

Polk County

Board of Supervisors Office News



For Immediate Release

April 14, 2023

Polk County Awards \$250,000 To Iowa Rivers Revival Funds Multi-Year Cleanup Effort of 250 Miles of River & Stream Shoreline

DES MOINES, IA – The Polk County Board of Supervisors on Friday announced a \$250,000 grant for a water restoration effort in Central Iowa. The funds awarded to Iowa Rivers Revival will have a direct impact on cleaning 250 miles of river and stream shoreline in Polk County for years to come.

The \$250,000 investment will be one of many conservation efforts undertaken by Polk County with funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) passed by Congress and signed by President Biden in 2021. The funds, presented to Iowa Rivers Revival (IRR), will ensure a series of coordinated river cleanup events throughout Polk County each year for the next three years. IRR will use the funds to help educate and engage Iowans on issues relating to clean water and river stewardship practices.

“Clean water is something we all have a personal connection to and because of this transformational investment by Polk County, Iowa Rivers Revival will be at the forefront of the fight for water quality here in partnership with 15+ coalitional partners who are ready to roll up our sleeves and do the work,” says Luke Hoffman, Executive Director of IRR. “We have already started organizing a series of river cleanups through our Service Squad Program and invite all Polk County residents who care about our rivers to join us in cleaning up our rivers and streams.”

The impact of this partnership includes:

- Ability of IRR to conduct 8-10 river cleanups each year for at least 3 years.
- Ability for residents of Polk County to participate in local river cleanups.
- Opportunities to engage in family friendly water quality activities.

Polk County Board Chair Tom Hockensmith says, “I am encouraged by the spirit and determination of everyday Iowans who are willing to show up and do something to secure clean, useful waterways. Our rivers and streams are a treasure and we know that this is an opportunity to talk about how water quality impacts all of us. We are proud to award IRR this grant so we can work to improve water quality in a strategic and meaningful way.”

A series kickoff is planned at Big Grove Brewery April 14th from 5-7pm. The program includes a \$250,000 award announcement and remarks by local public officials, IRR staff and stakeholders. (*Live Stream available*) starting at 6PM: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FUB3GnTbXas>

Iowa Rivers Revival is a statewide nonprofit leading Iowans in protecting, restoring and enjoying our rivers and streams. We envision healthy, free-flowing rivers that connect Iowa’s communities and provide access for all to use and enjoy. More information is available at: www.IowaRivers.org