

SIX MILE - HALSTED BAY SUBWATERSHED

One of the hallmarks of our approach to watershed management is the “focal geography” – a commitment to focusing time and resources in a specific area of high need in order to make significant, lasting improvement. The approach developed from our work in the formerly degraded stretch now known as the Minnehaha Creek Greenway, where we’ve worked since 2010 to build relationships and understand the goals of the communities and landowners in the area.

In 2015 the MCWD Board of Managers declared the Six Mile Creek-Halsted Bay subwatershed as our next priority focus area, and since then we have worked to bring together the agencies and landowners in the area to find out where we can make water quality improvements that align with community goals.

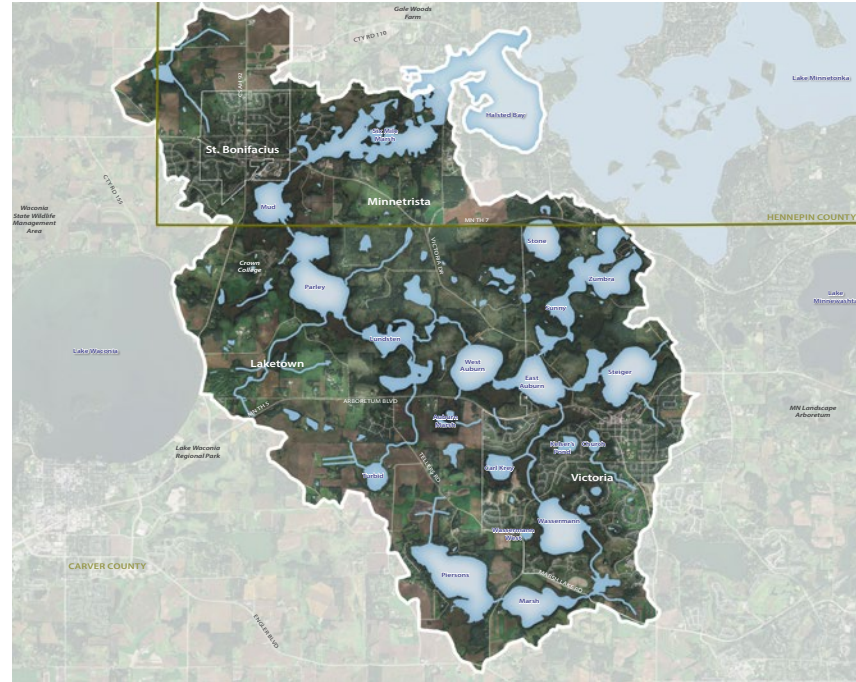
This approach benefits more than just the residents of the subwatershed. This complex system of 14 lakes and hundreds of wetlands drains into Halsted Bay, which is among the most degraded bays in Lake Minnetonka. As the headwaters of the entire watershed, improvements to this system have benefits far downstream.

The area also poses great opportunity. It is currently the least developed subwatershed within MCWD but is undergoing rapid change, so the land use decisions made now will have lasting effects on the future of the region. By bringing landowners, developers and policymakers together, we are identifying opportunities to improve natural resources in ways that support vibrant, livable communities and achieve mutually beneficial goals.

We’ve convened the Six Mile - Halsted Bay Planning Partnership to ensure ongoing communication about plans, priorities and opportunities for collaboration in the region. The partnership committee has been briefed on water resource issues within the geography, have weighed in on local and agency priorities, and have helped shape the plan format and content.

The partners will continue to be involved as we identify, prioritize and implement projects in the subwatershed which may include large scale wetland restorations, carp management, in-lake and watershed phosphorus reduction actions, and others.

The Six Mile - Halsted Bay Planning Partnership includes Carver County, Carver County Soil and Water Conservation District, Hennepin County, Laketown Township, Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, Minnetrista, St. Bonifacius, Three Rivers Park District, Victoria, and Waconia.



SIX MILE MARSH PRAIRIE RESTORATION

RESTORING ENVIRONMENTALLY-SENSITIVE LAND NEAR HALSTED BAY

PROJECT HISTORY

Six Mile Creek begins at Pierson Lake in Laketown Township and flows 12 miles north through 14 lakes and hundreds of wetlands in a mainly agricultural area before entering Halsted Bay on the western end of Lake Minnetonka. As a result it is a major contributor of phosphorus and sediment into Halsted Bay and is a major cause of the bay's poor water quality.

The Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD)'s 2007 Watershed Management Plan identified Six Mile Marsh as a key conservation area. Specifically it identified the need to create restored connections between Six Mile Marsh and Lake Minnetonka to improve water quality, improve habitat, and increase biodiversity (*see map on the back*).

In an effort to accomplish these goals, MCWD purchased approximately 230 acres of farmland that drains directly into Six Mile Creek. The land features steep slopes that lead directly to the marsh, which allowed eroded soil and other pollutants to flow into the marsh. To address this issue, MCWD is working to restore the land back to native prairie, oak savanna, and oak woodland. Vegetation restoration and establishment began in 2013 and is currently in process. MCWD is also working to define public use of the site, and public access is currently restricted until vegetation is well-established.

The goal of the project is to restore the landscape by building healthy soil and reestablishing high quality native plants and habitats (*see inside map*), while also capturing polluted runoff and filtering out nutrients to improve water quality downstream. The project also preserves open space adjacent to Six Mile Marsh and will eventually be used to develop opportunities for education, interpretation, and public enjoyment.

To learn more about the project visit:
www.minnehahacreek.org/six-mile-marsh-prairie.



MINNEHAHA CREEK
WATERSHED DISTRICT

BY THE NUMBERS

- **120 - 180 pounds of phosphorus** prevented from entering Six Mile Marsh and Halsted Bay annually due to native vegetation restoration
- **160 acres** of land restored to native vegetation
- **12 tons** of sediment estimated kept out of Six Mile Marsh annually due to native vegetation restoration
- **9 wetlands** restored
- **7 native plant communities** restored

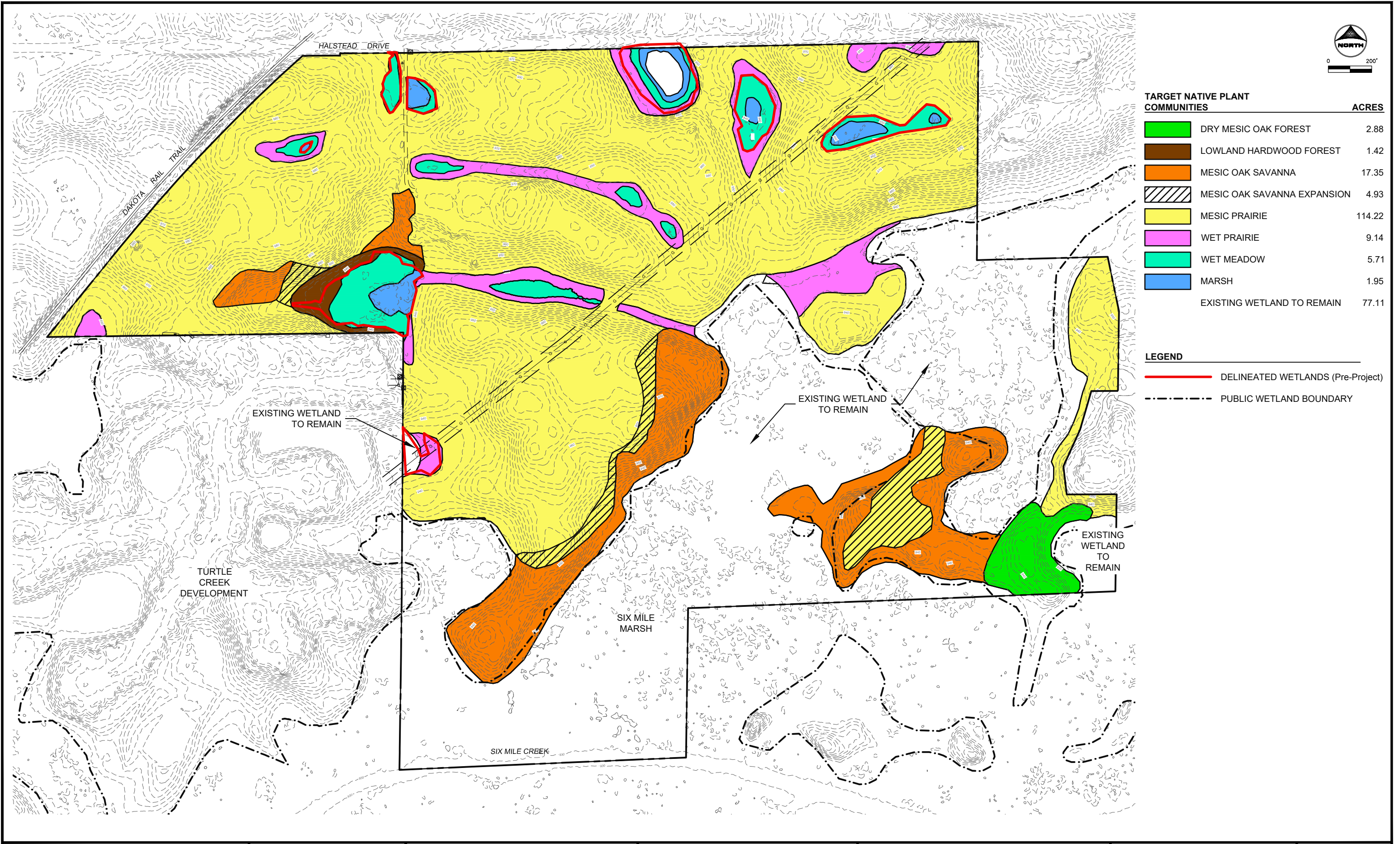
RESTORATION PLAN





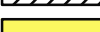



- Remove existing drain tiles
- Remove invasive species
- Plant native prairie
- Restore oak savanna and oak woodland
- Restore existing wetlands
- Remove existing buildings
- Trail connection to Dakota Rail bicycle trail


CONTACT

Learn more and stay up to date on the plans for the Six Mile - Halsted Bay Subwatershed at www.minnehahacreek.org/six-mile, or contact Anna Brown at 952-641-4522 or abrown@minnehahacreek.org.

SIX MILE MARSH PRAIRIE VEGETATION COMMUNITY MAP



TARGET NATIVE PLANT COMMUNITIES	ACRES
 DRY MESIC OAK FOREST	2.88
 LOWLAND HARDWOOD FOREST	1.42
 MESIC OAK SAVANNA	17.35
 MESIC OAK SAVANNA EXPANSION	4.93
 MESIC PRAIRIE	114.22
 WET PRAIRIE	9.14
 WET MEADOW	5.71
 MARSH	1.95
EXISTING WETLAND TO REMAIN	77.11

LEGEND	
	DELINEATED WETLANDS (Pre-Project)
	PUBLIC WETLAND BOUNDARY

DRAWN BY: EMK
 APPROVED: DM
 CAD DATE: 1/23/13
 CAD FILE: 120078ddv20130123_6.0 Wetland.dwg

NO.	DATE	BY	REVISION DESCRIPTION

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PLAN, SPECIFICATION OR REPORT WAS PREPARED BY ME OR UNDER MY DIRECT SUPERVISION AND THAT I AM A DULY LICENSED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA.

SIGNATURE: _____
 DATE: _____
 Jonathon J. Kusa
 REG. NO. 44129



**APPLIED
 ECOLOGICAL
 SERVICES, INC.**



SIX MILE MARSH PRAIRIE RESTORATION
 MINNEHAHA CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT
 DEEPAVEN, MINNESOTA

FINAL DESIGN SUBMITTAL
 RESTORATION AND PLANTING PLAN

SHEET NO.
 6.0