



**Maquoketa River Watershed Management Authority
Informational Video – Film Script
Spring 2022**

Water is our most important and crucial resource. From recreational opportunities like canoeing down the Maquoketa or fishing in Lake Delhi, to supporting our agricultural economy and protecting our natural ecosystems, water is essential to our social, environmental and economic well-being. In eastern Iowa, water supports our livelihoods and defines our shared identity.

Of course, water can also be very disruptive to our daily lives. Major floods have washed away bridges, interrupted commerce, and caused millions of dollars in property damage. Unfortunately, floods can also result in loss of life.

Access to clean water and protection from major disasters isn't something we should take for granted. We have to preserve and protect our natural resources, and all of us have a role to play. Watershed management is the way we work together across city and county boundaries to ensure that this important resource can sustain our communities for future generations.

A watershed isn't just our rivers and streams. It includes all the surrounding land that drains into the same basin. The Maquoketa River Watershed covers more than 1 million acres across nine counties. Streams forming in northern parts of the watershed around Strawberry Point, Luxemburg, and Peosta merge together and flow south, rolling through Manchester, Monticello, and Dyersville, then passing through Maquoketa until finally draining into the Mississippi River.

Communities across the Maquoketa River watershed recognized the need to work together to protect our water resources and, in 2017, the Maquoketa River Watershed Management Authority was formed.

The Maquoketa River Watershed Management Authority, or WMA, established four key goals:

- Improve water quality. This often means nutrient management, erosion reduction, and increased infiltration of water into our soil.
- Improve watershed flood management, with actions like capturing storm water on site and being careful about developing in the floodplain
- Preserve, protect and improve ecologically sensitive habitats and ecosystems in the watershed, which protects plants and wildlife.
- And finally, to increase watershed awareness, so that we all understand how to protect this essential natural resource.

Whether you are a farmer, homeowner, elected official, or even a visitor to the area, we can all do our part to protect our waters and our watershed.

Examples of things you can do include:

- Planting native grasses to reduce soil erosion
- Avoid mowing near streams or ponds to help strengthen streambanks
- Regularly cleaning storm drains and curbside debris
- Testing drinking wells regularly
- Installing rain gardens

And this is just to name a few.

Most importantly, we encourage you to join us in advocating for clean water and increasing awareness about the importance of this crucial natural resource.

To learn more about the Maquoketa River Watershed and what you can do to help, visit maquoektariverwma.com.