| Grant ID | Grantee | Grant Title | Award Amt | Score |
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| *C25-0221* | *Anoka CD* | *Ditch 20 Wetland Restoration Benefitting Typo & Martin Lakes* | *$ 221,375* | *92.09* |

This project will restore an approximately 1.3 acre wetland adjacent to County Ditch 20 immediately upstream of Typo & Martin Lakes, which drain to the Sunrise and St. Croix Rivers. The ditch will flow through the new basin for capture of at least 79 lbs of phosphorus per year and more likely >117 lbs/yr depending on basin configuration. These reductions should result in delisting of the nearly/barely impaired Martin Lake, & significantly move the other nutrient-impaired lakes & rivers toward delisting. This project has been a top watershed-level priority for at least 12 years. It is the 2nd ranked priority in the Martin and Typo Lakes TMDL, and the only priority not yet addressed. It is one of the largest & most cost effective of dozens of projects identified in subwatershed studies. The location is ideal, just 1.3 mi upstream of Typo Lake where it can treat a 1,700 acre drainage area. A concept design & modeling are done. After 10+ years of relationship-building, the landowners are not just willing, but excited. The benefitting waters are local and regional priorities with a hard-won trend of improving water quality. Typo Lake is one of the most severely impaired in the region, but with a statistically significant trend of water quality improvement. Typo Lake drains to Martin Lake, which has moved from being 67% over the state nutrient standard (2002-2012) to being within <1% (59.9 µg/L last 7 yr average, range 47-79 µg/L). With this project & other ongoing work we expect phosphorus concentrations can be consistently kept better than the state standard & Martin Lake will be ready for delisting. Martin Lake drains to the Sunrise River which had its pH impairment removed in 2021 because of improvements in the upstream lakes. It still has an aquatic life impairment. The Sunrise River drains to the nationally significant St. Croix River impaired for excess phosphorus.

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| *C25-0158* | *Prior Lake-Spring Lake WD* | *Swamp Iron Enhanced Sand Filter Implementation* | *$ 443,975* | *88.50* |

Spring Lake and one of the most visited lakes in the metro, Prior Lake, are both impaired for excess nutrients. To remove the impairment status, incoming nutrients from upstream must be reduced. Swamp Lake, a small lake far upstream in the watershed, contributes excess nutrients to both of these impaired lakes. The Swamp Iron Enhanced Sand Filter (IESF) plays a crucial part in watershed nutrient reduction by preventing further accumulation of nutrients in Spring Lake, the greatest contributor of nutrients to Prior Lake. Due to the Phosphorus (P) accumulation in Swamp Lake and the project's far upstream location, this project will provide a benefit to both lakes and their tributary that spans the watershed (see Project Image). The Swamp IESF will filter and bind with excess nutrients, removing 89 lbs of Phosphorus (P) per year. It presents one of most cost-effective solutions in the watershed strategy, with an impact spanning across the length of the watershed . Swamp IESF was identified in two studies focused on meeting nutrient reduction goals and was selected with a suite of eight target projects to accomplish the needed nutrient reduction. The Swamp IESF is the only one of these projects that has a willing landowner and can be implemented in the near-term. The Swamp IESF is urgently needed to protect the water quality work already completed on Spring and Prior Lakes and to manage a persistent nutrient source. Prior Lake water quality data suggests that it is nearing its nutrient reduction goals. This project is expected to be vital in helping remove it from the impaired waters list.

*C25-0190 Coon Creek WD Bridgewater Regional Stormwater Filter $ 625,000 88.45*

In partnership with Blaine, Coon Rapids, and the Anoka County Highway Department, Coon Creek WD will construct a regional stormwater filter to address aquatic life and recreation impairments in Sand Creek. The 15,000-26,000 sq ft filter will treat urban stormwater runoff via sand, iron, and biochar media to reduce TSS, TP, and E. coli loading by 1.4-2 tons, 19-29 pounds, and at least 1,393 billion organisms per year, respectively. The proposed project is a top-ranking project identified in the Knoll Creek (Ditch 39) subwatershed plan, a collaborative effort to identify and pursue the most impactful and cost-effective capital improvement projects to meet joint TMDL goals for Sand Creek regardless of municipal boundaries. The filter will be located adjacent to an existing rate control pond within the Bridgewater neighborhood of Coon Rapids. Secondary benefits include drinking water protection and capture of additional contaminants of emergent concern in urban stormwater.

*C25-0195 Vermillion River Watershed JPO Alimagnet Lake Internal Phosphorus Load Reduction Project $ 70,000 84.86*

Alimagnet Lake is a nutrient impaired shallow lake (avg depth of 6 feet) located on the border of the highly urbanized cities of Apple Valley and Burnsville (Partners). It is one of five recreational lakes within the Vermillion River Watershed. Due to historic development timing, much of the 985-acre subwatershed discharges to the lake without adequate stormwater treatment. In 2017 and 2019, the VRWJPO and Partners received Competitive Clean Water Fund (CWF) awards to implement projects to address external phosphorus (P) loading as identified in the lake's TMDL. These projects resulted in a total phosphorus load (TP) reduction of 64.4 lbs/yr, exceeding the TMDL's external load reduction. In 2022, the VRWJPO utilized Watershed Based Implementation Funding to complete an Alimagnet Lake Alum Treatment Feasibility Study (Study). Aluminum sulfate (alum) acts to reduce P water quality impacts by binding with lake-bottom sediment to prevent P from being resuspended into the water column. The Study was completed in 2023, and found that an alum treatment would result in an estimated internal P load reduction of 114.9 lbs/yr. The estimated pollutant reduction would bring in-lake TP concentrations to levels below the water quality standard, allowing the lake to be removed from the EPA's 303(d) Impaired Waters List. Progress towards achieving the water quality standard in Alimagnet Lake would also positively benefit the downstream, nutrient-impaired East Lake, which has a TMDL dependent on Alimagnet Lake water quality improvements. In 2024, the VRWJPO received a CWF award to perform a whole lake alum treatment in support of delisting the nutrient-impaired lake. In accordance with alum treatment best practices, the treatment would be performed via split dosing, with the first application taking place fall, 2024, followed by a year of treatment efficacy monitoring to inform the 2026 spring application dosing. Following administration of a Request for Bids for the Alimagnet Lake Alum Treatment, a singular bid was received by one of the only known regional contractors with the appropriate licensure to safely administer the treatment. Due to market fluctuations in the cost of alum and sodium aluminate (an alum buffering agent), the singular bid provided was found to be 21% higher than the Engineer's Estimate shown in the Study. The previously awarded CWF grant allows the VRWJPO and Partners to administer the 2024 treatment; however, to administer the full, non-scalable, split dosing defined in the Study, the applicant is requesting additional funds to account for the market overages.

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| *C25-0169* | *Todd SWCD* | *Tier One Priority: Big Swan Lake Phosphorous Reduction* | *$* | *625,000* | *85.18* |

This proposal aims to reduce phosphorus loading in Big Swan Lake, Todd County by 3,239 lbs./yr. through alum treatments, partner AG BMP projects, and a lakeshore education campaign. Abstract: The goal is to decrease annual phosphorus loading by 75% in Big Swan Lake, which is "barely impaired" for nutrients by Minnesota Pollution Control (MPCA) standards. The plan includes a two-year split application of alum on 95 acres within the deepest parts of the lake. This, combined with ongoing Todd Soil and Water (SWCD) conservation projects, will meet the ten-year milestone set by the 2020 MPCA in the 2020 TMDL study. The objective is to reduce the current lake phosphorus from 10,134.8 lbs./yr. to 9,121.3 lbs./yr. The proposed alum treatment alone will achieve reductions of 3,239 lbs./yr.for the efficacy of the treatment shelf life. Support: The TMDL study, a 2022 RMB water quality report, and the attached 2024 feasibility study show that legacy nutrients make up 38% of the existing nutrient load in the lake. Legacy nutrients are accumulations of historic lakeshed phosphorus that have settled in the lake over decades or centuries. Once in the lake, these nutrients remain inactive until the lake experiences periods of internal loading and anoxic conditions. Big Swan Lake has a large deep basin to the south and a shallower basin to the north. RMB reports that periods of internal loading are regular occurrences in Big Swan Lake. Safe chemical applications of alum can trap phosphorus at the lake bottom, rendering it incapable of release long-term. The effects of alum treatment can last from 7-20 years in lakes sharing Big Swan Lake’s attributes. The ratio of existing internal loading to lakeshed loading in the lake is nearly 50:50. As partners, the Big Swan Lake Improvement District (LID) and SWCD realize the urgent need to reduce phosphorus inputs from the lakeshed. The SWCD and the LID have completed extensive work in the lakeshed, completing 34 projects (652 lbs. of phosphorus). Ongoing conservation projects include a feasibility study to identify areas and actions that reduce phosphorous inputs from the Schwanke Creek inlet. To achieve future desired outcomes, the SWCD and the LID have planned an extensive outreach campaign to engage landowners in voluntary site assessments and encourage better stewardship of lakeshore properties.

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| *C25-0173* | *Wild Rice WD* | *South Branch Wild Rice River Grade Stabilizations - Phase 1* | *$ 700,000* | *85.00* |

Collaborating with the DNR's River Ecology Unit, the Wild Rice Watershed District (WRWD) will begin the first phase of grade stabilization implementation within the South Branch of the Wild Rice River. This project addresses the existing channel incision, the root cause of the excessive in-channel erosion, resulting in 2,000 T/yr sediment and 1,700 lbs/yr Phosphorus reductions on the South Branch of the Wild Rice River. In 2002, a mega storm event occurred over many parts of the WRWD. Flooding and erosion were especially significant in the South Branch watershed. The flood ripped through the Lake Agassiz beach ridge area of the South Branch Wild Rice River downstream (west) of Ulen, MN and this led to massive channel incision and subsequent bank failures along the river. Much of this eroded material went downstream choking downstream reaches of the South Branch as well as the mainstem of the Wild Rice River. The WRWD recently partnered with the NRCS to complete a RCPP project to develop a long-term plan addressing the sediment and flooding issues along the South Branch. The NRCS RCPP project Feasibility Study Report (2021) identified a number of phased actions to take place to address the sediment issues along the South Branch. The first was to complete Bed Load Monitoring of sediment along the South Branch which is currently underway with the USGS and should be completed in 2024. The second step is to complete a pilot Rock Arch Rapids (this project) to stabilize the channel downcutting and begin restoration within the beach ridge area. The initial rock arch rapids grade stabilization would help to build additional landowner support and would help refine the design for the third phase. The third phase is to complete remaining rock arch rapids through the Beach Ridge. Once this project is completed, sediment loading within the watershed will be reduced by more than 2,000 tons/yr and total phosphorus will be reduced by 1,700 lbs/year. The total sediment reduction associated with this project is 1-2 percent of the 150,000 tons/yr goal set by the TMDL for the Wild Rice River. This project, the "South Branch Wild Rice River Grade Stabilization ", is the first phase of what is expected to be multiple phases to restore the historic thalweg of the South Branch Wild Rice River. The overall grade stabilization through the beach ridge will include installation of an estimated 14 rock arch rapids to restore the river and return floodplain connection. In total, the sediment loading within the watershed will be reduced by more than 28,000 tons/yr (18% of the 150,000 tons/yr goal set by the TMDL). This project continues an ongoing effort over the past decade to improve water quality, manage erosion, reduce sediment, and enhance natural resources throughout the watershed.

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| *C25-0172* | *Red Lake SWCD* | *Red Lake County SWCD Non-structural Land Management Project* | *$ 269,288* | *84.59* |

The Clearwater River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (CWMP) identifies the Lower Clearwater Planning Region as having a current sediment loading from overland sources of 18,491 tons/year at the planning region outlet. The 10-year Plan goal is to reduce loading to the outlet by 4% (767 tons/year), which translates to 2,901 tons/year at the catchment. The targeted implementation schedule includes nonstructural land management practices with a 10-year measurable outcome of 1670 acres/year to meet the 10-year Plan goal. Red Lake County SWCD is targeting the lower clearwater planning region for implementation of nonstructural agricultural practices based on data analysis obtained from using the Clearwater River CWMP, the Clearwater River WRAPs and TMDL Reports, PTMApp, DNR Stressor ID database, and the Soil and Water Assessment Tool (SWAT) models. The data identified the Lower Clearwater Planning Region as having the highest sediment yield in the Clearwater River Watershed, highlighted fields in the subwatershed with the highest sediment loading, and even showed specific locations in the field which were most vulnerable to erosion. Red Lake County SWCD conducted an Erosion Site Inventory in 2024, which verified the information from the tools/models and have found landowners in these priority areas that were interested in adopting nonstructural land management practices on their fields. The nonstructural land management practices will include, but are not limited to, Conservation Cover (327), Cover Crop (340), Critical Area Planting (342), Field Border (386), Filter Strip (393), Pasture and Hay Planting (512), Residue and Tillage Management: No-Till (329), Residue and Tillage Management: Reduced Till (345) with the stipulation of no fall tillage, Prescribed Grazing (528), and Riparian Forest Buffer (391). The implementation of these practices is estimated to reduce sediment loading in the Lower Clearwater River by 1,630 tons/year and 539 lbs. of phosphorus per year over the three years of the grant with the goal of ongoing landowner adoption. This will improve water quality, recreation, fish habitat, and aesthetics. Further downstream, the City of East Grand Forks pulls its drinking water from the Red Lake River, making these projects a regional concern as well. The main goal of this project is to incorporate non-structural land management practices (NLMPs) in conjunction with the structural agricultural practices that are being implemented currently in the county.

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| *C25-0226* | *Bassett Creek WMC* | *Plymouth Creek Restoration Project: Dunkirk Ln to 38th Ave. N.* | *$ 400,000* | *84.23* |

The Plymouth Creek Restoration Project will improve water quality and habitat by restoring streambanks and riparian areas along a 7,000-foot stretch of Plymouth Creek. This project in the City of Plymouth will address a biological impairment in the creek and a nutrient impairment in Medicine Lake, downstream from the creek. Plymouth Creek is classified as a priority stream and Medicine Lake is classified as a priority 1 deep lake by the BCWMC. A comprehensive feasibility study was completed in May 2024 and outlines the project's multiple benefits including reducing total phosphorus by an estimated 148 lbs/year in the creek and downstream in Medicine Lake, which is impaired for nutrients. The project will also reduce total suspended solids by an estimated 148 tons/year and will improve in-stream and riparian habitat. Stream buffers will be improved by removing thick stands of buckthorn, dead or dying trees, and other undesirable species and replacing with native species of trees, shrubs, sedges, grasses and forbs. The stream's biological impairment will be addressed through improvements to in-stream habitat. Cross vanes, J-hooks, rootwads, other structures will be added to the stream - creating structure, flow variability, and riffle/pool sequences. Perhaps the most exciting component of the project is the re-meandering of a once straightened 815-foot creek section to better mimic natural conditions. The re-meander will increase resiliency during high flows, improve in-stream habitat, and enhance floodplain connectivity. Finally, because of a popular trail along the creek and proximity to an elementary school, the project offers an opportunity to engage with residents and students about the importance of restoration, the value of the creek's habitat, the floodplain's contribution to flood risk reduction, and their role in protecting and improving water resources.

*C25-0215 Watonwan SWCD Wetland for the Improvement of St. James Creek $ 347,072 84.00*

This application is to fund the construction of a 4.35-acre storage and treatment wetland located near the outlet of Watonwan County JD26, a closed tile, public drainage system which outlets into St. James Creek. The outlet of the system is located in the SE ¼ of Riverdale Township. As designed, the wetland meets the requirements for NRSC practice code 810M – storage and treatment wetland restoration and includes approximately 29 acre-ft of live storage with one forebay, including a 2-feet deep permanent pool and an additional 1-foot-deep permanent pool area which the flow will have to travel through before leaving the wetland. The wetland has been designed with a sediment trap below the level of the outflow pipe to reduce sediment traveling through the outlet of the system. The 16.5 foot buffer area will be planted with native seed to stabilize the site and provide additional water treatment. The intent is for the wetland construction to occur in tandem with public drainage system improvement to reduce overall project costs while obtaining better water quality outcomes. Based on the H&H modeling and the engineer's analysis captured within the FER, the wetland goes above and beyond the statutory requirements for the improvement project because an adequate outlet for the public drainage system is achieved without the wetland. Therefore, none of the grant funds will be used towards costs associated with the drainage system improvement. Eligible activities that would be funded as a part of this application include grant management and associated administration costs, project construction and construction administration costs, and final engineering for the development of as-built documents. The drainage authority will acquire easements from the willing landowner and will assume long term maintenance for this wetland. While the primary project benefit is water quality improvements to St. James Creek and beyond, secondary benefits are also anticipated. Secondary benefits include water storage and wildlife habitat.

*C25-0238 Becker SWCD Buffalo Watershed Lakes and Mainstem Region Improvement $ 800,000 83.95*

This funding will increase the number of agricultural best management practices implemented to reduce both sediment and phosphorus contributions to the Buffalo River combined with USDA-NRCS EQIP and landowner contributions. Specific targeted or planned practices and quantities include Water and Sediment Control Basins (110), Grade Stabilizations (7), Grassed Waterways (10), Critical Area Plantings (12), Filter Strips (45 acres), Cover Crops (2,500 acres/year), and Rotational Grazing/Use Exclusion (320 acres). Non-structural upland management practices utilized such as conservation tillage, conservation crop rotations and the incorporation of cover crops enacted in combination under this effort will also yield significant gains in soil infiltration, microbial activity, fertility and resiliency. This project strives to make further, substantial steps towards the sediment and nutrient reduction goals for Buffalo River Watershed District's (BRRWD) Mainstem and Lakes Planning Region and the objectives of the Buffalo-Red River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan adopted in 2021. This project will provide the needed cost share and technical assistance to keep local producers moving forward with the booming momentum of small and large scale erosion control implementation. It will afford significant strides towards Becker SWCD's and watershed partner's sediment reduction goals of the Buffalo-Red River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan.

*C25-0214 Clearwater SWCD Clearwater SWCD Soil Health Expansion $ 100,000 83.68*

Clearwater SWCD is applying for $100,000 to continue the expansion of their existing soil health program to capitalize on the practice adoption momentum that the district is currently experiencing. The awarded amount will be focused on the Clearwater River Watershed portion of Clearwater County where the vast majority of agriculture lands and resource concerns related to tillage are located. Using PTMapp and Houston Engineering Services BEAST modeling if funded the full $100,000 a projected 996 tons of sediment and 480lbs of total phosphorus on the 2000 acres of implemented practices. Currently Clearwater SWCD is using multiple funding sources to keep up with the growing demand and success in soil health program and practice adoption and falling short of available funds to meet the producer application demand. With a grant breakdown of $80,000 for project cost, $15,000 for technical assistance, and $5000 for administrative costs for a total of $100,000 the district is projecting to fund an estimated 1000 acres annually for two years of a combination of no-till and/or cover crop practices. Clearwater SWCD started a soil health program in 2015 with the purchase of a no-till drill and a CWF Acceleration grant to provide drill rental and cost share services to interested producers. Since then Clearwater has experienced a very well received program to the point of justification of the purchase of a second no-till drill for rent as well and several producers purchasing their own no-till capable equipment to implement the practices on a larger scale in their operations. In recent years Clearwater SWCD has experienced program growth at a rate that has resulted in the district directing the vast majority of project funding from multiple grants such as WBIF, Increased Capacity, Cost Share, and BWSR Soil Health grants that it has limited the districts ability to promote and provide cost share to other programs and projects. Due to Clearwater County being modeled at having 28% agricultural lands and already possessing an operating Soil Health program, much of the soil health grant funding that has come to Minnesota lately has been directed to other counties with higher agriculture acreage percentages or to start programs in areas that did not have one already.

*C25-0168 Norman SWCD Wild Rice River Private Channel Outlet Stabilization $ 373,000 83.55*

The private outlet channel downstream of Norman County Ditch 7 and Norman County Highway 29 has been causing significant channel loading of sediment to the Wild Rice River. This unregulated outlet area has been a legacy source of sediment for over 100 years. The outlet channel is approximately a half mile downstream from the benefitted ditch area and is privately owned, not under any jurisdiction of a ditch authority, and managed by five local landowners. This area is a high priority catchment for sediment in the Wild Rice Marsh One Watershed One Plan. Preliminary survey and design work has been completed by Houston Engineering working with the Norman County Highway Engineer and shows 55 feet of vertical elevation through the outlet channel. With proposed construction of 17 grade stabilization structures, the project will mitigate approximately 405 tons of sediment per year. The Wild Rice River at AUID location 643 is listed as impaired for TSS, E. coli and aquatic life and this project has direct impacts to those impairments.

*C25-0216 Washington County Square Lake Park Bioretention Basins $ 80,000 82.59*
This project proposes to collect and treat 3.54 acres of stormwater flowing directly into Square Lake with no water quality treatment. Two bioretention basins will reduce annual discharge by 1.33-acre feet and reduce 1.1 lbs. total phosphorus and 198 pounds of sediment discharging into Square Lake each year. Square Lake is a high-quality recreational lake with a public access and declining water quality trends. These practices address significant sources of untreated urban stormwater discharging into the lake identified in the 7 Lakes Subwatershed Analysis.

*C25-0242 Redwood SWCD Redwood Falls WSCBs - Redwood County $ 335,279 81.95*
Redwood River subwatershed drains 22,130 acres of highly productive agricultural land in Redwood County in southwestern MN. Subsurface drainage and open ditches are prevalent in this landscape and necessary to improve crop productivity. This subwatershed drops 261 feet in elevation from its source near Seaforth to its confluence with MN River about 20 miles downstream and includes Lake Redwood which was dredged in 2022 removing 682,880 cubic yards of sediment. The area of interest (AOI) is the Redwood River immediately downstream of the project sites, section 9 Redwood Falls (RWF) Township. At the AOI, an existing MPCA/USGS gaging station exists that provides vital information to the quantity and quality of water being delivered to Lake Redwood approximately 2.25 miles downstream. This unique proposal includes 29 WSCBs and 4 property owners adjacent to a 2023 completed project funded by a Water Quality & Storage grant (Redwood Falls 8/9 Grade Stabilizations). This proposal compliments the completed work to target upland treatments to curb the overland flows which erode the Redwood River's streambanks and deliver sediment to Lake Redwood. The Redwood River TMDL estimates a 57% TSS reduction needed (18,674 tons/yr) for this subwatershed. The WSCBs will capture 829.46 tons of sediment annually, reduce 100-yr storm flow by 62 cfs, store 75.87 ac-ft, and offset the peak by 4 hours. For more frequent 10-yr storm events, the WSCBs will reduce flows by 81 cfs, store 53.54 ac-ft and offset the peak by 7 hours. The sediment reduction estimate of 829.46 tons/year will achieve 4.5% toward the Redwood River TSS reduction goal. All projects outflow directly to the Redwood River. The landowners on whose properties the projects are located have already signed on in support. This support and buy-in was generated by the landowners' observation of a similar set of projects (previously referenced herein), just downstream of the current project area. The Lake Redwood dredging project was well publicized and recreational use of the lake has increased significantly since completion of that project. This has caused significant public support for projects protecting the lake. The dredged amount was 682,880 cubic yards. The average depth of the lake was down to about 2.5' and that has been restored with depths reaching 20'. The original dam was built in 1902 and dredged in 2022 (120 years later). The mid-1960's was when people really started noticing the sediment accumulating in the lake. In addition to flood events, mechanized machinery and no buffers around lakes, streams and drainage ditches attributed most of the sediment.

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| *C25-0188* | *Comfort Lake-Forest Lake WD* | *Heath Iron Enhanced Sand Filter* | *$ 1,499,000* | *81.32* |

The Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District will construct an iron enhanced sand filter project on District-owned land in order to achieve an 86 lb/yr phosphorus reduction which comprises 84% of the goal load reduction for the “Heath Avenue inlet” subwatershed draining to Little Comfort Lake. The project will include project development, engineering/technical assistance, education & outreach, and urban stormwater practices (i.e., two adjacent iron enhanced sand filter basins). The District has a signed purchase agreement with the landowner. The District will purchase the underlying property to construct, own, and maintain the project in perpetuity. This project is key to achieving the Total Maximum Daily Load reductions for two nutrient-impaired waterbodies: Little Comfort Lake and Comfort Lake. Given the high amount of dissolved phosphorus in this tributary, iron enhanced sand filters are the most cost-effective practice to improve water quality. The estimated lifetime cost-benefit of the project, including operations & maintenance, is $700 per pound of phosphorus removed.