



2008 Annual Awards Program

Program Excellence Awards Nomination Form

Deadline for Nominations: March 14, 2008

Complete this form and attach to your descriptive narrative.

SECTION 1: Information About the Nominated Program

Program Excellence Award Category (select only one)

- Community Health and Safety
- Community Partnership
- Community Sustainability
- Strategic Leadership and Governance

Name of program being nominated: Davenport - Green City

Jurisdiction where program originated: City of Davenport

Jurisdiction population: 100,000

Please indicate the month and year in which the program you are nominating was fully implemented. (Note: All Program Excellence Award nominations must have been fully implemented by or before January 31, 2007 to be eligible. The start date should not include the initial planning phase.)

Month: _____ Year: 2001-2007

Name(s) and title(s) of individual(s) who should receive recognition for this award at the ICMA Annual Conference in Richmond, Virginia, September 2008. (Each individual listed MUST be an ICMA member to be recognized.):

Name: Craig Malin

Title: City Administrator Jurisdiction: City of Davenport

Name: Dee Bruemmer

Title: Assistant City Administrator Jurisdiction: City of Davenport

Name: _____

Title: _____ Jurisdiction: _____

SECTION 2: Information About the Nominator/Primary Contact

Name of person who should be contacted with questions regarding the nomination:

Craig Malin

Title of nominator: City Administrator Jurisdiction of nominator: City of Davenport

Street address: 226 West Fourth Street

City: Davenport State/Province: Iowa

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Recycled paper? Check. Hybrid cars in fleet? Yes. LED traffic signals? Years ago. Waterless urinals? Sure, along with an internationally recognized sewage treatment plant. Green roofs? Brown at the moment, but Spring will soon be here. Home grown fuels? Of course, this is Iowa. CNU membership? That, a revised zoning code and multiple new urban projects underway. Signatory to the US Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement? Done. Paperless office? Ah...we're trying...

The City of Davenport's "Green City" initiative is a key strategy to lead the revitalization of our region. A historic city on the banks of the Mississippi in the heart of the farm belt, Davenport long led the Quad Cities with a proud manufacturing history. But, like many old manufacturing cities, we lost jobs by the hundreds and thousands and suffered double digit percentage population losses as globalized manufacturing hit the community hard as the last century closed. Some thought Davenport was to be another cast off America city, who had seen its heyday and now watched on the sidelines as the nation recast its lot with sprawling sunbelt and suburban communities.

As a national strategy, urban disinvestment is neither pretty nor sustainable. Luckily, Davenport suffers neither from a lack of Midwestern resilience nor pluck. We are the place where railroads first crossed the Mississippi, opening the west and giving jazz to the nation as river roots music traveled up the river and morphed east / west along the tracks. We are the largest American city that lives with the river that gives us life without costly and environmentally suspect levees (more on this to follow). In a nation obsessed with new, we are a "Preserve America" community and, as just one example, have the real deal – the oldest active minor league ballpark and the third oldest active ballpark (after Wrigley and Fenway) in the nation. One can even make the claim that the gold standard of bright ideas – sliced bread – was invented here, with a Mac Roh Sales & Manufacturing patent in 1928.

So it should come as no surprise that bucking a half century trend of urban disinvestment and its attendant population and job loss is Davenport's mission. It is a mission we are succeeding at, with population, jobs and quality of life all on the rise. Importantly, strategically, it is a mission intrinsically linked to environmental, fiscal and social sustainability. It is a mission that cuts to the core of a more sustainable nation, with healthy, vibrant cities ready for the long haul competition with our friends, or foes, anywhere on the globe.

Sliced bread was a neat trick, but this one really counts.

The Green Cities assembly of initiatives boasts a number of recent accomplishments. Under four general headings, these accomplishments include:

Cool Cities

Reducing global warming pollution and improve air quality for climate protection.



- Endorse the US Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement
 - \$20M green roofed Police HQ, the first LEED municipal building in Iowa
 - Reduced the City fleet's ½ million gallons/per year fossil fuel use by 6%
 - Added hybrid vehicles as pool cars and replaced all non-emergency V8 vehicles with fuel efficient models
 - Wastewater Plant uses recovered methane to generate 90% of electricity needed, process changes reduced energy consumption by 33%
 - Heritage Senior Housing Building replaced 1200 incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent saving 40%
 - Piloted LED street lights in neighborhood
 - Increased fleet renewable fuel use by 10%
 - Revised transit routes, improving ridership by 24%
 - Constructing rail line to business park and jointly planning water taxi with Rock Island, Il. to reduce vehicular traffic
- Crime reduction of 33%+ with neighborhood policing
 - Completed numerous downtown livability projects including adaptive reuse of vacant warehouses to reduce sprawl & encourage transit-friendly development
 - Invested \$66M in 30 rehab housing projects representing 500 units using historic or low income housing credits
 - Strengthened curbside recycling program by 11% and decreased land filling by 5% with automated, volume-based waste collection
 - Proud participant in the US Dept. of Justice's "Project Civic Access" program, assuring full ADA compliance for all facilities, public property and city programs
 - Implemented "Putting People in Motion" park programs, with 57,000+ total recreation program participants
 - Compost facility and bike paths paved with recycled asphalt shingles
 - Created the "HAPPEN" program to rehabilitate vacant homes and increase home ownership
 - Created the "100 Homes" Program to increase the socio-economic range of central city neighborhoods
 - Created the Neighborhood Support Specialist position
 - Completed redevelopment plan for LeClaire Park expansion and Centennial Park, with a \$3.7M transformation of former brownfield to regional park
 - Adaptive reuse of closed Marycrest College campus as a senior living community
 - \$14.5M rehabilitation of City owned, riverfront ballpark, originally built in 1931, 3rd oldest active ballpark in nation

Healthy People, Neighborhoods, & City

Creating a healthy, livable urban center.



- Adaptive reuse of abandoned, downtown former freight rail facility as Farmers Market

Healthy City cont.

- Constructed branch library as a neighborhood anchor, increasing total library visits from 279,000 to 390,000
- \$75M+ of downtown public and non-profit arts and culture capital investment, including Figge Art Museum, River Music Experience and expansion of the City owned, art deco era Adler Theater
- Implement Complete Streets Program
- Adopted traditional neighborhood, mixed use neighborhood commercial and conservation development zoning standards
- Pursue LEED standards in all new or significant rehabs of municipal buildings, including second branch library now in design

Green City

Enhancing the urban forest, increasing open space and connecting citizens to nature.



- Created 12 community gardens focusing on under served areas
- Acquired nearly 100 flood prone homes and converted to green space
- Reduced pesticide use in Parks operations and on City maintained properties by 33%
- Preserved 256 acres of development land as green space for Sunderbruch Park in southwest Davenport and Prairie Heights park in north east Davenport
- Completed 2 miles of trails at Nahant Marsh and 5 miles at Sunderbruch Park
- Created “Partners in Horticulture” program
- Tree City USA since 1980

- Restored 4.5 acres of native prairie along Duck Creek Parkway and created a native plant bioswale at Lindsay Park
- Implemented the “Youth Horticulture Initiative” and added an Environmental Education position in Parks Dept
- Developed a green roof demonstration project at Vander Veer
- Planted more than 800 new trees on major streets and in neighborhoods each year and 560 trees in new subdivisions

Revere & Protect Our Waters



A city, born on America’s River, protecting our most precious asset.

- National model for floodplain management without levees
- NPDES permit, with stormwater utility for clean water program
- Built North High School “Living Lab” rain gardens
- Completed the 10th annual “Stream Snapshot” event, with volunteers testing water quality in streams
- Completed 6 major cleanups of streams involving 5,000+ volunteers
- Quad Cities is home base of Chad Pregracke’s Living Lands and Waters
- Winter feeding ground for hundreds of bald eagles fishing in the Mississippi
- Developed compost product for erosion control
- Added 50 ft. stream buffer to development code
- Incorporated natural drainage features into Prairie Heights design
- Community and neighborhood clean-up activities including EarthWeek Coalition Programs, XStream Cleanup & regional forums

Revere & Protect Water cont.

- Installed pet waste stations and signs at 35 locations
 - Installed 50 stream name signs to enhance public awareness
 - Revise stormwater management codes to include water quality components and adopt BMP manual
 - Begin comprehensive study of Blackhawk Creek Watershed
 - Identify and implement opportunities to improve water quality and aquatic habitat as part of the City's capital improvement projects
 - Continue to preserve stream corridors through review and approval of rezoning and sub-division plats
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The overall impact of the City's revitalization and sustainability efforts are extraordinary. In the past five years, crime is down by more than a third, the tax base has increased by more than a billion dollars and the population is on the rise following two decades of prior decline. A riverfront that once served as an industrial workplace is becoming a public showplace. The first new office buildings in decades are being built downtown, as long vacant industrial warehouses are finding new life as loft apartments. Neighborhoods that are fifty to a hundred years old are attracting new investment while a new, traditional neighborhood planned by citizens and built by the state's largest homebuilder is giving Quad Citizens their first smart growth, greenfield choice. And while Davenport can tell any number of compelling sustainability stories, four of our favorites merit a little something more than a bullet point.

Regional Model For Community Revitalization – Davenport's \$113 million "River Renaissance" program, approved by our voters with 73% of the vote in 2001, launched a revitalization of our historic downtown without peer in the region. The vote of the citizens was county wide and permitted our Scott County partners to contribute \$5 million to match a state grant of \$20 million and City participation of \$25 million, to leverage an initial \$113 million of private / public redevelopment. The initial projects included two new parking ramps, a move of the City's art museum downtown, an adaptive re-use of the long vacant first home of Von Maur department stores into a mixed use project including the River Music Experience, expansion of the City owned art deco theater and our one of a kind "Skybridge". River Renaissance included the only successful "Vision Iowa" bond referendum in the state and kick started a downtown rebirth that now exceeds \$300 million in downtown reinvestment.

National Model For Floodplain Management – In a nation that spends billions annually on structural flood protection (and billions more when the structures fail) Davenport is the national model for a more cost effective and environmentally responsible approach. We are the largest city in the nation that does not have a system of levees and pumps for "flood control". We've never had them. And we don't want them. Instead of viewing the grand Mississippi as just another storm sewer, we treat

it appropriately, with a broad floodplain in (99%) City ownership, now the focal point of our “River Vision” plan. The River Vision plan, developed in conjunction with our southern shore partner, Rock Island, Illinois, is the only bi-state riverfront brownfield redevelopment plan of its kind in the nation. Developed with the extraordinary public input of a thousand or more citizens, the plan is guiding the riverfront revitalization of the historic core of the Quad Cities, and has garnered the nation’s “Most Livable Small City” award from the US Conference of Mayors.

International Model For Sewage Treatment & Composting – Just as we are not keen on viewing the “Father of Waters” as a storm sewer to be channelized, we are a little fastidious when it comes to what we return to the river. The Davenport Compost Facility annually processes more than 135,000 cubic yards of mixed yard waste and biosolids from our sewage treatment facility. These materials are converted into environmentally beneficial soil amendments using a high technology, aerated static pile composting system housed in a 130,000 square foot building. Finished products are sold to off-set the cost of operation. In operation since 1995, the facility has become the nation’s oldest and most successful composting facility of its kind. Visitors from across the globe come to Davenport to better understand how waste management through composting is performed successfully. The facility has received numerous awards including Recycled Product Manufacturing and Best Local Government Recycling awards, selected Composter of the Year by The United States Composting Council and is accredited by the American Public Works Association and listed as a “Model Program”.

The Promise of Davenport’s Future – This last one is still in progress, with a newly created Mayor’s Task Force of the best, brightest and heaviest hitters in the community tackling a key issue to any region’s social and fiscal sustainability: workforce development. The Davenport Promise Task Force is researching and refining a breakthrough community revitalization and growth strategy centered on a workforce development program where each Davenport student would have their post high school tuition (college, trade apprenticeship or vocational training) paid for through a community partnership. Few ideas are more attractive and sustainable as the American Dream, and by year’s end, Davenport may be guaranteeing the dream for all its children.

The City of Davenport is on the leading edge of nationally significant, comprehensive and fully integrated sustainability strategies through its Green City Program.

