



## **DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

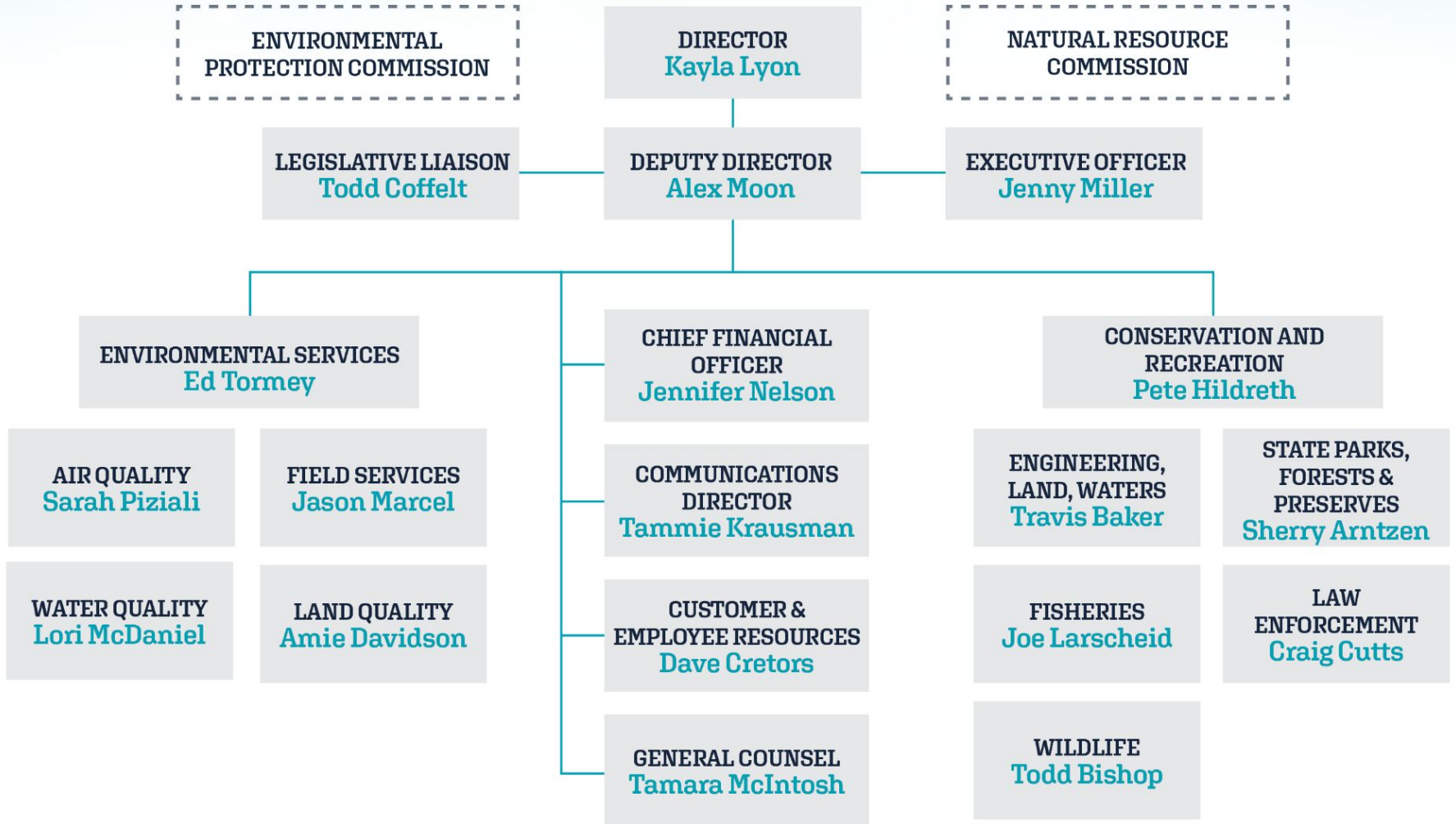
**LEADING IOWANS IN CARING FOR OUR NATURAL RESOURCES**

**KAYLA LYON, DIRECTOR**

**FY25 BUDGET PRESENTATION**

# Table of Organization

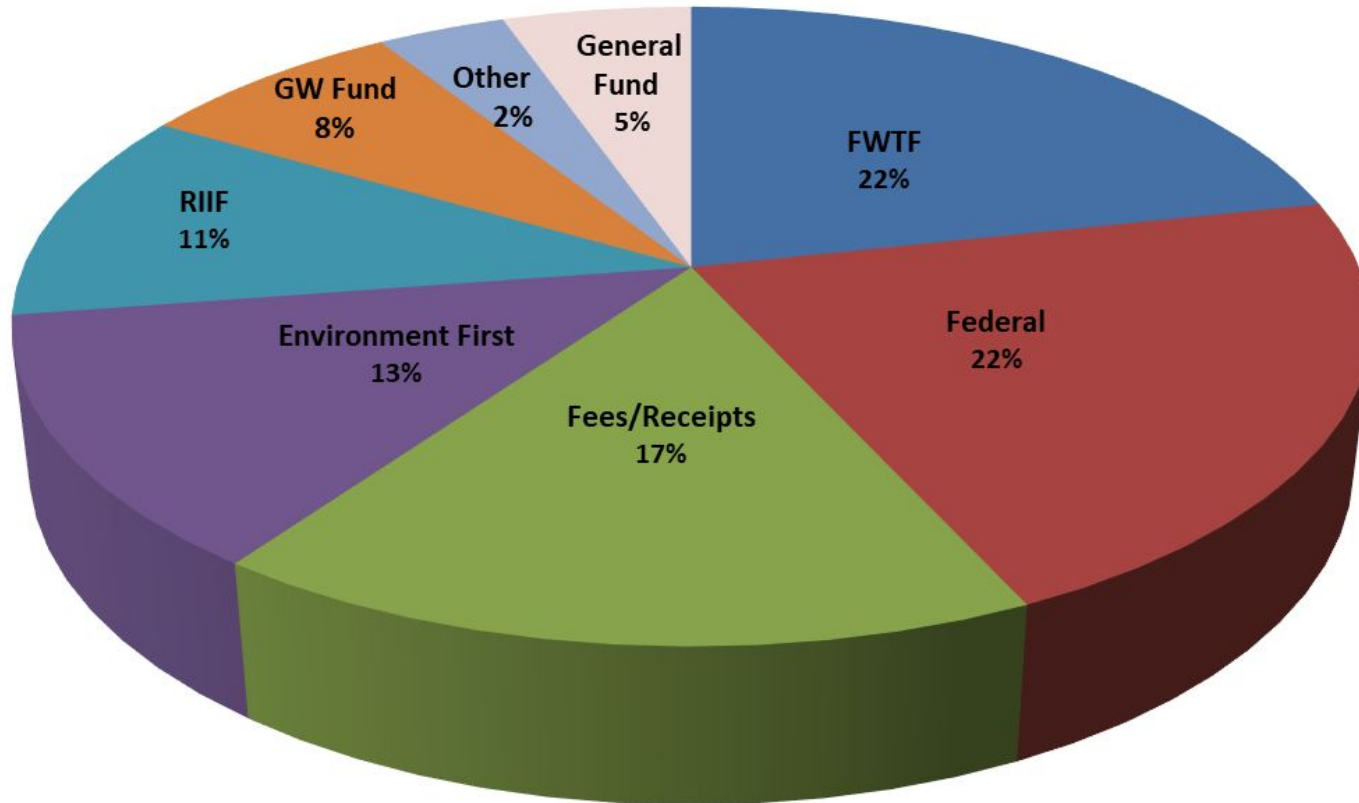
## Iowa Department of Natural Resources



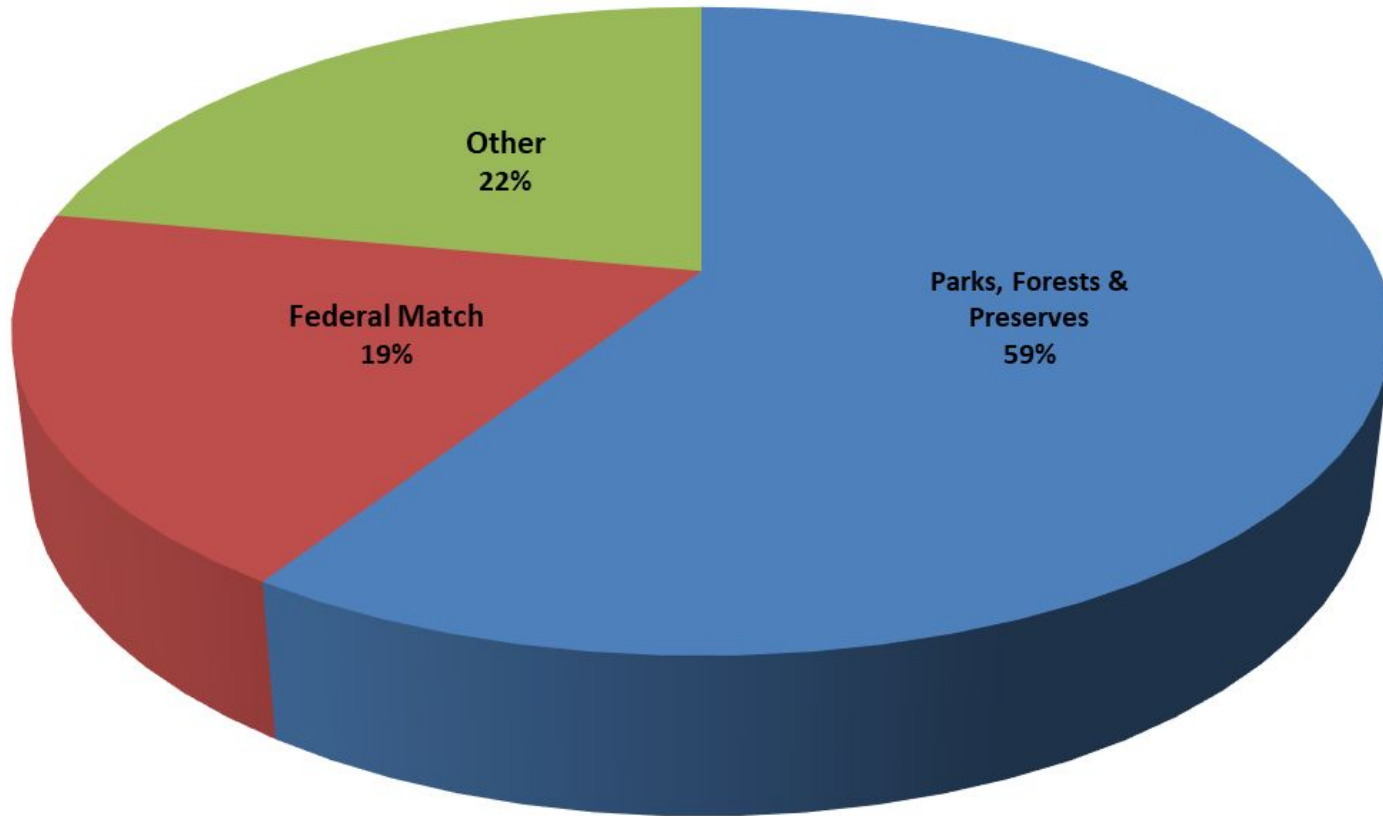
# FY 2025 Governor's Budget

APPROPRIATION NAME	FY 24 Appropriation	FY 25 Governor's Budget	Increase/ (Decrease)
<b><u>GENERAL FUND</u></b>			
Department Operations	\$11,922,293	\$12,479,695	\$557,402
State Park Operations	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$0
Floodplain Management	\$1,510,000	\$1,510,000	\$0
Forestry Health Management	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$0
<b>Total General Fund</b>	<b>\$14,932,293</b>	<b>\$15,489,695</b>	<b>\$557,402</b>
<b><u>ENVIRONMENT FIRST</u></b>			
Resource Enhancement and Protection	\$12,000,000	\$12,000,000	\$0
Ambient Air Quality Monitoring	\$425,000	\$425,000	\$0
Water Quality Monitoring	\$2,955,000	\$2,955,000	\$0
GIS Data for Watershed Managers	\$195,000	\$195,000	\$0
Park Operations and Maintenance	\$6,235,000	\$6,235,000	\$0
Floodplain Management	\$375,000	\$375,000	\$0
Animal Feeding Operations	\$1,320,000	\$1,320,000	\$0
Water Supply Appropriation	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$0
<b>Total Environment First Fund</b>	<b>\$24,005,000</b>	<b>\$24,005,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b><u>NON-GENERAL FUND</u></b>			
Fish and Wildlife Operations	\$49,752,093	\$49,752,093	\$0
Groundwater Fund	\$3,455,832	\$3,455,832	\$0
UST Administration Match	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$0
UST Fund Technical Assistance	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$0
Snowmobile Transfer to Fish and Wildlife	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$0
<b>Total Non General Funds</b>	<b>\$53,707,925</b>	<b>\$53,707,925</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b><u>INFRASTRUCTURE</u></b>			
Lake Water Quality Improvements	\$9,600,000	\$9,600,000	\$0
Water Trails/Lowhead Dam	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$0
Park Infrastructure Improvements	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$0
Community Forestry Grant Program	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$0
Law Enforcement Radios	\$0	\$1,565,000	\$1,565,000
Iowa State Fair	\$500,000	\$0	(\$500,000)
Honey Creek Resort	\$6,000,000	\$0	(\$6,000,000)
<b>Total Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund</b>	<b>\$22,850,000</b>	<b>\$17,915,000</b>	<b>(\$4,935,000)</b>
<b>TOTAL DEPARTMENT REQUEST</b>	<b>\$115,495,218</b>	<b>\$111,117,620</b>	<b>(\$4,377,598)</b>

# Expenditures by Funding Source



# DNR State General Fund Operations Allocations



# Iowa State Parks

- Iowa state parks continue to be popular destinations for visitors. While visitation was down slightly in 2023, camping stays increased over 2022 levels.

Year	Visitation	Camping Guest Nights (# of people x # of nights they stay)
2019	14,859,639	790,078
2020	16,665,335	958,206
2021	17,121,389	978,702
2022	14,212,899	814,135
2023	13,483,088	864,225



- **100 Percent Reservable Sites**

- New in 2023: Lake Ahquabi, Pikes Peak
- Coming in 2024: Ledges, AA Call, Lewis & Clark, Pleasant Creek, Clear Lake
- Already online: Maquoketa Caves, Walnut Woods, Lake Manawa

Reservation availability in real time, a popular change especially at “destination” parks where people are driving longer distances.

# 2023 Park Renovations: Lake Ahquabi and Pikes Peak Re-open in July

*Dredging in the  
Lake Ahquabi silt basin*

## Re-opened July 2023:

- New roads, campground upgrades and signage
- Lake restoration at Lake Ahquabi



## Campground Renovations Coming in 2024:

- Red Haw State Park (rebuilding post-tornado)
- Clear Lake State Park
- Brushy Creek State Recreation Area
- Pleasant Creek State Recreation Area

# Park Improvements

## Signage

- Goal is accessible, consistent, understandable signs for better wayfinding for park visitors
- 2024 – 13 parkwide installations

## Hazardous Tree Removal

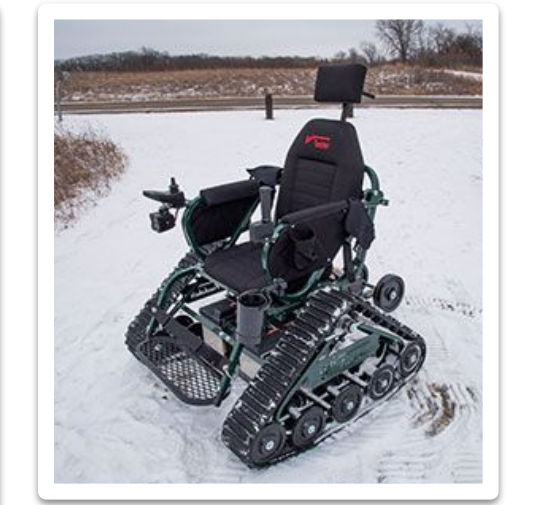
- \$200,000 with hundreds of trees removed
- Focus on trees near buildings and campgrounds

## Trail Improvements

- \$347,000 on new bridges, stairs, stabilization in multiple parks
- Partner with Boy Scouts and Conservation Youth

## Accessibility

- Track Chair at Big Creek State Park from national grant
- Additional efforts to assess and share accessible recreation opportunities.






# Dynamic Pricing in State Parks and Forests

**Special promotions** in 2023 benefit campers/cabin renters and encourage stays in off-season or mid-week; visits to lesser-used parks; and retain new campers.


- Deals included: \$50 off fall cabins, 20 percent off winter cabins, \$5.00 off for new campers returning, and free night during mid-week stays.
- 1,303 **promo codes** redeemed by campers for \$110,267 in revenue.



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

## State Park News

Conservation and Recreation



**It's time for your next camping adventure! Come back to Iowa state parks**

**Get \$5.00 off your stay with Promo Code: *Welcome23***


Iowa state parks want to welcome you back! We hope you visit this camping season.

Stay in any Iowa state park or forest campground through October 31, 2023 and save **\$5.00!** Just use Promo Code **Welcome23** at check out when you [make a reservation](#).


Hurry, campgrounds are filling up fast! Reserve today and enjoy Iowa state parks.

**Stay with Promo Code: *Welcome23***

*\$5.00 discount available for one-time use and only for online reservations of Iowa state park campsites until October 31, 2023. Does not apply to walk-in sites, youth group campsites or cabins.*

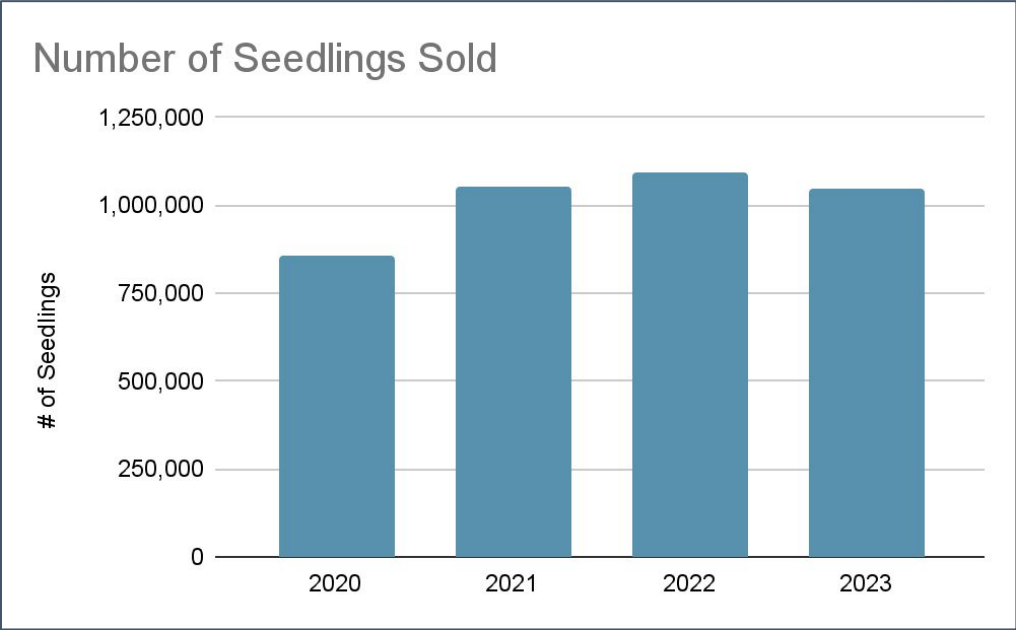


WWW.IOWADNR.GOV



# State Forest Nursery

More than 1 million trees sold in 2023, the third year in a row to top that milestone.



**NATIVE IOWA  
HARDWOODS**

**SHOP NOW**

**SMALL TREES  
& SHRUBS**

**SHOP NOW**

**EVERGREENS**

**SHOP NOW**

# Hunting and Fishing License Sales

Overall sales were up in all major license types compared to 2022:

- 136,212 hunting licenses
- 285,953 fishing licenses
- 36,327 hunt/fish combo licenses

**Trout** = 44,278 trout stamps

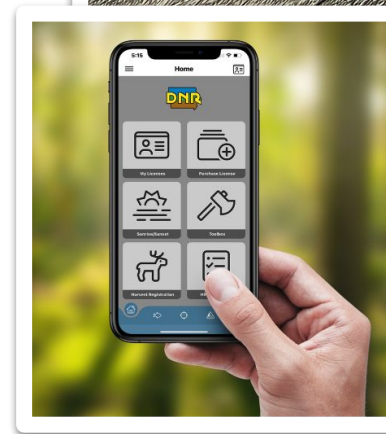
**Deer** = 315,261 deer tags

**Turkey** = 51,080 turkey tags

**Migratory Bird** = 24,714 migratory bird fees

**Furharvester** = 15,796 trapping licenses

Convenient services include web-based sales, hard cards, mobile app, auto-renewal and more.



# Pheasant Populations

## August 2023 Roadside Survey Results

- 2023 population highest in 8 years
- 15 percent increase over 2022
- Northeast Iowa had its highest population level in 24 years

Weather is a big factor influencing Iowa pheasant populations. Uptick followed a normal winter and dry spring.



# Grey Fox Success Story

**DNR biologists studying grey foxes, which have declining populations in Iowa.**

**October 2023 –**

DNR asked the public for help with a research project to find more grey foxes in the state through news outlets and social media, with 275,000+ impressions and 25,000+ engagements.

Citizens in Lee County helped identify, collar and track first grey fox in the study to determine habitat and habits.



# Outdoor Skills Programs

## Hunter Education

- 280 classes in 88 counties
- 48% of classes were in-person, and 52% hybrid online/field day
- 11,240 students certified

## Community Fishing

- 8,463 beginners participated in community fishing events
- 54,480 youth participated in the Fish Iowa! in schools, scouts and extracurricular groups

## Shooting Sports

- 49,448 archers from 230 schools in Archery in the Schools (NASP) program
- 4,641 students on 155 teams in Scholastic Clay Target (SCTP) program



# Conservation Education

## Teaching future leaders about Iowa based science

- Focusing on phenomena learning in the schools with examples from Iowa

## Department of Education Partnership

- Monthly Science Teacher Newsletter now includes Iowa DNR Data (fishing, water quality, wildlife, etc.)
- Partnered to deliver professional development to 224 science teachers

## K-12 Teacher Outreach

- 105 teachers across the state took part in training
- Hundreds more took at least once workshop

## Iowa 4-H Partnership

- State Science & Technology Fair, the largest STEM Competition in the state.
- Excellence in Environmental Science and Research Award



### Iowa Resources for Learners

#### [STEM For Our Youngest Learners](#)

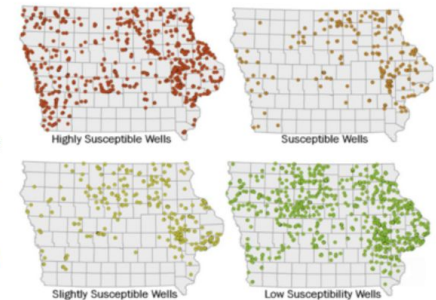
Beginning at birth, babies work to make sense of the world in sophisticated ways. They are curious and drawn to things they can handle, manipulate, use in a variety of ways, and make something happen. They grapple with **science** concepts such as the properties of materials and physics, and the mathematics of spatial thinking as they engineer their technology of block structures, canals to move water from one puddle to another, or arrangements of objects to cast shadows.

#### Natural Phenomena in the Classroom

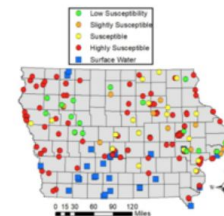
The use of natural phenomena in a classroom is essential to student sensemaking in the Iowa **Science** Standards. This data is not perfect; it is not idealized. With each data set or phenomena, we will include a description of the scientist who had a part of taking the data as both an example of a career teachers could highlight in their classroom. Entries from previous months and more information is archived [here](#).

#### Contaminated Sites and Solid Waste

There are more than 7000 public water supply wells in Iowa. A group of chemicals known as per and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) may pose a risk to public health, ingestion is the only viable means for these chemicals to enter the body, the chemicals are bioaccumulative, rules for acceptable concentrations of PFAS in drinking water are forthcoming from EPA, traditional water treatment methods do not remove PFAS so if PFAS is present in source water, then it will be present in treated drinking water, and Iowa (like almost all other states) has never tested for PFAS in either source water, or drinking water since the field of study is so new and prepare test methods only recently developed.



The DNR must develop a protocol to test enough different types of drinking source water supplies (while limiting cost) to form a defensible hypothesis for which sources are at risk, and which sources are unlikely to be at risk from PFAS contaminants.



Geographical Information Systems (GIS) software (ArcMap) was utilized to assist with selecting a statistically significant set of public wells for sampling. Around 200 hundred wells and 25 surface water sources were selected. Well parameters such as depth, geology, and susceptibility to surface contamination were taken into account to get the best possible cross section of all physical situations. In addition, proximity to known or suspected sources of PFAS was used as criteria for site selection. GIS software is a very powerful tool for sorting and selecting specific parameters from large datasets with higher accuracy than manual methods.

# Water Quality Efforts

- **Sioux Center Wastewater Treatment Plant**
- **Tyson, Columbus Junction**
- **OSI Industries Water Reuse**



- 
- **81 trout streams** in Iowa are naturally-reproducing for trout, up from 5 in 1980
  - **103 streams** showing signs of natural reproduction.





# Water Quality Efforts - Little Paint Creek

Little Paint Creek in Yellow River Forest is known for naturally reproducing brook and brown trout.

Cooperative partnerships to improve fish habitat and trout fishing after flooding and erosion:

- Stabilize and reshape stream banks
- Install fish habitat
- Improve plant diversity

Local, state and national partners including:

- Iowa DNR fisheries and forestry teams
- Funding from DNR Water Quality 319/EPA
- Trout Unlimited – Iowa Driftless Chapter
- Hawkeye Fly Fishing Association
- Driftless Flyathlon
- Coldwater Conservancy and more!



# Drought Monitoring - Iowa Water Summary

DNR collaborates to update citizens on drought conditions and impacts.

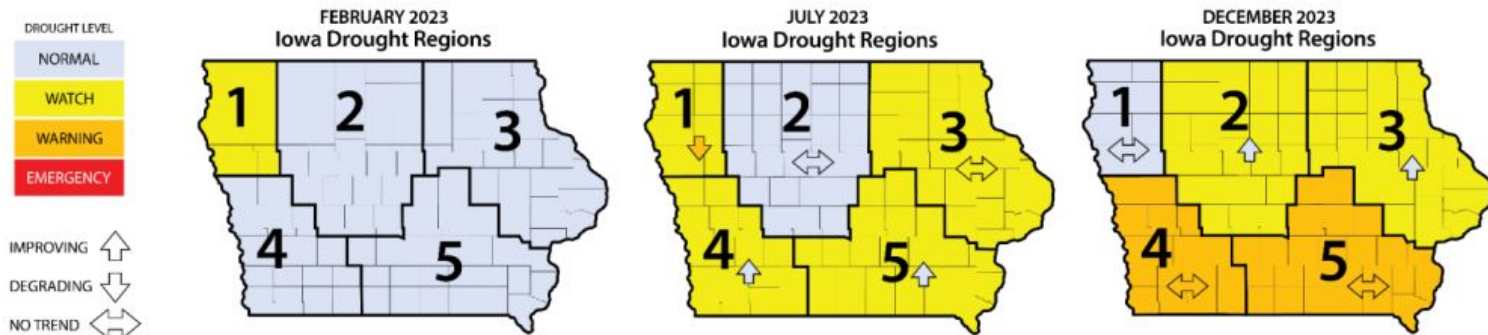
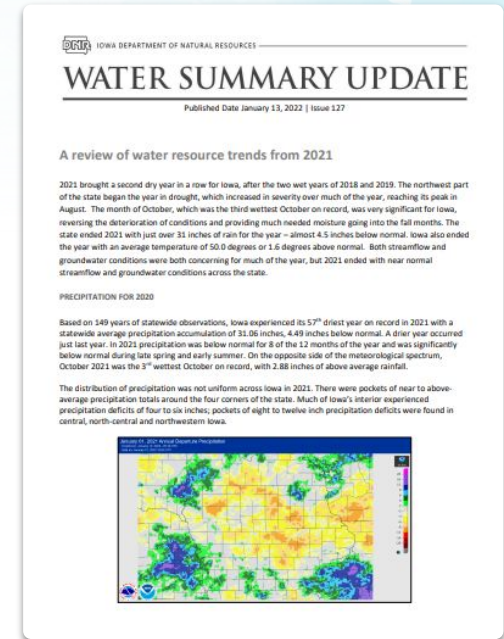
## 2023 Conditions:

- End-of year statewide average total of only **26.82 inches** of precipitation, **8.73 inches below normal**.
- Over the last three years, some locations in east central Iowa have seen rainfall **deficits of nearly 25 inches**.

January 2024 brought double expected precipitation; drought conditions improved especially across the southern half of Iowa. However, outlooks call for drought conditions to persist in much of the state.

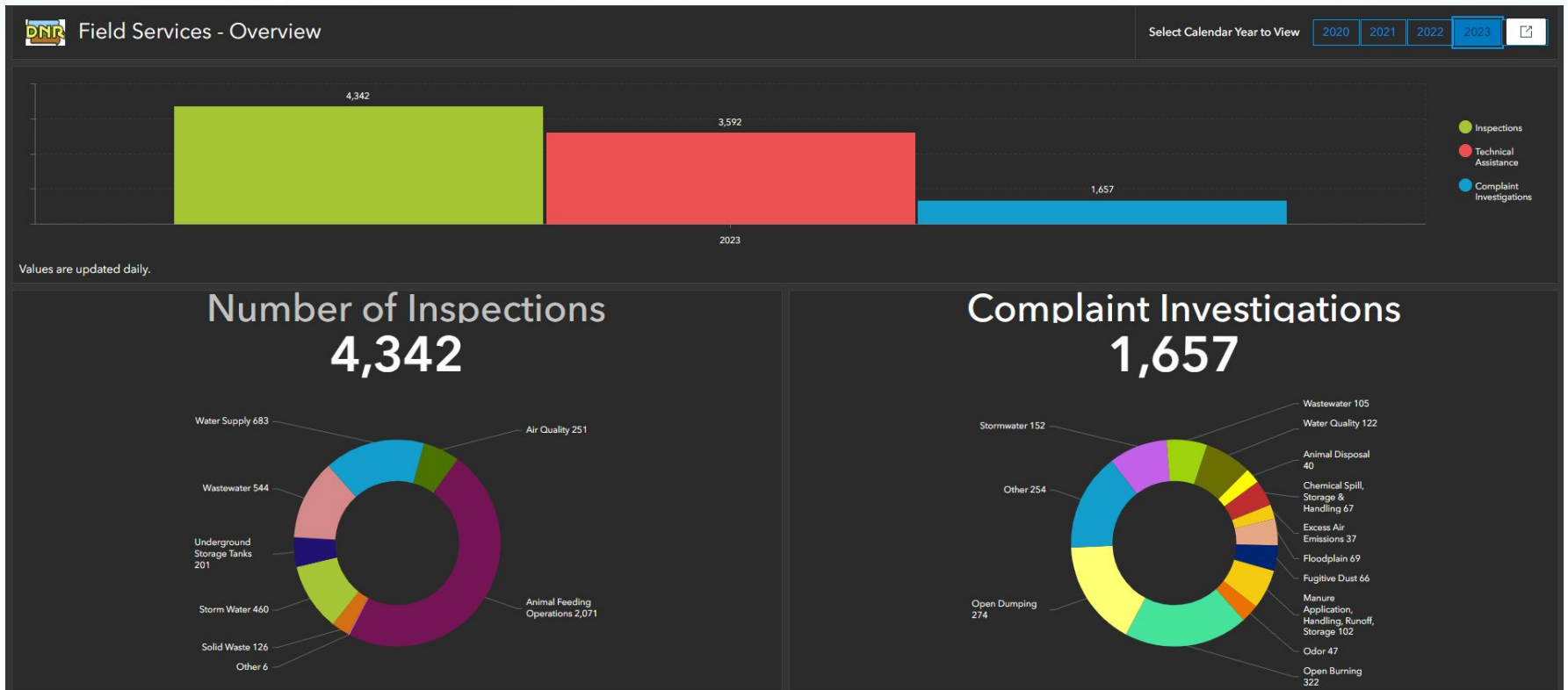
## Partners:

- Iowa Dept. of Agriculture and Land Stewardship
- U.S. Geological Survey
- Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division



# Coaching for Compliance

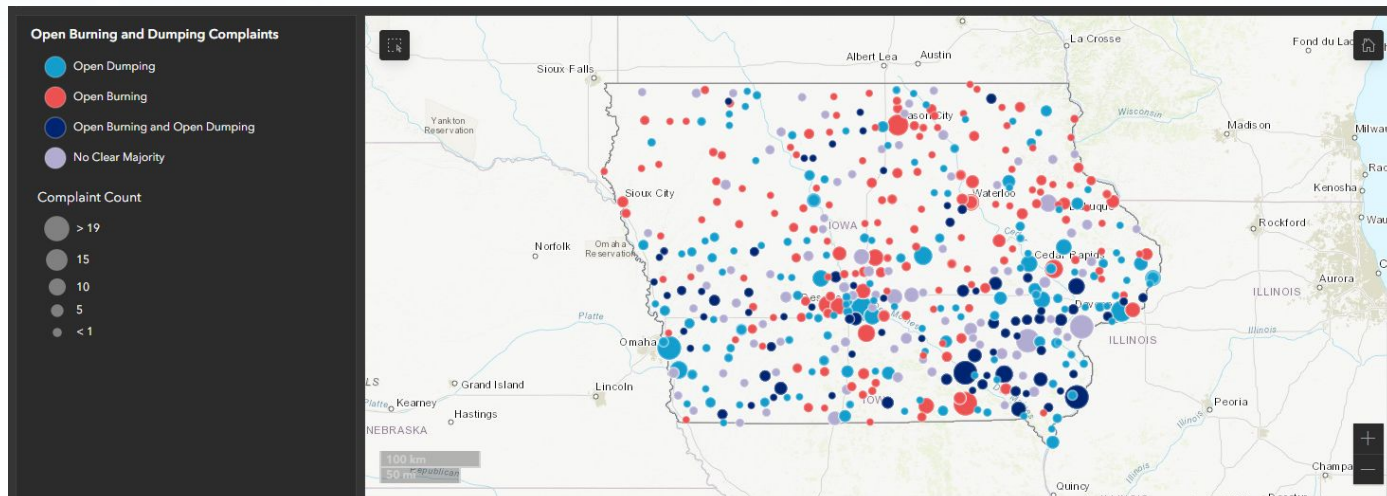
**DNR Environmental Field Offices** help communities and companies follow environmental laws, protecting water, air, land and public health through technical assistance and expertise.



# Environmental Metrics Board for Iowa Facilities

Online mapping and data management tool to see Iowa's regulated facilities, based on air, water, and land quality environmental permits.

## Sample Dashboard: Open Burning and Open Dumping Complaints



Tire Pile, Worth County, 2023

# Business Assistance

By creating an open path of communication between the DNR and companies, Iowa is better able to compete for businesses.

- Connect dozens of companies with relevant DNR bureau experts to discuss necessary permits and instruct them how to comply with regulations.
- Provide regulatory and permitting assistance to new and expanding businesses in many areas, including ag commodity processing, biofuel refining, anaerobic digesters, and wind turbine blade recycling.



"Thank you very much. This is fantastic. I wanted to again express my appreciation for the time given to me by you and your team. Please extend my appreciation to them as well. I look forward to working with the Iowa DNR for future projects and helping to standardize an emerging industry."

- **Carbon Rivers - Wind Turbine Blade Recycling**

# Pollution Prevention Internship Program in 2023

Engineering interns from Iowa universities worked at **12 Iowa companies** to identify **\$1.2 million in environmental cost savings**.

- Students identified reduced water use, energy efficiency, decreased solid waste streams, and better management of hazardous materials.

Since 2001, the P2 Internship program has helped Iowa companies with **\$116.6 million** in environmental savings.

- Common projects address water use, HVAC systems, compressed air systems, motor efficiencies, waste streams, etc.



*“The Pollution Prevention Intern Program is a great way to help complete projects that our full-time staff does not have time to develop. It’s exciting seeing the interns’ fresh perspective and the impact their projects generate in our business.”*

**- Enzo Rizzo, Environmental Manager at JBS USA, Marshalltown**

# Landfill Alternative and Solutions

## Food Storage Grants – Success Story

- 19.2 percent of material in Iowa landfills is food waste
- Funding for **food storage options for food banks, food pantries and other nonprofits.**
- Since 2020, **176 awards worth \$775,000 for food assistance programs** to purchase Energy Star-rated refrigerators, freezers, walk-in coolers and shelving.

## Iowa Waste Exchange – Success Story

- **Material exchange program**, matching companies/organizations with various waste streams, diverting from landfills.
- Metro Waste Authority received **1.6 million compostable straws and 256,000 compostable forks.** The materials were new and in original packaging, and MWA contacted Iowa Waste Exchange.
- **20,000 pounds of forks and straws** were matched to more than 30 organizations, including businesses, schools, non-profits, fire stations, missions, 4-H clubs, churches, libraries and more, saving recipients nearly **\$55,000** in avoided purchases.





Questions and  
comments?

