

Total stormwater treatment in the City of Kimball

November 2017 Snapshots



With a street upgrade already in the works the Kimball City Council and the Clearwater River Watershed District (CRWD) Board saw an opportunity for improved stormwater treatment. The City was in the process of doing a fairly significant street upgrade and the watershed district board knew with a little extra design assistance and funding they could complement an already installed pollution reduction project to treat all of the stormwater flowing through the city streets.

The initial street upgrade project began in 2010, when the CRWD installed an infiltration and re-use basin on the southern part of the city to capture, treat, and release stormwater from a 1 ½ inch rainfall event. This project was completed in 2013 with the partial assistance of a Clean Water Fund grant.



Hendricks' Treatment Basin

City leaders of Kimball and the Board of the CRWD wanted to do more.

After investigating funding from the Clean Water Fund they were able to enhance their design and add a variety of components to the renovation project. The new items were specifically designed to treat stormwater from the remaining developed section of the city. Wenck Engineering and the board and staff of the CRWD provided help and the final phase of the stormwater management project was installed 2015.

Since the installation of the two projects both Stearns County and central Minnesota have witnessed some significant rainfall events. The solid design work and careful installation of the stormwater projects resulted in stormwater infrastructure that held up to these heavy rainfalls and removed significant



Willow Creek where nutrient and sediment loads are now reduced.

sediment and phosphorous, which can lead to cloudy, murky water due to algae. Many of Minnesota's cities have older areas and infrastructure that was designed to move water quickly through the city and downstream, without concern for what is carried in that water.

The current Kimball City Council and CRWD took the opportunity to correct some of the past design features and renovated an urban stormwater management system to treat all of the city's rainfall runoff before it leaves the city and enters the Clearwater River. With this full treatment to city's infrastructure, Kimball can proudly list themselves among cities who are proactively dealing with stormwater management issues.

Cole Loewen, Administrator for CRWD couldn't be more excited. "Kimball is my hometown. My grandparents provided land the city made into Willow Creek Park. Growing up, I spent a lot of time in the park- fishing for trout was one of my favorite activities. Those are cherished memories, and being part of a project that helps protect that opportunity for others gives a great sense of pride. It's like I'm following my grandparents lead."