



Lake Association News

A newsletter for the Association for the Preservation of Clear Lake

SUMMER 2006

FEATURE PROJECTS

CLTEL INSTALLS RAIN GARDEN

CLTel recently completed a project that not only improved the aesthetics of their property, but also improved water quality. The rain garden (shown below) was installed to capture runoff from a parking lot. Jan Lovell, President, explained that the goal was to show that the space could serve as both a useful parking area and a benefit to the environment.



THREE STORM WATER IMPROVEMENTS COMPLETED

This summer, the City of Clear Lake has installed a storm water filtration system near All Vets golf course, and Cerro Gordo County has installed filtration systems in the Ventura Heights area and Bayside area. These projects continue the efforts underway to remove contaminants from storm water runoff before it enters the lake. Funding assistance was provided by the Hanson Foundation, EPA, and State of Iowa.

Improvements Made at Ventura Grade

With fund raising now completed for \$1.7 million in land purchases and public improvements, many changes are evident at the Ventura Grade area. A major aspect of the improvements was the purchase of 26 acres of woodlands and wetlands and 1,000 ft of shoreline by the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, the Iowa DNR, REAP, and many donors. The purchase ensured these woods will remain a natural area and available to the public. CLTel employees and other volunteers spent three days removing more than 45 tons of garbage from the woodlands.

Further north of the woods, a parking area has been recently completed at the former Harbor Inn location to accommodate fishermen and nature observers who utilize the popular fishing jetty. Although invisible to the naked eye, a storm water infiltration

area is located under the parking lot to treat all storm water runoff from the new lot. Still to come in the area will be a small shelter, restrooms, and an informational kiosk explaining lake and marsh restoration improvements. The IDNR expects those features of the project to be completed late this fall or early in 2007.

Across the road from the new parking area, residents are sure to notice that some volunteer trees were removed to construct a storm water detention pond. The pond captures runoff from over 10 acres in the City of Ventura.

Additionally, plans are being finalized to extend an around the lake bike trail through the woodlands and along the grade.

"This project provides a host of benefits to the Clear Lake area, including natural shoreline pres-

ervation, water quality protection, and safer recreational opportunities," said Mark Ackelson, INHF president. "None of these accomplishments would have been possible without the interest, involvement and support of our partners and donors."



Above: New parking area in foreground, Ventura Cove Woods in background. Below: Storm water detention pond at Marsh parking area.



More Zebra Mussels Discovered

The IDNR has confirmed that more zebra mussels have been collected at Clear Lake. Local residents have brought in specimens found attached to rocks in the shoreline areas of Clear Lake. Earlier this month DNR employees and volunteers searched several shoreline areas and also collected about a dozen more zebra mussels. The recent findings indicate that a reproducing population likely exists at Clear Lake. It is not currently possible to predict how large of a population may eventually de-

velop. Large populations of zebra mussels have been known to increase water clarity in water bodies like the Great Lakes, but their impact on inland smaller lakes is less well known. Some research has shown that zebra mussels less readily eat certain algae like blue green algae, which can allow that type of algae to become dominant and further degrade water quality. Zebra mussels are nearly impossible to exterminate from a water body and boaters are encouraged to take

proper precautions to limit their spreading to other lakes. Zebra mussels have already been found in another Iowa lake (Delhi) earlier this summer. For more information visit: www.iowadnr.com/fish/news/exotics/zebra.html



FEATURE PROJECTS

WINNEBAGO HELPS FUND IMPROVEMENTS AT VENTURA ACCESS

Ventura Access (Lynne Lorenzen Park) recently received a new boat ramp, handicap accessible dock, and riprap placed along 400 feet of shoreline. Winnebago Industries helped fund the riprap to prevent erosion into Clear Lake. There are also plans to pave the parking area of the park in 2007.



LAKE

Dredging Project Thanks

A big "Thank You" to all who participated in helping secure funds for the Clear Lake dredging project! We were highly successful in our efforts to procure over \$8 million for this project in the past few months, with an additional \$5 million expected over the next two years. Be sure to thank your local state legislators and local government officials for their assistance with securing these funds.

Currently, the dredging project is progressing well as the Association for the Preservation of Clear Lake is close to finalizing a

deal with a local landowner and the IDNR to secure a containment site for the dredged material. More information will be available on the location of the site when the deal is finalized, but it is located only about 2 miles from the dredging project.

One common question that has arisen regarding the dredging containment site is will it smell bad. Fortunately, there have been similar dredging projects that have been completed which can help answer that question. IDNR employees in the Storm Lake area fielded questions from

several concerned residents when the Storm Lake containment site was built directly across the road from a developed area. Their experience at Storm Lake has been that odor is only noticeable within 10 ft. of the discharge pipe itself into the containment site; otherwise there is no odor. During dredging, the containment site looks basically like a turbid lake.

After dredging is completed, the DNR will retain ownership of the land and it will likely be planted to prairie and turned into a public wildlife area.

Clear Lake/Ventura Marsh Restoration Project Updates

Ventura Marsh Restoration Project Update:

Primary Goal: Reduce carp population to allow for increased vegetation in the marsh. The project is currently on schedule with the Corps feasibility investigation and a restoration plan expected to be completed by end of 2006.

Project Timeline:
2006: Finalize Feasibility/Choose restoration plan
2007: Finalize Design and Begin Construction
2008: Finish Construction

Clear Lake Dredging Project Update:

Primary Goal: Remove 2.3 million cubic yards of accumulated sediment in the Little Lake area of Clear Lake. The project is currently slightly ahead of schedule with a containment site expected to be secured and construction started by fall of 2006.

Project Timeline:
2006: Engineering and Design
2007: Securing and Constructing Containment Site
2008: Begin Dredging
2009: Finalize Dredging

The Association for the Preservation of Clear Lake
PO Box 54
Clear Lake, IA 50428