

# 2021 ACTIVITY SUMMARY



## Objective 1: Protect and/or Improve Water Quality and Quantity

Actions	Results
Assist 20+ landowners with technical and/or financial assistance for lake/stream erosion	20 site visits were completed for landowners experiencing either lakeshore or streambank erosion.
Enroll 1 lake association in volunteer water quality monitoring programs	No new volunteers in 2021. A volunteer from Lake Diann will begin collecting water chemistry and secchi disk samples in 2022.
Complete 8 projects targeting impaired waterbodies (3 in Rum River, 5 in St. Cloud watersheds)	3 shoreline restoration projects and 2 raingardens were completed in the St. Cloud watershed.
Complete 1 sub-watershed assessment in 2021.	A Sub-watershed assessment was completed for Little Elk Lake in partnership with Baldwin Township.
Work with landowners to address 5 bacteria sources to Elk River and tributaries	Staff worked with 5 operations in 2021. One manure slab was installed, one pasture installed. Technical assistance was provided on all.
Identify 1 water quality BMP retrofit opportunity along a public ditch system	A potential project has been identified along an abandoned ditch system, staff are evaluating feasibility with landowner.
Certify 1 new operation for MAWQCP accreditation	Staff worked closely with one landowner working toward certification.
Oversee the 2021 AIS grant program	The 2021 program was successful with a record number of watercraft inspections and volunteer participation, along with new studies for carp and golden clams.
Monitor 12+ lakes for AIS using early detection protocols	16 County lakes were monitored in 2021 through a variety of programs.
Partner with Sherburne County COLA on 1 AIS activity	The SWCD and COLA developed an AIS Early Detection and Rapid Response template that is visually based, engaging, and customizable for lake group.



## Objective 2: Promote Healthy Soils - Reduce Soil Loss from Wind & Water Erosion

Actions	Results
Complete 1 lake or river shoreline development or erosion inventory	A shoreline development survey was completed for Little Elk Lake.
Maintain compliance with the Buffer Law (Minn. Stat. 103F.48)	SWCD along with BWSR staff work towards 100% compliance. Staff met and measured buffers for landowners installing new buffers. Staff completed monitoring.
Implement 3 field-based BMP's aiming at nitrate reduction	Staff worked with three operators with cover crops and irrigation water management. Practices spanned over 400 acres.
Complete 10 County Wetland Delineations / 1 Private Delineations	Completed all county delineations, over 10.5 miles.
Infield nitrate monitoring at 3 sites	Staff monitored cover crops, kernza and corn comparisons at 4 farms. Monitoring utilized permanent and temporary lysimeters.

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## Objective 3: Provide Forest Management Support to Landowners / Communities

### Actions

### Results

Perform 50+ tree health consultations with landowners	69 tree health consultations were performed.
Assist County Parks Department with 100 hours of habitat restoration work	100+ hours of critical period cutting, vegetation surveys, and native plantings were completed.
Re-visit City EAB Preparedness plans	EAB preparedness plans were reviewed and no new action is required at this time. Once EAB has been positively identified in Sherburne County additional actions will be required.
Continue EAB early detection monitoring program	EAB early detection woodpecker monitoring was not completed in 2021, however it will be restarted in the spring of 2022.



## Objective 4: Protect, Enhance, and Establish Native Habitat

### Actions

### Results

Work with 3 landowners to install prairie on their property	4 native prairies were installed on properties.
Assist 20+ landowners with technical and/or financial assistance with habitat projects in rural and urban settings	12 site visits were completed to discuss small pollinator plantings in urban settings. 6 site visits were completed in rural settings. Additionally, numerous phone calls in both settings provided technical assistance.



## Objective 5: Increase District Awareness and Promote Community Education

### Actions

### Results

Host 10+ educational events targeting students and general public on conservation related topics.	Staff hosted 9 educational webinars for the public and a poster contest was held for 5th graders throughout the county.
Host an annual MS4 partners meeting	An annual MS4 partners meeting was held in spring 2021 with participation from all county MS4 permit holders.
Host a stormwater educational workshop for elected officials	Shoreland ordinance training has been moved from 2021 to 2022 with the Board of Adjustments.
Promote loan and grant programs as well as educational opportunities for SSTS	Information on AgBMP loans provided in Operator Opportunities publication and several newsletters, 2 applications received in 2021.
Target high-use and high-risk public access sites for AIS education	Watercraft inspections occurred at nine public accesses in 2021 through paid Level 1 inspectors (1,528 hrs) and volunteers (225 hrs).