



# IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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LEADING IOWANS IN CARING FOR OUR NATURAL RESOURCES

Water Trails and  
Low-head Dam Public Hazard Program  
And Lakes Restoration

Kayla Lyon, Director

# How the Governor's Proposed \$500,000 Appropriation Serves Iowans

- Develops community-driven plans to prioritize local projects for paddlers, anglers, and boaters
- Funds grants and contracts to build water launches, install signs.
- Brings new experiences to Iowans – like whitewater, tubing runs, historic water tours, and wilderness adventures – and brings people to Iowa.
- Makes dam areas safer while improving fisheries and addressing aging infrastructure.

Recent RIF Funding History	
Fiscal Year	RIF Appropriation
2015	\$ 2,000,000
2016	\$1,750,000
2017	\$1,000,000
2018	\$0
2019	\$500,000
2020	\$500,000
2021	\$250,000
Total	\$6,250,000



# In a pandemic year...

- ... rivers were a refuge for people wanting to get outside.
- Rivers were an economic silver lining.
- Infrastructure, especially parking, was stretched beyond limits.

“In 2014, we sold 150 kayaks all year. This year, we sold 150 a week and sold out 14 times.” - Camrein Cam, Shipping Manager and Paddling Retail Manager, Dicks Sporting Goods, West Des Moines

“The interest in kayaking in 2020 was almost overwhelming. I have never seen anything like it. Boats were spoken for before they were off the truck. I can’t say that for any other product.” - Jim Simmons, Regional Sales Manager Midwest, Scheels Sporting Goods

“Year To Date was at an overall increase of 504% compared to 2019. While Covid may have put extra people outdoors this year, paddling as a whole, continues to explode in Iowa.” - Tiffany Rhames, Marketing Manager, Quarry Springs Outfitters, Colfax Iowa

“There were not very many weekends where I saw less than 75-100 cars at several boat ramps along the Raccoon River.” - Dustin Eighmy, Iowa DNR Conservation Officer (Dallas County)

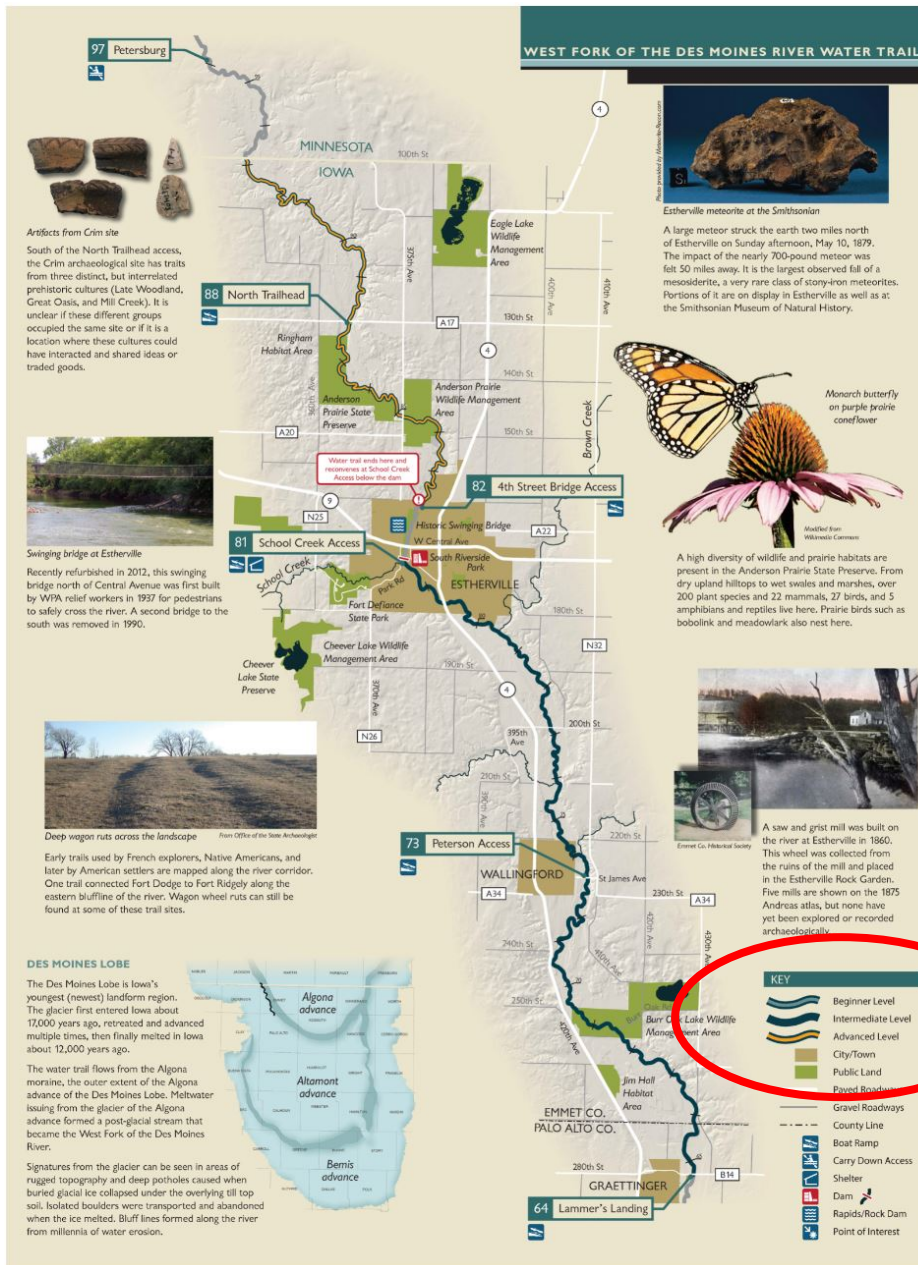


# State Water Trails Program

Choose your experience:

- EASY
- CHALLENGING
- SOMETHING IN BETWEEN





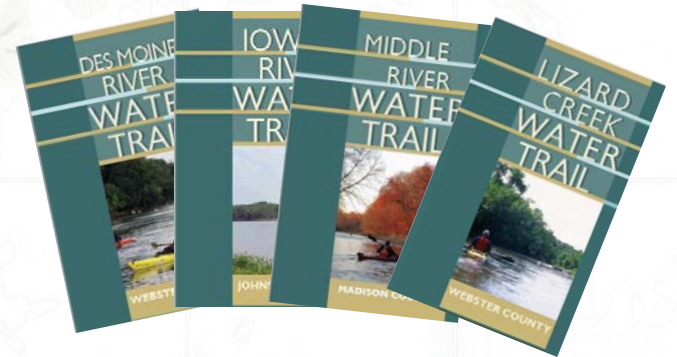
# Online Interactive Paddling Maps



# Water Trail Components:



- Water Trail Plan
- Signage
  - Wayfinding
  - Access
  - Hazard Warning
- Map, Brochure, and other interpretive materials



# Water Trail Access & Parking:



Peterson Access on So Skunk River, Story Co



Pictured Rocks on the Maquoketa River in Jones County



## GATEWAY



Iron Bridge Access on Maquoketa River, Buchanan Co



Elkader, Turkey River

Charles City, Cedar River

# Steamboat Rock, Pop. 327: Waterfront Reinvention

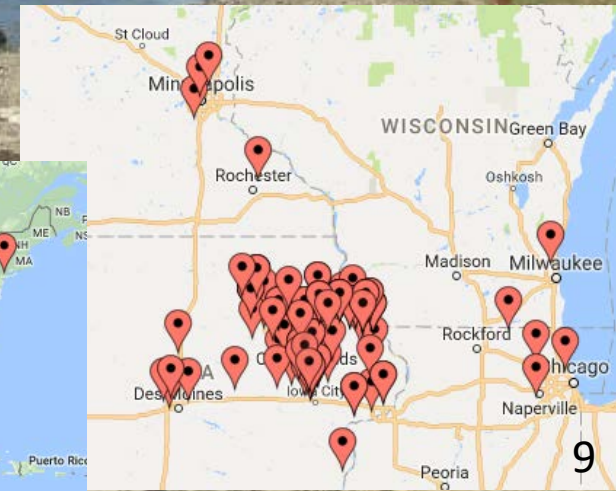
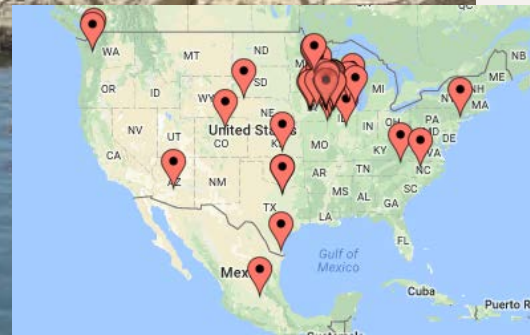
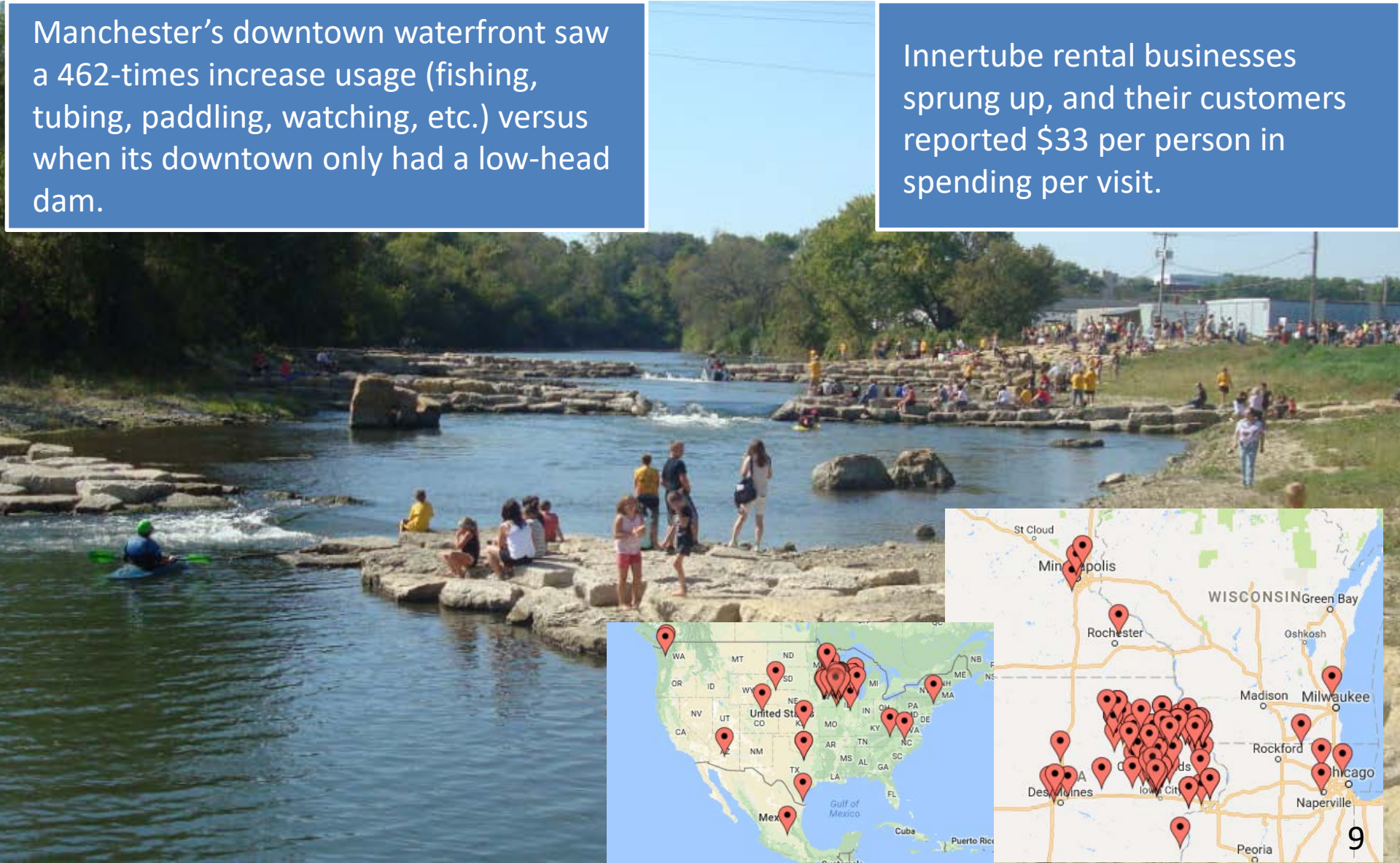




# Example: Manchester, pop. 5,019

Manchester's downtown waterfront saw a 462-times increase usage (fishing, tubing, paddling, watching, etc.) versus when its downtown only had a low-head dam.

Innertube rental businesses sprung up, and their customers reported \$33 per person in spending per visit.



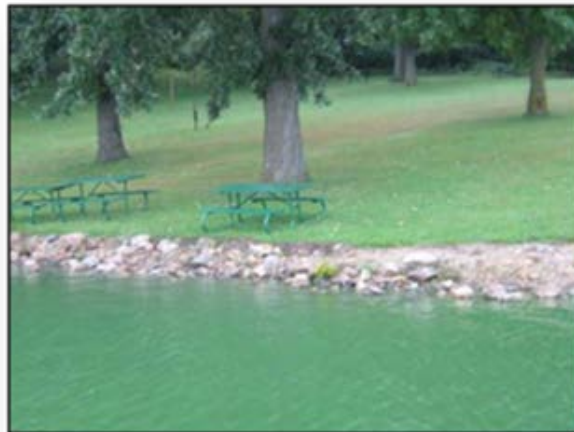
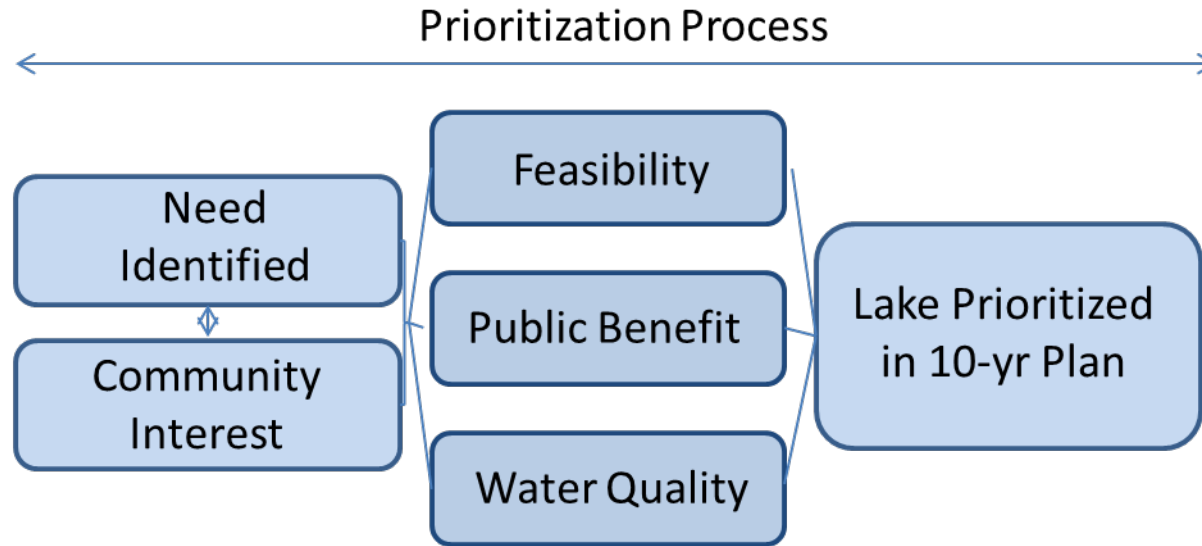
# Lake Restoration in Iowa

## Program Goals:

1. Ensure significant improvement in water clarity, safety, and quality of Iowa lakes.
2. Provide for sustainable, healthy, functioning lake systems.
3. Ensure a local community commitment to lake and watershed protection.
4. Ensure a cost effective, positive return on investment for the citizens of Iowa.
5. Sustain benefits of restoration efforts (long-term focus).



# Prioritizing Lakes for Restoration:



# Translating Legislative Goals to Program Success Stories:

## Program Goal:

1. Ensure significant improvement in water clarity, safety, and quality of Iowa lakes.

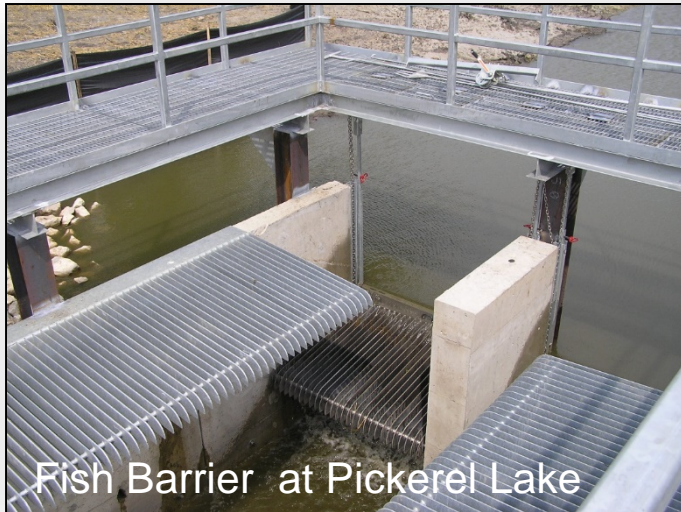


Central Park Lake, Jones County

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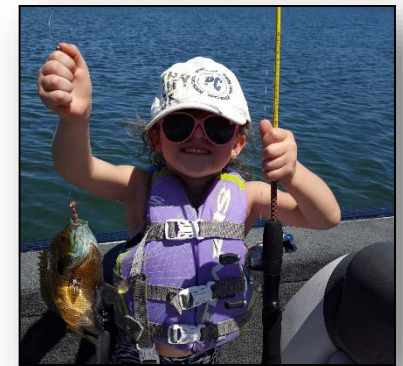
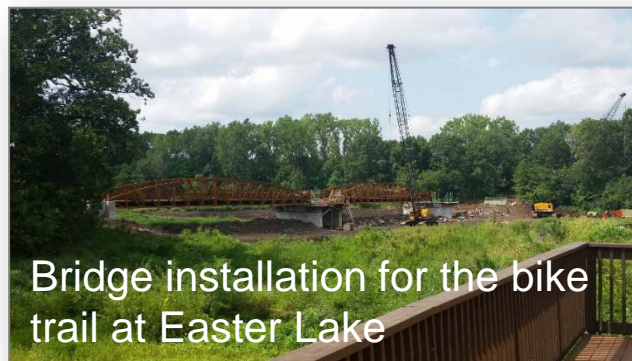
2. Provide for sustainable, healthy, functioning lake systems.



# Translating Legislative Goals to Program Success Stories:

## Program Goal:

3. Ensure a cost effective, positive return on investment for the citizens of Iowa.



# Translating Legislative Goals to Success Stories:

## Program Goal:

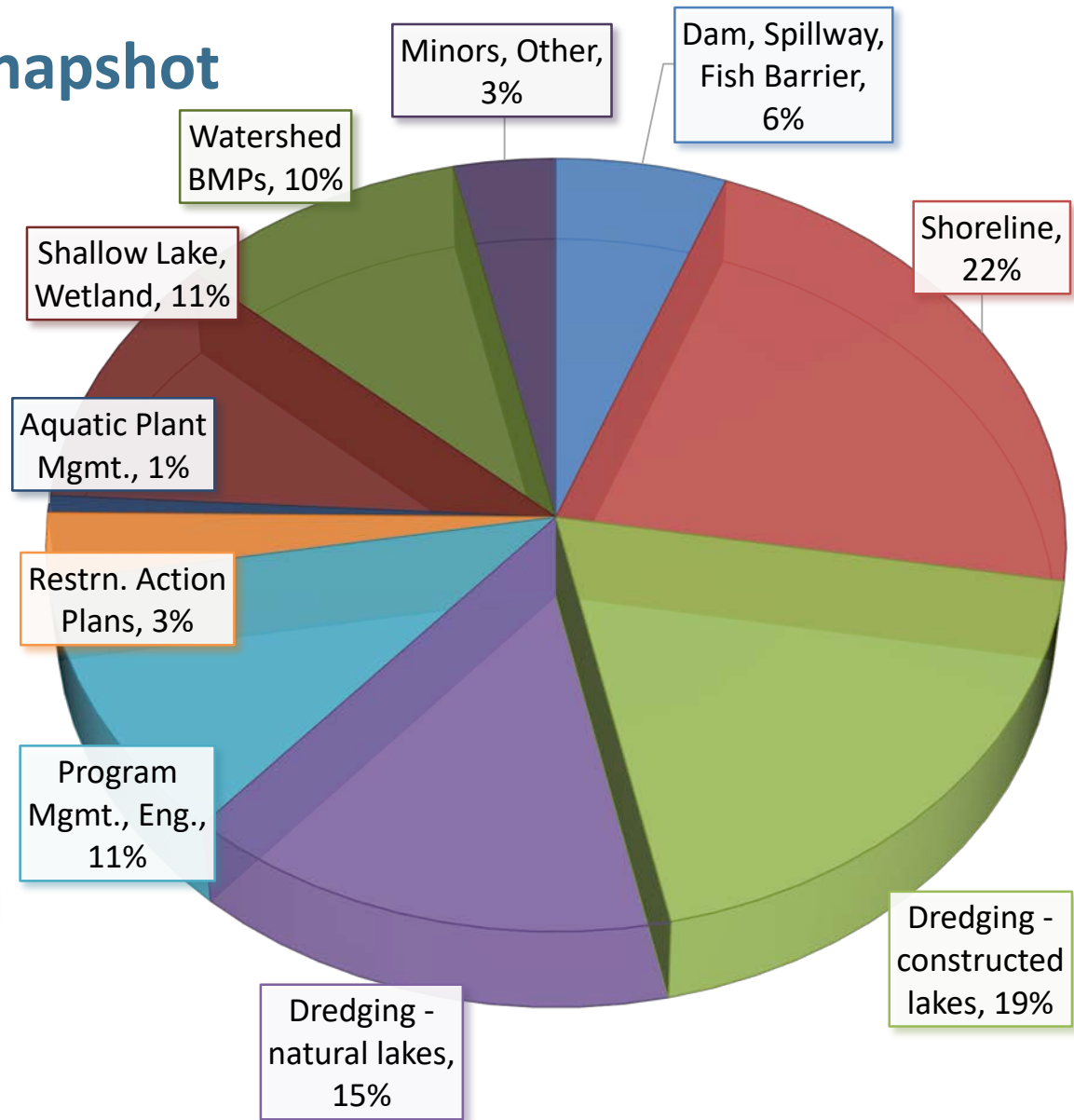
4. Ensure a local community commitment to lake and watershed protection.



# Five Year Spending Snapshot

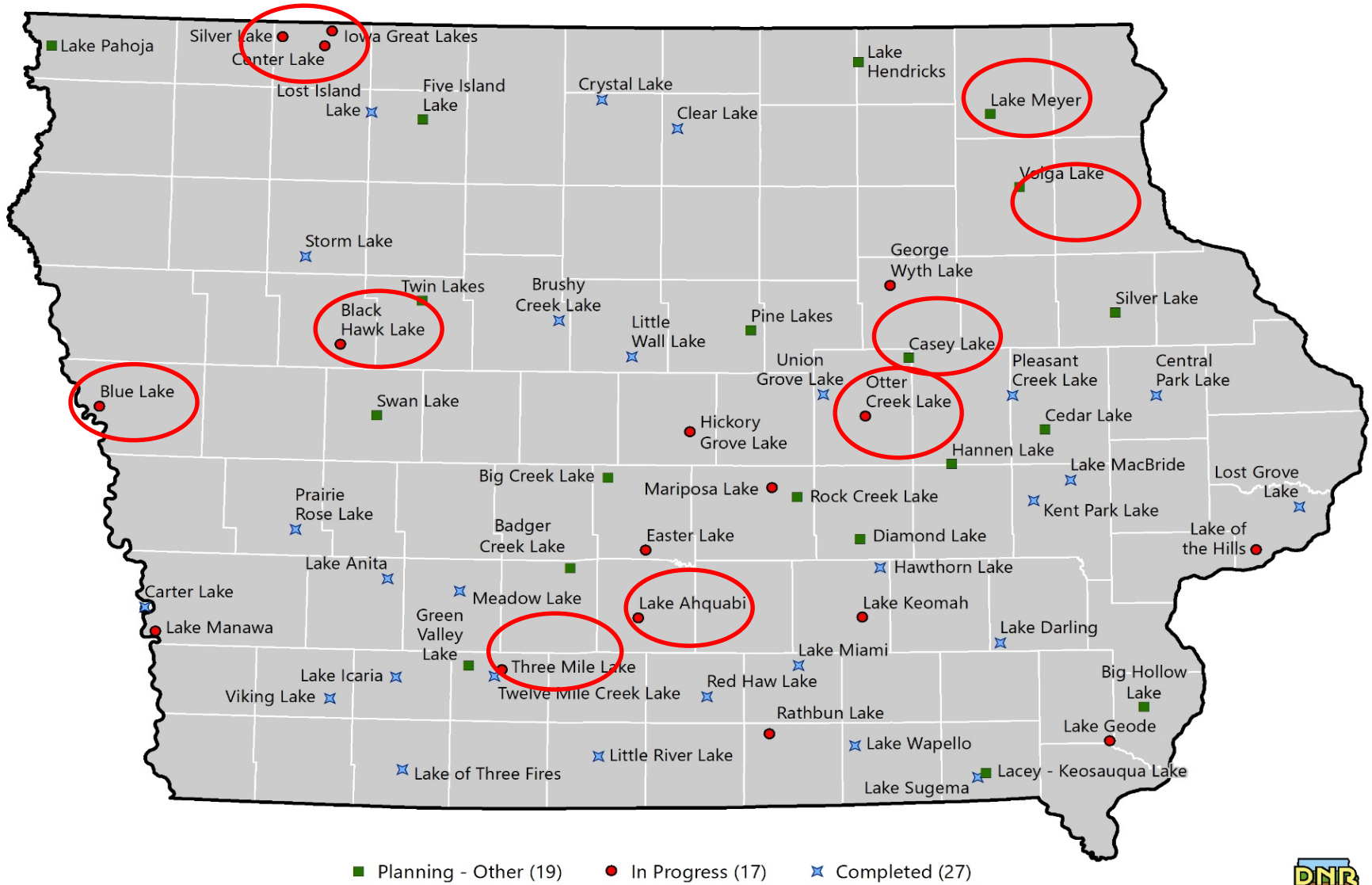
## Example of work under contract during a recent five-year period

- Seven miles of shoreline protection
- 856,000 cubic yards of sediment removed (enough to stack a football field 400 ft high)
- Four dam infrastructure improvements projects
- 1067 acres of shallow lake/wetland restoration
- 19 sediment control structures, 25 stream stabilization sites, and 3 in-lake silt ponds





# STATUS OF LAKE RESTORATION PROJECTS, STATE FISCAL YEAR 2021



# Questions:



For More Information...

<http://www.iowadnr.gov/Environmental-Protection/Water-Quality/Lake-Restoration>

Link for the current Blue Lake Project Video: <https://youtu.be/NAIqglIxBTU>

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