

WATER PLAN NEWS

April 22, 2009

DOUGLAS SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
www.DouglasSWCD.com

Funds Available for Water Quality Projects

The Douglas SWCD and area watersheds have funds available to landowners for a variety of water quality improvement projects.

Projects may include: native buffers, shoreland habitat restorations, rain gardens, low-interest loans for septic

upgrades, sediment blocks & terraces, wetland restorations, and MORE! Most practices are eligible for 75% cost-share!

Don't wait-these funds are first come, first serve. Call or stop by the SWCD office for more information.



A hillside lakescaping project on Lake Carlos.



An integrated sampler is used to collect water samples for analysis.

Lake Monitors Needed

The District has received Clean Water Legacy funds from the MPCA to increase lake monitoring efforts in Douglas County.

Now in the grant's second year, the Surface Water Assessment Monitoring Grant funds water quality monitor-

ing on fifteen lakes that do not have an adequate amount of water quality data.

Contact the SWCD if you are interested in monitoring **Oscar** (south of Hwy 27), **Little Oscar** (east of CR 7), or **Freeborn Lake** for the 2009 sampling season.

Make Everyday Earth Day!

Here's some easy things you can do to conserve resources (including your financial resources)!

1. Change a light bulb. CFLs use up to 75% less energy and last up to 10 times as long.
2. Unplug anything that glows. All those little LED lights on appliances are using energy! Phone and battery chargers are sucking power just by being plugged into the outlet.
3. Fix that Drip. A leaky faucet or toilet can waste thousands of gallons of water a year.
4. Let your lawn grow. You'll save time and energy (yours and the gas the lawnmower uses). Compost grass clippings, leaves, and food-you won't have to buy fertilizer again.
5. Reduce, Reuse, & Recycle! Don't buy new when gently used (or your neighbor's) will do.

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Upcoming Events

- Apr. 29— Kids' Groundwater Festival @ Runestone Community Center
- May 1-2— Douglas SWCD Tree Handout
- May 14—Lake Monitoring Program cooler pick up (5:30 p.m.) @ USDA Service Center
- May 18, June 15, June 29, July 20, Aug. 17, Sept. 21— Lake Monitoring Sampling Dates
- July 17—Lakeshore Buffers Workshop w/ Karen Terry, University of Minnesota Extension @ new Public Works Building

Rain Barrels

A rain barrel collects and stores rainwater from your rooftop to use later for things like lawn and garden watering.



Why use a rain barrel?

- Rain barrels help lower water costs (a rain barrel can save approximately 1,300 gallons of water during peak summer months)

- Storing rainwater for garden and lawn use helps recharge groundwater naturally.
- Rain barrels reduce water pollution by reducing stormwater runoff, which can contain pollutants like sediment, oil, grease, bacteria, and nutrients.
- Rain barrels are inexpensive and easy to build and install.

We have a limited number of assembled barrels for sale. Just \$20 + Tax

Call today to reserve yours!

Trees for Sale

Conserve energy, reduce soil erosion, and increase your property value by planting trees! The SWCD sells bare-root and potted trees and shrubs. It's not too late to place your order. Call 320-763-3191 x 3 to reserve yours.

