



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

# EcoNewsWire

Environmental Services

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 21, 2022

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## Join DNR watershed project groups for Earth Day

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Steve Hopkins, DNR Nonpoint Source Coordinator,  
at [Stephen.Hopkins@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Stephen.Hopkins@dnr.iowa.gov) or 515-505-0140.

DES MOINES—Earth Day provides many ways to enjoy our natural resources or simply to help.

For ages two to five, there's "Story Sprouts" at the Des Moines Botanical Center. For ag producers and those interested in cover crops, there's an ongoing self-guided tour at 14 sites in the North Raccoon River watershed. Water sampling, cleanups and rain garden maintenance are also possibilities. Please join us at these watershed project events. Or check out other [ways to help](#) or celebrate [Earth Day](#) at home or in your favorite outdoors area.

### **Ongoing. Spring Cover Crop tour. Sac, Carroll and Calhoun counties. Black Hawk Lake Watershed Project.**

The Black Hawk Lake Watershed Project is hosting tours of cover crop sites in the North Raccoon River watershed. The self-guided tour showcases cover crops from winter wheat to triticale planted last fall with different seeding methods. Find a map and photos guiding you to the [14 sites](#). Cover crops protect water quality during critical winter months when soils often lie bare and unprotected from erosion. Signs will be up until new crops emerge.

Partner: Iowa Soybean Association's Farm to River project. Contact Ethan Thies, DNR watershed coordinator, at [Ethan.Thies@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Ethan.Thies@dnr.iowa.gov) or 712-730-3018 for more information.

### **April 22, 2 to 4 p.m. Dry Run Creek stream cleanup. Cedar Falls area. Dry Run Creek Watershed Project.**

The Black Hawk County Soil & Water Conservation District seeks volunteers to experience their watershed as they collect litter along Dry Run Creek and nearby trails. Volunteers help improve water quality by picking up this common, widespread pollutant—making life better for the community and aquatic creatures that rely on the stream.

Individuals, families and groups are welcome. Meet on campus starting at 2 p.m. at the University of Northern Iowa's Center for Energy and Environmental Education. Trash bags and gloves will be provided for cleanup. Dress for rain or shine.

Partners include UNI's Earth and Environmental Science Department, supported by the city of Cedar Falls, the Dry Run Creek Watershed Improvement Project and DNR. For more information, contact Josh Balk, DNR watershed coordinator, at [Josh.Balk@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Josh.Balk@dnr.iowa.gov) or call 319-325-8593.

**April 23, 9 to 11:30 a.m. Water Quality Monitoring Snapshot at Dry Run Creek. Cedar Falls area. Dry Run Creek Watershed Project.**

Join the Black Hawk County Soil & Water Conservation District and partner Green Iowa AmeriCorps to collect water samples and field data in the Dry Run Creek watershed. This snapshot event will provide an overall picture of water quality. Volunteers should meet at 9 a.m. outside the University of Northern Iowa's Center for Energy and Environmental Education. After a brief training, groups will collect samples at specific sites. Data can help treat pollutant sources more accurately, which can measurably improve urban water quality. Dress for rain or shine. No experience is necessary. Monitoring equipment will be provided.

Financial support comes from a Resource Enhancement and Protection Conservation Education Program (REAP-CEP) grant and support from the University of Northern Iowa GeoTREE, Iowa DNR and the Dry Run Creek Watershed Improvement Project. For more information, contact Josh Balk, DNR watershed coordinator, at [Josh.Balk@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Josh.Balk@dnr.iowa.gov) or call 319-325-8593.

**April 23, 10 a.m. to noon. Park Stewardship Project--Rain Garden maintenance and planting. Easter Lake, Des Moines. Easter Lake Watershed Project.**

The Polk County Conservation Volunteer Park Stewards seek more volunteers to beautify the largest pollinator garden at Easter Lake Park, along with other rain and pollinator gardens. Volunteers can help, while learning to identify invasive plants versus desirable natives. Activities include mulching, weeding, watering and litter removal. Volunteers should plan on getting dirty and dress for the weather. Recommended gear includes gloves, long pants, boots or sturdy shoes, and a refillable water bottle.

Register at least one day before the event starts. See the [Easter Lake event](#) or contact Cody Acevedo, watershed coordinator, at [Cody.Acevedo@ia.nacdnet.net](mailto:Cody.Acevedo@ia.nacdnet.net) for more information.

**April 23, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Earth Day at the Garden. Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden. Easter Lake Watershed Project.**

The botanical garden offers free admission for their Earth Day event, the culmination of a month-long focus on water. Bring the kids and family. Many partners will help the garden highlight how plants are essential to clean water. Kids ages two to five can join a fun, interactive story time, "Story Sprouts" at 10:30. Polk County Soil & Water Conservation District will provide information on urban cost-share programs to improve soil quality, put in a raingarden or native landscaping, or add a rain barrel. Cost-share is available in the

Easter Lake Watershed Project area. The district will also have a rainfall simulator and interactive Enviroscape for people to explore.

Other community partners will provide demonstrations and activities including upcycling planters, a plant scavenger hunt and a rain barrel give-away raffle. For more information, see the [botanical garden's event page](#) or contact Cody Acevedo, watershed coordinator, at [Cody.Acevedo@ia.nacdnet.net](mailto:Cody.Acevedo@ia.nacdnet.net).

The Black Hawk Lake, Dry Run Creek, and Easter Lake Watershed Projects are funded in part with EPA Section 319 grant funds through the DNR Water Quality Improvement Section.

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## DNR enforcement actions

**MEDIA CONTACT: Tamara McIntosh, DNR, at 515-725-8242**  
or [Tamara.McIntosh@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto: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](http://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.

#### Bremer County

Sitruc Pork, L.C.

Pay a \$2,000 administrative penalty.

#### Cerro Gordo County

Brookstone Specialty Services, Inc.

Properly dispose of all wastewater and cease all illegal discharges to waters of the state; maintain a wash log; train employees regarding the proper disposal of wastewater and submit proof of training to the DNR; remove all bedding material from Chelsea Creek within 30 days; televise the storm sewer line between Chelsea Creek outfall and the manhole east of the facility within 30 days and submit a recording of the televising to the DNR; remove any residual bedding material observed in the sewer line during the televising; and pay a \$10,000 administrative penalty.

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## Air Quality permits under review

**MEDIA CONTACT: Marnie Stein, DNR, at 515-725-9525**  
or [Marnie.Stein@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Marnie.Stein@dnr.iowa.gov) for Title V permits; or Sarah Piziali, DNR, at 515-725-9549 or [Sarah.Piziali@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Sarah.Piziali@dnr.iowa.gov) for construction 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](http://www.iowadnr.gov/titlev-draft).

#### **Lee County**

Roquette America, Inc.—1003 South 5th St., Keokuk.

The application was submitted to operate their existing Wet Corn Milling facility. The public comment period ends May 21.

### **Construction Permits**

DNR engineers review and issue construction permits to facilities before they build new or modify existing sources of air pollution. The public may review the following air quality construction permits available online at [www.iowadnr.gov/airpermitsearch](http://www.iowadnr.gov/airpermitsearch) OR through the [EASY Air Public Inquiry Portal](#) and then click the Public Notice tab.

#### **Muscatine County**

Grain Processing Corporation—1600 Oregon St., Muscatine.

Project No. 22-071. The purpose of this project is to allow for the installation of a new bagger for cat litter. This is the second bagger for Line #2; however, only one bagger can operate at a time. The public comment period ends May 23.