

# Ramsey

## Conservation District

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[www.co.ramsey.mn.us/cd](http://www.co.ramsey.mn.us/cd)

*RCD Monthly Board Meeting:  
2<sup>nd</sup> Friday at 11:30 am*



### Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Groundwater quality protection
2. Surface water quality protection/improvement
3. Sustainable land and water resource use
4. Urban green-space restoration and protection
5. Environmental stewardship education

### 2008 Operating Budget Revenues

Ramsey County Tax Levy	\$31,058
Agricultural Conservation Fees	\$169,795
Fee-for-Service other Gov. Units	\$144,550
BWSR grants	\$71,832
DNR Ob-well monitoring Services	\$1,320

Total \$418,555

## Recent Projects

### ***Shoreline/stream bank restoration:***

Ramsey County is the smallest, most densely populated, and highly urbanized county within the state. We are very fortunate to have the Mississippi River and over 200 lakes, wetlands, and streams that are inventoried and recognized by the DNR. With the rapid advance of urbanization, most of our water resource shoreline has been subject to erosion and degradation. In response, the RCD has developed a very active shoreline restoration program that provides technical assistance, education, and cost-share assistance to private and public land owners. To more effectively address these needs, we have created partnerships with watershed management organizations and sought grant funding from state agencies to assist property owners. On average, we assist over 40 landowners per year with shoreline erosion problems. In 2008 and 2009, we acquired over \$200,000 in grant funding from BWSR to assist property owners install shoreline BMP's. BWSR grant funding leverages both local government and property owner match.



**Gene Beasley residence shoreline restoration project on Pike Lake in New Brighton. Project funded by BWSR Native Buffer Grant, Rice Creek Watershed District, and the property owner.**

**Urban Stormwater Infiltration:**

Impervious surfaces such as roof-tops, concrete, asphalt, and other hard surfaces “shed” rainfall that lands on it. Under pre-settlement conditions, it has been estimated that up to 85% of precipitation infiltrated into the ground where any pollutants in the water can be filtered by the soil. In Ramsey County, with our large percentage of impervious surface, this amounts to billions of gallons of rainwater flowing directly into our water resources via storm sewers. Impervious surface also collects non-point source pollution and in concert with storm sewers, makes these water management systems the number one source of pollution to our water resources. Raingardens have become a very popular choice for property owners to manage their runoff. In an average year, RCD staff will consult with over 200 landowners seeking technical and financial assistance to establish them.



**Hoffman raingarden in Shoreview, constructed in 2008. Project funded by cost-share funding from the Grass Lake WMO and RCD. The raingarden manages urban runoff from 2/3 acre.**

**Construction Site Erosion and Sediment Control Permit Inspection:**

Sediment, primarily from land disturbed for development/redevelopment, is a major source of pollution to our water resources. Ramsey County cities and state agencies require permits that imposed regulations to prevent sediment from leaving construction sites and being deposited in our water resources. Through a joint powers agreement and professional services agreements, the RCD has assisted the MPCA and cities monitor 300+ sites per year for compliance with rules governing soil erosion and sediment control.

**Future Projects**

**Urban Stormwater System Retro-fit Analysis:**

Urban land use and storm sewers are the leading cause of water quality degradation in Ramsey County. If we are to protect and improve our water resources, we must modify our stormwater drainage systems to include water quality best management practices. The RCD will partner with local units of government to assess/analyze their existing stormwater management systems, identifying cost-effective opportunities to implement BMPs to protect and improve the water quality of our lakes, streams, and wetlands.

**Groundwater Protection:**

Ramsey County adopted a Groundwater Protection Plan 1996, and since then many changes have occurred in groundwater use and additional threats to quality have been identified. The District will work with the County, State agencies, and local units of government to adopt and implement a revised plan that will address current and future threats to groundwater quality.

**Board Members**

Karen Eckman	Treasurer	(651) 483-8460	966 Cobb Rd, Shoreview, MN 55126
Margaret Behrens	Secretary/Education	(651) 484-6911	1393 Kohlman Ave E, Maplewood, MN 55109
Mara Humphrey	Vice- Chair	(651) 722-5436	1510 E Shore Dr, St Paul, MN 55106
Nick Quade	Member	(651) 786-9035	1875 - 29th Ave NW, New Brighton, MN 55112
Carrie Wasley	Chair	(651) 774-4305	1150 Cushing Circle #302, Saint Paul, MN 55108