

NEWS RELEASE



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Clean Water grant awarded to Coon Creek Watershed District

Blaine, Minn—Coon Creek Watershed District (CCWD) announced last week that a Sand Creek restoration project has been awarded funding from the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) through the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment.

The \$195,158 Clean Water grant goes towards the Lower Sand Creek Corridor Restoration Project in Coon Rapids. The goal of this project is to improve fish and wildlife habitat in and adjacent to the creek channel and to reduce Total Suspended Solids (TSS) and phosphorus concentrations. This is a first step towards meeting Clean Water Act standards. The project involves stabilizing 4200 linear feet of actively eroding streambank to help reduce erosion, and enhancing the habitat in and adjacent to the channel along a ½-mile stretch of Sand Creek near its confluence with Coon Creek at Lions Park. The project will begin in Spring 2018 with most of the construction slated for the winter of 2018-19.

Sand Creek is currently listed as Impaired for failing to meet federal Clean Water Act standards.

“Sand Creek” is an important natural resource in our area,” said Tim Kelly, District Administrator of Coon Creek Watershed District. “The Legacy funding allows us to accelerate our work to protect and restore water quality in the Coon Creek watershed.”

Since the Legacy Amendment was passed by Minnesota voters in November 2008, more than \$143 million has been invested in “on-the-ground” projects. Citizens and local governments have installed more than 6,872 conservation practices to improve the quality in the state’s lakes, rivers, and wetlands.

“Local government staff and private landowners are working in partnership with the state to make a difference for water quality throughout Minnesota” said BWSR Executive Director John Jaschke. “By using sound science and on-the-ground knowledge and experience, our local government partners are able to identify projects that target the most critical areas, and therefore maximize the public benefits of the Clean Water Fund.”

In this grant cycle 93 applications were received, totaling \$23.3 million in requests for the \$6.5 million of available funds. Thirty applications were funded. The Lower Sand Creek Corridor Restoration Project ranked 2nd in priority of the 93 applications and for full funding. This funding will serve as a match to a federal US EPA “319” grant awarded earlier in 2017 for the same project, thereby costing local taxpayers almost nothing.

For more information about Clean Water Fund projects in the Coon Creek Watershed District, please visit the website at www.cooncreekwd.org or contact Justine Dauphinais, Water Quality Coordinator, at 763-755-0975.

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