

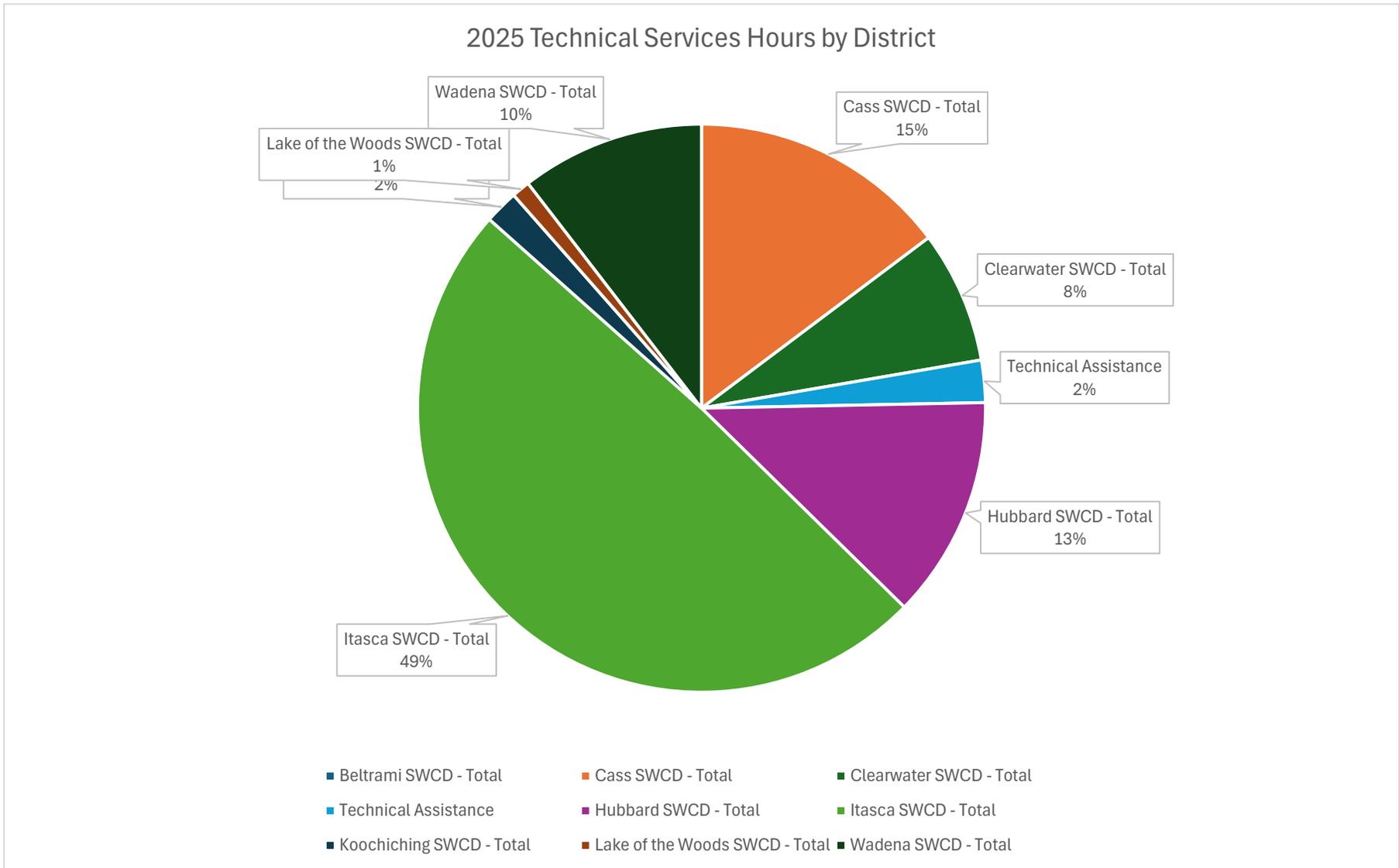
TSA8 2025 Engineering Report:

Hours billed to TSA8 for technical services in the year 2025 by the District

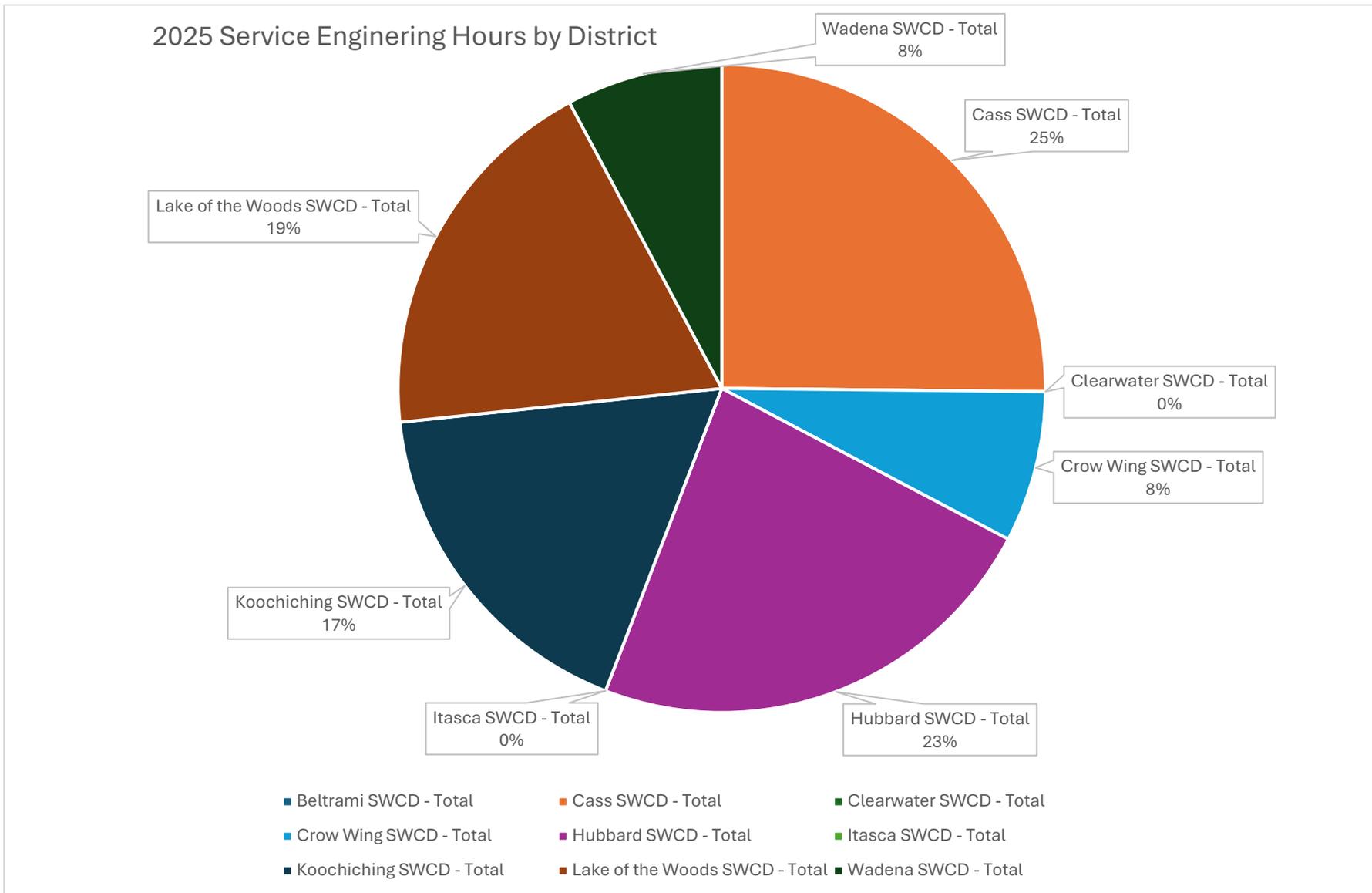
SWCD:	Staff hours	Site Visits	Eng hours	Eng Plans	SWCD Conservation Plans
Beltrami SWCD			61	1	
Technical Assistance hours by year					
Admin					
Beltrami SWCD - Total					
Cass SWCD					
Technical Assistance	184	49	100	1	
Cass SWCD - Total	184	49	100	1	
Clearwater SWCD					
Technical Assistance	93.93				
	93.93				
Clearwater SWCD - Total					
Crow Wing SWCD					
Technical Assistance	30	50	30	2	20
Admin	244.25				
Ag BMP Loan Program	89.25				
Crow Wing SWCD - Total	274.25	50	30	2	20
Hubbard SWCD					
Technical Assistance	157.86	113	92	4	5
Hubbard SWCD - Total	157.86	113	92	4	5
Itasca SWCD					
Technical Assistance	614	203			179
Itasca SWCD - Total	614	203			179

Koochiching SWCD					
Technical Assistance	24	5	69.5	4	
Koochiching SWCD - Total	24	5	69.5	4	
Lake of the Woods SWCD					
Technical Assistance	13	3	75	3	13
Lake of the Woods SWCD - Total	13	3	75	3	13
Wadena SWCD					
Technical Assistance	130.5		31	3	130.5
Wadena SWCD - Total	130.5		31	3	130.5
ALL TOTALS:	1491.54	423	397.5	17	204

1. Figure SWCD Technical Hours by District

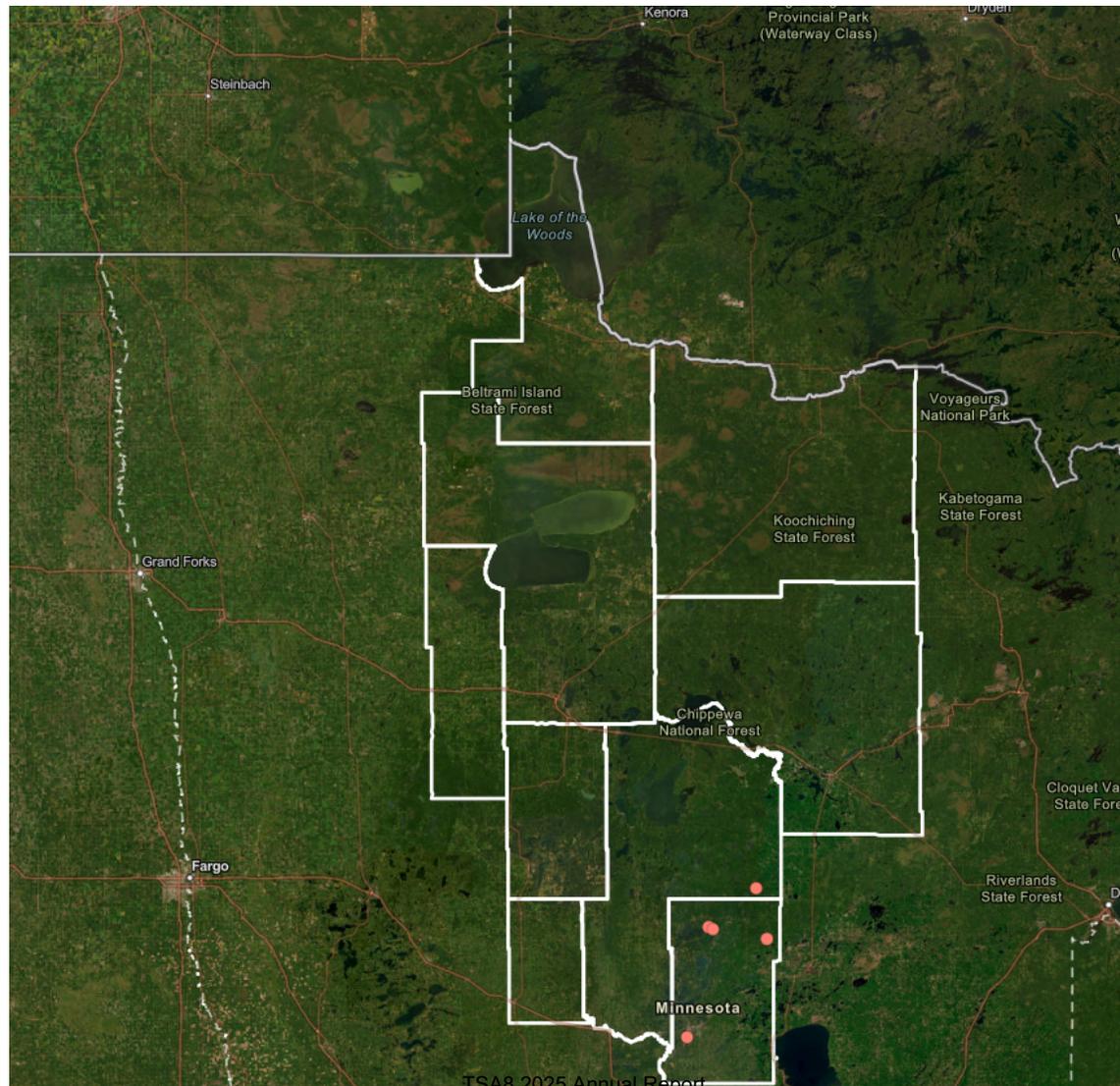


2. Figure Engineer Hours by SWCD



ObjectID	SWCD Name	User	Parcel ID	Project Type	Date Used	x	y
1	Crow Wing	Jarrett Drileck	14060530	Shoreline Restoration. Measuring elevations for design.	12/9/2024 18:00	-94.14	46.70517
3	Cass	Dana Gutzmann	40-019-2300	Wetland Violation Investigation	10/3/2025 17:00	-93.8987	46.84135
4	Crow Wing SWCD	Jarrett Drileck	14060530	Survey for Engineering Plans	10/4/2025 17:00	-94.1401	46.70504
5	Crow Wing SWCD	Jarrett Drileck	89210504	Setting Benchmarks	10/22/2025 17:00	-93.8468	46.66477
6	Crow Wing SWCD	Jarrett Drileck	89210500	Confirming Bechmarks	10/29/2025 17:00	-93.8446	46.66277
7	Crow Wing	Chris Andree	56030510	Elevation verification/site flagging from engineering plans	11/7/2025 18:00	-94.2518	46.32117
8	Crow Wing	Jarrett Drileck	89210500	As Built Survey	11/25/2025 18:00	-93.8446	46.66282

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/8eae0ed7c744882a39d128f813083ff/page/Map>



2025 time spent: 66.25 hours (MS)

Highlights:

- Gathered estimates on AgBMP Loan needs from partners in TSA8 for Annual Report
- Created a AgBMP Loan inquiry procedure while waiting for online AgBMP Loan Management System to go live
- Presented AgBMP Loan inquiry procedure at TSA8 employee summit
- Learned AgBMP Loan Management System, helped onboard partners and add contacts to the system

New Online AgBMP Loan Management System:

This year, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) released a web-based application to enter, approve, and track all stages of the AgBMP Loan process. The application, AgBMP Loan Management System, replaced how loans were previously submitted to the AgBMP Loan program.

Both Local Government Units (LGUs) and lenders have access to the AgBMP Loan Management System to process loans. There is a training video and a training pdf that walk through the new application system. The training video is available on the [MDA website](#) under “Workshops” > “External Links” > “[AgBMP Loan Link Training](#)” and the training pdf is attached (AgBMP Loan Link Training Slides November 2024). Additionally, there is a log-in user guide (attached) to help LGUs and lenders activate an account in the AgBMP Loan Management System.

Loans (applications with LGU approved, Lender approved, and MDA processing statuses will have loans associated with them)				
Loan ID	Service Area	Category Type	Requested Amount	Lender
45823	Wadena	Septic Systems	\$6,482.80	Region 5 Development Commission
45951	Wadena	Ag Waste Management	\$37,395.00	Unity Bank - Rush City
46022	Crow Wing	Septic Systems	\$18,000.00	Farmers & Merchants State Bank of Pierz
46025	Cass	Septic Systems	\$19,692.75	Region 5 Development Commission
46041	Cass	Septic Systems	\$21,000.00	Region 5 Development Commission
46052	Cass	Septic Systems	\$19,000.00	Region 5 Development Commission
46053	Lake of the Woods	Septic Systems	\$19,200.00	Border Bank - Greenbush
46070	Lake of the Woods	Septic Systems	\$18,500.00	Border Bank - Greenbush
46076	Lake of the Woods	Ag Waste Management	\$32,212.50	Border Bank - Greenbush
46080	Cass	Septic Systems	\$10,000.00	Region 5 Development Commission
46145	Cass	Septic Systems	\$13,100.00	Region 5 Development Commission
46150	Crow Wing	Septic Systems	\$25,000.00	Compeer Financial - Waite Park
46189	Cass	Septic Systems	\$11,000.00	Region 5 Development Commission
46227	Beltrami	Septic Systems	\$11,750.00	Region 5 Development Commission
46239	Cass	Septic Systems	\$2,447.50	Region 5 Development Commission
46241	Cass	Septic Systems	\$10,400.00	Region 5 Development Commission
46260	Crow Wing	Ag Waste Management	\$165,428.38	AgriBank FCB
46274	Cass	Septic Systems	\$23,000.00	Region 5 Development Commission
46294	Cass	Septic Systems	\$7,812.50	Region 5 Development Commission

\$471,421.43

Active Applications (applications that have been approved by the LGU but are still awaiting approval from the Lender or MDA) (these amounts are already subtracted from total funds available)				
Application Number	Service Area	Category Type	Max Approved Amount	Lender
10000418	Lake of the Woods	Septic Systems	\$20,000.00	Border Bank - Baudette
10000582	Lake of the Woods	Septic Systems	\$24,750.00	Northern State Bank - TRF

\$44,750.00

Borrower Inquiries (applications that are yet to be approved by LGU)				
Application Number	Service Area	Category Type	Max Approved Amount	Lender

Total Funds Available

\$223,640.29

The "Total Funds Available" is calculated as follows:

- o If "Final Request?" on the application is "No": The system will subtract the total max approved amount from the Total Funds Available for the LGU.
- o If "Final Request?" is "Yes": The system will subtract the total disbursed amounts for a loan from the Total Funds Available for the LGU.
- o If the total disbursed amount for a final request on an application is less than the max approved amount, the system will return the difference to Total Funds Available.

Funds Available if Borrower Inquiries go through:

\$223,640.29

Estimated Outstanding Repayments April 2026:

\$104,285.00

2025 Summary of Activities Conducted by Mitch Brinks
TSA8 Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Specialist

Overall Summary:

Below is a summary of the work plan items from my current contract with North Central Minnesota Joint Powers Board (TSA8). 2025 was the first full year under the new contract authorized on 12-4-2024.

1. Assist TSA8 Districts/Counties with GIS Support, specifically mapping support for One Watershed One Plans
2. Maintain annual watershed protection data & provide training/workshops on the protection model
3. Provide general GIS assistance and training as needed

Individual Work Plan Components Summary:

1. Mapping and Support to TSA8

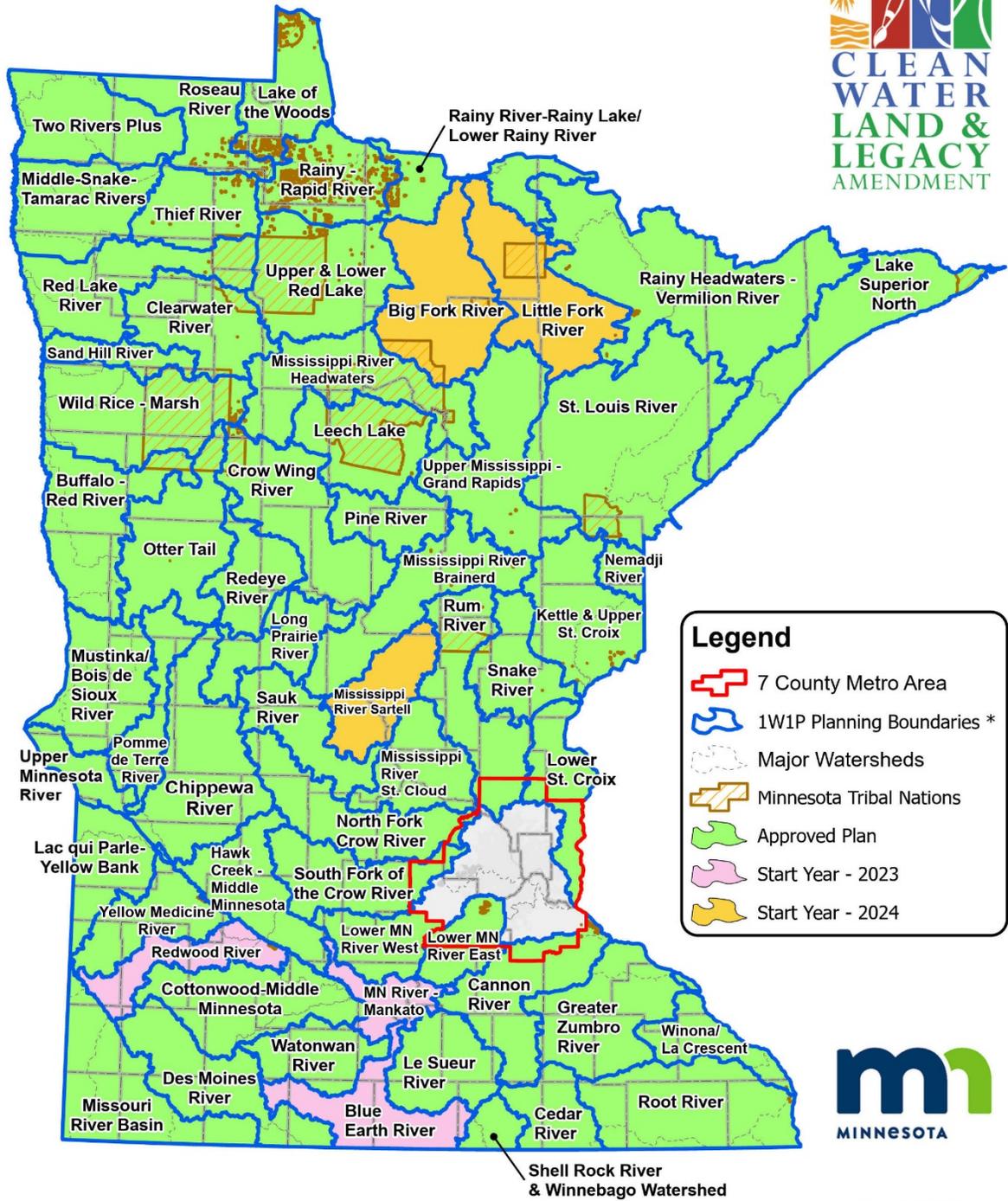
One Watershed One Plan (1w1p) Accomplishments:

- Pine River 1w1p: 5 Year Update (Crow Wing & Cass SWCDs)
 - Completed mapping for plan update
- Leech Lake River 1w1p: 5 Year Update (Hubbard & Cass SWCDs)
 - Completed mapping for plan update
- Big Fork River 1w1p:
 - In Progress (full participant)
- Little Fork River 1w1p:
 - In Progress (full participant)
- Lake of the Woods 1w1p: 5 Year Update (Lake of the Woods SWCD)
 - In Progress (full participant)
- Mini lake plans for 1w1p priority lakes for:
 - Upper/Lower Red Lake Watershed
 - Crow Wing River Watershed

Figure 1 on the next page shows the three remaining watersheds that are in need of a comprehensive watershed management plan (one watershed one plan). They are in orange shading on the map. These had an effective start year of 2025. I helped with data and maps for the two of these that are fully in TSA8 (Little Fork River and Big Fork River). In addition, two watersheds finished 5-year updates, which also required maps and data (Pine River & Leech Lake River). The Lake of the Woods watershed just started their 5-year update, which will carry into 2026.

Providing maps and analysis (+meetings) for these watershed planning efforts represented 35% of my hours in 2025 (see Table 1 on page 6). Once completed, the final mapping data was also provided to the plan writing contractor (Houston Engineering) & local SWCDs. Final priority areas layers were incorporated into various GIS webapps.

One Watershed, One Plan Participating Watersheds



April 2025

*Not legal boundaries; intended for planning purposes through One Watershed, One Plan only.

Figure 1: One Watershed One Plan Status Map (April 2025)

Landscape Stewardship Plans (LSPs)

Landscape Stewardship Plans (LSPs) are DNR-funded forestry plans focused on private forest landowners that own more than 20 acres of land. They provide forest protection and forest management recommendations for One Watershed One Plans. In addition, they provide the Riparian, Adjacency, Quality (RAQ) scores for all 10+ acre private parcels in the watershed.

The Little Fork River Watershed (in red on the map below) was started and in draft form by the end of 2025. The Lake Superior North LSP was also completed in 2025 with the three watersheds in red in central Minnesota expected to start in 2026.

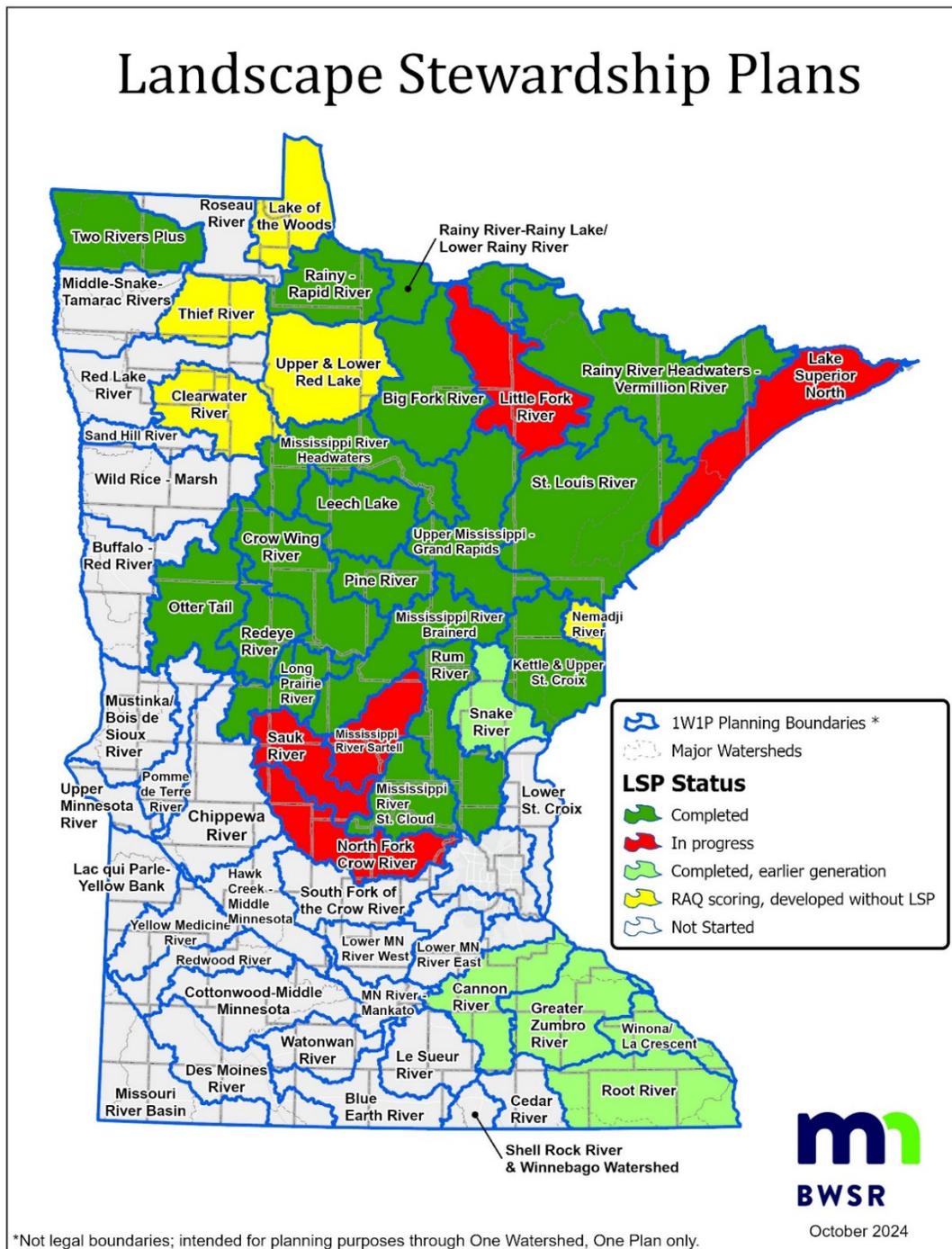


Figure 2: Landscape Stewardship Plan (LSP) Status Map, current as of October 31, 2024

Other GIS Mapping Accomplishments:

- Acquired and updated parcel data with landowner names/addresses, public land status, SFIA enrollment, forest stewardship, and land value data for all counties within TSA8 (this is an annual practice).
- Maintained 1w1p priority areas webapps for Mississippi River Basin: Miss. R. Brainerd/Grand Rapids, Redeye River/Crow Wing River.
- Incorporated the most current National Land Cover Dataset (NLCD 2024) into watershed & parcel datasets
- Developed a well sealing mailing list for Wadena/East Otter Tail SWCD.
- Conducted an extensive GD/RD Lakes analysis (by county and county commissioner district) for lake-rich counties (requested by Crow Wing County Board Members).
- Updated various GIS datasets, including: lake trends, bio lakes, nitrate/arsenic, and other quality/risk layers.
- Developed Statewide SFIA map for SWCD Forestry Association.
- Built/maintained RAQ scoring interactive web applications for watersheds in TSA8.
- Updated overall Mississippi Headwaters Basin priority watersheds webapp (from completed 1w1ps).
- Updated 'Keep It Clean' map for Lake of the Woods SWCD (multiple times).
- Developed Culvert Inventory Webapp for Wadena SWCD.
- Created maps for Mississippi Headwaters Board (MHB)'s Biennial conference.
- Mapped various individual protection/easement projects and calculated their effect on the larger watershed protection amount (to show how much the needle moved).
- Explored feasibility of using new LIDAR/remote sensing data to rapidly assess shorelines.
- Completed various individual mapping projects for SWCDS as requested.
- Created maps for various grant proposals.
- Provided GIS tech support as requested.

2. Watershed Protection

Most One Watershed One Plans in TSA8 have a robust protection goal that seeks to protect land via perpetual conservation easements as well as by increasing enrollment in the DNR's Sustainable Forest Incentive Act (SFIA) program. Keeping track of this data is a key element of my work. Some highlights are listed below:

- Finished the 2024 annual update of watershed protection data for entire TSA8 work area. 'Protected' lands include public lands, public waters (lakes/rivers), conservation easements, wetlands on private lands, other conservation lands (non-governmental organizations, etc.) and lands enrolled in SFIA. See Figure 3 for a current map of the % of protected lands in TSA8 by major watershed/1w1p planning area. This includes GIS data and a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet showing protection amounts by watershed (scales: HUC08 Major watershed, HUC10, HUC12, HUC14 minor watershed, DNR Level 08 catchment).
- Finalized a 1-page summary report of 2024 protection data by major watershed in the Mississippi Headwater Basin as well as protection gains made from 2010 to 2024.
- Developed maps and data for BWSR and the Clean Water Council to show Protection Gains from 2018 to 2024.
- Worked with Dain Erickson to develop/update several 1-2 page success story factsheets & posters showing watershed protection gains (moving the needle) by smaller sub/minor watersheds in key areas throughout TSA8.
- Maintained a Protected Lands dashboard for the Mississippi River Basin that features protection maps, needles (gauges), and charts for minor watersheds and major watersheds in the Basin.
- Updated river corridor Protection stats for Mississippi River, Pine River, and Crow Wing River
- Calculated the total upstream Protection for individual priority lakes as identified by TSA8 SWCDs & 1w1ps

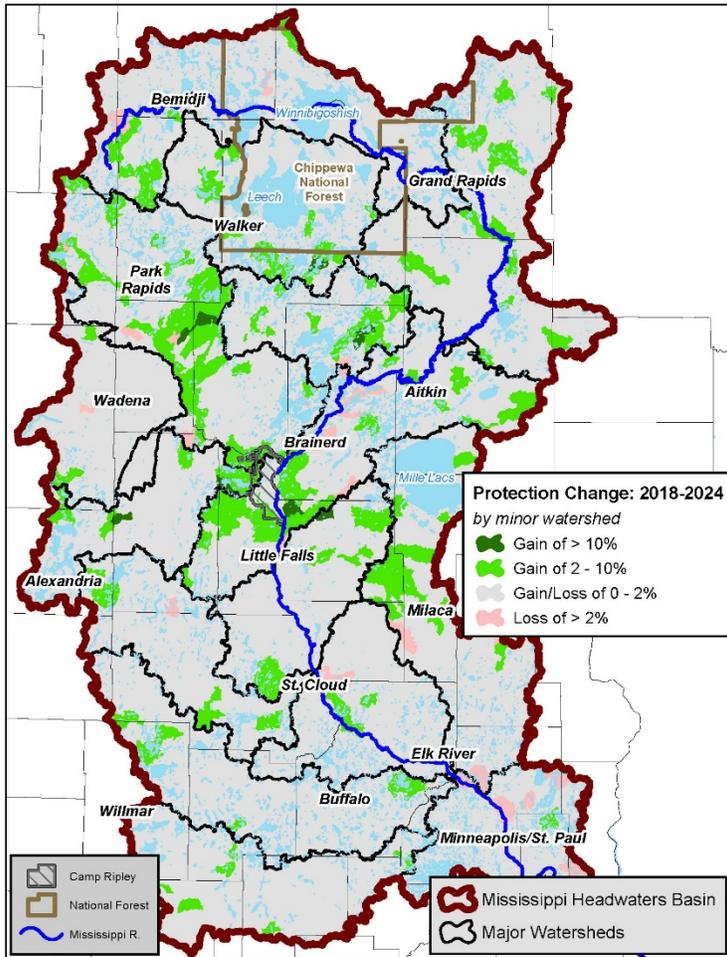


Figure 3: Protected Lands Change from 2018 to 2024 (Prepared for BWSR & Clean Water Council in February of 2025)

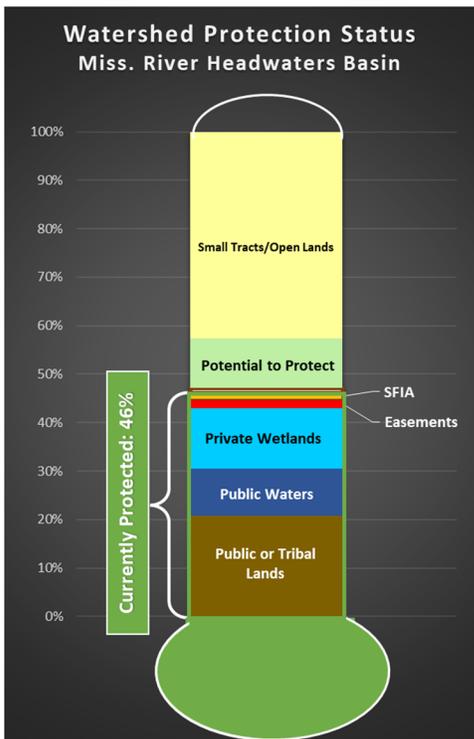


Figure 4: Protected Lands Thermometer for Entire Mississippi River Headwaters Basin

3. Presentations, Trainings, Meetings

I participated in a number of non 1w1p meetings, events, & trainings in 2025 (listed in order chronologically):

- Itasca SWCD GIS setup/training (January)
- Presented Protection Methodology to US Forest Services (February)
- Presented Protection Updates to North Central Conservation Collaborative (NCCR)
- Clean Water Council Meeting-virtual (February)
- Meeting with Legacy Works Group to discuss GIS prioritization methodologies (February)
- TSA8 Board Meeting (April)
- Area VIII Meeting (June)
- Attended various 'Minnesota Implementers' online presentations from TSA8 staff (January – June)
- Area VIII Meeting (September)
- Attended BWSR Academy (October)
- TSA8 Board Meeting (October)
- Attended MHB Biennial Conference (October)
- Area VIII Technical Training Team Meeting (November)
- NCCR Meeting (December)

2025 Hours Worked Summary

District	Work Plan Items				Total
	1w1p Mapping	Protection & Parcel Analysis	Other Projects	Training, Presentations, Meetings (non 1w1p)	
Beltrami	3.5	4.75	0	0	8.25
Cass	31.25	10	10	1	52.25
Clearwater	0	2.25	0	0	2.25
Crow Wing	21.5	13.5	7.5	3.5	46
Hubbard	12	6	1	2	21
Itasca	47.75	10	2.75	8.25	68.75
Koochiching	36.5	8.25	2.75	0	47.5
Lake of the Woods	11	8.5	7	0	26.5
Wadena	2.75	9.75	13.25	0	25.75
Area-wide	0	45.25	48.75	76.75	170.75
Totals	166.25	118.25	93	91.5	469

Table 1: Mitch's hours summary by SWCD in 2025

For comparison: 2024 Hours worked = 579.

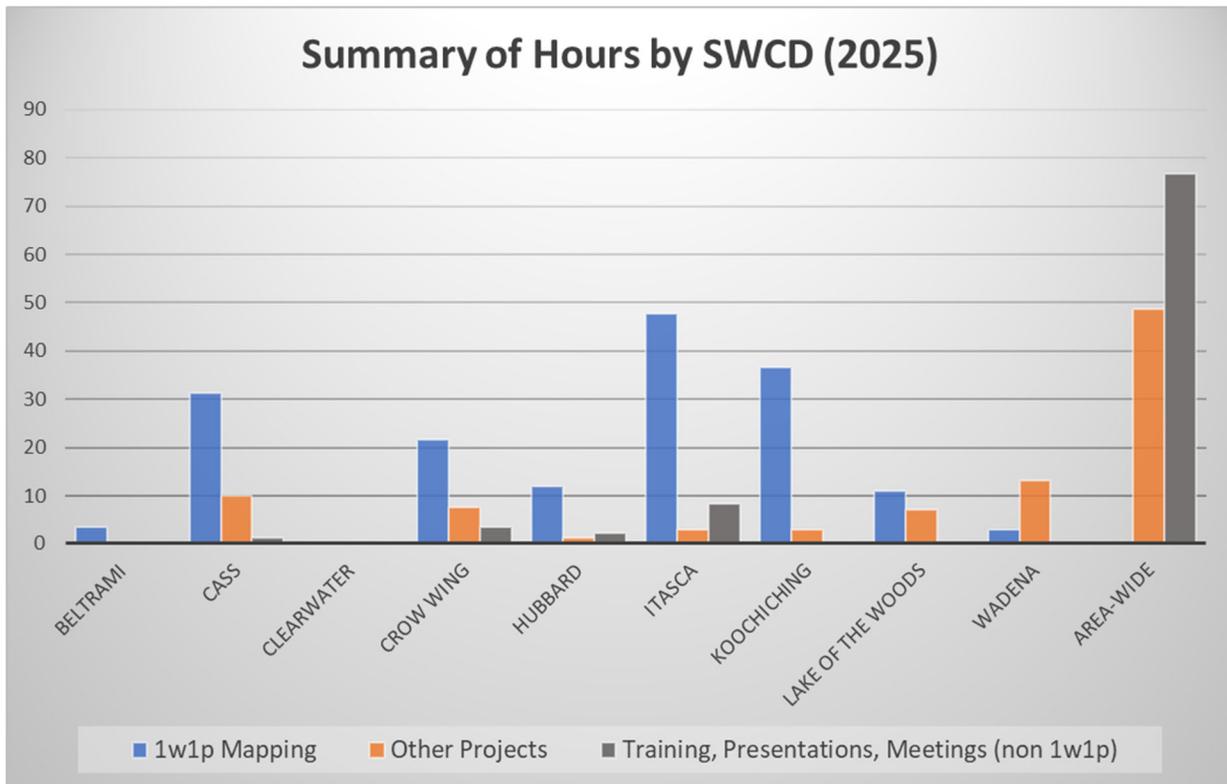


Figure 5: Chart of Mitch's Hours Worked by SWCD in 2025

Next Steps: Plans for 2026

My plans for 2026 include efforts related to planning, implementation, and tracking/measuring:

Planning:

Provide GIS analysis and mapping support for the following ongoing One Watershed One Plan efforts:

- Big Fork River 1w1p
- Little Fork River 1w1p
- Lake of the Woods 5-year update

Implementation:

- Continue to update parcel and protection datasets to help SWCDs do targeted outreach
- Update and maintain various RAQ web-applications
- Provide maps and GIS analysis as needed to support SWCD conservation efforts
- Continue to build and refine interactive webapps for One Watershed One Plan priority areas
- Provide training and technical support so SWCD staff can be effective planners & implementers

Tracking/Measuring:

- Continue to annually track watershed protection data, with a unique focus on the Mississippi Headwaters Basin.
- Use annually updated protection data to continue to find and highlight success stories that demonstrate moving the needle.
- Continue to assist SWCDs in building project tracking GIS web-applications.



RED CANOE CREATIVE

2025 ANNUAL REPORT



Comprehensive Lakeshore Livin' Guide

We were proud to create a 32 page Lakeshore Livin' guidebook for landowners with shoreline properties. The guide covers topics from septic management to natural shoreline vegetation, habitat to ice ridges, and everything from the driveway to the dock. This guide holds more critical riparian content than any previous material we have created. It is being used by two area 8 districts.

Lakeshore Livin' Checklist

Steps you can take to live lake friendly

- Upland Forest Space**
Keep your upland backyard healthy and encourage growth of native plants & natural spaces.
- Minimize Salt Use**
Minimize outdoor salt use around walkways & parking spaces.
- Impervious Surface Runoff**
Collect as much runoff as possible from impervious surfaces like decks & walkways. Properly dispose of.
- More Trees Please!**
Plant and protect native trees and shrubs along your shoreline.
- Lake Friendly Fires**
Use a lined fire pit & dispose of ash away from the lake.
- Say No To Fertilizers**
Discontinue fertilizer use near lakes.
- Shoreline Habitat**
Prevent erosion by keeping native shoreline plants, rocks, & logs in place.
- Shoreline Habitat**
Protect shoreline wildlife habitat by leaving submerged woody structure & native aquatic plants.
- System Maintenance**
Septic system by pumping every 3-5 years.

4 Zones of lakeshore property

GUIDE TO THE ZONES
Clean water, thriving lakes, and good fishing are dependent on how well the four Zones are cared for. That is where you, the lakeshore owner can make the difference! This guide is meant to help you help your lake.

- 1 AQUATIC ZONE**
Page #14
"Aquatic Zone", the water's edge. The area in the water until about 20 feet deep.
• Aquatic Invasive Species
• Native aquatic shoreline plants
• Aquatic wildlife habitat
• Recreate responsibly
- 2 TRANSITION ZONE**
Page #15
"Transition Zone", the next 25 feet or so landward from the shoreline.
• Rip rap vs native plants
• Importance of trees and shrubs
• Keep on ice ridge
- 3 RUNOFF ZONE**
Page #16
"Runoff Zone" represents the span of space on a property that slopes to the lake, stream, or river. Often the yard space.
• Buffer / Filter plants & trees
• Fire pit location / mgmt.
• Minimize fertilizer, herbicides
• Dispose of pet and yard waste
- 4 UPLAND ZONE**
Page #17
The "Upland (Forest) Zone" is the higher ground set furthest back from the waters edge, often still a wooded or forested space.

Native Flower Guide
Our guide to native shoreline flowers can be found on page #22

Living Lake Friendly
Your shoreline is a busy place. Fish spawn in the shallow water along the shore. Loons, waterfowl and water birds nest along the banks. The waters edge is home to frogs, turtles, otters, and muskrats.
Shoreline and the shallow water areas near your property are often rich ecosystems that can support diverse wildlife. However, overdeveloped shorelines often struggle to support fish and wildlife.
Poorly planned lakeshore development is destroying valuable habitat. So by the cumulative effects of miles upon miles of native lakeshore conversion is leading to drastic habitat declines. Hosts of water dwelling and water dependent species would benefit from more thoughtful land management practices.
Thankfully, there is a growing recognition by landowners for their need to properly care for land zones adjacent to water. The content found in this guidebook is designed to help landowners improve their lakeshore and protect their property value.

Lakeshore Livin' Checklist
Easy steps to help you live lake-friendly, one action at a time are found on page 31.

Aquatic Zone

Near-shore waterspace management

Waterfront landowners know more than most about how interconnected land and water can be. Important issues within this zone include preventing aquatic invasive species, the importance of keeping native aquatic plants for wildlife habitat, and preventing shoreline erosion. Fallen, submerged trees are important for wildlife above and below the waterline. Lastly, we will discuss the role of responsible water recreation practices. Being a good neighbor includes how we care for the twenty or so feet of water depth near our shoreline.

Keep Native aquatic plants!

Landowners are encouraged to keep as many native aquatic plants as possible. Native aquatic plants are a natural part of lake and stream biomes. Lake life depends directly or indirectly on aquatic plants. Food for fish is produced in areas with aquatic vegetation in contrast to areas where there are no plants and little to no food. Insect larvae, snails, and fresh water shrimp thrive in plant beds. All of Minnesota's game fish eat aquatic plants in addition to aquatic insects and crustaceans.

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)

Eurasian Watermilfoil
Feather-like green leaves in groups of four or five.

Aquatic plants also provide shelter for young fish. Bass, blue perch usually nest in areas where roving. Northern pike spawn in marshy areas in early spring.

Transition Zone

The shoreline portion of your property... the first 25 feet of solid ground.

The three most important issues within this zone include how to best stabilize your shoreline, how to develop a shoreline buffer, and how to make peace with your ice ridge. Landowners can weigh the pros and cons of using rip rap, native plants, or doing a combination of both. It is essential to have trees, shrubs, and native grasses along the shoreline banks to filter water runoff. One of the issues that lakeshore landowners are concerned about are ice ridges. It is important to understand how ice ridges are formed, and what actually works to resist their formation.

Rip Rap vs Native Plants
Riprap and native plants offer different approaches to shoreline stabilization and aesthetics. Riprap, consisting of large rocks, provides immediate erosion protection but can be less aesthetically pleasing and less beneficial to wildlife. Native plants, on the other hand, offer long-term erosion control, enhance the natural environment, and provide habitat for wildlife, but require time to establish but may not be as effective in cases with severe erosion.

Native Plants Pros:
Long-term erosion control: Native plants have deep root systems that bind soil, preventing erosion.
Habitat creation: Plants provide food and shelter for wildlife, enhancing biodiversity.
Environmental benefits: Plants will filter runoff, reduce nutrient pollution, and improve water quality.

Native Plants Cons:
Initial establishment: It can take time for native plants to become fully established.

Rip Rap Pros:
Quick erosion protection: Rip rap can provide immediate protection against wave action and erosion.
Durability: It can be a durable solution for shoreline stabilization.

Rip Rap Cons:
High cost: Installation can be expensive, for large shorelines, and might not be eligible for permitting.
Limited habitat: Rip rap will reduce the quality of the shoreline habitat due to lack of vegetation.
Environmental impact: It can disrupt natural shorelines and negatively impact water quality.

More Trees Please
Trees, shrubs and grasses along shorelines provide critical habitat for birds and animals. They shade and cool the water, buffer wave action, filter runoff, and help to stabilize eroding shores. Save existing vegetation if possible. If native trees and shrubs were removed, planting replacements will help increase your property value and enjoyment while helping to protect water quality and shorelines.
These natural native vegetative filter strips help minimize runoff to a lake or stream. The most effective filter strips include a variety of low plants, shrubs and trees, preferably native or existing vegetation.
Leave dead and fallen trees in place to support wildlife. Fish, ducks, birds, and turtles all rely on them for habitat.

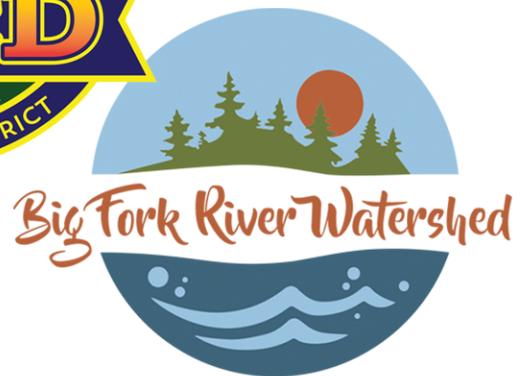
What to do about ice ridges?
Property owners occasionally return to their cabins in the spring only to discover they are dealing with property damage caused by a phenomenon called "ice heaving" or "ice jacking". This powerful natural force forms a feature along the shoreline known as an "ice ridge". The result may include significant damage to retaining walls, docks and boat lifts, and sometimes even to the cabin itself.
Ice ridges can impede use of the lake by a property owner or the users of public lakeshore facilities. Therefore, action may be taken to remedy the results of ice activity. Owning a lakeshore property is exciting and we understand people might want to make some changes. Remember to call Cass County or your local municipality before you start a project! Most work in the transition zone will require permitting. These activities include cutting trees, moving dirt, or building a small shed. Shoreline ordinances are put in place to protect the water quality, wildlife, and esthetic feel of northern Minnesota lakes we all love. Contact the local agency that permits shoreline before making shoreline alterations.

Native plants produce seeds and tubers, which starfish. Submerged plants also provide insect species and other invertebrates eat foods migrating waterfowl.
Plants, like bulrushes, can absorb and filter chemicals. Nutrients used by their growth are not available to algae. Algae abundance often results in improved aquatic plants also maintain water clarity by re-suspension of bottom sediments. Algae, dissolved nutrients, can become a nuisance submerged water plants are destroyed.
Aquatic plants dampen the force of waves at shoreline erosion.



▶▶▶ Logos and Branding

Two districts (Cass and Koochiching did an overhaul to their logo and branding. Beltrami SWCD tweaked their logo to highlight their 75th anniversary. And two watershed plans were branded with their own logos to go along with the look of their new watershed plan.





▶▶ Watershed Plan Designs

Designs, logos, icon sets, cover art and graphic page dividers were provided for several watershed plans including the Leech Lake River Watershed, the Little Fork River Watershed, and as shown on this page... the Big Fork River Watershed plan.



FARMS



LAKES



STREAMS



FORESTS



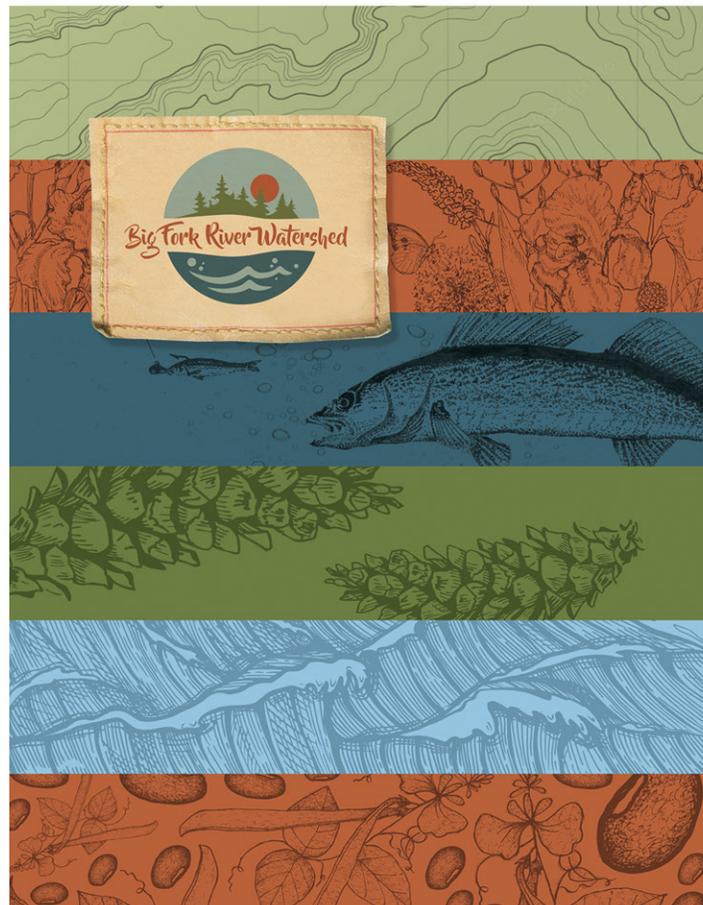
WETLANDS



GROUNDWATER



STORMWATER



District Resource Poster

We have designed detailed resource feature posters for several of our districts over the past years.

The Clearwater resource poster is one of the projects we completed this past year.

Each poster shows watershed boundaries, major towns and landmarks and also draws attention to natural features and important conservation topics within the district.



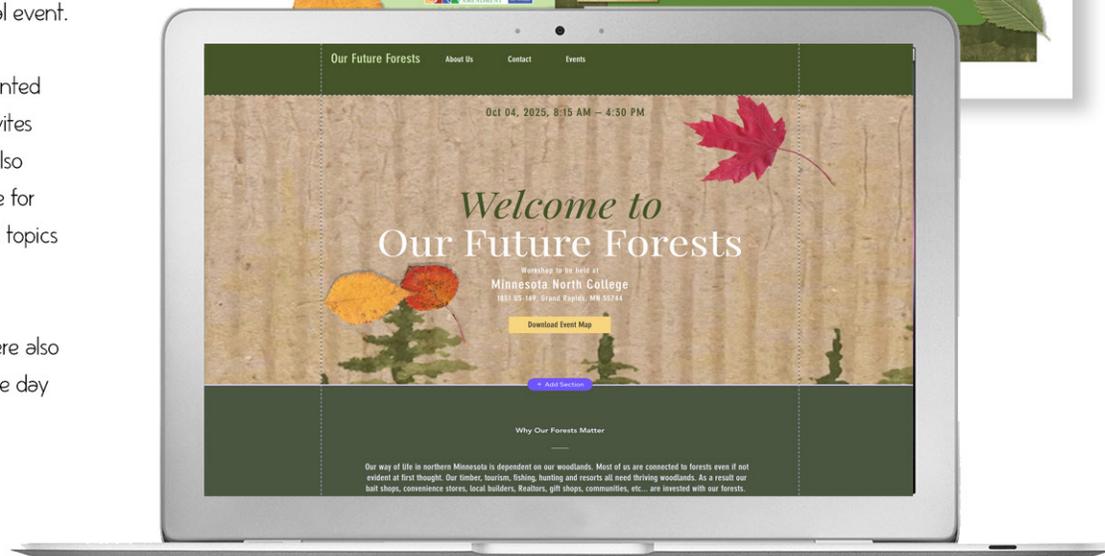


▶▶▶ Event Assistance

Red Canoe worked in tandem with members of Itasca SWCD to organize and launch a forestry educational event.

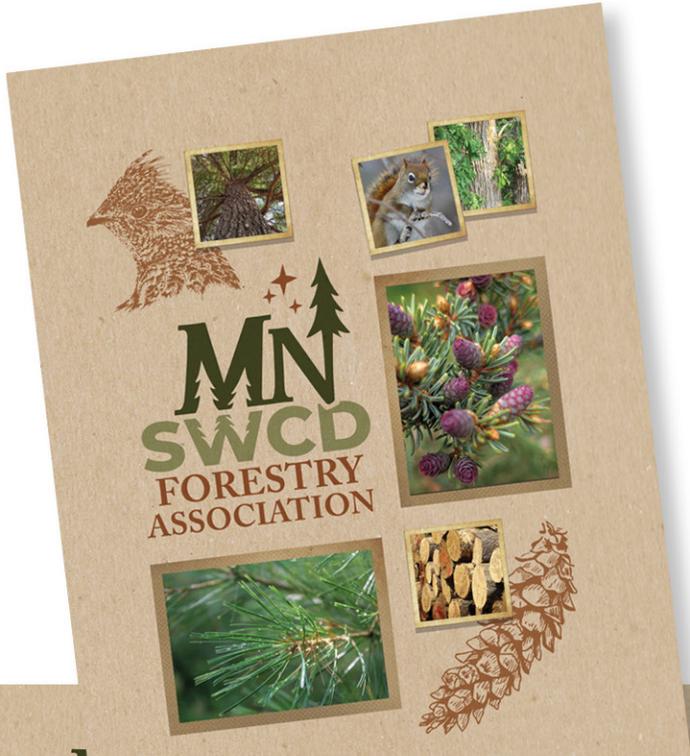
We provided design work on printed materials like “save the date” invites and event promo posters. We also created an informational website for patrons to view speaker lists and topics and also place their reservations.

Maps and directional signage were also created to assist attendees on the day of the event.



Shared Design Resource

TSA8 allowed the MN SWCD Forestry Association to draw from some of Red Canoe's design efforts to create materials for the 2025 MASWCD convention. MN SWCD Forestry Association serves all of the TSA8 districts along with a few others.





"The mission of the Minnesota SWCD Forestry Association is to assist member districts in meeting the forestry/woodland management needs of their clientele. (Private Landowners)" Good Forest Stewardship promotes good water quality.

Who we are:

As an association of 18 member districts, we have worked together for over 20 years to support and enhance the delivery of forestry management services to our constituents, which consists of thousands of private landowners across the forested regions of the state. We partner with state and federal agencies to protect working private forestlands and promote forest stewardship.

Our goals:

- Promote private forest management.
- Protect water resources through increased private forest management.
- Maintain/increase forest cover.
- Expand and enhance the capacity of the association to promote SWCDs in private forest management.

How do we meet these goals:

- Promote forestry through the ongoing work of soil and water districts, support from the state including local capacity funds including SWCD aid and Clean Water Legacy funds through the 1W1P /WBIF program thru BWSR are critical.
- Our member districts are working closely with DNR Forestry to combine these water quality investments with forestry investments that the legislature makes into the Sustainable Forest Incentives Act, the DNR Forestry Cost Share program and state nursery which are all critical.
- We are committed to working with DNR Forestry, BWSR, NRCS, NGOs and array of local partners to enhance and sustain the forest products industry while at the same time promoting the multiple public benefits that forest resources bring to our state including protecting water quality, enhancing wildlife habitat and increase carbon sequestration through reforestation and forest management.
- SWCDs are committed to working with tribes to implement the 1W1Ps and forestry projects.

The Forestry Association meets 6 times/year (usually January, March, May, July, Sept., and November.) Meetings last approximately 4 hrs. and can be attended virtually. We try to have a short business meeting and include at least 2 educational components as well as reports from NRCS, DNR, MDH, BWSR, and MASWCD. Members are updated on funding opportunities and we encourage members to share forestry projects in their Districts. Dues for the Association are \$265.00



Sustainable Forest Incentive Act

The Sustainable Forestry Incentive Act (SFLIA) was designed to encourage private forest landowners to voluntarily enroll their land in the program. The intent was to encourage private forest landowners to voluntarily enroll their land in the program. The costs were driving parcelization of private forest land.

The SFLIA was designed to pay landowner management. The system works by paying in exchange for the following:

- A covenant on deed recorded with the developed in a manner inconsistent with the plan.
- Having a Forest Management Plan developed in a manner inconsistent with the plan.
- Following the plan (applying site specific bird houses, and wildlife plantings)
- Following all voluntary timber harvest
- Staying current on property tax paym
- Allowing non-motorized access to fi motorized access on established and applies to landowners who enrolled r

To verify landowner commitment a certification form. The landowner enrollment are being met and list to enrolled property during the prior. The DNR must conduct annual mo be conducted on ten percent of cl

Landowners can choose the leng available in 8, 20 and 50 years. At

SFLIA by County Acres

County	Acres enrolled
Aitkin	37,272
Anoka	26
Becker	25,976
Benton	22,490
Big Lake	464
Carlton	46
Cass	17,411
Chippewa	21,682
Chisago	149
Clearwater	152
Cook	13,342
Crow Wing	50,174
Dakota	208
Dodge	975
Douglas	92
Goodhue	100
Hennepin	763
Holmes	208
Hubbard	18,742
Itasca	699
Isle	248,344
Kanabec	23,506
Keweenaw	9,482
Koochiching	20,002
Lake	44,569
Lake of the Woods	27,210
Mahnomen	8,967
Martin	645
Melrose	19,727
Meyers	24,510
Morrison	127
Olmsted	165
Otter Tail	18,103
Pennings	617
Polk	37,262
Pope	1,480
Raid Lake	136
Rainy	937
Reno	82
Stearns	18,613
St. Louis	142
Stearns	190,262
Todd	495
Wadena	12,246
Wadena	2,340
Wilton	16,084
Wright	725
Total enrolled acres	1,228,416



We help SWCDs help landowners

The MN SWCD Forestry Association along with local SWCDs serves woodland landowners.

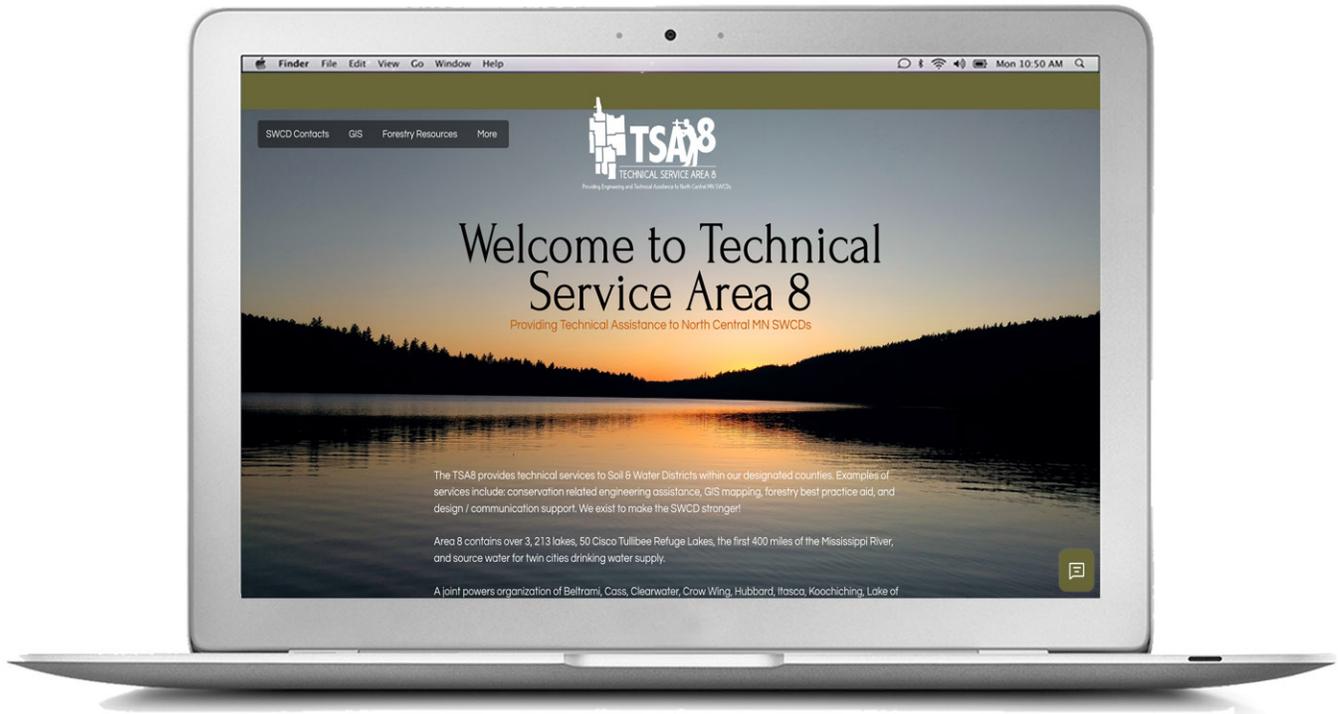
SWCD (Soil and Water Conservation District) is a local government entity that works to protect and manage soil, water, and all related natural resources. (Like Woodlands) They provide landowners with technical assistance, financial aid, and educational support to promote sustainable land use, prevent soil erosion, and improve water quality.

Conservation matters most to those who depend on the land.

People whose livelihoods and well-being are directly tied to the health of the land have the strongest incentive to protect it. Conservation is not just an abstract ideal but a practical necessity for those who depend on the land for survival, for recreation, and for the benefits of the land's ecological health.

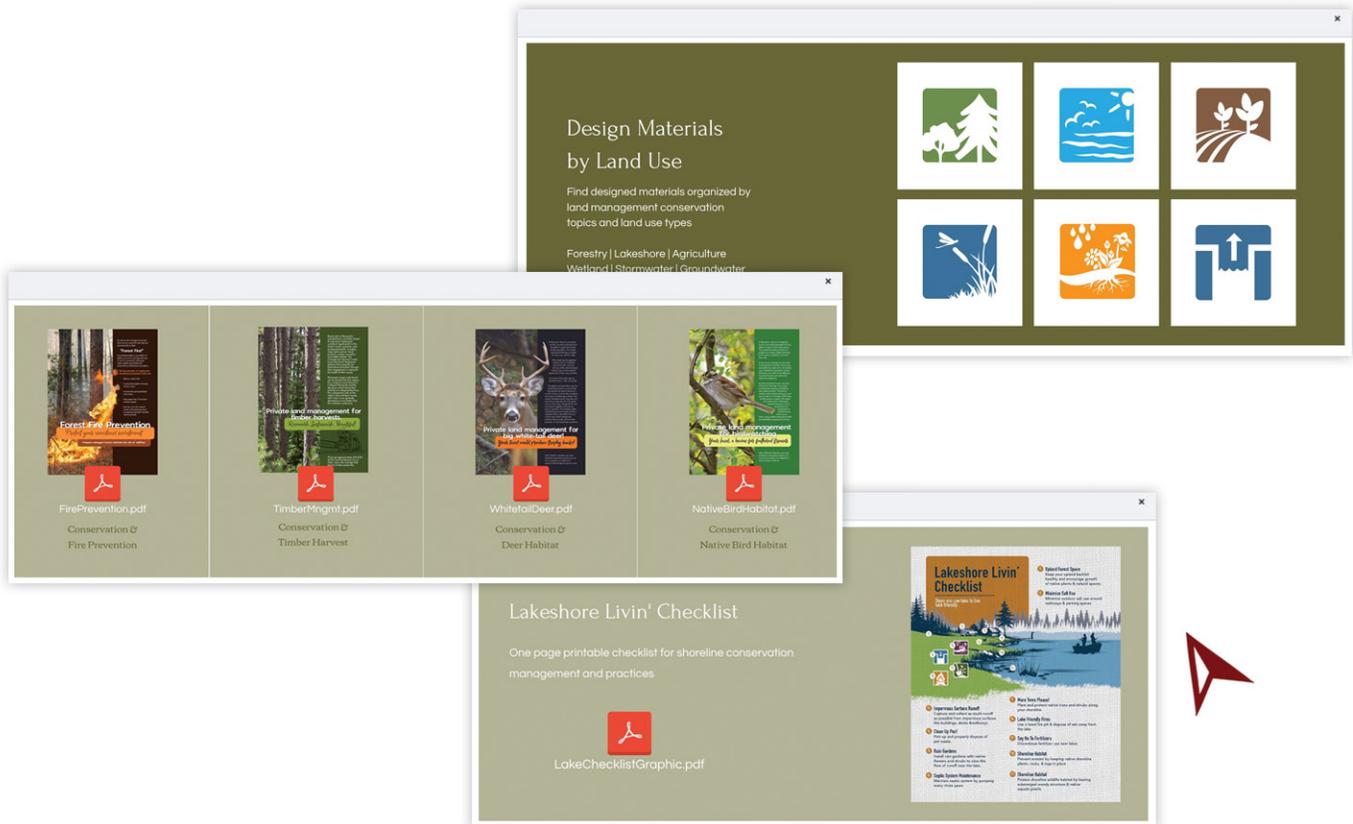
Woodland landowners, keepers of timber plots, lakeshore property owners, hunting and cattle grazers all have one common need... They need the land to thrive if they hope to continue to enjoy it. The MN SWCD have the knowledge and experience to assist landowners in keeping a healthy balance on the land.





▶▶ New & Improved TSA8 Website

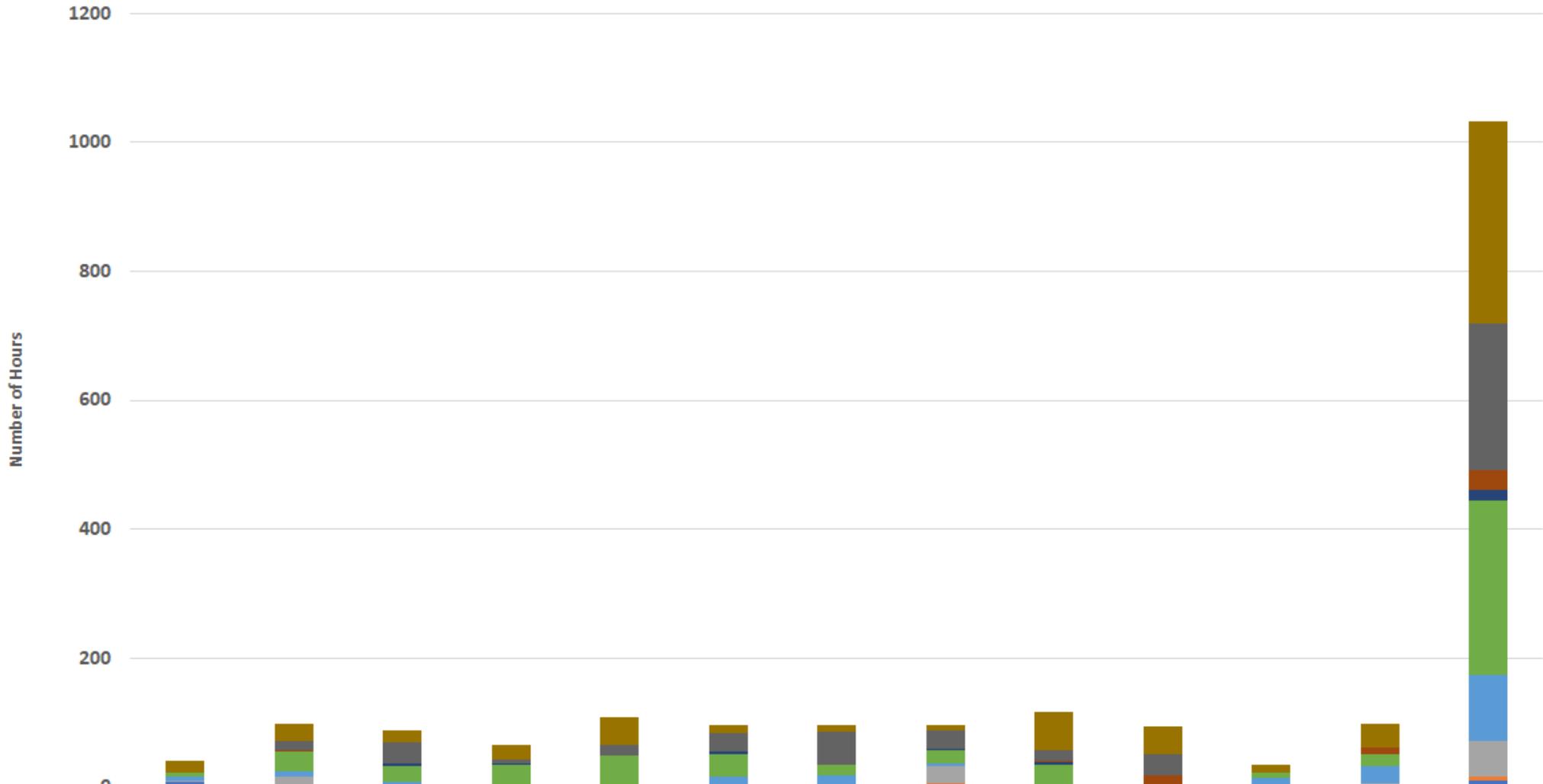
In 2025 we overhauled the TSA8 website to allow for more GIS and designed material to be downloaded directly from the site. We are now able to share recently completed materials in well organized categories.



▶▶▶ List of Design/Communication Projects from 2025

- MN SWCD Forestry Assoc. booth poster
- MN SWCD Forestry Assoc. logo/branding
- MN SWCD Forestry Assoc. brochure
- Convert the Cass "lakeshore livin' guide" to a document Itasca can use.
- Clean Water Handout - Cass
- "Our Future Forests" conference materials - Itasca SWCD
 - Fundraiser / support letter document
 - Press release
 - Event invite poster/flyer/mailer
 - Speaker highlights document
 - Prize package details
 - Registration details - Web portal?
 - Social media invite and shareable PDF
 - Printables and handouts for event Our Future Forests event sandwich board posters
 - KAXE banner ads for Our Future Forests
- Clearwater watershed poster
- Convert pollinator banner to page size document.
- Clean water council tour handout - Cass
- Leech Lake River Watershed Icon set
- Little Fork River Watershed icon set (x7)
- Little Fork River Watershed plan header/footer pages
- Big Fork River Watershed icon set (x7)
- Big Fork River Watershed plan header/footer pages
- Stormceptor interpretive sign - LOTW
- Beltrami 75th Save the date
- Beltrami 75th Trifold of history
- Cass shoreland homeowners guide "Livin' Lake Friendly"
- Living Lake Friendly clothing
- Wadena - Well sealing post card.
- Cass SWCD logo update/re-design.
- Koochiching SWCD logo update/re-design.
- Rain Barrel Document - Clearwater
- Updates to the TSA8 website
- Add to our library of conservation photography (Conservation, forest, lake, nature, etc...)
- Add to our library of conservation b-roll video. (Conservation, forest, lake, nature, etc...)
- Ongoing supplemental social media posts
- GIS content updates on the TSA8 website

2025 Communication ContractHours by SWCD



	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total Hours
TSA8 hours	18.5	26.00	18.75	24	42.75	13.5	9.75	7.75	59	44.25	12.5	36.75	313.5
Itasca		15.00	32.5	4.75	16	27.75	52	28.75	18	32.25			227
Hubbard		3.25	0.25						0.5	17.25		10	31.25
Clearwater			2.5	3	0.75	4.25		1.75	4.25				16.5
Cass	7.25	29.5	25.00	29.5	45.75	35.5	16	20.5	35.25	0.75	6.75	18.25	270
Beltrami	6.75	8.25	3.75	4.5	2.75	15.5	18.75	4.75			11	26.75	102.75
Crow Wing													0
Koochiching	0.25	15.75	3.5					25.5			3.75	6	54.75
Lake of Woods			1.00					6.25					7.25
Wadena	8.75	0.5											9.25