

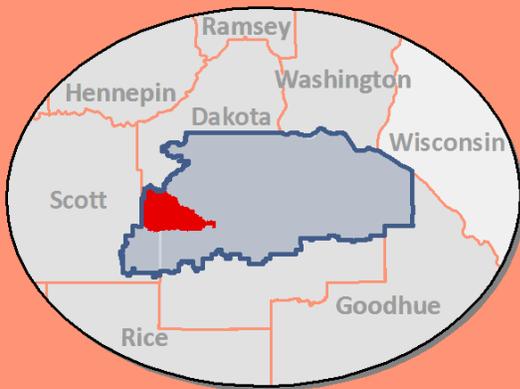


How can you improve local waters?



South Creek Subwatershed

South Creek Subwatershed



Includes:

- Southern Lakeville,
- Southwest Farmington,
- Northern Eureka Township,
- Northwest New Market Township;
- South Creek and all of its tributaries; and
- Lake Marion.

Strategies for a healthy subwatershed

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

The South Creek Subwatershed includes many types of land use: urban, rural, residential, commercial, agricultural, and recreational. Changes in land-use (from development, new infrastructure, or shifting farming practices) alter the natural flow of water, allowing rain water to move more quickly from where it falls. Increased runoff carries pollutants such as sediment to lakes, rivers, and streams.

For example, urban roads, parking lots, and pavement allow stormwater (and pollutants) to quickly move to water resources. Overland flow from agricultural land also drains stormwater from fields into rivers and streams.

Practices that slow down stormwater and soak up the rain can improve water quality.

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

Project Highlight
Lakeville's 205th Street Channel Restoration
Healthy streams need bends, stable banks and beds, and native plants. The City of Lakeville and the VRWJPO shaped this small channel to Lake Marion, stabilized the banks, installed rock riffles, and installed native plants.



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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 South Creek Subwatershed

What are the water-quality issues?

- ☐ *E.coli* bacteria in streams
- ☐ Excess sediment in streams
- ☐ Not enough dissolved oxygen in streams
- ☐ High stream temperatures in summer
- ☐ Nutrients (mostly phosphorus) in lakes

What are we (and partners) doing?

- ☐ **Stream restoration** to build natural curves into straightened reaches, increasing dissolved oxygen and reducing erosion.
- ☐ **Streambank stabilization** and vegetation to prevent erosion and filter out pollutants before they reach the stream.
- ☐ **Bioretention cells** that use plants, compost, and sand to capture and biologically degrade pollutants.
- ☐ **Iron-enhanced sand filters** that remove dissolved phosphorus before it reaches water resources.

What can you do at home?

- ☐ **Install a rainbarrel** 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 Marion to prevent erosion, reduce nutrients, and provide habitat for wildlife.

What can you do on the farm?

- ☐ **Install a grassed waterway**, a vegetated channel designed to move surface water across farmland without causing soil erosion.
- ☐ **Install water and sediment control basins** to collect sediment and hold water until it seeps into the ground.
- ☐ **Keep livestock out of streams** and properly manage manure to reduce bacteria loads.
- ☐ Follow University of Minnesota Extension's [best management practices](#) for **nitrogen use**.

Visit our website for more information:
www.vermillionriverwatershed.org