

Plymouth Creek Water Quality Ponds

In 2004, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency placed Medicine Lake on the impaired waters list as the available data indicated that Medicine Lake exceeded the state's narrative criteria for nutrients (total phosphorus (40 ug/l), chlorophyll-a (14 ug/l) and Secchi disc transparency (not less than 1.4 meters)) for the growing season mean. This listing mandates a plan, specifically a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) plan, be put in place to reduce the loading of phosphorus into Medicine Lake to a level consistent with its beneficial or intended uses such as swimming, boating, fishing, and general aesthetics. The approved TMDL requires a 1,249 pound reduction of phosphorus loading to Medicine Lake is required to meet the State's goals.

The two Plymouth Creek Water Quality Ponds total more than five acres in size and water quality monitoring indicates that when combined with the Plymouth Creek Stream Restoration Project, more than 1,000 pounds of phosphorus are prevented from reaching Medicine Lake annually. The Plymouth Creek Water Quality Ponds are located mostly within a 74-acre wetland complex and adjacent to West Medicine Lake Park. The north pond is located west of West Medicine Lake Drive and the south pond is located between West Medicine Lake Drive and Medicine Lake. The two pond configuration is at the recommendation of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and is proposed to limit the maintenance required, as routine maintenance (sediment removal) would be needed only in the north pond.

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