



Capitol Region Watershed District

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For Immediate Release

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Capitol Region Watershed District Awarded \$1.76M Grant to Improve Water Quality in Como Lake and Lake McCarrons

Saint Paul, Minn. (July 13, 2016) – The Capitol Region Watershed District (CRWD) announced a \$1.76 million grant award from the MN Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) to improve water quality in two local lakes – Como Lake and Lake McCarrons. The funds, made available through the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment, were approved by BWSR as part of the Targeted Watershed Program. The program directs funds to projects where actions for water quality improvement can be achieved within four years.

The grant will boost funding for CRWD's Urban Lake Renewal Project – a project aimed at improving water quality in Como Lake, which is impaired for phosphorous, and protecting Lake McCarrons which has demonstrated a decline in water quality in recent years. Work funded by the BWSR grant will begin in the fall of 2016.

Como Lake, home to the new Dockside restaurant and Como Lakeside Pavilion, is located within Como Regional Park in St. Paul. The park is visited by an estimated 4.48 million visitors each year. Lake McCarrons, located in Roseville, spans nearly 75 acres and hosts swimming, boating and fishing.

Meeting water quality goals for each lake will require a combination of stormwater improvement projects to collect and treat runoff draining to the lakes, in-lake management strategies and a Clean Streets Initiative.

As part of the Clean Streets Initiative, CRWD staff work with residents to prevent, remove, and treat polluted runoff before it enters storm drains, flows into nearby Como and Lake McCarrons, ultimately reaching the Mississippi River. CRWD estimates 50-100 rain gardens may be installed as a result of this project, treating up to 10 pounds of total phosphorus per year, while also increasing public understanding of stormwater issues. Currently a group of 350 volunteers works to keep more than 7,000 pounds of organic debris and over 11 pounds of phosphorous from entering storm drains near Como Lake, a program CRWD will expand to Lake McCarrons.

“Funding for this project will result in significant, measurable progress towards meeting pollution reduction goals for Como Lake, and will protect water quality in Lake McCarrons,” said Mark Doneux, administrator of the CRWD. “The benefits will be widespread, since both lakes ultimately drain to the Mississippi River.”

About Capitol Region Watershed District

CRWD, established in 1998, covers 40 square miles and includes portions of Falcon Heights, Lauderdale, Maplewood, Roseville and St. Paul. CRWD is governed by a five-member Board of Managers that work to protect, manage and improve the water resources of the District including Como Lake, Crosby Lake, Loeb Lake, Lake McCarrons and the Mississippi River.

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