



Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Management Group

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Topic of the Month - October 2017

Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Tour – Fall 2017

Thursday, October 5th was a beautiful day for a tour around the Mille Lacs Lake watershed. The MLLWMG hosted a tour of shoreland best management practices – projects that were undertaken to protect and improve water quality. The tour visited seven different sites and discussed how options worked for the landowner and helped them meet water quality protection goals, while enhancing their enjoyment of their property. This was a great way for participants to see a variety of projects and learn about the steps their neighbors are taking to protect water quality.



The tour stopped at four sites on the shores of Mille Lacs Lake, as well as sites on Little Whitefish Lake, Round Lake, and in the city of Wahkon. Several sites highlighted shoreland buffers. Native plants were added between the homes and the lake. These deep rooted native plants help to hold soil in place while slowing and filtering runoff. They also provide valuable habitat for wildlife species. A rain garden and roadside stabilization project were also highlighted on the tour.

Local experts Lynn Gallice, Mille Lacs SWCD, Shelley Larson, Hayland Woods, and Janet Smude, Aitkin County SWCD shared information at the tour stops. Landowners spoke with the group at select sites and shared their experiences and impressions of the projects.

Funding for the tour was provided by a Clean Water Partnership Grant from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. This grant also has cost share funding to assist landowners in establishing projects like these on their properties. If you are interested in exploring options for your property, call the Aitkin County SWCD at (218) 927-6565 or Mille Lacs SWCD at (320) 983-2160.



Information shared by Janet Smude, Aitkin County SWCD
Photographs courtesy of Harmony Maslowski, Mille Lacs SWCD