

2019 BROWN SWCD ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Brown SWCD completed or participated in the following projects and activities throughout 2019.

EDUCATION & PROMOTION

- Conservation Update Annual Newsletter Published
- Outstanding Conservationist Recognition
- Booth at the New Ulm Farm Show and assisted with booth at Farmfest
- Elementary student events: Children's Water Festival, Arbor Day Presentation
- Soil Stewardship Week information provided to Brown County churches
- SWCD presentation at 'Women Caring For The Land' workshop in New Ulm
- Assisted in hosting a Cover Crops for Beginners workshop in Sleepy Eye
- Radio Presentations on Buffer Law Program, Tree Program, Walk-In Access Program, RIM Program, Cost-Share Program, MAWQCP, MN CREP Program, and Aquatic Invasive Species Program
- News Releases sent to local newspapers and/or posted on the SWCD's Website and Facebook page about the Tree Program, MN CREP Program, Buffer Program, Outstanding Conservationist, Cost Share, Area 6 Scholarship, Soil and Water Stewardship Week, and Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention

COST SHARE PROJECTS

- Project Completed – Bashaw 17, Streambank Protection
- Project Completed – Burnstown 19, Streambank Protection
- Project Completed – Milford 32, Water and Sediment Control Basin
- Project Completed – Cottonwood 4/9, Grade Stabilization
- Project Completed – Milford 11, Grade Stabilization & Water and Sediment Control Basin
- Project Completed – Cottonwood 5, Grade Stabilization
- Project Completed – Home 36, Grade Stabilization
- Project Completed – Burnstown 19, Streambank Protection
- Contract Encumbered, 2020 Construction Planned – Stark 4, Streambank Protection
- Contract Encumbered, 2020 Construction Planned – Cottonwood 23, Grade Stabilization
- Contract Encumbered, 2020 Construction Planned – Stately 9, Terrace
- Contract Encumbered, 2020 Construction Planned – Lake Hanska 32, Water and Sediment Control Basin
- Performed 30 site visits to assess resource concerns and provide technical guidance

MN CREP EASEMENT APPLICATIONS APPROVED FOR FUNDING

- Wetland Restoration – Milford 16, 167.35 acres
- Wetland Restoration – Mulligan 9, 39.24 acres
- Wetland Restoration – Bashaw 3, 152.36 acres
- Wetland Restoration – Stately 25, 11.26 acres
- Wetland Restoration – Albin 2, 12.41 acres
- Wetland Restoration – Stark 18/19, 39.69 acres
- Wetland Restoration – Stark 4, 19.91 acres
- Wetland Restoration – North Star 28, 78.37 acres
- Wetland Restoration – Bashaw 23, 145.01 acres

MN CREP EASEMENTS RECORDED & SEEDING/CONSTRUCTION PLANNED FOR 2020/2021

- Filter Strip – Sigel 28, 3.47 acres
- Filter Strip – Stately 27, 6.41 acres
- Filter Strip – Mulligan 11, 11.06 acres
- Wetland Restoration – Albin 8, 97.62 acres
- Wetland Restoration – Bashaw 13, 3.69 acres
- Wetland Restoration – Bashaw 13, 12.27 acres

BUFFER PROGRAM

- Maintained records on BuffCAT, landowner files, and internal excel database
- Mailing to 38 JD system landowners in June 2019
- Completed 1-year site checks on 14 buffer cost share projects
- Attended drainage committee and ditch redetermination meetings
- Completed 8 alternative practice assessments
- Provided technical assistance to landowners to help them reach compliance
- Conducted 53 site visits to measure/flag buffer width, provide technical guidance, and verify compliance
- Submitted 7 notifications of non-compliance to BWSR
- Reached 97.1% compliance rate as of 12/31/2019

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES PREVENTION

- Developed and began implementation of the Brown County Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan: 2019-2023
- Foster partnerships with sportsman's clubs and lake associations
- Promoted AIS Prevention through radio ads, indoor posters, pump toppers, newspaper insert, Linder Media Angling Buzz project, Kare11 Cabin Cast project, and SWCD website and Facebook posts
- Hosted booth at Party in the Park event in Sleepy Eye
- Assisted at the NUASF annual kids fishing contest in New Ulm
- Attended two AIS workshops hosted by DNR
- Completed AIS Detector Training

WATERSHED PLANNING

- Adopted the Brown County Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan as Brown SWCD's Comprehensive Water Plan for calendar years 2019 and 2020
- Continue participation in the Cottonwood WRAPS local work group
- Continue participation in the Watonwan Watershed Planning Partnership grant project to assist in developing a comprehensive watershed plan for the Watonwan Watershed

OTHER PROGRAMS

- Tree Sales (44 Customers, 3 Plantings)
- Well Monitoring Program
- Rain Gauge Program
- RIM Program Annual Site Checks (56)
- State Cost Share Annual Site Checks (6)
- MAWQCP Program – 3 certified landowners
- Walk-In Access Program – 9 active contracts
- Middle MN WCPI Program
- RIM Program Ownership Changes
- RIM Program Conservation Plan Changes
- Wetlands Conservation Act – TEP Panel Member

ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATION AND/OR SUPPORT

- Brown County
- Natural Resource Conservation Service
- Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR)
- Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance
- Redwood Cottonwood Rivers Control Area
- Minnesota River Congress
- Minnesota DNR
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
- Farm Service Agency
- South Central Technical Service Area
- MN Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD)
- MASWCD Area VI Association
- MN Soil Health Coalition
- National Association of Conservation Districts
- Pheasants Forever
- MN Association of Conservation District Employees