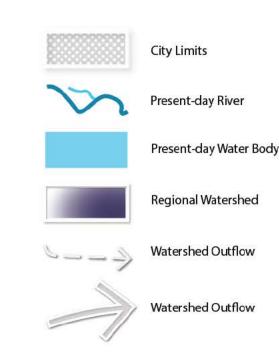
Madrid Sheldahl Bouton Woodward Alleman Elkhart **Beaver Creek** Watershed Polk City Minburn Hwy 69 Ankeny (44) **Beaver Creek Dallas Center** Watershed Grimes **Johnston** Des Moines River Basin Beaver Creek watershed: 49.6 sq mi 80 35 80 Urbandale 44 sq mi Beaver Creek watershed: Clive **Des Moines**

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 determines 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 lowa River watershed has a dozen smaller watersheds, and the lowa 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.



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

Waukee



Bioregional Context

Julia Badenhope, Matthew Gordy, Colby Fangman, Zoey Mauck

Iowa State University | Trees Forever | Iowa Department of Transportation

