

Infrastructure Status reports

12/31/19

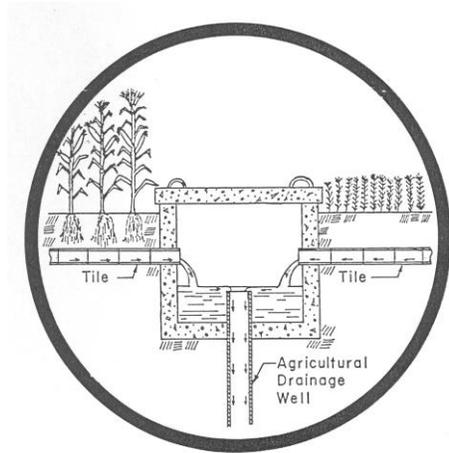


**IOWA DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE &
LAND STEWARDSHIP**

**Division of Soil Conservation
& Water Quality**

Agricultural Drainage Well Closure Assistance Fund

Agricultural drainage wells (ADWs) were developed in the early to mid-1900's and discharge cropland tile drainage water to underground aquifers. The fund was established in 1997 to protect drinking water aquifers by cost-sharing with landowners to close agricultural drainage wells and develop alternative drainage outlets to surface streams or install alternative management practices. Projects are typically constructed through drainage districts, although some projects are undertaken by individual landowners. Some of the remaining wells to be closed are located in karst areas with shallow limestone.



- 300 registered agricultural drainage wells (ADWs) in Iowa
- 100 ADWs closed by landowners, Watershed Improvement Review Board funding, or determined by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to not be ADWs or to be non-functioning
- 179 ADWs closed to date using \$16.54 million of assistance funds
- 5 ADW closures in project construction phase
- 10 ADW closures in design phase with 2020 construction
- 6 ADW closures anticipated for FY21
- FY21 appropriation request = \$1,875,000

Fund Status

FY20 Appropriation	\$1,875,000
Balance 6/30/19 Brought Forward	\$7,402,858
Interest to Date	\$57,258
Expenditures to Date	\$ 536,385
Obligated/Encumbered	\$8,798,731
Unobligated	\$0

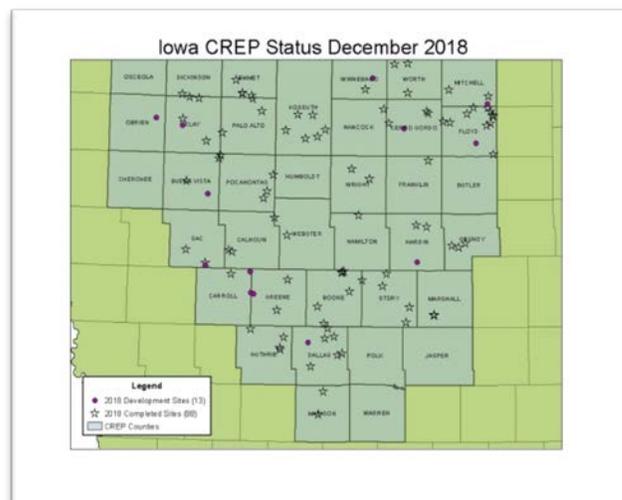
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Iowa Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

The Iowa Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) was initiated in 2001 and is a joint effort of the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship and the USDA Farm Service Agency to protect Iowa drinking water and reduce hypoxia in the Gulf of Mexico. It is a highly targeted water quality program focusing on the reduction of nitrate loads to surface waters through the restoration of strategically located and designed wetlands that intercept tile-drainage water from upper-lying cropland.



- Research and monitoring by Iowa State University has shown that CREP wetlands remove 40-90% of the nitrate in tile-drainage water
- Wetlands restored to date (92) and those currently being designed (17) are estimated to remove over 1,655,235 lbs of nitrogen **annually**. Roughly 124,143 tons of nitrogen will be removed over their design life. These wetlands will provide water quality protection for 136,886 acres of land
- Hundreds of potential wetland locations exist for landowner consideration
- Average lifetime nitrogen removal costs: \$0.26/lb.
- State funds are matched with Federal funds
- FY21 appropriation request = \$1,000,000



Fund Status

FY20 appropriation	\$1,000,000
Balance 6/30/19 Brought Forward	\$2,871,919
Expenditures to Date	\$1,736,862
Reimbursements	\$ 0
Obligated/Encumbered	\$2,135,057
Unobligated	\$ 0

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District Initiatives/Buffer Initiative

The District Initiatives/Buffer Initiative (Conservation Reserve Program-CRP) was established in 2000 as a part of the Iowa Water Quality Initiative. Program initiatives are delivered through local Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) in cooperation with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to leverage dollars for federal conservation programs, increasing Iowa's overall participation in both state and federal programs. Locally-led initiatives prioritize and target sensitive areas, by providing funds and resources to protect our soil and water resources.



- SWCDs receive funds to provide technical assistance to enroll CRP and install Federal Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) practices.
- Iowa traditionally leads the nation in the USDA Continuous CRP with acres enrolled.
- Under the EQIP program, landowners have invested an estimated \$16 million along with over \$36.6 million from federal funds.
- SWCDs partner with Pheasants Forever, NRCS and IDNR to support habitat improvement projects on private land.
- Incentives support grazing systems on expiring CRP contracts that support permanent cover as well as filters and buffers that protect Iowa's lakes, rivers and streams.
- SWCDs and staff work one-on-one with landowners and operators to implement conservation practices.
- FY21 appropriation request - \$900,000

Fund Status

FY20 Appropriation	\$ 900,000
Balance 6/30/19 Brought Forward	\$ 590,496
Refunds/Reimbursements	\$ 78,915
Expenditures to Date	\$ 374,159
Obligated/Encumbered	\$ 1,195,252
Unobligated	\$0

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Iowa Conservation Cost Share Program

Iowa's Conservation Cost Share program was established in 1973 to protect the soil and water resources of the state from erosion and sediment damage. The program encourages the adoption of land stewardship and conservation practices that sustain agriculture and preserve our state's natural resources. Technical assistance is provided by IDALS-DSCWQ and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and practices are designed to NRCS technical standards. Applicants are required to enter into maintenance agreements to ensure long-term success and performance. Practices are approved locally by Iowa's 100 Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs).



- Soil and water conservation practices:
 - enhance soil quality and improve water infiltration
 - reduce erosion, soil loss and runoff
 - reduce water impairments from sediment and nutrients
 - reduce storm water impact on private property and infrastructure
- From July 1 to December 31, 2019, IDALS processed landowner payments for 749 soil and water conservation practices.
- 28,660 acres have been protected from excessive soil erosion
 - Includes 546,000' of terraces, 232 acres of waterways, 18,594 acres of cover crops, 63 grade stabilization structures.
- Landowners invest a minimum of 50% of their own money on these practices
- The investment of cost-share funds and those of private landowners are reinvested in Iowa's local economies, benefiting the communities
- In September 2019, 49 SWCDs requested \$9.29 million in supplemental funds with only \$2.6 million available, leaving \$6.69 million of unmet demand and lost opportunities to improve our soil and water resources
- FY21 appropriation request = \$8,325,000

Fund Status	FY20 Appropriation	\$8,325,000
	Balance 6/30/19 Brought Forward	\$5,786,850
	Refunds & Reimbursements	\$4,704
	Expended	\$4,314,084
	Obligated/Encumbered	\$9,802,470
	Unobligated	\$0

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Soil and Water Conservation Administration

There is a need to improve soil quality, maintain productivity, enhance water quality, manage nutrients properly, and provide flood protection. To do so and ensure program dollars are spent effectively, IDALS must provide the best administrative and technical assistance possible for the Iowa Financial Incentives Program, Resource Enhancement and Protection Program, Watershed Protection Fund, Water Protection Fund Projects, Water Quality Initiative and State Revolving Fund Program. Staff also assist with implementing projects and practices funded by the federal government; including the Environmental Quality Incentive Program, Conservation Reserve Program, Wetland Reserve Program, and other programs in all 99 counties and 100 Soil and Water Conservation Districts.



Administrative and technical staff are vitally important to the 100 field offices to ensure IDALS is fully functional and able to communicate and provide assistance to implement conservation and water quality practices across the state.

- Staff assist landowners in applying over \$31 million in state funded programs
- Staff help USDA/NRCS apply approximately \$30 million in federally funded conservation practices
- FY21 appropriation request = \$3,800,000

Fund Status

FY20 Appropriation	\$3,800,000
Balance 6/30/19 Brought Forward	\$3,800,000
Expenditures to Date	\$1,900,000
Obligated/Encumbered	\$5,700,000
Unobligated	\$0

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Watershed Protection Fund

The Watershed Protection Fund was initiated in 2000 as part of the broader Iowa Water Quality Initiative. Watershed development funds are available to Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) for that first important step of identifying problems in the watershed and creating a sound plan for improvement. Implementation of watershed protection projects brings together the community, both rural and urban, to target resources to reduce soil erosion, protect water quality, provide flood reduction, and protect natural resources. IDALS-DSCWQ, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) work together to achieve the maximum watershed improvements and water quality benefits with the state and federal program funds available to each agency.



- 16 watershed projects are underway in 30 SWCDs
- State funds are cost-shared at rates up to 75% with applicants assuming at least 25% of the cost
- 57 watershed project practice claims were reimbursed totaling \$265,156 and leveraging \$278,877 from other sources including applicant contributions
- 1,943 acres were protected with a soil loss reduction of 4,415 tons/year
- Sediment delivery to the state's water bodies was reduced by 2,121 tons/year along with 3,040 lbs/year of Phosphorus and 5,012 lbs/year of Nitrogen
- Projects have leveraged state funds with over \$2,000,000 of DNR Section 319 federal program funds
- FY21 appropriation request = \$900,000

Fund Status

FY20 Appropriation	\$ 900,000
Balance 6/30/19 Brought Forward	\$ 879,314
Expenditures to Date	\$ 310,156
Obligated/Encumbered	\$ 1,469,158
Unobligated	\$ 0

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Iowa Water Quality Initiative (WQI)

The Iowa Water Quality Initiative was established in 2013 to help implement the Nutrient Reduction Strategy (NRS), which is a science and technology based approach to achieving a 45 percent reduction in nitrogen and phosphorus losses to our waters. The strategy brings together both point sources, such as municipal wastewater treatment plants and industrial facilities, and nonpoint sources, including farm fields and urban stormwater runoff, to address these issues.

The WQI seeks to harness the collective ability of both private and public resources and organizations to rally around the NRS and implementing proven conservation practices to reduce nutrient loss and improve water quality.

A total of 84 demonstration projects are located across the state to help implement and demonstrate water quality practices. This includes 13 targeted watershed projects, 7 projects focused on expanding the use and innovative delivery of water quality practices, 9 planning and development projects, and 56 urban water quality demonstration projects. More than 320 organizations are participating in these projects.

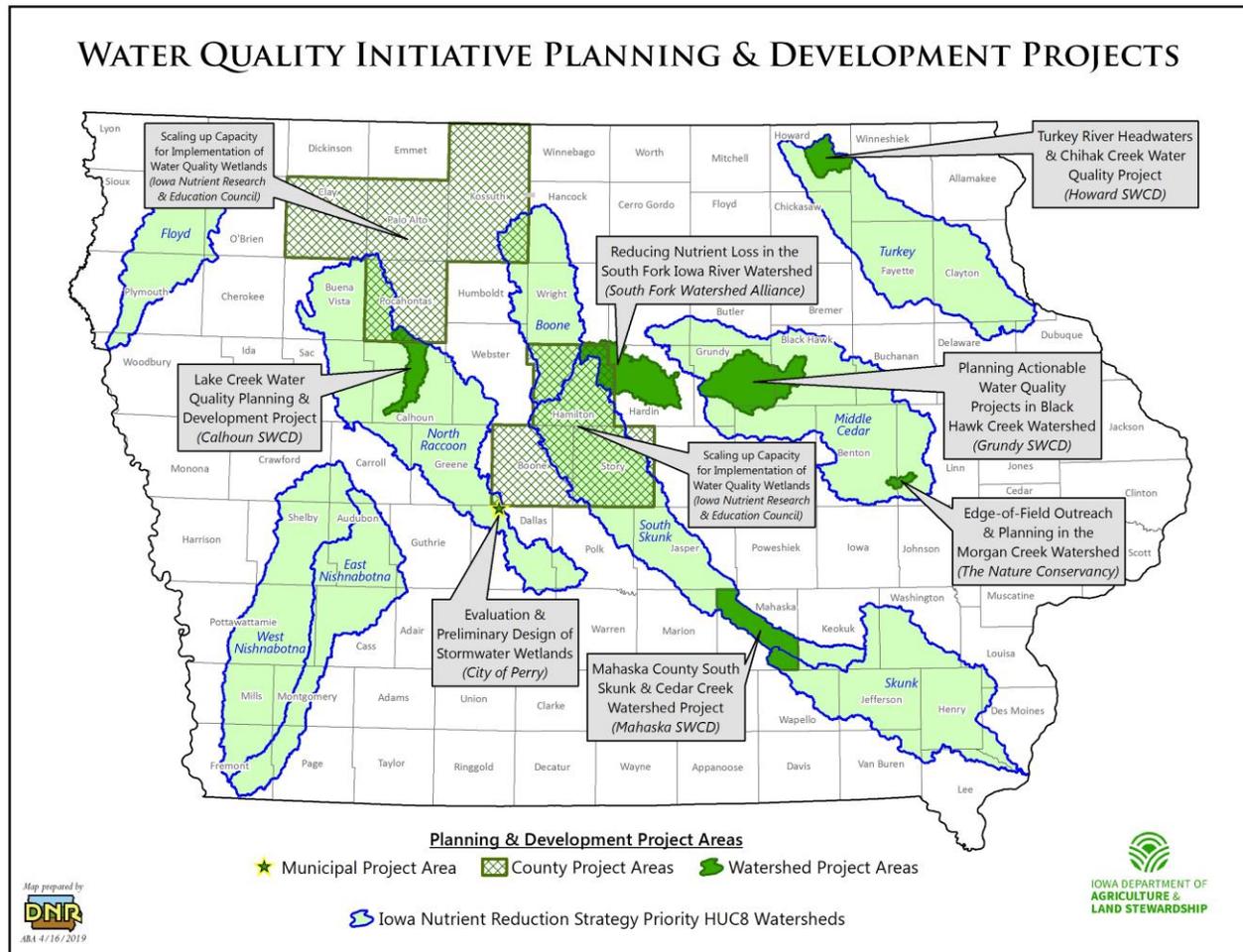
More information about the initiative can be found at www.CleanWaterIowa.org.

- 2,900 farmers committed \$6.1 million in cost share funds in the fall of 2019 to install nutrient reduction practices. The practices that were eligible for this funding are cover crops, no-till or strip till, or using a nitrification inhibitor when applying fall fertilizer. Farmers using cost share funding contribute an estimated \$10.2M of their own funding for these practices.
- 13 watershed demonstration projects within the designated priority watersheds.
 - Demonstrate NRS practices on a watershed scale
 - Conduct edge-of-field monitoring in project locations to collect data, target practices, and confirm results
 - Provided additional funding to 7 projects to expand and build upon their current efforts of advancing demonstration the NRS on a watershed basis.
- 56 active or recently completed urban conservation demonstration projects.
 - In the process of adding more urban projects. Anticipate new projects starting April 2020.
- 7 active practice demonstration projects focused on targeted and innovative delivery of NRS practices.
- 9 Planning and Development Projects added in FY2020.
- IDALS has successfully leveraged state funds to bring in 4 federal grants through the USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) and EPA-Gulf of Mexico Program, including:
 - \$1M cooperative agreement to establish the Transforming Drainage Demonstration Project in the Des Moines River Basin awarded in 2018.
 - \$1.15M cooperative agreement to establish 6 wetlands in the Middle Cedar River Watershed.
- FY21 appropriation request = \$10,575,000 (\$8.2 million requested from General Fund & \$2.375 million requested from EFF)

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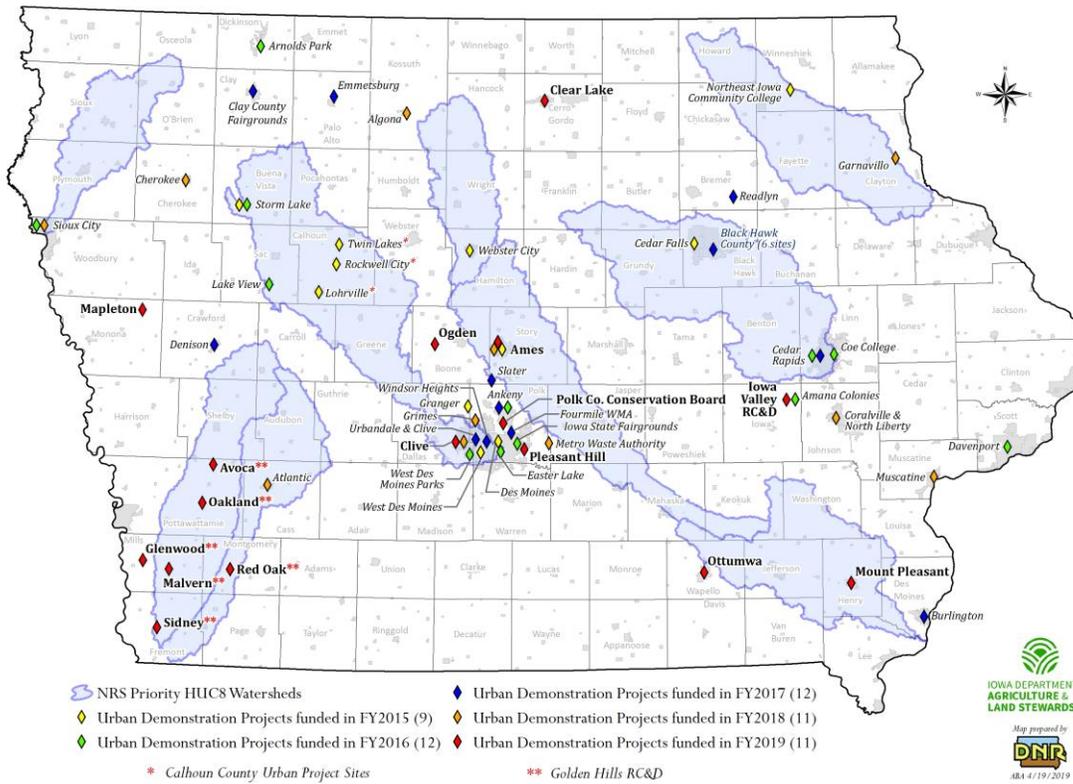


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LOCATIONS OF WQI URBAN DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS



Fund Status

FY20 RIIF Appropriation	\$5,200,000
FY20 General Fund Appropriation	\$3,000,000
FY20 Env. First Fund Appropriation	\$2,375,000
FY20 Watershed Improvement Balance Appr	\$1,600,000
Balance 6/30/19 Brought Forward	\$17,705,433
Interest to Date	\$135,686
Refunds & Reimbursements	\$45,263
Expenditures to Date	\$7,545,246
Obligated/Encumbered	\$22,516,136
Unobligated	\$0

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