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MEDIA RELEASE

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 - *Please include the Sunrise River WMO logo.*
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Sunrise River Watershed Management Organization

Coon Lake Projects Installed to Improve Water Quality

Four projects were recently installed to improve water quality in Coon Lake, and two more are scheduled for spring. Two rain gardens, one roadside stabilization and one lakeshore restoration were built this summer. Two more lakeshore stabilizations will be completed in spring 2016. The projects are on lakeshore properties or roads.

All the projects stop erosion or reduce nutrient runoff into the lake. Each rain garden captures road runoff that otherwise would go directly into the lake. The roadside stabilization project at Lincoln Drive corrects an area that regularly washed out into the lake. The lakeshore restorations fix ongoing shoreline erosion and include native plant buffers to filter runoff.

Keeping these pollutants out of the lake will lead to less algae. “Coon Lake is not on the State’s list of impaired waters, but it isn’t that far from it either,” says Jamie Schurbon, Water Resource Specialist at the Anoka Conservation District (ACD). “It is a priority to keep it in good condition.”

In 2014 the ACD identified and ranked projects around the lake that would improve water quality. From that list the most cost effective projects were selected. Landowners were asked to voluntarily work with the conservation district. At the same time, the Sunrise River Watershed Management Organization (WMO) and ACD applied for a State Clean Water Fund grant, which was secured for \$74,000.



Major local funding to match the grant came from the Sunrise River Watershed Management Organization, which also helped initiate and guide the projects. Other sources of grant matching dollars included the Coon Lake Improvement District, Coon Lake Improvement Association and Coon Lake Beach Community Center. The Anoka Conservation District is overseeing the projects.

The Sunrise River WMO is a joint powers local unit of government through which East Bethel, Columbus, Ham Lake and Linwood collaborate. For more information about the Sunrise River Watershed Management Organization visit www.SRWMO.org or call Jamie Schurbon at 763-434-2030 ext. 12.



Coon Lake Beach Community Center rain garden



19303 East Front Blvd rain garden



Lincoln Drive stormwater treatment



19511 East Tri Oak Circle lakeshore restoration