



Photo Credit: Arthur Davis, Iowa Landscapes Honorable Mention

13th Annual Keep Iowa Beautiful Annual Photographer Contest Submission

June 2023 Newsletter



Keep Iowa Beautiful Welcomes New Associate Director Lorin Ditzler

Keep Iowa Beautiful is thrilled to announce the hiring of longtime Hometown Pride coach Lorin Ditzler as its new Associate Director.



With her extensive experience in community planning and development, coupled with her notable contributions as a community coach in KIB's Hometown Pride program, Ditzler is poised to play a vital role in the organization's mission to sustain vibrant communities throughout the state.

"With this new role, I'm excited to help support the Hometown Pride coaches and grow the program," Ditzler said. "The coaches and volunteers are doing great work out there, and I want to help tell that story and make sure they have the resources they need to keep moving forward."

Read more about the work Lorin will be doing [here](#).

Iowans Give Back Through Pick-Up Iowa and Paint Iowa Beautiful Programs

Each year from April through July, volunteers across the state participate in Pick-Up Iowa in support of the national Great American Cleanup. Keep Iowa Beautiful has been proud to support communities in this effort, and the results speak for themselves. Congratulations to everyone doing their part in keeping Iowa beautiful!

Volunteers in **Waukon, Iowa**, participated in an annual clean-up event held to give back to the county by cleaning up public spaces like ditches.



This spring, the volunteers had to work through snow showers to finish clean-up day.



The staff at **SPPG in West Des Moines**, participated in Pick-Up Iowa as a team.

The staff took an afternoon this June to clean up Riverview Park in Des Moines, picking up nearly seven bags worth of trash in the process.

Keep Iowa Beautiful is thrilled with the hard work of its Pick-Up Iowa awardees in **Ringsted, Iowa**.



These community volunteers cleaned up the park area in Ringsted, filling 15 trash bags in the process.

One of the cornerstone programs of Keep Iowa Beautiful, Paint Iowa Beautiful grants paint to volunteers and organizations for community improvement projects. Keep Iowa Beautiful believes well-maintained and painted buildings reflect pride in our communities. With these examples, it's not hard to see why.



Keep Iowa Beautiful is proud of its Paint Iowa Beautiful awardees in **Lansing, Iowa** for their work on Lansing's Main Street.

Several storefronts were repainted and old signs replaced as part of this community effort.

Two weeks and several gallons of paint later, the Alexander Public Library looks almost new!

Paint Iowa Beautiful was proud to give an award to the community of **Alexander, Iowa**, to repaint its library, which was previously white with chipped paint.



[Learn More](#)

Hometown Pride Updates

Check out some of the great work happening in our Hometown Pride Communities!

Walker Brings Community Together Through Music

Keep Iowa Beautiful loves seeing Hometown Pride successes like this Music in the Park event in **Walker, Iowa**. The community was able to come together for an evening of fun and free entertainment.



Shellsburg Hometown Pride Works to Save Historic Mural



The **Shellsburg Hometown Pride Committee** identified the restoration of the iconic Gold Medal Flour Mural as a top priority. The hand-painted sign was created around 1920 by the Thomas Cusack Company of Chicago, which was the leading outdoor advertising firm in the U.S. at the time. Once common, these murals are now disappearing from small towns.

The Shellsburg Area Community Group has launched a fundraising campaign to save the deteriorating mural. More information about the mural and restoration efforts can be found [here](#).

Social Media Submissions

Keep Iowa Beautiful wants to share your community's good news!

Are you proud of a completed project in your town? Do you want to show off a new mural in your downtown? Did you host a fun, exciting event for your community? We want to know about it!

Click on the button below to share short descriptions of events, projects, or news from your town! You can include pictures and captions as well. Keep Iowa Beautiful will share your post on our social media!

[Submit Your Stories](#)

You Can Stop Litter!

You can help reduce litter in Iowa!

When you see litter happening on Iowa's roadways, call 1-888-NOLITTR (1-888-665-4887) to report littering from a vehicle.

Please provide as much detail about the incident as possible:

- License plate number
- Time and specific location (street & city)
- What was thrown from the vehicle
- A vehicle description (color, make and model)

Reported offenders will receive a warning letter from Keep Iowa Beautiful drawing attention to their offense. This sends the message that people, like you, are watching.



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

2910 Westown Pkwy. Suite 302

West Des Moines, IA 50266

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