Dear Motor Mill Trail Supporter:

In 2020 the Clayton County Conservation Board along with the Motor Mill Foundation will celebrate the sesquicentennial of the Motor Mill Historic Site. That’s a celebration of 150 Years since the Mill was officially built and the Founders opened for business in 1870. There will be a year of celebrations and special events ahead to showcase the Historic Site and surrounding amenities. I’m hopeful that you will consider joining me, the Clayton County Conservation Board and Staff, the Motor Mill Foundation, and a team of dedicated recreation enthusiasts to accomplish another goal: to complete a Capital Campaign for the Motor Mill Trail, to meet a 2020 construction milestone.

The Motor Mill Trail will be a 7.5 mile pedestrian trail that connects the thriving community of Elkader to the Motor Mill Historic District. Boutique shopping experiences, historic attractions, restaurants, coffee shops, specialty foods stores, breweries, bait and tackle shops, and an outfitter with canoe and kayak rental, and recreational guide services, will meet the grandeur of the restored 1869 grist mill at Motor. The site is situated along the Turkey River Recreational Corridor along with hiking trails, fishing, hunting, guided tours, interpretive displays, rustic camping, and water trail access.

The trail alignment compliments the rolling hills of Northeast Iowa and shows off the scenic vistas we’re accustomed to as residents of Clayton County. The route provides a recreational corridor allowing river users to paddle from Elkader to Motor Mill and bike back into town. Users will enjoy access to a variety of amenities through the connections fortified by this trail development.

The Conservation Board hopes to see the project under construction in summer 2020, and with your help that can be a reality. In 2011, $850,000 in state and federal grant dollars were secured to supplement the development of the trail. Since that time a tremendous amount of energy has gone into identifying the best route. As we move into the construction phase, we find we need additional dollars to complete the project. The goal of the Motor Mill Trail Capital Campaign is to raise $250,000 for the Motor Mill Trail Project.

Would you please consider making a pledge to contribute to the Motor Mill Trail Campaign so we can Tip the Scale for the Motor Mill Trail?

Thank you for considering my request. I will follow-up with you in a few days to answer any questions you may have about the project.

Sincerely,

Jenna K. Pollock, Executive Director
Clayton County Conservation Board

Clayton County Conservation
29862 Osborne Road
Elkader, Iowa 52043
Ph: 563-245-1516
cccb@claytoncountyia.gov

Tipping the Scale for the Motor Mill Trail
Tipping the Scale for the Motor Mill Trail

Capital Campaign Pledge Form

Construction 2020

I, _______________________, pledge to contribute $___________ to the completion of the Motor Mill Trail.

Address: __________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________

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*****Five hundred pledges of $500 will help us reach our goal of $250,000 by 2020!*****

*****One thousand pledges of $250 will help us reach our goal of $250,000 by 2020!*****

Recommended Pledges:

___ $150 ___ $5,000
___ $250 ___ $10,000
___ $500 ___ $20,000
___ $1,000 ___ $35,000+
___ $2,500

*Checks to CCCB are eligible for charitable giving tax deduction.

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Tipping the Scale for the Motor Mill Trail
Tipping the Scale for the Motor Mill Trail

in Clayton County and Northeast Iowa

Project Description
What do we want to do?

The goal of this project is to connect the Motor Mill Trail to the Pony Hollow Trail, creating a new segment within the Northeast Iowa Backbone Trail system. The Motor Mill Trail will consist of a 6-foot bike lane along Highway 13, heading south at Turkey River Park and connecting to Grandview Road. The trail will then be constructed in the County Road right-of-way along Grandview Road, separated from the existing road for approximately 5 miles, heading east toward Communia. The trail will travel approximately three-quarters of a mile across private land to connect with Galaxy Road and the Motor Mill Historic Site.

Conservation Board Director Pollock said, “The Motor Mill Trail project will connect existing green spaces like Founders Park, Turkey River Park, Elkader City Park, Pony Hollow Trail, Motor Mill Historic Site, Retz Woods, and the Turkey River Recreational Corridor, including the state designated water trail. As recreation tourism continues to blossom across the nation, we’re finding residents and visitors want to get from one park to another by alternative transportation. Be it by kayak, bicycle, or horseback — recreationists have ample opportunity to connect with the outdoors here in Northeast Iowa.”

The project is currently at the pre-engineering and fundraising phase with construction to be completed in 2020.

Project Justification
Why do we want to do it?

Expansion of the Motor Mill Trail will benefit Clayton County in many different ways including economic development, increased travelers, population growth, diverse cultural experiences, expanded educational opportunities, and healthy transportation alternatives. Trail development, especially when connecting rural communities as evidenced in southeast Minnesota, has a catalytic impact on neighboring property values, convenience business revenues, generating new businesses, and a need for hospitality services. The Northeast Iowa Regional Backbone Trail vision is to connect several rural communities in Howard, Winneshiek, Fayette, and Clayton Counties. Several segments are completed with Clayton being the last leg. The goal is to link the Shooting Star Trail in Minnesota with the Mississippi River Trail crossing the great river at Cassville and heading into Wisconsin. This model of recreation-based travel in rural areas has caused tremendous impacts throughout the western states around National Parks and Forests. This long-range trail expansion is an economic frontier that needs to be tapped into to bring awareness to the existing recreation amenities and diverse cultural and historical resources. The additional revenues the trail will bring into the local economy will offset the costs of restoration and investment in this regional treasure. Trails also have been proven to enhance quality of life for residents and visitors alike.

Tipping the Scale for the Motor Mill Trail
**Project Partners**  
*Who will do the work?*

- **Clayton County Conservation** *Project Leadership and Coordination*
- **Clayton County Secondary Roads** *Project Administration*
- **Fehr-Graham** *Project Engineering*
- **Iowa DOT** *Project Granting and Oversight*
- **Upper Explorerland Regional Planning Commission** *Project Granting and Oversight*
- **Turkey River Recreational Corridor** *Project Grant Writing and Support*
- **Motor Mill Foundation** *Project Support and Historic Site Representation*

**Project Activities and Timeline**  
*What will we do and when?*

- 09/2019: Capital Campaign Launch
- 09/2019-12/2019: Grant Writing
- 01/2020: Project Letting
- 05/2020: Project Construction Start
- 10/2020: Project Completion

**Project Budget**  
*What do we need to move forward?*

The Clayton County Conservation Board currently has $850,000.00 secured for the project.

The goal of the capital fundraising campaign is $250,000.00.

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<td>Capital Campaign</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total:** $1,350,000

**Contact Information**  
*How can you get in touch with us?*

**Clayton County Conservation**  
Executive Director: Jenna Pollock  
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Elkader, Iowa 52043  
Ph: 563-245-1516  
cccb@claytoncountyia.gov

*Tipping the Scale for the Motor Mill Trail*