



**RIVER TOWN OF THE YEAR
Nomination Form**
Deadline: January 6, 2017
Award Presented: Early 2017

PURPOSE: The *River Town of the Year Award* celebrates the many vibrant river communities across Iowa reclaiming riverfronts as anchors for economic development, recreation, ecological practices, and improving the safety and quality of Iowa's rivers. Iowa Rivers Revival is a statewide non-profit organization focusing on river advocacy and education. IRR engages individuals, organizations, communities and policy leaders in river awareness, responsibility and enjoyment. IRR is committed to protecting some of our most precious natural resources – our rivers and streams.

WHO CAN APPLY: Any Iowa city or town can apply. Applicants must demonstrate community commitment and involvement in protecting and maintaining river quality and promoting the river as an asset to the town. **Nomination deadline is Friday January 6, 2017.**

AWARD: One Iowa river town will receive the *River Town of the Year Award* in early 2017 at a reception hosted by Iowa Rivers Revival in the award-winning town and at a separate event at the Iowa State Capitol. Local, regional, and statewide recognition is earned through media and public awareness efforts.

City of Clive	www.cityofclive.com		
NAME OF RIVER CITY/TOWN – PLEASE PRINT	CITY/TOWN WEBSITE – PLEASE PRINT		
Doug Ollendike	Community Development Director		
NAME OF RIVER CITY/TOWN CONTACT – PLEASE PRINT	TITLE – PLEASE PRINT		
1900 NW 114th Street	Clive	Iowa	50325
ADDRESS – PLEASE PRINT	CITY	STATE	ZIP
(515) 223-6221	dollendike@cityofclive.com		
BUSINESS PHONE	(515) 238-1503	E-MAIL – PLEASE PRINT	
CELL PHONE			

Describe how your town qualifies for the *River Town of the Year Award* (attach narrative and supporting materials). Examples of award criteria include but are not limited to these activities (please provide examples and/or pictures):

- Partnerships to protect and enhance local river or stream.
- Efforts to improve water quality.
- Providing river access (programs, trails, portages, guide info)
- Annual or seasonal river clean-up or event.
- River tourism efforts.
- Dam mitigation and/or safety awareness.
- Promoting commerce that accommodates river enthusiasts (commercial establishments - - e.g., bed & breakfasts, bait/fish shops, restaurants, canoe boat/rentals).
- Innovative storm water controls and river protection measures.
- Historic and cultural preservation.
- Efforts to protect and enhance greenbelts and ecosystems.
- Education and advocacy by local river or watershed groups.
- Participating with Iowa Water Trails program.
- Protection of threatened riparian habitat and species.
- Other river programs.

In addition to the activities listed above, the applicant town **must** demonstrate good stewardship of river water quality through compliance with wastewater and storm water permits. If the applicant city/town has had violations of wastewater or storm water permits in the last three years, please explain in an attached narrative what the city/town has done to address the problem.

The City of Clive has not had any violations in the last three years
References that are knowledgeable about your town's river stewardship:

Pat Sauer	ISWEP	psauer@iowastormwater.org
NAME	BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION	PHONE # AND/OR E-MAIL
Dave Derrick	River Research & Design	davederrick.r2deng@gmail.com
NAME	BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION	PHONE # AND/OR E-MAIL

Nomination deadline is January 6, 2017. Please e-mail application to rtya@iowarivers.org or mail to:
 Iowa Rivers Revival, Attn: River Town Award, PO Box 72, Des Moines, IA 50301

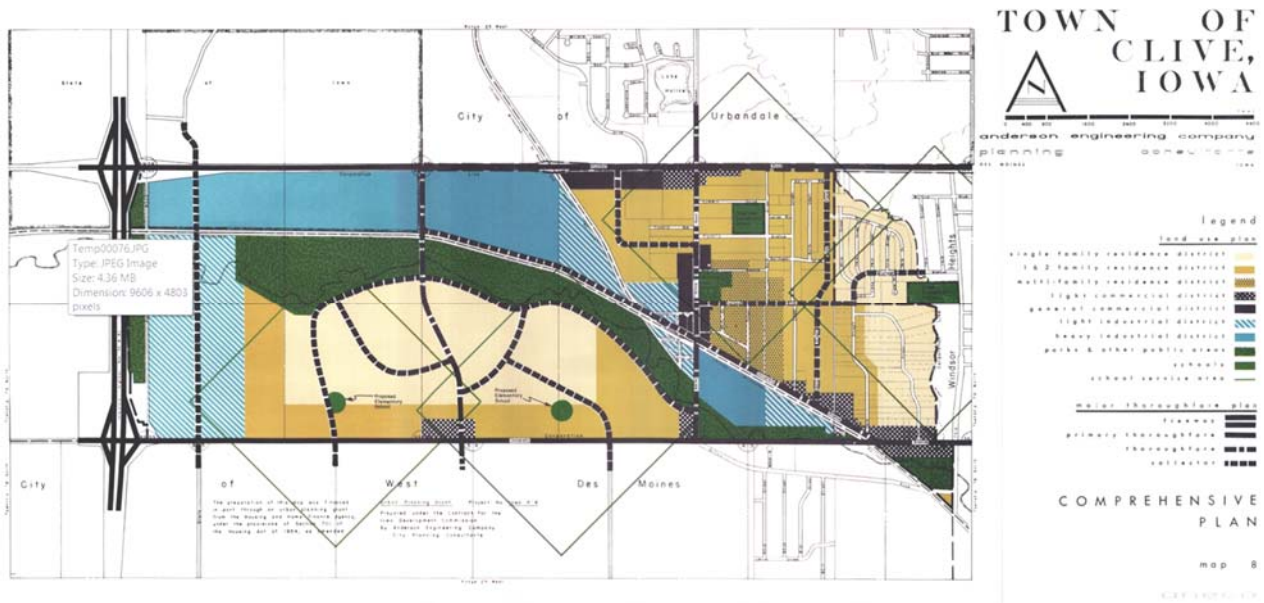
For questions or additional information, please contact Jenn Dreier, IRR Assistant Director, at rtya@iowarivers.org.
 Visit our website to view past River Town of the Year award winning communities: www.iowarivers.org.



The City of Clive was incorporated in 1956 as an approximately 2-square mile community of nearly 700 people situated along a railroad line, a gravel county road and Walnut Creek. The significance of the railroad has diminished over the last 50+ years and the old county road has been converted to an urban street network; however, Walnut Creek is still a defining element of what makes Clive so unique and special. The City of Clive...Distinct by Nature.

From the City of Clive's first Comprehensive Plan completed in 1962, the City has been intrigued by the opportunities to develop the community around Walnut Creek. The 1962 Plan stated "The Community has an excellent opportunity to establish a variety of recreational facilities in a large greenbelt park along Walnut Creek". The planning concept was important enough to be illustrated in the City's first adopted Land Use Plan as shown below. An approximately 120-acre greenbelt along Walnut Creek was shown as a dominant feature running through the middle of the City.

In many cases, great plans are simply that...documents that are approved and simply placed on a shelf in City Hall. In the case of the City of Clive, the community rallied around the concept of the greenbelt and spent the next decade working with property owners on acquisitions and developing park amenities for the approximately 2-mile section between NW 86th Street and NW 114th Street. This early planning concept and the initial investments became the defining element of Clive's development ever since. Over the last several decades, the City has added over 200 acres of Walnut Creek, South Walnut Creek and Little Walnut Creek floodplains to the City's Greenbelt (the Greenbelt Park now contains approximately 350 acres). As was the case originally, the Greenbelt has continued to be the defining characteristic of the City's neighborhood fabric.



The City of Clive has done an admirable job in preserving the Walnut Creek floodplain and integrating the resource into the community's neighborhoods; however, the actual water within the creek has not generally been as well regarded. Until recently, Walnut Creek and its tributaries were considered a part of the storm sewer system with the goal of making the system as efficient as possible in transporting waste (aka: storm water) out of the City. In the past, the thought was that the most efficient system would aid in reducing the impacts associated with

flooding. Unfortunately, that line of thought has been proven incorrect as the City continues to experience nearly annual flooding events. Similarly, concerns in the past over water quality were solely related to how water tasted coming out of the faucet. The City has come around in its understand that its drinking water is sourced from the “storm sewer” system and water quality is just as important an issue as water quantity. In short, the City loved the Greenbelt, but was not necessarily concerned with nurturing the primary component...the waters of Walnut Creek.

The City’s renewed attention of the waters of Walnut Creek came back into focus with the City’s requirement to manage storm water through the NPDES MS4 program in 2006. The program required, in part, that the City assess the conditions of its portion of Walnut Creek with consideration of both water quality and water quantity improvements. The evaluation report was a real eye opener for both staff and the City’s elected officials. The report showed that over 70% of the approximately 8 miles of streambanks along Walnut Creek and its tributaries were moderately unstable or unstable. Additionally, nearly 20% of the streambanks had hard armor in place. As shown in the photos below, typical streambanks show active movement resulting in vertical banks of 7-10 feet. Where the active movement resulted in an impact to a City facility (utility, trail, bridge, etc.), the City typically employed a hard armor approach to protect its infrastructure (broken concrete and/or limestone riprap from toe to top). With over 40 years of this type of approach, the creek now looks more like an open sewer pipe than a natural resource amenity....efficient indeed.



As the City began its Comprehensive Plan update process in 2012, the discussions associated with the City’s long-term vision resulted in a clear picture that the City needed to return to its roots as the typical citizen response to what makes Clive so great nearly always included a reference to the Greenbelt along Walnut Creek. The message was clear that the City should refocus its efforts on utilizing the existing Greenbelt asset and leveraging it to its fullest to support the City’s 2035 Vision: a beautiful and safe city with great residential neighborhoods, a community that provides exceptional family living and opportunities for personal wellness, and a community with a distinct Clive Greenbelt.

Over the last several years, the City has begun to implement a number of efforts to restore and improve the Greenbelt and Walnut Creek in order to support its long-term Vision. Some of the highlights of the City’s efforts over the last few years include:

- Acquisition of multiple parcels of property containing over 50-acres of the Walnut Creek and Little Walnut Creek floodplain to ensure that appropriate buffers are preserved prior to development. Approximately half of the funding for these acquisitions have come from Iowa REAP grants with the remaining funds provided by the City’s Capital Improvement Programs.

- Development of greater partnerships with community groups to increase the number of creek “clean-ups” and a local “Green and Sustainable Clive” group was formed to provide additional volunteer aid for projects along the creek (invasive species removals, tree plantings, willow harvesting, etc.). The City also continues to expand its relationships with other neighboring communities and aligned agencies to share knowledge and pool resources as we have become keenly aware that the desired changes within the Walnut Creek watershed will only materialize if everyone engages in the effort.
- Active engagement and strong leadership within the Walnut Creek Watershed Management Authority and its efforts in the creation of a comprehensive Watershed Master Plan. To clearly illustrate the City’s support of the Walnut Creek Watershed Master Plan, the Clive City Council was the first community to officially adopt the plan and direct staff to implement the recommendations within its local planning and resource allocation processes.
- In accordance with recommendation of the Walnut Creek Watershed Master Plan, the City of Clive was the first community to adopt updated stormwater management regulations which requires that all public and private development projects mitigate impacts on both water quality and water quantity. The City of Clive is now working towards sharing its work with other communities within the Des Moines metropolitan area in hopes of seeing a consistent adoption metro-wide.
- After a nearly 2-year inclusive public process, the City of Clive has recently completed the development of a comprehensive Greenbelt Master Plan which establishes a 25-year framework for over \$80 million of investments including the direction of over half of the dollars towards environmental enhancements. The City is now in the process of transitioning the conceptual ideas into tangible projects with the anticipation of implementation of the first round of projects within the next 12-months.

In addition of the office work, the City has begun the process of attempting to restore the ecological conditions along the floodplains. Utilizing its own stormwater utility funds, the City has undertaken several streambank stabilization projects which seek to minimize the use of hard armor riprap and aid in the reconnection of the creek with its floodplain. As shown below in the photo to the left, the picture represents a typical Walnut Creek streambank (active erosion, vertical slopes, little vegetation). The bio-engineering project as shown below in the photo to the right represents the City’s new method of streambank stabilization.



The bio-engineering process includes the removal of “hanger-on” trees and other invasive vegetation so that sunlight is available for the newly planted materials. The vertical banks are reshaped to a maximum 3:1 slope to provided better connection between the creek and floodplain. The streambank toe is protected with Longitudinal Peak Stone Toe Protection in order to reduce future sediment loss. Additionally, short Bendway

Weirs were introduced to aid in moving the highest velocity water away from the streambank toe. Native grasses (big bluestem, little bluestem, Canada wild rye) and understory shrubs (buttonbush, dogwood, ninebark) replace the bare vertical slopes to provide additional roughness and habitat enhancement. Native woody materials (willow, cottonwood, sycamore) were introduced to provide long-term stabilization of the upper streambanks while larger successional trees (oak and walnut) were planted to mitigate the construction losses that occurred within the project areas.

In conjunction with the actual streambank stabilization construction, the City of Clive has partnered with the Iowa Stormwater Education Partnership (including Iowa River Revival in 2014) to host technical training and educational events. Over three years (2013-2015), nearly 100 people attended the technical training classes and over 50 local government/civic leaders participated in the educational events. The goal of the efforts was to assist other communities within the metropolitan area to think more broadly about their opportunities and to help reduce the fear associated with trying something new. The efforts have paid off as there are now a number of new bio-engineering and advanced stabilization projects either in-place or are in the process of being constructed.

Although the City of Clive has made considerable strides to improve the Greenbelt and Walnut Creek over the last several years, there is still much more work to be done. Moving forward, there are a number of projects and efforts that the City intends to pursue over the next several years:

- Consideration of a stream buffer ordinance that would preserve and protect additional public and privately owned floodplains and riparian areas (Walnut Creek Watershed Master Plan recommendation);
- Consideration of updates to floodplain management regulations to preserve flood flow capacity and reduce risks to property and life (Walnut Creek Watershed Master Plan recommendation);
- Expansion of a unified water monitoring program for the Walnut Creek watershed (including early flood warning and water quality) in order to provide the necessary data to support decisions and to aid in determining success;
- Partnering with developers in the development of green infrastructure and regional stormwater best management practices within our developing areas in order to address water quality and the full range of water quantity impacts (Northern Neighborhoods Master Plans);
- Review and update the Erosion and Sediment Control program in order to reduce the amount of construction related sediment loading occurring within Walnut Creek (Walnut Creek Watershed Master Plan recommendation);
- Development of infiltration based stormwater management BMP's demonstration projects to aid designer and contractors in developing the knowledge and skills to successfully design, construct and maintain practices (awaiting award announcement from IDALS WQI grant later this year);
- Acquire approximately 50-acres of additional floodplain ground throughout the community (partnering with property owners and queuing up additional REAP grant applications);
- Expansion of the volunteer network to assist in more active forest and habitat management activities within the Greenbelt (Greenbelt Master Plan recommendation);
- Analysis of all sub-watersheds within the City to establish specific actionable improvement plans and capital resource needs to improve water quality and quantity in the headwaters of Walnut Creek (first two sub-watershed plans are in the 2017 work plan); and

- Continue to expand regional relationships in order to develop funding sources for a variety of Greenbelt improvements such as: wetland enhancement/development, ox-bow restorations, and streambank stabilization.

With all of the good work that the City has put into Walnut Creek over the last several years, the City is fully aware that restoring the Greenbelt and Walnut Creek floodplain will be a long term undertaking. Although it will take many, many more years of continued good work to see tangible results, the City of Clive is once again committed to being a great “Creek” town.