



Capitol Region Watershed District

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Seminary Pond Improvements Help Protect Mississippi River

SAINT PAUL (November 18, 2020) – Capitol Region Watershed District (CRWD) and the Cities of Lauderdale and Falcon Heights, Ramsey County, and the University of Minnesota are working together to make improvements to Seminary Pond to minimize flooding and prevent an estimated 2.26 tons of sediment and 10.3 pounds of phosphorous from entering the Mississippi River annually. In addition to water quality benefits, this project will improve wildlife habitat by controlling invasive plants and replacing them with native plants in and around the pond. Project construction began in October 2020 and will conclude by the end of the year with native plantings to occur in spring 2021.

Seminary Pond is a vital regional stormwater pond receiving runoff from 128 acres of land in Lauderdale, Falcon Heights, and Saint Paul. The pond was created in 1994 and was originally designed to move and temporarily store stormwater runoff. It has provided limited treatment of polluted water before flowing into the storm sewer system and the Mississippi River.

Construction involves removing 25 years of built up sediment and expanding the pond's capacity by deepening it and raising a berm along the western edge of the pond. Rocks will be used to stabilize the channel, slopes and ravine leading to the pond. Iron-enhanced sand filters will be added to the northern and southern edges of the pond to remove dissolved phosphorous, a pollutant in stormwater runoff that fuels algae growth. Iron filings mixed into sand create a bond with phosphorus, removing it from the water before it enters the Mississippi River.

"The improvements being made to Seminary Pond will enhance its stormwater management functions and the surrounding natural area that is part of the larger, 7-acre Breck Woods, enjoyed by many local residents." Anna Eleria, Capitol Region Watershed District Division Manager

"Capitol Region Watershed District worked doggedly to pull together the partners and financial resources needed to accomplish this project. The beneficiaries are the Mississippi River and all of us who are committed to doing our part to protect and improve our local natural environment." Heather Butkowski, City of Lauderdale Administrator

Partnering with the Cities of Lauderdale and Falcon Heights, Ramsey County and the University of Minnesota is critical for making these pond improvements and its long-term maintenance.



CRWD received \$245,000 in grants from the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources, with funds from the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment, to improve water quality in the Mississippi River.

Learn more at capitolregionwd.org or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

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