



Water-Smart Schools and Libraries



Clean Water Funds: 2011

Clean Water Grant	\$37,895
Leveraged Funds*	\$9,500
Total Project Budget	\$47,395

* Leveraged Funds include required 25% local match

Targeted Water:
County/Watershed Wide

Project Sponsor:
Chisago SWCD

Partners:
Rush City Schools
Chisago Lakes Schools
Wyoming Public Library
Chisago Lakes Lake Improvement District

Grant Period:
January 2011 - December 2012

Project Contact:
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Project Narrative

As Best Management Practices (BMPs) such as rain gardens and infiltration swales begin to be implemented in Chisago County, most people don't understand what they are and what their purpose is. With the dual goals of treating stormwater runoff and educating the public, the SWCD applied for and received a Clean Water Fund grant to implement several pre-designed BMPs at public locations in Chisago County. Three locations will be involved: the Wyoming Library, the Chisago Lakes Middle School, and the Rush City High School. These locations are spread out throughout Chisago County in three separate cities, are all highly visible to the public, and will reach different audiences.

Water-smart BMPs reduce the impacts of stormwater runoff by slowing, capturing, or infiltrating water. Runoff water carries sediment, chemicals, excess nutrients, and other undesirable items into the nearest water body, which reduces clarity, quality, and habitat. The implementation of infiltration basins and swales captures runoff from highly impervious areas, such as roofs and parking lots. Water that is directed into these BMPs is allowed to infiltrate into the ground, which causes phosphorus, sediment, and organic matter to filter out of the water. This improves water quality by reducing the amount of phosphorus available for algal blooms, improves clarity by reducing suspended solids that cloud water, and improves aquatic habitat by reducing chemicals that may harm aquatic life.

The combined effect of the projects will result in 4.8 pounds per year of phosphorus and 2,400 pounds per year of total suspended solids being filtered out of water.



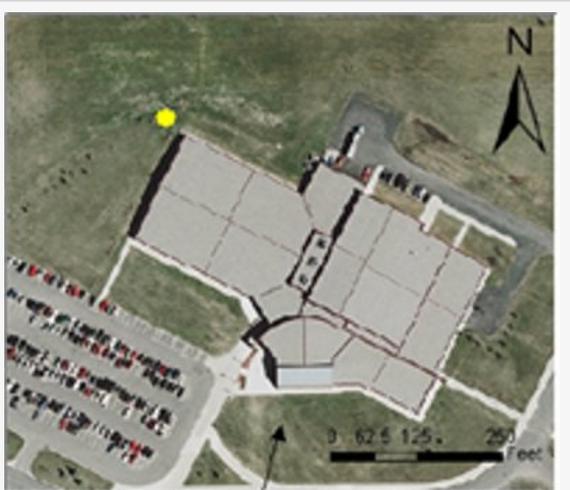
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Wyoming Public Library



Chisago Lakes Middle School



Rush City High School