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### Work progresses on Grey Cloud Island restored river channel



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Workers placed concrete segments of the culvert for the bridge that will allow water to flow under County Road 75 in Grey Cloud Township Sept. 28. The bridge is part of a project, in conjunction with Grey Cloud Township and the South Washington Watershed District, to allow the free flow of water in the Mississippi River backwaters between St. Paul Park and Grey Cloud Island Township.

The river channel is within the National Park Service's Mississippi National River Recreation Area corridor and Minnesota's Mississippi River Critical Area, and is a designated state water trail.

A bridge once connected Grey Cloud Island to the mainland, but the bridge was later replaced with an earthen dam with County Road 75 constructed on top. A culvert crossing was also installed through the dam to let water from the Mississippi River move through the backwater. Over time, the water flow diminished as the culvert was either filled in or collapsed, effectively cutting off the flow through the river meander. Today, the slough has stagnate water with poor water quality, and severely degraded backwater aquatic habitat.