

For immediate release
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\$50,000 WEDC Grant Brings Vibrant Spaces to the Village of Ridgeway

RIDGEWAY, WI. JUNE 26, 2023 – The Village of Ridgeway is receiving a \$50,000 Vibrant Spaces grant from the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) to transform the underdeveloped public space in downtown Ridgeway into a public gathering space locally referred to as The Green.

The Vibrant Spaces Grant program is designed to help cities and towns revitalize underused spaces to build community and attract future residents. Through this grant program, communities across the state of Wisconsin will be investing in their workforce attraction and small business development by creating inviting, walkable spaces in their downtowns, arterial districts, and economic centers.

“Investing in vibrant communities where people want to live, work, and raise families is critical to attracting and retaining workers in our state,” said Missy Hughes, secretary and CEO of WEDC, the state’s leading economic development organization. “These grants will help communities create new gathering places in thriving downtowns to draw in residents, visitors, new businesses and investments.”

As a part of a broader effort to give new life to downtown Ridgeway, WEDC’s Vibrant Spaces Grant will support the refurbishment of the village green. This upgrade to the public community space will include the addition of outdoor seating, new landscaping, and accessible public walkways. Additional infrastructure improvements to parking, walkways, and the adult and Little League baseball diamonds will be underway later this fall partially funded by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Land and Water Conservation Fund. The Green will serve as a space to host events, attract visitors, and highlight the amenities and scenic views of Ridgeway.

“We are incredibly honored and excited to be receiving the Vibrant Spaces Grant from WEDC,” said Michele Casper, Village of Ridgeway President. “The opportunity to revitalize and improve accessibility to our historic village greenspace will benefit our community and visiting guests as a designated gathering area to be enjoyed now and for years to come.”

The Vibrant Spaces Grant program is an initiative within WEDC’s Community Development and Investment (CDI) grant program. Projects were evaluated based on their ability to create visible and pedestrian oriented public spaces that attract and accommodate multiple users and activities. Successful projects demonstrated that they would benefit the local district, nearby businesses and the community as a whole. Communities were required to match grant funds and begin construction this summer.

More information can be found online at: <https://wedc.org/programs-and-resources/vibrant-spaces/>

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ABOUT THE WISCONSIN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

The Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) leads economic development efforts for the state by advancing and maximizing opportunities in Wisconsin for businesses, communities and people to thrive in a globally competitive environment. Working with more than 600 regional and local partners, WEDC develops and delivers solutions representative of a highly responsive and coordinated economic development network. Visit wedc.org or follow WEDC on Twitter [@WEDCNews](https://twitter.com/WEDCNews) to learn more.