

Working toward delisting in Carver County

April 2016 Snapshots

Delisting impaired waters is never an easy task, but in Carver County work is underway to do just that. Burandt Lake, a deep 92-acre lake within the City of Waconia that lies just downstream of Lake Waconia and discharges to Carver Creek, was put on the impaired waters list in 2004 for excess nutrients. Carver County is leading a partnership that includes the Carver County Soil and Water Conservation District, Carver County Water Management Organization (WMO), City of Waconia and the Waconia School District to implement a major water reuse project that should remove the lake from the impaired list.

The reuse system is a three phased project that will retain and reuse an estimated 1.25 million gallons off eight acres to irrigate the Waconia High School football field and adjacent ball fields. The reuse project fits in directly with efforts to increase the use of this kind of runoff in the county. Carver County WMO rules already encourage these kinds of practices. The project also lines up nicely with the recently adopted Carver County Groundwater Plan which includes using stormwater runoff to help preserve the groundwater supply.

Phase two of the project received \$200,000 from the Clean Water Fund money. This stage included the installation of three storage tanks. The first phase included the installation of one storage tank, a cell that pretreats runoff, and a pipe network for future expansion. Two additional storage tanks will be installed in the final phase.



Phase two of the project installed three storage tanks that will be used to hold water.

The stormwater runoff reduction that is achieved through this project is complemented by a significant reduction in nutrient runoff. Before this project began, Burandt Lake's total phosphorus runoff was almost 62 pounds a year. When all three phases are complete, the total phosphorus runoff should drop all the way down to approximately 14 pounds a year.

Increasing the water quality in Burandt Lake will have positive effects beyond the lake itself. It will help with impairments in Carver Creek, as well as the Minnesota River, which the creek discharges to 16 miles downstream. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of this county-wide effort, it is anticipated that the Burandt Lake Stormwater Reuse System, in combination with other water quality initiatives in Carver County, will end up "delisting" the lake from the State Impaired Waters List by 2026.