

Important?

They are “**trash compactors and recyclers**” decomposing organic matter and cycling important elements through plant and animal life.



They are “**landscape protectors**” – reducing the impact of flooding and erosion.



They are “**happy places**” – granting open space for us to enjoy and connect with our natural world when we need a break from the hustle and bustle that surrounds us.



11980 Lexington Ave NE
Blaine, MN 55449

For information about the site or programs, contact the Blaine Parks and Recreation Department at 763-785-6164 or recreation@blainemn.gov

BlaineParks.com
Blainemn.gov

Why Are Wetlands

They are “**biological supermarkets**” - very productive ecosystems, yielding food at the base of the food web to support all other living things in that environment.



They are “**residential developments**” - providing habitat for all life stages of many species of plants and animals, including rare, threatened, and endangered species.



They are “**filters and sponges**” – soaking up excess nutrients and pollutants, replenishing surface and groundwater, and providing benefits for water quality and hydrology.



Explore!

An extensive boardwalk meanders through the wetland, allowing you to experience a serene and natural environment. The boardwalk extends from the trailhead on Lexington Avenue through both wetland and upland habitats connecting to East Lake Park.

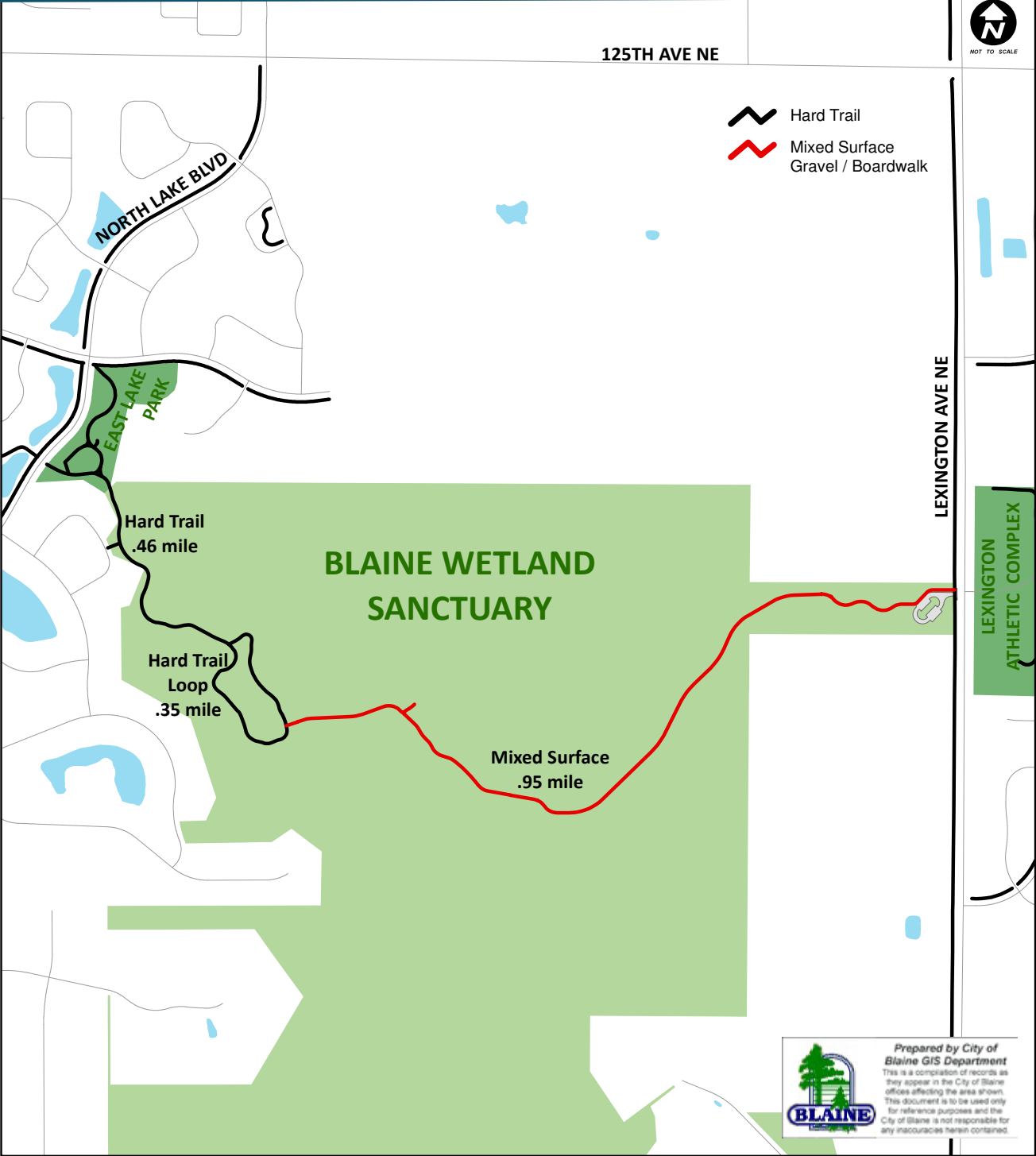
Future plans for the BWS include additional trails (exact locations are yet to be determined) and a nature center at the Lexington Avenue trailhead.

Management of the wetland site will continue into the future to accomplish the plan approved by the regulatory agencies.

During spring and summer, crews will be out applying herbicides to control the invasive species which inhibit the growth of the native vegetation.

Prescribed burns and over-seeding with native herbaceous species will allow the area to thrive and provide important habitat for birds and wildlife.

The health of a wetland takes maintenance and care. The City of Blaine is committed to preserve this area for the enjoyment of the community and the future of our enviroment.



Vision and Concept

In 2004, the city began researching the feasibility of creating a wetland area in the 500 acre open space west of Lexington Avenue adjacent to Anoka County Ditch 53-62.

This area is part of the larger Anoka Sandplain which is home to unique plant communities found in very few places anywhere in the country.

Several species of rare and endangered plants were discovered and the concept of restoring the wetlands to allow those species to flourish began to take shape.

Combined with the big picture of being in a city open space and the prospect of adding a nature center for public education and access for the enjoyment of nature lovers, plans were put in motion.

The goal of the project is to enhance, restore and protect three wetland community types and upland islands.

The upland communities will be restored to Oak Forest or Aspen-Birch Forest types.

The wetland communities will be restored to Anoka Sand Plain Rich and Poor Fen which are unique and rare plant community types containing two confirmed threatened and endangered species.

The restoration will release the dormant native seed bank and existing rare species and their habitats will thrive and expand.