

Big Creek Advisor

A newsletter dedicated to the Big Creek Watershed Project



Major Renovation Set for Big Creek State Park

The beach area at Big Creek State Park will be receiving a major facelift beginning September 4, 2012, when contractors begin replacing the existing beach complex facilities with three new shelters, two modern restrooms, a new concrete patio area and sidewalks.

The concession, beach, parking lot restrooms and wooden play structure will remain open during the construction until seasonal closing in October, 2012.

The project is expected to be done by Memorial Day 2013, weather permitting.

Practice Update

Many different types of practices have been going in around the watershed. Below is a before and after picture of a grade stabilization structure that was just installed north of Big Creek Lake. This structure will allow overland runoff as well as underground tile water to leave the crop field without creating an actively eroding gully. This fall a waterway and several terraces will be installed up hill of this structure. A future issue of the Big Creek Advisor will highlight this project in its entirety.



Before: 2/12/2012



After: 7/3/2012

Schedule a Site Visit Today

Don't forget! Residents within the Big Creek Lake Watershed are eligible for incentives and cost share on a variety of agricultural conservation practices. If you are experiencing erosion on your streambanks or field, have questions about pasture management, interested in implementing some practices or just have some questions in general contact Sean or Zach. Set up a visit to your property and see what kind of help is available for you!



Big Creek Lake watershed boundary (in red)

Watch For Signs!

Be sure to keep an eye out for the new Big Creek Lake Watershed Project signs going up throughout the watershed! Signs are going up to signify boundaries so that visitors and local residents alike can get a sense of the size and location of the watershed. Signs are also to be placed along the road near practices that have been installed using project money to signify project participants.



Meet Your Pheasants Forever Biologist: Danny Simcox

Danny is a native of Altoona, Iowa and holds a BS in Animal Ecology from Iowa State University. After graduating he worked for the Wildlife Bureau of the Iowa DNR in both Northwest and Southern Iowa before obtaining a Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist position near his hometown. Away from work Danny can be found fishing for numerous species in the local rivers and other waters of the Midwest or taking advantage of Iowa's deer and pheasant hunting opportunities. He particularly enjoys outdoor recreation with his son, Blaine.

Danny's job is to implement wildlife friendly practices onto Iowa's landscape via the many unique cost-share programs available. As a Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist, Simcox works in partnership with USDA-NRCS-DSC and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources to provide technical assistance to private landowners—through one-on-one consulting—regarding the benefits of conservation programs (such as the Conservation Reserve Program). The job of a Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist is to serve as a one-stop-shop for landowners looking for technical, programmatic, or financial assistance with managing wildlife habitat on their private lands.



Through the implementation of diverse, native grass and forb stands, we can add great nesting, brooding, and winter cover for Iowa's upland game while increasing the aesthetic value of our landscape. Putting quality habitat on the ground is the best way to bring back pheasants and quail!



Prairie Reconstruction

Some landowners want to improve hunting, others enjoy watching wildlife, and yet others simply want to find a way to earn money from programs, while protecting marginal or highly erodible farmland. If you are interested in improving your property for wildlife and would like assistance, please contact Danny Simcox at (515) 391-0844 or by email dsimcox@pheasantsforever.org



Pheasants Forever is dedicated to the conservation of pheasants, quail and other wildlife through habitat improvements, public awareness, education and land management policies and programs.

**For more information visit www.bigcreeklake.org
or contact**

Sean McCoy (515)432-2316 ext 114 or Zach DeYoung (515)964-1883 ext 3

The publication of this document has been funded in part by the Division of Soil Conservation, Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship, and by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under the Federal Nonpoint Source Management Program (Section 319 of the Clean Water Act).