

# McGregor Lake Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Project

McGregor Lake and the area around it have faced recent challenges. Plants above and below the water are not growing as well as they could and shorelines are eroding, which impacts the floodplain forest as well as the federally protected Higgins eye pearlymussel.

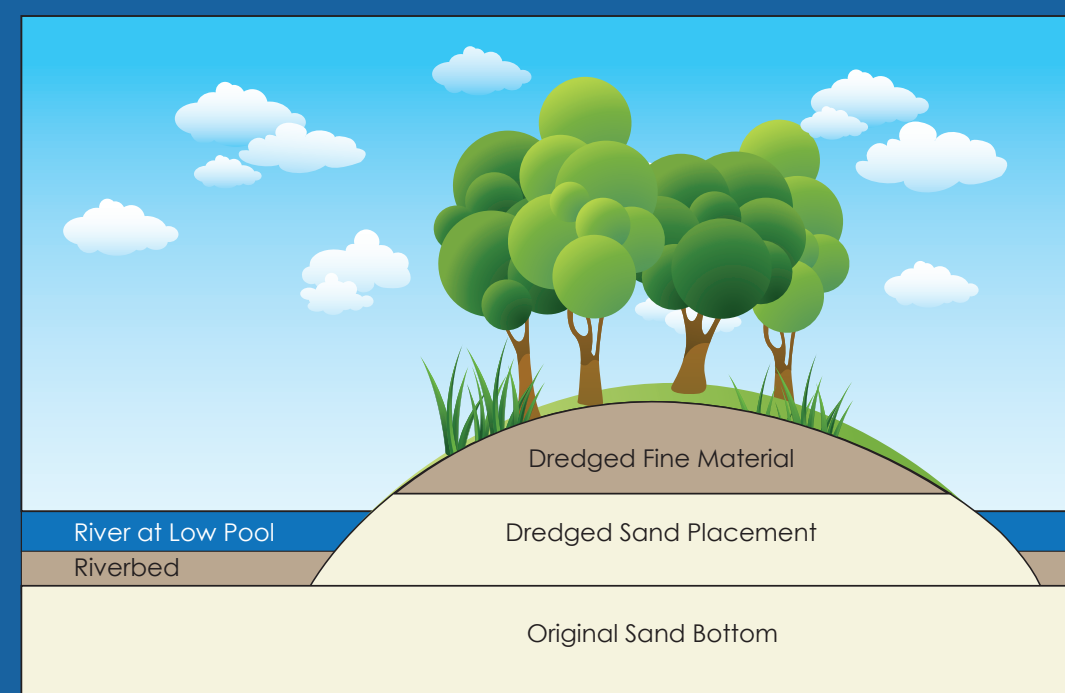
To reduce these impacts, the project aims to increase the age and species diversity of a sustainable floodplain forest, improve lake habitat for backwater fish species, increase plant growth above and below the water, and protect aquatic and land-based habitat by reducing erosion.

The initial island construction is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2024. Once complete, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will then begin planting floodplain forest trees such as willows, maples and oaks, which are preferred for their quick growth and protective root structures.

The McGregor Lake project is federally funded through the Upper Mississippi River Restoration Program, which has built more than 55 ecosystem restoration projects since the program's inception in 1986. The projects have improved more than 100,000 acres within the Mississippi River from Minneapolis to St. Louis.

The National Wildlife Refuge system works with others to conserve fish, wildlife, plants and restore habitats for future generations through restoration projects like this one.

## WHAT IS A FLOODPLAIN FOREST?



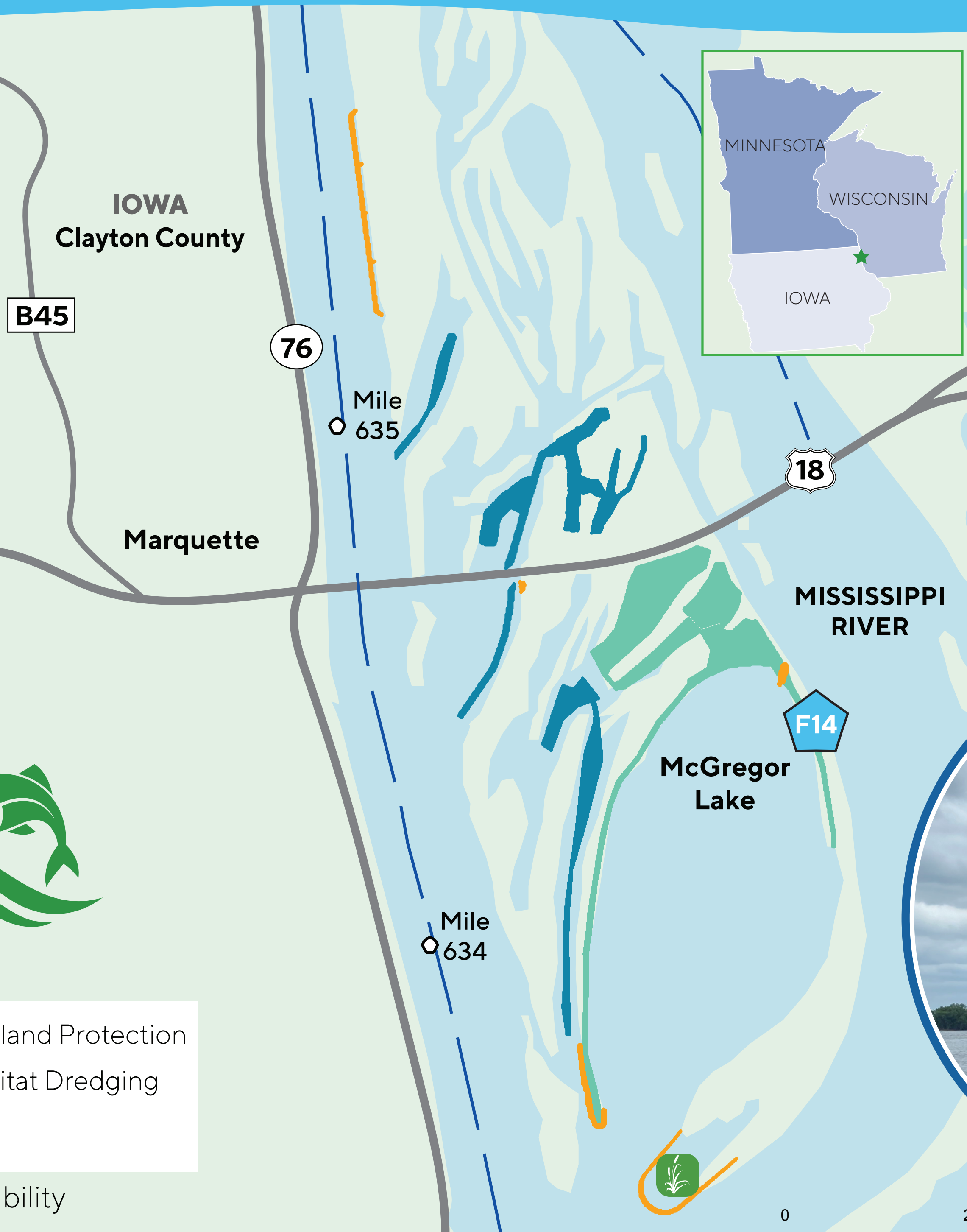
Floodplain forests are the land areas that typically flood when the Mississippi River flows over its banks, usually in the spring when the snow melts, or during periods of unseasonably high rainfall. The dredged sand is connected to the original sand riverbed and this provides a foundation for the topsoil to be placed. Trees are then planted to protect the island while providing habitat.



## Proposed Project Features

- Navigation Channel
- Floodplain Forest
- Stone Protection
- Wetland Protection
- Habitat Dredging

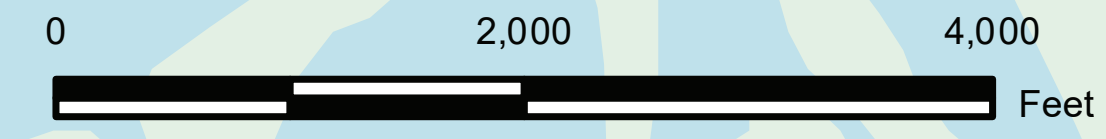
Features are subject to funding availability



The areas dredged to provide topsoil for building islands also doubles as great fish habitat and improved ice fishing!



An excavator with a rotary soil-mixing attachment is used to blend sand and topsoil to create the ideal island material for growing floodplain forests. Large equipment and specialized machines such as floating excavators and their operators are what make these projects possible!



**F14** Progression of construction operations to create Floodplain Forest F14 during the 2021 construction season. Final grading and plantings will be completed in 2022.



F14 – Preconstruction



F14 – After Granular Fill Placed

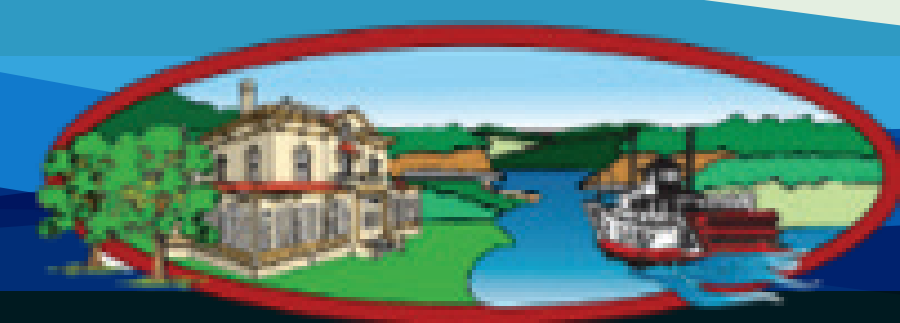


F14 – After Wet Topsoil Placed

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Special thanks to the city of Prairie du Chien Chamber of Commerce on their efforts to help spread awareness of the benefits these projects provide to the Mississippi River Community!