

# IOWA RIVERS REVIVAL

2022 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



*Iowa Rivers Revival (IRR) is a statewide leader in river advocacy and education. IRR is committed to protecting some of our most precious natural resources – our rivers and streams. We are a statewide nonprofit leading Iowans to protect, restore and enjoy our rivers.*

## **We support passage of permanent funding for recreation opportunities, conservation projects, and water quality improvements.**

- We must work together to fund the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund (IWILL). It has been over 10 years since Iowans voted to increase our state sales tax by 3/8<sup>th</sup> of a cent to protect Iowa's natural resources and enhance recreational opportunities. Honoring the goals of the original formula and funding the trust will support a strong economy and improved quality of life for all Iowans now and in the future.
- Preserve the Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) program and other natural resource programs. IRR supports a \$20 million appropriation to fully fund REAP as well as removing the sunset clause. REAP provides essential funding for soil and water conservation, habitat protection, recreation resources, and so much more.

## **We support increased funding for river-related natural resources programs.**

- We advocate for an appropriation of at least one million dollars through the Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund (RIIF) to support the IDNR Low-Head Dam Mitigation and Water Trails program. This program provides funding to support a range of projects around the state, which support rural economic development and revitalization as well as workforce attraction for communities across the state.

## **For a holistic watershed-based approach, we support the establishment of a statewide Stream and River Restoration Program for Iowa.**

- To fully protect our natural resources, we must collaborate and fund sustainable statewide solutions. This program would build resilient communities, provide safe recreational opportunities, mitigate floods, provide critical habitat, reduce soil erosion, and improve water quality.

## **Due to the surge in water trail usage, we support an increase in recreational fees to boost river safety measures and improve emergency access.**

- We endorse funding river safety measures and increasing educational tools to protect all Iowans. Iowans are recreating on and near our rivers and streams more than ever before. Increasing registration fees from \$12 to \$20 every three years and decreasing the length of boat that require registrations from 13ft to 10ft would increase revenue for IDNR by more than 30% for programs that enhance safety, support boater education, and improve access for recreation and emergency response.

## **IRR supports policies and legislative efforts to ensure all Iowans have equitable access to our waterways and other natural resources.**

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