Sauk River Runoff Reduction and Riparian Restoration

Clean Water Funds: 2011

Clean Water Grant	**$435,289**
Leveraged Funds*	**$570,750**
Total Project Budget	$1,006,039

*** Leveraged Funds include required 25% local match**

Targeted Water:
County/Watershed Wide

Project Sponsor:
Sauk River Watershed District

Partners:
Natural Resources Conservation Service, SWCDs from Douglas Pope Todd and Stearns Counties, Cities of Sauk Centre Spring Hill Cold Spring Oakis St. Martin St.Cloud and Waite Park and others

Grant Period:
January 2011 - December 2012

Project Contact:
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Project Narrative

The Sauk River Stormwater Runoff Reduction and Riparian Restoration Project is a watershed–wide effort to reduce the amount of nutrients delivered by stormwater and bank erosion to area surface waters. Funds will be used to assist local schools and municipalities with their restoration project design, installation, and financing.

The stormwater reduction projects installed on school grounds and public property will assist in the Sauk River Watershed District's education efforts by serving as demonstration sites for the public. Students from local schools will participate in the construction of these rain gardens and shoreland restoration projects as part of their ecology class curriculum. Follow-up maintenance will be incorporated into the class curriculum as well.

These projects have multiple benefits. Installing rain gardens and retention basins provides more storage space during major rain events or snowmelt. The extra water retention time increases groundwater recharge and reduces downstream flooding concerns.

Riparian restoration projects also provide multiple benefits. Restoring streambanks using native materials (bioengineering) stabilizes the bank from further erosion while offering better habitat for aquatic wildlife, a more diverse plant community, and a more natural corridor for recreational uses.

The SRWD will conduct water quality monitoring along the Sauk River using other funding sources to determine project effectiveness.