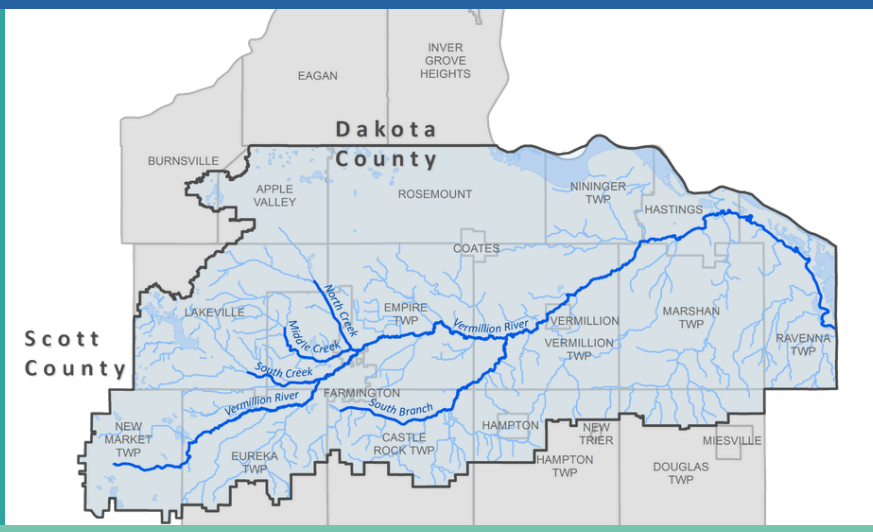
VERMILLION RIVER WATERSHED

2025 Activities and 2016-2025 Watershed Management Plan Highlights

Collaboratively providing education, science, and support to restore and protect the Vermillion River Watershed's natural resources for all who live, work, and play within its boundaries.

Who We Are

The Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) is the largest geographic watershed in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. We are a watershed management organization under a joint powers agreement between Dakota and Scott counties. With more than 50 miles of Minnesota Department of Natural Resources-designated trout stream, changing land uses, and curious people, there's opportunity around every streambank.





What We Do

Under the direction of the Joint Powers Board and guidance of the Community Advisory Committee and Technical Advisory Committee, VRWJPO staff create and execute the Watershed Management Plan (WMP). The WMP guides everything from water monitoring to stormwater standards to social media goals, as well as best management practices recommended by research and studies.

Top Stories of 2025

- **2026-2035 Watershed Management Plan:** Submitted the draft WMP for a 60-day review period, responded to 186 comments from 10 organizations, and revised the WMP and VRWJPO Standards. *The new WMP has been adopted as of April 22, 2026!*
- **East Lake Invasive Fish Barrier and Removals:** Total of ~9,600 lbs. of carp and goldfish removed over summer and fall 2024 and 2025, potential reduction of in-lake total phosphorus by 75 lbs./year
- **Alimagnet Lake Alum Treatment:** Continued improvements stemming from 2024 treatment - some of the "best ever" water quality monitoring results from the lake, per the City of Burnsville

CLEAN WATER LAND & LEGACY AMENDMENT
YOUR Clean Water Fund AT WORK

2025 Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board Members

Scott County Commissioner Tom Wolf, Chair
Dakota County Commissioner Bill Droste, Vice Chair
Dakota County Commissioner Mary Liz Holberg, Secretary-Treasurer



Landscaping for Clean Water and Lawn Watering Wisdom video marketing campaign (above): Nearly 300,000 people saw ads featuring Greg, Lindsey, and Rosie on the Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District social media accounts between February and September 2025, a partnership between the SWCD, Dakota County, VRWJPO, and the other Dakota County watersheds.



Farmington resident Josh Borton (above right) served on the VRWJPO Community Advisory Committee from 2017-2025, earning a hearty recognition from staff.



2016-2025 WMP By the Numbers

- **Pollutant reductions from VRWJPO projects:** 4,303 tons/year of total suspended solids, 3,031 lbs./year of total phosphorus, 21,980 lbs./year of nitrate
- **Water conservation from VRWJPO projects:** 18.82 million gallons per year of groundwater saved by implementing stormwater harvest and reuse systems for irrigation
- **Adopt-a-Drain:** 955 storm drains adopted (392 in 2025)
- **Dakota SWCD Landscaping for Clean Water projects in the VRWJPO:** 156 raingardens, native gardens, and shoreline plantings implemented (18 in 2025)
- **Community engagement:** About 17,000 people reached through workshops, field days, volunteer events, community programs, schools, watershed tours, township meetings, panel discussions, and presentations

VRWJPO Staff

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Vermillion River watershed
reflecting life