Site overview:

- Onion Creek watershed, Boone and Story Counties
- ~14,000-acre drainage, 42 km of total channel length
- Drains to Squaw Creek → Skunk River → Mississippi River → Gulf of Mexico
- Perennial stream (flows year-round), headwaters are drainage tile outlets
- Landcover 86% row crop (forest coverage increases downstream)
- Highly-altered (flashy) hydrology (stream stage responds rapidly to precipitation events)
- Des Moines Lobe (Wisconsin glacial till and Holocene alluvial deposits)
- Soil map unit description primarily Spillville-Coland complex, 0-2% slopes (wet to well-drained moist / loamy) (USDA Web Soil survey)
- Common riparian tree species observed: black willow, silver maple, cottonwood, sycamore, boxelder, black walnut, bur oak, hackberry, American elm, White mulberry (non-native)
- Invasive species observed: Honeysuckle (Lonicera spp.), European buckthorn, Japanese barberry, multiflora rose, autumn olive, garlic mustard

Web resources:

ISU Natural Resource Stewardship Extension website (Water Quality, Wildlife, Forestry)
Management of Floodplain Forests publication (ISU Extension Forestry)
ISU Natural Resource Stewardship Extension invasive species webpage
ISU Natural Resource Stewardship Extension invasive species YouTube series
ISU Natural Resource Stewardship Extension Interactive Tree ID Guide
Iowa Department of Natural Resources Forestry
USGS StreamStats (look up YOUR watershed!)
USDA Web Soil Survey (look up YOUR soils!)
Iowa NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
Iowa NRCS Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
Iowa DNR Resource Conservation and Protection Program (REAP)