SUCCESS REPORT

SRRWD

Shell Rock River Watershed District

ABOUT US

DISTRICT MISSION:

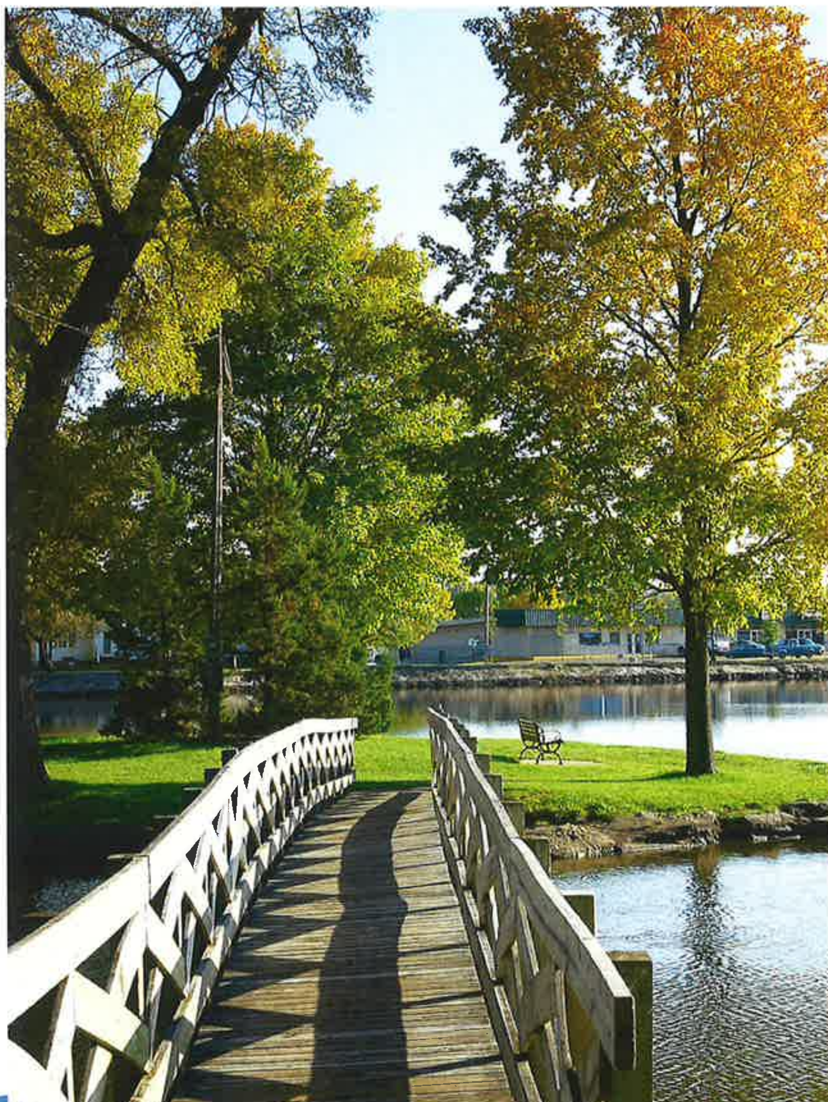
To implement reasonable and necessary improvements to the water-related and other natural resources of the District.

STAFF:

Andy Henschel, Administrator
Courtney Phillips, Program and Project Manager
Carmen Christensen, Financial Technician
Scott Christenson, Technical Specialist
Leah Stadheim, Administrative Assistant and Outreach Coordinator

BOARD OF MANAGERS:

Gary Pestorious
Alan Bakken
Dan DeBoer
Mick Delger
Brad Kramer
Joe Pacovsky
Mike Hanson



2003
FORMED THE DISTRICT

6
CITIES

13
LAKES IN THE WATERSHED

246
SQUARE MILES IN SIZE

MAP OF WATERSHED

The purpose of the Shell Rock River Watershed District (SRRWD) is to conserve and restore water resources of the District for the beneficial use of current and future generations. The District accomplishes these goals through the following activities: managing lakes, streams, wetlands and groundwater, monitoring water quality, providing flood mitigation, restoring streambanks, promoting best management practices, and educating residents.

The SRRWD was formed on June 25, 2003 at the request of local citizens. The District is located entirely within Freeborn County and includes the towns of Albert Lea, Hayward, Glenville, Twin Lakes, Manchester and parts of Clarks Grove.

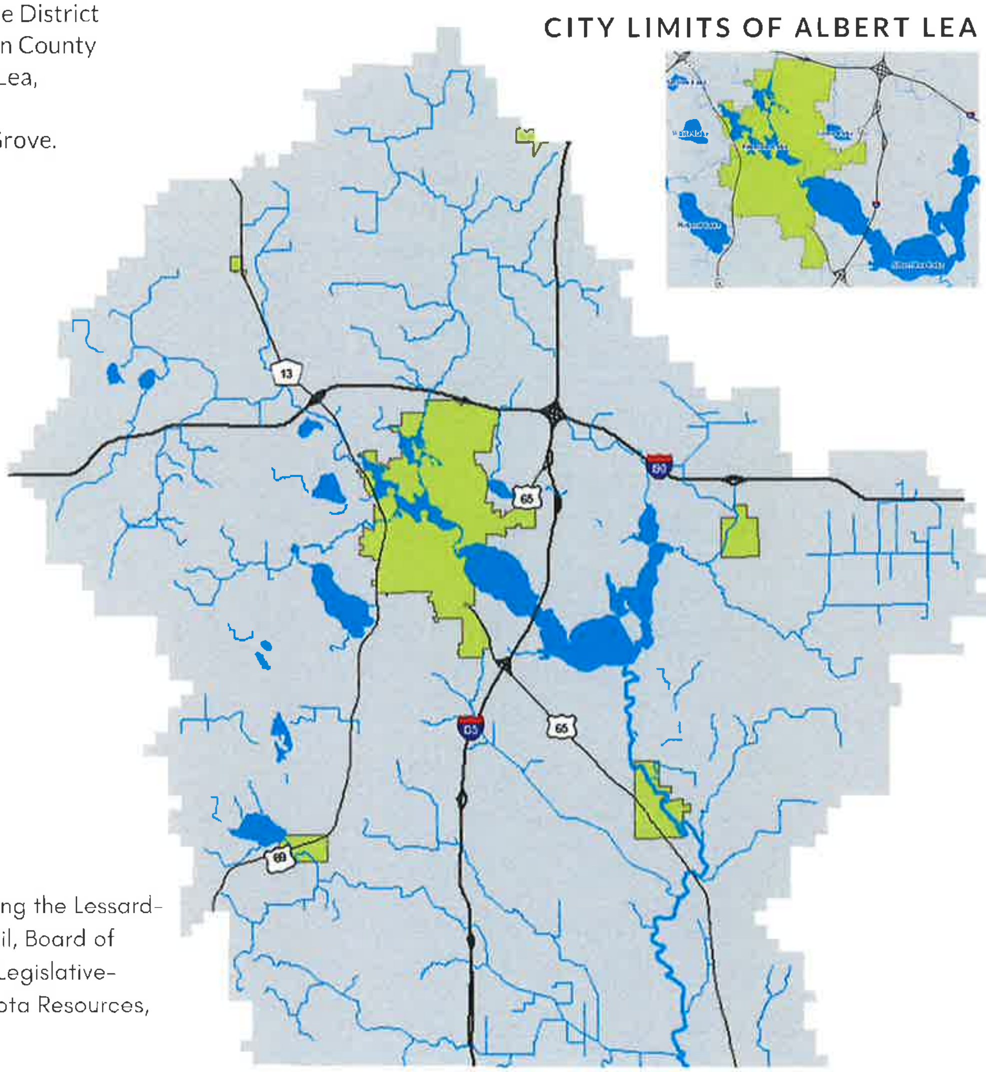
LAKES:

- Albert Lea
- Fountain
- Pickerel
- White
- Lower Twin
- Upper Twin
- Sugar
- Halls
- Goose
- School Section
- Mud
- Church
- Eberhart

FUNDING SOURCES:

- Local Options Sales Tax
- Administrative Levy
- Bond Levy
- Multiple grant providers including the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council, Board of Water and Soil Resources, the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources, and state bonding dollars

CITY LIMITS OF ALBERT LEA



FOUNTAIN LAKE RESTORATION PROJECT

THE PROBLEM

Fountain Lake is a 555 acre waterbody that is central to Albert Lea's tourism industry and identity and is a popular destination for boating, swimming, water skiing, fishing, canoeing and kayaking. Added to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's list of impaired waters in 2008, the lake suffered from high phosphorus concentrations, overabundant algae and low clarity.

A significant part of the problem was excessive internal phosphorus loading from the lake sediment. Large amounts of phosphorus rich sediment has historically been deposited in Fountain Lake. The District conducted a study in 2009 that showed that Fountain Lake had much higher concentrations compared to the other lakes.

Analysis of water quality monitoring data indicated that approximately 40% of the annual phosphorus load to Fountain Lake was from its internal sediment release.

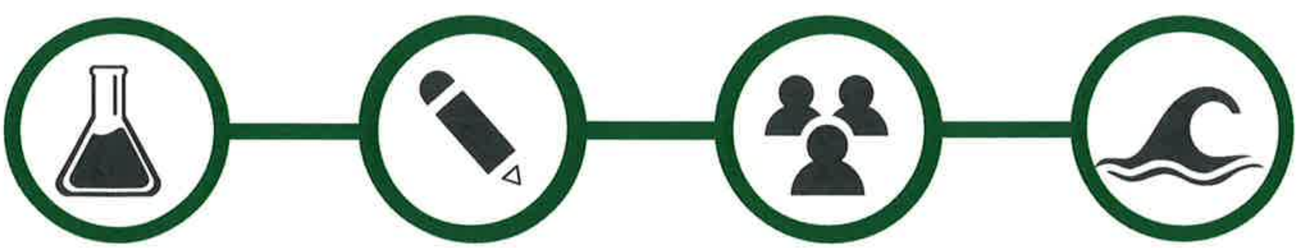
THE SOLUTION

The District completed numerous projects upstream of Fountain Lake to reduce continued sediment loading, but still needed to address the internal phosphorus levels.

The District looked to dredging as one way to combat the internal phosphorus loading. Mobile and organic phosphorus tends to be most concentrated in the upper feet of lake sediment referred to as the "active" layer. Removal of this layer should expose sediment with a lower potential for internal loading.

The District conducted a Dredging Feasibility Study where multiple deep sediment cores were collected over the lake. On average, substantially lower phosphorus concentrations were detected at deeper sediment depths in comparison with the surface sediment. Therefore, it was shown that dredging much of the active layer would lower the potential for internal phosphorus loading.

PROCESS



DATA
Collected Water Monitoring Data

CONCEPT
Engineered the Design and Modeled Results

COLLAB
Collaborated with Local Stakeholders for Funding and Agencies for Permits

IMPLEMENT
Began the Fountain Lake Restoration Project

TIMELINE

2013

FOUNTAIN LAKE RESTORATION PROJECT INITIATED

2015

BONDING DOLLARS SECURED

HIRED CONSULTING FIRM

2016

CDF SITE PURCHASED

2017

CDF CELL 1 CONSTRUCTED

SALES TAX EXTENDED

2018

BEGAN DREDGING PHASE 1 EDGEWATER BAY

CDF CELL 2 AND 3 CONSTRUCTED

2019

COMPLETED DREDGING PHASE 1 EDGEWATER BAY

CDF CELL 2 AND 3 CONSTRUCTED

2020

BEGAN DREDGING PHASE 2 MAIN BAY

2021

COMPLETED DREDGING PHASE 2 MAIN BAY

PLAN PHASE 3 DREDGING

EDGEWATER BAY-PHASE 1

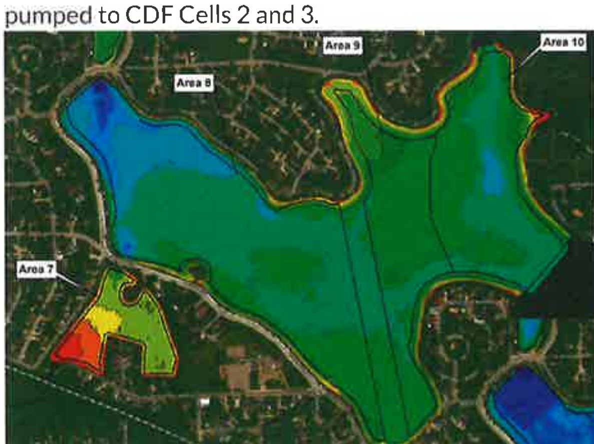
Active dredging for Phase 1 began in 2018 and was completed in 2019. In total, 648,168 cubic yards of sediment were removed from Edgewater Bay. In this bay, deeper cuts were incorporated where a few streams inlet into the lake. This will offer as a trap from sediment further depositing into the lake. Sediment from this phase of dredging was pumped to Cell 1 of the Confined Disposal Facility (See CDF Cell 1 in year 2017).

BEFORE

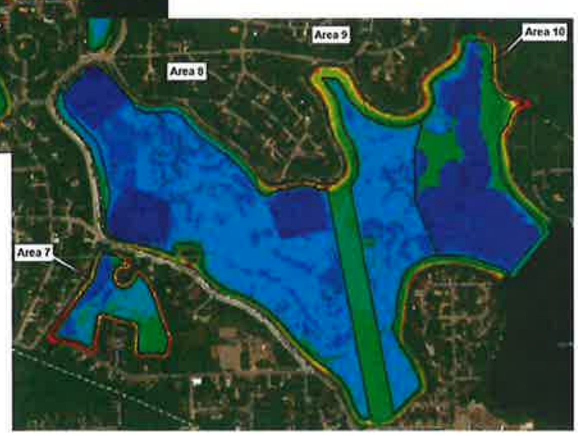
AFTER

MAIN BAY AND DANES BAY - PHASE 2

Active dredging for Phase 2 began in 2020 and was completed in 2021. In total, 618,490 cubic yards of sediment was removed. In some locations, natural lake bottom was reached and the cubic yards were removed in different areas of the lake. Dredging was limited between area 8 and 9 due to existing under ground utilities. Sediment from Phase 2 was pumped to CDF Cells 2 and 3.



BEFORE



AFTER

A LOOK INTO 2021

MILLER TRACK WETLAND

Located two miles east of Alden, this project was divided into two phases. The first phase began in 2021 and included the construction of berms, private tile breaks, and wetland scrapes to create four wetland basins. Phase two of the project will begin in 2022 and will include modifications to the public drainage system. This project was a collaboration with the District and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Funding was made possible by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council.

LOWER TWIN RESTORATION

This restoration project is located on Minnesota Department of Natural Resources property at the outlet of Lower Twin Lake. The restoration project included the installation of a rock berm fish barrier to prevent the movement of rough fish into the chain of lakes and a stream enhancement to stabilize the soil and implement habitat features. Both projects were completed in 2021 and funding was made possible by Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council.

UPPER TWIN PUMP STATION

Construction for the Upper Twin Lake Pump Station started in 2020, but final touch up of the outlet was completed in 2021. The pump station will separate Upper and Lower Twin Lake and allow them to be managed independently by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Work included installing a pump and backwater structure, as well as replacing a box culvert under County Road 80. Funding for this project was made possible by Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council and partners included the MN Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

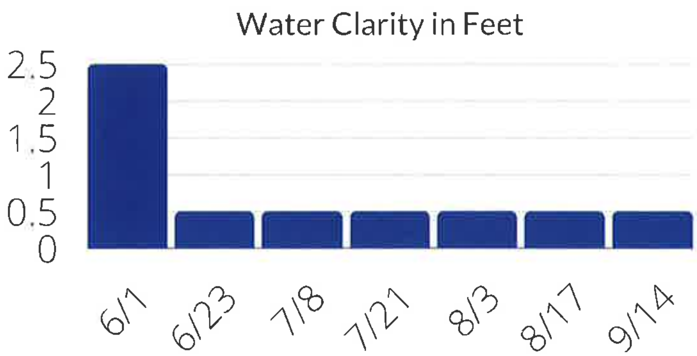
ALSO IN 2021

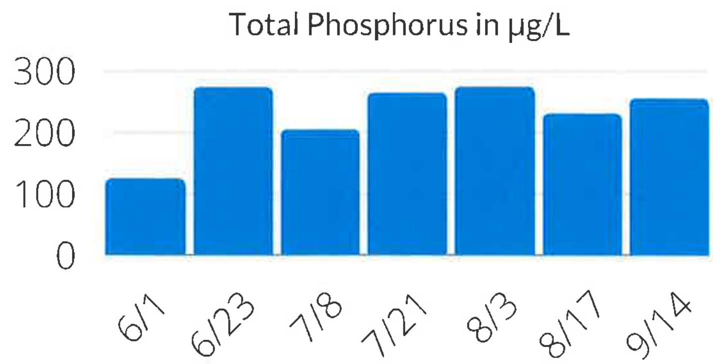
- Completed the Credit Trading Pilot Program that was funded by the LCCMR.
- Received $1,547,000 for Phase 10 of the Habitat Restoration Program.
- Completed a Wedge Creek Reach 1 Vegetative Restoration that targeted the removal of buckthorn and included a vegetative burn.
- Purchased the Glenville Property along the Shell Rock River in Glenville using Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council funding. This property will provide access to the Shell Rock River and provide protection of the shoreline.
- Purchased the Bancroft Property using Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council funding to soon implement a wetland restoration.
- Completed Phase 2 of the Fountain Lake Restoration Project.
- Completed the Pickerel Lake Site 12 Wetland Project that provided spawning habitat for game fish species.

2021 DATA

PICKEREL LAKE

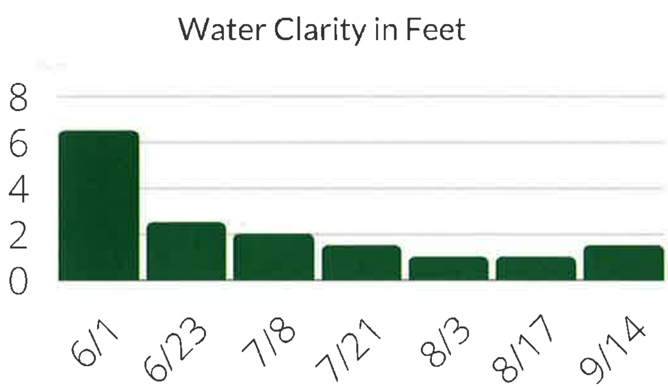
Pickerel Lake reported a decline in water clarity and quality. The average water clarity was 0.78 feet, which did not meet state standards of 2.3 feet. The average total phosphorus value was 232µg/L which is much higher than the state standard of 90µg/L.

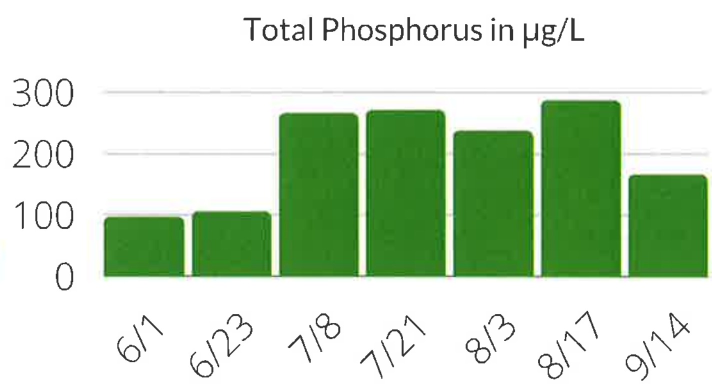




FOUNTAIN LAKE

Fountain Lake almost met standards for clarity in 2021. The average water clarity was 2.28 feet, with state standards being 2.3 feet. The average total phosphorus value was 204µg/L which is higher than the state standard of 90µg/L.

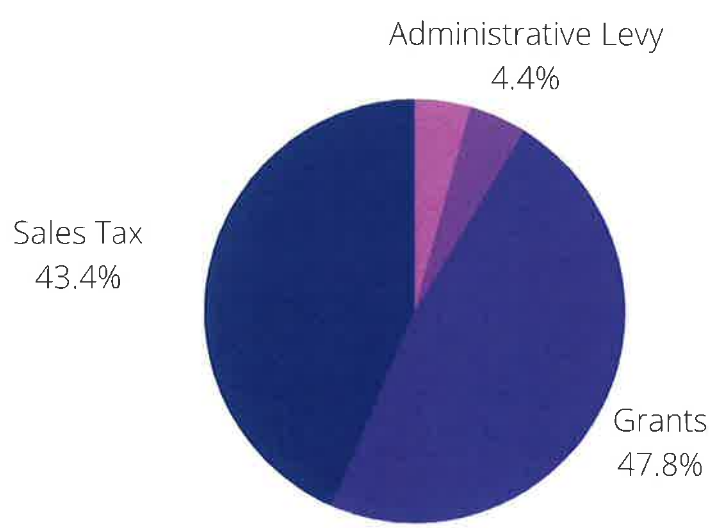




2021 BUDGET

PROJECT	EXPENSE
Credit Trading	$361,524
Lower Twin Fish Barrier	$550,244
Upper Twin Pumping Station	$715,283
Miller Track Wetland	$329,981
Wedge Creek Reach 1	$57,086
Pickerel Lake Site 12	$83,968
Glenville Property	$103,102
Bancroft Property	$613,529
Dredging Fountain Lake	$11,159,725
J9 Outlet Repair	$81,705
Cost Share Rain Barrels	$60
Water Monitoring	$28,320
Sponsored Canoe Trips	$6,000

INCOME	AMOUNT
Grants	$1,565,510
Administrative Levy	$145,443
Sales Tax	$1,422,869
Bond Levy	$142,178



A LOOK INTO 2020

PIONEER PARK

Along Fountain Lake, on the City owned park, this restoration project was designed to restore the lakeshore, prevent further degradation of erosion, and improve lake habitat with the installation of buried woody structures. The submerged tree branches will be utilized by nearly all fish species during their lifecycle, and mostly are used for spawning habitat and refuge for small fish. Funding for this project was made possibly by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council and project partners include the City of Albert Lea.

ORR WETLAND PURCHASE

After being approached by the landowner, the District, in collaboration with Pheasants Forever, purchased the property for a future wetland restoration. This property, located two miles east of Alden, will eventually be transferred to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and will expand the current Iowa, Chicago & Eastern Waterfowl Production Area. Construction of the wetland restoration is expected to start in 2022. Funding was made possible by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council.

TWO STAGE DITCH

The District partnered with the Freeborn County Drainage Authority to implement a two stage ditch project that was located in the J9 ditch system. A two stage ditch is a design in which benches are found within the ditch bottom. The ditch provides a low flow channel and a vegetated bench during flooded, higher flows. Benefits include reduced downstream exports of nutrients and sediment and makes the banks more stable which reduces the maintenance cost.

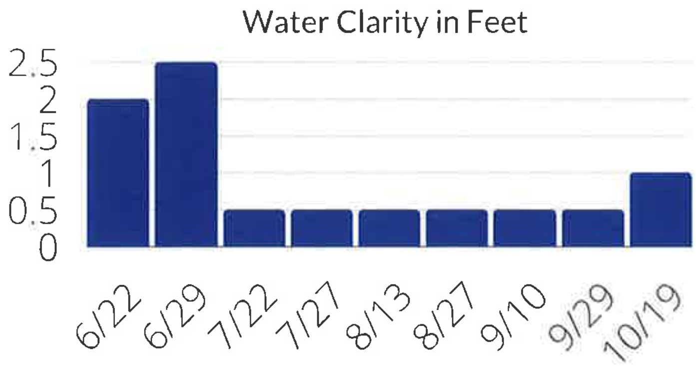
ALSO IN 2020

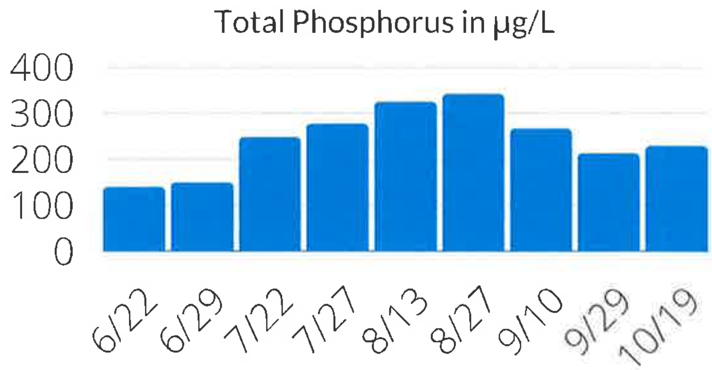
- Provided cost sharing to Freeborn Mower Electric Cooperative and Albert Lea Law to install rain gardens that exceeded state stormwater standards.
- Received $1,918,000 for Phase 9 of the Habitat Restoration Program.
- Completed water monitoring as a result of a Surface Water Assessment Grant program by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.
- Purchased the Church Lake Property using Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council funding. This property will protect 80 acres of historic Oak Savanna stands and provide access to Church Lake.
- Purchased the Schroeder Property using Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council funding. This property provides permeant protection of 22 acres and includes an unaltered stream.

2020 DATA

PICKEREL LAKE

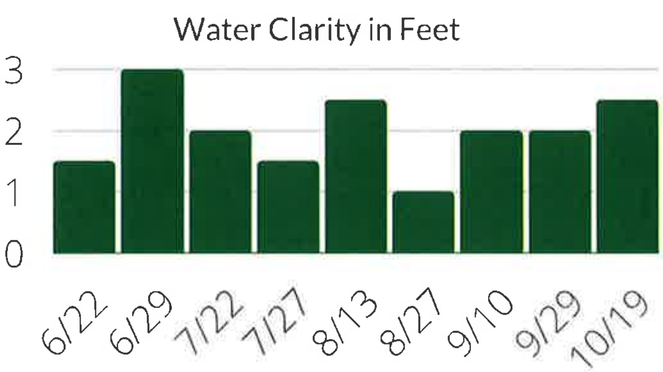
Pickerel Lake suddenly had declining water clarity and quality starting in 2020. The average water clarity was 1.05 feet, which does not meet standards of 2.3 feet. The average total phosphorus value was 231µg/L which is higher than the state standard of 90µg/L.

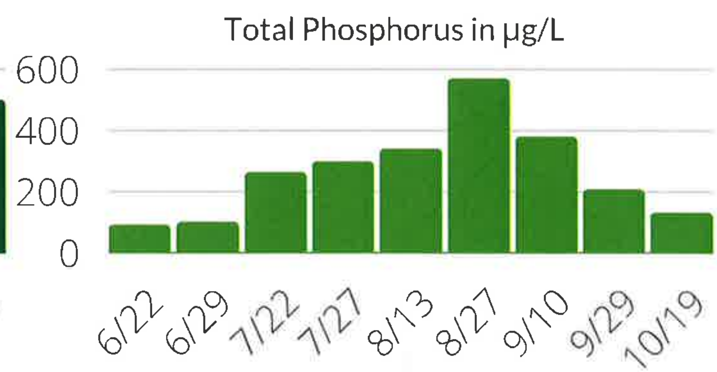




FOUNTAIN LAKE

The average water clarity was 2 feet, which missed state standards of 2.3 feet. The average total phosphorus value was 281µg/L which is higher than the state standard of 90 µg/L.

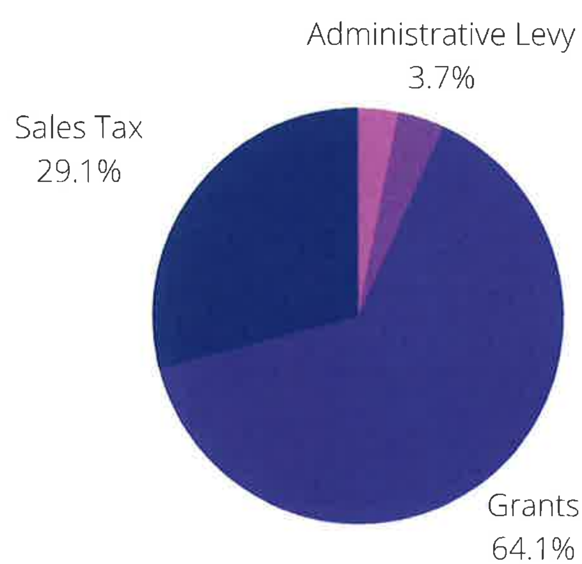




PROJECT	EXPENSE
Mud Lake Property	$117,492
Schroeder Property	$161,155
Orr Property	$715,528
Church Lake Property	$463,593
Pioneer Park Restoration	$114,253
Cost Sharing	$41,680
CDF Cells 2 and 3	$2,064,719
Two Stage Ditch	$143,858
Water Monitoring	$100,378
Sponsored Canoe Trips	$12,000
S.W.A.G. Water Monitoring	$18,916

INCOME	AMOUNT
Grants	$3,447,306
Administrative Levy	$197,146
Sales Tax	$1,561,622
Bond Levy	$168,000

2020 BUDGET



A LOOK INTO 2019

OWENS WETLAND RESTORATION

This wetland restoration consisted first of the acquisition in 2018 of the ground located on the corner of US HWY 69 and County Road 17, followed by a wetland restoration. Funding for purchasing the ground was provided by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council and the wetland restoration was funded by a Targeted Watershed grant from the Board of Water and Soil Resources. Work included disabling and plugging drain tile, installing a water level management structure to hold water in the Pickerel Lake subwatershed, which further reduces the rapid water level rise on Pickerel Lake.

WASMOEN WETLAND RESTORATION

Located on the west side of Pickerel Lake, this project included modifications to subsurface tile drainage, installation of surface water intakes, and berm installations for the creation of 32 wetlands. Additionally 248 acres of native upland species were also established. Financing for this project was made possible from the Board of Water and Soil Resources by a Targeted Watershed grant. The ground is now under U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service ownership and is open to public hunting.

VANDEGRIFT PURCHASE

Using Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council funding the District was able to purchase approximately 20 acres of a historic floodplain to complete an upcoming wetland restoration. Once connected to the Wedge Creek system, an old railroad berm now blocks the property from providing flood water storage. The District will be constructing a wetland to hold water with an installed water level control structure in the near future. This project will provide flood storage while benefiting habitat.

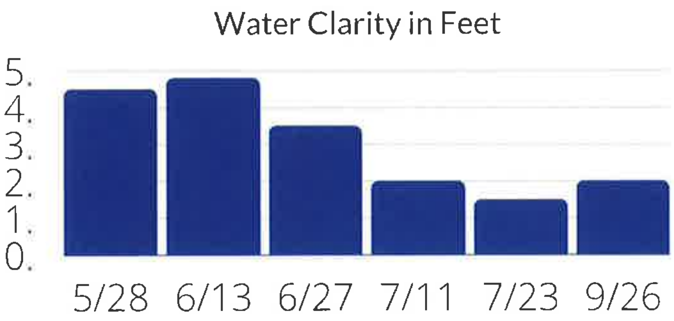
ALSO IN 2019

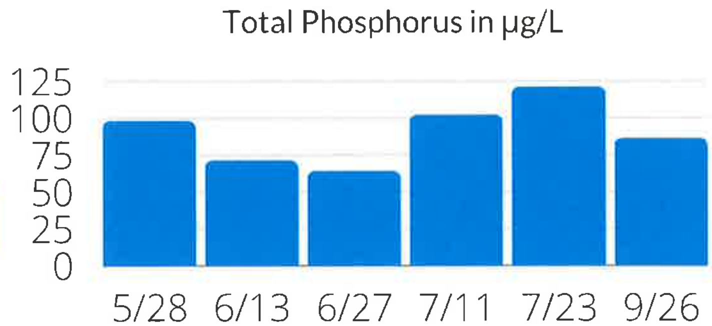
- Purchased 45 acres of the Owens Property with Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council funding for the purpose of installing wetlands on the site and planting prairie uplands.
- Provided a cost share to the City of Albert Lea in the amount of $25,000 for installing a rain garden in a municipal parking lot by Morin Park.
- Hosted a GreenCorps Member that was funded by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. Their main goal was to implement rain gardens and provide education and outreach to the community.
- Received $2,046,000 for Phase 8 of the Habitat Restoration Program.

2019 DATA

PICKEREL LAKE

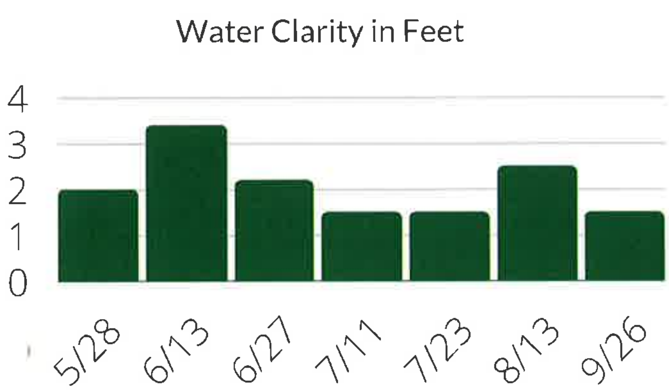
Pickerel Lake had higher water clarity earlier in the year. The average water clarity was 2.9 feet, which exceeded the state standards of 2.3 feet. The average total phosphorus value was 124µg/L which is higher than the state standard of 90µg/L.

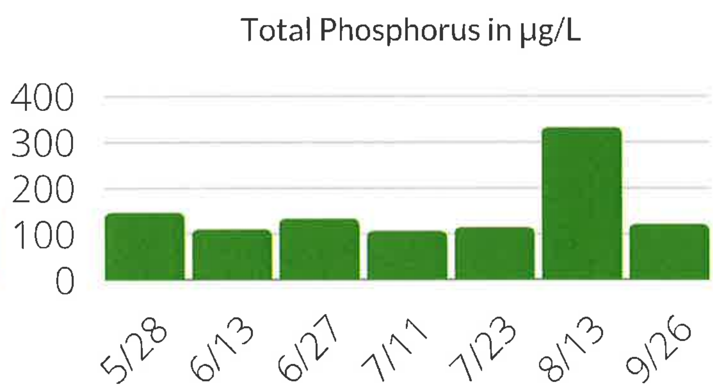




FOUNTAIN LAKE

The average water clarity was 2.08 feet, which does not meet state standards of 2.3 feet. The average total phosphorus value was 150µg/L which is higher than the state standard of 90µg/L.

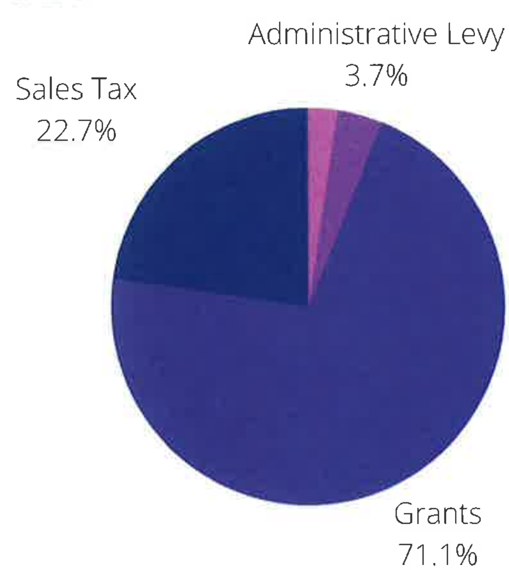




2019 BUDGET

PROJECT	EXPENSE
Vandegrift Purchase	$119,038
Owens Property	$449,381
Cost Share Rain Gardens	$3,336
Cost Share Rain Barrels	$130
Cost Share City of Albert Lea	$25,000
Water Monitoring	$125,175
Sponsored Canoe Trips	$12,000
Owens Wetland	$179,860
Wasmoen Wetland	$336,492

INCOME	AMOUNT
Grants	$4,887,948
Administrative Levy	$253,431
Sales Tax	$1,561,386
Bond Levy	$167,180



A LOOK INTO **2018**

CARP STUDY

The District has worked hard to limit the reproductive success of common carp in the watershed by installing multiple fish barriers that prevent carp from traveling upstream to spawn. Stemming from that goal, the District received funding from Freeborn County for Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) management. From that grant, the District was able to capture carp and implant them with trackers to identify where the populations are during the year. The District also installed pit tags in some fish to identify the success of the electrical fish barriers that were already installed.

STREAMBANK RESTORATION

Using Targeted Watershed Funds from the Board of Water and Soil Resources, the District was able to complete a streambank restoration on a tributary stream to Pickerel Lake. The stream had eroding banks that were depositing sediment directly into Pickerel Lake. By grading back portions of the streams to form a more stable slope and installing toe wood in the bends, the stream is now in a repaired state. Rock was also used to stabilize bends where other best management practices could not be used.

STORMWATER CREDIT TRADING

The District received funding from the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) to implement a Pilot Credit Trading System for Stormwater in the District. Credit trading is a flexible, cost effective compliance plan that can accelerate implementation and water quality improvements. This program is a collaborative effort between the District, City of Albert Lea, and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency along with credit trading consultants. Stormwater credit trading begins when an upstream landowner, or discharger, reduced pollution or nutrients below levels that are required by law. The reductions are then verified and translated into credits that are sold to a credit bank. A final trading plan and forms were created from this funding.

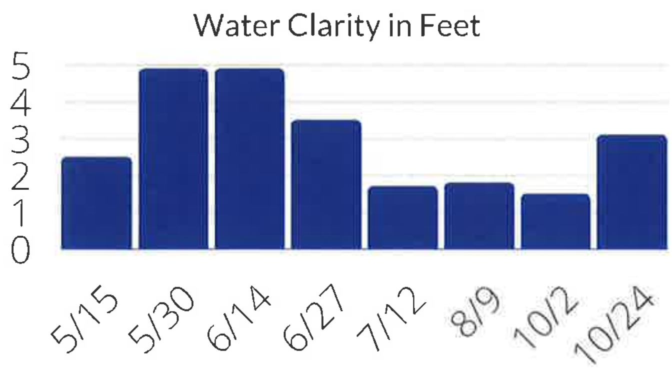
ALSO IN 2018

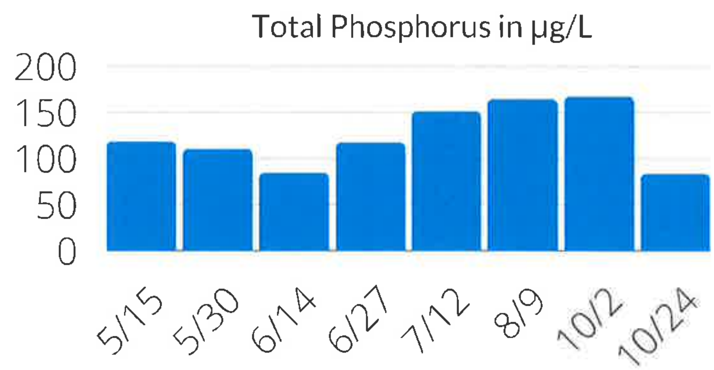
- Received $1,421,000 for Phase 7 of the Habitat Restoration Program.
- Provided a cost share for pet waste stations to be positioned around Fountain Lake. This offers pet owners the opportunity to discard their pets waste rather than leaving it on the ground.
- Started working on the engineering and design for the Wasmoen and Owens Wetland Restoration project that took place in 2019.
- Increased the sponsorship to the Community Education- Brookside Boathouse to provide the opportunity to get people of all ages out on the water.
- Applied for funding for the One Watershed, One Plan, planning grant that was offered by the Board of Water and Soil Resources and entered into a grant agreement in 2019.

2018 DATA

PICKEREL LAKE

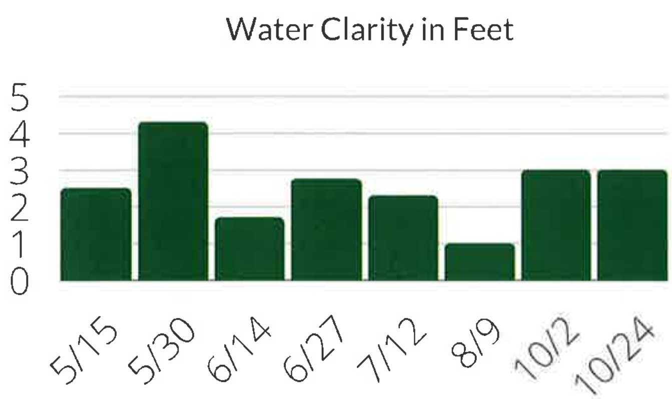
Pickerel Lake started out with great water clarity and low phosphorus values, however mid-summer the lake no longer met standards. Overall the average summer clarity was 2.9 feet and the phosphorus average was 124µg/L.

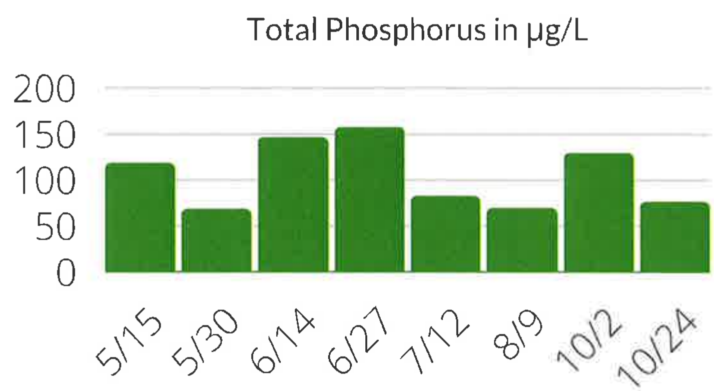




FOUNTAIN LAKE

Fountain Lake had improved water quality overall during 2018. The average water clarity was 2.4 feet, which slightly exceeds state standards of 2.3 feet. The average total phosphorus value was 119µg/L which is slightly higher than the state standard of 90µg/L.

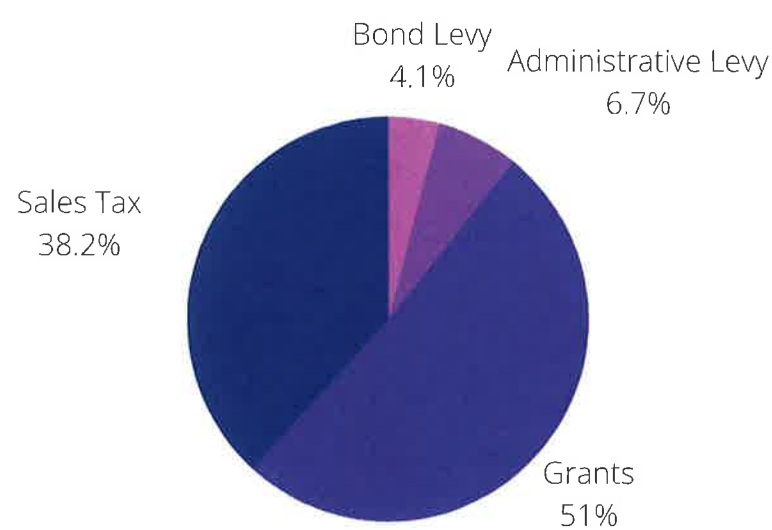




2018 BUDGET

PROJECT	EXPENSE
AIS Carp Study	$165,560
Pickerel Streambank Restoration	$141,098
Cost Share Rain Barrels	$90
Cost Share Pet Stations	$1,418
Water Monitoring	$189,990
Sponsored Canoe Trips	$15,000

INCOME	AMOUNT
Grants	$1,918,653
Administrative Levy	$250,655
Sales Tax	$1,436,080
Bond Levy	$155,152



A LOOK INTO **2017**

CDF CELL 1

Using state bonding dollars, the District began construction on the first of three Confined Disposal Facility (CDF) cells in 2017. A CDF is defined as a diked area used to contain dredged material. This is where the slurry is stored from the surrounding area and water is separated from the sediment by gravity. For the construction of this project, the District had to secure permits and approvals from the MN Department of Natural Resources, Army Corps of Engineers, the Federal Aviation Administration, MN Department of Transportation, Wetland Conservation Act approval, and many local permits.

PICKEREL LAKE DAM

The former Pickerel Lake dam had failing concrete, exposed rebar and was in dire need of repair. Although the dam is owned by Freeborn County, the District saw a need to replace the structure and incorporate a fish passage as well. Securing funding from the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council, the dam replacement began in the fall of 2016. Freeborn County maintains ownership of the dam, and the dam level was placed the same height as the original structure.

WEDGE CREEK REACH 6

The Wedge Creek Reach 6 restoration, located northwest of Albert Lea, was finished in 2017. The goal was to implement habitat restoration features to provide stable streambank conditions and erosion protection, floodwater attenuation, sediment reduction and create in-stream habitat for game and non-game fish, reptiles and amphibians in the Wedge Creek subwatershed. Funding was made possible by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Hertige Council.

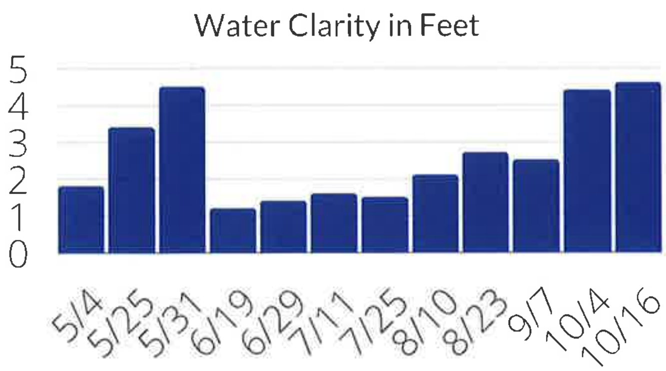
ALSO IN 2017

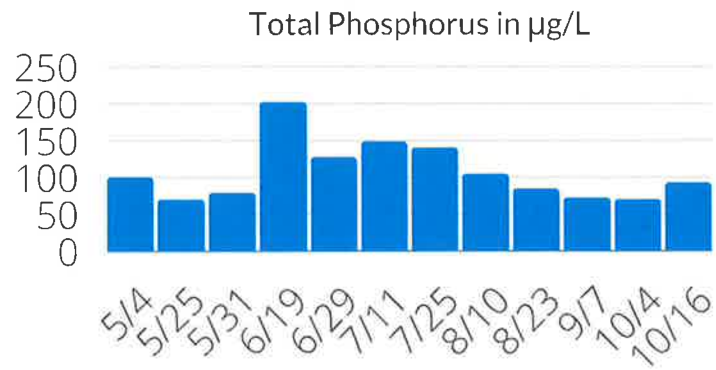
- Provided cost sharing to the City of Albert Lea for the purchase of a street sweeper. Removing debris before they enter into the lakes is important for limiting excess nutrients.
- Received $1,779,000 for Phase 6 of the Habitat Restoration Program
- Completed a large amount of water monitoring this year for the District. The District monitors large and small lakes every other week throughout the growing season and streams during the off weeks.
- Began the engineering and design for CDF cells two and three to begin construction.
- Requested bids for Phase 1, Contract 1, of the Fountain Lake Restoration Project to dredge Edgewater Bay.

2017 DATA

PICKEREL LAKE

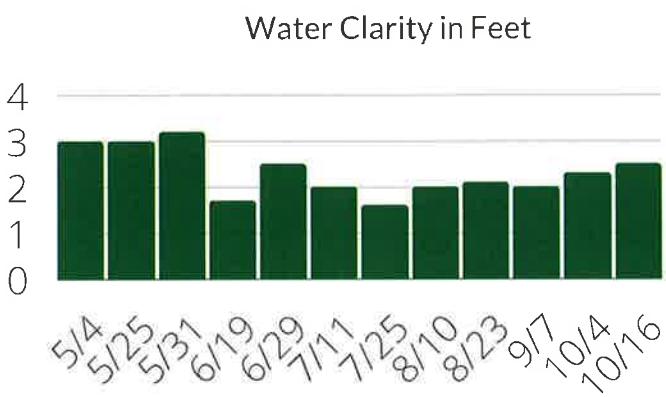
Pickerel Lake's average water clarity was 2.46 feet, exceeding state standards of 2.3 feet. The average phosphorus value was 117μg/L which is slightly higher than the standard of 90μg/L.

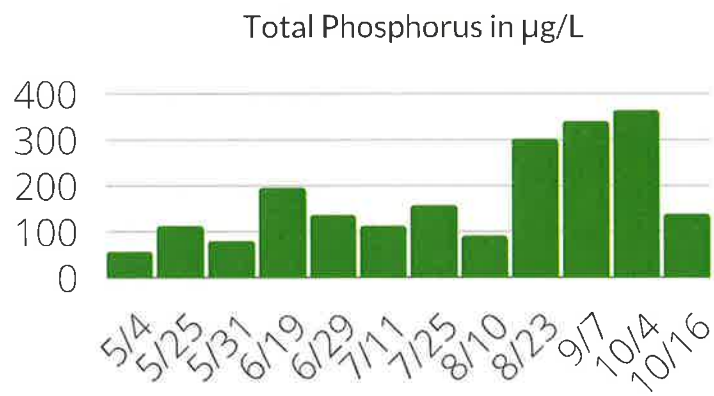




FOUNTAIN LAKE

Fountain Lake had decreasing quality as 2017 progressed. The average water clarity was 2.3 feet, which met state standards of 2.3 feet. The average total phosphorus value was 190μg/L which is higher than the state standard of 90μg/L. The late summer values increased the average.

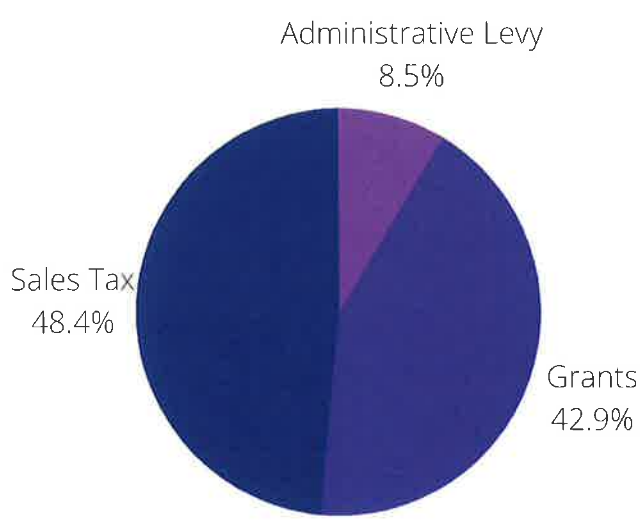




2017 BUDGET

PROJECT	EXPENSE
Pickerel Lake Dam	$640,947
Wedge Creek Reach 6	$412,097
CDF Cell 1	$1,440,586
Cost Sharing	$27,590
Water Monitoring	$162,495
Sponsored Canoe Trips	$9,000

INCOME	AMOUNT
Grants	$1,264,651
Administrative Levy	$249,840
Sales Tax	$1,427,793



A LOOK INTO **2016**

STABLES WATER IMPOUNDMENT

The District worked with the City of Albert Lea to install a stormwater impoundment on City owned property, following a joint powers agreement that aimed to reduce flooding. The District constructed a large storm water basin that captures excess rainwater and stores it upstream in the watershed. This basin is roughly 20 acres in size and treats approximately 438 acres northwest of the Stables area. Funding for this project was the District's local option sales tax and state bonding dollars.

HEADWATERS TWO PURCHASE

The District secured a Conservation Partners Legacy grant from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to purchase five acres along the Shell Rock River. This property was already surrounded by public ownership, and is listed as a State Aquatic Management Area. After the District purchased this site, it was then donated to the MN Department of Natural Resources. This property provides access to the river, public parking and is now open to public hunting and fishing.

CDF CELL PURCHASE

The purchase of this property was a vital moment in the Fountain Lake Restoration Project. Using state bonding dollars, the District was able to purchase this site for the construction of the Confined Disposal Facility cells. The District looked for property that was in close proximity to Fountain Lake, had access for water to return back to Fountain Lake, and was large enough in size to accommodate all of the dredge slurry.

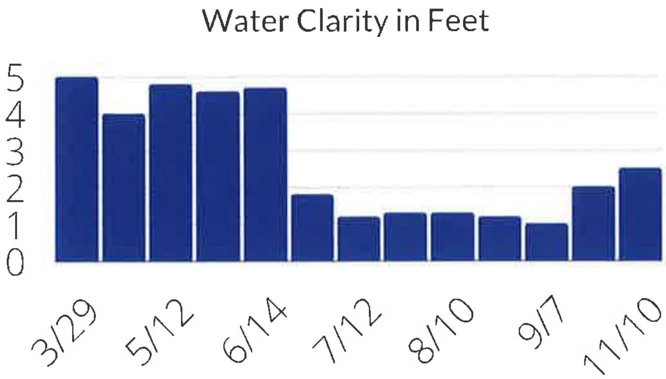
ALSO IN 2016

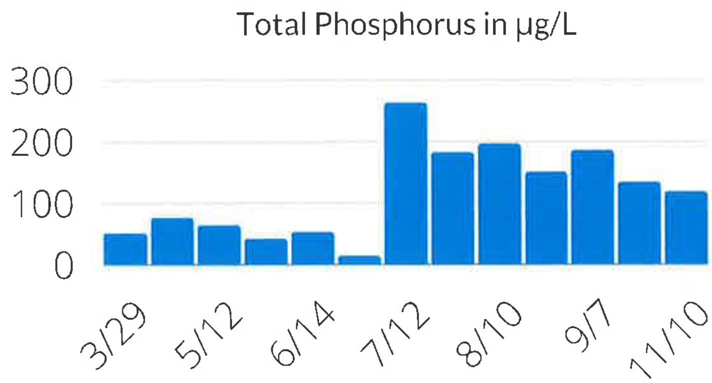
- Received $1,200,000 for Phase 5 of the Habitat Restoration Program.
- Began working with various local and state agencies on the permitting for the Fountain Lake Restoration Project including the dredging and storage of the slurry.
- Began finalizing the engineering and design for the Fountain Lake Restoration Project including dredge cuts and pipeline access routes.
- Received $825,000 in funding from the Board of Water and Soil Resources for their Targeted Watershed Program Grant. Efforts of this funding will go into the Pickerel Lake subwatershed.

2016 DATA

PICKEREL LAKE

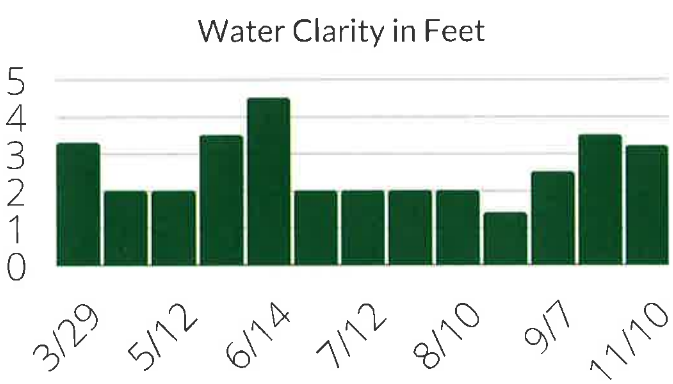
Pickerel Lake started out with improved water clarity and low phosphorus values, however mid-summer the lake no longer met standards. Average clarity was 2.67 feet and total phosphorus was 116µg/L.

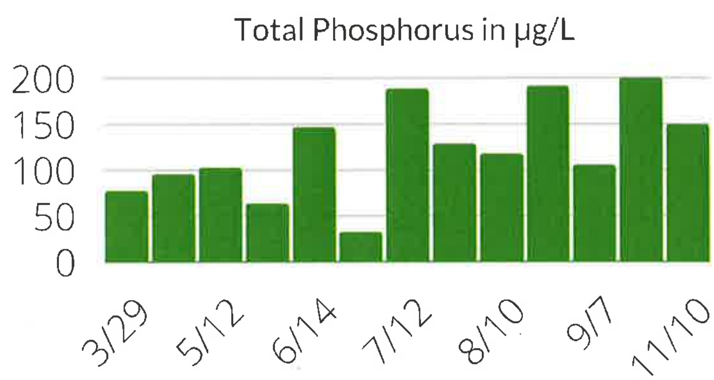




FOUNTAIN LAKE

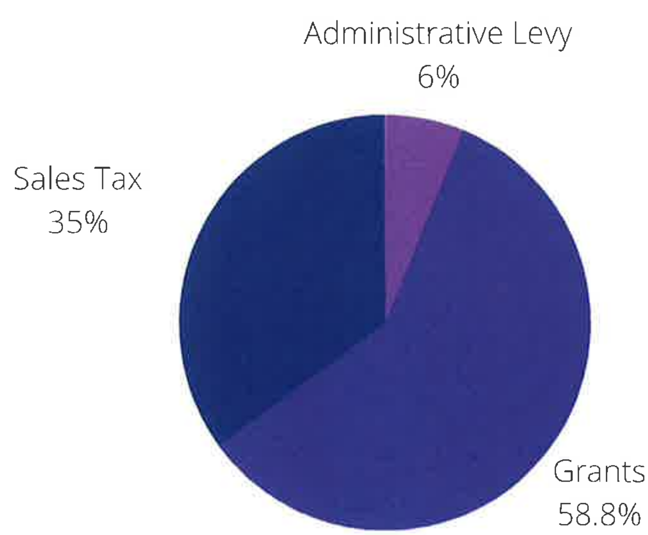
Fountain Lake had improved water quality overall during 2016. The average water clarity was 2.67 feet, which exceeds state standards of 2.3 feet. The average total phosphorus value was 116µg/L which is slightly higher than the state standard of 90µg/L.





2016 BUDGET

PROJECT	EXPENSE
Stables Area Water Mitigation	$1,480,802
Cost Share Rock Inlets	$2,440
Cost Share Rain Barrels	$150
Water Monitoring	$116,094
Sponsored Canoe Trips	$6,000
CDF Land Purchase	$1,058,037
INCOME	**AMOUNT**
Grants	$3,041,387
Administrative Levy	$251,305
Sales Tax	$1,365,430



A LOOK INTO **2015**

WEDGE CREEK RESTORATION

Funding for the Wedge Creek Restoration Projects came from the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council and Conservation Partners Legacy funding. The program included restoration and enhancement of in-stream, riparian fish and wildlife habitat in the watershed. The entire 36 acre restoration was part of a program to reduce streambank erosion and reconnect streams to their floodplains all while improving habitat conditions. Reaches #1 through #5 were completed and totaled over 10,000 linear feet of restored streambanks.

CLEAN WATER LAND & LEGACY AMENDMENT

HABITAT RESTORATION PROGRAM

In 2015 the District received their first grant for funding the Habitat Restoration Program. This program was designed to be a 5 year, 20 million dollar, watershed wide effort to protect, restore and enhance habitat for fish, waterfowl and wildlife. Identified through the District's planning, these projects are truly habitat focused and aim to increase the success of wildlife in the watershed. In previous funded grants, funding was always awarded on a project specific basis. This program opened the door for multiple projects to be completed within one grant funding cycle.

STORM DRAIN AWARENESS

In Albert Lea, nearly all storm drains lead to the lakes. Unlike sewer systems, these drains do not have filtration and cleaning mechanisms, meaning that anything that goes into the storm drain eventually makes its way to a body of water. Debris such as leaves, dirt, grass clippings, salt and litter make lakes unsightly and unhealthy. Leaves and grass can release phosphorus which can cause harmful algae blooms. The District created a electronic platform in which citizens can adopt a drain and vow to keep it clean from debris. The adoption includes the ability to name the drain, a kit to stencil the drain, and cost saving incentives at the City of Albert Lea transfer station.

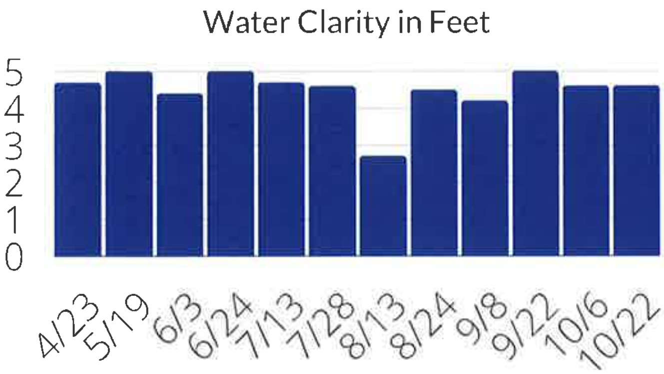
ALSO IN 2015

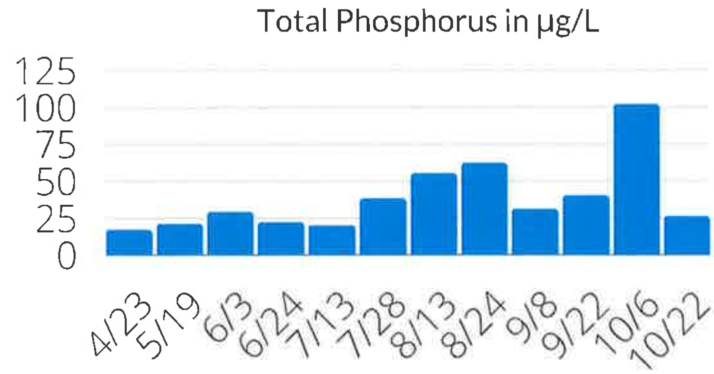
- Completed the last cost sharing payments for septic system compliance checks. The District found over 700 septic systems that needed to be upgraded as a result of the system checks.
- The District began looking at land opportunities for the Fountain Lake Restoration Project and determining if they use a CDF or rapid dewatering process.
- Received $2,414,000 for Phase 4 of the Habitat Restoration Program.

2015 DATA

PICKEREL LAKE

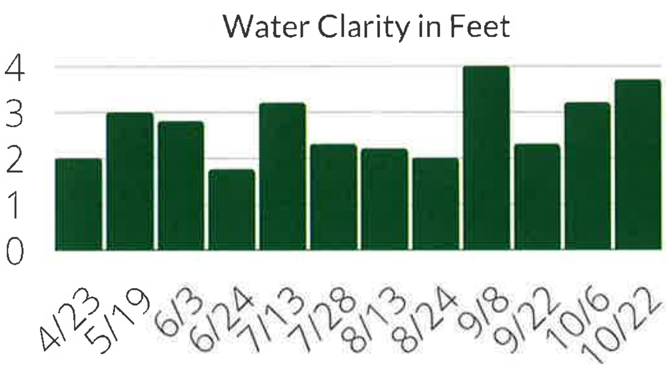
Pickerel Lake had an improved year for water clarity and quality. The average for clarity was 4.5 feet, far surpassing the state standard of 2.3 feet. State standards for phosphorus of 90µg/L was also achieved with an average of 38µg/L for 2015.

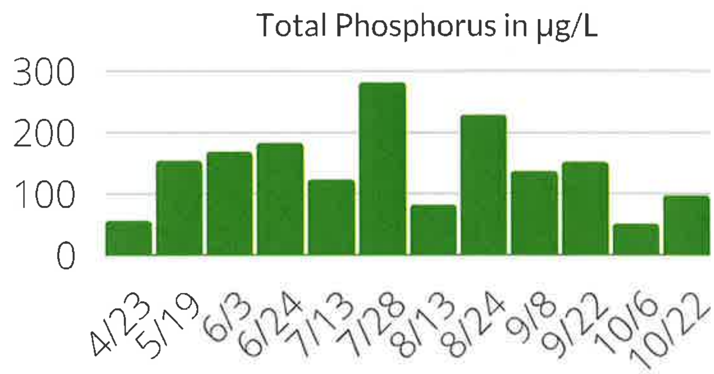




FOUNTAIN LAKE

The average water clarity was 2.71 feet, which exceeds state standards of 2.3 feet. The average total phosphorus value was 143µg/L which is higher than the state standard of 90 µg/L.

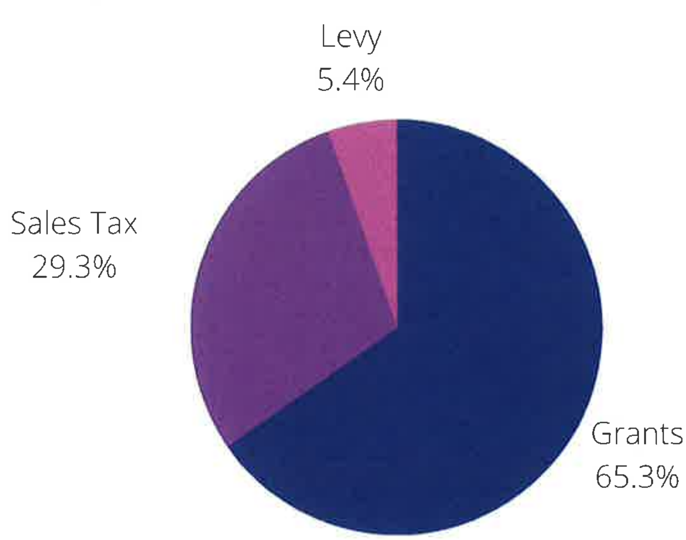




2015 BUDGET

PROJECT	EXPENSE
Cost Share ISTS	$1,500
Public Affairs	$9,000
Cost Share Rock Inlets	$1,479
Cost Share Rain Barrels	$240
Water Monitoring	$189,262
Sponsored Canoe Trips	$6,000

INCOME	AMOUNT
Grants	$2,414,000
Administrative Levy	$247,222
Sales Tax	$1,438,350



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CLEAN WATER LAND & LEGACY AMENDMENT