

Partners of Scott County Watersheds 2021 Newsletter



Our Mission is to improve the stewardship of Scott County watersheds through education, technical guidance, and volunteer opportunities.

Who We Are

Since 2003, the group has been improving water quality and working toward flood reduction in Scott County by providing residents, landowners, developers, environmental organizations, educators, and government officials with education, technical support, and financial assistance to promote and install best management practices.

Our History



In 1990, 1993 & 1995, severe flooding occurred on Scott County urban streams. This flooding was a result of the conventional methods being used to deal with storm water. These events and concerns with water quality in Scott County streams led to the formation of the Partners of Scott County Watersheds, an alliance committed to developing and implementing ways all citizens can be better stewards of our watersheds.

PSCW Board Members

Coordinator: Kelsi Massengale

Chair: Amy Kay

Vice Chair: Steve Gustafson

Secretary: Heather Ballou

Treasurer: Carter Amundsen

Rob DePover

Brinson Kinzer

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Mike Paustian

Kay Pence

Lisa Reisen

Brian Ritter

Jim Hoepner, Emeritus Board Member | Tim Huey, Emeritus Board Member

FROM THE BOARD CHAIR



With the wonderful support for Partners from volunteers, municipal and community partnerships, along with Members and other donors we were able to have another wonderful year!

We had the delightful opportunity to onboard a new Coordinator, Kelsi, early in the year and she hit the ground running planning our events and managing grant funds. We were also honored to have Carter join our Board as Treasurer.

Through yet another year of the COVID-19 pandemic, Partners was honored to have so many volunteers from our communities participate in our Snapshot water quality monitoring events and

reach record numbers of students and adults through our virtual educational forums, workshops and other outreach efforts. The recently adopted Crow Creek Wildlife Management Area also received some outstanding volunteer efforts, with a tree sinking day for fish habitat, an Earth Day cleanup, and a fall brush removal day. We were also able to participate with 11 communities throughout the county with August Water Quality Month proclamations and organized trash cleanups.

We will continue to improve and expand our volunteer and education events in 2022. We will also continue our research partnerships with St. Ambrose University and Augustana College to collect watershed data and E. coli studies. We couldn't continue this work without all of you! There is a lot to be done and we are proud to invest our time and energy in this work. We thank all of you for your continued support and look forward to working with you to improve all of Scott County's watersheds.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amy Kay".

FROM THE COORDINATOR

Hello! This has been my first year with PSCW, and what a great year it has been! I started as the Coordinator in April, right in the thick of cleanups, grants, and Snapshot planning, and I'm not sure I've slowed down since!

The past year has been full of so many amazing opportunities and experiences. From graduating with my master's degree to planning workshops to coordinating city proclamations, it has certainly been a busy year!

I'm so grateful for the Board's support, guidance, and patience as I've navigated this new role, and look forward to continuing to grow PSCW with them in 2022 and beyond.

Kelsi Massengale



2021 SUCCESS STORIES

While navigating a new normal and bringing on a new coordinator, PSCW continued to provide education, technical guidance, and volunteer opportunities to Scott County. Here are some of this year's highlights!



- Reached nearly 2000 people through education with forums, outreach, and workshops.
- Engaged 280 eighth grade students in water quality monitoring and careers in STEM at the Bettendorf Middle School field day.
- Had 245 volunteers at community cleanups and Snapshots.
- Removed almost 90 bags of trash from waterways and water fronts!
- Worked with several local organizations including Spring Forward and Living Lands and Waters to host a "Floating Classroom" for 25 sixth grade students!
- Provided 8 communities with pet waste stations to reduce fecal bacteria and nitrogen pollution.
- Spread awareness of water quality and PSCW with Water Quality Stewardship Month proclamations in 10 Scott County communities.
- Received over \$16,000 through grants to fund water quality improvement projects!
- Conducted 5 site visits to private land owners to provide assistance in water quality improvements.
- Participated in the Mississippi River Plastic Pollution Initiative to collect data and remove trash from the community.
- Partnered with St. Ambrose to monitor water quality at Robin Creek bio filters.

2021 FORUMS



Like the rest of the world, PSCW faced a new normal this year, adapting as we went. For our forums, that meant virtual presentations! As much as we missed seeing everyone in person, hosting virtually allowed us to reach a new audience and record these presentations for later viewing and sharing. Despite the occasional technical difficulties along the way, we had a great year of amazing speakers and interesting topics. Thank you to this year's speakers!

We hope to bring back in-person forums in 2022, but plan to continue to offer a virtual option for those who can't be there. Be on the lookout for next year's speakers and topics!

Recordings of these presentations are available on our [YouTube page!](#)

DATE	SPEAKER	TOPIC
February	Jared McGovern	Freshwater Mussel Restoration Program
March	Jennifer Turner	Soil Health and Improvement Projects
April	Judy Joyce	If You Clean It, They Will Come: Dyersville Streambank Restoration
May	Carole Teator	Iowa Landowner Options– For Those Who Follow
June	Dave Murcia	Water Stewardship During Recreation Activities
July	Brian Ritter	Finding Creative Ways to Fund Conservation
August	Jimmy Wiebler	LSAMP Blanding's Turtle Research
September	Marc Miller	West Lake Park Restoration Project
October	Ray Wolf	Landscaping for Water Quality Improvement
November	PSCW Executive Board	PSCW 2021 Report

We want to especially thank Bryan Glanz for all his help facilitating these virtual programs. We couldn't have done it without you!

2021 SNAPSHOTS

A Snapshot is a day of water quality monitoring, which altogether, provides a 'snapshot' of the water quality conditions around Scott County.

This year was yet another great year of testing, with nearly 100 Snapshot volunteers throughout our spring, summer, and fall events! For all three Snapshots, chemical water quality data was collected at 62 sites, providing representative data for each of the major watersheds in the county. Additionally, 10 sites were surveyed for benthic macroinvertebrate populations during the summer Snapshot to determine the index of biological integrity and indicative water quality status. Lab analyses were also conducted for nitrate, nitrite, orthophosphate, herbicide, pesticide, and microbial source tracking for fecal matter throughout all the events.

This year, with the help of Eastern Iowa Community Colleges and the Scott County GIS team, PSCW started collected data using a mobile app and tablets. This has greatly increased our ability to collect and analyze Snapshot data— see it for yourself at www.scottcountyiowa.maps.arcgis.com!

Starting in the summer, we were able to utilize another new piece of equipment: Hach Pocket Pro meters! Pictured on the right, these small meters provide detailed readings on water temperature, pH, total dissolved solids, salinity, and conductivity. The Pocket Pro meters have increased our range of tests and improved data accuracy — *thank you Nahant Marsh for lending these meters to PSCW!*



Finally, we received a grant from the Regional Development Authority, and with these funds were able to purchase a Hach Colorimeter. This meter provides much more accurate readings for orthophosphate levels than our previous method of in-field color comparators.



Snapshot Findings

Data from this year's Snapshots indicate that there are concerns for nitrate, phosphate, and chloride level trends in both rural and urban streams, along with concerns for fecal bacteria. Transparency has somewhat undesirable trends, with a few streams of greater concern. pH is good, but seems to be trending slightly higher, and dissolved oxygen is generally in range with a few streams of concern.

Overall, most of our streams originate within the borders of Scott County, so it is up to us to address these concerns and improve the health of our watersheds!

WHAT'S NEXT?

2021 has been a busy and exciting year for PSCW, and we plan to continue that momentum into 2022. Here are some of next year's plans!

- Work with Davenport and Bettendorf to create small boat and fishing access points along Duck Creek.
- Install stream and watershed education signage along the Duck Creek Parkway, including three geological interpretive signs in Devil's Glen park.
- Coordinate the first annual member appreciation float and picnic.
- Continue to partner with St. Ambrose University and Augustana College for research projects.
- Provide outreach and educational programming to K-12 students.
- Encourage and assist landowners and citizens to help address water quality concerns.
- Create a digital platform for macroinvertebrate data collection.
- Provide Scott County communities with additional pet waste stations.
- Continue habitat restoration and improvement at Crow Creek WMA.



PSCW UPCOMING EVENTS

QCCA FLOWER & GARDEN SHOW

Stop by our booth **March 24-27** at the Flower & Garden Show at the QCCA Expo Center to learn all about natives and landscaping for water quality.

EARTH DAY

Keep an eye out as we approach **April 22** for a PSCW Earth Day event!

POND MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

Join us in the **spring** for our second pond management workshop, where we'll cover best practices to maintain a healthy pond.

STREAMBANK STABILIZATION WORKSHOP

Learn about erosion, control practices, and advancements in the field with our **fall workshop!**

SNAPSHOTS

Participate in a day of citizen science as we collect water quality data from streams throughout the county. Spend a morning outdoors and enjoy a free lunch after! Snapshots are from **8am-12pm** on **May 3, July 16, and October 4.**

FORUMS

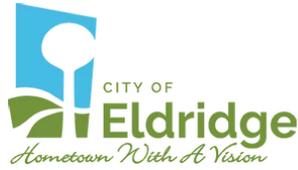
Listen to local experts share about water quality, improvement projects, and conservation news from 12-1pm every third Tuesday of the month, **February through November.**

CLEANUPS

Help improve the local waterways with a community cleanup to help remove trash and other debris. Cleanups are held **year-round**; contact us to schedule one for your community!

Would you like a representative from Partners of Scott County Watersheds to speak to your group in 2022? We welcome any opportunity to share our mission and our services, as well as educate the public about water quality issues. Email us at info@partnersofscottcountywatersheds.org or call 563-336-3378 to schedule a presentation.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



Small Frye Farm
Cal Werner
Jerry Mohr



2021 Members

Carter Amundsen
Heather Ballou
Cassie Druhl
Mona Druhl
Jolinda Eggers
Mike Ernster

Angie Gustafson
Steve Gustafson
Amy Kay and Family
Gary Kerosky
Brinson Kinzer and Family
Ed Kocal

Joel Mohr
Linda Molyneaux
Josh Patterson
Mike Paustian
Mike and Kay Pence
Brian Ritter and Family

Damion Sadd
Liz Schramm and Family
Jen Walker
Brian Wessel and Family
Claire Wilson and Family

GET INVOLVED

BECOME A MEMBER

Show that you value healthy watersheds in your community!

Student: \$20
Individual: \$40
Family \$70

FOLLOW US!

@Partners of Scott County Watersheds



JOIN OUR EMAIL LIST

Be the first to know about our activities and events

CLICK HERE TO SUBSCRIBE

Learn more at <https://www.partnersofscottcountywatersheds.org/>

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