

## Chapter and Project of the Year Awards

The deadline to submit nominations for chapter awards has been extended to **July 19, 2024**. Winners will be announced at the Fall Conference. Check out the [awards page](#) on our website to see the list of awards and how you can nominate candidates for these awards. Please submit those nominations. Let's recognize our wonderful chapter members and projects!

## Fun During PWX

The Iowa Concrete Paving Association would like to invite Iowans for a night of fellowship and fun, sponsored in conjunction with Bolton & Menk, CMT, Foth, HR Green, ISG, McClure, Snyder & Assoc., and Veenstra & Kimm. This event will be Monday, Sept. 9th, 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at STATS Brewpub located across the road from the Atlanta Convention Center. Click [here](#) to RSVP.

The APWA Iowa Chapter dinner will be hosted at Ray's in the City in Atlanta on Tuesday, September 10 from 6:00 to 9:00 pm. RSVP using [this form](#) by Friday, July 19.

## Top 10 Award

Our own Ron Knoche, City of Iowa City Public Works Director, is one of this year's recipients of the prestigious Top Ten Award. Each year, APWA honors ten individual leaders whose excellence in public works earns them the distinction of the Top Ten Public Works Leaders of the Year. Keith Pugh, APWA Past-President, presented Ron with his plaque on May 21 during National Public Works Week. Congratulations to Ron!



## Iowa Chapter Apparel

If you are interested in personally purchasing apparel, below are the steps to create an account and start shopping. Force Fitters says they need 4 weeks lead time, so if you want to order something to wear at PWX, place your order by early August!

Here are the steps to ordering apparel:

- Email [blake@forcefitters.com](mailto:blake@forcefitters.com) to request an account *\*\*email Blake even if you placed an order in the past to make sure your account is still live!*
- Wait for Blake to reply with your password. *Username will be your email address.*
- Once your account is established, go to [www.forcefitters.com](http://www.forcefitters.com) to login and start shopping.

## Iowa Chapter T-Shirt Competition

The chapter is looking for fun slogan ideas for a t-shirt. Send slogan ideas to Sara Kappos at [skappos@waukee.org](mailto:skappos@waukee.org). We will also be taking your ideas at the fall conference welcome reception, so be thinking of how you want to showcase the Iowa Chapter.



## APWA's Facilities and Ground Management Certificate

NEW. Coming to PWX Atlanta. APWA offers a comprehensive certification program designed to equip new facilities and grounds managers—or those aspiring to become managers—with the specialized knowledge and tools required to excel in a dynamic field. Participants who complete this workshop and score at least an 80 percent on the test will be able to successfully demonstrate a well-rounded approach to project, workflow, and CIP asset management as well as proficiency in custodial, grounds, and preventative maintenance. For more information, see the flyer at the end of this newsletter.

## NACE Urban County Engineer of the Year

The National Association of County Engineers (NACE) awarded Johnson County Engineer Greg Parker, P.E., the 2024 Urban County Engineer of the Year Award during its Annual Conference earlier this month. Parker has served as Johnson County Engineer since 2005.

“We are very proud of Greg Parker, and very pleased that NACE chose to honor him with this prestigious national award,” said Rod Sullivan, Chairperson of the Board of Supervisors. “Johnson County has always taken great pride in our roads and we are lucky to have someone of Greg’s caliber running the show. “

Greg Parker, and the Johnson County Secondary Roads Department are responsible for 950 miles of county highways and 213 bridges and infrastructure they contain. As the department director, Greg, oversights construction and year-round maintenance with 50 employees.

“Greg has exemplified the very best of our association for many years, I can think of no more deserving candidate to receive this honor,” said Stephen McCall, P.E., P.S., NACE President and Champaign County, Ohio, County Engineer. “Greg’s forty-year career has earned him a well-deserved reputation of being a national authority on pavement reconstruction. Additionally, his stewardship of the Mehaffey Bridge replacement is a testament to his leadership and expertise he has exhibited throughout his career”.

In its 68th year, NACE is a nonprofit, nonpartisan professional association representing over 3,000 county engineers, public works directors, highway commissioners, road managers, and related professionals in the United States and Canada.



## In Memory – Willard Wray

Willard Wray passed away back in April. Larry Stevens said that “He may only be remembered by us old timers, but Willard was very active in the Iowa Chapter back in the day.”

Willard worked for the City of Clive, Iowa nearly three decades (1971-1998), where he was devoted to the growth of the Greenbelt Park and the community as a whole. Will went on to work another 20 years as a public works expert witness.

Please take the time to read his obituary at the following link:

[Willard Wray Obituary](#)



## 2024 Community Forestry Grant Program

The Community Forestry Grant Program application for Fall 2024 is now open.

The Iowa Legislature appropriated state infrastructure funds to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (Iowa DNR) to be used for a community-based tree planting program for derecho recovery in the 27 counties impacted.

The Community Forestry Grant Program provides reimbursable grants to be used to purchase and plant trees suitable to Iowa in counties impacted by the 2020 derecho. An approximate total of \$146,500 in funds are available. Award recipients will be reimbursed \$500 to \$10,000 for the purchase of trees and materials and are required to provide no match. Multiple applications from the same entity are accepted.

Qualifying public planting lands include, but are not limited to, street rights-of-way, parks, school grounds, courthouse lawns, public buildings, fairgrounds, cemeteries, libraries and trails (DNR lands are not eligible). The application and rules are available online on the Iowa DNR Urban Forestry website. Applications are due by 4:30 p.m. on Monday, August 26, 2024.

For assistance with the application and site visits, please contact Ellie Jones – [ellie.jones@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:ellie.jones@dnr.iowa.gov), 319-826-0814. For questions about reimbursement and rules, please contact Emma Hanigan – [emma.hanigan@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:emma.hanigan@dnr.iowa.gov), 515-249-1732. Please consider also reading through the “Community Forestry Grant Program FAQ” listed below the application on the DNR Urban Forestry page.

## Emerging Leaders Academy

A year-long national program, the Emerging Leaders Academy provides intensive leadership and management training within the context of public works. It encourages professional growth through a strong network of peers, and offers an in-depth introduction to APWA at the national, chapter and branch levels.



The candidates must be professionals who have been working in the field of public works for no more than ten years or have been working for longer than ten years but have been promoted into their first leadership role within the past three years. Candidates must have demonstrated an interest in advancing their careers within the profession.

2024-2025 [Emerging Leaders Academy](#) program applications are now available. They are due July 10. Please contact [Steve Johnson](#) if you have any questions regarding the program.

## Upcoming Training Opportunities (through LTAP)

- [2024 ICEA Mid-Year Conference](#) (07/11/24)
- IA/MN APWA - Underground utility inspection online training - October
- Flagger training - Survey will be sent out to gauge interest
- MoGO field day is at Camp Dodge - August
- Auto CAD intermediate course – coming this Fall

Please contact Keith Knapp ([kknapp@iastate.edu](mailto:kknapp@iastate.edu)) with any questions.

## Other Upcoming Events...

- [PWX](#) - September 8-11, Atlanta, GA
- [Fall Conference](#) - September 25-27, DoubleTree by Hilton Cedar Rapids (registration will open later this summer)

## Public Works Service Bureau

The Iowa Public Works Service Bureau (PWSB) provides a resource for public works staff members from cities of all sizes to connect with and learn from others how best to improve work efficiencies, learn new techniques, and maximize available resources. If you haven't joined already, [check out their website](#). Reminder to send in your Bid Tabs (in Excel if possible).

## Newsletter Content?

Do you have content you'd like to see in these newsletters? [Email our newsletter team](#).

