



**CONTACT:**  
Randy Gehl  
Public Information Officer  
(563)589-41516  
[rgehl@cityofdubuque.org](mailto:rgehl@cityofdubuque.org)  
[www.cityofdubuque.org](http://www.cityofdubuque.org)

# NEWS RELEASE

*August 26, 2008 – For Immediate Release*

## Dubuque ‘Bugs’ Help Jumpstart Cedar Rapids Wastewater Treatment Plant

DUBUQUE, Iowa – Dubuque’s efforts to assist other Iowa communities with flood recovery efforts continue and last week they included sending 144,000 gallons of tiny “volunteers” to help get the Cedar Rapids Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP) fully operational.

The Cedar Rapids plant was out of operation since the flooding in late June. The Dubuque WPCP accepted 149 tanker truckloads of wastewater from Cargill in Cedar Rapids from late June through early August so the Cargill plant could still operate.

On August 18 and 19, Dubuque’s WPCP provided 32 tanker truckloads of high-quality activated sludge, or about 144,000 gallons of microscopic organisms that play a vital role in the wastewater treatment process. Primary treatment resumed at the Cedar Rapids plant two weeks ago, but the sludge from Dubuque will be used in the plant’s secondary treatment.

“They’re the ‘bugs that stir the spoon’ in the process,” said Dubuque WPCP Manager Jonathan Brown referring to the bacteria in the sludge. “The folks from Cedar Rapids said they were the best they had ever seen and were amazed at how fast they went to work.”

A more conventional group of volunteers, a busload of 35 non-microscopic Dubuquers, traveled to Cedar Rapids last Thursday. This is the second bus trip coordinated by the City of Dubuque and the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque. Last week’s participants, including City Councilwoman Joyce Connors, worked on two homes where they removed debris and gutted the interior so the houses could be rebuilt.

Additional volunteer bus trips are scheduled for **Friday, Sept. 5**, and **Thursday, Sept. 25**. The destination of these buses will be determined by the need of affected communities. Businesses interested in sponsoring the trips, or individuals interested in participating, should contact the Community Foundation at (563)588-2700 or City of Dubuque Management Intern Cori Burbach at (563)564-0343.

###