



HASTINGS

HEARTWELL LAKE

Community ...

Prominent businessman **J. B. Heartwell** constructed Hastings' Heartwell Park and Lake in 1886 for his family and friends. It was generally open to the public and was unique in that it was designed by a landscape architect and was the region's first planned residential neighborhood to include landscaping as a vital component. It was abandoned in 1896 and used by local cold storage companies to cut blocks of ice out of the lake. In 1899, the City of Hastings purchased the 20-acre property, which included the park and lake. The lake was soon connected to the city's storm sewer system as a source of water.

Challenges ...

The lake has been difficult to maintain because of intermittent water flows. Water quality problems have resulted in documented fish kills in 1937, 1960, 1962, 1987 and 2001. Additionally, silt and garbage have been a constant problem and decreased depth due to sediment inflow results in annual lake-wide algae growth that is unhealthy for the lake and its inhabitants.

Solutions ...

Dredging the lake and collecting trash and sediment prior to entering the lake has kept algal blooms to a minimum and has slowed the sedimentation process at the lake. Continuous Deflective System (CDS) stormwater units were installed at the lake's south inlet points to effectively trap sediment and garbage before it enters the lake. This helps improve water quality. In addition, a public awareness campaign has helped decrease garbage, sediment and oil coming into the lake. The City of Hastings' public

awareness campaign placed “no dumping” decals along curbs of 245 of 416 storm drains leading to the lake.

Results ...

Installation of CDS units has helped prevent unsightly pollutants from entering the lake. Increasing lake depth has also improved lake water quality. Total cost of the dredging and CDS project was \$405,133. Of this, the CLEAR program provided \$254,550 while the Little Blue NRD provided \$100,000 and the City contributed \$50,583.

