

may 2023

# ecia spotlight



**UI and Clinton  
Celebrate Partnership**





## Peosta Awarded \$100K

The City of Peosta will receive a \$100,000 MATCH Grant from the Wellmark Foundation for the community's Kelly Oaks Park Shared Multi-Use Accessible Path project.

Kelly Oaks Park encompasses 17 acres of the northeast portion of Peosta with a disc golf course being the current primary feature of this mostly undeveloped parkland. The City plans to expand the park's amenities to create a central park where all residents will have an opportunity to be physically active. The next step in the process is adding a 3,000 foot shared-use, paved ADA accessible path with lighting that will loop around the park. With many streets in Peosta lacking sidewalks, minimal street lighting, and no existing trails, the park's new shared-use path will offer a safe place for walking, biking, and other outdoor activities. The Kelly Oaks Park shared multi-use path will be the trail head to a long-range planned city-wide trail system and new sidewalk links.

Mayor Russell Pfab stated, "We are very excited to receive this grant from the Wellmark Foundation towards the development of our shared multi-use accessible path project in Kelly Oaks Park. This will be our trail head for the future trails planned throughout the city. Peosta citizens have expressed a great interest in a trail system for the city and this is an awesome way to launch from the idea stage to the implementation stage!"

Future improvement plans for the park include fully equipped and accessible playground equipment for various age groups; a functional pavilion; and a paved parking lot. The shared multi-use accessible path is central to the long-term plans for the park, and the City.



# Keep ECIA Top of Mind

Don't forget, ECIA can update your city code and administer your CDBG project.

ECIA staff have 30 years' experience in updating city codes for communities in the ECIA region. ECIA was the originator of the model code starting with Larry Nagle over 30 years ago, who worked with an attorney on the process. Today, the model code is a working, almost living document, that our code attorney maintains in collaboration with ECIA and other COGS across the state. Please see the graph below on the model code update process.

When ECIA works with communities, this is generally how the city code update process looks for communities that choose to update their code every five years:

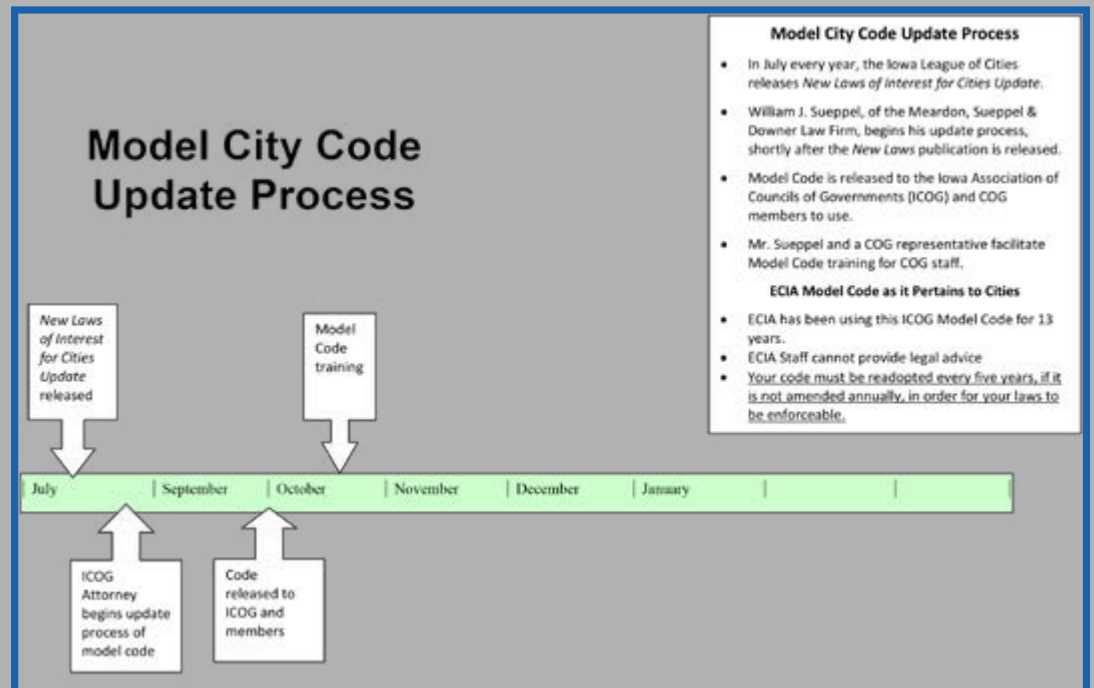
- A letter is sent to the Mayors and City Clerks the year before their city codes will hit the 5 year mark.
- The Clerk sends ECIA staff all adopted ordinances and resolutions that have been passed since the last city code update.
- ECIA staff incorporates the ordinances and resolutions and pertinent model code changes to the draft city code.
- ECIA meets with the Clerk and any other interested City staff and Council on the draft city code (this could take one or multiple meetings).
- ECIA staff makes any changes.
- Final draft is approved by City staff.
- ECIA prepares a final draft with any changes highlighted in red and adoption materials which includes a resolution to pass the public hearing date, the public hearing notice, and the ordinance that adopts the new city code.

ECIA also assists with city code supplements if a community wants to update their code annually and will also work with American Legal Publishing with keeping an online version live.

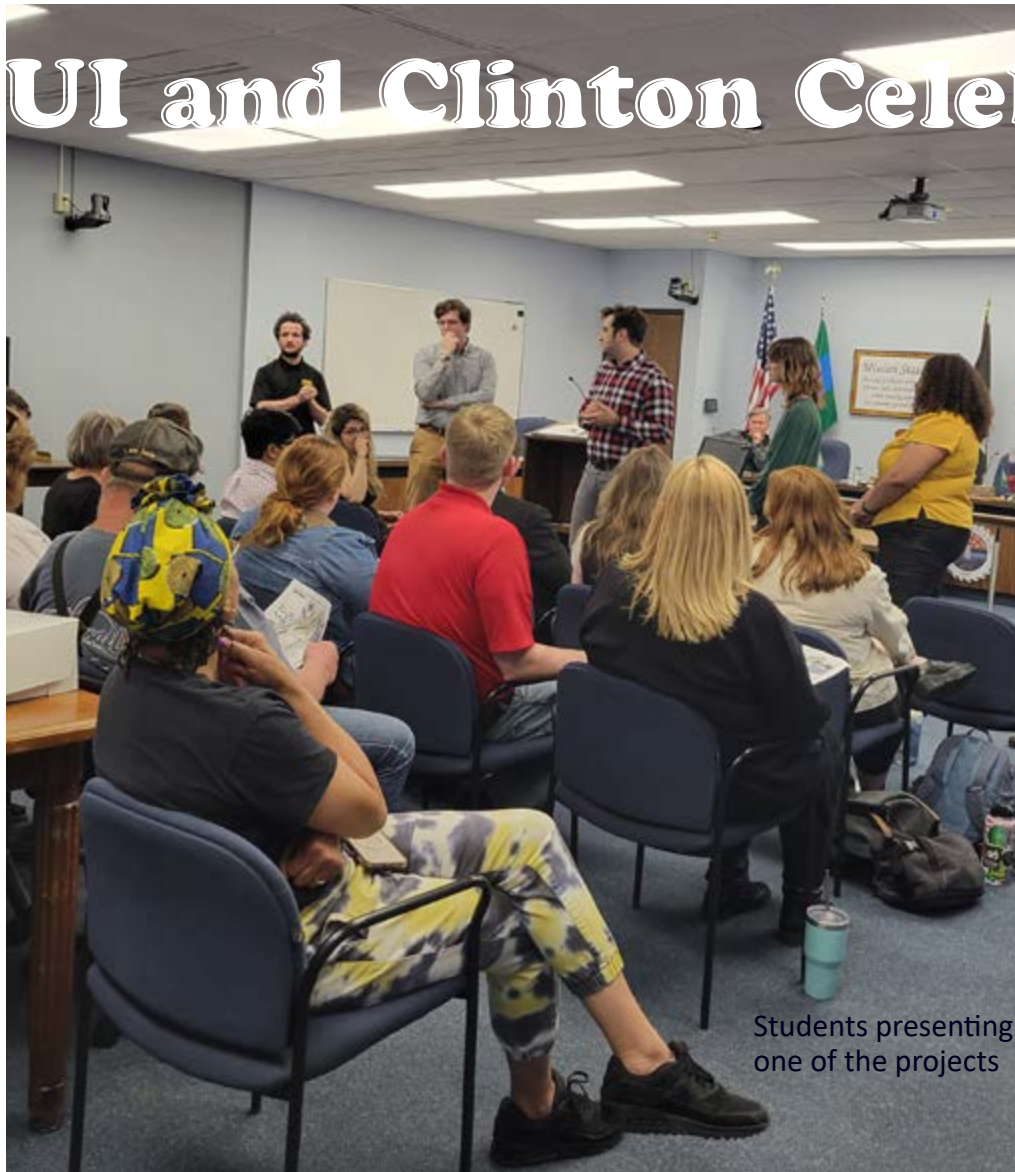
Please call Marla Quinn, ECIA Grants and Municipal Coordinator, if you have questions and especially if you think your city code is outdated!

ECIA also writes and administers CDBG and HOME grants for local governments. The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnership Programs involve compliance with complex state and federal regulations. Any agency that administers these programs must go through rigorous training and take a test to become state certified to administer the CDBG program. All 11 of the ECIA Community and Economic staff are certified to administer these programs. If you are embarking on a project that fits these

programs (CDBG - <https://www.iowaeda.com/cdbg/>) and the HOME Program- <https://www.iowafinance.com/programs-for-property-developers/home-program/>) call Amanda Dupont at 563-690-5761.



# UI and Clinton Celebrate Partnership



Students presenting one of the projects



The University of Iowa and the City of Clinton just concluded a school-year-long partnership, which included the work of more than 100 UI students, who completed 20 projects on behalf of the City. The City invested \$50,000 for this work.

The partnership began in summer 2022, with the creation of the mural "Keeping You Sewing" (pictured above) on the side of a downtown business. During the fall and spring semesters, university classes focused on addressing issues identified by Clinton administrators, ranging from improving bicycle access, to youth substance abuse prevention, and from a storm-water utility study, to a housing needs assessment.

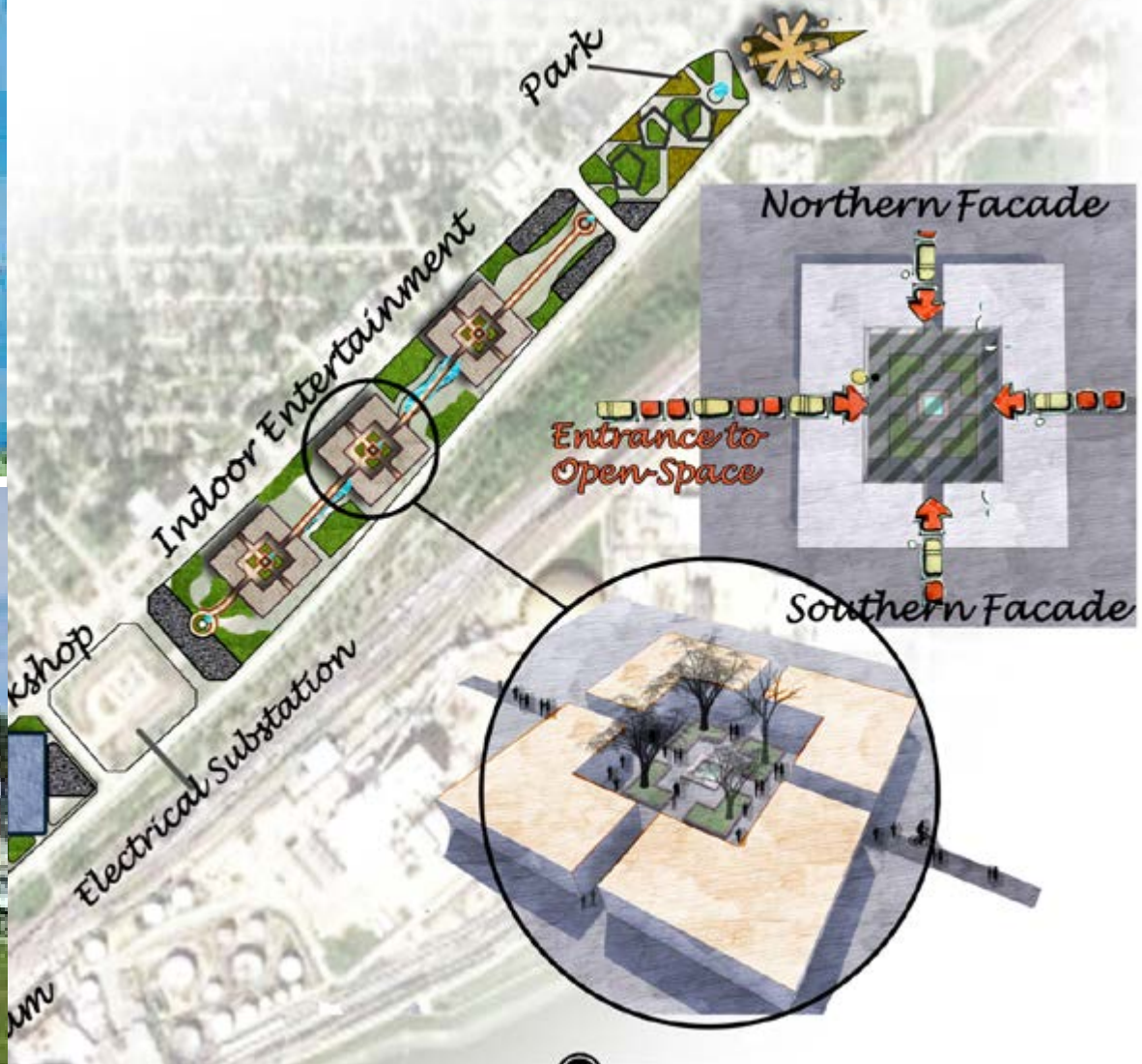
The Iowa Initiative for Sustainable Communities (IISC) brings UI students to communities across the state to collaborate with local leaders on real-world projects. Since 2009, the program has offered essential, energizing, and applicable learning experiences to graduate and upper-level undergraduate students, while simultaneously providing valuable services to communities. Each year, IISC selects new partners through a competitive process. Clinton was chosen based on the depth and breadth of the projects it offered, and the commitment of the city's leadership team to the process.

Students presented their research and designs at a May 4th showcase event. ECIA Senior Planner, Dan Fox, provided technical assistance with one of the capstone projects, the Liberty Square Master Plan, which illustrates strategies to develop a stretch of city-owned property that runs the eastbound and westbound lanes of US Highway 30. Fox will assist with implementing a portion of this plan by working with the City on zoning ordinance updates for this area.





Keeping You Sewing Mural



Matt Brooke, City Administrator, City of Clinton, had this to say about the experience: "During the 2022-23 school year, Iowa Initiatives for Sustainable Communities (IISC) completed a full partnership with the City of Clinton. The City truly enjoyed working with over 100 students, who put in over 10,000 hours working on 20 projects for the City. The City presented IISC with a rich array of potential projects and established reoccurring check in and updates to help guide the process. IISC first collaborated with Clinton through the regional partnership with ECIA for a downtown mural. Many compliments to the professionalism and curiosity of the students and a big thanks to Associate Professor Travis Kraus and Jennifer New along with Clinton's Deputy City Administrator Lisa Frederick."

Communities for the 23/24 school year have been chosen, but if you think your community could benefit from this program, call the IISC School of Planning and Public Affairs at 319-335-2798 or email at [iisc@uiowa.edu](mailto:iisc@uiowa.edu). For more information on Clinton's projects listed below, visit <https://iisc.uiowa.edu/projects>.

- Making a Music Festival: A Behind the Scenes Documentary
- GIS Mapping
- Employee Survey
- Bethel AME Short Documentary
- Eagle Point Park Campground Design
- Development of City Property (infill development)
- Opioid Crisis in Clinton
- Telling the Story of Clinton's Underground Railroad History
- Clinton Riverview Park Festival Area Engineering and Design
- Clinton - Stormwater Utility Engineering Study
- Clinton Trail Connectivity and Design
- Grow Clinton Regional Marketing Strategy
- Keeping You Sewing Mural
- Clinton Youth Substance Abuse Prevention
- Greening Downtown through Cycling
- Activating Downtown Alleyways
- Housing and Homelessness Policy Recommendations
- Clinton Youth Civic Engagement
- Clinton - Addressing the Opioid Epidemic
- Master Plan for Clinton's Liberty Square District
- Housing Needs Assessment/Housing Policy & Strategy

# 2023 Maquoketa Summer Concert Series

Maquoketa Betterment Corp./Hometown Pride will bring live music, food, and summer fun to downtown Maquoketa again this year with a line-up of local favorites and regional acts.

Concerts will be held at the Downtown Green Space (137 S. Main St.) on seven Thursday evenings throughout the summer. <https://www.facebook.com/musicmaq>



## IISC Design Complete for Green Space

As part of Maquoketa's downtown redevelopment, the City has plans to create a hub in their Green Space for outdoor entertainment events such as concerts, theater performances, festivals, and community gatherings like picnics and family reunions. The Maquoketa Green Space Redevelopment project has been a multi-year effort between the City of Maquoketa and Maquoketa Betterment Corporation-Hometown Pride (MBC-HTP). Joshua Boldt, Maquoketa City Manager and lead representative for the City on the project, explained that the City delisted the open space for sale in Fall 2022 forging a promise of good faith to consider central development ideas. In January 2023, the City contracted with the University of Iowa Initiative for Sustainable Communities (IISC) to probe, identify, design, engineer, and propose the development of the Maquoketa Green Space construction. The City's partnership with the community advocacy of MBC-HTP along with the support from UI have resulted in an interesting, engaging, and inspiring planned development for the space.

Benjamin J. Davison, Assistant Director of Jackson County Economic Alliance, and MBC-HTP Board Member led the semester-long partnership with IISC. After the students' final presentation, Davison reported, "I'm very excited to share that the UI's engineering study of the Green Space project in Maquoketa has just concluded, and the final product is equal parts simple and incredible! Between the cost estimates and the visual presentation of the renderings the students produced for a band shell, restroom/storage structure, and trees/sidewalk features, I think Maquoketa is set up pretty well to have a great community space that the state and our city will be proud to support!"

With the planning and collaboration for design being substantially complete, the City and MBC-HTP will seek to create funding partnerships to make the vision a reality.





# \$12 million Awarded to FOD

On April 6th, the Enhance Iowa Board awarded 18 Community Attraction and Tourism (CAT) grants and two Sports Tourism grants totaling \$17,750,000. Among those awarded was the City of Dyersville receiving \$12 million in Sports Tourism Infrastructure funds to transform the site of the 2021 Major League Baseball into a permanent world-class stadium. Total project cost is \$52 million.

The Enhance Iowa Program provides financial incentives to communities for the construction of recreational, cultural, educational or entertainment facilities that enhance the quality of life in Iowa.



## Lion's Club Clean Up Ditches

Nearly ideal weather conditions on Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup> helped with a successful Ditch Clean project spearheaded by the West Branch Lions Club. Fourteen West Branch high school students, two staff members, and eight Lions showed up to remove a good amount of trash from the 3.5 miles of ditches along the Herbert Hoover Highway between Sharpless Auctions and a half mile west of the high school (west of the roundabout construction).



Greg Humrichhouse, retired Iowa City police officer, President of the West Branch Lions Club, and Ditch Clean Coordinator stated, "In the 1-mile stretch that I walked with Tim's group of football players, they counted and picked up 140 empty Fireball whiskey shooter plastic bottles and Terry guessed his group had a least 70. That's a lot of drinking, driving, and littering!

Ditch Clean was one of several community projects West Branch students had the opportunity to work on during their annual Community Day of Service, related to Earth Day.

A special thank you goes to Lion helpers Tim Wageman, Terry O'Neill, Tony and Nancy Warren, Dick Hinkhouse, Mike Quinlan, and Robert Hoffmann.

## ECIA Wins ICOG Innovative Project Award

The Innovative Project Award is given annually to a Council of Governments (COG) that has an innovative project that a COG is either currently finishing or has completed on behalf of a community, county or region. The award is given to a project that: without the COG, would not have happened in the community; clearly demonstrates how the COG worked to solve or provide a solution for a community or region; and highlights how the COG worked with community leaders, funders and/or stakeholders to complete the project.

ECIA is very proud to have received this award for the Pocket Neighborhood, Bear River project in Maquoketa and being selected from a group of COG peers across Iowa. Thank you to ICOG for this amazing award! Michelle Schnier, Director of Housing and Support Services and Kelley Deutmeyer, Executive Director accepted the award at the ICOG Retreat in Des Moines.







**ECIA**

# Nuisance Abatement Program



ECIA can help clean up your community



**Delhi property before and after**

A nuisance property creates serious problems for the community and headaches for the city officials who must deal with it. If left to deteriorate, these blighted properties become a chronic drain on time and resources for cities and counties. In 2019, ECIA launched a nuisance abatement program to assist cities and counties with their nuisance property enforcement and has had great success at an affordable cost.

**For program details, contact Marla Quinn, Grants and Municipal Coordinator at 563-690-5703**