



Over 80 volunteers filled assisted with the Prior Lake-Spring Lake's Clean Water Clean-up on April 23. They filled seven dump trucks with debris.

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From the Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District:

Many volunteers assist with Clean Water Clean-Up

What a difference a day makes! Neighbors of Crystal Lake in Prior Lake marveled at how much better the park looked after the City's and the Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District's Clean Water Clean-up on Sunday, April 23.

Over 80 kids, adults, Girl and Boy Scouts, St. Michael's Church volunteers, and students from Aspen Academy cleaned up leaves and organic debris to protect the lake's water quality. In addition, several adults took on the challenge of using "buckthorn pullers" to pull out invasive buckthorn plants by their roots.

The results are in—volunteers filled *seven dump trucks* with buckthorn and other woody debris and raked over *1780 pounds* of leaves! Hard to believe they did all this in just a couple of hours!

Leaves and other organic matter are carried by storm-water into storm drains and end up in lakes and streams. Once in the waterbodies, they breakdown and release phosphorus, which feeds algae. Algae growth is a serious threat to water quality, aquatic life, property values and water recreation.

Local businesses generously provided door prizes and lunch was served. The District and the City plan on doing another clean-up in the fall. Stay tuned by clicking on the link on the District's website: <http://www.plslwd.org> or on the City's website: <http://www.cityofpriorlake.com> or by calling the District at (952) 447-4166.