

## LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

### Fen Stewardship Program

Workplan—December 1, 2022

*The District, in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR), will develop a fen stewardship program for the District's fens. The effort will review historical data, assess current conditions, and develop a road map for restoration, preservation, and protection of the District's fens. Stewardship plans or sustainability reports will be developed for all fens to effectively manage and protect these groundwater-dependent resources.*

#### **Summary**

*Outcome:* The Fen Stewardship Plans for the Savage, Nicols, and Gun Club Fens will be developed in 2023. A portion of the funds from the Fen Stewardship Program will be reserved for implementation of the actions that are defined in the completed stewardship plans.

*Project Partners:* MNDNR, Metropolitan Council, City of Savage, City of Eagan, City of Mendota Heights

*Timeline for Completion:* January 2023–December 2023

*Total Project Budget:* \$75,000

#### **Objective 1. Project Management**

*Task 1-1: Project Plan Development and Project Management.* Finalize the workplan, assign project tasks, and determine whether additional resources are needed; set dates for deliverables; and generate and maintain project schedule.

*Timeline for Completion:* 6–12 months

*Deliverables:* Invoices and project updates

*Estimated Budget:* \$2,500

#### **Objective 2. Savage Fen Stewardship Plan Development**

*Task 2-1: Stakeholder Engagement and Outreach.* Young Environmental will coordinate two meetings with Savage Fen stakeholders in the development of the Savage Fen Stewardship Plan. The first meeting will be held to communicate the purpose of the stewardship plan and obtain data to inform the plan's development. A second meeting will be organized after the draft plan has been prepared to obtain feedback, which can include identifying opportunities for partnership and funding, and to finalize the plan's development.

*Task 2-2: Complete the Fen Stewardship Plan.* A stewardship plan will be developed for the Savage Fen. The outline for the stewardship plan will follow the same format as the previously developed Seminary Fen Stewardship Plan. The stewardship plan includes the validation of

existing data to further understand historical data and assess current conditions. It also includes the design of operational and future-oriented plans for protecting and restoring the fen.

*Task 2-3: Story Map Development.* A story map will be developed using ArcGIS to combine text, interactive maps and figures, and other multimedia content to educate various audiences on the history of the Savage Fen and current conditions. The final story map will be shared on the District's website.

*Task 2-4: Board Presentation and Recommendations.* The final stewardship plan will be presented to the board of managers, and recommendations for future actions will be discussed.

*Timeline for Completion:* 3–6 months

*Deliverables:* Agendas and meeting summaries, draft and final stewardship plans, and ArcGIS story map

*Estimated Budget:* \$20,000

### **Objective 3. Nicols Fen Stewardship Plan Development**

*Task 3-1: Stakeholder Engagement and Outreach.* Young Environmental will coordinate two meetings with Nicols Fen stakeholders in the development of the Nicols Fen Stewardship Plan. The first meeting will be held to communicate the purpose of the stewardship plan and obtain data to inform the plan's development. A second meeting will be organized after the draft plan has been prepared to obtain feedback, which can include identifying opportunities for partnership and funding, and to finalize the plan's development.

*Task 3-2: Complete the Fen Stewardship Plan.* A stewardship plan will be developed for the Nicols Fen. The outline for the stewardship plan will follow the same format as the previously developed Seminary Fen Stewardship Plan. The stewardship plan includes the validation of existing data to further understand historical data and assess current conditions. It also includes the design of operational and future-oriented plans for protecting and restoring the fen.

*Task 3-3: Story Map Development.* A story map will be developed using ArcGIS to combine text, interactive maps and figures, and other multimedia content to educate various audiences on the history of the Nicols Fen and current conditions. The final story map will be shared on the District's website.

*Task 3-4: Board Presentation and Recommendations.* The final stewardship plan will be presented to the board of managers, and recommendations for future actions will be discussed.

*Timeline for Completion:* 3–6 months

*Deliverables:* Agendas and meeting summaries, draft and final stewardship plans, and ArcGIS story map

*Estimated Budget:* \$20,000

## **Objective 4. Gun Club Lake Stewardship Plan Development**

*Task 4-1: Stakeholder Engagement and Outreach.* Young Environmental will coordinate two meetings with Gun Club Lake Fen stakeholders in the development of the Gun Club Lake Fen Stewardship Plan. The first meeting will be held to communicate the purpose of the stewardship plan and obtain data to inform the plan's development. A second meeting will be organized after the draft plan has been prepared to obtain feedback, which can include identifying opportunities for partnership and funding, and to finalize the plan's development.

*Task 4-2: Complete the Fen Stewardship Plan.* A stewardship plan will be developed for the Gun Club Lake Fen. The outline for the stewardship plan will follow the same format as the previously developed Seminary Fen Stewardship Plan. The stewardship plan includes the validation of existing data to further understand historical data and assess current conditions. It also includes the design of operational and future-oriented plans for protecting and restoring the fen.

*Task 4-3: Story Map Development.* A story map will be developed using ArcGIS to combine text, interactive maps and figures, and other multimedia content to educate various audiences on the history of the Gun Club Fen and current conditions. The final story map will be shared on the District's website.

*Task 4-4: Board Presentation and Recommendations.* The final stewardship plan will be presented to the board of managers, and recommendations for future actions will be discussed.

*Timeline for Completion:* 3–6 months

*Deliverables:* Agendas and meeting summaries, draft and final stewardship plans, and ArcGIS story map

*Estimated Budget:* \$20,000

## **Objective 5. Implementation of the Fen Stewardship Plan**

*Task 5-1: Coordination with the MNDNR.* The potential land acquisition activity identified in the completed Seminary Fen Stewardship Plan will be initiated. This includes coordination with the MNDNR to map and assess the value of private properties adjacent to the Seminary Fen and to begin the process of acquisition. Young Environmental will organize two meetings with the MNDNR. The first meeting will be held to reaffirm or modify the scope of the work and review data needs, and the second meeting will include discussing findings and recommendations with MNDNR staff.

*Task 5-2: Develop a Draft Technical Memorandum.* The private property northeast of the scenic and natural area where Fen Site E was identified is a notably valuable resource and will be the emphasis of a land acquisition study. Young Environmental will investigate historical and current conditions, provide information on potential properties for acquisition, and prepare a draft technical memorandum to summarize the findings from this review to share with the MNDNR.

*Task 5-3: Final Technical Memorandum.* Submit the final technical memorandum to the District and the MNDNR, incorporating the written feedback from Task 4-1.

*Timeline for Completion:* 6–12 months

*Deliverables:* Agendas and meeting summaries, draft technical memorandum, and final technical memorandum

*Estimated Budget:* \$12,500