

Le Sueur County Environmental Services

NEWSLETTER

April 1, 2022



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MN 56057

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Le Sueur County Shoreline Residents – Help Protect Our Lakes

Help Prevent the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species!

Le Sueur County would like to continue its efforts, in 2022 and 2023, with increasing awareness about the 21-day dry rule for water related equipment. The County will be partnering with Lake Associations to communicate with residents to dry their used docks, rafts, lifts, and associated equipment for 21 days before moving to a different body of water.

Did you know? Drying your equipment for 21 days is required by law before you move it to or from a different lake (MN State Statute 84D.10 Subd. 4).



We are looking for participants with this program!

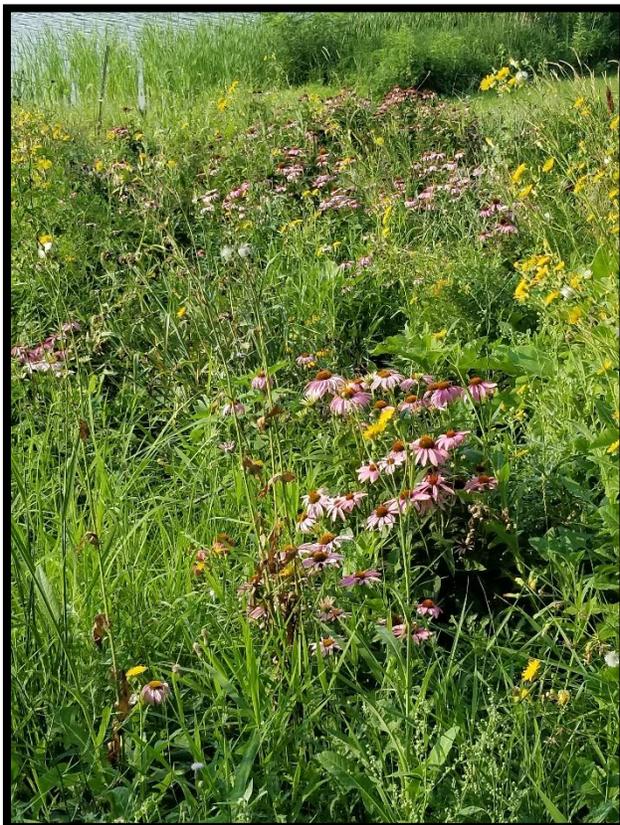
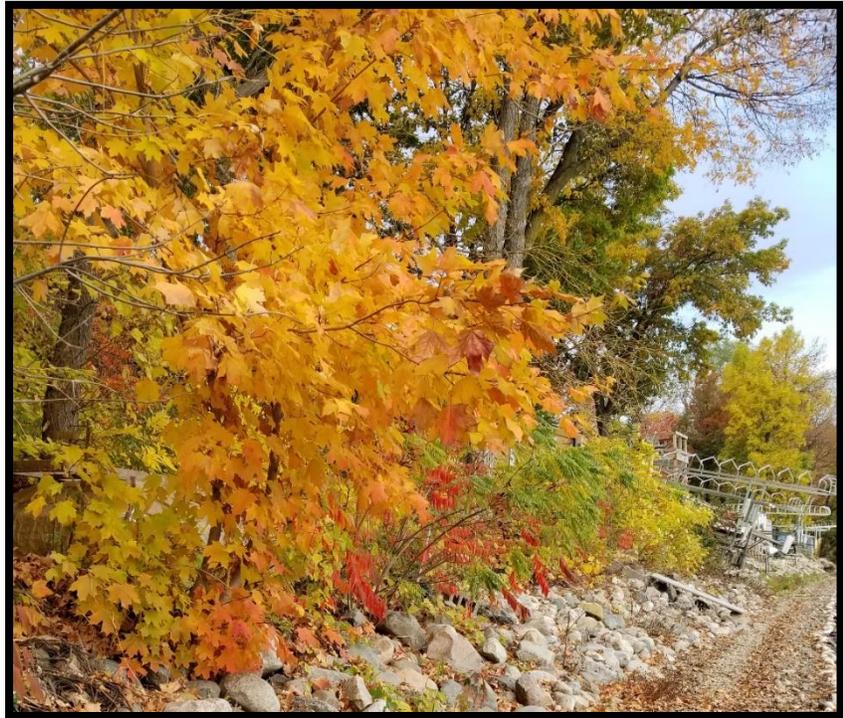
- Are you interested in being more involved with your community when it comes to preventing and limiting the spread of AIS?
- Would you like to attend trainings and/or demonstrations to learn how to properly clean and dry your docks, rafts, lifts, and other associated equipment?
- Are you planning on moving, buying, or selling water related equipment to or from a different lake?

If you answered yes to any of the questions, then this program is for you! In order to participate, please fill out the commitment and participation form. Please contact your Lake Association, contact Holly Kalbus (507-357-8540, email address located below), or visit the Le Sueur County AIS page ([Le Sueur County Aquatic Invasive Species Education and Outreach Page](#)) to access the form. Once you have filled out the form it can either be emailed to hkalbus@co.le-sueur.mn.us or mailed to Le Sueur County Environmental Services, Holly Kalbus, 88 South Park Ave, Le Center, MN 56057.

Le Sueur County Soil and Water Conservation District Tree Sales

If you are looking for trees, shrubs, or plant kits to purchase, the Le Sueur County Soil and Water Conservation District is having their tree/plant sale for 2022! They have a variety of different species to choose from! Some species are sold in bundles or kits and others are sold individually.

Please note that some species may no longer be available.



If you have questions or would like to submit your tree or plant order, please contact the Le Sueur County Soil and Water Conservation District. Their phone number is 507-419-0365 and their physical address is 181 W Minnesota Street, Le Center, MN 56057.

To review the 2022 tree or plant order form, please visit the following link:

<http://www.lesueurswcd.org/trees--plants-.html>

Where to Purchase Native Vegetation?

Are you interested in starting a pollinator garden? Or do you have a spot in your yard that is wet year round? Maybe you want to plant a native buffer on your lakeshore lot? Or maybe you are tired of mowing your grass and want some type of lawn grass that requires less maintenance? There are a variety of native vegetation species as well as eco grass that can help meet your landscaping goals as a landowner.

There are numerous vendors out there that sell native species and eco grass. The plants you order will even be

delivered to your front door! You can purchase seeds or plugs (plants that started growth). Many vendors now have kits for lakeshore buffers, rain gardens, and pollinator gardens!

If you are interested in purchasing native vegetation, I would recommend contacting Holly for the Le Sueur County's native vegetation vendor list (email address is hkalbus@co.le-sueur.mn.us) or you can visit Le Sueur County's website at:

<https://www.co.le-sueur.mn.us/550/Native-Vegetation>.

Most vendors do a really good job describing what species they have and what conditions they would thrive best in. There is still a decent diversity of plants available. If you are interested, I recommend ordering them now!





Water Resource Spotlight

This week we are spotlighting Sanborn Lake!

Sanborn Lake is located just northeast of the City of Montgomery. The lake has a surface area of roughly 308.61 acres, and a maximum depth of 4 feet. The landscape around the lake is predominately agriculture, wetlands or woods. There is



some development around the lake, especially on the north side. Additionally, there is a DNR access is located on the north side of the lake.



Sanborn Lake is located within the Lower Minnesota River Watershed. Currently, the lake is not meeting state water quality standards and is considered impaired. Sanborn Lake is considered a shallow lake, and shallow lakes tend to have higher nutrient loading. Despite this, the lake is far exceeding state water quality

standards. According to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, it is recommended that Sanborn Lake should reduce phosphorus loads by roughly 80% or 2,174lbs/yr! There are numerous practices that can be implemented in order to help reduce nutrients for Sanborn Lake. Examples of practices include, but are not limited to: cover crops, reduced tillage, nutrient management, native shoreline buffers, alternative tile intakes, water and sediment control basins (WASCOBS), stabilization of riparian areas and bluffs, stormwater best management practices, and habitat restoration.

Le Sueur County Water Testing Clinic

Le Sueur County will be hosting its first Water Testing Clinic!

Le Sueur County Environmental Services Department has partnered with the Le Sueur County Public Health Department and Le Sueur County Soil and Water Conservation District to host a Water Testing Clinic on **Thursday, April 28th**.

There are two different kits available:

- Coliform Bacteria
- Nitrates

Each test kit will cost \$16.00.

You will need to fill out a water testing order form to order your kit(s). To access the order form, please contact the Environmental Services Department or visit the following website:

<https://www.co.le-sueur.mn.us/540/Water-Monitoring>.

The water testing order form and payment **must** be submitted together. Cash or check is accepted. All order forms must be received by the Environmental Services Department no later than **Friday, April 8th 2022**. It's not too late to order your kits!

For those who ordered a kit, there will be an informational meeting to learn more about the water testing clinic and to pick up your water test kit(s) on **Monday, April 25th** from **6:00pm-7:00pm** at the Le Sueur County Justice Center, 435 E Derrynane St, Le Center, MN 56057. Doors will be open from 5:30pm-6:00pm. Parking is in the west parking lot. This meeting will be held both in person and virtually. Virtual meeting information will be made available on the Le Sueur County Website (same as mentioned above) one week before the informational meeting.

If you are unable to attend the informational meeting on Monday, you may pick up your water test kit(s) on Tuesday, April 26th or Wednesday, April 27th; an appointment will be required.

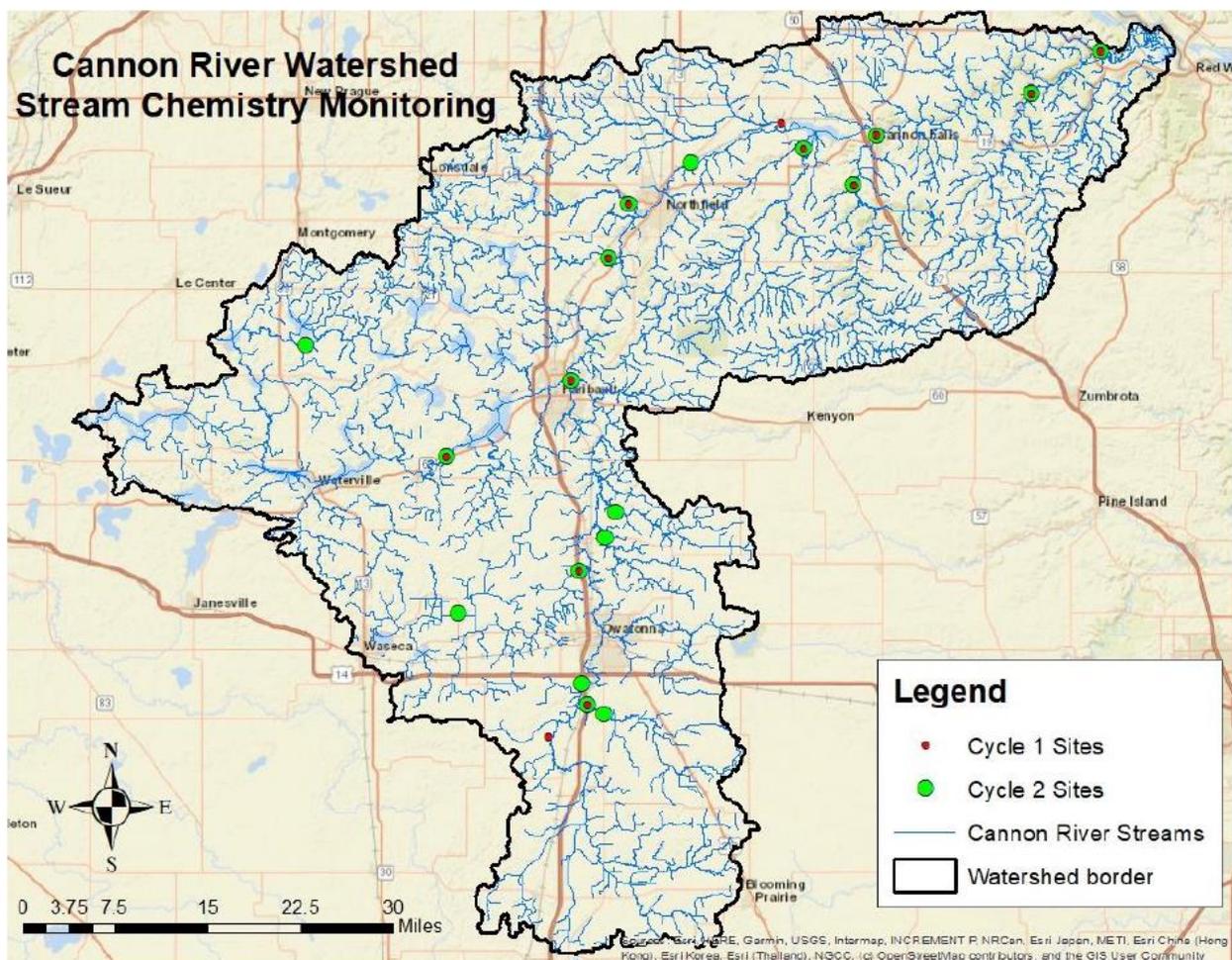
If you have any questions, please contact Holly Kalbus at hkalbus@co.le-sueur.mn.us or 507-3357-8540.



Water Sampling Cannon River Watershed

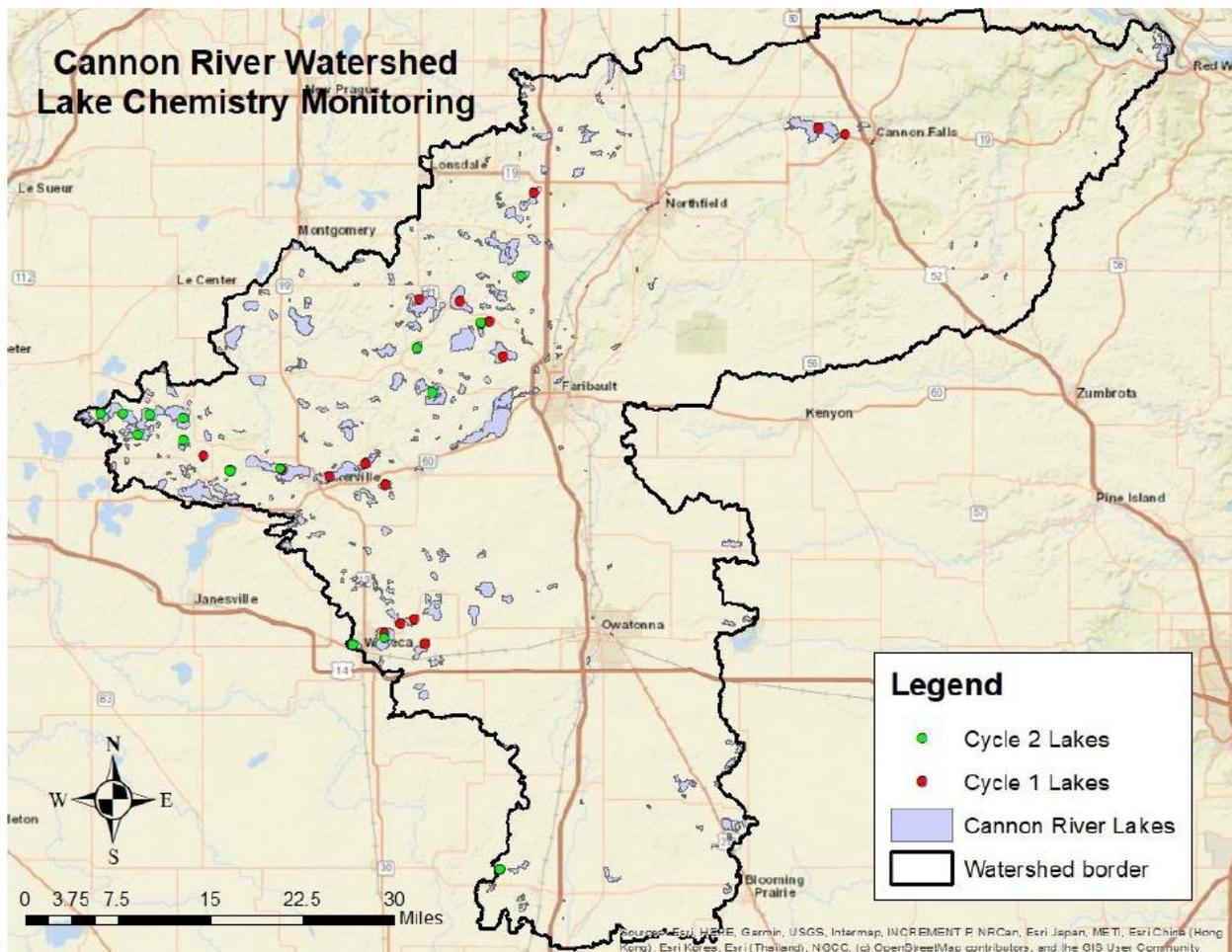
Le Sueur County and Le Sueur County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) will be sampling streams and lakes from May-September of 2022. Sampling efforts are a part of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) efforts towards starting the second cycle of the Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS) Report. The first WRAPS report that was completed for the Cannon River Watershed was back in 2016. The data that is collected from both lake and stream sampling is a critical piece in determining existing conditions of water resources, and also, critical for prioritizing and targeting future efforts to help improve and protect those water resources.

All sample sites are considered Cycle 2, and are identified in the maps located below as a bright green dot. For sampling stream chemistry, there is only one site that is located within Le Sueur County (see map located below). All stream sampling sites will have monitoring efforts both in 2022 and 2023.



For sampling lake chemistry, there are multiple sites that are located within Le Sueur County (see map located below). The Jefferson-German Chain, Fish Lake, Roemhildts Lake, Tetonka Lake, and Upper Sakatah Lake will all be sample for lake chemistry. All lake sampling sites will have monitoring efforts only in 2022.

Since Le Sueur County is a part of the Cannon River One Watershed One Plan, the traditional partnerships of monitoring efforts for Local Government Units and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency have been amended to a more focused watershed approach.

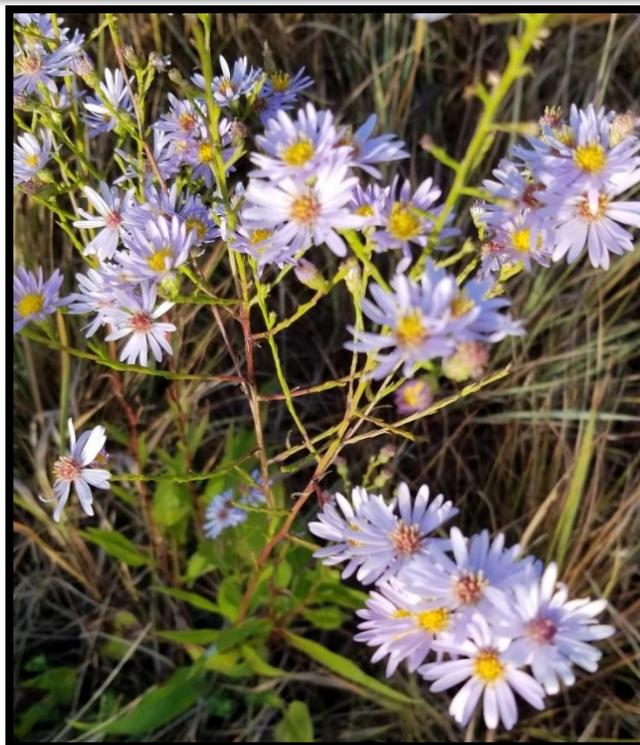


Minnesota Native Plant

Sky-blue Aster (*Aster azueus*) or (*Symphyotrichum oolentangiense*)

Sky Blue Aster, is a perennial that is a part of the Asteraceae (Aster) family. It grows 2 to 3 feet tall with numerous stems that comprise one plant. The leaves are long, toothless, and have a sandpaper texture. The basal leaves (bottom leaves) are arrowhead to heart shaped. The inflorescence (flower head) is made up of a cluster of flowers (10-25) at the top of the stem. The flowers petals range in color from blue, purple, and violet, and surround a yellow disk. The flower blooms late in the year; from August through October.

Sky Blue Aster prefers dry to moist soils that contain a sand or loam. They also do well in sunny and partially shady areas. You'll find this plant thriving in open woods and prairies, along roadsides, woodland edges, and areas that have sandy or rocky soils. Sky Blue Asters provide a food source for birds, butterflies, and pollinators.



Non Native Plant

Poison Hemlock (*Conium maculatum*)

Poison Hemlock is a biennial that is a part of the Apiaceae (Carrot) family. It originates from Europe, and was originally introduced as an ornamental/garden plant. Poison Hemlock was first introduced into Minnesota in 2018 and was first identified in Le Sueur County in 2021. It is considered a prohibited noxious weed. The plants can grow up to 10 feet tall! The leaves are pinnately compound, large in size, and resemble a fern. The flowers form an umbel which contains multiple tiny white flowers. The flowers bloom from May to August. Poison Hemlock prefers shaded areas and moist soils, but can grow in various conditions. It tends to thrive in roadsides, pastures, meadows, streambanks, and ditches. The plant strongly resembles native Water Hemlock (*Cicuta maculata*) that grows in Minnesota. Poison Hemlock is extremely toxic to both livestock and humans, and no part of the plant should be ingested!



Photo Credit: Minnesota Department of Agriculture, 2022



Photo Credit: Minnesota Department of Agriculture, 2022

Contact Information

Environmental Services Department

Planning & Zoning, Feedlots, Solid Waste, & Septics

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Email: environmentalservices@co.le-sueur.mn.us

Environmental Resources Specialist/Water Planner-Holly Kalbus

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Le Sueur County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD)

Phone: 507-419-0365

Mike Schultz-District Manager

Email: mschultz@co.le-sueur.mn.us

Sue Prchal-Program Specialist

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Joe Jirik-District Technician

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Nik Kadel-Ditch Inspector

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Karl Schmidtke-Resource Technician

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Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)

Steve Breaker-District Conservationist

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steve.breaker@mn.usda.gov

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

Garry Bennett-Area Hydrologist

Phone: 320-753-0344

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Carli Wagner-Aquatic Invasive Species Specialist

Phone: 507-389-8812

Email: Carli.Wagner@state.mn.us

Todd Piepho-Area Hydrologist

Phone: 507-421-1991

Email: todd.piepho@state.mn.us

To see which DNR staff is the Area Hydrologist for your region, please click on the following link:
https://files.dnr.state.mn.us/waters/area_hydros.pdf