

LMRWMO

LOWER MISSISSIPPI RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

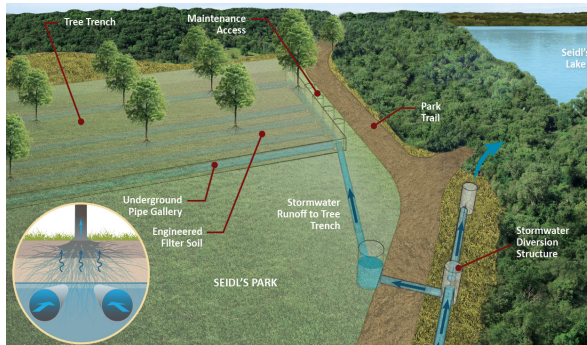
2020 NEWSLETTER

LMRWMO MISSION: 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.

ROOTED IN WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT TREE TRENCHES STOP POLLUTANTS FROM ENTERING SEIDL'S LAKE

The LMRWMO partnered with the City of South St. Paul on the installation of an underground stormwater treatment and storage tree trench system. The project leveraged \$157,000 in City funding to obtain \$150,000 in stormwater improvement grant funds from the Metropolitan Council. The LMRWMO obtained the grant and the City managed the project installation.

The underground system captures and filters polluted stormwater from a 27-acre watershed to the north. The underground tree trench prevents almost 10 lbs of phosphorus and over 3,700 lbs of sediment from reaching Seidl's Lake. This helps to improve the water quality of the lake long term, reducing the likelihood of algae blooms, and annually recharging groundwater with nearly six Olympic-sized swimming pools worth of stormwater.



Schematic drawing of underground system showing underground pipe gallery

The innovative underground storage system collects and treats the most polluted first flush of stormwater. That water is diverted to the underground pipe gallery system where sediment and debris are captured. The system then provides water directly where it is needed by the trees through capillary action, when the pipe gallery and sand is saturated with the stormwater, it travels upwards to the tree roots which need it. Additional benefits include native habitat for songbirds, pollinator habitat, shade for park users, and usable park space above the system.

The project is one of several planned by the City of South St. Paul, Inver Grove Heights, and the LMRWMO to improve the water quality of Seidl's Lake.

BECOME A CITIZEN WATER QUALITY MONITOR!

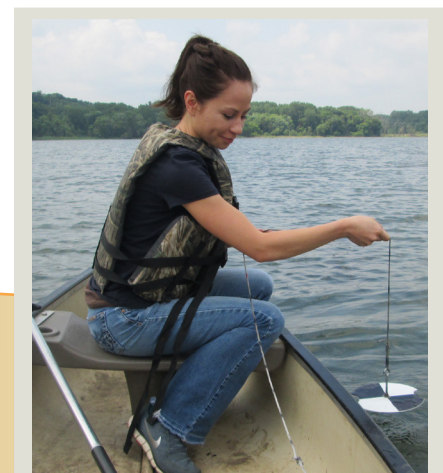
Help us gather the vital data to inform our lake and stream management decisions and ensure the lasting health of the LMRWMO lakes and streams.

Monitoring typically involves Secchi disk measurements to track the water transparency as well as measurements of phosphorus and chlorophyll in a lake. These indicate how excess nutrients in the lake are causing algae growth and making lakes unusable.

If you would like to learn how to become a water monitor, contact the LMRWMO Administrator below:

(651) 480-7777

joe.barten@co.dakota.mn.us



Using a Secchi disk to measure water clarity

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION FACTS:

- WMOs are funded by the cities within their jurisdiction.
- WMOs are governed by a citizen board appointed by the member cities.
- The WMO was formed in 1985 after the Metro Surface Water Mgmt. Act was passed.

LANDSCAPING FOR CLEAN WATER GOES DIGITAL

ONLINE DESIGN COURSES & \$250 GRANTS AVAILABLE

The Landscaping for Clean Water program makes it easy for residents of the LMRWMO to turn their yards into an attractive force for clean water. Each of us has the opportunity to 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 and design classes are now being offered online, to give you the tools and knowledge to transform your yard for the better. Register today to get access to the online materials as well as online one-on-one office hours for personal, professional design assistance for your native gardens, raingardens, or native shoreline planting project.



The program provides an overview of water quality challenges and provides beautiful and practical ways to transform conventional urban yards into beneficial landscapes. You will also learn about \$250 grants available to participants. After the introductory video, you can sign up for a \$25 online design workshop where you will receive additional resources, including a Blue Thumb Guide to Raingardens book worth \$20, and

professional assistance designing a project for your property. Workshops are being offered online now! Register online or call for more information: (651) 480-7777 or visit: www.dakotacountyswcd.org

ABOUT THE WATERSHED

The Lower Mississippi River Watershed Management Organization, located in northern Dakota County and southern Ramsey County, covers 55.8 square miles and includes Inver Grove Heights, St. Paul, South St. Paul, West St. Paul, Lilydale, Mendota Heights, and Sunfish Lake. The LMRWMO was established by a Joint Powers Agreement to meet the requirements of the Metropolitan Surface Water Management Act of 1982.

The premise of the Surface Water Management Act is that rain and stormwater runoff are not contained within municipal boundaries. Rain that falls in one community may run through another causing flooding, erosion, or the degradation of water quality downstream. The LMRWMO addresses intercommunity stormwater issues and ensures that all stormwater projects and studies follow accepted engineering standards. The costs incurred are allocated proportionately to member cities. Other efforts of the LMRWMO include protection of surface waters, water monitoring, and public education.

The public is welcome to attend LMRWMO board meetings held on the second Wednesday of each month at 3:00 p.m., located at the member city halls. For upcoming meeting information, contact your Board of Managers representative or visit:

www.dakotaswcd.org/watersheds/lowermisswmo//agendas.html

DID YOU KNOW?

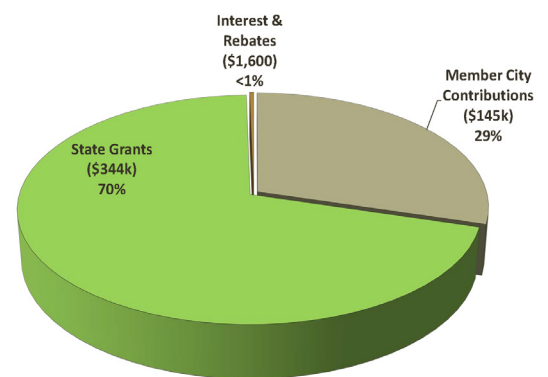
The LMRWMO Board of Managers is made up of citizen appointees who set the budget and direction of the organization. Contact us if you'd like to fill a Board vacancy for one of the highlighted Cities below.

- **Inver Grove Heights**
- Lilydale
- Mendota Heights
- Sunfish Lake
- South St. Paul
- **St. Paul**
- **West St. Paul**

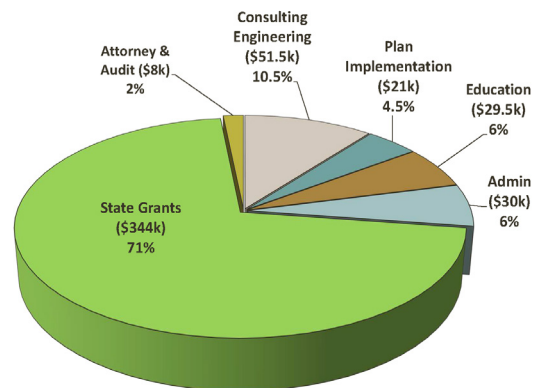
2020 BUDGET

The LMRWMO is funded by member City dues based on land area and property value. Grant assistance is also provided through partnership entities to fulfill the mission of the LMRWMO. See below for more information.

REVENUE



EXPENDITURES



The LMRWMO Board of Managers is comprised of up to two appointed representatives from each member city, listed below

Sharon Lencowski (Chair) - Inver Grove Heights
Karen Reid (Vice Chair) - Saint Paul
Mary Jeanne Schneeman (Sec/Tres) - Mendota Heights
Jill Smith (Alternate) - Mendota Heights

Tom Sutton (Member) - Lilydale
Lyle Hanzal (Alternate) - Lilydale
Patti O'Leary (Member) - Sunfish Lake

Jim Stowell (Alternate) - Sunfish Lake
Sheila Vanney (Member) - West St. Paul

Administrator - Joe Barten (651) 480-7777