

HERON LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT

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CLEAN WATER PARTNERSHIP (CWP)

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) provides financial and technical assistance to local governments to address nonpoint source pollution through the Clean Water Partnership (CWP) program. Nonpoint source pollution is by far the largest threat to water quality. It comes from many different sources such as storm sewers, construction sites, animal feedlots, paved surfaces, failing septic systems, croplands, and over-fertilized lawns. These sources contribute huge quantities of phosphorus, bacteria, sediments, nitrates, and other pollutants to the environment. The MPCA estimates that 86 percent of the state's water pollution comes from nonpoint sources.

The MPCA uses the CWP program to support the efforts of local units of government and citizens to address nonpoint sources of pollution. The program provides financial and technical assistance for the study of water bodies experiencing pollution problems, development of action plans to address the problems, and implementation of the plans to fix the problems.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES



The HLWD has received funding for three CWP implementation and education grants since 1996. The goals and objectives of the CWP are:

- Goal 1: Increase Public Awareness of Water Quality Issues
- Goal 2: Nonpoint and Point Source Pollutant Loading Reductions
- Goal 3: Improve Water Quantity Management Within the Watershed
- Goal 4: Monitor Lake Water Quality
- Goal 5: Improve Habitat for Wildlife Species

PROJECTS

As of June, over 600 projects have been completed - including 3,255 acres of filter strips and 176 acres of wetland restoration. The table to the right reflects CWP projects implemented.



2 waste management systems	1 waste storage structure
1 critical area planting	1 multi-purpose dam
2 sediment basins	5 stream channel stabilizations
20 terraces	4 tree plantings
2 contour buffer strips	14 farmstead windbreaks
172 rock inlets	245 filter strips
39 grassed waterways	44 riparian buffers
19 Reinvest In Minnesota	1 living snow fence
5 field windbreaks	1 rain garden
3 wildlife wetland habitat managements	3 shallow water areas for wildlife
6 wetlands restorations	25 wetland basins

PARTNERS

Successful projects do not happen overnight, nor can they happen through the efforts of one person. Strong partnerships and successful projects are achieved by the collective efforts of many individuals and organizations working together to realize the same goals and objectives. The level of commitment and willingness to cooperate in full support of our requests has been impressive. We are deeply grateful to all of our partners for their willingness to work with us and help us see our ideas become reality. The table below shows our CWP partners.

Nobles, Jackson, Murray, and Cottonwood Counties	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
Natural Resources Conservation Service	Soil and Water Conservation Districts
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency	North Heron Lake Game Producers Association
Prairie Ecology Bus Center	First State Bank of Rushmore
University of Minnesota Extension Service	

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR WATER QUALITY?

Through water quality sampling, volunteer monitoring, and a hydrology study, water quality is evaluated. Continuous monitoring provides the most effective method for evaluation. A comparison of 1992 results to 2003 results shows a decrease of 3,072 tons of suspended solids and 11,609 pounds of phosphorous is occurring. This may be a result of the best management practices installed.

Much remains to be done, but our efforts are showing success. **You can help! The CWP offers financial incentives, cost-share, and low-interest loans to district residents.** If you would like to know more, please call Jan Voit at 507-793-2462 or visit our website: www.hlwdonline.org.