



WHITED FEN WETLAND RESTORATION

Background

The proposed Whited Fen Restoration Project will protect and improve the 9 acre wetland along Whited Avenue in Minnetonka, through removal of invasive plants and re-establishing native habitat. The Whited Fen is classified as a rich fen floating mat, a rare wetland type in the watershed. The wetland has unique native plants, including uncommon species like cranberry and cotton grass. These important species are being threatened by invasive plants. If these harmful plants are not managed, there will be longterm negative impacts to this unique resource.

Project Goals

1. *Improve wetland health*- remove invasive species like buckthorn and cattails that harm wetland health
2. *Protect wetland quality*- where possible, establish upland **buffers*** to minimize erosion, pollutants/nutrient loading, and minimize opportunity for invasive plants to grow back
3. *Preserve wetland longterm*- Work with the City of Minnetonka and landowners to maintain and preserve the wetland into the future

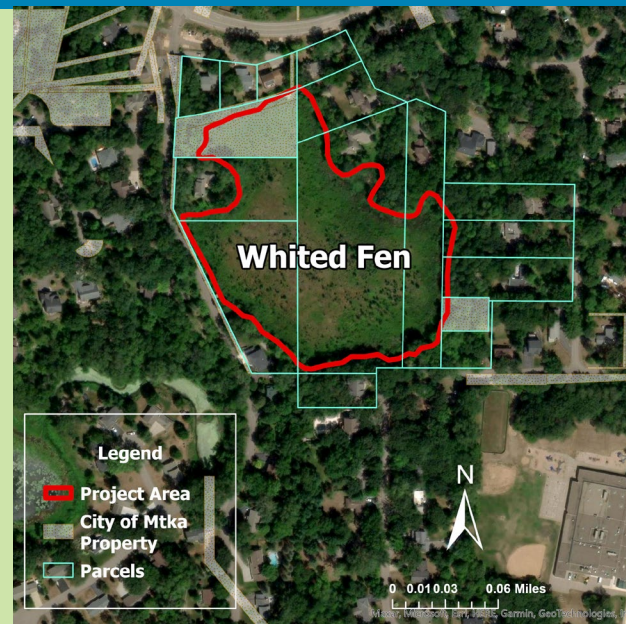
Project Benefits

- 9 acres of high-quality wetland habitat restored
- Up to 2 acres of new wetland buffer*
- Improved views and access to the wetland from city property

Tentative Project Timeline

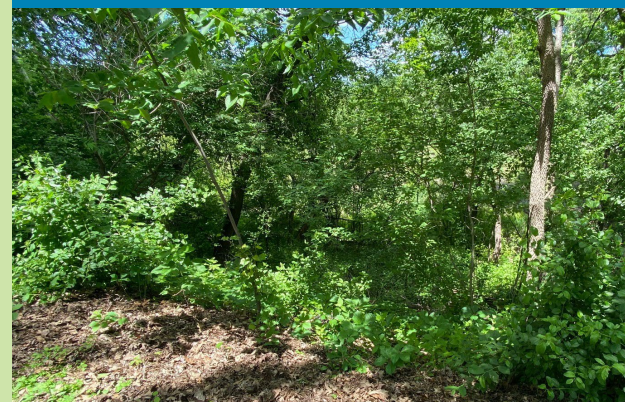
- We hope to bring landowners together early in 2023 for a project discussion--watch your mailbox for an invitation.
- Construction is anticipated to begin in spring 2023.
- The construction timeline depends on completion of design, permitting, and access agreements with landowners.

* A buffer is a strip of plants located between developed land and a lake, stream or wetland. Native grasses and flowers have deeper roots than turfgrass, and protect the soil from erosion.



Above: Project map

Below: Current edge of Whited Fen, covered in a thicket of invasive buckthorn



For more information about this project,
please reach out to NMCWD staff:

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WHITED FEN RESTORATION PROJECT

Nine Mile Creek Watershed District's Role

- Design the restoration project
- Fund the restoration project
- Work with landowners and the City of Minnetonka on long-term maintenance

We need your help

- Access agreements
 - Allow temporary access for contractor and equipment to do wetland restoration
 - Allow access in the future for continued maintenance, as needed, to maintain this wetland restoration
- Wetland buffers
 - Opportunity to work with Nine Mile Creek Watershed District and design team on removing invasive species and establishing a healthy wetland buffer based on desired views and function of your property (10-30 ft)
- Preserve wetland health
 - Ensure wetland health long-term by keeping trash, yard waste, and invasive species out of the wetland

Expected impacts to residents

- Potential vehicle traffic and equipment noise during wetland restoration, such as noise from equipment used for invasive plant removal
- Visual changes to the wetland, such as more open views as invasive plants are removed
- Native plants and seeds will take a year or more to fully fill in the open space

By slowing runoff, fens helps reduce flooding. The plants filter pollutants, improving water quality and providing habitat for unique plants and animals. With your help, we can preserve this high quality space in our watershed.



Above: An example of a restoration shortly after invasive removal, thinning of the canopy, and planting of native plant plugs and seed
Below: An example of that same restoration 3 years later with well-established plants



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