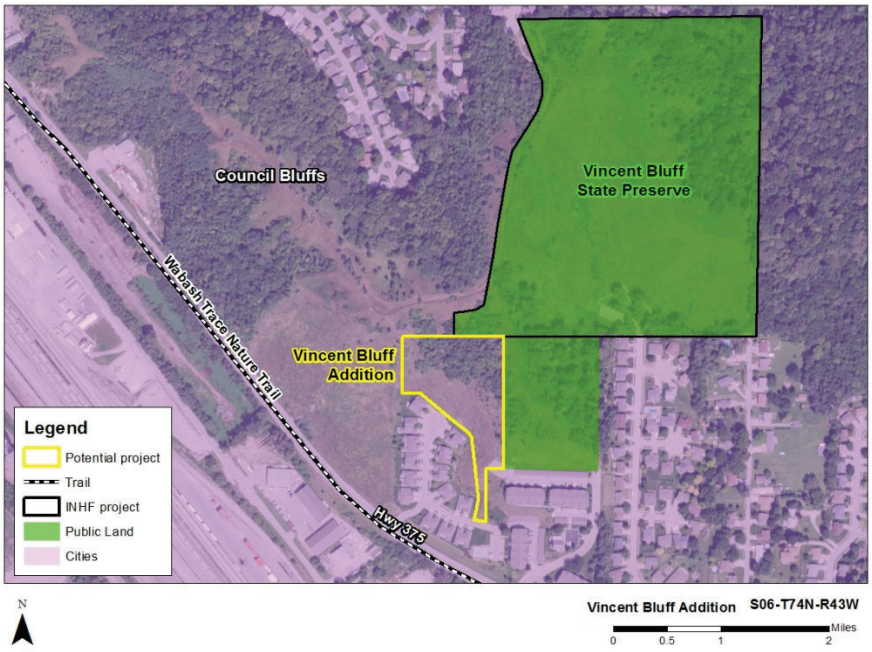
Project Description: The owners of Highclere Apartments, Hancock and Co., would like to donate a 5-acre parcel to INHF for open space conservation and tax benefits. The property adjoins Vincent Bluff and contains grassland and a small patch of trees. INHF will transfer the land to the City of Council Bluffs with a deed restriction limiting the use for park and conservation purposes.



Conservation and Priority Values: The 35-acre Vincent Bluff Preserve is an acquisition project that INHF coordinated in the early 2000's. It is a scenic and highly visible remnant prairie bluff in the main line-of-sight as one enters Iowa from Nebraska along I-80. The property is now owned by the City and managed by the Loess Hills Preservation Society volunteers. The primary use is hiking, wildlife habitat and native prairie restoration.

Funding and Communications: Fundraising is not needed for this 5-acre addition, and there are positive communications opportunities to elevate the need for additional conservation in the Loess Hills. The project could reinforce the conservation message with adjoining landowners in a manner to encourage additional conservation.

Management: There will be no management requirements for INHF during our brief ownership, but we may want to consider a volunteer event in partnership with the Loess Hills Preservation Society to heighten awareness of the project and general land protection in the Loess Hills.

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept the donation of the 5-acre Hancock and Co. Property. Approve the future transfer to the City of Council Bluffs.

BOARD ACTION: The motion was made by the Program & Planning Committee to accept the donation of the 5-acre Hancock and Co. Property. Approve the future transfer to the City of Council Bluffs. This was seconded by David Brown, the motion passed unanimously.