


CLEAN RIVER PARTNERS
Community Impact Report 2021



CLEAN RIVER
PARTNERS





We **inspire** people and organizations to **value**,
protect, and **improve** the **Cannon River**
Watershed's land and water

In order to **serve the community** in
constructive ways, we focus on three core
values: **Resilience, Equity, and Engagement.**

In the last 10 years we've:

- Engaged **2,243 volunteers** who have given **6,729 hours** as participants in our annual Watershed-Wide CleanUP and storm water education
- Removed **110,420 pounds** of trash and debris removed from area lakes, streams and rivers
- Planted **8,225 acres** with cover crops, Kernza® or reduced tillage to improve soil health
- Prevented an estimated **82,000 pounds** of nitrate and **2,050,000 pounds** of sediment from entering streams, lakes and rivers in the Cannon River Watershed
- Engaged more than **450 farmers** and landowners through field days, workshops, direct mailings and project work
- Installed **15 erosion-prevention systems** including sediment retention basins, grassed waterways and buffers in the watershed
- Received **753 Pollution Prevention Poster submissions** from youth in Northfield and Faribault
- **70 farmers** received a cost share
- **\$162,837** total cost share to cover crops
- **\$46,673** total cost share for other practices

In 2022 we will continue to lead conservation efforts and partnerships to improve soil and water quality in the Cannon River Watershed.

Together We Succeed

We could not do this work without our incredible **members, sponsors, and supporters.** THANK YOU!

We know that clean, affordable water is **essential for life**, and not equally accessible to all families in our area.

Working together is the single best way we can insure clean water in all of our communities today, tomorrow and into the future.



Conservation Program

- **Achieved 61% reduction in stream nitrate concentration** in Rice County's only trout stream
- **Hosted and/or Presented Information at 15 Public Events** including **9 on-farm soil health meetings** where an estimated **320 people** learned about protecting drinking water, managing cover crops, growing and marketing Kernza®, protecting soil and water, and improving farm profit
- Direct mailed farm conservation practice information on two occasions to **110 absentee landowners** in the Cannon River Watershed
- Created a **soil health** video **highlighting two local farmers** and showed the video at farm meetings and posted on Clean River Partners YouTube channel
- Administered and led the **Cannon River Agricultural Collaborative** – **catalyzing the expertise of 10 organizations** to increase Minnesota Ag Water Quality Certification **identifying and contacting 63 farmers** and advancing **self-guided soil health tours**
- Added **Regenerative Agriculture Alliance** and the **Cannon River Watershed Joint Powers Board** to our expanding list of partners
- **Advanced Market Opportunities for Kernza®** by leading a project to **direct deliver Kernza® pancake mix to 400+ SE Minnesota households** in early 2022
- **Continued On-farm Research Trials** – with five area farmers to measure profitability when growing corn and cover crops in wider corn row spacing and when grazing Kernza®



Soil health meeting - Lyle Dicke Farm, Goodhue, MN. June 2021

- **Achieved Nationwide Recognition of the Cannon River Watershed** through the National Fish Habitat Partnership's "US Waters to Watch" program
- **Provided Timely Local Information** on cover crops, soil health, habitat restoration and land protection opportunities on 18 occasions to 90 email contacts, monthly to 1,200 CRP newsletter readers and through 3 newspaper articles to nearly 55,000 recipients.
- Incentivized **20 farmers to plant 2,167 acres of cover crops** and **2 farmers to plant 25 acres of the perennial grain Kernza®.**



Planning habitat restoration - Koester Prairie, Dennison, MN.

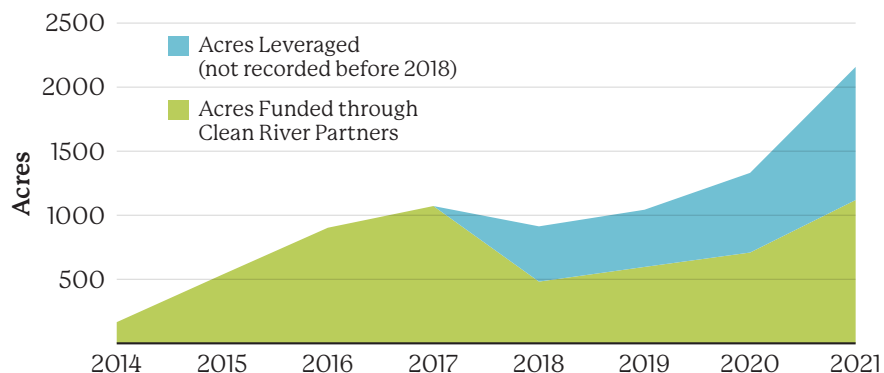
2021 Program Highlights:

The Conservation and Community Engagement Programs are hallmarks of what make Clean River Partners a success. The accomplishments highlighted on these pages show a glimpse of what we can achieve when we work together to improve the watershed. We have even greater advancements planned in 2022 and beyond.

How Land Conservation Impacts the Cannon

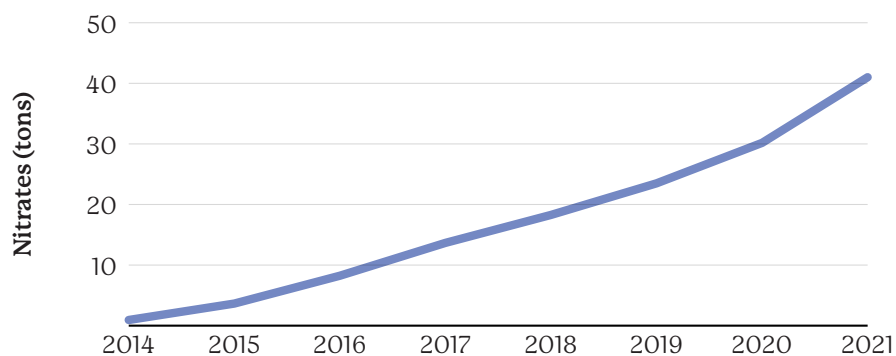
Cover Crop Acres

2014-2021



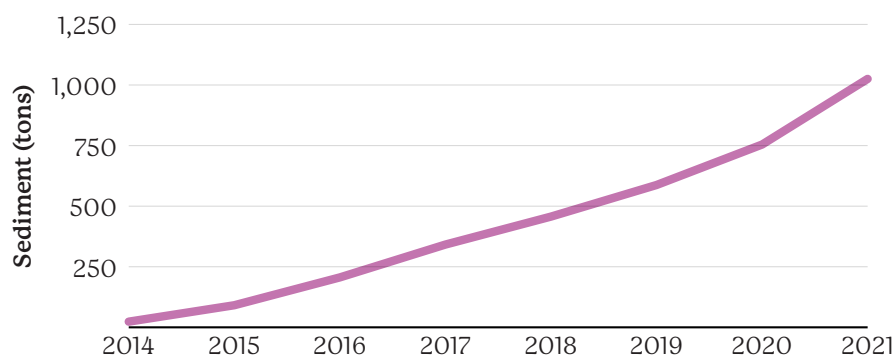
Cumulative Nitrate Load Reduction in the Watershed

2014-2021



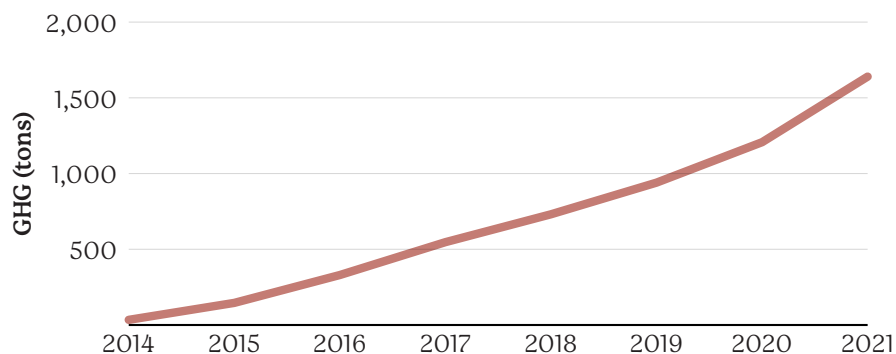
Cumulative Sediment Load Reduction in the Watershed

2014-2021



Cumulative Green House Gas Reduction in the Watershed

2014-2021





Cannon River Watershed-Wide CleanUP



Defeat of Jesse James Days Volunteers



Cannon River Champions

Community Engagement Program

- 5th Annual **Downstream Environmental Film Festival** attracted more than 50 participants to watch 17 inspiring water-themed local, national, and international short films outdoors at Riverside Park. Participants also had a chance to get gear repaired at the Patagonia Repair Tent or to get safety checks on a bike at the Farmstead Bike tent.
- 13th Annual **Cannon River Watershed-Wide CleanUP** had more than 200 volunteers working in 8 communities and removed an estimated 8,600 pounds of litter from area streams, lakes and rivers. This year's CleanUP found a safe that someone that thrown off of a bridge.
- Six **newspaper articles** published in 12 watershed newspapers along with several local radio interviews and CRP's social media page and website engaged area residents and supported CRP's education and outreach efforts.
- Despite the ongoing pandemic, 129 students in grades 2-5 in Northfield and Faribault submitted original artwork on their ideas for our annual **Stormwater Pollution Prevention Poster Contest** in each community. The 2021 contest was hybrid event with some Zoom presentations and some in-person presentations at area schools.
- An estimated 288 youth and 12 adults at four Northfield Elementary Schools learned about Minnesota wildlife and how to keep our rivers and lakes clean during the CRP Amazing Cannon River Wildlife programs in Northfield. Because of the pandemic, CRP staff created three short video presentations that teachers could share with students when distance learning or in the classroom. Staff also met with three classrooms via Zoom for live online presentations.



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