

# Forest Lake Enhanced Street Sweeping Planning, Implementation, & Results

The Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District (CLFLWD) partnered with the City of Forest Lake to develop and implement an Enhanced Street Sweeping Plan that is protecting the health of our local lakes, the durability of area infrastructure, and saving taxpayer dollars.

**Project Name:**

Forest Lake Enhanced Street Sweeping

**Project Sponsors:**

- Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District (CLFLWD)
- City of Forest Lake
- Rice Creek Watershed District (RCWD)

**Target Waterbodies:**

Comfort Lake, Forest Lake, Shields Lake, Lake Keewahtin, and Clear Lake

**Project Timeline:**

Ongoing Practice

**Financials:**

Plan Development	
Clean Water Fund Grant	\$36,000
CLFLWD Match	\$9,000
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>\$45,000</b>
Sweeper Purchase & Implementation	
Clean Water Fund Grant	\$220,000
City Match	\$35,250
CLFLWD Match	\$19,415
RCWD Match	\$8,085
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>\$282,750</b>

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City of Forest Lake’s regenerative air street sweeper

**Plan Development:**

In 2017 the CLFLWD received a \$36,000 Clean Water Fund grant to develop an Enhanced Street Sweeping Plan for the City of Forest Lake to optimize phosphorus removal. Phosphorus is a nutrient found in organic material such as leaves and grass clippings that can lower the water quality of our local lakes and rivers

**Implementation:**

In 2018 the City of Forest Lake, with support from the CLFLWD and the Rice Creek Watershed District, received a \$220,000 Clean Water Fund grant to purchase a regenerative air sweeper and begin implementation of the Enhanced Street Sweeping Plan.

**Results:**

The City of Forest Lake drains to five significant lakes: Forest, Shields, Keewahtin (formerly Sylvan), Comfort, and Clear Lake. Throughout the implementation process, the CLFLWD partnered with the City of Forest Lake and the University of Minnesota to track the total solids, sediment, and nutrients recovered through the enhanced street sweeping program. The results of this tracking have found the enhanced street sweeping program to be one of the most cost-effective strategies for improving lake water quality with a estimated cumulative phosphorus load reduction to all five lakes of 309 pounds per year. One pound of phosphorus has the potential to support up to 500 pounds of algae growth.

In addition to significant water quality improvements to the target lakes, this project is improving city streets and reducing long-term maintenance costs for municipal stormwater facilities. The cost of program implementation is likely equally offset by stormwater maintenance savings, resulting in a net sum zero cost.



This project is the recipient of the 2022 City of Excellence Award from the League of Minnesota Cities. Learn more at [lmc.org](http://lmc.org)