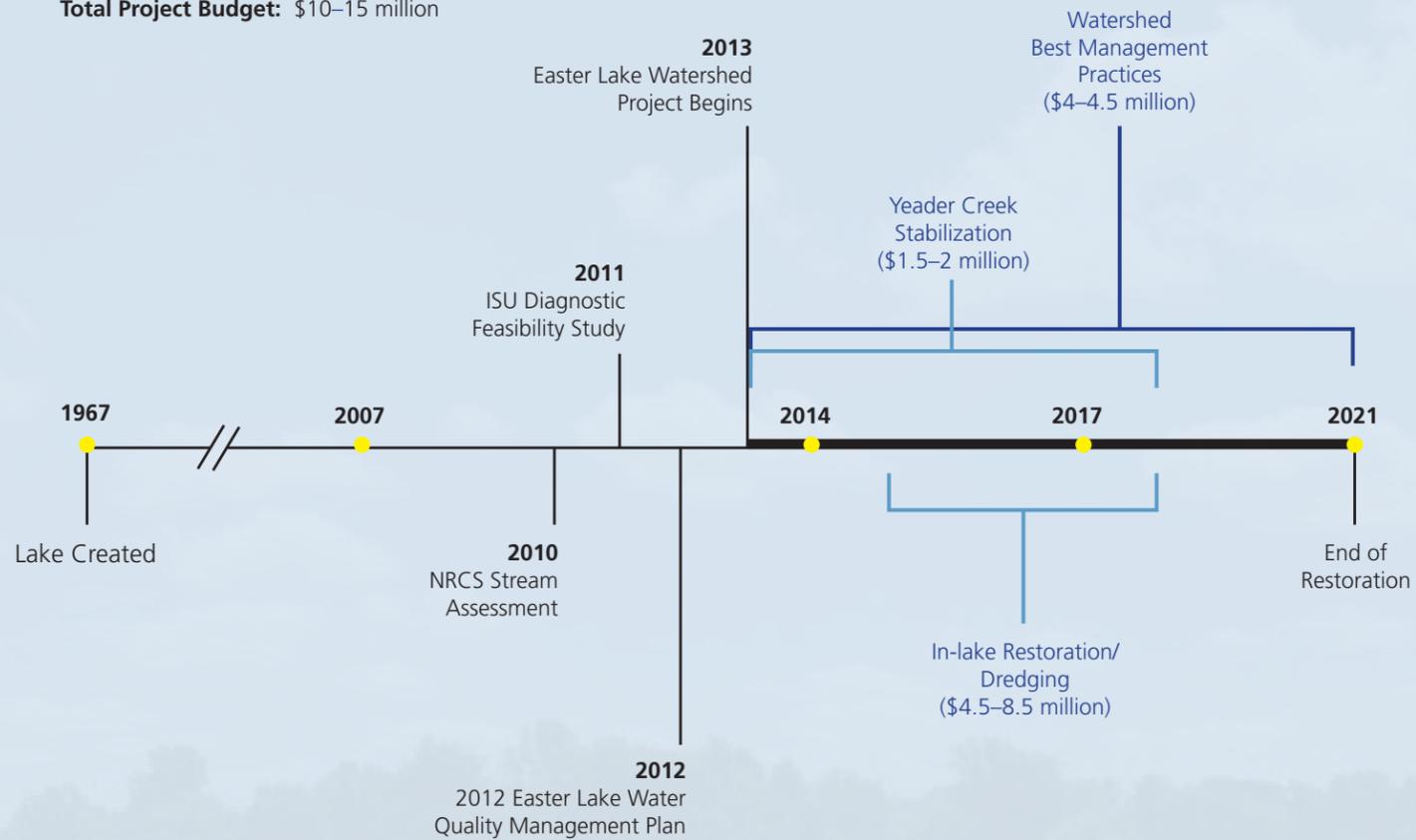


# IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

Total Project Budget: \$10–15 million



## PROJECT PARTNERS:

LOCAL AREA STAKEHOLDER STEERING COMMITTEE



CITY OF DES MOINES



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & LAND STEWARDSHIP-  
DIVISION OF SOIL CONSERVATION



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE



POLK COUNTY CONSERVATION



POLK SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## TO KEEP INFORMED:

CHECK US OUT ONLINE AT [WWW.EASTERLAKE.ORG](http://WWW.EASTERLAKE.ORG)

OR "LIKE" OUR EASTER LAKE WATERSHED PROJECT FACEBOOK PAGE



## OUR VISION

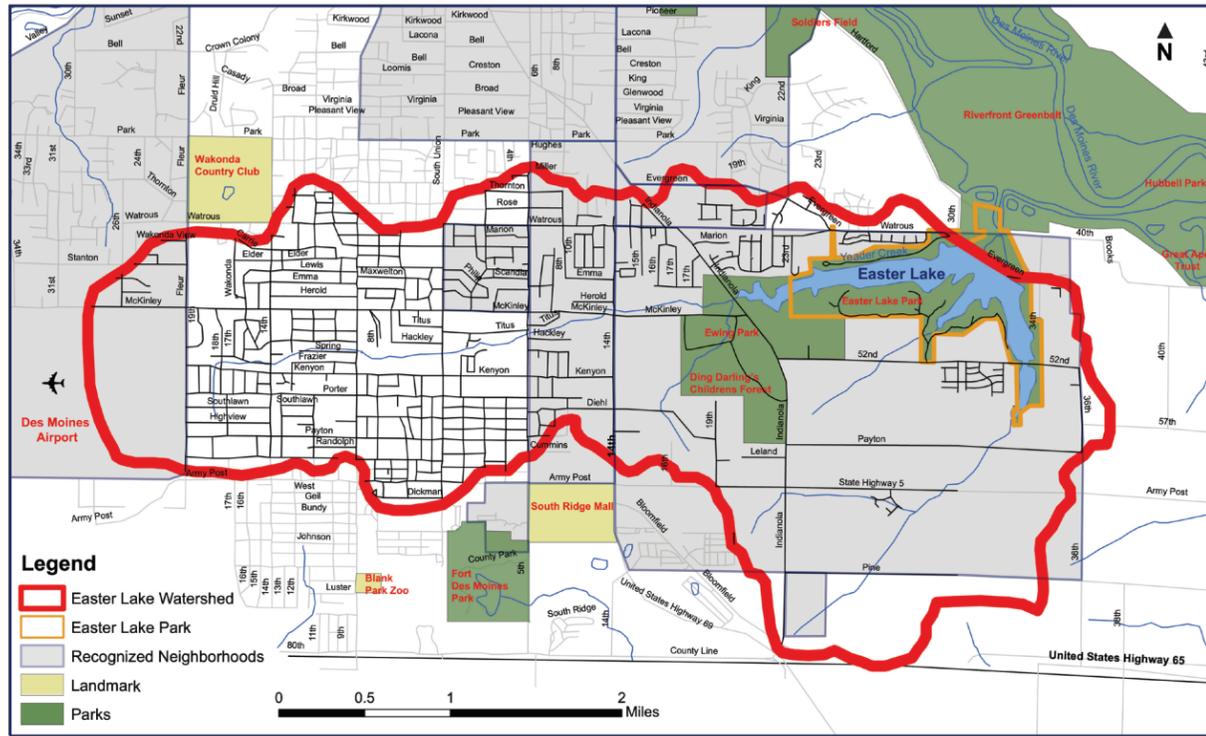
EASTER LAKE WILL BE A SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE  
THAT PROVIDES DIVERSE OUTDOOR  
RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR VISITORS.

PUBLIC EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT WILL BE THE DRIVING FORCE  
BEHIND IMPROVING WATERSHED MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES  
AND DEVELOPING A HEALTHY ECOSYSTEM.



Attracting nearly 400,000 visitors each year, Easter Lake Park has been a great recreational resource to central Iowa since its creation in 1967. Easter Lake is fed by Yeader Creek which is part of a 6,380-acre watershed that stretches across Des Moines from the airport east to the lake.

Over the last several years this popular 178-acre lake has faced diminishing water quality as development in the area has increased. The lake currently suffers from poor water clarity, algal blooms, high sedimentation rates, low oxygen concentrations, and a poor fishery.



## WATERSHED PROJECT PARTNERS

In response to the lake's water quality problems, project partners completed research to identify pollutant sources, locate priority areas, and develop a plan of action to provide guidance and outline goals for the restoration project. Project partners have incorporated multiple funding sources into future lake and watershed improvements, as well as a new trail system that will further connect local residents to the natural amenities of Easter Lake and Ewing Parks.

## GOALS

- Improve water quality throughout the watershed by implementing management practices
- Reconnect local residents and visitors with the natural amenities of Easter Lake and its surroundings
- Educate the public about water quality and watersheds and how their actions impact our water resources
- Increase aquatic health and the aesthetic value of Easter Lake



## KEY ACTIONS:

### LAKE DREDGING

Since its creation in 1967, Easter Lake has lost nearly 30% of its volume as a result of siltation. Sediment washing in from the watershed has filled the lake.

Dredging will remove this deposited sediment from the lake bottom, increase lake depth, and provide multiple recreation benefits for the public.



Dredging

### SHORELINE REHABILITATION AND IMPROVED FISHERY

Some portions of the eroded shoreline will be pulled back and rocked along the water's edge to prevent wave erosion. Other areas will be stabilized with natural vegetation.

Reconstruction of the shoreline will provide additional high quality fish habitat and better public access to the lake. Improved aquatic habitat and renovated fishery will drastically improve fishing success at Easter Lake.



Shoreline erosion



Shoreline stabilization

### YEADER CREEK STABILIZATION

High priority sites have been identified for stream and bank stabilization in Yeader Creek and its tributaries. Once finished, these projects will cut-off large sources of sediment from entering Easter Lake and improve stream habitat.

Decreasing the amount of eroded soil entering Easter Lake is critical to restoring it back to a healthy, functioning system.



Streambank erosion



Streambank stabilization