

Allen Farrell

What does water mean to me? Water can mean many things depending on the circumstance. For instance, in chemistry class it may be considered as a neutral to other compounds and elements, or the molecular structure consists of two atoms of hydrogen and one atom of oxygen. However, water can mean something different when talking about nature because water is a necessity to all living things from humans to bacteria.

Personally, I am intrigued by water and its uses. I live three miles from Larimore Dam which is about thirty miles west of Grand Forks. During the winter, I have a strong love for ice fishing and my main destination is the dam. I have had some great days of fishing and some that are far from it. I see ice fishing as a time to relax and appreciate nature's wonders, including animals, the weather, and most importantly, the water. At Larimore Dam, you can expect to catch an abundance of five- to ten-inch perch, seven- to eleven-inch crappies, and twelve- to thirty-inch northern pike. Also, Larimore Dam does not have much structure, man-made or natural, rather it is more of an open flat with depths topping out at 25 feet.

Originally, Larimore Dam was designed for flood control, but it inhabits an array of species and is a recreational destination for many people. With flood control, people were able to use the surrounding land for the campground, a golf course, and a dozen residential homes. The campground recreational area is extremely popular throughout the summer because of the parks, frisbee golf, firework shows, and the massive Maya Arboretum. In addition, I am an employee of Larimore Golf Course where I work on ground maintenance such as mowing, weed whacking, trimming trees, and detailing golf carts. I will be working there for my third summer now, and I thoroughly enjoy the outdoors and mowing too. Hence, I get to see a variety of species of trees, flowers, animals, and insects. Sadly, I have met two snakes in my time there. Not a fan of



snakes in the slightest way! I have seen a fisher, hundreds of deer, and carp in the river on hole three.

We also set out some bird feeders with jelly and bird seed. I think it would be a neat idea to setup a camera that overlooks the dam and its surroundings for a year, then time lapse a video to see all leaves change color and snow melt. The video would be incredibly unique and interesting, I think!

This scholarship was brought to my attention by my grandfather, Kenneth Farrell. He has been on the Grand Forks County Water Resource Board for as long as I can remember. My grandpa and I usually have conversations about Larimore Dam; he is curious about how fishing has been, or I tell him about stuff I see while working. Last year, I saw the people come in with the big equipment to drill through the dam to test its strength. I got to help clear tree branches so the machine could make it up the hill. I found the whole operation to be remarkably interesting, so I told my grandpa about what was going on. On a side note, I purchased water board's Ford Ranger from Fordville Dam which is what I drive to this day. I have used that pickup as my main transportation especially in the operation of my mowing business, Allen's Lawn Care.

My most vivid memory of water would just be out ice fishing with my buddies and relaxing in the outdoors. We like to experiment with cooking on the lake sometimes it is restaurant quality other times I wonder if a dog would even eat it. In addition, I will always remember the times when we put up a friend's tip up just to watch him sprint over to be disappointed. Most importantly I will cherish the memories made out fishing even though catching fish wasn't always involved. Thankfully in 1977, the Grand Forks County Resource Board and Soil Conservation Service decided to create the Larimore Dam for flood protection because I have spent endless hours enjoying its amenities.