



2016 Annual Activity Report

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Watercraft Inspection and Decontamination Program

In partnership with the Vermilion Lake Association, the District began a program designed to reduce the spread of aquatic invasive species at 11 public accesses and 4 private accesses on Lake Vermilion.



- 12,562 watercraft inspections
- Employed over 20 seasonal workers
- 9,656 watercraft inspector hours
- 99.1% drain plug law compliance
- 240 watercraft decontaminated at the Country Store in Cook and at the Y Store in Tower

New Forestry Services

A forester was hired to develop and implement forestry programs for both the South St. Louis and North St. Louis SWCD's. This is a shared position. Private landowners can get their questions answered and have a Forest Stewardship Plan written to manage their forested acres.



Annual Tree Sale

Orders take place the beginning of January each year, with pickup dates in May.

In 2016, we offered over 20 types of trees and shrubs, with more than 7,000 trees and shrubs sold.



Civic Engagement and Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS)

Rainy River Headwaters, Vermilion River, & St. Louis River Watersheds:

- Promotion efforts to engage citizens in lake monitoring, biostressor monitoring and cyanobacteria monitoring tools
- Surface water quality data collection at 6 sites in the Vermilion River Watershed
- Partnered with Koochiching and Lake County SWCD's



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Surface Water Assessment Grant (SWAG)

Rainy River Headwaters, Cloquet, and Vermilion River Watersheds:

Collected water samples on 22 lakes and 9 streams with assistance of Koochiching SWCD and Lake County SWCD. Data helps MPCA determine if waterbodies meet state standards for swimming, fishing and other uses.



DNR Conservation Partners Legacy Grant - Orr Area Trout Stream Restoration

Brook trout were the primary focus on the Lost River and the Bulldog Hansen River near Orr. The overall goal was to increase self-sustaining populations of brook trout within the connected watersheds. Koochiching SWCD was instrumental on this project. There is also potential for continuing work, if funded. Photos below show Lost River rock weirs, downstream pools below the rock weirs, and pool habitat.



State Cost-Share Program

Each year funding administered by the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) is available to help landowners implement projects that reduce erosion. These funds are available on a first come-first serve basis and may cover up to 75% of the project cost. Landowner contribution can be cash or in-kind work. Below are before and after photos of a recent shoreline restoration project on the Whiteface Reservoir.

