



John grew up in south-western Michigan with most of his free time spent in the local woods, orchards, creeks and lakes. John's first jobs were picking cherries and apples in the local orchards. When he became old enough to get a part-time job he gained employment with the local family-owned grocer. This was a small operation that had its own butcher shop that employed three full time butchers, they slaughtered beef twice a week. John clearly remembers the daily clean-up to make sure the shop was clean and safe every night.

He developed a strong connection with the land and nature when he was young, this was a big part of why John pursued a career in landscape design. He practiced first in Michigan, then Minnesota and most recently here in Iowa, he has spent 18 years helping people to create a small piece of nature around their homes and businesses. Back in 2007 John and his wife Julie attended a workshop about "Rain Gardens" this is how he first became aware of the idea of keeping water on a site and soaking some of the rainfall into the ground rather than sending it down stream. He really took to the idea of helping with water quantity and quality through storm water management practices one site at a time. Because of this new understanding, John became one of Iowa's first Certified

Rainscapers, through the Iowa Stormwater Education Partnership. That began a move in the direction of conservation. In 2015 John made a shift in career focus toward soil and water conservation on a larger scale and began working with Johnson County Soil & Water Conservation District as a district technician. There he helped farmers and landowners with the Conservation Reserve Program and other practices. From there John moved to the position of watershed coordinator in Washington, Iowa for the West Fork Crooked Creek Watershed project which was a great opportunity to help farmers and landowners get together and help each other to keep soil and water on their land and reduce the nutrients that left their land.

John is very excited for the opportunity to help producers and landowners enhance their conservation work in the Clear Creek Watershed. With help from the Clear Creek Watershed Coalition, the Johnson County Soil & Water Conservation District and our other great partners.

John and his wife Julie live with their two basset hounds in Cedar Rapids on Ellis Boulevard, they share their life with their two grown sons and local community.

You can contact John:

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