

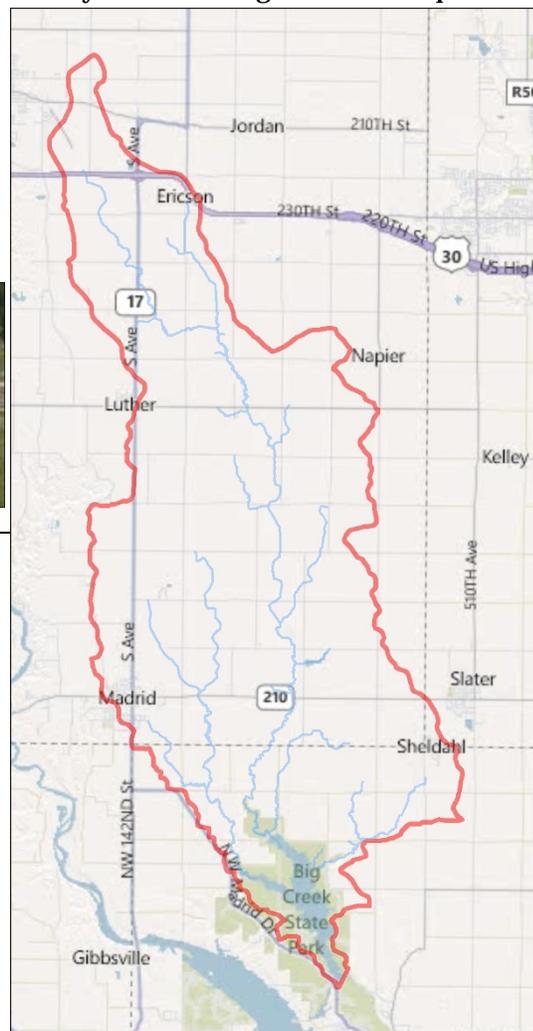
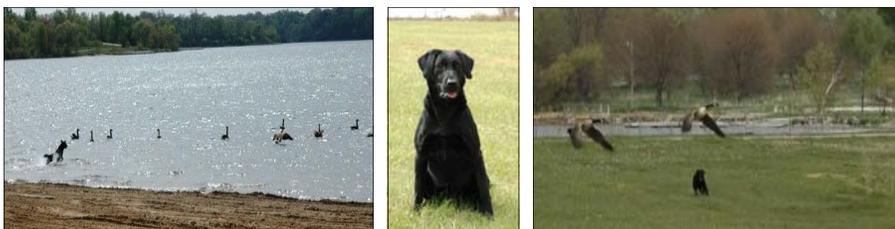
Big Creek Advisor

A newsletter dedicated to the Big Creek Watershed Project

Beach Update: Goose Management

As most of you are aware the bacteria levels in the water near the swimming beach have been a concern. Over the years the beach has experienced high bacteria levels forced the DNR to post beach warnings on several separate occasions.

Factors contributing to the high bacteria may include faulty septic systems, livestock, manure application to crop fields, wildlife and geese near the beach. To address the approximately 70 resident geese that frequent the beach area the Big Creek Project is working with Animal Removal Solutions (ARS). Since this past March ARS has been visiting the beach multiple times a day, while at the beach ARS uses dogs to chase the geese off the beach and surrounding areas. The goal is to encourage the geese to utilize other parts of Big Creek Lake and lessen their impact on water quality at the beach. ARS will be visiting the beach multiple times a day through September.



Big Creek Lake watershed boundary (in red)

Losing ground?

Don't forget! Residents within the Big Creek Lake Watershed are eligible for incentives and cost share on a variety of agricultural conservation practices.

- Grassed Waterways – 75% cost share
- Sediment Basins (aka Ponds) – 75% cost share
- Grade Stabilization Structures – 75% cost share
- Pasture or Hayland Management – 75-90% cost share
- Streambank Stabilization – 90% cost share
- Terraces – 75% cost share
- Manure Settling Basins
- Cover Crop

Stream buffers - CRP annual payment plus a one time \$100-200/acre signup incentive

Mark Your Calendars—Big Creek Appreciation Day is June 2nd

Location: Big Creek State Park Beach **Time:** 10 AM—2PM

The Big Creek Lake Watershed Project and partners are hosting a fun filled day at the beach. Bring the family and learn more about the watershed project, participate in fun activities and enjoy some free food! Activities include a free kids' fishing clinic, pontoon boat tours of the lake, free grilled lunch and hands-on seminars with wildlife, fisheries and park experts. The Iowa Learning Farms Conservation Station will be available for conservation education. Please plan to attend!

Project Showcase: Q&A with Bob Lickteig

Bob Lickteig is a farmer and landowner within the Big Creek Lake Watershed. He owns land just north of the lake along NW 100th Street. Concentrated runoff was creating several gullies throughout the property. It was decided that a combination of tile, 6 basins/terraces and a 400 foot waterway was needed to properly address his situation. Construction was started in the fall of 2011 and was completed in March of 2012. In a recent conversation he was asked the following questions:

When did you purchase this property? April, 2010. I am using an alfalfa, grass hay, corn, beans and seed corn parent stock rotation.

What made you decide to get some practices installed? I knew after working the fields that changes were needed to get the farm into a better condition. Putting in tile, waterways and terraces was a necessity. It is the right thing to do as a steward of the land. What has been done is only the beginning. More is needed: getting junk/debris out of the creek, possible no-till process, wetlands, more waterways, tiling, terraces, etc.

What would you recommend to fellow landowners/farmers facing the same situations you were? As the landowner or farmer it is imperative to practice land stewardship. This farm has many positives. Good soils, water and a place to enjoy for a long time. The intent is long term to install practices that will last for generations.

What are your thoughts on the Big Creek Project and the cost share incentive? My grand children and other families swim at the Big Creek Lake Beach. My land drains into Big Creek and it is such a nice area that we need to keep clean.



Aerial photo of practices locations- Terraces and basins are black lines



Terrace shortly after construction



Visitors enjoying Big Creek Lake

For more information visit www.bigcreeklake.org or contact

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