

# Watershed Improvement Funding Sources

Revised February 2015

## Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship - Division of Soil Conservation

\* Dates are approximate. Check with funding agency to determine exact due date.

Programs	Web address (some may break on to two lines)	Program Description	Application Due*
Iowa Financial Incentives Program (IFIP)	<a href="http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/FieldServices/financialAssistance.asp">http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/FieldServices/financialAssistance.asp</a>	50 percent cost-share available to landowners through 100 SWCDs for permanent soil conservation practices.	continuous
No-Interest Loans	<a href="http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/FieldServices/noInterestLoans.asp">http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/FieldServices/noInterestLoans.asp</a>	State administered loans to landowners for permanent soil conservation practices.	Feb. 1
Water Quality Initiative (Nutrient Reduction Strategy)	<a href="http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/requestForApplications.asp">http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/requestForApplications.asp</a>	Focuses on adoption of practices outline in the science assessment that have the highest potential to provide nutrient load reductions to Iowa's water resources.	varies, TBD
Watershed Improvement Review Board (WIRB)	<a href="http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/IWIRB.asp">http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/IWIRB.asp</a>	Funds to support projects that will improve water quality or prevent flooding as part of a watershed effort. New in 2013, a portion of the funds will be directed to support for projects associated with the Water Quality Initiative.	Varies; typically Fall
District Buffer Initiatives	<a href="http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/FieldServices/districtInitiatives.asp">http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/FieldServices/districtInitiatives.asp</a>	Funds for SWCDs to initiate, stimulate and incentivize signup of USDA programs, specifically buffers.	continuous
Mining Reclamation	<a href="http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/FieldServices/waterQualityProtectionPractices.asp">www.iowaagriculture.gov/FieldServices/waterQualityProtectionPractices.asp</a>	\$2 million state and federal program (16:1 match) to reclaim abandoned surface coal mines at no cost to landowner.	varies
Public Owned Lakes (POL)	<a href="http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/FieldServices/financialAssistance.asp">http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/FieldServices/financialAssistance.asp</a>	Provides up to 75 percent cost-share to landowners for permanent (primarily structural) practices about public lakes.	April 1
Watershed Protection Fund Program (WSPF)	<a href="http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/waterResources/projectApplicationRequest.asp">http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/waterResources/projectApplicationRequest.asp</a>	Funds to support projects in SWCDs to provide water quality protection, flood control, and soil erosion protection in priority watersheds; 50-75 percent cost-share; May be used in conjunction with other funding sources such as Section 319, WIRB, IFIP, etc.	TBD; typically Spring
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)	<a href="http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/waterResources/CREP.asp">http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/waterResources/CREP.asp</a>	Levering USDA funds (4:1) to establish nitrate removal wetlands in 37 north-central Iowa counties with no cost to landowner	Ongoing
Soil and Water Enhancement Account – REAP Water Quality Improvement Projects	<a href="http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/FieldServices/waterQualityProtectionProjects.asp">www.iowaagriculture.gov/FieldServices/waterQualityProtectionProjects.asp</a>	Funds to support projects in SWCDs to provide water quality protection and improvement; 50-75 percent cost-share; May be used in conjunction with other funding sources such as Section 319, WIRB, IFIP, etc.	TBD
Soil and Water Enhancement Account – REAP Water Quality Improvement Practices	<a href="http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/FieldServices/waterQualityProtectionPractices.asp">www.iowaagriculture.gov/FieldServices/waterQualityProtectionPractices.asp</a>	50-75 cost-share available to landowners through SWCDs for the implementation of water quality improvement, urban storm water, and forestry/native grasses practices.	continuous
Watershed Development and Planning Assistance Grant (Development Grant)	<a href="http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/requestForApplications.asp">http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/requestForApplications.asp</a>	To assist soil and water conservation districts develop effective watershed project applications for soil protection, water quality, and flood control projects.	November-January
State Revolving Loans (SRF)	<a href="http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/FieldServices/waterQualityLoanFund.asp">http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/FieldServices/waterQualityLoanFund.asp</a>	Low interest loans provided by SWCDs to landowners for permanent water quality improvement practices; subset of DNR program	continuous

State Soil Conservation Committee Research and Demonstration Program	<a href="http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/requestForApplications.asp">http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/requestForApplications.asp</a>	Provides funds to collaborative teams of scientists, farmers, institutions, organizations, and educators who are exploring sustainable ag and nonpoint pollution projects or education/demonstration projects.	varies, May
Agricultural Drainage Well Closure Assistance Fund	<a href="http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/waterResources/agDrainageWellClosure.asp">http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/waterResources/agDrainageWellClosure.asp</a>	Provides 75 percent cost-share to landowners for alternative drainage in order to close ag drainage wells and protect groundwater quality.	Ongoing
<b>Iowa Department of Natural Resources</b>			
<b>Programs</b>	<b>Web address</b>	<b>Program Description</b>	<b>Application Due*</b>
Lake Restoration Fund	<a href="http://www.iowadnr.gov/Environment/WaterQuality/LakeRestoration.aspx">http://www.iowadnr.gov/Environment/WaterQuality/LakeRestoration.aspx</a>	Provides funding for restoration of Iowa's publicly owned lakes, in combination with watershed improvement to improve water quality.	Ongoing
Resource Enhancement and Protection Program (REAP) - City Parks & Open Space	<a href="http://www.iowadnr.gov/Environment/REAP/REAPFundingatWork/CityParksOpenSpaces.aspx">http://www.iowadnr.gov/Environment/REAP/REAPFundingatWork/CityParksOpenSpaces.aspx</a>	This money is available to cities through competitive grants. Parkland expansion and multi-purpose recreation developments are typical projects funded under this REAP program. The DNR administers the city grant program. Eligibility: This money is available to cities through competitive grants.	15-Aug
Resource Enhancement and Protection Program (REAP) - County Conservation	<a href="http://www.iowadnr.gov/Environment/REAP/REAPFundingatWork/CountyConservation.aspx">http://www.iowadnr.gov/Environment/REAP/REAPFundingatWork/CountyConservation.aspx</a>	This money is available land easements or acquisition, capital improvements, stabilization and protection of resources, and environmental education, etc. The DNR administers the county conservation grant program. Competition for these grants is extremely keen. Eligibility: This money is available to counties, only if they are dedicating at least 22¢ per \$1,000 of the assessed value of taxable property in the county for county conservation purposes, through competitive grants.	15-Aug
Resource Enhancement and Protection Program (REAP) - Conservation Education	<a href="http://www.iowadnr.gov/Environment/REAP/REAPFundingatWork/ConservationEducation.aspx">http://www.iowadnr.gov/Environment/REAP/REAPFundingatWork/ConservationEducation.aspx</a>	This money is available to grantees for programs that teach people of all ages about their environment and how to make intelligent, informed decisions about its well-being. \$350,000 is available for this program. The DNR administers the conservation education program.	15-May
Iowa DNR - Wildlife Diversity Program	<a href="http://www.iowadnr.gov/Environment/WildlifeStewardship/NonGameWildlife/InsideWildlifeDiversity/GrantsAvailableFunding.aspx">http://www.iowadnr.gov/Environment/WildlifeStewardship/NonGameWildlife/InsideWildlifeDiversity/GrantsAvailableFunding.aspx</a>	The Iowa DNR's Wildlife Diversity program has three separate grant programs: 1) Habitat Management Grants, 2) Small Grants, and 3) State Wildlife Grants. Please read below for information about each program and instructions for submitting applications.	varies
Land & Water Conservation Fund	<a href="http://www.iowadnr.gov/InsideDNR/GrantsOtherFunding/LandWaterConservationFund.aspx">http://www.iowadnr.gov/InsideDNR/GrantsOtherFunding/LandWaterConservationFund.aspx</a>	This federally-funded grant program provides match funds of 50% for outdoor recreation area development and acquisition. Competition for LWCF funds is intense, but this program provides an excellent opportunity to develop a wide range of outdoor recreational projects that are in high demand. Popular projects in recent years have included skate parks, playgrounds, new and renovated swimming pools, sport complexes, campgrounds, and multipurpose trails.	15-Mar

Section 319 Clean Water Act	<a href="http://www.iowadnr.gov/Environment/WaterQuality/WatershedImprovement/ResourcesforLocalGroups/ImplementationGrants.aspx">http://www.iowadnr.gov/Environment/WaterQuality/WatershedImprovement/ResourcesforLocalGroups/ImplementationGrants.aspx</a>	Watershed Implementation funds help local groups and organizations put watershed management plans into action. Must have a DNR-approved Watershed Management Plan. Eligibility: Local or regional public and private organizations or agencies; must address a watershed of 50,000 acres or smaller that drains directly or indirectly to a waterbody on the state's impaired waters list.	varies
Water Quality Cooperative Agreements [Section 104(b)(3)]	<a href="http://www.epa.gov/owm/cwfinance/waterquality.htm">www.epa.gov/owm/cwfinance/waterquality.htm</a>	Developing, implement, and demonstrate innovative approaches relating to the causes, effects, extent, prevention, reduction, and elimination of water pollution	varies
State Revolving Fund (SRF)	<a href="http://www.iowasrf.com/about_srf/srf-resources/">http://www.iowasrf.com/about_srf/srf-resources/</a>	Provides low interest loans to municipalities for waste water and water supply; expanding to private septs, livestock, stormwater, and NPS pollutants	continuous
SRF Water Resource Restoration Sponsored Projects	<a href="http://www.iowasrf.com/about_srf/sponsored-projects-home-page/">http://www.iowasrf.com/about_srf/sponsored-projects-home-page/</a>	During the 2009 Iowa General Assembly session, legislation was passed to allow a new method for funding water quality protection. SF 339 amended the Iowa Code to add a new category of projects that can be financed with sewer revenues. This new category, called "water resource restoration sponsored projects," includes locally directed, watershed-based projects to address water quality problems. Eligibility: Wastewater utilities may apply, in collaboration with watershed groups or other watershed partners.	March, September
Dam Mitigation Grant	<a href="http://www.iowadnr.gov/Recreation/CanoeingKayaking/WaterTrailDevelopmentTools/RiverGrantsTools.aspx">http://www.iowadnr.gov/Recreation/CanoeingKayaking/WaterTrailDevelopmentTools/RiverGrantsTools.aspx</a>	The Iowa Legislature appropriated funds for fiscal year 2015 for the development of dam mitigation and water trail projects. A portion the funds are available competitively for dam mitigation cost-share grants. Dam owners and other eligible entities are encouraged to apply for cost-share assistance for projects that reduce recreational hazards and enhance	varies
Environment Management Systems/Comprehensive Planning	<a href="http://www.iowadnr.gov/Environment/LandStewardship/WasteManagement/FABA/CurrentFABABulletin.aspx#story3">http://www.iowadnr.gov/Environment/LandStewardship/WasteManagement/FABA/CurrentFABABulletin.aspx#story3</a>	The Solid Waste Environmental management System (EMS) is a voluntary alternative to the traditional Comprehensive Planning system for Iowa. The program participants set program objectives (goals) and report annually on the steps and methods used to accomplish those goals.	February
Fish Habitat Program	<a href="http://www.iowadnr.gov/InsideDNR/GrantsOtherFunding/FishHabitatProgram.aspx">http://www.iowadnr.gov/InsideDNR/GrantsOtherFunding/FishHabitatProgram.aspx</a>	Funding assistance is available to County Conservation Boards for land acquisition and development of fish habitat.	November
OnSite Waste Water Assistance Program	<a href="http://www.iowasrf.com/program/other_water_quality_programs/onsite_waste_water_assistance_program.cfm">http://www.iowasrf.com/program/other_water_quality_programs/onsite_waste_water_assistance_program.cfm</a>	The On-site Wastewater Assistance Program (OSWAP) offers low-interest loans through participating lenders to rural homeowners for the replacement of inadequate or failing septic systems.	Ongoing
Section 604 (b)	<a href="http://www.iowadnr.gov/Environment/WaterQuality/WatershedManagementAuthorities.aspx">http://www.iowadnr.gov/Environment/WaterQuality/WatershedManagementAuthorities.aspx</a>	A maximum of 40% of the state's federal fiscal year allocation of 604(b) funding may be passed through the regional planning agencies (RPAs) to support water quality planning activities to be conducted by such agencies. Eligibility: Regional Planning Agencies may apply (COGs, MPOs, Watershed Management Authorities)	varies

**U.S. Department of Agriculture - Farm Services Agency**

Programs	Web address	Program Description	Application Due*
General Signup Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)	<a href="http://www.fsa.usda.gov">www.fsa.usda.gov</a> Click on "Conservation Programs."	Encourages farmers to convert highly erodible land or other environmentally sensitive land to vegetative cover; Farmers receive annual rental payments	determined from time-to-time

Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP)	<a href="http://www.fsa.usda.gov">www.fsa.usda.gov</a> Click on "Conservation Programs."	Encourages farmers to convert highly erodible land or other environmentally sensitive land to vegetative cover, filter strips, or riparian buffers; Farmers receive annual rental payments	continuous
Farmable Wetland Program (FWP)	<a href="http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&amp;subject=copr&amp;topic=fpw">http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&amp;subject=copr&amp;topic=fpw</a>	Voluntary program to restore farmable wetlands and associated buffers by improving hydrology, vegetation	continuous

### U.S. Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service

Programs	Web address	Program Description	Application Due*
Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)	<a href="http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/programs/easements/acep/?cid=stelprdb1242695">http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/programs/easements/acep/?cid=stelprdb1242695</a>	The New Farm Bill combined Grassland Reserve Program (GRP), Farm & Ranchland Protection Program (FRPP) and Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) into one program. This establishes two tracks, wetland reserve easements (WRE) and agricultural lands easements (ALE). Provides for easements to protect grasslands and for restoration of wetlands.	continuous
Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)	<a href="http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/eqip/">http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/eqip/</a>	Provides technical and financial assistance for natural resource conservation in environmentally beneficial and cost-effective manner; program is generally 50 percent cost-share	continuous
Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP)	<a href="http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/programs/landescape/ewpp/?&amp;cid=nrcs143_008258">http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/programs/landescape/ewpp/?&amp;cid=nrcs143_008258</a>	Flood plain easements acquired via USDA designated disasters due to flooding. Funds also available for recovery work from flood damage.	determined by need
Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watershed Initiative	<a href="http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/">www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/</a>	Conservation partnerships that focus technical and financial resources on conservation priorities in the Mississippi River Basin	To be determined
Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)	<a href="http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/programs/financial/csp/?cid=stelprdb1242683">http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/programs/financial/csp/?cid=stelprdb1242683</a>	Green payment approach for maintaining and increasing conservation practices	continuous
Regional Conservation Partnership Program	<a href="http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/national/home/">http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/national/home/</a>	RCCP promotes coordination between NRCS and its partners to deliver conservation assistance to producers and Landowners. Assistance is delivered in accordance with the rules of EQIP, CSP, ACEP and HFRP.	varies
Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG)	<a href="http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/cig/">http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/cig/</a>	National and state grants for innovative solutions to a variety of environmental challenges	varies

### Private Sector

Programs	Web address	Program Description	Application Due*
Fundsnet Services	<a href="http://www.fundsnet.com/">http://www.fundsnet.com/</a>	Since 1996 Fundsnet Services has provided resources information about grants, fundraising, philanthropy, foundations and 501(c)(3) non-profits organizations to those in need of funding and research for their philanthropic efforts and missions	varies
Nation Fish and Wildlife Foundation - Conservation Partners Program	<a href="http://www.nfwf.org/conservationpartners/Pages/home.aspx">http://www.nfwf.org/conservationpartners/Pages/home.aspx</a>	Grant provides staff and technical assistance to private landowners in regions where some of the nation's most crucial conservation issues can be addressed through Farm Bill programs	April

The McKnight Foundation	<a href="https://www.mcknight.org/grant-programs/grantees?program_area=Mississippi+River">https://www.mcknight.org/grant-programs/grantees?program_area=Mississippi+River</a>	Restore and protect floodplains and wetlands in the 10-state Mississippi River corridor.	varies
Walton Foundation	<a href="http://www.waltonfamilyfoundation.org/environment/freshwater-conservation">http://www.waltonfamilyfoundation.org/environment/freshwater-conservation</a>	In Mississippi River Basin, our conservation work is focused on promoting key components of a healthy river system. Some grantees include: Environmental Defense Fund, Nation Audubon Society, and Nature Conservancy.	varies
Wells Fargo	<a href="https://www.wellsfargo.com/about/charitable/fo_guidelines">https://www.wellsfargo.com/about/charitable/fo_guidelines</a>	Wells Fargo will consider requests from organization that work to create strong environmental practices that conserve natural resources, provide environmental education, and support the transition to a sustainable environment.	varies
Coca-Cola	<a href="http://www.coca-colacompany.com/our-company/community-requests-guidelines-application">http://www.coca-colacompany.com/our-company/community-requests-guidelines-application</a>	Grant focuses on making a unique and sustainable difference: water stewardship, active healthy living, community recycling, and education.	Opens on January 15th every year.

### Other State Regional Entities

Programs	Web address	Program Description	Application Due*
Living Iowa Roadway Trust Fund	<a href="http://www.iowalivingroadway.com/GrantApplication.aspx">http://www.iowalivingroadway.com/GrantApplication.aspx</a>	This annual, competitive grant program provides funding for integrated roadside vegetation management (IRVM) activities, including the preservation, establishment, and maintenance of native vegetation along Iowa's roadsides. Eligibility: LRTF grant applications may be submitted by individuals or private organizations and city, county, or state agencies. Individuals and private organizations must apply under sponsorship of city, county, or state government agencies and, when applicable, must have written support from the agency responsible for maintaining the right-of-way in which the project is proposed. Agency sponsorship may not be necessary for research, demonstration, and education projects, depending on the project's merit and the qualifications of the applicant.	June 15th
Keep Iowa Beautiful	<a href="http://www.keeptowbeautiful.com/grants/beautification-grant">http://www.keeptowbeautiful.com/grants/beautification-grant</a>	Community beautification/enhancement in communities of 5,000 and under for beautification projects and derelict building renovation/removal. AWARD AMOUNT: Up to \$5,000 for beautification, or \$25,000 for derelict building projects.	varies
Vision Iowa - River Enhancement Community Attraction and Tourism	<a href="http://www.iowaeconomicdevelopment.com/Community/VisionIowa">http://www.iowaeconomicdevelopment.com/Community/VisionIowa</a>	The River Enhancement Community Attraction and Tourism (RECAT) Program supports projects that promote and enhance recreational opportunities on and near rivers or lakes within cities.	January 15th
Iowa Resource Conservation and Development	<a href="http://iowaleaguercd.org/">http://iowaleaguercd.org/</a>	Iowa's twelve Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) councils help rural Iowa communities care for and protect their natural resources in a way that improves the local economy and raises living standards.	Yearly - January

### Other Partners

[The Nature Conservancy](http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/iowa/index.htm) <http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/iowa/index.htm>  
[Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation](https://www.inhf.org) <https://www.inhf.org>  
[Center for Watershed Protection](http://www.cwp.org/) <http://www.cwp.org/>  
[American Rivers](http://www.americanrivers.org/) <http://www.americanrivers.org/>  
[Pheasants Forever](http://iowapf.net/LocalChapterHelp.aspx) <http://iowapf.net/LocalChapterHelp.aspx>  
[Ducks Unlimited](http://www.ducks.org/livinglakes) <http://www.ducks.org/livinglakes>

