IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Resource Enhancement and Protection

REAP GRANT APPLICATION

Email application to tammie.krausman@dnr.iowa.gov by August 15th by 4:30 P.M.
Please use the following format for the electronic application:

- Application should be one file (including all appendices, letters, etc.), saved as a pdf.
- Name file: ApplicantName.Shortprojectname.FY17.pdf
- File cannot exceed 20MB or 20,480KB. Compressed pdfs will be accepted.

1. GRANT PROGRAM

☐ **Private/Public Open Space** ☐ **County Conservation** ☒ **City Parks and Open Spaces**

(For Private/Public - Name of DNR Field Staff involved in project:)

2. APPLICATION CONTACT

APPLICANT: City of Council Bluffs Parks and Recreation **CONTACT PERSON:** Vincent Martorello

EMAIL: vmartorello@councilbluffs-ia.gov **TELEPHONE:** 712-890-5291

APPLICANT MAILING ADDRESS: 209 Pearl Street **CITY & ZIP CODE:** Council Bluffs, IA 51503

PROJECT 911 ADDRESS (if available): **COUNTY:** Pottawattamie

LATITUDE/LONGITUDE COORDINATES: 41.251286, -95.815393

(To find Lat/Long Coordinates: Go to **Google Map.** Right-click on the *primary public access point* for the project. Select **What's here?** In the search box at the top of the page, the coordinates will appear.)

3. PROJECT DESCRIPTION & COSTS

a. **TITLE:** Valley View Park Pollinator Habitat Restoration

b. **PROJECT SUMMARY:** (Maximum of 75 words summarizing the REAP Grant request)
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 stepping-stone to establishing a conservation corridor along Mosquito Creek for pollinator species as well as an educational opportunity for the public.

c. **TYPE OF PROJECT AND COSTS:** (For activities associated with **this grant request only**).

☐ **Land acquisition*** **Costs related to land acquisition:** $

☐ **Development** **Costs related to development:** $

☒ **Other, please describe:** (Seeding, signage, etc.) **Costs related to other activities:** $ **176,077**

AMOUNT OF REAP GRANT REQUESTED: $ 176,077

d. **Amount of local or match money*:**

*25% minimum match is required for Private/Public Program only. No match is required for city and county grants.

4. PROJECT TIMELINE

a. Is the project a portion of a larger, overall project to be implemented over a multi-year period?

☒ No ☐ Yes, Number of years: Estimated overall cost:

b. ESTIMATED PROJECT DATES

Start: Fall 2019 Completion: 2021

5. ACQUISITION SCHEDULE (Acquisition Projects Only)

Code*	Parcel Number on Map or Photo	# of Acres	Estimated Date of Acquisition	Average Price Per Acre	Estimated Value of Land Acquisition without incidentals	Estimated Value of Existing Improvements to be Acquired	Total Cost
TOTAL Parcels & Acres						TOTAL	
						Appraisal Costs	
*Code: 1. Negotiated Purchase 2. Condemnation 3. Donation						Survey Costs	
						Other Incidental Costs	
						Grant Total Land Acquisition Cost	
						Overall Cost per Acre Including Incidental	

6. SIGNATURES

Upon signing in the space provided below, the applicant agrees to conform with the requirements in the following two paragraphs pertaining to ADA/Section 504 accessibility guidelines and civil rights assurance. (City and County Projects Only)

ASSURANCE OF COMPLIANCE WITH AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES AND CIVIL RIGHTS ACTS

I, the undersigned, certify that the City of Council Bluffs has reviewed Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1975, Title II of the American with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and the Iowa Civil Rights Act of 1965, each Act as amended, and agrees to abide by all requirements from the Acts, associated regulations, guidance documents, and to any other related requirement imposed by federal or state law or the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, related to this project. Applicant-Recipient further agrees and gives full assurance that it will immediately take any and all measures necessary to effectuate the referenced laws and shall not, on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, age, physical or mental ability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, or retaliation, allow any person to be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise subject to discrimination under or from any project or activity undertaken by the Applicant-Recipient for which the Applicant-Recipient receives REAP grant dollars or other assistance from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

This assurance is binding on the Applicant-Recipient, its successors, transferees, and assignees, and the person or persons whose signature appears below are authorized to sign this assurance on behalf of the Applicant-Recipient.

	Director, Parks and Recreation
Applicant's Signature and Date	**Applicant's Title**

PRIVATE/PUBLIC GRANTS ONLY

Applicant's Signature and Date	**Applicant's Title**

CITY COUNCIL OR COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVAL (City and County Projects Only)

I, the undersigned, certify that the city council of Council Bluffs has on the date of reviewed this proposed project and approved its submittal for Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) grant consideration.

Matt J. Kelley — 8/1/19

Signature of Mayor or County Conservation Board Chair — **Date**

COUNTY RESOURCE ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE REVIEW/COMMENTS (Required for all grants) I, the undersigned, verify that the Pottawattamie County Resource Enhancement Committee reviewed the proposed project for which this application is submitted. If the committee provided comments, a summary of those comments has been signed and dated by me and attached to this application.

Signature of Chair, County Resource Enhancement Committee — **Date**

For information on County REAP Committees, visit the REAP County Committee webpage.

MINORITY IMPACT STATEMENT (Required for all grants)

Pursuant to 2008 Iowa Acts, HF 2393, Iowa Code Section 8.11, all grant applications submitted to the State of Iowa which are due beginning January 1, 2009 shall include a Minority Impact Statement. This is the state's mechanism to require grant applicants to consider the potential impact of the grant project's proposed programs or policies on minority groups.

Please choose the statement(s) that pertains to this grant application. Complete all the information requested for the chosen statement(s).

☐ The proposed grant project programs or policies could have a disproportionate or unique **positive** impact on minority persons.

- Describe the positive impact expected from this project:
- Indicate which group is impacted:

☐ Women	☐ Latinos	☐ American Indians
☐ Persons with a Disability	☐ Asians	☐ Alaskan Native Americans
☐ Blacks	☐ Pacific Islanders	☐ Other

☐ The proposed grant project programs or policies could have a disproportionate or unique **negative** impact on minority persons.

- Describe the negative impact expected from this project:
- Present the rationale for the existence of the proposed program or policy:
- Provide evidence of consultation of representatives of the minority groups impacted:
- Indicate which group is impacted:

☐ Women	☐ Latinos	☐ American Indians
☐ Persons with a Disability	☐ Asians	☐ Alaskan Native Americans
☐ Blacks	☐ Pacific Islanders	☐ Other

☒ The proposed grant project programs or policies are **not expected to have** a disproportionate or unique impact on minority persons.

Present the rationale for determining no impact: This project aims to benefit all members of the community and does not expect to have a disproportionate or unique impact on minority or low-income persons. The trail and park system in Council Bluffs is designed to be accessible and available to all members of the general public.

I hereby certify that the information on this form is complete and accurate, to the best of my knowledge:

Matt Mastrangelo 8.1.19 — Director, Parks and Recreation

Applicant's Signature and Date — **Applicant's Title**

DEFINITIONS

"Disability" as defined in Iowa Code § 15.201(12)"b"(1) means "with respect to an individual, a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities of the individual, a record of physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of

the major life activities of the individual, or being regarded as an individual with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities of the individual. "*Disability*" does not include any of the following:

(a) Homosexuality or bisexuality.

(b) Transvestism, transsexualism, pedophilia, exhibitionism, voyeurism, gender identify disorders not resulting from physical impairments, or sexual behavior disorders.

(c) Compulsive gambling, kleptomania, or pyromania

(d) Psychoactive substance abuse disorders resulting from current illegal use of drugs.

"*Major life activity*" as defined in Iowa Code section 15.102(12)"b"(2) includes "functions such as caring for one' self, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, or working."

"*Minority Persons*" as defined by Iowa Code section 8.11(2)"b" means "individuals who are women, persons with a disability, African Americans, Latinos, Asian or Pacific Islanders, American Indians, and Alaskan Native Americans."

7. GRANT NARRATIVE

I. Project Location

The project would occur on 3 properties owned by the City of Council Bluffs (City). All are located on the east side of the City, north and south of Valley View Park (1300 Franklin Street), east of the BNSF Railway, and west of Mosquito Creek (**Figure 1**). The location and size of each property is listed below:

- Valley View South (south of Franklin Avenue, north of Mall Drive) - 5.9 acres
- McPherson South (south of McPherson Avenue) - 6.2 acres
- McPherson North (north of McPherson Avenue) - 1.4 acres

The Valley View South site is bordered by Valley View Park on the north and Mall Drive on the south. Row-crop agricultural fields lie north and south of the McPherson properties which are divided from one another by McPherson Avenue. Residential properties are present west of the railroad tracks. Valley View Drive and the Valley View Trail run along the east side of Mosquito Creek. **Figure 1** shows the project properties relative to the surrounding community and other public properties.

II. Project Description

The purposes of this project are to:

- restore and enhance native plant communities to benefit pollinators and other wildlife;
- educate the public about the importance of native pollinators and natural habitats;
- provide recreational opportunities to the public in a natural setting;
- improve the aesthetics of the landscape by planting a diverse mix of grasses and flowering plants.

These goals would be accomplished by restoring and enhancing 9.35 acres of floodplain lands to native pollinator habitat and improving public access to natural sites within the Mosquito Creek riparian corridor. Proposed improvements include enhancement of existing emergent and forested wetlands, restoration of tallgrass prairie, construction of a paved recreational/nature trail, and installation of educational signs. Existing and proposed conditions for each property are described in the following sub-sections. Existing vegetation is shown in **Figure 2**.



Figure 1. Project Location Map



Figure 2. Map of the Existing Vegetation Types

Valley View South

Existing Conditions. Until this year, the Valley View South site has been used for row crop agriculture. As part of a floodplain mitigation project, trees were cleared along Mosquito Creek and a 150-foot buffer was planted with native forbs and grasses. Within this 3.4-acre buffer, a 75-foot wide swath along the upper bank of Mosquito Creek was planted with native riparian trees. To the south, a remnant of degraded Silver Maple - Elm woodlands supports a mix of native and non-natives trees with a wood nettle understory. The remainder of the site is characterized by disturbed bare soil and weedy annuals with very few flowering plants. Observed pollinators included relatively common butterflies (i.e., painted lady, cabbage white, orange sulfur, and eastern tiger swallowtail), flies, bees, and wasps. The adjacent Valley View Park is a manicured park containing playground equipment, tennis courts, ball fields and walking paths. A pedestrian bridge across Mosquito Creek connects Valley View Trail to the park.

Proposed Conditions. The project would complement the floodplain buffer mitigation project by restoring the remainder of the former agricultural field site to native upland prairie habitat suitable for a variety of pollinators; selectively removing undesirable trees such as Siberian elm and white mulberry; and planting native shade-tolerant shrubs and herbaceous species in the riparian woodlands. The site would be accessible to the public via an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant recreational/nature trail that would meander through the site to benches where visitors can rest and enjoy nature around them. Educational signage would be located at the entrance near the Valley View Park sidewalk at Franklin Avenue and along the proposed nature trail.



Photo 1. Disturbed areas at the Valley View South site would be restored to tallgrass prairie, including use of a diverse native seed mix suitable for pollinators.



Photo 2. Riparian woodlands at the Valley View South site would be enhanced by removing non-native trees, and planting with native shrubs and forbs to improve habitat.



Photo 3. The proposed project would complement the floodplain buffer mitigation area (at left) by restoring the remainder of the site to native vegetation.



Photo 4. A pedestrian bridge across Mosquito Creek connects Valley View Park with Valley View Trail. An existing sidewalk connects the trail to the proposed restoration area.

McPherson South

Existing Conditions. Most of the McPherson South site supports a Boxelder Floodplain Forest. Several desirable species of trees are present including natives such as eastern cottonwood and American elm; however, the most prevalent species are the native boxelder and non-native white mulberry. A variety of understory species occur including the native Virginia wheatgrass and non-native reed canarygrass. Open areas of reed canarygrass wet meadow are also present (see **Figure 2**) and a tributary to Mosquito Creek runs through south end of the site. A few flowering plants are present, including tall mustard, common milkweed, germander, and large-flowered gaura. Observed pollinators included relatively common butterflies (i.e., painted lady, red admiral, cabbage white, orange sulfur, and an orange species of skipper), flies, and wasps; a single monarch was noted in July 2019.

Proposed Conditions. The property would be restored to native wetland and forest habitat suitable for a variety of pollinators. This would be accomplished by reseeding the open (non-treed) areas with a diverse mix of native forbs and grasses. Since this project is focused on pollinators, a higher forb to grass ratio would be used--above the recommended 50% or less grasses as measured by seeds/ft^2 in the Conservation Strategy for the Eastern Monarch Butterfly in Iowa (2018) or similar to the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) pollinator mix with 25% or less grass seeds/ft^2. The site would also be enhanced by selectively removing undesirable trees and planting native shade-tolerant herbaceous species in the forested area.



Photo 5. The reed canarygrass wetland at the McPherson South would be restored to higher diversity wetland.



Photo 6. The forested area of the McPherson South site would be enhanced by removing non-native trees and planting with native shrubs and forbs to benefit pollinator species.



Photo 7. Some box elders would be selectively removed to open the canopy on the McPherson South site to allow for the growth of newly planted shrubs and forbs.



Photo 8. Increasing the diversity of forb species on the McPherson South site would attract more pollinator species, such as this painted lady butterfly observed in the reed canarygrass wetland.

McPherson North

Existing Conditions. The McPherson North site is an open wetland dominated by a near monoculture of the invasive reed canarygrass. The site tends to pond water in the southeast, at times creating open water habitat that supports amphibians such as the plains leopard frog. Trees and shrubs are prevalent along the edges of the property--along the roadway embankment, railroad corridor, and Mosquito Creek. A patch of autumn olive trees, an undesirable non-native, is present. Larger trees likely support raptor nests, as a pair of red-tailed hawks were observed. While flowering plants were limited, scarlet smartweed was present in the wetlands, and a scattering of common milkweed plants are present along the south edge. Several butterfly species observed at the McPherson South site were also present at this site, including one monarch, as well as several moths and milkweed beetles.

Proposed Conditions. The site would be restored to native wetland habitat suitable for a variety of pollinators, again by reseeding with a high forb to grass ratio. The patch of autumn olive would be removed. The forested area along and McPherson Avenue, which serves as a natural buffer from the adjacent traffic, would be preserved.



Photo 9. View north toward the McPherson North site. Most of the site supports a low diversity reed canarygrass wetland. The project would restore the area to high diversity wetland.



Photo 10. View north toward a low area in the McPherson North site that tends to pond water. The contours of this low area would remain to provide habitat diversity and provide an important "puddling" source for butterflies.



Photo 11. View south toward the McPherson Avenue bridge over Mosquito Creek from within the McPherson North site. The site has little plant diversity as reed canarygrass and scarlet smartweed are the primary two species.



Photo 12. In addition to pollinators, enhancement of the wetland would benefit a variety of other wildlife. This plains leopard frog was observed near the pond in July 2019.

III. Development Plan, Project Boundary Map and Aerial Photo

Valley View South Development Plan

The development plan (**Figure 3**) for the Valley View South site involves:

1. Tallgrass Prairie Planting
2. Forest Enhancement
3. Construction of Recreational/Nature Trail
4. Installation of Educational Signage



Figure 3. Project Boundary Map and Aerial Photo for Valley View South Site with Proposed Enhancements

Tallgrass Prairie Planting. Outside of the recently planted mitigation buffer, much of the site appears to have been disturbed during construction and recent flooding, leaving areas of bare soil and annual weeds such as giant ragweed. Because this site was previously row crop agriculture, extensive site preparation to reduce the previous seed bank is not likely necessary. Site preparation of the disturbed areas would involve mowing and disking as need to ensure maximum seed to soil contact. A diverse native mix will be used including species considered beneficial to pollinators such as milkweeds to support monarch larvae. Weedy annuals will naturally reduce in number as native perennials establish after planting.

The High Diversity Monarch Seed Mix provided by the Iowa State University Extension and Outreach (**Table 1**) will be consulted for selecting appropriate species such as golden Alexander, butterfly milkweed, stiff goldenrod, and New England aster. The selected mix would include species that bloom throughout the active season for pollinators, providing a constant source of food. Depending on site conditions and project schedule, the site will be planted in late fall or early spring, as these times of year generally provide a good germination and survival rate.

Table 1. High Diversity Monarch Seed Mix (Iowa State University Extension and Outreach)

Iowa State University	Bloom Month							Soil				
Common Name	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	WET	WET-MESIC	MESIC	DRY-MESIC	DRY
Grasses/Sedges												
Prairie Junegrass		M	J	J								
Bicknell's Sedge			J	J								
Shortbeak Sedge			J	J								
Troublesome Sedge			J	J								
Bluejoint			J	J	A							
Big Bluestem			J	J	A	S						
Prairie Cordgrass				J	A	S						
Canada Wildrye				J	A	S	O					
Little Bluestem				J	A	S	O					
Sideoats Grama					A	S						
Indiangrass					A	S						
Prairie Dropseed					A	S	O					
Composite Dropseed					A	S	O					
Forbs	Colors represent bloom color											
Canadian Lousewort	A	M										
Golden Alexander's	A	M	J									
Common Spiderwort		M	J	J								
White Wild Indigo			J	J								
Foxglove Penstemon			J	J								
Pale Coneflower			J	J								
Leadplant			J	J	A							
Canadian Milkvetch			J	J	A							
Swamp Milkweed			J	J	A							
Common Milkweed			J	J	A							
Butterfly Milkweed			J	J	A							
Prairie Coreopsis			J	J	A							
Culver's Root			J	J	A							
White Prairie Clover			J	J	A	S						
Ox-Eye			J	J	A	S						
Prairie Cinquefoil			J	J	A	S						
Common Mountain Mint			J	J	A	S						
Hoary Vervain			J	J	A	S						
Black-Eyed Susan			J	J	A	S	O					
Showy Ticktrefoil				J	A							
Partridge Pea				J	A	S						
Purple Prairie Clover				J	A	S						
Whorled Milkweed				J	A	S						
Gray-Headed Coneflower				J	A	S						
Wild Bergamot				J	A	S						
Blue Vervain				J	A	S						
Ironweed				J	A	S						
Prairie Blazing Star				J	A	S						
Tall Blazing Star				J	A	S	O					
Great Lobelia				J	A	S	O					
Tall Thoroughwort					A	S	O					
Saw-Tooth Sunflower					A	S	O					
Stiff Goldenrod					A	S	O					
Showy Goldenrod					A	S	O					
White Heath Aster					A	S	O					
Skyblue Aster					A	S	O					
New England Aster					A	S	O					

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Forest Enhancement. Non-native white mulberry and Siberian elm would be cleared from the woodland area. Existing natives would largely be left in place; however, individuals of common native species such as box elder may be strategically removed to open the canopy.

Native shrubs and forbs would be planted in the open spaces to create a more diverse woodland habitat. Trees and shrubs are an important source of food for pollinators in early spring when little else is blooming. Appropriate shrubs will be selected from the Trees and Shrubs for Pollinators list produced by Trees Forever (**Table 2**). These will include shrubs that provide nectar, such as buttonbush and false indigo, as well as species that are known hosts for butterflies, including:

- American plum: host to several hairstreaks, red-spotted purple, and viceroy butterflies
- eastern chokecherry: host to red-spotted purple, eastern tiger swallowtail, and striped hairstreak butterflies
- eastern redbud: host to Henry's elfin and spicebush swallowtail butterflies

Table 2. List of Potential Shrubs for Pollinators (Trees Forever)

Common Name	Scientific Name	Flower Color	Moisture*	Height	Bloom Time	Light Needs**	Hardiness Zone	Bees	Butterflies	Moths	Wasps	Flies	Beetles	Other
Staghorn Sumac	*Rhus hirta*	lime/yellow	M,D	10-35'	June-July	FS to PS	3-8	X	X		X	X	X	
Currant/Gooseberry	*Ribes spp.*	white/yellow	W,M,D	2-10'	May-July	FS to PS	4-8	X	X	X	X	X		
Prairie Wild Rose	*Rosa arkansana*	pink	M,D	1-3'	June-August	FS to PS	4-8	X		X	X	X	X	Sawflies
Smooth Wild Rose	*Rosa blanda*	pink	M,D	3-7'	June	FS to PS	4-8	X				X	X	
Carolina Rose	*Rosa carolina*	pink	M,D	3-6'	May-June	FS to PS	4-9	X		X		X	X	
Raspberry	*Rubus spp.*	white	M	3-6'	April-July	FS to PS	4-8	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Elderberry	*Sambucus canadensis*	white	W,M	4-12'	June-August	FS to PS	3-8	X	X	X		X	X	Sawflies
Red Elderberry	*Sambucus racemosa*	white	W,M	4-18'	May-June	FS to PS	3-8	X		X		X	X	
Meadowsweet	*Spiraea alba*	white	W	3-7'	July-August	FS	3-8	X	X			X	X	
Snowberry	*Symphoricarpos albus*	white/pink	D	2-5'	June-July	FS to PS	2-7	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Wolfberry	*Symphoricarpos occidentalis*	white/pink	D	3-6'	June-August	FS to PS	2-7	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Coralberry	*Symphoricarpos orbiculatus*	pink	M,D	2-5'	July-August	FS to PS	2-7	X		X	X	X		
Cranberry, Blueberry	*Vaccinium spp.*	white/pink	M,D	1-8'	April-June	FS to PS	4-7	X	X	X			X	
Arrowwood Viburnum	*Viburnum rafinesquianum*	white	M	5-15'	May-July	FS to PS	2-8	X	X	X		X	X	
Nannyberry Viburnum	*Viburnum lentago*	white	M,D	8-30'	May-June	FS to PS	2-8	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Black Haw	*Viburnum prunifolium*	white	M,D	5-15'	April-June	FS to PS	3-9	X	X	X		X	X	Ants
Prickly Ash	*Zanthoxylum americanum*	green	M, D	4-25'	April-May	FS to PS	3-7	X	X			X		
Leadplant	*Amorpha canescens*	lavendar	M,D	2-4'	June-August	FS	2-9	X	X	X	X	X	X	
False White Indigo	*Amorpha fruticosa*	white	W,M	12'	May-July	FS - PS	3-8	X	X	X			X	
Black Chokeberry	*Aronia melanocarpa*	white	W,M	3-6'	May-July	FS - PS	3-8	X	X	X		X		
New Jersey Tea	*Ceanothus americanus*	white	M,D	2-6'	July-August	FS - PS	4-8	X	X		X	X	X	Sawflies
Buttonbush	*Cephalanthus occidentalis*	white	W,M	5-15'	June-August	FS	5-10	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Silky Dogwood	*Cornus amomum*	white	W,M	10-15'	June-July	FS to PS	5-8	X	X		X	X	X	
Gray Dogwood	*Cornus racemosa*	white	M,D	10-18'	May-June	FS to PS	4-8	X	X		X	X	X	
Red Osier Dogwood	*Cornus sericea*	white	W,M	6-15'	May-June	FS to PS	3-10	X	X		X	X	X	
American Hazelnut	*Corylus americana*	yellow/brown	M,D	4-15'	March-April	FS to PS	4-10			X			X	Sawflies
Dwarf Bush Honeysuckle	*Diervilla lonicera*	yellow	M,D	2-4'	June-July	FS to PS	3-7	X		X				
Witchhazel	*Hamamelis virginiana*	yellow	M	15-20'	Oct-Dec	FS to PS	4-8			X	X	X	X	
Winterberry	*Ilex verticillata*	white	W,M	5-20'	June-July	FS to PS	3-7	X		X		X		
Spicebush	*Lindera benzoin*	yellow/green	W,M	to 15'	March-May	FS to S	4-9		X					
Ninebark	*Physocarpus opulifolius*	white	M,D	5-10'	May-August	FS to PS	2-7	X	X				X	
Choke Cherry	*Prunus virginiana*	white	M,D	25-30'	April-June	FS to PS	2-6	X	X	X		X	X	
Aromatic Sumac	*Rhus aromatic*	lime/yellow	M,D	4-6'	April-May	FS to PS	4-7	X	X					
Smooth Sumac	*Rhus glabra*	lime/yellow	M,D	6-20'	June-July	FS to PS	2-9	X	X		X	X	X	

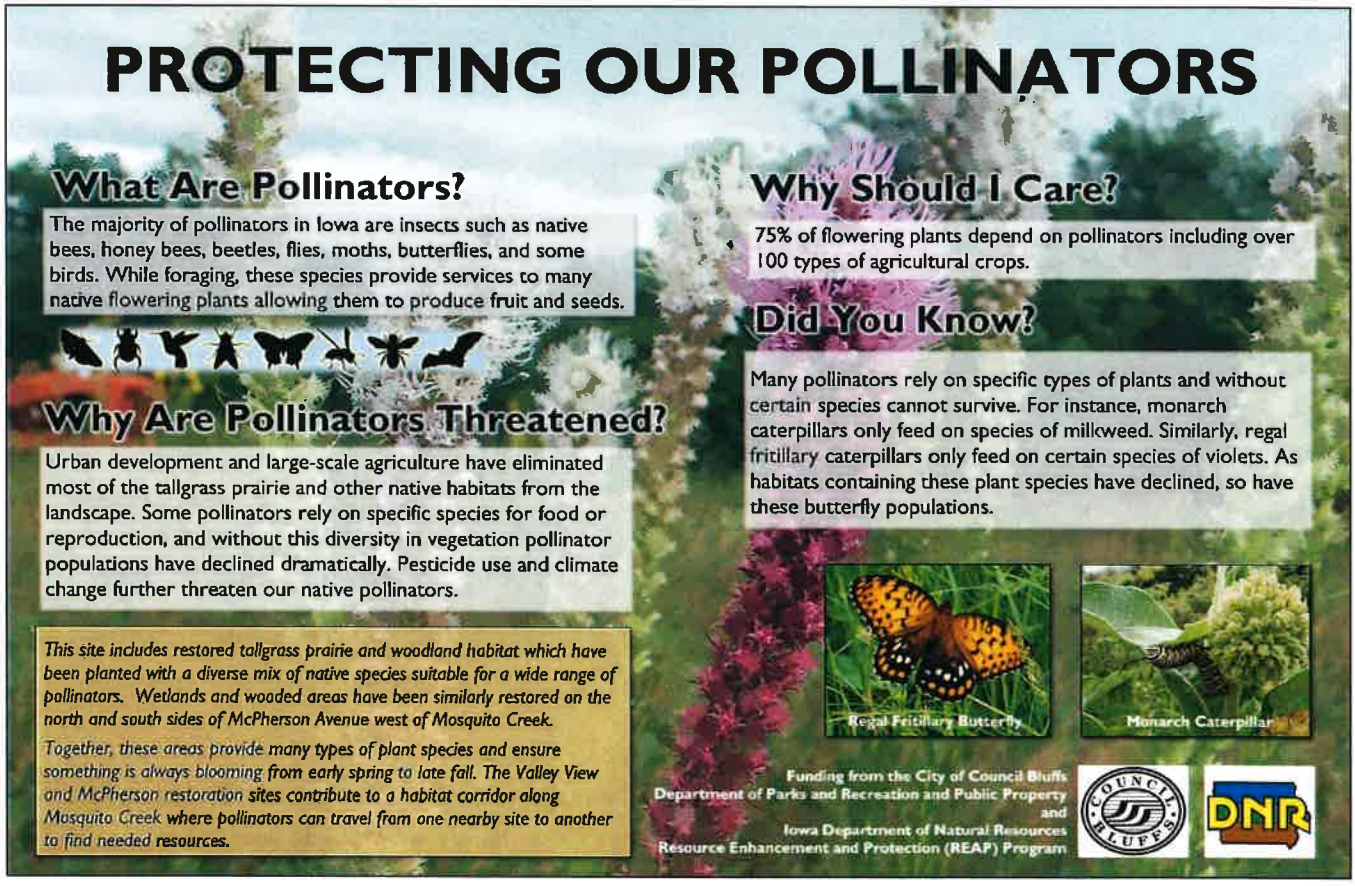
* W = Wet; M = Mesic; D = Dry

** FS = Full sun - at least 6 hours of sun per day; PS = Part shade - 3 to 6 hours of sun per day; S = Full shade - less than 3 hours of sun per day; PSu = Part sun



Recreational/Nature Trail. A recreational trail will be constructed at the Valley View South site extending from the Valley View Park sidewalk at Franklin Avenue. The trail would meander through the restored tallgrass prairie to the enhanced woodlands. Benches for resting and enjoying the surroundings would be located along the trail. The approximately 860-ft long trail would have a 10-foot wide ADA compliant paved surface with pull offs for wheelchairs near the benches. An existing pedestrian bridge across Mosquito Creek will allow users of the Valley View Trail to reach the nature trail.

Educational Signage. Educational signs would be installed along the trail, including at the start of the trail, close to Valley View Park. The signs would highlight the native habitat restoration and importance of pollinators, as well as the REAP funding that made the project possible (see example below).



Other signs topics could include information on pollinator species likely to be observed at the site; pollinator host plants; wetland and woodland habitats; and history of the Mosquito Creek valley. The signage would also inform the public about the pollinator habitat restorations at the McPherson.

McPherson South Development Plan

The development plan for the McPherson South site (**Figure 4**) includes:

1. Wetland Enhancement and Permitting
2. Forest Enhancement
3. Location Signage

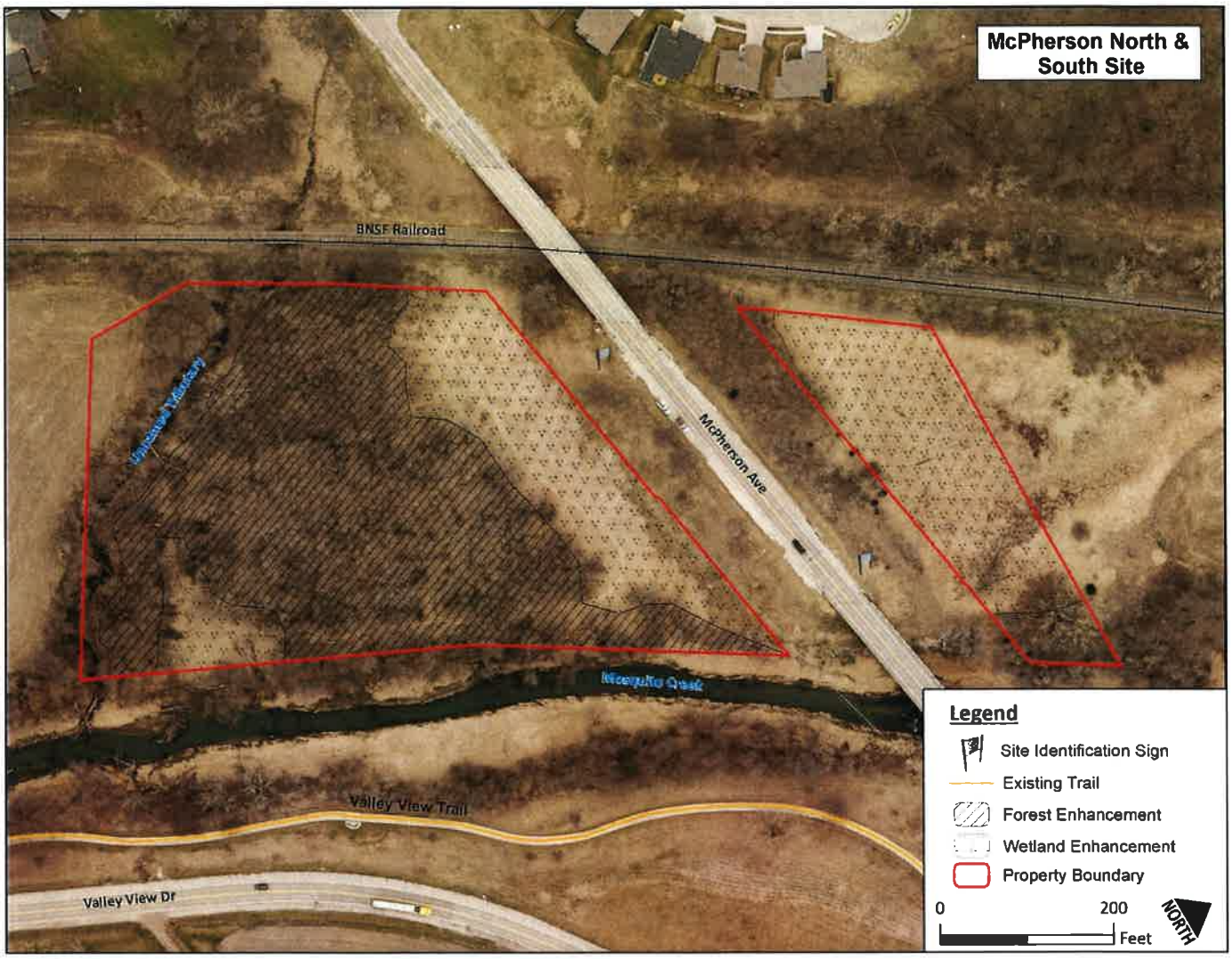


Figure 4. Project Boundary Map and Aerial Photo for McPherson South and McPherson North Sites with Proposed Enhancements

Wetland Enhancement. The reed canarygrass wetlands would be replanted with native species. Site preparation would involve a combination of herbicide treatment and mowing, potentially over multiple years or as needed to significantly reduce the reed canarygrass. A diverse native wetland seed mix would be selected to include forb species considered beneficial to pollinators. The High Diversity Monarch Seed Mix (see **Table 1**) will be consulted for selecting appropriate species such as swamp milkweed, blue vervain, prairie blazing star, and sawtooth sunflower. Additional native wetland species will be used to supplement the mix. Efforts to prevent re-establishment of reed canarygrass would incorporate the recommendations outlined in Reed Canarygrass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) Management Guide: Recommendations for Landowners and Restoration Professionals (Wisconsin Reed Canarygrass Management Working group, 2009).

Wetland Permitting. Wetlands are aquatic resources protected by state and federal regulations. Impacts to wetlands, even when beneficial, generally require appropriate permits. The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) are the federal and state agencies responsible for wetland permitting in the state of Iowa. Appropriate steps would be taken to identify wetlands on-site and submit a joint permit application for the proposed wetland habitat restoration activities. Proposed activities appear to fall under USACE Nationwide Permit 27 for Aquatic Habitat Restoration, Enhancement, and Establishment Activities.



Forest Enhancement. Many non-native white mulberries occur within the woodlands. These would be cleared and treated to prevent resprouting. Existing natives such as American elm, cottonwood, hackberry, and box elder trees would largely be left in place, but certain individuals may be strategically removed in order to open the canopy. Native shrubs and forbs would be planted in the open space to create a more diverse woodland habitat. Appropriate shrubs will be selected from the Trees and Shrubs for Pollinators list produced by Trees Forever (**Table 2**). Enhancement would occur only on the north side of the tributary due to access restrictions.

Location Signage. A sign would be installed along the right-of-way on the south side of McPherson Avenue identifying the area as a pollinator habitat project completed with REAP grant monies. Currently there are no nearby sidewalks or trails to provide site access or to allow safe viewing of detailed educational signs.

McPherson North Development Plan

The development plan for the McPherson North site (see **Figure 4**) includes:

1. Wetland Enhancement and Permitting
2. Location Signage

Enhancement of Wetland Area. The reed canarygrass wetland would be replanted with native wetland species. Site preparation would involve a combination of herbicide treatment and mowing, potentially over multiple years or as needed to significantly reduce the reed canarygrass. A diverse native wetland seed mix would be selected to include forb species considered beneficial to pollinators. The High Diversity Monarch Seed Mix (see **Table 1**) will be consulted for selecting appropriate. Additional native wetland species will be used to supplement the mix. Efforts to prevent re-establishment of reed canarygrass would incorporate the recommendations outlined in Reed Canarygrass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) Management Guide: Recommendations for Landowners and Restoration Professionals (Wisconsin Reed Canarygrass Management Working group, 2009).

Wetland Permitting. As with the McPherson South site, steps would be taken to permit project activities.

Location Signage. As with the McPherson South site, a sign identifying the area as pollinator habitat would be installed along the right-of-way north of McPherson Avenue.

Management of Sites

The project sites will be managed by the City of Council Bluffs Parks and Recreation Department. The City possesses the equipment and manpower to manage and maintain the sites.

An adaptive management plan for the sites would be developed to provide guidance and tools to maintain the restored habitat. It is important to recognize that every restoration will face unique challenges and maintenance activities will need to be adaptable both in the timing and techniques to address specific threats.

Initial maintenance activities will likely include mowing between 1 and 3 times per year for the first two years after planting to reduce weedy annuals. The best time for mowing to avoid harming monarchs and other pollinators is between October and May. It is expected that annual weeds will be dominant in the first two to three years after planting but will reduce in number as native perennials become established.

Once established, active management is an important aspect of maintaining native plant communities. Long-term maintenance will likely involve annual mowing every 3 to 5 years. It is anticipated that spot herbicide treatment will be required to eradicate reed canarygrass and other invasive herbaceous species. It may also be necessary to cut and treat invasive woody species. The feasibility of prescribed burns at the sites will be investigated as a management tool.

IV. Project Benefits, Needs, Justification and Urgency

Benefits

This project focuses on habitat restoration and protection of floodplain, prairie, and woodlands along Mosquito Creek. These parcels, along with adjacent public park and trail properties, would create a habitat corridor supporting a variety of pollinators, including monarchs.

The project will benefit the Council Bluffs community by:

- Promoting the survival and increase of recognizable pollinators.
- Improving accessibility to natural landscapes by creating a nature trail with connections to Valley View Park and Trail. Currently there is only one natural area park in Council Bluffs, Vincent Bluff State Preserve.
- Providing an educational venue in a natural setting.
- Improving aesthetics by taking fallow lands with undesirable monocultures and restoring them to native plant communities with a variety of blooming plants, shrubs, and trees.
- Enhancing the riparian floodplain along Mosquito creek. Deep-rooted native plant communities can provide better erosion control and storm water filtration than non-native monocultures, reduce the number and spread of invasive plants, and support a more naturally functioning ecosystem.

Needs and Justification

This project is needed to meet important Federal, State, and local goals for pollinator habitat restoration and protection of natural resources which are described by the following regional statewide programs.

Creating a Federal Strategy to Promote the Health of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators (Presidential Memorandum, 2014). The establishment of native pollinator habitat supports the directives set upon the Task Force created by the 2014 Presidential Memorandum.

Iowa Wildlife Action Plan. Within this plan, there are multiple priorities associated with habitat protection, including acquisition and protection of areas that will increase connectivity and facilitate movement between habitats suitable for target species. The proposed plan would increase connectivity and facilitate movement between habitats suitable for a wide range of pollinators, and more specifically, the monarch butterfly. It would also contribute toward several of the "visions" and objectives in the Wildlife Action Plan which are to be met by the year 2030 and are listed below:

- Protected habitats will be diverse, representative, native plant communities in large and small blocks on public and privately-owned land and waters.
- More Iowans will participate in wildlife-associated recreation, and all Iowans will have access to publicly owned recreation areas to enjoy wildlife in its many forms.
- The amount of permanently protected wildlife habitat in Iowa will be doubled.
- Focus on protection, restoration, reconstruction, connection and enhancement of native plant communities and wildlife habitats.
- Permanently protect, restore, reconstruct and enhance large public and private areas of wildlife habitat that can be managed for biodiversity.
- Develop and implement management plans on public and privately-owned lands and waters that promote biodiversity and improve the status of species of greatest conservation need.
- Coordinate wildlife population, habitat and management goals for public lands with potential recreational uses to ensure that all recreation is compatible with sound wildlife management, minimizes conflicts between users and protects critical habitat from overuse.

Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) (2018-2023). This project is relevant to two priorities covered in SCORP: (1) availability and diversity of natural resources, parks and outdoor recreation opportunities to enhance the quality of life of Iowans, and (2) natural resource, parks and outdoor recreation opportunities are available to all Iowans. The proposed ADA-accessible trail addresses two other closely aligned goals to:

- "Increase Iowan's level of physical activity through participation in outdoor recreation activities."
- "Natural resource agencies (city, state, county & federal) will strive to improve accessibility through embracing diversity, equity and inclusion."

Pottawattamie County 5-Year REAP Plan. Habitat restoration on the properties is in line with the County goal to preserve natural areas or restore degraded areas in the Loess Hills region, which is identified in the county REAP plan as potentially the most significant natural area remaining in Iowa. The plan also indicates a need for interpretative environmental programs and opportunities for the general public. The proposed trail and educational signs will invite citizens to experience the a natural area and learn about the importance of pollinators, thereby satisfying three of the four needs to be addressed by cities within Pottawattamie County: (1) preserving open spaces, (2) preserving and protecting plant and animal life, and (3) promoting public conservation education.

Council Bluffs Parks and Recreation Master Plan (2013). Council Bluffs has an urban population of 62,421 people, as estimated by the U.S. Census Bureau in 2018. According to the master plan, citizens are attracted to urban parks and trails, but are increasingly wanting access natural areas as well. The master plan notes that native plants help reduce landscape maintenance and the use of chemicals; therefore, this project would contribute to meeting the need for more sustainable practices in public areas.

The proposed restoration plans satisfy three of the goals in the master plan recommended by the 2012 County-wide Needs Assessment:

- Preserve natural areas, unique or sensitive habitats as parks for public access
- Increase nature-based recreation and education
- Expansion and enhancement of trails in natural areas and parks to better serve residents and visitors

Valley View Park Master Plan. The parcels included in this proposed plan are part of multiple properties acquired by the City to expand Valley View Park. A master plan is being drafted to identify how these areas will be developed. Objectives of the master plan include restoration to pollinator habitat which would complement the existing manicured park and trail system by providing opportunities for park users to enjoy the aesthetics of natural prairie and woodland habitat.

Urgency

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is currently assessing the status of and threats to the monarch butterfly due to a petition to list the species under the Endangered Species Act. The deadline to determine whether or not the species warrants federal protection has been extended to December 2020. Conservation efforts at the state and local level may help prevent the need to list the monarch. This project contributes to that effort and urgency associated with the review.

V. Environmental, Economic and Social Impacts of Project

Overall the project has no significant adverse environmental, economic or social impacts. Restoration of the sites will have no negative impacts on federal protected endangered or threatened species, or sites on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Site improvements will be designed and/or permitted to ensure compliance with floodplain and wetland regulations. Should any previously unidentified resources be found during design or construction, work will be halted until resource compliance is conducted.

The project would have beneficial impacts to the environment by enhancing degraded wetland and upland habitats. Non-native invasive species which currently dominate in these areas would be replaced with diverse, native plant communities which are more resilient to invasive species, and which provide greater ecological functions and values such as wildlife habitat, erosion control, and improved water quality.

The project would benefit pollinators by ensuring that a source of food is available from early spring (trees and shrubs) to late fall (goldenrods and asters). By including areas of open prairie and woodlands, as well as uplands and wetlands, the project would support a diverse native plant community, which in turn would support a greater number of pollinators and other wildlife. Plant diversity is important to pollinator diversity, as some species of pollinators rely on specific types of plants during their life cycle.

As components of the future Valley View Park Master Plan, the restored properties will contribute to a wider offering of outdoor recreation opportunities, natural area experiences and environmental education. The proposed trail would provide additional options for Valley View Park and Valley View Trail users to enjoy the aesthetics of a natural environment. The inclusion of educational signs along the trail at the Valley View Site would beneficial to the public by helping them understand the importance of tallgrass prairie and wetland communities in pollinator habitat corridors.

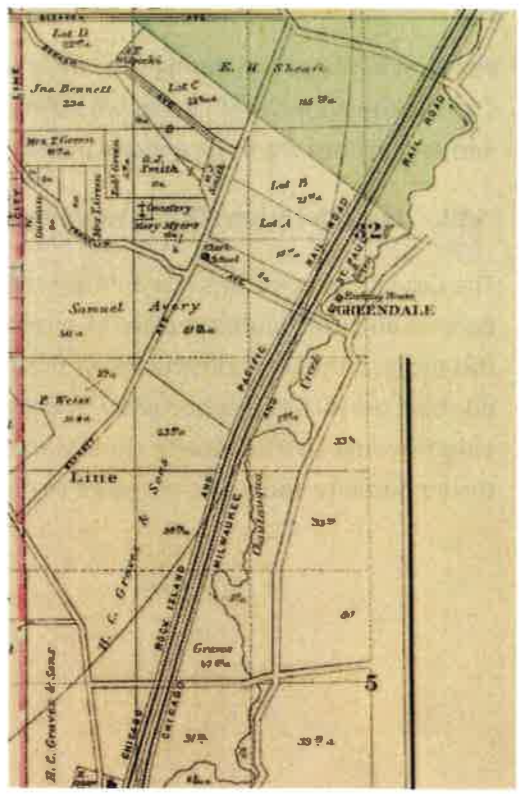
While the McPherson North and South sites are not accessible to the public, they would improve wildlife habitat on lands that are relatively free from frequent human disturbance. The two sites could still be enjoyed by passing traffic on McPherson Avenue. With restoration of the properties, native vegetation would provide four seasons of color and texture.

Overall, the project would be a benefit in terms of environmental, economic, and social impacts by providing natural recreational and educational opportunities at an existing park; restoring and enhancing a variety of habitat types; and conserving areas for pollinators and other wildlife. Additionally, this project would be the first step in demonstrating the importance of a larger pollinator corridor along Mosquito Creek. As future opportunities arise, additional properties could be restored to create a pathway for pollinator insects to travel to resources up and down the creek corridor.

VI. Historical, Archaeological and Architectural Features/Impacts

The project is located within the Mosquito Creek valley within the City of Council Bluffs. The area was surveyed in the 1850s by Grenville Dodge for the route of the Rock Island Railroad. Eventually, the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad and the BNSF Railroads were constructed along the west bank of the creek, and the Iowa Interstate (IAIS) Railroad on the east bank. To help reduce flooding, Mosquito Creek was eventually straightened sometime after 1919 relocating the stream course (more so at the McPherson sites, and less so at the Valley View South location).

From Allens's Suburban Map of Council Bluffs, 1898, showing General Project Vicinity



The Green and Sons Pork Packing Plant, known as Greendale, was established by Thomas Green on the banks of Mosquito Creek on the north side of Franklin Avenue, east of the creek. The plant was operational from approximately 1876-1906, and from the 1930s to the 1940s. The buildings were burned and demolished in the 1960s and the location was subsequently developed into Valley View Park. The site is recommended for a full Phase I investigation should it ever be slated for subsurface modifications.

A Phase IA survey was conducted on the Valley View South and McPherson sites a s part of the environmental permitting for the floodplain mitigation project. A small low rectangular berm and limestone foundation remnants were identified on the Valley View South property as part of the survey; no cultural materials were found on the McPherson sites (EOR Iowa, 2018). The building/structure remains were not evaluated for NRHP eligibility; recommendations were "Avoidance". The location of the findings occur in an area proposed to be seeded to tallgrass prairie. If necessary, seeding could be withheld at this location.

Other notable activities within the Mosquito Valley included construction of the Iowa State Deaf and Dumb Institution near the mouth of the creek; establishment Clarinda Junior College in 1923, now the site of Iowa Western Community College; and the location of the Council Bluffs Chautauqua further up the valley, operating only between 1889 and 1892.

VII. Local Participation

The public participation in developing this plan comes from several directions with a unified vision of what the City, community, and interested parties desired. According to the *Council Bluffs Parks and Recreation Master Plan (2013),* "Council Bluffs is in the position to convert public interest in nature into active support of and engagement in conservation of forests, grasslands, and wetlands." As mentioned in **Section IV** of this application, the proposed plan is closely aligned with three needs identified by the *Pottawattamie County-wide Parks, Recreation and Leisure Facilities Needs Assessment* (2012). Also, development of the Valley View Park Master Plan will include incorporate this project in the plans and utilize public involvement to complete the plan.

Support for the project and its intent to increase pollinator habitat within the city of Council Bluffs is apparent in the two letters written by concerned citizens (see attachments following **Section 7. Grant Narrative**). One community member noted how milkweeds and butterflies are abundant along Valley View Trail and gave their appreciation to the Parks and Recreation Department for appropriately timing the mowing schedule to allow feeding monarch caterpillars to complete their life cycle. This project would provide additional patches of habitat through the Mosquito Creek corridor to enhance the already established populations and available habitat for pollinators.

For local participation during the implementation of the project, a booth at the Celebrate CB (Council Bluffs Community Pride Week) event would showcase the project. Comment cards would be available to collect opinions and suggestions from the general public.

VIII. Considerations Given to Minorities, Elderly and Disabled

The City of Council Bluffs has an Affirmative Action Plan which it actively implements. The City has accessibility policies and procedures in place to ensure compliance with laws and regulations identified in the ADA. Regarding this project, the trail constructed at the Valley View South site would be designed to ADA standards, providing disabled persons the opportunity to enjoy a natural area they might not otherwise have access to. Minorities and elderly would also be able to equally access the Valley View South site. The project aims to benefit all members of the community and is not expected to have a disproportionate or unique impact on minority persons.

IX. Itemized Costs

Project Component	Description	Project Cost	REAP Request	Total for REAP
Estimated Construction Costs				
Tree removal	Contract labor to remove undesirable trees @ $250 each for 9-18 inch dbh sized trees; estimating 25 trees	$6,250	$6,250	$6,250
Site Preparation – grading and earthwork	Contract labor for clearing and grubbing for restoration site areas and minor earthwork to prepare each site for restoration and trail	$18,000	$18,000	$18,000
Grass and Forb Seed Mixes	Native pollinator seed mixes for tallgrass prairie, woodlands, and wetlands @ $1,500 per acre for 5.8 acres.	$8,700	$8,700	$8,700
Grass and Forb Planting	Contract labor to disk and apply broad cast seed mix or drill seed where appropriate	$2,400	$2,400	$2,400
Shrub Plantings	Small shrub containers @ $30 each for a total of 45; large shrub containers @ $80 each for a total of 30.	$3,750	$3,750	$3,750
Site Preparation – herbicides	Contract labor and materials costs @ $350 per acre for approximately 3 acres to be treated (two applications)	$2,000	$2,000	$2,000
Concrete Trail	10-foot wide concrete trail plus open pad for wheelchair access for a total of 958 square yards @ $50 per square yard	$47,900	$47,900	$47,900
Bench	Two outdoor benches similar to ones in Valley View Park	$1,400	$1,400	$1,400
Educational Signs	Materials and installation of up to four educational signs @ $3,500 per sign	$14,000	$14,000	$14,000
Identification Signs	Materials and installation of two signs identifying the McPherson sites	$500	$500	$500
Erosion Control	Silt fence, straw wattles and erosion control blanket	$6,000	$6,000	$6,000
Construction Contingency	@ 15% of $110,900	$16,635	$16,635	$16,635
			Total Construction Cost	**$127,535**
Estimated Design, Permitting & Construction Administration Costs				
General Project Management	@ 3% of total construction cost	$3,826	$3,826	$3,826
Design	@ 18% of total construction cost	$22,956	$22,956	$22,956
Permitting	Contract labor for wetland delineation and assistance in submitting a 404 permit application	$9,000	$9,000	$9,000
Construction Management	@ 10% of total construction cost	$12,760	$12,760	$12,760
			Total Design & Construction Administration Costs	**$48,542**
			TOTAL GRANT FUNDING REQUEST	**$176,077**

X. Public Communications

Upon approval of REAP funding, communication planning for the project will include:

- Issuing a media release announcing the award of REAP funds.
- Posting information about the project and REAP funding on the Parks, Recreation and Public Property Department website.
- Holding a dedication ceremony including representatives of the City of Council Bluffs, County REAP committee, Iowa Department of Natural Resources and area legislators.

- Registering the site with "Plant.Grow.Fly", a pollinator habitat tracking website sponsored by the Blank Park Zoo.
- Requesting the Iowa Butterfly Survey Network about including the sites in their annual citizen science population surveys of butterfly species in Iowa.
- Providing information on the project at City events and festivals such as the annual Celebrate CB week

XI. Agreements and Easements

All property required for the work outlined in this project has previously been secured and remains in the ownership of the City of Council Bluffs. Therefore, no Agreements or Easement will be required for this project.

XII. County Resource Enhancement Committee Comments

Prior to submittal, the county Resource Enhancement Committee must approve grant applications and the Chairperson must sign the application in Section 6. A summary of comments by the County REAP Committee should be included in this section.

REAP Coordinator
Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Wallace State Office Building
Des Moines, IA 50319

To Whom It May Concern,

It is my pleasure to write a letter in support of the grant proposal being submitted to the Resource Enhancement and Protection program by the City of Council Bluffs Department of Parks and Recreation for the installation of pollinator habitat near Valley View.

In my capacity as a homeowner in Council Bluffs, I support any effort to beautify and maintain the natural landscapes around our city. However, it is in my capacity as a professional biologist that I truly and eagerly support the proposal to install pollinator habitat at Valley View.

I completed my Master of Science thesis on the importance of pollinator habitat in urban areas. As you may know, urban areas represent a tremendous opportunity to provide habitat for pollinators. Currently, the undeveloped areas near Valley View are underutilized in their potential to provide habitat and to support native species. With the implementation of REAP funds, this area could instead act as a valuable habitat corridor.

Such a project would not only benefit pollinators and native plants, but the families living in adjacent homes as well. Please consider carefully the aforementioned application and it's potential to set a positive trend towards habitat restoration in Council Bluffs.

Sincerely,



Susan Opperman
331 S 8th Street
Council Bluffs, IA 51501

July 24, 2019

Greetings,

I'm writing this letter as a parent, lifelong educator, environmentalist, and monarch butterfly enthusiast in support of the city of Council Bluff's efforts to expand milkweed habitat. I remember seeing and enjoying monarch butterflies as a child growing up in southern Idaho, and we even brought home a few to release. Twenty years ago, when my husband and I bought our first home here in Council Bluffs, I was thrilled to find the familiar caterpillars eating the honeyvine milkweed on our handrail. Since that first August, we've raised, tagged, and released countless monarch butterflies, along with our three boys (now 18, 16, and 9). When my oldest son was in kindergarten, he shared one of our caterpillars with his class which then raised and released it. Other classrooms soon started to request them, so we needed to find new patches of milkweed to keep up with the demand. And that is how, a number of years ago, we discovered a small but thriving milkweed habitat along a bike trail, just down the road from our house at the intersection of Valley View and McPherson Drive. We were so happy that we wrote to city officials to thank them for waiting to mow until late October, after the hatching season was complete. Every year, we discover more and more of the milkweed plants in this location and more and more of the larvae. We're filled with gratitude that the city continues to allow this patch to thrive, and even more grateful about the city's hopes to expand this crucial habitat.

Our family has not only supplied caterpillars (and thorough instructions) to many Hoover Elementary and College View Elementary classrooms, but we also give presentations to community groups like Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and PEO. Our son gave his first presentation in the year 2006, and now he's headed to college. (He's already wondering if he'll be able to find milkweed near Iowa City since he won't have a car!). During these presentations, we utilize a detailed visual display with photos, maps, and graphs to educate audience members about the life cycle of monarch butterflies, the miracle of their great migration to Mexico, and—sadly—statistics on their declining population. We always end with the ways all of us can help this species to bounce back, including planting milkweed in their own yards and gardens. We plan these presentations in the fall to allow us to bring live specimens for the audience to learn from.

Since we started giving these talks, we've been contacted by a number of people over the years who took the information to heart and have participated in events like milkweed planting at Lake Manawa, the monarch tagging event at Hitchcock Nature Center, and other local efforts. They report back to us about all the parks and other places in and around our beautiful city where they have found milkweed patches, caterpillars, or both. I have seen first-hand how much interest and enthusiasm there is in my community for the survival of this species, and I'm heartened by the efforts the city of Council Bluffs is making to provide ever-increasing habitat. If the city is awarded this grant, Council Bluffs can continue to gain recognition for their efforts and become an example for similar communities to follow.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration, and please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,
Stephanie Strine

Stephanie Strine
Parent, Educator, Community Member
(402) 619-9082
jandsprice@hotmail.com

Jason E. Andersen
15 Marian Avenue
Council Bluffs, IA 51503
Phone: (402) 210-0444
Email: Jason.E.Andersen@gmail.com

July 20, 2019

Vincent Martorello
Director, Parks and Recreation
City of Council Bluffs
209 Pearl Street
Council Bluffs, IA 51503

Dear Mr. Martorello,

My name is Jason Andersen and I am a resident of Council Bluffs, as well as an avid user of the city's trails system, parks, and public natural areas. I am writing you to express my support for the city's request to procure funding for the proposed Valley View pollinator and Monarch butterfly habitat corridor project through the Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) program administered by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

As you are no doubt aware, populations of pollinator species across the country have seen steep declines over the last several decades. Specifically, populations of the iconic Monarch butterfly have decreased by more than 80% in the Midwest and eastern United States. These declines are primarily due to the loss of quality habitat for these importantinsects.

Projects such as the Valley View habitat corridor create valuable habitat for Monarch butterflies and other pollinating insects, as well as songbirds, mammals, and other species of wildlife. In addition to the direct habitat benefits, this project would offer additional recreational opportunities for outdoor enthusiasts, city beautification for residents and visitors, and improved water quality in Mosquito Creek.

As a citizen of Council Bluffs, and a passionate conservationist, I fully support this project. I would like to thank you and the city of Council Bluffs for pursuing this opportunity and I look forward to enjoying this project in the future.

Yours sincerely and respectfully,



Jason E. Andersen

July 25, 2019

City of Council Bluffs Parks & Recreation Dept.
Vincent Martorello, Director
Submitted via email to vmartorello@councilbluffs-ia.com

RE: REAP Grant for Habitat Corridor along Valley View Corridor

Mr. Martorello,

I wanted to submit a letter of support for REAP Grant for the Habitat Corridor near Valley View. I live and work in Council Bluffs and I actually drive near this corridor at least twice a day, as it is my main path to and from work. It is a great open space natural area with Valley View Park nearby, close to the bike/walking path and adjacent to Mosquito Creek. I enjoy seeing our beloved black squirrels, wild turkey, deer, owls, and hawks that frequent the area.

I am currently taking the Iowa Master Conservationist Course and will soon also be taking the Master River Stewards Program as well. This topic of Habitat Corridors, Pollinator Gardens, however you want to refer to them, is something that we have talked about so often in recent months due to it becoming more widely known that the bees, butterflies and other pollinators are in trouble and need our assistance to recover and survive into the future. I have actually been a supporter of this topic for much longer than its widely known existence.

I think these areas would be excellent places for improvements to make it more of a native wild place. It is not an area that can ever be developed due to its proximity to Mosquito Creek so what better way to put the space to good use by supporting natives, the pollinators and other species that need our help. It will improve the area immensely to see it flourish into something like this!

I think it is a great location and a great idea and I fully support the Iowa DNR granting you REAP funds to proceed with this project. Best of luck on the project! I look forward to seeing it on my future drives.

Please let me know if you need any other information to show how our community is in support of this.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Hunter, PE, AICP

208 Antioch Drive

Council Bluffs, Iowa 51503

isufiredog@email.com

8. PROJECT SCORING CRITERIA (weight factors in parentheses)

Make sure that all criteria are addressed in the application.

Private/Public Open Space Grant
Level of significance (3)
Resource representation (3)
Level of threat (3)
Relationship to existing public land (3)
Relationship to state, local and regional plans (3)
Rare or unique species or communities (2)
Public benefits (2)
Tourism and economic development (1)
Geographic distribution (1)
Multiple use potential (1)
Available funds relative to project costs (1)
Quality of public communications plan (1)

County Conservation
Relationship to state local and regional plans (4)
Quality of site and/or project (3)
Public demand or need (2)
Project uniqueness (2)
Urgency of proposed action (2)
Multiple benefits to be provided (2)
Economic benefits to local, regional or state area (1)
Quality of public communications plan (1)

City Parks and Open Spaces
Relationship to state local and regional plans (4)
Quality of site and/or project (3)
Public benefit served (2)
Local support (2)
Environmental benefits (2)
Quality of public communications plan (1)

For more information about REAP Grants, visit:

http://www.iowadnr.gov/Environment/REAP/REAPGrants.aspx

Contact for all grants: Tammie Krausman, REAP Coordinator
Tammie.Krausman@dnr.iowa.gov
(515) 725-8443