

# Bringing Together Community Partners

We've been working diligently to unite partners and start conversations around clean water practices. These conversations inform and promote sustainable and profitable conservation practices to farmers that achieve better environmental outcomes.



HEALTHIER SOIL.  
CLEANER WATER.  
BETTER FUTURE.



MCKNIGHT FOUNDATION

The Rice  
Creek  
Watershed  
Farmers





"The Fishers & Farmers Partnership is a thoughtful and respectful approach to connect farmers, landowners, and scientists on the health of nearby streams. Cover cropping practices by Dundas farmers in the Rice Creek watershed is a great example of working together on those attributes to achieve a common goal."

Jack Lauer, MN DNR Southern Regional Fisheries Manager and Steering Committee member for Fishers and Farmers Partnership, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

## Farmers Protecting Bridgewater Streams Research Project

Since 2018, Clean River Partners, Rice Soil and Water Conservation District, St. Olaf College, a dozen farmers in the Rice Creek subwatershed, and six other organizations have been part of a leading-edge land conservation initiative, planting cover crops on 1000 acres (30%) of tillable farmland in that subwatershed.

Over the last five years, average nitrate concentrations in Rice Creek declined 22%.

Rice Creek is Minnesota's western most self-sustaining brook trout stream.

The success of farmers in the Rice Creek watershed provided a unique opportunity to show the impact that cover crops can have on reducing nitrate in tile drainage. Tile drainage from fields planted with cover crops had 30% less nitrate nitrogen than without cover crops.

Also, survey responses from the participating farmers showed that cover crops did not impact corn yields over the five years (2018-2022), and soybean yields increased by 7%.

Rice Creek is only one small subwatershed in a watershed with nearly 500,000 acres of farmland. To expand this success, we must reach more farmers, organizations, and communities who value profitable farms, fishable and swimmable lakes and streams, and clean drinking water. **When we all work together, meaningful change is achievable.**

Interested in partnership? Please get in touch with our Conservation Program Manager, Alan Kraus, to learn more! Contact Alan by phone (507-786-3913) or email ([alan@cleanriverpartners.org](mailto:alan@cleanriverpartners.org))