



## Chapter 8 - Water Resource Management Agencies

There are a number of Rochester-based organizations that focus on water. Some help regulate water quality. Others are involved with public education about water. The people in these organizations are working hard to protect Rochester's water resources, increase water stewardship, and educate citizens. Everyone, however, has a part in using water responsibly. These organizations are a great resource for answering questions and planning projects. Don't hesitate to contact them!

This chapter is divided into three sections. The first section highlights a few local organizations that have worked with educators and students on water projects in the past. The second section lists additional water resource management organizations alphabetically. The third section is a listing of water topics tied to responsible organizations.

### Working With Students



**Cascade Meadow Wetlands & Environmental Science Center**  
2900 19<sup>th</sup> Street NW  
Rochester, MN 55901  
Phone: (507) 252-8133  
Website: [www.cascademeadow.org](http://www.cascademeadow.org)  
Contact: Stefan Theimer, Education Program Coordinator  
Phone: (507) 252-8133 ext. 104  
Email: [stheimer@cascademeadow.org](mailto:stheimer@cascademeadow.org)

Cascade Meadow connects people and communities through water, energy, and sustainability education. Their mission is to establish Cascade Meadow Wetlands & Environmental Science Center as a regional resource for environmental education. Visit their indoor exhibits, outdoor trails, and attend special programs.







**Olmsted County Environmental Resources**  
 2122 Campus Drive SE, Suite 200  
 Rochester, MN 55904  
 Phone: (507) 328-7070  
 Fax: (507) 328-5090  
 Website: [www.co.olmsted.mn.us/environmentalresources](http://www.co.olmsted.mn.us/environmentalresources)  
 Email: [pwservice@co.olmsted.mn.us](mailto:pwservice@co.olmsted.mn.us)  
 Contact: Terry Lee, Water Resources Coordinator  
 Email: [Lee.terry@co.olmsted.mn.us](mailto:Lee.terry@co.olmsted.mn.us)

### Water Resource Services


Environmental Resources Department • clean air • clean energy • clean soil • clean water •




**Water Testing Lab --**  
 The lab provides water quality testing for private well owners in southeast Minnesota as well as the samples collected from the County's aquifer, stream, and lake monitoring networks.



**Water Quality Monitoring --**  
 Streams, lakes, reservoirs, and aquifers are routinely monitored to assess their condition.



**Chester Sewer District --**  
 Sewer service is provided to 120 homes and businesses that had previously relied on failing septic systems. Sewage is collected and pumped to the Rochester Water Reclamation Plant for treatment.



**Zumbro River Restoration --**  
 The 2010 Zumbro River Flood severely damaged the Oronoco dam and drained Lake Shady. Work is underway to replace the dam with a rock rapids and restore a natural river channel in the old lakebed. The lakebed will become part of the Oronoco Park and will provide opportunities for public canoeing, kayaking, fishing and hiking. \$1M in State Dam Safety funding has been provided for the project.

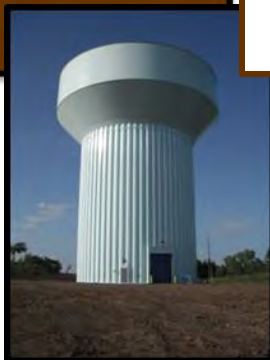


**Lake Zumbro Dredging --**  
 The lake provides a range of boating, fishing and other water recreational opportunities. Plans are underway to dredge the lake to restore areas lost to sedimentation. In 2011, \$3M in State Bonding funds were awarded for the project.



**Rochester Public Utilities**  
 4000 East River Road NE  
 Rochester, MN 55906-2813  
 Phone: (507) 280-1500  
 Website: [www.rpu.org](http://www.rpu.org)  
 Contact: Todd Osweiler, Environmental & Regulatory Affairs Coordinator  
 Phone: (507) 280-1589  
 Email: [tosweiler@rpu.org](mailto:tosweiler@rpu.org)

RPU provides Rochester's citizens with an abundant supply of high-quality water by constructing, operating and maintaining wells, storage facilities and water lines.





**Rochester Storm Water Management**

Rochester Public Works Department  
201 4th St. SE, Room 108  
Rochester, MN 55904  
Phone: (507) 328-2440  
Fax: (507) 328-2401  
Website: [www.rochesterstormwater.com](http://www.rochesterstormwater.com)  
Twitter: @CleanWaterRoch  
Contact: Megan Moeller, Storm Water Educator  
Email: [mmoeller@rochestermn.gov](mailto:mmoeller@rochestermn.gov)

As our community grows, so must our commitment to protecting and improving the quality of our water resources. Our lakes, rivers, and wetlands help make Rochester one of the nations' most livable communities. Keeping our water resources clean and useable is in everyone's interest.



**Rochester Water Reclamation Plant**

301 36th Street NW  
Rochester, MN 55901  
Phone: (507) 328-2650  
Contact: David Lane, Environmental Coordinator  
Phone: (507) 328-2656  
Email: [dlane@rochestermn.gov](mailto:dlane@rochestermn.gov)

The Water Reclamation Plant constructs, operates and maintains the wastewater treatment plant and several lift stations. It operates 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. Tours are available.





**Quarry Hill Nature Center**

701 Silver Creek Road NE

Rochester, MN 55906

Phone: (507) 328-3950

Website: WWW.QHNC.ORG

Contact: Pam Meyer, Executive Director

Email: pameyer@rochester.k12.mn.us

QHNC is a joint City-School District-Non-profit Foundation enterprise that offers year-round classes, day camps, trips and activities within a 320-acre City park that features several native habitats, biking and hiking trails, a pond, and a historical hand-dug sandstone cave. In the winter months, cross country skis and snowshoes are available for rent to use in the park.



**ZUMBRO**  
WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP

**Zumbro Watershed Partnership**

2900 19<sup>th</sup> Street NW

Rochester, MN 55901

Phone: (507) 226-6787

Website: www.zumbrowatershed.org

Email: admin@zumbrowatershed.org

Contact: Kevin Strauss, Education Coordinator

E-mail: education@zumbrowatershed.org

The Zumbro Watershed Partnership is a nonprofit organization dedicated to working for “Cleaner Water and Fewer Floods” in the Zumbro River watershed. ZWP hosts cooperative clean water projects and presents educational programs, like its monthly “Water Ways” speaker series to interested audiences.





## Additional Water Resource Management Agencies

### **Minnesota Board of Water & Soil Resources**

3555 9<sup>th</sup> Street NW  
Rochester, MN 55901  
Phone: (507) 206-2889  
[www.bwsr.state.mn.us](http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us)

### **Minnesota Department of Health**

18 Woodlake Drive SE  
Rochester, MN 55904  
Phone: (507) 206-2700  
[www.health.state.mn.us](http://www.health.state.mn.us)

### **Minnesota Department of Natural Resources**

3555 9<sup>th</sup> St. NW, Suite 350  
Rochester, MN 55901  
Phone: (507) 206-2852 (Ecological & Water Resources)  
(507) 206-2829 (Fisheries)  
(507) 206-2841 or 206-2847 (Parks & Trails)  
(507) 206-2859 (Wildlife)  
[www.dnr.state.mn.us/index.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/index.html)

### **Minnesota Geological Survey**

2642 University Ave West  
St. Paul, MN 55114-1032  
Phone: (612) 627-4780  
[www.mngs.umn.edu](http://www.mngs.umn.edu)

### **Minnesota Pollution Control Agency**

18 Woodlake Drive SE  
Rochester, MN 55904  
Phone: (507) 285-7343  
[www.pca.state.mn.us](http://www.pca.state.mn.us)

### **Olmsted County Environmental Health Services**

2100 Campus drive SE, Suite 100  
Rochester, MN 55904  
Phone: (507) 328-7500  
[www.co.olmsted.mn.us/OCPHS/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.co.olmsted.mn.us/OCPHS/Pages/default.aspx)

**Olmsted County Extension Service (University of Minnesota Extension)**

1421 3rd Avenue SE  
Rochester, MN 55904  
Phone: (507) 328-6214

[www.extension.umn.edu/county/template/index.aspx?countyID=55](http://www.extension.umn.edu/county/template/index.aspx?countyID=55)

**Olmsted County Soil & Water Conservation District**

1485 Industrial Drive NW, Room 102  
Rochester, MN 55901  
Phone: (507) 280-2850  
Fax: (507) 280-2858

[www.co.olmsted.mn.us/pw/oswcd/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.co.olmsted.mn.us/pw/oswcd/Pages/default.aspx)

**Rochester Building and Safety**

2122 Campus Drive SE, Suite 300  
Rochester, MN 55904  
Phone: (507) 328-2600  
Fax: (507) 328-2601

[www.rochestermn.gov/departments/bldgsafety](http://www.rochestermn.gov/departments/bldgsafety)

**Rochester-Olmsted Planning Department**

2122 Campus Drive SE, Suite 100  
Rochester, MN 55904  
Phone: (507) 328-7100  
Fax: (507) 328-7958

[www.co.olmsted.mn.us/planning/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.co.olmsted.mn.us/planning/Pages/default.aspx)

**Rochester Park & Recreation Department**

201 4th Street SE  
Rochester, MN 55904  
Phone: (507) 281-6160  
Fax: (507) 281-6165

[www.rochestermn.gov/departments/park/index.asp](http://www.rochestermn.gov/departments/park/index.asp)

**US Army Corp of Engineers – St. Paul District**

180 East 5th Street, Suite 700  
St. Paul, MN 55101  
Phone: 1-651-290-5807

[www.mvp.usace.army.mil](http://www.mvp.usace.army.mil)

**USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service**

1485 Industrial Drive NW  
Rochester, MN 55901  
Phone: (507) 289-6239  
Fax: (507) 280-2858

[www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/mn/home](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/mn/home)

**Subjects by Responsible Organization**

General Topic	Specific Topics	Organization
Boating Information	public water access locations, canoe routes, invasive species, watercraft registration	MN Department of Natural Resources - Parks and Trails Division
Chester Woods Park	use, history	Olmsted County Parks
Construction Site Erosion & Sediment Control	inspections and enforcement	Rochester Public Works Department
Dam Safety	regulations, inspection	MN Department of Natural Resources - Ecological and Water Resources Division
Fertilizer and Chemical Management	lawn care	Olmsted County Extension Service
Fish Consumption Advisories	consumption limitations	MN Department of Health
Fish Kills	reporting	MN Pollution Control Agency
Fish Stocking	species, schedule, locations	MN Department of Natural Resources - Fish and Wildlife Division
Fishing Education	MinnAqua, Fishing in the Neighborhood, I Can Fish, Take-a-Kid Fishing, Take-A-Kid Ice Fishing	
Fishing Regulations	season, limits, licensing, spawning times	
Floodplain Management	regulations, zoning, boundaries, Flood Insurance Rate Maps	Rochester-Olmsted Planning Department
Land Use	Regulations, planning, enforcement and geographic information system management	Rochester-Olmsted Planning Department
Leaks and Spills	reporting (MN Duty Officer, 1-800-422-0798) and responding	MN Department of Public Safety
Local Water Management	long range planning and project implementation	Olmsted County Environmental Resources
		Rochester-Olmsted Planning Department
Mosquitoes	personal protection strategies	Olmsted Environmental Health Services
Non-Municipal Community Wells	water testing results and water quantity data	MN Department of Health
Plumbing Regulations	Permits/inspections to enforce plumbing code	Rochester Building Safety
Private Water Wells	water system review and permitting, construction and sealing inspections	Rochester-Olmsted Planning Department
Rochester's Flood Control Rervoirs	use, history	Rochester Park and Recreation Department
Rochester's Flood Control Rervoirs	flood protection standards, water level monitoring, maintenance	Rochester Public Works Department
Rochester's Municipal Water Supply	wells, water mains, storage facilities, water testing results, water quantity data, water conservation, wellhead protection	Rochester Public Utilities
Rochester's Flood Control Project	use, history, maintenance	Rochester Public Works Department

General Topic	Specific Topics	Organization
Septic Systems	user education	Olmsted County Extension Service
	construction and repair permits, septage pumping and disposal requirements	Rochester-Olmsted Planning Department
	regulations	MN Pollution Control Agency
Shoreland Management	regulations and enforcement	Rochester-Olmsted Planning Department
Silver Lake and Lake Zumbro Dams	operations and maintenance, lake levels	Rochester Public Utilities
Storm Water Management	planning, policies and ordinances, public education and complaint intake/response, illicit discharge/dumping and drainage/grading investigations, erosion and sediment control inspections, grading and drainage approvals, infrastructure construction and maintenance, funding, system mapping	Rochester Public Works Department
Storm Water Management	construction, industrial, and municipal storm water permit administration	MN Pollution Control Agency
Stream and Lake surveys	aquatic life monitoring	MN Department of Natural Resources - Fish and Wildlife Division
Wastewater Conveyance	sanitary sewer construction, operations, and maintenance	Rochester Public Works Department
Wastewater Treatment	sanitary sewage processing, RV dump station, pretreatment industrial permits	Rochester Water Reclamation Plant
Water Appropriations	regulations and permits for surface and groundwater withdrawals	MN Department of Natural Resources - Ecological and Water Resources Division
Water Studies & Reports	local long term monitoring projects	Olmsted Environmental Health Services
	regional monitoring projects	MN Pollution Control Agency
Water Supply Regulations	drinking water standards, health risk information	MN Department of Natural Resources - Ecological and Water Resources Division
Water Treatment	recommendations to address undesirable water conditions, like hardness, excess iron, or iron bacteria	MN Department of Health
Wetland Management	Wetland Conservation Act administration	Rochester-Olmsted Planning Department
Wetland Regulations	state rule development, wetland mitigation approvals, general wetland information	Board of Water and Soil Resources
Work in Public Waters	water body alterations, shoreline stabilization	MN Department of Natural Resources - Ecological and Water Resources Division