



CONTACT:
Dean Mattoon
City of Dubuque Engineering Department
563-690-6116
dmattoon@cityofdubuque.org

NEWS RELEASE

April 7, 2014 – For Immediate Release

City and Co-Sponsors to Host First Annual Catfish Creek Festival

DUBUQUE, Iowa – To educate and engage the public on water quality and the Catfish Creek Watershed, the City of Dubuque and other area organizations will host the first annual Catfish Creek Festival on Saturday, April 26, at the Swiss Valley Park Walnut Pavillion, 13606 Swiss Valley Rd.

Festivities begin at noon with an educational exercise on water quality monitoring, followed by a stream clean-up activity at 1 p.m. and a presentation by the Catfish Creek Watershed Management Authority at 2 p.m. Participants in the stream clean-up are encouraged to bring old shoes and a change of clothes. Beginning at 2:30 p.m., there will be live music by The River Glen Band. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own food to grill, drinks, and a dish to pass for “grill and chill” time starting at 5 p.m. Water and eating supplies will be provided.

A watershed is an area of land that drains to the same place, be it a river, river system, or other body of water. The Catfish Creek Watershed is a 57 square mile (46,300 acre) watershed that includes industrial centers, residential neighborhoods, rolling cropland, steep bluffs and rock outcrops, and dense forests. More than one quarter of the city of Dubuque lies in the watershed as well as parts of Asbury, Peosta, and Centralia. The five forks of Catfish Creek support a diverse set of plants and animals and are a draw for hunters, fishers, and those seeking to enjoy some of Dubuque County's most scenic areas, but they remain threatened by large amounts of soil and nutrients entering the water from both urban and agricultural runoff.

A free will donation is suggested of festival attendees to help fund the music and further public outreach on the Catfish Creek Watershed. The Catfish Creek Festival is sponsored by the City of Dubuque, Catfish Creek Watershed Management Authority, Dubuque County Conservation

Board, Dubuque Metropolitan Area Solid Waste Agency, Dubuque Soil & Water Conservation District, Iowa, National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium, and 1 Mississippi.

For more information on the Catfish Creek Watershed, visit www.catfishcreekwatershed.org.

#