

Watershed Study

Sink Creek Watershed – Black Hawk County, Iowa

City of Waterloo

Black Hawk County, Iowa

2010-2011

The Sink Creek Watershed is located in Black Hawk County, and contains Sink Creek which joins the Cedar River. The creek drains over eight square miles, or 5,330 square acres of watershed. Sink Creek Watershed lies within the city limits of Waterloo, and is dominated by agricultural land. EarthView Environmental, Inc. (EVE) provided water sample testing and physical stream assessments for the watershed study.

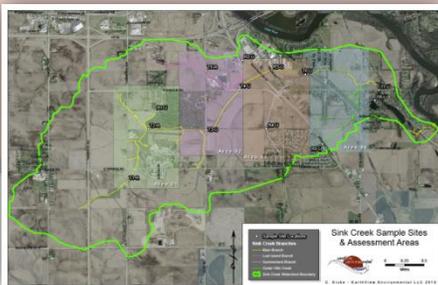
Water testing sites were identified as ten “urban” sites and three “rural” sites. A summary of field observations were provided to be used as a guide for future testing.

Field data was collected using a handheld Trimble GeoXH GPS receiver. Base data was used along with the RASCAL (Rapid Assessment of Stream Conditions Along Length) program which is a GPS based stream assessment tool developed by the Iowa DNR. Data was summarized in a series of nine maps, including water testing sites, RASCAL assessment points, bank erosion, nick points, and point-of-interest locations. These maps provide visual location information for ease of understanding the geographic layout, and are provided in a geo-PDF format that provides geo-referencing (latitude/longitude) information and all point attribute data.

All water testing was done using the IOWATER protocol and follows the sample collection, sample transport and streamside procedures as outlined in the IOWATER QAPP and the Johnson and Iowa County Watershed Coalition QAPP.

Four types of testing were performed:

- Stream Side Testing
- Basic Lab Analysis
- Trace Metals Lab Analysis
- Benthic Macroinvertebrate



Robinson Engineering Company (REC) teamed up with EarthView Environmental to complete the Watershed Assessment. While REC provided the social and engineering services, EVE provided the physical and chemical components of the assessment evaluating stream conditions, water quality and management practices. The results helped to acknowledge what is working and what is hindering the environmental health of the watershed. Conducting a thorough investigation of the Sink Creek Watershed, EVE contributed recommendations and guidelines to help ensure a cleaner watershed. Recommendations included, comprehensive water testing during all four seasons, location-specific observations and recommendations, and site specific stream assessment recommendations.

Client References:

At Robinson Engineering Company

Name: Monica Smith, PE, CPESC, CESSWI
Engineer

Address: 5751 Westminster Drive
Cedar Falls, IA 50613

Phone: (319)859-0293

Email: monica.robins@cfu.net

EarthView Environmental, Inc. 319-358-2542

For more information go to: www.EarthViewEnvironmental.com