

CITYnews



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SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2017

Bee Branch Creek Greenway Completed

The City of Dubuque completed the Upper Bee Branch Creek Restoration portion of its multi-phased flood mitigation project in July 2017. The restoration project was finished 3 months ahead of schedule and \$800,000 under budget.



The project, which stretches from East 24th Street to Garfield Avenue, features a 1,938-foot-long creek and floodplain, multi-use trail system, play area with slides, spillway, scenic overlooks, raised garden beds, and an outdoor amphitheater that provides a venue for teaching and neighborhood gatherings. Officially named the Bee Branch Creek Greenway, it serves as a beautiful linear park but is also an important part of our community's infrastructure to control flooding.

During rain events, the creek will rise out of the limestone channel and cover the multi-use trail and grass. This is the way the greenway is designed -- to move stormwater through the area without flooding adjacent properties. Installing six 8-foot-diameter pipes through the railroad right-of-way will allow stormwater to drain more efficiently from the upper half of the Bee Branch Creek to the lower half. The railroad culverts project is expected to be complete in 2019.

It is not safe to be near the creek during and after rain events when the water level is high. Please practice safe behavior and do not use the greenway for recreational activities during these times.



Flood warning signs with flashing lights are being installed in the greenway to indicate

when the creek is covering the lower trail. Please be aware of these signs and do not use the lower trail system or travel under the East 22nd Street or Rhomberg Avenue bridges while these signs are flashing.

Living near a park with an urban stream, or even just visiting one, is a new experience for many families. It is important to talk to your children about the risks related to fast-moving stormwater and rain-swollen streets and creeks. Due to stormwater runoff entering the creek and the varying depth of the water, **swimming and wading is prohibited in the Bee Branch Creek at all times.** There is also no playing on or splashing in the 22nd Street spillway or amphitheater water feature.

The Bee Branch Creek Greenway accommodates many types of recreational use. However, due to safety, there are some activities that are prohibited. Please follow these park rules:

Allowed

- Fishing in the Bee Branch Creek is allowed.
- Non-motorized skateboards, bicycles, scooters, and hoverboards are allowed.
- Pets on leashes are allowed in the Bee Branch Creek Greenway; clean-up is required in all areas.
- Canoeing, kayaking, and stand-up paddle-boarding are allowed in the creek from

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- the railway yard to Kerper Boulevard.
- Geocaching is allowed in the Bee Branch Creek Greenway.

Prohibited

- Swimming and wading is prohibited in the Bee Branch Creek at all times.
- For your safety and the safety of others, please do not throw rocks or play on rocks.
- Ice skating is prohibited on the Bee Branch Creek and 16th Street Detention Basin.
- Canoeing, kayaking, and stand-up paddle-boarding are prohibited in the creek from East 24th Street to Garfield Avenue.

For more information about the Bee Branch Creek Greenway, including trail maps and frequently asked questions, visit www.cityofdubuque.org/beebranchcreekgreenway. To learn more about the Bee Branch Watershed Flood Mitigation Project, visit www.cityofdubuque.org/beebranch or call 563-690-6068. §

City Expo is Back! Join us on September 14

The City of Dubuque is excited to announce that City Expo is back for 2017! Please join us on Thursday, Sept. 14 from 4 - 7 p.m. at the Five Flags Civic Center at 405 Main St. This FREE event is an opportunity to engage with City departments and divisions, as well as community partners. Learn about new and upcoming projects, experience demonstrations, discover community resources, and more! This year, organizers are working hard to create an informative and fun experience for residents of all ages. Want to hear more about the next phases of the Bee Branch Watershed Flood Mitigation project? How about an update on the Southwest Arterial? The event is free to attend and complimentary refreshments will be available. Learn more at www.cityofdubuque.org/expo. §



Saturday, Sept. 9 - 9 a.m. - noon

The City of Dubuque, Alliant Energy, and Green Dubuque will partner to host a Ride & Drive event at the Dubuque Farmer's Market as part of National Drive Electric Week. Plug-in vehicles from multiple auto dealers will be available in the DB&T parking lot at the corner of Central Avenue and 13th Street for test rides and drives.

2017 Water Quality Reports Available

The Dubuque Water Department has published the annual water quality reports for the Dubuque, Vernon, and Barrington Lakes water supplies. All three systems met state and federal water quality requirements and had no drinking water violations in 2016.

The City of Dubuque purchased the Barrington Lakes and Vernon water systems in 2016 and is responsible for their operation, maintenance, and management. The water supplies for these systems are currently separate from each other and from the City of Dubuque's water supply, with connection of these systems to the Dubuque water supply scheduled for later this year.

The complete reports are available online at www.cityofdubuque.org/waterquality. Printed copies of the Dubuque water quality report are available at several locations including City Hall (50 W. 13th Street) and the Carnegie-Stout Public Library (360 W. 11th Street). Printed copies of the Vernon and Barrington Lakes water quality reports are available by request.

When compared to the other six large cities in Iowa that soften their drinking water, Dubuque has the third-lowest rate at \$28.43. That monthly rate translates to just 47 cents for 100 gallons of drinking water. The average cost for a 16.9 ounce bottle of bottled water at a convenience store is \$1.59, which translates to over \$1,200 for 100 gallons of bottled water.

For more information, call 563-589-4291 or visit www.cityofdubuque.org/water. §

growing
sustainable
communities

10th
Anniversary

October 3-4, 2017

Grand River Center

Register now for this two-day conference packed with **education, inspiration, and collaboration** on topics of interest to anyone who cares about the convergence of **economic prosperity, ecological integrity, and social/cultural vibrancy** in community design and development.

www.gscdubuque.com

563.690.6038



Successful Rental Property Management Program

The City of Dubuque is sponsoring an educational program for property owners and managers on all aspects of managing rental property. According to the City Code of Ordinances, all Dubuque rental property owners or their property managers **must** attend this program.

Licensed real estate professionals or those who have already completed this program are exempt. The next sessions are scheduled for **Saturday, Sept. 9**, from 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. at NICC Town Clock Center, 680 Main Street. Register online at www.nicc.edu/solutions and enter "Successful Rental Property Management" in the search box or call Northeast Iowa Community College at 563-557-8271, ext. 380.

Additional information about the program, registration details, and training manual are available at www.cityofdubuque.org/srpm. §

Mayor Roy D. Buol's 11th State of the City Address

Combining Real Results and Transformative Vision

Monday, September 11, 7 p.m.

City Council Chambers
Historic Federal Building
350 W. 6th St.



The event will be broadcast live on CityChannel Dubuque (channels 8 and 117.2 on the Mediacom cable system) and streamed live and archived on the City website at www.cityofdubuque.org/media.



A MESSAGE from the CITY MANAGER

Michael C. Van Milligen

Two separate storms struck Dubuque in July, impacting parts of our community in different ways, but both proved Dubuque is a resilient community with support from our friends and neighbors.

The first storm occurred overnight on Tuesday, July 11, and combined recorded winds of nearly 80 miles per hour with 2-3 inches of rain in a short amount of time. The winds caused significant, widespread damage, especially to trees, throughout Dubuque. City staff from the fire, leisure services, police, engineering, and public works departments worked throughout the night to assess damage, clear roadways, repair traffic signals, and respond to other hazards including downed power lines and trees on homes.

Due to the scope of the storm damage, the City offered free collection of storm-related debris through the following week, with the public works department crews making collections through the weekend. Between July 12 and 21, public works received 1,563 phone calls related to the storm, collected 375 tons of debris, and expended 1,796 hours of staff time to storm response.

The leisure services department's forestry crew started at 1 a.m. the night of the storm, responding to blocked roadways and downed City-owned trees on structures and vehicles.

Additional crews came in overnight to ensure roads were open for traffic as quickly as possible. By July 31, that department had received over 340 requests for responses to tree damage across the community. That number did not include tree damage or loss in numerous parks and other City properties, including Bunker Hill Golf Course, which was closed for one day following the storm. Parks were prioritized to prepare for weekend rental events. The City's urban forester, Tom Kramer, said this storm caused more damage than any other in the past 40 years.

With assistance from Dubuque County Emergency Management Coordinator Tom Berger, a storm clean-up assistance program was created within a day and offered to Dubuque residents in need of assistance getting storm-related tree/yard debris off their property. The program was made possible by assistance from United Way and volunteer teams of "chainsaw responders" from United Methodist Church Iowa Conference Disaster Services and St. Mark's Lutheran Disaster Response Team from Cedar Rapids. The groups provided nearly 120 volunteer hours of assistance to 25 Dubuque residents over four days. Additional assistance was provided by volunteers from United Way, AmeriCorps, Boy Scouts, John Deere, Wahlert High School, and the American Red Cross.

Just one week later, during the community celebration for the completion of the Bee Branch Creek Greenway, another storm hit Dubuque. While this storm did not cause major damage, it did warrant a severe thunderstorm warning and delivered heavy rain and strong winds.

Then, on Friday, July 21, another storm hit overnight. The National Weather Service had an unofficial report of 4.9" of rain that fell in less than 24 hours. Statistically, this was between a 10-year and a 100-year event. Rainfall totals from the July 21-22 event varied across Dubuque with some areas experiencing a 10-year event while others a 100-year event. (A "10-year event" has a 10 percent chance of occurring in any given year while a "100-year event has a one percent chance of occurring in any given year.)

Thankfully, because some of the phases of the Bee Branch Watershed Flood Mitigation Project were in place prior to the storm, water-related property damage was largely avoided. In 2002, a similar rainstorm that dropped 4.9" of rain in a 24-hour period resulted in enough property damage to warrant a Presidential Disaster Declaration.

As in the past when people in our community were in distress, everyone pulled together to help, including City staff. This was combined with the planning and investment conducted by the Mayor and City Council, in partnership with the neighborhoods, to create and begin implementation of the Bee Branch Watershed Master Plan. §

SAVE THE DATE
COMMUNITY RESILIENCY WORKSHOP
SEPTEMBER 11-13

A team of experts from around the country will visit Dubuque for three days of community workshops and focus groups to explore how Dubuque's infrastructure, neighborhoods, and most vulnerable populations can prepare for the impacts of climate change.

Details at www.cityofdubuque.org/sustainability
 or call 563.690.6038

Tree Planting Suggestions from the Parks Division

Whether due to summer storms or emerald ash borer damage, some residents may have experienced the loss of trees on their property. The City of Dubuque Parks Division offers residents guidance in choosing an appropriate replacement tree. Visit www.cityofdubuque.org/eab and click on "Recommended Street Trees." Although the document refers to street tree planting, residents can also use it as a guide for choosing the type of tree to plant on private property. Residents may also call 563-589-4263 for additional information. §



New Faces & Retirements

The City of Dubuque welcomes these new employees:

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Destiny Carpenter - Airport | Robert Lynn - Transit |
| Erin Daughters - Library | Kristjahn Saliga - Airport |
| Noon Elobaid - Recreation | Samantha Schueller - Police |
| Thomas Flowers - Airport | Isabel Shubbatt - Library |
| Areli Gonzalez-Ramos - Parking | Zachary Thill - Public Works |
| Jared Graybill - Parking | Dennis Viertel - Parking |
| Katelyn Kaufmann - Emergency Communications | Rayshaun Watson - Library |

The City of Dubuque congratulates these recent retirees:

- Shane O'Brien** - Police
Jeff Powers - Fire

Correction from last issue: Retiree Art Hedley was a member of the Parks Division, not the Public Works Department. We apologize for the error.

The City of Dubuque welcomes these new* and reappointed board or commission members:

- | | |
|--|---|
| Cable TV Commission
Carol Hoverman
Pauline Maloney
Ronald Tigges | Long Range Planning Advisory Commission
Ronald Collins
Mark Dolson
Alan Vincent |
| Electrical Code Board
David Wilson | Park and Recreation Advisory Commission
Robin Kennicker
Kenneth Klinge
Rebecca Kuhle* |
| Historic Preservation Commission
Christina Monk | Zoning Advisory Commission
Martha Christ |
| Investment Oversight Advisory Commission
Paul Lassance | |

Contact Information

The City of Dubuque welcomes comments and suggestions about your city government or news appearing in this newsletter. Please contact:

City Manager's Office
 50 W. 13th Street
 Dubuque, Iowa 52001-4864
 (563) 589-4110
ctymgr@cityofdubuque.org



Editorial Information

City News is published by the Public Information Office and is inserted in the City of Dubuque utility bills six times per year. For the most up-to-date City news and events, visit www.cityofdubuque.org.

CALENDAR

September

- 4 City offices closed for Labor Day (curbside collection on Sat., Sept. 2)
- 5 City Council Meeting, 6 p.m., City Council Chambers, Historic Federal Bldg.
- 6 Cable TV Commission, 4 p.m., Conf. Room I, City Hall Annex
- 6 Zoning Advisory Commission, 6 p.m., Historic Federal Building
- 7 Resilient Community Advisory Commission, 5 p.m., Conf. Room I, City Hall Annex
- 9 Successful Rental Property Management Program training, NICC Town Clock Center. Register at www.nicc.edu/solutions or call 563-557-8271, ext. 380.
- 11 Human Rights Commission, 4:30 p.m., Conf. Room II, City Hall Annex
- 11 State of the City Address, 7 p.m., City Council Chambers, Historic Federal Bldg.
- 12 Park and Recreation Commission, 4:30 p.m., Location TBD
- 14 Transit Advisory Board, 4:15 p.m., Intermodal Conf. Rm., 950 Elm. St.
- 18 City Council Meeting, 6 p.m., City Council Chambers, Historic Federal Bldg.
- 19 Housing Board of Appeals, 4:30 p.m., Suite 312, Historic Federal Building
- 20 Assisted Housing Resident Advisory Board, 11:30 a.m., Historic Federal Building
- 20 Long Range Planning Advisory Commission, 5:30 p.m., Historic Federal Bldg.
- 20 Community Development Advisory Commission, 5:30 p.m., Suite 312, Historic Federal Building
- 21 Historic Preservation Commission, 5:30 p.m., Historic Federal Building
- 25 Civic Center Commission Meeting, 3:30 p.m., Five Flags Civic Center
- 25 Airport Commission 4 p.m., Dubuque Jet Center
- 26 Housing Commission, 4 p.m. Suite 312, Historic Federal Bldg.
- 26 Arts and Cultural Affairs Advisory Commission, 4:30 p.m., Lacy Board Room, Carnegie-Stout Public Library
- 28 Carnegie-Stout Public Library Board of Trustees, 4 p.m., Lacy Board Room
- 28 Zoning Board of Adjustment, 5 p.m., Historic Federal Building

October

- 2 City Council Meeting, 6 p.m., City Council Chambers, Historic Federal Bldg.
- 2, 9, 16, 23 Home Ownership Make Easy (HOME) workshop, 7:30 p.m., Historic Federal Building, call 563-589-4239 to register.
- 3-4 Growing Sustainable Communities Conference, Grand River Center. Visit www.gscdubuque.com to register.
- 4 Cable TV Commission, 4 p.m., Conf. Room I, City Hall Annex
- 4 Zoning Advisory Commission, 6 p.m., Historic Federal Building
- 5 Resilient Community Advisory Commission, 5 p.m., Conf. Room I, City Hall Annex
- 9 Human Rights Commission, 4:30 p.m., Conf. Room II, City Hall Annex
- 10 Park and Recreation Commission, 4:30 p.m., Location TBD
- 12 Transit Advisory Board, 4:15 p.m., Intermodal Conf. Rm., 950 Elm. St.
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- 18 Community Development Advisory Commission, 5:30 p.m., Suite 312, Historic Federal Building
- 19 Historic Preservation Commission, 5:30 p.m., Historic Federal Building
- 23 Airport Commission 4 p.m., Dubuque Jet Center
- 24 Housing Commission, 4 p.m. Suite 312, Historic Federal Building
- 24 Arts and Cultural Affairs Advisory Commission, 4:30 p.m., Lacy Board Room, Carnegie-Stout Public Library
- 25 Investment Oversight Advisory Committee, 3 p.m., City Hall Annex, Conf. Rm A
- 27 Carnegie-Stout Public Library Board of Trustees, 4 p.m., Lacy Board Room
- 26 Zoning Board of Adjustment, 5 p.m., Historic Federal Building

This calendar does not include all events and is subject to change. Sign up for Dubuque's "Notify Me" e-mail/text alert system at www.cityofdubuque.org/notifyme to receive agendas, news releases, event notifications, and other timely news.

City Hall: 50 W. 13th St.
 City Hall Annex: 1300 Main St.
 Historic Federal Building: 350 W. 6th St.
 Carnegie-Stout Public Library: 360 W. 11th St.
 Bunker Hill Snack Bar: 2200 Bunker Hill Rd.
 Dubuque Jet Center: 11000 Airport Rd.