

CONSERVATION NEWS

Spring 2012

Newsletter of the South St Louis Soil & Water Conservation District

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Money available for your erosion control project, large or small

Property improvements are often prohibitively expensive for private landowners. They require materials, sometimes heavy equipment and engineering, permits—who can afford that? Welcome to the South St. Louis SWCD cost-share program.

Is Your Property Too Pretty?

One common type of cost-share project happens on waterfront property with a manicured lawn growing right up to the water's edge. Whether on Park Point or Boulder Lake, this is not a pretty picture for water quality. Without deep rooted plants, soils, fertilizers and other chemicals have a straight shot into the water. Every snow melt or big rain carries more sediment and pollution into the water.

In this kind of cost-share project, we help landowners plant buffers between lawns and lakes. These swaths of native grasses and plants hold soils in place, filter any lawn chemicals from runoff, and provide great food and nesting habitat for birds and wildlife.

A small cost-share project includes our assessment of your waterfront, creating a planting plan, buying native grasses and plants, and bringing in whatever equipment is necessary to remove sod. Your 'share' could be to provide labor to plant and maintain the buffer zone.

Properties with an Obvious Eye-Sore

The second kind of cost-share project usually features an ugly gully or slumping bank—some erosion eye-sore that's just too big to fix with common sense and a wheel barrow. For severe erosion problems, our cost-share program can pay as much as 75 percent of the cost. For this, we provide an environmental engineer to assess the problem, plan the solution, and acquire any necessary permits.

While large cost-share projects do require you to contribute cash, you'll never find a better way to finance this kind of work on your property. Cost-share funds are also available for sealing old, unused wells (a potential conduit for groundwater pollution).

If you think you may have a project eligible for our cost-share help, please call us now. We also have low-interest loans available for rural residents. Early spring is a great time to evaluate your potential project. 218-723-4867. 🌲

It's time to PLANT NATIVE

Place your order early
for this spring's
Native Tree & Shrub Sale!

*evergreens, willows,
fruiting shrubs,
3 kinds of maple . . .*

Clip and mail the enclosed
Order Form with payment
by April 13, 2012

Like us on Facebook for updates

Questions?
Call us at (218) 723-4867
Or visit www.southstlouisswcd.org



South St. Louis
SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Visit us in Duluth's Old Central High
215 North 1st Avenue E, Room 301
Duluth, MN 55802
(218) 723-4867

email:
info@southstlouisswcd.org

website:
www.southstlouisswcd.org

facebook:
www.facebook.com/southstlouisswcd

Tree planting reveals the many faces of the Knife



While most people who have driven the North Shore have seen its rivers' wild sides, few area tributaries have a more unruly nature than the Knife River. Located between Duluth and Two Harbors, the Knife is one of the most "flashy"—one day barely a trickle, and the next a muddy torrent. It is also one of the most fishy, and a favorite of area anglers. But flash and fish don't mix.

This past summer, a crew of young adults with the Conservation Corps planted and fenced over 800 trees for

private property owners along the Knife River and its tributaries. An additional 1500 were planted on County land. Part of a local grant from the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources, we were able to provide the trees, fencing and labor free!

Read the stories of three property owners—Ruth, Ron & Tom—and their riverfront lands on our Stewardship Stories page,
www.southstlouisswcd.org/stories.html



Big, 800-ton problem requires big solution

In our office, it was known as the Jumbo Gully, a 300-foot long gouge carved down from the lowest corner of the Lake Superior College parking lots to Miller Creek. It showed severe erosion caused by unmanaged runoff, with soil loss estimated at 30 tons per year over the past several decades.

“Basically, when Lake Superior College was built in the 1960s or 70s, runoff was piped from the whole property to the edge of the hill, and let fly,” explained conservation engineer, Keith Anderson. “Runoff from all the impervious surfaces—the parking lots and roofs—it’s a lot up there.” And so the gully attested.

Times change, and we know now that sediment carried into streams damages fish habitat, especially for cold-water fisheries like Miller Creek. Scientific knowledge is now backed by legislative requirements and by funding to rectify past mistakes. Through the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources, we received approximately \$80,000 to fix the Jumbo Gully.

As with many of our larger projects, the property was owned by one entity, the City of Duluth, and occupied by

another, the college. Work to address the Jumbo Gully began behind the scenes to establish a legal easement and liability agreements. This past summer, we were finally able to do the work.

The big solution for the jumbo gully centers around a 200-foot length of 2-foot diameter pipe. This is sized to convey runoff from snowmelt and heavy rains without any further erosion. About 20 feet short of Miller Creek, the pipe ends at a concrete chamber specially designed to reduce the force of water flowing down the hill. Beneath this dissipater, the water is further slowed as it courses over a rough, riprap-lined channel to the river.

Properly directed and decelerated, runoff now makes its way to Miller Creek free of the polluting sediment load. The pipe trench was filled, contoured and seeded.



See the ‘before’ and ‘after’ photos in a slideshow at www.southstlouisswcd.org/miller_creek.html. 🌲

Like many of our projects, this was paid for in part with Clean Water Land & Legacy Amendment funds.



Before: With our conservation specialist standing in for scale, the depth of the gully is all too apparent (above). During: The 24” diameter pipe is bedded, prior to back-filling and planting (below).



Look for us at these Events!

Earth Trax
at Lake Superior Zoo (May)

St. Louis County Fair
in Proctor (July)

DNR Forestry Field Days
(September)

Harvest Fest
at Bayfront Park (October)

Local partnership helps statewide watershed effort

Over the next several years, South St. Louis SWCD will partner with Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to help with its Major Watershed Approach to restoration and protection. This ambitious undertaking sets goals for intensive watershed monitoring throughout our water-rich state. Our SWCD will help identify stressors and monitor watershed flow and water chemistry

for rivers within the major watersheds of the St. Louis River and Lake Superior – South. The watershed approach is expected to provide coordinated, integrated, and innovative solutions to water quality problems at reduced costs.

Learn more about these efforts at the MPCA website, under surface water, <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/> 🌲

For a better
tomorrow . . .
SIGN UP Today!



south st. louis

electronic
SWCD ENEWS

Timely updates, tips & news about conservation and stewardship action

View the current issue and sign-up form at: www.southstlouisswcd.org (or call us)

2012 Tree & Shrub Order Form

Please save a copy for reference



Order Deadline April 13, 2012

Type	Plants / Bundle	Cost	# Bundles	Total (Cost x Bundles)
Shrubs				
Sand Cherry	10	\$20		
Black Chokeberry	10	\$20		
Highbush Cranberry	10	\$20		
Gray Dogwood	10	\$20		
Red-Osier Dogwood	10	\$20		
Elderberry	10	\$20		
Nannyberry	10	\$20		
Ninebark	10	\$20		
Sandbar Willow	10	\$20		
Small Trees				
Mountain Ash	25	\$35		
Choke Cherry	25	\$35		
Pin Cherry	10	\$20		
Hazelnut	25	\$35		
Ironwood	10	\$20		
Juneberry	25	\$35		
American Plum	10	\$20		
Staghorn Sumac New	10	\$20		
Tall Trees				
Quaking Aspen	10	\$20		
Basswood (Am.Linden)	10	\$20		
Paper Birch	25	\$35		
Red Maple	25	\$35		
Silver Maple	10	\$20		
Sugar Maple	25	\$35		
Bur Oak	10	\$20		
Red Oak	10	\$20		
Peach Leaf Willow	10	\$20		
Evergreens				
White Cedar	25	\$35		
Balsam Fir	25	\$35		
Jack Pine	25	\$35		
Norway (Red) Pine	25	\$35		
White Pine	25	\$35		
Tamarack	25	\$35		
Black Spruce	25	\$35		
White Spruce	25	\$35		
Evergreen Packet (5 each of Norway pine, white pine, white cedar, and white spruce!)	20	\$35		
Vines				
Riverbank Grape	25	\$35		

Choose your pick-up location (circle one):

Duluth
(218) 723-4867

Two Harbors
(218) 834-8370

Grand Marais
(218) 387-3647

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Please print clearly

Tree Order Pick-Up

Please mark your calendar now! Dates for order pick-up at all locations are between **May 10th & May 12th, 2012**. We'll send an email or postcard of pick-up details. If you do not hear from us by May 3rd, check our website or phone your pick-up location.

Plants Are Perishable - Please Collect Your Order Promptly

Because of their perishable nature, the SWCD is not responsible for the condition of trees or shrubs after pick-up. Trees and shrubs offered are conservation-grade, bare-root stock. The SWCD does not guarantee survival and/or replacement of trees. Size is subject to change without notice. Refunds can only be made if stock is exhausted. Failure to pick up your order during scheduled dates could result in the loss of your payment.

Warning: Tall trees and evergreens should not be planted near power lines. All shrubs and small trees are OK near lines.

Visit Our Website to Learn More

Our website is your best source of information:

- tree and shrub descriptions and photos
- planting instructions
- wildlife protection strategies

Want to Split an Order?

Go to our website's tree sale page, for info on how to use Facebook to find a buying partner!

Online at www.southstlouisswcd.org

Or, call us at (218) 723-4867

And 'Like' us on [Facebook.com/southstlouisswcd](https://www.facebook.com/southstlouisswcd)

MN sales tax is included in price

Tax-exempt orders must have a certificate on file with our office. Multiply the total due by .927 to calculate pre-tax cost.

Total
Payment

All orders must be paid in full prior to pick-up
Check or money order only

Send Order Forms and Payment to:

South St. Louis SWCD
215 North First Ave East, Room 301
Duluth, MN 55802

2012 Native Tree & Shrub Descriptions – Check out some of the large specimens we’re offering this year!

Species	Start Hgt	Mature (Hgt X Wth)	Sun	Additional Information
Ash, Mountain	18-24"	20'/20'	Full	Slow growing, prefers rich soils but tolerates others, good for birds. <i>Sorbus americana</i>
Aspen, Quaking	12-18"	40-60'/25'	Full	Creamy bark, rustling leaves, spreads to make grove, all soils but dry. <i>Populus tremuloides</i>
Basswood (Am.Linden)	3-4'	100'/75'	Shade	Tall, moderate growth rate, plant in moist well drained loamy soil. <i>Tilia americana</i>
Birch, Paper	18-24"	50-70'/40'	Full	Rapid growth prefers well-drained sandy loam. <i>Betula papyrifera</i>
Cedar, White	8-16"	40-50'/15'	Shade	Slow to moderate growth rate, plant in clay loams, sandy loams. <i>Thuja occidentalis</i>
Cherry, Choke	2-3'	25'/25'	Part	Fast growing, loamy well drained soil, tart fruit, & good for jelly, syrup. <i>Prunus virginiana</i>
Cherry, Pin	3-4'	30'/5'	Full	Plant in full sun, could produce in 2 years, sour fruit for jelly. <i>Prunus pensylvanica</i>
Cherry, Sand	18-24"	3-6'/3-6'	Full	Winter hardy, loamy soil, edible fruit, good for birds, deer browse. <i>Prunus besseyi</i>
Chokeberry, Black	2-3'	3-6'/3-6'	Full	Red autumn leaves, white flowers, lasting fruit, adapts to most soils. <i>Aronia melanocarpa</i>
Cranberry, Highbush	2-3'	12'/12'	Part	Prefers moist well-drained soil, but not particular about type. <i>Viburnum trilobum</i>
Dogwood, Gray	18-24"	6'/12'	Part	Not fussy about soil type, but prefers well drained. Has white flower. <i>Cornus racemosa</i>
Dogwood, Red-Osier	2-3'	11'/12'	Shade	Fast growing, prefers wet sites, red stems. Winter color, food for deer. <i>Cornus sericea</i>
Elderberry	18-24"	9'/9'	Part	Prefers loamy moist soil, favorite of songbirds, make wine & jelly. <i>Sambucus canadensis</i>
Fir, Balsam	8-16"	40-60'/20-35'	Shade	Fast growth, Christmas tree, good for birds, mammals, pulpwood. <i>Abies balsamea</i>
Grape, Riverbank	15-18"	20-30'	Shade	Found along streams or damp cool woods, sour, but good for jelly, juice. <i>Vitis riparia</i>
Hazelnut	18-24"	10'-20'	Full	Filberts edible, plant full sun, produces 2 nd year, shallow roots. <i>Corylus sp.</i>
Ironwood	3-4'	25-40'/20-30'	Shade	Hop-like fruit persists into winter, good under-canopy, loam/sandy soil. <i>Ostrya virginiana</i>
Juneberry	18-24"	8'/8'	Part	Suckers, grows in all well drained soils, edible fruit, good for wildlife. <i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i>
Maple, Red	18-24"	50-70'/60'	Part	Moderate to fast growing. Prefers well-drained soil. Red, yellow in fall. <i>Acer rubrum</i>
Maple, Silver	4-5'	60-90'/75'	Part	Grows in poor wetter soils, rapid growth rate. Yellow fall color. <i>Acer saccharinum</i>
Maple, Sugar	18-24"	60-80'/80'	Shade	Slow-moderate growth, best in well-drained loam. Syrup, bright fall colors. <i>Acer saccharum</i>
Nannyberry	2-3'	15-20'/6-10'	Part	Most soils, edible fruit- date flavor after frost, good for birds. <i>Viburnum lentago</i>
Ninebark	2-3'	10'/8'	Part	Blooms flower clusters, slow growing. Good for difficult sites. <i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i>
Oak, Bur	2-3'	70-80'/80'	Part	Slow growing, likes moist well-drained soil, will grow in other areas. <i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>
Oak, Red	3-4'	60-80'/50'	Part	Fast growing, prefers well-drained rich moist soils. <i>Quercus rubra</i>
Pine, Jack	6-12"	30-80'/20-30'	Full	Needs full sun, fast growing at first, birds and animals food, sawlogs. <i>Pinus banksiana</i>
Pine, Norway	8-24"	50-80'/30'	Full	aka Red Pine. Moderate/fast growth, likes sandy well-drained soil. <i>Pinus resinosa</i>
Pine, White	8-16"	80-95'/80'	Part	Rapid growth rate. Prefers well-drained moist loam, silty loam. <i>Pinus strobus</i>
Plum, American	3-4'	25'/20'	Full	Loam, sand, gravel well drained, rapid growing, edible red/yellow fruit. <i>Prunus Americana</i>
Spruce, Black	8-18"	30-70'/15-3	Shade	Shortest needle spruce, native to bog area, moderate growth rate. <i>Picea mariana</i>
Spruce, White	5-12"	40-80'/25'	Shade	Rapid growing, plant in well drained med to fine soils, Christmas tree. <i>Picea glauca</i>
Sumac, Staghorn	2-3'	5-15'/10-15	Full	Fast growth rate, all soil types, good for wildlife, bank stabilization. <i>Rhus glabra</i>
Tamarack	6-12"	50'/75'	Full	Wide range of soils, wet or dry sites. Loses needles in fall. Yellow fall color. <i>Larix laricina</i>
Willow, Peach-Leaf	2-3'	25-45'/30'	Full	Grows in moist, well-drained soils, good for riparian restoration. <i>Salix amygdaloides</i>
Willow, Sandbar	3-4'	15'/4'	Full	Great in floodplains, spreads readily, colonizes, stabilizes soils. <i>Salix exigua interior</i>

*as identified in Welby Smith's *Trees and Shrubs of Minnesota*, University of Minnesota Press, 2008.

Order Deadline April 13, 2012. Visit us at www.southstlouisswcd.org or call (218) 723-4867 for more information.

Twigs and berries: news of our native tree and shrub offerings

DNR nurseries in the news

You may have heard news that the Legislature is discussing closure of two DNR tree nurseries. This will not affect our tree orders for this year, and may not in years to come. Conservation Districts (SWCDs) are written in as continued recipients of the DNR's conservation-grade, bare-root stock. This year we have 15,000 evergreen seedlings on order from DNR.

We currently purchase some of our native trees and shrubs from private nurseries. When making our selections each year, we look first to make sure the nursery is nearby—Minnesota, North Dakota, or Wisconsin. This assures specimens that are genetically closest to

our local, naturally occurring plants. We then compare specimen size and price to provide the best value to our customers.

Offering native plants begins with a verified, genetically known seed source. As we understand it, the DNR will continue the crucial task of collecting and documenting native seed. We hope that any closures of the public nurseries will be met by increased production of reasonably priced native seedlings by private nurseries.

Read the revised statute at www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/statutes/?id=89.37

Want to split an order?

Sometimes a bundle of 25 seedlings is just too many for one site to hold (or for one person to plant!). This year we're offering use of our Facebook page to help buying partners find each other.

Just post a message on our Facebook page about what you would like to order, then check back to see if anyone wants to 'go-in' on the order with you!

Please note: You will need to work out the details of splitting the cost and of splitting the seedlings in a timely fashion so they can be promptly planted.

[Facebook.com/southstlouisswcd](https://www.facebook.com/southstlouisswcd)