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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**October 10, 2017**

## **RIBBON CUTTING TO OPEN KENT STEIN TO DEEP LAKES TRAIL**

*Opening ceremony set for noon on Friday, October 20, 2017*

**MUSCATINE Iowa** – The newest trail to become part of the Muscatine Trail system will be officially welcomed into network during a ribbon cutting and opening ceremony at 12 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 20, 2017. The ceremony will be held at the 41st Street trail entrance to Deep Lakes Park.

The Trails Committee, a sub-committee of the Community Improvement Action Team (CIAT), met Tuesday morning to firm up plans for the opening ceremony. Construction of the trail has been virtually completed pending a final walk-through with City officials and the contractor. The

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trail is tentatively scheduled to be presented to the Muscatine City Council for acceptance into the trail network at the Oct. 19 meeting.

The four-mile trail took just two months of construction to complete but has been years in the making. Discussions and negotiations over various route plans took nearly 10 years to resolve with the chosen route extending the trail network south towards Louisa County. The \$1.1 million project had approximately 30 route changes but project manager Randy Hill believes the chosen route was the best of all.

The new trail runs from the Kent Stein Park trailhead on Houser Street out through Deep Lakes Park and ending at 57th Street and the Pettibone Avenue trailhead. Wayfinding signs will be added later along with gates and possibly traffic warning lights at the Grandview Avenue, Dick Drake Way, 33rd Street, and Stewart Road crossings.

The Trails Committee also heard a report that 10 proposals have been received for the next trail to be developed. The West Side Trail will run from the Kent Stein Park trailhead up Houser Street and eventually to Discovery Park. Included in the development of this trail is a one-mile loop around the Muscatine Pollinator Park and an extension to the proposed Muscatine Dog Park.

The West Side Trail and the Muscatine Dog Park are two of the four projects that are being considered in the Pearls of Progress project. That overall project also includes the renovations and move of the Musser Public Library to the HNI Community Center and Musser Public Library and the building of six cabins at Deep Lakes Park.

More information about the Pearls of Progress project can be found on the City of Muscatine web site at [PearlsofProgress](#). Donations of \$10 or more can be mailed to the Finance Department at the City of Muscatine, 215 Sycamore Street, Muscatine, IA 52761.

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