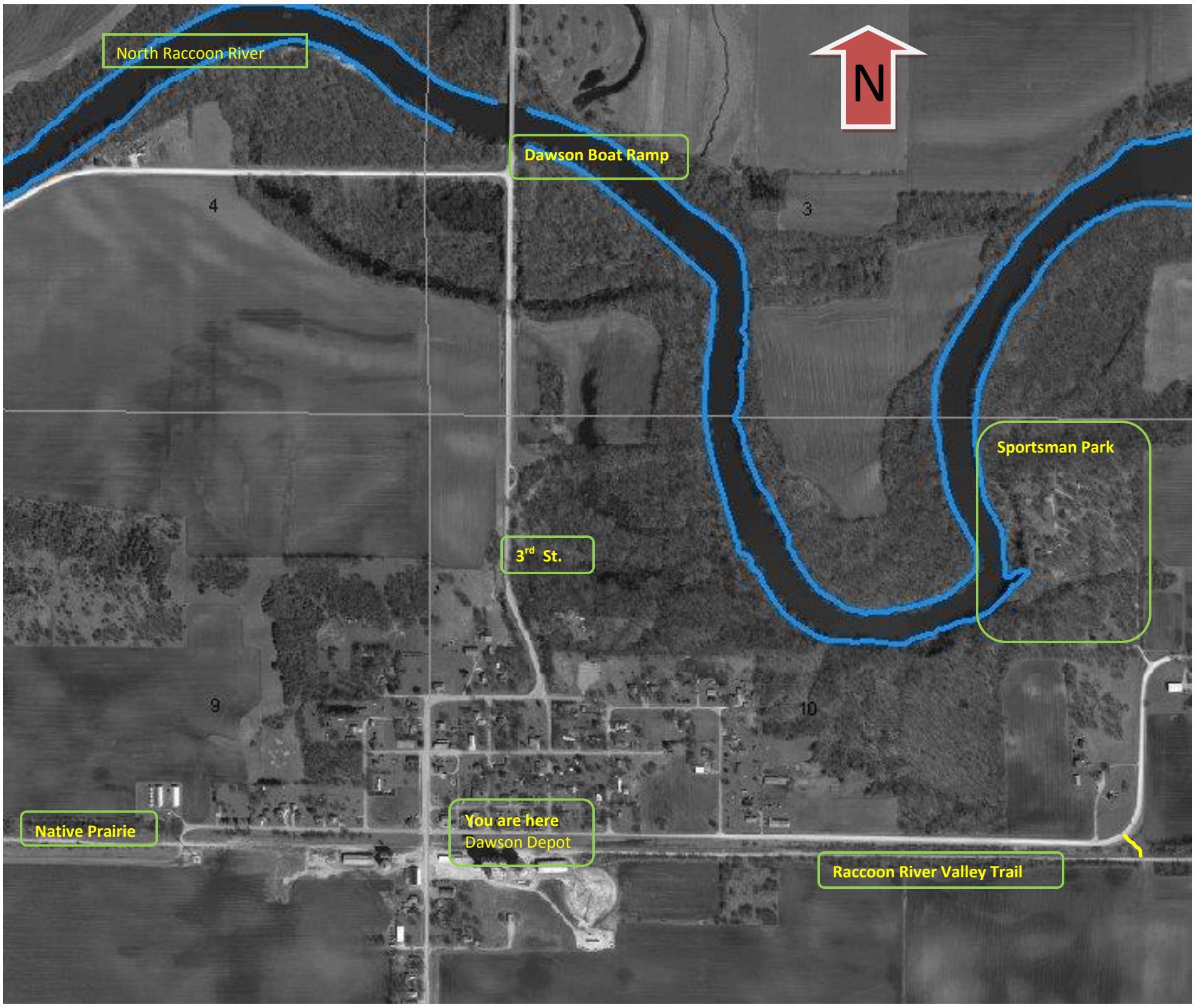
Dawson Depot

1. The Dawson Depot was built in 1889 to serve the passengers, crew and freight transported on the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific rail line. It served its original purpose until rail service was discontinued in 1950's.

2. The depot was sold to a local businessman, who used it as storage for his lumberyard.

3. After the lumberyard closed, the depot sat vacant.

4. Between 2006 and 2007, the Dallas County Conservation Board received over $100,000 in grants to restore the depot for use as a trailhead, historical display area and community meeting place.

Looking for something to do? Head to Sportsman Park! It has 40 acres of timber, trails, a playground, cabins, shelters, bathrooms and more! Go east on the trail about ½ mile. There will be a dirt access road on the left taking you to a gravel road. Follow this one long city block to the north. You are there!

Interested in boating and fishing? There is easy access to the North Raccoon River at the paved boat ramp just north of Dawson. The float between Dawson and Perry is about 7 miles. The river is bordered in places by high bluffs, in others, scenic timbered stands. Look for bald eagles, great blue heron and weasels.