



# Red River Basin River Watch Program

For 25 years, the Red River Basin River Watch Program (RW) has delivered innovative watershed education programming to schools and communities across the Red River of the North Basin. Education is the most effective tool to change attitudes and behaviors. RW offers a suite of classroom and outdoor activities designed to address MN water quality improvement initiatives that fit with the MN Clean Water Council’s Mission to Protect and Restore Minnesota’s Waters for Generations to Come, including:

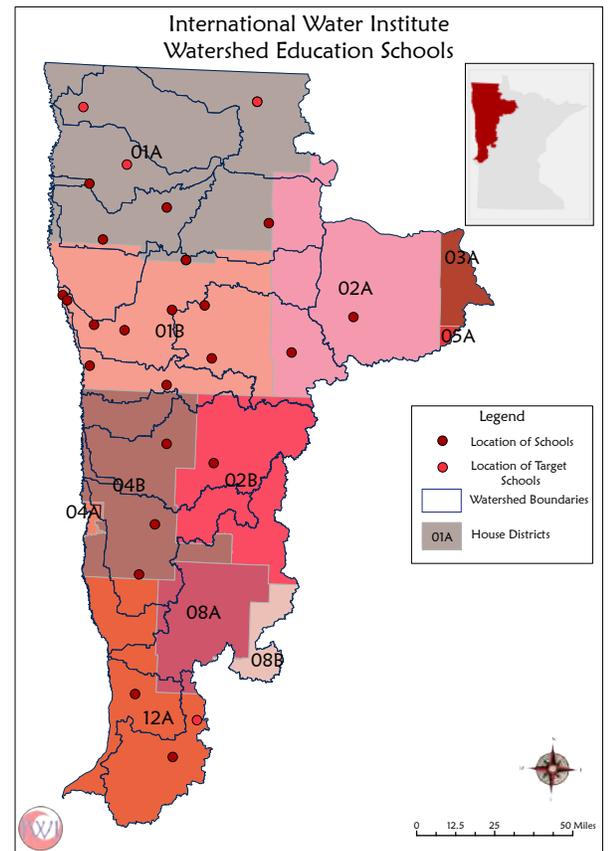
- ✓ Build capacity of local communities to protect and sustain water resources
- ✓ Provide education and outreach to inform Minnesotans’ water choices
- ✓ Encourage citizen and community engagement on water

Support from the Red River Watershed Management Board and local watershed districts has built an effective and popular watershed education program across the Red River of the North Basin that focuses on water quality.

Since program inception, RW teams from schools throughout the Red River Basin have collected water quality data used by the MN Pollution Control Agency to complement the state’s assessment of surface waters.

Clean Water funds enable the International Water Institute to build on this established and popular RW foundation by providing additional opportunities for participants to understand how to protect and improve MN’s valuable water resources, including:

- Biological Monitoring
- Real-Time Monitoring
- River of Dreams
- River Explorers
- River Watch Forum
- Teacher Training



### FUNDING Request 2022-2023:

The Red River Watershed Management Board requests funding from the State of Minnesota to match the local \$150,000/yr. commitment. The River Watch bill authorizes \$150,000 in year one and \$150,000 in year two from Minnesota’s General Fund or a continuation of funding from the Clean Water Legacy Fund for a grant to the Red River Watershed Management Board.

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# RIVER WATCH



## WATER QUALITY MONITORING

Each school's River Watch Team has designated sites within their watershed to routinely collect water quality data. Data is submitted into the river.watch database.

## ANNUAL FORUM

Once a year, students from all over the basin gather together to participate in breakout sessions, listen to a keynote speaker, and celebrate the work put into that year's forum project.



## MACROINVERTEBRATE SAMPLING

Macroinvertebrate sampling allows students to learn how water quality connects to aquatic life, experience the river ecosystem from a different vantage point, and gives students experience using a dichotomy key.

## RIVER EXPLORERS

River Explorers Paddling Trips are taken on student's local rivers, allowing them to collect information on the use of land, erosion, wildlife, and recreation.



## CONTINUOUS MONITORING STATIONS

Stations are deployed at River Watch sampling sites throughout the Red River Basin to collect continuous water quality data. Students maintain the stations as well as collection comparison data with their monitoring equipment.