

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

Current Prioritization and Program

- Modeled after the Federal Clean Lakes Program established in the 1970s
- DNR provided the 2006 legislature with a priority list of up to 35 lake candidates and up to 5 shallow lake candidates
 - Priorities based on assessment of water quality
 - Technical feasibility of restoration
 - Potential economic benefits
 - Use by Iowans, 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
- Local groups can petition to have their lake added to the priority list
- Project Status (Significant, Publicly-Owned Lakes)
 - 29 Completed or near completion
 - 21 Active projects in-progress
 - 14 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 a work plan and budget

Water Quality Goals

Stipulated in 2006 State Legislation (HF2782):

- Delivery of phosphorous and sediment from the watershed will be controlled before lake restoration begins
- Shallow lakes management will be considered among options for restoration
- Water quality targets
 - Clarity. 4 ½ foot Secchi disc transparency 50% of the time from April - September
 - Biota. A diverse, balanced, and sustainable aquatic community must be maintained
 - Impairment. Water quality impairments must be eliminated
 - Sustainability. The water quality and public use benefits must be sustained for 50 years

Lake Restoration Program Budget

- Funding from FY2007 through FY2020 of \$137 million (approximately \$8.6 million per year) has enabled the DNR to improve many Iowa's lakes and proceed with implementing projects at a number of our other priority systems

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