



August 31, 2020

Citizens Environmental Quality Committee
Winona, Minnesota 55987

Dear Committee Members:

The next meeting of the Citizens Environmental Quality Committee meeting will be held virtually on **Thursday, September 3rd, 2020 at 4:30 p.m.** We will be using Zoom to video conference, with a call in option as well. To access Zoom:

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85610993614>

Optional Call in: +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID (Web and call in): 856 1099 3614

1. Call to Order
2. Review and approval of June and August 2020 meeting minutes
3. Lake Winona Water Quality Improvement Plan (20 minutes)
4. August Meeting Follow up items (5 minutes)
5. Boulevard Planting Policy (15 minutes)
6. Other Business (5 minutes)
7. Adjournment

Sincerely,

John Howard

Natural Resources Sustainability Coordinator

CITIZENS ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

DATE: Thursday June 4, 2020
TIME: Scheduled for 4:30 pm (Virtual Zoom Meeting)
PRESENT: Dan Hall, Julie Fassbender, David Ruff
GUESTS:
STAFF: John Howard

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 4:32 pm by Chair Hall.
2. **Review and Approval of May Meeting Minutes:** Motion by Julie to approve the May meeting minutes, Dan seconded. Unanimously approved.
3. **Volunteer Science and Engagement:** John stated that the list of volunteer activities is for CEQC members or members of the public. The opportunities are ways for the community to help out, and still be following the pandemic safety guidelines.

Julie liked the list. David asked about whether the Cover it Up activity needed volunteers. John indicated they are ok with volunteers but would be happy to have more. David is happy to help if needed. David asked about Healthy Lake Winona having another work day, and would like to talk with John and Healthy Lake Winona members to set up a work day, probably on a weekend.

4. **Community Garden Discussion:** John communicated that he spoke with Lynette about the CEQC Community Garden report, and she believes it accurately captured the discussion and the CEQC's conclusions. She did ask for sq. footages of the sites to be included to better show scale. John made those changes and shared it with the Park and Rec. department.

Dan asked about whether neighbors have been consulted about the potential garden locations? John said not yet, but he fully expects the Park and Rec. department would meet with the neighbors if the dept. wanted to move forward with the sites. John believes the next steps are for the Park and Rec. department to review the sites, so the CEQC has done their duty. As news develops, it will be shared with the CEQC.

5. **CEQC Member Recruitment:**

Dan asked about progress on potential candidates. Julie has asked some people she knows about joining the CEQC. Dan wondered if Richie Swanson would be a good fit. Richie is a very knowledgeable about birds and active with Aghaming Park. David knows Richie and thinks he may be fully committed with other obligations. David or Dan will talk with Richie when they see him next.

John mentioned Nathan Engstrom who is the WSU sustainability coordinator. Nathan expressed interest in December 2019, so John will follow up. Dan expressed that Nathan sounds like a qualified candidate.

6. **Other Business:**

Dan asked about the dredge sand disposal sites and if the DNR was in charge of that process. John explained that the US Army Corps of Engineers is the main regulatory body and driver of the project. The Corps of Engineers continues to work with the City on developing plans for dredge sand disposal. John noted that the City Council did communicate to the Corps that they disapproved of the plan to expand the Latsch Island sand storage area. John is not sure what progress has been made for the Homer sand storage area.

7. **Adjournment:**

Julie excused herself from the meeting at 4:49 pm, and quorum was lost.

Notes prepared by John Howard.

CITIZENS ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

DATE: Thursday August 6, 2020
TIME: Scheduled for 4:30 pm (Virtual Zoom Meeting)
PRESENT: Dan Hall, Lynette Power, David Ruff
GUESTS: Gabe Ericksen, Nicole Ciulla
STAFF: John Howard

1. **Call to Order:** Achieved when Chair Hall joined the call at 4:43pm.
2. **Review and Approval of June 2020 Meeting Minutes:** Tabled due to lack of quorum at 4:30 pm.
3. **Environmental Considerations with Annexation Proposals:**

Gabe Ericksen, a resident of the Pleasant Valley area, described his views on the current City policy regarding Natural State Areas and creation of protected areas with land development. Gabe believes natural areas need to be enhanced and managed because static natural areas will degrade and become overrun with invasive species. Gabe elaborated that this includes understory improvement of forests and general thinning of woods canopy. John summarized that there are current development regulations around bluffs and stormwater that provide environmental protections. The CEQC historically has not been active in reviewing plans since the CEQC is advisory to the Planning Commission and waits for requests from the Planning Commission. Gabe would like to see the CEQC play a role in the site design plans for the Bradford development, but also have more role in general in promoting environmental improvement. John described that the developer will need to come back to the City with a site plan, which is where the City may be most able to encourage environmentally friendly management of natural areas.

David said disturbance is beneficial and useful for natural ecosystems, and degradation is inevitable. David asked for details on process with site plan. John gave a summary of the general details (such as erosion control, building layout, building height, and utility access) that need to be included in a site plan application. Dan concurred that more detailed plans come forward for plat and site plan reviews.

David asked what role the City site plan review could have in requiring restoration or other improvements. John replied that requirements could be shaped by public comments, and there is a set checklist of items that staff reviews prior to the site plan proceeding to the Planning Commission.

Lynette asked about green space requirements in zoning code, which she feels are valuable requirements. John said there are park dedication fees and guidelines per acre, but it can take a variety of forms. John was unsure on the specific requirements.

Gabe asked about what can be included in City regulations to advance environmental aspects of project, and why the City allows annexation of developable but not the rest (such as in the Bradford situation). John

stated that the Unified Development Code would be the place to include revisions since it focuses on development. John believes it would be challenging to include non-developable areas in with the annexation, although if the townships led that effort, it might be a different story. Dan thinks the Planning Commission would be reticent to expand environmental role.

Gabe sees the problem as no one is taking responsibility, and thus degradation results.

David suggested asking the Planning commission to solicit CEQC input. John will draft up a request. Dan reiterated there is still quite a bit of site plan review needed before any approval would be granted.

Dan explained his rationale for supporting the project at the planning commission.

4. **Community Garden Discussion Update:** John relayed that the park dept. reviewed the CEQC's memo, and disagreed about the suitability of Lake Park for community gardens since Lake Park is a destination park. The Parks Plan consultant did not think community gardens are suitable in "destination" parks.

Lynette made a motion: The CEQC feels that community gardens and growing food locally is as important as any other park function. The shrinking of the East End Rec garden necessitates additional community garden plots. The CEQC urges the Park Department to reconsider community gardens for Lake Park. Seconded by David. All in favor.

Dan asked about Sobieski Park and community garden plans there. John relayed that the Park Dept. likes Sobieski Park for community gardens, but there may not be room for many community garden plots.

5. **Renewable Energy Procurement Proposal:**

John relayed that since the CEQC did not meet in July, he asked the City Council for guidance on whether there was City interest in collaborating with other Minnesota cities to procure renewable energy. Council agreed, and John notified the coordinators, who work for the City of Minneapolis, that Winona would like to join the effort. John does not have any details on when work will start on this.

6. **Sustainability Master Plan:**

John stated that the long awaited Sustainability Master Plan process is finally about to start. City staff feels it is important to have a CEQC member on the steering committee of the plan, but it also is important to bring in the broader community. John asked if any CEQC members would be interested in serving on this steering committee, and Nikki indicated she is. Nikki has been appointed by the City Council to the CEQC, but still needs to sign a form in order to become an official CEQC member. Lynette is interested as well, but needs to see how work plays out.

7. **Lake Winona Water Quality Improvement Plan:**

Given time constraints, a full discussion on this topic was postponed for a future meeting.

Lynette asked about using alum for phosphorus control and if Dan knew anything about alum. Lynette has reservations about aluminum components being dumped and added to public waters. Dan said if the EPA allows it, it is probably safe. David agreed that the sources of phosphorus needs to be addressed, which alum does not do, but at the same time we need to control in lake circulation which is where alum is useful.

Lynette recommends a residential education effort on phosphorus improvement.

8. **Other Business:** None discussed.

9. **Adjournment:**

Motion for adjournment by Lynette, seconded by David. All in favor. Meeting adjourned 5:48 pm.

Notes prepared by John Howard.

CITIZENS ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE

AGENDA ITEM: 3. Lake Winona Water Quality Improvement Plan

PREPARED BY: John Howard

DATE: September 3, 2020

Due to time constraints, the CEQC did not receive a presentation about the Lake Winona Water Quality Improvement Plan at the August Meeting. Staff will provide an overview of the plan and take questions.

The City Council received a presentation about this study to in late June. The emphasis of the consultants' work was toward phosphorus reduction. Both lake basins have elevated phosphorus at or above state standards, and thus the state will require action to reduce the phosphorous load.

The final study report is complete, and is accessible online:
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wDNBlzhgEMUPMrDyN8ya-r-PKJplvdXx/view>. It is a long report at nearly 60 pages, but if you read the executive summary and pages 23, 24 and section 7.3, you will get a broad perspective of the problem and potential solutions. The slides presented to the City Council are included to give the overall information and conclusions. The 45 minutes presentation can be viewed here:
<https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=579943639376641>.



water quality improvement plan to restore Lake Winona

Greg Wilson

June, 2020

1

Outline

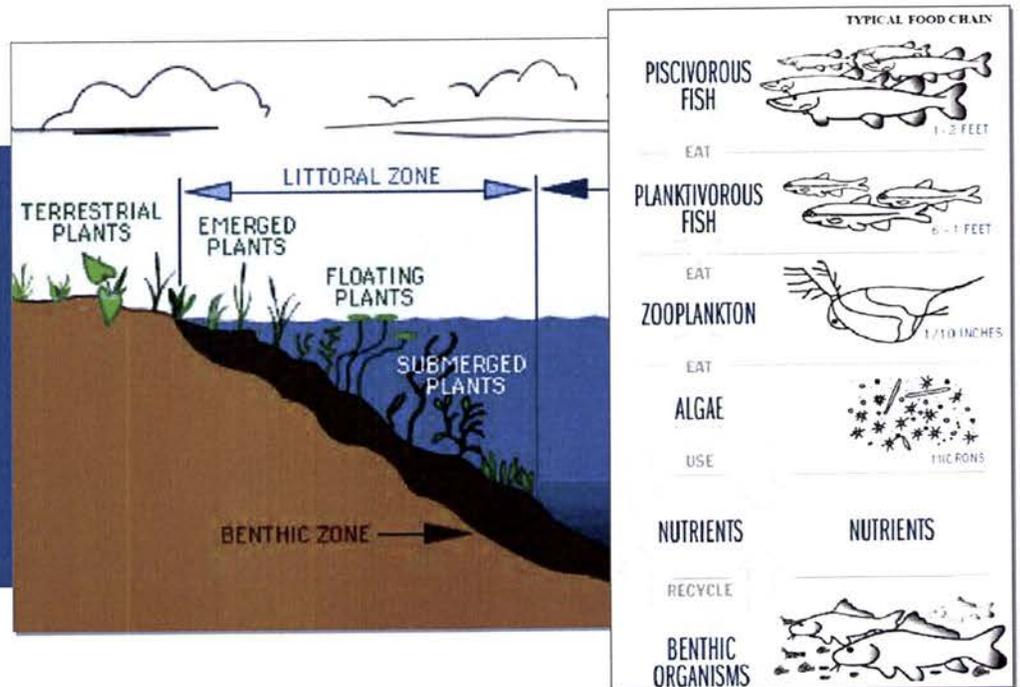
- Project background and objective
- Lake ecology, water quality and phosphorus sources
- TMDL vs. current study
- Watershed characteristics and monitoring
- Watershed and in-lake modeling
- Prioritizing improvement options

2

problem statement and project objective

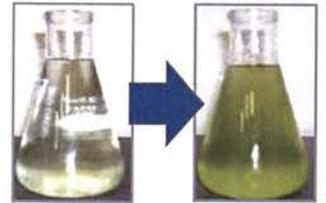
Elevated phosphate concentrations in Lake Winona are causing water quality problems. WHKS & Barr were retained to evaluate possible solutions for reducing phosphorus loads to Lake Winona.

background on lake ecology



excess
phosphorus
means poor
water quality

- Phosphorus feeds algae and causes algal blooms
- Algae decreases water clarity
- Algal decay depletes dissolved oxygen near the lake bottom



5

where does the
phosphorus
come from?

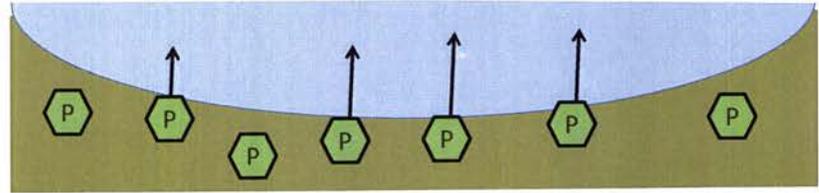
External Sources

- Storm water runoff from hard (impervious) surfaces
- Leaves & grass clippings
- Fertilizers
- Pet/animal waste
- Soil erosion
- Septic systems

where does the phosphorus come from?

Internal Sources

- Phosphorus can be stored in lake bottom sediments and released when oxygen levels are low



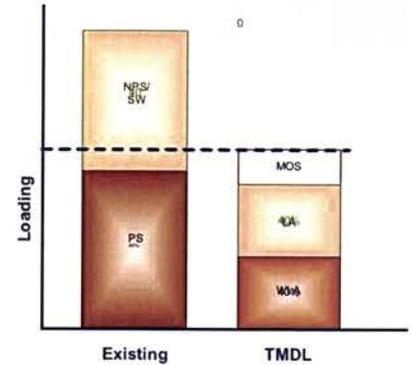
evidence of problem

Minnesota Water Quality Standards and Lake Name	Growing Season (June–September) Mean Water Quality Standards and Lake Winona Observations								
	TP (ppb)			Chl-a (ppb)			Secchi (m)		
	2010	2011	2018	2010	2011	2018	2010	2011	2018
North Central Hardwood Forest (Minnesota General Standards for Phosphorus, Chl-a, and Turbidity)	<40			<14			>1.4		
Lake Winona (Southeast Bay)	52	54	63	53	50	31	1.0	1.0	--
North Central Hardwood Forest (Minnesota Shallow Lakes Standards for Phosphorus, Chl a, and Turbidity)	<60			<20			>1.0		
Lake Winona (Northwest Bay)	87	83	55	76	60	18	1.1	0.6	--

total maximum daily load (TMDL)

the maximum amount of a specific pollutant that can be discharged to a waterbody and still meet water quality standards

TMDL Load Reduction



TMDL summary

- 39% TP load reduction to NW basin
 - 38% from MS4 stormwater
 - 23% from remaining watershed
 - 94% from internal load
- 31% TP load reduction to SE basin
 - 41% from MS4 stormwater
 - ~30% from NW Bay and direct drainage
 - 100% from internal load

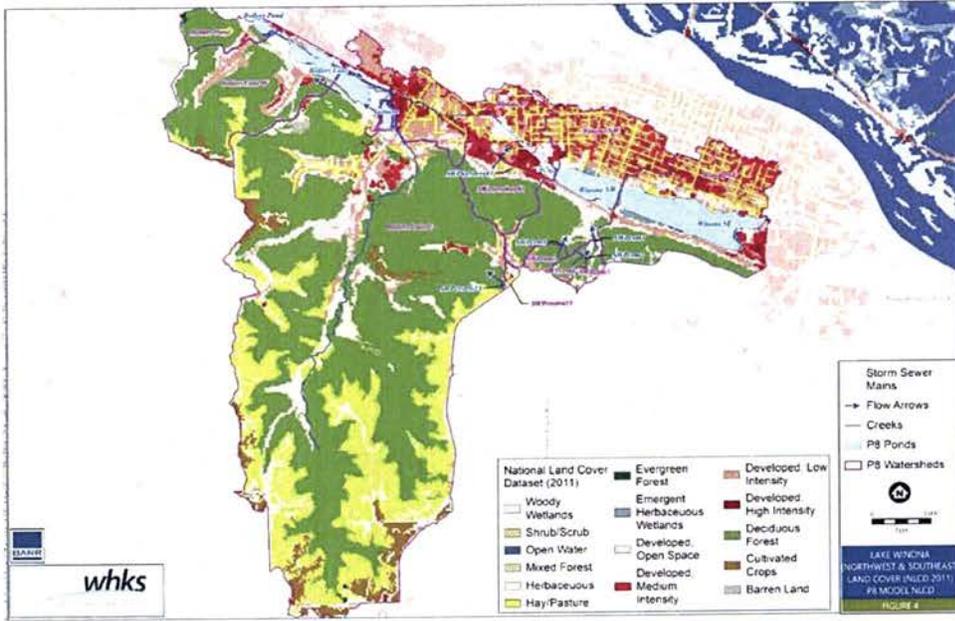


TMDL and current study differences

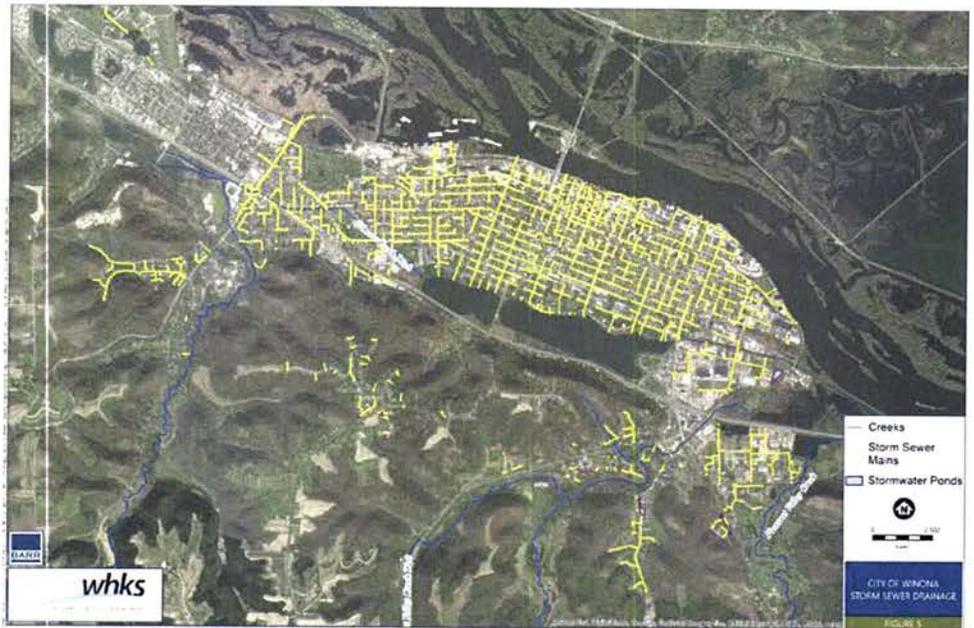
	TMDL	This study	
Methodology	Watershed monitoring	None	Seven sites; three with flow
	Watershed modeling	Land use specific, annual export rates (from literature)	P8 calibrated to daily water quality monitoring and phosphorus load data; simulates Bollers Lake (& other BMP) phosphorus removal
	Lake water quality modeling	BATHTUB average annual, steady-state model w/ optimized internal load residuals. NW Bay modeling based on lower volume	Mass-balance spreadsheet model calibrated to daily observations
Implications for results	Overestimates internal load and phosphorus leaving Bollers Lake and NW Bay	Quality control issues with some of the 2018 water quality samples	

Lake Name	Developed (Open)	Developed (Low Intensity)	Developed (Medium Intensity)	Developed (High Intensity)	Forest	Shrub/Scrub	Herbaceous	Emergent Wetland	Herbaceous Wetland	Open Water
Winona SE	13%	25%	17%	3%	18%	0%	1%	1%		22%
Winona NW	10%	29%	20%	3%	23%	0%	3%	1%		10%

Lake Winona watershed land cover



City of Winona storm sewer drainage

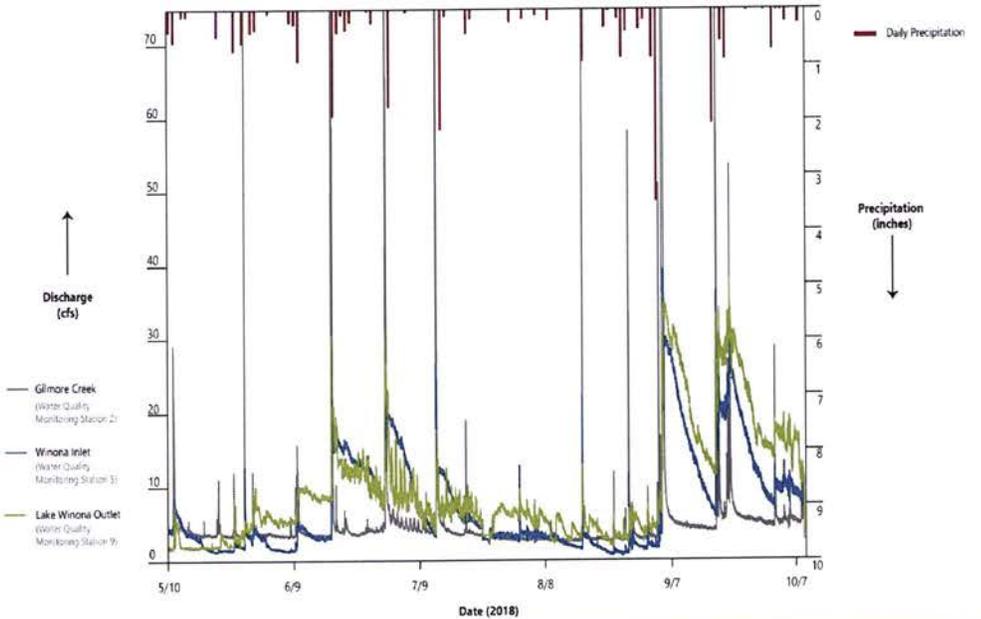


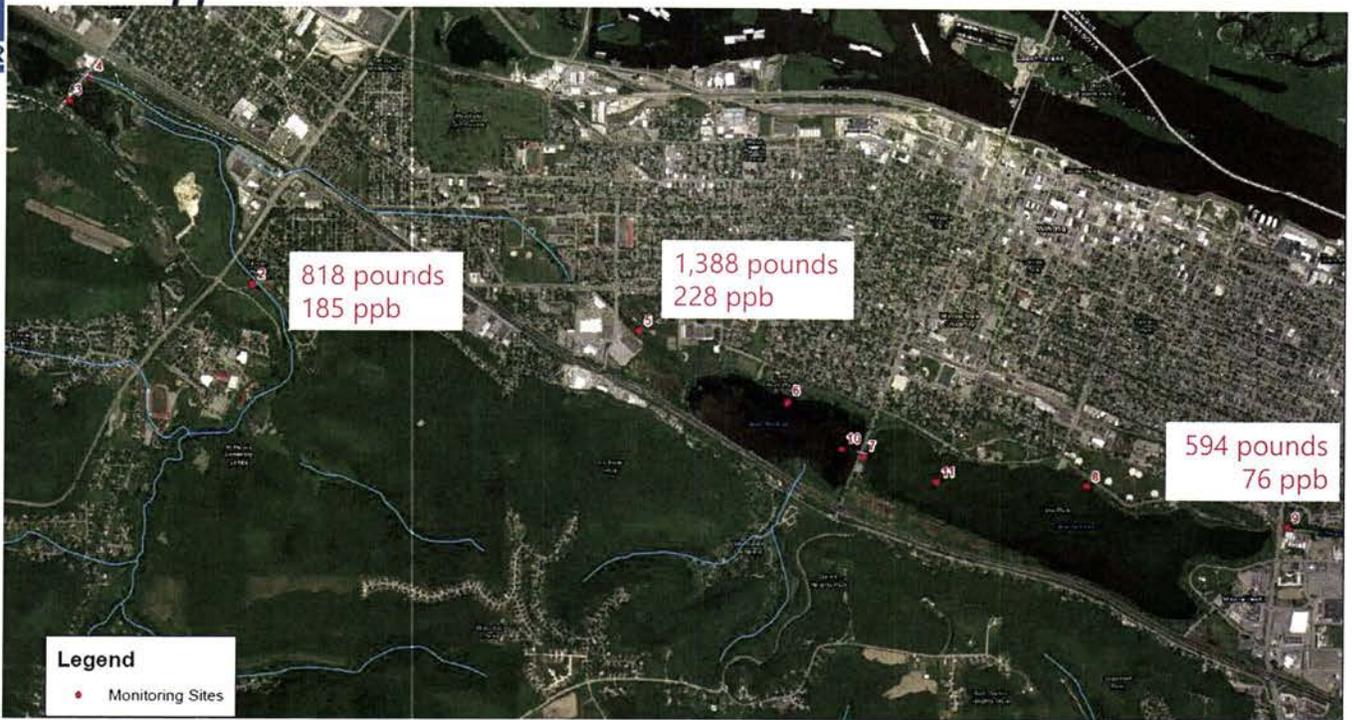
Lake Winona subwatersheds





Lake Winona subwatershed monitoring



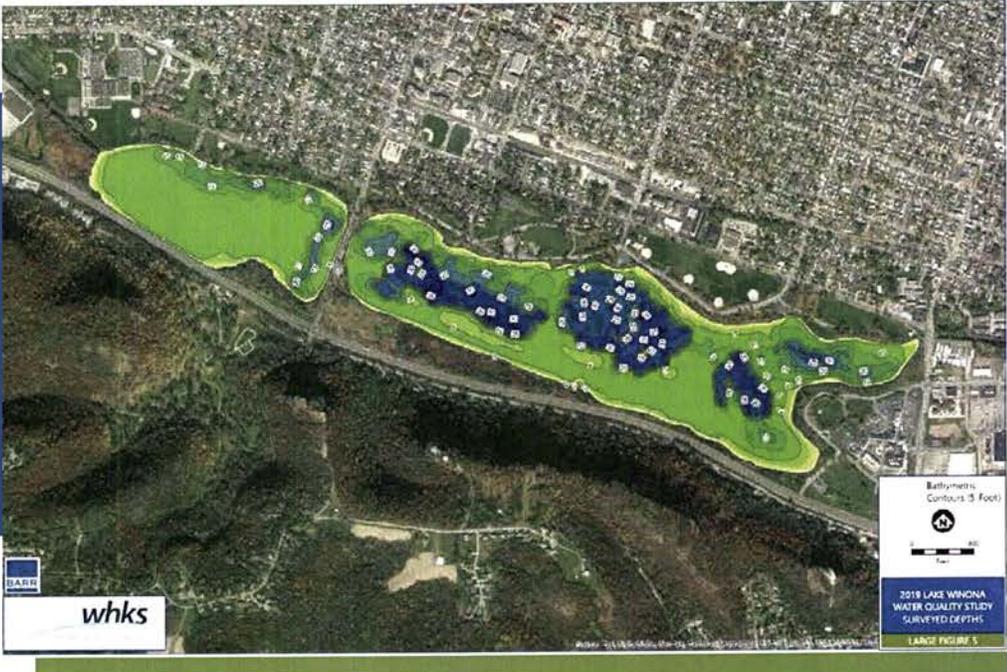


2018 monitored TP load (pounds) and flow-weighted mean TP conc. (ppb) at each site

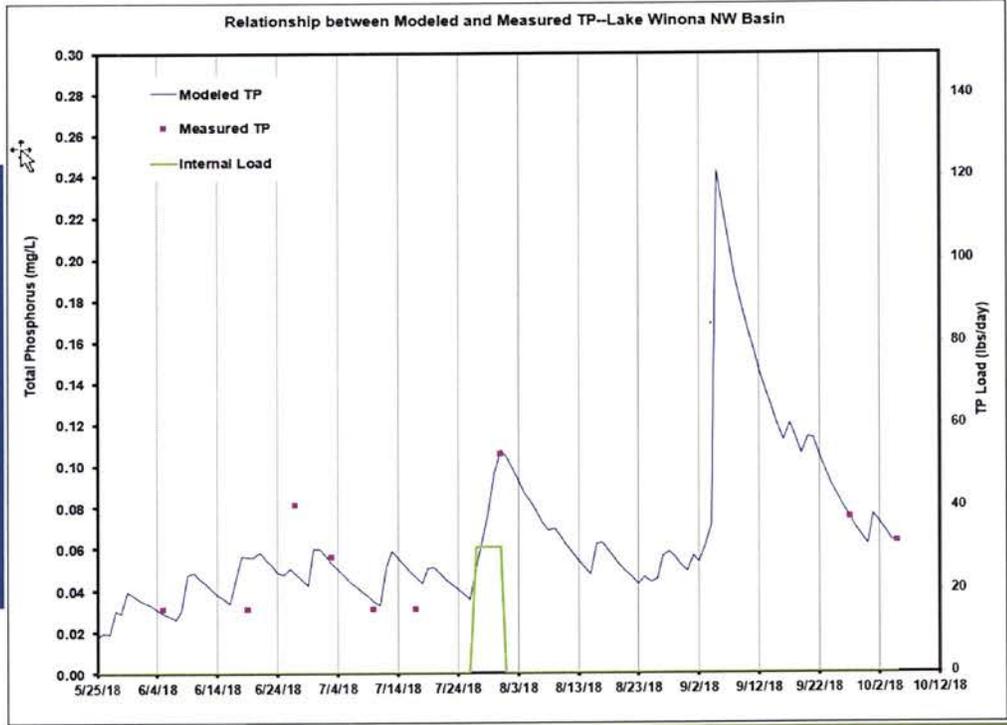
Bollers Lake bathymetry



Lake Winona bathymetry



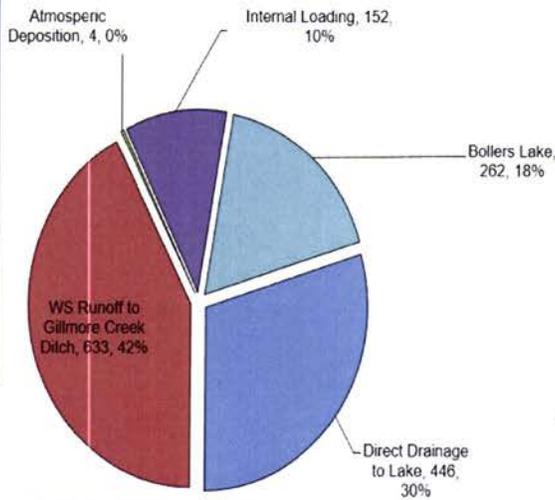
calibrated lake water quality modeling



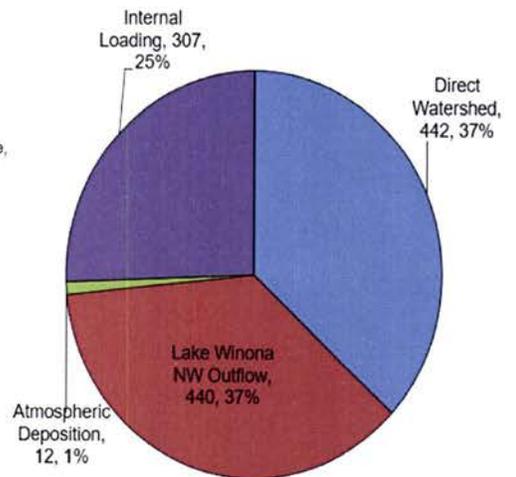


2018 lake water quality modeling—phosphorus loads (pounds, %)

Lake Winona Northwest Bay Phosphorus Sources



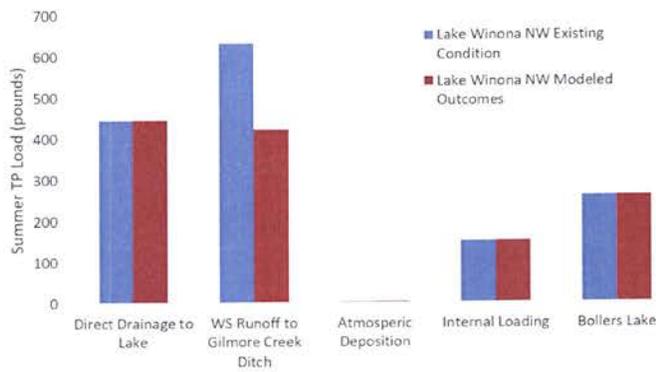
Lake Winona Southeast Bay Phosphorus Sources





2018 lake water quality modeling—phosphorus loads (pounds, %)

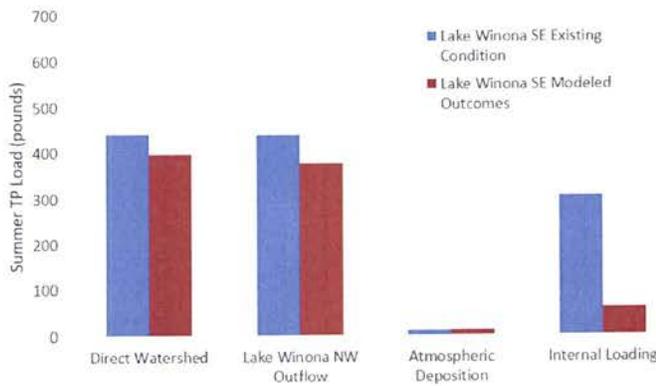
NW Lake Winona



TP load reduction to meet standard:

15% from watershed

SE Lake Winona

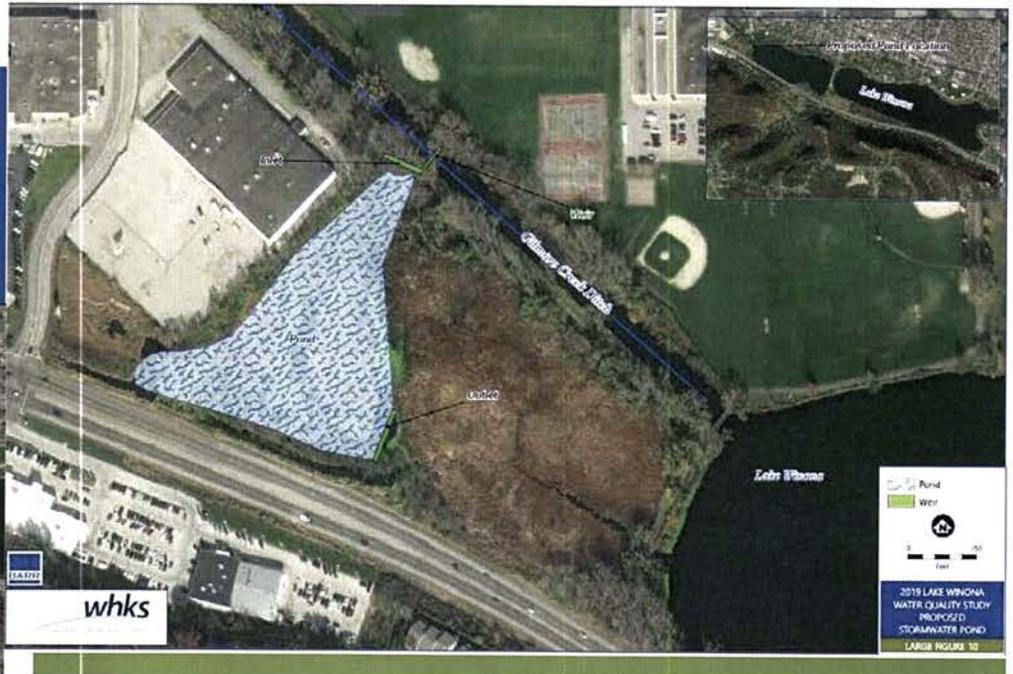


60 ppb in NW basin; 46 lb. from direct watershed and eliminate internal load

Best Management Practice (BMP) prioritization

1. Stormwater treatment in NW Bay inflow
2. Assess carp movement and control population
3. Control internal P release in SE Bay
4. Stormwater treatment in SE Bay direct drainage
5. Lower priorities (not integral for WQ compliance)
 - a) Gillmore Creek BMPs (septics, WASCObS, grassed waterways)
 - b) Modifications to Bollers Lake

Treatment of NW Bay inflow



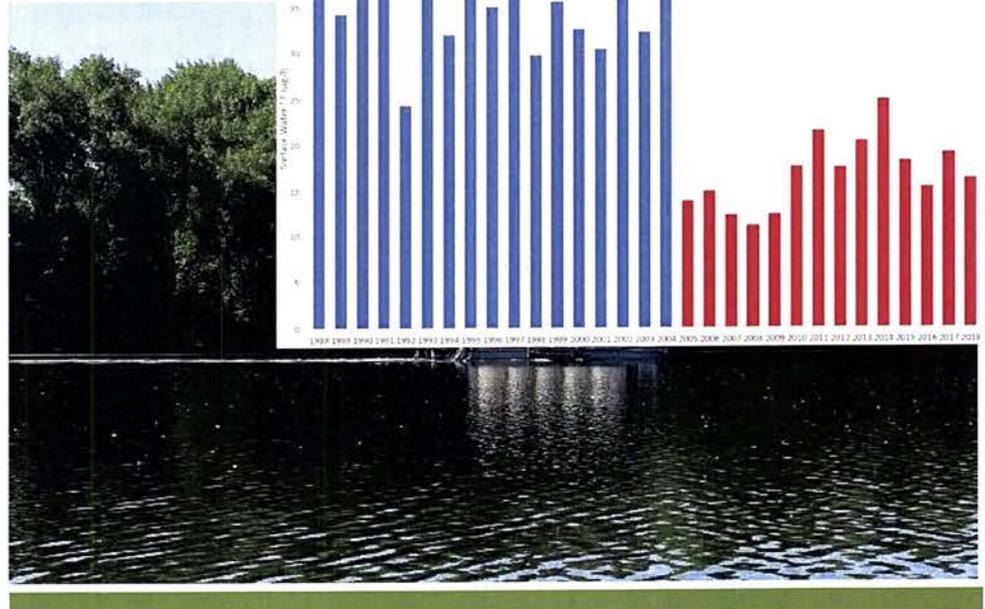
Need 15% TP reduction from combined watershed inflow to NW Bay ²⁴

control SE Bay internal P load



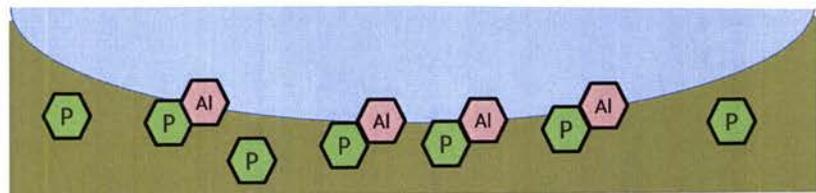
First Day of Alum Treatment

Last Day of Alum Treatment



how alum works

- Aluminum forms permanent bond with phosphorus
 - Forms "floc" that sweeps phosphorus from the water column and settles on the lake bottom
 - Works under low oxygen conditions



potential
grassed
waterways in
Lake Winona
watershed



potential water
and sediment
control basins
(WASCOBs) in
Lake Winona
watershed



cost-benefit

Water Quality Improvement Option	Estimated Summer Season TP Reduction (lbs/yr)	Opinion of Potential Costs	Annual Cost per Pound TP Removed (\$/lb)
Construct Stormwater Treatment Pond for Ditch Drainage to Northwest Bay of Lake Winona	210	\$1,600,000	\$500
Alum Treatment of Southeast Bay of Lake Winona	246	\$200,000	\$54
Southeast Bay Direct Watershed Stormwater BMP(s)	46	\$2,500,000	\$3,600
Carp Assessment and Control	60	\$500,000	\$560
Alum Treatment of Northwest Bay of Lake Winona	120	\$400,000	\$220

other BMPs considered

- Dredging
 - High cost, water quality benefit limited by underlying sediment P concs.
- Rain gardens and distributed filtration practices
 - Higher cost; could work with street reconstruction if native soils can infiltrate

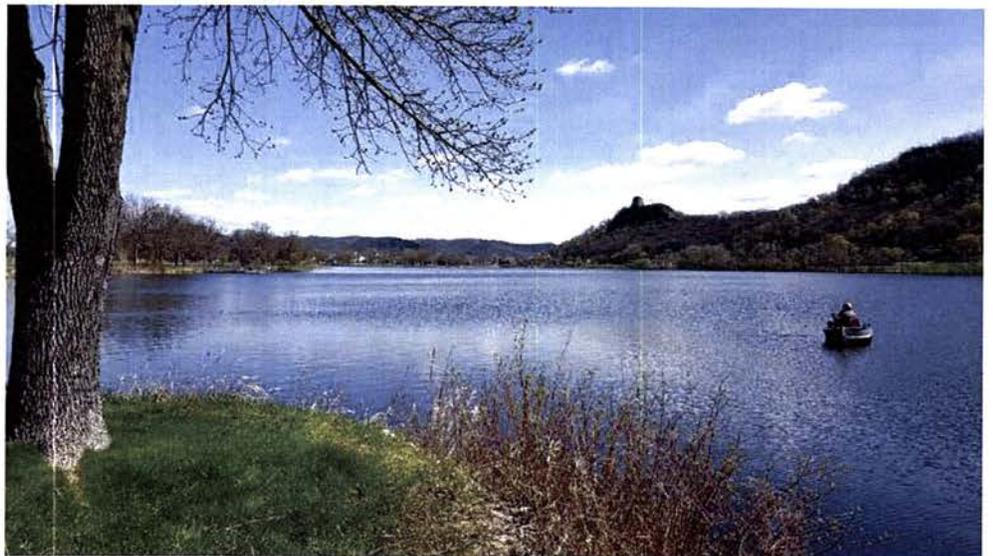
overall summary



- 2018 monitoring/modeling results
 - Stormwater runoff from direct drainage areas represent largest source of TP loads to Lake Winona
 - Sediment P release is important for SE Bay
 - Bollers Lake is providing good treatment for TP
 - Carp population exceeds management threshold
- Recommendations
 - Treat stormwater from direct drainage to each Bay
 - Control internal P load in SE Bay
 - Assess carp movement and control population
 - Lake vegetation management plan; control curlyleaf pondweed

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questions??



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CITIZENS ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE

AGENDA ITEM: 4. August Meeting Follow up items

PREPARED BY: John Howard

DATE: September 3, 2020

At the August meeting, the CEQC requested that staff prepare a request stating their desire to provide input on the environmental aspects of the Bradford senior housing development along County Road 17 and also pass along the CEQC resolution regarding community gardens in Lake Park.

1. Proposed message to send to the Planning Commission:

Given the public comments and interest in the proposed Bradford Senior Housing development, specifically regarding the environmental dimension of the project, the CEQC asks that the Planning Commission seek CEQC input on the project's site plan. The CEQC understands that it has no regulatory or approval power, but believes its members can provide constructive feedback to improve the project. The CEQC would appreciate being consulted for similar projects in the future.

2. Lake Park Community Gardens:

Staff sent the resolution to the two lead administrators of the Park and Recreation department. Staff will share any developments at the CEQC meeting.

CITIZENS ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE

AGENDA ITEM: 5. Boulevard Planting Policy

PREPARED BY: John Howard

DATE: September 3, 2020

Earlier this summer, a resident asked that the City review our boulevard planting policy to see if any changes could be made to be more tolerant of prairie species. The boulevard is defined as the right of way owned by the City between the street curb and either the sidewalk or the private property line. City Council member Pamela Eyden made a similar request following a conversation with the resident, including more public education on City requirements.

Staff has attached the current planting policy, which the CEQC looked at last summer. Staff wishes to determine if and how the CEQC would be interested in re-engaging in a planting policy decision.

Also attached is a summary prepared by the city of North Mankato that describes what other small, largely rural southern Minnesota towns have for native planting policies. Please note that some cities do not have specific policies toward boulevard plantings.

Winona Boulevard Planting Rules – Current Aug. 2020

25.25 BOULEVARD SURFACING, GRADING, AND LANDSCAPING.

- (e) *Plantings Required.* The owner or occupant of any private premises abutting on any public street, road, or alley shall plant grass in all earthen areas lying between the private premises and the vehicular traveled portion of such public street, road, or alley. Such grass areas shall be maintained in accordance with Section 32.03.
- (f) *Plantings Permitted.* Notwithstanding the provisions of Section (e), a property owner in the City of Winona shall be permitted to plant, care for, and maintain gardens on the boulevards adjacent to their property, subject to the restrictions set forth below.
1. Plantings may not exceed thirty-six (36) inches in height at any point provided that this height shall be reduced to 24 inches within a radius of 30 feet of the curb line of any intersecting street and 12 inches within a radius of 6 feet from any fire hydrant.
 2. Plantings must be maintained in such a way that there is no overhang or encroachment onto the sidewalk, curb or street area.
 3. Plantings may include any annual, biennial, perennial flower, ornamental grass, and other plant which is not classified as a noxious weed or vegetable. All gardens shall be maintained in accordance with the provisions of Section 32.03. The planting of any tree or shrub shall only be permitted in accordance with the provisions of Section 25.22(c).
 4. No garden shall be planted on the boulevard without written documentation that the property owner has contacted "Gopher State One Call" for utility locations 48 hours before digging, and has planned plantings which will not interfere with said utilities.
 5. The property owner shall take all reasonable measures to ensure that denuded boulevard areas are exposed for the shortest period of time. The intent of this provision is to minimize the potential for erosion of soil and other materials onto adjacent public sidewalks or streets. The property owner shall be responsible for the cleaning of adjacent public streets or sidewalks of any debris or material resulting from the construction and maintenance of the garden.
 6. The garden shall not employ any method, such as berms or planter structures which would serve to either increase or decrease boulevard ground elevations, from those which existed prior to garden construction.
 7. No fence, raised planter box, trellis, statue, bollard, irrigation or lighting system, or any other structure shall be constructed or located on a boulevard by the property owner.
 8. No herbicides or pesticides may be used in the maintenance of gardens under this section.

32.03 WEEDS

- (a) "Weeds" Defined. "Weeds" shall mean and include not only such noxious weeds as defined in Minnesota Rules 1505.0751, but also such undesirable, useless, uncultivated and troublesome plants as are commonly known as weeds to the general public and all pollen producing plants which are a hazard to hay fever sufferers.

Ord. No. 3450 05/01/00 Ord. No. 3900 4/16/2012

Question	Northfield	Fairmont	Buffalo	New Ulm
<p>1. Does your City regulate the maximum height of grass and weed? Yes or No? If yes, what is the maximum height?</p>	<p><i>Yes. Our ordinance says "any grass or weed excluding grass or forage crops used for agricultural purposes, planned landscaping purposes, and/or areas officially designated as wildlife areas, but including the lands between the curblineline of the street or alley and the property line of private properties, to greater height than one foot or are about to go to seed are declared to be a nuisance"</i></p>	<p>Yes. 6 inches.</p>	<p>Yes, maximum 12 inches</p>	<p>Yes - 6"</p>
<p>2. Are pollinator gardens permitted in residential zoning districts?</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p>3. Do you have regulations for the size of pollinator gardens? Yes or No? If yes, what are the requirements?</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p><i>No we do not have size regulations. If the gardens are maintained, free of noxious weeds, and we do not receive complaints on the garden they are allowed.</i></p>
<p>4. Do you have setback regulations for pollinator gardens? Yes or No? If yes, what are the setbacks?</p>	<p><i>I do not believe so.</i></p>	<p>No.</p>	<p><i>No, but if the height of perennial gardens are of concern for traffic and visibility purposes we would require they be shortened.</i></p>	<p><i>The City does not allow anything but turf grass and trees to be grown in boulevard areas throughout town. Essentially the setback would be that these gardens should be outside of the public right-of-way.</i></p>

Question	Northfield	Fairmont	Buffalo	New Ulm
5. Do you have an application process for pollinator gardens?	Yes.	No.	No	No.
6. If you have an application process, does it require neighborhood notification?	No.	N/A	N/A	N/A
7. If you have an application process, does it require a maintenance plan?	Yes.	N/A	N/A	N/A
8. Do you have a list of acceptable pollinator garden species?	Yes.	No.	No	No
9. Additional comments?	<p>The application process is only applicable if the resident wants to apply for our Native Plant Rebate Program. Otherwise pollinator gardens are not regulated.</p>	<p>Our code is silent on pollinator gardens and we may need to do what you're doing and explore an ordinance. We have a few cases where enforcement of our grass and weeds ordinance is problematic because owners are arguing that it qualifies as a pollinator garden.</p>	<p>Luckily the question of what is a pollinator garden or perennial garden versus what are weeds has not become a pervasive issue for our community to this point. Most of the existing natural vegetation areas or pollinator gardens I am aware of in our community have signs up letting folks know what they are, and their owners maintain them through weeding as appropriate.</p>	<p>We only would address these types of gardens on a complaint basis. There are a number of residents in our community that have had pollinator gardens for years and we have not received any complaints on them to date. In fact we are planning a City project for a hillside retaining wall re-model in one of our parks and between the retaining walls we will be planting native grasses and forbs.</p>

Question	Chanhassen	Stillwater	Worthington	Winona
1. Does your City regulate the maximum height of grass and weed? Yes or No? If yes, what is the maximum height?	Yes. <i>The maximum height is 12 inches on lots one acre and less. Native grasses and wild flowers, planted and maintained as part of a landscape treatment are exempted.</i>	6"	Yes, 6 inches	<i>Yes, in the boulevards the max height is 36 inches, or 24 inches within 30 feet of an intersection. We also require plants to be 12 inches or less within 6 feet of a fire hydrant. Weeds must be mowed and controlled to a height of 6 inches, or just mowed once in undeveloped areas.</i>
2. Are pollinator gardens permitted in residential zoning districts?	Yes.	Yes.	Yes	Yes
3. Do you have regulations for the size of pollinator gardens? Yes or No? If yes, what are the requirements?	No.	No.	<i>No, but they would need to be maintained and weeded gardens.</i>	No.
4. Do you have setback regulations for pollinator gardens? Yes or No? If yes, what are the setbacks?	<i>No setback regulations, but plants must not interfere with sight lines or public trails or streets (i.e. plants leaning over and blocking a sidewalk)</i>	No.	No.	<i>Just the regulations about height within the boulevard. On private property, no regulations.</i>

Question	Chanhassen	Stillwater	Worthington	Winona
5. Do you have an application process for pollinator gardens?	No.	No.	No.	No.
6. If you have an application process, does it require neighborhood notification?	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
7. If you have an application process, does it require a maintenance plan?	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
8. Do you have a list of acceptable pollinator garden species?	No.	No.	No.	No.
9. Additional comments?			<p>We do not allow noxious weeds and we do not allow perennial plantings in easements.</p>	<p>We considered going to a permit application, but after consulting with residents and environmental groups, we opted not to since it would add more paperwork and hassle to the homeowner, and we'd rather just deal with the issue if it arises as a complaint. A challenge is that our building inspectors respond to complaints and do weed inspections, but are not always aware of the difference between a weed and a pollinator garden.</p>

Question	Faribault	Waseca	Marshall	Alexandria
1. Does your City regulate the maximum height of grass and weed? Yes or No? If yes, what is the maximum height?	Yes, eight inches.	Yes, maximum height is six inches for all residents (and commercial) properties.	Yes, 8 inches	Yes. Six (6) inches.
2. Are pollinator gardens permitted in residential zoning districts?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes.
3. Do you have regulations for the size of pollinator gardens? Yes or No? If yes, what are the requirements?	No	No size regulations.	No. We have requirements for vegetable gardens.	Yes. Five (5) acres is the minimum.
4. Do you have setback regulations for pollinator gardens? Yes or No? If yes, what are the setbacks?	No setbacks at this time. City Staff generally recommends that there be a "mow strip" or five foot setback from adjacent properties. This has not been codified.	No.	N/A	Yes. A buffer area of not less than twenty (20) feet on sites smaller than ten acres, and not less than fifty (50) feet on sites ten acres or larger; said buffer to consist of non-pollinator habitat plantings which are to be maintained in accordance with the City's nuisance regulations.

Question	Faribault	Waseca	Marshall	Alexandria
5. Do you have an application process for pollinator gardens?	No	No.	No	Yes
6. If you have an application process, does it require neighborhood notification?	N/A	N/A	N/A	No
7. If you have an application process, does it require a maintenance plan?	N/A	N/A	N/A	Yes
8. Do you have a list of acceptable pollinator garden species?	Yes	No	No	Yes
9. Additional comments?	<p><i>We "require" a natural landscaping permit. However, this has rarely been enforced. The permit was intended as a means to enforce property maintenance on properties where the owner claims that their unmaintained blue grass lawn is really just a natural landscape (rather than just neglect). We will be updating an ordinances in the next year or two.</i></p>	<p><i>Our nuisance ordinance contains the 6 inch height regulation. We then use the adopted 2012 IPMC code, Section 302.4, to define further. *document defining code included*</i></p>	<p><i>We were never asked about pollinator gardens.</i></p>	<p><i>A planting and management plan, consistent with Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) job sheet CP42 be submitted for review and approval.</i></p>

Question	Belle Plaine
<p>1. Does your City regulate the maximum height of grass and weed? Yes or No? If yes, what is the maximum height?</p>	<p>Yes, 8"</p>
<p>2. Are pollinator gardens permitted in residential zoning districts?</p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p>3. Do you have regulations for the size of pollinator gardens? Yes or No? If yes, what are the requirements?</p>	<p><i>Native planting and/or natural landscaped areas shall occupy no more than fifty percent of the previous surface area of the parcel excluding natural wooded areas, bluffs, wetlands, water bodies, ravines, and rain gardens.</i></p>
<p>4. Do you have setback regulations for pollinator gardens? Yes or No? If yes, what are the setbacks?</p>	<p><i>Native planting and/or natural landscaped areas shall be set back from property lines by at least five feet. The setback is not required where:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a. The defined landscape area abuts a similar private or public landscape area,</i> <i>b. The defined landscape area abuts a wetland, pond, bluff, ravine, or waterway,</i> <i>c. A fully opaque fence at least four feet in height is installed along the lot line adjoining the planned landscape area.</i>

Question	Belle Plaine
5. Do you have an application process for pollinator gardens?	Yes.
6. If you have an application process, does it require neighborhood notification?	No.
7. If you have an application process, does it require a maintenance plan?	No.
8. Do you have a list of acceptable pollinator garden species?	Yes.
9. Additional comments?	<p><i>Native prairie and/or natural landscapes are subject to the following limitations:</i></p> <p><i>A. Native prairie and/or natural landscapes are planned, intentional, maintained, and designated areas where native plants are being or have been planted.</i></p> <p><i>B. Native plants are grasses, wildflowers, forbs, ferns, and shrubs that are plant species native to or naturalized to the state of Minnesota, excluding prohibited exotic species, as defined by Minnesota Statutes Chapter 84D. Native plants do not include weeds.</i></p> <p><i>C. Native prairie and/or natural landscapes include areas illustrated on official landscape plans which are required under the development review process, as approved by the City.</i></p> <p><i>D. Native prairie and natural areas within a distinct, defined landscape area on a single or two-family residential parcel are allowed subject to a landscape plan being drafted, submitted, and approved administratively by the City. Said landscape plan shall at a minimum illustrate areas proposed for native plantings and/or natural landscapes, species proposed for planting, proposed maintenance of the area, and proposed planting border/edging. When drafting landscape plans, applicants are encouraged to consult with resource providers, including but not limited to, Scott County Soil and Water Conservation District Representatives and persons with specific, demonstrated knowledge of native plantings and natural landscapes. Said landscape plans are subject to the following limitations:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. The native plantings and/or natural landscaped areas must be located on private property.</i> <i>2. Native planting and/or natural landscaped areas shall occupy no more than fifty percent of the pervious surface area of the parcel excluding natural wooded areas, bluffs, wetlands, water bodies, ravines, and rain gardens.</i> <i>3. Native planting and/or natural landscaped areas shall be set back from property lines by at least five feet. The setback is not required where:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a. The defined landscape area abuts a similar private or public landscape area,</i> <i>b. The defined landscape area abuts a wetland, pond, bluff, ravine, or waterway,</i> <i>c. A fully opaque fence at least four feet in height is installed along the lot line adjoining the planned landscape area.</i> <i>4. Native planting and/or natural landscapes must be maintained so as to not include unintended vegetation.</i> <i>5. Native planting and/or natural landscapes, after being established, must be maintained at least once per year through mowing or, if appropriate permits are obtained, burning.</i> <i>6. Native planting and/or natural landscapes shall not include turf-grass lawns left unattended for the purpose of returning to a natural state.</i>