

Iowa Learning Farms Riparian Forest and Wildlife Habitat Virtual Field Day, May 14, 2020: Forestry and Wildlife Resources

Site overview:

- Onion Creek watershed, Boone and Story Counties
- ~14,000-acre drainage, 42 km of total channel length
- Drains to Squaw Creek → Skunk River → Mississippi River → Gulf of Mexico
- Perennial stream (flows year-round), headwaters are drainage tile outlets
- Landcover 86% 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 description primarily Spillville-Coland complex, 0-2% slopes (wet to well-drained moist / loamy) (USDA Web Soil survey)
- Common riparian tree species observed: black willow, silver maple, cottonwood, sycamore, boxelder, black walnut, bur oak, hackberry, American elm, White mulberry (non-native)
- Invasive species observed: Honeysuckle (*Lonicera* spp.), European buckthorn, Japanese barberry, multiflora rose, autumn olive, garlic mustard

Web resources:

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

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

[ISU Natural Resource Stewardship Extension invasive species webpage](#)

[ISU Natural Resource Stewardship Extension invasive species YouTube series](#)

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

[Iowa Department of Natural Resources Forestry](#)

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

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

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

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

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