City: Johnston

Title of Project: Terra Park

City's Population: 21500

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

The Terra Park area consists of 35 acres of land that was originally the site of a 12 acre sewage lagoon that had been in operation for more than 20 years. The lagoon was decommissioned in 1991 and the land was donated to the City. Since 1991 the property sat unused and became a wasteland overgrown with scrub trees. This project took the wasteland and created an eight acre lake, a large amphitheater, a 150 seat picnic pavilion, a small family shelter, a 2600 square foot accessible fishing pier, a fully accessible playground with multiple stations (the first in the state of Iowa), more than two miles of new recreational trails, two large parking areas with capacity for nearly 300 vehicles and more than 10 acres of native plantings including grasses, forbs and trees. Terra Park will become the center hub for recreational activities in Johnston with large events, which will bring families together. Prior to the completion of this project, Johnston did not have a site large enough to host large-scale regional activities.

Explain the specific role of your city in this project:

The City of Johnston was the leader in planning, developing and overseeing the construction and fundraising efforts for Terra Park. Planning began in 2006 through a series of neighborhood and public meetings. The final development phase was completed in 2013 and a final design was later adopted by City Council. Construction began in 2014 and was completed fall 2017.

In a few sentences, what future impact will this project have on your community?

This project will allow Johnston to host a variety of community and regional events. Plans are in place to host Johnston Green Days in 2019, an annual community event. Additional events will be hosted in 2018 including trail races, RipRoar Youth Triathlon, Iowa ARL Dog Jog, regional Relay for Life, walk for mental health (NIMS), Iowa Healthiest State initiatives, and Fishing with a Firefighter.

This park brings families and community together for events, enjoyment of the trails, fishing and a one of a kind playground for children. This will be the first full year Terra Park is open. The City expects additional events to be scheduled this summer.

Total cost of project: $8,200,000
List where funding came from. (grants, donations, city funds, etc):

A majority of fundraising came directly from the City, but we also received grants. Those included Resource Enhancement and Protection (DNR) $120,000, Polk County $300,000, Prairie Meadows $55,000, DuPont Pioneer $150,000, and Economic Development Author

Total time project took/projected to take for completion. Please include start date and end date. (To qualify the project must be operating or completed between January 1, 2017 and December 31, 2017):

The project was constructed in four phases from May, 2014-November, 2017.

Resources. (Please list Web sites judges may reference if they seek additional information.):

www.cityofjohnston.com