

## *An Introduction to Portage County Groundwater Drainage Lakes*

Five groundwater drainage lakes were included in the Portage County lake study; Adams, Boelter, Ebert, Helen, Lions, and Rinehart. Groundwater drainage lakes have stream outlets that allow water to leave the lake. The stream outlet may include a dam that controls the water level in the lake, but in contrast to an impoundment, these were lakes prior to dam installation. The majority of water entering a groundwater drainage lake enters as groundwater. In terms of summer surface temperature, several of these lakes are similar to the impoundments (Ebert and Rinehart) suggesting these lakes have relatively high inputs of groundwater relative to their size, and several have relatively warm summer water temperatures (Adams and Lions) suggesting these lakes have relatively low rates of water flow in comparison to their lake size.

Surface watersheds for these lakes are larger than for similar sized seepage lakes. Because of the greater amount of groundwater moving into groundwater drainage lakes, land use in the groundwater watershed is of even more important than for seepage lakes.

For additional information, terminology, and concepts in this document please consult the *GUIDE FOR BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND INTERPRETATION OF PORTAGE COUNTY LAKE STUDY RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS*.