CITY OF BURNSVILLE

Water Quality Update

2016

Tracking Lake Health

Eight Burnsville lakes are monitored through a volunteer program called the Citizen-Assisted Monitoring Program (CAMP), which is managed by the Metropolitan Council. During the open water season, the volunteers go out on their lake every two weeks to measure water clarity and to collect samples for algae and nutrient testing.

Lake clarity is important because it indicates how deep sunlight can reach into the water. Less light means less photosynthesis by aquatic plants, which means less oxygen for fish and other aquatic animals. Clarity is influenced by levels of microscopic plankton algae in the water. The amount of nutrients in the water, especially phosphorus, determines algae growth.

The clarity data from CAMP is summarized in the table below. The three-year clarity averages show that most monitored lakes in Burnsville are at or near their goals. These results along with other lake data guide the City's decisions about water quality programs and projects.

To learn more about the status of Burnsville lakes and the data that is collected, visit the Natural Resources webpage at *www.burnsville.org*.

Burnsville Lake Clarity Report Card
(depth measured in meters)

LAKE	2013	2014	2015	3-YR AVG.	GOAL
Alimagnet*	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.8	1.3
Crystal*	1.8	2.3	2.2	2.1	2.1
Earley	1.6	1.4	1.8	1.6	1.7
Keller*	0.6	0.8	0.7	0.7	1.8
Lac Lavon	3.8	4.0	4.2	4.0	3.6
Sunset Pond	2.2	2.2	1.4	1.9	1.7
South Twin	1.7	2.1	1.8	1.9	1.4
Wood Pond	1.3	1.3	2.5	1.7	1.7

**Considered "impaired" by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency*

Please Don't Feed the Storm Drains

Did you know that storm drains carry water directly into neighborhood ponds and lakes? You can help improve water quality by keeping pollution out of storm drains. Here are some of the worst offenders:

- Grass clippings
- Lawn fertilizer
- Autumn leaves

All of these add nutrients that can cause excess algae growth in ponds and lakes. Sweep these pollutants off your driveway, sidewalk, and road so they don't get washed down the storm drain.

City Of Burnsville

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Water Quality Fees at Work

The water quality fee on your water bill helps fund projects that combat problems associated with surface water in the city. Projects include stormwater system maintenance, stormpond cleanout, and the removal of invasive aquatic plants in lakes.

Learn more about Burnsville's Water Resources Management Plan at *www.burnsville.org/WRMP*.


Blue Flag Iris

Keller Lake Water Quality Improvement Project

This fall, construction is scheduled to begin on an underground, high performance stormwater treatment system for Keller Lake. The system will be installed at Crystal Beach Park at the corner of Lac Lavon Drive and Crystal Lake Road East.

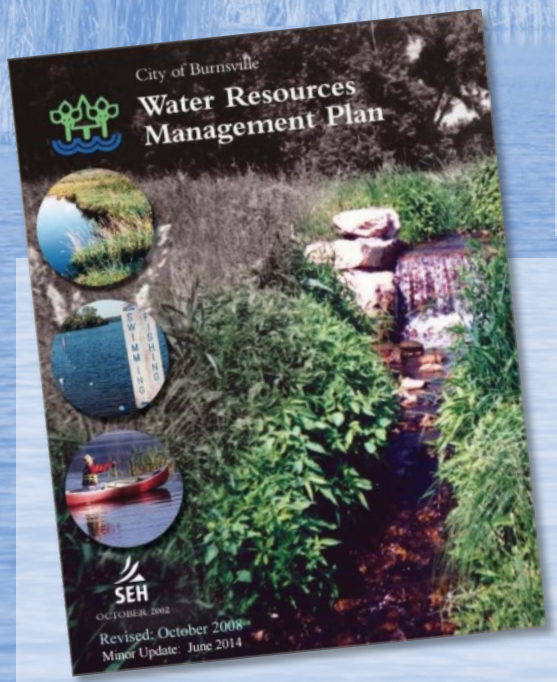
Stormwater from the surrounding neighborhood, which currently flows untreated into Keller Lake, will be diverted into an underground storage chamber and infiltration vault. The chamber will allow pollutants to settle out of the water, while the vault will let water infiltrate into the ground. Overall, the system will prevent an estimated 78 pounds of phosphorus, a major pollutant in our lakes and ponds, from entering Keller Lake.

A grant of $398,000 was awarded to the City to cover a portion of the project cost. Once the project is complete, very little of the system will be visible to park visitors.

Lady Bird Pond Renovation

Stormponds are one of two types. A dry pond or detention basin looks like a large grassy low area, collects water during rainfall events, but is usually dry. A wet pond, also known as a retention pond, maintains a permanent pool of water and also collects stormwater runoff.

In 2016, Lady Bird Pond, located in northern Burnsville, was converted from a dry pond into a wet pond so that it holds more stormwater runoff. The increased holding capacity will be important as the area is redeveloped. Also, since the pond is near the quarry lake (which provides about half of the City's drinking water) the upgrade helps protect our drinking water supply.



Updates to Management Plans

The City's Water Resources Management Plan and the Wetland Protection and Management Plan are both under review.

As part of the review, the public has the opportunity to provide input on a range of water resources topics addressed in the plans, including lake water quality goals, pond and water body high water levels, localized flooding, design standards for development and redevelopment projects, and wetland management.

An open house to discuss the plans was held in late June. A second open house will be held later this year.

For more information and to read the current plans, visit:

www.burnsville.org/NRmanagement