, forests, and picturesque town centers is why people choose to locate and visit Appanoose County.

In a county of 334,720 acres, 9% of this is public lands preserved and maintained for public use. The Army Corps maintains 23,000 acres and the Iowa DNR maintains 6,500 acres that include the Honey Creek Parks, Stephen's Forest, Sedan Bottoms, and Sharon Bluffs State Park. The Appanoose County Conservation Board maintains 1,000 acres that include Leiah Bradley Park and the Centerville Reservoir. These public lands are available for bird-watching, hiking, hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, biking, and boating.

The county is rich in wildlife. Hunting is available all year long for wild turkey, pheasant, white tailed deer, quail, and Canadian geese; hunters have access to private farmland and public lands as well. Several areas such as Rathbun Lake and the Sedan Bottoms are utilized for their watchable wildlife. Numerous bird-watching groups visit us to observe bald eagles and many other species.

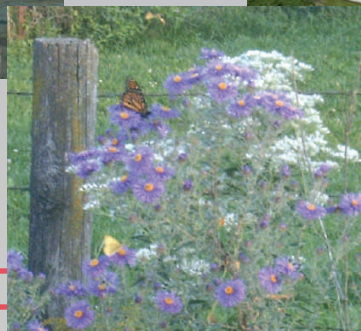
Rathbun Lake, the Centerville Reservoir, and the Chariton River are utilized for water recreation. Each year, one million residents enjoy water sports in Appanoose County:

- Speed boating & water skiing



- Fishing for crappie, walleye & catfish at all our parks
- Canoeing and kayaking on our rivers and reservoirs
- Sailing on Rathbun Lake
- Camping at all of our facilities

The Army Corps parks have 450 camp sites available and the Honey Creek State Park has 150. Leiah Bradley and Sharon Bluffs offer beautiful rustic camp sites as well. Camping in Appanoose County is a family event that includes all ages.



Strong Foundation

Appanoose County is an Iowa Great Place because it contains infrastructure that is available, accessible and responsive to everyone - the entire social fabric.

The strongest building block in our County's foundation is the public and parochial school system. There are four school systems in the county; the Centerville, Moulton, and Moravia School Districts and St. Mary's Catholic School.

Three bond measures and two local option sales taxes have been passed to modernize and expand the high school, the junior high and one of the elementary schools in Centerville in the last ten years. New facilities include a gymnasium at the junior high, a science wing and technical/arts wing at the high school, and additional classrooms at the largest elementary school.



Our county and cities are diligent in road maintenance and new construction. In excess of \$5,000,000 is spent on roads and streets in our county. This is a major investment by the 14,000 citizens in our county.



The sources systems our

being maintain the health of our citizens. The City of Centerville recently closed an old municipal water operation and joined the Rathbun Rural Water Association in order to upgrade the quality of their water. The Rathbun Land and Water Alliance works with farmers in the watershed area to manage water quality for the region. Recent funding from four CDBG Grants and Rural Development loans have made possible two new sewage systems and two infrastructure replacements. The communities benefiting from this are Moravia, Plano and Centerville. Part of these projects will be that the ADLM Counties Environmental Health Organization will manage the rural sewage systems for a four county area.

Public health is also safeguarded by our fine medical complex. The Mercy Medical Center provides regional health care for Appanoose and another four counties as well. It is a large facility employing over 225 people.

The hospital has over 11 doctors available daily and 14 specialty doctors that rotate in every week. A full range of health care from surgery to dietician counseling to elder care is available. Included in the Mercy group is the Life & Fitness Center, the Center for Behavioral Sciences and the new Dialysis Center.

There are four private doctor's clinics in the community as well.

Housing in the county is undergoing a major transformation. While older city housing is affordable and being constantly rehabilitated for first time buyers and renovators, modern housing in subdivision environments is also available. Golfview, Lakeshore Heights, Wind & Waves, Parkside Knolls, Antler Acres and Rathbun

Heights are older subdivisions that continue to grow. Also, many new subdivisions have been established. There were 56 new housing starts in our county—by far the most in recent history.

Another attribute of our community is the available housing ages

for all and



incomes. There are group homes and subsidized housing. The new Continental at St. Joseph has spacious assisted living apartments and an Alzheimer's unit.



Creative Culture

In Appanoose County we have a shared attitude of optimism that welcomes new ideas, based on a diverse and inclusive cultural mosaic.

It is commonly agreed that an artistic culture encourages creativity. A corollary to this is that an imaginative, creative, problem solving culture emerges. When other people listen to your ideas, an energy to implement your ideas and create new ones emerges. This is a phenomenon that has taken place and continues in Appanoose County. This culture has developed because of several factors:

- A creative school system that stresses the arts
- A strong arts-based county coalition that showcases local artistic excellence and invests in infrastructure
- A variety of professional artistic offerings that are made available locally
- An on-going history of local artists that achieved professional status

Our school systems continue to support the arts when other school systems are dropping their programs. Full-time art teachers at two levels, vocal/dramatic music at three levels, and instrumental music programs at three levels continue. Our arts programs create a level playing field for students from differing socio-economic backgrounds. Children that may not excel in other areas are able to express their natural talents in the arts. These children perform in art shows, music concerts, and plays at every level and for every season with large audiences to appreciate them. They excel time after time. The Centerville Schools received the Outstanding Fine Arts Award from the State of Iowa for their programs.

Our children and adults are encouraged to participate in many community events as well. During the summer, the Children's Fine Arts Festival showcases over 800 students in the performing and in the visual arts; local children perform in a Missoula Children's Theatre Play as part of the event also. All summer long, our Municipal Band with 80 members presents band



concerts on our Historic Square. As part of our local Christmas festivities, a Christmas Art Show is held at the Courthouse. This will be the sixth year for this event where over 400 pieces of local art are displayed.

The Appanoose County Coalition for the Arts and the Concert Music Association bring professional performing artists to the area. The Des Moines Opera, the Nebraska Caravan Theatre, TAP kids, and the New Orleans Jazz Ensemble are only a few of these offerings. Each year the audiences for these performances increase. This group has also sponsored and raised funds for a new band shell and major renovation at the Drake Library.

A history of artistic achievement by our graduates and teachers is the final motivating factor for our optimistic cultural environment. Just to name a few, Linda Jones is a renowned accompanist and a professor at the Cleveland Conservatory of Music, Hymie Voxman is the retired Chairman of the Music Department at the University of Iowa, Larry Malett is currently director of the Music Department at the University of Kansas, and Simon Estes is a icon for our state.

The people of Appanoose County are not afraid to dream; they know that many things are possible.



Developments at Rathbun Lake

Developments at Rathbun Lake

The Army Corps of Engineers developed Rathbun Lake in 1971 and year after year the facility developed. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources opened the State Fish Hatchery and Honey Creek State Park. Private investors opened the marina and cabins, Storage facilities, entertainment halls and restaurants were established on the perimeter. The Corps expanded the Lake facilities as well. Camp sites were renovated in 2005. With all these amenities, the federal facilities service over 1,000,000 travelers each year. Although visitors to the Lake came from several states, the park was also utilized by area residents.

With the two new developments that are to be realized in 2008, this Lake will achieve the status of a inter-state attraction pulling many visitors from Illinois, Nebraska, and Missouri. The two new developments are the \$45,000,000 Honey Creek Resort State Park and the new Rathbun Lighthouse.

The Honey Creek Resort State Park was initiated by local citizens and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources in 2000. This effort had been initiated earlier but when Governor Vilsack came into office, the project moved forward quickly.

This huge facility will utilize the entire Honey Creek Peninsula and will be 850 acres in area. There will be facilities unlike any other in the State of Iowa:

- Lodge with capacity of 105 rooms
- 28 Upscale Cabins
- Conference Center
- Indoor Aquatic Center
- 18 hole Golf Course
- Trails
- Boat Ramp & Docks

The Rathbun Lighthouse was initiated in Appanoose County by private citizens and the Rathbun Rural Water Association. This will be located at the northeast end of Rathbun Dam, where most of the boat traffic coming from the marina will be passing. The beautiful lighthouse will be built to include a Visitor's Center, a multi-purpose facility, display areas, and an amphitheatre. There will also be boat access from a courtesy dock.

This huge combined project is different than the other projects included in this presentation. **The funding is already secured for these two projects.** The Appanoose Great Places group felt it was necessary for the Great Places Committee to understand how successful the citizenry of Appanoose have been to make these projects realized. They also wanted the Great Places Committee to understand how all our puzzle pieces work together. When all these projects are completed in 2008, it will catapult Appanoose County into a totally new arena.

Lighthouse

Total Cost \$ 3,500,000

Contributor	Status	Amount
Lucas, Wayne, Appanoose, & Monroe Counties	Assured	\$ 45,000
Appanoose Industrial Development	Assured	\$ 100,000
Corps of Engineers (exhibits)	Assured	\$ 100,000
CVTPA Grant	Assured	\$ 150,000
Iowa DNR	Assured	\$ 180,000
CAT Grant	Assured	\$ 500,000
Iowa DOT Grant	Assured	\$ 732,000
Rathbun Regional Water	Assured	\$ 1,586,000

Honey Creek Resort State Park

Total Cost \$ 40,705,000

Contributor	Status	Amount
2003 State Appropriation	Assured	\$ 600,000
Private In-kind	Assured	\$ 2,055,765
Private Cash	Assured	\$ 2,250,000
2005 State Appropriation	Assured	\$ 3,000,000
DNR Marine Fuel Tax	Assured	\$ 1,400,000
Park & Industrial Roads	Assured	\$ 2,400,000
Iowa Values Fund	Assured	\$ 1,000,000
Revenue Bond	Assured	\$28,000,000

Timeline

Honey Creek Local Stakeholders & DNR form Committee	2001
Land from DNR and the COE are combined for park area	2002
State appropriation received	2003
Feasibility study completed	2004
State appropriation received	2004
Rathbun Lighthouse Committee formed	2004
Legislative action to obtain water rights for RRWA commence	2004
Visit by Governor Vilsack to endorse the project	2005
Road constructed into the park	2005
Pre-design completed for Honey Creek	2005
State cultural and environmental clearances obtained	2005
Design/Bid documentation completed for the Lighthouse	2005
Regency Hotel Management contracted to design & manage Honey Creek	2005
Legislation for Revenue Bond passed	2006

FUNDED



The Honey Creek Resort State Park will be owned by the Honey Creek State Park/Iowa DNR, Rathbun Lighthouse/Rathbun Rural Water Association

Ritz Theatre

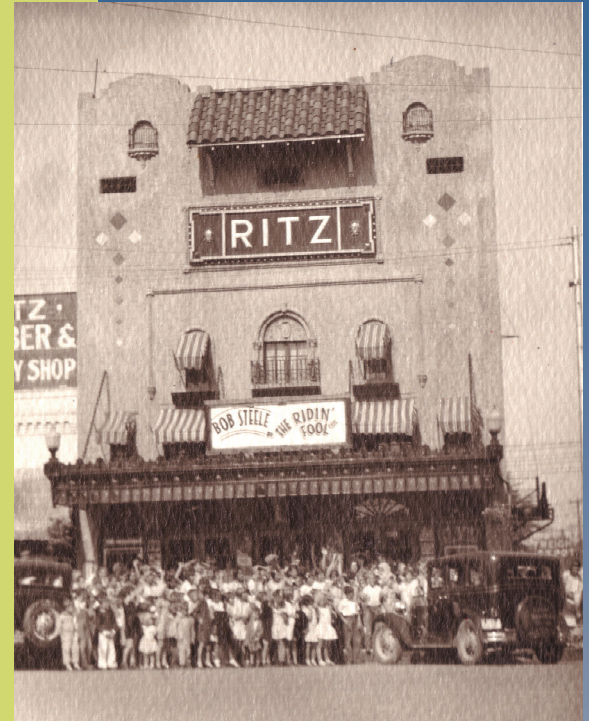
Ritz Theatre Historic Courthouse Square (NRHP)

The reconstruction of the Ritz Theatre is the final step needed to complete the improvements on the Historic Courthouse Square in Appanoose County.

The theatre will be a regional performing arts center with very diverse offerings. It will have four floors and seat 400. The original theatre will be doubled in size in order for the theatre to provide a full venue of entertainment. The two buildings adjacent to the original Ritz have already been purchased and construction is underway.

A summer stock company will provide most of the entertainment in the summer, catering to tourists visiting Appanoose County. The rest of the year there will be country music, bluegrass, local recitals, touring theatre groups, touring concert groups, and children's theatre. The ACCA introduced the Ritz Family Theatre Series to build a regional audience and test the business plan. The size of the audiences proved that the business plan was viable and that the theatre would have regional appeal.

During the last fifteen years our Historic Courthouse Square District has experienced immense change. This transformation started after two important events, the placement of our Square on the National Register of Historic Places and the restoration of the Continental Hotel by our benefactor, Morgan Cline. Over 20 buildings on the Square have been rehabilitated, the Courthouse has undergone major improvements, massive landscaping has beautified the courtyard, a new band shell has been erected, and an extensive streetscape has been completed. With the addition of the beautifully appointed and multi-functional Ritz Theatre, the Historic Courthouse Square District will become one of Iowa's premier destinations for visitors.



Total Cost **\$ 2,500,000**
Great Places Support **\$ 300,000**

Contributor	Status	Amount
Historic Site/REAP	Assured	\$ 90,000
Pledges	Assured	\$ 610,000
Hotel/Motel Taxes	Assured	\$ 100,000
In-Kind (demolition, excavation, and painting)	Assured	\$ 300,000
Corporate Foundations	Assured	\$ 100,000
CAT Grant	Anticipated	\$ 700,000
Great Places	Anticipated	\$ 300,000
Great American Treasure's Grant	Anticipated	\$ 100,000
Corporate Giving	Anticipated	\$ 100,000
Major Donors	Anticipated	\$ 100,000

Financial Partners

Morgan Cline, City of Centerville, County of Appanoose, State Historical Society of Iowa, Centerville Chamber of Commerce, Hotel/Motel Organization, Iowa Trust & Savings Bank, US Bank, Appanoose County Industrial Corporation, Hall Engineering and Rotary.



Timeline

Morgan Cline gifts the original theatre to ACCA	2001
Crew of over 200 volunteers gutted the inside	2001
Initial fund-raising campaign	2001
Ritz business plan developed	2003
Major donor drive raises \$410,000	2003
Ericsson & Leusink architectural firm contracted	2003
Adjacent building purchased	2003
First corporate donation received	2004
Mural painted on lower façade	2004
Executive Director hired for project	2005
Ritz Family Series piloted	2005
Architectural design approved	2006
Next adjacent building purchased	2006
Façade of the original building renovated	2006
Adjacent buildings demolished	2007
Basements dug or deepened for the new building	2007
Steel superstructure and exterior walls erected	2007
Interior completed	2008
Theatre fittings installed	2008
Open for Summer Stock season	2008

The plan is to open at the same time that the Honey Creek Resort State Park is open, Summer of 2008.

Puzzle Piece



The Ritz theatre is owned by the Appanoose County Coalition for the Arts, a non-profit corporation 501c3.

Appanoose County Recreational System

Appanoose County Recreational System

A new Aquatic Center at our historic Cline Park (formerly Centerville City Park), a new site called the Cline Family Sports Complex and enhancements to the existing Lelah Bradley Park are being completed for the children, teenagers and families in our community. Our county has been so focused on economic development that the recreational needs of our residents have been neglected. Our community leaders finally agreed that the quality of life offered for newcomers was as important as the employment opportunities. The development of the Cline sites should rectify this.

The Aquatic Center will replace a swimming pool built by the WPA in the 1930's that is extremely expensive for the community to maintain. Also, it does not offer all the features that are now expected by the public. The need for this aquatic center became more apparent as local families would drive out of town to go swimming instead of using our old pool. The new Aquatic Center will have a water slide, rain drop, fire truck slide, 20 foot umbrellas, log slice water walk, 1 and 3 meter diving boards, and a new bathhouse concessions building. The new Aquatic Center will be more cost effective, more safe, and more fun.

The new Cline Family Sports Complex is a 40 acre site that will be the connector for three other facilities, the athletic fields located at Lakeview School, the Youth Center, and the Lelah Bradley Park/Reservoir. New trails and new roads will connect the four recreational areas and make it into one site. The Cline Family Sports Complex will include four men's and women's softball fields, four youth soccer fields, one adult soccer field, four volleyball courts, two adult football fields, two six-person football fields, two basket ball courts, and two horseshoe courts.

Another element of the Appanoose County Recreational System is the expansion and improvements planned for the Lelah Bradley Park. Appanoose County Conservation procured 147 acres needed for the Sports Complex as well as that needed to expand the Lelah Bradley Park. Lelah Bradley Park currently offers an upper and lower reservoir, 8 miles of trails, playground, camping sites, and boat ramps. The reservoirs are limited to trolling motors to maintain the natural habitat. The improvements will include further trail development, adding two ponds, wetland construction, timber improvements, and the construction of prairie with an outdoor classroom.

Total Cost	\$ 4,800,000
Great Places Support	\$ 200,000

Contributor	Status	Amount
Local Option Sales Tax	Assured	\$ 1,400,000
REAP Grant	Assured	\$ 40,000
Lelah Bradley Funds	Assured	\$ 735,000
Pledges	Assured	\$ 1,550,000
Vision Iowa Grant (Aquatic Center)	Anticipated	\$ 100,000
CAT Grant (Sports Complex)	Anticipated	\$ 425,000
Great Places	Anticipated	\$ 200,000
Pledges	Anticipated	\$ 350,000



Financial Partners

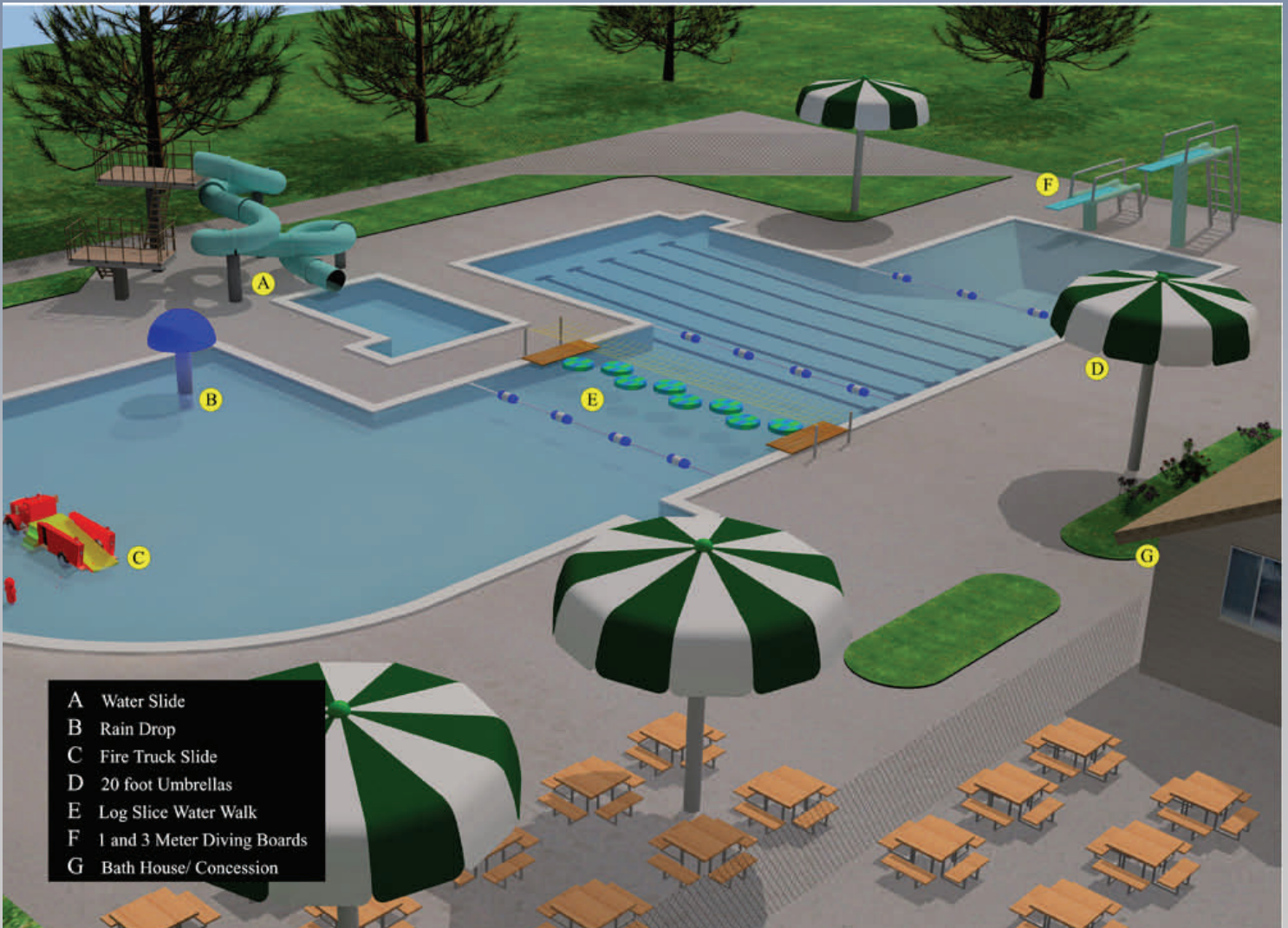
City of Centerville, Appanoose County Board of Supervisors, Department of Natural Resources, Appanoose Industrial Corporation, Morgan Cline .



Puzzle Piece



Timeline	
Local Option Sales Tax passed	2001
Feasibility Study completed for Aquatic Center	2003
Select Architect for Aquatic Center	2004
Sports Complex Initiative Launched	2004
Site for Aquatic Center selected	2005
Design for Aquatic Center received	2005
Youth Center completed	2005
Design for Sports Complex & Lelah Bradley Park finalized	2006
Trail construction begins in Lelah Bradley	2006
Bid documents for Aquatic Center received	2007
Construction on Sports Complex begins	2007
Construction on Aquatic begins in off season	2007
All three installations open in the Spring	2008



- A Water Slide
- B Rain Drop
- C Fire Truck Slide
- D 20 foot Umbrellas
- E Log Slice Water Walk
- F 1 and 3 Meter Diving Boards
- G Bath House/ Concession

Connector Trail System

Connector Trail System in Appanoose County

Significant trail development has been completed by four separate entities; the Rathbun Lake Army Corps of Engineers, the Appanoose County Conservation Board, Chariton Valley RC & D and the Department of Natural Resources. The Army Corps of Engineers built the Oxbow Trail that highlights river-bottom forest countryside; it is excellent for bird watching and the study of other wildlife. Two other trails were collaborative efforts by the Army Corps of Engineers and user groups; they are the Snowmobile trail and the Off Road Vehicle Area. The Appanoose County Conservation Board has built trails that traverse the Lelah Bradley Park and Sharon Bluffs State Park. These trails are multi-use for hikers and bikers. Trail development in the county to date has cost in excess of \$2,000,000. A 2.5 mile primitive hiking trail on the Honey Creek Peninsula was developed by the Chariton Valley RC&D and the DNR for the Resort Park.

Although all of these entities have other long term plans that include more trails, their current focus is to determine the feasibility of a trail system that links the County Conservation sites of Lelah Bradley Park, Sharon Bluffs State Park, and Sedan Bottoms wetlands with the Rathbun Lake area. This new trail system will enhance the Rathbun Lake tourism attraction but will also be used extensively by the citizens of Appanoose County.

Initial planning and feasibility studies are needed to determine the conceptual plans and phasing of this very large undertaking. Complex items such as land acquisition, crossing structures, safety, biological and cultural clearances, trail design standards, layout and engineering design standards will need to be studied. With this project, as with any other major project, all elements of the project must be analyzed before community support and funding can be established. A comprehensive feasibility study/plan will also count as match once the decision to move ahead has been made.

This connector trail system that is to be determined feasible will be considered multi-use for hikers and bikers. It will take the following journey through our county:

- Traverse the northern edge of Rathbun Lake on Corps of Engineers property. This portion of the trail will accommodate equestrian users as well as mountain bikers and hikers from Rathbun Lake.
- Travel cross county to the edge of Centerville
- Encircle the community of Centerville on the Western and Southern side to include all the recreational areas
- Travel along an improved Highway 2 east to end at the Sharon Bluffs State Park operated by Appanoose County Conservation
- Connect Sharon Bluffs with the Sedan Bottoms wetlands in the Southeast

The Great Places support could be utilized to leverage additional funds for the very important first phase of a very extensive trail system.

Iowa Partners

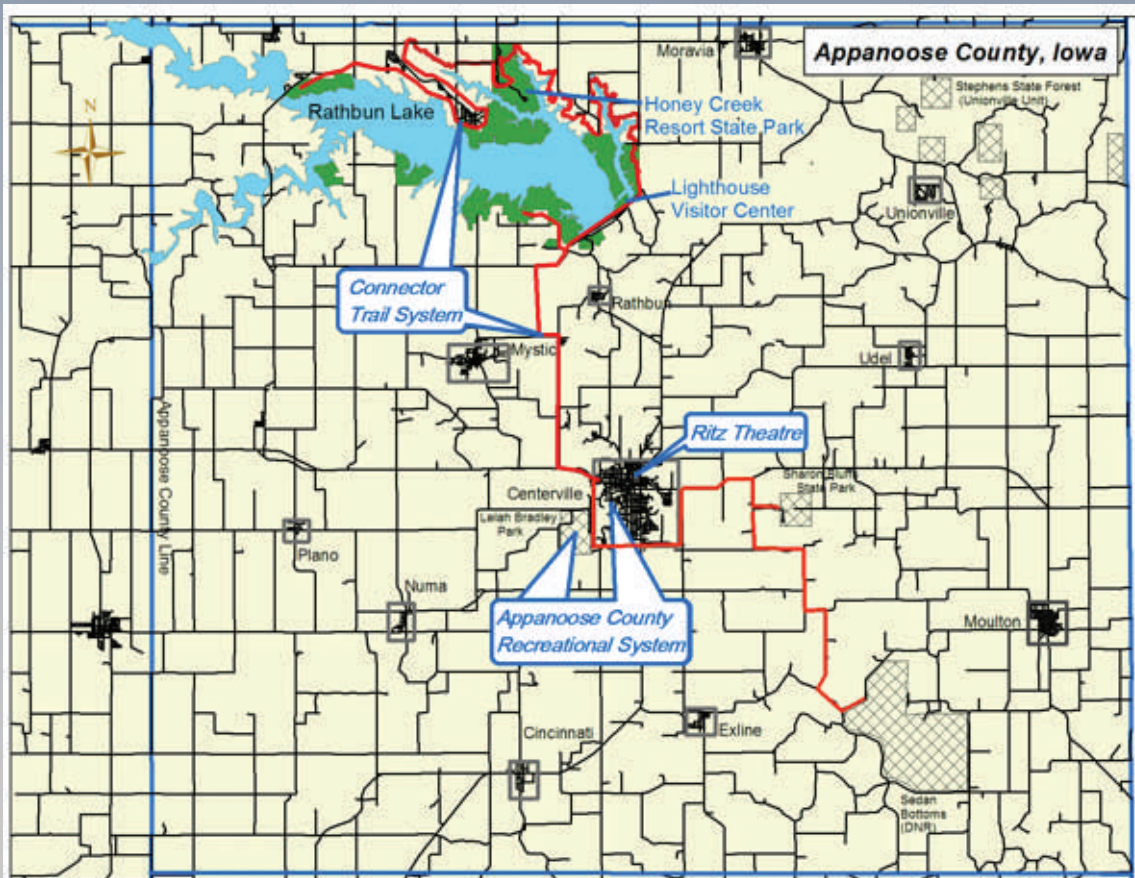
Rathbun Lake Association, Appanoose County Conservation Board, Army Corps of Engineers, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Appanoose County Board of Supervisors, Department of Natural Resources, Rathbun Lake Trails Association, City of Centerville, Chariton Valley RC & D, Iowa Department of Transportation, Appanoose Conservation Foundation

Total Cost		\$ 2,210,000
Great Places Support		\$ 200,000
Contributor	Status	Amount
Recreational Trails Fund	Anticipated	\$ 200,000
Regional Enhancement Funds	Anticipated	\$ 85,000
Statewide Enhancement Funds	Anticipated	\$ 600,000
REAP Funds	Anticipated	\$ 200,000
Section 206 Project	Anticipated	\$ 500,000
Private Donations	Anticipated	\$ 100,000
Landowner Contributions (easements, etc)	Anticipated	\$ 100,000
In-Kind (Corps of Engineers, Iowa DNR, County IDOT, NRCS, Appanoose County Conservation Board, Rathbun Trail Association, Appanoose Conservation Foundation)	Anticipated	\$ 225,000

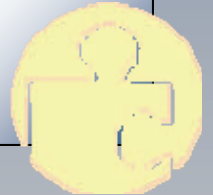


Timeline

Development of trail system for 7 county Transportation District by Dunbar Jones under the auspices of CVTPA	2000
The trail to run along Highway 2 designed by IDOT	2002
The trail group is formed and meets monthly to build support for trails at Rathbun Lake	2003
Highway 2 plans are postponed by IDOT	2004
Rathbun Lake Trails Association formed to advance the project and serve as the user group that will maintain the equestrian trail	2005
RLTA determines that the trail be in the perimeter of the Corps. Park to eliminate landholder complications	2005
RLTA utilizes the Corps GPS system to flag 930 foot elevation to protect from flooding	2005
Crossing structures designed to prevent soil erosion and help maintain water quality at the Lake	2006
Feasibility Study completed	2008
Funding Resources committed	2008
Clearances obtained and land acquisition completed	2009
Phase I completed	2010
Construction begins	2010
Trail segments open for usage	2011



Puzzle Piece



The trails around Rathbun Lake will be owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and maintained by Rathbun Lake Trails Association, Inc. The remaining trails will be owned and maintained by the Appanoose County Conservation Board.

