

Water Quality:

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The MCWD water quality program has kicked off another season of monitoring water quality on lakes and streams in the District. In 2011, water quality samples are being taken on 27 bays on Lake Minnetonka, 11 upper watershed lakes, and 15 limited access lakes (canoe). Seven other lakes are being monitored by the MCWD Citizen Lake Monitoring Initiative. There are 10 locations along Minnehaha Creek and 30 locations on the Upper Watershed streams that are also being monitored for water quality. The annual lake grades report for 2010 came out in May and showed water quality has held steady compared to previous years.

Staff has been busy with a number of fish management plans this spring. Even before the ice was out, the MCWD conducted a carp removal project on Lake Wassermann in Victoria. Licensed fishermen attempted to remove carp once again on Lake Wassermann in late May. Although the fishermen netted fewer carp than hoped, plans were made to make another attempt next year. MCWD water quality staff also continued a fish bio-manipulation project on Lake Nokomis in Minneapolis. It's the second year of a three-year plan on Lake Nokomis, where the district is netting bullheads and stocking walleyes to reduce the number of fish that are stirring up the sediment on the lake bottom, increasing phosphorous which promotes algae growth.

MCWD staff partnered with the Gleason Lake Improvement Association on the Gleason Lake Vegetation Management study, to help manage another invasive species, Curly Leaf Pondweed. The goal of the project, which is in its fifth and final year, is to allow the native plant species to reestablish themselves. That will help improve the water quality by increasing clarity and reducing internal sources of phosphorus.



The MCWD water quality department has added a second boat to its lake monitoring program. One boat, which is painted red, is being used exclusively on Lake Minnetonka, which is designated infested for zebra mussels. The other, which is painted blue, is being used on all other lakes in the district.

Regulatory:

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It's been an exciting spring for the MCWD regulatory department, which launched some new cost share grant programs this year. There has been considerable interest in the programs, which are designed to encourage the installation of stormwater management practices like raingardens, shoreline/streambank plantings and pervious pavers. The District also gives residents grants for the voluntary replacement of failing septic systems.

Staff have been working on Low Impact Development projects including road reconstruction projects in the cities of Excelsior, Minnetonka and Wayzata, and coordinating permitting issues regarding the planned Woodland Cove subdivision in Minnetrista and the reconstruction of Highway 5 through parts of Chanhassen and Victoria.

The MCWD regulatory program also has been busy following up with district residents who have stormwater ponds on their property. Making sure these ponds are maintained is a big priority for the district.