

City of Monticello, Iowa

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**Monticello City Special Council Meeting August 12, 2026 at 4:00 p.m.
Monticello Renaissance Center, 220 E. 1st Street, Monticello, Iowa**

Mayor:	Jake Ellwood	Staff:	
City Council:		City Administrator:	Russell Farnum
At Large:	Candy Langerman	City Clerk/Treas.:	Sally Hinrichsen
At Large:	Mary Phelan	Police Chief:	Britt Smith
At Large:	Josh Brenneman	Library Director:	Faith Brehm
At Large:	Scott Brighton	Public Works Dir.:	Nick Kahler
At Large:	Ben Duehr	Water/Wastewater Sup.:	Jim Tjaden
At Large:	Dave Goedken	Park & Rec Director:	Jacob Oswald
		Ambulance Director:	Lori Lynch
		City Engineer:	Patrick Schwickerath

- **Call to Order – 4:00 P.M.**
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Roll Call
- Agenda Addition/Agenda Approval

Resolutions:

1. **Resolution** Authorizing the City of Monticello to Pursue a REAP Grant Application to Expand Community and Regional Trails

Work Session:

2. **Work Session** – Discussion and possible action regarding potential vacancy of the Mayor position and process to fill the position

Adjournment: Pursuant to §21.4(2) of the Code of Iowa, the City has the right to amend this agenda up until 24 hours before the posted meeting time.

Monticello City Council meetings are recorded, by attending and choosing to participate you give your consent to be recorded. If you prefer not to be recorded, you may submit comments in writing.

The meeting will continue to be broadcast on Mediacom (Local Access Channel) and will be accessible via Zoom via the following link.

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City Council Meeting Prep. Date: 8/10/2026 Preparer: Jacob Oswald		Agenda Item: # Agenda Date: 08/12/2026
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Communication Page

<u>Agenda Items Description:</u> City Park and Open Spaces REAP Grant Application
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<u>Type of Action Requested:</u> Motion; Resolution; Ordinance; Report; Public Hearing; Closed Session												
<u>Attachments & Enclosures:</u> <table border="1"> <tr><td>REAP Grant Application</td></tr> <tr><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td></tr> </table>	REAP Grant Application			<u>Fiscal Impact:</u> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Budget Line Item:</td> <td> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Budget Summary:</td> <td> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Expenditure:</td> <td> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Revenue:</td> <td> </td> </tr> </table>	Budget Line Item:		Budget Summary:		Expenditure:		Revenue:	
REAP Grant Application												
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Synopsis:

The Parks and Recreation Department seeks approval to submit an application to the Iowa DNR for REAP (Resource Enhancement and Protection) funding, for the next phase of trail development on the east side of Highway 151.

Background Information:

Through various community engagement initiatives, trails have always presented itself as a priority for the citizens of Monticello.

Our grant request to the Iowa DNR will seek \$75,000 of funding through REAP and matching \$25,000 from the Park Improvement-Recreation Trails fund to construct a trail along the property east of Highway 151 that was purchased in 2023. This next phase would be to construct a crushed rock trail meandering through the restored prairie area on this property, as well as access improvements and a parking area. These improvements will actually create an area that can be readily used and enjoyed by the public.

By creating accessible trails, we seek to promote active lifestyles, enhance outdoor recreational opportunities, and facilitate sustainable transportation options. The expansion will enable individuals of all ages and abilities to enjoy the beauty of the outdoors while supporting environmental conservation and community well-being.

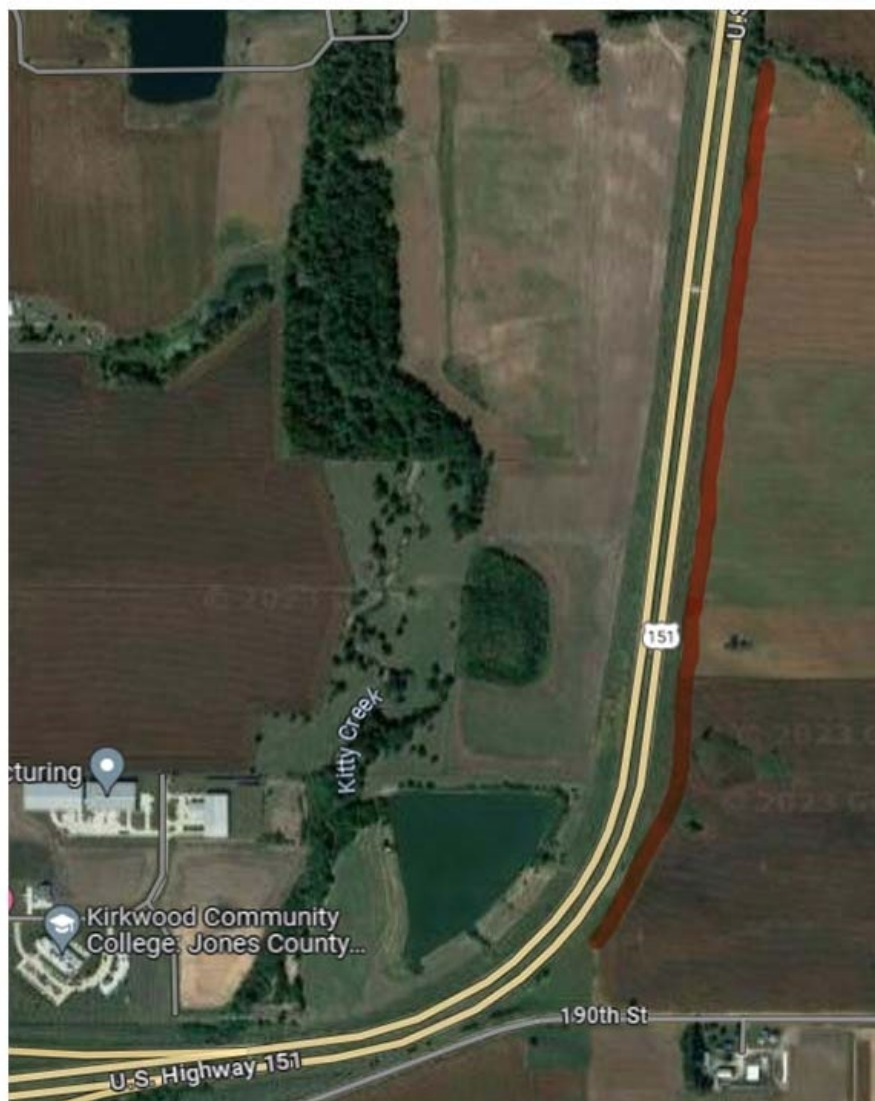
The proposed trail expansion project has a significant relationship with various local, regional, and state plans, particularly in its connection to the Wapsipinicon Trail as outlined in the Grant Wood Loop Master Plan.

At the local level, the project aligns with the communities' long-term vision for trail development. The expansion of recreational trails not only fulfills the desires and values expressed by the residents during the Monticello Heart & Soul initiative and the recent parks and recreation master plan survey but also addresses their need for safe and accessible outdoor spaces.

On a regional scale, trail expansion plays a vital role in enhancing connectivity between neighboring communities. By linking to the Wapsipinicon Trail, which is part of the Grant Wood Loop Master Plan, the project becomes an integral component of a broader regional trail network. This connectivity offers residents and visitors seamless access to various destinations and recreational opportunities across multiple communities, fostering a sense of unity and cooperation among neighboring towns.

Staff Recommendation:

To submit a grant application to the Iowa DNR for \$75,000 in REAP funding and a city match of \$25,000, approval of the attached Resolution by Council is required and recommended.



City of Monticello, Iowa

RESOLUTION #2026-____

Authorizing the City of Monticello to Pursue a REAP Grant Application to Expand Community and Regional Trails

WHEREAS, the City of Monticello, Iowa is an incorporated city within Jones County, Iowa; and

WHEREAS, the City of Monticello, Iowa, proposes the construction of trails that will eventually link Highway 38 with relocated Highway 151 and associated areas; and

WHEREAS, the City of Monticello, Iowa believes this trail will have significant positive environmental, social and fiscal impacts; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Monticello have expressed their desire for a trail in this area of the community by including it within the Comprehensive Plan for the City of Monticello and in the Trail Plan for Grant Wood Loop, connecting Cascade, Monticello and Anamosa to the Wapsipinicon Trail.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of Monticello, Iowa does hereby do the following:

1. Respectfully request a grant award in the amount of \$75,000.00 from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources REAP program.
2. If awarded, the city agrees to match \$25,000 of secured funds from the Park Improvement-Recreation Trails fund.
3. Promise to promote further trail expansions and improvements in this area of Monticello and the region.
4. Be diligent stewards of the local environment.

IN THE TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name and caused the Great Seal for the City of Monticello, Iowa to be affixed. Done this 12th day of August, 2026.

Mayor Jake Ellwood

Attest:

Sally Hinrichsen, City Clerk/Treasurer

1. Applicant – City of Monticello

2. Contact Person – Jacob Oswald

3. Email Address – joswald@ci.monticello.ia.us

4. Telephone Number – 319-465-6640

5. Applicant/Organization Address – 200 E. 1st Street, Monticello IA 52310

6. County – Jones County

7. Project 911 Address –N/A

8. Latitude/Longitude Coordinates: - 42.213878, -91.172842

9. Grant Amount Requested - \$75,000

10. Project Title – Monticello Highway 151 Trail Expansion – Phase 2 (Trail Development)

11. Project Summary

Our grant request seeks funding to construct 1 mile of trail along property running adjacent to Highway 151 that was purchased with the assistance of REAP funds in 2023. The expansion will enable individuals of all ages and abilities to enjoy the pollinator prairie habitat that was planted on the property as well as improve community well-being.

a. General Application Details

i. Note the type of project seeking funding. (check all that apply to the project).

* This question may have follow-up questions.

ii. Date waiver of retroactivity granted by the Department.

Waiver of retroactivity: In case of extreme urgency involving land acquisition or development, a grant applicant may formally request a written “waiver of retroactivity” which, if granted by the director of the department of natural resources, will permit the applicant to acquire the real property immediately or start construction of grant elements without jeopardizing its chances of receiving a grant. However, the granting of the waiver in no way implies or guarantees that any subsequent grant application will be selected for funding by the review and select committee.

NOTE: The request for a waiver must include justification regarding the urgency of the project, a description of the land to be acquired or the construction to be initiated, and a county map on which the project is located. Waivers are not guaranteed but evaluated on a case-by-case basis depending on the detail of the information provided by the requestor.

b. REAP Need/Problem Statement

What is the "why" for this project what information led to this being the right project at this time?

(Scoring Value up to 20 points)

i. Describe the specific problems, issues or unmet needs the project will address. In other words, what/who is impacted and why does it matter?

The Highway 151 trail project addresses a gap in Monticello's existing trail network. Currently, residents and visitors do not have a continuous, safe, and accessible trail connection along the Highway 151 corridor between the community's existing trail system, the south end of the community, and the Park & Ride area.

The project will provide approximately 2.2 miles of new crushed lime/stone trail, creating a connection between the Monticello High School area and the Highway 151 Park & Ride. The project will also provide access to newly acquired property that can serve as a future trail and recreational corridor.

The project also addresses a broader community need for improved connectivity. Monticello has continued to invest in parks, recreation opportunities, and trails, but gaps in the existing system prevent residents from taking full advantage of these investments. Completing this connection will link existing and future trail segments, expand access to recreational opportunities, and create a more cohesive community-wide trail network.

Ultimately, the project matters because it will make it easier and safer for people to move through the community without relying solely on a vehicle. It will improve recreational access, encourage active transportation, connect residents to community amenities, and provide a long-term infrastructure investment that will benefit residents of all ages and abilities.

ii. What data or public input drove the understanding that there is a problem or issue to solve?

The need for this project has been identified through a combination of community surveys, public feedback, trail planning efforts, and continued growth in the use of Monticello's parks and recreational facilities.

Monticello's 2022 Parks & Recreation Master Plan survey demonstrated strong community interest in expanding outdoor recreation opportunities and improving connectivity. This has been echoed in the more recent, 2026 survey, identifying trails as an important community priority and providing support for continued investment in the city's trail system.

More recently, the City has continued to receive positive public feedback regarding trail expansion and connectivity. In particular, community discussion surrounding the Highway 151 corridor identified the opportunity to create a safer and more useful connection between the existing trail system, the high school area, the south end of the community, and the Park & Ride.

The City's land acquisition in 2023, with the support of REAP funding, of approximately eight acres of property along Highway 151 further reinforced the opportunity to address

this gap. The property provides the City with a strategic corridor for extending the trail and creating a long-term connection that was previously difficult to achieve.

The project is also supported by demonstrated growth in participation in Monticello Parks & Recreation programs and facilities. Participation has increased substantially, from approximately 3,700 participants in 2022 to more than 10,700 in 2025, with continued growth anticipated. This increased use has reinforced the need to expand and connect the community's recreational infrastructure.

Together, the survey results, ongoing public feedback, trail planning, property acquisition opportunity, and continued growth in recreation participation demonstrate a clear community need for improved trail connectivity and safer pedestrian and bicycle access along the Highway 151 corridor.

iii. Why is this project important to the community/county at this time?

This project is important to the community because Monticello is experiencing continued growth in participation, recreation, and demand for outdoor amenities, while opportunities to safely connect these investments remain limited. The Highway 151 corridor represents one of the most significant remaining gaps in the community's trail network.

The timing of the project aligns with a unique opportunity created by the City's continued investment in the corridor. In 2023, the City utilized REAP funding to purchase approximately eight acres along Highway 151 to provide an opportunity for future trail development. More recently, the City purchased an additional 2.2 acres adjacent to this property, further expanding the City's ability to establish a continuous trail corridor. These strategic property acquisitions have positioned the City to move from planning toward implementation.

The project is also gaining momentum through community involvement. An Eagle Scout is currently developing trails within the Highway 151 Park & Ride as part of his service project. The City's long-term goal is to connect the Scout's trail project to the proposed City trail, creating a continuous recreational connection from the Park & Ride through the newly acquired City properties. Ultimately, the City hopes to extend this connection north to the Monticello High School and existing trail system. This creates a unique opportunity to combine City investment, grant funding, property acquisition, and volunteer-led community improvements into one larger, connected trail system.

Monticello has also experienced substantial growth in Parks & Recreation participation, increasing from approximately 3,700 participants in 2022 to more than 10,700 in 2025, with participation expected to exceed 15,000 in 2026. As more residents use community parks and recreation facilities, the need for safe, accessible ways to walk and bike between these destinations becomes increasingly important.

Completing this connection now will allow Monticello to capitalize on investments and momentum already underway. The City has acquired the necessary property, a community volunteer is actively developing complementary trails at the Park & Ride, and public input has consistently identified trail connectivity as a priority. Together, these efforts create a timely opportunity to establish an important piece of Monticello's long-term trail network and provide a lasting recreational and transportation resource for residents and visitors.

iv. What are the implications to the community/county, natural or cultural resources if this project is not funded?

If this project is not funded, Monticello will continue to have a significant gap in its pedestrian and bicycle network along the Highway 151 corridor. Residents, families, students, and visitors will remain without a safe, dedicated connection between the existing trail system near the high school, the south end of the community, and the Park & Ride. This will limit opportunities for people to walk or bike between community destinations and will continue to require many users to rely on roadways or travel by vehicle.

The community would also lose an important opportunity to build upon its recent investments. Without the trail project, the property's potential to serve as a key component of a connected recreational corridor would remain largely unrealized.

Failure to fund the project would also delay progress toward the community's long-term goal of developing a more connected trail system. As participation in Parks & Recreation continues to grow, the gap between demand for outdoor recreation opportunities and the infrastructure available to safely access those opportunities will become more evident.

There are also potential quality-of-life implications. A connected trail system can increase access to parks and community amenities, provide opportunities for active transportation, improve recreational experiences for residents and visitors, and contribute to the overall attractiveness of the community. Delaying this project means delaying these benefits and potentially increasing the future cost of completing the connection.

From an environmental and resource perspective, the project provides an opportunity to establish a thoughtfully planned recreational corridor while the necessary property is available. Not funding the project now could make future trail development more difficult as surrounding development and infrastructure change.

Ultimately, the greatest implication of not funding the project is the loss of an opportunity to address a known connectivity and safety gap at a time when the City has already completed significant groundwork. The need will remain, recreational participation will continue to grow, and the community will continue to lack this important connection.

v.

c. REAP Project Design and Planning Approach

What are the main project tasks and activities and how it will be accomplished? Will proposed plans enhance or compliment recreational activities in the county/community and/or the resource and its proximity to other nearby or adjacent public lands?

(Scoring Value up to 10 points)

- i. Provide a detailed description of the project you are proposing, including intended users and relationship to other public outdoor recreation spaces (city, county, state, federal), if applicable.***

The proposed project will extend Monticello's existing multi-use trail system approximately 2.2 miles along the Highway 151 corridor, creating a safe, accessible, and connected route between the south end of the community, the Highway 151 Park & Ride, and, ultimately, the Monticello High School and existing trail system. The project represents an important segment of the City's long-term vision to create a connected community trail network rather than isolated trail segments.

The City has taken significant steps to make this connection possible. In 2023, the City utilized REAP funding to purchase approximately eight acres of property along Highway 151 for future trail development. More recently, the City purchased an additional 2.2 acres adjacent to this property, further expanding the available corridor for trail development. These strategic acquisitions provide the foundation for the proposed project and demonstrate the City's commitment to establishing a long-term recreational connection along the Highway 151 corridor.

The proposed trail will be a crushed lime/stone, multi-use recreational path designed to accommodate a variety of users, including walkers, hikers, runners, bicyclists, families, youth, older adults, and individuals with mobility limitations.

The project is also being developed in coordination with a community-led improvement at the Highway 151 Park & Ride. An Eagle Scout is currently developing trails within the Park & Ride as part of his service project. The City's goal is to connect the Scout's trail project to the proposed Highway 151 trail, creating a continuous recreational connection from the Park & Ride through the City-owned properties. Over time, the City intends to extend this connection north toward the Monticello High School and the existing trail system. This partnership provides an opportunity to combine volunteer efforts, City investment, property acquisition, and grant funding into a larger connected outdoor recreation corridor.

The project will complement Monticello's existing public outdoor recreation system, which includes more than 130 acres of parkland across multiple locations, including parks, athletic fields, playgrounds, courts, walking trails, and other recreational amenities. By connecting these facilities and community destinations, the Highway 151 trail will make the broader park and recreation system more accessible and functional while creating opportunities for future trail extensions.

The trail will also connect with the Highway 151 Park & Ride, providing an opportunity for users to incorporate walking and bicycling into their recreational activities and transportation needs. The project therefore serves both recreational and community connectivity purposes and will provide a safer alternative for pedestrians and bicyclists traveling through the corridor.

The intended users extend beyond Monticello residents. The trail will be available to residents throughout Jones County as well as visitors traveling through the area. As part of a larger community trail network, the project has the potential to support regional recreation, bicycle travel, nature-based recreation, and connections to other outdoor recreation opportunities throughout the county.

Overall, the project is designed to create a safe, accessible, and sustainable multi-use trail connection while establishing an important segment of Monticello's long-term vision for a connected trail network. By connecting the Eagle Scout's Park & Ride improvements, the City's newly acquired properties, the proposed trail, and eventually the high school and existing trail system, the project will create a lasting recreational asset that strengthens Monticello's outdoor recreation system and provides greater access to the outdoors for residents and visitors.

Indicate what recreational opportunities will be allowed on this property or enhanced by the project funded with this grant. (i.e. hiking, biking, hunting, fishing, bird watching, etc.)

The trail will provide a year-round outdoor recreation experience and connect users to Monticello's broader parks and trail system, including: hiking, walking, bicycling, running, jogging, and nature observation. The crushed lime/stone design will provide a safe and accessible route for individuals and families to enjoy the outdoors while connecting to other community recreational facilities. The trail will also provide opportunities for individuals of varying ages and abilities, including people using mobility devices, to experience the outdoors.

The project will provide opportunities for outdoor recreation throughout the year. During winter months, when conditions permit, the trail and surrounding natural areas will provide opportunities for snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. This seasonal use will expand the usefulness of the corridor beyond the traditional recreation season and provide additional reasons for residents and visitors to return throughout the year.

Bird watching and wildlife observation will also be an important attraction. The natural landscape and prairie along the corridor will allow users to experience changing scenery and observe wildlife throughout the seasons. During recent maintenance of the prairie on the property, both quail and pheasants were observed, demonstrating the potential of the area to provide meaningful wildlife-viewing opportunities. The combination of prairie, wildlife, seasonal scenery, and a dedicated trail will allow users to experience the natural environment while participating in a variety of outdoor activities.

The project is therefore both an expansion of recreational opportunities and an enhancement of Monticello's existing outdoor recreation infrastructure. It will create a safe, accessible, year-round corridor that provides opportunities for hiking, biking, running, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, bird watching, wildlife observation, and simply enjoying the outdoors. By connecting these opportunities to the broader community trail system, the project will provide lasting recreational benefits for residents and visitors of all ages and abilities.

ii. Is this a New Development/Construction, Demolition/Replacement?

- 1) Supporting text should detail facilities to be constructed, existing facilities in the project area, including proposed universally accessible features and natural/cultural resources in the area.
- 2) If this is part of a larger project or master plan, clearly detail the phase this application for REAP funding will cover.
- 3) If this application is part of a larger project or master plan that has received REAP funding in the last 5 years, provide a brief status report of the project elements previously funded.

Yes. This application is part of a larger project for which the City received REAP funding in 2023. The REAP funding allowed the City to acquire approximately eight acres of property located along the Highway 151 corridor, with the long-term goal of creating a connected trail and natural recreation corridor.

Following the property acquisition, the City worked with Jones County Conservation in the fall of 2024 to seed nearly eight acres of the property as pollinator prairie. This established a significant natural resource and habitat component on the property while also creating an outdoor landscape that can be incorporated into future recreational opportunities.

Over the past two years, the City has focused on establishing and maintaining the prairie, including regular mowing and other maintenance necessary to support the developing habitat. The prairie is now an established component of the property and is providing opportunities for residents and visitors to experience native vegetation and wildlife. During recent prairie maintenance, both quail and pheasants were observed on the property, demonstrating the value of the area as wildlife habitat.

The City has also continued to advance the larger trail vision by recently acquiring an additional 2.2 acres adjacent to the original REAP-funded property. With the prairie established, the property maintained, and additional land acquired, the City is now ready to move to the next phase of the project: developing a multi-use trail through the property.

~~iii. Is this project specifically for or include land acquisition?~~

- ~~1) Supporting text should detail total acres to be acquired and any existing facilities on the property.~~
- ~~2) How does this acquisition contribute to public land goals of the city/county?~~

~~3) Provide details of the specific types of habitat available on the proposed property and how it compliments or fills the void as per other public lands in the area.~~

iv. Does this project include trail development?

* This question may have follow-up questions.

v. Describe specific approaches planned, if any, for restoration or enhancement of habitats or the preservation of cultural resources.

If the project negatively impacts natural or cultural resources, what remediation efforts have been considered in the overall project design?

vi. Upload a project location and boundary map.*

1) The map should be sufficiently detailed so that a person, unfamiliar with the site or your community can find it using only the map. The legible map should include site name and address, street and road names, landmarks and an indication of compass direction.

2) Either as part of the map in item 1 above, or as an additional map, you should note the boundary of the project area. The boundary should be an easily distinguishable line. Any adjacent lands owned/managed/leased by the applicant should also be identified.

3) If the project includes land acquisition, the acres of the property and legal description should be included.

NOTE: All maps should be combined into one (1) file prior to uploading into SlideRoom.

vii. Upload a site development plan.*

This map should not be combined with the project location/boundary maps noted in Question 7.

1) If this is a development project, clearly mark locations for all elements (trails, shelters, plantings, etc.) funded with REAP.

2) If the project includes acquisition or is solely for acquisition of property, aerial maps must be clear enough to readily differentiate between ground cover types. Drone videos are acceptable to be uploaded but video uploads should be placed into the Other Media Uploads portion of this application.

3) Site photographs or illustrations or renderings are encouraged. Images must be clear and labeled such that the reviewer knows what they are looking at and its location on the preceding development map.

NOTE: All maps, photos or illustrations should be combined into one (1) file prior to uploading into SlideRoom.

d. REAP Project Impact/Outcomes

How will the resource and/or community change or be protected because of this project? How will they know if they are successful?

(Scoring Value up to 30 points)

i. How will this project improve opportunities within the community/county for residents and visitors to connect with the outdoors?*

The project will significantly improve opportunities for residents and visitors to connect with the outdoors by creating approximately 2.2 miles of new multi-use trail along the Highway 151 corridor. The trail will provide a safe and accessible setting for walking, hiking, bicycling, running, nature observation, and family recreation.

The project is particularly important because it will transform an existing gap in the community's trail network into a continuous outdoor recreation corridor. Rather than requiring users to drive between recreation destinations or navigate areas without dedicated pedestrian and bicycle facilities, the trail will allow people to travel through the community on foot or by bicycle while experiencing the outdoors.

The trail will serve residents of all ages and abilities, including families, youth, older adults, recreational cyclists, runners, and individuals using mobility devices. It will also provide an outdoor recreation opportunity for visitors to Monticello and Jones County and create a connection to the Highway 151 Park & Ride.

The project will ultimately allow residents and visitors to spend more time outdoors, access more of the community's recreational system, and experience the natural environment as part of their daily lives. By connecting existing and future recreational assets, the project will help create a more comprehensive and accessible outdoor recreation network for the community and county.

ii. What design elements are included that contribute to conserving and/or enhancing natural resources in tandem with outdoor recreation experiences?*

The project is being designed as a multi-use trail that provides recreational access while respecting and enhancing the natural characteristics of the corridor. The use of a dedicated trail corridor will concentrate recreational activity within a defined footprint, reducing the need for users to travel informally through surrounding areas.

Where feasible, the project will utilize existing terrain and previously disturbed areas to minimize unnecessary impacts to the surrounding landscape. Trail alignment and construction will be planned to minimize disturbance to existing vegetation, drainage patterns, and natural features, while incorporating appropriate stormwater management and erosion-control practices during construction.

The project will also provide an opportunity for residents and visitors to experience the natural environment without requiring extensive development of the surrounding property. The trail corridor will offer opportunities for wildlife observation, seasonal nature appreciation, and environmental education as users experience the landscape.

As the project moves into final design and construction, the City will work to incorporate appropriate native vegetation and low-maintenance landscaping where practical. These elements can help stabilize soils, support pollinators and wildlife, reduce long-term maintenance needs, and enhance the visual and environmental quality of the corridor.

The overall goal is to create a trail that allows people to enjoy and connect with the outdoors while being thoughtful stewards of the land. The project will balance recreational access with responsible site planning and long-term resource protection.

iii. Describe the economic benefits to the local area. Specifically, how will the project increase quality of life, retain business/residents, attract business/residents, attract day tourists or overnight visitors.*

The project will provide both direct and long-term economic and quality-of-life benefits to Monticello and Jones County. A connected, high-quality trail system is an increasingly important community asset for residents, visitors, and prospective businesses and families. The Highway 151 trail will strengthen Monticello's recreational infrastructure while making the community more attractive as a place to live, work, visit, and invest.

For residents, the project will provide a free and accessible recreational amenity that can be used throughout the year. It will improve access to parks and community destinations, provide additional opportunities for outdoor recreation and active transportation, and enhance overall quality of life. These amenities contribute to the attractiveness of a community when families and individuals consider where to live and when businesses consider where to locate or retain employees.

The trail will also create opportunities to attract day visitors to Monticello and Jones County. By connecting to the existing trail system and providing access to the Highway 151 Park & Ride, the project can become part of a larger regional recreation experience. Trail users who visit the community for recreation may also patronize local restaurants, retail businesses, gas stations, and other services.

The project can further support local businesses by increasing the number of people moving through the community without a vehicle and connecting recreational users with commercial and community destinations. As Monticello continues to invest in parks, trails, events, and recreational programming, the trail will become another asset that supports the community's efforts to attract visitors and strengthen its local economy.

Finally, the project protects the community's ability to accommodate future growth. Monticello's Parks & Recreation participation has increased substantially in recent years, growing from approximately 3,700 participants in 2022 to more than 10,700 in 2025. Investing in connected outdoor recreation infrastructure now helps ensure that the community's quality of life and recreational amenities keep pace.

While the economic impact of the trail may not be fully captured through a single measure, the project represents a long-term investment in community attractiveness, quality of life, tourism potential, and the infrastructure needed to support continued residential and economic growth.

iv. Describe public and/or stakeholder input gathered during the planning process that has led to final design or plans for this project.*

Public and stakeholder input has played an important role in identifying trail expansion and connectivity as a community priority. The project builds upon the City's 2022 Parks & Recreation Master Plan survey, which gathered input from residents regarding desired recreational amenities and future priorities. The 2022 survey demonstrated strong community interest in trails and expanded opportunities for outdoor recreation and helped establish continued trail development as an important component of the City's long-term recreation planning.

That community interest has been reinforced through the City's more recent 2026 community survey conducted as part of its strategic planning process. Feedback received in 2026 has echoed the priorities identified in the 2022 Parks & Recreation Master Plan, demonstrating that residents continue to place value on trails, outdoor recreation, connectivity, and access to community amenities. The consistency of this feedback over multiple years has provided the City with confidence that trail development remains a relevant and important community priority.

The Highway 151 connection has also been shaped by ongoing discussions with residents, community stakeholders, elected officials, recreation users, and other partners regarding the need for safer pedestrian and bicycle connections through the community. A recurring theme has been the importance of connecting existing and future trail segments and recreational destinations rather than continuing to develop isolated sections of trail.

As the project has progressed, community involvement has become increasingly site-specific. Recently, a group of community members and stakeholders gathered at the proposed trail site to walk the property and discuss the potential trail route, site conditions, opportunities, and challenges that may be encountered during design and construction. This on-site discussion provided an opportunity to consider the practical aspects of the project, including potential routing, natural features, access, terrain, user experience, and other factors that will help shape the final design.

The City will continue to engage appropriate stakeholders during final design and implementation to ensure the project responds to site conditions, user needs, safety considerations, environmental considerations, and long-term maintenance requirements. Success will ultimately be demonstrated through completion of the planned connection, increased use of the trail, improved connectivity to existing recreational assets, and continued positive community engagement with the trail system.

v. Upload professional and/or technical letters of support.

If the project is supported by experts, letters of support or research conducted at the project site can be uploaded as long as it is referenced in the application supporting text. General letters of support should not be included in the application.

e. REAP Relationship to Vision and Goals

Does this project help accomplish goals and objectives at the organizational, local, or regional level? Does this project help meet the goals and objectives of SCORP, Wildlife Action Plan, Iowa Forests Today and the local county REAP 5-Year Plan?

(Scoring Value up to 20 points)

i. Describe how this project aligns with local community, county or regional plans.

Specifically, how does this project meet goals and recommendations within the County's 5-Year REAP Plan.

The Highway 151 Trail Project strongly aligns with the goals identified in the Jones County REAP 5-Year Plan, the Jones County REAP Committee priorities, and the Jones County Conservation Board's goals and objectives.

At the community level, the project directly supports Monticello's identified priorities to address the Highway 151 Corridor and extend the community trail system. The proposed approximately 2.2-mile multi-use trail will establish an important connection along Highway 151 and advance the City's long-term vision for a connected trail system linking the Park & Ride, City-owned properties, the Monticello High School, and the existing community trail network.

The project directly supports the Jones County REAP Committee goal to promote land protection and restoration of high-quality natural areas, corridors, green spaces, parks, preserves, and trails. The established pollinator prairie provides habitat and opportunities for wildlife observation and bird watching; during recent prairie maintenance, both quail and pheasants were observed. The project will integrate conservation and recreation by providing access to the natural area while maintaining the surrounding prairie.

The project also supports REAP goals related to environmental education, awareness, and sustainable living. Users will have opportunities to experience prairie habitat and observe wildlife.

The project aligns with the Jones County Conservation Board's priority of supporting projects that protect or enhance natural resources, provide healthy recreation, and improve quality of life. It also reflects the Board's emphasis on collaboration. The City has worked with Jones County Conservation on prairie establishment, engaged community members in discussions about the proposed trail route and site challenges, and is coordinating with an Eagle Scout developing trails within the Highway 151 Park & Ride.

Overall, the project advances the local and county vision for protecting natural areas, expanding trails, improving quality of life, promoting environmental awareness, and creating sustainable outdoor recreation opportunities for residents and visitors.

ii. Identify how this project aligns with the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, the Department's Wildlife Action Plan or Forests of Today goals and recommendations.

The Highway 151 Trail Project aligns closely with both the Iowa Wildlife Action Plan (IWAP) and Iowa's Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) by combining natural-resource conservation, outdoor recreation, public access, and long-term community connectivity.

The Iowa Wildlife Action Plan is a 25-year strategy focused on conserving Iowa's wildlife and the habitats they depend upon. The Highway 151 project directly supports this objective through the protection and enhancement of an existing prairie habitat. Approximately eight acres of the property were acquired through REAP funding in 2023, and in the fall of 2024, the City worked with Jones County Conservation to seed nearly eight acres as pollinator prairie. The City has maintained the prairie for the past two years, and recent maintenance resulted in observations of both quail and pheasants. The property therefore already provides habitat value before construction of the trail begins.

Rather than developing the entire property, the project will provide access through the prairie while maintaining the surrounding habitat. The prairie will also provide opportunities for bird watching, wildlife observation, nature appreciation, and environmental education. These opportunities can help residents develop a greater understanding of Iowa's native habitats and the importance of protecting them. The project's pollinator prairie component also complements the Iowa DNR's emphasis on creating and maintaining habitat using native Iowa plant species.

The project also strongly aligns with Iowa's Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan by expanding access to diverse outdoor recreation opportunities and improving connectivity between existing recreational resources. The proposed 2.2-mile multi-use trail will provide opportunities for hiking, walking, bicycling, running, bird watching, wildlife observation, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing, creating a year-round outdoor recreation opportunity for residents and visitors.

The project therefore advances the goals of both plans by protecting and providing access to wildlife habitat, creating opportunities for residents and visitors to connect with nature, expanding diverse and year-round outdoor recreation, and building a connected recreational system. It represents an opportunity to demonstrate that conservation and recreation can occur together, providing a lasting community asset while protecting and enhancing the natural resources found along the Highway 151 corridor.

f. REAP Project/Program Budget and Budget Narrative

What funds are being used to support this project? Are all funds secured, if not what is the plan for achieving additional resources in the 2-Year timeline of a grant agreement.

The City of Monticello is committing \$25,000 in local funds toward the project. These funds are already secured and are currently held in the City's dedicated trail set-aside account, specifically designated for future trail development. This existing commitment demonstrates the City's financial investment in the project and its long-term commitment to expanding and connecting the community's trail system.

The City is seeking REAP grant funding to provide the primary additional resources necessary to complete the proposed trail improvements. If the total project cost exceeds the combined REAP grant award and the City's \$25,000 commitment, the City will pursue additional resources during the two-year grant agreement period. Potential sources will include additional state and local grants, private and corporate contributions, community fundraising, donations, and future City funding.

These previous investments demonstrate that the City and community are committed to the project and willing to leverage grant funding with local and community resources. During the two-year grant period, the City will continue to actively pursue additional funding opportunities and partnerships needed to complete the project. If necessary, construction can be phased to ensure that available resources are used responsibly while continuing to advance the overall trail connection.

The City's secured \$25,000 trail set-aside, combined with the requested REAP funding and additional resources to be pursued during the grant period, provides a strong foundation for completing the proposed project and continuing the development of a connected Highway 151 trail corridor.

(20 points)

i. Are you applying for:

* This question may have follow-up questions.

ii. Upload project budget workbook.

By clicking the link below, you will download the REAP Budget Workbook template. All applicants should complete tab 1 of the workbook and then remaining tabs as per the type of project you are applying for.

<https://www.iowadnr.gov/media/7869>

NOTE: The itemized list of work plan components/tasks will be the basis for determining what items are eligible for REAP. Items not listed will not be eligible for funding under the grant agreement. Applicants can include up to 20% of your budget in the work plan for engineering and design expenses.

**Work initiated prior to REAP award and execution of grant agreements will not be reimbursed unless a Waiver of Retroactivity noted in the General Application Details section is applied for and granted by the REAP Coordinator.

iii. Upload documentation for secured financial contributions to the project.

If you noted on the REAP Budget Workbook funding is secured, you must provide documentation. Documentation can be an email from secured grants or foundations authorizing award, official letters of

award, or if land is to be donated as part of the project and after grant award, a letter from the donor or the city council/conservation board meeting minutes that denote this action must be attached.

All documentation should be combined as one (1) file prior to uploading into SlideRoom.

iv. If needed, use this area to provide additional information on the following items:

- 1) If there are existing structures on the property, describe plans (removal or renovation) the community/county will undertake and if those expenses were part of the budget work plan.
- 2) If this project generates revenue for the community/county, please provide estimated annual revenue information.

g. REAP Project Sustainability

What maintenance systems are in place, or what plans does the community/county have to maintain this project once grant funds have been expended.

The City of Monticello will assume responsibility for the long-term maintenance of the trail and associated property once the project is completed and grant funds have been expended. The City has an established Parks & Recreation Department and Parks Maintenance staff who are responsible for maintaining more than 130 acres of public parkland, trails, athletic fields, playgrounds, courts, and other outdoor recreational facilities throughout the community. The proposed trail will be incorporated into the City's existing parks maintenance system and annual maintenance responsibilities.

Routine maintenance will include regular inspection of the trail surface, removal of debris and vegetation, mowing and trimming along the trail corridor, management of drainage and erosion, snow and ice management as appropriate, and repair of damaged trail infrastructure. The City will monitor the trail and surrounding property throughout the year to identify maintenance needs and address issues before they become significant.

The City will budget for ongoing trail and property maintenance through its normal Parks & Recreation and Parks Maintenance operating budgets. Because the City already maintains similar infrastructure and has staff, equipment, and established maintenance procedures in place, no new maintenance system or separate organization will be required to sustain the project.

h. REAP Signatures

- i. Upon signing in the space provided below, the applicant agrees to conform with the requirements in the following two paragraphs pertaining to ADA/Section 504 accessibility guidelines and civil rights assurance.**

I, the undersigned, certify that the applying entity has reviewed Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1975, Title II of the American with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and the Iowa Civil Rights Act of 1965, each Act as amended, and agrees to abide by all requirements from the Acts, associated regulations, guidance documents, and to any other related requirement imposed by federal or state law or the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, related to this project. Applicant-Recipient further agrees and gives full assurance that it will immediately take any and all

measures necessary to effectuate the referenced laws and shall not, on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, age, physical or mental ability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, or retaliation, allow any person to be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise subject to discrimination under or from any project or activity undertaken by the Applicant-Recipient for which the Applicant-Recipient receives REAP grant dollars or other assistance from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

This assurance is binding on the Applicant-Recipient, its successors, transferees, and assignees, and the person or persons whose signature appears below are authorized to sign this assurance on behalf of the Applicant-Recipient.

ii. City or County Approval

I, the undersigned , certify that the city council/county conservation board has reviewed this proposed project and approved its submittal for Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) grant consideration.

Type name below (City Mayor, City Administrator, Conservation Board Director or Conservation Board President)

iii. City Council/County Conservation Board Resolution

Upload the approved city council resolution or meeting minutes approving of the submittal of this application.

iv. REAP County Committee Chair Email

Provide the email of the REAP County Committee Chairperson.

v. Upload REAP County Committee Information

Upload any relevant information from the REAP county committee. This could be an email from the REAP county committee chair approving the grant submission or minutes from the REAP county committee meeting that shows approval of the grant submission.

i. Certification

- i. By checking the box below, I certify that all the information provided in this application is true and correct.**

REAP Project Funding Overview

Project Title	Monticello Highway 151 Trail Expansion - Phase 2 (Trail Development)						
Applicant	City of Monticello						
Community Population (2020 Census)	4,040						
Insert Entity Name and Name of Grant Program, if applicable	Amount ₁	Date Grant/Fund Application Was Made ₂	Status ₃ (Secured or Unsecured)	Date Awarded	Anticipated Award Date	Date Cash/Award Expires	Total
Funding Requested from REAP	\$ 75,000	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$ 75,000
Applicant (insert additional rows to separate cash match from any in-kind match)	\$ 25,000		Secured	N/A	N/A		\$ 25,000
Applicant - in-kind (500 hours of volunteer time at \$29.96/hr)	\$ 14,980						\$ 14,980
Applicant - in-kind (500 hours of staff time)	\$ 15,000						\$ 15,000
Other State Grant Funds (insert additional rows, as needed, to identify each grant)	\$ -						\$ -
Federal Grant Funds (insert additional rows, as needed, to identify each grant)	\$ -						\$ -
Other sources including Project Partners, Foundations, Donations (insert additional rows, as needed, to identify each)	\$ 74,328		unsecured				\$ 74,328
Total	\$ 204,308		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$ 204,308

1) Resource Enhancement and Protection Funds (REAP) do not require matching funds. However, if the total project cost exceeds the REAP City Parks & Open Spaces Community Population Maximum grant amount, the applicant must provide a cash match.

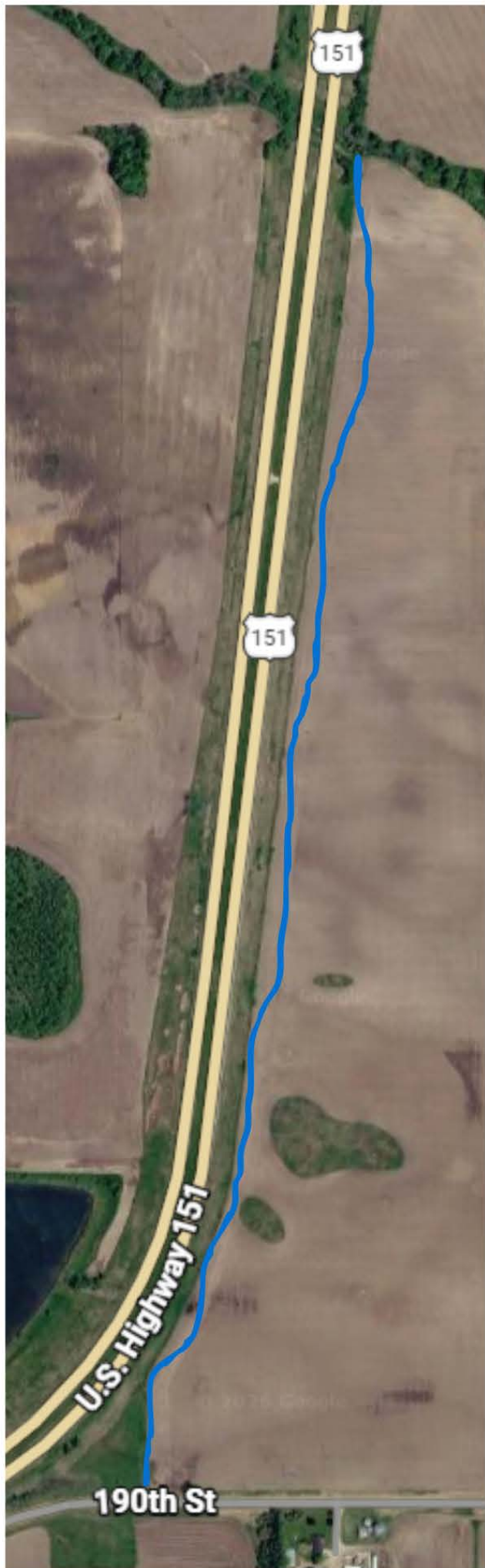
2) Columns C-G represent data on additional awards or applications for funding needed to complete this project. Information included here provides the review and select committee with a clear picture of your ability to complete the project.

3) For Secured funding, applicant must upload either an email or letter from the Grantee, Partner, Foundation or Donor that confirms secured funds. For applied for funds, the estimated date of award must be provided.

Development Project Budget Detail

Monticello Highway 151 Trail Expansion (Phase 2)					
City of Monticello					
Work Plan Components ₁	REAP Request	Other Funds Secured	Other Funds Not Secured	Total Cost	Notes <i>If funds for a componet are not secured, please indicate options and timeline for securing those funds</i>
3/8" Minus Granular Material	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 44,235.00	\$ 144,235.00	
Class 10 Excavation	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,500.00	\$ 10,500.00	
Misc. Unquantified Construction Items	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 31,000.00	\$ 31,000.00	
10% Contingency	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 18,573.00	\$ 18,573.00	
	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	
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Total	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 104,308.00	\$ 204,308.00	

1) What are the various actions or tasks to be accomplished in order to complete the project. Total Costs should align with information included in the Project Funding overview tab. Shaded cells contain formulas to automatically sum rows/columns and are locked. The notes column should be used if there are additional details the grantee wishes to convey for a specific action or task.



 **Proposed Trail Route**

City Council Meeting Prep. Date: 08/11/2026 Preparer: Russell Farnum		Agenda Item: # Agenda Date: 08/12/2026
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Communication Page

<u>Agenda Items Description:</u> Work Ssession on Mayoral replacement
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<u>Type of Action Requested:</u> Discussion												
<u>Attachments & Enclosures:</u> <table border="1"> <tr><td>Procedure and Notice outline</td></tr> <tr><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td></tr> </table>	Procedure and Notice outline			<u>Fiscal Impact:</u> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Budget Line Item:</td> <td> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Budget Summary:</td> <td> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Expenditure:</td> <td> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Revenue:</td> <td> </td> </tr> </table>	Budget Line Item:		Budget Summary:		Expenditure:		Revenue:	
Procedure and Notice outline												
Budget Line Item:												
Budget Summary:												
Expenditure:												
Revenue:												

Synopsis: Mayor Ellwood is in the process of moving to Springville and will resign when appropriate.

Upon vacancy of the Mayor position, the Council would proceed as any other Council vacancy (outline attached). Council would pass a resolution of intent to appoint a new Mayor. Then, within a certain period of time, a petition could be filed seeking a special election. If the special election petition was filed, the appointment would serve until a special election could be held. The cost of a special election is estimated to be \$3,500 to \$5,500.

If no petition was received, the Council appointment to the Mayor position would serve as Mayor for a little over a year, until the next regular Council election, in November, 2027.

Council needs to discuss how it wishes to seek out citizens that may be interested in an appointment to the position. Brighton has suggested having possible candidates submit a letter of interest outlining their experience, and providing a question-and-answer session with Council at a future meeting (as an agenda item). Council may wish to place an ad in the paper requesting letters of interest.

Council member and Mayor Pro-Tem Brighton is not interested in filling the position as Mayor, but is willing to perform the duties as Mayor Pro-Tem until an appointment can be made. I do not believe any of the other Council members are interested in being appointed as Mayor, either.

Council discussion is requested.

Council Member vacancy – January 2026

Relevant code section for filling vacancies is shown below, with the portions relevant to Monticello noted in red print. In summary, the city must publish notice of its actions regarding appointing a (mayor/council member) at its (date) meeting and that the citizens have the right to petition for an election.

- If the council appoints, and no petition is filed calling for a special election, the appointment will stand until the canvass of the 2027 city election.
- If an appointment is made, it must be done within 60 days after the vacancy occurs.
- A petition calling for an election is due by 5:00 p.m. at the city clerk's office 14 days after the appointment is made, or 14 days after the publication is made, whichever is later.
- Petition must be signed by eligible electors of the city (not necessarily registered, but have qualifications to be).
 - Signature, address (in City of course), date of signature
- Each page with signatures must have a statement at top requesting a special election be held to fill the Monticello Council Member vacancy (or something on that order)
- signatures on petition – (votes for council seat in November '25 x 15% = , **round up** - but not less than 10)
 - Total Votes Cast divided by # of seats to be filled times 15%
 - $1039/3 = 346.33 * .15 = 51.95$ 52 signatures

If a valid petition is filed, then the council must request a special election (The auditor will set the date as allowed by law), and the appointment becomes temporary.

Must give the County Auditor at least 32 days written notice of a special election date. Election must be on a Tuesday. Candidate filing period would end at noon 25 days prior to the approved election dates. Nomination petitions are filed with the city clerk.

Sample wording for the publication, assuming the council waits to appoint until after this is published, could be:

*Pursuant to Iowa Code section 372.13 (2) a. the Monticello City Council hereby publishes notice of its intent to fill the Council At Large vacancy by appointment at its **January 5, 2026** meeting at **6:00 PM**. Pursuant to the referenced Iowa Code section the electors of the City of Monticello have the right to file a petition requesting the vacancy be filled by election. The petition must contain the signatures and addresses of at least 52 eligible electors of the City of Monticello, and be filed with the City Clerk no later than fourteen (14) days after the later of the publication date of this notice, or the date the appointment is made. Petitions may be delivered in person or mailed to the City Clerk's Office at 200 E. 1st Street, Monticello, Iowa. If such petition is filed as prescribed by Iowa law, a special election will be scheduled and the appointment shall be temporary until the results of the special election are canvassed, and the successful candidate is duly qualified.*

If the council appoints before the notice is published, this wording should be used:

Pursuant to Iowa Code section 372.13 (2) a. the Monticello City Council has filled the Council At Large vacancy by appointment at its (date) meeting. Pursuant to the referenced Iowa Code section the electors of the City of Monticello have the right to file a petition requesting the vacancy be filled by election. The petition must contain the signatures and addresses of at least 52 eligible electors of the

City of Monticello, and be filed with the City Clerk no later than fourteen (14) days after the later of the publication date of this notice, or the date the appointment is made. Petitions may be delivered in person or mailed to the City Clerk's Office at 200 E. 1st Street, Monticello, Iowa. If such petition is filed as prescribed by Iowa law, a special election will be scheduled and the appointment shall be temporary until the results of the special election are canvassed, and the successful candidate is duly qualified.

Pursuant to Iowa Code section 372.13 (2) a. the Monticello City Council hereby publishes notice of its intent to fill the Council At Large vacancy by appointment at its January 5, 2026 meeting at 6:00 PM. Pursuant to the referenced Iowa Code section the electors of the City of Monticello have the right to file a petition requesting the vacancy be filled by election. The petition must contain the signatures and addresses of at least 52 eligible electors of the City of Monticello, and be filed with the City Clerk no later than fourteen (14) days after the later of the publication date of this notice, or the date the appointment is made. Petitions may be delivered in person or mailed to the City Clerk's Office at 200 E. 1st Street, Monticello, Iowa. If such petition is filed as prescribed by Iowa law, a special election will be scheduled and the appointment shall be temporary until the results of the special election are canvassed, and the successful candidate is duly qualified.