In 2016, the lakes and streams in the Mississippi River Brainerd Watershed were sampled to determine if they meet state water quality standards. The majority of lakes and streams meet water quality standards but 18 lakes were found to have too many nutrients and 9 streams had E.coli bacteria. The Mississippi River also had higher levels of sediment causing the river to be more turbid. Details about the monitoring can be found at https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/wq-ws3-07010104b.pdf

The following draft documents that outline this work will be on public notice from June 1, 2020 to July 1, 2020 and can be found at https://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/watersheds/mississippi-river-brainerd.

We have included below, links to articles, videos and other media to provide additional information. If you have any questions, please contact one of the following:

Aitkin County – Janet Smude smude.aitkinswcd@gmail.com (218) 927-7284
Crow Wing County – Sheila Boldt sheila.boldt@crowwingswcd.org (218) 828-6197
Morrison County – Shannon Wettstein shannon.wettstein@morrisonswcd.org (320) 631-3553
Todd County – Deja Anton deja.anton@co.todd.mn.us (320) 732-2644
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency – Bonnie Finnerty bonnie.finnerty@state.mn.us 218-316-3897
Department of Natural Resources – Heidi Lindgren heidi.lindgren@state.mn.us (218) 203-4300

Monitoring Information

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) monitors lakes and streams throughout the state. If you would like to hear more information about that, the following videos provide a brief overview.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Watershed Monitoring Approach</th>
<th>A 4 minute video about monitoring lakes and streams in Minnesota</th>
<th><a href="https://youtu.be/cGqFO9G6UnA">https://youtu.be/cGqFO9G6UnA</a></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biological Monitoring</td>
<td>A 2.5 minute video about how streams are sampled to determine if the fish and bugs are healthy</td>
<td><a href="https://youtu.be/whfK0t3uWk4">https://youtu.be/whfK0t3uWk4</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Impaired Lakes and Streams Information

If your lake or stream did not meet water quality standards, a special report was prepared to figure out where pollution is coming from and how to improve the water quality. The following presentations provide more information on that process.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Northern Area</th>
<th>A 25 minute video that discusses the TMDL and water quality issues on the following impaired lakes: Gun Lake, Fleming Lake, Elm Island Lake, Ripple Lake, Lower Mission Lake and Fawn Lake</th>
<th><a href="https://youtu.be/NjZqrDIF2sk">https://youtu.be/NjZqrDIF2sk</a></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
### Central Area:
A 25 minute video that discusses the TMDL and water quality issues on the following impaired lakes: Sebie Lake and Crow Wing Lake

[https://youtu.be/ZdCamG8iTBE](https://youtu.be/ZdCamG8iTBE)

### Southern Area:
A 25 minute video that discusses the TMDL and water quality issues on the following impaired lakes: Trace Lake and Big Swan Lake

[https://youtu.be/Lw4XUsTjLd0](https://youtu.be/Lw4XUsTjLd0)

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**What can YOU do to improve and protect lake and stream water quality?**

Everyone has a role to help protect and improve the lakes and streams in your watershed. To find out more about what you can do, take a look at the following resources below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Next Steps – implementing projects to protect and improve water quality.</th>
<th>A 37 minute presentation on the One Watershed One Plan program that guides planning &amp; funding implementation projects to improve water quality</th>
<th><a href="https://youtu.be/D2-iyYLMMTg">https://youtu.be/D2-iyYLMMTg</a></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Protecting drinking water: Wells and Septic Systems</td>
<td>A 1 hour and 45 minute webinar from the MN Dept. of Health and the University of MN on private well and septic system management</td>
<td><a href="https://septic.umn.edu/sites/septic.umn.edu/files/drinking_water_final.mp4">https://septic.umn.edu/sites/septic.umn.edu/files/drinking_water_final.mp4</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pet waste</td>
<td>This 2 minute video was developed in the Duluth area but the information applies to any area where pet waste can enter waterway through storm drains and runoff.</td>
<td><a href="https://www.perfectduluthday.com/2019/09/05/there-is-no-poop-fairy-psa/">https://www.perfectduluthday.com/2019/09/05/there-is-no-poop-fairy-psa/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raingardens – how and why to build a raingarden</td>
<td>A website from the University of MN on raingardens.</td>
<td><a href="https://extension.umn.edu/landscape-design/raingardens">https://extension.umn.edu/landscape-design/raingardens</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planting for Pollinator Habitat</td>
<td>A website with resources on how to turn part of your lawn into pollinator habitat.</td>
<td><a href="https://bwsr.state.mn.us/residential-pollinator-habitat">https://bwsr.state.mn.us/residential-pollinator-habitat</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Score your shore tool</td>
<td>This website describes the Score Your Shore tool to assess habitat conditions of developed lake lots.</td>
<td><a href="https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/scoreyourshore/index.html">https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/scoreyourshore/index.html</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climate change in Minnesota</td>
<td>A 45 minute presentation on climate change in Minnesota from Kenneth Blumenfeld with the State Climatology Office</td>
<td><a href="http://climateapps.dnr.state.mn.us/2020_Central_MN_SWCD_Climate.mp4">http://climateapps.dnr.state.mn.us/2020_Central_MN_SWCD_Climate.mp4</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Websites:**

- Crow Wing SWCD – Videos on Restorations with Coir Logs, Live Fascines, and Soil Wraps
  [www.youtube.com/user/crowwingswcd/videos](http://www.youtube.com/user/crowwingswcd/videos)

- Minnesota DNR – Aquatic Invasive Species
  [www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/ais/contacts.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/ais/contacts.html)

- Minnesota DNR – Work in Protected Waters
  [www.dnr.state.mn.us/waters/watermgmt_section/pwpermits/requirements.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/waters/watermgmt_section/pwpermits/requirements.html)

- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency – Stormwater Management
  [www.pca.state.mn.us/water/stormwater-management](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/stormwater-management)

- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency - Mississippi River – Brainerd Watershed
  [www.pca.state.mn.us/water/watersheds/mississippi-river-brainerd](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/watersheds/mississippi-river-brainerd)

- University of Minnesota Extension Service – Stormwater & Erosion