

# The Plan At A Glance

**The Coon Creek Watershed District (CCWD) was established in 1959 by citizen petition. The CCWD encompasses 107 square miles within central Anoka County and includes the cities of Andover, Blaine, Columbus, Coon Rapids, Fridley, Ham Lake, Spring Lake Park.**

**The 2024-2033 Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (Plan) is designed to address water management challenges in the watershed. Authorized by Minnesota Statute 103B.231 and Rule 8410, the Plan intends to serve as the CCWD's strategic management plan and the platform for operational planning.**

The Plan identifies priority issues through public and agency input. These priority issues include water quality impairments and groundwater and surface water interactions. The priority issue of groundwater and surface water interaction specifically involves the quality and quantity of shallow groundwater. The Plan also outlines the need for significant pollutant load (TMDLs) reductions by 2045 to address water quality impairments and issues such as shallow groundwater chloride pollution and potentially declining groundwater.

The Plan sets watershed-wide and resource-specific goals to address priority issues. The watershed-wide goals include fostering a watershed with moderate geomorphic, hydrologic, and biotic integrity relative to its natural potential condition, improving the stability of the drainage network, and fostering a watershed that exhibits physical, chemical, and biological conditions that suggest soil, riparian, and aquatic systems, while still at risk, show signs of marginal recovery in supporting beneficial uses. The resource-specific goals are discussed in more detail in the Plan.

Anticipating future trends, the CCWD expects increased conflicts over water management, resource scarcity, technological advancements in water monitoring, and external challenges like pandemics and political constraints. These trends underscore the importance of a strategic approach to managing water resources, including the protection of public health and ecological functions.

This Plan emphasizes a Multi-Domain Management strategic approach which enables disciplined decision-making by framing risk and continually assessing progress toward legislative goals. This approach focuses on merging the capabilities of collaborators, sharing a common understanding of the water management problems, and implementing programs that transform conflict, seek collaboration and unity of effort, maintain legitimacy, and build the capacity and capabilities to pursue those shared goals.

Sustainment and administration of the plan will require a substantial investment over the next 10 years, with revenue sources including grants, intergovernmental sources, and the CCWD tax levy. Collaboration with city engineers, public works directors, and various organizations is key to the Plan's implementation, alongside annual assessments to adjust priorities and methods. The CCWD faces significant risks and will seek to extend the EPA's 2045 deadline to meet TMDL pollutant reduction goals, increase funding levels, and reclassify impaired waters based on use attainability principles.