

**2018 LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND**

Congress approved an apportionment of \$2,111,283 for the State of Iowa. One half of Iowa’s apportionment, \$1,055,641.50 is available to cities and counties for outdoor recreation acquisition and development projects.

A total of 10 applications were received by the March 15, 2018 deadline. Grant requests for the 10 applications totaled \$814,140 for a variety of activities including general park improvements, campground developments, playgrounds and land acquisitions. (Some applications included aspects that fit into more than one of the previous listed areas).

A five member committee reviewed the 10 applications and scored/ranked them based on the following criteria:

- Relationship to SCORP Priorities (Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan)
- Direct Recreation Benefits Provided
- Local Need
- Quality of the Site

Additional bonus points and penalty points are also included in the scoring system. They are based on such things as level of prior assistance from the LWCF; special features for the elderly and handicapped; minority populations served; degree of public participation and supports; recycled content material use; and level of planning that has preceded the application for a LWCF grant.

On May 10, 2018 the Natural Resource Commission approved the ranking from the Review Committee. After the appropriation letter was received, it was determined that the top 9 projects were approved for full funding.

**Ranked List of Land and Water Conservation Fund – City and County Grants**

Rank	Score	Grant Applicant	Project	Total Project Cost	Grant Amount Requested	Approved Funding Amount
1	72	City of Laurens	Pocahontas County Trail Phase I-Prairie Park Trail	\$757,319	\$60,000	\$60,000
<p><i>This project is for the acquisition and development of an approximately 2.2 mile trail corridor in northwest Laurens. The proposed trail will connect to the existing 1.6 mile trail located in the southeast section of the City. Both the proposed and existing trails, together known as the Prairie Park Trail, are part of the larger Pocahontas County Trails Master Plan which seeks to connect the existing Three Rivers Trail in eastern Pocahontas County to the western border. This is Phase One.</i></p>						
2	70	City of Mason City	Mason City Highline Trail-Acquisition of Union Pacific Railroad Property	\$1,700,000	\$150,000	\$150,000
<p><i>The City has partnered with the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (INHF) to acquire unused railroad property from Backtrack Inc. and the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) for the purpose of creating an approximate 5 mile off-street trail from 19<sup>th</sup> St. SE to County Rd B-20. The City will purchase the Backtrack segment outright. INHF will purchase the UPRR property and hold it in trust; this application requests funding to assist with the purchasing of the UPRR property from INHF.</i></p>						
3	66	O'Brien County Conservation Board	Douma Park Campground Upgrade	\$244,000	\$122,000	\$122,000
<p><i>This project will redesign the campground at Douma Park resulting in fourteen campsites upgraded for modern recreational vehicles. All sites will include cement pads, rural water, and electricity. Half of the sites will include sewer hookups. A modern shower building will replace the existing pit toilet. A dump station will be added. Internet service will be installed for camper use and security cameras. Green space will be added by removing scrub trees. Shoreline access for anglers will be increased.</i></p>						

4	65	Winneshiek County Conservation Board	Neste Valley Recreation Area Development	\$354,086	\$125,000	\$125,000
<p><i>Neste Valley Recreation Area is a newly purchased property slated to become a regional destination park. Future development plans include a campground, a welcome center with interpretive exhibits, an outdoor agricultural museum, and a regional bike trail. This grant addresses fundamental and crucial first steps in converting this farm into a park. Constructing a public roadway and parking area, as well as an initial campground infrastructure, roadways and camping spurs.</i></p>						
5	64	Black Hawk County Conservation Board	Hickory Hills Park Electrical upgrades	\$81,073	\$40,000	\$40,000
<p><i>Phase I of this project involves installing new, larger gauge electric wire, 200 amp entrance breakers; install twenty eight 50 amp electric boxes, and transform fifteen campsites that are too short for new campers into eight pull-through sites. When completed, twenty eight campsites will have new electric service.</i></p>						
6	63	Hamilton County	Briggs Woods Campground Renovation	\$160,000	\$80,000	\$80,000
<p><i>Campground renovation includes the development of at-grade level campsites with a gravel base and ADA accessibility, new electric pedestals with GFI 20, 30 and 50 amp service, new water service at each renovated site, new fire rings and registration pedestals.</i></p>						
7	60	City of Lamoni	Lamoni Recreational Trail Extension	\$87,000	\$43,500	\$43,500
<p><i>The Lamoni Recreational Trails Commission, assisted by Trees Forever, prepared a long-range community trails plan. The plan included developing a nine hundred foot trail extension from the existing trail across the dam and spillway of Home Pond, providing a loop option for trail users and improving trail connectivity and safety. The extension allows for a view of the locations' scenic beauty, pond, wildflowers, trees, and wildlife. Grant funds will be used to build the trail and install a bridge.</i></p>						
8	60	City of Bellevue	Cole Park Playground Project	\$250,000	\$75,000	\$75,000
<p><i>The City of Bellevue's Cole Park is an active 7.8 acre Park that lies in the heart of Bellevue and hosts a variety of events and recreational activities. The playground project will replace a thirty year old playground structure with new Miracle equipment. The project will improve handicap accessibility; install two age split structures, swings, a ten-spin, and a poured rubber surfacing.</i></p>						
9	60	Marion County Conservation Board	Roberts Creek Park, East Campground Renovation	\$87,279	\$43,640	\$43,640
<p><i>The campground renovation will reduce the number of existing campsites from fifty to twenty eight, increasing the distance between sites to an average of sixty feet, install 20/30/50 amp electric service, water spigots and sewer drops to make all new sites full service hookup. Landscaping between sites will consist of various trees and shrubs to provide screening and privacy between sites.</i></p>						
10	53	City of Avoca	Rock Island RR Trail	\$229,523	\$75,000	
<p><i>In 2017, the City of Avoca acquired a thirty five hundred foot section of abandoned railroad from Hawkeye Land Corporation. This section of railroad ROW had long-been planned for acquisition and development for a trail. An additional one thousand three hundred and seventy five feet of trail will need to be constructed in order to connect the railroad ROW trail to the City's existing trail network. The City proposes to construct a total of four thousand eight hundred seventy five feet of trail.</i></p>						