



# Administrators Report

*For May 28, 2026*



Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District | Administrators Report

Sonde Measurements (1 meter increments)					
Depth	Temp	DO (mg/l)	Conductivity	pH	Cl <sup>-</sup>
		2.9	29.9	7.93	15

Time: 9:50

Data Set on Moody Lake

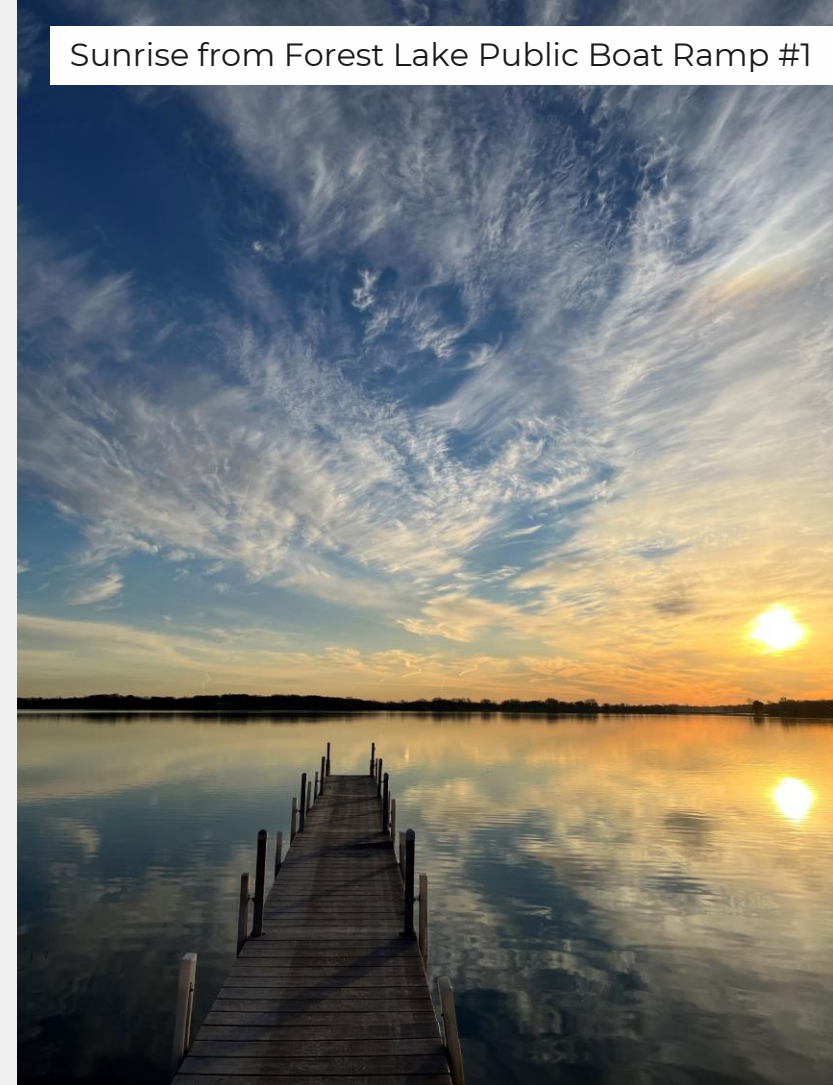


## Plans and Documents Detailing 2026 Staff Work

The documents linked below guide staff's work for the year:

- [2026 Budget](#) (last amended 12/18/25)
- [2026 Staff Work Plan](#) (approved 12/18/25)
- [2026 Education & Outreach Plan](#) (approved 2/12/26)
- [2026 AIS Prevention & Management Plan](#) (approved 3/12/26)
- [2026 Cost-Share Framework](#) (approved 3/12/26)
- [2026 Monitoring Plan](#) (approved 3/12/26)

Sunrise from Forest Lake Public Boat Ramp #1





# Administration

## 1001 – Board Administration

- The Board held a special meeting on May 12<sup>th</sup> to discuss priorities for the 2027 annual budget.
- The 2026 Minnesota Watersheds Summer Tour will be hosted in Detroit Lakes August 25-26.

## 1003 – General Administration

- The District submitted its 2025 Annual Audit, to the Office of the State Auditor (OSA) by the April 30th deadline.

**SAVE *The* DATE**

**2026 Summer Tour**  
August 25 - 26

Mark your calendar and stay tuned for more details. We are excited to have you join us in Detroit Lakes this year!

 [Holiday Inn, 1155 Hwy 10 East, Detroit Lakes, MN](#)

 [mnwatersheds.com/summer-tour](https://mnwatersheds.com/summer-tour)

**MINNESOTA WATERSHEDS**  
Connecting People. Protecting Water.

**RED RIVER**  
RETENTION AUTHORITY

**PELICAN RIVER**  
watershed district

**m**  
BWSR

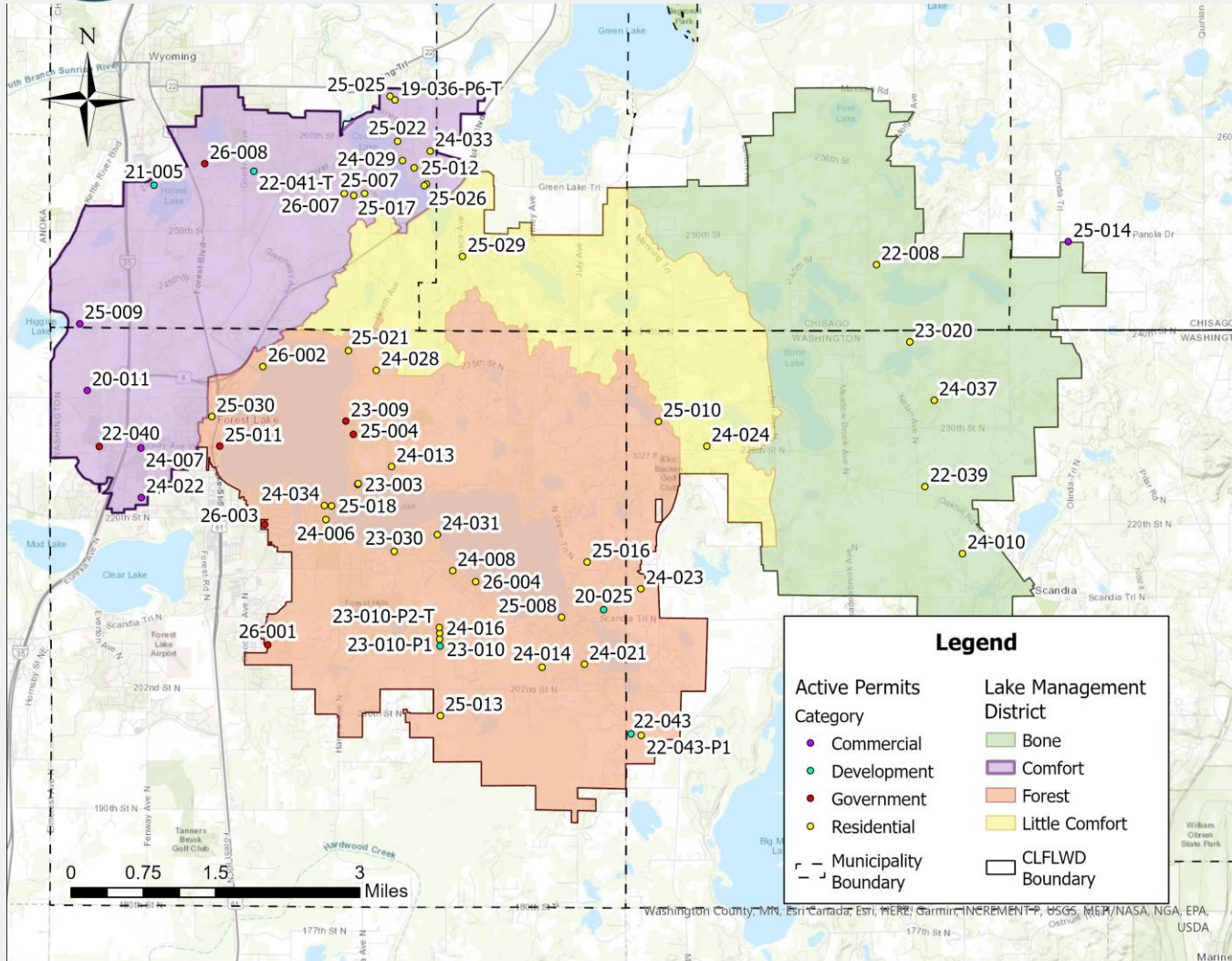
Red River Watershed  
Management Board

Wild Rice  
Watershed  
District





# Programs – 3002 Permitting



## Activity Summary

Between April 11, 2026, and May 19, 2026, the following activity took place:

- 123 site inspections performed with a 94.47% compliance rate
- Six permit applications received
- Nine permits activated
- Two conditionally approved
- Four permits closed out
- See Administrator's Report for full list of active permits



# Programs –3002 Permitting Rule Revision

## Partner Workshops

- CLFLWD staff discussed the rule revision proposal and invited feedback from community partners, including:
  - Department of Natural Resources
  - City of Forest Lake
  - City of Wyoming
  - City of Scandia



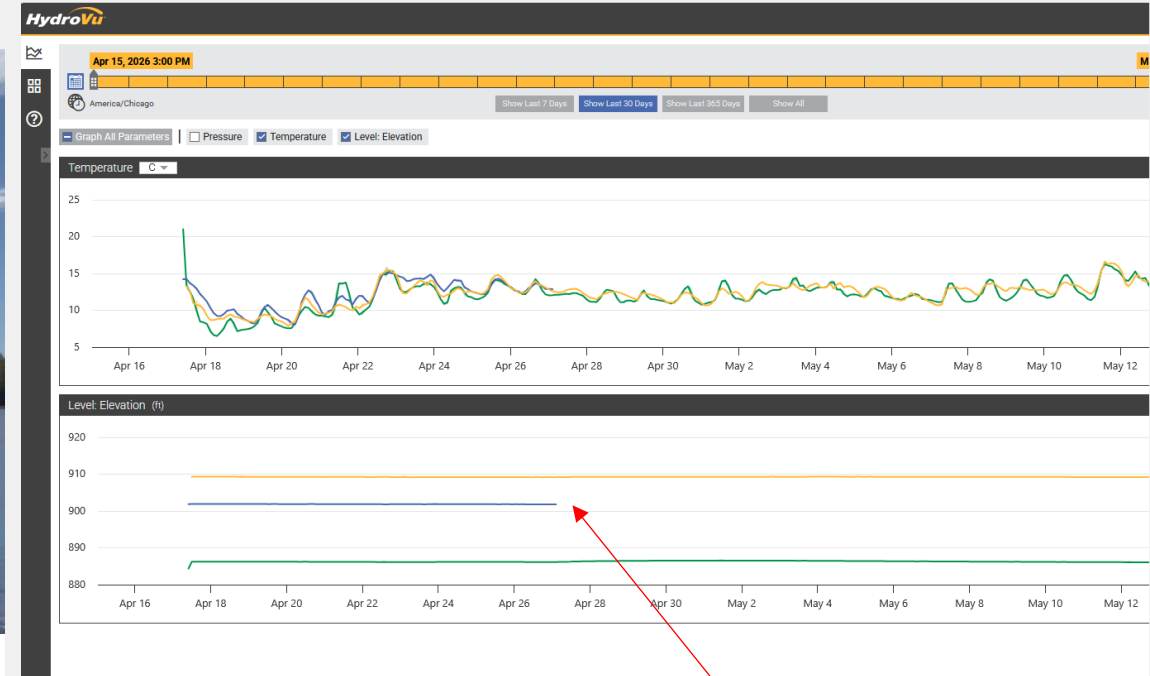
Pre-construction shoreline photo of an active permit site on Forest Lake.



# Programs – 3003 Monitoring



Staff Monitoring Moody Lake in a Canoe



Forest Lake Level Logger stopped working April 27

- CAMP lake monitoring Week 4 was conducted the week of May 18-22.
- The Forest Lake level logger malfunctioned and has been offline since May 27. Staff are attempting to resolve the issue but may need to purchase replacement equipment.



# Programs – 3004 Non-Point Source Pollution Abatement



A mosaic of *Antennaria neglecta*, *Carex pensylvanica*, and *Viola canadensis* growing near a shoreline on Comfort Lake

## Residential

- Staff continue to conduct site visits and process cost-share applications. Six projects have been approved so far in the 2026 season with two more received.

## Agriculture

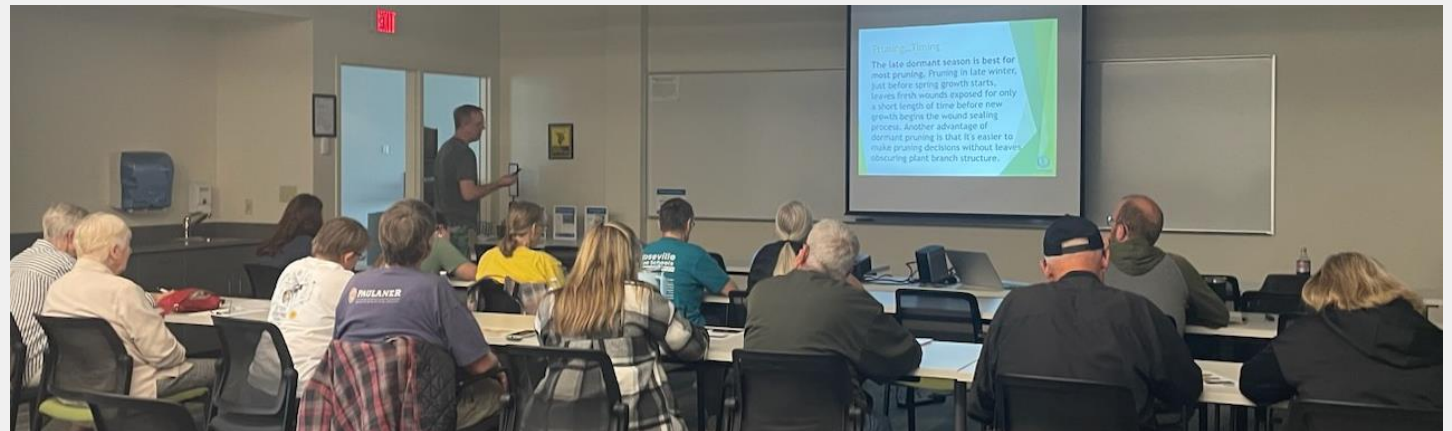
- A drone spraying demonstration is schedule for late June.



## Programs – 3005 Education & Outreach

### Community Education Partnership Events

- Landscaping Septics Workshop – April 20
  - Chisago Lakes Community Education
  - 12 people in attendance
- Build Your Own Lure – Family Class – April 23
  - Forest Lake Community Education
  - 30 adults and kids in attendance
- Native Fruit Trees and Shrubs – May 11
  - Hardwood Creek Library
  - 26 people in attendance





## Programs – 3005 Education & Outreach

### Comfort Lakes Association Annual Meeting – April 23

- CLFLWD highlighted AIS updates, monitoring updates and 2026 monitoring plan, and natural shoreline / cost-share opportunities
- ~25 people in attendance

### Watershed Connections Lecture Series – April 27

- How Zebra Mussel Populations affect Mercury Accumulations in Fish
- ~16 people in attendance

### Forest Lake Laker Publication

- Several sections of CLFLWD information



April 27 Watershed Connections Event



# Programs – 3005 Education & Outreach – Upcoming Events

## North Shore Trail Nature Area Walk and Talk June 9, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

**North Shore Trail Nature Area Walk and Talk**  
**Tuesday, June 9th; 6:00-7:00 p.m.**


Join Comfort Lake - Forest Lake Watershed District's Aidan Read for a walking tour through the recently restored North Shore Trail Nature Area.

Attendees will have the opportunity to take part in a guided walk through a unique natural area located in the heart of Forest Lake. During the tour, we will explore the history of the site and take an in-depth look at the restoration work that has been completed. Discussion will include the ecological goals that guided the project, the techniques and tools used to achieve those goals, and the methods being used to monitor and evaluate progress over time.

In addition, we will look ahead to the future of the site, including ongoing management strategies and stewardship efforts designed to protect and preserve this valuable and distinctive habitat for years to come.

Please RSVP via email to [adam.hjelm@clflwd.org](mailto:adam.hjelm@clflwd.org) or call 651-395-5850 by June 8th so we have a headcount for supplies and materials.

Participants can park at the Forest Lake 3rd lake boat launch and walk to the site for the event.



## Comfort Lake Delisting Celebration June 17, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

**Comfort Lake Delisting Celebration**  
**June 17th, 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**  
**Lord of the Lakes Lutheran Church**  
25402 Itasca Avenue, Forest Lake, MN 55025

**Join your friends and neighbors to celebrate Comfort Lake's great water quality achievement!**

After 24 years on the state's impaired waters list due to excess nutrients, Comfort Lake is now slated for delisting — a major milestone for the community and the lake itself. This achievement reflects years of collaboration, dedication, and stewardship from the Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District, the Comfort Lakes Association, the City of Wyoming, Chisago County, and many local groups, organizations, and community members who worked together to improve and protect the lake's water quality.

We will be having a short program to commemorate the activities and partnerships that have helped the lake reach this milestone. There will be a light supper, refreshments, and cake following the program.

Please RSVP via email to [adam.hjelm@clflwd.org](mailto:adam.hjelm@clflwd.org) or by phone to (651) 395-5850 by June 10th.





*Share with your neighbors; make the Watershed Connections.*



## Programs – 3006 Interagency Communication



### Lower St. Croix Watershed Partnership (LSCWP)

- Policy Committee next meeting: Monday, July 29
- Planning Team next meeting: May 27
- Steering Committee last met on May 13 and discussed project requests, mid-point evaluation, and FY27 Watershed Based Implementation Funding grant work plan.
- Meeting materials are available at <https://www.lsc1w1p.org/meetings-committees>.



# Programs – 3006 Interagency Communication

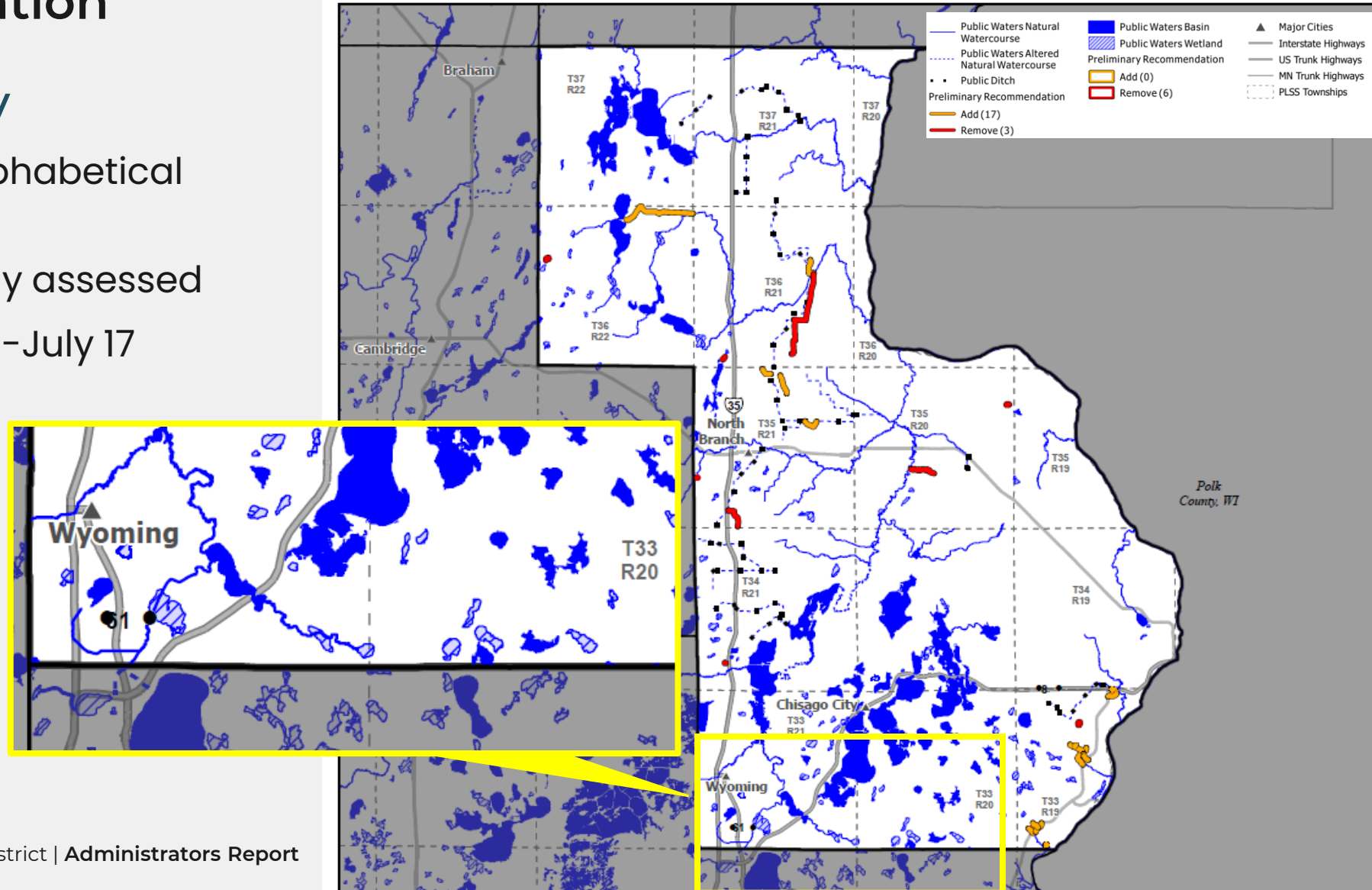
## Public Waters Inventory

- Counties assessed in alphabetical order
- Chisago County currently assessed
- Comment period May 18–July 17
- Public meeting
  - June 2 at 6:00 pm
  - Chisago Co Gov't Center
  - 313 N. Main St.
  - Center City, MN
- No changes to public waters in CLFLWD boundaries

## Public Waters Inventory Preliminary Map of Corrections

Chisago County

Public waters are defined in Minnesota Statute 103G. The boundaries of public waters shown on this map are drawn as accurately as possible, consistent with the map scale, but are still approximate. Public ditches are only shown where they overlap with public waters.





## Programs – 3007 Research



The District will participate in the Sustainable Communities Partnership, which is a St. Thomas program that engages students in experiential learning and creative problem-solving by integrating partner-identified sustainability projects into the St. Thomas curriculum. The objective of the research is to examine the impact of lake proximity and water quality on property values. The purpose of this research is to help people understand the (partial) economic contributions of the lakes through their impact on local property markets. The District will support this effort by providing monitoring data and coordinating with faculty and student researcher.



# Programs – 3008 Measurement of Progress

**2025 YEAR IN REVIEW**  
COMFORT LAKE-FOREST LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT

- Completed the Forest Lake Alum Treatment Project
- Throughout the year 2025, submitted grant applications totaling \$7.9 million, of which \$3.3 million in grants was awarded. Associated projects will span multiple years.
- Offered cost-share programs including 61 site visits, 46 program participants, 670 linear feet of shoreline restored, and 1.6 acres of native plantings
- Held 28 educational workshops and classes with a total of 482 people attending
- Completed a Strategic Plan and 5-Year Program & Project Plan
- Completed shoreline inventories on Forest Lake, Little Comfort Lake, and Lake Keewahchin
- Watercraft inspectors performed 6,033 inspections and worked 3,563 hours, averaging 1.70 inspections per hour
- Received 40 permit applications and performed 1,787 site inspections
- Purchased two properties with a combined total of 241 acres for water quality and habitat restoration projects
- Held the annual State of the Watershed event attended by 99 people

Visit [www.clflwd.org](http://www.clflwd.org) for more info, including our Annual Report and Progress Report.

**2025 Annual Report**  
Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District  
Draft

**CLFLWD**  
WATERSHED DISTRICT

Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District  
2025 Progress Report

Draft April 14, 2026  
Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District  
1 | Page

**PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (PRAP)**

## 2025 Year-in-Review, Annual Report, Progress Report

- Submitted to BWSR and DNR by April 30<sup>th</sup> deadline
- Provided to BWSR PRAP coordinator for reference as part of PRAP →

## BWSR PRAP

- Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) Performance Review & Assistance Program (PRAP) ongoing. The District has provided all required documentation to BWSR, and BWSR staff is working on the PRAP Report. TBD when the report will be brought to the CLFLWD Board.

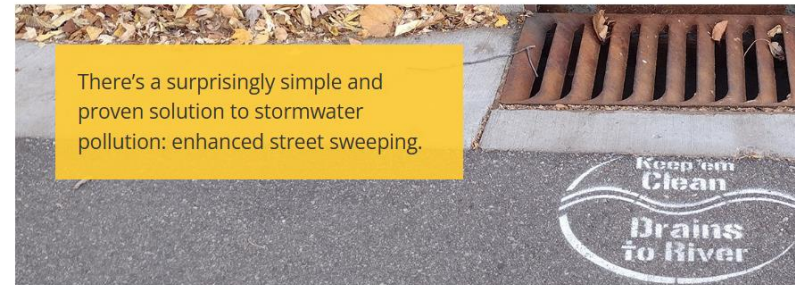


# Programs – 3009 Grant Research & Preparation

## Minnesota GreenCorps



## Clean sweep program



## MPCA GreenCorps Host Site

- Application not selected
- 107 applications received vs 58 available spots
- Can apply again next year for Sep '27–Aug '28 season

## Clean Sweep Free Testing

- Program offers free material testing to quantify sweeping results
- Compare results to calculator tool
- Cities of Forest Lake and Wyoming applied

Account	Title and Description	Total Grant Award or Grant Request	2025	2026	Grant Period Start Date	Grant Expiration Date	Cumulative Grant Amount Spent to Date (as of 6/30/26)	Comment
<b>ACTIVE GRANTS</b>		<b>Total Grant Award or Grant Request</b>	<b>2025 Earned Grant Revenue Year-end</b>	<b>2026 Earned Grant Revenue Year-end</b>				
S-001	BWSR RMAP - Permitting Program Review	\$0,400	\$0	\$0,400	2/2/2020	12/31/2020	\$119	2026 initiative - staff and engineering time to review permit
S-004	NR Conservation Corps Individual Placement (900 hrs) and Crew Labor (400 hrs)			N/A	10/29/2020	9/30/2020	N/A	2026 initiative - Grant awarded in timetable, not in dollars.
S-004, 3-000	Indirect Great Lakes Partnership Grant - Shoreline Restoration and Outreach	\$60,000	\$48,023	\$13,977	10/1/2024	9/30/2026	\$46,304	Shoreline projects and shoreline-related public outreach. TI
S-004, 3-000	MPCA Local Climate Action: Shoreline Resiliency Planning - Storm Engineering	\$30,000	\$20,327	\$5,673	6/17/2025	6/30/2026	\$33,741	Complete Shoreline Resiliency Action Plan in 2026
S-005	No Child Left Inside Grant: Outdoor Experience Kits for Local Schools	\$5,000	N/A	\$5,000	7/1/2026	6/30/2027	\$0	2026 initiative - direct purchase cost of education kit materi
S-006	LSC Mid-Point Evaluation Grant - Mid-Point Eval	\$2,370	\$0	\$2,370	10/29/2025	12/31/2026	\$2,011	Assist with Lower St. Croix 15-year plan mid-point evaluat
S-008	LSC 100% Grant - Reporting and Work Planning	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000	12/31/2024	12/31/2024	\$0	2026 initiative - Grant awarded in timetable, not in dollars.
S-011	Washington County AGI Prevention Ad - Boreal grants	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0	3/29/2020	12/31/2020	\$0	2026 grants include BorealForest Watershed Inspectors (3
S-100	BWSR Water Quality & Storage Grant - Floodplain Project Mapping & Concept Design	\$90,000	\$0	\$49,500	2/29/2020	12/31/2027	\$0	Grant awarded by end of 2026. Grant period begins in March 2025. Development also before applying for project construction
S-204-A	PT25 CWP Spring Lake Ag BMPs	\$90,000	\$0	\$10,000	4/5/2024	12/31/2026	\$3,200	Project ends before 2026. Final report management con
S-204-C	PT25 CWP Fresh Ave Iron Enhanced Sand Filter	\$1,490,000	\$81,820	\$1,348,180	3/18/2024	12/31/2027	\$82,071	Project to be completed in 2025-2027. Grant expires 12/31/
S-209-A	PT25 CWP Accelerated Implementation Grant - Sunrise River Headwaters Project Development	\$110,000	\$10,640	\$99,360	3/18/2025	12/31/2027	\$16,709	Project to be completed in 2025-2027. Grant expires 12/31/
S-209-B	PT25 BWSR Green Infrastructure Projects: East Comfort Road	\$220,000	\$710	\$60,000	6/9/2020	12/31/2027	\$4,670	Grant amended to accommodate project location change pr
G-000-F	Conservation Partners Legacy Bone Lake South Wetland Acquisition (and fencing)	\$500,000	\$424,119	\$75,881	7/14/2020	6/30/2020	\$45,260	Grant period ends 6/30/20. Majority used on property acqui
Wetland	Grants Closed out in 2025	\$2,321,126	\$2,373,660	\$1,648,641			\$416,371	fencing on acquired property in 2026.
<b>ACTIVE GRANTS</b>		<b>\$2,642,376</b>	<b>\$2,373,660</b>	<b>\$1,648,641</b>			<b>\$416,371</b>	

## Active Grants Summary Table

- Updated and enclosed with Administrator's Report
- Will also serve as Revenues table as part of 2027 draft budget workbook



## Programs – 3010 Operations & Maintenance



CR50 IESF Sand filter Maintenance



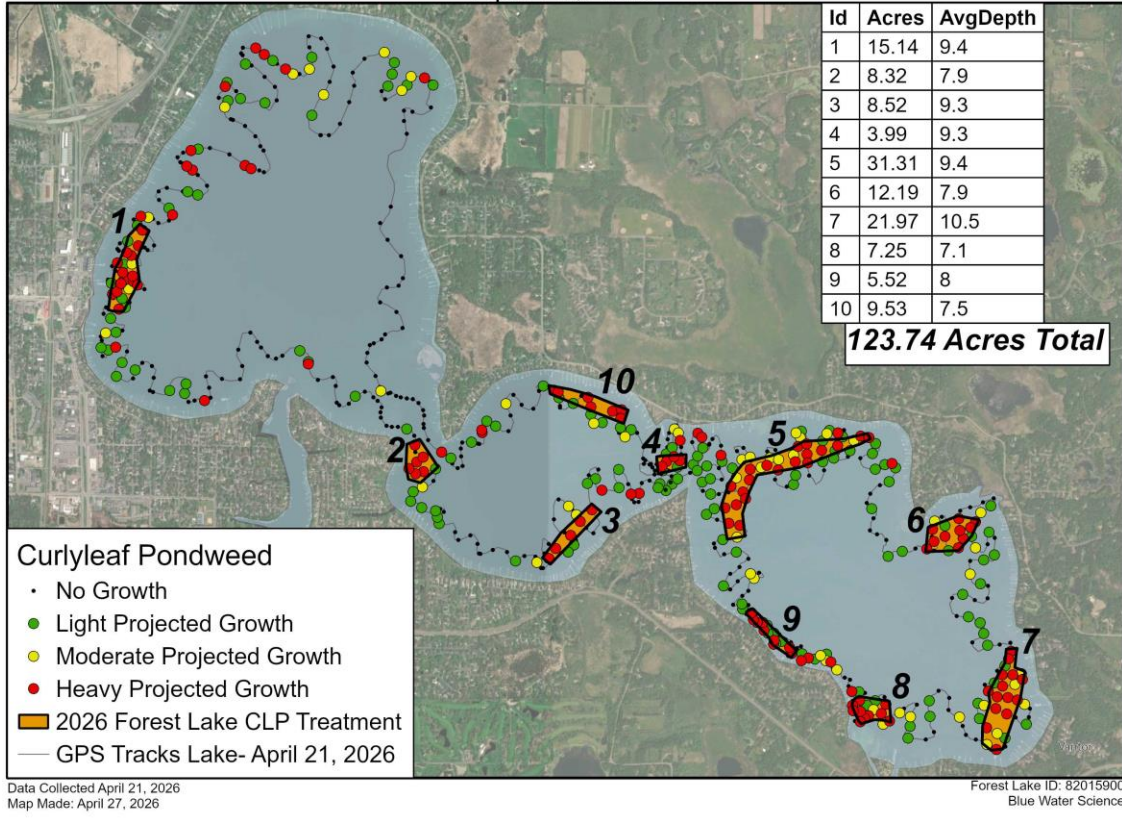
CR50 IESF Sand filter

Staff recently worked on maintenance of the sand filter beds at the CR50 IESF. Given the lack of motorized equipment, staff are working with the City of Forest Lake to evaluate the cost-benefit of the City work crew's capacity to assist with this maintenance in the future.



# Programs – 3011 AIS Prevention & Management

Forest Lake Curlyleaf Pondweed Treatment  
April 21, 2026

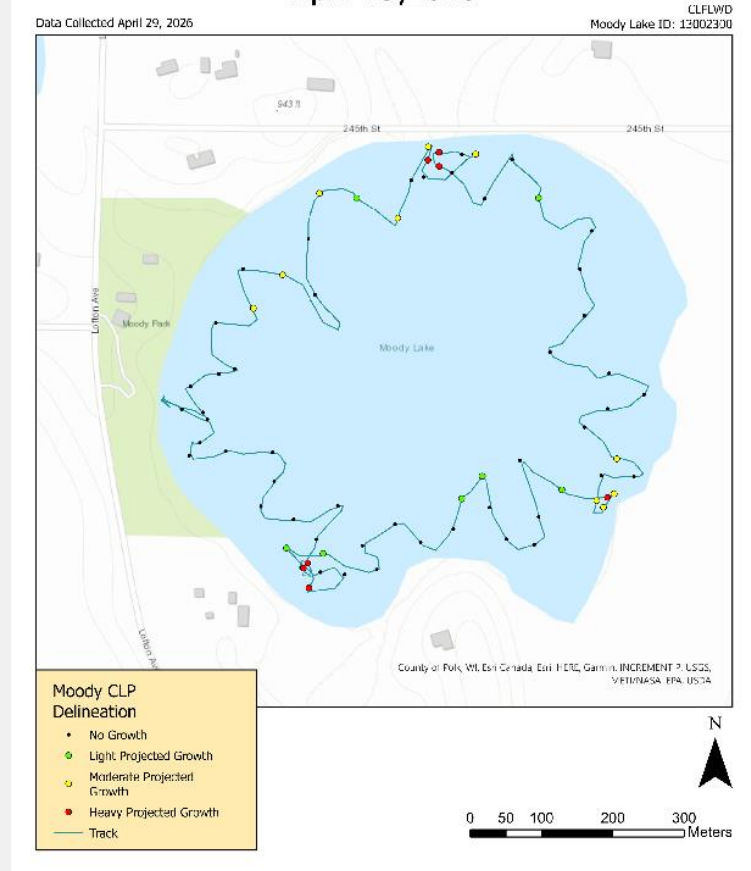


**May 13<sup>th</sup>** Lake Management Inc (LMI) performed the **123.74-acre** Curly-leaf pondweed treatment on Forest Lake

**Note:** Diquat was approved for use after discussion with DNR AIS Specialist

District staff performed the Moody Lake Curly-leaf pondweed CLP delineation survey  
**No treatment recommended.**

Moody Lake Curly-leaf Pondweed Growth  
April 29, 2026





# Programs – 3011 AIS Prevention & Management

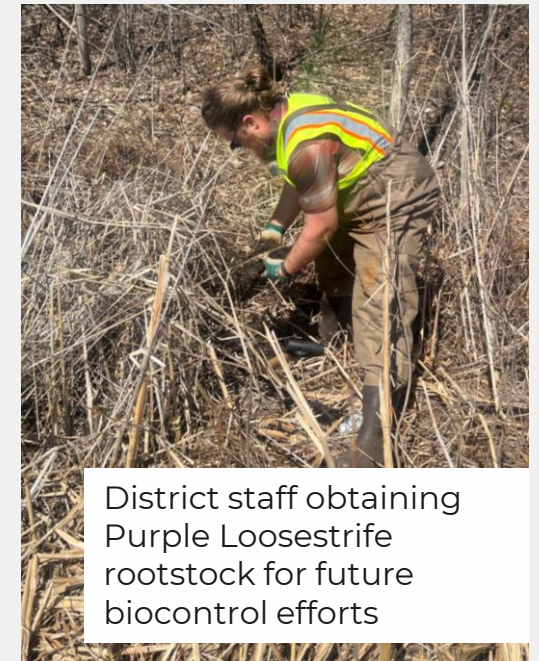
- The CLFLWD Watercraft Inspection (WCI) Program begin performing inspections May 8<sup>th</sup>
- District staff attended a DNR hosted Purple loosestrife beetle collection event for the ongoing Purple loosestrife biocontrol efforts.
- Zebra mussel sampler plates have been distributed to volunteers with updates to the monitoring program, such that better bring it into alignment with ongoing monitoring efforts being conducted by MAISRC researchers.



Pre-season WCI training



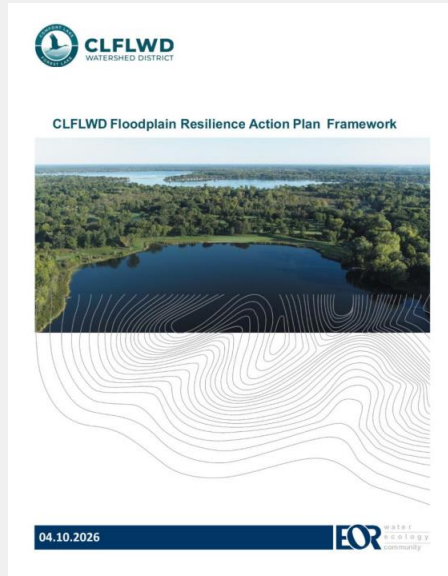
Conservation Corp member examining aquatic plant



District staff obtaining Purple Loosestrife rootstock for future biocontrol efforts

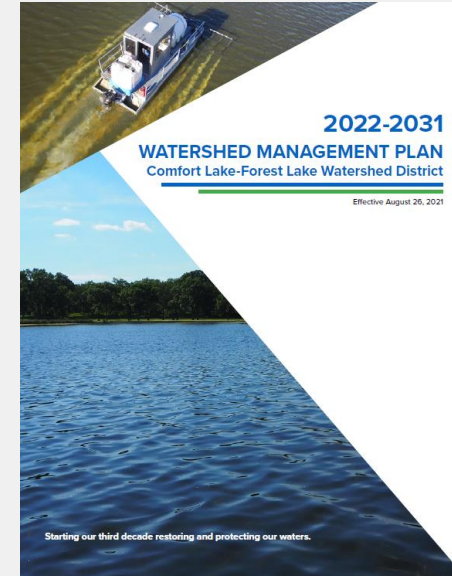


# Programs – 3013 Watershed Planning & Resiliency



## Floodplain Resilience Action Plan Framework

- Schedule workshop for further discussion following up to May 14<sup>th</sup> discussion



## Watershed Management Plan Amendment

- Public meeting presentation given on May 14<sup>th</sup>; no comments received
- 30-day comment period ends May 27<sup>th</sup>



# Projects

## Heath Ave IESF

District Staff, EOR, and legal council are evaluating bids for the Heath Ave Iron enhanced Sand Filter project. A contractor recommendation will likely be presented to the Board at the June 11<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.



Heath Ave IESF pre-bid Meeting – Mar 26

## Bone Lake South Nature Area

Olson Fencing LLC began work on the replacement of the Perimeter fence on May 19<sup>th</sup>. The project should be completed within 2.5 weeks.



Fence Contractor Mobilization at BLSNA