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# NEWS RELEASE

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## **America's River III: Bee Branch Creek Restoration & Gateway**

DUBUQUE, Iowa – A public support campaign for the “America’s River III: Bee Branch Creek Restoration and Gateway” project was announced today by the City of Dubuque and the America’s River Corporation.

The campaign will support the amenities portion of the City of Dubuque’s project to protect more than 1,150 residential and non-residential properties on the city’s North End from storm water flooding during major rain events. The multi-phased \$47 million Bee Branch project began this past summer after years of planning and study and will restore the historic Bee Branch Creek, which was buried in a storm sewer more than century ago. The creek will be “daylighted,” protecting at-risk properties, improving public safety, and greatly increasing the capacity of the storm water management system. It will also create a mile-long linear park stretching from the Mississippi riverfront at Chaplain Schmitt Memorial Island to Comiskey Park at 24<sup>th</sup> Street in the heart of Dubuque’s historic North End neighborhood.

America’s River III will give the general public and the private sector an opportunity to support the amenities portion of the project which is designed to make the project area a community attraction through the incorporation of amenities including hike/bike trails, bridges, gazebos, overlooks, an amphitheater, benches, lighting, and 1,000 new trees. These amenities are expected to attract residents and visitors and will connect the attractions of Chaplain Schmitt Memorial Island with Dubuque’s North End and the Dubuque portion of Heritage Trail, which stretches to the west edge of Dubuque County and the Field of Dreams.

“This next phase of the America’s River Project continues our tradition of engaging the community and partnering to improve our riverfront.” said Dubuque Mayor Roy D. Buol. “This project will not only protect North End properties from storm water flooding, but will also improve quality of life and property values.”

“The America’s River Corporation is proud to support this project, which is a natural extension of our goal to strengthen our community’s connection to our greatest natural asset, the Mississippi River,” said Molly Grover, president/CEO of the Dubuque Area Chamber of Commerce and chair of the America’s River Corporation board of directors. “It also supports the Envision 2010 top 10 idea to create an integrated walking/biking/hiking trail system, providing a critical link between our riverfront trail and Heritage Trail.”

**(MORE)**

Honorary co-chairs for the America's River III campaign are Norma Denlinger and Gary Dolphin. The Dubuque Racing Association (DRA) has committed \$50,000 to the project and an additional \$65,000 has been committed by Dubuque County (\$20,000), Dubuque Bank & Trust (\$10,000), Dupaco Community Credit Union (\$10,000), U.S. Bank (\$10,000), Premier Bank (\$10,000), and American Trust (\$5,000).

"The Dubuque Racing Association has been a proud supporter of riverfront development for a number of years," stated Dan Kruse, chairman of the DRA Board of Directors. "We certainly welcome this opportunity to beautify the area outside of our own front door with today's contribution of \$50,000."

The campaign offers six naming opportunities, three of which have been finalized: the Bee Branch Creek Keystone Overlook (\$50,000, Dubuque Racing Association), the Eagle's Watch Audubon Overlook (\$10,000, U.S. Bank), the Sycamore Gazebo Overlook (\$10,000, Dupaco Community Credit Union), the Creekside Amphitheater (\$10,000), Water's Edge Trail (\$10,000), and the Mississippi River Trail Connection (\$10,000). Memorial benches (\$2,000 each), trees (\$500 each), and brick pavers (\$100 each) are also available. Groups and individuals interested in participating in the campaign can call the City Manager's Office at 563-589-4110.

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*The America's River Corporation includes the City of Dubuque, the Dubuque Area Chamber of Commerce and Convention & Visitors Bureau, the Dubuque County Historical Society, Dubuque Initiatives, Dubuque Main Street, and the Dubuque Racing Association.*