

*Lake Restoration Program  
2012 Report and 2013 Plan*

***Submitted To***

Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation,  
Infrastructure, and Capitals  
and  
Legislative Services Agency

***Submitted By***

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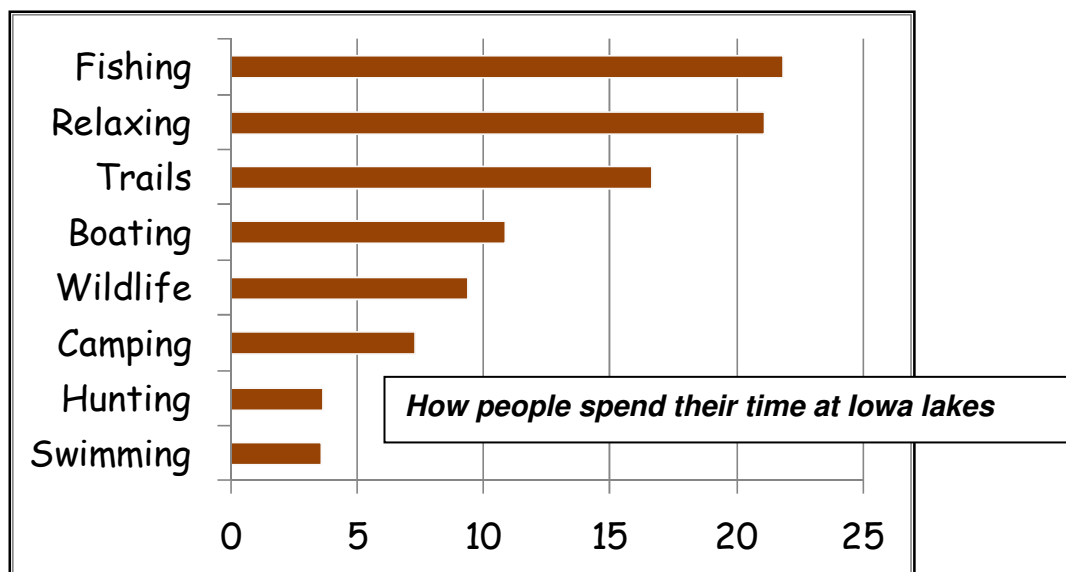


## **Executive Summary**

The 2012 Iowa Lake Restoration Report and 2013 Plan outlines the need and demand for lake restoration in Iowa; identifies a prioritized group of lakes and the associated costs for restoration; and provides the status of past appropriated legislatively directed funding. Many of our Iowa Lakes, similar to our nation's lakes, are impaired and suffer from excessive algae growth and sedimentation due to nutrient loading and soil loss. For example, a recent study conducted by the Iowa State University Limnology Department examined the historic condition of 34 Iowa glacial lakes by analyzing bottom sediment cores. The study found that recent lake sedimentation is occurring at a rate 6 times greater than in the early 1900's. Additionally, northern Iowa natural lake sedimentation rates are double that of similar Minnesota Lakes. This report provides our plan to restore our Iowa public lakes and improve lake water quality, which will lead to increased lake use and long-term infrastructure protection.

Funding for the Lake Restoration Program (LRP) is currently appropriated on an annual basis. We anticipate that at the current annual level of \$6.0 million per year over ten years the DNR can complete eighteen projects and initiate two new projects. Maintaining stable funding at program inception level of \$8.6 million per year will allow the DNR to complete twenty-eight projects and initiate six new projects over the same ten-year period. The Lake Restoration Program does have a budget balance of \$9,526,490 as of November 30, 2012. However, of that amount, \$5,456,491 is currently under contract with an estimated additional \$4,067,725 under contract by the end of the fiscal year (6/30/2013). This will leave an estimated balance of \$2,275 in unobligated LRP funds balance at the end of FY 2013 and supports the need for continued program funding if we are to develop and engage new lake restoration efforts.

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Lake Restoration Program (LRP) focus is on restoring Iowa lakes. Iowans value water quality and desire safe healthy lakes that provide a full complement of aesthetic, ecological and recreational benefits. A recently completed water-based recreational use survey by Iowa State University's Center for Agriculture and Rural Development (CARD) found that six of ten Iowans visit our lakes multiple times each year, spending \$1.6 billion per year, in their pursuit of outdoor lake recreation. The most popular lake use activities in descending order were fishing, picnicking, wildlife watching, boating, hiking/biking and swimming/beach use. The number of household trip visitations to Iowa lakes continues to increase; lake use in 2009 was 26.6% greater than visitation rates from 2002 through 2005. In addition, visitations at lakes that have completed watershed and lake improvements efforts continue to exceed the state average and their own pre-renovation visitation levels.



## Iowa's Top 20 Lakes for Visitation in 2009

Saylorville  
Coralville  
Clear Lake  
West Lake Okoboji  
Big Creek Lake  
Red Rock  
East Lake Okoboji  
Lake Macbride  
Spirit Lake  
Lake Rathbun  
Storm Lake  
George Wyth Lake  
Pleasant Creek Lake  
Lake Manawa  
Brushy Creek Lake  
Lake Ahquabi  
Easter Lake  
Lake Geode  
Black Hawk Lake  
Swan Lake

***Of the four lakes (Saylorville, Clear Lake, Lake Macbride, and Storm Lake) with the largest increase in total visitation from their 2002-05 average to 2009, Macbride has completed restoration efforts and Clear Lake and Storm Lake are nearing completion of their restoration projects.***

- The 2012 fishing derby at Carter Lake was a great success. 175 youth attended along with numerous parents and volunteers. Each child received a fishing pole, tackle box, t-shirt and lunch. Successful events like this remind us of the importance of lake restoration.

***A successful angler shows off his catch at the Carter Lake Kids Fishing Derby in 2012***



In the 81<sup>st</sup> General Assembly, with HF 2782, the legislature responded to our need for improving Iowa's lakes by creating the Lake Restoration Plan and Report, known as the Lake Restoration Program. Included in HF2782, Section (26) of The Endowment for Iowa's Health Account is a process and criteria for completing successful lake restoration projects (Appendix A). It directs the IDNR to report annually its plans and recommendations for lake restoration funding, as well as progress and results from projects funded by this legislation. This report has been prepared in accordance with these requirements. In addition, it describes some of the important work done by local, state and federal partners. **These partnerships, along with sound scientific information, are the foundation of current and future successful lake restoration projects.**

### **Lake Restoration Program**

The Lake Restoration Program is modeled after the Federal Clean Lakes Program established in the 1970's.

- The IDNR reviewed 127 of Iowa's Significant Public Lakes (SPOLs) for lake restoration potential (see definition for SPOL - Appendix B).
- Ranking was based on a 5-year Iowa State University (ISU)/IDNR assessment of water quality, technical feasibility of restoration, potential economic benefits, use by Iowans, and local support.

[Note: The following directives to the department regarding Project Goals, Process and Criteria, and Restoration Plan Guidelines are summarized from 2006 State Legislation (HF2782)]

### **Lake Restoration Program - Project Goals**

The department shall recommend funding for lake restoration projects that are designed to achieve the following goals:

- Ensure a cost effective, positive return on investment for the citizens of Iowa.
- Ensure local community commitment to lake and watershed protection.
- Ensure significant improvement in water clarity, safety, and quality of Iowa lakes.
- Provide for a sustainable, healthy, functioning lake system.
- Result in the removal of the lake from the impaired waters list.

### **Lake Restoration Program - Process and Criteria**

The process and criteria to recommend funding for lake restoration projects, shall be as follows:

- The department shall develop an initial list of not more than thirty-five significant publicly owned lakes (Appendix C) to be considered for funding based on the feasibility of each lake for restoration and the use or potential use of the lake, if restored. The list included lake projects under active development that the department recommended be given priority for funding so long as progress toward completion of the projects remained consistent with the goals of the program.
- The department shall meet with representatives of communities where lakes on the initial list are located to provide an initial lake restoration assessment and to explain the process and criteria for receiving lake restoration funding.
- Communities with lakes not included on the initial list may petition the Director of the department for a preliminary lake restoration assessment and explanation of the funding process and criteria. An additional seventeen lakes, not included on the initial list of thirty-five significant publicly-owned lakes prioritized for funding, have since been added to the priority list after communities have successfully petitioned the director of the department or were prioritized by the department based on the feasibility of the lake for restoration and the use or potential use of the lake, if restored (Appendix C).

### **Lake Restoration Program - Restoration Plan Guidelines**

The department shall work with representatives of each community to develop a joint lake restoration action plan.

- At a minimum, each joint action plan shall document the causes, sources, and magnitude of lake impairment, evaluate the feasibility of the lake and watershed restoration options, establish water quality goals and a schedule for attainment, assess the economic benefits of the project, identify the sources and amounts of any leveraged funds, and describe the community's commitment to the project, including local funding.
- The community's commitment to the project may include moneys to fund a lake diagnostic study and watershed assessment, including development of a TMDL (total maximum daily load) Water Quality Improvement Plan.

Each joint lake restoration plan shall comply with the following guidelines:

- Biologic controls will be utilized to the maximum extent, wherever possible.
- If proposed, dredging of the lake will be conducted to a **mean depth of at least ten feet** to gain water quality benefits unless a combination of biologic and structural controls is sufficient to assure water quality targets will be achieved at a shallower average water depth.
- The costs of lake restoration will include the maintenance costs of improvements to the lake.

- Delivery of phosphorous and sediment from the watershed will be controlled and in place before lake restoration begins.
- The department shall evaluate the joint action plans and prioritize the plans based on the criteria required by the program.

In-lake, in conjunction with watershed management, will meet or exceed the following water quality targets:

- Clarity. A four and one half foot secchi depth will be achieved fifty percent of the time from April 1 through September 30.
- Safety. Beaches will meet water quality standards for recreational use.
- Biota. A diverse, balanced, and sustainable aquatic community will be maintained.
- Sustainability. The water quality benefits of the restoration efforts will be sustained for at least fifty years.

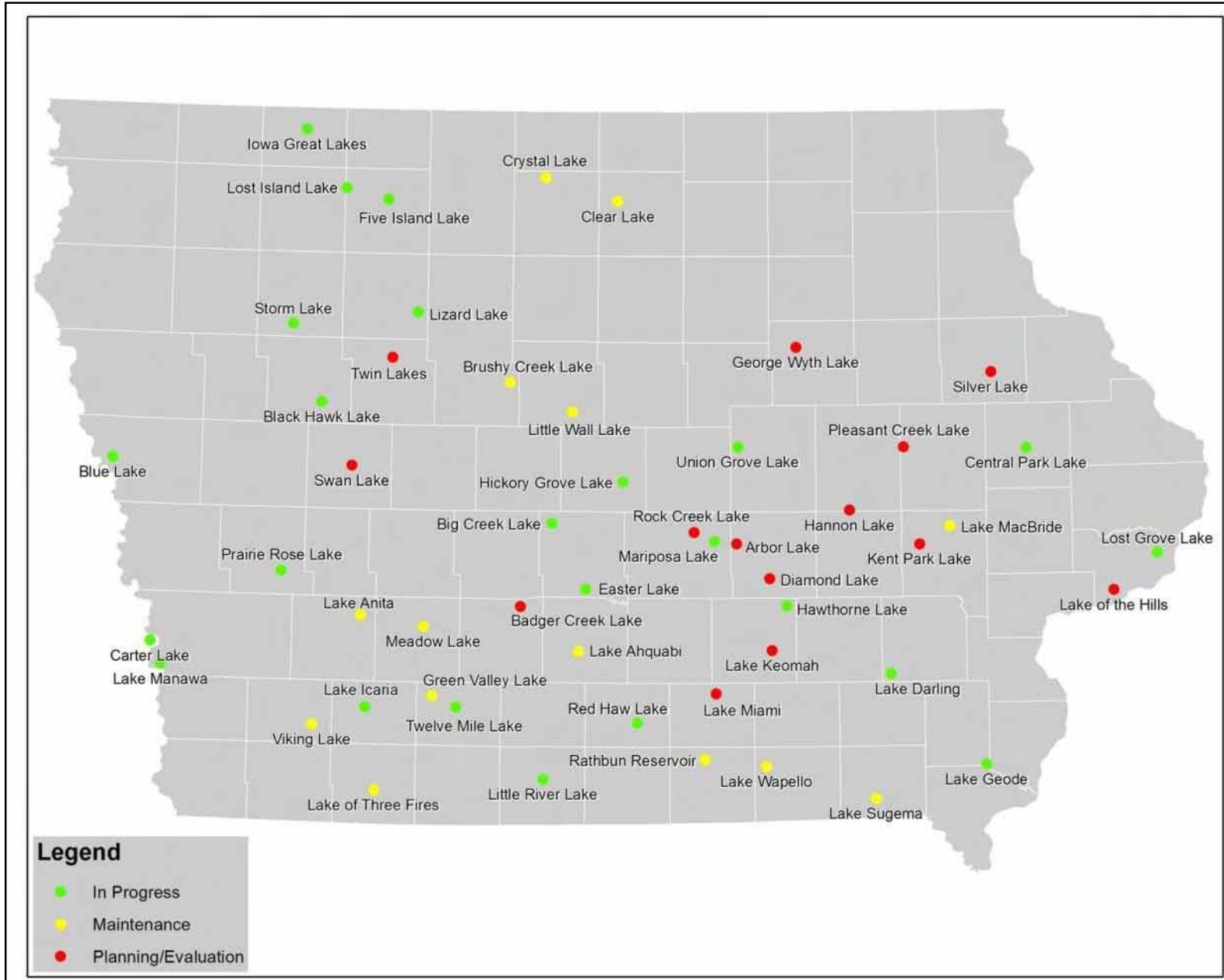
### **Lake Restoration Program - Status**

The intent of the program is to develop and administer lake restoration projects that achieve the following goals: ensure a cost-effective investment for the State of Iowa; foster a community commitment to lake and watershed protection; and provide significant improvement to the quality of Iowa lakes.

As indicated above, the department initially ranked 127 public lakes to prioritize lake restoration efforts. A group of thirty-five lakes, classified highest in priority for restoration, was established and served as a starting point for identifying potential lake restoration projects. An additional eighteen lakes have either successfully petitioned or been added into the program. Major water quality improvement initiatives are completed or near completion at fourteen lakes. Current program activities are in progress at twenty-five lakes throughout the state and in the initial community outreach, evaluation or planning stage at an additional fourteen lakes (Figure 1).

Timelines for many of these projects usually fall within a three-year period. However, dredging or major construction projects may take even longer. Contractors face substantial costs to mobilize and set up lake dredging operations and this critical work needs multiple year commitments to secure contractors. As such, the most practical and efficient way to complete these undertakings are as continuous projects. The Lake Restoration Program has matured to the point where a number of multi-step projects are nearing the implementation phase. Table 1 highlights major work activities planned for the remainder of FY2013 into FY2014.

Figure 1. IDNR Lake Restoration Program Status



**Table 1. Work schedule for select multi-year lake restoration projects**

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Projected Timeline</b>	<b>Project FY2010 and FY2011 Work Schedule</b>
Blackhawk Lake	Sac	2010 - 2020	Diagnostic / Feasibility (DF) study and TMDL reports completed Fall 2010. Public meetings led to development of an implementation plan. Watershed work and fish renovation completed in 2012.
Carter Lake	Pottawattamie	2008 - 2013	Partnership includes the States of Iowa and Nebraska and the cities of Omaha and Carter Lake; Phase 1 - watershed improvement projects, lake alum treatment and fish renovation completed in 2010. Phase 2 – dredging, shoreline improvements and wetland enhancement will be completed early 2013.
Clear Lake	Cerro Gordo	2000 - 2013	Dredging completed fall of 2009; targeted removal of 2.4 million cubic yards of sediment; continued work in the watershed; Ventura Marsh restoration – partnership with Army COE, construction phase was completed Fall 2012. Water level in Ventura Marsh has been drawn down to start restoration.
Easter Lake	Polk	2011 - 2018	Diagnostic Study completed Fall 2010, including NRCS assessment of Yeader Creek. Public meetings took place during 2012 to inform the public of the project and to form a local citizen group. Water Quality Improvement Plan completed 2012; Implementation of watershed work will start 2013.
Five Island Lake	Palo Alto	1990 – 2015	Continued support of local dredging project. IDNR Lakes Program is working with local stakeholders to evaluate watershed/water quality improvement needs to compliment local dredging efforts.
Green Valley Lake	Union	2008 – 2013	Silt removal and silt dike construction completed; final seeding and clean up scheduled for Spring 2013. Lake is re-filling and re-established fishery is producing catchable sized fish.
Lake Darling	Washington	2008 – 2013	Spillway repair/replace and dam reconstruction is completed; In-lake restoration (shoreline deepening, silt dike construction and fish habitat work) is underway; a final phase of work, starting Spring 2013, will involve shoreline stabilization, beach re-location and boat ramp improvements.
Lake Manawa	Pottawattamie	2009 – 2020	DF study is completed; the IDNR is exploring the option of utilizing dredge materials for future Iowa DOT highway projects. Project was delayed due to floodwaters and will resume in 2013.
Prairie Rose Lake	Shelby	2011 – 2013	The Shelby County Soil and Water Conservation District was awarded a \$510,611 Water Quality / Watershed Protection Project Grant and work is near completion; Completed work includes mechanical sediment removal, shoreline stabilization and fish habitat. Lake is re-filling and the DNR will re-stock with fish 2013. Construction of the containment site and hydraulic dredging is planned for 2013.
Rock Creek Lake	Jasper	2008 – 2013	Completion of five sediment control structures is scheduled for Spring 2013.
Storm Lake	Buena Vista	2000 – 2016	Continued support of local dredging project; a five-year project completion plan was developed with local sponsors and will be implemented 2013. A new containment site is under construction. Little Storm Lake restoration is complete.

## Lake Restoration Program - Funding

The source of FY2013 funding for the Lake Restoration Program was an appropriation from the Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund under SF2316 (Figure 2). The LRP received \$6.0 million dollars in FY2013 to meet contracted obligations and budgeted program activities (Tables 2, 3, and 4).

### IDNR Lake Restoration Program (LRP) Funding as of FY13 (11/30/2012)

Carry Forward from FY11	\$8,865,629
FY12 Lake Restoration Program Funding	<u>\$5,459,000</u>
Total Available Funding at Start of FY12	\$14,324,629

Lake Restoration Program Spent FY12 thru FY13 (11/30/2012) (\$10,798,139)

Carry Forward from FY12	\$3,526,490
FY13 Lake Restoration Program Funding	<u>\$6,000,000</u>
<b>Lake Restoration Program Available Balance as of FY13 (11/30/12)</b>	<b>\$9,526,490</b>

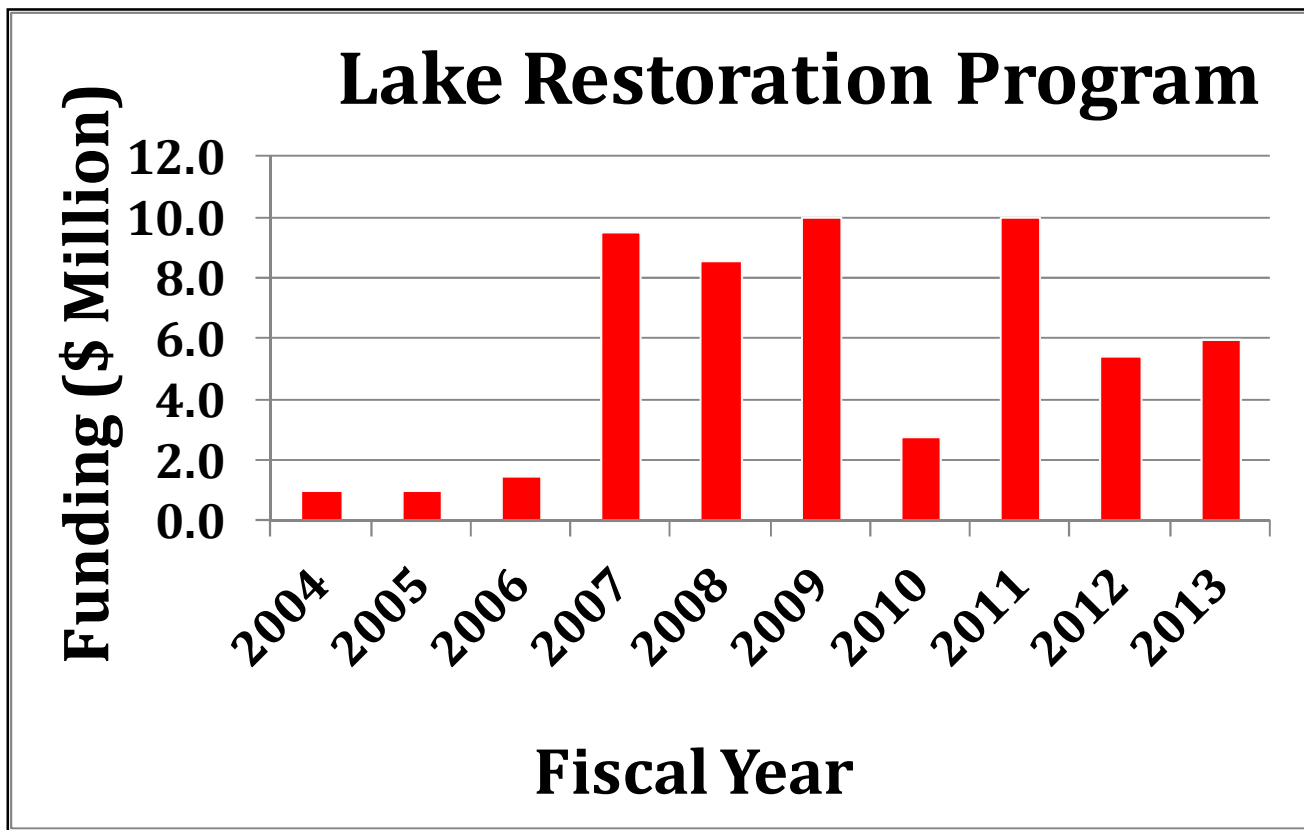
Under Contract - Actual Amount Due	(\$5,456,491)
Under Contract by 6/30/13 - Estimated Cost	<u>(\$4,067,725)</u>
<b>LRP Un-obligated Funds as of FY13 (6/30/13)</b>	<b>\$2,275</b>

Funding from FY2007 through FY2013 of \$52.4 million (approximately \$7.5 million per year) has enabled the IDNR to improve many Iowa's lakes and proceed with implementing projects at a number of our other priority systems. However, the Lake Restoration Program has matured to the point where a number of multi-step projects are nearing the implementation phase; therefore, we now have more projects ready to start in a given year than we have available dollars. Maintaining flexibility in where the Lake Restoration Program can allocate funding is critical to moving these multiple year projects forward and plan for new projects.

The majority of lake restoration projects involve construction phases of watershed or in-lake implementation. A typical construction project might include the following phases: project scoping, engineering design, work bid letting, contract development, construction, and inspection. All processes must adhere to the standards and requirements of doing business as a public agency. Certain projects may require easements or land acquisition before construction can begin and/or require approvals and permits such as an archeological investigation for historic properties, an environmental review for threatened or endangered species, COE 404 permit, and IDNR floodplains / sovereign lands permit.

Project planning involves working with representatives of the local community to develop a joint restoration plan. For planning purposes, it is necessary that a proper assessment of the lake and watershed is available to provide restoration alternatives to meet given water quality goals. In order to achieve lake restoration goals it is critical that the IDNR form effective watershed partnerships. This includes partnerships at the local and administrative levels of government. Local, state and federal programs offer a multitude of programs for financial assistance to landowners for soil conservation and other water quality protection practices. **Building community support and development of partnerships is a long-term commitment from the Lake Restoration Program and is the foundation to the program's success.**

Figure 2. IDNR Lake Restoration Program 10-Year Funding History



The Lake Restoration Program cooperates in a variety of cost-share partnerships with local, state and federal entities to accomplish the water quality improvement initiatives described in this report. On average, there is a 35% cost-share match to Lake Restoration Program funds, which is critical to accomplishing the work detailed in this report and past summaries of LRP activities. Local groups include associations; such as the IGL - Iowa Great Lakes, LIPA - Lost Island Preservation Association, RRWA - Rathbun Rural Water Association, LPA - Lake Preservation Association (Storm Lake), CLPS - Carter Lake Preservation Society and the LPHC - Lake and Park Holding Corporation (Union Grove) to name a few. The DNR 319 Water Quality Improvement Section, DNR Wildlife, DNR Parks along with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship – Division of Soil Conservation have worked together to implement watershed BMPs. Non-profit groups; such as DU - Ducks Unlimited, PH - Pheasants Forever and the TNC - The Nature Conservancy have also provided funding for projects. A significant number of Iowa lakes are owned and/or managed by local entities such as County Conservation Boards or Cities. Local agencies have been very active in developing restoration plans and providing resources to these efforts.



**Table 2. IDNR Lake Restoration Program (LRP) Funding as of FY13 (11/30/2012)**

<b>Carry Forward from FY11</b>			\$8,865,629			
<b>FY12 Lake Restoration Program Funding</b>			\$5,459,000			
<b>Total Available Funding at Start of FY12</b>			<b>\$14,324,629</b>			
<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>LRP Spent</b>	<b>Fed</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Total Spent</b>
Lake Icaria	Wetland Repair	Adams	\$22,021			\$22,021
Storm Lake	Dredging	Buena Vista	\$1,520,613			\$1,520,613
Storm Lake	Little Storm Lake Restoration	Buena Vista	\$904,935		\$12,065	\$917,000
Clear Lake	Carp Study/Shoreline/Watershed	Cerro Gordo	\$13,107	\$5,000	\$15,770	\$33,877
Twin Ponds	Improvement Project	Chickasaw	\$227,404			\$227,404
Lake Wapello	Watershed Improvement	Davis	\$15,898			\$15,898
Little River Lake	In-lake Restoration/Watershed	Decatur	\$385,909			\$385,909
Lake Delhi	Feasibility Study	Delaware	\$350,000			\$350,000
IA Great Lakes	Watershed Protection	Dickinson	\$30,000			\$30,000
Central Park Lake	Containment Site/Watershed	Jones	\$350,000			\$350,000
Hawthorn Lake	Watershed Improvement	Mahaska	\$19,850			\$19,850
Blue Lake	Feasibility Study	Monona	\$31,514			\$31,514
Five Island Lake	Dredging	Palo Alto	\$96,856			\$96,856
Lost Island Lake	Fish Barrier/Water Control Structures	Palo Alto	\$14,520		\$58,789	\$73,309
Lizard Lake	Spillway Repair/Fish Renovation	Pocahontas	\$62,664			\$62,664
Easter Lake	Water Quality Improvement Plan	Polk	\$55,368		\$4,177	\$59,545
Carter Lake	Engineering/Project Implementation	Pottawattamie	\$803,714			\$803,714
Lake Manawa	Water Level	Pottawattamie	\$284,644			\$284,644
Black Hawk Lake	Watershed Improvement	Sac	\$124,588			\$124,588
Lost Grove Lake	Road Risers	Scott	\$88,133			\$88,133
Prairie Rose	Watershed/In-lake Restoration	Shelby	\$892,604	\$202,183		\$1,094,787
Hickory Grove Lake	Feasibility Study	Story	\$15,659			\$15,659
Green Valley Lake	Sediment Removal	Union	\$277,131			\$277,131
Lake Darling	Dam Construction/Restoration	Washington	\$2,459,235			\$2,459,235
Administration	Engineering/Project Management		\$885,544			\$885,544
Feasibility Studies	Restoration Action Plans/Monitoring		\$298,238			\$298,238
Minor Projects	Minor Projects		\$253,435			\$253,435
Shallow Lakes	Water Quality Improvement		\$314,556			\$314,556
			<b>\$10,798,139</b>	<b>\$207,183</b>	<b>\$90,801</b>	<b>\$11,096,122</b>
<b>Carry Forward from FY12</b>			<b>\$3,526,490</b>			
<b>FY13 Lake Restoration Program Funding</b>			<b>\$6,000,000</b>			
<b>Current Balance as of November 30, 2012</b>			<b>\$9,526,490</b>			

**Table 3. Lake Restoration Program Funds Under Contract as of FY13 (11/30/2012)**

Lake Restoration Program Available Balance as of FY13 (11/30/12)			\$9,526,490			
Project Name	Project Description	County	LRP Contracted	Fed	Other	Total Project Cost
Storm Lake	Dredging	Buena Vista	\$1,450,380		\$362,595	\$1,812,975
Storm Lake	Dredge Analysis	Buena Vista	\$143,618			\$143,618
Clear Lake	Shoreline/Watershed	Cerro Gordo	\$33,736		\$7,711	\$41,447
Little River Lake	In-lake Restoration/Watershed	Decatur	\$759,904		\$189,976	\$949,881
Hawthorn Lake	Watershed Improvement	Mahaska	\$24,156			\$24,156
Five Island Lake	Dredging	Palo Alto	\$103,144		\$103,144	\$206,288
Deer Creek Lake	Geophysical Survey	Plymouth	\$8,100			\$8,100
Big Creek Lake	Watershed Improvement	Polk	\$47,300			\$47,300
Easter Lake	Water Quality Improvement Plan	Polk	\$19,754		\$7,686	\$27,440
Carter Lake	Engineering/Project Implementation	Pottawattamie	\$589,510		\$1,684,314	\$2,273,824
Black Hawk Lake	Watershed Improvement	Sac	\$55,629			\$55,629
Lost Grove Lake	Road Risers	Scott	\$9,277		\$2,000	\$11,277
Hickory Grove Lake	Shoreline / Feasibility Study	Story	\$37,629			\$37,629
Lake of Three Fires	Shoreline Armoring	Taylor	\$29,812			\$29,812
Green Valley Lake	Sediment Removal	Union	\$150,989			\$150,989
Lake Darling	Shoreline/Dredging/Restoration	Washington	\$1,458,025		\$2,849,187	\$4,307,212
Administration	Engineering/Project Management		\$268,333			\$268,333
Feasibility Studies	Restoration Action Plans/Monitoring		\$267,194		\$150,551	\$417,745
			<b>\$5,456,491</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$5,357,165</b>	<b>\$10,813,655</b>

**Table 4. Lake Restoration Program Funds Under Contract by June 30, 2013**

Project Name	Project Description	County	LRP Obligated	Fed	Other	Under Contract by 4/30/13
Big Creek Lake	Watershed improvement	Polk	\$128,000	\$0	\$0	\$128,000
Clear Lake	Containment site restoration	Cerro Gordo	\$125,000	\$0	\$0	\$125,000
Lake Anita	Silt pond renovation	Cass	\$100,000	\$0	\$0	\$100,000
Lake Icaria	Wetland repair/improvement	Adams	\$170,525	\$0	\$170,525	\$341,050
Lake Manawa	Pilot dredge project	Pottawattamie	\$2,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$2,000,000
Lost Island Lake	Electric Fish Barrier	Palo Alto	\$200,000	\$0	\$0	\$200,000
Prairie Rose Lake	Dredging/watershed structure	Shelby	\$500,000	\$0	\$0	\$500,000
Prairie Rose Lake	Dredging/watershed structure	Shelby	\$475,000	\$0	\$0	\$475,000
Prairie Rose Lake	Dredging/watershed structure	Shelby	\$50,000	\$0	\$0	\$50,000
Silver Lake	Survey and design of new outlet	Palo Alto	\$5,000	\$0	\$20,000	\$25,000
Twelve Mile Lake	Wetland construction	Union	\$242,000	\$0	\$150,000	\$392,000
Ventura Marsh WMA	Diversion channel for inflows	Cerro Gordo	\$72,200	\$0	\$3,800	\$76,000
			<b>\$4,067,725</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$344,325</b>	<b>\$4,412,050</b>
Lake Restoration Program Available Balance as of FY13 (11/30/12)			\$9,526,490			
Under Contract (Actual Amount Due)			\$5,456,491			
Under Contract by 6/30/13 (Estimated Cost)			\$4,067,725			
LRP Un-obligated Funds as of FY13 (6/30/13)			\$2,275			

In addition to the proposed budget for upcoming FY2014 (Table 5), the Lake Restoration Program, on an annual basis, updates a 10-year plan (Table 6). The long-term budget is based on current conceptual plans for restoration and comparison to similar past projects in terms of investment to individual projects. The emphasis of the Lake Restoration Program over the next ten years is still the initial list of thirty-five (35) significant publicly-owned lakes prioritized for funding based on the feasibility of each lake for restoration and the use or potential use of the lake, if restored. Also included are significant publicly-owned lakes added to the priority list after communities have successfully petitioned the director of the department or were prioritized by the department based on the feasibility of restoration and the use or potential use of the lake, if restored. Projects need to follow the directives to the department regarding Project Goals, Process and Criteria, and Restoration Plan Guidelines from 2006 State Legislation (HF2782).

Maintaining stable funding at program inception level of \$8.6 million per year will allow the DNR to complete twenty-eight projects over the next ten years. Comparison of the proposed FY14 budget of \$6.0 million to the 10-year plan budgeted level of \$8.6 million exemplifies the ability to develop and engage new projects at an accelerated pace. At expanded funding in FY14, the Lake Restoration Program would budget funding for additional projects; for example, Mariposa Lake (Jasper), Silver Lake (Palo Alto), Pleasant Creek Lake (Linn), Blue Lake (Monona) and Lake Keomah (Mahaska). And, expand available funding for Central Park Lake (Jones), Hickory Grove Lake (Story), Lake of the Hills (Scott), Union Grove Lake (Tama), Storm Lake (Buena Vista), Easter Lake (Polk) and the IA Great Lakes.

**Table 5. Lake Restoration Program Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2014 (FY2013 \$6.0M funding level versus \$8.6M funding level)**

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Proposed FY14 Budget</b>	<b>Additional Project Funds at \$8.6M FY14 Budget</b>
Lake Icaria	Watershed Structures	Adams	\$100,000	
Clear Lake	Ventura Marsh / Shoreline / Watershed	Cerro Gordo	\$100,000	
Little River L.	Watershed Work on Public Land	Decatur	\$60,000	
Lake Geode	Watershed / In-lake Shoreline / Dredging	Henry	\$100,000	
Five Island L.	Dredging / Watershed Improvement	Palo Alto	\$400,000	
Lost Island Lake	Rough Fish Removal	Palo Alto	\$50,000	
Big Creek	Watershed Improvement	Polk	\$200,000	
Carter Lake	Management Plan Implementation	Pottawattamie	\$50,000	
Lake Manawa	Dredging / Watershed / In-lake	Pottawattamie	\$1,500,000	
Black Hawk L.	Watershed Improvement / Containment Site	Sac	\$300,000	
Prairie Rose L.	Dredging / SE Wetland Sediment Removal	Shelby	\$550,000	
Storm Lake	Dredging / Additional Watershed Work	Buena Vista	\$850,000	\$150,000
IA Great Lakes	Watershed / Center L. /Marble-Hottes	Dickinson	\$200,000	\$150,000
Kent Park L.	Watershed Improvement	Johnson	\$50,000	\$100,000
Central Park L.	Wetland Structures / Containment Site	Jones	\$240,000	\$100,000
Easter Lake	Engineering / Water Quality Improvement	Polk	\$350,000	\$150,000
L. of the Hills	Watershed Assessment	Scott	\$50,000	\$100,000
Hickory Grove L.	Watershed Improvement / In-lake	Story	\$30,000	\$100,000
Union Grove L.	Management Plan Implementation	Tama	\$20,000	\$400,000
North_South Twin L.	Diagnostic / Feasibility Study	Calhoun		\$150,000
Mariposa Lake	In-lake Restoration	Jasper		\$200,000
Pleasant Creek L.	Lake shoreline / Watershed Evaluation	Linn		\$200,000
Lake Keomah	Watershed / In-lake Shoreline	Mahaska		\$50,000
Blue Lake	Fish barrier / Restoration	Monona		\$400,000
Silver Lake	Fish Barrier / Watershed / In-lake	Palo Alto		\$200,000
Administration	Engineering/Project Management		\$450,000	\$50,000
Feasibility Studies	Restoration Action Plans/Monitoring		\$100,000	
Minor Projects	Minor Projects		\$150,000	\$100,000
Shallow Lakes	Water Quality Improvement		\$100,000	
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$6,000,000</b>	<b>\$2,600,000</b>

**Table 6. Lake Restoration Program – Ten Year Plan**

Project Name	County	Proposed FY14 Budget	Proposed FY15 Budget	Proposed FY16 Budget	Proposed FY17 Budget	Proposed FY18 Budget	Proposed FY19 Budget	Proposed FY20-FY23 Budget	Ten-year Budget
<b>Carter Lake*</b>	Pottawattamie	\$50,000							\$50,000
<b>Clear Lake*</b>	Cerro Gordo	\$100,000							\$100,000
<i>Lake Icaria</i>	Adams	\$100,000							\$100,000
<i>Little River L.</i>	Decatur	\$60,000							\$60,000
<i>Lost Island Lake</i>	Palo Alto	\$50,000							\$50,000
<b>Prairie Rose L.</b>	Shelby	\$550,000							\$550,000
<b>Central Park L.*</b>	Jones	\$340,000	\$300,000	\$240,000					\$880,000
<b>Five Island L.</b>	Palo Alto	\$400,000	\$150,000	\$100,000					\$650,000
<b>Hickory Grove L.*</b>	Story	\$130,000	\$400,000	\$570,000					\$1,100,000
<b>Kent Park L.</b>	Johnson	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000					\$450,000
<b>L. of the Hills</b>	Scott	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000					\$450,000
<i>Mariposa Lake</i>	Jasper	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000					\$600,000
<b>Silver Lake</b>	Palo Alto	\$200,000	\$100,000	\$100,000					\$400,000
<b>Union Grove L.*</b>	Tama	\$420,000	\$600,000	\$500,000					\$1,520,000
<b>Hannen Lake</b>	Benton		\$200,000	\$200,000	\$100,000				\$500,000
<b>Storm Lake*</b>	Buena Vista	\$1,000,000	\$850,000	\$850,000	\$850,000				\$3,550,000
<b>Pleasant Creek L.</b>	Linn	\$200,000	\$600,000	\$840,000	\$1,270,000	\$600,000			\$3,510,000
<b>Arbor Lake</b>	Poweshiek				\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000		\$600,000
<b>Blue Lake</b>	Monona	\$400,000	\$800,000	\$800,000	\$1,100,000	\$700,000	\$300,000		\$4,100,000
<b>Easter Lake</b>	Polk	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$750,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,250,000	\$1,000,000		\$5,500,000
<b>Lake Geode*</b>	Henry	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$400,000	\$950,000	\$850,000		\$2,500,000
<b>Lake Keomah</b>	Mahaska	\$50,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$150,000	\$500,000	\$600,000		\$1,500,000
<b>George Wyth L.</b>	Black Hawk						\$150,000	\$150,000	\$300,000
<b>Lake Manawa</b>	Pottawattamie	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,300,000	\$1,300,000	\$1,300,000	\$2,400,000	\$10,800,000
<b>Big Creek*</b>	Polk	\$200,000					\$100,000	\$3,500,000	\$3,800,000
<b>Black Hawk L.*</b>	Sac	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$630,000	\$2,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$7,500,000	\$14,030,000
<i>Badger Creek L.*</i>	Madison		\$250,000					\$6,750,000	\$7,000,000
<b>Silver Lake</b>	Delaware							\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000
<b>IA Great Lakes</b>	Dickinson	\$350,000	\$400,000	\$300,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$1,000,000	\$2,800,000
Lake Assessment		\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$400,000	\$1,000,000
Minors		\$250,000	\$200,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$600,000	\$1,650,000
Shallow Lakes		\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$400,000	\$1,000,000
Proj. Mgmt./Eng.		\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$2,000,000	\$5,000,000
<i>North_South Twin L.*</i>	Calhoun	\$150,000						\$1,450,000	\$1,600,000
<i>Swan Lake</i>	Carroll							\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
<i>Silver Lake*</i>	Dickinson		\$50,000					\$1,250,000	\$1,300,000
<b>Rock Creek L.</b>	Jasper							\$2,700,000	\$2,700,000
<i>Lake Miami</i>	Monroe							\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
<b>Diamond Lake</b>	Poweshiek							\$300,000	\$300,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$8,600,000</b>	<b>\$8,600,000</b>	<b>\$8,600,000</b>	<b>\$8,600,000</b>	<b>\$8,600,000</b>	<b>\$8,600,000</b>	<b>\$34,400,000</b>	<b>\$86,000,000</b>

Project schedule with \$8.6 million annual ofunding level over FY14 - FY23

• Twenty-eight projects completed FY13-FY23

• Six projects initiated

**Projects in Bold:** Initial list of thirty-five (35) significant publicly-owned lakes prioritized for funding based on the feasibility of each lake for restoration and the use or potential use of the lake, if restored.

**Projects Italicized:** Significant publicly-owned lakes added to the priority list after communities have successfully petitioned the director of the department or were prioritized by the department based on the feasibility of restoration and the use or potential use of the lake, if restored.

**Projects \*:** Significant-publicly owned lakes with completed or pending Water Quality Improvement Plans

**Additional groups that have expressed interest for lake restoration :** Beaver L. (Dallas), Beeds L. (Franklin), Lacey Keosauqua L. (Van Buren), Lake Hendricks (Howard), Upper/Lower Pine (Hardin)

## 2012 Report and 2013 Plan

### Lake Restoration Program (LRP) Highlighted Projects

#### Blackhawk Lake (Sac County)

Blackhawk Lake is the southern most natural lake in Iowa located in Sac County, Iowa, near the town of Lake View. This 922-acre lake has a watershed of 14,097 acres. Data from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources indicate that the lake currently has an average depth of 5.15 feet. Water clarity is predominantly in the range of 0.5 – 1.5 feet, with phosphorus levels consistently 100-200 ppb. Very poor lake transparency due to turbidity and frequent algae blooms due to high phosphorus levels are common in the past few years. In addition, the state beach portion of the lake on the 30 Acres Campground shore was closed once in 2004 and 2007, both due to high E. coli.

- Local leadership in cooperation with the IDNR and ISU Extension formed a local steering committee (Watershed Action Group). This group includes members of the community and watershed, as well as members from various state and local agencies (e.g. ISU Extension, ISU Agronomist, Sac SWCD, Carroll NRCS, Sac Board of Supervisors, watershed residents/landowners/farmers, Iowa IDNR, City of Lake View, Sac NRCS, City of Breda City Clerk, and Carroll SWCD). This committee locally raised \$40,000 to help fund the Diagnostic / Feasibility Study; the goal of the study was to provide restoration alternatives to the IDNR and local community; IDNR contracted with Iowa State University (ISU) for the D/F study, which they completed in fall of 2010.
- IDALS provided planning assistance to help accurately identify existing problems and issues critical to achieve desired resource management objectives and to help local leaders inventory, assess, and develop strategies to address watershed problems.
- The watershed action group has met a few times to discuss the project, reviewed restoration alternatives and developed a plan of action. IDNR provided funding to the SWCD to take information gathered in the Watershed Assessment, Diagnostic Study and Water Quality Improvement to development of a Watershed Management Plan. This allowed the local group the ability to apply for project implementation dollars for work in the watershed. The SWCD received funding through a DNR 319 Watershed Improvement Implementation Grant. The grant will go to funding a watershed coordinator for the Black Hawk Lake Project and for implementation of BMPs.



- As part of the Black Hawk Lake Watershed Plan, the DNR Fisheries and Wildlife staff have designed and implemented a fish barrier system for State Marsh and the culvert connecting Black Hawk Lake and Inlet Bay.

***Fish Barrier placed on the end of a 42" CMP connecting Black Hawk Lake and Inlet Bay. The barrier can be easily removed when clean out of debris is required.***



**Goal is to attempt to eliminate the migration of carp into the marsh. Water passing through the water control structure at BH Marsh and the effectiveness of the new carp barriers**



- Through personal contact with the NRCS, they have reported that select landowners have already pledged to install 52 acres of CRP and 15,000 to 25,000 feet of terraces in hot spots within the watershed and to-date have implemented practices on 2,600 acres of the 13, 156 acre watershed to reduce sediment loading by 310 tons annually and reduce phosphorus loading by 775 pounds annually. The \$483,587 cost was partially funded by \$287,603 from the National Water Quality Initiative. Through the National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI), NRCS is offering financial and technical assistance to farmers interested in improving water quality and aquatic habitats in priority watersheds with impaired streams. NRCS will help producers implement conservation and management practices through a systems approach to control and trap nutrient and manure runoff. Qualified producers will receive assistance for installing conservation practices such as cover crops, filter strips and terraces.
- The City of Lake View received the “2011 Outstanding Tourism Community of the Year.” Although this has little to do with the Black Hawk Lake Restoration Project, it emphasizes the popularity of the lake and the high potential for an economic return on the IDNR’s investment in the resource. The City of Lake View has a population around 1,150 and competed with larger cities, such as Altoona and Mason City, for this award.
- The Iowa Learning farm produced a video (approx. 40 minutes) about watersheds and water quality. Black Hawk Lake and the restoration project were the focus of this video.
- Due to the extreme drought of 2012, much of the shoreline around Black Hawk Lake was exposed. The City of Lake View organized a lakeshore clean up and attendance was around 50 to 60 individuals. Several dump truck loads were taken to the landfill. The Lake Restoration Program paid for the cost of dumping at the landfill.

The DNR held a public meeting August 2012 in Lake View, IA to discuss the plans to renovate the fishery in Black Hawk Lake. The major focus of the lake restoration project has been targeted at improving the watershed. However, the internal recycling of nutrients and re-suspension of sediments via rough fish activity still contribute significantly to the water quality issues in Black Hawk Lake. Taking advantage of historically low water levels the DNR implemented a fishery renovation to eradicate rough fish species, help improve water quality, and reclaim the lake so that a quality sport fishery can be established.

- Promiscuous fishing was opened up after the public meeting. Commercial harvesters came in, and over the course of about 5 weeks, removed around 130,000 pounds of fish. During this time, we conducted fish salvage. Most of the fish went to Black Hawk Pits, which was renovated early, to provide some local recreational fishing while Black Hawk Lake is turning around over the next couple of years. Some fish were also taken to Arrowhead Lake. These fish were mostly largemouth bass and channel catfish. All fish that were transported were sorted before they went into the distribution tank on Black Hawk Lake, and then sorted again before they were stocked into Black Hawk Pits and Arrowhead Lake to make sure that no undesirable species were moved.
- The chemical renovation of Black Hawk Lake was carried out November 2012. 3,720 gallons (124 barrels) of rotenone were applied in less than 4 hours on the day of the application. Upon examining the shoreline the following days, just about all of the dead fish that washed to shore were gizzard shad, common carp, bigmouth buffalo, bullhead, and channel catfish. Aside from the channel catfish, there were very few sportfish.

- The week after the renovation, we conducted fish pick-up. It took a day and a half to complete the clean up. DNR Fisheries estimated that somewhere between 120,000 to 140,000 pounds of fish were picked up. The vast majority of the shoreline was covered by workers pitch forking fish into



UTVs, which dumped the fish into a tractor bucket, and the fish were then loaded into a dump truck and dump trailer. Unusually warm weather and high winds caused thousands of pounds of fish to surface and wash ashore after the initial fish pick up and another effort to pick up fish was made on December 5th. It is estimated that another 100,000 pounds of fish were picked up.

***Black Hawk Renovation “by the numbers”:***

Total Volume Treated: 2,913 acre-feet  
 Total Gallons Rotenone Applied 3,884  
 Pounds of Fish Removed by Commercial Anglers: 130,000  
 Pounds of Fish Removed by Fisheries Clean-up: 220,000  
 Pounds of Fish Removed by Fish Salvage: 4,000  
 Total Pounds of Fish Tissue Removed from Black Hawk Lake (estimated): 354,000  
 Estimated Pounds of Phosphorus Removed via Fish Removal: 8,071  
 Estimated Pounds of Nitrogen Removed via Fish Removal: 37,170

***Outlet/Spillway Repair/Fish Barrier***



The upper portion and lip of the outlet structure was damaged by ice heave during the winter of 2011/2012. Low water levels caused ice to form below the crest of the outlet and ice expansion and heave pushed up on the structure and popped the old repair off. Mid-States builders completed the recent repair with materials better suited to withstand the elements. The elevation of the outlet remains the same as before and the top of the structure was built wide enough so that a fish barrier can be installed.

The Black Hawk Lake Protection Association has applied for and received a grant to fund a new fish barrier on the Black Hawk Lake outlet. The Black Hawk LPA will be paying for the construction and installation of the fish barrier through their funds and money from a grant they applied for (Sac County Endowment Fund). The cost of the barrier will be around \$20,000.



### ***Cottonwood Point Armoring***

Cottonwood Point is a significant natural feature on Black Hawk Lake and is now only a few feet wide in some areas due to erosion. Shoreline armoring is planned to protect this area. Some local landowners have offered rock from their fields for the project and the Black Hawk LPA wants to spend money on this project as well.

### **Clear Lake (Cerro Gordo County)**

Clear Lake is a 3,625-acre natural lake in Northwest Iowa. It has a watershed to lake area ratio of 2.3/1. In 2001, ISU completed a lake/watershed diagnostic/feasibility study. They presented a number of lake restoration options; specifically dredging of Little Clear Lake and restoration of Ventura Marsh.

- The IDNR and local sponsors purchased a 208-acre dredge spoil site with approximately \$660,000 of LRP funds and an additional \$660,000 local match. Contractors completed the \$886,000 containment site in spring of 2008. The estimated cost of dredging was \$8 million dollars (2.3 million cubic yards at \$3.50/cu. yd.). IDNR had a January 2008 bid letting for the hydraulic dredging of the Little Lake portion of Clear Lake and awarded the low bidder, L.W. Mattensen of Burlington, Iowa, the \$6,453,000 contract (75% LRP and 25% local-match funding).
- Dredging commenced in late spring of 2008 and completed by late summer of 2009. Contractors removed a total of 2.4 million cu. yds.

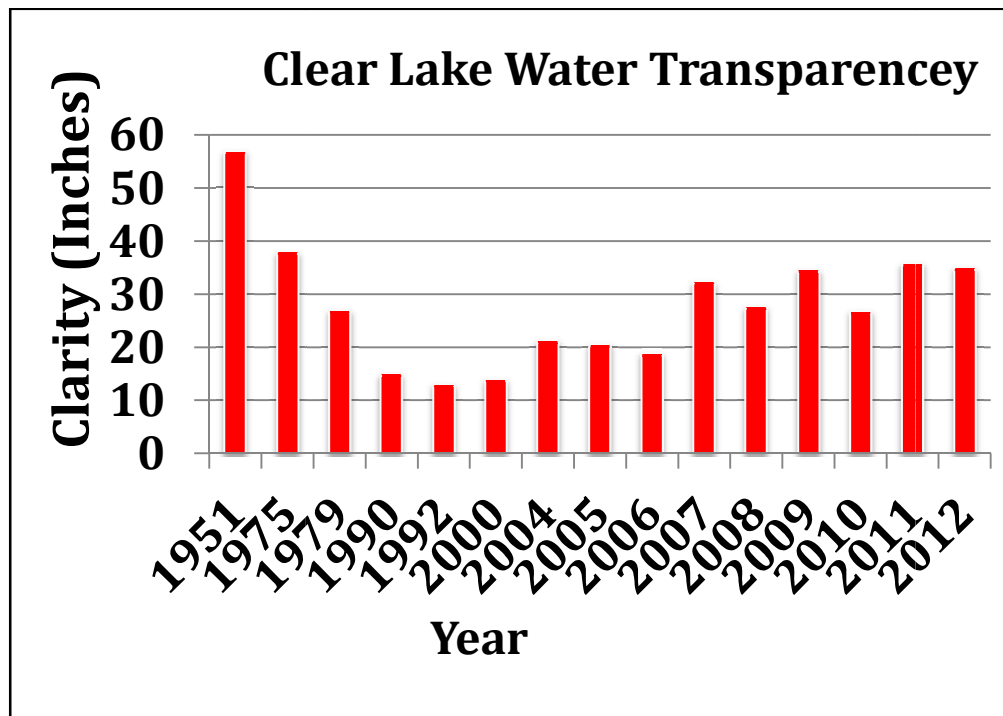


***1,500 feet of publically owned shoreline was protected with native stone rip rap in 2011. This work took place on the ice along the shorelines of McIntosh Woods State Park. One hundred twenty five feet of this project was along the State Dock area on North Shore Drive. An additional 750 feet of native riprap is planned for the State Dock area in 2012/2013.***

***Dredge containment site water levels have been reduced from the 2012 drought and plans underway to grade down the berms and establish sustainable prairie plantings***



- The recently dredged west end of Clear Lake has continued to show improved water quality when compared to pre-dredged conditions. The recent monitoring data indicates that water clarity is returning to what was seen in the mid 1970's. The west-end sampling site has shown better water quality than the other two sites on Clear Lake now that dredging has been completed. Prior to dredging, the west end site showed poorer water quality than the other two sites. Overall, the water quality of Clear Lake has shown substantial improvement over the past ten years that watershed and lake improvements have been implemented. Water quality remains excellent following previous restoration activities.



**Section 206 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Project for Ventura Marsh**

- Construction is near completion on a Section 206 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Project for Ventura Marsh, which flows into the west end of Clear Lake. In its present degraded state, the marsh serves as a major source of nutrients contributing to water quality problems in the lake and is a major reproduction area for common carp. The Army Corp of Engineers (COE) budgeted \$3.2 million for the Ventura Marsh restoration project. Ventura Marsh state land and in-kind credits of \$1,331,200 and approximately \$884,062 in LRP dollars will fund the IDNR's portion of the marsh restoration project.
- The goal was to work with the COE to restore Ventura Marsh and gain water level management capabilities. This will allow for fish removal and revegetation of the marsh.
- The old stop log structure was removed and replaced with a new structure in 2011. The stop log structure will be used to control water levels from the marsh crest elevation down to Clear Lake's water level. For water level manipulations below Clear Lake's level, the pumping station will need to be used. A flow path was dredged in 2011 to allow the deeper portions of the marsh basin to drain towards the pumping station. This will allow nearly a complete drawdown.

***A new 20,000 gallon per minute pump station was built in 2011/2012. This was used to dewater the marsh, remove rough fish, and restore the aquatic plant community***





***Vegetation establishment phase in 2012 was successful; water levels will be kept low for part of 2013 and then gradually filled***

- Planned work in 2013 will be the construction of a catch basin and a water flow path in the southwest corner of the marsh. This feature will treat water entering the marsh from two large tile sources and allow for longer retention of water entering the marsh before it gets to Clear Lake.

### Anticipated Benefits

The total cost of all above activities is approximately \$17.0 million. Of this amount, local and federal match represent 40% of the funds necessary to complete these restoration efforts. Restoration efforts and improvements in water quality have the potential to double the annual economic return that Clear Lake generates to the local economy. The Center for Agriculture and Rural Development at ISU has projected a significant benefit to cost ratio from lake and watershed restoration at Clear Lake. Restoration of Ventura Marsh will improve the water quality of Clear Lake and help keep the Carp population under control. Local groups and IDNR Section 319 continue to pursue watershed projects that have the potential to decrease sediment delivery to Clear Lake. In addition, in FY2010 the IDNR and Hancock SWCD shared cost on stabilization of critical shoreline areas at McIntosh Woods State Park. Additional shoreline work at the remaining critical areas is planned for 2012.

### **Easter Lake (Polk County)**

Easter Lake is a 178-acre constructed lake with a watershed to lake ratio of 36/1. Constructed in 1967, Easter Lake began as a lake in an agriculture/suburban watershed that over the years has shifted to a highly developed urban area. Construction activities and storm water issues have contributed greatly to more than a 20% reduction in lake volume. The Polk CCB owns and manages this area and they continue to work in partnership to accomplish lake and watershed improvements.

- A Technical Advisory Team met multiple times from 2007 through 2012 to discuss plans for Easter Lake and the watershed. Representatives from the Polk County Conservation Board, City of Des Moines – Parks and Recreation / Public Works, IDNR – Environmental Services Division / Fisheries / Watershed Improvement Section, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Iowa State University, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service have attended these meetings.

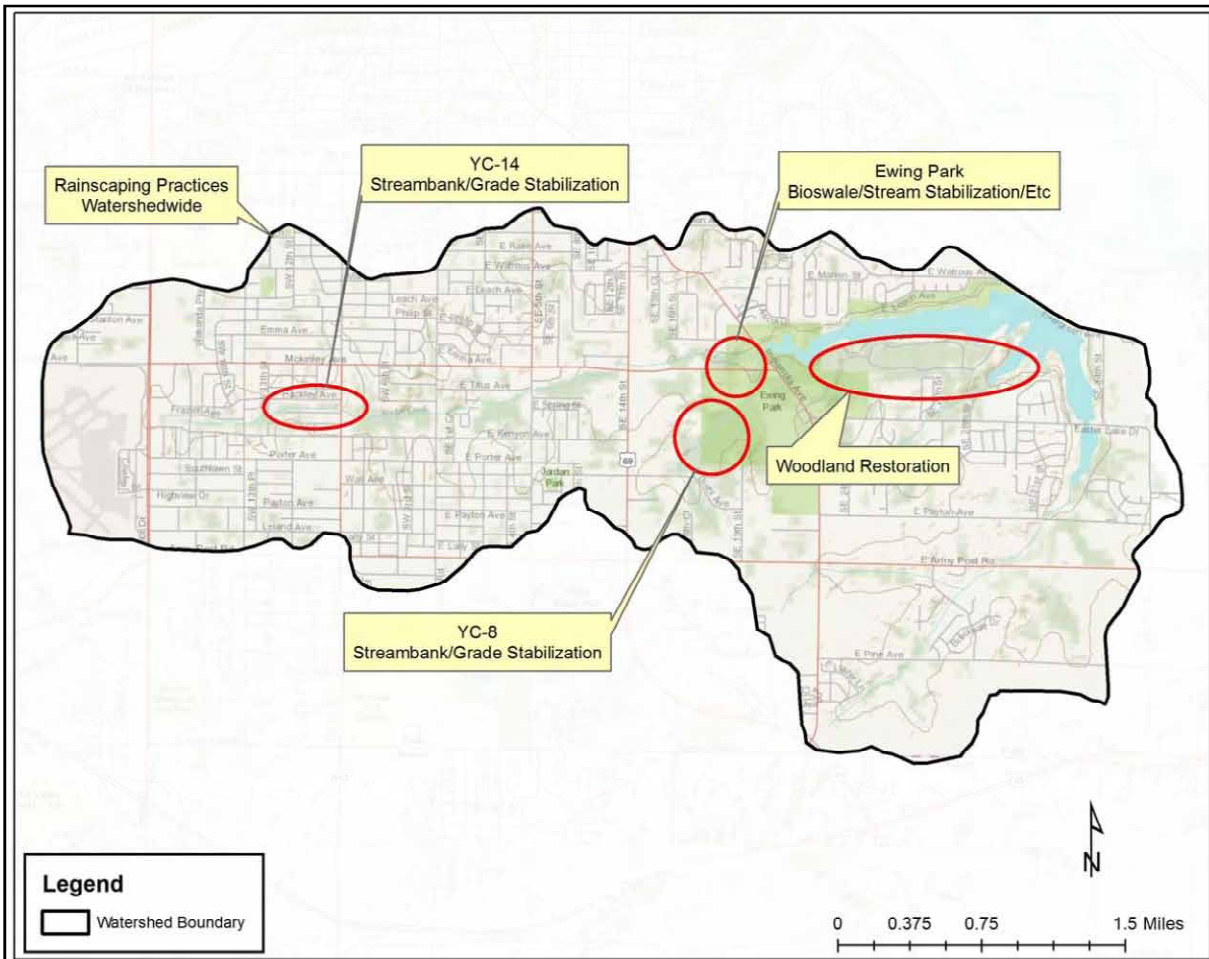


- EA Engineering was hired to complete a water quality improvement plan for Easter Lake. This plan incorporated findings from previous watershed and in-lake research projects.
- A local steering committee was formed from watershed landowners who attended past public meetings. This committee provided local input and feedback to EA during the development of the water quality improvement plan.

***A Water Quality Improvement plan was completed by EA Engineering in the fall of 2012 and a public meeting was held to inform the public of the proposed improvement and gather feedback***



- The Polk County SWCD working with the Technical Advisory Team recently applied for and received \$699,727 in DNR 319 funding. These dollars will allow for implementation of Phase I in the plan. The total Phase 1 budget is \$1,912,950. This includes cost-share of \$599,788 from the City of Des Moines and in addition resources from the NRCS, Polk CCB and the DNR Lake Restoration Program. The Technical Advisory Team will be working to hire a watershed coordinator in 2013 to help lead Phase I of the project and work with watershed landowners.



- On November 6, 2012, voters supported the Polk County Water and Land Legacy Bond (PCWLL) in historic fashion passing the measure by 72%. This large margin of victory clearly shows that there is bipartisan support for critical water quality, wildlife, trails, and recreation projects.
- The Conservation Board has a set of signature projects ready to go including critical water quality work at Easter Lake and in the Four Mile Creek Watershed as well as other trail connectors and infrastructure projects throughout the county. These projects have received valuable public feedback and support.

### **Prairie Rose Lake (Shelby County)**

Prairie Rose Lake is a 173-acre constructed lake with a watershed to lake ratio of 23.5/1. Problems at the lake center on low fish populations, historic lake siltation and poor water quality. Lake improvements in recent years include; jetties and fish structure (1998), sediment basin and shoreline riprap (2001) and sediment basins (2004). Local efforts have accomplished significant work in the watershed and identified additional work for completion.

- IDNR Fisheries and Parks staffs have been meeting with NRCS, IDALS, and others about remaining watershed work and initial lake restoration plans, based in part, on findings from the diagnostic/feasibility study completed by Iowa State University in 2008.
- Shelby County SWCD conducted a watershed assessment followed by a joint Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship / IDNR Watershed Improvement Section grant to accomplish targeted soil conservation work in the watershed. The Shelby County Soil and Water Conservation District was awarded a \$510,611 Water Quality /Watershed Protection Project Grant in 2008.
- Through the Prairie Rose Water Quality Project, there was over 225,000 feet (40 mi.) of terraces, grassed waterways and nutrient management plans added to the watershed reducing sediment and nutrient delivery to the lake by 60%.

<b>Prairie Rose Restoration Plan</b>	<b>Budget</b>
Containment site purchase	\$340,000
<b>Phase 1: Begin to drain lake July 11, 2011</b>	<b>Fall 2011 - Fall 2012</b>
Two road risers and two wetland rock chutes	\$374,266
Spillway modification/M47 Structure/Gate Valve	\$185,242
Containment site construction (estimated)	\$495,000
Mechanical dredging (South-east basin)	\$289,951
Shoreline armoring	\$234,246
Fish habitat construction	\$148,759
Fish renovation	\$10,000
<b>Phase 2: After lake re-fills</b>	<b>2013</b>
Hydraulic dredging / Other (estimated)	\$1,100,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,177,464</b>

- IDNR, in partnership with Pheasants Forever, acquired a 77-acre dredge spoil containment site in 2010, an important component to the in-lake restoration work. Archeological survey is being done on state lands that will be disturbed by construction and engineering plans are being developed for in-lake construction to begin late in 2011 including shoreline stabilization, wetland dredging, spillway modification, gate valve repair, and fish habitat.
- Rock chute wetlands and road risers were constructed on public land on the four main drainages of the lake during fall 2011/spring 2012.
- Prairie Rose Lake was dewatered back in July 2011 to allow construction work to begin in the basin. Stabilizing the eroding shoreline and removal of 60,000 cubic yards of sediment was completed during the winter of 2011-12. The spillway modification to prevent rough fish re-entering the lake from below is now in place.



***Prairie Rose Lake spillway was modified to add a 9-foot drop to prevent undesirable fish from entering the lake from below.***

***60,000 yrd<sup>3</sup> of sediment was removed mechanically from the upper end of the lake during the winter of 2011/12.***



- Additional fish habitat and shoreline access has been added to the lake basin utilizing \$150,000 of IDNR Trust Fund dollars.
- In September 2012, the gate was shut and Prairie Rose Lake began to re-fill following the treatment of the watershed to remove undesirable fish species. (a.k.a. common carp).
- A dredge soil containment site has gone to final design with anticipation of construction early in 2013 and Phase 2 hydraulic dredging scheduled to begin once the lake refills.

### **Rathbun Reservoir (Appanoose County)**

- Rathbun Land and Water has been successful in assisting 400 farmers with BMP application for priority land in 24 targeted sub-watersheds; they helped apply BMP on 16,500 acres (goal: 60,000 acres); these practices will reduce sediment delivery to Rathbun Lake by 25,600 tons per year (goal: 84,000 tons). In addition' these BMPs will reduce phosphorus delivery to Rathbun Lake by 110,400 pounds per year (goal: 360,000 pounds).
- The State and Army COE have been working on in-lake work to protect vital habitats and improve water quality in several bays on the lake by protecting shoreline. Stabilized shoreline loss will reduced erosion and improve water quality. The COE is constructing the Rathbun Lake Habitat Restoration Project under Section 1135 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1986. Cost-share (75% COE / 25% DNR).
- Phase 1 of the Rathbun Lake Section 1135 project addressed seven sites with rock quantities exceeding 45,000 tons. In addition to water quality improvements, fish habitat was improved for a number of important game fish species. Work was completed spring 2011.
- Phase 2 of the Rathbun Lake Section 1135 project addresses the Honey Creek Resort Point. Honey Creek is a 300 plus acre arm of Rathbun Lake and provides some of the highest quality crappie spawning habitat available in the lake. Protection of the Honey Creek Resort Point will provide water quality benefits that will translate into improved crappie habitat and production, and secondarily will preserve Resort infrastructure from flood damage. Total rock quantities to be placed exceed 40,000 tons. Work was completed by spring 2012.
- Final Phase was to restore an additional 500' of shoreline. This work was completed fall 2012 and is the final component of the joint COE/DNR Section 1135 project.



<b>Rathbun Section 1135 Final Cost Share</b>		
<b>Total Project Cost</b>	\$6,512,000	
Federal Share (Cash)	\$4,884,000	
IDNR Share	\$1,628,000	
IDNR Share Breakdown:		
Cash		\$1,548,000
In-Kind South Fork Construction		\$26,000
In-Kind S-13 Wetland Design		\$25,000
In-Kind Lands for S-13		\$29,000

## **Lake Restoration Program (LRP) – Projects In Progress**

### **Big Creek Lake (Polk County)**

Big Creek State Park/Lake is a major recreational destination for the citizens of Iowa. Over 350,000 visitors travel to Big Creek each year and they annually generate over \$19 million in spending. Improving the lakes water quality through watershed improvements is critical to maintaining and even increasing recreational use levels.

Big Creek Lake is currently listed on the EPA 303d list for bacteria and historically has been listed for sediments and nutrients. A comprehensive review of the watershed indicates that the watershed annually delivers approximately 6,379 tons of sediment and 8,280 pounds of phosphorus to the lake. We must significantly reduce these numbers to preserve the lake's water quality and extend the lifespan of the lake. Additionally, we must also reduce waste products from humans and animals within the watershed that adversely affect water quality. During the past year, Blue-green algae blooms put Big Creek Lake in the news headlines multiple times this year. In addition, water quality samples revealed high E. coli levels in the tributaries and at the beach.

- A 2007 development grant provided analyses of the Big Creek watershed. In addition, a 2008 gully analysis and 2009 land use analysis provided a better understanding of critical areas in the watershed.
- Watershed assessment identified several gullies with severe erosion on State property. IDNR Engineering is taking a more detailed look at the top 10 of 25 problem gullies. The locations of structures are in the process of being designed and approved. Bid letting for construction should take place in 2013.
- The Iowa IDNR Watershed Improvement Section completed a Water Quality Improvement Plan in September 2010 and in March 2010 contracted with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship to provide Polk SWCD and Boone SWCD with funding to complete a Watershed Management Plan. The EPA approved the Big Creek Watershed Project for \$292,834 over the five-year duration of the project.
- There are now two half-time watershed coordinators working on Big Creek Watershed and a Big Creek Citizens Advisory Committee has been formed.
- Extensive water quality sampling was completed in the tributaries and main lake during 2011. A public and landowner outreach event was held at Big Creek Lake in 2012 encourage more involvement.





***A number of watershed improvement projects are being implemented on private lands in the watershed; including terraces, grade stabilization structures and waterways. These projects are being cost-shared by the Big Creek Lake Watershed Project, which is helping to generate more interest among watershed landowners***



***Signs are being posted so landowners can identify the watershed boundaries and project participants can be recognized***

### **Blue Lake (Monona County)**

Blue Lake is a Missouri River oxbow lake located in western Monona County three miles west of Onawa and three miles east of the Missouri River. The lake was an active channel of the Missouri River in 1804 when the Lewis and Clark expedition went through the area. The lake shoreline is now part of Lewis and Clark State Park. Excessive growth of algae, a lack of clarity caused by this algal growth, and non-algal turbidity are the impairments at Blue Lake. These problems combine to reduce the recreational use of the lake.

- IDNR completed a Water Quality Improvement Plan for Blue Lake in 2008 and held a public meeting to discuss the findings of the study.
- IDNR held a public meeting in 2009 to present the lake assessment and restoration process and develop a local technical advisory team of conservation agencies and local stakeholders to help guide the project. The group met periodically during the year. Objectives of the project are to reduce nutrient and sediment inputs from the watershed, reduce re-suspension/recycling of in-lake nutrient and sediments, eliminate rough fish introductions and evaluate lake and water table interactions.
- IDNR has altered the waterfowl refuge boundary to exclude Blue Lake and address excess nutrient inputs from geese.
- A public meeting was held in March of 2011 to discuss potential restoration efforts with the community.



- Lake Restoration contracted with MSA Professional Services to conduct a diagnostic-feasibility study on the lake. Extensive data collection was conducted by local IDNR staff throughout 2010.
- The final report from MSA on the diagnostic-feasibility study was completed in November of 2011. The report proposes that construction of a storm water settling basin, dredging and removal of common carp will achieve water quality goals for the lake.
- A Technical Advisory Team meeting is scheduled for early 2013 to discuss the report and develop a restoration and implementation plan.

### **Carter Lake (Pottawattamie County)**

Carter Lake is a natural lake that is uniquely located in both Iowa and Nebraska. Carter Lake is an old oxbow of the Missouri River that was isolated from the river main channel in 1877. The lake is approximately 300 surface acres at conservation pool elevation 970.0 feet, with a watershed area of 2,675 acres (watershed area to lake area ratio of 7.6/1). The lake is approximately 75% in Nebraska and 25% in Iowa. Park areas in Nebraska and the City of Carter Lake in Iowa dominate land use adjacent to the lake. Problems at the lake have centered on poor water quality, chronic low water levels and nuisance algae bloom. Impairments include nutrients/algae, indicator bacteria, and fish contaminants (PCBs).

- Carter Lake is a highly productive lake with a history of poor water clarity, high nutrient concentrations, frequent algal blooms, and periodically high bacteria. Given the nature of the problems at Carter Lake, corrective measures focused on the reduction of phosphorus, which is the driving force behind algal production. The goals pertain to protecting aquatic life and public uses of the lake such as recreation, fish consumption, and aesthetics.
- Restoration of Carter Lake involves the cooperation of Iowa, Nebraska and the cities of Omaha and Carter Lake. A local Iowa group, the Carter Lake Preservation Society (CLPS), has been very active in moving this project forward.
- In 2006, the cities of Carter Lake, Iowa and Omaha, Nebraska, requested assistance from environmental agencies in addressing water quality problems at Carter Lake. The Carter Lake Environmental Assessment and Rehabilitation (CLEAR) Council, with assistance from numerous local and state agencies, developed a conceptual plan to address water quality concerns. The community led steering committee finalized the Carter Lake Water Quality Management Plan in the spring of 2008.
- Fall 2008, the Metro Area Planning Agency (MAPA), with support of project partners, selected Tetra Tech, Inc. for the purpose of preliminary design and engineering of critical components of the Water Quality Management Plan for Carter Lake. Their work will focus on the restoration alternatives of water-budget/seepage management, dredging, and storm water/in-lake alum treatment. By winter of 2009 project partners will have enough information on probable cost, effectiveness and permitting issues to determine how to best move forward with implementation.

### **Anticipated project funding partners**

Iowa Department of Natural Resources – Lake Restoration Program	\$2,494,624
Iowa Department of Natural Resources – Section 319	\$381,744
Iowa Water Quality Review Board	\$175,000
Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality - Section 319	\$1,120,000
Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	\$2,105,837
Nebraska Environmental Trust	\$400,000
City of Omaha	\$500,000
City of Carter Lake (in-kind)	\$250,000

- Metropolitan Area Planning Agency (MAPA) hired a project coordinator to work with both the local Watershed Council and agencies. One of their primary responsibilities was to finalize plans on a first group of watershed improvement projects and have these projects ready to bid for final design/construction by fall of 2010.

- Project partners made significant progress at Carter Lake in 2010 with a spring alum treatment followed up by a complete fish renovation in the fall. Nebraska and Iowa, following the community accepted restoration plan guidelines established a no-wake zone on 100 acres of the lake in 2010 to lessen the impacts of recreational boating.
- The Carter Lake fish renovation was a joint project involving Nebraska Game and Parks, the City of Carter Lake, and Omaha.
  - Applied 2665 gallons of rotenone on September 26, 2010
  - Physically removed 89.6 tons of fish (Approximately 600 lbs/ac)
  - Each worker handled ~ 10,000 lbs of fish twice (pitched in & out the boat) in 3 days
- Almost immediately, visitors to Carter Lake saw drastically improved water clarity as a result. Water quality data collected during the summer of 2010 shows that toxic algae blooms have declined, phosphorous and nitrogen concentrations are lower, and water clarity has increased. However, there is still a need to control more phosphorus to meet water quality goals; therefore, another treatment may be needed.
- Extremely clear conditions persisted again during the summer of 2012 allowing tremendous amounts of aquatic plants to fill the water column. Lifelong residents of Carter Lake commented that they had never seen the bottom the Carter Lake before. Due to the clarity and resulting response in plant growth a BMP for aquatic plants was drafted in consultation with the local communities to establish guidelines for future plant management efforts.



***Tetra Tech engineered wetland restoration and shoreline protection measures for 2012 spring/summer construction. Image shows shoreline armoring at Carter Lake from a barge in 2012.***

- As part of the 2012 vegetation management plan the TAT authorized the chemical (herbicide) treatment of vegetation around public access points, canals, private docks, and ski club area. State agencies treated the public access areas. Local homeowners contracted a private aquatic pesticide applicator to treat vegetation around

privately owned docks, canals, and ski club area. The TAT discussed various options, but ultimately decided to chemically treat a limited number of acres of open water areas to open up boating lanes. A permit to apply aquatic herbicide and a contractor were secured by the City of Carter Lake to chemically treat 100 acres of open water area with the herbicide "Reward".

- The lakes re-charge system was completed and activated in 2012. This system provided well water to Carter Lake during the dry summer assisting in vegetation management, dredging operations and recreational use of the lake.

***Hydraulic dredging in Carter Lake began during the summer of 2012 and was completed by November. 80,000 yds<sup>3</sup> of sediment were removed from the bottom of Carter Lake***

- To address future aquatic plant management needs at Carter Lake, both Iowa and Nebraska have agreed on purchase of an aquatic vegetation harvester; future operation and maintenance will be provided by the cities of Carter Lake and Omaha.





***Contractors completed shoreline armoring, off-shore breakwaters and a new storm water basin on the north side of the lake in 2012***

**Five Island Lake (Palo Alto County)**

Five Island Lake is a natural lake located on the north side of the town of Emmetsburg, Iowa in Palo Alto County. In 1989, following years of diminished recreational opportunities and poor water quality conditions due to low lake levels, a group of concerned citizens formed the Five Island Lake Board. They established two major goals for the project: Increase the lake water depth; and, improve the lake water quality.

1994 Diagnostic Feasibility Study: Included goals for dredging and shoreline stabilization

- Original goal was to dredge an additional 3,300,000 cu. yds. beyond 91’-93’ efforts for a total of 4,690,000 cu. yds. and increase mean depth from 4.6 ft to 6.7 ft. (Figure 2).
- Since the early 90’s, the Lake Board has stabilized almost 10.5 miles of lake shoreline, dredged over 6.3 million cubic yards of silt, and has worked in the watershed to reduce nutrients and sediment from entering the lake.
- Funding for this project since 2000 has required a combination of 1:1 state and local matching grants (total of \$2.2 million).

<b>Year</b>	<b>Cubic Yards</b>
1991-1993	1,390,000
1994-1999	3,028,000
2002-2011	1,926,296
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,344,296</b>

- The current plan is to dredge approximately 420,000 cu. yds. over the next three years (2013-2015) in order to complete deepening in the areas approved for dredging and achieve a mean depth greater than 8 ft (Figure 1). The City of Emmetsburg ran into both equipment and personnel issues in 2012, which limited their ability to have an effective dredge season. The planned work from 2013-2015 will be accomplished using the balance of FY12 funds and the \$400,000 in FY13/FY14 funds.
- The City did explore the option of a private contractor being hired to complete final dredging and among responses received a low quote of \$3.92 / cu. yd. to remove the additional 420,000 cubic yards from the lake at a total cost of \$1.6 million. The City and DNR believe the most viable option going forward (from a financial point of view) will be to continue the dredging using City equipment, personnel and containment site along with DNR funding.

- The City of Emmetsburg agrees with the final effort to dredge 420,000 cu. yds. will be the final phase of the DNR/City funded dredge initiative.

#### 2006 TMDL: Impaired water for algae and turbidity

- Large source of turbidity is from internal re-suspension of sediment. A TP load reduction of 17% is needed to achieve water quality goals and protect the designated uses.
- TMDL supports that dredging is a critical component to improving and maintaining water quality improvements. However, partners recognize that water quality still does not meet expectations and a plan needs to be developed to address the watershed and any other in-lake issues.

#### Recent Activities

- The Palo Alto SWCD received an IDALS-DSC development grant for assessment of Five Island Lake and its watershed. This was completed in 2007.
- Summer 2008 tour with the DNR Director Leopold, State Senator Kibbe, local stakeholders and the DNR Lake Restoration Program reviewed progress and the need for continued watershed work to compliment local dredging efforts
- On November, 2011 the DNR met w/ the City of Emmetsburg, Palo Alto SWCD, Palo Alto CCB, IDALS and members of the Lake Board to discuss current status of project and potential future work
- In addition to wrapping up the dredging portion of their project, the Lake Board is evaluating the need for additional work in the watershed and in-lake management strategies to achieve the desired water quality goals.
- The City of Emmetsburg and Palo Alto SWCD submitted a Watershed Management Planning Grant application to the IDNR April 2012. The grant was not approved; however, the city and county are still interested in exploring funding opportunities for watershed initiatives.

### **Green Valley Lake (Union County)**

Green Valley Lake is a 390-acre lake constructed in 1950. It has a watershed to lake ratio of 11:1. The IDNR implemented a limited lake restoration project through the State and U.S. EPA's Clean Lakes Program in the mid 1980s, however additional watershed and in-lake work was needed. Project partners initiated current restoration efforts at Green Valley Lake in 2006.

The local district soil group and NRCS completed a watershed assessment and developed a four-year plan to make needed watershed improvements. Cost share funding allowed local landowners to accomplish soil and water quality improvement projects on their property. Iowa State University completed a Diagnostic Feasibility study in 2008 and presented a variety of restoration alternatives (i.e. spillway modification, fish restoration and dredging of coves) for consideration. A technical workgroup that included IDNR staff, NRCS and SWCD staff, the City of Creston, Southern Iowa Rural Water, Green Valley Chemical and CIPCO coordinated project activities.

IDNR Parks has worked in parallel with lake improvements efforts to complete a facelift to the park. Including, adding full hook-up sites, removing a number of campsites to increase the size of each site, redesigning all the camping pads, a new electrical system upgrading from 30 amps to 50 amps, each site will have a new picnic tables and fire grills and a new shower building was installed. IDNR Parks added new pit latrines at the campground, the cabins and the north picnic area and built a third camping cabin. Green Valley also has a new playground that was donated in part by the family of Greg Haley, who was the park manager when he passed away in January 2009, and built by volunteers. In addition, the park was connected to the City of Creston by a paved bike trail in 2009 that allows park visitors easy access to the amenities in town.

- The local NRCS District Conservationist has implemented a four-year, \$409,000, watershed improvement plan and completed approved soil and water quality improvement projects.

- Recent fish population estimates had supported the presence of high numbers of yellow bass and common carp, species both considered detrimental to sport fish populations, with common carp having the additional negative impact of contributing to poor water quality conditions. The IDNR renovated the fishery in September 2008 and has since restocked the lake with bluegill, largemouth bass and channel catfish.
- The concrete spillway had starting to develop some structural problems and its design allowed common carp to enter the lake during high outflow periods. Iowa Bridge & Culvert LC completed a redesigned spillway in May 2009 at a cost of \$510,435.
- IDNR awarded a \$348,767 contract to CL Carroll Company Inc. for in-lake fish habitat and protecting of the existing shoreline. Fish Habitat Stamp funds in cooperation with Federal Dingell-Johnson, Marine Fuel Tax and Lake Restoration Program funds paid for this aspect of the project.
- The Natural Resource Commission approved the acquisition of a parcel of land with LRP funding. The land is located 2.5 miles north of Creston, and adjacent to the northeast corner of Green Valley State Park. The Betty E. Gater Estate offered this 67.58-acre parcel for \$338,000. This site is serving as a storage area for sediments removed from the Green Valley Lake during the lake restoration process and will be re-shaped and seeded down spring 2012.
- Taylor Construction & Excavation signed a contract in the fall of 2009 for removal of approximately 250,000 yards of sediment targeted from both existing sediment retention basins and in-lake areas. In addition, a new sediment dike was installed at a location below an area identified in the diagnostic study as a subwatershed area contributing significant sediment and nutrient loading and critical areas of shoreline were stabilized.
- The campground at Green Valley State Park opened last weekend after being closed for nearly two years for renovations. The campground features full hook-up sites, each site has been enlarged and camping pads redesigned, a new electrical system now provides up to 50 amp service, and a new picnic table and fire grill at each site. The campground has a new shower building and pit latrines were added at the campground, the cabins and the north picnic area.
- Green Valley is being allowed to refill. Channel catfish, largemouth bass and bluegill have been restocked and are growing well.

### **Hawthorn Lake (Mahaska County)**

The Mahaska County SWCD applied for, received a watershed assessment grant from IDALS, and completed the assessment during the winter of 2007. They then held a kick-off meeting in May of 2010, with 34 landowners, stakeholders, staff, commissioners, news media, etc. in attendance. Partners discussed shoreline work, structures on public property, signage, private land progress, and reviewed goals.

To-date landowners have completed a grade stabilization structure with sediment loading reduction of 157 (t/y). 3,238' of terraces on private property have been installed reducing sediment loading by 104 (t/y), and 2,109' of waterways reducing sediment loading by 32 (t/y) on private property.

- IDNR awarded a \$384,854 contract to Cornerstone Excavating, Inc. of Washington Iowa for in-lake restoration work at Hawthorn Lake (\$147,824 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Funds, \$132,033 Lake Restoration Program, \$100,000 Mahaska County SWCD WIRB grant). The project, completed April 2011, consists of the placement of in-lake habitat, shoreline armoring and deepening, and jetty construction/repair.

The fishery in this 170-acre lake collapsed in 2004 after gizzard shad were introduced in 2002. The IDNR lowered the water level to a 20-acre pool while the in-lake restoration work was completed in the winter of 2010 and a nonselective fish renovation was completed in March of 2011 to eradicate the carp and gizzard shad populations. Blue gills were restocked on the east arm of the lake, the last week of April 2011. Channel catfish were restocked on May 18, 2011, and 18,000 (½-inch) Largemouth bass were restocked on Monday June 20, 2011. On September 6, 2011, DNR performed a survey of these

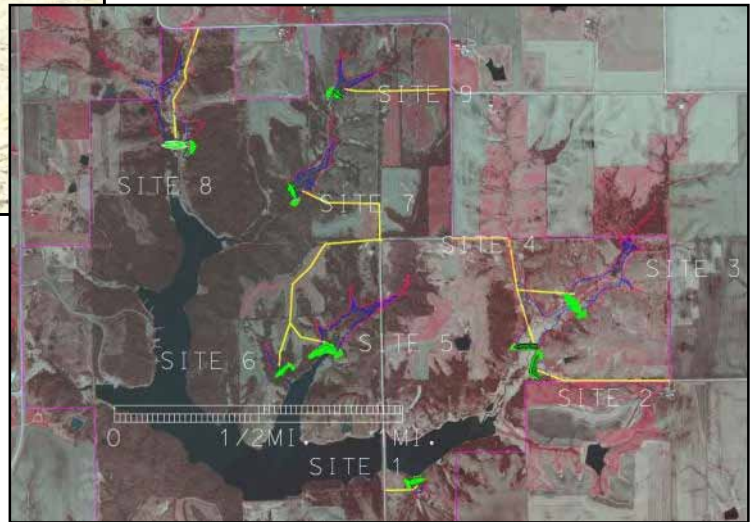


stockings and found growth to be good. The bass are running between 6-8 inches and the bluegills are about 4-5 inches.

The Mahaska SWCD applied for and received a WIRB grant of \$360,900 toward Lake Restoration activities. In addition, a total of \$208,618 in Publicly Owned Lakes (POL) funds has been available to the project. Lake Restoration Program utilized funds of \$450,000 for in-lake shoreline stabilization, deepening, and watershed improvement on state lands.



The DNR has designed nine sediment control ponds for watershed improvement on public ground. Phase I: Five of the nine structures on public property were let for bid on January 19, 2012 and are now completed. We are currently under permit review for the remaining four sites and the plan is for 2013 construction.



- The IDNR Lake Restoration Program, IDNR Wildlife Bureau and Mahaska County Conservation Board worked cooperatively to eradicate early secondary succession woody vegetation from targeted areas on the Hawthorn Wildlife area. Lake Restoration provided up to \$15,000 for removal of these trees, which will allow for the stabilization and restoration of native grasses, providing overall better watershed protection while improving wildlife habitat.

### Hickory Grove Lake (Story County)

The Hickory Grove Watershed is located in Story County, Iowa. It has a drainage area of 4,026 acres and landuse distribution of 84.7% row crop, 9.8% grass, 1.6% forest, 2.2% water, 0.9% barren and 0.7% artificial. Iowans consider Hickory Grove Lake an important recreational resource; however, the lake is experiencing event driven water quality problems that negatively affect this resource. In general, the Hickory Grove watershed has few elevation changes and much of the agricultural land is under tile drainage management. Storm related surface runoff has led to gully erosion, debris and nitrogen spikes immediately after these events.

The eastern end of the lake is now sediment filled, limiting boat access. The fishery is healthy; however, carp have destroyed most vegetation and IDNR is considering a lake fishery renovation. The lake has a designated use of primary contact recreation and is listed on the 2008 303(d) Impaired Waters Listing for elevated bacteria concentrations.

- Watershed Technical Advisory Team has met from the summer of 2008 - 2012 to discuss water quality improvement efforts at the lake. The NRCS received Development grant was in 2008 to

determine critical areas in the watershed with significant quantities of sediment and nutrient delivery to the lake and completed a land use assessment in 2009.

- The Story SWCD has listed the Hickory Grove Lake Watershed as an Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) priority watershed. The EQIP is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers to help plan and implement conservation practices.
- Spring 2011, ISU received an IDNR Planning Grant for development of a Watershed Management Plan for Hickory Grove Lake. In October 2011, Dr. Michelle Soupir, from Iowa State University, named Aaron Andrews, from the Iowa Learning Farms (ILF) as the Watershed Project Coordinator. Aaron has made one-on-one contact with the majority of the watershed landowners and continued communication with these landowners is recommended.
- ISU is finished with the Watershed Management Plan, which outlines recommended improvement strategies for bacteria levels, lake drawdown, sediment removal and fishery renovation over the next three years. Shoreline stabilization will continue in Winter 2012/2013 if ice becomes thick enough to move erosion stone and heavy equipment.



***Story County Conservation Board staff continues to work on timberstand improvement and oak savanna restoration and clearing of invasive species from around lake including mechanical removal and prescribed burns.***

### **Iowa Great Lakes (Dickinson County)**

- Local concerned citizens and business owners that live on or recreate on the Iowa Great Lakes system, specifically Lower Gar, Minnewashta and Upper Gar, formed The Three Lakes Improvement Association.
- IDNR Lakes Restoration staff has met with this group several times in the past years to discuss lake water quality and water depth issues and contracted with Iowa State University to conduct a diagnostic/feasibility study to examine lake issues. This study was completed November 2011.
- The Iowa Department of Natural Resources hosted an informational meeting to discuss the results of a diagnostic and feasibility study of the Lower Chain of the Iowa Great Lakes (Upper Gar Lake, Minnewashta Lake, and Lower Gar Lake). Iowa State University conducted this study over the past three years in an effort to understand the factors influencing water quality in these lakes. The results will also provide guidance to resource professionals, lake residents, and the local community for improving lake water quality. The meeting was held June 2010 at the Milford Community Center.
- The Natural Resource Commission approved the acquisition of a 90-acre tract of land offered by the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation for \$478,000 (\$250K LRP, \$150K NAWCA and \$78K REAP Open Spaces). The tract was appraised at \$578,000 (INHF received a \$100,000 grant from the Dickinson County Water Quality Commission). This is part of a larger 230-acre tract acquired by the INHF in March 2010. After restoration, the land will contain 54 acres of native prairie plantings and 35 acres of restored wetlands. The Lake Restoration Program continues to budget and work with local partners to pursue opportunities for targeted watershed improvement.
- The Iowa DNR Lake Restoration Program is supporting the Dickinson SWCD watershed Improvement Review Board (WIRB) Center Lake Low Impact Development Grant Application for the installation of urban conservation practices that will be installed in the Center Lake Watershed.

These urban conservation practices, involving bio-retention cells, pervious paving systems, and other Low Impact Development Practices will result in beneficial impact to the water quality of Center Lake. The Lake Restoration Program will contribute an estimated \$47,944 dollars over the life of the project.

- **East and West Hottes Lake/Marble Lake/Grovers Lake Complex, Dickinson County** - Located within the 1,700-acre Kettleson Hogsback wildlife complex in northern Dickinson County, these 4 basins are of extreme importance to fish and wildlife as well as water quality in the Iowa Great Lakes. Historically, these basins contained a diversity of high quality aquatic plants that supported a wide array of sport fish, waterfowl, water birds, furbearers, reptiles, amphibians, and other wildlife. Excessive numbers of carp and chronic high water levels have resulted in the loss of many of these plants and the animals that depend on them. Project partners, including the Big Spirit Lake Association, IDNR, DU, Dickinson County, and others will provide funding and technical guidance to fund a comprehensive feasibility study to identify ways to return ecological health to this critical habitat. Final design will incorporate water control structures and pumps that allow for the temporary draining of the basins and fish barriers that allow for the passage of game fish but preclude the passage of carp. Partners plan to complete the feasibility study by spring 2012 and begin construction in the fall.

**Lake Darling (Washington County)**

Lake Darling is a 267-acre man-made lake, constructed within a 1,400-acre state park, with a watershed to lake ratio of 47:1. Initially impounded in 1950, it has historically been a fair fishery plagued by severe in-lake siltation and poor water quality. Sedimentation has reduced the lakes original 305 surface acres to 267 acres. During the last five years, extensive watershed soil conservation work on state and private land has reduced sediment delivery to the lake by 60%.

- The Management Plan includes all in-lake improvements to be done while the lake is drained and sustaining those improvements over the next 50 years. The Plan and its affects will benefit not only Lake Darling State Park but also the local community and economy.

**Lake Darling Restoration Project Costs**

Sediment removal and spoil retention dams	\$1,650,000
Dam reconstruction & water level increase	\$1,970,000
Shoreline, boat ramp, paving, parking lot, fishing trail	\$3,184,000
Ponds, terraces, risers, wetland (IDNR/319/LRP)	\$385,000
	<b>Total = \$7.2 million dollars</b>

Phase 1 – Dam and Spillway Renovation (Winter 2010 – Spring 2012)

- Acting on the recommendations of the completed engineering report, the IDNR is repairing the dam and addressing spillway leakage.
- The NRC approved C.J. Moyna & Sons, Elkader, IA as the lowest bidder (\$1,785,000) for the Lake Darling dam & spillway repair on November 11, 2010. With the lake drained, IDNR plans for in-lake restoration and spillway construction starting spring of 2011 with a tentative completion spring of 2012. In addition, the new spillway will increase the lake level by 2 feet.

Phase 2 - In-Lake Construction

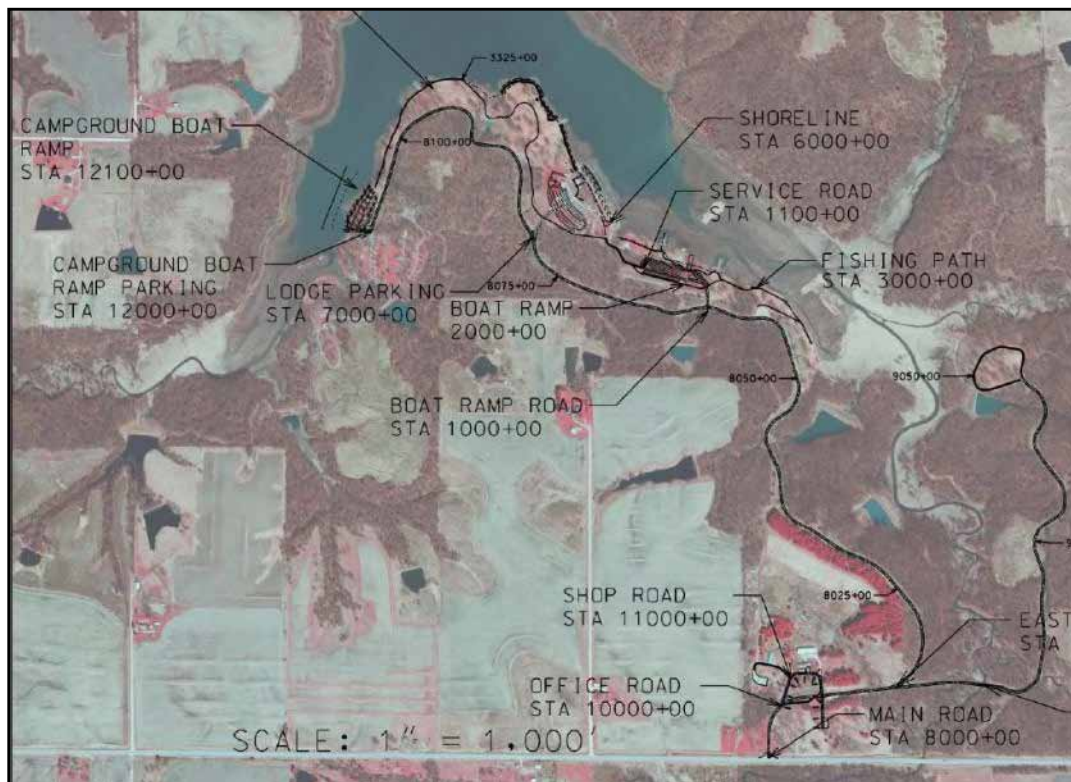
- Sediment Retention Basins / Sediment Removal
- Universally Accessible Fishing Pier

Phase 3 – Shoreline armoring, Boat Ramp and Paving

- The IDNR Fisheries Bureau and Engineering Bureau, has also been working on plans for the construction of a new boat ramp and parking area. IDNR will construct the ramp and parking lot on



the shoreline before the entrance of the existing campground and will replace the current campground boat ramp. Phase 3 will also include re-location of existing swimming beach and shoreline deepening and stabilization.



The Lake Darling Restoration is progressing well. Dam construction is complete. All of the fishing jetties have been raised and repaired. IDNR Engineering has developed designs for final components of the project and work will start once permitting is in place. The plan will be to impound water once the shoreline/dredging work is complete and begin stocking fish in fall of 2013.

### Lake Geode (Henry County)

Lake Geode, located in Henry and Des Moines Counties, is a 174-acre lake encompassed by a 1,640-acre state park. The entire Lake Geode Watershed consists of approximately 10,327 acres. The watershed encompasses drainage from Cedar Creek and the lake outlets to the Skunk River. This scenic lake was constructed in 1950 and has excellent fishing. IDNR estimates that Lake Geode State Park attracts approximately 180,000 annual visitors who camp, hike, fish, and boat within the park.

The goals of the Lake Geode Watershed Project are to reduce bacteria, sediment and phosphorus from loading into Lake Geode. Project partners plan to achieve these goals through a combination of best management practices that will target identified source contributors from state and private land. The following agencies are working in partnership to achieve this goal, Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship – Division of Soil Conservation (IDALS-DSC), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Henry Soil and Water Conservation District and Des Moines Soil and Water Conservation District.

- Goal 1: Address bacteria impairment of Lake Geode in an effort to remove it from the 303(d) list
- Goal 2: Reduce total phosphorus and sediment delivery from agricultural and non-agricultural sources by 6,351 lbs/year and 2,499 tons/year, respectively.

A variety of structures and management practices will be required to reduce both TP and bacteria contributions to the watershed. The district hired a watershed coordinator and he is meeting with watershed landowners to establish targeted watershed improvement measures. Funding has been secured through a number of partners (e.g. IDNR Lake Restoration and Watershed Improvement Section / Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Management) to implement these practices. IDNR staff will help develop a Lake Geode Management Plan that will outline in-lake restoration options, with implementation of these options will only take place after sufficient sediment/phosphorus watershed reduction.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources have been working together to install Best Management Practices (BMP's) on state property.

- At this time, five grade stabilization structures (Ponds) and four sediment control basins have been surveyed and designed within Geode State Park. Each site has been selected by the partnering agencies to control gully erosion within the park. Each site that has been selected was identified through a gully assessment that was conducted during the early stages of the project.



- As the first round of park structures have now been completed, a new opportunity for recreation is just beginning. After a couple of years of surveying, designing and multiple site evaluations the first round of park structures has finally been completed. A total of four sediment basins and five grade stabilization (Pond) structures have been constructed to help trap sediment from reaching the lake. These sediment basins will be effective for slowing down the velocity of water and allowing sediment to filter out.

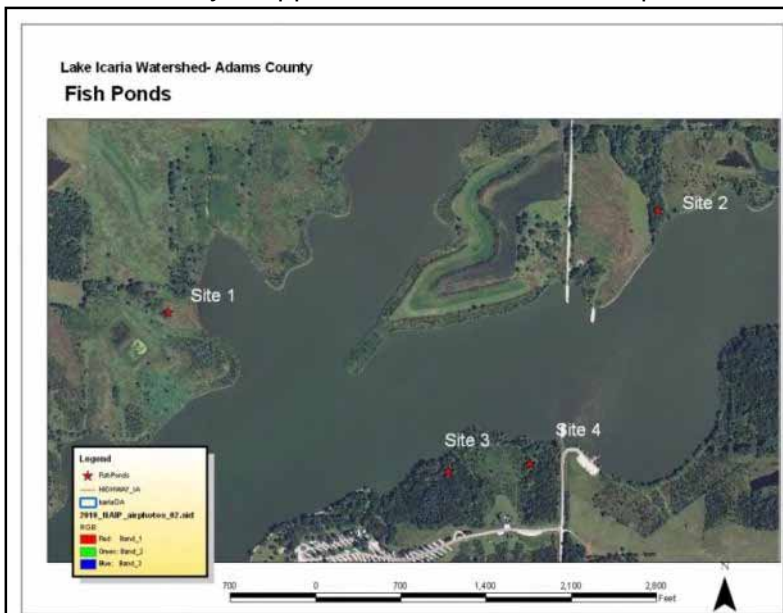
- Work has begun to identify the second round of park structures. Agency officials have begun surveying multiple area's that has active gully erosion

occurring. Each location is required to have a threatened and endangered species, cultural resources and an Indiana bat habitat check all completed prior to construction being started.

### **Lake Icaria (Adams County)**

Lake Icaria's clarity used to be measured in inches; it is now measured in feet. Before, you could only see down six inches in the murky waters of this southwestern Iowa lake. Now, following work in the watershed and in the lake, you can watch your toes wiggle when standing in waist-deep water. Landowners set out in 1996 to improve the lake as part of the Adams County Three Lakes Project. In the past decade, landowners have changed how they farm to improve water quality. Following work in the watershed, the DNR moved ahead with restoration efforts in the lake in 2004. At Lake Icaria, in-lake work has helped protect 10,000 feet of shoreline from erosion. Anglers will notice four new fishing jetties, repaired jetties and a repaired main boat ramp, as well as a renovated fishery and restocked lake. The DNR also placed 12 underwater rock mounds to attract fish for anglers. Since Lake Icaria completely refilled in the spring of 2007, the water is remarkably clearer – generally, a person can see three feet down in the water, sometimes up to six feet. With an improved lake, anglers, campers and other park visitors are taking notice. Fishing has improved and park staff expects 2008 to be the busiest season ever.

- The DNR Lake Restoration Program is committed to assisting the Adams SWCD by providing funding resources to repair and improve the main tributary wetland that was originally constructed in 2004. The DNR will provide 50/50 cost-share if the county is approved for a Watershed Improvement Review Board grant.
- In addition, Adams CCB applied for a fish habitat grant for four sediment control ponds above Lake Icaria. The DNR and Adams CCB will coordinate planning for these structures winter of 2012/2013.



### Lake Manawa (Pottawattamie County)

Lake Manawa is a 715-acre natural lake with a watershed to lake ratio of 4/1. Mosquito Creek supplies additional water to the lake. Past lake dredging work in the 1960s deepened significant portions of the lake. However, maximum lake depth does not exceed 13 feet with large expanses of 6 to 7 feet deep water. The Iowa Department of Transportation approached the IDNR to explore the possibility of dredging the lake for sand to use for highway construction. However, there is concern about whether they can remove sand materials from Lake Manawa while still maintaining the hydraulic seal between the lake and the fluctuating Missouri River.

- The Iowa DOT and IDNR have met periodically between of 2007 and present to discuss opportunities to obtain highway building materials from Lake Manawa sediments.
- The IDNR hired Tetra Tech to conduct a diagnostic and feasibility study and review the option of dredging as a potential lake restoration activity. Tetra Tech also completed a Jurisdictional Wetland Delineation for Lake Manawa Pilot Dredge Spoil Site and finalized a dredging plan that will reduce the risk involved both in providing the materials to the specifications required and in the ability to control additional seepage from areas along the lake bottom. The project remains a viable opportunity for both IDNR and the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT).
- The IDNR continues to meet with groups such as the “Friends of Lake Manawa” to solicit support and to assist in moving the lake/watershed restoration project along.
- In advance of dredging, Tetra Tech has prepared a Phase I Archaeological Investigation as part of the Diagnostic and Feasibility Study of Lake Manawa.
- Goal for 2013 is to develop a Request for Proposals for a vendor to provide design/oversight services related to dredging approximately 300,000 cubic yards of material from Lake Manawa.

### 2011 Flooding

Historic flood events in the Missouri River basin this summer resulted in Governor Branstad declaring Pottawattamie County as a disaster emergency area; this proclamation is in place until October 28, 2011. The following conditions existed at Lake Manawa because of the floods: high waters have inundated critical public infrastructure (such as parking lots, docks, trails, shorelines and fishing jetties) as well as neighboring private property. The damage caused to these areas from high water levels could not be assessed, repaired or prepped for winter (when there is a threat of further damage from ice) until the

waters were lowered and the high waters were unlikely to recede naturally in sufficient time before winter to make all necessary assessments and repairs.

The IDNR conducted draw-down pumping at Lake Manawa (Pottawattamie Co.) pursuant to emergency response authority found in DAS rules 11 Iowa Administrative Code 106.3 and 106.8. "Emergency" is defined by 11 I.A.C. 106.3 as including, but not limited to, "a condition...in which there is a need to protect public health, welfare, or safety of persons occupying or visiting a public improvement or property located adjacent to the public improvement...". On September 30, 2011, the IDNR received written confirmation from the Governor's Office that the high water levels at Lake Manawa are currently threatening critical public and private infrastructure, justifying an emergency response.

Additionally, 11 I.A.C 106.8 authorizes emergency procurements for service contracts without competitive bid letting, although using some degree of completion is still encouraged. The IDNR's Engineering Bureau has pre-qualified multiple firms to provide on-going engineering consulting services; under this retainer contract, the IDNR consulted with Ehrhart, Griffin & Associates to provide recommendations and specifications for effective drawdown of Lake Manawa in an efficient manner as possible. This information was then used to define the scope of work and informally solicit cost estimates from contractors.

- Four contractors were hired at Lake Manawa at a cost of \$284,171 with an original target drawdown elevation of 2" below the invert elevation of the 18" CMP lake overflow pipe, which is at 966.89. Pumping began with 12" pump on Saturday, October 8. Lake Water Surface Elevation (WSE) on October 8<sup>th</sup> was 968.9 feet.
- First 18" pump started on Tuesday, October 11. Lake Water Surface Elevation (WSE) on October 12<sup>th</sup> was 968.72 feet. Second 18" pump came on-line on Friday, October 14. Lake Water Surface Elevation (WSE) on October 15<sup>th</sup> was 968.4. The last pump was shut down on Wednesday October 26<sup>th</sup>. Lake Water Surface Elevation (WSE) on October 27<sup>th</sup> was 967.26 and reached 967.22 on October 31<sup>st</sup>.
- The final target drawdown elevation, as determined by the IDNR, was based on the normal lake pool elevation of 967.0. It was determined on October 31 that the lake drawdown had reached a range acceptable to all parties and the contractor was directed to remove the pumps and associated piping from the area.

### **Little River Lake (Decatur County)**

Little River Lake was created in 1985 as a multipurpose PL-566 structure to reduce flood damage, provide drinking water for the City of Leon and Decatur City, provide an established fishery, and to provide recreational opportunities for Decatur County and neighboring areas. Little River Lake is a 788-acre lake with a 17:1 watershed to lake ratio. For the first 15 years, the lake produced tremendous quantities of quality fish. However, common carp, an inadequately protected watershed, and unprotected shoreline problems have reduced water clarity, suppressed sport-fish abundance and growth, recreation opportunities, and increased water treatment costs. The lake had no shoreline protection in placed at its initial impoundment construction. Shoreline erosion, silt loading, and a common carp population have all adversely affected water clarity. Fish quality and angling activity have steadily declined since 2000 to a point where the lake offered few sport-fish or angling opportunities today.

The Decatur County Soil District and the NRCS have completed a watershed assessment and have developed a four-year plan to make needed watershed improvements. Cost share funding was made available for local landowners to accomplish soil and water quality improvement projects on their property.

- Decatur County, Southern Iowa Rural Water Association, Decatur County Conservation Board, Decatur County Soil and Water Conservation District, the City of Leon, and the Iowa Department of



Natural Resources began planning water quality improvement efforts in 2008. Since that time, the group has met to plan and implement water quality improvement practices for the watershed.

- The Decatur County Soil & Water Conservation District and NRCS personnel assessed the watershed's problems, quantified soil erosion, and identified best management practices, (BMPs). The Watershed Improvement Review Board (WIRB) awarded the Decatur SWCD a \$423,900 grant to cost-share improvement costs with landowners. The group also received a letter of support from the IDNR Lake Restoration Program to consider Little River Lake for future funding for in-lake improvement projects. Pending adequate implementation of watershed soil conservation practices, Lake Restoration funding will address in-lake improvements such as shoreline stabilization, rough fish management and silt basin improvements.
- The restoration process during 2011 involved implementation of remaining targeted watershed practices with available WIRB funding. Re-assessment of the watershed will guide planners to any remaining areas of the watershed to address before potential work in-lake.
- The local NRCS District Conservationist has implemented \$384,419 of WIRB funding, \$214,359 of EQIP funds, \$192,471 of Public Owned Lakes funding, \$100,865 of State cost share funding, \$14,793 REAP funding, and \$316,439 of landowner commitments totaling \$1.2 million to improve the watershed and complete approved soil and water quality improvement projects. To-date less than \$20,000 of WIRB funding remains available. Landowners in the watershed receive bonus points when competing for countywide funding from the Soil District and NRCS.
- Recent fish population estimates had indicated a dense common carp population. Their feeding for bottom organisms suspends fine clay sediments causing poor water clarity. The IDNR renovated the fishery in October 2011 and in 2012 restocked the lake with walleye, largemouth bass, bluegills, crappies, and channel catfish. Fish population surveys conducted during 2012 has found excellent growth and survival of all stocked species. Water clarity measurements routinely exceed 36 inches and have been over 80 inches.
- In 2011, the IDNR awarded a \$1.4 million contract to TK Concrete of Pella for shoreline deepening, shoreline stabilization, and in-lake fish habitat. The Lake Restoration Program funds paid for \$1.15 million of shoreline improvements and Fish Habitat Stamp funds in cooperation with Federal Dingell-Johnson, Marine Fuel Tax funds paid for fish habitat improvements. Construction is complete, the DNR renovated the fishery and re-stocked gamefish, and the lake is re-filling.
- The elevation of the dike and outflow chute of the wetland above Little River Lake was raised two feet to allow additional storage capacity. The additional area is expected to restore wetland's sediment and nutrient trapping efficiency.



- Expansion of the wetland area above Little River Lake, which will double the area, improve sediment trapping capabilities above the lake and allow for water level management of the wetland is complete. The IDNR is also working with the NRCS to design/construct fifteen basins on public land for \$228,825 (75% LRP / 25% Local cost-share).

## Lizard Lake (Pocahontas County)

Lizard Lake was a highly degraded 285-acre shallow natural lake. Rough fish (buffalo, bullhead and carp) dominated the lake population. The lake contained very little area of aquatic vegetation and exhibited poor water quality. A local lake group has promoted lake restoration and they continue to meet with IDNR staff to discuss their concerns. In June 2006, IDALS and the local Soil and Water Conservation District awarded a Development Grant to evaluate the watershed of Lizard Lake. The Iowa State University Limnology Laboratory conducted a Diagnostic Feasibility study for Lizard Lake. This 2008 study, completed by Dr. John Downing, states that Lizard Lake is one of the most eutrophic lakes studied in Iowa. As part of potential restoration alternatives, ISU presented "shallow lakes management" as an option for improving the lake's water quality, fish population structure and wildlife potential. During 2008 and 2009, IDNR staff has met several times with local partners and stakeholders to discuss shallow lake management options for Lizard Lake. Many stakeholders recognized the benefits of shallow lake management and expressed a preference for that type of management. Other stakeholders, while preferring dredging, realize that high dredging costs make that option unattainable and therefore support shallow lake management. Other stakeholders preferred to continue supporting dredging as the only alternative.

Due to relatively strong support from most local constituents, the IDNR hired Ducks Unlimited to conduct survey work during winter 2009 and plans to construct a water control structure and fish barrier. Construction of a new water control structure, fish barrier, and improved draw down channels was completed in 2011. IDNR drained the lake to eliminate high populations of common carp and other problems fish, allow for the consolidation of loose bottom sediments, and promote the growth of aquatic plants. These plants will help keep water in the lake clean by holding down bottom sediments, reducing wave energy, using up nutrients otherwise available for growing algae, and provide habitat for the small invertebrates that eat algae. Aquatic plants will also provide excellent habitat for sport fish and a multitude of game and nongame wildlife species that depend on clean-water lakes for survival.

In 2012, Lizard Lake went through its second year of a draw down since the project's inception. Good stands of perennial emergent vegetation were established. We attempted to hold three feet of water in the basin throughout the summer and then bring the lake up to crest by fall. The drought kept us from achieving that goal. We did attempt to stock yellow perch into the lake when there was several feet of water; however, the lake basin dried up after they were stocked. Pending appropriate weather patterns, Lizard Lake will be refilled in 2013 and quality sport fish will be stocked soon after. We hope to be at full pool going into summer next year and stocking requests for yellow perch and northern pike have been submitted for the fall.

- Lizard Lake was drawn down during the winter/spring of 2011 as planned. The draw down went very well and the wildlife biologist was able to achieve a complete draw down. Cooperating weather conditions allowed vegetation to flourish in the exposed lakebed. After the lake gets enough water, Lizard Lake will be restocked with northern pike and yellow perch.
- Construction activities on and around Lizard Lake were completed as planned. A new outlet and water control structure was installed to replace the antiquated one. A private firm was contracted to survey the outlet structure to assure local citizens that the new outlet structure was installed at the same elevation as the old one. A velocity tube fish barrier was installed just downstream of the outlet structure at Lizard Lake. This fish barrier is the first of its kind as it allows debris to flow through the structure, but does not allow fish to pass through it because it is installed at a steep enough grade.



***A velocity tube is installed downstream of the outlet structure on Lizard Lake to control re-introduction of rough fish back into the lake.***

### **Lost Grove Lake (Scott County)**

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources has nearly completed work to construct Lost Grove Lake, Scott County. The project is an investment in Iowa's infrastructure; promoting long-term economic growth; is a watershed/water quality project; and will provide flood protection and soil conservation benefits. The Lost Grove Lake recreation site was selected in 1987. Land acquisition from willing sellers began in 1988 and completed in 2003. The state purchased a total of 1,701 acres of land as the site for this 350 surface acre lake. This recreation project has strong local support from groups such as; the Quad City Conservation Alliance, Pheasants Forever, the Izzak Walton League, Scott County Soil and Watershed Conservation District and the Quad City Bass Club. In addition, the Scott County Soil and Watershed District completed a watershed assessment and implemented water quality projects that have included filter strips, grass waterways, sediment basins and EQIP nutrient and pest management enrollments.

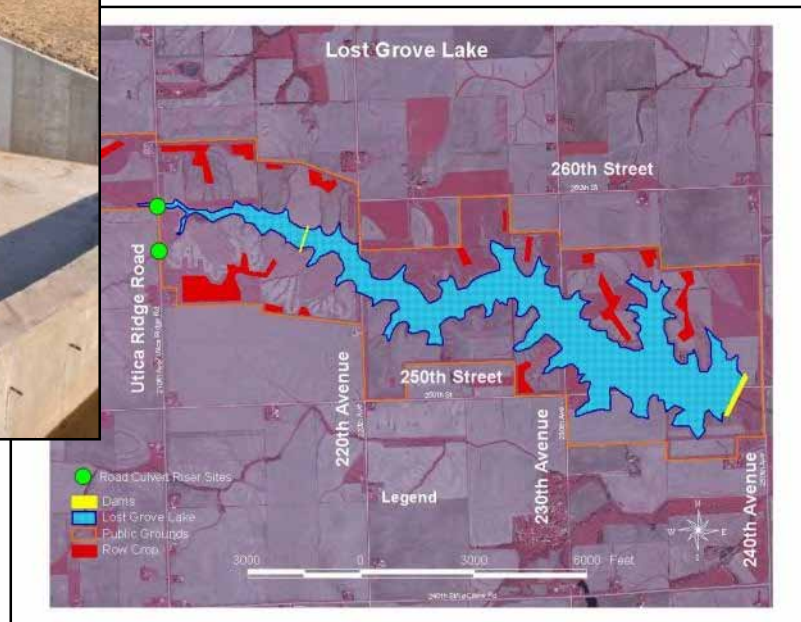
The lake site is located 10 miles north of Davenport, Iowa and will provide needed public fishing opportunities for the areas 400,000 residents. The lake and surrounding public land will also support outdoor activities such as hunting, wildlife viewing, boating and hiking. While a campground is not proposed at this time, local or county support could incorporate development of a campground site in the future.

- The Lost Grove Lake and Recreation Area project will provide 60 to 75 jobs during the construction phase. Iowa State University Center for Agriculture and Rural Development (CARD) research indicates that a lake of this size that exhibits good water quality will annually provide over 350,000 visits, create approximately \$20 million in local spending and will result in supporting 175 jobs.
- Project activities include dam construction, shoreline stabilization, boating and shore access, fish habitat enhancement and site access roads. Prior land acquisition, watershed improvements, utility relocation, dam design and road modification funding expenditures have totaled \$4.495 million (Federal Sport Fish Restoration \$2.610M, IDNR Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund \$1.00M, State Marine Fuel Tax Fund \$885,000).
- This project will provide a high quality recreational lake while at the same time providing immediate economic stimulus to the region and when completed will provide long-term economic benefits to the State of Iowa.
- J.B. Holland Construction was the lowest bidder (\$4,341,437) on the Lost Grove Lake dam construction project. The NRC approved the bid on June 10, 2010. Dam construction began in July 2010 and was completed summer 2012. Given Lost Grove Lake's small watershed to lake area ratio, the lake is expected to take 2-3 years to reach full pool.

- Langman Construction, Inc. was awarded the Fish Habitat, Riprap, and Shoreline Access phase of the project. The bid was for \$1.17 million. Construction commenced the week of July 25 and was completed on October 7, 2011.



**View, South Road Culvert Riser**



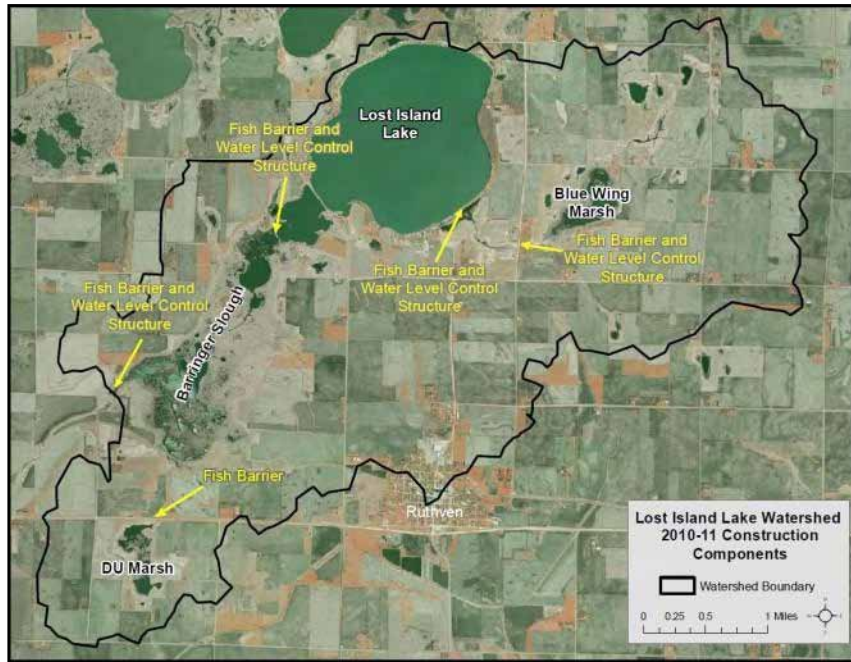
- Scott County Secondary Roads designed two road culvert risers on Utica Ridge Road (see green dots on map). These risers will temporarily impound water to allow settling of sediment and nutrients, and thus, preserve the water quality of Lost Grove Lake. Arensdorf Excavating & Trucking, Inc., Anamosa, IA received the bid for \$90,089.84. The project was completed in October 2012.
- The boat ramp, parking lot, and pit-vault toilet construction phase of the project will be bid in February 2013. Work is expected to commence in May with a May 31-June 15 completion date. The lake is re-filling and fish stocking is underway.

### **Lost Island Lake (Palo Alto County)**

#### **Lost Island Lake /Barringer Slough / Blue-wing Marsh Complex**

This is an aggressive and comprehensive plan to improve water quality in the > 2,200-acre complex by reducing existing carp numbers, preventing remaining rough fish from entering most spawning areas, and conducting beneficial drawdowns on associated wetland areas (780-acre Barringer Slough, 150-acre Blue-wing Marsh). Eliminate rough fish, allowing germination of aquatic plants and the resulting consolidation of bottom sediments will restore proper wetland function and improve the water quality at Lost Island Lake.





- The project includes an innovative plan to allow for the removal of up to 75% of the exiting carp biomass, an aggressive stocking of predatory fish and new construction or rehabilitation of four water control structures and five fish barriers throughout the complex.
- During summer 2008, IDNR-Fisheries used mark – recapture techniques to estimate in-lake carp numbers and biomass and initiated an intensive commercial fishing contract, which resulted in the harvesting of approximately 427,000 lbs of carp and 353,000 lbs of buffalo in 2010. The result has been a 90% reduction in population and 80% reduction in the biomass of rough fish.
- At present, a commercial hauler is aggressively removing rough fish from Lost Island Lake and the IDNR is stocking large numbers of predatory fish into the system. Harvesting efforts will target of additional 34,000 lbs of carp and 60,000 lbs buffalo by spring 2012.
- IDNR awarded Ducks Unlimited, Inc. a contract to design effective water control and fish barrier structures. The survey and design work began during summer/fall 2009. Local excitement regarding the project is high. Nearly 70 local stakeholders attended a December 2009 public meeting and voiced strong approval for the design work.



**DU Marsh H bar Fish Barrier**

- The NRC approved Lake Restoration Funding toward the \$834,263 bid from Landwehr Construction, St. Cloud, MN for the project. The Watershed Improvement Review Board awarded the Palo Alto County Conservation Board \$180,000 to cover part of the cost (two water level control/fish barrier systems); construction began in the fall of 2010 and was



**Barringer Slough Water Control Structure and Fish Barrier**

completed summer of 2012. The \$1.3 million project is a partnership between the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Palo Alto County, Ducks Unlimited, and the Lost Island Protective Association.

- Various basins within the complex have been dewatered to eliminate rough fish, create favorable conditions for re-vegetation. Weather permitting; all basins should be at full pool during fall 2013 thereby providing excellent habitat for wildlife species and much-improved recreational opportunities for lowans. Some additional minor work will be completed at several of the structures to ensure the entire system works efficiently and there are still plans to install an electric fish barrier at the Barrier Marsh site.

### **Meadow Lake (Adair County)**

Meadow Lake is a 34-acre public owned lake located six miles north of Greenfield in Adair County. Constructed in 1963, the lake sits within a larger 320-acre fish and wildlife area owned and managed by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources to provide fishing, hunting, and other outdoor recreation activities for the public. Overall, Meadow Lake has provided good fishing for largemouth bass, bluegill, crappie, and channel catfish for over 40 years. The IDNR listed Meadow Lake as an impaired water in 2004 for algae and added impairment for turbidity in 2008. The presence of aesthetically objectionable blooms of algae and poor water transparency impair the primary contact recreational uses at the lake. The IDNR lowered the water level in Meadow Lake starting late summer of 2008 to facilitate a significant fish habitat and shoreline stabilization project, which included 740 feet of shoreline stabilization, rock reefs (2), pea gravel spawning beds (3) and a rock field. This project will enhance the fish habitat in Meadow and have water quality benefits. The shoreline stabilization work addressed all the actively eroding shoreline in the lake. The total cost of this project was \$65,000 including \$22,200 for stabilizing eroding shoreline. Three sources contributed to this project the state of Iowa Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund (\$15,250), Sportfish Restoration (\$45,750), and the Jensen-Butler Conservation Foundation (\$4,000).

- IDNR Lake Restoration and the Watershed Improvement Section, with design from NRCS, constructed an in-lake structure in the spring of 2010 at Meadow Lake to achieve sediment and phosphorous reduction from 236 acres of the watershed. In addition, we constructed two wetlands above Meadow Lake by the fall 2010. The larger of the two wetlands will impound 14 acres of water when filled. Removing Meadow Lake from the impaired waters list is the ultimate goal of the project.
- The affects of grass carp on aquatic vegetation was monitored by installing exclusion fencing in 2012.



***Grass carp exclusion fence is installed in Meadow Lake.***

### **Red Haw Lake (Lucas County)**

- In 2001, a wetland and three sediment retention ponds were constructed within this watershed to improve and protect water quality.
- Recently IDALS performed a watershed assessment and identified priority gully areas. The DNR has initiated design for construction of six structures within the State park to control sediment and provide

additional water quality benefits. IDNR is developing final design for these grade stabilization and sediment basin structures and the plan is for 2013/2014 construction.



### Rock Creek Lake (Jasper County)

Rock Creek Lake is a 491-acre lake constructed in 1952. The lake has a watershed to lake ratio of 54/1. Iowa State University, in a 2000 Diagnostic/Feasibility Study, indicated that over the last 50 years the lake has lost almost 40% of its lake water volume and 102 lake surface acres. Local efforts have accomplished some work in the watershed; however, local and state partners need a renewed effort to move this project forward. Continued watershed improvement projects have been a difficult “sell” to area landowners.

A fall 2008 technical work group meeting resulted in an outlined approach to meet the necessary reductions in sediment and nutrient delivery to Rock Creek Lake. It focused on dividing the total watershed into larger subwatershed segments, and then designing larger watershed structures that will require a higher government percentage contribution to put these water quality improvement practices in place. Several landowners had expressed interest in this concept; however, due to the inability to implement projects on private ground, the involved agencies did not grant the requested Watershed Project extension and the project contract expired December 31, 2009.

- During fiscal year 2009, landowners completed some small practices such as waterways and small basins in the Rock Creek Watershed as part of the funded Watershed Project. Implementation of these practices resulted in a sediment reduction of 1,439 tons/year and 750 acres protected from June 2008 to September 30, 2009.
- Work on the Rock Creek Watershed Project at this time is limited to five grade stabilization structures in the state park. The project coordinator had selected these sites for the placement of three ponds and two large basins to address critical areas of gully erosion. NRCS has completed design and IDNR is planning for spring/summer 2013 construction.



This challenging watershed will require this and other innovative concepts to significantly reduce sediments and nutrients from reaching Rock Creek Lake and to eventually allow us to move forward with the D/F studies lake restoration measures.

### Storm Lake (Buena Vista County)

Storm Lake is a shallow natural lake (3rd largest natural lake in Iowa) with a surface acreage of 3,140 acres and a watershed to lake ratio of 5:1. The Diagnostic / Feasibility Study and the Impaired Water’s Assessment both indicate that internal loading from re-suspension of bottom sediment is the primary source of nutrient availability and water turbidity, which supports dredging as a critical restoration approach to achieve desired improvement in water quality.

- IDNR constructed a dredge spoil site at Storm Lake in 2001 and began dredging activities in 2001/2002. Lake dredging removed 1.32 million cu./yds. of sediment at a total project cost of approximately \$4.0 million during this first year of operation. Funding limitations restricted this initial dredging activity to 180-acres of the lake.
- The Lake Preservation Association (LPA) expressed a strong interest to continue dredging to achieve better water quality and from 2003 to present has, along state partnership, dredged an additional 4,614,704 cubic yards of sediment. The City of Storm Lake leased the original IDNR containment site and has since constructed a new containment site east of Storm Lake.

#### Funds contributed to the project

State allocation	\$8,942,920
Federal Allocation	\$1,765,000
City of Storm Lake	\$1,378,995 (Annually contributes a portion of Hotel/Motel Tax)
City of Lakeside	\$110,477 (Annually contributes a portion of Local Option Sales Tax)
Buena Vista County	\$680,000
Private Pledges	\$1,385,964
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$14,263,356</b>

Year	Cubic Yards
2002	1,320,000
2003	50,000
2004	699,112
2005	548,389
2006	573,225
2007	527,837
2008	244,450
2009	559,966
2010	579,673
2011	550,604
2012	281,448
<b>Totals</b>	<b>5,934,704</b>

#### Joint (IDNR/Local) Five-year Dredging Plan (FY13-FY17)

Storm Lake was mapped after the 2009 dredge season; at that point the mean depth was 8.3 feet. Over the 2010 and 2011 dredge season, an additional 700 acre-feet was dredged, which increased the mean depth to about 8.5 feet. The current and planned future dredge spoil containment site capacity at the

start of the 2012 dredge season was approximately 3,000,000 cu. yds. (1,860 acre-feet). Given a 3,104 acre lake, we will have the current capacity to add about 0.6 feet to the mean depth. Dredging this quality will result in Storm Lake having about 9 feet in mean depth. The Storm Lake Improvement Commission accepted the low bid for the construction of the spoil site expansion. The low bid was for \$1,210,851.04 and is from Leroy & Son's Inc. from Arcadia. The engineers estimate was \$1,976,745.50.

Goal by March 2013 is to develop a plan between the DNR and the City of Storm Lake for dredging (quantity, location, depth) that will maximize our potential to reach our water quality goals within constraints of how much dredge spoil we can contain.

DNR requested that Dr. John Downing (ISU) develop a proposal to address the following:

- What is the most effective way to dredge and expected water quality improvements given our capacity to remove an additional 2.7 million cu. yds. of sediment starting in 2013?
- What depth is needed to reduce the impacts of wind/wave action to the lakes water clarity?
- Discuss ability to meet our water quality goals relative to different dredge scenarios.

#### Little Storm Lake Ecosystem Restoration

Little Storm Lake is a 190-acre state-owned marsh that is an extension of Storm Lake (marsh and lake elevation is the same). The Lake Preservation Association (LPA) for Storm Lake applied and received a Watershed Improvement Review Board (WIRB) grant for \$200,000 to reduce the sediment and phosphorous transport from Little Storm Lake in to Storm Lake.

The IDNR initially requested that DU provide a feasibility study, conceptual designs and final design/construction plans for construction of a fish barrier structure and water control structure between Little Storm Lake and Storm Lake for the purposes of renovation and rehabilitation. The IDNR also entered into a contract amendment that allowed DU to assist the IDNR in project bidding, construction administration, project inspection and construction staking, quantity calculations, and development of as-built plans.

This project includes a fish barrier and water control structure between Little Storm Lake and Storm Lake and the construction of a pumping station and associated equipment. Future management involves periodic dewatering of Little Storm Lake during years of favorable climatological conditions. Construction of the fish barrier will aid restoration efforts by preventing rough fish from destroying the vegetation and would decrease recruitment of rough fish by limiting their spawning area. To obtain the greatest chance for success for water quality improvement, the local community and IDNR would like to renovate Little Storm Lake through periodic water level drawdown and, if needed, chemical fish renovation. This drawdown will consolidate bottom sediments, improve aquatic vegetation growth, eliminate common carp and other undesirable fish species, and ultimately improve water quality in these areas; the barrier system will prevent reintroduction of undesirable fish species.

#### Summary of Construction:

Through a competitive bidding process, Lessard Contracting from Sioux City was awarded the construction contract and construction began on January 28, 2011. The \$812,849 construction contract is being administered by the IDNR.

Construction began with the contractor pushing the snow and cattails off the serpentine sediment basin footprint. They then waited 2 weeks for the frost to penetrate prior to beginning work. However, within the first day the off road trucks were breaking through the frost and were unable to function. The contractor decided to continue to excavate and just pile the material in hopes the frost would deepen and the trucks could run. Since hauling the material was no longer an option and even the frost support for an excavator was diminishing, a decision was made to just complete the serpentine channel excavation and stockpile the material between the bends.



***Serpentine channel excavation at the inlet of Little Storm Lake***



Once the channel work was completed the contractor started on a haul road from the borrow sight to the dike. This area was a little higher and there was enough frost to support the off road trucks. Unfortunately, that only lasted about 2 days before they were once again breaking through. Work was postponed; and then the spring rains began. Work has been suspended since mid March of 2011. The hope was that a dry fall would allow construction to resume and that did happen during the week of November 14, 2011. Current conditions are very favorable for this project to proceed.

The contractor started building the dike on the north end and work the east/west section to completion then turned south and continued dike construction. Dike work is near completed and to grade and the contractor has installed one of three control structures. Even with the dike work completed this winter months, it is possible that the dike will have to set an extended period to allow settlement prior to all the structures being installed. This will ensure that the structures will remain at their designed elevations. Construction on the Little Storm Lake project was finished earlier this year. Wildlife staff dewatered Little Storm Lake in an attempt to re-establish vegetation in the basin. Dewatering was successful and a vegetative response of annual vegetation was achieved. The current plan is to keep Little Storm Lake dewatered throughout the growing season of 2013 in order to establish perennial vegetation, such as cattails and bulrush.

#### Anticipated Benefits

- This aggressive dredging goal, coupled with watershed improvements and restoration of Little Storm Lake and wetland will result in significant improvements in water quality.
- In addition, lake restoration efforts so far have encouraged a \$35 million economic development named "Project AWAYSIS" that has the potential to create 690 new jobs and over \$28 million in new spending in Storm Lake and Buena Vista County.
- Completion of the Casino Bay Marina with \$3 million dollars of State of Iowa funds which allow better access and a full service boat dealership on the lake.

### **Union Grove Lake (Tama County)**

Union Grove is a 105-acre shallow constructed lake owned by the State of Iowa, with a watershed to lake area ratio of 63/1. It has 6,640 acres in the watershed with the vast majority is in private ownership. In the late 1980s, the state dredged the lake and installed an in-lake silt and nutrient dike on the north end of the lake. The IDNR purchased an additional 60-acre parcel on the southwest side of the park and constructed a 10-acre pond. Union Grove Lake was last dredged from 1988 - 1990. Dredging from

Union Grove Lake involved removal of 275,000 cubic yards of sediment Accumulated since the lake was built in 1936.

- Union Grove Lake is on the Iowa's 2004 impaired waters list because of four limitations: pH, bacteria, algae, and turbidity. The IDNR is working with local sponsors to develop a plan to improve the lake and water quality conditions. The Union Grove Lake Watershed Project has been underway since April of 2008 and is scheduled to end in 2013. The project aims to reduce the soil and phosphorus reaching the lake by 57%, as well as reduce the effects of livestock on streams in the watershed. The Union Grove watershed received \$40,000 in grants for approved soil conservation practices, stream bank protection, fencing of livestock and a RASCAL (Rapid Assessment of Stream Conditions Along Length). To-date, the Union Grove Watershed Project has completed 8.1 acres of new grassed waterways with an additional 5.8 acres under construction.
- Spillway water seepage had been an on-going problem at Union Grove Lake and past attempts to repair the problem had limited success. IDNR hired a geo-tech firm in 2005 to evaluate the problem and contracted a firm in 2006 to repair the structure.
- They completed the project in July of 2007 and successfully addressed the water seepage issue. Total project cost for the spillway repair was \$178,572, with the Lake Restoration Program as the funding source. The construction firm also made several recommendations for additional future spillway modifications that will preserve the integrity of the system at an estimated cost of \$40,000.
- In spring 2011, 8.6 acres of native seeding and 1.1 acres of grassed waterway were installed. A number of pasture improvements, a rock livestock stream crossing and 2.8 acres of waterways are scheduled for summer construction. Another 0.8 acre of waterway is ready for construction, pending contractor availability.
- The Tama SWCD Watershed Project Coordinator is working to revise and have approved their Management Plan. In addition, the Tama County Sanitarian is working to complete a report on a septic plan for the lake community.

## **Lake Restoration Program (LRP) – Projects In Outreach; Evaluation/Planning Stage**

### **Arbor Lake (Poweshiek County)**

Arbor Lake (Poweshiek County) is a 13-acre lake owned by the City of Grinnell. It has 979 acres in the watershed in which 75% is urban runoff. The watershed to lake ratio is 75:1. Watershed Improvement Section completed a Water Quality Improvement Plan in 2002.

- In 2005, the City of Grinnell received a \$150,000 NRCS grant to improve the watershed. They installed three wetland complexes that targeted 298 acres of the watershed, storm sewer interceptors that controlled another 18 acres and riffle pools on Hazel Creek to reduce erosion and down cutting of the stream. The City also planted two acres of native vegetation filter strips along the riffle/pool structures and established one three-acre rain garden at the Windsor Assisted Living Complex east of the lake.
- In October of 2009, representatives from the IDNR and City of Grinnell along with IOWATER members held a successful and informative meeting regarding Arbor Lake Restoration. The goal is to work through an Arbor Lake Restoration Advisory Council and develop a Management Plan for Arbor Lake. In October 2010, representatives from the IDNR and City of Grinnell along with IOWATER members held a successful and informative meeting regarding Arbor Lake Restoration. Participants included IOWATER, Grinnell College, Grinnell Parks and Recreation Board Member, City of Grinnell, and the IDNR.
- Grinnell Parks and Recreation Department installed a new message center with signage that included fish, fishing and lake information. The message center is next to the walking trail around the lake. IDNR Aquatic education gave the Grinnell Parks and Recreation Department a \$2,000 grant for urban aquatic programs for the summer. They collaborated with members of the community, Grinnell

High School and Grinnell College to teach youth about fish, fishing, pond studies and water quality issues.

### **George Wyth Lake (Black Hawk County)**

George Wyth is a sand borrow-lake with relatively low overall fertility when compared to other Iowa Lakes. George Wyth's historic fishery was moderate to poor, due to relatively low productivity and a lack of aquatic vegetation. Water quality parameters in George Wyth Lake compare favorably to other Iowa lakes, due to a low watershed to lake ratio and relatively small portions of watershed in agricultural production.

- The IDNR Watershed Improvement Section completed a Water Quality Improvement Plan for George Wyth Lake in 2008 to address impairment due to high bacteria levels on the beach, with the primary cause for impairment identified as resident geese.
- Fisheries Biologists introduced aquatic macrophytes into George Wyth Lake in the fall of 2009 on an experimental basis. Wild Celery and Narrow-Leaved Pondweed were introduced into two enclosures designed to exclude aquatic herbivores.
- During a vegetation inventory completed on George Wyth Lake in 2010, IDNR staff found six species of submersed aquatic plants and two species of floating-leaved aquatic plants. Wild Celery planted during 2009 was found within enclosure structures and narrow-leaved pondweed planted in 2009 was found at multiple locations in the lake.
- During 2010, about 15% of the lake was covered with aquatic vegetation. George Wyth Lake was practically devoid of vegetation from 1988 – 2009, so biologists are optimistic that an aquatic plant community will improve water quality and fishery resources in the lake. Biologists are uncertain as to what caused the proliferation of vegetation in 2010, but the most likely explanation is that the flood of 2008 delivered sediment, seeds, and plant fragments to George Wyth Lake.
- During 2010, George Wyth Lake experienced high water levels for much of the year due to persistent flood conditions on the nearby Cedar River. High water conditions and an increased abundance of aquatic plants promoted improved water clarity and improved overall water aesthetics at George Wyth Lake during 2010.
- During 2011, biologists identified seven species of submersed aquatic plants and two species of floating-leaved plants. Wild Celery was not found among the plants during 2011 and plant enclosures were removed from the lake. Unfortunately, brittle naiad (an aquatic nuisance species) was found in a small section of the George Wyth during 2011.
- The proliferation of vegetation in George Wyth during 2010-2011 was beneficial to the George Wyth Fishery due to increased fish habitat and improved water quality. Observational information from IDNR Parks and Fisheries staff suggest increased recreational use and improved fishery quality during 2011.
- George Wyth Lake experienced reduced lake water levels during 2012 resulting from drought conditions, and the quality and quantity of aquatic vegetation were much reduced from 2010-2011 levels. Fisheries personnel spot treated brittle naiad in an isolated (about 0.5 acre) section of lake to reduce the potential for spreading to additional areas of lake. The lake beach was reopened in the western basin of the lake during 2012. Fisheries personnel will be adding man-made fish habitat structures to the lake during 2013

### **Lake Keomah (Mahaska County)**

- IDNR held a public meeting in fall of 2009 to gauge local support for restoration activities at Lake Keomah. The Mahaska County Soil and Water Conservation District applied for, but did not receive, a watershed assessment grant to evaluate the status of sheet and rill and gully erosion within the watershed in 2008. They completed a sheet and rill assessment in 1991; however, it did not include any assessment in the State Park or in Keomah Village.



- Current activities center on the creation of a “Friends” group for the State Park, laying the groundwork for local support and participation in future restoration activities.
- DNR Watershed Improvement Section completed a Water Quality Improvement Plan in 2012 to address non-support of designated recreational use due to impairment issues of algae and pH.
- DNR Lake Restoration Program has identified Lake Keomah as one of our 35 priority lakes for restoration: however funding limitations will prevent in-lake restoration from moving forward for at least several years. However, following watershed needs identified in the TMDL, there could be projects undertaken to make needed watershed improvements and the LRP will continue to coordinate with project partners regarding this project.

## **Lake Miami (Monroe County)**

Lake Miami is a 122-acre impoundment located on the 776 Miami Wildlife Area, approximately 6 miles northwest of Albia, in Monroe County. The lake, constructed in 1961, is owned by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. The area is cooperatively managed by the Iowa IDNR and through a 28-E agreement by the Monroe County Conservation Board, which operates campground, cabin rental, and a nature center facility on 89 additional acres of adjacent County Park. The lake and park provide facilities for boating, fishing, camping, picnicking, and hiking. Park use, as determined in the recent Center for Agricultural and Rural Development (CARD) study is estimated at approximately 43,000 visits per year. Approximately 160 hours of angling effort per acre are expended annually at Lake Miami. However, the most recent creel surveys suggest angling activity has declined in recent years.

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) has identified Lake Miami as impaired and has placed it on the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) list of impaired waters in the state. The identified pollutant is siltation from agricultural non-point sources (NPS) impairing aquatic life in the lake. In addition, Lake Miami is one of the significant publically owned lakes in Iowa as identified by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources Lake Restoration Program.

From 1971 to 1991 mean Secchi disk readings exceeded 25 inches eight out of 10 times (80%) while since that time mean Secchi readings have exceeded 25 inches only four out of 10 times (40%). These data indicate a substantial decline in Secchi transparencies in this time. According to the Lake Classification Report completed by ISU, Lake Miami ranks in the lower 1/3 for water clarity out of the 131 lakes studied. Possible reasons for the decline in water quality include turbidity from sediment, nutrient delivery from sheet/rill and gully erosion in the watershed, shoreline erosion due to wind and wave action and the re-suspension of these bottom sediments and their associated nutrients from wave action, and re-suspension of sediments by rooting action of Common Carp.

The Monroe County Soil Conservation Commission applied for and was awarded \$17,000 (\$15,000 from Division of Soil Conservation with \$2,000 from Iowa Lake Restoration funding) for an updated watershed assessment of the Lake Miami Watershed. This assessment was completed fall 2012. Current effort from the Monroe SWCD is development of a Water Quality Management Plan with the goal of applying to various sources of funding (e.g. Watershed Improvement Review Board, Publicly-owned Lakes, Water Protection Fund, Watershed Protection Fund and DNR Watershed Improvement 319 funds) and initiate watershed improvement activities.

Preliminary results indicate that while multiple structures have been completed in the Miami watershed, many of these structures have reached the end of their design life and are no longer functioning properly.

An assessment of the fishery indicated that common carp are present in excess of 400 lbs/acre while gamefish biomass is minimal. Angling quality has decline dramatically in recent years, mirroring changes in water quality. Lake Miami was listed on IDNR Fisheries Bureau 5-year capital plan for dredging in 2004; however, the project was removed from the plan due to funding limitations with the intention of returning it to the capital budget at the earliest time possible. DNR Lake Restoration Program has identified Lake Miami as one of our 35 priority lakes for restoration: however funding limitations will prevent in-lake restoration from moving forward for at least several years. However, the LRP will

continue to coordinate with project partners regarding this project and the potential for assistance with implementation of watershed improvement practices.

### **Mariposa Lake (Jasper County)**

- The Mariposa watershed project ran through June 2011. The NRCS completed a waterway project in spring 2009. The Jasper County Conservation Board has completed bank stabilization practices along approximately 900 ft of shoreline using rock riprap and coconut fiber logs and has completed a 3-acre timberstand improvement project. An overgrown area over a gully was cleared to approximately 25% canopy cover to allow grasses to grow and seeded to native grasses and wildflowers.



***Jasper County Conservation installed a 3.9 acre wetland in 2012. The wetland will collect run off from 368 acres of watershed and it will benefit the in-lake water quality by filtering sediment & nutrients.***

- Mariposa Lake will be mapped by Iowa DNR Fisheries staff in 2013. Sediment volume will be calculated and dredging costs will be projected.

### **North and South Twin Lakes (Calhoun County)**

- Local IDNR fisheries and wildlife biologists met with the Twin Lakes Restoration Association (TLRA) to discuss water quality issues in the lake system. Local IDNR staff fielded a number of calls throughout 2011 in regards to water quality issues and potential projects at both lakes. The TLRA invited local biologists to attend a meeting and provide information regarding water quality projects.
- Biologists explained that the best way to start a water quality project is to conduct a comprehensive Diagnostic Feasibility Study on both lake systems. The TLRA has sent a letter to the Director of the IDNR requesting that the Twin Lakes System be included in the Lakes Restoration Program budget to fund a DF Study.
- The potential for a successful restoration project on the Twin Lakes System is high. North Twin Lake has an average depth of 8.7 feet, which is relatively deep compared to other natural lakes in the region. Additionally, both North and South Twin Lakes have a relatively small watershed to lake ratios and although the land surrounding the two lakes is primarily in row crop production, the slope of the land is low.



## **Pleasant Creek Lake (Linn County)**

Pleasant Creek (Linn County) is a 401-acre lake owned by the State of Iowa. It has a 2,035-acre watershed in which the State owns 90%. The other 10% is mainly in timber. The watershed to lake ratio is 5:1. One specific concern with this lake is shoreline erosion. IDNR staff has documented approximately five miles of shoreline in need of stabilization along with many shallow areas for deepening.

There may be some opportunity to do some gully control structures on park property and review and update land management approaches on state ground. The plan is for IDNR Fisheries and Parks to work cooperatively with IDALS in developing a plan to address these problems.

## **Silver Lake (Delaware County)**

Silver Lake is a small, natural lake enlarged by the construction of a dam. It has a 34-acre surface area lake and a lake ratio of 6.4/1. University of Northern Iowa completed a diagnostic feasibility study in 2001 and the IDNR completed a Water Quality Improvement Plan analysis in 2001. Lake depth maps and sediment borings indicated excessive lake sedimentation depths ranging from 0.5 to 4 feet. A lake watershed assessment conducted in 2001, documented areas of high phosphorus input in the watershed. The assessment also identified excessive manure application levels as a problem. NRCS continues to work with landowners in the watershed to reduce nutrient and sediment lake inputs.

- In 2001, an engineering firm evaluated dam integrity and leakage issues. The construction firm hired to repair the dam and eliminate dam safety issues completed the work fall of 2007 at a cost of \$314,950.
- Lake water overflowed the Silver Lake spillway in April of 2008 following dam repair and wet weather conditions. According to local reports, that marked the first spillway overflow since 1993. Silver Lake has remained near full pool throughout 2008-2011, which indicates that dam repairs completed during 2007 were very effective.
- Submersed aquatic vegetation and water clarity have responded favorably to higher water volume and water levels that are more persistent. Vegetation was largely absent from Silver Lake during the 2006 and 2007 growing seasons and Secchi transparency commonly fell below 24 inches. Aquatic macrophytes (primarily coontail and narrow-leaved pondweed) were abundant during the summer of 2009, 2010, and 2011. Increased vegetation can pose a nuisance to recreational fishing, boating, and lake aesthetics; however, the dense vegetation coverage promotes improved water clarity and reduces the abundance of free-floating algae.
- IDNR completed a Water Quality Improvement Plan for Silver Lake in the fall of 2008 and this study highlighted watershed areas responsible for primary phosphorus delivery. The goal is to form local action committees to address watershed inputs. Following watershed improvements that reduce sediment delivery and phosphorus inputs, the community and biologists are hoping to remove phosphorus-rich sediments from Silver Lake to help reduce problems associated with internal phosphorus loading.
- During 2010, members of the Delhi Community formed a small community-led workgroup. This workgroup held two meetings during the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2010 to discuss options for watershed improvement and in-lake water quality improvement. Activity of this group lost momentum during 2011.
- Silver Lake suffered a moderate winterkill during the severe winter of 2010-2011, which effectively eliminated largemouth bass from the system and reduced the bluegill population. IDNR Fisheries restocked Largemouth Bass in June 2011 and the bluegill have recovered favorably during the 2011 growing season. Silver Lake had reduced fishing pressure during 2011 because of the recent fish kill, but fishery use is expected to increase substantially during 2012.
- Recovery of the fishery following the severe winterkill of 2010-2011 has proceeded within expectations. Largemouth bass in the 8-10 inch size are now common and the lake contains high numbers of 3-6 bluegills and 5-7 inch black crappie with a few larger individuals present. Silver Lake is approximately 6-feet below crest following the drought of 2012 and significant rain will be required

to reach full pool. Barring a severe winter during 2012-2013, it is expected that Silver Lake will provide good opportunities for largemouth bass and bluegill during 2013. Watershed improvement work is still needed and a small group of local residents remains dedicated to improving the resource.

***In a letter dated November 10, 2012, the City Council of Delhi, Iowa requested continued support from the DNR Lake Restoration Program to pursue water quality improvement efforts at Silver Lake in Delaware County. An example of the need from our local communities for these types of projects.***

### **Swan Lake (Carroll County)**

Black Hawk fisheries staff has been working closely with the Carroll CCB in efforts to re-establish emergent vegetation around the perimeter of Swan Lake. Siphoning and pumping efforts have taken the lake 4 feet below the crest of the spillway, which was the goal of the draw down project. There was a vegetative response to the draw down, however it was mostly annuals that came in, which was expected. The draw down will occur throughout the 2013 season in order to establish a good stand of perennial vegetation, such as bulrush and cattails.

DNR monitored Swan Lake throughout the summer and observed a very good vegetative response of annual species, such as smartweed and yellow nut sedge. DNR also found bulrush and some cattail in several areas. In addition, we attempted an experimental removal of grass carp with a commercial angler using trammel nets. Through our efforts were removed 40 grass carp from Swan Lake. 300 grass carp were originally stocked in Swan Lake since the renovation in 2004 and none have been stocked since. Due to the success of removing grass carp, we are planning to attempt another removal effort through the ice when the grass carp cannot jump the nets. The Carroll CCB is paying for the services of the commercial angler. The deepest part of Swan Lake is only 6 feet right now. Although we have winter aeration there, we are still going to bring some water back into the lake via well/pipeline. The Carroll CCB is also paying for the cost of pumping in water and running aeration. We plan to take water off Swan Lake next spring, although based on the vegetative response, not as much. We hope to bolster the emergent perennial vegetation next year and have the lake at full pool by the fall/winter of 2013.



### **Special Projects**

#### **Lake Delhi, Delaware County**

Lake Delhi, a 450-acre on-stream impoundment located on the Maquoketa River in Delaware County, was not included as one of the top thirty-five priorities or on the initial list of significant public lakes for several reasons. Lake Delhi technically is an on-stream impoundment and has a huge watershed draining into it (220,000 acres). With such a large watershed, lake improvements cannot be sustained for the required 50 years, and the water quality goals cannot be met. The IDNR Lake Restoration

Program, following the legislative plan, is involved in a number of lake restoration projects around the state and none of the current or past projects has such large watershed-to-surface acreage lake ratios. Lake Delhi's watershed-to-lake ratio is 488/1, and as stated above and based on experience and past restoration work, ratios greater than 100/1 are almost impossible to control. A watershed as large as Lake Delhi's could not be adequately treated to meet the water quality guidelines that permit the program to initiate in-lake restoration.

### 2010 Flood Event

The Lake Delhi Dam is located southwest of the city of Delhi, Iowa and forms an impoundment on the Maquoketa River. During the flood event of July 23-24, 2010 a portion of the southern earthen embankment of the privately owned dam was breached and eroded by the flood and the concrete spillway's gates were damaged. Floodwaters also infiltrated and seeped through a section of the northern embankment.

When the Delhi Dam breached during high water in July, it created a waterfall from the higher situated bed of Lake Delhi that had been receiving silt for 80 years, to the river below. The force of the falling water ate away at the silt, moving the waterfall gradually upriver and causing tremendous loads of silt to be released downstream. Any areas this head cut passed were highly susceptible to rapid channel widening during high water, which released sediments even more rapidly. It was estimated that hundreds of thousands of tons of silt had been released into the river downstream creating maintenance problems, recreational problems and threats to aquatic life.

Iowa Governor Chet Culver issued a disaster declaration in October 2010 charging the Iowa Department of Natural Resources to stabilize the Maquoketa River's eroding lakebed. Under direction of the disaster declaration, the IDNR Policy and Coordination Bureau submitted a project request to develop and implement an engineering project to stabilize the head cut. The IDNR also collaborated with the Lake Delhi Recreation Association with assistance from the Natural Resources Conservation Service to complete the project. The resulting project was construction of two riffle areas. One initiative sought to head off the lakebed erosion at the County Road X29 bridge. To stop the erosion, the project called for removing much of the accumulated silt and adding rock riffles to the bed. Much of the work took place under water. The other work, which took place at the Delhi Dam and cleaned up breach site, used loose rock to shore up the remaining portion of the dam and created a stilling pool upstream of the breach area. The two projects in the Maquoketa River designed to stabilize the former bed of Lake Delhi are now complete.

The IDNR, operating under the understanding that they would be re-imbursed for stabilization of the Maquoketa River, paid for the \$666,049 project out of IDNR Lake Restoration Program funds with the intent of having the Program re-imbursed. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) was identified as a potential funding source. However, at this point the IDNR has not been able to secure FEMA reimbursement. The IDNR has submitted necessary documentation to FEMA and is currently examining the opportunity to appeal if funding is denied.

### Feasibility Study for Dam Restoration

The IDNR has also entered into a Cooperative Agreement with the Lake Delhi Combined Recreational Facility and Water Quality District to fund a preconstruction dam restoration study as directed under House File 648. The District has entered into this Cooperative Agreement to retain consulting services for analysis of conditions for reconstruction of Lake Delhi Dam; preparation of regulatory documentation for the reconstruction of Lake Delhi Dam; preparation of construction documents for the reconstruction of Lake Delhi Dam; bidding services and engineering services during construction.

Funding for this project was appropriated during the 2011 legislative session per HF 648.

"Of the amount appropriated in this lettered paragraph, \$350,000 shall be allocated to a county with a population between seventeen thousand seven hundred and seventeen thousand eight hundred as determined by the 2010 federal census, for a lake with public access that has the support of a benefited



lake district. The allocated moneys shall be used for purposes of completing a preconstruction dam restoration study that would include a geotechnical evaluation, hydrological studies, restoration alternatives and construction specifications. The preconstruction dam study shall be filed with the general assembly upon completion". This project is not typical of our current lake restoration process; however, it was supported through legislative direction. To-date, all available funds have been billed for this project.

## Iowa – Historic Water Quality Conditions

A recent study by Iowa State University funded by the Iowa DNR used core samples from thirty four natural lakes in the state of Iowa to follow the build-up of sediments over the last 150 years using lead isotopes (similar to carbon-14). Since the dust-bowl years, taxpayers have given farmers over \$250 billion nationwide to try to slow the amount of sediment washing out of fields and into waterways. Instead, the amount of sediment going downstream appears to be getting worse instead of better.

For example, in around 1900, it took over 23 years to build up an inch of sediment on Iowa lake bottoms, now it takes only four. This thickness is like dropping over 50 dump truck loads of soil into each lake every year for the last century and a half. Closer to home, this would have the same effect as dropping a 10 lb bag of flour on the kitchen floor every month for a hundred years, and never cleaning it up. About two pounds of sediment are now deposited on each square yard of lake bottom in this agricultural region every year. This current rate of sedimentation in Iowa natural lakes is over double the average sedimentation rate found in other regional studies during the same time period. Most of the sediment washes in from land upstream but 1/3 also comes from algae that grow using excess nutrients washed in from upstream lands. Excess sediments cause many problems, like mucky bottoms in swimming areas, poor fish habitat, loss of oxygen needed by aquatic animals, murky waters, and can cause lakes to fill in abnormally fast. The study shows that sediment deposits increased only slightly when prairies were cleared for agriculture but have climbed increasingly rapidly since the intensification of agriculture in the 1950s.

Adam Heathcote (pictured below) the scientist in charge of the field and lab work said, "The changes on the landscape had such a huge effect on these lakes that we could often pinpoint the time when new Americans settled in the region, just by looking at changes in the color of the sediment. Before 1850, the lake mud was light in color and filled with all kinds of healthy plant and animal remains. After that, it was much darker because of rich organic soil. The most recent parts of cores looked like agricultural soil, not lake sediment." His co-worker, limnologist Chris Filstrup expressed concern about what this means for water quality. "Another reason to be concerned about this is that both increased nutrient loading and



murky waters caused by excess soil erosion favor growth of harmful algal blooms, especially the brilliant blue-green surface scums that are common in this region. Blue-green algae (Cyanobacteria) raise health concerns related to the liver, nerve, and skin poisons they release. They can cause fish kills related to decreased oxygen, and reduce neighboring property values due to unsightly surface scums", he said. "We were really surprised that we didn't find improvements in recent years. I know many farmers who put tons of effort into conservation. We know from other research, though, that 60-80% of the sediment and nutrient washing downstream comes from 5-10% of the land upstream. Maybe a more 'surgical' approach to conservation might help", said John Downing, the Iowa State University professor in charge of the study. Although we now spend \$6 billion a year on erosion control, the battle against losing our fertile fields into our valuable waters is far from over. The sediment build-up is costly to farmers, detrimental to valuable water resources, and causes harm as these same sediments and nutrients go downstream to the sea.

## Shallow Lakes Management Initiative

Shallow lake management has always been a challenge in Iowa and around the world. Shallow lakes are scattered throughout Northwest Iowa and, in most of these lakes water quality is less than desired. In fact, most of these lakes are turbid, algae-dominated systems with little to no vegetation, and poor sport fisheries comprised mostly of common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*), and black bullheads (*Ameiurus melas*). Successful restorations of deeper lakes have historically focused on reducing nutrient inputs by repairing the watershed and/or removing phosphorus-laden sediments from the lake. Successful shallow lake management strategies require intensive in-lake management strategies that can immediately flip the basin from the turbid-water state to the clean-water state, and long-term watershed protection efforts that help maintain clean water over time.

Shallow lakes differ substantially from deeper lakes in many respects. Shallow lakes usually exist in either of two alternative stable trophic states with or without any change in the nutrient budget of the lake. These lakes can exist as very turbid, algae-dominated systems with little to no vegetation, or as clear water, macrophyte dominated systems. In shallow lakes, the benthivorous and planktivorous fishes along with wind and wave action and in some cases heavy boating traffic can perpetuate the algae dominated system.



***Severe blue green algae blooms are capable of producing during warm weather in unhealthy shallow lakes.***

By controlling or removing the factors perpetuating the algae dominated turbid system, it is possible to "flip" the system into a clear water macrophyte dominated system. The positive impacts of emergent and submergent vegetation on water quality are due to several factors. Rooted vegetation prevents resuspension of sediments into the water column by solidifying bottom sediments and suppressing wind and wave action. Rooted plants provide habitat for periphyton and zooplankton and fish species commonly found in clear water lakes. Rooted vegetation also ties up

nutrients making them unavailable for algae. Some plants also release allelopathic substances into the water suppressing algae growth. Many of these mechanisms are difficult to assess and vary among water bodies; however, their combined effect stabilizes the clear water trophic state. Both the clear water macrophyte state and the algae dominated state are stable, and it takes a major perturbation to move from one state to another. Three methods that show great promise to cause the shift from the turbid to the clear water state are benthivorous fish control, heavy piscivore stockings (to control both benthivorous and planktivorous fishes), and water level draw downs. The goal of this project is to develop tools that managers can use to shift and maintain shallow lakes in a clear water state.

Many natural Lakes in Northwest Iowa are characterized as these shallow, windswept systems that exhibit poor water quality. Significant watershed changes and the introduction of common carp in the late 1800's have forever made management of these water bodies a challenge. Through work accomplished on the projects listed below, great strides have been made in our understanding of these systems. These ground breaking projects in Iowa will undoubtedly lead to others as the health to these unique water bodies is restored. Success is also being measured in public education and outreach, communities and user groups are coming together to make these projects truly successful demonstration



models for improving not only water quality, but fostering partnerships for the long-term active management required to maintain the health of these lakes.

***Good water quality and healthy aquatic plant communities can become evident through shallow lake improvement projects***

Iowa IDNR's Wildlife and Fisheries Bureaus in cooperation with Ducks Unlimited have established a list of shallow lakes prioritized renovated. The current focus of the Lake Restoration Program is on shallow lakes that support both fishing and wildlife benefits. In addition, there is an emphasis on shallow systems above important natural lakes.



**Shallow Lake Projects**

**Pickerel Lake, Buena Vista County** - Pickerel Lake, located in extreme NE Buena Vista County, is a 170-acre basin that suffered from the same problems as most other shallow lake basins in the upper Midwest; poor water quality due to an intensively cultivated watershed, an overabundance of rough fish, and a lack of beneficial aquatic plants. Even with poor water quality, walleyes have surprisingly been able to reproduce in Pickerel Lake. Project partners initiated intensive in-lake management to enhance water quality, fish and wildlife habitat in Pickerel Lake. In addition, they will continue to work long-term throughout the watershed to ensure that soil, fertilizers, and pesticides stay on the uplands. In-lake actions included installing a new water control structure and fish barrier on the lake's outlet and enhancing existing draw down channels in the lake and downstream of the new water control structure. Once this infrastructure was in place, the IDNR temporarily drained the lake to allow for the elimination of problem fish, the consolidation of bottom sediments, and the establishment of beneficial aquatic plants.

Pickerel Lake went through its second year of a draw down since the project's inception. Good stands of perennial emergent vegetation were established. Walleye and yellow perch have been requested for Pickerel Lake next year provided adequate water levels return for stocking.



***Pickerel Lake in drawdown condition (left). The outlet structure replaced at Pickerel Lake now incorporates both the ability to control water levels and a fish barrier to keep rough fish out of the lake.***



**The new outlet and water control structure at Pickerel Lake (above). Fish barriers on the outlet structure at Pickerel Lake (left).** These overhanging fingers allow debris to flow over the barriers but keep carp from jumping up into the lake from downstream. Note the barriers on the stop logs can move up and down with the elevation of the logs.

**Rice Lake, Winnebago County**

- Local interest has develop for shallow lakes management on Rice Lake
- A late winter public meeting is planned to discuss shallow lakes management with the community
- Lake levels could potentially be lowered in 2013 to stimulate aquatic plant growth
- A fishery renovation will be discussed at the public meeting
- The fishery has declined and the water quality is currently poor at Rice Lake





**Silver Lake, Worth County** - DNR conducted shallow lakes restoration work at Silver Lake in 2012. The plan was to replace the current water control structure, dig a channel in the lakebed to aid in draining the basin, and renovate the fishery.

- The benefits will be improved water quality, establishment of an aquatic plant community, and a restored fishery. Silver Lake has suffered winter fish kills the last two seasons.
- Silver Lake water control structure was replaced in 2011/2012
- Drawdown was conducted in 2012 for vegetation establishment
- 3 foot of stop logs placed in new structure in August 2012
- Fish stockings planned for 2013 given adequate water levels returning
- Silver Lake water control structure work is complete. The contractor needs to finish grading the flow path out from the structure. The plant community response has been good. There is a good stand of bulrush establishing with several other species of aquatic plants coming as well. The lake is completely dry, so no rotenone application will be needed this fall. Water levels will slowly be brought up in 2013 and initial fish stockings will take place.



**Trumbull Lake, Clay County** - One of Iowa's larger shallow lakes will be the focus of a water quality improvement project that was born out of the historic drought of 2012. The 1,200-acre Trumbull Lake and its 1,000 acres of connected marshes, in Clay County, are nearly dry which is unusual for the shallow lakes system that receives water from a nearly 50,000-acre watershed.

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources presented its plan to improve the lake during a meeting October 2012 in Okoboji.

"Trumbull has an enormous watershed so we need to take advantage of this opportunity that Mother Nature is granting us to recharge the marshes and improve the lake by getting plants to return and eliminate the carp," said Mike Hawkins, fisheries biologist with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. Hawkins said restoration plans shifted gears when it became apparent that the summer was going to be a drought for the record books. What began as a partial drawdown of 22 inches last spring, ended with, essentially, a dry lake.

"This is a blessing, in a good way," said Bryan Hellyer, wildlife biologist for the DNR. "While things didn't go as planned with the drawdown, we now have an opportunity to reset the lake-marsh system and go from a shallow lake with murky water and no vegetation to one that benefits waterfowl, shorebirds and all kinds of wetland wildlife with emergent and submergent vegetation. That's exciting."

Hawkins said they will dig an existing channel to keep the lake water free as much as possible next spring to allow plants to germinate and grow on the lakebed. "We have a small window of opportunity in May and June to get these plants to germinate so we plan to begin digging the channel soon after this meeting," Hawkins said. The restoration plan includes stocking yellow perch and northern pike in the spring of 2014.

"Trumbull Lake has been in a dismal state for years. It has a history of some boom and bust cycle of fishing, but mostly poor fishing and poor water quality. What this project should do is improve the water quality and make the fishery more consistent," Hawkins said. "If this is your spot to hunt or fish, we understand how this can be disappointing, but if all goes as planned, Trumbull Lake will dramatically change for the better for wildlife and fishing for quite a few years," Hellyer said. In addition, it will be carp-free for the first time since carp were introduced 100 years ago.

**Virgin Lake, Palo Alto County** - Virgin Lake is a unique 220-acre basin in western Palo Alto County that features a highly diverse shoreline, back bays, peninsulas, and islands. Like other shallow lakes in Iowa and the upper Midwest, it has become unhealthy due to intensive agriculture in its watershed and an overabundance of rough fish. Together, these and other factors have resulted in turbid water in the lake and the subsequent loss of the beneficial aquatic plants needed to sustain clean water and provide habitat for sport fish and aquatic wildlife. Project partners, including IDNR and DU plan to improve the lake by riding the lake of problems fish species, restoring aquatic plants, and stocking quality game fish. Plans are underway to construct an effective water control structure and fish barrier system. Construction is planned to begin winter 2012. The lake will be drained from fall 2011 to fall 2013, with fish restocking taking place in 2014. Virgin Lake was drawn down fall of 2011. Aquatic plants have germinated over the entire basin. July 2012. Much of the vegetation has grown back on Virgin Lake. Terrestrial plants such as the smartweed visible in the photo will die out when the lake fills back up with water. Potential fill date of fall 2013.



## **Lake Restoration Program (LRP) – Other Program Activities**

### **Meetings with Local Leaders and Stakeholders**

In accordance with Section 26 of House File 2782, the department has met with representatives of communities with lakes on the initial priority list are located to provide an initial lake restoration assessment and to explain the process and criteria for receiving lake restoration funding. The IDNR has established local stakeholder groups or held initial technical field staffs planning for a number of planned lake/watershed improvement projects. Including; Badger Creek Lake (Madison Co.), Hannen Lake (Benton Co.), Lake Keomah (Mahaska Co.) and Lake Miami (Monroe Co.).

### **Lake Restoration Prioritization Process**

The Lake Restoration Program initially ranked 127 public lakes for lake restoration priorities in 2006. A group of thirty-five lakes, considered highest priority for restoration, was established and served as a starting point for identifying potential lake restoration projects. Ranking indices used lake water quality data and watershed characteristics to create groups of good, fair, or poor lakes and watersheds. The department used these descriptions to categorize lakes into management action groups.

The initial list of thirty-five significant publicly-owned lakes was prioritized for funding based on the feasibility of each lake for restoration and the use or potential use of the lake, if restored. The list included lake projects under active development that the department recommended be given priority for funding so long as progress toward completion of the projects remained consistent with the goals of the program. An additional eighteen lakes, not included on the initial list of thirty-five significant publicly-owned lakes prioritized for funding, have since been added to the priority list after communities have successfully petitioned the director of the department or were prioritized by the department based on the feasibility of the lake for restoration and the use or potential use of the lake, if restored.

IDNR annually reviews projects to determine which lakes should proceed with lake restoration. Until watershed best management practices protect the lake, restoration work cannot move forward, therefore lakes with well-documented watershed protections are the best candidates for restoration. The other necessary ingredient to begin lake restoration is local commitment. In order to better document how lake restoration will benefit Iowa we will use cost benefit analysis, as well as identifying non-economic benefits to people and our natural resources. Computing and documenting the economic benefits, recreation benefits, health benefits, and natural resource/environmental benefits of lake improvements will be a great asset to the lake restoration process. This information will also go a long way in communicating the need of lake restoration projects to local communities and the legislature.

### **Inquiries from Stakeholders of Lakes not on the Priority List**

Also in accordance with HF2782, "Communities with lakes not included on the initial list may petition the director of the department for a preliminary lake restoration assessment and explanation of the funding process and criteria".

Examples of two local stakeholders groups that contacted the IDNR and successfully petitioned to have their lakes added to the priority list of restoration projects are Lake Rathbun (Appanoose Co.) and Lost Island Lake (Palo Alto Co.). Rathbun Reservoir (Appanoose Co.) is an 11,000 acre lake in south-central Iowa that is one our most significant state recreational destinations. It is distinct from several of our other large reservoirs, Saylorville, Coralville and Red Rock in that its watershed to lake ratio is only 37:1 and has great potential to maintain and improve lake water quality with a combination of watershed and lake restoration alternatives. Lost Island Lake (Palo Alto Co.) is a 1,000 ac. natural lake in northwest Iowa that is not meeting its water quality and recreational potential. The Iowa IDNR currently owns 23

percent of the watershed and proposes watershed work in parallel with current restoration efforts described in the Lost Island Lake section of this report.

## **Local, State and Federal Partnerships**

In order to achieve lake restoration goals it is critical that the IDNR form effective watershed partnerships. This includes partnerships at the local level, but also at administrative levels of government. Local, state and federal programs offer a multitude of programs for financial assistance to landowners for soil conservation and other water quality protection practices. The strategy pursued in the lake restoration program will be to seek out key individuals with expertise at the local level and the program administration level. This expertise will maximize access to financial incentives for landowner participation in watershed improvement and lake restoration projects. Listed below are several examples of potential partners in watershed improvement and lake restoration.

### Local:

- Chamber of Commerce, City/Town Mayors and Councils
- Conservation and Recreation Clubs and Organizations
- County Board of Supervisors, County Conservation Board
- IDNR Field Offices (Environmental Services, Fisheries, Forestry, Parks, Wildlife)
- IDALS/ Division of Soil Conservation – Project Coordinators
- IOWATER Volunteers / Educators / Interested Citizens
- Lake Associations / Groups / Watershed Organizations / Private Landowners
- NRCS Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD)
- USDA Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D)

### State:

- IDALS/ Division of Soil Conservation
- Iowa Department of Transportation
- Iowa Environmental Council
- Iowa Farm Bureau
- Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation

### Federal:

- U. S. Environmental Protection Agency / U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers / U.S. Geological Survey

## **Communication Tools and Strategies**

The IDNR, in cooperation with Iowa Department of Agriculture Land Stewardship (IDALS), has worked to develop a holistic approach to locally led watershed projects and information to help guide communities through the process of water quality improvement projects.

### **Watershed Project Planning Protocol**

<http://www.iowadnr.gov/portals/idnr/uploads/water/watershed/files/fouris.pdf?amp;tabid=694>

### **Water Quality Improvement Framework for Lakes**

[http://www.iowadnr.gov/portals/idnr/uploads/water/watershed/files/lake\\_frame.pdf?amp;tabid=694](http://www.iowadnr.gov/portals/idnr/uploads/water/watershed/files/lake_frame.pdf?amp;tabid=694)

People will find these brochures useful as handouts at meetings. In addition to brochure type handouts, a number of communication and outreach tools for the public and lake stakeholders will be considered as deemed appropriate, including: display/kiosk, lake restoration tool kit and workshop, newsletters, opinion surveys, web site. For example, the Lakes Program developed a one-page handout that summarizes the Lake Restoration Process. This has proved to be a useful tool in communicate the important aspects of the program to the public (Appendix D).



## Appendix A. House File 2782 - Enrolled

PAG LIN

1 1 HOUSE FILE 2782

1 2

1 3 AN ACT

1 4 RELATING TO AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS TO STATE DEPARTMENTS

1 5 AND AGENCIES FROM THE REBUILD IOWA INFRASTRUCTURE FUND,

1 6 ENVIRONMENT FIRST FUND, TOBACCO SETTLEMENT TRUST FUND,

1 7 VERTICAL INFRASTRUCTURE FUND, THE ENDOWMENT FOR IOWA'S

1 8 HEALTH RESTRICTED CAPITALS FUND, THE TECHNOLOGY REINVEST-

1 9 MENT FUND, THE ENDOWMENT FOR IOWA'S HEALTH ACCOUNT, THE

1 10 PUBLIC TRANSIT INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT FUND, THE IOWA GREAT

1 11 PLACES PROGRAM FUND, AND RELATED MATTERS AND PROVIDING

1 12 IMMEDIATE, RETROACTIVE, AND FUTURE EFFECTIVE DATES.

1 13

1 14 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

31 13 Sec. 26. NEW SECTION. 456A.33B LAKE RESTORATION PLAN AND

31 14 REPORT.

31 15 1. It is the intent of the general assembly that the

31 16 department of natural resources shall develop annually a lake

31 17 restoration plan and report that shall be submitted to the

31 18 joint appropriations subcommittee on transportation,

31 19 infrastructure, and capitals and the legislative services

31 20 agency by no later than January 1 of each year. The plan and

31 21 report shall include the department's plans and

31 22 recommendations for lake restoration projects to receive

31 23 funding consistent with the process and criteria provided in

31 24 this section, and shall include the department's assessment of

31 25 the progress and results of projects funded with moneys

31 26 appropriated under this section.

31 27 The department shall recommend funding for lake restoration

31 28 projects that are designed to achieve the following goals:

31 29 a. Ensure a cost-effective, positive return on investment

31 30 for the citizens of Iowa.

31 31 b. Ensure local community commitment to lake and watershed

31 32 protection.

31 33 c. Ensure significant improvement in water clarity,

31 34 safety, and quality of Iowa lakes.

31 35 d. Provide for a sustainable, healthy, functioning lake

32 1 system.

32 2 e. Result in the removal of the lake from the impaired

32 3 waters list.

32 4 2. The process and criteria the department shall utilize

32 5 to recommend funding for lake restoration projects shall be as

32 6 follows:

32 7 a. The department shall develop an initial list of not

32 8 more than thirty-five significant public lakes to be

32 9 considered for funding based on the feasibility of each lake

32 10 for restoration and the use or potential use of the lake, if

32 11 restored. The list shall include lake projects under active

32 12 development that the department shall recommend be given

32 13 priority for funding so long as progress toward completion of

32 14 the projects remains consistent with the goals of this

32 15 section.

32 16 b. The department shall meet with representatives of

32 17 communities where lakes on the initial list are located to

32 18 provide an initial lake restoration assessment and to explain

32 19 the process and criteria for receiving lake restoration

32 20 funding. Communities with lakes not included on the initial

32 21 list may petition the director of the department for a

32 22 preliminary lake restoration assessment and explanation of the

32 23 funding process and criteria. The department shall work with

32 24 representatives of each community to develop a joint lake

32 25 restoration action plan. At a minimum, each joint action plan

32 26 shall document the causes, sources, and magnitude of lake

32 27 impairment, evaluate the feasibility of the lake and watershed  
32 28 restoration options, establish water quality goals and a  
32 29 schedule for attainment, assess the economic benefits of the  
32 30 project, identify the sources and amounts of any leveraged  
32 31 funds, and describe the community's commitment to the project,  
32 32 including local funding. The community's commitment to the  
32 33 project may include moneys to fund a lake diagnostic study and  
32 34 watershed assessment, including development of a TMDL (total  
32 35 maximum daily load).

33 1       c. Each joint lake restoration plan shall comply with the  
33 2 following guidelines:

33 3           (1) Biologic controls will be utilized to the maximum  
33 4 extent, wherever possible.

33 5           (2) If proposed, dredging of the lake will be conducted to  
33 6 a mean depth of at least ten feet to gain water quality  
33 7 benefits unless a combination of biologic and structural  
33 8 controls is sufficient to assure water quality targets will be  
33 9 achieved at a shallower average water depth.

33 10          (3) The costs of lake restoration will include the  
33 11 maintenance costs of improvements to the lake.

33 12          (4) Delivery of phosphorous and sediment from the  
33 13 watershed will be controlled and in place before lake  
33 14 restoration begins. Loads of phosphorous and sediment, in  
33 15 conjunction with in-lake management, will meet or exceed the  
33 16 following water quality targets:

33 17           (a) Clarity. A four-and-one-half-foot secchi depth will  
33 18 be achieved fifty percent of the time from April 1 through  
33 19 September 30.

33 20           (b) Safety. Beaches will meet water quality standards for  
33 21 recreational use.

33 22           (c) Biota. A diverse, balanced, and sustainable aquatic  
33 23 community will be maintained.

33 24           (d) Sustainability. The water quality benefits of the  
33 25 restoration efforts will be sustained for at least fifty  
33 26 years.

33 27       d. The department shall evaluate the joint action plans  
33 28 and prioritize the plans based on the criteria required in  
33 29 this section. The department's annual lake restoration plan  
33 30 and report shall include the prioritized list and the amounts  
33 31 of state and other funding the department recommends for each  
33 32 lake restoration project. The department may seek public  
33 33 comment on its recommendations prior to submitting the plan  
33 34 and report to the general assembly.

## Appendix B. Significant, Publicly-owned Lakes - Defined

### **Bachmann (1980). “Clean Lakes Classification Study of Iowa’s Lakes for Restoration”.**

Authors: Roger W. Bachmann, Mark R. Johnson, Marianne V. Moore, Terry A. Noonan  
Iowa Cooperative Fisheries Research Unit, Iowa State University, Department of Animal Ecology

#### Introduction

Approximately 175 lakes and reservoirs were considered by the Iowa Conservation Commission (ICC) staff for inclusion into the list of lakes to be surveyed and classified. Many of these 175 lakes are contained in “Iowa Fishing Guide”, a publication of the ICC. Time and money precluded survey and classification of all the lakes; therefore, the list was reduced to include only significant lakes in public ownership.

#### Significant Lakes – Defined and Explained

Significant publicly-owned lakes were defined as those lakes which are principally maintained for public use containing a minimum surface area of 10 acres and capable of supporting fish stocks of at least 200 pounds per acre. Species diversity in water bodies containing less than 10 acres is habitually low resulting in a fish density with minimal potential for maximum sustained yields via sport or foodfish fisheries. Shallow lakes, which are most characteristic of wetlands and marsh-like habitat that are subject to chronic and extensive fish winterkills, were excluded from the survey. Establishment of productive fish populations is hopeless where massive mortality results from the lowering of life supporting oxygen concentrations under ice cover each winter. Federal-owned on-stream impoundment constructed for floodwater supplies were excluded because of Clean Water Act regulations. Multi-purpose lakes providing domestic water supply as only one of several major management objectives were included in the study. Impoundments containing a watershed to surface area ratio greater than 200:1 acres were omitted from the list since they are mainly on-stream impoundments formed by lowhead dams and emulate riverine habitat rather than lake environment.

### **Section 305 (b) report (2000)**

Section 314 (a) (2) of the federal Clean Water Act of 1987 requires each state to include in its biennial Section 305 (b) report specific information on the water quality conditions and trends of the state’s “significant, publicly-owned lakes,” as well as a description of the state’s lake protection and restoration programs. In Iowa, “significant, publicly-owned lakes” are defined as those publicly-owned lakes that meet all of the following criteria:

- are maintained principally for public use;
- are capable of supporting fish stocks of at least 200 pounds per acre;
- have a surface water area of at least 10 acres;
- have a watershed to lake surface area ratio of less than 200:1;
- are not shallow marsh-like lakes, federal flood control impoundments, or used solely as water supply reservoirs.

As such, the 115 significant, publicly-owned lakes (SPOLs) represent a subset of the Iowa’s approximately 5,400 lakes, ponds, and reservoirs.

### **Lake Restoration Program (2012)**

For the purpose of Iowa’s Lake Restoration Program, “significant, publicly-owned lakes” are defined as those publicly-owned lakes that meet all of the following criteria:

- are maintained principally for public use;
- are multi use systems capable of supporting a viable sport fishery and recreational opportunities;
- have a surface water area of at least 10 acres;
- have a watershed to lake surface area ratio of less than 200:1;
- are not federal flood control impoundments with a watershed to lake surface area ratio greater than 200:1; and
- are not lakes used solely as water supply reservoirs.

## Appendix C. Significant, Publicly-owned Lakes

Initial list of thirty-five significant publicly-owned lakes prioritized for funding based on the feasibility of each lake for restoration and the use or potential use of the lake, if restored. The list included lake projects under active development that the department recommended be given priority for funding so long as progress toward completion of the projects remained consistent with the goals of the program.

<b>LAKE NAME</b>	<b>COUNTY</b>
Arbor Lake	POWESHIEK
Big Creek Lake	POLK
Black Hawk Lake	SAC
Blue Lake	MONONA
Brushy Creek Lake	WEBSTER
Carter Lake	POTTAWATTAMIE
Central Park Lake	JONES
Clear Lake	CERRO GORDO
Crystal Lake	HANCOCK
Diamond Lake	POWESHIEK
Easter Lake	POLK
Five Island Lake	PALO ALTO
George Wyth Lake	BLACK HAWK
Green Valley Lake	UNION
Hannen Lake	BENTON
Hickory Grove Lake	STORY
Kent Park Lake	JOHNSON
Lake Ahquabi	WARREN
Lake Anita	CASS
Lake Darling	WASHINGTON
Lake Geode	HENRY
Lake Keomah	MAHASKA
Lake Macbride	JOHNSON
Lake Manawa	POTTAWATTAMIE
Lake of the Hills	SCOTT
Little Wall Lake	HAMILTON
Lower Gar Lake	DICKINSON
Pleasant Creek Lake	LINN
Prairie Rose Lake	SHELBY
Red Haw Lake	LUCAS
Rock Creek Lake	JASPER
Silver Lake	DELAWARE
Storm Lake	BUENA VISTA
Union Grove Lake	TAMA
Viking Lake	MONTGOMERY

## Appendix C. Significant, Publicly-owned Lakes

The following eighteen lakes were not included on the initial list of thirty-five significant publicly-owned lakes prioritized for funding. They have since been added to the priority list after communities have successfully petitioned the director of the department or were prioritized by the department based on the feasibility of the lake for restoration and the use or potential use of the lake, if restored.

LAKE NAME	COUNTY
Badger Creek Lake	MADISON
Center Lake	DICKINSON
Hawthorn Lake	MAHASKA
Lake Icaria	ADAMS
Lake Miami	MONROE
Lake Sugema	VAN BUREN
Lake of Three Fires	TAYLOR
Lake Wapello	DAVIS
Little River Lake	DECATUR
Lizard Lake	POCAHONTAS
Lost Grove Lake	SCOTT
Lost Island Lake	PALO ALTO
Mariposa Lake	JASPER
Meadow Lake	ADAIR
North Twin Lake	CALHOUN
Rathbun Reservoir	APPANOOSE
Swan Lake	CARROLL
Twelve Mile Creek Lake	UNION

The following lakes are the additional seventy-four lakes recognized by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources Lake Restoration Program as Significant Publicly-Owned Lakes.

LAKE NAME	COUNTY
Arrowhead Lake	SAC
Arrowhead Pond	POTTAWATTAMIE
Avenue of the Saints Pond	BREMER
Badger Lake	WEBSTER
Beaver Lake	DALLAS
Beeds Lake	FRANKLIN
Big Spirit Lake	DICKINSON
Bob White Lake	WAYNE
Briggs Woods Lake	HAMILTON
Browns Lake	WOODBURY
Casey Lake (aka Hickory Hills Lake)	TAMA
Cold Springs Lake	CASS
Crawford Creek Impoundment	IDA
DeSoto Bend	HARRISON
Dog Creek (Lake)	OBRIEN
Don Williams Lake	BOONE
East Lake (Osceola)	CLARKE
East Okoboji Lake	DICKINSON
Eldred Sherwood Lake	HANCOCK
Fogle Lake S.W.A.	RINGGOLD
Green Belt Lake	BLACK HAWK



<b>LAKE NAME</b>	<b>COUNTY</b>
Green Castle Lake	MARSHALL
Greenfield Lake	ADAIR
Hooper Area Pond	WARREN
Indian Lake	VAN BUREN
Ingham Lake	EMMET
Iowa Lake	IOWA
Lacey Keosauqua Park Lake	VAN BUREN
Lake Cornelia	WRIGHT
Lake Hendricks	HOWARD
Lake Meyer	WINNESHIEK
Lake Pahoja	LYON
Lake Smith	KOSSUTH
Little Sioux Park Lake	WOODBURY
Little Spirit Lake	DICKINSON
Littlefield Lake	AUDUBON
Lower Pine Lake	HARDIN
Manteno Park Pond	SHELBY
Meyer Lake	BLACK HAWK
Mill Creek Lake	OBRIEN
Minnewashta Lake	DICKINSON
Mitchell	BLACK HAWK
Moorhead Park Pond	IDA
Mormon Trail Lake	ADAIR
Nelson Park Lake	CRAWFORD
Nine Eagles Lake	DECATUR
Oldham Lake	MONONA
Orient Lake	ADAIR
Otter Creek Lake	TAMA
Ottumwa Lagoon	WAPELLO
Pierce Creek Pond	PAGE
Poll Miller Park Lake	LEE
Roberts Creek Lake	MARION
Rodgers Park Lake	BENTON
Silver Lake	DICKINSON
Silver Lake	WORTH
Silver Lake	PALO ALTO
Slip Bluff Lake	DECATUR
South Prairie Lake	BLACK HAWK
Spring Lake	GREENE
Springbrook Lake	GUTHRIE
Thayer Lake	UNION
Three Mile Lake	UNION
Upper Gar Lake	DICKINSON
Upper Pine Lake	HARDIN
Volga Lake	FAYETTE
West Lake (Osceola)	CLARKE
West Okoboji Lake	DICKINSON
White Oak Lake	MAHASKA
Williamson Pond	LUCAS
Willow Lake	HARRISON
Wilson Park Lake	TAYLOR
Windmill Lake	TAYLOR
Yellow Smoke Park Lake	CRAWFORD

## Appendix D. Lake Restoration Prioritization Process and Program

### Key Concepts and Facts

- Six of ten Iowans visit lakes each year; they will visit these lakes eight times during the year
- Iowans prefer lakes with better water quality
- Statewide our lakes generate \$1.6 billion in annual spending by Iowans
- A lake is a reflection of both watershed and lake management
- Lake restoration starts in the watershed; it relies on strong local involvement and voluntary participation of landowners

### Current Prioritization and Program

- Modeled after the Federal Clean Lakes Program established in the 1970s
- IDNR provided the 2006 legislature with a priority list of 35 lake candidates
  - Priorities based on a 5-year ISU/IDNR assessment of water quality
  - Technical feasibility of restoration
  - Potential economic benefits
  - Use by Iowans, and local interest/involvement
- Projects require a lake and watershed restoration assessment and plan
- Projects require local resources in combination with state and federal funds
- Local groups can petition to have their lake added to the priority list
- Project Status
  - 14 Completed or near completion
  - 25 Active projects in-progress
  - 14 Initial public outreach, evaluation or planning stage
- IDNR provides an annual progress report to the legislature that includes a work plan and budget

### Water Quality Goals

Stipulated in 2006 State Legislation (HF2782):

- Delivery of phosphorous and sediment from the watershed will be controlled before lake restoration begins
- Shallow lakes management will be considered among options for restoration
- Water quality targets
  - Clarity. 4 ½ foot secchi disc transparency 50% of the time from April – September
  - Biota. A diverse, balanced, and sustainable aquatic community must be maintained
  - Impairment. Water quality impairments must be eliminated
  - Sustainability. The water quality and public use benefits must be sustained for 50 years

### Lake Restoration Program Budget

- Funding from FY2007 through FY2013 of \$52.4 million (approximately \$7.5 million per year) has enabled the IDNR to improve many Iowa's lakes and proceed with implementing projects at a number of our other priority systems

### IDNR Contacts

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**Web Page:** <http://www.iowadnr.gov/Environment/WaterQuality/LakeRestoration.aspx>



