

# Kingsbury Bay – Grassy Point Habitat Restoration

2019 Year-end Summary (December 30, 2019)

## Project Overview

The Kingsbury Bay and Grassy Point restoration projects will restore valuable coastal marsh habitat by removing excess sediment, remediating historic wood waste, and removing non-native vegetation. The \$15M project is being completed with funding from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, MN Outdoor Heritage Fund, and St. Louis River/Interlake/Duluth Tar Superfund Site Natural Resources Damage Assessment and Restoration settlement. The mitigation of historic impacts to fish and wildlife habitat will continue efforts towards delisting the St. Louis River Area of Concern.

Construction started in June 2019 and continued through early December. Work will resume in spring 2020 and continue through the end of the year.

## Project Implementation Team

**Minnesota DNR:** Lead Agency

**Barr Engineering Co.:** Engineering and design, construction administration, quality control oversight

**Veit & Company, Inc.:** Construction

## Major Tasks Completed in 2019

- ✓ Mobilized and assembled equipment
- ✓ Completed pre-work surveys
- ✓ Installed sediment control
- ✓ Constructed underwater buttress at Grassy Point
- ✓ Dredged clean sediment from Kingsbury Bay
- ✓ Softened the railroad causeway shoreline at Grassy Point
- ✓ Constructed a sand berm at Grassy Point
- ✓ Stabilized the sand berm with geotextile fabric, woven matting, and rip rap armor
- ✓ Excavated non-native cattails from Kingsbury Bay
- ✓ Staged cattails for removal
- ✓ Loaded and hauled cattails to an offsite disposal location



*A conveyor loads sand berm material onto a barge*



*Sand is placed to form a berm at Grassy Point*



*The completed berm will contain the future Grassy Point island*



2017



2019-11-25

*Before and after photos of Kingsbury Bay illustrating the extensive removal of non-native cattail stands (inset photo).*

## Public Communications Summary

**Meetings:** DNR held a public information meeting on May 22. Over 75 community members attended.

**Signs:** DNR, the City of Duluth, and Veit posted signs alerting the community of trail and parking lot closures and alternate parking areas.

**Media:** A media event was held on August 21. Local and state-wide newspaper, television, and radio media covered the project. The City of Duluth issued a press release with information on trail and parking lot closures.

**Regular Outreach:** DNR staff prepared monthly progress reports, which were emailed to a list of more than 80 individuals and posted on the project webpage. DNR staff also provided regular project updates at the Irving Community Club meetings.

**Personal Communications:** Kingsbury Bay area residents received mail updates regarding work in and around the bay, including information on boat use and safety. DNR staff also responded to phone calls and emails from members of the community.

## Upcoming 2020 Work

- Complete Kingsbury Bay invasive cattail removal
- Dredge excess sediment from open water portions of Kingsbury Bay
- Excavate historic wood waste from Grassy Point
- Consolidate Grassy Point wood waste to form an island/sheltered bay complex
- Cap the new island using clean sediment removed from Kingsbury Bay
- Restore Grassy Point wood removal areas and 40<sup>th</sup> Ave. West restoration areas using biomedium from Kingsbury Bay

## For More Information

Renée Samuelson, Admin. Specialist, 218-302-3252  
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

**Project website:** [St. Louis River Restoration Initiative](#)