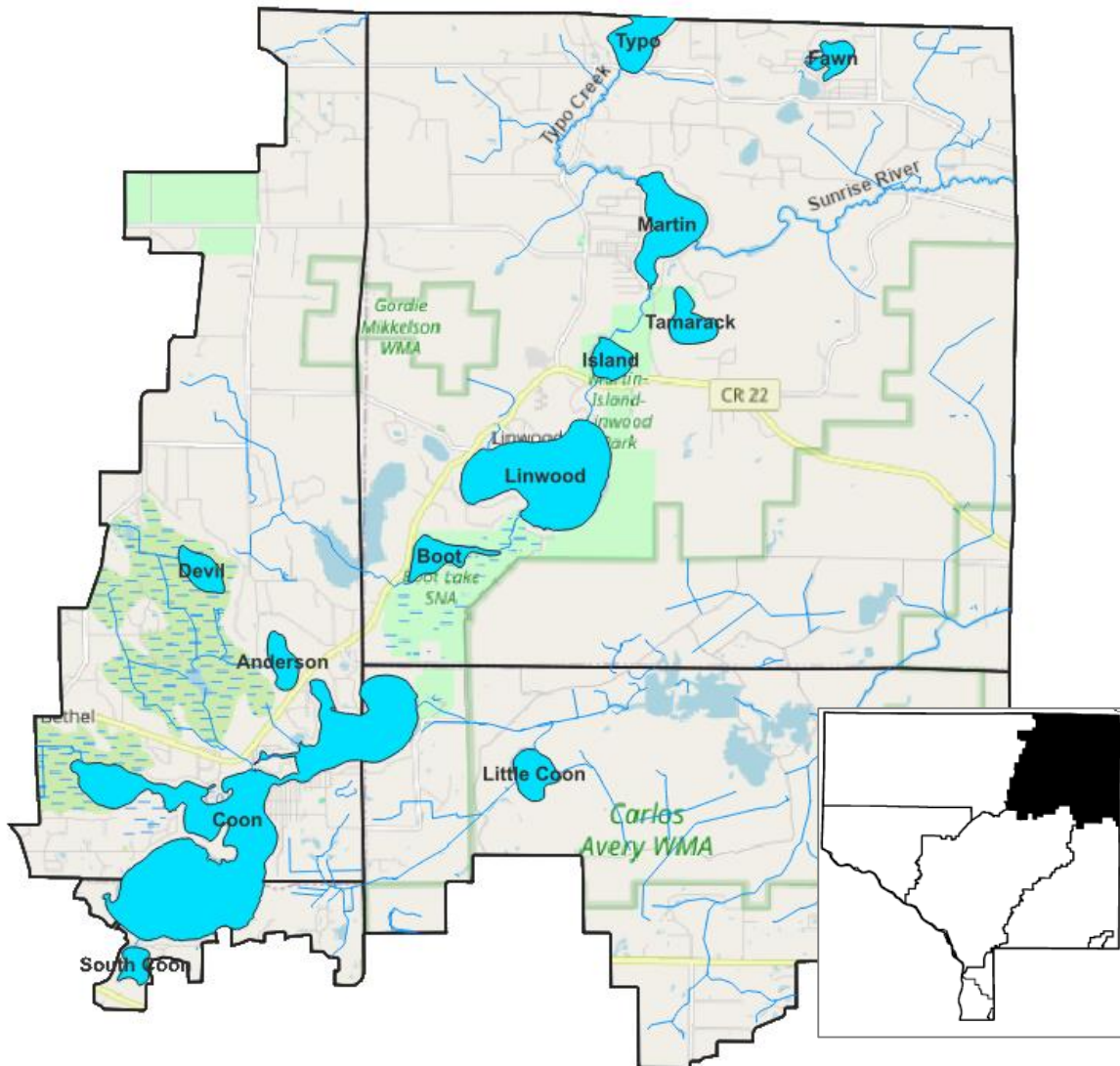


# Sunrise River Watershed Management Organization

## 2024 Report of Work



Submitted by: Anoka Conservation District

Date: February 5, 2025



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# Administrative

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## 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

<b>Description:</b>	<i>ACD provides review of development proposals provided by cities using the checklist within the SRWMO plan.</i>
<b>Purpose:</b>	To ensure that new development adheres to the requirements detailed in the SRWMO plan. Costs paid directly by the city that submits the plan.
<b>Results:</b>	In 2024, cities submitted zero development plans for SRWMO review.



# Water Monitoring

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## 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

<b>Description:</b>	<i>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.</i>
<b>Purpose:</b>	Identify subwatersheds with the greatest phosphorous concentration and determine if a Subwatershed Analysis should be pursued.
<b>Locations:</b>	Linwood Lake tributaries.
<b>Results:</b>	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 <a href="#">ACD 2024 Summary Sheet</a> . 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 <a href="#">ACD's Tableau Graph for Stream Water Quality</a> . The full report can be found here: <a href="#">Linwood Lake Tributaries Water Quality Analysis Report</a> .



# 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

### Lake Water Quality




**Description**

Lake water quality monitoring was conducted with the purpose of detecting water quality trends and diagnosing the cause of changes. Summary sheets for each lake are provided below. Additional data and trend analysis can be found on the Anoka Conservation District's Water Almanac:


<https://www.anokawater.org/water-almanac.html>

Locations	Monitoring Schedule	Parameters
<b>Lake Monitoring 2016</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tappan Lake</li> <li>Marble Lake</li> <li>Cook Lake (East End)</li> <li>Cook Lake (West End)</li> <li>Lonsdale Lake</li> <li>East Cass Lake</li> <li>Lake Cassar</li> <li>St. Louis Lake</li> </ul> <b>All Monitored Lakes:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See <a href="https://www.anokawater.org/water-almanac.html">www.anokawater.org/water-almanac.html</a> for a list of all lakes monitored by ACD.</li> </ul>	2x per month 10 sampling occasions May - September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Total Phosphorus</li> <li>Chlorophyll</li> <li>Secchi Transparency</li> <li>Dissolved Oxygen</li> <li>Turbidity</li> <li>Temperature</li> <li>Specific Conductance</li> <li>pH</li> <li>Salinity</li> </ul>



## Reference Wetlands

### Reference Wetlands




**Description**

Reference wetland groundwater monitoring was conducted with the purpose of understanding wetland hydrology, including the impacts of climate and land use change. Reference wetlands are wetlands monitored to aid in understanding of water conditions in wetlands throughout the watershed. This data aids our understanding of surface water table changes and trends, as well as in regulatory determinations and resolving water level disputes. Continuous electronic water level monitoring devices were installed by the Anoka Conservation District. Additional data and trend analysis can be found on the Anoka Conservation District's Water Almanac:

<https://www.anokawater.org/water-almanac.html>

Locations	Monitoring Schedule	Parameters
• See next page	2x 4 Hours April to November (on-out conditions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continuous groundwater levels</li> </ul>



## Biomonitoring

### Biomonitoring



**Description**


Biological monitoring was conducted with the purpose to assess stream quality while providing an environmental educational service to the community. Under the supervision of ACD staff, high school science classes collect aquatic macroinvertebrates from a specific section of stream, identify the macroinvertebrates down to the family level, and use the Benthic Index to score overall water and habitat quality. These methods are based upon the knowledge that different families of macroinvertebrates have different water and habitat quality requirements. The families collectively known as EPT (Ephemeroptera, or mayflies; Plecoptera, or stoneflies; and Trichoptera, or caddisflies) are generally pollution intolerant, while other families can thrive in low quality water. Therefore, a census of stream macroinvertebrates provides important information regarding overall stream health.

Locations	Monitoring Schedule	Parameters
<b>Run/River</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>St. Louis High School</li> <li>Anoka High School</li> </ul> <b>Cedarwater Creek</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Frederick Community Learning Center</li> </ul> <b>Sand Creek</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>St. Louis High School</li> </ul> <b>Maple Creek</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>St. Louis High School</li> </ul>	Spring / Fall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of invertebrate families</li> <li>EPT</li> <li>IBI</li> </ul>



## Stream Water Quality

### Stream Water Quality




**Description**

Stream water quality monitoring was conducted with the purpose of detecting water quality trends and diagnosing the cause of changes. Summary sheets for each stream are provided below. Additional data and trend analysis can be found on the Anoka Conservation District's Water Almanac:


<https://www.anokawater.org/water-almanac.html>

Locations	Monitoring Schedule	Parameters
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tappan Creek</li> <li>St. Louis River (East Branch)</li> <li>Lonsdale Lake (East Branch)</li> <li>Run/River &amp; Tributaries</li> <li>Cedar Creek &amp; Tributaries</li> <li>Sand Creek &amp; Tributaries</li> <li>Pleasure Creek</li> <li>Springbrook Creek</li> </ul>	Dependent on site	Dependent on site, but includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Total Phosphorus</li> <li>Chlorophyll</li> <li>Secchi Transparency</li> <li>Dissolved Oxygen</li> <li>Turbidity</li> <li>Temperature</li> <li>Specific Conductance</li> <li>pH</li> <li>Salinity</li> <li>Chlorides</li> <li>EC</li> <li>Hardness</li> <li>Sulfates</li> <li>Nitrate</li> <li>Ammonia</li> </ul>



## Lake Levels

### Lake Levels




**Description**

Lake level monitoring was conducted with the purpose of understanding lake hydrology, including the impact of climate or other water budget changes. These data are useful for regulation, building development, and lake management decisions. Lake elevations were installed by the Anoka Conservation District, surveyed by the Minnesota DNR, and data collected by volunteers.

All historical data are available on the Minnesota DNR website using the "LakeFinder" feature.


<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/lakefind/index.htm>

Locations	Monitoring Schedule	Parameters
• See next page	1x week preferred April to November (several conditions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lake water level</li> </ul>



## Groundwater Monitoring

### Groundwater Monitoring




**Description**

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the Anoka Conservation District are interested in understanding Minnesota's groundwater quantity and flow. These deep groundwater wells are not as sensitive to precipitation as other hydrologic systems such as wetland and streams, but rather respond to longer term trends. The MN DNR maintains a network of groundwater observation wells across the state.

ACD is contracted to take water level readings at 24 wells in Anoka County and to download continuous data loggers quarterly, submitting the findings to the MN DNR. As most sites, the MN DNR has automated devices taking continuous water level readings. ACD still hand measures wells with data loggers periodically to ensure accuracy. The MN DNR incorporates these data into statewide and national databases that aid in groundwater mapping. Raw data as well as continuous data from wells with data loggers installed are available for download on their website.

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/groundwater/index.htm>

Locations	Monitoring Schedule	Parameters
• See next page	Once per quarter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continuous ground-water levels</li> <li>Field measurements</li> </ul>





# 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.

**Be a Lakeshore Steward!**

**Aquatic plants provide food and habitat for fish, turtles, and other wildlife.**

Grants available to correct shoreline erosion and install lakeshore native plant buffers:  
[www.SRWMO.org](http://www.SRWMO.org)

**Sunrise River**  
Watershed Management Organization

**Be a Lakeshore Steward!**

**Mowing to the water's edge increases shoreline erosion and reduces critical habitat. Please leave a buffer!**

Grants available to correct shoreline erosion and install lakeshore native plant buffers:  
[www.SRWMO.org](http://www.SRWMO.org)

**Sunrise River**  
Watershed Management Organization

**BUILD BETTER SOIL**

Funding available to help landowners improve soil health and productivity.

The Anoka Conservation District has funding for landowners interested in trying practices such as cover crops, pollinator plantings, reduced-till, no-till, and others that support soil microbial activity and reduce erosion. Offerings include 1-3 year contracts and flat rate per-acre payments.

Contact Logan Olson at 763-434-2030 ext 180 or [logan.olson@anokawcd.org](mailto:logan.olson@anokawcd.org)

**Sunrise River**  
Watershed Management Organization

**ANOKA CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
[www.anokawcd.org](http://www.anokawcd.org)

**Septic system repair & replacement grants**

- ✓ Homesteaded single family homes or duplexes in Anoka Co.
- ✓ Must have been inspected and issued a certificate of non-compliance.
- ✓ May NOT be used for tank pumping or other maintenance.
- ✓ Household must meet low income thresholds. Grant covers up to 90% depending on income.
- ✓ Funding is limited and may vary by location. Shoreland areas or projects providing the greatest health and environmental benefits may be preferentially funded.
- ✓ See all program requirements at [www.AnokaWCD.org](http://www.AnokaWCD.org) under "financial assistance."

Contact Kris Larson at the Anoka Conservation District, 763-434-2030 ext 110 or [kris.larson@anokawcd.org](mailto:kris.larson@anokawcd.org)

**Sunrise River**  
Watershed Management Organization

**ANOKA CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
[www.anokawcd.org](http://www.anokawcd.org)

**Irrigation controllers: Save money and water**

Worst	Better	Best
Clock-based	Soil moisture sensor	Weather-based "Smart"
Waters on set schedule.	Overrides scheduled watering when there is enough soil moisture.	System adjusts watering based on recent and predicted rainfall, evapotranspiration, and more. App-based control.

Residential soil moisture sensors and smart irrigation controllers cost a couple hundred dollars and can be added to any irrigation system. Water savings for an average home is 15,000 gal/yr<sup>2</sup> or 20-40%. Save money on water, electricity, & pump maintenance. Protect aquifers from drawdown.

\*Source: EPA \*Source: Gardening Know How

**look for**  
**Watershed**  
**Watershed Management Organization**

**Sunrise River**  
Watershed Management Organization  
[www.SRWMO.org](http://www.SRWMO.org)

**ANOKA CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
[www.anokawcd.org](http://www.anokawcd.org)



## Website

<b>Description:</b>	<i>ACD managed all aspects of the SRWMO website. Fees included hosting fee, domain name fees, maintenance fees, posting minutes &amp; agendas, and SSL encryption certificate.</i>
<b>Purpose:</b>	To increase awareness of the SRWMO and its programs.
<b>Location:</b>	<a href="http://www.srwmo.org">www.srwmo.org</a>
<b>Results:</b>	ACD maintained the SRWMO website as per contract.

## Anoka County Outreach Coordination

<b>Description:</b>	<i>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.</i>
<b>Purpose:</b>	To provide outreach material to the public.
<b>Results:</b>	2024 outreach accomplishments for the SRWMO included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>3 community event displays</b>, 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.</li><li>• <b>Buying Lakeshore Property 101</b> webinar was promoted. Event hosted by the Rum River Watershed Partnership.</li><li>• <b>Content for community newsletters</b> 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.</li><li>• <b>Local officials workshop</b> was promoted. Event hosted by the Lower St. Croix Partnership.</li><li>• <b>Milkweed seed collection event</b> at Mikkelson WMA.</li><li>• <b>State Smart Salting level 1 certification</b> 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.</li></ul>





## Promote Well Water Wise

<b>Description:</b>	<i>Promote Anoka County Well Water Wise private well testing program.</i>
<b>Purpose:</b>	To promote awareness of the <a href="#">Anoka County Well Testing Program</a> .
<b>Results:</b>	ACD promoted Anoka County's Well Water Testing Program on the SRWMO website, and member communities promoted it.

## Other

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### Carp Management Feasibility Study/Maintenance Harvests

<b>Description:</b>	<i>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.</i>
<b>Purpose:</b>	Manage carp populations.
<b>Locations:</b>	Martin, Typo, and/or Linwood Lake.
<b>Results:</b>	\$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

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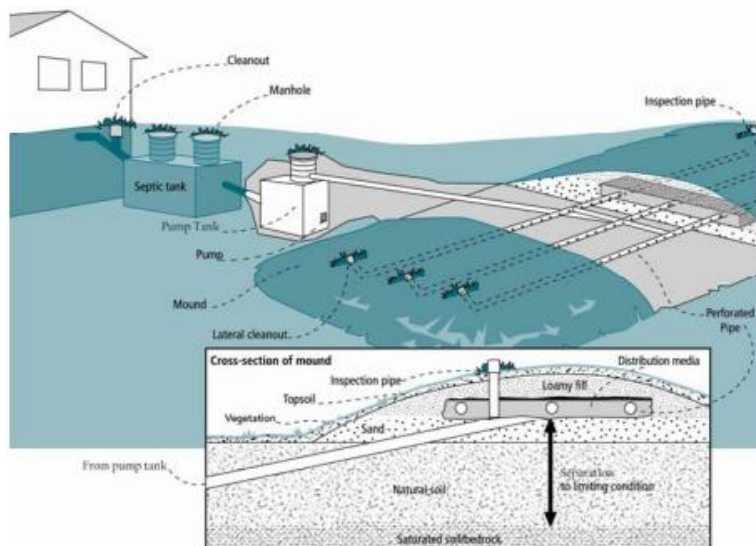
## Project Dashboards

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