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Gorman and Sabre Lakes Need Monitoring Volunteers

Gorman and Sabre Lakes were assessed for their water quality through the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Surface Water Assessment Grant Program (SWAG) in 2007 and 2008. The Cannon River inlets to both Gorman and Sabre and the Little Cannon inlet to Sabre were monitored in 2008 and 2009.

Monitoring results for Gorman and Sabre Lakes show extremely high levels of phosphorus. The nutrient criteria for total phosphorus (TP) in shallow lakes located in the Central Hardwood Forest Ecoregion is less than 60 parts per billion (ppb). The TP average for the two years for Gorman Lake was 957 ppb while the TP average for Sabre was 988 ppb.

A portion of the project is to continue monitoring of these lakes and/or streams through the MPCA Citizen Lake Monitoring Program and the MPCA Citizen Stream Monitoring Program.

The Citizen Lake Monitoring Program involves monitoring the clarity of the lake with a secchi disk. For more information see the link below:

<http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/water/water-types-and-programs/surface-water/lakes/citizen-lake-monitoring-program/citizen-lake-monitoring-program.html>

Citizen Stream Monitoring Program also involves monitoring clarity of streams and rivers with a transparency tube. For more information see the link below:

<http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/water/water-types-and-programs/surface-water/streams-and-rivers/citizen-stream-monitoring-program/citizen-stream-monitoring-program.html>

Both programs suggest monitoring once a week if possible during the monitoring season. If you are interested in becoming a 2011 Citizen Lake or Stream Volunteer on Gorman and Sabre Lakes, please contact Lauren Klement of Le Sueur County Environmental Services at 507-357-8540.