

WATER QUALITY PROJECT FACT SHEET

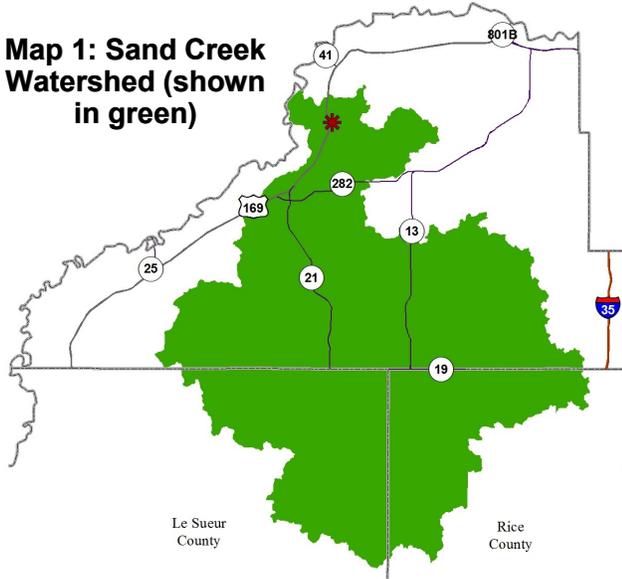
PICHA CREEK STREAM RESTORATION



Why did SWMO choose this Project?

Picha Creek belongs to a stream network within the Sand Creek Watershed, (Map 1) and is located near the top. A watershed is a bowl where all of the streams drain to a common low spot. See [SWMO's website](#) for more information on watersheds and their studies.

Map 1: Sand Creek Watershed (shown in green)



Picha Creek was chosen because it is listed as impaired for fish, and sediment was one of the primary causes. High sediment load in streams can cause a number of problems such as causing safety concerns by blocking culverts, degrading water quality by carrying pesticides and nutrients, and degrading aquatic habitat.

Because Picha Creek had cut deeply into the earth, several strategies were used to stabilize and restore the stream's integrity. The channel was elevated and the floodplain widened in some places. The banks were stabilized using biodegradable materials



Photo 1: Picha Creek During Construction

and native plantings. Buried grade controls and cobble riffles further slowed the water and stabilized the stream meanders (curves). This project also removed a fish migration barrier to help fish habitat fragmentation.

QUICK FACTS

Major River Basin: Minnesota River

Water Bodies Affected: Picha Creek

Project Goals:

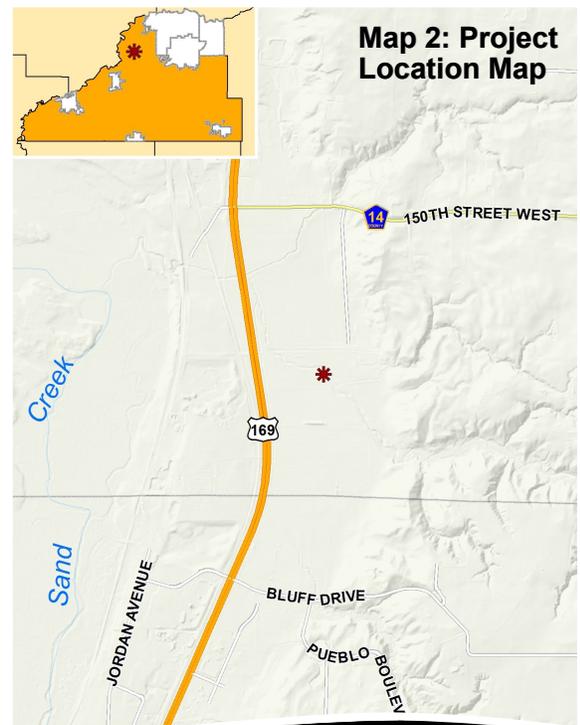
1. Stabilize stream bank erosion
2. Increase public awareness
3. Improve water quality
4. Improve wildlife habitat

Timeline: Winter 2010 - Winter 2011

Costs: \$442,878

Project Designs by: inter-fluve, Inc.

Construction by: Rachel Contracting



Map 2: Project Location Map

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Photo 2: Before construction on Picha Creek



Photo 3: After construction on Picha Creek



Photo 4: Before live vegetation and channel elevation.



Photo 5: After live vegetation and channel elevation.



Photo 6: Before the fish migration barrier was removed.



Photo 7: After the fish migration barrier was removed.

MAJOR OUTCOMES

- A fish migration barrier was removed.
- In-stream fish habitat incorporated.
- 1/2 mile of stream channel was restored to natural vegetation and the floodplain shelf was widened.
- This project reduced an estimated 900 tons of sediment and phosphorus per year from entering the Sand Creek watershed stream network.

COST SHARE AVAILABLE

Do you like this project? If so, check out our cost share programs! Financial and technical assistance are available to landowners to install conservation projects.

Please contact Scott Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) for more information:
 7151 190th Street West, Suite 125, Jordan MN 55352
 952-492-5425
www.scottswcd.org

WANT TO LEARN MORE OR HELP?

⇒ Contact Scott WMO to learn more about how we work with townships, cities, and other agencies to improve the quality of living in Scott County.

