

Le Sueur County Environmental Services

NEWSLETTER

July 1, 2024



This Issue:

2| Upper Cannon River Flood Study

3| Cannon River Watershed Land to Lake Lectures

4| Cannon River Watershed Native Planting Cost-Share

5| Lower Minnesota River East Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan Update

6| Le Sueur County Water Testing Clinic

Well Sealing Cost-Share

7-8| Featured Minnesota Native Plant

9-10| Featured Non-Native Plant

14| Contact Information

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Upper Cannon River Watershed Flood Risk Reduction Study

We will continue to provide updates with the flood study on a quarterly basis.

- A flood gauge has been installed on the Cannon River just south of Sabre Lake. The flood gauge is instrumental in providing data for this study as well as providing future notifications of flooding within the community. You can view data that the gauge has been collecting at the following webpage: <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/waters/csg/site.html?id=39103002>.
- Our required match or in-kind services has been met and accounted for through financial support, staff time, or additional data collection and drone surveys due to recent flooding events.
- Due to recent flooding events, we have gathered drone footage, water elevations, and flow data that will be helpful to utilize within the Upper Cannon Flood Study. To view this information please visit our [Upper Cannon River Watershed Flood Study Webpage](#).



This study is listed as an implementation activity within our Cannon River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (Table 4.1.2 Landscape Alterations Targeted Implementation Table, Activity ID 3.2.2-A-1). Once the Flood Study is completed, it will provide opportunities for the partnership to seek out additional funding to implement flood reduction practices.

Lower Minnesota River East Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan

The Lower Minnesota River East Partnership has developed a Final Draft of the Lower Minnesota River East Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan and it has been approved by the Board of Water and Soil Resources! Before we can start implementing projects and practices, the Partnership will need to submit a request for Watershed Based Implementation Funding and make sure all other State Requirements have been met. We anticipate receiving grant funds within the next month or two!

To view the most up to date version of the Lower Minnesota River East Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan, please visit the Lower Minnesota River East website at: <https://www.lowermnrivereast.org/>.

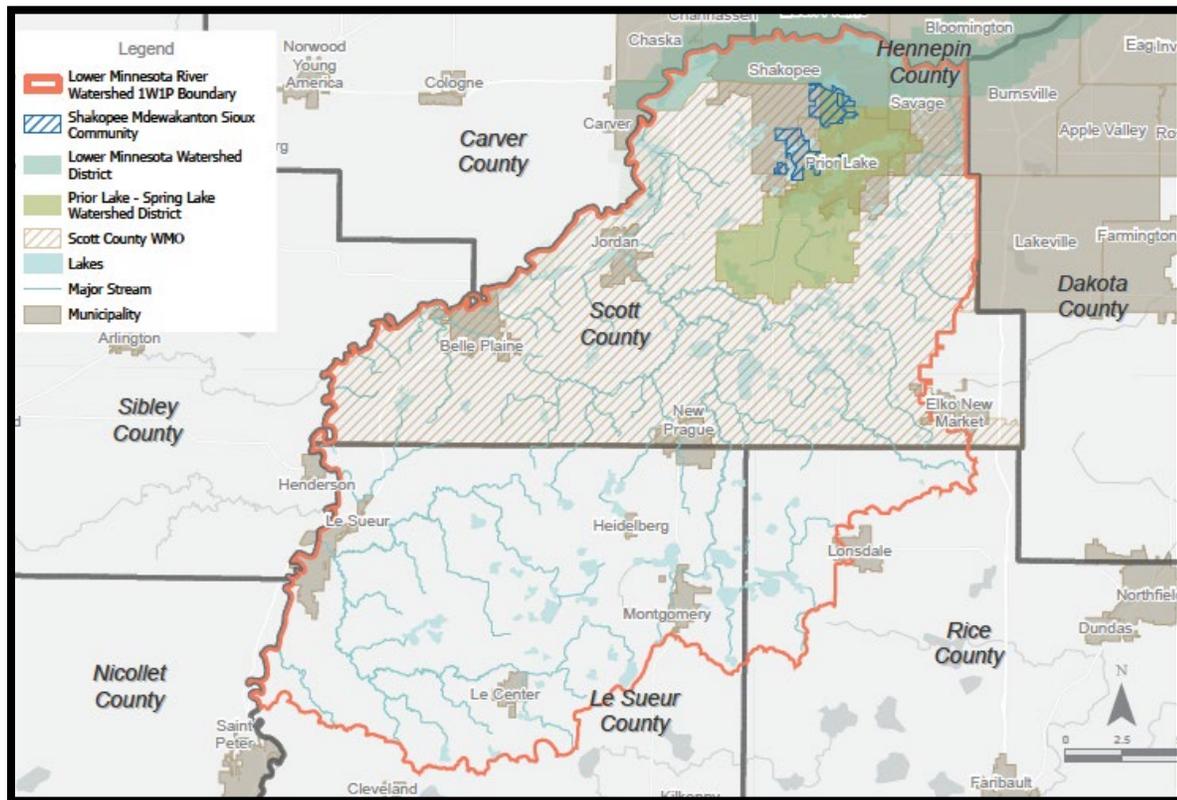


Figure 2. Lower Minnesota River East Watershed Boundary. Photo Credit: ISG Inc.

Cannon River Watershed Joint Powers Organization Land to Lake Lectures

Want to learn more about different conservation topics? Do you have some free time during your lunch break? Come join the Cannon River Watershed Joint Powers Organization Virtual Learning Sessions from October 2024-March 2025!

CRWJPO VIRTUAL LEARNING SESSIONS: LAND TO LAKE LECTURES

Join the Cannon River Watershed Joint Powers Organization as they host virtual learning sessions on topics that influence the resources in the watershed. These sessions are open to everyone and are a great way to learn about how you can help improve the watershed. Sessions will be held during the lunch hour every month, running from October to March. This series is offered in collaboration with the University of Minnesota-Extension.



2024 - 2025 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

October 15	12:00 - 1:00 PM	Saving the Monarch: Improving Habitat for the Future
November 19	12:00 - 1:00 PM	Mycorrhizal Fungi: The Powerhouse Behind Soil Health
December 10	12:00 - 1:00 PM	Special Catch: The Cannon River's LMS Walleye
January 21	12:00 - 1:00 PM	Is Your Septic System Failing? How Proper Care Protects Home & Water
February 25	12:00 - 1:00 PM	Reducing Flooding on the Cannon: What's Being Done?
March 18	12:00 - 1:00 PM	Hidden Dangers in Well Water: Protect Your Health by Testing

The sessions will be broadcast in cooperation with the University of Minnesota-Extension on Zoom.



Learn more about each webinar at:

www.cannonriverwatershedmn.gov/events-1

or scan the QR code on the left.

For more information contact:

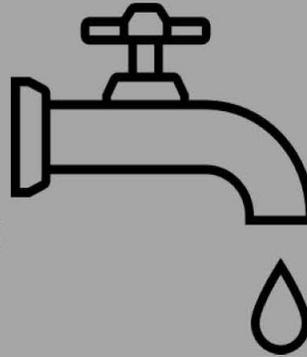
Emmie Scheffler at (507) 332-5408
or Emmie.scheffler@riceswcd.org

FREE - ONLINE - 1 HOUR - FREE - ONLINE - 1 HOUR

Le Sueur County October 30th 2024 Water Testing Clinic

Le Sueur County Water Testing Clinic

Wednesday, October 30 2024



Why Should I Test My Water?

Le Sueur County's drinking water is predominantly groundwater dependent (public or private wells). Additionally, aquifers that are present in Le Sueur County, supply drinking water to the metro area.

It is recommended to test your drinking water at least once per year. It is important to test your water in order to monitor potential contaminants that could be a risk to your health.

Sources of Pollutants & Contaminants In Drinking Water:

- Septic systems
- Fertilizers
- Pesticides
- Animals/Feedlots
- Landfills
- Mining activities
- Hazardous materials-paints, oils, cleaners, detergents, chemicals, etc.
- Abandoned or poorly constructed wells
- Naturally occurring
- Stormwater

Questions?

Holly Bushman

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Water Testing Clinic

Pollutants that will be offered include:

- Nitrates
- Coliform Bacteria
- Lead
- Arsenic

Each Test is \$17.00

To access a water testing order form, please contact the Environmental Services Department or visit the following website: <https://www.co.lesueur.mn.us/684/Water-Testing>.

The water testing order form **must** be submitted prior to receiving your water testing kit. Please submit the form to our department address or email address.

- **Address:** 88 South Park Ave, Le Center, MN 56057.
- **Email:** environmentalservices@co.lesueur.mn.us

Drop Off Day for kits will be on **Wednesday, October 30th** from **9:00am-5:30pm**. Any kits dropped off after **5:30pm** will not be accepted.

- **Drop off location:** 100 W Minnesota Ave, Le Center, MN 56057.

Please note that the Coliform Bacteria samples need to be submitted to the lab within 24 hours to get an accurate test result. Additionally, Lead Samples should be taken right away on Wednesday morning before any water is ran (water in pipes should sit for at least 6 hours).

Samples should not be taken until Wednesday, October 30th; at 8:00am.

Minnesota Native Plant

White Baneberry (*Actaea pachypoda*)



Figure 5. White Baneberry Inflorescence. Photo Credit:

University of Minnesota

Figure 4. Minnesota River-Mankato Watershed Map. Photo Credit: Blue Earth County.

White Baneberry, also known as Doll's Eyes, is a perennial that is a part of the Ranunculaceae (Buttercup) family.

It grows anywhere from 2-3 feet in height. The leaves are compound. Additionally, the leaves are approximately 5 inches long, have toothless leaf edges, and are covered in white hairs. The inflorescence (flower head) is comprised of a flower spike that contains numerous small white flowers. Each flower contains 4-10 petals and has 15-40 reproductive organs which gives the inflorescence a showy and feathery appearance. White Baneberry blooms from May to June. Additionally, this species contains fruit (berries) that are white, round, and waxy and contain numerous seeds. The fruit starts to mature in summer through early fall. The root structure of White Baneberry is comprised of rhizomes that produce multiple shoots.

This plant prefers moist to mesic soil that is high in nutrients and organic matter.

Lastly, this species

favors partial to full shade areas. You'll find this species thriving in a variety of forest habitat types including conifers, deciduous, and mixed as well as in swamp, streambanks and other moist areas. Bird species such as Ruffed Grouse, American Robin, and Yellow Bellied sapsuckers will forage on the white berries. Mammals and humans should not eat the berries as they are toxic.



Figure 6. White Baneberry Fruit that resembles a “Doll’s Eye”.
Photo Credit: Holly Bushman

Fun Fact:

White Baneberry is one of two baneberry species in the Midwest. Red Baneberry is smaller in size and has red berries as fruit. It is very difficult to distinguish between the two species until the fruit has matured.

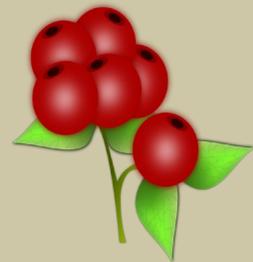




Figure 7. White Baneberry Compound Leaves and Fruit. *Photo Credit: Holly Bushman*

Non-Native Plant

Spotted Knapweed (*Centaurea stoebe*)

Spotted Knapweed, is a biennial and/or short lived perennial that is a part of the Asteraceae, (Aster) family. This species is native to Europe and Asia and was brought into the United States in the late 1800s through seed and soil that was brought over.



Figure 8. Spotted Knapweed Inflorescence. Photo Credit: MN Department of Agriculture.

Spotted Knapweed grows any from 2 to 4 feet tall. The stems and leaves have a grey-green to blue-green hue. The leaves start off the first year as a basal rosette and then the second year produce a stalk (stem) that bolts.

The leaf arrangement during the second year of growth is alternate. The leaves are slender and have little to no lobes. The inflorescence (flower head) contains numerous ray flowers on the edge and disk flowers in the center which strongly resembles a flower of a thistle. At the base of the flower, there are dark upside down Vs; hence the name “Spotted”. The flower color ranges from pink to purple and blooms from June to October.

The root structure of Spotted Knapweed is a large taproot. This species can thrive in a variety of different conditions, especially disturbed soils, and prefers sandy and dry soils with full sun. Spotted Knapweed can be found along prairies, roadsides, field edges, pastures, gravel pits, railways, and other areas that are highly disturbed by human land use activities.

This is an aggressive invasive species that outcompetes native vegetation and can colonize quickly. There are a variety of different treatment options such as mechanical, chemical, and biological; however, it takes a few years before treatment efforts become effective. Spotted Knapweed is considered allelopathic; it produces chemicals that influence how other species

grow and survive. This has a huge impact on the biological diversity within the landscape in which it grows.



Figure 9. Spotted Knapweed Plant. Photo Credit: MN Department of Agriculture.



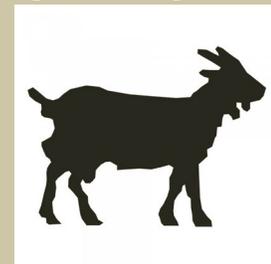
Figure 10. Spotted Knapweed Leaves. Photo Credit: University of Minnesota Extension-Amy Rager.

Fun Fact:

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture and the University of Minnesota Extension has produced a [Spotted Knapweed Lifecycle and Treatment Timing Handout](#).

Fun Fact:

Seedhead weevils, Root weevils, Seedhead flies, Goats, and Sheep are all biological agents that can be utilized to manage Spotted Knapweed.



Contact Information

Environmental Services Department

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Todd Piepho-Area Hydrologist

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To see which DNR staff is the Area Hydrologist for your region, please click on the following link:

https://files.dnr.state.mn.us/waters/area_hydros.pdf