



## Great Places \$1M made official

**By Danica Baker**  
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— CLINTON — In October, a special advisory panel designated Clinton as one of the state's three Great Places pilot cities. Six months later, the state Legislature appropriated \$1 million to each pilot city.

Lt. Gov. Sally Pederson was in Clinton early today to promote Great Places as Gov. Tom Vilsack officially signed the legislation making the appropriation official. She began by congratulating the city officials and state legislators involved in the project.

"These legislators obviously played a very important role in the bill that is being signed today by Gov. Vilsack as we speak," Pederson said today.

On April 4, the Iowa House approved House File 2782 to spend money for physical infrastructure improvements across Iowa. The bill, later approved by the Senate, allocates \$1 million to each of the three Great Places pilot cities, Clinton, Coon Rapids and Sioux City.

Pederson said the Great Places initiative is a way to cut down on the bureaucracy involved in municipalities trying to improve quality of life.

"It is a way to bring agencies and resources of state government together and redefine how we work with our local partners and look for ways we could work as state government in a more cooperative fashion to help and assist local government and localities and regions in developing Great Places all across our state," she said. "It's really an initiative to improve the quality of life in our state by engaging everybody in the process of coming up with new ways of increasing the quality of living in our area."

Pederson presented a pen to Sen. Roger Stewart, D-Preston, as a symbol of Vilsack signing the bill and again congratulated the city. Rep. Polly Bukta, D-Clinton, was unable to attend the event.

Stewart thanked those who put the Great Places presentation together.

"They should really be commended for their hard work," Stewart said. "It was a very professional presentation and Clinton had a lot to offer. I think you should be very proud of your work."

The Clinton Great Places project, "Even More Things to Do With a River View," will enable several improvements to the city's Mississippi River frontage property. Project elements include a public fitness area and sculpture garden near the U.S. 30 bridge, a public beach near Joyce's Slough, the Clinton Sawmill Heritage Experience museum and improvements, repairs and expansion of Eagle Point Park, including replacement of playground equipment, repair of the 1,000 Steps, addition of a disc golf course and campsites and the construction of a 200-foot tall lighthouse/observation tower.