

Four Mile Creek Clean-up organized by the Iowa Rivers Revival Green Iowa AmeriCorps interns



*Iowa Rivers
revival*

2019 Annual Report

Iowa Rivers Revival



Molly Hanson, previous Executive Director, leading volunteers on Four Mile Creek during the clean-up.



River Restoration Toolbox Participants learning how to survey a stream in Ames, Iowa.

Our History

In March 2006, a coalition of individuals, state agencies, and nonprofit organizations organized the inaugural “Iowa Rivers Revival” conference. There, the need for a statewide organization committed to river advocacy, conservation, and education was affirmed. Following the conference, a dedicated core group of volunteers continued to meet monthly to develop the mission and vision for a new statewide river organization, including an agenda of programs and priorities to protect and enhance Iowa’s rivers. IRR is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Our Philosophy

Iowa Rivers Revival is a non-profit statewide leader in river education and advocacy and is committed to protecting some of our most precious natural resources—our rivers and streams. IRR works to engage individuals, organizations, communities, and government leaders in river awareness, responsibility, and enjoyment to improve and enhance the condition of Iowa waterways—ensuring a quality, safe, and lasting resource for future generations.

Our Mission

to help Iowans restore, protect, and enjoy our rivers

Our Vision

clean, free-flowing Iowa rivers teeming with life, surrounded by diverse landscapes, and connecting vibrant communities

Our 2019 Accomplishments

Advocacy

Led a successful lobbying effort to reinstate \$500,000 to the Dam Mitigation and Water Trails program through the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. In 2018, the legislature zeroed out funding for this DNR program, which is an appropriation in the Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund. This program supports projects around the state to address dam safety, habitat improvement, and recreational development all resulting in community and river revitalization.

Continued working on fully funding Iowa's Water and Land Legacy (IWILL). IRR's priority of bringing Iowans together in support of immediate, permanent, reliable, sustainable funding aimed at improving Iowa water quality, protecting soil, enhancing wildlife habitat, and increasing recreation opportunities remains. With a small increase in our state's sales tax (3/8ths of a penny), it would generate close to \$180 million annually, with over 60% going to water quality issues.

Hosted a Lobby Day and Popcorn Party at the Iowa State Capitol with the help of Republican Representative Bloomingdale from Northwood Iowa. We were able to discuss with a handful of legislators the importance of rivers, water trails, and dam mitigation.

Financial Summary

IRR's funds have been used carefully and efficiently and are essential to our growing effectiveness and impact.

Carryover from 2017	\$91,749.78
Total income	\$210,107.63
Total Expense	\$155,637.36
Balance End of 2017	\$146,220.05

Outreach

Hosted two Green Iowa AmeriCorps members through the University of Northern Iowa's Center for Energy and Environmental Education. Erin Atchison and Clarissa Klostermann helped IRR throughout the spring and summer by organizing a creek clean-up on Four Mile Creek. They also created two videos and two podcasts about the issues Iowa rivers are facing and some solutions to enhance the Master River Stewards program curriculum. To watch and listen, check out the Education - Master River Stewards Program tab on our website.

Continued work on the Iowa River and Stream Restoration Framework through the help of IRR's Technical Advisory Committee. As we continue to grow our partnerships and expand our knowledge about rivers and restoration in Iowa, we rely on many talented allies to keep us on track. This Technical Advisory Committee has been an invaluable source of information and research sharing. This impressive group of university researchers and professors, engineers, state employees, and non-profit professionals are helping us grow the vision for river restoration in Iowa.

Capacity Building

We could not do what we do without our supporters! IRR had 51 "River Champions" last year. River Champions are donors who give \$250 or more in a year. We had a total of 140 household donors and 12 organizational donors helping us reach our goals in 2019.

New Board Members. IRR was pleased to add Peter Levi to our board in 2019. Dr. Levi, Assistant Professor of Environmental Science and Sustainability at Drake University, has interests in the function of streams, rivers, and reservoirs from both a theoretical and applied perspective. His primary research focus is the function and biogeochemistry of stream ecosystems, particularly how human activities may affect these processes, such as land-use change or stream channel restoration. He teaches Principles of Geology, Hydrology, and Global Biogeochemistry as well as others in the physical Earth sciences.

What is the River Restoration Toolbox?



Participants for Level 1 Workshop in Ames, Iowa.

Iowa's River Restoration Toolbox is a two-part series of best management practices developed to assist designers in stream stabilization and restoration projects.

This toolbox focuses on natural techniques in streambank stabilization and stream restoration that provide multiple benefits with the most cost-effective options. The toolbox helps users understand the driving factors that cause an unstable stream segment to erode or damage infrastructure. It takes the user through the major steps of stream assessment, including field-collected stream survey data, key stream stability issues, and multiple practices and techniques that are appropriate for the type of restoration project.

In 2019, we conducted two Level 1 workshops and one Level 2 workshop for technical professionals and others:

- **June 2019:** Level 1 workshop in Ames with 19 participants representing five states
- **May 2019:** Level 1 workshop in Solon with 21 participants, in partnership with Johnson County Conservation Board
- **October 2019:** Level 2 workshop in Clive IA with 30 participants

For a full list of trained professionals visit our website at: www.iowarivers.org/river-restoration-graduates.



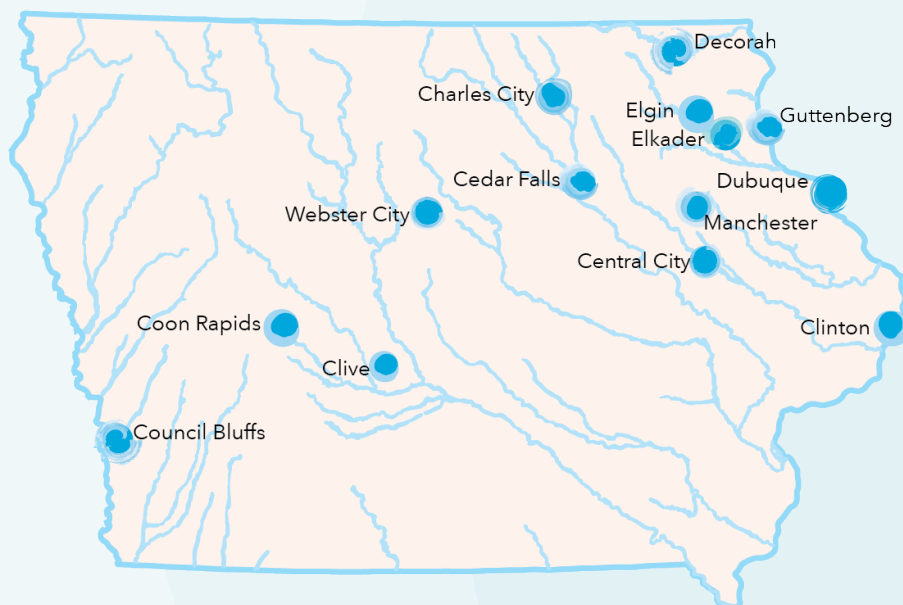
Level 1 workshop participants in Solon, Iowa.

River Town of the Year: Guttenberg

Iowa Rivers Revival presents the River Town of the Year award each year to a community that exhibits a commitment to protect and maintain water quality, and promote the river as a community asset. In 2019, Guttenberg was named "River Town of the Year" for its long history and passion for protecting the legacy and quality of the Mississippi River. Guttenberg's success in protecting and enhancing their river is characterized by a rich mix of public and private cooperation and partnerships. Previous IRR River Towns of the Year include Dubuque, Central City, Charles City, Webster City, Elkader, Coon Rapids, Cedar Falls, and Decorah.



Guttenberg, Iowa.



● Locations of River Town & River City of the Year award recipients since 2007



Molly Hanson, previous IRR Executive Director, presenting the River Town of the Year award to Guttenberg.

Thank you!

IRR's mission is helping Iowans restore, protect, and enjoy Iowa's rivers. It is an honor to work tirelessly for the 70,000 miles of rivers and streams in this state and the people that love them. This important work would not be possible without the generous support of our funders and donors.

This year was no exception.

BIG thanks to our funders:

The McKnight Foundation
Confluence Brewing Company
Confluence Architecture



CONFLUENCE

Support Iowa Rivers Revival!

The generous contributions of our supporters have provided the foundation for Iowa Rivers Revival to develop priorities and programs to address problems and solutions concerning Iowa's rivers and streams. These funds have been used carefully and efficiently, and are essential to our growing effectiveness and impact. You can make unrestricted gifts or gifts for a specific purpose to IRR. Gifts are tax-deductible. Go to www.iowarivers.org, or contact us at 515-350-4387 or info@iowarivers.org.

River Champions

River Champions are supporters who contribute \$250 a year or more to IRR, or raise \$250 from others. Being a "River Champion" means that you strongly support IRR efforts to mobilize Iowans to defend, protect, restore, and celebrate our rivers and streams. It's a strong commitment to very important work.

\$10,000 +

Confluence Architecture
Confluence Brewing Company
Kate Garst
McKnight Foundation

\$2,500 +

Charlotte & Fred Hubbell
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Jenn Drier, Assistant Director



The growth and success of Iowa Rivers Revival is a direct result of the commitment and dedication of its supporters and volunteers. Together we can ensure healthier rivers for future generations.

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For more information about Iowa Rivers Revival,
visit us at www.iowarivers.org