

Sherburne SWCD 2022 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	25 site visits were completed for landowners experiencing either lakeshore or streambank erosion.
Maintain and assist lake associations with volunteer water quality monitoring programs	All previous associations continued with monitoring in 2022. Volunteers were trained on 3 additional lakes to implement monitoring programs.
Complete 8 projects targeting impaired waterbodies (1 in Rum River, 7 in St Cloud watersheds)	1 raingarden, 1 streambank stabilization, 1 erosion control project, 3 urban prairies, 2 rural prairies were completed in the St. Cloud Watershed
Work with landowners to address 3 bacteria sources to Elk River and tributaries	Meetings were held with 4 landowners with to address various bacteria source concerns around the Elk River and its tributaries.
Certify 1 new operation for MAWQCP accreditation	SWCD provided MAWQCP outreach to landowners. Outreach led to 1 interested landowner and 1 certified farm receiving irrigation enhancement.
Oversee the 2022 AIS grant program	Program resulted in over 2,200 watercraft inspections, 16 waterbodies surveyed and a single new infestation (rapid response actions taken).
Monitor 12+ lakes for AIS using early detection protocols	16 lakes were surveyed through programs including; Starry Trek, Zebra Mussel sampling plates, and AIS grant funded projects.
Partner with Sherburne County COLA on 1 AIS activity	Annual Healthy Lakes Checklist magnet was developed by SC COLA and SWCD. Magnets were distributed to over 2,000 COLA members and lake residents.
Participate in the completion of the Rum River 1W1P Planning Process	The Rum River Watershed Comprehensive Management Plan was approved in summer of 2022. Plan is in process of Implementation.
Work with Mississippi River - St. Cloud Watershed partners on WRAPS monitoring and strategic plan	Development of a 2nd Cycle WRAPS report is in process. Partners are planning numerous outreach events to bring awareness of watershed resources to the public.
Expand use of advanced scheduling tools for irrigation management, work with 5 irrigators	Worked with 3 operators on IWM, also provided outreach for irrigator training and RCPP.

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

Actions	Results
Complete 2 lake or river shoreline development or erosion inventories	Shoreline development surveys were completed on East and West Hunter Lakes.
Maintain compliance with the Buffer Law (Minn. Stat. 103F.48)	Aerial monitoring was completed October through December. Sherburne County maintains over 99% compliance.
Establish a baseline precision agricultural and soil health practices inventory	MDH Grant funded, will be sent to operators in March 2023
Implement 3 field-based BMP's aiming at nitrate reduction	Cover Crops, IWM, Prairie, and Strip Till practices were all implemented within the County.
Complete County Wetland Delineations	Completed three delineations for the county in 2022
Infield nitrate monitoring at 3 sites	Monitored at 2 sites with cover crops as part of the TNC funding. Plans for an additional site in 2023 with MDA support near Palmer.

Objective 3: Provide Forest Management Support to Landowners / Communities

Actions

Perform 50+ tree health consultations with landowners
Assist County Parks Department with 100 hours of habitat restoration work
Re-visit City EAB Preparedness plans
Continue EAB early detection monitoring program
Re-establish Gravel Tree Bed to promote tree diversity

Results

Assisted 50+ landowners with pest and disease identification, reforestation, planning, and wildlife enhancements.
Critical period cutting was performed by County Parks interns in 2022. County Parks funds were used to assist with prescribed grazing at Grams Park.
EAB Preparedness Plans have been revisited with 3 cities. 3 cities. Work will continue as EAB spreads through the county
Volunteers have been trained to monitor the spread of EAB across the County.
Gravel Tree Bed was successfully re-established. District provided over 50 trees to municipalities and landowners.

Objective 4: Protect, Enhance, and Establish Native Habitat

Actions

Pursue 2-3 landowners for easements near sensitive or high priority areas
Work with 5 landowners to install prairie on their property
Assist 20+ landowners with technical and/or financial assistance for habitat projects in urban settings
Perform 10+ Forest Habitat improvement projects with landowners

Results

MNLT partnered with SWCD for land easement program. Ranking for a Sherburne County parcels has increased due to high priority area. 114 postcards were mailed out.
3 installed in Clear Lake township, 1 in Big Lake, 1 in Orrock, 2 additional interested landowners have been contacted.
25 site visits to address soil erosion and habitat improvement projects in urban residential areas were completed.
Assisted over 15 landowners with wildlife planting plans, invasive species identification, removal techniques, timber harvest planning and habitat expectations.

Objective 5: Increase District Awareness and Promote Community Education

Actions

Host 10+ educational events targeting students and general public on conservation related topics.
Host an annual MS4 partners meeting
Host a stormwater educational workshop for elected officials (NEMO)
Provide resources to contractors for stormwater BMPs (1 event, or 1 new publication)
Promote loan and grant programs as well as educational opportunities for SSTS/AgBMP
Publicize education on well sealings, promote well sealing
Target high-use and high-risk public access sites for AIS education

Results

Staff hosted over 15 events including; webinars, paint night, AIS meeting, pollinator week, poster contest, BLCL presentation, nitrate clinics, Ag demo night, woodpecker training, Cargil tour, tree sale and annual tour of conservation practices.
Focus was shifted to from MS4 partners meeting to 2022 permitting and compiling materials for a state program county-wide audit.
A Shoreland ordinance training was held in March for the Board of Adjustments.
Event/publication was rescheduled to 2023 for planning purposes
3 AgBMP successful Loan applications / 1 Ag Equipment / 1 New Well / 1-Septic.
3 Wells were sealed in 2022. Well sealing program is publicized on MDH website. 5 landowners were contacted by phone.
10 lakes listed by MAISRC as high risk / high traffic targeted for watercraft inspections and early detection programs.