

**DEFINITE PROJECT REPORT
WITH INTEGRATED ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

**SECTION 206
LAKE BELLE VIEW
AQUATIC ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECT**

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to present the results of a feasibility study undertaken to restore the Lake Belle View aquatic ecosystem. This report provides planning, engineering, and construction details of the recommended restoration plan to allow final design and construction to proceed subsequent to the approval of the plan.

1.2 Project Authorization and Scope

The Lake Belle View Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Project was authorized under Section 206 of the 1996 Water Resources Development Act, as amended. The purpose of this program is development of aquatic ecosystem restoration and protection projects that improve the environment, are in public interest, and are cost effective.¹

This program is a cost-shared program. Eligible sponsors must either have taxing authority, or demonstrate the ability to fund the project and operation and maintenance costs if the sponsor is a non-profit organization. The non-Federal share of Section 206 projects is 35% of the total project cost. The sponsor must provide all lands required for the restoration project and is responsible for 100% of the operation and maintenance of the completed project.

In a letter dated March 31, 1998, the Village of Belleville, Wisconsin, expressed interest in acting as a sponsor for a proposed restoration of Lake Belle View and the Sugar River. Lake Belle View is a shallow millpond located approximately 20 miles southwest of Madison on the Sugar River in the Village of Belleville, Dane County, Wisconsin (Figure 1.2). The lake was formed in 1920 by the construction of a sawmill dam. The Village and the proposed project meet all eligibility criteria. The scope of the project is limited to the 133-acre area surrounding the lake. The purpose of the project is to improve water quality in the lake and river and enhance surrounding wetland habitat.

A Preliminary Restoration Plan (PRP) was completed to determine Federal interest in the project by proposing a restoration plan and anticipated cost and benefits associated with the plan. The PRP served as a decision document to allow the project to be further analyzed under a feasibility study. The Mississippi Valley Division Headquarters approved the PRP on February 4, 2000.

1.3 General Project Planning

Development of the Lake Belle View Feasibility Study followed the Corps of Engineers' six-step planning process specified in Engineering Regulation (ER) 1105-2-100.

¹ ER 1105-2-100 Planning Guidance Notebook, Appendix F, PG F-22, Para. F-21.

The process identifies and responds to problems and opportunities associated with the Federal objective and specified state and local concerns. The process provides a flexible, systematic, and rational framework to make determinations and decisions at each step. This allows the interested public and decision-makers to be fully aware of the basic assumptions employed; the data and information analyzed; the areas of risk and uncertainty; and the significant implications of each alternative plan.

As part of identifying the Recommended Plan, a number of alternative plans were developed and compared with the “no action alternative,” allowing for the ultimate identification of the National Ecosystem Restoration (NER) Plan. The NER Plan reasonably maximizes ecosystem restoration benefits compared to costs, considering the cost effectiveness and incremental cost of implementing other restoration options. In addition to considering the system benefits and costs, it also will consider information that cannot be quantified such as environmental significance and scarcity, socioeconomic impacts, and historic properties information.

The steps used in the plan formulation process are outlined below. In addition, a schematic of the plan formulation process is included in Figure 1.1.

1. Identify Problems and Opportunities: The specific problems and opportunities are identified, and the causes of the problems discussed and documented.

2. Inventory and Forecast Resource Conditions: This step characterizes and assesses existing conditions in the Lake Belle View project area and forecasts the most probable without-project condition (or “no action alternative”) over the period of analysis. The without-project condition is what the area and its uses are anticipated to be like over the 50-year planning period without any restoration implemented as a result of this study. The with-project condition is what the area and its uses are anticipated to be if restoration measures are implemented. This assessment gives the basis by which to compare various alternative plans and their impacts.

3. Formulate Alternative Plans: Potential features are proposed to meet the identified objectives. Specific design measures are developed for these features. These measures are combined into alternative plans in a systematic manner to ensure that reasonable alternatives are evaluated. Refer to Figure 1.1 for a schematic diagram of this process.

4. Evaluate Alternative Plans: The evaluation of each alternative consists of measuring or estimating the environmental benefits, costs, technical considerations, and social and economic effects of each plan, and determining the difference between the without- and with-project conditions. A key measure for evaluation of alternative plans is a cost-effectiveness incremental cost analysis and evaluation of significance.

5. Compare Alternative Plans: Alternative plans are compared, focusing on the differences among the plans identified in the evaluation phase and public comments. As part of the evaluations, the “Best Buy” plans are identified—those plans that provide the greatest increase in benefits for the least increase in cost.

6. Select Recommended Plan: A Recommended Plan or NER Plan is selected. If a viable plan is not identified, the recommended plan will be the “no action alternative.” In most cases, the NER Plan will be selected from among the Best Buy plans. The NER Plan should be evaluated on acceptability, completeness, effectiveness, efficiency and reasonableness of costs.

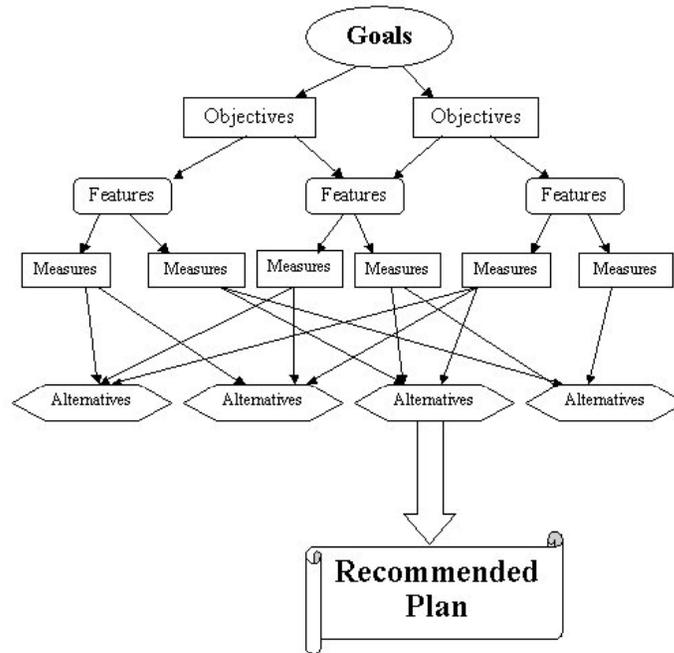


Figure 1.1. Schematic diagram of formulation process.

This report is organized to follow the planning process and therefore does not follow exactly the planning steps as they occurred. The planning process is iterative. As such, as additional information was learned in subsequent steps, it was necessary to revisit and repeat portions of the previous step(s).

Lake Belle View - Belleville, WI Section 206 Site Map



Orthophotography provide by the
Dane County Land Information Office.
Orthophotography acquired in 1999.
Other data sources: ESRI, GDT.
Map Produced: 18 December 2002



Figure 1.2