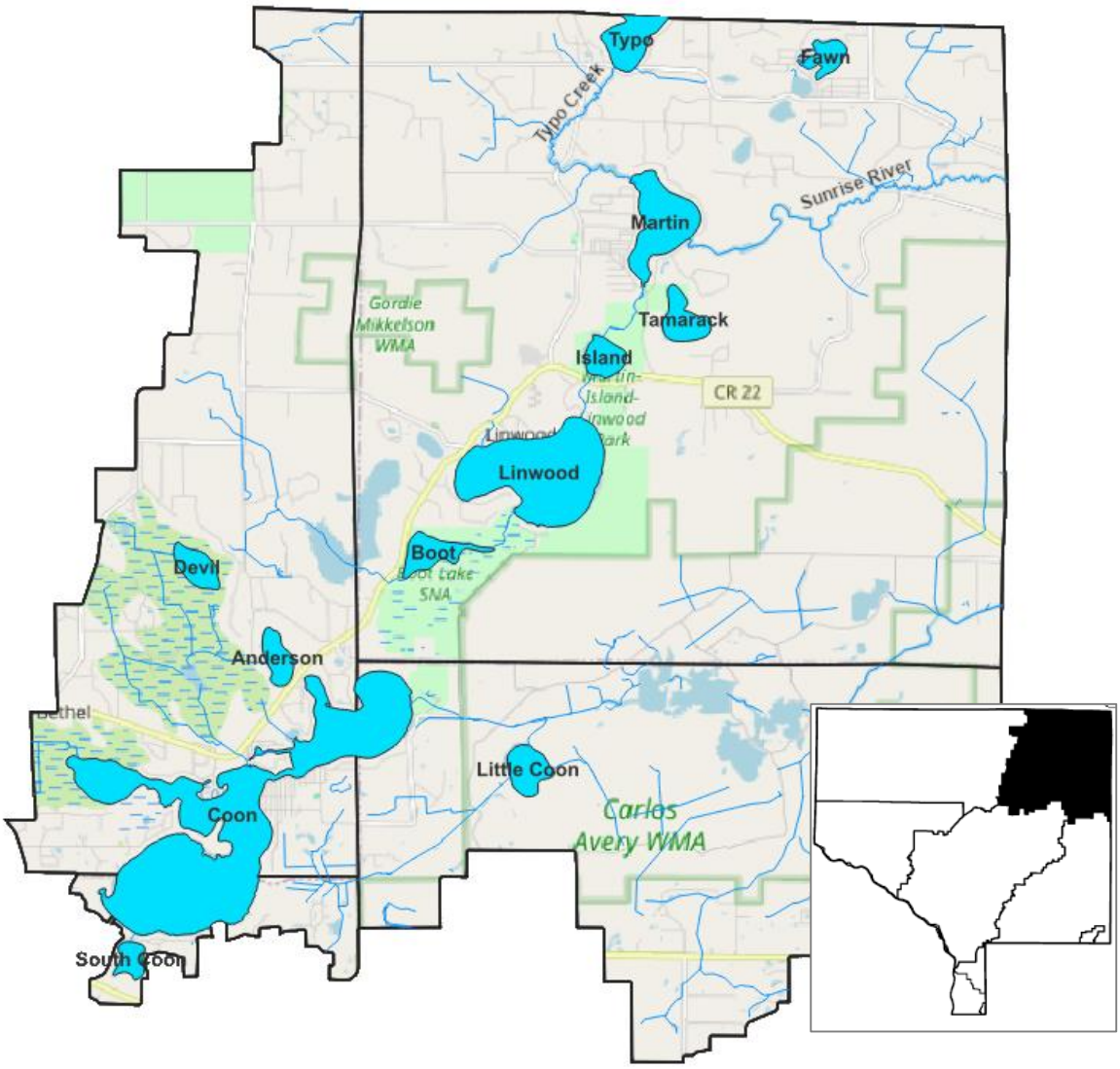
Sunrise River Watershed Management Organization

2024 Report of Work



Submitted by: Anoka Conservation District

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Table of Contents

Administrative 3
On–Call Administrative Assistance 3
Annual Written Communication to Member Communities 3
Annual Reports to BWSR and State Auditor 3
Grant Search and Applications 3
Review New Development Sketch Plans 4
Water Monitoring 5
Lake Water Quality 5
Secchi Transparency Lake Monitoring – Volunteer Recruit 5
Lake Level Monitoring 5
Stream Water Quality Monitoring 6
Stream Chloride Sampling 6
Wetland Hydrology 6
Linwood Lake Subwatershed Tributaries Study 7
Monitoring Summary Sheets 8
Education & Public Outreach 9
Newsletters 9
Website 10
Anoka County Outreach Coordination 10
Promote Well Water Wise 11
Other 11
Carp Management Feasibility Study/Maintenance Harvests 11
2024 Sunrise River Watershed Projects 12
Project Dashboards 12
Septic System Fix Up Projects 12
SRWMO Water Quality Grant Funds 13
Lakeshore Restoration Projects 13
Martin Lake 13
Fawn Lake 14
Rain Garden Projects 14
Ecological Projects 14

Administrative

On–Call Administrative Assistance

Description: *ACD provides on-call administrative assistance to the SRWMO.*

Purpose: To help facilitate day-to-day operations of the SRWMO.

Results: 99 hours for board meeting coordination including packets & scheduling, budget preparation, daily operations, and others.

Annual Written Communication to Member Communities

Description: *ACD provides a mini-report of activities completed in the preceding year.*

Purpose: To update member communities on SRWMO activities and finances.

Results: One annual report of SRWMO activities was prepared and sent to member communities with the annual budget request.

Annual Reports to BWSR and State Auditor

Description: *The SRWMO submits an annual report to BWSR. This report consists of an up-to-date listing of SRWMO Board members, activities related to implementing the SRWMO Watershed Management Plan, the status of municipal water plans, financial summaries, and other work results.*

Purpose: To document progress toward implementing the SRWMO Watershed Management Plan and to provide transparency of government operations.

Results: A SRWMO Annual Report and financial statement were prepared and submitted to BWSR and the State Auditor.

Grant Search and Applications

Description: *ACD prepares grant applications on behalf of, or in collaboration with, the SRWMO.*

Purpose: To provide funding for high priority projects that benefit water resources.

Results: In 2024, the following grants were secured:

$70,000	2025 Clean Water Fund grant – Phase II: Targeted Well Sealing (countywide)
$75,000	2025 Metro WBIF grant - stormwater & shoreline projects
$76,000	2025 Septic System Fix Up Fund (countywide)
$221,375	2025 Clean Water Fund grant – Ditch 20 Wetland Restoration to Benefit Typo and Martin Lakes.

$1,752,990 Grant dollars have been secured since 2014.

Review New Development Sketch Plans

Description: *ACD provides review of development proposals provided by cities using the checklist within the SRWMO plan.*

Purpose: To ensure that new development adheres to the requirements detailed in the SRWMO plan. Costs paid directly by the city that submits the plan.

Results: In 2024, cities submitted zero development plans for SRWMO review.

Water Monitoring

Lake Water Quality

Description: *Each lake was monitored bi-weekly, May through September, for a total of 10 occasions. Parameters monitored included total phosphorus, chlorophyll-a, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, temperature, conductivity, pH, salinity and transparency. Subjective ranking of recreational suitability and physical conditions were also be noted. Reporting will include a summary of water quality throughout the year, a trend analysis, comparison to any water quality standards, and recommendations. Data is submitted to the MPCA's database.*

Purpose: Provide a comprehensive view of the lake's water quality and overall health.

Results: Lake water quality monitoring was conducted on Typo Lake, Martin Lake, Linwood Lake, Coon Lake East Bay, and Coon Lake West Bay. The associated hyperlinks will redirect to that lake's respective 2024 Summary Sheet for Lake Water Quality. These summary sheets provide information on current and historical lake grades, trend analysis of specific parameters, and general discussion of lake water quality. Additionally, box plots of all lake water quality data can be found through ACD's Lake Water Quality Tableau Graph.

Secchi Transparency Lake Monitoring – Volunteer Recruit

Description: *Where volunteers exist, coordinate them through MN Pollution Control Agency volunteer programs that provide equipment and data reporting forms. In the event a volunteer is lost, ACD will make a good faith effort to find a replacement.*

Purpose: Provide a comprehensive view of the lake's water quality and overall health.

Locations: Typo Lake, Martin Lake, Linwood Lake, Coon Lake East Bay, Coon Lake West Bay

Results: ACD coordinated with volunteers through the MPCA's Citizen Lake Monitoring Program to measure Secchi transparency levels on Typo, Martin, Linwood, and Coon Lake. The associated hyperlinks will redirect to that lake's respective MPCA Lake Water Quality Dashboard, where a summary and trend analysis of current and historical lake clarity data can be found on the "Clarity" tab.

Lake Level Monitoring

Description: *Weekly lake level readings were taken by volunteers during ice-out conditions. The fee included installing/removing the lake gauges, coordinating the volunteers, training volunteers, addressing issues such as moving gauges in low or high water conditions, receiving and providing quality assurance of the data, and submitting data to the MNDNR database. All data collected is publicly available through the MNDNR website.*

Purpose: Understand how changes in hydrology affects lake ecosystems, surrounding communities, and regulatory practices.

Results: Lake level monitoring was conducted on Coon Lake, Fawn Lake, Linwood Lake, Martin Lake, and Typo Lake. The associated hyperlinks will redirect to that lake's respective MNDNR LakeFinder water level page, where current and historical data can be viewed and downloaded. Additional information can be found on our 2024 Summary Sheet for Lake Levels.

Stream Water Quality Monitoring

Description: *Grab samples were collected at each site on eight occasions; generally, April-Oct. Parameters monitored included total phosphorus, total suspended solids, pH, conductivity, turbidity, salinity, temperature, dissolved oxygen, transparency, and water level. Reporting will include an analysis of water quality, graphs, comparison to state water quality standards and recommendations. Data is submitted to the MPCA's database.*

Purpose: To detect water quality trends.

Results: Stream water quality monitoring was conducted at Typo Creek at Typo Creek Drive. The associated hyperlinks will redirect to that streams respective 2024 Summary Sheet for Stream Water Quality. These summary sheets provide general discussion of stream water quality and a comparison of recent data to the historical average. Additionally, box plots of Typo Creek and all other stream water quality data can be found through ACD's Stream Water Quality Tableau Graph.

Stream Chloride Sampling

Description: *Grab samples for chloride analysis were collected at each site on eight occasions; generally, April-Oct. Parameters monitored included chloride, pH, conductivity, turbidity, salinity, temperature, dissolved oxygen, and water level. Reporting will include an analysis of water quality, graphs, comparison to state water quality standards and recommendations. Data is submitted to the MPCA's database.*

Purpose: To detect water quality trends.

Results: Stream water quality monitoring was conducted at West Branch Sunrise River at Hwy 77. The associated hyperlinks will redirect to that streams respective 2024 Summary Sheet for Stream Water Quality. These summary sheets provide general discussion of stream water quality and a comparison of recent data to the historical average. Additionally, box plots of all stream water quality data can be found through ACD's Stream Water Quality Tableau Graph.

Wetland Hydrology

Description: *Install and maintain water level dataloggers at reference wetlands within the SRWMO watershed. Fee shall cover equipment, installation/removal of equipment, data downloads, data management, and reporting.*

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

Results: Reference wetland monitoring was completed at Carlos Avery Wetland, Carlos 181st Wetland, and Tamarack Wetland. The associated hyperlinks will redirect to that wetland's respective ACD's Tableau Graph for Reference Wetlands. Additional information can be found on our 2024 Summary Sheet for Reference Wetlands. These summary sheets provide information on ACD's reference wetland monitoring program.

Linwood Lake Subwatershed Tributaries Study

Description: *Monitor three stream sites draining to Linwood Lake to identify subwatersheds with the greatest phosphorus concentrations, thereby determining if a subwatershed study should be pursued. The data collected will also inform any future studies. Parameters monitored included total phosphorus, dissolved phosphorus, pH, conductivity, turbidity, salinity, and water level.*

Purpose: Identify subwatersheds with the greatest phosphorous concentration and determine if a Subwatershed Analysis should be pursued.

Locations: Linwood Lake tributaries.

Results: Stream water quality monitoring was conducted at the Rice Lake at Inlet, Linwood Lake at Inlet, and Boot Lake at Inlet. The associated hyperlink will redirect to that stream's respective ACD 2024 Summary Sheet. These summary sheets provide general discussion of stream water quality and a comparison of recent data to the historical average. Data visualization for all streams and water quality parameters can also be found through ACD's Tableau Graph for Stream Water Quality. The full report can be found here: Linwood Lake Tributaries Water Quality Analysis Report.

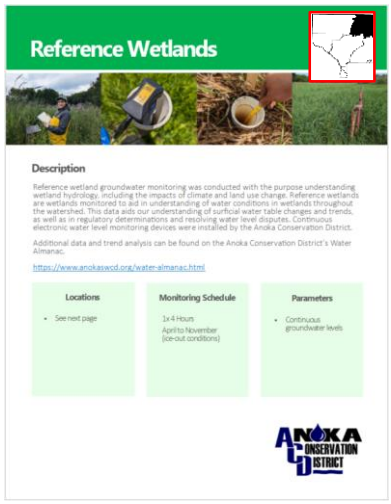
Monitoring Summary Sheets

The Anoka Conservation District has developed monitoring sheets that summarize the results of a specific monitoring program for the current year. The images below are associated hyperlinks and will redirect to that respective summary sheet.

This symbol notes that work related to that Summary Sheet occurred within the Sunrise River Watershed.

Lake Water Quality

Reference Wetlands

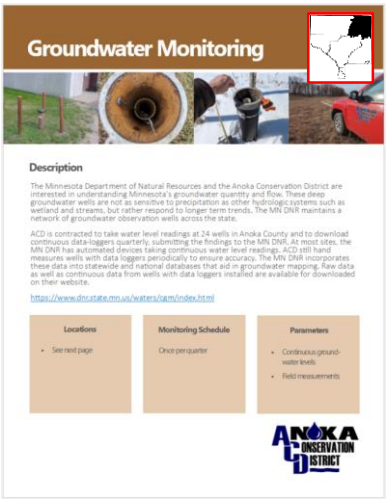


Biomonitoring

Stream Water Quality

Lake Levels

Groundwater Monitoring



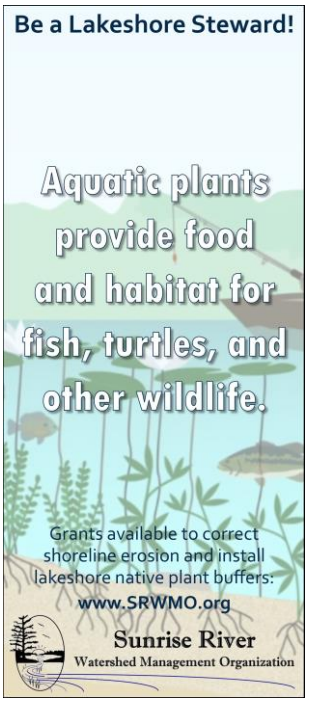
Education & Public Outreach

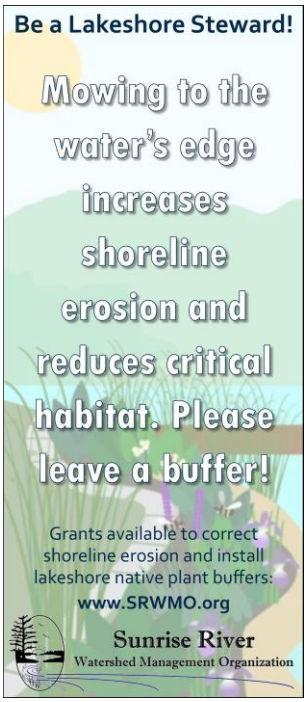
Newsletters

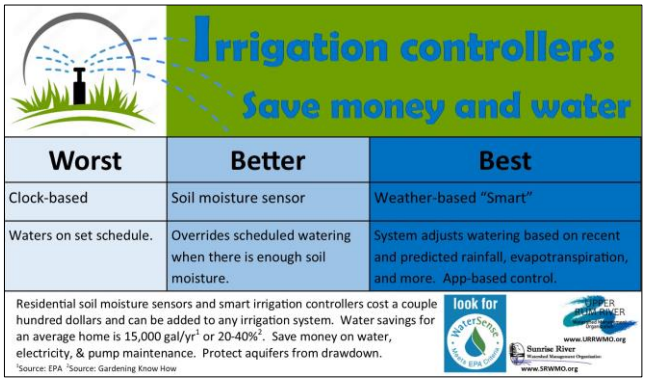
Description: *Written pieces for city or lake association newsletters that may be articles, infographics or similar. 2024 articles in lake association publications are: (1) promote lakeshore restorations and stewardship practices, (2) aquatic plants values and management, and (3) groundwater conservation. Articles in community newsletters are (a) SRWMO existence and programs, financial assistance for failing septic's, and groundwater conservation.*

Purpose: To provide information and education to the public, especially information that will result in behavioral changes beneficial to natural resources.

Results: In 2024 five articles and infographics were submitted to the four SRWMO communities and/or lake groups at Coon, Linwood, and Martin Lakes for inclusion in their newsletters.







Website

Description: *ACD managed all aspects of the SRWMO website. Fees included hosting fee, domain name fees, maintenance fees, posting minutes & agendas, and SSL encryption certificate.*

Purpose: To increase awareness of the SRWMO and its programs.

Location: www.srwmo.org

Results: ACD maintained the SRWMO website as per contract.

Anoka County Outreach Coordination

Description: *Funds to ACD to support consistent, reusable outreach throughout the county and especially in the SRWMO that benefits SRWMO water resources and reduces work that would otherwise be required of the SRWMO and cities.*

Purpose: To provide outreach material to the public.

Results: 2024 outreach accomplishments for the SRWMO included:

- **3 community event displays**, which were staffed by SRWMO board members, ACD staff, and Lower St. Croix Partnership staff. Included East Bethel Booster Day, Linwood Family Fun Day, Columbus Fall Fest.
- **Buying Lakeshore Property 101** webinar was promoted. Event hosted by the Rum River Watershed Partnership.
- **Content for community newsletters** above and beyond that which was otherwise contracted included pieces on groundwater conservation, grants for septic system fix ups and agricultural practices, and shoreline stewardship.
- **Local officials workshop** was promoted. Event hosted by the Lower St. Croix Partnership.
- **Milkweed seed collection event** at Mikkelson WMA.
- **State Smart Salting level 1 certification** info to city staff. All SRWMO communities except Linwood now appear to have their plow drivers certified. Linwood's lack of certification is due to staff turnover.

Promote Well Water Wise

Description: *Promote Anoka County Well Water Wise private well testing program.*

Purpose: To promote awareness of the Anoka County Well Testing Program.

Results: ACD promoted Anoka County's Well Water Testing Program on the SRWMO website, and member communities promoted it.

Other

Carp Management Feasibility Study/Maintenance Harvests

Description: *Funds for maintenance carp harvests at Martin, Typo, and/or Linwood Lakes. Funds from multiple years will be pooled to complete the work. Additional funds to be requested of Martin Lakers Association and Anoka Co AIS grant program.*

Purpose: Manage carp populations.

Locations: Martin, Typo, and/or Linwood Lake.

Results: $1,000 in 2024 funds are being pooled with funds from 2023 ($2K) and 2025 ($5K) to complete work in 2025.

2024 Sunrise River Watershed Projects

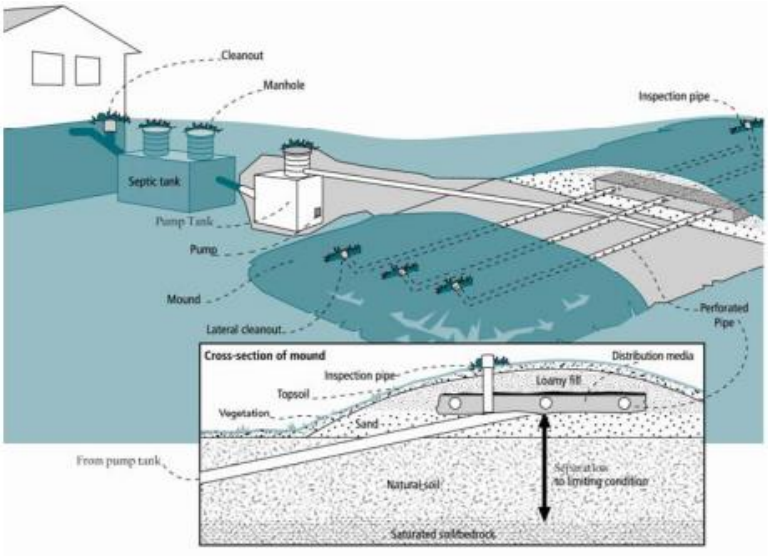
Project Dashboards

The Anoka Conservation District maintains interactive dashboards that allow users to explore the combined benefits produced by the hundreds of projects that have been installed with support from ACD's programs and staff. These include projects done in the Sunrise River watershed, often in collaboration with the SRWMO. The **Water Projects Dashboard** summarizes water quality improvements achieved through projects such as rain gardens, streambank and lakeshore stabilizations, and stormwater pond enhancements. The **Ecological Projects Dashboard** summarizes habitat restorations achieved across different ecosystem types through techniques such as prescribed burns, invasive species control, and native plantings.

In both dashboards, users can apply filters based on location, year(s), and project type by selecting the drop-downs along the top of the page. Users can also pan throughout the map and click on the points to learn more about individual projects; many contain a link to a profile sheet with additional details and photos. The gauges will adjust to summarize the benefits produced by the projects the user is viewing.

Septic System Fix Up Projects

Three non-compliant septic systems were replaced in 2024 using grant funds for low-income households. Anoka County's SSTS Fix-Up Program is administered by ACD, which prioritizes projects near priority lakes and streams. Funding was provided from the MPCA, BWSR, and the Environment and Natural Resource Trust fund. 2024 projects were near Fawn, Martin, and Coon Lakes.



SRWMO Water Quality Grant Funds

Description: *ACD will administer incentive grants to willing landowners wishing to do water quality improvement projects. Projects must follow ACD & SRWMO policies.*

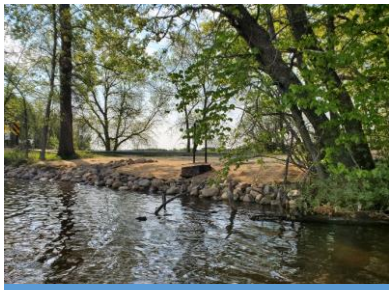
Purpose: To improve water quality in area lakes, stream, and rivers.

Results: In 2024 the SRWMO contributed $1,000 to the cost share grant fund. One project, a shoreline buffer at Fawn Lake, was funded for $365.99. A reporting the grant funds is made at every SRWMO meeting.

Lakeshore Restoration Projects

Martin Lake

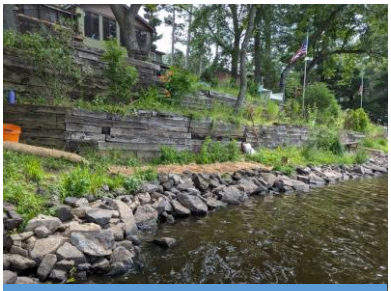
Nine lakeshore restoration projects were completed on Martin Lake totaling 921 feet. Erosion at these properties were stabilized using a variety of stabilization approaches, including rock riprap, coconut fiber biologs, log revetments, and a native plant buffer. Funding sources include the Clean Water Fund, Sunrise River WMO, ACD, Martin Lakers Association, and landowner contributions.


Tax Forfeiture Property


Matilla Residence


Krouse Residence

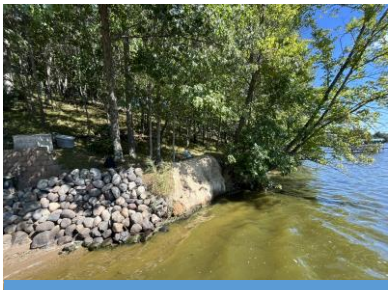

Sheehan Residence


Stainbrook Residence


Seide Residence


Olson Residence


Kolhoff Residence


Ferden Residence

Fawn Lake

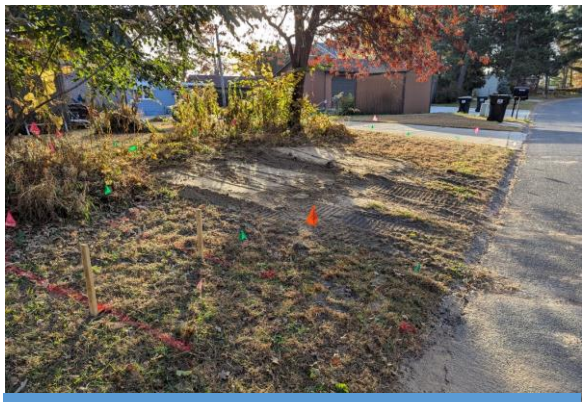
A lakeshore restoration project was completed on Fawn Lake. Erosion at this property was stabilized and habitat enhanced using a native plant buffer. Funding sources include the Sunrise River WMO and landowner.

Chairez Residence

Chairez Residence

Rain Garden Projects

A curb-cut rain garden was installed to treat residential runoff that previously discharged directly to Coon Lake. The rain garden will be filled with native shrubs, grasses, and wildflowers in 2025. The landowner will provide project maintenance throughout the project life. Funding sources include the Clean Water Fund, the Sunrise River WMO Organization, and landowner contributions.



Larsen Residence - Before

Larsen Residence - After

Ecological Projects

- 18.5 Acres of Prairie Restored
- 15 Acres of Woodland/Oak Savanna Restored
- 11 Pollinator Plantings Installed