



City of Faribault's Twin Lakes Project- Building Partnership for Clean Water

July 2016 Snapshots



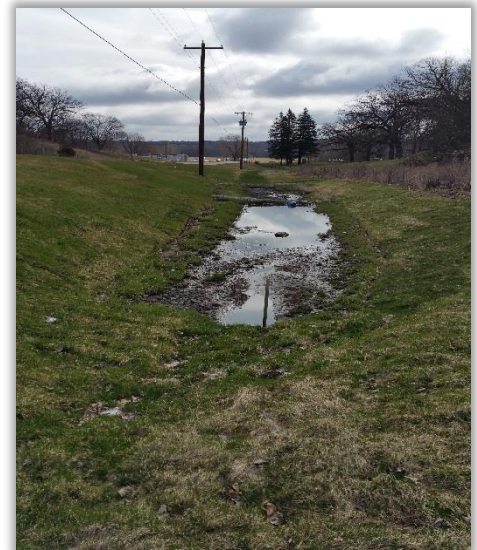
Looking for opportunities to improve water quality, provide education, and gain partnerships is always in the back of Melissa King's mind. King, a Water Quality Specialist with the City of Faribault had that opportunity with the Twin Lakes Stormwater Retrofit Project.

Funded in Fiscal Year 2015, the Twin Lakes Project aimed to achieve volume and pollutant load reductions to the Cannon River via construction of a treatment train of stormwater best management practices (BMPs) in conjunction with a street realignment project. Project activities included retrofitting pretreatment BMPs upstream in the subwatershed, construction of an underground storm water storage/infiltration system at the subwatershed's outlet, rehabilitation of a drainage ditch, and reestablishment of a natural area.

"This grant allowed the City of Faribault to move forward with the construction of stormwater improvements in a high traffic area where treatment of runoff was previously not provided or required," King said. "The project has helped provide a much-needed opportunity to engage citizens, showcase the importance of stormwater treatment and infiltration, and promote the water quality benefits provided by these types of stormwater BMPs. The assistance from our local partners and community members was instrumental in completing the project and the City hopes to build off the momentum for construction of future projects to help improve the quality of our rivers and streams."

Initial pollution reduction estimates include 16 pounds of phosphorus and 6,824 pounds of sediment annually to assist in achieving watershed goals.

Water quality efforts would not be possible without good partnerships. The City of Faribault worked in partnership with the Cannon River Watershed Partnership, Rice County, and Rice SWCD. Educational workshops were held providing residents the ability to understand the benefit and purpose of Best Management Practices on the land. In addition, on May 9th, a rain garden was constructed in which community volunteers, including Girl Scouts and students from Cannon River STEM School, planted over 1,700 plants in a matter of hours.



Before work began, top, and volunteers hard at work installing the rain garden, bottom.

According to Kristi Pursell, Community Engagement Coordinator with Cannon River Watershed Partnership, “When community organizations collaborate, we each bring a variety of experiences and resources to help reach the goals of each other’s groups. Working together helps involve a greater number of people in improving water quality where we live, work and play. This project was great for introducing people in our area to each other as well as understanding our community’s shared goals and values. I’m sure those Girl Scouts and their families will be peering out their car windows to check on how those plants are doing for years to come!”



Volunteers at the end of the day, rain garden complete!