

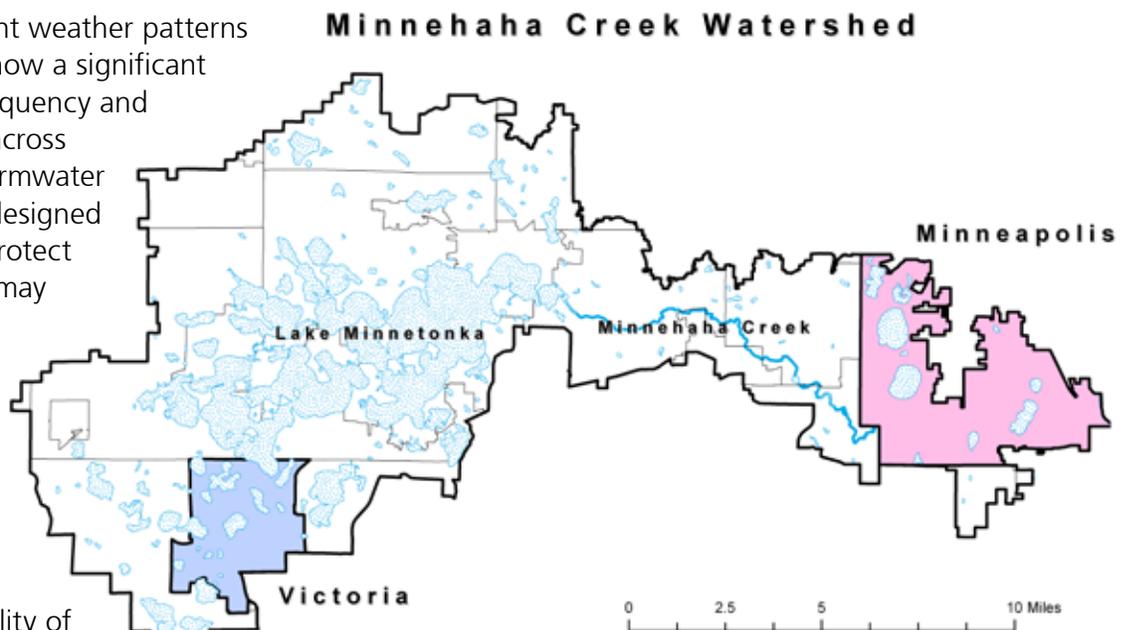
WEATHER - EXTREME TRENDS

The Minnehaha Creek Watershed Stormwater Adaptation Study



Problem:

Climate research, current weather patterns and projected trends show a significant increase in both the frequency and severity of rain events across Minnesota. Existing stormwater management systems designed to control runoff and protect property when it rains may no longer function as intended. The infrastructure in these systems may prove inadequate, resulting in increased flooding, damage to property, public safety concerns, and impacts to the quality of our lakes, streams and wetlands.



Objectives: The Minnehaha Creek Watershed Stormwater Adaptation Study will address some of these challenges for both growing and fully-developed communities. The study will:

1. Examine precipitation and land use trends within the watershed
2. Use that information to evaluate existing stormwater management systems
3. Identify ways to adapt our systems – including costs – to changing precipitation patterns
4. Facilitate a community-led planning process to provide a framework for developing local stormwater adaptation plans



MINNEHAHA CREEK
WATERSHED DISTRICT

For more information, please contact:

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Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Why should I or my organization participate in this study?

A: Results of this study will provide updated information on how to adapt stormwater management systems to changing weather patterns, ensuring a community is ready for more frequent extreme weather events. This preparedness will protect public property, public safety and a community's financial and environmental resources. The study will also provide a cost analysis of various stormwater adaptation approaches, which will help guide a community's decision-making process. By participating in the process, you can help determine the scope and direction of this research, making sure it addresses local needs.

Q: What will participation in this study cost me or my organization in terms of money and/or time?

A: This project is grant funded. No financial contributions will be requested from participants or organizations. Every effort will be made to utilize participants' time in the most focused and productive manner possible. Generally, time commitments will not exceed those presented in the timeline, including forums and task force meetings. All time contributed to this project is on a voluntary basis.

Q: Will this study result in the imposition of new policies or regulations that I or my organization will be held accountable for?

A: This study will be informed from current climate science with recommendations based upon the interests and priorities of local communities within the watershed. The Minnehaha Creek Watershed District and other local governments may use information generated from this study as a framework for future planning and policy-making decisions. Policy changes, if any, will be addressed through existing public processes.

Timeline

Spring 2012

- Develop future precipitation and land use models
- Host First Forum: Stakeholder Input and Adaptation Assessment

Fall 2012

- Complete analysis of stormwater management systems
- Develop cost-analysis for stormwater management system adaptation
- Host stakeholder work group meetings derived from the First Forum

Winter 2013

- Host Second Forum: Stormwater Adaptation – Planning
- Host community workshops to share findings and strategies

Summer 2013

- Host Third Forum: Regional Stormwater Adaptation Symposium
- Share research findings, adaptation strategies, resources, and next steps

Partners: Project partners include Syntectic International LLC, Antioch University New England, the University of Minnesota, and Stratus Consulting. Funding for this two-year study is provided through a grant from the Climate Program Office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.



STRATUS CONSULTING



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