



# IOWA WATERSHED IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM CREATING IOWA CLEAN WATER SUCCESSES

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DIVISION | [WWW.IOWADNR.GOV](http://WWW.IOWADNR.GOV)

When we look to our state's lakes, rivers and streams, we know improvement is not an overnight success. But over the last three decades, we've seen how community-driven efforts have improved water quality, boosted economic development, helped fish and wildlife, and created a high quality of life. Led by the guidance, technical expertise and funding of the Iowa DNR's Watershed Improvement Program, Iowans have come together to embrace and improve their local waters and lands.

Since 1990, the DNR Watershed Improvement Program has funded **582** local, regional and statewide Iowa clean water projects, totaling **\$95 million**, through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's **Section 319 grant program**. Currently, the DNR provides **\$1.8 million** to 14 locally-led projects.

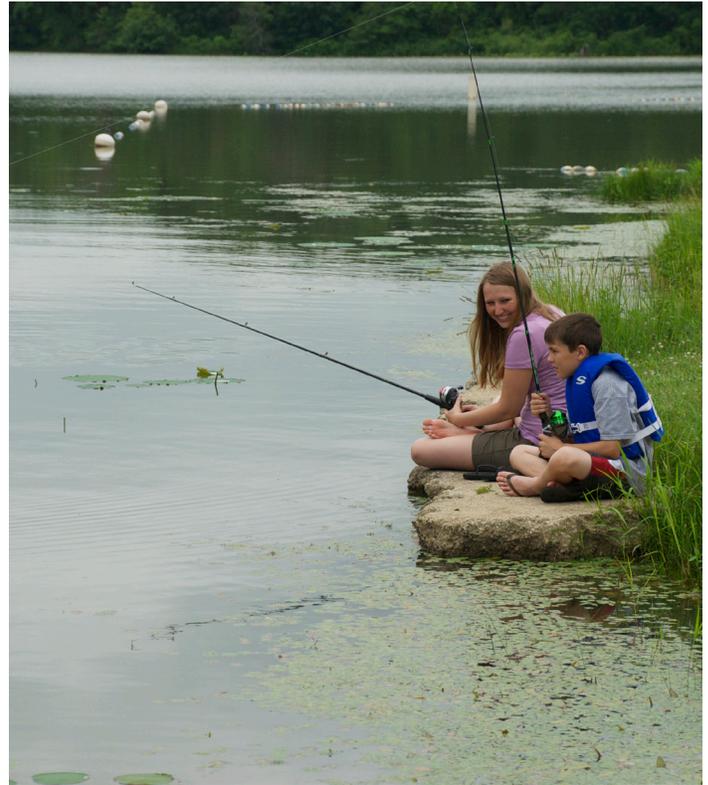
## Partnering for success

The DNR's Watershed Improvement (319) Program supports full-time, locally-based project staff who help rally the community and work one-on-one with landowners and officials. Water testing funded by the DNR tracks improvements in water quality.

The DNR, through Section 319, has also supported efforts to create watershed management authorities in Iowa, bringing together Iowans across cities and counties for the common good of improving a shared lake, stream or river. The DNR has supported the development of **21** new authorities since 2011. The DNR has also highlighted about 70 local successes since 2007 through its annual success story booklet.

## Real progress

- DNR Trout Restoration Projects:
  - Increased streams with naturally-reproducing trout from 5 in 1980 to 45 today.
  - Streams with naturally-reproducing, native Iowa brook trout grew from 1 in 1990 to 6 in 2017.
  - Iowa's trout fisheries now generate 720,000 trips and \$22.5 million for local economies annually.
- DNR Lake Restoration Projects:
  - Through Section 319 funding, the DNR has put \$21.4 million toward 111 lake projects since 2000.
  - About 60 percent of Iowans visit our lakes each year, and prefer lakes with cleaner water.
  - Statewide, lakes generate \$1.6 billion in annual spending by Iowans.
- The DNR has provided \$1.47 million since 2004 to Iowa Learning Farms at Iowa State University to support its farmer outreach program.



## By the numbers: 2016

- Provided financial assistance to farmers, landowners and for public land conservation for 305 conservation practices.
- Projects funded through Section 319 helped reduce sediment delivery to Iowa's waters by 12,068 tons per year. That's enough dirt to fill a line of dump trucks *almost 4 miles long*.
- Projects also reduced the amount of phosphorus reaching our waters by 16,522 pounds per year and nitrogen by 21,147 pounds per year.
- Projects leveraged \$3.67 million in other federal, state and local funding.

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