



WASHINGTON  
CONSERVATION  
DISTRICT

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**We are your Conservation Center  
in Washington County**

**Contact the Washington Conservation District for all of your conservation questions:**

**651.275.1136**

**www.mnwcd.org**

Jay Riggs, District Manager, x20  
Erik Anderson, Water Resource Specialist, x32  
Amy Carolan, Middle St.Croix WMO Administrator, x22  
Jessica Thiel, Water Resource/GIS Technician, x30  
Wendy Griffin, Water Resource Specialist, x24  
Angie Hong, Water Resource Education Specialist, x35  
Karen Kill, Brown's Creek Watershed District, x26  
Adam King, Water Resource Technician, x23  
Shari Larkin, Administrative Assistant, x27  
Rusty Schmidt, Natural Resource Specialist, x36  
Jyneen Thatcher, Wetland Specialist, x25  
Matt Downing, Water Resource Technician, x29  
Pete Young, Engineering Specialist, x21

\*For e-mail addresses, please visit the WCD website or email [firstname.lastname@mnwcd.org](mailto:firstname.lastname@mnwcd.org)

**Who should I talk to?**

General WCD questions → Shari or Jay  
Educational opportunities → Angie  
Erosion control and gully stabilization → Pete  
Feedlots and pasture management → Pete  
Land conservation → Jay  
Groundwater resources → Erik or Wendy  
Habitat restoration → Jyneen, Rusty or Amy  
Lake and stream quality → Erik, Jessie or Wendy  
Natural Resource Inventories → Amy  
Planting for Water Quality and Blue Thumb → Angie  
Rainwater Gardens → Rusty  
Rural Preserves Management Plans → Adam or Jyneen  
Shoreline stabilization → Rusty or Amy  
Stormwater management → Amy, Rusty, or Pete  
Stream restoration → Amy or Rusty  
Tree planting and forest management → Wendy  
Watershed management → Karen, Amy, or Jay  
Weeds → Amy  
Wetlands and wetland permitting → Jyneen  
Can't decide? → Shari or Jay



Three years after they were planted, the demonstration raingardens at the Washington County Fairgrounds are lush and lovely.



2009 WCD Board of Supervisors  
(From left) Louise Smallidge, Rosemary Wallace, Sarah Hietpas, Tom Meyer, Gary Baumann



Wendy Griffin and Jessie Thiel collect a water sample from a local stream.

*Our mission is to enhance, protect and preserve the natural resources of Washington County through conservation projects, technical guidance and educational services*

**2009 Annual Report & 2010 Annual Plan**

**Washington  
Conservation District:**

**Protecting Our Land and Water Legacy in  
Washington County**

The mission of the Washington Conservation District (WCD) is to enhance, protect, and preserve the natural resources of Washington County through conservation projects, technical guidance, and educational services to citizens and local governments. Under the watchful eye of our elected board, we have been encouraging voluntary conservation efforts since 1942. With the passage of the Clean Land and Water Legacy amendment, the WCD must be prepared to support enhanced conservation programs in Washington County.

The WCD is your resource for information about the county's natural resources and hands-on assistance about what you can do. We are your *Conservation Center in Washington County.*

The WCD's dedicated staff of natural resource professionals are available to work with you to manage the natural resources on your property. At your request, we can visit your property, assess the situation, and offer helpful solutions. In many cases we can provide free design and financial assistance to do a project. Funding for the financial assistance comes from a variety of sources, including the State, WCD, your local watershed organization, and others.

To better know how and where to manage natural resources, the WCD partners with watershed districts, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and others to collect, analyze, and disseminate information about the lakes, streams, and natural areas in the County. If you would like to learn more about the clarity of your lake, how often the nearby stream floods, or the quality of your woodlot, the WCD can help you get the information. If you have any questions about land and water conservation in Washington County, call the office, email our staff, or visit our website at [www.mnwcd.org](http://www.mnwcd.org).

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**Gary Baumann**, District 1

**Sarah Hietpas**, District 2

**Rosemary Wallace**, District 3

**Louise Smallidge**, District 4

**Tom Meyer**, District 5



# 2009 Accomplishments

# Strategic Priorities for 2009

## Monitoring

The WCD water monitoring program is one of the largest local government monitoring programs in Minnesota. Current activities include monitoring over 40 stream, stormwater discharge, and/or water quality sampling sites, over 50 lake water quality monitoring sites, and over 100 lake gauges for monitoring lake elevation. Yearly summary reports allow partner organizations to make sound water resource decisions. Data from monitoring program are used to direct and prioritize education and BMP efforts to maximize water quality benefits.



A View from the St. Croix River, workshop on the water, educated more than 100 local elected officials about water resource issues this summer.

## EMWREP

The East Metro Water Resource Education Program (EMWREP) is a WCD partnership with eight watersheds, seven cities, and the county. In 2009, EMWREP conducted nine Blue Thumb workshops and dozens of presentations that taught more than 200 people how to plant native gardens, raingardens and shoreline plantings to reduce runoff. EMWREP also helped to organize four workshops for elected officials and one for local public works staff.

## BMP Installations

WCD works with multiple partners to facilitate the installation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) by making technical and financial assistance

available to landowners. The benefits of BMP projects include improved surface water quality, reduced erosion and sedimentation, enhanced groundwater recharge, and reduced stormwater runoff. Recently installed BMPs include grassed waterways, feedlot runoff management systems, bioretention systems (including rain gardens), wetland restorations, gully stabilizations, and shoreline stabilizations. Cost-share funding is provided by BWSR grants, WCD, watershed management organizations, federal agricultural programs, and other sources. As shown on the adjacent map, over 60 projects were installed in 2009.

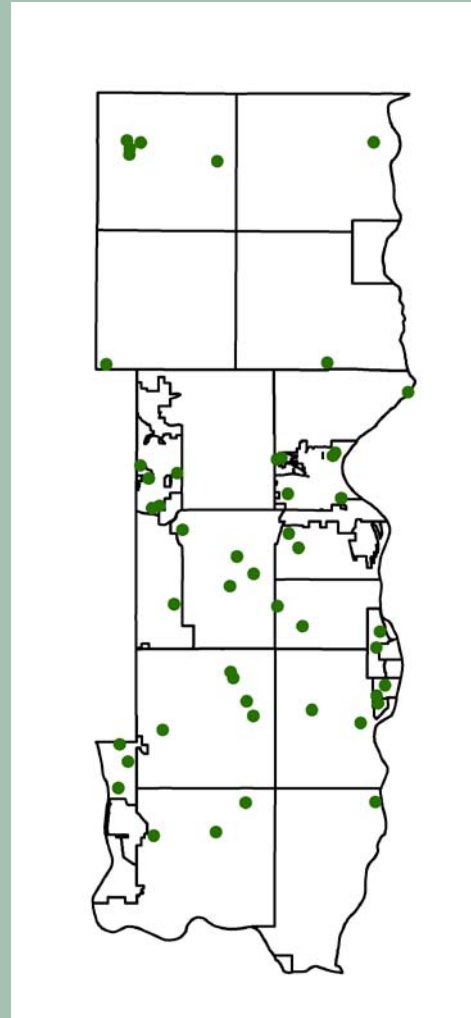
## Washington County Conservation Plan

WCD is working with Washington County to develop and implement a county-wide natural resource assessment and prioritization plan. The plan uses detailed land cover mapping (MLCCS - Minnesota Land Cover Classification System) to identify those areas that provide the highest water quality, habitat, and groundwater benefits. Priority areas are then targeting for outreach and protection efforts.

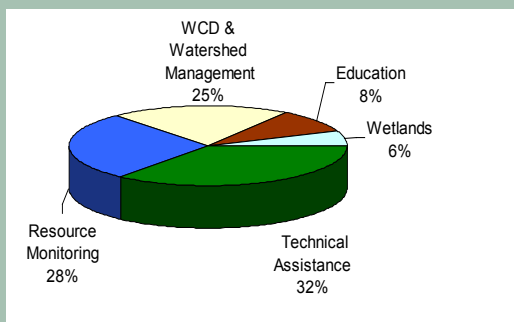
## WCA

WCD staff provides technical assistance relating to many wetland issues. Of the nearly 30 local units of government in Washington County who have accepted authority for administering the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA), six have their own staff dedicated to WCA. The others rely on the WCD Wetland Specialist. Considering the documented impacts, approved mitigation plans and non-regulatory wetland restoration since 1996, Washington County has achieved no-net-loss of wetlands.

## 2009 BMP Project Locations



## 2010 Programs Staff Time Allocation (Total of 24,042 Program Hours)



**2010 Budget: \$1,628,000**

**2009 Budget: \$1,577,000**

## Implement Core Programs

- \* Conservation Technical Assistance
- \* Resource Monitoring and Assessment
- \* Watershed and WCD Program Management
- \* Water Resource Education
- \* Wetland Assistance

**Prioritize implementation through resource and subwatershed assessments.**

**Implement adaptive ecosystem management.**

**Support implementation of projects to restore impaired waters.**

**Implement enhanced technical and financial-assistance programs countywide.**

**Enhance coordination and collaboration efforts with watersheds and other partners.**

**Assist with implementation of new Rural Preserves Program.**

**Share the importance of soil and water conservation through effective education and outreach programs.**



Amy Carolan conducts a wetland inventory.



Photos: In 2009, WCD worked with public and private partners to plant three raingardens outside the WCD office at Valley Ridge Mall.

