

Healthy Lands, Healthy Waters

The Zumbro River Landscape Stewardship Plan focuses on protecting water quality by maintaining and enhancing the health of the lands in its watershed. It is based on the premise that the quality of a water body reflects the integrity of its watershed. Stewardship efforts that maintain forests, wetlands, and other natural communities will not only benefit the biodiversity and ecological health of the region, but also weaken floods, improve infiltration, and remove nutrients from runoff as it makes its way to our streams. Implementing best management practices and expanding perennial cover in agricultural and residential areas will benefit both the natural habitat of the landscape and the water quality in the watershed. This plan proposes a vision, desired future conditions, and strategies that utilize a landscape approach to natural resource stewardship.

The landscape stewardship plan can be used in:

- Water and Natural Resource Planning
- Community Land Use Planning
- Conservation Project Prioritization and Funding
- Connecting with Policy and Decision Makers
- Guiding Private Land Stewardship
- Other Projects in and Around the Watershed

Weaver Dunes Preserve
60042 County Rd 84,
Kellogg, MN 55945



Zumbro River Watershed LANDSCAPE STEWARDSHIP PLAN



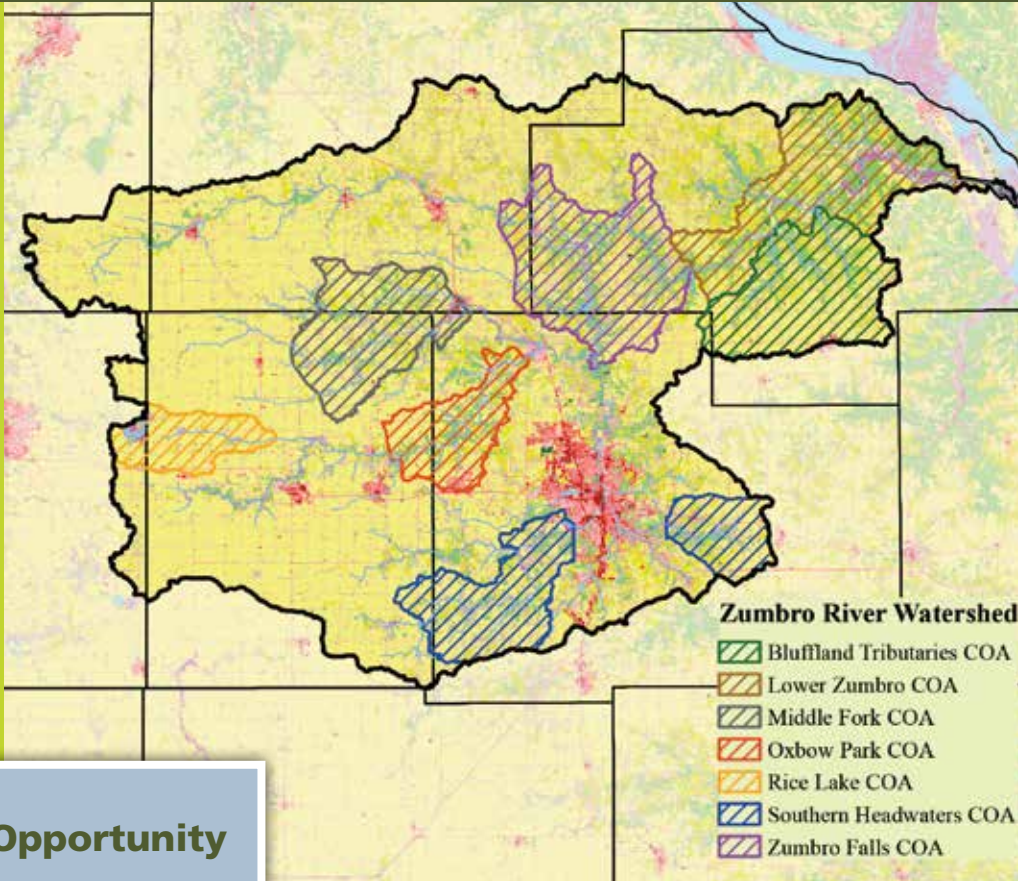
**A vision for healthy waters,
ecosystems, and human experiences in
the Zumbro River watershed.**

Watershed stewardship takes a collaborative effort by public and private partners. Learn how you can play a part in the stewardship of this watershed's ecological services.



Zumbro River Watershed

- 909,366 acres
- Dodge, Goodhue, Olmsted, Rice, Steele, and Wabasha counties
- Deep fertile glacial-tills in the upper portion and steep bluffs in the lower reaches
- 23% forest, wetland, or grassland (green and tan), 12% pasture (dark yellow), 56% row-crop agriculture (yellow) and 9% residential/urban development (red)
- Many remaining areas of outstanding biodiversity significance and high importance to regional water quality
- 125 miles of Designated Trout Streams



Conservation Opportunity Areas (COAs)

The plan identifies seven focal areas to help direct conservation efforts within the watershed in strategic and cost effective ways.



More information on how you can contribute to achieving this vision can be found in the Landscape Stewardship Plan at:

<https://mn.gov/frc/southeast-committee.html>



Forest Stewards
Guild

The Nature
Conservancy

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Vision for the Watershed:

- High quality streams and healthy groundwater resources
- Stabilized and increasing populations of rare and threatened species
- Adequately buffered karst features including springs, fens, sinkholes, and the Decorah Edge
- Streams with rehabilitated banks and native floodplain vegetation
- Large habitat buffers and corridors around and between core biodiversity areas
- Fire is used as a management tool in appropriate ecosystems
- Consistent funding for cost share assistance associated with various landowner activities such as invasive species control and native plant community restoration
- A more robust hardwood timber market supporting sustainable private timber management
- Improved landowner education
- Active comprehensive conservation planning on priority sites
- Regional land use plans recognize and protect rare features

