do one thing...

Small actions by many people add up!

Conserve

Fix leaky faucets and toilets	
Turn off water while brushing teeth	
Install low-flow showerheads & toilets	
Use timers on your sprinklers	
Irrigating? **Use soil moisture sensors so you don't water when it's not needed**	
Water lawn 1x/week deeply early morning with 1.5" if no rain in summer **Tip: put out a small cup or dish to measure depth**	

Prevent Pollution

Keep lawn clippings and leaves out of the street and storm drain	
Plant long-rooted vegetation like prairie plants and shrubs	
Recycle motor oil & antifreeze**	👍
Dispose of Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) properly**	

FREE ****Anoka County HHW site   763.323.5730**
3230- 101st Ave NE   Blaine, MN
www.co.anoka.mn.us/v2_dept/iwm/hhw.aspx

Water IQ #11

© 2011

Coon Creek Watershed District

12301 Central Ave. NE
Suite 100
Blaine, MN 55434
Telephone:
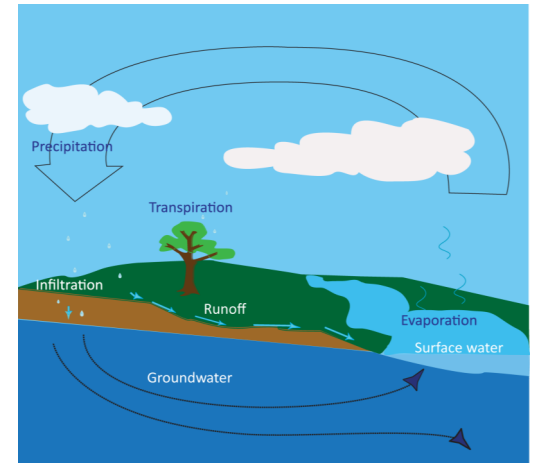**763.755.0975**

Email: info@cooncreekwd.org

Mission
To manage groundwater and surface water drainage systems to prevent property damage, maintain hydrologic balance, protect water quality for the safety and enjoyment of citizens, and the preservation and enhancement of wildlife habitat.

Coon Creek Watershed District

Water IQ series #11
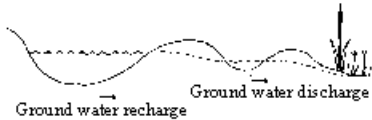
Groundwater

the underground stage of the water cycle

Eleventh in a **W**ater **I**nformation **Q**uest (**WIQ**) Series by Coon Creek Watershed District

Tel: 763.755.0975

Groundwater

Groundwater is the primary source for drinking water in Anoka County. Groundwater is the water contained under the ground's surface in the pores of sand, soil and gravel.

The process of replenishing groundwater is called recharge. The release of groundwater, for example by exposure to the surface as a lake or creek, is called groundwater discharge. An example of groundwater discharge is Coon Creek. Another is Crooked Lake. They are fed by groundwater flowing in the general direction of northeast to southwest towards the Mississippi River.

Groundwater levels can fluctuate 3-5 feet in a year. This fluctuation is the most significant determinant of groundwater impact on surface waters.

Anoka County, as part of the Anoka Sand Plain, is an important recharge area for the Twin Cities. Why? Our sandy soils. Sand has large sized particles compared to silt or clay. Larger particle size means larger pores between particles which leaves space for air and water to flow.

For example, the water level at Crooked Lake is fed by groundwater as well as precipitation and runoff from its small watershed. Though lake levels naturally fluctuate, the trend over the last 10 years has been a decline. This decline seems to hold true throughout the larger Coon Creek watershed.

So, one way to protect our lakes and creeks is by protecting the groundwater: soak in the rain, conserve water, and prevent pollution.
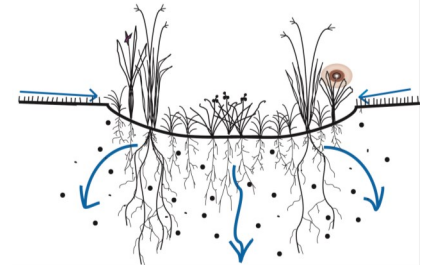
Do One Thing
Check out the checklist on other side

Now

*Met Council projections for 2030 show groundwater pumping increasing to accommodate growth.

This could result in less groundwater.

Conserving water will help protect our future supply of groundwater.

Groundwater flows from the northeast towards the Mississippi River.

in 18 years?

If projected pumping occurs, by 2030 groundwater flow could decrease enough to cause a 5 foot drop in lake level.

Questions? 763.755.0975

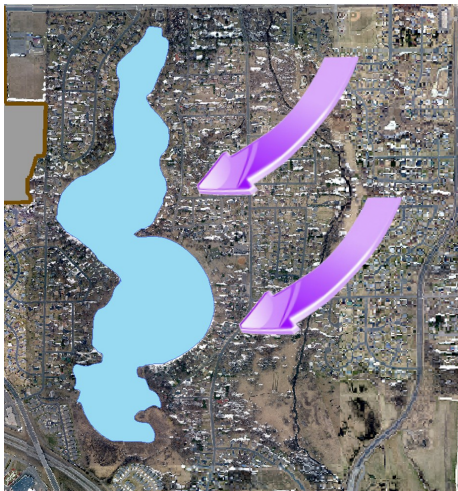## You Can Make a Difference

Soak It In!
Protect groundwater by helping recharge it.

Consider installing a rain garden designed to soak in runoff within 48 hours.
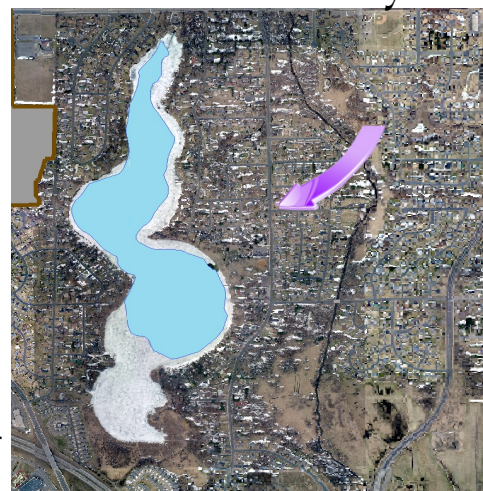
Rain garden-Crooked Lake, Andover

Aerate your lawn every few years so that air and water can soak into the ground. Rent core aerators at hardware-type stores.

Online

Anoka Natural Resources
http://moourl.com/anrraingardenhowto
http://moourl.com/anrgroundwater

USGS–Water Cycle: Infiltration
http://moourl.com/usgsgroundwater

Animation style diagram
http://moourl.com/groundwateranimation