



# Iowa Department of Natural Resources

Leading Iowans in Caring For Our Natural Resources

**KAYLA LYON**, Director

# RIIF Appropriation - Governor's Budget

	FY24 Governor's Budget
Lake Water Quality Improvements	<b>\$9,600,000</b>
Park Infrastructure Improvements	<b>\$5,000,000</b>
Water Trails/Low-head Dam	<b>\$1,500,000</b>
On-Stream Impoundment	<b>\$500,000</b>
Iowa State Fair	<b>\$500,000</b>
Community Forestry Grant Program	<b>\$250,000</b>



# Iowa State Parks

Year	Visitation	Camping Guest Nights (# of people x # of nights they stay)
2019	14,859,639	790,078
2020	16,665,335	958,206
2021	17,121,389	978,702
2022	14,212,899	814,135



## 100% Reservable Campsites

- 2021 - Maquoketa Caves State Park - first to become same-day and 100-percent reservable
- 2022 - Walnut Woods and Lake Manawa State Parks
- 2023 - Lake Ahquabi and Pikes Peak State Parks



# Iowa State Parks - FY23 Project Highlight

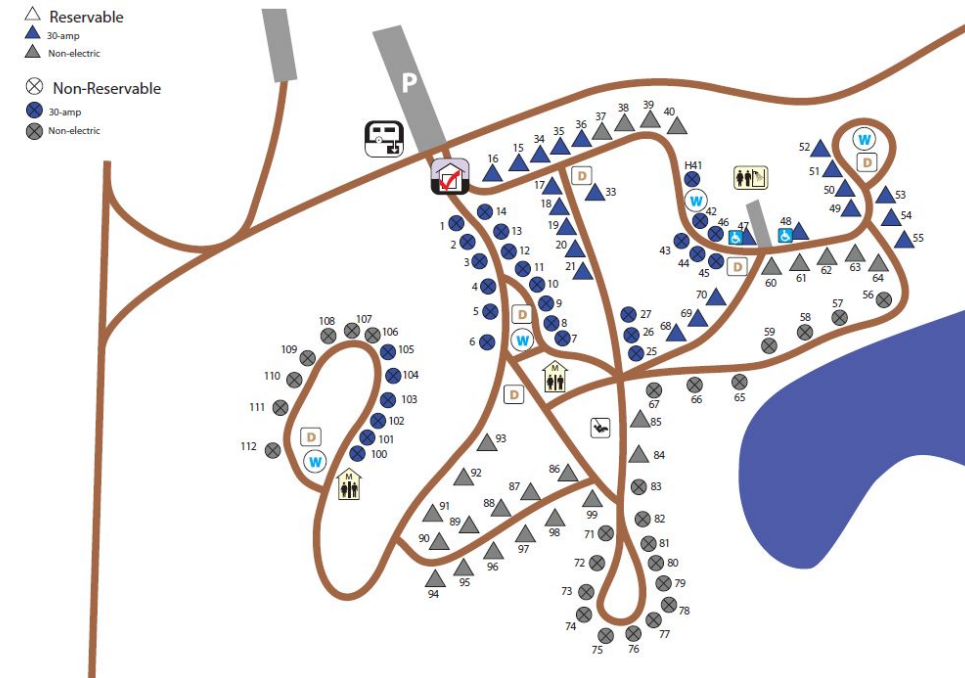
Gull Point State Park, Dickinson County (average annual visitation: **1,535,000**)

## Major Campground Renovation

- Campground redesign and utility upgrades to support larger RVs
- Pave trail parking area
- Re-roof shelter #1 and move shelter #2 to a more desirable location



Gull Point State Park  
Gull Point Campground





# State Park Infrastructure – FY23

## Parks Infrastructure Capital Projects include:

- Gull Point Campground Renovation
- Lake Wapello Shop/Office Building

## Projects below made possible by additional FY23 appropriation:

- Walnut Woods Campground Updates
- Clear Lake Campground Updates
- Clear Lake Lodge Repairs
- Lake Darling Lodge New Geothermal Equipment
- Nine Eagles Septic and Sand Filter for Office
- McIntosh Woods Shelter Roofs (2)
- Lake Keomah Lodge Windows
- Lewis & Clark Lodge Repairs
- Pilot Knob Amphitheater Renovation
- Lake Manawa Beach Concession Building Remodel
- Elk Rock Cold Storage Building
- Viking Lake Playground Match
- Statewide Parking Lots





# State Parks Infrastructure – FY24 Plan

● Projects planned for the status quo amount of \$5,000,000:

## IOWA STATE PARKS & FORESTS

### NORTHWEST

1	Ambrose A. Call (130 acres) Algona
2	Black Hawk (86 acres) Lake View
3	Brushy Creek (6500 acres) Lehigh
4	Clear Lake (55 acres) Clear Lake
5	Dolliver Memorial (600 acres) Lehigh
6	Elinor Bedell (80 acres) Spirit Lake
7	Emerson Bay & Lighthouse (12 acres) W Okoboji
8	Fort Defiance (221 acres) Estherville
9	Gull Point (195 acres) Milford
10	Lewis and Clark (1.6 acres) Onawa
11	Loess Hills State Forest (11,484 acres) Pisgah
12	Lower Gar Access (7 acres) Arnold's Park
13	Marble Beach (64 acres) Orionas
14	McIntosh Woods (62 acres) Ventura
15	Mini-Wakan (20 acres) Spirit Lake
16	Okamanpagan (19 acres) Dolliver
17	Pikes Point (15 acres) Spirit Lake
18	Pilot Knob (528 acres) Forest City
19	Preparation Canyon (344 acres) Moorhead
20	Rice Lake (15 acres) Lake Mills
21	Stone (1595 acres) Sioux City
22	Templar Park (10 acres) Spirit Lake
23	Troppers Bay (57 acres) Lake Park
24	Twin Lakes (15 acres) Rockwell City

### SOUTHWEST

1	Badger Creek (1162 acres) Van Meter
2	Big Creek (3050 acres) Polk City
3	Blackburn State Park (72 acres) Thurman City
4	Green Valley (1058 acres) Creston
5	Lake Anita (1062 acres) Anita
6	Lake Manawa (1529 acres) Council Bluffs
7	Lake of Three Fires (1235 acres) Bedford
8	Ledges (1200 acres) Boone
9	Prairie Rose (661 acres) Harlan
10	Springbrook (930 acres) Guthrie Center
11	Viking Lake (1000 acres) Stanton
12	Waubesaie (1956 acres) Hamburg
13	Wilson Island (547 acres) Missouri Valley

### NORTHEAST

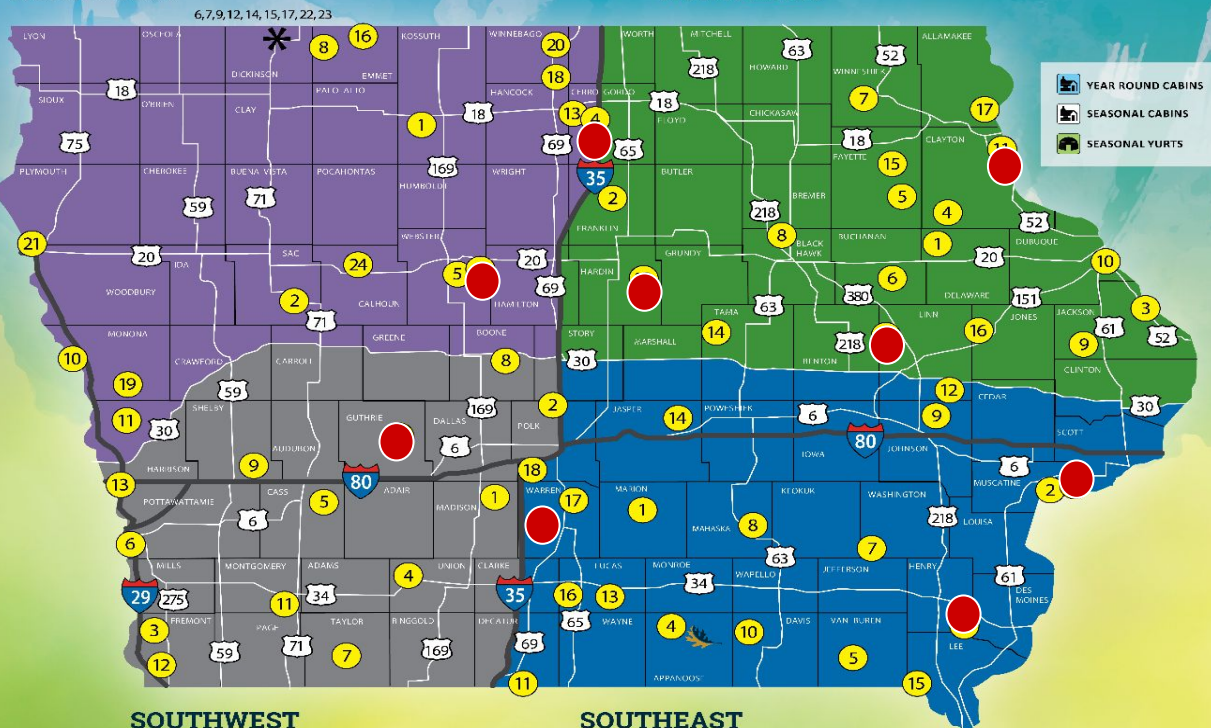
1	Backbone (2000 acres) Dundee
2	Beeds Lake (319 acres) Hampton
3	Bellevue (770 acres) Bellevue
4	Bixby Preserve (184 acres) Edgewood
5	Brush Creek Canyon Preserve (217 acres) Arlington
6	Cedar Rock (423 acres) Independence
7	Fort Atkinson Preserve (1 acres) Ft. Atkinson
8	George Wirth Memorial (1200 acres) Cedar Falls
9	Maquoketa Caves (323 acres) Maquoketa
10	Mines of Spain & E.B. Lyons Interpretive Center (1439 acres) Dubuque
11	Pikes Peak (970 acres) McGregor
12	Fine Lake (654 acres) Eldora
13	Pleasant Creek (1927 acres) Palo
14	Union Grove (282 acres) Gladbrook
15	Volga River (5500 acres) Fayette
16	Wapsipiconic (390 acres) Anamosa
17	Yellow River Forest & Camp (8500 acres) Waukon

### SOUTHEAST

1	Elk Rock (Red Rock) (850 acres) Knoxville
2	Fairport (17 acres) Muscatine
3	Geode (1641 acres) Danville
4	Honey Creek (Rathbun) (828 acres) Maravia
5	Lacey-Keosauqua (1653 acres) Keosauqua
6	Lake Ahquabi (770 acres) Indianola
7	Lake Darling (1387 acres) Brighton
8	Lake Keomah (366 acres) Oskaloosa
9	Lake Macbride (2190 acres) Solon
10	Lake Wapello (1150 acres) Drakesville
11	Nine Eagles (139 acres) Davis City
12	Palisades-Kepler (940 acres) Mt. Vernon
13	Red Haw (640 acres) Chariton
14	Rock Creek (1697 acres) Kellogg
15	Shimek Forest Camp (9000 acres) Farmington
16	Stephens Forest Camp (15,000 acres) Lucas
17	Sumnerac (222 acres) Des Moines
18	Walnut Woods (250 acres) West Des Moines
19	Wildcat Den (423 acres) Muscatine

### NORTHWEST

### NORTHEAST

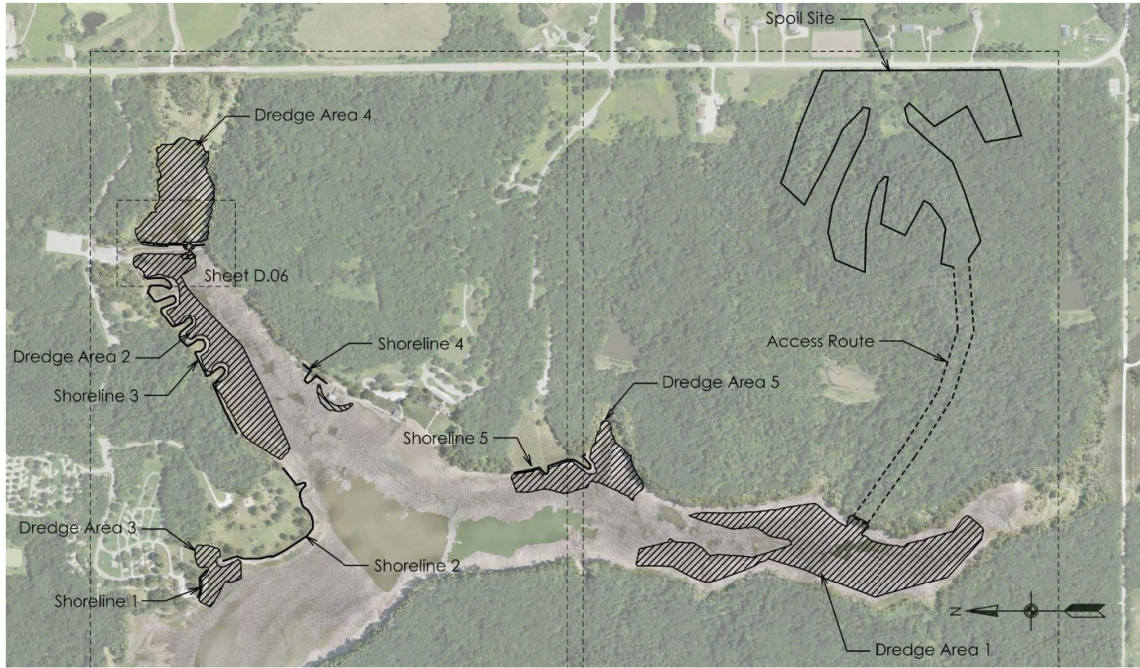


### SOUTHWEST

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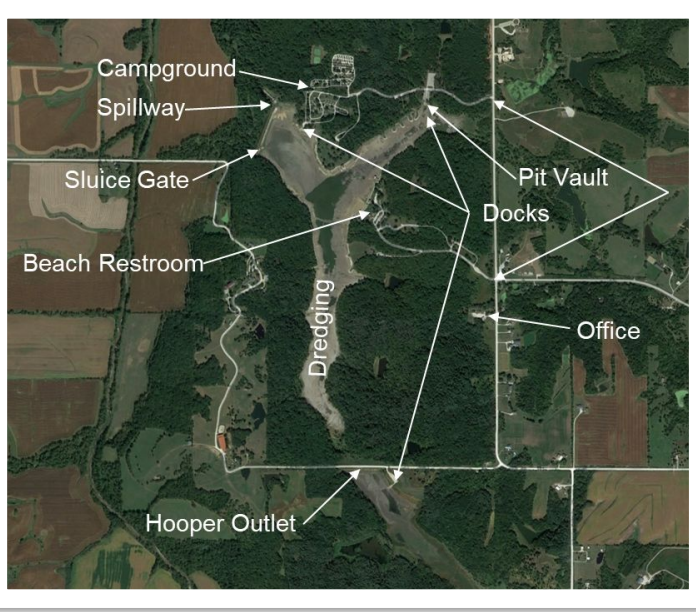


# Lake Ahquabi State Park, Warren County





# Lake Ahquabi State Park, Warren County





# Lake Restoration Program Update

## Accomplishments from the past 17 years:

- **65** lakes in **47** counties
- **26** miles of shoreline protection
- **5M** cubic yards (300,000 dump trucks) of sediment removed
- **42** projects targeted on enhancing **14,000** acres of wetlands/shallow lakes
- More than **200** watershed BMPs (e.g. ponds, grade stabilizations, urban stormwater BMPs, and upland habitat/stream restorations)
- **45** projects (dam/spillway repairs, outlet water control structures, fish barriers)

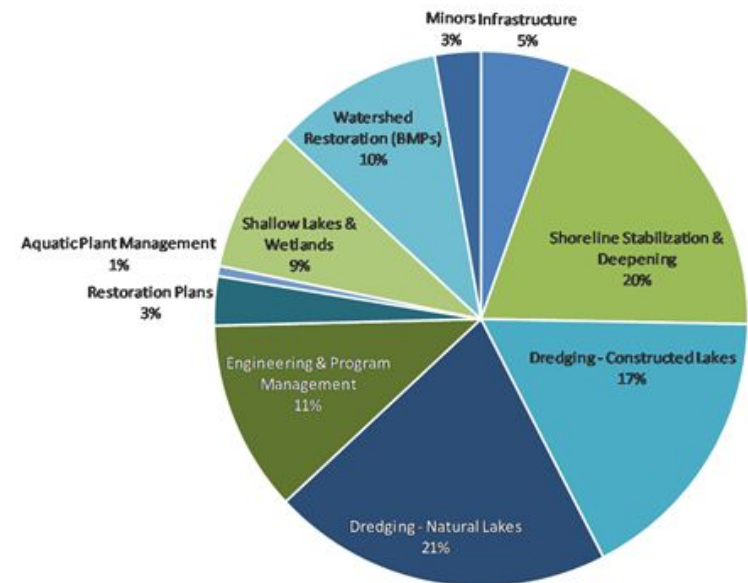


*Clear Lake Spoil Site after fish renovation  
Summer 2022*



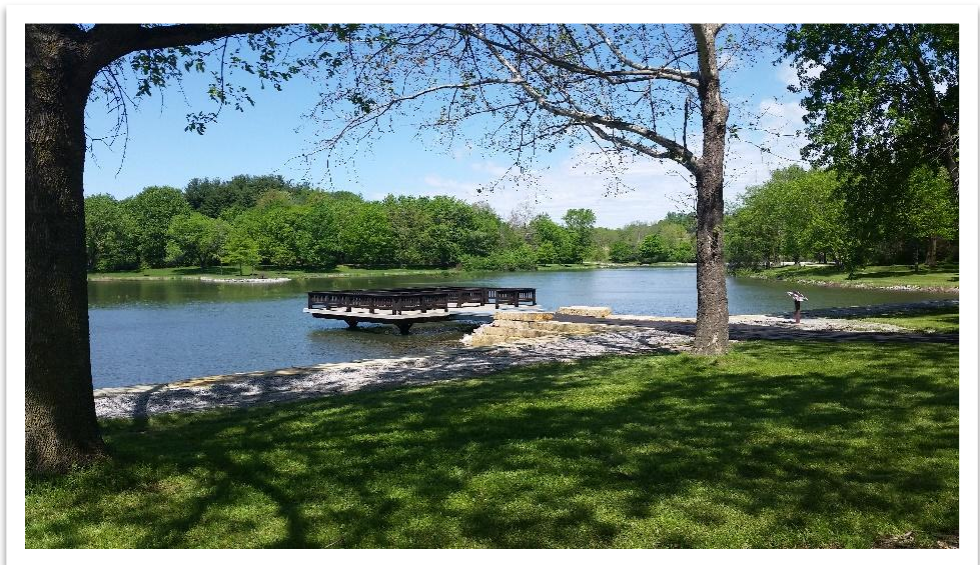
*Silver Lake (Dickinson)  
shoreline restoration  
Summer 2022*

## Program Spending by Category



# Lakes are an Important Part of the Economy:

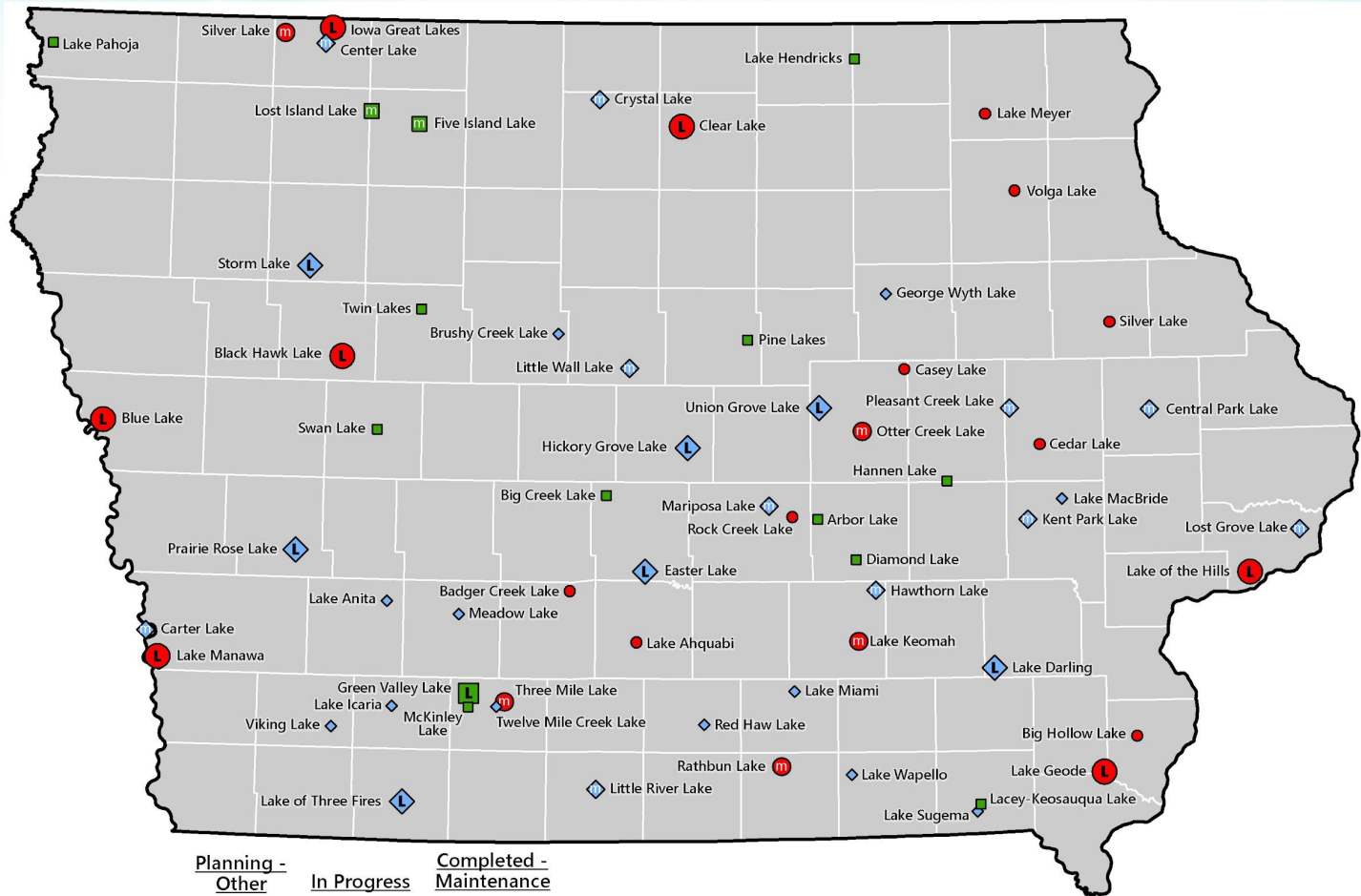
- Iowa's public lakes attract **19 million** visitors annually
- **~60%** of all Iowans visit a lake each year
- Lakes contribute about **\$1 Billion** in spending to Iowa's economy
- Lake users are willing to drive farther to visit lakes with better water quality and more amenities



*Photos above show water quality before (left) and after (right) at Kent Park Lake, Johnson County*



# SFY2023 Lake Restoration Project: Status & Program Investment

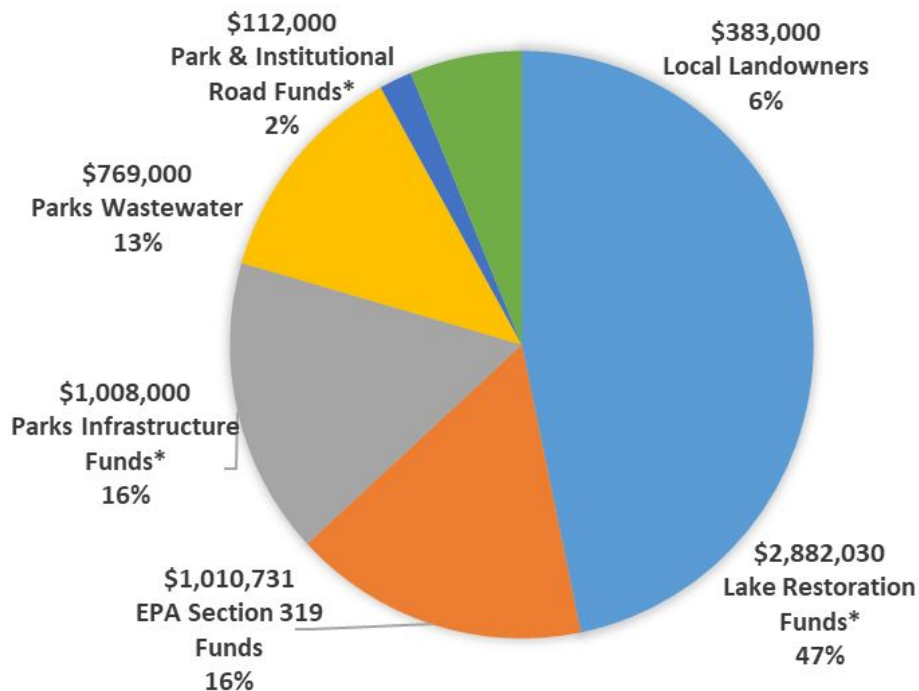


<u>Planned - Other</u>	<u>In Progress</u>	<u>Completed - Maintenance</u>
■ (11)	● (9)	◇ (12)
■ (2)	■ (5)	◇ (11)
■ (1)	● (7)	◇ (7)

Small-scale Projects: Program Investment under \$550,000  
 Mid-scale Projects: Program Investment \$550,000 to \$2.25M  
 Large-scale Projects: Program Investment over \$2.25M

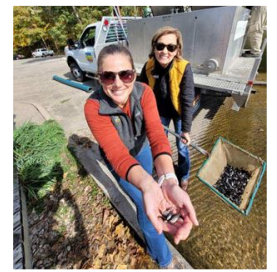


# Recently Completed Major Park and Lake Restoration Project – Lake Geode, Henry County



**\$6,164,761 Total Investment**

\* Denotes State Funds (RIIF, Fish & Wildlife Trust Fund, Road Tax Funds passed from DOT to DNR, etc.)



## LAKE RESTORATION BY THE NUMBERS:

- **191,832** CY of Sediment Dredged
- **7,970** LF of Shoreline Stabilized
- **4** Fishing Jetties Added for Angler Access
- **1** In-lake Silt Basin/Wetland Added to Protect the Lake



# How the program plans to use the Governor's proposed \$9.6M allocation for FY24

- **Casey Lake, Black Hawk CCB (Tama County)**
  - Seven sediment/nutrient control ponds
  - Timber stand improvement
  - Sediment removal and in-lake silt basins
  - Upgrade old dam infrastructure
  - Fish habitat and lake access amenities
- **Lake Keomah, Mahaska County**
  - Shoreline armoring
  - Sediment removal and in-lake silt basin
  - Dam repair/modification
  - Shoreline access - fishing trail and jetties
  - Boat ramp parking lot improvements
- **Rathbun Reservoir, Appanoose County**
  - US Army Corps of Eng. - Section 1135 Ecosystem Restoration Projects (75% federal cost-share)
  - Bank armoring with rock and planted vegetation; installation of a fish barrier
  - Restore 125 acres of wetland habitat in the Walker Branch Wildlife Management Area
- **Three Mile Lake, Union County**
  - Construction of sediment control ponds
  - Restoration of a 50 acre wetland area
  - Shoreline armoring
  - Shoreline access and fish habitat
  - Protection of boat ramp infrastructure
- **Silver Lake, Dickinson County**
  - Stabilize 1,000 feet of shoreline
  - In cooperation with a Water Infrastructure Fund Grant administered by the Iowa Finance Authority
- **Shallow Lake/Wetland Projects**
  - Eagle Lake, Hancock County
  - Pleasant/Lilly Lakes, Dickinson County
  - Goose Lake, Greene County
  - Twelve Mile, Emmet County
  - East Twin Lake, Hancock County



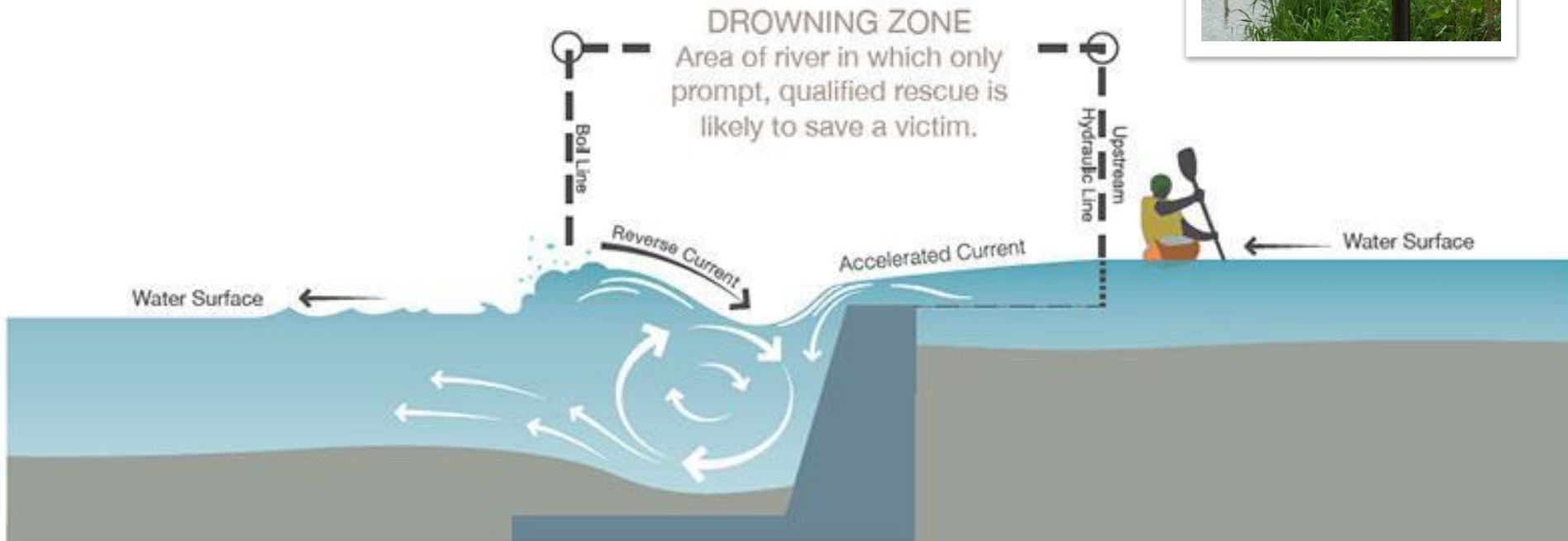
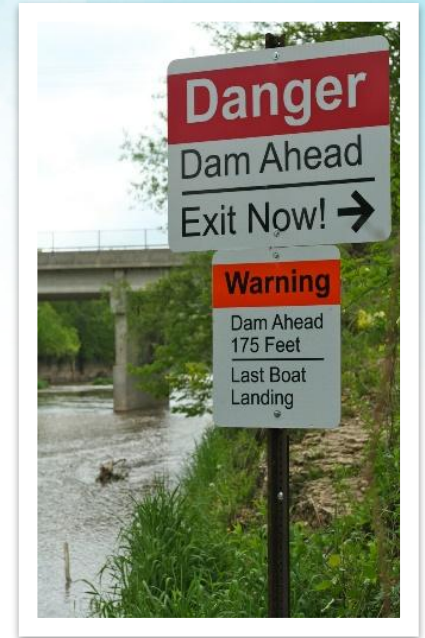
# River activities in Iowa are fun and popular...

- Community-driven plans **prioritize local projects** for paddlers, anglers, and boaters.
- **Grants and contracts** to build water launches, install signs.
- **New recreational experiences and tourism opportunities** – whitewater, tubing runs, historic water tours, and wilderness adventures.
- **Safer dam areas** while improving fisheries and addressing aging infrastructure.



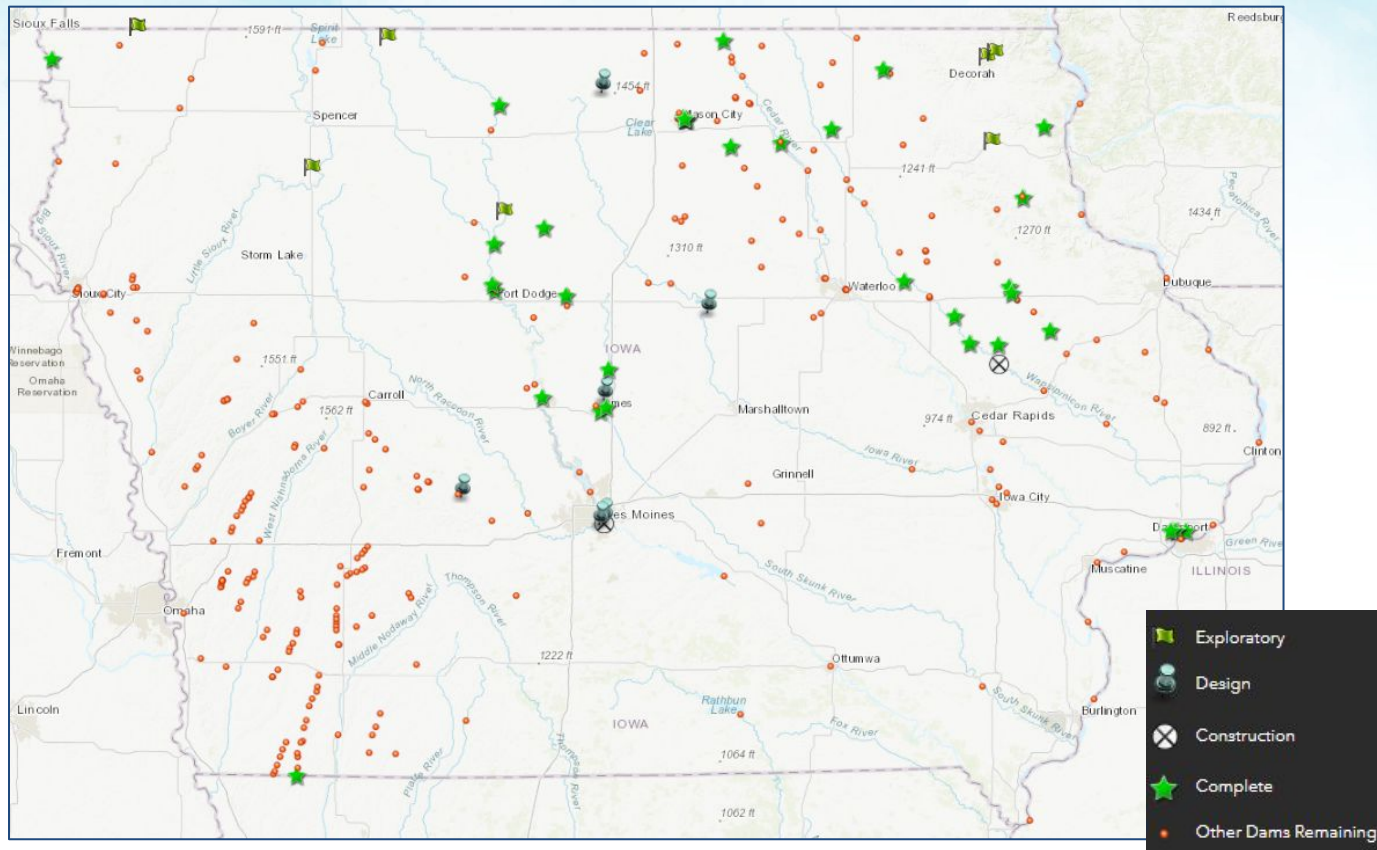
# Why mitigate dams?

- Dams are unsafe
- Dams are past design lives
- Dams block fish and other river life like mussels





# Dams and Mitigation Projects



## Upcoming Dam Mitigation Projects

- Sleepy Hollow/Hannum's Mill, Story County
- Fleur Drive Dam, Polk County
- Steamboat Rock Dam, Hardin County
- Pinicon Ridge Park Dam, Linn County
- Scott and Center Street Dam, Polk County
- Forest City Dam, Winnebago County
- Lenon Mill Dam, Guthrie County
- Linn Grove Dam, Linn Grove Dam
- Buena Vista County
- Upper and Lower Dam, Lower Dam
- Winneshiek County



# Steamboat Rock, Pop. 327: Waterfront Reinvention

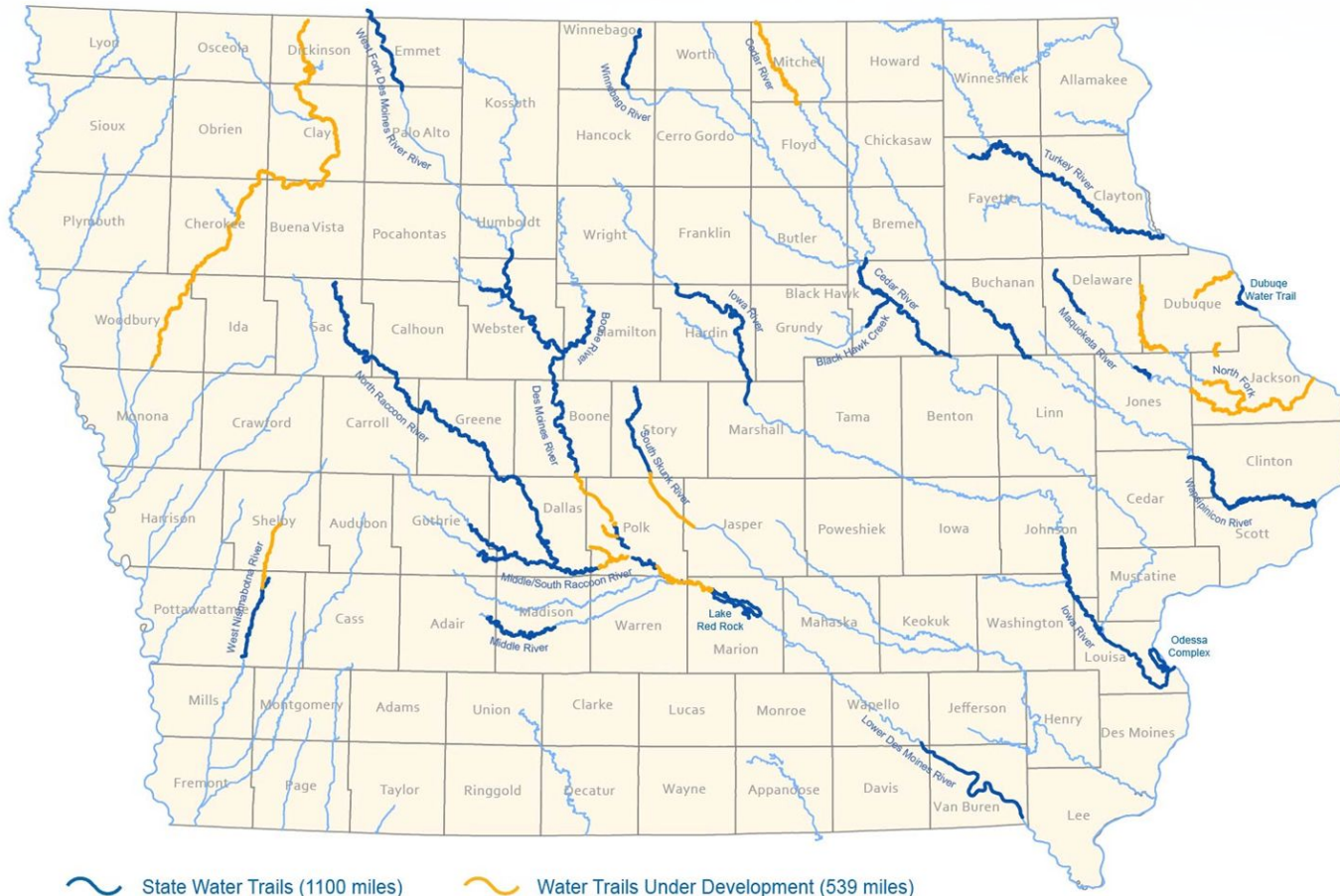
- Reduces the state's liability
- State's project is leveraging investment.



# Water Trails

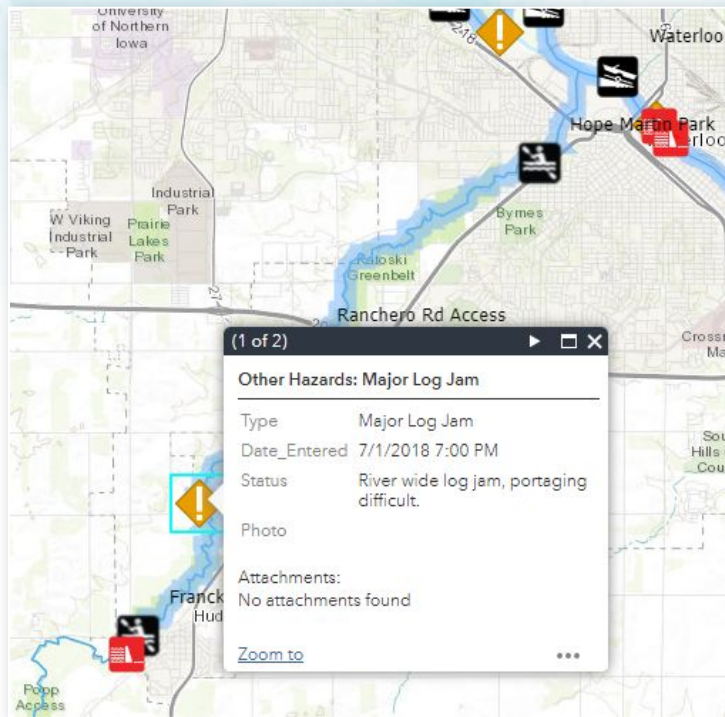
## Water Trail Access Upcoming Projects

- Story County**, Improvements to Soper's Mill Access
- Shelby County**, Construction of new Launch at Nishna Bend
- Emmet County**, Construction of new Launch at Midway Access
- Webster County**, Designs for 3 Accesses in Fort Dodge
- Jackson County**, Final designs for Bridgeport & Canton Accesses

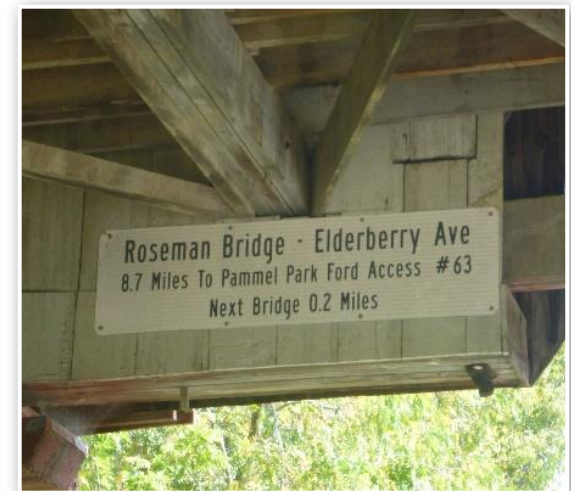
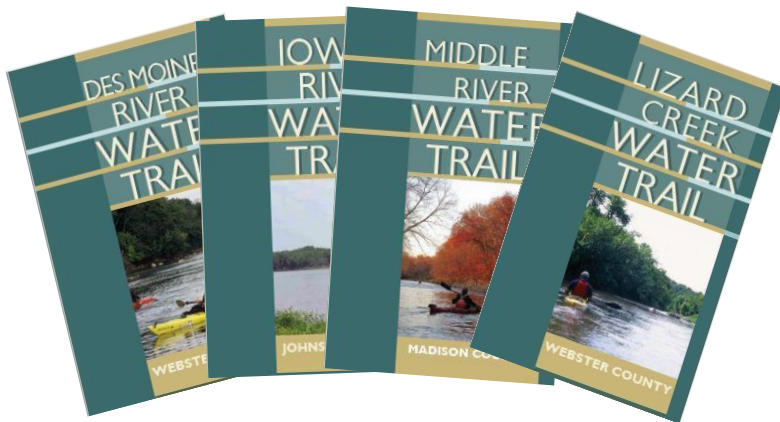




# Water Trail Components:



- Water Trail Plan
- Signage
  - Wayfinding
  - Access
  - Hazard Warning
- Interactive/Real Time Online Map





# Water Trail Access & Parking Projects:





# Investing in the State Fairgrounds \$500,000



*A popular state fair attraction for nearly 100 years.*

This request will invest in new and updated public attractions, for the State Fair and additional events:

- Children's STEM Playscape - \$50,000
- Outdoor Stage - \$75,000
- Archery & Shooting Sports Range - \$175,000
- Lead Abatement/ADA Accessible 2nd Floor Event Space - \$200,000





**1) \$50,000 - A durable structure that encourages play, learning and promotes Iowa State Parks.**

- STEM focused elements and iconic features from Ledges, Maquoketa Caves, Loess Hills and Backbone,
- ADA accessibility
- Mobile and available for other events

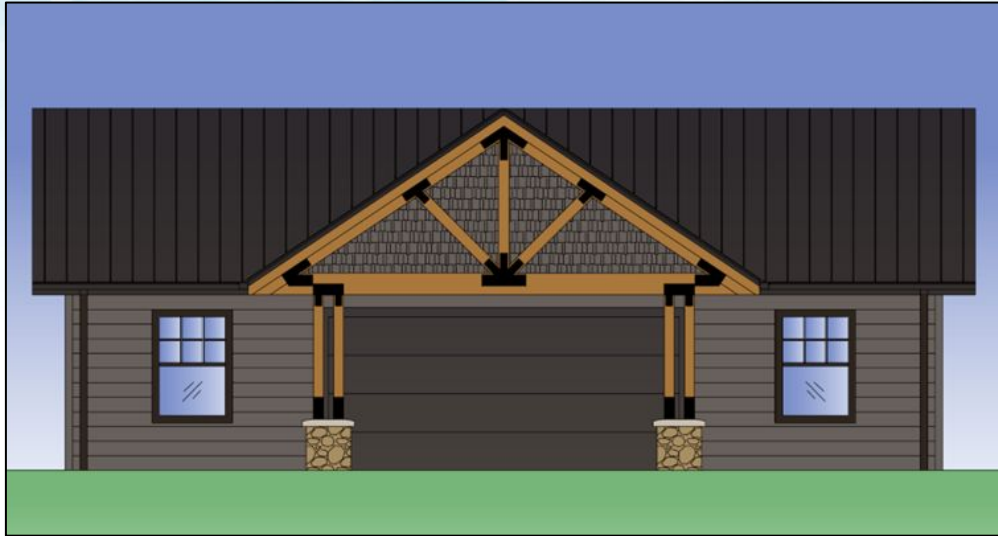


*In 2022, a small model, borrowed from Clay County, was piloted at it was an overwhelming success.*

**2) \$75,000 - New outdoor stage and seating area is requested for the 40+ popular programs.**

- The new stage will be located along Grand Ave. and will have updated sound systems, shade, additional seating and ADA compliance.
- Allow the department and partners to enhance the already standing room only crowds.





### 3) \$175,000 - Archery and Shooting Sports are a huge draw for state fair visitors.

- Viewing for family and friends
- Additional shooting lanes
- Open longer hours and during all types weather.
- Utilized for events outside the fair and storage in the winter.

### 4) \$200,000 - The building has a large upstairs area that has been sealed off due to the use of lead containing paint and ceiling tiles.

- air conditioned space for meetings, events and programs during the fair and warm months of the year.
- The renovation would also include a simple lift that would allow all fair goers and visitors the opportunity to use the space.



*This is a picture of the historical use of the second floor space during the State Fair.*



# Community Forest Grant Program

Fall 2022 Award Recipients A total of **\$374,779.68** was awarded to **48** projects.

- Audubon Community School District
- BCLUW Community School District
- City of Altoona
- City of Ames
- City of Bondurant - CVT
- City of Bondurant - Parks
- City of Bondurant - ROW
- City of Cedar Rapids
- City of Center Point
- City of Colfax
- City of Dallas Center
- City of Dexter
- City of Fairfax
- City of Grand Junction
- City of Grimes
- City of Grinnell
- City of Grundy Center
- City of Hiawatha
- City of Iowa City
- City of Lisbon
- City of Maquoketa
- City of Marion
- City of Maxwell
- City of Muscatine
- City of North Liberty
- City of Palo
- City of Panora
- City of Reinbeck
- City of Tipton
- City of Waukee
- City of West Des Moines
- City of Zearing
- Claude W. and Dolly Ahrens Foundation
- Clear Creek Amana Community School District
- Colfax Parks & Recreation Auxiliary Board
- College Community School District
- Dallas County Conservation Board
- Des Moines Area Community College
- Greene County Conservation Board
- Grundy County
- Grundy County Conservation Board
- Jefferson Tree Committee
- Johnston Community School District
- Linn County Conservation Board
- Lone Tree Community School District
- Scott County Conservation Board
- Sixth Judicial District DCS
- Trees Forever Marshalltown







*City of MAXWELL,  
Community Tree Grant*