

Introduction

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The Coon Creek Watershed District was created in 1959 as a public body organized pursuant to the Watershed Law (Minnesota Statutes 103D). In response to new information and a greater understanding of the hydrologic systems (Appendix A & B) and social demands (Appendix C), the agency has evolved.

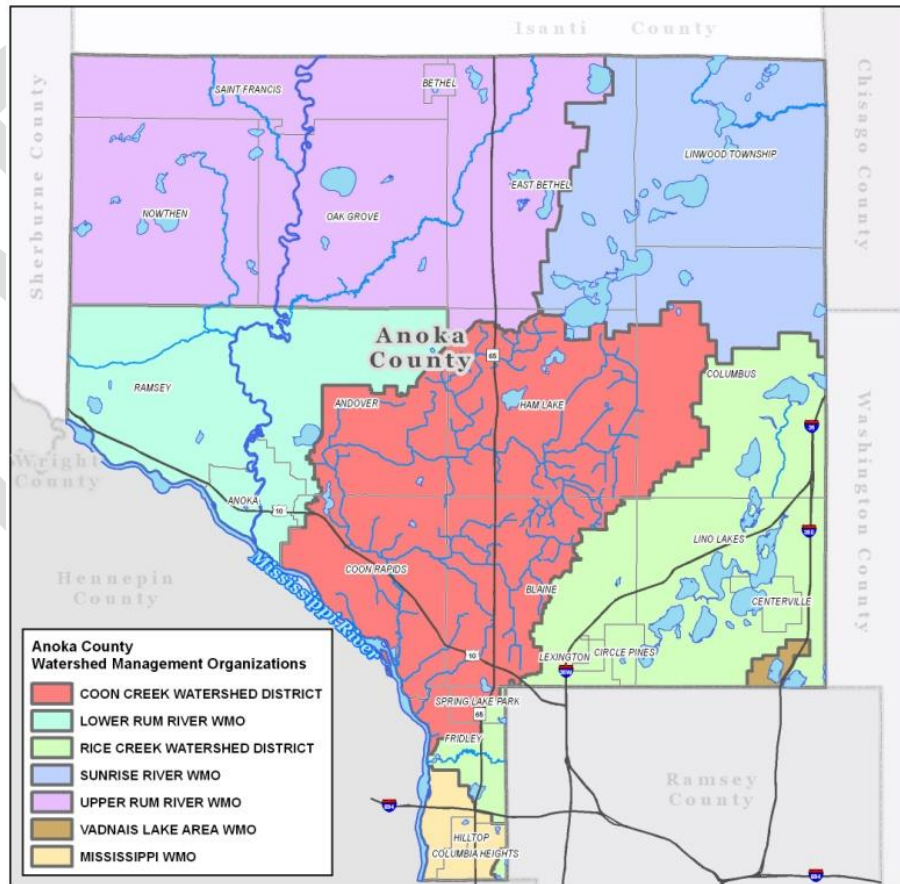
This plan is the third generation plan required by the Metropolitan Surface Water Management Act

Background

The Coon Creek Watershed District (District) is 107 square miles on the northern edge of the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. The District is located entirely within Anoka County.

The District's statutory purpose is to develop and manage a uniform program for water and related land management within the drainage area of Coon Creek and amended areas.

Location of the Coon Creek Watershed District



Legislative Mandates

District programs and priorities take their direction, or are influenced by 13 separate state policies and four sections of the Federal Clean Water Act (Appendix D). The most influential of those statutes and programs on District are:

- **Drainage Law**: Specified the purposes and process by which public ditch and drainage systems can be established.
- **Watershed Law**: Authorizes the establishment of watershed district as a special purpose unit of government and defines the powers and authorities granted to them
- **Metropolitan Surface Water Management Act**: Directs the establishment of water management organizations within the seven county metropolitan area to comprehensively manage water and related resources for multiple uses and ends
- **Wetland Conservation Act**: Directs the policies and procedures by which local governmental units are to pursue the “No net loss of wetlands”
- **Federal Clean Water Act**: establishes a policy to restore and maintain the chemical, physical and biological integrity of the Nation’s waters through the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System Permit (NPDES)

District Responsibilities

As directed by the Minnesota legislature, the District will consider these policies as a whole in managing water for the overall public welfare. While the statutes above address most water resource features, they emphasize flood control, water quality, and the prevention of soil erosion. To this end, the basic District responsibilities are:

1. To protect the health and safety of the present and future generations of people who live and will live within the watershed.
2. To provide for opportunities and uses of the water and related natural resources of the watershed that are demanded and appropriate for the watershed’s water and related resources.
3. To prevent unacceptable damage to the water and related natural resources of the watershed.
4. To balance economic development with:
 - a. How water and related land resources perform
 - b. The well-being of present and future generations.