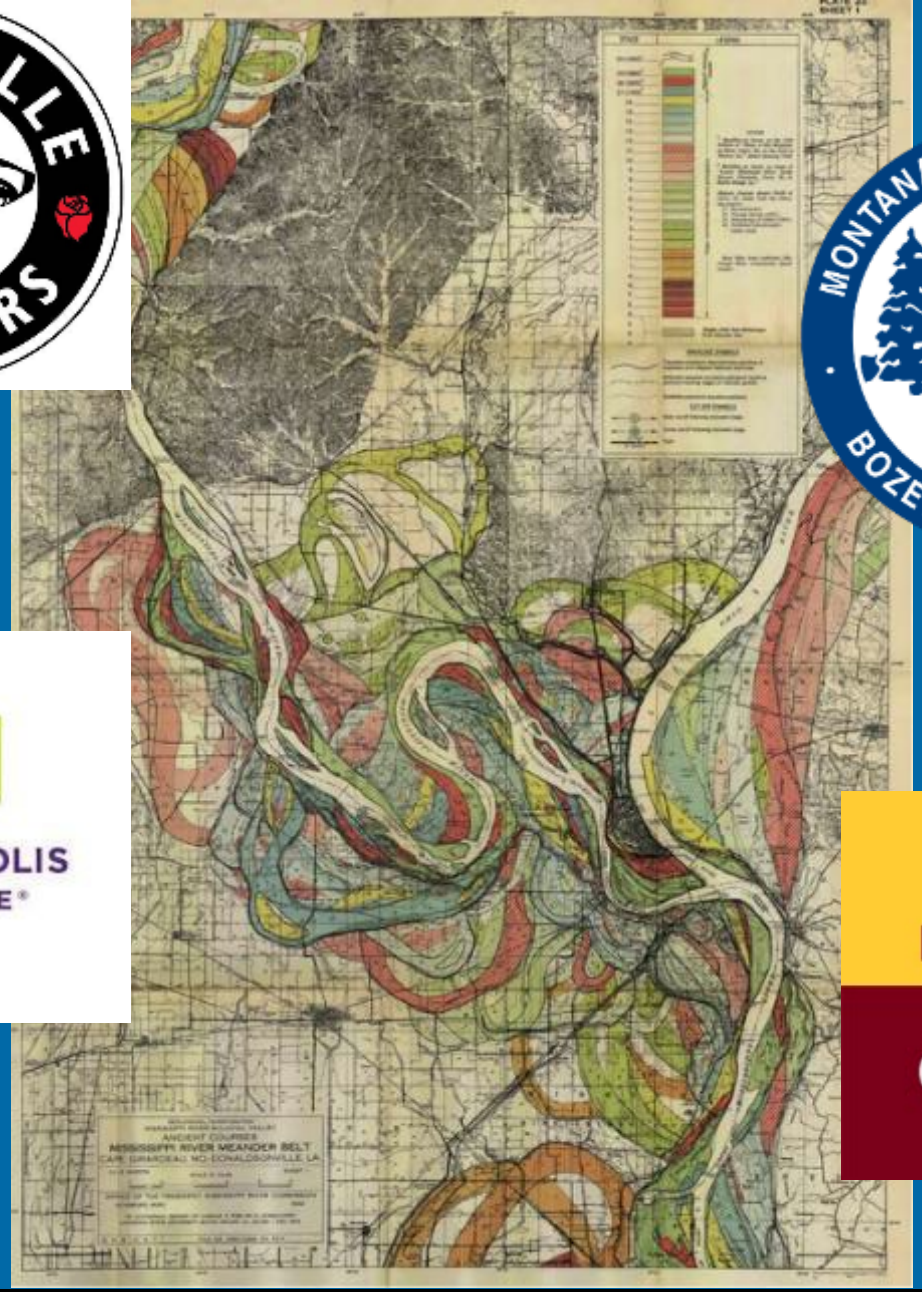
Capitol Region Watershed District

Partner Grant Information Session

Lindsay Schwantes

October 29, 2026







Lindsay Schwantes, Community Engagement Program Manager

Image source: Harold Fisk Mississippi River Print – sheet 1,

Capitol Region Watershed District

2027 – 2028 Partner Grant Information Session

About CRWD

Program Goals

Eligibility

Watershed Management Plan

Terms & Eligible Expenses

Elements of Strong Proposals

De Dakota Makóče

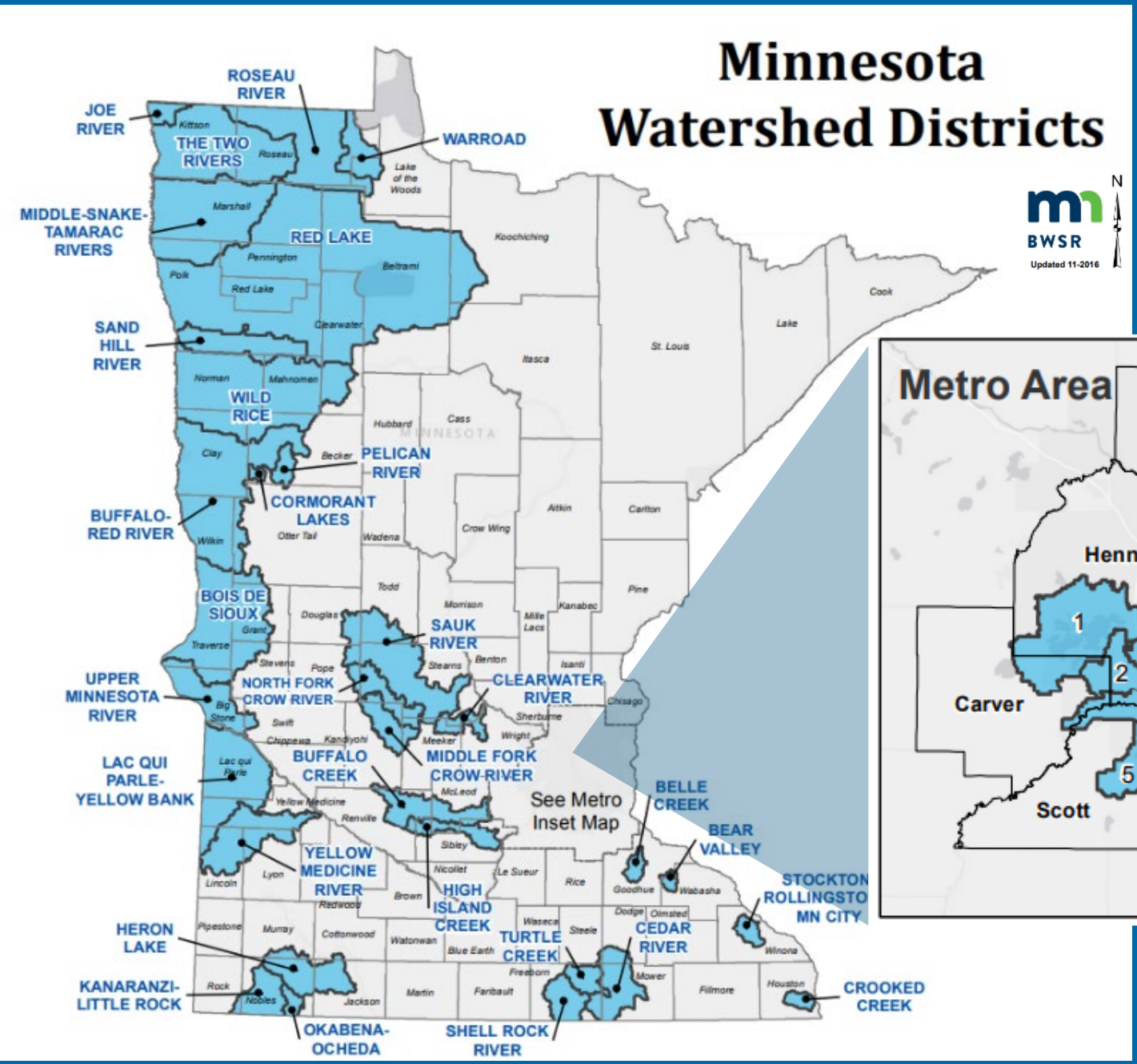
This is Dakota Land

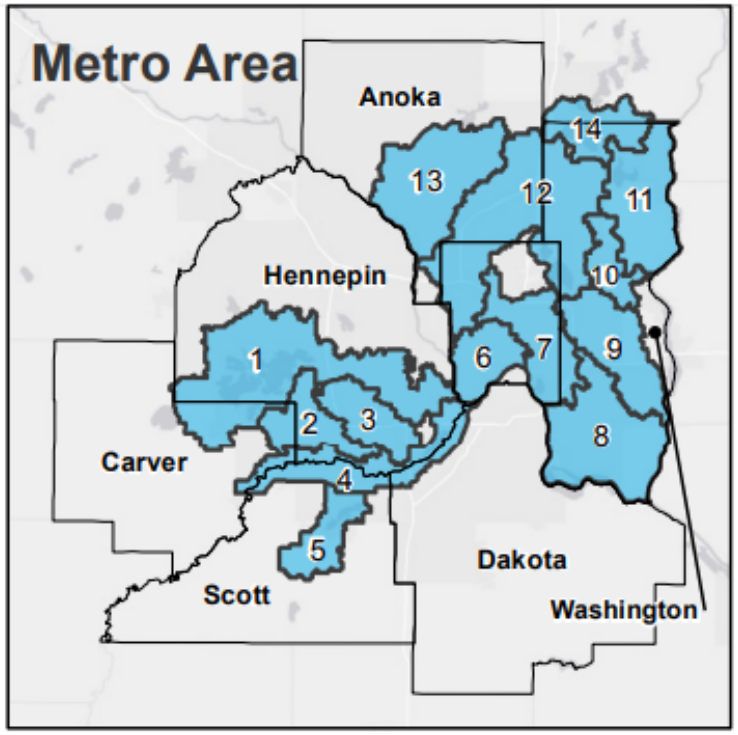
CRWD would like to acknowledge the Dakota people on whose land we work, live and meet. We thank the Dakota people and their relatives for their care of the land, and we recognize their continuing connection to the land, waters, and community. We pay our respects to Dakota people and their culture; past, present, and future. We pledge to treat this land honorably and respectfully.

We Stand with Our Community

We acknowledge and stand with our immigrant neighbors who enrich our communities and work in so many ways. We are proud to represent one of the most diverse watersheds in Minnesota, and we are committed to helping realize a future where all people are treated with dignity and respect.

Minnesota Watershed Districts





Metro Watershed Districts

1. MINNEHAHA CREEK
2. RILEY-PURGATORY-BLUFF CREEK
3. NINE MILE CREEK
4. LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER
5. PRIOR LAKE-SPRING LAKE
6. CAPITOL REGION
7. RAMSEY-WASHINGTON METRO
8. SOUTH WASHINGTON
9. VALLEY BRANCH
10. BROWNS CREEK
11. CARNELIAN-MARINE-ST. CROIX
12. RICE CREEK
13. COON CREEK
14. COMFORT LAKE FOREST LAKE

About CRWD

- 40 square miles
- 5 cities: Falcon Heights, Lauderdale, Maplewood, Roseville, Saint Paul
- Over 200,000 residents
- 5 lakes: McCarrons, Como, Loeb, Crosby, Little Crosby
- 13-mile stretch of Mississippi River
- 50% hard surfaces



Protecting, managing and improving our lakes and river.

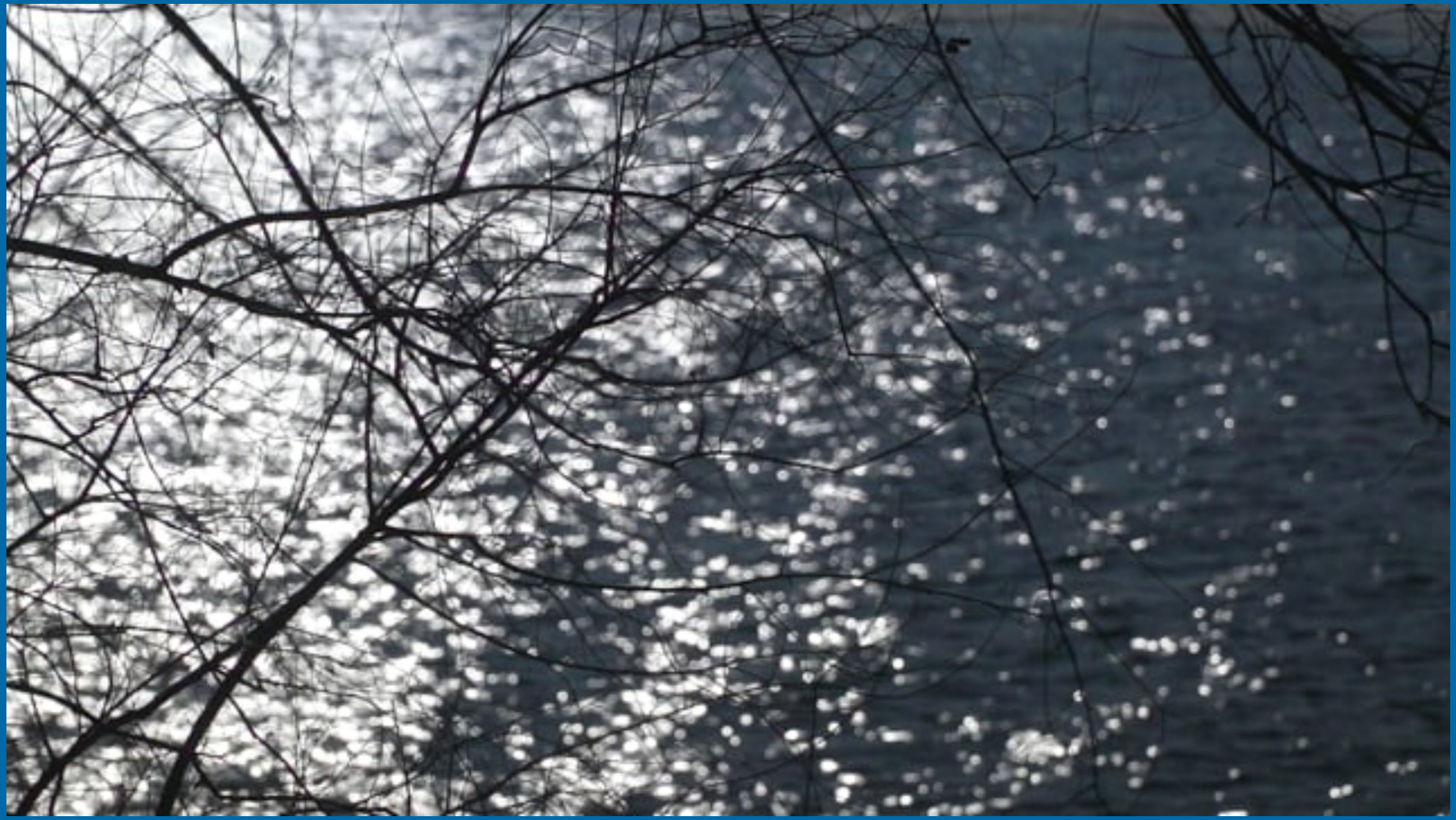
An overview of CRWD programs



Art pictured: This is Folly

- Administration
- Communication & Engagement
- Monitoring & Research
- Planning, Projects & Grants
- Facility Management
- Regulatory

Rivers Beneath the City – Streams to Streets



Capitol Region Watershed District

Mission:

To protect, manage, and improve the water resources of CRWD and the Mississippi River.



Program Goals

Partner Grants fund programs and projects led by public, private and non-profit organizations that increase **clean water knowledge** and **actions**.





Eligibility

- Public, private, or non-profit organizations may apply.
- The projects must be located within CRWD.
- Attend or view the Partner Grant Information Session.
- Submit applications received through the online Partner Grant Application – Link coming soon!
- Review Partner Grant Agreement to understand our contracting terms before applying.
- All resources found on our website:

capitolregionwd.org/grants/partner-grants

CRWD's work is guided by 10-year Watershed Management Plan

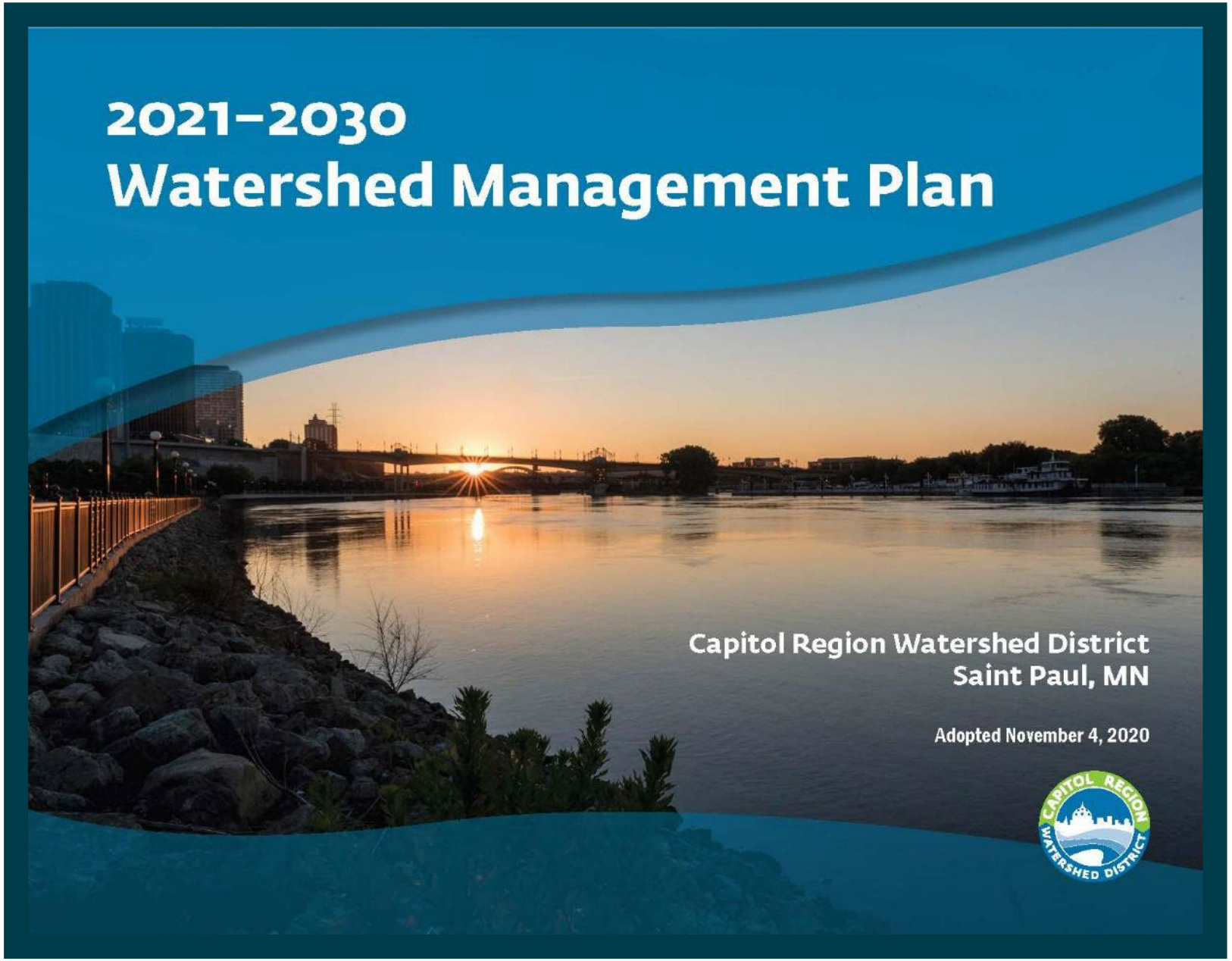
Guides the work of CRWD

Helps prioritize

Identifies areas of interest – geographies, audiences, engagement methods

Find it online:

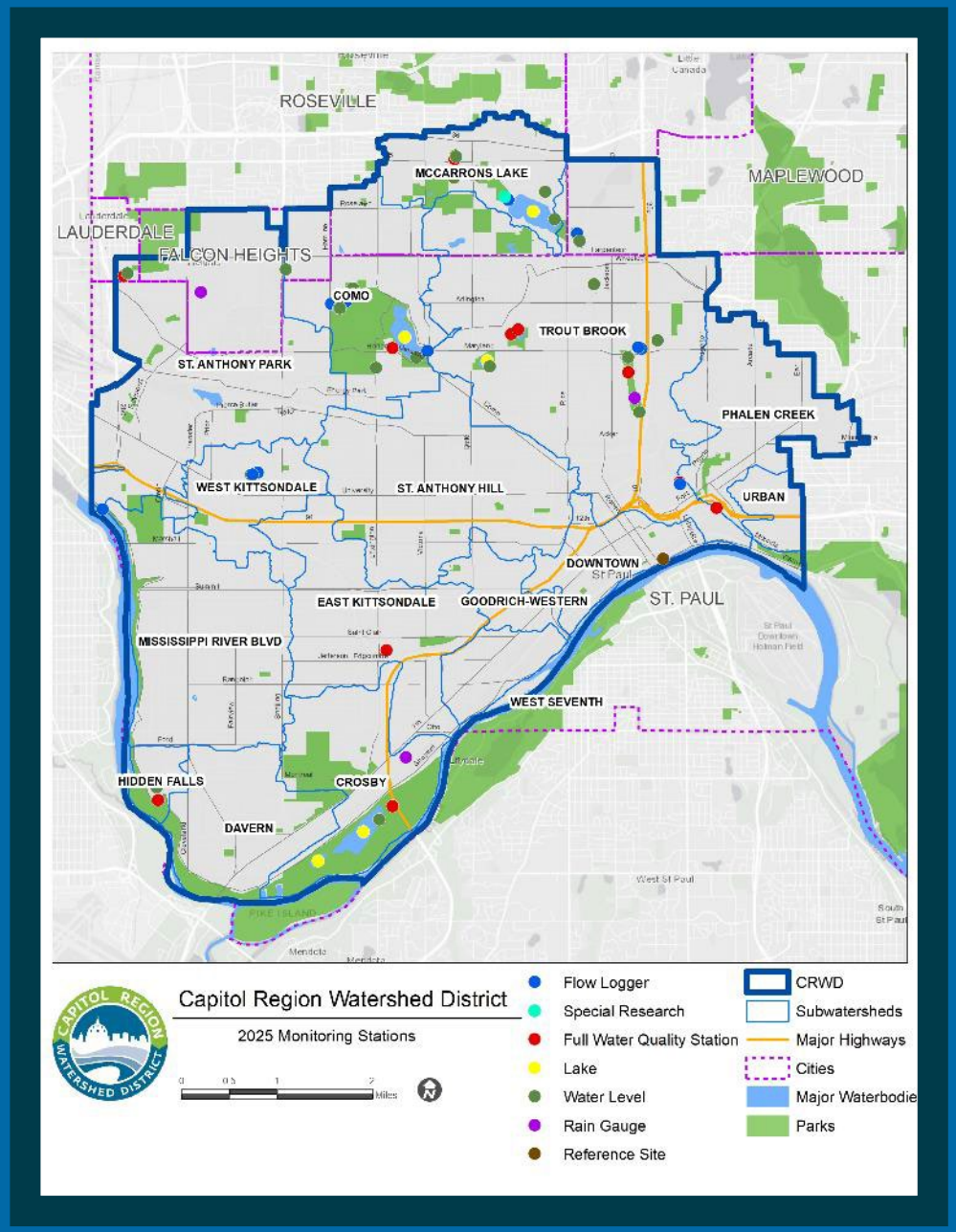
Capitolregionwd.org/watershed-management-plan/



Watershed Management Plan

Watershed Management Plan – Communications & Engagement Issues:

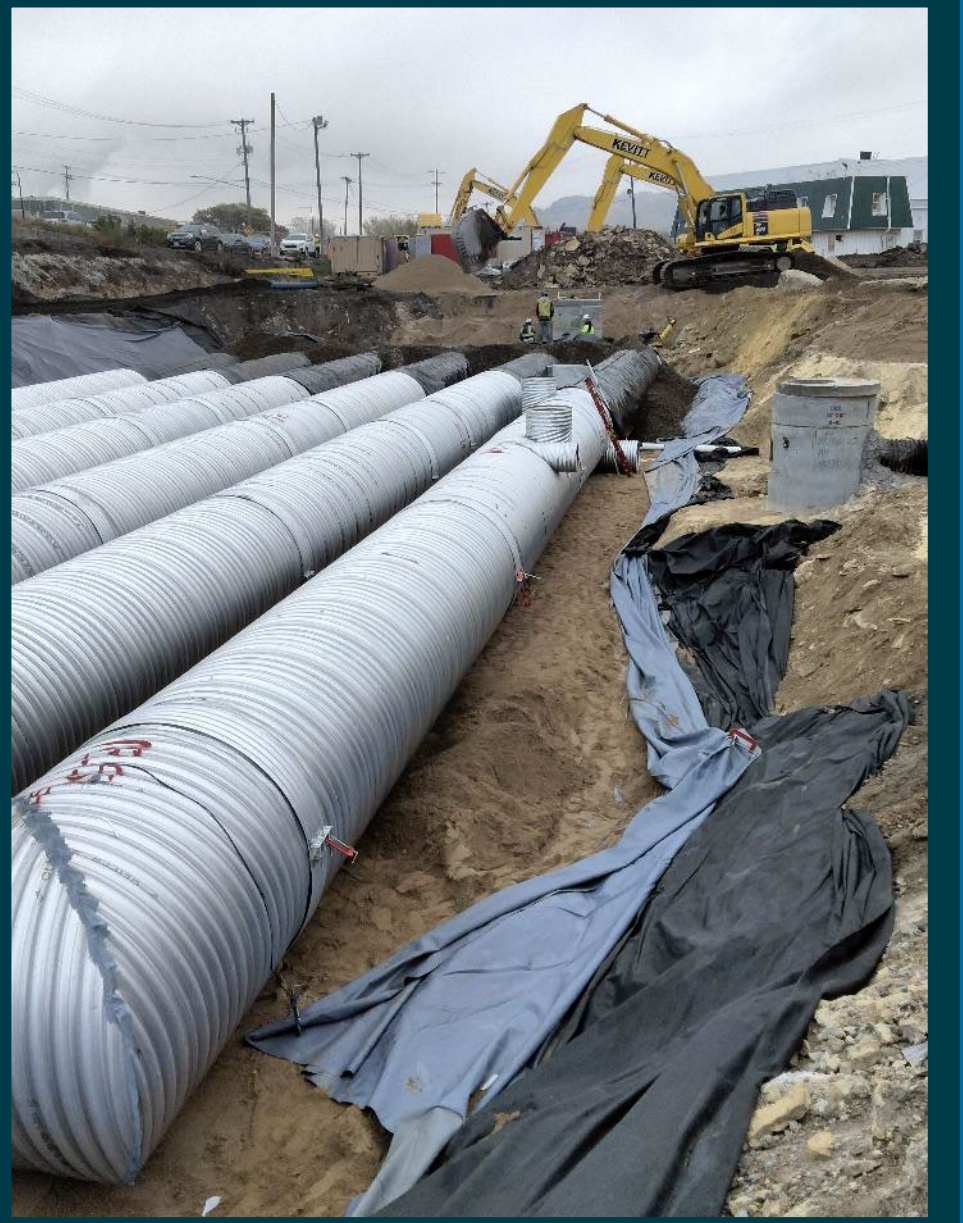
1. Engagement in activities and actions that protect and improve water resources is not happening to the extent possible due to many factors including lack of community awareness, ability, interest and proximity to water.



Watershed Management Plan

Watershed Management Plan – Communications & Engagement Issues:

2. The work of the District is not fully visible to our stakeholders.



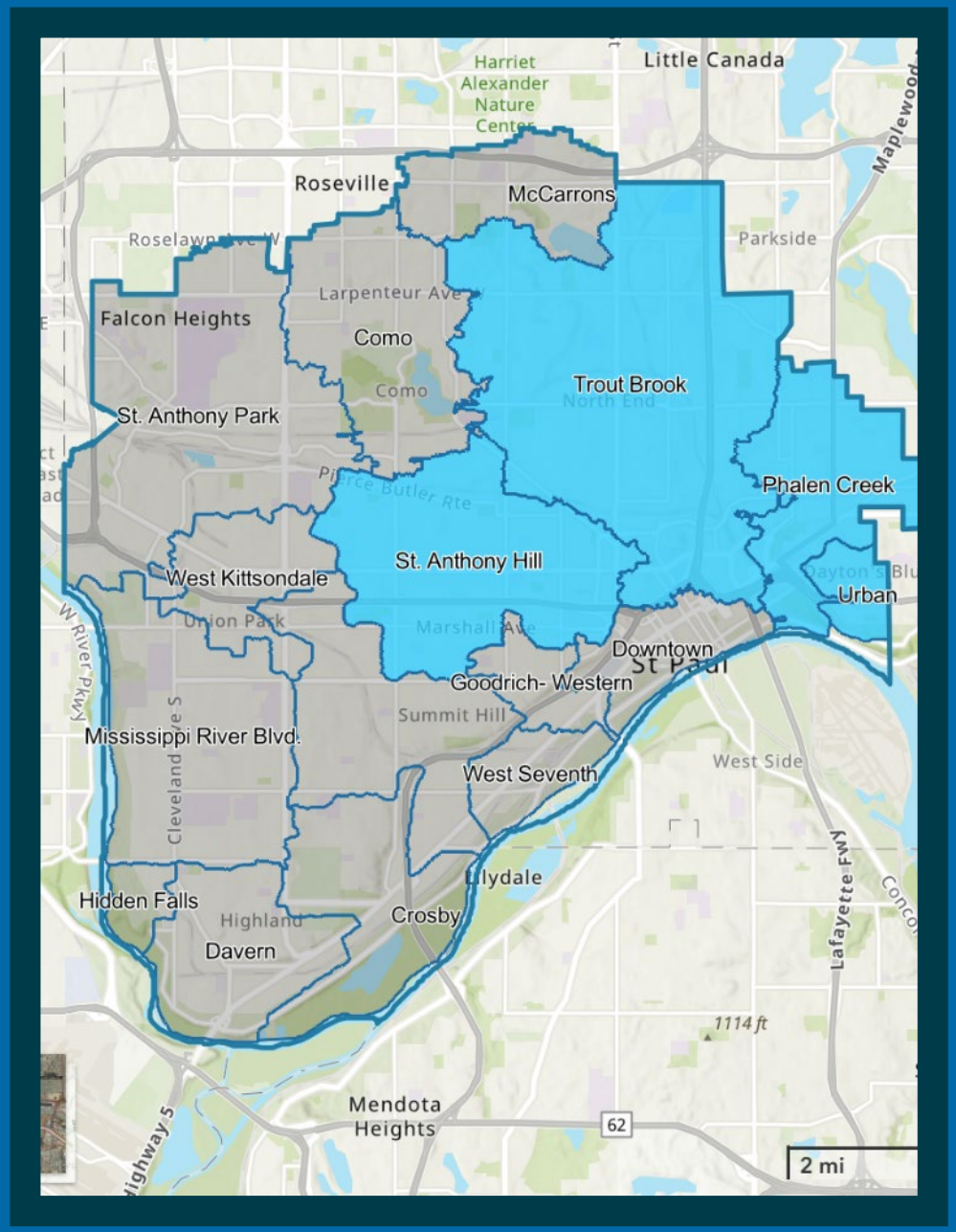
Watershed Management Plan

Watershed Management Plan – Communications & Engagement Issues:

3. The District is not effectively engaging residents in the central and eastern portions of the District, people of color, recent immigrants, young adults and youth.

Find a link to our focus area map at:

Capitolregionwd.org/grants/clean-water-project-grants/



Watershed Management Plan

Watershed Management Plan – Communications & Engagement Issues:

4. The District needs to establish ways to acknowledge Dakota land and promote connections with the historical and cultural connections to place.



Watershed Management Plan

Watershed Management Plan – Communications & Engagement Issues:

5. Relationships with community groups serving diverse audiences, media, and elected officials—necessary to achieve water quality goals—are lacking.



City of Saint Paul

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Adopt-a-Drain is celebrating its 10th anniversary on November 20, 2024, at the Capitol Region Watershed District Office; and

WHEREAS, Adopt-a-Drain began as a pilot project in the neighborhood surrounding Como Lake in Saint Paul in collaboration with Capitol Region Watershed District, Hamline University's Center for Global Environmental Education, the City of Saint Paul, and the Metro Watershed Partners; and

WHEREAS, Adopt-a-Drain has expanded from the pilot project to an annual program in many Twin Cities metropolitan communities, greater Minnesota, and other states across the country; and

WHEREAS, Adopt-a-Drain promotes civic engagement, volunteerism, protection of water quality, environmental stewardship, and reduction of localized flooding and stormwater runoff pollution; and

WHEREAS, 2,311 Saint Paul community volunteers have adopted 3,988 drains since the implementation of the program, effectively removing nearly 216,000 pounds of sediment and debris from storm drains; and

WHEREAS, we join members of our community in celebrating a decade of protecting water quality in our area, including the Mississippi River.

Now, Therefore, I, Melvin Carter, Mayor of the City of Saint Paul, do hereby proclaim November 20, 2024, to be:

Adopt-A-Drain Day
in the City of Saint Paul

In Witness Whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Saint Paul to be affixed this Twentieth day of November in the Year Two Thousand Twenty-Four.

SEAL OF THE CITY OF SAINT PAUL 2024

Melvin Carter, Mayor

Grant Terms

Please review the Partner Grant Agreement prior to applying.

And example can be found at:

Captitolregionwd.org/grants/partner-grants/

Capitol Region Watershed District
595 Aldine Street
Saint Paul, MN 55104
(651) 644-8888 • capitolregionwd.org

CAPITOL REGION WATERSHED DISTRICT
PARTNER GRANT AGREEMENT

This Grant Agreement (Agreement) is entered into between Capitol Region Watershed District (DISTRICT), a political subdivision of the State of Minnesota; and _____ (GRANTEE) and shall be effective as of the date it is signed by both parties.

WHEREAS, THE DISTRICT has established a grant program to provide financial assistance to various individuals or organizations to protect and improve water resources within THE DISTRICT; and

WHEREAS, the mission of THE DISTRICT is to protect, manage and improve water resources of THE DISTRICT by encouraging water resource stewardship in the watershed district; and

WHEREAS, the GRANTEE has presented a proposal (Project) that THE DISTRICT believes will further its mission; IT IS THEREFORE AGREED BETWEEN THE PARTIES AS FOLLOWS:

1) PROJECT:

The GRANTEE will perform the Project as described and approved by the DISTRICT in Exhibit A, with total grant funding not to exceed $__,____. Only staff time and materials associated with the project are eligible for reimbursement.

2) PAYMENT:

a. As determined by the DISTRICT, the GRANTEE is eligible for up to 25% of the grant amount to be paid prior to the completion of the GRANTEE's obligations. This is

SAMPLE

Grant Terms

1. CRWD will fund up to 10 proposals.
2. Grantees can apply for $10,000 – $40,000.
3. Applicants will receive full or no funding.
4. The grant term will span two years: from the time of an executed agreement through November 30, 2028. Work can span the two-year term or be a one-time event.
5. Applicants should only include deliverables and outcomes expected as a result of CRWD funding. This information will be used to determine the cost per participant and to compare project deliverables across proposals during the review process.

Grant Terms Continued…

6. Applicants should designate if they would like a 25% upfront payment on their application.
7. An annual report is due no later than November 30 each year.
8. Grantees have the option to submit quarterly invoicing for work completed to be reimbursed throughout the term of your grant.
9. If funded, grantees must submit their final report and receive reimbursement prior to applying for another grant.
10. Budget for this cycle is $165,000 to award.

Grant Terms

Application sections

Audience – CRWD believes we can have the greatest impact on our water resources when we have engagement across all audiences of our watershed.

Project Audience
Your answers below will be used to further understand the audiences served by CRWD's Partner Grant Program and improve our communications and engagement. Project proposals must serve residents within our geographic boundaries to be considered for funding.

Does your project or program focus on serving youth or young adults? Y/N

Describe the primary audience or community served by your project or program including ages served.

Identify the neighborhood, community or focus area for your project. Additional consideration given to CRWD priority areas.
(Activities must take place within CRWD's boundaries. Work serving communities in the Trout Brook, Phalen Creek, Saint Anthony Hill, Como Lake or Lake McCarrons watersheds, and near the Mississippi River will receive additional consideration. Please reference the map of CRWD to see our boundaries and identify these focus areas)

Grant Terms

Application sections

Project Information

- Clear impacts
- less is more
- Mission statement connection

Project Information
Capitol Region Watershed District (CRWD) Partner Grants support programs and projects led by public, private and non-profit organizations that increase clean water knowledge and actions. Projects will receive full or no funding, so please make clear connections between your proposal request and expected outcomes. Lastly, CRWD will only use the project information provided in your application during proposal review to ensure equal consideration is given to new and returning applicants.

Project Name

Project Connection to CRWD Watershed Management Plan
Which of the following engagement strategies, tools, or activities are included in your project or program? (Check all that apply; events, watershed education curriculum or lessons, community science, artist and artmaking, technology, storytelling.)

Indicate the water quality issues your project or program will address through education or actions. (Check all that apply; trash reduction, nutrient reduction, sediment reduction, chloride/salt reduction, climate resilience, ecosystem health – restoration / aquatic invasive species reduction, other.)

Will your project or program take place at or near a waterbody in CRWD? Reference our map of CRWD to ensure waterbodies are in CRWD. If yes, describe where.

Describe how your project helps CRWD's mission to protect, manage, and improve water resources of the District.

Project summary

Provide a descriptive summary of your project or program and explain how you plan to implement the engagement methods and address water quality issues indicated in the previous questions. (250-word limit) Note: Native plantings, rain gardens and water reuse projects are not eligible for Partner Grant funding. For more information on resources for those projects, visit CRWD's Clean Water Project Grant Program.)

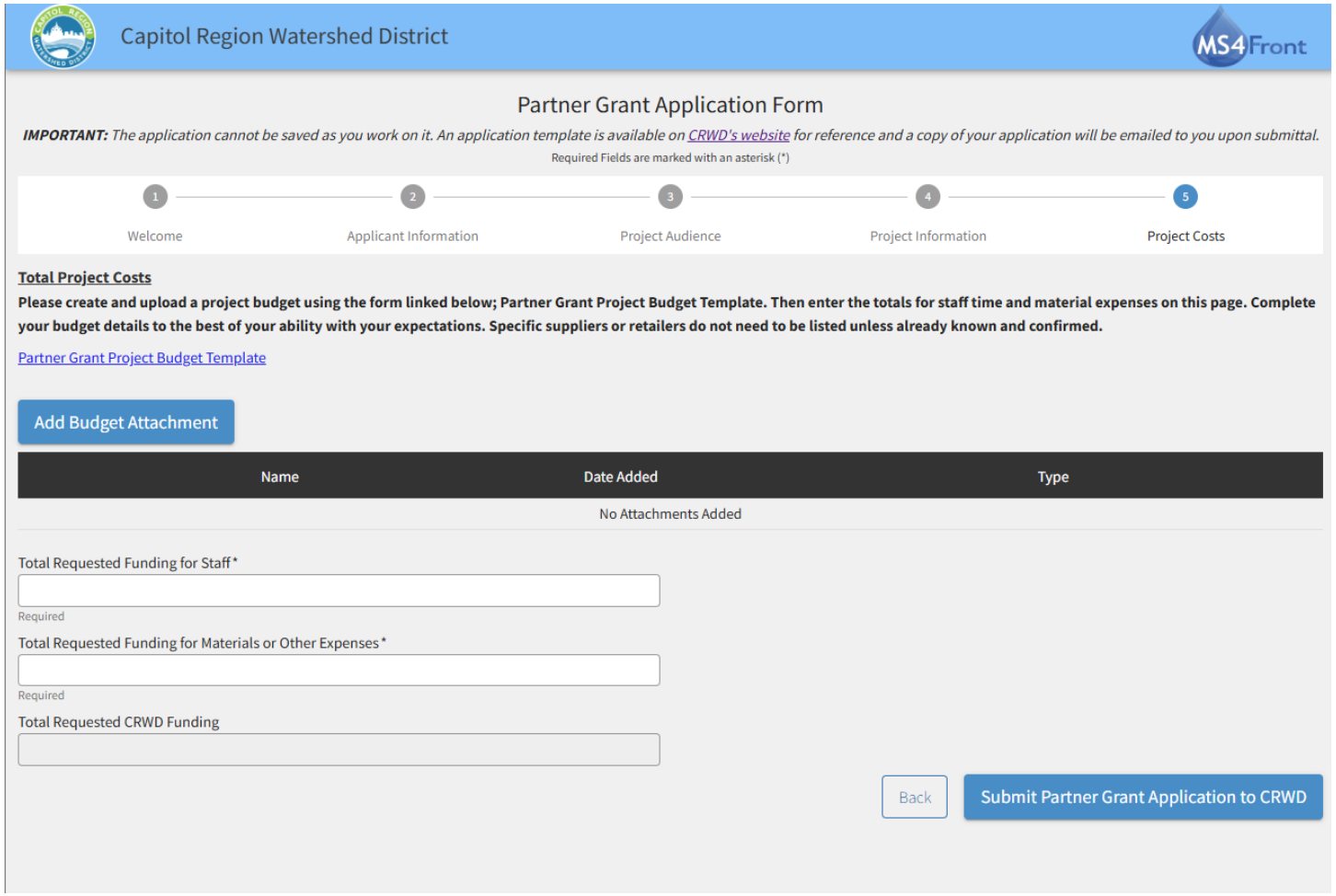
Expenses

Staff time

Materials

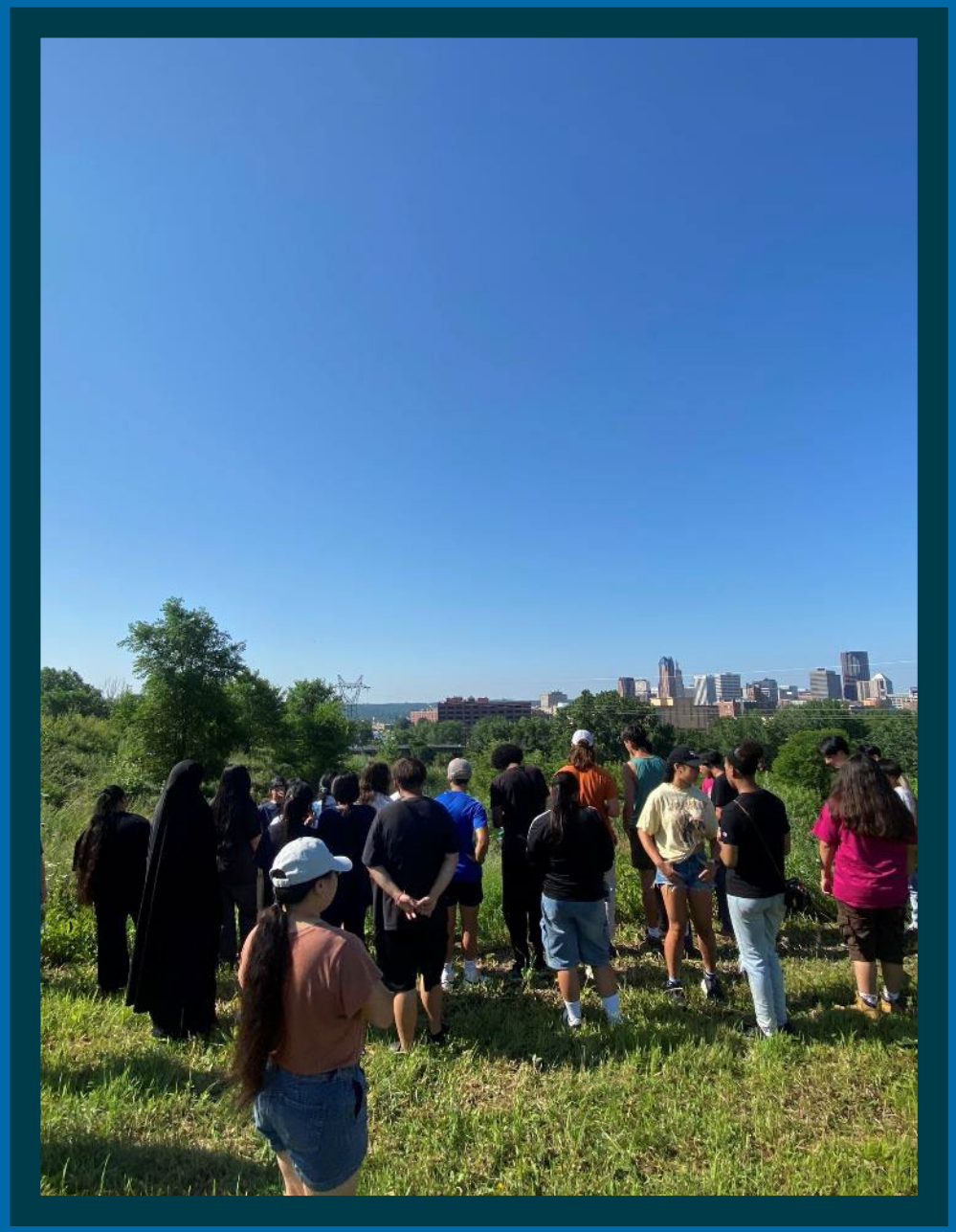
Original receipts / invoices for expenses $500 and over

Staff time and material expenses are eligible for reimbursement.



Strong proposals have…

1. Clear connections to CRWD's mission and management plan,
2. Realistic outcomes,
3. Address CRWD's key audiences and geographies,
4. Include a call to action and include stewardship activities to protect water resources
5. Present a clear response to each question



Capitol Region Watershed District

Questions?

Lindsay Schwantes

lschwantes@capitolregionwd.org