Building a High-Functioning Partnership

- Jackson County- Parks to People project
- Regional project with Dubuque and Jones Counties
Parks to People

- Initiative between Gov. Green Ribbon Commission and Iowa Parks Foundation to enhance recreation opportunity from a regional approach, and importantly to use public dollars to leverage private dollars
- Grant Wood Mississippi River Region was the first award
Parks to People

The goal of the Parks to People program is to employ public-private partnerships and local planning to connect citizens to nature and improve parks across the state.
I can do things you cannot, you can do things I cannot; together we can do great things.

Mother Teresa
September 29, 2014, Dubuque, Jackson & Jones counties were awarded the very first Parks to People grant to improve four state parks, develop water trails and connect scenic byways.

Pilot project was awarded $1.9 million by the State Legislature and to be matched 5:1 by local companies, non-profits, and citizens.
Parks to People

- Jackson County Economic Alliance took the lead in JC
- Dave Heiar, Director of the Jackson County Economic Alliance, commented, “The initial phase of the planning process has already created improved lines of communication and cooperation among the various partners within our three County region. Working collaboratively, we can accomplish much more than we could individually. We are eager to expand this collaborative process by getting input, feedback and ideas from the public.”
Parks to People

- The Parks to People pilot program established community coalitions
- Planning workshops
- Hosted the public sessions for community input
- Not touching on technical aspect
Parks to People

- Connections. Parks must link physically - to trails, communities, and each other - and across boundaries that go beyond
- those on the ground. Parks and trails merge with the educational, economic, and cultural sectors to promote healthy places,
- communities, and regions. It will take a fully connected system of public and private lands, trails and waterways, with active
- community-building and supportive policy to expand Iowa’s distinguished park legacy in the 21st Century.
Conclusion: While many public-private partnerships take years to launch, raise funds and break ground, the Dubuque, Jackson and Jones county region has exceeded all expectations. Since July 2014, the three-county region has partnered with local stakeholders and the business community to raise $6,688,740 in matching funds, and has completed seven projects.
Parks to People project
Parks to People

- Additional information please contact Nick Hockenberry at the Jackson County Economic Alliance

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  Grant Wood Loop website

  gwloop.com
Questions?