For release:
Contact: Risikat Adesaogun, 651-757-2053

**Studies identify water quality problems and remedies for the Coon Creek Watershed**

St. Paul, Minn. — The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), the Coon Creek Watershed District, and local groups are recommending a number of actions to restore and protect water bodies in the Coon Creek watershed. The watershed is located in Anoka County and includes the cities of Andover, Blaine, Columbus, Coon Rapids, Fridley, Ham Lake, and Spring Lake Park. The Coon Creek Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) report and Total Maximum Daily Load report are available for public review through date.

Several streams within the Coon Creek watershed are impaired for aquatic life and high levels of E. coli bacteria. Stream bank erosion and stormwater runoff are having a negative effect on the watershed’s water quality. Urban development and agricultural activities in the watershed have resulted in runoff that carries excess phosphorus, sediment, and bacteria into bodies of water that degrades water quality and is harmful to aquatic life. The TMDL report quantifies the pollutant levels, identifies the sources of the pollution, and proposes ways to bring water quality back to an acceptable level.

The WRAPS report identifies impaired water bodies and those in need of protection, and identifies the necessary actions needed to achieve and maintain water quality. For example, installing buffers, stabilizing stream banks, and implementing stormwater control projects will help improve water quality in the watershed.

Many groups are participating in restoration and protection efforts, including the Coon Creek Watershed District, Anoka Conservation District, member cities, and several state and local organizations. Individuals are always encouraged to get involved.

These reports are some of just a handful completed under the state’s watershed approach, a holistic way of gauging the health of streams and lakes, and developing strategies to restore or protect their water quality.

The report is available on the MPCA’s public notices web page or at the MPCA’s St. Paul office, at 520 Lafayette Road North. The MPCA encourages those interested in the Coon Creek watershed to review and provide feedback on the reports. Comments on the reports should be submitted in writing by date, to Rachel Olmanson, MPCA, 520 Lafayette Road North, St. Paul, MN 55155-4194, or rachel.olmanson@state.mn.us. Rachel is available to answer questions at 651-757-2473.

Written comments must specify which report you are commenting on, include a statement of your interest in the report, and the action you wish the MPCA to take, including specific references to sections of the draft report you believe should be changed. You must state the specific reasons for your position.

More information is available on the MPCA’s Impaired waters and TMDLs webpage.

**Broadcast Version**

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, the Coon Creek Watershed District, and local partners are recommending strategies to restore and protect water bodies in the Coon Creek watershed. The Coon Creek watershed Total Maximum Daily Load and Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy reports detail the pollutant levels, sources of pollution, and strategies for remediating impaired water quality and for protecting non-impaired bodies of water in the watershed. The draft reports are available for public review and comment through date, on the MPCA’s public notices web page or at the MPCA’s St. Paul office, at 520 Lafayette Road North.