

Clean Water Fund Use in the Twin Cities Metro Area

While the Clean Water Fund is often associated with projects in Greater Minnesota, the State of Minnesota and local partners invest a substantial amount of Legacy dollars in the Twin Cities metro.

BWSR Grants

Metro watershed districts, conservation districts, and water management organizations receive Clean Water Fund grants from the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR). These grants usually support activities that have been identified in approved water plans. Typical projects include the following:

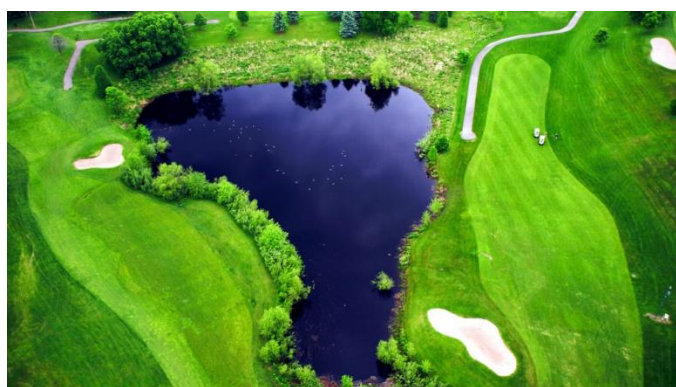


Figure 1: Como Golf Course Stormwater Project

- **Filtration basins and rain gardens** to capture stormwater
- **Sealing of abandoned wells**, especially in Drinking Water Supply Management Areas
- **Stormwater retrofits** (example: Target parking lot in North St. Paul, Islamic Cultural Community Center-Minneapolis)
- **Carp removal** to improve water quality

- **Stream restoration** (Rice Creek, Trout Brook Nature Reserve in St. Paul off 35E—Figure 3)
- **Como Lake:** As part of a multi-faceted effort to improve water quality in this iconic lake, the Capitol Region Watershed District (Figure 1)



Figure 2: Stormwater Reuse at Allianz Field

- **Allianz Field:** The Capitol Region Watershed District used a CWF grant for the stormwater



reuse system that collects rain from the stadium and filters it for irrigation. (Figure 2)

Monitoring

- **Fish Contamination Assessment** (DNR) will start regular monitoring for PFAS.
- **River and Lake Monitoring and Assessment** (MPCA) will start regular monitoring for PFAS.
- **Groundwater Assessment** (MPCA) uses ambient groundwater monitoring wells for water quality sampling.
- **Aquifer Monitoring for Water Supply Planning** (DNR) tracks groundwater levels and provides planning and technical assistance to water suppliers and local governments.



Figure 3: Trout Brook Nature Reserve; Photo Credit HR Green Inc.

Assistance to Local Governments

- **Wastewater/Stormwater TMDL Implementation** (MPCA) provides technical assistance to cities to help them comply with the new state stormwater permit, especially for chloride.
- **Chloride Reduction Program** (MPCA) provides Smart Salting training for public works departments and private snow removal contractors to avoid excessive use of chloride de-icer.
- **Stormwater Best Management Practice Performance Evaluation and Technology Transfer** (University of Minnesota) investigates cost-effective strategies to reduce pollutants in

urban stormwater. A successful example is enhanced street sweeping.

- **Water Demand Reduction Grant Program** (Metropolitan Council) makes grants to metro cities to replace inefficient residential fixtures/irrigation controllers to reduce water demand.

Drinking Water Source Protection

- **Protecting Metro Drinking Water Supply** through protection and restoration of 200,000 priority acres in Mississippi River headwaters basin.
- **Contaminants of Emerging Concern** (MDH) develops health-based drinking water guidance, including PFAS, for contaminants that are not federally regulated.
- **Metropolitan Area Water Supply Sustainability Report** (Metropolitan Council) provides technical support to communities and businesses to use groundwater more efficiently.
- **Lead in Minnesota Water: Assessment of Eliminating Lead in Minnesota Drinking Water** was a report commissioned by the Clean Water Council as a cost-benefit analysis of lead removal.



Lead in Minnesota Water

ASSESSMENT OF ELIMINATING LEAD
IN MINNESOTA DRINKING WATER

FEBRUARY 2019

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Education

- **We Are Water Minnesota Exhibit** (MPCA and MN Humanities Center) shared experiences of Hmong American community's connection with water through storytelling at Hmong American Museum in St. Paul.

Contact

Paul Gardner, Administrator
Clean Water Council

(651) 757-2384 | paul.gardner@state.mn.us 1/2023