

8. Funding Sources

The following is a description of available funding sources for watershed management efforts that was adapted from the Iowa Stormwater Education Program.

Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

Water Quality Initiative accepts applications on an annual basis for projects focused on improving water quality in urban areas. Preference points are given to projects within nine priority watersheds and the projects selected will be announced in March.

Watershed Development and Planning Grants are issued by the Division of Soil Conservation for Districts and watershed partners to complete projects regarding watershed assessment, problem source identification, partnerships, and landowner support.

Water Protection Fund and/or Watershed Protection Fund offers financial assistance to SWCDs interested in watershed implementation grants and those interested are encouraged to contact IDNR.

Watershed Improvement Review Board - The Board awards grants to improve water quality and flood prevention. Eligible applicants are local watershed improvement committees, soil and water conservation districts, counties, county conservation boards, public water supply utilities and cities. The Iowa Legislature makes annual appropriations to the Watershed Improvement Fund, which the WIRP administers.

Iowa Economic Development Authority

Vision Iowa - River Enhancement Community Attraction and Tourism Program was created to assist projects that will provide recreational, cultural, entertainment and educational attractions.

Community Development Block Grants can be used to fund water and sewer facilities and must comply with the Green Streets criteria. Applications are guided by the CDBG annual application workshop, which is held in conjunction with the Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Funding Summit.

Iowa Department of Natural Resources - [All DNR Grants](#)

Grant Programs

319 Watershed Planning Grant is designed to assist interested groups in developing a Watershed Management Plan, which identifies problems in the watershed and proposes solutions for better water quality. Applicants are encouraged to contact their IDNR Basin Coordinator.

319 Watershed Implementation Grant is designed to assist interested groups in putting their Watershed Management Plan into Action. Applicants are encouraged to contact their IDNR Basin Coordinator.

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) is a competitive, federally funded grant program that provides match funds of 50% for outdoor recreation area development and acquisition. All Iowa's cities and counties are eligible to participate and deadline is in March of each year.

Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) funding is appropriated by the Iowa Legislature and signed into law by the Governor. The program is divided into four categories.

City Park & Open Space: Grant amount dependent on city size and is specifically for parkland expansion and multi-purpose recreation development

County Conservation: Thirty percent of this fund is automatically and equally allocated to all 99 counties to be used for and easements or acquisition, capital improvements, stabilization and protection of resources, repair and upgrading of facilities, environmental education, and equipment. Another thirty percent is allocated based on population and the remaining forty percent is available through competitive grants.

Conservation Education Program: An annual amount of \$350,000 is administered by a five-member board to landowners, naturalists, and educators. Funds are divided according to a standard application and mini-grants.

Loan Programs

Clean Water State Revolving Fund is jointly administered by the Iowa Finance Authority (IFA) and DNR Clean Water Program is designed for publicly owned wastewater treatment works and non-point source project (both public and private entities). A list of priority projects is outlined by the Intended Use Plan on quarterly basis and projects, which determines the eligibility of a project's application

Storm Water Loan Program are available at 3% interest for municipalities that are required to have an MS4 permit.

Water Resource Restoration Sponsored Projects Program reduces the overall interest rates on loans for project designed to improve water quality where the wastewater treatment facility is located. Applications are approved by the Environmental Protection Commission on an annual basis.

State Soil Conservation Commission

Research and Demonstration Grant Program provides funds to collaborative research teams to explore ways to improve sustainable agriculture and treatment of nonpoint source pollution. Proposals are reviewed by the State Soil Conservation Committee and individual grants cannot exceed \$75,000.

United States Environmental Protection Agency

Environmental Education Sub-Grants are issued to local education agencies, state schools, colleges, non-profit organizations, noncommercial education broadcasting, and tribal education agencies. Applications are accepted through February each year.

Environmental Justice Small Grants supports communities working on solutions to local environmental and public health issues through collaborative partnerships. Approximately \$1 million dollar is administered each year with individual grants up to \$30,000. Applications are accepted through January.

[Urban Waters](#) is a large initiative that improves coordination among federal agencies and collaborates with community-led revitalization efforts to improve the Nation's water systems. Sponsored projects receive support in a number of different ways.

National Forest Service

[Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Cost Share](#) grants provide funding that helps enhance urban forest stewardship, support new employment opportunities, and help build resilience in the face of climate change. Recipients are announced in June each year.

NGOs

[Ducks Unlimited](#) – Living Lake Initiative is established to provide support in enhancing shallow lake complexes.

[Keep Iowa Beautiful – Community Beautification Grants](#) are intended for communities or organization of 5,000 or less.

[Pheasants Forever](#) – Local Chapters often provide food plot and native grass seed to landowners.

[Trees Forever – Working Watersheds Buffers & Beyond](#) program provides a 50% cost share (up to a maximum of \$2,000) to implement a water quality project or demonstration site. Riparian buffer plantings are the main focus of the program, but other innovative projects are also considered

Private Foundations

[Community Foundation](#) is useful tool for researching local foundations.

[Coca-Cola](#) – Community Support program supports water stewardship, healthy living , recycling, and education.

[McKnight Foundation](#) – Environment grantmaking is divided into projects that revolve around restoring water quality in the Mississippi River and that improve the resilience of Midwest Climate and Energy.

[Walton Foundation](#) – freshwater initiative supports projects which sustain healthy communities in the Mississippi River Basin.

