



## What We Do:

The South St. Louis Soil & Water Conservation District has many programs available to help landowners reach their land protection and management goals. These programs include:

- Technical and financial assistance to help landowners control erosion and reduce sedimentation
- Wetland conservation technical assistance
- Forest stewardship assistance for owners of land of all sizes
- Construction site stormwater management assistance
- Conservation education
- Coordination of the Northeast Minnesota Regional Envirothon competition for high school students
- Watershed protection & restoration Projects
- Utilize state and federal programs to address local conservation and environmental concerns.

We have several different sources of financial assistance available and the technical capabilities to support these programs.

South St. Louis  
Soil & Water Conservation District  
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## Annual Tree & Shrub Sale

**Order Deadline: April 15, 2009**

The Tree & Shrub sale provides low-cost, high-quality trees to area residents. This year, we are offering 41 different trees and shrubs, and one vine. Evergreen, shrub, & wildlife variety packets are also available.

Tree pick-up is from May 14th-16th in Duluth, Two Harbors or Grand Marais. Your pick-up location must be specified on your order form.

To order, fill out the form included with this newsletter or go online to

[www.southstlouisswcd.org](http://www.southstlouisswcd.org).

## Where We Work

The South St. Louis SWCD covers all land south of Township 55 within St. Louis County. The northern boundary runs from the north end of Cedar Valley Township to the north end of Pequaywan Township—approximately the southern quarter of St. Louis County.



## **Technical, Engineering & Financial Assistance**

We provide technical & engineering assistance to landowners with a focus on protecting water quality. Past projects include streambank & lakeshore stabilization, agricultural projects, forest management, & stormwater management projects. Financial assistance is available to landowners through various cost-share programs as incentive to install **Best Management Practices (BMPs)** on their property. Contact our office for more information.

## **Construction Site Erosion & Sediment Control Assistance**

Water that runs off of construction sites can contain up to 150 times more sediment than runoff that occurs under natural conditions. Construction stormwater runoff is a source of non-point source pollution. This type of runoff can be controlled with the proper best management practices. The South St. Louis SWCD offers technical assistance to operators of construction sites on proper erosion & sediment control BMPs. We also offer workshops for contractors, developers, & engineers about the permitting required for construction sites and the use of erosion & sediment control BMPs.

## **Impaired Waters**

The quality of our natural resources has become a hot issue of late, even though they have been under pressure since we started using them. Our local resources have always been held in high regard and northern Minnesotans have taken better care of them than most, but the Lake Superior Basin still has 123 waters listed on the 2008 303(d) list. This list identifies lakes and streams that do not meet certain water quality standards.

Currently, the SWCD is working on two of them: The Knife River, impaired for turbidity and pH, and Miller Creek, impaired for temperature and absence of trout. If you have any questions about these or other impaired waters please visit:

**[www.southstlouisswcd.org/tmdl.html](http://www.southstlouisswcd.org/tmdl.html)**

## **You Are Invited! Provide Input for St. Louis County's Updated Comprehensive Water Management Plan**

St. Louis County is requesting input from the public for its updated Comprehensive County Water Management Plan. The purpose of water management planning is to protect water resources through the adoption and implementation of local plans that are based on local priorities. Many funding agencies and programs require entities to have a water plan in order to receive grants to implement the actions set out in a plan. Such actions could include public education regarding best management practices, lake monitoring and water quality testing and restoration projects. There is an on-line survey available on our website, [www.southstlouisswcd.org](http://www.southstlouisswcd.org) to provide input. You can also request a paper copy of the survey. The deadline for providing input through the survey is February 28, 2009.

Input from the public is an important part of the water management planning process and all input is welcome and will be considered. For questions about the Comprehensive County Water Management Plan Update process, contact Kate Kubiak at (218) 723-4867 or at [kate.kubiak@southstlouisswcd.org](mailto:kate.kubiak@southstlouisswcd.org).

## **Clean Water Act of 1972**

The Clean Water Act (CWA) has been in existence since 1972, however it wasn't until the late 1980s that efforts to use it to address non-point source pollution began to increase. The CWA is the cornerstone of protecting our surface waters and until recently, it hasn't been used to its full extent. Since Minnesota began assessing the quality of its waters, over 1400 of Minnesota's lakes and streams have been listed as impaired (2008 303(d) list). This number is constantly growing and efforts to assess, monitor, and reduce pollution need to grow proportionally. If you would like to know more please call or visit our website.