



MCWD lays out phosphorus reduction plan for Long Lake

By Dave Selvig dave.selvig@apgecm.com 6 hrs ago 0



Listen to this article now
Powered by Trinity Audio



00:00

03:23



The Minnehaha Creek Watershed District presented a five-step plan to reduce phosphorus in Long Lake during the city council meeting on Aug 5.

No official action was taken by the council on the project, which was presented by James Wisker, MCWD district administrator.

Following the lengthy presentation, the council was supportive of advancing to the next steps, which include “working with the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District and neighboring cities on projects to improve water quality in our watershed,” said Long Lake City Administrator Amanda Nowezki.

The second recommended action, called the “Nelson Lakeside Park Restoration,” offers a primary benefit of regional stormwater treatment before reaching Long Lake. Additional benefits include, park reinvestment, habitat restoration and enhanced lake access, the report stated.

Additionally, the Downtown Management Unit, located immediately upstream from Long Lake, has been deemed underperforming due to the city’s sand filters reaching the end of their useful life. The report continued that the project would “reconfigure the existing treatment system by routing stormwater through a meandering channel, wetland pockets, sediment forebay and connected and expanded treatment ponds before discharging into Long Lake.” The price of the Nelson Lakeside Park Restoration is listed at \$1.81 million.

The report estimated the two projects would cut up to 74 percent of the phosphorus target for downtown Long Lake.

The Holbrook Park Floodplain Storage (\$880,000), Daniels Street Diversion (\$2,010,000), and the Downtown Village Greenway (\$1,450,000) were designated as “opportunity-based projects”, not “immediate implementation” as the first two.

The project dates back to the 2023 Long Lake Creek Roadmap, a state-funded plan led by the MCWD, the cities of Long Lake, Medina, and Orono, and the Long Lake Waters Association.

The project is rooted in Long Lake being included on Minnesota’s impaired waters list because it does not meet water quality standards for nutrients.

To remedy the high phosphorus levels, the MCWD recommended five projects, with the first two receiving “immediate implementation” labels.

The first, which is estimated to cost \$850,000, would retrofit the underperforming Downtown Village Highway Pond. The concept would restore storage capacity, improve sediment capture, increase residence time, and enhance vegetation and public visibility, according to the report.

Also, according to the report, the retrofit could create a long-term opportunity to restore the stream near the Western Hennepin County Pioneer Association Museum as a multifunctional greenway connecting City Hall to Nelson Lakeside Park and Long Lake.