**Iowa Water Trails and Low-Head Dam Mitigation Program**

In 2008, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) was mandated to administer the water trails and low-head dam public hazard program, [Iowa Code section 464A.11](https://www.lexisnexis.com/library/extranet/hyperarch/mainframe.min.html?i=1&d=IA&g=1&c=464A&d=1&b=1). The 2010 [Statewide Plan](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/Legislation/Reports/2010/statewideplan) includes guidance and recommendations related to recreational water trail development for local communities and includes a statewide inventory of low-head dams along with methods for prioritizing dam removal and publicizing hazards.

Local governments and nonprofit entities are eligible to apply for water trail development grants. A local match is required, but cost-share is strongly encouraged. Once completed, the water trail may become “designated” and be included in DNR marketing. Low-head dam mitigation grants are available to both private and public dam owners; low-head dam removal projects have a 50.0% local match requirement, while projects for improving signage and warnings at low-head dam sites require a 20.0% local funds match.

**Designated Water Trails and Low-Head Dam Mitigations**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Designated Water Trails</th>
<th>Low-Head Dam Mitigation Projects</th>
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<td>29</td>
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<td>35</td>
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**Low-Head Dam Mitigation Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Funding**

- 0 - 100,000
- 100,001 - 250,000
- 250,001 - 660,038
- Low-Head Dams
- Other Dams That Pose a Navigational Hazard

**Dams with Potential for Mitigation Funding**

193

**Low-Head Dams and Water Trails Appropriations FY 2008-FY 2019:**

$9.8 M

Source: [Iowa Department of Natural Resources](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/Legislation/Reports/2010/statewideplan)

LSA Staff Contacts: Rodrigo Acevedo (515.281.6764) rodrigo.acevedo@legis.iowa.gov
Deb Kozel (515.281.6767) deb.kozel@legis.iowa.gov
Adam Broich (515.281.8223) adam.broich@legis.iowa.gov