BATESVILLE
MAIN STREET

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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City of Batesville and Batesville Main Street Awarded $500,000 Grant for Downtown Greenspace Expansion

BATESVILLE, IN (November 20, 2026) — The City of Batesville and Batesville Main Street are pleased to announce the award of a $500,000 grant from the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) through its Main Street Revitalization Program to support the transformation of an underutilized downtown parking lot into an expanded, vibrant community greenspace.

The project will expand upon the existing Women's Inspiration Park, constructed in 2019, creating a more inviting and dynamic public space in the heart of downtown Batesville. The award marks a major step in the pursuit and implementation of the Downtown Vision Plan adopted by the Common Council for the City of Batesville in 2025. In addition to the award, the grant will be supplemented by $125,000 in funding pledged by the Redevelopment Commission of the City of Batesville, bringing the total committed funding for the project to $625,000.

The proposed project envisions transforming an underutilized downtown parking area into a destination for residents, visitors, and downtown businesses. The a potential preferred concept, developed by HWC Engineering after obtaining and considering extensive community feedback, incorporates open lawn areas, pedestrian walkways, landscaped areas, seating plazas, planter benches, decorative paving, interactive sculpture, pedestrian crossings, and accessibility improvements. The design also maintains parking accommodations within the project area.

The expanded greenspace is intended to provide a place for community members to gather, relax, connect, and participate in activities while enhancing the pedestrian experience and contributing to the overall attractiveness of downtown Batesville.

The Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs' Main Street Revitalization Program supports communities in creating vibrant, sustainable downtown environments through projects that promote downtown revitalization, pedestrian safety, streetscape improvements, alley activation, and enhanced quality of life.

In commenting on the award, Mayor John Irrgang added, “This grant reflects the shared commitment of the State of Indiana and our community to investing in public spaces that enhance walkability, strengthen our community, and encourage residents and visitors to experience downtown Batesville. It builds upon the tremendous investment and momentum we have seen downtown in recent years, including the Arts and Innovation Hub, Kids Discovery Factory, The Sherman and Bier Hall, and Depot Square Flats. It is also a testament to the work of Batesville Main Street and its impact on downtown over the past decade, as well as the contributions of countless community organizations, including the Batesville Area Arts Council, Batesville Beautification League, Batesville Historical Society, and many others. Together, these efforts continue to shape a vibrant, welcoming, and thriving downtown for our community.”

Batesville Main Street Executive Director Rebekah Porter emphasized the project's potential to strengthen both the social fabric and economic vitality of the community. "This project is about much more than creating a beautiful green space. It's about creating a place where people can come together, spend time downtown, connect with one another, and build a stronger sense of community. When we create inviting public spaces that encourage people to visit, stay, and experience downtown Batesville, we also create opportunities for our local businesses to thrive. Investments like this help make downtown a destination, strengthen our community, and support the continued economic growth of the Batesville Main Street District. We are incredibly grateful to OCRA and the City of Batesville for recognizing the value and potential of this project."

The City of Batesville and Batesville Main Street look forward to moving the project forward and bringing this vision to life for the community.

About Batesville Main Street

Batesville Main Street, Inc. is an Indiana not-for-profit corporation dedicated to promoting and supporting a vibrant downtown Batesville through economic development, community engagement, historic preservation, events, and partnerships. Guided by a volunteer Board of Directors and supported by volunteers and community partners, Batesville Main Street works to strengthen the Main Street District and enhance the quality of life throughout the community.

More information about Batesville Main Street, including its mission, Board of Directors, and initiatives, can be found at www.batesvillemainstreet.org.