



**IOWA | DNR**

**IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

**Leading Iowans in Caring For Our Natural Resources**

## Table of Organization Iowa Department of Natural Resources

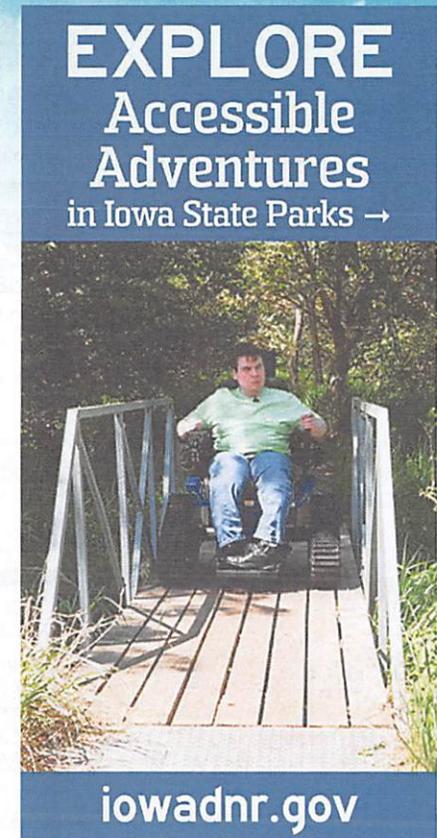


# FY 2027 Governor's Budget

APPROPRIATION NAME	FY 26 Appropriation	FY 27 Governor's Budget	Increase/ (Decrease)
<b><u>GENERAL FUND</u></b>			
Department Operations	\$12,816,738	\$12,816,738	\$0
State Park Operations	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$0
Floodplain Management	\$1,510,000	\$1,510,000	\$0
State Park Maintenance	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$0
Forestry Health Management	\$525,000	\$525,000	\$0
<b>Total General Fund</b>	<b>\$16,151,738</b>	<b>\$16,151,738</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b><u>ENVIRONMENT FIRST</u></b>			
Resource Enhancement and Protection	\$12,000,000	\$12,000,000	\$0
Ambient Air Quality Monitoring	\$425,000	\$425,000	\$0
Water Quality Monitoring	\$2,955,000	\$2,955,000	\$0
GIS Data for Watershed Managers	\$195,000	\$195,000	\$0
Park Operations and Maintenance	\$6,235,000	\$6,235,000	\$0
Floodplain Management	\$375,000	\$375,000	\$0
Animal Feeding Operations	\$1,320,000	\$1,320,000	\$0
Water Supply Appropriation	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$0
<b>Total Environment First Fund</b>	<b>\$24,005,000</b>	<b>\$24,005,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b><u>NON-GENERAL FUND</u></b>			
Fish and Wildlife Operations	\$53,095,606	\$53,095,606	\$0
Groundwater Fund	\$3,455,850	\$3,455,850	\$0
Snowmobile Transfer to FWTF	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$0
<b>Total Non General Funds</b>	<b>\$56,651,456</b>	<b>\$56,651,456</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b><u>INFRASTRUCTURE</u></b>			
Lake Water Quality Improvements	\$9,600,000	\$9,600,000	\$0
Water Trails/Lowhead Dam	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$0
Park Infrastructure Improvements	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$0
Derelect Buildings Program	\$0	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
<b>Total Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund</b>	<b>\$16,100,000</b>	<b>\$17,100,000</b>	<b>\$1,000,000</b>
<b>TOTAL GOVERNOR'S BUDGET</b>	<b>\$112,908,194</b>	<b>\$113,908,194</b>	<b>\$1,000,000</b>

## Accessibility Investments in State Parks

- **Website**
  - Launched Iowa's Accessible Outdoors web page in 2025
    - [iowadnr.gov/accessible](http://iowadnr.gov/accessible)
  - Features accessible outdoor activities (fishing, overnight stays, trails, across the state)
- **Infrastructure improvements** at 45 parks, including:
  - Concrete repairs to sidewalks and parking
  - Adaptive equipment like beach mats, hiking carts and color-blind adapted viewing scopes
- **Partnerships**
  - Hosted visit to Lake Ahquabi State Park for feedback from people with mobility limitations and their caretakers



# State Park Renovations – Highlights

## Clear Lake State Park

- Opening spring 2026
- Campground grading and reconfiguration
  - Two new concrete camp pads for ADA access
  - New water lines, sewer and hydrants
- Renovated shower building
- Restroom and lodge upgrades



*Top: Clear Lake Lodge  
Beeds Lake Playground*

## Beeds Lake

- Sewer connection
- New playground, matching funds from Friends Group



## Pleasant Creek State Recreation Area

- Campgrounds reopening July 2026
- Improvements include electrical sites, gravel camp pads and new dump station

# State Park Renovations – 2026 Highlights

## Ledges

- New shower building in campground in 2026
- Oakwoods Shelter renovation and road renovations

## Lewis and Clark

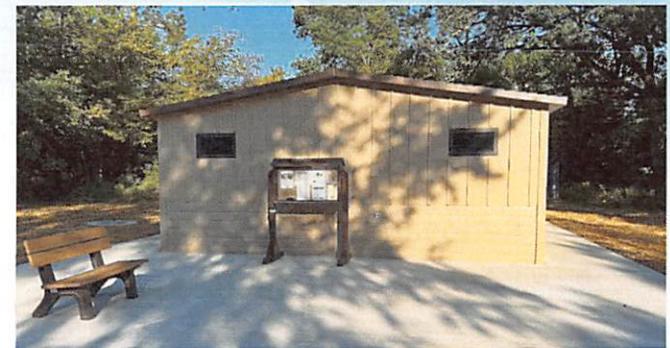
- New roof and HVAC at Visitors Center

## McIntosh Woods

- Campground renovations in 2026 – full-hook ups, paving, ADA sites, utilities

## Waubonsie

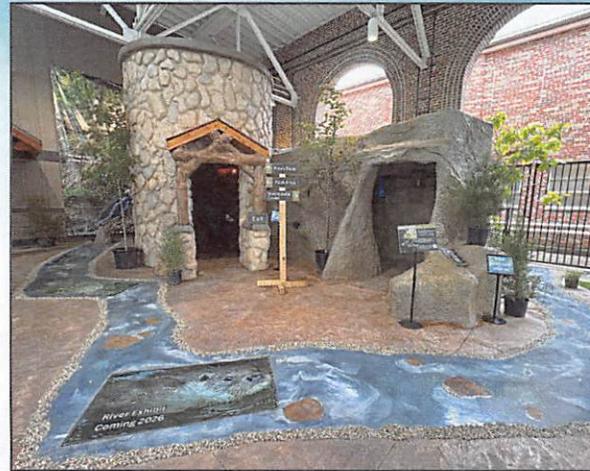
- New waterline installation at campground (re-opening in May) and cabins (closed for 2026 season)



*New shower building at Ledges campground*

# Iowa State Fair - Renovations

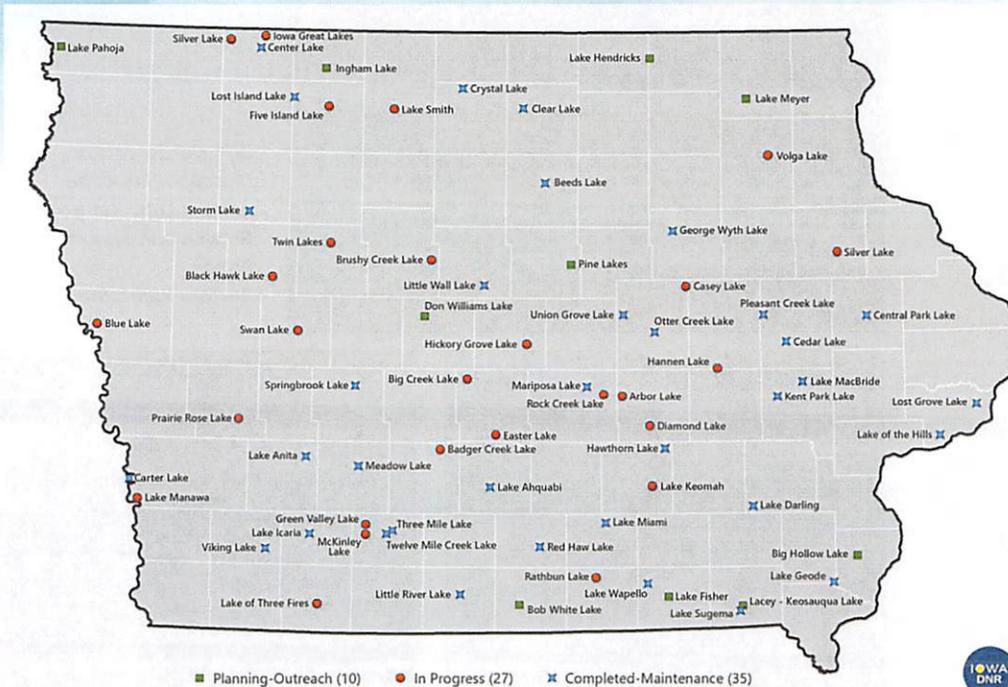
- **Conservation Discovery Area** – a new playscape and interactive exhibit featuring elements of Maquoketa Caves and Pilot Knob State Park, inspiring fairgoers to explore Iowa’s natural spaces. Designed and built by Austincrete of Newton, Ia.
  
- **Part of ongoing improvements at the DNR State Fair Building**, including a new covered stage, indoor shooting sport range, and rainscape garden area.



*Left: Conservation Discover Playscape  
Bottom Left: Rainscape Garden and Shooting Range  
Bottom Right: Stage*



# Lakes Restoration Projects FY26



## Recently Completed Projects:

- Casey Lake (Black Hawk)
- Diamond Lake watershed (Poweshiek)
- Cedar Lake McCloud Run Connection (Linn)
- Little Storm Lake (Buena Vista) – shallow lake project (not pictured)
- East Twin Lake (Hancock) – shallow lake project (not pictured)

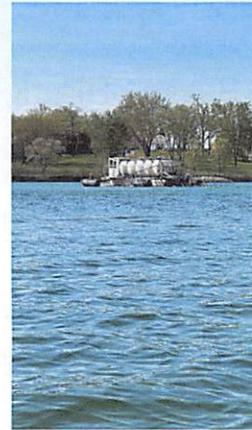
## Major Projects Currently Under Construction:

- McKinley Lake (Union)
- Lake Keomah (Mahaska)
- Green Valley Lake (Union)
- Prairie Rose Lake (Shelby)
- Silver Lake (Delaware)
- Pleasant Creek Lake (Linn)
- Iowa Great Lakes shoreline (Dickinson)
- Rathbun Lake shoreline (Appanoose)

# Lake Restoration - Success Highlight

## Green Valley Lake – Union County

- Overabundance of phosphorus – algae blooms and poor water quality
- **Alum treatments in spring and fall 2025**, applying 346k gal of alum to the lake and in-lake silt basins
  - Alum is a safe chemical commonly used in cooking/pickling, and frequently used in drinking water treatment.
  - Binds phosphorus and limits algae growth.
- **Following spring treatment:**
  - **Water clarity doubled** from 1.8 feet to 3 feet
  - **Average phosphorus** concentration was nearly **4x lower**
  - **Average chlorophyll** concentration, a pigment used to measure algal production, was **2x lower**, indicating fewer algae blooms



*Left: Alum barge, fishing recreation at Green Valley Lake*

*Bottom: Water recreation at Green Valley Lake, secchi disk showing water clarity*



# Lake Restoration - Success Highlight

## Casey Lake at Hickory Hills Park – Black Hawk County

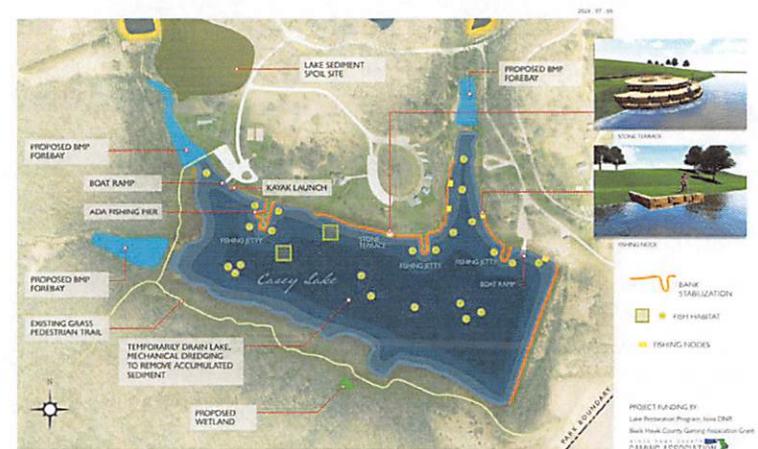
- 3,400 linear feet of shoreline stabilized
- 30 acres of timber stand improvement (TSI) throughout the park
  - Reduces nutrients and sediment to the lake by removing dense invasive plants, allowing sunlight to reach forest floor. Native groundcover reestablishes and reduces erosion.
- 140,000 cubic yards of excess sediment removed
- More than 25 new fish habitat structures provide refuge for fish
- Three new in-lake silt basins, and four rehabilitated watershed ponds capture nutrients and sediment
- Accessible stone terrace (partially funded by grant from Black Hawk Gaming Commission), jetties, boat ramp, and fishing nodes offer recreational opportunities



*New stone terrace during construction*



*TSI completed (left of trail) and not complete (right of trail).*



CASEY LAKE RESTORATION  
AT HICKORY HILLS PARK



PROJECT FUNDING BY:  
Lake Restoration Program, Iowa DNR  
Black Hawk County Gaming Restoration Grant  
IOWA GAMING ASSOCIATION  
Fish Habitat Grant, Iowa DNR  
Young Family Foundation  
Black Hawk County

## Lake Restoration - Plans for FY27

- **Pillsbury Point Shoreline Restoration (West Okoboji in Dickinson County)** – shoreline repairs after 2024 floods and future slope resilience; estimated cost \$1.9M
- **Diamond Lake (Poweshiek County)** – in-lake restoration practices and dam infrastructure improvements; estimated cost \$4M
- **Beach restoration at Brushy Creek Lake, Big Creek Lake and Hickory Grove Lake** – reduce runoff and mitigate bacteria (*E.coli*); estimated cost \$1.5M
- **Alum treatments** to reduce phosphorus cycling and algae blooms at Lake of Three Fires (Taylor County) and Silver Lake (Delaware County); estimated cost \$700k



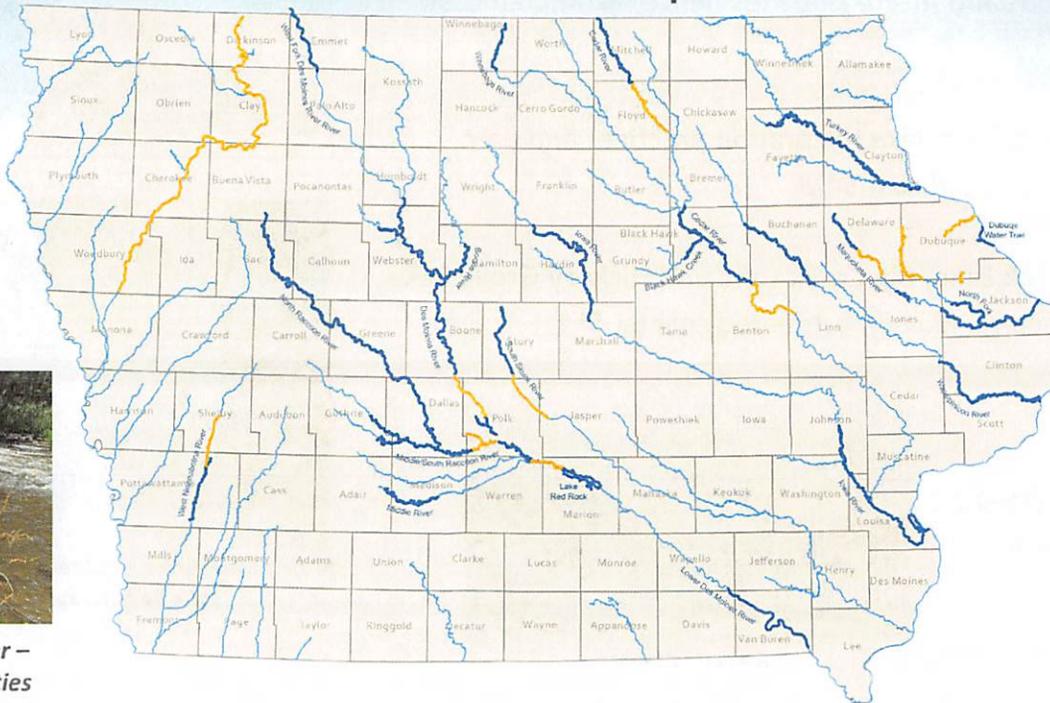
Alum treatments



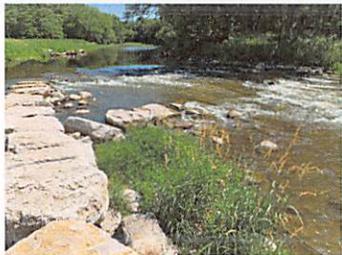
Brushy Creek Lake, Big Creek Lake, and Hickory Grove Lake beach restoration projects

# Rivers - 2026 State Water Trails Map

## 2026 State Water Trails Map



~ State Water Trails (1247 miles)
 ~ Water Trails Under Development (452 miles)



**Upper North Raccoon River – Buena Vista and Sac counties**



**Beaver Creek Trail Designation Ceremony – Polk County**



**New water trail access - Austin Park, Lower Des Moines, Van Buren County**

# Low-head Dam Mitigation Construction Projects for 2026

*Estherville Dam – Des Moines River*

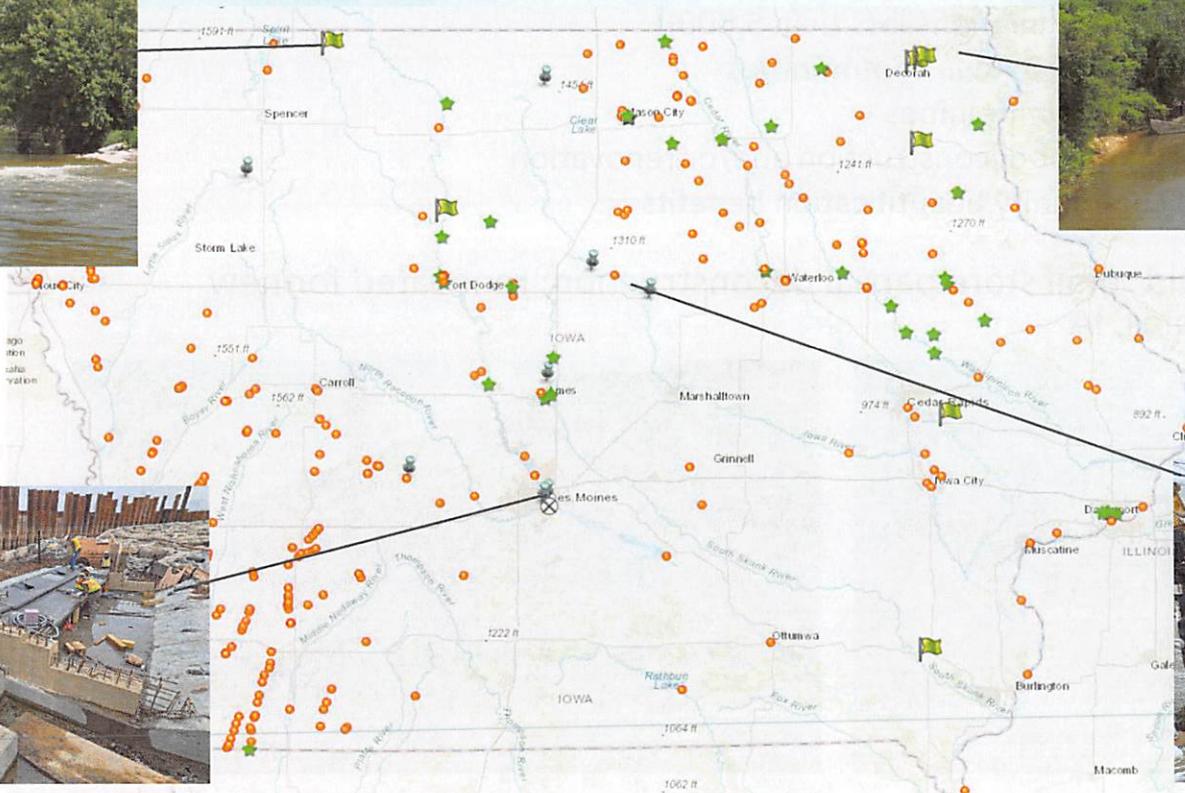


*Upper Dam – Winneshiek County*

*Scott Ave. and Fleur Drive dams – Des Moines, “Wave Shaper” shown below*



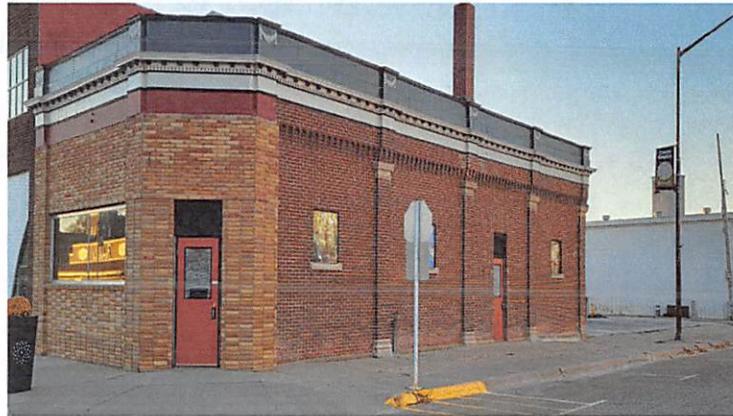
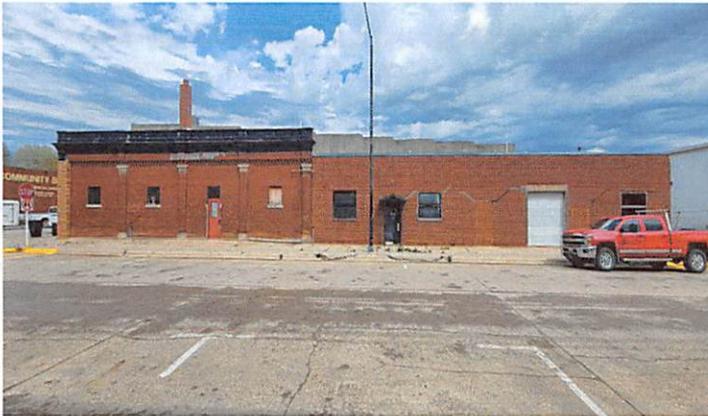
*Iowa River – Alden and Steamboat Rock dams*



## Derelict Building Grant Program

- Financial grants to address neglected commercial or public buildings in Iowa's rural communities (populations less than 5,000)
- Since 2011, **187 projects in 173 Iowa communities**
- **\$3.4 million** reimbursed to communities
- Applicant must have a plan for deconstruction and/or renovation
- Landfill diversion and community beautification benefits

“Before and After” – Old retail store partial deconstruction; renovated for new restaurant in Coon Rapids, IA



## Derelict Building Grant Program – Impacts

- **\$3.3 million** in solid waste disposal costs saved by communities
- **82,978.47 tons** of construction and demolition materials diverted from landfills;
- **91 percent** of **90,750.06 tons** of demolition waste generated has been repurposed
- **1,443 tons** of ACM properly managed and disposed

New Market, Iowa – two buildings removed for redevelopment “Before and After”





Questions and comments?

