

# Douglas County Water Quality Legacy Fund

## OUR LAKES – OUR FUTURE



Douglas County is known for its water. It contains **4 major watersheds**, which drain to the Mississippi and Minnesota Rivers, and contains over **200 lakes**.

### Clean water is vital to the health of our community:

- We depend on high-quality groundwater for our drinking water.
- We enjoy our lakes and streams for boating, fishing, and swimming.
- We appreciate our lakes, streams, and wetlands for providing critical wildlife habitat and wildlife viewing.
- We value our local water resources as an economic driver, providing direct and indirect business opportunities.

It is important to **keep our water clean** for our permanent and seasonal **residents**, annual tourists, and future generations.

***It's time to take action!***



Our water quality in Douglas County cannot be taken for granted.

- All of our major watersheds have impaired stream/river reaches.
- We have lakes listed as impaired, as well as lakes with declining water quality trends, and lakes considered by the MN DNR as high quality, unimpaired lakes that are at significant risk of becoming impaired.
- Groundwater (i.e. drinking water) recharge rates have decreased due to the amount of impervious surface and high water use. Large areas of Douglas County are classified as sensitive to groundwater contamination from surface activities.

### Douglas County Lakes Association in partnership with:

- Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District
- City of Alexandria
- Douglas County
- Minnesota DNR
- The Nature Conservancy
- Alexandria Chamber of Commerce
- Douglas County Corn & Soybean Growers' Association

## How can we help keep our waters healthy?

- **We are happy to announce the founding of the Douglas County Water Quality Legacy Fund.** Its goal is to provide the required matching dollars for grants available from other sources to protect and restore our natural water resources.
- Projects selected will be supported by obtaining **ongoing donations** to this Fund and income from the formation of a West Central Initiative Component Fund.
- This Component Fund would provide a sustainable source of funding to restore and keep our waters healthy for generations to come.



- Projects that rank the highest for **cost-effectiveness** and **multiple benefits** will be prioritized and targeted.
- Projects with multiple benefits include those that provide benefits to habitat, surface and groundwater quality and quantity, and flooding and erosion control.
- Projects may include wetland and shoreline restoration, storm water management, erosion control, and protection of high-quality properties.
- Projects will minimize adverse impacts on the natural environment, address existing cultural resources, and result in water quality net gain.

**Help us reach to safeguard the future of our Douglas County waters. Investing in local water quality is an investment in your community, future generations and Minnesota. You can donate online at [wcif.org/fund/dcw](http://wcif.org/fund/dcw)**

**To learn more, contact [DouglasWaterQualityFund@gmail.com](mailto:DouglasWaterQualityFund@gmail.com)**



The Douglas County Water Quality Legacy Fund is a component fund of West Central Initiative, a regional community foundation that serves the west central Minnesota counties of Becker, Clay, Douglas, Grant, Otter Tail, Pope, Stevens, Traverse, and Wilkin.

**[wcif.org](http://wcif.org) | 800-735-2239 | PO Box 318 Fergus Falls, MN 56538**