

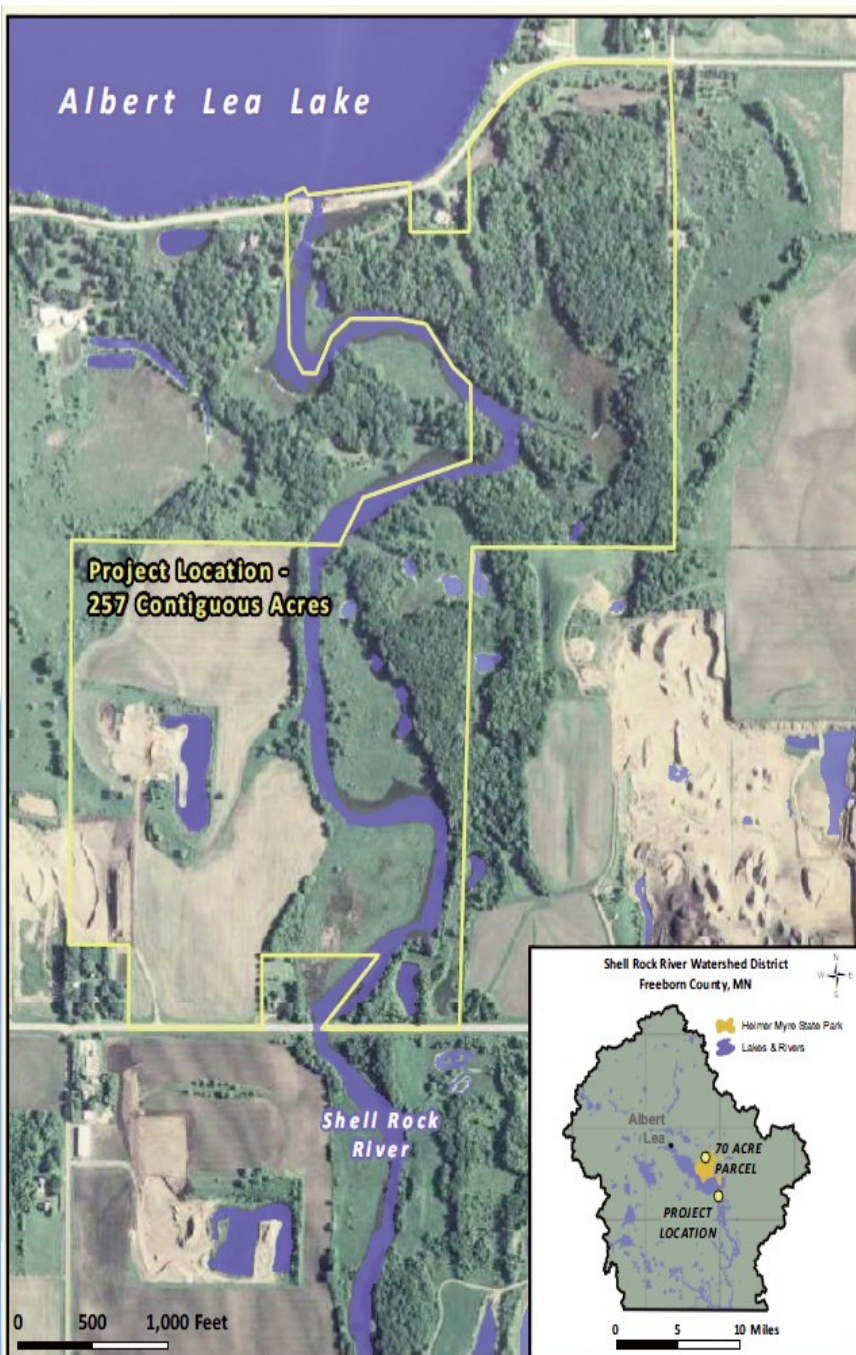


Shell Rock River Headwaters Restoration Project



In 2012, The Shell Rock River Watershed District (SRRWD) purchased 257 acres of pristine land located at the headwaters to the Shell Rock River for the purpose of providing fish and wildlife habitat restoration, water quality, flood control and recreation opportunities. The \$2.56 million dollar Shell Rock River Headwaters project was funded by the Lessard -Sams Outdoor Heritage Fund in 2011.

The SRRWD Management Plan, developed in 2004, identifies goals for accelerating programs for improved habitat, water quality and flood control. Acquiring the land allowed the District to meet these goals and create opportunities for the public including recreation, hunting, fishing and educational experiences.



The 257 acre parcel is located within the Albert Lea State Game Refuge and complements other existing activities for wildlife/fisheries management and recreation opportunities.

The property has various amenities that include an outlet of Albert Lea Lake, 1.4 miles of Shell Rock River within the property and a floodplain and mesic hardwood forest. The area is also home to undisturbed and highly diversified wetland complexes and riparian corridors and possible pre-historic native American habitat sites.

There are numerous opportunities for native habitat restoration on the land. Native plant seed bank development, wetland creation and restoration and native prairie establishment. In addition, floodplain forest and mesic forest restoration and shoreland restoration of the Shell Rock River are also important opportunities.



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