



THE LAND USE BULLETIN

Spring 2016

Coalition Continues Efforts to Stop Pipeline

Members of 1000 Friends of Iowa have been working for the past year with 27 other organizations across Iowa as part of the Bakken Pipeline Resistance Coalition to stop the proposed Bakken Crude Oil Pipeline. Coalition members have attended numerous hearings and events across Iowa.



1000 Friends of Iowa has always opposed the use of eminent domain for private gain. We do not believe any corporation has the right to take away private property or strip landowners' rights. But on March 10, the Iowa Utility Board voted to do just that and allow Dakota Access to use eminent domain to build a 347-mile long pipeline across the state of Iowa.

Despite this setback, coalition members feel confident that there are other avenues to stop the pipeline. Landowners have the ability to file appeals in district court and many landowners are planning to take legal action. In addition, coalition members met on March 15 to develop a strategy and next steps in the fight.

We are asking everyone to continue to make your voices heard by writing letters to the editor, calling your state legislators, and calling Governor Branstad. Stay tuned for more ways to take action!

Welcome!



Lori Schervish joined 1000 Friends of Iowa in October 2015 as the Best Development Awards Coordinator and is continuing her role as Communications Director. Lori graduated from the University of Missouri-Columbia with a degree in

journalism and is currently working on her Master of Public Administration degree at Drake University.

Lori grew up in Iowa and spent many years living in the country as a young girl, which shaped her love of nature, animals, and adventuring in the great outdoors.

She is proud to work on behalf of 1000 Friends of Iowa's mission and is especially interested in seeing more sustainable, eco-friendly, and modern housing and community developments in the Midwest.

Lori's experience in communications and social media will be a big asset for 1000 Friends of Iowa. We are excited to have her join our team!

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Please Consider Supporting Our Work!

1000 Friends of Iowa relies on gifts from our members and supporters to ensure we continue to unite Iowans to protect our farmlands, natural areas, and work towards more sustainable communities.

1000 Friends of Iowa

Founded 1998

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1000 Friends of Iowa is a statewide nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting farmland and natural areas and promoting sustainable growth.

Founded in 1998 and based in Des Moines, Iowa, we promote responsible development that:

- Conserves and protects our agricultural and natural resources
- Revitalizes our neighborhoods, towns, and cities
- Improves the quality of life for future generations

Letter from the President

Dear Members,

"When we tug at a single thing in nature, we find it attached to the rest of the world."

— John Muir



It's an exciting time for 1000 Friends of Iowa, and I am very honored to be the new president of the organization. This year, there are so many things to be hopeful and excited about. I am glad we have an executive director and a new communications director to promote and grow our mission. We have a strong board with people who want to build and expand to ensure that more voices from across the state are represented, and to ensure long-term stability for the organization.

I am especially excited about building on and expanding our past work, such as investigating new avenues to help both urban and rural communities in their efforts to create more sustainable communities, continuing our work on topsoil protection, and growing our Best Development Awards program.

For someone like me who has always had a passion for the land, it is a good time to be here at 1000 Friends of Iowa.

As a child, I read about individuals such as Henry David Thoreau, Gifford Pinchot, Theodore Roosevelt, George Washington Carver, Rachel Carson, and John Muir. Their passion for conserving our natural resources influenced my actions as a young adult. In high school, I started a conservation club, and in my undergraduate studies I was co-founder of my college's environmental club. I also initiated a letter writing campaign for the National Wildlife Federation in support of the Endangered Species Act Amendments of 1993. This led me to lobby for these amendments in Washington, D.C. After my undergraduate studies, I continued to stay active in my community, and was on the first board of my community's neighborhood association and co-founder/chairperson of our community's neighborhood watch. So it is no surprise that today I find myself as the president of 1000 Friends of Iowa.

I was first introduced to 1000 Friends of Iowa during my graduate studies in public health. My capstone led to the creation of the smart growth and annexation checklist tool that would be used by the City Development Board for the State of Iowa. This experience allowed me to combine my public health background with city planning to develop sustainable and healthy communities, and solidified my passion for conservation of our natural resources.

As 1000 Friends of Iowa begins a new year, we would not be able to continue without the support of our members. Thank you for believing in our efforts. Together we will ensure that 1000 Friends of Iowa continues to grow and support our mission to unite Iowans in efforts to protect farmland and natural areas, revitalize neighborhoods, towns, and cities, and improve quality of life for future generations.

*Sincerely,
 Stacey Long*

2015 Best Development Awards

The Best Development Awards program reflects 1000 Friends of Iowa's mission to promote sustainable development and land use as well as protect farmland and natural areas by using Smart Growth principles.

Beginning in 2001, the awards have been a positive way to encourage communities, businesses, and residents to consider more sustainable practices when embarking on a project, whether that's a new development, such as the Cedar Rapids Public Library, or a renovation project, like The Roosevelt in Ames. It's exciting to see the smart growth solutions and creative vision in so many communities—large and small—across Iowa.



By recognizing projects that embody our values and beliefs and serve as a model for other communities, smart growth becomes infectious and that's great news for Iowa.

This year we recognized 13 projects from 11 communities across the state of Iowa and held an awards ceremony at the Iowa State Capitol. The 11 cities recognized in this year's awards include, Cedar Falls, Ames, Cedar Rapids, Winterset, Sioux City, Manning, Glidden, Council Bluffs, Elkader, Davenport, and Monona.

We'll open up nominations for the 2016 Best Development Awards in September, and we invite you spread the word and nominate a project in your community.



2015 Best Development Awards winners, including (top row, left to right) 1st Place New Commercial/Civic: Cedar Rapids Public Library; 1st Place Renovated Commercial: TEC Corp Addition and Renovation, Sioux City; (bottom photo) 1st Place Leadership: City of Elkader's Whitewater Park & River Access.

2015 Best Development Awards

And the Winners Are ...

New Residential

1st Place: River Place: 300 State Street, Cedar Falls

Renovated Residential

1st Place: The Roosevelt, Ames

Honorable Mention: The Albert & Anna Herda House, Cedar Rapids

New Commercial/Civic

1st Place: Cedar Rapids Public Library

Honorable Mention: John Wayne Birthplace Museum, Winterset

Renovated Commercial

1st Place: TEC Corp. Renovation, Sioux City

Honorable Mention: Deb's Corner Café, Manning

Renovated Civic

1st Place: Glidden Wellness Center

Mixed Use

1st Place: The Sawyer Building, Council Bluffs

Leadership

1st Place: Elkader Whitewater Park

Honorable Mention: Manning Downtown Revitalization

Storm Water Management

1st Place (co-winner): Monona Aquatic Center Permeable Paver Parking Lot

1st Place (co-winner): 4th & Iowa Streetscape Project, Davenport



From top, left to right: New Commercial Honorable Mention awardee John Wayne Birthplace Museum in Winterset; Mixed Use 1st Place awardee The Sawyer in Council Bluffs; (bottom) and 1st Place Co-Winner for Storm Water Management, City of Monona's Aquatic Center Permeable Parking Lot.

To see photos and descriptions of all 13 winning projects, visit www.1000friendsofiowa.org

2015 Best Development Awards

Before & After: What Smart Growth Looks Like

This year's Best Development Award winners illustrate what's possible in renovation and development. Here are excellent examples of what a few nominated projects looked like before and after.



Before



Before



After

Renovated Civic 1st Place: City of Glidden Wellness Center



After

Renovated Commercial Honorable Mention: Deb's Corner Café, Manning



Before



After

Storm Water Management 1st Place (co-winner): City of Davenport's 4th & Iowa Streetscape Project

2015 Best Development Awards Ceremony

Congratulations to all the Best Development Award honorees who were recognized at a ceremony at the Iowa State Capitol on Jan. 21, 2016. More than 75 people were in attendance.

A common theme heard from recipients was the community effort that went into realizing projects, and how much everyone appreciated that 1000 Friends of Iowa recognized not only the larger projects seen in some of the bigger cities, but small town projects as well. Our goal for the Best

Ceremony photos: Maharry Photography

Development Awards is to inspire people in any sized city to make sustainable choices to improve quality of life in their communities and around the state.

We would also like to thank this year's jurors, Ryan Peterson, president of Impact7G; Liz Christiansen, director of the University of Iowa Office of Sustainability; Jeff Geerts, special projects manager with the Community Development Division of the Iowa Economic Development Authority; and Maureen Collins-Williams, an Iowa public sector professional.



Jurors (from left to right): Ryan Peterson, Liz Christiansen, Maureen Collins-Williams, and Jeff Geerts.



Attendees mingle and learn more about 1000 Friends of Iowa's mission. See more ceremony photos at www.1000friendsofiowa.org



Pictured at left (from left to right): Glidden Mayor Roger Hartwigsen, Representative Brian Best, Suzy Danner, Jessica Bruns, Diane Thelin, and Adam Ewoldt accept the 1st Place Renovated Civic award for the Glidden Wellness Center.



Pictured at right: Mark Kittrell of Cedar Falls accepts the 1st Place New Residential award for River Place: 300 State Street.



Pictured at left: Brian Stineman (on left) Zach Peterson from the City of Davenport accept the 1st Place Storm Water Management award for the 4th & Iowa Streetscape project.



Pictured at right: City of Monona's Dan Canton receives a 1st Place Storm Water Management plaque from Executive Director Kari Carney for the Aquatic Center Permeable Parking Lot project.

Topsoil Protection: Local Action Needed

Last fall, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and its Environmental Protection Commission voted to gut a rule that required new homebuilders to maintain at least 4 inches of topsoil evenly distributed across a property. The rule was originally intended to help with storm water management and ensure that homeowners had soil to plant trees and garden. The change removes the requirement to maintain 4 inches of topsoil.

Because healthy and sufficient soil is so critical, 1000 Friends of Iowa is continuing to find ways to ensure topsoil remains on building sites. We are encouraging cities and counties to adopt a topsoil protection ordinance of their own.

Currently, four communities have an ordinance and two others are in the process of adopting one. The City of Clive is the most recent city to develop an ordinance. Clive is looking at adopting an 8-inch topsoil rule at an upcoming city council meeting in April. Developers are already asking the city to consider modifying the rule to allow them more leeway. They essentially want to have a waiver if they implement other storm water management solutions.

Although we support homebuilders looking at other ways to manage storm water, without maintaining topsoil they are only addressing part of the problem. Homeowners would still be left without soil to grow plants, trees, vegetables, and other things that are essential for healthy and sustainable communities.

Our topsoil is too precious to let developers scrape it off and haul it away. We need your help to ensure that the ordinance does not create a loophole for developers.

Please contact the City of Clive, let them know that you support the proposed ordinance, but ask them to ensure developers and homebuilders still have to maintain some level of topsoil on the property, even if they enact other storm water management systems. Send comments to: dollendike@cityofclive.com. More information on the ordinance can be found at www.cityofclive.com. Please plan to attend the meeting on Thursday, April 14 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Stay updated on our topsoil protection actions at www.1000friendsofiowa.org.

Like Us on Facebook and Follow Us on Twitter!

Would you like your community to adopt a topsoil protection ordinance? Contact the 1000 Friends of Iowa office at 515-288-5364 or email us at kfoi@1000friendsofiowa.org for sample ordinances and strategy ideas for getting it introduced and adopted.



photo credit: USDA NRCS, Lynn Betts

1000 Friends of Iowa



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Upcoming Events

Monday, March 21 — Windsor Heights Draft Design and Development Standards Hearing

The Windsor Heights Planning and Zoning board will ask the City Council to adopt updated building and design standards. The plan is designed to make the city more walkable, incorporate compact mixed-use buildings, and improve storm water management. Please attend the city council meeting to show support these for smart growth initiatives. Check out our website for more information.

Tuesday, March 22 — 2016 Environmental Lobby & REAP Day at the Capitol

The Iowa Environmental Council (IEC) is hosting their annual Environmental Lobby & REAP Day at the Capitol. Lobby training will begin at 8:30 a.m. Meet in the first floor rotunda. 1000 Friends of Iowa is a member of the IEC and will be an exhibitor. We invite you to join us and stop by our table to see what's new in smart growth across Iowa! Check out our website for more information.

Available Until March 25 — Iowa State Forest Nursery Sale

Interested in creating butterfly and bird habitats? Then you don't want to miss out on this great deal from the Iowa State Forest Nursery--available only until March 25. You'll get 250 bare-root seedlings that attract a variety of pollinators, butterflies, and birds. Check out our website for more information.

Saturday, April 2 — Reading Our Land: Heritage and Legacy

Iowa author Cornelia Mutel will discuss Iowa's natural heritage and archeologists will be present to discuss natural artifacts. Attendees are encouraged to bring fossils, arrowheads, rocks, and other artifacts. The event is sponsored by For Land's Sake and is from 9 a.m. to noon. Free admission. Madison County Historical Complex at 815 S 2nd in Winterset.