

Spirit Lake Cleanup Q & A

This document provides answers to recent questions the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has received from the Morgan Park community about the ongoing environmental cleanup at Spirit Lake. If you have other questions regarding these Q&As, please contact Diana Mally at Mally.Diana@epa.gov or Mark Loomis at Loomis.Mark@epa.gov

Is the general public allowed to access the cleanup area?

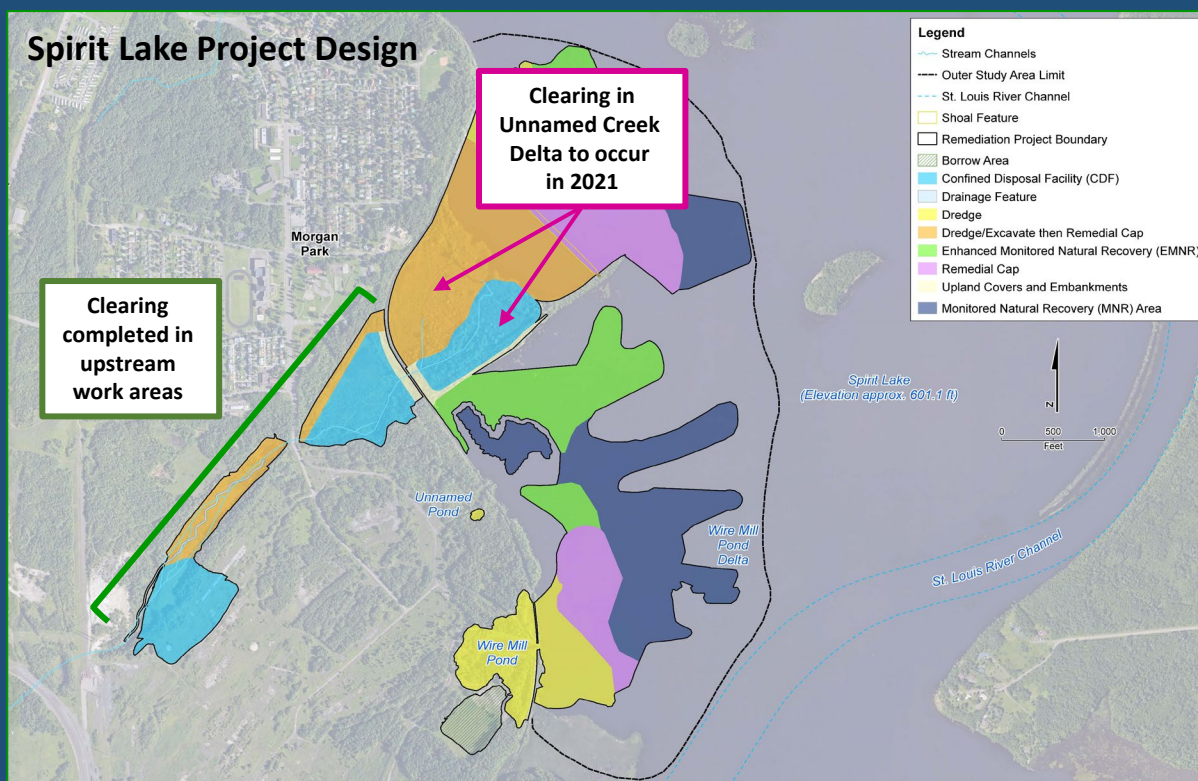
No, the cleanup is being performed on USS' private property with restricted access for public safety considerations. This is a standard practice for all environmental cleanup construction projects. Because of the nature of the construction work being performed, in addition to public safety considerations, individuals involved in the environmental cleanup itself are required to have appropriate training and certifications to be allowed on the project site. Security measures are in place to ensure only authorized individuals are on site.

Why is the tree clearing below Morgan Park necessary for the cleanup?

Some environmental cleanup activities will occur in areas of the USS property that are adjacent to residences in Morgan Park. Clearing of land around these areas is needed so that construction equipment can access the main work areas and begin the cleanup operations.

How far will the tree clearing below Morgan Park properties eventually extend?

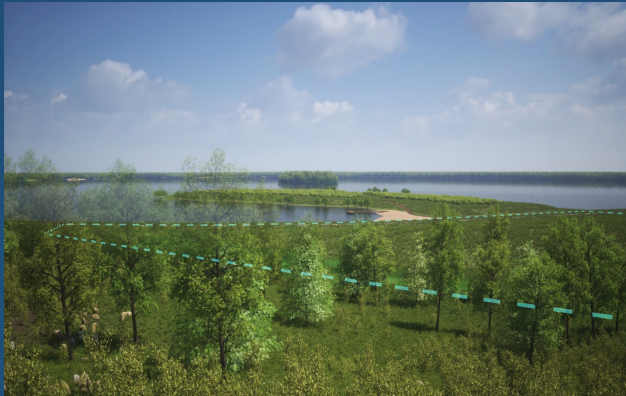
The boundaries of the environmental cleanup were selected so that impacted sediment and soils can be removed from the site providing maximum benefit to people, aquatic life, and the ecological system of the project area. The tree clearing below Morgan Park residences will be kept to the minimum amount necessary to achieve successful cleanup of environmental impacts within the project site. As of the writing of this response, most of the tree clearing is completed. Some additional clearing will be done in the Unnamed Creek Delta area (shown in the map below) in the Spring of 2021.



Spirit Lake Cleanup Q & A- continued

What will the land below Morgan Park look like after the cleanup?

The goal of the project is to complete a successful environmental cleanup that includes site restoration activities. Remediated areas on land will be planted with native grasses, shrubs and other appropriate plants once the project is completed. EPA and USS have developed conceptual views of what the project area will look like from the vantage point of the Morgan Park neighborhood. These views have been presented at recent public meetings and have been shared with the Morgan Park Community Center. Some examples of the views developed are shown below.



Second story view from homes on 88th Ave W between Hilton and Idaho Street in Morgan Park looking southeast. The green dashed line in foreground shows Upland CDF area. The Delta CDF is visible in the background. Existing trees are shown faded for visual clarity.



Ground level view from homes on 88th Ave W between Hilton and Idaho Street in Morgan Park looking southeast. The green dashed line in foreground shows Upland CDF area. The Delta CDF is visible in the background. Existing trees are shown faded for visual clarity.

What is the purpose of the roadway that is being built off MN-23?

The road being built adjacent to Nick Glumac Drive (off MN-23) will be the main construction entrance road to the cleanup site. This roadway is being built to handle traffic from construction trucks and other equipment used to perform the cleanup. This roadway was created to avoid the construction vehicle daily traffic along Idaho Street.

Will the roadway off MN-23 be permanent?

The new construction entrance road will most likely be a permanent feature for the site even after the cleanup project is complete.

What activities and disturbance will be occurring over the next several months?

This phase of the cleanup work will continue 6 to 7 days per week through the middle of summer 2021. Workdays may extend past 6:30pm during some time periods. Noise associated with construction will be limited to the daytime when possible. Cleanup operations will be within the USS property with the emphasis for the next several months on removal of impacted sediments from the creek upstream of the control weir at the former site entrance road. Construction vehicle traffic for the project will be routed through the newly built road off Nick Glumac Drive.