

2021 MAWD Project & Program of the Year

Preliminary Nomination Form

The MAWD Awards Committee is now accepting **Preliminary Nominations for Program or Project of the Year**. This simple, one-page **Preliminary Nomination Form** must be submitted by August 27 2021. When determining the finalists, the Awards Committee will consider: clearly defined need, creative partnerships, innovative financing, resourceful solutions, success at meeting goal, and public value. Finalists, in each category will be asked to complete a full nomination form. The Preliminary Nomination form only requires a project/program description up to 250 words.

Award Category (check one)

Project

Program

MAWD Region:

One

Two

Three

Watershed District or Watershed Management Organization:

Comfort Lake - Forest Lake Watershed District

Project/program name:

Citizen-Assisted Tributary Monitoring Program (CAT)

Nominator (if different from above)

Project/Program Summary (Up to 250 words).

Water monitoring is crucial to effectively improving water resources, and it comprises a key element of the Prioritized, Targeted and Measurable (PTM) implementation strategy. Diagnostic water monitoring is specifically used to identify existing and legacy pollutant load sources to water resources. The Citizen Assisted Tributary Monitoring Program (CAT) is an effort by the Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District to expand and refine its diagnostic monitoring capabilities in a cost-effective manner while also engaging local residents. The program utilizes trained volunteers to take water samples at small and flashy drainage points surrounding selected lakes, then deliver those samples to the District for analysis using inexpensive, yet accurate, digital colorimeters. The CAT program is a low-cost (About \$12 per sample) screening tool that both complements and focuses more expensive full scale diagnostic efforts. The outcome of these monitoring efforts is a refined understanding of the distribution of watershed pollutant sources that impact surface water quality.

This program acts as a piece of the bigger picture, allowing for the District to diagnose nutrient loading sources, and prioritize and target where future water quality improvement projects should be located. The CAT program is a low-cost solution to a high-cost, but necessary, diagnostic monitoring.

Project/Program Contact:

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Photos (Optional)

You may include up to four (4) photos of your project or program.

Submit nomination materials to Karen Kill, kkill@mnwcd.org by **August 27, 2020**.