

INFORMATION FOR CITY COUNCILS

ABOUT THE UPPER
RUM RIVER
WATERSHED
MANAGEMENT



FEBRUARY 2024

Annual Mini- Report to Cities

URRWMO BOARD

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About the URRWMO

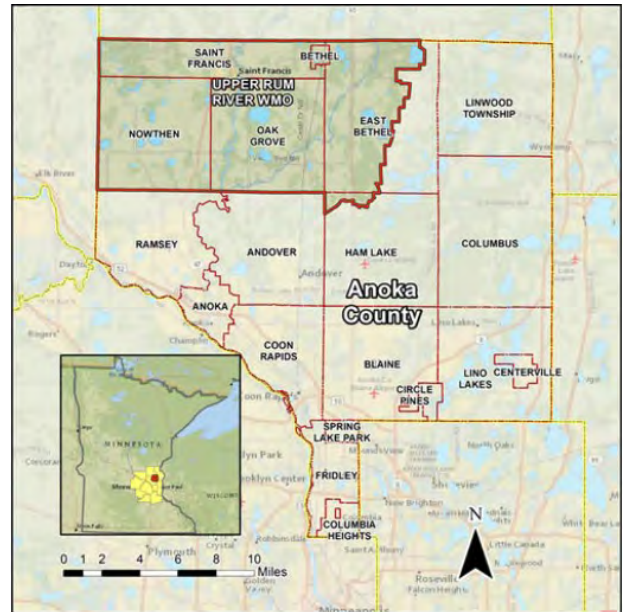
The URRWMO is a joint powers organization including the Cities of St. Francis, Oak Grove, Nowthen, Bethel, and portions of East Bethel. A small corner of Ham Lake also falls within the URRWMO. Contributions from these cities, plus any secured grants, make up the annual budget. The WMO Board is made up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

Priorities

This organization seeks to maintain the quality of area lakes, rivers, streams, groundwater, and other water resources across municipal boundaries. Resources of particular importance to the URRWMO include the Rum River, Lake George & East Twin Lake. This stretch of the Rum River is designated as a state Scenic and Recreational Waterway & is near state nutrient limits. Lake George & East Twin Lakes are the primary recreation lakes in the watershed. Secondly, we work on Seelye Brook, Ford Brook, & Cedar Creek.

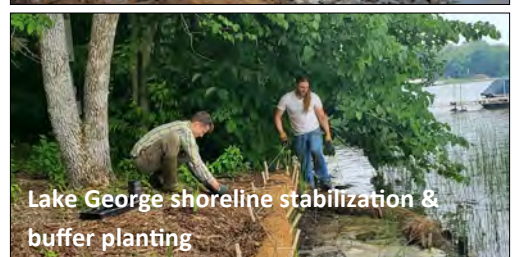
Priority projects in our watershed plan:

- ◆ 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.



Map of the URRWMO

Example Projects



2023 Highlights

- ◆ **Dellwood Park Riverbank Stabilization** (St. Francis) - 630 linear ft of riverbank was stabilized with re-grading, rock rip rap, root wads, cedar tree revetments, and planting.



BEFORE—Dellwood Park



AFTER—Dellwood Park

- ◆ **Rum River Blvd Swale Stabilization** (St. Francis) - 460 feet for roadside swale was stabilized. The swale receives runoff from 10 acres of the St. Francis High School campus and neighboring areas, terminating in a stream just upstream of the Rum River.



BEFORE—Rum River Blvd Swale



AFTER—Rum River Blvd Swale

2023 Highlights (con't)

- ◆ **Rum River cedar tree revetments** (Oak Grove) — Fixed minor streambank erosion, now with a three-year total of 2,305 linear feet in the Cedar Creek Conservation Area.



- ◆ **Subwatershed studies** (Nowthen, Oak Grove, St. Francis) — Identified and ranked potential water quality projects by cost effectiveness for Ford Brook and the Rum River.
- ◆ **Others** — Fixed one failing septic system adjacent to Ford Brook with state grant funds for low income owners, two Lake George shoreline stabilizations, and water monitoring at 10 lake and stream sites.

2024 Plans

- ◆ **221st Ave Riverbank Stabilization** (Oak Grove) — A multi-property severely eroding riverbank will be stabilized. This is the most severe erosion in the URRWMO.



- ◆ **225th Lane rain garden** (St. Francis) — A curb cut rain garden will be installed on city property to treat storm-water runoff that is otherwise goes directly to the Rum River. It will be a neighborhood demonstration project in hopes of securing additional project sites.



Example curb cut rain garden.

