



The City of West Branch has been awarded a grant of \$75,000 from Resource Enhancement and Protection commonly referred to as REAP.

REAP invests in projects that enhance and protect Iowa's natural and cultural resources. 15% of REAP is set aside for grants to cities for projects that help establish natural areas, encourage outdoor recreation and resource management.

The West Branch Community Trails Plan was developed in 2011 by a Trails Committee consisting of the West Branch Parks & Recreation Department, elected officials, residents, Main Street West Branch, the National Park Service, and Mary Hanson, River Trails and Conservation Assistant with the National Park Service. This REAP Grant will allow the City to construct an important segment of the Trails Plan.

The grant money will be used for the West Branch Village Trail. This project includes the construction of 400 feet of 10-foot wide concrete trail and a 100-foot bridge to cross the creek and associated 100-year floodplain near the intersection of the Hoover Nature Trail and N. Downey Street. The trail will link the popular Hoover Nature Trail with the residents of the West Branch Village Mobile Home Community. In addition to the trail crossing, 200 feet of stream bank stabilization will be conducted to address ongoing problems with erosion. The project has an anticipated completion date of September 1, 2015.

In addition to promoting the health and well-being of residents who will have access to the Hoover Nature Trail, this well-placed trail becomes a new option for commuting to school and work. The project will utilize environmentally sustainable designs and local suppliers. This trail will also provide access to the newly constructed West Branch Dog Park located 500 feet north of the project location.

Partners on the West Branch Trail Project include the National Park Service, Main Street West Branch, West Branch Village Mobile Home Community, West Branch Community School District, Hames Communities, LLC, the West Branch Parks & Recreation Commission, and the Cedar County Conservation Board.

In its 25 years, REAP has benefited every county in Iowa by supporting 14,535 projects. REAP has funded these projects with \$264 million in state investments, leveraging two to three times the amount in private, local and federal dollars. Collectively, these projects have improved the quality of life for all Iowans with better soil and water quality; added outdoor recreation opportunities; sustained economic development; enhanced knowledge and understanding of our ecological and environmental assets, and preservation of our cultural and historic treasures.

REAP has invested over \$700,000 in Cedar County and West Branch over the last 25 years. Previous projects funded in part by REAP include the development of Beranek Park and the restoration of the Hoover Birthplace Cottage in the early 1990's.

Local Contact is: Matt Muckler, West Branch City Administrator, (319) 643-5888



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PROPOSED WEST BRANCH VILLAGE TRAIL
WEST BRANCH, IOWA
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