

Your Pocket Guide to the

2023 SUMMER TOUR

*June 20-21
Albert Lea, MN*

SOUTHERN MINNESOTA WATERSHEDS TOUR
*featuring Shell Rock River Watershed District, Turtle
Creek Watershed District, Cedar River Watershed District*



**ISG**

CULTIVATING BALANCED WATER SOLUTIONS



**IC&E Wetland
Restoration**
Freeborn County, MN



**Fountain
Lake Restoration**
Albert Lea, MN

Watershed District Services

Our watershed district services range from planning, surveying, and analysis to funding support, design, and implementation. Initial concept through construction, we design best management practices based on science-driven data to improve resiliency and restore the environmental health of our watersheds.

ISG cultivates balanced water solutions to protect:



Infrastructure



Soil



Environment



Learn more!

bit.ly/2023_MAWDSummerTour

SCHEDULE

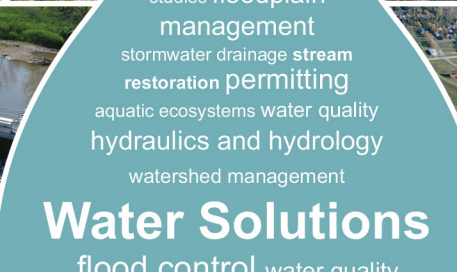
TUESDAY, JUNE 20

- 9a-12p Minnesota Association of Watershed Administrators Meeting
- 12-12:30p Grab and Go Lunch
- 12:25-1p Welcome; Agency Partner Updates
Justin Hanson, MN Board of Water, Soil Resources; Glenn Skuta, MN Pollution Control Agency
- 1-1:15p Legislative Update
Ray Bohn, Minnesota Watersheds
- 1:15-4:15p Educational Workshops
See handout for presentation details
- 1:15-2p Common Carp
Rebecca Bullers, Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center
- 2-2:45p Developing Stewardship Grant Opps for Enhanced Street Sweeping
Paige Ahlborg, Ramsey Washington Metro Watershed District ands Michael McKinney, Barr Engineering Co.
- 2:45-3:30p Multi-purpose Drainage Management
Mark Origer, ISG
- 3:30-4:15p Partnerships with Private Industry
Brad Kramer, Shell Rock River Watershed District
- 5-5:45p Welcome Reception and Cash Bar
- 6-8p Dinner and Tour Overview

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21

- 8a-4:30p SUMMER BUS TOUR*
- 8:30a Buses depart from Hotel
*Country Inn and Suites
2214 E. Main Street, Albert Lea, MN*

*See bus stop locations and schedule on the next page



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Houston Engineering, Inc. (HEI) has long partnered with Minnesota watershed districts and water management organizations to manage one of our most precious resources: water.

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TOUR STOPS

Listed in alphabetical order. Scan the barcode on your bus to see the tour stops in order.

1/ ALBERT LEA LAKE DAM

The existing outlet structure and access bridge for Albert Lea Lake was installed in 1922 and needed repair. The SRRWD saw the opportunity to not only build a new dam but manage rough fish populations and aquatic vegetation by creating a 3-in-1 project. Groundbreaking for the construction of the new Albert Lea Lake Dam and Fish Barrier Project began in August of 2014, and consists of a dam, fish barrier, and draw down structure. The \$2 million-dollar project was funded by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Fund.

2/ CONFINED DISPOSAL FACILITY

A Confined Disposal Facility (CDF) is a dewatering site in the dredging process. When dredging takes place, a mixture of water and sediment is pumped to the disposal facility and the CDF will be used to settle and siphon off the water. The Shell Rock River Watershed District (SRRWD) purchased the properties for the CDF in 2016. These properties are located adjacent to each other, north of Interstate 90 & 1.52 miles north of Fountain Lake.

3/ DOBBINS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS (CIPS) + EPA 319 GRANT WATER QUALITY RESEARCH

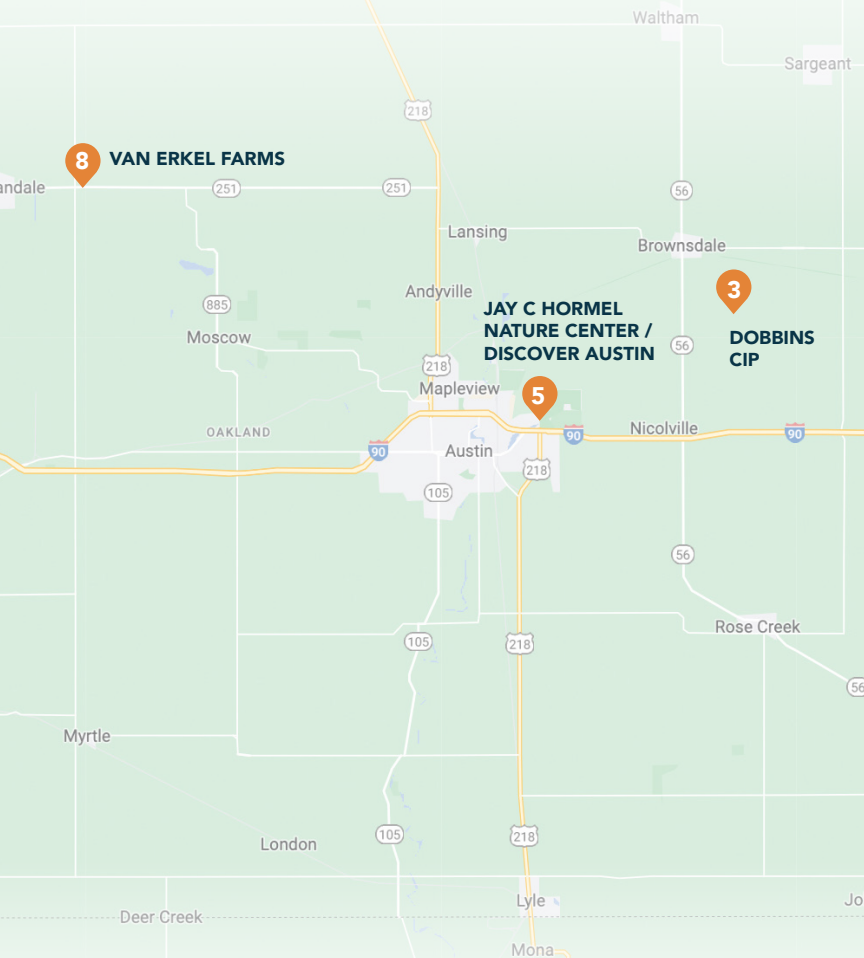
The Dobbins Creek watershed's high local priority for flood reduction and water quality will be described, as well as CIPs and best management practices (BMP) targeting that have improved water quality and reduced flows. The water monitoring efforts to evaluate the effects of intensive targeted BMP adoption in the Dobbins Creek watershed including surface water, macroinvertebrate IBI and fish IBI monitoring, have made Dobbins one of the most studied watersheds in the Midwest.

2023 SUMMER TOUR STOPS



Connecting People. Protecting Water.
Learn more at mnwatersheds.com/summer-tour

NOTE: Stops are labeled in alphabetical order, not in order of tour schedule. Scan the barcode on your bus to see your bus tour stops in order



**MINNESOTA
WATERSHEDS**

4/ EDGEWATER BAY PAVILION & FOUNTAIN LAKE RESTORATION PRESENTATION

Lunch will be served at this location

The restoration of Fountain Lake is a multi-phased project. The SRRWD began active dredging in 2018, utilizing \$7.5 million in state funds and \$9.5 million in local option sales tax funds. Leveraged funding provided dredging and disposal of the first two phases of the project through 2021 and the removal of approximately 1.2 million cubic yards of accumulated sediment. The SRRWD is requesting \$9M from the MN Legislature in 2023 to complete the third and final phase of the Fountain Lake Restoration Project. In 2023, SF172 (Sen. Gene Dornink) and HF277 (Rep. Peggy Bennett) introduced bills to provide funding for the project, Phase 3 - Main Bay (East Basin), Bancroft Creek and parts of Bancroft Bay. It is critical for the success of the project to complete Phase 3, in the heart of Albert Lea.

5/ JAY C. HORMEL NATURE CENTER & DISCOVER AUSTIN

We will visit Austin's city-owned Jay C. Hormel Nature Center, which was started more than 50 years ago and opened a \$7 million interpretive center in 2017. A naturalist will give a presentation about the center's vibrant history and activities, including its growth from 123 acres to nearly 530 today. The Nature Center features native prairie, woods, wetlands and wildlife, AND an environmentally based curriculum for pre-school through high school students. Classes and courses are available for families, home school groups, and other public and private schools outside of Austin. Nancy Schnable, Executive Director of Discover Austin, will give a presentation about what makes our community special in so many ways. Welcome bags will be provided that contain materials highlighting different attractions in the community.

The company name "Barr Engineering Co." is displayed in a white, sans-serif font. It is positioned over a dark green horizontal bar that spans the width of the page. The background of the entire top half of the page is a photograph of a park with a river, a bridge, and buildings.

At Barr, we're committed to providing honest answers for solving our clients' problems as if they were our own. With more than 70 engineers and scientists engaged in lake, stream, and wetland management, our depth and breadth of water resources professionals in Minnesota is unmatched, allowing us to provide you with comprehensive water management solutions.

- Watershed planning and group facilitation
- Water quality (TMDL) studies and implementation
- River and stream restoration
- Flood protection
- Aquatic plant management
- Green infrastructure planning and design

6/ MILLER, ORR, IC&E PROJECT Building on a U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service acquisition and using funds from Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC), the restored property, east of Alden, will add to over 250 acres of continuous native prairie and wetlands. Project plans include abandoning and rerouting public tile systems, creating wetlands via tile modifications, wetland scrapes, berm installations, and native prairie plantings.

7/ UPPER TWIN LAKE PUMP STATION

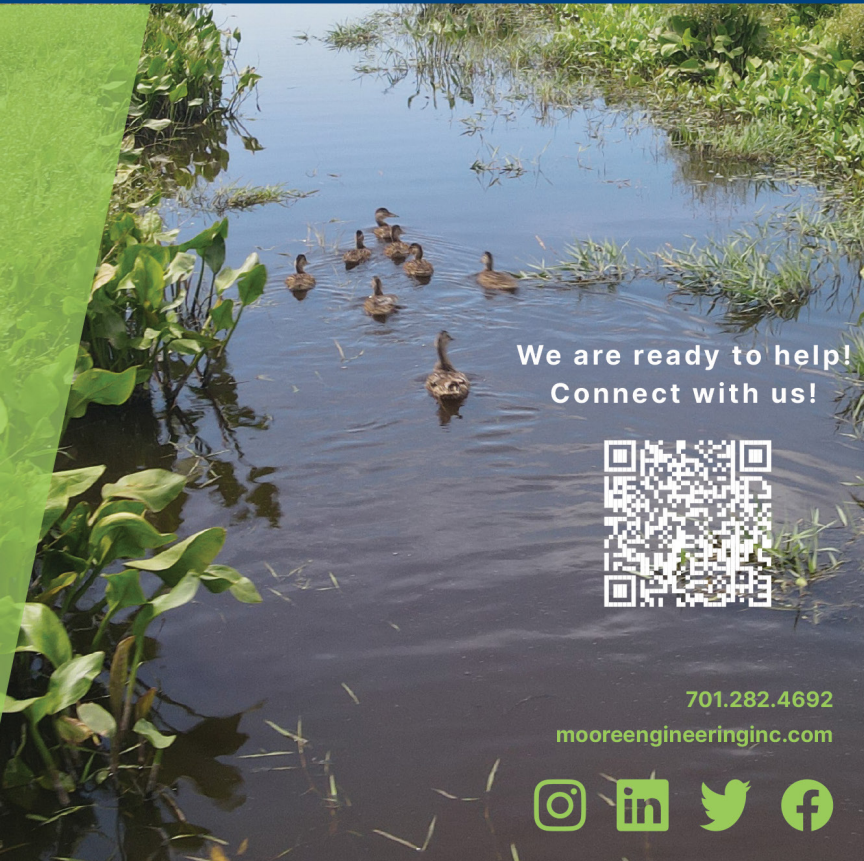
The pump station is intended to allow conjoined Upper and Lower Twin Lake's water levels to be managed independently of each other which can simulate drought conditions for rough fish management. Construction included the removal and installation of a box culvert under County Road 80. This project is funded by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) and is a partnership between U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, MN Department of Natural Resources, and Freeborn County. The pump station was commissioned on June 16, 2020.

8/ VAN ERKEL FARMS

The rich history of the Hollandale area, including early drainage management activities and the scope of vegetable production operations that existed here in the 1900's will be explained, as well as the critical role of the Turtle Creek Watershed District in guiding water management within the Hollandale basin and associated uplands.



Increasing Land Productivity & Quality in Minnesota Watersheds.



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who made this tour possible.



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