



# Eagan - Inver Grove Heights

## Watershed Management Organization

### Our Mission is...

To oversee member city implementation programs and foster civic engagement within the watershed that promotes citizen participation and responsibility in protecting and improving our water resources.

### Inside this issue:

2023 Completed Activities	2
2024 Work Plan	2
2023 Revenues & Expenses	3
2024 Adopted Budget	3
Water Monitoring	4
Get Involved	5
Board of Managers	6
Contact Information	6



## 2023 Annual Report

### What is the E-IGHWMO...?

The Eagan-Inver Grove Heights Watershed Management Organization (E-IGH WMO) is a Watershed Management Organization (WMO) formed in 2014. The WMO is governed by a five-person Board of Managers: three members appointed from Eagan and two from Inver Grove Heights by their respective City Councils. The Organization's purpose is set forth in Minnesota Statutes 103B.210, Metropolitan Surface Water Planning, which codified the Metropolitan Surface Water Management Act of 1982:

- (1) protect, preserve, and use natural surface and groundwater storage and retention systems;
- (2) minimize public capital expenditures needed to correct flooding and water quality problems;
- (3) identify and plan for means to effectively protect and improve surface and groundwater quality;
- (4) establish more uniform local policies and official controls for surface and groundwater management;
- (5) prevent erosion of soil into surface water systems;
- (6) promote groundwater recharge;
- (7) protect and enhance fish and wildlife habitat and water recreational facilities; and
- (8) secure the other benefits associated with the proper management of surface and groundwater.

## 2023 Activities

- Maintained water themed activity bags that are available for check out at libraries in the watershed, and promoted the activity bags in city newsletters and local newspapers.
- Minnesota Water Stewards have worked on projects in the watershed that help promote the goals of the E-IGHWMO and completed projects that improve water quality.
- Supported the Landscaping for Clean Water program which resulted in the installation of six raingardens and four native planting.
- Sold and distributed rain barrels and information packets to residents of the watershed in partnership with a local business.
- Continued a new multi-year agreement with CLIMB Theatre for stormwater themed performances in all elementary schools in the watershed as well as a few community performance.
- Continued a smart salting program by distributing 12oz cups and signage at 10 local businesses.
- Continued to offer the Water Smart Yards online survey for homeowners: Scan the QR code or visit [www.surveymonkey.com/r/NJZNBGL](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NJZNBGL)
- Started planning for the Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan update which will begin in 2024 and conclude in 2026.



*A newly installed raingarden within the Watershed is already capturing runoff and filtering pollutants. Soon the native plants will grow and provide a beautiful landscape amenity.*



## 2024 Work Plan

- Continue to partner for education with CLIMB Theatre, Landscaping for Clean Water (LCW), and Minnesota Water Stewards (MWS) programs.
- Continue to partner with member cities on Capital Improvement Projects that address water quality and provide neighborhood scale education related to the selected projects.
- Continue to provide education opportunities for managers of the E-IGHWMO as well as other city boards and staff.
- Continue to implement projects with grant funding through Metro Watershed Based Funding program.
- Implement multiple E-IGHWMO lead programs and activities as outlined in the Communication and Outreach Plan.
- Hire consultant for the Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan update and begin stakeholder engagement.
- Conduct site visits for potential stormwater practices at places of worship and complete report that prioritizes practices.



*E-IGHWMO and partners continue to provide education in multiple formats.*

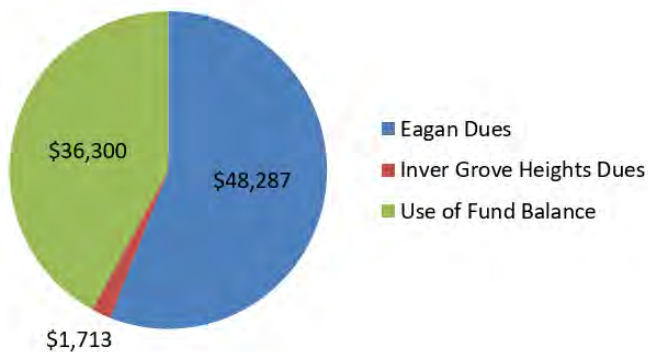
## 2023 Revenue and Expenses

REVENUES	Budget	Year End
<b>Member City Assessments</b>		
Eagan	\$46,356.00	\$46,356.00
Inver Grove Heights	\$1,644.00	\$0
<b>Other</b>	\$0	\$552.75
<b>Accounts Receivable</b>		\$1,644.00
<b>Use of Fund Balance</b>	\$7,300.00	\$0
<b>Total</b>		
EXPENSES		
<b>Work Program</b>		
Annual Activity, Financial and Audit Report	\$2,000.00	\$0
Annual Newsletter or Communication	\$300.00	\$0
Maintain Website	\$1,000.00	\$1,170.00
Board Education	\$500.00	\$0
Implement Watershed Plan	\$24,000.00	\$24,476.98
<b>Organizational Administration</b>		
Staff Services (general)	\$22,000.00	\$11,787.98
Engineering and Consulting Services (general)	\$4,000.00	\$0
Legal Consulting Services (general)	\$500.00	\$0
<b>Watershed Plan Reserve</b>	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
<b>Accounts Payable</b>		\$12,167.98
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$55,300.00</b>	<b>\$37,434.96</b>
<b>Net Surplus/Deficit</b>		<b>\$9,473.79</b>
<b>Total Fund Balance</b>		<b>\$136,716.54</b>

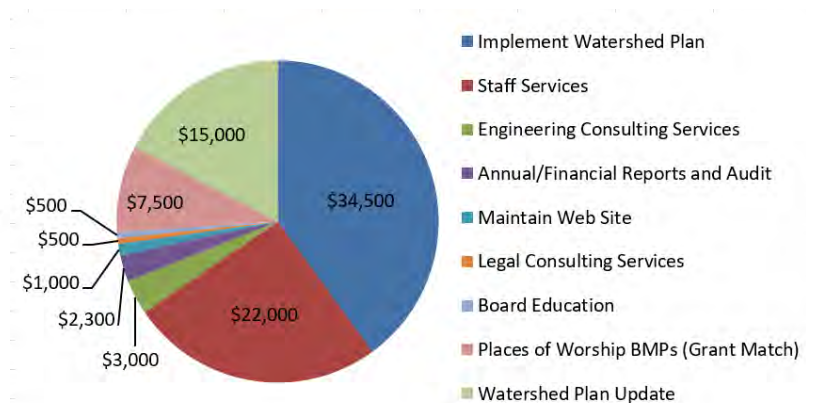


## 2024 Budget

**Revenues**



**Expenses**







## Lakes Improving

LeMay Lake used to suffer from excess phosphorus. Eagan worked to identify the source of the nutrient. Projects were completed to reduce the amount of phosphorus entering the lake, including installation of an iron enhanced sand filter as well as a storm water diversion and storage project. The second project was partially funded by a Clean Water Fund grant through the E-IGHWMO. Finally, phosphorus already in the lake was addressed with an aluminum sulfate treatment.

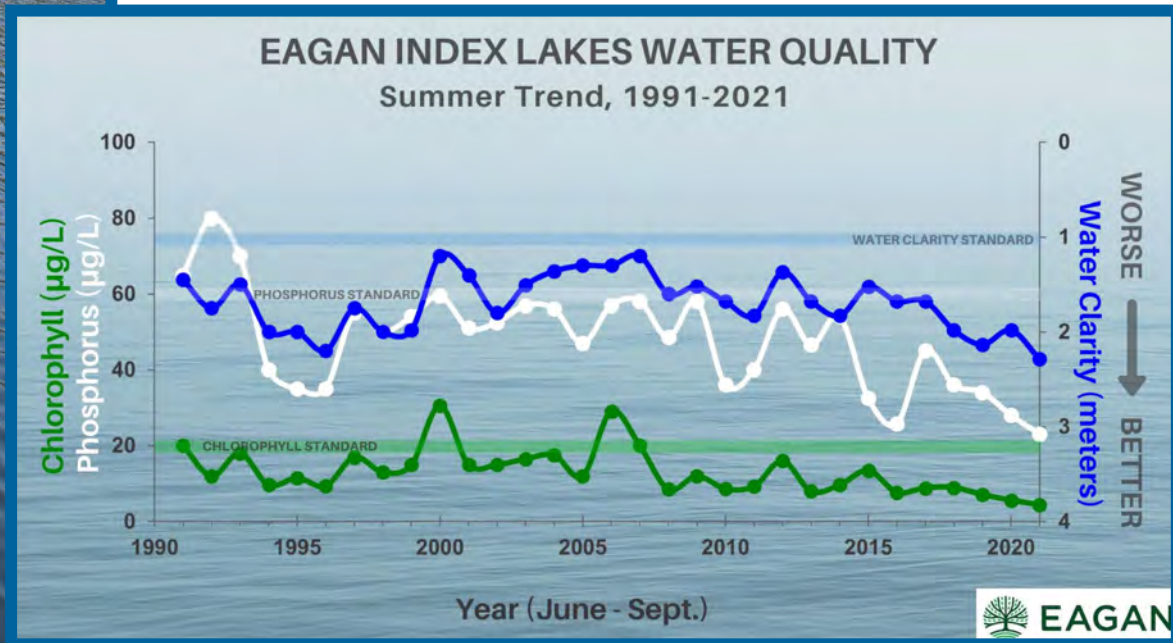
These projects reduced the phosphorus in LeMay Lake by Two-thirds. The lake has now been removed from the State of MN impaired water list. Not many lakes in the state have been removed from the list, so it is worth celebrating LeMay Lake!

## Water Monitoring

The E-IGHWMO does not conduct any water monitoring on its own. The City of Eagan conducts extensive water monitoring of its lakes and shares water quality information with the Board of Managers and the public.

The graph below represents historical water clarity, phosphorus, and chlorophyll of Eagan's primary shallow lakes. The City of Eagan regularly monitors these 15 lakes from June through September.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has an interactive map on its website that allows you to look at data of a specific lake. Some water quality data is collected by volunteers. Anyone interested in lake monitoring can do so through the MPCA Citizen Water Monitoring Program or the Metropolitan Council Citizen Assisted Monitoring Program (CAMP).



# Get Involved!

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## Landscaping for Clean Water

Through a partnership with Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) workshops are offered to residents of the Eagan-Inver Grove Heights watershed as well as residents throughout the County. The program is offered with a combination of virtual and in-person presentations and workshops. After attending an Introduction Class residents can sign up for a Design Course. The design course gives residents the tools and one-on-one assistance needed to design a native garden, raingarden or shoreline planting. Residents are then eligible to apply for a \$250 grant through the SWCD.

Workshops are offered annually. They typically begin in February and continue through June. For more details and registration information, visit the Dakota County SWCD website at [www.dakotawcd.org](http://www.dakotawcd.org).



### Design a Native Garden



### Create a Raingarden



### Stabilize Shorelines



## Minnesota Water Stewards

The Minnesota Water Stewards program certifies and supports community leaders to install pollution prevention projects that educate community members, reduce pollutants from urban runoff, and allow more water to soak into the ground before running into storm sewer systems.

Modeled after successful Master Gardner programs, volunteer community leaders will participate in a 50-hour program of courses and projects. Certified Minnesota Water Stewards will volunteer 50 hours of community service in the initial year, and at least 25 hours in each subsequent year.

There are currently multiple residents of the E-IGHWMO that are certified or are pursuing certification. If you would like to get involved, more information is available at [www.minnesotawaterstewards.org](http://www.minnesotawaterstewards.org).



## 2023 Board of Managers

<b>Monica Foss</b>	Eagan Representative	Chair
<b>Steven Errante</b>	Inver Grove Heights Representative	Manager
<b>Kathleen Reitz</b>	Eagan Representative	Manager
<b>Sarah Saito</b>	Inver Grove Heights Representative	Vice Chair
<b>Jennifer Workman Jesness</b>	Eagan Representative	Secretary/Treasurer

### Contact Information

**Mailing Address:**

3830 Pilot Knob Rd  
Eagan, MN 55122

**Administrator:**

Ashley Gallagher  
Dakota County Soil and Water  
Conservation District  
4100 220th St W  
Farmington, MN 55024

**Phone:**

(651) 480-7781

**Email:**

ashley.gallagher@  
co.dakota.mn.us

**Website:**

[www.eaganinvergroveheightswmo.org](http://www.eaganinvergroveheightswmo.org)

