

July 25, 2017

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Iowa American Water Presents 2017 Environmental Grant to Nahant Marsh Education Center

Five local programs that protect, improve and restore local watersheds will share grant funds totaling almost \$8,500 in 2017

DAVENPORT, IA (July 25, 2017) – Iowa American Water presented the first of five 2017 environmental grant awards to Nahant Marsh Education Center during a ceremony at the marsh on July 24. Nahant Marsh Education Center Executive Director Brian Ritter was on hand to accept the \$1,875 check for its Sedge Meadow Restoration and Enhancement Project, Phase II.

The Sedge Meadow Restoration and Enhancement Project will expand restoration efforts to include an additional eight acres, for a total of 15.5 acres. Success of the project will be measured by a reduction of invasive species and an increase of native plants and animals at the site.

“Our Environmental Grant Program is designed to help organizations, like Nahant Marsh Education Center, carry out projects that benefit our waterways, raise awareness about the importance of water in our lives and promote community participation in the preservation and protection of our local watersheds,” said Mary Jane Midgett, director of Operations for Iowa American Water. “We are pleased to support these worthwhile endeavors and extend our appreciation to the individuals and organizations that are making them happen.”

Since Iowa American Water began its environmental grant program over a decade ago in 2006, over \$60,000 has been awarded to local projects that improve, restore or protect local watersheds.

In addition to the Nahant Marsh Education Center, four additional recipients that will receive environmental grant awards this summer include:

- **City of Davenport Parks & Recreation Department will be awarded \$2,500 for its Water Quality Improvement Project in VanderVeer Botanical Park’s Lagoon.** The project will decrease the level of nitrates, nitrites and phosphates with the installation of BioHaven floating islands.

- **Scott Community College Environmental Club will be awarded \$2,000 for its Crow Creek Watershed Protection and Biodiversity Project.** The project will restore 6 acres of tallgrass prairie in the Crow Creek drainage basin. Erosion and runoff to the creek will be reduced resulting in better water quality. Biodiversity will be increased on the site as native species of grasses and forbs will be restored
- **River Action, Inc. will be awarded a \$1,200 grant for its Retain the Rain Interactive Display project.** The project will update an interactive Retain the Rain kiosk to include bio-reactors and floating wetland islands, increase kiosk visibility and usership. Kiosk will be upgraded from 250 lb. unit to a light 55 pound unit with a touchscreen display.
- **Prince of Peace Catholic School A.P. Environment Class in Clinton will be awarded \$850 for its Watershed Restoration Project.** Students have begun a labor-intensive restoration of a small marsh, invaded by Phragmites reeds. Over the next decade, the class will continue removing this invasive plant and publicize progress in restoring the watershed and encouraging other landowners' restoration efforts.

Grant applications were evaluated by a panel of judges based on criteria such as environmental need, innovation, community engagement and sustainability.

About Iowa American Water

Iowa American Water, a subsidiary of American Water (NYSE: AWK), is the largest investor-owned water utility in the state, providing high-quality and reliable water services to approximately 212,000 people. With a history dating back to 1886, American Water is the largest and most geographically diverse U.S. publicly-traded water and wastewater utility company. The company employs more than 6,700 dedicated professionals who provide regulated and market-based drinking water, wastewater and other related services to an estimated 15 million people in 47 states and Ontario, Canada. More information can be found by visiting www.amwater.com.

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