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NEWS RELEASE

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Deconstruction Project at 16th & Sycamore Streets Clears Path for Bee Branch Project

DUBUQUE, Iowa – A deconstruction project at the corner of 16th and Sycamore Streets in Dubuque is expected to begin Monday, July 6, and will allow the City of Dubuque to begin the reconstruction of the Bee Branch Creek.

The restoration of this creek is a major part of Dubuque's comprehensive \$39 million drainage basin master plan. This project is designed to protect 1,150 homes and businesses on Dubuque's north end, between 15th and 32nd Street, from flood damage during heavy rains.

The property at 1576 Sycamore was acquired by the City and will be deconstructed, not just demolished. This structure was significantly damaged in a fire nearly a decade ago. Despite fire and water damage, it is estimated that 90 percent of the materials from this deconstruction project will be diverted from the landfill. Portzen Construction, the project contractor, will scrap all metal found on the property and in the building and some structural beams are expected to be salvaged. The tires that littered the property have already been recycled. The trees on the property will be harvested or shredded into mulch. Nearly 800 tons of concrete and brick rubble will be utilized as solid fill on another local project.

The Bee Branch Creek Restoration Project will run from 24th Street, south to the 16th Street Detention Basin. This 4,500 foot creek corridor will be landscaped and feature park-like amenities. A multiuse trail will be constructed on the northeast side for the full length of the creek. Sidewalks, walking paths, lighting, and benches will line the creek corridor and a stepped amphitheater is planned between 22nd Street and Lincoln Avenue to provide a venue for neighborhood gatherings. Three bridges are planned for the creek corridor, including one near the 1576 Sycamore property.

Construction will begin this summer at the southern portion of the project area, beginning at the detention basin and going upstream. The next steps will include utility relocation followed by bridge construction beginning this fall. Further upstream, 65 residential properties will be impacted. The vast majority will be deconstructed or relocated. A strategy for that process is being finalized and is expected to be implemented this fall.

Images of the proposed Bee Branch Creek Restoration Project and additional information are available on the City website at: www.cityofdubuque.org/beebranch. For more information, contact Project Engineer Deron Muehring at 563.589.4270 or dmuehrin@cityofdubuque.org.

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