



Map Source: Iowa Department of Natural Resources, "Natural Resources Geographic Information Systems Library," <http://www.igsb.uiowa.edu/nrgislibx/>.

**Regional Watershed**

A watershed is a defined area or ridge of land with a boundary that separates waters flowing to different rivers, creeks, or basins. Watershed boundaries show the extent of a drainage area flowing to a single outlet point and determine whether precipitation is directed into one watershed or an adjacent watershed.

It is important to note that there are multiple levels of watersheds; for instance, the Iowa River watershed is composed of a dozen smaller watersheds, and the Iowa River watershed is a sub-basin of the Mississippi River watershed.

Where a community is located in relation to its surrounding watershed(s) determines its capacity to manage regional watershed issues such as flooding. For example, a community located near the end of a watershed (close to the outlet point) will have little capacity to reduce the amount of water draining toward it from upland areas.

**Avoca**  
Regional Watershed

**Bioregional Context**  
Julia Badenhope, Clare Kiboko, Parmiss Sazgar, Abigail Schafer  
Iowa State University | Trees Forever | Iowa Department of Transportation

