



US Army Corps
of Engineers
St. Paul District

Information Paper

Watershed Study: Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, Minnesota



Minnehaha Creek at Lake Nokomis

Contact

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Location/Description

The Minnehaha Creek watershed is located primarily in Hennepin County, Minnesota. The watershed covers approximately 181 square miles in the western suburbs and Minneapolis, Minnesota, metropolitan area. It drains into the Mississippi River. It includes important natural resources such as Lake Minnetonka, Christmas Lake, Lake Nokomis, and Minnehaha Creek.

The feasibility study has developed a Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan to assist in identifying project areas with a Federal and local interest. The Corps is working with the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (the non-Federal sponsor) to prioritize study focus areas for the remainder of the study. The project management plan highlights the following objectives:

- Determine the flow regime in Minnehaha Creek that meets both human and ecosystem needs through a highly involved stakeholder process.
- Modify the Gray's Bay Dam operating plan to incorporate the revised flow regime.
- Improve the chemical and physical quality of surface water both in creeks and lakes. Investigate options for improving the water quality in 6-Mile Creek/Halsted Bay and comprehensive planning for Lake Minnetonka.

- Preserve and enhance connective ecosystems (greenway corridors) on creeks leading to Lake Minnetonka and along Minnehaha Creek.
- Minimize man-made obstructions to recreational boating and fish passage along the creek.
- Integrate public recreation features into multipurpose project formulation whenever possible.
- Preserve, protect, and restore the natural appearance and function of riparian/shoreline ecosystems throughout the watershed.
- Reduce the severity and frequency of flooding along Minnehaha Creek.

Status

The feasibility study is ongoing and scheduled to be completed in 2013. The Corps will perform expert review of hydrologic and hydraulic models the Watershed District uses in managing the watershed. This review will improve the accuracy and stability of the models.

The feasibility cost share agreement was executed in January 2003; work on the study began in July 2003. Community and technical advisor meetings were held in 2004 and 2005 to outline a publicly-supported planning vision for the watershed.

Authority

Resolution of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Docket 2597, dated April 15, 1999

Fiscal

Feasibility study cost:	
Federal cost	\$1,642,000
Non-Federal cost	\$1,642,000
Total estimated cost	\$3,284,000
Federal funds allocated to date	\$1,642,000

See www.minnehahacreek.org for additional information.