

# Iowa DNR News

CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Feb. 25, 2025

- [Land donors honored during reception in Des Moines](#)
- [Eager paddlers encouraged to wait for warmer water temperatures](#)

## Land donors honored during reception in Des Moines

DES MOINES, Iowa – More than 3,100 acres of Iowa land in 24 counties with an estimated value of more than \$7.6 million was permanently protected through donations for conservation.

The donors associated with 23 donations of land or land value will be recognized during a ceremony on March 13, from 2 to 3 p.m., in the first floor rotunda, at the State Capitol, in Des Moines.

Landowners who are in attendance will be honored individually for their donation. For more information about individual donations, visit the DNR website at [www.iowadnr.gov/landdonors](http://www.iowadnr.gov/landdonors).

**Media Contact:** Whitney Schuhardt, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 515-250-3617.

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## Eager paddlers encouraged to wait for warmer water temperatures

The weather is starting to feel like spring, but water temperatures are still dangerously cold.

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) recommends that paddlers wait for consistent warm weather to allow the water temperatures to rise slowly. It could be several weeks before water temperatures are ideal and safe as water and air temperatures continue to change.

“Air temperatures are warmer than normal this year, but the water is still dangerously cold,” said Todd Robertson, Iowa DNR River Programs Water Trails coordinator. “We have not had enough consistently warm days to raise water temperatures adequately. Cold water shock and hypothermia can set in quickly if you fall into the water at current temperatures.”

### **Safety Tips for Paddling in Cold Water Conditions**

- Always wear a life jacket. Not only does the life jacket help keep your head above water, it helps to keep your organs warmer.
- Check your canoe or kayak and gear for any needed repairs or maintenance after being stored for several months.
- Don't paddle alone, especially in cold water, use a buddy system. Go with a small group of paddlers and know which paddler has the most experience.
- Let a friend or loved one know where you are going and when you are expected to return. It will be easier to find you if you need help.
- Dress for the water temperature, not the air temperature. Plan as if you were to be in the water at some point. A wetsuit or drysuit is a must. Dress in layers so you can peel a layer off if you get overheated.
- Bring along a dry bag with extra clothing to change into should you get wet. Get out of wet, cold clothing as soon as possible. Having the right gear and understanding the stages of hypothermia is crucial for remaining safe.
- Stay away from strainers, wood/branch piles that can pull a paddler under. These are usually found on outside river bends where the current is going and are deadly hazards that must be avoided.

**Media Contact:** Todd Robertson, Iowa DNR River Programs Outreach Coordinator, 515-205-6845.