

## WHAT IS A WATERSHED?

A watershed is the area within the geographic boundaries of land that drain into a surface water feature such as a stream, river, or lake and contributes to the recharge of groundwater. Watersheds are divided by areas of higher elevation that cause the drainage patterns of surface water within the watershed.

There are 81 major watersheds in Minnesota, some of which overlap into adjoining states. Together, these watersheds make up the State's ten drainage basins. The Comfort Lake - Forest Lake Watershed is a sub-watershed of the St. Croix River Watershed and is located in southern Chisago County.

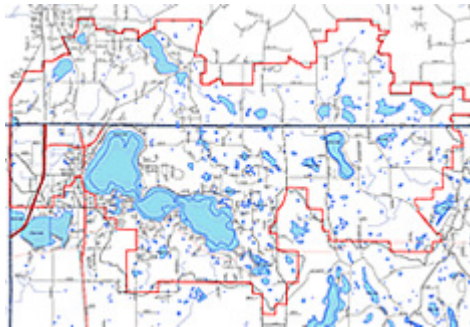
Because water is continually moving, it is a resource that tends to be more difficult to manage on the basis of linear political boundaries. Municipal and county lines, based on the rectangular grid of original government surveys, are not often well suited for the management of water resources.



## ABOUT THE COMFORT LAKE – FOREST LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT

The Comfort Lake - Forest Lake Watershed District encompasses roughly 47 square miles in northern Washington County and southern Chisago County, 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 is unique because the south portion of the watershed lies within Washington County and the seven-county metropolitan area. The northern portion extends into Chisago County beyond the metropolitan area boundary and is the only watershed district in the state that transects both metropolitan and outstate counties. Roughly 60 percent of the watershed lies in Washington County and 40 percent lies in Chisago County.



The Mission of the District is to protect and conserve its water resources. The District intends to use sound scientific water management approaches, technologies, and methods to develop a uniform, integrated approach to water management within a rapidly changing and urbanizing area.

## WHAT DOES THE COMFORT LAKE – FOREST LAKE WATERSHED DO?

The goal of the Comfort Lake – Forest Lake Watershed District is to enhance the quality of the water resources within the watershed. The District seeks to carry out this goal through public information and education, analysis of the causes of harmful impacts on the water resources, and through the development and enforcement of District rules and regulations.

Objectives of the Comfort Lake – Forest Lake Watershed District include:

- Protect and improve surface and groundwater quality
- Prevent erosion of soil in surface water systems
- Minimize public capital expenditures to correct flooding and water quality problems
- Protect, preserve and use natural surface and groundwater storage and retention systems
- Establish uniform local policies and official controls for water management
- Promote groundwater recharge
- Promote and encourage partnerships among the District, County, County SWCDs, and municipalities

For more information please contact  
District Administrator/Limnologist  
Randy Anhorn, 651.209.9753  
[randy.anhorn@clflwd.org](mailto:randy.anhorn@clflwd.org)

## WHO REPRESENTS THE COMFORT LAKE – FOREST LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT?

Each Watershed District is governed by an appointed Board of Managers. Counties within the Jurisdiction of the Watershed District appoint the District Managers. The manager must be a voting resident of the Watershed District and not a public officer of the county, state or federal government; however, a soil and water conservation supervisor may be a manager. The appointing county board must provide public notice before making appointments. The term of office is three years.

Because Comfort Lake - Forest Lake Watershed District is in both Chisago and Washington Counties, the make up of the Board of Managers reflects the percent of the watershed within each county. Because roughly 60 percent of the watershed is within Washington County, three (3) of the five (5) Managers are from Washington County and two (2) of the five (5) Managers come from Chisago County.

### The District Managers are:

- Jackie Anderson (*Chisago County*)
- Dick Damchik (*Washington County*)
- Tom Lynch (*Washington County*)
- Wayne Moe (*Washington County*)
- Jon Spence (*Chisago County*)

### District staff includes:

- Administrator/Limnologist – Randy Anhorn
- Engineer– Lisa Tilman (EOR, Inc)
- Legal- Chuck Holtman (Smith Partners)

Unless otherwise notified, Regular Board meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of the Month at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Forest Lake City Hall. Meeting agendas and minutes are posted on the District's website.

## HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

Contact us! Give us a call or visit the District's website at [www.clflwd.org](http://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.

- The District grants up to \$ 2,000 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.
- The District annually offers a free "Planting for Clean Water" workshop and nitrate testing clinic. 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 identify nitrate levels in the water supply of District residents. More information on District sponsored workshops can be found on the District website.
- 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).
- The District is continually seeking individuals to participate in the Districts Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC).

## THE COMFORT LAKE – FOREST LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT

AND

YOU



*Protecting Your Water Resources*

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