

Kingsbury Bay – Grassy Point Habitat Restoration

2020 Year-end Summary (December 8, 2020)

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 \$18M 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.

The 2020 construction season started in July and continued through early November. Work will resume in 2021 and is currently expected to continue through the end of September.

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 2020

- ✓ Installed and maintained erosion and sediment control best management practices
- ✓ Completed invasive cattail removal at Kingsbury Bay
- ✓ Loaded and hauled cattails to an offsite disposal location
- ✓ Removed legacy wood waste from Grassy Point
- ✓ Constructed islands using the wood waste
- ✓ Connected an isolated wetland at Grassy Point
- ✓ Dredged sediment from Kingsbury Bay
- ✓ Beneficially used Kingsbury Bay sediment to restore aquatic and upland habitat at Grassy Point and 40th Ave West
- ✓ Installed in-water stream control structures at the inlets of Kingsbury and Keene Creeks



Removing legacy wood waste at Grassy Point



Using wood waste to construct the small Grassy Point island



Capping the large Grassy Point island with Kingsbury Bay sediment



Photo credit: 1854 TA



Left photo: Kingsbury Bay pre-restoration (August 2015). Right photo: Kingsbury Bay in October 2020 post cattail removal, and during sediment dredging.

Public Communications Summary

Signs: DNR, the City of Duluth, and Veit posted signs alerting the community of trail and parking lot closures and alternate parking areas. The Pulaski St. parking lot will be open to the public during winter 2020. Veit is working with the City to determine current safety requirements on trails near the project. Users should continue to obey posted signs.

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.

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.

“Fugitive” Wood Waste: Though the Grassy Point work area was well contained, DNR is aware that some wood boards and pieces washed ashore at multiple locations in WI, most notably the Arrowhead boat launch. The launch was regularly patrolled and cleaned throughout the work season. DNR communicated with WI shoreline residents to identify additional problem areas, which were cleaned up as needed.

Remaining 2021 Work

- Restore and pave portions of the Waabizheshikana (Marten Trail) that were used for construction access
- Complete capping the new Grassy Point islands using clean sediment removed from Kingsbury Bay
- Dredge remaining excess sediment from open water portions of Kingsbury Bay

- Restore Grassy Point wood removal areas using sediment from Kingsbury Bay
- Restore and reseed disturbed areas

Did you know?

The Minnesota Land Trust is leading a companion project to restore and enhance additional high quality habitat for birds, fish, and wildlife at Grassy Point. Using separate funding, the Land Trust will plant native trees, shrubs, and other plants on the new islands that will attract and support land birds. They will seed shallow zones with native aquatic species, and create a patchwork of “hemi marsh” habitat that is valuable to wetland birds. This work is planned for 2021.

For More Information

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



A boulder is measured during construction of a j-hook in the Kingsbury Creek inlet.