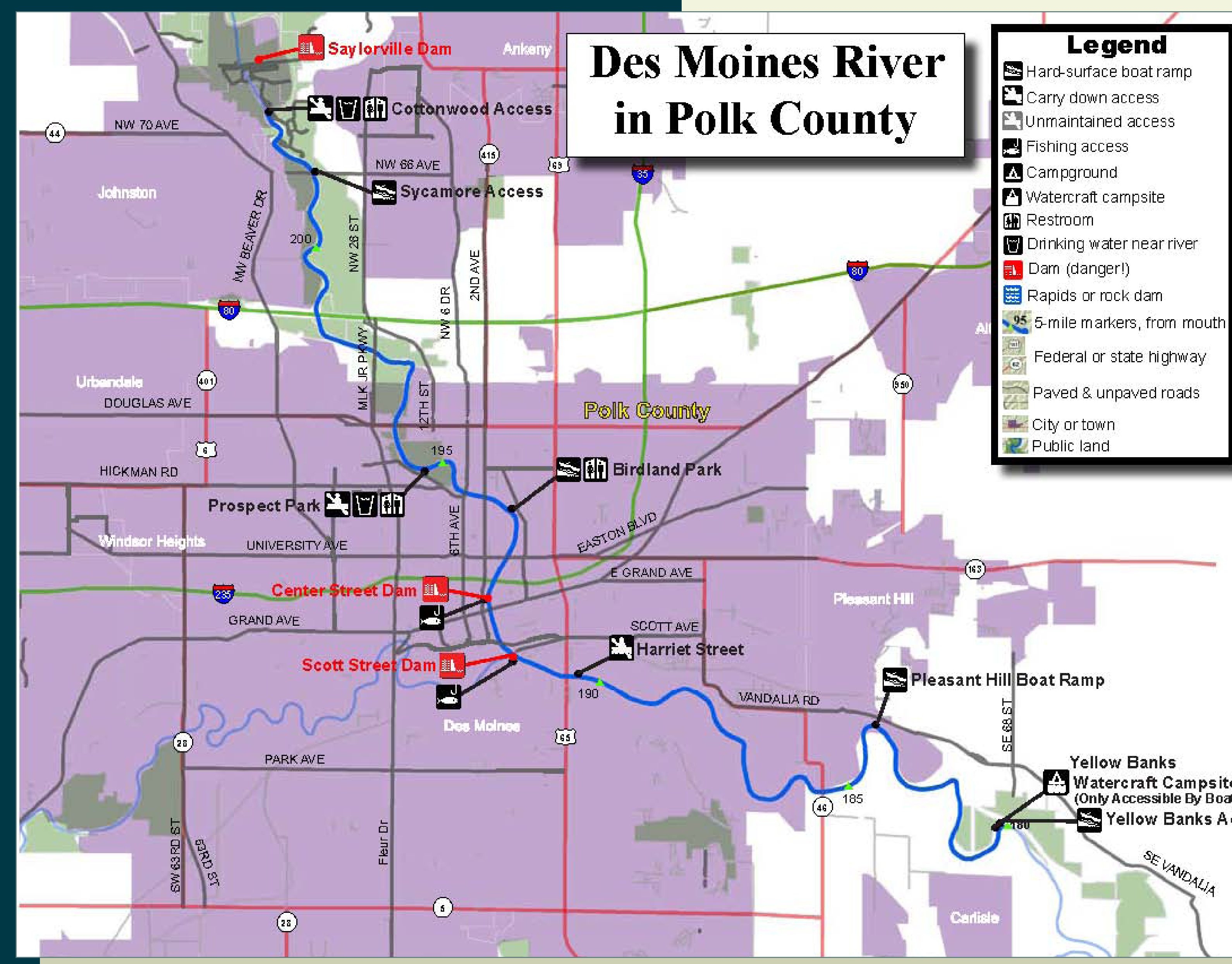
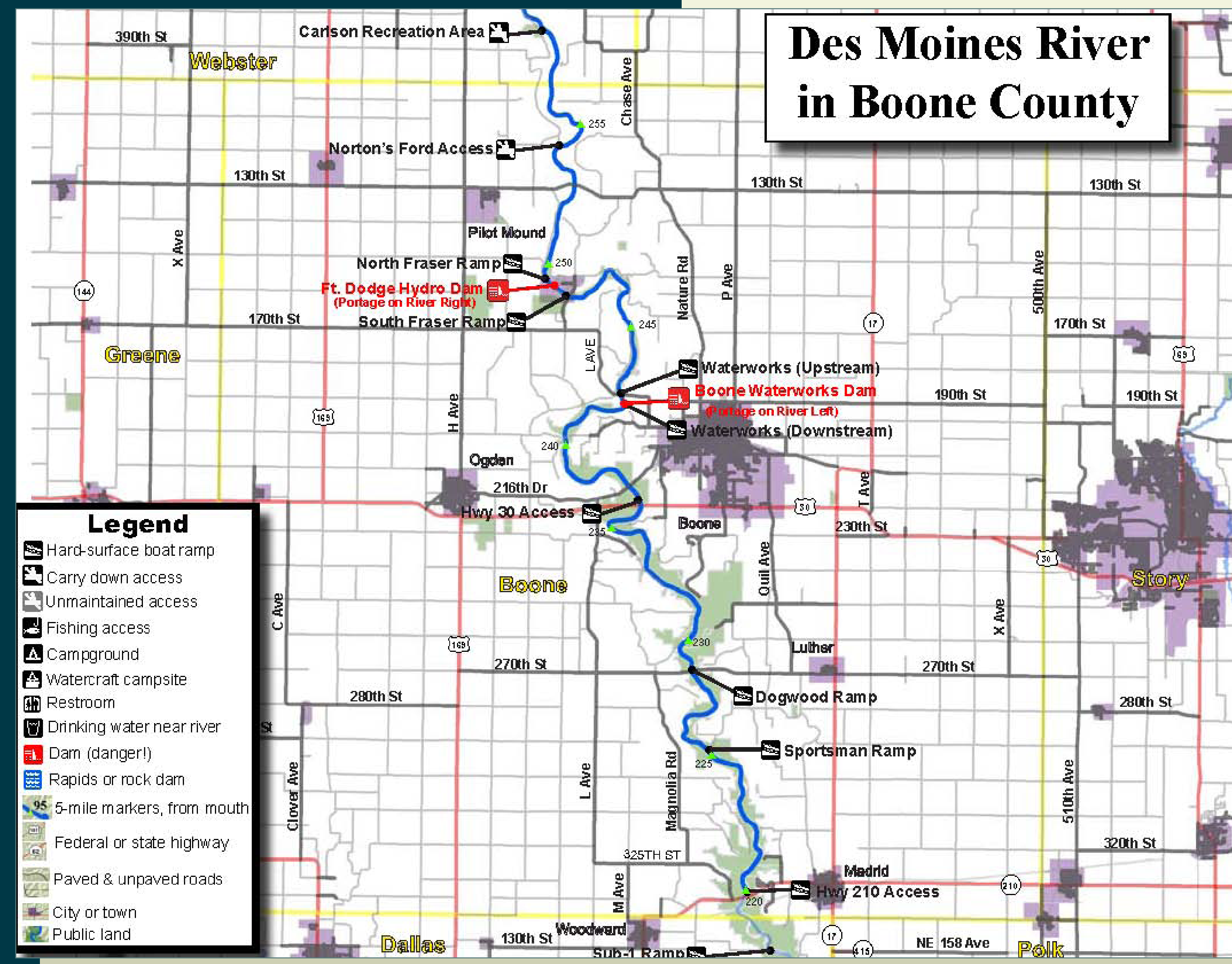


DES MOINES RIVER WATER TRAIL

The Des Moines River Water Trail is a National Recreation Trail that extends through four counties in Iowa and runs through the heart of Saylorville Lake. This unique trail connects a diverse group of both rural and urban trail users. The water trail exhibits tremendous bird and wildlife viewing opportunities for boaters and paddlers alike. The trail features several accesses to recreation areas, campgrounds, and cities and towns.



WATER TRAIL ACTIVITIES

The Des Moines River Water Trail entertains exciting events throughout the seasons. These events promote awareness of recreation opportunities, water safety, water quality issues, and environmental stewardship.

- 1) Rowing regattas to expose people to water trails.
- 2) Holiday paddles to promote year round paddling opportunities.
- 3) River Run Garbage Grab to clean up the Des Moines River.
- 4) River Rascal Programs to connect children with a fun and safe on-water experience.



IMPROVEMENTS

The Des Moines River Water Trail has become popular in central Iowa with the increasing interest in water activities. Several improvements are proposed for the future to increase the popularity of this trail.

- Develop a water trail access on the north end of Saylorville Lake near Polk County Conservation Board's Jester Park.
- Improve the water trail access at Cottonwood Recreation area at Saylorville.
- Develop partnerships with agencies and paddling interest groups to promote and improve the water trail.
- Develop outreach programs for water safety, water quality, and environmental stewardship along the Des Moines River Water Trail.

