



Prior Lake~Spring Lake Watershed District

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Board of Managers

Craig Gontarek, President
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Greg Aamodt, Manager
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Highway 13 wetland restoration.

So What is a Watershed, Anyway?

A watershed is all of the land area that drains to a particular water resource, such as a lake or stream. Watershed districts are local units of government whose boundaries follow a natural watershed. They are focused on the conservation, protection and management of water resources within their designated boundaries.

Mission:

To manage & preserve the water resources of the Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District to the best of our ability using input from our communities, sound engineering practices, and our ability to efficiently fund beneficial projects which transcend political jurisdictions.

About the Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District

The Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District (PLSLWD) was formed on March 4, 1970 at the request of local citizens. The District covers about 42 square miles in Scott County, MN. The City of Prior Lake and Spring Lake Township comprise most of the District's area; Sand Creek Township and the Cities of Shakopee and Savage also have some land in the District.

Water in the PLSLWD flows mainly from the southwest to the northeast through Spring, Upper Prior and Lower Prior Lakes, and then north through the Prior Lake Outlet Channel to the Minnesota River near Valley Fair amusement park.

Did you know...

- 27,432 people live in the PLSLWD (2010 Census).
- There are 14 lakes in the PLSLWD. The largest lake is Lower Prior Lake (827 acres); the smallest is Buck Lake (23 acres).
- The District is home to a variety of plants and animals, including the rare and endangered Blandings turtle and red-shouldered hawk.
- A DNR survey found that, on average, Upper Prior Lake receives 127 person-hours/acre of fishing activity each year. That's a lot of anglers!



Who is the PLSLWD?

The PLSLWD is administered by a five-person Board of Managers appointed by the Scott County Commissioners. Each manager is selected from nominees submitted by the cities and townships in the District. All of the District's policies, goals, and accomplishments are directed by the people who serve on the Board.

The District also employs four staff. This team handles the day-to-day operation of the District, from reading Prior Lake levels, to reviewing development plans, to answering calls from interested citizens.

What does the PLSLWD do?

The Board of Managers oversees many efforts to conserve, protect and manage water resources within the PLSLWD. The District works closely with local cities, townships, Scott County and state agencies to accomplish its goals. All of the District's activities are outlined in its comprehensive plan, called the *Water Resources Management Plan*. Ongoing activities include:

- Water quality monitoring
- Land management (easements for filter strips, wetland restoration)
- Lake water quality improvement efforts (aquatic plant management, water quality education, cost-share projects)
- Permitting and inspection of development and other land-disturbing activities
- Prior Lake outlet operation and maintenance, and long-term planning for Prior Lake water levels (including enhancement of the Prior Lake Outlet Channel)
- Business, homeowner, and student stormwater education

How can I get involved?

There are many opportunities to participate in the work of the PLSLWD. Some citizens conduct lake monitoring, while others help develop management plans. Still others attend the Board of Managers' monthly meetings to provide comments and learn what's happening in the District.

The District also works with citizens and businesses on individual projects ranging from wetland restorations, to runoff management projects, to "Lake Friendly" visits. In addition, staff are available to answer questions and provide information about area water resources and conservation issues. More information can be found on the District's web site, at www.plslwd.org.

Contact us at:

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**Contact the PLSLWD office to see how you can help protect
and improve our lakes, streams and wetlands!**