



Anoka Conservation District

PROGRAM PROFILE:

## *PLEASURE CREEK*

### *E. COLI BACTERIA MONITORING*

In 2006 the Anoka Conservation District (ACD) is monitoring *E. coli* bacteria in Pleasure Creek in southern Coon Rapids near its outlet to the Mississippi River. This project represents one of the first efforts in Anoka County to monitor fecal bacteria in Anoka County streams and lakes, aside from monitoring of beaches. As of 5/31/06, initial results from the *E. coli* and other water chemistry monitoring suggest some water quality problems in Pleasure Creek. The nature and severity of these problems will be determined by further monitoring throughout the year. This type of monitoring is a step forward in detecting, diagnosing, and correcting problems in our lakes streams in rivers.



Two kinds of do-it-yourself test kits used to quantify *E. coli* in Pleasure Creek. A certified laboratory provides a third method



ACD would like to continue this type monitoring on other streams where problems are suspected.

*E. coli* are a subgroup of fecal coliform bacteria, often used to indicate the likely presence of pathogens associated with feces. Some *E. coli* are present in all lakes and streams, and most are harmless. However, abnormally high levels indicate some higher than expected inputs from sources like manure, pet wastes, waterfowl, or sewage waste. We selected Pleasure Creek for this monitoring because there are suspected water quality problems and because it would compliment chemical monitoring already occurring. By doing chemical and bacteria monitoring together, we should be able to better diagnose problems and therefore efficiently work to correct them.



- **E. coli monitoring of Pleasure Creek will continue until fall 2006.**
- **The stream will be tested 8-12 times, both during base-flows and after storms.**
- **In future years we will likely do this type of monitoring other streams where problems are suspected.**

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