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NEWS RELEASE

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City Launches Adopt-A-Spot Program

DUBUQUE, Iowa – In recognition of Earth Day on April 22, the City of Dubuque has launched an Adopt-A-Spot program to encourage individuals, businesses, school groups, and other organizations to play an active role in keeping the community clean and beautiful.

The program allows participants to “adopt” a public space such as a street, waterway, park, or storm drain and make a commitment to regularly clean and maintain the spot for no less than one year. Adopted spots must be on City of Dubuque property, such as parks and other green space, or in the right-of-way. Typical activities include removing litter, reporting graffiti, keeping storm drains clear, landscape maintenance, and habitat restoration.

City staff will work with volunteers to identify an Adopt-A-spot location and develop a plan to maintain the space. The work must be performed during daylight hours and in a satisfactory, safe, and professional manner. Adult supervision is required at the work site when volunteers are 18 years of age or younger. If needed, the City will provide pickup materials and arrange for the disposal of trash, yard waste, and other materials collected.

Earth Day 2018 is focused on fundamentally changing human attitude and behavior about plastics and catalyzing a significant reduction in plastic pollution. Approximately 300 million tons of plastic are produced each year to make bags, bottles, packages, and other commodities for people all over the world. Unfortunately, only about ten percent of this plastic is properly recycled and reused.

According to the 2017 Iowa Statewide Waste Characterization Study, 18 percent of materials sampled from the Dubuque landfill were plastic. Through the Adopt-A-Spot program, residents can join the End Plastic Pollution effort by committing to properly remove and recycle plastic already in our environment.

For more information, or to adopt a spot, visit www.cityofdubuque.org/adoptaspot. To learn more about the Earth Day 2018 Campaign: End Plastic Pollution, visit www.earthday.org.

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