Our History

Key dates and events affecting the organization and direction of the Coon Creek Watershed District:

1954 Organized efforts began when a steering committee was formed to support a flood control project. Flooding had become a severe problem. Annual flooding of large areas was hurting the agricultural economy of the area and damaging homes and property along Coon Creek.

- A petition for a P.L. 566 study of the Coon Creek watershed was submitted to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service (SCS).

1958 The SCS completed a "Watershed Work Plan" in 1958 with the help of the Anoka Soil and Water Conservation District and the Anoka County Board of Commissioners.

1959 January 8: A nominating petition to establish the Coon Creek Watershed District was signed by the Chairman of Anoka County Board of Commissioners, and was filed with the Minnesota Water Resources Board.

- February 12: The Water Resources Board held a hearing on the establishment of the Coon Creek Watershed District in Coon Rapids.

- **May 28**: The Water Resources Board issued its Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order which established the District.

1961 February 6: The Board of Managers adopted their initial Overall Plan and submitted their plan to the Water Resources Board.

- April 14: The Water Resources Board Prescribed an Overall Plan for the District.

1967 The State of Minnesota gave the Metropolitan Council the responsibility of preparing a Development Guide -regional plan for the seven-county Metropolitan area.

1972 The passage of the **Clean Water Act** along with subsequent amendments in 1977 (U.S. Code, Title 33) brought the water quality goals of the nation and the region into sharp focus. Section 208 of the Act requires the preparation of "area-wide wastewater treatment management plans" to address both point and non-point pollution sources.
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1979 to 1981 the Metropolitan Council initiated extensive field investigations to examine the impact of non-point source runoff on the region's lakes, streams and rivers. The investigations revealed that, “Indeed, non-point source pollution is a major problem for all receiving waters in the Metropolitan Area.”

1982 The Metropolitan Council published Part 2 of its Metropolitan Development Guide. The guide fulfills the federal requirements as the Region's plan for controlling non-point source pollution under section 208 of the Clean Water Act.

- The Council's work also supported concerns and work within the Minnesota Legislature that resulted in the passage of the Metropolitan Water Management Act in 1982 (Chapter 509, Laws of 1982, Minnesota Statutes Sections 473.875 to 473.883).
  - The passage of the Metropolitan Water Management Act further defined the purpose of a watershed district.

1987 The Metropolitan Water Management Act is amended to authorize groundwater planning.

1988 July 27: The first Comprehensive Plan for the Coon Creek Watershed District required under this act was approved by the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR).

1990 The Metropolitan Water Management Act is revised.

1991 The State Legislature enacts the Wetland Conservation Act
- The Legislature enacts the Redding Bill which requires ponding for developments resulting in impervious area greater than 1 acre.
- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency requires an erosion control permit for developments greater than 5 acres in size.

1992 The Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) adopts rules governing planning
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and reporting under the Metropolitan Water Management Act.

- The Metropolitan Council adopts an interim policy on Non-Point Source Pollution control.

- The Pollution Control Agency adopts rules for wetlands and water quality standards.

1995 The Wetland Conservation Act is amended and revised.

2000 The Wetland Conservation Act is amended and revised.

2003 The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency informed the Coon Creek Watershed District that the public ditch system under Watershed District jurisdiction functions as a storm sewer; the District had been included in a group of smaller Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s) under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System program NPDES).

2011 December 14 - The MN Board of Water and Soil Resources accepts the petition from the cities of Blaine, Fridley, Coon Rapids and Spring Lake Park to be included in the Coon Creek Watershed District those areas of the dissolved Six Cities Watershed Management Organization located north of the Rice Creek Watershed District boundary. This added about 14 square miles to the District, and about seven river miles along the Mississippi River.