



MINNEHAHA CREEK
WATERSHED DISTRICT
QUALITY OF WATER, QUALITY OF LIFE

SUBSURFACE SEWAGE TREATMENT SYSTEM COST SHARE PROGRAM

Working together for clean water

The Minnehaha Creek Watershed District offers grants to landowners for the voluntary replacement of failing septic systems throughout the watershed.

Among the criteria considered:

- Improves and protects water quality
- Priority given to direct discharge of untreated sewage
- Proximity to a water body
- Voluntary replacement
- Located in the MCWD
- Incorporates outreach

About MCWD:

Minnehaha Creek Watershed District is a local unit of government that manages and protects the water resources in the 181 square miles that drains to Lake Minnetonka, the Minneapolis Chain of Lakes, and Minnehaha Creek.

WHY IS GOOD SEWAGE TREATMENT NECESSARY?

Surface or ground water that's contaminated with sewage poses health risks for humans, pets and wildlife. Inadequate sewage treatment allows disease-causing pathogens including bacteria and viruses to enter the water, making it unsafe for consumption or recreation.

Sewage that's not adequately treated can raise nitrate levels in groundwater. Infants, pregnant women and adults with compromised immune systems are at special risk of developing problems from drinking water with high concentrations of nitrate.

Failing subsurface sewage treatment systems (SSTS), also known as septic systems, can contribute to algae and plant growth in nearby lakes and streams and adversely impact recreation and habitat for fish and wildlife.

WHY DO SEPTIC SYSTEMS FAIL?

A key element in the successful treatment of wastewater is the quality of the soil beneath the SSTS. In a properly designed system, microorganisms in the soil treat the impurities in the septic tank effluent before it reaches the groundwater. However, saturated soil conditions and some contaminants could make such treatment inadequate.



SSTS COST SHARE GRANT DETAILS:

Grants of up to \$2,000 will be issued to landowners for replacement of failing septic systems

The system must be on land within the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District

The decision to replace a failing septic system must be voluntary

SSTS that are identified as failing by a compliance inspection related to a property transfer, complaint or building permit are not eligible

Contact us:

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Learn more:

"Septic Systems Owner's Guide"
extension.umn.edu

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
www.pca.state.mn.us

Hennepin County
hennepin.us/septic

Carver County Environmental Services
www.co.carver.mn.us



MINNEHAHA CREEK
WATERSHED DISTRICT

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REVIEW PROCESS:

- MCWD Staff will review proposals for consistency with program goals and criteria
- Proposals then will be forwarded to a subcommittee of the MCWD Citizens Advisory Committee, which will recommend approval or denial
- Grants will be issued based on MCWD staff and CAC recommendations

STEWARDSHIP:

Many of our daily activities can impact the surface and groundwater we depend on for consumption, recreation and fish and wildlife habitat. Proper sewage treatment will protect these invaluable resources and ourselves from contaminants.

It is everyone's responsibility to treat wastewater. Residents who don't have access to municipal water treatment systems must take steps to properly operate and maintain the individual systems on their property.