



2020 ANNUAL REPORT

WRIGHT SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT



WRIGHT SWCD

OUR MISSION

The Wright Soil and Water Conservation District shall provide local leadership in the conservation and wise use of soil, water and related resources through a balanced program that protects, restores and improves those resources by utilizing education, regulation and incentive programs.

OUR VISION

The Wright Soil and Water Conservation District Board envisions a changing Wright County. The District will be sensitive to the environment, citizen concerns and will foster a spirit of cooperation among all agencies and entities charged with the management of our precious natural resources.

As a catalyst for this vision, the Wright Soil and Water Conservation District will proactively influence, educate, cooperate and encourage the wise use of resources to maintain our high quality of life.

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District Manager Luke Johnson communicating with a contractor on construction plans.



Water and sediment control basin installed on the north side of Howard Lake.

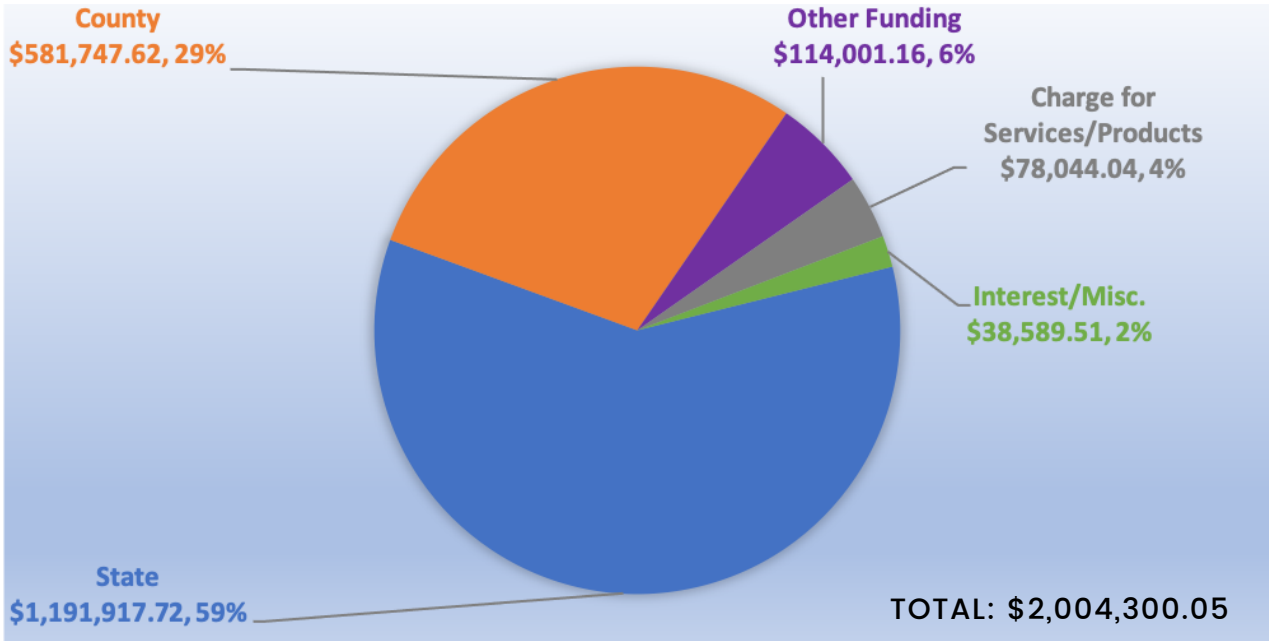


SWCD staff member Andrew Grean during survey work out in the field.

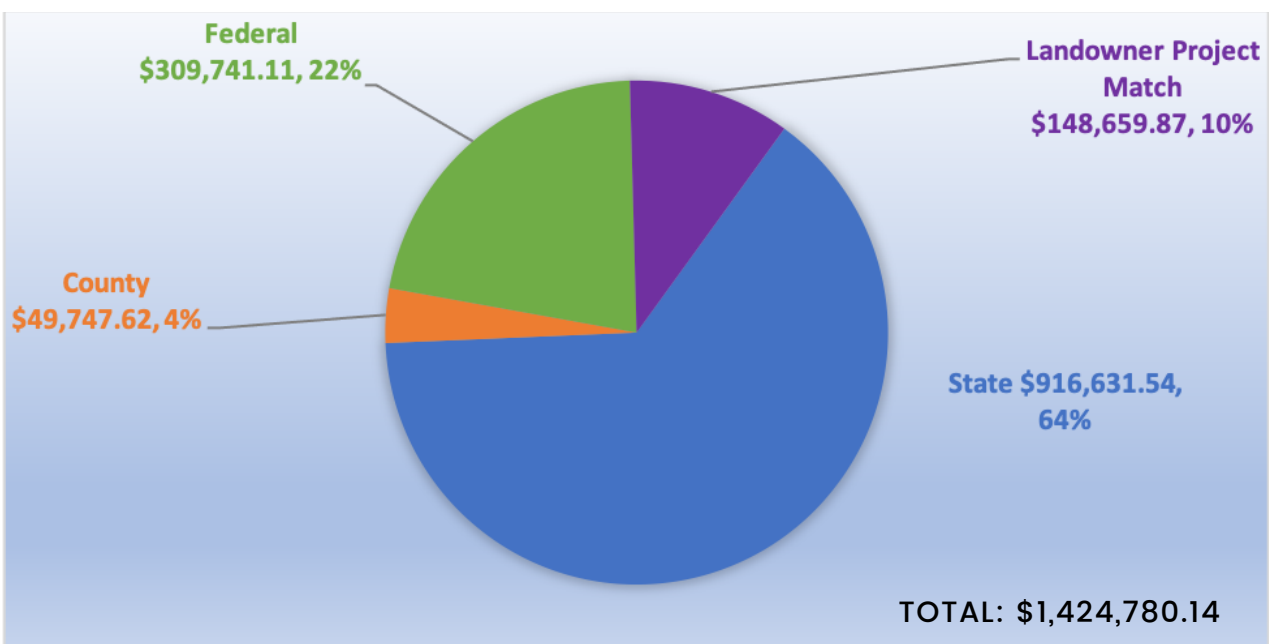
FINANCIAL SUMMARY

The Wright Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) does not have taxing authority, and relies on support from Wright County, which enables the SWCD to leverage and secure additional technical assistance funds and financial assistance funds for Wright County landowners.

WRIGHT SWCD REVENUES



PROJECTS, EASEMENTS, AND AIS EXPENDITURES



FUNDS FOR DISTRICT OPERATIONS NOT INCLUDED IN CHART

SWCD SUPERVISORS

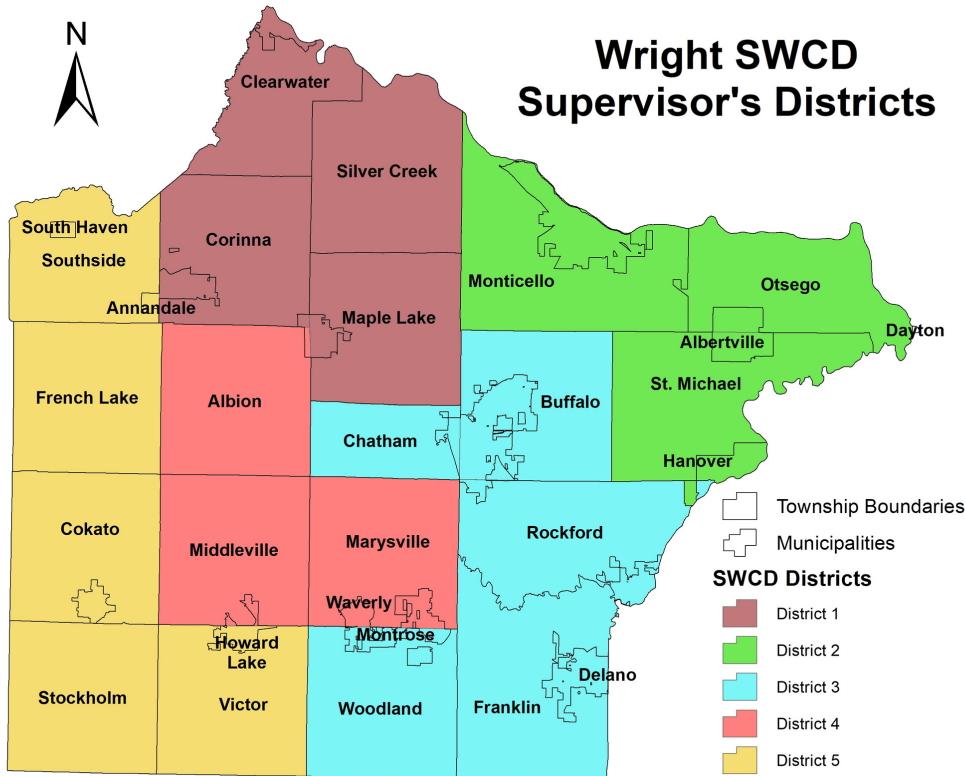
The Wright SWCD's Board is comprised of five Supervisors who are elected by nomination districts on the county wide general election.

Supervisor terms are staggered every four years.

Supervisors receive a per diem of \$60 per board meeting and meet once a month to set goals, policies, and priorities for the District.



Wright SWCD Board Members (left to right): Mike Zieska (District 1), Jeff Burns (District 2), Duane Dahlman (District 5), Mary Wetter (District 3), and Chris Uecker (District 4).



District 1
Mike Zieska

Clearwater, Silver Creek,
Maple Lake, Corinna

District 2
Jeff Burns

Monticello, Otsego, Dayton,
Alberville, St. Michael,
Hanover

District 3
Mary Wetter

Buffalo, Chatham, Rockford,
Delano, Franklin, Montrose,
Woodland

District 4
Chris Uecker

Albion, Middleville,
Marysville, Waverly

District 5
Duane Dahlman

Southside, South Haven,
Annandale, French Lake,
Cokato, Howard Lake,
Stockholm, Victor

WRIGHT SWCD STAFF

Wright SWCD staff work with private landowners throughout the county of various soil and water projects to enhance and protect our natural resources.

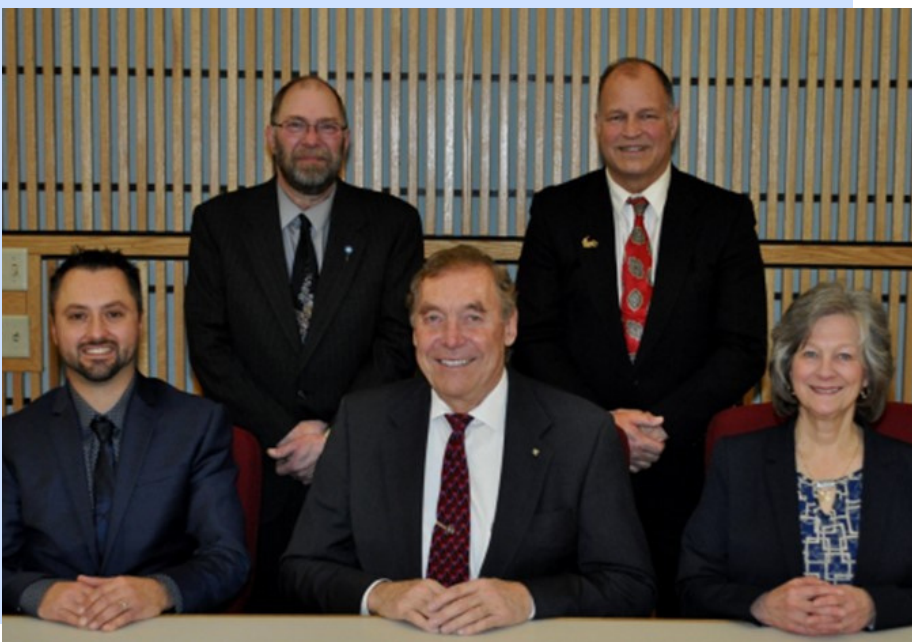
Soil & Water Staff Directory:

Luke Johnson | District Manager
Pam Kuhn | Administrative Assistant
Mike Candler | Natural Resources Engineer
Eric Mattson | Conservation Technician
Kerry Saxton | Resource Conservationist
Sandra Hessedal | Office Assistant
Andrew Grean | Wetland Resource Conservationist
Dan Nadeau | Senior Resource Conservationist
Alicia O'Hare | Water Management Specialist



Wright SWCD Staff Members (left to right): Front row: Andrew Grean, Pam Kuhn, and Alicia O'Hare. Back row: Luke Johnson, Mike Candler, Dan Nadeau, Eric Mattson, and Kerry Saxton. (Not pictured: Sandra Hessedal).

WRIGHT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Wright County Commissioners (left to right): Darek Vetsch (District 2), Mark Daleiden (District 3), Charlie Borrell (District 5), Michael Potter (District 4), and Christine Husom (District 1). Photo credit: Wright County.

Five Wright County Commissioners represent populations between 22,742 and 27,072 for their respective districts. The Wright County population is 138,377.

Commissioners in 2020 were:

- Christine Husom, District 1
- Darek Vetsch, District 2
- Mark Daleiden, District 3
- Michael Potter, District 4
- Charlie Borrell, District 5

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

Each year, the Wright SWCD participates in various outreach and educational events. However, due to COVID-19, the outreach and educational events were limited.

Wright SWCD provides outreach and educational opportunities to community members, landowners, schools, workshops, and tours.



SWCD staff present at an educational field day.



NRC State Conservationist, Troy Daniell (far right), discussing conservation practices with Dan and Luke Elsenpeter.



NRC state and field office staff met with Valley View Dairy owners to talk about conservation practices.

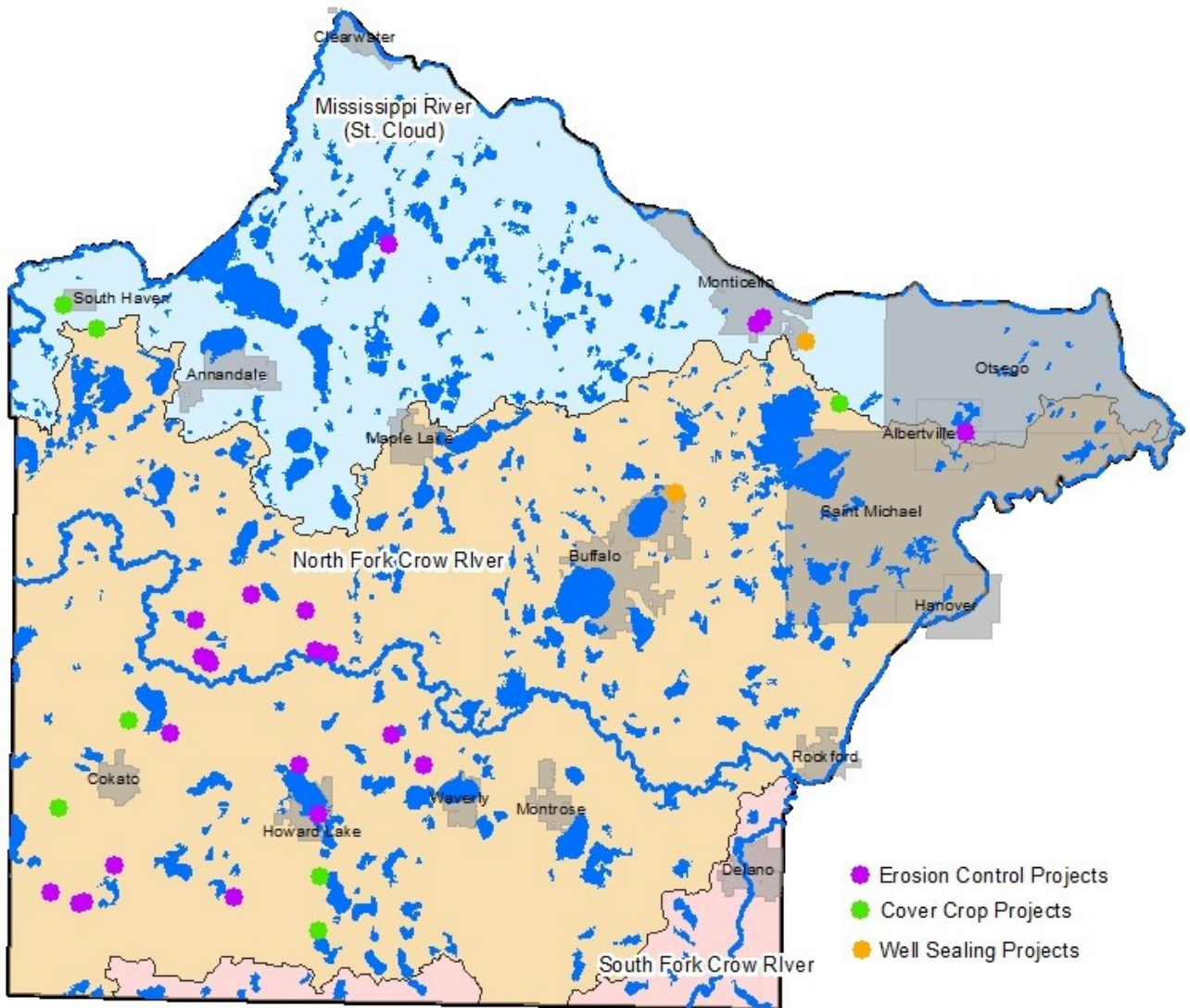


SWCD staff Dan Nadeau (left) and Mike Candler (right) present at the annual planning meeting.



Sonya Guggemos from MCIT presented to SWCD and County staff on social media at their annual planning meeting.

2020 COMPLETED PROJECTS



Project locations within HUC 8 watersheds in Wright County.

TOTAL REDUCTIONS:

- Sediment (T/yr.) 1,026.2
- Soil Loss (T/yr.) 1,149.31
- Phosphorus (lbs./yr.) 1,119.58

Leveraged Project Funding:

- Local: \$310,324.71
- State Leveraged Funding: \$589,327.33
- Federal Leveraged Funding: \$209,853.06

TOTAL PROJECTS:

- Water & Sediment Control Basins: 50
- Grade Stabilization Structures: 6
- Sediment Basin: 1
- Grassed Waterway: 1
- Rain Garden: 1
- Shoreline Stabilization: 1
- Critical Area Planting: 1 (3 acres)
- Well Closures: 2
- Cover Crops: 5 Contracts (283 acres)

Total Project Funds: \$1,109,505.10

2020 COMPLETED PROJECTS



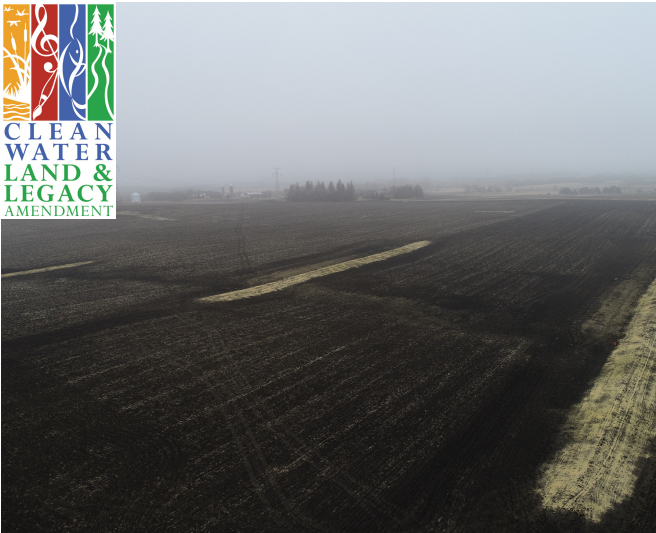
Seven water and sediment control basins completed in Albion Township. This will stop eroded sediment from reaching Camp Lake and help to improve the producer's yield.



Rain garden installed in Albertville.



Tile being installed for seven water and sediment control basins.



Three water and sediment control basins installed in Albion Township.



Starting to dig for the County Ditch 10 Sediment Pond.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

COUNTY DITCH 10 SEDIMENT POND

County Ditch 10 (CD 10), established in 1906 is one of Wright County's largest public drainage systems with an approximate 16,707 acre watershed. The repair of this system has been a priority for the benefited landowners in recent years. CD 10 functions as both critical infrastructure for crop production, as well as the headwaters to several impaired waterbodies. CD 10 is the primary contributing source of sediment and phosphorus to Lake Ann. Lake Ann then flows through several more impaired waterbodies (Lake Emma, Little Waverly, 12 Mile Creek) before entering the North Fork Crow River.

Due to the interest in conducting a large scale repair of the system, the Wright SWCD has prioritized CD 10 to identify potential Best Management Practice (BMP) opportunities along the ditch and within the watershed. In 2016 Wright SWCD conducted a side inlet and buffer inventory of CD 10 to prioritize potential BMP sites.

In 2017 Wright SWCD partnered with the Wright County Drainage Authority to pay for a larger scale Multipurpose Drainage Management study of the CD 10 ditch system (CD 10 MDM Report), then applied for and received the CD 10 BMP Inventory –Implementation grant (Clean Water Fund Grant).



Completed Sediment Pond in early March.

A 10-acre storage pond along CD 10 was constructed in 2020 with Clean Water funds, as well as funds from the Disaster Relief Assistance and North Fork Crow River One Watershed One Plan grants.



The pond functions by temporarily storing water that enters CD 10 via a lateral ditch that the pond intercepts. The pond treats approximately 10% of the CD 10 watershed and prevents an estimated 514 tons of sediment and 271 pounds of phosphorus from entering the ditch system each year. The pond not only reduces nutrient loads to downstream water bodies, but also mitigates water levels within the ditch allowing for better drainage efficiency. The reduced rate of sedimentation within the ditch will prolong the time between ditch clean-outs. The Wright SWCD would like to acknowledge the cooperation and support of the benefited landowners of CD 10, Wright County Drainage Authority, Wright County Board of Commissioners, ISG, the Lake Ann Improvement Association, and BWSR for the successful implementation of this project.



Sediment Pond vegetation established in August.

PROJECT FUNDING & REDUCTIONS:

- Project Cost: \$490,300
- Clean Water Fund Grant: \$195,000
- North Fork Crow River IWIP: \$49,500
- Disaster Relief Assistance Program: \$42,800
- Benefited Landowners: \$203,000
- Sediment Reduction: 514 tons per year
- Phosphorus Reduction: 271 pounds per year

COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS

MINNESOTA AG WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION PROGRAM



The first Minnesota Ag Water Quality Certified producer in Wright County in 2016, the Anderson Family.

The Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP) is a voluntary opportunity for farmers and agricultural landowners to take the lead in implementing conservation practices that protect Minnesota's water resources. Those who practice, implement and maintain approved management practices in all aspects of their operation, will be certified and earn State regulatory certainty for a period of ten years.

This program certifies farmers and landowners that manage the land within their operation in ways that protect water quality. Local conservation professionals assist those seeking certification through a three-step certification process.

Step 1: Application: Self-verification by the participant that they are meeting existing Minnesota laws and regulations regarding water quality.

Step 2: Assessment: Evaluation of each field throughout the crop rotation within an operation using the assessment tool.

Step 3: Verification: On-farm field verification by a MAWQCP certifier.

WRIGHT COOPERATIVE WEED MANAGEMENT AREA (CWMA)

In 2008, the Wright Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) was formed in Wright County to address threats to native wetland and terrestrial systems posed by invasive plant species.



SWCD staff member Dan Nadeau investigating a Wild Parsnip infestation in Victor Township.

The Wright SWCD, in cooperation with Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR), Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA), Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT), Wright County Commissioners, Townships, Wright County Highway and Parks Departments, along with private landowners, have come together to control the spread of Wild Parsnip, Tansy, Oriental Bittersweet, and other invasive species.

CWMA REPORT:

- \$1,726.46 funds utilized
- 2 contracts
- Total funds since 2008: \$68,688.88



COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS

MINNESOTA BUFFER PROGRAM UPDATE

The 2015 Buffer Legislation applies to agricultural land. All perennial crops qualify as a compliant buffer. Deadlines for compliance were November 1, 2017, for public watercourses, and November 1, 2018, for public drainage ditches.

In January a reminder letter was sent, in conjunction with the County, to 26 landowners on County Ditch 10, explaining that buffer areas are not to be planted with crop in 2020 even though ditch maintenance work has not yet started. Reminder phone calls were made to landowners of noncompliant and "in progress" parcels in February.

District staff communicated with BWSR Buffer staff to discuss plan of action for noncompliant buffers. A plan to address noncompliance was created and submitted to BWSR in August. 3 landowners with noncompliant buffers were sent certified letters explaining the Buffer Law requirements again. 10 Landowners remain as 'Compliance in Progress' with verbal agreements for spring compliance and written agreements pending.



Fall 2020, perennial buffer established along a Wright County ditch.

CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (CREP)



Permanent restored prairie protects water resources and provides wildlife habitat.

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is a jointly funded program between the USDA (Federal) and BWSR (State).

This voluntary program permanently retires environmentally sensitive acres on private lands. Annual payments to agricultural landowners are established through the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). The same land is also enrolled into a perpetual conservation easement through the state Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) program.

CREP is implemented locally through Soil and Water Conservation Districts along with Federal and State partners. Private ownership remains and the land is restored and permanently protected for habitat and water quality benefits.

In 2020, two (2) Wright County landowners enrolled land, permanently protecting 59.14 acres.

COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS

FOOD PLOT SEED PROGRAM



Established specialty mix containing sorghum, sunflowers, millet and clover.

The Wright SWCD partnered with Wright County Pheasants Forever (WCPF) and Dahlico Seeds to provide corn, soybeans, and specialty seed mixes to establish 618 acres of food plots.

SEED DONATED IN 2020 INCLUDED:

- 215 bags of corn
- 150 bags of soybeans

PHEASANTS FOREVER MIXES:

- 5 bags of PF Blizzard Mix
- 10 bags of PF Winter Shield Mix
- 12 bags of PF Western Mix
- 4 bags of PF Quick Food & Cover Mix
- 5 bags of Clover Kandy



At the February 15 State Pheasants Forever Awards Ceremony, Wright County Chapter surpasses \$7,000,000 spent on conservation.

SWCD TREE PROGRAM SALE

The Wright SWCD distributed an informational packet including a program letter, 2020 Tree Order Form, 2020 Species Description Guide and 2020 New Species Info Sheet.



All orders were filled on a first come, first served basis to Wright County residents and non-residents.

TREE PROGRAM REPORT:

- 36,250 trees
- 51 native seed packets
- 52 pollinator garden plan kits



Over 36,250 trees were sold in 2020.



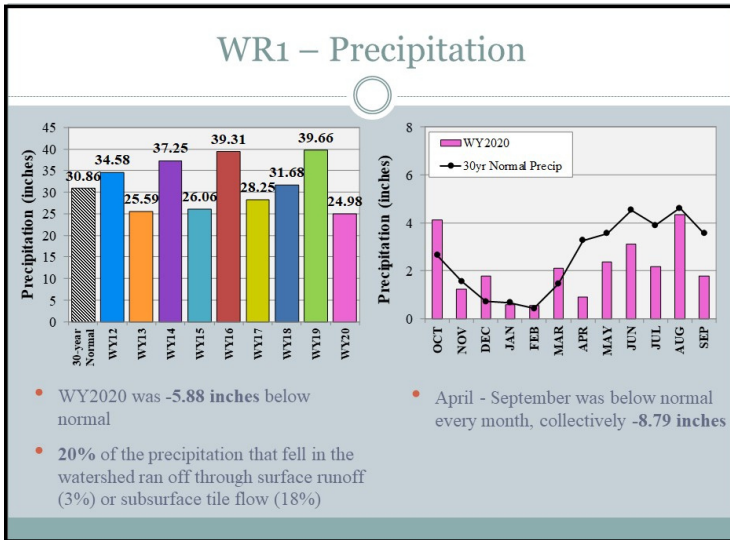
Wetting down the sawdust pile to prepare for packing order.



Staff working on fulfilling orders for pick-up.

COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS

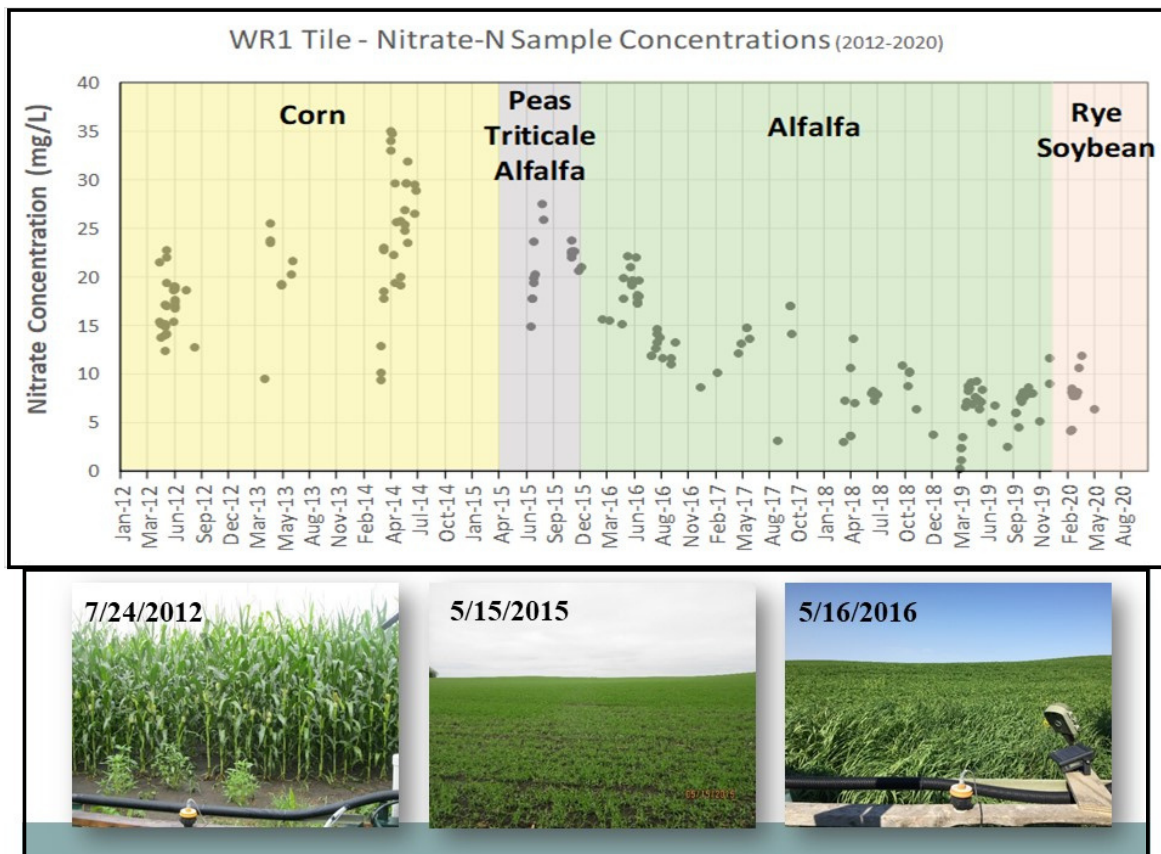
DISCOVERY FARMS MINNESOTA



Discovery Farms Minnesota (DFM) is a farmer-led water quality research and educational program administrated by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA). The mission of this program is to collect water quality information under real world conditions to provide better farm management decisions. There are currently 12 core Discovery Farms located in Minnesota.

The farm in Wright County, Minkota Holsteins LLC, located in Victor Township, was selected in 2012 as a Discovery Farm due to their dairy herd, manure management, soils are representative of the region and the field site if capable of generating a robust dataset. Water samples are collected at the edge of the field (surface and tile).

Left: Annual precipitation at the site since water year 2012. Right: Monthly precipitation at the site for the 2019-2020 water year.



The graph above shows nitrate concentrations in relation to the different crops grown from 2012 - 2020.

COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS

COVER CROP PROGRAM



51 acres of a cover crop mixture of cereal rye and tillage radishes were interseeded into standing corn in late summer 2020. The producer is planning to plant soybeans directly into the standing rye in the spring of 2021.

The Wright SWCD continued to work with producers experimenting with cover crops in 2020. Local capacity and state cost-share funds were used to incentivize cover crop use, with higher payment rates for producers willing to interseed the cover crop into the primary cash crop.

On some sites cover crops were broadcast into standing corn and soybeans, while other producers drilled in after wheat and silage harvest in 2020. Cost-share payments totaled \$12,000 and 283 acres of cover crops were implemented.

The Wright SWCD commends the producers who have stepped well outside of “normal” farming practices to show that cover crops can be utilized in Wright County.

The SWCD will continue to provide technical support, funding, and be an overall resource for anyone interested in incorporating cover crops into their operation. The SWCD hopes to see continued growth in cover crop adoption and improved soil health throughout Wright County in 2021 and beyond!

DNR OBSERVATION WELLS

Since 1944, the DNR has managed a statewide network of water level observation wells (obwells). Data from these wells are used to assess groundwater resources, determine long term trends, interpret impacts of pumping and climate, plan for water conservation, evaluate water conflicts, and otherwise manage the water resource.

The Wright Soil and Water Conservation District, under contract with the DNR, measures 24 wells every 3 months, collects data from electronic loggers, and reports the data to the DNR.



Observation well site located in Wright County.

COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS

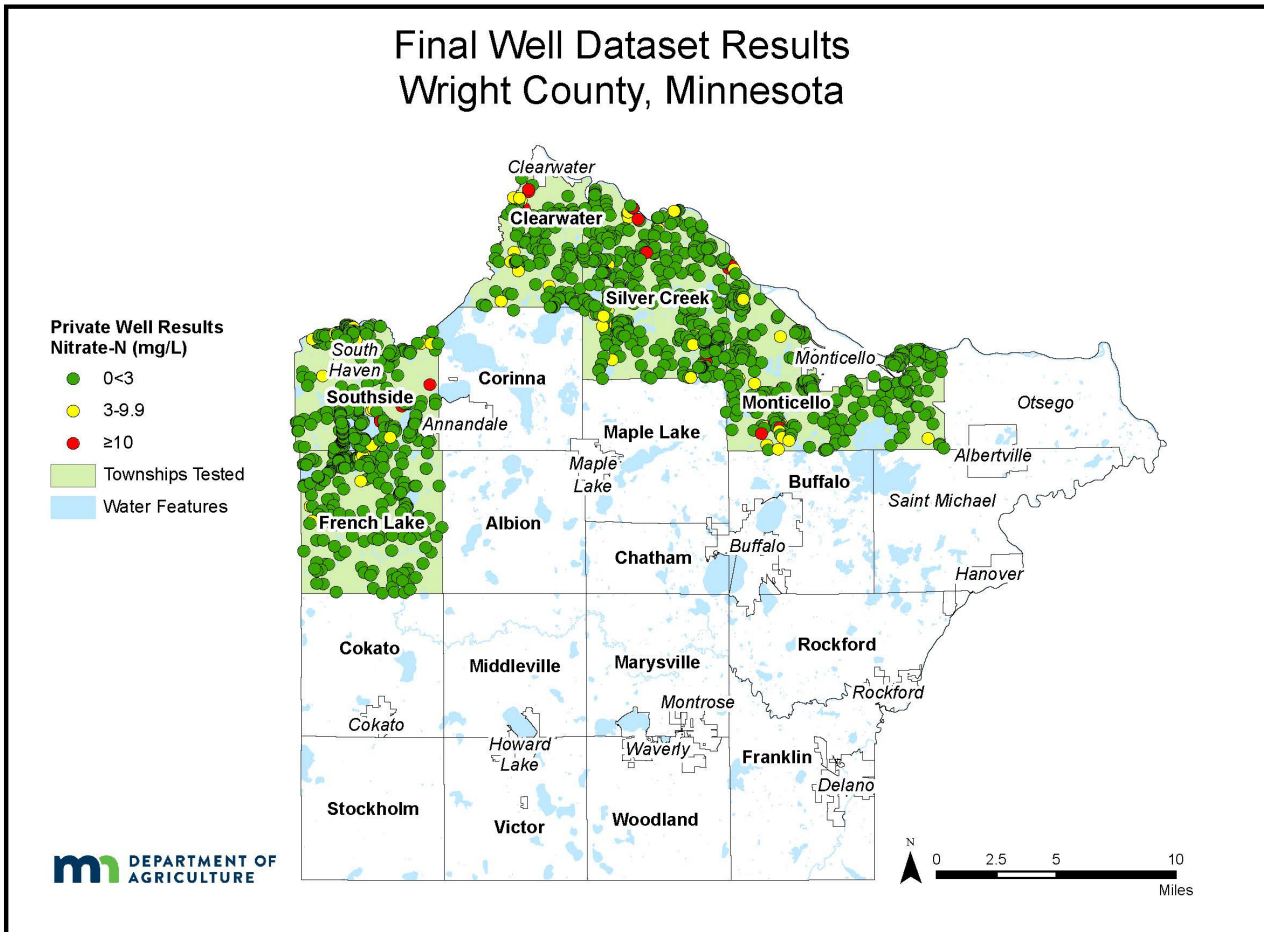
TOWNSHIP TESTING PROGRAM (TTP)

In December of 2020, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) released its reports on its Township Testing Program (TTP) for Wright County. TTP is a statewide program by the MDA to identify areas of Minnesota that have high nitrate in groundwater. Nitrate in groundwater is indicative of human influence as it only occurs naturally at low levels. Sources of nitrate include fertilizer, animal waste and human waste. Nitrate is a health risk level at 10 mg/L. MDA identified which portions of Minnesota were mostly likely to be impacted by nitrates as those with sandy geology and cropland. Five townships in Wright County were included in the study: Southside, French Lake, Clearwater, Silver Creek, and Monticello. In total 1,315 wells in Wright County were tested.

Despite the suspected vulnerability of these townships this study found the risk of nitrate in Wright County wells is low with 90% of wells having a nitrate level less than 3 mg/L and less than 3% of wells exceeding the 10 mg/L health standard. A map of the wells tested, and their nitrate results shown below.

In addition to testing wells for nitrate MDA conducted a pesticide study. The pesticide testing was offered to all well owners who participated in the nitrate study and had a detectable level of nitrate. This created a select set of wells that were specifically considered vulnerable. In total 177 wells were tested for pesticides in Wright County. Of these wells 64% detected at least one pesticide chemical and 30 different pesticide chemicals were detected. Two wells exceeded reference levels for total cyanazine, a broadleaf herbicide which was banned in the United States in 2003. In general wells with higher nitrate values were more likely to have pesticides present.

Wright SWCD would like to thank MDA and all participating well owners for conducting this important work. If you have questions or would like to test your well water, please call Alicia O'Hare at our office 763-682-1970.



Well sampling locations and nitrate results during the Township Testing project.

COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS

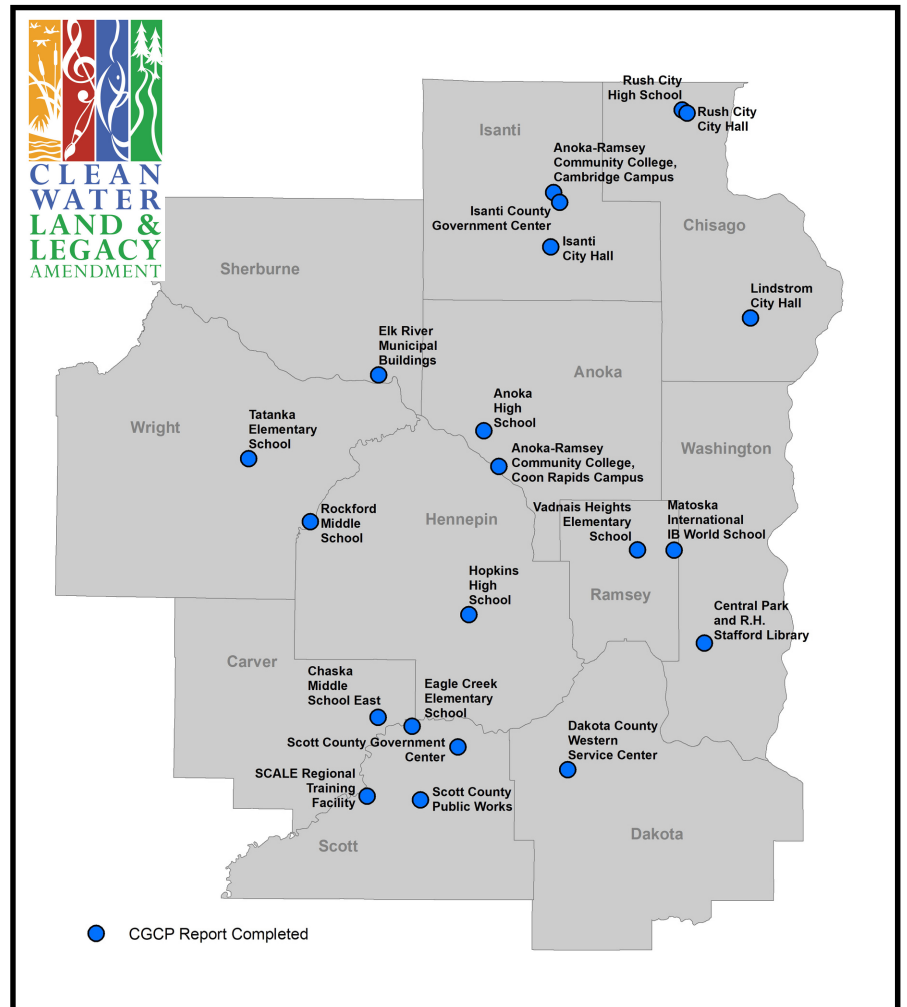
CAMPUS GROUNDWATER PROJECT

The Metropolitan Conservation Districts (MCD), through funding provided by a Clean Water Fund Accelerated Implementation Grant, created the Campus Groundwater Conservation Planning (CGCP) protocol with the ultimate goal of water conservation project implementation.

Anoka Conservation District (ACD) served as the host district and led protocol development, provided staff training, conducted final report reviews for all 11 Metro counties, and prepared a final report summarizing all completed analyses.

Throughout the 11-county Twin Cities Metropolitan Area, the CGCP protocol was implemented on 21 campuses with at least one analysis occurring in each county (see map).

Initial outreach efforts to campuses were prioritized based on campus age, with older campuses having a higher likelihood of inefficient fixtures, and selected campuses were required to be publicly owned and use groundwater as a water source.



Completed campus groundwater sites.



Wright SWCD staff member measuring water flow of a school faucet.

Wright SWCD staff completed two groundwater use assessments at Tatanka STEM Elementary School and Rockford Middle School-Center for Environmental Studies. Wright SWCD staff visited both locations and estimated water use for every water fixture in the buildings.

Between the two schools SWCD staff identified 141 water saving projects to reduce water consumption by over one million gallons per year and saving the schools up to \$15,000 annually.

COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS

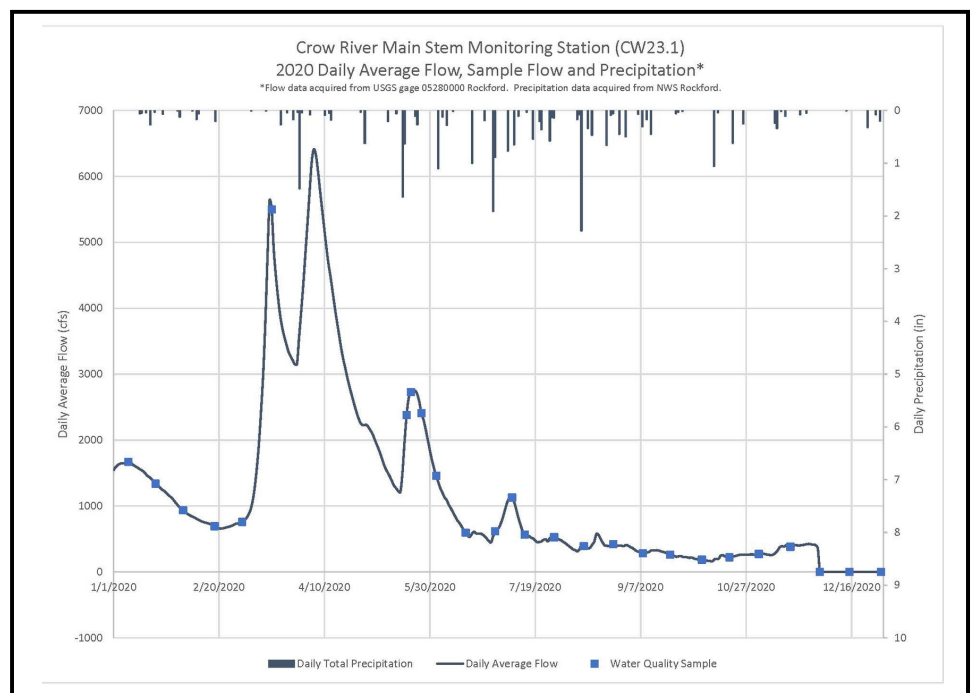
CROW RIVER MONITORING

Looking downstream from the Crow River sampling location in Rockford.



Met Council and Wright SWCD have partnered to collect water quality data for over 20 years. Every two weeks year-round Wright SWCD staff takes a grab sample at the Hwy 55 bridge over the Crow River in Rockford. General observations on the river's current conditions such as flow level, vegetation or recent weather are recorded. The parameters that are sampled for are; chloride, total suspended solids, phosphorus, bacteria and metals (quarterly). The samples are then sent to the Met Council's lab in St. Paul for analysis.

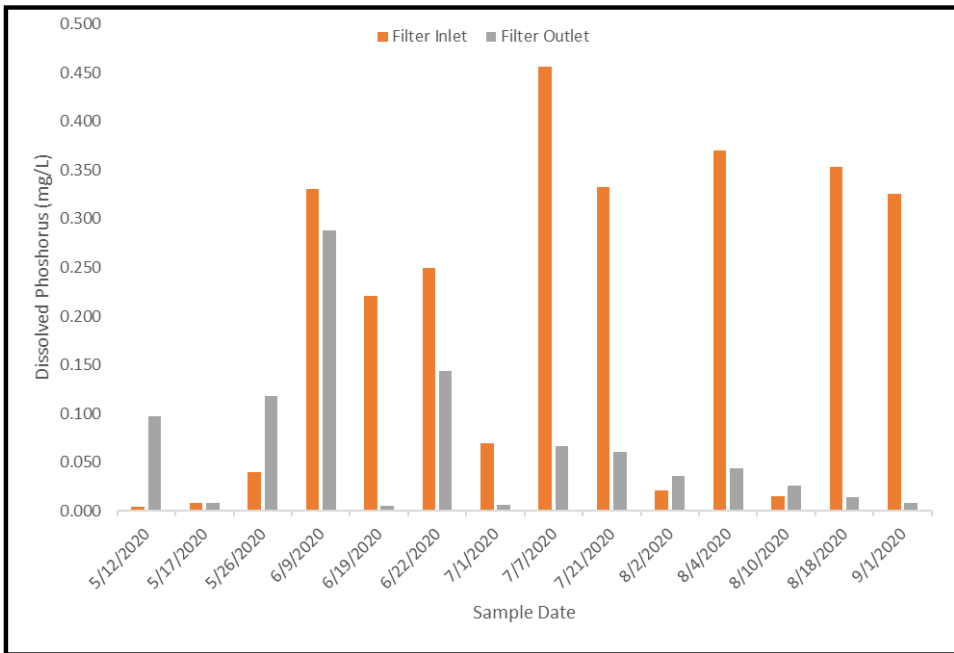
This graph shows flow at the site throughout 2020 compared to the precipitation (bars at the top, measured on the right). The blue dots on the flow line are when SWCD staff took samples. Notice that since 2020 precipitation was low there was less of a flow response after storm events. This is because the dry soil absorbed the precipitation that did fall. The 2020 flow was among the lowest observed in several years.



Flow and precipitation at the Crow River sampling site

WATER MONITORING

MINK LIMESTONE FILTER PROJECT



A limestone filter was installed near Mink Lake and Somers Lake in Wright County in the fall of 2017. It receives runoff from approximately 400 acres of farmland. The water first flows through a wetland, then a bed of limestone pebbles where phosphorus is removed, before being discharged to Mink Lake.

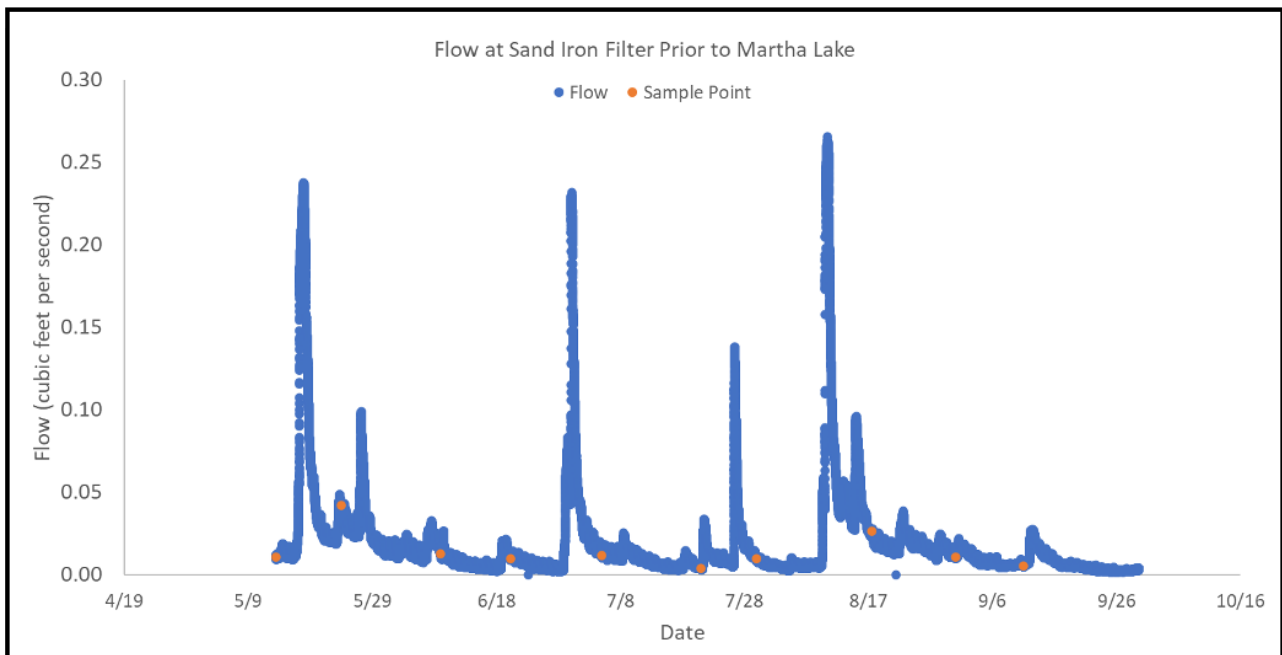
In 2020 staff collected 14 sample sets from the filter. In most sample set sets the filter removed over 50% of the total phosphorus and over 90% of the dissolved phosphorus. The dissolved phosphorus is the form that is readily available to plants and algae when it enters the lake.

Concentrations of dissolved phosphorus at the inlet and outlet of the limestone filter.

MARTHA SAND IRON FILTER PROJECT

A sand iron filter was installed near Martha Lake and Charlotte Lake in Wright County in the fall of 2012. It receives runoff from approximately 19 acres of farmland used for crops and livestock via a drain tile. The filter is located on land that is currently used to pasture cattle. As water passes through the filter, phosphorus is removed.

In 2020 staff collected 10 sample sets from the filter. While this doesn't represent all of the water flowing through the filter, staff calculated the filter prevented 196 pounds of phosphorus from entering Lake Martha.



Flow in cubic feet per second through the sand iron filter during the 2020 field season in blue. Orange dots are grab samples.

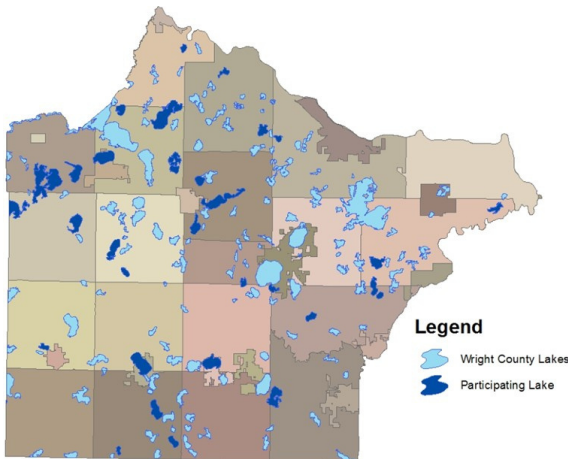
WATER MONITORING



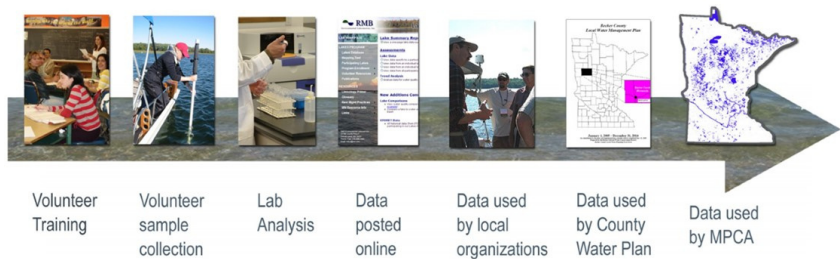
LAKE MONITORING

This program gets lakeshore owners more involved with their lake water quality. The samples taken each year could be considered the lake's annual "physical" and they help build a long-term trend to better illustrate if water quality is improving or declining.

More importantly, to be able to prevent and address problems in our lakes we need good information about the status of our water resource, potential and actual threats, and options for addressing the threats.



Legend
 Wright County Lakes
 Participating Lake



In 2020 30 lakes participated in citizen lake monitoring.

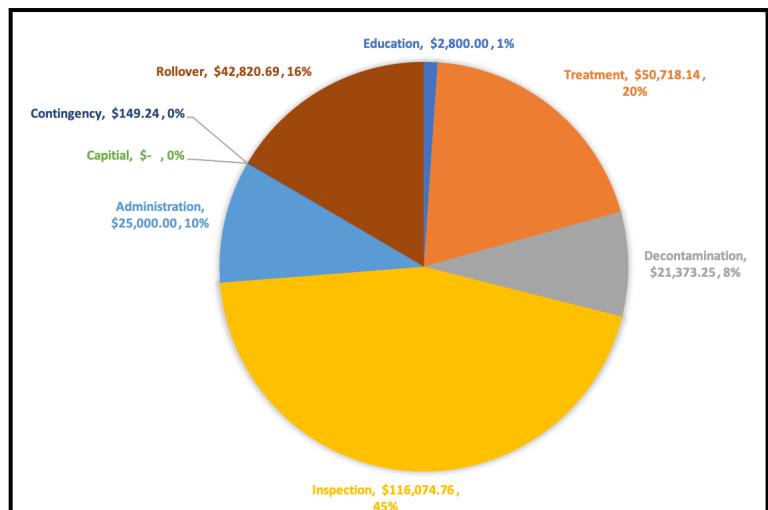
AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES (AIS)

Wright SWCD spent \$216,115.39 of State AIS Funds to prevent the spread and control aquatic invasive species in Wright County. For education, seven AIS segments on the PBS show Prairie Sportsman were supported, which airs throughout Minnesota. We also sponsored the participation of six Wright County citizens in the U of M's AIS Management 101 course.

Wright SWCD offered \$62,000 as grants to survey and treat aquatic invasive species already established in Wright County lakes. Twenty-three lake associations made requests totaling nearly \$150,000.

Although Wright SWCD could not fulfill all requests, we allocated funds to every organization. Based on actual treatment costs Wright SWCD released \$50,718.14 to 18 lake associations for treatment. This included \$10,567.86 for curly-leaf pondweed, \$33,413.78 for Eurasian watermilfoil and \$6,736.50 and starry stonewort. The addition of DNR grants in 2020 helped our county dollars go further.

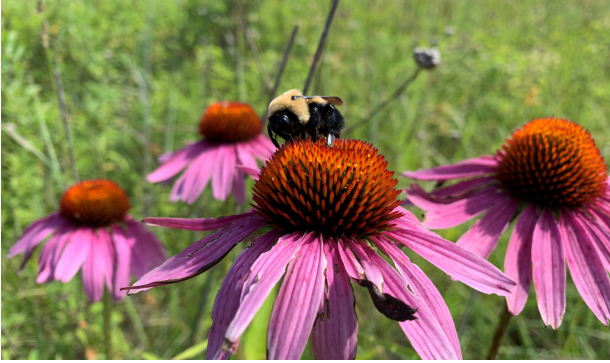
Watercraft inspections occurred on 30 different ramps in 2020. COVID-19 severely limited certified decontamination staff, the unit was available 5 days a week for courtesy decontaminators.



Spending on AIS projects by category for 2020.

USDA- NRCS PROGRAMS

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM (EQIP)



Purple coneflower attracting pollinators in a CRP planting.

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a federal program administered by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and assisted by the Wright Soil & Water Conservation District. EQIP provides technical and financial assistance to assist crop, livestock, and other agricultural producers with environmental and conservation improvements to their operation.

In 2020, EQIP paid Wright County agricultural producers \$225,333.11 to implement conservation practices on the land and \$84,408 in EQIP funds were committed toward six (6) new contracts.

NRCS STAFF



USDA-NRCS staff (left to right): Katie Evans and Julie Reberg.

EQIP & RCPP Report:

- EQIP: 6 new contracts (\$84,408)
- RCPP: 2 new contracts (\$48,173)
- Payments made: \$225,333.11
- Conservation practices installed:
 - 35 water and sediment control basins
 - 8 grassed waterways
 - 61.2 acres of prescribed grazing
 - 478 acres of nutrient management
 - 3 earthen diversions
 - 1 seasonal high tunnel
 - 10.4 acres of conservation crop rotation
 - 1,473 feet of livestock pipeline
 - 2 livestock watering tanks
 - 1 grade stabilization structure
 - 12.3 acres of cover crop

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSP)

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) is a voluntary program that encourages producers to address resource concerns in a comprehensive manner by undertaking additional conservation activities and improving, maintaining, and managing existing conservation activities.

In 2020, \$154,158.43 was paid to Wright County agricultural producers through CSP.

CSP Report:

- Existing contract payments : \$77, 546.43 (13 contracts)
- New contract payment: \$76,612

WETLAND CONSERVATION ACT

WETLAND CONSERVATION ACT (WCA)



Forsman wetland bank near Cokato.

The MN Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) is administered locally by Local Governmental Units (LGU's) such as the Wright SWCD and some cities within Wright County. The primary goal of WCA is to achieve no net loss in the quantity and quality of wetlands in Wright County and throughout MN.

Regulated activities under WCA include draining, filling, and in some cases excavation. Contact us if you have any questions about wetland regulation or who is the current LGU in your area. Wetland services provided by the district include and are not limited to:

- Assist landowners in determining where wetlands may exist on their property and regulatory implications of proposed projects
- Review and issue decisions on wetland delineations
- Review and issue decisions on exemption/no-loss applications
- Review and issue decisions on wetland replacement plan applications
- Review and issue decisions on wetland bank applications
- Investigate and assist with the enforcement of WCA violations
- Review replacement wetland monitoring requirements
- Serve as a member of the Technical Evaluation Panel (TEP)
- Speak at educational events
- Assist landowners interested in enrolling lands into various wetland conservation programs
- Provide technical assistance for completing wetland delineations and WCA applications for cities and townships
- Assist landowners with any questions they may have regarding wetlands in general

2020 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Responded to approximately 352 landowner contacts regarding wetlands
- Participated in 56 Technical Evaluation Panel (TEP) meetings
- Reviewed 12 wetland delineation reports
- Reviewed 3 exemption and 3 no-loss applications
- Reviewed 3 replacement plan applications proposing to permanently impact 7,566 sf of wetlands
- Investigated 27 potential WCA violations, resolved 3 informally, no formal Restoration Orders were drafted.

ONE WATERSHED, ONE PLAN (IWIP)

ONE WATERSHED, ONE PLAN (IWIP)

One Watershed One Plan (IWIP) is a program administered by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) that coordinates the transition from county-based water management planning to watershed-based planning. The goal of IWIP is to align local water planning on major watershed boundaries with state strategies towards prioritized, targeted, and measurable implementation plans.

Approved plans include prioritization models to target implementation funds and technical assistance to the type of project and geographical areas with the highest conservation value. Local governmental entities including Counties, SWCDs, and Watershed Districts adopt these plans as their comprehensive plan(s). Counties, SWCD, Watershed District, members of the public, state agencies, cities, and other conservation organizations are included as part of the planning process.

MISSISSIPPI RIVER-ST. CLOUD

The Mississippi Saint Cloud watershed makes up the northern third of Wright County including: Corinna, Clearwater, Southside, Albion, Silver Creek, Maple Lake, and Monticello Townships. Additionally, the cities of South Haven, Annandale, Clearwater, Monticello, Albertville and Otsego are within the watershed.

Currently the watershed plan is still based on the Wright County Water Plan. However watershed partners are eager to move forward with the One Watershed One Plan process and will be applying for planning funds.

NORTH FORK CROW RIVER

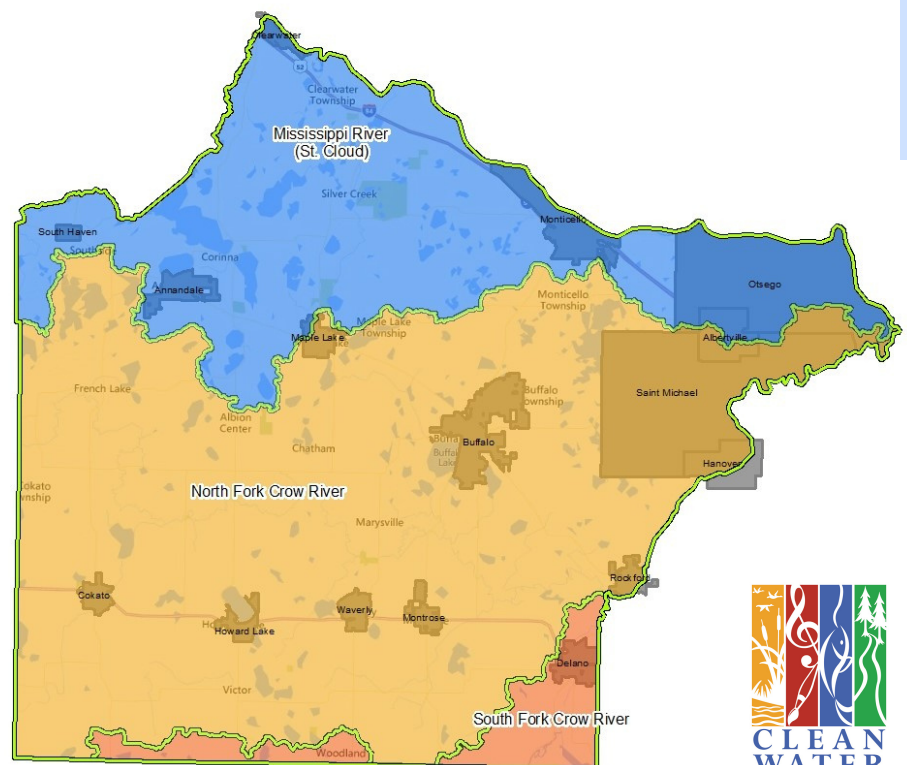
The North Fork Crow River makes up two-thirds of central Wright County. This area has completed the One Watershed One Plan process. It has since received two watershed planning grants. The first round of funding issued in 2018 was for \$642,377.00.

From the 2018 grant Wright SWCD secured \$268,628.27 for 11 different conservation practices. The second round of funding became available in 2020 and includes \$1,120,477.00 in available funding. Wright SWCD is the plan coordinator and fiscal agent for this grant.

SOUTH FORK CROW RIVER

The South Fork Crow River makes up the southeast corner of Wright County, including about half of Franklin Township and the southern portions of Stockholm, Victor and Woodland Township. Additionally, nearly all of the City of Delano is with in the watershed.

Currently the watershed plan is still based on the Wright County Water Plan. Watershed partners have been meeting to move forward with the One Watershed One Plan process and will be applying for planning funds.



Portions of IWIP Watersheds within Wright County.





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