



CLEARWATER SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT | WINTER 2023

Clearwater's Conservation Chronicles



IN THIS ISSUE:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------|
| 1. 50% Drinking Water Reimbursement | Page 2 |
| 2. Water Plan Happenings | |
| 1. 2023 Tree Sale | Page 3 |
| 1. Conservation Farm | Page 4 |
| 1. Custom Services Flyer | Page 5 |
| 1. Lake Volunteers Flyer | Page 6 |
| 1. Rental Flyer | Page 7 |
| 1. Education Classes Flyer | Page 8 |
| 2. Thank You Flyer | |
| 1. Rain Gauge | Page 9 |
| 1. Puzzle Page | Page 10 |
-
-

District Staff

Lori Buell
District Manager
Lori.Buell@mn.nacdnet.net

Chester Powell
Water Plan Coordinator/
Program Technician
Chester.Powell@mn.nacdnet.net

Brielle Prokosch
Program Technician
Brielle.Prokosch@mn.nacdnet.net

Kaleb Buesing
Seasonal District Technician
ClearwaterSWCD1954@gmail.com



Water Plan Happenings in Clearwater County

Countywide Implementation by Spring 2023

50% Drinking Water Reimbursement

Mississippi River Watershed Residents Benefit

Clearwater SWCD is now paying 50% of the total cost for Bacteria and Nitrates series tests. Our office is already a carrier of drinking water test kits through RMB Environmental Labs, and now we can help with the costs! This offer is for participants who live within the Mississippi River Headwaters Watershed and are willing to share a copy of their test results. Any information we receive from participants will remain confidential.

In order to receive the 50% reimbursement participants will need to pay for their Bacteria and/or Nitrate tests in full. After receiving a copy of the test results Clearwater SWCD will then reimburse 50% of the total costs to the participant. Keep in mind that funds are limited so this program will not last forever. So those who live within the Mississippi Watershed and need to get their drinking water tested for daycares, house purchases or any other reason please stop in or give our office a call.

If you are not sure you live in the Mississippi Watershed you can visit <https://headwatershed.org/> and click on the interactive map on the front page to see if you qualify.

The trend to manage water on a watershed level versus the judicial level has continued in Clearwater County. We now have begun to finalize the planning process for our third and final plan. The Clearwater River Watershed covers six counties, the Red Lake Reservation and is part of the Red Lake Watershed Districts.

In June of 2020 the water planning members from each of these local government units submitted to the state of Minnesota a request for funding for the planning process. In October 2022 the MN Board of Soil and Water Resources approved the final plan for the Clearwater Watershed. The group is currently collaborating and completing the necessary next steps to receive our granted implementation funding and begin the implementation process that will kick off in the spring.

The Clearwater River Watershed is now completed which means that all the major watersheds in Clearwater County now have a completed water plan and are all in the implementation phase of their plans. If you have any questions which watershed you live in or what projects are available

for funding, please reach out to our office. We are happy to assist with any potential projects.



2023 Tree Sale

New Location This Year!

Once again, it's time to think about ordering trees! Each year we sell a variety of native conifers, shrubs, fruiting and deciduous trees. We also offer Orchard, Bird & Grouse and Jam & Jelly packs for a larger variety. Our bare root trees are typically 1-2 feet in height and are locally grown in Minnesota and North Dakota. Most of our species come in bundles of 25 and range from \$15 to \$33 per bundle. We cannot sell bundles of less than 25 trees, unless already noted on the form. The deadline to turn in your tree order form is any time before the first day of tree pick-up.

We are also selling a variety of Minnesota native flowers and grasses again this year! We will be selling our flowers and grasses in specific packs. There are variety of packs to choose from. The packs are sold as 36 plants with 6 different species. Species included in the packs will vary based on current inventory and availability from the nursery but will have a variety of bloom times and colors. The flowers and grasses are locally grown and from MN Native Landscapes. You can check out what the packs may consist of at their website: <https://mnlcorp.com/product-category/plants/plant-kits/> . Please be aware that the deadline to turn in your flower and grass form is April 1st (and that's no joke!).

We will start accepting order forms January 2022. Please mail in or visit the office to drop off your order form. A check (preferred method) or cash value of your total amount is expected with your order form.



Clearwater SWCD does not accept credit cards. Be sure to provide your email *and* phone number so that we may inform you of any changes. Notifications that tree pick-up dates are nearing are exclusively sent by email.

Please remember that all our trees, flowers and grasses are first come, first serve. If you think we will sell out of a specific species, and we do sell out frequently, turn in your order form and payment ASAP. You can always check our website at www.clearwaterswcd.com/annual-tree-sale for updates. We typically announce that certain species are sold out on the online PDF order form daily. If you have a large order or are purchasing trees or flowers to use in a program, it may be easier to give us a call at (218) 694-6845 ext. 4 to make sure all your needed plants are available.

The biggest change with our pick-up dates this year is the LOCATION! Our pick-up location will change and has not been decided. The DNR Forestry building is NOT available to us this year, so please do not expect trees at that location. Please check our website for the location closer to pick-up dates. We still enjoy the smoothness of having our pick-ups done by car, so even though the location has changed, please stay in your vehicle during pick up so we can quickly grab your plants. Our pick-up dates are planned as May 4th, 5th and 6th. Stay tuned to our Facebook page and website for updates regarding our sale season.

As always please feel free to email us or give our office a call for any questions, concerns, or planting tips!

Conservation Farm Round Up

What's Been Happening at the Farm?

It has been a busy couple years at the district's conservation farm. The property was acquired in 1994 and has had various projects and management activities implemented on it since its acquisition. The last couple years at the farm have been particularly busy!

In 2020 we had a timber sale, on the South side of Boorman Road, which brought in funds so we could continue with more farm projects, plus being able to improve the forest management of the entire property. Later that year we had a parking lot installed on the North side of Boorman Road just east of the main service driveway. This parking lot was a big step in helping the public gain more access to the farm.

In 2021 the majority of work done at the farm was trail maintenance. Trails on the North side of Boorman Road were mowed and maintained while trails on the South were remapped and re-established after the 2020 timber sale. This re-establishment of the Southern trails included removing lots of logs and rocks and dragging the trails so they were smooth. After the dragging, the trails were seeded with a mix of timothy grass and clovers. Trees, such as oaks,

were also replanted in 2021 in the Southern part of the farm. We're hoping the drought didn't affect them too much and we'll start to see new growth of all types of plants in the coming years.

In May 2022 we conducted a prescribed burn to the pollinator plot portion of the farm with help of the DNR burn crew. Prescribed burns help prevent buildup of dead vegetation and encourages new growth while discouraging invasive species. Regular burns help improve habitats for pollinators, birds and mammals in the long run. In order to increase variety of flowering plants and grasses we inter-seeded native plants into the existing 20-acre pollinator plot. Two methods were used to seed the plot and we are eager to see which method will produce better results: inter-seeding with our no-till drill or broadcasting.

In the future, we hope to keep observing all our native flowers and grasses, of which we keep a list on our website for those who are interested. We hope to add signage to our parking lot and continue to work with educators. We also hope to start a small fenced in fruit orchard in the next couple years so we can demonstrate proper preparation and maintenance of trees that can be purchased from our annual tree sale.

The farm is a 435-acre property open for public use and is located in Dudley Township at 27546 Boorman Road, just east of Leonard. We maintained trails for hikers and periodically groom trails in the winter for cross-county skiing and snowshoeing. We invite any hunter who follow our rules and obtain our permit to hunt at the farm. Any educational groups are welcome as well. Visit our Conservation Farm and see for yourself what it has to offer!

Conservation Farm Trail Map



Annual Flyers: Pages 5, 6, 7 & 8

We now offer Custom Services!

Tree Planting:

Staff will plant by hand or by machine. Landowner must provide tractor for machine.



48" Brush

Mowing: Staff will mow tall brush with provided ATV and mower.



Broadcast

Seeding: Staff will broadcast seed with provided seeder and ATV.



Give us a call to learn more!

Volunteers Wanted!

Help keep our lakes healthy by
volunteering!

Clearwater SWCD is looking for reliable citizens to help us evaluate the health of our county's lakes that we all enjoy! Volunteers would take a water sample of given lake 5 times a year during the months of June through September. If you or someone you know lives on or near the following lakes and are interested in helping us gather vital data, please contact Brielle Prokosch at the office for more information! We'd love your help next summer!

- | | | |
|-----------|---------------|-----------|
| 💧 Bagley | 💧 Big LaSalle | 💧 Falk |
| 💧 Johnson | 💧 Lone | 💧 Minerva |
| 💧 Moose | 💧 Minnow | 💧 Pine |



We've got the tools and expertise you need for your property management activities!

Tree Planters for windbreaks or large wildlife plantings!



No-till Drill to interseed pastures or plant cover crops, pollinator seeds and much more!

Aerator for breaking up sod layers & increasing infiltration!



Ag Spray Sprayer to spray herbicide on unwanted plants or to prep the fields!

Call us today to learn about our 2023 cost share incentives or rental equipment!



Environmental Education Classes Coming Soon!



Keep an eye out for our classes in the Bagley Community Education brochure or on our Facebook page!

We are hoping to give classes on a multitude of environmental education classes this year including:

- Rain Barrels
- Composting
- Pollinators
- And more in the years to come!



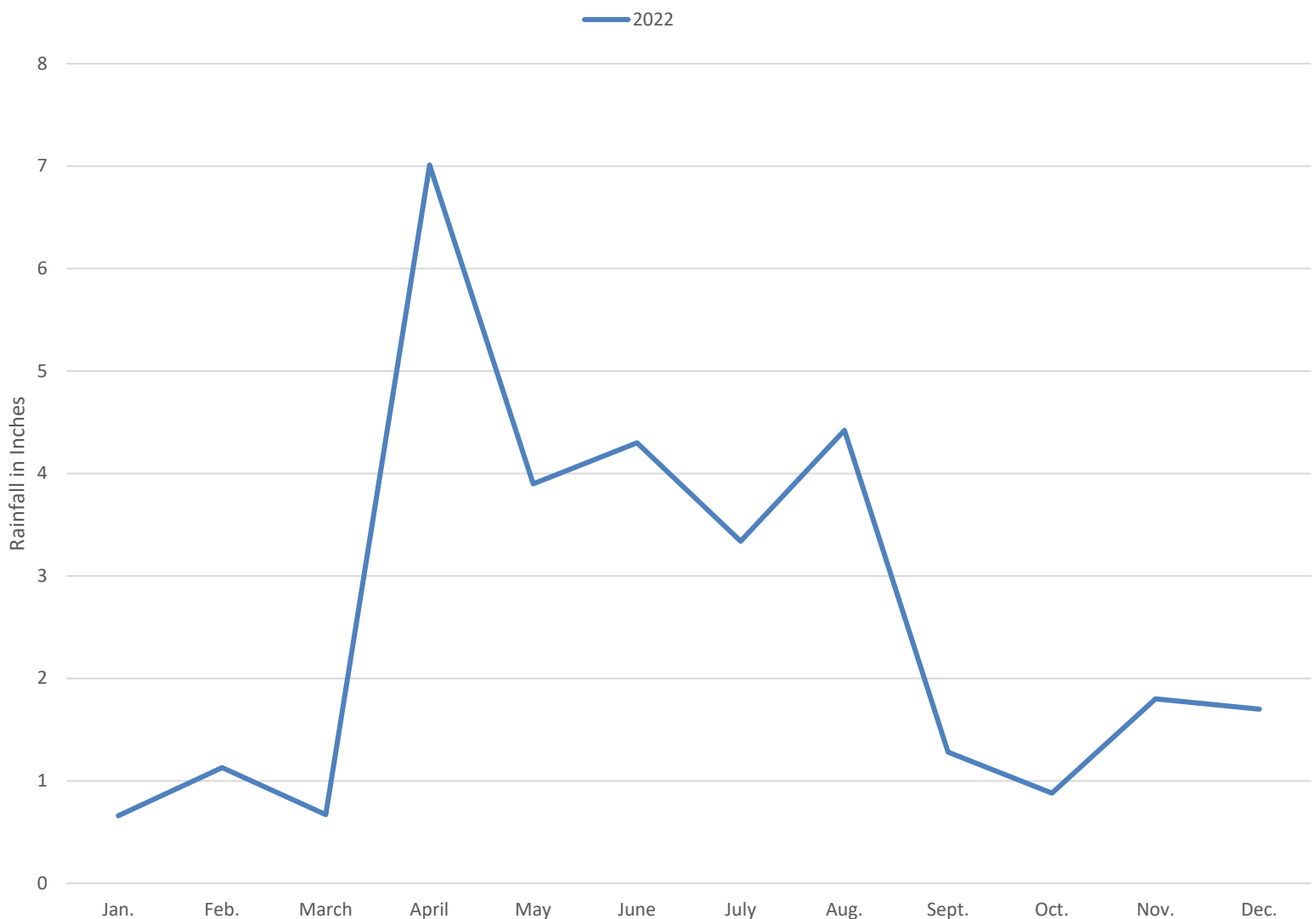
Thank You

*To all our wonderful volunteers and local partners:
we are sincerely grateful for your support!
Thank you for another fantastic year!*

Clearwater County Rain Gauge

Clearwater SWCD, along with local volunteers, have been working with the Minnesota Climatology Network to gather rainfall data since 1978. We currently have volunteers collecting rainfall data in Copley, Eddy, Falk, Greenwood, Itasca, Minerva, Moose Creek, Pine Lake, Popple, and Rice townships.

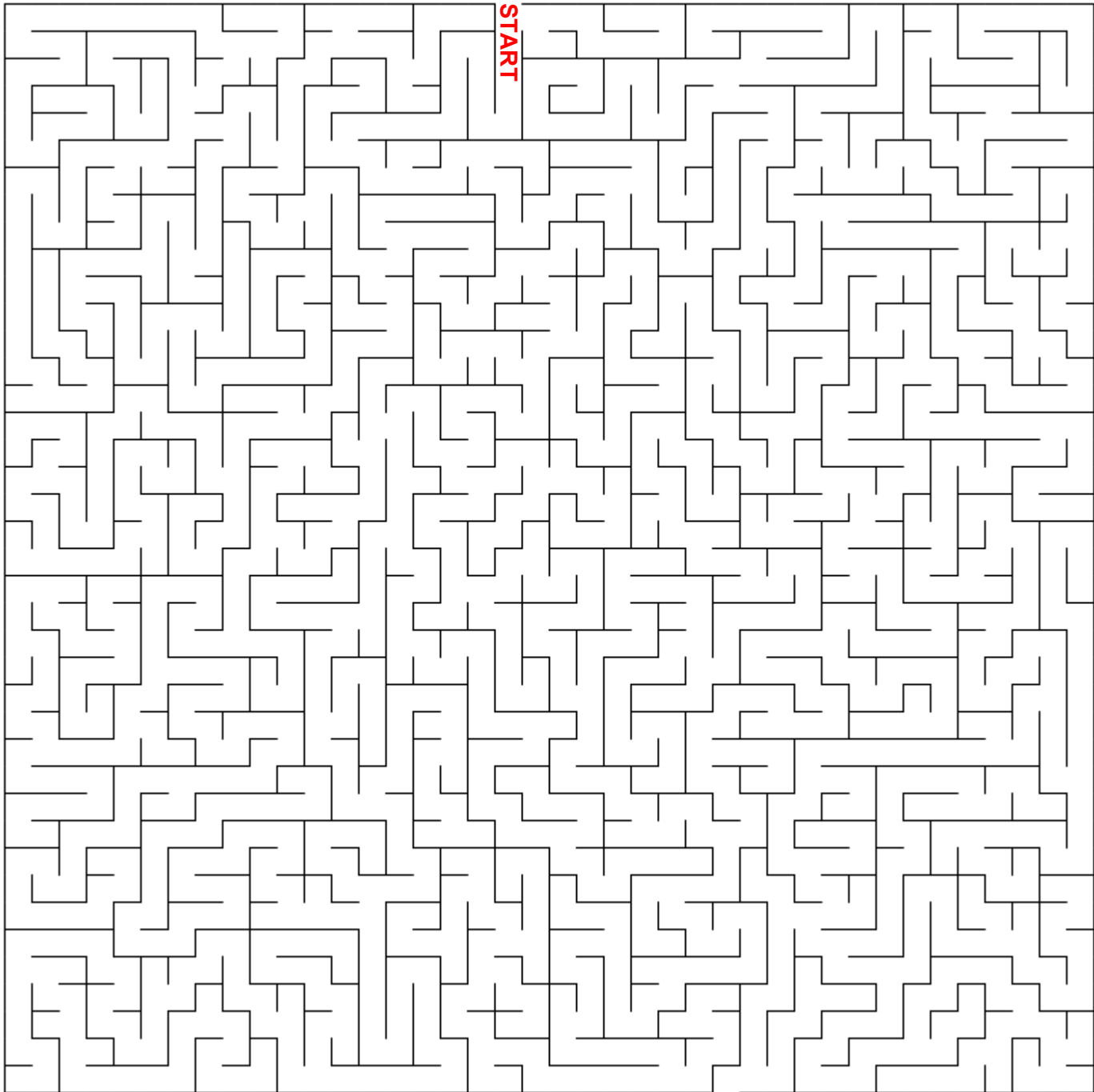
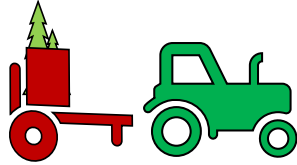
Clearwater County Average Annual Rainfall 2022



✳️ Clearwater's Puzzle Page! ✳️

This newsletter's event: **Maze!**

Help the tractor navigate through the fence lines to plant trees with the tree planter!



FINISH!



POSTAGE



CLEARWATER

Soil & Water Conservation District

312 Main Ave N, Suite 3
Bagley, MN 56621

 Find us on
Facebook



CLEARWATER

Soil & Water Conservation District

Visit Our Website



Mission:

Our mission is simple - to promote the wise use and improvement of our county resources, in order that future generations will inherit an economically viable county that has made wise choices in resource management.

312 Main Ave North Suite 3, Bagley, MN 56621
218-694-6845 ext 4 | www.ClearwaterSWCD.com