

SAVE THE DATE

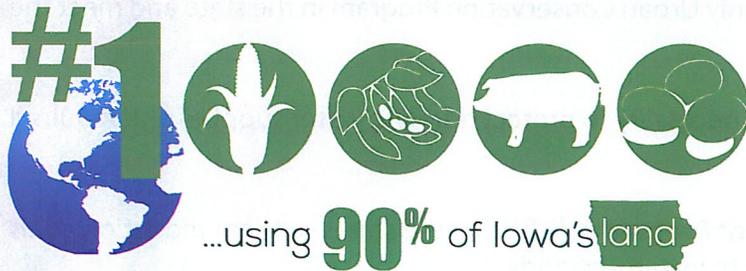
# Iowa Conservation Partnership Day

January 28, 2014

Des Moines, Iowa | State Capital Building Rotunda | 9am-3pm



## Iowa is nationally known in agricultural production...



Iowa is one of the most altered states in the nation with less than 1% of the state's natural pre settlement landscape still present.

Continued investment in soil conservation and clean water is needed to sustain the state's ability to provide food and fuel for a population expected to increase 30% by 2025 and to ensure clean water and a healthy environment for Iowa's residents and its millions of annual visitors.

## Iowa is leading the nation in clean water initiatives.



Early successes of the Water Quality Initiative include enrolling over 1,200 farmers using cover crops and other practices for the first time, funding of research and technology projects, and funding of demonstration projects in priority areas.

[CleanWaterIowa.org](http://CleanWaterIowa.org) was launched as a place to share Iowa's conservation stories and promote more involvement in the water quality initiative.

## Iowa has an opportunity to be a national leader in all conservation.

**\$1** million dollar line item for Urban Conservation.



Iowans recognize that the protection of our state's natural resources is important for clean water, flood reduction, local economic vitality and quality of life. Residents also recognize it can only be successful if done together with all Iowans on all land uses, urban and agricultural.

Up to 1 billion gallons of runoff is generated from Iowa's urban lands annually. Funding for urban conservation is the last piece to the holistic approach to natural resource protection necessary for success.



# FY15 Budget Request

**\$4.26 million (\$2.7 million for Soil & Water Conservation Account)** needed to fully staff the 100 soil and water conservation districts that implement all the states' soil and water conservation programs.

**\$6.65 million for the Water Quality Initiative** to build on recent successes to reduce the nutrient pollution in Iowa's waters and downstream.

**\$1 million for Urban Conservation** to create the only Urban Conservation Program in the state and meet the ever increasing public demand for assistance.

**\$1.55 million to close 8 Ag Drainage Wells**, a task necessary to protect drinking water supplies and required of the state by the federal government.

**\$2 million for Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program** will further the states nutrient reduction goals and reduce the waiting list of 20 landowners ready to install wetlands.

**\$2 million for the Conservation Reserve Program** would become \$4 million for conservation projects after being leveraged with matching federal funds.

**\$850,000 for Farm Demonstration Projects** necessary to show landowners the benefits of conservation and to get practices on the land at the pace and scale necessary to ensure sustainable agriculture and clean water. State funding for this is pertinent as federal funds are no longer available to support these projects.

**\$2.75 million for the Watershed Protection Fund** which funds local conservation efforts. In 2013 alone, local soil and water conservation districts have submitted over \$3 million in requests for these funds.

**\$7 million to Cost Share** with landowners on the \$10 million in backlogged conservation projects ready to be installed.

**\$525,000 for Loess Hills-Hungry Canyons & \$250,000 for the Southern Iowa Development & Conservation Authority** to assist southern Iowa in managing the unique, highly erodible soils of the Loess Hills/Hungry Canyons region which often undermines infrastructure in the region.

**\$20 million to fully fund the Resource Enhancement and Protection Fund** and assist government agencies to protect and improve all of Iowa's natural resources.

**\$2 million to the Watershed Improvement Review Board** to support numerous Iowa agencies and organizations in improving water quality and reducing flooding.



This year, a recommendation for at least a **\$1 million dollar line item for Urban Conservation** in the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship-Division of Soil Conservation (IDALS-DSC) is being endorsed by **Secretary of Agriculture, Bill Northey, Conservation Districts of Iowa-representing the 500 elected soil and water conservation district commissioners and the State Soil Conservation Committee**

# \$1,000,000 LINE ITEM FOR URBAN CONSERVATION

## **A holistic approach**

Iowans recognize that the protection of our state's natural resources is important for clean water, flood reduction, local economic vitality and quality of life. Residents also recognize it can only be successful if done together with all Iowans on all land uses, urban and agricultural.

Up to 1 billion gallons of runoff is generated from Iowa's urban lands annually. Funding for urban conservation completes the circle and is the last piece to the holistic approach to natural resource protection necessary for success.

## **Cost benefit**

Since 2007, the four urban conservationists that serve the entire state of Iowa have been proving successful - educating thousands of Iowans and assisting with hundreds of on the ground urban conservation projects.

Working with businesses, residents, local governments, academic institutions, churches and community organizations Iowa's urban conservations have implemented projects that clean millions of gallons of water and reduce the amount of water entering Iowa's water bodies during times of flooding. These projects have enhanced Iowa Main Streets and generated a market among the local private landscape, construction and engineering sector for services.

A \$1 million line of funding to Urban Conservation allows the State to meet the ever growing need from residents and contractors for support as it does successfully with conservation on agricultural lands. This is timely, as a new funding source in Iowa (SRF Sponsored Projects) is creating a \$22 million demand for urban conservation practices and technical assistance. The Iowa Economic Development Authority also relies on the state's urban conservationists to assist applicants in meeting "green" criteria required for their programs.

## **An opportunity to be a leader in all conservation**

A \$1 million line item for Urban Conservation is an opportunity to make Iowa a leader in Urban Conservation as it is a leader in agricultural conservation. Iowa would become one of only a few states in the nation to have a line item in their budget dedicated to Urban Conservation.

## **Use of the \$1 million for Urban Conservation**

\$1 million dollars for Urban Conservation would support existing staff, which would allow the current funding supporting urban conservation staff to go back to supporting watershed projects. The funding would also support new staff, outreach, and education and on the ground urban conservation practices, particularly pilot projects in priority areas.

# PAGE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Motto: Committed Resource Stewards

## 2013 Accomplishments:

**.5 million dollars** of cost-share brought into the county  
**180 producers** assisted  
**202,000 ft.** of terraces built  
**6 ponds, and 2393 acres** of cover crops

## Programs Utilized:

**State Cost-Share, REAP, West Tarkio Watershed WSPF, WIRB, WQI, EQIP, CSP, CRP, Low Interest Loan, No Interest Loan**  
**4.85 million dollars** loaned to **167** individuals that took advantage of the **3% Local Water Protection Loan**

## UNMET NEEDS:

**300 UNFUNDED APPLICATIONS REQUESTING \$3 MILLION IN COST-SHARE**

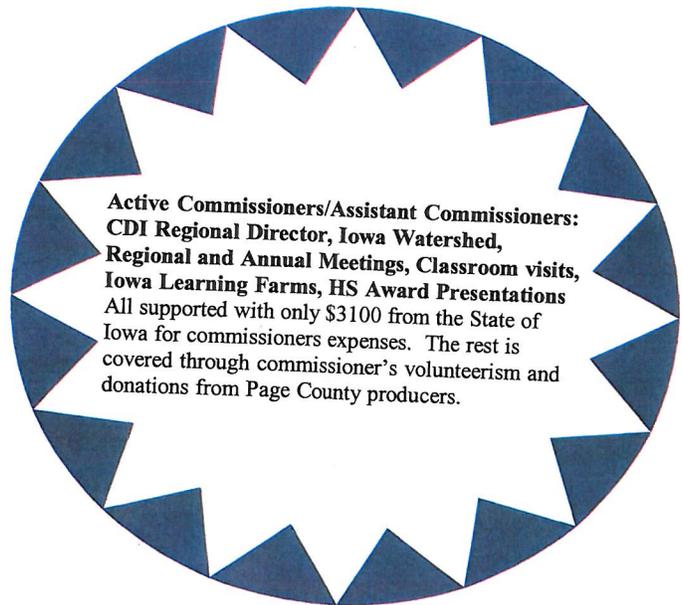
**STATE TECHNICIAN VACANCY (1/3RD TECHNICAL STAFF)**  
**DWINDLING 1M FOR COMMISSIONERS INVOLVEMENT (> HALF)**

## Partnerships:

**County Supervisors, County Conservation Board and County Engineer** - program to **protect county roads and parks. CDI and IDALS** - employment agreements to provide staff to assist farmers with conservation practices. **Neighboring counties** - to work on shared watersheds.

## Educational Programs:

**Internships, Stewardship Material to Schools and Churches, Field Days, Classroom Visits, Poster Contests, Fair Booths, Buried Intake Demo Project**



We are proud of our landowners in Page County and the interest they show in conservation. We are trying to do the right thing for them and the future of our children, please help us continue on.

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