


Le Sueur County Environmental Services



NEWSLETTER
January 2, 2024

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Lake Health and Safety Event

Le Sueur County Environmental Services is Hosting a Lake Health and Safety Event on **Sunday, February 11th 2024**. Details for this event are below.



Lake Health And Safety Event Sunday, February 11th, 2024 from **11am-3pm**

West Jeff Access- 46320 271st Ave, Cleveland, MN

Le Sueur County Environmental Services is hosting an event for all ages at the West Jefferson Boat Access.

Bait Bags and Jigs included as free giveaway prizes!

This event is focused on teaching kids and adults about Lake Safety and Health issues including

- Proper disposal of live bait and trash
- Learning about Aquatic Invasive Species in Le Sueur County
- Proper Ice Safety

There will be live presentations from midday into the afternoon, and a kiddie pool with fish for your kids to “catch” and learn about the different native and non-native species!



Le Sueur County
Environmental Services
88 S. Park Ave Le Center, MN 56057



Questions? Contact us
Phone 507-357-8538
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New Legislation on Garbage and Bait Disposal in Public Waters

Minnesota State Legislation passed a bill in May of 2023, introducing a new law that prohibits garbage, wastes, and dead animals (including live bait) being left on the ice. It is now a petty misdemeanor to leave any of these materials on the ice, and each violation is subject to a penalty of \$100. We at Le Sueur County Environmental Services are spreading the word about this law to make sure anglers become aware of this.

Sec. 66. [97C.363] STORING GARBAGE AND OTHER WASTE ON ICE.

Subdivision 1. Prohibition. A person using a shelter, a motor vehicle, or any other conveyance on the ice of state waters may not deposit garbage, rubbish, cigarette filters, debris from fireworks, offal, the body of a dead animal, litter, sewage, or any other waste outside the shelter, motor vehicle, or conveyance unless the material is:

- (1) placed in a container that is secured to the shelter, motor vehicle, or conveyance; and
- (2) not placed directly on the ice or in state waters.

Subd. 2. Definition. For purposes of this section, "sewage" means excrementitious or other discharge from the bodies of human beings or animals, together with such other water as may be present.

Subd. 3. Penalty. A violation of this section is a petty misdemeanor, and a person who violates this section is subject to a civil penalty of \$100 for each violation.

Figure 1. Minnesota State Statute Language. *Credit: Minnesota Office of Revisor Statutes.*

In recent years, ice fishing popularity has been on the rise. With more people on the ice, there has also been more waste. Groups like Keep it Clean MN have organized with multiple lakes and County SWCD's throughout Minnesota to perform cleanup and post signs encouraging people to pick up after themselves. This law passing will greatly help their efforts and hopefully change people's habits when out ice fishing to pick up their waste.

During our Lake Health Event mentioned earlier in this newsletter, one of our topics will be informing people of this new law. We will have the County Sheriffs joining us there as well to answer any questions people have about this new law. We hope to see lots of you at this event to support our lakes health in Le Sueur County.

Upper Cannon River Watershed Flood Risk Reduction Study

The initial Flood Study for the Cannon River Watershed was put on hold due to lack of funding. Le Sueur County applied through a FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program to obtain federal dollars to help pay for the study. The County was recently awarded funds! The funds will cover 75% of the total costs and there is a required 25% match component. Le Sueur County will partner with Bolton & Menk to continue efforts with the study!

The work that has already been completed thus far for the flood study includes preliminary watershed modeling and calibration of the Upper Cannon River Watershed. Tasks that still needs to be completed include: finishing up modeling of existing conditions of the Upper Cannon River Watershed, installing the flood warning gage coordination, assessing different concepts for flood reduction alternatives (locations, cost-benefit analysis), developing a report, and hosting a few different public meetings. Projects and practices will be identified within the watershed and assessed on what will provide the greatest benefit for storing water on the landscape, reducing flooding impacts, and building resiliency for all communities within the study area. The study is important in that it will provide opportunities for organizations to apply for different funding streams in order to implement on the ground projects and practices.

The image located below is the study area. The study area includes the entire Upper Cannon River Watershed.

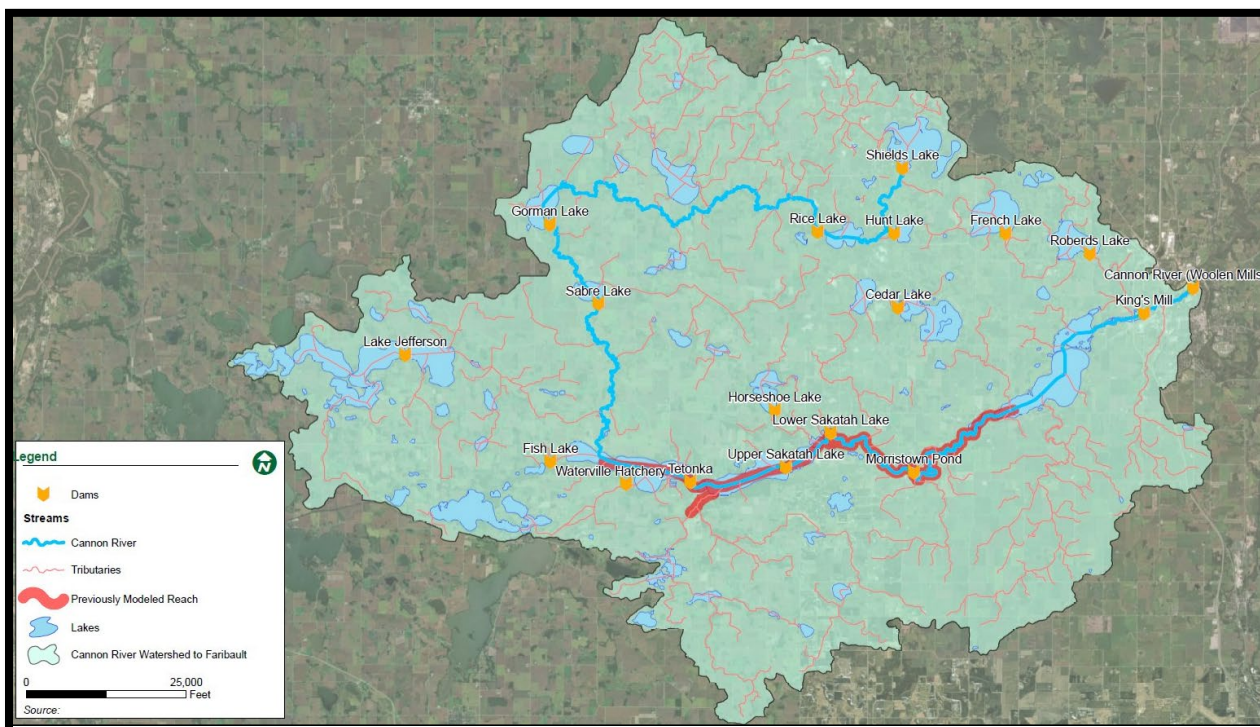


Figure 2. Upper Cannon River Flood Study Area. Photo Credit: Bolton & Menk Inc.

Le Sueur County Water Testing Clinic

Le Sueur County
Environmental Services
Department has partnered
with the Le Sueur County
Soil and Water
Conservation District and
the Cannon River Joint
Powers Organization to host
an Arsenic Water Testing
Clinic on **Wednesday,
January 31st 2024.**



Figure 3. Residential Well on Lake Shore Property. Photo Credit: Holly Bushman.

This clinic is being offered to a specific community around the Jefferson/German chain of lakes due to a resident who recently tested their drinking water for arsenic and exceeded the drinking water standards which is 10 ug/L. Letters have been sent out to those who reside within the community to inform them of the clinic.

Arsenic is a naturally occurring element found within soil and rocks and can negatively impact groundwater by leaching. Arsenic levels for each private well will vary and it is impossible to know the concentration of arsenic until a well is drilled and your water is tested.

The water testing clinic will help raise awareness within the community about testing your drinking water regularly in order to protect your health!

To find out information about pollutants and contaminants that can impact your private well as well as best management practices you can take as a private well owner, please visit the Minnesota Department of Health's [Water Quality and Testing webpage](#).

Where to Purchase Native Vegetation?

Supplier	Upland Perennials	Aquatic Perennials	Shrubs and Trees	Products	Services
Blue Valley Sod Mike Swenson 1040 North River Drive North Mankato, MN 56003 507-387-1268 Phone www.bluevalleysod.com					Installation of Prairie Species; prescribed burning
Cultured Natives 36170 County 14 Boulevard Cannon Falls, MN 55009-5239 (Mail order only)	X			Local ecotype plants, Most within 100-mile radius	
Erosion Control, Inc. 7076 NW 62nd Ave. Medford, MN 55049 Phone 507-455-9514					Consulting, design, and installation of native planting, including rain gardens, lakeshore retail nursery; Erosion control material
Feder's Prairie Seed Co (Merged with Shooting Star Native Seeds) 20740 County Road 33 Spring Grove, MN 55974 507-526-3049 507-498-3944 shootingstarnativeseed.com	X	X		Local ecotype grass, sedge, and wildflower seed	MCIA certified vendor (yellow tag); retail and wholesale nursery
Greenwood Nursery 611 S 4th St Tracy, MN 56175 Phone 507-629-3485 greenwoodnurserymn.com			X	Some native shrubs and trees	Retail nursery
Hackers Tree Farm and Nursery 45372 190th. Street Sleepy Eye, MN 56085 800-474-6777 hackerstreefarm.com			X	Some native shrubs and trees	Retail nursery
Landscape Concepts Inc 20377 Hwy. 15 North Hutchinson, MN Phone: 320.234.8980 landscapeconceptsmn.com	X		X		Design Services, and installation including shoreline restorations
Arborists of Rochester PO Box 798 Pine Island, MN 55963 Phone: 507-202-8545 arboristsofrochester.com					Land management such as buckthorn control, prescribed burning, invasive weed control; planting and seeding; tree trimming and removing
Minnesota Native Landscapes (MNL) 8740 77th St NE Otsego, MN 55362 Phone: 763-295-0010 mnlcorp.com	X		X	MCIA Certified, Source-identified seeds and plants, plus an assortment of native shrubs and trees	Contract installation of native seeds and plants; prescribed burning; exotic species control; Consultation and Design
Prairie Hill Wildflowers 8955 Lemond Road Ellendale, MN 56026 Phone: (507) 451-7791	X			Local ecotype wildflower and grass seed and seedlings; increasing wetland seedling production	Consulting services, retail nursery

Supplier	Upland Perennials	Aquatic Perennials	Shrubs and Trees	Products	Services
Prairie Moon Nursery 32115 Prairie Lane Winona, MN 55987 Phone: 866-417-8156 prairiemoon.com	X	X	X	Local ecotype wildflower and grass seed, SE MN, SW WI, NE Iowa, NW IL; Bare-root plants sold in spring only; Woodland flowers, sedges, shrubs, and trees	
Schumacher's Berry Farm 37806 910th St Heron Lake, MN 56137 Phone:(507) 793-2288 Fax:(507) 793-0025 schumachersnursery.com			X	Selection of native and non- native tree and shrub seedlings	Wholesale nursery
Sargent's Nursery Inc 3352 N Service Dr Red Wing, MN 55066 Phone: 651-388-3847 sargentsnursery.com	X		X	Some Native perennials, shrubs, and trees	Design, installation, retail nursery
South Cedar Greenhouse 23111 Cedar Ave Farmington, MN 55024 Phone: 952-469-3202 southcedar.online	X	X		A selection of native grasses and wildflowers	Wholesale and retail nursery
James A. (Tony) Thompson Salix Ecological Resources Willow Lake Farm PO Box 128 Windom, MN 56101 Phone:507-831-3483 Cell: 507-830-0767	X	X		Local ecotype wildflower, grass and sedge seed; Prairie hay (harvested from wild stands)	Installation and maintenance of native seedlings; invasive species management
Wild Prairie Nursery 715 Shoreacres Dr. Fairmont, MN 56031 Phone 507-238-2550	X			Larger potted native grasses and wildflowers	Small retail nursery
Winona Nursery Inc 1280 Frontenac Dr Winona, MN 55987 Phone: 507-452-6237 winonanursery.com			X	Some native shrubs and trees	Retail nursery
Woods End PMB 107 204 7th St W Northfield, MN 55057 Phone: 507-645-5370	X			Permit-rescued wildflower plants (bare-root)	Only shipped in the fall
Advance Seeding & Erosion Control Inc 27800 Koeper Ave NE New Prague, MN 56071 Phone: 952-758-7741					Soil Erosion Control, Hydroseeding
Roundstone Native Seed LLC 9764 Raider Hollow Road Upton, KY 42784 Phone: 888-531-2353/ 270-531-3034 roundstoneseed.com	X	X		Seed Mixes for multiple ecosystems and uses. Examples: wetland mix, pollinator mix, riparian mix, wildlife habitat mix, Etc.	Ships seed mixes across the Midwest

Our list of native plant nurseries and consultants has been updated. Our previous list was from 2015, and some vendors had closed while new ones have opened. This list is ever changing, and if you know of a native plant vendor not listed here, let us know!



Water Resource Spotlight



This issue we are spotlighting Tustin Lake!

Lake Tustin is located east of the City of Elysian. The lake is 162 acres and has a watershed of 4,455 acres which encompasses Rays and Francis Lake. All three lakes are hydrologically connected. The maximum depth of the lake is 4 feet; therefore, it is considered a shallow lake. The landscape around the lake is a mix of agriculture, forested areas, wetlands, and development. Tustin Lake is unique in that it falls within County boundaries and City Limits. This can make it a bit complicated from a standpoint of implementing and enforcing land use and zoning ordinances.



Figure 4. Tustin Lake overlooking the City of Elysian. *Photo Credit: Goodhue SWCD.*

Tustin Lake is located within the Cannon River Watershed. According to the Cannon River Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies Report, the lake is impaired for nutrients and is recommending to reduce the Total Phosphorus (TP) budget by 12%. Due to the lake's large watershed and being classified as a shallow lake, it is more susceptible to nutrient loading and stratification (mixing of layers). There are a variety of practices that have been identified to help improve the water quality within Tustin Lake. Practices that can assist with these efforts include:

impoundments, soil health practices such as cover crops, nutrient management, manure management, as well as installing riparian buffers and habitat.



Figure 5. West Side of Tustin Lake. Photo Credit: Goodhue SWCD.

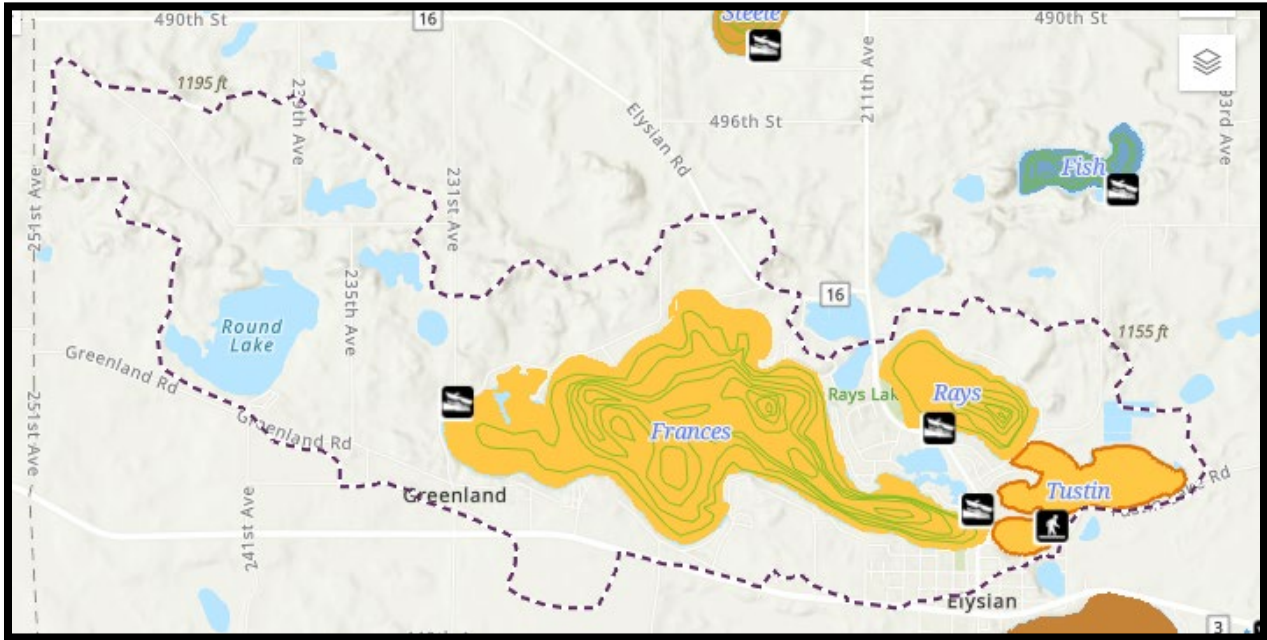


Figure 6. Tustin Lake Lakeshed. Photo Credit: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

Minnesota Native Plant

Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*)

Cardinal Flower is a perennial that is a part of the Campanulaceae (Bellflower) family. It grows anywhere from 1-6 feet in height. The root structure of a Cardinal Flower plant comprises of rhizomes which will sprout new rosettes of leaves the following growing season. The leaves are elongated and tapers to a sharp point. Additionally, the leaves are approximately 6 inches long, have coarse tooth leaf edges, and arranged alternate on the stem. The inflorescence (flower head) has a raceme (short stalk) with five lobed flowers. Flowers are vibrant red in color and blooms from July to September.

This plant prefers moist and wet soils, and prefers sandy and loam soil types. Lastly, this species favors full or partial sunny areas. You'll find this species thriving in a variety of habitat types such as, along edges of woods, streambanks, ditches, meadows, shorelines, rain gardens, and wetlands. Cardinal Flowers attracts a wide range of pollinators such as bees, hummingbirds, butterflies, and other insects. All parts of the Cardinal Flower are considered toxic; thus, they are deer resistant.



Figure 7. Cardinal Flower Inflorescence. Photo Credit: Holly Bushman.



Figure 8. Cardinal Flower Entire Plant. Photo Credit: Holly Bushman.

Fun Fact: Adult plants only survive for a few years. If you divide cardinal flowers every few years, this will allow the plants to self-seed.

Fun Fact: The roots of Cardinal Flower were often used to make love potions.

Non-Native Plant

Hollyhock (*Alcea rosea*)

Hollyhock can be a annual, biannual, or perennial and is a part of the Malvaceae (Mallow/Hibiscus) family.

This species is native to Europe and Asia..

Hollyhock was brought into the United States for ornamental reasons.

Hollyhock grows any from 3 to 8 feet tall. The leaves are large, heart shaped, and have blunt tooth leaf margins.

The inflorescence (flower head) contains large showy flowers along a large spike and blooms from June to September. The flower color ranges from pink, purple, red, white, yellow, and black.

The root structure of Hollyhock is a deep taproot. This species prefers well drained soils, but can thrive in most different soil types.

Lastly, this species prefers full sun areas.

Hollhocks are found in landscaping areas and gardens. They are rarely found in natural areas. It is an excellent source of nectar for pollinators such as bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds.

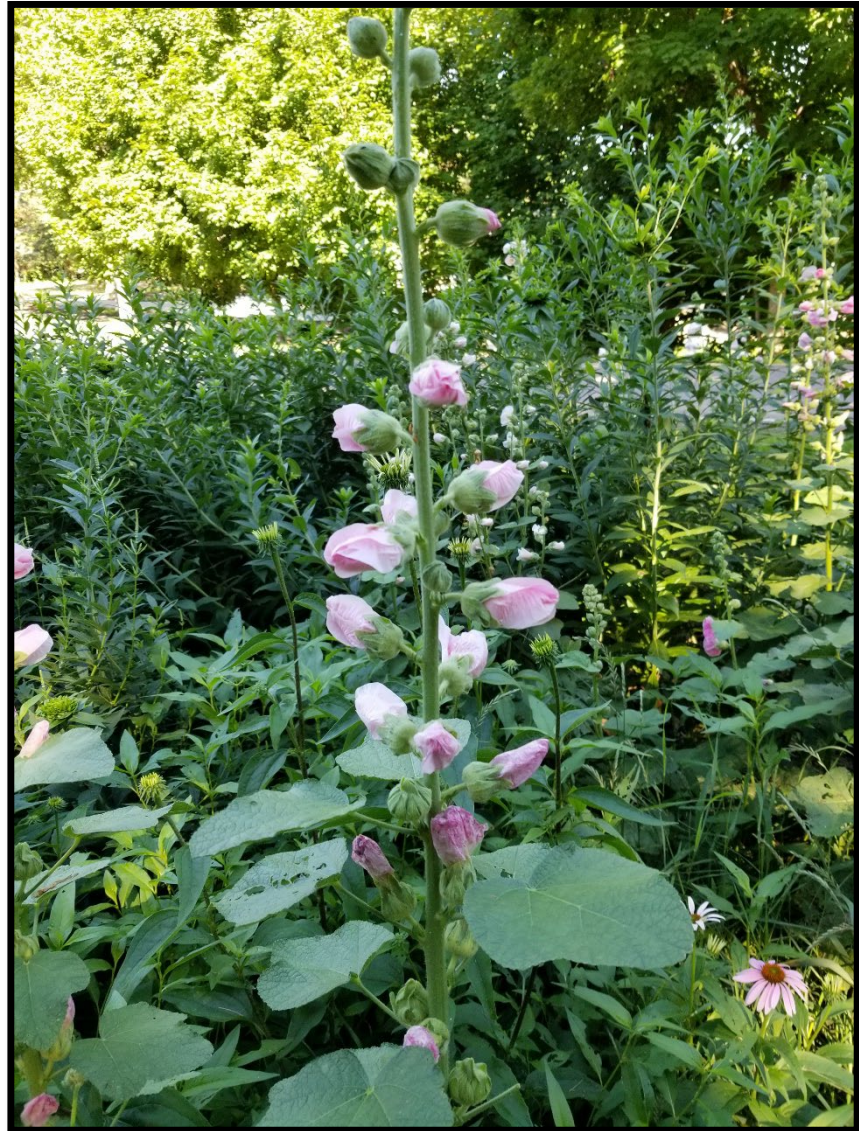


Figure 9. Hollyhock Inflorescence. Photo Credit: Holly Bushman.

Fun Fact:
Hollyhocks are extremely susceptible to pests and diseases.

Fun Fact: This species is extremely vulnerable to wind damage and can be easily toppled over if there is no protection against the wind.



Figure 9. Hollyhock leaves. Photo Credit: Holly Bushman.

Environmental Services Department Changes



WE HAVE MOVED

Visit us at our new location
on the newly remodeled
2nd Floor

507.357.8538

The Environmental Services Department Contact Information will stay the same!

Contact Information

Environmental Services Department

Planning & Zoning, Feedlots, Solid Waste, & Septics

Phone: 507-357-8538

Email: environmentalservices@co.le-sueur.mn.us

Environmental Resources Specialist/Water Planner-Holly Bushman

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Email: hbushman@co.le-sueur.mn.us

Resource Conservation Technician-Trevor Rudenick

Phone 507-357-8556

Email: trudenick@co.le-sueur.mn.us

Le Sueur County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD)

Phone: 507-419-0365

Mike Schultz-District Manager

Email: mschultz@co.le-sueur.mn.us

Sue Prchal-Program Specialist

Email: sprchal@co.le-sueur.mn.us

Joe Jirik-District Technician

Email: jjirik@co.le-sueur.mn.us

Nik Kadel-Ditch Inspector

Email: nkadel@co.le-sueur.mn.us

Karl Schmidtke-Resource Technician

Email: kschmidtke@co.le-sueur.mn.us

Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)

Steve Breaker-District Conservationist

Phone: 507-357-4908

steve.breaker@mn.usda.gov

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

Alan Gleisner-Area Hydrologist

Phone: 320-753-0344

Email: Alan.Gleisner@state.mn.us

Vacant-Aquatic Invasive Species Specialist

Phone: N/A

Email: N/A

Todd Piepho-Area Hydrologist

Phone: 507-421-1991

Email: todd.piepho@state.mn.us

To see which DNR staff is the Area Hydrologist for your region, please click on the following link:

https://files.dnr.state.mn.us/waters/area_hydros.pdf