Coralville Lake Project
Pollinator Habitat Restoration
2017 Handshake Partnership Program

In 2016, Coralville Lake Project began developing partnerships with local and regional non-profit organizations and county and state government organizations to restore over 85 acres of land that had been in agricultural production since prior to the construction of Coralville Dam in 1958. Soils and historical maps indicated that the land was well suited for tall-grass prairie, which also supports a wide array of pollinator bee and butterfly species. Seed mixes for prairie/pollinators averages $150/pound; and seeding rates average 12 pounds/acre, making a restoration effort on this scale cost prohibitive. Taking a tiered approach of converting the land in phases with the collective effort of the partnership, all lands were converted over a three-year period.

For the first phase, 36.5 acres were broadcast seeded with 640 pounds of seed donated by the Johnson County Conservation Board (JCCB), along with another 15 pounds of seed donated by the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (INHF). The seed provided by JCCB was combined (using equipment which had been borrowed from Linn County Secondary Roads) from prairies located on Conservation lands and was valued at $24,000. The seed provided by INHF was hand collected from Doolittle Prairie in Central Iowa and represented five species of high conservation and pollinator value, valued at $1,888. The broadcast equipment was loaned to Coralville Lake Project by Johnson County Secondary Roads Department, and maintenance mowing of the prairie for the first year was completed by the Iowa DNR staff from the Hawkeye Wildlife Unit. Second year maintenance mowing was completed by contract labor and equipment.

The second phase area, a total of 34.5 acres was planted in the fall of 2018, with seed purchased with a combination of project funds, Handshake Partnership Program funds, and seed vouchers from the Iowa DNR and Bur Oak Land Trust. 590 pounds of seed were broadcast, using equipment loaned to Coralville Lake Project by Johnson County Secondary Roads, and maintenance mowing was conducted by Coralville Lake staff. Due to dry conditions following the initial seeding, an overseeding was completed in the fall of 2019.

In the third phase and final phase, 16.6 acres were contract drilled in the fall of 2019 with seed purchased with project funds. Maintenance mowing was and continues to be completed by Coralville Lake staff and expected to be moving into maintenance by prescribed fire in the fall of 2022.

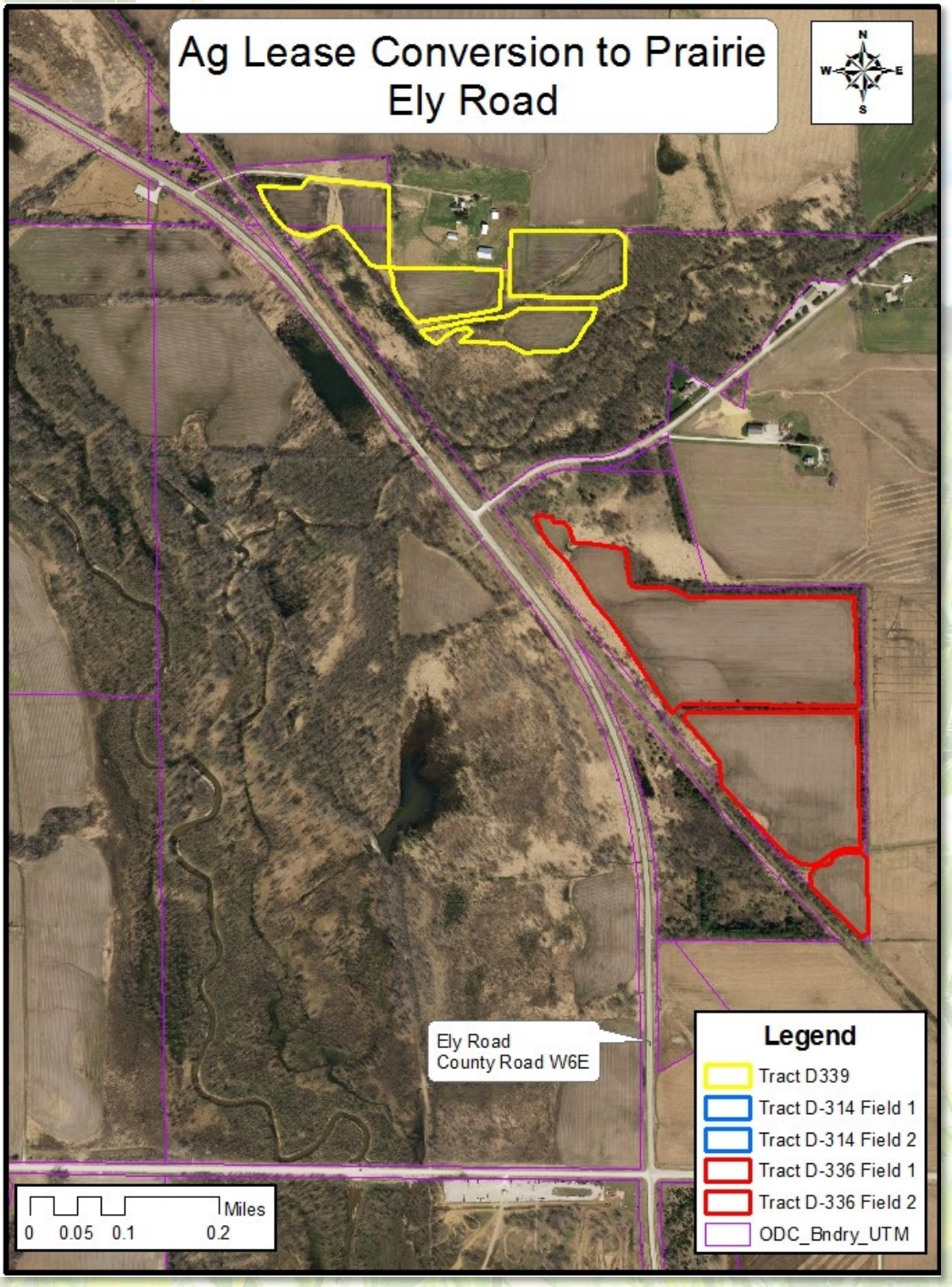
Johnson County Conservation

DNR

US Army Corps of Engineers ® Rock Island District

Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation

Bur Oak Land Trust



Phase One area outlined in red. Total area: 36.5 acres.

SCA Intern, Amanda Ross, broadcast seeding in December 2017.

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Bur Oak Land Trust

Brown-eyed Susan's in full bloom at "Ross Prairie"; summer of 2020.

Pale purple coneflower and spiderwort at "Ross Prairie", summer of 2020.

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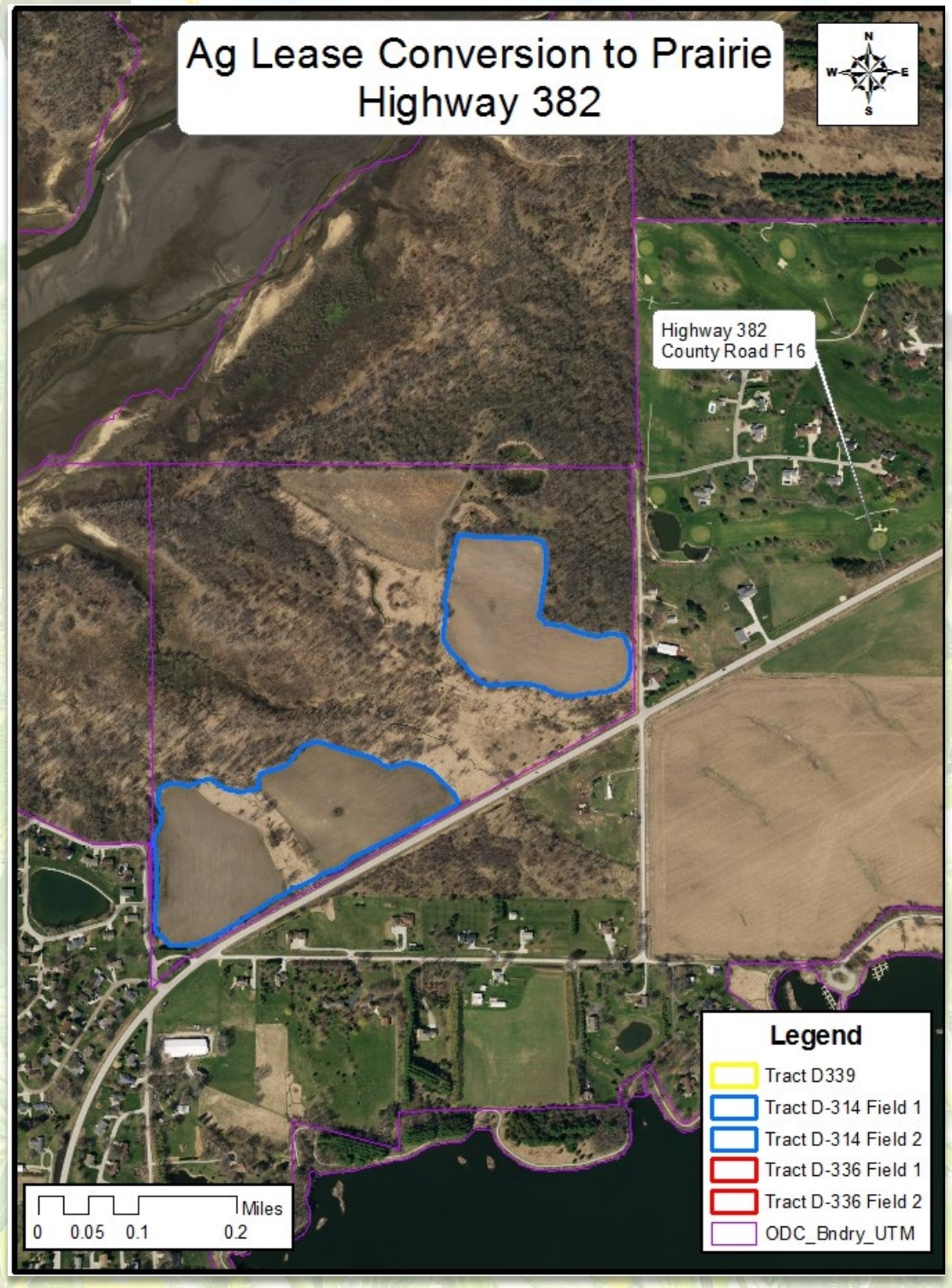

Phase Two area outlined in blue. Total area: 34.5 acres.

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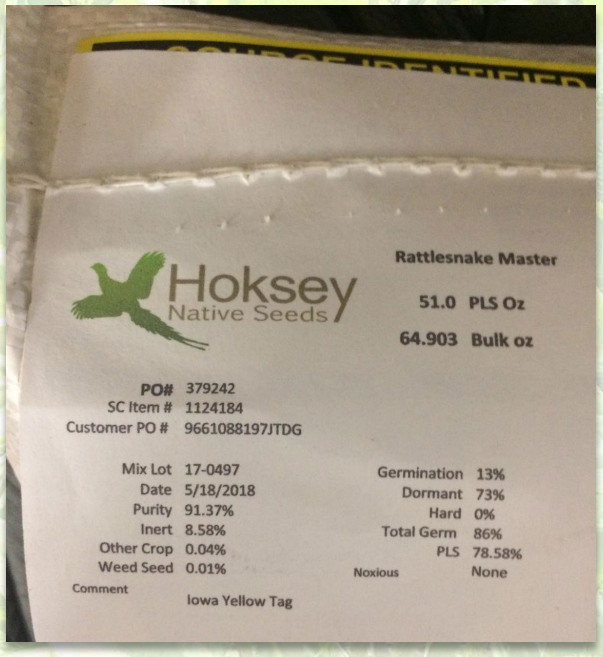
Bur Oak Land Trust

Zach Scriver & Mary Sue Bowers mixing seed.

Zach Scriver loading the Vicon Seeder.

Zach broadcasting the prairie seed



Local ecotype seed tag (Iowa Yellow Tag)

Johnson County Conservation

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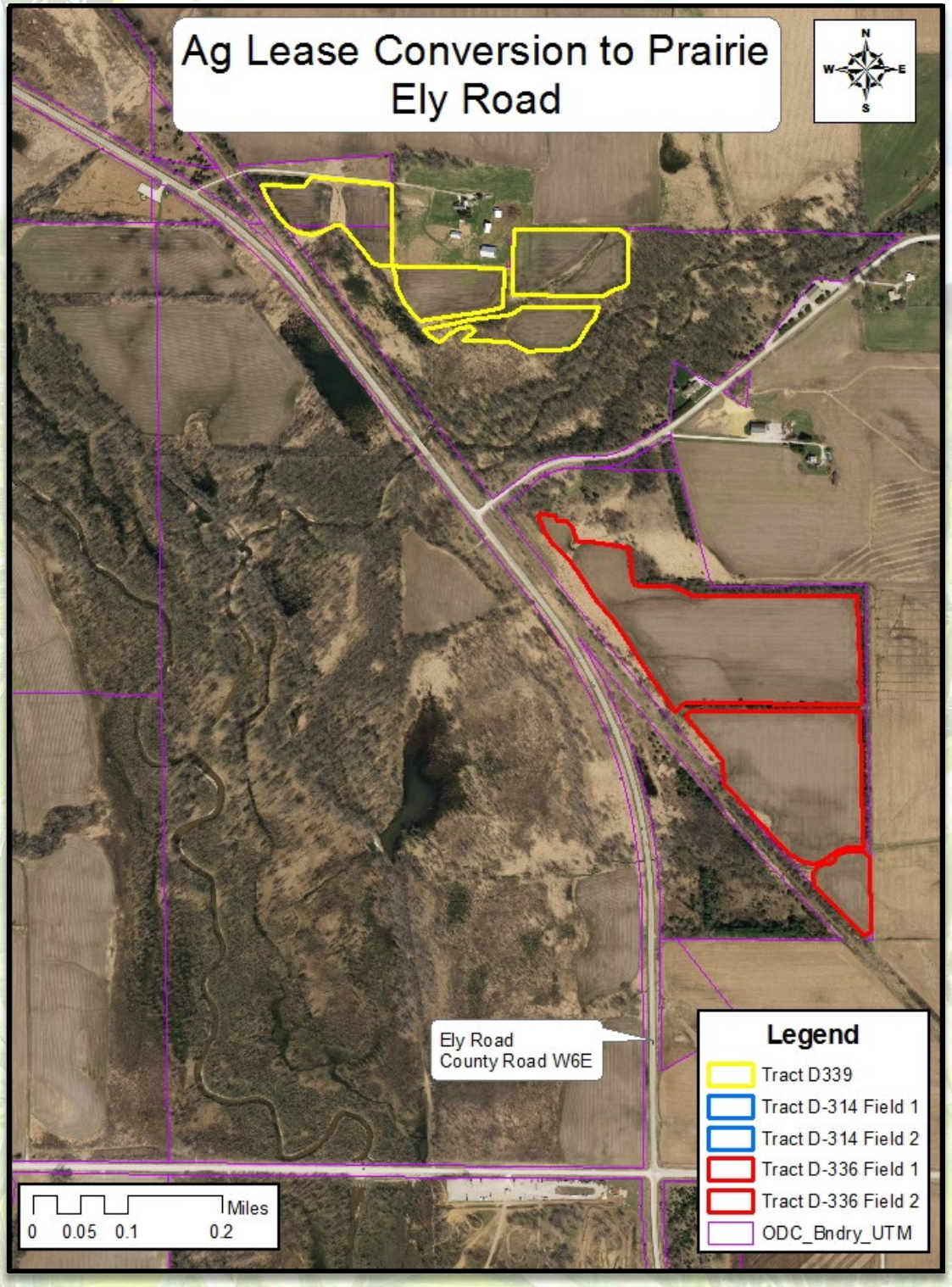

Phase Three area outlined in yellow. Total area: 16.6 acres.

Coralville Lake: Prairie Establishment
Part One of a 2016 Handshake Agreement

ROCK ISLAND DISTRICT

SUMMARY: Coralville Lake was awarded a Handshake Agreement in 2016 to convert 88 acres of land in agricultural leases to native prairie, focusing on species that support pollinators.

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

- The first 34 acres were planted in December, 2017.
- All the seed that was planted had been donated. Donated seed was valued at:
  - $24,000 which was for 640 pounds of seed from Johnson County Conservation Board, harvested from Knight Prairie at Kent Park
  - $1,888 which was for 15 pounds of highly conservative species from Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, harvested from Doolittle Prairie near Story City, Iowa.
- Planting was completed by SCA Intern, Amanda Ross, using equipment borrowed from the Johnson County Secondary Roads Department.
- Area was maintained by mowing:
  - Summer of 2018 by SCA Intern Amanda Ross & by Iowa DNR
  - Summer of 2019 by contract & by Coralville Lake Maintenance Staff
- Future maintenance will be by prescribed fire.

Ross Prairie

Spiderwort and Coneflower

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