

Added Item #15

10/27/25

Date: October 24, 2025

Agenda Item: Habitat Management Grants Program

History:

I received an inquiry from a Nevada resident (Anna Buckardt) in regards to low areas on the south side of Indian Creek near Meadow Lane where flooding this summer has killed several grassy areas. She would like our department to consider planting prairie and native shrubs, helping create a wildlife habitat, for non-game wildlife. In addition, Rhett Faaborg, with Country Landscapes, has offered to redo the Greenbelt Trail Loop prairie, as it is not doing well.

With these two proposals, we feel that applying for The Iowa DNR Wildlife Diversity Habitat Management Grants Program, would be a perfect fit to secure additional funding for this project. Please see the attached information in regards to the grant and the November 1 deadline.

Parks and Recreation would work with Anna and Rhett for recommendations on all plantings and prairie seed mix. Country Landscapes has offered to provide labor and equipment free of charge with the City of Nevada responsible for purchase of seed mix, shrubs and necessary chemical.

Please see the attached maps, to better understand the locations and the proposed areas for shrubs and prairie. Native shrubs would be planted in areas right along the creek (A,B,D on the map) and a native prairie seed mix for the area south of the trail (C on the map). A more diverse and shorter seed mix would be used on the trail loop.

Native shrubs along the creek will provide early spring flowers as pollinators along with summer and fall berries for migratory birds. The native prairie seeding will provide habitat for pollinators, insects and butterflies, along with winter seed for birds.

Both the Parks and Recreation Board and staff feel this project would enhance wildlife along the Indian Creek Greenbelt trail.

Options:

1. Apply for the Habitat Management Grants Program utilizing matching funds from Park Open Space.
2. Do more research and apply in a different year.
3. Do nothing at this time.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends Option 1.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 382-4352 (office) or by email at nevadarecreation@gmail.com

HABITAT MANAGEMENT GRANTS PROGRAM

Request for Proposals

Funded by the Natural Resources License Plate Fund



Program Description:

The Iowa DNR Wildlife Diversity Program has small grants available for habitat management projects (improving areas for wildlife to live) in urban areas directly related to wildlife diversity conservation (non-game wildlife) in Iowa. Information on what species are considered to be non-game wildlife can be found in [Iowa's Wildlife Action Plan](#), but generally includes wildlife such as songbirds and raptors, bats, butterflies and bees, turtles, snakes, frogs, salamanders and other aquatic species such as mussels and crayfish. Approved projects will be funded on a single-year basis but can be submitted for additional funding in subsequent years though applicants should indicate if a project will likely be multi-year. \$5,000 is the maximum amount available per proposal request. Successful applicants will be provided 75% of the approved project cost up front and will receive reimbursement for 25% of the cost after successful completion.

This funding will begin on or before May 15, 2026. Due date for proposals is November 1, 2025.

Request Procedures

Who Should Apply: City Governments. Anyone within city government can submit the proposal on behalf of the city but the application does require a "sign-off" by the mayor or city clerk to make sure the project has approval.

Requests for funding should be concise and contain information according to the following numbered guidelines. Failure to include all of these elements will result in the proposal getting a lower score.

1. Applicant: Organization of entity applying for the grant.
2. Contact Person: The name of the person putting the grant together and who should be notified of the results.
3. Amount Requested: How much money are you requesting from this grant program.
4. Project Title and Short Summary: 75 words or less describing the project's objective and how the funds will help achieve that objective.
5. Project Objectives - describe the immediate goals of the project. These goals should be synonymous with the goals of [Iowa's Wildlife Action Plan](#) (IWAP).
6. Years of project funding: Has this project been funded by Wildlife Diversity Habitat money before and if so, for how many years.
7. Project area - describe the area where the project will take place including its benefit for non-game wildlife. You can upload multiple maps and/or photos in this section but to submit to slideroom they will need to be combined into a single document. Latitude and Longitude also requested.
8. Procedures - explain in detail how you propose to accomplish the project. What actions will be taken and how sustainable will the habitat that is created or managed be? Are there any plans for outreach or education to city residents about the project?
9. Justification - What is this project's significance in supporting non-game wildlife in your city? Which wildlife are you intending to be supported by your project. How does the project contribute to the goals of the Iowa's Wildlife Action Plan? Why should we fund this project? Is there support from city leadership?
10. Personnel - identify the personnel that will be primarily responsible for planning and conducting the management project and their qualifications. Others who will be involved with the project should also be identified (including a description of the tasks they will perform). Who have you received advice from if any. You have the option of uploaded a short (2 page) CV if you would like.
11. Budget - include an itemized budget and a complete breakdown of costs for the entire project. If the amount requested from this proposal is less than the total project cost, the specific request should be noted. Matching funds or other sources of funding for this project should also be listed.
12. Timeline - give expected initiation time, estimated dates for each task, and date of completion. Note whether the project will likely be resubmitted for future years funding.

Proposal Submittal

Proposals must be submitted through the [Iowa DNR's Slideroom Portal](#). The grant title is listed as: [FY26 Wildlife Habitat Management Grants in Cities](#).

Project Eligibility

1. Projects to be considered will have habitat creation or management for non-game wildlife as their primary focus, some **examples** of which are:
 - a. Planting pollinator (butterflies, bees etc....) habitat in city parks.
 - b. Buying equipment or hiring a contractor to help manage and improve existing non-game wildlife habitat
 - c. Implementing or supporting a program that helps city residents have more wildlife friendly yards.
 - d. Planting trees or doing forest management to help bat and bird populations.
2. The money provided cannot be used for reimbursement on projects already completed before the grant money is available on or before May 15, 2026.
3. If the project will cost a great deal more than what is requested in the grant application, the source of additional funding must be listed and secured. Projects with other funding sources pending will not score as highly and will not be notified whether it had been accepted prior to the additional funding being secured.
4. Projects that have been funded for 3 or more years can continue to be submitted for funding but after three years of funding will automatically be docked points in scoring. This is to make sure a variety of projects are being funded.

Review Procedures

All proposals received will be reviewed by an IA DNR technical review committee and will be scored based upon:

1. Relationship to the goals of the Wildlife Action Plan.
2. Budget considerations.
3. Adherence to request procedures.
4. The level of impact it may have on making the city friendlier to wildlife.

DUE DATE: Proposals must be received before midnight on November 1, 2025.

NOTIFICATION: Notice of proposals acceptance or decline will be sent to all applicants by March 1, 2026.

FUNDING DISBURSEMENT: Funding will be available by May 15, 2026. 75% of the funds will be paid at initiation of the project, and the final 25% will be paid at completion. Applicants will have 1 year from the date stated in the grant agreement in which to complete the project. At completion they will be required to submit a short final report of what actions were taken and any setbacks that were encountered as well as an itemized budget.

GRANT AGREEMENT: If your grant proposal is awarded funding, your organization will be required to sign a Small Grant Agreement with the Iowa DNR. A generic copy of this agreement is available the [Iowa DNR's website](#) for reference.

Questions?

Questions can be submitted by email to Stephanie Shepherd, stephanie.shepherd@dnr.iowa.gov.

Some Resources for putting together a good urban wildlife friendly project:

- Birds: <https://birdcity.org/iowa/resources>
- Pollinators: www.iowadnr.gov/pollinators
- Pollinators: [Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation](#)
- Reptiles and Amphibians: [Midwest Habitat Management Guidelines for Amphibians and Reptiles](#)
- Bats: <https://naturalresources.extension.iastate.edu/wildlife/bats-iowa>
- Iowa Native Seed and Plant Producers and Service Providers: <https://tallgrassprairiecenter.org/resources>





