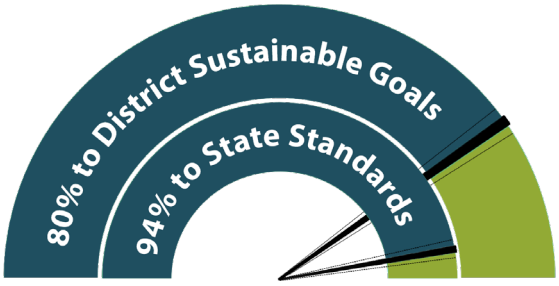
2023
YEAR IN REVIEW

The District was **awarded $2,886,003 in grant funding** in 2023. The District will use these funds to implement grant-funded projects throughout the watershed. With grants, the District is able to complete more projects and achieve more water quality improvements than with its tax levy alone.

Watercraft inspectors spent a total of **3,934 hours at boat landings** within the District, **completing over 7,903 watercraft inspections** to help stop the spread aquatic invasive species. Aquatic invasive species can have negative effects on overall lake health and limit many recreation activities.

The District had **32 active permits** and performed **1,304 site inspections** to ensure project compliance with District rules, and minimize impact of construction on local water bodies and the Comfort Lake - Forest Lake Watershed as a whole.



Projects, programs, outreach, and education efforts have resulted in **meeting 94% of phosphorus reductions** needed to achieve state water quality standards by 2031.

Several **in-person and virtual events were held in 2023** to keep the public aware of District progress. These included an open house, project completion celebration, pre-project info sessions, & several informational workshops.

The **development of a comprehensive shoreline program with cost-share, shoreline inventories, and restorations** in 2023 which resulted in 35 initial site visits, 12 mini grants approved, 2 clean water grant applications, 6 legacy program participants, and 8 residential soil tests.

The District **completed the first phase of the Forest Lake Alum Treatment** in 2023. This marked **a major milestone** in the District's history of improving Forest Lake's water quality now and for future generations.

The District **completed two major water quality improvement projects** in 2023. The County Road-50 Iron Enhanced Sand Filter will reduce phosphorus loading to Forest Lake by 97 lb/yr. The Sunrise River/Highway 61 Wetland Enhancement will reduce phosphorus loading to Shallow Pond by 89 lb/yr and to Comfort Lake by 65 lb/yr.

To put it into perspective, one pound of phosphorous can produce 500 pounds of algae.

COMFORT LAKE FOREST LAKE

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WATERSHED DISTRICT