

Des Moines
River Basin



HERON LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT

The mission of the HLWD is to protect and improve the water resources within its boundaries by supporting watershed residents through the use of education and financial programs.



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Watershed districts are special-purpose units of local government involved in the management, restoration, and protection of surface water, groundwater, drainage areas, and riparian areas. Water is much more difficult to manage when work is restricted by political boundaries. Often, in order to mitigate issues in one area, work must be done in a different township or county.

EXAMPLES:

Heron Lake Sediment and Phosphorus Reduction Implementation Project



To reduce the amount of sediment and phosphorus entering Heron Lake and improve its water quality, on-the-ground projects were implemented in Jackson, Nobles, and Murray Counties.

Heron Lake Third Crop Phosphorus Reduction Effort



To reduce sediment, nutrient, and pesticide movement to Heron Lake and other nearby surface waters, cover crops are used by landowners in Jackson and Nobles Counties. Cover crops help water infiltrate into the ground and keep soil and nutrients on the field.