CEDAR RIVER WATERSHED

PARTNERS

- The Nature Conservancy
- Soil and Water Conservation Boards
- Iowa Department of Natural Resources
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Black Hawk, Benton, Linn, Franklin, and Floyd County Conservation Boards
- Ducks Unlimited
- Creek View HOA
- City of Cedar Rapids
- City of Cedar Falls
- HUD-IWA
- IDALS-USDA
- Iowa Flood Center
- Wildlife Conservation Society

QUESTIONS? Contact:

Nick Longbucco
Cedar Basin Freshwater Manager
The Nature Conservancy
(248) 807-2235
Nicholas.Longbucco@tnc.org

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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 amphibians, fish, birds and reptiles that prefer slow-moving water.
  
  — **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
- Surface water of oxbows only reconnect to river during floods