Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Seidls Lake Park Habitat Restoration Project

ML 2023 Request for Funding

General Information

Date: 05/31/2022

Proposal Title: Seidls Lake Park Habitat Restoration Project

Funds Requested: $637,000

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Sue Polka
Title: City Engineer
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Location Information

County Location(s): Dakota.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

- Metro / Urban

Activity types:

- Restore

Priority resources addressed by activity:

- Forest
- Habitat

Narrative

Abstract

The Cities of South St. Paul and Inver Grove Heights will restore the wildlife habitat of Seidls Lake Park. The Park's historic oak forest areas have degraded over time and become dominated by invasive species. The cities will restore the park habitat to areas of dry-mesic oak forest in the uplands with transitional riparian corridors to the Lake and wetlands. Invasive, non-native species will be removed and replaced with desirable native species. The project will have high visibility as a regional amenity to bring visitors to learn about the benefits of restoration and reestablishment of oak forest.

Design and Scope of Work

The plant communities in the park consist of degraded habitat including oak/buckthorn forest on the east and west slopes of the park, maple/buckthorn forest at the south end of the park, and elm/buckthorn forest at the north end of the park. Invasive buckthorn in the understory has caused native forest layers to be absent due to competition with invasive species. Project partners are proposing to restore the historic plant communities of this park through five years of vegetation management, enhancement through the planting native plants and seed mixes, and long-term maintenance of invasive species.

The forest will be restored to an oak-dominated canopy. The shrub and ground layers of the forest will consist of species that provide food resources for wildlife and other pollinators. Riparian areas adjacent to the lake will be dominated by pollinator-friendly native grasses and flowering forbs with scattered flowering and fruiting shrubs such as dogwoods.

Year 1 will consist of invasive buckthorn removal (cutting and herbicide treatment) and invasive herbaceous removal throughout the Park. Hazard trees/deadfall will be removed. The forested areas of the park will be seeded with a native woodland seed mix that is beneficial to pollinators.

Years 2-4, east and west oak/buckthorn forests will be grazed by goats. Prescribed grazing for invasive plant management is used in many parts of Minnesota to place common buckthorn at a competitive disadvantage. This is often done by grazing when buckthorn is most vulnerable to prevent flower and seed production. Herds will be employed during times of the year that will best control the regrowth of undesirable vegetation. A follow-up buckthorn foliar application will also occur once during each year. Un-grazed areas of the Park will be maintained through spraying, mowing, and cutting of invasives three times each year.

Year 5, herbicide application will occur three times throughout the season. Areas lacking seed germination will be be seeded. Riparian areas will be seeded. Plant communities will be enhanced through the planting of saplings, shrubs, and plugs, protected with deer/rabbit repellent. Informational signage will be developed to inform the public about habitat restoration, native plants, and local wildlife.

Vegetation and wildlife surveys will occur during each summer throughout the Park. A reference plot will also be surveyed during the first year within the oak forest at Kaposia Park. Surveys allow for a quantitative evaluation of the restoration progress. An Integrated Vegetation Management Plan (IVMP) will be developed that allows the cities to evaluate the appropriate maintenance and adaptive management needed to maintain the restoration during and after the initial 5 years.

We have been successful in securing funding for Phase I including shoreline and in-lake aquatic habitat restoration at Seidls Lake in 2022 funded through CPL. Our project will be a continuation of restoration efforts that will build

upon Phase I efforts at the Lake restoring one of the remaining hardwood forests in the area. We seek this funding cycle as an opportunity for completing the next phase of the project.

How does the proposal address habitats that have significant value for wildlife species of greatest conservation need, and/or threatened or endangered species, and list targeted species?

The project will significantly restore the native terrestrial habitat for wildlife within Seidls Lake Park. Wildlife habitats will include the restoration of hardwood forest, transitional riparian areas surrounding Seidls Lake, and a few shallow open water wetlands. The selection of plant species that bloom in all seasons (spring, summer, and fall) provides valuable food resources for native pollinator species during their active time. The cities of South St. Paul and Inver Grove Heights have numerous known occurrences of the endangered rusty-patched bumble bee, with the nearest documented occurrence within two miles of the Park. Diverse and abundant flowering plant species, including woodlands that support early blooming spring ephemerals, are important to recovering and restoring this species habitat. Reestablishment of pollinator resources within Seidls Park will allow for this species to expand their habitat into the more urbanized area surrounding the Park. Known occurrences of the state-threatened Blanding's turtle also occur within one mile of the Park. Wetland complexes adjacent to uplands are necessary to support this species throughout its lifecycle. They use wetlands as overwintering sites and adjacent uplands for nesting. Loss of habitat is a large threat to this turtle species. By removing invasive species and enhancing the wetland habitats and riparian areas, the Park will provide a safe, protected site for nesting and overwintering, aiding in the recovery of this species. While performing a site visit in the spring of 2022, several local and migratory bird species were observed in the park making this area an important resource for birds. Migratory species, like the observed yellow-rumped warbler, will benefit greatly from the reestablishment of a subcanopy and shrub layer within the forests. Local waterfowl will benefit from restoration of the riparian zone for improved nesting habitat which is currently absent. Wildlife surveys will be completed during each year of this project to quantitatively track the habitat use by target species.

What is the degree of timing/opportunistic urgency and why it is necessary to spend public money for this work as soon as possible?

We have diligently been working to improve the Seidls Lake Park area for the surrounding communities. In spring 2022 we have installed a pump and lift station to regulate flooding water levels which have caused major erosion and sloughing along the shoreline. In addition, we have secured funding from a CPL grant to complete shoreline habitat restoration and submitted a grant application to reconstruct walking trails throughout the Park that were destroyed by unmanaged lake levels. With these ongoing efforts to restore aquatic habitat and shoreline, as well as make the Park more accessible, it is highly important that the forest restoration is pursued in a similar timeframe. By restoring the oak forests concurrently, we can manage the invasive populations in all areas of the park and shoreline. Funding for this project will reduce the timeframe of land disturbance which may alter Park use by visitors.

Describe how the proposal uses science-based targeting that leverages or expands corridors and complexes, reduces fragmentation or protects areas identified in the MN County Biological Survey:

Site conditions will be documented through photographs and vegetation transects at initiation and as the project progresses each year (spring, summer and fall). Vegetation surveys will follow DNR relevee or USDA methodologies for cover/frequency and point cover assessment. Survey transects will be established throughout each of the four existing plant communities.

Plots in the oak/buckthorn forest plant communities will provide data about the goat grazing. Grazing management techniques will be monitored and evaluated to determine grazing duration, intensity, frequency and

timing modifications required to determine the most effective management for target and non-target species.

Control plots to compare against the grazing areas will be established in the maple/buckthorn and the elm/buckthorn plant communities of the site. These areas will be using alternative methods of species control including chemical controls, burning, and physical removal. These plots will be monitored for restoration method comparisons.

A target reference plot will also be established within a nearby DNR site of biodiversity significance located at Kaposia Park in South St. Paul. This site includes a mesic oak forest that is relatively undisturbed and will provide a science-based target for the restoration of oak forest within Seidls Lake Park.

All plots, including the target reference plot, will be surveyed during the first year of funding in the fall of 2023. Plots at Seidls Lake Park will be surveyed in the spring, summer, and fall of years 2-5 and the data analysis will be summarized in a report showing the significance of vegetation change over time. By establishing a target control plot at Kaposia Park, the cities are able to measure their progress of this proposed restoration at Seidls Lake Park and adapt their management techniques to reach established project goals.

Which two sections of the Minnesota Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan are most applicable to this project?

- H1 Protect priority land habitats
- H3 Improve connectivity and access to recreation

Which two other plans are addressed in this proposal?

- Minnesota DNR Strategic Conservation Agenda
- Minnesota's Wildlife Action Plan 2015-2025

Describe how your program will advance the indicators identified in the plans selected:

This project reduces the spread of invasive species that are taking over native habitats, and it follows the Agenda's core strategies of: restoring the health of degraded forests and reducing invasive species; and monitoring the management to improve effectiveness in our restoration approach. While at the same time the project gives access to and encourages outdoor recreation within a variety of demographics and new outdoor recreation users.

This project includes both the habitat and the species approaches outlined in the Plan and is mapped in the Wildlife Action Network. SGCN such as the Blanding's turtle or the rusty-patched bumble bee are located in close proximity to the Park but are facing resource loss. By restoring the habitat at the Park, this project is creating opportunities for use by the public and SGCN, while providing connections that allow for species movements through the urban areas.

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this proposal?

Metro / Urban

- Protect, enhance, and restore remnant native prairie, Big Woods forests, and oak savanna with an emphasis on areas with high biological diversity

Describe how your program will produce and demonstrate a significant and permanent conservation legacy and/or outcomes for fish, game, and wildlife as indicated in the LSOHC priorities:

This project will result in the restoration of a Big Woods Forest habitat. Control of invasive buckthorn and subsequent restoration of a diverse understory will provide a food resource for the local rusty-patched bumblebee population, a SGCN. The Park is in close proximity to the Mississippi River corridor and other local parks. When restored, it will fill a gap between other natural landscapes of this region allowing wildlife to expand their ranges.

Restoration of the forest and riparian zones will support the other ongoing city projects that are enhancing the water quality and levels of the lake. Currently, the Lake provides limited perimeter vegetation, likely due to erosion issues along the shoreline. We currently have ongoing projects to manage lake levels and fix eroded shorelines.

This project will enhance the riparian zone to provide shoreline stabilization and nesting habitat for local waterfowl and wildlife. Restoration of these habitats will improve water quality within the lake to increase habitat value for both fish and reptile species, such as the Blanding's turtle, a SGCN.

Our project will also protect habitats from permanent endangerment from invasive species by removing the buckthorn and managing the regrowth of invasive species through a long-term Integrated Vegetation Management Plan that includes adaptive management. Because restoration is occurring within a park owned by local project partners, we are able to provide an ongoing maintenance budget annually for this restoration management which will preserve its vitality into the future.

What other fund may contribute to this proposal?

- N/A

Does this proposal include leveraged funding?

Yes

Explain the leverage:

The cities of South St. Paul and Inver Grove Heights will be providing in-kind services for project oversight and grant administration that total an amount of $64,000.

Per MS 97A.056, Subd. 24, Please explain whether the request is supplanting or is a substitution for any previous funding that was not from a legacy fund and was used for the same purpose.

If funding is secured from LSOHC, it will not supplant or supplement previous funding for the project. As the funding will be utilized for Phase II of the overall project which includes maintenance and management of riparian and uplands within the Park.

Non-OHF Appropriations

Year	Source	Amount
2022 - Phase I	Conservation Partners Legacy	400000
2023 Awaiting Review - Phase I	Local Trail Connections Program	250000
2023 - Phase II - If Secured	Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council	537800
2028-Ongoing	Conservation Partners Legacy	TBD

How will you sustain and/or maintain this work after the Outdoor Heritage Funds are expended?

The cities of South Saint Paul and Inver Grove Heights rely on multiple funding sources including a local levy and multiple partnerships. These partnerships include LCCMR, and Clean Water and MN State Bonding Funds. Longstanding partnerships with these groups allow available funding and commitment sources needed to achieve goals set to improve and maintain natural resources projects.

We anticipate long-term monitoring and maintenance of the integrity of the restoration project will be completed by the City of South Saint Paul and Inver Grove Heights parks departments. Monitoring and maintenance will not require separate funding. In the event that there are other maintenance costs, volunteer labor and other funding sources will be obtained to complete the required maintenance. Long term goals of the project are to restore aquatic and upland habitat. The methods for removal and monitoring of the restoration have been widely used throughout Minnesota. Prior to completion of the project a long-term monitoring/maintenance plan will be implemented to assure all habitat restoration measures are adequately functioning and managed according to the goals specified in the plan.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
Ongoing	City of South Saint Paul and Inver Grove Heights	Monitoring (Parks Staff)	Assessment and Implementation Plan (Parks Staff)	Implementation of Maintenance from selected contractors

Identify indicator species and associated quantities this habitat will typically support:

Rusty-Patched Bumble Bee (RPBB) – The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service map indicates that Seidls Lake Park is within the RPBB Low Potential Zone but is adjacent to the RPBB High Potential Zone. The removal and management of the invasive buckthorn combined with the restoration of native understory and shrub layer plant species will improve the foraging opportunities for RPBB. The Seidls Lake Park habitat improvements are estimated to support up to two RPBB colonies or 500 to 2,700 individuals.

Migratory Passerines – Restoring native understory and shrub layer plant species in Seidls Lake Park will improve the park's value as a stop-over site for up to 320 migratory passerines during the peak spring migration period (i.e., April and May) and 320 migratory passerines during the peak fall migration period (i.e., September and October).

Wood Duck – The restoration of the Seidls Lake Park understory and shrub layers will improve the foraging and nest site selection value to wood ducks and will support up to two wood duck broods.

Little Brown Bat – The restoration of the Seidls Lake Park wooded areas will improve the site's foraging and roosting value to little brown bats and will support an individual or a mother and her pup.

White-Tailed Deer - The restoration of the Seidls Lake Park wooded areas will improve the site's foraging and shelter value to white-tailed deer and will support an individual or a mother and her fawn.

Fish species - Existing populations and future stocking.

How will the program directly involve, engage, and benefit BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) and diverse communities:

According to the Environmental Protection Agency's Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool, the area of Seidls Lake Park and the surrounding community within 1 mile of the park have the following socioeconomic indicators: 46% people of color, 45% low income, 65% linguistically isolated, and 44% national demographic index (average minority and low income). Based on these results, Seidls Lake Park is an important resource in a community with a higher population of BIPOC. The restoration of the park will provide a location for these populations to easily access nature in their hometown, and to explore the ideas of nature, habitat restoration and wildlife to which they may have never been exposed. The Park will include walking trails through the restored shoreline and along the lake to maximize access and opportunities for fishing. Trails will have a regional connection. The cities will install signage throughout the park that discusses habitat restoration and native wildlife which will provide learning opportunities in this area.

Activity Details

Requirements

If funded, this proposal will meet all applicable criteria set forth in MS 97A.056?
Yes

Will restoration and enhancement work follow best management practices including MS 84.973 Pollinator Habitat Program?
Yes

Is the restoration and enhancement activity on permanently protected land per 97A.056, Subd 13(f), tribal lands, and/or public waters per MS 103G.005, Subd. 15?
Yes

Where does the activity take place?

- Other : City-owned park land

Land Use

Will there be planting of any crop on OHF land purchased or restored in this program?
No

Other OHF Appropriation Awards

Have you received OHF dollars in the past through LSOHC?
No

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
Develop Seidls Lake Park Integrated Vegetation Management Plan.	September 2023
Year 1 Restoration: Invasive species removals, hazard tree removal, woodland seeding, riparian zone herbicide treatment.	November 2023
Year 1 Monitoring: Vegetation and wildlife surveys. Reference Plot survey at Kaposia Park.	October 2023
Year 2 Restoration: Prescribed goat grazing, invasive species	November 2024

herbicide treatment, invasive species foliar applications.	
Year 2 Monitoring: Vegetation and wildlife surveys, adaptive management.	October 2024
Year 3 Restoration: Prescribed goat grazing, invasive species herbicide treatment, invasive species foliar applications.	November 2025
Year 3 Monitoring: Vegetation and wildlife surveys, adaptive management.	October 2025
Year 4 Restoration: Prescribed goat grazing, invasive species herbicide treatment, invasive species foliar applications.	November 2026
Year 4 Monitoring: Vegetation and wildlife surveys, adaptive management. Finalize long-term monitoring/maintenance plan.	October 2026
Year 5 Restoration: invasive species herbicide treatments, riparian seeding, live plantings (saplings, shrubs, plugs), supplemental woodland seeding, install informational signage.	November 2027
Year 5 Monitoring: Vegetation and wildlife surveys, summary monitoring report. Implement long-term monitoring/maintenance plan.	November 2027

Budget

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Antic. Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	-	$64,000	Inver Grove Heights - Parks and Rec, City of South Saint Paul	$64,000
Contracts	$393,000	-	-	$393,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	-	-	-
Professional Services	$173,000	-	-	$173,000
Direct Support Services	-	-	-	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	$71,000	-	-	$71,000
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$637,000**	**$64,000**	**-**	**$701,000**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Antic. Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Recreation Specialist	0.25	5.0	-	$36,000	Inver Grove Heights - Parks and Rec	$36,000
Administrative	0.25	5.0	-	$28,000	City of South Saint Paul	$28,000

Amount of Request: $637,000
Amount of Leverage: $64,000
Leverage as a percent of the Request: 10.05%
DSS + Personnel: -
As a % of the total request: 0.0%
Easement Stewardship: -
As a % of the Easement Acquisition: -

Describe and explain leverage source and confirmation of funds:
The leverage source is from the City of South Saint Paul and City of Inver Grove Heights Parks and Rec. The total leverage is a commitment from project partners to the project.

Does this proposal have the ability to be scalable?
Yes

If the project received 70% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Years of vegetation management would be reduced to 3 to accommodate the partial funding, but may not result in as significant control of invasive species on site.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Personnel years working in the program will be adjusted to three years to accommodate the partial funding. In accordance to the budget table and commitments from project partners the personnel time has been estimated according to total FTE per year as leverage.

If the project received 50% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
The project would be split into management phases where approximately 12 acres of the park would be restored in Phase II under this request, but risks the spread of invasive species during restoration efforts. Phase III would require an additional funding request for the restoration of the remaining acres.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Personnel years working in the program will be adjusted to 1-2 years. Additional years will be required when requesting funding for future funding requests. In accordance to the budget table and commitments from project partners the personnel time has been estimated according to total FTE per year as leverage.

Contracts

What is included in the contracts line?
This includes work that would be completed by a contractor to perform restoration efforts such as buckthorn removal and follow-up treatment, goat grazing, herbicide applications, hazard tree clearing, seeding, and plantings.

Federal Funds

Do you anticipate federal funds as a match for this program?
No

Output Tables

Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Acres
Restore	0	0	23	2	25
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0
Total	**0**	**0**	**23**	**2**	**25**

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	$450,000	$187,000	$637,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**$450,000**	**$187,000**	**$637,000**

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Acres
Restore	25	0	0	0	0	25
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	**25**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**25**

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Funding
Restore	$637,000	-	-	-	-	$637,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**$637,000**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**$637,000**

Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
Restore	-	-	$19,565	$93,500
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-

Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section (Table 6)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest
Restore	$25,480	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-

Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

0.7 miles riparian zone

Outcomes

Programs in metropolitan urbanizing region:

- Core areas protected with highly biologically diverse wetlands and plant communities, including native prairie, Big Woods, and oak savanna ~ *Vegetation and wildlife surveys will occur during each summer throughout the Park. A reference plot will also be surveyed during the first year within the oak forest at Kaposia Park. Surveys allow for a quantitative evaluation of the restoration progress. Survey results during subsequent years will be compared to the reference plot and project goals. An Integrated Vegetation Management Plan (IVMP) will be developed that allows the cities to evaluate the appropriate maintenance and adaptive management needed to maintain the restoration after the initial 5 years.*

Parcels

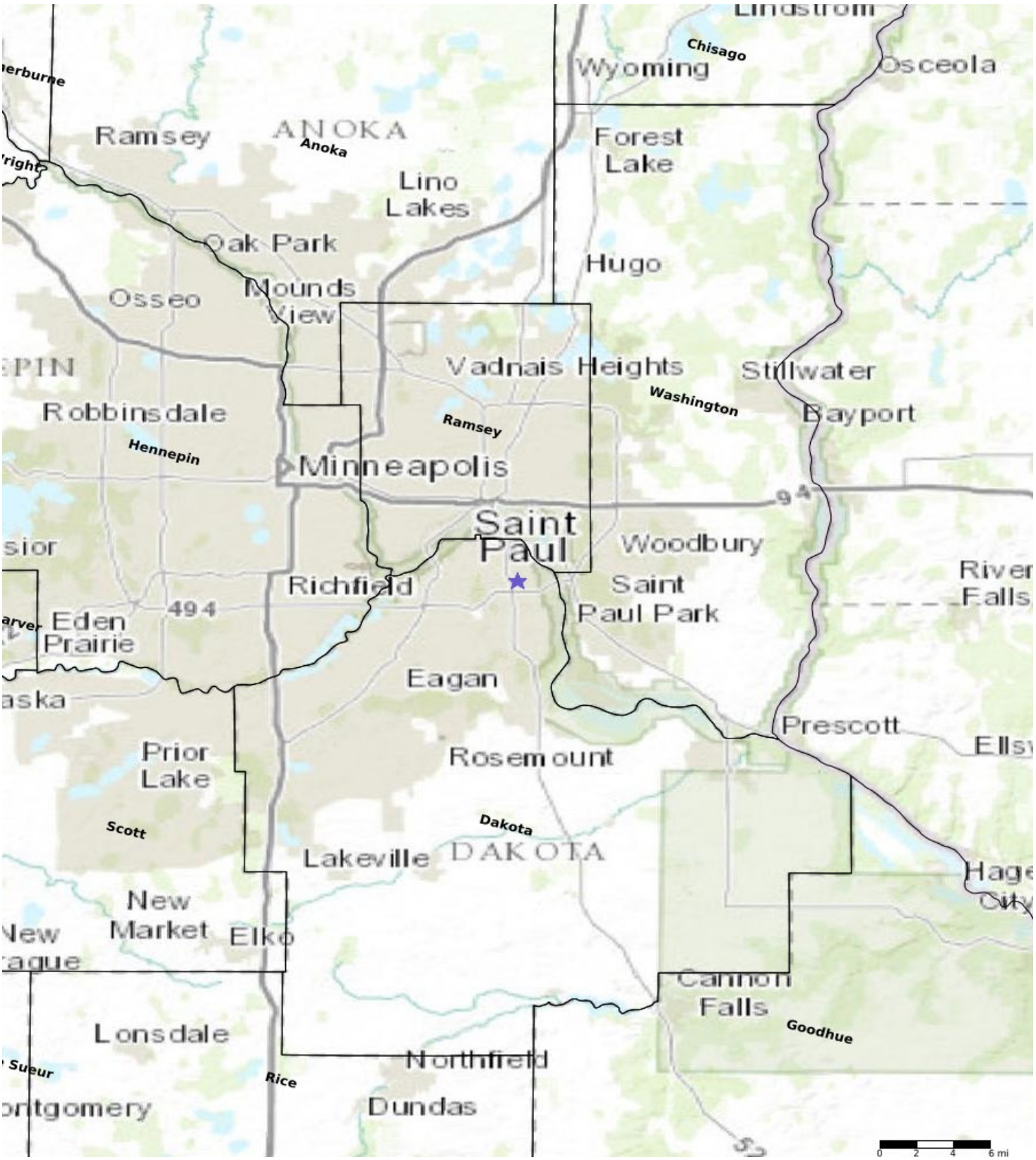
Sign-up Criteria?
No

Explain the process used to identify, prioritize, and select the parcels on your list:
Parcels are city-owned property dedicated to park land.

Restore / Enhance Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
361990007010	Dakota	0282228	2	-	-
360280006010	Dakota	0282228	3	-	-
200281080010	Dakota	0282228	1	-	-
204400100011	Dakota	0282228	6	-	-
200281081011	Dakota	0282228	8	-	-
204402700010	Dakota	0282228	6	-	-

Parcel Map



- Protect in Easement
- Protect in Fee with PILT
- Protect in Fee W/O PILT
- Restore
- Enhance
- Other

Budget Request: $537,800

SEIDLS LAKE PARK HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECT

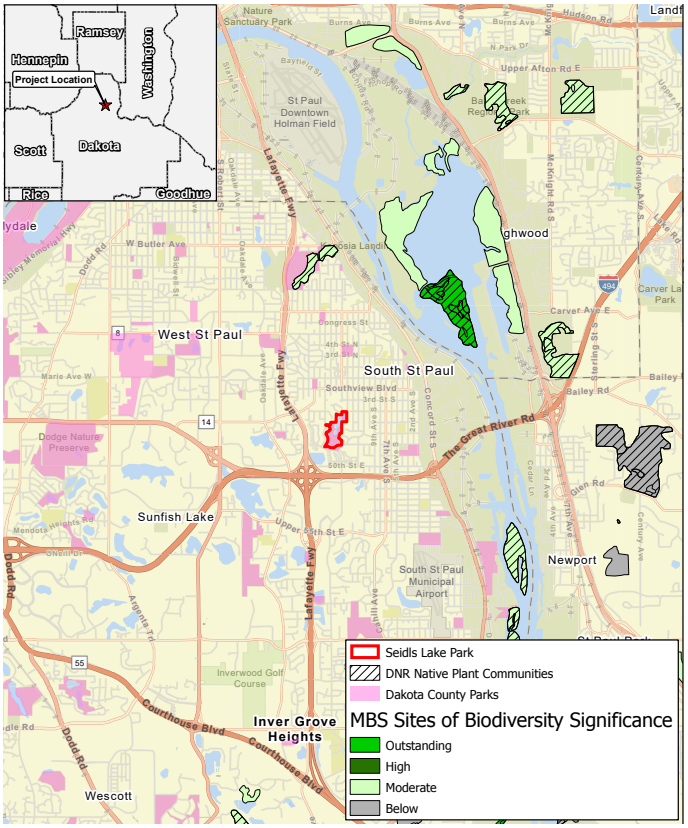
ABOUT THE PROJECT

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 projects 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

The 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.

Project Manager: Sue Polka | City Engineer

City of South St. Paul
125 3rd Avenue N
South St. Paul, MN 55075

651-554-3284

SEIDLS LAKE PARK HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECT

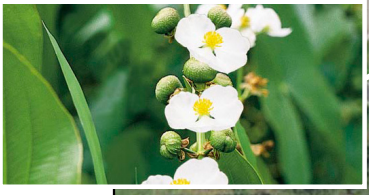
RESTORED WILDLIFE HABITAT

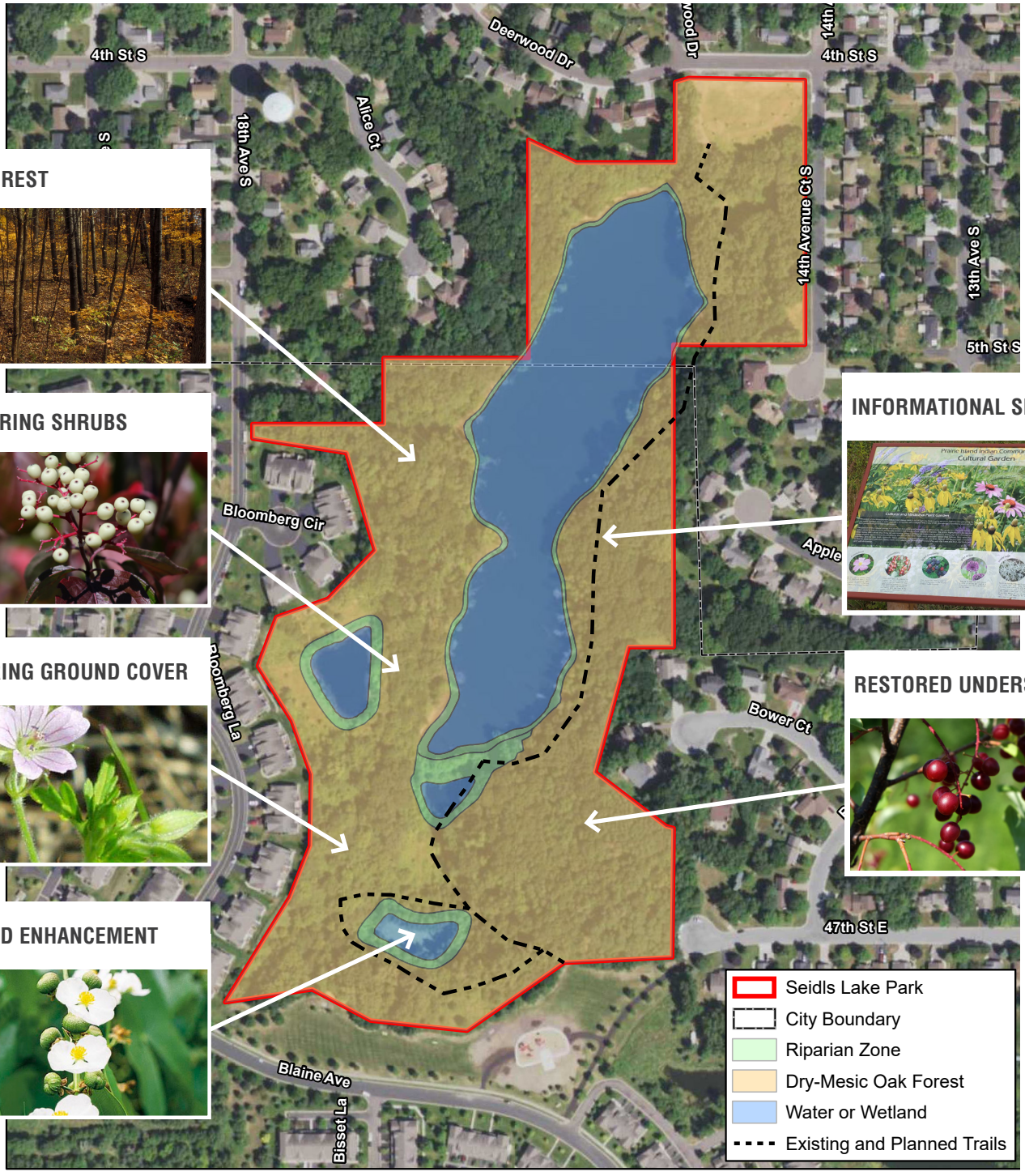
OAK FOREST

FLOWERING SHRUBS

FLOWERING GROUND COVER

WETLAND ENHANCEMENT





INFORMATIONAL SIGNAGE

RESTORED UNDERSTORY

SITE MANAGEMENT

BUCKTHORN MANAGEMENT

WETLAND ENHANCEMENT

PRESCRIBED GRAZING

NATIVE TREE PLANTING

NATIVE SEEDING

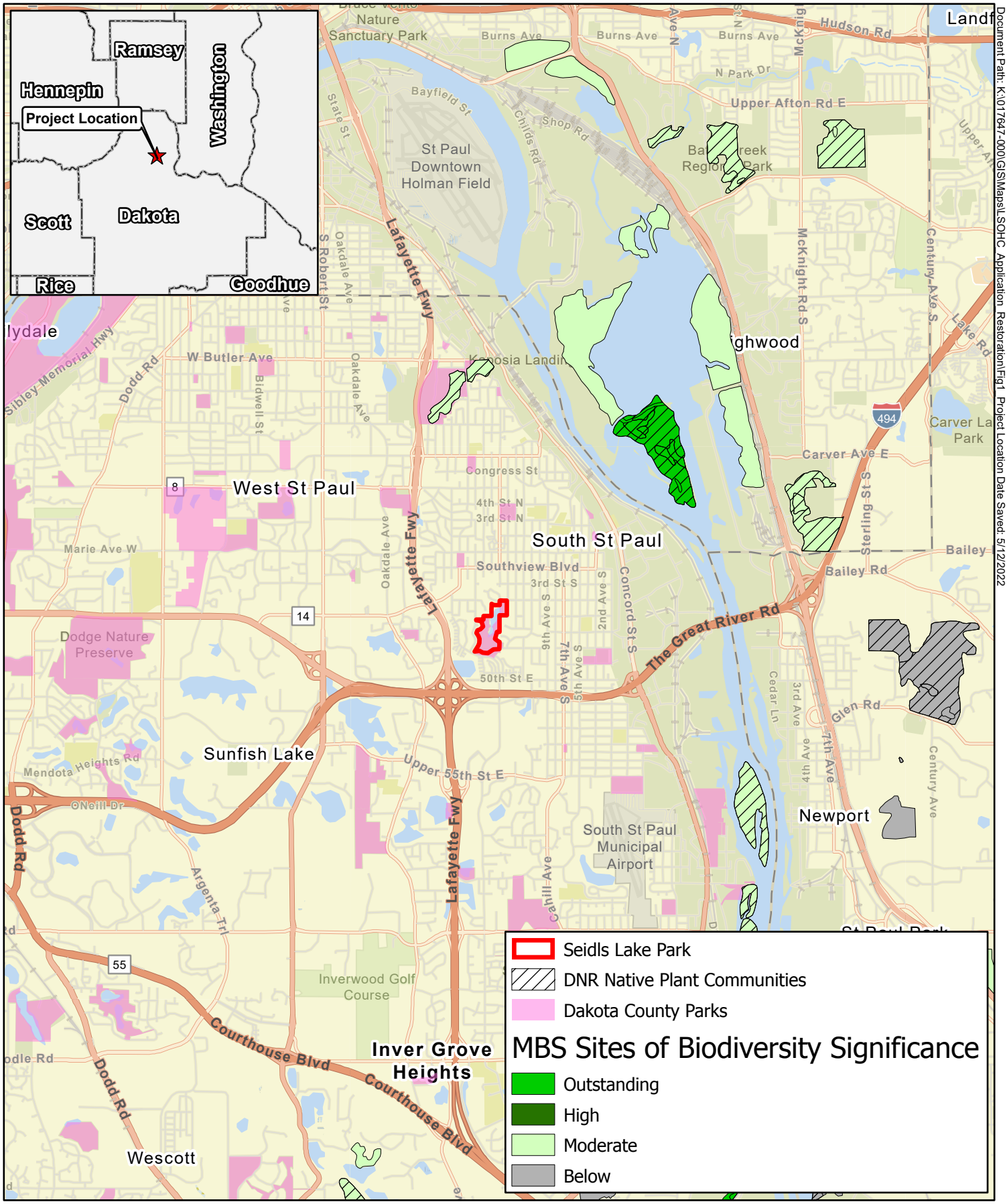


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Figure 1 - Project Location

Seidls Lake Park Habitat Restoration Project
South St. Paul and Inver Grove Heights, MN

N

0 1 Miles

1 inch = 1 miles

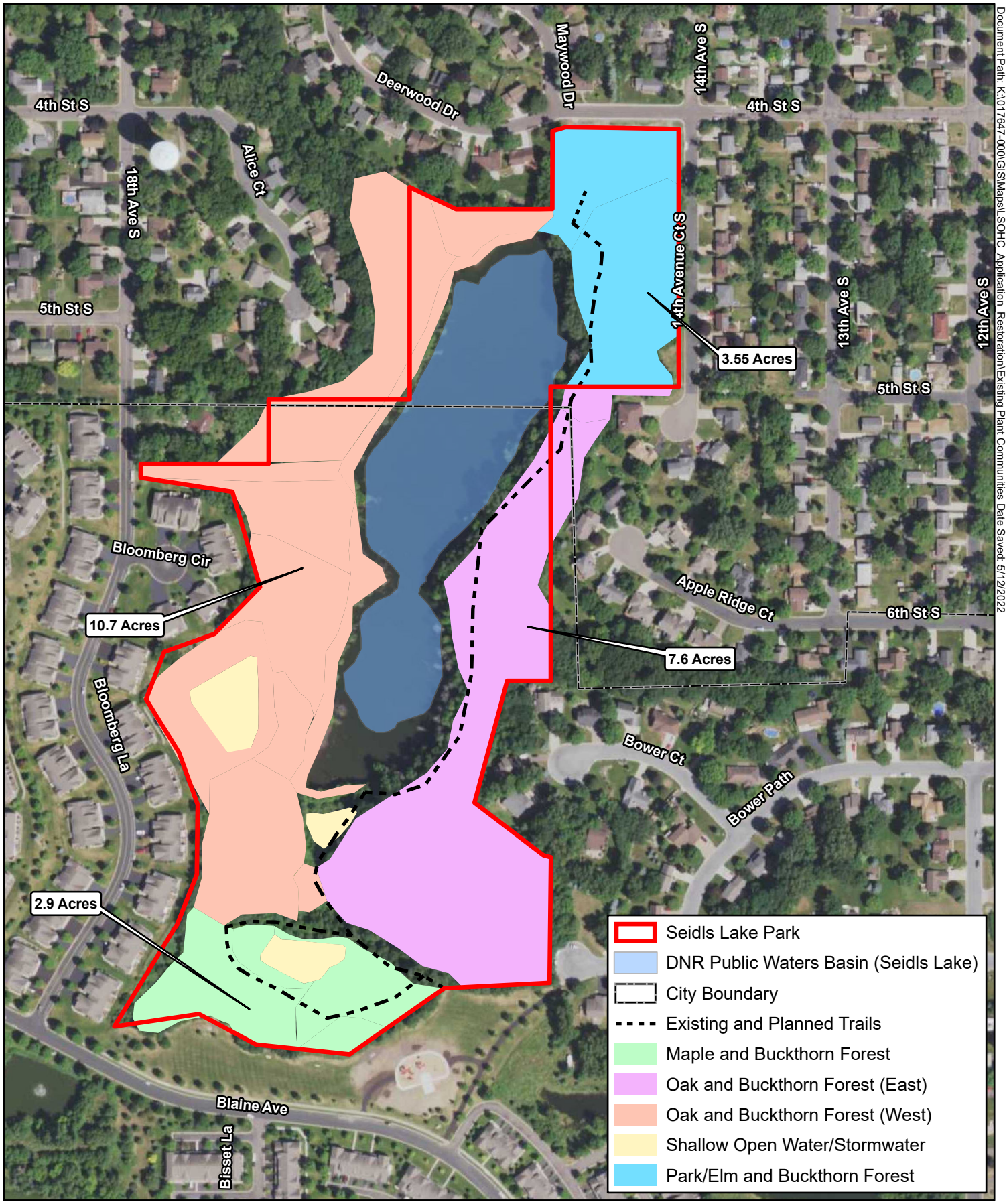

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Figure 2 - Existing Plant Communities

Seidls Lake Park Habitat Restoration Project
South St. Paul and Inver Grove Heights, MN

N

0 300 Feet

1 inch = 300 feet

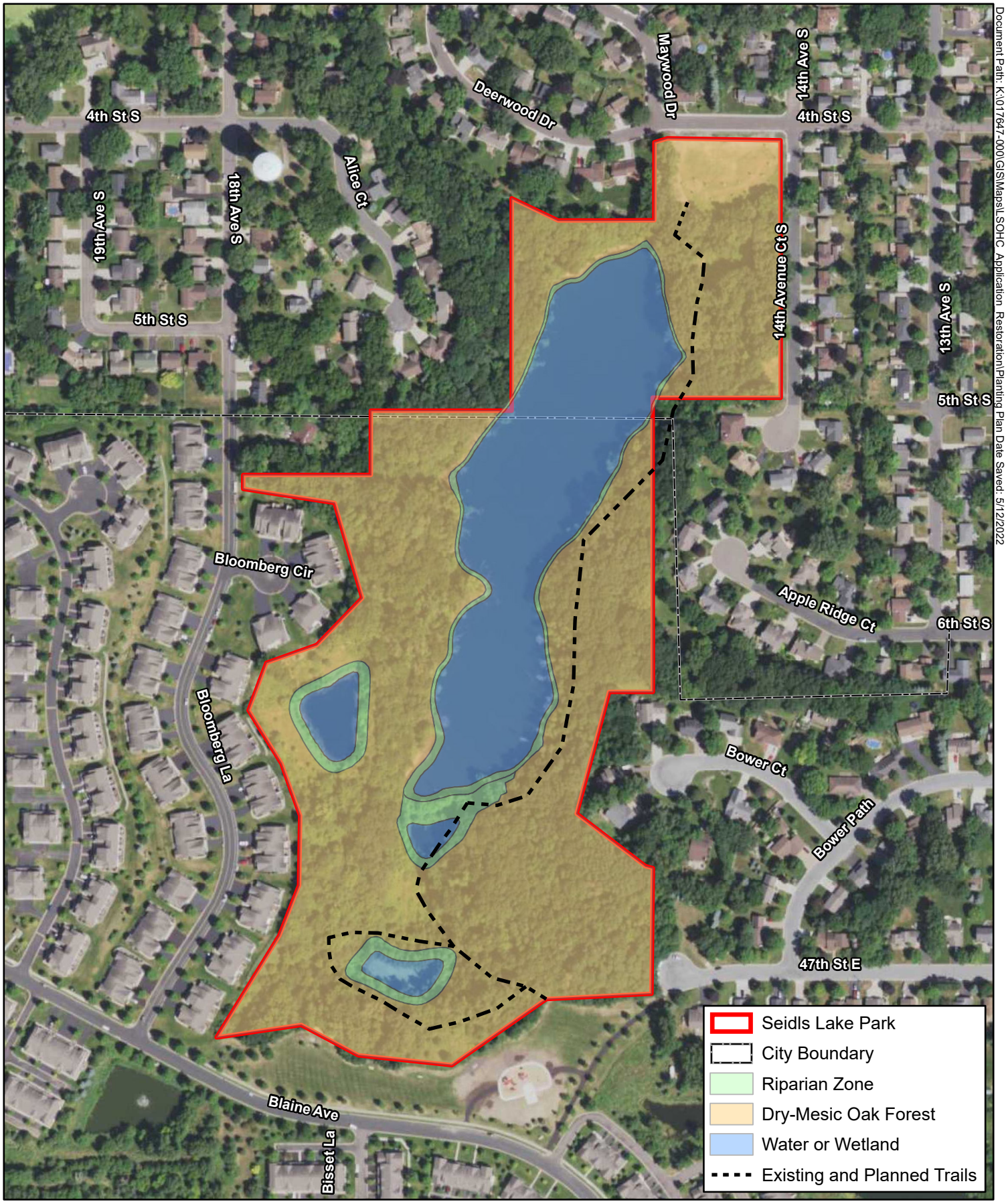

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Figure 4 - Proposed Plant Communities

Seidls Lake Park Habitat Restoration Project
South St. Paul and Inver Grove Heights, MN

N

0 300 Feet

1 inch = 300 feet

Figure 3 - Goat Grazing Areas

Seidls Lake Park Habitat Restoration Project
South St. Paul and Inver Grove Heights, MN

N

0 300 Feet

1 inch = 300 feet

CITY OF
INVER GROVE
HEIGHTS

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

8150 Barbara Avenue
Inver Grove Heights
Minnesota 55077

Engineering
651-450-2570

Streets and Utilities
651-450-4309

www.ighmn.gov

May 23, 2022

RE: Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
Seidls Lake Park Habitat Restoration Project

Dear LSOHC Council:

We are writing in support of the Cities of South St. Paul and Inver Grove Heights grant proposal to the Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council for the Seidls Lake Park Habitat Restoration project. The City of Inver Grove Heights is partnering with South St. Paul to improve the upland habitat at Seidls Lake Park.

This project will restore the highly degraded forest adjacent to Seidls Lake to benefit the foraging and breeding habitat of local wildlife in a location with few other natural areas. The Park uplands will be restored to native oak forest with transitional riparian areas adjacent to the Lake. The restored land will be protected within the park and will be maintained in perpetuity by the cities' parks and maintenance staff. Their efforts will contribute to the reestablishment of a native plant community that is accessible to the public in a highly urbanized area.

The City of Inver Grove Heights supports the proposed restoration of Seidls Lake Park and finds that there is a substantial benefit to wildlife from the improved habitat through the removal and maintenance of a thick invasive buckthorn understory, vegetative restoration of the subcanopy, shrub, and ground layers, and enhanced riparian and wetland areas. The project will provide a benefit to the region through significant environmental, educational, and recreational improvements.

Thank you for your time and consideration regarding this funding request.

Sincerely,

Brian D. Connolly, PE
Public Works Director

Adam Lares
Parks and Recreation Director

City of South St. Paul
Engineering Department

May 23, 2021

Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
RE: Seidls Lake Park Habitat Restoration Project

Dear LSOHC Council:

I am writing in support of the Cities of South St. Paul and Inver Grove Heights grant proposal to the Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council for the Seidls Lake Park Habitat Restoration Project. The City of South St. Paul is partnering with the City of Inver Grove Heights to improve the upland habitat around Seidls Lake.

The overall project is part of a larger effort to improve the habitat value of this regional amenity, improve trails/public access to the lake, and improve lake water quality. Phase I of the project includes construction of a lift station to provide more consistent lake levels. Phase II includes the lake shoreline habitat restoration which the LMRWMO is currently requesting funding in this CPL request. Phase III includes improvements to the existing trail and as well as a new trail connection to the south in Inver Grove Heights which will allow for additional public access to the lake from Inver Grove Heights. Additionally, multiple stormwater BMPs have been installed in the watershed in the recent past to improve the water quality of the lake.

The City of South St. Paul supports the proposed lake shoreline habitat restoration and water quality project. This project will restore native vegetation and improve water quality and aquatic habitat in Seidls Lake. The project provides substantial necessary environmental improvements for Seidls Lake Park in addition to recreational and educational opportunities for the public as a regional resource.

Thank you for your time and consideration regarding this funding request. It is important that we consider our natural environment and provide cost effective improvements that will benefit our lakes and streams in the interest of a greater good of Minnesota.

Sincerely,

Sue Polka

Sue Polka, P.E.
City Engineer

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