



## The Snapshot: Update on the Inventory

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*The Snapshot is an periodic look into the natural resource inventory being conducted of the City's park and open space system in 2011.*

*For more information, please contact:*

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At its April 11, 2011 meeting, the Des Moines City Council accepted a proposal from Dr. Tom Rosburg to conduct a natural resource inventory of the City's park and open space system. Dr. Rosburg is one of Iowa's and the Midwest's preeminent plant ecologists. In the past 25 years, he has conducted work as an ecologist, naturalist and photographer in all of Iowa's 99 counties.

Over the coming months Dr. Rosburg will be surveying the City's park and open space system performing the following key services:

- Mapping major plant communities, describing the composition and structure, and identifying the successional stage of the land as it is today
- Identifying areas of high invasive species infestations
- Identifying areas of high biological or ecological diversity
- Identifying areas with unique opportunities for passive recreation or environmental education
- Evaluating routinely-mowed land within for potential to be redeveloped into a more natural state, thereby reducing mowing
- Preparing a report of the study's findings, including a series of recommendations for priority restoration areas

The Snapshot is being created to update progress on the inventory. It will be used to highlight interesting plants, trees and other items of interest to the reader as well as to follow the progress of Dr. Rosburg as he conducts the inventory.

For more background information on this project, please see the Park and Recreation Department's website: [www.dmparks.org](http://www.dmparks.org). Be sure to click on the [Plant and Wildlife Management](#) link or you can receive updates by following us on [Facebook](#).