

Iowa Learning Farms Bear Creek Saturated Riparian Buffer Virtual Field Day June 11, 2020

Site Overview:

- Bear Creek watershed, Hamilton and Story Counties
- ~30 square-mile drainage (USGS StreamStats)
- Drains to → Skunk River → Mississippi River → Gulf of Mexico
- Perennial stream (flows year-round), headwaters are drainage tile outlets
- Landcover primarily row crop (forest coverage increases downstream)
- Highly-altered (flashy) hydrology (stream stage responds rapidly to precipitation events)
- Des Moines Lobe (Wisconsin glacial till and Holocene alluvial deposits)
- Soil map unit descriptions: Coland clay loam, 0-2% slopes (forest SRB); Spillville-Coland complex, 0-2% slopes (pollinator SRB) (USDA Web Soil survey)
- Riparian tree species observed: black willow, silver maple, cottonwood, boxelder, black walnut, green ash, swamp white oak, river birch, hackberry, American elm, White mulberry (non-native)
- Bear Creek II pollinator habitat mix contained over 40 native species. The mix was tailored to the riparian soil conditions.

Learn more about saturated buffers:

[“Lessons learned from the Bear Creek Watershed”](#)

[Saturated Buffers: A Nutrient Removal Option for Farmers \(video\)](#)

[Saturated Buffer Step-by-Step: A visual guide to saturated buffer installation](#)

[Clean Water Iowa](#)

Is your site suitable?

[What is the Agricultural Conservation Planning Framework \(ACPF\)](#)

[ACPF--Suitable sites for saturated buffers, statewide](#)

[ACPF—Suitable sites for multiple practices, central Iowa](#)

[USGS StreamStats](#) (look up YOUR watershed!)

[USDA Web Soil Survey](#) (look up YOUR soils!)

Land management resources and assistance:

[ISU Natural Resource Stewardship Extension website \(Water Quality, Wildlife, Forestry\)](#)

[Management of Floodplain Forests publication \(ISU Extension Forestry\)](#)

[ISU Natural Resource Stewardship Extension Interactive Tree ID Guide](#)

[Iowa Department of Natural Resources Forestry](#)

[Prairie Rivers of Iowa \(PRI\)](#)

Financial assistance:

[Iowa NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program \(EQIP\)](#)

[Iowa NRCS Conservation Reserve Program \(CRP\)](#)

[Iowa DNR Resource Conservation and Protection Program \(REAP\)](#)