

Long Meadow Lake Habitat Project, Bloomington, Minn.

Location/Description

Part of the Corps of Engineers' Environmental Management Program, Long Meadow Lake is a 1,500-acre spring-fed wetland area on the left descending bank of the Minnesota River within the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge near Bloomington, Minnesota. Natural levees formed by the Minnesota River trap spring and stream flows to create marsh areas, but this area had no controlled outlets to the river. The existing outlets allowed high water levels on the Minnesota River to back into the wetlands, depositing river sediments. This process was reducing water quality and increasing the aging rates of the wetlands, substantially reducing the areas used by migrating birds for nesting, breeding and feeding.



The project included replacing two existing uncontrolled outlets with new structures to provide a controlled outlet from Long Meadow Lake and to prevent the Minnesota River from backing into the lake. Old agricultural fields will also be revegetated with trees. The project will provide water management capabilities on about 1,500 acres of marsh to enhance habitat for waterfowl and wetland wildlife and about 45 acres of fields will be reforested.

Status

The reforestation of farm fields component of the project is scheduled for 2008. Construction of the water level control structure and flow control culvert was completed in November 2006.

Authority

The Long Meadow Lake Habitat Project was planned under the authority of the Upper Mississippi River System - Environmental Management Program. This program was authorized by Section 1103 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 and reauthorized by the Water Resources Development Act of 1999.

The project was planned and designed as part of a cooperative effort of the Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and local interests.

Fiscal

Project design and construction costs are 100-percent federal because the project is on lands managed as a national wildlife refuge. Operation and maintenance costs are 100-percent federal (a responsibility of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service).

Federal cost \$805,000

Non-federal cost \$0

Total estimated cost \$805,000