

# Spirit Lake Great Lakes Legacy Act Project

**For your safety, no public access is allowed on this construction site.**

## Site History

We acknowledge that the area known as Spirit Lake and in close proximity to Spirit Island are located on the traditional, ancestral, and contemporary lands of the Ojibwe Anishinaabe people. This land holds great historical, spiritual, and personal significance for the Native nations and peoples of this region. Historical industrial activities as well as other activities upstream of the site have impacted this area with contaminants in the onshore areas and within Spirit Lake. These contaminants include polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and heavy metals including lead, copper and zinc. PAHs are a class of chemicals toxic to fish and aquatic organisms and can potentially cause cancer in humans.

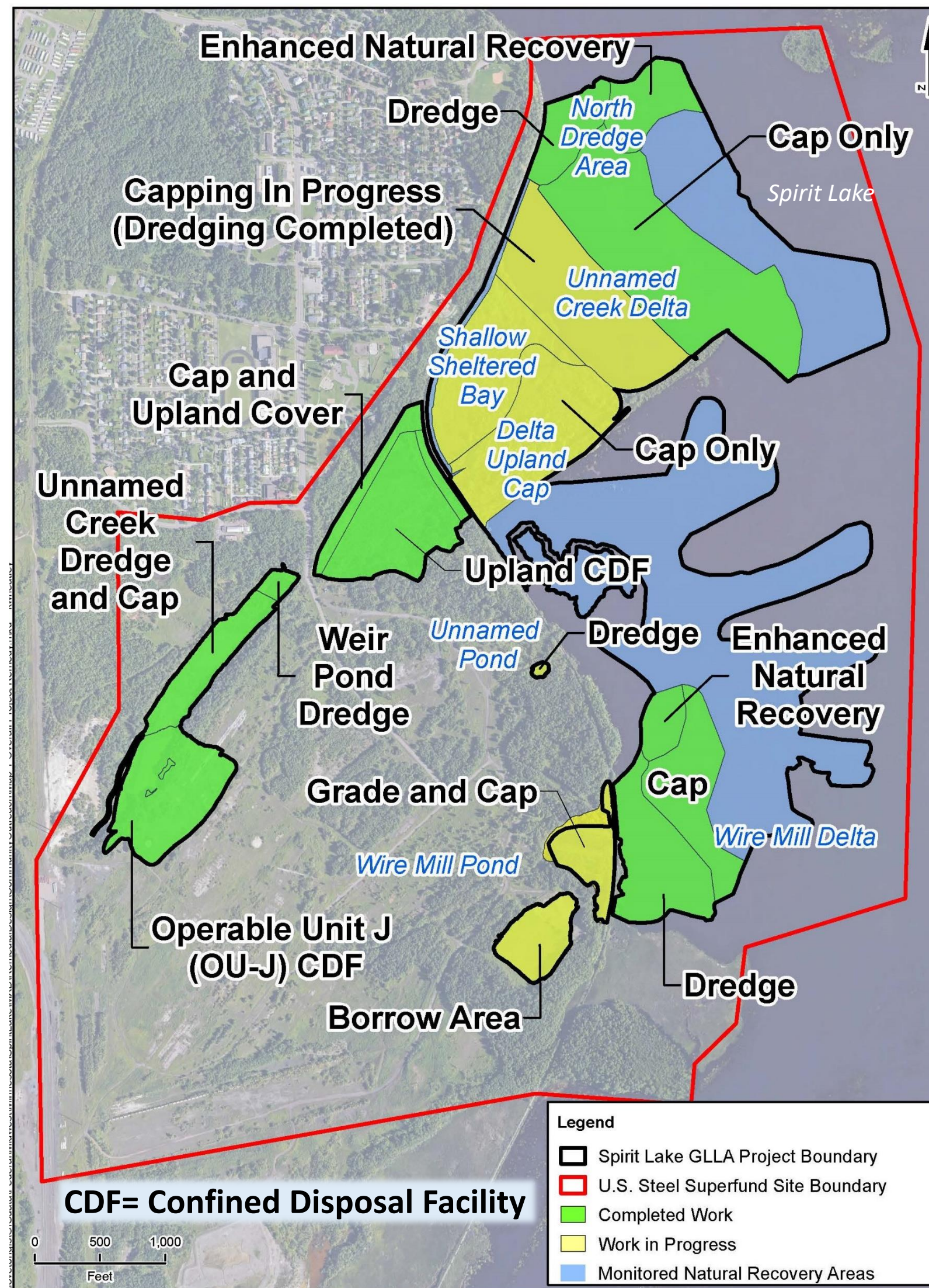
## Cleanup Process

U. S. Steel and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency have entered into a voluntary agreement under the Great Lakes Legacy Act to cleanup the aquatic areas within the black boundaries shown on the map (see right). The cleanup will include dredging (sediment removal), capping (isolation of sediment from the environment), and long-term monitoring of impacted sediment. The remainder of the impacted areas within the red boundary will be addressed later, where necessary, under the Superfund program.

## Benefits

The cleanup will result in aquatic ecosystem improvement through the creation of new open water, increased fish spawning habitat and restored wetlands. This will contribute to the removal of beneficial use impairments and the eventual delisting of the St. Louis River Area of Concern. Public access to the St. Louis River will also be improved.

Map of Spirit Lake project site with cleanup methods shown.



## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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EPA Spirit Lake Website:  
<https://www.epa.gov/great-lakes-aocs/spirit-lake-great-lakes-legacy-act-cleanup>



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Great Lakes Mud Website:  
<https://www.greatlakesmud.org/spirit-lake-site---st-louis-river-aoc.html>



## Completed Work

- Dredging of impacted sediment has been completed across the entire work area. Approximately 400,000 cubic yards, or over 100,000 loads of sediment in a full-size pick-up truck bed, has been removed from upland and in-water areas.
- Capping has been completed for the full Wire Mill Delta and Unnamed Creek Delta areas (45 acres).
- Enhanced Natural Recovery (placement of a thin layer of clean sand) has been completed for the project across 12 acres.

## Ongoing Work

- Capping is continuing in the Shallow Sheltered Bay.
- Shoreline sections of the North Dredge Area and Shallow Sheltered Bay are being protected with rock via access through Falcon Street in Morgan Park.
- The Delta Upland Cap is being constructed adjacent to the Shallow Sheltered Bay.



## Future Work

- Habitat restoration will be completed in the spring and summer of 2023.
- The pedestrian trail and recreational features will be completed in 2023. Recreational features on the Delta Upland Cap include a kayak launch and landing, pause areas, and fishing stones.
- Long-term monitoring will be performed across the site.

