AGENDA

Lakes Management Committee

Meeting date: 10/15/2025 Start time: 9:00 am End time: 10:30 am

Meeting location: Fairmont City Hall, Upstairs Confrence Room

TIME	DESCRIPTION	INTRODUCTION
9:00 am	**Begin Meeting**	Neusch/Oman
9:05 am	**Update – Lake Water Levels & Weed Rollers**	**Neusch**
9:20 am	Wakeboat Lakebed Impact Study ◦ UMN-SAFL YouTube Channel ◦ Project website link	**Neusch**
9:30 am	Invasive Carp Management Update ◦ Zoos	Neusch/Jon Omvig
9:40 am	**CD 28 & Dutch Creek Update**	**Neusch**
9:50 am	RFPs in progress ◦ Aquatic Invasives Removal and Treatment in the Fairmont Chain of Lakes ▪ Review Committee - reschedule December Meeting	**Neusch/Oman**
10:00 am	**Upcoming Grant Availability** ◦ **MDH Source Water Protection Implementation grant** ◦ **BWSR Keep it Clean Program**	**Neusch/Jon Omvig**
10:10 am	**Moving to Council** ◦ **Wetland Restoration** ◦ **Rock Arch Rapids - Estimate** ◦ **GBERBA - 1W1P**	**Neusch/Oman**
10:30 am	**Other/Adjourn**	

FAIRMONT
CITY OF FAIRMONT, MN

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

ECOLOGICAL & WATER RESOURCES
117 ROGERS ST
MANKATO, MN 56001

October 13, 2025

City of Fairmont
100 Downtown Plaza
Fairmont, MN 56031

RE: Manipulation of Water Levels on the Chain of Lakes via the George Lake Dam, Martin County

To whom it may concern,

Thank you for reaching out to DNR regarding the outlet water level control structure on George Lake (Public Water Basin #46-246P) in Martin County and subsequent water levels within the Chain of Lakes (Amber, Hall, Budd, Sisseton, George). It appears majority of the concerns voiced are related to fluctuating water levels, and concerns that the water level control structure should be regularly altered. As background, the current outlet water level control structure located at the outlet of George Lake was constructed in 1939 and is owned by the City of Fairmont. This structure is a multiple bay, fixed crest concrete water level control structure, with no current capacity for manipulating water levels by adding or removing stoplogs as they are welded in place. An individual Public Waters Work Permit for seasonal draw down was issued to the City of Fairmont in 1983. Public Waters Work Permits have an expiration of 5-years from the date of issuance and as such, permit # 1983-4141 expired in 1988 with no subsequent issuance or amendment. Upon conversation with City staff and to the best of my knowledge, there has not been any artificial manipulation of this structure in the last 15-20 years.

1127 lake level readings taken at the George Lake dam have been recorded in DNR's Lakes Database since 1992 (Figure 1). The Chain of Lakes is a complex hydrologic system in which water levels naturally fluctuate based on a variety of factors such as seasonality, precipitation, and evapotranspiration among many others. Of note, the last submitted water level reading from April of 2025 at George Lake as well as those submitted for the subsequent upstream basins show levels that are well within the historical median range.

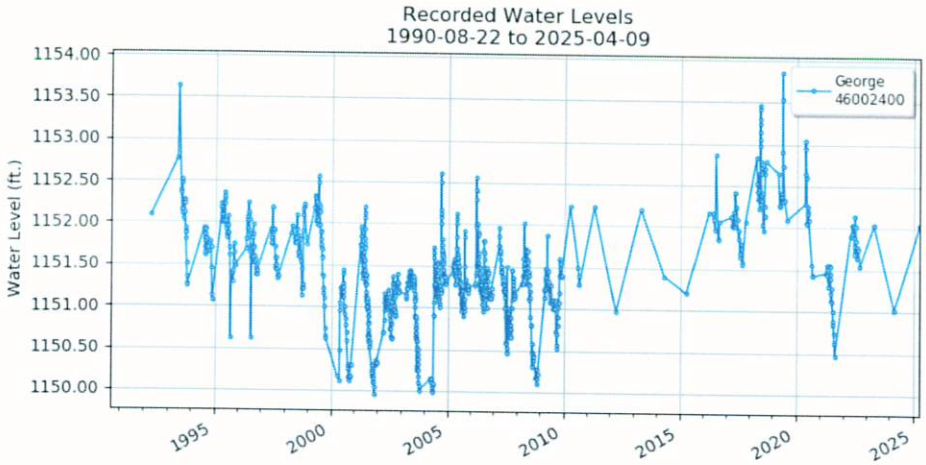


Figure 1. Hydrograph for George Lake, Martin County, 1990-2025. Water levels are reported in NGVD29 datum.

It is well known that the majority of Minnesota and the surrounding states experienced moderate to severe drought in 2021 and 2022, which resulted in significantly lower lake water levels in many areas of the state, including Martin County. Along these lines, water levels in the Chain of Lakes were lower than in recent history, and similar to water levels experienced in 2007 and 2012. George Lake and the Chain of Lakes water levels did not reach low water levels as during the drought of 2002-2003, however, the perception of the extreme change in water levels was likely exacerbated by the extended period of wetter than average conditions from 2014-2020 (see Figure 2: Palmer Drought Severity Index for the Blue Earth River Watershed https://arcgis.dnr.state.mn.us/ewr/climatetrends/#). The Palmer Drought Severity Index (PDSI) uses precipitation and temperature data to correspond to relative conditions within a given area. Periods of excess moisture (wet periods) are indicated by positive/blue values in the figure below, and dry periods are indicated by negative/red values.

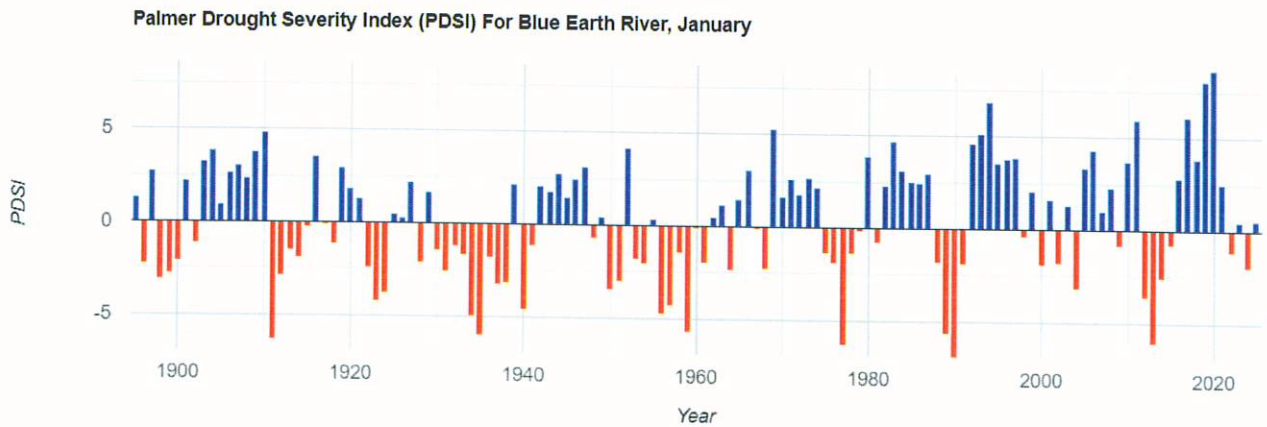


Figure 2. Palmer Drought Severity Index for the Blue Earth River Watershed from 1893-2025.

In general, southern Minnesota is coming out of a stretch of very high water levels in area lakes due to several wet years in a row followed immediately by drought conditions had not been observed at this length since 1988-1989. In 2019, water levels were extremely high in nearly all basins in the area, and much higher than average in any given year. The drier conditions prevalent over 2021-2023 have been the opposite of these wet years, causing these a greater perception of impact in these natural fluctuations. Again, please note that drought is a normal part of the hydrologic cycle, and these impacts are not just being felt by the landowners on the Chain of Lakes, but by those on many area lakes. Basin water levels are a result of hydrologic conditions in the basin's watershed, and in this case, this area is again quite a bit drier than in the recent wetter cycle years, resulting in lower water levels. Please note that, even if lake water level controls were at a higher elevation, loss to evaporation is constant, and can be extreme on hot windy days. Lake water levels will continue to fluctuate based on local/watershed climate conditions and in years with minimal precipitation like 2021-2023, water levels in lakes will continue to fall without inputs from rainfall.

One specific comment that appears to be present in recent communications is that the elevation of the outlet structure should be able to be manipulated based on the aforementioned fluctuating water levels. Please note that changing established lake outlet structures and controls is a very difficult and lengthy process, with significant regulatory oversight. Water level controls for basins with an outlet in Minnesota are regulated under MN Statutes §103G.407, and MN Rules §6115.0220. Specifically, MN Statutes §103G.407 states that a permit can only be issued to establish a control elevation for a public water with an outlet that is different than any previously existing or established control level when "The commissioner (DNR) finds that the proposed change in the control level is in the public interest and causes minimal adverse environmental impact." In addition, the goals established for managing Public Water levels in MN Rules 6115.0220 Subp. 1 includes the following:

- Item A: Maintain or restore natural flow and natural water level conditions to the maximum feasible extent; and
- Item C: Limit the artificial manipulation of water levels, except when the balance of affected public interests clearly warrants the establishment of appropriate controls and it is not proposed solely to satisfy private interests.

MN Rules §6115.0220, Subp.3 also specifically states that "Construction or reconstruction of water level control facilities is prohibited when it is intended to manipulate water levels solely to satisfy private interests." This specific reference is of import, as 6115.0220 Subp. 5 references criteria that must be met before a permit can be issued, including:

- Item A: The project will involve a minimum of encroachment, change, or damage to the environment, including but not limited to fish and wildlife habitat, navigation, water supply, storm water retention, and agricultural uses;

MN Rules §6115.0220 Subp. 5(F) also lists criteria under which changes to an existing structure shall only be approved under, and include control/storage of flood waters, managing water quality, and creating/improving habitat conditions, among several others. A project would have to establish one of these criteria as a valid purpose for the project and provide empirical data to support this benefit while not causing other detriment. The manipulation of water levels specifically to address issues established outside of the criteria established in

MN Rule, such as to address individual landowner concerns for erosion on private property, would be considered a private interest, and not in the best interest of the general public in management of basin water levels. Any change to the existing outlet control structure would result in changes to the hydrologic regime of George Lake and upstream Lakes Sisseton, Bud, Hall, and Amber. Consideration must also be given to the impact of any change at other water level conditions, including the high and low water levels experienced in previous years. Additionally, altering water levels at the George Lake dam would alter hydrology to Center Creek with the potential for downstream landowners to experience flooding issues and added impacts that historically had not been present.

In addition, please note that any change to the structure needs riparian landowner approval. MN Rules §6115.0221 Subp. 2 provides criteria for any permit application including in Subp. 2(A), item 3, which states that, in short, the majority of property owners sign the permit application, and the appropriate easements and other property interests have been obtained from all affected owners. In the case of raising or lowering elevations on a water level control structure, this essentially means that flowage easements must be obtained from all riparian landowners throughout the entirety of the lakes system. This is essential in managing water levels at elevations in the best interest of the general public, and not for any private interest. Any application submitted for this purpose must also be accompanied by detailed hydrologic studies for impacts to flooding impacts within and downstream of the basin, as well as information related to how this change would further public interests in navigation, fish or wildlife propagation, or other beneficial public uses of the water outside of just erosion control (6115.0221, Subp. 2A, item 3.d). Unless the criteria established under MN Rule can be addressed in a permit application, no permit could be issued for manipulation of the outlet structure at a different elevation other than what has been historically (and currently) present. Please note that I am providing this information to detail the regulatory oversight of lake water level controls in Minnesota, and to provide a thorough understanding of the extensive process that would need to be undertaken to change an existing outlet elevation or control. Changing outlet control elevations for a large lake, much less a series of flow through basins such as the Chain of Lakes, is a very difficult process, and must be inextricably be proven to benefit the general public before being approved under MN Rule and Statute. Please see Attachment A: Like Outlet Dams for additional considerations.

The George Lake dam also plays a pivotal role in impounding and maintaining water levels in the Chain of Lakes for municipal water consumption. As a majority of the water utilized for municipal consumption and drinking water is derived from Budd Lake, the George Lake dam has been assigned a hazard classification of "significant hazard" by Minnesota DNR's Dam Safety Program. Maintaining adequate water levels for continued public use benefitting the citizens of Fairmont is given the highest level of priority and therefore seasonal manipulation of the dam crest height for lower priority issues or private considerations is not within the best public interest.

Giving the aging infrastructure of the dam, consideration has been given to replacing the structure with a series of rock arch rapids, similar to those installed at the outlet of Amber Lake. Rock arch rapids are able to maintain water levels to the legal runout elevation, therefore maintaining water levels for municipal water supply. Once installed, rock arch rapids remove the continued expense of repairs to the dam infrastructure and eliminates the potential for unauthorized crest height manipulation in addition to providing recreational opportunities for the public and multiple ecological benefits for aquatic organisms that are not present with a dam.

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

ECOLOGICAL & WATER RESOURCES
117 ROGERS ST
MANKATO, MN 56001

Thank you again for reaching out to discuss concerns regarding water levels in George Lake and the Chain of Lakes. I hope the above information is helpful in understanding the current conditions present on the Chain of Lakes and the processes in place for regulation of lake outlet controls in Minnesota.

Sincerely,

Erynn Jenzen
Area Hydrologist
507-389-8809

Enclosure: Attachment A: Lake Outlet Dams Brochure

EC: Todd Kolander, DNR District Manager
Hannah Neusch, City of Fairmont Water Resources Coordinator

Lake Outlet Dams

PERMIT REQUIREMENTS TO CHANGE RUNOUT ELEVATIONS

The following steps are not all-inclusive but do list *essential* permit application requirements, under Minnesota Statutes 103G, for changing the runout elevation of a dam.

Permit Application. A permit application must be signed by a majority of riparian owners requesting a permanent change in runout elevation.

Flowage Easements. Purchase or donation of flowage easements and consent from ***all*** owners of riparian land abutting the lake, as well as any connected waters that would also be affected, are required.

Environmental Assessment. An environmental assessment must be prepared that documents impacts on wetland habitat, fish spawning areas, waterfowl and songbird nesting areas, as well as strategies to address shore erosion due to wave action and winter ice push.

Engineering. Engineering plans must be prepared that show the proposed physical changes to the dam.

Hydrology/Hydraulics. A hydrologic/hydraulic analysis must identify anticipated changes in lake levels and stream flows.

Surveys. Surveys must be prepared that show all shoreland and existing development that would be affected by the proposed change. These surveys must identify compliance with shoreland ordinance standards for both the existing and proposed runout in terms of lot size, structure and sewer system setback, and structure and sewer system elevations above the highest proposed water elevation.

Outlet Dam Maintenance

DNR Waters owns and maintains more than 300 lake outlet dams in Minnesota. The primary goals for dam maintenance are to protect existing shoreland owners' rights and downstream owners' rights to water available within natural precipitation variations.

Maintenance involves ensuring that each dam is safe and functional, operates at the authorized runout elevation, and provides free-flowing conditions. Inspections of dams are conducted to ensure that the stop logs are at the authorized setting, to repair or replace damaged or worn equipment, and to remove obstructions as necessary.

Historical Operation of Outlet Dams

Most lake outlet dams, which were built in the 1930s to conserve water, *generally* feature several 5-foot-wide openings, called bays, with provisions to add and remove wooden stop logs. The runout level of a dam depended on the number of stop logs placed in each bay. Stop logs were managed by local observer/operators at each lake for 10-12 years after the dams were built. When precipitation suddenly (and unpredictably) returned to normal and above normal, flooding occurred around many lakes resulting in claims for damages by lakeshore property owners. It became apparent that stop log operation by local observers could not maintain uniform lake levels.

Thereafter, department engineers inspected each dam, examined the shore of the affected lake, and analyzed all water level records and other available information about each lake. A decision was then made to set an authorized stop log level for each dam. The goal was to set the stop logs at an elevation that would retain as much water as possible yet eliminate complaints of high water and the associated claims of damage from flooding. The authorized stop log setting is maintained by DNR Waters as the legal runout elevation.



Outlet dam.

Lake Outlet Dams



DNR maintenance specialist replacing wooden stop logs with steel channels at the Island Lake outlet dam in Crow Wing County (photograph by Ron and Judy Rolfe).

Changing a Runout Elevation

It is the goal of DNR Waters to maintain existing flows and water level conditions at lakes with outlet dams to the maximum feasible extent. However, shoreland owners on a lake may have varied and differing opinions about "desirable" lake water levels. Proposals to change water levels are difficult to accomplish due to legal, environmental, and financial realties (see details in sidebar on page 1).

Potentially serious consequences may result from changing a runout elevation, such as navigation problems, shore erosion, water quality degradation, ice damage, and flooding. Changing a runout to solve a problem may create new problems that are unacceptable to other owners or to future owners. Regardless of the runout elevation of a lake, water levels will fluctuate because of variations in precipitation, which cannot be controlled.

Legal Considerations

Unauthorized tampering with set runouts is an ongoing problem at dams in Minnesota. According to Minnesota Statutes Chapter 103G, it is unlawful to change the runout elevation of a dam without prior permit authorization from the DNR. Persons found to be responsible for unauthorized changes to a dam are subject to criminal enforcement action. Along with the criminal action is the potential of lawsuits brought by aggrieved shoreland owners for flooding, lack of access, or downstream damages due to flow changes resulting from the illegal tampering.

The state cannot legally alter a stop log elevation in response to individual requests because of high or low water level conditions. To raise a runout would cause water to cover land it did not previously cover, which may be a "taking" of land without compensation. It is unconstitutional for government to take private property without due process. DNR Waters' position and legal obligation is to maintain the authorized stop log setting and allow water levels to fluctuate in response to precipitation that falls within a lake's watershed.

A formal permit process exists for those shoreland owners who may wish to pursue a permanent change in runout elevation (see sidebar, page 1). It must be clearly understood that no permit decision by the DNR is required until complete information is provided by the applicant(s). Costs associated with design, engineering, flowage easements, and structural improvements are the responsibility of the applicant(s), or a local governmental unit acting on behalf of the applicant(s).

©2004 State of Minnesota, Department of Natural Resources. Prepared by DNR Waters.

DNR Contact Information

DNR Waters website lists Area Hydrologists:
www.dnr.state.mn.us/waters

DNR Waters in St. Paul:
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155-4032
(651) 296-4800

DNR Information Center

Twin Cities: (651) 296-6157
Minnesota toll free: 1-888-646-6367
Telecommunication device for the deaf (TDD): (651) 296-5484
TDD toll free: 1-800-657-3929

This information is available in an alternative format on request.
Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is available regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, age, or disability. Discrimination inquiries should be sent to Minnesota DNR, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155-4031; or the Equal Opportunity Office, Department of the Interior, Washington, DC 20240.

Request for Proposals

Aquatic Invasives Removal and Treatment in the Fairmont Chain of Lakes

Fairmont, MN

Physical Proposals Due by November 26th, 2025 by Noon

Project Overview

The City of Fairmont is soliciting proposals from qualified ecological restoration professionals to perform aquatic invasive species removal and treatment in Fairmont's Chain of Lakes for a one (1) year contract (2026). The Chain of Lakes consists of five lakes, all interconnected by channels, which flow from south to north. These channels allow boat passage, but also allow aquatic vegetation to pass from one water body to another. These lakes are recreational, used for boating, fishing, and relaxing. It is important to note that Budd Lake is the source of drinking water for the community, and the utmost care should be taken to maintain the integrity of our drinking water source.

Lake Identifiers and littoral area:

- George Lake (DNR Lake ID #46002400)
  - Littoral Area – 83.17 acres
- Sisseton Lake (DNR Lake ID #46002500)
  - Littoral Area – 100 acres
- Budd Lake (DNR Lake ID #46003000)
  - Littoral Area – 111 acres
- Hall Lake (DNR Lake ID #46003100)
  - Littoral Area – 277 acres
- Amber Lake (DNR Lake ID #46003400)
  - Littoral Area – 108 acres

The following species are to be removed and/or treated under this RFP:

- Curly-Leaf Pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*)

Two documents are attached for the Proposer's reference:

1. 2025 Fairmont Lakes Curlyleaf Pondweed Delineation Summary; Minnesota State University Mankato; 2025
2. City Parks; City of Fairmont; 2017

The first document (2025 Delineation Summary) is the official delineation which should be provided to the DNR for permitting. It provides information about documented species and locations in the Lakes. These data sources only document known species and locations at a certain period in time.

The second document is the official map and locations of our city parks, including boat ramps and other public access areas such as swimming beaches. This can be used for reference when analyzing our priority areas.

DRAFT

Scope of work

The contractor will be responsible for securing the appropriate permits for mechanical management through the DNR, or other entities as necessary, producing a detailed written project report at the end of the season, visibly and securely posting public notices per permit requirements, attending one (1) Lakes Management Committee Meeting (in person or virtual) each year, maintaining active communications with City of Fairmont staff, and the lakeside residents and businesses.

The Fairmont Chain of Lakes consists of 1,141 surface acres of water and from the delineation survey there is an estimated 279 acres of curly-leaf pondweed system wide. A digital .zip file will be provided of the delineation once awarded. Curly-leaf pondweed has become problematic for lakes users and will be targeted for control in high traffic areas, such as lake access points, swimming beaches, public fishing docks, and near the drinking water intake. Additional management areas will be considered as time and budget allows. Multiple management visits may be required.

The City of Fairmont is prepared to collaborate with the contractor to implement an organized disposal plan for curly-leaf pondweed.

The City of Fairmont must be notified at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the management beginning so they can give the public as much advance notice as possible.

Priority Areas: Corresponding number from City Parks attachment and Plot number from MNSU Delineation Report.

- Phase 1
    - Gomsrud Park (15) – Budd Lake
        - B CLP Plot 3 (10 Acres)
    - Amber Lake Park (1) – Amber Lake
        - A CLP Plot 1 (12 Acres)
    - Ward Park (27) – Sisseton Lake
        - S CLP Plot 2 (8 acres)
- Phase 2 (if time and budget allow)
    - Drinking water intake
        - B CLP Plot 2 (9 Acres)
    - Other Locations
        - A CLP Plot 3 (7 Acres)
        - G CLP Plot 4 (2 Acres
        - G CLP Plot 3 (8 Acres)
        - H CLP Plot 3 (23 Acres)
        - S CLP Plot 3 (27 Acres)

Project Tasks

Task 1: Invasive Aquatic Plant Management Permits

- The contractor is responsible for applying, obtaining, and complying with the required permits through the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and/or any additional permits as

DRAFT

required and providing a copy of the permits and relevant post management records to city staff.

Task 2: Public Notification

- Notify city staff in writing no less than three (3) workdays in advance of the management or treatment date.
- Comply with all State and local public notification requirements for management or treatment and provide the city with copies of the notifications.
- Contact the County Assessor's Office to get the most current mailing addresses of property owners within the boundaries of the management or treatment areas and mail notices at least ten (10) days in advance of management.
- Coordinate with the city to visibly post notices in public access areas when/if required by law.

Task 3: Project Reports: A final report shall be submitted electronically no later than September 4th 2026, to Fairmont City Staff. The report will summarize pre- and post- treatment densities, areas treated, the type and amount of management used, treatment results, and recommendations for 2027. The report will include:

- Map detailing the treatment areas and the aquatic plant species targeted.
- Map showing post-treatment plant density of submerged aquatic plants.
- Estimated acreage treated for the targeted plant species.
- Estimated tons of targeted plant species removed.
- A description of methods and equipment used.
- An assessment of the overall effectiveness of the treatment.
- A copy of all permits and related records.
- Recommended aquatic plant control actions including aquatic plant species targeted for control, recommended management, acreage to be controlled, and estimated costs for continued management in 2027.

Task 4: Communications

- Maintain active communication with Fairmont City Staff (email preferred), shoreline residents, recreational boaters, and fishermen.
- Provide a brief written description of the work accomplished on all invoices. Include copies of all publications and written materials along with the related invoices.
- Attend at least one (1) Lake Management Committee Meeting each year to discuss aquatic plant management issues and concerns, treatment results for the prior year and make recommendations for the subsequent year. This may be done virtually.
- Provide communications with shoreline residents and businesses prior to and during management to answer any questions or concerns they might have.

Annual Estimate Schedule of Work (1 Year Contract) *

Date	Task

DRAFT

January 2026	**Analyze Delineation provided by Minnesota State University Mankato.**
March-July 2026	**Conduct mechanical management and control of targeted species. Multiple management visits may be required as time and budget allows.**
September 2026	**Annual reports due. Meeting with the Lakes Management Committee to discuss results and recommendations.**

**City of Fairmont Staff reserves the right to modify the annual schedule of work.*

Selection Criteria

The Proposals will be evaluated by an internal review committee which may include Fairmont City Hall staff, Elected Officials, and/or other stakeholders. We expect to bring the chosen proposal to City Council in December. The proposal will be selected based on the following criteria:

- Qualifications of firm
- Work performance
- Scope of work approach
- Cost

Submission of Proposals

Please submit four physical copies of the proposal no later than Noon on November 26th, 2025 to:

Betsy Steuber, City Clerk
100 Downtown Plaza
Fairmont, MN 56031
E-Mail: BSteuber@fairmont.org

Betsy Steuber will serve as the primary contact for the review process for the proposals. Any questions regarding this RFP should be addressed to her through e-mail at the above address.

DRAFT

College of Science, Engineering and Technology
Biological Sciences
242 Trafton Science Center South, Mankato MN 56001
507.389.2786 | 800.627.3529 or 711 (MRS/TTY)

2025 Fairmont Lakes Curlyleaf Pondweed Delineation Summary



A Delineation Summary Submitted to the Martin County Soil and Watershed District

Ryan M. Wersal, Ph.D., Thomas Zellmer, Pearl Jensen, April Moffett
Department of Biological Sciences
Minnesota State University, Mankato
Aquatic Weed Science Lab

Report: MNSU 0022

Minnesota State University MANKATO
College of Science, Engineering and Technology
Biological Sciences
242 Trafton Science Center South, Mankato MN 56001
507.389.2786 | 800.627.3529 or 711 (MRS/TTY)

Results

- Delineation surveys were conducted on the Fairmont Chain of Lakes (George Lake, Sisseton Lake, Budd Lake, Hall Lake, and Amber Lake) on May 19, 21, and 23.

- A meander survey pattern was used and a plant rake deployed thoughout the littoral zone (<10 ft water depth) in each lake. The littoral zone was defined based on 2024 survey data.

- A total of 755 points were sampled thoughout the system.

- Curlyleaf pondweed was the dominant species in each lake, and was found at 61% (459 points) of all points samples (Figure 1). Sago pondweed was the dominant native species observed followed by chara sp. and coontail. Native species were only observed in Sisseton Lake, Budd Lake, and Hall Lake.

- Rake abundance (0 = no curlyleaf, 1 = 1/3 of rake covered, 2 = 2/3 of rake covered, and 3 = whole rake covered) was used to visually assess curlyleaf pondweed density. Approximately 40% of all points sampled did not have curlyleaf pondweed present. However, 60% of all sample points had curlyleaf pondweed present, and 26% of all points sampled were assigned a 3 for rake abundance; which means curlyleaf pondweed growth is widespread and dense (Table 1).

Table 1. Numerical distribution of curlyleaf pondweed rake abundance ratings.

Rake Abundance Rating	Sample Points (#)	% of Total Sample Points
0	296	39
1	185	25
2	78	10
3	196	26

- The Fairmont Chain of Lakes consists of 1,141 surface acres of water and from the delineation survey there is an estimated 279 acres (24% of all surface acres) of curlyleaf pondweed system wide.

- George Lake (84 acres) had an estimated 42 acres of curlyleaf pondweed (50% of the total lake area) (Figure 2). Curlyleaf pondweed growth occurred around the entire shoreline and was dense in the northern end of the lake and the shallow bay on the northwest side of the lake. The curlyleaf pondweed was divided into six treatment plots based on location, curlyleaf pondweed density, and shoreline morphometry. Native species were not observed at the time of the delineation in George Lake.

- Sisseton Lake (140 acres) had an estimated 56 acres of curlyleaf pondweed (40% of the total lake area) (Figure 3). Curlyleaf pondweed growth was dense along the entirety of the shoreline an in the large bay at the southern-most end of the lake. Curlyleaf pondweed was divided into four treatment plots comprising three narrow shoreline plots and one plot comprising the large bay at the south end of the lake. Native species were observed at one sample point in Sisseton Lake (Figure 4).

- Budd Lake (224 acres) had an estimated 39 acres of curlyleaf pondweed (17% of the total lake area) and was the lake that had the least amount of curlyleaf pondweed present. (Figure 5). Curlyleaf pondweed growth was most dense along the northern shoreline. Curlyleaf pondweed was divided into four treatment plots comprising four narrow shoreline plots. Native species were observed at multiple sample points along the western shoreline in Budd Lake (Figure 6).

- Hall Lake (513 acres) had an estimated 108 acres of curlyleaf pondweed (21% of the total lake area) (Figure 7). Curlyleaf pondweed growth was most dense along the southern and eastern shorelines. Curlyleaf pondweed was divided into five narrow shoreline treatment plots. Native species were observed at multiple sample points along entire shoreline in Hall Lake (Figure 8).

- Amber Lake (180 acres) had an estimated 34 acres of curlyleaf pondweed (19% of the total lake area) (Figure 9). Curlyleaf pondweed growth was dense along the entirety of the shoreline. Curlyleaf pondweed was divided into four narrow shoreline treatment plots. Native species were not observed in Amber Lake at the time of the delineation survey.

Conclusions and Recommendations

- Curlyleaf pondweed growth is widespread and dense throughout the system. The current depth distribution of curlyleaf pondweed is limited to shallow water depths (1 to 7 ft) due to low water clarity.

- Curlyleaf pondweed management in this system will be complex due to the close proximity and connectedness of the lakes, the lakes are multi-use, and the operational use of a potable water intake. Therefore, an integrated pest management approach is recommended whereby hand-pulling, mechanical harvesting, and herbicide treatments are utilized.

- Hand pulling is the simplest and most widely used methods to control aquatic weed growth and can be performed by wading or from a small boat in shallow water. Snorkeling equipment, surface supplied air systems or SCUBA divers are often used in water greater than 4 to 5 feet deep and for more intensive hand pulling programs. Hand pulling can be a highly selective technique and is usually used as a component of invasive species management programs to target new infestations with low plant density (generally less than 500 stems per acre). It is often an important follow-up strategy to a herbicide treatment program to extend the duration of plant control. Additionally, hand rakes of varying sizes and configurations are manufactured and sold for aquatic weed control. Many of these hand rakes are lightweight aluminum, with rope tethers that are designed to be thrown out into a swim area and dragged back onto shore. Some are designed to cut the weeds instead of raking them back to shore (Chapter 3.4 AERF BMP)

- Mechanical harvesting is generally a slow process, as a regular harvester can cut and remove plants at a rate of about 1 to 4 acres day^{-1} depending on the machine and plant density. Therefore, harvesting the entire 279 acres of curlyleaf pondweed in the Fairmont Chain of Lakes once would take anywhere from 70 to 279 days and would be cost prohibitive and inefficient from a management perspective. Harvesting should target smaller high-traffic areas, lake access points, or near the drinking water intake that would allow for repeated clippings and the greatest chance of success.

Minnesota State University MANKATO

College of Science, Engineering and Technology
Biological Sciences
242 Trafton Science Center South, Mankato MN 56001
507.389.2786 | 800.627.3529 or 711 (MRS/TTY)

- Mechanical harvesters are not selective and will remove native vegetation along with curlyleaf pondweed. By-catch, or the harvesting of nontarget organisms such as fish, crayfish, snails and frogs along with weeds, may be more of a concern, but the degree or extent of harvesting should be considered. Research on fish catch during mechanical harvesting of submersed vegetation has shown that 15 to 30% of some species of fish can be removed with cut vegetation during a single harvest. If the total area of a lake that is harvested is 1, 5 or 10% of the lake's area, this will likely be of little consequence (Chapter 3.4 AERF BMP)

- Herbicides are widely used for management of curlyleaf pondweed and in Minnesota the herbicides flumioxazin, endothall, and diquat are often permitted for use in management programs. Other herbicides that have shown efficacy on curlyleaf pondweed include copper, fluridone, and penoxsulam. It is important to understand site specific characteristics when selecting herbicides and herbicide rates.

- Overall, research has shown that early season management is crucial to effectively control curlyleaf pondweed and prevent turion production. Most native plant species are still dormant early in the spring, so management at this time prevents damage to many desirable native plants while providing selective control of curlyleaf pondweed. Since effective control early in the season prevents turion production, regrowth of curlyleaf pondweed is reduced the following year.

Minnesota State University MANKATO

College of Science, Engineering and Technology
Biological Sciences
242 Trafton Science Center South, Mankato MN 56001
507.389.2786 | 800.627.3529 or 711 (MRS/TTY)

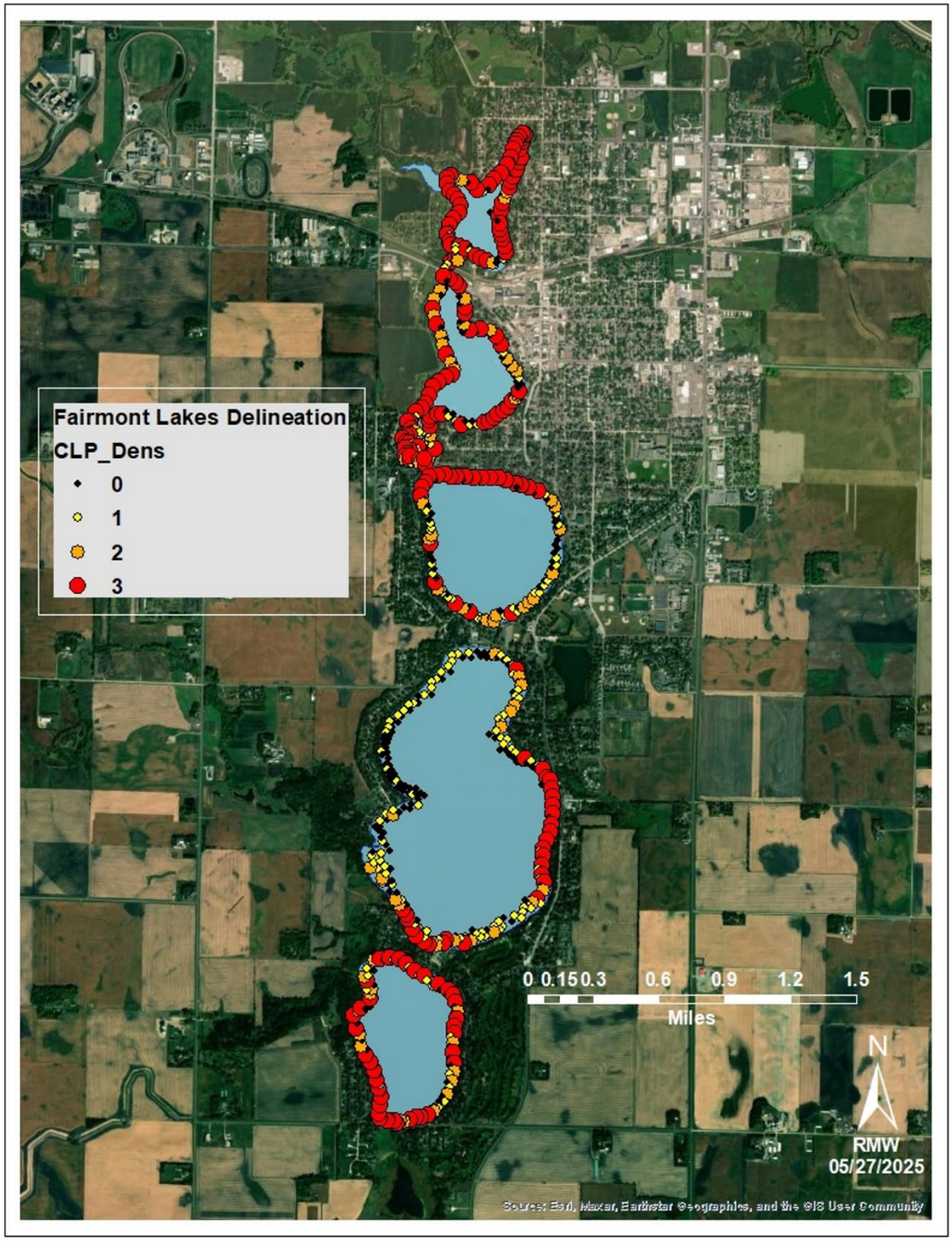


Figure 1. Distribution and abundance of curlyleaf pondweed in the Fairmont Chain of Lakes during the delineation survey conducted in May 2025.

Minnesota State University MANKATO

College of Science, Engineering and Technology
Biological Sciences
242 Trafton Science Center South, Mankato MN 56001
507.389.2786 | 800.627.3529 or 711 (MRS/TTY)

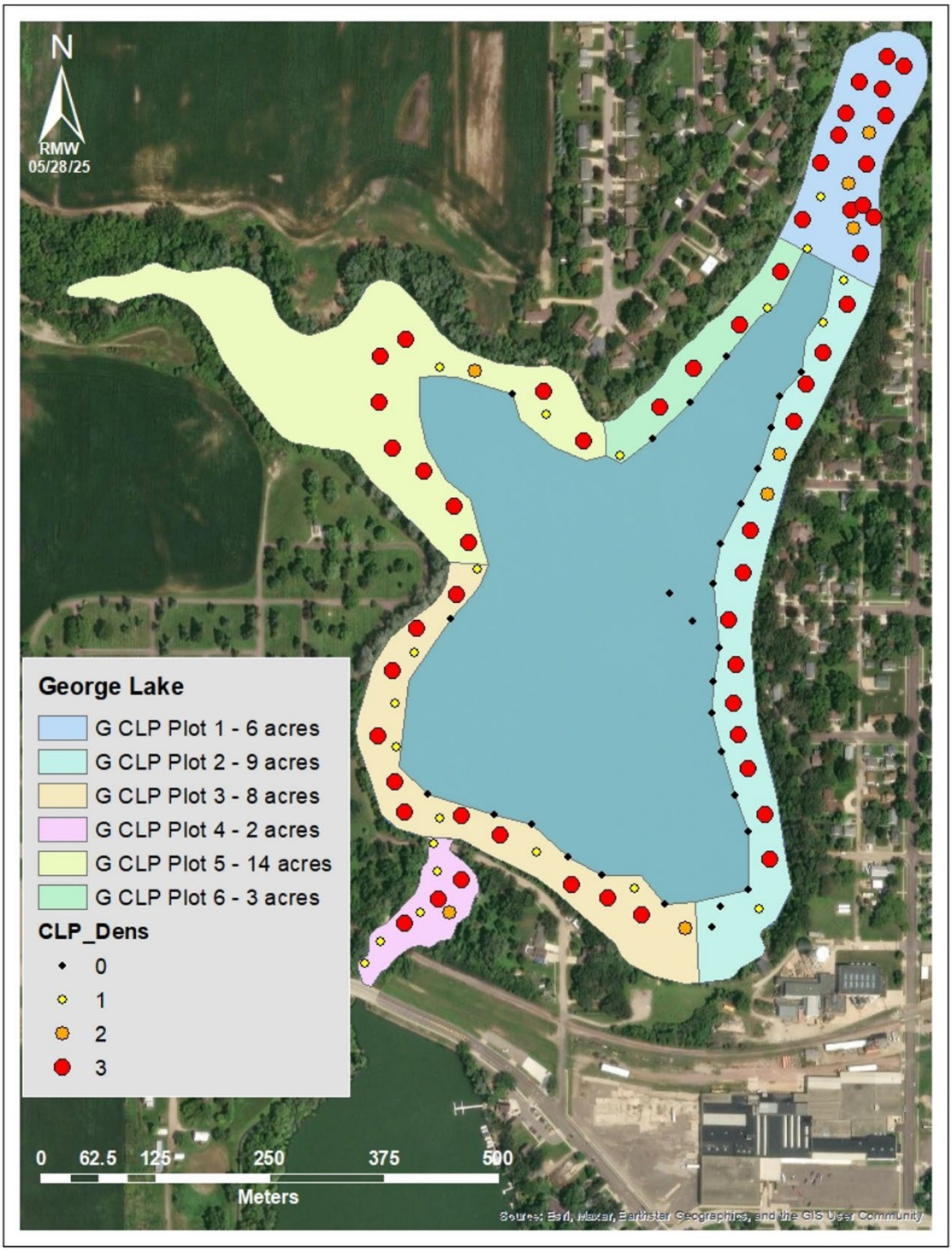


Figure 2. Distribution and abundance of curlyleaf pondweed in George Lake during the delineation survey conducted in May 2025.

Minnesota State University MANKATO

College of Science, Engineering and Technology
Biological Sciences
242 Trafton Science Center South, Mankato MN 56001
507.389.2786 | 800.627.3529 or 711 (MRS/TTY)

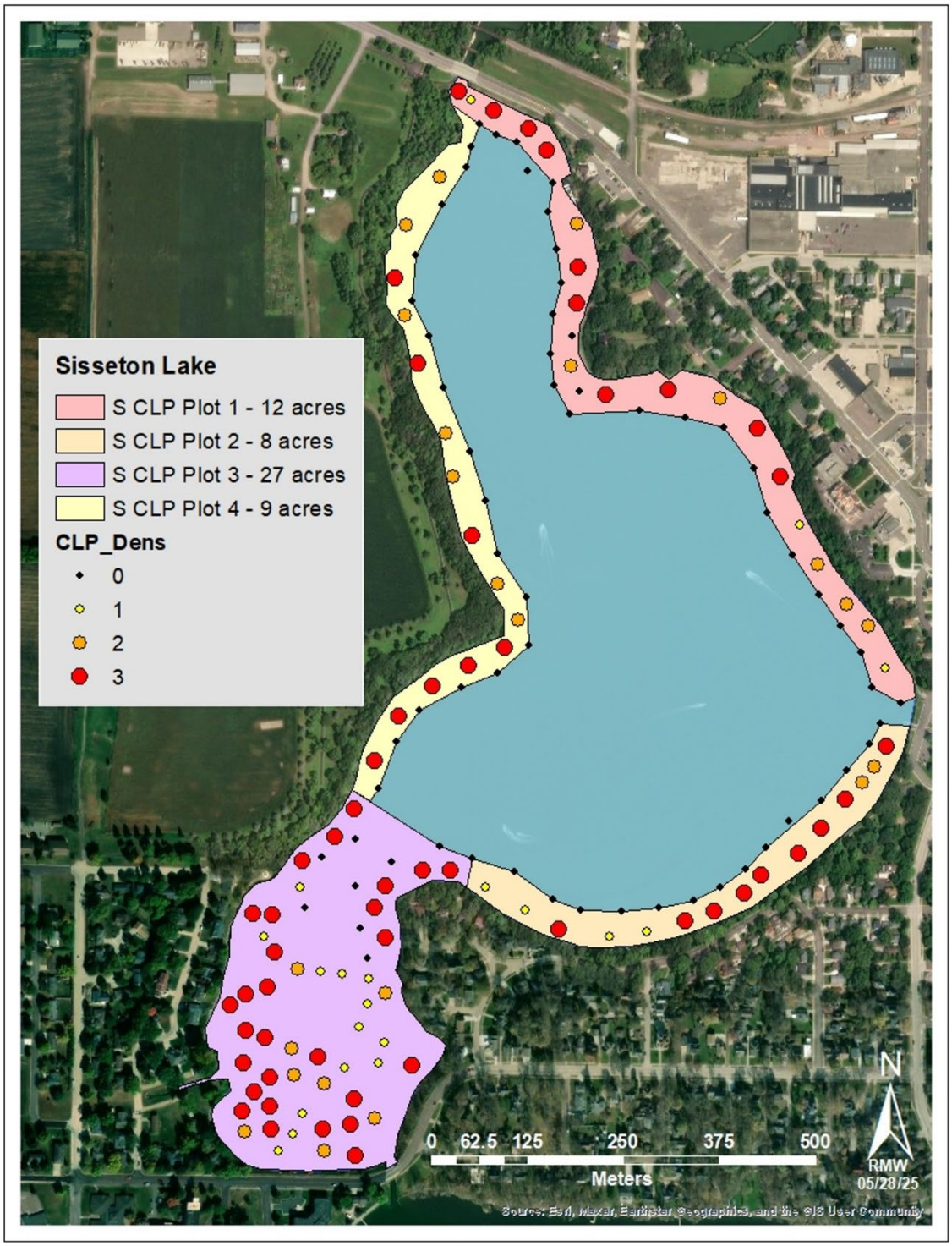


Figure 3. Distribution and abundance of curlyleaf pondweed in Sisseton Lake during the delineation survey conducted in May 2025.

Minnesota State University MANKATO

College of Science, Engineering and Technology
Biological Sciences
242 Trafton Science Center South, Mankato MN 56001
507.389.2786 | 800.627.3529 or 711 (MRS/TTY)

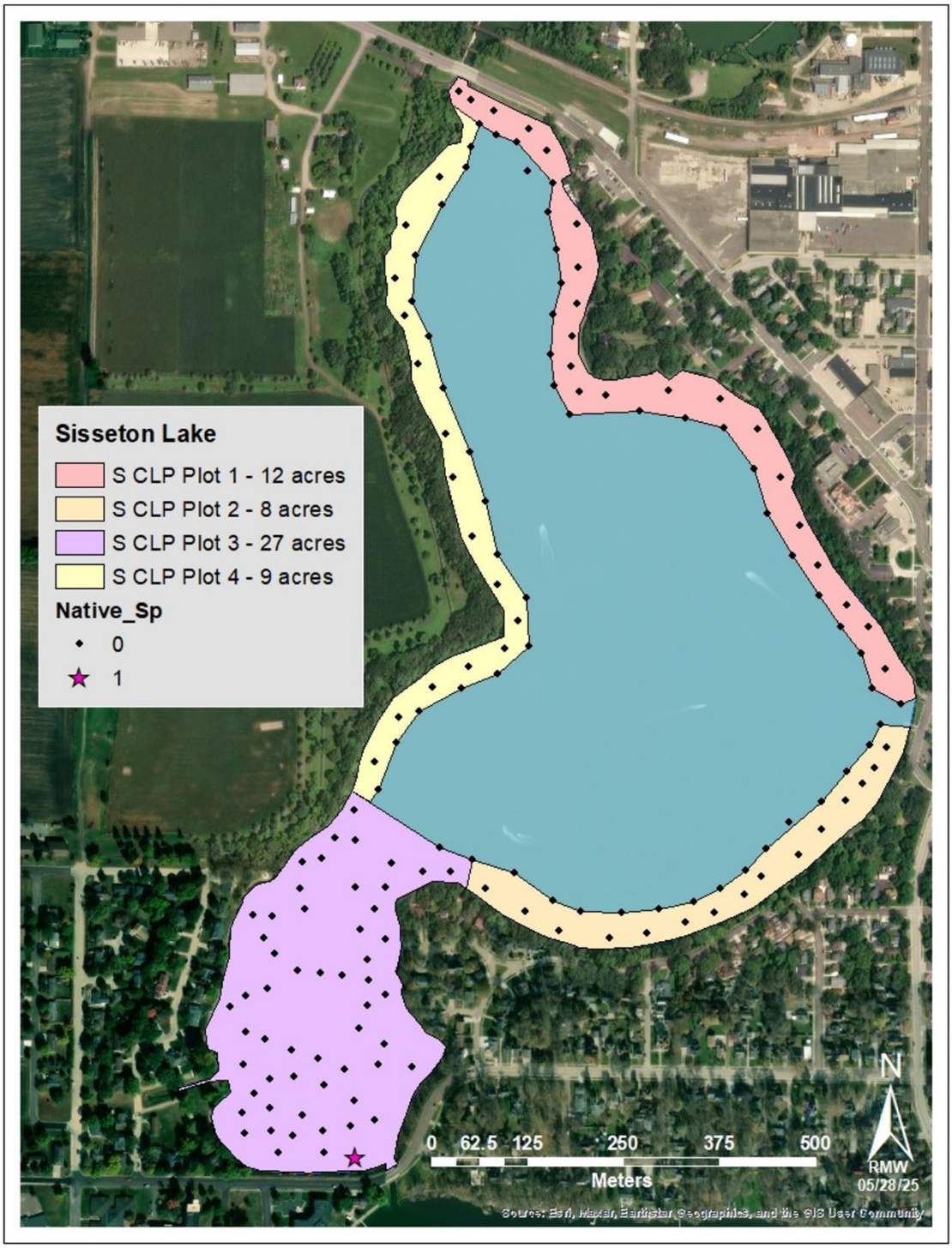


Figure 4. Distribution of native aquatic plant species in Sisseton Lake during the delineation survey conducted in May 2025.

Minnesota State University MANKATO

College of Science, Engineering and Technology
Biological Sciences
242 Trafton Science Center South, Mankato MN 56001
507.389.2786 | 800.627.3529 or 711 (MRS/TTY)

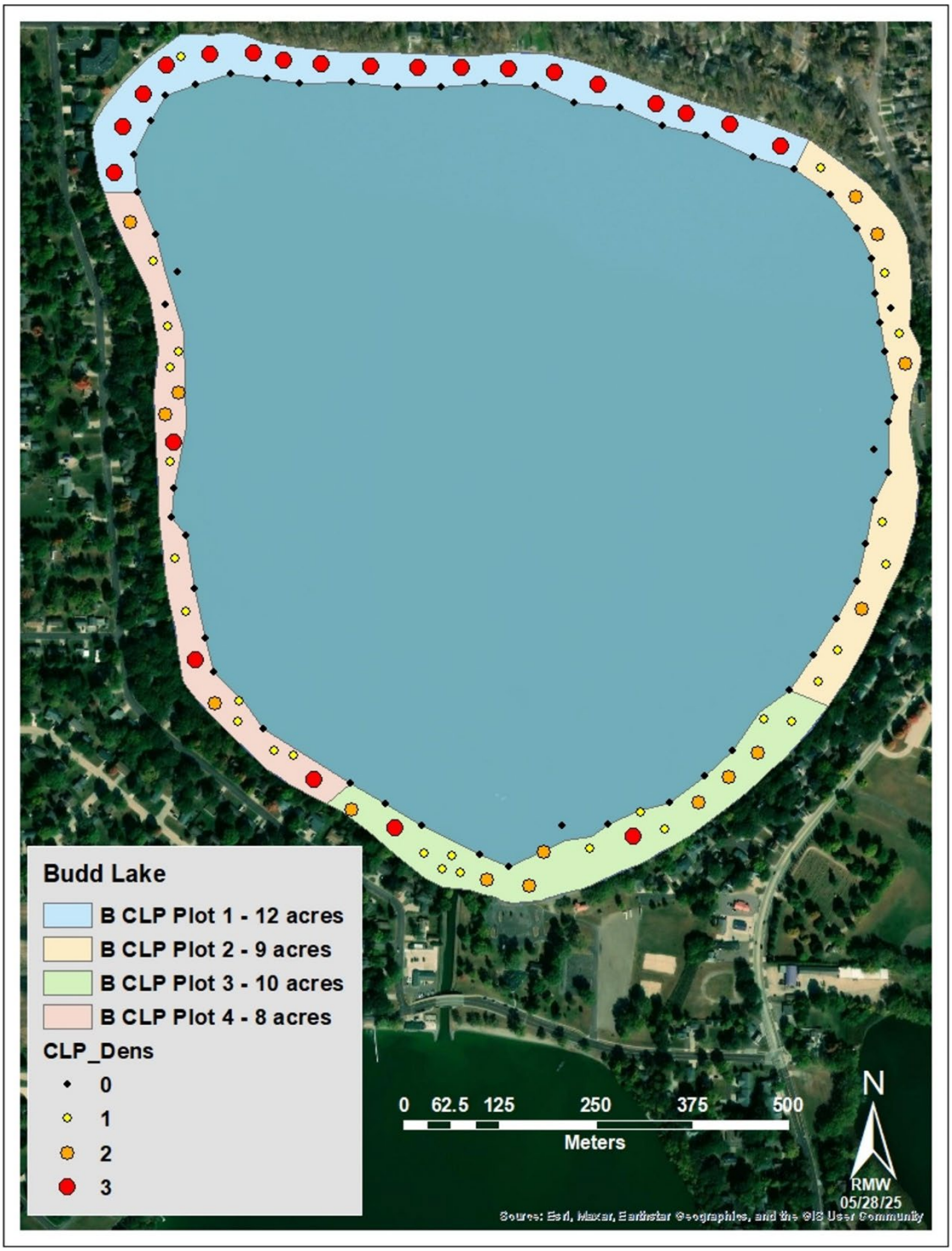


Figure 5. Distribution and abundance of curlyleaf pondweed in Budd Lake during the delineation survey conducted in May 2025.

Minnesota State University MANKATO

College of Science, Engineering and Technology
Biological Sciences
242 Trafton Science Center South, Mankato MN 56001
507.389.2786 | 800.627.3529 or 711 (MRS/TTY)

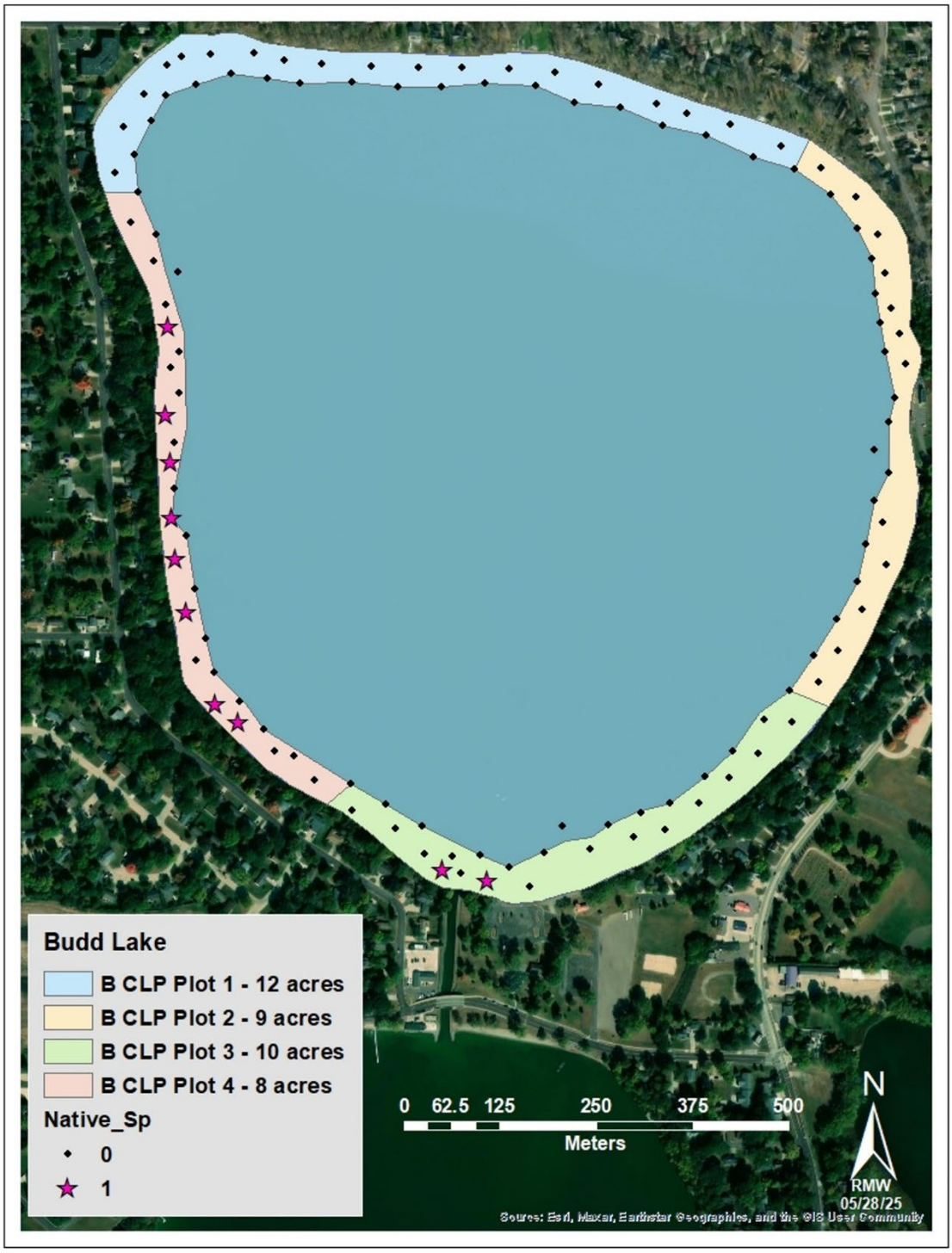


Figure 6. Distribution of native aquatic plant species in Budd Lake during the delineation survey conducted in May 2025.

Minnesota State University MANKATO

College of Science, Engineering and Technology
Biological Sciences
242 Trafton Science Center South, Mankato MN 56001
507.389.2786 | 800.627.3529 or 711 (MRS/TTY)

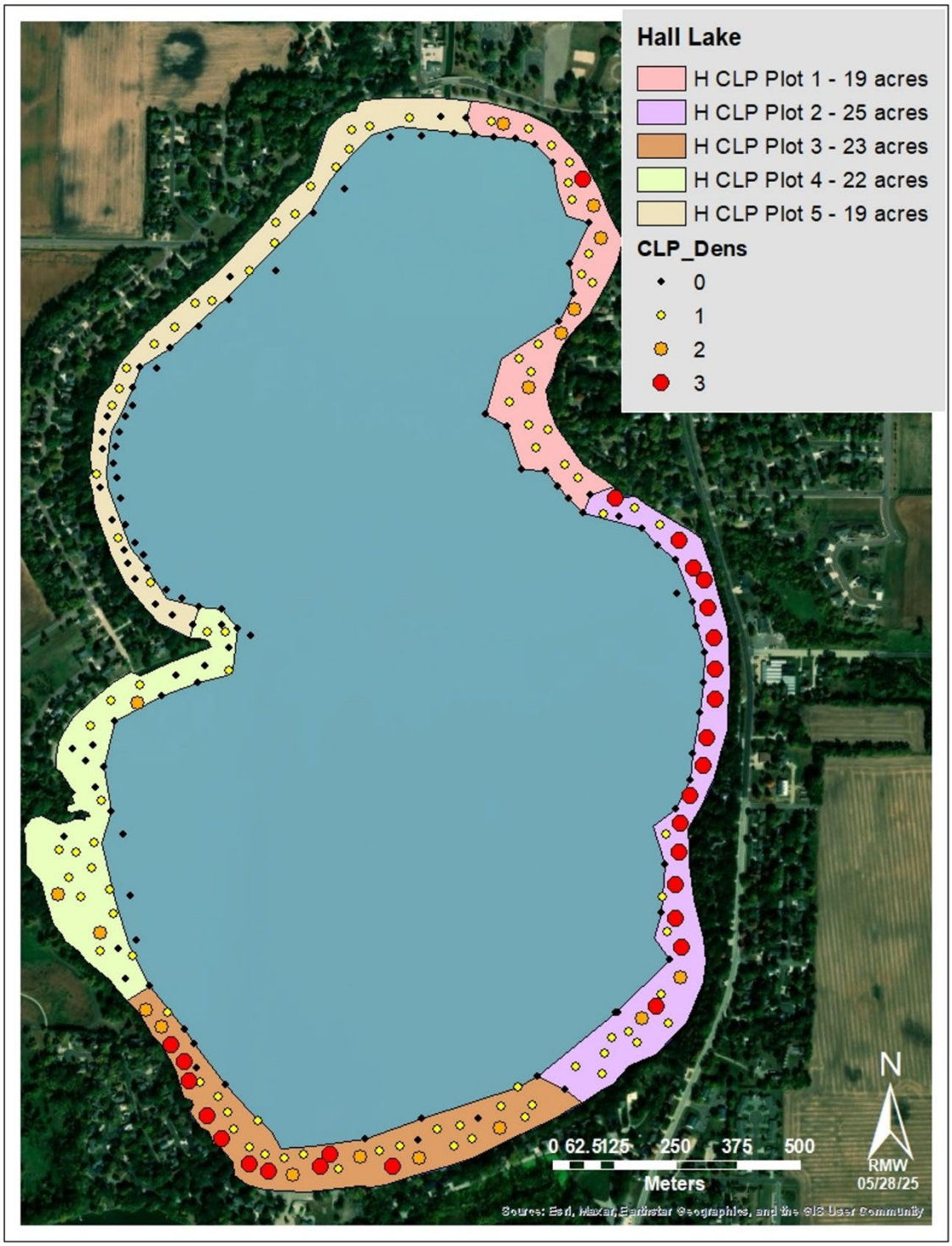


Figure 7. Distribution and abundance of curlyleaf pondweed in Hall Lake during the delineation survey conducted in May 2025.

Minnesota State University MANKATO

College of Science, Engineering and Technology
Biological Sciences
242 Trafton Science Center South, Mankato MN 56001
507.389.2786 | 800.627.3529 or 711 (MRS/TTY)

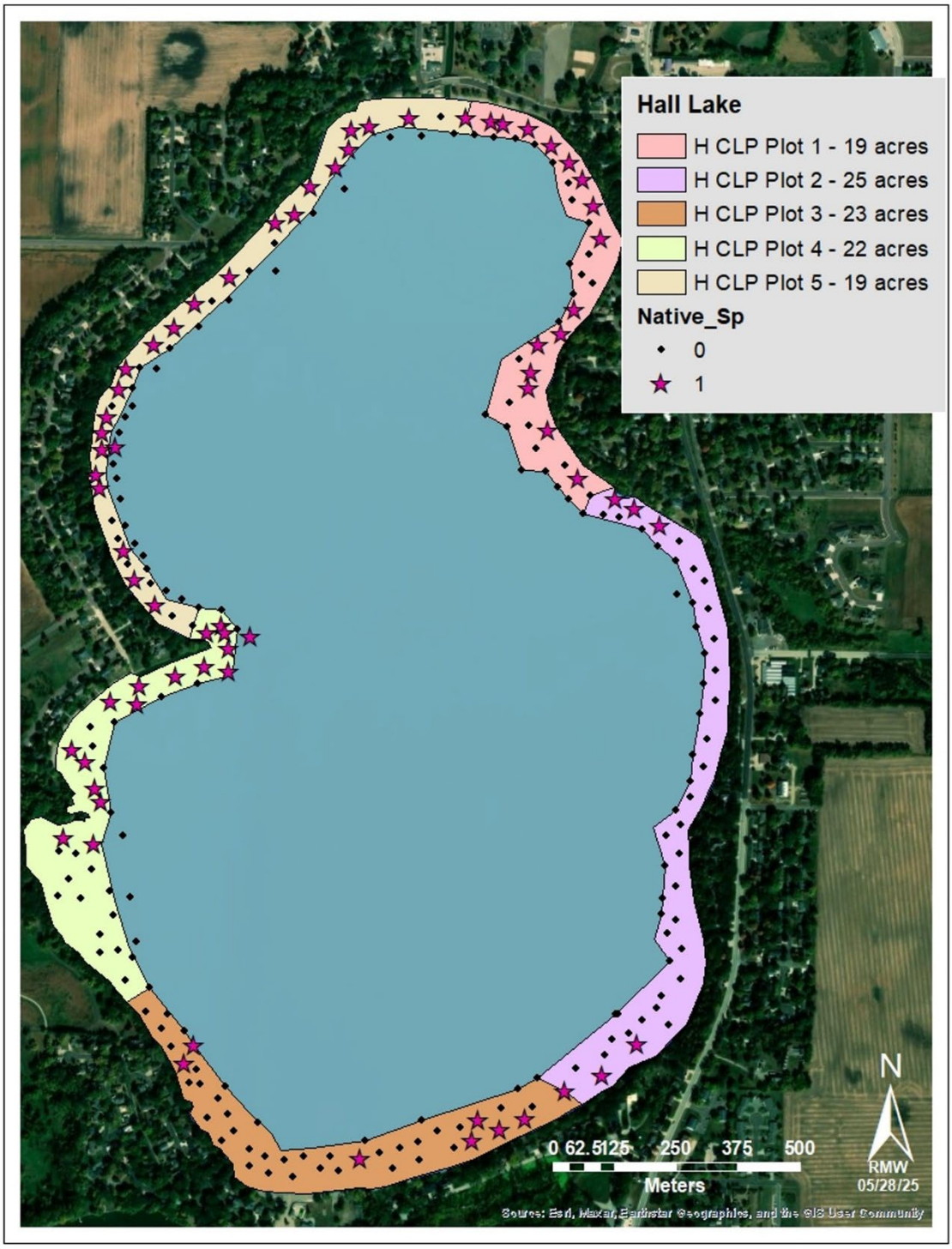


Figure 8. Distribution of native aquatic plant species in Hall Lake during the delineation survey conducted in May 2025.

Minnesota State University MANKATO

College of Science, Engineering and Technology
Biological Sciences
242 Trafton Science Center South, Mankato MN 56001
507.389.2786 | 800.627.3529 or 711 (MRS/TTY)

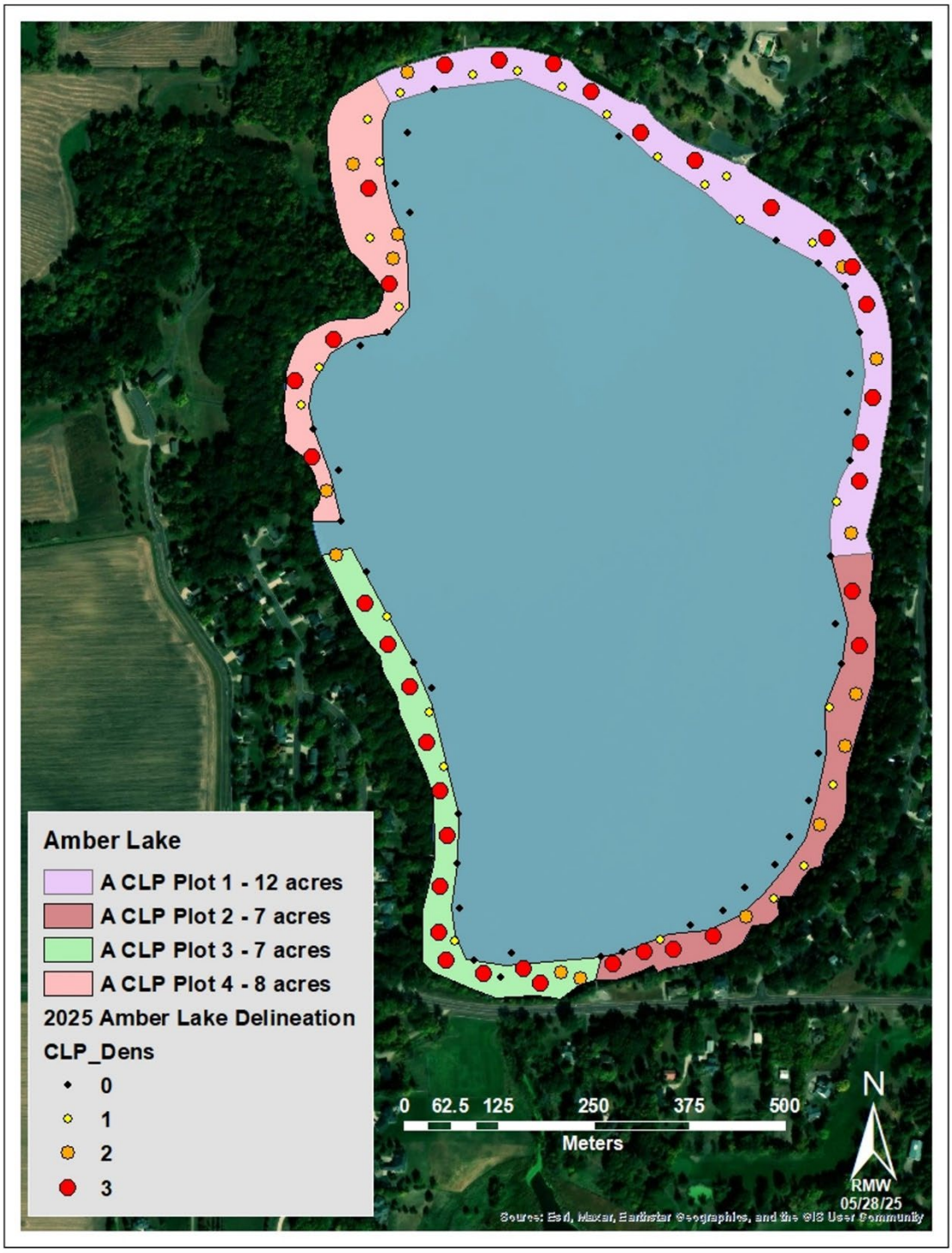
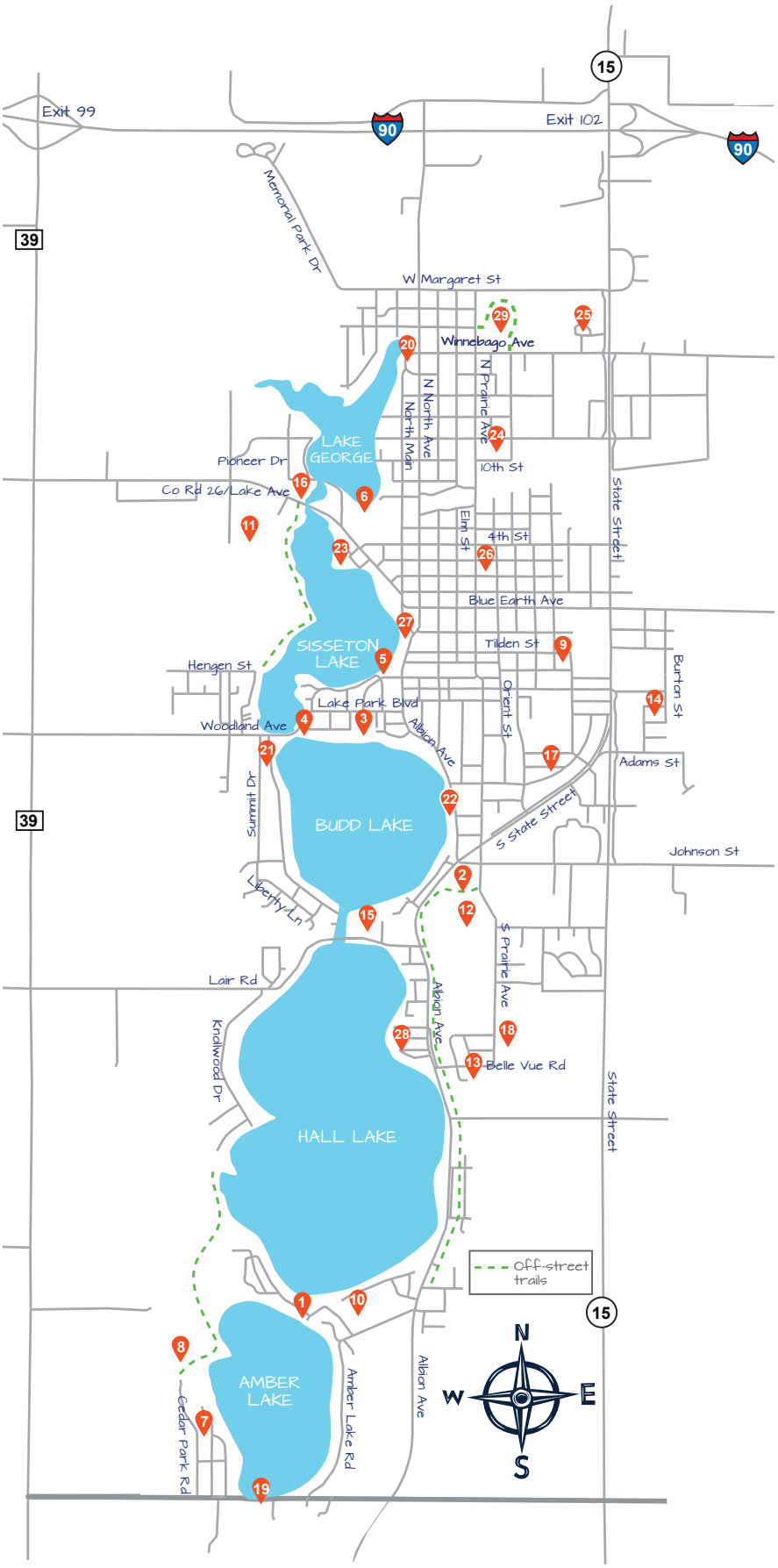


Figure 9. Distribution and abundance of curlyleaf pondweed in Amber Lake during the delineation survey conducted in May 2025.

CITY PARKS

FAIRMONT
CITY OF LAKES

Park & Location	
1 AMBER LAKE PARK	515 Interlaken Road
2 AQUATIC PARK	1400 S. Prairie Avenue
3 BIRD PARK	505 Woodland Avenue
4 BIRD POINT	591 Woodland Avenue
5 BRODT PARK	150 Lake Park Boulevard
6 BULLHEAD PARK	610 Pioneer Drive
7 CEDAR CREEK (1ST)	3618 Cedar Creek Court
8 CEDAR CREEK PARK All-season shelter house available with reservations, seating for 90, full kitchen, air conditioning, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, paved bike/walking paths, two 18-hole disc golf courses, nature trails, primitive camping	3400 Cedar Park Road
9 CHARLOTTE PARK	401 S. Dewey Street
10 CHRISTIANSON PARK	350 Interlaken Road
11 DAY FARM/HERITAGE ACRES Interpretive Center, paved bike/walking path, native shoreline planting demonstration project	507 Lake Avenue
12 DOG PARK Off-leash areas, paved walking path, shade structures, water, small dog and all dog areas	1450 S. Prairie Avenue
13 EAST BELLE VUE PARK	300 E. Belle Vue Road
14 EAST SIDE PARK	1310 Budd Street
15 GOMSRUD PARK Swimming beach, large playground, sand volleyball (5), basketball, horseshoe, pickleball	260 W. Lair Road
16 HOBO TRAIL PARK Floating bridge, historical markers, nature trail	507 Lake Avenue
17 HOLDEN PARK	710 Washington Avenue
18 JEFFREY KOT FIELDS 6 regulation (1 lighted) and 3 practice soccer fields, concession stand	1801 S. Prairie Avenue
19 LAKE AIRES PARK Canoe/kayak launch	350 Lake Aires Road
20 LINCOLN PARK Livingston Log Cabin, shelter house	1301 N. North Avenue
21 METHODIST HOME GREEN BELT	600 Shoreacres Drive
22 STEVE PIERCE PARK	1022 Albion Avenue
23 SYLVANIA PARK Bandshell, shelter house	401 Lake Avenue
24 TENTH STREET PARK	430 E. 10th Street
25 SIOUX PARK	1030 Sioux Avenue
26 VETERANS PARK	402 E. 3rd Street
27 WARD PARK	200 Albion Avenue
28 WEST BELLE VUE	171 W. Belle Vue Road
29 WINNEBAGO AVENUE SPORTS COMPLEX Lighted softball fields (3) and lighted baseball fields (1), concession stand, paved bike/walking path, off-street skate park	425 Winnebago Avenue



FAIRMONT™
CITY OF LAKES

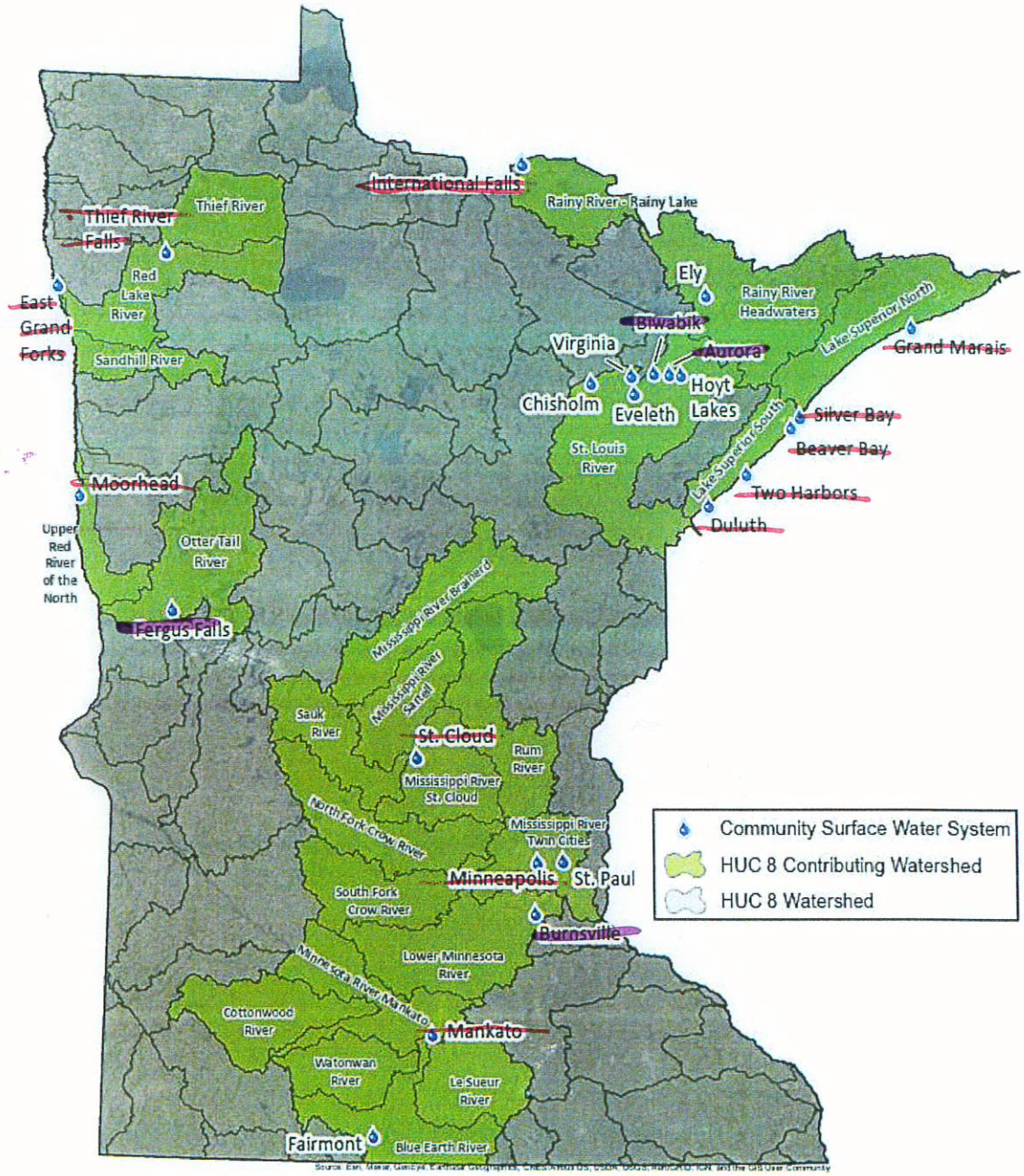
CITY PARK AMENITIES

	ACRES	RENTAL SHELTER	OPEN AIR SHELTER	RESTROOMS	PICNIC TABLES	GRILLS	ELECTRICAL OUTLETS	BOAT RAMPS	FISHING PIERS	PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT	SOFTBALL DIAMONDS	BASEBALL DIAMONDS	TENNIS COURTS	BASKETBALL COURTS	SAND VOLLEYBALL COURTS	PICKLE BALL COURTS	SOCCER FIELDS	LIGHTED SKATE PARK	WINTER PARKING	SEE REVERSE FOR MAP
1 AMBER LAKE PARK	3.0		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•									•	•
2 AQUATIC PARK	3.5	•	•	•	•		•			•										•
3 BIRD PARK	1.4				•					•										•
4 BIRD POINT	0.4								•											•
5 BRODT PARK	0.1								•											•
6 BULLHEAD PARK	1.8				•				•											•
7 CEDAR CREEK (1ST)	0.5									•				•						•
8 CEDAR CREEK PARK	260	•	•	•	•	•	•		•										•	•
9 CHARLOTTE PARK	2.2				•					•										•
10 CHRISTIANSON PARK	18.5				•														•	•
11 DAY FARM/HERITAGE ACRES	161								•	•									•	•
12 DOG PARK	1.5				•														•	•
13 EAST BELLE VUE PARK	1.2				•					•										•
14 EAST SIDE PARK	0.9				•					•										•
15 GOMSRUD PARK	13.5		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•				•	•	•			•	•
16 HOBO TRAIL PARK	2.5								•										•	•
17 HOLDEN PARK	0.5				•					•										•
18 JEFFREY KOT FIELDS	40.0			•	•					•							•			•
19 LAKE AIRES PARK	0.2								•											•
20 LINCOLN PARK	8.0	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•									•	•
21 METHODIST HOME GREEN BELT	1.2				•															•
22 STEVE PIERCE PARK	1.7				•				•										•	•
23 SYLVANIA PARK	4.1	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•									•	•
24 TENTH STREET PARK	1.0				•					•									•	•
25 SIOUX PARK	0.7				•					•										•
26 VETERANS PARK	2.2			•	•					•			•	•		•				•
27 WARD PARK	4.0		•	•	•		•	•	•	•									•	•
28 WEST BELLE VUE	0.1									•										•
29 WINNEBAGO AVENUE SPORTS COMPLEX	22.0			•	•						•	•						•		•

Interactive park map

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Surface Water Public Water Suppliers



PWS Name	PWSID	Source Name	HUC8 Watershed Intake Is In	Other Contributing HUC8 Watersheds within DWSMA or Old SWA Areas	1W1P Planning Area(s) Upstream and within DWSMA or Old SWA Areas
Aurora	1690002	St. James Mine Pit	St. Louis River	--	St. Louis River
Beaver Bay	1380001	Lake Superior	Lake Superior South	--	Lake Superior North
Biwabik	1690004	Canton Mine Pit	St. Louis River	--	St. Louis River
Burnsville	1190002	Kraemer Quarry	Lower Minnesota River	--	Lower Minnesota River
Chisholm	1690007	Fraser-Humphrey Mine Pit	St. Louis River	--	St. Louis River
Duluth	1690011	Lake Superior	Lake Superior South	--	St. Louis River
East Grand Forks	1600004	Red Lake River	Red Lake River	--	Red Lake River
Ely	1690014	Burntside Lake	Rainy River Headwaters	--	Rainy River - Headwaters
Eveleth	1690018	St. Mary's Lake	St. Louis River	--	St. Louis River
Fairmont	1460003	Budd Lake	Blue Earth River	--	Blue Earth River
Fergus Falls	1560014	Wright Lake	Otter Tail River	--	Otter Tail River
Grand Marais	1160001	Lake Superior	Lake Superior North	--	Lake Superior North
Hoyt Lakes	1690028	Colby Lake	St. Louis River	--	St. Louis River
International Falls	1360002	Rainy River	Rainy River - Rainy Lake	--	Vermilion River
Mankato	1070009	Well #13, QWTA (209830)	Blue Earth River	Watonwan River and Le Sueur River in DWSMA	Blue Earth River, Le Sueur River, Watonwan River
Mankato	1070009	Well #15, QWTA (683899)	Minnesota River - Mankato	Cottonwood River and Little Cottonwood River in DWSMA	Minnesota River - Mankato and Cottonwood River
Minneapolis	1270024	Mississippi River	Mississippi River Twin Cities	Mississippi River - St. Cloud, North Fork Crow River, South Fork Crow River, and Rum River in DWSMA	Mississippi River Twin Cities, Mississippi River - Sartell, Rum River, North Fork Crow River, and South Fork Crow River
Moorhead	1140008	Red River	Upper Red River of the North	--	Buffalo - Red Rivers
Saint Cloud	1730027	Mississippi River	Mississippi River - St. Cloud	Mississippi River - Sartell, Mississippi River - Brainerd, and Sauk River in DWSMA	Mississippi River - Sartell, Mississippi River - Brainerd, and Sauk River
St. Paul Regional Water Services	1620026	Chain of Lakes	Mississippi River Twin Cities	--	Mississippi River Twin Cities
St. Paul Regional Water Services	1620026	Mississippi River	Mississippi River Twin Cities	Mississippi River - St. Cloud, North Fork Crow River, South Fork Crow River, and Rum River	Mississippi River Twin Cities, Mississippi River - Sartell, Rum River, North Fork Crow River, and South Fork Crow River
Silver Bay	1380003	Lake Superior	Lake Superior South	--	Lake Superior North
Thief River Falls	1570003	Red Lake River	Red Lake River	Thief River and Red Lake River in DWSMA	Red Lake River and Thief River
Two Harbors	1380005	Lake Superior	Lake Superior South	--	Lake Superior North
Virginia	1690046	Missabe Mine Shaft and Pit	St. Louis River	--	St. Louis River

Minnesota Department of Health
Drinking Water Protection
PO Box 64975
St. Paul, MN 55164
651-201-4700

health.drinkingwater@state.mn.us
www.health.state.mn.us
07/10/2025
To obtain this information in a different format, call:
651-201-4700.

Outlook

MDH source water protection implementation grant - Opens October 14

From Strommer, Amanda (MDH) <amanda.strommer@state.mn.us>
Date Tue 10/7/2025 9:41 AM
To Hannah Neusch <hneusch@fairmont.org>; Brady Powers <bpowers@fairmont.org>; Tyler Cowing <tcowing@fairmont.org>

1 attachment (46 KB)
New Fluxx Database for Source Water Protection Grants;

The Minnesota Department of Health Source Water Protection implementation grants open on October 14th at 8:00 am. Applying right away when the grant period opens is encouraged as they are first come, first serve. The last day to apply is November 13th.
If the city is interested in applying for a grant for anything in your surface water intake protection plan please let me know and I will help with the process. I am available to review the grant electronically before it is submitted to make sure it's not rejected due to being incomplete. The city can receive up to $15,000 with no cost share. The grant information is at the link below. The attached email contains instructions for making an account in the Fluxx database. You can get this set up now even if you do not want to apply this fall round.
https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/swp/grants.html
Direct link to new MDH grant application database:
https://mdh.fluxx.io/user_sessions/new
Additional information is here: https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/swp/implementation.html
Feel free to reach out if you have any further questions, thanks!

Amanda Strommer
Principal Planner | Drinking Water Protection Section
Minnesota Department of Health
1400 E. Lyon Street, Marshall, MN 56258-1268
Office: 507-476-4241 | Mobile: 507-649-0854
MDH Logo

BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

FY 2025-2026

Keep it Clean Grant Program
Request for Proposals (RFP)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Table of Contents....2
Grant Overivew....3
Purpose....3
Equity Priorities....3
Funding Available and Match....3
Timeline....3
Grant Eligibility and Program Requirements....4
Eligible Applicants....4
Collaboration....**Error! Bookmark not defined.**
Eligible Activities....4
Ineligible Activities....**Error! Bookmark not defined.**
Allowable and Unallowable costs....4
Grant Management and Reporting....5
Applying for a Grant....5
Pre-Award Review....5
How To Submit A Question....5
How to Apply Using eLINK....5
Application Guidelines....6
Application Questions....6
Application Review....6
Selection and RaNking Criteria....7
Conflict of Interest....7
Privacy Notice....7
Grant Recipient Information....7
Grant Agreement and Project Period....8
Payment Schedule....8
Reporting and Administration Requirements....8
Prevailing Wage....8
Restoration Evaluation Program....**Error! Bookmark not defined.**
Native Vegetation....**Error! Bookmark not defined.**
Permitting....**Error! Bookmark not defined.**

Technical Expertise ..... **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

BWSR Grant Work Plan, Reporting and Reconciliation Requirements 9

GRANT OVERIVEW

PURPOSE

The Keep it Clean Grant Program, as administered by the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), works to protect Minnesota's lakes by preventing pollution from garbage and human waste left on the ice of state waters during winter use activities. The funding is outlined in the Minnesota Laws 2025, 1st Special Session, Chapter 1, Article 1, Section 4(i).

EQUITY PRIORITIES

It is the policy of the State of Minnesota to ensure fairness, precision, equity and consistency in competitive grant awards. This includes implementing diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) in grant-making.

Multiple DEI approaches will be included in this grant process including:

- Resources for applicants: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document
- Resources for applicants: one-on-one application support sessions
- Weighted scoring criteria: economic justice, positively impacting underserved communities

FUNDING AVAILABLE AND MATCH

A total of $185,000 is available through this Request for Proposal. Grant requests must be between a minimum of $10,000 and a maximum of $40,000. Proposals that do not fall within this dollar range will not be accepted. Prior to final selection, BWSR staff may engage applicants to resolve questions or discuss modifications to the project or funding request.

A non-state match equal to at least 10% of the amount of the grant received is required. Match can be provided by landowners, land occupiers, private organizations, local governments, Tribal governments, or other non-state sources and can be in the form of cash or in-kind for services or materials contributed to the accomplishment of grant objectives. Funds used for match for this program cannot be used as match for any other state grant program.

TIMELINE

Applications must be submitted by 4:30 PM CT/CST on October 29, 2025.Late submissions or incomplete applications will not be considered for funding. The grant applicant is responsible for proving timely submittal.

Grant Cycle	**Grant Cycle Dates**
Application period open	September 29, 2025
Application period close	October 29, 2025
Anticipated awards	November, 2025

Anticipated grant agreements sent to recipients	December, 2025
Work plan submittal deadline	January 15, 2026
Grant execution deadline	January 31, 2026
Grant agreement end date	December 31, 2028

GRANT ELIGIBILITY AND PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Eligible applicants for competitive grants include Local Units of Government are eligible for this funding.

a) Local governments
   - Cities
   - Counties
   - Joint powers organizations
   - MASWCD Technical Service Area
   - Soil and water conservation districts
   - Townships
   - Watershed districts
   - Watershed management organizations

Applicants must operate in Minnesota and conduct grant activities that benefit the resources of Minnesota. Applicants must have state or federal recognition as a formal organization or entity, such as a Minnesota Tax ID or Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) number. Organizations or groups that do not have state or federal recognition must apply with a fiscal agent. Applicants that are debarred or suspended by the State of Minnesota or the Federal Government are not eligible. Applicants must be in compliance with all applicable federal, State, Tribal, and local laws, policies, ordinances, rules, and regulations.

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

Activities must include an education and/or outreach component. Eligible activities can consist of pollution prevention practices; project development; program and project support; and technical assistance necessary to implement a program to reduce water pollution from garbage and human waste associated with winter activities. Eligible activities can also include local grant administration, management, and reporting that are directly related to and necessary for implementing the project or activity associated with the grant.

STRUCTURAL ACTIVITIES

The BWSR website provides a list of the practices available for users to select within eLINK, see https://bwsr.state.mn.us/elink-guidance-practices. It is not an inclusive list.

ALLOWABLE AND UNALLOWABLE COSTS

Allowable costs are those costs solely incurred though project activities that are directly related to and necessary for producing the project outcomes described in the proposal. Grant recipients are required to account for the staff time charged to BWSR grants in order to track the expenditure of grant funds and match to ensure the use of the funds is consistent with applicable State and BWSR requirements. Unallowable costs to be charged to BWSR grants include but are not limited to:

- Bad debts, late payment fees, and investment management fees
- Donations, fundraising, sponsorships, and acknowledgements
- Entertainment, gifts, prizes, and decorations
- Alcohol
- Interest on loans not authorized under state statute
- Loans of BWSR grant funds
- Lobbying, lobbyists, and political contributions
- Merit awards and bonuses

GRANT MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

- All grant recipients are subject to BWSR's Grants Monitoring and Reconciliation Chapter (https://bwsr.state.mn.us/node/12461)
- All grant recipients are subject to BWSR's Grant Noncompliance Policy (https://bwsr.state.mn.us/grant-noncompliance-policy)
- All BWSR funded grants are managed through eLINK. Successful applicants will be required to complete a work plan in eLINK. All required reporting will be completed through eLINK. For more information go to https://bwsr.state.mn.us/elink.
- All grant recipients are required to report on the outcomes, activities, and accomplishments. Outputs will serve as surrogates for outcomes.

APPLYING FOR A GRANT

PRE-AWARD REVIEW

Applicants will be required to comply with OGM Policy 08-06, and may be asked to submit documents relevant to their entity type; nonprofit organizations, for-profit businesses, political sub-divisions.

Political sub-divisions: All political sub-divisions selected for a grant award must undergo a financial review prior to receiving a grant award. Applicants may be asked to submit additional information once the application period closes.

HOW TO SUBMIT A QUESTION

For questions regarding the grant program, email ara.gallo@state.mn.us with "Keep it Clean Grant" in the subject line.

For questions regarding the eLINK grants management system, email elinksupport@state.mn.us. Please review the eLINK-related topics below and on BWSR's eLINK webpage before contacting eLINK support.

HOW TO APPLY USING ELINK

1. Set up your eLINK user account
   Proposals need to be submitted via https://bwsr.state.mn.us/elink. Eligible applicants without a current eLINK user account must register for an account at https://elink.bwsr.state.mn.us no later than seven days prior to the proposal

deadline. For eLINK related questions, first visit the eLINK section of the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) page. If your question is not addressed here, please contact elinksupport@state.mn.us.

2. Complete your funding request (proposal)
   See the "Completing a Funding Request in eLINK" under the "eLINK Training Videos" tab on the eLINK webpage to view a 11-minute online module describing how to complete a Funding Request within eLINK.

- Answers to each question is limited to 2,000 characters. Due to differences in how programs are encoded, be aware that the character limit in eLINK is not the same as Microsoft Word or other text editors.
- Proposals may include only one image submitted with their eLINK application. Only .jpg, .tiff, or .png file types are allowed. PDF files are not accepted.

Applicants must provide answers to the Application Questions as part of their proposal submitted in eLINK. The questions are related to the ranking criteria categories, which determine how proposals are scored by reviewers. The ranking criteria can be found in the "Application Review" section of this RFP.

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

- Proposals may receive partial funding based on eligibility or availability of funds. Prior to final selection, the Board may engage applicants to resolve questions or to discuss modifications to the project or funding request. Actual awards may be less than this minimum if proposals receive partial funding.
- Proposals that do not comply with all proposal requirements will not be considered for funding, as provided below:
  - Components of the proposal are incomplete or missing.
  - The match amount does not meet grant requirements; or
  - The minimum grant dollar amount is not met or the request is greater than the maximum.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1.	Succinctly describe your anticipated achievements and outcomes, as well as the geographic area of your project (5 points).
2.	What is the water resource(s) that the activities will focus on and why was it/were they chosen? Describe previous activities your organization has completed with, and your organization's affiliation with Keep it Clean Minnesota. (15 points).
3.	Describe the proposed activities and how they will prevent water pollution from garbage or human waste left on the ice of state waters. Describe the scale of the problem to be addressed on the water body by providing information that shows evidence of garbage/human waste during the winter sports season. (40 points).
4.	Describe how and when activities are ready to be started soon after grant award. Also describe how this project will complement current or previous efforts to combat water pollution from garbage and/or human waste. (30 points).
5.	Describe how work is being accomplished in environmental justice areas as identified by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency here. (10 points).

APPLICATION REVIEW

BWSR staff will initially review all proposals for grant eligibility. Eligible proposals may be reviewed by a team made up of BWSR staff in conjunction with external parties (e.g. other state agencies, etc.). The review teams make funding recommendations to the BWSR Board. These recommendations may be for complete or partial funding of a proposal. The BWSR Board considers the review teams' recommendations and makes the award decisions.

SELECTION AND RANKING CRITERIA

Ranking Criteria	***Maximum Points Possible***
Abstract: A brief description of anticipated achievements and outcomes as well as the project area.	5
Activities will focus on water resource(s) that were specifically chosen. Organization has worked with or is affiliated with Keep it Clean Minnesota.	15
Water Resource Outcome(s): Activities will prevent water pollution from garbage and human waste during winter months. Evidence of pollution and winter activity usage is provided.	40
Activities can be implemented soon after grant award and supports efforts to combat water pollution.	30
Organization is addressing diversity, equity, and inclusion by performing activities in an MPCA defined environmental justice area.	10
Total Points Available	**100**

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

State Grant Policy 08-01, (see https://mn.gov/admin/government/grants/policies-statutes-forms/) Conflict of Interest for State Grant-Making, also applies to BWSR grantees. Grantees' conflicts of interest are generally considered organizational conflicts of interest. Organizational conflicts of interest occur when:

- A grantee is unable or potentially unable to render impartial assistance or advice due to competing duties or loyalties,
- A grantee's objectivity in carrying out the grant is or might be otherwise impaired due to competing duties or loyalties, or
- A grantee or potential grantee has an unfair competitive advantage through being furnished unauthorized proprietary information or source selection information that is not available to all competitors.

PRIVACY NOTICE

Under Minnesota Statute 13.599, responses to an RFP are nonpublic until the application deadline is reached. At that time, the name and address of the grantee, and the amount requested becomes public. All other data is nonpublic until the negotiation of the grant agreement with the selected grantee is completed. After the application evaluation process is completed, all data (except trade secret data) becomes public. Data created during the evaluation process is nonpublic until the negotiation of the grant agreement with the selected grantee(s) is completed.

GRANT RECIPIENT INFORMATION

Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Keep it Clean Grant Program

GRANT AGREEMENT AND PROJECT PERIOD

Notification of grant award will be in the form of an automated notification from the BWSR eLINK system or an email from BWSR Grants staff to the grantee. Notifications are sent to the Day-to-Day Contact(s) identified by the organization within the eLINK system. This notification includes instructions for further processing of the grant agreement and may also contain grant-specific information such as requirements for completing work plans, disbursement terms, or additional required documentation for processing the grant. Read these instructions carefully as requirements can vary by grant and fiscal year.

BWSR will use grant agreements, and an associated work plan, as contracts for assurance of deliverables and compliance with appropriate statutes, rules, and established policies. BWSR has the right to require a work plan revision or grant agreement amendment for changes in scope. Willful or negligent disregard of relevant statutes, rules and policies may lead to imposition of financial penalties on the grant recipient. Upon receiving the notification of grant award, which indicates approval of an application, and prior to beginning work on the grant project(s) and receiving grant funds, the applicant is required to do the following:

1. Complete an IRS W-9 form or register as a vendor in SWIFT, the state's accounting system, and submit other required documentation within 30 days of award notification.

2. Sign a grant contract agreement indicating their intention to complete the project(s) contained in the application. The agreement also authorizes BWSR to monitor progress of the grant. The grant contract agreement must be signed within 30 days of being sent to the grantee.

The project period starts when the grant agreement is executed, meaning all required signatures have been obtained. Work that occurs before this date is not eligible for reimbursement with grant funds and cannot be used as match.

Grant contract agreement templates can be reviewed on the Office of Grants Management Forms and FAQs website.

The grant agreement will expire on, December 31, 2028.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Grant payments will be distributed in one advance payment to the grantee upon approval of a work plan and execution of the grant agreement.

REPORTING AND ADMINISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

All grant recipients are required to report on the outcomes, activities, and accomplishments of the grant.

- All grant recipients are subject to BWSR's Grant Monitoring and Financial Reconciliation
- All grant recipients are subject to BWSR's Grant Noncompliance Policy
- In the event there is a violation of the terms of the grant agreement, BWSR will enforce the grant agreement and evaluate appropriate actions, up to and including repayment of grant funds at a rate up to 100% of the grant agreement.
- Grant reporting, fiscal management, and administration requirements are the responsibility of the grant recipient.
- Additional information regarding BWSR grant reporting and administration can be found in the Grants Administration Manual (https://bwsr.state.mn.us/grants/manual/)

PREVAILING WAGE

It is the responsibility of the grant recipient or contractor to pay prevailing wages on construction projects to which state prevailing wage laws apply (Minn. Stat. 177.42 – 177.44). All laborers and mechanics employed by grant recipients and subcontractors funded in whole or in part with state funds included in this RFP shall be paid wages at rates not less than those prevailing on projects of a character similar in the locality. Additional information on prevailing wage requirements is available on the Department of Labor and Industry (DOLI) website https://www.dli.mn.gov/business/employment-practices/prevailing-wage-information. Questions about the application of prevailing wage rates should be directed to DOLI at 651-284-5091.

BWSR GRANT WORK PLAN, REPORTING AND RECONCILIATION REQUIREMENTS

BWSR staff is authorized to develop grant agreements, requirements and processes for work plans and project outcomes reporting, closeouts, and fiscal reconciliations. In the event there is a violation of the terms of the grant agreement, BWSR will enforce the grant agreement and evaluate appropriate actions, up to and including repayment of grant funds at a rate up to 100% of the grant agreement. Grant reporting, fiscal management, and administration requirements are the responsibility of the grant recipient.

From: Jesse Walters <jesse.martinswcd@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 20, 2025 1:07 PM
To: Hannah Neusch <hneusch@fairmont.org>
Cc: Pat Oman <poman@fairmont.org>
Subject: Project Proposal

Hannah,

I have attached a concept map of a project I'd like to propose. The location is all within the newly seeded area of Cedar Creek Park near the bike/walking path. The proposal includes:

1: Wetland Restoration - Reduces flooding & reduces pollutants.

2: Water & Sediment Control Basin: Reduces flooding, reduces pollutants (including sediment, fertilizers and pesticides)

3: Saturated Buffer: Reduces Nitrates

This project also addresses a problem area that is shared with the neighboring landowner to the West. Over the years there has been unmanageable flooding & erosion. This project would take care of the current issues and make improvements to help remove sediment & nutrients.

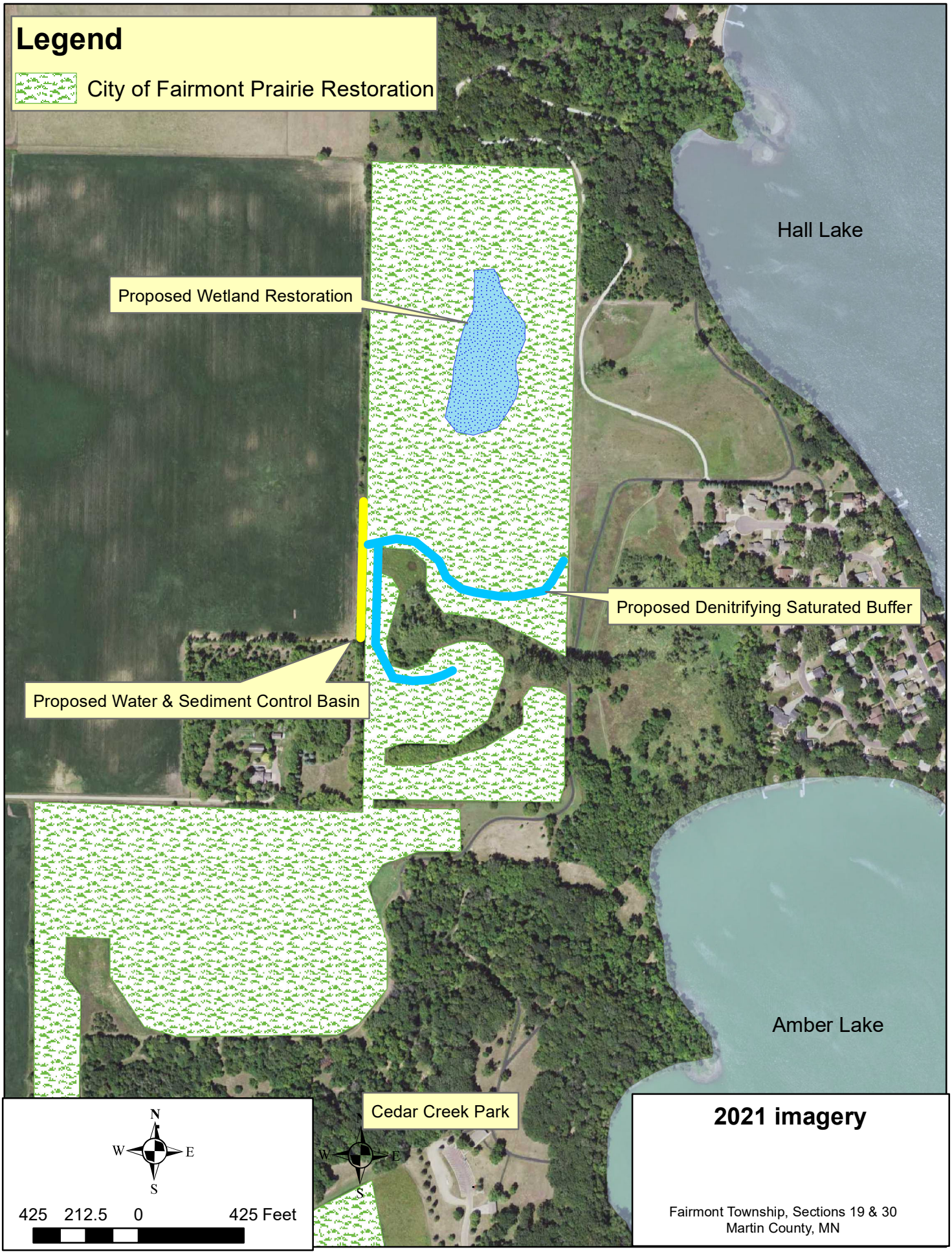
We are able to reimburse the project at a 100% cost share rate.

If the City is agreeable, I can solicit bids. Once we have chosen a bid/contractor I will need the City to sign a cost share application. My board will then approve the cost share application. We will oversee construction with the designing engineers from our Technical Service Area team. Upon project completion, the City will pay the contractor and receive 100% reimbursement for project costs.

I have already discussed the project with the neighboring landowner and tenant. They are supportive of the project as proposed.

Let me know if you need anything else from me. I can be available on August 25th if needed.

--
Jesse Walters
Outreach Coordinator
Martin Soil & Water Conservation District
507-235-6680 Ext. 118
923 North State Street, Suite 110, Fairmont, MN 56031


Legend
City of Fairmont Prairie Restoration
Hall Lake
Proposed Wetland Restoration
Proposed Denitrifying Saturated Buffer
Proposed Water & Sediment Control Basin
Amber Lake
Cedar Creek Park
N
W
E
S
425 212.5 0 425 Feet
2021 imagery
Fairmont Township, Sections 19 & 30
Martin County, MN

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Rock Arch Rapids

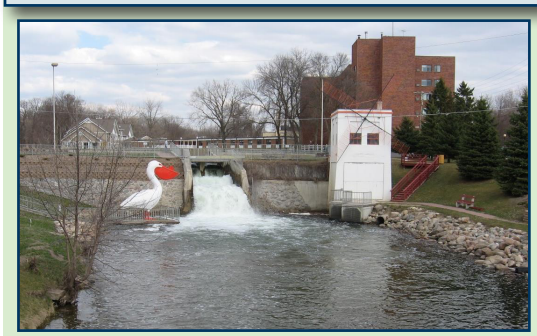
What are they and why are they used?

A **Rock Arch Rapids** is used to replace or modify dams.

- Reasons to modify dams:
- Dams are aging, degrading, and at increasing risk of failure.
  - Rainfall events are becoming more intense and frequent.
  - Land use changes direct extra runoff into river networks.
  - Dam maintenance is expensive and ongoing.
- Many dams no longer serve their original purpose.
- Dams present safety concerns.
  - Hydraulic undertows are a drowning hazard.
  - Dam failure risks lives and property damage down valley.
- Dams cause great ecologic harm to river ecosystems (*see back*).

MN DNR River Ecology Unit



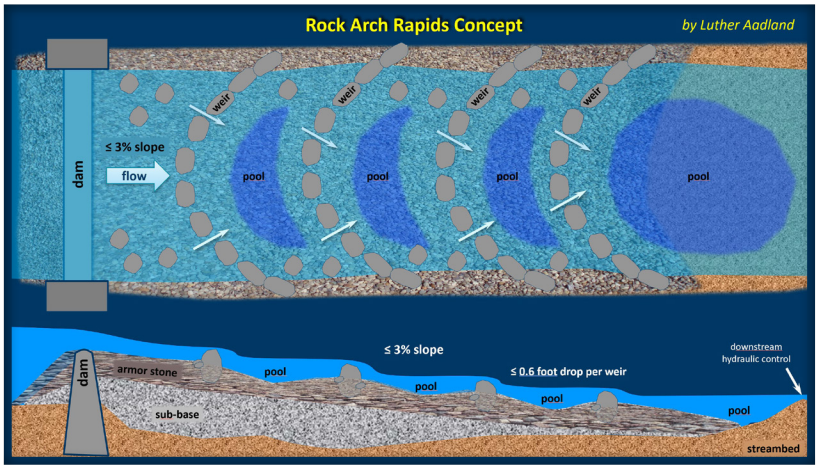


The deteriorating dam in Pelican Rapids, MN was modified into a Rock Arch Rapids winter 2022/2023. The ramp gradually steps down the water 5 feet over 12 arches.



Rock Arch Rapids Development and Features:

The Rock Arch Rapids (RAR) design concept was developed from years of research on natural stream features. Various naturally occurring riffle and rapids features were surveyed and analyzed for function, stability, fluid dynamics, habitat, and passability. Variations of this design have been constructed around the state (first one in 1994), studied, and refined over the years. *(Simplified graphic)*



Each RAR project is designed specifically since each river site is unique - considering total drop in water level, ramp length, flow conditions, flood size and frequency, floodplain concerns, structural constraints, fish community, etc. Each project also goes through a rigorous modeling process.

The RAR is composed of a rock ramp base that replaces the abrupt drop in water level with a gentle slope (less than 3%). The rock arches, or weirs, nested within the ramp are made of large boulders positioned in an arch with the top of the arch facing upstream and set lower than the 'legs' of the arch. This focuses the flow to the mid-line of the rapids. The large weir boulders are buried halfway or more in the rock base with the top of each boulder set at very precise elevations, to ensure less than half a foot of drop per weir. The boulders are set higher continuing towards the banks to dissipate flow energy along the banks and create slower flow areas for weaker swimming fishes. The boulders are also placed with varying sized gaps in between to create fish passage openings through the weirs. Deeper pool habitat is created between the arches for resting areas and low flow refuge.

Benefits of the **Rock Arch Rapids** design

Structural and Safety Benefits:



» structurally stable
» require minimal or no maintenance
» improve safety by eliminating hydraulic undertows or rollers known as drowning machines
» protect banks by directing flow towards mid-channel

Ecological Benefits:



- allows fish passage under all flow conditions (from spring floods to summer droughts) for fishes of all sizes and swimming abilities
- can include a low-flow channel for year-round aquatic passage
- fish species absent upstream return after dams are modified
- upstream expansion of native mussels via native fish hosts
- wildlife passage can be incorporated with bankfull flats
- creates high gradient stream habitat that is rare and crucial to the stream community that is often buried/submerged by dams
- accumulated reservoir sediments are stabilized in place
- stabilizes stream grade, or slope, preventing further up or downstream damage or degradation
- interstitial spaces in the rock ramp allow some subsurface flow through the hyporheic zone (the river's liver) that is very important to stream health and water quality
- restores natural sediment transport during higher flows through the boulder gaps and proper cross-sectional area
- design can be modified into alternating sine waves to accommodate larger, deeper pools for larger bodied fish species



Recreational Benefits:



- recreational boating opportunities for canoes, kayaks, paddle-boards, and tubing (flatter slopes are safer)
- fishing opportunities - migrating and spawning fish are drawn to this habitat and intentionally placed flat boulders can be incorporated as fishing platforms
- wildlife viewing opportunities for spawning fish and visiting birds and wildlife



Rock Arch Rapids Design Thresholds for Fish Passage:



- ramp slopes <= 3% slope (flatter slopes best, especially in large rivers)
- drops over the weirs <= 0.6 foot per weir
- pool depths >= 4 feet for small weirs; >= 6 feet in large rivers
- terraced or elliptical cross-section with gradual side slopes
- gaps between boulders sized to accommodate the range of body sizes of native fish and river flows