



## **PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 4, 2024 Phone: 515-295-2411

# **Tietz Foundation Donates Land for Park Expansion**

The Donald R. Tietz Charitable Foundation is donating property to the City of Algona for the purpose of expanding and improving public parks and recreation in the community.

The site of the former Peck Auction House is located south of the Algona Aquatic Center and South Park pickleball courts, and spans over approximately 51 acres. The land includes open greenspace, wooded areas and access to the East Fork Des Moines River.

The Algona City Council adopted a resolution at its March 4 meeting, accepting the donation. The Tietz Foundation recently purchased the property and is donating the property to the City of Algona for development as a city park.

Under the terms of the donation from the Tietz Foundation, the city will develop a comprehensive plan to create and maintain a public park and recreational amenities in the new space. When the planning process begins, city administrator Jacob Tjaden hopes to draw upon input from the public that was gathered during the City's two Community Visioning experiences.

"City leaders have been looking at the opportunity to develop parks and recreation improvements in this area of the community for almost 20 years. This donation creates the momentum we need to go forward with some of those ideas," Tjaden said. "Our community had the opportunity to participate in the Community Visioning process in 2006 and again in 2022. In both sessions expanding our recreational trail system emerged as a high priority, which will be one of the first areas we focus on."

Concepts from the Community Visioning sessions held in 2022 can be viewed online at [www.communityvisioning.org/algona](http://www.communityvisioning.org/algona).

"This donation has created some meaningful opportunities for our community," said Mayor Rick Murphy. "We are thankful to the Tietz Foundation for this gift and look forward to what this space will become. This donation is a great opportunity to improve and expand our park system, outdoor opportunities, and overall quality of life in Algona."

The Tietz Foundation is managed by a five-member board. The board focuses on support for local improvements that benefit the community.

"This donation is just one example of how the Tietz Foundation is making a difference. Don has entrusted the board to carry on the mission of what he began, but he is the one who made this happen. His love for this community is greater than anyone would ever imagine, and that continues to drive what we do and how we support this community. Our objective is to make our community the best it can be, and this donation reflects that commitment," said Conley Nelson, Board President of the Tietz Foundation.

Next steps for the property include planning, evaluation, and cleaning. The city will initiate a cleanup of the property to remove debris and overgrowth and evaluate the buildings on the property for future use. To learn more, contact City Hall at 515-295-2411.

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### **The Donald Tietz Charitable Foundation**

The Donald Tietz Charitable Foundation began in 2014 to support local youth, businesses, schools, public safety, and area wildlife. The Foundation strives to create and maintain an environment that will attract younger generations to build a career and raise a family in the Algona area and inspire others to also make a difference in the community.