

Soil and Water Conservation District Updates

Physical Development Committee
May 13, 2025
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District Manager

DAKOTA COUNTY

SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

1

## Overview

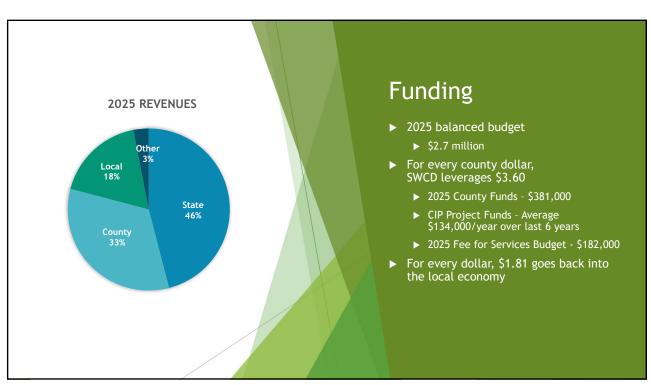
- ▶ Background
- ▶ Funding
- ▶ 2024 Summary and Looking ahead!
  - ► Technical Assistance
  - ► Conservation Projects
  - ► Education and Outreach
  - ► Assisting County



# Background

- ► Established in 1944
- ▶ 5 member elected Board
- ▶ 12 full time staff
- ▶ Office in Farmington
- ▶ Evolve and adapt to local needs
  - Ex. Adding soil health program
  - Ex. Partnering on wetland banks





## **Technical Assistance**

#### 2024

- ► Assisted landowners 225 sites
- ► Water monitoring 26 water bodies
- ► Noxious weeds Average 24 inspections
- And more

#### 2025

- ► Increase in requested assistance
- ► Increase in monitoring agreements
- ► Continue at same level
- And more



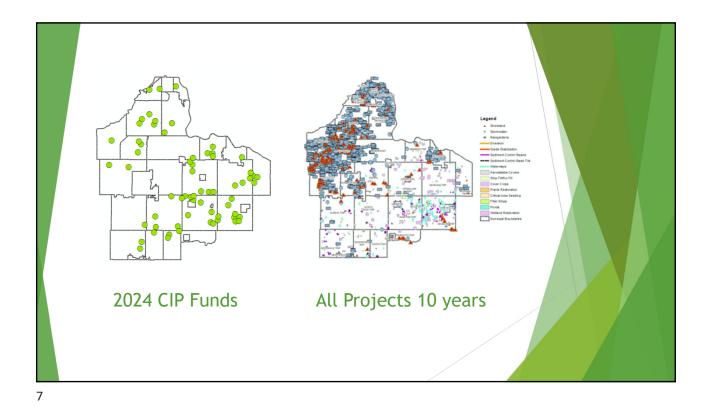


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## **Conservation Projects**

- ▶ Contracts
  - ▶ 313 active contracts Urban and Rural projects
- Benefits
  - ▶ Pollutant reductions
  - ▶ Protection of lakes, streams, and groundwater
  - ► Build healthy soil
- ▶ Trends
  - ▶ Increase in Soil Health Practices
  - ► Increase in Native Prairie Restorations



Volunteers helping plant new stormwater basin at Nicollet Middle School in Burnsville

Planting perennial crop to reduce nitrate leaching into drinking water in Hastings





# Education and Outreach Programs

- ► Landscaping for Clean Water
  - ▶ Rain gardens, Native gardens, Shorelines
  - ▶ 55 projects in 2024 Total is over 1,000
- ▶ Lawns ReImagined
  - ► Turf conversion
  - ▶ Pilot year in 2024 11 projects
  - ► Multiple County partners
- ▶ Campaigns
  - ▶ Water Conservation
  - ▶ Leave a Legacy

