

Proposed Pipeline through Iowa Carries Risks

By Pam Mackey-Taylor, Conservation Chair

Energy Transfer Partners (ETF), also doing business as Dakota Access, announced plans for a proposed oil pipeline that will run diagonally across Iowa, through 17 or 18 counties. It will carry light sweet crude oil from the Bakken oil fields in North Dakota to Illinois where it will link with another pipeline that will transport the oil to terminals along the Gulf of Mexico. The company also announced that some of the crude oil will be loaded onto rail cars for shipment to the east coast.

The company is expected to hold public informational meetings in December, 2014, in each of the counties that the pipeline will cross, a requirement before asking the Iowa Utilities Board for permits. Members of the public will be able to attend and can speak during the meeting. ETF is expected to seek permits in 2015 through 2016. They plan to have the pipeline operational in fourth quarter, 2016.

Counties in Iowa that will be along the proposed route include Lyon, Sioux, O'Brien, Cherokee, Buena Vista, Calhoun, Webster, Boone, Story, Polk, Jasper, Mahaska, Keokuk, Wapello, Jefferson, Van Buren, and Lee. The northeast tip of Sac County is also in the study area.

Although the company plans to seek voluntary easements, they may be asking the Iowa Utilities Board for permission to acquire the easement through eminent domain. The pipeline will require a permanent easement 50 feet wide, with no structures allowed on the easement. An even wider, temporary easement of 100 to 150 feet will be taken during construction.

The Iowa Chapter is concerned about the impacts a tragic accident or a leaky pipeline involving the highly flammable oil will have on Iowa's communities, farms and environment, including

- Polluting Iowa's streams, rivers, lakes and aquifers
- Tragic accidents affecting lives and personal property in the communities along the pipeline
- Destroying Iowa's farmland
- Harming wildlife and sensitive natural areas in its path

Furthermore, once the oil in this pipeline finally reaches the oil terminals in Nederland, Texas, there is absolutely no guarantee that the oil and refined products from the oil will remain in the United States for use in this country.

Pipelines leak. In March 2013, homeowners in Mayflower, Arkansas, were overwhelmed when oil from a leaky pipeline flowed into their basements, over their lawns and onto their streets.

This is the same oil that was involved in train wrecks in North Dakota in December 2013 and in Lac-Mégantic, Quebec, Canada, in July 2013.

A new pipeline will delay the US transition to clean and renewable energy and more fuel-efficient vehicles. The United States needs to move away from fossil fuel extractions and to energy sources that have less impact on climate change.

How you can get involved

The Iowa Chapter urges you to join in opposition to the pipeline proposed by Energy Transfer Partners.

- Write letters to the editor in opposition to the pipeline.
- Attend one of the public information meetings and speak about the issues. The meetings will be held on

December 1, 1:00 pm, Inwood Community Center, Inwood

December 1, 1:00 pm, Comfort Inn & Suites, Fort Madison

December 1, 6:00 pm, River Valley Lodge, Farmington

December 1, 6:00 pm, Terrace View Event Center, Sioux Center

December 2, 9:00 am, Sheldon Community Services, Sheldon

December 2, 9:00 am, Jefferson County Fairgrounds Activity Building, Fairfield

December 2, 3:00 pm, Cherokee Community Center, Cherokee

December 2, 3:00 pm, Bridgeview Center, Ottumwa

December 3, 9:00 am, Buena Vista University Anderson Auditorium, Storm Lake

December 3, 9:00 am, Memorial Hall, Sigourney

December 3, 3:00 pm, Gateway Church of the Nazarene, Oskaloosa

December 4, 9:00 am, DMACC Newton Conference Center, Newton

December 4, 3:00 pm, Ankeny Parks and Recreation Lakeside Center, Ankeny

December 15, 1:00 pm, Sac Community Center, Sac City

December 15, 1:00 pm, Gates Memorial Auditorium, Nevada

December 15, 6:00 pm, Boone County Fairgrounds Community Building, Boone

December 15, 6:00 pm, Calhoun County Expo center, Rockwell City

December 16, 9:00am, Triton Room, Iowa Central Community College, Fort Dodge

- Once the public meetings have been held, submit written objections to the Iowa Utilities Board. For more information e-mail Iowa.chapter@sierraclub.org

Policies to Ensure Pipeline Safety and Protection of the Environment

The Iowa Chapter supports the following policies with respect to the crude oil pipeline:

- A requirement that the pipeline run along road rights-of-way and section lines and not through farms fields. Given the volatility of the Bakken crude oil and the history of leaky pipes, a leaking pipeline will be spotted quicker if it is near a road.

- The Iowa Utilities Board (IUB) should require that all applicable permits from other agencies have been acquired by Energy Transfer Partners and Dakota Access before construction begins. Currently no government agency has oversight to ensure that all of the required permits have been applied for and granted. If the proper permits have not been acquired, the IUB should have the authority to stop construction and operation until the permits have been received.

- Every county along the route of the pipeline must have a hazardous clean-up team that is trained and well stocked with supplies and equipment before the pipeline is given permission to begin operating the pipeline.

- Energy Transfer Partners must establish a spills indemnity fund that will be used for:

- o hazardous clean-up teams in each county the pipeline crosses, training for the teams and clean-up equipment and supplies;

- o upgrades to roads that the hazardous clean-up teams and emergency medical teams would use to access spills so that the condition of the roads and bridges would not hinder access to the spills;

- o clean-up and restoration of all land and water bodies affected by a spill;

- o water monitoring each month, downstream from the pipeline crossings;

- o ground water testing each spring along the route;

- o aquifer testing each summer along the route;

- o expenses to decommission the pipeline once it is no longer being used, including paying the landowner for destruction of property during the decommissioning phase as well as restoring the land to its original state.

- Taxing each barrel of oil moving through a hazardous pipeline with the proceeds to supplement the road use tax fund, which could be used on road projects throughout the state.

- Requiring a new permit if oil from a source other than the Bakken oil fields in North Dakota is moved through the pipeline.

- Requiring removal of all pipeline structures within six months should be pipeline cease being used.

- Requiring the pipeline owners to notify all landowners if the pipeline is sold to another entity, if the name of the owner is changed or if the address of the pipeline owner changes.

- Clarifying that the only reason the Iowa Utilities Board should grant the permit for the pipeline to be built, along with the right of eminent domain, is that it is for the public benefit of Iowans.

Sierra Club Diversity Statement, Inclusion and Equity Statement (Board of Directors, April 2013)

The Sierra Club embraces, values and respects a variety of social and cultural characteristics including, but not limited to race, class, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, mental/physical ability, religion and age. In order for the Sierra Club to fulfill its mission and be a leader in the progressive movement, we commit to celebrating diversity, ensuring inclusion and working towards equity in all we do. We believe diversity, inclusion and equity are essential to our mission because:

- Diversity is a conservation necessity and social imperative that will enable the Club to remain a leader in the environmental movement.

- Inclusion fosters involvement of all persons and organizations that share our vision for a healthy planet.

- Environmental equity ensures that everyone has the right to experience nature and access to clean water, clean

air, clean soil and a safe environment.

We acknowledge that in order to be a truly diverse and inclusive organization we will exercise commitment to these goals within issue advocacy, the way we do business and how we interact with one another and our external partners. In support of the mission of the Sierra Club, we strive to be accessible and inclusive, and to recruit, engage, support and cultivate leadership from all communities in our work and activities. Our vision is for our volunteers, leaders, members, staff and supporters to reflect the diversity of our nation's communities. In an ongoing effort, we will build and integrate our commitment to diversity and inclusion into our conservation initiatives, program strategies, membership, workforce, structure, budget, business practices, communications and overall culture of the Sierra Club.

Nonprofit
Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Permit No. 1611
Des Moines, IA

Sierra Club Iowa Chapter
3839 Merle Hay Road, Suite 280
Des Moines, IA 50310

Iowa Chapter Executive Committee Ballot and Statements

Robert Nehman, New Albin

I am a native Iowan currently living, with my wife and daughter, in the Upper Iowa River Valley near the Mississippi River in the scenic Driftless Region of northeast Iowa. I became directly involved in environmental protection and preservation issues when a frac sand mining company proposed a facility near my rural home two years ago. As a founding member and current President of the Allamakee County Protectors (2013 Iowa Sierra Club Grassroots Award recipients) I helped to educate the public about the consequences of frac sand mining during our 18 month moratorium. Allamakee County, as of July 1st, 2014, passed a highly restrictive county ordinance to protect this area from frac sand mining. In my efforts to bring national awareness to the connection between frac sand mining and hydraulic fracturing I have traveled to many events in multiple states. I am currently a member of the national organization, Stop the Frack Attack, Advisory Council as well as several grassroots groups throughout the tri-state area. Preservation for past, present and future generations of Iowans is at a critical point and it will take all of us working together to make sure our beautiful state remains protected.

"It's time to make a power shift, there's always a better way, renewables are part of that solution".

Debbie Neustadt, Des Moines

I have been active in the Sierra Club for over 20 years; serving the club at the local, state, regional level. We continue to make a difference in Iowa. I enjoy representing the club at the Capitol in Des Moines. I believe our biggest challenge will be dealing with the Republican House of Representatives and the two commissions; Natural Resource Commission and the Environmental Protection Commission. In the next legislative session we have the issues of energy and conservation funding. With a strong grassroots effort, we can make a difference.

Pam Mackey-Taylor, Marion

Pam Mackey-Taylor is currently serving as Fundraising Chair, Conservation Chair, and Vice Chair. Pam has also served as Chapter Chair and delegate to the Midwest Regional Conservation Committee. Pam's interests are energy policy, hunting and wildlife policy, and air quality issues. Pam was presented the Chapter's Activist Award. She and her husband Wally received the national Susan Miller award which is presented to Chapter leaders. Pam and her husband Wally Taylor live in Marion.

Wally Taylor, Marion

Wally Taylor is currently serving as Legal Chair. He is also a delegate to the Council of Club Leaders, a group of representatives from each Sierra Club chapter. Wally has also served as Chapter Chair, Conservation Chair, and delegate to the Midwest Regional Conservation Committee. He has received the Chapter's distinguished service award twice, and he and his wife, Pam, received a national Sierra Club award given to Chapter leaders. Wally is also currently on the core team of the Sierra Club Nuclear Free Campaign. Wally's interests are nuclear energy, concentrated animal feeding operations, and water quality.

Ballot Instructions:

1. Leave your address label in place on the back of this ballot. Only ballots with the address label in place will be counted. The address label will be used to separate individual from joint ballots and will be blanked-out before the ballots are counted.

2. Cut ballot from the page and mark your votes. **Vote for no more than five candidates.** Ballots with more than five candidates marked will not be counted. Individual members mark their votes in the left-hand column. For joint memberships, one person must use the left-hand column to vote, the second person must mark his or her votes in the column marked "joint member".

3. Fold ballot so that address label is on outside. Place ballot in an envelope and mail to:

Sierra Club, Iowa Chapter
3839 Merle Hay Road, Suite 280,
Des Moines, IA 50310

Susan West, Fairbank

Since this is my first appearance on this ballot, I'll try and let you know where I stand. I am a retired Physical Therapist, a retired farmer, and a retired organic farmer. Most of my organizational participation of various types has been in the American Physical Therapy Association and in the Private Practice, Orthopedics, and Neurology Sections of that organization. I have been a member of Sierra Club for decades and a life-long nature-lover. My email moniker is Tree Hugger and I'm proud of it. Presently, I'm serving on the Buchanan County Democrats Central Committee as well as the Cedar Prairie Sierra Group Executive Committee. If elected to the Iowa Chapter Executive Committee, I will

do my best to be a liaison between local members and the State and National Chapters and help develop better teamwork among Sierrans in Iowa. In addition to defending the environment with facts, we must appeal to people's emotions in order for them to want to act to protect our environment. More and more people are getting less and less connected with our environment. In order to become a greater force for the environment, I believe we must appeal to human emotions as well as spreading the facts. We are the movers and shakers, the coaches, and the counselors all at the same time for environmental activism. One favorite saying is "it's not the size of the fighter in the fight that counts, but the size of the fight in the fighter".

Susan West, a.k.a. Tree Hugger

Blue-Green Algae Affects Iowa's Waters

By Pam Mackey-Taylor

In August, 2014, national news carried reports that the drinking water in Toledo, Ohio, was unsafe to drink due to a toxic formed in blue-green algae. For several days, residents of Toledo, Ohio, were forced to drink bottled water and to curtail other uses of tap water.

Iowans are not immune from blue-green algae. In fact, about the same time as Toledo experienced a blue-green algae bloom, several water bodies in Iowa experienced blooms of blue-green algae, including Lake Red Rock in central Iowa¹ and Saylorville Lake². Additionally two beaches at Black Hawk State Park near Lake View were closed to swimming³.

An algae contamination of Saylorville Lake poses a risk to the drinking water downstream. Saylorville Lake drains into the Des Moines River. The city of Des Moines draws surface water from the Des Moines River, along with the Raccoon River, and uses that for drinking water in the Des Moines metropolitan area⁴.

Blue-green algae are caused from nutrient-rich runoff from farm fields and urban areas during warm weather. The nutrients come from commercial fertilizers and manure. The algae growth attracts bacteria called Microcystis which produces the toxins. The water becomes green and smelly. When people come into contact with the water laced with blue-green algae, they can develop rashes and blisters. Drinking water contaminated with blue-green algae and the related toxins can result in diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, dizziness, headaches, and even liver damage. Even contaminated breathing water droplets can cause breathing problems. Blue-green algae can also have negative effects

on farm animals, pets, and wildlife, including seizures and paralysis⁵.

That's why the Iowa Chapter promotes a significant reduction in the nutrients (phosphorus and nitrogen) entering Iowan's streams, rivers, and lakes.

Currently the Iowa Department of Natural Resource's (DNR) strategy is for voluntary reduction of non-point sources of nutrients, such as the runoff from farm fields. This strategy has no measurable criteria for the amount of nutrients allowed in runoff and no time-line by which adequate nutrient reduction must be accomplished. This is inadequate to ensure a timely and satisfactory reduction of nutrients in Iowa's rivers, lakes, and streams.

Every three years the DNR reviews the water quality standards that Iowa has implemented, a process called the triennial review. The Iowa Chapter has been advocating that nutrient reduction be the primary focus for revising Iowa's water quality standards.

1. Marcus McIntosh, "Heavy appearance of algae keeps people off water", KCCI, August 4, 2014
2. Rekha Basu, "We can't let agriculture destroy our environment", Des Moines Register, August 9, 2014
3. Rekha Basu, "We can't let agriculture destroy our environment", Des Moines Register, August 9, 2014
4. Donnelle Eller, "Algae threat to Des Moines' water feared", Des Moines Register, August 14, 2014
5. Jane J. Lee, "Driven by Climate Change, Algae Blooms Behind Ohio Water Scare Are New Normal", National Geographic, August 4, 2014

"There are some who can live without wild things, and some who cannot. ...Like winds and sunsets, wild things were taken for granted until progress began to do away with them. Now we face the question whether a still higher 'standard of living' is worth its cost in things natural, wild, and free. For us of the minority, the opportunity to see geese is more important than television, and the chance to find a pasque-flower is a right as inalienable as free speech."
-- Aldo Leopold

Sierra Club Iowa Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom)

Election Ballot

Vote for no more than five (5) candidates.

	Individual Member	Joint Member
Robert Nehman	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Debbie Neustadt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pam Mackey-Taylor	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wally Taylor	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Susan West	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Write-In _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

*BALLOT MUST BE RETURNED BY JAN. 10, 2015.

CEDAR PRAIRIE GROUP BALLOT

Counties included in the Cedar Prairie Group include Black Hawk, Buchanan, Bremer, Butler, Grundy, Chickasaw, and Hardin.

Executive Committee Candidates for 2015-2017 Term

Alex Darragh

My interest in environmental issues has been lifelong. And my concern for sustainable energy solutions was brought into sharp focus by the first two oil shocks of the 1970s. I have been a member of the Sierra Club for a number of years and share the same goals, with a special interest in clean energy, global warming and living on the earth in a sustainable manner.

Jack Gregersen

Currently I am involved with two groups working on surface water issues, the Cedar Falls Dry Run Creek Advisory Board and the Cedar River Coalition Steering Committee. This is a change and learning experience for

me as most of my professional work dealt with industrial waste. I also am a member of the Northeastern Iowa Synod (ELCA) Care of Creation Network. I received a BA degree in science from the State College of Iowa (now UNI) in 1964. I received an MS degree in Water Resources, with a water quality emphasis, from Iowa State in 1971. My thesis dealt with treating wastewater from a chemical manufacturer. I worked for a consulting firm, an aeration equipment (for activated sludge) manufacturer and finished my career at John Deere in the environmental group mostly in environmental operations. I am married and have two sons and two grandchildren.

Roger White

Member of Sierra Club for at least 20 years and Cedar Prairie Executive Committee since 2012. President of Cedar Prairie Sierra Group 2012-13 and currently the Conservation Chair. Interests include bicycling, hiking, fishing, gardening and enjoying natural areas. Also, active with Iowa Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP), Department of Natural Resources-IOWATER, Cedar Valley Cyclists, Cedar Falls Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee and Black Hawk County Democratic Party.

Submitted by Cedar Prairie Group Nominating Committee

Ballot Instructions:

Vote for no more than three candidates. Cut the ballot out of the "Iowa Sierran" as copies are not allowed) and mail to Susan West, 1551 Curry Blvd., Fairbank, IA 50629.

Remember to include your Sierra Club membership number with your name. (Your membership number is on the Sierra Magazine label and on your membership card.) Individual members mark their votes in the left-hand column. For joint memberships, one person must use the left-hand column to vote, the second person must mark his or her votes in the column marked "joint member".

Place ballot in an envelope and mail to:

Susan West
1551 Curry Blvd.
Fairbank, IA 50629

Cedar Prairie Group Executive Committee (ExCom)

Election Ballot

Vote for no more than three (3) candidates.	Individual Member	Joint Member
Alex Darragh	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jack Gregersen	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Roger White	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Write-In _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Write-In _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

*BALLOT MUST BE RETURNED BY JAN. 10, 2015.

CLIMATE DISRUPTION | CLEAN ENERGY

By Grace McRae, Polling & Research Strategist

A growing number of Americans say climate disruption is caused by human activity

During a month [September] when hundreds of thousands of Americans took to the streets of New York City to demand climate action, nearly three-in-four American adults now think that "global warming" is having a serious impact now or will in the future, and 54% believe it is mostly caused by human activity -- the highest percentage ever found in New York Times/CBS News polls.

Forty-six percent of American adults agree that "global warming is an environmental problem that is causing a serious impact now," while another 28% expect that impacts will occur in the future. Fewer than one-in-four (24%) think climate disruption will not have a serious impact. Three-in-five Democrats (61%) think it is currently causing serious impacts, compared with just 26% of Republicans. And while 18% of Republicans think climate disruption will never have a serious impact, a mere 3% of Democrats agree.

The percentage of Americans that thinks "global warming is caused mostly by human activity such as burning fossil fuels" has risen slightly since this past May -- from 49% to 54% this month -- and is now the highest it has been since NYT/CBS began asking the question in 2011. Another 31% believe climate disruption is caused by "natural patterns in the earth's environment." Just one-in-ten (10%) say it does not exist at all. By comparison, a Pew Research poll in October found that two-thirds of Americans (67%) believed "there is solid evidence that the earth has been getting warmer over the last few decades," and 26% said there is no solid evidence. This includes 44% who said it was mostly due to human activity and 18% who thought it was due to natural causes.

Consistent with other polls, this new NYT/CBS found that Democrats are more likely than Republicans to think human activity is mostly to blame for climate disruption (67% versus 35%, respectively). The majority of independents (53%) attributes "global warming" mostly to human activity.

On a more personal level, 42% of Americans see "global warming" as personal threat, saying it will cause serious harm to them in their lifetime. But the majority (57%) does not think it will pose a serious threat. Expectedly, young Americans' opinions differ from older adults on this question. More than seven in ten respondents 65 years and older expect to see "no impact from global warming" in their lifetimes, but many younger people do expect to see impacts

during their lives -- including 50% of those under 30 years old. A simple explanation for this difference is that younger Americans generally have more years ahead of them than older Americans do.

When asked to choose between the environment and economic growth, 58% of Americans say environmental protection should be given priority, "even at the risk of curbing economic growth," while 37% prioritize economic growth "even if the environment suffers to some extent." About half of Republicans (51%) think the economy should be prioritized over the environment, while nearly two-in-three Democrats (63%) thought the environment should take priority. I do generally dislike these "environment versus economy" questions, though, because they present a false dichotomy. As we at the Sierra Club know, the clean energy economy is protecting the environment while also generating new good-paying American jobs and secure and affordable energy. Still, it is encouraging to see so many poll respondents expressing that the environment should be prioritized.

TAKEAWAY: Americans are increasingly aware and concerned about climate disruption. Any elected official who refuses to accept the reality of climate disruption and the need to act is simply out-of-step with most Americans. As the People's Climate March demonstrated, the Sierra Club and our allies and friends must continue to demonstrate the urgency of this issue and the solutions available now to combat it. Transitioning to a clean-energy economy will not only combat climate disruption but also create new jobs, improve public health, and ensure a brighter and safer future for all Americans.

Grace McRae
Polling and Research Director, Sierra Club
From The Sierra Sync Newsletter -- 10/3/14

*SSRS interviewed 1,000 adults nationwide from Sept. 10-14; Margin of Error is +/-3.0% points overall at the 95% CI

IOWA SIERRAN

Editor: Jane R. Clark

The Iowa Sierran is dedicated to informing members and other friends about environmental issues that affect Iowa. It is a forum for the expression of ideas on topics of environmental concern, as well as the voice of the Iowa Chapter of the Sierra Club. Articles with a by-line represent the research and opinions of the authors and not necessarily that of the Sierra Club.

We invite submissions of letters, articles, photographs and illustrations. Letters and articles must be complete, accurate and identified with your name, address and phone number(s).

Please submit by email to jrclark@radiks.net. The editor reserves the right to edit for clarity, space and libel reasons.

Deadlines are March 5 for the Spring/Summer issue; July 5 for the Autumn issue; and November 5 for the Winter issue.

A subscription to the Iowa Sierran is included in the cost of Sierra Club membership. For non-members, a subscription is \$5 per year.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

Chapter leaders want to recognize volunteers in the Iowa Sierran Newsletter. The members listed below are Group Executive Committee members or others who volunteer at the local Sierra Group level. In Iowa, there is one statewide Chapter and there are nine Sierra organizations at the local level, including eight Groups and one Section. In future issues of the Iowa Sierran, volunteers from other parts of the state will be recognized.

Central Iowa Group

Peggy Brown
Penny Thomsen
Jane Hudson
Lori Reilly
George McKeever
Karen Tigges
Donna Balzer
Ginger Soelberg
Jackie Porter
Etta George
Jane Clark
Debbie Neustadt
Sandy Simmons
Phyllis Goodman
Chris Schneider
Nicole Cook
Rob Nicholson
Mary Ann Hynes

Leopold Group (Southeast Iowa)

Patrick Bosold
Jack Engstrom
Carole Simmons
Denyce Rusch
Kerry Bell
Fred Rosenberg
Alitza Blough
Susan Chapin
Cindy Ballou

White Pine Group (Northeast Iowa)

Charlie Winterwood
Dick Worm
Buck Schultz
Dave Hansen
Gary Thompson
Mike Muir
Jane Worm
Larry Troester
Jim Fahrion
Linda Schroeder
Sheila Schultz
Carol Thompson
Ruth Scharnau

Urban Protected Areas

The recently published International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) volume *Urban Protected Areas: Profiles and Best Practice Guidelines*, is accessible via www.iucn-urban.org or via this longer URL on the main IUCN website: http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/bpg_urban_protected_areas.pdf.

“Their importance cannot be overstated.”

Urban protected areas—nature reserves situated in or at the edge of larger population centers —“are at the heart of the struggle to create more sustainable prospects for both nature and people,” according to a new book from IUCN, the International Union for Conservation of Nature. “Their importance cannot be overstated.”

Urban protected areas “have a crucial role that sets them apart from other protected areas. They provide opportunities for large numbers of urban people to experience nature, including many people who may not be able to visit more remote protected areas.”

This is important for two reasons. One is now well known: Regular contact with nature is good for people. Aside from the benefits of outdoor exercise, spending time in nature improves physical and mental health.

The other reason may be less obvious: Urban people are crucial for nature conservation globally. Conservation depends on support from urban voters, urban donors, and urban communicators. Yet people living in cities tend to have less and less contact with nature. As the author puts it: “The wildest and remotest places on Earth, the most imperiled species on Earth, the chain of life sustaining human life on Earth will be protected only if urban people care about nature.”

The book profiles urban protected areas in fifteen metropolitan areas around the world and gives guidance on such topics as engendering a local sense of ownership, engaging with diverse ethnic groups, and breaking down cultural barriers between the “natural” and the “urban”; coping with such challenges as encroachment, crime, invasive species, human-wildlife conflict, zoonotic diseases, wildfires, noise, and artificial nighttime light; and making urban protected areas national and global priorities.

An initiative of the Urban Specialist Group of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas, www.iucn-urban.org, whose secretariat is provided by InterEnvironment Institute, www.InterEnvironment.org.

Create An Environmental Legacy

Bequests have played a key role in the Sierra Club's environmental successes over the years. Planning now may make your gift more meaningful and reduce taxes on your estate. We have many gift options available. We can even help you plan a gift for your local Chapter. For more information and confidential assistance contact:

Sierra Club Gift Planning Program
85 Second Street, Second Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105
Phone 800-932-4270

Email: gift.planning@sierraclub.org • www.sierraclub.org/gift/planning

Sierra Club

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202-225-6576

* New Congressional addresses will be on our webpage after they're assigned. The link to those addresses will be <http://iowa.sierraclub.org/pollinks.htm>.

Rep. Tom Latham
(District 3)
516 Cannon House
Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515-1505
202-225-5476

Rep. Steven King
(District 4)
1432 Longworth House
Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515
202-225-4426

PRESIDENT
Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20500
202-456-1111

GOVERNOR
Terry Branstad
State Capitol
1015 E. Grand Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50319-0002
515-281-5211

IOWA LEGISLATURE
To get Iowa legislators' names, addresses, and phone numbers at any time of the year, call 515-281-5129.

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