

## **Bassett Creek Lagoons Dredging Project – FAQ Information Sheet**

**Q: Where is the project located?**

A: The project site is located in Theodore Wirth Regional Park, within the City of Golden Valley. Theodore Wirth Park is owned and operated by the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB). Specifically, the area of work lies within Lagoons D, E, and F, through which Bassett Creek flows, just east of Theodore Wirth Parkway and immediately north and south of Plymouth Ave. (see map)

**Q: Who is the leading the project?**

A: The Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission (BCWMC) is implementing this project in close coordination with the MPRB. BCWMC works with residents, organizations, and its member cities to protect and improve water resources like Bassett Creek and its tributaries, wetlands, ponds, and lakes such as Medicine, Wirth, Twin, Sweeney, Northwood, Lost, Westwood, Parkers, and others.

**Q: How is the project funded?**

A: Project funding comes from a variety of sources including a Clean Water Fund grant from the State of Minnesota and an Opportunity Grant from Hennepin County. The majority of project funding comes from taxes levied on residents of the Bassett Creek watershed.

**Q: Why is this project being done and what are the benefits?**

A: This project is being done to remove contaminated sediment that has accumulated over decades within the lagoons of Bassett Creek upstream of Hwy 55. The work will restore three of seven lagoons back to their original condition designed by Theodore Wirth in the 1930's.

The removal of accumulated sediment will improve stream flow, increase floodplain storage, and improve habitat for fish and macroinvertebrates. Water quality downstream in Bassett Creek and the Mississippi River will be improved after the project when there is space for more sediment to be trapped in the lagoons, thus minimizing sediment and nutrients passing downstream.

**Q: What does the work include?**

A: During the winter (on frozen ground), equipment such as backhoes will be used to remove sediment within the lagoons. Small islands that have formed over the last several decades will also be removed. The sediment, much of which is contaminated with toxins from watershed runoff, will be transported in dump trucks to licensed disposal sites. Minor tree removal is expected with island removal and for equipment access to the ponds.

**Q: Will there be any impacts to humans?**

A: The work is expected to be done so there is minimal disruption to vehicular traffic on Theodore Wirth Parkway or to recreational activity areas within the park. Temporary trail detours may be necessary in order for construction vehicles to access work areas. Trail detours are not anticipated to be significant. Parking lots will not be impacted.

**Q: Will there be any impacts to wildlife?**

A: Since the project will be done in winter, the impact to wildlife will be reduced. Many bird species will have migrated out of our area during the project period. Other terrestrial wildlife temporarily displaced by the dredging project will have a significant amount of natural area adjacent to the project site and within Wirth Park to occupy. Many animals will be able to travel around the outside of the project site to move through the park. Impacts to aquatic species including frogs, turtles, and macroinvertebrates is also reduced due to work during the winter. There will likely be impacts to individual bugs and animals living within the removed sediment.

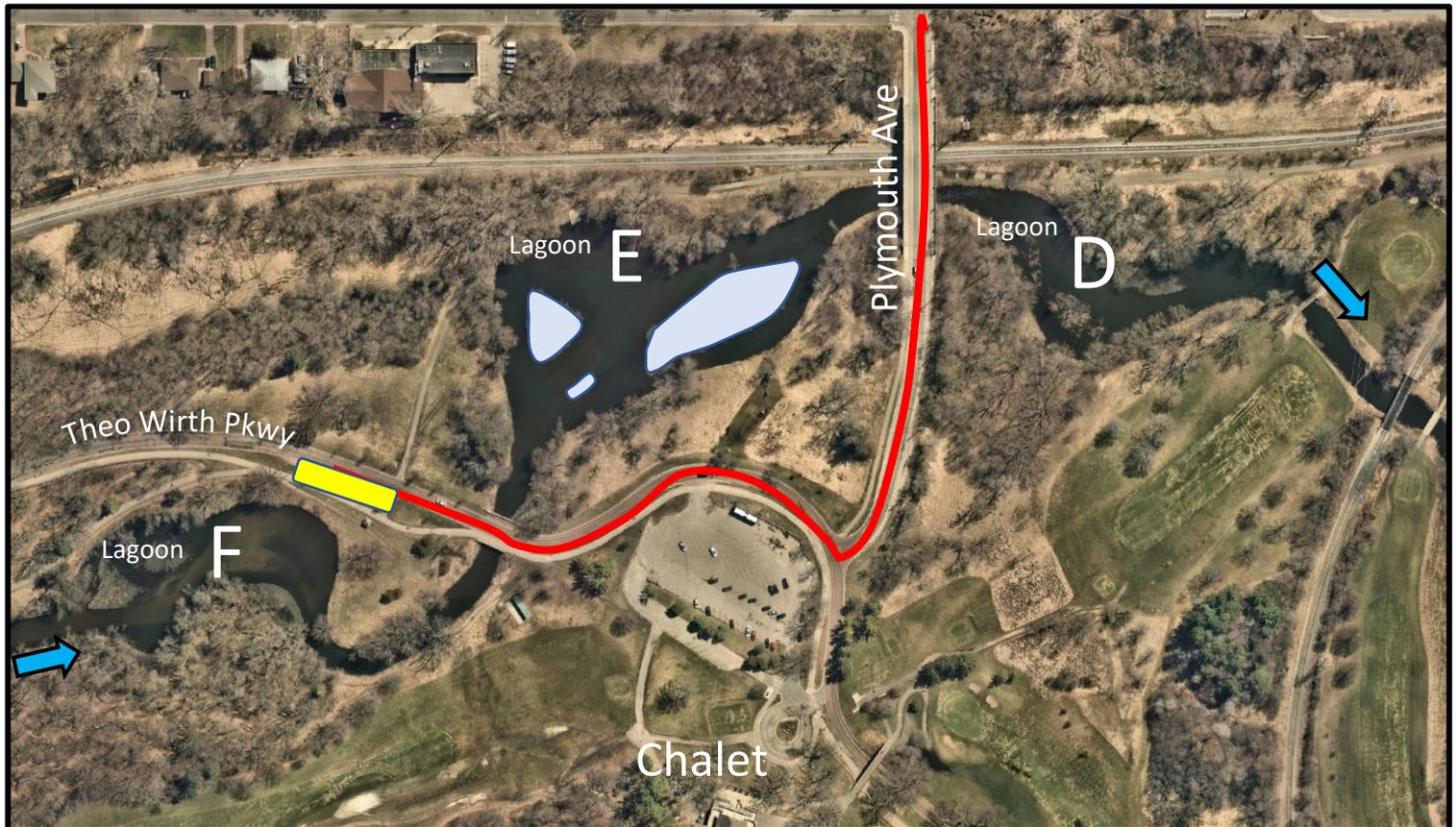
Overall, the project will result in habitat improvements by removing contaminated sediment that currently limits the quality of the aquatic habitat. Once the project is complete, pond conditions will be favorable to many different native species including smallmouth bass, bluegill, sunfish, carp, dragonflies, damselflies, beetles, water bugs, leeches, and water striders.

**Q: What is the project timeline?**

A: This project is slated for construction this winter (2022/2023). Watch for additional information on impacts to trails (expected to be minor) and truck hauling routes during construction. The dredging work could begin as early as November 2022 and should be complete by March 2023. Site restoration will occur as soon as possible in Spring 2023.

**Q: Where can I find more information?**

A: Project information can be found on the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission website under the Projects link <https://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/projects/all-projects/bassett-creek-main-stem-lagoon-dredging-project>. Or contact BCWMC Administrator, Laura Jester, at 952-270-1990 or [laura.jester@keystonewaters.com](mailto:laura.jester@keystonewaters.com).



-  Dump truck haul route
-  Bassett Creek flow (through lagoons)
-  Construction vehicle parking/staging area
-  Islands to be removed