

INFORMATION FOR CITY COUNCILS

ABOUT THE UPPER RUM RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

URRWMO BOARD

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City of St. Francis

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FEBRUARY 2026

Annual Mini-Report to Cities

About the URRWMO

The URRWMO is a joint powers organization including the Cities of St. Francis, Oak Grove, Nowthen, Bethel, and portions of East Bethel. A corner of Ham Lake also falls within the URRWMO. Contributions from these cities, plus grants, make up the annual budget. The WMO Board is made up of two representatives from each city.

Example Projects



Rum Riverbank stabilization



St. Francis High School students monitoring the Rum River.

Priorities

We work to maintain the quality of area lakes, rivers, streams & groundwater across municipal boundaries. Resources of particular importance include the Rum River, Lake George & East Twin Lake. The Rum River is designated as a state Scenic and Recreational Waterway & is near state nutrient limits. Secondly, we work on Seelye Brook, Ford Brook, & Cedar Creek.

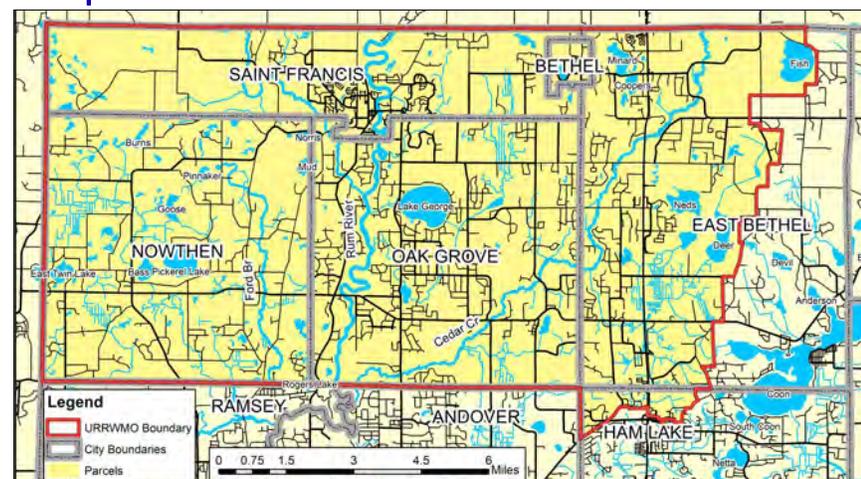
Priorities in our watershed plan:

- ◆ Lake George water quality projects, including lakeshore stabilization.
- ◆ Rum River water quality projects, including stormwater treatment & riverbank stabilizations.
- ◆ Outreach to encourage behavioral changes that benefit water quality.



Lake George shoreline stabilization & buffer planting

Map of the URRWMO



2025 Highlights

- ◆ **221st Ave Riverbank Planting** (Oak Grove) — Following the stabilization of 935 ft of severely eroding Rum Riverbank in 2024, we installed vegetation for long-term stability and wildlife habitat. Funding included the Clean Water Fund, Outdoor Heritage Fund, Anoka Co, Upper Rum River WMO, & landowners.



- ◆ **Agricultural Practices** (East Bethel, Nowthen) - We stepped up outreach to owners of agricultural land, resulting in 8 consultations and 1 installed project (40 acres of cover crops, East Bethel). Funding was from the Clean Water Fund.



2025 Highlights (con't)

- ◆ **Septic System Fix Up** (all cities) — Promoted grant funds to fix failing systems where the owners meet low income criteria. One 2025 installation was completed in St. Francis. Funds are from a State grant.



2026 Plans

- ◆ **Enhanced Street Sweeping** (St. Francis) — Working with the City of St. Francis to identify locations for enhanced sweeping. These are streets where sweeping at a different time or more frequently offers strong water quality benefits. Funding for to implement enhanced sweeping is anticipated starting in late 2026 and beyond.



- ◆ **Rum River North Co Park Ravine Design** (St. Francis) — Design the stabilization of a ravine near the Rum River.
- ◆ **Lake George Shoreline Stabilizations** (Oak Grove) - We'll work with landowners to correct erosion & add vegetated buffers to filter runoff. Funding from Clean Water Fund.



- ◆ **Other**—Rum Riverbank stabilization at Cedar Creek Conservation Area (Oak Grove), habitat restoration at Dellwood Park (St. Francis), wetland restorations, water monitoring, St. Francis High School biomonitoring, and more.