

**Prior Lake Spring Lake
Watershed District**

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PRESERVING AND PROTECTING OUR WATER RESOURCES.

Please visit us at our website:
www.plslwd.org

Fish Point Park

WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT



Next Steps:

- **Next week:** Crews will begin installing the iron sand filter.
- **December 2015:** Construction largely complete.
- **April 2016:** Neighborhood meeting will be held to discuss vegetation plans for the site.
- **Spring 2016:** Native planting occurs. There will be opportunities for volunteers to help with planting!

Project Questions or Concerns:

Please contact Maggie Karschnia at
952-447-9808.

Other Park Related Concerns:

Please contact the City of Prior Lake at
952-447-9800.



Notes on construction

The crew has been instructed to:

- Keep the street clean, using street sweeping if necessary.
- Regularly clean out the storm drain inlet protections.
- Restrict operation of construction equipment from 7am to 7pm, as per city ordinances.
- Park on only one side of the street to aide traffic flow.

FISH POINT PARK

WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

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Funding for this project was partially provided by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency through a grant from the State's Clean Water Partnership Grant Fund.



November 6, 2015

Improving Water Quality on Lower Prior Lake



At Fish Point Park, stormwater from 89 acres of land is funneled through the park's wetland before it enters Lower Prior Lake. Stormwater runoff picks up excess nutrients, such as phosphorus, on its way to Prior Lake. This excess phosphorus can contribute to summer algal blooms.

As a widely used recreational amenity for boating, fishing and swimming, the Prior Lake Spring Lake Watershed District is working hard not only to keep the lake off the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's impaired lakes list, but to improve water quality in the lake. A 2013 study completed by the Watershed District determined that the water quality in

most areas of Lower Prior is determined primarily by the quality of water which directly drains into the lake from the watershed of Lower Prior. As a result, the District is focusing its efforts on improving untreated and under-treated areas, like Fish Point Park, which flow into Lower Prior.

The Fish Point Park Water Quality Improvements project will improve the efficiency of stormwater treatment before it enters Prior Lake. The project includes restoring and expanding the storage capacity of the park's wetland, retrofitting an existing ditch section with iron-sand filters and restoring native prairie to some areas of the park (see pages 2 & 3 for maps of the project area).

As a result of these improvements, the project will reduce the amount of phosphorus entering Prior Lake from Fish Point Park by 19 pounds per year, resulting in a 66% decrease of phosphorus loading from the park. One pound of phosphorus can produce from 300 to 500 pounds of algae, so this project could reduce the amount of algae in Lower Prior Lake by as much as 9,500 pounds!

Work is Now Underway: Progress to Date

Work on the Fish Point Park Water Quality Improvements project is now underway.

In October, a Conservation Corps Minnesota crew began tree and brush removal to prepare for the excavation of the wetland pond expansion. Contractors then removed the remaining trees for the site preparation work. The wet-

land expansion will increase the stormwater storage capacity of the site.

The excavation of the ponding area is anticipated to be finished up within the week, depending upon the weather. While most of the fill was removed from the site, some was placed on the field next to the basketball court and

along the western edge of the wetland area.

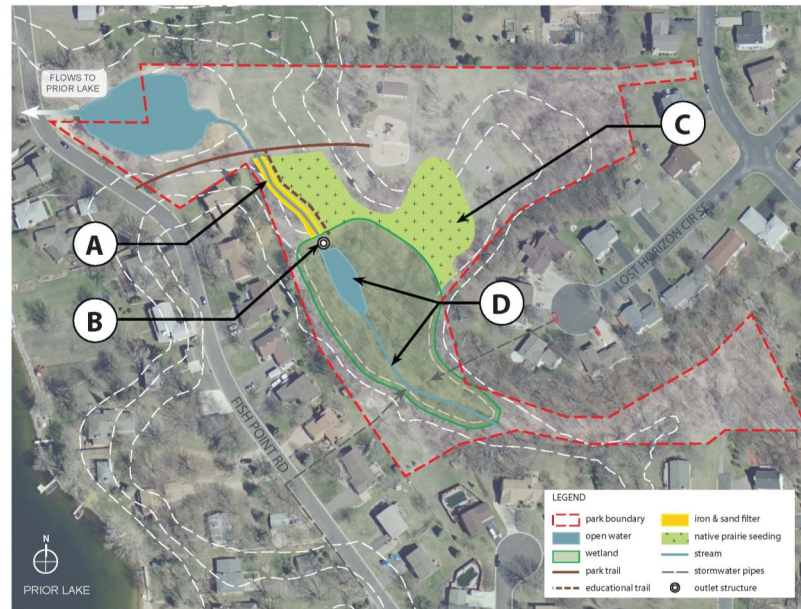
The installation of outlet structures and the iron sand filter should begin next week.

Multiple best management practices are in place to prevent erosion and keep sediment on site. Street sweepers have also been out keeping the roads clean.

Please visit us at our website for more information: www.plslwd.org

4646 Dakota Street SE, Prior Lake, MN 55372 ~ Phone: 952-447-4166 ~ info@plslwd.org

ORIGINAL Project Plans



Original Project Plans

In July, the original project plans for the Fish Point Park Water Quality Improvements Project were shared with neighborhood residents and the general public. The plans included the following major components of the current/updated project plan: (a) an iron-enhanced sand filter, (b) a wetland outlet structure, (c) native prairie planting and (d) wetland enhancement and native plantings.

In the original plans, the wetland enhancement was going to expand further south and to the boundaries of the park with a smaller open water pond (see map above). There was also going to be a large adjacent native prairie area that expanded over the open field almost to the edge of the basketball court.

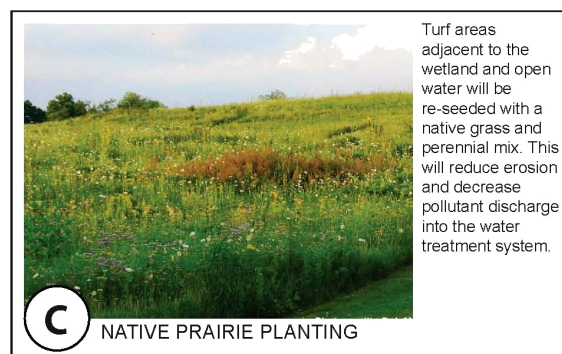
The iron-sand filter was planned to run along the stream in a ditch-check design. Water would be fed into the system by a new wetland outlet structure from the open water pond.

Summary of Neighborhood Meeting (7/15):

Following the feedback provided by residents at the July neighborhood meeting, the original plan (see map, above) was modified to incorporate resident feedback.

Modifications to the original plan include:

- ◆ A reduction in the size of the wetland enhancement area which resulted in a reduced number of trees removed.
- ◆ A decrease in the native prairie planting area in order to retain the flat playing field area and sledding hill.
- ◆ An increase in the ponding area size.



*The above photographs are for reference purposes only.



UPDATED Project Plans

Based upon feedback from the July and October neighborhood meetings, the plans were changed to accommodate neighborhood requests:

- The majority of the fill from the excavation of the wetland area was originally planned to be placed at the bottom of the sledding hill and to the west of the basketball court. As residents were concerned this would impact their use of this area, most of the fill is now being moved off-site. This area will no longer be included in the prairie restoration area and will be restored to turf grass.
- Neighbors expressed a desire for a larger, open water area in the wet-
- land. In response, the new design has expanded the open water area with a more shallow water depth on the west side closest to the residents to address safety concerns.
- In the original plans, the wetland enhancement area expanded to the property line on the east side. Neighbors during the July 15th meeting were in support of removal of trees for the wetland area, but wanted it to see the amount of removals limited. The wetland enhancement area was reduced for a lower impact on the trees in the park in response to the feedback.
- The contractor was also instructed to

only park on one side of the road, as neighbors expressed concern about traffic pass-through during the July meeting.

- The project plans include tree and shrub plantings in the wetland area. At the follow-up neighborhood meeting on October 29th, watershed district staff discussed shifting the planned location of these shrubs/trees to the west side of the wetland, as well as potentially adding some additional trees to provide some screening for neighboring residents. There will be another neighborhood meeting in April 2016 to discuss these plans.

