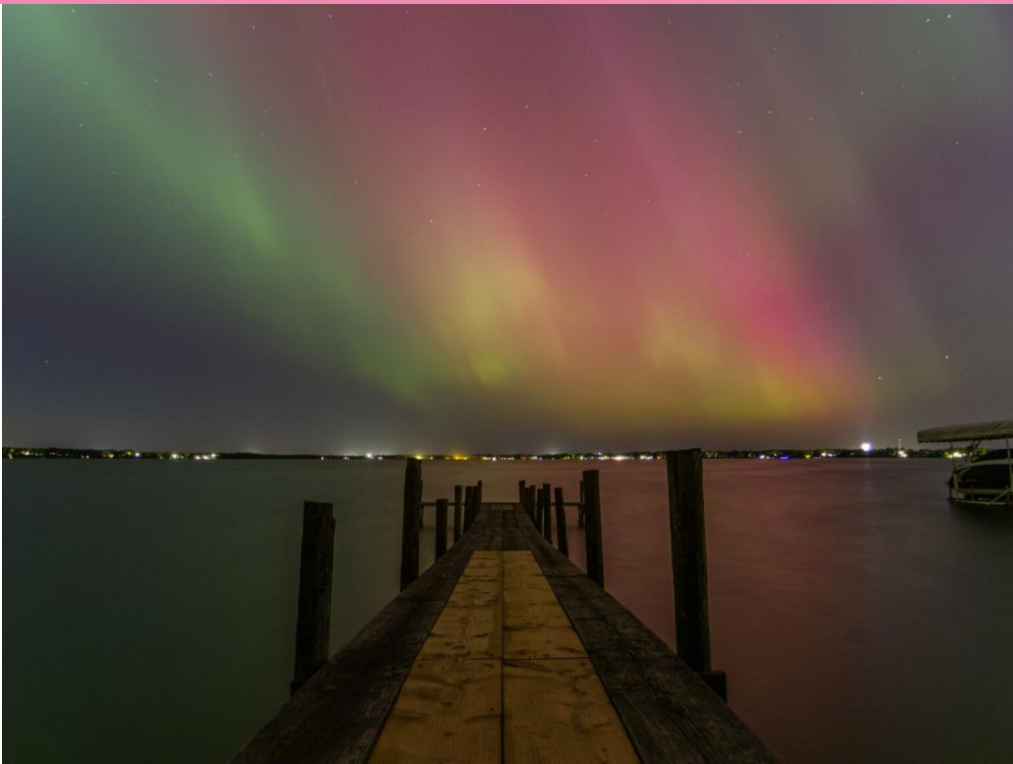




November 2025 Newsletter



*Photo Credit: "Aurora Borealis over Clear Lake",
Alex Heggen from Clear Lake, 3rd Place Iowa Water*

[16th Annual Keep Iowa Beautiful Photography Contest Submission](#)

Paint Iowa Beautiful Applications NOW OPEN!



Keep Iowa Beautiful works to help Iowans create vibrant communities and build a strong sense of hometown pride. Paint Iowa Beautiful is one of the ways this mission comes to life. For over 22 years, our partnership with Diamond Vogel has provided free paint to grant recipients in communities that want to brighten parks, update public buildings, and refresh the shared spaces that bring people together.

Is there a spot in your community that needs refreshing? Whether it is a park shelter, a community center, or another gathering place, Paint Iowa Beautiful helps towns remain welcoming, well maintained, and full of pride.

The 2026 Paint Iowa Beautiful grant application is now open. Nonprofit, public, and private groups that want to improve public-facing spaces are invited to apply. Projects with strong volunteer or youth involvement are especially encouraged.



Learn more and apply by **February 12, 2026**.

[Apply today for a Paint Iowa Beautiful Grant!](#)



16th Annual Keep Iowa Beautiful Photography Contest: Submission Deadline by December 12th, 2025!



There is less than a month left to enter the 16th Annual Keep Iowa Beautiful Photography Contest! Aimed at raising awareness of Iowa's rural and urban beauty, the photography contest offers both amateur and experienced photographers an opportunity to tell Iowa's story in a fun, engaging way.

This month's featured photo (above) is a stunning image of the Aurora Borealis taken by Alec Heggen of Clear Lake. Did you have a chance to see the Northern Lights over Iowa this month? If you captured a photo, we would love to see it. These moments, along with everyday scenes of Iowa life, help tell the story of our state. We encourage you to submit your favorite shots to the Keep Iowa Beautiful Photography Contest.

For more information see the flyer below or visit our [website!](#)

[Enter Your Photos Now!](#)

16TH ANNUAL PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

Keep Iowa Beautiful's annual photography contest is **BACK** with over \$2,000 in cash prizes. Visit our website or scan QR code to view complete contest guidelines.

NEW THIS YEAR: a Youth Winner!

Young photographers (grades K-12) can earn a special award — and compete in all other categories too!

IOWA LANDSCAPE IOWA WATER IOWA CITIES
IOWANS IN ACTION IOWA WILDLIFE HOMETOWN PRIDE

SUBMISSION DEADLINE:
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12TH, 2025

Keep Iowa Beautiful
KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL AFFILIATE

2024 Hometown Pride 1st Place:
"Early Morning in July," Katie Kettering of Clinton

Giving Tuesday is December 2, 2025




Make a difference in Iowa this year!

As the season of giving begins, we invite you to consider a gift to Keep Iowa Beautiful. Your support helps build vibrant communities and strengthens the hometown pride that makes Iowa special.

Giving Tuesday began in 2012 as a simple idea to encourage people to do good. It has grown into a global movement that inspires millions to volunteer, donate, and share kindness.

We hope you will join us in celebrating generosity this year and consider supporting Keep Iowa Beautiful. Your gift helps build vibrant communities, inspire local pride, and support a thriving Iowa for all.

[**Donate Today!**](#)



Scholarship Application Now Open



Iowa High School Seniors

Keep Iowa Beautiful has opened the application for 2026 scholarships. Keep Iowa Beautiful will award three \$1000 scholarships to graduating Iowa students who plan to enroll in an Iowa college or university. Students should have a history of volunteerism proving their dedication to their community.

Applications are due January 31st, 2026. For further information, visit the [Keep Iowa Beautiful Scholarship page](#).

“Keep Iowa Beautiful seeks to foster positive values in younger generations and reinforce them in older generations. We encourage respect for home, neighborhood, community and state,”

-Andy Frantz, KIB Executive Director



2025 Scholarship Winner
Maranda Wood



2025 Scholarship Winner
Kelsey Hoeger



Become a Hometown Pride Community!



Unlock your Community's Potential

Applications are now open for the next round of Hometown Pride communities. Keep Iowa Beautiful's Hometown Pride program uses a research-based approach and hands-on coaching to help Iowans transform their towns. So far, 118 Iowa communities have taken part.



Interested communities can submit a statement of interest on the Keep Iowa Beautiful website by February 6, 2026. Before you begin, contact Lorin Ditzler at lditzler@keepiowabeautiful.com to see if Hometown Pride is a good fit and to learn more about the process.

[Learn More About Hometown Pride](#)

#HometownPride Highlights

Luxemburg Walking Trail

Keep Luxemburg Beautiful (a Hometown Pride committee) and the City of Luxemburg are celebrating the completion of a long-awaited project: a newly paved walking trail at Luxemburg City Park.



Until now, the park featured only a basic gravel trail, and the new paved path offers a smoother, more accessible route for community members of all ages. Future improvements will include solar lighting poles, benches, additional trash receptacles, new signage, and other amenities that will continue to enhance the experience for park visitors.

This project is a great example of what can happen when local partners come together to invest in shared community spaces.



Tabor Splashpad

Tabor Hometown Pride took a big step towards bringing their splashpad project to the Tabor community. In November, the Tabor City Council officially approved the project, and the mayor has signed the construction contract to begin this spring.

Fundraising continues as the community works to close the remaining gap of \$5,136 needed to reach the final project goal.



Sac City Honors Bruce Perry

A music-themed renovation is planned for Riverview Park to honor Bruce Perry, the founder of Sac City Hometown Pride. The updated space will feature musical play elements, improved playground equipment, and a special tribute recognizing Perry’s lasting impact on the community.



Photo Credit: *Sac City Hometown Pride Facebook page*

The committee also supported the Sac Chamber’s “Our Town Is Cooler Than Yours” Manhole Flower Art Contest by donating paint. Community pride continues to shine in Sac City.

You can read more about this on the Channel 9 News (KCAU) [webpage](#).



Lake Park Community Improvement

Lake Park is celebrating an important milestone as Channel 9 News (KCAU) [recently highlighted](#) the community’s ongoing park improvement project. The \$3 million Silver Lake City Park Project has been in development for three years and marks the first major initiative led by the Lake Park Hometown Pride group.

This project will bring several significant enhancements to the park, including clearing portions of the shoreline to open lake views, upgraded playground equipment, a paved walking loop, and an extension of the existing bike trail from the Iowa Great Lakes to a new trailhead within the city park.

[Learn more about Hometown Pride Communities](#)

NEW Mailing Address

Keep Iowa Beautiful has a new mailing address.
Please direct all mail to:



Keep Iowa Beautiful

PO Box 1056

Johnston, IA 50131

Happy Thanksgiving!



Your Support Matters!

Consider supporting Keep Iowa Beautiful to help us continue our work improving Iowa communities!

Remember: donations to Keep Iowa Beautiful are tax deductible!

Donations can be made online, or checks can be mailed to our office:

Keep Iowa Beautiful

PO Box 1056

Johnston, IA 50131

[Donate to Support Iowa Communities](#)

Keep Iowa Beautiful

PO Box 1056

Johnston, IA 50131

www.KeepIowaBeautiful.com



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