



**2023 LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND**

Congress approved an apportionment of \$3,600,000 for the State of Iowa Land and Water Conservation Fund on July 19, 2023. Approximately \$2,700,000 is available to cities and counties for outdoor recreation acquisition and development projects from one-half of Iowa’s apportionment plus additional roll-over funding from 2022.

A total of nine applications were received by the March 15, 2023 deadline; all of which were eligible for committee review. Grant requests for the nine applications totaled \$1,084,141 for a variety of projects including trail construction; land acquisition; and various park improvements such as splash pads and playgrounds.

A five-member Review Committee scored the nine applications and 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. Bonus and penalty points are based on prior assistance from the LWCF; special features for the elderly and handicapped; minority populations served; degree of public participation and support; recycled content material use; and level of planning that has preceded the application for an LWCF grant.

On June 8, 2023, the Natural Resource Commission approved the ranking from the Review Committee. After the appropriation letter was received, it was determined that all nine projects were approved for funding.

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

Rank	Score	Grant Applicant	Project	Total Project Cost	Grant Amount Requested	Grant Award
1	70.4	City of Ames	Sands-McDorman Property Acquisition	\$ 1,146,474	\$ 175,000	\$ 175,000

This project seeks to purchase 49.7 acres on the west side of Ames to develop a new community park.

2	69.0	City of Grimes	Wallace Farm Park	\$ 2,217,190	\$ 125,000	\$ 125,000
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This project seeks to complete site preparation and trail installation in the newly developed Wallace Farm Park.

3	67.6	City of Davenport	Goose Creek Park Restoration	\$ 1,310,881	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000
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The City of Davenport seeks to complete improvements in Goose Creek Park including stream restoration, creek access points, trails, and natural playscapes.

4	65.2	Polk County Conservation	Fourmile Creek Park Acquisition Project	\$ 368,282	\$ 184,141	\$ 184,141
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This project seeks to acquire 42.03 acres to create a new conservation area in the city of Alleman.

5	64.6	City of Lenox	Lenox Recreational Trail Extension Phase 3	\$ 345,432	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000
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The City of Lenox is requesting LWCF funds to extend the existing trail system to a recreational complex north of town.

6	64.2	Decatur County Conservation	Decatur County Savanna Hills Learning Center	\$ 603,113	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000
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This project seeks to assist Decatur County Conservation in the completion of the Savanna Hills Nature Center. Projects will include sidewalks, art, and interior buildout.

7	61.0	City of Murray	Mallory Park Splash Pad and Playground	\$ 263,834	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000
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The City of Murray is requesting funds to replace an aging playground and add a splash pad to Mallory Park.

8	60.6	City of Bondurant	Acquisition for Extension of the Chichaqua Valley Trail	\$ 300,593	\$ 125,000	\$ 125,000
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This project seeks to acquire two parcels for a trail connection from downtown to the Chichaqua Valley Trail.

8	60.6	City of Grand Mound	The Grand Mound Splash Pad and Park Improvement Project	\$ 553,601	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000
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This project seeks to construct a splash pad, seating, and plantings at an existing recreational complex.