

# Clarke County Watershed Project

## Early Coordination Information

Clarke County Squaw Creek Watershed Project, Clarke County, Iowa

Watershed Plan – Environmental Document (Plan-ED)

August 2021

## Sponsor

The Osceola Water Works Board of Trustees (Board) and the Clarke County Reservoir Commission (CCRC) have been planning for a new surface water reservoir to supplement the water supply for Clarke County, Iowa for over 30 years. The Board began this planning effort in the late 1980's and the CCRC continued the planning effort after its formation in 2003. The CCRC is an intergovernmental entity created under Chapter 28E, Code of Iowa, 2001, which includes the following members:

- City of Osceola, Iowa
- Osceola Water Works Board of Trustees
- City of Murray, Iowa
- City of Woodburn, Iowa
- Clarke County, Iowa
- Southern Iowa Rural Water Association

In coordination with the US Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), CCRC is initiating the preparation of a Watershed Plan and Environmental Document (Plan-ED) for the Squaw Creek watershed in Clarke County, Iowa.

## Overview

The project includes updating the Watershed Plan – Environmental Impact Statement (Plan-EIS) of August 2013 developed by CCRC which was an update of the Plan-EIS of May 2011 developed by NRCS. The NRCS is the lead federal agency for the update.

This Watershed Project Plan-ED will identify, study, and address the resource concerns in the watershed that include providing adequate public water supply for rural communities and agricultural operations, stream degradation, flooding, increased baseflow in streams due to urban development (hydromodification), and water quality impacts due to nutrient and sediment loading.

The principal objective of this agreement is to provide the CCRC and NRCS with a Plan-ED for the Clarke County Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations (WFPO) Program Watershed Project to meet requirements for technical assistance and funding for the purpose of implementing necessary, eligible watershed protection measures to meet the purposes of the

Clarke County WFPO Watershed Project. The watershed project area is approximately 18,360 acres in the Squaw Creek Watershed and specifically targets improvement of the agricultural, including rural communities, water supply for the Cities of Osceola, Murray, and Woodburn; and rural areas within the service area of the Southern Iowa Rural Water Association (SIRWA).

## Anticipated Impacts

A wide spectrum of resources will be evaluated including floodplains, fish and wildlife (including threatened or endangered species) habitat, water quality, recreation, public safety, infrastructure and the built environment, socioeconomic resources, cultural resources, noise, and air quality. Impacts may vary depending on the design elements of the project. Potential impacts will be determined as planning activities continue.

## Funding

The WFPO Program helps units of federal, state, local and tribal government (project sponsors) protect and restore watersheds up to 250,000 acres. NRCS offers financial and technical assistance through this program.

Primary elements of participation in the WFPO program includes:

- Evaluation of options to protect watersheds and vital infrastructure from erosion, floodwater, and sediment.
- NRCS technical assistance with the project feasibility report and the preliminary investigation for flood prevention and other resource concerns.
- NRCS provides financial and technical assistance in planning, design, and construction.
- Can receive up to 100% Federal funding for planning, engineering, and construction depending on the project type.

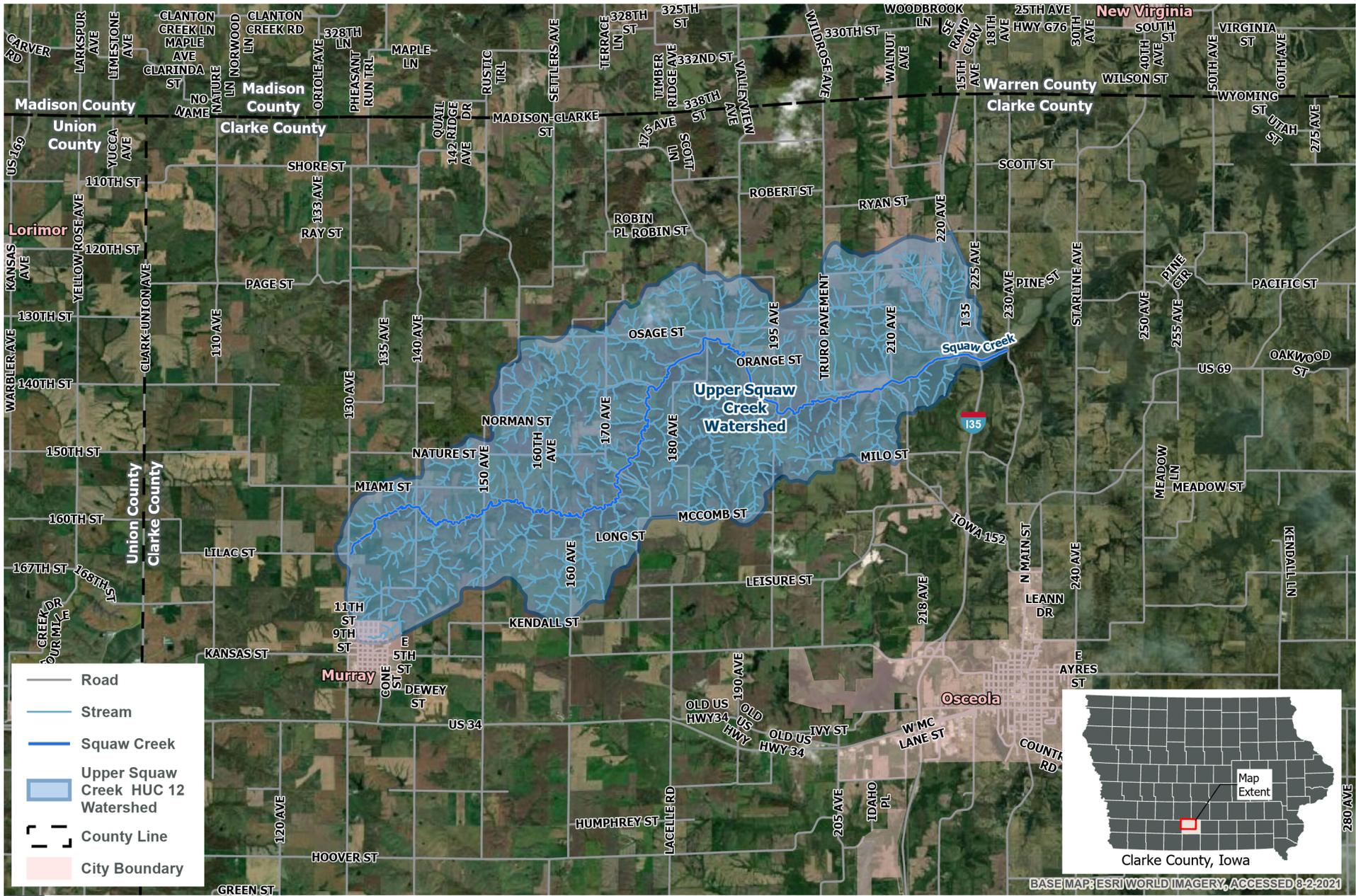
Current regulations governing development of federally funded projects require early coordination with units of government who may have interests in the project or its potential impacts. This is intended to provide early notification of the proposed project and to solicit comments regarding the potential impacts of such an action. Several federal, state, and local agencies will also be contacted directly to request their early input as part of the project impact identification process. Agencies are requested to provide input in their area of expertise to guide the planning process.

## Schedule

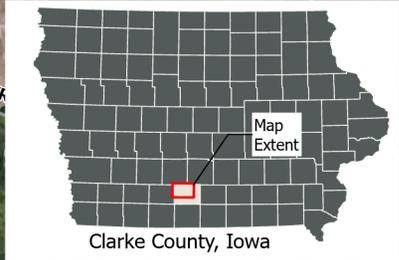
The project team takes several steps to analyze the project area and determine what needs to be included in the final Watershed Plan-ED. This process began in July 2021 and will continue until the publication of the final Environmental Document, anticipated to occur in 2022.

In addition to this early coordination, the process of developing the Watershed Plan-ED involves opportunities for public, as well as agency comment. The public scoping meeting will be held during a CCRC meeting on August 19, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. The meeting is located at the Clarke County Development Corporation, 115 East Washington Street, Osceola, IA 50213. The City of

Osceola will host public information on its website at <https://osceolaia.net/>. Once the Draft Watershed Plan-ED is prepared, there will be another public meeting with an opportunity to review and provide comment on the Watershed Plan-ED. If you need additional information, please contact Erica at [erica.petersohn@southerniowarcd.org](mailto:erica.petersohn@southerniowarcd.org) or Dave at [dave.beck@southerniowarcd.org](mailto:dave.beck@southerniowarcd.org) or by calling either 641-782-4033 or 515-556-9236.



- Road
- Stream
- Squaw Creek
- Upper Squaw Creek HUC 12 Watershed
- County Line
- City Boundary



BASEMAP: ESRI WORLD IMAGERY, ACCESSED 8-2-2021

**CLARKE COUNTY WATERSHED PROJECT AREA**  
 NRCS WFPO WATERSHED PLAN-ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT  
 Figure 1

