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# NEWS RELEASE

**March 21, 2011 – For Immediate Release**

## **Dubuque Awarded \$4.44 Million in Forgivable Loan for Upper Bee Branch Creek Restoration Project**

DUBUQUE, Iowa -- The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) has awarded the City of Dubuque a major forgivable loan for the creek day-lighting associated with the Upper Bee Branch Creek Restoration Project.

The IDNR was required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to make available at least \$5.5 million in the form of forgivable state revolving loan funds for projects that address green infrastructure and other environmentally innovative activities. "Creek daylighting" was established as a Categorical (Green Infrastructure) Project by the EPA.

The City of Dubuque submitted an application to the IDNR in December 2010 for the Upper Bee Branch Creek Restoration Project. Having reviewed the City's application, the IDNR recommended funding for the project and a forgivable loan in the amount of the \$4.44 million. Following IDNR's recommendation, the State Environmental Protection Commission voted to fund the Upper Bee Branch Creek Restoration Project and approve the \$4.44 million forgivable loan at their March 15, 2011, meeting. In addition, the plan includes a \$10.4 million long-term, low-interest loan for the project.

The Upper Bee Branch Creek Restoration Project involves the day-lighting of 2,300 feet of the buried Bee Branch Creek. Following the alignment established by the Bee Branch Citizen Advisory Committee back in 2004, the creek will be reconstructed where it existed a century ago in some places. In order to accommodate the present day hydrologic conditions of the Bee Branch watershed, the width of the creek will vary between 15 and 25 feet, with the entire project corridor ranging between 150 and 180 feet wide. There will be a steady, constant flow about seven inches deep within the creek. The stable, sloped creek banks will be roughly four feet high. Runoff from most rains will remain within the creek banks. And, consistent with the hydrology of a natural creek, runoff from larger rains will spread out into the floodplain to be constructed as part of the project.

The creek itself will consist of primarily an earthen and cobble bottom. Its banks will consist of a combination of random stone and natural channel edges to promote a bio-diverse aquaculture. To complete the restoration of the Upper Bee Branch Creek, the project will include the planting of hundreds of native trees along the creek and throughout the floodplain area. Along with intercepting rain and decreasing runoff, the tree canopy will provide the necessary shade to create a healthy water environment.

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