

## Vernon Springs Dam Converted to Rapids

The Vernon Springs Dam was converted to rapids in August, resulting in immediate reconnection of the upper Turkey River to the lake upstream and the river's two main tributaries in Howard County for aquatic species. The structure eliminates re-circulating currents that contributed to past drownings while maintaining water elevation for a popular lake. Howard County Conservation Board initiated the project and raised funds. Minnesota stream restoration specialist Luther Aadland developed the concept design and conducted initial construction supervision; with Iowa DNR Rivers team members and DNR Engineering staff collaborating on final design and construction details. Funds supporting the project included DNR Low-head Dam Public Hazard, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Fish Passage, FEMA, and local business supporters.



*Vernon Springs before construction*

*Deep water pool with scour structure*



*Nearly complete from downstream*

