

Nutrient Management Funding Available

In 2006 the Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission received \$410,000 in funding from the Board of Water and Soil Resources through a Clean Water Legacy Grant for an Animal Waste Management Program in the Lake Independence Watershed. The program is designed to help landowners with cost-share assistance to install animal waste management practices that will reduce nutrients flowing to Lake Independence. Up to 75% of the costs are eligible to be paid by the Commission. Landowner participation is voluntary.

Practices that can be cost-shared:

- ◆ Animal Waste Storage Facilities
- ◆ Manure Hauling Services
- ◆ Exclusion Fencing
- ◆ Clean Water Diversions
- ◆ Roof Water Management
- ◆ Pasture Renovation
- ◆ Vegetative Buffer Strips
- ◆ Management of Manure Applications

Funding priorities are based on:

- ◆ Available funds
- ◆ Priority of the livestock facility relative to its contribution of nutrients to Lake Independence
- ◆ Amount of nutrients controlled by the practice(s) requested

All the landowners within the Lake Independence Watershed are eligible to apply for this program. The funds must be used by June 2009 or returned to the state. Contact Jim Kujawa at 612-348-7338 for more information.

The Commission meets at 4:00 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month at Independence City Hall in Independence, Minnesota. Annually they review 10 to 20 residential and commercial projects to ensure that they meet the water quality and quantity standards for the Commission and flooding problems do not occur.

Pioneer-Sarah Creek Commissioners are:

Greenfield - Sylvia Walsh, Treasurer

Independence - Carole Peter, Secretary

Loretto - Brenda Daniels

Maple Plain - John Sweeney

Medina - Donald Johnston, Vice Chair

Minnetrissa - Lisa Whalen, Chair

The Commission's Consultants are:

**Hennepin County Department of
Environmental Services**

Technical Advisor - Jim Kujawa

Campbell Knutson

Legal Services - Joel Jamnik

Johnson & Company, Inc.

Annual Audit - Bridget McKelvey

JASS, Inc.

Administrative Services - Judie Anderson



Your
Watershed
and You

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**Pioneer-Sarah Creek
Watershed Management
Commission**

What is the Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission?

The Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission is a joint-powers organization responsible for protecting the water resources of the Pioneer Creek and Sarah Creek watersheds. Membership in the Commission is comprised of the cities having land in the watershed—Greenfield, Independence, Loretto, Maple Plain, Medina and Minnetrista. Officially formed in 1984, the Commission currently operates under its second generation Watershed Management Plan on issues including water quality, non-degradation, shoreline protection, erosion, flooding, groundwater, wetlands and education.

How can I get involved?

Contact us! Give us a call and we can add you to the Commission's Newsletter mailing list. You can also visit the Commission's website at www.pioneersarahcreek.org to learn about the latest watershed happenings. Project reviews, meeting details, annual reports, press releases and more can all be found on the site.

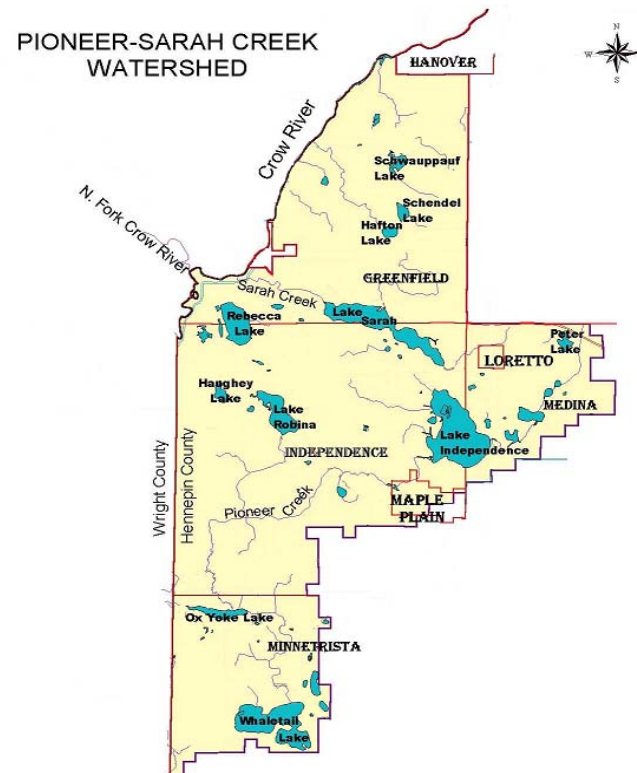
The Commission offers booklets on Rain Gardens and Property Maintenance to educate residents on how to care for their properties in a watershed-friendly way. To request copies, call us at 763-553-1144.

Visit the website of the Three Rivers Park District, www.threeriversparkdistrict.org, a natural resources-based park system located in the suburban Minneapolis/St. Paul metro area. With nearly 27,000 acres of park reserves, regional parks, regional trails and special-use facilities, their goal is to promote environmental stewardship through recreation and education.

Where is the watershed located?

The Pioneer-Sarah Creek watershed lies within northwestern Hennepin County and covers about 70.5 square miles. Independence comprises 42% of the land area of the watershed, followed by Greenfield (30%), Minnetrista (15%), Medina (10%), Maple Plain (1.1%) and Loretto (0.4%). Land use in the watershed is primarily agricultural and rural-residential.

The major water resources in the Pioneer-Sarah Creek watershed are Pioneer Creek, which has its headwaters at Lake Independence and travels south and west to the Crow River, and Sarah Creek, which begins at Lake Sarah and travels to the Crow River at Rockford. The two largest lakes are Lake Independence and Lake Sarah. The Crow River is the receiving water for the entire watershed.



What does the Commission do?

The goal of the Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission is to enhance the quality of the water resources within the watershed. The Commission seeks to carry out this goal through public information and education, analysis of the causes of harmful impacts on the water resources, regulation of the use of water bodies and their beds, regulation of land use, and capital improvement projects.

The water management objectives developed by the Commission are:

- ◆ Protect, preserve and manage surface water and groundwater resources;
- ◆ Minimize property damages and economic losses through water resource management;
- ◆ Manage public expenditures needed to study, control and/or correct flooding and water quality problems;
- ◆ Educate and inform the public on pertinent water resource management issues and increase public participation in water management activities;
- ◆ Identify and plan for means to effectively protect and improve surface and groundwater quality;
- ◆ Establish more uniform local policies and official controls for surface and groundwater management;
- ◆ Reduce erosion of soil into surface water systems;
- ◆ Identify the opportunity to promote groundwater recharge where feasible;
- ◆ Protect and enhance fish and wildlife habitat and water recreational facilities;
- ◆ Prevent stream degradation through land protection measures, runoff restrictions and pollutant restrictions.