

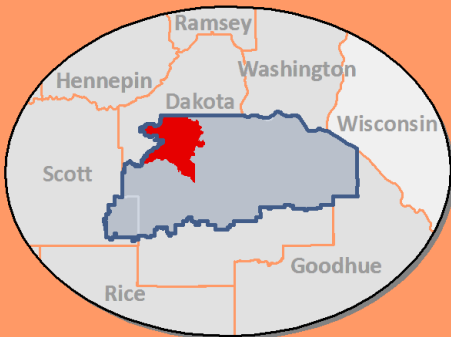


How can  
you improve  
local waters?



## North Creek Subwatershed

North Creek Subwatershed



### Includes:

- Most of the Apple Valley,
- Eastern Burnsville around Lake Alimagnet,
- Northeast Lakeville,
- Northwest Farmington,
- Northwest corner of Empire Township,
- Western Rosemount,
- North Creek and all of its tributaries,
- Lake Alimagnet,
- Long and Farquar Lakes, and
- East Lake.

### Strategies for a healthy subwatershed

The land area around North Creek (and smaller streams that run into North Creek) make up the North Creek Subwatershed. The North Creek Subwatershed (shown in red on map, left) is part of the Vermillion River Watershed (shown in blue). Land and water in this area drains to North Creek.

The North Creek Subwatershed is almost fully developed, with residential, commercial, industrial, and recreational land uses. Changes in land-use (from development and new infrastructure) alter the natural flow of water, allowing rain water to move more quickly from where it falls. Increased urban runoff carries pollutants (such as sediment, bacteria, and nutrients) to water bodies.

Practices that slow down stormwater and soak up the rain can improve water quality. A challenge in well-developed urban and suburban areas is finding enough space for practices that hold and soak in stormwater.

Healthy land and water resources depend on everyone. Find out more about what you can do to improve the North Creek Subwatershed's water resources.

Project Highlight  
**Long Lake Iron-enhanced Sand Filter**  
 Long and Farquar Lakes in Apple Valley struggle with excess nutrients (mostly phosphorus) that spur growth of curlyleaf pond weed and algae. The City and VRWJPO installed an iron-enhanced sand filter in a basin that captures and slows stormwater before it reaches the lake. The iron in the sand filter removes dissolved phosphorus in runoff.



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#### Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization

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The Vermillion River Watershed encompasses an area of approximately 335 square miles, including portions of two counties and all or portions of 20 cities, towns, and townships. The main stem of the river begins in southeastern Scott County in New Market Township flowing east through central Dakota County, passing over a waterfall in the City of Hastings, and then discharging to the Mississippi River both through a northerly flowing outlet near the City of Hastings as well as through a southerly flowing outlet near the City of Red Wing, Minnesota.

## Best Management Practices (BMPs) for the North Creek Subwatershed

### What are the water-quality issues?

- ▢ *E.coli* bacteria in streams
- ▢ Excess sediment in streams
- ▢ Not enough dissolved oxygen, especially where North Creek converges with the Vermillion River
- ▢ Excess nutrients (mostly phosphorus) in lakes

### What are we (and partners) doing?

- ▢ **Installing bioretention cells** that use plants, compost, and sand to capture and biologically degrade pollutants.
- ▢ **Using iron-enhanced sand filters** that remove dissolved phosphorus before it reaches water resources.
- ▢ **Installing pre-treatment for stormwater ponds** that drain to lakes.
- ▢ **Implementing lake drawdown**, a strategy that helps clear out rough fish and nutrient sources like curlyleaf pond weed.

### What can you do at home?

- ▢ **Install a raingarden** to soak up the rain, filter pollutants, and provide habitat.
- ▢ **Install a rain barrel** to capture stormwater and use it to water your lawn and garden.
- ▢ **Disconnect your rooftop** from sidewalks and driveways by redirecting your downspout.
- ▢ **Keep yard wastes out** of storm drains.
- ▢ Pick up and properly **dispose of pet wastes** in the trash.
- ▢ **Stabilize and vegetate shorelines** on Lake Alimagnet, Long and Farquar Lakes, and East Lake to prevent erosion, filter out nutrients, and provide habitat for wildlife.

### What can you do on commercial properties?

- ▢ **Retrofit paved areas using low-impact development practices**, such as raingardens, tree trenches, or pervious pavement that soak up the rain.
- ▢ **Disconnect rooftops** from parking lots and pavement by re-routing downspouts to help irrigate landscaping.
- ▢ Follow best practices for **parking lot and pavement ice and snow removal** to keep salt, sand, and oils from water resources.