

River Watch Program

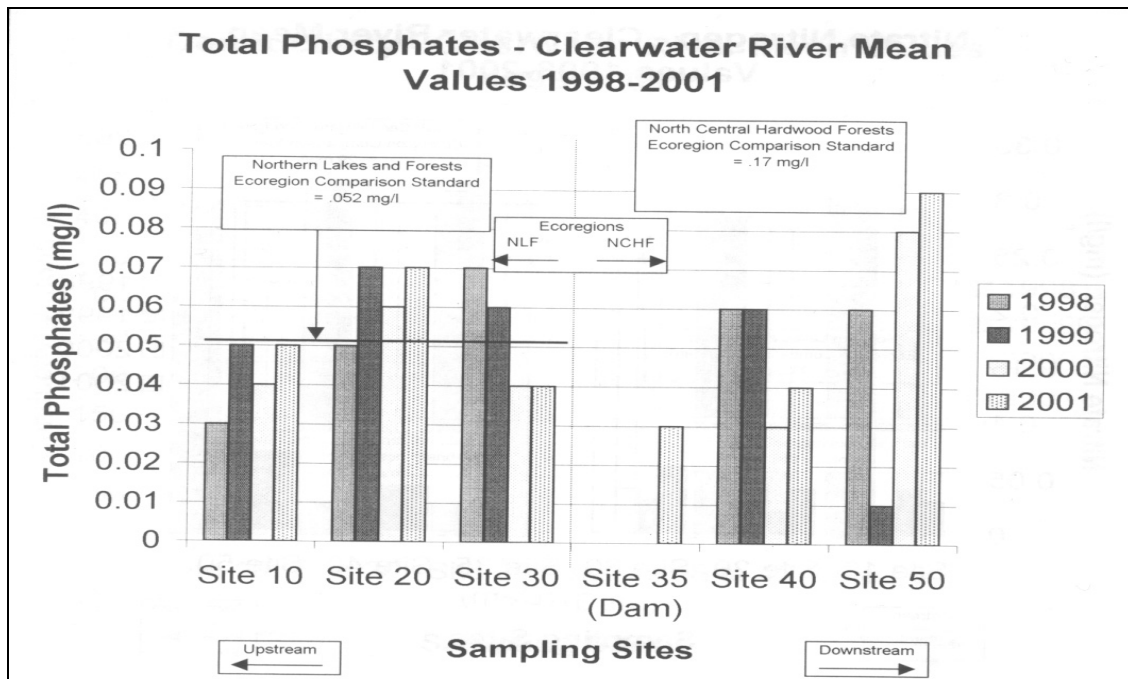
The River Watch Program has been continuing at several area schools in the RLWD. The goal of the River Watch Program is to educate students in natural resources fields while collecting meaningful water quality, quantity and other natural resource data. Students are provided “hands-on” experience in subjects ranging from chemistry and biology to hydrology and geology.

In 2001, the RLWD extended funding for the program in eight area schools for a period of ten years. This was accomplished through the signing of a mutual agreement between the schools and the RLWD. The RLWD is providing for reagents and supplies as well as substitute teacher and monitoring transportation costs. The schools involved in the program include Oklee, Plummer, Red Lake Falls, Clearbrook-Gonvick, Crookston, East

Grand Forks, East Grand Forks Sacred Heart, and Fisher.

The Red River Watershed Management Board has recently hired Wayne Goeken and Danni Halvorson. Part of their duties has included providing technical support to each River Watch Program in the Red River Basin as well as coordinating the program with watershed district and local SWCD personnel.

Future plans for the River Watch Program in the RLWD include maintaining annual River Watch data display forums and extending funding for the program to other schools including Grygla, Win-E-Mac, and Fosston. The data collected will be gathered on the RLWD database for use by resource managers.



Graph summarizing collected data from the 2001 Clearbrook-Gonvick River Watch Report



Picture of the Crookston High School River Watch Team with teacher Greg Garmen (top, farthest right). Students have created their own website for River Watch, which can be found at http://crookston.k12.mn.us/student_page/RiverWatch.