

JULY 2017

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Aquatic Macroinvertebrates

Let's go on a search for water quality indicators living in the local streams! Two sessions offered.

July 20, 1pm-4pm
Seagull Lake
Community Center

August 19, 9am-12pm
Cook County
Community Center

Shoreline Workshop

Learn the benefits of native vegetated buffers for reduced shoreline erosion.

Hands-on learning opportunity!

August 24
Time & Location TBD

MORE INFO:

Cook Soil & Water
Conservation District
Cook Co. Courthouse
218-387-3647
www.cookswcd.org

What does LOCAL CONSERVATION look like?

A great indicator of stream health is to find out what is inhabiting the water. Cook SWCD staff will join with Karen Kobey, a benthic macroinvertebrate enthusiast, to offer hands-on educational opportunities about the bugs living in streams and how they relate to water quality. After a classroom presentation, participants will take to the water with kick nets, dish pans, ice cube trays and identification charts and start to search for bugs. In past sessions, kids and adults alike were found wading in the cool water and elated to find a "big one!" Giant stonefly nymphs were the prized find, but groups also identified mayfly nymphs, riffle beetles, caddisfly and dragonfly larva among others in the stream. Come along for an adventure this summer to learn and search for water quality indicators living in the stream.



A peek into the Flute Reed River Watershed

Karen Evens, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

The nine mile long Flute Reed River is nestled in the East end of Cook County. The watershed for the river is 16.4 square miles. It is one of the most privately owned watersheds in the County.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency has described it as a priority watershed. This attention reflects many elements of the river: the way it influences Chicago Bay habitat and life, its role as a quality trout fishery, its scenic beauty to the community. In spring, excellent steelhead runs draw fishermen to the rocky canyons. During periods of drought, the river loses volume and will not reach Lake Superior at all.

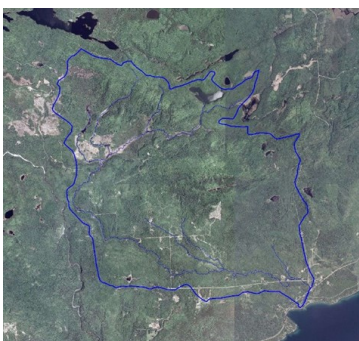
This summer and fall, the local community, Flute Reed Partnership and staff from SWCD and MPCA will complete a pollutant budget report for the Flute Reed. The report is specific to the problem of sediment. Safe sediment targets will be calculated, stressors that cause sediment problems identified, and a future actions list developed.

One major stressor, clay river banks, are a problem with water quality as they become unstable and deposit too much sediment into the water. Because of this extra sediment, the river does not meet water quality standards. Insects and fish are also affected; they have less food and habitat for survival.

To help reduce sediment in the river, Cook SWCD recently worked with five watershed landowners. The landowners agreed to stabilize eroding banks on their riverbank property. The projects used natural channel design to create the project elements and define how the river will be improved. The process uses natural materials such as tree roots, tree plantings, and connecting the river back to a flood plain. A video of the process can be found on the Cook County website's YouTube link.

For more information:

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Flute Reed River Watershed

RUSTY CRAYFISH A NASTY INVADER

JULY 2017

The majority of invasive species in Minnesota are native to Europe and Asia. However, rusty crayfish are native to the Ohio River Basin and spread by non-resident anglers using them as bait.



Photo: J. Gunderson

IDENTIFICATION

NAME: RUSTY

Red spot on sides of carapace

Oval-shaped gap on closed claw

Black bands on tip of claws

IMPACTS CAUSED BY RUSTY CRAYFISH

Displace native crayfish

Reduce quantity and quality of aquatic vegetation

INFESTATIONS IN COOK COUNTY

Gull Lake,
Hungry Jack Lake,
Pigeon River, Pike Lake,
Saganaga Lake,
West Bearskin Lake

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

LEARN to recognize native crayfish from Rustys

CLEAN plants and animals from recreational gear

NEVER release plants or animals

REPORT potential infestations

EAT! have a rusty crayfish boil

NATIVE CRAYFISH IDENTIFICATION

NORTHERN CLEARWATER

Claws with black band at tip, similar to Rusty, but no red spot on side of carapace

Dark wedge-shaped marking down abdomen



Photo: C. Taylor

VIRILE

Narrow claws that close without gaps, no black band on tip

Claws have small white bumps and may have blue tint



Photo: I. Gardiner

FREE

SELF-SERVE

BOAT WASH

North Shore Car Wash
400 West Highway 61

Offering FREE self-serve boat wash abilities with 110°F water. Stop into NAPA during business hours to receive \$5.00 towards washing your watercraft.

HOURS:

North Shore Car Wash
400 West Highway 61

7 days a week
8 am – 7 pm

NAPA Auto Parts
404 West Highway 61

Monday – Friday
7:30 am – 5:30 pm
Saturday
8 am – 3 pm

COOK COUNTY



MINNESOTA

MORE INFO:

Cook County
Aquatic Invasive Species
Coordinator,
Amanda Weberg
cookcountyais@gmail.com

Spread the word, not the species!