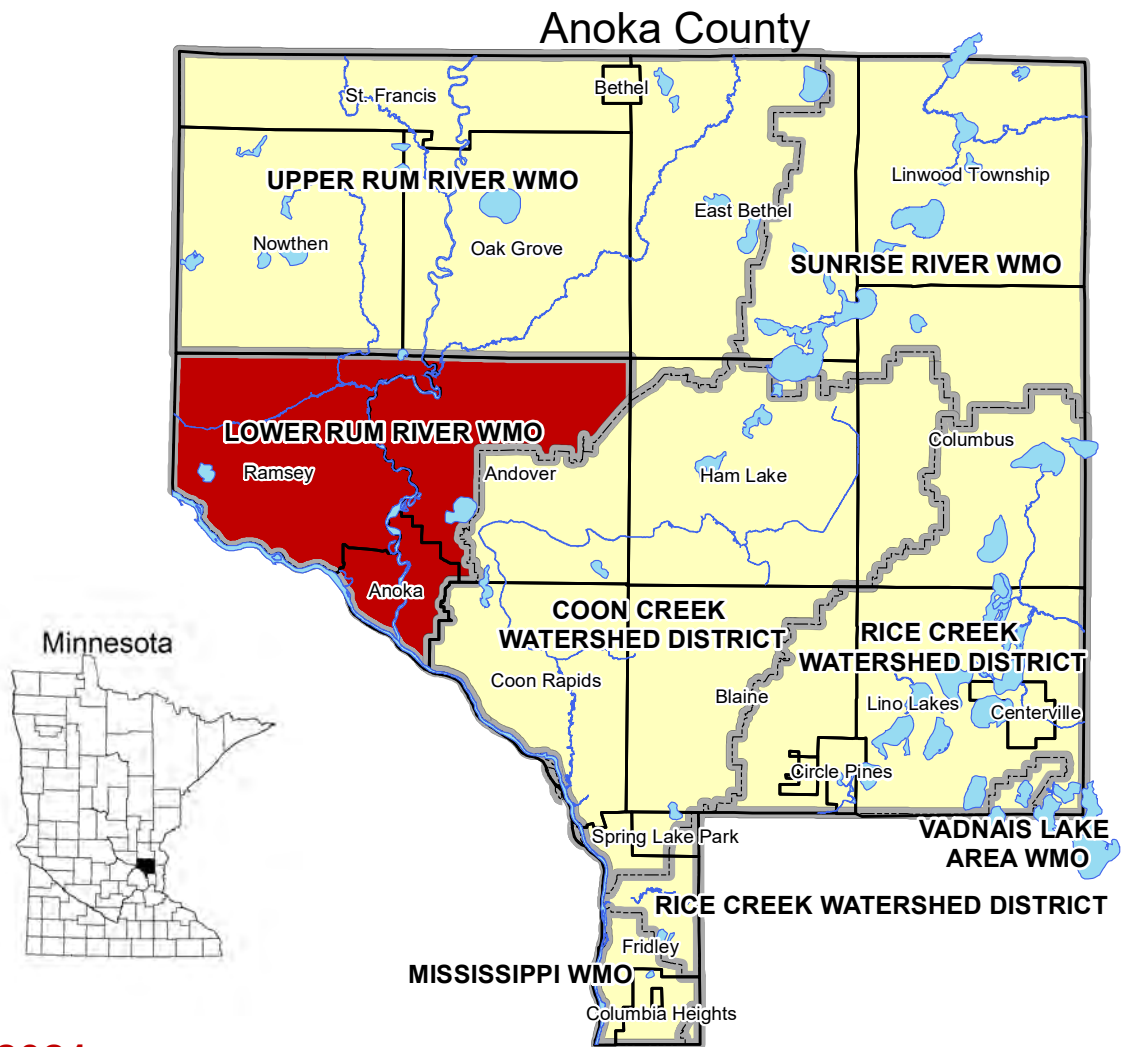


2020 Annual Report

Lower Rum River

Watershed Management Organization

Andover – Anoka – Ramsey



April 26, 2021

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Lower Rum River Watershed Management Organization
2015 First Avenue
Anoka, MN 55303
www.LRRWMO.org

I. Introduction

This report has been prepared to meet the annual watershed management organization reporting requirements of Minnesota Rules 8410.0150. The report is intended to fulfill 2020 reporting requirements.

The Lower Rum River Watershed Management Organization (LRRWMO) is a joint powers organization under Minnesota Statutes, Section 471.59. It is comprised of the cities of Anoka and Ramsey, and portions of Andover. Board members are appointed by the member cities. The organization's direction is laid out in its watershed management plan and the member municipalities' local water plans. The LRRWMO meets every month on the third Thursday at 8:00 am at the Anoka City Hall.



Rum River in Andover and Ramsey

II. Activity Report

a. Current Board Members

CITY OF ANDOVER

Todd Haas (Chair)
1685 Crosstown Blvd NW
Andover, MN 55034
763.755.5100
t.haas@andovermn.gov

Valerie Holthus (Alternate)
1685 Crosstown Blvd NW
Andover, MN 55304
763.753-3755
cm.holthus@andovermn.gov

CITY OF ANOKA

Jeff Weaver (Treasurer)
2015 1st Ave N
Anoka, MN 55303
763-421-5522
Angler55303@yahoo.com

Phil Rice (Alternate)
2015 1st Ave N
Anoka, MN 55303
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philrice@ci.anoka.mn.us

CITY OF RAMSEY

Debra Musgrove (Vice Chair)
7550 Sunwood Dr NW
Ramsey, MN 55303
763.208.6729
dmusgrove@ci.ramsey.mn.us

Mark Kuzma (Alternate)
7550 Sunwood Dr NW
Ramsey, MN 55303
763.576.4366
mkuzma@ci.ramsey.mn.us



b. Day to Day Contact

The day to day contact person for the LRRWMO who can answer questions about the organization is:

Todd Haas, Chair

1685 Crosstown Blvd NW Andover, MN 55034

phone 763.755.5100

email t.haas@andovermn.gov

c. Employees and Consultants

The LRRWMO does not employ staff, but does utilize consulting services. A description of contracted services is listed below:

Consultant/Partner	Contact	Work Description
Anoka Conservation District	Jamie Schurbon Watershed Projects Manager 1318 McKay Dr NW, #300 Ham Lake, MN 55304 763-434-2030 ext. 21 jamie.schurbon@anokaswcd.org	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water quality and hydrologic monitoring, and special studies. • Website maintenance. • Administer the WMO’s cost share grant program. • Public outreach. • Reporting assistance. • Assistance reviewing local water plans.
Barr Engineering	Bob Obermeyer Senior Water Resources Engineer 4700 West 77 th St Minneapolis, MN 55435-4803 952-832-2857 bobermeyer@barr.com Greg Williams Senior Water Resources Engineer 4700 West 77 th St Minneapolis, MN 55435-4803 952-832-2945	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permit reviews. • Technical and engineering guidance. • Assistance reviewing local water plans. • Watershed management plan update.
City of Anoka Finance Department	Brenda Smith, Finance Director 2015 First Ave North Anoka, MN 55303-2270 763-576-2773 lyager@ci.anoka.mn.us	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deputy Treasurer.
Kennedy & Graven	Troy Gilchrist 470 Pilsbury Center Minneapolis, MN 55402 612-337-9214	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal services.
Timesaver Off Site Secretarial Service	Carla Wirth 28601 Hub Dr Madison Lake, MN 56063 612-251-8999 Timesaver02@aol.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administrative secretary. • Recording secretary for meetings.

d. Solicitations for Services

Minnesota Statutes 103B.227 require watershed management organizations to solicit bids for professional services at least once every two years. Most recently, in 2020 the LRRWMO solicited proposals for 2021 water monitoring and management services. Only one proposal was received, from the Anoka Conservation District (ACD). The LRRWMO favorably viewed this proposal and ACD’s past performance for the LRRWMO, and selected this agency.

e. Water Quality Trends

The LRRWMO has a long-term water quality monitoring program that includes most larger stream and recreational lakes in the watershed. Waterbodies are monitored either periodically or annually on a predetermined schedule customized to each waterbody. The monitoring serves to identify problems and responses to management, detect trends, and track longitudinal changes.

LRRWMO monitored lakes and their trend analyses are in the table below.

Summary of lake water quality trends

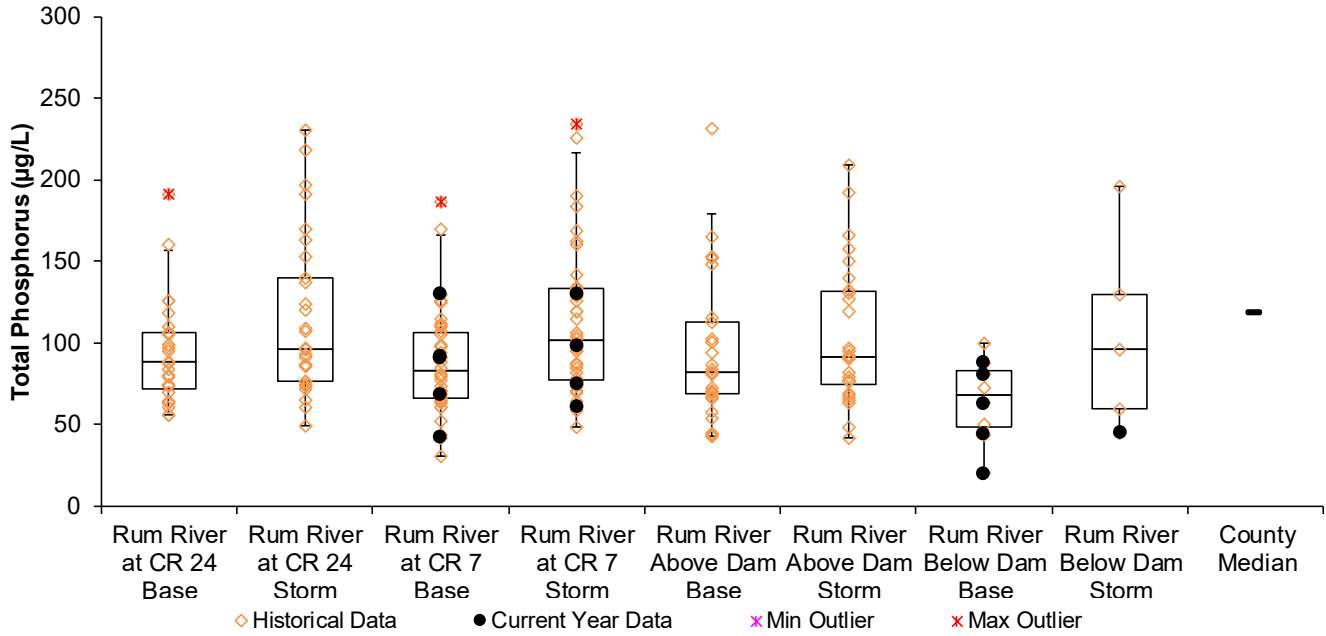
Lake	Years monitored	Most recent year monitored	Letter grade	Trend
Round	12	2019	A	No change
Sunfish	4	2018	B-	Insufficient data

While a long-term statistical trend for the Rum River has not been found in the LRRWMO’s analysis for its reach of the river, there is a general observation of long-term water quality improvement for the entire river. An analysis for the Rum River Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS) project, which covers the whole watershed, found that at the Pleasant Street bridge in Anoka there had been a 51% decline in total phosphorus in the years 1953 to 2010.

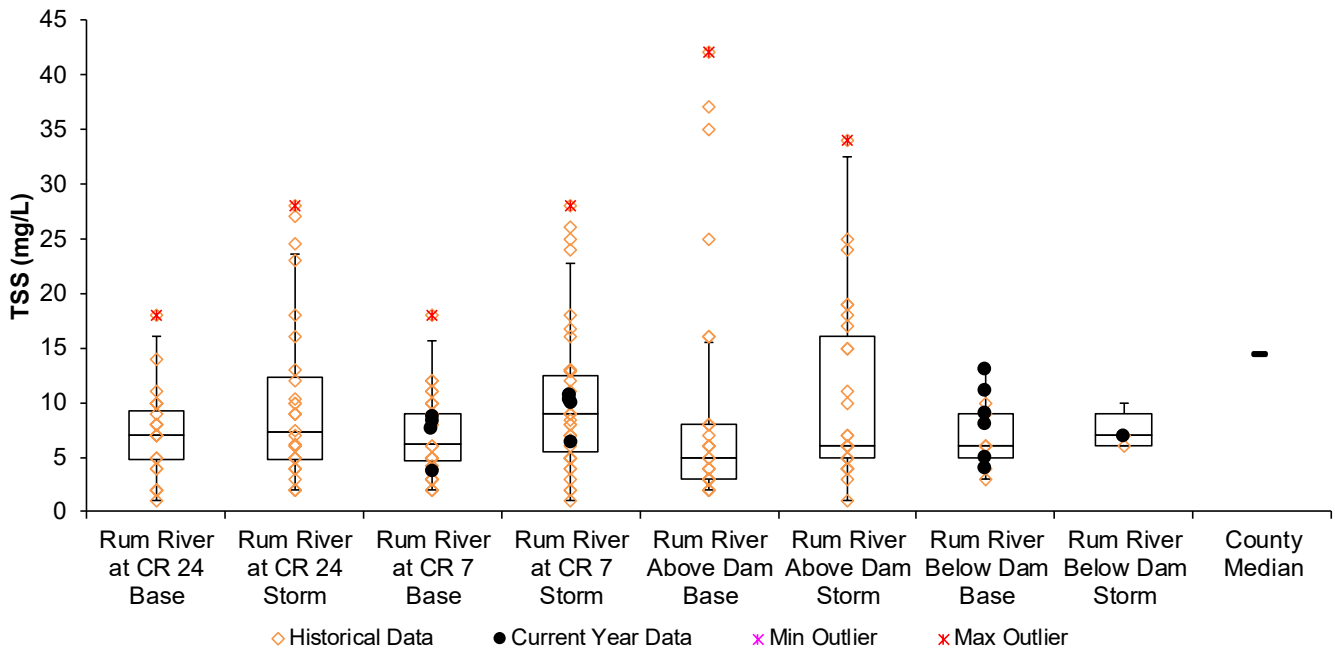
The LRRWMO also takes special interest in how the Rum River’s water quality changes longitudinally, particularly within its jurisdictional boundary. The Rum River is monitored most years near where it enters and exits the LRRWMO. The figure below provides data for phosphorus and suspended solids and Appendix D in our 2019 annual report (not monitored in 2020) provides detailed results for many additional parameters. Phosphorus and suspended solids are similar when comparing water entering and leaving the LRRWMO. This is encouraging, because this reach includes many developed and developing areas which could contribute these pollutants. The LRRWMO’s permitting program is designed to limit pollutant increases from these sources. The LRRWMO will continue efforts to improve water quality in its jurisdiction.

Water quality of the river does change in other areas outside the LRRWMO. Water monitoring farther upstream has been sporadic, most recently occurring in 2013-2014. There are water quality declines that generally occur within the Isanti County reaches of the river, which has the most agriculture and impaired waterbodies draining to the lake (see figure below).

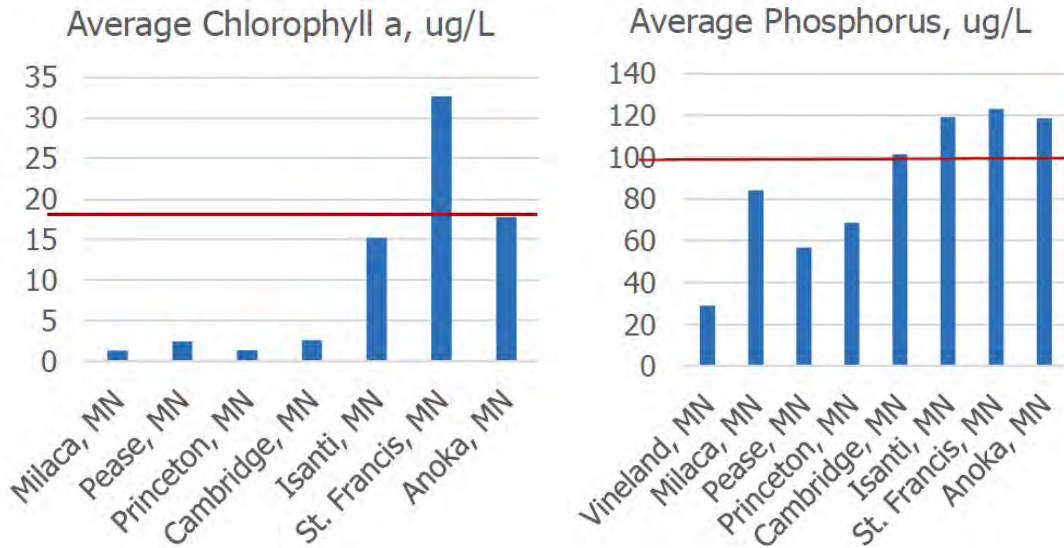
Rum River total phosphorus during baseflow and storm conditions. Orange diamonds are historical data from previous years and black circles are 2019 readings. Box plots show the median (middle line), 25th and 75th percentile (ends of box), and 10th and 90th percentile (floating outer lines).



Total suspended solids during baseflow and storm conditions. Orange diamonds are historical data from previous years and black circles are 2019 readings. Box plots show the median (middle line), 25th and 75th percentile (ends of box), and 10th and 90th percentiles (floating outer lines).



Whole Watershed Longitudinal Rum River Water Quality Changes (graphic from RESPEC for the Rum River WRAPS).



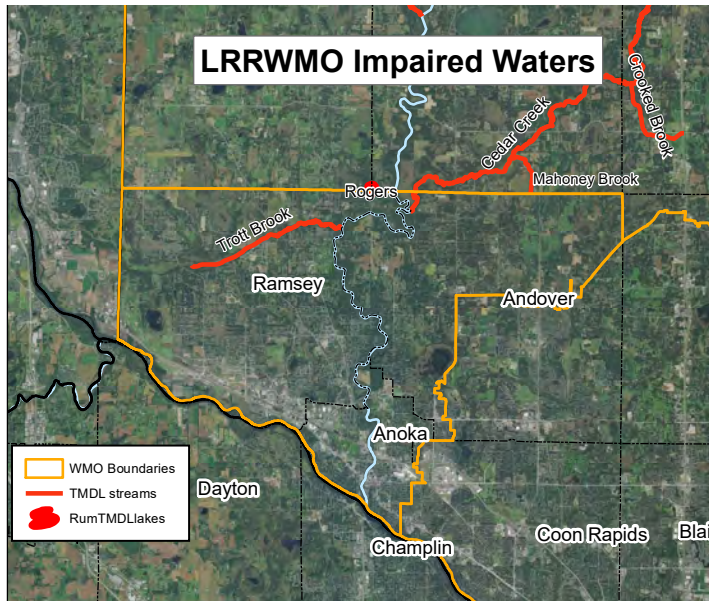
Additional water quality data is available online. Annual watershed monitoring reports are available on the LRRWMO website (www.LRRWMO.org). All water quality data collected by the LRRWMO is on the MN Pollution Control Agency’s EQUS database, which is accessible through their website.

f. Impaired Waters

Two impaired waters are of relevance to the LRRWMO: Trott Brook and Mahoney Brook. Neither has an apparent water quality trend. Trott Brook originates in Sherburne County outside the LRRWMO but much of its length is in the LRRWMO. Mahoney Brook’s subwatershed is partly within the LRRWMO, but the impaired reach of the stream is not.

Impaired Waterbodies

(note: Rogers Lake was removed from the impaired waters list after production of this map.)



Trotter Brook, a tributary to the Rum River, was added to the State impaired waters list in 2015 for impaired biota (fish and macroinvertebrates) and low dissolved oxygen. A TMDL was done only for the oxygen impairment in 2016 and approved in 2017 as part of the Rum River Watershed TMDL report (available on the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency website). That study found low oxygen is the likely cause of the biotic impairments. Causes of low oxygen include nutrients (phosphorus), decomposing organic matter (sediment oxygen demand and decomposition in surrounding ditched wetlands) and others. Low oxygen occurs under all flows (low to high), indicating the problem is not runoff-driven. Overall, a 50% reduction of oxygen demand is needed to meet water quality standards. Management strategies may include wetland restorations and nutrient reduction BMPs.

Mahoney Brook was added to the State impaired waters list in 2015 for an impaired biota (fish). The impaired stream reach is not in the LRRWMO, but begins at the LRRWMO boundary and flows north. Presumably, a future TMDL for the impaired reach would include pollutant allocations for the upstream portions of the watershed in the LRRWMO. Draft analysis for the Rum River WRAPS project have concluded that low dissolved oxygen, excess phosphorus and habitat are all stressors to the biological community.

Rogers Lake was on the State impaired waters list until 2016. In 2016 it was determined that this waterbody met the definition of a wetland, and lake water quality standards were not appropriate. Rogers Lake is half in the LRRWMO and half in the URRWMO. It is small (~42 acres), shallow (< 4ft) and has no public access. Illegal herbicide applications at the lake may have played a role in switching the lake back and forth between turbid open water and clean water with dense macrophytes. The City of Ramsey, where most shoreline homes are located, has taken a lead role in educating landowners about lakes management.

g. Evaluation of Watershed Plan Implementation

The current LRRWMO Watershed Management Plan was approved by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) in late 2011 and adopted by the LRRWMO on January 19, 2012. Implementation began that same year. The plan contains a detailed schedule of tasks that the LRRWMO should accomplish each year from 2013 through 2021 in order to realize its goals.

Appendix B is a table that shows tasks planned for each year in the watershed management plan, as well as responsible parties. It details which tasks were planned and completed.

The LRRWMO deviated from its work plan in the following ways in recent years:

- | | |
|--------|---|
| Change | Removed Trott Brook water quality and hydrology monitoring. |
| Reason | The LRRWMO Watershed Plan’s monitoring schedule states the goal of monitoring Trott Brook is to determine its impairment status and calculate a TMDL. Trott Brook was extensively monitored in 2013-14 as part of the Rum River WRAP and that data is being used for TMDL calculation. MPCA has informed us that additional data would not be used for the TMDL because it is complete. No management actions have since occurred that might lead to a change in condition. |
| Change | Removed Rogers Lake water quality monitoring. |
| Reason | Rogers Lake was monitored by the LRRWMO in the early and mid-2000’s. It was found to be impaired, then removed from the impaired waters list because it does not meet the definition of a lake. The LRRWMO decided to discontinue monitoring of this lake because it has no public access and no outlet (to impact downstream waters). |
| Change | Added Sunfish Lake water quality monitoring. |
| Reason | Sunfish Lake was being monitored by the Anoka Ramsey Community College, but the college discontinued this work and had not been submitting their data to state databases. The waterbody has a growing importance in the community with the development of a shoreline park and homes. |
| Change | Did not monitor groundwater levels or trends. |
| Reason | Groundwater monitoring is best done at a regional level. The MN DNR has taken the lead. |
| Change | Did not monitor the Rum River at the Anoka Dam. |
| Reason | Metropolitan Council monitors this site or nearby sites and makes the data available to the LRRWMO. |
| Change | Added production of a brochure about the LRRWMO, programs and water resources. |
| Reason | The board felt the need to have distributable materials for public events and public places such as city hall lobbies. |
| Change | Added support of the Anoka County Water Resource Outreach Collaborative, including for groundwater and lakeshore stewardship videos. |
| Reason | The board felt this program could advance outreach and education goals of the LRRWMO and its member communities, and reduce duplication. |

h. Status of Ordinances and Local Plan Implementation

All LRRWMO member cities local water plans were required to be updated for consistency with the LRRWMO Watershed Management Plan within two years of WMO plan adoption in January 2012. The status of each is summarized in the table below.

To track member cities’ progress on local plan implementation, the LRRWMO requires a brief annual report from each city and provides a template for this report. In addition to serving as a reporting tool, we hope that the template serves as a “to do” list for our cities. These reports are available upon request, and are summarized in the table below.

Status of city local water plans and some recent accomplishments toward plan implementation.

City of Andover	
Submitted 2020 annual report to LRRWMO?	Yes
Ordinances and Local Water Plan Status	Andover’s Local Water Plan was approved by the LRRWMO May 21, 2015. The city has all of the ordinances required by the LRRWMO.
Some Recent Implementation Accomplishments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Street sweeping completed annually. • Educational outreach in 2020 reached about 3300 households. Outreach efforts included newsletters (lawn care, adopt a street/pond/storm drain, pet waste, etc), brochures, website, local television, and events such as the North Suburban Home Show and Andover Fun Fest. Overall, educational outreach covered the topics of wetland protection BMPs, controlling invasive species, water conservation, yard waste management, pet waste disposal, and groundwater quality and protection. • New and reconstructed street projects were completed in 2020. When feasible catch basin sumps were installed in storm sewers to collect sediment. • Water control structures and stormwater treatment basins are inspected every five years and maintenance action is taken as needed. The City Public Works Department corrects issues including but not limited to sediment deposition (requiring pond dredging), stabilization, infrastructure repair, and storm sewer pipe and catch basin cleaning. Records are kept on file at the City. • Illicit discharge detection and elimination program. • Andover is actively inspecting its outfalls into the Rum River and other public waters. Records are maintained in city GIS software. • Periodic inspections of erosion control at construction sites. • Management of natural preserves called Martin’s Meadows, Maple View, Dalske and Northwoods Preserve continue. Efforts underway include prairie establishment, buckthorn control, and site stabilization where necessary. • Habitat improvement projects such as Kelsey Round Lake Park are ongoing and include 15 acres of buckthorn control and establishing a 35 acre native prairie.
City of Anoka	
Submitted 2020 annual report to LRRWMO?	Yes

Ordinances and Local Water Plan Status	The City of Anoka’s local water plan was approved by the LRRWMO May 21, 2015. The city has all of the ordinances required by the LRRWMO.
Some Recent Implementation Accomplishments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constructed 80 catch basins on city projects. • Installed two boulevard rain garden. • Installed approximately 450 ft of storm sewer infiltration trenches. • Street sweeping. • Inspected water level controls and basins every 5 years. • The Public Service Department performed infrastructure repairs, removed sediment from treatment structures and cleaned storm sewers and catch basins. • Illicit discharge detection and elimination program. • Constructed a regional storm storage pond for flood storage. • Removed invasive species along the Mississippi River (1/2 ac) • Cleaned approximately 125 ft of ditches. • Planted over 20 trees on city property. • Educational outreach including 4 newsletter articles, 2 brochures, 3 website postings, and Arbor Day tree program and use of social media. Topics included controlling invasive species, water conservation, hazardous waste disposal, and yard waste management. The audience was 7,000 residents. • Anoka manages stormwater activities to ensure no net increase in volume, rate, sediment or nutrient loading. Street reconstruction projects are used as an opportunity to add more water treatment. • Annual outfall inspections and repair as needed.
City of Ramsey	
Submitted 2020 annual report to LRRWMO?	Yes
Ordinances and Local Water Plan Status	The City of Ramsey’s local water plan was approved by the LRRWMO September 17, 2015. Ramsey has all of the ordinances required by the LRRWMO.
Some Recent Implementation Accomplishments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installed a regional infiltration basin in the COR development. Pumps were installed in 2020 and the system will be operational in summer 2021. • Annual street sweeping. • Implementing a five year plan for inspecting stormwater ponds. • Illicit discharge detection and elimination program. • Public Works cleaned ditches and culverts identified during inspection. • Reached 9,500 households with newsletter articles, brochures, and website postings. Topics of education efforts included yard waste management and groundwater protection.

i. Public Outreach

The LRRWMO and its member cities do regular public outreach and education projects. These include:

- **WMO website**, including general information about the organization, the watershed management plan, meeting agendas and minutes, water monitoring results, profiles of WMO projects, access to mapping and data access tools, and others.

LRRWMO Website

Lower Rum River WMO

Protecting & managing the waters of the Lower Rum River Watershed in western Anoka County, MN

News and Announcements

New links to keep you posted on the latest with the LRRWMO

[League of Women Voters Meeting Video about Water and the Rum River](#)

The Lower Rum River Watershed Management Organization (LRRWMO) is a joint powers special purpose unit of government including the cities of Ramsey, Anoka, and portions of Andover.

The WMO Board is made up of representatives from each of these cities. This organization seeks to protect and improve lakes, rivers, streams, groundwater, and other water resources across municipal boundaries. These goals are pursued through:

- water quality and flow monitoring
- investigative studies of problems
- coordinating improvement projects
- education campaigns
- a permitting process
- others at the WMO's discretion

All of the WMO's activities are guided by their Watershed Management Plan.

Resources of particular importance to the LRRWMO include the Rum River, Trott Brook, numerous ditches that drain to the Rum River, Round Lake, Lake Itasca, and numerous wetlands. The Mississippi River is also notable, as it borders the southern edge of the WMO's jurisdictional area. Because little of the land area in the LRRWMO drains directly to the Mississippi, but rather to the Rum River, the Mississippi receives protection from the WMO primarily through management of the Rum.

Most projects that may directly or indirectly affect water resources are required to have a permit from the LRRWMO. If you are considering a construction project or projects in or around wetlands, streams, rivers, or lakes, you should further research permit requirements on this website, or contact a LRRWMO representative: 763-767-5131, 2015 First Avenue, Anoka, MN 55303

Meetings: 3rd Thursday 8:00am at the Anoka City Hall

Administrative Support: Caris Wirth, Time Saver Off Site Secretarial, Inc 2015 First Ave., Anoka, MN 55303, 612-251-8999

Meeting Schedule

Generally, the LRRWMO meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 8am at the Anoka City Hall. Tentative Meetings for 2020: January 16, February 20, March 19 - Cancelled, April 16, May 21, June 18, July 16, August 20, September 17, October 15, November 19, December 17

[AGENDA & MINUTES](#)

- **Web videos** – To bolster the content of the website the LRRWMO creates web videos. They include:

2012	About the LRRWMO
2013-14	Water conservation
2014-15	Wetland regulation, correcting riverbank erosion
2018-19	Groundwater videos in collaboration with Anoka County Water Outreach Collaborative
2020	“Our Lakeshore Connection” (2 videos) in collaboration with Anoka County Water Outreach Collaborative
- **Newsletter articles** – Articles are prepared by the LRRWMO and printed in member city newsletters. Copies of several of these articles are provided in **Appendix C**.
- **Public officials meetings** – Approximately every 5 years the LRRWMO hosts a dinner meeting for local officials. The purpose is to educate elected officials about the role of the WMO, discuss upcoming projects, and consider the overall direction of the WMO. These meetings were last held in 2008, 2013 and 2017.
- **Bi-annual river float with city officials and staff** – Every other year the WMO Board, along with city staff and officials, float the Rum or Mississippi River. The trip is an opportunity to inspect for violations or problems, as well as share an appreciation of the river with decision-makers. A float was last done in September 2019 on the Rum River from the County Road 7 bridge (top of the LRRWMO) to the Anoka Dam (near the bottom of the LRRWMO).

Photos of LRRWMO Chair Todd Haas being interviewed by local QCTV after a September 2019 public officials tour of the Rum River.



A wetland education series – From 2013 to 2020 the LRRWMO is conducting a six-part education program about wetlands. The purpose is to improve public understanding of wetland values and rules. Cities continued wetland education outreach including providing educational materials in city halls.

j. Permits, Variances, and Enforcement Actions

The LRRWMO’s 2020 permit activity is summarized in the table below.

Permit Name	Permit #	City	Summary
COR Infiltration Basin	#2018-06	Ramsey	The submittal was for the approval of the constructed regional stormwater basin to provide the volume retention and water quality requirements for projects within the City that on-site volume retention was not provided. Site(s) locations are typically within a Wellhead Protection Area and 10-year capture zones of municipal wells. The project was approved.
The American Club	#2019-22	Anoka	The project proposes the construction of a multi-unit residential building on the 4.0-acre site. On-site contaminated soil and groundwater, resulting from underground storage tanks was identified. It was determined using the Minnesota Stormwater Manual Screening Assessment for Contamination at Potential Stormwater Infiltration Sites the proposed infiltration area is sufficiently beyond the estimated area of influence. LRRWMO stormwater requirements are met. The project was approved.
Andover 2020 Street Reconstruction Project	#2019-25	Andover	The project proposes the reconstruction of North and South Enchanted Drive N.W – approximately 6,400 lineal feet. Since the project will not create any additional impervious area, the project is exempt from the LRRWMO stormwater requirements. The permit is for erosion and sediment control. The project was approved.
Anoka Middle School for the Arts – Fred Moore Campus	#2019-28	Anoka	Two building additions at the existing school campus are proposed. The site is within a Drinking Water Supply Management Area and Wellhead Protection Area for a municipal well. Rate control and water quality management are proposed to be provided on-site. Correspondence from the Anoka-Hennepin School District states that volume retention, 6,897 cubic feet, is to be provided off-site on the Ramsey Elementary School site. The on-site underground filtration facility will remove 1,199 lbs. of total suspended solids and 3.75 lbs. of total phosphorous. The project was approved.

Permit Name	Permit #	City	Summary
Garden View Villas	#2019-27	Ramsey	The project proposed the construction of 18 single-family residential units on a 12.8-acre site located on 147 th Lane N.W., east of Town Center Drive. The site is within a Drinking Water Supply Management Area and Wellhead Protection Area for a municipal well. Volume retention, 6,410 cubic-feet, and water quality management, 2,336 cubic feet, is to be provided off-site within the City's COR infiltration basin, Permit #2018-06. The project was approved.
C.S.A.H. 116 and T.H. 47 Interchange Improvements	#2019-30	Anoka/Ramsey	The project proposes improvements of the C.S.A.H. 116 and T.H. 47 interchange. An increase of 0.3 acres of new impervious is proposed. Roadway projects that increase impervious areas by less than 1.0 acre are exempt from the LRRWMO stormwater management requirements. Work at stormwater inlets and outlets proposed below the approved wetland boundary results in wetland impacts. However, this work complies with a utility exemption from the requirements of WCA. The project was approved.
Kelsey Round Lake Trail Expansion	#2020-01	Andover	The project proposes the construction of an 8-foot-wide bituminous trail approximately 2,480 lineal feet in length in Kelsey Round Lake Park. The project will disturb an area of 1.3 acres, requiring a LRRWMO permit, and add approximately 0.5 acres of impervious area. Stormwater management is provided by a pervious area downgradient of the trail. The project was approved.
Riverside	#2020-02	Anoka	The project is a multi-residential development located east of 4 th Avenue and north of Grant Street. The Rum River is immediately west of the site. Stormwater management for compliance with LRRWMO criteria is to be provided by the expansion of an existing regional basin and the construction of an on-site basin. The MDNR requirements for the Rum River classified as a Wild and Scenic River are met through the combined basins. The project was approved.

Permit Name	Permit #	City	Summary
4th Avenue Regional Pond Expansion	#2020-03	Anoka	The 4 th Avenue regional basin was constructed in 2007 as part of the North Star Commuter Rail Station project. The primary purpose of the basin was to limit the discharge from the project to existing conditions for compliance with the MDNR's requirement for the Rum River, classified as a Wild and Scenic River. The expansion of the basin is being undertaken in conjunction with Permit #2020-02, Riverside. The project was approved.
Puma Street Improvements	#2020-04	Ramsey	The project proposes the construction and reconstruction of Puma Street. The project will disturb 3.5 acres, requiring a LRRWMO permit, and will add 0.6 acres of impervious area. Roadway projects that increase impervious area by less than one-acre are exempt from the LRRWMO stormwater requirements. However, roadway drainage is directed to a regional basin providing both rate control and water quality management. The project was approved.
Wesp Subdivision	#2020-05	Andover	The project is a proposed 3-lot single family residential subdivision located at 16400 Tulip Street N.W. Anoka County Ditch 6 flows through the site. Most of the site is below the FEMA 100-year frequency flood elevation of the County Ditch. On-site stormwater management is to be provided. The structures low floor elevations are a minimum of 2-feet above the FEMA flood elevation. On-site mitigation for fill below the flood elevation for the house pads is provided. The project was approved.
Upper Midwest Athletic	#2020-06	Andover	A 2,000 square foot outdoor/indoor storage building, regrading and hard surfacing of the existing gravel parking lot and stormwater management that includes two on-site infiltration basins with associated utility improvements are proposed. The low floor elevations of the proposed structures are a minimum of 2 feet above the calculated 100-year frequency flood elevation of the proposed basins. The project was approved.

Permit Name	Permit #	City	Summary
Ramsey Public Works Facility	#2020-07	Ramsey	A 100,000 square foot maintenance facility is proposed on the 12.6-acre site located north of the Burlington Northern Railroad, east of Jasper Street at 142 nd Street N.W. The project will increase the on-site impervious area by 2.8 acres. Because vehicle fueling, vehicle service and washing are proposed, on-site volume retention through infiltration is not feasible or appropriate. The City is proposing to provide the required 27,407 cubic feet of volume retention within the COR regional basin – Permit #2018-06. Water quality management is to be provided within two on-site lined bio-filtration basins. These basins provide an annual removal of 2,743 lbs. of total suspended solids and 15.1 lbs. of total phosphorous. The project was approved.
The Preserve at Northfork	#2020-08	Ramsey	The 34-acre open space parcel is located south of Alpine Drive and west of Tiger Street. 90 lots, 61 Villa style and 29 traditional single-family lots are proposed. The project will add 10.1-acres of new impervious area. Five stormwater management basins are to be constructed – one providing volume retention and 4 providing rate control and water quality management. The LRRWMO stormwater management requirements are met. The project was approved.
Meadows at Petersen Farms – Phase 2	#2020-09	Andover	46 single family lots are proposed on the 99-acre open space site is located north of 165 th Avenue at 7 th Avenue N.W. The project will add 11.1 acres of new impervious area. Stormwater management is to be provided within 13 on-site basins -11 basins designed to provide volume retention, water quality and rate control with 2 basins providing rate control and water quality management.
Hampton Townhomes	#2020-11	Ramsey	The project proposes 26 townhomes on a 5.6-acre site located in the southeast quadrant of Nowthen Boulevard and 146 th Avenue N.W. Three stormwater basins are proposed to comply with the LRRWMO stormwater requirements. The LRRWMO’s approval was based on the lowest floor elevation for the proposed structures on Lots 1-2 and 6-7 be adjusted for compliance with the required 2 feet of separation provided between the low floor elevation of the structures and the high-water elevation of a riparian basin. The project was approved.

Permit Name	Permit #	City	Summary
Goodrich Athletic Field Reconstruction	#2020-13	Anoka	<p>The existing natural grass athletic field is to be converted to synthetic turf within the limits of the existing running track. A LRRWMO permit is required because the project will disturb an area of approximately 2 acres. Since the project will not result in an increase in impervious area, the project is exempt from the LRRWMO volume retention requirement. Water quality management and rate control is to be provided within the subbase foundation for the field consisting of 8-inches of gravel and 24-inches of sand. An annual removal of 29 lbs. of total suspended solids and 0.2 lbs. of total phosphorous will be provided within the subbase foundation. The project was approved.</p>

k. 2021 Work Plan

Planned 2021 activities are listed in the table below. Most routine administrative tasks are excluded.

Task	Purpose	Description	Locations or Action	Cost
Lake Level Monitoring	To understand lake hydrology, including the impact of climate or other water budget changes. These data are useful for regulatory, building/development, and lake management decisions.	Weekly water level monitoring in lakes by volunteers. All are available on the Minnesota DNR website using the "LakeFinder" feature (www.dnr.mn.us.state/lakefind/index.html).	Itasca Lake Round Lake Sunfish Lake Rogers Lake	\$1,200
Lake Water Quality Monitoring	To detect water quality trends and diagnose the cause of changes.	May through September lake water quality monitoring conducted every two weeks and including total phosphorus, chlorophyll-a and transparency.	Grass/Sunfish Lake	\$1,900
Stream Water Quality Monitoring	To detect water quality trends and diagnose the cause of changes. Rum River monitoring is done where the river enters and leaves the LRRWMO.	Eight water samples are taken throughout the open water season. Parameters tested include total phosphorus, total suspended solids, turbidity, conductivity, dissolved oxygen, chloride, and others. Hydrology data is provided by the USGS station near St. Francis for the Rum River.	Rum River at CR7	\$1425
Rum River Invertebrate Biomonitoring	To assess overall river health. To provide a hands-on educational experience to high school students.	Facilitated by the ACD, science classes from Anoka High School assess aquatic insect populations. Students will collect macroinvertebrate samples, identify them, and calculate indices of river health. Anoka Conservation District staff provide instruction, oversight, and write a final report. This monitoring has been conducted for more than 10 years.	Rum River at Bunker Lake Blvd	\$900
Reference Wetland Hydrology Monitoring	The ACD maintains a network of 18 reference wetlands throughout the county. These data aid in understanding of water conditions in wetlands, surficial water table changes, and trends. It is useful for regulatory determinations (for example, is a dry area actually a wetland, or are all wetlands dry right now?) and resolving water level disputes. Each reference wetland has been monitored for more than 10 years, providing a long term record.	Install and maintain a WL40 electronic water level monitoring device at the edge of reference wetlands. These devices measure water levels every four hours.	AEC Ref Wtld Rum Central Ref Wtld Lake Itasca Trails Ref Wtld	\$1,950

Task	Purpose	Description	Locations or Action	Cost
LRRWMO Website	To increase awareness of the URRWMO and its programs. The website also provides tools and information that helps users better understand water resources issues in the area. The website serves as the URRWMO's alternative to a state-mandated newsletter.	Maintain and update the WMO website with current information about the organization, and meeting minutes and agendas. Web videos developed by the LRRWMO are also featured on the website.	http://www.lrrwmo.org	\$845
Newsletter articles	To increase public awareness of water resources and the LRRWMO.	Two newsletter articles will be produced and printed in city newsletters.	Watershed-wide	\$1,120
Anoka Co Water Resources Outreach Collaborative	Coordinated outreach and education programming across watersheds and cities while reducing duplication.	LRRWMO is providing financial support to match a \$34,000 Rum Metro Watershed Based Implementation Funding Grant.	Watershed-wide	\$2,500
Prepare Annual Report to State Auditor	To provide transparency and accountability of organization operations.	An annual financial report and online reporting of WMO finances though the State Auditor's SAFES website is completed by the LRRWMO's Deputy Treasurer.	Watershed-wide	\$0
Prepare Annual Report to BWSR	To provide transparency and accountability of organization operations.	Produce an annual report of WMO activities and finances that satisfies Minnesota Rules 8410.0150.	Watershed-wide	\$850
Permitting Program	To ensure water quality and hydrology are properly taken into consideration during construction projects.	The LRRWMO permitting program targets land disturbance activities.	Watershed-wide	Variable
Cost Share Grants for Water Quality Improvement	To improve water quality in lakes, rivers, and streams.	These grants offer incentives for a water quality improvement projects. Typical projects include erosion correction, lakeshore restoration, and rain gardens. The Anoka Conservation District provides administration.	Offer grants	\$2,000
LRRWMO Watershed Management Plan Update	To plan for the next 10 years.	The LRRWMO will finalize a new 10-year watershed management plan in spring 2021. Work began in early 2019.	Watershed-wide	
Rum River 1W1P	A water management plan across all areas of the Rum River watershed including 18 counties, SWCDs, and watershed organizations. The plan identifies mutual priorities.	The LRRWMO is participating in the planning process and will consider plan adoption upon completion.	Basin-wide	

The LRRWMO deviated from its watershed management plan for 2019 in the following ways:

Change Removed 2021 water quality monitoring of the Rum River at the Anoka Dam.

Reason: Metropolitan Council monitors this site and makes the data available to the LRRWMO.

Change Did not monitor groundwater levels or trends.

Reason Groundwater monitoring is best done at a regional level. The MN DNR has taken the lead.

Change Removed Rogers Lake water quality monitoring.

Reason This lake was declared impaired, but was delisted in 2016 because it meets the definition of a wetland not a lake. This waterbody is a low priority for the LRRWMO because of its small size, limited recreational capacity, lack of public access and because it has no outlets and therefore its water quality does not threaten high priority waterbodies downstream.

III. Financial and Audit Report

a. 2020 Financial Summary

See Appendix A.

b. Fund Balances

See Appendix A.

c. Financial Audit Documentation

The LRRWMO is required to complete an audit every five years. The last audit was done of 2019 finances and submitted to the State at that time.

d. 2021 Budget

At its July 2020 meeting the LRRWMO Board approved the 2021 budget shown below.

RESOLUTION # 2021-01

**RESOLUTION OF THE LOWER RUM RIVER WATERSHED
MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION (LRRWMO) FOR ADOPTING
THE BUDGET FOR YEAR 2021**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of the Lower Rum River Watershed Management Organization of Minnesota as follows:

1. The budget for the LRRWMO the year 2021 hereby approved and adopted with appropriations for each of the various activities as follows:

REVENUE:

Assessments	
Andover	\$ 11,595
Anoka	\$ 10,514
Ramsey	<u>\$ 23,511</u>
	\$ 42,000
Permits	\$ 35,000
Grants	\$ 1,500
Interest earnings	<u>\$ 750</u>
TOTAL REVENUES	<u>\$ 79,250</u>

EXPENDITURES:

Engineering	\$ 7,000
Permit Review	\$ 28,000
Legal	\$ 4,000
Financial Services	\$ 2,400
Secretarial Services	\$ 9,100
Postage, Copying, etc.	\$ 1,600
Insurance	\$ 2,150
LRRWMO Plan update/Reserve	\$ 25,000
Web Site maintenance/upgrade	\$ 845
Annual Report	\$ 850
Build Fund to Match Future Grants	\$ 2,000
Wetland education (2 city newsletter articles)	\$ 1,120
Anoka Co. Water Resource Outreach Collaborative	\$ 2,500
Lake Level Monitoring	\$ 1,200
Lake Water Quality Monitoring	\$ 1,900
Stream Water Quality Monitoring	\$ 1,425
Stream Biomonitoring w/ students	\$ 900
Wetland Monitoring	\$ 1,950
10% Match for Anticipated Watershed Based Funding	\$ 13,053
Miscellaneous	<u>\$ 10,000</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$ 116,993</u>

NET INCOME \$ (37,743)

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Appendix A: 2020 Financial Report

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LOWER RUM RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

For the Year Ended January 31, 2021

Prepared by the Deputy Treasurer

Brenda Springer

LOWER RUM RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

Annual Financial Report

Year Ended January 31, 2021

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FINANCIAL SECTION

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Statement of Cash Flows	4
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Lower Rum River Water Management Organization Board

Appointed Officials

January 31, 2021

Todd Haas, Chair

Debra Musgrove, Vice Chair

Jeff Weaver, Secretary and
Treasurer

Administrative

Carla Wirth, Time Savers
Brenda Springer, City of Anoka

Administrative Secretary
Deputy Treasurer

LOWER RUM RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION
STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
JANUARY 31, 2021

Assets	
Current assets:	
Cash and investments	\$ 226,239
Accounts Receivable	4,033
Prepaid	<u>0</u>
Total assets	<u><u>\$ 230,272</u></u>
 Liabilities	
Current liabilities:	
Accounts payable	\$ 6,512
Deposits	<u>37,629</u>
Total current liabilities	44,141
 Net Position	
Unrestricted	<u>186,131</u>
Total liabilities and net position	<u><u>\$ 230,272</u></u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

LOWER RUM RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES, AND CHANGE IN NET POSITION - BUDGET AND ACTUAL YEAR ENDED JANUARY 31, 2021

	Original and Final Budget	Actual	Variance From Budget Positive (Negative)
Operating revenues:			
Assessments from participating cities	\$ 47,000	\$ 47,000	\$ -
Permits:			
Service fees	3,000	1,675	(1,325)
Engineering fees	32,000	29,143	(2,857)
Intergovernmental	750	803	53
Miscellaneous	-	431	431
Total operating revenues	82,750	79,052	(3,698)
Operating expenses:			
Engineering fees:			
Permits	28,000	26,465	1,535
Administrative	7,000	2,904	4,096
Watershed Management Plan	25,000	18,932	6,068
Wetland Conservation Act	-	4,044	(4,044)
Legal and professional fees	11,400	9,871	1,529
Insurance	2,150	2,403	(253)
Secretarial services and supplies	10,700	9,754	946
Projects	25,160	10,788	14,372
Other	10,000	533	9,467
Total operating expenses	119,410	85,694	33,716
Operating income	(36,660)	(6,642)	30,018
Nonoperating revenues:			
Interest income	1,500	748	(752)
Change in net position	\$ (35,160)	(5,894)	\$ 29,266
Net position at beginning of year		192,025	
Net position at end of year		\$ 186,131	

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

LOWER RUM RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS YEAR ENDED JANUARY 31, 2021

Increase (decrease) in cash and cash investments:	
Cash flows from operating activities:	
Received from member cities	\$ 47,000
Received from customers	22,171
Received from other governments	803
Payments to suppliers for goods and services	<u>(83,795)</u>
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>(13,821)</u>
Cash flows from investing activities:	
Investment earnings	<u>748</u>
Net increase in cash and investments	(13,073)
Cash and investments at beginning of year	<u>239,312</u>
Cash and investments at end of year	<u><u>\$ 226,239</u></u>
Reconciliation of operating income to net cash provided by operating activities:	
Operating income	\$ (6,642)
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:	
Accounts receivable	(2,031)
Prepaid	780
Accounts payable	1,119
Deposits	<u>(7,047)</u>
Total adjustments	<u>(7,179)</u>
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u><u>\$ (13,821)</u></u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

LOWER RUM RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED JANUARY 31, 2021

1. NATURE OF THE ORGANIZATION

Lower Rum River Water Management Organization (the “Organization”) is a watershed management organization that has been created to fulfill the requirements and purposes of Minnesota Statutes 103B.201 to 103B.251. The purpose of such an organization as defined by Minnesota Statute 103B.201 is to “Protect, preserve and use natural surface and ground water storage and retention systems in order to (a) reduce to the greatest practical extent the public capital expenditures necessary to control excessive volumes and rate of runoff, (b) protect and improve surface and ground water quality, (c) prevent flooding and erosion from surface flows, (d) promote ground water recharge, (e) protect and enhance fish and wildlife habitat and water recreational facilities, and (f) secure the other benefits associated with the proper management of surface and ground water.”

The cities of Andover, Anoka, Coon Rapids, and Ramsey formed the Organization by executing a joint powers agreement in accordance with Minnesota Statute 103B.211, dated July 15, 1985. In July 2014 the joint powers agreement was amended removing Coon Rapids. Coon Rapids joined the Coon Creek Watershed District.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The accompanying summary of significant accounting policies is presented to assist the reader in understanding the Organization’s financial statements. The financial statements are representations of the Organization’s Board, which is responsible for the integrity and objectivity of the financial statements. The following is a summary of the more significant accounting policies:

A. Measurement Focus, Basis of Accounting, and Financial Statement Presentation

The financial statements are reported using the “economic resources” measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recorded when earned, and expenses are recorded when a liability is incurred, regardless of the timing of the related cash flows. Grants and similar items are recognized as revenue as soon as all eligibility requirements imposed by the provider have been met.

Operating revenues and expenses generally result from providing services and producing and delivering goods in connection with the principal ongoing operations. The principal operating revenue of the Organization is charges to customers for permits. Operating expenses for the Organization include engineering services, administrative expenses, and related river, stream, and wetland monitoring, conservation, and compliance expenses. All revenues and expenses not meeting this definition are reported as nonoperating revenues and expenses.

LOWER RUM RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED JANUARY 31, 2021

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

B. Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash balances are invested to the maximum extent possible. For the purposes of the statement of cash flows, the Organization considers all highly liquid investments with a maturity of three months or less when purchased to be “cash equivalents.”

C. Investments

Investments are reported at fair value.

D. Income Taxes

As a joint powers watershed management organization, the Organization is exempt from both federal and Minnesota income taxes. Accordingly, no provision for income taxes is included in these financial statements.

E. Receivables and Payables

Receivables represent outstanding reimbursements from permit holders for work already completed and paid for by the Organization. Payables are recorded for services completed for the Organization but unpaid as of the end of the current fiscal year. Deposits represent amounts owed to permit holders at year-end for services yet to be done.

F. Budgetary Information

Budgetary information is derived from the annual operating budget and is presented using the accrual basis of accounting, which is the same basis of accounting the Organization uses in preparation of its financial statements. The budgeted amounts presented include any amendments made.

G. Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenditures during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

LOWER RUM RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED JANUARY 31, 2021

H. Subsequent Events

Subsequent events have been evaluated through April 21, 2021, which is the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

3. CASH AND INVESTMENTS

The Organization follows state statute guidelines for investment purposes. The state statute allows for investments in United States securities, state and local government general obligation securities rated “A” or better by a national bond rating agency, state and local government revenue securities rated “AA” or better by a national bond rating agency, commercial paper rated in the highest quality category by two national rating agencies and that mature in 270 days or less, certificates of deposit, bankers acceptance, and repurchase agreements.

The Organization is invested in the Minnesota Municipal Money Market Fund (4M Fund). The 4M Fund is an external investment pool not registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) that follows the same regulatory rules of the SEC under rule 2a7. The City’s investment in the 4M Fund is measured at the net asset value per share provided by the pool, which is based on amortized cost method that approximates fair value.

(a) Interest Rate Risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that the fair value of investments will be adversely affected by a change in interest rates. The Organization does not have a formal investment policy related to interest rate risk. As of January 31, 2018, the Organization had the following investments and maturities:

Investment type:	<u>Net Asset Value</u>	<u>Less Than One Year</u>
External investment pool	\$ 226,239	\$226,239

(b) Credit Risk

Credit risk is the risk that an issuer or other counterparty to an investment will not fulfill its obligations. Credit risk is measured using credit quality ratings of investments in debt securities as described by nationally recognized rating agencies such as Standard & Poor’s and Moody’s.

The following table lists the credit quality ratings, per Moody’s and/or Standard & Poor’s, of the Organization’s investments as of January 31, 2021:

LOWER RUM RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED JANUARY 31, 2021

3. CASH AND INVESTMENTS

(b) Credit Risk (Continued)

Investment type:	<u>Net Asset Value</u>	<u>Unrated</u>
External investment pool	\$ 226,239	\$226,239

(c) Custodial Credit Risk

Custodial credit risk is the risk that, in the event of the failure of a counterparty, the Organization will not be able to recover the value of the investments, collateral securities, or deposits that are in the possession of the counterparty. The Organization does not have a formal policy related to custodial credit risk of investments or deposits. At January 31, 2021, all of the Organization's investments are insured and registered and are held by the counterparty's agent in the Organization's name.

4. REVENUES

Assessments From Participating Cities:

Member cities are assessed on an annual basis for estimated Organization costs by motion of the Organization's governing board. Administrative and planning costs are apportioned by a formula, taking into account both valuation and gross area equally. Projects and improvement costs are charged to the benefiting properties by a formula adopted by the Organization's governing board. Member city assessments for administrative and planning costs were as follows:

Year Ended January 31, 2021

Andover	\$12,975
Anoka	10,514
Ramsey	<u>23,511</u>
	<u>\$47,000</u>

Permits:

The Organization issues permits for construction to cover the costs associated with the review of grading, drainage, and erosion control plans of the projects to improve overall water quality. The Organization earns \$100 for administrative costs for each permit it processes. A deposit is received upon application of the permit. The deposit is used to cover the administration costs and all professional services incurred to complete the permit process. Any remaining deposit excess is refunded upon issuance of the permit.

LOWER RUM RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED JANUARY 31, 2021

5. RISK MANAGEMENT

The Organization participates in a public entity risk pool to mitigate its exposure to these risks. Liability coverages are provided through a pooled self-insurance plan with other cities. The Organization has a \$250 deductible per occurrence for its coverage.

Appendix B:
Implementation of Watershed
Management Plan Summary

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EDUCATION	2013					2014					2015					2016					2017					2018					2019					2020					2021												
	ACD	Andover	Anoka	Coon	LRRWMO	Ramsey	ACD	Andover	Anoka	Ramsey	LRRWMO	Other	ACD	Andover	Anoka	Ramsey	LRRWMO	Other	ACD	Andover	Anoka	Ramsey	LRRWMO	Other	ACD	Andover	Anoka	Ramsey	LRRWMO	Other	ACD	Andover	Anoka	Ramsey	LRRWMO	Other	ACD	Andover	Anoka	Ramsey	LRRWMO	Other	ACD	Andover	Anoka	Ramsey	LRRWMO	Other					
Task																																																					
h.ii Local Events Exhibit - display- Display the information created in the task above at local events such as home shows, city environmental events, etc																					Ramsey business expo					Displays in Ramsey city hall					Community events in each community					COVID-19 pandemic forced cancellation of many events																	
"X" when completed																	X						X						X						X						X												
PLANNING, REPORTING AND ADMIN																																																					
a. City Reports to WMO - Member communities shall submit an annual status report by February 1 that describes the status of local plans and implementation of LRRWMO policies																																																					
"X" when completed	X	X	X		X	X	X	X				X	X	X				X	X	X				X	X	X				X	X	X				X	X	X				X	X	X									
b. Annual Reporting to State. Submit annual reports to BWSR and the State Auditor.	ACD was hired to prepare reports for WMO																														To be done in April 2021																						
"X" when completed	X			X		X			X		X			X		X			X		X			X		X			X		X			X		X			X														
c. LRRWMO Plan Update – 4 th Generation Plan																																																					
"X" when completed																																																					
e. WMO Plan Review - LRRWMO will annually review its Watershed Management Plan to ensure it reflects current goals																															underway					underway																	
"X" when completed				X					X					X					X					X					X					X					X					X									
g. Solicit Bids - LRRWMO will solicit bids for professional services (solicit proposals for work to occur in the following year)						11 and 12 2014 selected engineer and attorney										Reviewed bids and selected providers at 11-17-16 mtg										Preparing a RFP for watershed plan update.																											
"X" when completed									X										X										X															X									

Appendix C: Newsletter Articles

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Community Happenings

All events and activities are subject to change. Please call the organizers or visit their websites for updates.



Diva Days – May 1-2

Save the dates for this annual two-day event in downtown Anoka! It is a time to Restyle Your Life during three days of giveaways, shopping, special events and fun at

Anoka's many boutiques and restaurants. For details, visit DiscoverAnoka.com



Anoka Classic Car Show

The Anoka Classic Car Show, hosted by the Boys Scouts, is cruising into another fun-filled season! Join the fun Saturday evenings at 5 p.m. until dusk in downtown Anoka, beginning Saturday, May 16. Pre-1992 cars and trucks only permitted to enter as show cars. Gate entrance is at 4th Ave. & Van Buren Street. The donation for show cars is \$4.00 (per regular show). Anoka residents with a show car enter for free with driver's license as proof of residency. There is no admission fee for spectators. Enjoy great music and great food. As a courtesy to participants and vendors, show cancellations (due to inclement weather) are called by 2 p.m. on event days and posted at anokaclassiccarshow.org, along with more event details.

Mark your calendar early for this year's finale date of Saturday, September 19 from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. The 2nd Annual Spooktacular event is Saturday, October 3, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Don't forget to check out the many unique shops and eating establishments in downtown Anoka!

Memorial Day Service

The Anoka American Legion Post 102 will honor Memorial Day with its annual tribute on Monday, May 25, 2020, at 10 a.m. The public is invited to gather at Riverfront Memorial Park located just north of Anoka City Hall at 2201-2nd Ave. The North Suburban Concert Band will perform. With limited seating, please feel free to bring a lawn chair or blanket. Please call the Anoka American Legion with any questions at 763-421-0883.



Rum River Library

Did you know the library offers a variety of ways to get help online? You can click "Ask a Librarian" on our home page at anokacountylibrary.org. From there you have a choice of emailing a librarian, contacting our eBook help team, or if you have a general inquiry about the library or your account, contacting our administrative office. There is also a link to the AskMN 24/7 Chat service. This is an online service for information and research help available to all Minnesota residents and students 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. AskMN is a cooperative service of Minnesota libraries. Anoka County librarians don't monitor this 24/7, we work with other systems across the country and around the world! For more information visit our website or call 763-324-1520.

Anoka's Annual Fireworks

Mark your calendar for Anoka's Annual Fireworks in celebration of Independence Day. Fireworks will light up the evening sky on Friday, July 3, at dusk (10 p.m.) from Castle Field, located at 600 Castle Field Blvd. This fireworks display is possible thanks to many sponsors. If you are or your business is interested in helping to sponsor this year's fireworks display, please call Pam Bowman at 763-576-2725.

Lower Rum River Watershed Management Organization

The LRRWMO is a joint powers organization formed by the cities of Anoka, Andover and Ramsey. The group meets the third Thursday of the month at 8:30 a.m. in the committee room of Anoka City Hall to discuss storm and surface water issues. Meetings are open to the public.

Water Efficiency Grant Program

The City of Ramsey is excited to announce a new Water Efficiency Grant Program that is intended to conserve water and (hopefully) lower utility bills. Thanks to grant funding through the Metropolitan Council and the Clean Water Land and Legacy Amendment, the City is announcing a new rebate program for the purchase of any US EPA WaterSense labeled toilet or smart irrigation controller that replaces existing, less efficient devices.

The intent of this program is to reduce the overall demand on the City's water supply system by taking advantage of newer technology that emphasizes water conservation. It is estimated that a WaterSense labeled toilet could save approximately 12,200 gallons of water per year, while a WaterSense labeled irrigation smart controller could save approximately 15,000 gallons per year. These improvements can not only save a significant amount of water, but should result in savings on a water utility bill as well!

Eligibility criteria include: (1) must be a Ramsey water utility customer (on the City's water supply system); (2) the purchase must be replacing an

existing device(s) (new construction projects are not eligible for this grant funding); (3) the product must be a US EPA WaterSense labeled toilet or smart irrigation controller; and (4) device(s) is purchased after May 1, 2020, and before June 30, 2022. Rebates are up to \$200 or the cost of the device, whichever is less. Installation costs and sales tax are the customer's responsibility. Rebates will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis until the grant funds are exhausted or June 30, 2022, whichever occurs first. Rebates will be issued by check.

More information, including the rebate application form, can be found by visiting www.cityoframsey.com/750/Water-Efficiency-Rebate-Program. Any questions can be directed to City Planner Chris Anderson at 763-433-9817 or canderson@cityoframsey.com.



Pavement Management Program Updates

Variolite Street Reconstruction

The City intends to reconstruct Variolite Street between Alpine Drive and 173rd Avenue in 2020. This segment of Variolite Street was originally constructed between 1981 and 1983. Over the years, the pavement has been regularly maintained including: a crack seal and seal coat in 1988, a pavement overlay in 1998, and crack seal and seal coat in 2008. Spot patching has been performed on an as-needed basis since, which lately, has turned into an on-going operation due to the poor condition of the pavement.

Last fall, 61 soil and pavement borings were collected along Variolite Street, and topographic survey was collected within the City-owned right-of-way along Variolite Street, allowing preliminary and final design work to proceed. Though the street is proposed to be reconstructed largely as it exists today, pedestrian crosswalk improvements at 161st Avenue are being explored, as are traffic calming measures, primarily along the south end of Variolite Street. Pending required approvals from the Ramsey City Council, construction is anticipated to begin in July 2020. For more information on this and other public improvement projects, please visit: www.cityoframsey.com/198/City-Improvement-Projects.

Pavement Stripping Under Sealcoats

In the spring of 2019, numerous streets in the City of Ramsey began exhibiting signs of damage. This notion is not unique to Ramsey. Several other cities in the Metropolitan Area observed the same damage over the last decade or more. This damage, which is typically referred to as pavement stripping under sealcoats, first appears as small, dark spots, which then quickly turn into shallow holes in the upper inch or so of the bituminous pavement. These areas then proceed to expand in both size and depth, sometimes rapidly, resulting in a pavement surface as shown in the photo below.

Pavement stripping under sealcoats is believed to occur



most frequently after a second sealcoat is applied, which effectively seals the pavement surface. Any water trapped within voids (small air pockets) in the bituminous pavement then expands and contracts with each freeze-thaw cycle, breaking the pavement apart over time. It is also believed that this issue has become more prevalent in recent years because northern tier states have been experiencing increased numbers of freeze-thaw events each winter over the last decade or so.

The City currently has no plans to complete major pavement repairs, such as mill and overlay improvements, on any of the damaged pavement segments in 2020. However, spot patching will be completed while the City explores cost-effective options for repairing damaged pavement segments, potentially starting in 2021. This includes talking to other cities that have experienced the same issue to learn how they are repairing their damaged pavement segments. The City is also exploring alternatives to sealcoating since this does not seem to be a viable pavement management treatment moving forward. For more information on the City of Ramsey's Pavement Management Program, please visit: www.cityoframsey.com/666/Pavement-Management-Program.



Oak Wilt and Emerald Ash Borer Update

Oak wilt is a fungal disease that can be lethal to all species of oak found in Ramsey. Trees in the red oak family (red oak, pin oak and northern pin oak), which have the pointed tips, can die from oak wilt in as little as 4-6 weeks. Trees in the white oak family (white oak, bur oak and swamp white oak), which have more rounded tips, have a bit more resistance and may take an entire growing season (or even two) before dying.

The beginning of April marked the transition to the High Risk timeframe, meaning that property owners should avoid any tree work on oaks unless it is absolutely necessary for safety purposes. If that is the case, make sure to paint any wounds (cuts) with shellac or a water-based paint within 15 minutes. Symptoms of oak wilt include leaves first turning an olive or faded green color, then beginning to wilt from the top of the tree down and from the outer margins of a leaf in toward the stem.

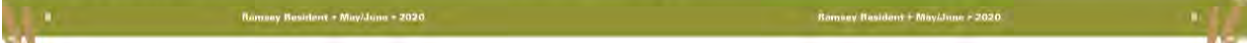
Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) was confirmed in Ramsey in December of 2019. Prior to ash trees leafing out is a great time to inspect your trees to see if there's any possible signs of EAB. The most telling sign is excessive woodpecker activity throughout the tree. Property owners can help to slow the spread of EAB by limiting the movement of ash wood during the insect's active period, which is generally considered to be **May 1 through September 30**. If pruning or removal of an ash tree is absolutely necessary, the material should be brought to Anoka County's Bunker Hills Compost Site, where it will be quickly processed. Either chip the material first or place it within an enclosed vehicle and/or trailer to prevent any possibly existing insects from emerging during transport.

More information on both of these shade tree concerns can be found on the City's website at www.cityoframsey.com/256/Trees. This includes information from the University of Minnesota regarding current risk and activity status for both oak wilt and EAB. If you have concerns or questions about either, please contact City Planner Chris Anderson at 763-433-9817 or canderson@cityoframsey.com.

City of Ramsey Consumer Confidence Water Report

The Consumer Confidence Water Report is available at www.cityoframsey.com/229/Consumer-Confidence-Report-Water-Report.

A paper copy of this report is available upon request. For more information, contact John Nelson at 763-433-9861 or jnelson@cityoframsey.com.



Spotlight on Ramsey Businesses

Parkplace Studio:

Parkplace Studio is located at 6093 146th Lane and is open from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday and by appointment on the weekends. COVID-19 forced Parkplace to cancel photo shoots and special event photography for a time, but the studio is now taking bookings for outdoor family, child and high school senior photo sessions for this summer and fall. Learn more at www.photosbyparkplace.com.



And now, we shine the spotlight on Delta ModTech. Delta ModTech began construction last summer at 8445 Bunker Lake Blvd NW on a 230,000 square foot office and manufacturing facility that will bring 135 jobs to Ramsey.

Performance Sports Chiropractic:

Performance Sports Chiropractic is located at 7876 Sunwood Drive and is open Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:00 am to 6:30 pm and Fridays from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm. Performance Sports Chiropractic Center offers non-operative treatment for back, neck, shoulder, hip, knee pain and so much more! New patients can enjoy 50 percent off initial visit. Learn more at www.pschiropracticcenter.com.

Affinity at Ramsey:

Ramsey is pleased to welcome Affinity at Ramsey to the community! Affinity is open from Monday-Friday 8:30 am to 5:30 pm, Saturday 10:00 am to 5:00 pm and Sunday 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. Affinity is located at 14529 Willemsie St NW.

In the fall of 2019, Affinity at Ramsey opened its doors and introduced the region to a new kind of 55+ living for active adults. Affinity offers a selection of layouts for studio, 1 bedroom and 2 bedroom apartment homes, an all-inclusive rent package and an additional 30,000 square feet of accessible space and amenities.

The Affinity community focuses on socialization and inclusion with different events and hobbies and weekly social events. Amenities include a library, lounge, a fitness center with yoga studio; an attached heated garage, a salwater pool and hot tub, pickleball court, golf simulator, game room, craft studio, work shop, pet spa and dog park and more! Learn more at www.affinityliving.com.

Water Efficiency Grant Program

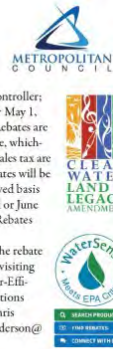
The City of Ramsey is excited to announce a new Water Efficiency Grant Program that is intended to conserve water and (hopefully) lower utility bills. Thanks to grant funding through the Metropolitan Council and the Clean Water Land and Legacy Amendment, the City is announcing a new rebate program for the purchase of any US EPA WaterSense labeled toilet or smart irrigation controller that replaces existing, less efficient devices.

The intent of this program is to reduce the overall demand on the City's water supply system by taking advantage of newer technology that emphasizes water conservation. It is estimated that a WaterSense labeled toilet could save approximately 12,200 gallons of water per year, while a WaterSense labeled irrigation smart controller could save approximately 15,000 gallons per year. These improvements can not only save a significant amount of water, but should result in savings on a water utility bill as well!

Eligibility criteria include: (1) must be a Ramsey water utility customer (on the City's water supply system); (2) the purchase must be replacing an exist-

ing device(s) (new construction projects are not eligible for this grant funding); (3) the product must be a US EPA WaterSense labeled toilet or smart irrigation controller; and (4) device(s) is purchased after May 1, 2020, and before June 30, 2022. Rebates are up to \$200 or the cost of the device, whichever is less. Installation costs and sales tax are the customer's responsibility. Rebates will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis until the grant funds are exhausted or June 30, 2022, whichever occurs first. Rebates will be issued by check.

More information, including the rebate application form, can be found by visiting www.cityoframsey.com/750/Water-Efficiency-Rebate-Program. Any questions can be directed to City Planner Chris Anderson at 763-433-9817 or canderson@cityoframsey.com.



Park and Recreation Commission Summer Meeting Schedule

The Park and Recreation Commission will be meeting in a neighborhood near you, by holding outdoor meetings within City parks around the community.

July – Rivers Bend, 5000 142nd Lane NW, Access at 142nd Avenue NW and Waco Street NW

August – Ford Brook Park, 5459 180th Avenue NW – North side of 180th Avenue near Fluorine Street NW

September – Pearson Park, Intersection of Rabbit Street NW and 150th Lane NW, 1 block west of Puma Street NW (within the Riverstone Subdivision)

The Park and Recreation Commission meets on the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm. In case of inclement weather, meetings will be moved to City Hall. For more information, please contact Mark Riverblood at mriverblood@cityoframsey.com or 763-433-9853.

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Community Crime Map

Have you ever wondered what type of police activity is happening in your neighborhood? The Ramsey Police Department has participated in Crime Mapping since 2013 and you can view the map.

To check out what is happening in the City of Ramsey and to sign up for crime alerts, go to www.cityoframsey.com/218/Crime-Mapping-and-click-crime-map-for-Ramsey at the bottom of the page.

For more information, call 763-433-9890 or mschantzen@cityoframsey.com.



Ramsey Police & Fire on Facebook

Follow Ramsey Police and Fire Department on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ramseypd for the latest information on crime alerts, found dogs, announcements on upcoming police/fire activities, and much more.

For more information, call 763-427-6812.



Vacation House Checks

Going out of town? Want to have your home checked on while you are away? You can request a vacation house check on our city website at www.ci.ramsey.mn.us/664/Vacation-House-Checks. More information can be found on the city website or by calling 763-427-6812.

Prevent Heatstroke in Hot Cars

Vehicles heat up quickly and can be fatal to young children. It's important to know, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), children are at a higher risk of dying from heatstroke because their bodies heat up three to five times faster than adults. In 2019, more than 50 children died due to vehicular heatstroke. Heatstroke can occur in temperatures as low as 57 degrees. You can help prevent future vehicle heatstroke by remembering to A-C-T.

- **A**void Heatstroke: Avoid leaving a child alone in a vehicle for any length of time even with the windows cracked. When your vehicle is not in use, keep the keys out of the reach of children and the doors and trunk locked.
- **C**reate Reminders: When traveling with kids, place items such as your phone, purse or briefcase in the backseat of your vehicle. Always check the backseat when exiting the vehicle.
- **T**ake Action: If you see a child alone in a vehicle, call 911.

For more information visit www.safekids.org/heatstroke or call Ramsey Police at 763-427-6812.



Local Watershed Organization Tackles Riverbank Erosion

Riverbank erosion causes problems for both property owners and the river's health. Recent inventories of Rum and Mississippi River conditions found dozens of stretches of eroding riverbank in Anoka County. The Lower Rum River Watershed Management Organization (LRRWMO) and its partners will soon begin work to correct a number of those eroding riverbanks.

Grants totaling \$2M have been secured from the MN Board of Water and Soil Resources, Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council, and the MN DNR. All these funding sources get money from the Clean Land, Water and Legacy Amendment passed by voters in 2008. Grants for Rum Riverbank stabilization projects are being received by the Anoka Conservation District in collaboration with the LRRWMO, Upper Rum River WMO, The Nature Conservancy and Anoka County Parks. Grants for Mississippi River Community Park in Anoka are being received by the City of Anoka in collaboration with the LRRWMO. Work begins in 2020, with most construction in 2021.

Stabilizing even just 10 eroding riverbanks will decrease sediment entering the river by over 750 tons. That sediment makes the water brown, carries nutrients and other pollutants, and smothers fish spawning habitat. Every project will include habitat improvements in and next to the water.

Riverbank erosion varies in size and type of solution. Amongst locally eroding riverbanks, some are tall banks of bare, collapsing sand. These locations, including Mississippi River Community Park require re-grading, rock or other robust engineering to fix. Other eroding riverbanks are just a few feet tall. These can be corrected with "softer"

materials such as arming with cut cedar trees and planting for long-term stability. In either case, work is done with an eye toward improving habitat.

The Lower Rum River Watershed Management Organization is a special purpose unit of government made up of three cities: Andover, Anoka and Ramsey. Its purpose is to manage the area's waters, particularly those that flow across City boundaries. For more information, visit www.LRRWMO.org.



DATED MATERIAL

CLEAN WATER STARTS AT HOME - LAWN CARE

Tips from the Pros

1. Leave the clippings as you mow! Don't bag clippings because you'll remove nutrients that help the lawn.
2. While mowing, blow the clippings onto your lawn and off the street, driveway, and sidewalk. Sweep up any residual clippings from these impervious surfaces. This prevents them from running off and polluting our water ways.
3. Raise the mower blade! Adjust your mower to keep grass at least 3 inches high. Taller lawns use less water, handle heat stress better and compete with weeds better.
4. Consider getting a low-mow or no-mow grass seed mix (i.e. fine fescues) for a low-maintenance lawn. Once established, they

need very little watering and mowing and still look great! For pictures and more information on this, see Andover website and go to "Fescues" under "Natural Resources" page.

5. Plant indigenous trees, shrubs and wildflowers to create habitat and lessen the size of the maintained lawn area.

These simple practices will help minimize water pollution, conserve water and save you time and money in the long run. Please do your part; every bit helps!

Clean Streets, Clean Water - For more information on any of the above, contact Kameron Kytonen, Andover Natural Resources Technician, (763) 767-5137 or Coon Creek Watershed District: (763) 755-0975 www.cooncreekwd.org

Education

Anoka-Hennepin Schools Preschool

Register now to start school in the fall! Anoka-Hennepin Community Education offers preschool classes, which prepare children for kindergarten. Some classes are FREE to qualifying families.

Students participate in hands-on learning activities that are educational and fun in a stimulating classroom environment that encourages learning through discovery and exploration.

Learn more at ahschools.ce.eleyo.com or call 763-506-1500.

Anoka County Head Start Program

The Anoka/Washington County Head Start-Early Head Start program is accepting applications for the 2020-2021 program year. We serve eligible families with children from birth to five and pregnant women. A variety of options are available for families including part-day classes, full-day classes, and partnerships with childcare providers. Classrooms are located in communities across Anoka and Washington Counties. For more information, please visit accap.org/head-start/enrollment-4 or call the enrollment hotline at 763-783-4314.

Technical and Community College

Don't put your college education on hold. Anoka Technical College and Anoka-Ramsey Community College are here for you. While classes will be mostly online, plans are being made for labs to meet in person while adhering to safe social distancing guidelines. Life has been different lately, and may feel uncertain, but fall classes will begin as scheduled on August 24, 2020.

Planning now to keep educational plans on track is important. Both colleges are offering virtual visits and appointments so prospective students can learn about program and transfer options, ask questions, and get guidance to complete the application process.

To schedule a virtual appointment or join a virtual information session, visit Anoka Technical College at anokatech.edu/BecomeStudent/VirtualVisit or Anoka-Ramsey Community College at anokaramsey.edu/Visit.

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Lower Rum River Watershed Management Organization

Grants for Water Quality Projects

The Lower Rum River Watershed Management Organization is offering small grants to residents wishing to do projects that will benefit lakes, streams, and groundwater. Common project types are lakeshore stabilization or vegetation buffers, rain gardens, and streambank stabilization. Applications are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Grant awards are commonly \$500 to \$3,000 or 50 to 75 percent of the total project cost; however, every project is considered on its own merits.

Applications are accepted through the Anoka Conservation District, which hosts several grant programs in an effort to be a one-stop shop. The Anoka Conservation District also offers free technical help to residents wishing to address a water quality or habitat issue. Find more information at AnokaSWCD.org/financial-support.html or contact Jamie Schurbon via email at jamie.schurbon@anokaswcd.org or call 763-434-2030, ext. 21.

Funding provided by the Lower Rum River Watershed Management Organization (LRRWMO).



Home Improvements Made Easy

The City of Anoka has financing programs available to help you update your home. City programs make it easy to complete your home improvement projects. Whether your home needs a new roof or you are thinking of updating a bathroom, programs are available to help you finance your projects.

This spring, the City launched a brand new senior deferred loan program with 0 percent interest rate for anyone age 62 or older looking to update their home.

Funds are limited. For more information, visit mncee.org/anoka or call 612-335-5884.

Not sure where to begin? A FREE Anoka Remodeling Advisor Visit can help you get started. This service is free to Anoka homeowners and includes a complimentary, no sales visit to your home, unbiased advice regarding your projects, and assistance with reviewing contractor bids. Call 612-335-5856 to schedule your appointment today.

2020 Street Maintenance Project

Annually, the city completes street maintenance throughout the city. This year the project will include a combination of crack sealing, seal coating, and fog sealing of residential streets and public parking lots. The street maintenance will be completed in areas of the town that were previously done in 2013 and were reconstructed between the years of 2000-2004 and 2016. In addition to these neighborhoods, Sunny Acres parking lot, and the Anoka Liquor Store parking lots will be crack filled, seal coated, and fog sealed.

Why does the city crack seal the roads? Crack sealing includes the filling of cracks within the bituminous pavement to reduce the infiltration of water into the bituminous pavement and the aggregate base. Moisture, and freeze cycles are two of the most destructive forces on the pavement surface. Crack filling greatly reduces the amount of moisture that penetrates the bituminous surface.

Why does the city seal coat? Seal coating the asphalt pavement protects the pavement from the deteriorating effects of the sun and water. When an asphalt pavement is exposed to sun, wind, and water, the asphalt hardens or oxidizes. This causes the pavement to become more brittle, resulting in the pavement cracking because it is unable to bend and flex when exposed to traffic and temperature changes. A seal coat helps this situation by providing a waterproof membrane which not only slows down the oxidation process, but also helps the pavement to shed water preventing it from entering in the gravel underlining the pavement. Seal coating also increases the surface friction of the street, improving safety.

Why does the city fog seal after a seal coat? Fog sealing will lengthen the pavement surface life, prevents raveling/stone loss of chip seals, helps limit snowplow damage, and will help seal small pavement cracks. The fog seal is a light uniform application of asphalt emulsion that enriches the pavement surface.

The project is schedule to take place between May and September 2020. If you have questions regarding the project, please contact the Anoka Engineering Department at (763) 576-2980 or via email at publicservices@ci.anoka.mn.us.



Mississippi River Community Park Riverbank Stabilization Project

The City of Anoka was awarded a Clean Water grant to complete the funding package for the Mississippi River Community Park Riverbank Stabilization Project.



Eroding river banks contribute to the Mississippi River's total suspended solids and turbidity impairments through direct loading of sediment and nutrients that degrade overall water quality, as well as aquatic and nearshore habitat. Inventories assessing bank conditions were completed along 13.3 miles of the Mississippi River from the Coon Rapids Dam to Anoka County's western edge. This project will stabilize a site prioritized with the third most sediment loss

into the river - 1,469 linear feet within Anoka's Mississippi River Community Park.

The project will combine bioengineering, aquatic habitat, an armored toe, and recreational access. Technique will vary and native vegetation will be used throughout. Pollutants will be reduced and it will benefit aquatic life and improve drinking water quality. It will also showcase river stewardship and enhance public recreation and make over ¼ mile of unsafe riverbank more accessible, stable, and fishable for users.

The approximate cost of \$783,000 will be paid as follows: \$169,000 - City of Anoka; \$114,000 - watershed-based funding grant; \$500,000 from the Clean Water Fund grant. Construction is anticipated to occur in spring of 2021.



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Ski Trails

Our cross country ski trails are groomed and ready for skiers (weather permitting). See Parks & Recreation (page 6) for full details.

Host a Tournament

We offer tremendous service, great pricing, a course that allows speedy play and fantastic food for a great tournament. Dates are booking farther out, so give us a call and save your date early.

Golf Leagues

- **Men's Club:** Whether it is a club championship, season long match play, 18-hole or 9-hole league, there is an option to fit every golfer.
- **Women's Leagues:** Tuesdays with an 18-hole league in the morning and a 9-hole league in the afternoon. Both are seeking golfers.
- **Senior League:** Wednesday mornings; open to male golfers over the age of 50. Formats vary weekly.
- **Business Leagues:** There are a few limited openings for evening corporate or group golf leagues.

To learn more about leagues, season pass rates, and more, visit greenhavengolfcourse.com or call 763-576-2972.

Lower Rum River Water Management Organization

Meetings are held the third Thursday of each month at 8:30 a.m. in the committee room at Anoka City Hall. Storm and surface water issues are discussed. Meetings are open to the public. Contact City Manager Greg Lee at 763-576-2711 with any questions.



Better Values Liquor Stores

Profits from your purchase stay in the City of Anoka to primarily aid in maintaining city parks, with some funds applied to a few miscellaneous city projects. Plus, these profits help keep property taxes at lower rates. We are city-owned and operated. Control of alcohol sales by the City prevents underage purchasing. Alcohol is refused to anyone under the age of 30-years-old without proper proof of age identification.

On-going promotions include:

- **Every Tuesday is Senior Day** – Seniors, 55 years of age and older, receive a 10% discount off regular priced liquor, beer and wine items.
- **Every Wednesday is Military Discount Day** – Active or retired military receive a 10% discount off regular priced liquor, beer or wine. Proper proof of service required to receive discount.
- **Daily Traffic Stopper Specials** – one day specials on select items so low we can run them for one day only.
- **\$20 worth of merchandise** – given away each week to the winner of our football contest. One winner at each store. See stores for more details. Play and win. Ends after the Super Bowl.
- **Free Wine Discount Cards** – available to any customer.
- **Spring Wine Sale** – April 16 through May 2. All wines will be 22% off regular price.

STORE LOCATIONS:

Better Values Liquor West
809 West Highway 10
763-427-1821

Better Values Liquor East
847 East River Road
763-421-3070

STORE HOURS:

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Clean Water Starts at Home

Tip #6: Fall Lawn Care

Turf grass has a growth spurt in the fall to store up energy for winter. You can help your grass, save on your water bill, and prevent water pollution all at the same time:

1. **Mulch** leaves and grass with your lawnmower to return nutrients to the soil and to help keep them off the streets... and out of our waters! This is so important, in fact, that there is an ordinance against such 'Illicit Discharges' in our stormwater (Andover Ordinance: 10-7-6).

2. **Aerate your lawn late August, early-September**
How? Use a core aerator, available for rent at many home & garden stores and offered by some lawncare services.

Water and air can reach the grass roots more easily with aeration.



<http://turf.cals.cornell.edu/lawn/lawn-care-the-easiest-steps-to-an-attractive-environmental-asset/advanced-care/soil-compaction/>

3. **Wait to fertilize until after aeration**
If you use fertilizer, use it after aerating your lawn. Then it can be absorbed and saved by plants for spring. Fertilizing once per year should be enough.
 - People find that if they mulch their clippings and leaves, they often don't need to fertilize!
 - Test your soil at UMN Extension by contacting them at 612-625-3101, or at <http://soiltest.cfans.umn.edu/>
4. **If you use herbicides, fall is the best time to treat for perennial broadleaf weeds.** However, these chemicals can be pollutants if applied improperly.

Healthy lawns can look great and be good for water quality by absorbing rainfall!

Want to adopt a stormdrain near you to help keep grass clippings and other debris out?
Contact Britta at Coon Creek Watershed District: 763-755-0975 or bdornfeld@cooncreekwd.org.

For more information contact the Lower Rum River WMO, www.lrrwmo.org, or the Coon Creek Watershed District at 763.755.0975 or email: info@cooncreekwd.org.

Appendix D: 2020 Work Results

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Excerpt from the 2020 Water Almanac *Chapter 4: Lower Rum River Watershed*

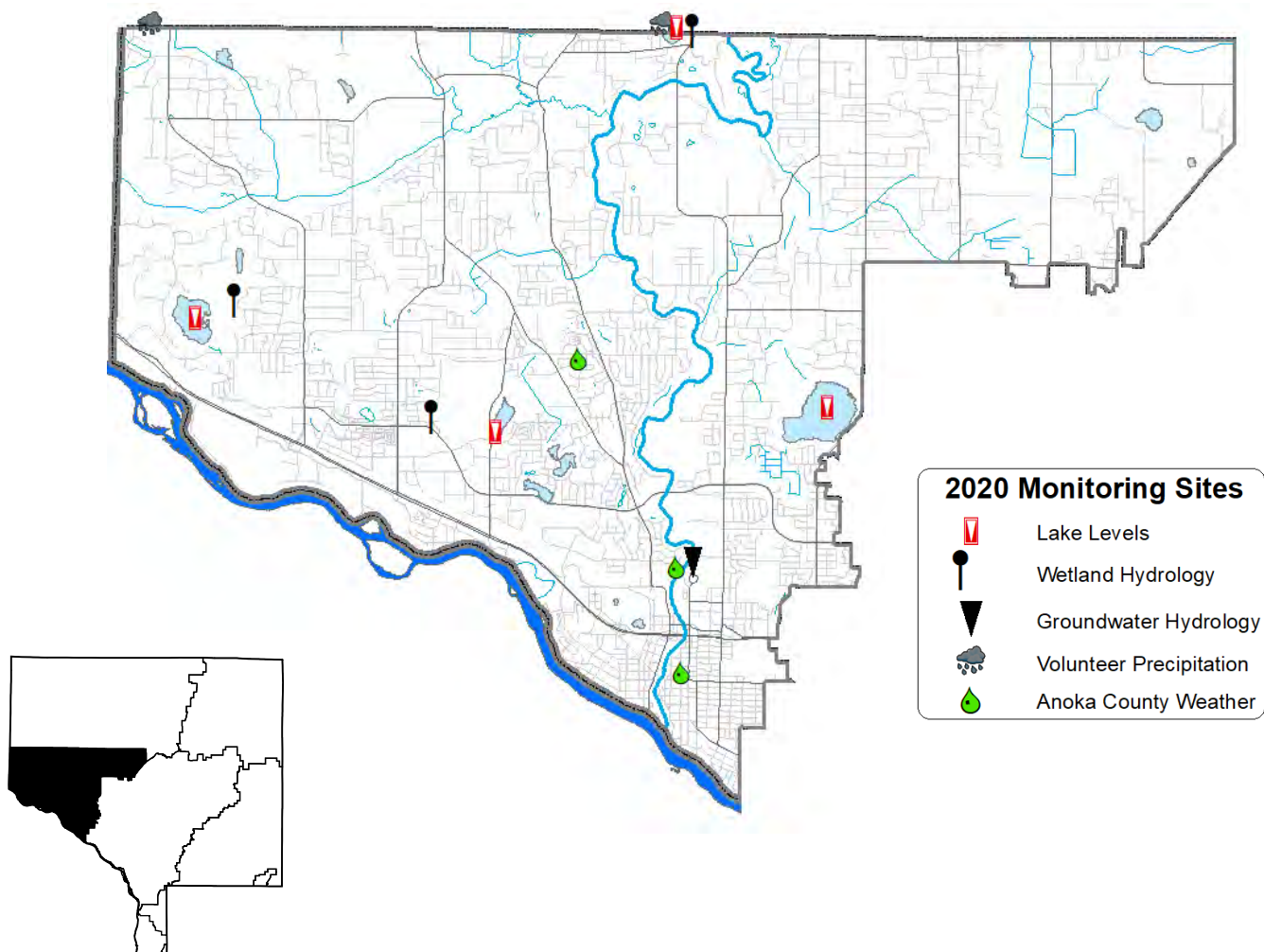


Prepared by the Anoka Conservation District

Chapter 4: Lower Rum River Watershed

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Lake Level Monitoring

Partners: LRRWMO, ACD, MN DNR, volunteers

Description: Weekly water level monitoring in lakes. The past five and twenty-five years of data are illustrated below, and all historical data are available on the Minnesota DNR website using the “LakeFinder” feature (www.dnr.mn.us.state/lakefind/index.html).

Purpose: To understand lake hydrology, including the impacts of climate or other water budget changes. These data are useful for regulatory, building/development, and lake management decisions.

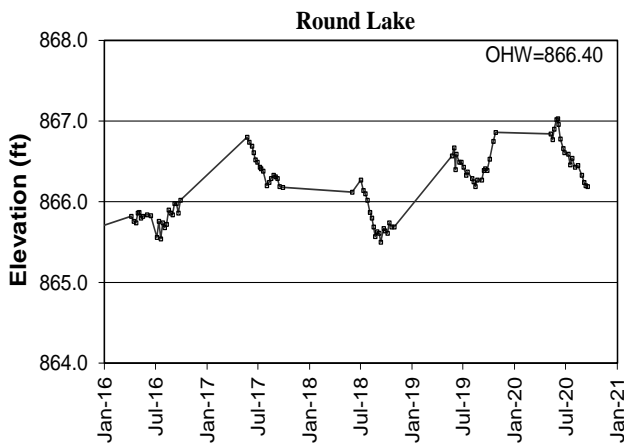
Locations: Round, Rogers, Itasca, and Sunfish/Grass Lakes

Results: Lake levels were measured by volunteers throughout the 2020 open water season. Lake gauges were installed and surveyed by the Anoka Conservation District and MN DNR. In 2020, lake levels started near average and declined throughout the season. The rebound often seen in the fall was not observed. This is likely due to infrequent rain events throughout the season and the lowest annual total precipitation since 2012.

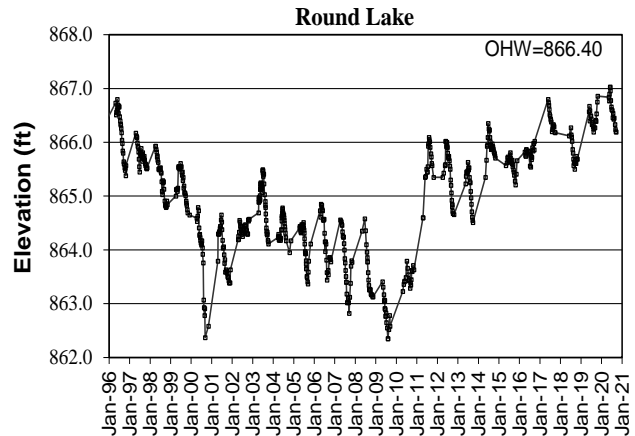
Rogers Lake reached its lowest water level since 2015, while Lake Itasca had its highest average level since 2006. Sunfish Lake appears to be rising over the past 25 years with all of 2020 staying above the OHW (860.01). Round Lake has rebounded to the levels it had in the mid-nineties after dropping almost five feet 1996-2010. In 2020 Round Lake reached its highest level since 1986 (867.03).

All lake level data can be downloaded from the MN DNR website’s Lakefinder feature. Ordinary High Water Level (OHW), the elevation below which a DNR permit is needed to perform work, is listed for each lake on the corresponding graphs below.

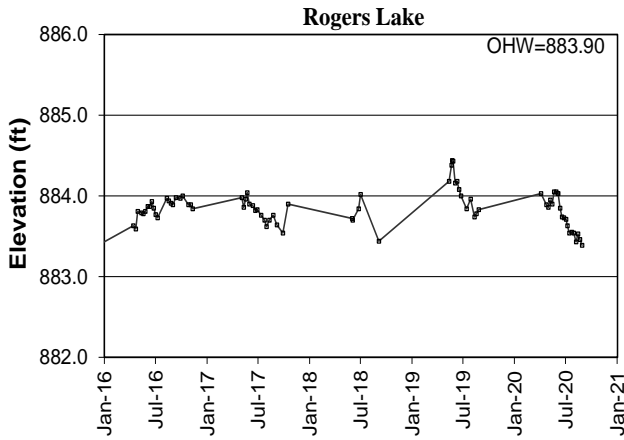
Round Lake Levels – last 5 years



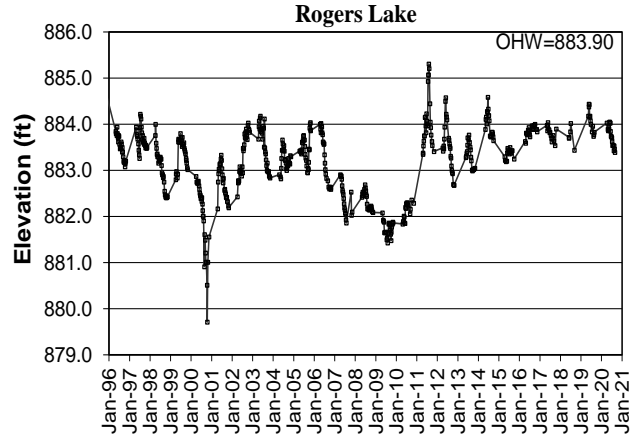
Round Lake Levels – last 25 years



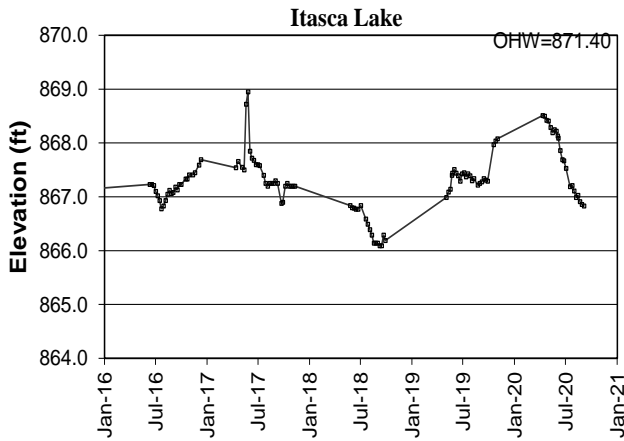
Rogers Lake Levels – last 5 years



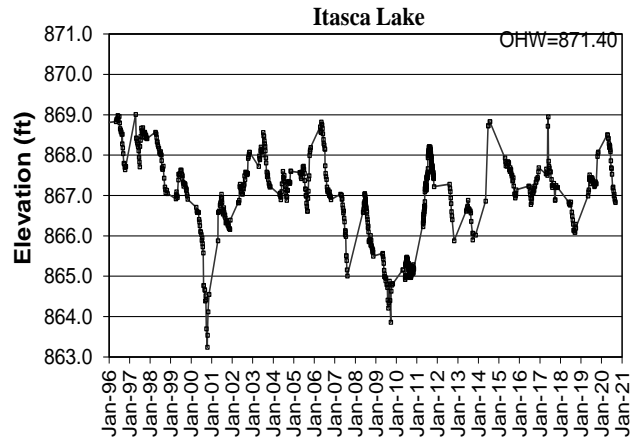
Rogers Lake Levels – last 25 years



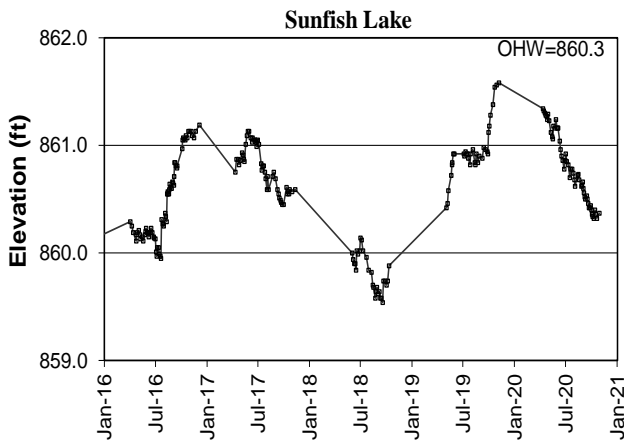
Itasca Lake Levels – last 5 years



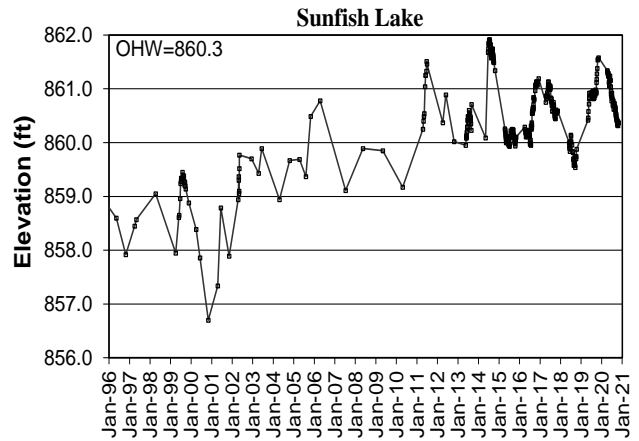
Itasca Lake Levels – last 25 years



Sunfish/Grass Lake Levels – last 5 years



Sunfish/Grass Lake Levels – last 25 years



Lake Itasca	Year	Average	Min	Max
	2016	867.19	866.78	867.69
	2017	867.47	866.88	868.95
	2018	866.45	866.09	866.84
	2019	867.41	866.99	868.08
	2020	867.72	866.83	868.51

Rogers Lake	Year	Average	Min	Max
	2016	883.85	883.59	884.00
	2017	883.81	883.54	884.04
	2018	883.74	883.44	884.02
	2019	884.08	883.74	884.44
	2020	883.76	883.39	884.05

Round Lake	Year	Average	Min	Max
	2016	865.81	865.54	866.02
	2017	866.42	866.18	866.80
	2018	865.80	865.50	866.27
	2019	866.45	866.19	866.86
	2020	866.61	866.19	867.03

Sunfish/ Grass Lake	Year	Average	Min	Max
	2016	860.48	859.95	861.19
	2017	860.79	860.45	861.13
	2018	859.81	860.14	860.14
	2019	860.94	860.42	861.58
	2020	860.80	860.32	861.34

Wetland Hydrology

Partners: LRRWMO, ACD

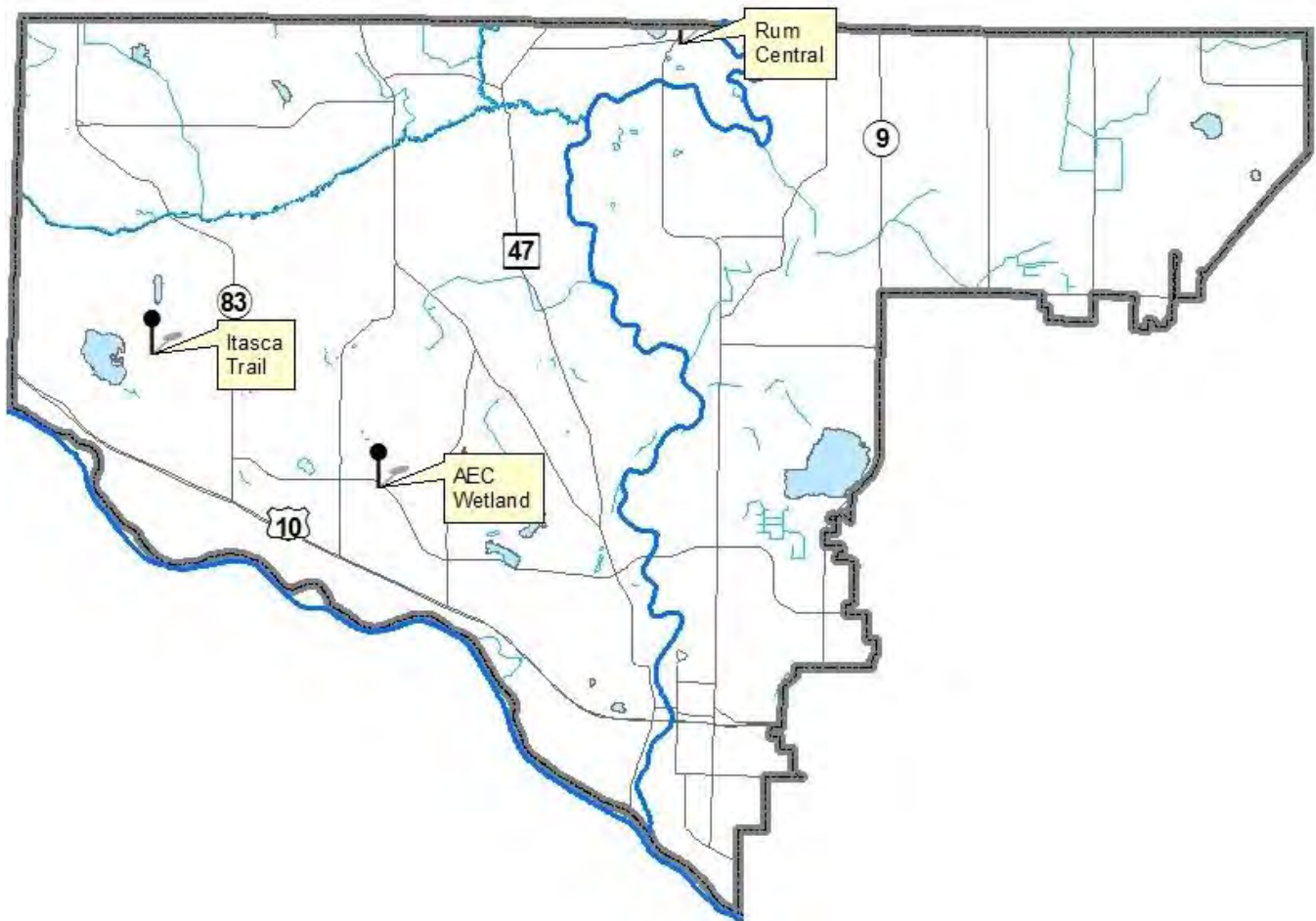
Description: Continuous groundwater level monitoring at a wetland boundary. Countywide, the ACD maintains a network of 23 wetland hydrology monitoring stations.

Purpose: To provide understanding of wetland hydrology, including the impacts of climate and land use. These data aid in delineation of nearby wetlands by documenting hydrologic trends including the timing, frequency, and duration of saturation.

Locations: AEC Reference Wetland, Connexus Energy Property on Bunker Lake Blvd, Ramsey
Rum River Central Reference Wetland, Rum River Central Park, Ramsey
Lake Itasca Trail Reference Wetland, Lake Itasca Park, Ramsey

Results: Depicted on the following pages.

Lower Rum River Watershed Wetland Hydrology Monitoring Sites



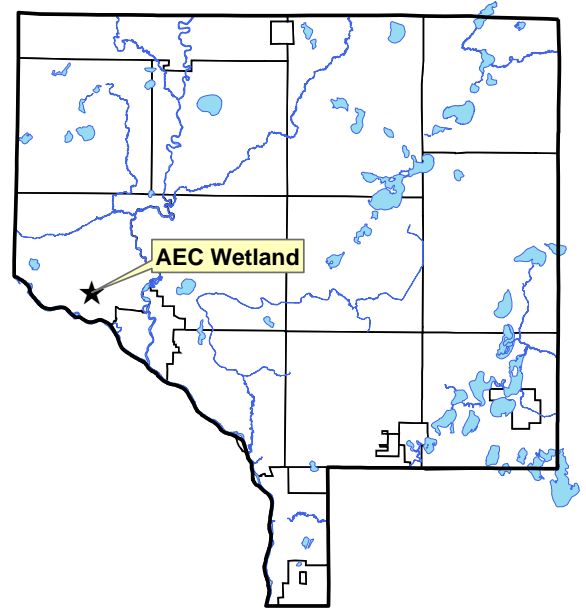
Wetland Hydrology Monitoring

AEC REFERENCE WETLAND

Cottonwood Park, adjacent to Connexus Energy Offices (formerly Anoka Electric Coop), Ramsey

Site Information

Monitored Since: 1999
Wetland Type: 3
Wetland Size: ~18 acres
Isolated Basin? No, probably receives storm water
Connected to a Ditch? No



Soils at Well Location:

Horizon	Depth	Color	Texture	Redox
A	0-15	10yr2/1	Sandy Loam	-
Bw	15-40	10yr3/2	Gravelly Sandy loam	-

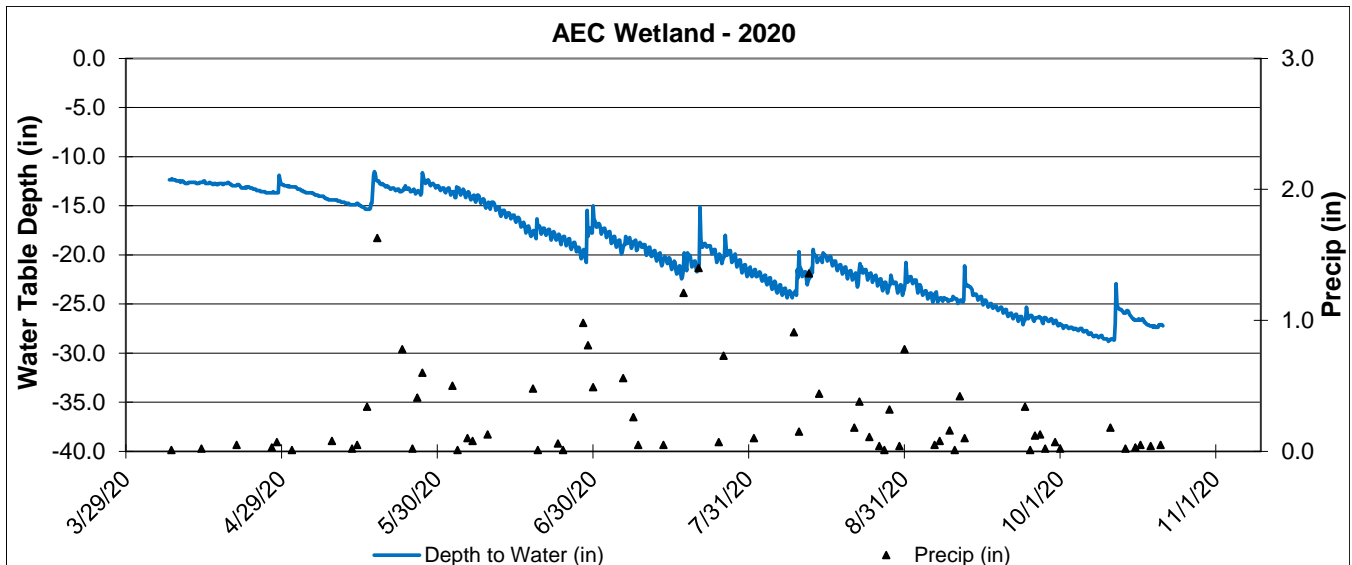
Surrounding Soils: Hubbard coarse sand

Vegetation at Well Location:

Scientific	Common	% Coverage
Populus tremuloides	Quaking Aspen	30
Salix bebbiana	Bebb Willow	30
Carex Spp	Sedge undiff.	30
Solidago canadensis	Canada Goldenrod	20

Other Notes: Well is located at the wetland boundary.

2020 Hydrograph



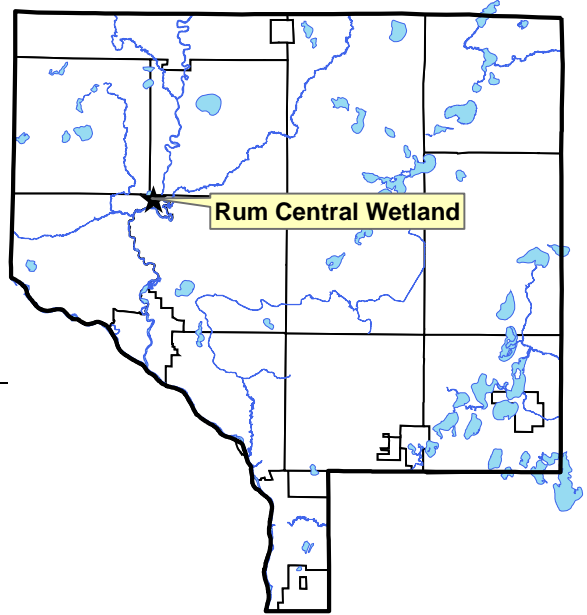
Wetland Hydrology Monitoring

RUM RIVER CENTRAL REFERENCE WETLAND

Rum River Central Regional Park, Ramsey

Site Information

Monitored Since: 1997
Wetland Type: 6
Wetland Size: ~0.8 acres
Isolated Basin? Yes
Connected to a Ditch? No
Soils at Well Location:



Horizon	Depth	Color	Texture	Redox
A	0-12	10yr2/1	Sandy Loam	-
Bg1	12-26	10ry5/6	Sandy Loam	-
Bg2	26-40	10yr5/2	Loamy Sand	-

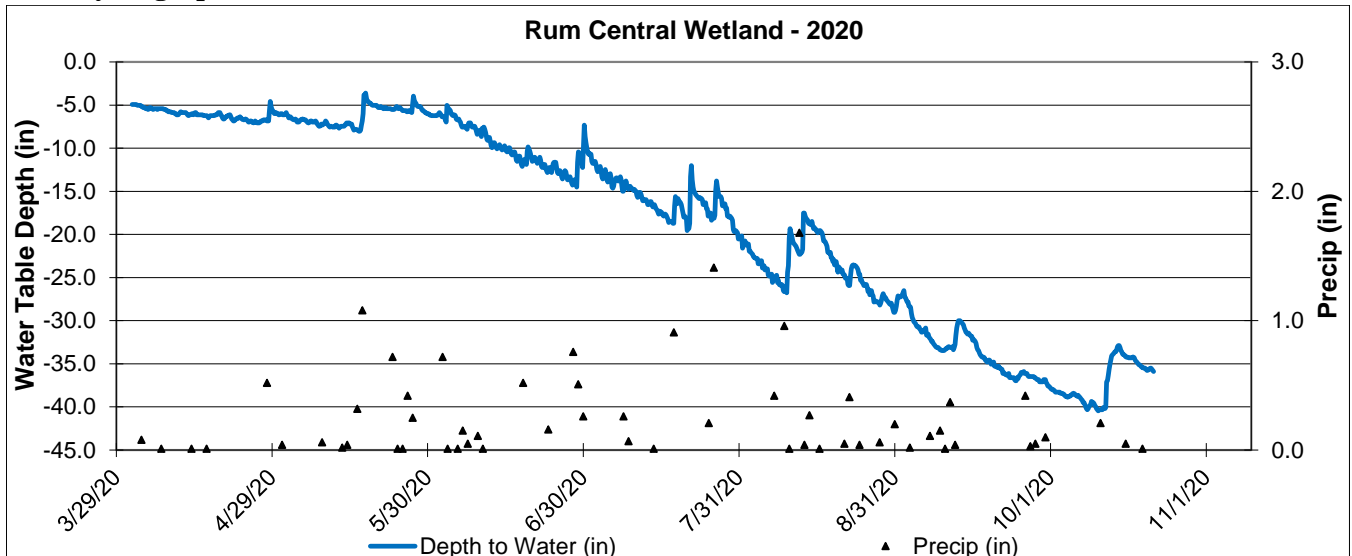
Surrounding Soils: Zimmerman fine sand

Vegetation at Well Location:

Scientific	Common	% Coverage
<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>	Reed Canary Grass	40
<i>Corylus americanum</i>	American Hazelnut	40
<i>Onoclea sensibilis</i>	Sensitive Fern	30
<i>Rubus strigosus</i>	Raspberry	30
<i>Quercus rubra</i>	Red Oak	20

Other Notes: Well is located at the wetland boundary.

2020 Hydrograph



Wetland Hydrology Monitoring

LAKE ITASCA TRAILS REFERENCE WETLAND

Lake Itasca Trails Park, Ramsey

Site Information

Monitored Since: 2013
Wetland Type: 2/6
Wetland Size: ~10 acres
Isolated Basin? Yes
Connected to a Ditch? No
Soils at Well Location:



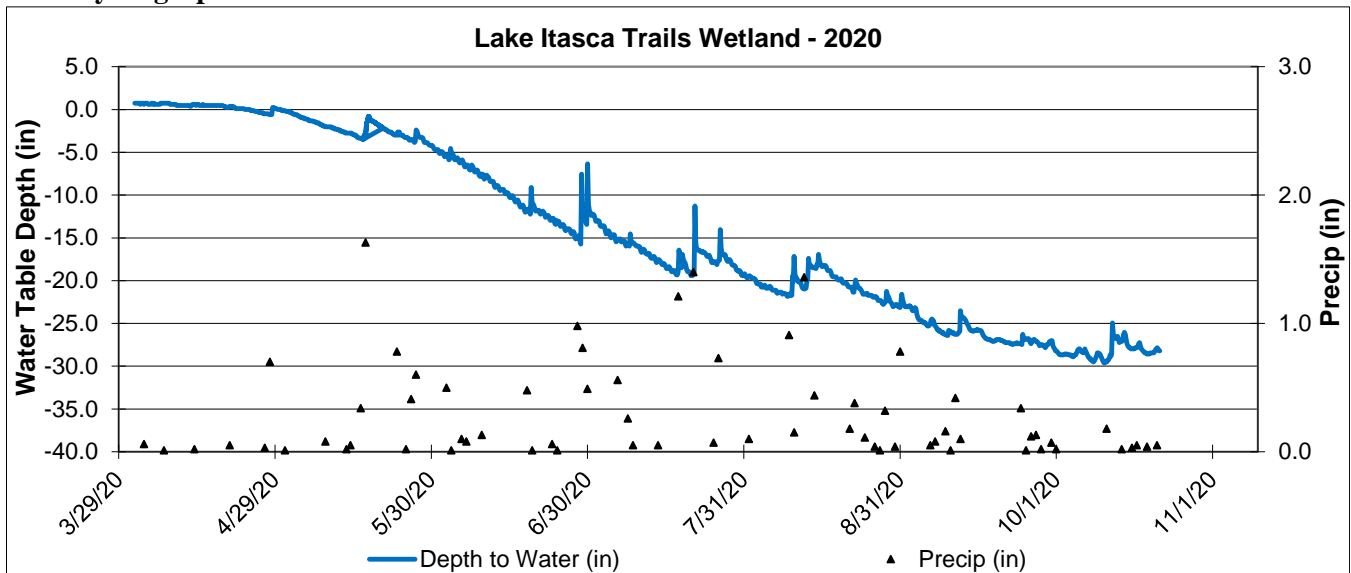
Horizon	Depth	Color	Texture	Redox
A1	0-12	10yr2/0	Mucky sand	-
A2	12-20	10ry2/1	Sand	-
B1	20-36	10yr4/1	Sand and fine gravel	-
B2	36-48	10yr6/1	Sand and fine gravel	-

Vegetation at Well Location:

Scientific	Common	% Coverage
Carex stricta	Hummock Sedge	80
Phalaris arundinacea	Reed Canary Grass	20
Salix sp.	Willow	20
Rubus sp.	Bristle-berry	5

Other Notes: Well is located about 10 feet east and about 6 inches downslope of the wetland boundary. DNR Public Water Wetland 2-339.

2020 Hydrograph



Water Quality Grant Fund

Partners: LRRWMO, ACD

Description: The LRRWMO provides cost share grants for projects on either public or private property that will improve water quality, such as repairing streambank erosion, restoring native shoreline vegetation, or rain gardens. This funding is administered by the Anoka Conservation District. Projects affecting the Rum River are given the priority because it is viewed as an especially valuable resource.

Purpose: To improve water quality in lakes, streams and rivers by correcting erosion problems and providing buffers or other structures that filter runoff before it reaches the water bodies.

Results: Projects reported in the year they are installed.

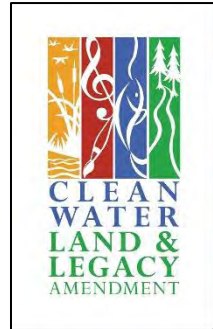
LRRWMO Cost Share Fund Summary

2006 LRRWMO Contribution	+	\$1,000.00
2008 Expense – Herralá Rum Riverbank stabilization	-	\$ 150.91
2008 Expense – Rusin Rum Riverbank stabilization	-	\$ 225.46
2009 LRRWMO Contribution	+	\$1,000.00
2009 Expense – Rusin Rum Riverbank bluff stabilization	-	\$ 52.05
2010 LRRWMO Contribution	+	\$ 0
2010 LRRWMO Expenses	-	\$ 0
2011 LRRWMO Contribution	+	\$ 0
2011 Expense - Blackburn Rum riverbank	-	\$ 543.46
2012 LRRWMO Contribution	+	\$1,000.00
2013 LRRWMO Contribution	+	\$1,000.00
2013 Expense – Geldacker Mississippi Riverbank	-	\$1,000.00
2014 LRRWMO Contribution	+	\$2,050.00
2006-14 Expense – Smith Rum Riverbank stabilization	-	\$ 2,561.77
2015 LRRWMO Contribution	+	\$1,000.00
2016 LRRWMO Contribution	+	\$1,000.00
2016 Expense – Brauer Rum Riverbank	-	\$1,150.00
2018 LRRWMO Contribution	+	\$2,000.00
2014-16 Expense – Anoka rain garden plants	-	\$ 916.59
2019 LRRWMO Contribution	+	\$2,000.00
2020 LRRWMO Contribution	+	\$2,000.00
Fund Balance		\$7,449.76

Rum River Bank Erosion Grants

Partners: ACD, Anoka County Parks, LRRWMO, URRWMO

Description: The Anoka Conservation District (ACD) prepared an inventory of Rum River bank erosion using 360° photos of the riverbanks of the Rum throughout Anoka County. The photos are available through Google Maps using the Street View feature. An inventory report identifying 80 stretches of riverbank with moderate to very severe erosion is available on ACD's website. Estimated project cost and annual sediment load reduction to the river were calculated. ACD used this inventory to apply for grant funding for stabilization projects to correct some of these eroding banks. These applications, and matching money from Anoka County and the Rum River WMOs resulted in \$1.4 Million to be used over the next three years for stabilization projects. This funding comes from the Outdoor Heritage Fund (OHF) and Clean Water Fund (CWF) of the Clean Water Land and Legacy Amendment.



Purpose: To identify and prioritize riverbank stabilization sites and be used by ACD and other entities to pursue grant funds to restore or stabilize eroding stretches of Rum Riverbank.

Location: Rum River conveyance throughout Anoka County

Results: Inventory of 80 stretches of moderate to very severe erosion on banks of the Rum River. \$1.4 Million has been secured in grant and matching funds to implement stabilization projects.

Phase 1 - Rum River Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat Enhancement Through Bioengineering

PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

- Rum River bank stabilization projects are recommended in the 2017 Rum River Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) report by state and local agencies and stakeholders.
- The Anoka Conservation District (ACD) identified 30 eroding stretches totaling seven miles of riverbank.
- Critical riparian-littoral transitional habitat is missing along these seven miles, and 7,838 tons of sediment is delivered to the river annually, smothering habitat for mussels, invertebrates, and spawning fish.
- LSOHC, CPL, and Clean Water Fund grants will be pursued to address sites based on scale and severity.
- Two phases are planned for LSOHC requests for Rum River habitat-building bioengineering projects in Anoka County over five years. Additional requests with upstream partners may be possible in the future.

PROJECT SUMMARY

- Stabilization and habitat enhancement of four to eight sites over three years during Phase 1 with \$952,200 LSOHC -OHF funds
- Enhanced opportunity for fishing, hunting, and recreation on a key public water resource
- Project partners: ACD, Anoka County, and landowners
- Support from: Upper Rum River WMO, Lower Rum River WMO, and MN Waterfowl Association

LONG-TERM STRATEGY

- Anoka County approved \$442,000 in grant match over the next five years.
- Future LSOHC requests will be made for additional habitat building bioengineering projects.
- Clean Water Fund grants will be pursued for projects requiring substantial hard armoring.
- CPL funds will be pursued for smaller projects addressable by cedar tree revegetment projects.

PROJECT BENEFITS

- Habitat enhancement (up to three acres) for game fish, waterfowl, and non-game wildlife
- Reconnection of fragmented riparian habitat along up to a half mile of riverbank
- Water quality and clarity improvement downstream by reducing up to 750 tons of sediment annually
- Projects will protect both public and private land currently being lost to erosion
- Wildlife-friendly approaches will be developed or tested to advance bioengineering practices for wildlife benefit

BIOENGINEERING

- Relies on natural materials to stabilize banks while providing transitional habitat that is traversable by wildlife
- May include light grading and toe armor, native plants, woody materials, and rock vanes
- Stabilizes soils to prevent sediment loading to river, improving water quality, fish spawning beds, and mussel habitat
- Reconnects currently fragmented riparian-littoral habitat along the river

MINNESOTA'S RUM RIVER

- State Outstanding Resource Value Water
- State Wild, Scenic, and Recreational River
- State Water Trail
- World-class smallmouth bass fishery
- Key reach for Species in Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN): Several mussels, Blanding's turtle

BEFORE AFTER

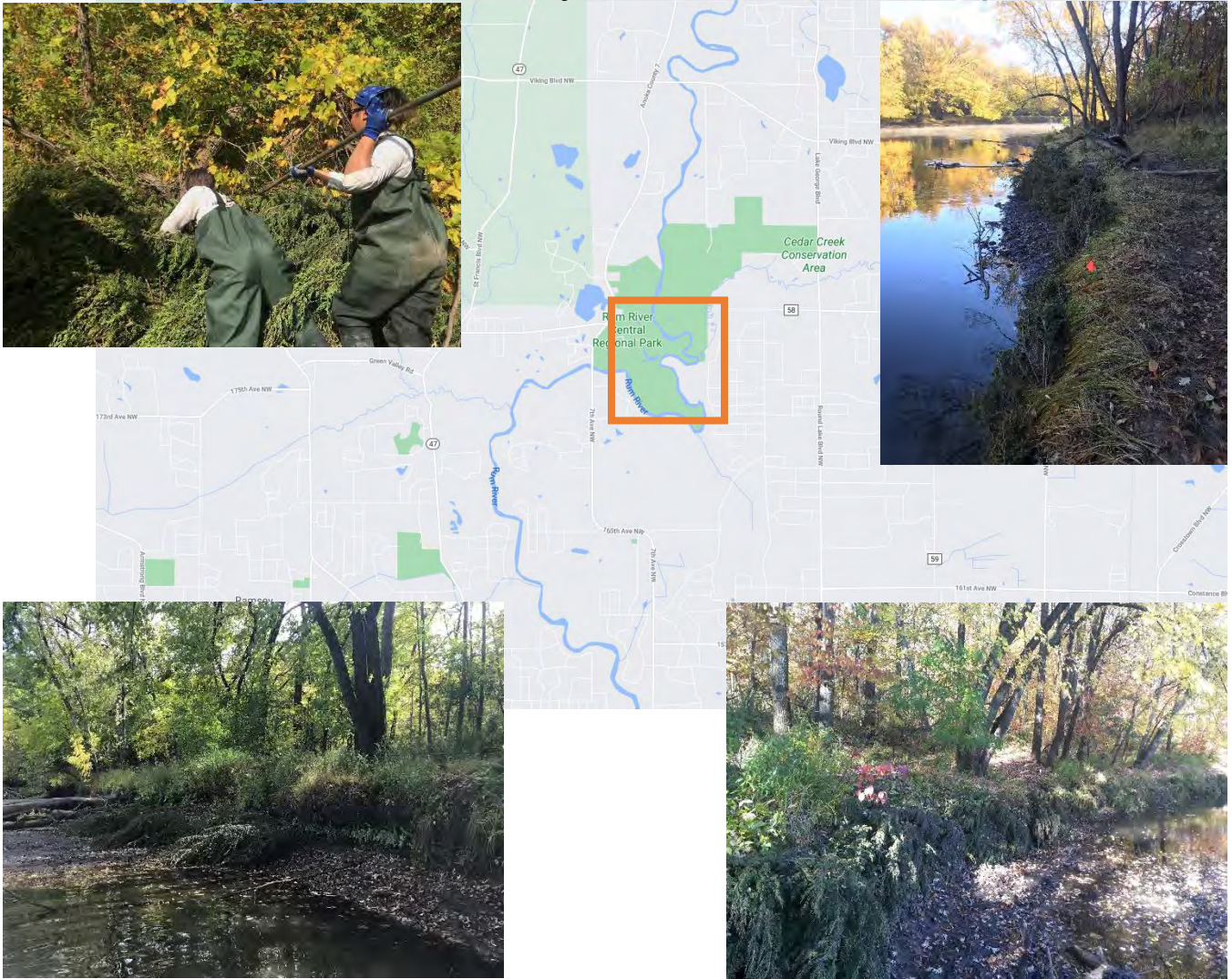
BEFORE AFTER

Application illustration for the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council to do Rum River stabilization projects utilizing bioengineering approaches. The LSOHC recommended funding these projects at \$816,000 over the next three years, which will be matched with \$205,000 in local funds from Anoka County and the Upper and Lower Rum River WMOs.

Rum River Bank Stabilizations

- Partners:** ACD, Conservation Corps MN, Anoka County Parks, landowners
- Description:** One large-scale riverbank stabilization project was installed on the Rum River in 2020. A cedar tree revetment practice was used to stabilize 650 linear feet of eroding bank. The project was installed with labor from Conservation Corps Minnesota (CCM) work crews and ACD staff. Funding for the revetment project came from the Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program and a Clean Water Fund CCM crew labor grant.
- Purpose:** To stabilize areas of riverbank with mild to moderate erosion in order to reduce sediment loading in the Rum River, as well as to reduce the likelihood of much larger and more expensive corrective projects in the future.
- Location:** Rum River Central Regional Park
- Results:** Stabilized 650 linear feet of riverbank on the Rum River within Rum Central Regional Park

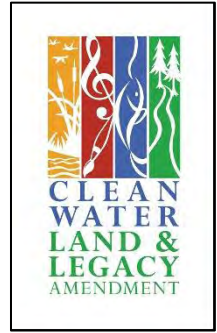
2020 Rum Central Regional Park Revetment Project



Anoka High School Campus Groundwater Conservation Plan (CGCP)

Partners: Anoka High School staff, ACD

Description: For this project, the Metro Conservation Districts (MCD) is working to provide groundwater conservation planning protocols to member districts for implementation on large-acreage, public campuses (e.g. public schools and government facilities). These areas are targeted due to their educational benefits, likelihood of stakeholder buy in and implementation, magnitude of potential impact, and opportunity for school district-wide implementation. Funding for the project is provided by a Clean Water Fund grant. The grant recipient is MCD and Anoka Conservation District is serving as the grant host.



Purpose: To identify all possible groundwater conservation practices on the Anoka High School Campus and rank them by cost-effectiveness for prioritization of installation.

Location: Anoka High School Campus – Anoka, MN

Results: The Campus Groundwater Conservation Planning (CGCP) protocol was implemented on the Anoka High School Campus in 2020 for the purpose of identifying and ranking water conservation project opportunities. Of the 224 projects identified for conserving municipal water, 113 have an estimated payback period shorter than their estimated lifespan, which makes them feasible from a financial perspective. Implementation of these 113 potential water conservation projects would result in an annual reduction in water use of 1,502,297 gallons, which corresponds to a reduction of \$7,968.18 in annual costs associated with water and energy.

Payback Period Criteria	Number of Projects	Installation Cost (\$)	Savings (Water + Energy) over Life of Projects (\$)	Net Savings (Water + Energy) over Life of Projects (\$)	Annual Water Savings (gallons)	Water Savings over Life of Projects (gallons)	Cost per 1,000 gallons saved over Life of Projects
< 1 year	11	\$550.00	\$7,813.52	\$7,263.52	154,672	1,394,568	\$0.39
< 2 years	29	\$2,850.00	\$20,991.01	\$18,141.01	415,828	3,809,687	\$0.75
< 5 years	79	\$15,450.00	\$57,051.68	\$41,601.68	1,132,321	10,799,304	\$1.43
All projects with positive net savings (\$)	113	\$26,950.00	\$75,656.59	\$48,706.59	1,502,297	14,470,805	\$1.86
All projects, including negative net savings (\$)	224	\$47,750.00	\$82,445.16	\$34,695.16	1,636,702	15,687,024	\$3.04



Anoka Rain Gardens

Partners: City of Anoka, ACD

Description: The City of Anoka completed a street resurfacing project in the 38th Lane neighborhood in summer of 2020. The City hired ACD to design three rain gardens in this neighborhood which were installed in conjunction with the street resurface project. This neighborhood already contained two rain gardens that were performing well, and protecting water quality in the Rum River by treating stormwater that was otherwise piped through the storm sewer system to the river. Collectively, these new rain gardens will remove about 76% of the pollutant load from 4.7 acres in this neighborhood. Design work was completed in January of 2020, and installation took place during the summer.

Purpose: To improve water quality in the Rum and Mississippi Rivers.

Location: 38th Lane Neighborhood, Anoka

Results: Three rain gardens were designed and installed in 2020.

Map of installed and previously installed rain gardens



Newsletter Articles

Partners: LRRWMO, ACD

Description: The Lower Rum River Watershed Management Organization (LRRWMO) contracts the Anoka Conservation District (ACD) to create public education materials. The LRRWMO is required to distribute an annual publication under State Rules. This requirement is met through newsletters or infographics in city newsletters. This method ensures wide distribution at minimal cost.

Purpose: To improve public understanding of the LRRWMO, its functions, and accomplishments.

Location: Watershed-wide

Results: In 2020, the Anoka Conservation District (ACD) drafted two newsletter infographics and sent them to cities for inclusion in their newsletters. The two brief articles are shown below.

2020 Newsletter Articles

Lower Rum River Watershed Management Organization

MEDIA RELEASE

Contact person: [Jamie Schurbon](mailto:jamie.schurbon@anokaswcd.org), 763-434-2030 ext. 21
Date: April 17, 2020

Local Watershed Organization Tackles Riverbank Erosion

Riverbank erosion causes problems for both property owners and the river's health. Recent inventories of Rum and Mississippi of river conditions found dozens of stretches of eroding riverbank in Anoka County. The Lower Rum River Watershed Management Organization (LRRWMO) and its partners will soon begin work to correct a number of those eroding riverbanks.

Grants totaling \$2M have been secured from the MN Board of Water and Soil Resources, [Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council](#), and the MN DNR. All these funding sources get money from the Clean Land, Water and Legacy Amendment passed by voters in 2008. Grants for Rum Riverbank stabilization projects are being received by the Anoka Conservation District in collaboration with the LRRWMO, Upper Rum River WMO, The Nature Conservancy and Anoka County Parks. Grants for Mississippi River Community Park in Anoka are being received by the City of Anoka in collaboration with the LRRWMO. Work begins in 2020, with most construction in 2021.

Stabilizing even just 10 eroding riverbanks will decrease sediment entering the river by over 750 tons. That sediment makes the water brown, carries nutrients and other pollutants, and smothers fish spawning habitat. Every project will include habitat improvements in and next to the water.

[This paragraph is optional – cut if required to fit available space] Riverbank erosion varies in size and type of solution. Amongst locally eroding riverbanks, some are tall banks of bare, collapsing sand. These locations, including Mississippi River Community Park require re-grading, rock or other robust engineering to fix. Other eroding riverbanks are just a few feet tall. These can be corrected with “softer” materials such as armoring with cut cedar trees and planting for long-term stability. In either case, work is done with an eye toward improving habitat.

The Lower Rum River Watershed Management Organization is a special purpose unit of government made up of three cities: Andover, Anoka and Ramsey. Its purpose is to manage the area's waters, particularly those that flow across city boundaries. More information is at www.LRRWMO.org.


Photos below are also provided as separate image files.

Grants for water quality projects

The Lower Rum River Watershed Management Organization is offering small grants to residents wishing to do projects that will benefit lakes, streams and groundwater. Common project types are lakeshore stabilization or vegetation buffers, rain gardens, and streambank stabilization. Applications are accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis. Commonly, grant awards are for \$500 to \$3,000 or 50-75% of the project cost, however every project is considered on its own merits.

Applications are accepted through the Anoka Conservation District, which hosts several grant programs in an effort to be a one-stop-shop. The Anoka Conservation District also offers free technical help to residents wishing to address a water quality or habitat issue. Applications are found at www.AnokaSWCD.org/financialsupport.html or contact Jamie Schurbon (jamie.schurbon@anokaswcd.org or 763-434-2030 ext. 21).

Funding provided by the Lower Rum River Watershed Management Organization (LRRWMO). The LRRWMO is a joint effort of the cities of Anoka, Andover and Ramsey.

 Lower Rum River WMO www.LRRWMO.org



Recommendations

- **Install projects identified the new LRWRMO Watershed Management Plan**, currently under review. New non-competitive State Watershed Based Funding may be used for these projects, as well as competitive grants.
- **Continue to install projects identified in the stormwater retrofit studies for the Cities of Anoka and Ramsey.** Projects have been identified and ranked that would improve stormwater runoff before it is discharged to the Rum or Mississippi River. Metropolitan Council grant funds were used to construct three projects in 2017-2018. Three more projects were installed by the City of Anoka and ACD in 2020. Additional cost-effective projects exist.
- **Engage with upstream entities creating a collaborative Rum River One Watershed, One Plan (1W1P).** As the receiving entity at the bottom of the watershed for all water flowing downstream, it is especially important to collaborate on, and prioritize, projects benefitting the river. 1W1P development continues through 2021.
- **Implement the MPCA Rum River WRAPP (Watershed Restoration and Protection Plan).** This WRAPP included an assessment of the entire Rum River watershed. It outlines regional priorities and management strategies, and attempts to coordinate them across jurisdictions. The primary project type identified in Anoka County is the stabilization of eroding banks along the Rum River.
- **Maintain or reduce Rum River phosphorus.** Phosphorus levels are close to State water quality standards. It may be appropriate to review development and stormwater discharge ordinances to ensure phosphorus does not increase in coming years.
- **Implement groundwater conservation measures** throughout the watershed and promote them metro-wide. Depletion of shallow groundwater is a concern region-wide.
- **Continue surveillance water monitoring** at a frequency sufficient to detect changes and trends.
- **Continue chloride sampling at all sites on a rotating basis.** Chloride sampling was conducted at County Road 7 in 2018 and 2019. Because this pollutant can have such a profound impact on aquatic life and drinking water, continuing to periodically include it in the monitoring regime is prudent.