

Le Sueur County Environmental Services

NEWSLETTER

April 5, 2024

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Phone: 507-357-8538

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



Upper Cannon River Watershed Flood Risk Reduction Study

We will continue to provide updates with the flood study on a quarterly basis.

- Bolton and Menk is the contractor that was hired to finish the study.
- Bimonthly staff meetings (which includes local, state, and federal agency staff) will start up again on March 28th 2024, and will continue for the entire project lifespan.
- We reached out to partners who have committed match or in-kind services (funds and/or staff time) towards grant. This is a requirement as part of receiving the funds.
- Lastly, we are working with the City of Waterville and DNR to install a flood gauge on the Cannon River. The flood gauge is instrumental in providing data for this study as well as providing future notifications of flooding within the community. The anticipated date for the flood gauge to be installed is in the Spring of 2024.

This study is listed as an implementation activity within our Cannon River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (Table 4.1.2 Landscape Alterations Targeted Implementation Table, Activity ID 3.2.2-A-1). Once the Flood Study is completed, it will provide opportunities for the partnership to seek out additional funding to implement flood reduction practices.



Figure 1. Flooding Impacts in the Upper Cannon River Watershed. Photo Credit: City of Waterville-Teresa Hill.

Le Sueur County Water Testing Clinic

Le Sueur County
Environmental Services
Department has partnered
with the Le Sueur County
Soil and Water
Conservation District to host
a Spring Water Testing
Clinic on **Thursday,
May 9th, 2024.**

There are two different tests
available:

- Nitrates
- Coliform Bacteria

Each test will be \$17.00.

A water test order form with payment is required before picking up your water testing kit. Kits may be picked up any time, but an appointment is required. There are a limited number of kits, and they will be available on a first come first serve basis. The water testing clinic will help raise awareness within the community about testing your drinking water regularly in order to protect your health!

If you would like to print off a copy of the water test order form, or learn more about the clinic, please visit the following website: <https://www.co.le-sueur.mn.us/684/Water-Testing>.

You may also contact Holly Bushman at hbushman@co.le-sueur.mn.us or 507-357-8540.



Figure 2. Residential Well on Lake Shore Property. Photo Credit: Holly Bushman.

Locating Unverified Wells in the County

Le Sueur County has partnered with the University of Minnesota and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to begin a County Geologic Atlas. The atlas is very important in that it provides a comprehensive geologic and groundwater mapping of Le Sueur County's mineral and water resources. The atlas will act as a guide for the County when deciding on future land and water management activities. Additionally, once the atlas is complete, it will provide additional information and resources for staff to initiate projects and programs that will protect and improve resources within the county as well as residents.

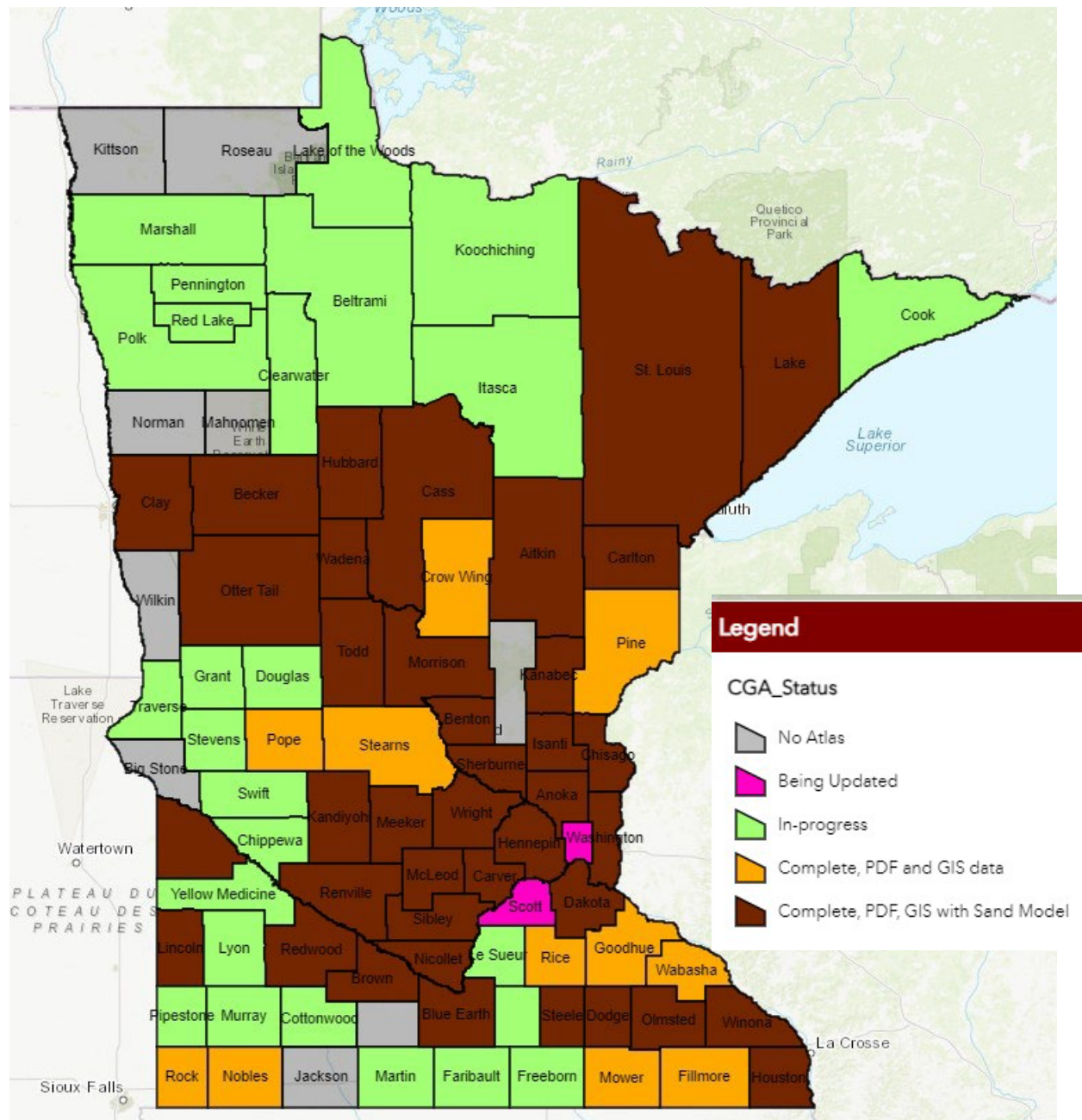


Figure 3. UMN County Geologic Atlas Map Viewer. Photo Credit: University of Minnesota.

Development of the atlas will not begin until Spring 2025. However, before an atlas can be developed Le Sueur County needs to verify locations of roughly 1,500 wells. There will be a few different phases that Le Sueur County will undertake in order to identify well locations.

Phase 1: Le Sueur County is going to identify as many well locations as possible with information that is currently available such as permit information, tax records, and aerial imagery. Le Sueur County is currently in Phase 1.

Le Sueur County is going to begin sending out postcards to property owners that are considered to have an unverified well location. If you do not receive a postcard, your well location does not need to be verified; therefore, there is no need to contact our office.

The postcard will inform property owners about the Geologic Atlas and why it is important. Additionally, the postcard will let property owners know when Le Sueur County Staff will be going out on site to verify their well location. Staff only need a GPS coordinate, and each site visit is estimated to last about 5-10 minutes.

To learn more about this program, please visit the following page: <https://www.co.le-sueur.mn.us/751/Le-Sueur-County-Geologic-Atlas>.



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
Driven to DiscoverSM



**DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES**

Well Location Announcement

Dear Le Sueur County Property Owners:

Le Sueur County will begin efforts to start developing a County Geologic Atlas. This atlas will provide information that is essential for managing groundwater and geological resources. As a result, we will be able to better protect and improve resources within our County. As part of the effort for Le Sueur County to complete the County Geologic Atlas, we need to confirm all unverified well locations within the County. Our records indicate your property may contain an unverified well location. Your property is scheduled to be inspected within the following timeframe:

While on site, County staff will only need to collect information regarding the location of the well using GPS coordinates. Most site visits will take approximately 5-10 minutes to complete. County staff will be driving unmarked county vehicles and will have a photo I.D. badge.

If you would like to set up an appointment or have any questions, please contact our office at 507-357-8538. If your property is rented, please notify your tenants of the upcoming site visit.

Please be advised, this will be your only notification.

Aaron Stubbs
Environmental Services Director



Holly Bushman
Environmental Resources Specialist
(Primary Contact)



Environmental Services Department

Main #: 507.357.8538

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

Minnesota Native Plant

Pearly Everlasting (*Anaphalis margaritacea*)

Pearly Everlasting is a perennial that is a part of the Asteraceae (Aster) family. It grows anywhere from 1-3 feet in height. The leaves are elongated and tapers to a sharp point. Additionally, the leaves are approximately 5 inches long, have toothless leaf edges, and are covered in white hairs. The inflorescence (flower head) has tiny yellow flowers enclosed by white bracts (modified leaf with flower in center) that are perfectly round. This species blooms from June to September.



Figure 4. Pearly Everlasting Inflorescence and Stems. Photo Credit: Holly Bushman

This plant prefers dry, rocky, and poor soil conditions, but can thrive in most soil types. Lastly, this species favors full or partial sunny areas. Due to Pearly Everlasting being tolerant to dry conditions, it is a drought tolerant species. You'll find this species thriving in a variety of habitat types such as, along edges of woods, streambanks, roadsides, meadows, shorelines, rain gardens, and forest openings. Pearly Everlasting attracts a wide range of pollinators such as bees, hummingbirds, butterflies, and other insects.

Fun Fact: Pearly Everlasting is a host plant for larvae for the butterfly species American Lady- *Vanessa virginensis*.



Figure 6. Pearly Everlasting. *Photo Credit: Holly Bushman*

Non-Native Plant

Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*)

Garlic Mustard, also known as Garlicwort, is a part of the Brassicaceae, (Broccoli) family. This species is native to Europe and was brought into the United States for medicinal and food purposes.

Garlic Mustard grows any from 1 to 4 feet tall. The leaves are large, kidney to heart shaped, and have coarsely toothed leaf margins.

The inflorescence (flower head) contains small clusters of four petaled flowers that bloom from May to June. The flower color contains white petals and green stamens (male fertilizing organ of plant).

The root structure of Garlic Mustard is a white taproot that is “S” shaped at the top. This species can thrive in a variety of different soil types. Lastly, this species prefers shaded areas.

Garlic Mustard can be found in forests and wooded areas as well as roadsides. This is an aggressive invasive species that outcompetes native vegetation. Garlic Mustard is considered allelopathic; it produces chemicals that influences how other species grow and survive. One species in particular it impacts is trees by affecting the beneficial fungi that trees need to grow. You can manage this species by handpulling, mowing, and using herbicides.



Figure 7. Garlic Mustard Plant. Photo Credit: MN Department of Natural Resources

Fun Fact: Seed capsules can release anywhere from 100 to 10,000 seeds per year.

Fun Fact: Garlic Mustard can be used to make Pesto.



Figure 8. Garlic Mustard Inflorescence. Photo Credit: MN Department of Agriculture.



Figure 9. Garlic Mustard Infestation. Photo Credit: MN Department of Agriculture.

Text My Gov

Want to receive county updates? Have questions about permits, upcoming events, or different programs in the county? Explore Text my Gov!

Le Sueur County Text Alerts!

Get county updates sent directly to your phone via text

TextMyGov™

The graphic shows a smartphone screen with a text message conversation. At the top, it says "COUNTY ALERTS 91896" with a bell icon. A green bubble says "LE SUEUR". A grey bubble says "You've requested to join our text notification list. Reply 'YES' to opt-in." A green bubble says "Yes". A grey bubble says "You have successfully opted-in." At the bottom, a text input field contains "LE SUEUR" with a green arrow button. Below the screen, the text reads: "Sign up to receive Le Sueur County text notifications!" followed by "Opt-in today." and "Text LE SUEUR to: 91896".

What to Expect:

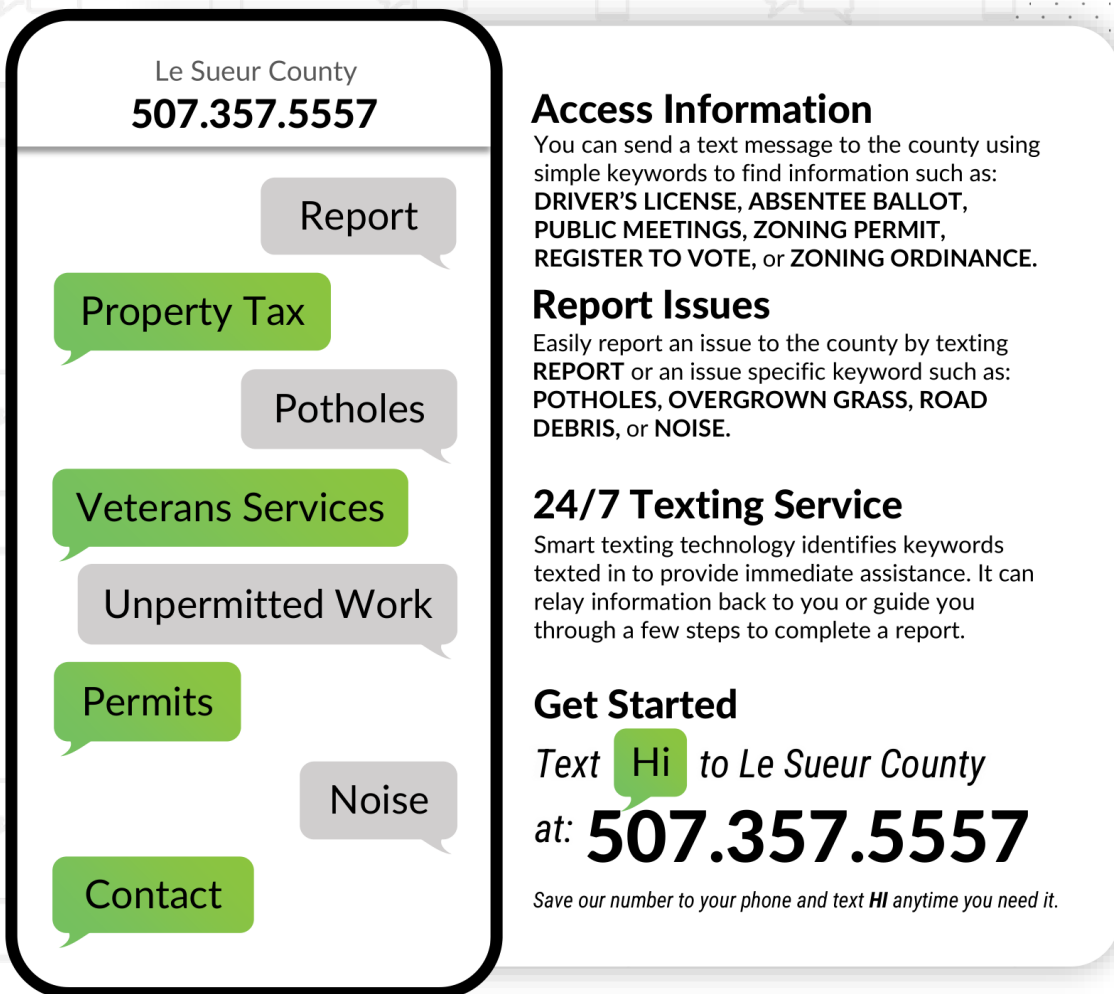
- After the initial keyword is sent, you will receive a confirmation message asking you to reply **YES** to verify opt-in.
- You may receive multiple text messages a month with a notification. Notifications may include **Public Meeting Reminders, Veterans' Services Information, and General Information Notifications.**
- You can text **STOP** at any time to remove yourself from the notification list.

Msg & data rates may apply. Check with your carrier for details. View terms and privacy policy info at: textmygov.com/opt-in-terms-conditions

Text My Gov

Get Fast Assistance Text Le Sueur County

Skip a phone call and use your mobile phone's text messaging service to find information and report issues on the go.



Le Sueur County
507.357.5557

Report

Property Tax

Potholes

Veterans Services

Unpermitted Work

Permits

Noise

Contact

Access Information

You can send a text message to the county using simple keywords to find information such as: **DRIVER'S LICENSE, ABSENTEE BALLOT, PUBLIC MEETINGS, ZONING PERMIT, REGISTER TO VOTE, or ZONING ORDINANCE.**

Report Issues

Easily report an issue to the county by texting **REPORT** or an issue specific keyword such as: **POTHoles, OVERGROWN GRASS, ROAD DEBRIS, or NOISE.**

24/7 Texting Service

Smart texting technology identifies keywords texted in to provide immediate assistance. It can relay information back to you or guide you through a few steps to complete a report.

Get Started

Text **Hi** to Le Sueur County
at: **507.357.5557**

Save our number to your phone and text **HI** anytime you need it.

Msg & Data rates apply. View terms and privacy policy info at: textmygov.com/opt-in-terms-conditions

Environmental Services Department Changes



WE HAVE MOVED

Visit us at our new location
on the newly remodeled
2nd Floor

507.357.8538

The Environmental Services Department Contact Information will stay the same!

Contact Information

Environmental Services Department

Planning & Zoning, Feedlots, Solid Waste, & Septics

Phone: 507-357-8538

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

Environmental Resources Specialist/Water Planner-Holly Bushman

Phone: 507-357-8540

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

Resource Conservation Technician-Trevor Rudenick

Phone 507-357-8556

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

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

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

Joe Jirik-District Technician

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

Nik Kadel-Ditch Inspector

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

Karl Schmidtke-Resource Technician

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

Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)

Steve Breaker-District Conservationist

Phone: 507-357-4908

steve.breaker@mn.usda.gov

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

Alan Gleisner-Area Hydrologist

Phone: 320-753-0344

Email: Alan.Gleisner@state.mn.us

Vacant-Aquatic Invasive Species Specialist

Phone: N/A

Email: N/A

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