



## CONSERVATION AND FLOOD MITIGATION

In 2015, The Partnership convened the Iowa Soil and Water Future Task Force to outline recommendations to address the state's water quality challenges, with the intention of positioning Iowa agriculture, Iowa communities and Iowa businesses as global leaders in water quality and soil health. Accordingly, The Partnership supports policy and funding that holistically restores and maintains rivers, streams and lakes that provide adventures and peaceful experiences, decrease the negative impacts of flooding and eroded streambanks and improve water quality for drinking and recreation.

Further, The Partnership supports the enactment of legislation and implementation of policy initiatives that will modernize the nation's critically important inland waterway lock and dam infrastructure. The Partnership encourages passage of a water resources development policy conference report once the conference committee negotiations are completed.

### The Partnership Supports:

- Policy and funding that holistically restores and maintains rivers, lakes and streams that provide adventures and peaceful experiences, decrease the negative impacts of flooding and eroded streambanks and improve water quality for drinking and recreation.
- Building a regional connected system of natural resource areas and corridors.
- Policy, funding and practices that help meet Iowa's Hypoxia Task Force goal of 45 percent reductions in nitrogen and phosphorus by 2030.
- Funding and development of an implementation plan and implementation infrastructure for Iowa's nutrient reduction strategy including a "watershed approach" to address water quality problems for nonpoint source pollution that relies on private-public partnerships and collaboration.
- A "culture of measurement" of water quality, including the establishment of measuring and monitoring tools that assist in quantifying environmental benefits of practices and policies.
- Federal funding for the Raccoon River watershed and the inclusion of the watershed as a specific line item in future appropriations bills to allow for dedicated funding.
- Understanding of the value of Watershed Management Authorities and the work executed to develop comprehensive watershed management plans across Iowa.
- The City of Des Moines' efforts to coordinate timely actions with U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) to obtain the necessary approvals, including Section 408, to reduce flood risk in the City.
- Federal funding and determination of required actions to make improvements to the USACE Red Rock Remedial Levee in Southeast Des Moines Levee system to satisfy FEMA accreditation requirements.
- Expanding conservation programs that address environmental challenges including soil erosion, water quality and wildlife habitat, such as the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).
- Continuation and expansion of the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP).
- The precision conservation pilot program which aims to improve soil health and water quality by targeting conservation practices, increased adoption of innovative and effective conservation practices by agricultural producers and the collection of data to measure the effects of precision conservation practices.
- Sustained levels of funding for the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) lab in Ames.