

SQUAW CREEK WATERSHED COALITION SPONSORS SECOND ANNUAL IOWATER SNAPSHOT EVENT

Over thirty volunteers gathered on May 12th to participate in the Squaw Creek Watershed's second IOWATER snapshot. This event, held in conjunction with the statewide IOWATER snapshot, proved to be a huge success as fifty-six locations throughout the watershed were sampled. That number is a ten site increase from the first snapshot held last fall. IOWATER—DNR's volunteer ambient monitoring program, holds these events throughout the year to provide a picture of water quality in the state on a given day, relying on volunteer sampling groups such as the Squaw Creek Watershed Coalition.

Volunteers, including 25 IOWATER certified samplers, gathered in Brookside Park in Ames, Iowa to be assigned sample sites and supplies. By early afternoon all samples were returned and sent off to the Hygienic Lab in Ankeny, Iowa for nutrient and bacteria analysis.

Results of the snapshot will also contribute to the Squaw Creek watershed assessment being conducted by the Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Boone, Hamilton, and Story Counties. This assessment is funded by a grant from the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship – Division of Soil Conservation and is intended to provide planning, assessment, and partnership-building that will lead to more successful and sustainable long-term projects within the watershed.

Results from the snapshot will be posted on the Squaw Creek Watershed Coalition's website at www.squawcreekwatershed.org. Thanks to all of the volunteers that helped make this year's spring snapshot a huge success!