



# White Bear Lake Area Comprehensive Plan Update



Environment Committee April 8, 2025

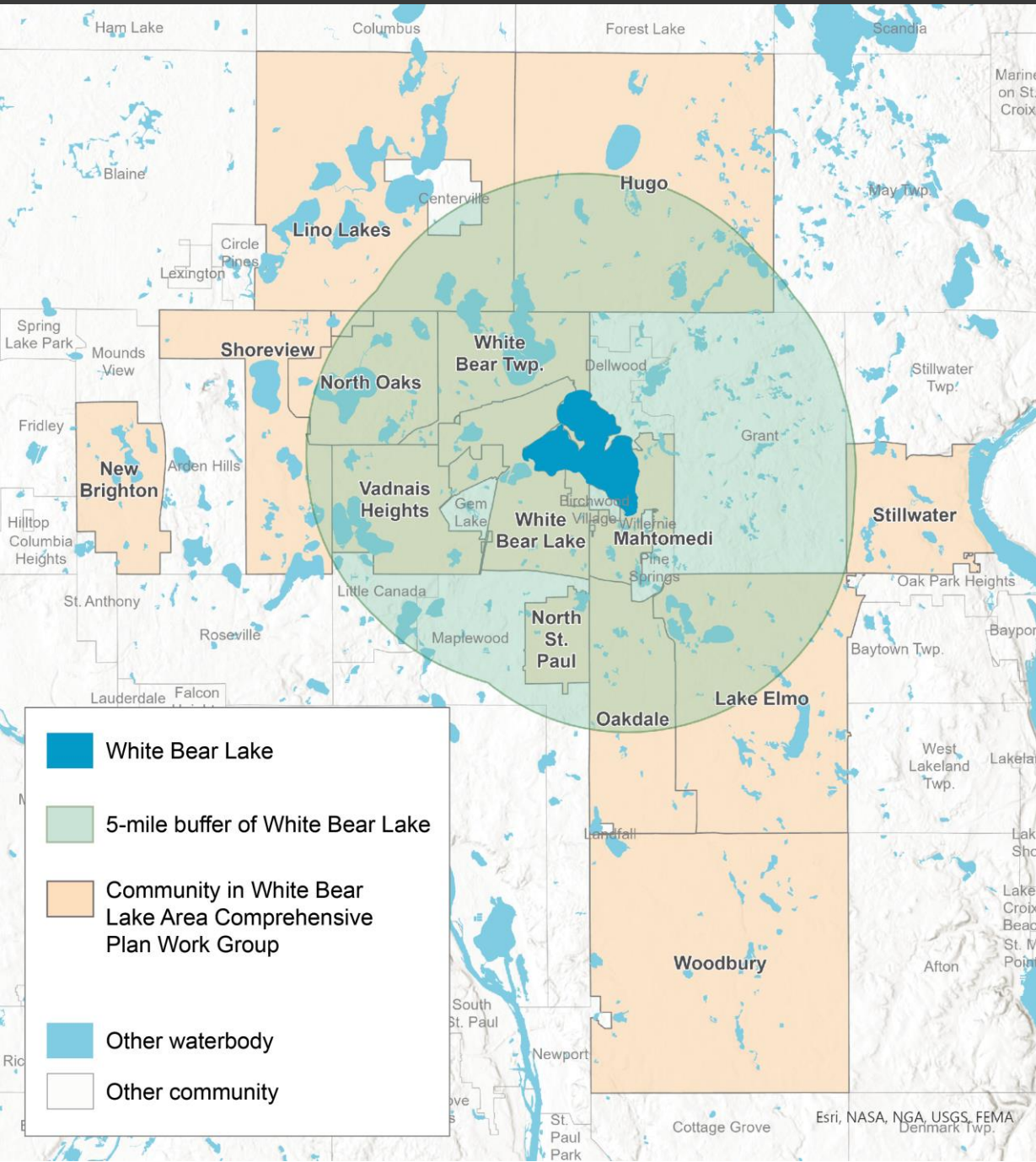
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# White Bear Lake Comprehensive Plan Legislation



- The Minnesota legislature provided \$2 million in funding for the Metropolitan Council to form a work group to develop a comprehensive plan to ensure communities in the White Bear Lake area have access to sufficient drinking water to allow for municipal growth while ensuring the sustainability of surface and groundwater resources to supply the needs of future generations.
- The completed plan must be submitted to the Minnesota Legislature by June 30, 2027

# White Bear Lake Area



## The Metropolitan Council has established a work group consisting of:

- Commissioners or designees from the DNR, MDH, and MPCA
- Representatives from Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee (MAWSAC) and St. Paul Regional Water Services
- The communities of Stillwater, Mahtomedi, Hugo, Lake Elmo, Lino Lakes, North St. Paul, Oakdale, Vadnais Heights, Shoreview, Woodbury, New Brighton, White Bear Lake, White Bear Township, and North Oaks


*These communities combined have a water service population slightly over 300,000 people or approximately 10% of the metro region's total population.*

# Legislative directives (1 of 3)

## 1. Evaluate methods to conserve and recharge groundwater include four main areas to address:

- Converting water supplies that are groundwater dependent to total or partial supplies from surface water
- Reuse water, including water discharged from contaminated wells
- Projects designed to increase groundwater recharge
- Other methods for reducing groundwater use

# Legislative directives (2 of 3)

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- 2. Determine which existing groundwater supply wells, if converted to surface water sources, would be the most effective and efficient in ensuring future water sustainability in the area**
  - 3. Identify a long-term plan for converting groundwater supply wells identified in clause 2 to surface water sources**
  - 4. Include any policy and funding recommendations for converting groundwater supply wells to surface water sources, treating and reusing wastewater, and any other recommendations for additional measures that reduce groundwater use, promote water reuse, and increase groundwater recharge**

# Legislative directives (3 of 3)

**5. Include any policy and funding recommendations for local wastewater treatment and recharge**

**6. Submit plan to the chairs and ranking minority members of the House of Representatives and Senate committees and divisions with jurisdiction over environment and natural resources finance and policy by June 30, 2027.**



# Schedule

Milestone	Date
Schedule and hold one-on-one meetings with each of the group members	Completed
Work Group kickoff meeting and finalize problem statement	Completed
Work group meetings to agree on and advise on studies needed for the project	Completed
Update technical studies	2025-2026
Update financial studies	2026
Agree to final recommendations and begin preparing final report	Late 2026
Submit final Metropolitan Council adopted plan to the House of Representatives, Senate committees, and divisions with jurisdiction over environment and natural resources finance and policy	June 30, 2027

# Work progress

## **Finalized Problem Statement**

*Ensure equitable access to sufficient, safe, and affordable water for communities in the North and East Metro areas to meet current and future needs while safeguarding the sustainability of surface water and groundwater resources.*

**Ranked and reviewed potential projects/studies to complete**

**DNR has updated model using new forecasts**

**Started several studies**



# Current studies



- **Study No. 3** - Reuse of treated wastewater from local Met Council interceptors for industrial and agricultural users
- **Study No. 5** - Reuse water discharged from contaminated wells – MPCA Project 1007
- **Study No. 6** - Treat wastewater from local Met Council interceptors and inject the treated wastewater into the aquifer to raise groundwater elevations
- **Study No. 7A** – Water quality study as it relates to lake augmentation study (Study No. 7B)

# Upcoming studies



- **Study No. 1** - Redirect stormwater to augment White Bear Lake
- **Study No. 2** - Convey treated surface water from St. Paul Regional Water Services, a regional surface water treatment, or both to north and east communities
- **Study No. 8** - Stormwater collection and infiltration to raise groundwater elevations
- **Study No. 9A** – Raise outlet elevation of White Bear Lake – initial evaluation of potential flood impacts
- **Study No. 14A** – Future community impacts from PFAS groundwater contamination with groundwater modeling

# Next Steps (1/2)



- **Next meeting date:** April 29, 2025 from 12:30-3:30 pm at The Rookery Activity Center (7690 Village Dr, Lino Lakes, MN 55014)
- **Study No. 1** – Redirect stormwater to augment White Bear Lake
- **Study No. 3** - Reuse of treated wastewater from local Met Council interceptors for industrial and agricultural users
- **Study No. 6** - Treat wastewater from local Met Council interceptors and inject the treated wastewater into the aquifer to raise groundwater elevations
- **Study No. 7A** – Water quality study as it relates to lake augmentation study (Study No. 7B) – Initial phase update

# Next Steps (2/2)



- **Following two meeting dates (12:30-3:30 pm):**
  - July 24, 2025 at St. Paul Regional Water Services in St. Paul
  - October 21, 2025 at Stillwater Public Library in Stillwater

# Questions



**Judy Sventek, PG**

Manager Water Resources

Metropolitan Council

651.602.1156

[judy.sventek@metc.state.mn.us](mailto:judy.sventek@metc.state.mn.us)