

Minnesota River Weekly Update

December 12, 2016



"A cool looking frog sits on a piece of trim early this summer on the north side of my house".

Photo Credit: mnrivervalley.tumblr.com

To view past issues of the Minnesota River Weekly Update, click on the Archive button.

— Archive —

Announcements

MPCA office in Willmar to close permanently on December 8

Tuesday, December 5, 2017

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) plans to permanently close its office in Willmar, Minn., effective Friday, Dec. 8, 2017. All staff will keep their jobs. Six staff members assigned to the office will be re-assigned to alternate work locations, or will work from the Marshall MPCA office. One of seven MPCA regional offices outside the Twin City metro area, the Willmar office opened in 1999 at 201 28th Ave. SW. In 2006, it moved to 1601 E. Hwy. 12. With the fewest staff among regional offices, MPCA officials decided that closure would reduce costs with minimal effect on services.

Along with the MPCA office in Marshall, the Willmar office served 18 counties in southwestern Minnesota. The Marshall office, which opened in 1976, will continue to work with citizens and businesses in protecting the environment.

For more information click ([here](#)).

Nine smart salting tips that protect Minnesota waters

Tuesday, December 5, 2017

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) recommends a low-salt diet for our lakes, streams, and rivers. Much like table salt, rock salt's benefits are peppered with danger. Salt helps melt ice on roads and sidewalks and protects drivers and pedestrians. But when the snow melts, de-icing salt, which contains chloride, runs into nearby bodies of water and harms aquatic wildlife. Chloride accumulates in the water over time, and there's no feasible way to treat or remove it. A University of Minnesota study found that about 78 percent of salt applied in the Twin Cities for winter maintenance ends up either in groundwater or local lakes and wetlands. The MPCA has found that groundwater in the state's urban areas often exceeds the state standards for chloride contamination. Forty-seven bodies of water in Minnesota have tested above the standard for chloride, 39 of which are in the Twin Cities metro area.

For more information click ([here](#))

Solid waste transfer and recycling station in Blaine looks to increase capacity

Monday, December 11, 2017

Walters Recycling and Refuse Inc., a solid waste transfer station and recycling facility located at 10191 Xylite Street NE in Blaine, is looking to increase the amount of waste it is allowed to process through its solid waste permit. Before being allowed to do so, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency is required to complete an Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) to help decide whether the project requires a more extensive Environmental Impact Statement. The EAW for this project is available on the MPCA's [Environmental Assessment Worksheet webpage](#). It is also available by calling Beth Tegdesch at 651-757-2100. Written comments may be sent to Steve Sommer by email to steve.sommer@state.mn.us, or mailed to him at the MPCA, 520 Lafayette Road N., St. Paul, MN 55155-4194.

For more information and press release video click ([here](#)).

DNR solicits 2018 park and trail grant applications

December 7, 2017

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Parks and Trails Division is accepting applications for the following grant programs: outdoor recreation, natural and scenic areas, regional trails, local trail connections and federal recreational trails. These grants help local governments throughout the state create partnerships with the DNR to fund projects such as local parks, regional trails and trail

connections. The application due dates are Wednesday, Feb. 28, for the Federal Recreational Trail Grant Program and Friday, March 30, for the other programs. The DNR anticipates that both federal and state funding will be available during 2018 for these programs.

For information about eligible projects and how to apply for a grant, visit the recreation grants page of the DNR website at www.mndnr.gov.

For more information click ([here](#))

News

Minnesota Grown Announces New Member Prize Pack Drawing

Farms, Farmers' Markets and Food Businesses May Apply for Membership
December 11, 2017, MDA

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture's [Minnesota Grown](#) program is now accepting new members. Ten randomly selected new members who apply before December 31, 2017 will receive a Minnesota Grown prize pack, which includes a metal "Proud Member" sign and a Minnesota Grown hat. Farms, farmers' markets and food businesses that sell products grown or raised in Minnesota may register at one of two membership levels. New Minnesota Grown members will join a statewide network of more than 1,300 existing members. "A Minnesota Grown membership comes with a lot of benefits," said Member Services Coordinator Karen Lanthier. "All members can use the iconic Minnesota Grown logo and have access to unlimited branded promotional pieces. We also feature members on our website and social media pages every day of the week. Everything we do is to support the farmers, farmers' markets and businesses that make up our membership."

([read more](#))

Minnesota River straining under farming pressure

[Tim Krohn](#),
tkrohn@mankatofreepress.com, Oct 2, 2017

MANKATO — The state's namesake river is straining from a big increase in water flow caused by farm drainage systems, heavy with nitrates that threaten Mankato's drinking water supply and is dumping immense loads of sediment into the Mississippi River. "The biggest problem we have in this river is flow — we have way too much flow and that causes all the other problems," said Wayne Cords, south regional manager with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. As part of its statewide checkup of lakes and streams, the MPCA studied the entire length of the Minnesota River. It released a summary of its finding Monday (pca.state.mn.us/mn-river-study). Cords released the report at Riverfront Park, next to the Minnesota River. Based on recent water monitoring and decades of research, overall the Minnesota River is suffering in water quality. Sediment clouds the water, phosphorus fuels algae growth and nitrogen and bacteria pose health risks. ([read more](#))

Rural transit system offers free rides to urge newcomers to try the bus

[Deanna B Narveson](#), Dec 8, 2017

LE SUEUR — The Minnesota River Valley Transit bus hummed along Highway 169 early Thursday morning speeding toward Mankato from Le Sueur. Frosty trees and fields passed outside the bus windows and three women riding the bus chatted to one another in Spanish. For many of the transit system's regular riders, the bus is their only form of transportation, said Carly Ballman, a driver for MRVT. Pargas said she has worked at a nursing home in Le Sueur for more than 15 years and often uses transit in Le Sueur. The MVRT routes get riders from town to town.

[\(read more\)](#)

Prep work begins soon near New Ulm bridge

[The Free Press](#), [Edie Schmierbach](#), Dec 6, 2017

NEW ULM — Minnesota Department of Transportation crews will soon begin preparations for the 2018 New Ulm Gateway Project. Preliminary winter work for the project on the east side of New Ulm includes clearing trees and brush near the Highway 14 bridge over the Minnesota River. In the spring, construction will begin near the intersection of Highway 14 and Highway 15. The project between North Broadway in New Ulm and Nicollet County Road 21 will include work on a bridge over Front Street. MnDOT's plans for 2019 include the replacement of the Minnesota River Bridge and the construction of a new interchange. Detours will be in place for the 2018 and 2019 projects. [\(read more\)](#)

Outdoors column: Paddlefish, sturgeon are our area's own river monsters

Road salt is polluting our water. Here's how we can fix it

[Amy Skoczlas Cole](#), [Cody Nelson](#) · St. Paul · Dec 6, 2017

Just a teaspoon of road salt pollutes 5 gallons of water — forever. And each winter, Minnesota dumps some 730 million *pounds* of salt on roadways. That's probably far more salt than we need to keep our roads safe. Once snow melts, salt flows into lakes and streams. Once salt is in a body of water, it's nearly impossible to remove. In fact, the only feasible way to clean up salt-contaminated water is through reverse osmosis, which remains too expensive to implement on a large scale. Chloride — the mineral in salt that contaminates waters — is toxic to fish, other aquatic life and birds. It can hurt pets, too. For example, dogs might ingest chloride from melted snow, or it can irritate their paws. And it can become a problem for groundwater. Take [the case of Madison, Wis.](#), where chloride pollution is making drinking water have a salty taste. [\(read more\)](#)

Open for comment: Environmental review of proposed hog lot in Waseca County

By Cathy Rofshus, December 11, 2017

Lamont Swine proposes to build a swine finishing facility about 4 miles southeast of Waterville in Waseca County, housing up to 4,800 hogs. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) is accepting comments on an environmental review of the proposed project through Jan. 10. The new facility in Section 5 of Blooming Grove Township would consist of two total-confinement barns, a manure storage pit, a building for composting carcasses, a permanent stormwater pond, and a well for employee use and livestock watering. The swine would produce about 1.66 million gallons

Scott Mackenthun Special to The Free Press, Nov 11, 2017

Animal Planet's "River Monsters" exposed viewers to some of the world's most mysterious fish. The show's format was to embellish, sometimes cartoonishly, the potential threat the fish of the given episode posed to people in the first half of each program. The second half would follow up with stories about the oftentimes benign biology of the fish, conservation efforts for the species and the host's attempt at catching one on hook and line. With funding from a 2016 Legislative Citizen's Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) grant, principal investigator and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources specialist Tony Sindt sought to learn more about some river monsters in our own local area. ([read more](#))

DeWine calls for tougher action to stop Asian carp

By [Tom Henry](#), December 7, 2017

Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine reiterated his desire for tougher action to stop destructive Asian carp from reaching the Great Lakes on Thursday, telling the Army Corps of Engineers it should close the Brandon Road lock near Joliet, Ill. Mr. DeWine made the recommendation in comments submitted to the Corps about its plan to prevent Asian carp and other exotic species from migrating into Lake Michigan via the Chicago-area shipping and sanitary canal, which artificially connects the Great Lakes to the Mississippi River basin. ([read more](#))

Minnesota Winters Aren't What They Used to Be

MN Environmental

Insider, matthew@mepartnership.org [via](#) [thedatabank.com](#)

of liquid manure annually that would be stored in a reinforced concrete pit, with a total capacity of nearly 1.84 million gallons. The proposers, Landi and Tauston Lamont, would remove the manure once a year for injection into cropland as fertilizer following an MPCA-approved manure management plan. They plan to hire a commercial applicator and expect that manure applications would take less than 5 days each fall. ([read more](#))

Online state breeding bird atlas launched

[Edie Schmierbach](#), Dec 11, 2017

A common loon may know which Minnesota bodies of water are the most popular go-to places for its species, but until recently, the state did not have an up-to-date resource for statistics on where, when and how many wild birds are breeding in the state. The Minnesota Breeding Bird Atlas was launched at mnbirdatlas.org in November. The resource, containing a collection of graphs, interactive maps and other data, is designed for use by naturalists, bird watchers, historians and anyone else interested in avian numbers. Eight organizations, 700 field volunteers, 43 photographers, along with many researchers and a technical review team were behind the efforts to create the website, which lists counties where specific species have been sighted and current details about the abundance of breeding pairs. ([read more](#))

Brining icy roads can save cities serious money — and could help save Minnesota's lakes

[Greta Kaul](#) | 12/06/17

When the weather gets bad — like it did with this week's messy reintroduction to winter — public works crews get to work, scraping up the snow and dropping tons

Minnesotans love to talk about weather. In recent years, winter brings a flurry of conversations about the shortage of frigid days and good old-fashioned snowstorms. The report from nonprofit group [Climate Central](#) shows that winters are warming faster in the Great Lakes and Great Plains than anywhere else in the U.S. In parts of Minnesota, Wisconsin, and northern New England, winters have warmed at an average rate of more than 1 degree per decade since 1970. Mankato and Minneapolis ranked among the fastest warming cities with a 6 degree increase; Fargo is 5.9 degrees warmer and Duluth registered 5.8 degrees warmer.

of salt on roads across Minnesota. The salt is a point of contention. It's pretty good for getting rid of dangerous ice, but it has some nasty side effects: When ice and snow melt, the runoff carries salt into the watershed, where it wreaks havoc on the environment. But winter storms like Monday's leave public works crews without a lot of options — whatever the long-term risk to the environment of using salt, the combination of ice on the roads and commuters represents an immediate risk to public safety. So often, salt it is. In recent years, some Minnesota jurisdictions have adopted a relatively simple method to clear ice from the roads using far less salt, however: treating the roads with brine — a combination of salt and water that prevents ice from forming and helps break it down. ([read more](#))

Events

↓ **Dec 12-Dec 18** ↓

Project WET Teacher Workshop

Friday, December 15th 9am-3pm

Location: Whitewater State Park, 3 miles south of Elba on State Hwy. 74.

Brief Description: Come get your feet WET and enjoy the beauty of the Whitewater Valley as you explore Project WET! Discover how you can use these valuable tools to teach others the importance of healthy watersheds. Join us as we explore the amazing world of water, nature as we make those connections. Explore through inquiry as you take home ideas which will engage your audiences! Fulfill your standards requirements, learn a new lesson, meet new people and enjoy nature at its finest! \$35 per participant.

Contact Sara Holger at sara.holger@state.mn.us to request a registration form.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Christmas Bird Count

Saturday, December 16th 8:30am-4:30pm

Location: Ney Nature Center
28238 Nature Center Ln, Henderson, MN 56044

Brief Description: Help the Ney Nature Center to record resident and migratory bird statistics. Count from home or join us at the Education Building between 8:30am and 4:30pm. Contact [Michelle](#) or click [here](#) for more details. All Ages.

FREE!

Pre-registration is not required for this event.

Click [here](#) for more information.



Winter Ecology

Saturday, December 16th 1-2pm

Location: Fort Snelling State Park On Post Rd. off State Hwy. 5, just west of MSP International Airport.

Brief Description: Get out of hibernation and come out to Fort Snelling state Park to see who is active. Join the Naturalist and search through the trails of the park's winter wonderland for wildlife. See their interaction among each other and their surroundings. Dress for the weather and meet at the Thomas C. Savage Visitor Center. No registration required.

Free, but a state park permit is required on each vehicle (\$7/day pass or \$35 annual pass. Available at park office upon entry to park)

Meet at Thomas C Savage Visitor Center (two miles from park entrance. Plan for an additional 10 minute drive through the park).

Click [here](#) for more information.

Winter Geocaching

Saturday, December 16th 12:30-2pm

Location: Whitewater State Park

Brief Description: Enjoy a high-tech treasure hunt in winter! After a short indoor presentation, we'll venture out into the park to find a hidden cache. If there is enough snow, we'll snowshoe. Bring your own snowshoes or use the parks. Whitewater State Park.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Ice Sculpting Contest

Saturday, December 16th 5-10pm

Location: Kiwanis Lights, Mankato

Brief Description: Ice Sculptors compete.

Click [here](#) for more information.

↓ Dec 19-Dec 25 ↓

Ney Senior Learning Series: American Bison

Thursday, December 21st 12-1:30pm

Location: Ney Nature Center 28238 Nature Center Ln, Henderson, MN 56044

Brief Description: Learn about the largest mammal in Minnesota, the American Bison, with local Minneopa Area Naturalist, Scott Kudelka. Lunch included. NSLS programs conducted on the third Thursday of each month. Ages 50+ \$10/member or \$12/non-member



[Register online](#) by December 14th! Reservations required.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Ice Luminaries 101

Saturday, December 23rd 10-11am

Location: Fort Snelling State Park, On Post Rd. off State Hwy. 5, just west of MSP International Airport.

Brief Description: The season of candlelit walks is nearly upon us! If you've joined us for a walk in the past you may remember our beautiful ice luminaries and have wondered, "How do they make them?" Here's your chance to learn how to make these simple, but beautiful, ice sculptures. No supplies needed for this program. No registration required.

Free, but a state park permit is required on each vehicle (\$7/day pass or \$35 annual pass. Available at park office upon entry to park)

Meet at Thomas C Savage Visitor Center (two miles from park entrance. Plan for an additional 10 minute drive through the park).

Click [here](#) for more information.

↓ Dec 26-Dec 31 ↓

Winter Explorers Camp

Wednesday & Thursday, December 27-28th 9am-4pm

Location: Ney Nature Center 28238 Nature Center Ln, Henderson, MN 56044

Brief Description: Winter Break doesn't have to be a bore! Snowshoeing, snow-forts, nature crafts, and more! Ages 6-12.

\$50/member or \$60/non-member

[Register online](#) by December 20th! Reservations required.

Click [here](#) for more information.

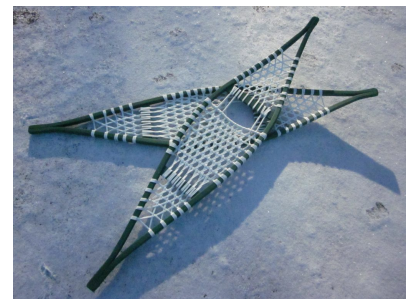
SCOUTS ONLY: Snowshoeing After Dark

Friday, December 29th 6-7:30pm

Location: Ney Nature Center 28238 Nature Center Ln, Henderson, MN 56044

Brief Description: Embark on a guided snowshoe hike while learning about local wildlife and history. Supervisory adults may attend for free. Ages 7-17.

\$5/scout



[Register online](#) by December 27th! Reservations required.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Family Snowshoeing

Saturday, December 30th 10-11:30am

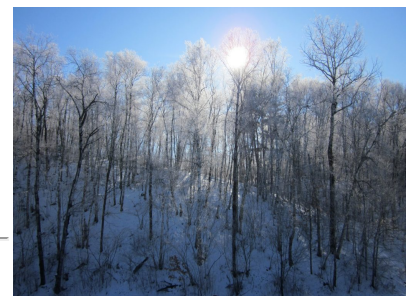
Location: Ney Nature Center 28238 Nature Center Ln, Henderson, MN 56044

Brief Description: Embark on a guided snowshoe hike while learning about local wildlife and history. Youth under 14 must attend with a registered adult. Ages 7+

\$3/member or \$5/non-member; \$9/member family of 3+ or \$15/non-member family of 3+

[Register online](#) by December 28th! Reservations required.

Click [here](#) for more information.



Midwinter Bluegrass Concert

Saturday, December 30th 7-9pm

Location: Ney Nature Center 28238 Nature Center Ln, Henderson, MN 56044

Brief Description: Enjoy a selection of bluegrass music performed by Dick Kimmel and Pamela Longtine. Light snacks and refreshments will be available for purchase. All Ages.



\$8/member or \$10/non-member; \$24/member family of 3+ or \$30/non-member family of 3+

[Register online](#) by December 28th! Remaining tickets will be sold at the door.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Beavers in Winter

Saturday, December 30th 10am-12pm

Location: Whitewater State Park, 3 miles south of Elba on State Hwy. 74.

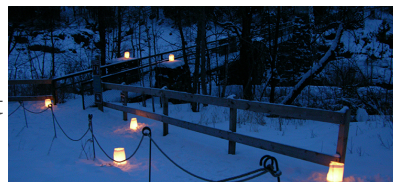
Brief Description: Come learn how beavers survive the long winters. After a short indoor presentation, we'll hike to look for beaver signs in the park.

Click [here](#) for more information.

New Year's Eve Candlelight Walk

Sunday, December 31st 4-8pm

Location: Fort Snelling State Park, On Post Rd. off State Hwy. 5, just west of MSP International Airport.



Brief Description: Grab your family, pack your hat and mittens, and throw on your long-johns for a fun family-friendly New Year's celebration in the park.

Hike miles of candle-lit trails, warm up at one of several roaring bonfires, toast marshmallows and more! Please join us for a fun and unique way to celebrate 2017 and ring in 2018! Family friendly activities include:

- A Story Stroll: Hike from page to page and enjoy the unique experience of reading "If You Were the Moon" by Laura Purdie Salas along a candle-lit trail. (Hosted by the Nokomis Library.)

- Check back for more activities!

No registration required.

Free. A state park permit is required on each vehicle (\$7/day pass or \$35 annual pass. Available at park office upon entry to park)

Click [here](#) for more information.

Job Announcements

—Fisheries Specialist—

Employer: Department of Natural Resources

Closing Date: December 14

Location(s): Waterville MN

Who May Apply: All qualified job seekers

Primary Purpose:

This position exists to implement, evaluate, and report on fisheries management activities, which result in the protection, enhancement, or maintenance of aquatic habitats and fisheries resources in the Waterville Management Area.

Area fisheries resources include several private aquaculture businesses and bait dealers, 3 inland commercial fishermen, 25 sportsmen's clubs, 16 lake associations and 10 watershed groups.

Approximately 250,000 people use the surface water resources of the seven-county Waterville area for fishing, boating and other recreational uses.

Natural Resources Specialist - Fisheries positions perform professional fisheries management work, acting as a project leader for technicians and laborers involved in the implementation of a variety of professional and technical field management projects and activities; may function as project specialist on efforts devoted to fisheries management operations on a single major lake, or function as a technical specialist within a region.

These duties include:

- Design, implementation, and supervision of projects.
- Coordinate lake and stream investigations so assessments are completed and data is available for management planning by advising the area supervisor on scope of survey, scheduling surveys, collecting data, analyzing results, formulating conclusions, and writing reports.
- Coordinate production and distribution of fish species, assist area supervisor in determining stocking program parameters, implement egg taking and hatchery programs, assess and acquire fish rearing ponds, distribute fry, harvest and distribute fingerlings.
- Develop and coordinate a public relations program to educate and inform the public by encouraging cooperation with projects, providing information on project parameters, consulting on problems, making presentations, and writing explanatory material.
- Maintain or oversee maintenance of hatchery equipment, construct or repair equipment, and recommend needed equipment and materials.
- Design and implement habitat improvement projects, evaluate existing habitat, design methods for improving habitat, and supervise crews working on habitat projects.
- Monitor the use of aquatic pesticides, evaluate permit requests, supervise pesticide applications, and investigate violations of laws regarding pesticide use.
- Direct the work of laborers, technicians and clerks, determine priorities, assign work, evaluate work, purchase materials, inform staff of developments, and recommend training.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Bachelor's Degree in biology, fisheries, fish and wildlife, or closely associated area required. See the **"How to Apply"** section below for coursework requirements.
- Ability to maintain and operate equipment, such as boats, motors, trailers, etc.
- A thorough knowledge of sampling techniques, applications, and scientific equipment.
- Writing skills sufficient to draft professional lake management plans, technical reports, letters, etc.
- Oral communication skills sufficient to inform the public and provide general information on fishing seasons and regulations.
- Ability to work in adverse weather and environmental conditions.
- Computer literacy, including knowledge of databases, spreadsheets, and word processing.

Preferred Qualifications:

- Communications and public relations skills including experience giving oral presentation to diverse groups of stakeholders.
- Skills and experience using GIS/GPS hardware and software.
- Experience with creel survey design and analysis.
- Background and experience with warm water/coldwater stream survey and assessment techniques and stream morphology, a familiarity with stream rehabilitation techniques and stream habitat improvement.
- Technical experience in fish management and/or fish propagation.
- Lead work experience.

Click [here](#) for more information

—Urban Outreach Coordinator—

Employer: Department of Natural Resources

Closing Date: December 19

Location(s): St. Paul MN

Who May Apply: All qualified job seekers

Primary Purpose:

The Division of Parks and Trails is currently seeking a full time temporary unclassified Urban Outreach Coordinator to work with the rich network of partners and multicultural communities in the greater Twin Cities area. Efforts will help connect people to the outdoors, increase and diversify participation in outdoor recreation, and promote inclusive visitation at all state park and trail units throughout the state. This position plays a key role in accelerating the division's equity goals by strengthening existing partnerships and establishing new relationships. The focus of work will enhance visitor and staff populations that better reflect the demographics of an increasingly diverse Minnesota. At the confluence of the Mississippi and Minnesota Rivers, Fort Snelling is itself a diverse hub that brings together abundant elements of natural, cultural, historical and future significance. This position

will help promote Minnesota's only urban state park as a unique gateway to the entire state outdoor recreation system.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Three years' experience in engaging multicultural audiences and fostering meaningful relationships that advance the equity and inclusion goals of an organization. A Bachelor's degree in Communications, Public Relations, Marketing, Natural Resources or closely related field may substitute for one year of experience.
- Demonstrated experience in project management including project planning, organization, and implementation.
- Highly developed human relation skills and cultural competencies to effectively work with diverse interests.
- Ability to review, interpret, and present data to recommend appropriate communication, advertising, and marketing strategies.
- Strong communication skills sufficient to prepare and present reports and ideas to promote workforce diversity and effectively communicate with a wide variety of people.
- High level of organizational skills with an ability to prioritize, coordinate and manage multiples tasks and projects.
- Proficient in the use of word processing, presentation, and spreadsheet software such as Word, PowerPoint and Excel.

Preferred Qualifications:

- A Bachelor's degree in Communications, Public Relations, Marketing, Natural Resources or closely related field may substitute for one year of experience.
- Demonstrated success in working with multicultural communities to collaboratively design, develop, and deliver programs that meet program goals.
- Fluent in a second language sufficient to provide support to the diverse communities of Minnesota.
- Successful participation in the State of Minnesota Star of the North Fellowship program.
- Active participation and experience with outdoor recreation activities.
- Familiarity with Minnesota's network of outdoor recreation opportunities
- Knowledge of DNR programs, policies and procedures.
- Knowledge of local, state and federal environmental laws, regulations and policies related to the conservation of natural resources.

Click [here](#) for more information

—Watershed Conservation Planner Project Coordinator (Temporary)—

Employer: Board of Water and Soil Resources

Closing Date: December 21

Location(s): Various

Who May Apply: All qualified job seekers

Primary Purpose:

Build, manage, implement, and evaluate a watershed scale resource assessment and conservation planning project in seven designated major watersheds in Minnesota in partnership through a formal contribution agreement with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and the MN Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Work to bring dedicated conservation resource assessments and conservation planning to private landowners in seven major watersheds through a coordinated program of watershed evaluation, landowner outreach, targeted field scale resource assessments and conservation planning, evaluation, and reporting.

Responsible for assuring that soil and water conservation district resource assessments and conservation planning with private landowners are successfully integrated with state, federal and private organization initiatives to accelerate the implementation of conservation cropping systems and conservation practices necessary to accelerate progress towards achieving watershed conservation and water quality goals.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree plus three years of advanced professional experience, OR an equivalent combination of post-secondary training, education and experience, that demonstrates knowledge, skills and abilities in the following areas soil and water conservation, watershed management, water quality practices, or closely-related technical field.
- Knowledge of and experience in the structure, organizational procedures and inter-organizational dynamics of soil and water conservation districts and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills that include the ability to explain technical and/or programmatic matters to the local government staff and officials.
- Requires a Class D Driver's License: a single unit vehicle with a gross vehicle weight of less than 26,000 pounds. This is a basic driver's license. Operators may also tow vehicles/trailers as long as the gross combination weight does not exceed 26,000 pounds.

Preferred Qualifications:

- Experience working for or with soil and water conservation districts.
- Procedural understanding of the grant and reporting programs administered by the Board of Water and Soil Resources.
- Knowledge and application conservation planning steps and activities, utilizing Resource Stewardship Evaluation Tool (RSET) following NPPH up to step 7 of NRCS Conservation Planning Process of NRCS.

Click [here](#) for more information

—Contract Specialist—

Employer: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Closing Date: December 26

Location(s): St. Paul MN

Who May Apply: All qualified job seekers

Primary Purpose:

The incumbents will develop and administer agency wide Request for Proposals (RFP's), Professional Technical Contracts, and Grants, under limited supervision. They will work with program staff to define the scope of work and incorporate technical requirements into the contracts; will complete all contracts forms and documentation associated with the development of a contract; lead and negotiate the contract; research and problem-solve contract related issues and questions to help ensure contracts are appropriate in compliance with contract requirements. The incumbent will also assist in identifying opportunities for continuous improvements to contract/grants processes.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Two years of professional grants and/or contract development experience is required.
- Professional experience includes Experience working with professional technical contracting, grants, or similar contracting experience.
- Experience working with a competitive solicitation processes.
- Experience interacting with recipients, provide guidance and agree upon required resources of Contracts/Grants.

Preferred Qualifications:

- Computer skills sufficient to create reports, spreadsheets, analysis, databases, and correspondence.
- Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with their business partners and possess good problem solving skills to ensure contract/grants are initiated in a timely manner.
- Ability to work effectively as a team member; carry out work assignments in a timely manner; identify issues, resolve disputes, and recommend solutions to ensure contracts/grants are initiated in a timely manner.

Click [here](#) for more information

-State Policy Community Organizer-

Employer: Land Stewardship Project

Closing Date: January 1st

Location(s): Minneapolis

Who May Apply: All qualified job seekers

General Description:

LSP is seeking to hire an experienced community organizer to help advance our work for stewardship of the land and a just farm and food system. The position will focus on mobilizing farmers, rural



**LAND
STEWARDSHIP
PROJECT**

residents and others to build power and mount public pressure for stewardship and justice in Minnesota's farm and food system through winning state policies that rein in corporate concentration in agriculture, and that support a sustainable, family farm-based food and agriculture system.

Responsibilities:

You will work as part of LSP's Policy and Organizing Program as a community organizer on advancing campaigns and policy initiatives to win farm and food policy beneficial to the land, family farmers, and rural and urban communities. This position will focus on advancing policy goals at the state level. This work includes recruiting new LSP members with a focus on farmers and rural residents, and assist in grassroots fundraising and individual giving efforts.

For more information click ([here](#))

-Water Resource Specialist-

Employer: Waseca County

Closing Date: Continuous

Location(s): Waseca

Who May Apply: All qualified job seekers

Job Summary:

Under direct supervision of the Planning and Zoning Administrator, the Water Resource Specialist assists in the development and implementation of natural resource-related plans; monitors and interprets natural resource-related rules, policies and statutes; prepares applications and manages grants and grant-funded projects; provides technical and other information to public and local partners; represents Waseca County with external partners, agencies, groups and regulatory entities; enforces the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA); investigates nuisances; provides technical information to local officials and the public; administers aquatic invasive species (AIS) prevention programs; and performs other duties as apparent or assigned.

Responsibilities:

- Assist in the development and implementation of natural resource-related plans. Develop goals, objectives and actions to achieve natural resources goals of the County. Prepare and maintains natural resource-related plans as needed or required.
- Identify and work with internal and external stakeholders. Work with local, state and federal agencies.
- Identify grants and other funding opportunities and strategies for projects, programs and partnerships. Prepare applications and manages grants and grant-funded projects.
- Provide technical assistance to the public and local partners. Reviews research.
- Prepare communications to inform the public on programs and requirements. Prepare and presents information to groups.
- Represent Waseca County with external partners, agencies, regulatory entities, committees, task forces, etc.
- Review construction plans and permit applications for compliance with wetland requirements.

- Administer the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA). Decides on wetland conservation determinations. Review wetland applications and issues wetland restoration orders. Coordinates with County, state and federal agencies on wetland issues.
- Review erosion and sediment control permits for compliances with code requirements and procedures.
- Coordinate the County Wetland Inspection program. Conduct inspections regarding wetland issues and investigations. Perform inspections regarding nuisance complaints involving wetland issues.
- Resolve wetland issues with contractors and the public. Maintain open communication with contractors. Work with contractors to resolve code violations, works with property owner to resolve wetland issues and explains rules and changes to owners and contractors.
- Perform technical services such as taking soil samples, preparing reports and making recommendations regarding land use to various departments and agencies. Assist in developing ordinances and amendments to ordinances.
- Assist with the administration of the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA). Collect fees for services, maintains records, prepares annual reports to the Board of Soil and Water Conservation (BSWR) and act as the primary liaison to the agency.
- Develop and coordinate with additional departments and agencies, the aquatic invasive species (AIS) prevention programs.
- Perform physical demands and work environment requirements for this position.
- Effective and respectful communication and interactions with other employees, supervisors, individuals for other organizations and citizen customers.
- Attendance during regularly scheduled work hours and outside regular hours as necessary.

Minimum Qualifications:

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: • Bachelor's degree in physical/biological sciences, soil science, geology, hydrology, engineering, environmental health science or related field. • At least one (1) year experience in the environmental field or related. ALTERNATE MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: • Combination of education and experience equivalent to the minimum qualifications

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS: • Experience with a planning or environmental/natural resources agency. • Experience working with multi-jurisdictional groups involving regional programs. • Certified Wetland Delineator and/or training in Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) requirements.

For more information click [here](#)

Quote for the week



In Kenya women are the first victims of environmental degradation, because they are the ones who walk for hours looking for water, who fetch firewood, who provide food for their families.

— Wangari Maathai —

AZ QUOTES

Wangari Maathai

Compiled by:

Nhia Xiong, Bipin Thapa, Serena Miller, Abrielle Tembreull & Colin Winterrowd

Please direct all feedback, comments, and questions regarding this newsletter's content and design [here](#).

Thank you!



WATER RESOURCES CENTER
MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY, MANKATO



Share



Tweet



Forward

Copyright © *|CURRENT_YEAR|* *|LIST:COMPANY|*, All rights reserved.
|IFNOT:ARCHIVE_PAGE| *|LIST:DESCRIPTION|*

Our mailing address is:

|HTML:LIST_ADDRESS_HTML| *|END:IF|*

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)

|IF:REWARDS| *|HTML:REWARDS|* *|END:IF|*

