LOCATION: Gilfillan Lake is located in the City of North Oaks near the center of the VLAWMOW watershed. Gilfillan Lake is surrounded by private homes with one large open lot belonging to the North Oaks Home Owners Association. The lake outlets to the north into Teal Pond and then on to Black Lake.

LAKE SUMMARY: The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has used Gilfillan for walleye stocking nursery in the past. According to available information, there has not been any fish stocking activity for a few years other than unlawful stocking of minnows. Gilfillan is one of four VLAWMOW lakes that are impaired for high nutrients. The City of North Oaks and the SPRWS have been pumping water from Pleasant Lake to Gilfillan Lake to increase water levels. The pump, filter and piping were installed fall of 2011, pumping began spring of 2012. The increased water level (about 4.5ft) has significantly reduced nutrient levels in the lake, although they are still above state standards. The pumps are routinely turned on for inspection but at present remain off due to high water. The Summer of 2017 showed the elevation at it’s maximum—910 ft.
**NUTRIENT SUMMARY:**
Gilfillan readings show to be consistent with other metro area lakes that don’t receive much or any road runoff. Nutrient levels fell significantly in 2012 due to augmentation from Pleasant Lake, but show to be slightly rising in recent years.

**GILFILLAN GOALS:**
Gilfillan requires a 62% total phosphorus (TP) reduction (264 lbs/year) to meet the goals outlined in the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) report (a standard document used to manage lakes). Internal loading is the largest contributor of TP and often come from lake bottom sediment that releases Phosphorus. Sediment gets stirred up and phosphorus in the water column is increased through the loss of native plants, rough fish activity, and wind action. Lake Gilfillan’s challenges are a shared discussion between the communities of North Oaks, Vadnais Heights, and White Bear Township. Reduction efforts will focus on the internal load.

**PROJECT HIGHLIGHT:**
Gilfillan has maintained an active group of shoreline property owners and community partners. One such project was a shoreline restoration in 2015, planted by volunteers from the North Oaks Natural Resources Commission.

Visit VLAWMO’s online project map for a complete list of Gilfillan Lake reports. Visit vlawmo.org and find the “Project Map” link on the bottom of the homepage.