



Crow Wing Soil and Water Conservation District
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PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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How are you connected to the Mississippi River and the Twin Cities?

BRAINERD, MN – April 6, 2017–The Mississippi River provides drinking water for millions of people everyday in the Twin Cities area. Much of the Brainerd and Baxter area water drains directly into the Mississippi River.

Melissa Barrick, Crow Wing Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), District Manager stated “A lot of the Brainerd lakes area has woods and meadows that help filter the water before it reaches the Mississippi River. A recent study of from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency also indicated that by the time the water gets to Minneapolis, it no longer meets standards set by the Clean Water Act for aquatic life and human use.”

The SWCD received a \$300,000 The Environmental and Natural Trust Fund grant. Because of the area connection to the Twin Cities Drinking water. Landowners will have funds to maintain their woods and manage their property.

Landowners Choose:

1. **Forest Management Plan:** Professional writes a plan for your specific property (Minimum 20 acres).
2. **Conservation:** tree planting, thinning, pollinator habitat, and erosion control
3. **Maintain your woods for 8 years:** yearly payment from the state (Minimum 20 acres).

Funding is available for parts of Todd, Crow Wing, Cass, Morrison, and Wadena counties. Contact your local SWCD office for more information about the program. Targeted landowner will be sent information directly.

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