

Resources for Watershed Planning & Management in Iowa

There are a variety of organizations & agencies available to provide assistance with watershed planning & management activities in Iowa.

Agency & Organizations

Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR)

- Watershed Improvement Section: Information on existing watershed management plans and / or TMDLs in your county, as well as technical assistance for watershed planning.
<http://www.iowadnr.gov/Environment/WaterQuality/WatershedImprovement.aspx>
- Water Monitoring and Assessment: Information on water quality data in lakes and streams, and impaired waters.
<http://www.iowadnr.gov/Environment/WaterQuality/WaterMonitoring.aspx>
- Source Water Protection: Information on threatened community water supplies.
<http://www.iowadnr.gov/Environment/WaterQuality/SourceWaterProtection.aspx>
- Impaired Waterbodies: DNR's assessment database provides impaired waterbody listings and rationale.
<https://programs.iowadnr.gov/adbnet/>
- Floodplains: Information on floodplain management, dam safety, and permitting.
<http://www.iowadnr.gov/InsideDNR/RegulatoryLand/FloodPlainManagement.aspx>

Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS)

- Water Resources Bureau: Information on new and existing watershed projects, funding, and technical resources
<http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/waterResources/watershedProtection.asp>
- Urban Conservation: Information on opportunities for communities to mitigate stormwater impacts
<http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/FieldServices/urbanConservation.asp>
- Water Quality Initiative: Information on nutrient reduction projects across Iowa
<https://www.cleanwateriowa.org/>

Iowa State University Extension (ISUE)

- Leadership & Performance Based Watershed Management: Information for building a new watershed project
<http://www.soc.iastate.edu/extension/watershed/watershed.html>

Iowa Stormwater Education Program

ISWEP received a grant from IDNR's 319 program to develop a toolbox for communities interested in a watershed approach to hazard mitigation and urban planning.

http://www.iowastormwater.org/en/what_is_a_watershed/watershed_resources/

Soil & Water Conservation Districts

Your local SWCD will be an asset for any watershed projects involving rural areas / landowners.

<https://idals.iowa.gov/FARMS/index.php/districtMap>

Watershed Management Authorities (WMAs)

In 2010, Iowa lawmakers passed legislation authorizing the creation of Watershed Management Authorities. A Watershed Management Authority (WMA) is a mechanism for cities, counties, Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) and stakeholders to cooperatively engage in watershed planning and management. The WMA is formed by a Chapter 28E Agreement by two or more eligible political subdivisions within a specific eight-digit hydrologic unit code watershed. A board of directors governs the WMA, which may undertake the following activities:

- Assess and reduce flood risk;
- Assess and improve water quality;
- Monitor federal flood risk planning and activities;
- Educate residents of the watershed regarding flood risks and water quality; and
- Allocate moneys made available to the Authority for purposes of water quality and flood mitigation.

Links to existing WMAs in Iowa can be found here:

<http://www.iowadnr.gov/Environment/WaterQuality/WatershedManagementAuthorities.aspx>

Other Resources:

- Model My Watershed: A nice online watershed mapping tool with capability for basic modeling and scenario analysis.

<https://app.wikiwatershed.org/>

- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) created a tool to help communities prepare for, deal with, and recover from floods. The [Flood Resilience Checklist](#) offers strategies that communities can consider to manage stormwater.
- The above-referenced checklist is part of the report, [Planning for Flood Recovery and Long-Term Resilience in Vermont: Smart Growth Approaches for Disaster-Resilient Communities](#). This report is a product of EPA's year-long [Smart Growth Implementation Assistance](#) project in Vermont where EPA worked with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and state agencies to help communities recover from Tropical Storm Irene. Although the project focused on Vermont, the policy options and checklist in the report can help any Iowa community seeking to become more flood resilient.
- The Flooding in Iowa Project is a series of web-based videos designed to educate local officials and the general public about floodplains, flood risks, and basic floodplain management principles. The videos are divided into five categories: Introduction to the NFIP, Understanding Flooding, Floodplain Mapping, Floodplain Regulation, and Flood Insurance. The tabs located on

the top of this web page take you to each of these categories where you will find the related videos and participant materials.

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/floodinginiowa>

- Social Indicators Data Management & Analysis: On-line tool to help you organize, visualize, and analyze your social indicator data

<http://35.8.121.111/si/Home.aspx>