MARNELIAN-MARINE-ST. CROIX WATERSHED DISTRICT

WATERSHED UPDATE

YOU CAN PREVENT AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

If there’s one thing to know about Minnesotans, it’s that most of us are immensely proud of our more than 11,000 lakes. For many of us, it’s our favorite form of entertainment all year long. Summertime brings swimming, winter brings pond hockey, and every season brings fishing. Because Minnesota lakes are used for recreation so much, it is important to protect them.

Remember to always: Clean, Drain, and Dispose

WHY WATERSHEDS MATTER

Water sustains life and we all rely on safe water for drinking, agriculture, recreation, and providing habitat for fish and wildlife. Watershed districts work to protect and manage these priceless resources, and they depend upon an informed community to make the right decisions and take positive action.

You, your family and neighbors have the power to influence water quality for the benefit of your community and thousands downstream from Minnesota. Thank you for all the support and assistance you provide.

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YOUR WATERSHED CONTACTS

Have you ever thought about how to keep the water clean in your own community? The Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District (CMSCWD) oversees a variety of projects and programs to assess and improve the health of our 81-square-mile watershed — which includes 31 lakes, three designated trout streams, hundreds of acres of wetlands, and more than 17 miles of St. Croix River shoreline. The Watershed District is managed by the following volunteer board of residents appointed by Washington County:

Board of Managers
President - Wade Johnson, 651.356.9573
Secretary - Paul Richard, 612.240.1972
Treasurer - Kristin Tuenge, 651.433.3763
Manager - Eric Lindberg, 612-760-6695
Manager - Andy Weaver, 651.491.2656

District Staff
Administrator - Mike Isensee, 612.839.6492
Admin. Assistant - Bobbie Law, 651.433.2150

Visit us online at www.cmscwd.org or visit our Facebook page!

- Trivia Answer - Our Watershed District has three designated trout streams! Two unnamed & Old Mill Stream

Goose Lake Water Quality Continues to Improve

Goose Lake’s water quality is getting a whole lot better thanks to the voluntary installation of an iron-enhanced sand filter on a local farmer’s property. The reduction in pollution to the lake was made possible by Ellen St. Sauver, who volunteered to install the stormwater filtration practice on her property. “It’s nice to do something positive because farmers sometimes get a bad rap,” Ellen said. With Ellen’s help, an iron enhanced sand filter was placed at the most effective location to capture phosphorus from stormwater runoff and drainage that used to flow into the lake.

Iron-enhanced sand filters were developed by the University of Minnesota. They use a mixture of sand and elemental iron to reduce dissolved phosphorus contained in stormwater runoff. As the iron rusts, it binds the phosphorus in the water. The filter was designed to effectively remove phosphorus for more than 30 years.

2019 monitoring data of the newly installed iron-enhanced sand filter on Goose Lake revealed that in the first year of operation the filter removed 67 pounds of phosphorus. This was 88% of the phosphorus that would have flowed into the lake. The low cost and convenient way to dispose of your grass, leaves, and soggy clippings may seem like a simple action, but the cumulative impact of these small efforts can make a difference in the health of our lakes.
Watershed Management Plan Update

The Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District is updating its Watershed Management Plan. This plan, which is updated every 10 years in accordance with state law, guides all of our work at the CMSCWD. It lays out our goals, strategies, and actions to protect and improve water quality in the watershed. It also guides local water management planning for communities within the watershed. The District will be working to update the Plan over the next two years, following the process outlined in Minnesota Statutes 103B and Minnesota Rules 8410. The Plan update is divided into four phases: Public Outreach, Draft Plan Development, Formal Plan Review, and Plan Adoption. Throughout the Plan update process, the District will be seeking input from stakeholders like you. We value your input as we plan for the next ten years of watershed management and hope you will attend one of our public listening sessions or fill out our online survey!

To fill out our input survey visit our website at www.cmscwd.org/about-us/management-plan/10-year-management-plan-update

Public Listening Sessions
> Date: Wednesday, July 22nd
> Time: 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm
> Location: Online - Zoom

To RSVP Visit: www.surveymonkey.com/r/BYD99S5 a RSVP is not mandatory but is greatly appreciated.

Aquatic Plant Abundance

Minnesota's future climate is looking milder, wetter and overall, less icy. According to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources over the past 30 years lakes have been icing out earlier. The median ice-out date is April 13. This year ice off in the District was April 1st. That can mean a number of things for local lakes. Late ice-ins and early ice-outs can lead to more native vegetation growth.

While prolific growth of native vegetation can reduce recreational opportunities, especially in shallow lakes, these plants play an important role in water quality and lake health. Nutrients used by aquatic plants for growth are not available to algae. This reduces algae abundance improving water clarity. Aquatic plants also maintain water clarity by preventing the re-suspension of bottom sediments. Algae, which thrive on dissolved nutrients, can become a nuisance when too many submerged water plants are destroyed.

The Minnesota DNR Aquatic Plant Management Program regulates aquatic plant management. More information is available at https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/apm/index.html

Improving Lake, Stream, and Wetland Flood Prediction

Rain rain go away! Rain rain you’re here to stay! With increasing precipitation intensity and depth, the Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix (CMSCWD) Board Managers have approved the completion of a District Hydrologic and Hydraulic model in 2020. Hydrology is the scientific study of earth’s natural water movement with a focus on how rainfall and evaporation affect the amount of flow of water. Hydraulics represents the engineering analysis of the flow of water in streams and infrastructure, such as channels, pipes and other man-made structures.

The model that combines these two areas of study is called the Storm Water Management Model (SWMM) developed by EPA. EPA-SWMM is a holistic 1D/2D modeling package for water. This model will provide a scientific and engineer-based approach to evaluating elevations for floodplain corridors, sizing culverts, evaluating impacts of climate change, planning for flood resiliency and prioritizing flood reduction projects. This information will be used to guide implementation priorities in the CMSCWD Watershed Management Plan update.

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Landscape Revival
Native Plant Expo Market

Come to this special plant expo and market hosted by the St. Paul Audubon Society, featuring one convenient location to shop for Minnesota native plants from 6 local native growers and learn how to use the plants from local conservation organizations.

> Date: Saturday, September 19th 2020
> Time: 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
> Location: Oakdale City Hall, 1584 Hadley Ave N, Oakdale, MN 55128

Why Natives?

By choosing Minnesota native plants, plant species that have grown in this area for hundreds of years and are thus well adapted to our conditions, we can create spectacular gardens that are a haven for wildlife and protect our lakes and the St. Crox River.

Goose Lake large scale project, new locations for disposing yard waste, ravine stabilization construction to begin this fall and more!

WATERSHED TRIVIA

Q: HOW MANY DESIGNATED TROUT STREAMS ARE IN THE WATERSHED DISTRICT?

We Need Your Photos

The District is home to so many beautiful waterbodies! Do you have high-quality photos that showcase the beautiful natural resources of the CMSCWD?

Please help us to share the diversity of water, wildlife, people, plants and habitats in our area. Send all photos to bobbie.law@cmscwd.org. Please include the location of the photo and who to credit. Thank you for helping to further our mission through your photography.

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Spring 2020

CARNELIAN-MARINE-ST. CROIX WATERSHED DISTRICT
Scandia Plaza II - 21150 Osark Avenue - P.O. Box 188 - Scandia, MN 55073

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