



SEIDL'S LAKE PARK HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECT

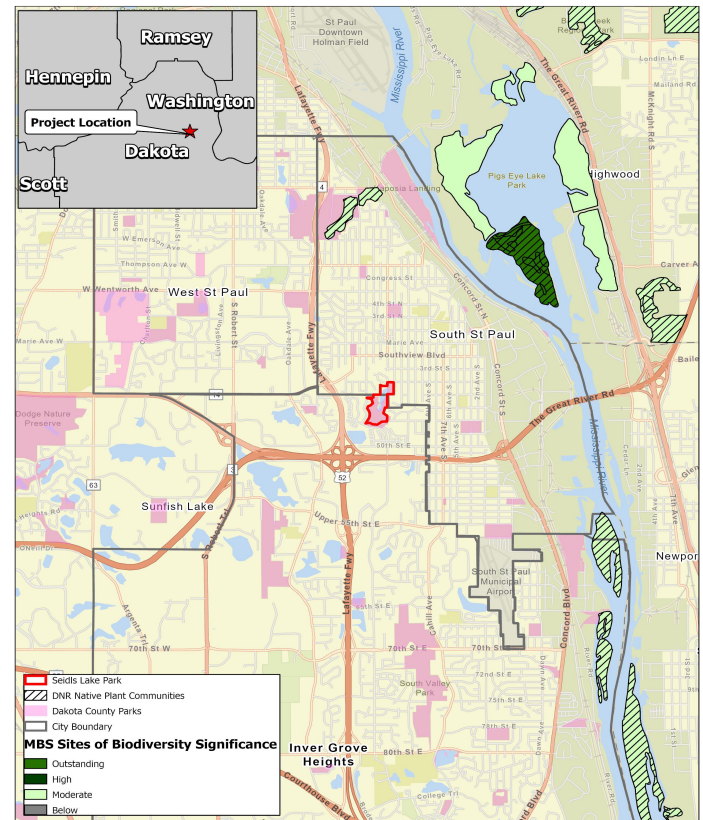
ABOUT THE PROJECT

Seidls Lake Park is a regional amenity in the highly urbanized cities of South St. Paul and Inver Grove Heights with few other natural areas nearby. The forested park habitat shows remnants of what would have been a historic hardwood forest dominated by oak trees, but over time has degraded to an altered forest dominated by invasive species around Seidls Lake. The cities will collaboratively restore the park habitat to areas of dry-mesic oak forest in the uplands and transitional riparian corridors to the Lake and wetlands. Invasive, non-native species such as common buckthorn will be removed and replaced with desirable species appropriate for an oak forest plant community.

Several other project phases have already begun that will control flooding water levels in Seidls Lake, restore Seidls Lake shoreline as well as the water quality, and reestablish walking trails through the park. This project will build on these existing restoration efforts at the Lake and will create an oasis of native plant communities for wildlife in an urban setting.

BENEFITS

- Eliminate understory dominated by invasive common buckthorn and implement long-term integrated vegetation management plan with adaptive management.
- Restore native terrestrial wildlife habitat including hardwood forest, transitional riparian zones, and shallow open water wetland.
- Restore understory dominated by shrubs and forbs that flower throughout the growing season (spring, summer, fall) to benefit SGCN pollinators.
- Provide usable habitat for local and migratory wildlife such as nesting habitat for waterfowl, overwintering habitat for reptiles, and foraging habitat for migratory passerines.
- Create learning opportunity through signage about restoration, native habitat, and wildlife.



EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

Seidls Lake Park is connected to a regional trail system and acts as a central hub for recreation in the area. The park restoration will be highly visible to the public and will provide a location for locals and visitors to learn about natural habitats and the benefits of habitat restoration through viewing and signage along the parks trail system. The location of the park restoration provides access to nature for disadvantaged populations.

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RESTORED WILDLIFE HABITAT



SITE MANAGEMENT



BUCKTHORN
MANAGEMENT



WETLAND
ENHANCEMENT



PRESCRIBED
GRAZING



NATIVE TREE
PLANTING



NATIVE SEEDING