



MONTHLY PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

APRIL 2021



ANIMAL SHELTER

The Ames Animal Shelter held their first ever pet microchipping clinic on Saturday, April 3, 2021 for Ames residents. We microchipped 45 cats and 48 dogs in just three hours thanks to the help of nine Iowa State University veterinary students from their Shelter Medicine Club and three shelter volunteers. These pets now have a lifetime identification that can help us reunite them with their owners should they ever become lost. A big THANK YOU to the Iowa State University Shelter Medicine Club volunteers and our shelter volunteers, as well as to the City of Ames Water & Pollution Control department for

generously allowing us to use their facility for our clinic. Due to the overwhelming success of the first event, staff have scheduled the next microchipping clinic for Saturday, May 15, 2021. The goal at the second clinic is to implant 120 microchips.

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE



Climate Action Planning: With the City Council approval of the contract with SSG of Vancouver, BC, work begins on producing the City of Ames' first Climate Action Plan. A Climate Action Plan provides evidence-based measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and preventative measures to address the negative outcomes of climate change. The plan can identify ways a city will adapt and improve its resilience to climate hazards that impact it today as well as risks that may increase in the coming years. There is great interest in Ames in this next step, and engaging the community in completing this document will be an essential component in adopting a practical, implementable, and inspiring plan to cut our contribution to greenhouse gases.

The City completed a community greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory in summer 2020, which is a foundational step for the development of a CAP. It is anticipated the project will take 18 months to complete.

Emergency Broadband Benefit: In March, City Council directed staff to help publicize the Emergency Broadband Benefit program (EBB) to our residents and governmental and non-governmental partners.



The program will launch on **May 12, 2021**. The following information has been provided by the FCC to educate consumers and consumer advocates about the program.

Q. What is the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program (EBB)?

A. The Emergency Broadband Benefit Program is a [Federal Communications Commission \(FCC\) program](#) that provides a **temporary discount on monthly broadband bills for qualifying low-income households**. If your household is [eligible](#), you can receive:

- Up to a \$50/month discount on your broadband service and associated equipment rentals
- Up to a \$75/month discount if your household is on qualifying Tribal lands
- A one-time discount of up to \$100 for a laptop, tablet, or desktop computer (with a co-payment of more than \$10 but less than \$50)

Only one monthly service discount and one device discount is allowed per household. Your broadband service provider will receive the funds directly from EBB and a discount will appear on your billing statement.

Q. Which broadband providers are participating in the Emergency Broadband Benefit?

A. The following broadband providers serving Ames have indicated that they will be participating in the EBB program:

- Century Link/Lumen
- Mediacom
- MetroNet

There are also other various broadband providers, including those offering landline and wireless broadband, that will be participating in the Emergency Broadband Benefit. Depending on where you live, you may have a choice of providers. Check with the broadband providers in your area to learn about their plans for program participation and eligible service

offerings. You can also use the Companies Near Me tool <https://www.fcc.gov/emergency-broadband-benefit-providers>.

Q. How do I apply?

A. Beginning **May 12, 2021** applications can be submitted. Before you apply, it is important to understand that the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program will end when the funding runs out or six months after the Department of Health and Human Services declares an end to the COVID-19 health emergency, whichever is sooner.

There are three ways to apply for the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program:

1. Online

Use the online application (available in English and Spanish) located at this link: <https://www.getemergencybroadband.org/>

2. Paper Application and Regular Mail Print an application in English or Spanish (instructions also available in 8 additional languages) found at <https://www.getemergencybroadband.org/>

Complete the application and send with proof of eligibility to:

Emergency Broadband Support Center
P.O. Box 7081
London, KY 40742

3. Contact Your Broadband Provider

Ask your provider if they participate in the EBB Program or use our [online tool](#) to find a participating company near you.

Q. Need additional assistance?

A. The Emergency Broadband Benefit Program Support Center serves consumers and those supporting consumers with questions about:

- The status of your EBB Program application
- Documents needed to show you qualify
- Companies in your area
- Assistance with the EBB Program Household Worksheet
- Resetting your account

Hours

7 days a week, from
8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
(Central Standard Time)

Email

Contact us at:
EBBHelp@usac.org

By Phone

Call us toll free:
(833) 511-0311

FIRE



This month, Ames Fire Crews conducted foam application training. Foam is typically used to extinguish flammable liquid fires, such as gasoline or diesel fuel fires. Pictured below are Firefighters practicing some of the different foam application techniques on a simulated flammable liquid fire. Firefighters must be careful on how they apply the foam to not penetrate the surface of the spill, which would spread the fire and keep it from being extinguished.

The Iowa Department of Transportation provided information and training to different Fire and Law Enforcement agencies in Story County on the cable barrier system found along the interstate and many highways across Iowa. The information included several safe options to safely reduce tension without disabling the entire system when responding to emergencies.



LIBRARY



Library Continues to Adapt Services: Library staff have built multiple new service models in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including Curbside Holds Pickup and Grab and Go Lobby Service. Last month, the Library re-opened “the stacks” to the public. Visitors have been happy to be back browsing the shelves and have respected COVID precautions and restrictions. Based on building capacity and current use, the Library will be removing the time limit for visits starting May 10.

Library Cards for All Ames Students: Soon, every child enrolled in the Ames Community School District will have an Ames Public Library Card! The Library has entered into a data sharing agreement that will allow us to issue an account to each student (unless their parents opt out),

expanding students’ access to books and online resources for research and homework help.

Event for English Learners: The Library also partnered with Ames Community School District to throw a virtual family night for English Learners this month. Families signed up for Library cards, received a free book, and enjoyed activities highlighting the Library’s resources.

Library Awarded Grants for STEM: Ames Public Library has been awarded two grants as part of the STEM Scale-Up Program, which will be used to increase our offerings in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math). Ames Public Library already has a collection of STEM take-home kits and offers STEM events from time to time. These grants will give training opportunities for staff as well as funding for expanded programming and collections.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Homewood Golf Course: Homewood Golf Course opened April 1. Patrons are excited to get outside and play golf. They are also anxious for the clubhouse to be complete and motorized carts to be available.

Homewood Golf Course Clubhouse: Construction is nearing completion for the new clubhouse and updates are shown below.



- Sidewalk has been poured from the parking lot to the clubhouse.
- All interior concrete surfaces have been sealed.
- All counters and casework have been installed.
- Plumbing contractor is completing final calibration of the geothermal system.
- Items yet to be completed include grading and seeding, installing sidewalk railings, and placing concession equipment.
- Outside stonework and vinyl siding has been installed and the cedar siding will be completed soon.
- Ribbon cutting has been rescheduled for May 10, at noon.

Garlic Mustard Removal: On April 20, the City Forester, along with the Friends of Brookside Park, coordinated students from the ISU Landscape Architect Program to remove garlic mustard plants from Brookside Park. Garlic mustard is an invasive species and events like this help manage this plant from spreading.



Garlic Mustard Plant



Landscape Architect Group



Removing Garlic Mustard

Miracle League of Ames: Ames Parks & Recreation is excited to offer Miracle League for youth and adults with disabilities! In the Ames Miracle League, everyone bats, everyone scores, and all games end in a tie! All youth and adults 5 years of age and older with special needs are eligible to play in this coed, non-competitive baseball league. Games will be played Saturdays, May 15 – June 26 (skip May 29) with youth league first followed by adult league.

Wellness Programming: A new four-week session of fitness classes began Monday, March 29. Classes continue to meet both virtually and in-person with 175 in-person and 163 virtual registrations. In-person class numbers are slowly increasing which is exciting although we still have a lot of participants who prefer the virtual classes. A new session of deep-water classes began at Municipal with two classes offered per week.

A new session of Tae Kwon Do began March 23 with in-person classes being held in the Community Center gymnasium. In-person numbers increased dramatically with 80 registrations while Zoom classes have 24 registrations.

The summer group fitness schedule was finalized and posted. Summer classes will begin May 24 with some of the classes moving outdoors to the parks. A new summer fitness brochure was created and posted online.

Recreation Programming: On Sunday, April 18, a 12-week session of dance and gymnastics culminated with the annual recital in the Ames City Auditorium. A special thanks to the parents, participants, and staff for coming together to put on a recital session of dance and gymnastics in a safe manner.



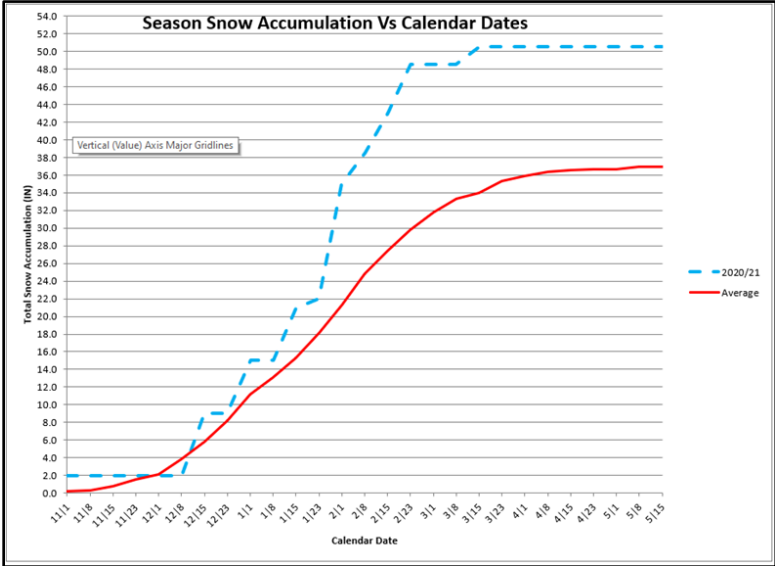
Youth Soccer is in full swing with games being played at North River Valley Park. Start Smart soccer (Ages 3-5), Kiddie Kickers (Ages 5-6), and 1st-6th grade leagues are all in the middle of their seasons and games are going great!



PUBLIC WORKS



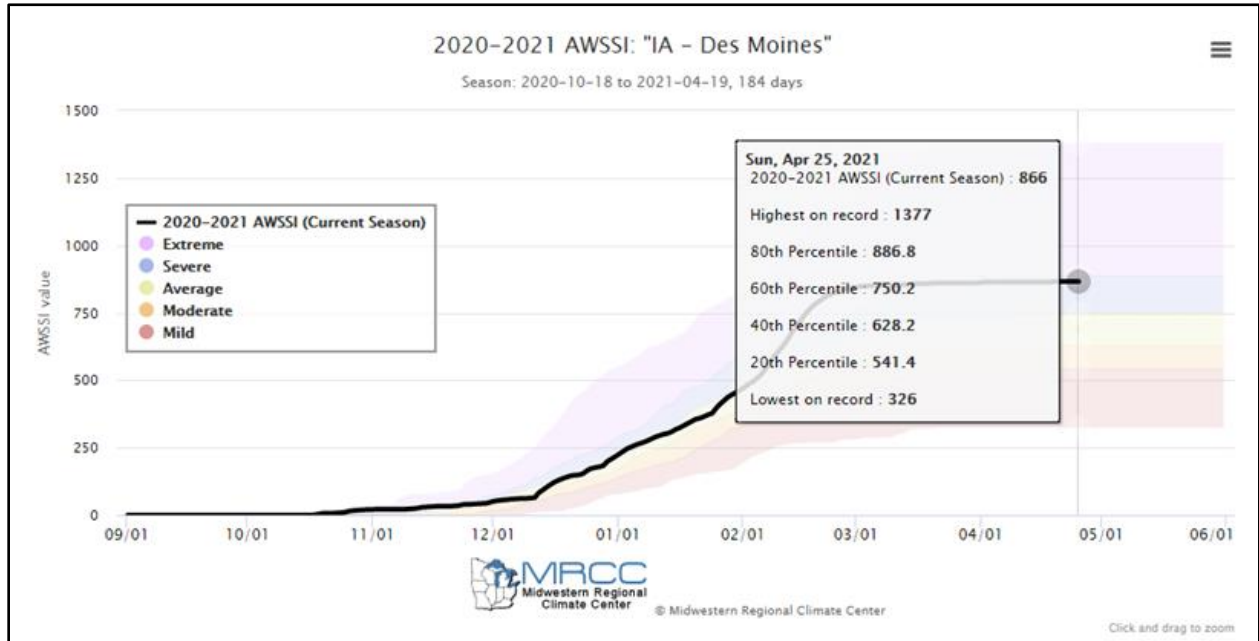
Ioway Creek Flood Mitigation Project: The Ioway Creek Flood Mitigation Project is underway. This project will have a fantastic post construction design that will widen the creek for capacity, stabilize the banks of the creek, and create a habitat. For more information and project updates visit www.cityofames.org/iowaycreek.



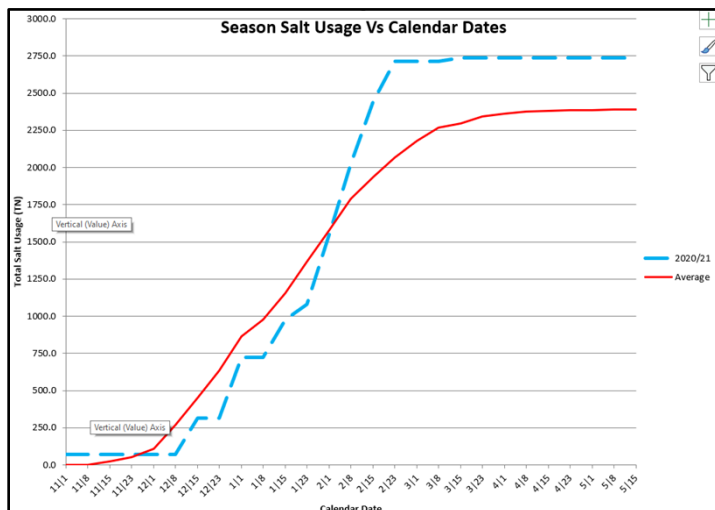
Operations: The winter of 2020/21 appears to be behind us. Ames received 50.5 inches of snow, which would put us at the fifth highest snowfall amount in the past thirty-three years of detailed local records with the highest amount being 62 inches during the winter of 1996-97. Ames averages around 36 inches of snow annually.

Winters are also assigned a score based off a number of factors such as temperatures, precipitation, and snow on the ground. The Midwest Regional Climate

Center (MRCC) collates data and provides a severity score for each winter. This rating doesn't include factors such as wind. This past winter rated at 866, which is categorized as Severe. It should be noted that the 866 rating is just below the Extreme category. This rating ranks number seven out of the past 33 years of local data with the highest ranking at 1210 in 2009/10.

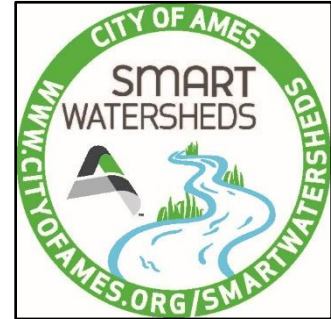


Public Works used 2,736 tons of sodium chloride and 5,300 gallons of liquid calcium chloride on 517 lane-miles of streets in 20 events during winter operations. Our average salt usage is around 2,300 tons and calcium usage averages around 5,800 gallons. The increase usage of salt was due to abnormally cold temperatures in February. The effectiveness of sodium chloride rapidly decreases below 15 degrees Fahrenheit; however when treated with liquid calcium chloride the effective temperature can be lowered to closer to 0 degrees Fahrenheit, making it possible to use during colder events.



The budget for snow and ice control for FY 2020/21 was approximately \$1,314,000. The actual expenditures are expected to be very closely aligned if not a bit under the amended budget.

Smart Watersheds: In its efforts to protect water quality in Ames, the City encourages residents to consider using phosphorus-free lawn fertilizer.



Q. Why use lawn fertilizer without phosphorus around lakes or streams?

A: It is estimated that just one pound of phosphorus in the water will produce 500 pounds of blue-green algae (cyanobacteria). As little as 30 micro-liters of phosphorus per liter of water can cause unwanted algae blooms. Much of the phosphorus (phosphate) you apply actually runs off the lawn before penetrating the soil. That means it gets into the lakes and streams, contributing to the blue-green algae blooms and growth of other undesirable aquatic plants.



Q. How do I know there's no phosphorus in my fertilizer?

A. Check the second number on the package formula. 15-0-10, for example, means zero phosphate. The first number is the nitrogen content, the middle number is the phosphorus content, and the last number is the potassium content. Make sure the middle number on the bag is 0, indicating it is phosphorus free.

Q. Does my lawn need phosphorus?

A. No. Unless you have a newly seeded lawn, most soils in Iowa naturally provide all the phosphorus your established lawn needs. Have your soil tested before you apply any phosphorus.

Q. When should I feed my lawn?

A. The best time to fertilize is in May and early June and again in September or early October.

Lawn Friendly Tips

- Avoid letting fertilizer wash off the turf.
- Don't fertilize when the soil is saturated with moisture.
- Avoid getting fertilizer on driveways, sidewalks, and storm drains.
- Use a mulching mower to leave the grass clippings on the turf.
- Cut no more than the top third of the grass. Leaving about 3 inches height shades the roots and helps reduce erosion and runoff.
- Rake and recycle your leaves in the fall. Don't let them blow into the street.

For more information on Smart Watersheds, including plans and available rebates, visit www.cityofames.org/smartwatersheds.

RESOURCE RECOVERY

Resource Recovery staff has moved to the next stage of post closure of the closed City Landfill. Since the landfill was closed in 1996, the City of Ames has been responsible for maintenance of the landfill. There was a required 30-year permit issued to the City of Ames to monitor and report on ground cover, water quality, and slope stability. All the required permit items have been stable and meet the requirements to allow the landfill to transition to environmental covenants before the end of 30-year permit. The landfill will continue to be inspected, maintained, and monitored under the environmental covenants. This is one of a handful of landfills that have been selected to move to the next stage due to condition and care of the landfill.

Following are pictures of the established ground cover and compost made from food waste that will be applied as a soil amendment to improve soil quality.

