



NEWS RELEASE

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DONATIONS NEEDED FOR SCOTCH RIDGE NATURE PARK AND TRAIL LOOP CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Capital Campaign Committee Chair Denny Woodruff has announced the kick-off of the public phase of the Scotch Ridge Nature Park and Trail Loop capital campaign. The campaign, with a target of \$250,000, was started immediately after the Park and Trail project, a 6-mile loop that will connect the Summerset Trail with North Park, the Scotch Ridge Nature Park and the Carlisle Middle School, was presented for a CAT grant at the October Vision Iowa Board meeting. The private phase of the capital campaign, in which large donors are identified and contacted, has already raised over \$125,000 in cash, pledges and in-kind contributions of land and professional services, and has additional commitments pending.

The Vision Iowa Board has indicated that more donors are needed to show general community financial support, even if the contributions are small. The Capital Campaign Committee's hope for the public phase of the campaign is to present as many donors as possible to the Vision Iowa Board at its March 9th meeting so that the City is invited into negotiations for a CAT grant. The timing is especially important because the state legislature is currently discussing the future of the Vision Iowa program and may reduce or eliminate its future funding.

Contributions can be made as a lump sum with a check or cash or over time with a pledge. All funds are being managed by the Greater Des Moines Community Foundation on behalf of the Greater Carlisle Community Foundation. Pledge/Receipt forms are available at City Hall or at www.carlisle-ia.gov. To donate online visit <http://www.desmoinesfoundation.org/page34046.cfm>. If you have any questions, please contact Committee Chair Denny Woodruff at 515-490-2775.

February 15, 2011

Scotch Ridge Nature Park and Trail Loop Capital Campaign Case for Support

The City of Carlisle has been developing the Scotch Ridge Nature Park since 2004 when a 47-acre site was acquired with the help of a state REAP grant and has also been planning a community-wide, user friendly trail system since 2005 when a federal earmark was appropriated for the project.

The planned 6-mile Trail Loop project will interconnect the City's major park and recreation areas and provide a future link to the Principal Riverwalk in downtown Des Moines. It will begin at the end of the existing Summerset Trail at First Street and Highway 5 where an off-street ten-foot sidewalk is currently under construction from Highway 5 to School Street in downtown Carlisle. The Trail Loop will continue along First Street as an on-street shared route bike lane to Park Street where it will become an off-street ten-foot sidewalk on the west side of North Park.

The North Trail segment from North Park to Scotch Ridge Nature Park will be an off-street ten-foot trail along Avon Drive to Goodhue Drive, along Goodhue Drive to SE 60th Street, along SE 60th Street to SE 72nd Avenue and along SE 72nd Avenue past the Carlisle Youth Soccer complex to SE 52nd Street. The Trail Loop will continue as an off-street ten-foot trail along SE 52nd Street that will go under the Highway 5 Bridge to the Scotch Ridge Nature Park.

A South Trail segment from Scotch Ridge Nature Park to the Carlisle Middle School will cross over the North River and go through wooded wetlands and along a restored tall grass prairie and a restorable oak savannah to the middle school. In the future the South Trail will be extended through the Danamere Farms residential subdivision and Lindhardt Park and then back to the Summerset Trail at the Aquatic Center. The South Trail will allow users to experience a rare transect of several distinct soil-based eco-systems, including woodlands, wetlands, prairies and an oak savannah.

The experience of the Scotch Ridge Nature Park and Trail Loop will help counter what Richard Louv calls our collective 'nature deficit disorder' in his book, "Last Child in the Woods." Today's children do not have opportunities to interact with nature the way their parents and grandparents did as children, which is bad for the future of our society. Research like Louv's shows that opportunities for children to interact and connect with nature will foster a love for the environment that carries into adulthood, will nurture creative thinking and will encourage more consistently active lifestyles.

The Carlisle Nature Trail Loop project has already received funding commitments from a federal appropriation, state REAP and Recreational Trail grants, Polk and Warren County contributions, sidewalk assessments against future development

properties and a City appropriation that will be financed through the issuance of general obligation bonds.

Uncommitted sources include an Iowa Great Places grant that will be requested from the Iowa Great Places program and a Vision Iowa Community Attractions and Tourism (CAT) grant that the City applied for in July 2010. Mayor Ruth Randleman and Capital Campaign Chair Denny Woodruff made the City's first presentation to the Vision Iowa Board in October 2010. The Vision Iowa Board has required the City to provide additional design details, to complete land acquisition and to show significant and widespread community financial support for the project before it will enter into negotiations with Carlisle for a CAT grant.

The land acquisition and design requirements have been satisfied. A fund-raising capital campaign with a target of \$250,000 was started immediately after the October Vision Iowa Board meeting to satisfy the general community financial support requirement. The private phase of the capital campaign, in which large donors are identified and contacted, has already raised over \$125,000 in cash, pledges and in-kind contributions of land and professional services from just nine separate donors. Additional commitments of \$75,000 from large donors are pending. The Vision Iowa Board has indicated that more donors are needed to meet the general community financial support requirement, even if their contributions are in small amounts.

Chair Denny Woodruff has therefore announced the start of the public phase of the capital campaign in order to attract more donors to the capital campaign. The Capital Campaign Committee's hope is to present as many donors as possible to the Vision Iowa Board at its March 9th meeting so that the general community financial support requirement is satisfied and the City is invited to the negotiations phase. The timing is especially important because the state legislature is currently discussing the future of the Vision Iowa program and may reduce or eliminate its future funding.

Pledge/Receipt forms are available at City Hall, 195 N. 1st St. or at www.carlisle-ia.gov. Contributions can be made as a lump sum with a check or cash, over time with a pledge or online at <http://www.desmoinesfoundation.org/page34046.cfm>. All funds are being managed by the Greater Des Moines Community Foundation on behalf of the Greater Carlisle Community Foundation. If you have any questions, please contact Committee Chair Denny Woodruff at 515-490-2775.

Denny Woodruff
Capital Campaign Chair

Ruth Randleman
Mayor

Receipt/Pledge

The Scotch Ridge Nature Park and Carlisle Nature Trail Loop

- Will encourage children to appreciate the natural environment which can nurture their creative thinking
- Will give residents better opportunities to have healthier and more consistently active lifestyles
- Will make Carlisle a more attractive destination for visitors who are potential patrons for businesses

Date of gift: _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

I wish to pledge \$ _____ per year for _____ years or contribute a lump sum of _____

Checks should be made out to "Scotch Ridge Nature Park and Trail Fund".

Please return this form with your contribution to:
Scotch Ridge Nature Park and Trail Capital Campaign Fund
PO Box 430
Carlisle, Iowa 50047

To donate online visit <http://www.desmoinesfoundation.org/page34046.cfm>

Thank you for your generous donation to support the Carlisle Nature Trail Loop and the Scotch Ridge Nature Park. We are excited about the energizing effect this project will have our community.

For your records, this letter will serve to verify that your contribution is fully tax deductible. For substantiation of this gift, you did not receive any benefits or services from the City as an exchange.

Thank you again!

Denny Woodruff
Chairperson
Scotch Ridge Nature Park and Trail Capital Campaign Fund