



FY2025 Annual Report



Indian Creek

Watershed Management Authority

COOPERATION • FLOOD MANAGEMENT • CLEAN WATER

MISSION STATEMENT

The Indian Creek Watershed Management Authority (ICWMA) is a cooperative agreement among the jurisdictions within the watershed to provide a framework for watershed level planning and management. Watershed Management Authorities have the ability to conduct watershed assessments, implement watershed improvement projects, and educate communities about flood risk and water quality concerns. Our goal is to increase communication and coordination within the Indian Creek Watershed to reduce flood risk and improve water quality.

VISION STATEMENT

The members of the ICWMA have agreed to engage in watershed level planning and management with a goal to support communication and coordination within the Indian Creek watershed to reduce flood risk and improve water quality.

MEMBERS

Cedar Rapids
Linn County
Marion
Robins
Hiawatha
Linn County Soil and Water Conservation District

FY26 GOALS

Quarterly Board Meetings

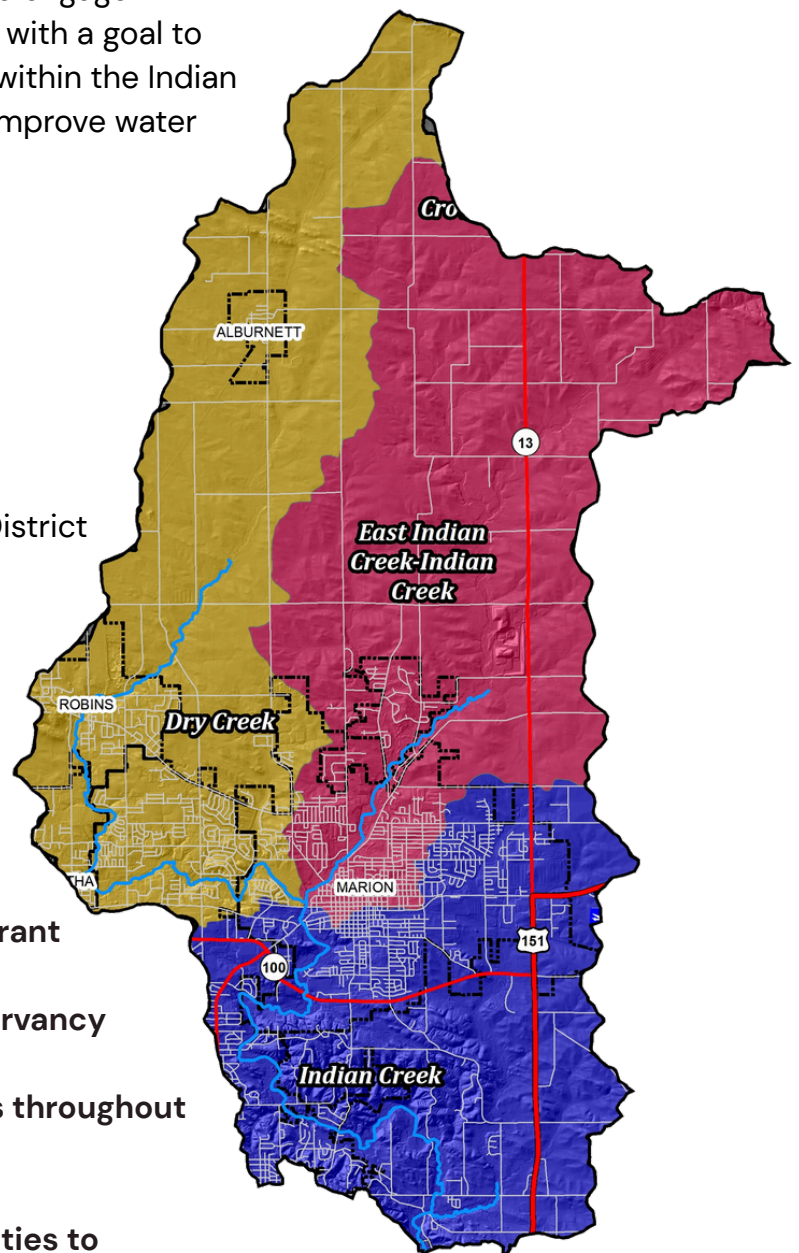
- July 9th, 2025
- October 8th, 2025
- January 14th, 2026
- April 8th, 2025

Apply for IDNR Watershed Plan Update Grant

Restore an oxbow with The Nature Conservancy

Continue to support water quality efforts throughout the watershed

Continue to search for funding opportunities to support action within the watershed



What we're up to in the Indian Creek Watershed

Indian Creek Watershed Management Authority (ICWMA)

Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Signage Grant

The ICWMA received a grant from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources to install signage throughout the Indian Creek watershed. The goal of this grant is to connect residents with their watershed, to improve the health of the community and water. Each WMA member participated in installing signs, and they can now be seen throughout the watershed!

Oxbow Restoration Exploration

The ICWMA is exploring potential sites within the watershed to do an oxbow restoration. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is highly skilled in identifying sites, conducting the restoration and is a valued partner to the ICWMA. This past year, the WMA has been working with TNC to identify sites and potential funding opportunities to restore an oxbow in the Indian Creek Watershed. Oxbows are important because they store excess water that might otherwise lead to flooding, filter water to improve water quality and provide habitat to a variety of wildlife.

United States Geological Survey (USGS) Stream Gage on Indian Creek

Since 2021, the Indian Creek WMA has sponsored a stream gage on Indian Creek, monitored by the United States Geological Survey. This stream gage measures streamflow on Indian Creek. This fiscal year, ICWMA renewed their contract with USGS for three more years, providing streamflow information on Indian Creek until 2028. This information is publicly accessible and can be located on the ICWMA website.

In FY26, ICWMA plans to continue building partnerships that educate the community on how crucial it is to protect our watershed, as well as supporting and initiating projects that clean the watershed.



What we're up to in the Indian Creek Watershed

Linn County Soil Health Partnership

Linn County and ICWMA have a partnership to provide quarterly updates to the board on the state of Indian Creek, and to provide educational outreach and conservation practice implementation throughout the watershed. Below is a list of all the great work the watershed coordinator was able to complete this year. Thank you for your great work, Marissa!

- Hosted a field Day at Lowe Park
- Was featured on the 'Garden Wisdom Podcast'
- Assisted with two oxbows being installed in Indian Creek
- Assisted with two raingardens being installed in Marion
- Assisted with 1,755 acres of cover crop being established
- Taught two soil health classes at Kirkwood
- Hosted 'Conversations about Conservation' meeting
- Was featured in a Gazette Article about watershed efforts
- Posted a blog post on ICWMA website for 'World Water Day'
- Attended the 'Winter Gardening Fair'
- Presented at a Farm Bureau meeting
- Wrote an article for 'Life in the Soil' about the upcoming Batch and Build project
- Had educational booths at Ecofest, Ag in the Park Day, and the Linn County Fair Youth Day
- Presented the Linn County Agriculture and Watershed Sustainability 2025 Update to IDALS



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World Water Day - March 22nd

For World Water Day, March 22nd, we welcome you to celebrate wetlands. Wetland systems come in a variety of shapes and forms and provide wildlife habitat, improve water quality, and increase water storage during flood events. Redirecting agricultural tile drainage into wetlands allows natural processes to remove nutrients from the water before it can travel downstream.



A nutrient reduction wetland constructed in partnership with the Linn Solid Waste Agency in the Indian Creek Watershed.

Oxbows are wetlands formed by old stream meanders. Over time, these can fill in with soil and no longer function properly. Many local programs to restore oxbows in Linn County can cover up to 100% of construction costs and provide incentives to landowners for each tile outlet treated. For more information on constructed wetland and oxbow restoration cost share opportunities, please contact Linn County Soil Conservation (319-377-5960 ext. 3) or email Marissa.carter@icwma.net.



An aerial image of a recently restored oxbow completed in partnership with a local farmer.

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14 views · 0 comments

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What we're up to in the Indian Creek Watershed

Members Updates

- Linn County and Cedar Rapids have established a water monitoring partnership, with the goal to make water quality data more publicly accessible
- Marion Creekside Pride* hosted an Indian Creek clean-up day at Thomas Park
- Cedar Rapids hosted a Partnership Appreciation Day through their Source Water Partnership
 - 3 bioreactors, 6 saturated buffers have been installed throughout Indian Creek
- Cedar Rapids Wastewater had a team trash pick-up day
- Hiawatha installed streambank stabilization projects along Dry Creek

**Creekside Pride is a plan created by the City of Marion to better and encourage recreation in the Indian Creek Watershed*



**Thank you for your continued support of
the Indian Creek Watershed Management
Authority!**

ECICOG Hiawatha!™



Indian Creek
Watershed Management Authority

This report covers July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025. For more information please contact Alyssa Comer, alyssa.comer@ecicog.org, 319-289-0946, or visit our website: <https://www.indiancreekwma.org/>