



IOWA URBAN CONSERVATION

2013 Annual Iowa Urban Conservation Program Review



Native Landscaping in Palmer Hills Golf Course, Bettendorf, Iowa

Funding for Urban Conservation

Secretary Northey included a request for \$1 million dollars to fund the Urban Conservation program in the budget he submitted to the Governor last fall. The State Soil Conservation Committee (SSCC) and Conservation Districts of Iowa (CDI) are both supporting the request.

A new website www.CleanWaterIowa.org was launched in the fall in conjunction with the Water Quality Initiative and Nutrient Reduction Strategy. Governor Branstad encouraged the urban sector to do their part to improve water quality, in announcing the new website.

With dedicated funding for the Urban Conservation Program we will increase the technical assistance provided to our partners at DNR and IEDA, as well as expand services to communities and urban residents throughout Iowa. Current money for the urban conservation program will then revert back to funding of watershed projects.

WIRB Funds a Green Street Project

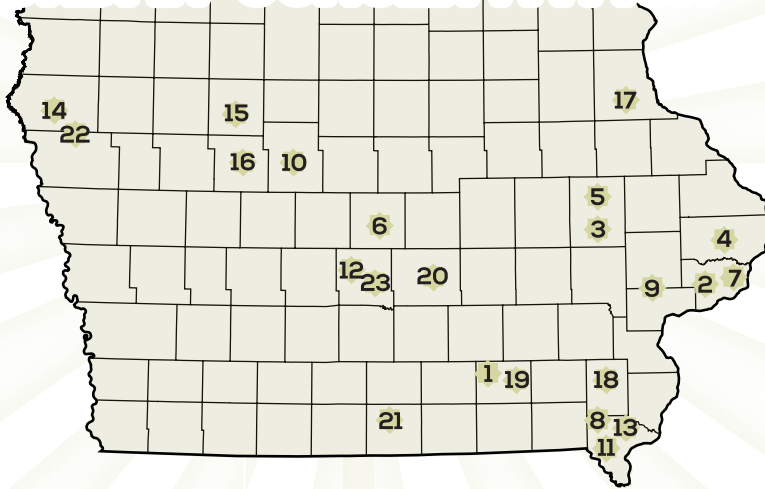
A green street project, funded by WIRB, will be installed in Coralville in 2014. The Coral Ridge Avenue Project will utilize a boulevard and road ditches that feature bioswales and biocells. The project will demonstrate how green infrastructure can infiltrate most rainfall events while having the capacity to safely convey runoff from large, infrequent storms.

Coralville will install instrumentation that will monitor the green infrastructure. The monitoring will document the practices for effectiveness at reducing the volume of runoff and in capturing and breaking down pollutants commonly found in urban runoff. Coralville will also do a cost analysis of the green infrastructure practices to provide a comparison with the cost of traditional "grey" infrastructure, such as storm sewer installation. The goal of the project is to demonstrate that green infrastructure can function effectively and be cost effective while providing significant environmental benefits that are not realized with grey infrastructure.



Green Street Project, Davenport, Iowa

URBAN CONSERVATION



These communities received funding in the first round of the new Sponsored Project Program.

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Blakesburg | 13 Keokuk |
| 2 Buffalo | 14 Kingsley |
| 3 Cedar Rapids | 15 Laurens |
| 4 Clinton | 16 Lohrville |
| 5 Coggon | 17 Monona |
| 6 Collins | 18 New London |
| 7 Davenport | 19 Ottumwa |
| 8 Donnellson | 20 Prairie City |
| 9 Durant | 21 Seymour |
| 10 Fort Dodge | 22 Sioux City |
| 11 Fort Madison | 23 Des Moines |
| 12 Granger | |

DNR's Sponsored Project Team



Sponsored Projects pump million into 23 Iowa communities

A new program will pump up to \$15 million dollars a year into watershed projects. This program is called Water Resource Restoration Sponsored Projects (or Sponsored Projects for short).

Sponsored Projects are available to communities using State Revolving Fund (SRF) loans to upgrade wastewater treatment plants. The program is available to eligible communities to keep some of the money that would normally go back to the state for interest payments and investment in local watershed projects.

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The first round of applications was received in July of 2013.

Thirty two applications were submitted requesting \$36 million dollars of proposed water quality work.

Twenty three communities were approved for funding, which accounted for \$13.7 million of the \$15 million dollars that were available through the program.

Sponsored Projects program will pump \$15 million dollars a year into watershed projects. Most of the projects feature work in urban watersheds.

a community that is selected for funding could receive about \$100,000 per \$1 million borrowed for upgrades to their waste water system.

The program allows communities to invest on ag land in a watershed above city limits. However, most of the projects will feature work in urban watersheds.

Clearly, there is significant demand to do water quality work in the urban landscapes of Iowa. Sponsored Projects will stimulate a significant increase in urban conservation workload throughout Iowa.

Sponsored Projects are administered

by DNR's SRF staff. IDALS's Urban Conservationists will provide technical assistance to DNR and to eligible communities as they put together project applications and implement projects that are approved for funding.

The second round of applications will be accepted in the spring of 2014. Applicants are required to gain endorsement of their project by a local conservation organization. Local Soil and Water Conservation Districts will be asked to be partners and endorse all projects that our Urban Conservationists provide assistance to.

Below are photos of sites that will be treated through Sponsored Projects in 2014.

Visit www.iowaSRF.com for more information.



Kingsley

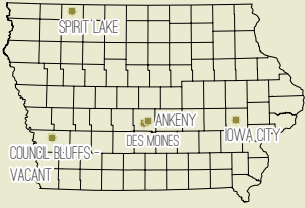


Eroding Stream Bank, Fort Dodge



Alley Retrofit Site, Clinton

IOWA URBAN CONSERVATIONISTS



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Urban Conservation Tour 2013

An urban conservation tour was scheduled for May 2, 2013 as part of Iowa's Soil and Water Conservation Week activities. However, an unusual spring snow storm roared through Central Iowa on that date and the tour was postponed until a warmer July 26.

Conditions were much better in July and people gathered at Jethro's BBQ in Ankeny to tour a number of sites that featured permeable pavement, stormwater wetlands, bioretention cell, native turf and stream corridor stabilization.



Stormwater Wetland



Native Turf and Biocell



Stream Stabilization



Permeable Pavers