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UNDER CONSTRUCTION – STORMWATER IMPROVEMENTS FOR CITY OF KIMBALL

Kimball, MN – If you've traveled the road behind the high school in Kimball recently, you've probably noticed local contractor Kuechle Underground, Inc. constructing treatment basins on both sides of Hendricks Sand and Gravel. These new basins are part of a partnership between the Clearwater River Watershed District (CRWD), the City of Kimball and the state to clean stormwater runoff from the city before it enters Willow Creek.

Stormwater from the City of Kimball drains to Willow Creek, a designated trout stream and important park space for the community. Before these improvements, high-temperature stormwater runoff, laden with nutrients, drained untreated into Willow Creek. Trout don't like high-temperatures; and too many nutrients can cause algae blooms in downstream lakes. Too much algae can make swimming and fishing unpleasant. The City also struggles with small-scale flooding during storm events. To address these issues, the CRWD and the city started working together in 2010 to provide treatment of stormwater runoff, thanks to two grants from the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources through the Clean Water Land and Legacy Amendment.

Work on the treatment basins is nearly complete, and the next phase of the project is slated to begin after Kimball Days activities on August 8-10. The next phase will involve the extension of storm sewer collection lines underground along Hazel Avenue from Elm Street to Oak Street. Sections of curb and gutter and pavement along Hazel Avenue will be removed as part of this work, to be replaced after underground work is completed. This phase of construction should be completed before the end of October.

The result is cleaner, colder stormwater entering Willow Creek, which is great for trout fishing, and for keeping our lakes fishable and swimmable!

Be sure to check in with the CRWD at their website (www.crawd.org), as well as the City of Kimball's website (www.ci.kimball.mn.us) and the City's newsletter for more information as construction moves forward.