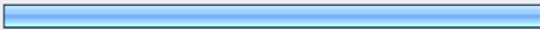



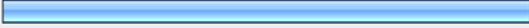









2008 Citizen Survey Results
Lower Rum River Water Management Organization

Total number of survey respondents: 47

1. Do you use your local lakes, rivers/streams, and wetlands?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		89.4%	42
No		10.6%	5
<i>answered question</i>			47

2. If yes, which lakes, rivers/streams, and wetlands do you use?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Rum River		87.8%	36
Mississippi River		73.2%	30
Round Lake		12.2%	5
Rogers Lake		2.4%	1
Lake Itasca		14.6%	6
Sunfish Lake (Grass Lake)		14.6%	6
Thorn Lake		2.4%	1
Eddy Lake		2.4%	1
Veterans Lake		7.3%	3
Wetlands		24.4%	10
Other (please specify)			9
<i>answered question</i>			41

Other (please specify)

- Coon Lake
- County ditch
- Crooked Lake

- Lake George (2)
- Northern MN
- Round Lake wetlands
- Trott Brook (2)

3. If you answered “wetlands” to the previous question, please describe the location of the wetland.

- Adjoining Trott Brook, west of Co. Rd. #5
- Backwaters of the Rum River. Also areas south of Anoka High School.
- Central Ramsey
- County Rd 64 and Xenolith st
- Fox Park in Ramsey (172nd and Potassium)
- On Bunker Lake Blvd in Andover
- Property near Ward Lake and Lake Lehman
- There are a number of swamps in my neighborhood on N. Enchanted Dr.
- Various spots in the Ramsey area and off the river

4. If yes, how do you use your local lakes, rivers/streams, and wetlands?


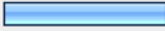
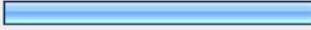



		Response Percent	Response Count
Boating		37.2%	16
Sailing		2.3%	1
Ice skating		4.7%	2
Biking on trails		46.5%	20
Canoeing		41.9%	18
Fishing		41.9%	18
Walking/jogging on trails		62.8%	27
Observing wildlife		76.7%	33
Kayaking		4.7%	2
Swimming		32.6%	14
	Other (please specify)		3
	answered question		43

Other (please specify)



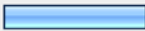

- Camping

- Geocaching
- Snowmobiling

5. How would you rate the water quality of your lakes and rivers/streams?

Excellent		2.4%	1
Above average		26.8%	11
Average		51.2%	21
Below average		7.3%	3
Poor		2.4%	1
Don't know		9.8%	4
answered question			41

6. What would enhance your use of your lakes and rivers/streams?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Better access		50.0%	15
Better trails		43.3%	13
More beaches		23.3%	7
Better boating or fishing opportunities		33.3%	10
Other (please specify)			13
answered question			30

Other (please specify)

- Better enforcement of existing rules
- Better pollution control and minimize number of docks on private property
- Cleaner / clearer water with less weeds (2)
- Eliminating litter, more signage for trail access, more trails, interpretive signage
- Less garbage
- Maybe not even better access, but more noticeable access. Many people are around the rivers but don't pay much attention because they are not noticeably accessible.
- Monitoring of biosustainability
- More docking. For example, the amphitheatre site would make an excellent docking and picnic area. Also, if Anoka's bike paths could be expanded and more integrated into the regional

biking/walking paths. As we have more seniors in our community maybe we could explore the possibility of having golf cart paths from downtown to Greenhaven or other such destinations.

- More time to enjoy recreation
- No change
- Not better trails, but more of them.
- Nothing. The lakes in the area are primarily shallow and small, so large boat accesses and beaches wouldn't be appropriate. The Rum River is the best recreational waterway and it has reasonable access.

7. If there was one thing you could change about the natural resources of the watershed over the next 10 years, what would it be?

- Better boating access and the assurance that fish that are caught are safe to eat.
- Better public trail access along our lakes and rivers for biking and hiking and scenic connections to region wide trail systems. Perhaps that's not a natural resource, but it is something I'd like to see encouraged in a way that the trailway would preserve, protect and promote natural and scenic green space along our water ways.
- Better water quality; ensure that pollutants, pesticides, fertilizers don't finding their way into the local water; maintain water quality (6)
- Maintain natural buffer; enforce clearing trees and brush by homeowners especially on the Rum River; possibly a tax credit for erosion control (3)
- Improve public access to water resources (2)
- Improved management of runoff by the cities, particularly to the Rum River.
- Increase education for residents on how to pollute less and maintain our valuable resources. Increase campaign for low to no motor sports equipment (ex. Canoe instead of boating) (3)
- Ensure controlled and planned development
- Keep it the same
- Keep natural but accessible
- Less invasive development that pays lip service to protecting the environment and more actual protection of these resources. Filling in wetlands still occurs and changing long term plans to fit new opportunities is commonplace. We need to enforce these plans more and stop cities from changing them when a developer walks in and proposes a new subdivision.
- Monitoring and public feedback
- More monitoring the use of vehicles that damage wetlands
- More natural - less developed
- Protect wetlands more (2)
- Reduce fertilizer use within 500 to 1000 feet of the river to allow natural filtration of nutrients to occur prior to runoff or groundwater flow to reach the river. Similarly reduce fertilizer use on lawns within a prescribed distance of stormwater intake leading to the river, or create wetland infiltration bioremediation basins to treat the stormwater from streets and neighborhoods.
- Stop dumping all the water into Mississippi and Rum. Less non impervious surface requirement, Storm water fee credits for impervious surfaces. Encourage rain gardens.
- The continued efforts to preserve and protect them continue to enhance their value.
- To enhance the downtown of Anoka to be a commercial destination for boaters on the Mississippi we need to improve public access from the Mississippi to the downtown area by boaters. Imagine the possibility of a gasoline filling source in the area of city hall, for example. This would require boating channels and docking opportunities. The effect would be the upgrading of

Anoka's greatest natural asset. A commitment needs to be made to the enhancement and improvement of the landscaping on the Rum River frontage.

8. What concerns you most about the natural resources of the watershed?



- Control of storm water runoff volume and quality (2)
- Destruction of wetlands and natural habitat in general; loss of buffers (8)
- Diverting watershed off site.
- Efforts to clean outfalls to the river in urbanized areas should be funded with conservation dollars
- Lack of enforcement and the Supreme Court decision that leaves their status in a questionable state.
- Minimum understanding
- Overuse of or damage from boats / snowmobiles (2)
- Increasing demand for water; water supply; groundwater levels; decrease in rainfall (6)
- Pollution associated with development; overall water quality; groundwater quality (15)
- The Anoka section of the Rum River is an urban asset. I fear there is too much emphasis on leaving it in its natural untouched state so as to become something for viewing and not using. The Rum River in the non-urban areas needs protection. The river in the urban areas needs to be used by swimmers, ice skaters, fisherman, boaters, floaters, clam diggers, hikers and bikers as well as painters, photographers and dreamers.
- The Mississippi reservoir lakes are being threatened by choices made by people downriver.
- Urban congestion and infringement

9. The Rum River Dam near Anoka is 39 years old. What are your thoughts on its replacement?

- As needed (5)
- Consider ecological impacts that the dam, or more specifically the raising and lowering of the water pool, has on the aquatic ecosystem(s).
- Could it possibly be an electricity generator...due to possible invasive species coming up Mississippi not anxious to see any lock or other method of movement from Mississippi to Rum
- Depends on how it's holding up.
- Does it need it? Seems there are lots of other uses for available funds.
- Does there need to be a dam there? What purpose does it serve? Forty years does not seem old in the life of a dam. Why does it need to be replaced?
- Find a replacement that "does no harm" to the environment; include recreational fishing areas around the dam
- I consider it a landmark in our community and would like to see it maintained well. If that requires replacing it I would like to cost to be contained and minimal and the original look maintained with better fishing and boating opportunities added.
- I think that a dam has been there for 150+ years and that its historic nature in Anoka is greater than the natural impact. However, I am for replacement if it includes hydroelectric power. I believe the negative impacts of having a dam there would be outweighed by the positive impact of green power. But if it is replaced as is without this function, I think it is hard to justify the expense if it is only for looks.
- I would need more information as far as cost, what's wrong with it etc.

- If it is replaced, a lock would be an asset for Mississippi boaters to venture further upstream as well as upstream residents to venture down to the Mississippi. The more use we make of our rivers the better they will be kept. The more people that use and view the rivers the more people will actively protect them.
- If structural and geotechnical evaluation of the dam proves that it is sound, allow it to remain in place and provide the recreational pool above. Otherwise repair and stabilize the dam to maintain the value.
- Is it in need of replacement or are people just concerned since the 35w bridge collapse. We need to know what is the life expectancy of the dam
- Is it necessary for it to be there?
- If it is not failing why replace it?
- It should last another 50 years.
- Keep up the maintenance of present dam and make repairs as necessary.
- Leave as is.
- None
- Repair, do not replace. Assess how much pollution is put into environment when replacing versus repairing. A 39 year old dam is not that old.
- Replace if needed to keep Rum River water levels at navigable level
- Replace it if it's becoming nonfunctional. (and utilize some hydro-power recovery from a new dam.)
- Replace it when needed, with something similar that will not impact the appearance differently
- The dam is necessary to maintain a recreational pool on the Rum River. Replacement should be based on the serviceability and safety of the current dam. If indicated by those criteria, replacement should be funded and completed.
- This is a decision for professionals to make in terms of how safe it is, etc.. The major question would be the cost.
- The upstream pool doesn't affect me, but taking out the dam would be devastating to some.
- To be honest, I haven't thought about it. I am neutral on replacement, but if it is deemed necessary would not object.
- Undecided
- Unless there is a real need I do not think it should be replaced.
- What is wrong with the existing dam? If it's still usable, then simply maintain it.
- What problems exist that maintenance and repair won't solve?
- Who cares



10. Erosion occurs when bare soil washes off the land into lakes, rivers/streams, and storm sewers leading to water bodies. Have you seen or been affected by soil erosion?

Yes		63.4%	26
No		36.6%	15
If yes, where? Please describe.			24
answered question			41

If yes, where? Please describe.

- Along county highways
- Along the Mississippi trail
- Along the Rum from the railroad tracks in Anoka north. The Mississippi is also effected on either side of the confluence with the Rum
- Along the Rum River south of Anoka high school and north in the Anoka nature preserve. I know this is due to kids and rope swings but the old pattern of dealing with this has been to cut down the tree they use and that only amplifies the issue.
- Anywhere a stream enters the Rum, especially after a storm or in the spring you can see it.
- Brookview development.
- Bunker Lake Blvd in Andover
- By fishing dock in Aiken Park.
- By motor boat traffic at high speed
- Construction sites, none specific (2)
- I have seen some form of erosion all over the area
- In some areas of the Rum River
- Kills natural plants and changes the lake structure
- Mississippi shoreline, storm drains
- More erosion of existing shoreline by Rivers Point condominiums; we have seen Rivers Pointe condominium residents clear brush from public Rum River shore line because it obstructed their view
- Old crossings on Rum
- Rum River and sludge
- Rum River lake of wake control
- Rum riverbanks.
- The City of Ramsey seems to be doing a good job of correcting these problems as they occur. In my neighborhood 172nd and potassium, they added storm sewer drainage, and along the Rum River in Rivers Bend Park, they added a boulder retaining wall. I can't recall off hand, but I know there are other hardscape issues in neighborhoods that result in similar situations during snow and rain events. I cannot recall offhand where I've seen this.
- The clarity of the water is reduced - you can barely see below the surface
- The Rice Street beach has been changed over the years by this. Beach erosion seems to be stabilized by simply adding natural landscaping, like rocks, to eliminate this issue in an attractive way.
- When Ramsey dropped road level three feet.

11. Flooding occurs when stormwater ditches and pipes cannot drain fast enough. Have you seen or been affected by flooding?

Yes		34.1%	14
No		65.9%	27
If yes, where? Please describe.			12
<i>answered question</i>			41

If yes, where? Please describe.

- Everywhere when there is a large and sudden rainfall.
- Have seen it along the Rum. Cannot identify the particular stormwater pipe or ditch.
- Inadequate drainage on 1st Avenue by Rivers Pointe condominiums causes street flooding during heavy rains
- I've heard, but not witnessed, that some of the stormwater ditches could use a cleaning. I know that Ditch 66 through Elmcrest Park was cleaned up a few years ago and seems to be flowing properly. The flooding we had in my neighborhood appears to have been corrected on 174th and Quicksilver and 172nd and Potassium.
- Many old storm water drains in the old parts of Anoka.
- North Street on Anoka
- Not sure
- Only in extreme cases
- Street in front of Aiken Park.
- This has been occurring for many years. It seems to be improving, but still occurs under Hwy 10 on 7th Av. and in various other locations in Ramsey.
- Upper Trott brook. Yards and a limited number of basements were flooded.
- Your question has a problem. Quick drainage of your stormwater pipes and ditches may mean you don't have flooding, but it will create flooding downstream. Please work to manage stormwater so that it both doesn't flood our area and doesn't create problems downstream.

12. Water can become polluted by chemicals, road salt, oil from cars, litter, and nutrients from leaves and lawn clippings. Have you seen or been affected by water pollution?

- 30 years ago the Mississippi was not nearly as clean as it is now
- All over Anoka County
- Anyone who uses these waterways can see evidence of pollution.
- Everywhere (acid rain) and monitoring necessary for fluxes and trends
- Growth into Round Lake
- I believe so, but I couldn't give a knowledgeable answer to this question.
- I have seen pollution in or on all the water I use
- I'm mostly concerned about pollutants that we can't see.
- In Ramsey, Emerald Pond - primarily due to lawn care chemicals and mowing encroaching on the ponding and buffering.
- Increased weeds from chemicals

- It is amazing how clear the Rum becomes in the fall. Part of this may be the water turnover, but my belief is that by then no one is fertilizing, the power boats can no longer use the river.

When I lived on a lake, the DNR had homeowners volunteering to do Secchi disk data gathering. The Rum could do so that at little cost and it would provide needed data to help improve the river. Pick some points at various critical spots and see if someone in that area or maybe a couple of people would be willing to do this.

Power boats on the river is an issue no one wants to talk about. There needs to be a horsepower limit because the no wake zones are not doing the job. Erosion of the shoreline is a major problem due to fast speeds from large motors. I have lost four trees, two of them large and shoreline as a result of this. If you do not do something about this you are going to see a shoreline in the no wake zone that is all unnnatural rock because people need to protect their shoreline. Three homeowners in my area have done this in the last five years or so. I believe it was even done to River's Bend Park.

- Lawn clippings in the street or gutter (2)
- Mississippi and Rum rivers.
- Mississippi River, Rum River, multiple storm drains
- Not in our area as much but in the Mill Pond in Champlin.
- Resident at *[address removed]* dumping leaves and branches into river and raking leaves into street.
Non impervious surface causes oil from cars to enter water stream easier that impervious surfaces.
- Road salt primarily near bridges
- Rum River
- Rum River looks polluted. I see residents letting their dogs relieve themselves in the natural grasses close to the river, where feces can make their way into the river.
Rivers Pointe Townhome Association contracts with a landscape service. They use chemicals on the lawns that are adjacent to the park and river. I would like to see them use an organic service and/or products to protect the river. After fertilizing the lawns I see excess fertilizer granules on the sidewalks and driveways that wash into the storm drain and are not diluted through the soil first.
It would be nice if those residents who live on the river had to use organic products only on their lawns to protect the environment.
- Shallow domestic well at my residence impacted by systemic pesticides used in adjacent farming practices. New well installed to deeper aquifer. Old well sealed.
- The drainage pond north of my house seems to collect more than a fair share of crud.
- The Mississippi River is in much better condition than it was when I first moved to it in 1957. Now my grandchildren love swimming in the river, playing and walking on the sandbars and fishing. More effort could be made to "pre-filter" road runoff before it enters the river. Neighbors who throw grass clippings into the river should be made to swim in them.
- We all are on a daily basis
- We live close to the Mississippi and many residents in the area use chemicals on their lawns that end up in the river; I feel they and others within range of impacting the river should be restricted from using harmful chemicals.
- While driving over the bridge.