

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources  
Natural Resource Commission**

**Decision Item**

**17. REAP City Parks and Open Space Grants – September 2019 (FY20)**

The Department requests Commission approval of the recommendations from the Project Review and Selection Committee for REAP City Parks and Open Space Grants as directed by Iowa Administrative Code 571, Chapter 33.

**Grant Purpose:** The City Parks and Open Space account receives 15% of the REAP funds, after initial distributions are made as outlined in Chapter 33, for competitive grants to help cities establish natural areas, encouraging outdoor recreation and resource management. Three categories have been established to assure grants are distributed to all sizes of cities. Projects considered include development of parks, multi-purpose trails (emphasis on connecting existing trails), park shelters, lake or river shoreline restoration, fishing access, and habitat restoration.

**Funding Source(s):** Resource Enhancement And Protection Fund – City Park and Open Spaces

**Grant Funding Available:** \$1,910,093

Category	City Population	Funding Available
Small Cities	less than 2,000	\$418,501
Medium Cities	between 2,000 and 25,000	\$624,601
Large Cities	larger than 25,000	\$866,991

**Selection Committee Members:** As directed by Chapter 33, a review and selection committee consisting of five members (four non-DNR appointees and one DNR staff) evaluate and rank project applications:

- City Representation
  - Michael Moran, retired, Iowa City Parks and Recreation Director
  - Jennifer Cowsert, Elkader City Administrator
  - Jennifer Davies, Slater Economic Development Director
  - Jack Wardell, Carroll Parks and Recreation Director
- DNR Representation
  - Monica Thelen, Executive Officer, Wildlife Bureau

**Summary of Selection Process:** As directed by criteria under Chapter 33.40, the selection committee reviewed and scored all applications. Examples of criteria considered include the relationship to relevant regional and statewide programs based on comprehensive plans (i.e. SCORP, County Resource Enhancement Plan, or local, state and federal plans), quality of site for land acquisition projects, environmental benefits, public benefit, and local support.

**Recommendation:** The committee recommends funding the projects listed in the Project Allocation. In the event that any of the grantees are unable to execute their project, the Department requests authority to offer those funds to the next highest scored projects that meet the grant criteria or return the funds to the grant program for distribution in the next grant cycle.

**ALLOCATION SUMMARY**

CATEGORY	AMOUNT REQUESTED	AMOUNT RECOMMENDED	# OF PROJECTS SCORED	PROJECTS RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING
SMALL CITIES TOTALS	\$1,490,221	\$418,501	26	9
MEDIUM CITIES TOTALS	\$1,834,444	\$624,601	21	6
LARGE CITIES TOTALS	\$2,370,077	\$866,991	10	4
<b>DISTRIBUTION TOTALS</b>	<b>\$5,694,742</b>	<b>\$1,910,093</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>19</b>

**PROJECT ALLOCATIONS**

**2019 (FY20) REAP City Parks Open Spaces - SMALL CITIES - Population under 2,000**

<b>Ranked by Score</b>	<b>City Applicant</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Grant Amount Requested</b>	<b>Recommended Award</b>
<b>105.6</b>	<b>Pierson</b>	<b>Park Wellness Area</b>	Pierson is creating a multi-use wellness area. This grant request is for phase 2 and includes native grass planting and pollinator gardens. A walking trail has already been installed around the area to be seeded. Included in the pollinator gardens will be benches and birdhouses.	<b>\$5,600</b>	<b>\$5,600</b>
<b>103.2</b>	<b>Elk Run Heights</b>	<b>Elk Run Creek Cleanup and Park Enhancement</b>	This project provides for cleanup of Elk Run Creek and enhancements to Mayor's Park. The project includes removing dumped rubble and installing limestone for seating areas and erosion control. The project also includes a pollinator garden, native plantings, trail spur and patios to improve access to the creek, tables and benches, and educational and trail map signage. This project is part of the City's Master Plan to improve and enhance Mayor's Park.	<b>\$75,000</b>	<b>\$75,000</b>
<b>98.6</b>	<b>Stacyville</b>	<b>Riverside Park Nature Playscape</b>	The proposed project includes the construction of a nature playscape to enhance an existing public open space. The project will include walkways, a land navigation learning landscape, boulder and log climbing areas, discovery trail, a net climber, native alluvium digging area, water play area, treehouse with ADA accessible elements, and interpretive panels. The natural resources improvements include native prairie, tree, and shrub plantings, and an ephemeral swale habitat area.	<b>\$50,000</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>
<b>97.4</b>	<b>Lone Tree</b>	<b>Dougherty Park Prairie Creek Improvements</b>	Dougherty Park improvements will include drainage work at the origin of Prairie Creek, pedestrian bridge replacement, and prairie establishment in a difficult to maintain turf area. Establishment of prairie will create pollinator habitat and education opportunities. Prairie will filter runoff to reduce sedimentation at a problem area under the vehicular and pedestrian bridges. The current 50' pedestrian bridge needs replacement and is an important connection for an entire neighborhood and on a route to school.	<b>\$10,500</b>	<b>\$10,500</b>
<b>96.6</b>	<b>Woodward</b>	<b>Rac. River Valley Trail-High Trestle Trail Connector, Woodward Constr. Phase</b>	This project consists of constructing a section of multi-use paved recreational trail within the city limits. The segment is part of the Raccoon River Valley Trail to High Trestle Trail Connector (9 miles).	<b>\$75,000</b>	<b>\$75,000</b>
<b>95.6</b>	<b>Wall Lake</b>	<b>Wall Lake to Sauk Rail Trail Connection –Ph. I</b>	The City of Wall Lake proposes to acquire 4.55 acres for a recreational trail connecting Wall Lake to the Sauk Rail Trail that runs adjacent to Perkins Avenue. The adjacent property has beautiful blue water and vegetation, which provides habitat for many types of wildlife and is visually stimulating to trail users.	<b>\$25,000</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>
<b>95.2</b>	<b>Glidden</b>	<b>Northland Park Pond Improvements</b>	This project will make improvements to Northland Park, including deepening a fishing pond, construction of a fishing pier, and camping and trail improvements.	<b>\$75,000</b>	<b>\$75,000</b>

94.8	Laurens	Pocahontas County Trail Phase 1- Development	This project is for the development of 2.2 miles of trail on a recently acquired discontinued rail property. The trail will connect the City of Laurens from the west edge of Laurens and the site of a newly proposed pocket park. The proposed trail segment will consist of a 10-foot wide crushed rock stone surface.	\$75,000	\$75,000
93.8	Auburn	Grant Park Trail Head	This project will be the official welcome station and starting point for the Grant Park Trail which connects the City of Auburn with Sac County's Grant Park 1½ miles northwest of the city. This project will include construction of entrance trail, natural stone and wood benches, steel oak tree archway, plantings of native grasses and perennial wildflowers with a map/nature/history kiosk.	\$50,000	\$27,401
91	Slater	North Side Park - Phase I		\$75,000	-0-
90.4	Malvern	Boehner Pond Nature Trail		\$74,788	-0-
89.8	Oakland	Schuelman Park Pond Construction	This and all projects above would have received funding if REAP was at \$20 million.	\$75,000	-0-
89.6	Steamboat Rock	Iowa River Trail Extension in Steamboat Rock		\$50,000	-0-
89.4	Monona	Monona Butterfly Trail Phase III		\$75,000	-0-
87	Arnolds Park	Lakeview Boulevard Pedestrian Walkway		\$50,000	-0-
85.8	Pleasantville	Highway 5 Trail Connection		\$75,000	-0-
85.2	Graettinger	Graettinger Trails Project		\$49,987	-0-
85.2	Manning	South School Connector Trail		\$75,000	-0-
84.8	Springville	Emmons Park		\$75,000	-0-
84.2	Epworth	Tower Park Improvements		\$75,000	-0-
84.2	Urbana	Urbana Veteran's Memorial Park		\$70,436	-0-
80.2	Lanesboro	Lanesboro City Park Shelter House		\$35,600	-0-
78.2	Maharishi Vedic City	Trail construction, preservation of land and habitat Central Park		\$75,000	-0-
76.2	Woodbine	Walk, Walk, Walk ... Walk Around the Park		\$63,810	-0-
75.4	Victor	Waterworks Park Renovations		\$50,000	-0-
69.4	Clutier	City Park Improvement		\$4,500	-0-
<b>SMALL CITIES TOTAL</b>				<b>\$1,490,221</b>	<b>\$418,501</b>

**2019 (FY20) REAP City Parks Open Spaces - MEDIUM CITIES - Population between 2,000 and 25,000**

<b>Ranked by Score</b>	<b>City Applicant</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Grant Amount Requested</b>	<b>Recommended Award</b>
116.4	Coralville	<b>West Land Use Park Land and Fen Preservation Buffer</b>	The City of Coralville seeks to purchase 7.6 acres of land that will be part of a larger project that is approximately 80 acres in total. The land purchase is for a new park in the Coralville's west land use area. The proposed 7.6 acre purchase will provide a buffer to a fen, a diverse wetland environment that is somewhat unique in the State of Iowa. When developed, the park will celebrate the native landscapes of fens, woodlands, and prairie areas while bringing people up close with these features through interpretive trails, exploration nodes, and a nature center.	\$125,000	\$125,000
116	Clive	<b>Northern Neighborhoods Greenbelt Acquisition</b>	This approximately 13.95 acre parcel for acquisition includes a portion of a tributary of Little Walnut Creek and is heavily wooded with a smattering of leftover pasture land from when this area was farmed and homesteaded. There is also a small waterbody that likely contains adjoining wetlands. This acquisition is part of a larger overall master plan for development of neighborhoods and parks in this area of the City. The master plan reflects that this area adjacent to Little Walnut Creek will be used for park purposes and flood control. The effort continues with the City's tradition of the Greenbelt Park that utilizes these types of natural lineal corridors along creeks to provide areas for recreational trails, and undisturbed natural areas in this type of park; adjacent and connected to neighborhoods and other park uses.	\$125,000	\$125,000
112	Madrid	<b>Bird Friendly Dalander Park Enhancement</b>	The City of Madrid requests funding to pave a trail, install a bridge/boardwalk, purchase materials for a picnic table canopy, and plant the disturbed area in high quality native plants and seed. The city and volunteers will pay for and install an interpretive sign, build and install nest boxes, install plantings, and grade the site.	\$75,000	\$75,000
110.8	Glenwood	<b>Glenwood Trail System and Trail Head Project</b>	The Glenwood Trail System and Trail head project will include construction of roughly 3 miles of 10 foot wide paved pedestrian trails, a paved trailhead for parking that will contain 100 stalls, 4 bridges, and a bridge underpass trail to increase access to schools, athletic facilities, and city properties. The bridges will be provided by Mills County and many will be repurposed railcars. One bridge will showcase a waterfall feature that will open up access to a 2+ acre flat valley owned by the City where a new park and hiking access on a loess hill will be found. Currently, there are no existing facilities in the project area.	\$100,000	\$100,000
110	Carroll	<b>Graham Park Creek Restoration</b>	This project will improve the creek within Graham Park. Improvements will include the construction of a wing wall, protection of existing infrastructure, outfall protection, and the creation of a creek area for resting, teaching, and access.	\$125,000	\$125,000
106.6	Bondurant	<b>Downs Property</b>	This project is for 6.46 acres that would be the initial	\$100,000	\$74,601

		<b>Acquisition for Central Park Project</b>	phase of a regional park project. Located on NE Hubbell Avenue, this project will eventually become a regional park with a lake that serves a regional stormwater retention that will enhance water quality and an open green park space with a trail system that will connect to the Gay Lea Wilson Trail, as well as a public amphitheater.		
103.8	Cherokee	Magnetic Park-Trail Development		\$100,000	-0-
99.8	Williamsburg	West End Pond Restoration Project		\$75,000	-0-
99.6	Spirit Lake	Tatanka Ska Trace – Rail Trail Phase III(a)		\$75,000	-0-
99	Fort Madison	Connecting Fort Madison! Phase IV – 48th Street Trail Connection	This and all projects above would have received funding if REAP was at \$20 million.	\$125,000	-0-
97	Keokuk	South Riverfront Corridor Trail		\$125,000	-0-
96.2	Wapello	Surfacing of Trail, installation of a pollinator garden, and installation of camping pads		\$55,235	-0-
95.8	Le Mars	PlyWood Trail Stage 1 Project		\$100,000	-0-
95.4	Eldora	Iowa River Trail Extension in Eldora		\$75,000	-0-
94	Oelwein	Segment 1, Oelwein Municipal Urban Trail System		\$100,000	-0-
93.4	Solon	Solon Recreation and Nature Area Improvements		\$75,000	-0-
93.2	Boone	8th and Story Street Greenspace		\$25,000	-0-
91	Sergeant Bluff	901 First Street Park Trail		\$75,000	-0-
90.2	Colfax	Quarry Springs Park Restroom/Shower House Facility		\$75,000	-0-
89	Lamoni	George Foreman (North) Park Recreational Trail Connection		\$34,113	-0-
87.6	Fairfax	Sevig Park		\$70,096	-0-
<b>MEDIUM CITIES TOTAL</b>				<b>\$1,834,444</b>	<b>\$624,601</b>

**2019 (FY20) REAP City Parks Open Spaces - LARGE CITIES - Population larger than 25,000**

Ranked by Score	City Applicant	Project Name	Project Description	Grant Amount Requested	Recommended Award
107	Iowa City	<b>Terry Trueblood Rec Area Ecological</b>	This area was established in 2005 and has since become one of the most used parks in the region for fishing, hiking, birding, and outdoor recreation. The forested	<b>\$200,000</b>	<b>\$200,000</b>

		<b>Enhancement &amp; Restoration of Woodlands</b>	western area of the park has documented restoration and enhancement needs. This project continues smaller efforts of an ecological restoration initiative that will remove woody invasives, foliar spray wood invasive re-sprouts and conduct prescribed burns.		
<b>100.2</b>	<b>Council Bluffs</b>	<b>Valley View Park Pollinator Habitat Restoration</b>	The City of Council Bluffs Parks and Recreation Department is interested in pursuing the restoration of existing City-owned property to native upland and wetland habitats beneficial to pollinators, including monarchs. Restoration of the property, located in the vicinity of Valley View Park, could serve as a steppingstone to establishing a conservation corridor along Mosquito Creek for pollinator species as well as an educational opportunity for the public.	<b>\$176,077</b>	<b>\$176,077</b>
<b>99.8</b>	<b>Waterloo</b>	<b>Greenbelt Lake Improvements, Phase 1 of 2</b>	Phase One of the Greenbelt Lake Improvements project includes the installation of shoreline stones to improve access to the lake water's edge, an accessible fishing pier with a short concrete trail to the parking area, and 3.8 acres of pollinator plantings.	<b>\$200,000</b>	<b>\$200,000</b>
<b>98</b>	<b>Des Moines</b>	<b>Carlisle Trail Connection</b>	This project includes the construction of a new trail section between the Easter Lake Spine Trail and the southern Des Moines city limits to tie into the existing City of Carlisle Trail. This segment is a critical gap in the regional trail system as it will connect two National Recreation Trails. The new trail will be a 10-foot wide asphalt section, approximately 2 to 2.5-miles in length.	<b>\$300,000</b>	<b>\$290,914</b>
96.6	Dubuque	Phase 3: Implementation of Eagle Point Park Enviro. Restoration Management Plan		\$200,000	-0-
95.6	Cedar Rapids	Hughes Park Development	This and all projects above would have received funding if REAP was at \$20 million.	\$294,000	-0-
93.8	Davenport	Veterans Memorial Park Prairie Restoration Project		\$300,000	-0-
93.4	West Des Moines	Raccoon River Pedestrian Bridge		\$200,000	-0-
92.6	Sioux City	Chris Larsen Park Redevelopment Project		\$300,000	-0-
86	Iowa City	Project GREEN Gardens at the Historic Ned Ashton House		\$200,000	-0-
<b>LARGE CITIES TOTAL</b>				<b>\$2,370,077</b>	<b>\$866,991</b>

Tammie Krausman, REAP Coordinator  
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