

FISCAL TOPICS

Fiscal Services Division

January 12, 2023



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

Environment First Fund

The Environment First Fund was established in 2000 Iowa Acts, chapter [1225](#) (FY 2001 Appropriations — Infrastructure and Capital Projects Act), to provide funding for protection, conservation, enhancement, and improvement of natural resources and established a standing appropriation of \$35.0 million for the Fund beginning in FY 2001 from the Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund (RIIF). Funding levels have varied over the years and the current standing appropriation is \$42.0 million. Recent funding levels are detailed below:

Environment First Fund Appropriations for FY 2019 - FY 2022				
	Actual FY 2019	Actual FY 2020	Actual FY 2021	Estimated FY 2022
Agriculture and Land Stewardship				
Conservation Reserve Enhancement	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000
Watershed Protection Fund	900,000	900,000	900,000	900,000
Conservation Reserve Program	900,000	900,000	900,000	900,000
Cost Share	8,325,000	8,325,000	8,325,000	8,325,000
Soil & Water Conservation	3,800,000	3,800,000	3,800,000	3,800,000
Water Quality Initiative	2,375,000	2,375,000	2,375,000	2,375,000
Total Agriculture and Land Stewardship	\$ 17,300,000	\$ 17,300,000	\$ 17,300,000	\$ 17,300,000
Natural Resources				
Park Operations & Maintenance	\$ 6,235,000	\$ 6,235,000	\$ 6,235,000	\$ 6,235,000
GIS Information for Watershed	195,000	195,000	195,000	195,000
Water Quality Monitoring	2,955,000	2,955,000	2,955,000	2,955,000
Water Quality Protection	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000
Animal Feeding Operations	1,320,000	1,320,000	1,320,000	1,320,000
Ambient Air Quality Monitoring	425,000	425,000	425,000	425,000
Floodplain Mgmt and Dam Safety	375,000	375,000	375,000	375,000
REAP	12,000,000	12,000,000	12,000,000	12,000,000
Total Natural Resources	\$ 24,005,000	\$ 24,005,000	\$ 24,005,000	\$ 24,005,000
Regents, Board of				
UI - Geological and Water Survey Operations	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000
UI - Water Resource Management	495,000	495,000	495,000	495,000
Total Regents, Board of	\$ 695,000	\$ 695,000	\$ 695,000	\$ 695,000
Total Environment First Fund	\$ 42,000,000	\$ 42,000,000	\$ 42,000,000	\$ 42,000,000

More Information

Agriculture and Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee:

legis.iowa.gov/committees/committee?ga=86&groupID=673

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Description of Programs

- [Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program](#) – provides funds for wetlands development.
- [Watershed Protection Fund](#) – provides financial assistance to establish permanent soil and water conservation practices.
- [Conservation Reserve Program](#) – provides financial incentives to landowners to remove environmentally sensitive land from agricultural production.
- [Soil Conservation and Water Quality Cost Share Program](#) – provides funds for permanent soil and water conservation practices.
- [Soil and Water Conservation](#) – provides funds to the Department of Agriculture Soil and Water Conservation Division.
- [Water Quality Initiative](#) – assesses and reduces the amount of nutrients that flow into Iowa waters
- [State Park Operations and Maintenance](#) – maintenance and related State Park activities.
- [Geographic Information System \(GIS\) for Watersheds](#) – provides local watershed managers with data to develop, monitor, and display watershed improvements.
- [Water Quality Monitoring](#) – monitors water quality.
- [Water Quality Protection Fund](#) – administers the federal [Safe Drinking Water Act](#).
- [Animal Feeding Operations](#) – provides oversight, technical assistance, and enforcement of animal feeding operations.
- [Ambient Air Quality Monitoring](#) – monitors air quality.
- [Floodplain Management](#) – monitors stream gages, administers the Dam Safety Program, develops floodplain mapping, and provides flood insurance technical assistance.
- [Resource Enhancement and Protection Fund](#) – as specified in Iowa Code section [455A.19](#).
- [Geological and Water Surveys Operations](#) – develops programs that provide information regarding mineral and water resources in Iowa.
- [Water Resource Management](#) – provides long-term planning for water use for industrial operations, drinking water, and other water purposes.

Related Statutes

Iowa Code section [8.57A](#)

Doc ID 1230913