

# UPPER RUM RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

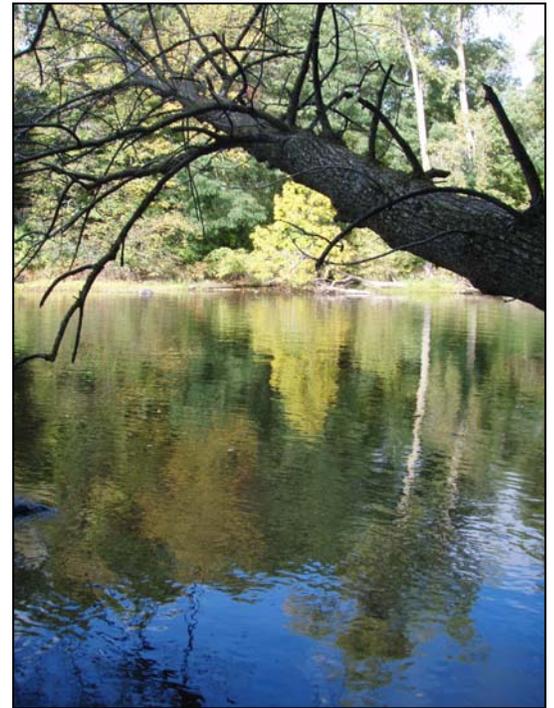
monitors rivers, lakes, and  
offers grants to residents

The Upper Rum River Watershed Management Organization (URRWMO) was formed through a joint powers agreement of cities in northern Anoka County that drain to the Rum River, including Bethel, East Bethel, Ham Lake, Nowthen, Oak Grove, and St. Francis. The URRWMO is a special purpose unit of government aimed at managing water – lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands, and groundwater. State law requires local watershed organizations throughout the seven-county metro. The need for these organizations comes from the nature of watersheds. Water does not stop at city boundaries, and no one city can effectively manage it alone. Representatives from each member city are on the URRWMO Board.

The URRWMO area is blessed with high quality water bodies. This stretch of the Rum River is designated as a state Scenic and Recreational Waterway. Lake George and East Twin Lakes have some of the clearest water in Anoka County. Smaller waterways like Cedar Creek, Ford Brook, Seelye Brook, and numerous wetlands are important too.

The URRWMO monitors lakes and streams on a rotating basis in order to identify trends and problems, and to guide future projects. In 2008 Lake George and East Twin Lake were monitored. This year, the Rum

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Rum River

River will be the focus. The river will be monitored at the top (northern St. Francis) and bottom (southern Oak Grove) of the watershed to see how the river's water quality changes within our cities. Other agencies will be doing monitoring of the Rum River upstream and downstream too.

Ultimately, we are all responsible for caring for lakes and rivers. Understanding that we all benefit when water quality is improved or protected, the URRWMO offers grants to encourage water quality projects on private property. Cost share grants are available to landowners for projects that will improve water quality, such as by correcting erosion, filtering stormwater runoff, and/or restoring native vegetation adjacent to a lakes and streams. The grants are competitive, and the highest ranking projects will be those that will most directly benefit a public waterbody. Applications are accepted at any time on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Grants cover 50-70% of project materials. Remaining costs and labor are the responsibility of the landowner. The Anoka Conservation District (ACD) offers free on-site consultations to landowners about water quality projects and can assist with project design. The grants are also administered through the Anoka Conservation District. Contact Jamie Schurbon at the Anoka Conservation District at 763-434-2030 extension 12.

More information about the URRWMO can be found on their website at [www.AnokaNaturalResources.com/urrwmo](http://www.AnokaNaturalResources.com/urrwmo). Citizens are welcome to attend URRWMO meetings. Remaining 2009 meetings will be May 5, August 4, and November 10 at 7:00 p.m. at the Oak Grove City Hall.



**A lakeshore restoration with native plants that filters runoff, provides fish and wild habitat, and looks beautiful.**