

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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The La Moine River Ecosystem Partnership (LMREP) is a collaboration of more than twenty-five organizations and dozens of landowners and residents committed to the protection, restoration, and stewardship of the La Moine River Watershed and adjacent areas. The Partnership is a grassroots effort and has been working diligently over the past 2 ½ years to make opportunities available by developing an Integrated Watershed Management Plan for the region.

To accomplish that goal, there have been public planning meetings, outreach efforts, landowner and resident surveys, and data analysis and technical review. As major issues and concerns emerged, the Partnership moved to the development of goals, objectives, and strategies for the Watershed Plan. The Plan is by no means a finite document. As new Partnership members and collaborators become involved with projects and initiatives, and as new issues and concerns surface, the Plan will change and grow. It is most definitely a “work in progress,” and as such it will be able to meet the needs of the Partnership for many years to come. With the creation of this Plan, the watershed is in a favorable position for future available funding opportunities. This document satisfies all the requirements for many funding organizations and will serve to stimulate additional implementation activities throughout the watershed.

The issues combined with several intensive sessions with the Technical Advisory Committee have resulted in a Plan which focuses on five major goals:

**Goal 1** *Facilitating the management, restoration, and preservation of natural communities while enhancing their biodiversity.*

**Goal 2** *Supporting the improvement and protection of water resources.*

**Goal 3** *Advancing efforts that contribute to a reduction in soil erosion and sedimentation.*

**Goal 4** *Enhancing awareness of issues relating to ecosystem management and protection.*

**Goal 5** *Promote the use of land and water resources for recreation.*

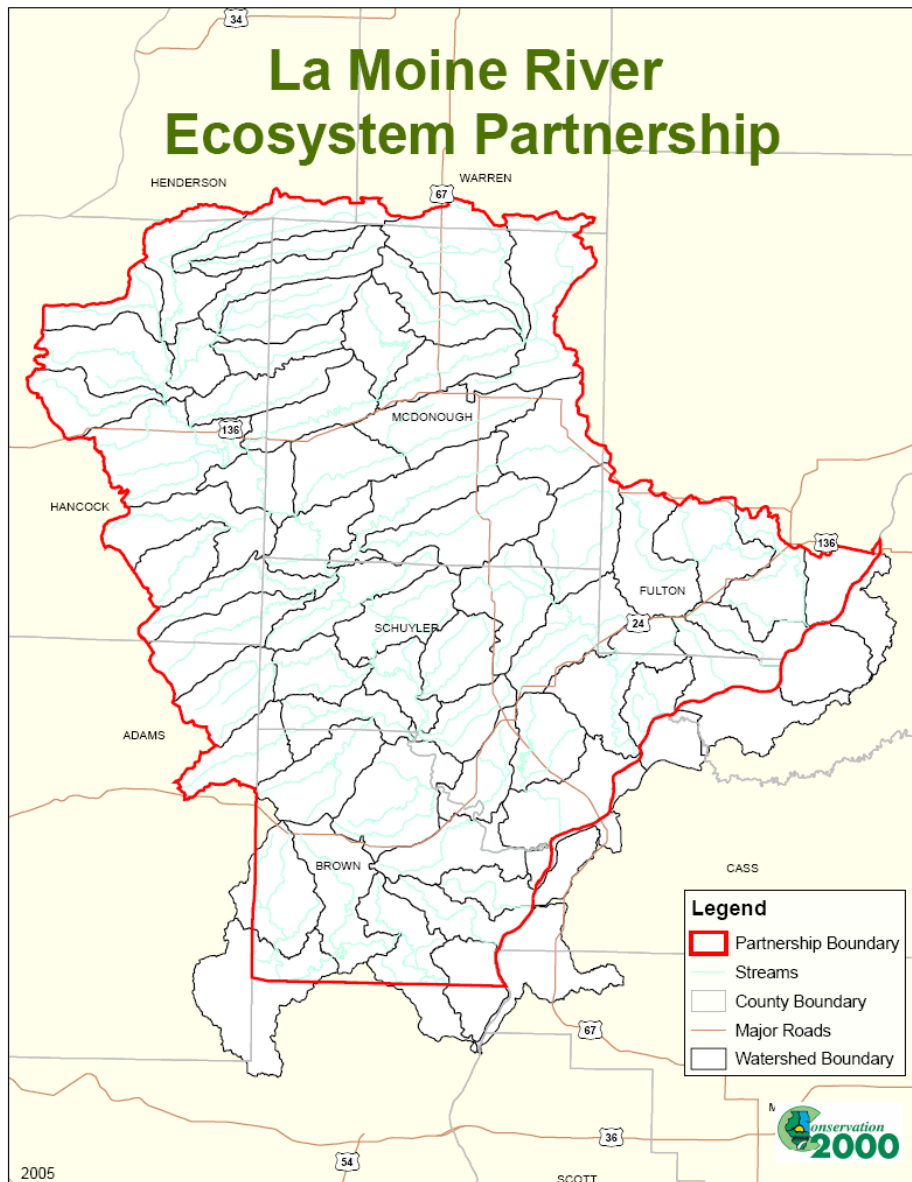
More specific detail about the Plan, including objectives, strategies and action items, estimated costs and a projected timeline are provided in Appendix 1.

The area currently faces a decline in economic vitality and despite the existing quality and availability of natural resources, there is still more work than can be done. So it is important that the Partnership convey the message that a healthy environment and a healthy economy are not mutually exclusive, but rather inextricably woven together. The Partnership seeks to be instrumental in renewing economic vitality, promoting environmental restoration and encouraging community involvement in both.

What sets this watershed management plan apart from others is the depth of both stakeholder involvement and scientific analysis. Combined with input from technical advisors and the public, a basin-specific technique was developed for ranking subwatersheds based on quantitative and qualitative data. This has resulted in the identification of three tiers of priority subwatersheds for erosion, water quality, protection and restoration. The expectation is that focus on those priority areas will maximize on-the-ground impacts. In addition, this has led to recommendations for Best Management Practices (BMPs) within these priority subwatersheds. Current pollutant loads have been estimated, as well as the anticipated load reductions associated with the proposed BMPs. More importantly, specific locations of future projects have been identified along with a selection of willing landowners. Information about the greater La Moine Basin as well as these priority subwatersheds is located throughout the body

of this report and the various Appendixes. Detailed information on the priority subwatersheds, including maps and data tables, is located in Appendix 2, and similar information for the BMPs recommended for those priority subwatersheds can be found in Appendix 3.

There are copies of maps throughout the body of this main document. Please note that full-page versions of these maps can be found in Appendix 4. Due to the fact that portions of the LMREP are contained by County boundaries, it was necessary to expand these boundaries for planning purposes to accommodate natural drainages. Many of the maps represent watershed boundaries that extend outside of the Partnership. The remainder of the maps and information about the watershed represent natural drainages intersecting the Partnership boundary.



## PURPOSE

The cooperative La Moine River Ecosystem Partnership was formed with its purpose being to protect, preserve and enhance the natural resources of the La Moine River Watershed area as a sustainable ecosystem. The planning process has addressed habitat/ecosystem issues and arrived at goals and objectives aimed at multi-objective, integrated, ecosystem management projects.

The primary intent of ecosystem management is to

develop and implement actions that identify, locate, protect, conserve, maintain, and restore the ecological integrity, productivity, and biological diversity of an area while accommodating human use and occupancy. The realization of this will require promoting environmental education, public appreciation for the watershed resources, cooperative efforts between the agriculture and conservation sectors, cooperative efforts between landowners and conservation interests and developing a detailed assessment of watershed resources. The sum of these efforts must then be translated into realistic and appropriate "on the ground" results based on best available scientific data and analyses. The intent of this document is to address all of these issues

## *MISSION STATEMENT*

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*The mission of the La Moine River Ecosystem Partnership is to preserve, protect, and enhance the natural resources of the La Moine River Watershed area as a sustainable ecosystem.*

