



## **Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Committee**

---

### **MINUTES**

#### **Johnson County REAP Committee**

**Thursday, August 3, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.**

Second Floor Boardroom, 913 S. Dubuque St., Iowa City, Iowa 52240

Participate in person or by joining the Zoom meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83837717695>

Meeting ID: 838 3771 7695

Or dial (312) 626-6799

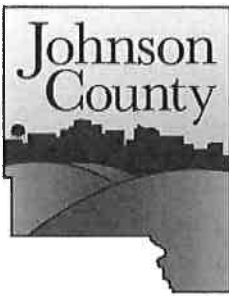
### **Agenda**

*Members of the public are welcome to join in person or electronically by video call, which links into the location at the top of this agenda. For those unable to join, public comments may be emailed to [jwenger@johnsoncountyiowa.gov](mailto:jwenger@johnsoncountyiowa.gov) for distribution to Committee members.*

*Johnson County strives to host inclusive, accessible meetings and events that enable all individuals to engage fully. To request a modification, inquire about accessibility, or request language interpretation, contact the Board of Supervisors Office at (319) 356-6000 or email [jwenger@johnsoncountyiowa.gov](mailto:jwenger@johnsoncountyiowa.gov) at least 48 hours in advance.*

*Thank you for participating in today's meeting.*

1. Call to order: 4:00 p.m.
2. Public comment – None.
3. Election of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson – Deferred.
4. Approve August 4, 2022 Johnson County REAP Committee meeting minutes – Moved by Dahms, second by Linda Schreiber, approved.
5. Presentation of REAP grant applications for review and comment by the Committee:
  - a. City of Hills application for \$50,000 for a Songbird Sanctuary Park – presented by Tamara, Deputy City Clerk and Mayor Tim Kemp
  - b. City of Iowa City application for \$200,000 for the Ashton House Grounds Ecological Restoration and Recreation Amenities – presented by Laura Hawks
6. Discuss/review the *2021-2025 Johnson County Resource Enhancement and Protection Plan*
  - a. Per Iowa Code Chapter 455A.20, the Committee is required to submit a five-year plan, including one-year expenditure plan, to the Iowa DNR
7. Next meeting date and time: Thursday, August 1, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. (tentative)
8. Adjourn



## Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Committee

### **2023 Review of REAP Grant Applications Thursday, August 3, 2022 – 4:00 p.m.**

**Present:** Peg Fraser, Chairperson  
Terry Dahms, Vice Chairperson  
Allison Wells, Johnson County Grants Manager  
Brad Freidhof, Johnson County Conservation  
Chris Taylor, City of Swisher  
Cindy Parsons, Project GREEN  
David Kramer, Sierra Club  
Diane Allen, Project GREEN  
Laura Hawks, Project GREEN  
Linda Schreiber, Master Gardeners  
Louise From, University Heights Mayor  
Sherri Proud, City of Coralville  
Tamara Frembgen Kesner, City of Hills Deputy City Clerk  
Terry Dahms, REAP Vice Chairperson  
Tim Kemp, City of Hills Mayor  
Tyler Baird, City of Iowa City

**Applicant:** City of Hills

**Presented by:** Tamara Frembgen Kesner, City of Hills Deputy City Clerk  
Tim Kemp, City of Hills Mayor

**Amount of request:** \$50,000

**Project description:** City of Hills application for \$50,000 for a Songbird Sanctuary Park

The proposed Songbird Sanctuary Park will transform an under-utilized property into space dedicated to birds and relaxation. The project includes the following features: tree and shrub plantings that will attract songbirds, a walking path, a bike rack, benches and a covered shelter. These additions will greatly enhance this downtown space and become a sanctuary for birds and people to enjoy.

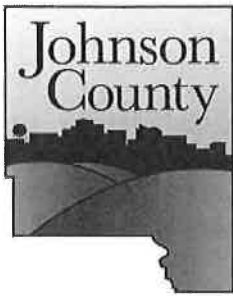
#### **Review and Comment:**

Brad Freidhof: Excellent project. As a small town, I know it is hard to do a big project like this. I like the approach of starting with a base, and building it up and adding more later. You can see how it is being used, and what needs to be added, or where to add more pollinator gardens. As you mentioned, you don't have a lot of green space in Hills, and this is a great location in the Iowa River Corridor, and is close to several other green spaces so it is in good location for birds and pollinators to use. This is a good opportunity for a demonstration lot, especially to show the public on a smaller lot how pollinator plantings can be used and replicated on their own property.

Sherri Proud: I like this application. I like that you are doing something specifically for the birds, which is hard to do when you don't have a lot of green space. A pocket park like this spurs the imagination of your residents to observe birds, pollinators, etc.

Signature:   
Peg Fraser, Johnson County REAP Committee Chair

Date: August 3, 2023



## **Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Committee**

---

### **2023 Review of REAP Grant Applications Thursday, August 3, 2022 – 4:00 p.m.**

**Present:** Peg Fraser, Chairperson  
Terry Dahms, Vice Chairperson  
Allison Wells, Johnson County Grants Manager  
Brad Freidhof, Johnson County Conservation  
Chris Taylor, City of Swisher  
Cindy Parsons, Project GREEN  
David Kramer, Sierra Club  
Diane Allen, Project GREEN  
Laura Hawks, Project GREEN  
Linda Schreiber, Master Gardeners  
Louise From, University Heights Mayor  
Sherri Proud, City of Coralville  
Tamara Frembgen Kesner, City of Hills Deputy City Clerk  
Terry Dahms, REAP Vice Chairperson  
Tim Kemp, City of Hills Mayor  
Tyler Baird, City of Iowa City

**Applicant:** City of Iowa City

**Presented by:** Laura Hawks, Project Green

**Amount of request:** \$200,000

**Project description:** City of Iowa City application for \$200,000 for the Ashton House Grounds Ecological Restoration and Recreation Amenities

#### **Review and Comment:**

Sherry: This is on the spur of Iowa River Corridor Trail. Project GREEN and City of Iowa City have done a wonderful job. This grant funding is going to be important to help enhance this project. Plantings will help buffer the trail use and park use by the house. This property has access to the edges of the property, and that is very important and often overlooked.

Cindy Parsons: We (Project GREEN) are at the site often. The trail is heavily used. We've been amazed at people using the parking lot, some will come and have a picnic, other people are seeking a respite from being at the hospital. These improvements are all things that we have ID'd as necessary as we have been working at the site. Large groups use this as well. I've seen groups of 75-100. The walk connecting Normandy Drive is greatly needed and will be a great improvement. Water feature on the site will enhance.

Brad Freidhof: I want to commend Project GREEN, you have done amazing job and have been known for your longevity, and have great respect in the community. This project complements the other application and is a good location along the Iowa River Corridor. This project also supports other developing projects in the area such as Better Together 2030, Iowa Great Places. We have focused on the Iowa River for a lot of other grant applications, this is just another one that feeds into and supports other ongoing projects. It is a small project, but these small projects feed into a larger, bigger picture. We need these small, quiet, "secret" places that are a respite and can be used to enhance our mental health.

Linda Schreiber: A long-time volunteer in the area. Thrilled to see native plants being added. Tourism. Project GREEN is hosting open gardens weekend, and the addition of native plants will only add to the attraction and could become a really significant aspect of tourism, and native plants only serve to complement what IC is doing all over the city. Nice job.

Signature:   
Peg Fraser, Johnson County REAP Committee Chair

Date: August 3, 2023