What’s happening

WE WANT TO SUPPORT YOUR WORK
Our three grant programs aim to help you make your clean water project or education idea a reality. Visit rpbcwd.org/grants for more information.

Watershed Stewardship Grants provide funding and technical help for projects that protect and improve water resources. Applicants can receive up to $5,000 for homeowners, $20,000 for non-profits, or $50,000 for governments and businesses.

Action grants are small, simple grants for team projects and activities that protect clean water. Applicants can receive up to $250.

Educator Grants are designed to support educators in incorporating water resources into their teaching. Applicants can receive up to $250.

DIVE DEEPER
Interested in learning more? Explore the following reports on our website.

Aquatic plants


SALTY WATERS
Staring Lake and other local lakes are facing an increased threat of salty lakes. Each winter, people apply nearly 365,000 tons of road salt in the Twin Cities Metro Area. When this sodium chloride washes into local streams and lakes, it pollutes waterways and harms native fish and plants. Salt also affects the groundwater we rely on for drinking, and water with high salinity can create health concerns for vulnerable groups. Did you know that it takes only one teaspoon of salt to permanently pollute five gallons of water?

What can you do?
Shovel: removing snow manually is effective and does not pollute waterways
Sweep: Collect excess salt for future use
Scatter: Spread out your salt so it can be most effective. More salt does not always mean better melting.
Sand: Most salts do not work below 15 degrees. Use sand for traction.
Suggest: Tell your friends and neighbors about what they can do to prevent salt pollution.

DIVE DEEPER
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Assessments


Carp management

Staring Lake
Staring Lake is located in Eden Prairie, west of Flying Cloud Drive and north of Pioneer Trail. Staring has a public boat ramp and a fishing pier. The Eden Prairie Outdoor Center is also located on its shores, off of Staring Lake Parkway.

CHARACTERISTICS
- Size: 166 acres
- Volume: 1,220 acre-ft
- Average depth: 7 ft
- Max depth: 16 ft
- Watershed size: 10,206 acres
- Land draining directly into: 314 acres
- MPCA lake classification: Shallow
- Impairment listing: Mercury & Nutrients
- Trophic status: Hypereutrophic
- Common fish: Bluegill, Black Crappie, Black Bullhead
- Invasive species: Curlyleaf Pondweed, Eurasian Watermilfoil, Common Carp, Brittle Naiad

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Contact us
and find out how you can get involved

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Facebook
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LAND USE in the Staring Lake Watershed
- 12% Commercial
- 55% Residential
- 26% Open Space
- 3% Roads
- 4% Open Water
How healthy is Staring Lake?

Water quality in Staring Lake has increased since 2016, although in 2019 it only met one of the three clean water standards set by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). The graphs on the next page show the trends over time. The red line marks the MPCA standard. The goal is for the average values (the dots) to fall below the red line.

During the growing season (June - September), district staff visit Staring Lake every other week to collect water samples and take measurements. The samples are sent to a lab and tested for several compounds including total phosphorous (TP) and chlorophyll a (Chl-a). Staff also measure how clear the water is using a disk that is lowered into the water until it can no longer be seen. All three of these parameters help indicate whether the water is clean.

Staring is classified as a “Shallow Lake”, which means that it is generally less than 15 feet deep and light can reach the bottom in most of the lake. This ample light means that shallow lakes often have a lot of aquatic plants, and are habitat to many types of fish and birds. To be considered healthy by the MPCA, shallow lakes need to be clear enough to see one meter down, and have low TP and Chl-a levels.

Rainwater runoff - the water that flows across yards, parking lots, and streets into stormdrains - is one of the main causes of pollution in urban areas. You can take simple actions to help protect Staring Lake.

Keep the curb clean
Sweep up leaves, grass clippings, and fertilizer from driveways and streets.

Water with care
Grass requires 1-inch of water per week, about one hour of sprinkling per week if it has not rained.

Salt smart
The salt we use to melt ice can pollute our lakes and creeks. Use salt sparingly and always shovel first.

Reuse the rain
Collect and reuse rainwater with a rain barrel.

Build a raingarden
Raingardens soak up water and filter out pollution. Visit our website for help.

Phosphorus is a nutrient that plants and algae need for growth. It is often measured as total phosphorous (TP). Too much phosphorous can cause algae blooms.

Chlorophyll a is the main pigment in algae, so measuring chl-a can tell us how much algae there is. Too much chl-a means that there are too many nutrients in the water.

Summary table

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