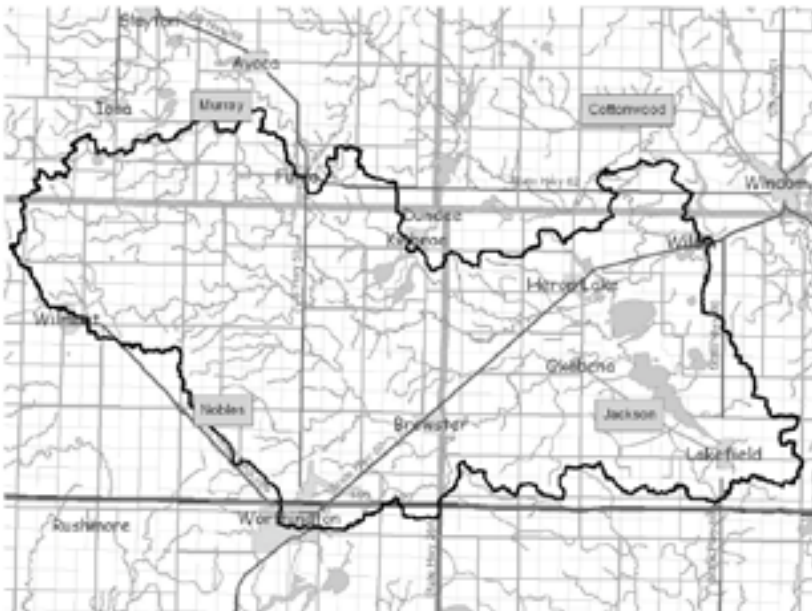


Heron Lake Watershed District  
PO Box 345  
Heron Lake, MN 56137

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## Map of the Heron Lake Watershed District

Please contact us with your questions or concerns.  
Telephone 507-793-2462; Email [hlwd@roundlk.net](mailto:hlwd@roundlk.net)

## What's Going On?

- *May 16, 2006* - Heron Lake Watershed District Board meeting – 7:00 p.m. at the HLWD office
- *June 5, 2006* - Rain Garden Workshop – 1:30 p.m. to 5:00; 5:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Heron Lake Community Center
- *June 16, 2006* – Heron Lake Watershed Tour – 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.



**WATERSHED  
ASSISTANCE  
THROUGH  
EDUCATION &  
RESOURCES**

**H**  
HERON LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT

# HERON LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT

PO Box 345 • Heron Lake, MN 56137 • Email [hlwd@roundlk.net](mailto:hlwd@roundlk.net) • [www.hlwdonline.org](http://www.hlwdonline.org)

Phone 507-793-2462 • Toll Free 888-878-4345 • Fax 507-793-2253

May 2006 Issue

## *Rain Gardens - Practical, Progressive, and Pretty!!!*

Nonpoint source pollution is a major contributor to the degraded quality of the lakes and streams in the Heron Lake watershed. Nonpoint source pollution is caused by rainfall or snowmelt moving over and through the ground. As the runoff moves, it picks up and carries away natural and human-made pollutants, finally depositing them into lakes, rivers, and wetlands. The Heron Lake Watershed District (HLWD) is committed to providing opportunities for landowners to reduce nonpoint source pollution. The HLWD provides incentives and cost sharing to agricultural landowners to implement filter strips, waterways, wetlands, and conservation tillage practices.

There are also urban sources of nonpoint source pollution. Paved areas provide an easy avenue for nutrients, sediment, and chemicals to enter storm drains. These storm drains usually drain directly into a nearby lake, wetland, or river. Rain gardens can decrease the amount of polluted water entering the water course and utilize the water to grow plants.

A rain garden is a landscaped area that contains native plants that soak up rainwater from a roof, driveway, or parking area. Runoff from a lot can be reduced by 25 percent in a year! These unique gardens have become extremely popular in urban areas.

In 2005, a pilot project was completed in Heron Lake and Okabena where four rain gardens were installed. The SSC Greenhouse Management class grew the plants and designed and planted the rain gardens. Due to the landowners' favorable response, the HLWD decided to provide cost sharing to any interested landowner within the watershed for installing a rain garden.

**The HLWD will pay 75% of your costs, up to \$1000, to help you install your rain garden.**

RAIN GARDENS ON THE WEB:

- <http://www.maplewoodmn.gov/office.com> (then search their site for rainwater garden)

- <http://clean-water.uwex.edu/pubs/raingarden/index.html>



## *Rain Garden Workshops*

*Sponsored by:* Heron Lake Watershed District, Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District, & Jackson County Water Plan

Rain gardens can be your personal tribute to better water, healthier fish and wildlife populations and can greatly improve the environment for you and your family. Learn how to design and install an effective rain garden to minimize storm water runoff from your property.

Two workshops will be offered for you to design a rain garden to suit your property and will have the opportunity for consultation. **Please bring a simple sketch of your property indicating building structures, location of down spouts, and current vegetation, photographs of your site, and soil type.**

**Date:** Thursday, June 1

**Time:** 1:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. or

5:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

**Location:** Heron Lake Community Center

312 10th St., Heron Lake, MN 56137

The workshop is free. Supper is available from **5:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.** for \$5 per person. Pre-registration is required for the workshop and the meal. Registration deadline is Friday, May 26.

To pre-register contact the Heron Lake Watershed District office at 507-793-2462, 888-878-4345, or [hlwd@roundlk.net](mailto:hlwd@roundlk.net). Please specify which workshop you will attend.

## *Heron Lake Watershed Tour*

Please join the Prairie Ecology Bus Center, Heron Lake Watershed District, Jackson County Water Plan, Department of Natural Resources, and the North Heron Lake Game Producers Association for a tour of the Heron Lake area including:

South Heron Lake • Heron Lake Outlet Fish Barrier • The Nature Conservancy property  
Best Management Practice sites • Heron Meadows • North Heron Lake

**When:** Friday, June 16

**Time:** 3:00 p.m.

**Return:** 8:00 p.m.

**Supper will be served. Cost is \$5 per person, payable upon boarding.**

**Bus leaves from the PEBC parking lot, Sparks Co. Park, 935 N. Hwy 86, Lakefield.**

Attendance is limited to 32, on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information or to register, contact:  
PEBC at 507-662-5064 or [ecologybus@ecologybus.org](mailto:ecologybus@ecologybus.org)

