

Upper Rum River Watershed Management Organization

MEDIA RELEASE

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Date: April 29, 2016

Rum River, Lakes Management Planning Underway

The Rum River, Lake George and Seelye Brook are a few of the waterbodies receiving new management plans in the coming months. Residents interested water quality, aquatic invasive species, flooding and environmental health are invited to contribute to the process. Both local and regional plans are taking shape.

At the local level, the Upper Rum River Watershed Management Organization (URRWMO) is updating its 10-year management plan. The URRWMO was jointly formed by the cities of Bethel, East Bethel, Nowthen, St. Francis, Oak Grove and Ham Lake to manage water issues, including those that tend to flow across city boundaries. It sets consistent minimum regulatory standards across the cities, monitors water quality and may coordinate projects to address problems. The URRWMO will be considering its role relative to cities, as well as its participation in regional management.

At the regional level, the State is funding a Rum River Watershed Restoration and Protection Plan (WRAPP), which encompasses the watershed from Lake Mille Lacs to Anoka. Lakes and streams draining to the river are included. Each county's soil and water conservation district is serving as a key point of contact in this planning effort. The plan will include how to keep good water quality and address problems.

Lake George and the Rum River are likely to get substantial attention locally. Lake George is a regional attraction with good, but declining water quality. Addressing that decline is likely to be a priority. The Rum River has good water quality and is a state scenic and recreational river which many want to protect.

The URRWMO is planning an open house June 29 at 7pm at Oak Grove City Hall. Residents are invited to share their input on priorities for the next ten years. More information is at www.URRWMO.org.

The regional Rum River WRAPP will be holding several opportunities for input between now and the end of the year. Notices of these meetings and draft documents for public review will be posted www.AnokaSWCD.org under the "projects" tab, or contact Jamie Schurbon at 763-434-2030 ext. 12 or jamie.schurbon@anokaswcd.org.

Rum River near St. Francis



Rum River Watershed Map

