



Title: Long Lake Creek Partnership Update

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Purpose:

To provide an update on the Long Lake Creek subwatershed partnership, including the status of the implementation roadmap, recent coordination with the partners, and a funding opportunity for a priority project.

Background:

The Cities of Long Lake, Medina, and Orono; Long Lake Waters Association (LLWA); and Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) have agreed to work together towards a common goal of improving water quality within the Long Lake Creek Subwatershed. This effort will help the cities meet state load reduction requirements for the five impaired lakes in the system and ensure that area lakes are swimmable and fishable.

To support this effort, the MCWD obtained state grant funding and led a subwatershed assessment to provide a strong scientific understanding of the system, identify cost-effective projects and strategies, and develop a clear and actionable roadmap to implement them. In 2019-2020, MCWD conducted the subwatershed assessment and worked with the partners to identify and evaluate a variety of potential watershed improvement projects. In late 2020, staff developed an Implementation Roadmap Preview and presented it to each of the three City Councils to provide an introduction to the findings, recommendations, and near-term priorities that came out of the subwatershed assessment. This allowed the partnership to (1) start building council understanding and gauge their support, and (2) start to advance the projects that have been prioritized, while continuing to develop the full roadmap.

Since that time, staff have continued to advance project planning on several opportunities, in coordination with the cities. Completion of the full roadmap was deprioritized in 2021 due to competing priorities but is now slated for completion by the end of this year. This final roadmap will include the data, methodology, and findings from the assessment; prioritized projects, costs, and benefits; and the recommended action steps, roles, timeline, and funding strategy for implementation.

Summary:

At the November 17, 2022 PPC Meeting, staff will provide an update on the status and timeline for completing the roadmap, the implementation strategy and near-term project priorities, recent meetings with the partners, and the proposed approach for reengaging city councils.

In addition, staff will provide an update on a funding opportunity for a priority project from the roadmap. The third round of Watershed-Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) is available through the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR). For this round, the Minnehaha Creek watershed allocation area has \$418,140 available to fund eligible projects/activities for implementation in 2023-2025. Staff would like to support the City of Long Lake in submitting a funding request for a regional stormwater management project at Holbrook Park in Long Lake.

Supporting documents:

Map of the Long Lake Creek Subwatershed

**LONG LAKE
SUBWATERSHED**

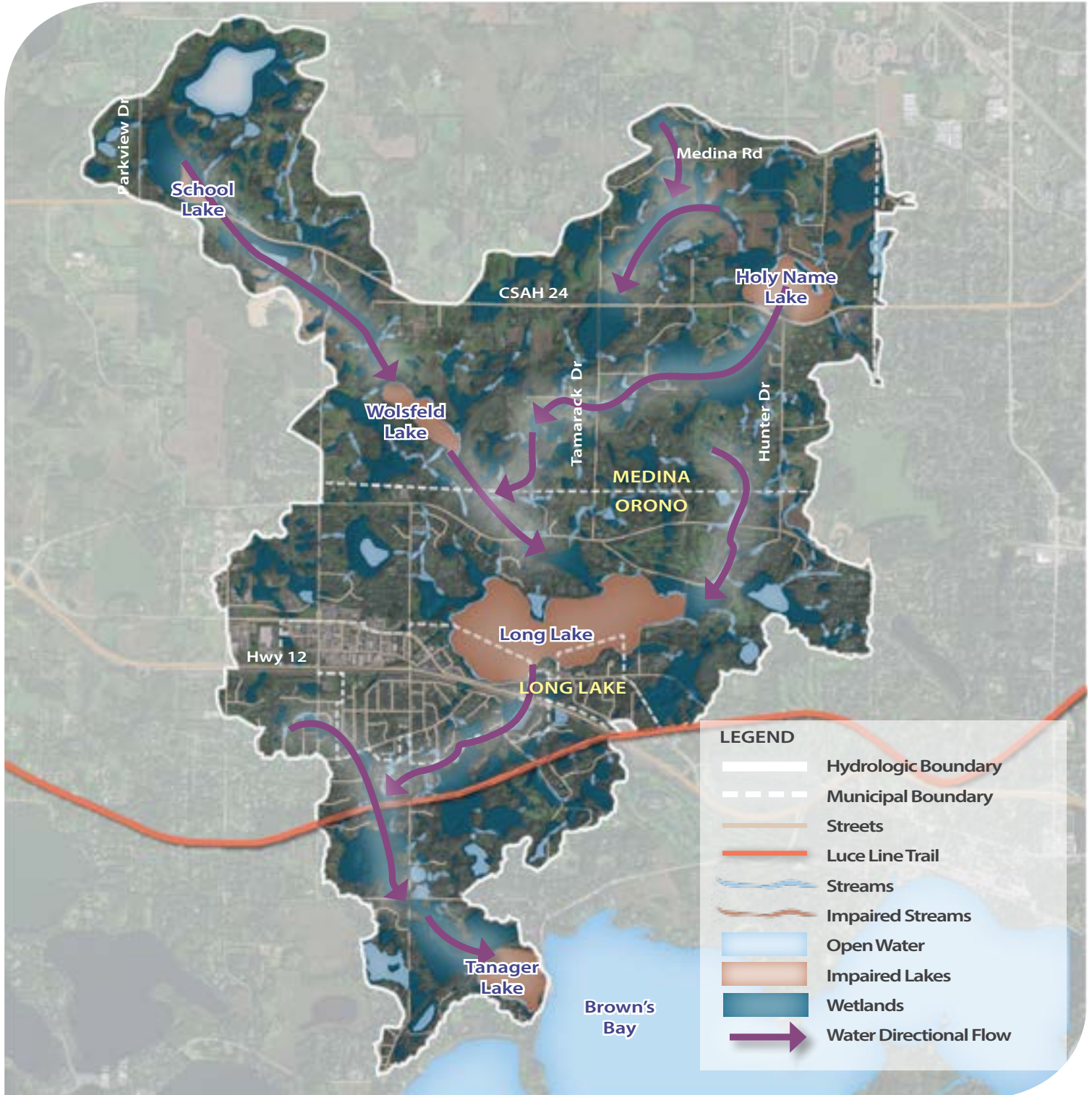


Figure 3.26 Long Lake Water Resources map

