

Ivy Falls Creek,
Mendota Heights

2024 LMRWMO ACTIVITY REPORT



HEALTHY LAKES, STREAMS, AND RIVER
THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS, EDUCATION,
AND COORDINATED ACTION.

This report is prepared for the MN Board of Water and Soil Resources pursuant to MN Rules Chapter 8410, part 8410.0150, Subpart 3.

ABOUT US

The Lower Mississippi River Watershed Management Organization (LMRWMO) was established via a joint powers agreement executed on October 25, 1985. The LMRWMO is in the southeast part of the Twin Cities metropolitan area, in northern Dakota County and southern Ramsey County. The LMRWMO abuts the south and west sides of the Mississippi River, from the Mississippi River confluence with the Minnesota River down to the southern end of Inver Grove Heights.

The LMRWMO covers 55.8 square miles (35,493 acres) and is composed of seven cities within the WMO boundaries. The LMRWMO Member Cities include: Inver Grove Heights, Lilydale, Mendota Heights, Saint Paul, South St. Paul, Sunfish Lake, and West St. Paul. A complete list of the Board of Managers, which consists of City Council appointed representatives from the member Cities, is attached to this report.

The Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) serves as the Administrator for the LMRWMO, with Joe Barten as the staff Administrator contact since 2014.

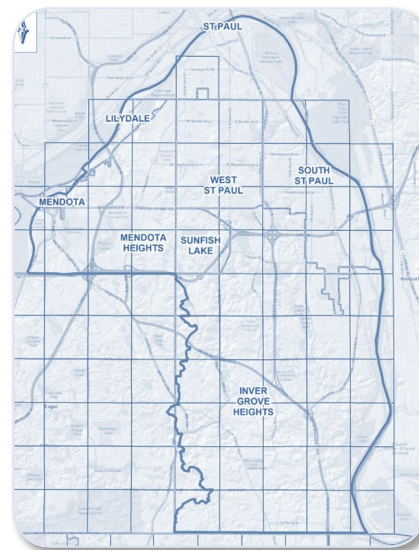
CONTENTS

About Us.....	1
Completed Activities.....	2-4
2025 Work Plan.....	5
Implementation Items.....	5-10
Water Monitoring.....	10
Administrative Items.....	11-12

2024 ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

GENERAL:

- Contracted with the Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) to provide administrative, education, technical assistance, project management, water monitoring, and grant administration services, and to act as general staff and public liaison for the LMRWMO.
- Contracted with Ramsey County Soil & Water Conservation Division to provide technical assistance services for the LMRWMO in Ramsey County.
- Continued bi-monthly grant tracking program with sources of funding for all state and local stormwater related grant program to assist the LMRWMO and member cities in identifying additional funding sources for project implementation.
- Monitored lakes and streams within the LMRWMO for water quality parameters in coordination with the Metropolitan Council's Citizen Assisted Monitoring Program (CAMP) and numerous citizen volunteers.
- Performed a legal audit of LMRWMO finances and submitted to the State of Minnesota.
- Coordinated with local and state agencies on all matters related to LMRWMO duties.



EDUCATION:

- Participated in and provided funding to the Metro Watershed Partners Clean Water MN program, a coalition of public, private and non-profit organizations in the Twin Cities metro area that promotes public understanding through collaborative educational outreach that inspires people to act to protect and improve their local water resources.
- Participated in the Adopt-A-Drain program through the Metro Watershed partnership. Within the LMRWMO, there were 399 total participants with 611 drains adopted. In 2024 there were 74 new participants, and 119 new drains adopted. Based on data submittals of participants, it is estimated that these volunteers collected a total of 1,922 lbs of leaf litter, sediment, trash, dirt, and debris.
- Provided 14 Adopt-A-Drain welcome kits to participants to thank them for their participation, allow them to advertise the AAD program with signage on their property, and promote other LMRWMO programs in which they may have interest in participating.



- Distributed stormwater educational articles from Clean Water MN to Member cities for use in social media, newsletter, website, and print public education and outreach materials.
- Coordinated with Dakota County, SWCD, and other Watershed partners on a public video marketing campaign which was launched to promote the Landscaping for Clean Water program and promote general water conservation for lawn watering to address declining aquifer levels and water treatment concerns. The final videos are found on YouTube: [Lawn Watering Wisdom](#) and [Landscaping for Clean Water](#)
- Implemented new storm drain stenciling program kits which were borrow by public groups to connect their impact on the storm drain system to the downstream waterbodies. Kits will be ready for public use in early 2024. The kits were used by the Cities of Mendota Heights and Inver Grove Heights. A total of 69 drains were stenciled by 23 volunteers and the kits were borrowed 16 times over the year.
- Created and distributed an E-newsletter to engage with the public and inform them of LMRWMO activities and opportunities to assist the LMRWMO in it's mission.



STUDIES:

- The Lake Augusta Water Quality Improvement and Outlet Feasibility Study was finalized. The WMO spent extensive efforts to discuss the report, which notes high water levels as well as a large cormorant population contributing to poor water quality. Solutions are identified in the report for potential implementation. The Board confirmed roles for future implementation of projects and monitoring at Lake Augusta.
- Finalized the FY-2021 WBIF study of direct drainage watersheds to the Mississippi River within the LMRWMO and created a comprehensive and ranked list of water quality improvement projects for future implementation, likely by member Cities as opportunities arise through street reconstruction projects.
- Made progress on the FY-2023 Metro Watershed Based Funding work plan and scope of work.
- Applied for grant funding for the FY-25 Accelerated Implementation Grant for watershed modeling.



Poor water quality on Lake Augusta dur to cormorants

PROJECTS:

- The LMRWMO partnered with the Dakota County SWCD, Mendota Heights, and Dakota County to implement Clean Water Funded projects identified in the Interstate Valley Creek Stabilization and Volume Reduction Feasibility study to identify the presence of severe bank erosion and opportunities to

reduce the volume of stormwater reaching the stream. Final plans and bidding occurred in late 2024 with construction to occur in 2025.

- The LMRWMO was awarded \$382,000 in grant funds for restoration of vegetation surrounding Seidls Lake in Inver Grove Heights & South St. Paul. The project is being done in close partnership with the two Cities, who are providing matching funding, and in tandem with a trail reconstruction project. Tree clearing and some shoreline stabilization occurred in 2024. The remaining lake vegetation restoration work will occur in 2025.



Coir logs installed along the shoreline of Seidls Lake



- Participated in the Landscaping for Clean Water (LCW) workshop series and funded three classes in partnership with the Dakota SWCD. Through this program, 31 people attended an introduction class to learn about the benefits of raingardens, native gardens, and native shoreline plantings. Along with the other LCW classes, this effort resulted in 21 residents of the LMRWMO attending the LCW design workshops to create project designs. The LMRWMO then provided \$250 grants for 8 residential conservation projects (raingardens and native gardens) installed by those participants. The LMRWMO also provided funding for technical assistance to be provided by the Dakota SWCD for those watershed residents. See <https://dakotaswcd.org/conservation-projects/> for locations and descriptions of completed projects. The 2024 LCW Program fact sheet is attached to this report.
- Developed content for and provided a Natural Shoreline Workshop to residents of the LMRWMO (as well as adjacent Watersheds) in partnership with the Dakota County SWCD. This workshop showed residents the benefits of using natural materials and native plants to stabilize eroding shorelines. It also informed residents how a natural shoreline installed with native plants can protect a shoreline, beautify their property, and provide habitat for pollinators and aquatic animals. Attendees learned how to install such a project, what are necessary permits, and what technical assistance and grants exist to assist them. The WMO also provided direct mailings to residents of select waterbodies to garner interest. There were 23 attendees at this event, which will be provided annually by the LMRWMO in partnership with the SWCD going forward.
- Finalized funding commitments from Member Cities for Monitoring of Fish Tissue for Contaminants of Emerging Concern on LMRWMO Priority Waterbodies.
- Partnered with the City of St. Paul for Conservation Corps Crews to maintain natural areas and stormwater BMPs within Lilydale Park in St. Paul.



2025 WORK PLAN

The LMRWMO plans to conduct the following activities in 2025:

- Progress on implementation of items identified of FY-2023 Watershed Based Implementation Funding grant to perform modeling in priority lake sub-watersheds and identify stormwater best management practices.
- Organize the convene process for the FY-25 Watershed Based Implementation Funding grant and apply for funding for LMRWMO projects.
- Finalize the Seidls Lake shoreline restoration project via a 2022 MnDNR Conservation Partners Legacy grant, in partnership with Inver Grove Heights and South St. Paul and in tandem with a trail restoration project.
- Assist in finalizing and closing out the implementing the Interstate Valley Creek stormwater BMPs and streambank stabilizations project.
- Continue to prioritize implementation of projects and programs, applying for grants, and assisting member cities in obtaining grants and identifying opportunities to partner on water quality projects through use of grant tracking program.
- Continue to provide educational workshops to LMRWMO residents through participation in the Landscaping for Clean Water education program.
- Continue cost sharing grant funding for the installation of residential raingardens and other stormwater management projects through the Dakota County SWCD’s Landscaping for Clean Water program.
- Continue to monitor LMRWMO lakes and streams through the Met Council Citizen Assisted Monitoring Program (CAMP), including Lake Augusta, Sunfish Lake, Thompson Lake, Schmitt Lake, Dickman Lake, Seidls Lake, Simley Lake, Lily Lake, Interstate Valley Creek, and Ivy Falls Creek in partnership with community volunteers and Dakota county SWCD staff.
- Engage with residents through the storm drain stenciling program.
- Assist LMRWMO Water Stewards in engaging with the public and informing them of LMRWMO programs at community events with the provision of new banners and tabling materials.

IMPLEMENTATION ITEM REVIEW

Below is The LMRWMO’s 2023-2033 Watershed Management Plan includes an implementation program. Tables 1, 2, and 3 below contain lists of implementation activities identified in the Plan and the status of the activities.

Key for Implementation Tables 1, 2, and 3.

Implementation item is complete or ongoing.	Implementation item is partially complete or in progress.	Implementation item requires action by the LMRWMO.
---	---	--

TABLE 1 - STUDIES			
Implementation Activity	Priority Level	Time-frame	Status and Accomplishments
Mississippi River Direct Drainage Stormwater Management	High	2024-2025	Complete
LMRWMO Outfall Monitoring Feasibility Study	High	2027	Planned for future implementation.
Thompson Lake Subwatershed Assessment	High	2024-2025	Included partly in FY-23 WBIF project scope
Interstate Valley Creek Erosion and Watershed Study	High	2023	Complete
Ivy Falls Creek Erosion and Watershed Study	High	2025	Planned for future implementation.
Watershed Wide Hydrologic and Hydraulic Model	Med	2030	In progress in priority watersheds.
Watershed Wide Water Quality Model	Med	2030	In progress in priority watersheds.
LMRWMO Stream/Creek Monitoring Feasibility Study	Med	2027	Planned for future implementation.
Ivy Falls Creek Waste Dump Assessment	Med	2031	Planned for future implementation.
Rogers Lake Subwatershed Assessment	Med	2026	Planned for future implementation.
Kaposia Creek Daylighting (Open Channel Restoration) Study	Low	2030	Planned for future implementation.
Dodd Road Study	Low	2030	Planned for future implementation.

TABLE 2 - PROJECTS			
Implementation Activity	Priority Level	Time-frame	Status and Accomplishments
Implement small scale stormwater BMPs	High	2024-2033	Ongoing annual participation in the Landscaping for Clean Water program.
Mississippi River Direct Drainage Stormwater Projects	High	2031	Planned for future implementation.
Implement stabilization projects along Interstate Valley Creek	High	2024-2025	Partnering with Mendota Heights and Dakota County to install six stream stabilization and stormwater BMP projects along IVC via CWF grant.
Implement stabilization projects along Ivy Falls Creek	High	2028	Planned for future implementation.
Implement stormwater mgmt.. and/or shoreline improvement projects at Lake Augusta	High	2026	Planned for future implementation.
Thompson Lake Watershed BMPs	High	2025	In preliminary coordination with County and City partners to implement BMPs along Butler Ave. to benefit Thompson Lake.
Seidls Lake Improvements	High	2024-2025	Received a CPL grant for shoreline restoration project around Seidls Lake.
Implement targeted medium to large scale stormwater BMPs	Med	2028	Planned for future implementation.
Stormwater BMPs implemented with City street reconstruction projects	Med	Varies	Have partnered on Butler Ave BMPs, open to future opportunities as they arise.
Kaposia Creek Daylighting (Open Channel Restoration)	Med	2032	Planned for future implementation.
Rogers Lake Watershed BMPs	Med	2031	Planned for future implementation.
Regional Volume Reduction Project Implementation	Med	2032	Planned for future implementation.

TABLE 3 - EDUCATION, MONITORING, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, ADMINISTRATION

Implementation Activity	Priority Level	Time-frame	Status and Accomplishments
Maintain Website	High	2024-2033	Ongoing.
Prepare and distribute (twice annually) an electronic newsletter	High	2024-2033	Ongoing. E-Newsletter first sent in Spring of 2024.
Coordinate with member cities to develop and distribute educational information	High	2024-2033	Ongoing.
Workshops for stewardship and stormwater management practices	High	2024-2033	Ongoing.
Coordination with Dakota SWCD, Ramsey SWC Division, and member cities for K-12 programming	Med	2027	Planned for future implementation.
Stormwater stenciling/signage program	Med	2024-2033	Ongoing. Program implemented in Spring of 2024.
Engage residents through attendance at public events	Med	2024-2033	Ongoing. WMO will provide materials for educational opportunities to partners as requested.
Provide multi-lingual education and outreach material and/or training	Med	2029	Planned for future implementation.
Provide chloride reduction training and/or educational materials	Med	2028	Planned for future implementation.
Coordinate with partners to identify and support volunteer efforts	Med	2024-2033	Ongoing.
Educational support of LMRWMO Board	Med	2024-2033	Ongoing.
Tour of LMRWMO Projects and Resources	Med	2024-2033	Ongoing.

Public Educational Materials	Med	2024-2033	Ongoing.
Monitoring of Priority Lakes through Citizen Assisted Monitoring Program	High	2024-2033	Ongoing.
Review and update LMRWMO monitoring program	High	2026	Planned for future implementation.
Monitoring reports	High	2024-2033	Ongoing.
Monitoring of Interstate Valley Creek	Med	2024-2033	Ongoing.
Monitoring of Ivy Falls Creek	Med	2024-2033	Ongoing.
Monitoring of Kaposia Creek	Med	2031	Planned for future implementation.
Monitoring of outfalls to the Mississippi River	Med	2025	Planned for future implementation.
General Engineering and Technical Assistance	High	2024-2033	Ongoing.
Opportunity Project/Study Engineering and Assistance	High	2024-2033	Ongoing.
Review of Local Water Management Plans (LWMPs)	High	2024-2033	Ongoing.
LMRWMO Watershed Management Plan update	High	2024-2033	Ongoing.
General Administration	High	2024-2033	Ongoing.
Legal, audit, and insurance	High	2024-2033	Ongoing.

Annual Report to BWSR	High	2024-2033	Ongoing.
Biennial progress review	High	2025	Planned for future implementation.
LMRWMO Member City TAC Meeting	High	2025	Planned for future implementation.
Review and revise Joint Powers Agreement (JPA)	High	2033	Planned for future implementation.
Grant review and application	Med	2024-2033	Ongoing.
Review organizational capacity, funding mechanisms, and member city dues, implementation items and costs	Med	2026	Planned for future implementation.
Groundwater planning and coordination	Med	2024-2033	Ongoing.

2024 Water Monitoring

The LMRWMO Watershed Management Plan identifies the need to evaluate and track water quality trends through monitoring of DNR protected water bodies within the WMO. Monitoring efforts since 2011 have focused on lakes larger than 10 acres and on water bodies identified by the member Cities to be of interest. Lakes could be considered of interest because the LMRWMO has identified them as priority waterbodies, has implemented recent projects to improve lake water quality, or has plans to implement projects in the future. Monitoring data can then help identify water quality improvements over the long term or establish baseline conditions for future improvements. The LMRWMO has conducted or supported monitoring of multiple lakes and streams within the LMRWMO for eutrophication parameters, e.Coli, and chloride.



The LMRWMO Board prioritizes monitoring annually and typically selects waterbodies to track progress where water quality projects have been implemented. Six lakes and two streams within the LMRWMO were monitored through the Metropolitan Council's Citizen Assisted Monitoring Program (CAMP) in 2024. Monitoring data, once available from the Metropolitan Council, is posted on the LMRWMO website.

The attached monitoring summary table shows the lakes historically monitored by the LMRWMO and Member Cities, primarily through the Metropolitan Council's Citizen Assisted Monitoring Program (CAMP) with volunteer coordination, data analysis processing, and Met. Council coordination provided by the Dakota County SWCD

through the annual agreement for services. Some Lakes listed on the attached table are monitored through the same program but with the City as the sponsor and volunteer coordinator.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

LOCAL PLAN ADOPTION STATUS

All of the member cities have prepared local water management plans that conform to the 2011 LMRWMO Plan and have been formally approved by the LMRWMO. The below table shows the compliance dates of the local plans for municipalities withing the LMRWMO boundary. Updated requirements to MN Statutes 8410.0105, subdivision 9 and 8410.0160, subdivision 6 for the adoption of Local Water Management Plans will be followed by LMRWMO member Cities.

Local Water Management Plan Status

Member City	LMRWMO Approval Date for conformance with 2001 Watershed Plan	LMRWMO Approval Date for Conformance with 2011 Watershed Plan	LMRWMO Approval Date for Conformance with 2023 Watershed Plan
Inver Grove Heights	June 2008	December 2018	Not yet updated
Lilydale	March 2008	October 2018	Not yet updated
Mendota	None	June 2023	Not yet updated
Mendota Heights	February 2006	July 2018	Not yet updated
South St. Paul	January 2005	December 2018	Not yet updated
St. Paul	September 2006	June 2018	Not yet updated
Sunfish Lake	February 2009	November 2018	Not yet updated
West St. Paul	September 2006	December 2018	Not yet updated

PERMITS & VARIANCES

The LMRWMO does not have a permitting program. The individual member cities provide permitting of projects for land use, construction stormwater management, post-construction stormwater management, floodplain management, and Wetland Conservation Act enforcement.

CONSULTANT SERVICES

As required, every two years solicitations are made to retain legal, auditor, and engineering consulting services. In 2023, the LMRWMO Board retained services from the following consultants for 2023 and 2024.

Engineer: Barr Engineering Co. **Attorney:** Campbell Knutson, PA **Auditor:** Peterson Company Ltd.

FINANCES & AUDIT

The LMRWMO simplified finances and closed one checking account and moved all banking to one bank. The 2024 LMRWMO financial audit will be submitted to the State and BWSR upon completion.

WETLAND BANKING

The LMRWMO does not have a wetland banking program.

ATTACHMENTS

- 2024 Board of Managers Contact List
- 2024 Landscaping for Clean Water Summary
- 2024 Adopted Budget
- 2024 E-newsletter

Name	Position	City	Term Start Date
Sharon Lencowski (Member)	Member	Inver Grove Heights City Council	8/1/2013
Dawn Gaetke (Alternate)	Alternate Member	Inver Grove Heights City Council	5/9/2022
Tom Sutton (Member)	Member	Lilydale City Council	1/31/2017
Mary Kleinberg (Alternate)	Alternate Member	Lilydale City Council	1/9/2023
Steve Gebauer (Member)	Member	Mendota Heights City Council	5/1/2023
Leslie Pilgrim (Alternate)	Alternate Member	Mendota Heights City Council	5/1/2023
Karen Reid (Member)	Member	Saint Paul City Council	5/3/2017
Brian Jastram (Alternate)	Alternate Member	Saint Paul City Council	12/21/2023
	Member	South St. Paul City Council	
Daniel Anderson (Alternate)	Alternate Member	South St. Paul City Council	2/22/2022
Dan Halvorsen (Member)	Member	Sunfish Lake City Council	6/1/2021
	Alternate Member	Sunfish Lake City Council	
Analiese Miller (Member)	Member	West St. Paul City Council	8/28/2023
Julie Eastman (Alternate)	Alternate Member	West St. Paul City Council	1/11/2021

2024 LANDSCAPING FOR CLEAN WATER PROGRAM SUMMARY



Providing landowners the skills & resources to improve water quality and provide habitat for pollinators with raingardens, native gardens, and native shoreline plantings.

LANDSCAPING FOR CLEAN WATER



2024 BY THE NUMBERS

197	INDIVIDUALS PARTICIPATED IN INTRODUCTION CLASSES
127	PROJECTS DESIGNED THROUGH THE DESIGN COURSE
44	RAINGARDENS & NATIVE GARDENS & SHORELINES INSTALLED
22	INDIVIDUALS PARTICIPATED IN THE MAINTENANCE WORKSHOP
23	INDIVIDUALS ATTENDED THE NATURAL SHORELINE WORKSHOP



"The Intro class opened my eyes to so many possibilities. I left excited to take the next step with a planting at my house!"

"Thank you Dakota SWCD for a wonderful program. I appreciate the support and guidance. Can't wait to do another project next year!"

LCW Participants

2024 FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTORS



2024

LANDSCAPING FOR CLEAN WATER

PROGRAM SUMMARY

Thank you to everyone who helped to reduce pollution, improve water quality, and increase pollinator habitat on your property this year! Participation at any level - attending the Introduction to Clean Water Class, installing a project with the Design Course, picking up tips at the Maintenance Workshop, or learned how native plantings along a shoreline benefit both terrestrial and aquatic habitat, helps to spread interest and know-how to all corners of Dakota County.



Summary of the 2024 Participants by City

Apple Valley

Introduction class attendees	27
Projects designed	22
Installed raingardens	3
Installed native gardens	6
Installed shoreline planting	1

Burnsville

Introduction class attendees	35
Projects designed	28
Installed raingardens	4
Installed native gardens	8
Installed shoreline planting	1

Eagan

Introduction class attendees	18
Projects designed	10
Installed raingardens	1
Installed native gardens	2

Farmington

Introduction class attendees	10
Projects designed	6
Installed raingardens	1

Hastings

Introduction class attendees	2
Projects designed	1

Inver Grove Heights

Introduction class attendees	14
Projects designed	8
Installed raingardens	3
Installed native gardens	2

Lakeville

Introduction class attendees	18
Projects designed	12
Installed raingardens	2
Installed native gardens	1

Mendota Heights

Introduction class attendees	2
Projects designed	2

Northfield

Introduction class attendees	5
Projects designed	4
Installed raingardens	1

Rosemount

Introduction class attendees	38
Projects designed	19
Installed raingardens	5

South Saint Paul

Introduction class attendees	6
Projects designed	3
Installed raingardens	1

West Saint Paul

Introduction class attendees	8
Projects designed	7
Installed native gardens	2





2024
Lower Mississippi River WMO
Landscaping for Clean Water
Project Summary



2024 Landscaping for
Clean Water Projects

Lower Mississippi River WMO

Total Available WS LCW Partner Funding	\$15,000
Landowner incentives	\$5,000
Technical Assistance	\$10,000

Grants Available 16

Complete Projects 8

Average Sq Ft	350.88
Average Cost	\$618.97

Project Type	Number
Raingarden	4
Native Garden	4
Shoreline	0

City	Raingarden	Native Garden	Shoreline
Inver Grove Heights	3	2	0
South St Paul	1	0	0
West St Paul	0	2	0

Project ID	First	Last	Practice	City	Sq ft	Cost Est.
------------	-------	------	----------	------	-------	-----------

Round 1 - May 1

1	24-WSP-051	Emily	Benson	NG	West St Paul	1600	\$390.00
2	24-WSP-052	Liz	Deziel	NG	West St Paul	275	\$480.00
3	24-IGH-053	Steven & Nicole	Errante	RG	Inver Grove Heights	100	\$379.00
4	24-SSP-054	Andrew	Hein	RG	South St Paul	120	\$424.00

Round 2 - May 29

5	24-IGH-077	Melvyn	Leach	NG	Inver Grove Heights	200	\$1,255.00
6	24-IGH-099	Chris	Maley	NG	Inver Grove Heights	150	\$560.00
7	24-IGH-109	Mark	Nordstrom	RG	Inver Grove Heights	200	\$513.79
8	24-IGH-111	Alyssa	Schell	RG	Inver Grove Heights	162	\$950.00

LMRWMO 2024 Budget (WMO Funded Operations Only, Grants Excluded)

REVENUES		2024 Budget
Increase from Previous Year		5%
Dues from Members		\$133,676
Interest & LMCIT Rebate		\$2,250
TOTAL		\$135,926
EXPENSES AND LIABILITIES		2024 Budget
Engineering/Technical Assistance		
Technical Assistance		\$6,000
Meetings		\$6,500
Plan Implementation / Grant Applications		\$6,000
Review Local Water Management Plans		
Subtotal		\$18,500
Project/Study Implementation		
Mississippi River Direct Drainage Study - \$71,000 (FY-21 WBIF)		\$9,300
Interstate Valley Creek Stabilization FY-24 CWF Grant Match		\$10,000
Priority Watershed Modeling - \$100,000 (FY-23 WBIF Match)		\$12,000
Seidls Lake Improvements - \$356,000 (FY-22 CPL % Match)		\$2,500
Landscaping for Clean Water Projects		\$13,600
Subtotal		\$47,400
Water Monitoring		
Lake and Stream Water Monitoring (CAMP) and Reports		\$13,760
Subtotal		\$13,760
Education		
WMO Biannual E-Newsletter		\$3,800
Landscaping for Clean Water Classes (Workshops for Stewardship & SW Mgmt.)		\$9,500
MN Water Stewards (support volunteer efforts, work with existing)		\$4,000
Storm Drain Stenciling Program		\$3,000
Engage Residents at Public Events / WMO Tabling Materials		\$500
General Education Requests		\$1,000
Metro Watershed Partners Membership (Member City Ed. Info Distribution)		\$1,000
Website Maintenance and Updates		\$2,900
Board Education		\$200
Subtotal		\$25,900
Administration		
General Administration		\$32,000
Hold Annual TAC Meeting		\$1,000
Insurance		\$2,500
Attorney and Audit		\$5,500
Subtotal		\$41,000
Encumbered for 4th Gen Watershed Plan (2030-2032)		\$20,000
TOTAL		\$146,560
Goal of 40% of Budget in Unencumbered Fund Balance		\$58,624
Year End Fund Balance (Estimated)		\$109,866
Unencumbered Year End Fund Balance		\$89,866



Welcome to our first E-Newsletter!

The [Lower Mississippi River Watershed Management Organization](#) is a local unit of government in northern Dakota County and southern Ramsey County that works to manage stormwater and protect the lakes, streams and wetlands in the watershed.

Sometimes referred to as the LMRWMO or Lower Mississippi River WMO, we are here as a resource for our City partners and residents of our watershed. If you would like to know what watershed your are located in, the LMRWMO or another nearby in Dakota County, check out the [Find My Watershed Map](#).

You are receiving this email as a partner of the LMRWMO via past program participation or as a local partner. Going forward, we will provide twice-annual E-Newsletters from the LMRWMO.

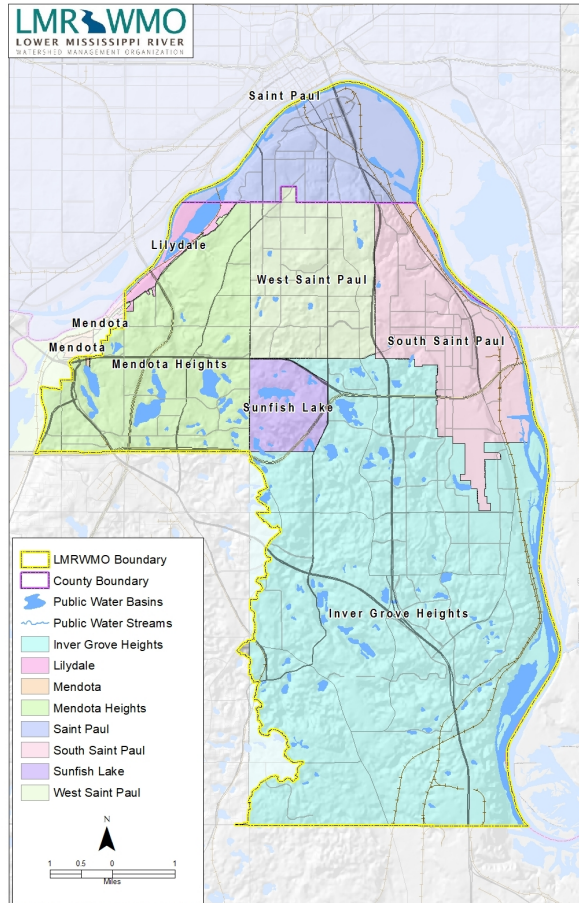
If you wish to NOT receive this twice per year E-Newsletter, please unsubscribe at the bottom of this email to not receive future LMRWMO E-Newsletters. Happy reading!

Get To Know the WMO!

The LMRWMO watershed area boundary is shown in this map

and includes all or part of Inver Grove Heights, Lilydale, Mendota Heights, Saint Paul, South St. Paul, Sunfish Lake, and West St. Paul.

Because rainfall and storm water runoff extends beyond City boundaries, the LMRWMO was established through an agreement among these cities in 1985. Its purpose is to address intercommunity storm water issues, ensure that storm water projects and studies follow accepted engineering standards, meet regulatory requirements, and ensure that the costs incurred are fairly divided among member cities.



The LMRWMO also implements projects to improve water quality, [monitors water quality](#), provides [water resource education programs](#) to the public, [provides grants to landowners](#) installing stormwater management projects, and [performs studies](#) to identify water resources issues and implementation actions.

Seidls Lake Shoreline Restoration and Trail Reconstruction Project

Straddling the border of two cities, [Seidls Lake and Park](#) is a cooperative effort between the Cities of South St. Paul and Inver Grove Heights. The park is a regional

amenity surrounded by neighborhoods with few other nearby natural areas and is relatively undeveloped for visitors to enjoy a leisurely walk along the lake, which also a popular fishing destination. The LMRWMO has implemented projects around the lake in the past to improve water quality and regularly monitors it's water quality.

**Trail
reconstruction
and fishing area
improvements**



Seidl's Lake

**Increase
habitat
diversity**

Seidl's Lake was previously landlocked, and the water levels rose dramatically in the last 15 years, causing erosion and flooding out of the trail on the east side of the lake. The 2020 installation of a pumped outlet by the City of South St. Paul provides stable lake levels. The cities sought and received MN DNR grant funding for reconstruction of the trail.



Fallen trees for in-water habitat

The LMRWMO partnered with the Cities and applied for separate MN DNR grant funding to restore the lake shoreline vegetation, which was also flooded out. This \$382,000 [DNR Conservation Partners Legacy](#) grant will stabilize approximately 2,500 linear feet and 1.4 acres of the eroded and exposed portions of the shoreline with native vegetation. The vegetation will be suited to the various depths, slopes, sunlight conditions around the lake and will provide diverse habitat and benefits to wildlife. Existing fallen trees providing fish habitat will remain and new fishing areas with "fish sticks" made out of reused trees will be created along the lake.

Construction of the shoreline restoration and trail reconstruction is underway and will continue into summer of 2025.

Study Results in Stream and Stormwater Projects at Valley Park

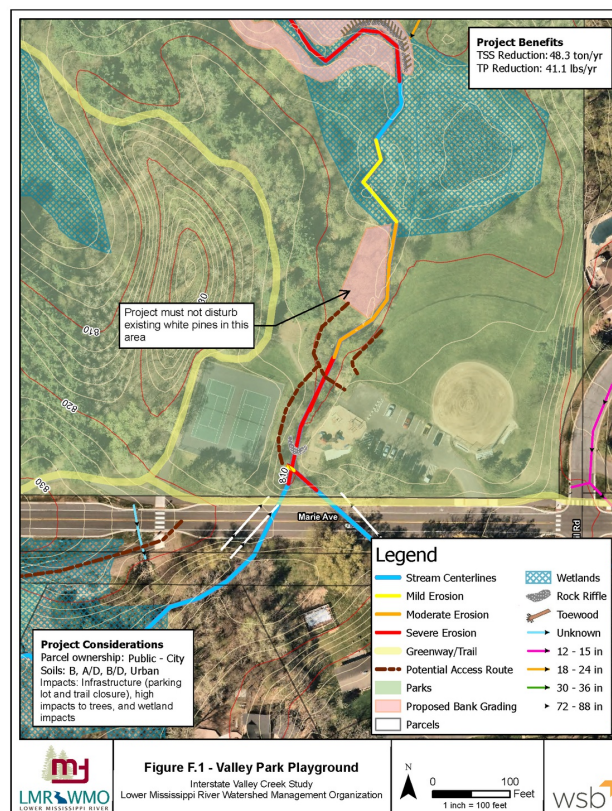


Interstate Valley Creek (IVC) runs through Valley Park in Mendota Heights, which is a valuable regional amenity and natural area. In partnership with the City of Mendota Heights, the LMRWMO hired a consultant to study, identify, and prioritize projects along the creek and in the watershed to fix creek erosion issues, capture stormwater, and reduce pollutants entering IVC.

Six projects from the study were prioritized and in partnership with Dakota County, the City of Mendota Heights and the Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), the partners received a \$585,000 Clean Water Fund Grant for the Interstate Valley Creek (IVC) Streambank Stabilization and Stormwater Best Management Practices project.

The three streambank stabilization practices and three stormwater treatment projects will be implemented along with planned [River to River Greenway trail improvements through Valley Park](#) to provide cost savings in both engineering and construction.

This project provides a comprehensive approach to local



and regional water and natural resource planning, agency cross-coordination, and merging of recreation and water quality goals. The project was made possible due to the partnership between the City of Mendota Heights, the SWCD, Dakota County, and the LMRWMO. Each partner is providing planning, project management, and/or financial contributions to the project.



Design and engineering plans are in progress with installation of both the streambank stabilization and stormwater projects, and the River to River Greenway in Valley Park planned for 2024 and 2025.

Landscaping for Clean Water (LCW)

The [Landscaping for Clean Water](#) (LCW) program makes it easy for residents of the LMRWMO to turn their yards into an attractive force for clean water!

Each of us can create a landscape on our property which will benefit our lakes, streams, and wetlands by soaking water into the ground, providing pollinator habitat, and stabilizing eroded slopes and shorelines. The Introduction

Class and Design Courses are offered in-person and online, giving you the tools and knowledge to transform your yard for the better. You will also learn about \$250 grants and technical assistance available to participants. Register today to start designing your native garden, raingarden, or native shoreline planting project!



[Register for Landscaping for Clean Water](#)

Get Involved and Spread the Word!

Interested in improving water quality in your neighborhood, but aren't sure where to get started? Check out the [Get Involved](#) page on the LMRWMO's website to learn about volunteer opportunities available in the watershed. This includes joining our team of volunteer water monitors, taking water samples of local lakes, installing a conservation project on your property, adopting a storm drain, or stenciling storm drains.

Be a positive force for clean water in the watershed - help us spread the word about the LMRWMO. Share this newsletter with friends and neighbors and get involved!

©2024 Lower Mississippi River Watershed Management Organization | 4100 220th St. West,
Suite 102 Farmington, MN 55024

[Web Version](#)

[Preferences](#)

[Forward](#)

[Unsubscribe](#)

Powered by [Mad Mimi](#)®
A GoDaddy® company