

NEWS BRIEF

Watershed district announces water quality improvement award winners

Four local families were awarded \$500 each for their efforts to protect water quality on their own properties,

according to a news release from the Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District. One family also received an honorable mention.

The Water Quality Improvement Award was created by the watershed district's Citizen Advisory Committee to encourage residents to install projects to protect their shorelines, store storm water, use native vegetation and reduce pollutants from

running into local bodies of water. This is the second year of the award.

"We are inspired by the actions these individuals took to protect water quality in our local lakes," Jodi See, co-chair of the award, said. "These projects require considerable time, effort and money and maintenance, so they are an ongoing commitment. Two of the awardees received assistance from the

district's cost share program. We applaud their devotion to the environment and to their communities."

The 2017 award winners are:

■ **Christian Morkeberg**, who combined a rain garden with shoreline restoration, which reduced runoff to Spring Lake.

■ **Cindy Sellin**, who installed a filter strip on her shoreline that slows runoff

and prevents contaminants such as sediments, organic matter, nutrients and pathogens from running into Lower Prior Lake.

■ **Jim Lally**, who installed a rain garden that reduces storm water runoff into Spring Lake. Lally was nominated by another homeowner.

■ **Eric Zastrow**, who installed a rain garden on the east side of Willow Beach Association property, which

reduced the runoff ment running into U or Lake. Zastrow w nated by another ho James and C

Freemon were select honorable mention award after they in rain garden to cat water runoff that wa mud and erosion o and densely shaded their property.