

# THE TOMORROW PLAN SPEAKER SERIES

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

Tuesday, July 30, 2019

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## Speaker Katharine Burgess: Harvesting the Value of Water

Cities across Iowa and the country have been learning to live harmoniously with water. Not only are these places having to address growing concerns about flooding and extreme storms. Cities are also recognizing water as a resource to make more sustainable and livable communities.

Increasingly, developers are showing that cities can live with stormwater and enjoy it, too – creating water features and green infrastructure, for example, that not only catch rainfall but also serve as attractive amenities, and provide eye-catching visual features for parks and plazas.

This is detailed in a recent report titled “Harvesting the Value of Water,” whose lead author, Katharine Burgess of the Urban Land Institute, is the next speaker in the Tomorrow Plan Speaker Series. Burgess is the Vice President of Urban Resilience at the Urban Land Institute, where she leads research, advisory services, and outreach related to urban resilience.

“Private sector developers and designers are playing a growing role in meeting cities’ water goals,” she says, noting that cities are requiring or incentivizing developers to incorporate better stormwater practices into their projects. “These water management mechanisms have the potential to create value for real estate projects by enhancing aesthetics, operational efficiency, and building user experience.”

Burgess’s talk is timely for Greater Des Moines, which has experienced significant flash flooding recently, and where the rivers and creeks are increasingly being seen as recreational amenities to be enjoyed and celebrated. Her keynote talk will be followed by a panel discussion with local experts.

The Tomorrow Plan Speaker Series is an implementation strategy of The Tomorrow Plan, a plan for the sustainable development of Greater Des Moines. For more information and RSVP, please visit [www.tomorrowplanspeakerseries.org/katharine-burgess/](http://www.tomorrowplanspeakerseries.org/katharine-burgess/).

### DETAILS

Monday, August 12, 2019

11:30 a.m. – Lunch

11:45 a.m. – Historical preview:

**Justin Glisan**, State Climatologist

12 – 12:30 p.m. – Keynote:

**Katharine Burgess**

12:30 – 1:30 p.m. – Panel Discussion:

**Tom Hadden**

West Des Moines City Manager

**John Swanson**

Polk Soil and Water Conservation District

**Staci Williams**

ISG and the Capital Crossroads Central

Iowa Water Trails Incubator

**Perry Beeman**, Moderator

Des Moines Business Record

### LOCATION

State Historical Building

600 E. Locust St., Des Moines

### RSVP & LUNCH

Please RSVP.

Bag lunches from Cafe Baratta’s available for purchase. Please register online:

[tomorrowplanspeakerseries.org/katharine-burgess/](http://tomorrowplanspeakerseries.org/katharine-burgess/)

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