

Smith Lake Restoration Quick Facts

Basic Info

- Constructed in 1965 – 1966, Named after the engineer H.M. Smith
- 58-acre main basin, NE Bay 10 acres
- Current maximum depth is 11.9ft, avg 4.7ft
- Watershed is 775 acres

Identifying the Issues

- Poor water quality attributes to being on the Iowa's Impaired Waters List since 2002
- Partnered with Shive – Hattery and Stantec: conducted watershed and lake studies
 - 159,000 Cubic Yards of sediment (28% of original volume)
 - Avg thickness of sediment across the lake is 1.7 ft and max thickness is 5.4 ft
 - Sediment cores taken and analyzed for contributing phosphorus sources
 - 54% from watershed
 - 33% from internal loading of lake bottom sediments
 - 13% from migratory birds and other atmospheric conditions

Fisheries

- Opportunities for habitat enhancements: strategically placed habitat benefiting all season fishing
- Removal of negative attributes: common carp and vegetation
- Shoreline Armoring and Rock Jetties: better user-friendly access
- Fish Restock

Water Quality Solutions

- Mechanical Dredging: most cost-effective method for Smith Lake
 - Lake to begin draining Fall 2027
 - Dredging to occur over entire lake with the main majority focus in the main basin
- In – Lake Best Management Practices: forebays will be installed
 - Catch 88% runoff from watershed and other sediment
 - Provide better user access
 - Provide better long-term maintenance/management access
- Chemical Treatments: after project is completed to help bind any leftover phosphorus

Potential Amenities with Additional Funding

- Kayak/Canoe Launch with Kayak Rental Storage Facility
- Boat Ramp and Dock Improvements
- Other Key Dredging areas: depth in specific areas, shoreline armoring, etc.

Funding

- IA DNR Lake Restoration Program 3:1 share
- Conservation Reserve
- REAP
- Water's Edge Nature Center Foundation
- Various Grants

Public Info Meeting Video



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