

# Red Rock Master Plan Focus Area - Connections

Goal: Reduce habitat fragmentation

## Why reduce habitat fragmentation?

A threat to biological diversity is the fragmentation of large habitats into smaller pieces. Fragmentation occurs when the total amount of a habitat type is reduced and the remaining habitat becomes divided into smaller more isolated patches. The effects of fragmentation are overcrowding, increased competition and smaller populations of species that are more vulnerable to extinction.

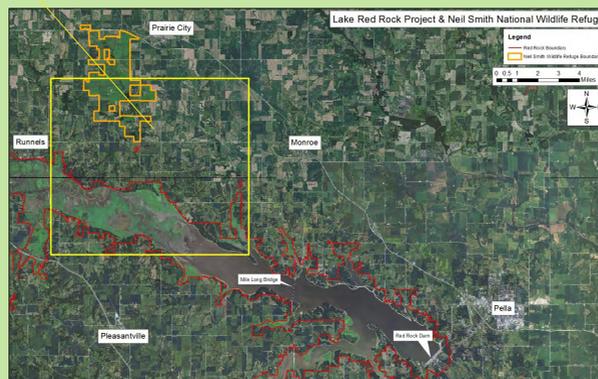
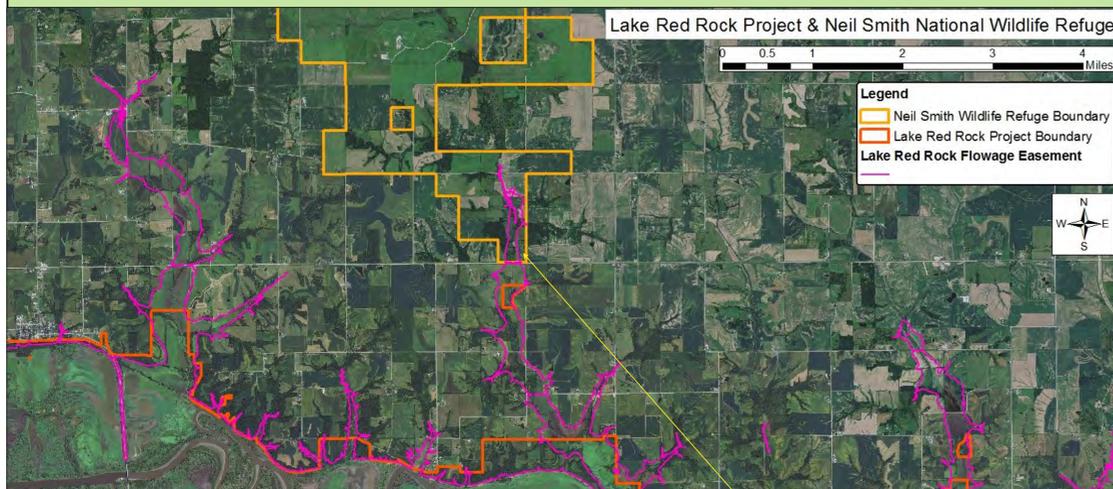
Lake Red Rock provides vital habitats - prairies, woodlands, wetlands, and edge - utilized by over 300 species of birds, dozens of species of mammals, reptiles, amphibians, fish and invertebrates. These vital habitats are fragmented by property boundaries, roadways, urbanization and other obstacles.



## Ways to reduce habitat fragmentation

### Neal Smith NWR

Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge is less than 3 miles north of Lake Red Rock. The refuge is about 5,580 acres of native and restored grassland habitat.



### Greenbelt

The upstream Des Moines River Corridor from Red Rock to Fort Dodge is a Congressionally authorized Greenbelt. The overall objective of the authorization is to protect scarce river bottom timberlands and enhance opportunities for recreation.

### Flowage Easement

The primary purpose of flowage easement is flood storage. Authority exists to purchase flowage easement lands, however, there are no funds available. If purchased an additional benefit would be habitat defragmentation.