



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 6, 2026

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Andy Frantz, Executive Director

Keep Iowa Beautiful

Phone: 515-770-1844

E-mail: afrantz@keepiowabeautiful.org

Keep Iowa Beautiful Announces Winners of New “Plant Iowa Beautiful” Mini-Grant Program

DES MOINES, IA — Keep Iowa Beautiful is proud to announce the recipients of the Plant Iowa Beautiful mini-grant program. This initiative, designed to support local beautification efforts across the state, provides funding for projects that enhance publicly accessible spaces and foster community spirit.

Out of 150 organizations that applied, 12 projects were selected to receive a \$500 grant. These projects range from tree plantings and community gardens to streetscape enhancements and landscaping in parks. This program is made possible through generous sponsorships from Landus Cooperative and Keep America Beautiful (KAB). Plant Iowa Beautiful seeks to support KAB's "Greatest American Cleanup" initiative; a national effort to beautify the country in preparation for the United States' 250th birthday.

“Beautification is a powerful catalyst for civic pride,” said Andy Frantz, Executive Director of Keep Iowa Beautiful. “When residents come together to improve their shared spaces, they aren’t just planting trees or flowers—they are investing in the heart of their community. This collective effort builds a stronger sense of belonging and shows that Iowans take immense pride in where they live, work, and play.”

2026 Plant Iowa Beautiful Grant Recipients:

- Kellogg Hometown Pride
- Greeley Community Garden
- Main Street Keokuk
- Stanhope Public Library
- Riverton Hometown Pride
- City of Minden
- Storm Lake Hometown Pride
- Poweshiek Economic Development Collaborative
- Lake Park Hometown Pride
- Macedonia Hamilton Development Corporation
- Alta Hometown Pride/City of Alta
- Auburn Hometown Pride

Projects were selected based on their community value and visibility, the extent of volunteer involvement, and their overall feasibility and alignment with the program's goal of creating vibrant, attractive public spaces.

By engaging local volunteers, these 12 communities are ensuring that Iowa looks its best as the nation approaches its semiquincentennial celebration on July 4, 2026.

For more information on the Plant Iowa Beautiful program and other Keep Iowa Beautiful initiatives, please visit www.KeepIowaBeautiful.org.

###

About Keep Iowa Beautiful

Founded in 2000 by Governor Robert D. Ray and Donald F. Lamberti, Keep Iowa Beautiful is a statewide non-profit empowering Iowans to create vibrant communities and build hometown pride through volunteer-driven enhancement programs. An affiliate of the Keep America Beautiful program, Keep Iowa Beautiful strives for a thriving Iowa supported by strong local leadership, beautiful public spaces, and engaged residents. To learn more about our programs or to donate, please visit our website at <https://KeepIowaBeautiful.org/>.