

Cedar River Watershed District Draft Rules Fact Sheet

The Cedar River Watershed District was established under the authority of Minnesota Statute Chapter 103D, on April 25, 2007. As required by State Statute, the District has adopted a watershed management plan and drafted rules. Both are centered on the purpose of the CRWD to protect and improve water quality and reduce flooding in the watershed.

Key issues for draft rule implementation:

The Cedar River Watershed District rules are being designed to restore and maintain water quality and maintain or reduce peak flows.

Stormwater

Plan: Regulate stormwater discharge on a watershed-wide basis to reduce future flooding damages

Goal: Regulate new impervious surfaces so that runoff rates do not exceed the pre-existing conditions

Drainage

Plan: Establish rules regarding flood control and flood rate, and improve water quality by regulating certain facilities in the watershed

Goal: Create no net increase in flowage capacity as the original structure or conditions. The project must be constructed to minimize soil erosion and include at least a 16.5 foot buffer.

Floodplain

Plan: Prohibit no net fill in the floodplain and develop a “no net loss of floodplain” rule by preserving the existing water storage below the 100 year high water elevations on all waterbodies and detention areas in the watershed.

Goal: Create no net fill within the 100 year flood plain. Floodplain loss must be replaced when losses cannot be avoided. All permanent structures must be built at least 1 foot above the 100 year flood plain. Snow storage, other storage and other impacts are prohibited in the floodplain.

Waterbody Alterations

Plan: Protect water resources in the district from land use impacts maximize the water quality and quantity benefits of wetlands, and decrease the risk of flooding in the watershed.

Goal: Prevent an increase in the 100 year floodplain level unless the water quality or floodplain management is the purpose and potentially affected landowners have consented. All work must be done to minimize the increase of suspended solids and turbidity in discharge and receiving waters.

Erosion Control

Plan: Minimize erosion control and its effects on water quality by regulating land-disturbing activities. The District requires that best management practices be in place for all land-disturbing activities.

Goal: Apply best management practices for sediment and erosion control to land disturbing activities with specific categories for sites of more than 1 acre, under 1 acre, and agricultural lands.

A draft of the proposed CRWD rules is available on the web at www.cedarriverwd.org