

# NEWS



Land Services Department  
Environmental Services  
322 Laurel Street, Suite 14  
Brainerd, MN 56401

**CROW WING COUNTY**  
BRAINERD, MINNESOTA 56401

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
October 23, 2012

CONTACT: Chris Pence  
218/824-1125

## CROW WING COUNTY COMPLETES LAKESHORE STUDY

The Crow Wing County Land Services Department has completed Phase I of a lakeshore research study project to calculate the amount of impervious surface coverage on larger lakes in Crow Wing County. The funding for this project came from the Initiative Foundation and the University of Minnesota's Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA). This study was conducted in response to the 2011 Land Use Ordinance revisions which require performance standards depending on the amount of impervious coverage per lot.

Impervious surface coverage is hard surfaces on a lot such as rooftops, sidewalks, patios and driveways that don't allow water to soak into the ground. Lots are allowed to cover 25% of the total surface area with impervious surface coverage according to the Land Use Ordinance. Having impervious surface coverage amounts for each lot on the larger lakes will allow landowners and County staff to be able to quickly determine the need for stormwater plans or other performance standards that may apply depending on the amount of impervious coverage. It will also assist in the County's 2012-2013 water planning update and provide the basis for future Ordinance revisions.

"Studies have shown that water quality begins to decline when impervious surface coverage reaches 12-15 percent" stated Land Services Supervisor Chris Pence. "This local data about Crow Wing County lakes will help guide land use decisions about keeping our lakes clean".

For Phase I of the project, impervious surface data was calculated on 13 lakes using high-resolution aerial photography and property sketches from the Property Valuation and Classification Office. The amount of impervious surface was calculated for the entire riparian lot as well as within 250 feet and 500 feet of the shoreline to determine how much impervious surface was located close to the shoreline. Results of the study are located on the county website at <http://www.co.crow-wing.mn.us/index.aspx?nid=211>.

Phase II of the study is currently underway and includes another 20-25 lakes with the goal of having impervious surface information on all lakes over 500 acres in size. This study coincides with recent water quality assessments that were conducted on these lakes by RMB labs earlier in 2012 and are available on the Crow Wing County website.

The Land Services Department is committed to providing excellent customer service while helping landowners make wise choices that protect Crow Wing County's extraordinary natural resources. Citizens are encouraged to contact the Environmental Services Office at (218) 824-1125 or [environmental.services@co.crow-wing.mn.us](mailto:environmental.services@co.crow-wing.mn.us) to discuss water quality or other land use questions before starting building projects. Information about land use in Crow Wing County can be found at [www.co.crow-wing.mn.us](http://www.co.crow-wing.mn.us).

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