

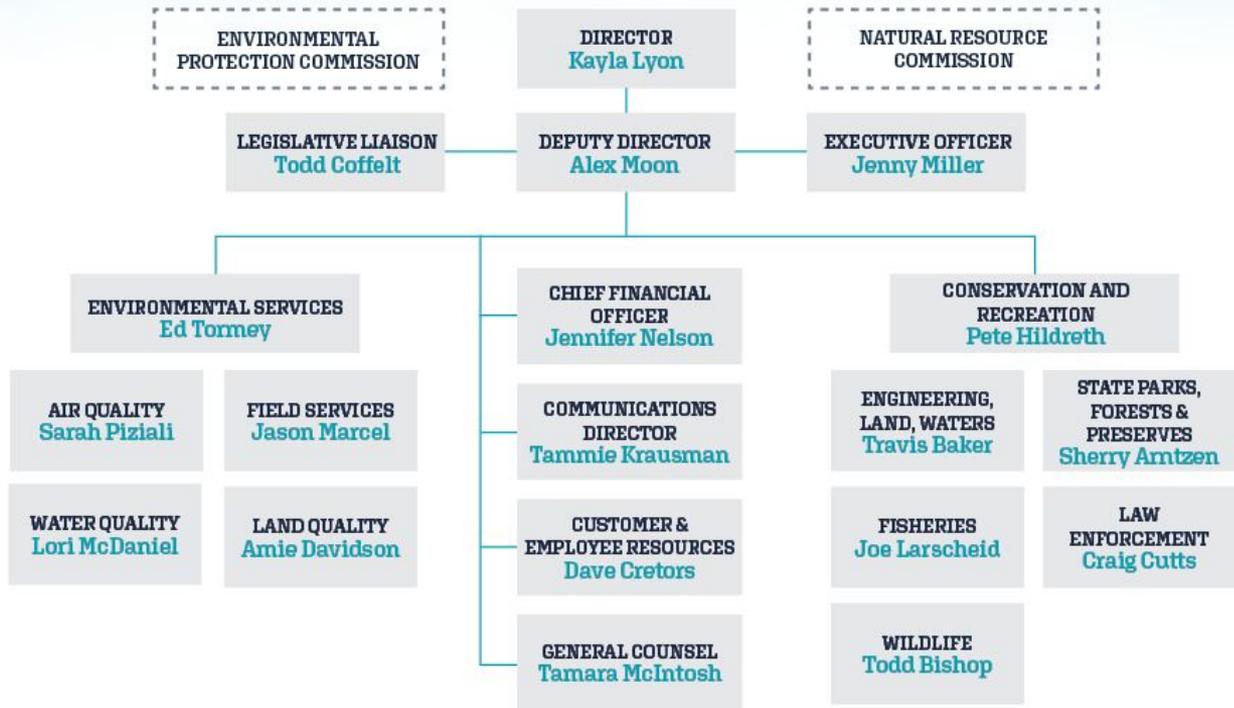


**IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

**Leading Iowans in Caring For Our Natural Resources**

## Table of Organization

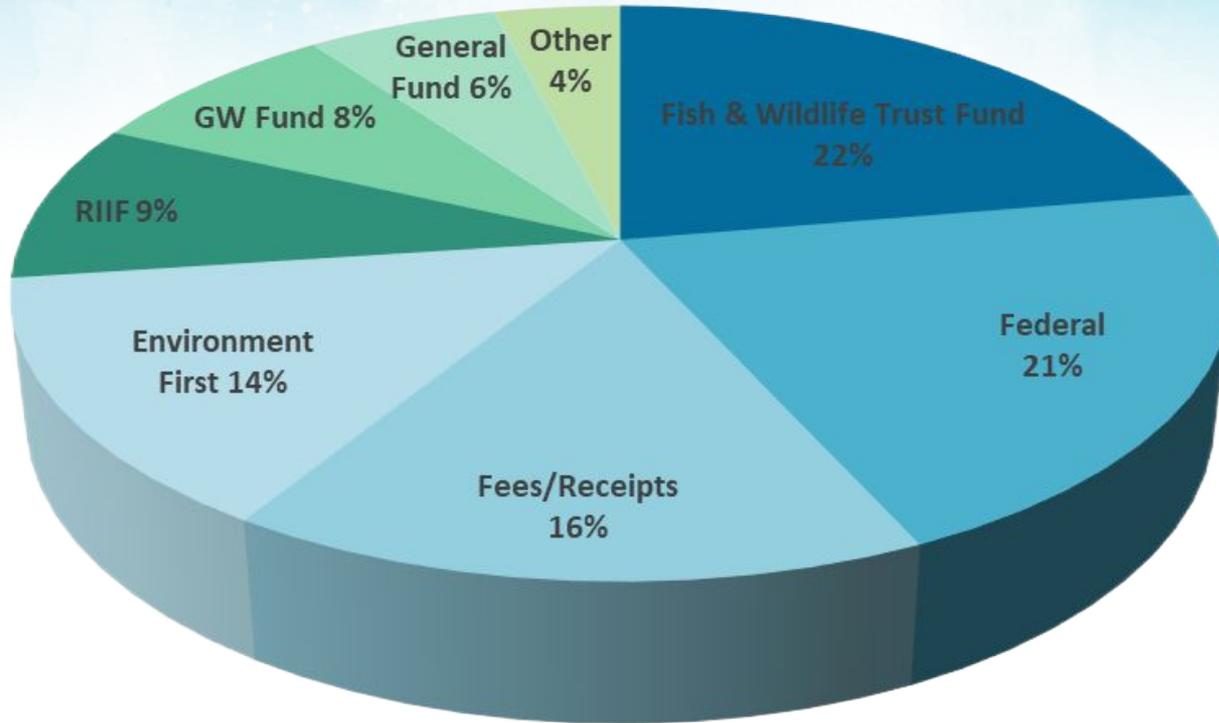
# Iowa Department of Natural Resources



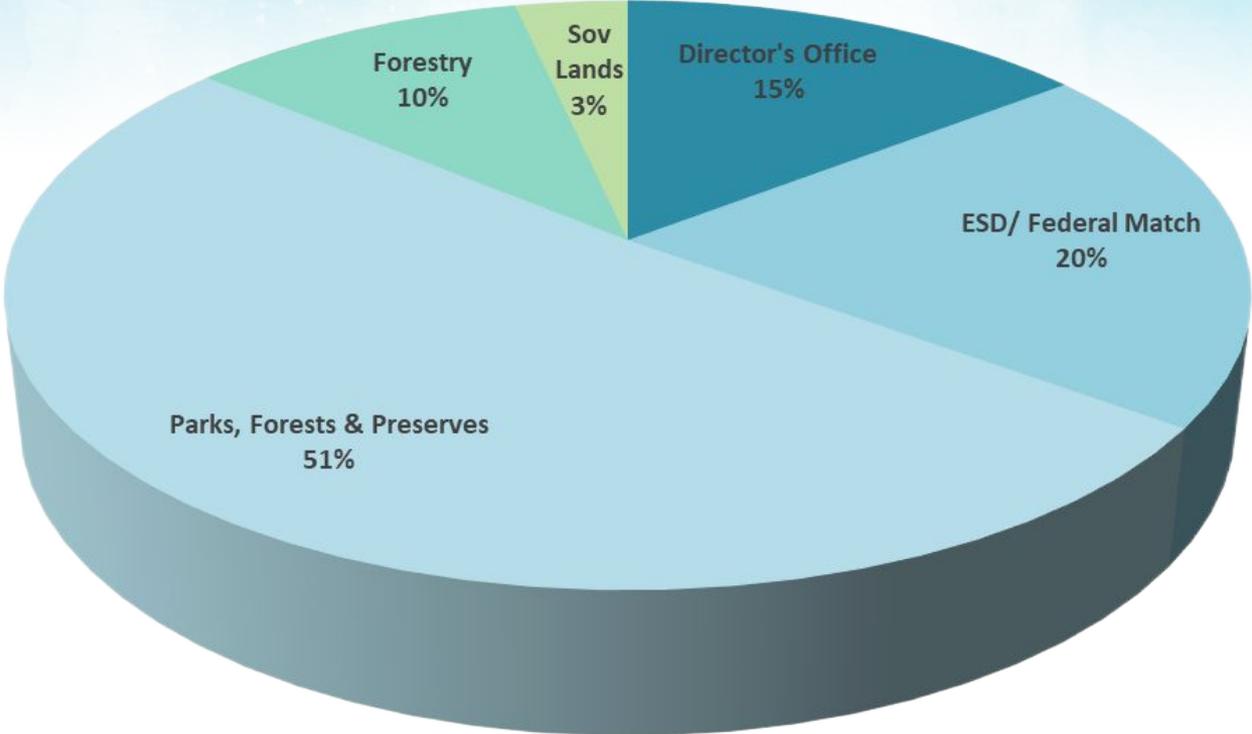
# FY 2027 Governor's Budget

APPROPRIATION NAME	FY 26 Appropriation	FY 27 Governor's Budget	Increase/ (Decrease)
<b><u>GENERAL FUND</u></b>			
Department Operations	\$12,816,738	\$12,816,738	\$0
State Park Operations	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$0
Floodplain Management	\$1,510,000	\$1,510,000	\$0
State Park Maintenance	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$0
Forestry Health Management	\$525,000	\$525,000	\$0
<b>Total General Fund</b>	<b>\$16,151,738</b>	<b>\$16,151,738</b>	<b>\$0</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	\$53,095,606	\$53,095,606	\$0
Groundwater Fund	\$3,455,850	\$3,455,850	\$0
Snowmobile Transfer to FWTF	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$0
<b>Total Non General Funds</b>	<b>\$56,651,456</b>	<b>\$56,651,456</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
Derelict Buildings Program	\$0	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
<b>Total Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund</b>	<b>\$16,100,000</b>	<b>\$17,100,000</b>	<b>\$1,000,000</b>
<b>TOTAL GOVERNOR'S BUDGET</b>	<b>\$112,908,194</b>	<b>\$113,908,194</b>	<b>\$1,000,000</b>

# Expenditures by Funding Sources



# General Fund - Department Operation Allocation



# Welcome to Iowa State Parks

Year	Visitation	Camping Guest Nights (# of people x # of nights they stay)
2022	14,212,899	814,135
2023	13,483,088	864,225
2024	13,576,701	759,120
2025	13,481,185	688,371



*Above: Campers at Maquoketa Caves Summer Camp*

## Pricing Promotions

- **Increase occupancy** by encouraging stays in the off-season or mid-week; visits to lesser-used parks; and retain campers
- Campers benefit through cost savings
- Seven promos in 2025 generated **603** reservations



*Left: First Day Hike at Waubonsie*

# 100 Percent Reservable Campgrounds

In 2026 – 36 campgrounds will switch to all reservations handled online or by phone

- 16 have transitioned in past five years

Improved Service, Convenience and Efficiency:

- **Availability is known immediately;** if a cancellation occurs the site is reservable within minutes
- **Same-day reservations** up to 10 p.m.
- **Financial security** by eliminating cash handling
- **Staff time can be** invested in programming, caring for park, etc. rather than check-ins



# Red Haw State Park Campground Re-Opened in July 2025

## Red Haw State Park Campground Re-Opened

- In 2022, an EF3 tornado destroyed the campground, a beach building, shower building and more.
- Campground renovations:
  - 30 new gravel camp pads
  - 4 concrete camp pads for ADA access
  - New electric and outlet posts
  - New playground



# Accessibility Investments in State Parks

- **Website**
  - Launched Iowa's Accessible Outdoors web page in 2025
    - [iowadnr.gov/accessible](http://iowadnr.gov/accessible)
  - Features accessible outdoor activities (fishing, overnight stays, trails, across the state)
- **Infrastructure improvements** at 45 parks, including:
  - Concrete repairs to sidewalks and parking
  - Accessible picnic tables, grills, fire rings
  - Fixtures like grab bars, handles, etc.
  - Adaptive equipment like beach mats, hiking carts and color-blind adapted viewing scopes
- **Partnerships**
  - Hosted visit to Lake Ahquabi State Park for feedback from people with mobility limitations and their caretakers



Above: Accessible fishing pier, Lake Anita State Park

# Iowa State Fair - 2025 Playscape Discovery Area

- **Conservation Discovery Area** – new playscape and interactive exhibit featuring elements of Maquoketa Caves and Pilot Knob State Park, inspiring fairgoers to explore Iowa’s natural spaces. Designed and built by Austincrete of Newton, IA.
- **Ongoing improvements at the DNR State Fair Building**, including a new covered stage, indoor shooting sport range, and rainscape garden area.



*Above Left: Shooting range and rain garden.  
Above: Conservation Discovery Area  
Left: Covered stage*

# Iowa State Fair - 100th Anniversary of Aquarium

Built for the 1926 Iowa State Fair at a cost of \$17,932.

“Thousands of men, women and children from every corner of the state ... viewed the native fishes swimming contentedly in aquariums...

No far sighted person could help but see the educational value of an exhibit of this kind.”

*- 1928-1930 State Conservation Commission Biennial Report*



*Above: Aquarium in 1926. The enclosed DNR pavilion was completed in 1928.  
Left: Aquarium today.*

# Hunting and Fishing License Sales

## 2025 License Holders –

Sales were steady compared to 2024, with slightly higher number of individual license holders.

- 114,982 hunting licenses
- 262,0623 fishing licenses
- 32,021 hunt/fish combo licenses

874,291 = total hunting and fishing privileges sold (all types) in 2024

374,171 = number of unique customers in 2024

**Trout** = 41,850 trout stamps

**Deer** = 295,613 deer tags sold across all seasons

**Turkey** = 61,292 turkey tags sold across all seasons

**Migratory Bird** = 25,004 migratory bird fees

**Furharvester** = 15,077 trapping licenses

Numbers are for resident sales



# 2025: 100th anniversary of Iowa pheasant hunting

1925 – 13 counties and 75,000 hunters in Iowa's first pheasant season

2025 – 100th anniversary

- Highest pheasant population in 20 years
- Estimates of 80,000 hunters and 600,000+ roosters harvested
- Rural economic business for local restaurants, hotels, gas stations



*Left: Collectible hard card sold through Iowa licensing system*

# Shooting Sports

## NASP – National Archery in the Schools Program

- 5,137 participants from 157 schools competed in archery events in 2025.
- 45,609 students received in-school archery instruction



## SCTP – Scholastic Clay Target Program

- 4,506 participants from 192 teams competed in shooting events
- Highest participation ever



# Community Fishing Program

The DNR's Fish Local program partners with cities and counties to provide quality fishing access in urban communities.

- In 2025, 10 new ponds added in 8 communities
- More than 100 new fishing ponds have been added to Iowa's urban centers since 2026
- On the ground-floor of new development to create fishing opportunities in new parks, water retention ponds, and more.



# Federally endangered pallid sturgeon discovered in Des Moines River

**Two pallid sturgeon found** for the first time in Des Moines River in spring 2025.

- During annual sampling efforts by DNR fisheries biologists.

**One of rarest** and most endangered fish species in North America.

- **On the federal endangered list since 1990.**

**Pallid sturgeon** are slow-growing, typically spawning when they are 15-20 years old. Historically found and stocked in the Mississippi and Missouri river basins.



# Blanding's Turtle Release in Iowa Wetland

In summer 2025, 32 juvenile Blanding's turtles equipped with radio monitors were released in an Iowa wetland.

The DNR partnered with Blank Park Zoo and Iowa State University to understand habitat needs for these rare turtles.

Blank Park Zoo incubated and hatched the turtles.

Blanding's turtles are a threatened species and only live in certain areas in Iowa.



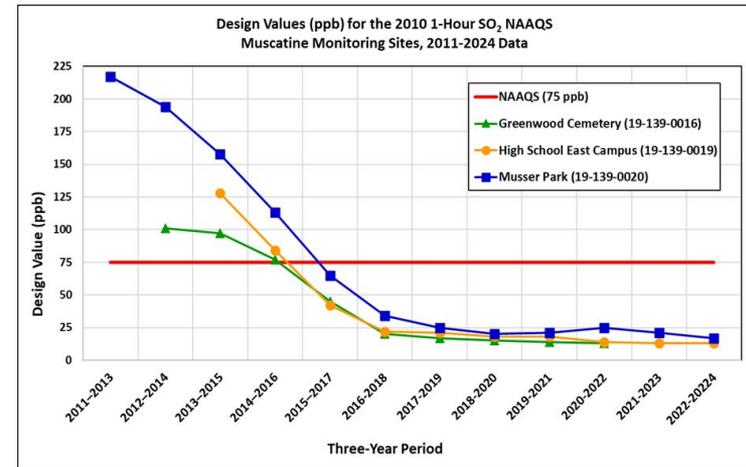
# Air Quality Success: Iowa is free of all “non-attainment” areas, a feat achieved by only 1 in 3 states

In 2025, EPA re-designated Muscatine from non-attainment to **attainment**, thanks to a collaborative effort by the community, local sources and the Iowa DNR.

- In the early 2010s, Muscatine had some of the highest sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) concentrations in the U.S., almost 3x higher than EPA’s health standard.

## Today:

- Emissions reduced by ~13,000 tons/year
- SO<sub>2</sub> concentrations well below EPA’s maximum

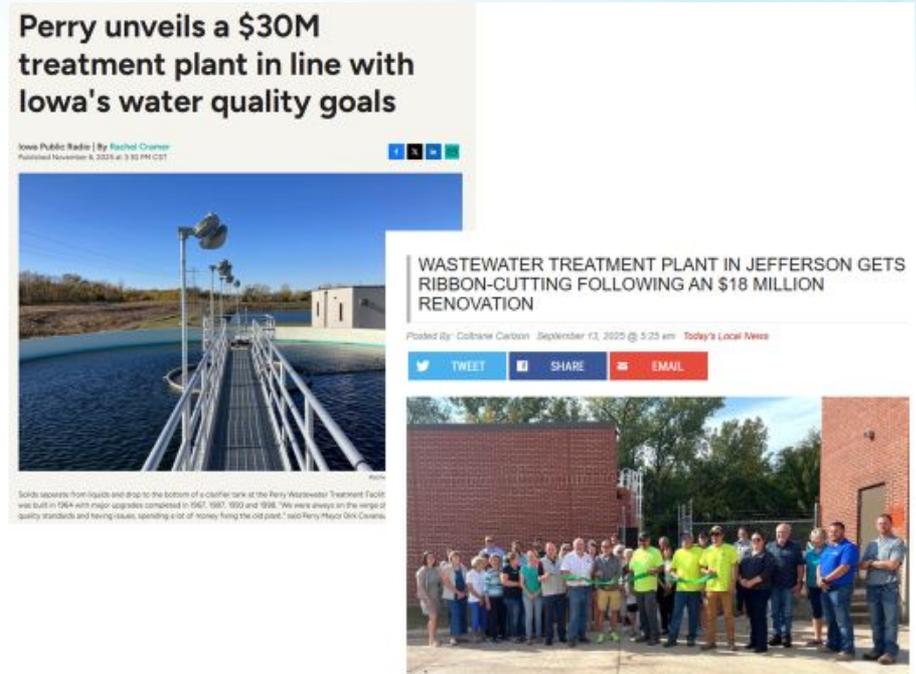


# Water Quality Success: Perry Unveils New Wastewater Plant

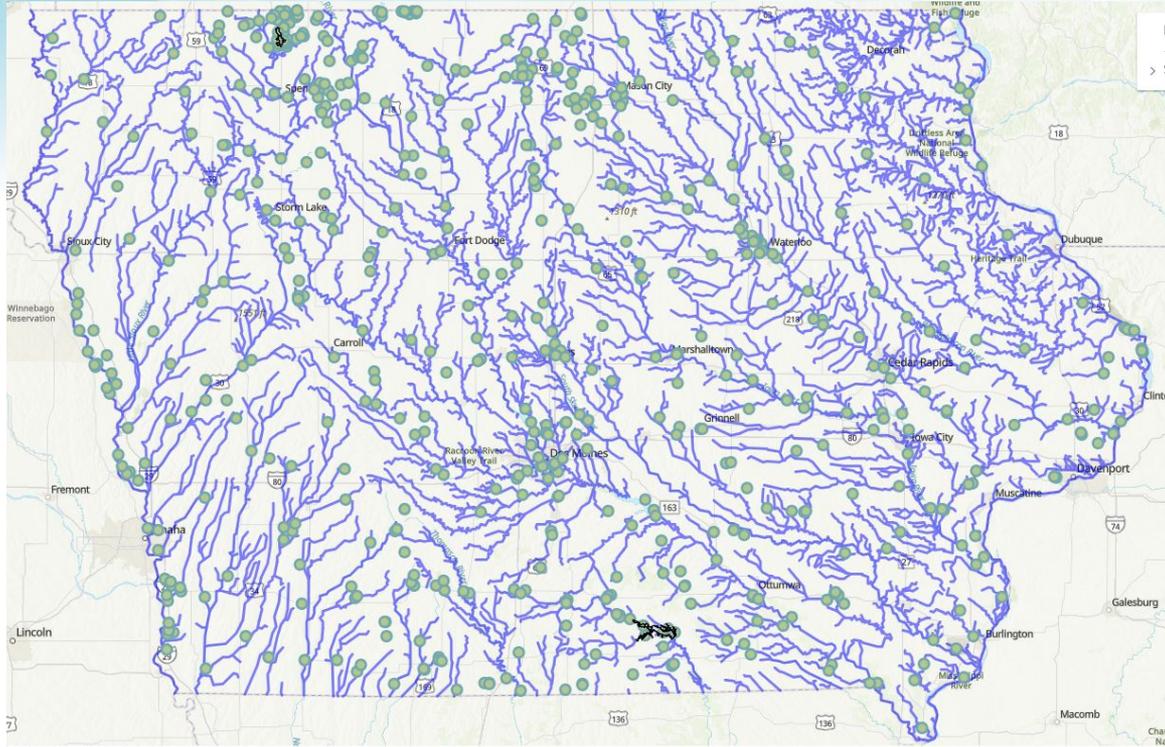
Perry's new wastewater treatment plant relies on state-of-the-art biological treatment to meet all current Clean Water Act requirements.

The system goes beyond the basics to remove **both nitrogen and phosphorus**, which is important for the Raccoon River basin.

- \$29 million funding through State Revolving Loan Fund
- \$850,000 investment by City of Perry
- \$650,000 Community Block Grant



# DNR's Water Quality Monitoring Program - Gathering the Data



## Data Points



**Beaches**  
41 state park beaches + 35 city/county beaches monitored weekly (Memorial Day–Labor Day).



**Lakes**  
~140 sites monitored 3 times per growing season. (78,356 sampling results 2014-2024).



**Streams**  
60 fixed sites monitored monthly. (155,361 sampling results 2015-2024).



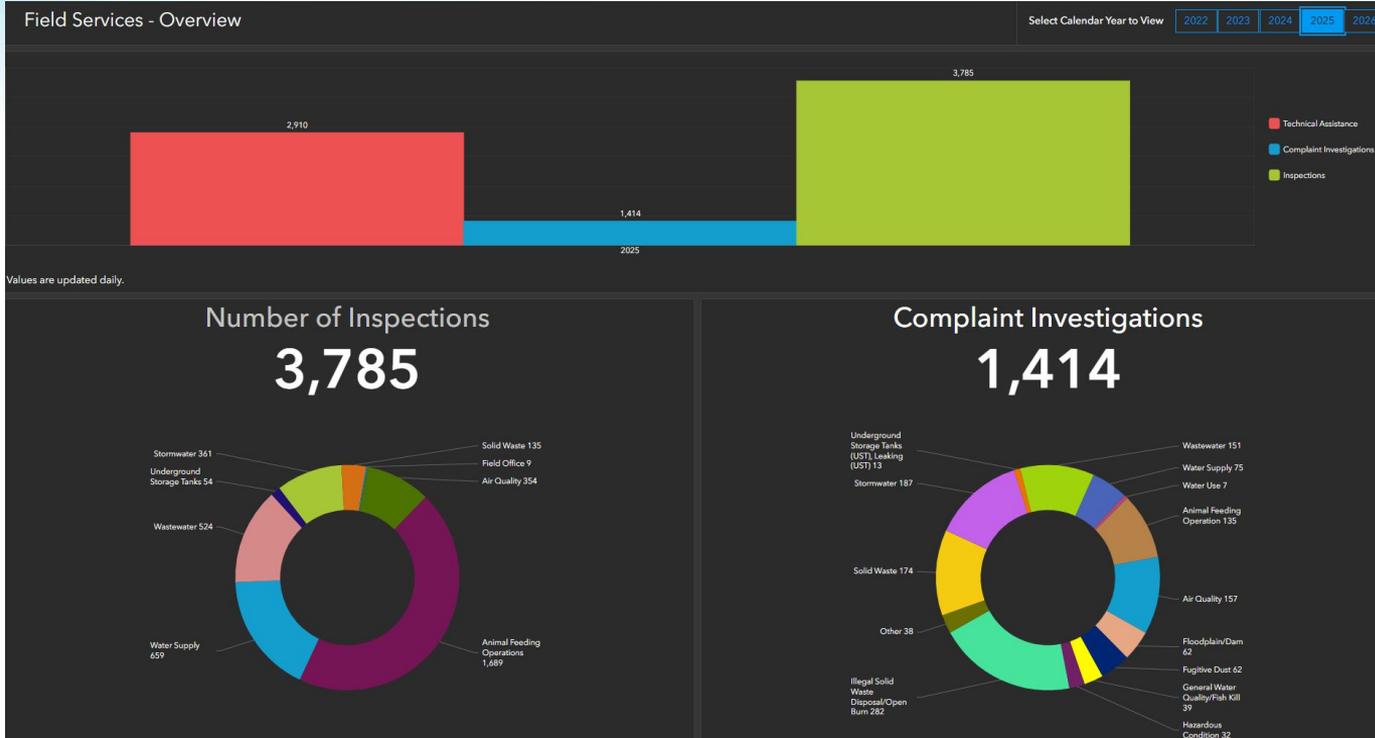
**Biology**  
1,522 sites assessing fish and benthic macroinvertebrates.



**Additional Monitoring**  
Wetlands, Shallow Lakes, and Fish Tissue.

# Environmental Assistance and Compliance – Field Offices

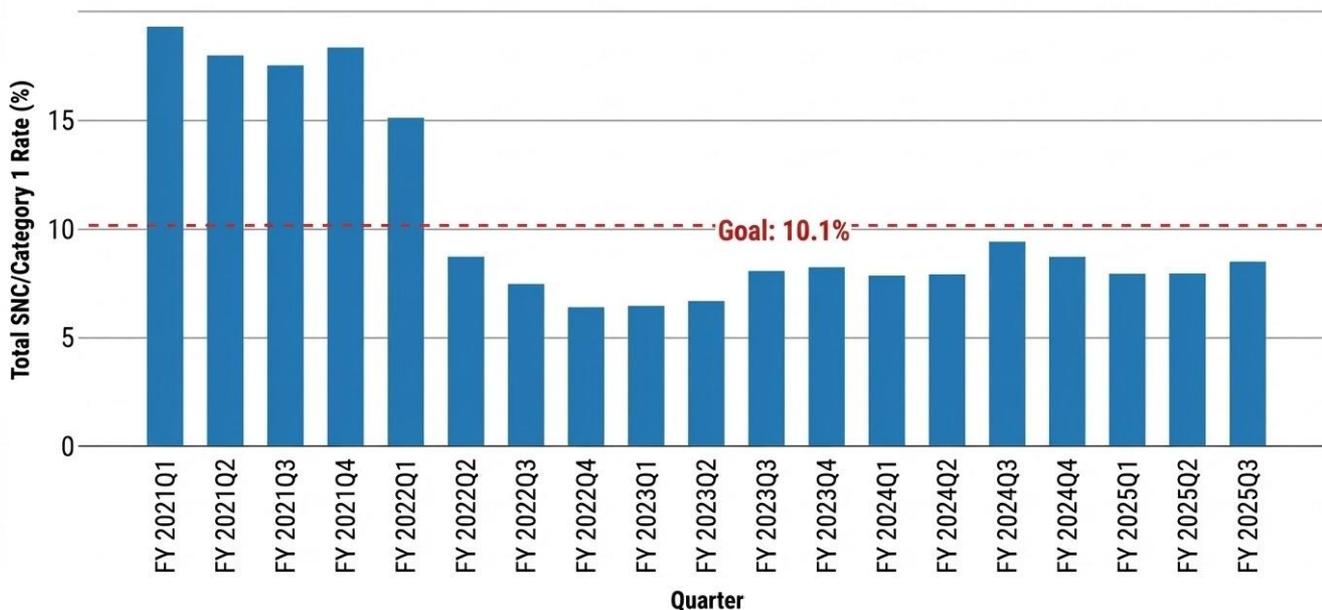
DNR Environmental Field Offices help communities and companies follow environmental laws, protecting water, air, land and public health through technical assistance and expertise.



# Success Story – Coaching for Sustained Compliance

Iowa is beating the federal benchmark and continues to reduce the number of facilities with significant non-compliance (SNC) in the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program.

## Quarterly SNC/Category 1 Rate



*The national “Significant Non-Compliance” goal (SNC) is < 10.1%, which Iowa continues to meet.*





Questions and comments?

