

Preventing pollution one subwatershed at a time

October Snapshots 2017

On a warm night in mid-July the North Cannon River Watershed Management Organization (NCRWMO) hosted the annual tour for their 11 member board of managers meeting. The NCRWMO was created in 1983 through a joint powers agreement between the eight townships and three small cities in Dakota County that are located within the Cannon River Watershed.

The tour was led by Ashley Gallagher, administrator for the NCRWMO and employee of Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), and Lindsey Albright, water monitoring specialist for Dakota County SWCD. The organization partners with the Dakota SWCD on many projects and for administrative services.

There is a long history of a good working relationship between the two organizations. The NCRWMO contracts with the Dakota County SWCD to help them carry out their administrative duties and implement their watershed plan. The NCRWMO also provides financial assistance to Dakota County SWCD for practices. Dakota County SWCD often uses these dollars as a match to leverage grant dollars.

The goal of these tours is to provide an opportunity for the board to get a first-hand view of the projects their organization helps to implement. This year's tour focused on the Trout Brook subwatershed and included stops to view streambank restorations, natural springs, and agricultural conservation practices.

At the Miesville Ravine Park tour stop attendees learned up close about the importance of water quality and the streambank restoration.

Originally damaged during the floods of June 2012, the streambank had eroded all the way to a parking lot at the park. If not fixed it would have washed away part of the parking lot, adding sediment not only to the stream, but ultimately to the Cannon River as well.

Installed in the fall of 2016 by the Dakota SWCD, the project stabilized 180 feet of eroding streambank through the use of bioengineering streambank stabilization practices.



Completed streambank stabilization.

The project design included the regrading of the slope, stabilization of the toe slope with root wads anchored in the bank, three layers of soil burritos (soil wrapped in two layers of coconut fiber erosion control blanket), two layers of live willow stakes and a native seeding.



Ashley Gallagher, Dakota County SWCD, lead the NCRWMO board of managers and partners on a tour of projects.

The project was funded by the 2012 BWSR Flood Relief Cost-Share Program through the Dakota SWCD and Dakota County and demonstrates the impact of stabilization on eroding riverbanks.

The end result of this project is the prevention of 136 tons of soil and 136 pounds of phosphorus traveling downstream each year.

“Each year we take a closer look at one part of the nearly 100,000 acre watershed. Trout Brook sub-watershed saw some significant changes and improvements over the past few years, and it was a great opportunity to get outside and see the projects we talk about in our meetings.” Gallagher said.