



April 17th, 2020

Burlington Park and Recreation Department
400 Washington St.
Burlington, Iowa 52601

Re: Great River Road All-American Road Designation

Dear Lisa T. Walsh,

The Burlington Park and Recreation Department wholeheartedly supports designation of the Iowa Great River Road as an All-American Road by the Federal Highway Administration.

The Great River Road meets All-American Road designation criteria, possessing many and varied intrinsic resources that are of national significance. The Great River Road has importance for all communities along the river as evidenced in this nomination. The byway brings travelers to unique and exceptional landscapes and experiences including our local parks, roads and visitor amenities in Burlington, Iowa

Here in Burlington we are very proud of Crapo Park. The views in and adjacent to Crapo Park are irreplaceable, distinctive, beautiful, and are of great value to our city, region, and the State of Iowa. The Great River Road runs directly through Crapo Park in our community. It is an 85 acre city park established in 1895 for Iowa's semi-centennial celebrations, and boasts an arboretum, botanical gardens, and some of the best views of the Mississippi River alongside the Great River Road. It is reputed to be the site where the American flag was first raised on Iowa's soil, by Zebulon Pike in 1805. Crapo Park was also added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1976.

Rural communities, like ours, depend on the Great River Road to attract visitors to diners, restaurants, hotels, as well as local parks, museums, and other tourist sites. So the value this designation will bring to our community is immeasurable.

The Burlington Park and Recreation Department endorses Iowa's efforts, along with its partner states, to have the Great River Road designated as an All-American Road by the Federal Highway Administration.

Sincerely,

Ryan Gourley
Superintendent of Parks/Forestry