

march 2025

ecia spotlight



Maquoketa Begins Constructing Greenspace

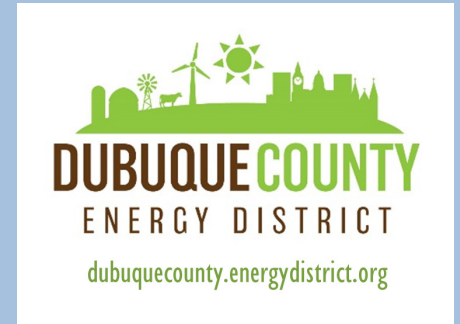


Energy Efficiency for Dubuque County Residents

Renew Dubuque is a project to help families with low-to-moderate-incomes (LMI) access solar technology. This program reduces monthly energy bills for residents, creates economic growth and jobs for local installers, and helps the county reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Renew Dubuque creates a voluntary Solar Renewable Energy Certificate (SREC) market, with the Dubuque County Energy District (on behalf of the County) purchasing the SRECS to help overcome the financial hurdle of installing solar. The energy cost savings per household is estimated at \$800-\$1,000 annually, significantly reducing the energy burden for households.

Energy Coaching: Dubuque County farmers, homeowners and renters (with approval of property management) and small business owners can receive a FREE energy assessment and coaching session valued at \$500. Benefits include:

- Useful information and tools for operators to reduce energy consumption
- Identify inefficient energy use and opportunities for improvements and energy savings
- Techniques and methods will evaluate the electrical supply, fuel resources, and major equipment
- Practices such as field operations, grain drying, irrigation, ventilation, lighting, greenhouses, etc. will be examined



Please visit dubuquecounty.energydistrict.org, email dubuquecounty@energydistrict.org or call 563-334-0307 for more information on these two programs.

EIRUSS Finishes 7th System

The Eastern Iowa Regional Utility Service Systems (EIRUSS) was created in 2005 by the Cedar, Clinton, Delaware, Jackson, and Jones County Boards of Supervisors under a 28E agreement. The purposes of EIRUSS are to plan, design, develop, finance, construct, own, operate and maintain essential facilities and services including, but not limited to, wastewater treatment systems and water systems for and on behalf of the counties and the cities and unincorporated areas within the counties. ECIA staff manages EIRUSS.

As EIRUSS's 7th project, the Droessler Subdivision/Spruce Creek Park Water System began in 2019 and was completed in August 2024. The project involved extending the City of Bellevue's water system to an unincorporated area north of Bellevue. Although it's primarily for properties within the Droessler Subdivision, there is a further extension to serve Jackson County's Spruce Creek Park. A major project component included the plugging of approximately 40 wells which resulted in a safe drinking water system for residents who were previously on individual wells with close proximity to septic fields possibly resulting in contamination. Currently, there are 62 individual customers with a good chance at future expansion as the subdivision grows.

The total construction costs were \$1,239,699. Additionally, there were also approximately \$350,000 in preliminary engineering fees, permitting, design, platting, and construction management. The project was funded from USDA Loans totaling \$817,000 and a \$671,000 Water Infrastructure Improvement for the Nation (WIIN) Grant and a \$301,950 State of Iowa DNR WIIN Grant Match.

If you have any questions about EIRUSS or this project, contact Matt Specht at mspecht@ecia.org.

ECIA Anniversaries in February/March



Jennifer Walker
16 years



Dan Fox
15 years



Kristi Oberhoffer
3 years

Congratulations! Your dedication and hard work in and for the ECIA region are truly appreciated.

Upcoming FREE USDA Trainings

ECIA is providing two free upcoming trainings for the region:

The Economic Benefits of Trails and Strategies to Leverage Them: Whether your community has aspirations of one day having a trail, or multiple trails already connect you with neighboring communities, Derek Lord, City of Ankeny Economic Development Director, will explore creative strategies to leverage trails and boost your local economy.

This training will be Monday, March 31, 5:30-7:00pm, Holy Cross Community Center, 895 Main St, Holy Cross. Dinner provided.

Please visit <https://forms.gle/G2ANsSFoFcKDGW5Q8> to register.

Procurement 101: Does your City have a procurement policy? Liz Kemp, ECIA Rehabilitation Specialist will explain what procurement policies consist of, why it is very important for Cities to have one, and when to use it.

This training will be Wednesday, April 30th, 5:15-6:30 pm, ECIA, 7600 Commerce Park, Dubuque. Dinner provided.

Please visit <https://forms.gle/ean4PuVu5ybKxv6u8> to register.



Regional bicycle event, Ankeny

Maquoketa Begins Constructi



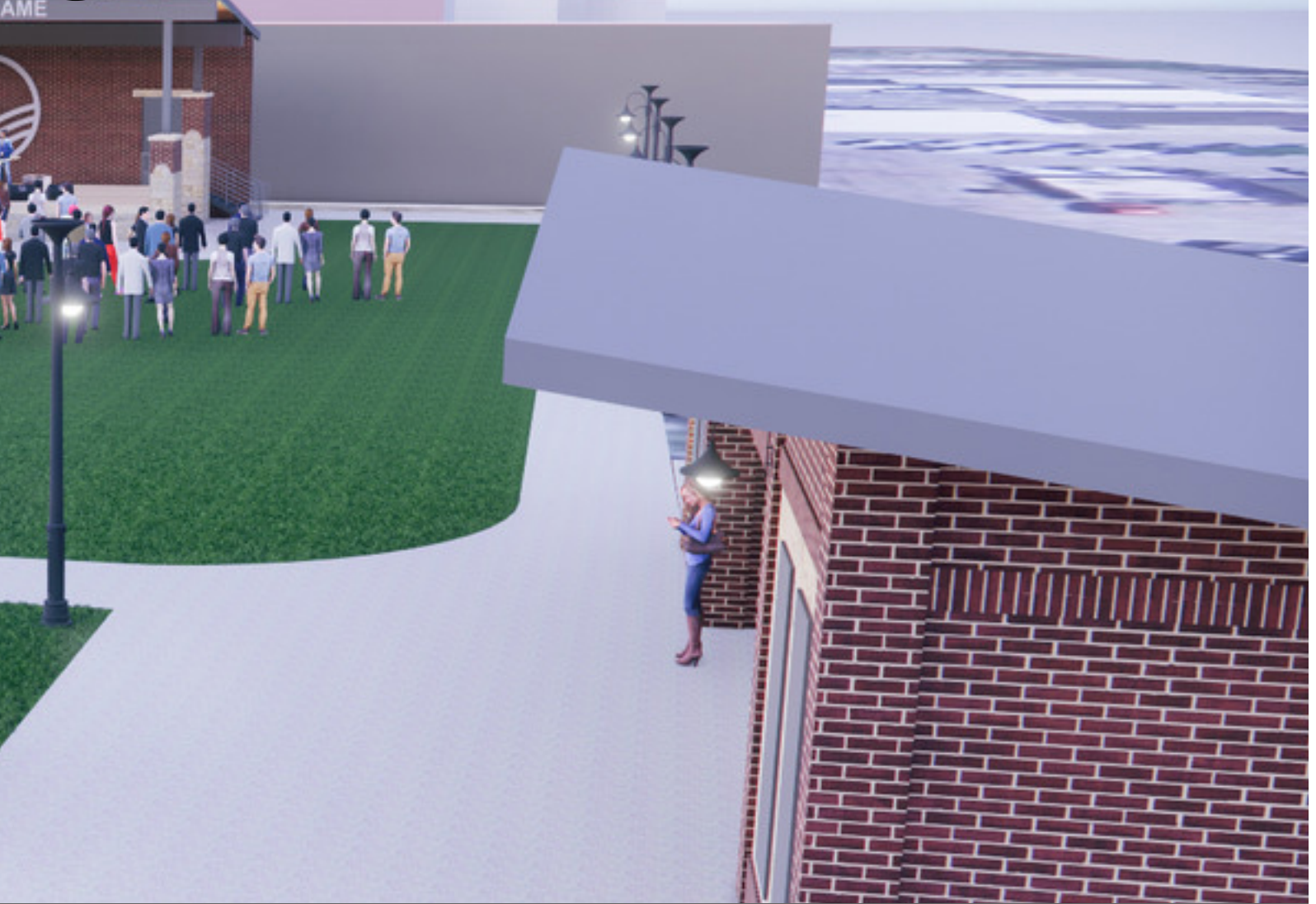
A project in the making since 2015 will come to fruition later this year. The empty lot at the corner of East Pleasant Street and South Main Street has sat vacant since a fire in 2008 burned down half of a downtown city block which included several businesses. Building debris sat on the site for three years after the fire until the City reached out to ECIA, to write and secure EPA Clean Up and Assessment grants to address the asbestos lingering from the old building materials and clean up the site.

The City, in partnership with the Maquoketa Keep Iowa Beautiful (KIB) Hometown Pride (HP) and Betterment Corporation began using the greenspace for events such as their Summer Concert Series, Fire Ball, Art in the Park, and Maqtoberfest. With increased attendance at these festivals each year, the greenspace became a local gathering point and community leaders decided to make this into a permanent attraction.

Total project cost is \$1.4 million, with the City of Maquoketa contributing \$100,000 in cash and in-kind support for the project due to more than \$1 million in donations and grants collected by the Greenspace Redevelopment Fundraising Committee, which is a subcommittee of the Maquoketa KIB HP committee. More than 190 individuals, families, businesses, and non-profit organizations combined contributed to the event space. ECIA's KIB HP coach wrote and secured a \$30,000 DRA Core grant, assisted with grant research, and helped strategize on other grants.

Glovik Community Park (recently renamed in honor of a project donor who grew up in Maquoketa) will feature a permanent stage, sensory play area, restrooms, benches, and trees.

ing Greenspace



“It’s a community that really does come together to support projects or tragedies or whatever might be the need,” said Kilburg in a recent KCRG story. “We have a lot of working poor and a lot of people who may not be able to ever go to a concert or a theatre production, but they’ll be able to see it here for free.”

Maquoketa City Manager Joshua Boldt added, “I can’t say enough about how impressive that is, but folks that want to see the betterment of the community is touching my heart and something I’ll remember forever,” says Boldt.

Chuck Current, past president of the Maquoketa Betterment Corporation (MBC), reflected that “The MBC along with Tom Devine of the Chamber started the very first Summer Concert Series in 2015. At that time, they were held on Sunday evenings at 6 pm and were all paid for by the MBC and an Iowa Tourism grant. We conducted them again in 2016 and Brielle Reicks and Angie Lichter joined the committee and were chairs of the Summer Concert Series in 2016. They did a fantastic job.”

Current added, “MBC paid for the cement pad and sidewalks along the north side where the stage sits today. Then-mayor Schwenker asked MBC to help pay for the sodding that was put in by the Maquoketa Fire Department in one of those years.”

Two Projects Ready to Launch

Baldwin is a small town with a population of 100 in Jackson County. Although the town is slightly divided by Highway 64, it is united in its efforts to have a new park pavilion. These efforts began in June 2023 and the funding package looks like this: Two McDonough Foundation grants totaling \$5,000; one \$5,000 Jackson County Community Foundation grant; one \$1,000 Theisen's More for Your Community grant; \$7,000 from fundraising events; and matching grants from fundraising. Fundraising activities included but not limited to: gas card raffles weekend grilling events, Grilling for Charity through Onward Bank, t-shirt fundraiser, and two soup supper events. Total cost estimate is \$40,000.



Decorative landscaping bee as a visual for their 'Bee lieve in Baldwin' motto and were sold for a fundraiser activity

Having reached their funding goal for the new pavilion, the committee is working with an architect to produce full specs for the project and will present it at city council, for approval to go to bid, and start construction shortly thereafter.

Manchester is the county seat of Delaware County, with a population of 5,239. Although Manchester has plenty of commercial and retail businesses and is a destination for whitewater enthusiasts, it did not have a dog park. The dog park project has been wanted for many years but got legs in 2022 because of a community visioning event, coordinated by the Keep Iowa Beautiful Hometown Pride coach.

A dedicated group of passionate individuals started meeting shortly after that event to pursue the project. Since then, the City did the following to help the dog park become reality: donated a vacant lot on 525 South Brewer St, cleared the property, installed water, seeded the ground, and installed a gravel parking lot. While all this critical backend activity was happening, the dog park committee raised nearly \$70,000 in donations from individuals, organizational and business contributors through countless fundraising activities (See the Manchester IA Dog Park Facebook page for more information). The group also drafted a set of rules for the dog park.

A ribbon cutting ceremony will be held this Spring with extra activities, which will signify that the dog park is officially open.

No matter what size your community is, if you have dedicated people who have a shared vision, things can get done.



Two Dachsunds and their humans enjoy Dogtober Fest

Hometown Pride Updates

The ECIA KIB HP coaches have been very busy, working side-by-side with champions on many projects in the following communities:

Cedar County: Winter activities day.

Delaware: Planning is underway for phase II of the park project.

Delaware County: The Delaware County Scenic Trail group hosted an informational meeting in January on the proposed route.

Delhi: Submitted a Foundation for the Future of Delaware County grant for a new welcome sign and new flower planters for city park and downtown district entrances.

Earlville: Banner for the light poles fundraising is underway. As of this publication, \$3,050 has been raised.

Greeley: The new focus is on benches and city park beautification, plus a Veterans Memorial near their landmark Clydesdale statue.

Holy Cross: Submitting AARP grant for pickle ball courts. Hosting a workshop on trails and their economic benefits for the region.

Hopkinton: Recently merged with an existing group, Hopkinton Organization for a Positive Environment (H.O.P.E.). Designed logo for H.O.P.E. for t-shirts and sweatshirts. Planning for a teen spring bash in April.

Luxemburg: Recently held a region wide scavenger hunt where participants paid \$25 per vehicle and were given a sheet with clues. \$428 was raised and 13 teams participated. A bowling tournament will be April 12.

Sabula: Planning for a mural on the bridge, and a regular community event over the warmer months to bring the “weekenders” and the permanent residents together and build those relationships.

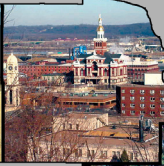
Stanwood: A new logo was created to go on merchandise for September’s Fun Fest event.

Tipton: Continues to purchase/install some of the new recreation amenities/equipment.

Worthington: Will have a children’s movie day on March 30th at 1pm at Memorial Hall.



A fun crew ready for the scavenger hunt in Luxemburg



ECIA



Nuisance Abatement Program



ECIA can help clean up your community



Delhi property before and after

A nuisance property creates serious problems for the community and headaches for the city officials who must deal with it. If left to deteriorate, these blighted properties become a chronic drain on time and resources for cities and counties. In 2019, ECIA launched a nuisance abatement program to assist cities and counties with their nuisance property enforcement and has had great success at an affordable cost.

For program details, contact Marla Quinn, Grants and Municipal Coordinator at 563-690-5703