

Guiding Principles

The following fundamental principles guide how the Coon Creek Watershed District (CCWD, District) conducts business and will continue to conduct business in the future.

Service

The citizens of the Coon Creek Watershed District are entitled to the best service the District can provide. We respect the dignity and worth of every person with whom we work, treat all individuals fairly and equitably, listen to their views, and respond with assistance that is tailored to their needs.

We believe that private and public water resource users will make responsible decisions when aware of how systems need to perform, the alternatives for pursuing their goals, and the consequences of alternatives.

Our appreciation of people's needs is as important to successful water management as is their understanding of the water and related resources of the Coon Creek Watershed District. We continually strive to anticipate public need and to improve our service. We measure our efforts against the highest professional standards.

Partnerships

The Watershed District believes that effective management of water and related resources can only be achieved through the cooperative and collaborative efforts of individuals, agencies, and organizations across the watershed.

The District values its relationships with the local, state and federal agencies that share our objectives, although our missions may differ.

We recognize that our traditional partners-Cities, Anoka County and Conservation District, BWSR, DNR, MPCA and USACE have been key to past successes and remain essential to future progress in managing water resources.

District commitment to land stewardship and public service is the framework within which water and related land resources will be managed. Implicit in this statement is collaboration with the public and other agencies as stewards of the watershed and its resources, especially the municipalities with lands within the watershed.

Evidence-Based Practice

Effective management of water resources depends on having evidence-based information and technology that are up to date, easily accessible, and designed to meet user needs.

The Coon Creek Watershed District satisfies a broad range of technology and information needs – from Best Management Practices (BMPs) and ‘how-to’s” for homeowners or builders to technical standards and tools for stormwater professionals.

The Watershed District designs operates and maintains water resource management practices that help private landowners and managers achieve production and conservations goals and meet federal, state and local expectations and standards.

Technical Excellence

District standards for rate control, infiltration, stormwater engineering and modeling, and other specialties are recognized and shared state-wide. Our Water Resource Inventory and Assessment of conditions and trends (Appendix A, B & C) has become vital to tailoring State and Federal water resource policy and programs to the Anoka Sand Plain geography of central Anoka County.

Coon Creek Watershed District’s contributions have depended largely on the technical expertise of its employees and upon their ability to work with the diverse audiences and constituencies within the watershed.

Performance/ Outcome Based Management

The people and water resources of the Coon Creek Watershed deserve effective water resource management. Performance or Outcome based management will be used to improve the effectiveness of the District’s programs.

In addition, State agencies have begun to emphasize outcomes as a criterion for grants and program administration and have discussed the potential for reimbursements, compliance and delegations to be based on physical or social outcomes.

Performance based water management does not assert control strictly on the basis of an existing landscape feature. Instead, it emphasizes the functioning or operation of the natural systems and landscape processes within the watershed, especially hydrologic processes.

Hydrologic Processes The watershed environment is determined by a set of existing natural resources and processes. The primary determinant for management within the watershed is the hydrologic system. It is the process by which water is circulated and distributed on the surface of the land, through the soil and underlying rocks, and into the atmosphere.

The hydrologic cycle involves precipitation, runoff, groundwater movement, evaporation and transpiration. The hydrologic cycle is the unifying factor of the natural resource components identified earlier. Ditches and other watercourses, wetlands and other water bodies, floodplains and groundwater recharge are all integral parts of the hydrologic system of the watershed. Water quality, soils, and wildlife are related in that they are affected by or affect the hydrologic system.

The management of these natural resources does not mean prohibiting the use of these resources for other uses. Rather, it means the wise and managed use while protecting their capacity to function, allowing for development and uses compatible with these systems. In some instances, water and related land resources should be kept free of landscape alteration. In other instances, natural resources can sustain certain types of alteration or sustain additional utilization of natural processes without detrimental impact, or, their ecological function can be replaced or mitigated.

