

## Coralville, IA – Brownfields Project Becomes Fodder for Right Wing; The Daily Show features the Trouncing of Right Wing Candidates

The Coralville, Iowa [Iowa River Landing](#) project gained a [national award from the National Association of Environmental Professionals](#) as a model for brownfields and sustainable development. NALGEP summed it up as follows:

*Today, the Iowa River Landing is an attractive neighborhood that serves as an impressive gateway to the town of Coralville as motorists enter the town on I-80. Fifty-four acres have already been redeveloped into two premier hotels, a Von Maur upscale department store, a medical clinic serving 300,000 patient visits per year, a brewery, a wetlands park, mixed-use buildings, and more. It is a model for sustainable community development.*

The project was supported by tax increment financing debt, and the amount of that and other municipal debt [attracted the attention](#) of [Americans for Prosperity](#) (AFP), a Koch Brothers-affiliated group that supports right wing causes and poured \$35 million into a failed attempt to defeat President Obama. AFP funding poured into Coralville, along with numerous misleading slogans and add campaigns (comparing Coralville to the financial woes of Detroit, and accusing the incumbent mayor of cheating on his property taxes). The local electorate [reacted quite negatively](#) to the attempt at outside influence. AFP opposed the re-election of Mayor John A. Lundell and several incumbent City Council members, and supported several conservative candidates. Those opposed by AFP were re-elected by overwhelming margins, while the conservative mayoral candidate finished tied for last and referred to the AFP support as “kind of like getting endorsed by Charles Manson.”

The election result was covered by the [New York Times](#); The Daily Show skewered the AFP and its failed attempt to influence local elections – [see this segment](#).