



Le Sueur Soil and Water Conservation District

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NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release:

Cannon River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan Begins Implementation

Over the past few years, local representatives from county governments, cities, soil and water conservation districts, organizations, and concerned citizens have met to develop a comprehensive watershed management plan for the Cannon River. Stakeholders used the process of One Watershed, One Plan to develop the plan.

The Minnesota Board of Water & Soil Resources (BWSR) officially approved the Cannon River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (CRCWMP) on June 24th, 2020. In addition to the plan, the Cannon River Watershed Joint Powers Board was also created to implement the CRCWMP.

The CRWMP identifies high priority areas based on watershed concerns of the Cannon River and provides conservation practices to implement with the goal of improving water quality. However, the implementation of conservation practices is not limited to only these areas. Conservation across the watershed is important to the health of the Cannon River.

Le Sueur County holds 9.6 percent of the watershed area of the Cannon River, 5th most of the counties located in the watershed. The CRCWMP prioritizes treatment in the watersheds of lakes and streams. Le Sueur County is home to two of the seven lakes identified as high priority lakes (Roemhildts and Fish). These lakes and their watersheds will be targeted for non-structural practices in the next two years.

By implementing conservation practices in priority areas and across the watershed, Le Sueur County can improve the water quality of the Cannon River Watershed by reducing sedimentation and nutrient loading of our local lakes and streams.

Staff from the Le Sueur SWCD will work with landowners and farmers to implement conservation practices. Four different categories will be focused on during the implementation phase of the plan.

The first category is cost-share projects including structural and nonstructural projects. Structural practices will be constructed in the high priority stream watersheds and include projects like waterways and sediment basins. Non-structural practices, including reduced tillage and cover crops, will be implemented in both high priority lake and stream watersheds.

The second category focuses on developing resource concern inventories across the watershed. In Le Sueur County, natural shoreline inventories will be developed on Roemhildts, Fish, Dora, Mabel, Diamond, Sabre, and Tustin and will focus on ways to preserve the shorelines. Septic inventories will also be conducted.

The third category will focus on plan development and tracking progress. Activities in this category will include surveying cover crops and completing terrain analysis for the entire watershed to track progress of the completed projects. Every other year there will be a field day to show locally elected officials and other stakeholders the progress of the plan.

The final category will concentrate on conservation education across the watershed. This will include soil health events, individual letters to landowners on the health of their land, and the development of a plan to further educate the public on the state of the Cannon River Watershed.

Overall, there is a lot that can be done in Le Sueur County to help the health of the Cannon River Watershed. This will be a slow process, but over time the implementation of conservation practices will make large, noticeable changes.

To learn more about the plan, please contact the Le Sueur SWCD or visit www.riceswcd.org/cannon-river-joint-powers-board. If your land falls within a high priority area, you may be eligible for special cost-share funding to implement conservation on your property. To find out if you are eligible, call the Le Sueur SWCD at 507-419-0365.