



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

# EcoNewsWire

## Environmental Services

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sept. 1, 2022

- [New recipients announced in Iowa DNR's County Creek Sign Grant Program](#)
- [Wastewater released near Carter Lake](#)
- [DNR enforcement actions](#)
- [Air Quality permits under review](#)

## New recipients announced in Iowa DNR's County Creek Sign Grant Program

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

**DES MOINES**—New signs that help bring awareness to Iowa's creeks and watersheds will soon be installed in 33 counties, thanks to the Iowa DNR's new County Creek Sign Grant.

The grant program, introduced earlier this year, provides funds to conservation and natural resource groups to install creek and watershed signs on county roads or city streets within priority watersheds. A watershed is the area of land that drains to a body of water.

"These signs help enhance the awareness of creeks and watersheds in Iowa, especially where watershed projects are underway to improve water quality," said Steve Hopkins, the DNR's Nonpoint Source Coordinator with the DNR's Water Quality Improvement Section.

In this first round of the County Creek Sign Grant Program, 24 projects spanning 33 counties will receive a combined total of \$240,000 to install creek signs, river signs and watershed boundary signs on county roads in priority watersheds.

Projects receiving funding for creek signs are located in the following counties (in alphabetical order): Adams, Benton, Black Hawk, Boone, Bremer, Buchanan, Cass, Cerro Gordo, Chickasaw, Dallas, Delaware, Dubuque, Fayette, Grundy, Howard, Iowa, Johnson, Keokuk, Kossuth, Plymouth, Polk, Taylor, Union, Washington, Winneshiek and Wright.

These signs will join others installed through a separate project that works with the Iowa Department of Transportation to install creek signs in priority watersheds on state and federal highways in Iowa. Through the Stream Sign Initiative, which began in 2014, about 570 creek signs have been placed across Iowa.

Both the County Creek Sign Grant and Stream Sign Initiative programs are funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Section 319 program and awarded by the Iowa DNR.

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## Wastewater released near Carter Lake

**MEDIA CONTACT: Kevin Moler, DNR, at 712-250-0285.**

**CARTER LAKE, IOWA** – Authorities advise that people and pets should avoid a stormwater retention pond area between Shoreline Golf Course and Lakeside Estates Trailer Home Park in Carter Lake due to a sewage spill.

A privately owned wastewater lift station at the trailer home park has been overflowing for an unknown amount of time due to pump failures. Sewage flowed onto the ground and a concrete pathway designed to drain stormwater from the trailer park to a city owned stormwater retention pond.

Although the retention pond is designed to drain onto the Shoreline Golf Course grounds and then into Carter Lake, sewage appears to be contained in the city storm water pond at this time. DNR is sending water samples for laboratory testing. DNR staff will monitor cleanup and containment. The DNR will consider appropriate enforcement action.

Lakeside Estates has been advised to berm the concrete pathway to ensure further sewage does not enter the pond, to excavate contaminated soil and place lime along the concrete pathway.

According to trailer park staff, new pumps for the lift station will be installed next week.

On Aug. 30, the DNR received an anonymous complaint alleging sewage overflowing the trailer park. DNR Staff conducted an investigation the next morning.

Contact the DNR's Kevin Moler at 712-250-0285 for more information.

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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.

### Lyon County

Bernard Bakker

Submit a Standard Operating Procedure for manure land application and immediately implement upon approval, pay \$26,086.07 in fish restitution, and pay a \$10,000 administrative penalty.

**Pottawattamie County**

Southwest Iowa Renewable Energy, LLC

Submit a compliance plan for all construction permit conditions, submit construction permit applications to amend existing permits, conduct regular compliance stack testing, submit raw emissions data collected prior to scheduled compliance stack test events, and pay a \$10,000 administrative penalty.

**Administrative Orders (Amendments)**

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

**Woodbury County**

Gelita USA, Inc.

Complete construction of all wastewater treatment facility improvements by Dec. 2025.

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## Air Quality permits under review

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Gary Smith, DNR, at 515-725-9563 or [Gary.Smith@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Gary.Smith@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.

**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.

**Pottawattamie County**

Southwest Iowa Renewable Energy, 10868 189th St., Council Bluffs

Project No. 22-079

The application is to modify the fuel allowance for the boilers. The public comment period ends Oct. 3.