



4646 Dakota St. S.E.
Prior Lake, MN 55372

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 23, 2009

Contact: Michael T. Peterson, Communication Coordinator
952-447-9804, mtpeterson@cityofpriorlake.com

City Awarded Grant to Improve Surface Water Quality in Prior Lake

When the Brooksville Hills area and Grainwood schools were first developed, storm water systems were not included. As a result, over the last two years, the city has invested \$250,000 in storm water improvements to this area as part of the Brooksville Hills 1 and 2 street reconstruction projects.

To continue this effort, the City of Prior Lake recently received a grant of nearly \$31,000 from the Scott County Water Management Organization (Scott WMO) for an innovative storm water treatment system at Grainwood Elementary School called the Grainwood Bio-retention project. The joint City of Prior Lake and Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools project will aid in flood control, groundwater protection, water quality and volume control.

The proposed Grainwood Bio-retention System includes several unique and innovative components including a newly designed storm sewer reducer to allow extended rate control for smaller basins and the incorporation of biodegradable materials into the soil strata to allow additional percolation on clay soils.

According to Water Resources Engineer Ross Bintner, the City of Prior Lake's goal is to continue optimum use of its natural drainage system while enhancing the overall water quality entering the lakes. "The intent is to prevent flooding while using identified best management practices to enhance surface water quality with minimal capital expenditures by the City," he says.

-more-

The project area is north of County Rd. 21, east of Hwy. 13, and south of County Rd. 44 in the Brooksville Hills area. The project includes Franklin Trail and adjacent local streets and portions of the Grainwood Elementary School property. The improvements will be constructed as part of the Brooksville Hills Phase 2 street reconstruction project.

The Grainwood Bio-retention project will mimic the natural processes of groundwater infiltration and biological uptake, using surface runoff as a resource, rather than a waste. In addition to technical education for scientists and engineers, elementary education lessons will be built around the practice teaching children about natural and man-made systems, science and engineering.

These voluntary water quality improvements demonstrate the commitment on the part of the City of Prior Lake to the water resources of Scott County, as articulated in the Prior Lake 2030 Vision and Strategic Plan.

Prior Lake is a developing suburb in north central Scott County with a small-town atmosphere and many recreational amenities including numerous parks and lakes that offer year-round recreation. With an estimated population of 22,000, the city is projected to be a fully-developed community of 40,000 by 2030. Prior Lake's 2030 Vision and Strategic Plan is dedicated to providing quality services resulting in a safe, secure community. Prior Lake is a wonderful place to call home.