

Lake Mitchell Update

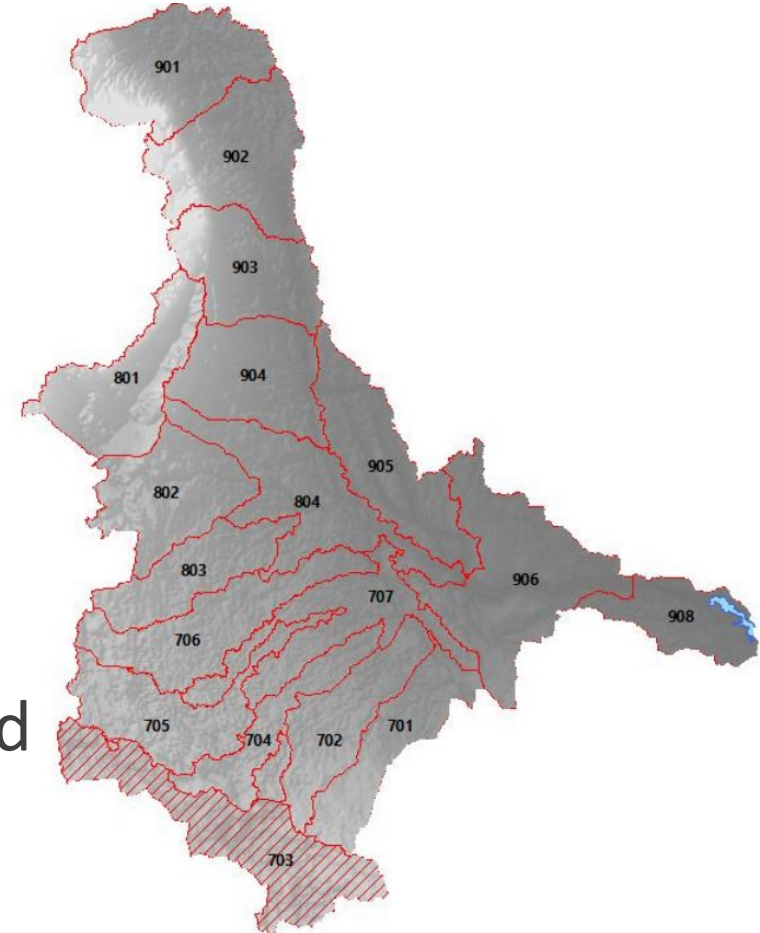
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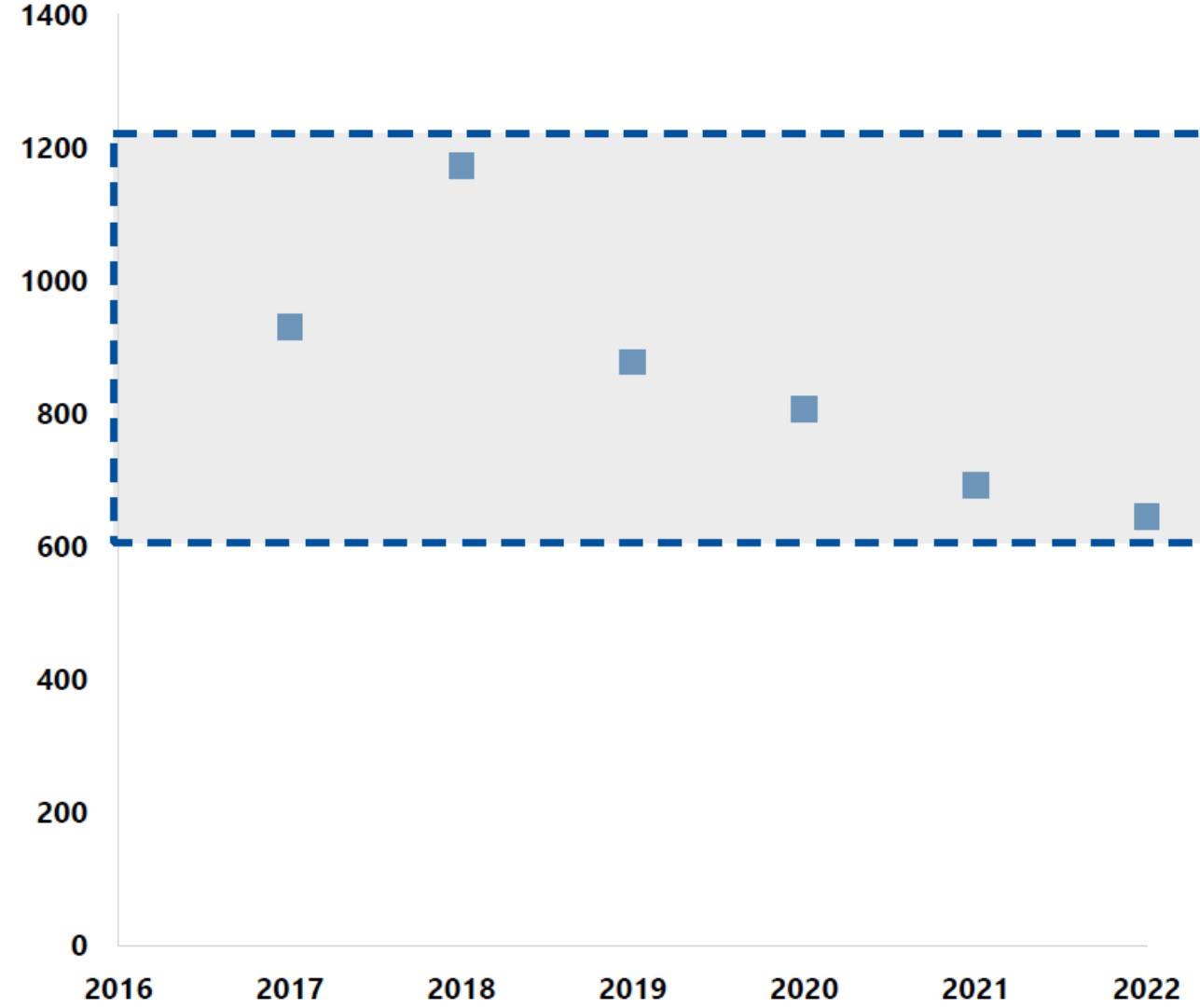
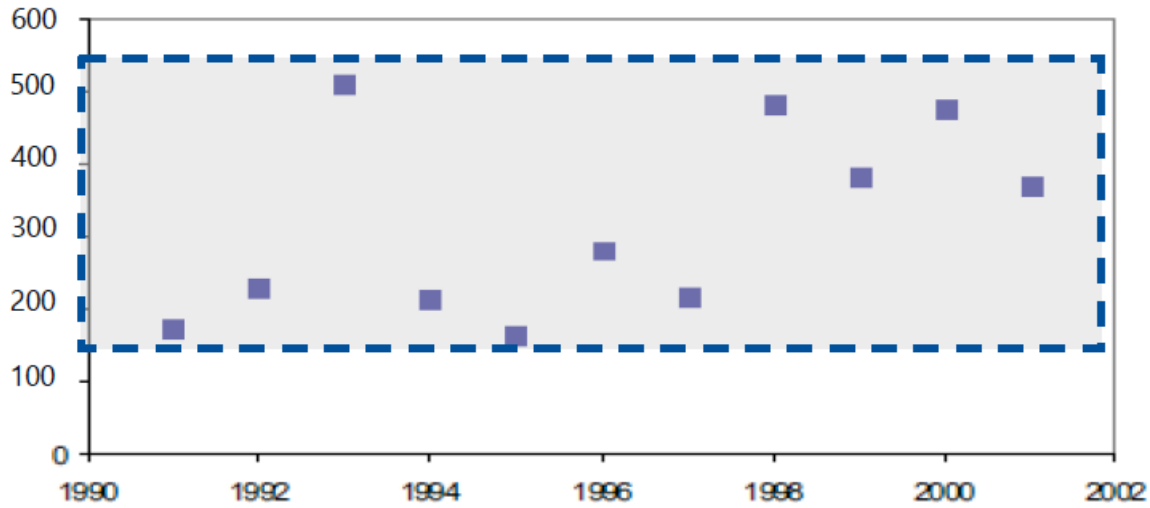
Lake Mitchell Quick Facts

- Built in 1928
- Lake surface area is 671 acres
- Watershed area is 350,000 acres
- Maximum depth is 23 feet
- 60,000 feet of lake shore
- 74% of lake shore is city property/park land
- Zebra mussels are present
- Watershed contributes 52% of phosphorus load
- In-lake contributes 48% phosphorus load



Lake Water Quality Trends

Lake Mitchell phosphorus concentrations have continued to increase since previous studies

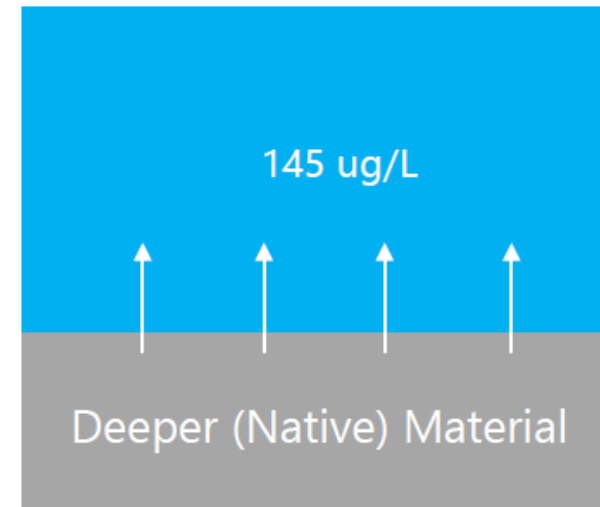
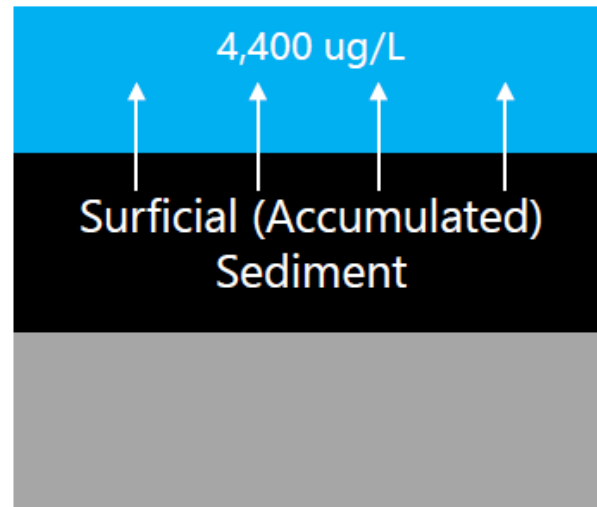


Adapted from Figure 3-4, 2002 Water Quality Assessment and Modeling (Freshwater Research)

Average annual lake center TP concentration (typically measured May-Oct)

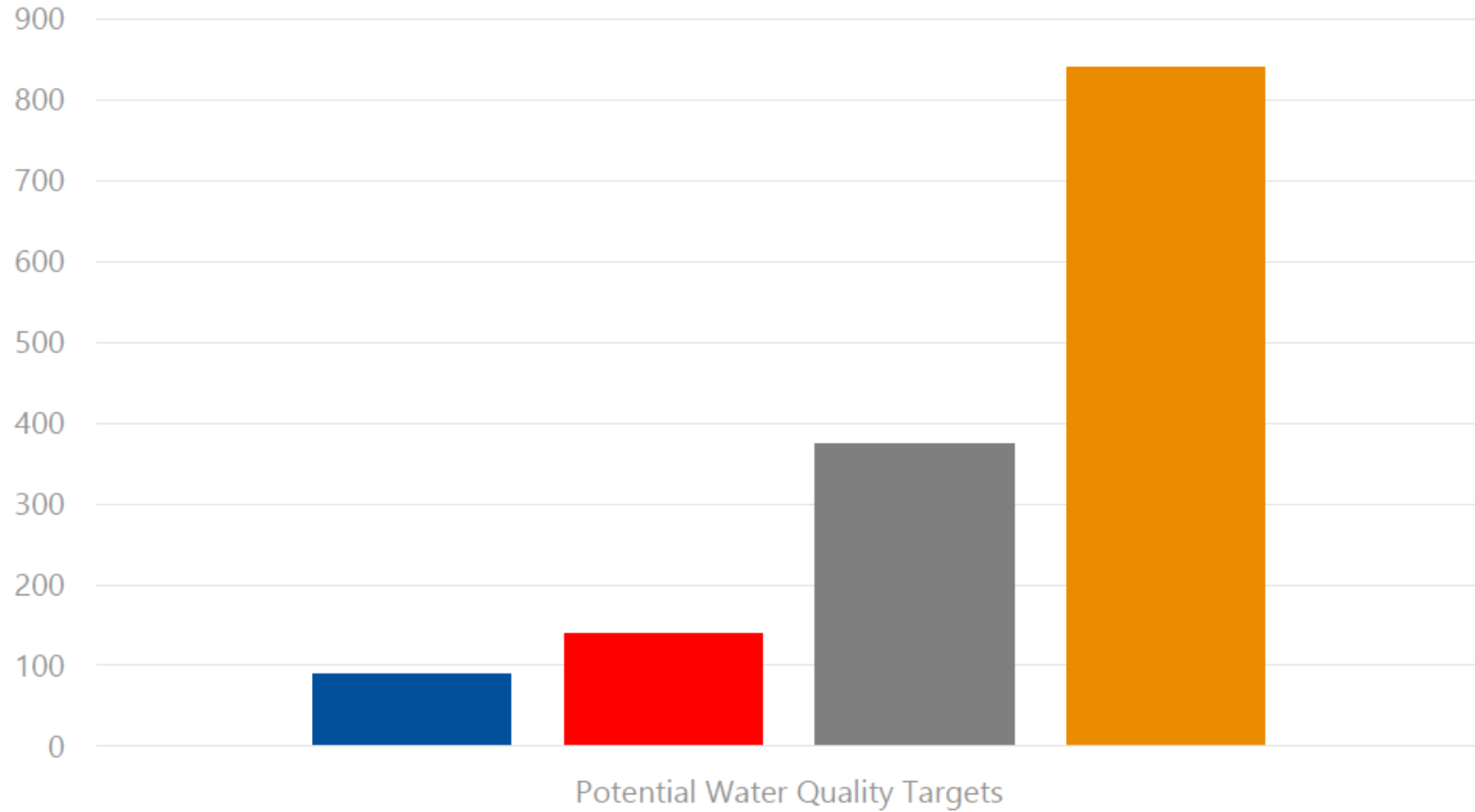
Sediment Investigation – Conclusions

- Phosphorus release in surficial sediments is extremely high
 - Significant (> 10x) reduction in release rate for deeper sediments/native material
 - Phosphorus concentrations are higher in upper portions of lake
- 👍 Removal of soft sediment expected to result in less internal loading



Potential Water Quality Targets

Correlation of Total Phosphorus to Algal Growth



■ Provisional Goal (2002)

■ TMDL (1997)

■ Empirical Equation (2002)

■ Lake Mitchell Avg (2017-2022)

■ 90 ppb

- Published Provisional Goal (2002)
- Based on Ecoregion correlations
- Estimated to result in 50% algal bloom frequency

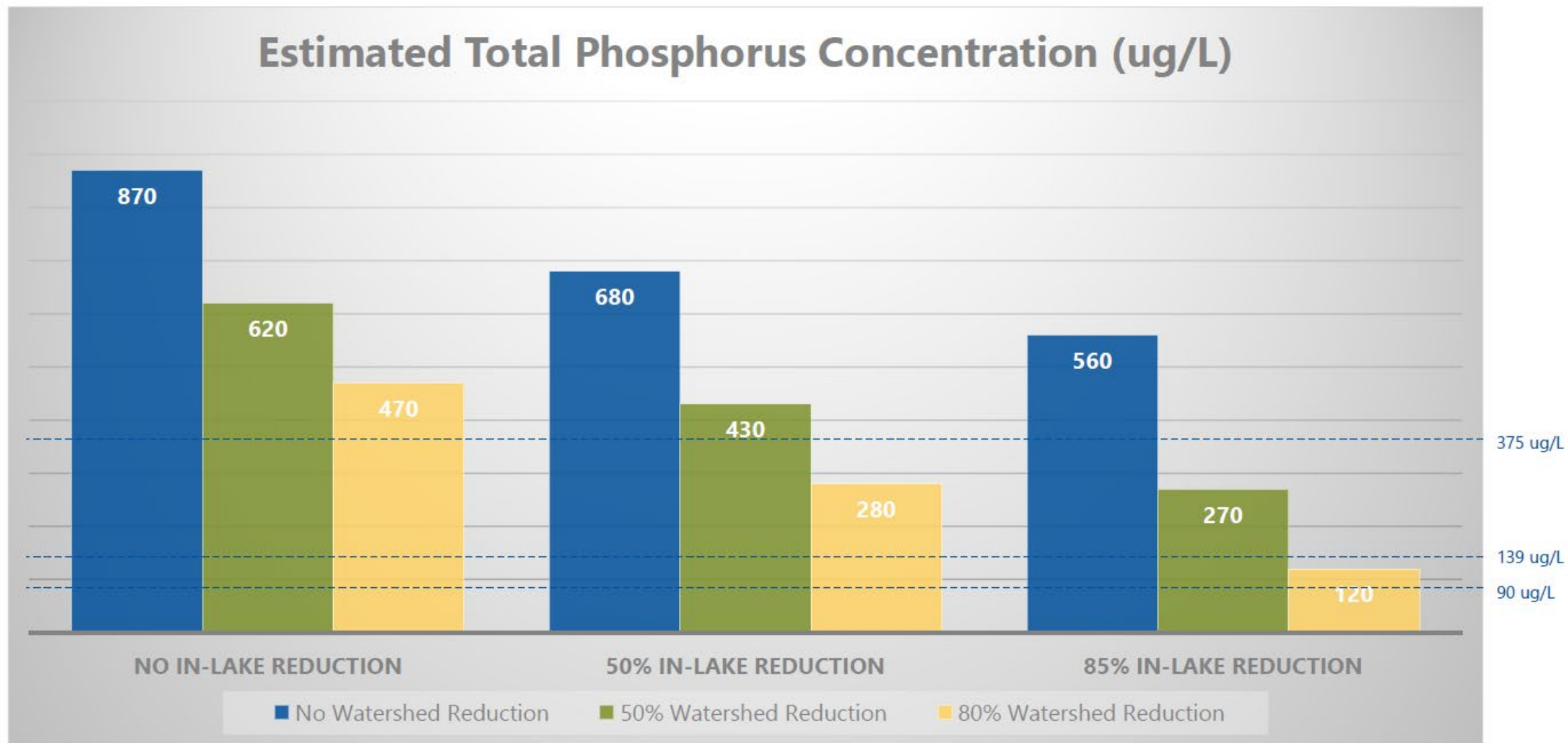
■ 139 ppb

- Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL, 1997)
- Based on meeting trophic state index value for Chl-a (close to a mesotrophic lake designation)

■ ~375 ppb

- Based on Lake Mitchell data and empirical equation (2002)
- Estimated to result in 50% algal bloom frequency

Water Quality Estimates - Results



Recommended Internal Load Control Project Concept

Areas 1 and 2

Dredge

Area 3-5

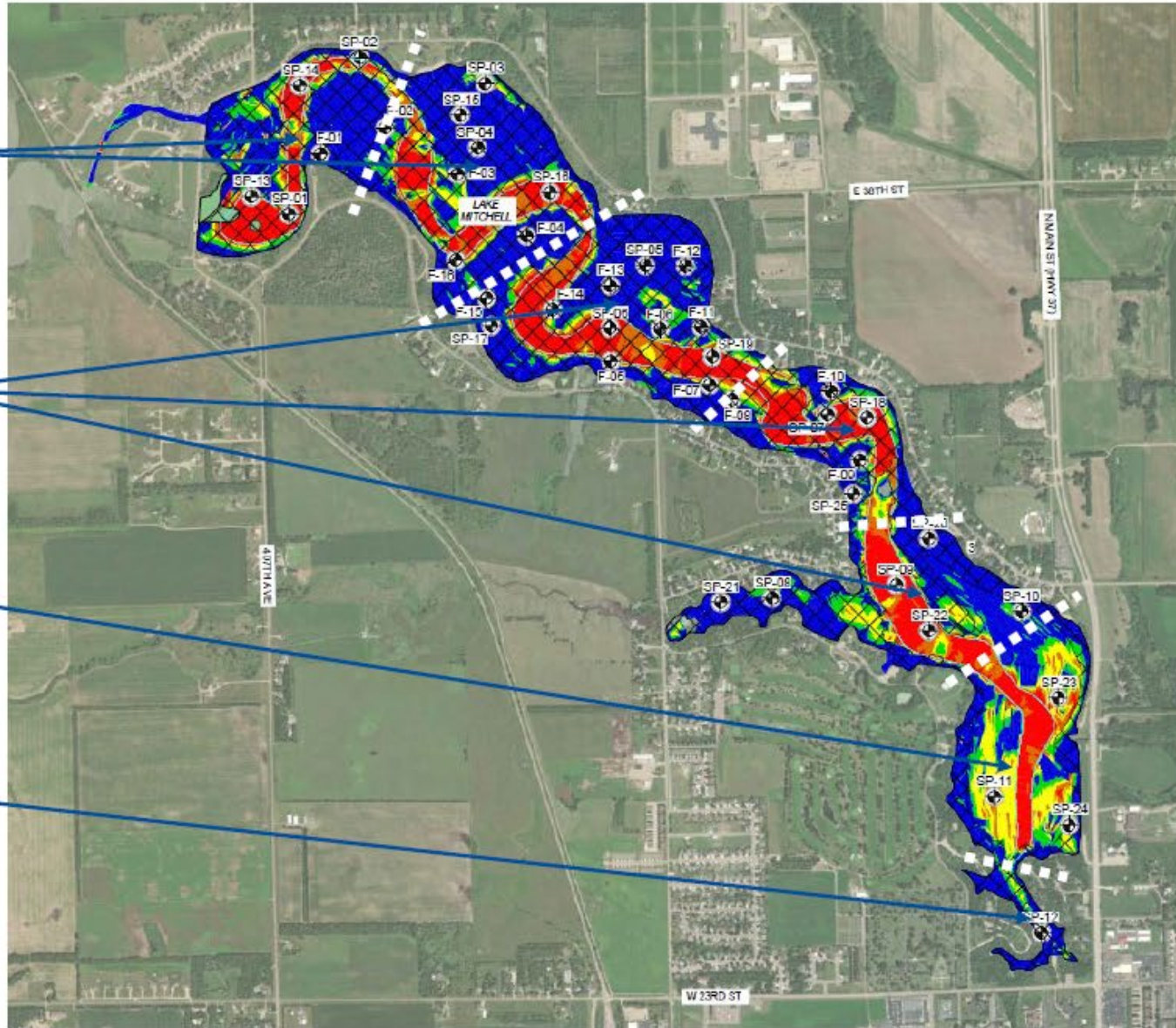
Dredge Outside Channel
Alum Inside Channel

Area 6

Alum

Area 7

None*

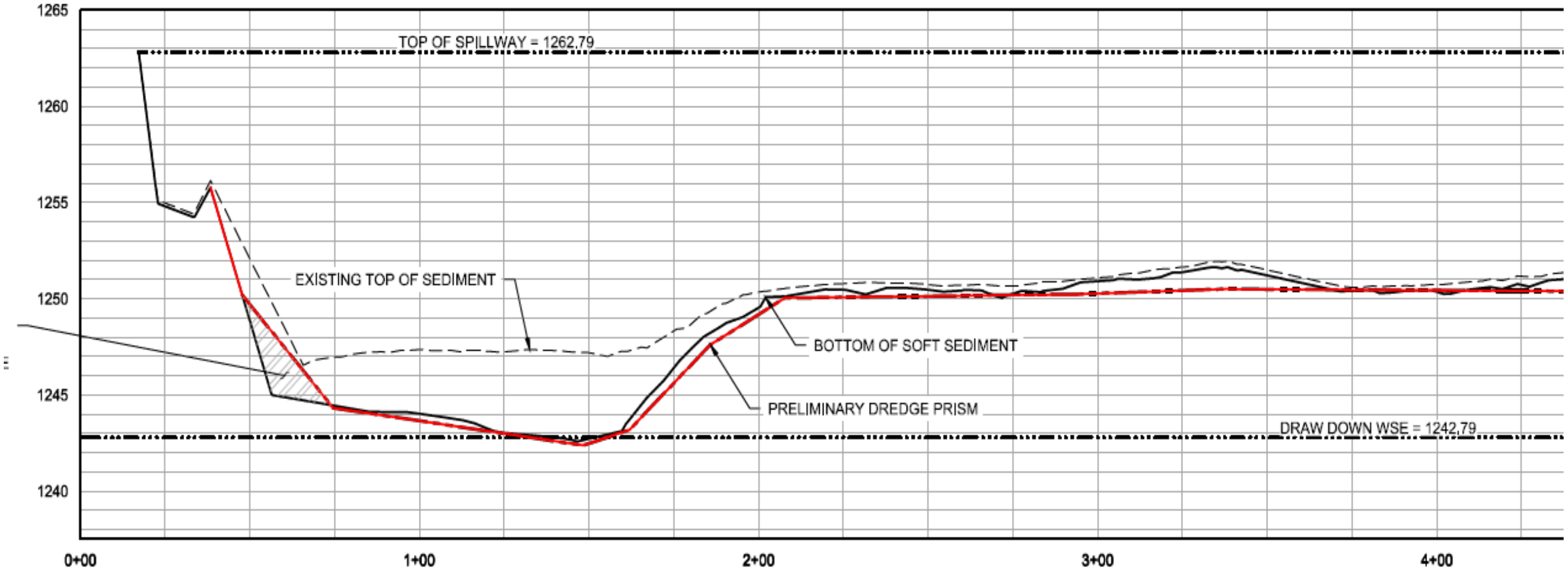


Key Elements

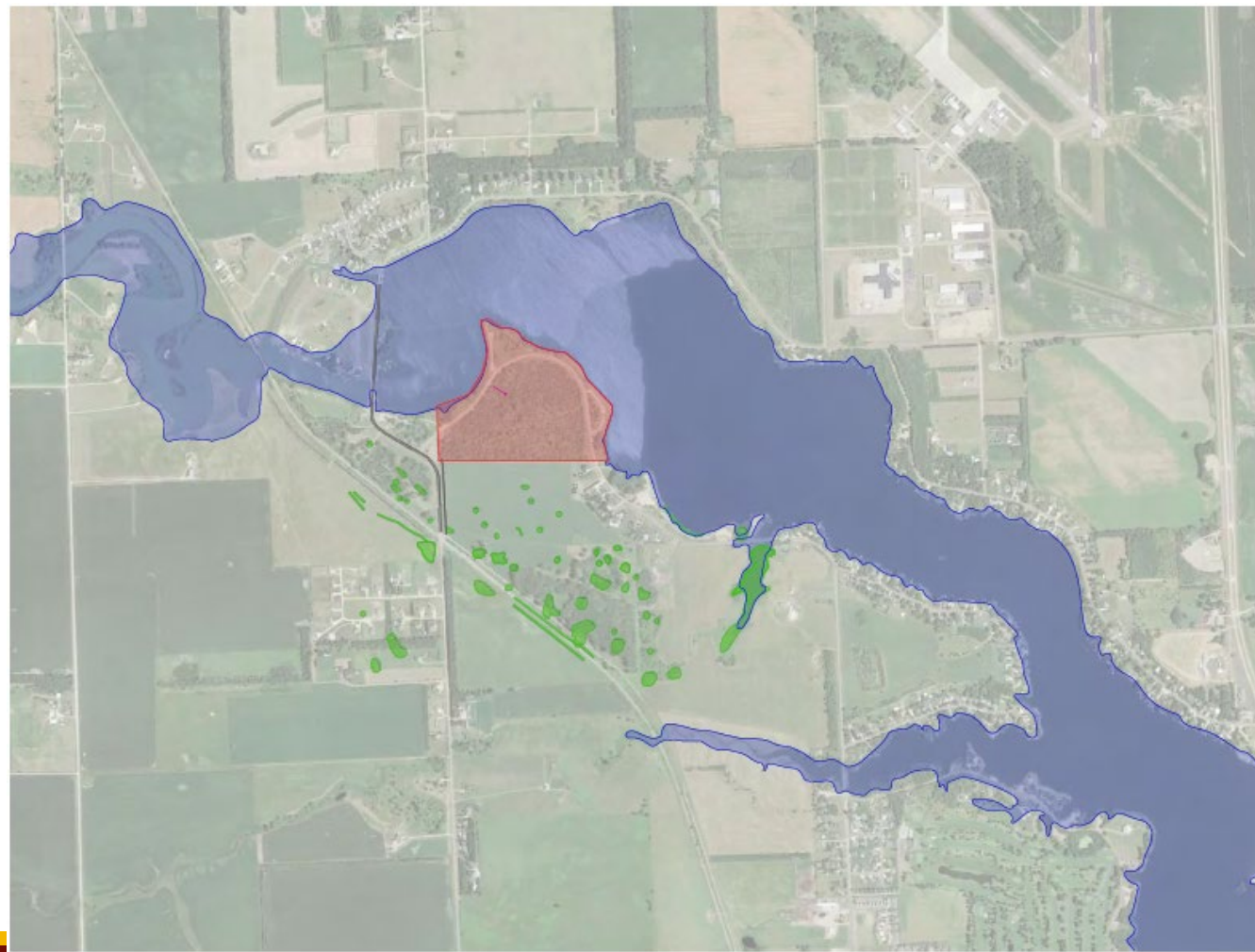
- Prioritizes dredging areas with highest phosphorus concentrations
- Includes alum treatment where dredging is less cost-effective
- Includes 97% of lake area
- Within targeted budget



Lake Mitchell Improvements



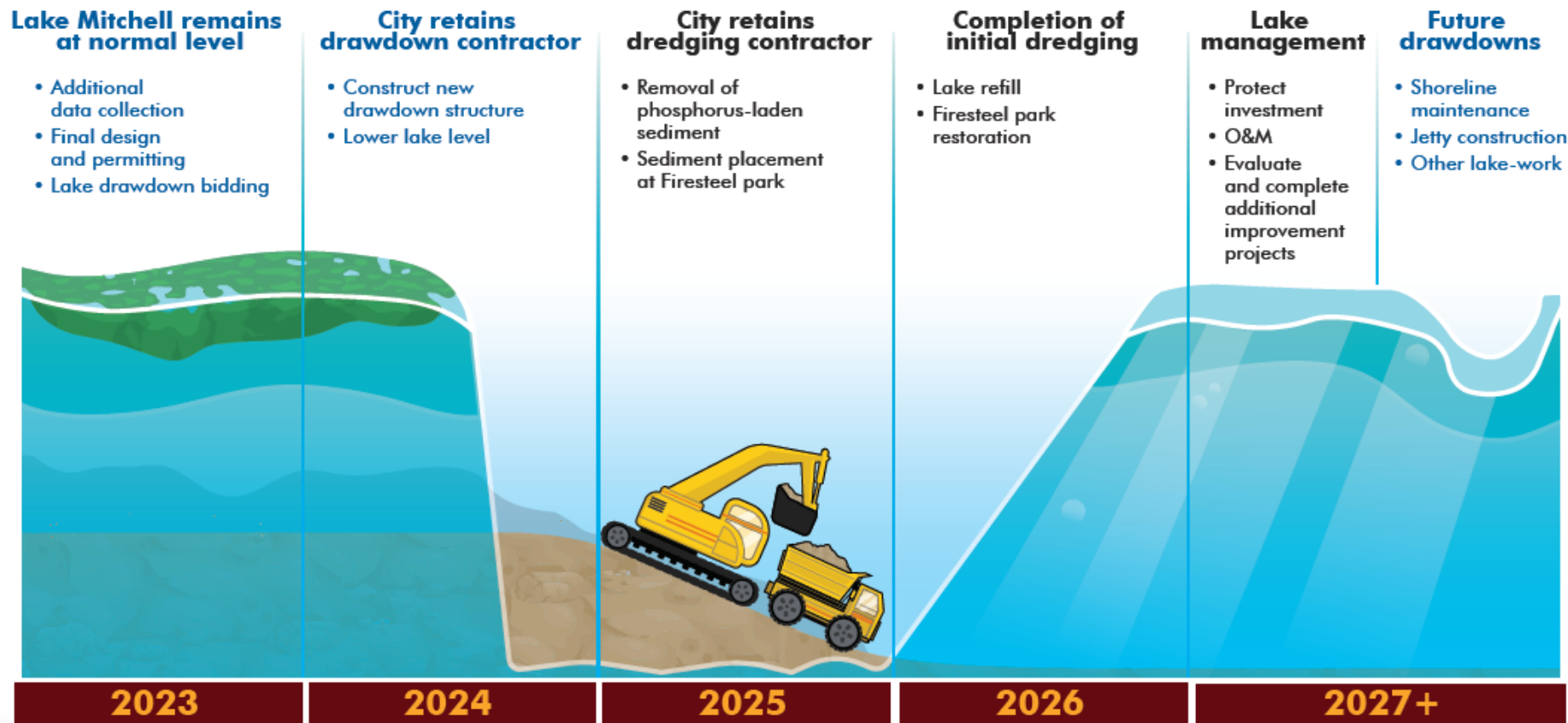
Lake Mitchell Improvements



Targeted Project Budget - \$25 Million

Item	Cost	Basis
Mobilization	\$1,000,000	6% of construction estimate
Drawdown	\$3,500,000	Engineer's Estimate
Disposal Site	\$1,500,000	Preliminary Engineering Report
Additional Mouth-of-Lake Improvements	\$1,000,000	Placeholder
Contingency	\$4,000,000	20% of construction estimate
Construction Phase Services	\$1,000,000	6% of construction estimate
Available for Internal Load Control	\$13,000,000	Remainder
Total	\$25,000,000	

Lake Mitchell restoration project timeline



Lake drawdown



Investigation, design, and permitting

Contracting & construction



Lake refill
(duration dependent on creek flow)



Periodic drawdowns

Sediment dredging & disposal



Investigation, design, and permitting

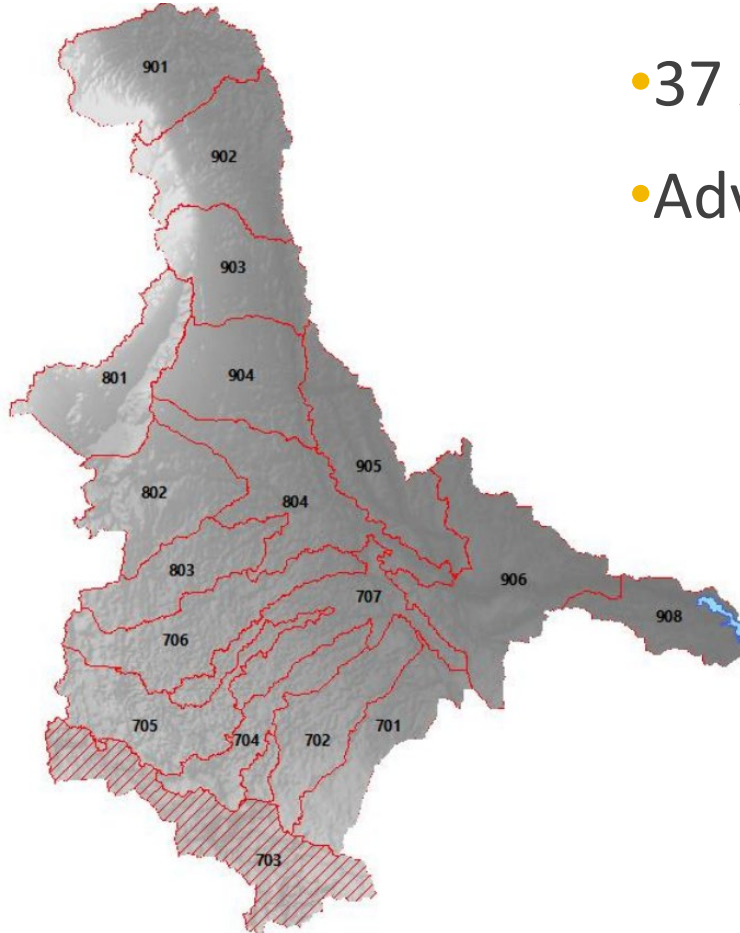
Contracting & construction

Disposal site restoration

Lake management and improvement projects

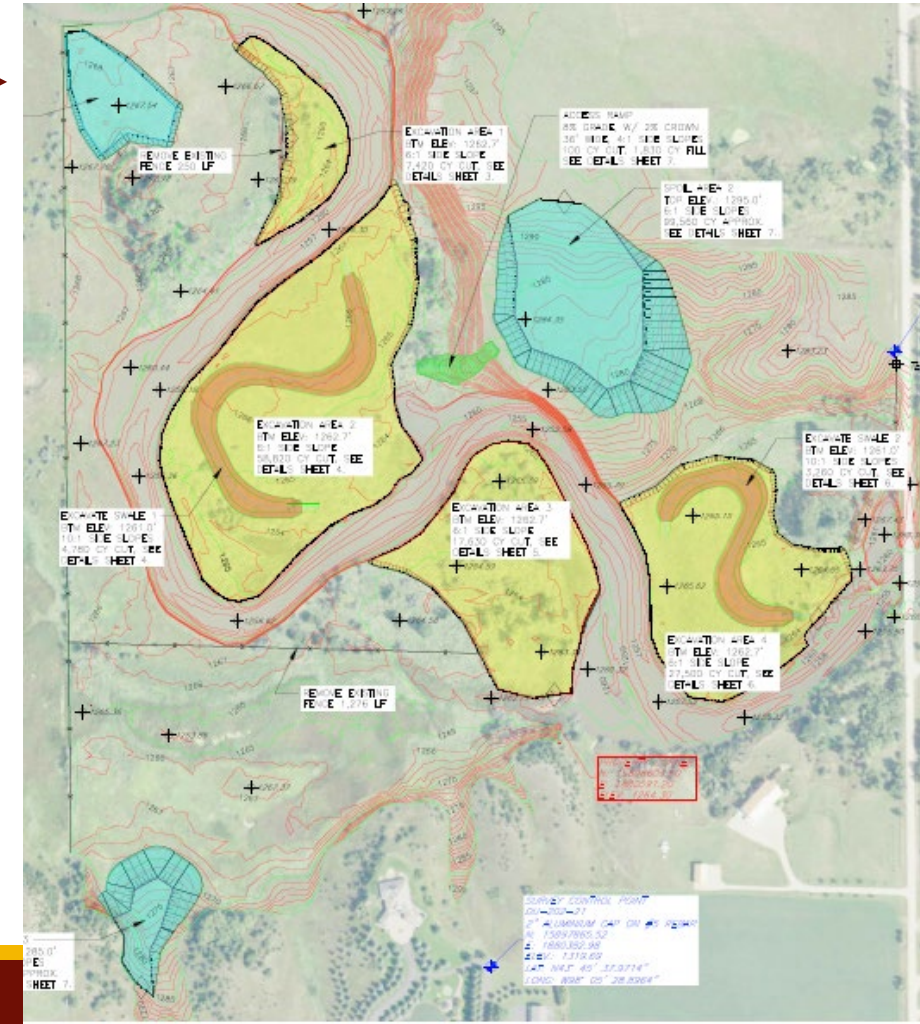
Watershed Improvements

- 37 Acre Wetland Project →
- Advertise in June, Bid in July



Watershed Partners

- Ducks Unlimited
- Game Fish and Parks
- NRCS/USDA
- Pheasants Forever
- James River Development District
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Counties within the Watershed
- Farmers within the Watershed



Lake Mitchell Jetty Project

- Scheduled for 2024-2026 Construction
 - Depends on timing of lake drawdown project.
- Estimated Project Cost - \$2,000,000
- 6,140 feet of bike trail
- EDA Grant - \$1,000,000



Zebra Muscles

- Currently considered a light infestation
- Zebra muscles consume green algae prior to consuming blue-green algae.
- Multiple studies have found an increase in blue-green algae after the introduction of Zebra Muscles.
- Friends of Firesteel website is a great resource for zebra muscle information.



Questions

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