

**PROJECT:**

McKinley Elementary

Leading the way with sustainable solutions

LOCATION

Ham Lake, Minnesota

PROJECT TYPE

School Wastewater Treatment

COMPLETION DATE

2000

NEED

McKinley Elementary School is located in the City of Ham Lake, Minnesota, and is part of the Anoka Hennepin Independent School District. The school had an aerated package plant that discharged into a seepage lagoon. The lagoon bottom was plugged and water was periodically overflowing the lagoon and discharging into an adjacent wetland. The package plant and lagoon were located next to the school playground and produced odors much of the year.

SOLUTION

JW NAWE prepared an engineering report to evaluate several low cost alternatives for wastewater treatment and disposal. The school district selected a single pass sand filter with drainfield trenches. A 7,500 square foot sand filter was constructed to treat effluent from two septic tanks. Following treatment the water is pumped to 4,000 linear feet of chambered drainfield trench. The old lagoon was treated with lime to kill off bacteria and viruses and then filled.

BENEFIT

There is no longer an open water lagoon at McKinley Elementary School. The new system replaced a safety hazard as well as an odor-producing eyesore. The sand filter system was constructed in the old lagoon area and lagoon was filled creating additional playground space for the school. The entire system provides an excellent educational tool for the school to help teach the students about waste treatment.

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