

Water quality work begins near Lower Prior Lake

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Efforts to improve water quality on Lower Prior Lake entered a new phase this week.

The city and the Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District have begun what they call the Fish Point Park Retrofit Project, which is based on an earlier study showing that the water quality on the majority of Lower Prior Lake is determined by direct drainage from the watershed.

Work started this week on the removal of trees and underbrush in the park, near the lake. The plan is to restore and improve a wetland, install a water level control structure to slow down the water, place an iron enhanced sand filter to target dissolved phosphorus in the water and restore the adjacent area to native prairie plants.

Lower Prior Lake is widely used as a local and regional recreational lake, particularly for boating and fishing.

More information on the project is available at www.plslwd.org/district-projects.

Lori Carlson



Clean lakes

Tree leaves are a source of phosphorus, the nutrient that leads to algae growth that turns lakes and wetlands green.