

Lower Mississippi River Watershed Management Organization

2013 Newsletter



VISION: Water resources and related ecosystems are managed to sustain their long-term health and integrity through member city collaboration and partnerships with other water management organizations with member city citizen support and participation.

✓ Survey Says:

Residents Offer Thoughts about Lakes in Their Communities

Last fall the Lower Mississippi River Watershed Management Organization (LMRWMO) mailed surveys to 2,500 residents living in the watersheds of four lakes: Pickerel Lake in Lilydale and St. Paul, Sunfish Lake in the City of Sunfish Lake, Thompson Lake in West St. Paul, and Rogers Lake in Mendota Heights. Nearly 10% of these residents returned the survey, providing some interesting thoughts and perceptions of water quality in their communities.



Nearly all respondents indicated that the quality of the lake moderately or highly impacted the overall quality of their community. (This data verifies other published surveys which report that water resources are important components of many communities.) Water clarity topped the list of criteria residents viewed as most important when considering the quality of the lake, with health of the fishery a close second. While some respondents thought government, taxes and policies should drive efforts to improve water quality, others indicated that residents should take an active role in this regard. In fact, depending on the practice, 65 – 85% of respondents indicated they would be willing to use rain barrels and rain gardens to capture runoff before it hits the streets and flows into the lakes; and 88 – 100% said they would be willing to direct downspouts into yards and clean up leaves and grass clippings from hard surfaces before rain sends them into the storm sewer.

The LMRWMO will use the survey data to help develop plans for restoring or protecting the lakes in the watershed. The survey was conducted through the Watershed Restoration and Protection (WRAP) Study with Clean Water Legacy funding from the MN Pollution Control Agency. Visit <http://www.dakotaswcd.org/watersheds/lowermisswmo/wrapp.html> to learn more about the study and find complete survey results.

LMRWMO BOARD OF MANAGERS:

Bob Bullard (Chair) – Lilydale
Mary Lou Sabin (Vice Chair) – West St. Paul
John Sachi (Sec/Tres) – South St. Paul
Vacant – Inver Grove Heights
Mary Jeanne Schneeman – Mendota Heights
Anne Weber – St. Paul
Judy MacManus – Sunfish Lake

Primary Contact: Laura Jester
651-480-7784; laura.iester@co.dakota.mn.us



CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS! The watershed would like your help. Please contact the LMRWMO if you would like to collect data on a lake or serve on a citizen advisory committee.

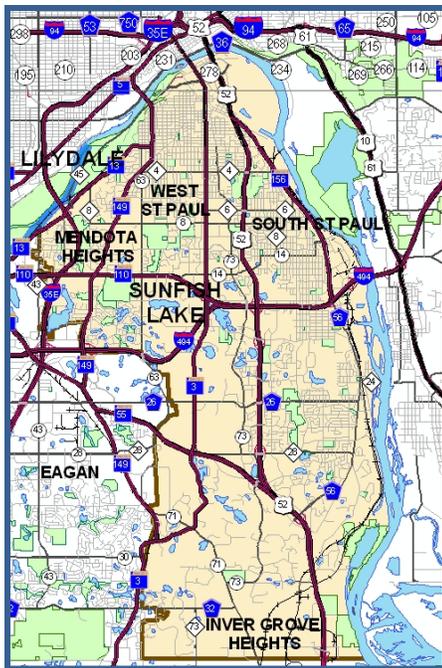
Learning More about Ivy Falls Creek

Last year, the LMRWMO collected water samples and measured flow in Ivy Falls Creek to learn how the creek impacts Pickerel Lake and the Mississippi River below the bluff. About 1,500 acres of residential and commercial areas in parts of Lilydale, West St. Paul, and Mendota Heights contribute stormwater to Ivy Falls Creek. When it rains or the snow melts, runoff from this area flows into the creek and over the bluff.



Typical of an urban stream, the data shows that water levels and flows in Ivy Falls Creek rise and fall quickly after a storm. This “flashiness” of the creek indicates that impervious areas like roads, roofs, and parking lots allow large volumes of water to run quickly into the storm sewer system, while very little soaks into the ground. Data from water samples tell us the creek carries high levels of phosphorus and suspended solids; another indicator that improvements in stormwater management are needed in this area.

This monitoring is part of the Watershed Restoration and Protection (WRAP) Study being conducted with Clean Water Legacy funding from the MN Pollution Control Agency. Learn more at www.dakotaswcd.org/watersheds/lowermisswmo/index.html.



ABOUT THE WATERSHED

BACKGROUND: The Lower Mississippi River Watershed in northern Dakota and southern Ramsey Counties comprises 35,493 acres, and includes all or part of Inver Grove Heights, Lilydale, Mendota Heights, St. Paul, South St. Paul, Sunfish Lake, and West St. Paul. The Lower Mississippi River Watershed Management Organization (LMRWMO) was established by a Joint Powers Agreement on October 25, 1985 to meet the requirements of the Metropolitan Surface Water Management Act of 1982.

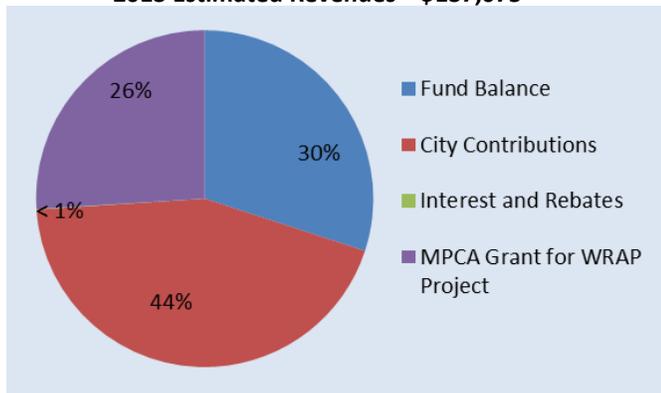
WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES: The fundamental premise behind the Surface Water Management Act is that rainfall and storm water runoff has no regard for municipal boundaries. Rain that falls in one community may run through another city or county causing flooding, erosion, or the degradation of water quality downstream. The LMRWMO was established to address intercommunity storm water issues within the watershed, ensure that any intercommunity storm water projects and studies follow accepted engineering standards, and that the costs incurred be allocated proportionately to member cities through a mutually agreed upon cost share formula. Guiding principles also apply to the monitoring, evaluation, and protection of the quality of storm water runoff, surface waters, groundwater, fish and wildlife habitat, as well as serving as an educational resource to the general public.

MEETINGS of the LMRWMO are held on the 1st Thursday of every month; the location rotates among city halls. The public is invited to attend LMRWMO Board meetings. For specific meeting times and locations, contact your Board of Managers representative or visit: www.dakotacountyswcd.org/watersheds/lowermisswmo/index.html.

LMRWMO 2013 Budget

The LMRWMO is funded through contributions from its member cities based on area within the watershed and valuation of that area. Grants and partnerships with other entities also provide funding and assistance to help the LMRWMO do its work.

2013 Estimated Revenues = \$137,075



2013 Estimated Expenses = \$136,950

