

Local Initiatives

Buena Vista County (Storm Lake Watershed)

In the Storm Lake Watershed, rain gardens have been funded at 50% cost-share through Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) funds. Larger urban projects such as bioretention cells and infiltration basins have been funded by Watershed Improvement Review Board (WIRB) grants at approximately 50% cost-share. The City of Storm Lake and the Iowa Department of Transportation partnered on some small bioretention cells around storm drains on Hwy 7 on the southwest side of town. A lawn care clinic and chemical analyses were funded partially through Section 319 Information & Education as part of original project funds and partially through contributions to the project from the Lake Protection Association and/or the Lake Improvement Commission.

www.slwaterquality.com

<http://www.agriculture.state.ia.us/IWIRB.asp>

<http://www.iowadnr.gov/water/nonpoint/nps5.html>

Cerro Gordo County (Clear Lake Watershed)

Several funding sources have been utilized to implement urban conservation work in the Clear Lake watershed. The Clear Lake Enhancement and Restoration Project (CLEAR) has partnered with these sources to provide a 2/3 cost-share of the practices to the local governments. The primary funding source for the cost-share dollars has been WIRB grants. Two grants have been received totaling \$379,000.

Another major contributor has been the Hanson Foundation, who has donated a total of \$200,000 for urban conservation. EPA 319 funding has also been utilized to fund over \$100,000 of improvements. In order to fund their 1/3 of the cost-share, the City of Clear Lake has implemented a storm water utility fee, which generates roughly \$75,000 annually. Cerro Gordo County and City of Ventura have paid for their practices out of their general funds.

www.clearproject.net

<http://www.iowadnr.gov/water/watershed/clearlake/about.html>

Dickinson County

Dickinson County has created a fund of \$200,000 annually to be used for water quality protection. These funds are made available through a 28-E governmental agreement between all ten cities and the county to fund lake watershed improvement projects. These funds are available to non-profits and conservation organizations for the protection of water quality. Over the first nine years the program has allocated over 1 million dollars and has received over 7 million in match from private and public grants. These funds are allocated out annually by a board created by the participating governments within the 28-E agreement. The funds have been used for urban and agricultural practices, education, water monitoring, property purchase and more.

<http://www.cleanwateralliance.net/waterquality.html>

Dubuque County

WIRB and 319 funding is available for urban BMP's in the cold-water trout stream watershed called Catfish Creek. This would include bio-retention, permeable pavements, and bio-swales.

www.dubuqueswcd.org

City of Dubuque

Through the City of Dubuque's Federal Permit and storm water utilities fees, there is funding available for landowners to support urban conservation. On a case by case basis, the City accepts grant applications from any landowner that clearly demonstrates the positive impacts from an urban BMP. For instance, the City provided an elementary school with the raw materials needed for a rain garden.

Johnson County

On November 4, 2008, Johnson County voters passed a \$20 million conservation bond to acquire and develop lands with public access provided, to be managed by the Johnson County Conservation Board, in order to protect the water quality in rivers, lakes and streams; protect forests to improve air quality; protect natural areas and wildlife habitat from development, and provide for parks and trails.

<http://www.johnson-county.com/conservation/index.shtml>

REAP cost-share funding is also available for landowners interested in installing best management practices (BMP'S) such as rain gardens, permeable pavement, native landscaping, soil quality restoration, etc.

<http://www.jcswcd.org>

City of Coralville and City of Iowa City:

Both communities offer cost-share for storm water management practices. Cost-share comes from the storm water utility fee that each of the communities assesses. Eligible practices include rain barrels, rain gardens, bioretention, permeable pavement, etc. Financial assistance is given to applicants who install Best Management Practices on their property that improve the quality of storm water runoff entering the city storm sewer system, creeks or streams.

<http://www.coralville.org/mod/press/documents/BMP%20Program%20Application.pdf>

www.icgov.org

Scott County

In Scott County, funding to support Urban Conservation has come from many different sources. REAP cost-share funding for BMP's can provide up to 50% of the total project cost, with a maximum of \$2,000 per project. BMP's that have been funded through this cost share program include porous paving systems, rain gardens, bio-retention cells and soil quality restoration.

The Riverboat Development Authority has donated over \$178,000. The City of Bettendorf, City of Davenport, Scott County Planning and Development, Quad City Homebuilders Association, and the Scott County Soil and Water Conservation District donate funds annually. These funds support a local watershed group called Partners of Scott County Watersheds (PSCW). PSCW is responsible for educating Scott County citizen about watersheds, water quality and ways citizens can be better stewards of our watersheds.

Additional funding that has been used to support urban conservation in Scott County has come from Farm Bureau, Iowa Department of Natural Resources 319/EPA, Watershed Protection Funds, and the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship.