

# Blue Mounds State Park Dam Alternatives

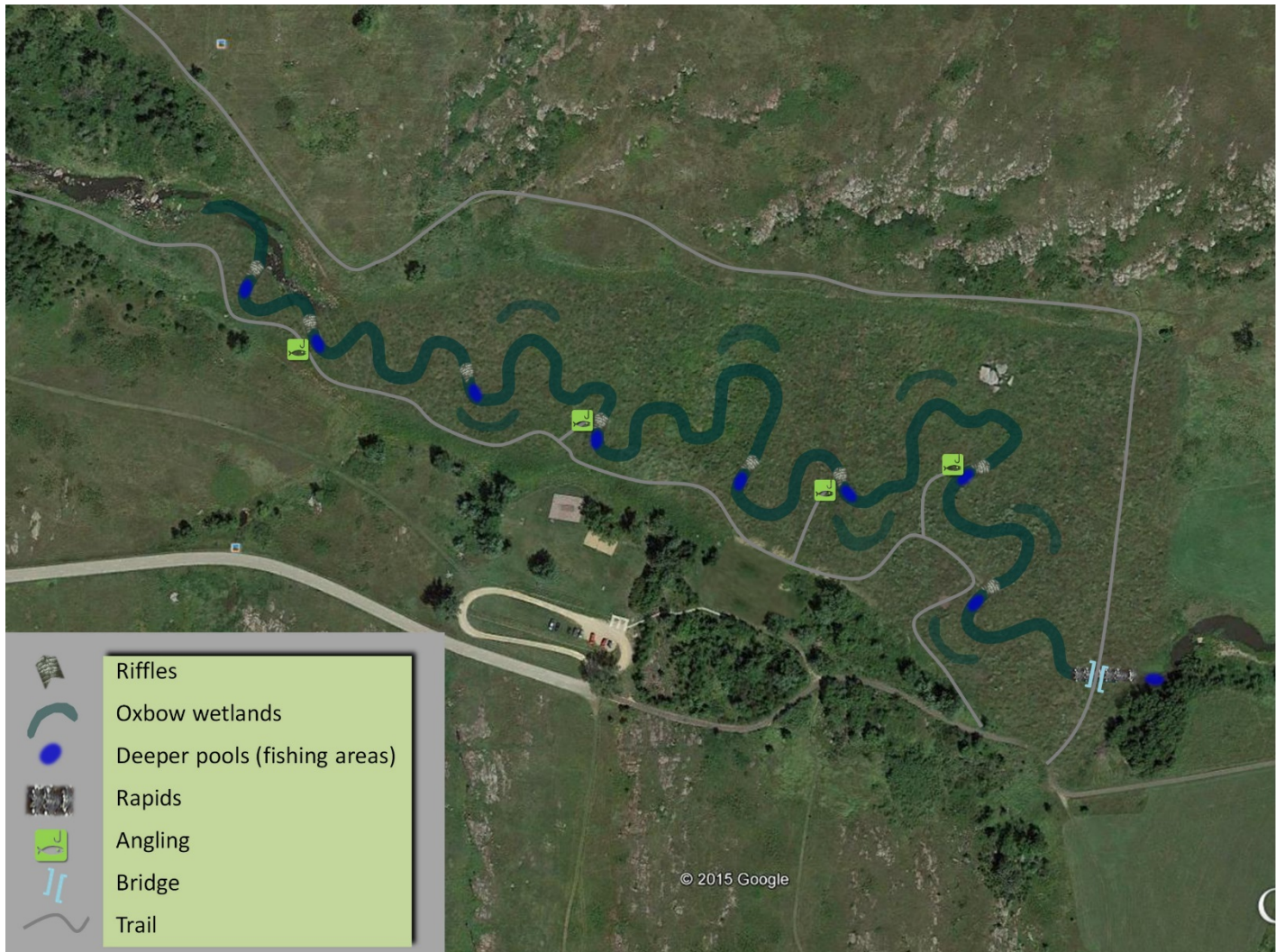
**Alternative: Dam Removal and Mound Creek Restoration – Cost Estimate: \$1.4 million**

## Description:

- Remove north and south embankments to restore natural floodplain landscape.
- Remove spillway to reconnect Mound Creek beyond the dam site.
- Construct 16—20 foot wide stream channel to recreate prairie stream habitat and dynamics.
- Replant wet prairie floodplain vegetation to restore floodplain.
- Develop hiking trails, pedestrian bridge and potential angling opportunities for additional recreation.

## Considerations:

- Habitat for critical aquatic animals is restored.
- Removal of dam and lake will change historic district designation.
- Mound Creek can access its vegetated floodplain, providing immediate and long term reductions in sedimentation and flood control.
- Water quality improved by restoring natural dynamics of Mound Creek.
- Loss of water recreation in Lower Mound Lake such as swimming and kayaking.



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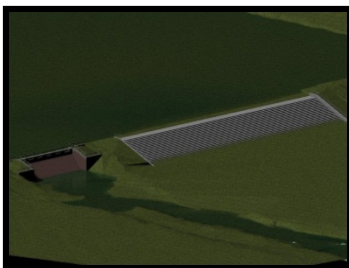
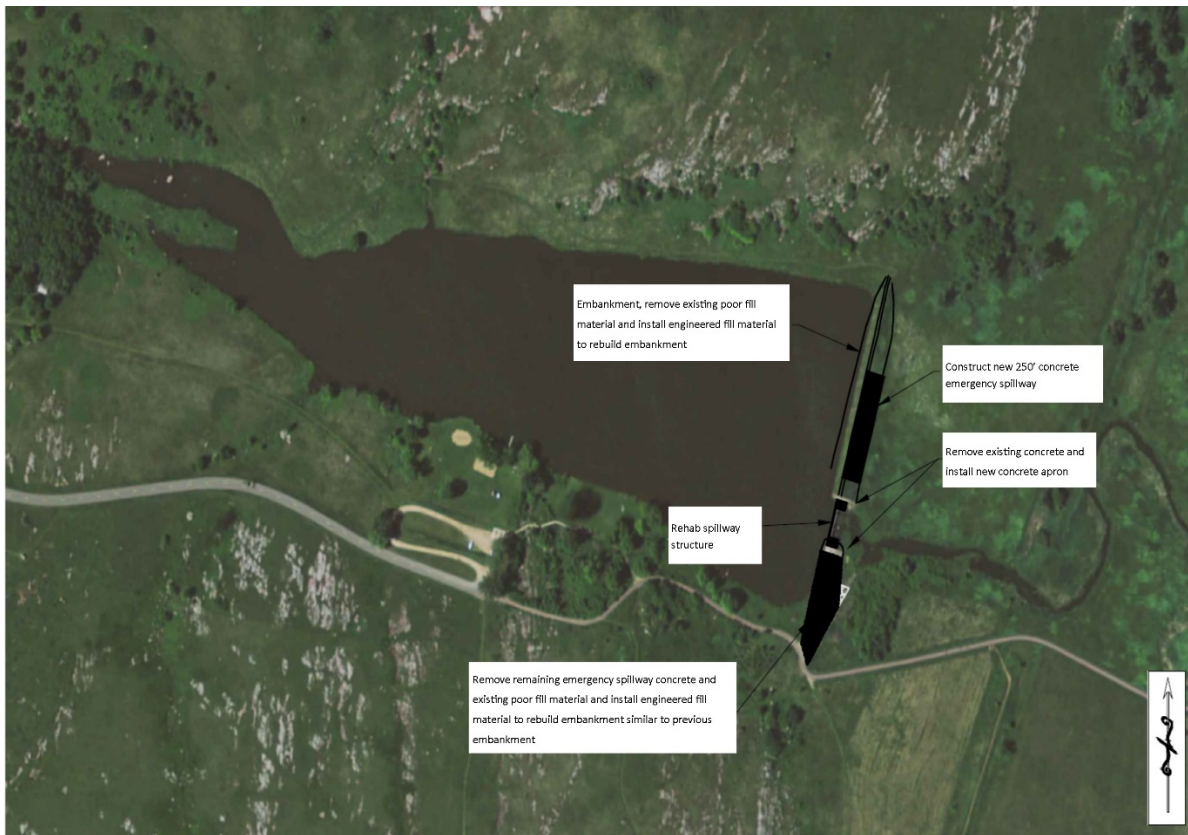
**Alternative: Dam Rehabilitation and Lake Restoration – Cost Estimate: \$6.1 million**

**Description: Rehabilitate dam and restore lake as close as practical to past conditions.**

- Rebuild entire north and south embankments to meet current codes and standards.
- Reinforce spillway with concrete to meet current codes and standards.
- Construct new 250 foot emergency spillway on north embankment to meet today's codes and standards.
- Dredge basin to remove sediment and increase depth of impoundment.
- Refill impoundment to create lake recreation opportunities, contingent on water quality.

## Considerations:

- Habitat loss for aquatic species such as federally endangered Topeka Shiner.
- Historic designation of dam may be lost due to modifications.
- Mound Creek was designated as impaired for aquatic recreation by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency in 2012 due to consistent high E.coli bacteria levels.
- Swimming is not recommended when waters are designated impaired for aquatic recreation.
- Kayaking and fishing still possible water recreation.
- Sediment, E.coli and associated pollutants will eventually fill in the lake behind a dam.



Close-up of new spillway with concrete to meet current codes and standards.