



# Capitol Region Watershed District

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Capitol Region Watershed District Wins Statewide Award**

*Arlington Pascal Stormwater Improvement Project named outstanding project*

On December 5, Capitol Region Watershed District (CRWD) received Project of the Year from the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD) for its Arlington Pascal Stormwater Improvement Project. Each year MAWD recognizes watershed districts throughout Minnesota for their achievements. CRWD won for cooperative pollution prevention efforts in funding stormwater facilities near Como Lake.

Older municipalities in metropolitan areas like CRWD have few stormwater management facilities to provide water quality treatment. Como Lake and its neighborhood are significantly impacted through runoff from city streets during rain events and snowmelt. Stormwater is the only water source for the lake and carries along with it anything in the street: sand, salt, yard waste, and pesticides are pollutants that enter the lake via storm drains in the watershed. Yard waste and fertilizer in particular are phosphorus nutrient sources that allow algae to proliferate. As part of the Arlington Pascal Stormwater Project, the cities of St. Paul, Roseville, and Falcon Heights; along with Ramsey County, partnered to address these issues.

Community needs to be addressed were:

- flooding problems in residential areas west of Como Lake, on Larpenteur Avenue, and on Midway Parkway; and
- the need for a reduction the amount of phosphorous and sediment entering Como Lake.

These goals are accomplished through a six-year implementation plan of innovative solutions:

- a flood reduction system;
- eight rainwater gardens;
- eight infiltration trenches;
- an underground stormwater storage facility; and
- the development of a regional stormwater pond in Como Park.

The Arlington Pascal project met both flooding and phosphorus reduction goals, and also shows that water quality improvement and volume reduction can be achieved even in densely developed areas in conjunction with redevelopment and street reconstruction occur, which saves project implementation costs.

The project also offered a unique opportunity to work on parkland to improve water quality while making park-related improvements. The Arlington Hamline Underground Storage Facility reduces flooding, and the construction area was restored to its original condition continues to be used for park purposes since the completion of the project. The 2007 redesign of Como Park Regional Pond has resulted in improved water quality and reduced flooding at a popular park that receives more than 2 million visitors annually.

The partnership and cost share funding goals for this project were also met. The project is the culmination of five years of planning and implementation to in part achieve the goals of the CRWD's Watershed Plan. "I want to thank all the partner cities and the staff at St. Paul Public Works as well as Parks and Recreation; we could not have completed the project without their partnership," said CRWD Administrator Mark Doneux.

For more information, visit Capitol Region Watershed District on the web [capitolregionwd.org](http://capitolregionwd.org).

*"Our mission is to protect, manage, and improve the water resources of the Capitol Region Watershed District."*