

Saginaw Bay Watershed Natural Resource Damage Assessments:

Restoration Update

March 22, 2023

Lisa L. Williams

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Tittabawassee River Trustee Council

Saginaw River and Bay Trustee Council

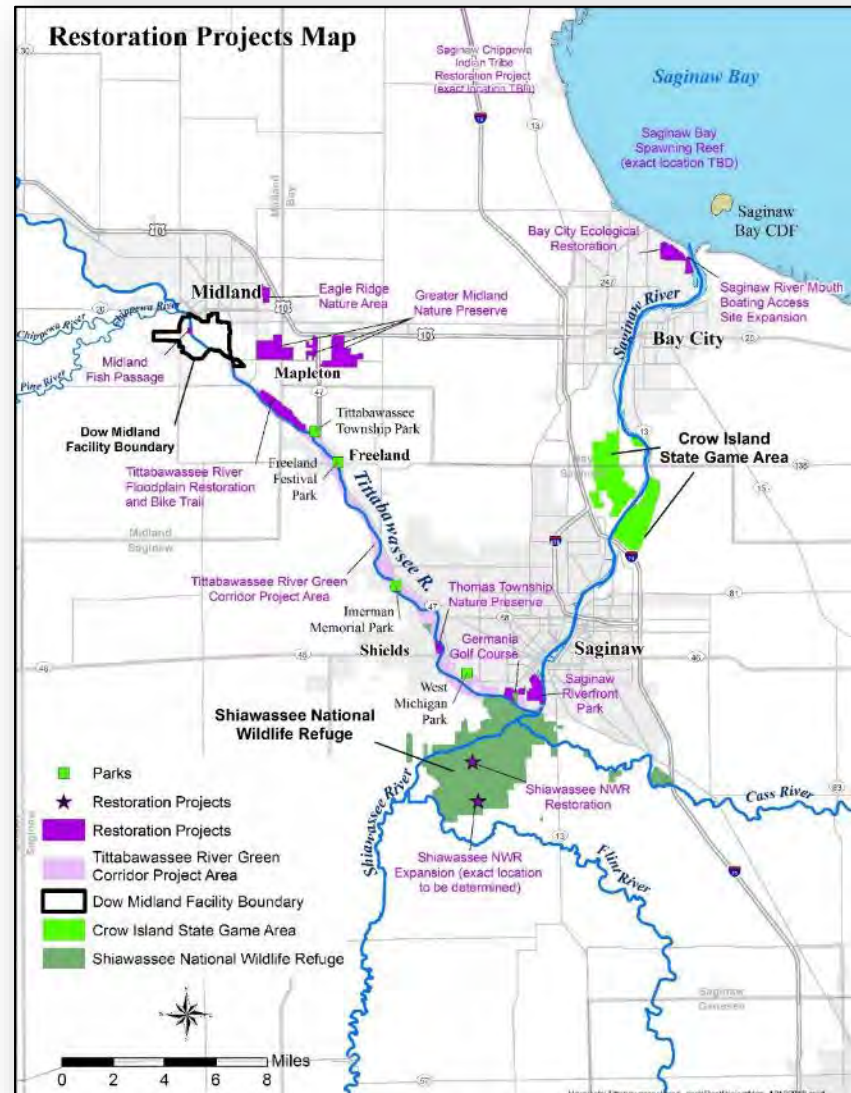
Overview

- Two settlements for Natural Resource Damages (2020 Dow and 1998 GM)
- Progress on projects since October CAG
- New projects coming from request for pre-proposals – plan out for review until March 27
- Potential site visits in 2023



Projects in Consent Decree

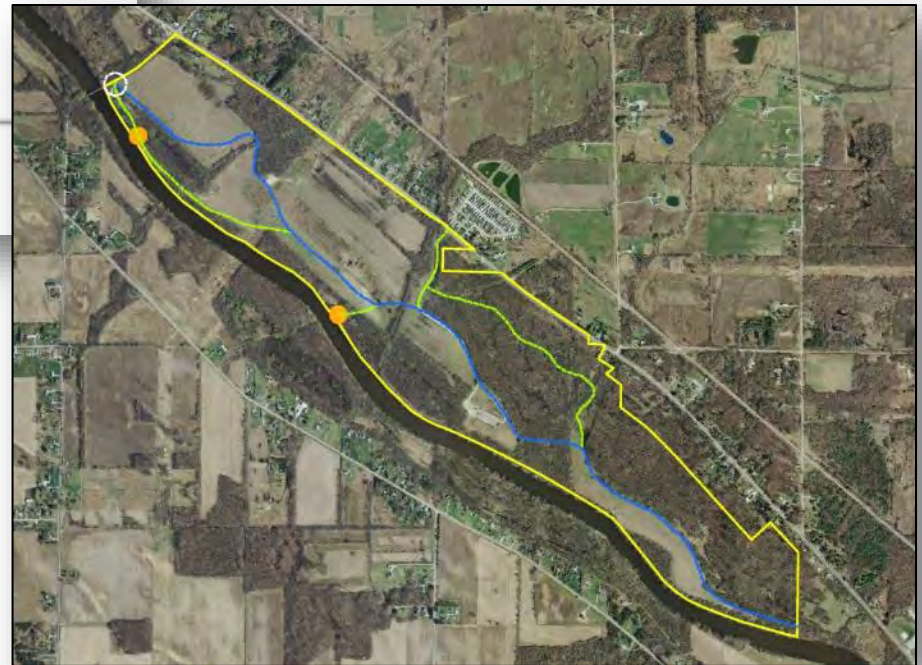
- 13 Restoration Projects
 - 8 that Dow will implement
 - 5 that Trustees and partners will implement
- 2 Additional Projects
 - Agreement between Dow and the State
 - BaySail and Lighthouse by Bay City



Tittabawassee River Floodplain Restoration



- 490 acres
- Bike and nature trails
- Habitat restoration
- Expect to open in 2023!



TITTABAWASSEE FLOODPLAIN PRESERVE





Bike Trail Construction

TITTABAWASSEE RIVER FLOODPLAIN
RESTORATION & BIKE TRAIL PROJECT

FEBRUARY 14, 2023

Photos by Lisa Williams, USFWS



Setting deep supports and making the curves: overlapping and bending support joists



Making the curves: ripping deck boards on an angle and trimming sides after screwing on deck boards



End of the boardwalk near culvert on Lucas Drain. Note boardwalk in distance both curving and ascending.

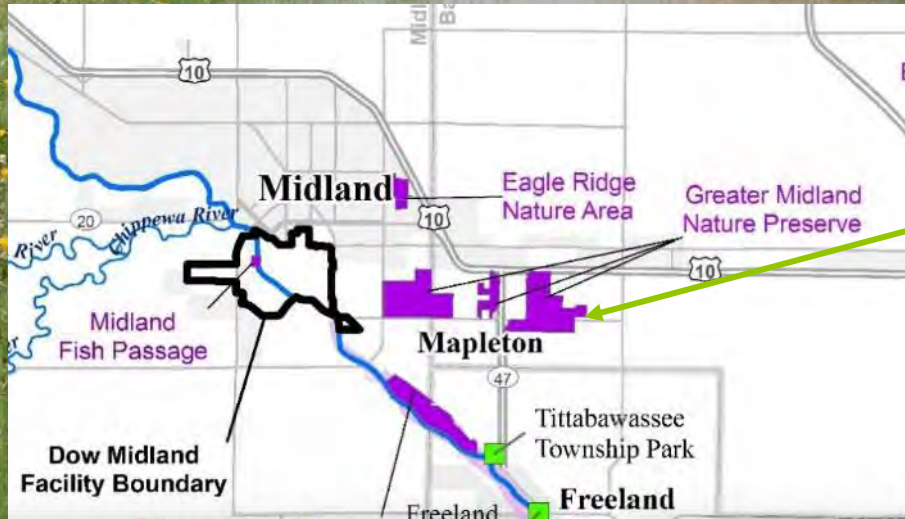


Culvert on Lucas Drain with downstream grade control riffle. (Mark Goss from Spicer for scale!)



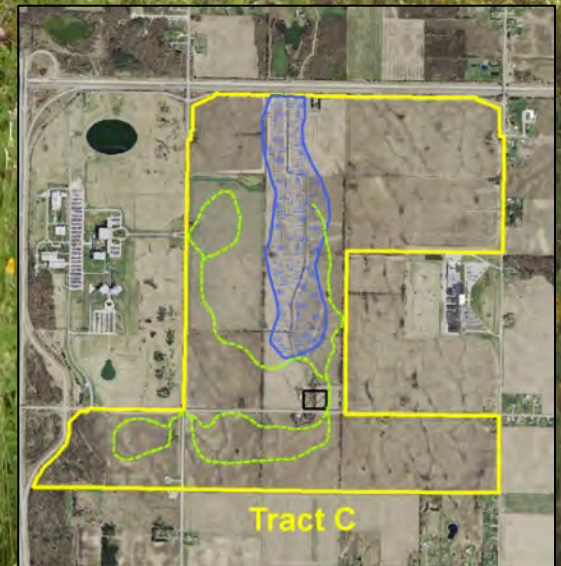
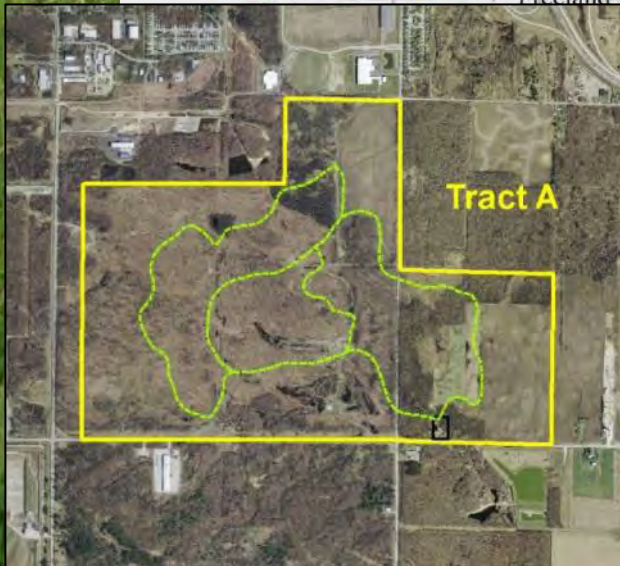
Erosion control straw mats with loose weave, natural fiber strands and wooden stakes.

Midland Area Projects

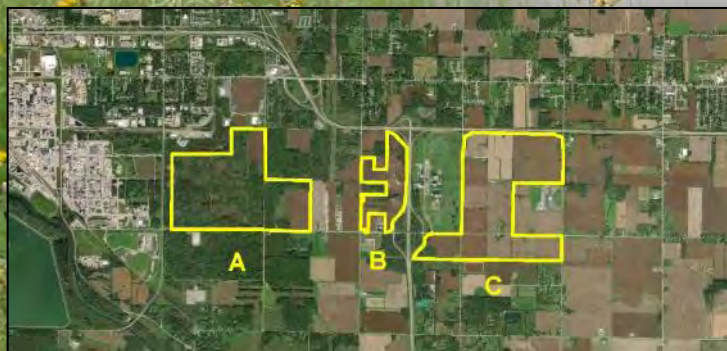


"Greater Midland Nature Preserve"

- 1,460 acres
- Now re-named:
Sygo, Hoppler Creek,
and Redtail Nature
Preserves

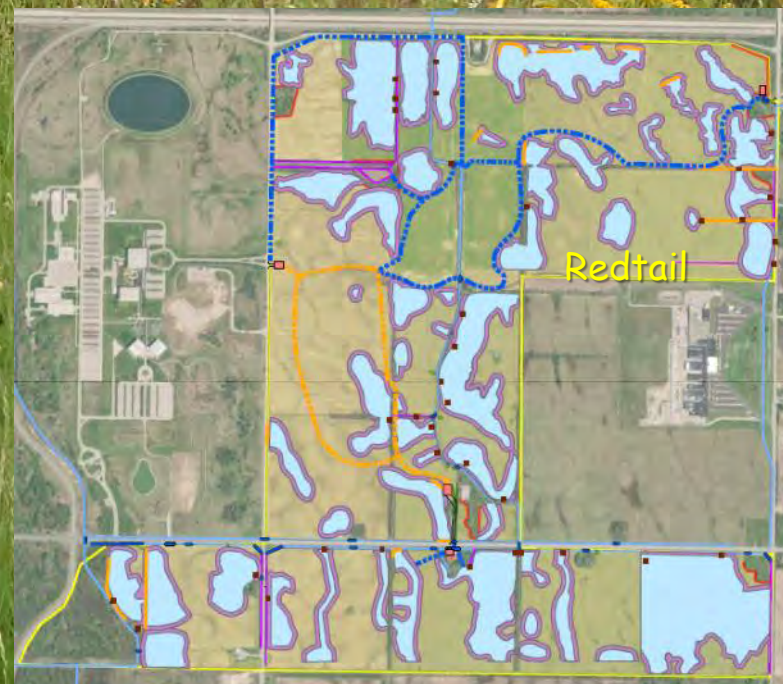
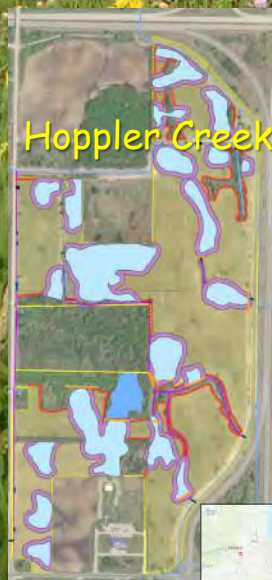
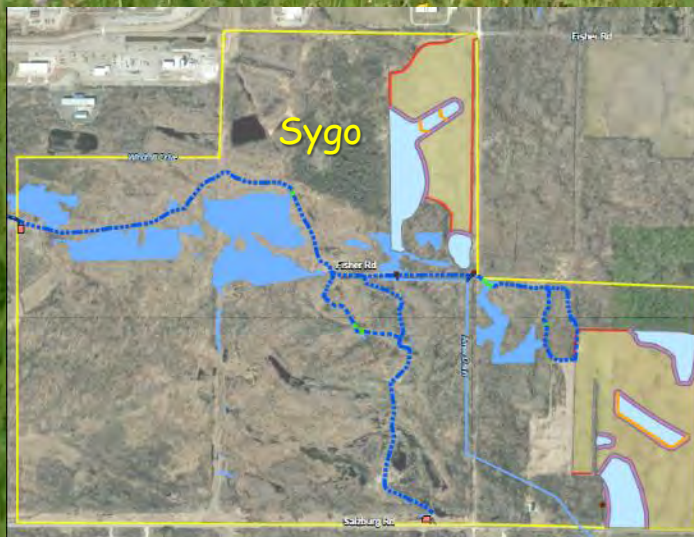


Three Nature Preserves

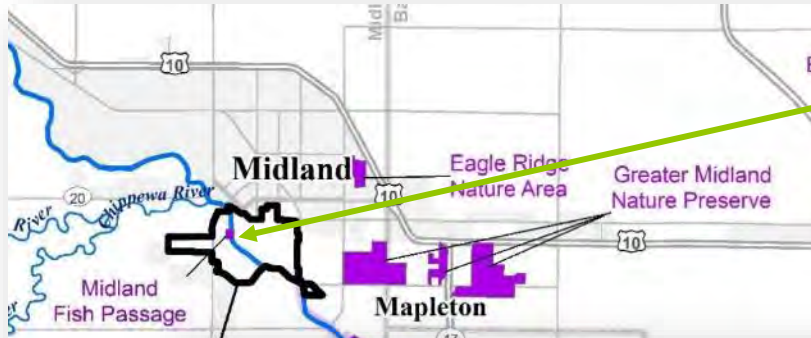


Preliminary design phase
complete

Trustees are now reviewing
Dow's final designs



Midland Area Projects



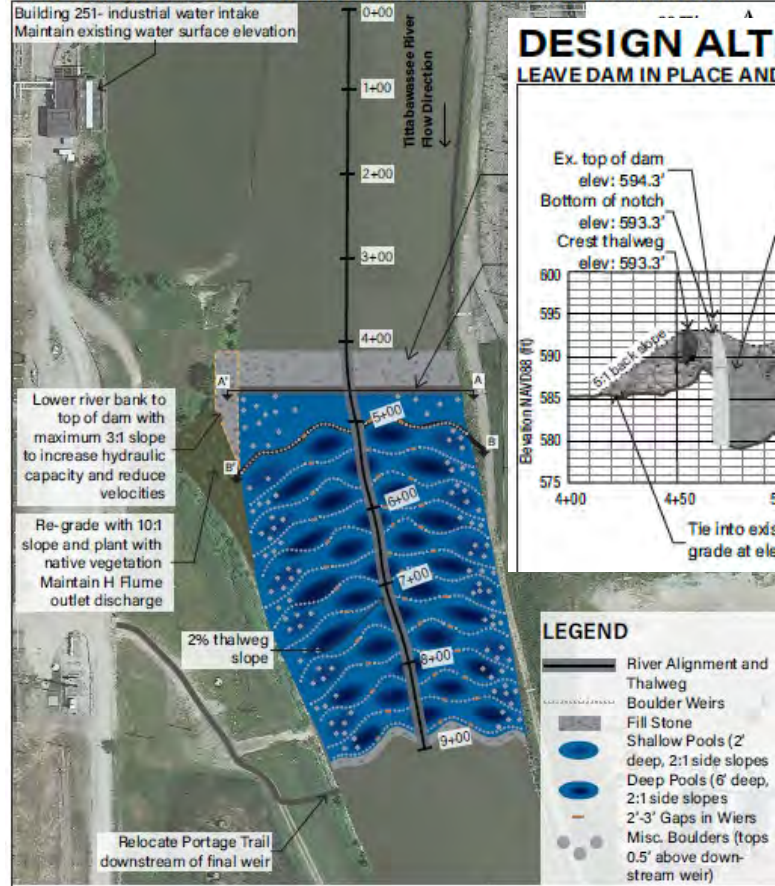
- Midland Fish Passage at Dow Dam
- Many alternatives considered
- Conceptual designs for 3 alternatives are now being analyzed by Dow and Trustees



Midland Fish Passage Concepts

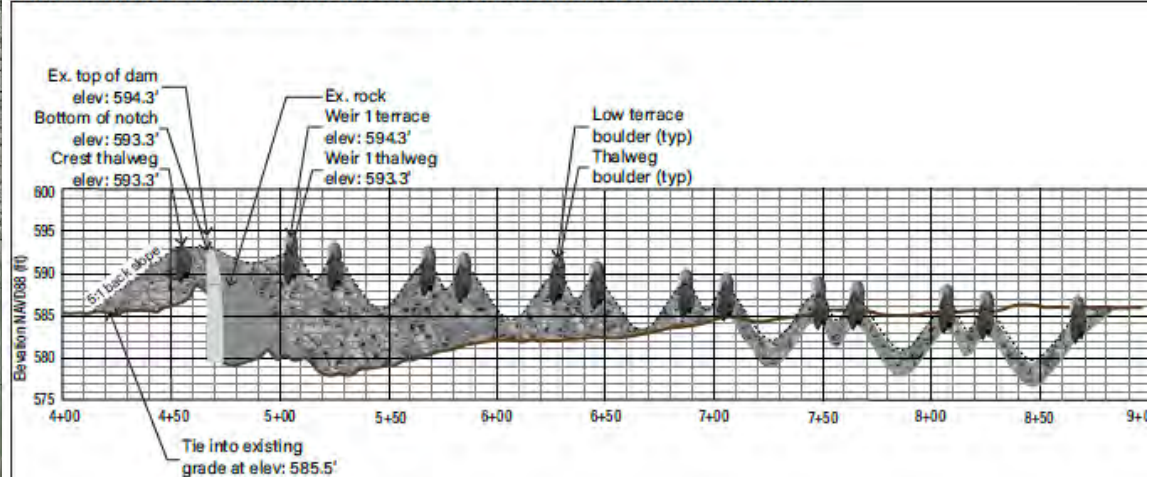
DESIGN ALTERNATIVE 1

LEAVE DAM IN PLACE AND CONSTRUCT ROCK ARCH RAPIDS FOR FISH PASSAGE



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Midland Fish Passage Concepts

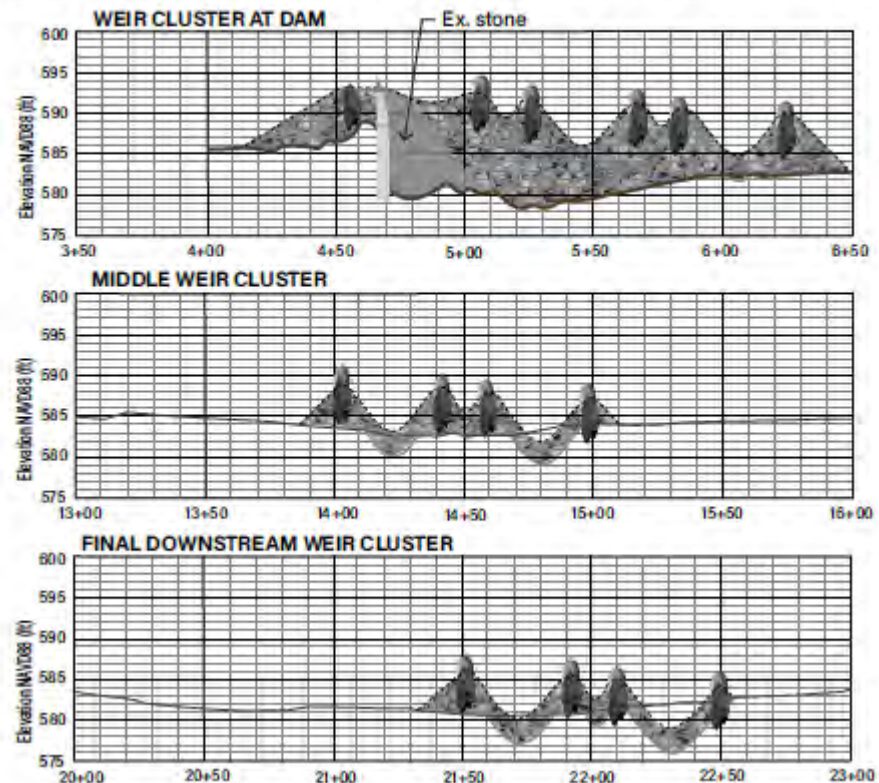
DESIGN ALTERNATIVE 3

LEAVE DAM IN PLACE, CONSTRUCT ROCK ARCH RAPIDS, AND DOWNSTREAM RIFFLES



DESIGN ALTERNATIVE 3

LEAVE DAM IN PLACE, CONSTRUCT ROCK ARCH RAPIDS, AND DOWNSTREAM RIFFLES



Bay City Area Projects

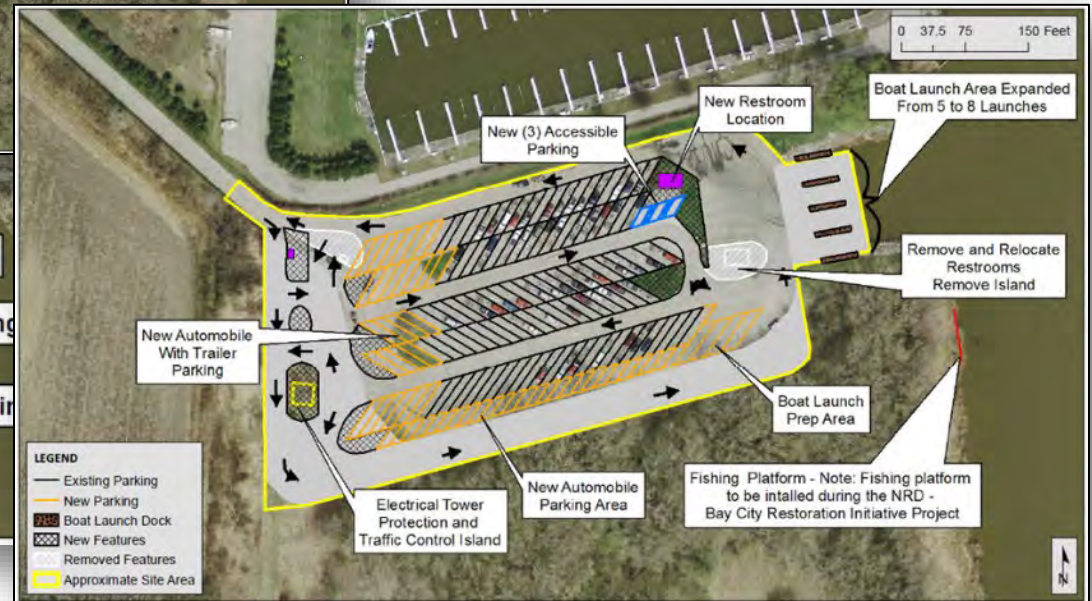


Bay City Area Projects

Existing site

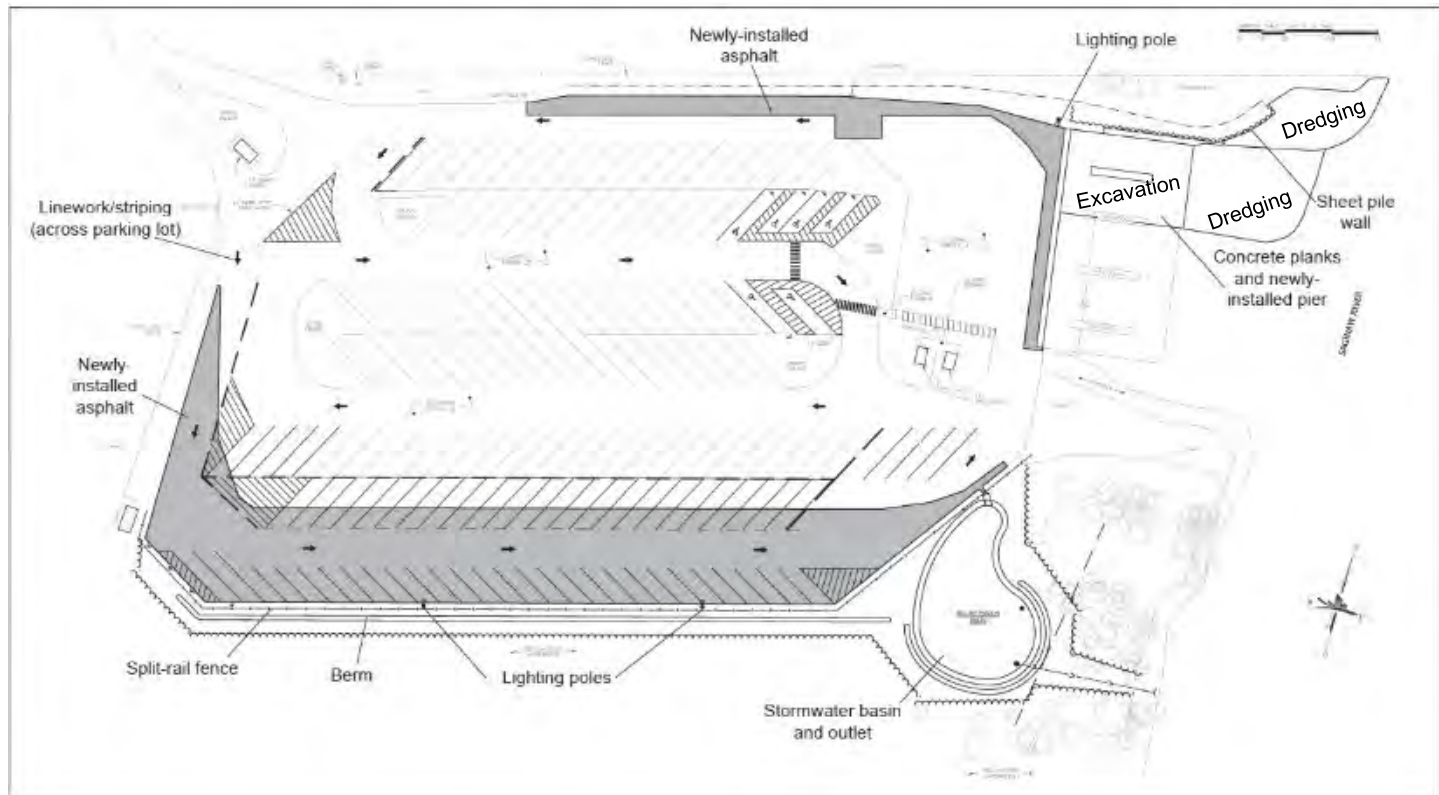


- Saginaw River Mouth Boating Access Site Expansion
 - 50 new parking spaces
 - 3 new launch lanes, bringing total to 8



Saginaw River Mouth Boating Access Site Expansion

- Completed in fall of 2022 except for final layer of asphalt
- Expect several day closure for paving and striping in spring



Future Projects: Public Input

- Trustees issued a Request for Pre-Proposals in the fall of 2021 for up to \$5.75M from both cases
- 23 submittals received by deadline
- Trustees have screened and ranked submittals based on 17 criteria

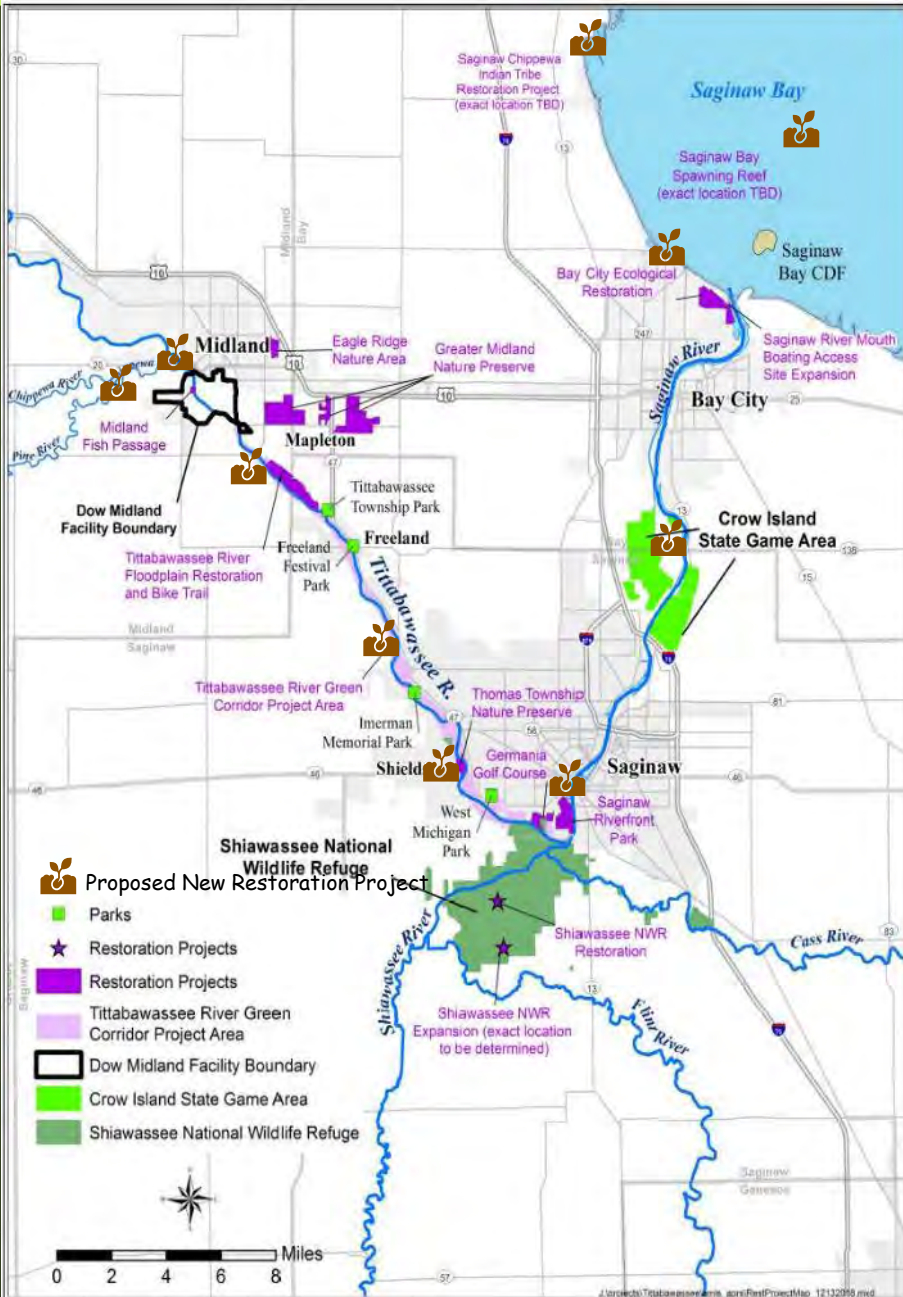


Future Projects: Public Input

- Trustees conducted some site visits as part of project reviews
- Draft Supplemental Restoration Plan (SRP)
 - Proposes 10 projects for public comment
 - <https://www.fws.gov/project/tittabawassee-river-natural-resource-damage-assessment-and-restoration#Restoration%20Plan%20and%20Projects>
 - Comments due 3/27/23
- Final SRP to select projects



Proposed Projects



- South Riverfront Restoration Project (habitat components)
- Chippewa Nature Center - Restoration Capacity
- Bailey Bridge Shoreline Access (if feasible)
- Floodplain Protection and Restoration (310 acres)
- Thomas Township Restoration Expansion
- Saginaw River Headwaters Rec Area Shoreline Restoration and ADA Access
- Crow Island SGA Expansion (360 acres)
- Bay City State Park/CISMA Restoration
- Saginaw Bay Coastal Wildlands
- Saginaw Bay Sturgeon

Ideas for 2023 Site Visits

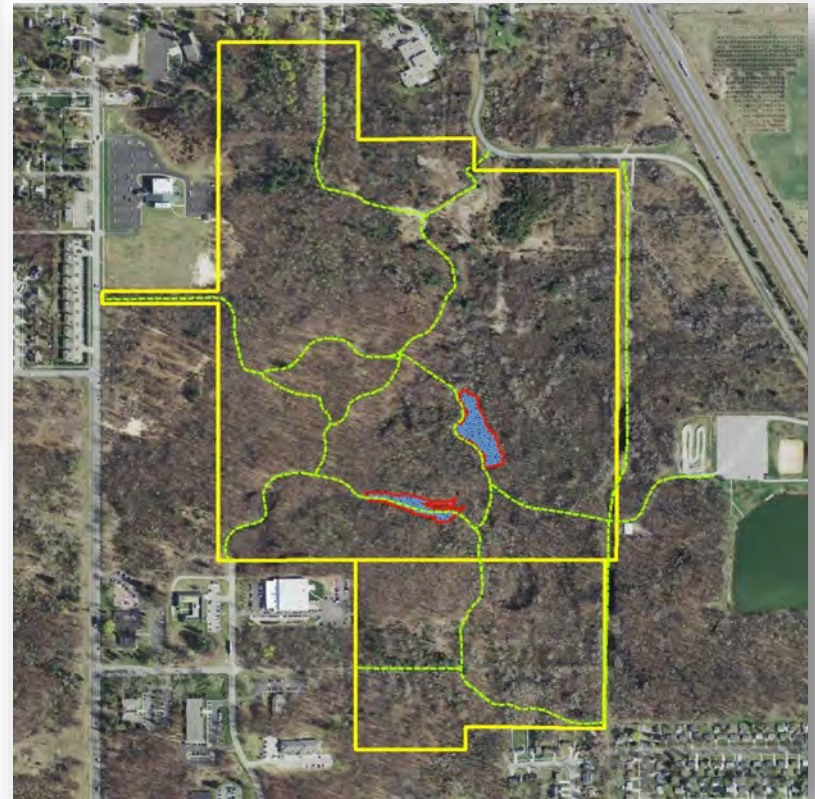
- Eagle Ridge Nature Preserve
 - Midland
 - Open now
- Tittabawassee Floodplain Preserve and Bike Trail
 - Between Midland and Freeland
 - Under construction
- Saginaw River Headwaters Rec Area
 - City of Saginaw
 - Not open to public yet
 - Need to coordinate with Saginaw County Parks

Eagle Ridge Nature Preserve

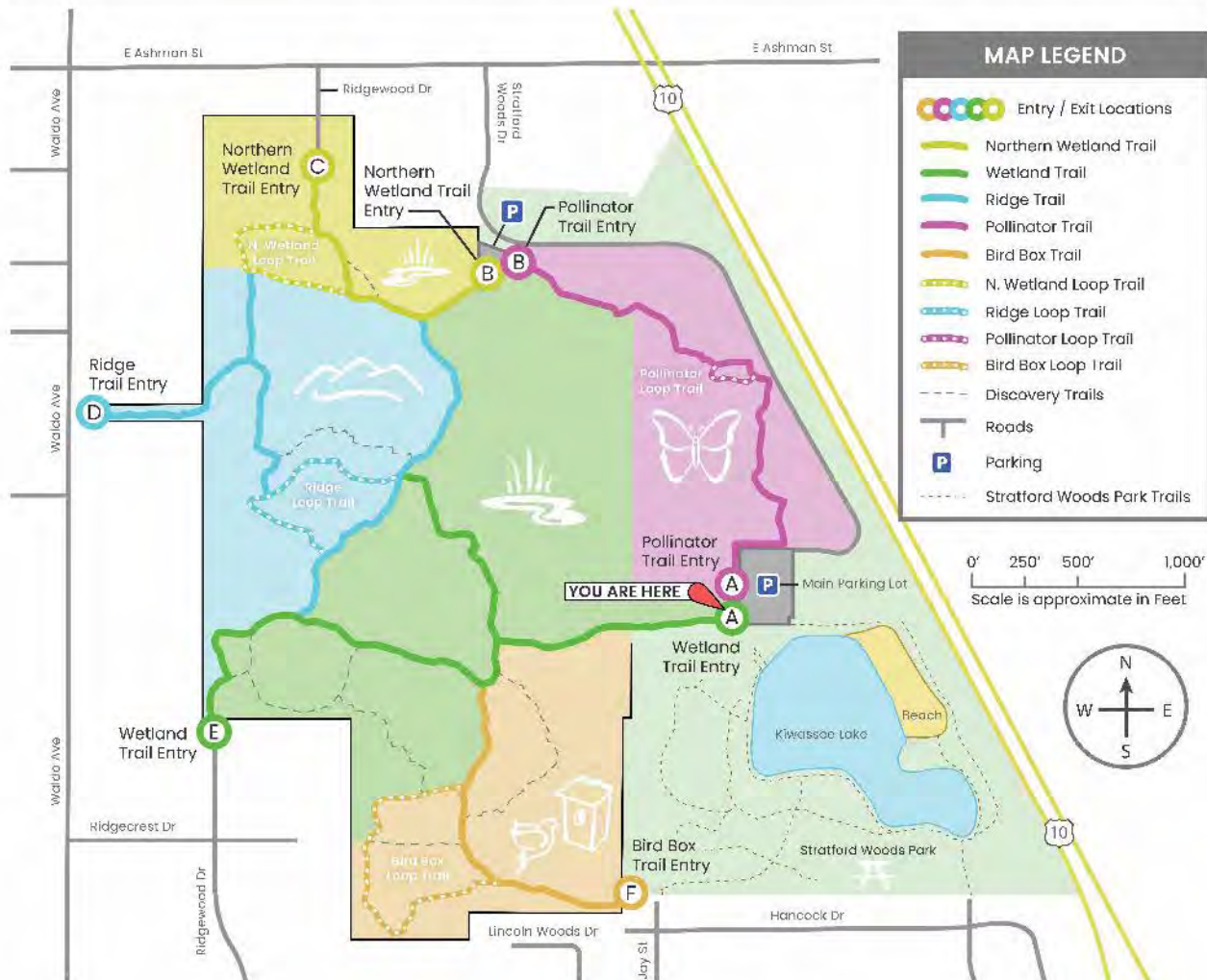


- Trails, overlooks, parking
- Wetland restoration
- Non-native species control

- 140 acres
- Next to Stratford Park



NATURE AREA TRAIL MAP



Pollinator Area



Eagle Ridge



Saginaw River Headwaters



Photo by Brian Lechel

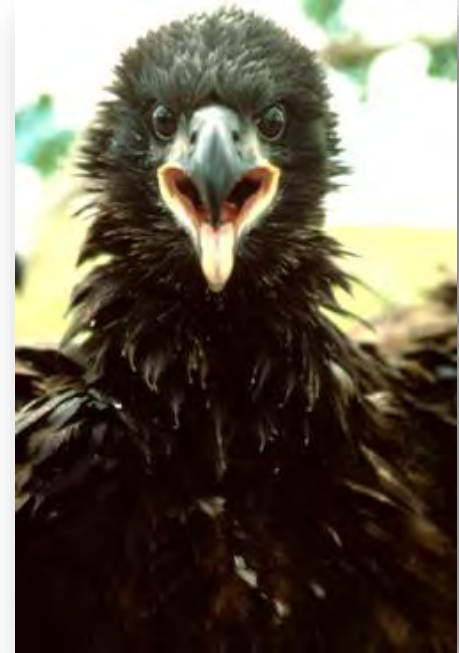
Beautiful 3 minute video online (search
Saginaw Headwaters Rec Area)

Summary

- The goal of NRDAR is to restore and compensate for losses over time
- Restoration is on schedule – projects opening in 2022 and 2023 as work continues on others
- Supplemental Restoration Plan describing additional projects
 - Public comment due March 27
 - <https://www.fws.gov/project/tittabawassee-river-natural-resource-damage-assessment-and-restoration#Restoration%20Plan%20and%20Projects>

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<https://www.fws.gov/project/tittabawassee-river-natural-resource-damage-assessment-and-restoration>

<https://www.fws.gov/project/saginaw-river-and-bay-natural-resource-damage-assessment-and-restoration>