



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Katie Bobich

Phone: (218) 824-1002

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLANS GROW IN CROW WING COUNTY

More than 200 stormwater management plans have been approved by the County in the last three years, according to a year-end report compiled by the Crow Wing County Land Services Department. Of the 207 plans approved, 132 were implemented in 2015.

Stormwater is rain that does not soak into the ground, but runs off from impervious surfaces such as roofs, driveways, sidewalks, and patios. It is a concern because of the volume of water and sediment washed into downstream water bodies, as well as the pollutants and nutrients carried by this runoff. According to Crow Wing County Land Services Director Mark Liedl, "stormwater management is one of the most important things that can be done to keep our lakes and rivers clean."

This is because of the positive, direct effects that stormwater management plans have on the environment, Liedl noted. Each plan reduces a quarter of a pound of phosphorus from the nearby water body. The 132 plans implemented in 2015 reduced an estimated 33 pounds of phosphorus from the waters of Crow Wing County. Further, each pound of phosphorus reduced eliminates an estimated 300 pounds of algae. In 2015, at least 9,900 pounds of algae were eliminated because of these newly implemented stormwater management plans. That number will continue to grow each year.

Whether a stormwater plan and permit is required for land owners is determined during the site visit conducted by County Land Services staff as part of the land use permit application process. Crow Wing County's Land Use Ordinance encourages no more than 15% of the total lot area on a residential property to be comprised of impervious surfaces, but allows up to 25% if performance standards are put in place. Lake shore properties with more than 15% impervious surface are required to have a stormwater management plan and stormwater permit. If a stormwater plan is required, land owners have two years to implement the plan. All stormwater plans are designed for permanent on-site treatment of one inch off stormwater runoff on all impervious surface coverage on the lot. "We take pride in working with land owners in a timely and efficient manner to find the best management practice that works for their particular property," stated Liedl.

Liedl noted that a variety of stormwater treatment options are available to land owners. "Berms, rain gardens, infiltration basins, and swales are often easier to install, less expensive, look better, and can work as well as ponds, pipes, and larger conveyance systems. In addition, directing runoff to existing natural depressions, drainage ways, and vegetated soil surface is a simple way to treat runoff and prevent erosion. A number of different approaches may be necessary given lot constraints and topographic limitations," he added. Citizens may learn more about stormwater management by going to the Land Services website at <http://www.crowwing.us/90/Land-Services>.

Citizens may view the year-end report data by going to www.crowwing.us/DocumentCenter/View/11001. The Land Services Department is committed to providing excellent customer service while helping landowners make wise choices that protect Crow Wing County's extraordinary natural resources. Citizens are encouraged to contact the Land Services Department at (218) 824-1125 or environmental.services@crowwing.us to discuss land use questions before starting building projects, applying for an address or with questions regarding land use requirements.

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Mark Liedl
Land Services Department
322 Laurel Street, Suite 14
Brainerd, MN 56401

Our Vision: Being Minnesota's favorite place.

Our Mission: Serve well. Deliver value. Drive results.

Our Values: Be responsible. Treat people right. Build a better future.

Office: (218) 824-1125

Fax: (218) 824-1104

www.crowwing.us