



# Minnesota's Grant Programs



# Today's Topics

Background on the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR)

Minnesota's Cost Share Programs

Use of Cost Share Funds in Urban Settings

# Minnesota is all about water



Most water in lower 48 states

- >12,000 lakes
- 105,000 miles rivers and streams
- More shoreline (>217,000 miles) than all but Alaska





# **Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources**

**Improve and protect Minnesota's water and soil resources by working in partnership with local organizations and private landowners.**



# Minnesota's Grant Programs

- EROSION CONTROL AND WATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (Cost-Share)
- CLEAN WATER FUND PROGRAM (CWF)



# Erosion Control & Water Management Program

- Non-competitive grants to Districts
- Formula driven allocation
- Maximum cost share rate 75%
- Urban or rural practices eligible, consistent with NRCS Field Office Technical Guide
- Source of funds – MN Legislature's General Fund



# **CLEAN WATER LAND & LEGACY AMENDMENT**



**Clean water..... 33%**

**Fish and wildlife habitat... 33%**

**Parks & trails..... 14.25%**

**Arts & Cultural Heritage... 19.75%**



# CLEAN WATER FUND\*\*

- To protect, enhance, and restore water quality
- In lakes, rivers, streams, and groundwater
- With at least 5% of the fund spent to protect drinking water sources.



\*\*Largest conservation ballot measure in American history.





## Available CWF grant funds

YEAR	FUNDING AVAILABLE (BWSR)	REQUESTED AMOUNT
2010	\$10.4M	\$39.6M
2011	\$13.8M	\$28.1M
2012	\$16.8M	\$47.7M
2013	\$19.6M	\$76.3M
2014	\$14.3M	\$51.1M
2015	\$14.1M	\$37.1M

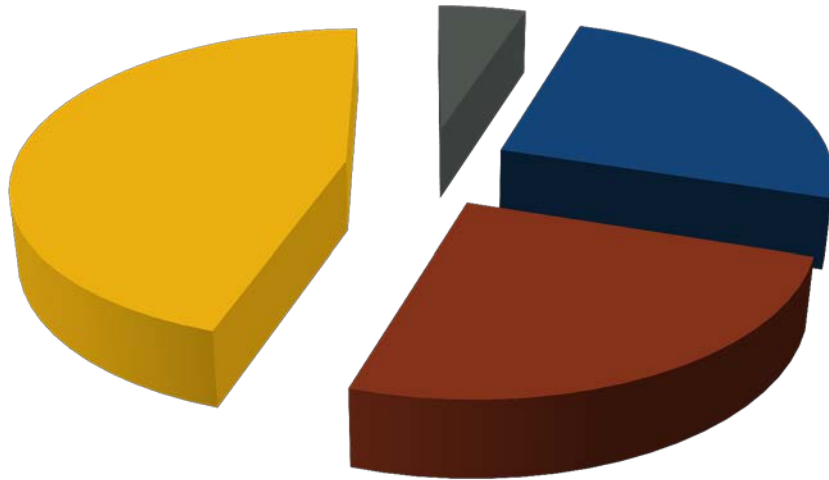




# URBAN STORMWATER PROJECTS

Year	CWF Awarded to Stormwater Projects	% of CWF going toward stormwater projects
2010	\$ 3.4M	45
2011	\$ 2.1M	33
2012	\$ 4.2M	45
2013	\$ 5.0M	45
2014	\$ 5.7M	61
2015	\$ 3.6M	39
Grand Total	<b>\$ 24.1M</b>	<b>45</b>

# ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES



- Grant Management & Reporting
- Project Development
- Technical and Engineering
- Implementation





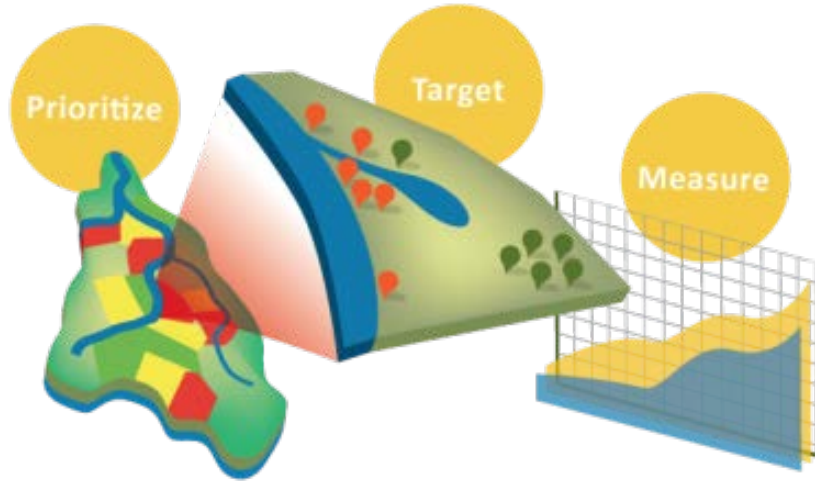
# -URBAN TECHNICAL STANDARDS-

## *MN Stormwater Manual - wiki*

- ✓ Stormwater Issues
- ✓ Treatment options/BMP selection
- ✓ Regulatory/Permit implications
- ✓ Minimal Impact Design Standards (MIDS)
  - Design specifications for a variety of green infrastructure BMPs
  - Pollutant (credit) calculator
  - Stormwater ordinance guidance/Community Assistance Package
- ✓ Case Studies

# Clean Water Fund Program

Strategic solutions to achieve clean water in Minnesota



- **Prioritizing** local resources
- **Targeting** for effectiveness
- **Measuring the impact** on water quality

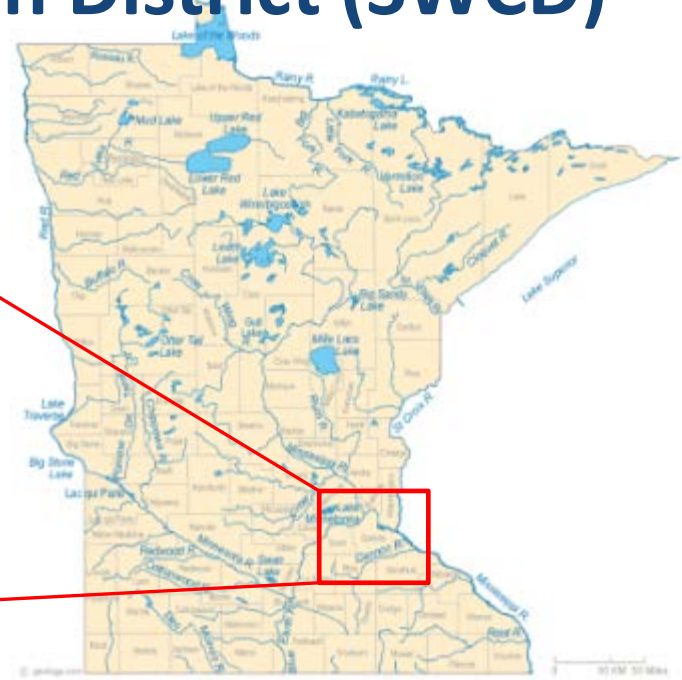


# MN Soil and Water Conservation Districts

## Use of Cost Share Funds in Urban Settings



# Dakota County SWCD & Washington Conservation District (SWCD)







# Urban Conservation Program Services

Working in partnership with municipalities

- Water quality retrofit targeting and prioritization.
- Education, outreach and civic engagement
- Technical design standards and assistance for water quality projects
- Design and installation cost share assistance through metro or state funding.
- Installation oversight

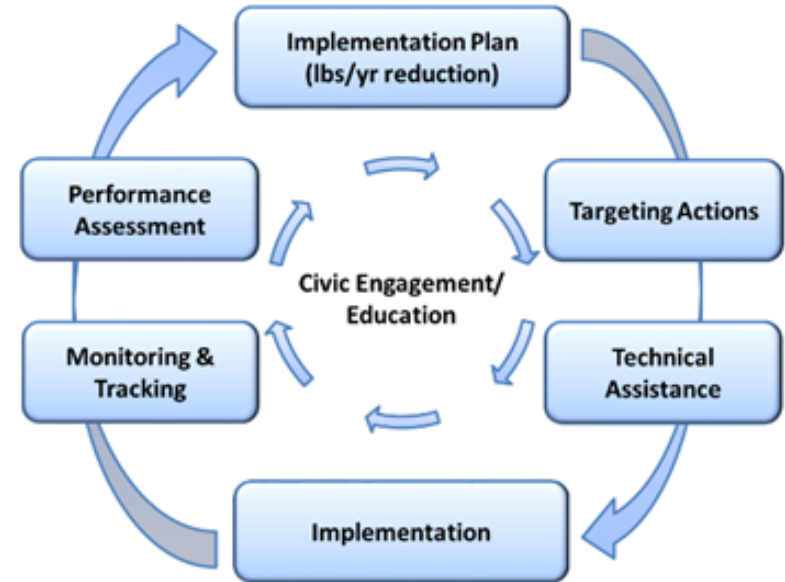
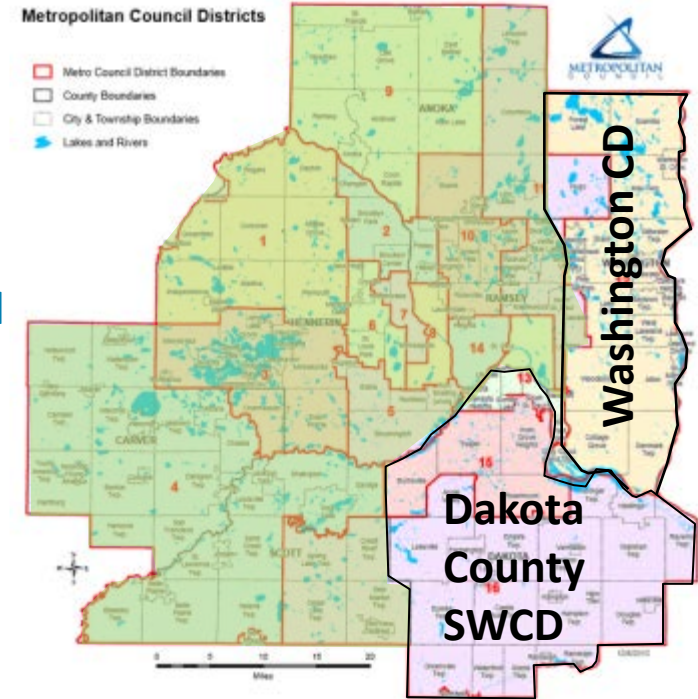


Figure 30. Adaptive Management Framework  
Adapted from Washington County Conservation District

# Brief Overviews

## Dakota Soil and Water Conservation District (DCSWCD)

- Five Watershed Management Organizations
- Fourteen Cities (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> tier suburbs), six small cities, twelve townships
- Conservation District Urban Program- Three Urban Conservationists, One Water Quality Monitoring Specialist



# DCSWCD– Urban Cost Share Programs

Funding provided by Cities and Watershed Management Organizations

- Educational Workshops
- Design Workshops
- \$250 Plant Grant
- Installation Technical Assistance

**PROGRAM FACTSHEET**

**BLUE THUMB GRANT**

**DAKOTA COUNTY**  
SOIL & WATER  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

**BLUE THUMB GRANT PROCESS**  
The Blue Thumb Grant program makes it easy for Dakota County residents to plan and install native gardens, raingardens, and native shorelines.

**Just follow the steps below!**

- 1. WORKSHOP** Attend a Blue Thumb Design Workshop and receive help developing site specific project plans and cost estimate.
- 2. APPLICATION** Submit an application, project plans, and cost estimate to Dakota County SWCD for approval prior to beginning installation.
- 3. MEETING** Schedule an on-site meeting and project layout with Dakota County SWCD prior to beginning installation.
- 4. INSTALLATION** Install your Blue Thumb Project per approved plan and then contact Dakota County SWCD staff to verify the completed project.
- 5. RECEIVE \$250** You will be awarded a \$250 Blue Thumb Grant from Dakota County SWCD upon project completion.

**BLUE THUMB GRANT DEADLINES**

Application	Project Completion*
Round 1: May 4th, 2015	July 20th, 2015
Round 2: June 1st, 2015	August 24th, 2015
Round 3: July 27th, 2015	November 2nd, 2015

\* Grant automatically expires. If no project is not completed by this date.

**SEE BLUE THUMB GRANT APPLICATION FOR MORE DETAILS**

**for more information, call the Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District at (656) 480-7777**

**Blue Thumb**  
Planting for Clean Water  
Create beautiful plantings & gardens that work to keep water clean.

**Native Garden**

**Raingarden**

**Native Shoreline Stabilization**

**PROJECT FACTSHEET**

**SCHEELE**  
**RESIDENTIAL RAINGARDEN**

**DAKOTA COUNTY**  
SOIL & WATER  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

**BEFORE**

**AFTER**

A raingarden is a shallow depression that captures rainwater, removes pollutants, and soaks the water into the ground.

**PROJECT:** Installation of a 154 square foot residential raingarden.

**COST:** Project materials cost estimated at \$644.

**FUNDING:** Landowners receive a \$250 Blue Thumb grant as well as technical assistance provided by the Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District.

**LOCATION:** Burnsville, MN  
Beard Ave. South

**PROJECT:**

- Residential raingarden

**BENEFITS:**

- Runoff volume reduction
- Improved water quality
- Improved wildlife habitat
- Opportunity for public education and outreach
- Improved aesthetics

**PARTNERS:**

- Black Dog Watershed Management Organization

**WATERSHED:**

- Minnesota River

**RECEIVING WATERS:**

- City Drain Sewer

**INSTALLATION:**

- Summer 2014

**Blue Thumb**  
Planting for Clean Water

**800-220-0000** (toll-free) • **763-480-7777** (toll-free) • **656-480-7777** (local) • **www.dakotacounty.org** • **656-480-7777**



# DCSWCD– Urban Cost Share Programs

Funding provided by  
Watershed Management  
Organizations and State Clean  
Water Funds

- Design Assistance
- Up to \$5,000 Cost Share
- Installation Technical Assistance

**PROGRAM FACTSHEET**

**CITIZEN CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM**

**DAKOTA COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**



**APPLICATION TIMES:**

- Applications are accepted all year.

**PROJECT EXAMPLES:**

- Erosion and Slope Stabilization
- Gully, Wetland, Lake or Stream Restoration
- Sediment Basins
- Bio-retention Practices
- Shoreline Stabilizations

**COST SHARE FUNDING FOR CONSERVATION PROJECTS:**

Up to \$5,000 of cost share funding may be available to Dakota County property owners for qualifying (non-agricultural) water quality projects that preserve or restore natural resources.

The Citizen Conservation Stewardship (CCS) program supports smaller conservation practices on individual properties by providing technical and cost share assistance. Depending on project ranking and the availability of funding, cost share amounts up to \$5,000 may be approved to reimburse the applicant for up to 75% of the actual project cost.

**PROJECTS WILL BE COMPETITIVELY RANKED BASED ON:**

- Water Quality Improvement
- Benefits to Wetlands, Lakes and Streams
- Soil Erosion Control
- Wildlife Habitat Improvement
- Public Benefit / Public Outreach
- Innovative Applications
- Collaboration With Other Landowners or Organizations

**CONTACT:**

- For more information, call the Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District at (952) 486-7777

4000 Lincoln Drive N., Suite 125, Minneapolis, MN 55412 Tel: (952) 486-7777 Fax: (952) 486-7778 www.dakotacounty.org 1/1/2014

**Project Partner:**

**Cobblestone Oaks Rain garden Retrofit**



**Project:** A 900 square foot community rain garden that provides water quality treatment to remove pollutants loads and reduce overall stormwater volumes by absorbing the first 1 inch of runoff from approximately 26,400 square feet of impervious surface.



**Practice:** Rain garden Retrofit

**Benefits:**

- Reduces pollutant loading to adjacent wetland
- Improves wildlife habitat
- Improves aesthetics
- Increases watershed stewardship

**Partners:** Cobblestone Oaks Homeowners Association, Met Council

**Watershed:** Mississippi River

**Construction:** September 2007

**Blue Thumb**

**Planting for Clean Water**  
Create beautiful plantings & gardens that work to keep water clean.

**Cost:** The project cost for contracted labor and materials was \$10,547 with neighborhood volunteers completing the planting.

**Funding:** Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District provided technical assistance and Conservation Cost Share in the amount of \$4,000.

**Locations:** Over Grove Heights, Minnesota

Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District  
4000 229th St W., Suite 100, Farmington, MN 55024 Tel: (952) 486-7777 www.dakotacounty.org Revised 12/2010



# DCSWCD– Urban Cost Share Programs

Funding provided by  
Watershed Management  
Organizations and State  
Clean Water Funds

- Design Assistance
- Up to \$25,000 or \$50,000 Cost Share
- Installation Technical Assistance



**DAKOTA COUNTY**  
SOIL & WATER  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

**PROGRAM FACTSHEET**

**CONSERVATION INITIATIVE  
FUNDING PROGRAM**



**APPLICATION TIMES:**

- Applications are accepted all year

**PROJECT EXAMPLES:**

- New or Redevelopment with Low Impact Development Practices
- Stormwater Runoff with Best Management Practices
- Erosion and Slope Stabilization
- Gully, Wetland, Lake or Stream Restoration
- Bio-retention Practices
- Shoreline Stabilizations

**COST SHARE FUNDING FOR CONSERVATION PROJECTS:**

Up to \$25,000 of cost share funding may be available to install conservation practices that reduce stormwater runoff and improve water quality above the minimum measures required by the regulating agencies.

The Conservation Initiative Funding (CIF) program supports larger conservation practices on commercial or multiple properties by providing technical and cost share assistance. Depending on project ranking and the availability of funding, cost share amounts up to \$25,000 may be approved to reimburse the applicant up to 75% of the actual project cost.

**PROJECTS WILL BE COMPETITIVELY RANKED BASED ON:**

- Water Quality Improvement
- Benefits to Wetlands, Lakes and Streams
- Soil Erosion Control
- Wildlife Habitat Improvement
- Public Benefit / Public Outreach
- Innovative Applications
- Collaboration With Other landowners or Organizations

**CONTACT:**

- For more information, call the Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District at (855) 480-7777

1000 10th Street S., Suite 100, Minneapolis, MN 55404 Tel: (612) 480-7777 Fax: (612) 480-7778 [www.dakotacounty.org](http://www.dakotacounty.org) 03/2024



**DAKOTA COUNTY**  
SOIL & WATER  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

**PROGRAM FACTSHEET**

**COMMUNITY CONSERVATION  
PARTNERSHIP**



**APPLICATION TIMES:**

- Applications must be submitted by March 22nd, May 15th, or July 15th of each year

**PROJECT EXAMPLES:**

- Bio-retention
- Infiltration
- Filtration
- Soil Assessments
- Buffering Discharge
- Reduced Impervious Surface Areas
- Permeable Pavements
- Thermal Impact Prevention and Mitigation Practices
- Stormwater Treatment
- Stormwater Recycling
- Best Management Practices

**COST SHARE FUNDING FOR CONSERVATION PROJECTS:**

Up to \$50,000 of cost share funding may be available to install bio-retention and other stormwater Best Management Practices at public facilities in Dakota County to improve water quality above the minimum measures required by the regulating agencies.

The Community Conservation Partnership (CCP) supports public landowners to implement TMDL and local water management plans by providing technical assistance. Depending on project ranking and the availability of funding, cost share amounts up to \$50,000 may be approved to reimburse the applicant for up to 75% of the actual cost. The applicant's contribution can be based on linked value.

**PROJECTS WILL BE COMPETITIVELY RANKED BASED ON:**

- Subwatershed Pollutant Load Modeling to Quantify Water Quality Benefit
- Priority Sites Having Direct Discharge Without Treatment
- Values Comparison - Most Benefits for the Least Cost
- Priority Locations in Critical Watershed Areas
- Installation Timing
- Identified Project in a TMDL or Local Water Plan

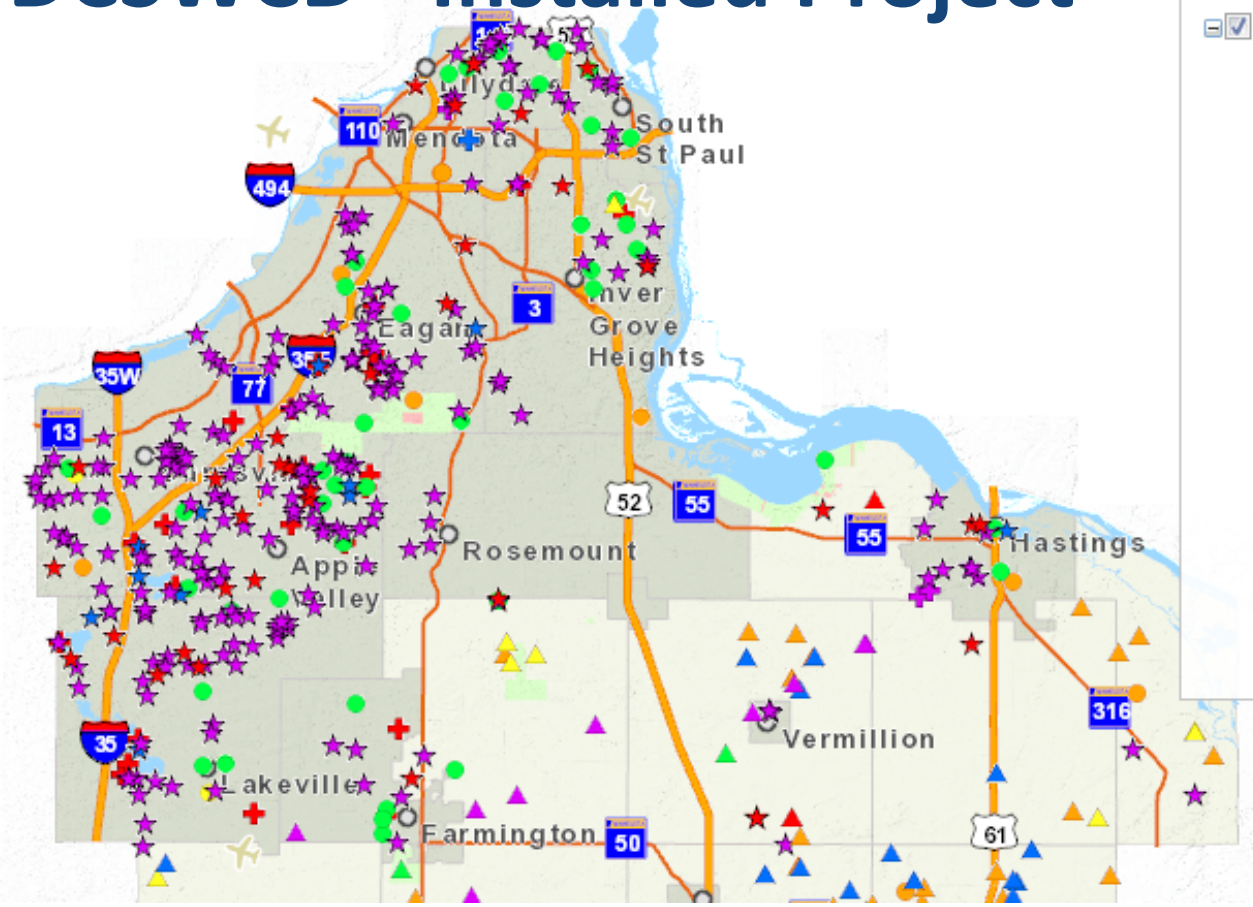
**CONTACT:**

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# DCSWCD– Installed Project



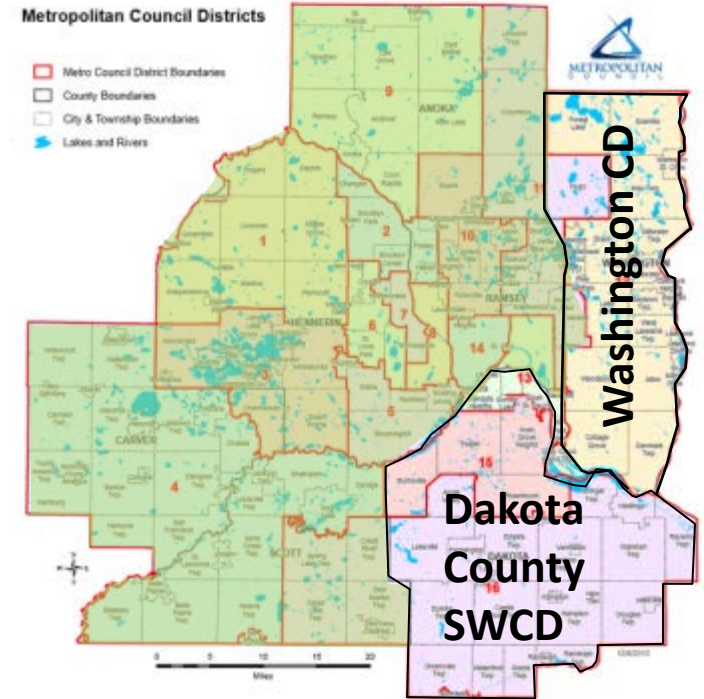
## Map Contents

- ☒ Installed Conservation Practices (2008-2012)
  - Agricultural Resource Management**
    - ☒ Feedlot Improvements
    - ☒ Filter Strips
    - ☒ Grassed Waterways
    - ☒ Native Grass Establishment
    - ☒ Water Erosion Control Structures
    - ☒ State Flood Relief Grant Projects
  - Backyard Conservation**
    - ☒ Native Garden
    - ☒ Rain Garden
    - ☒ Native Shoreline
  - Stormwater Management**
    - ☒ Bioretention
    - ☒ Porous Pavements
    - ☒ Slope Stabilization
  - Riparian Conservation Practices**
    - ☒ Shoreline Stabilization and Restoration
    - ☒ Streambank Stabilization and Restoration
    - ☒ Wetland Restoration

# Brief Overviews

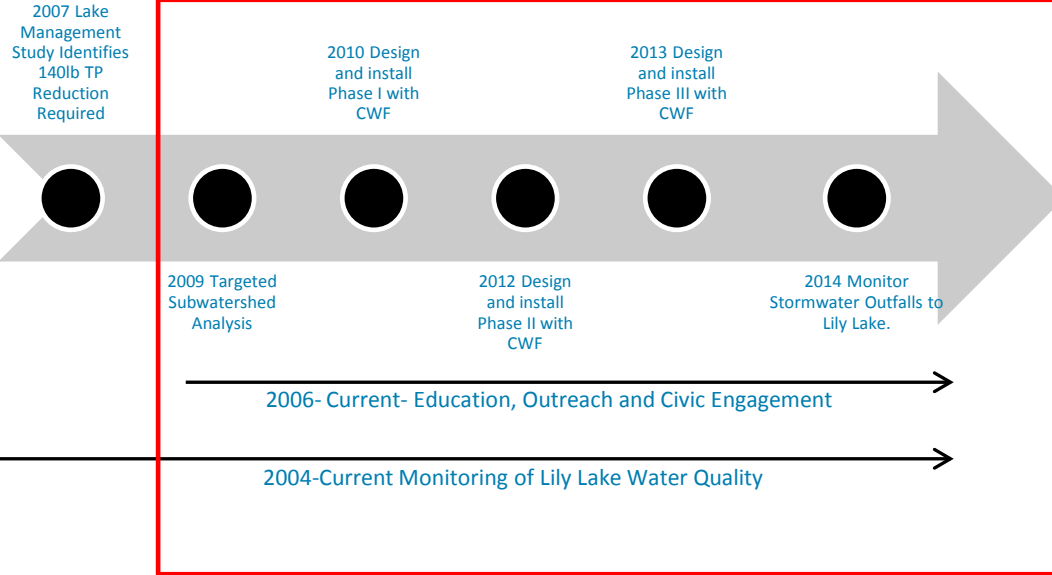
## Washington Conservation District (WCD)

- Eight Watershed Management Organizations
- Sixteen Cities (2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> tier suburbs), ten small cities, six townships
- Conservation District Urban Program- Two Educators, One Engineer, Two Landscape Designers, Four Water Quality Monitoring Specialists.



# WCD– Lily Lake Urban Retrofit Example

WCD work in partnership with the City of Stillwater and Watershed Management Org.





# Lily Lake Urban Retrofit 2014 Installations

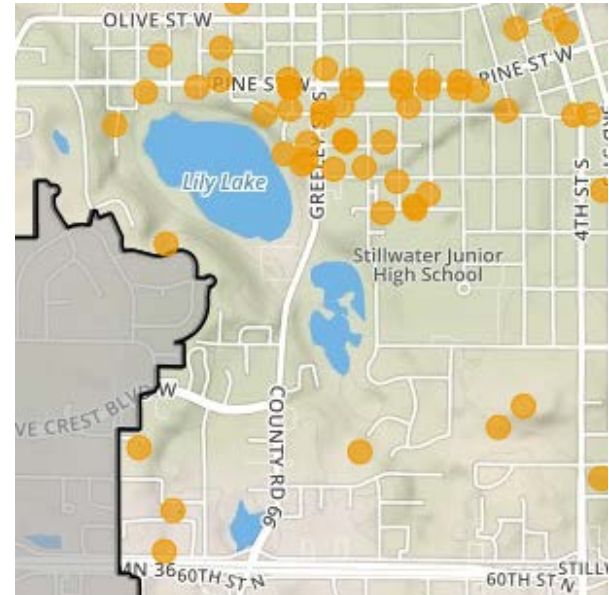


# WCD– Lily Lake Urban Retrofit Example

Working in partnership with municipalities and Watershed Management Organizations

- Create a BMP tracking, inspection and maintenance database.
- WCD provides annual inspections and coordinates maintenance

Current Results for Lily Lake Watershed:  
WinSLAMM modeling indicates a current reduction of 50.5 lbs/yr of TP.





# Questions?