

TAYLORS FALLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

VEGETATED SWALE WITH ROCK CHECK DAMS

The Taylors Falls Elementary School is located within a large 18.5 acre watershed that drains through a single culvert into an existing gully that outlets into the St. Croix River. The large grassed ditch just upstream of the culvert provided an opportunity for slowing down and treating some of the runoff water that goes through the culvert.

The sod in the ditch was removed and replaced with a series of basins with rock check dams between them. The rocks help slow water down, forcing it to fill up one basin before water overflows to the next. In large rains, water fills all basins and overflows into the existing culvert. In small rains, the water in the basins is able to soak into the ground. The basins are planted with native species that can handle wet feet.



Partners:

Chisago Lakes Lake Improvement District
Chisago Soil & Water Conservation District
City of Taylors Falls
Chisago Lakes School District

Pollution Reduction:

Total Suspended Solids:
1.4 tons/yr
Total Phosphorus:
7.4 lb/yr
Volume: 6.5 ac-ft/yr
(Board of Water and Soil Resources Pollution Reduction Calculator-Gullies)

Targeted Water:

St. Croix River

Completion Date:

August 2014

May I Visit?

Yes –drive carefully along West Street just south of the school.

