

What is a TMDL?

Total Maximum Daily Load

Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) is the largest amount of a pollutant that can be in a body of water while still meeting Minnesota water quality standards. Every year, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) develops a list of **impaired waters**, bodies of water that do not meet water quality standards. The MPCA establishes a TMDL plan for impaired bodies of water that identifies the amount specific pollutants need to be reduced to meet water quality standards. This process is required by The Clean Water Act and is approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

WHERE?

Impaired waters in Saint Paul:
Battle Creek, Como Lake,
Fish Creek, Kasota Ponds,
Mississippi River, Lake
Pickerel and Lake Phalen.

WHAT?

Major pollutants include:
chloride, E. coli, mercury,
total suspended solids
and excess nutrients
like nitrogen.

CAUSES

Poor water quality often occurs due to:

- 💧 Runoff from yards and pavement.
- 💧 Winter salting of roads and sidewalks.
- 💧 Fertilizers from lawns and agriculture.
 - 💧 Atmospheric pollutants.
 - 💧 Sediments in the bodies of water.

SOLUTIONS

What you can do to improve water quality:

- 💧 Rake leaves and debris out of the street.
 - 💧 Sweep up grass clippings.
- 💧 Learn how to properly apply reduced amounts of fertilizer in the summer and salt in the winter.
 - 💧 Reduce the use of motor vehicles.