

Holstein Betterment Alliance Launches Plan for North Main Community Park

“Our strength grows through community”



The newly formed Holstein Betterment Alliance (HBA) has been meeting weekly for several months, focused on improving the downtown area of Holstein. The HBA operates under the umbrella of the Holstein Development Authority, a 501c3 organization. Their first project is an ambitious and exciting one that will develop the open area north of the Veterans Memorial Hall at the corner of Main and 1st Street.

This space is a first impression to citizens and travelers alike as they enter downtown Holstein from the north on Hwy 59. The lot was recently purchased by the City of Holstein and demolition of the existing building was completed in 2022. Plans for the design of this space into an inviting gathering space are complete. The park space is a short walk from A & A Food and Fuel, Veterans Memorial Hall and Backdraft Bar and Grill.

The City of Holstein looks to commit up to \$50,000 to the project on North Main utilizing Local Option Sales Tax dollars. An additional \$150,000 is being sought through betterment grants and private or business donations. Project estimates will cover repair and resurfacing of the outer wall of the Veterans Memorial Hall, mural and art design, pavers and planters, several pergolas, benches, tables, a central flagpole, wall uplighting, and lighting of the space to illuminate the area at night.

Work can begin as early as June 2023 and it is the HBA's goal to aggressively fund raise, and break ground this summer. This corner is the north gateway to downtown Holstein, will enhance the local business' nearby, and will welcome travelers to Holstein with a warm "We are glad you are here!"

Donations can be made to the Holstein Betterment Alliance and sent to PO Box 578, Holstein, Iowa 51025. Donation forms are also available at Holstein City Hall, Stubbs Memorial Library, United Bank of Iowa, Availa Bank and the Francis & Co./Farm Bureau office. Questions can be addressed to any member of the Holstein Betterment Alliance that includes, Brock Boling, Kathy Breyfogle, Alex Conover, Kristina Cronin, and Terri Schimmer.

The City of Holstein hosted a Downtown Assessment Team from the Iowa Development Authority in 2021. The City and Council are committed to improving the downtown area with guidance and action plans from the assessment team. Holstein successfully received a \$100,000 Catalyst grant for a 2nd Street building renovation and are currently seeking a second Catalyst Grant for another as well. These grants support renovation of existing buildings, revival of historical features of the building, development of the building space for retail or office use and development of 2nd floor living space in communities where housing is a premium. The City of Holstein, the Holstein Chamber, and HBA will continue to work together collaboratively, improving Holstein, one project at a time. **"Our strength grows through community"** and HBA asks for your support for this first project.