



### **Evansdale Receives Grant**

City of Evansdale 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 the Iowa's natural and cultural resources. 15% of REAP is set aside for grants to cities/20% is set aside for county conservation boards for projects that help establish natural areas, encourage outdoor recreation and resource management.

The grant money will be used for the River Road Water Trail Access, which will be part of the State-designated water trail system. This will allow shallow water boats, kayaks, and canoes access to the Cedar River. The project is being planned for a Fall 2021 completion.

This will benefit the community by including a new boat ramp, driveway, parking area, pollinator plantings, vegetated filter strip, walking path, and a bike rack for pedal-paddle trips. This is a great step in providing more access to the surrounding area for recreation and emergency access as needed. In addition, the Cedar River is on schedule to become a State-designated water trail in 2021.

The City of Evansdale is very grateful to be selected out of a competitive list of projects. We want to thank Iowa Legislators and the Iowa DNR for making these improvements possible. We would also like to thank INRCOG for their support in the process.

In its 31 years, REAP has benefited every county in Iowa by supporting over 16,500 projects. REAP has funded these projects with nearly \$320 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 benefitted this area greatly over 31 years. In recent years, the REAP program has funded several projects in Black Hawk County including improvements at the Waterloo Boat House, Sherwood Park, and Greenbelt Lake in Waterloo; Clay Street Park and Washington Park in Cedar Falls; the Riverwalk Trail in Dunkerton; Elk Run Creek in Elk Run Heights; and Meyers Lake in Evansdale.

The local contact for the River Road Water Trails Access project is Mayor Troy Beatty, 319-232-6683.