

# Credit River Protection Plan—Executive Summary

2012

## Learn

- \* About the existing condition of the River
- \* What's being done to protect the River
- \* What you can do
- \* How to find additional information

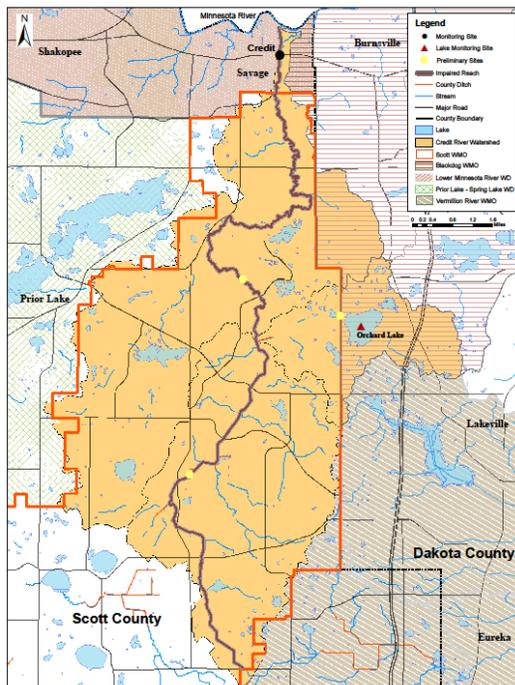
## Credit River—Existing Conditions

In 2002, the Credit River was listed as impaired for aquatic life by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency based on turbidity. Turbidity is a measure of water clarity. High turbidity may cause aquatic organisms to have trouble finding food, may affect gill functions, and the sediment associated with turbidity may cover spawning beds. However, a study initiated by the Scott Watershed Management Organization (Scott WMO) and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency in 2008 found that the river no longer exceeded the State Standard for turbidity.

This is likely due to changes in the

watershed since it was originally listed in 2002. Since that time development and construction related erosion has slowed, some plowed fields have been replaced with lawns that provide cover year around, and a number of erosion control projects have been completed by the City of Savage, landowners and the Scott Soil and Water Conservation District.

Meeting water quality standards is not that common in an urban setting. It is, therefore, important to have a Protection Plan detailing how to continue to meet the standard. Generally it is less expensive to protect an unimpaired water than it is to restore one.



Credit River Watershed

## Protection Plan Overview

An assessment of the watershed found that it was in pretty good shape, and thus the Plan mostly relies on the continuation of existing management efforts, and no significant construction projects are planned. This makes some sense since existing management, in combination with land uses in the watershed and the river setting, support the current unimpaired condition. The exception to existing management is education and outreach where additional efforts are anticipated emphasizing the need to protect

the river, and initiating a small acreage/hobby farm technical assistance program.

Funding for implementation will largely come through existing programs of the Scott WMO. The Plan was approved by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and adopted by the Scott WMO as part of its Comprehensive Water Resources Management Plan and will be updated as part of the next Scott WMO Plan update in 2019.



## SCOTT COUNTY

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## Elements of the Protection Plan

The Plan contains the following implementation elements:

- Programs
- Projects
- Regulations
- Monitoring
- Inventory and Assessment

Programs consist of an Outreach and Education Program, and the Technical Assistance and Cost Share (TACS)

Program. The TACS program provides technical assistance and cost share for landowners to implement priority conservation practices. For the Credit River watershed eligible practices for cost share vary from year to year and may include rain gardens, riparian (streamside) vegetation management, livestock exclusion, wetland restoration, and native grass plantings.

Outreach and education efforts being targeted include urban yard care, riparian zone management, and small

acreage or hobby farm management.

Additional information on the Protection Plan can be obtained by calling the Scott County Natural Resources Program at 952-496-8475, and a full copy of the Protection Plan can be found on the Scott County website [www.scott.mn.us](http://www.scott.mn.us) Parks, Library & Environment tab, Watershed Management Organization.

## What Residents Can Do

Surface water quality to a large extent is a reflection of what takes place on nearby land. By adopting a few basic principals, your yard, or farm, can help preserve the Credit River. In the urban areas:

- Rain gardens reduce storm-water (rain water) runoff and recharge groundwater
- Rain barrels capture rainfall for reuse on gardens and flower beds.
- Water-friendly lawn care keeps grass clippings on your lawn and uses phosphorus-free fertilizer.

There is also a lot of chemical use in urban areas. Aquatic life can be impacted if chemicals are improperly disposed of or allowed to mix with stormwater runoff. Fortunately Scott County has a Household Hazardous

Waste facility where it is convenient to dispose this type of waste.

For more HHW information:  
24-hour Info Line 952-496-8787  
Household Waste Info: 952-496-8652  
Business Waste Info: 952-496-8477

In both urban and agricultural areas of the watershed:

- Streamside vegetation with native plants helps to hold soil in place, filter pollutants and provide critical near shore wildlife habitat.

- Restored wetlands store runoff.
- Tree, shrubs and native planting with deep roots help hold soil in place and reduce runoff.

Technical and financial assistance is available from the Scott Soil and Water Conservation District for some practices.



Curb-cut rain garden in the City of Prior Lake

Scott Soil & Water Conservation District

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Jordan, MN 55352  
952-492-5425

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