



DUBUQUE COUNTY

Land & Water Legacy

October 22, 2021

To: The voters of Dubuque County
From: Art Roche, chair, Dubuque County Land and Water Legacy
About: November 2 Dubuque County conservation bond referendum

Dear Friends:

I am writing to ask for your YES vote on the November 2 ballot question to invest in Dubuque County parks, trails, clean water, wildlife habitat, flood prevention, outdoor recreation and natural resource conservation.

My name is Art Roche. I am chair of Dubuque County Land & Water Legacy, an independent citizen committee of wonderful volunteers formed to promote the success of this ballot issue.

As you may know, the Dubuque County Conservation Board operates Dubuque County Parks: Swiss Valley, Heritage Trail, New Wine Park, Whitewater Canyon, Ringneck Ridge, Finley's Landing, Mud Lake and 15 others across the county.

After a three-year planning process, the Board adopted a comprehensive plan in 2020 that identifies many of the initiatives that will be funded by the conservation bond, if voters approve. Funded projects could also include partnerships with the Catfish Creek Watershed Management Authority, the Dubuque County Soil and Water Conservation District, as well as cooperative projects with cities and towns throughout the County.

The plan includes projects that will interest almost everyone – walkers and runners, picnickers, fishers, hunters and foragers, hikers and bikers, canoers and kayakers, bird-watchers, lovers of streams and marshes, photographers, admirers of fall colors and spring peepers. Resources available to provide environmental education for our youth will be expanded.

Numerous groups have endorsed the proposition, including (to-date): Friends of Dubuque County Conservation, Dubuque Area Chamber of Commerce, Dubuque Area Labor-Management Council, Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium, Travel Dubuque, Friends of the Mines of Spain, Dubuque County Conservation Society, Dubuque County Veterans Affairs Commission, Dubuqueland Pheasants Forever, Dubuque Interfaith Green Coalition, Green Dubuque, Green Team of Westminster Presbyterian Church, Outdoor Dubuque, Dubuque Fly Fishers, Catfish Creek Watershed Management Authority, Dubuque County Democrats, Sierra Club White Pines Chapter, Tri-State Mountain Bike Riders, Tri-State Trail Vision, Iowa Environmental Council, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation and Premier Bank.

Detailed information -- including the ballot language, the “master plan” of potential projects and how you can cast your vote – can be found at www.dbqlandandwater.org.

In recent years, similar ballot measures have passed in Linn, Polk and Adams counties in Iowa, all with supermajority voter approval of more than 70 percent. If approved by voters in Dubuque County, up to \$40 million could be raised by the Board of Supervisors, allowing the County to attract that much and more in private, non-profit, state and federal funding for conservation purposes.

Such public investments have also been hugely successful nationwide. According to the Trust for Public Lands, voters approved nearly \$3.7 billion in new funding for land conservation, parks, climate resiliency, and habitat, including *all of* the 26 measures supported by the Trust.

With your help, we hope to add Dubuque County to that list this year!

Respectfully,
Art Roche, Chair
Dubuque County Land & Water Legacy

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Paid for by Dubuque County Land & Water Legacy