

Get to Know your Shoreline this Summer!

If you live on water, whether it be a lake, river, creek, or stormwater pond, low water during the summer months can provide a great opportunity to inspect your shoreline for erosion.

Low water often exposes the toe of the slope and allows you to identify areas of concern. For example, you might observe undercutting, where the lowest portion of the bank has been scoured away by flowing water or wave action. When problems are caught early, the solutions are often much simpler and cheaper. Addressing erosion concerns early also helps prevent more severe bank failures down the road.



Erosion along streambanks can cause pollution to local waters and result in property loss. However, erosion is far less likely to occur if the bank has structure from plant and tree roots to hold the soil in place. Live staking with willow or dogwood stems is a practice that puts vegetation back into vulnerable areas and adds structure to the bank so it will be stable in the future. This practice is very low-cost when compared to other streambank stabilization practices. Staking with live plants is more effective than planting smaller plants that would take time to establish and may be destroyed or washed away before they can grow a dense root structure. This practice is also very easy to maintain!

The Lower Rum River Watershed Management Organization offers small grants to residents wishing to do projects that will benefit lakes, streams, and groundwater. Common project types are lakeshore stabilization or vegetation buffers and streambank stabilization. Applications are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Grant awards are commonly \$500 to \$3,000 or 50-75% of the total project cost, however, every project is considered on its own merits.

Applications are accepted through the Anoka Conservation District, which hosts several grant programs in an effort to be a one-stop-shop. The Anoka Conservation District also offers free technical help to residents wishing to address a water quality or habitat issue. Applicants can find more information at <https://www.anokaswcd.org/financial-technical-assistance.html> or by contacting Jamie Schurbon (jamie.schurbon@anokaswcd.org or 763-434-2030 ext. 21).

The Lower Rum River Watershed Management Organization is a special purpose unit of government made up of three cities: Andover, Anoka and Ramsey. Its purpose is to manage the area's waters, particularly those that flow across city boundaries.