Drainageway Improvements and Lake Dredging Clear the Water at Fort Des Moines Park

**Need for Project**
- Poor water clarity and quality
- Heavily silted-in lake including completely silted-in areas
- Large head cuts in drainageways contributing to an influx of sediment
- A need to create an urban fishery and quality recreational experience
- Limited access to shoreline for visitors
- Broken glass, concrete, bricks, etc. littered the lake bottom

**Construction Challenges**
- There were many unknowns prior to draining the lake
- Poor soils made it very difficult to operate machinery in many areas
- Portions of the design had to be re-engineered to fit the field conditions
- Large amounts of materials uncovered had to be taken to the landfill
- Old landfill materials had to be sealed with a clay soil liner

**Project Results**
- Water clarity improved by 9 feet
- Chlorophyll A levels greatly reduced
- Sediment inflow to lake minimized
- Broken concrete piles create fish hides
- Large trees extending into water used as turtle resting areas and fish hides
- Lake is now a premier urban fishery
- Dredge disposal sites repurposed as educational wetlands for nearby elementary school

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<tr>
<td>Secchi Disk Reading (Inches)</td>
<td>36</td>
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<td>Chlorophyll A (µg/L)</td>
<td>31</td>
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