



## Capital Improvement Project

### Lakeville: East Lake Habitat Improvements

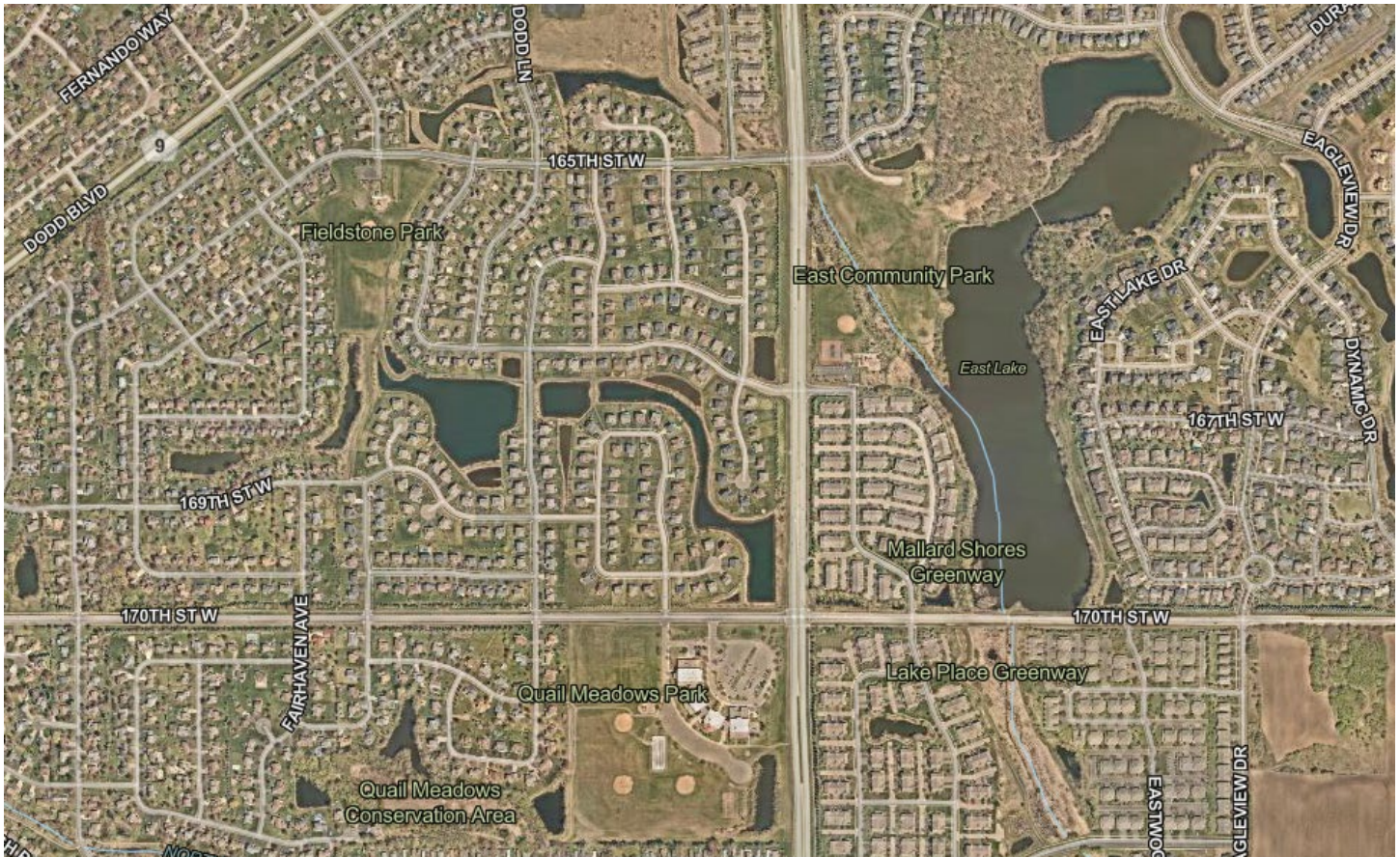


Figure 1. An aerial map locating East Lake and the surrounding park, in context with nearby parks and greenways.

East Lake is a 44-acre, impaired shallow lake in Lakeville. Poor lake clarity and invasive species infestations both in and around the lake need to be addressed to create a high-quality contiguous habitat corridor.

In 2022, the City of Lakeville and Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) began restoring portions of East Lake Community Park. The restoration includes terrestrial invasive species removal; forest and oak savanna; and shoreline buffer improvements through native plantings, with the support of a Conservation Partners Legacy (CPL) grant from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

As part of an existing Greenway hub, East Lake is connected to downstream habitat along North Creek. A component of Dakota County's Greenway initiative is to provide hubs of critical habitat within the county and connect them via corridors of trails and protected areas. Improvements to East Lake leverage this corridor and will have direct positive impacts on habitat and wildlife within the hub.



**Partners:**

- Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization
- City of Lakeville
- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

**Installation (anticipated):**

- Management of upland forest and oak savanna: 2022-24
- Shoreline restoration: 2022-24

**Location:**

- Lakeville

**Watershed:**

- Vermillion River

**Costs and Contributions (anticipated):**

- CPL Grant: \$90,000
- VRWJPO: \$3,000 in-kind grant administration and coordination
- City of Lakeville: \$9,000 cash match

**Benefits:**

- The habitat improvements will improve conditions for waterfowl and other wildlife.
- Improve the public's recreational experience at East Lake Community Park.
- Connect improved habitat to adjacent existing publicly owned habitat areas.



Figure 2. Woodland area near East Lake pre-project.



Figure 3. East Lake shoreline in 2023 after invasive species removal.

A grant from the Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program makes this project possible. Funds for the CPL grant program come from the [Outdoor Heritage Fund](#), created by the people of Minnesota through the Clean Water, Land & Legacy Amendment.

