

# Spirit Lake Great Lakes Legacy Act Project

**For your safety, public access is not allowed on this construction site and trails are closed.**

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

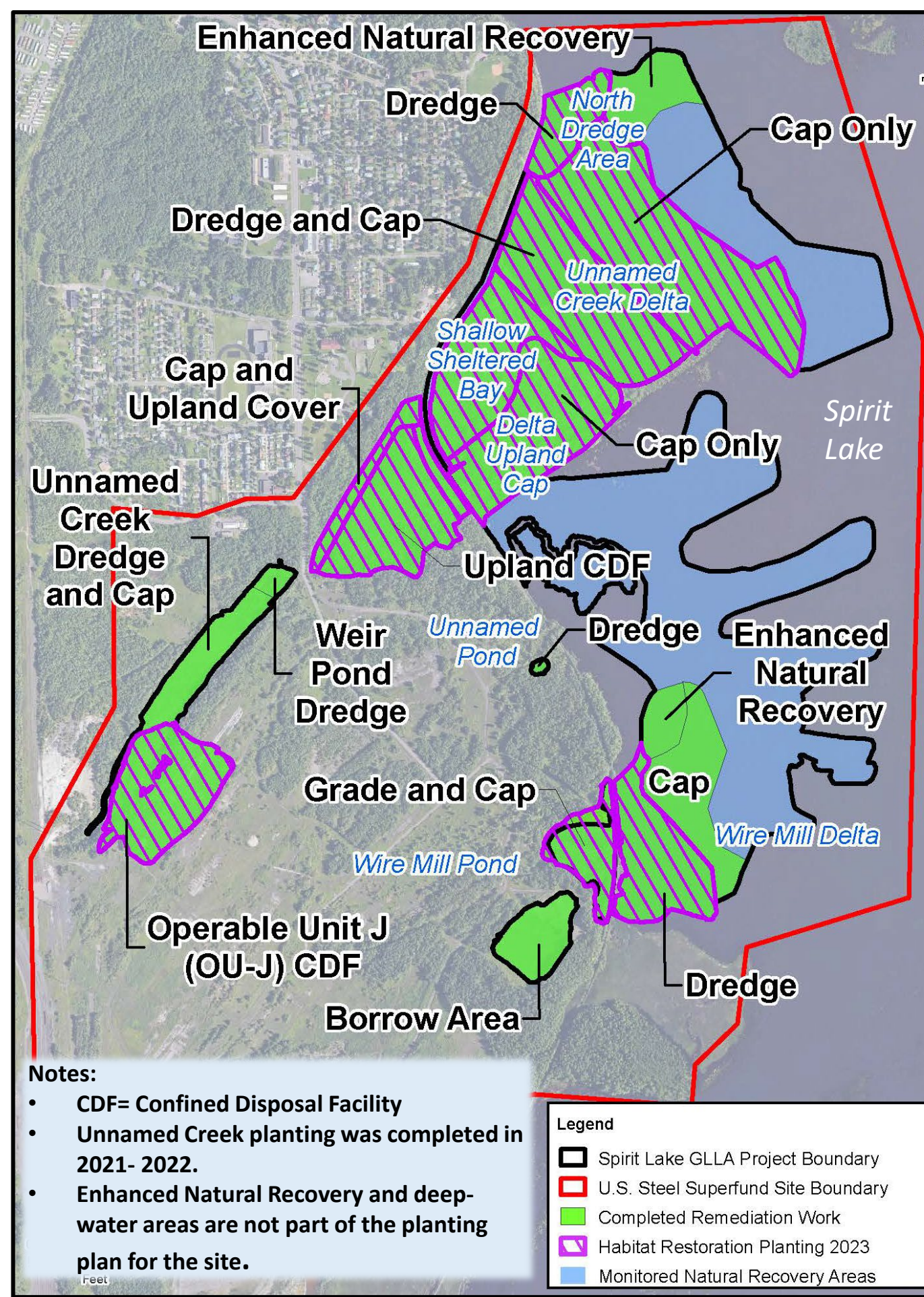
## Benefits

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.



## Project Status

- Cleanup work at Spirit Lake is **complete**.
- Work in 2023 includes habitat restoration and construction of recreational features.



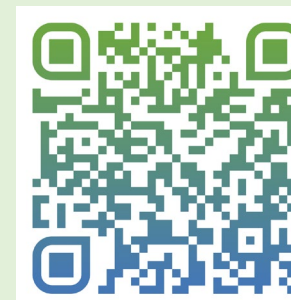
### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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



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



## Completed Work- Spring and Summer 2023

- Railroad and pedestrian bridges were constructed where Unnamed Creek meets the Shallow Sheltered Bay and where Wire Mill Pond meets the St. Louis River.
- Clay and topsoil were placed on the Upland Confined Disposal Facility.
- Fishing stones and a kayak launch were constructed on the Delta Upland Cap.
- Final shoreline stabilization work has been completed.



Completed railroad and pedestrian bridge at the Unnamed Creek.



Completed clay and topsoil placement on the Upland CDF. Seeding is in progress.

## Ongoing Work- Summer and Fall 2023

- Work on the pedestrian trail will be completed in late fall 2023.
- Habitat restoration plantings will continue through fall of 2023.
- Seeding of the CDFs will continue through fall 2023.
- Monitoring of the vegetation establishment will occur over the next two growing seasons.



Planting occurs within predator exclusion fencing in the Shallow Sheltered Bay (SSB).



Planting is performed by hand installation methods along the shoreline of the SSB.



Rock is placed near the bridges for additional shoreline erosion protection.



Posts to support the interpretive signage along the pedestrian trail are installed.