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SPRING LAKE ASSOCIATION



Photo by Jason DeJoy

September 2024

President's Message from Wesley Steffan



Where has the summer gone and how the heck is it already mid-September? We can finally celebrate that the three year drought is now behind us as our water levels were great all summer long.

Below is a recap of the great events that we had this summer:

Pick your Paddle - Memorial Day |

The rain could not keep this event from happening. Thanks Dave and Jane Johnson for opening your garage for this event.

4th of July Boat Decorating and Boat Parade | We were all disappointed that the rain did stop this event from happening! We hope that you saved your decorations for 2025!

Summer Concert | We hope that you were able to join us either by land or water as this turned out to be one beautiful evening on Spring Lake.

Night to Unite | What a wonderful community we all get to call home! The night was all about neighbors meeting and connecting with neighbors! We hope that you were able to attend one of the five parties that were hosted around Spring Lake.

Pick your Paddle - Labor Day | Over 40 people joined us and enjoyed a beautiful Labor Day. **RE/MAX Preferred - Lauren Peters**, one of our Sponsors, did an outstanding job in hosting and providing refreshments.

Visit our website www.SpringLakeAssociation.org to see photos of our events. We hope to see you on our last event this year - Turkey Trot on Thanksgiving Day!

We hope that you enjoy all of the articles that are included in this newsletter:

We recount the health journey of Conrad Ketelsen, our neighbor and friend who contracted a rare case of West Nile. **See page 2 & 3.**

Learn more about our newest 2024 Gold Sponsor CammAir. **See page 4.**

Beginning in 2025, anyone born after 1987 will be required to pass a boating Operator Training Course before operating any motorized vehicle on the water. We are super excited to award 10 individuals, with a \$50 VISA Gift card, for accepting our Minnesota Boater Safety Course Challenge! **See page 5 for listing of the winners!**

We have continued our lake improvement efforts this summer. In May, the DNR installed a new Floating Dock, as well as buoys, to create a launch channel. **See page 6** for an update on the Spring Lake Boat Ramp.

In July we experienced a significant amount of small fish dying on Spring Lake. **See page 7.**

In other news affecting Spring Lake residents, a new Orderly Annexation Agreement (OAA) between Spring Lake Township and the City of Prior Lake has been agreed upon but is still waiting final State approval. **See page 8.**

Prior Lake Spring Lake Watershed District was awarded \$850,000 to improve PLOC and also has plans to update the Ferric Chloride Water Treatment Facility. **See pages 9 & 10.**

The Spring Lake Regional Park opened in June and the community is really embracing it. In our on-going educational efforts we have created a Safety Tips and MN Laws Poster for all the new Spring Lake Paddlers, at the Public Launch. **See page 10.**

Several SLA Board Members also helped the PLSLWD in stocking Blue Gill to help control the carp population. They also assisted Blue Water Science in surveying the lake for Curly Leaf Pondweed (CLP) and Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM). The PLSLWD treated 19 acres for CLP offshore. We are happy to report that little EWM was observed and did not require any treatment.



SPRING LAKE
ASSOCIATION

West Nile Impact Felt Close to Home

On August 7, the Surf Club took to the lake in their wakeboat much like any other Wednesday...except this time Conrad Ketelsen joined them! When it was Conrad's turn to surf, he was overjoyed with getting up on his first try. Matt Batulis, the boat captain took a photo and submitted it to the Spring Lake Association (SLA) Photo of the Week Contest. The photo was voted as the top photo of the week and was featured on the SLA Facebook and Website. The journey that Conrad has been on for the last year will help you understand that this photo would come to signify much more than just another picture. This photo embodies the determination and perseverance to overcome many obstacles that were put in his path. Conrad was diagnosed with Transverse Myelitis that was caused by West Nile Virus. Below is a recap of Conrad's journey that started in Late August 2023.

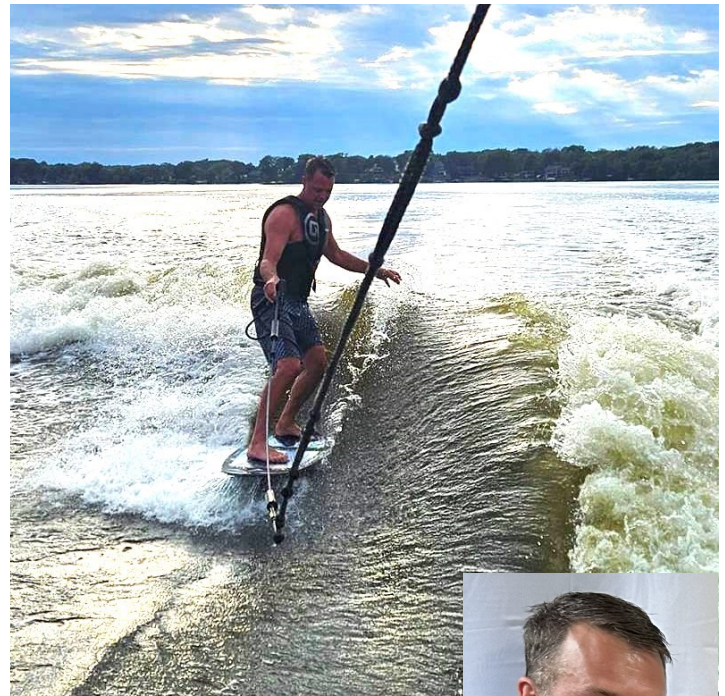
Late August | Conrad had a tingling sensation in his right leg that lasted about 10 – 30 seconds. A couple days later, this happened again. A couple days later it happened again and lasted longer and then started coming back daily. On September 6, he started feeling feverish and this would come and go all day long.

September 13 | Conrad's day started with him going to Dakotah Sport & Fitness for the first time that summer. He played basketball and lifted weights (including leg press). When he attempted the leg press, he found that he didn't have the strength in his legs that he thought he should. He chalked this up to not working out for a while. When he returned home, he mowed the lawn. After dinner, Conrad took off his shirt to take a shower and was surprised to see that he had a rash all over his upper body. The rash didn't itch, and he thought he might be having an allergic reaction to something. That evening he also started having minor pain in his lower body and again chalked it up to his workout. He took Benadryl, which knocked him out for the evening.

September 14 | Conrad went to Urgent Care for his rash. They tested him for Strep and Covid and both came back negative. The doctor indicated that she thought he had a common form of Pityriasis Rosea Rash and sent him home. When he got home from Urgent Care, the pain in his legs and lower body increased dramatically. The pain was unbearable when sitting or lying down. The only thing that would ease the pain was standing or walking.

September 15 | Conrad woke up at 3:00 am and attempted to get out of bed. He moved his left leg, and his right leg didn't follow, and he proceeded to fall. The pain felt like someone was squeezing his entire lower body. He went to the Emergency Room where they tested him for myriad of illnesses, which encompassed blood draws, CT scans, MRI's and Spinal Taps. He was coherent through this process and the pain reached level 10. All of the tests that came back were negative, but the doctors surmised that he had contracted a virus. They also discovered that he had a lesion (swelling of the spine) on about a third of his upper spine. They began to treat Conrad with a heavy dose of IVIG antibiotics for the virus and steroids for the swelling.

September 20 | Additional test results finally came back and confirmed that he had contracted West Nile Virus. While IVIG and steroids helped with the virus and swelling, his pain was still elevated



to level 10. Unfortunately, Conrad contracted a rare case of West Nile. The effects of this virus left him with severe nerve damage to his right leg and some nerve damage to his left leg. Conrad started Physical Therapy (PT) in an effort to regain his strength.

What is West Nile | West Nile is the leading cause of disease wrought by mosquitoes in the U.S. About 4 out of 5 people who contract West Nile never show symptoms. About 1 in 5 people infected develop the most common symptom, West Nile Fever. Other common symptoms include headaches, body or muscle aches, joint pain, vomiting, diarrhea and rash. Symptoms usually occur 1 to 14 days after a person has been bitten and can last three to six days. In rare cases, a more severe neuro-invasive form develops. Symptoms can include muscle weakness, stiff neck, weakness in an arm or leg. West Nile is on the rise in the U.S. with 289 reported cases thus far in 2024.

September 22 | Conrad was moved to Fairview Acute Rehab Center in Minneapolis to continue his PT. When he left the hospital, he had about 25% leg strength in his left leg and zero in his right leg.

October 1 | He was discharged from the rehab center after spending eight days there. He was walking with a walker and his pain was still elevated to level 10. At this time, he struggled to walk a ¼ mile with his walker.

October - January | Conrad continued to go to PT. His pain gradually subsided and by mid-October he was pain free. In November, his daily routine included going to Dakotah Sport & Fitness with his neighbor Wesley and walking with his dog Layla through the park and streets of Raymond and Vergus Avenue. He had now

Continued on next page

Conrad - Continued

progressed to walking one mile in 23 minutes and 35 seconds with his walker. In January he gave up the walker for a cane.

February - April | The lack of independence was finally getting to Conrad, so he took it upon himself to start driving with his left leg. The lack of snow this past winter sure helped with this one. Conrad was motivated to get better and continued to go to PT and worked out 6 days a week.

May - June | Conrad's nerve damage improved and communication with his right leg started coming back. He recalls the first indication of healing was being able to wiggle his toes. With 9 months of nerve damage, the next hurdle he would face would be Muscle Atrophy. This basically meant that he had to start over in getting strength back to his legs. He continued to go to the gym daily in his attempt to get stronger and stronger. He also stopped using a cane.

July - August | Like many of us who live on Spring Lake, Conrad has a beautiful view of the lake. This view provided daily inspiration and the motivation for him to get back the mobility that he had lost. In the middle of July, Conrad returned to the Surf Club and attempted to surf but still was unable to accomplish this goal. Conrad didn't give up and on August 7, everything changed! Conrad was able to get up and surf with a rope, but quickly fell. He continued to try another four times that day with some success. He tried again on August 21 and this time it felt easy - Conrad was able to get up on the surfboard with a rope, drop the rope and was able to stay up! Conrad now looks forward to Wednesday Night Surf Club!

How did he get West Nile?

Conrad spent the last week of July 2023 in Canada fishing and the first week of August 2023 in Door County where he is confident that he was bitten by many mosquitos. Due to the timing of his vacations to his first symptoms, his doctors believe that he didn't

contract West Nile in those locations. Both he and his doctors believe that he contracted West Nile from his back yard because symptoms normally start within 1 - 15 days after infection.

How to prevent West Nile

The best way to prevent West Nile is to limit the areas where mosquitos can thrive and bite people.

Here are some recommended steps:

- Dress in long sleeves and pants
- Use bug spray with Deet
- Drain any standing water in your yard or neighborhood
- Avoid being outdoors during dusk and dawn

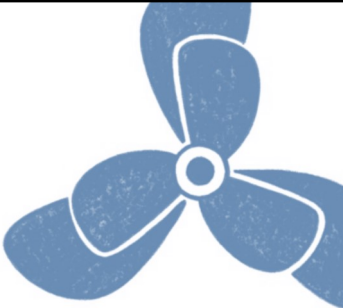
If you have noticed helicopters flying lower and more often this summer around Spring Lake, you are correct. Conrad's doctors shared his address with the MN Mosquito Control Department, and they have been spraying to control mosquitos all summer.

Conrad reflects on his health journey over the last year and is thankful, grateful and humbled for his family, friends and neighbors who stood by his side and helped get him to this point. With fondness, he also reflected on his dog Layla who was by his side every step of the way. Unfortunately, Layla died in late August. While his journey is not over, he remains hopeful. Conrad is a true inspiration for someone who has never looked back and never given up!




Conrad surfing on Wednesday, September 11, 2024

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Operations continued in Worthington until 2006 when operations were moved to Spencer, Iowa after a former acquaintance purchased an aircraft. CAMMAir operations continue to this day in their own 12,000 sq ft maintenance facility in Spencer, Iowa.

The Bright's are also our Spring Lake neighbors. Beth and Brian continue to maintain ownership of their Spring Lake property that was purchased in January of 1990. They still use this cabin as their "Cabin Up North".

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Minnesota Boater Safety Course Challenge

Spring Lake Association recognizes these 10 individuals for accepting the challenge and doing their part in becoming educated and promoting boating safety!

Winners received a \$50 Visa Gift Card!



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Spring Lake Boat Landing Update

Looking for ways to improve the boat ramp access on Spring Lake following three successive years of drought and low water levels, the Spring Lake Association (SLA) in cooperation with the State Legislature, Prior Lake Association (PLA) and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), teamed up to address possible solutions to this problem. This resulted in the implementation of a three phase plan:

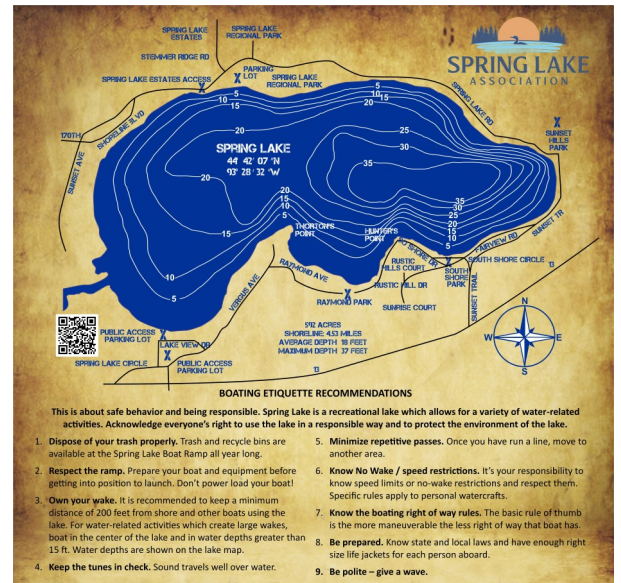
Earlier this Spring, the DNR completed the first phase by replacing the existing fixed dock with a floating dock. This was to address the fluctuating water levels.

The second phase was completed with the DNR and the Scott County Sheriff's department creating a channel by installing a series of buoys leading from/to the ramp. These buoys are red and green and indicate that the boating channel is between them. This channel funnels all boats into the same travel path towards the concrete ramp and uses the consistent propeller wash to keep the channel clearer. A similar approach was successfully implemented on White Bear Lake when that lake also experienced low water levels.

A secondary benefit, of the buoy channel, has resulted in the management and control of the speed of boat traffic in and out from the ramp. Landowner on Lakeview Drive, Suzanne Distel said, "The buoy channel has been wonderful! People are more considerate and orderly. Traffic has slowed in/out of landing which has helped with wakes. Many thanks for the buoys!"

The third phase is to improve the concrete ramp. Due to high water levels, the DNR staff is not sure they will be able to complete any ramp improvements this year. The good news is that their engineer has been given permission to work on solutions to improve our boat ramp over the winter. While this might delay the installation, this additional work involves evaluating and looking for other ways to improve the ramp that could result in a new ramp.

In Summer of 2024, SLA also posted a Boating Etiquette Recommendations Sign at the Spring Lake Boat landing. We hope this educational sign helps Spring Lake boaters be safer resulting in a more enjoyable boating experience.



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Spring Lake Fish Kill | Summer 2024

Earlier in July, many of our residents reported seeing numerous amounts of small dead fish wash up on their shore. Fortunately, the DNR was conducting a Fish Survey on Spring Lake July 29 - 31, so they were able to be on the lake to witness the fish kill firsthand.

Per Daryl Ellison, DNR Supervisor from the local fisheries office, the lake survey crew observed dead crappies around the lake and they appeared to have been dead for a week or more. In conversations with some of the DNR personnel doing the survey, they thought that the reason for the smaller dead fish was due to a lack of oxygen.

This statement may be supported by the information which is located on the DNR Website. The DNR has categorized fish kills into three categories, winter, summer and disease related. The primary reason for a summer kill is low dissolved oxygen caused by algae blooms and other microorganisms that consume oxygen (dead vegetation), both of which has been observed on Spring Lake this summer.



Based on what was seen and reported, the DNR did not feel that the situation warranted further investigation. As a side note, it is required by state law, that any fish kills greater than 25 be reported to the DNR. Not all fish kills warrant investigation, however, they do wish to track their occurrence. For more information on this topic, please click on the link: [Fish kills and die offs | Minnesota DNR \(state.mn.us\)](https://state.mn.us/fish-kills-and-die-offs)

Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools Invitation to Connect with your local schools

Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools is pleased to offer free activity passes to residents in the community age 55 and older to attend most home events. This includes any home sporting events and other special events with a few exceptions such as the Fall Musical, Celebrate Concert, section/state games and any school-produced plays.



PRIOR LAKE-SAVAGE
AREA SCHOOLS

Passes for the 2024-25 school year can be picked up at the District Services Center, 4540 Tower Street SE, Prior Lake, Monday through Friday, between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Call 952-226-0000 for more details.

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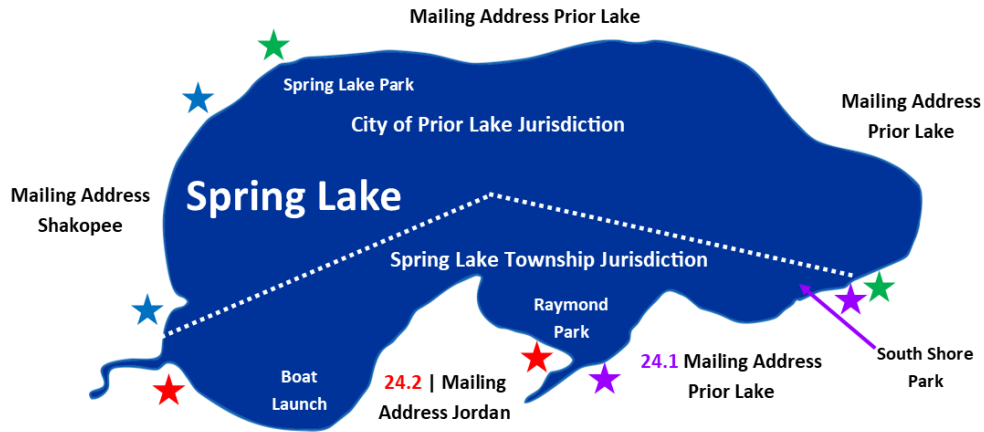
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Spring Lake Township Annexation Update



Spring Lake Township has approved a new Orderly Annexation Agreement with the City of Prior Lake at their August Monthly Board Meeting. This agreement would keep 24.1 and 24.2 areas (see lake map above) in Spring Lake Township. The City of Prior Lake also approved this agreement at their September Council Meeting. This agreement now heads to the state for their review and final approval. This includes homes on Spring Lake Circle, Lakeview Drive, Vergus Avenue, Raymond Avenue, South Shore Drive, South Shore Circle Rustic Hill Drive, Rustic Hill Court and Sunrise Court that will remain in Spring Lake Township for a minimum of 50 years.

Potential benefits for those residents who were to be annexed in 2024 but will remain in Spring Lake Township

- Spring Lake Township residents will continue to pay township tax rates which are lower than city tax rates.
- Prior Lake City sanitary sewer services will remain the same although costs for those services will be at a higher rate not to exceed 20% of current rates.
- Residents on Spring Lake Circle will have the opportunity to connect to Prior Lake City sanitary sewer if environmental conditions impede options for an alternative septic system. Costs of connection to be paid by resident. Full sewer and water are not contemplated under this agreement.
- Emergency services, schools, addresses, street maintenance will remain unchanged.

For further information, please refer to the Spring Lake Township [Website https://springlaketownship.com/government/annexation/](https://springlaketownship.com/government/annexation/)





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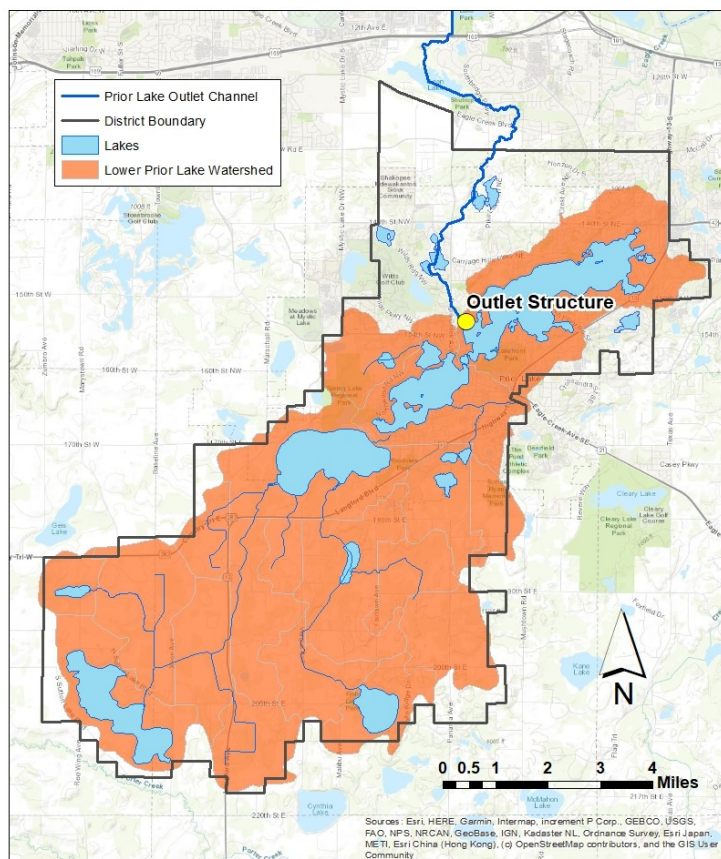
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Prior Lake Spring Lake Watershed District (PLSLWD) Awarded \$850,000!

PLSLWD dedicated residents from across the watershed were determined to find funding to extend the life of Prior Lake's greatest line of defense against flooding. The impassioned presentations, letters, and lobbying efforts to State Representatives and Senators and the countless meetings and hours spent applying for grant funding appeared to be for naught after months of rejection. Finally, in late August we received good news. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency has awarded the PLSLWD with over \$850,000 in grant funding for the Prior Lake Outlet Channel.

The Prior Lake Outlet Channel was built in 1983 as a "relieve valve" for Prior Lake. This remains a critical piece of infrastructure, as Prior Lake is the lowest point in a land locked chain of lakes, with water coming in from the surrounding 30 square miles. The channel begins in a southwest bay of Lower Prior Lake with a 0.4-mile-long pipe. This pipe is built to carry water at rates of 65 cubic feet per second, but time and overuse has caused damage within the pipe that slows this rate. More alarmingly, the cracks and leaks threaten the integrity of the pipe, which is nearing the end of its lifespan.

The awarded grant funding will allow us to line the outlet pipe through "Cured-in-Place-Pipe Lining." This method creates a "pipe within the pipe" and will double its lifespan and restore its full capacity. The method also avoids the need for disruptive excavation, as the work can be done through existing manholes. Construction is expected to begin within the next two years, marking a significant step forward in preserving this essential infrastructure.



**PRIOR LAKE-SPRING LAKE
WATERSHED DISTRICT**

Shared history of Prior Lake Outlet System & PLSLWD

The PLSLWD was established in 1970 in response to a petition filed by resident landowners. This citizen petition sought establishment of the PLSLWD for the purposes of wisely managing and conserving the waters and natural resources of the watershed. This stemmed from concern over flooding around Prior Lake, which at the time was land-locked with no natural "outlet," or way for water to leave the lake.

In 1973, residents petitioned the district to construct a stormwater outlet from its landlocked lakes. This led to the development of the Prior Lake Outlet System, which receives water from Prior Lake and the surrounding drainage area, or "watershed", and transports it to the Minnesota River. The outlet structure and channel was finally completed in July of 1983.

Water Flow From The Prior Lake Outlet System

The Prior Lake Outlet Structure System begins at the on the north-western side of Lower Prior Lake. From here, water travels underground through a pipe that ends near Jeffers Pond Elementary. From there, the Prior Lake Outlet Channel, often referred to as the PLOC (pronounced P-Lock), travels 7 miles north to the Minnesota River.

Since the PLOC is a stormwater conveyance that travels through and provides benefits to multiple municipalities, it is jointly managed by the City of Prior Lake, the City of Shakopee, the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community, and the PLSLWD through a Memorandum of Agreement. These collaborative entities are referred to by the District as the "Cooperators."

While the primary benefit of a more efficient PLOC is to prevent flooding on Upper and Prior Lake, there is a benefit to Spring Lake in that it may reduce the need to dam up the creek between Spring Lake and Upper Prior Lake. The dam, operated by Scott County, was used in 1993 and more recently during the 2014 flood.



Workers installing dam between Spring Lake and Upper Prior Lake in July 2014.

The Ferric Chloride Water Treatment Facility Update

Spring Lake's water quality is impaired by excess phosphorus, a nutrient that algal blooms love. Most of this phosphorus comes from water flowing in from the land south of Spring Lake, an area known as the "upper watershed" to the Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District (PLSLWD). Improving the quality of water throughout the upper watershed is a top priority for the PLSLWD.

One of the most impactful projects in the upper watershed is situated at the end of County Ditch 13, where most of runoff from the upper watershed flows into Spring Lake. This project is a water treatment facility initially completed in 1998 and improved upon in 2013. We refer to it as the Ferric Chloride Facility, because it applies a common water treatment chemical called ferric chloride to bind with phosphorous and remove it from the water column.

How It Works

Water with high phosphorous levels travels down County Ditch 13 and through the Highway 13 Wetland, located about a half mile southeast of Spring Lake. This wetland slows the flow of water and allows sediment to settle. As the wetland narrows to a stream before flowing northward under Highway 13, a sensor measures the water level and tells a pump in the nearby treatment facility what dosage is needed for water coming through.

Ferric chloride is then pumped for 900 feet under Highway 13 to a stormwater, or desiltation, pond. The ferric chloride is mixed into the water and binds onto phosphorous. This forms something called floc, which then settles to the bottom of the pond. During very high flows, some water is rerouted around the desiltation pond to prevent resuspension of the settled floc. The water flowing out of the desiltation pond and into Spring Lake contains about 60% less dissolved phosphorous than the water in County Ditch 13, although this percentage varies year to year.

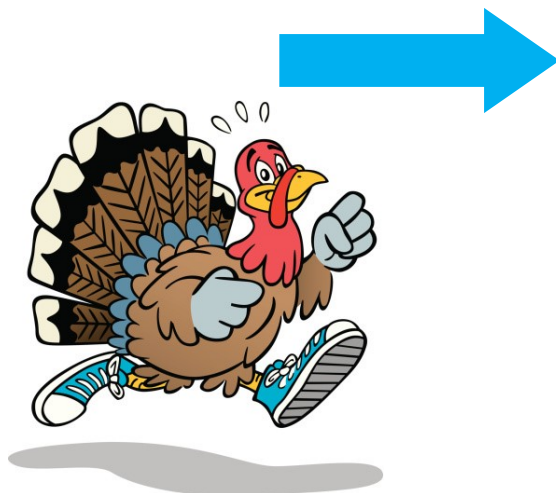
Maintenance and Improvements

The Ferric Chloride Water Treatment Facility is managed by the PLSLWD under permits from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. Water is sampled weekly above and below the treatment point and the system is inspected to ensure it is functioning properly. While routine maintenance occurs annually, significant system components have reached or are nearing the end of their lifespan. In 2023 and 2024, the PLSLWD's board of managers approved work to assess and ultimately initiate facility improvements that will ensure safety, longevity and ease of access to the facility for ferric chloride deliveries and facility operations. Improvements such as a new chemical storage tank, piping, feed pump, sensors, and electronics are expected to be completed by Spring 2025. The PLSLWD is also re-viewing maintenance needs of the Highway 13 Wetland and the desiltation pond to ensure efficiency and improved water quality for the coming years.

Stay up to date and learn about other Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District projects at <https://www.plslwd.org/>.



SAVE THE DATE



SLA 5K TURKEY TROT

Thru Spring Lake Regional Park

Thanksgiving Day | Thursday, November 28

Start Time 9:00 am

Starting Location
The Lindaman's Home | 2815 Spring Lake Road SW

Ending Location
Northwood Park | 16731 Northwoods Road NW

Water and Refreshments Provided

Parking available on Center Road NW

Thank you Lindaman Family for including SLA in your Annual Event!

SPRING LAKE ASSOCIATION
Sponsored by Spring Lake Association

SLA created the sign below that will be posted at the
New Spring Lake Regional Park Public Launch
for Canoe, Kayaks and Paddle Boarders!

Spring Lake Regional Park

Public Launch | Canoe - Kayak - Paddle Board



SPRING LAKE
ASSOCIATION

Paddling Safety Tips

- Always wear your life jacket.
- Know or learn how to swim.
- Tie a whistle onto your lifejacket in case of an emergency.
- In areas of high motorboat traffic, stay near the shore, and approach waves head-on or at a slight angle to avoid capsizing.
- Tell someone where you're going and when you'll be back.
- Paddle sober. Never paddle under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- Be aware of weather and wind conditions.
- Paddle with a group, not alone.
- Take a FREE DNR Paddling Skills Course to learn how to self-rescue and tow another paddleboard.
- Be aware of paddling hazards like rocks and low hanging branches.
- Know when to wear a leash (for more information read the "More SUP Safety" section below).
- In case of an emergency, bring a cell phone in a waterproof case or bag.
- Consider wearing footwear to protect your feet.

Paddle Sports and Minnesota Law

- There must be a United States Coast Guard approved life jacket, either worn or on board, for each person.
- Children younger than 10 years old must wear a properly fitted lifejacket.
- After sunset, you must at least carry a white lantern or flashlight. This light should be strong enough so that other boats can see it at least two miles away. The light must be displayed in time to avoid a collision with another watercraft.
- Registration is required if your paddleboard is more than 10 feet long. Place the registration decals on the front of the paddleboard if possible. If not, place both decals on the back of the paddleboard.



Spring Lake Association

P.O. Box 631, Prior Lake, MN 55372

Connect With Us

Email | Board.SLA@gmail.com

Facebook | <https://www.facebook.com/SpringLakeAssociation>

Website | www.SpringLakeAssociation.org

Attention Boaters | Before leaving Spring Lake Landing:

CLEAN

Your boat

DRAIN

All water

DISPOSE

of your trash