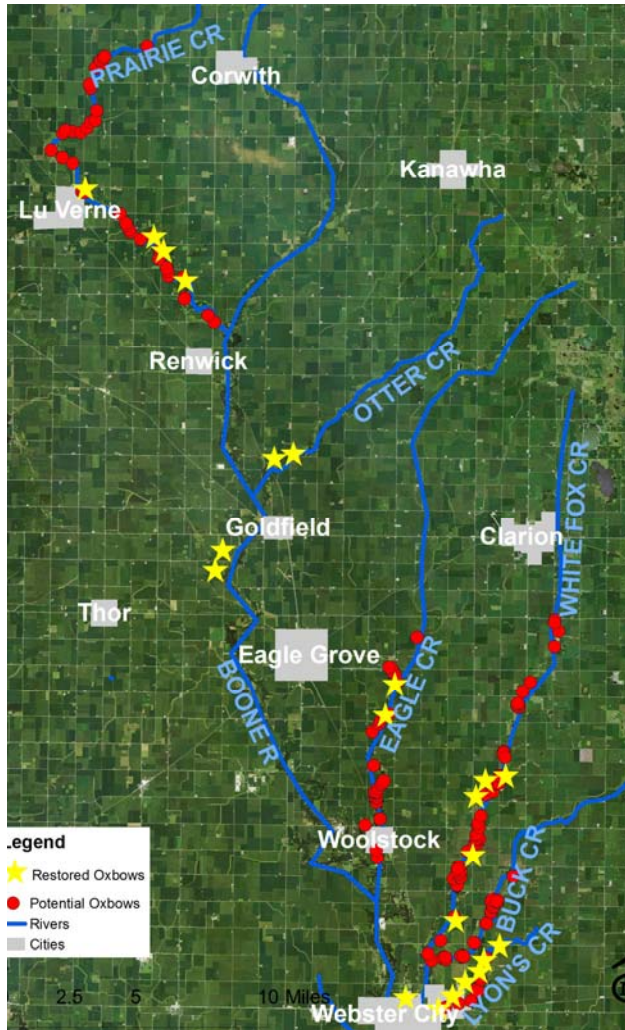


Locations of Restored Oxbows and Potential Restoration Sites



21 oxbows have been restored in the Boone River Watershed. Over 160 potential oxbow restoration sites have been identified, however potential oxbows exist in locations beyond those highlighted on this map. There is funding to restore more oxbows in the Boone River Watershed at 100% cost.

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 Project Director

The Nature Conservancy

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Protecting nature. Preserving life.

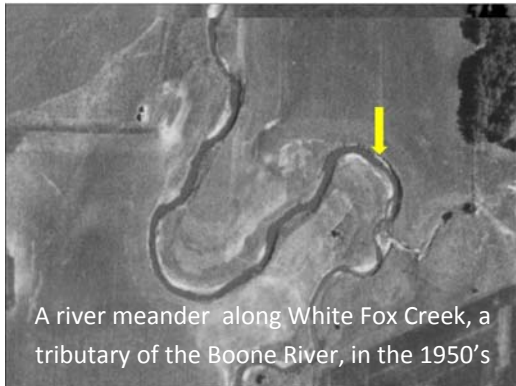
Boone River Watershed



Oxbow Restorations

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 fill in with sediment and lose the benefits they once provided.



BENEFITS:

- Improved water quality:

- Oxbows can remove an estimated **45-90% of the nitrates**



from intercepted tile water.

- Floodwater storage:

- Each oxbow provides an estimated **250,000 gallons of flood water** storage each year.

- Wildlife habitat:

- Critical habitat for the rare and endangered Topeka shiner minnow.

- **Thousands of fish** representing **30 species** of fish have been found utilizing restored oxbow habitat.



- **54 species of birds** have been identified at restored oxbows., 9 of which would not have been present at unrestored 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.

