

# LOWER ST. CROIX — COMPREHENSIVE WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN

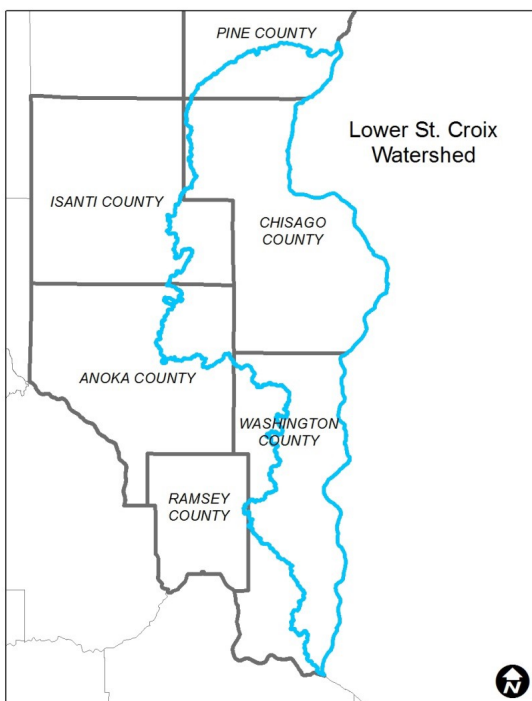
On November 18, 2020, the Chisago County Board of Commissioners approved the new ten-year Lower St. Croix Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan and Chisago County Local Priorities Appendix! The new plan will replace the former Chisago County Local Water Management Plan that was set to expire in September of 2023.

Since 2017, 16 local government partners worked together through a “One Watershed, One Plan” (1W1P) process to develop the plan to protect and restore important, or priority natural resources in the Lower St. Croix watershed over the next ten years.

Through the 1W1P process, the sixteen partners worked together to combine their own water plans to create one new plan based on the boundary of the Lower St. Croix watershed, as the flow of water does not follow a county or a city boundary line. Working together on projects benefits the entire watershed and saves money by maximizing staff efficiency. The new plan is also eligible to receive targeted state funds to complete projects.

The Lower St. Croix Partners will receive \$1,264,531 in State Watershed Based Implementation Funding to implement projects identified in the Lower St. Croix Work Plan for years 2021-2022. The Work Plan includes ten Grant Activities with their own grant amounts and activity descriptions. Chisago County is the Lead agency for Activity 7: Internal Analyses, which has a grant amount of \$50,000 to calculate the internal loading of phosphorus on two lakes in the watershed estimated at \$25,000 each.

## Map of Lower St. Croix Watershed



The Lower St. Croix watershed includes parts of Chisago, Isanti, Anoka, Pine and Washington counties. The area has 127 lakes, 152,000 acres of wetlands and more than 1,000 miles of rivers, streams and ditches.

The new plan seeks to improve the numerous lakes and streams, the St. Croix River, and the quality of groundwater in the watershed. It also strives to protect and restore upland and wetland habitat and provide technical assistance to landowners.

For more information on the Lower St. Croix 1W1P, visit [www.LSC1w1p.org](http://www.LSC1w1p.org).

## Partners:

- Anoka Soil and Water Conservation District
- Brown’s Creek Watershed District
- Carnelian Marine St. Croix Watershed District
- Chisago County
- Chisago Lakes Lake Improvement District
- Chisago Soil & Water Conservation District
- Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District
- Isanti County
- Isanti Soil & Water Conservation District
- Middle St. Croix Watershed Management Organization
- Minnesota Board of Soil & Water Resources
- Pine County
- Pine Soil & Water Conservation District
- South Washington Watershed District
- Sunrise River Watershed Management Organization
- Washington County
- Washington Conservation District

