

Healthy Lakes & Rivers Partnership program success stories

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Exotic Species

Fish Lake, Kanabec County and *Platte Lake*, Crow Wing County
Curlyleaf Pondweed eradication and reintroduction of native plants.

Sibley Lake Association, Crow Wing County
Challenge grant to help raise private dollars to implement Aquatic Vegetation Management Plan to control Curlyleaf Pondweed.

Land Use and Zoning

Lower South Long Lake Association, Crow Wing County
Septic inventory and upgrade for noncompliant systems.

Norway Lake Association, Cass County
Update zoning to protect lake buffer zones; establish wetland land trust.

Long Lake Association, Cass County
Septic inspections.

Barnum Lake Association, Cass County
Lakescaping, septic inspections, and lake water quality monitoring.

Round Lake, Crow Wing County
Septic inspections and upgrades.

Ada Lake, Cass County
Cost share challenge grant for lakescaping and native species vegetation buffers.

Wabedo, Little Boy, Inguadona, Cooper, & Rice Lakes Association, Cass County
Septic inspections & low interest loans for replacing/upgrading non-compliant systems.

Rice and Koronis Lakes, Stearns County
Leveraged federal and state grant to form partnerships with local farmers to create sediment basins and prevent feedlot runoff from entering the lakes.

HLRP groups have sponsored over 1400 septic compliance inspections in Crow Wing and Cass Counties, with Request for Proposals (RFPs) offered for the “bulk purchase” of this professional service. By offering geographically clustered “demand” for compliance inspections the host counties have been able to award contracts which ultimately cost approximately \$50 per septic system, compared to the individual price which typically ranges \$100-200.

The following summary characterizes the impact of HLRP sponsored on-site wastewater treatment compliance inspections in Cass County alone:

Lake Name	# Inspected	Compliant	Noncompliant	# of systems updated	# of systems not inspected
Ada					
Baby	96	69	22	8	5
Barnum	38	33	5	1	
Boss	3	3			
Hardy	36	25	8	1	3
Horseshoe	61	48	11	3	2
Kerr	4		2		2
Kid	11	6	5		
Long	210	134	59	27	17
Lost	5	2	1		2
Mann	41	30	8	3	3
McKeown	37	27	7	2	3
Norway	43	35	8	2	
Paquet	12	5	7		
Pleasant	77	60	16		1
Ponto	111	76	29	8	6
Ten Mile	131	119	9	6	3
Wabedo	92	65	27	4	
Total	1008	737	224	65	

In short, over the five years that HLRP Implementation grants have supported septic compliance inspections in Cass County, approximately 27 percent have been identified as noncompliant, but of those approximately 29 percent have updated or replaced their systems on their own, or in partnership with Cass County's low-interest loan assistance program.

Membership Development

Lake Edward Conservation Association

Offers a \$25 rebate for septic pumping to members, but only \$10 to nonmembers.

Lougee Lake Property Owners Association, Crow Wing County

Awards hundreds of dollars of donated products or services to participants in the annual Independence Day Boat Parade.

Serpent Lake Association, Crow Wing County

Bought bulk copies of Carrol Henderson's "Landscaping for Wildlife and Water Quality," and gave copies to every renewing Lake Association member. Each member also received a bag of non-phosphorus fertilizer.

Many groups have hosted dinners, picnics, boat parades, and other opportunities for fellowship to emphasize the social value to participation.

Other

Sky Blue Waters Joint Powers Board, Cass County

Evaluate lake "sensitivity" (based on physical conditions) and public attitudes towards inter-lake zoning for surface water use conflicts and/or sub-basin lake restrictions.

Island/Mud Lakes Association, Crow Wing County

Shoreland restoration and erosion control at public landing.

Water Quality

Baby, Kerr, Kid, Lost, Mann, and McKeown Lakes Association, Cass County

Well testing and septic inspections.

Big Birch Lake Association, Stearns and Todd Counties

Conducted a "mass balance" analysis of their major tributaries; sampling both flow and a range of nutrients and total suspended solids (TSS) to assess which tributaries had the most impact on the lake. Their sampling program identified that a single, relatively small tributary contributed over 1/3 of the overall nutrient load to the lake. They approached the primary property owner upstream of the tributary, and negotiated a "gentlemen's agreement" to pay the farmer to remove land from cultivation and place it in a vegetative buffer. Within two years the lake recorded improvements of nearly 3 feet in secchi transparency; one of the most dramatic improvements in water quality most of us have ever seen!

Knife Lake Improvement District, Kanabec County

Feedlot survey and assistance to livestock operations to mitigate impacts.

Little Hubert Lake Association, Crow Wing County

Experimental removal of nutrients.

Locke Lake Association, Wright County

Offered cost-sharing with private property owners to encourage lakescaping demonstration projects.

Portage-Crooked Lakes Association, Crow Wing County

Septic system inspections and lakescaping demonstration sites.