



## Capital Improvement Project Apple Valley: Erickson Park Stormwater Improvement Project



Existing outfall area and sediment

Stormwater improvement projects can be completed to reduce pollutants being delivered to downstream waterbodies that may have been overlooked during the original development of the area.

### Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization

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### Stormwater improvements to promote infiltration and improve Farquar Lake

Erickson Park provides open space and flood retention for the surrounding residential areas in Apple Valley. When the stormwater pond and piping was installed in the area 45 years ago, the focus was on holding water after heavy rains, not on addressing water quality. As a result, the runoff from small storms passed through the pond with very little pollutant removal.

Stormwater flows through the Erickson Park open space and ultimately reaches Farquar Lake, which is impaired for nutrients. Improving the Erickson Park stormwater pond will provide better management and treatment of low flows and help reduce phosphorus delivery to Farquar Lake. Lastly, the improvements will provide better access for maintenance and sediment removal in the long-term.

The project was completed in fall 2021. Phosphorus reduction at Farquar Lake resulting from the project is estimated at seven pounds per year. Partners avoided construction in the existing pollinator area in the northern portion of Erickson Park due to the excellent quality of the vegetation present.

### Problem:

- The existing stormwater pond and piping passes pollutants from smaller storm events downstream to Farquar Lake
- Farquar Lake is impaired for nutrients (phosphorus) and needs less phosphorus reaching it from its drainage area
- Stormwater infrastructure is not set up well for long-term maintenance

### Actions:

- The VRWJPO and City are retrofitting an old stormwater and flood retention pond to provide additional treatment
- Treatment will blend into the surrounding open space and avoid high-quality pollinator habitat that the City has established nearby

### Benefits:

- It is estimated that the project will reduce phosphorus delivery to Farquar Lake by seven pounds per year
- Facilitates infiltration of stormwater
- Creates a stormwater area that can be maintained more easily over the long-term
- Maintains and works with existing park open space

### Costs and contributions (anticipated):

- Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization: \$50,000 in cash match, design and pollutant reduction modeling assistance
- City of Apple Valley: \$135,990 in cash match, design assistance, and construction oversight plus \$77,752 of contaminated sediment removal
- Clean Water Fund: \$114,250 in grant funding

Project partners work blended the project into the site and preserve existing open space areas



Project immediately after completion

A project completed cooperatively by:

- Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization
- City of Apple Valley
- Clean Water Fund Grant

A grant from the Clean Water Fund, one of four funds established by the Clean Water, Land & Legacy Amendment, supported this project. [Clean Water Stories](#) can be found on the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources website.

