

### Existing Conditions

Most of the study area is already developed and native vegetation has been removed. The undeveloped portion consists of approximately 14.7 acres of wetland (discussed in Section 3.7) and 24.6 acres of upland. The two dominant upland types are paper birch forests and spruce-paper birch forests. Vegetation in the forested areas includes paper birch, prickly rose, high bush cranberry, bluejoint grass, common horsetail, fireweed, alders, spruce, willow, and bunchberry.

### Environmental Consequences

Under the No Action Alternative, there would be no impact to vegetation. The vegetation would remain in its current condition. Near Tina Lake, utility companies may perform some occasional clearing to access the utility lines.

Figure 3.1140 shows the areas of vegetation that would be affected by the proposed project. The Proposed Action would require the removal of some vegetation in the study area (approximately 3.7 acres). The majority of the vegetation being removed (approximately 3.5 acres) would be within the DOT&PF ROW.

Near Tina Lake and Campbell Creek, trees would be cut or trimmed to provide adequate clearance under and adjacent to the bridge. The effects of ROW clearing activities are considered minor.

Because the intersection of Rovenna Street and 68th Avenue would be realigned, some roadway would be removed and the area would be revegetated (See Figure 3.1244). Approximately 0.52 acre would be revegetated.

### Construction

Vegetation clearing, grading of fill slopes, and excavation associated with construction

# West Dowling Road Connection Project



Figure 3.11 40  
Vegetation

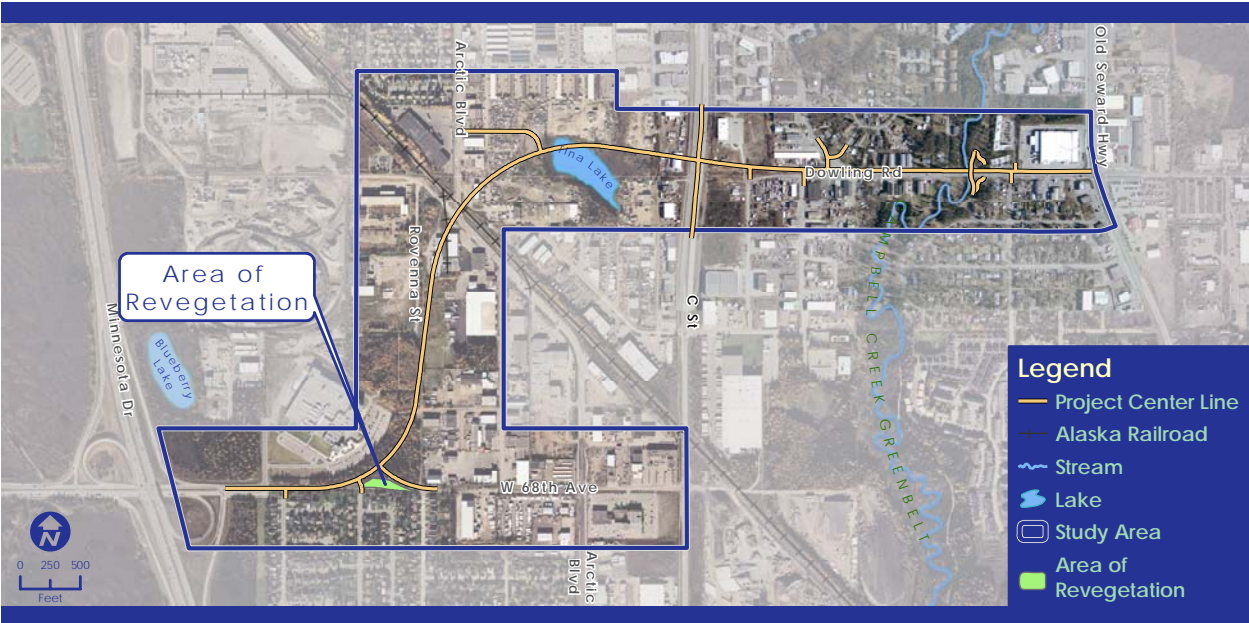


Figure 3.1244. Area of Revegetation

activities would be the most likely sources of potential erosion and sedimentation impacts.

Vegetation impacts would occur within the proposed ROW. Soil erosion could occur within the construction zone of the proposed project area, but would be a temporary, short-term impact. Construction BMPs would be followed to minimize erosion potential.

DOT&PF would develop a revegetation plan to be implemented by the contractor.

### Mitigation and Authorizations

Measures taken to mitigate impacts on vegetation would include the following:

- Erosion and sedimentation control measures would be employed during construction.
- Fill material stockpiles would be covered or otherwise stabilized.
- Newly disturbed but unpaved areas would be **revegetated** ~~seeded, and vegetative buffers would be maintained~~ **except for areas that do not receive enough sunlight for vegetation growth such as under the Campbell Creek Bridge, as possible.**

- Disturbance to native vegetation outside of the embankment footprint would be minimized by limiting earth-moving equipment and fill-hauling trucks to areas within the footprint of the embankment or local roads whenever possible.
- The contractor would be required to use contaminant-free embankment and surface materials in construction.
- DOT&PF would require the contractor to restore or stabilize all temporary disturbance areas following construction.
- Slopes with the potential to affect Campbell Creek or Tina Lake would be stabilized as soon as possible but no later than 14 days after the temporary or permanent work is performed in these areas.