Lower Prior Lake is widely used as a local and regional recreational amenity, particularly for boating and fishing. In July 2013, Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District wrapped up a Diagnostic and Feasibility study which determined that water quality in the majority of the lake is determined by the direct drainage from the watershed, called out untreated and undertreated areas, and identified specific projects and opportunities by subwatershed.

The proposed project includes three elements:

1) retrofitting an existing ditch section with in-line iron-sand filters
2) expanding storage capacity and creating wetland upstream of the ditch
3) installing a new predictive control structure in the existing berm

The subwatershed in which this project is located was identified as undertreated in the Diagnostic and Feasibility study. By improving the efficiency of the existing treatment train from 35% to an estimated 78%, the overall load to Lower Prior Lake would be reduced by 19 lbs, to 10lbs/year. The three elements in this project will work together to enhance their collective effectiveness, making the overall project benefits greater than the sum of the benefit provided by each part.

On November 4th 2008, Minnesota voters approved the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment to the state constitution. The Amendment increases the sales and use tax rate by three-eighths of one percent on taxable sales continuing through 2034. Of those funds, approximately one third is dedicated to a Clean Water Fund to protect, enhance, and restore water quality in lakes, rivers, streams, and groundwater, with at least five percent of the fund targeted to protect drinking water sources.

Prior Lake – Spring Lake Watershed District has received grants from the Clean Water Fund to fund local projects, including:

- Lower Prior Lake Protection Implementation Plan
- Fish Point Park Retrofits
- Arctic Lake Restoration

For more information about the Fish Point Park Retrofits project, please contact:
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