

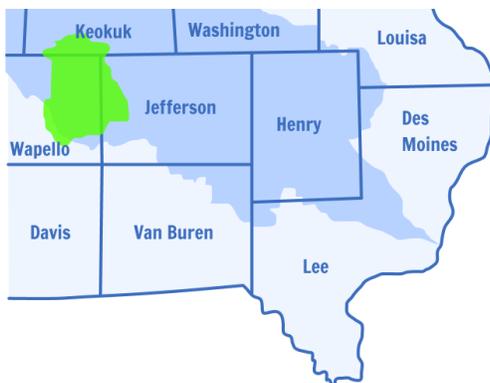
Cedar Creek Watershed Project



The Cedar Creek Watershed contains 72,631 acres and seeks to engage all stakeholders in improving water quality and soil health through a collaborative, research-based approach. The project aims to work with farmers and rural and urban residents to adopt conservation practices that fit their unique needs, lands, and budgets.

Watersheds and Gulf Hypoxia

Watersheds are areas of land where all the water drains to the same creek, stream, or river. In Iowa, as water moves through a watershed it picks up nitrogen and phosphorous and deposits them into the Mississippi River and eventually the Gulf of Mexico. Nitrogen spurs algae blooms which depletes the water in oxygen, killing all aquatic life in the area. In 2017, this created a 3.7 million acre 'dead zone'.



Trends you see impacting the watershed

- Bigger and bigger farms
- Decreasing connection to the land
- Changing land ownership: Intergenerational and absentee
- Declining rural population
- Statewide recognition that clean water is important
- Conservation practices: Cover crops, no till, waterways, and filter strips

"We all have a lot to do to improve water quality, urban and rural communities alike. Don't be afraid to try new conservation practices, just start small and then build on it. I am here to help!"

Lanessa Baker, Cedar Creek Partnership Watershed Coordinator



Contact Lanessa, our Watershed Coordinator

lanessa.baker@ia.nacdnet.net

641-682-0752 X 3

Find us on the web

[facebook.com/swcdfarmer](https://www.facebook.com/swcdfarmer)

and cleanwateriowa.org

Cedar Creek Watershed Project

Community Dialogue and Project History

We'd like to say a great big thank you to everyone who participated in any of our 3 community dialogues this Winter. It was great to see familiar faces and meet new ones! A summary of the conversations is below. Already, new activities are being planned as a result of the conversations.

Since 2014, community members have been collaborating with Iowa's Water Quality Initiative to demonstrate nutrient reduction strategy practices. During the past 3 years, 6,951 acres in cover crops and 73+ acres of filter strips were planted. We installed 1 bioreactor, almost 100,000 feet of terraces, and 3 grade stabilization structures. Moving forward, we are excited to see more targeted implementation of these practices, as well as, saturated buffers.

Key Themes You Shared



Connection to the land
"Good stewards see beyond the fenceline"



Participation
"Not one size fits all"



Farm Management
"Pride in improving the land"



City Connection
"Support for small communities"

You Said the Watershed Needs

Participation	Funding	Education	No bare soil	Creativity
Diverse crop rotation	Markets for alternative crops	Upstream conservation	Measures to control runoff	Engagement with cities

Next Steps

"We are putting your ideas for more communication and outreach into action. Please, contact me, if you are willing to represent the watershed at an event, let me take pictures of your fields, or interview you."

Lanessa Baker, Cedar Creek Partnership Watershed Coordinator



Contact Lanessa, our Watershed Coordinator
lanessa.baker@ia.nacdnet.net
641-682-0752 X 3

Find us on the web
[facebook.com/swcdfarmer](https://www.facebook.com/swcdfarmer)
and cleanwateriowa.org