

# BOONE RIVER WATERSHED

## PARTNERS

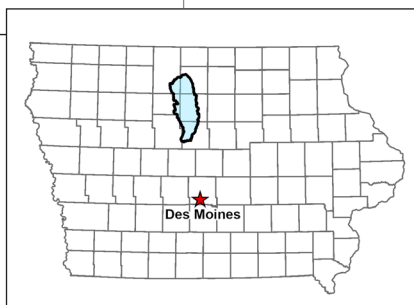
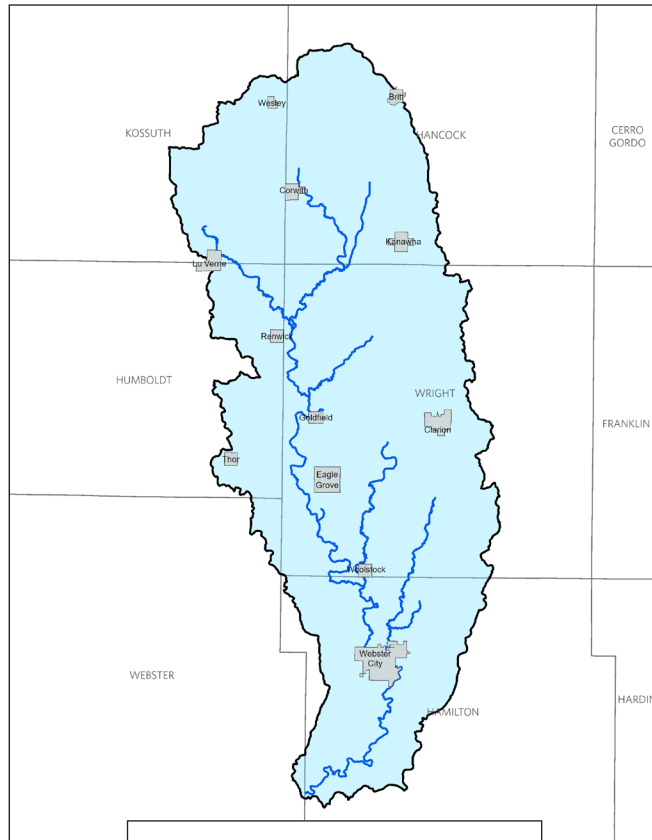
- The Nature Conservancy
- Soil and Water Conservation Districts
- Iowa Soybean Association
- Iowa Department of Natural Resources
- Iowa Geological Survey
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Fishers and Farmers Partnership
- Sand County Foundation
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- Wells Fargo
- Coca-Cola Foundation
- Iowa State University

## QUESTIONS? Contact:

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- Boone River Watershed
- River
- City/Town
- County



Boone River Watershed —  
**OXBOW RESTORATION**



## WHAT IS AN OXBOW?

An oxbow is a meander of a stream that has been cut off from the present flow of water. Over time, oxbows may fill in with sediment and lose the benefits they once provided.



## BENEFITS

- **Improved water quality:**

Oxbows can remove an estimated **45-90% of nitrate** from intercepted tile water.

- **Floodwater storage:**

Each one acre oxbow provides an estimated **one million gallons of floodwater** storage each year.

- **Wildlife habitat:**

Critical habitat for the rare and endangered Topeka shiner minnow.

- **Thousands of fish** representing 40 species have been found utilizing restored oxbow habitat.
- **54 species of birds** have been identified at restored oxbows.

## RESTORATION

- Excavate soil to historic riverbed depth
- Re-slope and re-seed banks
- Average surface area size of 1/4 acre
- Typically located in low lying wet areas not currently in production
- Reconnect to river only during floods



Oxbow before restoration



Oxbow during restoration

Oxbow after restoration

