

# 2010 URBAN PROGRAM UPDATES



Here is a snapshot look at some of the highlights from 2010.

**Amy Bouska**, in the Iowa City office, helped a student group called the U of I Engineers for a Sustainable World (UIESW) install a rain

garden on campus. The University, the City and the SWCD partnered with UIESW and an Eco Iowa City grant provided financial assistance. UIESW will design, install and maintain 2 to 3 rain gardens per semester on campus. Amy also has initiated a program with UI Sustainability Coordinator, Liz Christianson, that will provide a series of training sessions to UI staff on sustainable water management practices.



*A rain garden installed at the University of Iowa by UI Engineers for a Sustainable World, with assistance from Johnson Soil and Water Conservation District.*

**Rich Maaske**, in the Council Bluffs Office, presented model low impact development ordinances to local units of government throughout the Loess Hills in 2010. A major street retrofit was installed at Lake Manawa that featured porous asphalt. The project will protect water quality in the lake while simultaneously improving drainage problems. Another retrofit project was installed at Risen Son - an assisted living facility in Council Bluffs. A treatment train of practices included bioswales, rain gardens and porous concrete. The residents helped with installation and will provide maintenance of the practices.



*Water is temporarily impounded in this rain garden located at an assisted living facility in Council Bluffs.*



*A crane lifts pallets of plants to the roof of Water Tower Place in downtown Cedar Rapids, where a green roof was installed.*



*This green roof on Water Tower Place - a warehouse renovated to offices and condos - provides charming green space for residents, while reducing roof runoff.*

**Jennifer Welch**, in Central Iowa, helped Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) complete the installation of a major retrofit. The project protects water quality in the lake on campus. The Watershed Improvement Review Board (WIRB) provided financial assistance. DMACC's project included stream corridor stabilization, native shoreline buffers, bioswales, and the installation of a hydrodynamic separator to clean runoff from a 17 acre parking lot. A constructed stormwater wetland will manage an estimated 27 million gallons of runoff each year from 44 acres of campus.

**Steve Anderson** returned to Spirit Lake after a tour of duty with the National Guard in Kuwait. He provided guidance to a major retrofit project in a rural subdivision on East Okoboji Lake. Gravel roads were paved to reduce sediment delivery to the lake. Road ditches were converted to bioswales that convey road runoff to bioretention cells. Road runoff will now be infiltrated and treated rather than conveying polluted runoff into the lake. WIRB provided funding that helped accomplish this project.



*This is one of the many road ditches that were converted to bioswales that convey water to biocells in East Okoboji Beach – a rural subdivision on the east side of East Okoboji Lake.*

The other major effort of 2010 was the launching of the Rainscaping Iowa program. This program provides training and certification to landscape designers and installers. Training modules were developed for rain gardens, bioretention cells, soil quality and native landscaping.



[www.rainscapingiowa.org](http://www.rainscapingiowa.org)

Training was provided at a number of locations throughout the state. Additional modules will be developed and training offered across Iowa in the coming year. The development of a marketing campaign is underway to generate customer demand for certified Rainscapers.



*A stormwater wetland being installed adjacent to DMACC Lake where a large storm drain previously released untreated runoff. The runoff works its way through the long pathway of the constructed wetland system where it will have time for many pollutants to be removed through natural processes.*



*Charles City installed 17 blocks of permeable pavement. This is believed to be the largest street renovation using permeable pavers in the Midwest. This project eliminated street flooding and the need for storm sewer upgrades while enhancing neighborhood property values.*



*Compost is incorporated by Delf's Landscaping as part of a soil quality restoration demonstration at a Habitat for Humanities project in Davenport. Aunt Rhodies Landscaping also installed a rain garden. Financial assistance came from a grant through Iowa American Water. Fourteen additional projects resulted from this demonstration.*