

To: City Council
From: Matt Muckler, City Administrator
Date: February 12, 2016
Weekly Council Update

Street Rights-of-Way Reimagined: The American Public Works Association (APWA) is featuring a story in their February 2016 edition of the *APWA Reporter* on Coralville's efforts at stormwater management which includes the use of stormwater planter boxes installed within street rights-of-way aimed at holding, infiltrating and cleaning stormwater runoff. The full article is attached to this week's *Update*.

Flood Insurance Deadline: The following information was provided this week from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources:

If a person owns a property that has been "newly" mapped into a special flood hazard area by a FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) that became effective between October 1, 2008 and March 31, 2015, they may potentially be eligible to purchase flood insurance using the Newly Mapped Procedure (NMP) rating option.

The benefit of the NMP option is that rates are equal to those for the lower-cost Preferred Risk Policy (PRP) rates for the first 12 months following the map revision. After the initial year, the rate begins to transition to a full-risk rate with an annual rate increase of no more than 18% each year.

The NMP rating option may be especially beneficial to those who own their home (and are therefore not subject to a lender requirement to purchase flood insurance) but are thinking of selling it in the next few years. That is because, in addition to the lower rates, a policy written under the NMP is assignable to new owners as long as it is in-place and there is no lapse in coverage.

In order to take advantage of this option, the policy must be effective by April 1, 2016. Because most flood insurance policies have a 30-day mandatory waiting period, new policies would need to be submitted before March 1 (i.e., February 29th or sooner). Note that, in order to be eligible for this option, the property must not currently be covered by a flood insurance policy.

More information can be found in a fact sheet on the Newly Mapped Procedure (<https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/104200>) and Section 10 of the Flood Insurance Manual, (<http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/110085>).

For more information about flood insurance or to locate an insurance agent who sells flood insurance in their area, go to www.FloodSmart.gov.

Lynch Heights Subdivision: The Planning & Zoning Commission will meet on Tuesday, February 23rd at 7:00 p.m. to consider a rezoning proposal and preliminary plat from Lynchs Plumbing for an extension of Ohrt Street from W. Orange to Main Street. The plan calls for 18 lots to be created and rezoned from Residence R-1 Single Family District to Residence R-2 Two Family District to allow for zero lot line homes (duplexes) to be constructed on these lots.

Presidents Day Holiday: City Offices, the West Branch Public Library, and the Park & Recreation Department will be closed Monday February 15th in observance of the Presidents Day Holiday. As a result, our regular Council Meeting has been rescheduled for Tuesday February 16th.

Movies at the Library: The West Branch Public Library has two movie nights scheduled for February - one for adults and one for kids/families. The library is holding another Library... After Hours movie night this Friday, February 12th at 7pm, showing the newest Bond movie for attendees 21 and older. The next Family Movie night is scheduled for February 27th at 7pm, showing a new Pixar movie. Details on both can be found at wbpl.org (the family movie information will replace the Presidents Day details on the front page following the holiday). As a reminder, the library is holding Winter Adult Reading Month and the Community Survey throughout February. We encourage everyone to participate in both!

4th Annual Dessert Auction Fundraiser: Main Street West Branch will hold their annual Dessert Auction Fundraiser on Saturday February 13, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the Brick Arch Winery. Please contact Executive Director Kevin Rogers at mainstreetwb@Lcom.net or 643-7100 for more info.

4' Top Soil Requirements: Two new bills have been introduced in the Iowa Senate regarding topsoil requirements on building projects. Senate File 2094 would establish topsoil preservation requirements for certain residential construction sites. The bill was introduced by Senator Pam Jochum from Dubuque and was referred to the Natural Resources and Environment Committee. Senate File 2016, introduced by Senator Mark Chelgren, would require notice of topsoil removal in real estate disclosure statements. SF2106 has been referred to the Commerce Committee.

Music on the Green Performances Announced: The line-up for the "Music on the Green" Concert Series, sponsored by the National Park Service, City of West Branch and Main Street West Branch, has been announced. Concerts will then be held every Thursday night in June and July. The concerts are free and start at 7:00 p.m. This year's line-up includes everything from New Orleans jazz to Irish folk to Native American and world flute to Rockabilly. Please see the attached press release from the National Park Service for more details.

Upcoming City Meetings & Events: Please see the Calendar of Events on the City Website at <http://westbranchiowa.org/home> for a complete list of all upcoming events. There are several Council, Board and Commission Meetings and other events currently scheduled:

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|---|--|
| ▪ Friday, February 12th at 5:00 p.m. | Special City Council Meeting |
| ▪ Friday, February 12th, after Council mtg. | City Council Work Session |
| ▪ Saturday, February 13th at 7:00 p.m. | Main Street Dessert Auction Fundraiser |
| ▪ Monday, February 15th | Presidents Day Holiday |
| ▪ Tuesday, February 16th at 7:00 p.m. | Pajama Storytime at the Library |
| ▪ Tuesday, February 16th at 7:00 p.m. | City Council Meeting |
| ▪ Wednesday, February 17th, 2:00 p.m. | Afterschool Program at the Library |
| ▪ Thursday, February 18th, 6:30 p.m. | Park & Recreation Commission Meeting |
| ▪ Friday, February 19th at 10:00 a.m. | Preschool Storytime at the Library |
| ▪ Tuesday, February 23rd at 7:00 p.m. | Pajama Storytime at the Library |
| ▪ Tuesday, February 23rd at 7:00 p.m. | Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting |
| ▪ Wednesday, February 24th, 2:00 p.m. | Afterschool Program at the Library |
| ▪ Thursday, February 25th, 6:00 p.m. | Joint Work Session w/School Board |
| ▪ Thursday, February 25th, 7:00 p.m. | City Council Work Session |
| ▪ Friday, February 26th at 10:00 a.m. | Preschool Storytime at the Library |

The information provided is one-way communication and should not be discussed among you as this would be a violation of the open meeting law.

APWA REPORTER

Street rights-of-way reimagined in Coralville, Iowa

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Street rights-of-way reimagined

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City of Coralville, Iowa

Member, APWA Water Resources Management Committee

In 2008, Coralville, Iowa endured flooding that would forever change the way the City looked at stormwater management. The Iowa River, which borders Coralville and Iowa City, produced a 500-year flood, devastating central and eastern Iowa. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) declared this flooding event the sixth largest natural disaster to occur within the United States. In Coralville, the damages totaled \$7 million in public infrastructure costs, \$21 million in commercial losses and \$4 million in damage to residential properties. Following the flood, the City started to change their way of thinking regarding flood protection during the large rain events, while also

considering water quality protection during the small cumulative storms.

Sending stormwater to the road right-of-way is not a new concept. For years agriculture and small towns have been using road ditches to store and convey stormwater throughout their communities. As these small communities grew, the installation of curb and gutter systems naturally became the way that a city upgraded its stormwater infrastructure. The curb and gutter stormwater systems have been an effective way to move stormwater off of city streets; however, they have been a detriment to our local water bodies by contributing to water quality concerns, flooding and

streambank erosion. All pollutants that accumulate on the roadways and adjacent properties are carried by stormwater directly into the nearest water body without any form of prior treatment. According to the EPA, non-point source pollution, such as urban stormwater, remains the primary reason 40% of surveyed rivers, lakes and estuaries are not clean enough to meet basic uses such as fishing and swimming. Urban streams receiving untreated stormwater cannot support healthy biologic communities. Every storm event links the river to the roadway. These rain events fill the roadways with water and send that water and all the accumulated pollutants into the rivers.

The road is in fact the river.

Stormwater practices used within rights-of-way

The road rights-of-way offer space to treat stormwater pollutants before sending water to the stream. Even very small rights-of-way within ultra-urban areas can provide some form of treatment. All the practices listed below can be used within the road rights-of-way.

Bio-retention cells and bioswales can be used within the right-of-way, along roadsides and trails. These systems can be implemented into the surrounding landscape and can reflect a variety of landscaping preferences. Some systems have a prairie look, while others are



The Iowa River Landing Development showing new street infrastructure and stormwater planter boxes installed within the right-of-way.

planted into a more traditional turfed or even rocked landscape.

Stormwater planters manage stormwater in an ultra-urban setting while allowing for traditional street tree plantings or other styles of plantings. Stormwater planters are aesthetically pleasing and can provide additional design elements to a landscape. Rock chambers that are hydrologically connected to other infiltration-based practices can allow cities to meet their water quality goals when working in small spaces.

Porous pavement systems are another solution for managing stormwater when there is limited green space or a large right-of-way. Porous pavement streets or sides of streets can provide stormwater treatment while also providing a transportation surface.

Modular systems are stormwater quality systems that come “pre-packaged” to include the infrastructure, soil mixes and other necessary components. Modular systems make installation easy and have less quality control issues.

Benefits

These stormwater practices provide flood protection and water quality benefits. But to city residents, they also provide aesthetic appeal and a sense of place. The residents become accustomed to the fact that in May, the foxglove will bloom white in the stormwater planters and in the winter the bluestem will add a deep red color in the bioswales.

The design storm events

We talk a lot about water quality versus water quantity. What it really comes down to is the 24-hour design storm. The water quality storm in Iowa is the 1.25” rain event over 24 hours. This is Iowa’s 90th percentile storm event, which means that 90% of all storms are 1.25” or less. The next level of storm

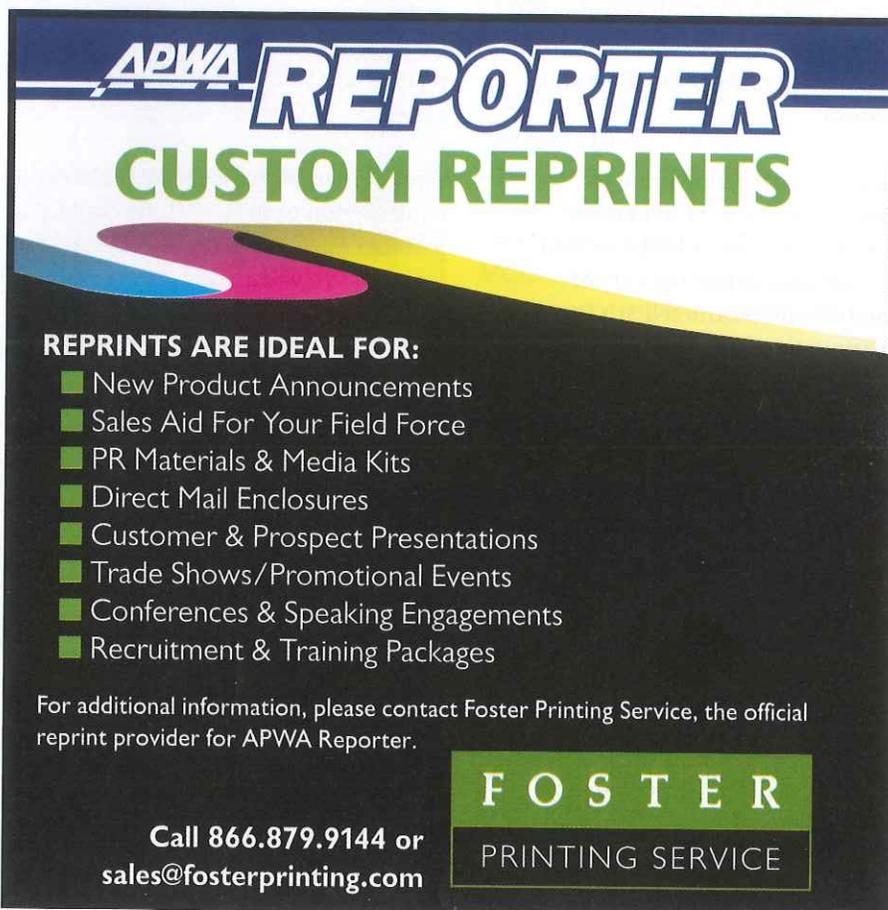
event is the channel protection storm (also known as the one-year storm), which equates to the storm that damages streams and rivers by causing bank erosion. The channel protection storm in Iowa is the 2.4” rain event within 24 hours. This event has a 1% probability of occurring during any rain event. In Iowa the 100-year storm event is 7.2” of rain within 24 hours. This is the storm event which detention basins are sized to manage.

Case studies

In 2015, the City of Coralville completed three roadway projects that led the way to improving the quality and reducing the quantity of water in our local waterways. These projects utilized stormwater quality systems within the right-of-way.

The first project was the Coral Ridge Avenue Reconstruction Project.

This project widened a heavily used roadway from two lanes to four, added a pedestrian/bike trail which included an underground tunnel, and installed stormwater practices within the right-of-way. This project implemented five bioswales and two bio-retention cells to infiltrate not only the water quality volume but also the channel protection volume. One unique aspect of this project was that one of the bioswales is located between the sections of two-lane roads within the roadway median. As a general practice, it can be assumed that stormwater is not directed to the middle of the roadways. Due to extreme topography on the roadsides of this project, stormwater was diverted to the median between the lanes. As always, this system was designed with overflows that would bypass the system in an extreme rain event larger than the 2.4” design storm. All of the bioswales and bio-retention cells are



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Coralville Mayor John Lundell (left) and City Administrator Kelly Hayworth pose for a quick photo near one of the many stormwater quality practices at the Iowa River Landing Development.

outfitted with monitoring devices located at the inlets and at the outlets of the practices. The University of Iowa along with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship have set up a system that will monitor this water quality system within its entirety for parameters including flow and chloride.

Street reconstruction projects offer an opportunity to manage stormwater differently the second time around. When the City of Coralville reconstructed 5th Street, an arterial street, the reconstruction project included ten blocks of street improvements, water mains and sanitary upgrades, utility improvements and the addition of water quality improvements within the right-of-way. This project was challenging because it involved retrofitting an existing area that had a small right-of-way with varying widths. The City installed stormwater planters and underground rock chambers. The underground rock chambers are hydrologically connected to the planter boxes so that water flows underground between the stormwater planters and the rock chambers, increasing the amount of space

available to meet the City's design storm requirements. This project was the first project within Coralville to include a designed forebay into the planter box specifications. This forebay picks up sediment, trash and other forms of debris before it gets into the planter box, making maintenance easier.

The third project completed is a street construction project, within a rapidly growing mixed-used development located on a 40-acre brownfield site. The brownfield project identified areas where contaminants existed within the soils. These areas are mapped, monitored and avoided when installing infiltration-based stormwater practices. This roadway project included the installation of a new two-lane road, lighting, sidewalks, and stormwater practices. This project is unique because it utilized stormwater planters, interconnected rock chambers and porous paver walkways within the right-of-way. The entire length and width of right-of-way provides water quality benefits.

The new paradigm

Stormwater quality infrastructure is becoming part of the design processes

similar to the placement of any other utility within the right-of-way. Stormwater quality infrastructure is equally as important as conveyance infrastructure and, in Coralville, is considered a necessary component to the stormwater system. Installing green stormwater practices versus large pipe infrastructure can have a similar cost estimate and in some cases reduces project costs.

Additional consideration should be taken when contractors are conducting utility work within the right-of-way. Most cities require permits before work can be conducted within the right-of-way. Ensuring the correct replacement and protection of water quality systems within the right-of-way should be discussed with the contractor during the permit process.

With this new understanding of urban stormwater quality we have an opportunity and responsibility within public works departments. Public works designs the roadways, maintains those roadways and often is responsible for maintaining MS4 permits and the condition of local waterways. All of it is within our wheelhouse. Reducing the harmful effects of urban stormwater runoff can be accomplished. We have the tools to design and implement these practices. As the designers and installers of the curb and gutter system, we have a responsibility to shift the paradigm of stormwater management from a system that is designed to move dirty water as quickly as possible away from our streets and communities to a system that holds, infiltrates, cleans and cools this water. We all live on waterfront property. The next time you review plans for a street construction or reconstruction project, consider asking the question, "What are we doing for water quality?"

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Herbert Hoover NHS News Release

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Contact(s): Adam Prato
Phone number: (319) 643-2541
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West Branch Doubles “Music on the Village Green” Concert Dates at Herbert Hoover National Historic Site

WEST BRANCH, IOWA— Herbert Hoover National Historic Site, in partnership with the City of West Branch and Main Street West Branch, invites visitors to an expanded series of special musical events this summer. The summer concerts begin with the West Branch High School Jazz Band on Tuesday, May 24.

Then, starting June 2, the concerts continue every Thursday night in June and July. The concerts are free and begin at 7:00 p.m. at Herbert Hoover National Historic Site in West Branch, Iowa. The summer lineup features:

- June 2: Tom Yates (Native American and world flute)
- June 9: The Beggermen (Irish folk)
- June 16: Dandelion Stompers (New Orleans jazz)
- June 23: Cedar County Cobras (Rockabilly, Blues, Bluegrass, and Country blend)
- June 30: Brown Otter Singers Song and Dance (Meskwaki song and dance)
- July 7: Tanya English Band (Blues)
- July 14: Las Guitarras de Mexico (Mariachi)
- July 21: Highway Home (Bluegrass)
- July 28: Flash In A Pan (Folk, Indie rock, and Bluegrass blend)

The outdoor concerts take place on the Village Green at the intersection of Parkside Drive and Main Street in historic downtown West Branch. The Village Green provides a classic small town setting in

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The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

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which to enjoy an evening of free entertainment. Ample parking is nearby, and people are encouraged to bring lawn chairs or ground blankets. In inclement weather the performances will be moved across Main Street to the West Branch Town Hall.

Other important dates coming up include Herbert Hoover's Hometown Days celebration this year on Friday, August 5 and Saturday, August 6, 2016. And finally, the annual A Christmas Past event will take place on Friday, December 2 and Saturday, December 3, 2016.

Last year the National Park Service launched its "Find Your Park" campaign which began a two year celebration commemorating its first 100 years of preservation and service to the public. "Find Your Park" is aimed at getting people out to experience all their national parks have to offer and to share their favorite stories about National Parks. Visit www.findyourpark.com to learn more.

Herbert Hoover National Historic Site and the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library and Museum are in West Branch, Iowa at exit 254 off I-80. Both are open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Central Time. For more information on these and other events, go online at www.nps.gov/heho or call (319) 643-2541.

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