



# AMERICAN LEGION

Post 26

702 West 35th Street  
Davenport, Iowa 52806

Phone (563) 322-4971 • Email: lpn261@qwest.net



Davenport American Legion Post 26

Dear : REAP Grant Committee Members,

We fully support the City of Davenport's application to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources' Resource Enhancement and Protection grant application to enhance the amenities of Veteran's Memorial Park on the west side of downtown Davenport.

As the home to approximately 40,000 active and retired military personnel, the armed services provide an important part of Quad City history. This park will preserve and celebrate that history in a tranquil setting that will allow all residents to honor the memory and service of Davenport residents. Adding a river overlook and bike path – as this application requests – will encourage people to enjoy all of the amenities this park offers while they learn more about the area's military past.

The Mississippi River served as an important part of the War of 1812 in this part of the country when 334 American forces in eight fortified keelboats – led by future Mexican war hero and president Zachary Taylor – fought 1,200 Native Americans and 25-30 British soldiers. The Americans came from a post in St. Louis (at that time, the northernmost city on the Mississippi River) to destroy any villages of the Sac or Fox Indians, engage the British, and construct a fort in the Quad Cities. After the war, the American Fur Company used Credit Island as an outpost for trading with the Indians. The company would provide the Indians with trade goods in the fall on credit (hence the name "Credit Island") which the Indians would pay with furs in the spring. With this history, we believe this area serves as an appropriate place to celebrate and honor local veterans.

The amenities the City of Davenport proposes to add to Veterans Memorial Park – a river overlook and bike path – will bring visitors from near and far to enjoy. Some will come to honor a local veteran while others will learn about the area's military history while biking along the path or viewing the Mississippi River from the overlook. Regardless of their reason for coming to the park, they will enjoy the park, memorial and river. For these reasons, I fully support this project.

Sincerely,

Mike Matson

Post Commander