



CITY SIDE

MAY 2021

LOW HEAD DAM CELEBRATION PLANNED FOR SATURDAY, MAY 1

Since 1984, the low head dam constructed in North River Valley Park has pooled water in the South Skunk River to recharge the aquifer that supplies Ames with drinking water. But the dam made the waterway inaccessible for paddlers due to the dangerous recirculation hydraulics it created. Now, the dam has been reimagined into a recreational asset that still allows water to pool, but creates riverbank access for visitors and an exciting water obstacle for paddlers.

By placing a sequence of boulder weirs in the waterway, a small section of river rapids provides a thrill for kayakers, tubers, and canoers. A nearby fish passage allows for the migration of aquatic species upstream. The improved

river bank access allows anglers, water trail users, and visitors to get closer to the water. Nearly 2,000 cubic yards of material from the riverbank was excavated to open the area to the public and to provide protection against flooding. A shared use path along with the upstream and downstream portage was added.

A portion of funding for the project was provided by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources Low Head Dam Mitigation Grant Program and the Water Trails Grant Program, along with pledges from the Outdoor Alliance of Story County, Iowa Whitewater Coalition, the Hawkeye Fly Fishing Association, Skunk River Paddlers, and the family of Spencer Veysey.



Celebrate the Low Head Dam project completion at the River Valley Park Shelter beginning at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 1. An outdoor open house with booths from various organizations will be held from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Free tree seedlings will be given away to encourage tree planting. Parking is available at the softball fields in North River Valley Park, 725 E. 13th St..

STORY COUNTY WATER MONITORING REPORT RELEASED

The City of Ames has collaborated with the cities of Nevada, Gilbert, and Huxley; Story County; Story County Soil & Water Conservation District; the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture; Story County Community Foundation; Izaak Walton League of America; and Prairie Rivers of Iowa to produce the Story County Water Monitoring & Interpretation Plan, 2021-2030.

The 10-year water quality monitoring report highlights progress

on improving water quality in waterways throughout Story County, but also identifies challenges and future efforts. “This county-wide plan is the first of its kind in Iowa,” said Ames Municipal Engineer Tracy Peterson. “It challenges all of us to consider how decisions today could affect waterways in the years to come.”

The 85-page report can be viewed at www.CityOfAmes.org/SmartWatersheds

CITY NEWS TO USE

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Parks & Recreation News
- More EcoChats Planned
- Water Rate Increases
- Energy Q&A
- Mayor’s Bike Ride on May 15

MEMORIAL DAY:

- The annual Memorial Day celebration will be held virtually, and there will not be a parade due to concerns about the coronavirus. Also, City Hall and most City offices will be closed on Monday, May 31. Check for Memorial Day details on the City’s website at www.CityOfAmes.org



CITY OF
Ames™

REGISTER FOR CLASSES

With summer right around the corner, registration for the following programs are being accepted:

- Dance and Gymnastics
- T-Ball
- Start Smart All Sport and Baseball
- Youth Tennis Lessons
- Youth, Adult, and Adult/Child Golf Lessons
- Youth Golf League
- Summer Camps
- Swimming Lessons
- Early Bird Lap Swim
- Lifeguard Training, Lifeguard Review, and Lifeguard Prep
- Adult and Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED
- Adult Sand Volleyball Leagues (Coed)
- Adult Soccer League (Coed)
- Adult Ultimate Frisbee League (Coed)
- Tae Kwon Do (in-person & virtual)
- Fitness classes (in-person, outdoor, virtual, & recorded)

For more information and to register, please visit www.amesparkrec.org.



SMALL WONDERS PRESCHOOL

Small Wonders Preschool provides an age-appropriate, play-based curriculum designed to enhance your child's social, emotional, cognitive, linguistic, and physical development. The preschool is open to children between the ages of 3 and 5 who are toilet trained. Classes are offered from 9 to 11:30 a.m., Monday through Friday. Registration for the 2021-22 school year has begun. There are openings in M/W/F, T/TH, and five days a week classes. Please contact Karla Drapal, Preschool Director, at karla.drapal@cityofames.org for more information.

MIND-BODY CLASSES AT REIMAN GARDENS

Parks and Recreation is excited to partner with Reiman Gardens to offer mind-body classes at the Gardens this summer! Yoga, Tai Chi, and meditation classes will be offered at various times and days. Look for more information and the schedule to be announced soon at www.amesparkrec.org and Ames Parks and Recreation Facebook.



AMES/ISU ICE ARENA

The Ames/ISU Ice Arena will be closed for the month of May beginning May 3 for annual maintenance. The Ice Arena will reopen June 1, with ice rentals, public skate, figure freestyle, and stick and helmet sessions offered throughout the summer. The Ice Arena hosts and offers birthday party packages. For more information and to book your party or ice rental, please

call 515.292.6835. The facility calendar can be accessed at www.CityofAmes.org/prcalendars. This is also where you register for a public skate session.



HOMWOOD GOLF COURSE

Homewood Golf Course traditionally opens on April 1 each year. Book your tee time by calling 515.239.5363 or online at www.amesparkrec.org. Click the "Book or Cancel a Tee Time" in the gray bar on the left.

Pietz at 515.239.5350 or nate.pietz@cityofames.org.

Homewood Golf Course is celebrating Mother's Day on Sunday, May 9. Mothers play free with a paid family member between 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. Tee times are recommended.

The new Homewood Clubhouse is a year-round facility that features a large room available to rent for meetings, birthday parties, graduations, and more. This new facility provides the perfect place for group outings. For more information or to book your outing, please contact Nate



CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

City Council meetings are held via Zoom.

6 p.m. Tuesday, May 11

6 p.m. Tuesday, May 18 (workshop)

6 p.m. Tuesday, May 25

MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT WWW.CITYOFAMES.ORG



ELECTRIC

SUSTAINABILITY-THEMED EcoChats Planned Monthly Through August

Join the City of Ames and Ames Public Library for EcoChats 2021, a series of virtual lectures focused around sustainability topics. The 2021 EcoChats will be held via Zoom at 7 p.m. the first Tuesday of each month, and information about how to participate is available on the Ames Public Library's website (www.AmesPublicLibrary.org).

The May EcoChat will be held on Tuesday, May 4. Facilitating the topics "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" will be Bill Schmitt, Superintendent of the Resource Recovery Plant. The presentations will cover the waste hierarchy model, which is founded on the principle of waste prevention or reducing waste at the source. Waste prevention discourages consumerism and encourages reusing or donating items, buying in bulk, reducing



packaging, redesigning products, and reducing toxicity.

Other topics covered in this EcoChat include a few of the programs offered by the City of Ames such as glass recycling, metal recycling, composting rebate, household hazardous waste, and the Food Waste Diversion (FWD) program.

- EcoChat Topics:**
 May 4: Reduce/Reuse/Recycle
 June 1: Water
 July 6: Watersheds
 August 3: Electric

Water Rate Increase Planned for July

With the completion of the 2021-2022 fiscal budget, the City has identified one utility fee increase that will begin on July 1. Water rates will increase 6 percent.

The need for the proposed rate adjustment is a combination of multiple factors. A series of construction projects is planned over the next 10 years that is intended to accomplish three things: replace aging infrastructure; increase resiliency to both natural and man-made disasters; and to stay ahead of anticipated growth in the Ames community. Additionally, periodic adjustments are needed to keep pace with the increase in routine operating expenses such as chemicals, energy, and labor.

Residents can mitigate utility increases by looking for ways to conserve water. To learn more water conservation ideas, go to www.CityOfAmes.org/SmartWater.

AT-A-GLANCE ENERGY NUMBERS FOR FEBRUARY 2021

92,531 kWh ELECTRICITY GENERATED THIS MONTH FROM THE SUNSMART COMMUNITY SOLAR FARM	357kWh HOURS OF VEHICLE CHARGING AT PUBLIC ELECTRIC CHARGING STATIONS
26 NEW LED STREET LIGHTS INSTALLED	2.3% ELECTRICITY THIS MONTH WAS GENERATED BY REFUSE DERIVED FUEL (RDF) FROM THE RESOURCE RECOVERY PLANT

DEGREE DAY INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT WWW.CITYOFAMES.ORG/ELECTRIC

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

- Power Out 515.239.5240
- Street Light Out..... 515.239.5500
- Utility Bills..... 515.239.5120
- Energy Questions 515.239.5177
- Tree Too Close to Electric Line? 515.239.5500
- Digging? Contact Iowa One Call..... 811
- Storm Water Concern..... 515.239.5160
- Rusty Water..... 515.239.5551

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ENERGY Q&A

Q: I'm graduating from high school this year, and I'm thinking about studying something related to energy or sustainability in college. Could you tell me about why you chose to work for the electric utility?

A: Congratulations on your graduation! I enjoy getting these questions because I love my job and working every day toward a more reliable energy system and a more sustainable society. If you're interested in staying local, Iowa has a fascinating energy landscape, producing more of its energy from wind than any other state (53 percent in 2019). And Ames is a particularly rewarding place to work in energy because we are a municipal electric utility, which means that the people providing your energy services are your neighbors. We work closely with other service providers and residents of Ames to craft systems and solutions that work for Ames. It's incredibly rewarding to work in a community-level, customer-driven utility and get to know the faces of your customers.

If you're looking for more distant adventures, energy jobs exist all over the world because people use energy all over the world. Energy is one of the most universal aspects of the modern

human existence. That also means that there are a lot of diverse people working on energy-related problems, which makes for dynamic and creative solutions!

We are in the middle of a major energy transition, motivated largely by emerging, urgent, and global environmental challenges. For those entering their careers now, I believe the current energy systems will transform into something we can hardly imagine today. It's an exciting time to get involved!

Working to improve our energy system is an interdisciplinary task that requires input from all sorts of minds – engineers, communicators, planners and architects, policy designers, economists, sociologists, health experts, and more. So no matter what your gifts are, there's a place for you to apply them in the fields of energy and sustainability.

I encourage all our graduating high school seniors to explore all career options including those in the skilled trades. Best of luck!

Kayley Barrios Lain, Energy Services Coordinator
515.239.5177 | Kayley.Lain@cityofames.org

Mayor's Bike Ride Planned for Saturday, May 15

Although last year's ride was canceled, plans are underway to hold the annual Mayor's bike ride as a physically distanced, outside event beginning at 9 a.m. on Saturday, May 15, at Ames City Hall, 515 Clark Ave. Participants should gather in the west parking lot.

Bicyclists of all ages and experience levels are welcome to join the ride. There is no pre-



registration necessary or cost to participate. Bike helmets are strongly encouraged. Watch

the City of Ames website (www.CityOfAmes.org) for more information and a route map closer to the event.

Additionally, Ames City Hall will serve as the kick-off location for the Bike To Work Week breakfast as part of National Bike Month. Bicyclists may stop by for a quick grab-and-go snack and drink from 7 to 9 a.m. on Monday, May 17.

INFORMATION

POWER OFF? START HERE.

Check if the power is off in the whole house or just part of it. Also, check your main electric panel to see if a breaker has tripped or fuse has blown. If the problem is not in your panel,

check if your neighbors have been affected. Report your outage by calling the outage reporting system at 515.239.5240. You will be asked to provide your name, address of the outage, and phone number at the outage address.