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Hiawatha Parks and Recreation

To:	Mayor and City Council
From:	Kelly Willadsen, Park and Recreation Director
Date:	April 8, 2019
Re:	Linn County Conservation Morgan Creek Development Resolution of Support
CC:	Kim Downs, City Administrator

Linn County Conservation is looking for support on their Morgan Creek Development Project that will take place in 2020. They are applying for a grant through the Enhance Iowa Board for Community Attraction and Tourism (CAT) which asks for support from neighboring communities in Linn County that would utilize the space and attractions. Their award goal for this grant is $500,000.00.

Morgan Creek Park is a 352-acre park located on the SW side of Cedar Rapids. Phase 1 of this project is approximately 5 million dollars including a new entrance road, shelter, restrooms, wetlands, inclusive playground and parking areas. The wetlands will intercept area storm water runoff to serve as an innovative ecology display and educational opportunity.

In the development phases of Wickiup Learning Center in the early 2000's, City Council approved a $250 donation along with a resolution of support for the project. With our NW park development approaching we will be doing the same by reaching out to Linn County Conservation for support. Having support from one another is important. We have a great working relationship with their staff and they have shown us support through other projects including the upcoming dog park.

I would like to ask for councils support on this project to approve a resolution officially demonstrating support in the Morgan Creek Development project along with a $250.00 donation. By supporting one another we can enhance our recreation opportunities, health and environment, making Linn County and the surrounding community's a destination place to be. Thank you for your consideration.

LINN COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD
10260 MORRIS HILLS ROAD
TODDVILLE, IOWA 52341
PH: 319-892-6450 LinnCountyParks.com

LinnCounty.org

March 25, 2019

Kelly Willadsen
Hiawatha Parks and Recreation Director
101 Emmons Street Hiawatha, IA 52233

RE: Resolution of Support – Linn County Conservation Community Attraction and Tourism Grant

Dear Kelly,

Linn County Conservation is applying to the Enhance Iowa Board for Community Attraction and Tourism (CAT) funding toward an exciting development project in Morgan Creek Park. Local partner support is a key element the CAT Committee looks for in an application. We would appreciate Hiawatha support toward this process through a City Council resolution of support and project donation. This project promises to enhance Morgan Creek Park as a community and regional asset, benefiting communities within Linn County through expanded opportunities for nature-based recreation, environmental learning and trail connectivity.

Morgan Creek Park is a 352 acre park located in southwest Linn County bordering the City limits of Cedar Rapids. This regional county park is located in an actively urbanizing area and is projected to be surrounded by future residential development, making it an important natural oasis for the Community.

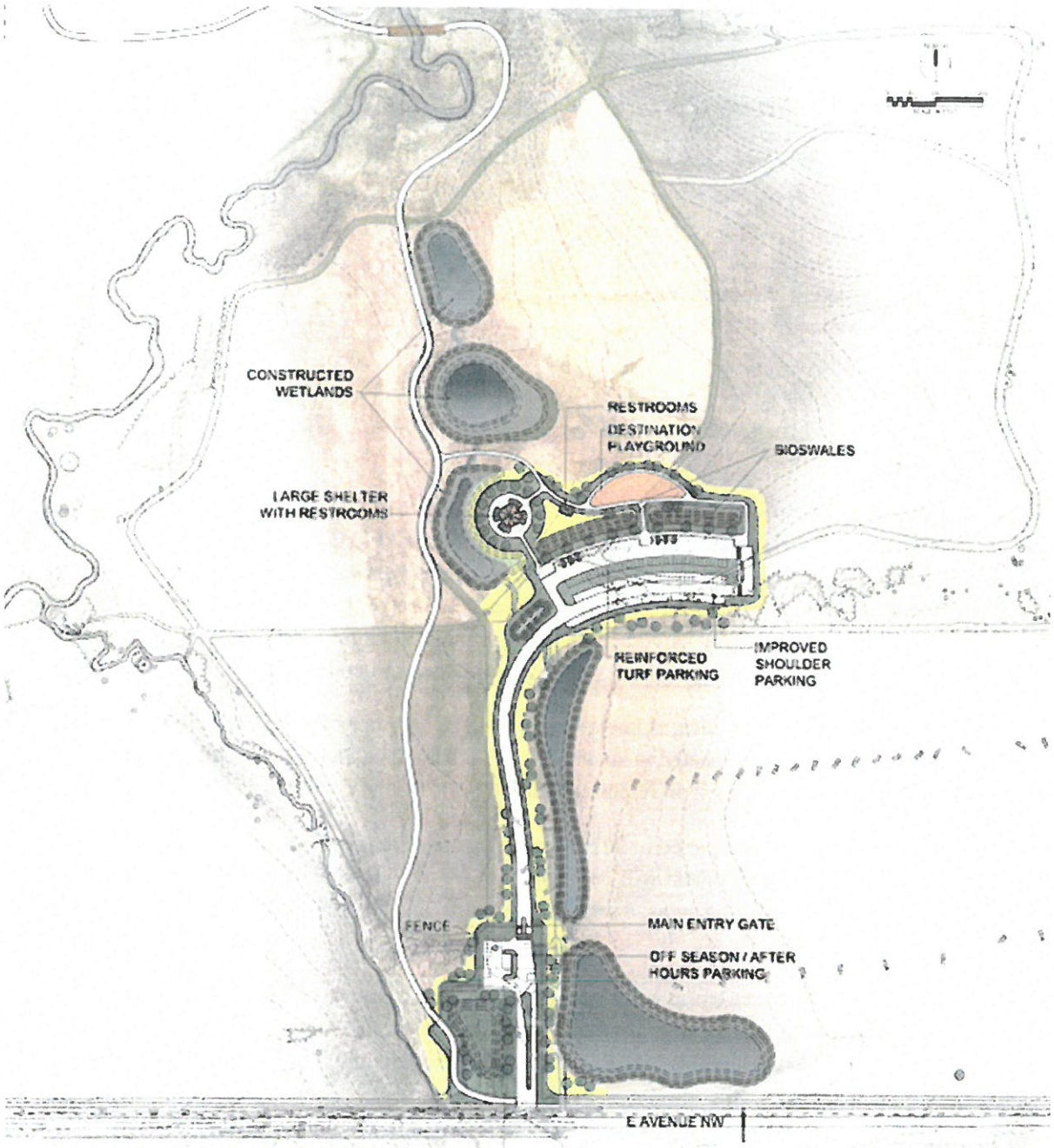
A Master Plan for Morgan Creek, completed in 2015, is guiding major redevelopment. Phase 1 of this approximately 5 million dollar development will begin in 2020 and will include a new entrance road, shelter, restroom, inclusive playground, parking areas, a series of wetlands, and a HWY 100 Trail segment connecting to the Cherokee Trail.

The wetland series will intercept area storm water runoff to serve as an innovative storm water and wetland ecology display and educational opportunity. Connection of the HWY 100 Trail to the Cherokee Trail and ultimately the Cedar Valley Nature Trail, CEMAR Trail and others is an important component of overall Community trails planning.

This request for a resolution of support and project donation from the City of Hiawatha is key to the success of leveraging CAT funding. We appreciate your continued partnership as we grow Community recreation and environmental stewardship in a rapidly growing area of Linn County. Please let me know what other information you might need in considering this request.

Sincerely,

Daniel Gibbins, Deputy Director
Linn County Conservation Board
10260 Morris Hills Road
Toddville, Iowa 52341



MORGAN CREEK PARK Overall Phase 1 - Day Use Park & Watershed and Streambank Improvements
LINN COUNTY CONSERVATION

SHIVEHATTERY

DRAFT

RESOLUTION NO. 19-
City Council

RESOLUTION DEMONSTRATING CITY COUNCIL SUPPORT AND PLEDGING FINANCIAL SUPPORT IN THE LINN COUNTY CONSERVATION MORGAN CREEK DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HIAWATHA, IOWA, to demonstrate support and to pledge an amount not to exceed $250.00 from the General Fund to the Linn County Conservation Morgan Creek Development Project to support one another and enhance our recreation opportunities, health and environment, making Linn County and the surrounding community's a destination place to be.

AYES:
NAYS:
ABSENT:

PASSED AND APPROVED this 17th day of April, 2019.

_____
Bill Bennett, Mayor

ATTEST:

_____
Kari Graber, City Clerk