FOCUS ON

SIX MILE CREEK – HALSTED BAY SUBWATERSHED

MINNEHAHA CREEK
WATERSHED DISTRICT

The Six Mile Creek - Halsted Bay Subwatershed (*right*) is the headwaters of Lake Minnetonka and contains abundant, interconnected natural resources, including 14 lakes, 12 miles of Six Mile Creek, and thousands of acres of wetlands.

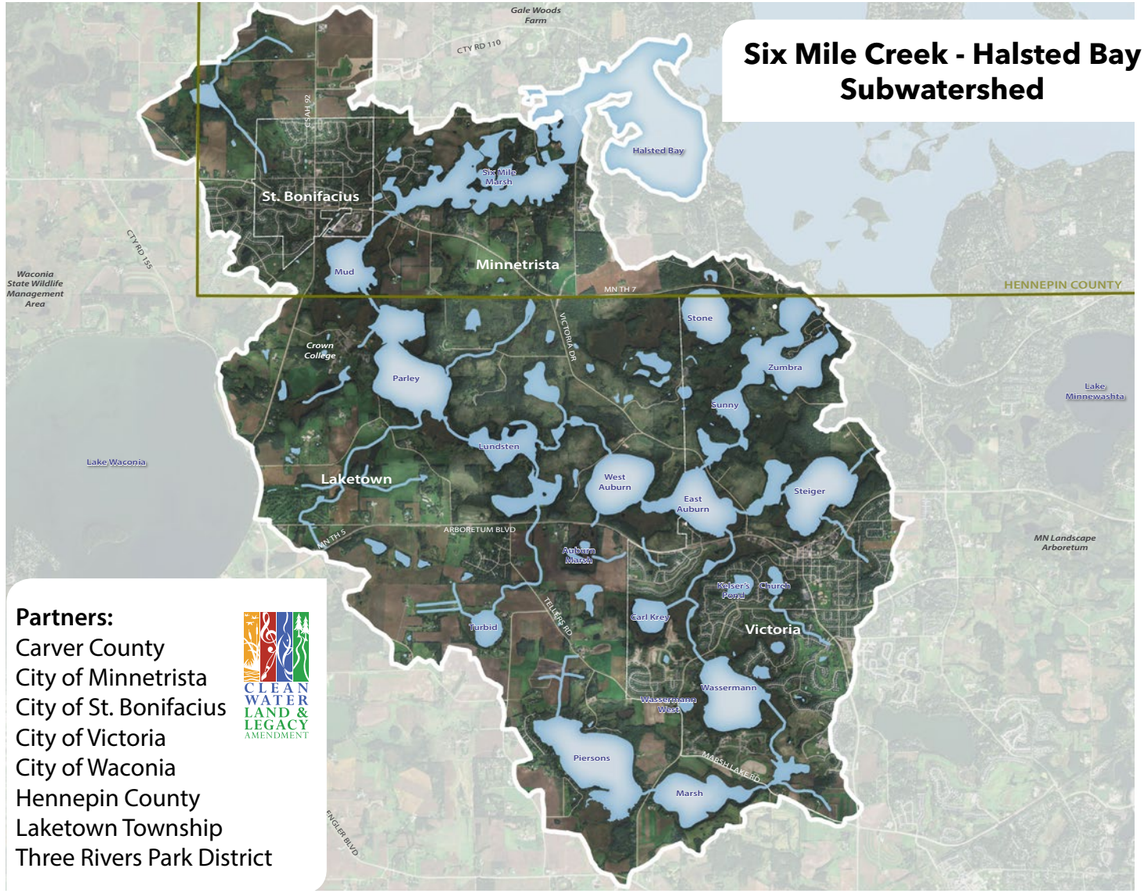
We are working with our partners in the subwatershed over the next decade to improve water quality, restore habitat, and protect critical resources, while adding value to partners' initiatives to create thriving communities.

Joining us in this effort is the Six Mile Creek - Halsted Bay Planning Partnership, which is made up of policymakers and staff from the public agencies within the subwatershed. Using sound science, the partnership identified restoration strategies (*far right*) that will be implemented based on environmental needs, local priorities, and real-time opportunities.

We look forward to working with you in this region. Please feel free to reach out to us with questions and opportunities.

- Bill Olson, MCWD Board of Managers

Learn more at www.minnehahacreek.org/six-mile



Partners:
Carver County
City of Minnetrista
City of St. Bonifacius
City of Victoria
City of Waconia
Hennepin County
Laketown Township
Three Rivers Park District

CLEAN WATER LAND & LEGACY AMENDMENT

After identifying water quality issues and the drivers of those issues, we are implementing the following **strategies:**

Carp Management

Restoring 2,488 acres of deep and shallow lake habitat

Wetland Protection & Restoration

Reducing phosphorus production in wetlands and creating connected habitat corridors

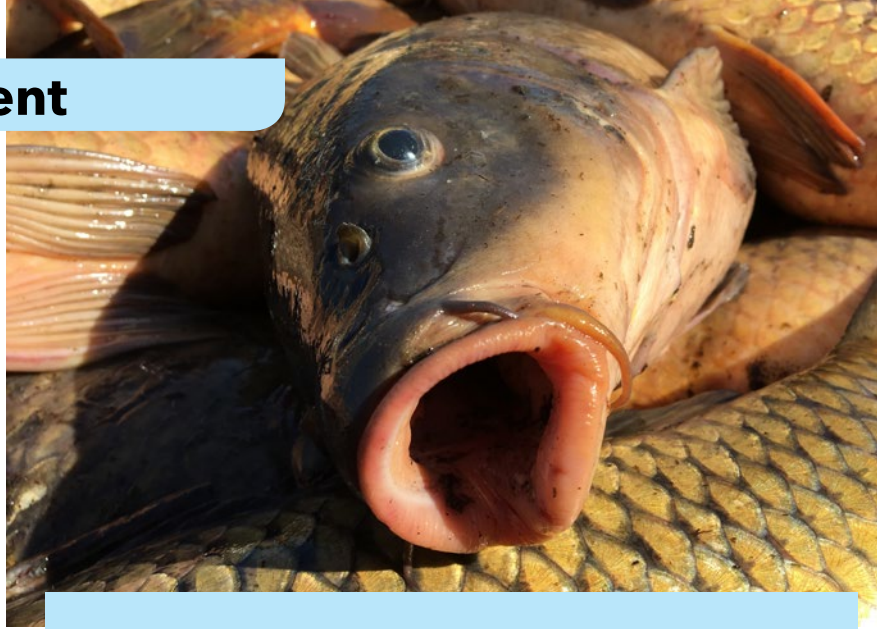
Stormwater Management

Reducing the amount of polluted stormwater entering lakes, the creek, and wetlands

Controlling In-Lake Nutrients

Reducing the amount of phosphorus being released from lake bottoms

Carp Management



We began managing invasive common carp in the summer of 2018, aided by $567,000 in state funding from the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council.

Common carp uproot plants and stir up lake bottoms, degrading habitat and promoting algae growth.

In the first six months of work, we removed over 13,000 pounds of carp from three lakes. We are also making plans to install permanent barriers and to aerate several shallow lakes.

16 pound carp removed from Wassermann Lake

Project Strategies

Removing adult carp

Carp are removed using box-net trapping, open water and winter seining, and stream trapping.

Installing carp barriers

Carp are prevented from migrating between lakes to contain the population and help with trapping.

Aerating lakes

Lakes are aerated to keep bluegill sunfish alive through the winter so they can feed on carp eggs in the spring.

Wetland Protection & Restoration

We are collaborating with the City of Victoria as they plan for the future development of the Western Growth Area, a region rich in water and natural resources.

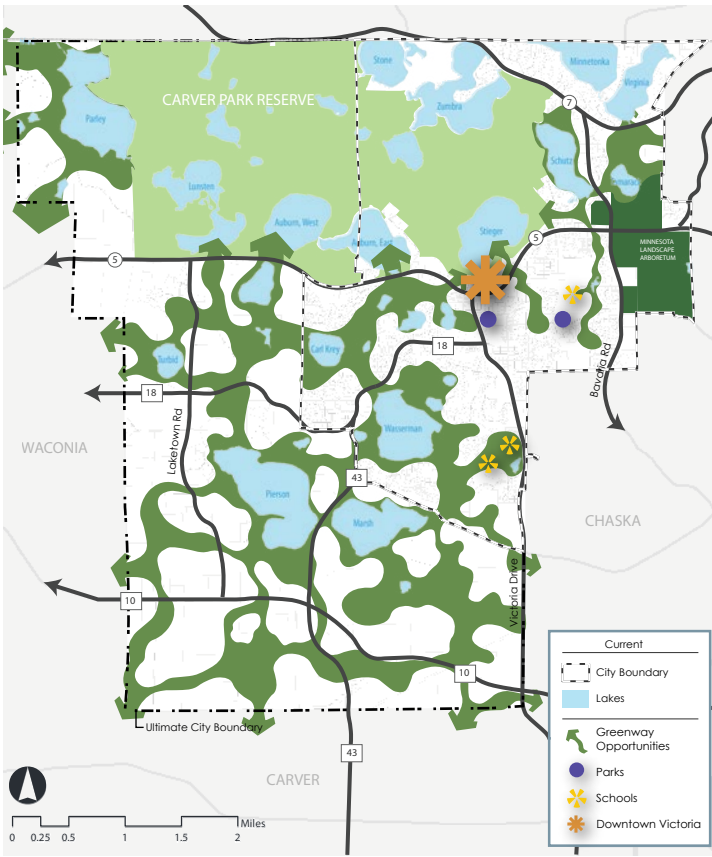
The city's 2040 Comprehensive Plan establishes a vision for a greenway corridor that connects its most prized assets – its lakes, parks and trails system – while supporting the sustainable growth of the city. The area also encompasses many large wetland complexes and unique natural features.

The city will be working with MCWD and other partners to develop a shared implementation strategy to realize the vision of a Victoria Chain of Lakes.

Benefits of this approach include:

- Protection and improvement of area lakes, wetlands, and uplands
- Higher-quality development that enhances property values and reduces infrastructure costs
- Enhanced quality of life for residents and support for the city's focus on lakes, parks, and trails

*Map of the **Victoria Chain of Lakes Greenway***



Stormwater Management

Stormwater runoff carries sediment, excess nutrients, road salt, bacteria like *E.coli* and other pollutants directly to our lakes, streams, and wetlands without treatment.

As the land in the Six Mile Creek - Halsted Bay Subwatershed is developed, we are working with cities and developers to identify opportunities to either retrofit existing stormwater features like stormwater ponds, or incorporate stormwater features into new development that clean more water than is required by regulation while also providing value for residents.

Photo credit: Erdahl Aerial Photos

Project Spotlight: East Auburn Stormwater Ponds

We partnered with the City of Victoria to leverage Clean Water Funds to retrofit two stormwater ponds in downtown Victoria. The ponds include stormwater filters to remove dissolved phosphorus, which is typically harder to treat.

Results:

- Captures more stormwater
- Facilitates new development downtown
- Removes 25 lbs of phosphorus per year
- Removes 4,750 lbs of total suspended solids per year

Controlling In-Lake Nutrients

We are working with the City of Victoria to integrate clean water investments for Wassermann Lake with the city's goals for a waterfront park.

This nature-based park will restore the water quality of Wassermann Lake by reducing phosphorus reaching the lake, restoring stream channels on site, and managing seven acres of woodland while providing access to this unique natural site on the shores of the lake.

Wassermann West Waterfront Park is one example of the City of Victoria's vision for the future growth of the city, which emphasizes a system of public green space and trails connecting their chain of lakes.

Photo credit: Erdahl Aerial Photos

Looking Ahead

In addition to Wassermann West Waterfront Park, we are exploring other opportunities for controlling in-lake nutrients throughout the subwatershed, including wetland restorations and a facility to prevent 1,400 pounds of phosphorus from entering Lake Minnetonka's Halsted Bay each year.