

INFORMATION FOR CITY COUNCILS

ABOUT THE UPPER
RUM RIVER
WATERSHED
MANAGEMENT

URRWMO BOARD

City of Bethel

Ryan Seguin
Patrick Sullivan

City of East Bethel

Tim Miller
Radja Lohse

City of Ham Lake

Brian Kirkham
Jeff Entsminger

City of Nowthen

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Vacant

City of Oak Grove

John West (Chair)
Paul Tradewell (Treas)

City of St. Francis

Andrew Wood
Sarah Udvig



MARCH 2025

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 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 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.

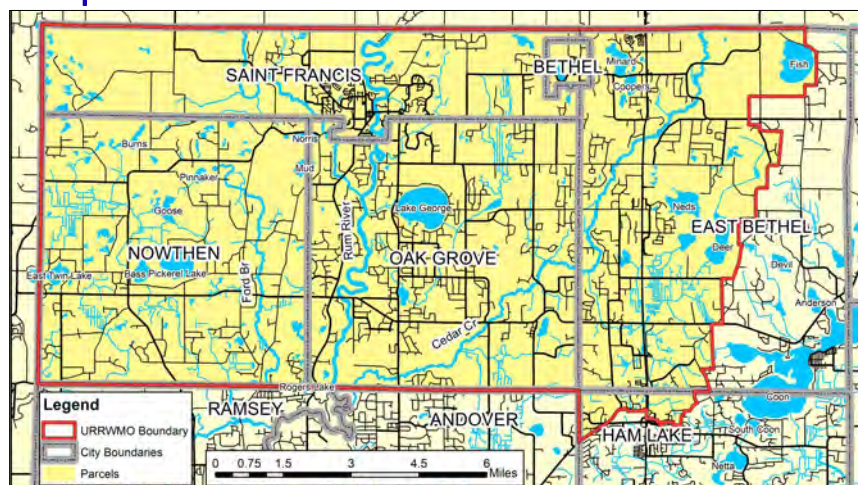
Priorities in our watershed plan:

- ◆ 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



2024 Highlights

- ♦ **221st Ave Riverbank Stabilization** (Oak Grove) — 935 ft of severely eroding Rum Riverbank along four properties was stabilized. This was the most severe erosion in the URRWMO. Funding included the Clean Water Fund, Outdoor Heritage Fund, Anoka Co, Upper Rum River WMO, & landowners.

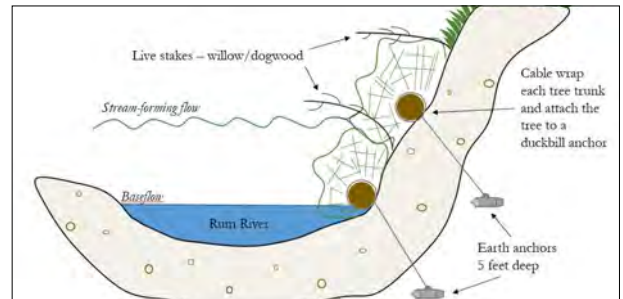


- ♦ **225th Lane Rain Garden** (St. Francis) - 2,500 sq ft curb cut rain garden was built on a city outlot to treat runoff that previously discharged untreated to the Rum River. The City of St. Francis will provide maintenance. Funding was from the Clean Water Fund. Video at <https://tinyurl.com/592kawvz>



2024 Highlights (con't)

- ♦ **Rum River Woods Park cedar tree revetments** (St. Francis) — Fixed 345 ft of minor streambank erosion. This inexpensive technique has now been used on 1.2 miles of Rum Riverbank in the URRWMO.



- ♦ **Ford Brook, Pickerel Lake, and East Twin Lake Subwatersheds Study** (Nowthen, Oak Grove, St. Francis) — Identified and ranked potential water quality projects by cost effectiveness. Funding was from the Clean Water Fund and URRWMO.

2025 Plans

- ♦ **Ford Brook Agricultural Practices & Wetland Restoration** (Nowthen) — Outreach & incentive grants to landowners to do practices such as cover crops, filter strips, etc. Candidate sites identified in 2024 Ford Brook Study.



- ♦ **Rum River North Co Park Ravine Design** (St. Francis) — Design the stabilization of a ravine near the Rum River.



- ♦ **Other**—Shoreline stabilizations, enhanced street sweep studies, water monitoring, St. Francis High School bio-monitoring, and more.