

STORMWATER GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

STATE PROGRAM: Minnesota Public Facilities Authority

ASSISTANCE RECIPIENT: City of Afton

ASSISTANCE AMOUNT: \$3M



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The City of Afton prides themselves on their historic river town charm. Located along the St. Croix River which is designated as a federal Natural Scenic River Way, Afton has for many years been dealing with flooding issues due to outdated stormwater infrastructure from a levee that has a variety of non-compliant septic systems built into it. For the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to accredit the levee, the existing septic systems needed to be removed. In addition, Afton needed stormwater treatment best management practices to protect the St. Croix River, which is an Outstanding Resource Value Water, but which is also impaired for excessive nutrients. The solution for this was a levee upgrade, a sewer collection system project, the state's largest subsurface sewage treatment system, and stormwater green infrastructure. The stormwater treatment system was designed to mimic the natural hydrology and limit construction in the historic downtown area, so a dispersed best management practices approach was applied to target strategic locations around Afton. The Minnesota Public Facilities Authority provided CWSRF financing of \$3 million towards the cost of the project, including \$748,000 in principal forgiveness based on green infrastructure and affordability needs.

To read more about this case study, please visit https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2018-11/documents/pisces_2018_compendium_0.pdf.