

2023 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.*

INTERSTATE VALLEY CREEK EROSION & STORMWATER VOLUME REDUCTION STUDY

The LMRWMO was awarded \$48,000 in grant funds for the Interstate Valley Creek Stabilization and Volume Reduction Feasibility study. The City of Mendota Heights also provided \$25,000 in matching funds for the study. This will identify areas and severity of streambank erosion, methods for streambank protection, and opportunities to reduce the flow of stormwater to IVC.

Interstate Valley Creek runs from Friendly Hills Marsh in Mendota Heights north along I-35-E to the Mississippi River. There are two tributaries, Marie and Wentworth Creeks, that feed into the mainstem of IVC. Severe erosion was identified which required prioritization of eroded areas and identification of stormwater volume reduction projects.

This first involved computer-based assessment of the watershed of IVC, which extends into Sunfish Lake and West St. Paul.



Severe erosion areas along Interstate Valley Creek

All the stream reaches were then walked, assessed, and catalogued based on amounts of erosion. Additionally, 2-D-modeling was performed throughout the stream channel to gauge erosion intensity during rainfalls. A final report which prioritizes areas to be stabilized based on their cost/benefit, outlines stabilization methods (rock, vegetation, re-grading, etc.), and identifies stormwater volume reduction opportunities, is complete.

This study will next be used to seek grant funding for stabilization measures in partnerships with the City of Mendota Heights and Dakota County, who are planning a trail reconstruction project within the same corridor.

Funding for this study is provided by the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) via the State Clean Water Fund and Metro Watershed Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) grant program.

BECOME A CITIZEN WATER QUALITY MONITOR!

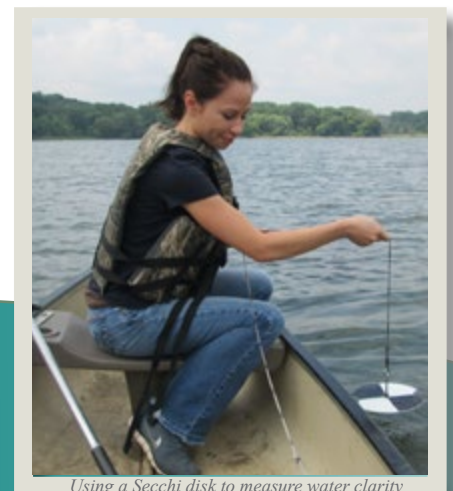
Help us gather the vital data to inform our lake and stream management decisions and ensure the lasting health of the LMRWMO waterbodies.

Monitoring 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) 480-7784

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 \$250 GRANTS ONLINE AND IN PERSON DESIGN COURSES 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 online Introduction Class and both online and in person Design Classes give you the tools and knowledge to transform your yard for the better. Register today to get access to the in-person classes, online materials, and online one-on-one office hours for personal and professional design assistance for your native gardens, raingardens, or native shoreline project.



The program provides an overview of water quality challenges and provides beautiful and practical ways to transform your yard into a beneficial landscape. You will also learn about \$250 grants available to participants. After the Introduction Class you can sign up for a \$25 online design workshop being offered now! Register online or call for more information: (651) 480-7777 or visit: www.dakotaswcd.org

NEW WEBSITE

The LMRWMO website has a new look! Check out the new and improved site that includes information on studies and projects implemented by the WMO, as well as educational information and data on lake water quality: www.LMRWMO.org

ABOUT THE WMO

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 works to protect surface waters. Visit the LMRWMO website for more information: www.LMRWMO.org

DID YOU KNOW?

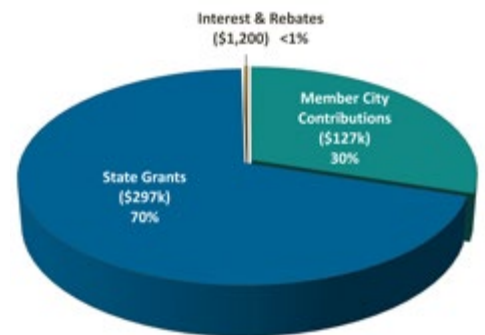
The LMRWMO Board is made up of citizen appointees who set the budget and direction of the organization. Contact us to fill a Board vacancy for the City of Saint Paul if you live on the West Side.

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

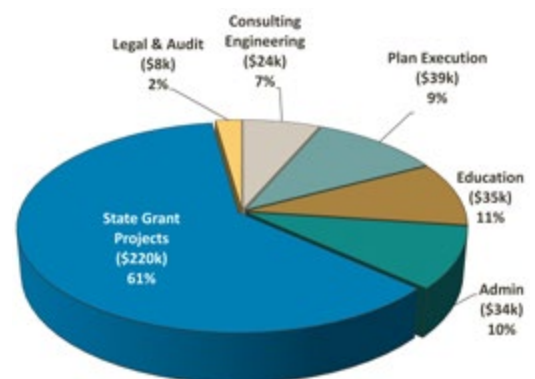
2023 BUDGET

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
 Dawn Gaetke (Alternate) - Inver Grove Heights

Tom Sutton (Member) - Lilydale
 Lyle Hanzal (Alternate) - Lilydale
 Michael Randle (Member) - South St. Paul
 Daniel Anderson (Alternate) - South St. Paul
 Dan Halvorsen (Member) - Sunfish Lake

Shannon Nelson (Alternate) - Sunfish Lake
 Sheila Vanney (Member) - West St. Paul
 Julie Eastman (Member) - West St. Paul

Staff Contact - Joe Barten (651) 480-7784