

## **Diagnostic/Feasibility Restoration Study – Easter Lake**

**Principal Investigator:** John Downing

**Student Investigator:** n/a

**Collaborators:** Michael McGhee, Iowa Department of Natural Resources

**Duration:** September 2007 to October 2009

**Funding Source(s):** Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Lake Restoration

**Goals and Objectives:**

- To provide the Iowa Department of Natural Resources with a diagnostic and feasibility study of Easter Lake, Polk County, Iowa for planning a lake restoration program on the lake and its watershed.
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**Progress:**

The Easter Lake Diagnostic Feasibility Study continues with the routine collection of water quality samples from Easter Lake, the outflow of the lake, and the watershed (tributaries and storm drains). These samples are being analyzed in the ISU Limnology chemistry and biology laboratories. In addition to monitoring the lake and watershed, social data is being collected through a series of interviews with stakeholders (e.g., watershed residents). These interviews are important for planning this project, including its expectations for the outcome of the restoration and feasibility study, technical understanding of existing water quality conditions, and the willingness to participate in potential changes necessary for successful lake restoration.

**Future Plans:**

Iowa State University and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources will provide a project overview and progress report of the study at a public meeting in early 2009. The results of stakeholder surveys will be used to characterize the various competing interests relative to lake restoration alternatives, their scope of influence in decision making and acceptance, and their ability to influence the ecological outcomes of restoration activities. ISU will complete the diagnostic portion of this study and develop alternatives to restoring Easter Lake and its watershed. The project is scheduled to conclude October 2009.