



The ACWA water quality monitors are measuring flow rate and nitrate parameters. Although the automated samplers were not installed in time to capture a significant rainfall event (2005 was a very dry year once June started), we have collected data, including rainfall and stage information. The DNR machines are also collecting information about dissolved oxygen and temperature in the water.

Once a sample is collected, either by automated sampler or volunteer, the Des Moines Water Works runs an initial analysis on it. The ACWA research partners — organizations like the National Soil Tilth Laboratory — also look at the data, to see if trends and other relationships in the data can be established. As the process moves forward, ACWA is committed to communicating the results of the sampling to the public and to the watershed stakeholders.



New Water Monitoring Equipment

In the automated system, a collection hose is positioned in the creek, along with a sensing device. When water levels in the creek rise, the sensing device triggers a sampler to collect a series of samples at specific time intervals, in a number of bottles.

Mechanized water monitoring provides a more reliable and more robust sampling capability that will lead to the collection of a higher level of data. And putting this new set of equipment in place makes the Raccoon River watershed one of the most-heavily monitored watershed in Iowa.



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