



# IOWA'S URBAN CONSERVATION PROGRAM

**Personnel changes:** 2012 saw changes in personnel for IDALS's Urban Conservation Program. Rich Maaske, Urban Conservationist from Council Bluffs, retired. Steve Anderson, from the Spirit Lake Field Office, resigned to follow a new career path. Derek Namanny filled the Spirit Lake position.

The Council Bluffs position remains unfilled due to budget constraints.



A bioretention cell was recently installed at St. Paul's Cathedral in downtown Des Moines.

**Kirkwood Community College Class:** IDALS Urban Conservationists played a key role in initiating a new 3-credit course on rain garden design and installation at Kirkwood Community College in 2012. The course was added to the curriculum in the Agriculture and Natural Resources Department.

**Sponsored Projects:** Sponsored Projects will highlight urban conservation activities in 2013. This new program will provide up to \$15 million annually in new funding for water quality work in Iowa.



Cities that have an existing loan or are on the Intended Use Plan (IUP) for waste water loans will be eligible to apply for a sponsored project. IDNR will issue a Request for Proposals in early 2013.

Sponsored projects will allow some of the interest payments on waste water loans to be kept and invested in local water quality projects. For each \$1 million borrowed, successful

applicants will have about \$100,000 to invest in water quality work.

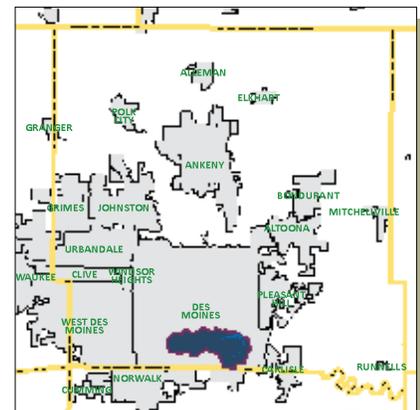
The city of Dubuque served as a pilot project for this new program in 2012. Dubuque's 3 year project will convert 42 urban alleys to permeable pavers.

IDALS Urban Conservationists will provide assistance to cities interested in applying for sponsored projects.



Governor Branstad toured bioretention cells at Davenport's Public Works facilities during Soil and Water Conservation Week 2012.

**Easter Lake:** Easter Lake Watershed Protection and Lake Restoration Project will begin this year. This project will improve water quality at this SE Des Moines lake and recreational area. Urban land use dominates this watershed. It is important to incorporate low impact development strategies in all new developments and to retrofit existing landscapes to manage stormwater runoff in ways that reduce flashy stream flows and protects water quality. This will be a significant urban conservation undertaking with a multitude of partners at the federal, state and local levels.





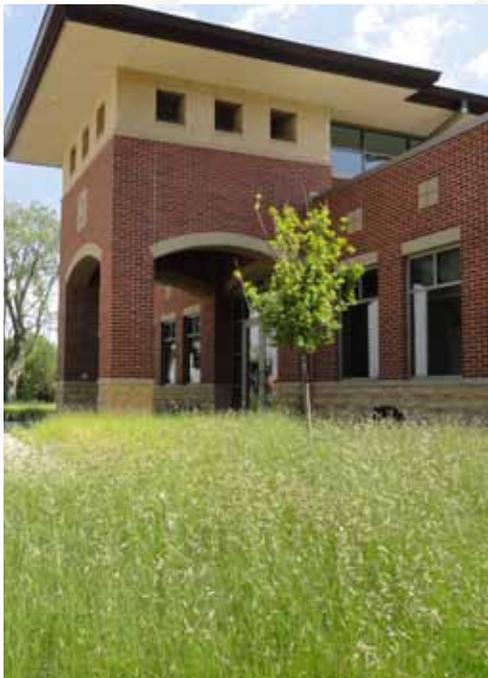
## ARNOLDS PARK

This permeable paver and bioretention project was installed in the Preservation Plaza in Arnold's Park, Iowa. This highly visible project captures and filters six acres of urban runoff before it discharges into West Lake Okoboji.



## COUNCIL BLUFFS

A rain garden at a retirement community in Council Bluffs has matured into a beautiful landscape feature that protects water quality.

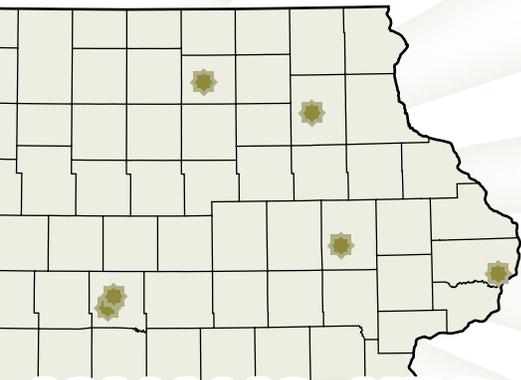


## ANKENY

Ankeny's newest fire station features a native turf lawn (shown left), native landscaping, a bioretention cell and soil quality restoration.



## DES MOINES



# IOWA'S URBAN CONSERVATION PROGRAM



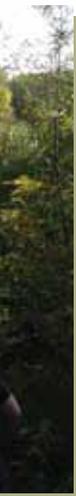
**WEST UNION** Permeable pavers and bioretention planters infiltrate rainfall in West Union's business district to protect Otter Creek, a trout stream southeast of West Union.



Easter Lake is a high use recreational area in Des Moines. A watershed protection and lake restoration project will begin in 2013.



**CHARLES CITY** Phase II of Charles City's 27 blocks of permeable paver street renovation project was completed in 2012.



## QUAD CITIES

Participants of stream stabilization workshop in Davenport tour a stabilized bank of Duck Creek.

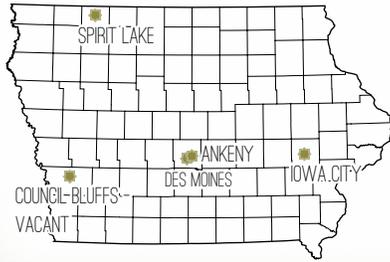


## KIRKWOOD

Students at Kirkwood Community College install a raingarden on campus as a part of the new raingarden course added to the Natural Resources curriculum in the fall of 2012.

# URBAN CONSERVATIONISTS

urbancon@iowaagriculture.gov • 515-281-5851



Wayne Petersen, Des Moines



Amy Bouska, Iowa City



Derek Namanny, Spirit Lake



Jennifer Welch, Ankeny

## TOURS

TOURS WERE TAKEN ACROSS THE STATE IN THE SPRING AND FALL OF 2012 HIGHLIGHTING URBAN CONSERVATION PRACTICES

Urban Conservationist, Amy Bouska (right), met Amy Bouska of Cresco, Iowa (left) on a tour of Charles City's permeable paver project in October 2012.



Urban Conservationists and watershed project coordinators watched water infiltrate during a tour of the West Union project in June 2012.



St. Paul Cathedral, in downtown Des Moines, was another stop on the Polk SWCD tour. The Cathedral retrofitted their parking lot with permeable pavers, bioretention cells, and a raingarden (shown above).

Polk SWCD hosted a tour for the State Soil Conservation Committee and the public during Soil and Water Conservation Week 2012. Participants viewed the subgrade of permeable paver parking lot at Green and Main Development in Des Moines' Sherman Hills neighborhood.

