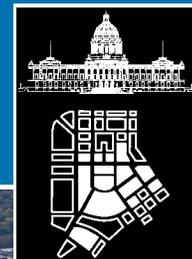


# Capitol Area Stormwater Management Study



Capitol Region Watershed District (CRWD) and Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board (CAAPB) are partnering on a stormwater management study to understand water quality and quantity issues in the Capitol Area and identify regional green infrastructure opportunities for improved stormwater management that will help protect the Mississippi River.

The goal of the study is to create a framework for sustainable and resilient district stormwater management systems. District systems serve more than one parcel (public or private) and can provide additional functions and amenities beyond solely managing stormwater runoff. Green infrastructure practices protect, restore or mimic the natural water cycle by capturing stormwater runoff and reusing it, or allowing it to soak into the ground instead of flowing into storm sewers and the Mississippi River.

## Where is the Capitol Area?

Many know this area as home to the State Capitol and Minnesota's front yard. Fewer know this ground as a place we have gathered, lived and worked since native Minnesotans first called the river and hills of downtown their home. Today, there are opportunities to form new stories, and to create a healthier and more unifying landscape. Visions abound in the CAAPB's community-based 2040 Comprehensive Plan, including restoration of a walkable diverse urban village pattern at the former Sears site, mobility hub and streetscape improvements in the Capitol Rice corridor, and planning for the landscape of the Capitol Mall.

The 60 block (333 acre) Capitol Area is an independent planning, zoning and design review district. There are four focus areas in the study:

- **Capitol Campus** - the Capitol building and Mall, east campus, and the surrounding area
- **Capitol Rice District** - the area to the west of the Capitol that includes the Sears Redevelopment Site
- **Capitol Heights** - a neighborhood to the north of the Capitol with steep hillsides and runoff that impacts districts in every direction
- **Fitzgerald Park** - five city blocks southeast of the Capitol campus south of the I-94 - I-35E freeway corridor

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The Midway Peace Park Project is an example of a district stormwater system with two rain gardens and a unique stormwater feature in the nearby Midway neighborhood.

## Did You Know?

- Stormwater that falls within the Capitol Area ultimately drains to the Mississippi River which is located just 1/2 mile away.
- Tens of thousands of people live or report to work within the study area each day. Hundreds of thousands of visitors pass through each year to visit the Capitol building, mall, and campus.
- Nearly 70% of the study area is covered in hard surfaces like buildings, roads, and sidewalks.
- An average of 261 million gallons of rainwater falls on within the study area each year, enough to fill nearly 400 Olympic swimming pools.

## Project Tasks and Timeline

The Capitol Area Stormwater Management Study began in early 2022, and will extend throughout the year. The study includes an assessment of existing stormwater conveyance, management and issues in the Capitol Area, development of stormwater design guidelines, identification of district stormwater management system opportunities and estimation of the environmental-social-financial benefits of each District stormwater system in the Capitol Area.

## Project Partners

CRWD and CAAPB believe that stormwater management strategies will be integral to achieving the broader vision and goals in the 2040 Capitol Area Comprehensive Plan. Key stakeholders of the study include State of Minnesota Department of Administration and Department of Transportation, City of Saint Paul, Ramsey County, large property owners such as Seritage (owner and developer of the former Sears Site), district planning councils, hospitals, residents and businesses within the district, and other community organizations.

## Questions?

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### Find additional information about the study at:

<https://www.capitolregionwd.org/projects/capitol-area-stormwater-management/>

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