



List of Accomplishments

The WaterShed Partners is an award-winning, innovative, dynamic coalition of over 40 public, private and non-profit organizations in the Minneapolis/St. Paul metropolitan area that, through collaborative educational outreach, teaches residents how to care for area waters. Below is a list of accomplishment by the WaterShed Partners over the last few years.

Organization Structure

- The WaterShed Partners is a consensus-based group that started in 1992 with a handful of organizations. Today, over 40 various types of organizations (non-profit organizations, educational institutions, national, state, and local agencies, etc) interact to promote a public understanding that inspires people to protect water quality in their watershed.
- The WaterShed Partners have successfully administered over \$1 million in grants from local sources to fund projects and initiatives.
- The WaterShed Partners has caught the attention of communities all over the country, making it a model of how a successful partnership can work.

Networking

- Involvement in the WaterShed Partners increases an organization's visibility, recognition, and credibility.
- Partner organizations are able to share information on upcoming events, ideas, and products to encourage coordination and collaboration, increase efficiency, and avoid duplication of efforts.
- During this opportunity for discussion, the WaterShed Partners have created uniformity and consistency in the various messages going to the community.

K-12 Educational Tools

- The WaterShed Partners worked with Farnsworth Elementary School in St. Paul to create a watershed curriculum for their Lake Phalen Stewards Project.
- With innovative products like the *Waters to the Sea* CD-ROM and the Water Quality Interactive component of the WaterShed Exhibit, the WaterShed Partners are making watershed education fun and available to students everywhere.
- The Metro Watershed Education Network will use communication, coordination and collaboration to educate youth about non-point source pollution, to integrate watershed education into school systems, and to leverage the energy created by the award-winning WaterShed traveling exhibit. This network will create environmentally literate and engaged citizens.

Community Education

- The WaterShed Partners designed the WaterShed Exhibit to provide learning opportunities about metropolitan watersheds, and about people's connections to rivers and other waters through everyday actions in watersheds. There have been over 450,00 visitors to this exhibit at over 140 event during the past 4 years.
- The WaterShed Exhibit has been displayed at events all over Minnesota and at national conferences around the United States, causing it to become a replicated model for communities outside the Twin Cities.
- Through a multi-year public campaign and community partnerships, the Water Quality Action Campaign changed attitudes and behaviors of adults in the metro area so they would make better decisions in household, lawn care, and automotive purchases and practices to benefit and improve water quality.
- The Water Education Resources Book is a collection of ready-to-use educational materials and was distributed to metro area municipalities, agencies, and organizations.
- The Volunteer Stream Monitoring Project was created to strengthen effective volunteer participation and increase the usefulness of volunteer-collected data, a coordinated, comprehensive volunteer monitoring program
- The WaterShed Partners have worked with the state legislature and businesses like Bachman's to spread the word of using low- to no-phosphorus fertilizers on urban lawns.

Awards

The WaterShed Partners have received the following honors:

- 1999 Minnesota Government Reaching Environmental Achievements Together (MnGREAT!) Award from the State of Minnesota.
- 1999 Environmental Initiative Award for Environmental Education from the Minnesota Environmental Initiative.
- 1998 Cooperative Public Service Award (Semi-Finalist) from the State of Minnesota



<http://cgee.hamline.edu/watershed>