

# 2018 Annual Report



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## What Is QC Wild Places?

QC Wild Places, created by River Action in 2011, functions as a cooperative partnership to advocate awareness, access, and conservation of the diversity of natural areas in an eight-county region, totaling 66 sites on approximately 133,000 acres. It works to link local wilderness sites and their managing organizations with funding sources to help enhance them for ecosystem services and public use. Member sites are all within an hour's drive of the Quad Cities metro area. Visit [www.qcwildplaces.com](http://www.qcwildplaces.com) to find out more.



## Rock Island County Conservation Consortium (RICCC)

In 2011, as a subset of the Quad City Wild Places coalition, River Action formed the Rock Island County Conservation Consortium to bring together practitioners, municipal, county, state and federal representatives, and science experts to develop approaches for improving coordination and conservation in Rock Island County, particularly at Wild Places sites. Establishing new partnerships, developing strategic ecological corridors, expanding existing natural areas, restoring and managing areas within the Wild Places network, and enhancing public access are the outcomes to be achieved.

Since 2011, River Action has received \$165,000 from the Quad Cities Community Foundation's Community Works Endowment Fund. With this funding, River Action has completed over \$1.4

million worth of conservation projects in Rock Island County as a part of the Quad City Wild Places and Rock Island County Conservation Consortium. This funding is listed under "Community Works" in the budgets.

### Consortium Goals:

- Solicit from Wild Places managers projects or programs for which additional outside funding would be helpful for short and mid-term implementation.
- Update watershed plans, such as the Rock River Ravines Watershed Plan and the Duck Creek Watershed Plan.
- Evaluate and prioritize projects and programs based on the potential impact on ecological services, public access, or education.
- Identify new Quad City Wild Places locations.

## Scott County Conservation Consortium (SCCC)

Due to the large success of the Rock Island County Conservation Consortium, River Action formed the Scott County Conservation Consortium in 2017 to mirror the funding strategies and projects completed in the Rock Island County group. There was a need to bring conservationists together in Scott County and to leverage funding to create watershed based conservation practices.

Funding for the 2018 SCCC projects was provided by the Quad Cities Community Foundation's Challenge Grant and Arconic. This Quad City Wild Places Annual Report contains both Rock Island and Scott County conservation projects. In our first year of this program, we received \$46,000 from our donors and completed over \$360,000 worth of conservation work in Scott County. For the purpose of this document, we are calling the funding "SCCC Funds."

## Black Hawk State Historic Site

River Action awarded the DNR’s Black Hawk State Historic Site funding to make infrastructure improvements in 2017. These improvements include replacing the staircase to the west end of the River Trail system and reconstructing the railings and benches on the observation overlook. To begin making these enhancements, River Action hosted a team of seven through AmeriCorps’ National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) in June, 2018. This allowed the scope of the project to be expanded to include the widening of a mile and a half of the trails on the east and west sides, making them more accessible for public use and school groups. The team also helped open a new switchback trail after deconstructing the secondary staircase. Reusing the steps, the team added three new earth

staircases and added hand railings on the trails to promote responsible hiking. The bathrooms on the north side of the park were repainted and included murals. The cover photo depicts River Trail, which was widened by AmeriCorps NCCC.

Because the site is registered as a historic site, an archaeological survey needs to take place of the hillside where the new staircase will be installed. This is scheduled to take place in winter 2018 by DNR staff, with the staircase and observation overlook improvements being completed in spring 2019.



### Black Hawk State Historic Site

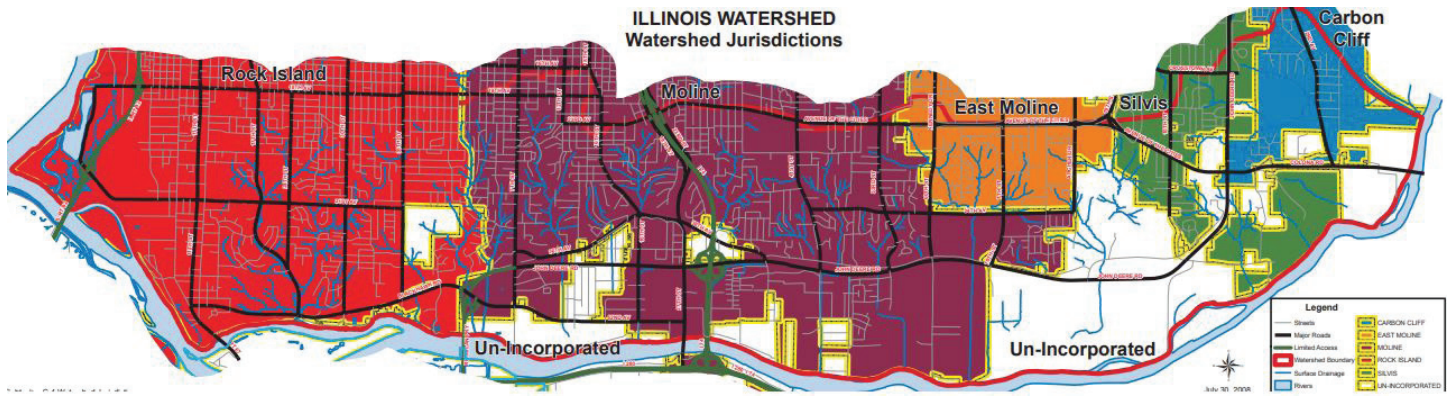
Funding 2017-2018	Amount
Anonymous Gift	\$35,000.00
Black Hawk State Historic Site	\$10,000.00 (In-Kind)
Construction Engineering	\$3,000.00 (In-Kind)
Design Engineering	\$3,750.00 (In-Kind)
Field Layout	\$1,630.00 (In-Kind)
AmeriCorps NCCC	\$8,000.00 (In-Kind)
CommunityWorks	\$8,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$69,380.00</b>

Expense 2017-2018	Amount
Mobilization	\$4,333.00
Materials	\$11,120.00
Installation	\$21,400.00
Contingency	\$12,896.00
Design Engineering	\$3,750.00
Field Layout	\$1,630.00
Construction Engineering	\$3,000.00
Future Maintenance	\$11,251.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$69,380.00</b>

### Kiwanis Trail

River Action allocated \$1,000 of the Community Works funding to give the Kiwanis Trail some updates. Due to flooding and high water on the Kiwanis Trail, River Action has postponed the efforts to update the trail system. We will plan on adding crushed asphalt to cover about a half mile of trail, and add signage and benches in 2019. The budget of \$5,000 remains the same as 2017.

## Rock River Ravines Watershed Plan Update



River Action received funding from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to update the Rock River Ravines Watershed Plan from 2008. This update will address the increase in urbanization and impervious surfaces in Rock Island County. In addition, continued erosion and degradation of the ravines and subsequent deposition of sediment and associated pollutant occurs within the lower reaches of the ravines and the Rock River. The plan will be updated to address these conditions and also to document improvements that have been made within the watershed and the efficacy of those improvements will be noted.

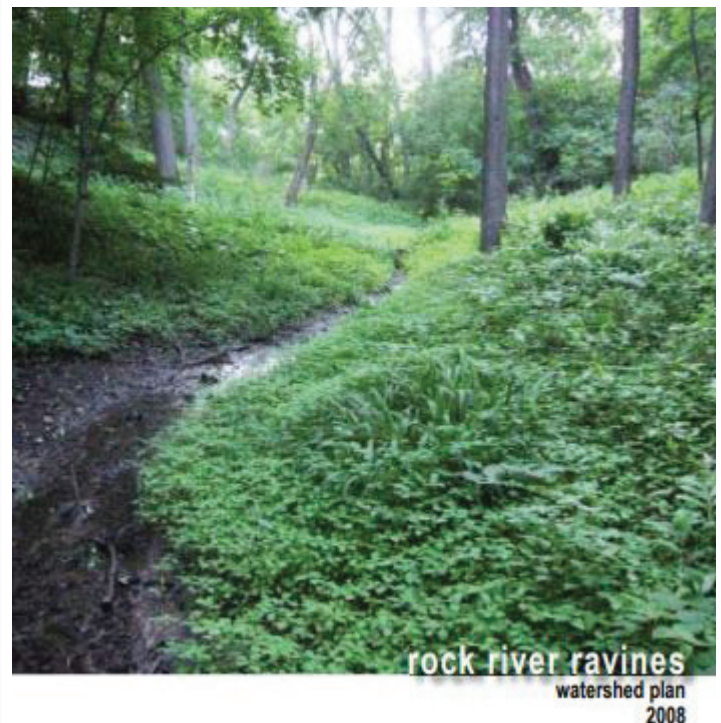
Stakeholder meetings will be conducted to review the watershed goals and objectives along with the primary erosion, sedimentation, and water quality issues to be resolved. Within the most impacted ravines, the 2008 stream inventories will be updated. The watershed recommendations will be updated based on the inventory findings, the effectiveness of previous actions, and input from the stakeholders.

The intended outcome from the plan is an extended road map for the communities to continue to protect and restore the Rock River Ravines. The Rock River Ravines Watershed Plan will be complete in 2019 with the services of Conservation Design Forum (CDF).

### Rock River Ravines Watershed Plan Update

2018 Funding	Amount
Illinois EPA	\$34,944.00
CommunityWorks	\$6,050.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$40,944.00</b>

Expenses	Amount
Kickoff and Project Management	\$1,300.00
Stakeholder Meetings	\$5,400.00
Plan Updates	\$24,044.00
Update Plan Documents	\$7,250.00
Printing	\$3,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$40,944.00</b>



## Illiniwek Forest Preserve

The Rock Island Forest Preserve District, Pheasants Forever, and River Action partnered in 2017 to convert two softball diamonds into a native savanna and prairie. This work was completed in 2018, but there is a need to continue maintenance and to seed the area. River Action awarded the Rock Island Forest Preserve District \$1,500 to continue transforming this area into a savanna. Four acres have been cleared of invasive species and small diameter undesirable species, as seen in the photo to the right. The site was also sprayed with a broadleaf/woody stem-selective herbicide to kill the regenerated honeysuckle.

Over the winter season the site will be burned (weather dependent) to expose the soil below the leaf and limb litter. The seed mixture that will be broadcasted was specially designed for

ridgetop sites with loess soils and should do well in the area. The seed will be sown in late February to early March to capitalize on the freeze/thaw effect to draw the seed in the ground. The seed will be sown with the broadcast seeding method. This project will be by the end of 2019.



This is a current photo of the area near the converted ball diamond. There are many invasive species that will be removed spring 2019.



River Action is continuing our work at Illiniwek Forest Preserve to remove invasive species and plant native species. In 2017, the Rock Island County Forest Preserve District received funding to convert a ball diamond into a prairie. This photo depicts staff removing the fixtures of the ball diamond.

### Illiniwek Forest Preserve

2018 Funding	Amount
Rock Island County Forest Preserve District	\$4,825.50 (In-Kind)
CommunityWorks	\$1,500.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,325.50</b>

Expenses	Amount
Labor	\$4,200.00
Seed	\$1,625.50
Supplies	\$500.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,325.50</b>

## Loud Thunder Forest Preserve

River Action is partnering with the Rock Island Forest Preserve District to replace two bridges at Loud Thunder Forest Preserve. The bridges are vital to the trail system as they are the only means for equestrians, bikes, and hikers to traverse deep ravines on the trail. This segment of trail is located on the first 1.7 mile stretch of the Sac Fox Trail that was recently widened out and improved with 2015 funding from the RICCC. In addition the bridges do not have any support railing for users. The replacement bridges will be aluminum framed with wood decking, as seen in the image. The replacements shall also be wider allowing trail maintenance vehicles to traverse with ease. Depending on bridge acquisition and site conditions, the project should be completed no later than May 1, 2019.



This is one of two bridges that will be replaced on the Sac Fox Trail at Loud Thunder Nature Preserve.



The bridges will be replaced with an aluminum framed version in 2019. This trail is used by hikers, bikers, and for horsebackriding.

### Loud Thunder Forest Preserve

2018 Funding	Amount
Rock Island County Forest Preserve District - Loud Thunder Endowment	\$5,000.00
Rock Island County Forest Preserve District	\$5,000.00 (In-Kind)
CommunityWorks	\$5,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$15,000.00</b>

Expenses	Amount
Acquisition	\$2,000.00
Removal	\$2,500.00
Installation	\$3,500.00
Bridges	\$7,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$15,000.00</b>



# Rock Island Co. Conservation Consortium Projects

## ECO Camp

River Action partnered with the Rock Island County Soil and Water Conservation District to hold ECO Camp on October 4. The Rock Island County Regional Office of Education has led ECO Camp at Quad City Wild Places for over 17 years. The ECO Camp is a conservation field trip that provides schools in Rock Island County hands-on environmental experiences. The October session covered forestry and prairie management, wood utilization, and Illinois wildlife. The 4th-6th grade students from two Moline schools and the Quad Cities Montessori School participated in October's ECO Camp.

The ECO Camps calls upon partners from Department of Natural Resources - Forestry Division, Fisheries Division and the Illinois Conservation Police, the Rock Island County Soil & Water Conservation District, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the University of Illinois Extension, and the Rock Island County Forest Preserve to lead environmental activities on the field trip.

Between the three ECO Camps, approximately 450 children attended the field trips this school year. The Quad Cities Community Foundation Community Works funds covered a portion of bus transportation for schools, student guidebooks to be used before, during and after the field day, presenter and EMT fees, food for volunteers, and tents in case of inclement weather.



ECO Camp	
2018 Funding	Amount
Rock Island Soil and Water Conservation District	\$2,306.00
CommunityWorks	\$1,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,306.00</b>

Expenses	Amount
Supplies	\$406.00
Busing	\$1,800.00
Insurance	\$600.00
Printing	\$200.00
Speakers	\$300.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,306.00</b>



Photos by Dawn Temple



## Longview Park

River Action, City of Rock Island, and Augustana College have partnered to transform a mowed area to a native prairie at Longview Park. The purpose of this project is to take eroding hillsides out of the mowing schedule and install a two acre short grass prairie. This will also become a pollinator station and educational area for the public. This area was a maintained lawn for the last forty years with little to no grass cover and erosion from machines driving up and down them. The area will be returned to what it looked like when the park was established over 100 years ago.

Augustana College is conducting studies on the ecological impact on the area. This will include storm water and flora and fauna data collection within these areas. The images are of what the area looked like the first season of implementing a no mow concept. It reached about 18 inches tall in some areas and only a few inches in the rest. The City and Rock Island Forest Preserve District will be conducting a prescribed burn and will seed in spring, 2019.

## 20th St Overlook



Years ago, River Action partnered with the City of Rock Island to install a native prairie and the overlook that can be found at the foot of 20th Street through our Retain the Rain program. This overlook of the Mississippi River is visited often, as this area is directly along the river's bike path in Rock Island. There is a need to update this native planting and to maintain the area. The image is the "before" photo of the work site, with one of River Action's RiverWay kiosks highlighted and the observation area in the background. A prescribed burn will take place in 2019 to treat this area. As seen in the image, the surrounding area of the kiosk, while recently mowed, needs to be replanted. This native planting of pre-emergent plugs will be around the kiosk and will improve upon the high traffic area. This project will be completed in 2019.

### Longview Park

2018 Funding	Amount
City of Rock Island	\$1,000.00 (In-Kind)
Augustana College	\$1,000.00 (In-Kind)
Rock Island Forest Preserve District	\$500.00 (In-Kind)
CommunityWorks	\$4,600.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7,100.00</b>

Expenses	Amount
Burn	\$1,000.00
Survey	\$1,000.00
Plants	\$4,600.00
Labor	\$500.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7,100.00</b>

### 20th St Overlook

2018 Funding	Amount
City of Rock Island	\$2,750.00 (In-Kind)
DARI Economic Growth Corporation	\$500.00 (Pending)
CommunityWorks	\$5,400.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8,650.00</b>

Expenses	Amount
Supplies	\$500.00
Plant Plugs	\$2,650.00
Labor	\$5,500.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8,650.00</b>



# Rock Island Co. Conservation Consortium Projects

## Illiniwek Forest Preserve – FORC

River Action awarded Friends of Off-Road Cycling (FORC) \$450.00 to replace a wooden 4' x 30' bridge. This bridge replacement crosses a stream to access the overlook hiking trail and interpretive prairie trails. The old bridge was built in the early 80's and was at the end of its lifespan. There was significant rot/deterioration in critical parts of the structure like the main beams, decking, and hand railing system. A large tree had also fallen on it earlier in the year

causing significant damage to the railings which were repaired temporarily. FORC and the Rock Island County Forest Preserve District removed the old bridge, poured new concrete pads and pier foundations, installed main span beams, handrails, and decking, and shaped dirt for the new approaches. This project is complete.



Photo by Drew Hanson

### Illiniwek Forest Preserve – FORC

2018 Funding	Amount
Friends of Off-Road Cycling	\$1,209.71 (Cash and In-Kind)
Rock Island County Forest Preserve District	\$1,000.00 (In-Kind)
CommunityWorks	\$450.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,759.71</b>

Expenses	Amount
Materials	\$959.71
Labor	\$1,800.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,759.71</b>

## River Action Intern

Morgan Anderson, a sophomore at Augustana College, interned with River Action from April to August, 2018. She found herself immersed in group facilitation at our Big Table discussion on Sylvan Island, event coordination and volunteer recruitment for Ride the River and Floatzilla, educating and leading 5th graders from the Martin Luther King Center and the Boys and Girls Club in the QC Explorers program on Sylvan Island, assisting with QC Wild Places conservation website updates, and a great deal of day-to-day office work. In order to deliver great projects and events at the caliber we have in the past, it was necessary to hire an intern. Morgan worked on projects on both sides of the river; therefore, her wages were split between the CommunityWorks Endowment Fund and Arconic, which recently donated funding

to support the Scott County Conservation Consortium. We hope to provide educational, hands-on opportunities like this one in the future.

### River Action Intern

2018 Funding	Amount
River Action	\$350.00
SCCC Funding	\$1,000.00
CommunityWorks	\$1,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,350.00</b>

Expenses	Amount
Labor	\$2,350.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,350.00</b>

## Pigeon Creek Park

River Action has partnered with the City of Bettendorf and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to complete a project at Pigeon Creek Park. Pigeon Creek Park is a 45 acre site along the Mississippi River in Bettendorf. It is one of only three park sites in Bettendorf with riverfront access, and is primarily a natural setting with very little active development or programming. This project will enhance approximately 14.5 acres of upland habitat and improve water quality in Pigeon Creek by removing exotic invasive species. Pigeon Creek runs through the project area and joins the Mississippi River at the property boundary. This reach of the Mississippi River has several known mussel resources, including the federally endangered Higgins eye pearly mussel (*Lampsilis higginsii*). Removing the invasive species in the project area will allow native herbaceous and woody species to germinate and stabilize the soil that is currently exposed under the infestation of invasive species.



In addition to the invasive species removal, approximately five acres formerly in agricultural production will be planted with native hard mast-producing tree species following a prescribed burn. This will provide habitat for migratory birds, resident wildlife, and further improve water quality in Pigeon Creek. In addition to hiring a contractor to remove invasive species, we have hosted two volunteer clean-up days (60 volunteers total), with additional volunteer opportunities to come in the future. The project team will also be making improvements to the trails and signage at Pigeon Creek Park. This project will be completed in 2019.

### Pigeon Creek Park

2018 Funding	Amount
City of Bettendorf	\$5,840.00 (In-Kind)
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	\$11,817.00
Volunteer	\$2,700.00 (In-Kind)
SCCC Funding	\$4,450.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$24,807.00</b>

Expenses	Amount
Contract	\$11,817.00
Labor	\$6,540.00
Equipment	\$2,000.00
Burn	\$1,000.00
Trees	\$1,500.00
Trail	\$750.00
Signage	\$1,200.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$24,807.00</b>



## Sunderbruch Park

Sunderbruch Park has the most acres of naturalized land in parks within the city limits. The park is a 134 acre multi-use park located in the south west corner of Davenport. Amenities include over 10 total miles of hiking, off-road biking and equestrian trails as well as several acres of prairie and large swaths of woodlands. Approximately 1/3 of a mile of Blackhawk Creek runs through the north end of the park.

The section of woodland creek that runs through the north section of the park is experiencing mass wasting of soils in some locations, contributing to slope failures and downstream sedimentation. Stream bank stabilization, trail relocation and canopy thinning are necessary in this area to stabilize the banks, encourage ground vegetation growth and provide a safer environment and path for the current Kids Trail location, which runs along the top of the bank. River Action has partnered with the City of Davenport and Friends of Off-Road Cycling to complete this streambank stabilization project. This project will also remove invasive species and introduce native species on the slopes and banks that will aid in soil retention and stabilization. This project will be complete in 2019.



This is the stream bank that will be stabilized. As you can see from the image, there is a need to clear fallen trees and thin the canopy to encourage ground vegetation growth and reduce erosional concerns along Blackhawk Creek.

## Sunderbruch Park

2018 Funding	Amount
City of Davenport Natural Resources Department	\$57,000.00 (Cash and In-Kind)
City of Davenport Parks and Recreation Department	\$2,500.00 (In-Kind)
Friends of Off-Road Cycling (FORC)	\$2,500.00 (In-Kind)
SCCC Funding	\$8,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$70,000.00</b>

Expenses	Amount
Tree Removal	\$30,000.00
Trail Relocation	\$5,000.00
Streambank Stabilization & Reshaping	\$30,000.00
Seed	\$5,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$70,000.00</b>



Sunderbruch Park consists of three main trail systems: hiking, off-road biking, and equestrian trails. It also includes a picnic shelter and restrooms. This park is often described as a crown jewel for off-road cycling in Davenport, Iowa. Comprised of 99% singletrack trails, a full gamut of difficulty levels (green to black diamond) are incorporated into the seven mile trail system. There are also approximately 4 1/2 miles of separate equestrian trails for our hoofed friends. The park contains some of the most beautiful wooded scenery found anywhere in Davenport.

## Permeable Alley

River Action, the City of Davenport, and Y & J Properties, will be reconstructing the southern alleyway found between Federal and Tremont Streets into a permeable alley. The permeable alley will be the first of its kind in Davenport and will act as a demonstration and model to install more in the City. Much of the urban landscape in Downtown Davenport is impervious, so the implementation of innovative solutions for controlling runoff, improving the quality of water entering the Mississippi, and reducing flooding is a priority for urban water resource management. Water quality will be improved through removal of pollutants by infiltration and filtration.

Currently the alleyway is full of potholes and is hazardous to both vehicles and pedestrians. With the redevelopment of the historic Gordon-Van Tine Building to include new loft apartments,

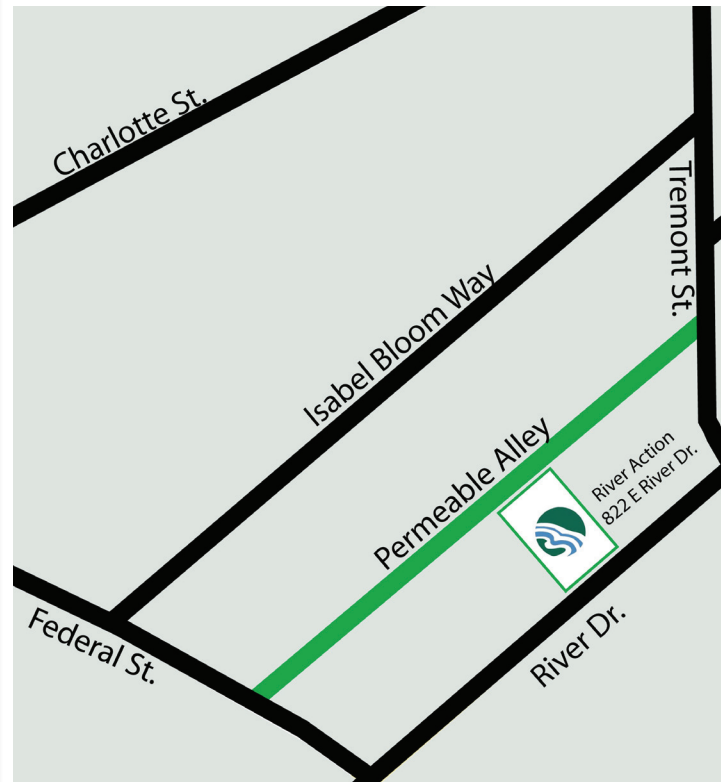
the traffic is expected to increase after the grand re-opening scheduled for 2019. Not only will all residential and business traffic reap the benefits of having a smoother drive, but the conservation practice will be viewed as they make their stops.

River Action will also be hosting two Riverine Walks, which are guided walking tours where professionals present information on environmental and historical sites in the Quad Cities, writing a feature in our "Eddy Magazine," will create educational signage and handouts, and will be purchasing a camera to make a time-lapse video of the excavation and installation of the permeable alley. Installing a successful permeable alley that addresses the water quality volume will act as an example to the City and to property owners that this is a viable conservation choice to mitigate flooding and nutrient runoff. This green infrastructure will be installed in spring 2019.

### Permeable Alley

2018 Funding	Amount
City of Davenport	\$70,000.00 (Cash and In-Kind)
Y & J Properties	\$19,350.00
Regional Development Authority	\$13,500.00
Scott County Soil and Water Conservation District	\$2,000.00
IA American Water	\$2,800.00
River Action	\$5,000.00 (In-Kind)
SCCC Funding	\$2,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$114,650.00</b>

Expenses	Amount
Design, Labor, and Installation	\$107,150.00
Education	\$7,500.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$114,650.00</b>



The permeable alley will run between Federal and Tremont Streets parallel to River Drive in Davenport. Educational presentations on the impact of permeable surfaces will be given by River Action.

## Junge Park



River Action and the City of Davenport have partnered to convert a section of land in Junge Park that was previously baled by a farmer into a natural area. This crop land will be transformed into a native prairie and woodland by 2021. The wooded area is full of invasive species, including honeysuckle, reed canary grass, Japanese hops, and garlic mustard. It will take two years to remove these invasive species before plugs are planted to ensure a high rate of survival of the

native species. After removing invasive species, eight acres will become the native prairie and six will be designated as woodland. The SCCC funding is supporting bluebell plugging, which is a beautiful way to transform a wooded area as seen in the photo. We will also be inter-plugging with other woodland plants that are more active later in the year after the bluebells are done blooming. To remove invasive species and plant the bluebells, the City will give in-kind labor and will get volunteer help from their Duck Creek Wild Program.

<b>Junge Park</b>	
<b>2018 Funding</b>	<b>Amount</b>
City of Davenport Natural Resources Department	\$30,891.20 (Cash and In-Kind)
Werner Family	\$8,000.00
Duck Creek Wild Volunteers	\$2,600.00 (In-Kind)
SCCC Funding	\$3,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$44,491.20</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Labor	\$16,320.00
Equipment	\$8,171.20
Seed	\$20,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$44,491.20</b>

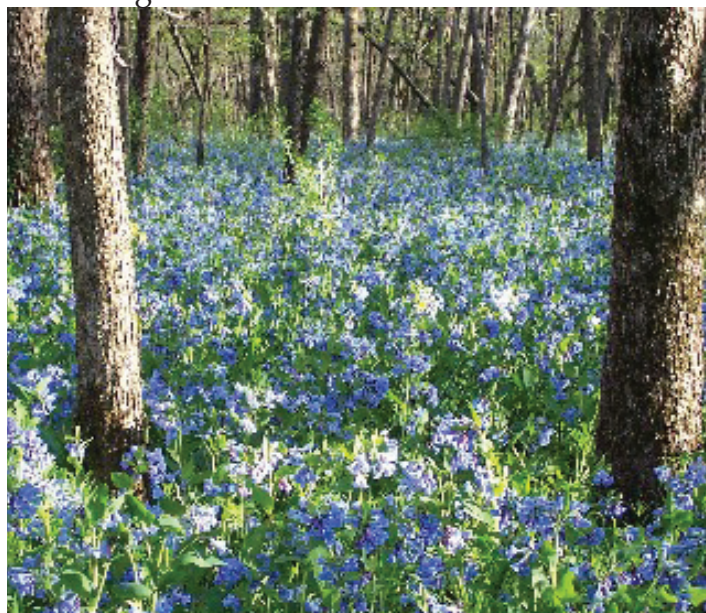


Photo of Katoski Greenbelt; Credit: Waterloo Leisure Services

## Stream Maintenance Mailer



River Action and the City of Davenport are collaborating on a mailer for property owners on or adjacent to a stream section within City limits. The goal of the mailing is to educate property owners on the importance of best management practices along the riverfront. The stormwater runoff that sheds off of everyone’s property eventually ends up in a stream, river or lake. The way you manage runoff from your property can either positively or negatively affect your property and the property of those who live downstream. Proper management of runoff is especially important for those who live along

our creeks and streams. The mailing will be sent to about 4,000 property owners and will discuss healthy buffer zones, plant selection, dumping on banks, and the responsibility for maintenance. This will be mailed in early 2019.

### Stream Maintenance Mailer

2018 Funding	Amount
City of Davenport	\$500.00 (In-Kind)
SCCC Funding	\$5,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,500.00</b>

Expenses	Amount
Printing	\$3,500.00
Mailing	\$1,500.00
Design	\$500.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,500.00</b>

## Schuetzen Park

Schuetzen Park is a privately owned nature and recreation area located in Davenport, IA. The park is rich with German-American history. In 1870, the Davenport Schuetzengesellschaft (later called the Schuetzen Verein) created this “Schuetzenpark,” or shooting park, as a target range for rifle marksmanship. Now the park, which is designated as a local historic landmark, is full of culture, history, and nature. The Schuetzenpark Gilde continues to prioritizing additions to the site, recently including tree plantings, a new pavilion, a new restroom, solar energy, mural paintings, bench installations, and a new wind turbine.

The park will have two trail-side benches installed, 25 Eastern Red Cedar trees planted to act as a windbreak and habitat, trail improvements with the addition of crushed

gravel, and native woodland plug species planted. This project will take place in spring 2019, with volunteers covering most of the labor.

### Schuetzen Park

2018 Funding	Amount
Schuetzenpark Gilde	\$210.00
Volunteer	\$1,678.00
SCCC Funding	\$1,200.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,088.00</b>

Expenses	Amount
Labor	\$1,888.00
Materials	\$600.00
Plants	\$600.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,088.00</b>

## Floating Island Signage

River Action, along with the City of Davenport, Scott County Regional Authority, Nahant Marsh, Steve Gustafson, and Great River IWRM, installed 1200 square feet of floating treatment wetlands (FTW) at Credit Island, Eastern Avenue Lagoon, and Carp Lake. FTWs are hydroponically grown plants that manage stormwater by removing suspended solids and contaminants, like heavy metals and nutrients. The FTWs will remove blue-green algae at our sites by reducing the nutrients that cause them to grow. The microbes that live on the roots of these plants attract large populations of fish and the plants provide habitat for birds.

Blue-green algae is a microbe called cyanobacteria that is commonly found in bodies of water. Oftentimes, cyanobacteria is a result of agricultural and stormwater runoff. Blue-green algae blooms form floating mats that become so dense that they block out sunlight from reaching other underwater plants and plankton. These underwater plants and plankton are oxygenators of the water and act as food sources. Because they no longer have the ability to photosynthesize, the water's oxygen level decreases. This creates a dead zone – a region that is uninhabitable to most plant and animal life.

Floating treatment wetlands combat algae by reducing the amount of nutrients, including phosphorus and nitrogen, that cause blooms to

grow. The FTWs were installed in 2017, and are permanent structures, lasting up to ten years and requiring little maintenance. We feel it is important to educate the public on the FTWs by adding a sign along the bike path adjacent to the Eastern Avenue Lagoon in Davenport. The signage will be installed spring 2019.



## Floating Island Signage

2018 Funding	Amount
Scott County Regional Authority	\$28,000.00
City of Davenport	\$4,500.00 (In-Kind)
Great River IWRM	\$3,500.00 (In-Kind)
Steve Gustafson	\$1,000.00 (In-Kind)
Nahant Marsh	\$3,000.00
River Action	\$13,985.00 (Cash and In-Kind)
SCCC Funding	\$1,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$54,985.00</b>

Expenses	Amount
Consultants	\$7,000.00
Equipment	\$35,485.00
Installation	\$5,500.00
Plants	\$6,000.00
Signage	\$1,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$54,985.00</b>

## Osprey Nesting Platform Signage

River Action partnered with Scott County Regional Authority, the City of Eldridge, and MidAmerican Energy, to install four osprey platforms in Scott County. The four locations include Nahant Marsh, Lost Grove Lake, West Lake Park, and Credit Island. The osprey, also called sea hawk, river hawk, and fish hawk, is a fish-eating bird of prey. This species of bird has reversible talons, a six-foot wingspan, can dive into water at about 40 mph, and can catch fish up to three feet below the surface. They are the second most widely distributed raptor species, after the peregrine falcon.

That being said, the osprey is not commonly found in the Quad City region. The breeding distribution of this species is north of us, so it was a rarity to catch a glimpse of an osprey during nesting season or while they are migrating to South America. Recently, ospreys have been sighted in the area more frequently. This prompted River Action to install osprey platforms in Scott County, hoping to create a nesting population in the area. The platforms are installed on utility poles, which have been donated by the City of Eldridge. MidAmerican Energy donated time and labor to install the osprey platforms. We are installing a sign in 2019 about the osprey at Nahant Marsh Education Center.

### Osprey Nesting Platform Signage

2018 Funding	Amount
Scott County Regional Authority	\$1,500.00
MidAmerican Energy	\$3,000.00
City of Eldridge	\$1,500.00
Volunteer	\$500.00
SCCC Funding	\$1,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7,500.00</b>

Expenses	Amount
Supplies	\$3,000.00
Installation/Labor	\$3,500.00
Signage	\$1,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7,500.00</b>



Photo by Madeline Kull



## Wapsi River Center

River Action has partnered with the Scott County Conservation Board and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to treat invasive species at the Wapsi River Environmental Education Center, which will restore habitat for federally threatened bat species. The scope of work is to remove invasive species in existing prairie and oak-hickory woodlands to improve wildlife habitat, enhance prairie and understory plant community, and improve aesthetics of public land.

Through the use of a natural resources contractor, approximately 22 acres of existing prairie and woodland will be enhanced by removing non-native invasive species from the understory. Bush honeysuckle and autumn olive will be the primary targets of treatments as they are the most prevalent invasive species in these systems. Removing the invasive species in the project areas will allow native herbaceous and woody species to germinate, regenerate, and thereby improve habitat for wildlife. Additionally, this project will stabilize the soil that is currently exposed under the infestation of invasive species and improve water quality by reducing the erosion potential of the area. This project will undoubtedly benefit resident wildlife species and federally threatened bat species which have been documented at the Wapsi River Center, in addition to improving the look of the sites.

### Wapsi River Center

2018 Funding	Amount
Scott County Conservation Board	\$2,500.00
U.S.Fish and Wildlife Service	\$775.60
SCCC Funding	\$15,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$18,275.60</b>

Expenses	Amount
Supplies	\$24.64
Personnel	\$3,250.96
Contractor	\$15,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$18,275.60</b>

## Davenport Riverfront Trees

River Action and the City of Davenport are partnering to green up Davenport's riverfront by planting 14 trees in open public space. The exact locations will be determined after a site visit with City staff; however, the goal of the tree planting to provide shade near park benches along the riverfront to encourage outdoor use. These shade trees will be planted by City staff in spring, 2019.



Picture of Tom McCall Waterfront Park; Credit: Landscape Architect

### Greening of Davenport's Riverfront

2018 Funding	Amount
City of Davenport	\$11,200.00 (In-Kind)
SCCC Funding	\$4,350.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$15,550.00</b>

Expenses	Amount
Water	\$9,800.00
Trees	\$2,800.00
Labor	\$2,950.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$15,550.00</b>

# Quad City Wild Places Member Sites

Name	County	State	Managing Organization
Andalusia Slough Recreation Area	Rock Island	IL	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Ben Williamson Park	Rock Island	IL	City of Rock Island
Black Hawk State Historic Site and Forest Preserve	Rock Island	IL	State of Illinois
Blanchard Island Recreation Area	Rock Island	IL	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Brownlee Cemetery Prairie Nature Preserve	Mercer	IL	Mercer County Soil and Water Conservation District
Bulger's Hollow	Clinton	IA	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Camden Two Disc Golf Course	Rock Island	IL	Camden Two Volunteer Crew
Cedar Bluffs Recreation Park	Muscatine	IA	Muscatine County
Cedar Bottoms Wildlife Area	Muscatine	IA	Iowa DNR
Clark's Ferry	Muscatine	IA	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Credit Island Park	Scott	IA	City of Davenport
Crow Creek Park	Scott	IA	City of Bettendorf
Devils Glen Park	Scott	IA	Bettendorf Parks
Discovery Park	Muscatine	IA	Muscatine County
Dorrance Park	Rock Island	IL	Rock Island County
Duck Creek Parkway	Scott	IA	City of Davenport
Eden Valley Refuge	Clinton	IA	Clinton County Conservation
Elton E. Fawks Bald Eagle Refuge Nature Preserve	Rock Island	IL	IL DNR
Fairport Recreation Area	Muscatine	IA	Iowa DNR
Fisherman's Corner	Rock Island	IL	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Folletts Park	Clinton	IA	Clinton County Conservation
Gedney Lake	Muscatine	IA	Muscatine County Conservation Board
Green Valley Park and Nature Preserve	Rock Island	IL	City of Moline
Hennepin Canal Parkway State Park	Henry (multi)	IL	Illinois DNR
Illiniwek Forest Preserve	Rock Island	IL	Rock Island County
Indian Bluff Forest Preserve	Rock Island	IL	Rock Island County
Jack Shugar Memorial Park	Muscatine	IA	Muscatine County Conservation Board
Killdeer Recreation Area	Clinton	IA	Clinton County Conservation
Lock and Dam 13	Whiteside	IL	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Lock and Dam 14 Recreation Area / Smith's Island	Scott	IA	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Lost Grove Lake	Scott	IA	Iowa DNR
Loud Thunder - Martin Conservation Area	Rock Island	IL	Rock Island County
Loud Thunder Forest Preserve	Rock Island	IL	Rock Island County
Malone Park	Clinton	IA	Clinton County Conservation
McKeown Bridge River Access	Muscatine	IA	Muscatine County Conservation Board
Mississippi River Eco Tourism Center	Clinton	IA	Clinton County Conservation
Munson Township Cemetery Prairie Nature Preserve	Henry	IL	Munson Township
Nahant Marsh	Scott	IA	City of Davenport and Nahant Marsh
Niabi Zoo and Niabi Zoo Forest Preserve	Rock Island	IL	Rock Island County
Nye Cemetery	Muscatine	IA	Muscatine County Conservation Board
Pigeon Creek Park	Scott	IA	City of Bettendorf
Pike Run Wildlife Area	Muscatine	IA	Muscatine County
Port Louisa National Wildlife Refuge	Muscatine	IA	U.S. Fish and Wildlife
Port Louisa National Wildlife Refuge (Keithsburg Division)	Mercer (multi)	IL	U.S. Fish and Wildlife
Red Cedar Wildlife Area	Muscatine	IA	Iowa DNR
Richardson Wildlife Area	Muscatine	IA	Muscatine County Conservation Board
Rock Creek Marina and Campground	Clinton	IA	Clinton County Conservation
Saulsbury Bridge Recreation Area	Muscatine	IA	Muscatine County
Schuetzen Park Historic Site	Scott	IA	Schuetzenpark Gilde
Scott County Park	Scott	IA	Scott County
Scout Park	Scott	IA	City of Le Claire
Shady Creek Recreation Area	Muscatine	IA	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Sherman Park	Clinton	IA	Clinton County Conservation
Shield Prairie	Muscatine	IA	Muscatine County
Soaring Eagle Nature Center	Clinton	IA	Eagle Point Nature Society
Sunderbruch Park (Southwest Park)	Scott	IA	City of Davenport
Sunset Park	Rock Island	IL	City of Rock Island
Sylvan Island	Rock Island	IL	City of Moline
Sylvan Slough Natural Area	Rock Island	IL	City of Rock Island
Thomson Causeway	Carroll	IL	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Upper Mississippi Wildlife and Fish Refuge (Savanna District)	Rock Island	IL	U.S. Fish and Wildlife
Walnut Grove Park	Clinton	IA	Clinton County Conservation
Wapsi River Environmental Education Center	Scott (multi)	IA	Scott County
West Lake Park	Scott	IA	Scott County
Wiese Slough Wildlife Management Area	Muscatine	IA	Iowa DNR
Wild Cat Den State Park	Muscatine	IA	Iowa DNR

## Funding Partners:



The Doris and Victor Day Foundation

