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# NEWS RELEASE

*March 18, 2010 – For Immediate Release*

## Ware Named Dubuque Leisure Services Manager

DUBUQUE, Iowa – Dubuque City Manager Michael Van Milligen has appointed Marie Ware as Dubuque's new leisure services manager. She will begin in early May and replaces Gil Spence who retired in December 2009 after 35 years with the City.

"I believe Marie has the skills, abilities, and creativity to build on the fine traditions of our leisure services department," said Van Milligen.

As leisure services manager, Ware is responsible for overseeing the management of the City's parks, recreation and civic center divisions and the Multicultural Family Center. More specifically, she will manage a flexible program of activities for all segments, social groups and age and interest levels within the community as well as direct the development and maintenance of park and playground areas, structures and facilities to serve the interests of the community.

"I am very excited to begin my tenure with the City of Dubuque. It is an honor for me to follow and build upon the great work of Gil Spence," said Ware. "I look forward to working with the great staff and meeting the many partners of Dubuque's Leisure Services Department."

Ware has nearly 25 years of professional experience in parks and recreation and non-profit management. She was most recently interim executive director of the Mahaska County YMCA in Oskaloosa, Iowa. For the past three years, she was the owner/facilitator of Future Endeavors, which provided customized services for non-profits, churches, government, and businesses. From 1999 to 2006, Ware served as the executive director of the Mahaska Community Recreation Foundation in Oskaloosa. She spent nine years as a member of the Coralville, Iowa, Parks and Recreation Department including five years as recreation director and four as parks and recreation director. Previously, Ware served as the recreation superintendent for the Indianola, Iowa, Parks and Recreation Department, after one year as summer recreation coordinator there.

She earned a master's degree in public administration and bachelor's degree in leisure studies from Iowa State University and is a certified park and recreation professional (CPRP)

by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). Ware is an active member of the NRPA and has held leadership positions, including president, with the Iowa Parks and Recreation Association (IPRA) and the Iowa Foundation for Parks and Recreation. She received the NRPA American Park and Recreation Society's Young Professional Award and the IPRA's Richard J. Slattery Award and Young Professional Award.

More than 50 people were involved in the selection process for this position. In addition to City staff from several departments, interview groups included representatives from the City of Dubuque Partners in Learning AmeriCorps Program, Civic Center Commission, Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque, Dubuque Arboretum and Botanical Gardens, Dubuque Community Ice and Recreation Center, Dubuque Community School District, Dubuque Symphony Orchestra, East Central Intergovernmental Association, Every Child | Every Promise, Five Flags Center, Fly-By-Night Productions, Four Mounds Foundation, Grand River Center, Greater Dubuque Development Corporation, Multicultural Family Center, and the Park and Recreation Advisory Commission.

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