

Crow Wing County Water Plan News

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Summer Edition

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To Protect, Preserve, & Improve Water Resources in Crow Wing County



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Phase IV of Lakeshore Impervious Surface Study Completed

By Mitch Brinks

Water is Crow Wing County's lifeblood. The county has an area of 731,000 acres and approximately 102,000 acres (14%) is covered by over 550 scenic lakes, rivers, and streams. An additional 26% is covered by wetlands as well. The abundance of surface water makes Crow Wing County a destination location.

From 1990 to 2000 the population in Crow Wing County increased by 24.5%, the 11th fastest growth county of Minnesota's 87. The most recent census shows the population continued to grow another 13.4% from 2000 to 2010. The majority of the growth is concentrated around the deep, clear, recreational lakes where seasonal cabins are being replaced with larger year-round homes.

in 2012 (1000+ acre lakes), 2013 (500-1000 acre lakes), & 2014 (lakes only within the city of Crosslake). Phase IV included 400-500 acre lakes and the remainder of 500+ acre lakes in municipal areas, such as Baxter, Crosby, Deerwood, and Nisswa.

The average percentage of impervious surface coverage was calculated on a total of approximately 60 Crow Wing County Lakes. The average impervious surface coverage by lake was calculated by summing the total impervious for all riparian lots on the lake and then dividing by the total lot area. The average impervious ranged from just under 1% (Big Bird Lake) to over 20% (Gull Lake, Crow Wing County portion only), with

Crow Wing County

To View the Impervious Study Online:

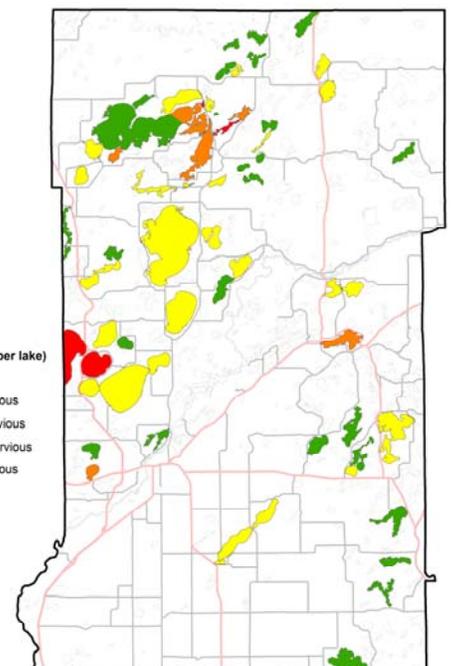
<http://www.crowwing.us/925/Lakeshore-Impervious-Surface-Research-St>

County revised its Land Use Ordinance in 2011. This ordinance placed added performance standards based on the amount of impervious surfaces per lot. Applicants are required to implement a storm water management plan if the riparian lot exceeds 15% impervious surface coverage. The ordinance prohibits more than 25% impervious surface coverage in the shoreland district.

The scope of the impervious coverage research project was on riparian parcels on the County's larger lakes (generally 400+ acres). The percent of impervious surfaces for each lot was calculated by using high resolution Lidar and aerial photography in ESRI's ArcMap Geographic Information System (GIS) software.

The project is in its fourth phase with previous phases conducted

the median value being 5.4%. The list of results are listed on the next page. An overall summary map is below.



Crow Wing County

Local Comprehensive Water Plan



2013 - 2023



The 2013—2023 Crow Wing Water Plan is available to view online at:

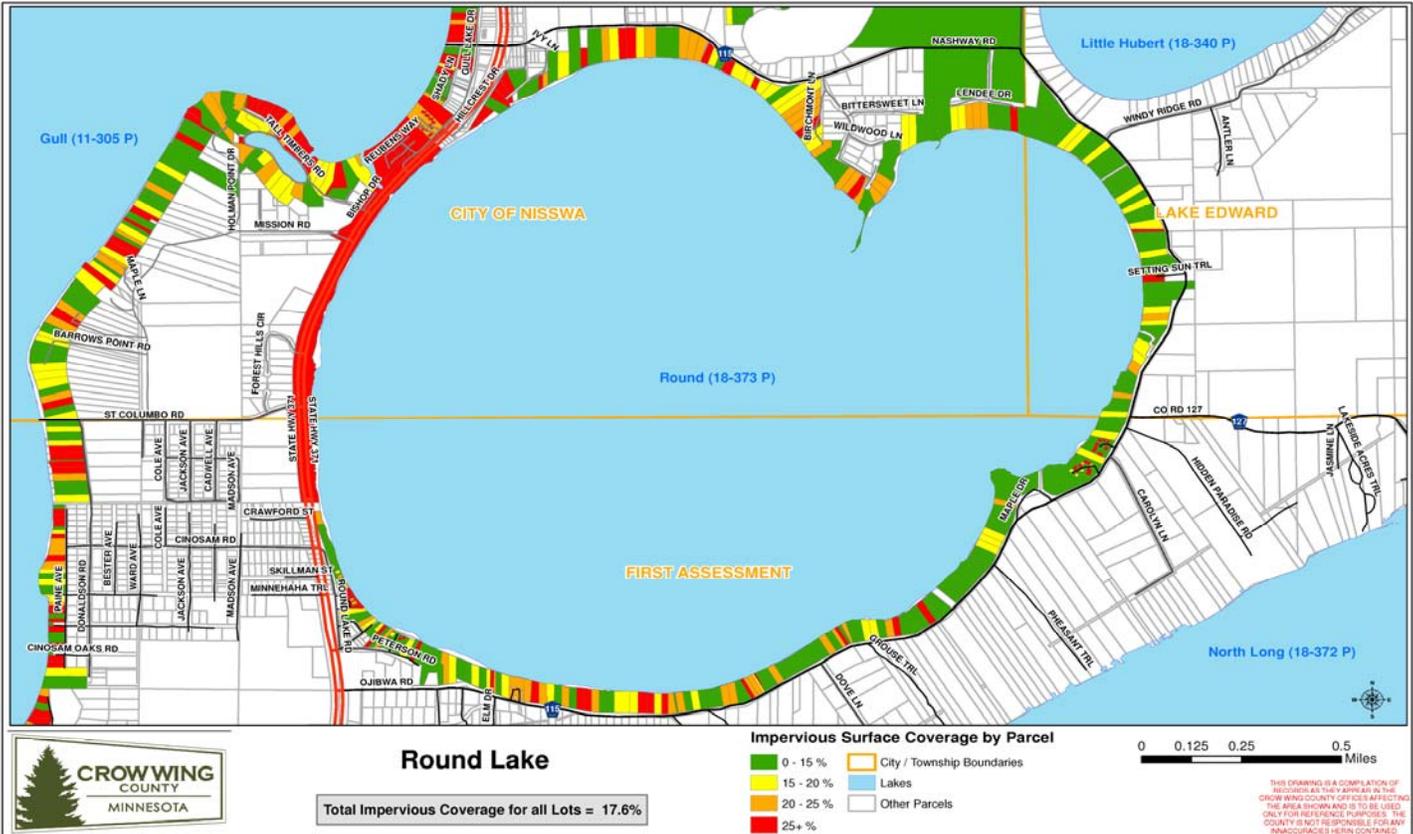
www.crowwing.us/index.aspx?nid=241



Impervious Study Results by Lake

Lake:	Average % Imp:		
Gull	20.8%	Pelican	6.9%
Daggett	17.7%	East Fox	6.5%
Round	17.6%	Portage	6.4%
Loon	15.5%	North Long	6.2%
Island (18-269)	14.4%	Emily	6.1%
Cross	13.8%	Edward	6.0%
Lower Whitefish	13.5%	Middle Cullen	6.0%
Serpent	13.0%	Lower Hay	5.9%
Rush	13.0%	Ossawinnamakee	5.8%
White Sand	12.4%	Lower South Long	5.7%
Little Pine	10.9%	Upper Hay	5.6%
Bertha	10.5%	Rabbit	5.4%
Big Trout	9.5%	Big Pine	5.2%
Horseshoe	8.7%	Upper Mission	5.2%
Lower Cullen	8.5%	West Fox	5.0%
Hubert	8.0%	Gladstone	4.8%
Fawn (18-309)	7.9%	Upper Whitefish	4.8%
Ruth	7.5%	Crooked	4.8%
Bay	7.2%	Roosevelt	4.7%
O'Brien	6.9%	Mitchell	4.6%
		Hanks	4.4%
		Gilbert	4.3%
		Eagle	4.3%
		Red Sand	4.3%
		Sibley	4.0%
		Velvet	3.8%
		Mayo	3.7%
		Goodrich	3.6%
		Camp	3.4%
		Nokay	3.1%
		Borden	2.8%
		McClain	2.8%
		Clearwater	2.7%
		Kego	2.3%
		Platte	2.3%
		Lower Mission	2.2%
		Smith	2.2%
		Pig	1.9%
		Arrowhead	1.7%
		Ross	1.6%
		Greer	1.1%
		Big Bird	0.9%

A map was prepared for all lakes in the study!



Crow Wing County AIS Updates

Crow Wing County & Mississippi Headwaters Board

The Crow Wing County Board, in partnership with the Mississippi Headwaters Board (MHB) has accepted a \$54,300 innovation funding award provided by the National Joint Powers Alliance. Funds will be used to produce and distribute media materials regionally to raise awareness about how boaters can do their part to prevent the spread of AIS. The MHB will use the funding to target recreational boaters with local TV and radio public service announcements and regional 30 minute commercials to spread awareness of what boaters can do to limit the spread of AIS. Chip Leer, host of "Fishing the Wildside," will produce the media campaign to create a consistent and coordinated message that has potential to reach 4.2 million households. The innovation funding award of \$54,300 will be combined with member county support to produce and distribute media regionally in the Minneapolis, St. Paul, Fargo, Duluth and Sioux Falls markets this fall. A preview of the campaign can be viewed online at: <https://vimeo.com/silentshoutproductions/review/116985788/01c89dff4>

Crow Wing County Opens AIS Decontamination Station, featured on Lakeland & WCCO TV

Crow Wing County Land Services has opened a permanent watercraft decontamination station in Crosslake to help stop the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS). The station is open to the public and is located at the Crosslake Joint Highway Maintenance Facility off Highway 3 at 13870 Whipple Drive. The station will be open from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., seven days a week. Watercraft decontamination consists of a very hot water rinse used to kill zebra mussels and (if needed) a high pressure spray to remove material from boats, motors, trailers and personal gear. No soaps, bleaches, or chemicals are used during the process. The station is operated by DNR-trained and certified inspectors who ensure the process effectively and safely removes or kills AIS. Decontaminations are available to boaters free of charge, with priority given to boaters who have been referred for decontamination by watercraft inspectors or law enforcement present on area landings. Under DNR guidelines boaters will be referred for decontamination when AIS or other unknown items or materials are discovered, the watercraft has been in infested waters for more than 24 hours, the watercraft is being transported to a new water body within 24 hours, or if undrainable or unverifiable water is present. Information about Crow Wing County's AIS prevention efforts, including interactive maps to search for the infested status of area lakes as well as recent TV clips can be found at www.crowwing.us/1004/Aquatic-Invasive-Species-AIS or by searching "AIS" from the homepage (www.crowwing.us)

Other News & Upcoming Events

Crow Wing County Earns National Award for Crosslake Collaboration

Crow Wing County Land Services has been recognized with an Achievement Award from the National Association of Counties (NACo) for its partnership with the City of Crosslake to implement a land use program and customer service improvements. The award honors innovative, effective county government programs that enhance services for residents. Due to the exceptional results and unique innovations of this program, the partnership has been chosen to receive the honor of Best of Category in County Resiliency: Infrastructure, Energy & Sustainability.

In September of 2013, the City of Crosslake and Crow Wing County entered into an agreement for the County to administer the Land Use Program for Crosslake. The innovative collaboration has decreased the cost to the City while improving the services provided to the citizens of Crosslake. Crosslake chose to implement the Crow Wing County Land Use Program model which focuses on excellent customer service through clearly communicated policies and procedures and proactive communication to help customers and contractors understand ordinance requirements.

Nationally, awards are given in 21 different categories that reflect the vast, comprehensive services counties provide. The awards were presented at NACo's 2015 Annual Conference and Exposition July 10-13 in Mecklenburg County, N.C. Started in 1970, NACo's annual Achievement Award Program is designed to recognize innovative county government programs. Each nominee is judged on its own merits and not against other applications received.

Crow Wing County to Offer Free Nitrate Testing at Crow Wing County Fair, August 4-8

Crow Wing County and the Minnesota Department of Agriculture are pleased to once again offer free nitrate testing for residents of Crow Wing County and surrounding areas during the Crow Wing County Fair. Landowners can bring in a fresh sample of water from their tap to the County booth in the Natural Resources building. The test takes a matter of seconds. For best results, a 1 cup sample should be taken after running the tap for several minutes and before any filtering is done. Participants are also encouraged to bring the unique well number which can be found on the well and the approximate age and depth of the well. After the fair, regular testing will again be offered on a regular basis at the Crow Wing County Land Services Building located at 322 Laurel Street in downtown Brainerd during normal business hours. Because nitrates and other contaminants are not detected by sight, smell, or taste, Crow Wing County encourages landowners to regularly test their water. Because the County only tests for nitrates, residents can contact one of several certified laboratories in the Brainerd area to conduct a wider range of tests, including lead, arsenic, and bacteria.



Local Grant Opportunities for Landowners

Forestry Grants

An opportunity is available for landowners in Crow Wing County with forested parcels greater than 20 acres in size to receive cost-share funds to write forest stewardship plans and implement forestry practices in order to protect lakes with populations of tullibee, which is a type of whitefish also known as Cisco. Good forest management can protect these lakes and the quality of these important fisheries for generations to come. Target lakesheds include: Bertha, Big Trout, Borden, Cedar, Clear, Crooked, Island/Loon, Kenney, Kimball, Long/Tame Fish, Lower Hay, Ossawinnamakee, Pelican, Pig, Portage, Round, Roosevelt, Star, and Whitefish. Cost-share funding is available to cover up to 50% of the cost of forest management practices for each landowner who has a current forest stewardship plan for his or her property. Examples of eligible practices include tree planting, selected harvest, and wildlife openings. For landowners without forest stewardship plans, funds are available to receive a plan at a flat rate of \$200. Interested landowners should contact Darren Mayers, District Technician with the Crow Wing Soil and Water Conservation District at 218-828-6197. A number of property tax-incentive programs are also available for property owners in Crow Wing County. See www.crowwing.us/index.aspx?NID=258 for more information.

Conservation Easement Grant: Wild Rice Lakes

The Crow Wing Soil and Water Conservation District has funds available for private landowners who own land adjacent to shallow wild rice lakes. Funding is available to enroll private land into voluntary land preservation agreements called conservation easements. Conservation easements protect land from future development while keeping land in private ownership and on the local tax rolls. Landowners can be paid up to 60% of the estimated market value of the tract for enrolling into the program. Wild rice provides great habitat for ducks and birds and also is the Minnesota State Grain. The following Crow Wing County lakes are eligible: Arrowhead, Dahler, Dog, Garden, Goggle, Hole-in-the-Day, Little Pine, Lizzie, Lower Dean, Lows, Mud (18-137), Mud (18-326), Nelson, Rice (Blomberg's), Rice (Clark Lake), Rice (Deerwood), Rice (Hesitation WMA), Rice (Pratt's), Rice Bed, Terry, Twin Island, Unnamed (Lost Rice), and Unnamed (Nokasippi R.). To apply contact Crow Wing SWCD via e-mail: melissa.barrick@crowwingswcd.org or by phone: 218-828-6197.

Shoreline Restoration / Stabilization & Stormwater Management

Crow Wing Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD), in partnership with the Department of Natural Resources, has grants available to help offset the cost of shoreline buffer projects, which can also include stormwater management. For more information, please contact Crow Wing SWCD @ 218-828-6197.

Serpent Lake Grant Update

The Serpent Lake Association, the City of Deerwood, the City of Crosby, Deerwood and Irondale Townships, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, MN DNR, Board of Water and Soil Resources, Crow Wing County, Crow Wing Soil & Water Conservation District, and local citizens are partnering to implement these clean water actions:

- Reduce Cranberry Lake phosphorous load inputs
- Filter urban polluted runoff before it reaches the lake
- Create community polices for people and water quality
- Plant native plants to absorb runoff and stop erosion.

This four year campaign is based off the 2013 Crow Wing County (CWC) Water Plan and 2011 hot spot pollution study. For more information on how to get involved, please contact the Crow Wing SWCD @ 218-828-6197.

Groundwater Related Grants

Low-Income Septic System Upgrades

Crow Wing County and the Region Five Development Commission also have remaining funds to assist with replacement or repair of septic systems for low and very low income landowners in order to improve and protect groundwater quality in Crow Wing County. For more information or to have an application mailed to you, please contact Sandy Voigt at Region 5: 218-894-6017 or svoigt@regionfive.org. Funding for this grant is from the Clean Water Land & Legacy Amendment.

As the LGU responsible for the development and implementation of the Local Comprehensive Water Management Plan, the Crow Wing County Land Services Department is committed to protecting, preserving & improving water resources in Crow Wing County by being proactive, efficient, customer focused, organized, and innovative while being good stewards of the County's resources.