

Check us out on the web at
www.srwdmn.org

**Sauk River
Watershed District**
524 4th St South
Sauk Centre, MN 56378

Sauk River Watershed
District

524 Fourth Street South
Sauk Centre MN,
56378
(320)352-2231

Send Comments and
Questions to:
srwd@srwdmn.org or
visit www.srwdmn.org

Did you know...

The number of recreational watercraft per capita in Minnesota is the largest in the United States, one boat per every six residents.

There are 243 lakes over 10 acres in the Sauk River Watershed District

Although known as "The Land of 10,000 Lakes" Minnesota is actually home to 11,842 lakes.

The Sauk River travels a total of 119.37 miles from Lake Osakis to its confluence with the Mississippi River near St. Cloud

Minnesota has 46 Watershed Districts, each governed by a board of managers from each of the counties who have land in the district.

Districts range in size from 43 square miles to 5990 square miles.

The largest lake in the Sauk River Watershed District is Lake Osakis and it is the 40th largest lake in the state.

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/FAQ/MNFACTS/water.html>
Sauk River Watershed District Overall Plan

Sauk River Watershed District Newsletter

*Thank You 2006
Volunteers
for all your time,
effort and energy
given to help
water quality!*

Board of Managers

- **Sharon Kutter**,
Stearns County
(320) 256-5177
- **Chub Hensley**,
Todd County
(320) 859-3188
- **Allan Kuseske**,
Pope County
(320) 554-6351
- **Virgil Rettig**,
Meeker County
(320) 453-6841
- **Kay Cook**,
Stearns County
(320) 597-2794
- **Bob Mostad**,
Douglas County
(320) 352-3272
- **Roger
Hermanutz**
Stearns County
(320) 253-5720
- **Jim Kral**,
Todd County
(320) 859-2211
- **Ken Robinson**,
Stearns County
(320) 255-7225

A Summer of Drought

Climatologists define drought as a period of abnormally dry and/or unusually hot weather sufficiently prolonged for the corresponding deficiency of water to cause a "serious hydrologic imbalance". For most of us that means it has been too dry and/or too hot for too long.

When a serious hydrologic imbalance occurs in Minnesota, soil moisture reserves, groundwater supplies, lake levels and stream flows are negatively influenced. Water-dependent industries including agriculture, public utilities, forestry, and tourism are profoundly affected.

August 13th, 2006 was one of the

first significant rainfall episodes of the summer. It came after a drought which has been firmly entrenched in Minnesota for over twelve weeks.

Large-scale, precipitation-producing weather systems have been absent since mid-May. This dry weather for most Minnesotans could not have been more untimely. The period from mid-May through early-September is historically the wettest time of the year. Long-term average rainfall rates during this time interval are around one inch per week. Very dry weather occurring during a time of year when plentiful rain is typical,

(Continued on page 3)

New youth programs available

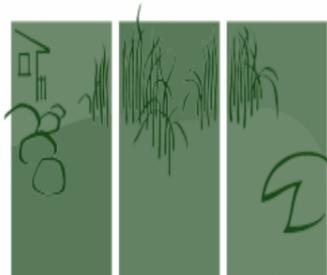
Education of youth and adults is the key to improving our fresh water resources within the Sauk River Watershed. This year the SRWD is highlighting the Storm Drain Stenciling Program and River Clean-up Program for school groups. They are an interactive tool that get students out of the classroom and allow them to take charge of the preservation and protection of their lakes and rivers.

Storm Drain stenciling Program:

The SRWD staff highlights storm water runoff pollution during a classroom visit. The following day, students and chaperones glue storm drain stencils onto curbs within their community and place information fliers on homeowner's doors.

River Cleanup Program:

The SRWD staff highlights storm water runoff pollution during a classroom visit. Later that day, students, chaperones and the SRWD staff assemble at a lake or river to clean up the area. Garbage bags, boots and gloves are provided.



Incentive Programs

The Sauk River Watershed District is committed to water quality and has taken many steps to improve water quality in the lakes and streams within the District. The Incentive Program was set up to allow watershed residents/landowners to receive a financial benefit by participating in resource conservation and enhancement efforts. By "sharing the cost", landowners can undertake projects they could not afford to do so on their own.

Cost Share Funds

The Sauk River Watershed District applies to many federal, state and local organizations to attain grant dollars to sustain the SRWD's Best Management Practices Implementation Program. Funds are typically leveraged against other cost share programs offered by the county SWCD's and NRCS's to stretch the available funds and to offer the landowner at least 50% cost share funding.

Cost share funds are eligible for various types of BMPs, manure management systems and erosion control projects. The maximum cost share an individual project may receive from the SRWD cost share program is 50% of the total eligible project costs. Some of the projects from the past have included buffer strips, livestock exclusion, rain gardens, shoreland restoration, ag-waste systems, and stormwater run-off.

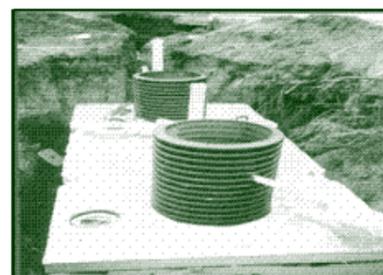
State Revolving Loans

Sauk River Watershed District attains State Revolving Loan funds (SRF) from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and the Environmental Protection Agency via grant/loan applications.

The SRF dollars are low-interest loan funds available to citizens within designated sub-watersheds for various types of BMP's and facility upgrades, such as septic systems, manure management systems and erosion control projects.

The uniqueness of this program allows citizens to repay their loan through a special assessment placed on their property taxes. Property taxes are paid accordingly and the SWRD receives the money from associated counties twice a year.

For more information call Lynn at 320-352-2231



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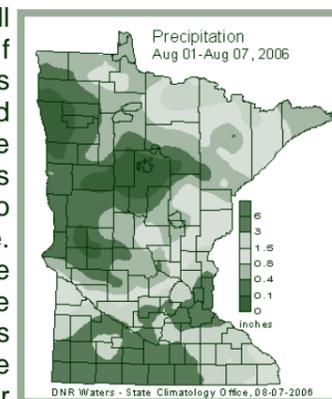
leads to the rapid onset of drought. . According to the latest National Drought Mitigation Center *Drought Monitor*, released Thursday, August 3, much of the Sauk River Watershed District has fallen under Severe Drought conditions.

Possible impacts for landscapes depicted as experiencing Severe Drought include: *crop or pasture losses likely; water shortages common; water restrictions imposed.* According to the Minnesota Department of National Resources stream discharge in roughly one half of Minnesota's rivers and streams falls below the 25th percentile when compared with historical data for this time of year.

While most of us have little to do with rainfall or summer temperatures, we all have the ability to do our part in these times of scarce water resources. According to the Environmental Protection Agency there are five easy steps we can take to save water.

During this low water season we must be acutely aware of the effects we have on the

river. Even small amounts of pollutants, such as fertilizers and pesticides have exaggerated effects on the river due to its lower volume. Water intake systems have more of an impact as well, drawing in the precious little water remaining in the river.

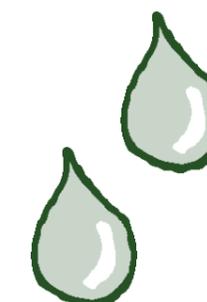


Taking care of your septic systems is always important but this is especially the case during low flow when effluence from them can cause more significant damage.

Although it is a tough time for the river and all the plants and animals that rely on it for sustenance, with a little foresight on our parts we can curb any negative contributions to the problem and when the rain finally comes things will return quickly to their healthy levels.

5 Simple Ways to Save Water

- 1. Be smart when irrigating your lawn or landscape.**
 - Water the lawn or garden during the coolest part of the day. Early morning is best.
 - Water plants according to their water needs; you'll have healthier plants and a lower water bill.
 - Set sprinklers to water lawns and gardens only—not the street or sidewalk.
 - Use soaker hoses or trickle irrigation systems for trees and shrubs.
- 2. Use your appliances wisely.**
 - Wash only full loads or set small loads to the appropriate water level.
 - Scrape rather than rinse dishes before loading them into the dishwasher.
 - Replace old clothes washers with Energy Star qualified appliances that use less water.
- 3. Don't flush your money down the drain/Toilets.**
 - A leaky toilet can waste 200 gallons of water per day. Check your toilet for leaks by adding food coloring to the tank. If the toilet is leaking, color will appear in the bowl within 15 minutes.
 - When replacing your toilet, look for high-efficiency models that use less than 1.3 gallons per flush.
- 4. Conserve around the house.**
 - Keep drinking water in the refrigerator instead of letting the faucet run until cool.
 - Try not to leave the tap running while you brush your teeth or shave.
 - Don't pour water down the drain if you can use it for other projects such as watering a plant or cleaning.
- 5. Stop those leaks.**
 - Verify that your home is leak-free. Many homes have hidden water leaks that can waste more than 10 percent, costing both you and the environment. Read your water meter before and after a two-hour period where no water is being used. If the meter does not read exactly the same, you probably have a leak.
 - Repair dripping faucets and showers. If your faucet is dripping at the rate of one drop per second, you can expect to waste 2,700 gallons per year.



Watch for our Spring Newsletter



- We will have information on area lakes and streams, their water quality over the 2006 open water season.
- New potential citizen monitoring sites— monitors needed.
- Education Workshop opportunities
- New legislative changes (if any)