
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**October 13, 2017****COMMUNITY RECEIVES CAT GRANT FOR PEARLS OF PROGRESS PROJECT***Only \$210,000 of additional contributions needed to make \$8.09 million project a reality*

MUSCATINE, Iowa – The Enhance Iowa Board approved the City of Muscatine’s \$500,000 Community Attractions and Transportation (CAT) grant application Wednesday for the Pearls of Progress Project, contingent on the remaining small funding gap of \$420,000 be closed by November 15th.

The Pearls of Progress is a joint project of the City of Muscatine and the Muscatine County Conservation Board, and directed by the Community Improvement Action Team (CIAT). The focus of the project is to make Muscatine a more attractive place to live, work, play, visit, and do business which is in alignment with the goals of the Muscatine City Council.

The four components of the project include converting the former HNI headquarters into a new library and community center, construction of the Westside Trail which will link Discovery Park to Kent Stein Park, construction of the Muscatine Dog Park, and construction of four rental cabins at Deep Lakes Park.

More than 88 percent of the funds for the \$8.09 million Pearls of Progress Project have been secured. However, the project is still \$920,000 short of fully funding all four components. The CAT grant will cover \$500,000 of this funding gap leaving \$420,000 still needed to make this project a reality. The funding gap narrowed earlier this week when the Kent Corporation Foundation committed to matching dollar for dollar all contributions to the Pearls of Progress Project.

Approximately \$210,000 must still be raised from the community by November 15. If the fund raising effort is unsuccessful the \$500,000 awarded in the CAT grant will be revoked.

The CIAT has already unveiled the Pearls of Progress fund raising campaign and is accepting donations through the City of Muscatine Finance Department. All donations are tax deductible and will be matched by the Kent Corporation Foundation. Those who choose to donate can specify which project the money should go towards. A donation to any one of the four components of the project helps to leverage funds for all four.

“We are looking for all levels of donations,” Rich Dwyer, co-chair of the CIAT, said. “Even a donation of \$10 will help us toward our goal.”

Information on how to make a contribution to the project and additional information on the Pearls of Progress project can be found at www.muscatineiowa.gov/PearlsofProgress.

Donations can also be made to the Community Foundation of Greater Muscatine at www.muscatinecommunityfoundation.org