

The South Washington Watershed District and the City of Woodbury are partnering to construct the Wilmes Lake Alum Treatment Facility in Kargel Park, which will help improve water quality and clarity in Wilmes Lake. The lake has suffered from excess nutrient loading and nuisance algae blooms, prompting SWWD to set an annual phosphorus reduction goal of 153 pounds.

An alum treatment facility within Kargel Park was identified as the most beneficial and cost-effective way to remove phosphorus from stormwater runoff to Wilmes Lake. Aluminum sulfate (alum) is a safe and commonly used treatment that reacts with phosphorus in water, forming a solid material called "flocculent" that separates from the water and sinks, resulting in cleaner and clearer water. The alum treatment system will include a lift station at the north end of the lake that pumps stormwater runoff to a small treatment building northwest of the Brookview Road cul-de-sac. Periodically, the flocculent will need to be pumped from the new settling pond into the sanitary sewer system.

The project is expected to remove between 95 and 283 pounds of phosphorus each year. Construction will begin in June 2023 and continue into 2024, during which time the lakeside trail between Brookview Road and Tamarack Road will be closed for residents' safety and trail reconstruction.

Project construction is funded by SWWD, and ongoing operation and maintenance will be completed by the City of Woodbury public works staff through a funding agreement with SWWD. The project area within Kargel Park will also undergo a native restoration effort by SWWD in the spring of 2024. The system is expected to begin operation in 2024, resulting in cleaner stormwater runoff to Wilmes Lake.

