

August 24, 2017

Snail Lake and Grass Lake Flooding

The flooding of the county trails within the Snail Lake and Grass Lake areas has been an inconvenience for all who wish to walk, run, and bike. As the water level gets lower, Ramsey County Parks & Recreation has been actively planning to reopen the trails when conditions permit. Ramsey County has been a partner with the city of Shoreview and Ramsey Washington Metro Watershed District to address the short term and long term actions to reduce the negative impact to parks and trail users.

Our team will test pump an area near the pedestrian tunnel just north of Gramsie Road. If this dries out the tunnel the trail will re-open in that area. The other section of trail between Gramsie Road and Snail Lake Blvd remains flooded and there is nowhere to pump that water. That area will need to clear on its own. Snail Lake Beach has been closed all summer due to flooding. Parks & Recreation will work on a plan to redesign the beach to handle high water levels. Funding for the implementation of that redesign is unknown at this time.

The watershed district is conducting a study using the information obtained during the previous pumping efforts and will produce a report this fall. Future solutions could include raising the trails to a better elevation, building a boardwalk in certain areas, building alternate routes, improving storm water storage throughout the watershed, or using really big sponges. Ultimately, Mother Nature has the final say and we the people have to determine at what cost do we build trails that stay above water, mostly.

-Jon Oyanagi, Director Ramsey County Parks & Recreation