

**5-YEAR PLAN
April, 2007
Resource Enhancement and Protection
Des Moines County**

REVIEW and UPDATE:

In 1989, the Iowa General Assembly established a Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) plan. The legislators and people of Iowa recognized the need to protect and enhance Iowa's dwindling natural resources. The REAP Act was signed into law by Governor Terry Branstad on May 27, 1989.

The intent of this law was to fund the REAP program with at least \$20 million, and perhaps as much as \$40 million, per year. However, with budget restraints in place this program has yet to be fully funded by the projected amount. The funds allocated each year by the legislature are divided as follows:

*40% of this allocation is held in account by the State for competitive grants for projects.

For FY06, \$11 million dollars has been appropriated. Additional funds will come from the sale of the Natural Resources license plates plus interest received from the REAP account. The available funds will be divided as follows:

- \$350,000 for Conservation Education
- 1% for Administration
- 28% for Open Spaces (state acquisition and development of lands and waters)
- 20% for County Conservation Boards (each county to receive a share)
- 20% for Soil and Water Enhancement
- 15% for City Parks
- 9% for Management/Develop of State properties
- 5% for Historical Projects
- 3% for Roadside Vegetation Management

From its inception, the actual appropriations received for REAP is as follows:

1990-91 FY	\$20 million	2004-05 FY	\$11 million
1991-92 FY	\$10.5 million	2005-06 FY	\$11 million
1992-93 FY	\$8.5 million		
1993-94 FY	\$7.5 million		
1994-95 FY	\$7 million		
1995-96 FY	\$8 million		
1996-97 FY	\$9 million		
1997-98 FY	\$9 million		
1998-99 FY	\$10.5 million		
1999-00 FY	\$10.5 million		
2000-01 FY	\$10.5 million		
2001-02 FY	\$7.2 million		
2002-03 FY	\$2 million		
2003-04 FY	\$11 million		

County conservation board allocations: Twenty percent of the REAP funds are allocated annually to the 99 county conservation boards.

- ◆ 30% of this allocation is distributed equally to each county conservation board.
- ◆ 30% of this allocation is distributed to each county conservation board on a per capita basis if the county conservation board is currently received at least 22 cents per thousand of tax evaluations on the local level.
- ◆ 40% of this allocation is held in account by the State for competitive grants for projects.

The following is a breakdown of REAP funding received in Des Moines County by category and fiscal year financed:

City Parks and Open Space

FY90	City of Burlington - paved walkway in Crapo Park	\$103,688
	Total	\$103,688

Conservation Education

FY92	Des Moines County Conservation Foundation Wildlife Habitat Workshop	\$ 1,925
FY95	Des Moines County Conservation Foundation Woodland Stewardship Workshop	\$ 2,363
	Total	\$ 4,288

County Conservation

FY90	Per county allocation	\$ 9,086
	Per population allocations	\$ 14,060
FY91	Per county allocation	\$ 12,415
	Per population allocation	\$ 19,350
FY92	Per county allocation	\$ 6,121
	Per population allocation	\$ 9,921
FY93	Per county allocation	\$ 4,917
	Per population allocation	\$ 7,690
FY94	Per county allocation	\$ 4,288
	Per population allocation	\$ 7,191
FY95	Per county allocation	\$ 4,587
	Per population allocation	\$ 7,670
FY96	Per county allocation	\$ 5,527
	Per population allocation	\$ 8,928
FY97	Per county allocation	\$ 6,054
	Per population allocation	\$ 9,796
FY98	Per county allocation	\$ 5,998
	Per population allocation	\$ 9,989
FY99	Per county allocation	\$ 5,785
	Per population allocation	\$ 9,115
FY00	Per county allocation	\$ 6,695
	Per population allocation	\$ 10,539
FY01	Per county allocation	\$ 6,759
	Per population allocation	\$ 10,643
FY02	Per county allocation	\$ 4,680
	Per population allocation	\$ 6,897
FY03	Per county allocation	\$ 183

	Per population allocation	\$ 268
FY04	Per county allocation	\$ 6,782
	Per population allocation	\$ 9,909
	Total	\$231,692

Historic Resource Development

FY91	City of Burlington - microfilming of archives - County minutes	\$ 708
FY92	Art Guild of Burlington - Climate Control - Arts of Living Center	\$ 7,500
FY94	Main street of Burlington - Union Hotel Rehabilitation	\$ 16,000
FY95	Heritage Trust, Burlington – Hedge House Preservation	\$ 4,495
	Total	\$ 28,703

Open Space

FY96	Hoover Nature Trail, Inc. – purchase Gerdes Tract	\$24,375
	Total	\$24,375

Roadside Vegetation

Recipient: Burlington		
FY99	Roadside design	\$ 1,800
Recipient: Des Moines County		
FY93	Truax drill purchase	\$ 7,028
	Mulcher purchase	\$ 3,894
FY94	Disc mulcher purchase	\$ 1,603
	Native seed purchase	\$ 698
	Seeding demonstration	\$ 822
	Specialized seeder purchase	\$ 1,280
FY96	Seed drill purchase	\$ 3,484
	Total	\$20,609

Soil and Water Enhancement

(Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District)

FY90	Bonus for trees	\$ 7,153
	Equal allocations for practices	\$ 8,540
	Forestry and native vegetation	\$ 40,410
FY91	Equal allocations for practices	\$ 15,574
	Forestry and native vegetation	\$ 24,344
FY92	Equal allocations for practices	\$ 6,340
	Forestry and native vegetation	\$ 1,553
FY93	Equal allocations for practices	\$ 4,559
	Forestry and native vegetation	\$ 1,195
FY94	Equal allocations for practices	\$ 48,355
	Forestry and native vegetation	\$ 3,319
FY95	Equal allocations for practices	\$ 5,710
	Forestry and native vegetation	\$ 2,342
FY96	Equal allocations for practices	\$ 11,462

	Forestry and native vegetation	\$ 7,488
FY97	Equal allocations for practices	\$ 9,345
	Forestry and native vegetation	\$ 4,604
FY98	Equal allocations for practices	\$ 8,015
	Forestry and native vegetation	\$ 3,443
FY99	Equal allocations for practices	\$ 3,416
	Forestry and native vegetation	\$ 0
FY00	Equal allocations for practices	\$ 2,799
	Forestry and native vegetation	\$ 5,200
FY01	Equal allocations for practices	\$ 0
	Forestry and native vegetation	\$ 2,513
FY02	Equal allocations for practices	\$ 6,164
	Forestry and native vegetation	\$ 1,208
FY03	Equal allocations for practices	\$ 3,900
	Forestry and native vegetation	\$ 0
FY04	Equal allocations for practices	\$ 7,968
	Forestry and native vegetation	\$ 1,992
	Total	\$247,88

The total REAP allocations in Des Moines County, through FY04, is \$661,243.

WHAT WE HAVE:

1. Water Resources:
 - 25 miles Mississippi River Frontage
 - 15 miles Skunk River Frontage
 - 1,924 acres of Wetland or .07% of total land in Des Moines County
 - 500 miles of small rivers and streams

2. Woodlands:
 - 9,000 acres of public woodlands
 - 15,000 acres of private woodlands with about 5% with forestry plans

3. Land and Soil:
 - 3,150 acres of county roadside capable of supporting prairie
 - 100,000 acres of non-agricultural land
 - 158,000 acres of cropland
 - 36,000 acres treated for soil erosion
 - 84,000 acres susceptible to erosion
 - 80,000 acres eroding in excess of limits
 - 76,000 acres considered highly erodible
 - 9,500 acres in Conservation Reserve Program
 - 365 acres of city parks
 - 1,328 acres of county parks, preserves and wildlife areas
(this includes state-owned property managed by the county)
 - 698 acres of state parks, preserves and wildlife areas
 - 19,200 acres of federally owned property

4. Human, Cultural and Historical:
 - 40,810 total population of Des Moines County

31,628 adults
9,182 under age of 18 school-aged students
2 historical museums
1 historical preserve
155 designated historical sites and buildings

THE COMMITTEE:

Chair: Al Ourth, Three Rivers Environmental Council
Secretary: Kim Perlstein, Des Moines County Conservation
Members: Butch Schmeiser, Chair for Des Moines County Conservation
Dave Riley, Ducks Unlimited
Steve Frevert, Heritage Trust
Beth Breitenstein, Great Burlington Convention Tourism Bureau
Mike Norris, Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission
Joe Haley, City of Burlington
Todd Heckenberg, Soil & Water District
John Dockendorff, Des Moines County Extension
Christa Perkins, Geode RC&D
Tracey Ekman, Burlington Community School District

THE PLAN:

The Des Moines County Conservation Board (DCCB), the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and all of the cities within Des Moines County were invited to contribute to the 2007 revised five-year plan. This plan was put together by the Executive Committee of the Des Moines County Resource Enhancement Committee with input from the following agencies:

Des Moines County Conservation Board
Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District
City of Burlington
City of Mediapolis
Heritage Trust
Leopold Heritage Group
Communities less than 2,000

The following 5-year REAP plan outline is prepared to assist the Des Moines County Resource Enhancement Committee in inventorying the needs of the participating Des Moines County agencies. Please note that the following specific REAP spending objectives are not listed in priority order.

I. Education - Environmental/Conservation.

Education is the basis for all programming, development and improvements. A high priority is put on educational programming and awareness.

- A. Education Materials/Curriculum Development - on going
 - 1. DCCB
 - a. Materials and EE equipment is needed for school and public programming.

- b. New innovated curriculum is needed for school and public programming.
 - 2. Heritage Trust
 - a. Develop quarterly insert in local newspaper.
 - 3. Leopold Heritage Group
 - a. Aldo Leopold Interpretive Center
- B. Recycling - on going
 - 1. DCCB
 - a. Promote recycling to the general public.
 - b. Promote recycling to schools.
 - c. Promote leaf and lawn clipping conservation techniques to general public.
 - d. Promote leaf and lawn clipping conservation techniques to schools.
 - 2. Heritage Trust
 - a. Promote property owners on proper ways to preserve historic buildings.
 - b. Promote matching grant programs for painting and porches.
- C. Soil Conservation - on going
 - 1. DCCB
 - a. Promote conserving soil by preventing its erosion and depletion.
 - b. Promote river and stream corridor protection (filter strips).
 - 2. SWCD
 - a. Educate and assist landowners and public agencies by providing wise recommendations for the proper land management decisions.
 - b. Promote conserving soil by preventing its erosion and depletion.
 - c. Promote river and stream corridor protection (filter strips).
- D. Wise Land Use - on going
Educate and assist landowners and public agencies by providing wise recommendations for the proper land management decisions to reduce erosion and quality depletion.
 - 1. Promote the Forest Reserve Program, tree and prairie grass plantings, particularly through the use of REAP funds. (SWCD)
- E. Water Quality - on going

Educate and assist landowners and public agencies in effectively conserving water, improving water quality and proper use to prevent further quality depletion.
 - 1. SWCD
 - a. Promote water quality conservation.
 - b. Promote tillage conservation.
 - 2. DMCCB-SWCD
 - a. Educate people about water cycles and how contaminants reach surface and groundwater aquifers.
- F. Resource/Wildlife Management - on going
 - 1. DCCB
 - a. Promote forest management workshops.

- b. Promote wildlife management workshops - REAP CEP Grant
- c. Promote prairie grass management workshops
- 2. SWCD
 - a. Promote wildlife conservation
- G. Hazardous Waste - on going
 - 1. Promote hazardous waste conservation and disposal.
- H. Teacher In-service – on going
 - 1. Promote teacher workshops.
 - 2. Provide materials and training.
- I. Invasive - on going
 - 1. Promote biological control study and methods.
 - a. Multiflora Rose
 - b. Honey Suckle
 - c. Garlic Mustard

II. Enhancement.

Natural resource enhancement is an integral part of the REAP program. Enhancements are categorized in the following manner.

- A. New Developments
 - 1. DCCB
 - a. Starr's Cave Park & Preserve
 - (1) Comprehensive Trail System
 - b. Big Hollow Creek Recreation Area
 - (1) Complete the 178-acre Lake & related facilities
 - c. Develop a Mississippi River boating access adjacent to the 4th PPRP, Meeker's and Schultz's Landing
 - d. Develop Mississippi River Corridor Areas (from FEMA buy-outs).
Areas to be classified:
 - (1) Natural Area designation (areas adjacent to river),
 - (2) Wildlife Refuge designation (for wetland sites), or
 - (3) Game Management Area/Natural Resource Management Area designation (for sites not adjacent to the river)
 - e. County Wide Trail System
 - 2. City of Burlington
 - a. Develop a trail system connecting Big Hollow Recreation Area in Des Moines County with the Downtown Burlington Riverfront
 - b. Continue development of on road bicycle facilities and off-road recreational trails as outlined in the City's Comprehensive Plan and the Parks and Recreation Open Space Master Plan
 - c. Continue development and creation of new parks when needed, as outlined in the City's Comprehensive Plan and the Parks and Recreation Open Space Master Plan
 - d. Develop a dog park in Burlington.
 - 3. Communities with population <2000

- a. Participate in the development of county wide recreational trail plan
 - b. Develop multiuse recreational trails and bike routes
 - c. Develop water trails, access points and necessary amenities
 - d. Recognize, enhance, and restore points of historical significance.
4. Heritage Trust
- a. Obtain suitable building for Preservation Station.
- B. Improvements to Existing Areas and Buildings
1. DCCB
 - a. Develop Luckenbill Woods plan.
 - b. Develop Hunt Woods plan.
 - c. Develop Gahn Refuge plan.
 - d. Develop Augusta plan.
 - e. Develop Starr's Cave Park & Preserve plan.
 - f. Develop Zion School plan.
 - g. Develop Tama Beach plan.
 - h. Develop Casey Borrow plan.
 - i. Develop Hawkeye Dolbee plan.
 - j. Develop 4th Pumping Plant plan.
 - k. Develop Waters Park plan.
 - l. Develop Welter Park plan.
 - m. Develop Sullivan Slough plan.
 - n. Develop Blackhawk Bottoms plan.
 - o. Develop Edgewater Beach plan.
 - p. Develop Thye Woods plan.
 - q. Develop Chatauqua Park.
 2. City Of Burlington
 - a. Continue development of the recreational trail system around the Burlington RecPlex.
 - b. Continue development of the recreational trail on the abandoned Railroad right-of-way donated by Case-New Holland.
 - c. Lighting for Riverside Park path along Mississippi River.
 - d. Continue tree maintenance and hazardous tree removal in all Burlington city parks.
 - e. Continue to update Burlington Parks tree inventory and promote the many tree species in Crapo Park with updated literature.
 - f. Continue to plant new tree and shrub species in Crapo Park and other city parks.
 - g. Downtown revitalization landscape planting.
 - h. Develop self-guided interpretive Leopold Wildflower Path in Crapo Park.
 - i. Continue to restore native trees in Bonn's Hollow Preserve.
 - j. Restoration of brick roadbed and limestone curbs on Snake Alley.
 - k. Continue restoration of Schneider House.
 - l. Develop historical survey of Original City of Burlington.
 - m. Continue to develop historical and interpretive signs in Crapo Park and Perkins Park.
 - n. Standardize entrance signs for all City Parks.
 - o. Restore light standards in Dankwardt Park.
 - p. Construct new maintenance facility for Crapo and Dankwardt.

- q. Additional walking paths in Dankwardt Park.
- r. Implement 2005 Perkins Park Master Plan.
- s. Develop a master plan for Dehn Street Park

C. Equipment

- 1. DCCB
 - a. Update deteriorated equipment
 - b. Technology updates for office & nature center
 - c. Trail maintenance equipment
- 2. City of Burlington
 - a. Trail maintenance equipment.
- 3. City of Mediapolis
 - a. Improvements to Centennial Park
 - (1) Plant at least 300 lineal feet of trees
 - (2) Construct 2 ½ mile walking path
- 4. Communities with population <2,000
 - a. Evaluate, plan and implement enhancements for existing open space areas
 - (1) Shelters
 - (2) Basic amenities
 - (3) Multiuse trails
 - (4) Passive recreation opportunities
 - (5) ADA upgrades
 - (6) Interpretive components

III. Land Acquisition/Public Easements*

Acquisition and easements would be pursued, as they would become available.

A. DCCB

- 1. New Wetlands - areas that could be enhanced as wetlands.
- 2. Additions to existing areas
 - a. Areas around Black Hawk Bottoms
 - b. Areas around Starr's Cave Park and Preserve
 - c. Areas around Big Hollow Creek Recreation Area
 - d. Areas around Luckenbill Woods
 - e. Areas around Hunt Woods
 - f. Areas around Thye Woods.
- 3. New Critical Areas
 - a. Along streams/rivers – green belts
 - b. Along fragile bluffs
- 4. Historical Areas
- 5. New trails

B. Communities with population <2,000

1. Identify needs and opportunities for open space expansion
 2. Enhance existing open space areas through acquisition of adjacent land parcels as available
 3. Protect existing historical areas through acquisition and or easements (buildings, land, plants, etc)
- C. City of Burlington
1. Development of new parks
 2. Continued development of existing trail systems and the creation of new recreational trails across private property

*** Public Easements – land not owned but managed by DCCB for public use.**

IV. One Year Spending Plan

- A. City of Burlington
1. Trail construction
 2. Land acquisition
- B. City of Mediapolis
1. Improvements to Centennial Park
- C. Soil & Water District
1. Computer
 2. Rain Garden
 3. Soil Survey Workshop
 4. Living on a Few Acres Workshop
- D. Heritage Trust
1. New building for Preservation Station
- E. Communities under 2,000 people
1. Addition to existing Butterfly Garden
- F. Des Moines County Conservation
1. Trail construction
- G. Leopold Heritage Group
1. Aldo Leopold Interpretive Center