



Lake Restoration Program

Key Concepts and Facts

- Six of ten Iowans visit lakes each year; on average, they will visit these lakes eight times during the year
- Iowans prefer lakes with better water quality
- Statewide our lakes generate over \$1B 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

Program Framework and Status

- Modeled after the Federal Clean Lakes Program established in the 1970s
- Lakes are prioritized for funding based on an assessment of water quality, technical feasibility of restoration, potential economic benefits, 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
- Project Status (Significant, Publicly-Owned Lakes)
 - 35 Completed or near completion
 - 20 Active projects in-progress
 - 15 Initial public outreach, evaluation or planning stage
- Project Status (Shallow Lakes and Wetlands)
 - 38 Completed or near completion
 - 6 Active projects in-progress
 - 10 Initial public outreach, planning or evaluation stage
- DNR provides an annual progress report to the legislature that includes detailed project summaries, a work plan and budget

Program Goals

- Ensure significant improvement in water clarity, safety, and quality of Iowa lakes
- Provide for sustainable, healthy, functioning lake ecosystems
- Ensure a cost effective, positive return on investment for the citizens of Iowa
- Ensure local community commitment to lake and watershed protection

Lake Restoration Program Budget

- Funding from FY2007 through FY2024 of \$157 million has enabled the DNR to invest in improvements at sixty-five lakes within forty-seven counties.
- The program averages a 35% cost share to match LRP funds from other project partners (local, federal, other state funds).

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