



Photo Credit: Shelley Gerjets, Iowa Landscapes Honorable Mention

12th Annual Keep Iowa Beautiful Annual Photographer Contest Submission

January 2023 Newsletter



Hometown Pride Updates

Start 2023 with a recap of the great work our Hometown Pride Communities have done recently! Check out their updates below!

Pocahontas

Pocahontas Hometown Pride has begun its County Leadership Program! This four-session series focuses on the County's Visioning priorities: Civic Engagement, Quality of Life/Recreation, Housing and Workforce.

The first session on Nov. 9 included a discussion on Leadership Styles and Skill-Building presented by Rand Fisher and a panel of local and state elected officials.

The Leadership Class includes approximately 20 participants. Leadership participants will also plan and complete a Legacy project in 2023 designed to align with the Visioning priorities and improve and impact the county.

Delaware County

Hometown Pride Communities in Delaware County are working on several projects, from dog parks to beautification projects including historic markers for downtown buildings and decorative lighting on a local bridge!

The fundraising committee for the dog park is implementing the plan, making one-on-one visits with key stakeholders and potential large donors to get to 50% of the goal prior to a spring public campaign. A site for the park has been chosen, and layout design and rules drafts have also been created and will be finalized in early 2023.

Clinton

Worthington

The City of Clinton Hometown Pride received confirmation of receipt of a grant from the Clinton County Development Association for \$75,000 for the Frederick "Duke" Slater Memorial Statue Committee.

This project will fundraise through 2023 and the statue will be installed at a pocket park across from Clinton High in 2024 where Duke graduated in 1916. Slater is honored as a College Football All-American and Hall of Fame member, NFL All-Pro, and NFL Hall of Fame member and distinguished lawyer and judge in Cook County Illinois.

The City of Worthington has several projects happening!

The team applied for a Brownfields Phase I investigation to see if anything can be done about the community's local bar and grill and look into potential.

Additionally, the group conducted a community survey to see what local citizens would like to be done to improve the community.

And there's more to come in 2023! The team is looking to obtain and install a park pavilion and decorative street lights in the community's central park.



Thank You For Participating in the 13th Annual Keep Iowa Beautiful Photo Contest

The submission period for photos may have closed, but the contest fun isn't over!

At the end of this month, the five first-place winners will be featured on Keep Iowa Beautiful social media for voting and selecting the Public Favorite Photo. Make sure to keep an eye on our Facebook and Twitter!

The winner of the social media contest will receive an additional \$100. The Robert D. Ray Best of Show Awards, determined by a distinguished panel, will also be announced at that time. The Robert D. Ray Best of Show award amounts are as follows; 1st place: \$500, 2nd place: \$250 and 3rd place: \$100.

As a reminder, the five categories are:

Iowa Landscape

Capture Iowa's beauty through depictions of Iowa's landscape, including but not limited to: farm fields, rolling hills, and wooded forests.

Iowa Water

Feature Iowa's beautiful water systems with depictions of Iowa rivers, streams, ponds and lakes.

Iowa Cities

Iowa's urban centers are hubs of history, culture, and beauty. This category features depictions of Iowa's cities, street scenes, and urban landmarks.

Iowans in Action

This category aims to capture the spirit of Iowa through depictions of the people that live, work, and play in Iowa. All means of action that can be captured: biking, running, fishing, hunting and hiking are but a few.

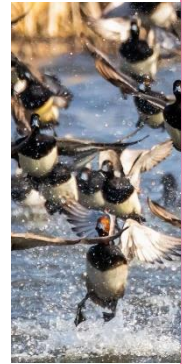
Iowa Wildlife

Iowa is home to a variety of beautiful critters. This category aims to showcase Iowa's beauty through depictions of Iowa's wildlife animals: mammals, fish, birds, bugs and more!

In the meantime, check out last year's winners!



12th Annual Iowa Cities 1st Place: Sharon Scarff of Wayland



12th
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Wildlife 1
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12th Annual Iowans in Action 1st Place: William Beasley of Estherville



12th
Annual
Iowa
Landscapes 1st
Place:
Wilford
Yoder of
Iowa City



12th Annual Water 1st Place: Scott Hoag of De Witt

Derelict Building Grant Program Applications Open

The Derelict Building Program is available for Iowa towns of 5,000 or fewer residents to address neglected commercial or public structures that have sat vacant for at least 6 months.

FY23 application deadline is **Friday, February 24, 2023** for applicants seeking funding assistance with conducting asbestos inspections, asbestos abatement, structural engineering analysis, phase I and phase II site assessments, building deconstruction and building renovation expenses.

The DNR Derelict Building Grant Program awarded grants to nine small, rural Iowa communities to help deconstruct or renovate abandoned structures, remove asbestos, and limit construction and demolition materials going to the landfill.

The DNR Derelict Building Grant Program was instituted by statute to help rural communities with populations of 5,000 or less remove environmental hazards, improve community appearance and minimize costs by recycling and reusing building materials through deconstruction or renovation of abandoned, derelict buildings.

DBGP funding is awarded annually on a competitive basis with cash matches required. **Applications for the next funding round will be due on Feb. 24, 2023.**

To learn more and start your community's application [click here](#).

Important Keep Iowa Beautiful Deadlines

Keep Iowa Beautiful Annual High School Senior Scholarships

Don't forget to let your high schoolers know they can apply for Keep Iowa Beautiful's scholarship program. Keep Iowa Beautiful will award three \$1,000 scholarships to Iowa high school seniors in 2023 who plan to enroll in an Iowa college or university.

The scholarships are in honor of three pioneers in Keep Iowa Beautiful's 22-year history:

Bob Byers--Educator. Through Bob's leadership, KIB's Litter-Free School Campus program was started in NW Iowa. His dedication to young people and environmental concerns was a driving force encouraging young people to help improve their community. This scholarship supports high school students who plan to enroll and study environmental science, community development, landscape architecture or architecture (historical emphasis) or community planning and sustainability.

William Fultz—Keep Iowa Beautiful Founding Board Member and artist. Bill started an advertising agency that became the largest agricultural advertising agency in the world. This scholarship is awarded to a senior planning on studying communications, public relations and/or marketing.

Gerald Schnepf—Keep Iowa Beautiful Founding Executive Director. Gerry's career spanned 50 years of making Iowa a better place to live, work and raise a family. This scholarship will be awarded to a senior who has a record of community service and a desire to continue to support and contribute to the enhancement of the place they live and work. College programs could include community & regional planning and volunteer management.

Since the founding of the scholarship program, Keep Iowa Beautiful has awarded \$54,000 to 64 students. **Applications are due February 10, 2023 with notification in March.**

[Learn More and Apply](#)

Paint Iowa Beautiful Grant

Keep Iowa Beautiful and Diamond Vogel Paint are pleased to announce the 2023 Paint Iowa Beautiful program. The program provides free paint to a wide variety of community projects throughout Iowa. Administered through Keep Iowa Beautiful with the paint provided by the Diamond Vogel Paint Company.

"The partnership with Keep Iowa Beautiful allows Diamond Vogel to assist and work with many local volunteers and organizations that help strengthen communities, making Iowa a great place to live," said Doug Vogel, Vice President, Marketing, of the Iowa-based company. "These projects definitely improve the beauty of Iowa, its countryside and our communities."

"The Paint Iowa Beautiful program supports projects that help build and sustain stronger communities." Said Reo Menning, Chair of the Keep Iowa Beautiful Board of Directors. "In the 20-year partnership with Keep Iowa Beautiful, Diamond Vogel has awarded over 12,000 gallons of paint for nearly 1,300 community projects in Iowa."

The online grant application is now open to Iowans and can be completed and submitted by February 10, 2023.

[Learn More and Apply](#)

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!

Start 2023 with a Donation to Keep Iowa Beautiful!

As we begin a new year, we want to thank you for all your support of our efforts to improve Iowa's appearance, sustainability, and cultural vitality! In 2022, we expanded our Hometown Pride program to more communities across Iowa, sponsored 35 Pick-

Up Iowa events across the state that resulted in over 37,000 pounds of litter and debris being removed. We are so proud of the work being done and it couldn't happen without your generosity.

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

[Donate](#)

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