

Spirit Lake Great Lakes Legacy Act Project

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

Site History

Contaminants are present in the onshore areas and within Spirit Lake from former industrial activities as well as other activities upstream of the site. These 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.

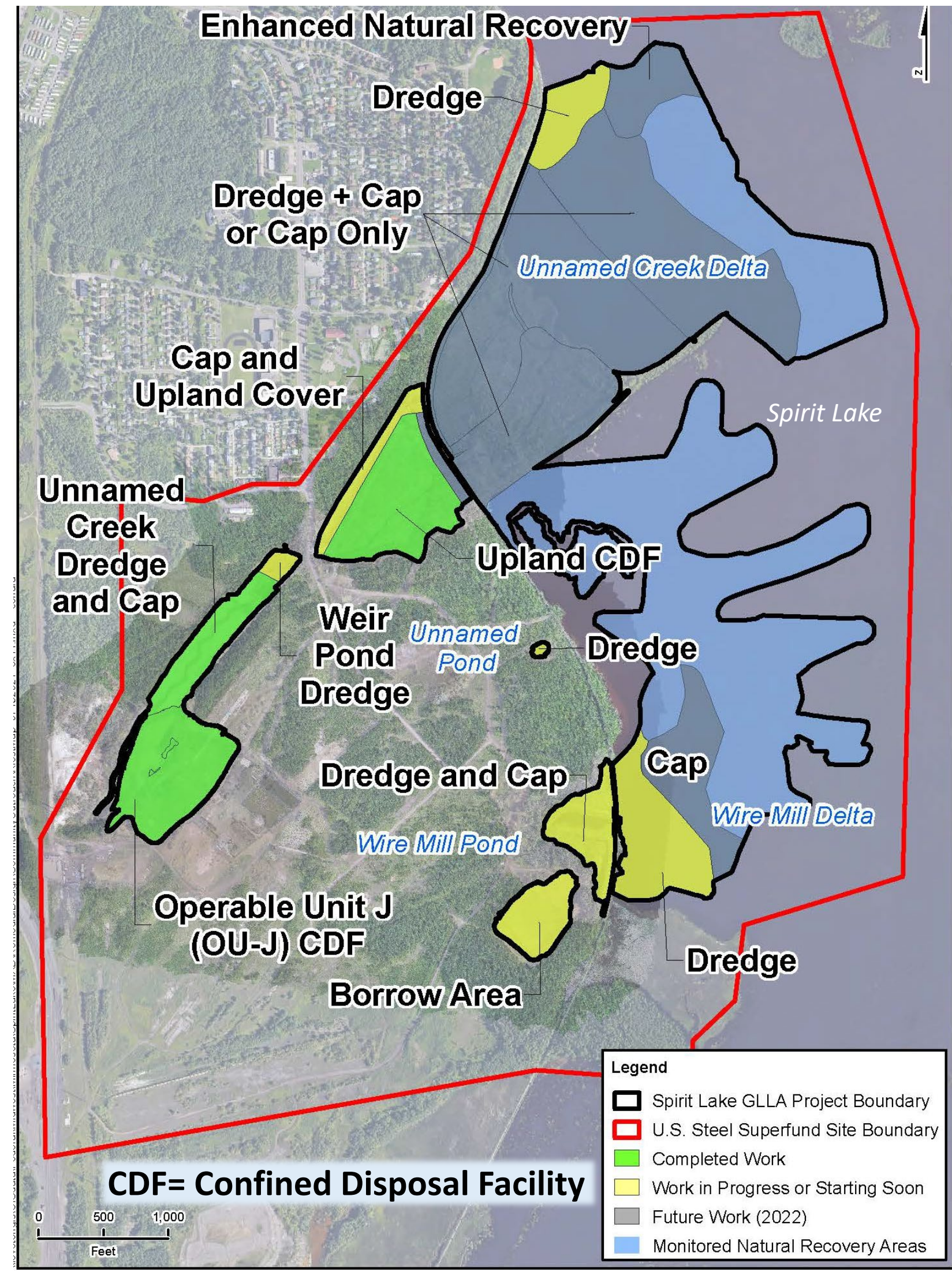
Cleanup Process

U.S. Steel and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency have entered into a voluntary agreement under the Great Lakes Legacy Act (GLLA) to cleanup the aquatic areas within the black boundaries shown on the map (See right). The cleanup will include dredging, capping, 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, restored wetlands, and improved public access to the St. Louis River. This will contribute to the removal of beneficial use impairments and the eventual delisting of the St. Louis River Area of Concern.

Map of Spirit Lake project site with cleanup methods shown.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

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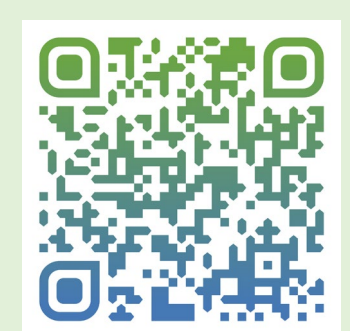
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Completed Work



Work in Progress

- Impacted sediment will be dredged from the northern extent of the Unnamed Creek Delta, Wire Mill Delta, and Wire Mill Pond.
- Unnamed Pond will be dredged.

Future Work

- Impacted sediment will be removed and/or capped in remaining offshore areas slated for remediation.
- Specific details on design and habitat restoration for the 2022 work areas are in discussion.
- Final plantings are expected to be performed in 2023.

