

Infrastructure Status Reports

12/31/2022

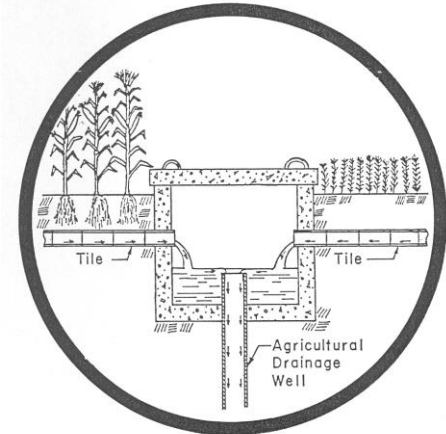


**IOWA DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE &
LAND STEWARDSHIP**

**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
- 101 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
- 186 ADWs closed to date using \$18.35 million of assistance funds
- 9 ADW closures in design phase with 2022 construction
- 4 ADW closures anticipated for FY23-24

Fund Status

FY23 Appropriation	\$0
Balance 6/30/22 Brought Forward	\$7,826,034
Interest to Date	\$35,643
Expenditures to Date	\$1,528,555
Obligated/Encumbered	\$6,333,122
Unobligated	\$0

For more information, contact:

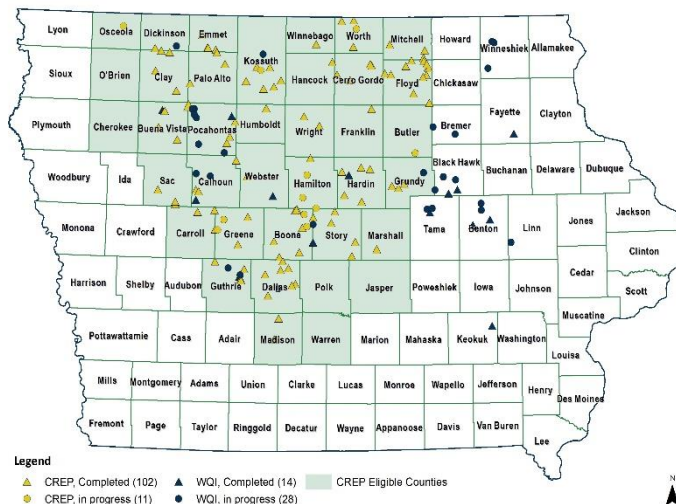
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Iowa Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

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.

Nutrient Reduction Wetlands - January 2022



- Research and monitoring by Iowa State University has shown that CREP wetlands remove 40-90% of the nitrate in tile-drainage water
- Program-eligible wetlands restored to date (105) and those currently being designed (21) are estimated to remove over 1,908,960 lbs of nitrogen annually. Roughly 143,172 tons of nitrogen will be removed over their design life. These wetlands will provide water quality protection for 156,650 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
- FY24 appropriation request = \$1,000,000



Fund Status

FY23 appropriation	\$1,000,000
Balance 6/30/22 Brought Forward	\$460,683
Reimbursements	\$842,108
Expenditures to Date	\$97,523
Obligated/Encumbered	\$2,205,268
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, \$31.9 million in federal funds were used to help landowners enroll over 100,000 acres into conservation practices.
- 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.
- FY24 appropriation request - \$900,000

Fund Status		
	FY23 Appropriation	\$ 900,000
	Balance 6/30/22 Brought Forward	\$ 899,676
	Refunds/Reimbursements	\$ 20,008
	Expenditures to Date	\$ 853,453
	Obligated/Encumbered	\$ 966,231
	Unobligated	\$ 0

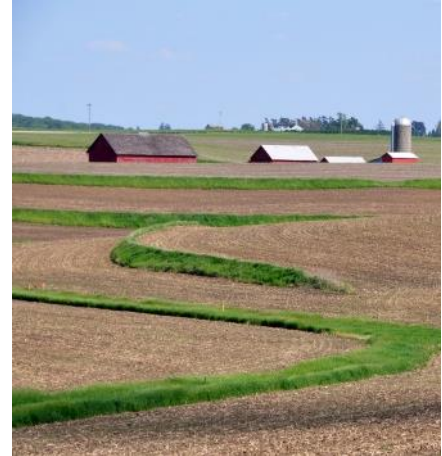
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Iowa Conservation Cost Share Program

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, 2022, IDALS processed landowner payments for 561 soil and water conservation practices totaling over \$2.9 million in dollars expended.
- 10,162 acres have been protected from excessive soil erosion
 - Includes 434,308' of terraces, 85 acres of waterways, 5,318 acres of cover crops, 52 grade stabilization structures.
- Landowners invest a minimum of 50% of their own money implementing 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 2022, 47 SWCDs requested \$10.48 million in supplemental funds with only \$3.01 million available, leaving \$7.47 million of unmet demand and lost opportunities to improve our soil and water resources
- FY24 appropriation request = \$10,000,000

Fund Status	FY23 Appropriation	\$8,325,000
	Balance 6/30/22 Brought Forward	\$6,784,745
	Refunds & Reimbursements	\$650
	Expended	\$3,522,011
	Obligated/Encumbered	\$11,588,384
	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 \$33.85 million in state funded programs
- Staff helped USDA/NRCS apply approximately \$31.9 million in federally funded conservation practices
- FY24 appropriation request = \$3,800,000

Fund Status

FY23 Appropriation	\$3,800,000
Balance 6/30/22 Brought Forward	\$3,800,000
Expenditures to Date	\$3,800,000
Obligated/Encumbered	\$3,800,000
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 in the support of these projects in order to achieve the maximum watershed improvements and water quality benefits with the state and federal program funds available to each agency.



- 14 watershed projects are underway in 28 SWCDs
- State funds are cost-shared at rates up to 75% with applicants assuming at least 25% of the cost
- 52 watershed project practice claims were reimbursed totaling \$284,489 and leveraging \$175,181 from other sources including applicant contributions
- 2,394 acres were protected with a soil loss reduction of 4,400 tons/year
- Sediment delivery to the state's water bodies was reduced by 2,672 tons/year along with 3,468 lbs/year of Phosphorus and 5,775 lbs/year of Nitrogen
- Projects have leveraged state funds with over \$1,380,000 of DNR Section 319 federal program funds
- FY24 appropriation request = \$900,000

Fund Status

FY23 Appropriation	\$ 900,000
Balance 6/30/22 Brought Forward	\$ 771,393
Refunds & Reimbursements	\$ 0
Expenditures to Date	\$ 329,489
Obligated/Encumbered	\$ 1,341,904
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 addresses both point sources, such as municipal wastewater treatment plants and industrial facilities, and nonpoint sources, including farm fields and urban stormwater runoff.

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

A total of 49 demonstration projects were operational in 2022 across the state to help implement and demonstrate water quality practices. This includes 16 targeted watershed projects, 6 projects focused on expanding the use and innovative delivery of water quality practices, 6 planning and development projects, and 25 urban stormwater management demonstration projects. More than 350 public and private organizations are participating in these projects.

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

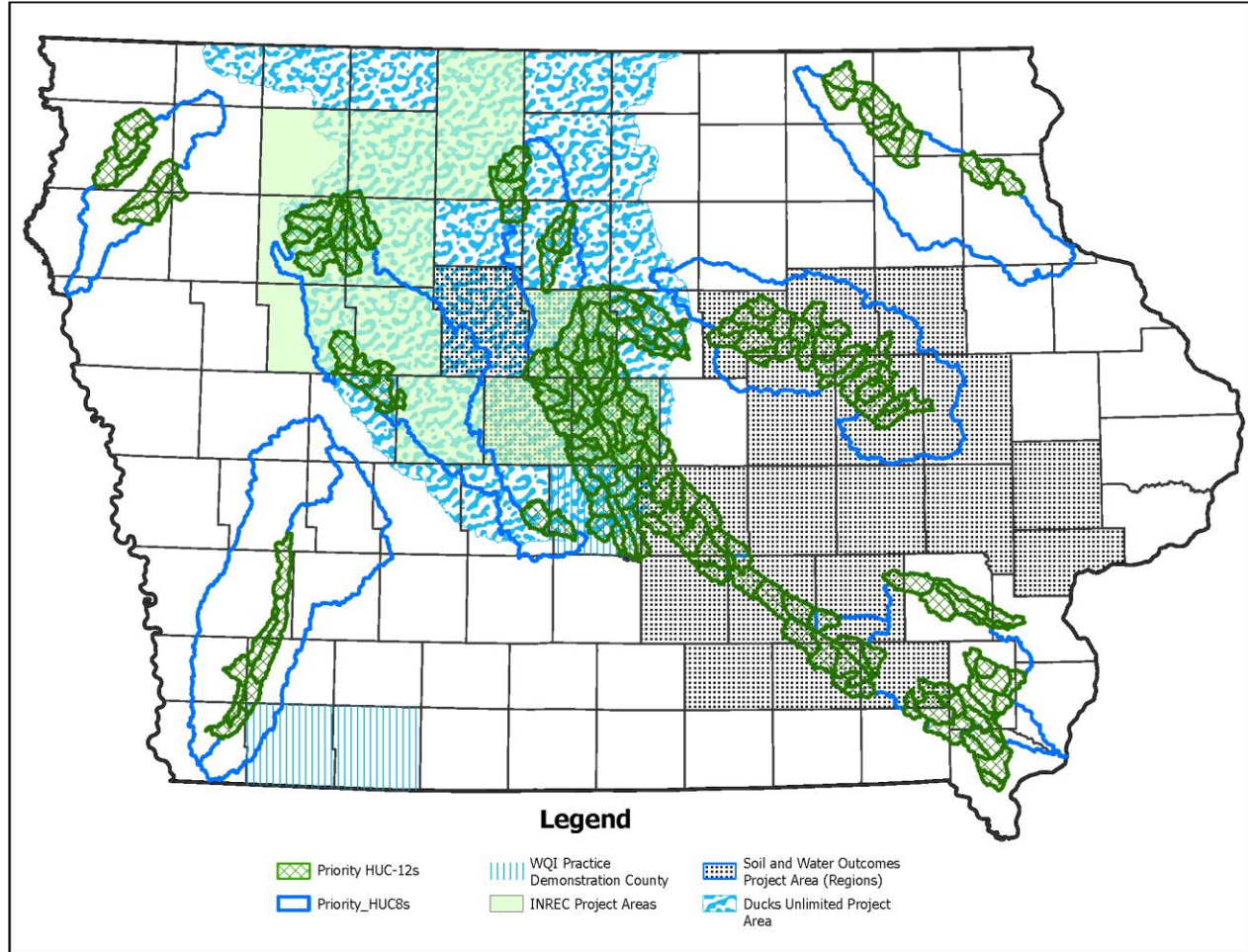
- 3,900 farmers requested \$7.5 million in cost share funds in the fall of 2022 to install nutrient reduction practices. The practices that were eligible for this funding are cover crops, no-till or strip till, or using a nitrification inhibitor when applying fall fertilizer. Farmers using cost share funding contribute an estimated \$14.5M of their own funding for these practices.
- 16 watershed demonstration projects within the designated priority watersheds.
 - Focused on demonstrating NRS practices on a watershed scale
 - Conduct edge-of-field monitoring in targeted watersheds to collect data and target practices
- 94 Total Projects with 25 active and 69 completed urban conservation demonstration projects.
 - In the process of adding more urban projects. Anticipate new projects starting April 2023.
- 5 active practice demonstration projects focused on targeted and innovative delivery of NRS practices.
- 3 Planning and Development Projects operating in FY2022.
- IDALS has successfully leveraged state funds to bring in several federal grants through the USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) and EPA-Gulf of Mexico Program. In 2022, IDALS was awarded NRCS-RCPP funding for 1 new projects:
 - \$5,844,156 for the Iowa Working Lands Conservation Partnership
- FY24 appropriation request = \$10,575,000 (\$8.2 million requested from RIIF & \$2.375 million requested from EFF)

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WQI Demonstration Projects

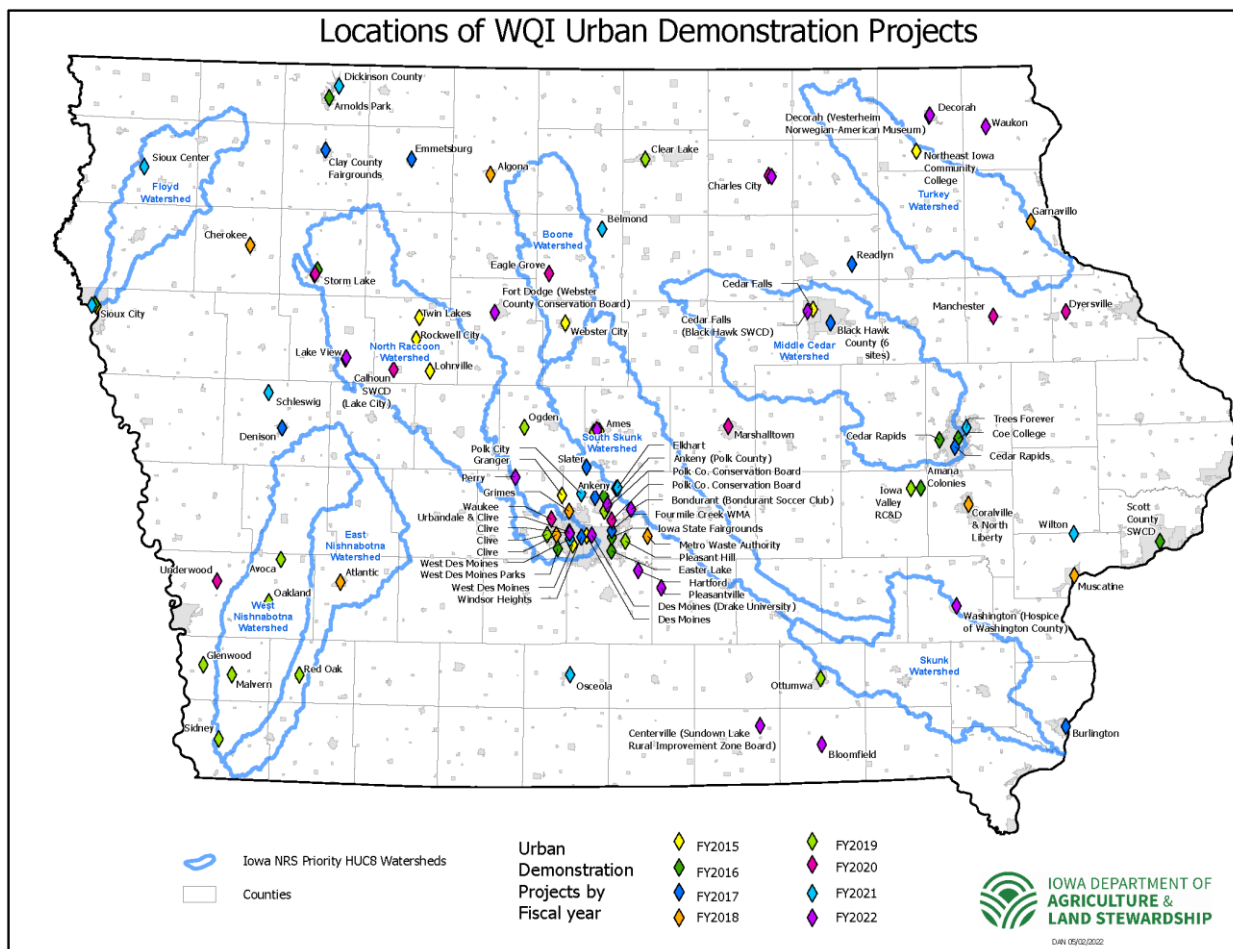


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WQI Urban Demonstration Projects



Fund Status

FY23 RIIF Appropriation	\$8,200,000
FY23 Env. First Fund Appropriation	\$2,375,000
Balance 6/30/22 Brought Forward	\$13,361,155
Interest to Date	\$64,109
Refunds & Reimbursements	\$18,784
Expenditures to Date	\$6,879,046
Obligated/Encumbered	\$17,140,002
Unobligated	\$0

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