



Market Street Landing Inclusive Play Space

Market Street Landing Inclusive Play Space Awarded \$1.4 Million Destination Iowa Grant

OTTUMWA, IOWA — The Market Street Landing Inclusive Play Space, a flagship project of Ottumwa's Riverfront Revitalization initiative, has been awarded nearly \$1.4 million through the State of Iowa's Destination Iowa program. This significant investment underscores statewide recognition of the project's potential to elevate quality of life, attract visitors, and foster inclusive community development.

Funded through Destination Iowa, an initiative created by Governor Kim Reynolds and the Iowa Economic Development Authority to bolster tourism and placemaking, the grant will help bring to life a dynamic, fully accessible 8,000-square-foot play space along the Des Moines River in downtown Ottumwa. The park is designed to welcome individuals of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds with features such as accessible play equipment, sensory zones, adult changing tables, a water feature, and shaded gathering areas.

"This is definitely one of those projects that will improve quality of life for Iowans," said Representative Hans Wilz of Iowa House District 25. "There is tremendous need for spaces like this, so advocating for state support was easy."

As the driving force behind Ottumwa's Riverfront revitalization, the Legacy Foundation is leading the vision for a more accessible and inclusive community. The Tenco Foundation contributes decades of experience enriching the lives of individuals with disabilities, while First Resources Corp. offers essential community-based programs that champion diversity and inclusion. Together, these partners are fundraising to create a space where individuals of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds can connect and thrive.

"We are working to build something pretty special here - a vibrant, inclusive play space right on the riverfront that's designed so every child, teen, and adult, regardless of ability, can feel a sense of joy and belonging and we are grateful that our state partners share and support this vision," adds Legacy Foundation President/CEO, Kelly Genners.

The Inclusive Play Space is a key element of the Market Street Landing Riverfront Master Plan, and its creation is expected to draw thousands of local residents and regional visitors each year. Construction is anticipated to begin this year, with a grand opening projected for late summer of 2026.

To learn more or support the campaign, visit www.marketstreetlanding.org or email inclusiveplayspace@ottumwalegacy.org