

*North Branch of the
Sunrise River Watershed*



**A Cooperative Effort of the Isanti & Chisago
Soil & Water Conservation Districts**

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North Branch of the Sunrise River Fecal Coliform TMDL

Questions and Answers about the North Branch of the
Sunrise River Fecal Coliform TMDL Implementation Project

Q: What is Fecal Coliform?

A: A group of bacteria found in the intestinal tract of humans and animals, and also found in soil. While harmless in themselves, coliform bacteria are commonly used as indicators of the presence of pathogenic organisms and other disease-causing bacteria, such as those that cause typhoid, dysentery, hepatitis A and cholera.

Q: What is a TMDL?

A: A Total Daily Maximum Load is a Calculation of the maximum amount of a pollutant that a waterbody can receive and still meet water quality standards and an allocation of that amount to the pollutants source.

Q: Is the government is going to make me change my farm/land?

A: No, agricultural Best Management Practices (BMPs) are completely voluntary.

Q: Am I still going to be able to farm my land?

A: Yes, the land will always be under the control of the landowner.

Q: Are the projects going to cost me lots of money?

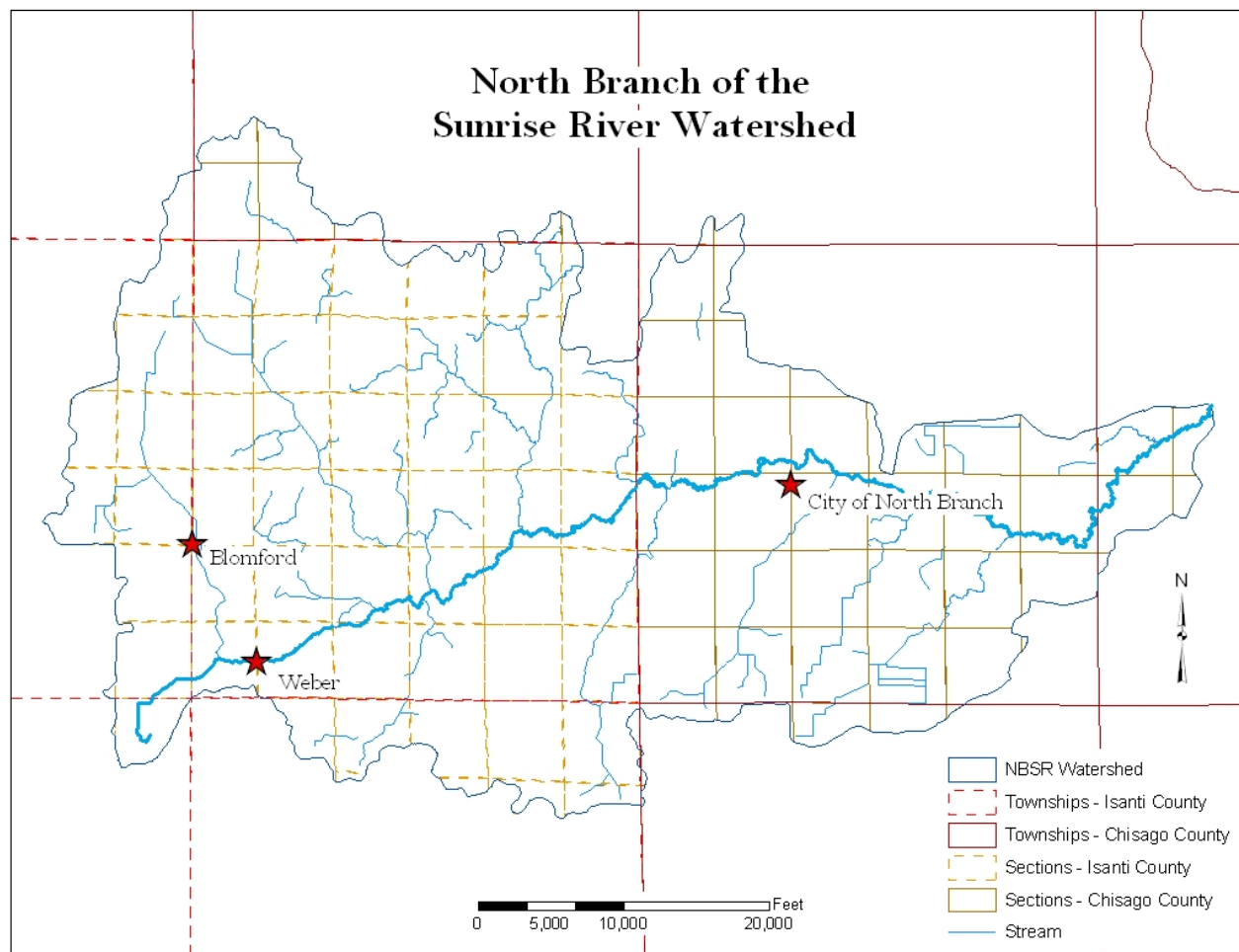
A: No, there is a lot of cost-share available for AgBMPs in the NBSR Watershed.

Cost-share, Grant, and Loan Money Available to Landowners:

- \$60,000 – AgBMP Cost-share
- \$37,500 – Septic System Upgrade Cost- share/Grant dollars
- \$150,000 – Septic System Upgrade and Agriculture AgBMP loan money
- USDA Federal Cost-share money – Up to 50%
- State Cost-share money – Up to 75%

Q: Does my runoff go to the North Branch of the Sunrise River?

A: Yes, if you are within the NBSR Watershed your runoff will eventually get to the River.



Q: Why should I care about the River?

A: Water is the base of our ecosystem, without clean, healthy water, life could not exist as it currently does. This is the water that is used for drinking, swimming, watering animals, etc. We must make sure the water is not harmful to us or our neighbors.

Q: If I enroll my land in a program to get cost-share will people have access to my land?

A: No, your land will remain in your possession. The rules regarding trespassing will stay in effect.

Q: Will I have to upgrade my septic system?

A: Chisago County (including the City of North Branch) has been inspected for Imminent Threat to Public Health Septic Systems. Of these systems the ones found to be failing will be required to be upgraded. In Isanti County (North Branch Township) septic systems within the Shoreland District (as defined in the Zoning Ordinance) will be inspected. If you have questions regarding septics, please call your local Zoning Office.

- City of North Branch – 651/674-8113
- Chisago County Zoning – 651/213-8373
- Isanti County Zoning – 763/689-5165