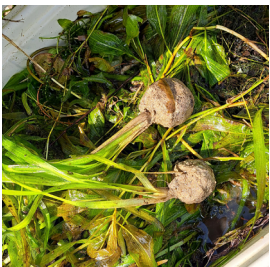


Newsletter



More native plants coming to Moody Lake



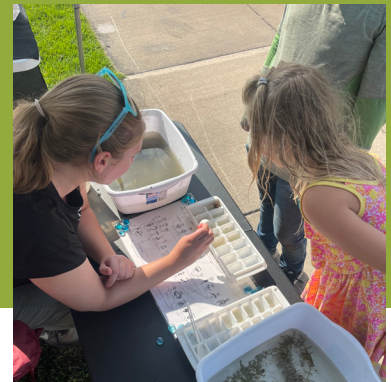
Moody Lake, located north of Bone Lake in Chisago City, is the focus of a native aquatic plant research project. The CLFLWD partnered with researchers from the University of Minnesota to transplant a variety of native aquatic plants into Moody Lake in early August. The goal of this project is to improve the diversity of the lake's plant community which had been previously damaged by invasive species.



Living in our lakes

District staff have been hosting a weekly booth at Forest Lake's Arts in the Park. We're providing an opportunity for people of all ages to learn about the plants and animals that call our lakes home, like the damselfly featured in this issue's cover photo.

Learn more about upcoming activities and workshops on page 4.



A new look

The District adopted a new logo and website earlier this year to improve the usability and accessibility of District materials. Explore the new website at www.clflwd.org.



CLFLWD
WATERSHED DISTRICT

Comfort Lake-Forest Lake
Watershed District
44 Lake St. South, Suite A
Forest Lake, MN 55025



Watersheds & Watershed Districts

About Us

The Comfort Lake–Forest Lake Watershed District (CLFLWD) is a special purpose unit of local government that was formed by citizen petition in 1999. The District covers 49 square miles in northern Washington county and southern Chisago county. The District is tasked with maintaining and improving the area’s water resources.



Learn more about our history online!

A watershed is an area of land where all water falling or flowing will drain to a common point. Watersheds aren’t divided by political boundaries but by topography and flow of water. In the Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed, water flows through a series of lakes, rivers, and public drainage systems to the Sunrise River and finally the St. Croix River.

In Minnesota, water resources are managed by watershed districts and watershed management organizations. Watershed districts work to solve and prevent water-related problems. Watershed districts are special purpose units of local government authorized by the 1955 Watershed Act (MSA103D).

Watershed districts exist because water management issues frequently cannot be addressed solely within a single municipality or county. Solving these issues requires prioritization based on geographic and hydrologic needs and not political boundaries. The interconnected nature of waterways means that dollars spent in one city or county result in benefits for all other cities and counties in the watershed.

TOTAL GRANT DOLLARS

\$5,000,000

2023 GRANT DOLLARS

\$533,600

Using Clean Water Fund grants to improve local water quality

The Comfort Lake–Forest Lake Watershed District (CLFLWD) is the biggest winner of Clean Water Fund Projects & Practices grants over the past ten years with a cumulative award of \$5 million between fiscal years 2014-2023.

In 2022 the District submitted 13 grant applications for a total request of \$1.4 million in grant funds. \$1.35 million in grant funds was awarded. The District was awarded a \$533,600 Clean Water Fund grant for the Forest Lake Alum Treatment Project (page 4) in fiscal year 2023.

The District’s use of diagnostic monitoring to identify the most cost-effective water quality

projects has been key to its success in winning Clean Water Fund grants.

The District implements water quality projects based on the economic principles of cost-benefit. This process ensures that only the best projects, with the highest water quality benefits and return on investment, are brought forward and constructed.

The District has also received grant funding from the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Fund, the Section 319 Small Watersheds Focus Program, and the Lower St. Croix Partnership’s Watershed Based Implementation Funding.



Progress

As a whole, the District is 92% of the way to meeting the state standards for phosphorus reductions and 78% of the way to meeting the District’s phosphorus goals.

The District’s goals often exceed the state standards. Based on historic lake data that provides realistic and sustainable phosphorus data, the District’s goals ensure our local lakes reach their full potential.



Resources for protecting your local lakes & wetlands

Interested in supporting the health of your local lakes and wetlands? Want to stop or prevent shoreline erosion? Restoring your shoreline or wetland buffer may be the solution for you!



Mini Grant

What: Up to \$500 reimbursement to improve water quality within the watershed, either directly or through targeted education and outreach. Examples include: native plantings, buffer strips, water spout diversions & rain barrels, turf replacement, etc.

Who: Residents, homeowner associations, schools, non-profits, and businesses



Community Water Cost-Share

What: A competitive grant offering funding of up to 75% of approved costs, for highly ranked projects with a maximum of \$7,500. Eligible projects must improve water quality in the watershed district. Examples include: shoreline restorations, wetland restorations, raingardens, and/or labor conducted by an approved contractor.

Who: Residents, homeowner associations, schools, non-profits, and businesses



Legacy Payment Program

What: Landowners who meet the criteria outlined in this program can receive payments of up to \$300/yr. Criteria include the presence of high quality natural resources, compliance with all District rules and local ordinances, and shoreline or streambank buffers where applicable. Contact the District for the full criteria list.

Who: Residential land owners

Love your lake? Love your shoreline.

Many of Minnesota’s lakes are in trouble. Nearly half of Minnesota’s natural shorelines have already been lost, and natural shoreline continues to vanish at an alarming rate.

Mowed shorelines allow 7 to 9 times more pollutants to enter the lake than a naturally vegetated shoreline. These pollutants accumulate in lakes, often creating serious water quality problems while also promoting algal blooms.

In addition to removing pollutants, Natural shorelines provide valuable habitat for fish and loons, frogs, butterflies, and more.

Protecting and Restoring

The CLFLWD launched its new Comprehensive Shoreline Program in the spring of 2023. This program provides technical and financial resources to lake shore owners looking to restore and protect their shorelines. Technical resources include free site visits, planting maps, and tool rentals. Financial assistance includes grants, cost-sharing, and tax rebates.

To learn more about this program scan the QR code or visit our website www.clflwd.org.



The search for a new office continues

The District’s current office space has transferred ownership and no longer meets our needs. Attend our upcoming open house to learn more about the District’s search for an office space and provide your feedback.

November 8th | 4:30 - 6:00pm
44 Lake St. South, Suite A, Forest Lake

Coming Soon! A cleaner and clearer Forest Lake

The CLFLWD will be conducting an alum treatment on Forest Lake in mid-September. This is an exciting milestone project that will result in cleaner and clearer water throughout all three basins of Forest Lake.

The lake will be treated with alum, a non-toxic chemical compound, that will bind to phosphorus in the water and make it unavailable for algae growth.

The watershed district targets phosphorus, because in excess amounts, it can promote algae growth and lower water quality. One pound of phosphorus can support the growth of up to 500 pounds of algae.

Information Session

The District will be holding an alum treatment information on Saturday, August 26th from 10:00am to 12:00pm at the Hardwood Creek Library in Forest Lake. Stop by to learn more about this exciting project!

Alum Facts

- ✓ Alum is safe for people, pets, and wildlife
- ✓ Alum has been used to treat drinking water for hundreds of years.
- ✓ Alum is applied by licensed professionals
- ✓ Only the middle basin will be treated, but all three basins will see benefits.
- ✓ Recreation will not be restricted during the treatment.
- ✓ Benefits are expected to last 10-15 years. Shoreline restorations can extend these benefits even longer (page 3).



Scan the QR code to learn more about this exciting project!



Alum application barge on Shields Lake

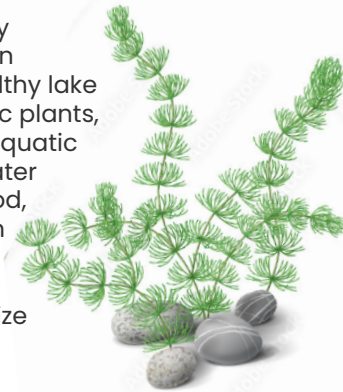


Moody Lake before (left) and after (right) alum treatment

More Aquatic Plants?

Some additional aquatic plant growth may occur after the alum treatment. However, it is not expected to be a significant increase in plant abundance or distribution.

Aquatic plants play an important role in maintaining a healthy lake ecosystem. Aquatic plants, especially native aquatic plants, improve water quality, provide food, shelter and oxygen for fish, protect shorelines from erosion, and stabilize lake sediments.



We're going digital! Sign-up for our online newsletter.

Beginning in 2024 the CLFLWD will be switching from one annual newsletter to four quarterly newsletters. These newsletters will be distributed digitally to reduce costs and provide more in-depth updates on watershed activities. Scan the QR code below to sign-up for the digital newsletter.

You can also follow us on social media @clflwd to receive the latest updates.



August

8/26 Alum Info Session
10:00am - 12:00pm
Hardwood Creek Library

8/30 Project Celebration
9:00 - 11:00am
Lakeside Memorial Park

September

9/14 Aquatic Plants for Kids
3:00 - 5:00pm
Hardwood Creek Library

9/14 Aquatic Plant Workshop
5:30 - 6:30pm
Hardwood Creek Library

9/25 Shoreline Workshop
4:30 - 6:00pm
CLFLWD Office

October

10/21 Fall Yard Maintenance
10:00am-12:00pm
CLFLWD Office

November

11/8 Open House
4:30pm - 6:00pm
CLFLWD Office



Learn more & RSVP online clflwd.org/events

Upcoming Activities & Workshops

The District hosts free workshops and hands-on activities for audiences of all ages including classroom visits, adult education, and service learning. If you're interested in learning more about these educational opportunities contact our Education & Outreach Coordinator, Jessica Lindemyer, at (651) 395-5858 or jessica.lindemyer@clflwd.org.