

Chapter 4. Community Facilities & Services



Jackson County Courthouse

Source: <https://jacksoncounty.iowa.gov/board-of-supervisors/>



Jackson County Regional Health Center

Photo Credit: Jackson County Regional Health Center Facebook page



Sabula Fire Department apparatus

Photo Credit: Sabula Fire Department Facebook page

OVERVIEW

The facilities a community provides are an important part of analyzing a community's strengths. Education, childcare, health care, recreation, public safety, and cultural resources are all very important in determining a community's viability for potential residents or businesses. In more rural counties many facilities are shared among communities, and they may also be public or private institutions. This means the role of intergovernmental cooperation is very important to sustaining and improving the quality of community facilities.

The goal of this chapter is to guide Jackson County in providing high quality facilities and services to current and potential residents. Focusing on how to maintain existing public-private and intergovernmental partnerships is important, and it is also crucial to establish new relationships. This chapter will provide an inventory of Jackson County's facilities as they exist today as well as provide a list of goals and objectives to provide a guide on how the county can best use its existing facilities as well as develop new ones.

COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Jackson County Courthouse

The Jackson County Courthouse is located at 201 W Platt Street in Maquoketa. The Courthouse provides offices for many county departments.

The **Assessor's Office** establishes property assessments for all real property in Jackson County, in accordance with the laws and codes of the State of Iowa.

<https://www.jacksoncountyassessor.org/>

The **Attorney's Office** is responsible for prosecuting violations of the laws of the State of Iowa and of Jackson County Ordinances, and serves as the legal advisor for Jackson County government.

<https://jacksoncounty.iowa.gov/attorney>

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Duties of the **Auditor's Office** are: prepare the County Budget, compute and certify levies for taxing districts, prepare tax lists for collection by the Treasurer, administer payroll and benefits to all county employees, prepare claims and issue warrants for payment of invoices, and maintain records of all County, State, and Federal reports.

<https://jacksoncounty.iowa.gov/auditor/>

The **Board of Supervisors** consists of three District Representatives. Their duties are: approve budgets of county officials, establish and vacate public highways, allow claims against the county and order same paid, levy taxes to raise revenue for county expenses, fill vacancies in office of elected officials except their own board, and constitute a drainage board for the drainage district.

<https://jacksoncounty.iowa.gov/board-of-supervisors/>



Source: <https://jacksoncounty.iowa.gov/auditor/>



Source: <https://jacksoncounty.iowa.gov/engineer/>

The **County Engineer and the Secondary Roads Department** are responsible for construction and maintenance of the Secondary Road System in the county. <https://jacksoncounty.iowa.gov/engineer/>

The **General Assistance Department** provides emergency payments and/or vouchers to people in need of immediate assistance or people who cannot obtain assistance from any other source. <https://jacksoncounty.iowa.gov/general-assistance/>

The **Geographic Information System (GIS) Department** manages the county's computer mapping system, provides technical assistance, and coordinates GIS activities of all departments. <https://jacksoncounty.iowa.gov/gis/>

The **Health Department**, governed by the Jackson County Board of Health, oversees the Environmental Health programs and contracts with Genesis Visiting Nurse Association (VNA) to provide Community Health services for Jackson County. <https://jacksoncounty.iowa.gov/health-department/>

The **Human Resources Department** is responsible for overall administration, coordination, and evaluation of human resource functions for Jackson County. <https://jacksoncounty.iowa.gov/human-resources/>

The **Information Technology Department** manages the use of county computers and software to convert, store, process, transmit, and retrieve information. <https://jacksoncounty.iowa.gov/information-technology/>

The **Maintenance Department** provides custodial services, courthouse property maintenance, and upkeep. <https://jacksoncounty.iowa.gov/maintenance/>

The **Planning and Zoning Department** administers and enforces the county's nuisance ordinance, zoning ordinance, flood plain management ordinance, airport tall structure ordinance, and subdivision ordinance. <https://jacksoncounty.iowa.gov/planning-and-zoning-office/>

The **Recorder's Office** is responsible for land and records management for various official documents affecting real estate and for marriage, birth, and death certificates. The office serves as agent for several departments of the State of Iowa. <https://jacksoncounty.iowa.gov/recorder/>

The **Treasurer's Office** is responsible for the receipt, management, disbursement, financial reporting, bonds, and investment of all monies paid to the county. The office serves as agent for several departments of the State of Iowa. <https://jacksoncounty.iowa.gov/treasurer/>

Jackson County Courthouse Annex

The Jackson County Courthouse Annex, located at 311 W. Platt St., houses the county departments of Mental Health and Veteran’s Affairs.

The **Mental Health Department** partners with the Eastern Iowa Mental Health and Disabilities Services Region to provide services to adults and children.

<https://jacksoncounty.iowa.gov/mental-health/>

The **Veterans Affairs Commission** aids Jackson County veterans who were discharged under Honorable Conditions and/or their family members.

<https://jacksoncounty.iowa.gov/veterans-affairs/>

Jackson County Law Enforcement Center

The Jackson County Sheriff’s Office and the City of Maquoketa Police Department are both located at the Jackson County Law Enforcement Center, 104 S. Niagara Street in Maquoketa.

The **Sheriff’s Office** is responsible for enforcing state and county ordinances within Jackson County, among other duties and responsibilities related to law

enforcement and the court system.

<https://jacksoncounty.iowa.gov/sheriff/>

The **Emergency Management Agency** coordinates local efforts in partnership with the State of Iowa and other partners to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters.

<https://jacksoncounty.iowa.gov/emergency-management/>

County Parks and Recreation Areas

The **Jackson County Conservation Department** manages county parks, natural areas, timber preserves, historic sites, river accesses, and campgrounds.

<https://www.mycountyparks.com/county/jackson.aspx>



South Sabula Lake Park
Photo Credit: Jackson County Conservation

Solid Waste Disposal Facilities

The Waste Authority of Jackson County operates a transfer station, where residents can bring waste material if they do not have local refuse collection at their home or business. The Waste Authority also operates a collection center for household hazardous waste. These facilities are located at 25146 184th Street in Maquoketa.

<https://www.wasteauthority.org/site/>

City Halls

Table 4.1 provides the street addresses of each city hall in Jackson County.

City	Location
Andrew	11 E. Benton St.
Baldwin	105 S. 5 th St.
Bellevue	106 N. 3 rd St.
La Motte	200 N. Main St.
Maquoketa	201 E. Pleasant St.
Miles	430 Ferry Rd.
Monmouth	501 N. Division
Preston	52 W. Gillet St.
Sabula	411 Broad St.
Springbrook	101 E. Main St.
Spragueville	108 S. Division St.
St. Donatus	100 E. 2 nd St.
Zwingle	80 Walnut St.

Township Governments

The 18 township governments within Jackson County are listed in Table 4.2. Their boundaries are shown in Figure 4.1. The primary duties of the township governments are to maintain cemeteries, provide fire protection, and mediate fence disputes. Each township government is composed of a clerk and three elected trustees.

Bellevue	Otter Creek
Brandon	Perry
Butler	Prairie Springs
Fairfield	Richland
Farmers Creek	South Fork
Iowa	Tetes des Mort
Jackson	Union
Maquoketa	Van Buren
Monmouth	Washington

Maquoketa Municipal Airport

The Maquoketa Municipal Airport is the county’s only airport, located at 2115 134th Ave. The City of Maquoketa owns the airport under the supervision of the Maquoketa Airport Commission.

The airport has one runway that is 60 feet wide and 3,304 feet long as well as eight T-hangars available for rent and a community hangar with five spaces. The City of Maquoketa plans to expand the runway to 3,800 feet by December of 2025. This will improve safety for enthusiasts and local crop dusters.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) recognizes the airport as part of the national airport system and includes it in the National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems (NPIAS) as a general aviation airport, making it eligible for federal funding.



Figure 4.1 Map of Township Governments in Jackson County

Source: Jackson County Beacon GIS

EDUCATION

Resources for education in Jackson County include public and private schools as well as a community college campus.

Public Schools in Jackson County

There are four publicly-funded community school districts based in Jackson County: Andrew, Bellevue, Easton Valley, and Maquoketa. Table 4.3 shows the number of school buildings and the 2022-2023 enrollment for these four districts.

School District	School Buildings	Number of Students
Andrew	1	147
Bellevue	2	805
Easton Valley	2	499
Maquoketa	4	1,313

Source: Iowa Department of Education

The **Andrew Community School District** is composed solely of Andrew Elementary School, which serves grades K-6. After sixth grade, students from the district go on to school in the Bellevue or Maquoketa school districts.

The **Bellevue Community School District** is composed of two school buildings, the K-5 Bellevue Elementary School, and the Bellevue Middle + High School which has grades 6-12. The district serves Bellevue as well as the towns of La Motte and Springbrook. The district oversees a pre-school program for children 3-4 years old at Little Starts Preschool in Bellevue Elementary School.

The **Easton Valley Community School District** is composed of an elementary school located in Miles that serves students in grades PreK-6 and a high school in Preston that serves grades 7-12. This district also covers the cities of Sabula and Spragueville.

The **Maquoketa Community School District** is composed of four school buildings, all located within Maquoketa. The district plans to close Cardinal Elementary to accommodate pre-k through second grade. Maquoketa Middle School has grades 6-8 and Maquoketa High School serves grades 9-12. In addition to serving Maquoketa, this district covers Baldwin, Zwingle, and the Leisure Lake area.

Public Schools outside Jackson County

In addition to these four community school districts within the county, three additional K-12 school districts based in other counties serve students living in Jackson County. Figure 4.2 shows all the school district areas serving the county.



Figure 4.2. Public School Districts Serving Jackson County

Source: Iowa Department of Education

The **Dubuque Community School District** based in Dubuque is composed of two high schools, three middle schools and 12 elementary schools with a combined enrollment of 10,064 students. The district covers the northeastern part of the county including St. Donatus and a portion of La Motte.

The **Western Dubuque Community School District** based in Epworth is composed of a high school, a combined junior-senior high school, a middle school and five elementary schools with a combined enrollment of 3,200 students. The district covers the northwestern part of Jackson County.

The **Midland Community School District** based in Wyoming is composed of an elementary school and a combined middle and high school serving 501 students. In Jackson County the district covers the southwestern area including Monmouth.

Private Schools

In addition to public schools, Jackson County is served by private schools.

In Bellevue, the **Marquette Catholic School System** serves Jackson and

Dubuque Counties, by offering a faith-based educational program for grades K-12. The school also operates a licensed childcare center.

Maquoketa is home to **Sacred Heart School** which offers a Catholic education to grades K-6, preschool for three and four-year olds, and childcare. It is located next to Sacred Heart Church.

Aquin Catholic School offers a Catholic education to grades K-8 and serves Cascade and the surrounding area. The school offers a three-year old preschool program and operates a childcare center. Aquin Catholic School and Western Dubuque Community School District offer a four-year-old preschool program.

Clinton Community College

Clinton Community College operates a 11,000 square foot facility adjacent to Maquoketa High School. The Maquoketa Center offers a wide array of credit courses, non-credit courses for all ages, dual enrollment classes for high school students, training for area businesses, adult classes including preparation for the High School Equivalency test, and summer programs for youth.

The facility includes two computer labs, a large meeting room, and four classrooms. There is also a 3,300 square foot Advanced Manufacturing Center that houses several mills, Computer Numerical Control (CNC) Machining simulators, a robotic plasma cutter and two robotic welders. A cooperative effort between Clinton Community College and the Maquoketa Community School District, the Advanced Manufacturing Center primarily is used for training new students and retaining existing employees.

Clinton Community College is part of the Eastern Iowa Community Colleges (EICC) District which also includes Muscatine and Scott Community Colleges.



CCC Maquoketa Campus Photo Credit: <https://eicc.edu/services-support/location/ccc/>

CHILD CARE

According to the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), there are nine registered child care providers in Jackson County as shown in Table 4.4. This number does not account for the unregistered in-home child care facilities that exist throughout the county.

The three types of regulated child care in Iowa are: Licensed Centers, Child Development Homes, and Child Care Homes. Of the registered facilities in Jackson County, seven are fully licensed while two are registered as Child Development Homes.



Visit the HHS Child Care Website to find child care that meets your family’s needs <https://hhs.iowa.gov/programs/programs-and-services/child-care> Source: Iowa HHS

All child care providers must complete background checks and first aid, cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR), and mandatory child abuse reporter training. All child care providers may apply for a Child Care Assistance (CCA) Provider Agreement with Iowa HHS. This allows these providers to care for children that qualify for public assistance with child care costs.

Iowa's Quality Rating System (QRS) is a voluntary child care rating system with five levels for child development homes, licensed child care centers, preschools,

and child care programs that are operated by school districts.

The Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) Agency helps families to select child care providers who best meet their needs. Child Care Consultants provide on-site consultation to licensed preschools, centers, nonregistered home providers, and Child Development Home providers. Jackson County is served by CCR&R of Southeast Iowa in Davenport. For more information, visit Source: Iowa CCR&R at <https://iowaccrr.org/>

Table 4.4 Registered Child Care Providers in Jackson County

Community	Provider Type	Active CCA Provider	Provider Capacity	Provider QRS Level
Andrew	Licensed Center	Yes	51	0
Bellevue	Licensed Center	Yes	94	0
Maquoketa	Registered Child Development Home A	Yes	8	0
Maquoketa	Registered Child Development Home B	Yes	12	0
Maquoketa	Licensed Center	No	20	4
Maquoketa	Licensed Center	Yes	49	0
Maquoketa	Licensed Center	Yes	150	0
Maquoketa	Licensed Center	Yes	281	0
Miles	Licensed Center	Yes	71	0

Source: Child Care Client Portal, Iowa Department of Health and Human Services, accessed 09/26/2023.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Jackson County partners with non-profit agencies and health care providers to safeguard the health of residents.

Community Health

The Jackson County Board of Health contracts with the Genesis Visting Nurse Association (VNA) for these community health services:

- Disease prevention, surveillance, and follow-up (including Covid and Foodborne Illnesses)
- Immunization programs
- Emergency preparedness planning and prevention
- Child, Maternal & Senior Health
- Tuberculosis (TB) Control Program
- Community Health Needs Assessment

Source: <https://jacksoncounty.iowa.gov/health-department/>

The Jackson County Regional Health Center, Jackson County Health Department, and Genesis Health System partnered in 2020 to update the county's

Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA). The purpose of this assessment was to identify the major health and socioeconomic issues that affect the region, and develop a plan to address them proactively. According to the 2021 CHNA, Jackson County's top three health priorities are: 1. Substance Abuse, 2. Mental Health, and 3. Obesity.

Source: <https://www.jcrhc.org/community-health/assessment/>

Health Care

Health care in Jackson County is provided by a regional hospital as well as medical and dental clinics.

The Jackson County Regional Health Center in Maquoketa is a 25-bed non-profit accredited critical access hospital that offers a wide range of inpatient, outpatient, emergency, and community health services. The health center also provides 24-hour paramedic services to Maquoketa and surrounding areas in Jackson, Clinton, and Jones counties.

Within Jackson County there are medical clinics, dental clinics, chiropractors, physical therapists, and a variety of other healthcare providers.

Mental Health

The Jackson County Mental Health Department is part of the Eastern Iowa Mental Health and Disability Services Region that serves Jackson, Clinton, Cedar, Scott, and Muscatine Counties. This community-based system serves adults and children. Foundation 2 Mobile Crisis Outreach is available to residents in a mental health crisis 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. For more information, visit: <https://easterniowamhds.org/>

Environmental Health

The Jackson County Health Department provides environmental health services:

- Private Water Supply Well Program and Water Testing,
- Private Onsite Wastewater Program,
- Animal Bite Investigations,
- Public Health Nuisance Investigations, and
- Radon Program.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Public safety in Jackson County is provided by county, city, and township governments as well as private, nonprofit, and volunteer entities. Often, these services are provided through 28E contracts.

Iowa Code Chapter 28E allows state and local governmental entities to have contracts with one another to provide joint services and facilities. Local governments also can have agreements with non-profit and private organizations in certain situations. The most common 28E agreements are for law enforcement services, fire protection and mutual aid, emergency response, joint dispatch and street maintenance.

Source: Iowa League of Cities, Sept. 2023

Jackson County Law Enforcement Center

The Jackson County Sheriff’s Office and the City of Maquoketa Police Department are both located at the Jackson County Law Enforcement Center, 104 S. Niagara Street in Maquoketa. The Jackson County Emergency Management Agency, which operates remotely, will be located in the Center when the new jail is completed.

Jackson County Sheriff

The Sheriff is an elected official serving a four-year term. The Sheriff’s Office is located in the Jackson County Law Enforcement Center, and is responsible for enforcing state laws and county ordinances within Jackson County.

The Sheriff’s Office patrols 648 square miles of the county and is the chief law enforcement for the cities of Andrew, Baldwin, La Motte, Monmouth, Springbrook, St. Donatus, and Zwingle. In these cities, the Sheriff’s Office also enforces city ordinances.

Duties of the office include but are not limited to the following: Reports of, and investigation of, thefts, vandalisms, assaults, illegal drug activity, reported child and/or domestic abuse, accidents and all other criminal allegations. Deputies are also responsible for the enforcement of traffic laws.



The Sheriff's Office is also required to carry out duties related with civil process including but not limited to: Original notices and petitions, garnishments, orders, sheriff sales, room and board reimbursements, evictions, protective orders and restraining orders, involuntary commitment of persons with mental illness and/or substance abuse, duties related to condemnation of private property, and the execution and return of all writs and other legal processes issued by lawful authority.

Source: <https://jacksoncounty.iowa.gov/sheriff/>

City Police Departments

The cities with their own police departments are Bellevue, Maquoketa, and Preston. Preston’s police department also serves Spragueville.

Source: <https://jacksoncounty.iowa.gov/sheriff/>

Jackson County Jail

In September 2021, Jackson County voters approved the construction of a new county jail to replace the existing facility. The new \$6.3 million facility will replace the existing facility which has several safety issues, such as a lack of proper ventilation and natural light for inmates, as well as lacking maximum security cells.

The existing jail does not meet state requirements and faced closure by state inspectors if standards were not met. The existing jail also lacks the space needed to house inmates, requiring the county to frequently transfer inmates to another county, paying the cost of transportation and housing.

The new jail will have 30 beds and improved safety for staff and inmates. The estimated completion date for construction of the new Jackson County Jail is February 2024.

¹<https://jacksoncounty.iowa.gov/emergency-management/>

Emergency Management

The Jackson County Emergency Management Agency (JCEMA) coordinates local efforts in partnership with the Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEMD) to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters. The JCEMA’s Emergency Management Commission and the Emergency Management Coordinator work with cities, school districts, and other partners.¹ For more information, see Chapter 11 Hazard Mitigation in this comprehensive plan.

Fire and Emergency Response Services

State law requires all cities and all townships to provide law enforcement and fire protection as Essential Services. Emergency medical services (EMS) and other emergency response (such as rescue and hazardous materials spill response) also may be provided, but are not required by State law.

² *Special Report: Fire and Emergency Response Services in Iowa*. Iowa League of Cities, 2018. p. 11

Recruiting, Retaining, Training and Equipping Fire and EMS Volunteers

In Jackson County, all of the Fire Departments and most of the EMS are staffed entirely with volunteers. Consequently, it is important to find ways to recruit new volunteers, retain current members, and ensure all firefighters and emergency responders receive adequate training.

Providing fire protection and EMS services also requires a variety of special equipment, gear, vehicles and apparatus. Local governments must understand the need to maintain the required equipment and work together with department volunteers to budget and fund future upgrades.²

There are 10 ways fire protection and EMS services can be provided in Iowa: City, Township, or Contracted Service; Corporation; Benefitted Fire District; City or County Emergency Medical Services District; 28E Agency; Mutual Aid Agreement; or County Resolution.³

³Ibid, p. 2

Fire Departments

Table 4.5 lists the location of the 13 all-volunteer fire departments serving Jackson County. Figure 4.3 is a map of the county’s fire districts.

Table 4.5 County Fire Departments	
City/District	Fire Station
Andrew	17 N. Marion St.
Baldwin	4658 Baldwin St.
Bellevue	106 N. 3 rd St.
Bernard	547 Rolus St.
Cascade	807 1 st Ave. E.
La Motte	609 Water St.
Lost Nation	600 Main St.
Maquoketa	106 S. Niagara St.
Miles	18-28 Orson St.
Preston	14 N. Mitchell St.
Sabula	201 Vulcan St.
Springbrook	101 E. Main St.
Wyoming	501 E. Main St.

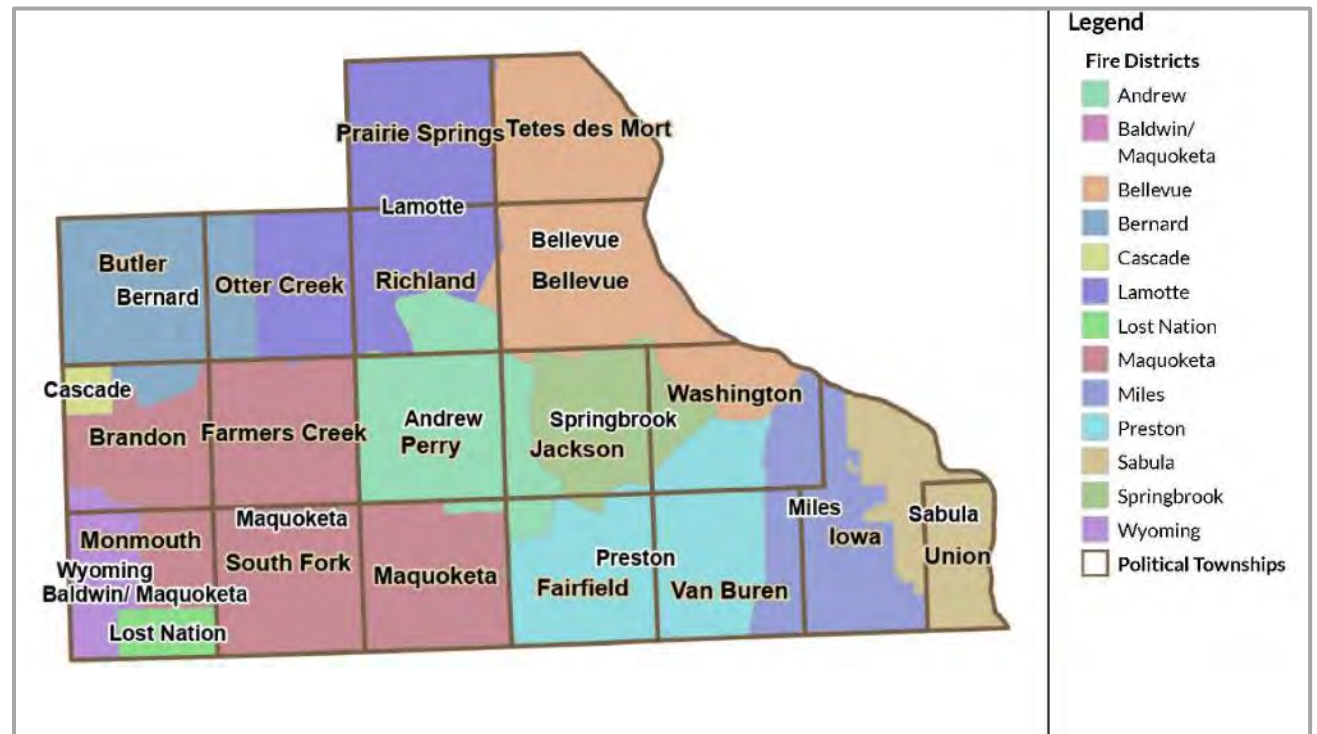


Figure 4.3 Map of Jackson County Fire Districts and Townships Source: Jackson County GIS, Oct. 2023



Controlled burn training exercise with Preston, Miles, and Sabula Fire Departments.

Photo Credit: Preston Fire Department Facebook page

Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

Jackson County has emergency medical services (EMS) provided by public, private, and volunteer agencies. For EMS to become an Essential Service in a county, like law enforcement and fire protection, it requires a vote by the tax payers. When 911 was established in 1991, Jackson County’s EMS District was formed by transporting agencies and first responder services.

Table 4.5 lists the types of EMS providers in Jackson County. Figure 4.4 is a map of the county’s seven ambulance districts: Bellevue, Bernard, Cascade, Jackson County Regional Health Center (JCRHC), Maquoketa, Preston, and Sabula.



Figure 4.4 Map of Jackson County Ambulance Districts and Townships

Source: Jackson County GIS, Oct. 2023

EMS Provider -- Service Name	Service Type	Personnel	Service Owner
Andrew Fire & First Responders	Non-Transport	Volunteer	Benefitted Fire District
Baldwin-Monmouth First Responders	Non-Transport	Volunteer	Private
Bellevue Emergency Medical Services	Ambulance	Volunteer	City
Bellevue Fire & Rescue	Non-Transport	Volunteer	City
Bernard Rescue Unit, Inc.	Ambulance	Volunteer	Nonprofit
Cascade Emergency Medical Services	Ambulance	Volunteer	City
Community Ambulance Service of Preston	Ambulance	Volunteer	Township
Jackson County Regional Health Center (JCRHC) Ambulance Service	Ambulance	Paid	County
La Motte Fire and Rescue	Non-Transport	Volunteer	Township
Maquoketa Fire & Rescue	Non-Transport	Volunteer	City
Sabula Ambulance Service	Ambulance	Volunteer	Private

PARKS AND RECREATION

Jackson County offers a wide range of parks and recreational opportunities for residents and attracts people from all over the region through its driftless landscape. For more information, see Chapter 10 Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources in this plan.

County Parks

Jackson County Conservation oversees 38 parks and outdoor recreation sites encompassing 2,200 acres throughout the county. These parks offer many different opportunities for recreation, including paddling, hunting, fishing, and hiking. Jackson County Conservation is located at the Hurstville Interpretive Center just north of Maquoketa.



Hurstville Interpretive Center Photo Credit: ECIA

State Parks

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) operates two state parks in Jackson County. Bellevue State Park is split into two units south of Bellevue. The Nelson Unit provides beautiful overlooks of the Mississippi River and the Dyas Unit offers camping.



Bellevue State Park – Nelson Unit
Photo Credit: Iowa DNR

The Maquoketa Caves State Park is located west of Maquoketa. The park features a six-mile trail system through caves, geological formations, and forests.

The Iowa DNR also operates the Green Island Wildlife Management Area, a 4,064-acre complex of wetlands, uplands, and timber located between Bellevue and Sabula along the Mississippi River.

City Parks

Many cities in Jackson County have city parks that provide a variety of recreational opportunities for local and regional residents. Table 4.7 shows the number of city parks in Jackson County.

City	Number of Parks
Andrew	1
Bellevue	5
La Motte	2
Maquoketa	9
Miles	2
Monmouth	1
Preston	3
Sabula	1
Springbrook	1

Maquoketa YMCA

The Maquoketa YMCA is a non-profit organization that provides members with access to a full-size gym, weight training and cardio areas, a multi-purpose room, an aquatic center with zero depth entry, a kids splash area, and lap lanes. The facility is located at 500 E. Summit Street and opened in 2007 after years of fundraising and planning.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Jackson County is rich in cultural resources, as highlighted below. For more information, see Chapter 10 Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources in this plan.

Public Libraries

Bellevue, Maquoketa, Preston, and Sabula all have public libraries that serve their communities with a collection of digital and printed materials, as well as computer access, wi-fi, and public meeting space among other amenities. These libraries also hold a wide range of activities for both children and adults.

Arts and Entertainment

Arts and entertainment can be a key factor in establishing a unique and culturally active place, and can be used by communities to gain cultural, social and economic value. Bellevue and Maquoketa have a number of public art installations. Throughout the year, many cities in Jackson County host events and festivals that provide entertainment and bring the community together.

There are also venues such as the Ohnward Fine Arts Center, Maquoketa Art Experience, and Codfish Hollow that provide live music and theater performances for residents and attract tourists from all over the country.



Codfish Hollow

Photo Credit: ECIA

The Jackson County Fairgrounds hosts the county fair each summer. The fair showcases the talents of the county's youth, highlights the county's heritage, and provides a wide range of entertainment. The fairgrounds host a variety of events year-round including truck and tractor pulls.

The Bellevue Horseman's Club hosts the annual Jackson County Pro Rodeo and truck and tractor pulls.

Museums and Historic Sites

There are several museums and many historic sites throughout Jackson County. For more information, see Chapter 7 Economic Development and Chapter 10 Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources in this plan.

Grant Wood Loop

The Grant Wood Loop provides an online guide to the natural resources and thriving arts and culture in Dubuque, Jackson, and Jones Counties. Residents and visitors can choose or create a loop, an activity, or an experience to connect with these regional opportunities:

- Dramatic, timeless landscapes,
- Inspiring parks and pathways,
- Rivers, creeks and lakes,
- Arts, culture and history,
- Historic communities and places,
- Local food and agriculture,
- Interpretive, educational and recreational programs for all ages.

For more information, visit <https://gwloop.com>

LOCAL, STATE, & FEDERAL PROGRAMS

Programs are arranged by category.

All Categories

The **Community Facilities Direct Loan and Grant Program** from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) provides funding to develop essential community facilities in rural areas. Examples include: health care facilities, public facilities (town halls, courthouses, etc.), community support services, public safety services, and educational facilities.

The USDA’s **Community Facilities Guaranteed Loan Program** provides loan guarantees to eligible lenders to develop essential community facilities in rural areas. For more USDA programs, visit: <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services>

The **Community Foundation of Jackson County** awards grants in the priority areas of community development, diversity, education, environment, health and human services, children, youth, families and senior citizens, arts and culture including historic preservation, and wellness projects. Visit

<https://dbqfoundation.org/grants> and select Jackson County.

The **Hawkeye Area Community Action Program (HACAP)** serves nine counties in Eastern Iowa in the areas of health and nutrition, energy conservation, children, affordable housing, veteran support, and homelessness. The Outreach Office for Jackson County is located in Maquoketa. <https://www.hacap.org/our-initiatives>

Education

The **Physical Plant and Equipment Levy (PPEL)** and the **Secure an Advanced Vision for Education (SAVE)** provides funding for school infrastructure needs or school district property tax relief. <https://educateiowa.gov/pk-12/school-facilities/funding/>

The **Qualified Zone Academy Bonds (QZAB)** program provides financial instruments to provide low or no interest bonds (loans) subsidized by the federal government in the form of tax credits. <https://www.lisc.org/charter-schools/funding-options/us-department-treasury/qualified-zone-academy-bond-program>

Child Care

The **Child Care Business Incentive Grant** from Future Ready Iowa helps employers offer or expand child care options as an employee benefit. Funds support local infrastructure investments to build or expand child care capacity or support arrangements between employers and child care facilities to expand or reserve child care slots.

<https://www.futurereadyiowa.gov/child-care-grants>

The **Rural Child Care Market Study Grant** from the Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) provides up to \$100,000 to support use of data and analysis to determine the specific needs and solutions for an area.

<https://www.iowaeda.com/center-for-rural-revitalization/child-care-study/>

Public Health

The **Rural Health Network Development Program** provides grants from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) that help rural health networks to improve health care access, expand capacity and services, enhance outcomes, and increase

sustainability of health programs.

<https://www.hrsa.gov/grants/find-funding/HRSA-23-030>

Public Safety

The **Rural and Small Department Violent Crime Reduction Program** from the Bureau of Justice Assistance of the U.S. Department of Justice supports small and rural agencies to combat violent crime and improve their capacity for effective crime prevention.

<https://bja.ojp.gov/funding/opportunities/o-bja-2023-171729>

The **Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program** from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) seeks to enhance a department's ability to protect the public and fire service personnel from fire and related hazards. Four types of grants are available: Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG), Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grants (SAFER), Fire Prevention and Safety Grants (FP&S), and Fire Station Construction Grants (SCG). This program also offers resources to help fire departments prepare and submit successful grant applications.

<https://www.fema.gov/grants/preparedness/firefighters>

The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) **Funding Alternatives for Fire and Emergency Services Manual** includes financing alternatives for all types of fire and EMS departments.

https://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/fa_331.pdf

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has **Rural Fire Department Resources for Local Officials** which includes grants and low interest loans aimed towards first responders.

<https://www.nal.usda.gov/rural-development-communities/rural-fire-department-resources-local-officials>

Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources

See Chapter 10 Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources in this plan.

ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Community Health

Issues: The 2021 Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) identifies the top three health priorities for Jackson County as: substance abuse, mental health, and obesity.

Opportunities: The 2021 CHNA includes an implementation plan to address these priorities with community partners.

To address substance abuse, the plan identifies Area Substance Abuse Council (ASAC) services for substance abuse treatment as well as the Opioid Awareness Program.

To address mental health, the plan identifies the Jackson County Regional Health Center Telehealth Mental Health Services and Regional Mobile Crisis Services.

The plan recommends addressing obesity through nutrition and physical activity. Local resources are Maquoketa YMCA programs, Jackson County Regional Health Center Diabetic Education and Nutritional Consult services, and Jackson County Farmers Market vouchers.

Child Care

Issues: The 2018 Jackson County Tomorrow Strategic Plan identifies activities and planning efforts to retain and attract young families. The Tomorrow Plan notes that capacity and affordability are challenges for families seeking child care in Jackson County.

The 2022-2027 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for Delaware, Dubuque, Jackson, Clinton, and Cedar Counties charts the course for economic growth of the region. The CEDS notes that access to quality child care is one of the factors impacting employers' ability to attract and retain workforce in the region.

Opportunities: The Jackson County Tomorrow Plan identifies as an opportunity, the need to ensure that high-quality child care opportunities are available and affordable to all residents.

The CEDS recommends developing public private partnerships to create affordable day care options.

Education

Issues: Reading proficiency by the end of third grade is one of the key predictors of high school graduation. However, 41% of third-graders across all four Jackson County school districts do not meet this benchmark, and children from low-income families are even further behind. Nearly 48% of Jackson County students are considered low-income, as they qualify for free and reduced-price lunch.

Opportunities: Hosted by the Community Foundation of Jackson County, the Jackson County Campaign for Grade-Level Reading focuses on four areas that serve as the foundation of academic achievement: school attendance, school readiness, summer learning, and access to books. By analyzing local data, the Community Foundation's network of partners can identify the needs of children and families and develop a plan and goals to address them.

Source:
<https://dbqfoundation.org/pages/jackson-county-campaign-for-grade-level-reading>

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Community Health

4.1 Address the top three health priorities for Jackson County through community partnerships.

- Substance Abuse: Access to substance abuse prevention and treatment.
- Mental Health: Access to mental health services and treatment.
- Obesity: Integrated health, wellness, nutrition, physical activity, and weight status.

Child Care

4.2 Ensure that high-quality child care opportunities are available and affordable to all residents.

- Increase overall capacity for child care in Jackson County.
- Strengthen relationships with county teachers and child care workers.

4.3 Support efforts to attract, maintain, and expand child care services in the region.

- Work with partners to identify/expand affordable/multi-shift day care.
- Assist in implementing and working with communities toward improving available child care options.
- Promote and assist with access to child care issues due to barriers such as transportation, distance, hours, openings.



Jackson County Campaign for Grade-Level Reading
Photo Credit: Community Foundation of Jackson County Facebook page

Education

4.4 Continue to support the Jackson County Campaign for Grade-Level Reading in the four areas supporting academic achievement: School attendance, School readiness, Summer learning, and Access to books.

- Build community awareness of children’s academic and social-emotional needs.
- Provide a unified vision and strategy to improve academic success and child well-being inside and outside the classroom.
- Fund child- and family-focused initiatives by utilizing existing financial resources and offering a way for generous community members to give in support of children’s well-being.
- Analyze local data to identify needs and inform plans to address them.