



PRAIRIE RIVERS *of Iowa*

March 2021

Greetings,

Prairie Rivers of Iowa has been hard at work making a difference! Just to update you on our recent work and accomplishments over the last 12 months:

- Continued work on a National Fish and Wildlife project to increase habitat on private land in Story County.
- Assisting the Soil and Water Conservation Districts on special projects in Boone, Story and Hamilton Counties.
- Worked with 24 local organizations to develop a Story County Water Monitoring 10-Year Plan in 2020. In 2021, facilitating the implementation of the plan.
- Facilitated watershed planning and management along with the Squaw (recently named Ioway) Creek Watershed Management Authority.
- Serve on the Iowa River Watershed Coalition.
- Serve as a supporting partner on the Headwaters of the South Skunk Watershed Management Authority.
- Continue to provide ACPF and GIS watershed mapping services on various projects such as mapping for all the watersheds in Calhoun and Plymouth counties in Iowa.
- Operating a prairie seed bank since the fall of 2019 distributing Iowa native seeds to landowners free-of-charge that have improved or restored over 190 acres of prairie throughout Central Iowa.

In addition, we have some exciting webinars and events you may want to catch. Visit our website prrcd.org and click on Events and Programs to view a current schedule. For example, we are featuring Creating High-Quality Habitat for Iowa's Pollinators and Wildlife and Citizen Science Opportunities soon. Keep checking back for new programs and be sure to stop and see us during the City of Ames North River Valley Park Low Head Dam ribbon-cutting ceremony on Saturday, May 1st.

So much important work to be done to preserve and restore native habitat!

Can you help us continue these important efforts by making a gift today to support our work?

Our goal is to raise \$3000 by April 15th.

[Please click here or visit prrcd.org/donate to make your gift.](http://prrcd.org/donate)

Thank you,

Penny Brown Huber, Executive Director



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**Right now native plants, pollinators,
and wildlife in Iowa need your help!**

Did you know?

- To seed one acre of land with native plants beneficial to pollinators and wildlife the cost ranges from \$150/acre to nearly \$3,000/acre depending on the diversity of the ecosystem that is being developed.
- The cost for a not-for-profit like Prairie Rivers of Iowa to consult with landowners and develop a habitat management plan for pollinators and wildlife can range from \$600 for a four-acre plan to \$1200 for a plan covering 150 acres.
- There are over 100 species of native butterflies and 400 species of native bees in Iowa needing prairie, woodland, oak savanna, and wetland native habitat. Many of these along with other mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians are considered species of greatest conservation need.
- Bumblebees only travel about one-quarter to one mile away from their nest before they need to stop and feed.
- Butterflies can only travel a couple of square miles before they need to rest and feed upon available nectar. Developing new habitat nearby gives them the ability to reach new sources of food and shelter.
- Habitat loss is the main cause of pollinator species decline in Iowa. Since its settlement, Iowa's prairies have been reduced by 99.9%; forests in Iowa have decreased from 18% in total land cover to now only 8%.

[Your gift today helps the work continue!](#)
[Thank you!](#)

