

## Topeka Shiner *Notropis topeka*

**Habitat Preference:** Prairie streams with stable stream channels. Also found in off-channel oxbows with sandy or gravel bottoms. Need clear, clean water.

### Threats:

- Loss of habitat
  - Levee construction and impoundments change water flow
  - Water quality
  - Impoundments also change the local hydrology which can result in higher numbers of fish species that prey on Topeka shiner.
  - The removal of natural riparian vegetation also degrades stream habitat.
- Animal confinements areas
- Urban development
- Channelization, altered stream hydrology, and elimination of oxbow habitat
  - This species is dependent upon slow moving water; channelization will speed water movement.
- Siltation which fills oxbows
  - Reducing water volume
  - Increasing water temperatures



Photo Courtesy of Iowa State University

### Habitat Improvement Guidelines:

- Limit new construction of dam structures and remove existing dam structures when feasible. When dam removal is not feasible create fish passage ways over existing dams.
- Restore stream channels.
- Implement proper upland management such as contour farming and other soil erosion control methods.
- Reestablish grassy riparian corridors.
- Maintain oxbows and in some cases remove silt from these areas.