2015 All-Star Community Award Application

City: Lake View

Population: 1,142

Contact name: Scott Peterson

Phone: (712) 657-2634

Contact Title: City Clerk/Administrator

Title of Project: Aquatic Vegetation Harvester

In a few sentences, give a summary of the project and why it was needed.

Yes, we're really mowing grass on the lake!

A successful lake restoration project has greatly improved water clarity on Black Hawk Lake causing a new problem - large amounts of aquatic vegetation. It has taken a cooperative effort to acquire and operate an aquatic vegetation harvester to remove the grass and maintain Black Hawk Lake as a premier lake for fishing and recreation.

Black Hawk Lake is the southern-most glacial lake in Iowa and draws around 150,000 visitors annually to Lake View. Water quality in Black Hawk Lake had degraded over time and in the past few years we have undertaken a large project to improve the water quality. When the idea of lake restoration was in its infancy, the Iowa DNR told us that "successful projects are driven locally." We have found that forming partnership with public and private entities has held great rewards - including the Aquatic Vegetation Harvester project.

The City of Lake View partnered with the Iowa DNR, Sac County, the Lake View Community Club, and the Black Hawk Lake Protective Association to acquire the machine and finance the operation of the harvester for 2014 and years to come.

Project Funding and Execution:

Total Cost/Projected Cost of Project: $285,000 or □ no cost

List where funding came from (grants, donations, city funds, etc.)

Iowa DNR, City & county funds, private businesses, and private individuals.

Total time project took/projected to take for completion:
(to qualify project must be operating or completed between January 1, 2013 and December 31, 2013)

□ Start date □ End date

☑ Project is ongoing

Resources

Please list Web sites judges may reference if they seek additional information. Do NOT include supplemental paper information. Only information on this form or the sites listed will be used in the judging process.

www.lakeviewlifestyle.com

continued on next page
Explain the specific role of your city in this project.

Great partners have made this a great project!

The Iowa DNR purchased the $250,000 Aquatic Vegetation Harvester. The DNR continues to own the machine while the City of Lake View operates, maintains, and insures the harvester. The City employees the harvester operator and provides dump trucks to haul away the vegetation. Operation costs of the harvester are split between the City, Sac County, the Community Club and the Lake Protective Association.

In a few sentences, what future impact will this project have on your community?

Lake View relies on Black Hawk Lake and the tourism the lake generates.

Black Hawk Lake is a major economic driver for Lake View and the region. According to a study by Dr. John Downing from Iowa State University, around 150,000 people visit Black Hawk Lake each year spending $19 million. The lake also supports 379 regional jobs. History with similar lake improvement projects shows that having clear water will enhance the economic impact of the lake.

We know that vegetation in the lake is a vital component to a healthy ecosystem. Vegetation absorbs nutrients including phosphorous, which is a major contributing factory in algae growth and reduction in water clarity. The vegetation, however, must be managed so that the lake remains unobstructed for recreational use, particularly power boating.

Vegetation management using the Aquatic Vegetation Harvester has accomplished the goals of maintaining enough vegetation for a healthy lake system, while maintaining the lake as a premier destination for water sports and recreation.

**People’s Choice Caption (not used during judging process)**

If you city is not selected as a winner in their population category, this photo caption will be used in a bracket-style tournament on social media to select the winner of the People’s All-Star. Limit one sentence.

Yes, we’re really mowing grass on the lake!

Return this form by Monday, April 6, 2015.

Iowa League of Cities
Attn: All-Star Community Awards
500 SW 7th Street, Suite 101
Des Moines, IA 50309
or
bethanycrile@iowaleague.org