

WEEKLY

WATER WATCH

IOWA ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

There are SIX beach advisories for the week of 8/2

5 Beaches with E.Coli-Related Advisory:

Backbone Beach (*Dundee, Delaware County, IA*)

Lake Ahquabi Beach (*Indianola, Warren County, IA*)

McIntosh Woods Beach (*Ventura, Cerro Gordo County, IA*)

Nine Eagles Beach (*Davis City, Decatur County, IA*)

Prairie Rose Beach (*Harlan, Shelby County, IA*)

1 Beaches with a Microcystin-Related Advisory:

Lake Darling Beach (*Brighton, Washington County, IA*)

Beaches exceeding [the EPA recommendation for microcystin](#) (8 micrograms/L) but not issued an advisory:

Green Valley Beach (*Creston, Union County, IA*)

Lake of Three Fires Beach (*Bedford, Taylor County, IA*)

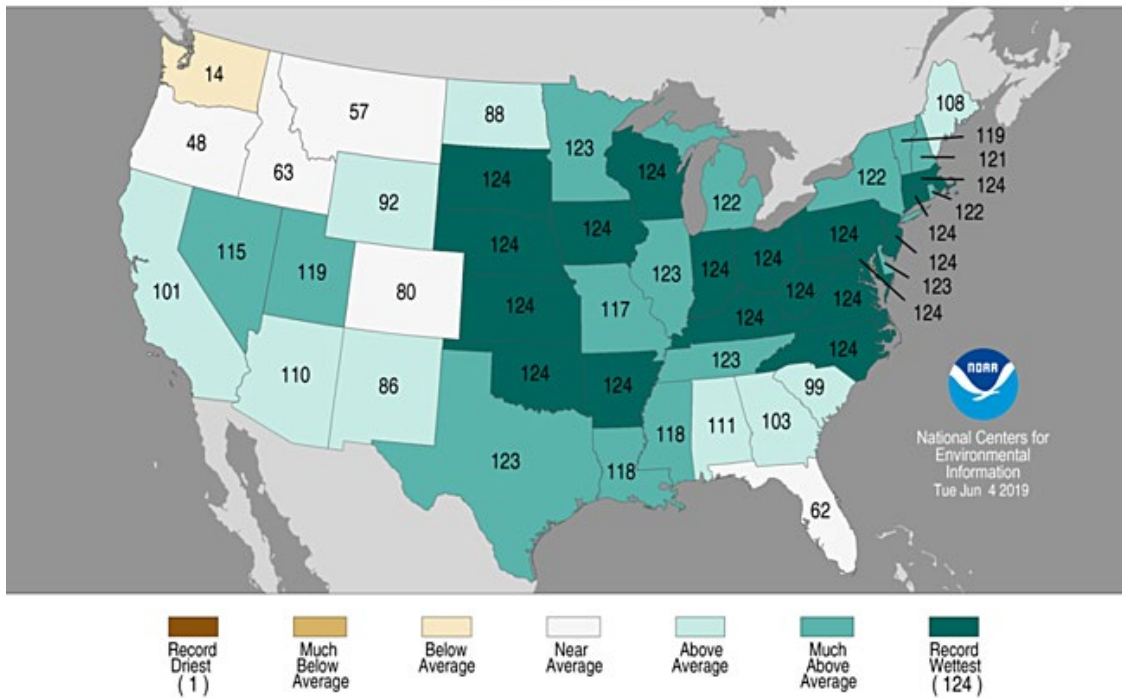
Climate Change and Iowa

As we start to feel the effects of climate change, [Iowa will see increased flooding and droughts.](#)

This year, Iowa has yet again seen record-breaking flooding. From June 2018 to May 2019, the state saw more than 50 inches of rain, [the wettest 12 month period on record](#) since official records began in 1895. With increased precipitation and flooding, cities and towns around the state have been grappling with how to move forward.

But it wasn't just in Iowa – the trend was seen all across the United States.

Statewide Precipitation Ranks
June 2018–May 2019
Period: 1895–2019



U.S. had wettest 12-month period on record. Image courtesy of NOAA.

Davenport, Iowa has had a long and complicated relationship with flooding. While frequently impacted by high water, the city has long since avoided installing a flood wall. A recent [Iowa Public Radio](#)

article notes that National Weather Service Climatologists are urging the city to install the flood wall, citing the potential for even worse flooding.

Yet, the city's identity is intertwined with the river. Building a wall to shut it out doesn't feel right to much of the community. Mayor Frank Klipsch told [Des Moines Register](#), "It's a balance of those things and our commitment, as a community, to say we're not going to put up something that keeps water out of Davenport but also permanently changes the look of our riverfront." With increases in snowfall and rain, flooding is only going to get worse.

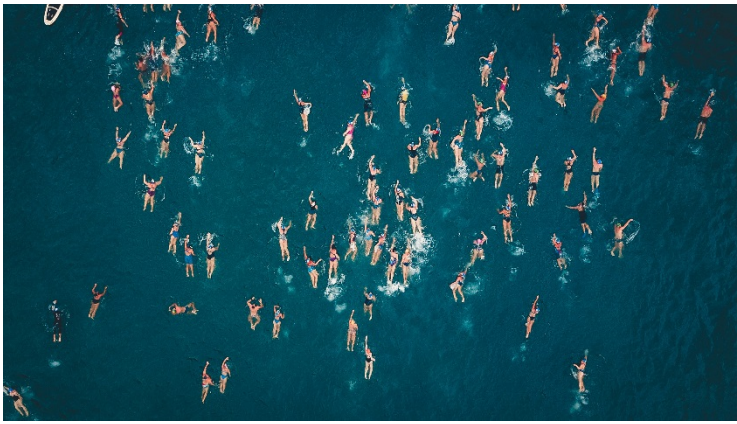
Other options exist for Davenport. Currently, the city relies on a containment system that includes a 305-acre wetland and a wide strip of grass. When the water crests higher than what the wetland can handle, temporary barriers, such as sandbags, are used to help block water. The current system could be expanded, but some critics note that it would require a significant amount of land and could be unreliable. While building a flood wall is an option, so is expanding on the existing containment system.

Since 2008, Davenport has had seven of its histories 15 biggest floods. The most recent flood was estimated to cause [\\$30 million in lost revenue and damages](#). While the state has done a lot for flood prevention, we still have work to do be done.

[Natural flood barriers](#) like buffer strips, bioreactors, saturated buffers, and wetlands help minimize flooding while also improving water quality. As our state begins to grapple with these issues, we can tackle our nutrient pollution problems at the same time as we minimize our flooding.

- Grace Holbrook
IEC Water Program

Stop and Say Hi to IEC this Summer



Like to Swim?

IEC will host a free breakfast celebration at the finish line of the annual Okoboji Point to Point Swim on August 3rd. Encourage friends and family to attend for free food and fun.

[Registration is not required, but helps IEC get an idea of numbers - plus you'll be signed up to win a prize pack!](#) Or if you have it in you, [sign up to swim!](#)



Microcystin: An Alarming Trend

Over the past ten years, the number of annual swim advisories issued for microcystin, a harmful cyanobacteria created by some blue-green algae, by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources has increased dramatically. [Take a look at the historical data of microcystin advisories.](#)



Safe to Swim?

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) conducts weekly monitoring of 39 state park beaches in Iowa for microcystin and E.coli. We're tracking the IDNR weekly monitoring reports - [find out which Iowa state park beaches are currently under swim advisories.](#)



IEC is heading to Okoboji this weekend for the Point to Point swim! Make sure to send your lake photos to @iowawaterwatch!



What's New in Iowa's Water News

[Still recovering from summer floods, Davenport reconsiders a flood wall it has long rejected](#) (*Des Moines Register*)

[Private wells should be tested at least once a year](#) (*High Plains Journal*)

[Volunteers help remove trash, restore waterways during Iowa Project Aware](#) (*The Courier*)

[Dubuque County funding water quality research done by University of Dubuque students](#) (*KCRG*)

[People with private water wells urged to get them tested](#) (*Radio Iowa*)

[Small Towns Fear They Are Unprepared For Future Climate-Driven Flooding](#) (*NPR*)



Upcoming Water Events

[Point to Point Swim and IEC Breakfast on the Beach](#) -

West Lake Okoboji - August 3

[Raccoon River Water Day at Whiterock Conservancy](#) -

Coon Rapids - August 3

[Paddle in the Park](#) - Sturgis Ferry Park - Iowa City - August 5

[Climate Change: Rising to the Challenge](#) - Des Moines -

August 6

[Prairie Lakes Conference](#) - Okoboji - August 8

[Okoboji Blue Water Festival](#) - Arnolds Park - August 10

[Paddle in the Park](#) - Palisades-Kepler State Park - Mount

Vernon - August 12

[Harvesting the Value of Water](#) - Des Moines - August 12

[Des Moines Green Drinks - New Farmers and Fresh Food](#)

- Des Moines - August 15

[River Run Garbage Grab](#) - Saylorville to Yellow Banks Park -

August 16

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