



Spring Lake Township 2022 Highlights

March 14, 2023

PRIOR LAKE
SPRING LAKE
WATERSHED DISTRICT

2022 Highlights

- Carp Management
- Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Program
- Upper Watershed Projects
- Water Quality
- Volunteer Opportunities



Carp Management

Carp Removals – Spring Lake 2022

- Changing carp behavior
 - In-lake spawning (not ideal)
 - Barriers are working!
 - No aggregations for seining
- Removed ~1,700 lbs of carp from Spring Lake
- Electrofishing & staff-led netting

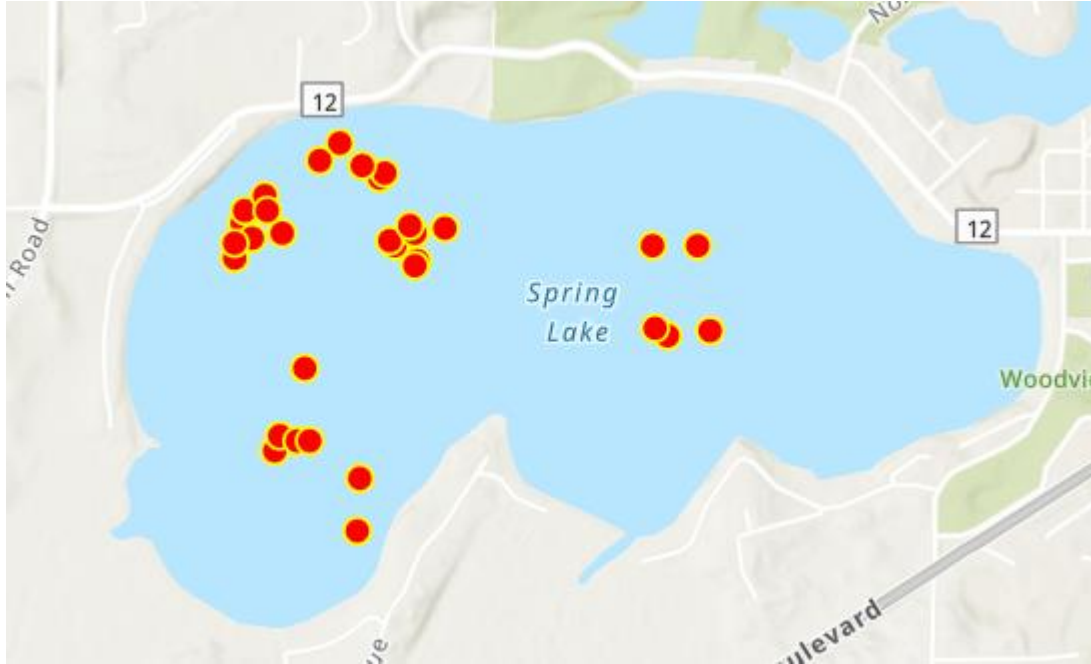


Carp Removals – Spring Lake 2023

- 2023 off to a strong start
- Under ice seine on February 16th
 - ~ 11,500 pounds removed
- Healthy game fish population seen on seine day
- Continue to look for under-ice aggregations



Radio-Tagging Carp on Spring Lake



Radio tag locations from
December 2022 through February 2023



Approximately 7 tags active in Spring Lake

Tracking once or twice per week until ice conditions no longer allow



Bluegill Stocking



Geis Wetland: 2,400 bluegill

Desilt Pond: 1,200 bluegill



Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Program



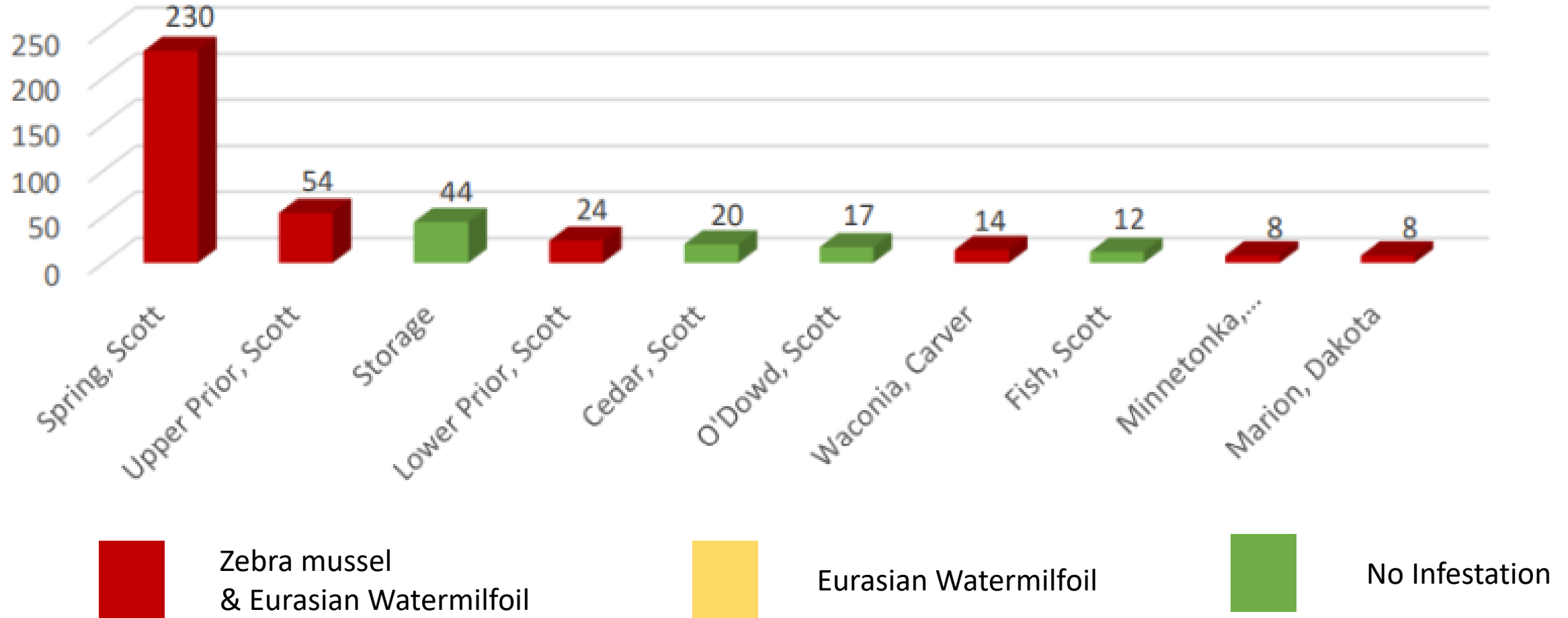
Boat Inspections



- Contracted and DNR inspectors
 - Helped remedy over 120 violations on Spring and Fish Lake
- May – October
- Common violations
 - Plants hanging off boat
 - Water in ballast tanks/drain plugs in
 - Zebra mussels
- Record low AIS Law Violations

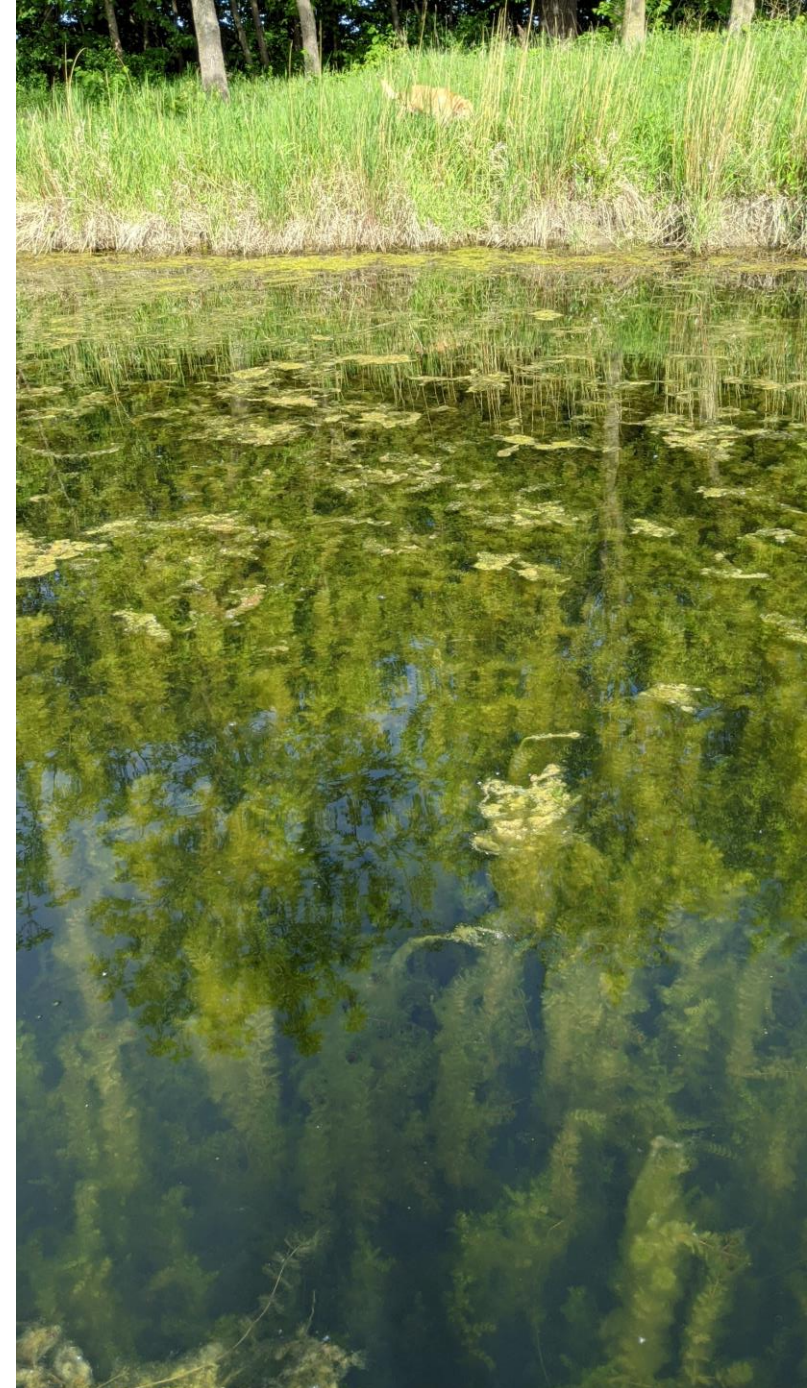


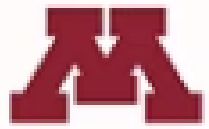
LAST Body of Water Visited - Spring Lake



Current AIS in Spring Lake

- Common Carp
- Curlyleaf Pondweed
- Eurasian Watermilfoil (2021)
- Zebra Mussels (2022)





Starry Trek



- State-wide search event for **Starry Stonewort**
- New invasive algae rapidly spreading across MN – Hennepin County
- Hosted training site to ID Starry Stonewort and other AIS plants/animals
- Search local lakes
- 2023 date TBD

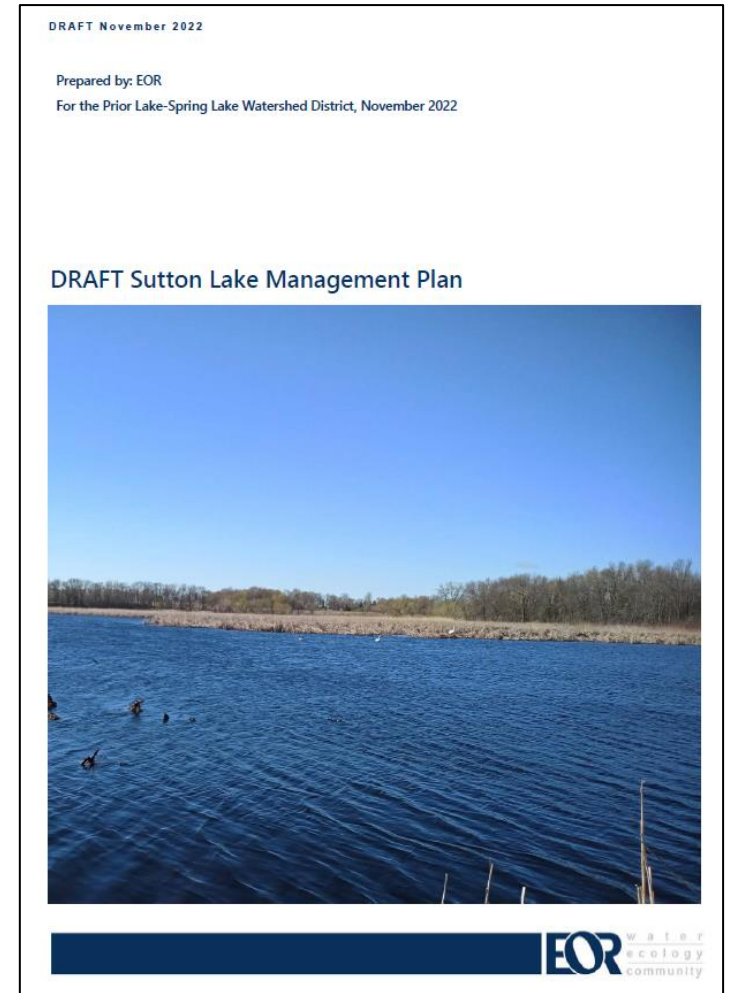


Upper Watershed Projects



Sutton Lake Management Plan

- Goal: Enhance native plant diversity and habitat
- Occasional lake drawdowns (every 5-20+ years) can help revitalize native plant diversity
- Next steps:
 - Finalize Lake Management Plan and monitor
 - Assess effects of the recent drought to see if managed drawdowns would be a good option



Iron Enhanced Sand Filters

- Goal: Improve water quality through phosphorus reduction
- IESFs bind with phosphorus and allow sediment to settle
- Potential projects & next steps:
 - Sutton Lake IESF
 - Spring West IESF
 - Feasibility studies complete
 - Assessing potential sites
 - Continuing landowner communications



Wetland Enhancements

- Potential Goals: wetland enhancement, water quality improvement, increased storage capacity
- Spring West Wetland Enhancement
 - Two concepts: flood storage or create higher quality wetland for wetland credits
 - Next steps: landowner outreach
- Buck East Wetland Enhancement
 - Four concepts with varying goals
 - Next steps: finalize feasibility study and continue landowner discussions



Fish Lake Management Plan Update

- In partnership with Spring Lake Township
- Two historical reports have conflicting information on in-lake vs. external sources of phosphorus
- Monitor to clarify source of water quality issues in Fish Lake
- Based on results, recommend management approaches to improve water quality
- Next steps: Continue water quality monitoring in 2023, plan landowner meetings



Additional Priorities & Projects

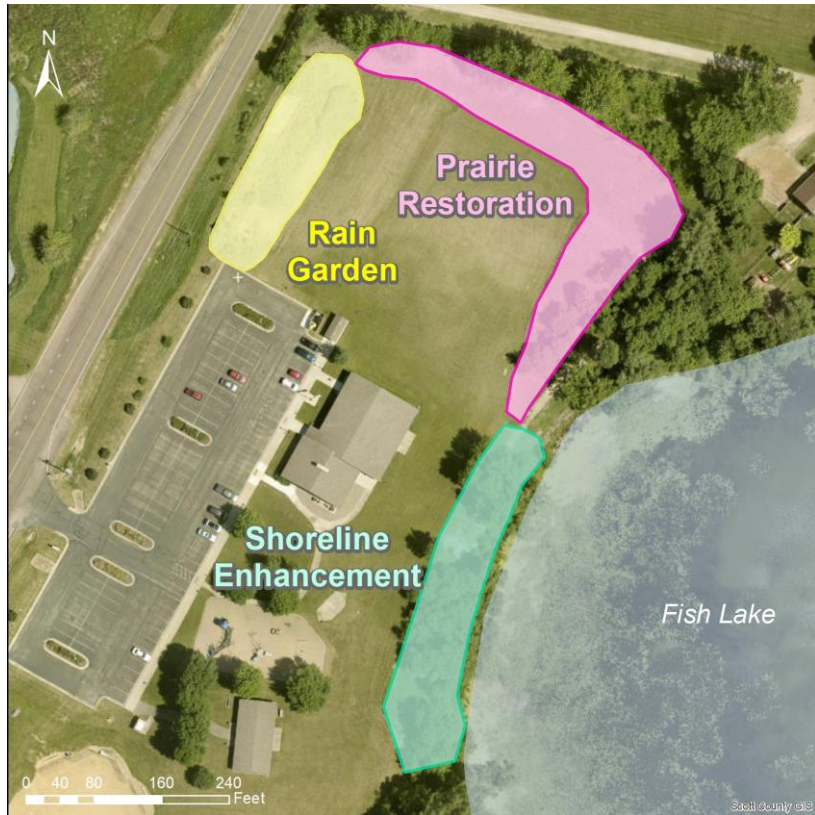
- Assess current Ferric Chloride system for remaining tank lifetime & system effectiveness
- Upper Watershed Flood Storage projects
 - 14 potential projects
 - Communicate with landowners of high priority potential projects
 - 2023 goal: conduct feasibility studies for one or two projects



Fish Lake Restoration

2019-2022

Conservation Partners Legacy Grant



Prairie Restoration

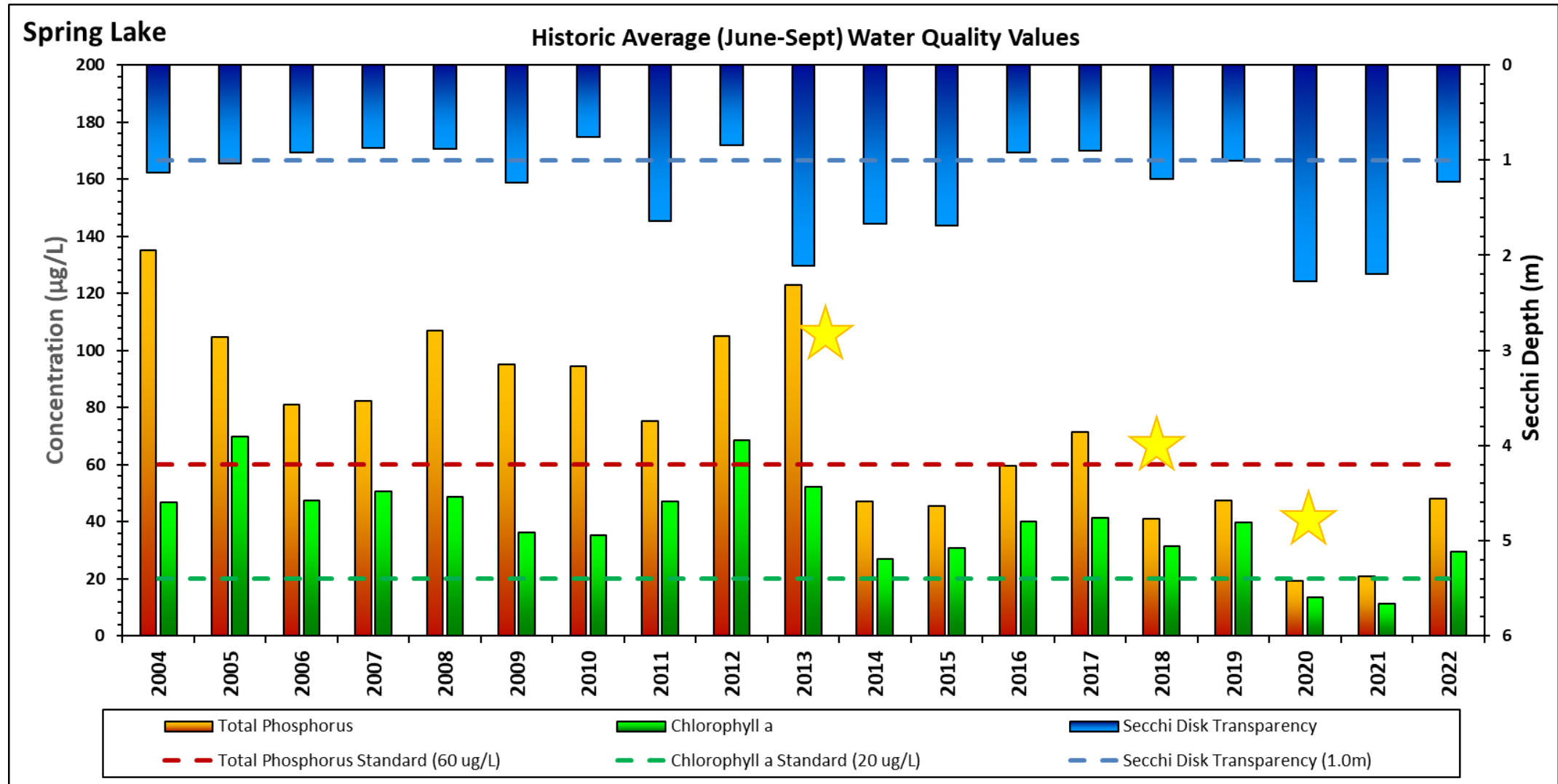


Shoreline Enhancement



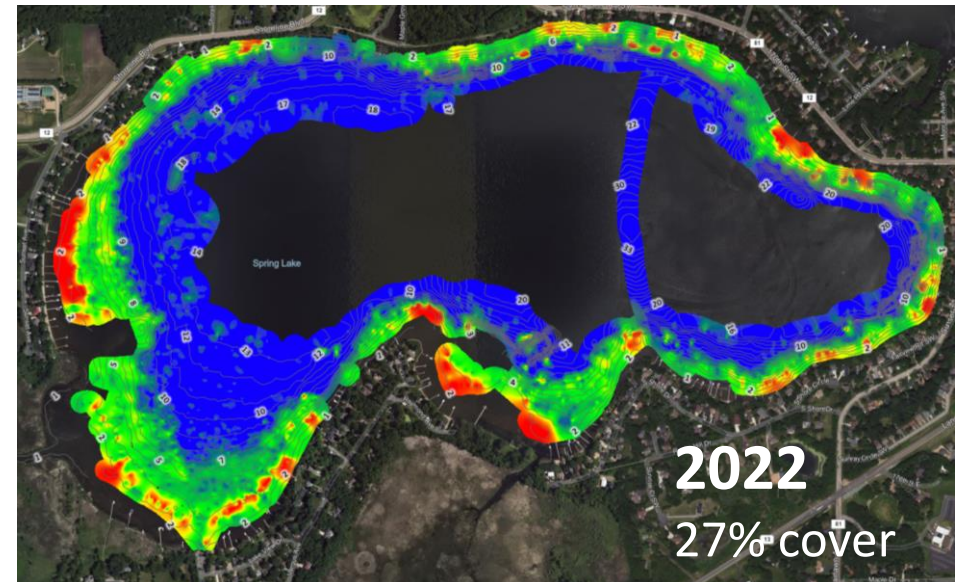
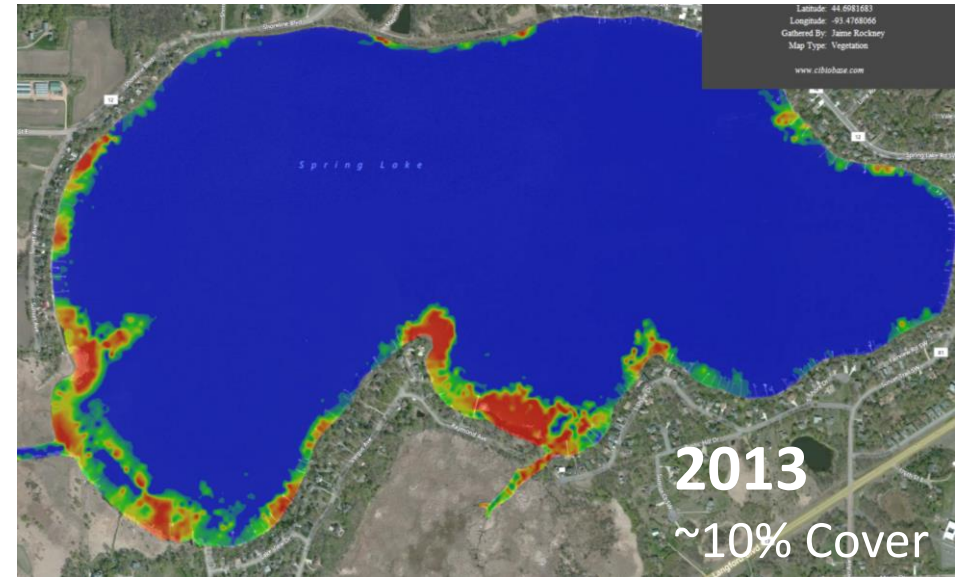
Water Quality

Spring Lake Water Quality

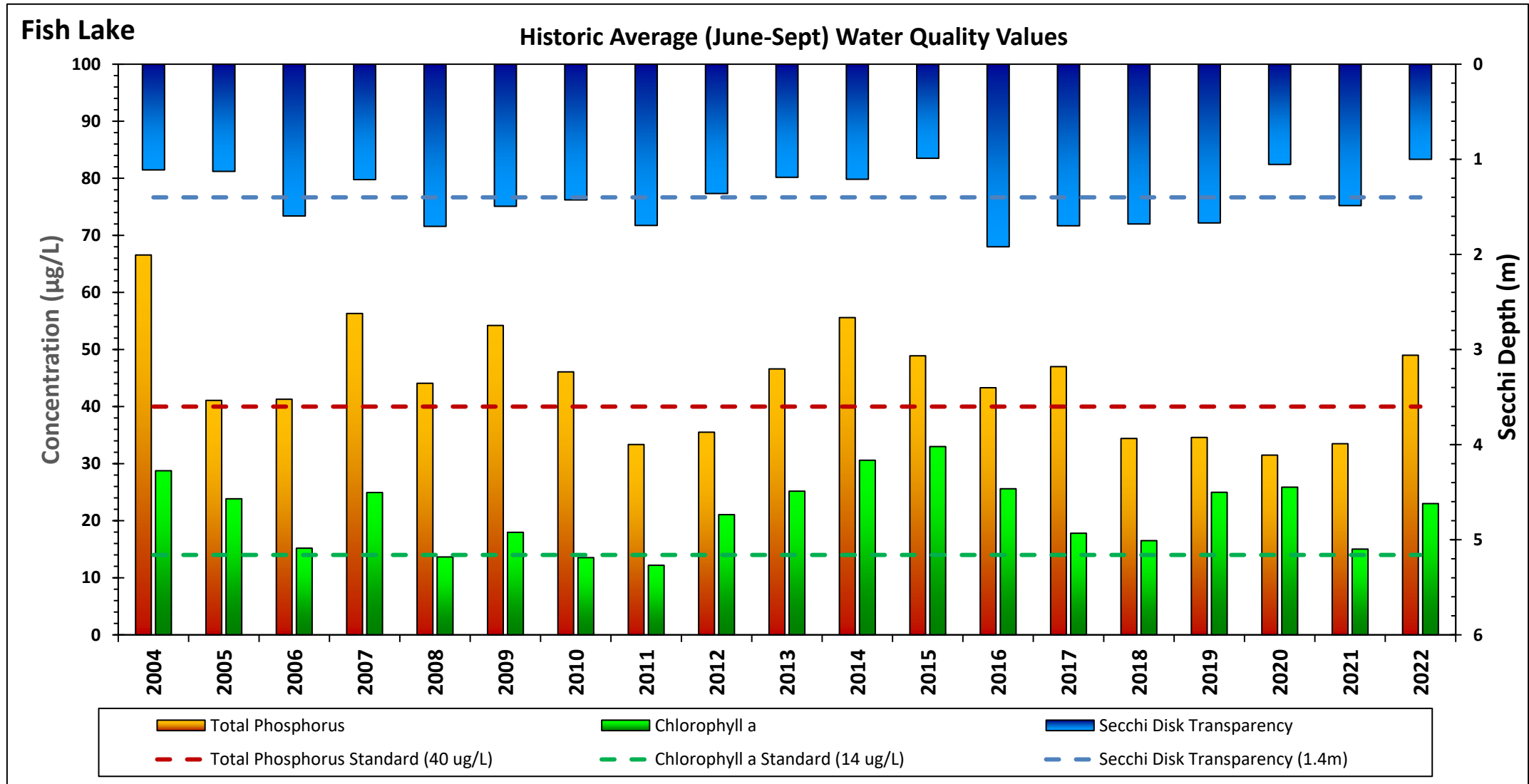


Aquatic Plant Improvement on Spring Lake

- Increased plant growth and diversity!
- Habitat for fish and wildlife
- Maintain long-term lake health
 - Absorb nutrients
 - Reduce shoreline erosion



Fish Lake Water Quality

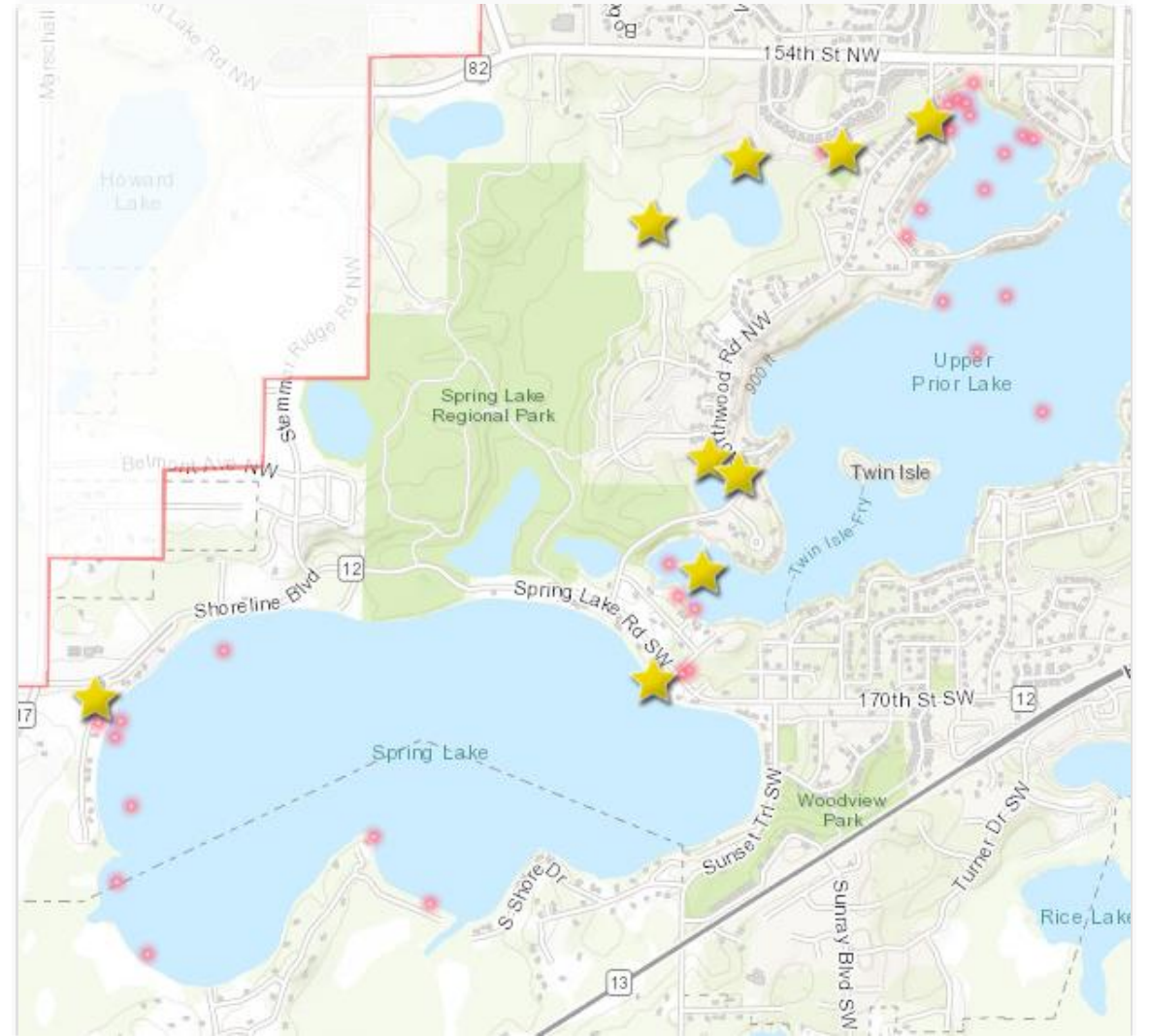


Volunteer Opportunities



Carp Espionage

- Volunteers report carp sightings to the District
- Staff checks on size of aggregation and pursues a removal event if appropriate



Volunteer Stenciling

- Ongoing volunteer event
 - Previously done on one day
- Stenciling kits available at the District office



Questions?

Contact Shauna at scapron@plslwd.org

or Emily at edick@plslwd.org



PRIOR LAKE-SPRING LAKE
WATERSHED DISTRICT