

## Kingsbury Bay – Grassy Point Habitat Restoration

End of Project Update (November 9, 2021)

### 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 three-year, \$18M construction project was 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 2021 construction season started in July and continued into October. While the restoration activities are complete, Veit continues to demobilize their equipment and prepare the project areas for overwintering. Some additional habitat enhancements are planned for Grassy Point in 2022 under a separate contract and funding (see next page for more detail).

### 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 2021

- ✓ Dredged sediment from Kingsbury Bay
- ✓ Used Kingsbury Bay sediment to cap islands and restore aquatic habitat at Grassy Point
- ✓ Restored Kingsbury Bay haul routes and staging areas, including tree planting and grading and paving the affected segment of the Marten Trail to ADA specifications
- ✓ Placed gravel to stabilize key portions of the Grassy Point islands
- ✓ Seeded the Grassy Point islands
- ✓ Completed final surveys



*Capping the new island with clean sediment from Kingsbury Bay*



*Gravel protects the new island in a high-energy area*



*October 2021 drone image of the completed restoration at Grassy Point*

### Did You Know?

We excavated about 300,000 cubic yards of material from the river. That would fill a football field 140 feet deep!



Aug. 2015 (photo credit: 1854 TA)



Aug. 2021 (photo credit: 1854 TA)

Left: Kingsbury Bay pre-restoration (August 2015). Right: Kingsbury Bay in August 2021 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.

**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 contained during wood waste removal, DNR is aware that 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. Veit patrolled the WI shoreline at the end of the 2021 season and removed wood.

## What’s next for Kingsbury Bay & Grassy Point?

**Monitoring:** In partnership with the MN Pollution Control Agency and Environmental Protection Agency researchers, we will collect and analyze data to monitor habitat recovery at Kingsbury Bay and Grassy Point.

**Bird Habitat:** The Minnesota Land Trust is leading a companion project to restore and enhance additional habitat at Grassy Point. Using separate funding, the Land Trust will plant native trees, shrubs, and other plants on the new islands to 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 2022.

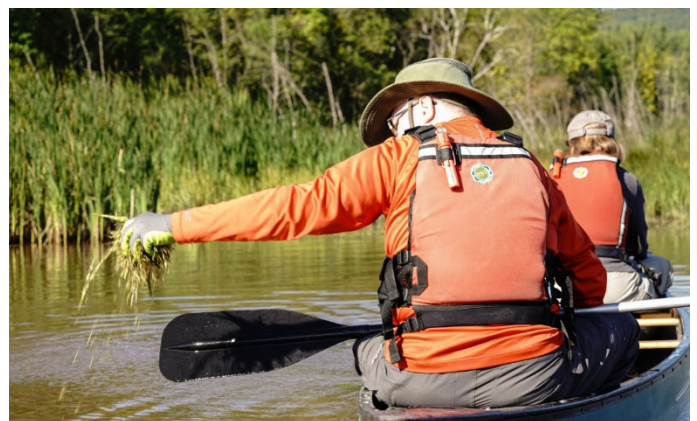
**New Fishing Pier:** DNR has ordered a new 108’ fishing pier that will be installed at the end of Indian Point in spring 2022. Anglers will be able to access the deeper fish habitat created by the Kingsbury Bay restoration. The City of Duluth will connect the new pier to the existing Marten Trail.

**Restoring Manoomin:** Restoring manoomin (wild rice) in Kingsbury Bay is a long-term goal of estuary resource managers. In September 2021, St. Louis River Alliance 47volunteers seeded over 500 lbs of wild rice in targeted areas around the perimeter of the bay. In spring 2022, DNR will install a series of small fenced exclosures to protect emerging rice from geese. Seeding wild rice is planned to be an annual occurrence in Kingsbury Bay as part of larger efforts to restore manoomin throughout the estuary.

## For More Information

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

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



A volunteer seeds manoomin in Kingsbury Bay in September 2021 (photo credit: St. Louis River Alliance)