

Collaborating to Address Erosion on Rum Riverbanks

Over \$1.5 million dollars will soon be invested to stabilize Rum Riverbanks in Anoka County. The work is aimed at improving water quality and adding near-shore habitat. There are also benefits of protecting property. River users will see work ongoing at as many as 20 locations along the Rum River during 2021-2023.

Riverbank erosion causes problems for both property owners and the river's health. Stabilizing riverbanks and restoring habitat in these critical areas is a priority for the Lower Rum River Watershed Management Organization (LRRWMO) and its partners. Work is now underway to correct a number of identified eroding riverbanks.

Funding is from multiple sources. The MN Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) is providing \$440,000 from the Clean Water Fund competitive grant fund to stabilize eroding Rum Riverbanks. This funding will be used in conjunction with funds from the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council to enhance habitat (\$816,000) and the DNR Conservation Partners Legacy grant (\$185,000). The grants require matching funds which are being provided by Anoka County, the Upper and Lower Rum River WMOs, ACD, the Nature Conservancy, and landowners.

Projects will range in size. At some locations, minor erosion can be corrected with a technique that "soft armors" the bank with cut (dead) cedar trees. In cases of more significant erosion, work may include re-grading to a stable slope, rip rap at the toe, and revegetation. Each site will have a unique design.

ACD will reach out directly to landowners where the greatest improvements to the river can be achieved in a cost effective way. Riverbank owners interested in learning more or enhancing their shore should contact the Anoka Conservation District's Water Resource Specialist, Jared Wagner, at jared.wagner@anokaswcd.org or (763) 434-2030 x20.

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.

