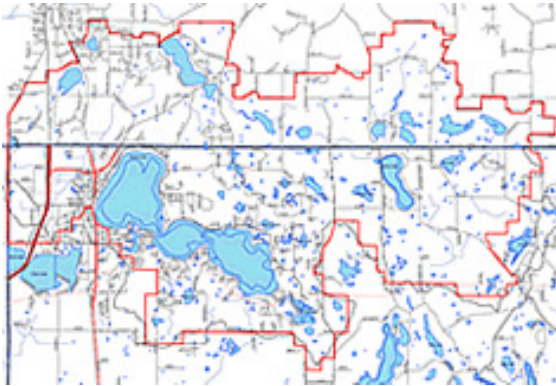


WHO IS THE CLFLWD AND WHAT DO THEY DO?

The Comfort Lake - Forest Lake Watershed District (CLFLWD) encompasses roughly 47 square miles in northern Washington and southern Chisago counties, including the Cities of Chisago City, Forest Lake, Scandia, Wyoming, and Wyoming Township. The watershed outlets to the northwest to the Sunrise River, which flows northeast through Chisago County before discharging to the St. Croix River.



The District was formed in 1999 to address water quality (7 of the District's lakes are impaired due to excessive phosphorus) and quantity issues throughout the watershed. In order to address issues and remediation needs, the District has used a four phase approach: 1) educate the public on issues and how they can be part of solution, 2) continually monitor resources in an adaptive management approach to evaluate the resources and project/program successes, 3) model watershed hydrology and nutrient loading in order to better design and site projects that will address the needs of its water resources (the District feels that this provides a scientific and fiscally responsible way to develop a capital improvement plan (CIP) to ensure project success, and water quality improvements), and 4) undertake projects in its state-approved CIP to remediate impairments throughout the watershed.

HOW IS THE CLFLWD FUNDED?

The CLFLWD is funded through the collection of tax dollars on residences within the boundaries of the watershed, these funds along with grants, loans, bonds, and special assessments are used to fund specific projects and program. The Districts' permit program is funded in part through the collection fees.

Tax dollars are collected from watershed residents through its statutory authority found in the MN Watershed Act, and the Metropolitan Surface Water Management.

In 2008, the CLFLWD assessed a levy of \$307,500 (total budget of \$430,666). In 2009, the District initiated two projects to address water quality impairments, resulting in an increase in levies assessed to a total levy of \$754,458 (total budget of \$878,876). In 2010, the District continued the two projects initiated in 2009 and initiating two others detailed in its Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) as well as starting to update its Watershed Management Plan. In 2011 the District will continue to implement the 2009/2010 projects, complete its watershed plan update and start work on the Sunrise River/Comfort Lake improvement project.

Approximate annual tax levy per residence*

	Value of residence	
	\$250,000	\$500,000
2011	\$ 91.55/yr (\$7.63/mo)	\$ 183.10/yr (\$15.26/mo)

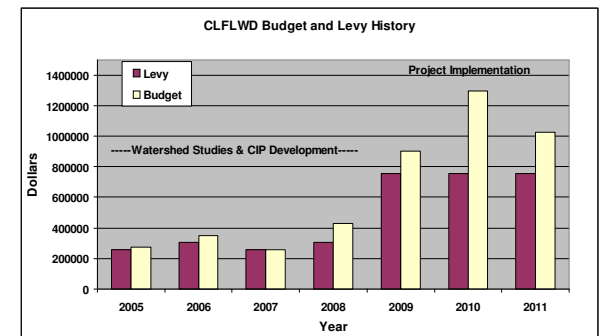
* based upon 2011 net tax capacity figures provided by Washington County

OTHER FUNDING SOURCES OF CLFLWD

The CLFLWD actual annual budgets are generally greater than that of the District levy. In order to make the best use of District funds, and reduce tax burdens to watershed residents, the District is continually researching and applying for grants to reduce costs of water quality monitoring, education, cost-share incentive programs, and individual projects detailed in the District's CIP. As CLFLWD starts to implement projects in its CIP to address water quality impairments, the need for outside funding sources will become greater. It is the intention of the CLFLWD to partner with local counties and cities and leverage tax dollars by actively seeking grants from private and public sources to subsidize project costs and therefore reducing the tax burden of its watershed residents.

CLFLWD BUDGET AND LEVY HISTORY

The figure below provides a recent history of the District's past budgets, levies, and grants. It is important to note, that as the District moves into the project oriented phase of its Plan; it is the intention of the District to have future levies remain relatively flat.



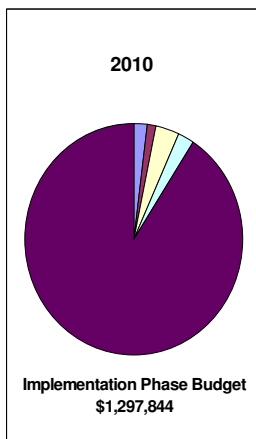
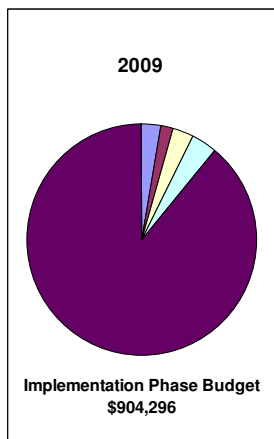
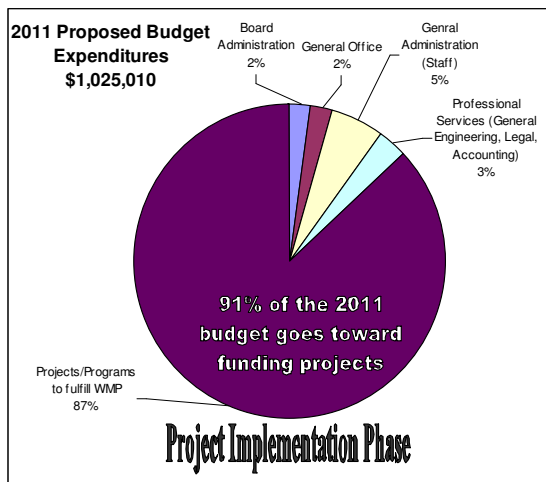
*All available grant dollars for 2010 are not known at this time

HOW ARE CLFLWD TAX DOLLARS BEING SPENT?

The charts below show the breakdown of District expenditures in 2009 through 2011 based upon District budgets. The budget since 2009 has been focused on project and program implementation to fulfill requirements of the District's Watershed Management Plan, and remediates water quality impairments (i.e. capital projects, cost-share incentives, monitoring and education).

The District strives to keep administrative costs under 10%. In 2011 **91%** of the budget will go towards the funding of projects and programs.

The vast majority of the project funding is for the implementation of projects to reduce nutrient loading and remediate water quality impairments.



PLEASE CONTACT US

Contact us! Give us a call or visit the District's website at www.clflwd.org to learn about the latest watershed happenings. Project information, meeting details, annual reports, press releases and more can be found on the site.

The District also has a variety of programs available for the public.

BMP GRANTS

- The District offers grants up to \$ 3,000 for water quality best management practices (BMP) projects such as native shoreland plantings and rain gardens. More information, as well as applications, can be downloaded from the District's website.

EDUCATION

- The District annually offers a free "Planting for Clean Water" and "Small Acreage Grazing" workshop. The purpose for the educational opportunities are to educate residents how to create native buffers and gardens that look beautiful, stabilize shorelines, work to keep the water clean, and to help small acreage landowners with animals to better determine grazing rotation and manage manure. More information on District sponsored workshops can be found on the District website. The District is also a member of the East metro Water Resource Education Program.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

- The District annually monitors the quality of its water resources. As part of its monitoring program, the District is often looking for volunteers to check transparency of lakes and streams and collect in-lake water samples as part of a volunteer lake monitoring network entitled Citizen-Assisted Monitoring Program (CAMP).

CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT

- The District is continually seeking individuals to participate in the District's Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC).

For more information please contact
District Administrator
Doug Thomas, 651.209.9753
doug.thomas@clflwd.org

THE COMFORT LAKE - FOREST LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT

BUDGETS AND LEVIES

(2011)



Comfort Lake–Forest Lake Watershed District
220 North Lake Street
Forest Lake, MN 55025
Ph: 651.209.9753
Fax: 651.209.9752
Email: doug.thomas@clflwd.org
Website: www.clflwd.org