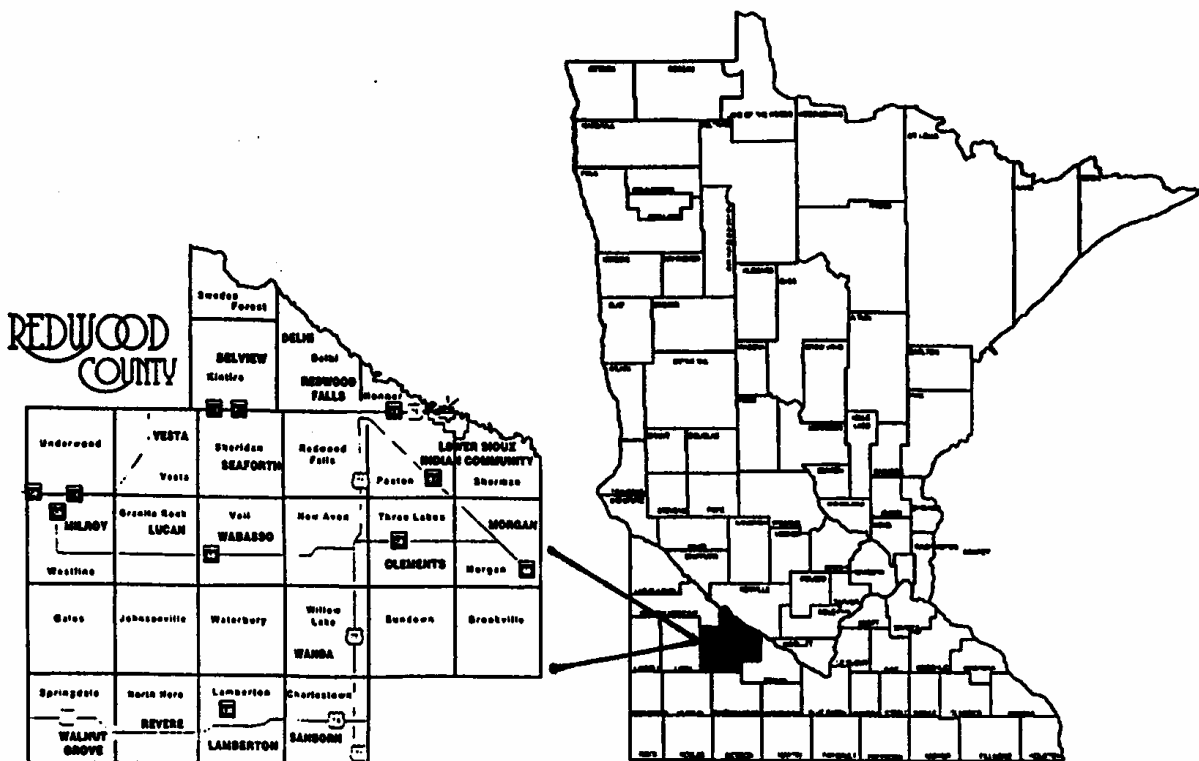


Introduction – Redwood County Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan

The introduction section contains the following information:

- ◆ A brief description of Redwood County
- ◆ The Plan Administration and Role of the Water Plan Advisory Board
- ◆ Past Accomplishments of the Comprehensive Local Water Plan



Redwood County, MN

Redwood County is located in Southwestern Minnesota. (**Illustration 1**) The total land area is 874 square miles or 559,360 acres. The county population reached an all-time high of 22,229 people in 1940. However, in the 1980s the population began a serious decline, to only 16,519 in 2002. Based on the last 25-year trend, it is anticipated that the county will continue to see a slight decrease in population over the next 10 years.

The soils in Redwood County are dark and the terrain varies from nearly level to steep. These soils formed in glacial till or in material sorted out of the till by water. The original vegetation was tall and medium prairie grasses.

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Agriculture is the dominant land use in the county. Approximately 545,248 acres, or 90% of the land, is in agriculture, with 486,900 acres or 87% of the land in crop production. Corn, soybeans and livestock are the primary sources of agricultural income. Agriculture will remain the main industry in Redwood County with a projected increase in the size of farms. **(Illustration 2)**

Land retirement programs have been very successful in Redwood County. There are 10,405 acres under Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) contract and 16,547 acres enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). The RIM acres will remain under permanent easement and the CRP will be expiring over the course of next few years.

There are 15 incorporated cities in the county: Belview, Clements, Delhi, Lamberton, Lucan, Milroy, Morgan, Redwood Falls, Revere, Sanborn, Seaforth, Vesta, Wabasso, Walnut Grove and Wanda. Redwood Falls is the county seat. All cities in the county except Delhi and Seaforth have central water distribution centers. All cities except Seaforth have central sewage systems and waste water treatment plants.

Redwood County consists of 26 townships: Brookville, Charlestown, Delhi, Gales, Granite Rock, Honner, Johnsonville, Kintire, Lamberton, Morgan, New Avon, North Hero, Paxton, Redwood Falls, Sheridan, Sherman, Springdale, Sundown, Swedes Forest, Three Lakes, Underwood, Vail, Vesta, Waterbury, Westline and Willow Lake.

Ninety eight percent of the land in Redwood County is privately owned. The remaining 2% of land is under state ownership or is owned or a part of the Lower Sioux Reservation.

PLAN ADMINISTRATION AND ROLE OF THE WATER PLAN ADVISORY BOARD

Redwood Soil and Water Conservation District is the lead agency for implementation of the Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan. Marilyn Bernhardson serves as the Water Plan Coordinator under the direction of the Water Plan Advisory Board. The responsibility of the Water Plan Advisory Board includes:

- To provide guidance for plan implementation
- To receive and provide input for plan recommendations
- To review and approve plan changes and updates

Redwood SWCD is responsible for the development of a Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan budget and a plan of work each year, as well as reporting the annual progress of the plan.

The county will update the overall Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan every ten years and review and update the implementation plan every five years.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

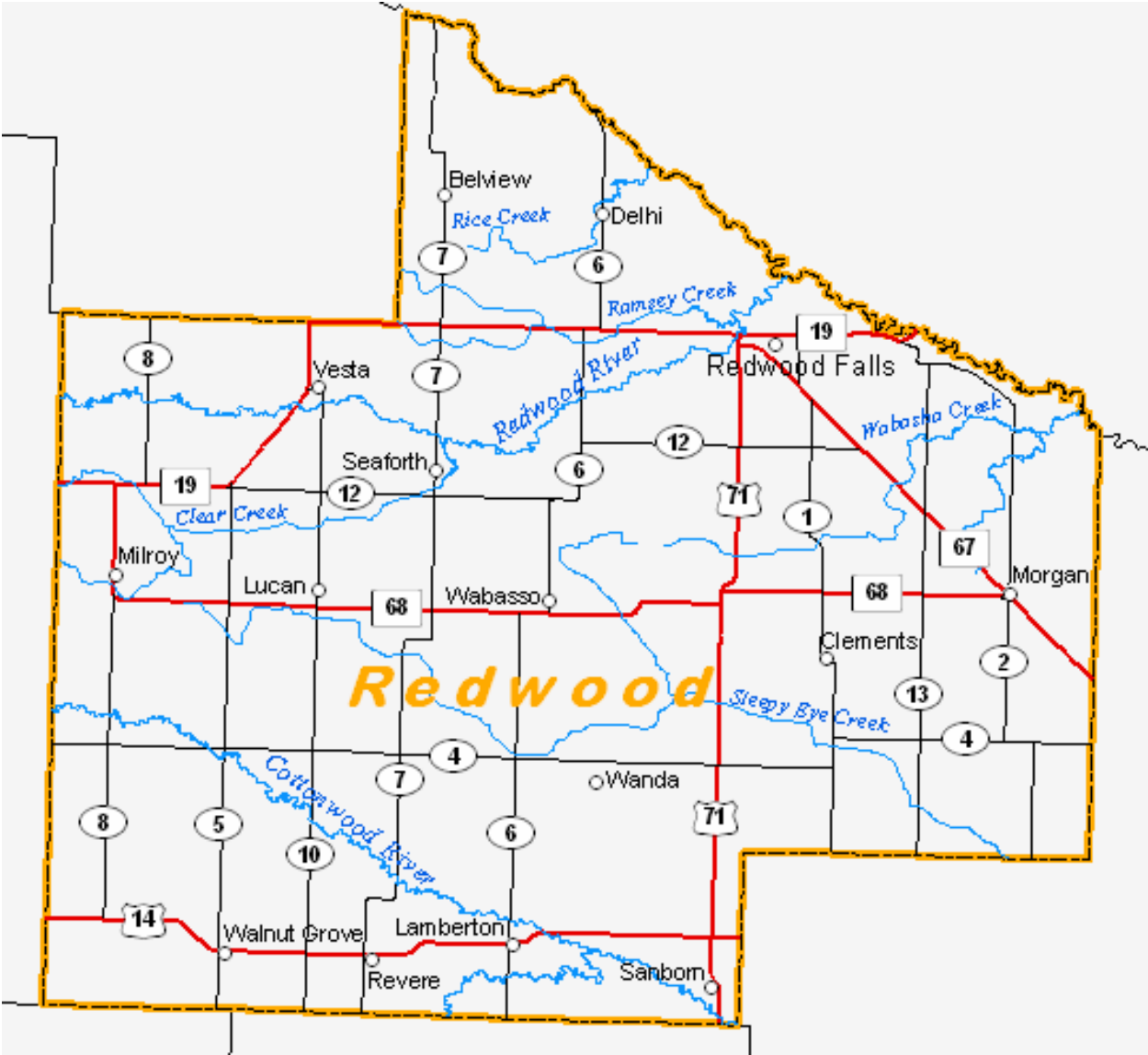
There has been much accomplished in the way of environmental protection, with limited dollars, since water planning and its implementation have been a part of environmental protection in Redwood County. Below is a list, in no specific order, of some past accomplishments of the Redwood County Comprehensive Local Water Plan:

- ◆ Developed and distributed water quality place mats
- ◆ Purchased and placed water quality materials in public and school libraries throughout the county.
- ◆ Offered water testing to all citizens in the county.
- ◆ Developed bookmarks containing water quality information and provided to students in county.
- ◆ Gave presentations on Household Hazardous Waste to schools and other groups.
- ◆ Provided funds for visits by the Prairie Ecology Bus Center to schools in the county.
- ◆ Provided financial support to the Environmental Fair sponsored by the Southwestern Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts and offered to sixth grade students throughout the county.
- ◆ Published newsletters.
- ◆ Conducted groundwater testing in designated parts of the county.
- ◆ Provided funds to assist with the installation of road retention projects to reduce flooding.
- ◆ Funded a highly successful filterstrip program.
- ◆ Provided funds for special water testing for families with small children.
- ◆ Provided numerous educational presentations on groundwater and other water quality issues to schools, civic groups, 4-H clubs, etc.
- ◆ Conducted well sealing demonstrations.
- ◆ Provided funds to assist with the sealing of abandoned wells.
- ◆ Published numerous news articles on water quality topics.
- ◆ Provided conserving use acres to reimburse for lost crop in an area where a conservation practice construction project was completed.
- ◆ Developed and distributed Ag Best Management Practices informational sheets.
- ◆ Developed and mailed to all residents in county the Redwood County Recycling informational magnets.
- ◆ Purchased books, videos and other educational materials for use to educate the citizens of the county.

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Illustration 1

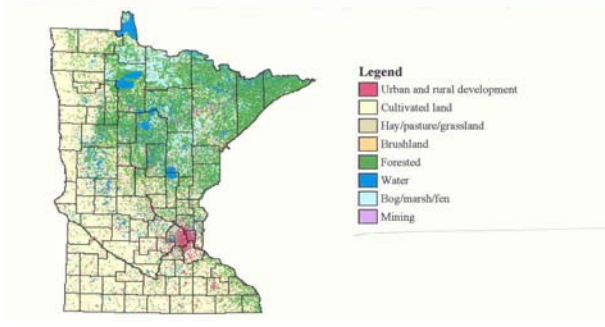
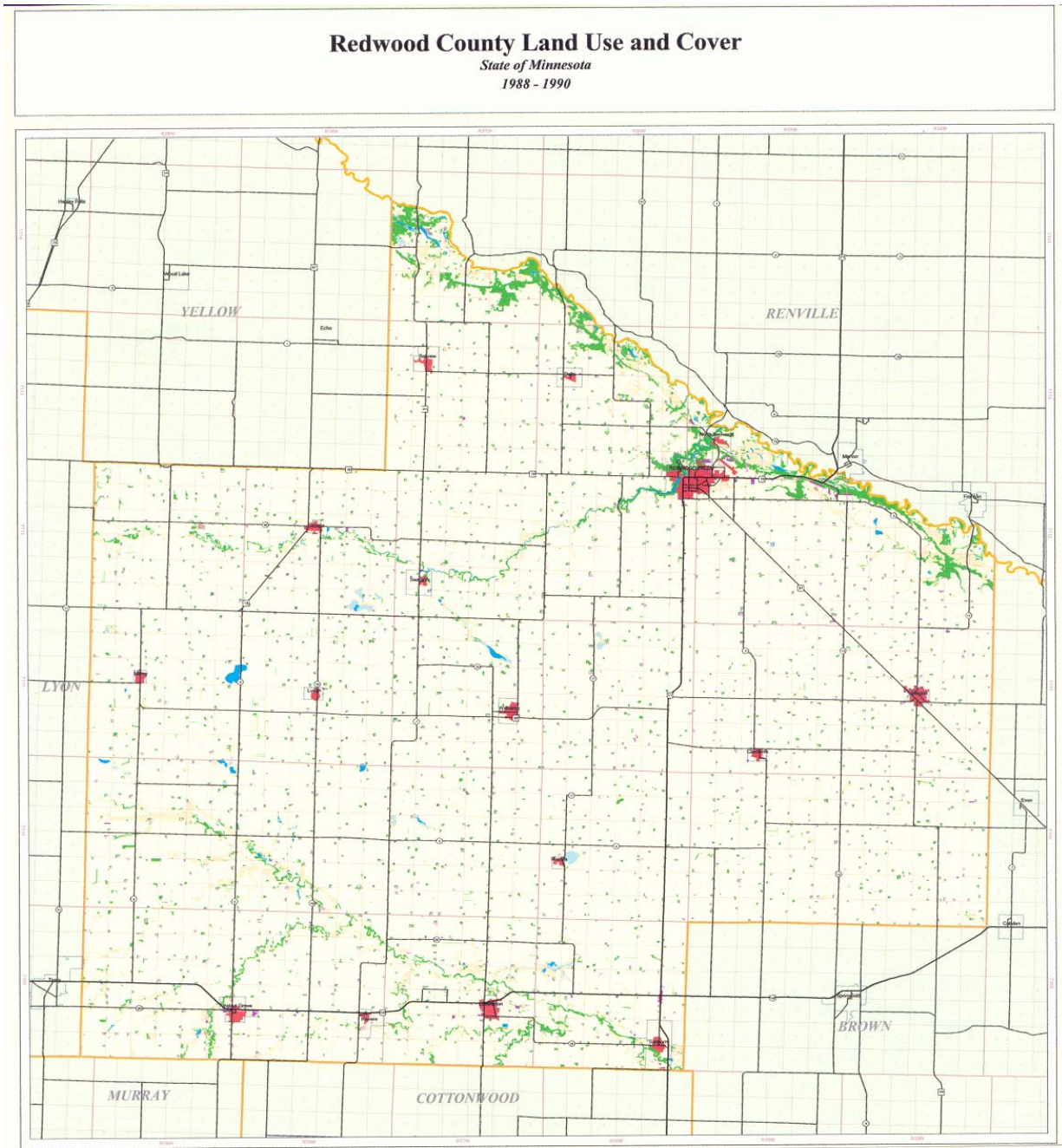
Redwood County, Minnesota



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Illustration 2



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