

Root River One Watershed, One Plan



ISSUES ADDRESSED BY THE PLAN



Drinking Water Supplies to protect public health.



Streams and Rivers to support swimming, fishing, aquatic life, drinking, and irrigation.

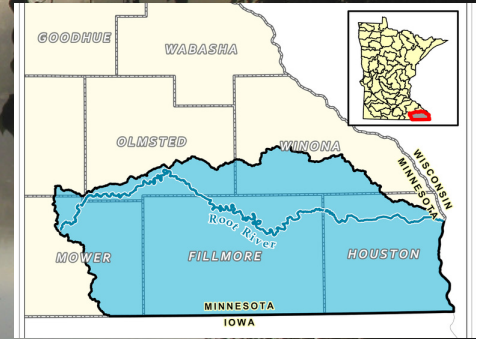


Landowner and Producer Engagement to address barriers to conservation action.



Watershed Livability and protecting rural and urban way of life in the watershed.

For a full list of priority issues or to learn more, scan the QR code or visit fillmoreswcd.org



In 2014, the Root River One Watershed, One Plan (RR 1W1P) Partnership was selected as a pilot on an evolutionary planning process to develop one of the first 1W1Ps in the state. The 1W1P initiative is designed to align water planning on major watershed boundaries to create prioritized, targeted, and measurable watershed plans developed and implemented locally.

The RR 1W1P is a 10-year planning document aimed at better managing water within a larger watershed planning area. The RR 1W1P planning area encompasses more than 1.3 million acres, which is spread across 6 counties: Dodge, Fillmore, Houston, Mower, Olmsted, and Winona. In December 2016, the RR 1W1P was approved by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR).

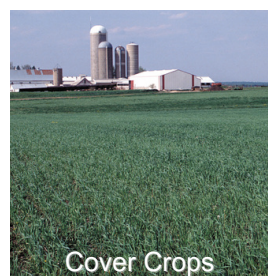
This document celebrates the accomplishments arising from six years of implementing the RR 1W1P within the local community.

WHAT'S BEING DONE?

Issues have been addressed through education and outreach with the local community, research initiatives to close data gaps, and implementation of best management practices (BMPs). BMPs are projects that are implemented on the landscape to prevent or reduce water pollution. Examples include:



Grassed Waterways



Cover Crops



Grade Stabilization



CELEBRATING SIX YEARS OF IMPLEMENTATION!

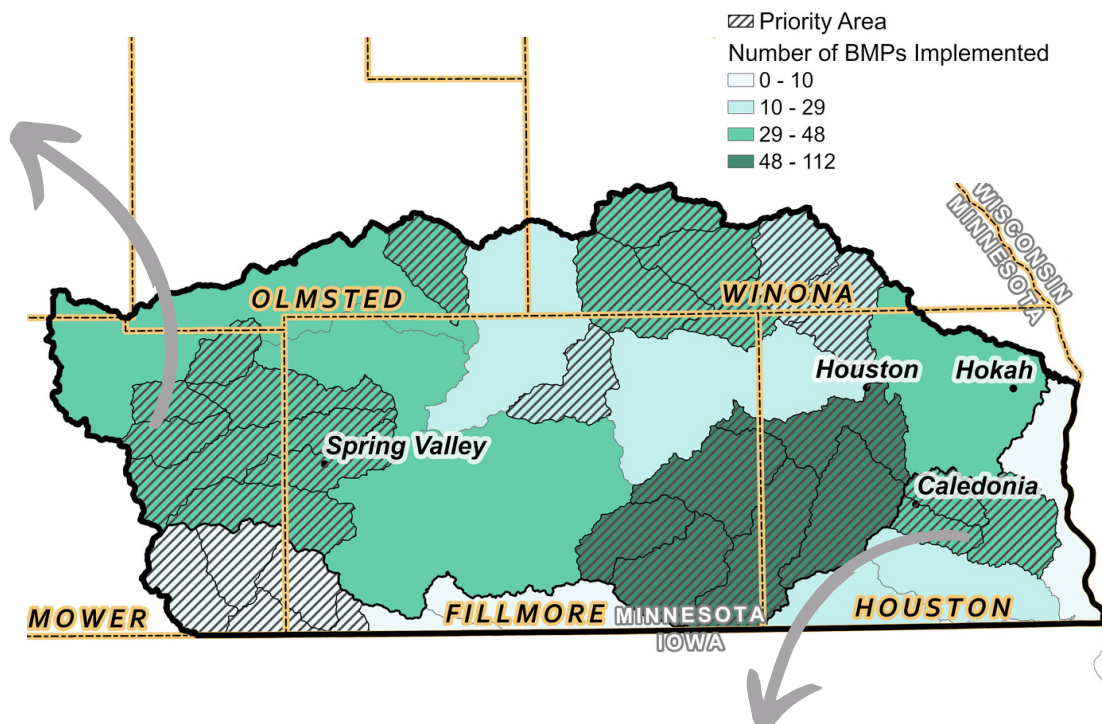
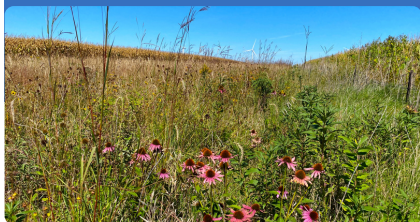
PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

From 2017-2022:

There have been **487 BMPs** implemented that benefit water quality by reducing nutrient loading, keeping sediment on the land, and increasing water storage within the watershed (see map below). Grassed waterways, cover crops, and grade stabilizations are the most common.

PRAIRIE STRIPS

Multiple prairie strips totaling 45 acres were planted in Mower County. Prairie strips consist of diverse and/or native perennial vegetation located at field edges. They prevent sediment, nutrients, pesticides, and other pollutants from leaving the field. They are also an important pollinator habitat!



CROOKED CREEK FLOOD CONTROL

Severe flooding in 2007 and 2016 damaged infrastructure, crops, residential area, and aquatic habitat. A 28-foot high earthen dam was constructed in the Crooked Creek subwatershed and is designed to protect from future floods. It makes progress towards the Root River 1W1P's water storage goal!



WHY DOES IT MATTER?

Metrics

These 487 BMPs have provided benefits to local water quality conditions by reducing:



12,000 tons/year of sediment
38,000 lbs/year of nitrogen
14,000 lbs/year of phosphorus

This is equivalent to:



1,180 dump trucks of sediment and



nutrients in **6,800 bags of fertilizer!**

Water Quality

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency collects water quality samples and conducts pollutant concentration trends at multiple locations across the watershed. Trends for the Root River near Mound Prairie for 2008-2020 show significant:



Decreases across all flow regimes for Phosphorus and Total Suspended Solids



No significant surface water trend for Nitrate+Nitrite.

The no significant trend means that the Nitrate+Nitrite concentrations are stable - they are not statistically increasing or decreasing.