

National Loon Center

April 2023

- > Tracking and participating in the development of CSAH 66 and 3 intersection with particular interest in pedestrian safety.
- > Working on details related to the Loon Center at the Crosslake Campgrounds including infrastructure and exhibits.
- > Preparing for the “breeding season” (AKA “Summer”) with the return of both the Loons and the residents and visitors.
 - Launch the StewardShip in mid-May with more scheduled free tours on Crosslake to observe the Loons and learn about our Lakes.
 - Moving into the third summer of Loon research.
 - Training a group of Master Naturalist about Loons.
 - The NLC will be taking all the Crosslake Charter School students and teachers out on the StewardShip in May. This arrangement will also enable visitors to the NLC to park their cars in the parking lot at the school during the students’ summer break.

Continuing fundraising for both the annual operations costs and for the facilities. Recently testified at the Minnesota Legislature regarding the National Loon Center and an \$8.7 funding bill — we are awaiting the final, proposed legislation. The result of the bill will be known by the end of the legislative session in May. In Congress, our two Minnesota Senators, Amy Klobuchar and Tina Smith, have included the National Loon Center in their funding requests (\$2 million requested). These requests will go through various committee hearings as the Senate puts together its bill. This process will continue into the summer.

Crosslakers Water Quality Work Group

April 2023

> Phase 3 of the CSAH 66 Rain & Snowmelt Runoff Management Project is in the planning stage. Project 3 includes management of the mini-watershed on Highway 66 in Crosslake from the Pine River Bridge/Dam to about the area west of the Crosslake Post Office. It includes runoff from Highway 66, some runoff from the Crosslake Campgrounds and more runoff from the impervious business areas along the east side of Hwy. 66. The goal is to reduce the runoff from entering the lakes and river and to remove as much unwanted material as possible. This situation has been a problem for over 40 years. Currently, the runoff water and debris and elements such as Phosphorus from this area are channeled directly into the Pine River. Three similar projects with the same objective along Hwy. 66 have been completed over the last eight years.

Phase 3 will be included in the reconstruction of the intersection of CSAH 66 and 3 into a roundabout along with pedestrian walks running from Reeds Super Market to the intersection of Hwys. 66 and 3 and then north along the east side of Hwy 66 to about Crosslake Crafts & Cones. Details on the plan are being developed, however, specifics will need to await approval

of the intersection design which will then allow the engineers to place the runoff drainage and processing elements in the appropriate location. Construction will be in the Spring of 2024.
Contact: John Forney