

## Spring Flooding - Coming to Coon Creek?

A slow thaw would be ideal for recharging our groundwater tables, but the forecast is for a quick thaw in the next week or two.

Coon Creek is not expected to experience significant flooding this spring like the Minnesota or Crow rivers, but if you have had water in low areas of your property ever before, you will probably have it again this year. This is despite the drought conditions in central Anoka County the last three to five years. The rains of 2010 helped with the dry conditions, but did not get rid of the drought. That, ironically, leaves central Anoka County in good shape regarding flooding now.

According to Greg Spoden of the University of MN Climatology Group, "... some hydrologic systems in this area remain impacted by long-term dryness that began in June of 2008. This long-term precipitation anomaly is responsible for low water levels in larger lakes and wetland complexes across Anoka, Ramsey, Chisago, and Washington counties..." That would include the Coon Creek watershed. Still, be prepared.

The Coon Creek Watershed District is keeping a close eye on the ditches and creeks this spring. They are especially watching for blocked culverts or tree branches in the channel that can hold up water for a mile upstream because of the flat terrain. If you notice an obstruction in a creek or drainage ditch, call the Watershed District office at 763-755-0975.

Flood prevention was the key reason for the establishment of the Coon Creek Watershed District in 1959. As the suburb of Coon Rapids grew after World War II during a rainy number of years, the desire for flood control there seemed at odds with the drainage needed for farming upstream. So, citizens petitioned successfully to establish a watershed district to manage the water resources within the drainage of Coon Creek.

For more information, contact the Coon Creek Watershed District office at 763-755-0975 or check out Water News links at [www.cooncreekwd.org](http://www.cooncreekwd.org) for flood preparation tips, just in case.