In a few sentences, give a summary of the project and why it was needed.

The Little Bear Park project was a project to replace the deteriorating play structure at Little Bear Park that was originally built by volunteers in 1992, with a new play structure that will have a longer life expectancy, offers more play features, and has a wider range of accessibility. The new structure was designed to be safer by eliminating blind spots, it used green materials (95% post-consumer recycled plastic) and incorporated a fully accessible rubber surface/fall protection. The playground was primarily built in six days with the help of over 650 volunteers.

We felt that the project was needed in order to maintain the park’s role as an attraction for local children, their parents and relatives. It was needed in order to provide a safe and imaginative playground for the Briggs Elementary students who utilize the park during recess, plus before and after school.

Project Funding and Execution:
Total Cost/Projected Cost of Project: $340,663.52 or □ no cost

List where funding came from (grants, donations, city funds, etc.)
$75,000 - City funds, $75,000 - school funds, remainder - grants and donations

Total time project took/projected to take for completion:
(to qualify project must be operating or completed between January 1, 2013 and December 31, 2013)
1/2013 Start date 9/2013 End date or □ Project is ongoing

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continued on next page
Explain the specific role of your city in this project.
When it became evident that the existing playground would have to be replaced, the Maquoketa School District and the City of Maquoketa joined forces to investigate options. Representatives from both sat on a committee to interview potential contractors/companies and decide how to proceed. In the end, the committee chose to proceed with Leathers & Associates out of New York, who was the same firm that helped with the first Little Bear Park project in 1992. After the decision was made, the committee (which still held City and School representatives) helped with the design of the project, promoting the project, recruiting volunteers and raising funds for the project. Many City and School representatives also volunteered to help build the structure.

In a few sentences, what future impact will this project have on your community?
It was important for the committee to involve the community in this project. We had the designer work with elementary children to come up with a design for the playground. When it came to building the playground, we relied on a community-build model and ended up recruiting over 650 volunteers who donated thousands of hours of their time over the course of six days to help our vision become a reality. This project has already had a positive, long-lasting impact on our community. It has brought our community together to accomplish a monumental project and one that our community has a sense of ownership and pride in. In addition to the great community support we wanted and needed to make the project successful, it was also important to our committee to make this project unique and accessible. We made the project unique by using green materials, adding water misters and designing a variety of unique play features that pay tribute to our community such as the "caves" and the little bears hidden around the park. We made the project accessible by using a poured rubber surface & by offering some fully accessible play features. It is our overall goal to have created a playground that is unique, that our community can be proud of and that allows people of all ages and abilities to be able to imagine, create and play together.

Resources
Please list Web sites judges may reference if they seek additional information. Do NOT include supplemental paper information. Only information on this form or the sites listed will be used in the judging process.
www.littlebearparkmaquoketa.com
https://www.facebook.com/LittleBearPark

Signatures: (Must be signed to be eligible. Most members print to sign)

[Signature]
Mayor

[Signature]
City Clerk

Return this form by Monday, April 7, 2014.

Iowa League of Cities
Attn: All-Star Community Awards
500 SW 7th Street, Suite 101
Des Moines, IA 50309
or
bethanycrile@iowaleague.org

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