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NEWS RELEASE

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Public Invited to Soil Quality Restoration Demonstration at Valentine Park

DUBUQUE, Iowa – The public is invited to attend a demonstration on soil quality restoration (SQR) on Thursday, Sept. 20, from 5:30-6:30 p.m., at Valentine Park, 860 Valentine Dr. in Dubuque. An alternate rain date is Thursday, Oct. 4, from 5:30-6:30 p.m.

The demonstration, hosted by the Catfish Creek Watershed Management Authority (CCWMA) and the City of Dubuque, is education and promotion of a new cost share program that offers all landowners within the Catfish Creek Watershed financial incentives to install conservation practices on their property.

The practice of soil quality restoration (SQR) is aimed at improving soil health by restoring organic matter and de-compacting tight clay soils. SQR improves stormwater infiltration, allows green spaces to absorb more water, and eliminates the need for additional fertilizers and chemicals on lawns. Demonstration attendees can learn the importance of healthy soils, how to achieve them, and how they can be used to meet stormwater requirements.

Landowners interested in applying for an SQR grant can find more information at www.catfishcreekwatershed.org. The CCWMA will have roughly \$100,000 to spend on SQR projects. After applications are approved, funding will come on a first-come basis until funds have been expended. While the funding is available, SQR projects will be eligible for 75 percent of funding up to a maximum of \$3,000 per home. The homeowner will be required to hire a certified contractor or become certified themselves (if doing the work themselves).

For additional information, contact Eric Schmechel at 920-327-0908.

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