



Capital Improvement Project

Lakeville: East Lake Rough Fish Barrier & Rough Fish Removal

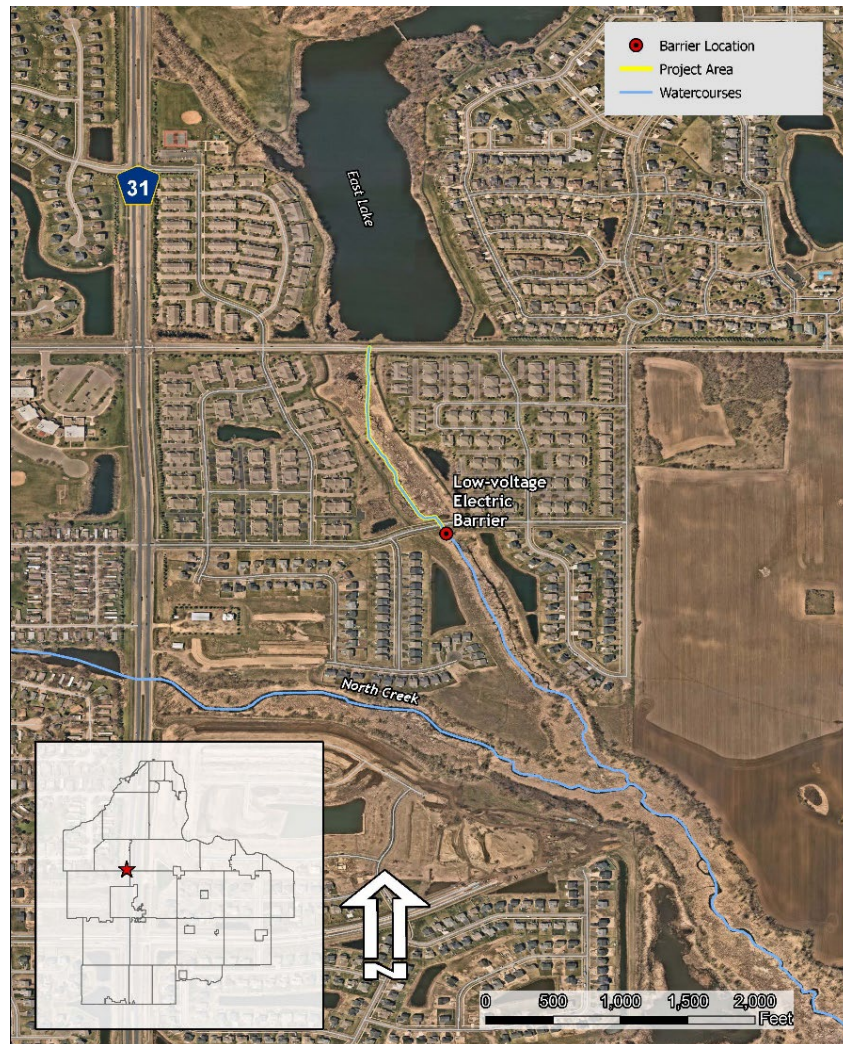


Figure 1. Map denoting project location.

East Lake, a shallow lake within East Lake Park in Lakeville, is impaired for phosphorus, a problem exacerbated by invasive common carp and goldfish (rough fish) looking for food in the phosphorus-bound lake bottom sediments. These fish species can make their way into the connected North Creek Vermillion River and disrupt ecosystems there as well.

One way to address this problem is a barrier to keep these fish populations from moving into or out of the lake. The Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO), partnering with the City of Lakeville, received a competitive Clean Water Fund grant from the Minnesota Board of Water & Soil Resources (BWSR) in 2023 to install a low-voltage electric fish barrier between East Lake and its connection with North Creek. By blocking their movement, it will allow the VRWJPO and partners to remove these fish from the lake to populations acceptable for sustainable management purposes. Partners plan to begin removing fish out of East Lake in 2024.

Partners:

- VRWJPO
- City of Lakeville
- Dakota County
- BWSR

Installation of Barrier:

- 2023

Rough Fish Removals:

- 2024-2025 (anticipated)

Location:

- Lakeville

Watershed:

- Vermillion River

Costs and Contributions (Estimated):

- VRWJPO: \$5,000 for In-kind grant administration/coordination. Estimated \$37,500 cash match for construction of low voltage fish barrier and rough fish removals.
- City of Lakeville: \$37,500 cash match for construction of low voltage fish barrier and rough fish removals
- Dakota County: Operation and maintenance of barrier
- BWSR: \$300,000 from competitive Clean Water Fund for engineering, technical assistance, and construction of low voltage fish barrier

Benefits:

- The project is estimated to reduce total phosphorus in East Lake by 23 pounds/year.
- East Lake has high recreational value to residents, being part of a city park and within the North Creek Greenway. Addressing nutrient impairments would improve the experience at the park.
- Reducing targeted rough fish species will provide a more habitable environment for native species and improve water quality conditions.



Figure 2. A Common Carp captured from East Lake via electrofishing.



Figure 3. Barrier site.



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.