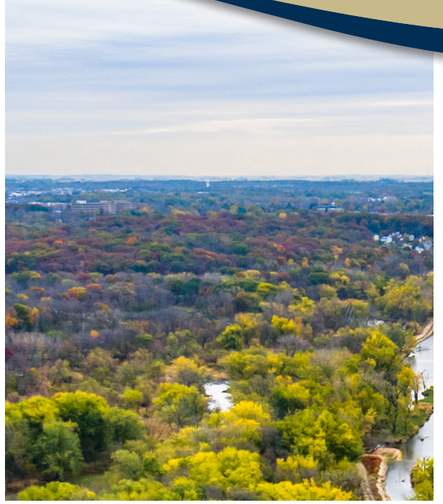
Together,
we make our watershed great!

Middle Cedar Watershed Management Plan

MCWMP

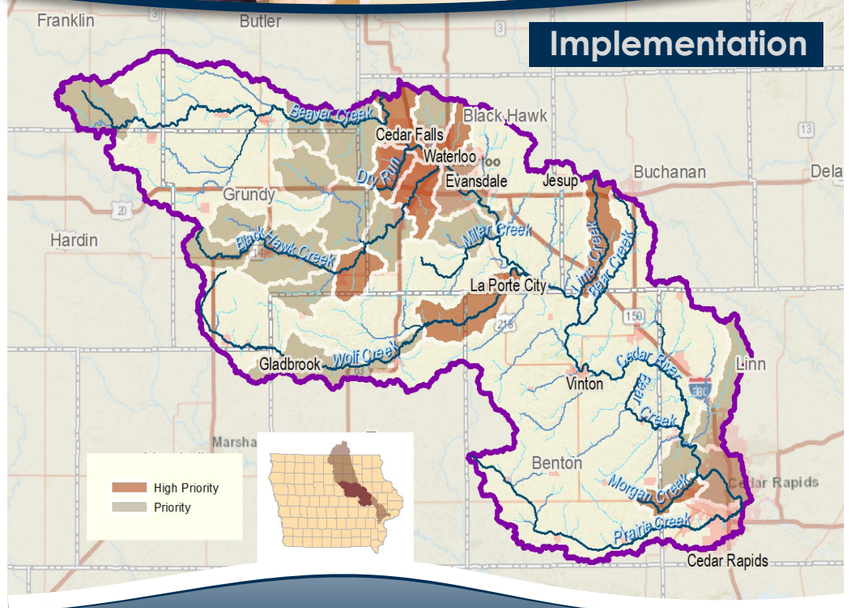


What is the Middle Cedar Watershed Management Plan?

The Middle Cedar Watershed is a 2,400 square mile area spanning 10 counties and 48 cities including Waterloo, Cedar Falls, and Cedar Rapids. Flood disasters and water quality issues impact the health and safety of many residents in the watershed. The Middle Cedar Watershed Management Authority (MCWMA) was formed to collectively address these issues, and is a partnership between 26 cities, counties, and Soil & Water Conservation Districts. Through funding from the Iowa Watershed Approach project, the Middle Cedar Watershed Management Plan was developed to identify goals and priorities for watershed improvement. The Watershed Management Plan is a product of detailed watershed assessment and public input, and provides a road map for partnerships and targeted action to improve water quality and enhance community resilience.

EOR water ecology community · Iowa Flood Center · IIHR Hydroscience & Engineering · Iowa Watershed Approach

Implementation



Targeted Approach

MCWMA board members and stakeholders developed a list of the highest-priority subwatersheds, based on key issues of conern in the watershed. These subwatersheds will be targeted for future grant funding and technical assistance over the next 20 years.

IMPLEMENTATION

Start Up Phase *(2020 - 2022)*

- Establish a stable funding mechanism and an organizational structure for the Middle Cedar Watershed Management Authority
- Foster partnerships to achieve mutual goals

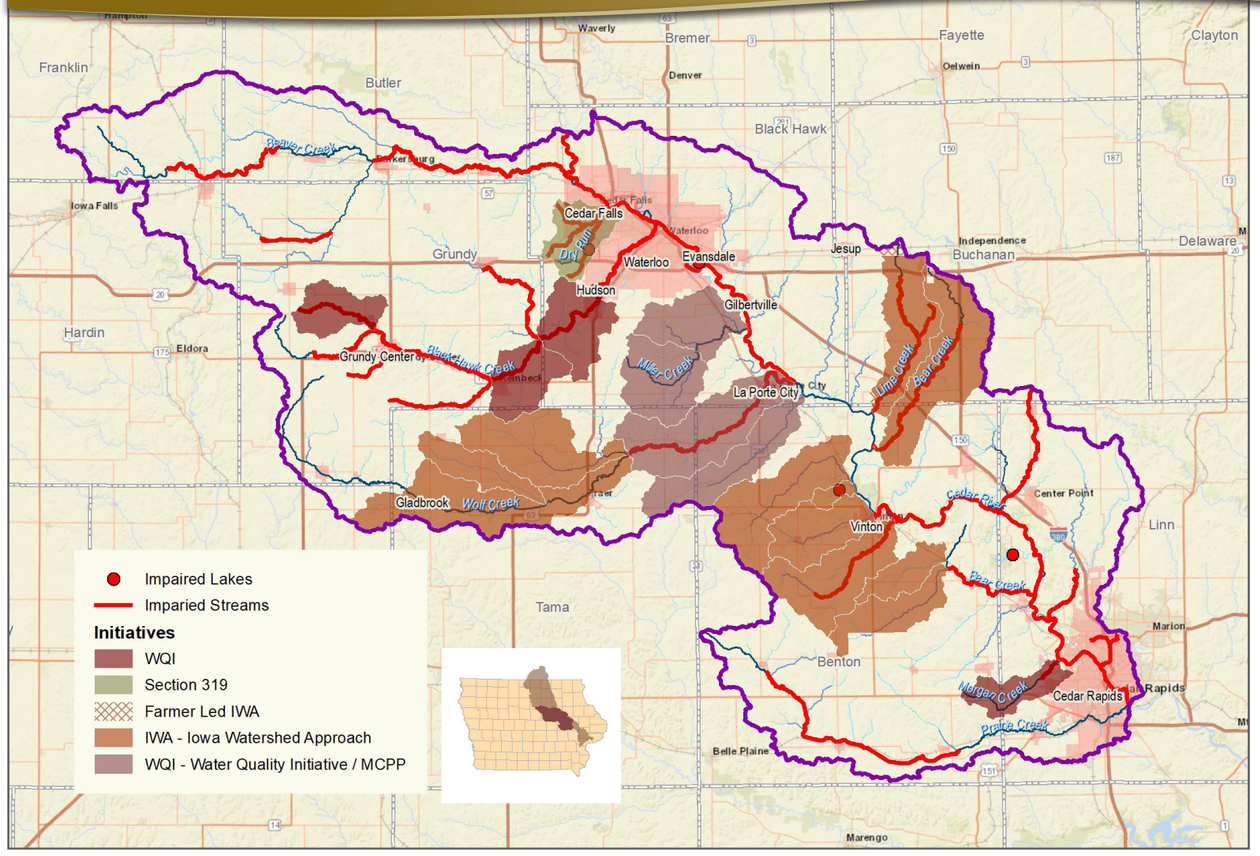
Implementation Schedule Phase *(2023 - 2037)*

- Implementation of Best Management Practices in prioritized subwatersheds
- Continue building and expanding on partnerships in the watershed
- Conduct monitoring for future evaluation of the performance of conservation practices

Evaluation Phase *(2038 - 2039)*

- Assess the achievements of the watershed and begin development of next 20-year plan, capturing challenges and successes of the past 20 years

ABOUT THE WATERSHED



Watershed covers:
2,400 mi²
spanning
10 counties
and **48 cities**

74%
row crop agriculture

23/68 (33%) subwatershds have active watershed-based projects with funding / resources for conservation practices

$17.5 million spent on recreation on the Cedar River every year

More than 9 different grant / cost-share sources have invested **millions** of dollars in the watershed since 2008

CHALLENGES

2.7 million acres drain into the watershed. Property losses for the 100 year flood event are estimated at **$436 million**. Crop losses due to flooding in watershed counties totaled **$591million** from 1988-2015.

In the last 30 years (1984-2013) the average annual discharge of water recorded on the Cedar River at Cedar Rapids was **40 percent** higher than the annual average for the entire period of record (1903-2013).

40%

92 miles of watershed streams have been deemed "impaired" due to elevated bacteria concentrations. High levels of bacteria can sicken people who spend time in the Cedar River.

92 miles

There are **23** public water supply facilities in the watershed that are highly susceptible to nitrate contamination, which is a very concerning public health threat.

23

OUR APPROACH

Ten Prioritization Factors:
(see next page for implementation map)

- Flooding
- Vulnerable populations
- Nitrate loading
- Drinking water sources
- Erosion rates
- Bacteria sources
- Stream bacteria concentrations
- Recreational use
- Past conservation initiatives
- Subwatershed-scale planning

Implementation Strategy Toolbox