



Grass Lake

Restoration Project

...one step at a time.....since 1993

Grass Lake

- A prairie pothole lake historically 4-5 feet deep covering 1,200 acres.
- Drained in the late 1800's to provide Willmar with a better stormwater outlet and for additional agricultural lands.
- Much of the drained lakebed was farmed.
- Shallow "cattail" edge areas of Grass Lake included land near Wal-Mart and Menards.
- Drainage area includes 3,261 acres of municipal stormwater runoff and 7,665 acres of agricultural runoff.



The Challenge

Managing water in a diverse landscape.



The Solution

- Restore the lakebed to approximately 2 to 2 ½ feet in depth covering 1,040 acres.
- Involving 15 family-owned farms.
- With perpetual conservation easements secured on approximately 1490 acres.

Costs

- Approximately \$2.5 million for State, Federal and County easements
- Restoration Costs are expected to reach \$2.3 million with some local matching fund requirements.

Project Partners

- The fifteen property owner families
- Kandiyohi County
- Kandiyohi Soil & Water Conservation District
- Board of Water & Soil Resources
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- USDA Farm Service Agency
- Friends of the Lake Wakanda Chain
- Big Kandiyohi Lake Association
- MN Department of Natural Resources
- US Fish & Wildlife Service
- MN Waterfowl Association
- Ducks Unlimited
- Pheasants Forever
- Izaak Walton League of Minnesota
- MN Deer Hunters Association
- City of Willmar
- MN Pollution Control Agency
- MN State Legislature
- Citizens Marilee Druskin, Allan & Linda Bjornberg

Benefits

- Water quality benefits in the downstream chain of lakes. An earlier report suggested a potential 91% reduction of sediment and a 59% reduction in phosphorus.
- Potential reduction of flooding frequency in flood prone areas including the Southeast part of Willmar.
- The restoration will reduce the peak water levels on downstream lakes and streams.
- Create additional recreational opportunities that will support local businesses.
- Provide excellent wildlife habitat.

What's Next?

- Complete the restoration.
- Develop a long-term management Plan which includes a water quality/quantity monitoring component to address downstream impairments.
- Consider windmill water quality pumps at the sediment ponds.
- Bring on the water!!



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