Over the past three years, the City has acquired approximately 100 acres of land for the Forest Grove Park project. The park will be located between Forest Grove Road and I-80, approximately 1/3 of a mile east of Middle Road.

A master plan for the park was developed by a Des Moines firm, RDG Associates, along with public and staff input. The plan provides a visionary road map for the development of the park over the next several decades. This proposal, which includes phasing priorities, project cost, existing site ecology, and proposed park facilities, serves as a long term vision for future development.

The City Council and Park Board set aside $1.5 million for Phase 1 of the project, which should begin this summer. Included in Phase 1 is a section of the park called Community Corner, which is located off of Forest Grove Road on the southeast corner of the land parcel and will serve the adjacent neighborhood as well as the rest of the community. The City worked with the neighboring property owner to share the cost and develop an access road for both the park and the residential area. The City also received a $150,000 REAP grant from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources to restore natural species and clear any invasive plants from the area. Phase 1 will include parking, open-air shelter, playground, basketball court, and a circular path that surrounds the southeast corner of the park and eventually will connect with the rest of the park’s trail system.

Possible additions to the park in upcoming phases include a large greenspace, adventure park with zip lines and cargo nets, amphitheater, indoor lodge facility, restoration of Spencer Creek, and a winter plaza with opportunities for cold-weather sports. Also a future elementary school will be built adjacent to the park.

Parks and Recreation Director Steve Grimes adds, “When all is said and done this $20 million project will be unique not only to our community but to the entire Quad Cities. It will be exciting to watch the park develop over time.”

Since April of 2014, Bettendorf has been working on a comprehensive plan, also known as Premiering Bettendorf. This long range plan will make way for positive changes for our community. It is a shared vision for Bettendorf’s future.

The State Code requires that every community have a comprehensive plan, which basically lays out a road map for future development. Traditionally plans have been designed to last 20 years. Bettendorf’s last plan was created in 2000, but because of quickly changing trends, the City felt the need to update the plan now. Some of the components of the plan include transportation, utilities, housing/neighborhood planning, parks & recreation, economic development, and most important, land use plan.

In 2014, Mayor Gallagher appointed a 25-member steering committee made up of residents and business owners. The steering committee, along with staff and consultants, have created a working plan. Several open houses and design studios were held to collect public input on the project.

Community Development Director Bill Connors explains, “This is the best way to plan for Bettendorf’s future. We want the City to develop in an orderly manner and by having a plan in place, Bettendorf will grow in a positive and balanced way.”
Mayor’s Message

If you look at our city logo, you will notice the phrase, premier city. To make Bettendorf a premier city, it takes more than just words. It requires commitment from the City Council and staff to provide the highest of quality services and a continued assurance that Bettendorf is a financially strong city, with a stable and fiscally responsible local government.

During our March 3rd Council Meeting, the City Council approved the $85.1 million operating budget for all of the funds within the City. The City Council, along with staff, presented a balanced budget, which maintains the levy rate at $12.55 per $1,000 of assessed valuation. As in the past, it funds all our existing city services and personnel. The budget allocates significant dollars to capital improvements including the downtown area. It begins to reduce our reliance on gaming revenue to supplement our operating budgets. This should allow the City to build a reserve in the gaming fund over the next five years to $1.7 million. The budget, as adopted, also starts the process of decreasing the City’s debt margin ratio over the next 10 years. It builds reserves in local option sales tax over the next five years to $2.3 million.

What does this mean for homeowners? This year, based on the total assessed valuation of the City and the numbers of homes, the medium value home is now $173,600. By leaving the levy rate at $12.55, a home that is valued at $173,600 will see an increase in taxes of $29.05, based on the residential rollback. As far as service fees, there will be a sewer fee increase of $17.60, stormwater fee increase of $4.20, and a solid waste fee increase of $4.92. The total impact of fees and taxes will increase to $55.77 per year/$4.65 per month.

If you look at 33 cities in Iowa with a population of 10,000 or more, Bettendorf would be the third lowest in total property taxes and fees. This shows living in Bettendorf is a good value for the money for everything we offer our citizens. We do more with less each year as Bettendorf continues to grow adding an average of 150 new homes each year.

We also have great economic growth in the City. The area around 18th Street and 53rd Street is changing daily. Look for the new strip center with offices and a restaurant to open this summer, along with Ross’ Restaurant. Construction has begun on several new businesses including a new Kwik Trip Gas Station, University of Iowa Credit Union, and a 6,000 square foot auto center with multi tenant facility.

The new Hilton Garden Inn located near Duck Creek Plaza was recently constructed at a cost of $9.25 million. Other businesses that opened in the same area are the Big 10 Mart, Starbucks, which is the highest grossing Starbucks in the State of Iowa, and a strip mall containing Jimmy Johns, AT&T, Salon Aria, and First State Bank.

Changes around the Utica Ridge Corridor include the new RIA Federal Credit Union, which opened earlier this year. There are plans in the works to convert The Lodge Hotel into a Hilton Double Tree Hotel.

I think there is a special kind of quality of life that exists in Bettendorf, creating a unique balance between a vibrant business community and premier residential living. This is made possible through a united effort on the part of our residents, business community, and City government.

I am proud of what we have accomplished so far and excited to see what the future holds for our community.

www.bettendorf.org
Mayor and City Council

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City Council Meetings

City Council’s regular meetings are on the first and third Tuesdays of each month beginning at 7:00 p.m. Committee of the Whole meetings are held at 5:00 p.m. on the Monday prior to the regular meeting and on the fourth Monday of each month, if necessary. Meetings are held at City Hall, 1609 State Street, 2nd floor.

City Offices Closed on the Following Holidays

New Year’s, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Presidents’ Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, 4th of July, Labor Day, Veterans’ Day, Thanksgiving, day after Thanksgiving, and Christmas.

There is no garbage, yard/bulky waste, recycling pick up on the above holidays, except for Good Friday. Check your garbage guide, Channel 9, webpage, or Citizen Information E-mail for holiday pickup schedule.

General Information

City Hall
563-344-4000
8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday-Friday

City Administrator
Decker Ploehn
563-344-4007
dploehn@bettendorf.org

Police Department
563-344-4015
Emergency: 911

Fire Department
563-344-4052
Emergency: 911

Family Museum
563-344-4106

Library
563-344-4175

Community Development
563-344-4055

Code Enforcement
563-344-4064

Building Inspection Services
563-344-4074

Parks Administration
563-344-4113

Community Center
563-344-4112

Splash Landing
563-344-4124

Life Fitness Center
563-344-4119

Palmer Hills Golf Course
563-332-8296

Palmer Grill
(located on Palmer Hills Golf Course)
563-344-7169

Public Works
563-344-4088

Garbage, Yard Waste, & Recycling

Engineering
563-344-4055

Mass Transit
563-344-4085

Building Maintenance
563-344-4065

Economic Development
563-344-4060
Summer Crime Prevention Tips

Summer is approaching bringing warm weather and unfortunately more opportunities for criminal activity. The Bettendorf Police Department offers these tips to help residents prevent crimes.

- Report all suspicious activity immediately to the police by calling 911.
- When not occupied, keep vehicles locked with windows up and remove all valuables.
- Burglaries from open garages, sheds, and residences are more prevalent in the summer months. Keep all doors closed and locked.
- Avoid home improvement scams. Be aware of anyone looking to perform unscheduled home repair or asking to gain entry to your home. Ask for identification and contact their company to verify their legitimacy. Also, do not agree to pay for home improvement services until the work has been completed satisfactorily.
- If you have vacation plans, stop delivery of mail and newspapers, or have a neighbor pick them up. Set lights on a timer. Call the Bettendorf Police Department and ask to be placed on the vacation watch list. Police volunteers will check the exterior of your home when you are away, and report any suspicious activity to the police.
- Talk to your neighbors about forming a neighborhood watch group to help keep your neighborhood safe. If you have more questions or would like to start a watch group in your neighborhood, please call the Crime Prevention Unit at 563-344-4037.

New this year, the celebration expands to Friday, July 3. Enjoy music & food 7p.m. - 11p.m. on Spruce Hills Drive!

Be a Good Neighbor, Follow City Codes

- Any excrement discharged by animals on public/private property must be picked up immediately and disposed of properly.
- Pets are not allowed to run at large within the City. An animal can be walked off the premises as long it is on a leash not more than six feet in length and under the control of a person competent to restrain and control animal.
- All weeds are required to be cut when growth exceeds 10 inches in height in developed areas or within two hundred feet of developed area or urban streets.
- Swimming pools whether permanently installed or store-bought inflatable, which have 18 inches or more of water depth needs a permit, cannot be located in a front yard and must be surrounded by a four foot or higher fence that can be locked. For additional information on swimming pools, contact the Building Inspection Services office at 563-344-4074.
- Leaves, trees, tree trimmings, grass, rubbish, residential and construction waste, or garbage may not be burned within the City. Permits may be issued at a cost of $10 by the fire department for vegetation grubbed in conjunction with new construction subject to compliance with codes.
- Open fires for cooking, recreation, and ceremonies will be allowed if the fire is in an approved burning device, located away from buildings, not composed mainly of leaves, and extinguished by 10 p.m. No more than one fire every seven days.

Rules, Regulations, and City Codes are listed on the main page of the City’s webpage, www.bettendorf.org under “Most Requested.” Questions concerning City Codes call 563-344-4000, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

City of Bettendorf Transit Route Change Coming

For the past several months, the City of Bettendorf, in partnership with MetroLink, the Rock Island County Mass Transit District, has been working to collect and analyze ridership data in order to create more convenient, on-time transit services. Input from riders, schools, and the business community was also used to create the changes. The new route changes should take place by early summer.

Watch for information on the new route changes at www.bettendorf.org under the “Did You Know” section and at www.gogreenmetro.com.
Library’s Creation Studio, Unique and Fun

The Bettendorf Public Library has offered Creation Studio programs to its patrons for the past five years. With the completion of the Library’s renovation last fall, the studio now has its own area and workspace. Creation Studio drop in programs are designed for participants to drop-in at any time during the class. Visitors can stay five minutes or 50 minutes. The Library is also offering Creation Studio Residencies, where you can watch an experienced craftsperson or artist and ask questions, and Creation Studio Workshops, a more extended hands-on experience.

Also located in the Creation Studio area is a 3D printer, which prints three dimensional objects, usually out of plastic. The plastic is wound on a spool. An extruder grabs the plastic, heats it until melting, and pipes it onto a plate. The plastic is printed by layers until the object is completed. The cost to print an object is 25 cent per gram. With the 3D printer and the drop-ins, residencies and workshops, the Library hopes to bring more science, technology and arts to the Creation Studio, teaching skills to all ages.

Quad City Museum Week

On June 13-21, 2015, the Family Museum and 18 other museums will come together for the first Quad Cities Museum Week. During this week, the Family Museum will open its summer exhibit: Rainforest Adventure, host the annual For Sale by Kids Market, and highlight the popular Art Studio and Open Clay Studio.

Information on the event including descriptions of museums, events, activities, and a printable flyer with a map is available at www.qcmuseumweek.com.

Calendar of Events for the Family Museum

For Sale by Kids, Saturday, June 13 from 8:30 – 11:30 a.m. Kids can sell their handmade crafts or gently-used items.

Summer Camps, June 8 – August 7 [ages 4-10] Dirt Diggers, Superhero Training Camp, Bubble Festival, Nothing but Slime, Princess Camp, Eric Carle Camp, “Frozen” Science, Mine Mania (Minecraft), and Wizard Camp.

Rainforest Adventure, June 13 – September 7, 2015. This multisensory expedition that introduces children to tropical rainforests around the world, highlights the challenges facing these unique ecological wonders, and suggests ways that people can make a difference. Visitors are introduced to scientists and the ways they study rainforests. Children role-play as research assistants on a series of problem-solving adventures featuring over 40 interactive components, two computer games, a distance learning kiosk and plenty of expedition props – vests, flashlights, binoculars and more!

For more information about the Family Museum, visit the City’s webpage at www.bettendorf.org or call 563-344-4106.
Sign up for the Bettendorf 101: City Citizen Academy. The academy gives residents an in-depth look at how city government operates through discussions, demonstrations, and site visits. The City hosts 2 academies each year, spring and fall. Each academy runs for 7 weeks. Classes held on Thursday nights from 6:00 p.m. onwards.

You must be at least 18 years of age and be a resident of Bettendorf.

To have your name added to the list for the next academy, e-mail lhaldeman@bettendorf.org or call 563-344-4033.