

NEWS RELEASE

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"Watershed Residents Invited to Open House"

The Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD) invites residents to help digest results of a monitoring study that shows new water quality issues in the Buffalo River watershed at an open house on Tuesday, January 17, 2012, in Barnesville. All area residents, especially those living along or near the Buffalo River, are invited to attend. The meeting will be held from 1:30-4:00 PM at Hildebrand Hall, Assumption Catholic Church, Barnesville.

Among other things, the recently completed Watershed Conditions Report revealed a higher number of lake and stream impairments than previously known, as well as more impairments caused by contamination with bacteria associated with fecal material.

BRRWD Administrator Bruce Albright said the District wants to share study findings with area residents and learn what residents might have to say about the findings as well as any insights they may have about conditions in the watershed. "We plan to collect the comments, concerns and ideas people have and use that feedback in our planning process for the watershed," he said.

The BRRWD is in the process of completing a watershed restoration and protection project to identify and restore lakes and streams that are impaired, and identify actions needed to protect other waters from becoming impaired. "The best way to really do that is by having residents involved in the process," Albright said.

Minnesota has 80 major watersheds, including the Buffalo River. Starting a few years ago, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency adopted a new watershed approach to water quality monitoring, performing intensive watershed-wide monitoring in 10 watersheds each year. The BRRWD was one of the first watershed districts in the State to participate in this new approach. The results of the intensive monitoring, as well as additional work performed by the BRRWD and its consulting firm, Houston Engineering, Inc., are detailed in the conditions report for the Buffalo River.

The conditions report and additional information and maps being used in the restoration and protection project are available for review on the BRRWD website: www.brrwd.org.



A field researcher confirms an erosion-prone field predicted by special maps generated as part of the project.