



Buffer strips in the Cannon River Watershed



Clean Water Funds: 2010

Clean Water Grant	\$150,000
Leveraged Funds*	\$45,885
Total Project Budget	\$195,885

* Leveraged Funds include required 25% local match

Targeted Water:
County/Watershed Wide

Project Sponsor:
Rice SWCD

Partners:
Goodhue SWCD, Steele SWCD, Waseca SWCD, Cannon River Watershed Partnership

Grant Period:
January 2010 - December 2011

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Project Narrative

The Cannon River Watershed is a diverse watershed from the standpoint of topography, land use, and land cover, but a central issue of concern is increased sedimentation and turbidity within the river. One of the best ways to keep sediment from entering the Cannon River is to install vegetative buffers on the smaller tributaries in the upper reaches of the watershed. This project is important as it aims to help identify strategic locations where buffers are needed and to assist landowners to install buffers that will directly help reduce sedimentation within the watershed.

The Cannon River Watershed Partnership (CRWP) began a project a few years ago to map the land use in riparian areas for a few of the counties of the watershed. This data is important for Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) within the watershed in order to target the most effective places in the landscape for buffers and other conservation practices. One objective of this project is to complete the mapping project for Waseca and Le Sueur Counties, which will result in the majority of the watersheds riparian areas being mapped. This project will also provide incentives to landowners in Rice, Goodhue, Waseca, and Le Sueur Counties to install buffers and to sign up for conservation programs such as the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) to provide long term protection and buffers of streams within the watershed.

Actual Outcomes

Landowners in Goodhue, Steele, and Rice County enrolled a total of 174 acres and established grassed buffers along streams, providing improved water quality through reduced sediment, nutrients, and chemicals.

