



www.unionparkdsm.com

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May 2025

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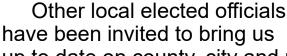
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www.unionparkdsm.com Visit our website for news and information.

Spring General Meeting Wednesday, May 28, 2025 at 7:00 PM

The UPNA Spring General Meeting will be held Wednesday, May 28, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. at the Jay N. "Ding" Darling Shelter House in Birdland Park.

Our first guest speaker will be Chief of Police, Michael McTaggart. We also welcome a guest speaker from Invest DSM.



up to date on county, city and neighborhood issues.

The Ding Darling Shelter in Birdland Park is located near Guthrie and Saylor Road at 2100 Saylor Road.



Chief of Police, Michael McTaggart







Guest Speaker Invest DSM

PORCHFEST 2025: SEPTEMBER 7 - SAVE THE DATE

PorchFest 2025: September 7, 2025. More bands playing on the porches of the Union Park area.

Here are some links you might like:

Follow on Facebook: PorchFest DSM PorchFest DSM | Facebook

PorchFest Website: https://www.porchfestdsm.org/

PORCHFEST — DSM — UNION PARK

Save the Date: National Night Out August 5, 2025

National Night Out (NNO) will be on the first Tuesday of August in 2025. We are happy to announce that NNO for the Union Park area will once again be hosted by the Union Park United Methodist Church, 2305 East 12th Street (corner of E 12 and Guthrie Street) in their parking lot on

August 5th from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. They always do a great job and everyone is invited to enjoy food, beverages, fun, games and prizes and socializing with your neighbors. Meet city officials and representatives from the Des Moines Police and Fire Department. This event also doubles as the "Back to School Party". Don't miss this fun event.



UPNA

Meeting Invitation

The Union Park Neighborhood Association holds a Spring and Fall General Meeting. We also have bi-monthly board/ member meetings that are held the 2nd Tuesday of odd months (Jan., Mar., May, July, Sept. & Nov.) Meetings start at 7:00 pm at Grand View University in the Humphrey Center ("Old Main") on the 2nd floor. These are all open meetings and any neighborhood resident is welcome to attend. The more of us that can get involved the better, so consider this your invitation to attend any meeting. We would love to have you come whenever you can. Everyone's input is welcome, whether you would like to help with a special event or project or just come to meet your neighbors. UPNA is accomplishing more each year so the more people that are involved the more good we can do!

UPNA

Membership Dues

Remember that Annual Membership Dues are due the first of the year in January. Dues are on a calendar basis. Dues are \$10 for individual membership, or \$25 if you want to be a Supporter and \$30 for a Business Membership. If you have any questions about your Dues, please feel free to contact Paul Cole—Membership Chair. A membership renewal form is on the back of this newsletter.

CLOWNS AT THE CAROUSEL Save the Date









SCRUB—Spring Cleanup to Reduce Urban Blight

SCRUB stands for SPRING CLEANUP to REDUCE URBAN BLIGHT. It is the City's mission to enhance the City's neighborhoods by allowing residents an opportunity to remove yard waste and debris from homes and yards to reduce the blighted areas within the City.

What kind of SCRUB events does the City of Des Moines sponsor?

MEGA SCRUB: An event that is hosted by select neighborhoods within their section of the City. Any Des Moines Resident may participate.

Transfer Station SCRUB: An alternate drop-off location used for SCRUB events. The Metro Waste Transfer Station is located at 4198 Delaware Ave.

Compost Site SCRUB: A drop off site designated for yard and tree debris during SCRUB events. The Des Moines Compost Site is located at 1601 Harriett Street.

SCRUB Event Reminders Free Drop off - Delays Possible

Proof of Residency is required - Bring a photo id or current utility bill.

Before each event, please review the SCRUB guidelines.

MEGA SCRUB events now offer Household Hazardous Waste Disposal. (MEGA SCRUB sites only) SCRUB events are free to Des Moines citizens, therefore you may experience longer wait times based on participation.

Questions - If you have questions about SCRUB events, please call at 515-283-4950.

City of Des Moines						
	Department of Public Works 2025 SCRUB Calendar DEPARTMENT OF	NES PUBLIC WORKS				
	2025 SCROB Calellual					
Date	Location	Hours				
5/17/2025	MWA Transfer Station, 4198 Delaware Ave. City of Des Moines Compost Center, 1601 Harriett St. Polk County River Place, 2309 Euclid Ave. [MEGA SCRUB]	7 AM - 2 PM 7 AM - 2 PM 7 AM - 1 PM				
6/21/2025	MWA Transfer Station, 4198 Delaware Ave. City of Des Moines Compost Center, 1601 Harriett St. Capitol Complex Lot #3, W. of E. 14th south of Court Ave. [MEGA SCRUB]	7 AM - 2 PM 7 AM - 2 PM 7 AM - 1 PM				
7/19/2025	MWA Transfer Station, 4198 Delaware Ave. City of Des Moines Compost Center, 1601 Harriett St.	7 AM - 2 PM 7 AM - 2 PM				
8/16/2025	MWA Transfer Station, 4198 Delaware Ave. City of Des Moines Compost Center, 1601 Harriett St.	7 AM - 2 PM 7 AM - 2 PM				
9/20/2025	MWA Transfer Station, 4198 Delaware Ave. City of Des Moines Compost Center, 1601 Harriett St. Bell Avenue Business Park, 1901 Bell Ave. [MEGA SCRUB]	7 AM - 2 PM 7 AM - 2 PM 7 AM - 1 PM				
10/18/2025	MWA Transfer Station, 4198 Delaware Ave. City of Des Moines Compost Center, 1601 Harriett St.	7 AM - 2 PM 7 AM - 2 PM				
11/15/2025	MWA Transfer Station, 4198 Delaware Ave. City of Des Moines Compost Center, 1601 Harriett St.	7 AM - 2 PM 7 AM - 2 PM				

Report Potholes with myDSMmobile



To submit a report online, visit

DSM.city/Report

The myDSMmobile app provides residents the ability to attach a GPS location, photos and video to help City crews efficiently address problems and requests, including:

- Potholes
- Tall Grass/Weeds
- · Street Sweeper · Trash
- Tree Trimming Graffiti
- · Sewer Problem · And more...







Grass Clippings in City Streets Create Problems



Grass clippings and other yard debris can clog the city's storm sewer intakes causing street flooding; therefore, the City is reminding residents and landscape companies that an administrative fine may be issued for blowing or raking grass clippings and leaves into a public street. The fine is \$50 for the first offense, \$75 for the second offense within the same year and the \$100 for the third offense.

Des Moines City Council 2025



MAYOR



AT LARGE



MIKE SIMONSON AT LARGE



CHRIS COLEMAN WARD I



WARD II



JOSH MANDELBAUM
WARD III



JOE GATTO WARD IV



City Hall – City Council Chambers 400 Robert D Ray Drive Des Moines, IA 50309 (515) 283-4944

UPNA Spring Egg Hunt - April 19, 2025

Union Park Neighborhood Association teamed up with the Heritage Carousel of Des Moines, Captain Roy's and Chocolate Storybook for the Spring Egg Hunt in Union Park on April 19th. Over 317 free carousel rides were enjoyed and around 8,000 eggs were hoovered up quickly by the kids. Thanks to Polk County for sponsoring the event and thanks to "The Ed-Ster Bunny" for making an appearance.



SAVE THE DATE: Cruise to the Carousel

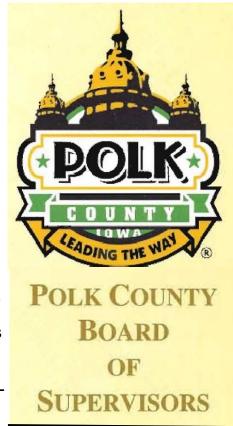


A letter from Angela Connolly

To: Union Park Neighborhood Association

Polk County approved our budget for the next fiscal year and are pleased that despite state legislation that is making it challenging to plan for future budget years, we were able to approve a 10 cent decrease in Polk County's levy rate. We know that property values continue to increase so to expect a decrease in your property taxes is not realistic. However, we are proud to have taken action on Polk County's portion of your taxes to help mitigate the typical increases in property taxes. We have found ways to absorb the levy reduction without impacting services to our community or our employees.

I am also very excited to report on the services being provided at the Polk County Life Services Center. This center opened last November and serves individuals who are experiencing a mental health or substance abuse crisis. It is a county owned building that houses a 23 hour crisis observation center, psychiatric urgent care and a sobering center. It is managed by St. Vincent de Paul. Since opening we have served over 500 individuals with many of them being dropped off by a local police officer or deputy. It is proving to be an outstanding resource and is successfully diverting individuals from our emergency rooms and jail to a place where they can receive appropriate services. The partnership between Broadlawns, St. Vincent de Paul and Polk County to provide these services has been more successful than any of us imagined.



Sponsor and supporter of many UPNA activities and projects. Thank You!

I have been part of the founding board for Invest DSM and over the course of the last six years, we have made a tremendous impact on our communities. The non-profit helps finance home renovations, business improvements and jumpstarts revitalization in targeted neighborhoods. To date just under \$47 million has been invested in over 1,000 projects. For every dollar that Invest DSM invests in a project, there is an additional \$4.17 invested from other sources, including private investors. We are expanding our work into the Union Park neighborhood where we hope to enhance the family friendly atmosphere and focus on maintaining affordability and historic charm while making modern amenities more accessible for home owners. Beginning May 1, 2025, eligible homeowners will have access to two key programs designed to support and accelerate reinvestment: the Block Challenge Program and the Homeowner Renovation Program. These initiatives offer both financial assistance and personalized support to help residents maintain and improve their homes—while strengthening neighborhood pride and connection. Learn more at www.investdsm.org. I continue to remain committed to my neighborhoods, my constituents and my values. Please reach out to me with any Polk County related questions, concerns or ideas.

Angela Connolly District 5 Polk County Board of Supervisors angela.connolly@polkcountyjowa.gov.

Invest DSM

Invest DSM Launches Programs in Union Park: New Tools for Homeowners to Update Their Homes and Invest Back in Their Neighborhood

Invest DSM is proud to announce the expansion of its revitalization efforts into the Union Park neighborhood. Beginning **May 1, 2025**, eligible homeowners will have access to two key programs designed to support and accelerate reinvestment: the **Block Challenge Program** and the **Homeowner Renovation Program**. These initiatives offer both financial assistance and personalized support to help residents maintain and improve their homes—while strengthening neighborhood pride and connection.

These programs are more than just grants. They represent strategic investments in the long-term health, beauty, and equity of Union Park. Every repaired porch, fresh coat of paint, or upgraded heating system contributes to a larger vision: a resilient, welcoming neighborhood where families can thrive for generations to come.

Block Challenge Program

The Block Challenge Program encourages neighbors to work together to enhance their properties' curb appeal. When at least **three households on the same block** commit to participating, each becomes eligible for a **50% matching grant**, up to **\$2,500 per home**. Eligible projects include:

- Painting and exterior siding repairs
- Landscaping and tree planting
- · Porch, step, or sidewalk improvements
- · Lighting or fencing upgrades

Invest DSM supports participants throughout the process—helping coordinate group applications, advising on contractors and materials, and offering guidance every step of the way. More than just physical improvements, this program helps foster community pride, strengthen relationships, and create a shared sense of ownership in Union Park's future.

Homeowner Renovation Program

For residents planning more substantial improvements, the Homeowner Renovation Program offers deeper investment. Eligible homeowners can apply for **significant financial assistance**, with funding levels based on the home's location and the scope of the proposed work. This program is ideal for larger-scale projects, including:

- Room additions or major structural upgrades
- Electrical and plumbing modernization
- Roof or foundation repairs
- Kitchen and bathroom renovations
- Energy-efficiency improvements (windows, insulation, HVAC)
- Accessibility modifications to support aging in place

Each project is developed in collaboration with Invest DSM staff, who assist with planning, contractor selection, project management, and quality control. The goal is to preserve and enhance the neighborhood's housing stock—ensuring homes are safe, modern, and built to last.

Why This Matters for Union Park

Union Park is a neighborhood rooted in history and community spirit. Its diverse housing, mature trees, and engaged residents make it one of Des Moines' most treasured areas. By launching these programs here, Invest DSM is not only acknowledging the neighborhood's unique strengths—but also committing to its long-term sustainability and vitality. Whether you're restoring a historic home or joining forces with your neighbors to refresh your block, Invest DSM is here to help make your vision a reality.

How to Get Started

Visit <u>www.investdsm.org/unionpark</u> to explore program guidelines, check your eligibility, and begin your application. You'll also find success stories, project examples, and contact information for

our team.

We'll be hosting an **information session in Union Park later this spring**—watch for more details on date and location.

For questions, email **info@investdsm.org** or call **(515) 221-8410**. We look forward to working alongside Union Park residents to create visible, lasting change—one home, one block, one neighborhood at a time.



Save the Date: July 4th in Union Park!



The Spark UP Committee is planning a Second Annual "Old Fashioned Fourth of July" event in Union Park to celebrate the birth of our nation. This will be a family friendly event with fun and treats for everyone. Please watch for details.

SPARK UP

Spark UP Committee is made up of volunteers in the Union Park neighborhood area who are responsible for many of the creative events for the Union Park Neighborhood Association which foster a sense of community and relationship in our neighborhood. Some of the projects which they plan and implement are mentioned in this newsletter:

- Rock-It in the Park (July 4th Celebration)
- Porchfest (September 7)
- Thompson Treat (Halloween, October 31)
- Light UP the Carousel (Christmas at the Carousel) (December)
- The Spring Egg Hunt in Union Park (2026)



Spark UP Committee is always thinking up and planning new projects. If you would like to volunteer for this committee, please contact one of the UPNA officers (front page of the newsletter) and you will be put in touch with a Spark UP project officer.





Our Past Is Just the Beginning of Your Future



Thank you for being a PorchFest DSM sponsor!



A Proud PorchFest DSM Sponsor! Thank You!



Since 1985, **Chocolate Storybook** has been a beloved destination for delicious handmade chocolates and unique gifts. We know that taste is only part of the equation. Each Chocolate Storybook item is designed to be a masterpiece in the art of gifting.

Chocolate and Sweets, Holidays and Occasions, Gift Baskets and Towers, Business Gifts. And More. **STORE HOURS**:

Mon-Thurs 10am – 6pm Fri-Sat 10am – 5pm Sunday CLOSED

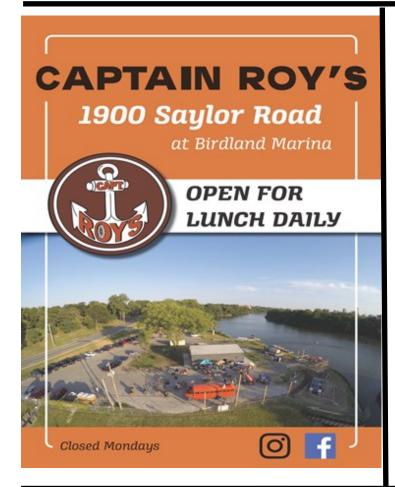
Sponsor of the Egg Hunt in Union Park and the Light UP the Carousel. Thank You!

CONTACT US:

1000 Grand Avenue West Des Moines, Iowa 50265 515.226.9893 meg@chocolatestory.com



Thompson Treat will be on October 31, 2025 instead of "Beggars Night". The City Council voted to follow surrounding communities in celebrating Halloween on October 31st from now on.

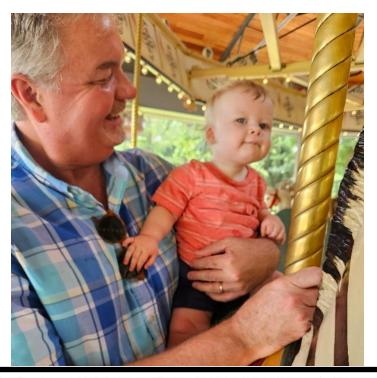




Thank You
Linda Westergaard
for your support and
sponsorship of
PorchFest DSM!







The Heritage Carousel is the anchor for many park activities. Open season is May 24 – October 5, 2025! Currently booking rentals for some off-season events as well as rentals during the regular open-riding season.



LEAD HORSE (Row 5, Outside)

"McFarland"

Adopted by

Union Park

Neighborhood Association

ATLANTIC COCCOOLA BOTTLING COMPANY

Thank You for your sponsorship of PorchFest DSM!



Des Moines Heritage Trust announces historic preservation award winners

The champions and projects that represent the best of historic preservation in the community will be recognized during the Des Moines Heritage Trust's first historic preservation awards dinner later this year.

The award winners were recently announced, and they include a developer who focuses on the redevelopment of historic buildings, an architect who was at the forefront of historic preservation and projects, both commercial and residential, that exemplify the history and futures of those buildings.

An iconic piece of playground equipment also gets a nod from the Des Moines Heritage Trust.

Tim Waddell, president of the nonprofit's board, said too often historic properties only get attention when they become a nuisance or at risk of demolition, and the awards are intended to "celebrate historic preservation in a positive way."

"Our historic buildings are part of the cultural fabric of our community," he said. "It's not just history. It's all part of the cultural fabric. For some reason or another, these buildings were built and they were built by the people who lived here and they were important in one way or another. We may not always know what the original purposes are, but I think they are an important part of our cultural heritage and fabric today, in the past and into the future. I think that is all part of how we can celebrate, if we are able to retain them, that people will know what people in the past felt was important."

The award winners were selected among nominations that were submitted on the Des Moines Heritage Trust's social media sites. Nominations were reviewed by board members, who then decided winners for each category.

This year's Special Project of the Year winner is:



Union Park rocket slide - city of Des Moines

"It's not a building, so that's why we call it a special project," Waddell said. "The Des Moines Heritage Trust is into the preservation of historic buildings, but we felt we wanted to recognize the Union Park rocket slide. It was nominated and it came before the board and there was lots of discussion about it. We felt like it was important to recognize the park and the city of Des Moines. It was a very expensive project that could easily have been sent to the scrapyard as a piece of metal, but instead they recognized the iconic value and that it was a beloved playground for the past, present and future of our community."

NOTE: The Rocket Slide is 54 years old this year!

Rollin Relics Supports the Carousel



Every year in late August, the Rollin Relics Car Club sponsors the Cruise to the Carousel car show. Profits from the show are donated to the Des Moines Heritage Carousel to keep the rides for children at only 50 cents. They are the largest annual contributor to the Heritage Carousel. The Cruise to the Carousel is a huge success due to the hard work, love and dedication of every member of the Rollin Relics Car Club. It is a fabulous event

enjoyed by all!

Recently, they presented the Des Moines Heritage Carousel Foundation with a LARGE check for \$8,000 this year with an additional \$135 from the donation buckets. In more than 25 years, they have raised nearly \$120,000 for the Carousel Foundation. Thank you Rollin Relics!



BIRDLAND MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Hi Union Park Neighbors!

Here is an update on the progress the City of Des Moines Parks and Rec Department has made on the Birdland Master Plan.

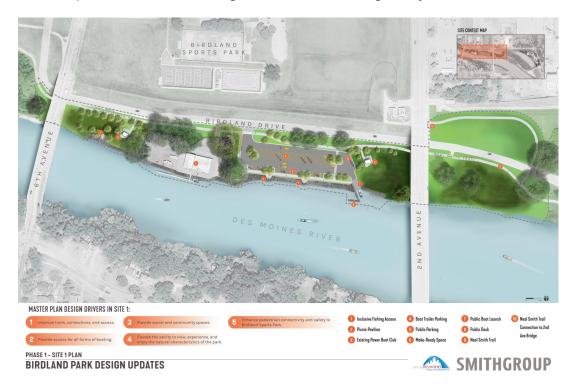
Phase 1A and 1B are progressing. 1A is the work that is along the river mostly between 2nd and 6th Avenues which includes the new boat ramp.

Phase 1B is the improvements in Birdland Park between the levee and Saylor Road which includes a playground, skating ribbon and many other things. Phase 1B also includes projects that ICON (Iowa Confluence Water Trails) will be completing. The ICON projects include shoreline improvements and parking lot reconstruction ICON Phase 1

Schedule for 1A: the designers are finishing plans and the city is securing the last small bit of grant funding. The project will go out for bidding this year in the fall. Work will begin in 2026.

Schedule for 1B: the designers are working on the plans for this phase and expect to have them ready for bidding over the winter of 2025/2026. Work on this phase will also begin in 2026.

We can expect a lot of construction to be happening in Birdland Park starting next year. It will take around a year to complete and when done, will confirm Union Park Neighborhood's spot as the best neighborhood in the galaxy.



BIRDLAND MASTER PLAN UPDATE



Public Boat Book
 Inclusive Fishing Scool

Pronic Pavilion
 Wedond Enhancement and Restor

PHASE 1 - SITE 1 AERIAL VIEW
BIRDLAND PARK DESIGN UPDATES

SMITHGROUP



Custam Phyground
 Ding Borling Enclosed Str
 Younger-user Phyground
 Broodwalk Entry

PHASE 1 - SITE 2 VIEW AT PLAYGROUND
BIRDLAND PARK DESIGN UPDATES

SMITHGROUP





SMITHGROUP

Union Park Neighborhood Association

PO BOX 16113

Des Moines , IA 50316-9402 info@unionparkdsm.com

BECOME A MEMBER



Name		
Address		
9-digit zip code		
Form is also available on o	our website at www.unionparkdsm.	com
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	E-mail 10.00 Family membership, \$25 ish, checks or Venmo only	Supporter, \$30 Business

Please mail to UPNA Treasurer, PO BOX 16113, Des Moines, IA 50316-9402 If you have any questions, please feel free to call Paul Cole at 263-1885/Colepw2005@gmail.com All memberships are due on January 1st of each year.

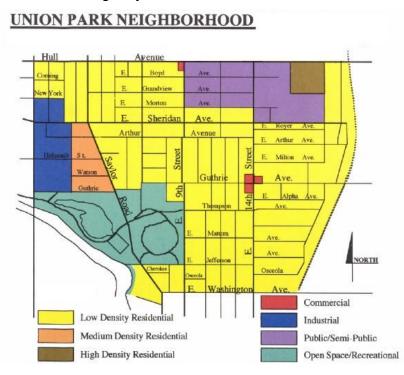
If you do not have a printer, that is ok. Just write your contact information on a piece of paper and enclose it with your check or cash and mail to:

UPNA Treasurer, PO BOX 16113, Des Moines, IA 50316-9402

Your information is always kept private. We do not sell or give your information to ANYONE.



IMPORTANT: If using Venmo, PLEASE fill out the membership form as well so we may properly credit your membership account and mail to: UPNA Treasurer, PO BOX 16113, Des Moines, IA 50316-9402



NEIGHBORHOOD BOUNDARIES:

The Union Park Neighborhood Association consists of the neighborhood from Hull Avenue on the north, Glenbrook Drive on the east, Washington Avenue on the south and the Des Moines River and Second Avenue on the west.