

# Iowa Rivers Revival

## 2019 Legislative Priorities

Iowa Rivers Revival (IRR) is a statewide leader in river advocacy and education. IRR is committed to protecting some of our most precious natural resources – our rivers and streams. We are working to engage individuals, organizations, communities and elected officials in river awareness, responsibility and enjoyment in an effort to improve and enhance the condition of Iowa's rivers and streams.

### **IRR supports increased funding for state funded river-related natural resources programs.**

- *We advocate reinstating the Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure appropriation to support Low-Head Dam Mitigation and Water Trails. The Iowa DNR Rivers Program provides funding to support a range of projects around the state resulting in community revitalization. We recommend that a minimum of one million dollars be allocated to assist communities with safety concerns, habitat improvement, and recreational development in and along rivers.*

### **For a holistic and watershed-based approach, we support the establishment and support for a statewide river restoration program for Iowa.**

### **We support a commitment to funding improvements for water quality and protecting and conserving Iowa soil.**

- *Preserve REAP, Environment First and other natural resources programs.*
  - IRR supports a \$20 million appropriation to fully fund the Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) program in 2018. REAP provides essential funding for soil and water conservation, habitat protection and recreation resources. These grant resources have been critical to IRR in funding programs, such as the Master River Stewards Program. We support extending the REAP sunset date to 2035 as recommended by the REAP Congress
- *Working together to fund the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund.*
  - Raise the state sales tax by 3/8th of one cent to provide a reliable and consistent revenue stream for the Iowa Water and Land Legacy (IWILL). This funding would generate close to \$180 million annually, over 60% of which would go towards water quality issues.

### **For more information, visit the links below:**

- <http://www.iowaswaterandlandlegacy.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/The-Trust-Funds-Formula-2017-Update.pdf>
- <http://www.iowadnr.gov/Conservation/REAP>
- <http://www.iowadnr.gov/Things-to-Do/Canoeing-Kayaking/Low-Head-Dams>



**Helping Iowans restore, protect, and enjoy our rivers.**

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