



# Crow Wing County Water Plan 2013 - 2023

Water planning is identifying what works best to protect and enhance Crow Wing County's water resources. This revision of the Crow Wing County Local Comprehensive Water Management Plan:

- Identifies local priority water resource concerns, objectives, and actions
- Targets specific surface and ground water resources to focus implementation efforts on
- Uses a watershed-based, land protection model
- Includes analysis and maps of all 125 minor watersheds in the county
- Includes a section focused specifically on the Mississippi River



## Priority Concerns & Objectives:

- Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)
  - Lake Association Coordination
  - Watercraft inspection
  - Lake Improvement District (LID) Management
  - Education & Outreach
- Ground water
  - Septic Maintenance & Inspection
  - Testing for Nitrates & Other Contaminants
  - Wellhead & Drinking Water Source Protection
  - Sealing of Unused / Abandoned Wells
  - Solid & Hazardous Waste Disposal
- Surface Water
  - Stormwater Management
  - Shoreline Buffers
  - Wetland Protection
  - Land Use & Development
    - Performance standards
  - Measure Water Quality Data
    - Track impervious surfaces & phosphorous loading
    - Monitor lakes & streams
    - Assess trends
  - Agricultural Best Management Practices

## Watershed Approach:

Crow Wing County is part of 5 major watersheds and has portions of 125 minor watersheds. For this plan, a watershed based model was used that classified each minor watershed by the amount of protected land as well as by various risk factors and water plan priorities.

*Protected land = public ownership, lakes, rivers, easements, & wetlands on private lands*

### Risk Classifications:

**Vigilance:** > 50 % protected lands, < 8 % land use disturbance, no risk factors such as agriculture, development, artificial drainage, or extractive uses

**Protection:** 40-65 % protected lands, 8-30 % land use disturbance, minimal risk factors, and water quality that is stable or improving, multiple high-quality resources could be protected

**Enhance / Protection:** < 40 % protected lands, moderate amount of risk factors, water quality that is stable, declining, or impaired, manageable risk factors, one or more water resources that could be protected

**Enhance:** < 40 % protected lands, >30 % land use disturbance, multiple / significant risk factors, limited resources to protect

