



For Immediate Release

Contact: Emily Javens
320-979-0084
emily@mnwatershed.org

December 7, 2021

MAWD Names Program of the Year

Comfort Lake Forest Lake Watershed District

St. Paul, MN: Last week, the MN Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD) named the Comfort Lake Forest Lake Watershed District as the recipient of its Annual Program of the Year Award for its Citizen-Assisted Tributary Monitoring Program.

Water monitoring is crucial to effectively improving water resources. It comprises a key element of the Prioritized, Targeted, and Measurable (PTM) implementation strategy. Diagnostic water monitoring is specifically used to identify existing and legacy pollutant load sources to water resources. The Citizen Assisted Tributary Monitoring Program (CAT) is an effort by the Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District (CLFLWD) to expand and refine its diagnostic monitoring capabilities in a cost-effective manner while also engaging local residents.

The CAT program utilizes trained volunteers to take water samples at small and flashy drainage points surrounding selected lakes, then deliver those samples to the CLFLWD for analysis using inexpensive, yet accurate, digital colorimeters. The CAT program is a low-cost (about \$12 per sample) screening tool that both complements and focuses more expensive full scale diagnostic efforts. The outcome of these monitoring efforts is a refined understanding of the distribution of watershed pollutant sources that impact surface water quality.

This program acts as a piece of the bigger picture, allowing the CLFLWD to diagnose nutrient loading sources and prioritize and target where future water quality improvement projects should be located. The CAT program is a low-cost solution to a high-cost, but necessary, diagnostic monitoring effort that allows the CLFLWD to focus on the water quality projects with the greatest cost-benefit to the taxpayer.

Congratulations goes out to the CLFLWD for being awarded the 2021 MAWD Program of the Year award.

Trey Jonas, Technician at
Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District
collecting water samples to be tested.



HAVING TROUBLE VIEWING THIS EMAIL? OPEN IT AS A WEBPAGE.