



The Outdoors are In!

Parks, natural areas, waterfronts, trails and structures are often times taken for granted, but what if they didn't exist? What if you had a way of adding additional facilities such as shelters or seating areas? A thoughtful inventory of what amenities your community offers and what it needs to round it out is the first step to having great outdoor spaces for residents and visitors.

Could you use a splash pad, hiking trail, or new playground equipment? What about studying the topography to see if an amphitheatre is right for your community? SWWRPC has developed a streamlined process to gather community input, assess the current amenities, develop a plan, and position a community to secure grant funding through the Department of Natural Resources. If you need help grant writing, we can do that as well!

We have developed dozens of plans over the years. Contact us if you want to review your outdoor community spaces and create a pathway to funding parks and recreation facilities that people will want to use. ■



The community gathers at its Music in the Park events in Benton's Village Park. This show featured Meghan Davis.

“**T**he Village of Benton has greatly appreciated the assistance of SWWRPC in the updating of our Outdoor Recreation Plan. As a member of the Village Board, I can't say enough good things about the value for our dollar in leveraging the expertise that SWWRPC has provided to date.

We became aware of potential grants available for recreational development through a news release circulated by SWWRPC. A requirement for grant submission was a current Outdoor Recreation Plan and ours had not been updated for 20+ years!

The staff at SWWRPC assisted in a survey of the Village of Benton and area residents regarding our recreational amenities. We had a great response and have identified our top priorities. SWWRPC continues to provide assistance and expertise to the Village of Benton as we look to make progress on our top priorities.”



Jill Knight
Benton Village Board Member
Benton Park Committee
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Village of Benton Future Park Improvements Map

Proposed Trail Project Elements

- Proposed Walking/Hiking Trail
- Proposed Trailhead
- Proposed Bridge
- Possible Prairie Addition Area
- Regrade Vegetation Zone

(Note: Regrading will include the following: cutting crown, grub sides, remove rocks, decrease slope percentage, install geo-grids, and revegetation)

0 0.075 0.15 0.3 Miles



PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

IDEA Hub Accelerator

Great business ideas are easy to come up with. Just look around and see what needs fixing or improving, and fix it. Then sell your product or service to a million or a billion people and retire. Sounds easy, doesn't it? Well, the road between the idea and the retirement paycheck is fraught with pitfalls, and the new IDEA Hub Accelerator is the way to smartly get from idea to fame and fortune.



IDEA Hub Executive Director Maia Donohue chats with an entrepreneur.

Jeremiah Donohue, better known as Maia, is the new IDEA Hub Director, is returning home to Wisconsin after an extended stay in Austin, Texas, working with *3 Day Startup*. Maia has worked with entrepreneurs from around the world, helping founders shift through what it takes to get to the germ of great ideas. He then helps them foster and grow by tapping into networks of leading successful founders nationwide that serve as mentors for the program.

The recently completed summer session had 16 participants, from fishing lure companies to gunshot alarm systems, all dedicated to testing their preconceived notions, diving deep into financial modeling and fleshing out market analysis.

The official launch of the IDEA Hub 3D Interactive Launch will take place on October 4 at 5:30pm and will include startup pitches from the summer program. Guests have a chance to give feedback and vote on their favorites. The event will take place at the Platteville Business Incubator's new "Alliant Energy Foundation Innovation Hub" at 52 Means Drive, Platteville and you can sign up at <https://www.ideahubaccelerator.com/> ■



\$10,000 Main Street Bounceback Grants Available

Over the last several months we have deployed \$320,000 into retail business start-ups and expansions across our five counties. Grants are available to for-profit businesses and non-profit organizations moving into a vacant commercial space or have moved into a vacant commercial space as of January 1, 2021. Application details can be found here: <https://wedc.org/mainstreet-bounceback>

The funds can be used for lease or mortgage payments, operating expenses, building repairs, tenant improvements, and other qualified expenses.

If interested, please contact Griffin Koziol at MainStreetBounceback@swwrpc.org. ■

Have Questions? We are here to help.



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