

25 October 2021

Ames City Council  
Ames City Hall  
515 Clark Ave  
Ames, IA 50010

City Council Members:

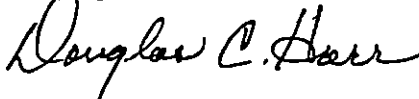
Big Bluestem Audubon Society has learned that Ames City Council may soon decide about future development plans for currently natural landscape along Worrell Creek, between Dartmoor Rd. and U.S. Highway 30. Local citizens have contacted our conservation organization with concerns about loss of the creek's water quality and destruction of important natural vegetation and wildlife habitat. We understand that the city's tentative plan is to save this area for future housing developments and to straighten and use Worrell Creek as a storm drainage system.

This official letter shall go on record that Big Bluestem Audubon Society, based in Ames, opposes the plan and any other kind of developments threatening water quality and natural landscape adjoining Worrell creek. Our organization is dedicated to protecting local birds and all other wildlife, plus plants, water quality, air quality and all aspects of natural environment, thus making urban development plans for this area a very large concern for us. We ask that this letter be included in any such project discussion at upcoming City Council meetings.

Information was provided to our chapter indicating that development plans for this area first appeared in 2005. Since then, professors from ISU and other conservation professionals have reported concerns about potential damages to nature here, such as threatened or endangered species of plants, birds, and other wildlife, while clearing forest and lowering water quality of Worrell Creek.

As a final note, Ames was designated an official "Bird Friendly Iowa Community" in 2020 by a committee representing multiple Iowa conservation organizations and agencies. Since then, major destruction of natural habitat along loway Creek has greatly concerned the Bird Friendly Iowa steering committee, possibly threatening revocation of the city's official designation. Approving of and proceeding with development plans for the Worrell Creek area could make such revocation of the city's award an even greater possibility. In this time of worldwide climate change and environmental destruction, it is time for Ames to place a high priority upon protecting all of its natural landscapes.

Respectfully,



Douglas C. Harr  
Vice President, Big Bluestem Audubon



*Big Bluestem Audubon Society, Ames, Iowa*