

Clean Water and Land Stewardship Legislative Framework 2021-22

The Iowa Environmental Council determines policy priorities on a biennial basis in alignment with the Iowa General Assembly. This Legislative Framework is based on the policy priorities adopted for 2021-22 and guides Clean Water and Land Stewardship program legislative advocacy and lobbying.

Reduce and mitigate agricultural pollution

- Support policies and programs that reduce pollution from conventional row-crop agriculture and industrial-scale livestock production.
- Support monitoring, transparency, and accountability provisions for publicly supported water quality projects.
- Support strengthening the Nutrient Reduction Strategy with timelines/benchmarks for achieving goals, including accountability measures when goals are unmet.
- Strongly oppose any efforts to weaken water quality standards or public health protections.
- Oppose expansion and new construction of concentrated animal feeding operations until more stringent regulations are passed that protect Iowa's water resources, especially source waters and sensitive landscapes.

Invest in a diverse, inclusive, and multi-functional Iowa landscape

- Support funding to protect Iowa's water and land resources, including:
 - Funding the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund, with an emphasis on maintaining the original intent and integrity of the constitutional amendment as passed by Iowa voters,
 - Full \$20 million funding for the Resource Enhancement and Protection program (REAP),
 - Dedicated funding for local watershed planning and coordination, including salary and benefits for watershed coordinators,
 - Funding for state agencies and other entities that protect our environment and advance land-use change, including IDNR and the soil and water conservation efforts of the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship,
 - Additional sources of water quality, water monitoring, environmental protection, and public health funding consistent with Council goals and priorities.
- Support policies and programs that incentivize or require conservation practices and/or land-use change that have multiple benefits such as improving soil health, diversifying crops, increasing climate resiliency, creating recreation opportunities, or providing critical wildlife habitat.
- Support policies and regulations that protect drinking water sources and primary recreational waters, including monitoring and testing.
- Oppose policies related to Iowa's water and land that perpetuate systemic racism and inequality and/or result in disproportionate negative impacts on marginalized communities due to water pollution, flood risk, public lands management, or other outcomes under the purview of the Clean Water and Land Stewardship Program's priority areas.

Flood mitigation and climate resiliency

- Support funding for flood mitigation policies and programs that incorporate natural infrastructure solutions to reduce flood impacts and protect communities, such as floodplain reconnection and wetland restoration.
- Support funding for policies and programs that support community and watershed climate and flood mitigation planning.
- Support funding for policies and programs that increase climate resiliency through land-use change, greenhouse gas emission reduction, and carbon sequestration.



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Clean Water and Land Stewardship Legislative Priorities 2022

For the 2022 legislative session, the Clean Water and Land Stewardship Program is focusing advocacy efforts on the following priorities:

- Increase opportunity to implement natural infrastructure, such as floodplain reconnection and wetland restoration, for county-level flood mitigation.
- Establishing a pilot program to track sources of *E. coli* contamination at Iowa's public beaches.
- Funding the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund, with an emphasis on maintaining the original intent and integrity of the constitutional amendment as passed by Iowa voters.
- Expanding the powers of Soil and Water Conservation Districts to include soil erosion control, watershed protection or improvement, water resources restoration, flood prevention or control, and water quality protection projects and operations.