

2017 LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

Congress approved an apportionment of \$1,308,566 for the State of Iowa. One half of Iowa's apportionment, \$654,283 is available to cities and counties for outdoor recreation acquisition and development projects.

A total of 9 applications were received by the March 15, 2017 deadline. Grant requests for the 9 applications totaled \$963,584 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 9 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 11, 2017 the Natural Resource Commission approved the ranking from the Review Committee. After the appropriation letter was received, it was determined that the top 5 projects were approved for full funding.

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

	Ranked by Score	Grant Applicant	Project	Total Project Cost	Grant Amount Requested	Approved Funding Amount
1	75	City of Iowa City	Riverfront Crossing Nature Playground	\$314,600	\$157,300	\$157,300
		<i>Riverfront Crossing Nature Playground - project consists of constructing a 2.51 acre nature play area to provide outdoor recreation for children and families through nature-based play spaces which teach and interpret the environmental and historical context of the Iowa City area. The ground will be sculpted to provide natural slides, access to water, climbing on timbers and other play spaces incorporating Artful Rainwater concepts into the design.</i>				
2	70	Buchanan County Conservation Board	Roberts Wildlife Area-Key Connections in the Wapsipinicon River Corridor	\$313,500	\$79,500	\$79,500
		<i>Connections in the Wapsipinicon River Corridor-project will acquire 102 acres of forest, forested wetlands, upland grassland, and Wapsipinicon River shoreline. The 102 acres will be a key connection, adjoining public lands in Blackhawk County (Wilson Woods) and Buchanan County (Cutshall Area), and result in 504 acres of contiguous public forest and forested wetlands, and 820 acres of land in the Wapsipinicon River Corridor.</i>				
3	66.8	Clarke County Conservation Board	East Lake Park Campground Development	\$336,265	\$100,000	\$100,000
		<i>East Lake Park Campground Development-project will construct 25 modern campsites with water and electrical hookups, dump station, modern shower house, check-in-station kiosk, 24' stone access road to all campsites, and professionally designed wetland-style wastewater treatment system.</i>				

4	64	Buena Vista Conservation Board	Linn Grove Dam Recreation Area-Campground Development	\$355,000	\$125,000	\$125,000
		<i>Linn Grove Dam Recreation Area-Campground Development-project includes the development of a campground on the Linn Grove Dam Area. The new 20 camping spots will include water, sewer, and 50 amp electrical hook ups at each site. A concrete patio will be located at each site, with fire ring and ADA accessible picnic table. A new playground that includes swings and slide will also be installed as part of the project along with a fish cleaning station.</i>				
5	63	City of Dubuque	Eagle Point Park Environmental Restoration Management Plan	\$404,000	\$175,000	\$175,000
		<i>Eagle Point Park Environmental Restoration Project – project will mitigate/reverse severe erosion and loss of turf and native vegetation. The project will stimulate germination and growth of desired trees, shrubs, and plants; remove/prevent invasive species from seeding annually; establish diverse mix of ground-layer plants; flowers with nectar, and various fruits, seed, leaves, stems and roots to provide resources for wildlife; reduce/prevent erosion and storm water runoff through sustainable best practices.</i>				
6	56.75	City of Storm Lake	Storm Lake Marine Campground	\$226,870	\$100,000	
		<i>Storm Lake Marine Campground- phase 1 development of the Storm Lake Marina would include the construction of 11 seasonal campsites on the southeast portion of the property. Improvements would include installation of rock driveways and camper pads, electric, sewer, and water services for each site, and the planting of trees for shade and screening. Project would allow for the permanent seasonal placement of campers at the Marina.</i>				
7	56.2	City of Pleasantville	The Coral Shadle Landscape Project	\$225,000	\$112,500	
		<i>The Coral Shadle Landscape Project-the City of Pleasantville has an area in Coral Shadle Park that has no added value to the Park in its current condition. The City plans to landscape the area, add benches, and make the area ADA accessible for all community members to use for outdoor events, farmers market, outdoor movie nights and other events.</i>				
8	54.6	City of Le Mars	Le Mars Recreational Trail	\$249,250	\$100,000	
		<i>Le Mars Recreational Trail-project will acquire.37 acres and construct two recreational, multipurpose trail extensions onto the northern portion of the existing City of Le Mars recreational trail network.</i>				
9	34.8	City of Danbury	Alvis Wessling Memorial Park Grandstand	\$28,568	\$14,284	
		<i>Alvis Wessling Memorial Ballpark Grandstand-the ballpark has been an iconic part of the Cities little league program since the 1970s. The grandstand seats hundreds of fans during the summer’s little league program and during other events at the</i>				

ballpark. However, the wooden structure is rotting which is a safety issue, the wooden seats are too wide for comfort, and there are no ramps for disabled persons to use. Project would replace support posts, install a ramp on the north side, and add composite seating made from recycled materials.