

# Protecting & Rehabilitating for HEALTHIER LAKES

A PUBLICATION FROM AMERY LAKES PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT

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If you have issues or concerns, please join us at one of our scheduled meetings or call one of our board members. See page 2 for details.



*City of Amery...*

## COMPLETES STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Amery City Council approved the Stormwater Management Plan at its March 2009 meeting. The plan examines the sources of pollution to Amery Lakes and the Apple River and provides specific recommendations for addressing these sources. The major goal of the stormwater plan is to protect and improve the water quality of the Amery Lakes: Pike, North Twin, and South Twin. Recommendations in the plan will also provide water quality improvement for the Apple River.

## Q&A

### WHO PAID FOR THE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN, AND WHO WILL PAY TO IMPLEMENT THE PLAN?

The stormwater management plan and initial implementation is funded by two Department of Natural Resources grants to the City of Amery. A stormwater planning grant allowed the city to hire the engineering firm SEH to develop the plan with the help of a local stormwater committee. A lake protection grant provides funds to educate city residents and pay for technical and financial assistance to put clean water practices in place. The grants are matched in large part by the Amery Lakes District. The city also provides staff time to match the lake protection grant.

## COMPLETES STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

### WHAT IS STORMWATER, AND WHY IS IT A CONCERN FOR AMERY?

Stormwater is the water that flows from city roofs, lawns, streets, and parking areas after a rainfall or snowmelt. Stormwater carries particles and dissolved substances that can negatively impact lakes and rivers. Phosphorus and sediment are major pollutants of concern for Amery Lakes.

### WHY SHOULD I BE CONCERNED ABOUT PHOSPHORUS IN STORMWATER RUNOFF?

Phosphorus is a naturally occurring element that is necessary for plant growth. It is present in adequate levels in most soils. However, in Amery lakes, it is the phosphorus levels that limit how much algae grows. An increase of one pound of phosphorus in a lake can lead to the growth of 500 pounds of algae!

### HOW DO AMERY LAKES COMPARE TO NEARBY LAKES?

The Amery Lakes of Pike Lake, North Twin, and South Twin are in remarkable condition given that they receive stormwater from developed areas of the City of Amery. Recent measurements of water clarity and phosphorus put them on par with nearby lakes such as Bone Lake and Deer Lake. However, studies have shown that Amery Lakes are very susceptible to slight increases in phosphorus loading from stormwater runoff.

### WHAT ARE THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE PLAN, AND HOW DO THEY PROTECT WATER QUALITY?

The recommendations in the plan are focused on keeping stormwater clean and soaking or infiltrating the stormwater into the soil. Stormwater is cleaner when soil erosion is limited through proper construction practices and when use of phosphorus fertilizers is avoided. A city construction site and stormwater ordinance for new construction that mirrors a Polk County ordinance will help to ensure that new development has minimal impacts on water quality. Installation of water quality practices such as rain gardens that capture water and allow it to soak into the ground are another important element of the plan. These practices can even divert and infiltrate stormwater runoff from city streets!

### WHAT CAN I DO TO SUPPORT CLEAN LAKES IN AMERY?

- Call or visit City Hall for more information: 268-7486
- Request a free technical assistance visit – landscape experts are available to assist you in reducing the runoff from your property
- Install a free rain barrel – save roof runoff to water plants
- Learn more – request an Amery Clean Lakes Program brochure
- Don't use phosphorus fertilizer – most lawns have plenty of phosphorus, and it is detrimental to the lakes



## Lake Litter a Problem

Lake users are reminded to not litter when using the lakes. Most lake users are very careful to avoid littering - be they boaters, canoeists, fishers, or ATV or snowmobile enthusiasts. However, there always seems to be that bad apple in the bushel. This winter the City Public Works crew removed an abandoned ice fishing shack from North Twin. Although state law requires that ice fishing shacks be labeled with the owner's name and address, this one was not. Thanks to removal by the city crew, the shack did not drop to the bottom of the lake.

### Amery Lakes Protection and Rehabilitation District

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Steve Schieffer, Chairperson 268-7565
- Neil Isakson, Secretary
- Jon R. Bergquist, Treasurer
- Ray Siggins, Director
- Jeremy Williamson, Director
- Mick Larson, County Board Representative
- Kay Erickson, City Council Representative

## MEETINGS

### Quarterly Meetings

The second Tuesday of February, April, June, and August at 6:30 pm in the High School Library

### Annual Meeting

Second Tuesday of September at 7:00 pm in the High School Library

# ARMC: Ensuring the Health of Amery's Residents and Water Resources



The rain garden captures parking lot runoff after a summer storm.

By Breanna Draxler

The Amery Regional Medical Center's (ARMC) new facility was constructed in 2007 with stormwater management in mind. Since the new hospital is located so near the Apple River, and inevitably included significant areas of impervious surfaces, controlling stormwater was of paramount importance. Thanks to a state-of-the-art system, that includes a series of rain gardens and a green roof, the facility is able to divert and infiltrate stormwater long before it reaches the river.

For rainfalls up to 3 inches, the green roof is able to retain all water that falls on the roof. The plants soak up the water through their root systems, where it can be stored for months at a time. Any water that exceeds the plants' storage capacity flows down leaders to an underground storage system, where it is then directed into rain gardens.

This excess roof water, along with runoff from the parking lots, makes its way into a series of seven rain gardens, where it can soak into the soil. All seven gardens are linked together in order to distribute the water evenly and ensure timely infiltration. Altogether, the stormwater system can handle 12 inches of rain falling in a 4 day period.

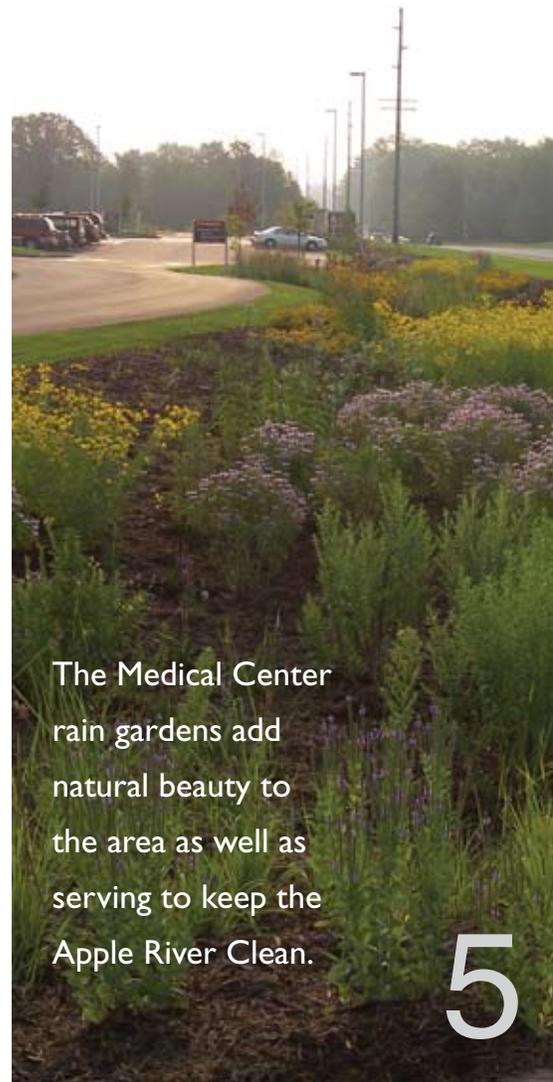
The system was a significant investment, but the costs are undoubtedly

outweighed by benefits to Amery's water resources. Concern for the environment motivated the ARMC to invest in the very best stormwater management system available. This goal was achieved with the help of Emmons & Olivier Resources Inc—a collaborative group of environmental professionals out of Oakdale, MN.

According to Bob Janis, director of facilities management, there is no economic benefit or energy savings associated with the system. Instead, what they are saving is the Apple River. He said that it is important to do what's right—for the environment as well as future generations.

The stormwater management system is now in place at ARMC, and working like a charm. As with all rain gardens, though, it takes 3 to 5 years for the plants to become well-established. Until this time, the maintenance staff at the hospital is still busy weeding, feeding, and replacing plants as necessary, in order for the system to run smoothly.

Next time you're in town, take some time to enjoy the paths that skirt the ARMC's rain gardens. Perhaps they will inspire you to plant an equally beautiful and beneficial garden on your own property!



The Medical Center rain gardens add natural beauty to the area as well as serving to keep the Apple River Clean.

*Protecting & Rehabilitating for*

# HEALTHIER LAKES

AMERY LAKES PROTECTION  
AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT

754 107th Street  
Amery, WI 54001

What's  
happening  
on YOUR  
lake?

*Lake*  
**NEWS**  
by Jon R. Bergquist

## Lake District Fisheries Management

Fisheries management is a high priority for the Amery Lakes District Board. Heath Benike, DNR Fish Manager for our area, attended the June 2008 quarterly board meeting and discussed past and future DNR Fisheries Management activities for Amery Lakes. He supported continuing the Lake District's past efforts in stocking fingerling walleyes in Pike and North Twin lakes. He noted that DNR was not able to stock the lakes with walleye fry in 2007 because of the concerns related VHS (a viral fish disease potentially present in fish fry). However, testing procedures are now established to insure that authorized stocked fish are VHS free. DNR issued the required permits to allow the Lake District to purchase tested walleye fingerlings and stock them in North Twin and Pike Lake last fall.

In late October 2008, the District purchased a total of 3,200 walleye fingerlings that ranged in size from about 5 to 9 inches and had them stocked in North Twin and Pike Lakes. The stocking rate was about 10 fingerlings per lake acre. Fishers are reminded that most of these fish will not be of legal size yet this summer. Please handle and release any walleyes under the 15 inch size limit with care so that next year, when they are of legal size, there will be opportunities to catch these fish again.

DNR is planning on stocking North Twin and Pike Lakes with walleye fry in early summer of 2009. Because there was no stocking in 2007, Benike has indicated that he will approve permits for the Lake District to stock about 3,000 walleye



*Stocking walleye in North Twin 2008*

fingerlings again in the fall of 2009. The Lake District Board has already contracted with a reliable private fish farm company to provide the fingerlings in October 2009. Fisheries Biologist Benike also told the Board last June that he is planning to conduct a fish survey of the lakes in 2009, budgets permitting. That data will be made available in the future.

# CLEAN LAKES PROJECTS

*right here in Amery!*



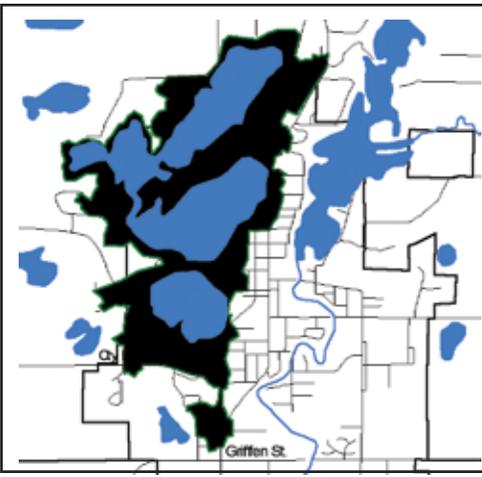
A **rain garden** collects runoff from a parking area and alley. It **prevents** pollutants on the pavement from entering North Twin lake.



The **rain garden** incorporates a pathway and bench to add interest to the landscape. The **garden** was designed and installed by a professional landscaper.



This small **rain garden** on South Twin was dug out with the help of a group of hardworking Amery High School students supervised by Steve Schieffer.



Free Financial and Technical Assistance for  
Amery and Pike Lake Residents

### Amery Lakes Priority Area

If your home or business is in the shaded area, you are eligible to receive financial assistance to install rain gardens and other water quality practices. Free technical assistance is available to all Amery residents. Call City Hall 268.7486 for more information.



## Lake-Friendly LANDSCAPING Workshops

**\$10 EACH SESSION**  
Free to Balsam Lake  
District residents

**JUNE 26** Rain Gardens  
**JULY 10** Native Plants  
**AUGUST 7** Design and Tour

To register or for  
more information...

Call: 715-268-9992 or  
email: [harmonyenv@amerytel.net](mailto:harmonyenv@amerytel.net)

Each workshop limited to  
25 people. Register now!

**LEARN ABOUT LANDSCAPING FOR WATER QUALITY** using native plants: How to create a rain garden, correct erosion and runoff to the lake, attract songbirds, butterflies, frogs and wildlife. **3 Fridays 2-5 PM in Balsam Lake.**

## Lake NEWS

by Jon R. Berquist

### New Aquatic Invasive Species Ordinance

Boaters are reminded of a new City of Amery ordinance concerning invasive species. The new ordinance prohibits individuals from having weeds (aquatic plants) attached to their watercraft or trailer in the City of Amery. The City Council passed this ordinance at the suggestion of the Lake District Board as an additional step in preventing invasive plant and animal species from entering our lakes. Invasive species such as Eurasian water milfoil can be readily moved on boats and trailers from lake to lake. A similar ordinance applies to rural areas of Polk County.

### Additional Lake District Activities

The Lake District has and will continue to provide docks and port-a-potties at the public boat landings on North Twin and South Twin Lakes. The District also provides the dock at the boat landing on Pike Lake. The Town of Lincoln had a lease with the owner of that landing for many years. But that lease has expired, and the Town of Lincoln has regrestfully not been able to obtain a new long term lease for the landing.

### Lake District Meetings Welcome the Public

The District holds quarterly meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the months of February, April, June, and August. The annual meeting is held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of September. The public is welcome to attend the meetings. The time and location of the meetings are noticed in the Amery Free Press.

