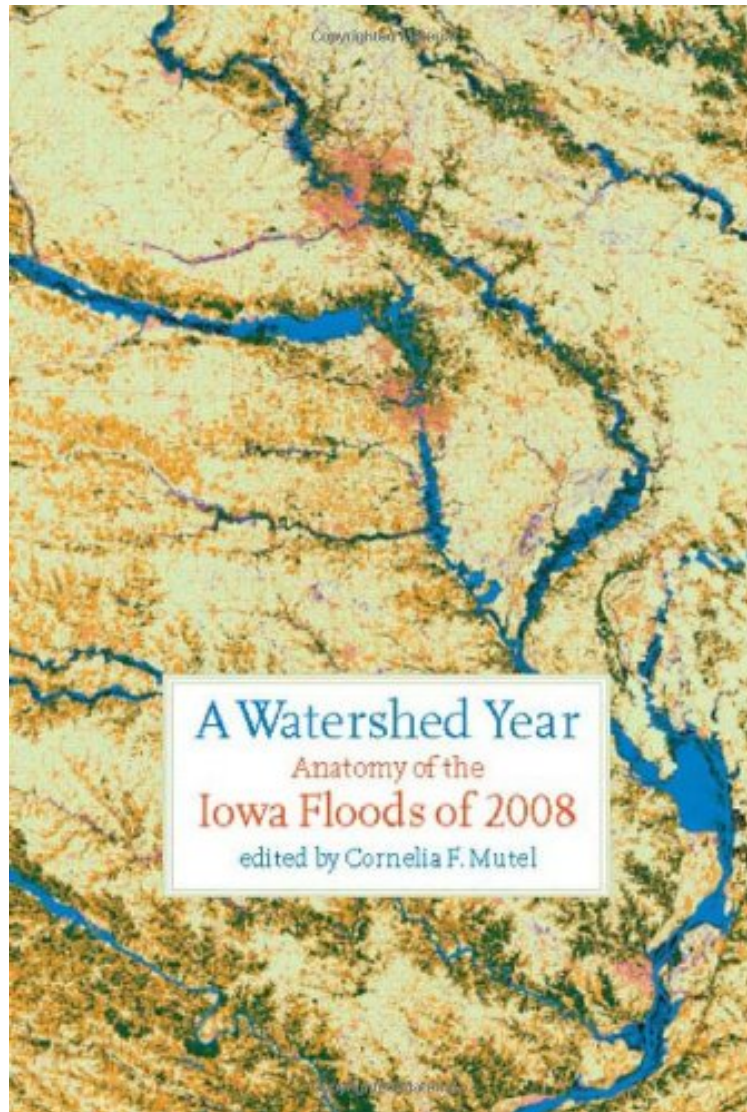


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A Watershed Year: Anatomy of the Iowa Floods of 2008 (Bur Oak Book)

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From Brand: University Of Iowa Press : A Watershed Year: Anatomy of the Iowa Floods of 2008 (Bur Oak Book) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Watershed Year: Anatomy of the Iowa Floods of 2008 (Bur Oak Book):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Lessons Learned, Unlearned, and Not LearnedBy Leland M. SearlesThe value of this book will outlive the events that spurred it. It's unfortunate that many of the recommendations

made by the chapter authors have not been taken very seriously by policy leaders and major organizations, or have seen only limited application in the areas most stricken by recent catastrophic flooding. This should be required reading for city managers, public works officials, neighborhood association groups, and of course politicians in other local, regional, and state agencies. Much of the flood preparedness does not involve expensive, large-scale projects by the Army Corps of Engineers, but rather the simple willingness to make significant changes in local and watershed land use patterns. Yes, these impact owners, renters, and residents, but in so many cases the ROI (I hesitate to use such crass economic terms) far exceeds the costs of an actual disaster. One lesson of the book is the need for greater cooperation and understanding at the grassroots, on the part of land owners and tenants. That is a rare thing in a society bent on self-interest, even in Iowa.0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Interesting ReadBy CustomerThis is a University of Iowa Press book. The book was interesting; however, I was disappointed it did not address the presence of the coffer dam the University of Iowa had in place during the 2008 flood. I would also like to have read more about how human decisions made the economic damages much worse.

In June 2008, the rivers of eastern Iowa rose above their banks to create floods of epic proportions; their amazing sizeflowing in places at a rate nearly double that of the previous record floodand the rapidity of their rise ruined farmlands and displaced thousands of residents and hundreds of businesses. In Cedar Rapids, the waters inundated more than nine square miles of the downtown area; in Iowa City, where the flood was also the most destructive in history, the University of Iowas arts campus was destroyed. By providing a solid base of scientific and technical information presented with unusual clarity and a wealth of supporting illustrations, the contributors to this far-reaching book, many of whom dealt firsthand with the 2008 floods, provide a detailed roadmap of the causes and effects of future devastating floods. The twenty-five essays fall naturally into four sections. *Rising Rivers, Spreading Waters* begins by comparing the 2008 floods with the midwestern floods of 1993, moves on to trace community responses to the 2008 floods, and ends by illuminating techniques for forecasting floods and determining their size and frequency. *Why Here, Why Now?* searches for possible causes of the 2008 floods and of flooding in general: annual crops and urban landscapes, inflows into and releases from reservoirs, and climate change. *Flood Damages, Flood Costs, Flood Benefits* considers the complex mix of flood costs and effects, emphasizing damages to cities and farmlands as well as potential benefits to natural communities and archaeological sites. *Looking Back, Looking Forward* lays out approaches to managing the floods of the future that are sure to come. While the book draws most of its examples from one particular region, it explains flooding throughout a much larger regionthe midwestern Corn Beltand thus its sobering yet energizing lessons apply well beyond eastern Iowa. By examining the relationships among rivers, floodplains, weather, and modern society; by stressing matters of science and fact rather than social or policy issues; and by addressing multiple environmental problems and benefits, *A Watershed Year* informs and educates all those who experienced the 2008 floods and all those concerned with the larger causes of flooding.

A Watershed Year captures the essence of the 2008 eastern Iowa floods in essays written by leading scientists, watershed specialists, and public administrators, many of whom experienced the devastation of the flooding firsthand. It is a must read for both those trying to better understand the circumstances resulting in the historic 2008 floods and those involved in mitigation and planning efforts to deal with future floods. In *A Watershed Year* Connie Mutel challenges each of us to consider how we should learn to live with floods with a more holistic, sustainable watershed approach. Larry J. Weber, director, IIHR-Hydroscience and Engineering, University of Iowa