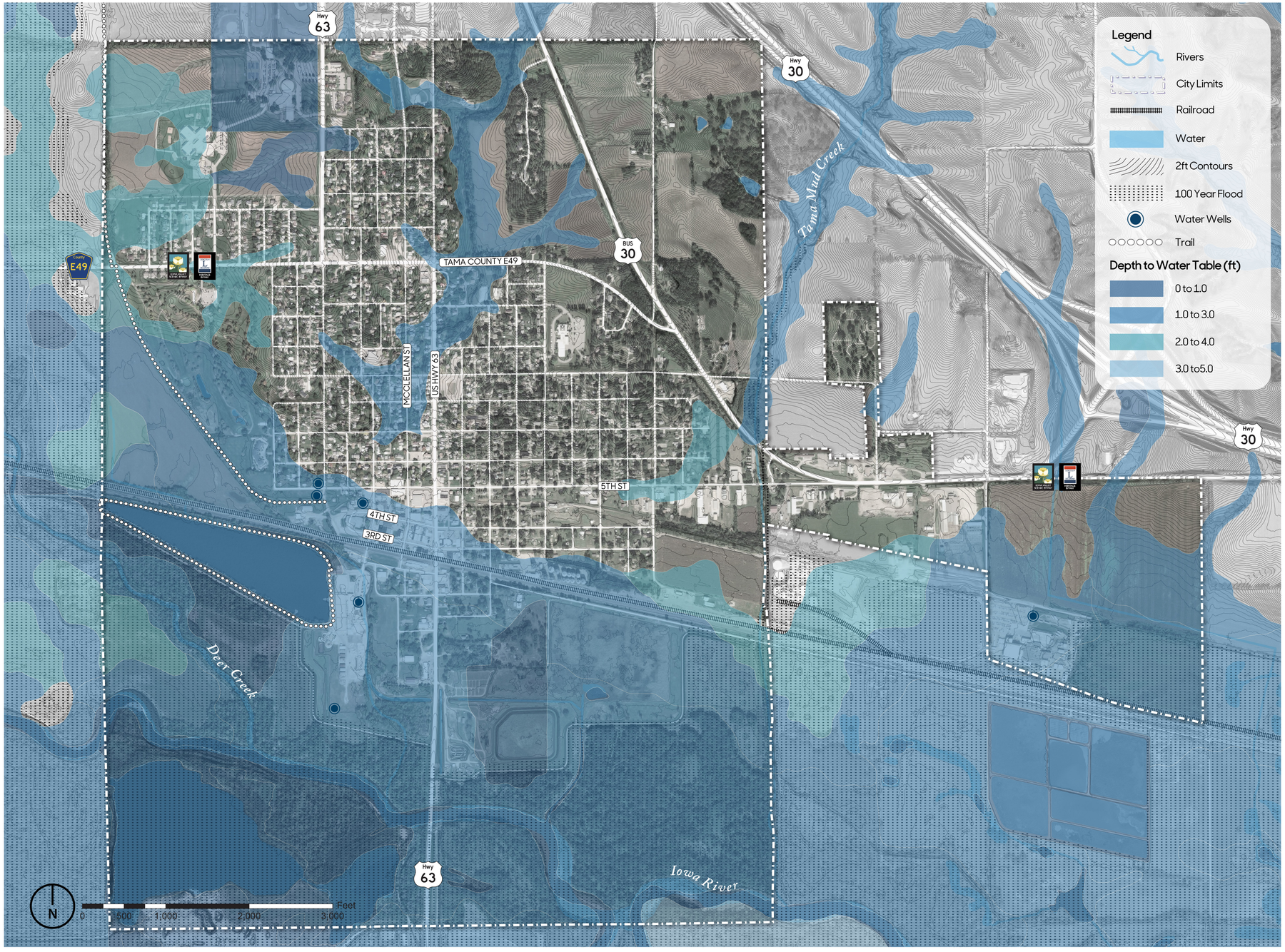

Map Source: Iowa Department of Natural Resources, "Natural Resources Geographic Information Systems Library," http://www.igsb.uiowa.edu/nrgislibx/.

Depth to Water Table

The water table is defined as the distance below the surface at which the ground is saturated with water. Depth to water table is represented as a range because it varies due to seasonal changes and precipitation volumes. For example, following spring snow-melt an area with a depth to water table ranging from one foot to three feet is likely to be at or near one foot depth.

The map shows how close to the surface groundwater can be. Pavement and foundations are affected by groundwater near the surface. Freezing and thawing, and upward pressure of rising groundwater can cause cracks or "frost boils" in pavement. Foundations can be wet and require "dewatering," which can be expensive.

Where the value is less than 0ft, water can well up out of the ground. This causes localized flooding, even if there is no surface water draining to the area.

Tama

Depth to Water Table

Bioregional Context
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Iowa State University | Trees Forever | Iowa Department of Transportation

Iowa's Living Roadways community visioning