

Sherburne SWCD 2020 Activity Summary



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

Actions	Results
Complete Eagle Lake nutrient budget, develop remediation strategy & funding plan	Nutrient budget study is complete, Restoration Plan has been developed and funding sources identified.
Work with landowners to address 5 bacteria sources to Elk River and tributaries	6 landowners were met with, resulting in 4 bacteria reduction projects in 2020
Approve 1 new operation for MAWQCP accreditation	No new operations were signed up in 2020; however, staff have begun working with two new operations for potential MAWQCP accreditation and will continue discussions in 2021.
Enroll 1 lake group into MPCA's Citizen's Lake Monitoring Program, assist with data interpretation	The Big Eagle Lake Improvement Association is now monitoring water quality in their lake. SWCD staff assisted with water quality data analysis and interpretation for 5 lake groups in 2020.
Assist 20+ landowners with technical and/or financial assistance for erosion and habitat projects	23 landowners received site visits in 2020 for shoreline restoration projects. 8 landowners restored their shore in 2020 with 5 more landowners pursuing their project in 2021.
Monitor 12+ lakes for AIS using early detection protocols	18 lakes and river sites were searched for AIS using zebra mussel settling plates, veliger tows, and aquatic plant rakes. New AIS kits were created for each lake group through a partnership with Sherburne County COLA.
Oversee the 2020 AIS grant program	Eight organizations were awarded grants in 2020 with over \$15,000 awarded.
Participate in Rum River One Watershed One Plan program	Participation on Advisory and Policy Committees as well as Planning Team.



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

Actions	Results
Establish a baseline precision agricultural and soil health practices inventory	A baseline precision agricultural inventory was not attempted in 2021, but will be completed in 2021.
Achieve 100% compliance with the Buffer Law (Minn. Stat. 103F.48)	Compliance rate is 99.58%, with 12 landowners non-compliant. Landowners have been notified and responses are pending.
Implement 3 field-based BMP's aiming at nitrate reduction	2 landowners completed large-scale BMPs on agricultural sites, while a third was re-established.



Objective 3: Provide Forest Management Support to Landowners / Communities

Actions

Results

Perform 50+ tree health consultations with landowners	Our new forester started in March, yet he was able to meet with 57 landowners in 2020 on topics related to tree pests and forest health.
Provide native tree species to Sherburne County residents	In 2020, over 22,000 bare root trees were provided to residents through the SWCD annual tree sale.



Objective 4: Protect, Enhance, and Establish Native Habitat

Actions

Results

Maintain native habitat in Sherburne County	10 landowners were visited in prairie consultations, financial assistance was provided to 5 landowners for native prairie.
Develop conservation easement proposals for 2-3 landowners	Targeted mailings sent to 191 landowners through MN Land Trust and Rum River RIM programs, easement pursued by 1 landowner but eventually declined to move forward.



Objective 5: Increase District Awareness and Promote Community Education

Actions

Results

Host an annual MS4 partners meeting and develop Stormwater Outreach program(s)	1 meeting hosted, stormwater pamphlet and Adopt A Stormwater Drain program in development.
Complete 1 lake or river shoreline development assessment	Due to cold October weather action has been moved to spring 2021.
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 2020.
Investigate feasibility for high school water quality and/or AIS monitoring program	Discussions on workshops with Becker Bass Club postponed due to COVID-19. Youth participation occurred within poster contests and AIS Starry Trek event.
Provide 2 soil health and groundwater nitrate education opportunities	6 different education opportunities were completed in 2020. Some extra fun projects included the Women in Agriculture Night, Virtual Small Farms Night, and a tour with the NRCS State Conservationist Troy Daniels.