SOUTH WASHINGTON WATERSHED DISTRICT

**South Washington Watershed District-**Regular Meeting
**Tuesday, February 10, 2026 6:00 p.m.**
**City of Woodbury Public Works building**
**2301 Tower Drive**

# AGENDA

1) Call to Order and Setting of Agenda

2) Public Open Forum

3) Consent Agenda

4) Manager Reports

5) Administrator's Report
   a) Project Update

6) 2026 Cost Share Program
   a) Discussion: 2025 Cost Share Program Summary
   b) Discussion: 2026 Cost Share Program Policies
   c) Decision: 2026 Cost Share Program Authorization

7) 2026 Washington Conservation District Service Agreement
   a) Discussion: 2026 Washington Conservation District Service Agreement
   b) Decision: 2026 Washington Conservation District Service Agreement

8) Washington County Memorandum of Understanding CSAH 19 and 80th Street
   a) Discussion: Washington County MOU CSAH 19 and 80th Street
   b) Decision: Washington County MOU CSAH 19 and 80th Street

9) Aquatic Vegetation Management
   a) Discussion: 2025 Aquatic Vegetation Management Presentation
   b) Discussion: 2026 Aquatic Vegetation Management
   c) Decision: 2026 Aquatic Vegetation Management

10) Vegetation Management
   a) Discussion: Vegetation Management
   b) Decision: Vegetation Management Seed Order

Post Until 2/11/2026

11) 2025 Administrator Review
    a) Discussion: 2025 Administrator Review
    b) Decision: 2025 Administrator Review

12) Future Business and Meetings
    a) Regular Board Meeting, Tuesday, February 10, 2026, 6:00pm
    b) Minnesota Watersheds Legislative Event, Tuesday, March 3, 2026
    c) Regular Board Meeting, Tuesday, March 10, 2026, 6:00pm
    d) CAC Meeting, Tuesday, March 24, 2026, 6:00pm
    e) MSRC-Minnesota Stormwater Pond Symposium, March 31-April 1, 2026
    f) Mike Madigan Recognition, Tuesday, April 14, 2026 5:00pm
    g) Regular Board Meeting, Tuesday, April 14, 2026 6:00pm
    h) Lower St. Croix Policy Committee Meeting, Monday, April 27, 2026 4:00pm

13) Adjourn

## Consent Agenda-February 10, 2026

a) Approval of Minutes
    i) 1/13/2026 Regular Meeting
b) Treasurers Report
    i) Accounts payable January 26
    ii) Financials year to date and Fund Balances
    iii) Washington County Final 2025 Tax Settlement
c) Calendar/Meetings
    i) Regular Board Meeting, Tuesday, February 10, 2026, 6:00pm
    ii) Minnesota Watersheds Legislative Event, Tuesday, March 3, 2026
    iii) Regular Board Meeting, Tuesday, March 10, 2026, 6:00pm
    iv) CAC Meeting, Tuesday, March 24, 2026, 6:00pm
    v) MSRC-Minnesota Stormwater Pond Symposium, March 31-April 1, 2026
    vi) Mike Madigan Recognition. Tuesday, April 14, 2026 5:00pm
    vii) Regular Board Meeting, Tuesday, April 14, 2026, 6:00pm
    viii) Lower St. Croix Policy Committee Meeting, Monday, April 27, 2026 4:00pm
d) Development Reviews
    i) Final
        (1) None
    ii) On Going
        (1) Lake Elmo WTP, Lake Elmo
    iii) New
        (1) None
e) Wetland Conservation Act
    i) Notice of Decision-8451 110 Street S, Lennar
    ii) Notice of Decision-8592 Geneva, Lennar
f) Cost Share Program
    i) Application-John Blix ($4,000)
g) Miscellaneous Correspondence

Post Until 2/11/2026

SOUTH WASHINGTON WATERSHED DISTRICT

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Date: February 6, 2026** | **South Washington Watershed District**<br>**Request for Board Action** | **Consent Agenda Item a** |
| **Title:**<br>SWWD Board Minutes | **Board Action Requested:**<br>Approval of Minutes:<br>1/13/2026 Regular Meeting | **Required Signatures**<br>SWWD Secretary |
| **Reviewed by:**<br>JHL | | |
| **Background/Justification**: | | |
| **Previous Action:**<br>None | | **Contact:**<br>**JHL** |
| **Date Received:**<br><br>February 6, 2026 | **SWWD Administrator/Date:**<br><br>February 6, 2026 | **SWWD Attorney/Date** |
| **Financial Implications:**<br><br>N/A | | **Comments:** |
| **Fund**<br><br>N/A | **Explanation** | **Fund Balance:**<br><br>N/A |
| **Decision Needed/Date** | **Administrative Recommendation**<br>**Approval** Informational<br>Denial No Recommendation | **Comments** |

**Regular Meeting**
**South Washington Watershed District**
**Tuesday, January 13, 2026 6:00 p.m.**
**City of Woodbury Public Works Building**

1. **Call to Order and Setting of Agenda**
   Manager Doucette called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. A motion was made by Manager ChapdeLaine to move agenda items #8-Minnesota Watersheds 2026 Dues and #9-Metro Watershed Partners 2026 Contribution to the Consent Agenda. Manager Filipiak seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

   **Roll Call:**
   - Sharon Doucette, President
   - Kevin ChapdeLaine, Treasurer
   - Mike Madigan, Secretary
   - David Filipiak, Manager

   **Staff:**
   - John Loomis, Administrator
   - Melissa Imse, Operations Manager
   - Kyle Axtell. Watershed Project Manager
   - Tony Randazzo, Watershed Restoration Specialist
   - Abby Tekiela, Water Resources Program Coordinator

   **Others:**
   - Mary Ellen Reihsen, SWWD Attorney

2. **Public Open Forum**. None.

3. **Consent Agenda**
   Items on the Consent Agenda include: December 9, 2025, Regular Board Meeting minutes, December Claims Roster and Treasurer's Report: accounts payable $205,052.58, accounts receivable $1,906,183.11, 4M fund balance $11,124,515.23, Kevin ChapdeLaine Per Diem, Washington County second half tax settlement $1,870,084.59, Trout Brook Retainage payment to Minnesota Native Landscapes $42,100.57, Calendar of Events, Development Reviews, Wetland Conservation Act, Cost Share, Miscellaneous Correspondence, and #8-Minnesota Watersheds 2026 Dues and #9-Metro Watershed Partners 2026 Contribution. A motion was made by Manager ChapdeLaine to approve the Consent Agenda. Manager Filipiak seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

4. **Manager's Report**
   **Manager Doucette**–None.
   **Manager ChapdeLaine**–Manager ChapdeLaine reported that he attended the SWWD CAC meeting.
   **Manager Madigan**–None.
   **Manager Filipiak**–None.

5. **Administrator Report**
   **SWWD Project Updates.** Included in the board packet are project updates on: Trout Brook, Glacial Valley Park and Open space, Campus Greening, Wilmes Lake Alum Treatment Facility, Hasenbank Woods and Stormwater Park, Markgrafs Lake Retrofit

Analysis, Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park, St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park, CR74-65th and Geneva, Newport Elementary Underground BMP, Lower Grey Cloud Slough Habitat Improvement, Watershed Management Plan Update, In-Lake AIS Management, Newport Open Space Planning, Cottage Grove Open Space Planning, Armstrong Lake Wetland Cattail Harvesting, SWWD Website Update, La and Ria Lake Outlets, and Groundwater and Ecosystems Services Studies.

6. **2026 Annual Meeting.** As per the Minnesota State Statute 103D and the SWWD By-laws, the Board shall elect officers at the first regularly scheduled meeting in January. A motion was made by Manager Madigan to appoint the Officers for 2026 as follows. Manager ChapdeLaine seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

   Officers for 2026 are:
   Sharon Doucette – President
   Emily Stephens – Vice President
   David Filipiak – Secretary
   Kevin ChapdeLaine – Treasurer
   Mike Madigan – Manager
   A motion was made by Manager ChapdeLaine to approve the annual information as presented. Manager Madigan seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

   SWWD named US Bank, 4M Fund/PMA, and Northland Securities as its financial institutions and The Pioneer Press as its official newspaper for 2026. Regular Meetings will continue to be on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:00 pm. Manager per diems will be at the statutory rate, mileage reimbursement will be at the IRS allowable rate, and all other reimbursements will be at cost. Appointed the 2026 SWWD CAC members. The Managers reviewed the SWWD policies, permit application and fee schedule.

7. **2026 Watershed Management Plan 60 Day Plan Review, Resolution #2026-001.** Staff continue to work to finish up the WMP update draft. The plan is now available publicly for informal review. We anticipate that the full draft will be ready to submit for formal agency review in February. A motion was made by Manager Filipiak to approve Resolution #2026-001. Manager ChapdeLaine seconded. Motion carried 3-0. Manager Doucette abstained from the vote.

8. **Minnesota Watershed 2026 Dues.** This item was approved under the Consent Agenda.

9. **Metro Watershed Partners 2026 Contribution.** This item was approved under the Consent Agenda.

10. **Future Business and Meetings.**
    - Regular Board Meeting, Tuesday, February 10, 2026, 6:00pm
    - Minnesota Watersheds Legislative Event, Tuesday, March 3, 2026
    - Regular Board Meeting, Tuesday, March 10, 2026, 6:00pm
    - CAC Meeting, Tuesday, March 24, 2026, 6:00pm
    - Regular Board Meeting, Tuesday, April 14, 2026 6:00pm

11. **Closed Session: District Administrator Performance Review.** At 6:23 p.m., Manager Doucette closed the regular meeting and opened the closed session. At 7:02 pm, Manager Doucette reconvened the regular meeting.

12. **Adjourn**
    The next regular Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 10th at 6:00 pm. A motion was made by Manager ChapdeLaine to adjourn at 7:03 p.m. Manager Doucette seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

*Melissa Imse*

Melissa Imse, Operations Manager

Approved By:

| | |
|---|---|
| Mr. David Filipiak, Secretary | Date |

SOUTH WASHINGTON WATERSHED DISTRICT

| Date: February 6, 2026 | **South Washington Watershed District**<br>**Request for Board Action** | **Consent Agenda Item b** |
|---|---|---|
| **Title:**<br>SWWD Monthly Accounting | **Board Action Requested:**<br>**Approval of:**<br>Treasurers Report<br>Accounts payable for January 2026<br>Washington County Final 2025 Tax Settlement | **Required Signatures**<br>SWWD Treasurer |
| **Reviewed by:**<br>JHL | | |
| **Background/Justification**<br>Accounts Payable January 26: $879,226.21<br>Accounts Receivable January 26: $49,240.63<br>4M fund Balance January 26: $10,678,741.89<br><br>Washington County Final 2025 Tax Settlement: $10,024.49 | | |
| **Previous Action:**<br>None | | **Contact:**<br>**JHL** |
| **Date Received:**<br><br>February 6, 2026 | **SWWD Administrator/Date:**<br><br>February 6, 2026 | **SWWD Attorney/Date** |
| **Financial Implications:**<br><br>N/A | | **Comments:** |
| **Fund**<br><br>N/A | **Explanation** | **Fund Balance:**<br><br>N/A |
| **Decision Needed/Date** | **Administrative Recommendation**<br>**Approval** Informational<br>Denial No Recommendation | **Comments** |

**South Washington Watershed District**
**Claims Roster**
**January-26**

SOUTH WASHINGTON WATERSHED DISTRICT

| Vendor | Description | Invoice # | Amount |
|---|---|---|---|
| City of Cottage Grove | Stormwater Re-Use CCIP | INV07785 | $ 206,376.00 |
| City of Cottage Grove | 2025 Irrigation Controller Reimbursement | INV07846 | $ 3,859.78 |
| City of Woodbury | February 2026 Rent | 1508 | $ 3,429.27 |
| City of Woodbury | Enhanced Street Sweeping July-Dec 2025 | 1513 | $ 181,504.97 |
| Holistic Tree and Forestry | Bailey School Forest | BL0542a | $ 5,537.95 |
| League of MN Cities | 2026 Dues | 442054 | $ 2,497.00 |
| Taylor Mills | Artist in Residence February Payment | 10 | $ 750.00 |
| Metro Watershed Partners | 2026 Contribution | See Attached | $ 2,500.00 |
| Minnesota Watersheds | 2026 Dues | See Attached | $ 12,500.00 |
| University of Minnesota | Bailey School Forest Lab Fees | 230059656 | $ 265.00 |
| **Payroll, Benefits, and EFT Payments** | **18 EFT, 10 Direct Dep, 2 Checks** | | **$ 460,006.24** |
| Minnesota Life Ins. Co. | Feb 2026 Life Prem | Check | $ 207.95 |
| Deferred Compensation | | EFT | $ 3,670.00 |
| PERA | | EFT | $ 6,192.99 |
| US Bank | Federal W/H & FICA | EFT | $ 10,629.57 |
| MN Dept of Revenue | State W/H and Paid Leave | EFT | $ 2,171.73 |
| Health Partners | Insurance Premium | EFT | $ 6,917.36 |
| US Bank Credit Card | Credit Card Payment | EFT | $ 385.78 |
| US Bank Equipment | Copier Rental | EFT | $ 226.72 |
| Optum | H.S.A. Fee | EFT | $ 12.75 |
| Optum | 2026 H.S.A Contribution | EFT | $ 22,400.00 |
| Abdo | December 2025 Payroll | 516912 | $ 505.00 |
| Abdo | 2025 Audit Payment | 516228 | $ 3,940.00 |
| Barr Engineering | Water Quality Database | 23821357.00-5 | $ 12,923.50 |
| Barr Engineering | Monitoring Plan Update | 23821358.00-5 | $ 6,283.00 |
| Hellmuth & Johnson Legal | December Legal Services | EFT | $ 1,050.00 |
| Houston Engineering | 65th and Geneva Inv 80235 | EFT | $ 1,004.00 |
| HR Green | Newport Elementary Inv 197347 | EFT | $ 1,990.88 |
| Minnesota Native Landscape | Trout Brook Restoration Retainage | EFT | $ 42,100.57 |
| Northland Securities | Bond Payments and Paying Agent Fee | EFT | $ 283,677.50 |
| Northland Securities | Annual Dissemination Agent Fee | EFT | $ 550.00 |
| SRF Consulting | Ravine Lake Outlet INV 17696.00-17 Dec | EFT | $ 947.24 |
| Washington Conservation District | 4th Quarter EMWREP INV 7307 | EFT | $ 8,000.00 |
| Washington Conservation District | Dec Tech Inv 7329 | EFT | $ 1,888.50 |
| Washington Conservation District | Dec Monitoring Inv 7314 | EFT | $ 15,158.00 |
| | | | **$ 879,226.21** |

| **Accounts Receivable** | **Description** | **Check #** | Amount |
|---|---|---|---|
| Washington County | 2025 Final Tax Settlement | | $ 10,024.49 |
| City of Woodbury and MN Watersheds | Lake Mgmt and Annual Conference Refund | | $ 5,045.31 |
| 4M | January Interest | | $ 34,170.83 |
| | **Total** | | **$ 49,240.63** |

Kevin ChapdeLaine, SWWD Treasurer

Date February 10, 2026

## WASHINGTON COUNTY TAX SETTLEMENT OF 01/26/2026

| WS SOUTH WASHINGTON | | PAY 2025 | PAY 2024 | PAY 2023 | PAY 2022 | PAY 2021 | PAY 2020 | PAY 2019 | Prior | Total Delq | P&I | MISC | TOTAL | COMMENT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| GEN | RE & PP | 2,805.16 | (281.67) | 2.22 | 27.14 | | | | 9.10 | (243.21) | | | $2,561.95 | |
| | Ag Preserve Credit | 133.91 | | | | | | | | | | | $133.91 | |
| | Adjustment | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| FD | RE & PP | (254.45) | (257.81) | | | | | | | (257.81) | | | ($512.26) | |
| | Adjustment | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| TIF | RE & PP | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Excess TIF | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Surplus/Decertified TIF | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Adjustment | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| MVR | RE & PP | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Adjustment | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| SA | RE & PP | 5,893.17 | 801.55 | 52.00 | 79.04 | | | | 63.55 | 996.14 | 675.01 | | $7,564.32 | |
| | Manufactured Homes | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Forfeited Land Sale | 250.00 | | | | | | | | | | | $250.00 | |
| | Adjustment | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| NON LEVY | Manufactured Homes | 26.57 | | | | | | | | | | | $26.57 | |
| | Forfeited Land Sale | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Contamination Tax | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 30% Rental-County | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 30% Rental-DNR | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 30% Rental-MnDOT | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Transmission Line | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | PILT-County CDA | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | PILT-Landfall HRA | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | PILT-Pondview | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | PILT-Ramsey Washington R&E Board | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | PILT-DNR | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | PILT-National Park Svc | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Solar Energy | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Unclaimed Refunds | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Penalty & Interest Apportionment | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Miscellaneous | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| GENERAL TAX TOTAL | | 2,939.07 | (281.67) | 2.22 | 27.14 | | | | 9.10 | (243.21) | | | $2,695.86 | |
| FISCAL DISPARITY TAX TOTAL | | (254.45) | (257.81) | | | | | | | (257.81) | | | ($512.26) | |
| TAX INCREMENT TOTAL | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| MARKET VALUE REFERENDA TOTAL | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| SPECIAL ASSESSMENT TOTAL | | 6,143.17 | 801.55 | 52.00 | 79.04 | | | | 63.55 | 996.14 | 675.01 | | $7,814.32 | |
| NON-LEVY TOTAL | | 26.57 | | | | | | | | | | | $26.57 | |
| GRAND TOTAL | | $8,854.36 | $262.07 | $54.22 | $106.18 | | | | $72.65 | $495.12 | $675.01 | | $10,024.49 | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | Less amounts previously remitted | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | TOTAL TO DISTRICT | $10,024.49 | |

SOUTH WASHINGTON WATERSHED DISTRICT

| Date: February 6, 2026 | **South Washington Watershed District**<br>**Request for Board Action** | **Consent Agenda Item c** |
|---|---|---|
| **Title:**<br>SWWD Calendar | **Board Action Requested:**<br>None Requested | **Required Signatures** |
| **Reviewed by:**<br>JHL | | |

**Background/Justification**:

Calendar/Meetings

i) Regular Board Meeting, Tuesday, February 10, 2026, 6:00pm
ii) Minnesota Watersheds Legislative Event, Tuesday, March 3, 2026
iii) Regular Board Meeting, Tuesday, March 10, 2026, 6:00pm
iv) CAC Meeting, Tuesday, March 24, 2026, 6:00pm
v) MSRC-Minnesota Stormwater Pond Symposium, March 31-April 1, 2026
vi) Mike Madigan Recognition. Tuesday, April 14, 2026 5:00pm
vii) Regular Board Meeting, Tuesday, April 14, 2026, 6:00pm
viii) Lower St. Croix Policy Committee Meeting, Monday, April 27, 2026 4:00pm

| **Previous Action:**<br>None | | **Contact:**<br>**JHL** |
|---|---|---|
| **Date Received:**<br><br>February 6, 2026 | **SWWD Administrator/Date:**<br><br>February 6, 2026 | **SWWD Attorney/Date** |
| **Financial Implications:**<br><br>N/A | | **Comments:** |
| **Fund**<br><br>N/A | **Explanation** | **Fund Balance:**<br><br>N/A |
| **Decision Needed/Date** | **Administrative Recommendation**<br>Approval **Informational**<br>Denial No Recommendation | **Comments** |

SOUTH WASHINGTON WATERSHED DISTRICT

| Date: February 6, 2026 | **South Washington Watershed District**<br>**Request for Board Action** | **Consent Agenda Item d** |
|---|---|---|
| **Title:**<br>Development Reviews | **Board Action Requested:**<br>None Requested | **Required Signatures** |
| **Reviewed by:**<br>JHL | | |

**Background/Justification:**

Development Reviews

i) Final
   (1) None
ii) On Going
   (1) Lake Elmo WTP, Lake Elmo
iii) New
   (1) None

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Previous Action:**<br>None | | **Contact:**<br>**JHL** |
| **Date Received:**<br><br>February 6, 2026 | **SWWD Administrator/Date:**<br><br>February 6, 2026 | **SWWD Attorney/Date** |
| **Financial Implications:**<br><br>N/A | | **Comments:** |
| **Fund**<br><br>N/A | **Explanation** | **Fund Balance:**<br><br>N/A |
| **Decision Needed/Date** | **Administrative Recommendation**<br>Approval Informational<br>Denial **No Recommendation** | **Comments** |

# January 2026 Development Reviews

## Ongoing: Lake Elmo WTP; Lake Elmo

January 2026: No change.

October 2025: Lake Elmo is proceeding with wetland delineation and WCA permitting related to ongoing well suitability testing. Most of the wetlands within the property are in Valley Branch WD. SWWD has delegated WCA administration for this property to VBWD.

December 2024: Lake Elmo is looking for sites for a future well and water treatment plant to remove PFAS from the City's drinking water supply. The site they are currently looking at sits upstream of Armstrong Lake. As part of the feasibility assessment, the city is required to do a 72 hour pump test at the site which would require continuous pumping of ~3cfs. That water would ultimately discharge into Armstrong Lake. SWWD modeled the inflow in the District's NWS XP model to evaluate potential downstream impacts. Even under a concurrent flood scenario there is no impact.

## Final: Municipal Reviews, Cottage Grove

The City of Cottage Grove enforces compliance with District rules through City permits. The following projects have been permitted in 2026.

- N/A

## Final: Municipal Reviews, Woodbury

The City of Woodbury enforces compliance with District rules through City permits. The following projects have been permitted in 2026.

- Woodbury Leadership Academy addition site and building plans

SOUTH WASHINGTON WATERSHED DISTRICT

| Date: February 6, 2026 | **South Washington Watershed District**<br>**Request for Board Action** | **Consent Agenda Item e** |
|---|---|---|
| **Title:**<br>Wetland Conservation Act | **Board Action Requested:** | **Required Signatures**<br>SWWD Administrator |
| **Reviewed by:**<br>JHL | | |
| **Background/Justification**:<br>i) Notice of Decision-8451 110 Street S, Lennar<br>ii) Notice of Decision-8592 Geneva, Lennar | | |
| **Previous Action:**<br>None | | **Contact:**<br>**JHL** |
| **Date Received:**<br><br>February 6, 2026 | **SWWD Administrator/Date:**<br><br>February 6, 2026 | **SWWD Attorney/Date** |
| **Financial Implications:**<br><br>N/A | | **Comments:** |
| **Fund**<br><br>N/A | **Explanation** | **Fund Balance:**<br><br>N/A |
| **Decision Needed/Date** | **Administrative Recommendation**<br>**Approval** Informational<br>Denial No Recommendation | **Comments** |

# Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act
# NOTICE OF DECISION

| | |
|---|---|
| **Date this Notice was sent:** | **01/12/2026** |
| **Local Government Unit:** | **SWWD** |
| **County:** | **Washington** |
| **Applicant and (if applicable) Applicant's Representative:** | **ENGELE BLAINE**<br>**Lennar** |
| **Project Name/Number:** | **8451 110 St S No Wetland /2026-SWW-02** |
| **Type of Decision (check all that apply):**<br>**Note:** Boundary/type, sequencing, replacement plan, and bank plan decisions require an associated notice of application prior to the decision being made. | ☑ Boundary/Type<br>☐ Sequencing (submitted separately from a replacement plan)<br>☐ Replacement Plan<br>☐ Bank Plan<br>☐ Exemption<br>Identify which exemption by Rule or Statute Citation:<br>☑ No-Loss<br>Identify which provision by Rule or Statute Citation: **A** |
| **Decision:**<br>**Note:** All replacement plan approvals are conditional upon confirmation from BWSR of withdrawal of specified credits and/or financial assurance received for project-specific replacement. | ☐ Denied<br>☑ Approved.<br>Valid for ☑ 5 yrs (default); ☐ Other. Specify:<br>☐ Approved with Conditions<br>List Conditions: |
| **LGU Representative Name & Signature:** | <br>**Jay Riggs** |

## Decision Timeline

An LGU must approve or deny a request within 60 days of receiving a complete application per MINN. STAT. § 15.99.

| | |
|---|---|
| **Date Complete Application Received:** | **11/13/2025** |
| **Date of Decision:** | **01/12/2026** |
| **If applicable, date of *written extension* to 60-day decision timeline & number of days extended:**<br>**Reason for Extension (check one):** | ☐ Other process or decision required to occur before WCA decision. Describe:<br>☐ Additional information and/or revision to application submitted.<br>☐ Applicant request. |

| | |
|---|---|
| | ☐Other. Describe: |

## Decision Summary

| | |
|---|---|
| **Technical Evaluation Panel Recommendation (check one):** | ☐No Recommendation<br>☑Approval or approval with conditions (attach recommendation)<br>☐Denial (attach recommendation) |
| **LGU Findings (check all that apply):** | ☐Findings attached<br>☑Findings:<br>**The TEP reviewed the application and recommends approval. There are no wetlands on the site. The LGU concurs with the TEP findings. The decision is valid for 5 years.** |

## Notice Distribution

| | |
|---|---|
| **Notice Recipients (check all that apply):** | ☑SWCD TEP Member (if different from LGU): **Jay Riggs**<br>☑BWSR TEP Member: **Ben Meyer**<br>☑DNR Representative: **Dan Scollan**<br>☑Watershed District or WMO (if applicable): **John Loomis**<br>☐bank.administrator.bwsr@state.mn.us (Bank Plan Applications Only)<br>☑Applicant: **ENGELE BLAINE**<br>☑Applicant's Representative (if applicable): **Lennar**<br>☐Members of the Public Requesting Notices (if applicable):<br>☐Others: |

## Appeal Process

| | |
|---|---|
| **Appeal Process (check one):** | ☐Local Appeal Process (if established).<br>☑Board of Water & Soil Resources (see instructions below) |
| **If there is no established Local Appeal Process indicated above, an appeal of this decision may be made to BWSR per the instructions to the right.**<br><br>**Note:** Decisions are not final until the 30-day appeal window ends. | Mail or email written request to appeal sent to BWSR within 30 days of date this notice was sent. Include copy of this notice, name and contact information of appellant(s) and their representative(s) (if applicable), a statement clarifying intent to appeal, and supporting information as to why the decision is in error.<br>Mail check payable to MN Board of Water & Soil Resources for $500.<br>Send to:<br>Appeals & Regulatory Compliance Coordinator<br>Minnesota Board of Water & Soil Resources<br>520 Lafayette Road North<br>St. Paul, MN 55155<br>travis.germundson@state.mn.us. |

# Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act
# NOTICE OF DECISION

| | |
|---|---|
| **Date this Notice was sent:** | **01/12/2026** |
| **Local Government Unit:** | **SWWD** |
| **County:** | **Washington** |
| **Applicant and (if applicable) Applicant's Representative:** | **KRENNER LAWRENCE M & LEE**<br>**Lennar Homes** |
| **Project Name/Number:** | **8591 Geneva No Wetland/2026-SWW-01** |
| **Type of Decision (check all that apply):**<br>**Note:** Boundary/type, sequencing, replacement plan, and bank plan decisions require an associated notice of application prior to the decision being made. | ☐ Boundary/Type<br>☐ Sequencing (submitted separately from a replacement plan)<br>☐ Replacement Plan<br>☐ Bank Plan<br>☐ Exemption<br>Identify which exemption by Rule or Statute Citation:<br>☑ No-Loss<br>Identify which provision by Rule or Statute Citation: **A** |
| **Decision:**<br>**Note:** All replacement plan approvals are conditional upon confirmation from BWSR of withdrawal of specified credits and/or financial assurance received for project-specific replacement. | ☐ Denied<br>☑ Approved.<br>Valid for ☑ 5 yrs (default); ☐ Other. Specify:<br>☐ Approved with Conditions<br>List Conditions: |
| **LGU Representative Name & Signature:** | <br>**Jay Riggs** |

## Decision Timeline

An LGU must approve or deny a request within 60 days of receiving a complete application per MINN. STAT. § 15.99.

| | |
|---|---|
| **Date Complete Application Received:** | **11/13/2025** |
| **Date of Decision:** | **01/12/2026** |
| **If applicable, date of *written extension* to 60-day decision timeline & number of days extended:**<br>**Reason for Extension (check one):** | ☐ Other process or decision required to occur before WCA decision. Describe:<br>☐ Additional information and/or revision to application submitted.<br>☐ Applicant request.<br>☐ Other. Describe: |

## Decision Summary

| | |
|---|---|
| **Technical Evaluation Panel Recommendation (check one):** | ☐ No Recommendation<br>☑ Approval or approval with conditions (attach recommendation)<br>☐ Denial (attach recommendation) |
| **LGU Findings (check all that apply):** | ☐ Findings attached<br>☑ Findings:<br>**The TEP reviewed the application and recommends approval. There are no wetlands on the site. The LGU concurs with the TEP findings. The decision is valid for 5 years.** |

## Notice Distribution

| | |
|---|---|
| **Notice Recipients (check all that apply):** | ☑ SWCD TEP Member (if different from LGU): **Jay Riggs**<br>☑ BWSR TEP Member: **Ben Meyer**<br>☑ DNR Representative: **Dan Scollan**<br>☑ Watershed District or WMO (if applicable): **John Loomis**<br>☐ bank.administrator.bwsr@state.mn.us (Bank Plan Applications Only)<br>☑ Applicant: **KRENNER LAWRENCE M & LEE**<br>☑ Applicant's Representative (if applicable): **Lennar Homes**<br>☐ Members of the Public Requesting Notices (if applicable):<br>☐ Others: |

## Appeal Process

| | |
|---|---|
| **Appeal Process (check one):** | ☐ Local Appeal Process (if established).<br>☑ Board of Water & Soil Resources (see instructions below) |
| **If there is no established Local Appeal Process indicated above, an appeal of this decision may be made to BWSR per the instructions to the right.**<br><br>**Note:** Decisions are not final until the 30-day appeal window ends. | Mail or email written request to appeal sent to BWSR within 30 days of date this notice was sent. Include copy of this notice, name and contact information of appellant(s) and their representative(s) (if applicable), a statement clarifying intent to appeal, and supporting information as to why the decision is in error.<br>Mail check payable to MN Board of Water & Soil Resources for $500.<br>Send to:<br>Appeals & Regulatory Compliance Coordinator<br>Minnesota Board of Water & Soil Resources<br>520 Lafayette Road North<br>St. Paul, MN 55155<br>travis.germundson@state.mn.us. |

SOUTH WASHINGTON WATERSHED DISTRICT

| Date: February 6, 2026 | **South Washington Watershed District**<br>**Request for Board Action** | **Consent Agenda Item f** |
|---|---|---|
| **Title:**<br>Cost Share Program | **Board Action Requested:**<br>None | **Required Signatures**<br>SWWD Administrator |
| **Reviewed by:**<br>JHL | | |
| **Background/Justification**:<br>i) Application-John Blix ($4,000) | | |
| **Previous Action:**<br>None | | **Contact:**<br>**JHL** |
| **Date Received:**<br><br>February 6, 2026 | **SWWD Administrator/Date:**<br><br>February 6, 2026 | **SWWD Attorney/Date** |
| **Financial Implications:**<br><br>N/A | | **Comments:** |
| **Fund** | **Explanation** | **Fund Balance:**<br><br>N/A |
| **Decision Needed/Date** | **Administrative Recommendation**<br>**Approval** Informational<br>Denial No Recommendation | **Comments** |

SOUTH WASHINGTON WATERSHED DISTRICT

# WATER QUALITY COST SHARE APPLICATION/ CONTRACT

*651.714.3717*

*Contact: Tony Randazzo, tony.randazzo@swwdmn.gov*

## General Information (to be completed by SWWD)

| Organization | Contract Number | Other federal or other state funds? | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| SWWD | | Yes ☐ No ☐ | Amendment ☐ Board meeting date(s)_____ | Canceled ☐ Board meeting date:_____ |

*If contract amended, attach amendment form(s) to this contract.

## Applicant

| Land Occupier Name | Address | City/State | Zip code |
|---|---|---|---|
| John Blix | 14868 Panoramic Rd S | Denmark Township, MN | 55033 |
| **Email** | | **Phone** | |
| John_blix@hotmail.com | | 763.300.0223 | |

* If a group contract, this must be filed and signed by the group spokesperson as designated in the group agreement and the group agreement attached to this form.

## Project Location (if different)

| Address | City/State | **Zip code** |
|---|---|---|
| | | |

## Contract Information

I (we), the undersigned, do hereby request cost-share assistance to help defray the cost of installing the following practice(s) listed on the second page of this contract. It is understood that:

1. **SWWD's Water Quality Cost Share Program is a Reimbursement Program.** Applicants will be reimbursed for the contract amount upon successful completion of the project and submission of all required documentation.
2. The land occupier is responsible for full establishment, operation, and maintenance of all practices and upland treatment criteria applied under this program to ensure that the conservation objective of the practice is met and the effective life, a **minimum of 10 years**, is achieved. The specific operation and maintenance requirements for the conservation practice listed are described in the operation and maintenance plan prepared for this contract by the organization technical representative.
3. Should the land occupier fail to maintain the practice during its effective life, the land occupier is liable to the South Washington Watershed District for the amount up to 100% of the amount of financial assistance received to install and establish the practice unless the failure was caused by reasons beyond the land occupier's control, or if conservation practices are applied at the land occupier's expense that provide equivalent protection of the soil and water resources.
4. Practice(s) must be planned and installed in accordance with technical standards and specifications of the Technical Representative.
5. Increases in the practice units or cost must be approved by the organization board through amendment of this contract as a condition to increase the cost share payments.
6. This contract, when approved by the SWWD board, will remain in effect unless canceled by mutual agreement, except where installations of practices covered by this contract have not been started within **1 year following Board approval of this contract**, this contract will be automatically terminated on that date. Practices will be installed by **2 years following Board approval of this contract** unless this contract is amended by mutual consent to reschedule the work and funding.
7. Items of cost for which reimbursement is claimed are to be supported by invoices/receipts for payments and will be verified by the organization board as practical and reasonable. The organization board has the authority to make adjustments to the costs submitted for reimbursement.

## Applicant Signatures

The land occupier's signature indicates agreement to:

1. Grant the organization's representative(s) access to the parcel where the conservation practice will be located.
2. Obtain all permits required in conjunction with the installation and establishment of the practice prior to starting construction of the practice.
3. Be responsible for the operation and maintenance of conservation practices applied under this program in accordance with an operation and maintenance plan prepared by the organization technical representative.
4. Not accept cost-share funds, from state and federal sources combined, that are in excess of **100%** percent of the total cost to establish the conservation practice and provide copies of all forms and contracts pertinent to any other state or federal programs that are contributing funds toward this project.

| Date | Land Occupier |
|---|---|
| 15 Jan 2026 | John Blix |
| Date | Landowner, if different from applicant<br><br>Address, if different from applicant information: |

## Conservation Practice (to be completed by Technical Representative)

The primary practice for which cost-share is requested is _____

| Practice standards or eligible component(s) | Engineered Practice (☐yes or ☒no)<br>Ecological practice (☒yes or ☐no) | Total Project Cost Estimate |
|---|---|---|
| Woodland Restoration/Soil Rehabilitation and Protection | | $ 4,550.70 |

The estimated benefits of this project are:

| Total Phosphorus Captured | Nitrogen Captured | Runoff Volume Reduction |
|---|---|---|
| 0.8 lbs P reduction (soil retention) | | |

## Technical Assessment and Cost Estimate

I have the appropriate technical expertise and have reviewed the site where the above listed practice is to be installed and find it is needed and that the estimated benefits and costs are practical and reasonable.

| Date | Technical Representative |
|---|---|
| 1/20/2026 | Elissa Thompson |

## Amount Authorized for Financial Assistance (to be completed by SWWD)

The SWWD Board has authorized the following for financial assistance, total not to exceed the overall percent listed indicated in 4, above.

$ 4000.00 from SWWD Phosphorus Reduction
Enter program name and fiscal year

$_____ from _____
Enter program name and fiscal year

$_____ from _____
Enter program name and fiscal year

| Board Meeting Date | Authorized Signature | Total Amount Authorized |
|---|---|---|
| | | $ |

SOUTH WASHINGTON WATERSHED DISTRICT

| Date: February 6, 2026 | **South Washington Watershed District**<br>**Request for Board Action** | **Consent Agenda Item g** |
|---|---|---|
| **Title:**<br>Miscellaneous Correspondence | **Board Action Requested:**<br>None | **Required Signatures**<br>None |
| **Reviewed by:**<br>JHL | | |
| **Background/Justification**: | | |
| **Previous Action:** | | **Contact:**<br>**JHL** |
| **Date Received:**<br><br>February 6, 2026 | **SWWD Administrator/Date:**<br><br>February 6, 2026 | **SWWD Attorney/Date** |
| **Financial Implications:**<br><br>None | | **Comments:** |
| **Fund** | **Explanation** | **Fund Balance:**<br><br>N/A |
| **Decision Needed/Date** | **Administrative Recommendation**<br>Approval **Informational**<br>Denial No Recommendation | **Comments** |

Outlook

**Registration open for the first ever MN Stormwater Pond Research and Practice Symposium**

**From** MSRC <msrc@umn.edu>
**Date** Tue 1/20/2026 11:00 AM
**To** Kyle Axtell <Kyle.Axtell@swwdmn.gov>

View this email in your browser




# Register for the Minnesota Stormwater Pond Research and Practice Symposium

## Dates and location

March 31 - April 1, 2026
DoubleTree by Hilton - 1500 Park Place Blvd, St. Louis Park, MN

## About

This first of its kind symposium will bring together urban stormwater pond practitioners, professionals, policy leaders, and researchers from public and private sectors, for an opportunity to examine the state of the use of stormwater ponds as a practice, discuss the science we know and the uncertainties we have, increase awareness of recent and current research efforts, and identify future research priorities and collaborations opportunities. The focus will be wet stormwater pond use,

operations, maintenance, management and retrofits to maintain and improve desired functions.

## The symposium will

- Summarize the state of the science and implementation of ponds as a stormwater management practice.
- Present past and current pond research.
- Share, exchange and catalog ideas between pond practitioners, professionals, owners and operators.
- Showcase pond demonstration, retrofit, and management projects highlighting approaches, successes, challenges and opportunities.
- Refine and identify pond research priorities, resource and guidance needs.
- Identify future potential research and demonstration project collaborations.

## Format

A symposium embraces the exchange of ideas, input, and prioritization mechanisms, not simply conference presentations. There will be keynote speakers, project presentations, panel discussions, audience Q&A, interactive, small group discussions for all participants, a poster session, and networking opportunities. Food and refreshments are included.

## Agenda

Visit the website for the agenda.

## Who should attend?

Minnesota practitioners, professionals, policy leaders, researchers and others using, managing, maintaining, owning and studying urban stormwater ponds. Out of state professionals are also welcomed.

More information and registration

## Pricing

Minnesota resident registration $100*
Out-of-state registration $185
Cancellation fee, up to event $30

*Reduced rates are available for the following groups and participants. Staff and board members from one of the 15 MSRC funding organizations, invited presenters & panelists, Minnesota Clean Water Council members, MPCA Green Corps members, MSRC Advisory Board members. Inquire for the correct and applicable reduced rate registration code if one has not already been sent to you.

The symposium is subsidized and sponsored by the Water Resources Center and the Minnesota Stormwater Research Council, with funding support provided by watershed districts and organizations, cities, private industry, the Minnesota Clean Water Fund, the Institute on the Environment, Minnesota Sea Grant, and the Cold Climate Stormwater Center of Excellence.

Urban Stormwater Research Project Library

## Contact us

For more information or if you have questions, please email msrc@umn.edu

This update was sent through the mailing list for the Minnesota Stormwater Research Council. To receive future announcements, please subscribe to our mailing list.

Financial support for the Minnesota Stormwater Research Program is provided by the Clean Water Fund from the State of Minnesota's Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment. Additional support comes from the Minnesota Stormwater Research Council and its member cities, watersheds, private businesses, the University of Minnesota Water Resources Center, Minnesota Sea Grant, the College of Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resource Sciences, and the National Institutes for Water Resources funded by the US Geological Survey.

Water Resources Center

The Water Resources Center is a unit of the University of Minnesota College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences and University of Minnesota Extension.

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Our mailing address is:
173 McNeal Hall
1985 Buford Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55108

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SOUTH WASHINGTON WATERSHED DISTRICT

| Date: February 6, 2026 | **South Washington Watershed District**<br>**Request for Board Action** | Agenda Item # 5a |
|---|---|---|
| **Title:**<br>SWWD Projects Update | **Board Action Requested:**<br>None requested at this time | **Required Signatures**<br>None |
| **Reviewed by:**<br>JHL | | **Presented by:**<br>Axtell |
| **Background/Justification**:<br><br>Please review the attached memorandum for a monthly status update on SWWD's ongoing projects. | | |
| **Previous Action:**<br>None | | **Contact:**<br>**JHL** |
| **Date Received:**<br>February 6, 2026 | **SWWD Administrator/Date:**<br>February 6, 2026 | **SWWD Attorney/Date** |
| **Financial Implications:** | | **Comments:** |
| **Fund** | **Explanation:** | **Fund Balance:** |
| **Decision Needed/Date** | **Administrative Recommendation**<br>Approval **Informational**<br>Denial No Recommendation | **Comments** |

SOUTH WASHINGTON WATERSHED DISTRICT

# Memo

To: SWWD Board of Managers

From: Kyle Axtell, SWWD Watershed Project Manager

Date: February 6, 2026

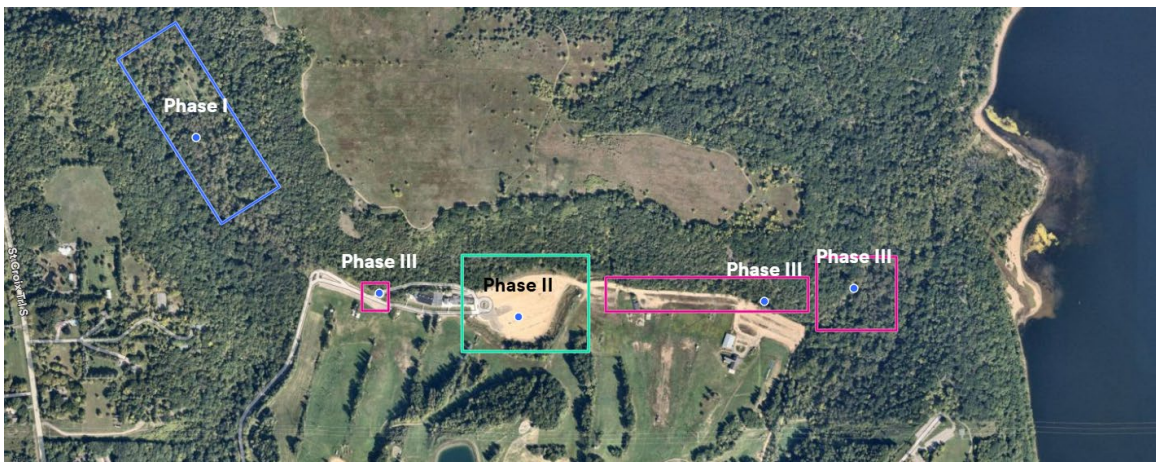
Re: SWWD Projects Update

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## Capital Projects & Project Development

### Trout Brook Restoration

The construction of Phase III was completed in 2024, and all grants have been closed. Staff continues to work on vegetation along stream buffers within Phase II and Phase III areas to ensure project success while addressing concerns with invasive vegetation throughout the corridor. MNL remains under contract to provide establishment maintenance through 2027. Bare areas are being reseeded and monitored. Staff continue to work with the DNR to refine project components to ensure long-term project success, including monitoring of state listed plant species, stabilization of small gullies, and potential small structural additions identified by DNR stream staff.



## Glacial Valley Park Interpretive Center

SWWD has a final concept design for the future Glacial Valley Park Interpretive Center and is ready to proceed with design of the structures. The plan has been to have the park features ready to be installed as development progresses with the extension of Glacial Valley Road as it would provide access and utilities for the learning center. Facility parking is expected to be provided jointly with the City of Woodbury as it plans a new adjacent park area. An application is pending with the Minnesota DNR requesting $1,500,000 in 3M Priority 2 funding to complete this facility between now and 2029.

## Hasenbank Stormwater Park

Construction of the stormwater park is complete, including installation of public artwork, and the system was operational throughout 2025. Traverse Des Sioux remains under contract for site restoration and establishment.

## Wilmes Lake Alum Treatment Facility



Construction is 100% complete and the facility operated from July through October in 2025. MNL is under contract for native vegetation site maintenance through 2027. Staff are finalizing an Operations & Maintenance Manual to guide full operations by Woodbury in 2026. A contract is in place with Morcon to provide a revised vault lid in early 2026 before the operating season begins. MPCA has decided that the issuance of a permit for the facility through its wastewater permitting program was in error. The facility should be regulated through the City's existing MS4 permit. The issue will be rectified once the new MS4 general permit is issued, likely in 2027.



Nipinet Landsem has completed installation of their mural near the lift station. SWWD staff has some edge framing to install this spring in addition to the didactic panel. Public response has been very positive. The mural appears to have weathered through the winter and remains in great condition.

### Ravine Lake Outlet Channel Stabilization

SWWD and its consultants have developed a channel stabilization project for the Ravine Lake outlet channel. The Board awarded a contract at their October 2025 meeting. Clearing is expected to occur in February with construction to follow in late winter or early spring.

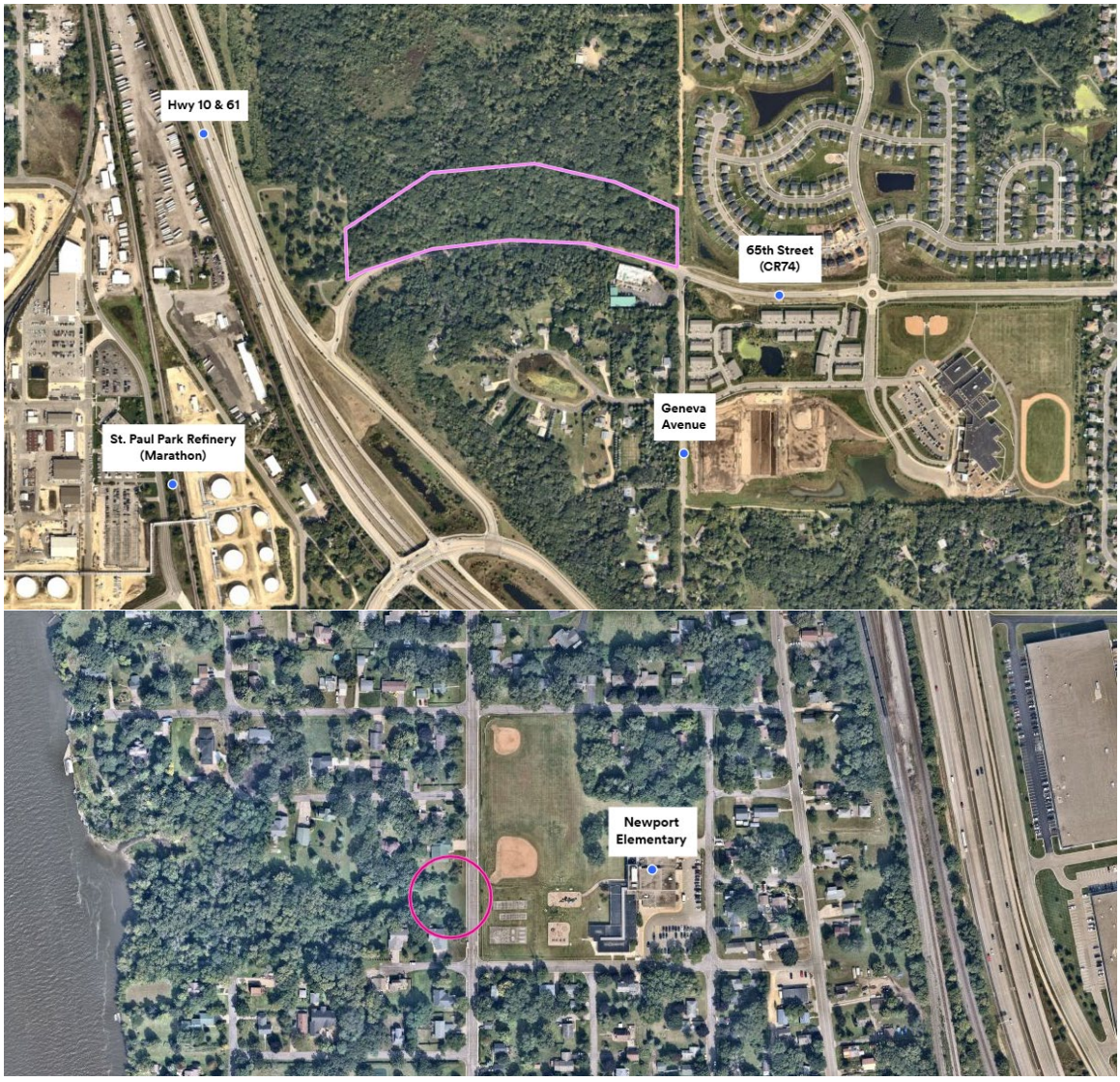



### CR74 Ravine Stabilization

SWWD is working with Washington County to stabilize an actively eroding ravine west of the intersection of Geneva and 65th Street (CR74) in Newport as part of a road reconstruction project in 2026. Houston Engineering has developed stabilization plans for the ravine area which are to be incorporated into the County's construction package. Staff have begun working with the landowner (St. Paul Park Refinery) to acquire a drainage & utility easement over the ravine corridor. SWWD has secured the use of $45,528.40 in leftover FY25 WBIF grant funding from BWSR to assist in financing the project. Washington County will also be contributing some funds as payment in lieu of treatment for the concurrent road reconstruction project. A project agreement between the County and SWWD is in place and the entire project was released for bidding by Washington County in January 2026.

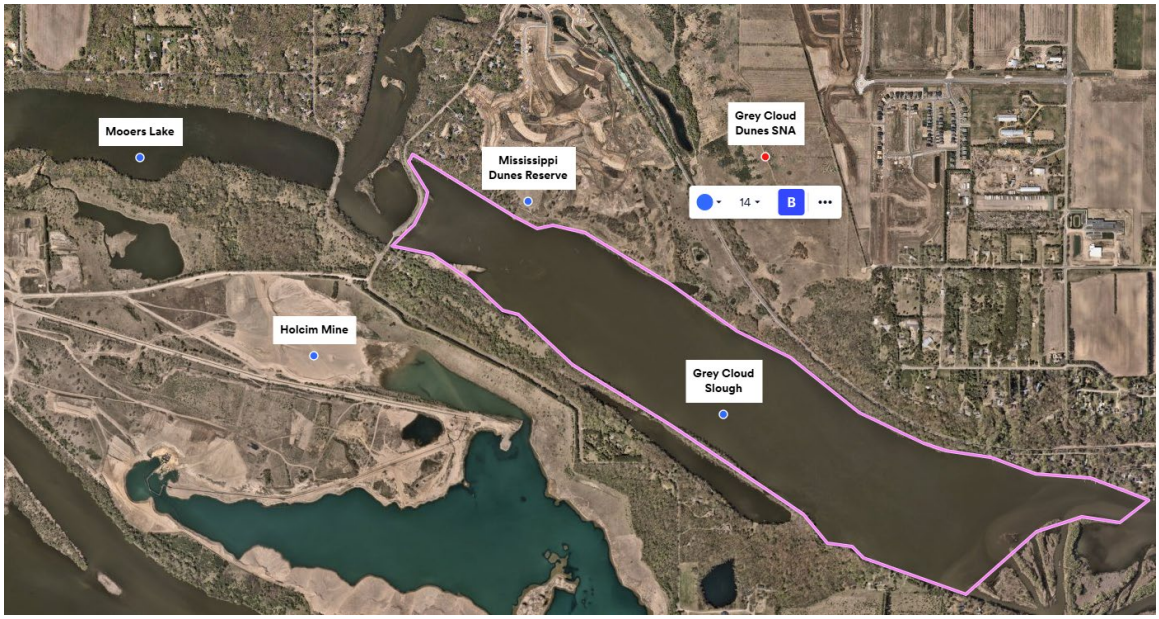
## Newport Elementary Underground BMP

SWWD has received a $250,000 Clean Water Legacy Partners grant from BWSR for this project. HR Green has begun survey and design services under its task order for the project. Construction is not expected until 2027.




## Lower Grey Cloud Slough Habitat Management

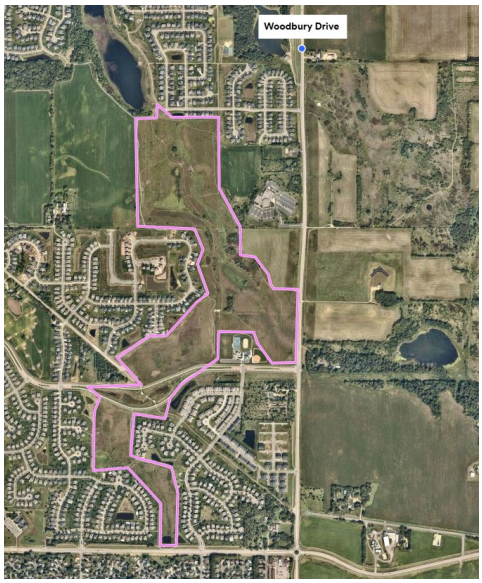
Staff have recently met with Minnesota DNR counterparts to discuss a proposed project aimed at restoring historic island complexes and improving aquatic and terrestrial habitat in the lower slough area. Significant USACE project funding could be available for this type of effort, with a 35% local match. 3M Priority 2 funding could be used to secure upwards of $11-12 million in Federal funding for this project, which could take 5-10 years to realize. A Section 204 Letter of Intent has been submitted to the USACE, and an application has been submitted to the Minnesota DNR requesting $3,500,000 in 3M Priority 2 funding to be used as a local match against the proposed USACE funding.




# Ecosystem Services & Landscape Restoration

## Glacial Valley Park

Great River Greening (GRG) continues maintenance activities along the edges of the site in the Cedarhurst neighborhood and throughout prairies, targeting woody species, especially aspen/cottonwood clumps. Staff have identified research plots and collected data on 8 units covering approximately 11 acres to assess ways to improve floral diversity and tall grass reduction through burn timing, sheep grazing, high mowing and targeted herbicide treatments.






A portion of one of the units planned for a fall burn suffered from an unintentional wildfire on 10/5/2025. Additional research through the University of Minnesota and GRG is assessing different strains of oak trees from northern, central and southern regions of Minnesota approximately 10 years after planting. Following data collection, these areas will receive a prescribed burn and post burn survivability will provide more detailed information on management of oaks in a changing climate. Staff working with Great River Greening to produce another multi-year contract for continued maintenance throughout the SWWD-owned park.

## Campus Greening

### All Campuses

Staff are working with new School District facilities staff to assist with long-term maintenance of all Campus Greening natural areas, helping to identify equipment needs, scheduling and training so that District staff can be more active in future site management.

### Lake and Middleton

Teachers and staff have seeded into pots a diverse array of flowers to be grown in the classroom. These plants will be planted by students in spring as the schools continue to enhance prairies in 2026.

### Crestview Elementary

Staff is working with the School District to review and ensure alterations to campus will be restored to native plant communities where planned. Staff will work with the district to monitor establishment activities, making sure that important activities are not skipped as prairie buffers establish. Staff will also monitor the woodland at Crestview and work with WCD and School District to control persistent weeds that are still present (Buckthorn and Garlic Mustard). Snow seeding will occur along Hinton where native species establishment has been an ongoing challenge.

### Nuevas Fronteras

Areas near the underground BMP will continue to be reseeded and staff will continue to monitor and assess ways to retain native species in a regularly disturbed site. Some overseeding may be needed along the woodland adjacent to railroad.

### Valley Crossing

Staff will continue to monitor and work with School District to take on future maintenance.

### Grey Cloud and Cottage Grove

A second prescribed burn will take place in spring, 2026 on half of the prairies not completed in fall. Staff is working with the Middle School Nature Club to snow seed areas burned in fall, and will directly overseed immediately following spring burns with students.

### Cottage Grove Elementary and Oltman Middle Schools

The WCD has funding available through the BWSR Pollinator Pathways program to restore habitat on school campuses. Neither Olman nor Cottage Grove Elementary School met Campus Greening program requirements, but BWSR funding will allow the schools to restore up to an acre of prairie each. Restoration site prep Cottage Grove has been ongoing through summer. Oltman

will begin in Spring, 2026. Staff are assisting with planning and will provide cost-share dollars as match for state grant.

## Carpenter Nature Center



CNC completed in-classroom and in-field Water Quality programming with 6th graders at Cottage Grove and Lake Middle Schools in Fall, 2025. CNC programming continues in spring and fall of 2026 at Oltman and Woodbury Middle Schools. Ramsey Washington Metro Watershed District is funding the CNC programs at Woodbury Middle School. Program will, in spring, 2026 reach all 6th Graders in the School District during the current school year.

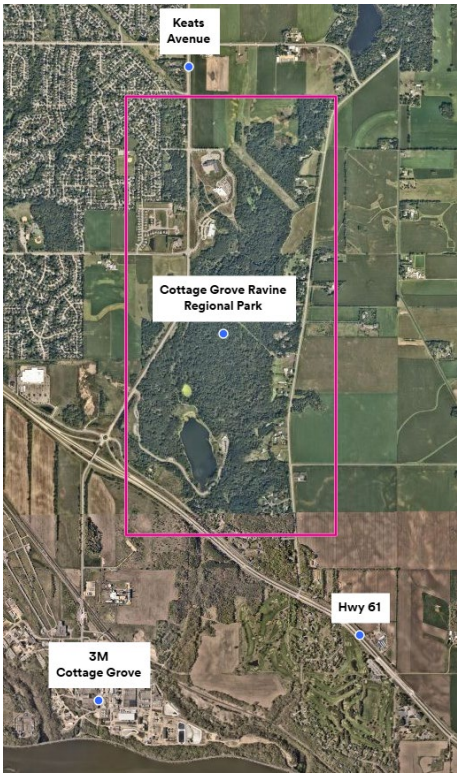
## Hasenbank Woods Restoration

Hasenbank Woods restoration continues. WCD crews completed foliar spraying of buckthorn again in fall 2025. STS will be back on site in winter to remove and/or burn deadfall and brush. Good fuel load is established on site which will facilitate a spring prescribed burn in the woodlands. A prescribed burn is planned for spring 2026. Garlic mustard pull public event is in the works for spring, 2026.

Staff provided support to the city to obtain grant funding for vegetation restoration around Fish Lake. Ongoing activities related to this action are being conducted throughout the site and include removal of heavily treed areas dominated by dead and dying green ash, prescribed burns, herbicide treatments and fine mowing to replace reed canary grass dominated wetlands with native sedge meadow communities.



## Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park




Staff are coordinating efforts to provide restoration and native plant community management within Cottage Grove Ravine Park with a focus on areas within SWWD's drainage easement. Discussions are focused on management of invasive species, with a focus on common buckthorn, garlic mustard and common burdock as well as the consideration of fencing to prevent undesired uses and support future grazing activities. Staff will continue to monitor and provide adaptive management in coordination with County Staff.

## Newport Open Space Planning

Staff are working with City of Newport and BWSR staff using state funding to conduct full ecological restoration and enhancement of the grasslands located along the Xcel transmission line corridors within the Bailey School Forest Park. BWSR and SWWD staff are conducting test plots to assess best approaches to invasive species control to include assessments of herbicides, fire, timing and seeding approaches. Project is a pilot to explore ways to conduct long term management of utility corridors that meet operation and safety needs of utilities while at the same time, supporting high quality native plant communities.




Staff have been working with the City of Newport to develop relationships with State Agencies, Companies, non-profits and residents to provide support for natural resource improvements and management along the river and bluffs. Great River Greening will be spending Outdoor Heritage Grant funds to improve habitat and slope stability in the Bailey School Forest Park beginning in fall, 2025.

SWWD received a DNR expedited CPL grant for $50,000 to assist with the restoration of 9 acres at the entry to Bailey School Forest Park. Over the next three years, staff will be working with the local residents, city staff, volunteers, school students, contractors and county agencies to transition the entry to the park from non-native forest to a more open oak dominated savanna and woodland with diverse ground layer vegetation. Forestry mowing, deceased oak removal and canopy thinning all occurred in January, 2026 showing dramatic changes to the entry area. STS crews will be working to clear buckthorn and hazard trees on another six acres through fall and winter. Staff is also working with Great River Greening, managing activities within the larger oak woodland. Forestry mowing and hand removals of buckthorn has been completed in a nine acre area. Frozen and ice crusted snow created ideal conditions to aggressively removal all buckthorn in this area with minimal ground contact by heavy tracked equipment.





## Cottage Grove Open Space Planning

Staff are working with the Cottage Grove Parks Department, assisting with ecological planning efforts at Mississippi Dunes Preserve, Still Ponds Preserve, and Vandenberg Lake. Friends of the Mississippi River completed a full site assessment and Natural Resources Management Plan for Mississippi Dunes in 2025. Staff worked with the WCD to produce a full site assessment and Natural Resources Management Plan for Still Ponds Park in 2025. Vandenburg Lake planning continues with staff seeking to secure funding to preserve 80 acres of open space containing quality, albeit degraded oak communities containing state-listed rare species. Staff is now working with City of Cottage Grove to identify funding sources to begin implementation of these natural resources projects.

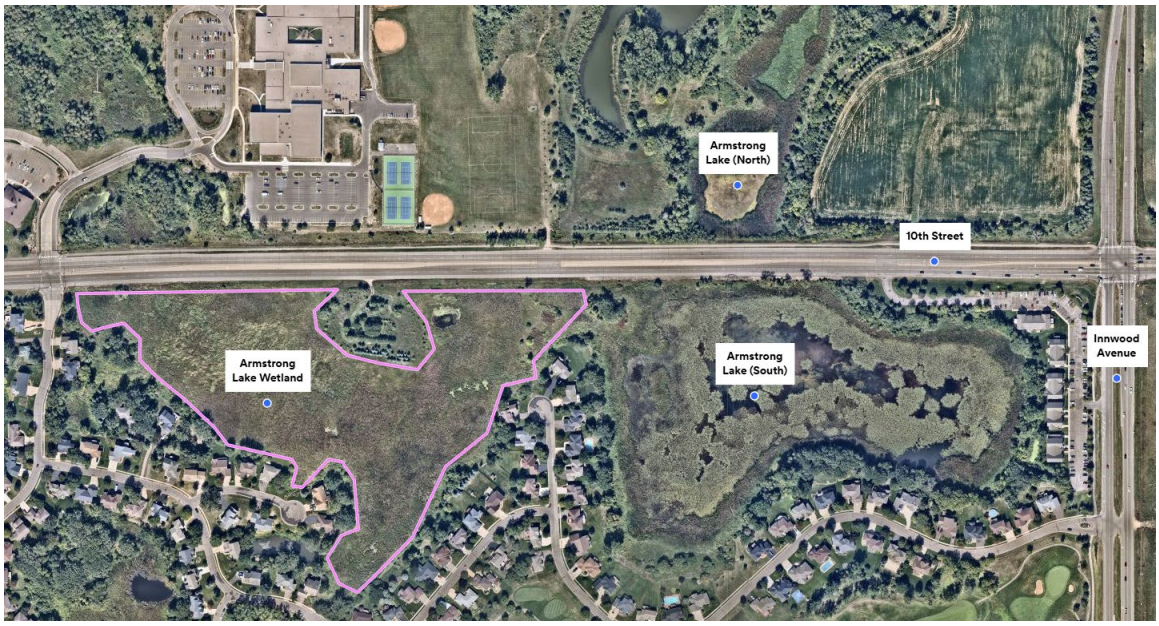
# Aquatic Vegetation & Invasive Species

### Lake Management & AIS

The

## Armstrong Lake Wetland Cattail Harvesting

The test plot at Armstrong Lake wetland was harvested by WCD and Conservation Corps crews during the last week of August. Samples were collected and brought to the University of Michigan Research Analytics Lab for analysis. Results have been received, and a report will be available this winter. Staff are planning a poster presentation to be displayed at the upcoming MSRC Stormwater Pond Symposium. There has been significant interest in our findings shown by other researchers.




# Modeling & Planning

## La & Ria Lakes Outlets

In response to past flooding concerns, SWWD and its consultants continue to study the La and Ria Lakes outlets and the downstream drainage to the Mississippi River. Updated modeling has identified several downstream concerns that have been shared with Woodbury and Newport. Once the Cities have had a chance to review, we will work with both Cities to identify next steps.




## Groundwater & Ecosystem Services Studies

Two related studies are underway to assess the benefits of large-scale restoration and protection, identifying and ranking sites that provide high potential for watershed protection. The Groundwater Study, funded by the Minnesota Department of Health, has been developing mapping and ranking criteria that support protection of groundwater recharge and discharge areas. Project outcome will provide actionable steps that communities can take to protect important areas on the landscape as well as offer models for land use practices. Cities and county partners have been fully engaged in the data collection process and discussions of needs.

The Ecosystem Services Study has identified a significant number of potential sites throughout the SWWD that may offer substantial benefit to watershed health. The consultant, in coordination with staff, are developing criteria for ranking site benefits. The ranking criteria will be applied to known sites to assist with long term program planning, but is also designed to be applicable to new sites not yet identified. Consultant is currently testing the ranking methods on known sites.

# Administrative

## Watershed Management Plan Update

SWWD's current WMP extends through October 2026. There is a substantial process to follow in updating the WMP, which SWWD began in 2024 with citizen engagement and issue identification. 2025 has been focused on policy and program development, including the identification of issues, goals and strategies as well as drafting the plan. Writing is complete and staff are working to compile a full draft.

- February 2 to April 3, 2026: 60 Day Agency Review
- April 14, 2026 Board Meeting: Discuss review comments received
- April 27, 2026: Send Response to Comments
- May 12, 2026 Board Meeting: Public Hearing
- July 1 to September 29, 2026: 90 Day BWSR Review
- October 13, 2026 Board Meeting: Adopt Plan

## SWWD Website Update

Staff received content migration and management training in October and gained access to the website to ensure correctness and to continue to add content. The website will publicly launch alongside the new Watershed Management Plan.

## Artist-in-Residence

Artist-in-Residence Taylor Mills captured photo and video of the Mississippi River, Bailey School Forest, Colby Lake, and Glacial Valley Park/overflow basin in the months of December 2025 and January 2026.



Mississippi River



Glacial Valley Park Tree



GVP Overflow Basin



Bailey School Forest Park

SOUTH WASHINGTON WATERSHED DISTRICT

| Date: February 6, 2026 | **South Washington Watershed District**<br>**Request for Board Action** | **Agenda Item # 6** |
|---|---|---|
| **Title:**<br>2025 SWWD BMP Cost-Share Program Summary & 2026 Stewardship Grant Program | **Board Action Requested:**<br>2025 Cost-Share Program Summary<br>2026 Stewardship Grant Program | **Required Signatures**<br>None |
| **Reviewed by:**<br>JHL | | **Presented by:**<br>Staff |

**Background/Justification**:
SWWD's Stewardship Grant Program (formerly BMP Cost-Share Program) incentivizes residential, commercial and institutional landowners to install or retrofit landscape features that provide water quality and/or ecosystem service benefits to the watershed. The proposed 2026 program budget has been established at $84,000, which includes technical assistance provided by the Washington Conservation District (separate agenda item). Attached are a 2025 program summary and 2026 program documentation.

NOTE: Staff have provided a revised and formalized set of policies to guide this program in 2026 and beyond, based upon the draft 2026 SWWD Watershed Management Plan. Please review these policy documents ahead of the meeting. Staff will walk the Board through major proposed changes.

Staff recommends Board approval of the 2026 Stewardship Grant Program Policies as presented.

| **Previous Action:** | | **Contact:**<br>**JHL** |
|---|---|---|
| **Date Received:**<br>February 6, 2026 | **SWWD Administrator/Date:**<br>February 6, 2026 | **SWWD Attorney/Date** |
| **Financial Implications:** | | **Comments:** |
| **Fund** | **Explanation:** | **Fund Balance:** |
| **Decision Needed/Date** | **Administrative Recommendation**<br>**Approval** Informational<br>Denial No Recommendation | **Comments** |

SWWD

COST SHARE PROGRAM PROJECT PROFILES 2025

**St. Paul Park –** Buckthorn Removal and Savanna Restoration Along the Mississippi River in St. Paul Park

## DESCRIPTION:

This private property is located immediately above the Mississppi River and was completely overgrown with Common Buckthorn, limiting plant diversity and creating bare ground in the deep shade. This condition is typical and is best remedied by removing the thick shrub layer followed by overseeding, replanting with native species and monitoring to keep re-invasion in check. Restoration on this residential lot located on the Mississippi River provides wide ranging benefits from soil protection to food and habitat for a wide range migrating and resident animals.

## SUMMARY:

**PROJECT INSTALL COST -** $3,223.50

**DEDICATED COST SHARE FUNDS -** $1,250 (SWWD), $1,500 BWSR Pollinator Pathways

**FUNDING SOURCE(S) -** SWWD Cost Share, BWSR Pollinators Pathways Program, Landowners

**ESTIMATED POLLUTION REDUCTION BENEFIT (lbs/yr) – 0.25 lbs TP**




*Nelson Buckthorn Removal and Restoration along the Mississippi River*



SWWD

COST SHARE PROGRAM PROJECT PROFILES 2025

**PLANT GRANTS –** Continuing an Active Education Program Throughout All Areas the SWWD

## DESCRIPTION:

The SWWD Plant Grant Program continues to be the most widely used part of the Cost Share Program. The program offers residents the opportunity to engage with the landscape on small lots thoughout the district. Plant Grants allow residents to engage with staff through site visits where district programs are discussed and educational materials offer opportunities for landowners to understand how small projects and the use of native plantings can contribute to larger landscape benefits.

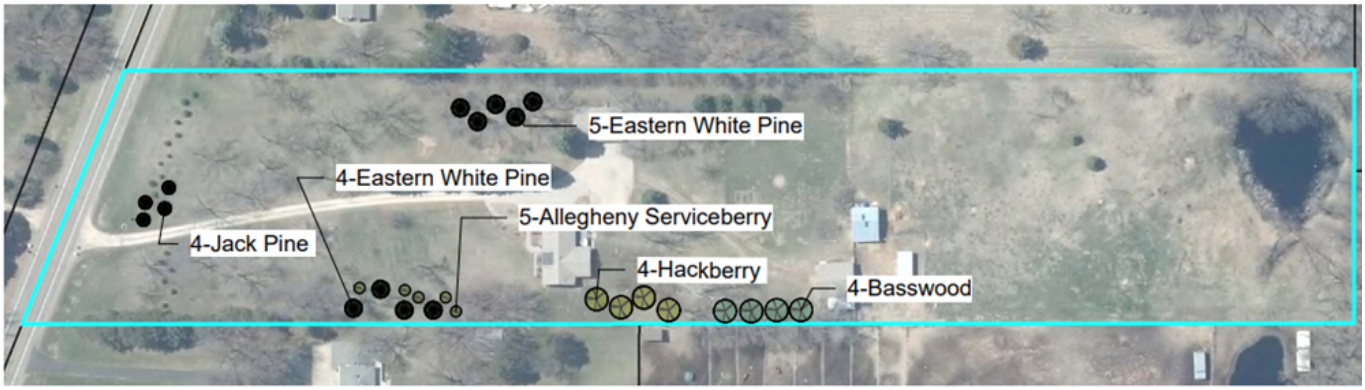
## SUMMARY:

**PROJECT INSTALL COST –** Varies by project

**DEDICATED COST SHARE FUNDS -** $500 for individual planting project or performance based on calculated phosphorus reduction.
**FUNDING SOURCE(S) -** SWWD Cost Share, individual landowners
**ESTIMATED POLLUTION REDUCTION BENEFIT (lbs/yr) – Marginal (Plant Grant)**



*Native plantings on residential lots throughout the District range from the corner garden to full yard prairie restorations to growing the urban canopy.*
*Left: Second year prairie restoration in Woodbury neighborhood.*
*Below: Planting a diverse mix of trees for beauty and habitat in Woodbury*



SWWD

COST SHARE PROGRAM PROJECT PROFILES 2025

**School District Collaborations -**
Small gardens to pocket prairies

## DESCRIPTION:

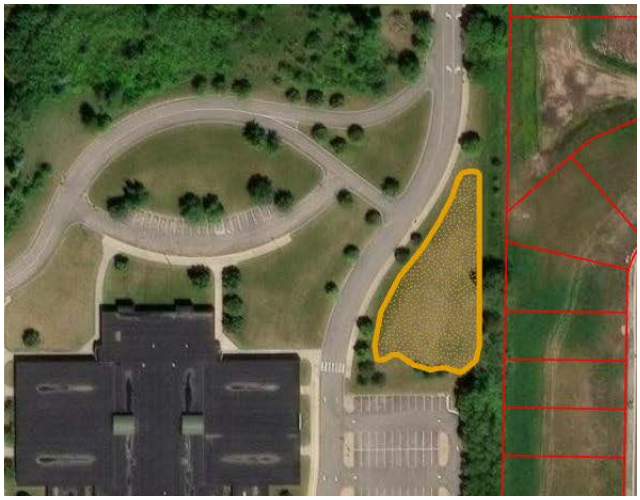
The SWWD has worked with schools, District staff, parents and teachers to identify and install pollinator gardens, prairies and plantings that support educational programs and enhance wildlife habitat. A number of these projects have been able to leverage dollars from state programs to grow the financial impact tenfold. Projects have been a combination of tree planting for habitat and shade, learning gardens with pollinator plantings and prairie patches up to an acre in size.

**FUNDING SOURCES:** SWWD Cost Share, South Washington School District, Stillwater Schools, BWSR Habitat Projects provided $500.00 plant grants, in some cases as 10% match for additional state funding.



*School Projects funded through the cost share program in 2024-2026 include praire restoration projects at Cottage Grove Elementary School (left and plan below), Oltman Middle School (2026), Brookview Elementary School (bottom left) and*

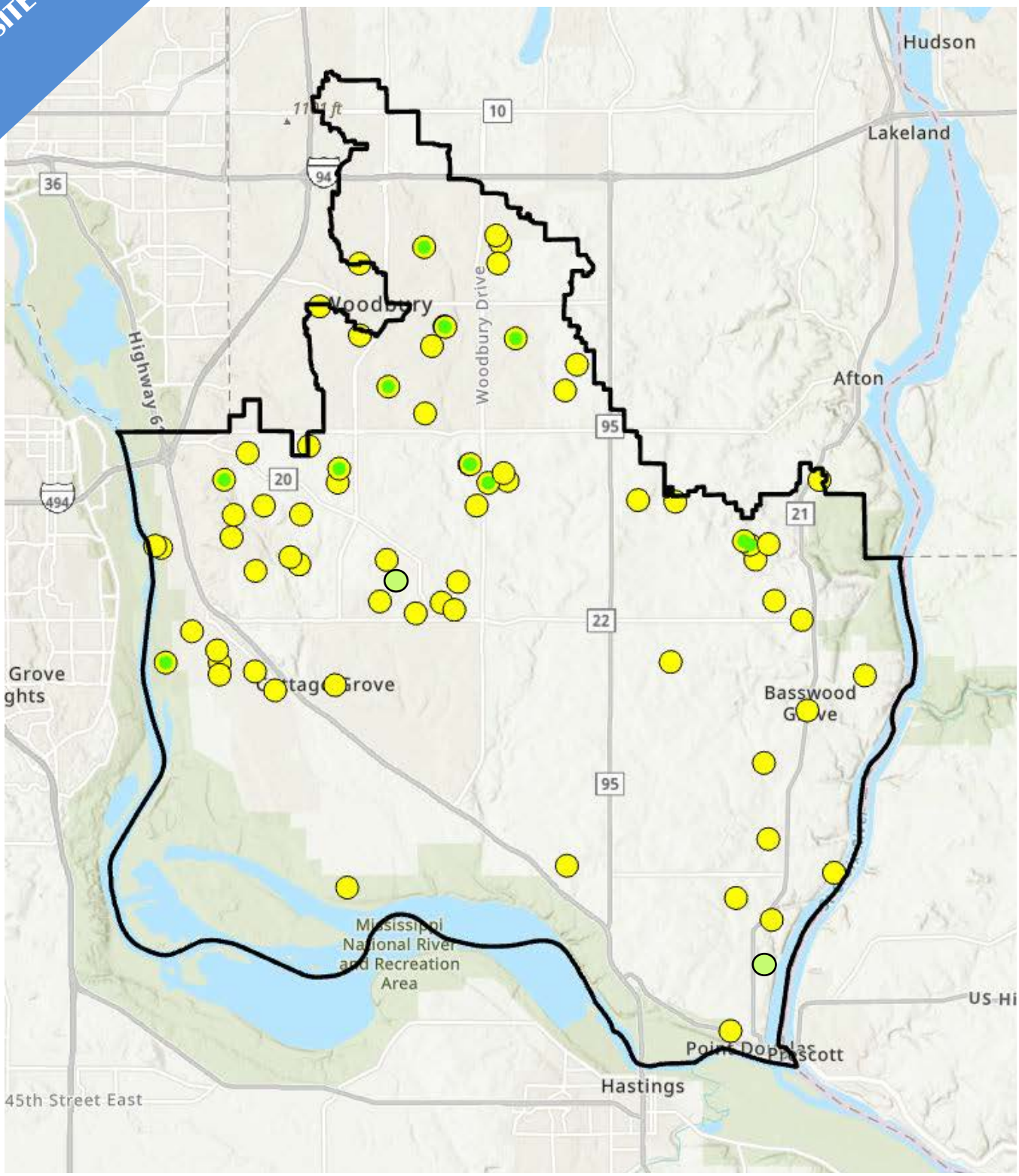




# SWWD
## COST SHARE PROGRAM
## SITE VISIT LOCATIONS 2025

**KEY TO FEATURES**

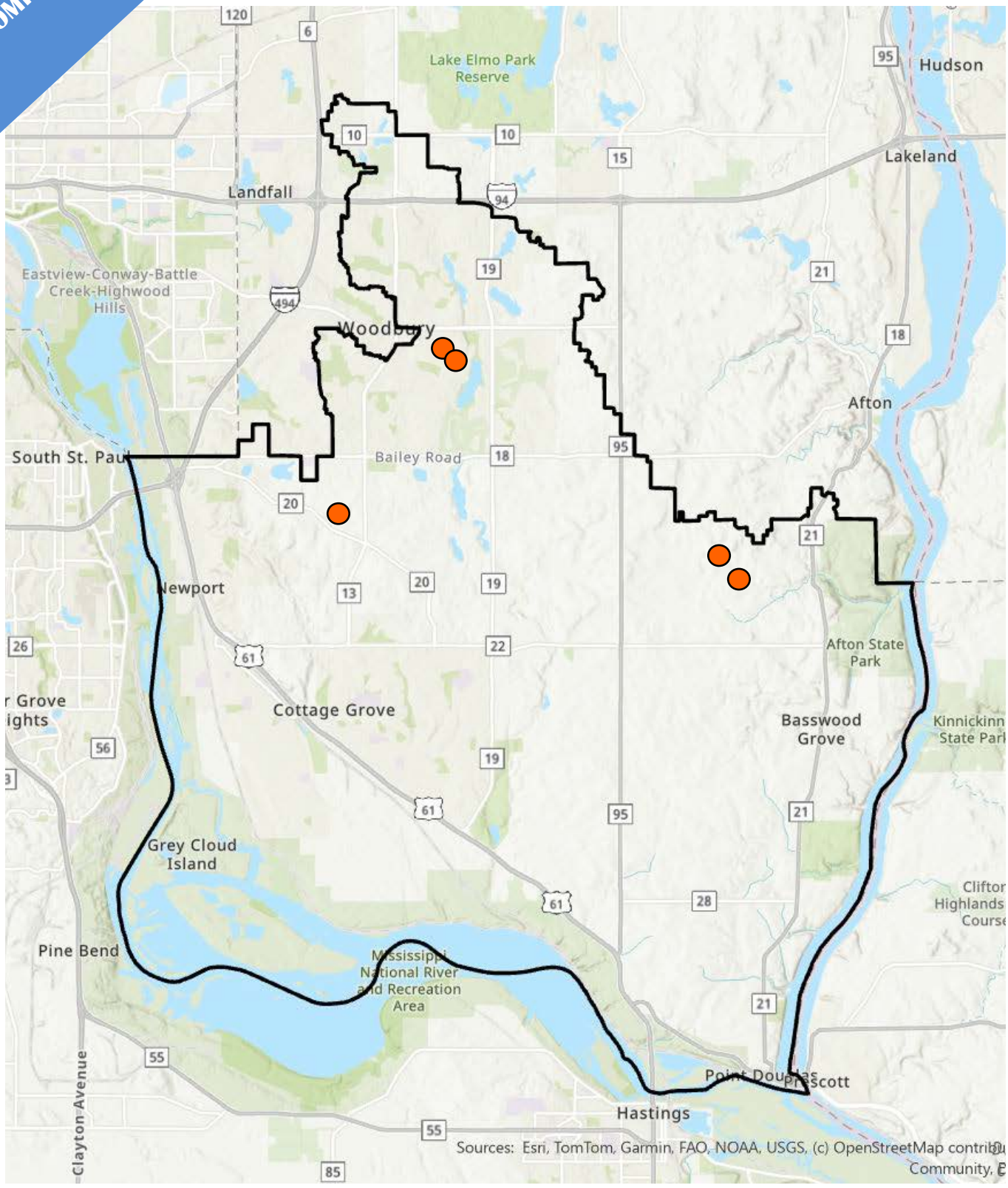
- SWWD Site Visits (70)
- Approved Projects (19)
- SWWD Boundary



# SWWD COST SHARE PROGRAM COMPLETED PROJECTS 2025

**KEY TO FEATURES**

- Projects Completed (Paid) (5)
- SWWD Boundary



SOUTH WASHINGTON WATERSHED DISTRICT

# 2026 SWWD Stewardship Grant Program Guidelines

This summary document provides general guidelines for the 2026 Stewardship Grant Program. Additional specific program policies can be found in Exhibits A-C.

## Program Contact:

Abby Tekiela
South Washington Watershed District
Water Resources Program Coordinator
Phone: (651) 728-6827
Email: abby.tekiela@swwdmn.gov

## Program Overview:

SWWD's Stewardship Grant Program empowers residents, municipalities, institutions and businesses to use innovative practices to protect and improve lakes and streams within the District. An education and outreach program at its heart, this program also provides important financial incentives to participants who are seeking to make positive changes to their properties. This program promotes water quality improvement by focusing on the reduction of phosphorus in stormwater runoff, reducing erosion and sedimentation, and preserving and restoring natural lands throughout the watershed.

The primary value of dispersed, small-scale BMPs lies in the engagement with residents and other landowners. Educating the public about water resource protection and encouraging simple lifestyle and property management changes that can lead to water quality improvements is the primary focus of this program. SWWD will work with partners such as the Washington Conservation District (WCD) and East Metro Water Resource Education Program (EMWREP) to host workshops that will educate and empower its constituents to undertake projects in their own space and on their own time.

Successful projects will help improve water quality, reduce stormwater runoff, or increase ecosystem resiliency. Common project examples include, but are not limited to, rain barrels or cisterns, raingardens, pervious hard surfaces, native plantings, resilient land management, critical area erosion control, streambank/shoreline stabilization, invasive species removal, and chloride reduction practices. Registered program participants who complete projects and meet program criteria may be eligible for small grant

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reimbursements consistent with an amount established by the SWWD Board. SWWD will work to minimize the barriers for residents to participate in this program, however, implementation may be periodically focused on specific subwatersheds or environmental justice areas to help achieve targeted goals. When projects are identified that have the potential to achieve more substantial, measurable, or regional water quality, volume control, or ecosystem resiliency outcomes, SWWD may make additional technical assistance and/or grant funding available for project development and implementation, at its own discretion.

## Eligibility:

Those eligible for cost-share funding through SWWD's Stewardship Grant Program include:

- Residents of the SWWD
- Not-for-profit and religious organizations serving land withing the SWWD
- Local Government Agencies serving the SWWD
- Public and private schools located within the SWWD
- Businesses and corporations located within the SWWD

When an applicant does not own the land for which they are seeking cost-share assistance, the landowner will be required to execute all contracts and/or maintenance agreements associated with the project. Applicants who have received previous SWWD cost-share funding must wait at least one year after the closeout (completion and payment) of their previous project, before applying for additional cost-share funding.

## Available Funding:

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis throughout the calendar year. Funding decisions for applications up to $5,000 have been delegated to the District Administrator. Larger applications must be approved by the SWWD Board of Managers at their regular monthly meetings.

This incentive program utilizes ad valorem (District-wide) levy funding and the program budget is set annually by the Board of Managers, not to exceed $150,000. For 2026, the total program budget has been set at $82,000.

## Funding Tracks & Project Design Assistance:

$500 Mini-Grants for Small Projects: For landowners interested in small projects where pollutant reduction calculations are difficult to determine, such as rain barrels or cisterns, chloride management improvements, backyard raingardens, pollinator plantings, small-scale invasive species removal, etc., the SWWD provides support through mini-grants of up to $500. These projects provide a range of watershed benefits that include habitat

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improvements, increased soil health to support infiltration and water holding capacity and invasive species removal in support of native landscape restoration, among others. Often these benefits are difficult to quantify on such a small scale. Applicants should attend one of SWWD's sponsored workshops, typically held in the spring, for project design assistance. Additionally, all Washington County residents can access one free site visit through the Washington Conservation District (WCD). If required, SWWD will also fund one additional WCD site visit, up to one hour, for additional project consultation. Sign up for a site visit on the WCD website:

https://www.mnwcd.org/site-visit-signup-form

LARGER PROJECT CONCEPTS: When proposed projects can provide more significant water quality benefits, runoff volume control, or larger-scale ecosystem resiliency outcomes SWWD will support applicants by funding additional technical assistance for project development and design as well as by cost-sharing up to 75% of the project's cost. SWWD staff will determine if a project is eligible for this advanced level of support. Typical project examples include curb-cut raingardens, pervious hard surfaces, native plantings, resilient land management and/or native plantings (over 0.5 acres), critical area erosion control (gullies, ravines and steep slopes), streambank/shoreline stabilization, or structural agricultural projects. This may include landscape restoration projects that involve removal of invasive species where soil integrity is compromised, or conversion from agricultural lands or turf to permanent native perennial vegetation. SWWD funding may only be used to pay for plant material native to our region.

In either case, SWWD or WCD staff will work with applicants to develop a concept plan that maximizes benefit to our natural resources and help complete all documentation necessary to apply for cost-share funding. Applicants may use a project designer other than SWWD or WCD staff if they choose, however, those designs are subject to modification and approval by SWWD prior to being eligible for cost-share assistance.

NON-STRUCTURAL AGRICULTURAL PROJECTS: SWWD relies on technical guidance from partners, including the Washington Conservation District (WCD) and Lower St. Croix Watershed Partnership (LSCWP), to aid agricultural landowners in implementing conservation practices within the watershed. Landowners are encouraged to work through existing cost-share opportunities available through WCD and LSCWP. Applicants who require additional assistance, or have a unique or creative proposal, are welcome to approach SWWD for funding assistance. Currently, SWWD recognizes the LSCWP Non-Structural Ag BMP Rates and General Requirements as shown in Exhibit B.

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WOODLAND STEWARDSHIP PLANS: SWWD relies on technical guidance from partners, including the Washington Conservation District (WCD) and Lower St. Croix Watershed Partnership (LSCWP), to aid owners of priority forested lands in implementing conservation stewardship planning and practices within the watershed. Landowners are encouraged to work through existing cost-share opportunities available through WCD and LSCWP. Applicants who are in areas not recognized as a LSCWP priority are welcome to approach SWWD for funding assistance. Currently, SWWD recognizes the Woodland Stewardship Plan Policies as amended from the LSCWP and shown in Exhibit C.

## Reimbursement & Eligible Expenses:

The Stewardship Grant Program is a reimbursement program. Applicants must apply for and be approved for funding by the District and have a signed contract prior to beginning their project. After completion of the project and verification by SWWD staff that the feature is functioning as designed, applicants will be issued a final reimbursement payment. Under no circumstance will the reimbursement exceed the total project cost or approved grant amount/percentage. The total project cost and final reimbursement amount will be calculated by SWWD. A reimbursement request form shall be submitted along with itemized receipts or paid invoices for all project expenses. SWWD cannot reimburse applicants for their own labor costs, however, those costs may be tracked (provide dates, times and activities) and submitted as in-kind match at a general labor rate of $35 per hour.

## How to Apply:

Applicants are responsible for submitting all required information, including a signed application/contract form, project plans, and cost estimates and/or contractor quotes. SWWD or WCD staff will provide all necessary information for projects they design. Additional information, if needed, will be requested by SWWD staff. Upon submittal of an application, SWWD staff will review it for eligibility and completeness, and prepare a funding recommendation. Project contracts requesting $5,000 or less may be approved by the SWWD Administrator. Larger project contracts will be presented to the SWWD Board of Managers, for consideration. The SWWD reserves the right to deny any application for any reason. Applications will not be considered for approval until deemed complete by SWWD staff.

## Funding Agreement:

Applicants whose projects are awarded funding will enter into a contract with SWWD. This contract will stipulate the responsibilities and obligations of both the applicant and the SWWD. Applicants are responsible for ensuring all permits required to complete their work are secured.

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# EXHIBIT A: 2026 SWWD Stewardship Grant Program Policies

## General Policies

- All program contracts, contract amendments, and requests for payment for projects under contract require the approval of the SWWD Board of Managers (Board), unless authority has been delegated to the District Administrator to approve/deny/sign contracts or authorize payments.
- The Board has delegated approval and signing of all cost-share contracts valued at up to $5,000 to the District Administrator. Larger cost-share contracts shall require Board approval.
- The Board has delegated approval of contract extension amendments to the District Administrator.
- The Board has delegated approval of contract value amendments, where the total amended contract value does not exceed $5,000, to the District Administrator.
- Funding through this program is subject to availability and may be discontinued or modified by program policy revisions by the SWWD Board as it deems appropriate.
- SWWD relies on partner staffing support from the Washington Conservation District (WCD) to implement this program. WCD staff may be called upon by SWWD to provide technical expertise to applicants or otherwise substitute for various SWWD staff program roles.
- At its sole discretion, the SWWD may consider compliance with the terms of a previous or existing SWWD or partner agency cost-share contract as a prerequisite to entering into a subsequent cost-share contract with an applicant.
- It is a SWWD goal to fund voluntary conservation projects. Projects that are completed to meet regulatory requirements are not eligible for funding. However, portions of a project may be eligible for funding if that portion is voluntary and exceeds regulatory requirements. Verification that the project is voluntary may be required from the applicant or applicable regulatory agency.
- The applicant is responsible for the operation and maintenance of structural practices implemented under this program to ensure the conservation objective of the practice is achieved for a minimum of 10 years, or as otherwise stated in their contract. For nonstructural practices (e.g. cover crops), the applicant is responsible for the operation and maintenance term specified on their contract.
- If the cost-shared practice has failed prior to the minimum lifespan identified on the contract due to improper maintenance as required in the Operation and

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Maintenance Plan, or the practice has been removed prior to the minimum lifespan identified on the contract, the applicant will be responsible for the necessary repairs. If the landowner decides not to repair the practice to the original specifications, they shall be obligated to reimburse funding to SWWD in accordance with the approved cost-share contract.

- If title to the land where the practice is installed is transferred to another party before the expiration of the term of the cost-share contract, it shall be the responsibility of the landowner who signed the contract to advise the new owner that the contract remains in force.
- The landowner and applicant shall allow SWWD staff access to property on which the installed conservation practice is located during the life of the contract. The installed practice will be subject to periodic inspections by SWWD staff.

## Project Development:

- SWWD Technical Standards include, but are not limited to, the most current: SWWD Standards Guidance Manual, USDA Field Office Technical Guide, MPCA Stormwater Manual, NPDES General Stormwater Permit for Construction Activity, Minimal Impact Design Standards (MIDS), BWSR Native Vegetation Establishment and Enhancement Guidelines, and applicable local, state, and federal regulations.
- SWWD requires the use of erosion control products with natural, wildlife-friendly netting. Refer to MN DNR Wildlife Friendly Erosion Control fact sheet (WFEC Fact Sheet – MN DNR 2013).
- The applicant may be required to obtain two contractor quotes for the proposed project prior to cost-share contract approval by SWWD. Competitive bidding requirements will be followed when applicable. Applicants are not required to select the lowest bidder; applicants should select the lowest “responsible” bidder, which considers factors beyond price such as capability, capacity, proven ability, experience, and performance on past projects for WCD and/or its partners. If the lowest bidder is not chosen, the applicant should document the reasonable and appropriate justification for not awarding the lowest bidder. Cost-share may be limited to the lowest responsible bid submitted with the difference for acceptance of the higher bid to be the responsibility of the applicant.
- The value of in-kind labor and/or services that are proposed to be provided by the applicant to complete the project shall be estimated at a General Labor rate of $35 per hour. Dates, times, and activities must be documented. This value will be included as in-kind match in the calculation of total project cost, however, SWWD will not reimburse an applicant for in-kind match time contributed to the project.

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## Application/Contract:

- Applicants are responsible for submitting application forms, project concepts/plans, and cost estimates prior to SWWD approval in sufficient detail for the SWWD to complete its review.
- For projects where construction will occur on adjacent properties or the project will impound or outlet water on adjacent properties not owned by the applicant, a group addendum must be signed by all affected landowners. A division of payment schedule, agreed to by all landowners, must be attached to the addendum.
- SWWD staff will prioritize applications based on local priorities and the potential to provide water quality benefits.
- SWWD staff shall provide a funding recommendation for each application submitted to the SWWD Administrator or Board.
- The cost-share reimbursement amount will not exceed the amount specified on the original cost-share contract, unless the applicant, prior to requesting issuance of final payment for the completion of the project, obtains SWWD approval, in writing, of a contract amendment to increase funding amounts. Contract amendments shall not be awarded solely due to unforeseen increased project costs and shall be evaluated by the SWWD on a case-by-case basis.
- Upon project approval by the SWWD, the applicant will receive a letter along with a copy of the executed cost-share contract stating details of the practice that has been approved, the funding amount, and time schedule to start and complete the project. A copy of the Operation and Maintenance Plan (signed by the applicant and SWWD) will be provided prior to project start.

## Project Implementation:

- SWWD staff shall be notified by the applicant when project construction is expected to begin. SWWD staff shall also be invited to participate in a preconstruction meeting. SWWD staff will be available, although not always immediately, to the applicant during construction to answer questions, document installations, and provide general construction observation to inform the applicant of non-compliant project components or conditions.
- Unless otherwise approved by the SWWD, a portion of a project becomes ineligible for funding if construction begins on that portion before a cost-share contract has been approved.
- The project must be completed in compliance with the terms and conditions of the cost-share contract and maintained in compliance with the Operation and Maintenance Plan.

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- The applicant is responsible for complete installation of the project before the project installation deadline listed on the cost share contract. If a deadline extension is required to complete the project, the applicant must make the request no less than 30 days prior to the project installation deadline. All contract deadline extension requests require advance approval by SWWD.
- The entire practice shall be installed according to project design requirements, including seeding, mulching, erosion control blanket, or other erosion control devices. Any changes from the approved design requirements shall be agreed to in writing by the applicant and the WCD and deemed appropriate by the Technical Authority (typically, SWWD or WCD staff) of the project prior to practice certification.

## Reimbursement:

- SWWD or WCD staff with appropriate technical background and knowledge of conservation practices shall verify if the practice is complete and meets standards and specifications before final payment is issued.
- The applicant must submit invoices or receipts of actual project costs in sufficient detail for SWWD's review. Invoices or receipts must include the following information:
    - the name of the vendor;
    - the materials, labor, or equipment used to establish the practice;
    - the component unit costs (e.g., hours, feet, cubic yards, etc.); and
    - the date the work was performed
- Requests for reimbursement shall include an applicant-signed Voucher and Practice Certification Form.
- A cost-share reimbursement payment will be authorized SWWD after the project has been certified by the authorized technical representative for the project and a complete Voucher and Practice Certification Form has been submitted.
- Reimbursement payments for multi-year contracts for annual practices (ex: nonstructural land management practices) will be issued on an annual basis after the practice has been certified and approved by the SWWD or WCD technical representative.
- For projects that receive a flat rate incentive payment (e.g. cover crops), 1099 tax information must be supplied to SWWD on IRS Form W-9 before a payment can be issued.

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# EXHIBIT B: Non-Structural Ag BMP Rates & General Requirements (from LSCWP)

Cost-share rates will comprise of a flat per acre rate for all non-structural BMP practices based on the FY25 Minnesota EQIP Scenario List and local policies. Practices will be planned for 1-3 years, not to exceed the duration of the grant. Payments will be made to land occupiers annually. Practices may be implemented on the same acres for the contract duration (required for nutrient management and prescribed grazing), practices may move with the rotation but must implement the same amount or greater acres in subsequent years, or two or more practices may be implemented on the same acres for the contract period alternating years (ex. Plant cover crops after corn harvest, no-till soybeans the following year). Eligibility requirements include that planned practices are newly adopted; not previously implemented on the acres by the current owner/operator and did not previously meet NRCS standards and specifications. Land occupiers are eligible for up to three years of flat-rate payments for newly adopted practices. This could be in the form of one three-year contract, or a combination of shorter contracts, so long as the total length does not exceed three years. Entering into a one-year contract does not make a land occupier ineligible for the second and third year of funding for that practice.

- Cover Crops - Must follow NRCS Practice Standard 340
    - 1-2 species $50/acre/year
    - 3+ species $60/acre/year
    - Implementation can occur on different acres within the contract duration or on the same acres consecutively
- Nutrient Management - Must follow NRCS Practice Standard 590
    - $75/acre/year
    - Implemented on the same acres annually
- Prescribed Grazing - Must follow NRCS Practice Standard 528
    - $80/acre/year
    - Implemented on the same acres annually
- Residue and Tillage Management (No-Till & Strip Till) - Must follow NRCS Practice Standard 329 for No-Till/Strip-Till
    - $35/acre/year
    - Implementation can occur on different acres within the contract duration or on the same acres consecutively
- Residue and Tillage Management (Conservation Tillage) - Must follow NRCS Practice Standard 345 for Conservation Till

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    - $10/acre/year
    - Residue cover following a corn crop at the time of planting the subsequent crop must be 60% or greater
    - Residue cover following a soybean crop at the time of planting the subsequent crop must be 30% or greater
    - Residue cover following a small grain crop at the time of planting the subsequent crop must be 60% or greater
    - Implementation can occur on different acres within the contract duration or on the same acres consecutively
- Conservation Cover – Must follow NRCS Practice Standard 327
    - Contract duration 10 years, practice lifespan 10 years
    - Introduced species $200/acre
    - Native species $400/acre
    - Pollinator species $500/acre
    - Stand-alone practice
    - Requires conversion from annual crop
- Conservation Crop Rotation – Must follow NRCS Practice Standard 328
    - Contract duration 3 years, practice lifespan 1 year
    - $40/acre
    - The additional crop added to the rotation must improve the SCI to be eligible. Minimum of 3 crop types in the rotation. Fall tillage will not be allowed in the 328 year and minimal disturbance required if applying manure. Light tillage allowed if broadcasting a cover crop after small grain harvest to lightly incorporate.
    - Stand-alone practice
- Pasture and Hay Planting – Must follow NRCS Practice Standard 512
    - Contract duration 5 years, practice lifespan 5 years
    - $200/acre
    - Requires conversion from annual crop
    - Stand-alone practice

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# EXHIBIT C: Woodland Stewardship Plan Policies (amended from LSCWP)

The Lower St. Croix Watershed Partnership (LSCWP) provides cost-share on woodland stewardship plans that are identified as priority areas within the Lower St. Croix Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan. Landowners within the Lower St. Croix drainage area must first contact the Washington Conservation District to determine if they are eligible for LSCWP funding. For properties located within SWWD but in areas that are not eligible for LSCWP funding, SWWD will provide financial support. Funding provided will be up to the current Minnesota Department of Natural Resources cost-share rate for woodland stewardship plans. All plans must be written in accordance with the Minnesota DNR Woodland Stewardship Program standards and with a clearly identified emphasis on water quality benefits of forest management with practices that enhance or maintain water quality.

Funds for this program can be utilized in one of two ways. The first is to reimburse the landowner the agreed amount after receiving the proper documentation of a paid invoice from a private forester with plan writer certification. Secondly, if the plan is to be written by WCD or LSCWP staff with plan writer certification, the funds can be utilized to reimburse staff time in writing the plan.

By signing the contract, landowners agree to enroll in a recognized land protection program within the first year of the plan. Recognized land protection programs include the Sustainable Forest Incentive Act (SFIA), Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM) easement program, Minnesota Land Trust (MLT) easement program, Trust for Public Lands (TPL) land acquisition program, Washington County Land and Water Legacy Program, or the Minnesota 2c tax classification for a minimum of five years. Other programs may be proposed for consideration by SWWD.

By signing the contract, landowners are additionally required to implement an active practice with water quality benefits, identified in their plan, within the first five years. Active implementation practices include tree/shrub planting, brush management, habitat establishment/improvement, forest stand improvement, thinning, and timber harvest. This is not an exhaustive list of allowable practices, and program staff can assist landowners in identifying active implementation practices recommended in each plan.

If the landowner fails to meet the requirements of the contract, they are liable to SWWD per the terms of the agreement, unless the failure was caused by reasons beyond the land occupier's control.

Funding for woodland stewardship plans is limited. Distance from priority waterbodies and other factors will be considered when prioritizing funding for eligible properties.

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SOUTH WASHINGTON WATERSHED DISTRICT

| Date: February 6, 2026 | **South Washington Watershed District**<br>**Request for Board Action** | **Agenda Item # 7** |
|---|---|---|
| **Title:**<br>2026 Washington Conservation District Service Agreement | **Board Action Requested:**<br>Approve the 2026 Washington Conservation District Service Agreement | **Required Signatures**<br>SWWD President |
| **Reviewed by:**<br>JHL | | **Presented by:**<br>Loomis |

**Background/Justification**:
SWWD's annual service agreement with WCD is included in the packet for Board consideration. SWWD relies on WCD to operate the District's monitoring program, provide WCA administration support, small scale BMP and vegetation maintenance, and technical assistance to support District cost share programs. The 2026 agreement reflects changes to the District's cost-share programs for 2026, re-establishing an emphasis on education and outreach.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Previous Action:**<br>None | | **Contact:**<br>**JHL** |
| **Date Received:**<br>February 6, 2026 | **SWWD Administrator/Date:**<br>February 6, 2026 | **SWWD Attorney/Date:** |
| **Financial Implications:**<br>**$ 298,368** | | **Comments:** |
| **Fund:** | **Explanation:** | **Fund Balance:** |
| Decision Needed/Date | **Administrative Recommendation**<br>**Approval** Informational<br>Denial No Recommendation | **Comments** |

Contract Number: 26-01 SWWD

**2026 SERVICE AGREEMENT**
**BETWEEN**
**WASHINGTON CONSERVATION DISTRICT**
**AND SOUTH WASHINGTON WATERSHED DISTRICT**

## A. PARTIES

This Agreement is made and entered into by Washington Conservation District, (WCD), and the South Washington Watershed District (Watershed District).

## B. PURPOSE

WHEREAS, the Watershed District has requested assistance from the WCD to implement the policies specified in MINN. STAT. §§ 103A.206 and 103D.201; and
WHEREAS, the WCD is authorized to enter agreements to provide such assistance pursuant to MINN. STAT. §§ 103C.331, SUBD. 3 and 7 and 103D.335, subd. 21.
NOW, THEREFORE, the parties agree as follows:

## C. TERM OF CONTRACT

The term of this agreement shall be from January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2026 unless extended or terminated earlier as provided herein.

## D. SCOPE OF SERVICES

The WCD will perform all services and furnish and deliver work products generally described in the attached Exhibits.

## E. COST

In full consideration for services under this agreement, the WCD shall charge the Watershed District for its services at the rate set forth in Section F. Costs for services for activities detailed in the attached Exhibits include:

1. Water Monitoring (see Exhibit A) - $238,368; not to exceed, actual project expenses (supplies, equipment, and lab fees) within Exhibit A will be billed as they are accrued.
2. BMP Program, Outreach and Technical Assistance (see Exhibit B) - $40,000
3. BMP Maintenance - $14,000, $12,000 base amount with additional expenses (mulch, plants) billed as they are accrued, not to exceed $2000.
4. Agricultural Assistance - Technical assistance to implement agricultural best management practices to include conservation planning, design, and project administration/closeout (contracting, payment vouchers, etc) not to exceed $3,000.
5. WCA Support: WCD will provide technical assistance in support of SWWD's LGU responsibilities under the Wetland Conservation Act. Estimated Budget: Not to exceed $3,000 on an hourly billing rate basis, billed monthly.

Total Cost for Services: $298,368.00

Any additional costs for special studies or capital projects must be set forth in a written amendment to this Agreement.

**F. BILLING RATE AND PAYMENTS**

1. Services in Exhibit A will be billed on a lump sum basis, and on actual cost basis for lab and project expenses. Invoices for Exhibit A will be sent on a monthly basis and will list specifically the work performed.
2. Services in Exhibit B are billed on an hourly basis at the rate of $50.00- $114.00 per hour, based on personnel and task.

| | |
|---|---|
| AIS Watercraft Inspectors | $38.00 |
| Seasonal | $50.00 |
| Technician 1 | $72.00 |
| Technician 1/2 | $76.00 |
| Technician 1/2/Specialist 1 | $81.00 |
| Tech 2/Specialist 1/2 | $86.00 |
| Specialist 1/2/3 | $91.00 |
| Specialist 2/3/4 | $97.00 |
| Specialist 3/4/Engineer | $102.00 |
| Administrator/Manager | $114.00 |

Invoices for Exhibit B will be sent on a monthly basis and will list specifically the work performed.

3. Project expenses will be billed as they are accrued
4. Technical services provided by the WCD will be billed in accordance with this Rate Schedule. Invoices are sent per the conditions of the agreement and will summarize the work performed. Invoices are payable within 60 days.
5. Office supplies, in-house reproduction expenses, and transportation are included in the rates noted above. Outsource reproduction, special bulk mailings, equipment, supplies, and other non-ordinary costs are not included. Any direct costs are to be reimbursed at actual cost.

**G. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY- CIVIL RIGHTS**

During the performance of this Agreement, the WCD agrees to the following:
No person shall, on the grounds of race, color, religion, age, sex, disability, marital status, public assistance, criminal record, creed or national origin, be excluded from full employment rights in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program, service, or activity under the provisions of and all applicable federal and state laws against discrimination including the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

**H. STANDARDS**

The WCD shall comply with all applicable Federal and State statutes and regulations, as well as local ordinances now in effect or hereafter adopted. Failure to meet the requirements of the above may be cause for cancellation of this contract, effective the date of receipt of the Notice of Cancellation.

**I. DATA PRIVACY**

All data collected, created, received, maintained, or disseminated, or used for any purpose in the course of the WCD's performance of the Agreement is governed by the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, Minnesota

1984, Section 13.01, et seq. Or any other applicable state statutes and state rules adopted to implement the Act, as well as state statutes and federal regulations on data privacy. The WCD agrees to abide by these statutes, rules and regulations and as they may be amended.

**J. AUDITS, REPORTS, AND MONITORING PROCEDURES**

The WCD will:

1. Maintain records that reflect all revenues, cost incurred and services provided in the performance of the Agreement.
2. Agree that the County, the State Auditor, or legislative authority, or any of their duly authorized representatives at any time during normal business hours, and as often as they may deem reasonably necessary, shall have access to the rights to examine audit, excerpt, and transcribe any books, documents, papers, records, etc., and accounting procedures and practices of the WCD which are relevant to the contract.

**K. INDEMNITY**

The WCD and the Watershed District mutually agree, to the fullest extent permitted by law, to indemnify and hold each other harmless for any and all damages, liability or cost (including reasonable attorneys' fees and costs of defense) arising from their own negligent acts, errors or omissions in the performance of their services under this agreement, to the extent each party is responsible for such damages and losses on a comparative basis of fault. Parties agree to provide proof of contractual liability insurance upon request. This paragraph does not diminish, with respect to any third party, any defense, immunity, or liability limit that the WCD or the Watershed District may enjoy under law.

**L. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR**

It is agreed that nothing herein contained is intended or should be construed in any manner as creating or establishing the relationship of co-partners between the parties hereto or as constituting the WCD as the agent, representative, or employee of Watershed District for any purpose or in any manner whatsoever. The WCD is to be and shall remain an independent contractor with respect to all services performed under this Agreement.

The WCD represents that it has, or will secure at its own expense, all personnel required in performing services under this Agreement. Any and all personnel of the WCD or other person, while engaged in the performance of any work or services required by the WCD under this Agreement, shall have no contractual relationship with the Watershed District and shall not be considered employees of the Watershed District.

**M. MODIFICATIONS**

Any material alteration or variation shall be reduced to writing as an amendment and signed by the parties. Any alteration, modification, or variation deemed not to be material by written agreement of the WCD and the Watershed District shall not require written approval.

**N. MERGER**

It is understood and agreed that the entire agreement of the parties is contained here, except as modified during the term of the Agreement by a writing under Paragraph M above concerning a non-material change, and that this contract supersedes oral agreements and negotiations between the parties relating to this subject matter. All items referred to in this contract are incorporated or attached and deemed to be part of the contract.

## O. TERMINATION

Either the WCD or the Watershed District may terminate this Agreement with or without cause by giving the other party thirty (30) days written notice prior to the effective date of such termination. If the Watershed District terminates this Agreement, it may specify work to be performed by the WCD before termination is effective and shall pay the WCD for services performed by the WCD up to the time specified for termination. If the WCD terminates the Agreement, it will not be compensated for part completion of a task except to the extent part completion has value to the Watershed District.

## P. OWNERSHIP OF DOCUMENTS AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

All property of the Watershed District used, acquired or created in the performance of work under this Agreement, including documents and records of any kind, shall remain the property of the Watershed District. The Watershed District shall have the sole right to use, sell, license, publish, or otherwise disseminate any product developed in whole or in part during the performance of work under this Agreement.

**2026 SERVICE AGREEMENT**
**BETWEEN**
**WASHINGTON CONSERVATION DISTRICT**
**AND SOUTH WASHINGTON WATERSHED DISTRICT**

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF the parties have duly executed this agreement by their duly authorized officers.

APPROVED:

Watershed District WCD

BY: _____ BY:_____
Board President Date Board Chair Date

BY: _____ BY:_____
Secretary Date WCD Manager Date

Approval as to form and execution:

_____
Date

**EXHIBIT A**
**2026 WATER MONITORING SERVICES**

| | Equipment Rental | Labor | Mileage/Travel | Sub Total Rental/Labor/Travel | Lab/Exp | Capital Equip. | Total | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| MS1-North Tributary to Wilmes Lake | $0 | $8,343 | $1,094 | **$9,437** | $2,600 | $150 | **$12,187** | |
| MS2-N Tributary to Bailey Lake | $0 | $8,343 | $1,094 | **$9,437** | $2,400 | $150 | **$11,987** | |
| O'Conner's Creek | $0 | $8,343 | $1,580 | **$9,923** | $2,600 | $150 | **$12,673** | |
| Trout Brook | $0 | $8,343 | $1,580 | **$9,923** | $2,600 | $150 | **$12,673** | |
| Wilmes Lake Outlet | $200 | $10,530 | $1,175 | **$11,905** | $2,600 | $150 | **$14,655** | |
| Central Ravine | $200 | $10,530 | $1,175 | **$11,905** | $2,400 | $150 | **$14,455** | |
| St. Paul Park | $200 | $10,530 | $1,175 | **$11,905** | $2,400 | $150 | **$14,455** | |
| Newport | $200 | $10,530 | $1,175 | **$11,905** | $2,400 | $150 | **$14,455** | |
| Colby Lake Outlet | $0 | $8,343 | $1,094 | **$9,437** | $2,600 | $150 | **$12,187** | |
| Ravine Lake Outlet | $0 | $8,343 | $1,580 | **$9,923** | $2,600 | $150 | **$12,673** | |
| Powers Lake East Tributary | $0 | $8,343 | $0 | **$8,343** | $2,400 | $150 | **$10,893** | |
| Markgrafs Lake NW Inlet | $0 | $8,343 | $1,580 | **$9,923** | $2,400 | $150 | **$12,473** | |
| Armstrong Wetland Outlet/GW | $0 | $10,368 | $1,094 | **$11,462** | $1,500 | $150 | **$13,112** | |
| Armstrong Wetland 9th St | $0 | $4,779 | $0 | **$4,779** | $0 | $150 | **$4,929** | |
| Armstrong Wetland 10th St | $0 | $8,343 | $0 | **$8,343** | $1,500 | $150 | **$9,993** | |
| Seasons Inlet | $0 | $8,343 | $1,094 | **$9,437** | $2,400 | $150 | **$11,987** | |
| Seasons Outlet | $0 | $8,343 | $0 | **$8,343** | $2,400 | $150 | **$10,893** | |
| Lake Levels | $0 | $4,776 | $0 | **$4,776** | $0 | $0 | **$4,776** | |
| In Lake Water Quality | $0 | $16,578 | $0 | **$16,578** | $1,830 | $0 | **$18,408** | 9 monitored by WCD, 1 by volunteer |
| Groundwater | $0 | $8,508 | $0 | **$8,508** | $0 | $0 | **$8,508** | 4 SWWD ob wells, 2 private wells |
| | | | | | | | | |
| | $800 | $178,902 | $16,486 | **$196,188** | $39,630 | $2,550 | **$238,368** | |

**EXHIBIT B**
**2026 SWWD BMP COST-SHARE PROGRAM**

**TASKS**

1. **Project Oversight**
   All work performed by the WCD will be at the direction of the SWWD staff.

2. **Outreach and Education**
   Targeted and broad-based outreach techniques will be implemented through a coordinated partnership effort between the SWWD and WCD. WCD staff will develop, promote, and host a minimum of four best-management practice (BMP) workshops in 2026 for landowners interested in or participating in SWWD's cost share program. Workshop content may vary seasonally or topically and shall be coordinated with SWWD staff. SWWD will be responsible for securing local workshop venues. Additional WCD program promotion will include targeted outreach campaigns to mutually agreed-upon geographic or subwatershed areas.

3. **Project Database**
   Project information will be maintained by the WCD and made accessible to SWWD staff. Information on assistance provided by the WCD will be regularly communicated to the SWWD staff Coordinator.

4. **Respond to inquiries from the public**
   The SWWD will act as the primary and first responder to inquiries from the public regarding the BMP Program. The WCD and the SWWD will jointly provide responses to the public regarding general program information, program eligibility, best management practice information, and general watershed information.

5. **Site Reviews, Project Evaluation & Design**
   Initial site visits will be provided by the WCD County-wide and are part of the standard WCD programs and not charged under this contract. Follow-up reviews and subsequent site visits of potential BMP implementation sites will be conducted under this contract, but shall be limited to one additional one hour, SWWD-funded, site visit per landowner. WCD staff shall consult with SWWD staff before committing additional staff time beyond the SWWD funded one hour follow-up. Educational materials will be distributed during the site visit, and will be available on the SWWD website. WCD will briefly and efficiently assess and discuss BMP options which will adequately address the landowner's problem. Landowners will be encouraged to attend a BMP workshop hosted by WCD and SWWD.

   WCD will assist program applicants with identification of supplemental funding sources as needed. Small and/or localized BMPs and native planting projects shall be directed to SWWD's $500 mini-grant program. When larger or more regionally beneficial BMPs are identified, WCD staff shall confirm SWWD interest with SWWD staff prior to proceeding with additional design efforts. If authorized, SWWD may establish additional individual task orders with WCD for design and coordination of these larger projects. In these cases, WCD will coordinate BMP design assistance upon SWWD staff authorization. Design support will be provided by WCD technical resources and/or obtaining assistance from an appropriate technical agency, organization, or the SWWD. WCD may assist landowners with obtaining qualified contractors to install BMPs if requested.

6. **Construction Monitoring (Site inspections)**
   The WCD will monitor construction activities to verify proper implementation of BMPs.

7. **Miscellaneous Services**
   Other services may be provided as requested by SWWD to implement and carry out the Program.

SOUTH WASHINGTON WATERSHED DISTRICT

| Date: February 6, 2026 | **South Washington Watershed District**<br>**Request for Board Action** | **Agenda Item # 8** |
|---|---|---|
| **Title:**<br>Washington County Memorandum of Understanding CSAH 19 and 80th St | **Board Action Requested:**<br>Approve the MOU with Washington County | **Required Signatures**<br>SWWD President |
| **Reviewed by:**<br>JHL | | **Presented by:**<br>Loomis |

**Background/Justification:**
Washington County is planning to construct a roundabout at CSAH 19 and 80th St in Cottage Grove. Due to drinking water related infiltration restrictions, they are unable to adequately treat runoff from the project for phosphorus and propose to pay in lieu of treatment as SWWD has allowed in the past for County linear projects. The District will use the funding for a future project to target phosphorus reduction in the Ravine Lake watershed.

Staff recommend approval of the enclosed MOU.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Previous Action:**<br>None | | **Contact:**<br>**JHL** |
| **Date Received:**<br>February 6, 2026 | **SWWD Administrator/Date:**<br>February 6, 2026 | **SWWD Attorney/Date** |
| **Financial Implications:**<br>**$** | | **Comments:** |
| **Fund** | **Explanation:** | **Fund Balance:** |
| **Decision Needed/Date** | **Administrative Recommendation**<br>**Approval** Informational<br>Denial No Recommendation | **Comments** |

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN**
**WASHINGTON COUNTY AND SOUTH WASHINGTON WATERSHED DISTRICT**

**Alternative Compliance for Total Phosphorus Loading Rate from CSAH 19 (Keats Ave N) and 80th St Intersection Improvements Project**

**THIS AGREEMENT**, by and between the South Washington Watershed District, a political subdivision of the State of Minnesota, herein after referred to as the "SWWD", and Washington County, a political subdivision of the State of Minnesota, hereinafter referred to as the "County."

**WHEREAS,** the County is pursuing alternative compliance to meet a maximum allowable total phosphorus "TP" loading rate of 0.57 lbs/year (7.6 acres disturbed for the CSAH 19 (Keats Ave N) and 80th St Intersection Improvements Project ("Project") at an allowable loading rate of 0.075 lbs/acre/year for the Ravine Lake watershed); and

**WHEREAS,** the County is installing a filtration basin in the southwest quadrant of the CSAH 19 (Keats Ave N) and 80th St Intersection designed to remove 280.5 lbs/yr of total suspended solids (TSS), with an associated removal of 0.48 lbs/yr of TP, and

**WHEREAS,** the post development TP loading for the project area is 6.35 lbs/yr, which takes into account the filtration basin removal of 0.48 lbs/yr. This is an exceedance of 5.78 lbs/yr.

**WHEREAS,** the Project area lies within the 10-year Composite Groundwater Capture Zone, therefore infiltration is prohibited onsite resulting in limited pollutant removal potential

**WHEREAS,** the TP credits are valued at $5,000/lb, and

**NOW THEREFORE,** the County and SWWD agree to the following:

1. This Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") is designed to address the obligations of all parties to this agreement.

2. The County will provide a one-time payment, in the sum of $28,900 to the SWWD to apply to total phosphorus loading mitigation efforts in the Ravine Lake watershed.

3. Following payment to the SWWD, no further obligations with regard to TP treatment will be required for the CSAH 19 (Keats Ave N) and 80th St Intersection Improvements Project.

   SWWD has signed this Agreement and the County having duly approved this Agreement pursuant to such approval and the proper County officials having signed this Agreement, the parties hereto agree to be bound by the provisions herein set forth.

I concur with this Memorandum of Understanding.

| WASHINGTON COUNTY | SOUTH WASHINGTON WATERSHED DISTRICT |
|---|---|
| Erin Blaylock | Sharon Doucette |
| Engineer II/Project Manager | SWWD Board President |
| 1/9/2026 | |
| Date | Date |

SOUTH WASHINGTON WATERSHED DISTRICT

| Date: February 6, 2026 | **South Washington Watershed District**<br>**Request for Board Action** | **Agenda Item # 9** |
|---|---|---|
| **Title:**<br>2025 Aquatic Vegetation Management Summary & 2026 Aquatic Vegetation Management Proposal | **Board Action Requested:** | **Required Signatures**<br>None |
| **Reviewed by:**<br>JHL | | **Presented by:**<br>Tekiela |

**Background/Justification**:

1. **2025 Aquatic Vegetation Management Summary Presentation**
2. **2026 Aquatic Vegetation Management Proposal**

   Task 1.1 Early Season Surveys ($11,777.7)
   Task 1.2 Late Season Surveys ($11,777.7)
   Task 1.3 Turion Surveys ($5,252.00)
   Task 1.4 Zebra Mussel Monitoring ($4,930.00)
   eDNA Sampling in June/August
   Task 1.5 Management Activities ($1,890.00)
   Task 1.6 Monitoring Report ($5,800.00)
   Task 1.7 Project Management ($1,210.00)

| **Previous Action:** | | **Contact:**<br>**JHL** |
|---|---|---|
| **Date Received:**<br>February 6, 2026 | **SWWD Administrator/Date:**<br>February 6, 2026 | SWWD Attorney/Date |
| **Financial Implications:**<br>**$ 42,637.05** | | **Comments:** |
| **Fund** | **Explanation:** | **Fund Balance:** |
| **Decision Needed/Date** | **Administrative Recommendation**<br>**Approval** Informational<br>Denial No Recommendation | **Comments** |

# 2025 Aquatic Plant Management Report

2025 Summary

Prepared for:
SWWD

Prepared by:
Katie Kemmitt
Katie Hembre

Date:
December 30, 2025

Project/File:
227707827



Stantec Consulting Services Inc.

# Revision Record

| Revision | Description | Author | Date | Quality Check | Date | Independent Review | Date |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
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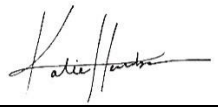
# Disclaimer

The conclusions in the Report titled 2025 Aquatic Plant Management Report are Stantec's professional opinion, as of the time of the Report, and concerning the scope described in the Report. The opinions in the document are based on conditions and information existing at the time the scope of work was conducted and do not take into account any subsequent changes. The Report relates solely to the specific project for which Stantec was retained and the stated purpose for which the Report was prepared. The Report is not to be used or relied on for any variation or extension of the project, or for any other project or purpose, and any unauthorized use or reliance is at the recipient's own risk.

Stantec has assumed all information received from SWWD (the "Client") and third parties in the preparation of the Report to be correct. While Stantec has exercised a customary level of judgment or due diligence in the use of such information, Stantec assumes no responsibility for the consequences of any error or omission contained therein.

This Report is intended solely for use by the Client in accordance with Stantec's contract with the Client. While the Report may be provided by the Client to applicable authorities having jurisdiction and to other third parties in connection with the project, Stantec disclaims any legal duty based upon warranty, reliance or any other theory to any third party, and will not be liable to such third party for any damages or losses of any kind that may result.

Prepared by:



Signature

Katie Hembre

Printed Name

Approved by:



Signature

Katie Kemmitt

Printed Name

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# Executive Summary

Stantec Consulting Services Inc. (Stantec) surveyed the aquatic plant communities of five lakes within the South Washington Watershed District (Washington Co., MN) in June and August 2025. Each lake was surveyed twice, once in June for an early season survey and again in August for a late season survey. A curly-leaf pondweed (CLP) turion survey was completed on each lake in October. Lake vegetation was sampled according to the methods outlined in Madsen (1999) and according to Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MnDNR) protocols.

In addition to aquatic plant community surveys, Stantec has been assisting SWWD with aquatic invasive species (AIS) delineation surveys and treatment and removal strategies. In 2025 the following lakes were managed for AIS:

- Colby
- Ravine
- Markgrafs
- La
- Wilmes

Many of the District lakes were highly vegetated, with most littoral (<15 feet deep) points vegetated. Colby Lake had the highest observed species richness (11), and La Lake had the lowest (4).

The AIS CLP and Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) are present in District lakes, and most lakes sampled had one or both species present. AIS abundance was particularly high in frequency in Colby Lake (CLP, 78) and Ravine Lake (CLP, 59). CLP frequency was low in Markgrafs Lake (18) and Wilmes Lake (2). No CLP was observed in La Lake. EWM was only observed in Colby Lake with frequencies of 10 and 11 in the early and late season surveys, respectively.

Based on survey results and MnDNR Lake Vegetation Management Plan (LVMP) requirements, Stantec has provided recommendations for continued monitoring and management in 2026 in Section 5. Recommendations include point-intercept and turion surveys, as well as additional management.

# Acronyms / Abbreviations

| Acronym / Abbreviation | Full Name |
|---|---|
| AIPM | Aquatic Invasive Plant Management permit |
| AIS | Aquatic invasive species |
| CLP | Curly-leaf pondweed |
| EWM | Eurasian watermilfoil |
| FOQ | Frequency of occurrence |
| FQI | Floristic Quality Index |
| LVMP | Lake Vegetation Management Plan |
| MnDNR | Minnesota Department of Natural Resources |
| MPARS | Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Permitting and Reporting System |

# 1 Project Background & Methods

Stantec assisted SWWD with lake vegetation management and monitoring on five lakes in 2025.

An early and late season point-intercept survey was completed on Colby, Ravine, Markgrafs, La, and Wilmes Lakes in 2025. Point-intercept surveys were conducted following the methods of Madsen (1999) which are described in detail in Stantec 2021.

*Table 1.1. An early season and late season point-intercept survey was conducted on each lake on the following dates:*

| Lake | Early season survey | Late season survey | Turion survey |
|---|---|---|---|
| Colby | June 10, 2025 | August 26, 2025 | October 10, 2025 |
| Ravine | June 11, 2025 | August 25, 2025 | October 9, 2025 |
| Markgrafs | June 12, 2025 | August 26, 2025 | October 9, 2025 |
| La | June 11, 2025 | August 20, 2025 | October 10, 2025 |
| Wilmes | June 12, 2025 | August 20, 2025 | October 24, 2025 |

Vegetation survey results are presented in this section and compared to previous vegetation surveys performed by Stantec since 2021. Community metrics of species richness, Floristic Quality Index (FQI), Simpson's Diversity Index (expressed as 1-*D*), and the Aquatic Macrophyte Community Index (AMCI) are calculated for each survey. Species richness and FQI are compared to the vegetation community impairment thresholds by ecoregion proposed by Radomski and Perleberg (2012). See Stantec's 2021 Aquatic Vegetation Survey Results for SWWD for a thorough description of each community metric and how it is calculated.

Turion density was sampled in Colby, Ravine, Markgrafs, La, and Wilmes in October 2025. Turions were last surveyed in early summer 2023 in Colby, Ravine, and Markgrafs Lakes to understand pre-management CLP turion density. Turions were not sampled in La and Wilmes until 2025. Sampling methods were based on Johnson et al.'s (2012) work and further detail of the sampling methods used can be found in Section 3 of this report.

# 2 Plant Survey Results

The following section summarizes point-intercept plant surveys completed in 2025. Historic survey data are included for reference. Only previous Stantec surveys are reported in this section. For previous surveys from Freshwater Scientific, reference those specific reports.

All water quality data reported in this section is from the MPCA's Lakes and Streams Water Quality Dashboard, which is maintained and regularly updated by MPCA (n.d.).

## 2.1 Colby Lake

Colby Lake (Public Water No. 82-0094-00) is a 69-acre, shallow lake with a max depth of 3.4 meters (11 feet). Colby Lake receives contributions from South Wilmes and its 2,924 direct drainage area, of which 1,075 acres are impervious. During the early season surveys multiple dense mats of CLP and coontail were present throughout the central and southern portion of the lake limiting lake navigability and recreational opportunities.

Colby Lake is impaired for nutrients. The 10-year average of all summer TP samples in Colby is 102 µg/L, exceeding the shallow lake standard for the North Central Hardwood Forest Ecoregion (60 µg/L) (MPCA, n.d.). The 10-year average of chlorophyll-a samples is 36 µg/L, exceeding the State standard of 20 µg/L. Average Secchi depth is 1.0 meters, which meets the State standard of 1.0 meters.

Table 2.1 below outlines species frequency of occurrence observed from 2021 to 2025 during point-intercept surveys performed by Stantec, and Table 2.2 outlines community metrics and indices for each survey. A map visualizing the biovolume of the lake is provided below (Figure 2-1). Maps showing the number of taxa observed at each survey point and a map of locations and density of EWM and CLP are provided below (Figure 2-2, Figure 2-3, Figure 2-4).

Colby Lake had a species richness of 11 in the early season survey and 10 in the late season survey for the 2025 field season, which meets the Ecoregion's shallow lake standard in the early season and just below the Ecoregion's shallow lake standard species richness of 11 in the late season. In 2025, Colby had an FQI score of 11.2 in the early season survey and 12.6 in the late season survey which does not meet the Ecoregion's shallow lake FQI standard of 17.8. Simpson's Diversity Index was relatively stable from 2015 to 2023 and declined slightly in 2024 and 2025. The highest value of AMCI was recorded in 2015, indicating moderate biotic integrity. Despite the decline in Simpson's Diversity Index in 2024 and 2025, the AMCI in the late season of 2025 was the highest it's been since 2015.

CLP and EWM are both present in the lake. CLP was detected at a frequency of 78% in the 2025 survey. EWM was present, but in very low abundance (11). Colby Lake is managed for AIS by using whole-lake herbicide treatments. See Section 4 for more information.

*Table 2.1. Colby Lake plant taxa and littoral frequency of occurrence from Stantec surveys 2021-2025. Littoral frequency of occurrence for a given taxon is defined as the percentage of littoral survey points where that taxon was found.*

| Taxa | Common Name | June 22nd, 2021 | August 9th, 2021 | June 6th, 2023 | August 22nd, 2023 | June 4th, 2024 | August 20th, 2024 | June 10th, 2025 | August 26th, 2025 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| SUBMERSED TAXA | | | | | | | | | |
| ***Elodea canadensis*** | Canadian waterweed | 13 | 10 | 9 | 13 | 4 | 6 | 17 | 15 |
| ***Potamogeton zosteriformis*** | Flat-stem pondweed | 1 | 1 | -- | -- | -- | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| ***Ceratophyllum demersum*** | Coontail | 66 | 82 | 89 | 96 | 63 | 89 | 96 | 88 |
| ***Potamogeton foliosis*** | Leafy pondweed | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| ***Potamogeton natans*** | Floating pondweed | -- | -- | -- | 1 | -- | 1 | -- | -- |
| ***Potamogeton nodosus*** | Long-leaf pondweed | -- | -- | 1 | -- | 4 | -- | 1 | -- |
| ***Potamogeton pusillus*** | Small pondweed | -- | -- | 6 | 1 | 4 | -- | 6 | -- |
| ***Najas flexilis*** | Slender naiad | 1 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 1 |
| ***Myriophyllum sibiricum*** | Northern watermilfoil | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 5 | -- |
| ***Myriophyllum spicatum*** | Eurasian watermilfoil | 40 | 29 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 10 | 11 |
| ***Potamogeton crispus*** | Curly-leaf pondweed | 89 | P | 39 | 15 | -- | -- | 78 | -- |
| ***Potamogeton sp.*** | Narrowleaf species | 4 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 1 |
| ***Chara sp.*** | Muskgrass | -- | -- | -- | -- | 3 | 5 | 7 | 1 |
| ***Nitella sp.*** | Stonewort | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 1 | -- | -- |

| Taxa | Common Name | June 22nd, 2021 | August 9th, 2021 | June 6th, 2023 | August 22nd, 2023 | June 4th, 2024 | August 20th, 2024 | June 10th, 2025 | August 26th, 2025 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ***Stuckenia pectinata*** | Sago pondweed | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 2 | -- |
| FLOATING TAXA | | | | | | | | | |
| ***Lemna minor*** | Small duckweed | 25 | 42 | 38 | 25 | 8 | 16 | -- | 18 |
| ***Wolffia sp.*** | Watermeal | 5 | 45 | 18 | 15 | 1 | 12 | -- | 29 |
| ***Polygonum amphibium*** | Water smartweed | -- | P | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| ***Spirodela polyrhiza*** | Large duckweed | 28 | 44 | 42 | 25 | 4 | 16 | 4 | 18 |
| | Filamentous algae | P | P | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| EMERGENT TAXA | | | | | | | | | |
| ***Typha sp.*** | Cattail | P | P | -- | -- | -- | P | -- | -- |
| ***Sagittaria sp.*** | Arrowhead | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| ***Schoenoplectus acutus*** | Hardstem bulrush | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |

*Table 2.2. Colby Lake SAV metrics from all Stantec surveys 2021-2025.*

| | June 22nd, 2021 | August 9th, 2021 | June 6th, 2023 | August 22nd, 2023 | June 4th, 2024 | August 20th, 2024 | June 10th, 2025 | August 26th, 2025 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| LAKEWIDE METRICS | | | | | | | | |
| Total Points Sampled | 80 | 82 | 82 | 79 | 79 | 81 | 82 | 82 |
| Total Littoral Points Sampled | 80 | 82 | 82 | 79 | 79 | 74 | 81 | 82 |
| % Littoral with Veg | 99 | 82 | 95 | 98 | 71 | 91 | 100 | 89 |
| Max depth of plant growth (ft) | 9.2 | 9.9 | 8.4 | 9.6 | 9.3 | 9.7 | 10 | 10 |
| *Shallow Lake Species Richness Threshold* | *11* | | | | | | | |
| Species Richness | 10 | 9 | 10 | 9 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 10 |
| COMMUNITY INDICES | | | | | | | | |
| *Shallow Lake Floristic Quality Index (FQI) Threshold* | *17.8* | | | | | | | |
| FQI | 15.2 | 13.3 | 12.6 | 11.4 | 11.2 | 12.3 | 11.2 | 12.6 |
| Simpson's Diversity Index (1-*D*) | 78.6 | 74.8 | 79.0 | 70.2 | 51.6 | 62.5 | 69.4 | 71.8 |
| Aquatic Macrophyte Community Index (AMCI) | 38 | 33 | 40 | 40 | 41 | 44 | 37 | 42 |

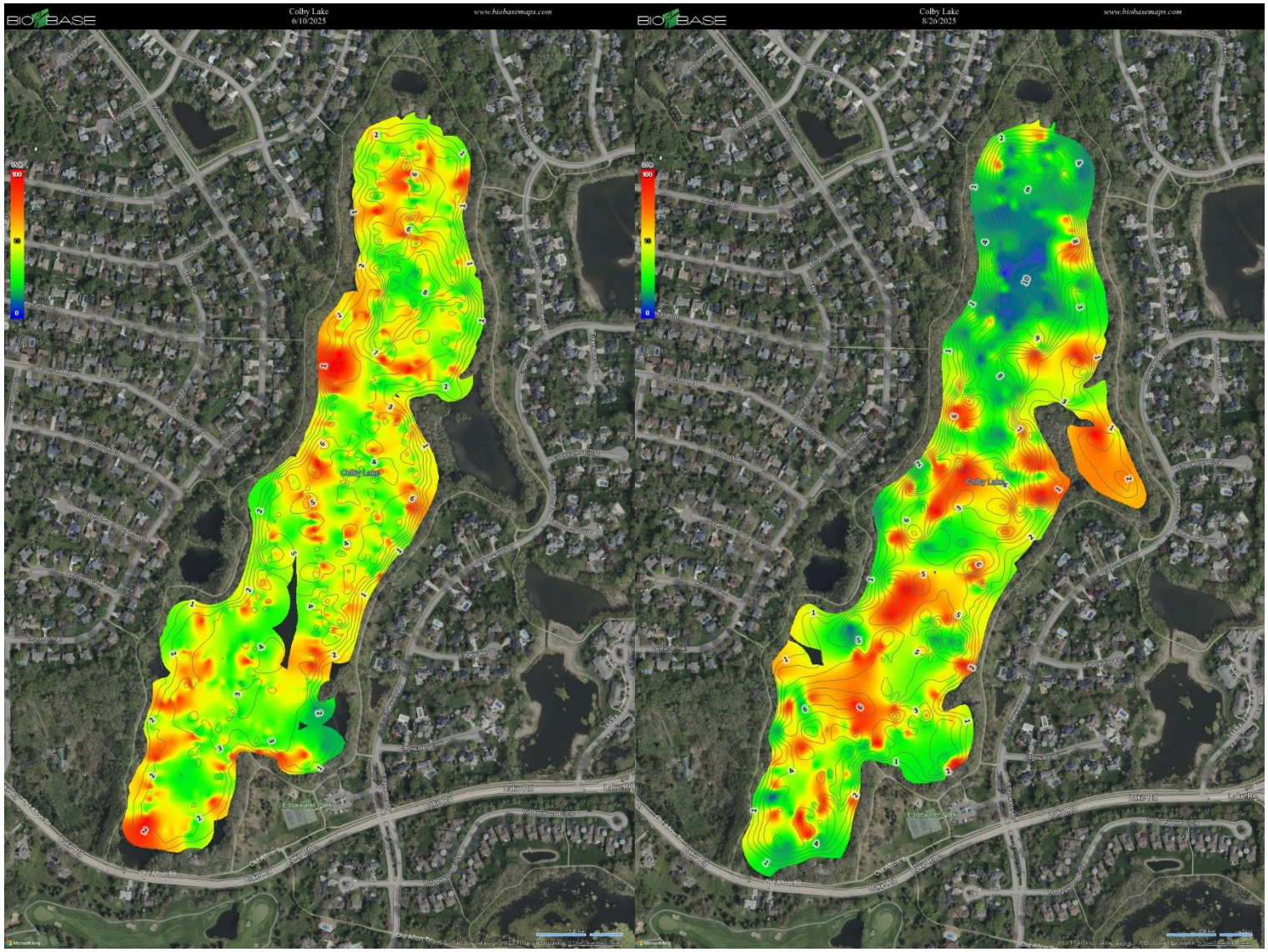



*Figure 2-1. Colby Lake plant biovolume during 2025 surveys.*

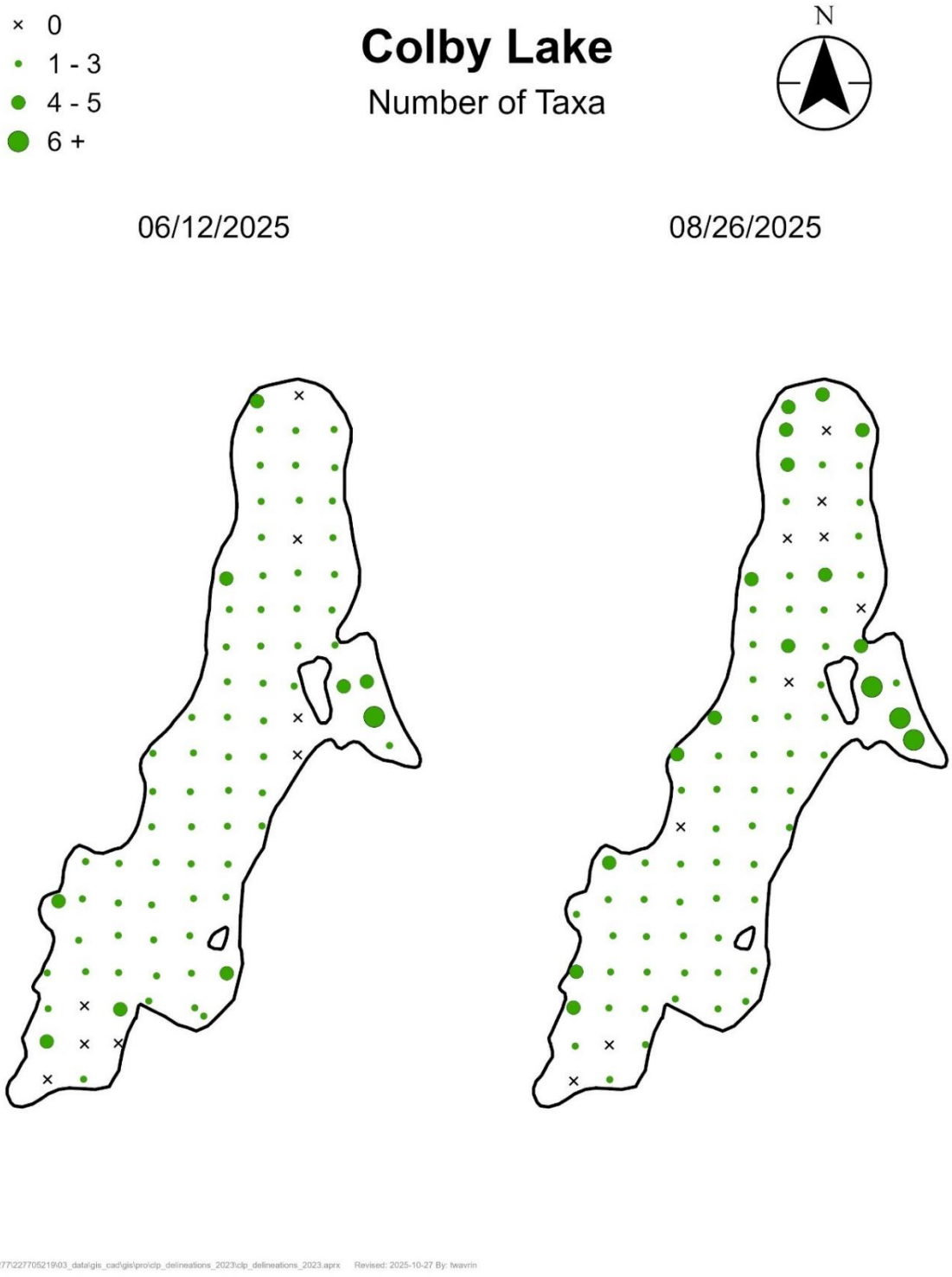



*Figure 2-2. Number of taxa observed at each point in Colby Lake 2025 surveys.*




*Figure 2-3. Eurasian watermilfoil abundance at each point in Colby Lake 2025 surveys.*

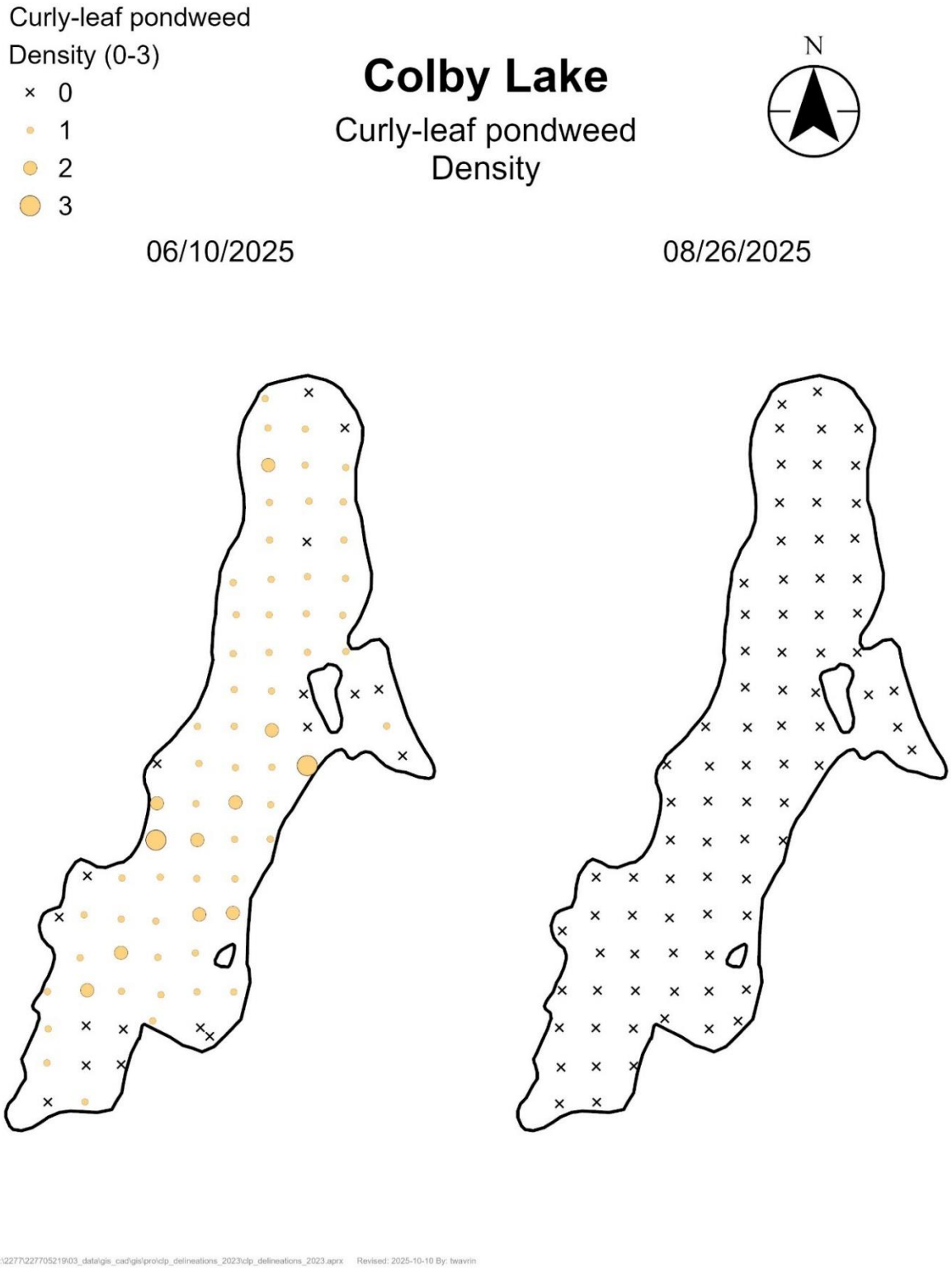



*Figure 2-4. Curly-leaf pondweed abundance at each point in Colby Lake 2025 surveys.*

## 2.2 Ravine Lake

Ravine Lake (Public Water No. 82-0087-00) is a 27-acre, shallow lake in Cottage Grove, MN. The lake has a max depth of 4.9 meters (16 feet). Ravine's drainage area is approximately 2,191 acres, of which approximately 665 acres are impervious.

Ravine Lake is impaired for nutrients. Despite the lake's impairment status, the 10-year average of all summer TP and Secchi depth measurements meet the shallow lake standard for the Western Corn Belt Plains Ecoregion (MPCA, n.d.). The 10-year average of all summer TP samples is 53 µg/L, meeting the State standard (90 µg/L). The 10-year average of all summer chlorophyll-a samples is 42 µg/L, which exceeds the State standard of 30 µg/L. Average Secchi depth is 2.0 meters, which meets the standard of 0.7 meters.

Table 2.3 below outlines species frequency of occurrence observed from 2015 to 2025 during point-intercept surveys, and Table 2.4 outlines community metrics and indices for each survey. Maps showing the biovolume, number of taxa observed at each survey point and map of location and density of CLP are provided below (Figure 2-5, Figure 2-6, Figure 2-7).

Coontail is the most abundant plant in the lake, and though a native species, can reach nuisance levels. Ravine Lake had a species richness of 10 in the early season survey and late season survey which meets and exceeds the Western Corn Belt Plains ecoregion's shallow lake species richness standard of 4. Ravine Lake had a FQI of 13.4 in the early season survey and 12.3 in the late season survey for 2025 which meets and exceeds the ecoregion's shallow lake FQI standard of 7.7. The Simpson's Diversity Index has remained relatively constant since 2015 but was lower in the late season 2025 survey. The highest value of AMCI was recorded in 2015 (46), with 2025 being the highest score since then (45).

CLP is the only AIS present in Ravine Lake and was abundant (frequency of 59%). Ravine Lake is being actively managed with whole-lake herbicide treatment. See Section 4 for more information on Ravine Lake AIS management.

See Appendix A for more information on the Ravine Lake aquatic plant transplant project that occurred in 2025.

*Table 2.3. Ravine Lake plant taxa and littoral frequency of occurrence from Stantec surveys 2021-2025. Littoral frequency of occurrence for a given taxon is defined as the percentage of littoral survey points where that taxon was found.*

| Taxa | Common Name | June 4th, 2021 | August 3rd, 2021 | June 7th, 2023 | August 23rd, 2023 | June 10th, 2024 | August 21st, 2024 | June 11th, 2025 | August 25th, 2025 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| SUBMERSED TAXA | | | | | | | | | |
| *Ceratophyllum demersum* | Coontail | 67 | 88 | 48 | 75 | 57 | 72 | 60 | 79 |
| *Ceratophyllum echinatum* | Prickly hornwort | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 2 |
| *Stuckenia pectinata* | Sago pondweed | 12 | 10 | 10 | 19 | 10 | 11 | 25 | 11 |
| *Ranunculus aquatilis* | Stiff water crowfoot | 8 | -- | 4 | -- | 8 | -- | 21 | -- |
| *Potamogeton zosteriformis* | Flat-stem pondweed | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| *Potamogeton pusillus* | Small pondweed | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 4 | -- |
| *Chara sp.* | Muskgrass | 2 | -- | 2 | 10 | 8 | 15 | 19 | 19 |
| *Potamogeton foliosus* | Leafy pondweed | 8 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| *Potamogeton crispus* | Curly-leaf pondweed | 86 | 27 | 67 | 42 | 39 | -- | 59 | 11 |
| *Heteranthera dubia* | Water stargrass | -- | P | -- | -- | -- | 2 | -- | -- |
| *Elodea canadensis* | Canadian pondweed | -- | -- | -- | 2 | -- | -- | 2 | 4 |

| Taxa | Common Name | June 4th, 2021 | August 3rd, 2021 | June 7th, 2023 | August 23rd, 2023 | June 10th, 2024 | August 21st, 2024 | June 11th, 2025 | August 25th, 2025 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| FLOATING TAXA | | | | | | | | | |
| *Lemna minor* | Small duckweed | 49 | 35 | 27 | 4 | 14 | 26 | 15 | 4 |
| *Lemna trisulca* | Ivy-leaved duckweed | -- | -- | 2 | -- | -- | -- | -- | 4 |
| *Spirodela polyrhiza* | Large duckweed | 39 | 27 | 33 | 4 | 14 | 26 | 15 | 4 |
| *Wolffia sp.* | Watermeal | 55 | 69 | 54 | 38 | 29 | 28 | 19 | 4 |
| EMERGENT TAXA | | | | | | | | | |
| *Eleocharis palustris* | Creeping spikerush | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| *Schoenoplectus acutus* | Hardstem bulrush | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| *Typha sp.* | Cattail | P | P | P | P | P | -- | -- | -- |
| *Shoenoplectus tabernaemontani* | Softstem bulrush | 2 | P | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |

*Table 2.4. Ravine Lake SAV metrics from all Stantec surveys 2021-2025.*

| | June 4th, 2021 | August 3rd, 2021 | June 7th, 2023 | August 23rd, 2023 | June 10th, 2024 | August 21st, 2024 | June 11th, 2025 | August 25th, 2025 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| LAKEWIDE METRICS | | | | | | | | |
| Total Points Sampled | 53 | 53 | 53 | 51 | 53 | 52 | 53 | 53 |
| Total Littoral Points Sampled | 51 | 49 | 48 | 48 | 49 | 47 | 49 | 48 |
| % Littoral with Veg | 90.0 | 88.0 | 85.4 | 81.2 | 77.6 | 74.5 | 91.8 | 87.5 |
| Max depth of plant growth (ft) | 15.7 | 9.9 | 10.6 | 15.7 | 14.3 | 9.10 | 14.9 | 10 |

| | June 4th, 2021 | August 3rd, 2021 | June 7th, 2023 | August 23rd, 2023 | June 10th, 2024 | August 21st, 2024 | June 11th, 2025 | August 25th, 2025 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Shallow Lake Species Richness Threshold*[1] | *4* | | | | | | | |
| Species Richness | 11 | 9 | 9 | 8 | 8 | 7 | 10 | 10 |
| COMMUNITY INDICES | | | | | | | | |
| *Shallow Lake Floristic Quality Index (FQI)Threshold*[1] | *7.7* | | | | | | | |
| FQI | 15.5 | 11.7 | 12.8 | 11.0 | 11.8 | 11.7 | 13.4 | 12.3 |
| Simpson's Diversity Index (1-*D*) | 78.9 | 71.2 | 81.0 | 75.3 | 80.7 | 76.1 | 83.6 | 65.2 |
| Aquatic Macrophyte Community Index (AMCI) | 36 | 32 | 37 | 40 | 40 | 42 | 45 | 44 |

[1]Note that Ravine Lake is the only lake in this study that falls in the Western Corn Belt Plains ecoregion and thus is compared to a different species richness and FQI threshold.

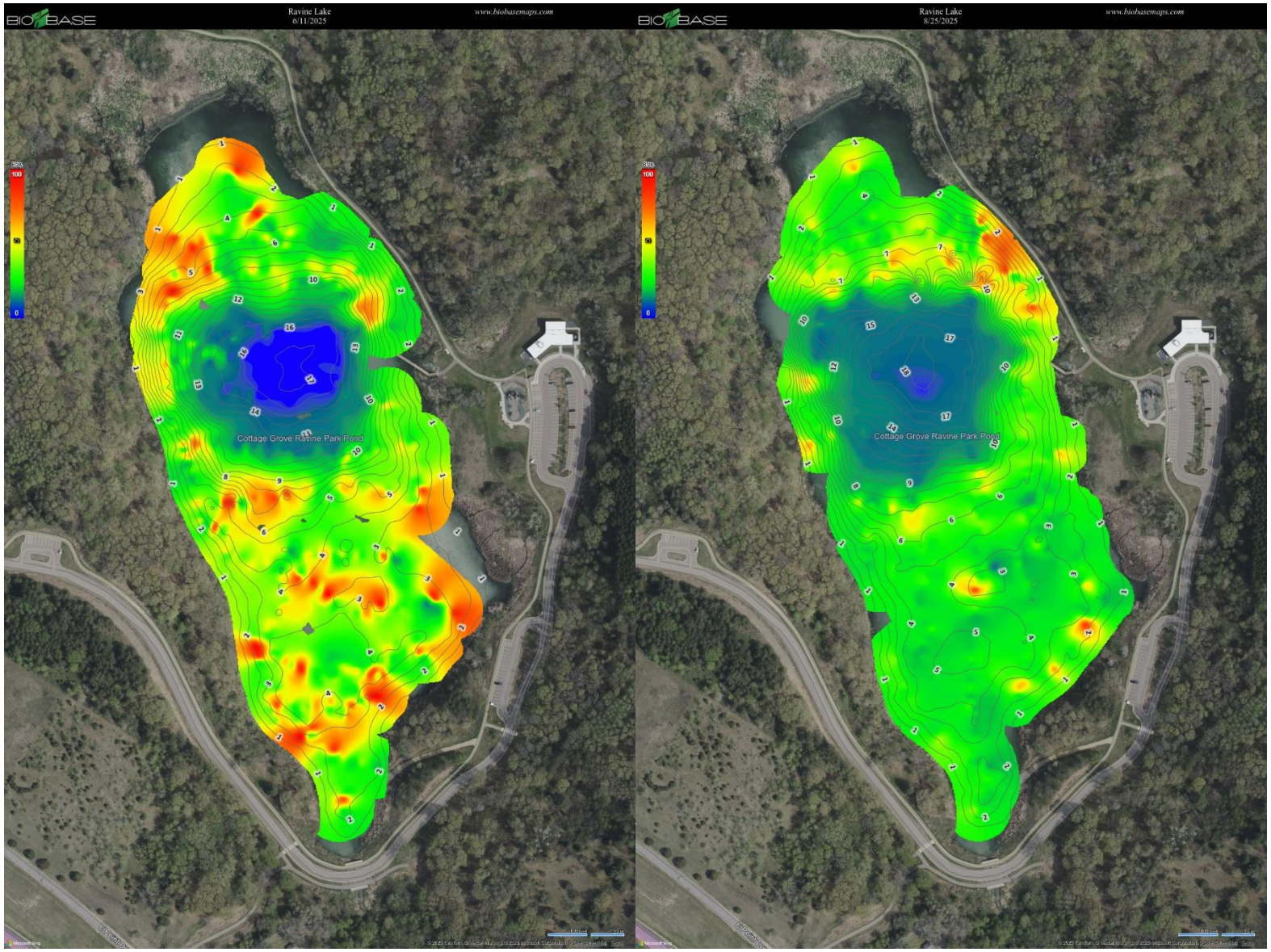



*Figure 2-5. Ravine Lake plant biovolume during 2025 surveys*

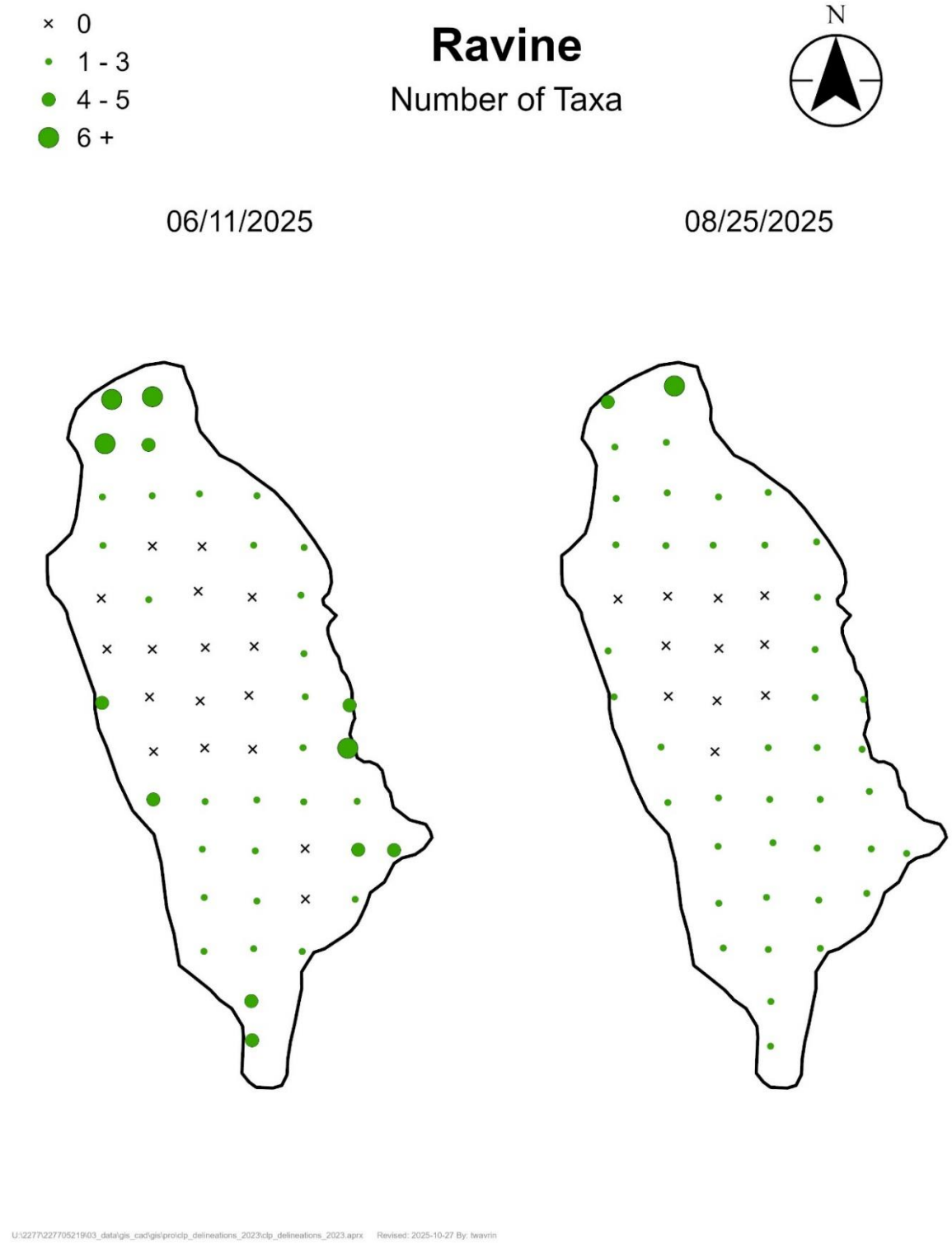



*Figure 2-6. Number of taxa observed at each point in Ravine Lake 2025 surveys.*

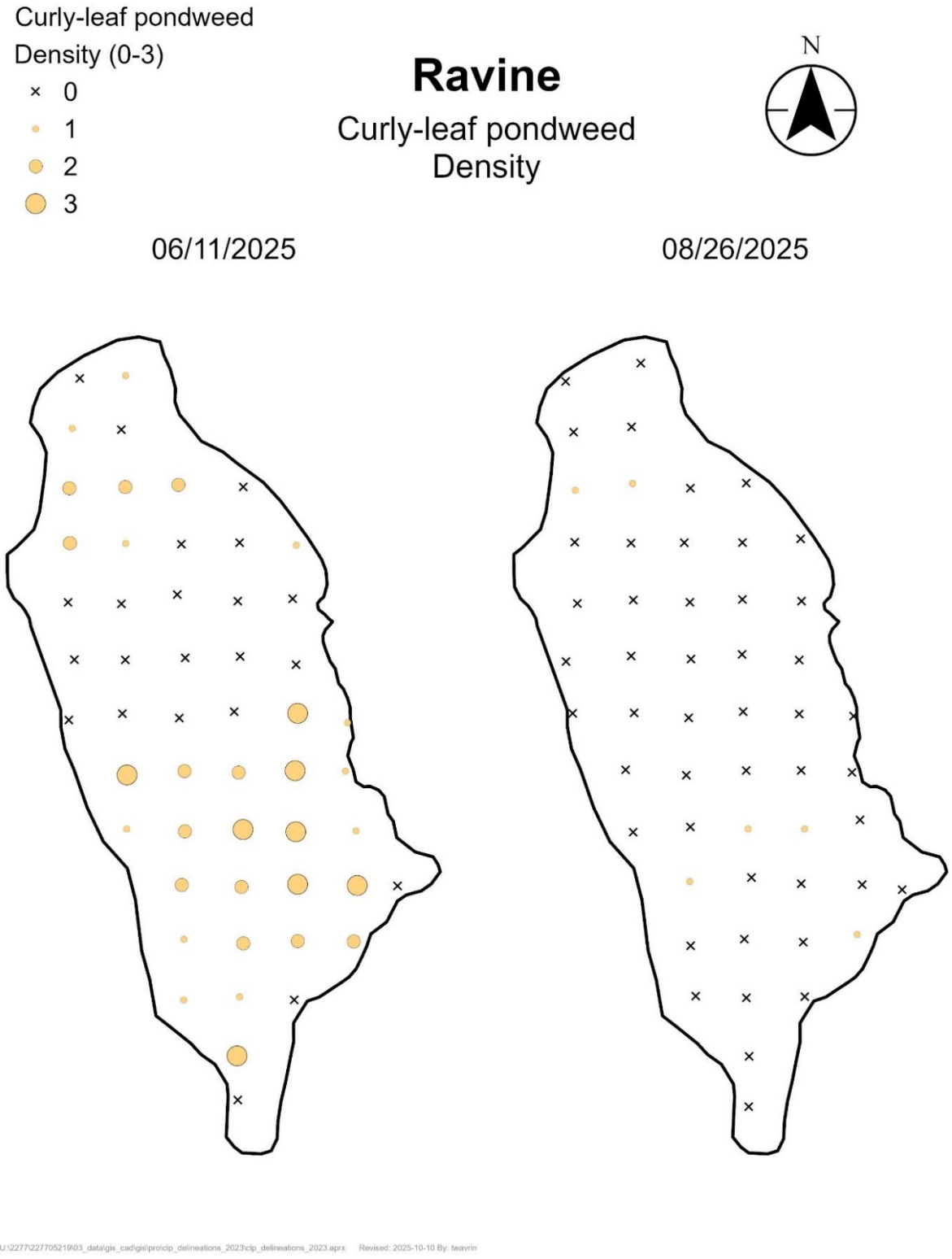



*Figure 2-7. Curly-leaf pondweed abundance at each point in Ravine Lake 2025 surveys.*

## 2.3 Markgrafs Lake

Markgrafs Lake (Public Water No. 82-0089-00) is a shallow lake in Woodbury, MN. Markgrafs Lake had a maximum observed depth of 2.8 meters (9.4 feet) during the 2025 surveys.

Markgrafs Lake is impaired for nutrients. The 10-year average of all summer TP samples in Markgrafs Lake is 107 µg/L and chlorophyll-a is 42 µg/L, exceeding the shallow lake standard for the North Central Hardwood Forest Ecoregion (60 µg/L and 20 µg/L, respectively) (MPCA, n.d.). Summer 10-year average Secchi depth is 1.0 meters, which meets the Minnesota State standard of 1.0 meters.

Table 2.5 below outlines species frequency of occurrence observed from 2015 to 2025 during point-intercept surveys, and Table 2.6 outlines community metrics and indices for each survey. Maps showing the biovolume, number of taxa observed at each survey point and a map of CLP density are provided below (Figure 2-8, Figure 2-9, Figure 2-10).

Coontail and Canadian waterweed were the most abundant species during the 2025 surveys. Markgrafs Lake had a species richness of 7 in the early season survey and 5 in the late season survey in 2025 which does not meet the Ecoregion's shallow lake standard of 11. Markgrafs Lake had a FQI score of 9.68 in the early season survey and 7.57 in the late season survey of 2025 which does not meet the Ecoregion's shallow lake FQI standard of 17.8. Simpson's Diversity Index has remained relatively constant since 2015, with a dip in the late season 2025 survey (39.2). The highest AMCI was recorded in 2024, indicating some improvement in biotic integrity, but 2025 was relatively the same as values recorded prior to the boost seen in 2024.

CLP is the only AIS present in the lake and had the highest frequency of occurrence observed in 2025 (18). Markgrafs is being managed for CLP with partial-lake herbicide treatments and was treated in the early season of 2025. See Section 4 for an update on Markgrafs Lake AIS management and recommendations for 2026.

*Table 2.5. Markgrafs Lake plant taxa and littoral frequency of occurrence from Stantec surveys 2021-2025. Littoral frequency of occurrence for a given taxon is defined as the percentage of littoral survey points where that taxon was found.*

| Taxa | Common Name | June 3rd, 2021 | August 2nd, 2021 | June 8th, 2023 | August 24th, 2023 | June 6th, 2024 | August 20-21st, 2024 | June 12th, 2025 | August 26th, 2025 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| SUBMERSED TAXA | | | | | | | | | |
| *Elodea canadensis* | Canadian waterweed | 84 | 57 | 56 | 76 | 76 | 57 | 50 | 18 |
| *Nitella sp.* | Nitella | -- | -- | P | -- | -- | -- | 8 | -- |
| *Potamogeton pusillus* | Small pondweed | 8 | 6 | 2 | 6 | -- | 6 | 8 | 4 |
| *Ceratophyllum demersum* | Coontail | 66 | 67 | 84 | 80 | 86 | 76 | 90 | 92 |
| *Potamogeton foliosis* | Leafy pondweed | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| *Najas flexilis* | Slender naiad | -- | 2 | -- | 4 | -- | 4 | 2 | 4 |
| | Aquatic moss | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| *Potamogeton crispus* | Curly-leaf pondweed | 10 | 2 | -- | -- | 14 | -- | 18 | -- |
| *Potamogeton nodosus* | Long-leaf pondweed | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| *Chara sp.* | Muskgrass | -- | -- | -- | -- | 2 | -- | -- | -- |
| *Heteranthera dubia* | Water stargrass | -- | 2 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| *Potamogeton robbinsii* | Robbins' pondweed | -- | P | -- | 4 | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| *Potamogeton zosteriformis* | Flat-stemmed pondweed | -- | 2 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| *Eleocharis agicularis* | Needle spikerush | -- | -- | -- | P | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| *Potamogeton amplifolius* | Large-leaf pondweed | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 2 | -- | -- |
| *Potamogeton sp.* | Pondweed | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 6 | 2 |
| FLOATING TAXA | | | | | | | | | |
| *Polygonum amphibium* | Water smartweed | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| *Lemna minor* | Small duckweed | 2 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 10 | -- | -- |
| *Spirodela polyrhiza* | Large duckweed | -- | -- | -- | 4 | 2 | 8 | -- | -- |
| *Wolffia sp.* | Watermeal | 2 | -- | 4 | -- | 2 | 12 | -- | -- |

| Taxa | Common Name | June 3rd, 2021 | August 2nd, 2021 | June 8th, 2023 | August 24th, 2023 | June 6th, 2024 | August 20-21st, 2024 | June 12th, 2025 | August 26th, 2025 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| EMERGENT TAXA | | | | | | | | | |
| *Sagittaria sp.* | Arrowhead | 2 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| *Schoenoplectus acutus* | Hardstem bulrush | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| *Shoenoplectus fluviatilis* | River bulrush | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| *Typha sp.* | Cattail | -- | -- | P | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| *Sagittaria graminea* | Grass-leaved arrowhead | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| *Sagittaria latifola* | Common arrowhead | -- | P | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |

*Table 2.6. Markgrafs Lake SAV metrics from all Stantec surveys 2021-2025.*

| | June 3rd, 2021 | August 2nd, 2021 | June 8th, 2023 | August 24th, 2023 | June 6th, 2024 | August 20-21st, 2024 | June 12th, 2025 | August 26th, 2025 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **LAKEWIDE METRICS** | | | | | | | | |
| Total Points Sampled | 50 | 51 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 |
| Total Littoral Points Sampled | 50 | 51 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 49 | 50 | 50 |
| % Littoral with Veg | 94 | 72.5 | 94 | 98 | 94 | 85.7 | 100 | 98.0 |
| Max depth of plant growth (ft) | 7.4 | 6.7 | 7.1 | 7.3 | 8.3 | 5.8 | 8.4 | 9.0 |
| *Shallow Lake Species Richness Threshold* | *11* | | | | | | | |
| Species Richness | 7 | 10 | 5 | 7 | 7 | 8 | 7 | 5 |
| **COMMUNITY INDICES** | | | | | | | | |
| *Shallow Lake Floristic Quality Index Threshold* | *17.8* | | | | | | | |
| FQI | 11.9 | 15.4 | 7.1 | 9.0 | 8.25 | 10.4 | 9.68 | 7.57 |
| Simpson's Diversity Index (1-*D*) | 61.6 | 63.1 | 54.5 | 61.3 | 60.5 | 69.7 | 66.5 | 39.2 |
| Aquatic Macrophyte Community Index (AMCI) | 35 | 40 | 41 | 45 | 37 | 48 | 36 | 39 |

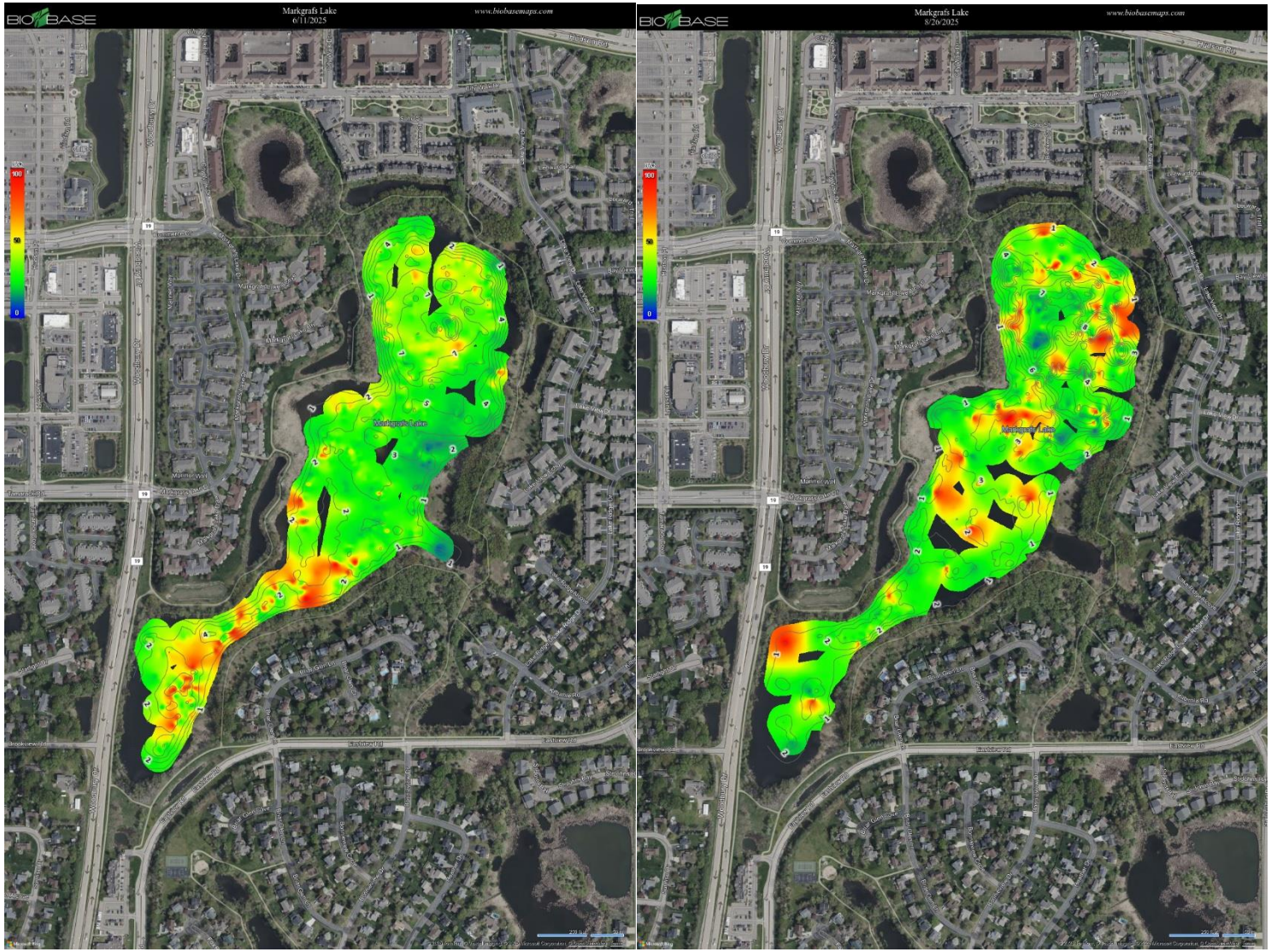



*Figure 2-8. Markgrafs Lake plant biovolume during 2025 surveys*

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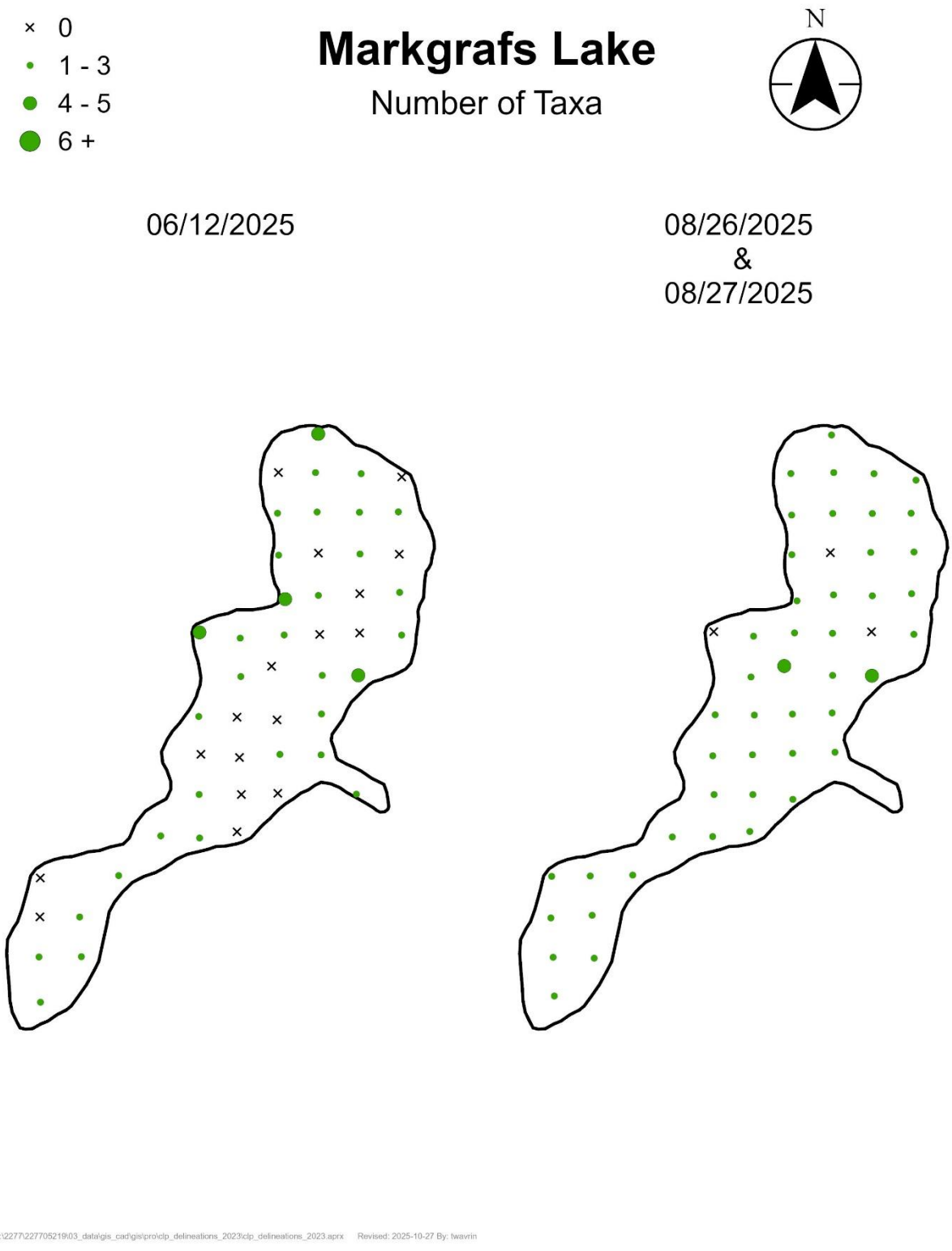



*Figure 2-9. Number of taxa observed at each point in Markgrafs Lake 2025 surveys.*

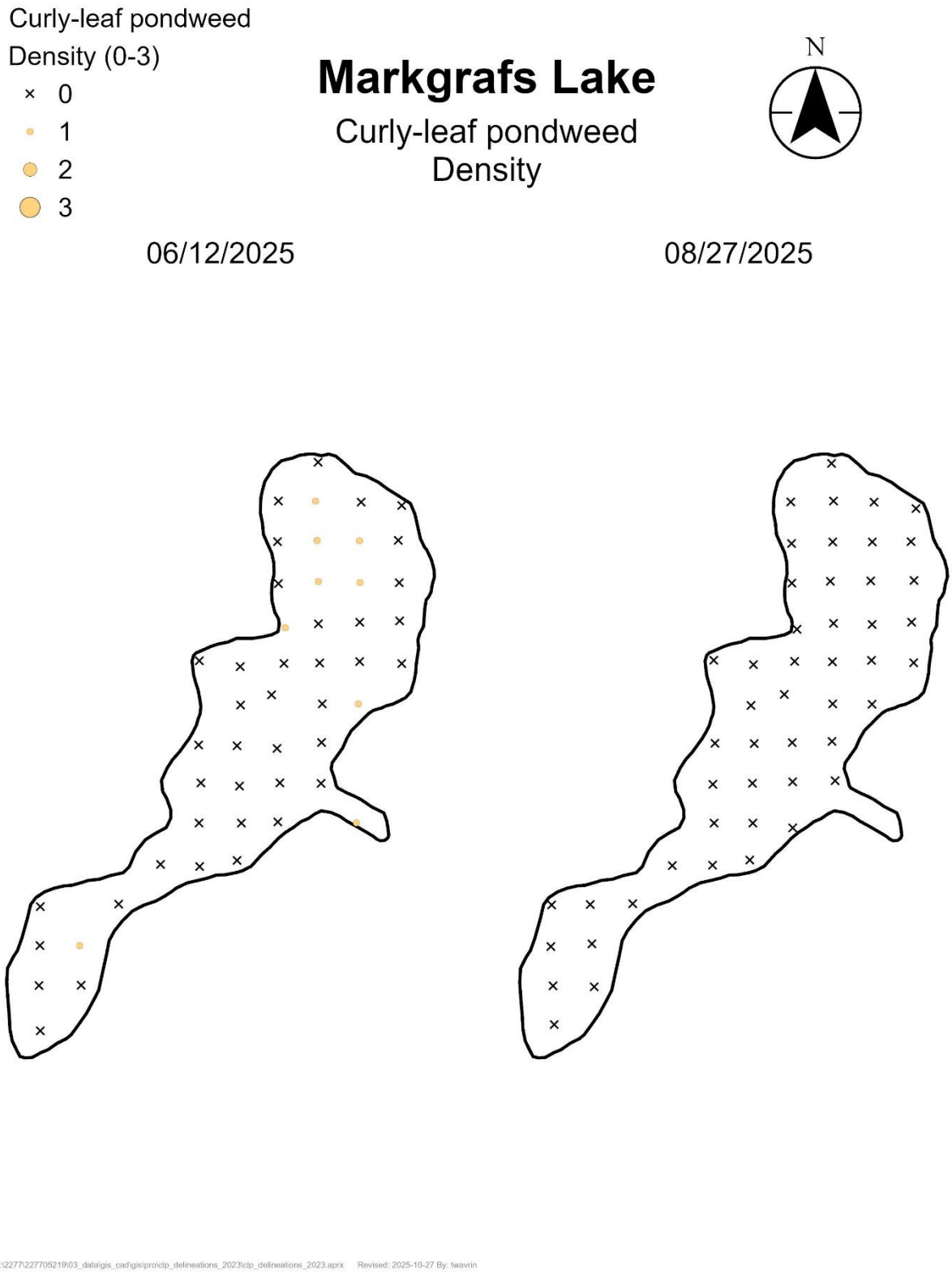



*Figure 2-10. Curly-leaf pondweed abundance at each point in Markgrafs Lake 2025 surveys.*

## 2.4 La Lake

La Lake (Public Water No. 82-0097-00) is a 52-acre, shallow lake in Woodbury, MN. The lake has a max depth of 3 meters. La Lake receives drainage from a small watershed of 64 acres, 3.5 acres of which are impervious.

La Lake is unimpaired. The 10-year average of all summer TP samples in La Lake is 40 µg/L, meeting the shallow lake standard for the North Central Hardwood Forest Ecoregion (60 µg/L) (MPCA, n.d.). The 10-year average of all summer chlorophyll-a samples is 8 µg/L, meeting the shallow lake standard of 20 µg/L. The 10-year average of all summer Secchi depth measurements for the lake is 2.0 meters, meeting the standard of 1.0 meters.

Table 2.7 below outlines species frequency of occurrence observed from 2021 to 2025 during point-intercept surveys, and Table 2.8 outlines community metrics and indices for each survey. Maps showing the biovolume of the lake and the number of taxa observed at each survey point are provided below (Figure 2-11, Figure 2-12).

Coontail was the most abundant plant species in the lake in 2026. Spiny hornwort, a rare aquatic plant in Minnesota, was not observed in the lake during both early and late season surveys in 2024 or 2025, which contrasts with previous survey's conducted on the lake. In 2025, La Lake had a species richness score of 4 in the early season survey and late season survey which does not meet the Ecoregion's species richness standard for shallow lakes (11). La Lake had a FQI score of 9.22 in the early season survey and 8.33 in the late season survey which does not meet the Ecoregion's FQI standard for shallow lakes of 17.8. Simpson's Diversity Index has remained relatively constant since 2015. The AMCI in 2025 is comparable to previous surveys conducted on the lake.

CLP is the only AIS historically present in the lake and has not been detected since the early season in 2021; however, turion surveys found viable CLP turions in the lake (see Section 3). La Lake is being adaptively managed for AIS with whole-lake herbicide treatments. See Section 4 for more information on La Lake's management.

*Table 2.7. La Lake plant taxa and littoral frequency of occurrence from Stantec surveys 2021-2025. Littoral frequency of occurrence for a given taxon is defined as the percentage of littoral survey points where that taxon was found.*

| Taxa | Common Name | June 9th, 2021 | August 5th, 2021 | June 6th, 2024 | August 22nd, 2024 | June 11th, 2025 | August 20th, 2025 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| SUBMERSED TAXA | | | | | | | |
| *Potamogeton robbinsii* | Fern-leaf pondweed | 2 | -- | 2 | 2 | -- | -- |
| *Elodea canadensis* | Canadian waterweed | 89 | 83 | 9 | 8 | -- | -- |
| *Potamogeton amplifolius* | Large-leaf pondweed | 39 | 32 | 17 | 12 | 13 | 15 |
| *Ceratophyllum echinatum* | Spiny hornwort | 56 | 47 | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| *Nitella sp.* | Nitella | -- | -- | 4 | -- | 23 | -- |
| *Potamogeton foliosus* | Leafy pondweed | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| *Potamogeton zosteriformis* | Flat-stem pondweed | 21 | 17 | 11 | 8 | 17 | 14 |
| *Utricularia vulgaris* | Common bladderwort | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| *Ceratophyllum demersum* | Coontail | 12 | 21 | 53 | 57 | 68 | 60 |
| *Chara sp.* | Muskgrass | -- | -- | 4 | -- | -- | -- |
| *Potamogeton crispus* | Curly-leaf pondweed | 29 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |

| Taxa | Common Name | June 9th, 2021 | August 5th, 2021 | June 6th, 2024 | August 22nd, 2024 | June 11th, 2025 | August 20th, 2025 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| FLOATING TAXA | | | | | | | |
| *Lemna minor* | Small duckweed | 6 | -- | 4 | 4 | -- | -- |
| *Spirodela polyrhiza* | Large duckweed | 6 | 2 | 4 | 2 | -- | -- |
| *Wolffia columbiana* | Common watermeal | -- | -- | -- | 4 | -- | 2 |
| *Polygonum amphibium* | Water smartweed | 2 | 2 | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| *Riccia fluitans* | Crystalwort | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| EMERGENT TAXA | | | | | | | |
| *Sagittaria sp.* | Arrowhead | 2 | 2 | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| *Schoenoplectus acutus* | Hardstem bulrush | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| *Typha sp.* | Cattail | P | P | P | P | -- | -- |
| *Lythrum salicaria* | Purple loosestrife | -- | P | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| *Schoenoplectus fluviatilis* | River bulrush | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |

*Table 2.8. La Lake SAV metrics from all Stantec surveys 2021-2025.*

| | **June 9th, 2021** | **August 5th, 2021** | **June 6th, 2024** | **August 22nd, 2024** | **June 11th, 2025** | **August 20th, 2025** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| LAKEWIDE METRICS | | | | | | |
| Total Points Sampled | 52 | 53 | 53 | 52 | 53 | 53 |
| Total Littoral Points Sampled | 52 | 53 | 53 | 51 | 53 | 52 |
| % Littoral with Veg | 100 | 100 | 75.5 | 58.8 | 75.5 | 63.5 |
| Max depth of plant growth (ft) | 10.0 | 9.1 | 9.2 | 8.3 | 8.3 | 9.6 |
| *Shallow Lake Species Richness Threshold* | *11* | | | | | |
| Species Richness | 12 | 10 | 9 | 8 | 4 | 4 |
| COMMUNITY INDICES | | | | | | |
| *Shallow Lake Floristic Quality Index (FQI) Threshold* | *17.8* | | | | | |
| FQI | 18.7 | 16.0 | 13.4 | 11.5 | 9.22 | 8.33 |
| Simpson's Diversity Index | 80.2 | 75.0 | 71.0 | 61.7 | 61.7 | 51.3 |
| Aquatic Macrophyte Community Index (AMCI) | 46 | 45 | 53 | 53 | 47 | 47 |

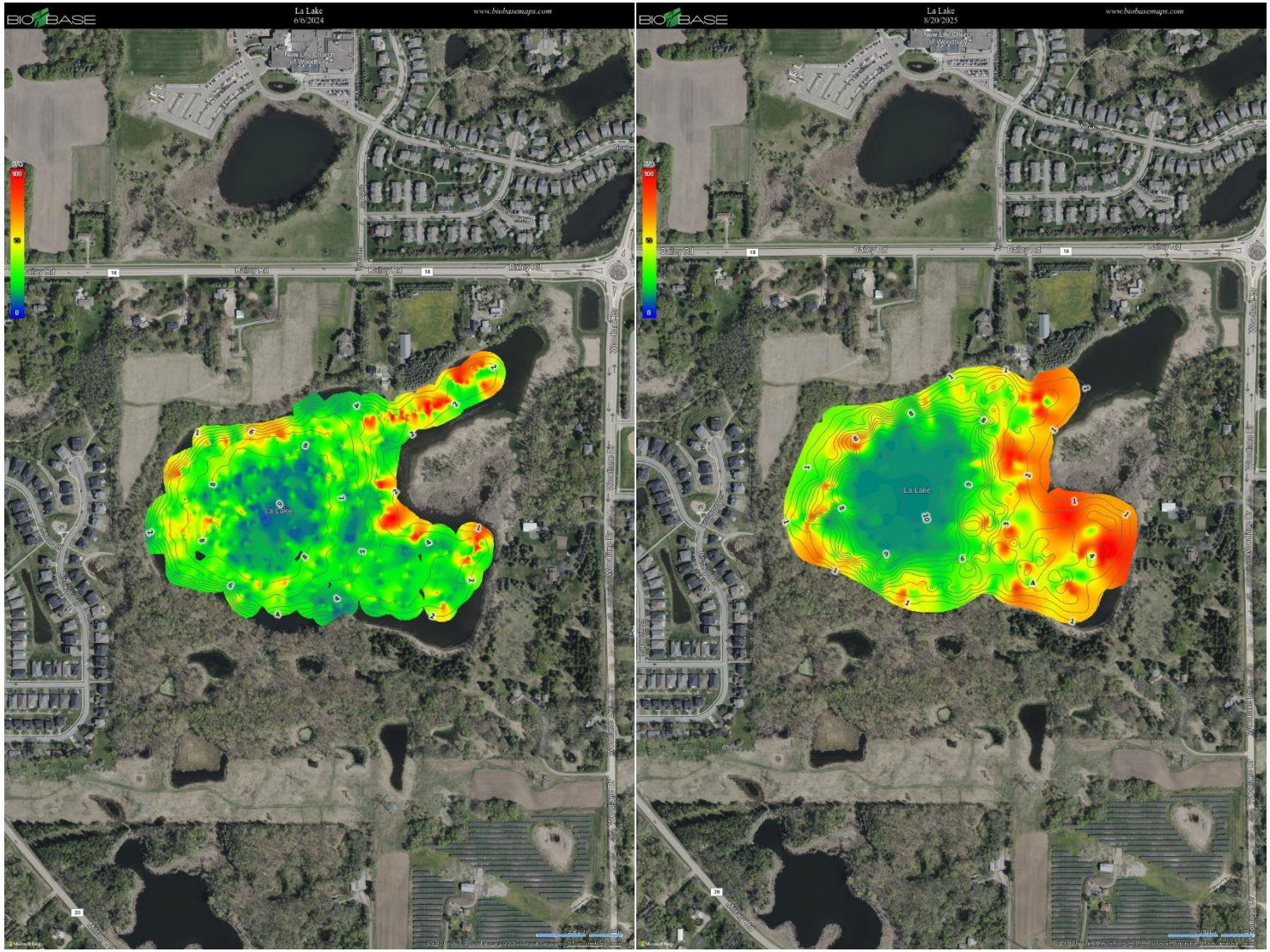



*Figure 2-11. La Lake plant biovolume during 2025 surveys.*

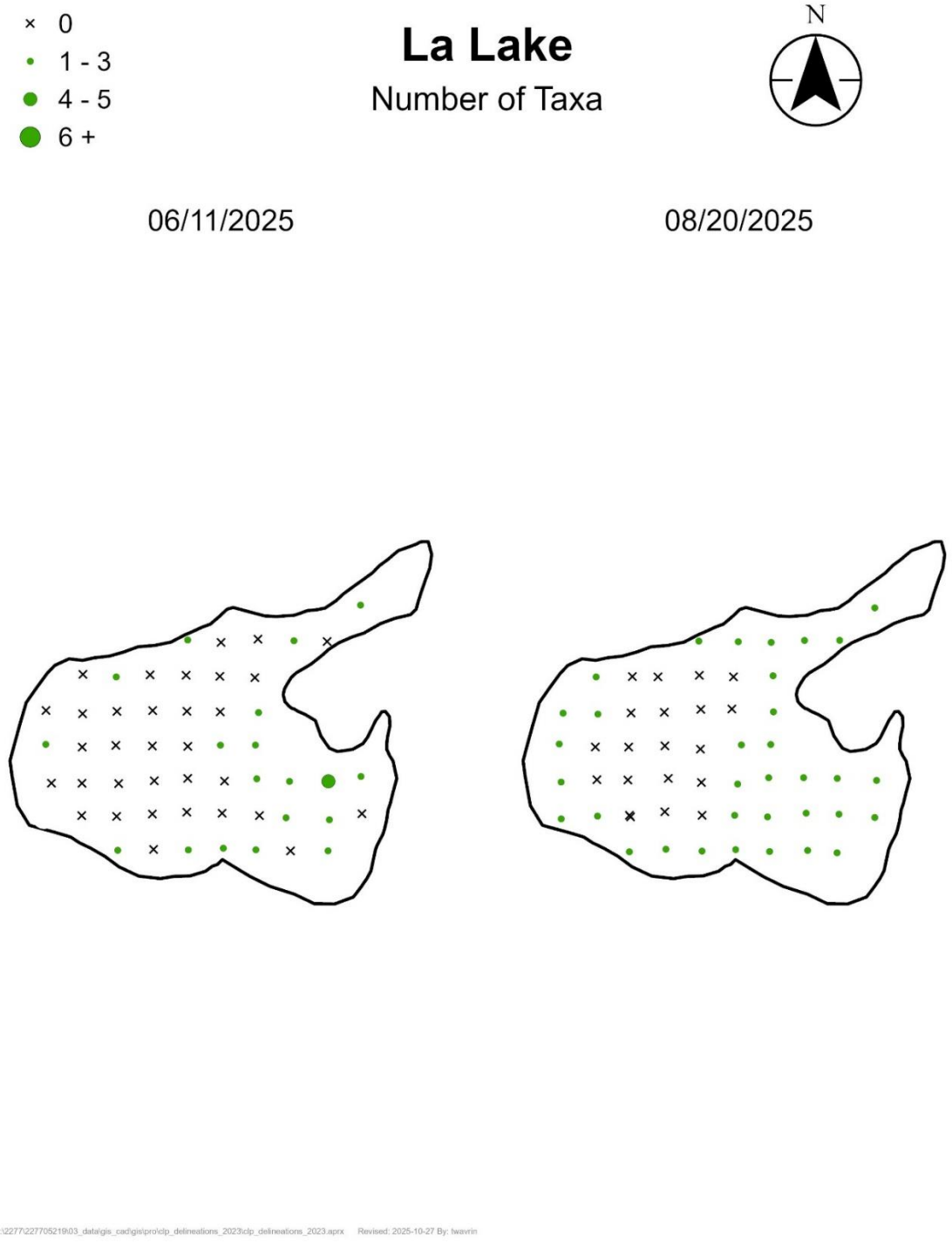



*Figure 2-12. Number of taxa observed at each point in La Lake 2025 surveys.*

## 2.5 Wilmes Lake

Wilmes Lake (Public Water No. 82-0090-00) is a shallow lake located in Woodbury, MN. Wilmes Lake has a maximum depth of 2.1 meters (about 7 feet) in the Northern portion of the lake and a maximum depth of 5.5 meters (18 feet) in the Southern portion. Wilmes Lake has both a North and South basin that were combined for analysis in both vegetation surveys.

Wilmes Lake is impaired for nutrients. The 10-year average of all summer TP samples in North and South Wilmes is 62 µg/L, exceeding the shallow lake standard for the North Central Hardwood Forest Ecoregion (60 µg/L). The 10-year average of summer chlorophyll-a samples is 18 µg/L, meeting the State standard of 20 µg/L. The 10-year average of summer Secchi depths is 1.0 meters, meeting the Minnesota State standard of 1.0 meters.

Table 2.9 below outlines species frequency of occurrence observed from 2015 to 2025 during point-intercept surveys, and Table 2.10 outlines community metrics and indices for each survey. Maps of the biovolume and number of taxa observed at each survey point in the North and South basin are below (Figure 2-13, Figure 2-14). A map of locations and densities of CLP is shown in Figure 2-15.

Coontail is the most abundant plant in the lake. Wilmes Lake had a species richness of 8 in the early season survey and 6 in the late season survey in 2025. As such, Wilmes Lake met the Ecoregion's shallow lake standard of 11 in the early season but did not meet the standard in the late season survey. The lake had a FQI score of 13.7 in the early season survey and 11.4 in the late season survey for the 2025 field season, which is below the Ecoregion's FQI standard of 17.8. The Simpson's Diversity Index has remained relatively constant since 2015. The highest AMCI was recorded in late season 2025, indicating improved biotic integrity.

EWM and CLP have been historically present in the Wilmes Lake. EWM presence has been constant since its observation in August 2018 but was not observed in 2025. CLP was in low abundance for 2025 (frequency of 2%). Wilmes Lake is actively managed with partial-lake herbicide treatments for CLP and EWM, as well as hand-pulling removal (EWM). See Section 4 for more information on Wilmes Lake AIS management.

*Table 2.9. Wilmes Lake plant taxa and littoral frequency of occurrence from Stantec surveys 2021-2025. Littoral frequency of occurrence for a given taxon is defined as the percentage of littoral survey points where that taxon was found.*

| Taxa | Common Name | June 7th, 2021 | August 3rd, 2021 | June 5th, 2024 | August 19-20th, 2024 | June 12th, 2025 | August 20th, 2025 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| SUBMERSED TAXA | | | | | | | |
| *Potamogeton zosteriformis* | Flat-stem pondweed | 50 | 55 | 45 | 24 | 32 | 10 |
| *Elodea canadensis* | Canadian waterweed | 36 | 33 | 12 | 7 | 4 | -- |
| *Ceratophyllum demersum* | Coontail | 66 | 79 | 42 | 56 | 30 | 18 |
| *Najas flexilis* | Slender naiad | -- | -- | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| *Potamogeton pusillus* | Small pondweed | 14 | -- | 15 | -- | 10 | -- |
| *Potamogeton foliosus* | Leafy pondweed | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| *Myriophyllum spicatum* | Eurasian watermilfoil | 27 | 12 | 25 | 17 | -- | -- |
| *Potamogeton crispus* | Curly-leaf pondweed | 23 | -- | 10 | -- | 2 | -- |
| *Stuckenia pectinata* | Sago pondweed | 2 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| *Chara sp.* | Stonewort | -- | -- | 2 | -- | -- | -- |
| *Najas sp.* | Naiad | -- | -- | -- | -- | 2 | -- |
| *Potamogeton sp.* | Pondweed | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 2 |
| FLOATING TAXA | | | | | | | |
| *Lemna minor* | Small duckweed | 25 | 21 | 35 | 22 | -- | 4 |
| *Polygonum amphibium* | Water smartweed | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| *Lemna trisulca* | Star duckweed | 5 | -- | 2 | 5 | -- | -- |
| *Spirodela polyrhiza* | Large duckweed | 25 | 29 | 35 | 20 | 2 | 4 |
| *Wolffia columbiana* | Common watermeal | -- | -- | 25 | 22 | -- | -- |
| EMERGENT TAXA | | | | | | | |
| *Schoenoplectus acutus* | Hardstem bulrush | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| *Typha sp.* | Cattail | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |

*Table 2.10. Wilmes Lake SAV metrics from all Stantec surveys 2021-2025.*

| | **June 7th, 2021** | **August 3rd, 2021** | **June 5, 2024** | **August 19th-20th, 2024** | **June 12th, 2025** | **August 20th, 2025** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| LAKEWIDE METRICS | | | | | | |
| Total Points Sampled | 51 | 46 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 |
| Total Littoral Points Sampled | 33 | 42 | 40 | 41 | 44 | 42 |
| % Littoral with Veg | 75.0 | 79.0 | 75.0 | 58.5 | 77.3 | 69.0 |
| Max depth of plant growth (ft) | 9.2 | 10.8 | 13.3 | 10.2 | 12.2 | 12.3 |
| *Shallow Lake Species Richness Threshold* | *11* | | | | | |
| Species Richness | 10 | 6 | 12 | 9 | 8 | 6 |
| COMMUNITY INDICES | | | | | | |
| Shallow Lake Floristic Quality Index (FQI) Threshold | *17.8* | | | | | |
| FQI | 13.9 | 10.2 | 16.4 | 13.2 | 13.7 | 11.4 |
| Simpson's Diversity Index | 86.1 | 78.4 | 87.4 | 82.3 | 70.9 | 71.0 |
| Aquatic Macrophyte Community Index (AMCI) | 41 | 46 | 51 | 47 | 47 | 54 |

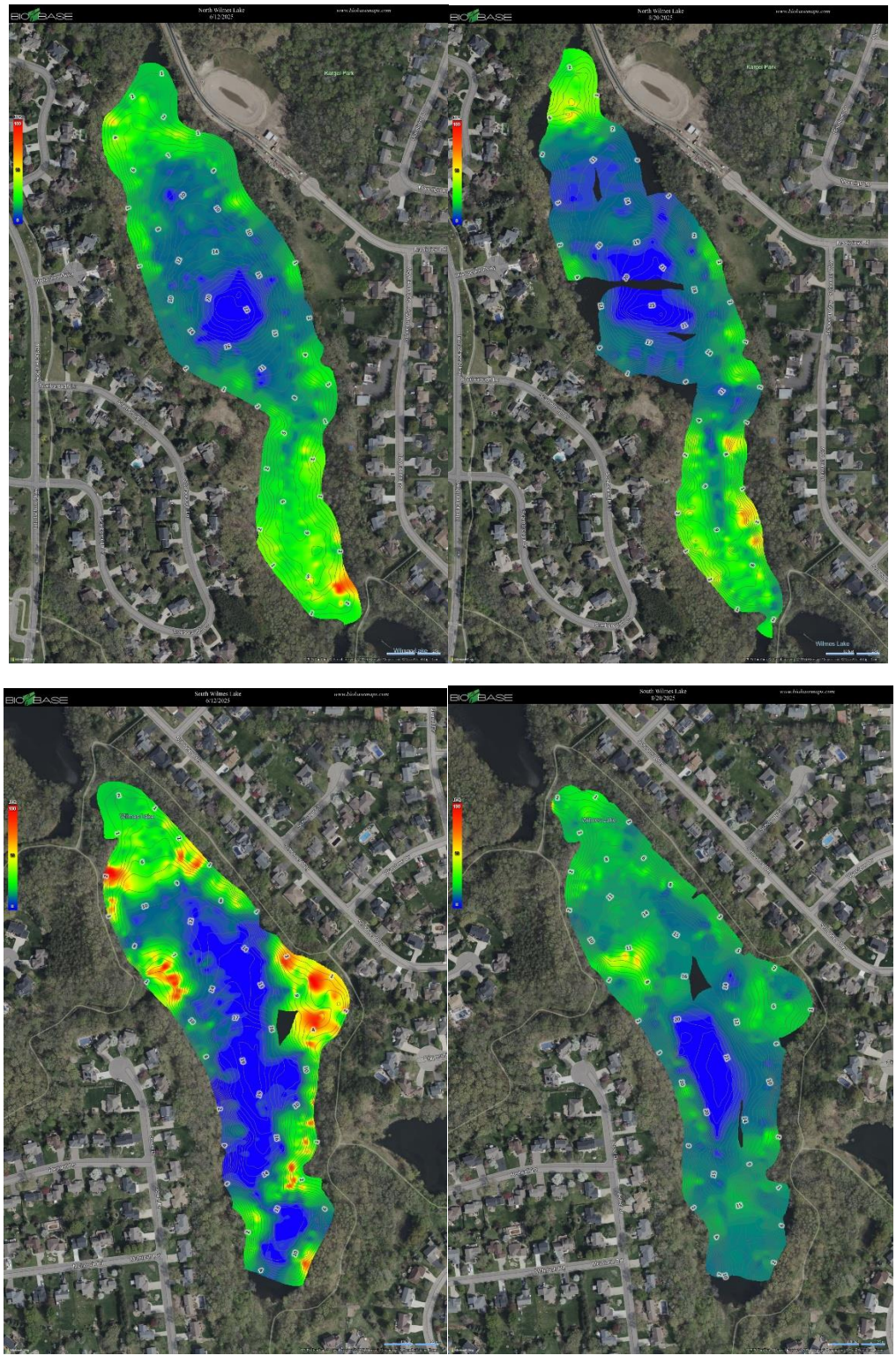


*Figure 2-13. Wilmes Lake plant biovolume during 2025 surveys.*

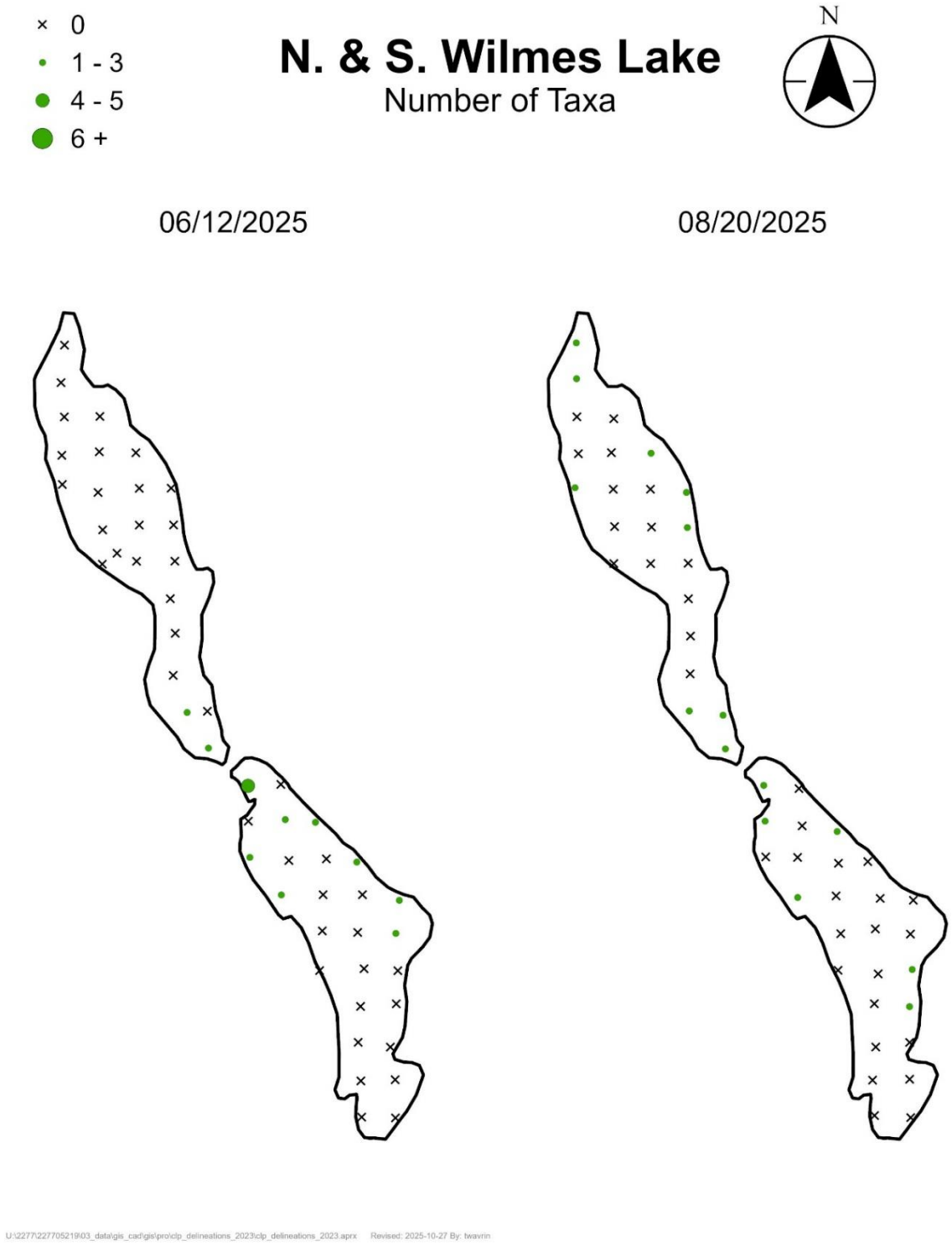



*Figure 2-14. Number of taxa observed at each point in Wilmes Lake 2025 surveys.*

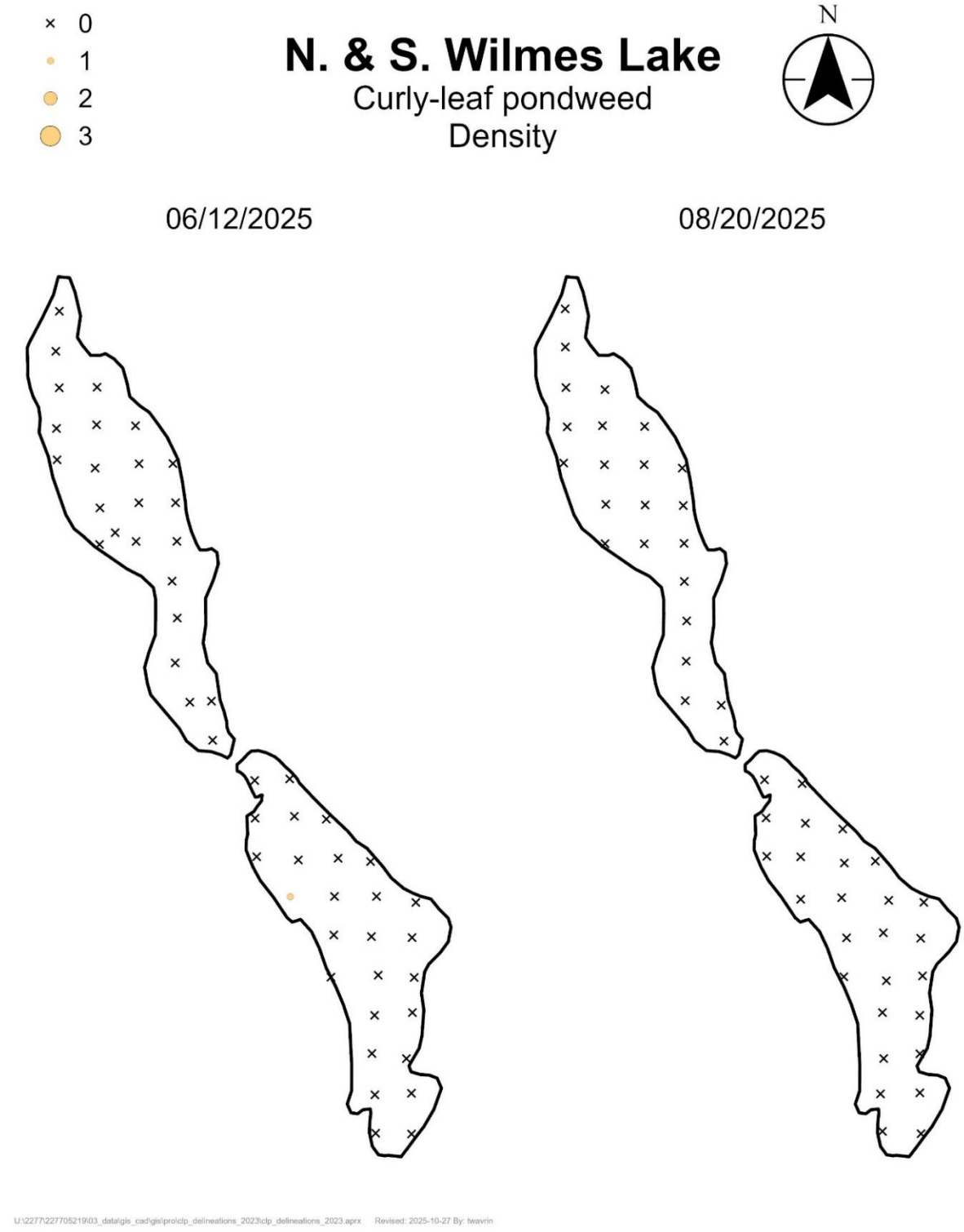



*Figure 2-15. Curly-leaf pondweed abundance at each point in Wilmes Lake 2025 surveys.*

# 3 Turion Surveys

CLP grows from sediment turions on the bottom of the lake each year. In late summer as CLP senesces, CLP flowers, fruits, and drops turion propagules that overwinter in the lake sediments. The following spring, when water temperatures and light availability increase, CLP plants grow from the turions. Turions can overwinter in lake sediments for up to seven years before sprouting, highlighting the needs for ongoing and consecutive years of management. The goal of CLP management is to reduce CLP turion densities on the lake bottom over time.

Turions were first surveyed in Colby, Ravine, and Markgrafs Lakes in spring 2023 to serve as a pre-management baseline. Turion survey results are reported in turions per square meter to provide an estimate of spread throughout the lake bottom. Turions were surveyed in all five managed lakes in October 2025. Turions were not collected in La and Wilmes until 2025. Table 3.1 describes turion densities in 2023 compared to 2025.

## 3.1 Turion Survey Methods

To collect turions from the lake sediment, field staff sampled in the late fall (October) when most plant matter had senesced for the season. Using the pre-existing point-intercept grid, thirty to forty points were chosen at random (Crowell and Asmus, 2008) from the littoral zone (where the plants can grow) for sediment sampling. At each point, a petite ponar dredge (AMS®, American Falls, ID), also known as a benthic grab sampler, was used to collect the sample. The scoop area is approximately 0.25 square feet and weighs about 24 pounds with a 5/8$^{th}$ inch nylon rope attached. These samplers have a pin trigger, so tension on the rope was maintained until the ponar reached the bottom at which point the ponar was triggered, causing the jaws to close and collect the sample. The ponar was then brought to the surface where the sediment was released into a 2 mm mesh bottom bucket from Wildco® (Yulee, FL). The sample was then filtered with the mesh bottom bucket by rinsing the sample over the side of the boat. Rinsing involves vigorously twisting and rotating the handle of the bucket while slapping the mesh bottom on the water surface. Once thoroughly rinsed, the sample was processed by sorting through leftover debris to find turions. All turions and turion pieces are counted that have at least a part of the central hard stem. Turions or turion pieces that are not viable are excluded from the count. Turions are determined to be viable or non-viable by using the “squeeze test”, where viable turions will hold their shape when squeezed and non-viable turions will squish (Woolf & Madsen, 2003). Johnson et al. (2012) utilized these methods alongside the MnDNR to evaluate the effects of early spring with lake-wide or whole lake herbicide treatments.

After collection, the turion density is determined. Turion density is reported as the average number of turions per sampled area. This is calculated by dividing the turion count by the sampling area of the gear used (e.g., 0.25 square feet or ~0.023 square meters for a petite ponar).

## 3.2 Turion Survey Results

Table 3.1 below exhibits turion densities in Colby, Ravine, and Markgrafs Lakes in 2023 and turion densities in Colby, Ravine, Markgrafs, La, and Wilmes Lakes in 2025. Turion densities have not been meaningfully reduced in Colby, Ravine, and Markgrafs Lakes from 2023 to 2025, indicating a need for continued CLP management. Turion densities in La and Wilmes Lakes were surveyed for the first time in 2025. As such, the densities will serve as a baseline as management continues.

*Table 3.1. Turion density in each lake surveyed in 2023 and 2025.*

| Lake | Turions/$m^2$ 2023 | Turions/$m^2$ 2025 |
|---|---|---|
| Colby | 277 | 308 |
| Ravine | 240 | 298 |
| Markgrafs | 3.30 | <1 |
| La | -- | 20 |
| Wilmes | -- | 75 |

# 4 Management Update

Five lakes in SWWD are being actively managed for AIS: Colby, Ravine, Markgrafs, La, and Wilmes Lakes. Table 4.1 below provides a complete summary of vegetation management in the five SWWD lakes since 2022. Management of AIS in SWWD requires an adaptive approach. Each year PI and delineation survey data are reviewed to inform management decisions for the following year.

In Spring 2025, Markgrafs and Wilmes (north basin) Lakes were treated with diquat for CLP. Markgrafs was last treated in Spring 2023. Treatment was not done in 2024 due to the absence of CLP in 2023; however, CLP rebounded back in 2024 with an early summer frequency of occurrence of 14. Wilmes (north basin) was last treated in Spring 2024. No CLP was observed during the 2024 surveys in the north basin, but turions are likely overwintering and require additional treatment for long-term success.

In Fall 2025, Colby, Ravine, and La Lakes were treated with fluridone at the whole lake scale. No CLP was observed in La Lake during 2025 PI surveys; however, the turion bank sampled in October showed potential for future CLP growth so treatment was warranted.

*Table 4.1. Summary of management for five SWWD Lakes.*

| Lake | AIS Present | Treatment | Area treated (acres) | Previous Treatments | Next Planned Treatment |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Colby | CLP, EWM | Fluridone | 70.94 (whole lake) | Fall 2022, Fall 2023, Fall 2024, Fall 2025 | Fall 2026 |
| Ravine | CLP | Fluridone | 27.18 (whole lake) | Fall 2022, Fall 2023, Fall 2024, Fall 2025 | Fall 2026 |

| Lake | AIS Present | Treatment | Area treated (acres) | Previous Treatments | Next Planned Treatment |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Markgrafs | CLP | Diquat | 6.89 (partial lake, 2023); 3.81 (partial lake, 2025) | Spring 2023, Spring 2025 | Spring 2026 |
| La | CLP | Fluridone | 45.0 (whole lake) | Fall 2023, Fall 2024, Fall 2025 | Fall 2026 |
| Wilmes (north basin) | CLP | Diquat | 7.19 (partial lake) | Spring 2024, Spring 2025 | Spring 2026 |
| Wilmes (south basin) | EWM | Mechanical control, Florpyrauxifen-benzyl (*ProcellaCOR®)* | 3.09 (partial lake) | Summer 2023 (mechanical control), Fall 2024 (herbicide) | TBD |

## 4.1 Permitting & Lake Vegetation Management Plan Requirements

Stantec renews or submits new permit applications using the MnDNR's Invasive Aquatic Plant Management (IAPM) permit and MnDNR Permitting and Reporting System (MPARS) permitting system. Point-intercept data or delineations are used by the MnDNR to verify the presence of each AIS in the lakes and permit treatments.

A variance and Lake Vegetation Management Plan (LVMP) were required to permit treatment in each of the managed lakes due to either variance from the typical limit of treating >15% of the littoral area (Colby, Ravine, Wilmes), or classification as a Natural Environment Lake (Markgrafs, La). LVMPs are a MnDNR requirement meant to guide targeted management of aquatic plants in lakes and include up to a seven-year commitment from stakeholders to treat and monitor AIS, depending on results of the treatments.

The following section describes at a high level the requirements for treatment and monitoring on each lake in 2026 to satisfy the LVMP requirements:

Colby

- Late fall whole-lake herbicide treatment (as needed), including bump treatments until ice-on and in early spring
- Early and late season point-intercept survey
- Fall CLP turion sampling (as able)
- Annual progress report to MnDNR

Ravine

- Late fall whole-lake herbicide treatment (as needed), including bump treatments until ice-on and in early spring

- Early and late season point-intercept survey
- Fall CLP turion sampling (as able)
- Annual progress report to MnDNR

Markgrafs

- Pre-treatment delineation or point-intercept survey. Delineation/survey should take place in early spring before late spring treatment
- Late spring partial-lake herbicide treatment (as needed)
- Early and late season point-intercept survey
- Fall CLP turion sampling (as able)
- Annual progress report to MnDNR

Wilmes

- Pre-treatment delineation or point-intercept survey. Delineation/survey should take place in early spring before a late spring treatment of CLP
- Late spring partial-lake herbicide treatment (as needed)
- Early and late season point-intercept survey
- Fall CLP turion sampling (as able)
- Annual progress report to MnDNR

La

- Pre-treatment delineation or point-intercept survey. Delineation/survey should take place in early spring before a late spring treatment of CLP
- Early spring or fall herbicide treatment (as needed), at a baywide or lakewide level with selective herbicide
- Early and late season point-intercept survey
- Fall CLP turion sampling (as able)
- Annual progress report to MnDNR

## 4.2 2026 Recommendations

Based on survey findings outlined in this report, as well as LVMP requirements, Stantec recommends the following be included in a scope of work for AIS management and aquatic plant monitoring in SWWD lakes in 2026.

- Early spring CLP delineations should be completed on Markgrafs and Wilmes (north basin), and if necessary, treated with diquat herbicide by late spring/early summer.
- Early and late summer point intercept surveys should be conducted on all managed lakes (Colby, Ravine, Markgrafs, Wilmes, La) to meet LVMP requirements.
- Depending on EWM present in early summer surveys on Wilmes (south basin), consider completing a late summer EWM delineation to inform fall treatment areas.
- Fall whole-lake treatments should be completed on Colby, Ravine, and La Lakes. La Lake should be adaptively managed and whole-lake treatment may be delayed due to low CLP abundance.
- Turion sampling should occur for all SWWD Lakes being managed for CLP (Colby, Ravine, Markgrafs, Wilmes (north basin), La) as budget and time allow.

# 5 References

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Johnson, J.A., A.R. Jones, and R.M. Newman. 2012. *Evaluation of lakewide, early season herbicide treatments for controlling invasive curlyleaf pondweed (Potamogeton crispus) in Minnesota lakes*. Lake Reserv Manage. 28:346-363.

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Stantec Consulting Services Inc. 2021. *2021 Aquatic Vegetation Survey Results*.

Woolf, T. E., & Madsen, J. D. 2003. *Seasonal biomass and carbohydrate allocation patterns in southern Minnesota curlyleaf pondweed populations*. J. Aquat. Plant Manage. 41: 113-118.

# Appendix A Ravine Lake Aquatic Plant Transplanting

Ravine Lake is located within Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park, operated by Washington County. Ravine Lake has been undergoing management for the aquatic invasive species (AIS) curly-leaf pondweed (CLP) since 2022 and has limited aquatic plant diversity (see Section 2.2). To help enhance the aquatic plant community with diversity and native plants, SWWD, Stantec, and the MnDNR completed an aquatic plant transplanting project on Ravine Lake in 2025. The following appendix outlines the project including preparation and permitting, methods, and preliminary results.

## A.1 Permitting & Planning

An MnDNR Aquatic Plant Transplant permit was obtained ahead of the project. The MnDNR staff suggested Big Marine Lake near Forest Lake, MN as an ideal donor plant lake due to its high plant diversity and lack of AIS such as zebra mussels. Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) has been observed in Big Marine Lake, but MnDNR and Stantec staff are confident in EWM identification and preventing transmission from lake to lake.

Materials used for plots included plastic landscape fencing, garden posts, and zip ties. Plots were assembled onsite before the transplanting. Plots were 6-ft by 6-ft and four were installed in the lake (Figure A.1, attached). Plot design was based on the MnDNR's *In-Lake Aquatic Plant Restoration Guidance* (2022).

## A.2 Transplant Event

Staff from MnDNR, SWWD, and Stantec collected plants from Big Marine North Launch on June 24th, 2025. Plants were collected via snorkeling and SCUBA in the morning. Plants with intact root systems were targeted for best transplant results.

Plants were collected, identified, and sorted by species in coolers with lake water and transported immediately to Ravine Lake on June 24th.

Nineteen plant species were collected from Big Marine. Species collected from Big Marine included:

- Water marigold
- Water shield
- Needle spikerush
- Canadian waterweed
- Waternymph
- Waterlily
- Pickerelweed
- Large-leaf pondweed
- Variable pondweed
- Illinois pondweed
- Longleaf pondweed
- White-stem pondweed
- Robbins' Pondweed
- Clasping-leaf pondweed
- Flat-stem pondweed
- White water crowfoot
- Arrowhead
- Sago pondweed
- Water celery

Four plots were assembled and installed at locations within the lake (Figure A.1, attached). Plants were secured to the lake bottom within each plot using two techniques adapted from MnDNR (2022). Rooted plants were either threaded through burlap mats and secured to the lake bottom with wooden stakes or planted directly into the lake sediment using a handful of clay just above the root wad to add weight and hold the plant in place.

## A.3 Preliminary Results

Stantec staff visited Ravine following transplants on July 28th, 2025, to ensure plots were staying in place and to note vegetation condition. All four plots appeared to be in good condition, growing transplanted plants. Underwater footage was collected in each plot using a GoPro. Video and photo files were shared with SWWD staff.

Point-intercept (PI) surveys were completed in late August as part of Ravine Lake's AIS management program, but transplant plots were avoided to allow for initial plant establishment.

Unfortunately, in September 2025 the MnDNR reported that zebra mussel veligers (larvae) have been found in Big Marine Lake. No adult zebra mussels have been observed in Big Marine, but water samples analyzed by the MnDNR contained veligers, indicating potential for reproduction and establishment.

## A.4 Recommendations

Ravine Lake's plant community should continue to be monitored under routine PI surveys. Continued PI surveys will help identify survival and propagation of any transplanted species. PI surveys are currently required under Ravine Lake's Lake Vegetation Management Plan (LVMP) and AIS treatment permit.

Given the newly detected presence of zebra mussels in Big Marine Lake and the transport of water and plant material from Big Marine Lake to Ravine Lake, Stantec recommends early monitoring and detection of zebra mussels through routine mussel veliger or environmental DNA (eDNA) sampling. Any detection should be reported immediately to the MnDNR and Washington County staff.

# Appendix B LVMPs

Stantec

Stantec is a global leader in sustainable engineering, architecture, and environmental consulting. The diverse perspectives of our partners and interested parties drive us to think beyond what's previously been done on critical issues like climate change, digital transformation, and future-proofing our cities and infrastructure. We innovate at the intersection of community, creativity, and client relationships to advance communities everywhere, so that together we can redefine what's possible.

**Stantec Consulting Services Inc.**
One Carlson Parkway North, Suite 100
Plymouth MN 55447-4440
stantec.com

**Stantec Consulting Services Inc.**
*One Carlson Parkway North, Suite 100*
*Plymouth MN 55447-4440*

January 8, 2026

**Water Resources Program Coordinator**
Abby Tekiela
2302 Tower Drive
Woodbury, MN 55125

Dear Abby Tekiela,

**Reference: Scope of Work for 2026 Lake Vegetation Monitoring and Management**

# 1 2026 Scope of Services

Thank you for the opportunity for Stantec Consulting Services, Inc (Stantec) to continue supporting the South Washington Watershed District (SWWD) with aquatic vegetation monitoring and management. As requested, this letter serves as Stantec's scope of work for technical services in 2026 related to vegetation monitoring, management, and transplanting in SWWD Lakes. The scope includes ongoing management and monitoring activities for Colby, Ravine, Markgrafs, La, and Wilmes Lakes, as well as zebra mussel monitoring in Ravine Lake. The specific work to be conducted by Stantec is described below by task and largely follows the same structure as previous scopes for SWWD's AIS program.

## 1.1 Early Season Surveys

Early and late season point-intercept surveys are required by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MnDNR) as part of each lake's herbicide treatment permit and Lake Vegetation Management Plan (LVMP).

Stantec will complete one early season point-intercept plant survey on the following district lakes that are managed for AIS:

- Colby
- Ravine
- Markgrafs
- Wilmes
- La

The early season point-intercept surveys will include identification of all submerged, floating leaf, and emergent species at each point, along with rake density scores and rake vegetation biomass measurements for submerged species. Stantec will continue to use the same point-intercept survey points used in the 2021 surveys performed by Stantec. GPS and sonar data will be collected to ensure geographical accuracy of points and collect continuous water depth, bottom hardness, and biovolume data.

Stantec expects early season surveys to be conducted in June 2026. Two staff members will complete the surveys together.

## 1.2 Late Season Surveys

Stantec will complete a second, late season survey in each of the five district lakes in August or early September 2026. Stantec will use the same field collection methods described in Task 1.1.

## 1.3 Turion Surveys

CLP grows from turions on the lake bottom each year. In late summer as CLP senesces, CLP flowers, fruits, and drops turion propagules that overwinter in the lake sediments. The following spring, when water temperatures and light availability increase, CLP plants grow from the turions. Turions can overwinter in lake sediments for up to seven years before sprouting, highlighting the need for ongoing and consecutive years of management. The goal of CLP management is to reduce CLP turion densities on the lake bottom over time.

CLP turion surveys should be performed in the early fall (late September/October) on all lakes being managed for CLP. Turion sampling is required under the SWWD lake LVMPs but does not need to be completed every year. CLP turion surveys were performed in the early fall of 2025 on all five managed lakes.

Stantec recommends turion surveys only be completed in 2026 if PI survey data from the year show inconclusive CLP abundance to justify herbicide treatment. In the case of inconclusive PI survey data (i.e., no CLP sampled, low abundance, etc.), turion surveys will inform whether or not the CLP population is well-controlled or has potential to overwinter and grow the following year.

## 1.4 Zebra Mussel Monitoring

The MnDNR reported zebra mussel larvae were discovered in Big Marine Lake in late 2025. Big Marine Lake served as the donor lake for Ravine Lake plant restoration work that occurred in 2025, which involved the transportation of plants and lake water from Big Marine Lake to Ravine Lake. The project was permitted and supported by the MnDNR. Ravine Lake is now at risk for zebra mussel infestation.

Early detection of AIS like zebra mussels is the best way to prevent further spread of the species. As new invasions are difficult to detect with visual observations, Stantec proposes to use environmental DNA (eDNA) sampling techniques as an early detection tool for zebra mussels in Ravine Lake. Environmental DNA sampling has shown effective for detecting quagga and zebra mussels (e.g. Penarrubia et al., 2016; Amberg & Merkes, 2016), offering both early detection of invasion fronts (Gingera et al. 2017) and the ability to detect low abundances (e.g., DeVentura et al., 2017; Blackman et al., 2020). Attached to this scope of work is more information about Stantec's eDNA services.

An eDNA survey will be carried out in June of 2026 and repeated in August of 2026 if no detections occur in June.

## 1.5 Management Activities

SWWD has been managing five watershed lakes for aquatic invasive plants. Previous management of the five lakes has included both herbicide treatment and mechanical removal for curly-leaf pondweed (CLP) and Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) and is summarized in Table 1 below. Under Task 4 Stantec will provide ongoing vegetation management support to SWWD for Colby, Ravine, Markgrafs, La, and Wilmes Lakes.

Time for management activities such as meetings and coordination with the MnDNR, commercial vendors, and SWWD staff related to permitting and treatment costs and scheduling is included in the Task 4 budget. All five currently managed lakes have existing LVMPs as a permitting requirement with the MnDNR and have existing permits that require annual renewal and reporting.

In 2025, SWWD forewent soliciting a formal Request for Quotes from several herbicide applicators for treatment in the lakes and instead contracted directly with PLM Land and Lake Management after receiving quotes. Time under this task assumes direct contracting with PLM Land and Lake Management in 2026. Upon Board approval, Stantec will work with SWWD and PLM to schedule and oversee the treatments that will occur in Spring/Fall 2026.

Table 1. Summary of management activities in five SWWD lakes.

| Lake | AIS Present | Treatment | Area treated (acres) | Previous Treatments | Next Planned Treatment |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Colby | CLP, EWM | Fluridone | 70.94 (whole lake) | Fall 2022, Fall 2023, Fall 2024, Fall 2025 | Fall 2026 |
| Ravine | CLP | Fluridone | 27.18 (whole lake) | Fall 2022, Fall 2023, Fall 2024, Fall 2025 | Fall 2026 |
| Markgrafs | CLP | Diquat | 6.89 (partial lake, 2023); 3.81 (partial lake, 2025) | Spring 2023, Spring 2025 | Spring 2026 |
| La | CLP | Fluridone | 45.0 (whole lake) | Fall 2023, Fall 2024, Fall 2025 | Fall 2026 |
| Wilmes (north basin) | CLP | Diquat | 7.19 (partial lake) | Spring 2024, Spring 2025 | Spring 2026 |
| Wilmes (south basin) | EWM | Mechanical control, Florpyrauxifen-benzyl (*ProcellaCOR®)* | 3.09 (partial lake) | Summer 2023 (mechanical control), Fall 2024 (herbicide) | TBD |

Deliverables under Task 4 include:

- Permit renewals for all 5 managed District lakes
- Delineated treatment maps for Markgrafs (CLP) treatment and Wilmes (CLP and EWM, as needed) treatment

- Emailed request for quotes from PLM for treatments all five lakes
- Up to 3 SWWD Board meeting memos describing the proposed treatment, quoted applicator cost, and Stantec recommendations for timing and herbicide (if relevant)

## 1.6 Monitoring Report

Vegetation monitoring results and a summary of management activities in 2026 will be compiled into one report and be delivered to SWWD by March 31, 2027. The report will include plant species frequency of occurrence summaries, community metrics, maps of plant diversity and invasive plant abundance, CiBioBase maps of plant biovolume, and estimates of turion density in each lake. The plant community surveyed in each lake will be summarized by several community metrics, including Simpson's *D*, floristic quality index (FQI), aquatic macrophyte community index (AMCI), and species richness.

Stantec will submit the monitoring report to the MnDNR on behalf of SWWD upon completion of the final draft. The report will satisfy the MnDNR's annual reporting requirements agreed upon in the approved LVMPs.

## 1.7 Project Management

Katie Kemmitt will serve as the project manager and will oversee contracting, project progression, and overall project delivery. Katie Hembre will serve as project management assistant. Lucas Clapp will serve as the field lead for survey and sampling work. Task 7 consists of project management, meetings, and coordination between Stantec staff, MnDNR, and SWWD staff.

# 2 Fee Estimate, Schedule, & Deliverables

## 2.1 Fee Estimate

The fee estimate for Stantec to complete the work described in this letter is $42,637.50. A breakdown of each task, staff hours, and expenses are provided in Table 2 below. Expenses include equipment use (boat, GPS unit, Lowrance sonar), mileage, and use fees for BioBase software. We will not exceed the amount indicated without prior authorization from SWWD.

Table 2. Fee estimate for 2026 services.

| Task Name | Hours | Labour | Expense | Subs | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Task 1.1 Early Season Surveys | 68.00 | $10,084.00 | $1,693.75 | $0.00 | $11,777.75 |
| Task 1.2 Late Season Surveys | 68.00 | $10,084.00 | $1,693.75 | $0.00 | $11,777.75 |
| Task 1.3 Turion Surveys | 32.00 | $4,752.00 | $500.00 | $0.00 | $5,252.00 |
| Task 1.4 Zebra Mussel Monitoring | 12.00 | $1,904.00 | $800.00 | $2,226.00 | $4,930.00 |
| eDNA Sampling - June | 8.00 | $1,310.00 | $700.00 | $1,113.00 | $3,123.00 |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| eDNA Sampling - August | 4.00 | $594.00 | $100.00 | $1,113.00 | $1,807.00 |
| Task 1.5 Management Activities | 12.00 | $1,890.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 | $1,890.00 |
| Task 1.6 Monitoring Report | 40.00 | $5,800.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 | $5,800.00 |
| Task 1.7 Project Management | 8.00 | $1,210.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 | $1,210.00 |
| **2026 Lake Veg Monitoring and Management** | **240.00** | **$35,724.00** | **$4,687.50** | **$2,226.00** | **$42,637.50** |

## 2.2 Schedule

Stantec will begin planning for 2026 surveys and management as soon as an executed task order from SWWD is received. All field surveys will be completed in 2026 and the final reports will be delivered to SWWD and the MnDNR by March 31, 2027.

Table 3. Schedule for 2026 services by task and month.

| | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Task 1.1 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Task 1.2 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Task 1.3 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Task 1.4 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Task 1.5 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Task 1.6 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Task 1.7 | | | | | | | | | | | | |

## 2.3 Deliverables

A summary of deliverables for 2026 services is as follows:

- MnDNR-issued Invasive Aquatic Plant Management (IAPM) permits for all treated lakes (Colby, Ravine, Markgrafs, La, and Wilmes Lakes)
- Early and late season point-intercept surveys on 5 district lakes
- Up to two eDNA surveys on Ravine Lake to detect zebra mussels
- Fall turion surveys on up to 2 district lakes
- Raw data and GIS files of vegetation surveys
- Final report outlining 2026 survey results and management actions for SWWD records and annual reporting requirements to MnDNR

**Reference: Scope of Work for 2026 Lake Vegetation Monitoring and Management**

Thank you,

**Stantec Consulting Services Inc.**



**Katie Kemmitt**
*Project Manager, Environmental Scientist*
*Phone: (763) 252-6856*
*katie.kemmitt@stantec.com*

stantec.com

*Attachment: Stantec eDNA flatsheet; Standard Terms and Conditions*

By signing this proposal, _____ authorizes Stantec to proceed
Client Company Name
with the services herein described and the Client acknowledges that it has read and agrees to be bound by the attached Professional Services Terms and Conditions.

This proposal is accepted and agreed on the _____ of _____, _____.
Day Month Year

Per: _____
Client Company Name

_____
Print Name & Title

_____
Signature

SOUTH WASHINGTON WATERSHED DISTRICT

| Date: February 6, 2026 | **South Washington Watershed District**<br>**Request for Board Action** | **Agenda Item # 10** |
|---|---|---|
| **Title:**<br>Vegetation Management Update and Seed Purchase | **Board Action Requested:**<br>Approve Seed Purchase | **Required Signatures**<br>None |
| **Reviewed by:**<br>JHL | | **Presented by:**<br>Randazzo |

**Background/Justification**:
The SWWD continues to manage a variety of natural areas on both District owned properties and in coordination with partners. Throughout the District, a number of sites require overseeding to improve habitat and native plant cover. This request is for a large purchase of seed for the following sites being actively managed in spring, 2026:

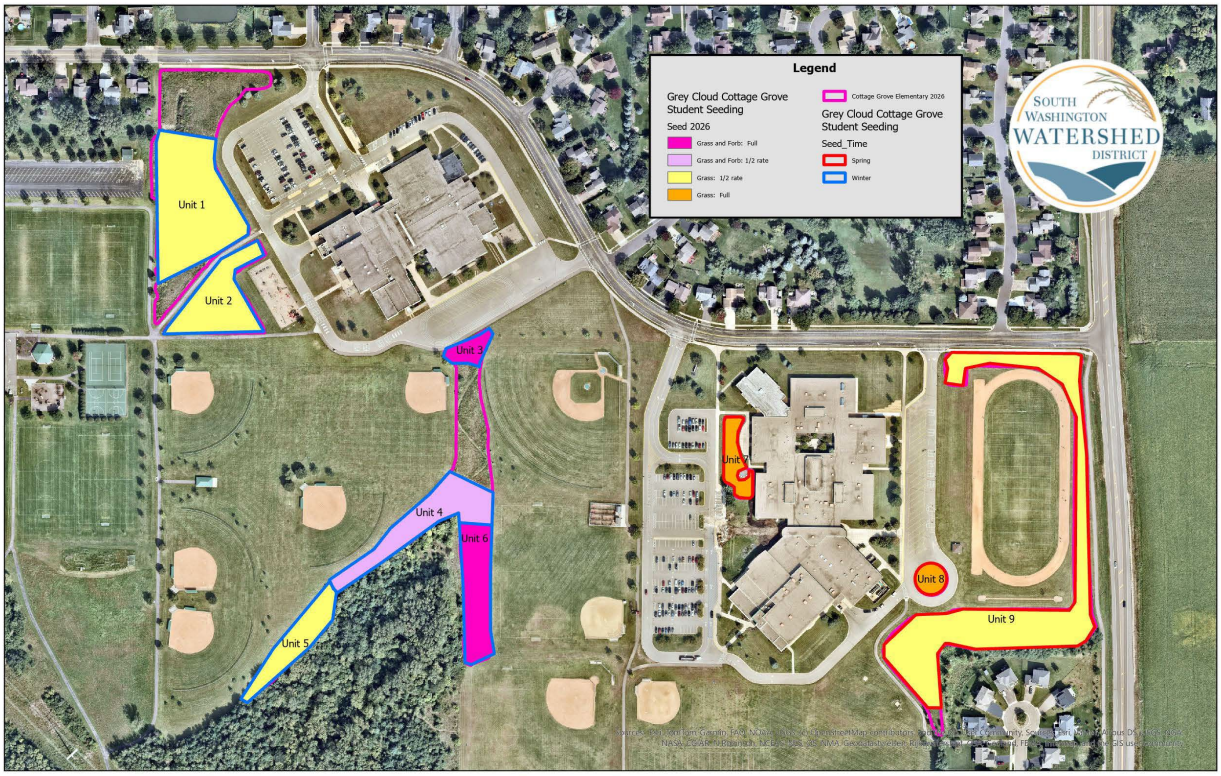
- Cottage Grove Middle and Grey Cloud Elementary Schools
- Crestview Elementary School
- Hasenbank Woods Northern Corners
- Glacial Valley Park
- On-hand seed for rapid response use

Staff recommend approval of the enclosed MOU.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Previous Action:** | | **Contact:**<br>**JHL** |
| **Date Received:**<br>February 6, 2026 | **SWWD Administrator/Date:**<br>February 6, 2026 | SWWD Attorney/Date |
| **Financial Implications:**<br>**$8,200** | | **Comments:** |
| **Fund** | **Explanation:** | **Fund Balance:** |
| **Decision Needed/Date** | **Administrative Recommendation**<br>**Approval** Informational<br>Denial No Recommendation | **Comments** |

# Vegetation Management, Spring 2026 Seed Order Request

## Student Broadcast Seeding at Grey Cloud and Cottage Grove Schools




Grey Cloud and Cottage Grove Schools are in their fifth year of establishment and are on a solid trajectory to full prairie establishment. At the end of the existing contract, prescribed burns were planned. The areas on the west of the site were burned in fall, and areas to the west are planned for spring to close out the existing contract.

In order to fill gaps and enhance areas overly dominated by either grass or flowers, a broadcast seeding by students will help keep the site moving in the right direction. Western areas (near Grey Cloud) will be seed over snow to allow seed to receive natural cold, moist stratification. Areas to the east (around Cottage Grove) will we broadcast seeded by students immediately following spring burns.

Seed will be applied at full or half rate depending on site conditions.

Seeding with students will provide educational opportunities and encourage “ownership” of these important urban habitats.

**Cottage Grove and Grey Cloud 2026 student seeding**

| Unit | Acres | Seed Type | Seeding Rate | Seed Qty. | % grasses | lbs./unit | % forbs | lbs./unit | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Unit 1 | 1.6 | Grass | 0.5 | 0.8 | 18% | 6.4 | | | |
| Unit 2 | 0.8 | Grass | 0.5 | 0.4 | 9% | 3.2 | | | |
| Unit 3 | 0.2 | Grass and Forb | 1 | 0.2 | 5% | 1.6 | 15% | 1.0 | |
| Unit 4 | 0.8 | Grass and Forb | 0.5 | 0.4 | 9% | 3.2 | 31% | 2.0 | |
| Unit 5 | 0.6 | Grass | 0.5 | 0.3 | 7% | 2.4 | | | |
| Unit 6 | 0.7 | Grass and Forb | 1 | 0.7 | 16% | 5.6 | 54% | 3.5 | |
| Unit 7 | 0.2 | Grass | 1 | 0.2 | 5% | 1.6 | | | |
| Unit 8 | 0.2 | Grass | 1 | 0.2 | 5% | 1.6 | | | |
| Unit 9 | 2.4 | Grass | 0.5 | 1.2 | 27% | 9.6 | | | |
| | | | | | **1** | **35.2** | | | **6.5** |
| | | | | 4.4 | rate | total | unit cost | total cost | |
| Backyard Economy Mix | | **Grass Only** | Acre | **4.4** LBS | 8 | **35.2** | $27.00 | $950.40 | |
| Backyard Economy Mix | | **Forb Only** | Acre | **1.3** LBS | 5 | **6.5** | $75.00 | $487.50 | |
| | | | | | | | | | **$1,437.90** |

## Northern Grassy Corners Seed Augmentation



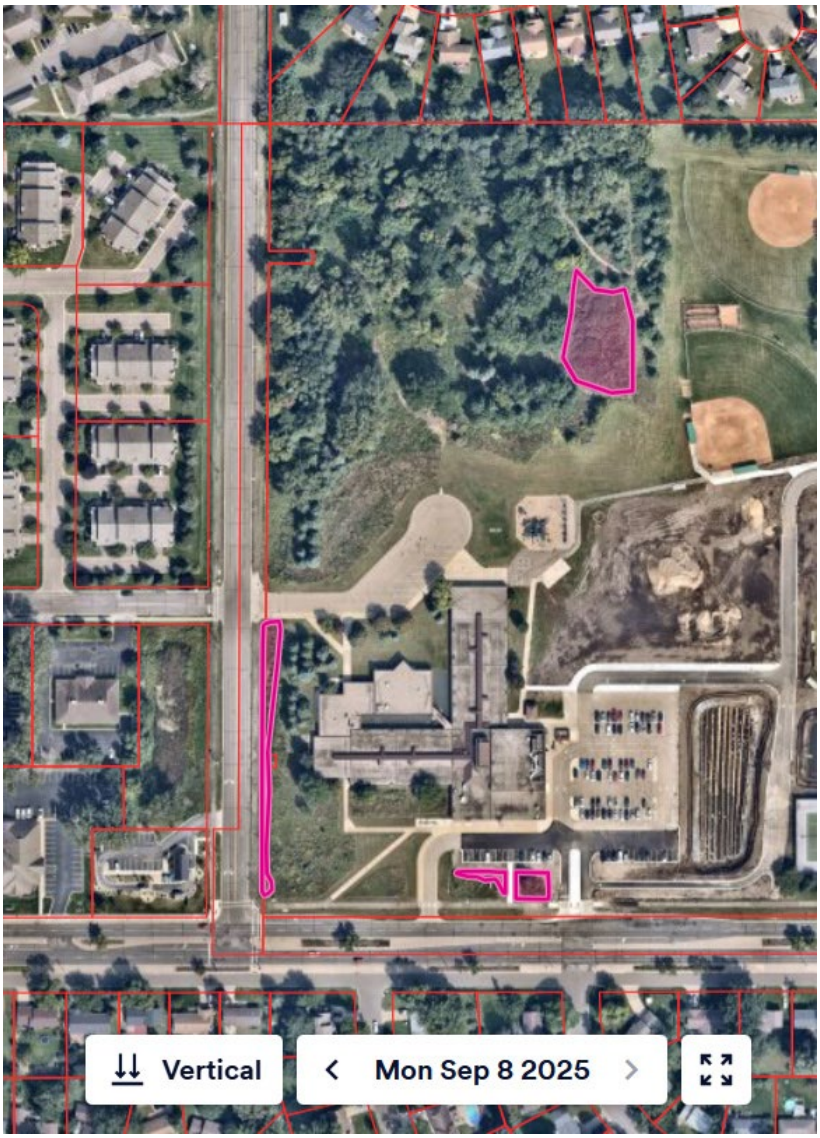

These two small, but highly visible location at Hasenbank Woods have problematic with regard to establishment of native seedings as non-native cool season grasses continue to persist. The site was mowed twice in 2025, and herbicided late in the season to address cool season grasses. Overseeding this site with a Savanna Mix will continue to provide an opportunity for native species to take hold, providing habitat and beauty to these two very visible corners of the site.

**Hasenbank Corners**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| West | .37 acres | | | |
| East | .23 acres | | | |
| full rate | 0.6 | 13/ac. | order qty. lbs | |
| 1/2 acre Shortgrass Savanna Mix | | | | **$450.00** |

## Crestview Elementary School Seed Augmentation

Crestview Elementary is well established but still contains a few persistent issues with regard to non-native, invasive species. The prairie to the north is establishing nicely, but some bare areas, and invasives remain. Overseeding and active control will assist with full establishment. The areas at the front of and western edge continue to struggle with establishment over cool season grasses. These areas were treated with herbicide in the fall, and could use an additional overseed to get better establishment of a range of native species.




**Crestview Hill Slope (along Hinton) and Prairie Augmentation**

.5 acre repair and overseed

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Backyard Economy Mix | **Grass Only** | Acre | **0.8** LBS | 8 | **6.4** | $27.00 | $172.80 |
| Backyard Economy Mix | **Forb Only** | Acre | **0.8** LBS | 5 | **4** | $75.00 | $300.00 |
| | | | | | | | **$472.80** |

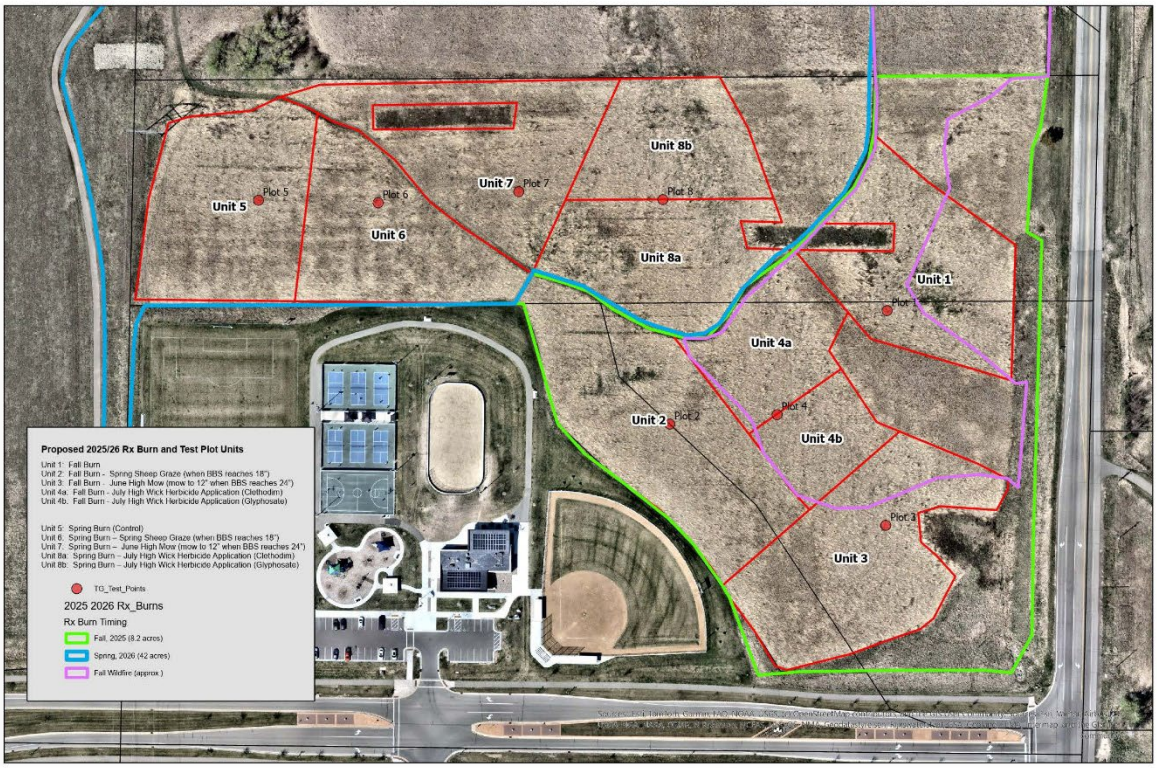
## Additional On-Hand Seed

Additional on-hand seed is valuable to use on sites that suffer small disturbances, require spot control of invasive species and on small bare areas on larger projects.

**2026 SWWD On Hand Seed (1 Acre) - for troublesome spots throughout the district (schools, BSFP, HB, GVP, TB, Overlooks, et**

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Backyard Economy Mix | **Grass Only** | Acre | **0.5** LBS | 8 | **4** | $27.00 | $108.00 |
| Backyard Economy Mix | **Forb Only** | Acre | **0.5** LBS | 5 | **2.5** | $75.00 | $187.50 |
| | | | | | | | **$295.50** |
| 1/2 acre Shortgrass Savanna Mix (Crestview Woodland, Hasenbank post garlic mustard pulls, etc...) | | | | | | | **$450.00** |

**Glacial Valley Park Tall Grass Reduction and Diversity Augmentation**




Research is underway at Glacial Valley Park to test techniques that will reduce the over dominance by native tallgrass species, Indiangrass and Big Bluestem. In the Southern unit of Glacial Valley Park, these two species are forming near monotypes at the exclusion of other grasses and flowering species. Staff has collected extensive data on 11 acres in 8 units within this area and is planning to try different techniques to enhance diversity and reduce tallgrass dominance.

Techniques will look at differences between fall and spring burns followed by overseeding. On each of four sites in the spring and fall burn areas, staff will use sheep grazing after tall grass emergence, mid-summer mowing to knock back post emergent tall stems, and two different herbicide types using a high wicking technique that will target the tall grasses as they rise above other species.

Data collected shows dominance by these tall grasses, but also, that no flowering species exceed more than 2% overall cover throughout the site.

Overseeding the entire area with a high diversity flower mix and short grasses will offer opportunities to add diversity and explore the effectiveness of different methods to enhance diversity.

**2026 Glacial Valley Park Tall Grass Reduction and Diversity Enhancement Research Plots**

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Full Pollinator Mix Dry to Mesic | Seeded at slightly under 1/2 rate | | | | |
| MNL Pollinator Mix - Dry to Mesic | Acre | 5 | 5 | $960.00 | **$4,800.00** |

## Existing Species Noted in Research Plots

| Scientific Name | Common Name | Flowering Season |
|---|---|---|
| **Grasses** | | |
| *Agrostis gegantea* | Redtop | |
| *Andropogon gerardii* | Big Bluestem | |
| *Bouteloua curtipendula* | Side-oats Grama | |
| *Bromus inermis* | Smooth Brome | |
| *Elymus canadensis* | Canada Wild Rye | |
| *Panicum capillare* | Witchgrass | |
| *Panicum virgatum* | Switchgrass | |
| *Poa pratensis* | Kentucky Bluegrass | |
| *Schizachyrium scoparium* | Little Bluestem | |
| *Sorgastrum nutans* | Indian Grass | |
| | | |
| **Sedges** | | |
| | | |
| **Forbs** | | |
| *Agastache foeniculum* | Anise Hyssop | Summer |
| *Ambrosia artemisiifolia* | Common Ragweed | Summer |
| *Ambrosia trifida* | Giant Ragweed | Summer |
| *Amorpha canescens* | Leadplant | Summer |
| *Apocynum cannabinum* | Indian Hemp | Summer |
| *Asclepias syriaca* | Common Milkweed | Summer |
| *Astragalus canadensis* | Canada Milkvetch | Summer |
| *Baptisia alba* | White Wild Indigo | Summer |
| *Berferca incana* | Hoary Alyssum | Summer |
| *Chamaecrista fasciculata* | Patridge Pea | Summer |
| *Conyza canadensis* | Canadian Horseweed | Summer |
| *Dalea candida* | White Prairie Clover | Summer |
| *Dalea purpurea* | Purple Prairie Clover | Summer |
| *Desmodium canadensis* | Showy Tick Trefoil | Summer |
| *Helianthus maximiliani* | Maximilian Sunflower | Summer |
| *Lespedeza capitata* | Round-Headed Bush Clover | Fall |
| *Lotus corniculatus* | Birds-foot Trefoil | Summer |
| *Monarda fistulosa* | Wild Bergamot | Summer |
| *Solidago canadensis* | Canada Goldenrod | Fall |
| *Solidago speciosa* | Showy Goldenrod | Fall |
| *Symphyotrichum ericoides* | Heath Aster | Fall |
| *Symphyotrichum lanceolatum* | Heath Aster | Fall |
| *Symphyotricum laeve* | Smooth Blue Aster | Fall |
| *Symphyotricum oolentangiense* | Sky-blue Aster | Fall |
| *Verbena stricta* | Hoary Vervain | Summer |
| | | |
| **Shrubs** | | |
| *Prunus americana* | Wild Plum | |
| *Rhamnus cathartica* | Common Buckthorn | |
| *Rubus idaeus* | Wild Red Raspberry | |
| *Rubus occidentalis* | Black Raspberry | |
| *Rubus* sp. | Raspberry/Blackberry species | |
| *Salix bebbiana* | Bebb's Willow | |

## Proposed GVP Test Plot Overseeding Seed List

MNL

**MNL Pollinator Mix**
**Dry to Mesic Soils**

*Mix approved by the Xerces Society for Pollinator habitat enhancement and restoration.*
*For dry and well-drained to mesic soils, 40+ forbs! Height 2-4'*

| | Scientific Name | Common Name | % of Mix | Seeds/ Sq Ft | PLS lbs/ac | Bloom Season |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Grasses:** | Bouteloua curtipendula | Side-oats Grama | 18.00 | 6.58 | 1.80 | |
| | Bouteloua gracilis | Blue Grama | 3.00 | 4.41 | 0.30 | |
| | Bromus kaimii | Prairie Brome | 3.00 | 0.88 | 0.30 | |
| | Elymus trachycaulus | Slender Wheat Grass | 4.50 | 1.14 | 0.45 | |
| | Koeleria macrantha | Junegrass | 0.50 | 3.21 | 0.05 | |
| | Schizachyrium scoparium | Little Bluestem | 18.00 | 9.92 | 1.80 | |
| | Sporobolus compositus | Rough Dropseed | 0.50 | 0.55 | 0.05 | |
| | Sporobolus heterolepis | Prairie Dropseed | 0.50 | 0.29 | 0.05 | |
| **Sedges/Rushes:** | Carex brevior | Plains Oval Sedge | 2.00 | 2.13 | 0.20 | |
| **Forbs:** | Achillea millefolium | Yarrow | 0.20 | 1.29 | 0.02 | Summer |
| | Agastache foeniculum | Fragrant Giant Hyssop | 0.35 | 1.16 | 0.04 | Summer |
| | Allium stellatum | Prairie Onion | 0.95 | 0.38 | 0.10 | Summer |
| | Amorpha canescens | Leadplant | 2.25 | 1.32 | 0.23 | Summer |
| | Artemisia ludoviciana | Prairie Sage | 0.10 | 0.92 | 0.01 | Summer |
| | Asclepias syriaca | Common Milkweed | 1.10 | 0.16 | 0.11 | Summer |
| | Asclepias verticillata | Whorled Milkweed | 0.35 | 0.14 | 0.04 | Summer |
| | Astragalus canadensis | Canada Milk Vetch | 1.25 | 0.78 | 0.13 | Summer |
| | Baptisia alba | White Wild Indigo | 0.50 | 0.03 | 0.05 | Spring |
| | Baptisia bracteata | Cream Wild Indigo | 0.20 | 0.01 | 0.02 | Spring |
| | Chamaecrista fasciculata | Partridge Pea | 6.00 | 0.60 | 0.60 | Fall |
| | Coreopsis palmata | Prairie Coreopsis | 0.25 | 0.09 | 0.03 | Summer |
| | Dalea candida | White Prairie Clover | 6.00 | 4.19 | 0.60 | Summer |
| | Dalea purpurea | Purple Prairie Clover | 7.50 | 4.13 | 0.75 | Summer |
| | Desmodium canadense | Showy Tick-trefoil | 3.00 | 0.61 | 0.30 | Summer |
| | Drymocallis arguta | Prairie Cinquefoil | 0.30 | 2.53 | 0.03 | Summer |
| | Echinacea angustifolia | Narrow-leaved Coneflower | 1.75 | 0.45 | 0.18 | Summer |
| | Galium boreale | Northern Bedstraw | 0.25 | 0.64 | 0.03 | Summer |
| | Gentiana flavida | Creamy Gentian | 0.15 | 0.77 | 0.02 | Summer |
| | Heliopsis helianthoides | Common Ox-eye | 3.80 | 0.88 | 0.38 | Summer |
| | Helianthus pauciflorus | Stiff Sunflower | 0.30 | 0.04 | 0.03 | Fall |
| | Heterotheca villosa | Golden Aster | 0.05 | 0.04 | 0.01 | Summer |
| | Heuchera richardsonii | Prairie Alumroot | 0.05 | 1.29 | 0.01 | Spring |
| | Lespedeza capitata | Round-headed Bushclover | 1.25 | 0.37 | 0.13 | Summer |
| | Liatris aspera | Rough Blazing Star | 0.30 | 0.18 | 0.03 | Summer |
| | Liatris ligulistylis | Meadow Blazing Star | 0.75 | 0.28 | 0.08 | Summer |
| | Lupinus perennis | Wild Lupine | 0.20 | 0.01 | 0.02 | Spring |
| | Monarda fistulosa | Wild Bergamot | 0.40 | 1.03 | 0.04 | Summer |
| | Monarda punctata | Spotted Bee Balm | 0.15 | 0.50 | 0.02 | Summer |
| | Penstemon grandiflorus | Large-flower Penstemon | 1.20 | 0.62 | 0.12 | Spring |
| | Pseudognaphalium obtusifolium | Sweet Everlasting | 0.10 | 3.47 | 0.01 | Summer |
| | Pycnanthemum virginianum | Mountain Mint | 0.10 | 0.81 | 0.01 | Summer |
| | Ratibida columnifera | Long-headed Coneflower | 1.00 | 1.54 | 0.10 | Summer |
| | Rudbeckia hirta | Black-eyed Susan | 1.50 | 5.07 | 0.15 | Summer |
| | Solidago missouriensis | Missouri Goldenrod | 0.10 | 0.94 | 0.01 | Fall |
| | Solidago nemoralis | Gray Goldenrod | 0.20 | 2.20 | 0.02 | Fall |
| | Solidago ptarmicoides | Upland White Goldenrod | 0.75 | 1.76 | 0.08 | Fall |
| | Solidago speciosa | Showy Goldenrod | 0.30 | 1.05 | 0.03 | Fall |
| | Symphyotrichum ericoides | Heath Aster | 0.10 | 0.73 | 0.01 | Fall |
| | Symphyotrichum laeve | Smooth Blue Aster | 0.80 | 1.62 | 0.08 | Fall |
| | Symphyotrichum oolentangiense | Sky-blue Aster | 1.00 | 2.94 | 0.10 | Fall |
| | Tradescantia bracteata | Long-bracted Spiderwort | 0.50 | 0.18 | 0.05 | Spring |
| | Tradescantia occidentalis | Western Spiderwort | 0.25 | 0.08 | 0.03 | Spring |
| | Verbena stricta | Hoary Vervain | 0.90 | 0.93 | 0.09 | Summer |
| | Zizia aptera | Heart-leaved Alexanders | 0.50 | 0.22 | 0.05 | Spring |
| | Zizia aurea | Golden Alexanders | 1.00 | 0.40 | 0.10 | Spring |
| | | | 100.00 | 78.48 | 10.00 | |

| | |
|---|---|
| Seeds/sq ft: | 78.00 |
| Grass Species: | 8 |
| Sedges/Rush Sp: | 1 |
| Forb Species: | 46 |

*Seed mixes are subject to change based on availability*

## Cottage Grove and Grey Cloud 2026 student seeding

| Unit | Acres | Seed Type | Seeding Rate | Seed Qty. | % grasses | lbs./unit | % forbs | lbs./unit |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Unit 1 | 1.6 | Grass | 0.5 | 0.8 | 18% | 6.4 | | |
| Unit 2 | 0.8 | Grass | 0.5 | 0.4 | 9% | 3.2 | | |
| Unit 3 | 0.2 | Grass and Forb | 1 | 0.2 | 5% | 1.6 | 15% | 1.0 |
| Unit 4 | 0.8 | Grass and Forb | 0.5 | 0.4 | 9% | 3.2 | 31% | 2.0 |
| Unit 5 | 0.6 | Grass | 0.5 | 0.3 | 7% | 2.4 | | |
| Unit 6 | 0.7 | Grass and Forb | 1 | 0.7 | 16% | 5.6 | 54% | 3.5 |
| Unit 7 | 0.2 | Grass | 1 | 0.2 | 5% | 1.6 | | |
| Unit 8 | 0.2 | Grass | 1 | 0.2 | 5% | 1.6 | | |
| Unit 9 | 2.4 | Grass | 0.5 | 1.2 | 27% | 9.6 | | |
| | | | | | **1** | **35.2** | | **6.5** |
| | | | | 4.4 | rate | total | unit cost | total cost |
| Backyard Economy Mix | | **Grass Only** | Acre | **4.4** LBS | 8 | **35.2** | $27.00 | $950.40 |
| Backyard Economy Mix | | **Forb Only** | Acre | **1.3** LBS | 5 | **6.5** | $75.00 | $487.50 |
| | | | | | | | | **$1,437.90** |

Grass Only: 8 lbs full
Grass and Forb: 12 lbs full

## Hasenbank Corners

West .37 acres
East .23 acres

| | | | | | | order qty. lbs | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| full rate | 0.6 | 13/ac. | | | | | | |
| 1/2 acre Shortgrass Savanna Mix | | | | | | | | **$450.00** |

## Crestview Hill Slope (along Hinton) and Prairie Augmentation

.5 acre repair and overseed

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Backyard Economy Mix | **Grass Only** | Acre | **0.8** LBS | 8 | **6.4** | $27.00 | $172.80 |
| Backyard Economy Mix | **Forb Only** | Acre | **0.8** LBS | 5 | **4** | $75.00 | $300.00 |
| | | | | | | | **$472.80** |

## 2026 SWWD On Hand Seed (1 Acre) - for troublesome spots throughout the district (schools, BSFP, HB, GVP, TB, Overlooks, et

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Backyard Economy Mix | **Grass Only** | Acre | **0.5** LBS | 8 | **4** | $27.00 | $108.00 |
| Backyard Economy Mix | **Forb Only** | Acre | **0.5** LBS | 5 | **2.5** | $75.00 | $187.50 |
| | | | | | | | **$295.50** |
| 1/2 acre Shortgrass Savanna Mix (Crestview Woodland, Hasenbank post garlic mustard pulls, etc...) | | | | | | | **$450.00** |

Backyard Economy Mix Grass Only: 8 lbs full
Backyard Economy Mix Grass and Forb: 13 lbs full
Shortgrass Savanna Mix Grass and Forb: 12 lbs full

## 2026 Glacial Valley Park Tall Grass Reduction and Diversity Enhancement Research Plots

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Full Pollinator Mix Dry to Mesic | Seeded at slightly under 1/2 rate | | | | | |
| MNL Pollinator Mix - Dry to Mesic | Acre | 5 | 5 | $960.00 | **$4,800.00** |

**TOTAL ORDER (not including shipping)** **$7,906.20**

SOUTH WASHINGTON WATERSHED DISTRICT

| Date: February 6, 2026 | **South Washington Watershed District**<br>**Request for Board Action** | Agenda Item # 11 |
|---|---|---|
| **Title:**<br>2025 District Administrator Performance Review | **Board Action Requested:**<br>Approve the 2025 Administrator Review | **Required Signatures**<br>None |
| **Reviewed by:**<br>JHL | | **Presented by:**<br>Loomis |

**Background/Justification**:
The SWWD Board conducted the annual performance review for the Administrator at their January regular meeting and should consider approval of the final review documents.

| **Previous Action:** | | **Contact:**<br>**JHL** |
|---|---|---|
| **Date Received:**<br>February 6, 2026 | **SWWD Administrator/Date:**<br>February 6, 2026 | **SWWD Attorney/Date** |
| **Financial Implications:**<br>**$** | | **Comments:** |
| **Fund** | **Explanation:** | **Fund Balance:** |
| **Decision Needed/Date** | **Administrative Recommendation**<br>Approval **Informational**<br>Denial No Recommendation | **Comments** |

SOUTH WASHINGTON WATERSHED DISTRICT

| Date: February 6, 2026 | **South Washington Watershed District**<br>**Request for Board Action** | **Agenda Item # 12** |
|---|---|---|
| **Title:**<br>Future Business and Meetings | **Board Action Requested:** | **Required Signatures**<br>None |
| **Reviewed by:**<br>JHL | | **Presented by:**<br>Loomis |

**Background/Justification**:

i) Regular Board Meeting, Tuesday, February 10, 2026, 6:00pm
ii) Minnesota Watersheds Legislative Event, Tuesday, March 3, 2026
iii) Regular Board Meeting, Tuesday, March 10, 2026, 6:00pm
iv) CAC Meeting, Tuesday, March 24, 2026, 6:00pm
v) MSRC-Minnesota Stormwater Pond Symposium, March 31-April 1, 2026
vi) Mike Madigan Recognition. Tuesday, April 14, 2026 5:00pm
vii) Regular Board Meeting, Tuesday, April 14, 2026, 6:00pm
viii) Lower St. Croix Policy Committee Meeting, Monday, April 27, 2026 4:00pm

| **Previous Action:** | | **Contact:**<br>**JHL** |
|---|---|---|
| **Date Received:**<br>February 6, 2026 | **SWWD Administrator/Date:**<br>February 6, 2026 | **SWWD Attorney/Date** |
| **Financial Implications:**<br>**$** | | **Comments:** |
| **Fund** | **Explanation:** | **Fund Balance:** |
| **Decision Needed/Date** | **Administrative Recommendation**<br>Approval **Informational**<br>Denial No Recommendation | **Comments** |