



COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING
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Subsurface Mapping Provides Value to Watershed Stakeholders: Watch the rig in action!

On Oct. 11, Iowa Geological Survey staff will demonstrate use of a high-powered drill rig to conduct geologic mapping in the area that will support land use planning and decision-making.

The Iowa Geological Survey (IGS) at the University of Iowa participates in the STATEMAP program, funded by the United States Geological Survey (USGS). The program provides funding to states to conduct detailed geologic mapping with an emphasis on solving environmental issues. This type of mapping helps Iowans understand what's beneath the Earth's surface, and how the local geology affects their day-to-day lives.

A field day for rural and urban community members and leaders, farmers, and stakeholders interested in learning more about geological mapping and the Middle Cedar River Watershed is set for 10 am on **Oct. 11 at Richard Wyckoff's property, 3112 56th St. Trail, Urbana, Iowa.**

IGS researchers use a drill rig mounted on a pick-up truck to drill up to 50 feet to collect continuous soil cores. These cores allow us to study soil genesis and change, and how this relates to surface geology. The cores also provide data to address key questions related to land-use planning, aggregate resource potential and protection, and groundwater management.

Besides providing vital information for landowners, agriculture and natural resource businesses, and researchers, this subsurface mapping also supports planning and construction activities for the \$97M [Iowa Watershed Approach](#) (IWA) statewide program focused on reducing flood risk in nine watersheds across Iowa, which includes the Middle Cedar Watershed. In 2013, the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy identified the Middle Cedar Watershed as a priority watershed, and in 2016 the Middle Cedar Watershed Management Authority (WMA) was formed to bring partners together to address watershed concerns. Areas of the Middle Cedar, especially near Vinton, are vulnerable and at higher risk of flooding





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and groundwater variability. This mapping will aid in planning and land use decision-making for this area.

Funding is available for landowners in select areas of the watershed to construct conservation practices aimed at reducing flooding and improving water quality. Participation in the IWA is entirely voluntary for landowners, who get a 90% cost share if they choose to build a conservation practice such as a farm pond on their property.

More information:

Iowa Watershed Approach (www.iowawatershedapproach.org)

Iowa Geological Survey (<https://www.iowageologicalsurvey.org>)

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