

Guide to the Penn Lake Management Pathway: 2025-2030

Below is a brief description of the prioritized management strategies included in the 2025-2030 Pathway. They are chosen using the procedure of the Management Framework. An updated Pathway will be written in 2030 and will go to 2035. Large infrastructure projects require long planning and budgeting periods and will be carried over through multiple pathways. Generally, they are not included as specific tasks.



Community participation: People are important! This section is focused on how people can help Penn Lake indirectly and how they can be directly included in actual management.

- Create a community participation program to promote sustainability habits for people across the watershed – see the backside of this page for examples.
- Use the Penn Lake Community Group to create and test community participation opportunities, like trash pickups, community science, or even social groups.



Flora: This includes plants in and nearby Penn Lake; and those across the watershed, including Adelman Pond. Plants will often be managed based on the ecosystem they live in, like prairie, wetlands, or woodlands.

- Ecosystem enhancement of wetland and the nearshore upland in City parkland. This includes tree work, invasive species removal, and adding native species.



Fauna: Animals dependent on Penn Lake, like fish, are likely to be prioritized most often, but fauna also includes animals that come and go, like migratory birds. And don't forget our bald eagles! Habitat, like wood duck nest boxes or logs for turtle sunning, will be installed as opportunity allows.

- Carp management and removal. The carp in Penn are very destructive and will need to be removed. We likely won't get them all, but we can get most.
- Native fish species introduction. As the carp come out, native fish need to go in. They will not only help keep carp away but also make the lake healthier.



Pollution Prevention: Pollution washed into Penn Lake through the stormwater sewers is a big problem. Removing pollution or catching it before it gets to the Lake is an important management strategy. Unfortunately, this is also one of the most complicated and expensive things to do.

- Forebays on Lower Penn Lake. Forebays catch and hold sediment. Ours are old and in bad shape. Each requires a unique fix, like removal or reconstruction.
- Street sweeping strategies. Maximize the amount of pollution we are picking up and how well we track the data.



Hydrology: This category is the management of moving water. It includes the water across the watershed's landscape, water moving into and out of Penn Lake, and the movement of water in Penn Lake itself.

- Investigate adaptive flow designs at the existing outlet at 86th street to help mitigate flooding, keep water in the lake longer, and improve wetland health.
- Replace old parts on the winter aeration unit – this device pumps water from and back into Penn Lake to reduce ice in winter and limit fish kill.

Penn Lake and YOU!



Interested in helping Penn Lake, see below for things that you can do to help.

Visit www.letstalk.bloomingtonmn.gov/penn-lake-rehab for more information.



GIVE WATER A HAND

We must all do our part to keep
our water healthy.

Community participation

- Tell your friends & neighbors about how they can help be good water stewards!
- Participate in volunteer opportunities – see about joining the Penn Lake Community Group

Fun Fact!



(Anodontooides ferussacianus)

A native mussel, the cylindrical papershell, has been seen in Lower Penn Lake.

Hydrology

- Direct gutter downspouts away from pavement & into yards or rain gardens.
- Use raingardens & rain barrels to capture rainwater where it falls.

Flora

- Replace turfgrass lawn with a native plant meadow lawn.
- Remove invasive species and noxious weeds from your property.

Pollution prevention

- Join Adopt-A-Drain & help keep the street and stormdrains near you clean.
- Pick up trash & properly dispose of chemicals – don't pour them down the street drain!

Fauna

- Add habitat structure to your yard, like hollowed out logs, bug snugs, or bird houses.
- Plant native plants that offer food for different animals, like pollinators or birds.