



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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New Dry Run Creek watershed sign raises awareness of project in Black Hawk County

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CEDAR FALLS — Travelers along University Avenue and County Road D-18 in western Black Hawk County may have noticed a new highway sign marking a feature they may not have realized existed before – a watershed.

The large sign, one of the first of its kind in Iowa, notes that drivers are “Entering Dry Run Creek Watershed.” A watershed is an area of land that drains to a stream, river or lake – and in this case, the land drains into Dry Run Creek, a tributary of the Cedar River.

“The sign’s words are large enough to be clearly seen by drivers at normal highway speeds,” said Steve Hopkins, DNR Nonpoint Source Coordinator. “The sign also complements an Iowa DNR initiative to install creek signs in priority watersheds to help educate Iowans about the connections between creeks and their watersheds.”

The sign, built to Iowa Department of Transportation specifications, was installed by the Black Hawk County Engineering Department in collaboration with the Dry Run Creek Watershed Project, which is led by the Black Hawk Soil and Water Conservation District, Iowa DNR, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship.

“It’s so important to begin to identify our watersheds as we raise the awareness of watersheds to the public,” said Jeri Thornsberry, Chair of the Black Hawk Soil and Water Conservation District. “This new watershed sign does that.”

The Dry Run Creek Watershed Project, an ongoing community effort for more than 15 years, provides funding and technical assistance to landowners to install conservation practices to reduce polluted runoff and improve water quality in Dry Run Creek, which is on Iowa's impaired water's list. Although signs identify Dry Run Creek in the area, this was the first sign identifying the actual watershed.

Project coordinator and DNR staffer Josh Balk worked with Black Hawk County Engineer Cathy Nicholas to install the sign, which was approved by the Black Hawk County Board of Supervisors. Funding for the sign was provided by the watershed project through a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Section 319 grant.

"The sign helps the public see and understand watersheds," said Sherm Lundy, a longtime Dry Run Creek Advisory Board member. "It identifies not only where the watershed is, but it helps inform people that things are going on in the watershed. We need to keep watersheds in consideration in land management."

Dry Run Creek, which has several different branches, flows from rural western Black Hawk County eastward through Cedar Falls before joining with the Cedar River.

Since 2005, the Dry Run Creek Watershed Project has worked with residents and landowners to install more than 200 conservation practices, which have reduced pollutant runoff to the creek by more than 84 million gallons per year. Common practices installed through the project include rain gardens, bioretention cells, permeable pavement and streambank stabilization along Dry Run Creek. According to Balk, participation in the project remains high with a backlog of demand for practices.

"It's through our collaboration with local producers, residents, businesses, educators, conservationists and local leaders that we have seen success and will reach our long-term water quality goals," said Balk. "This sign installation is a perfect example of the diverse partnerships we have fostered here as well as our continuing efforts to inform the community on ways they can get involved with clean water. We all live in a watershed and this sign emphasizes the connection between people, the land and our water resources."

While not yet at a point to remove the creek from the state's impaired waters list, water monitoring of Dry Run Creek shows continuing improvements in water quality.

The Dry Run Creek Watershed Project receives primary funding from the Iowa DNR's Watershed Improvement program through U.S. EPA Section 319 nonpoint source program grants. To date, the project has used more than \$2.6 million in EPA Section 319 funding to restore water quality in Dry Run Creek.





DNR enforcement actions

MEDIA CONTACT: Tamara McIntosh, DNR, at 515-725-8242
or Tamara.McIntosh@dnr.iowa.gov.

DES MOINES – DNR staff work with individuals, businesses and communities to help them protect our natural resources by complying with state and federal laws. This approach is very effective. In the few cases where compliance cannot be achieved, the DNR issues enforcement actions. The following list summarizes recent enforcement actions. Find the entire, original orders on DNR’s website at www.iowadnr.gov/EnforcementActions

Consent Orders A consent order is issued as an alternative to issuing an administrative order. A consent order indicates that the DNR has voluntarily entered into a legally enforceable agreement with the other party.

Dallas County

GW Development, L.C.

Comply with its National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit and pay a \$8,000 administrative penalty.

Tama County

Calderwood Farms

Handle, transfer, and land apply manure in a manner that will not result in a manure discharge to a water of the state; develop a Standard Operating Procedure for proper land application of manure and submit to the DNR for approval; and pay a \$3,000 administrative penalty.

Administrative Orders

Responsible parties have 60 days to appeal the order or 60 days to pay the penalty.

Air Quality permits under review

MEDIA CONTACT: Marnie Stein, DNR, at 515-725-9525
or Marnie.Stein@dnr.iowa.gov for Title V permits.

DES MOINES – The DNR Air Quality Bureau has the following draft permits up for review. The permits help protect Iowans’ health and air quality. DNR’s permitting staff review each permit application to ensure facilities comply with state and federal air quality requirements. We encourage public comments on draft permits, providing help on how to [make effective comments](#). Submit written comments to the assigned permit writer before 4:30 p.m. on the last day of the comment period. DNR considers public comments before finalizing the permits.

Title V Operating Permits

Title V Operating permits are reviewed and re-issued every five years. Facilities with a Title V permit have the potential to emit large amounts of air pollutants compared to other facilities. The five-year reviews are a federal requirement and ensure adequate monitoring is included in the permit. The DNR plans to issue Title V Operating Permits for the following facilities. Find permit details at www.iowadnr.gov/titlev-draft.

Cerro Gordo County Magellan Pipeline Company, L.P. – Mason City Terminal – 2810 E. Main Avenue, Clear Lake. The application was submitted to operate their existing

Refined Petroleum Pipelines facility. The public comment period ends Nov. 27.