

WHAT IS THE CWP?

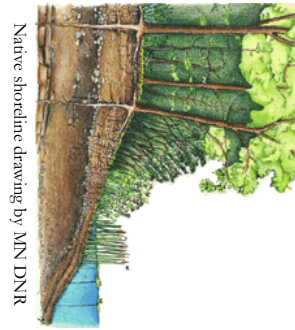
The Crystal Loon Mills Clean Water Partnership (CWP) is a locally managed project that addresses water quality issues in Crystal, Loon, and Mills Lakes. Priority issues include reducing phosphorus, increasing water transparency, decreasing harmful algal bloom intensity and frequency and educating citizens on lake-related environmental concerns.

The goal of the implementation project is to install Best Management Practices (BMPs) in the watershed to improve water quality. Targeted BMPs include buffer strips, open tile inlet conversion, nutrient management, wetland restorations, lakeshore restorations, and rain gardens.

The CWP will be providing financial assistance opportunities for rural, urban, and lakeshore landowners to reduce sources of nutrients and sediment from reaching the lakes. Crystal Loon Mills CWP will be working in cooperation with project sponsors and partners to provide additional incentives for landowners who participate in conservation programs to improve water quality in County Ditch 56 and Crystal, Loon, and Mills Lakes.



Lake Phalen after restoration. Photo by MN DNR



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CRYSTAL LOON MILLS CLEAN WATER PARTNERSHIP

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YOUR PARTNERS FOR WATER QUALITY
IMPROVEMENT IN THE CRYSTAL LAKE WATERSHED

CWP OPPORTUNITIES FOR LAKESHORE RESIDENTS AND LANDOWNERS



Crystal Lake, June 2007, near outlet to Minneopa Creek. Photo by Pat Baskfield



BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR LANDOWNERS

Lakeshore Landowners

Lakeshore BMPs focus on restoring natural vegetative buffers to reduce erosion and lawn chemicals reaching the lakes.

BMPs for lakeshore owners include ***lakescaping, shoreland restorations, and installing rain gardens.***

Soil erosion along the lakeshores can result in serious pollution of a lake. The restoration of shoreland buffer zones significantly reduces erosion and helps stabilize eroding shores.

Native vegetation traps fertilizers, chemicals and other potential pollutants, such as pet wastes that would otherwise wash directly into the lake from a lawn extended to the water's edge.

Buffers also discourage nuisance animals such as Canada geese, mallard ducks, and muskrats from congregating on your property.

The CWP provides support for lakeshore landowners as a sponsor for low or no-cost water quality related educational events and as a resource for landowners for homeowners installing water quality BMPs.

Cost-Share Available

The CWP and its partners also offer additional financial incentives for landowners who participate in eligible lakescaping and shoreline restoration programs.

Shoreland Restorations with Native Vegetation

- 75% cost-share for planting and establishment of 25 native species (local eco-type)
- One time up-front incentive of 75% CRP rate x 3 yrs per acre enrolled (CRP rate based on soil-type)
- Contact the SWCD office for more info

Clean Water Legacy State Cost-Share Program

- Funding is available on a competitive basis to cost-share up to 75% of shoreline stabilization projects to control areas that are actively eroding

MN DNR Shoreland Habitat Restoration Grant

- \$10,000—\$75,000 in cost-share funding available on competitive basis to lake associations, cities and conservation groups for restoration projects using native plants to improve fish & wildlife habitat



Elk Lake after shoreland restoration with native vegetation. Photo by MN DNR

Who to Contact with Questions

For general questions about the CWP and how to get involved contact:

SARAH DUDA, CWP Coordinator
Water Resources Center
(507) 389-2299

For information on lakescaping and shoreland restorations contact:

LEO GETSFRIED, Area Hydrologist
DNR Waters
(507) 389-2151

For questions with state cost-share and Ag BMP loans contact:

JERAD BACH, District Manager
Blue Earth County SWCD
(507) 345-4744

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