

Waukee - Trailhead Public Art and Amenities Project

<i>Sponsor</i>	Waukee																		
<i>Project Title</i>	Waukee Trailhead Public Art and Amenities Project																		
<i>Termini Description (i.e. Park Avenue to 19th Street)</i>	NE Intersection of 10th Street (R-22) and Hickman Road (US Highway 6)																		
<i>Total Estimated Project Cost</i>	\$1,073,305																		
<i>Federal Fiscal Year 2019 TAP Request</i>	\$200,000																		
<i>Total Funding Secured</i>	\$655,607																		
<i>Source of additional funds and local match?</i>	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%;">Iowa Great Places Grant</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$200,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>City of Waukee</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$187,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>WT and Edna M Dahl Trust</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$100,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nationwide Insurance Foundation</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$50,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Unity Pointe Health</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$27,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wittern Charitable Foundation</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$10,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>29 Indiv, Bus and Community Donors</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$46,107</td> </tr> <tr> <td>In Kind Solar Contribution</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$34,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="padding-top: 10px;">Seeking other grants for remainder of project</td> </tr> </table>	Iowa Great Places Grant	\$200,000	City of Waukee	\$187,000	WT and Edna M Dahl Trust	\$100,000	Nationwide Insurance Foundation	\$50,000	Unity Pointe Health	\$27,500	Wittern Charitable Foundation	\$10,500	29 Indiv, Bus and Community Donors	\$46,107	In Kind Solar Contribution	\$34,500	Seeking other grants for remainder of project	
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<i>Is this project seeking funding over multiple years?</i>	No																		
<i>Has your agency previously applied for TAP funds for this project?</i>	No																		
<i>Has this project previously been awarded TAP funds?</i>	No																		
<i>What category is this application applying under?</i>	Trail/Shared-Use Path																		
<i>Width of proposed trail?</i>	10 feet																		
<i>Pavement material</i>	Concrete																		
<i>Pavement material depth in inches?</i>	5 inches																		
<i>Sub-base material</i>	Granular																		
<i>Sub-base depth in inches?</i>	12 inches																		
<i>Project length in miles?</i>	Not applicable																		
<i>Is the segment located on an identified trail gap in the LRTP?</i>	No																		

<p><i>Describe the local support for the project.</i></p>	<p>This project is part of a regional initiative adopted by communities of the Raccoon River Valley Trail system to enhance the public benefits of the trail through the installation of public art and additional site amenities. Waukee is the first trail community to advance this initiative with its Public Art and Site Amenities Project planned for the Waukee Trailhead. There is tremendous local support for this project. The project is being led by a core group of community leaders who had a vision for improving the Waukee Trailhead which serves as a key gateway to the 89 mile Raccoon River Valley Trail system. The core group formed an ad hoc committee comprised of representatives from the Waukee Area Arts Council, Waukee Community School District, Dallas County Conservation Board, Raccoon River Valley Trail Association, and the City of Waukee, along with several other key community leaders. With the help of the City, the committee raised initial funding to hire RDG Planning and Design to complete the public art design and a plan for the expansion of the Waukee Trailhead. A series of public meetings was held to gain community inputs. Several concepts were considered before the ultimate concept was decided upon. The committee has been very aggressive and successful in seeking other grants and local funding to complete the project. In addition to community grants, over 40 individuals, businesses and organizations have contributed to the project to date.</p>
<p><i>Describe the multipurpose aspects of the project.</i></p>	<p>Due to the project's location and multi-faceted features, it will enhance and add to existing opportunities, providing an additional range of recreational and cultural experiences for a large and diverse socio-economic population. The opportunities made available at the project site include all forms of trail use by bicyclists, runners, hikers and urban pedestrians. With the addition of the iconic Public Art installation entitled - Railroad Pergola "in the shadow of the rails", the site will also serve as a type of "cultural park" and destination for visitors coming by trail or automobile to experience this unique outdoor space. The shelter structure and plaza will offer trail users as well as pedestrian visitors and those with disabilities "a place" to stop, relax and enjoy additional passive activities at the site. It is anticipated that multiple types of community events and activities will also take place at the site involving music, the arts, and recreational activities. As a trailhead, the site will serve as the staging/meeting place for all types of local and regional trail events which will continue to grow in number.</p>
<p><i>Describe the project's financial plan.</i></p>	<p>The total project cost is \$1,073,305 of which \$655,607 has been raised to date between private donations, community grants and City committed funds for the project. The project is comprised of multiple components which will be funded through multiple funding sources. TAP grant monies would be applied to those components most applicable to the TAP program objectives. These include: the Shelter Structure and Plaza, a 300 foot trail extension, surfacing of the main trailhead parking lot and the twenty three bollards which serve as wayfinding and street side safety barriers. The core public art structure and solar system will be funded by other sources.</p>
<p><i>Describe the maintenance plans for this project.</i></p>	<p>As construction drawings are prepared, the City of Waukee will be working with the consultant to make sure the project can be easily maintained. Once all funds are raised, the City will be responsible for the construction process as well as long term maintenance of the improvements.</p>

<p><i>Describe the quality/significance of the site.</i></p>	<p>The project site was selected for its strategic location as the existing southern gateway for the Raccoon River Valley Trail system and as a local open space with high visibility and easy access. The main construction site (trailhead/park) provided adequate open space for the planned public art, shelter and other built structures and is well situated at the edge of Waukee in a light commercial district that can support the expected visitor activity. There is additional developable property west of and adjacent to the main site that can be considered for future parking and open space as may be needed in the future. The project design includes a series of seven foot high, night-lighted bollards that will run along the street sides of the property which will serve as a barrier to separate the trail and site from the adjacent street traffic. This design will increase the safety of both trail and site users. The site also has ample space to incorporate landscaping and pedestrian spaces which broaden and add to the quality of the user experience.</p>
<p><i>Please describe the need for the project.</i></p>	<p>On a regional level, the project site is a key trailhead and the southern gateway to the Raccoon River Valley Trail system, serving fourteen (14) communities in three counties located on the trail and an additional five (5) communities within the greater Des Moines metropolitan area. Ideally, it is the starting point for bicyclists and trail enthusiasts that are coming to utilize the Raccoon River Valley Trail System from the City of Des Moines and other eastern metropolitan communities. Based upon the Raccoon River Valley Trail user statistics, annual visits to the RRVT system currently exceed 150,000 annually and are continuing to grow. Due to its location, many of these visitor either start or pass through the Waukee trailhead. Usage of the Trailhead will only continue to increase due to the expansive growth in this part of the region, the popularity with the new Raccoon River Valley Trail interior trail loop, the High Trestle Trail and bridge (soon to be linked with the RRVT) and other significant recreational events taking place along the trail in adjoining communities. The proposed project will enhance the experience for this growing user base. and will create other opportunities for increased economic and community development in the area.</p>
<p><i>Describe the relationship to other regional plans/projects.</i></p>	<p>The proposed project is consistent with many of the goals and initiatives of The Tomorrow Plan including the goal to improve the regions environmental health and access to the outdoors and furthering the health and well-being of all residents in the region. The project is also consistent with the Connect: Central Iowa Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Plan 2020.</p>
<p><i>If applicable, please describe the status of the facility right-of-way.</i></p>	<p>The property is owned and maintained by the City of Waukee</p>

<p><i>Explain any urgency with the implementation of the project.</i></p>	<p>With the completion of the Raccoon River Valley Trail's 72 mile interior loop in 2012 and the growth taking place in the greater Waukee area, usage of the trail system and the Waukee trailhead is growing rapidly. In order to support the existing users as well as future users of the trail system, it is important that communities look at key points along the way where additional facilities are needed and where enhancements can be made to improve the overall experience of the trail user. Combined with recent investments that the City of Waukee has made to this trailhead over the last couple of years, the completion of the Waukee Trailhead Public Art and Amenities Project will serve as a hub and major attraction for the overall trail system. The Raccoon River Valley Trail was recently named as an "Iowa Great Places" and this project received a \$200,000 grant towards the cost of the improvements. The project has been successful in funding 61% of the project cost to date in just a little over a year with the majority of that funding from outside and private resources. It is prudent that the City move forward with this project.</p>
<p><i>Describe the impact to regional economic development and tourism.</i></p>	<p>In addition to the recreational, cultural and health benefits, the project is expected to have a positive impact on the local and regional economies. The iconic nature of the public art structure, shelter and visitor space is expected to increase trail usage by local and regional visitors, as well as attracting pedestrian visitors coming to the site by way of the city trail system. It is expected that the enhanced variety of recreational and cultural opportunities provided at the site, will encourage trail users and other visitors to stay longer and to patronize area businesses. Of particular mention is the Waukee Downtown district, just a few blocks south of the site which offers a number of locally owned food, beverage and retail shops, well-suited to the trail user. Also, the Raccoon River Valley Trail with its proposed link to the High Trestle Trail and its connection to the greater Des Moines Metro Trail systems continuing to grow in popularity and is rapidly becoming a regional destination. The proposed improvements to the Waukee Trailhead are expected to help draw overnight visitors to Waukee as their preferred trail access location, which equates to additional spending for a broad range of lodging and tourist services.</p>
<p><i>Additional information you would like to share:</i></p>	<p>The Waukee Trailhead Public Art and Amenities Project consists of both improvements to the physical trailhead including a shelter, trail extension and parking facilities as well as the installation of a major public art installation. The art installation known as "Waukee Railroad PergolaIn the Shadow of the Rails", plays on Waukee's railroad history and the re-purposing of the rail line as a public trail system, which serves the same original rail communities. The art installation, comprised of several structures, is integrated with the trail path and trailhead providing visitors the experience of interaction with the art. Subsequent to completing the design of the Waukee project, the other communities located along the RRVT have adopted the "in the shadow of the rails" theme with plans to incorporate public art features using this common theme along the trail in their communities – creating a type of public art corridor.</p>

