

**Iowa Economic Development Authority partners with Urban Conservationist Team**

In 2008, the Iowa Economic Development Authority developed the Iowa Green Streets Criteria. The Iowa Green Streets Criteria are based on the national Green Communities Criteria developed by Enterprise Community Partners and provide a set of design and construction guidelines for many of the projects the Iowa Economic Development Authority funds.

Projects following the Iowa Green Streets Criteria include Community Development Block Grant community facility, stormwater, and downtown revitalization projects; Main Street Iowa Challenge Grant projects; and projects funded by Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery funding resulting from Iowa's extensive 2008 natural disasters.

The Iowa Green Streets Criteria in summary, guides what is built, where it is built, and how it is built. One area of emphasis of the criteria is best management practices for stormwater management. The Iowa Green Streets Criteria requires the following approach to stormwater management.

“Utilize green infrastructure practices to infiltrate, evapotranspire, capture, and reuse the water quality volume (runoff from up to 1.25” of rain per 24 hours) to maintain or restore natural hydrology. The green infrastructure practices utilized shall follow the design specifications, if available, in the Iowa Stormwater Management Manual.”

Since 2009, the Iowa Economic Development Authority, communities and developers have invested in hundreds of green infrastructure practices across Iowa. More information about this program can be found at <http://www.iowaeconomicdevelopment.com/Community/green>



Permeable paver roadway in Charles City



Bioretention cell in Des Moines



Permeable paver sidewalk in Des Moines



# Iowa Urban Conservation

2016 Iowa Urban Conservation Program Newsletter

## Water Quality Initiative Funds Urban Conservation Demonstration Projects

In 2015 the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship funded nine Urban Water Quality Demonstration projects using Water Quality Initiative dollars. Over \$655,000 in WQI funds were partnered with \$2.43 million in matching dollars to total over \$3 million in urban conservation work across the state. The money was aimed at installing practices in highly visible urban locations to demonstrate stormwater treatment practices.

These nine projects demonstrated a diverse selection of practices such as stormwater wetlands, bioretention cells, bioreactors and permeable pavement. Each project exhibits stormwater and nutrient reduction in urban settings and features a large component of outreach to the communities involved.

In February 2016 WQI increased the urban projects across the state by adding 13 new projects totaling close to \$1 million. Over \$2.4 million in matching dollars were partnered with the WQI funds to total \$3.4 million in urban conservation work. Refer to the map showing the location of all active urban WQI projects across the state.

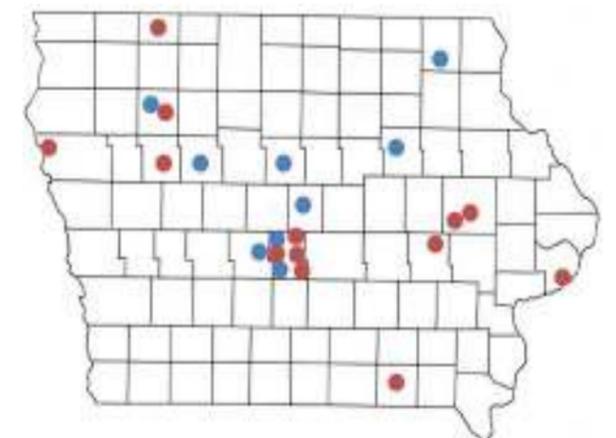
The Iowa Water Quality Initiative was established in 2013 to help implement the Nutrient Reduction Strategy, which is a science and technology based approach to achieving a 45 percent reduction in nitrogen and phosphorus losses to our waters. The strategy brings together point sources, such as municipal wastewater treatment plants and industrial facilities, and nonpoint sources, including farm fields and urban stormwater runoff, to address these issues. More information on these projects can be found at [www.cleanwateriowa.org](http://www.cleanwateriowa.org)



Permeable paver parking lot at Storm Lake City Hall



Permeable paver alley in Cedar Falls



Blue Dots - Projects funded in 2015  
Red Dots - Project funded in 2016



Native landscaping planted near West Des Moines City Hall

### Iowa Urban Conservationist Team



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## Water Resource Restoration Sponsored Projects in Iowa



The Water Resource Restoration Sponsored Project Program, operated through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF), has created a significant funding source for watershed based water quality projects. SRF is working closely with the IDALS Urban Conservationists to implement the program.

Sponsored projects are available to communities and wastewater utilities using Clean Water SRF loans to upgrade their wastewater infrastructure. On a typical CWSRF loan, the utility borrows principal and repays principal plus interest and fees. On a CWSRF loan with a sponsored project, the utility borrows for both the wastewater improvement project and the sponsored project. However, through an overall interest rate reduction, the utility's ratepayers do not pay any more than they would have for just the wastewater improvements. Instead, two water quality projects are completed for the cost of one.

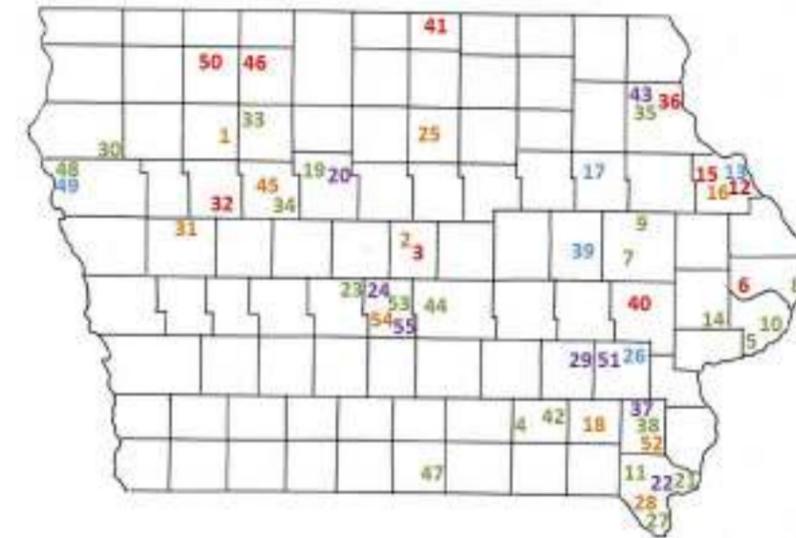
The program requires cities and wastewater utilities to partner with conservation and watershed organizations to conduct watershed assessments and construct practices that will have long-term benefits for Iowa's water quality. Practices can be installed on public or private land, inside corporate limits or outside. Most of the new sponsored projects feature work in urban watersheds, with technical assistance and project review provided by the Urban Conservationists.

The total amount committed to sponsored projects since 2013 is \$42.2 million, with plans to add about \$10 million per year into the future. Applications are taken spring and fall. Contact Patti Cale-Finnegan at [Patti.Cale-finnegan@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Patti.Cale-finnegan@dnr.iowa.gov) to determine eligibility requirements and deadlines.

The Clean Water SRF, jointly operated by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and the Iowa Finance Authority, is Iowa's largest funding program for water quality. Visit [www.iowaSRF.com](http://www.iowaSRF.com) for more information.

Photos illustrate projects across Iowa. Refer to the map on the right to see other communities that are currently working on sponsored projects.

## SRF Sponsored Project Locations



1. Albert City
2. Ames
3. Ames
4. Blakesburg
5. Buffalo
6. Calamus
7. Cedar Rapids
8. Clinton
9. Coggon
10. Davenport
11. Donnellson
12. Dubuque
13. Dubuque
14. Durant
15. Dyersville
16. Epworth
17. Fairbank
18. Fairfield
19. Fort Dodge
20. Fort Dodge
21. Fort Madison
22. Fort Madison
23. Granger
24. Grimes
25. Hampton
26. Kalona
27. Keokuk

28. Keokuk
29. Keota
30. Kingsley
31. Kiron
32. Lake View
33. Laurens
34. Lohrville
35. Monona
36. Monona
37. Mt. Pleasant
38. New London
39. Newhall
40. North Liberty
41. Northwood
42. Ottumwa
43. Postville
44. Prairie City
45. Rockwell City
46. Ruthven
47. Seymour
48. Sioux City
49. Sioux City
50. Spencer
51. Wellman
52. DNR State Parks
- 53, 54, 55. Wastewater Reclamation Authority

Pilot Project (FY 2013)	\$9,400,000
Round 1 (FY 2014)	\$12,900,000
Round 2 (FY 2015)	\$5,900,000
Round 3 (FY 2015)	\$4,000,000
Round 4 (FY 2016)	\$4,200,000
Round 5 (FY 2016)	\$5,800,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$42,200,000</b>



Before photo of alleyway in Clinton



Completed permeable paver alleyway in Clinton



Bioretention cell manages street runoff in Clinton



Ribbon cutting ceremony showcases permeable paver sidewalk in Clinton



Bioretention cells alongside roadways in Donnellson



Permeable paver alley being installed in Kingsley



Streambank stabilization on Soldier Creek in Fort Dodge



Bioretention cell being installed in Lohrville