The Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF), as recommended by the LCCMR, has given the Heron Lake Watershed District (HLWD) a funding mechanism to install practices in Nobles, Jackson, and Murray Counties. The grant consisted of five project locations and included construction of a biodetention basin, multiple terrace projects, a bioretention basin, and a J-hook weir streambank stabilization project. These endeavors effected more than 300 acres and have an estimated reduction rate of 500 pounds of phosphorus and 550 pounds of total suspended solids per year.
Water Monitoring

The grant provided funding for water sampling from 2013-2015. For over ten years, the HLWD has been collecting water samples at three key locations within the watershed area. They include: Jack Creek, Okabena Creek, and the Heron Lake Outlet. See map below.

Continuous Data

Total Suspended Solids (TSS) and Total Phosphorus (TP) are two of the main nutrients for which the water is analyzed each year. Water samples are collected by HLWD staff and sent to Minnesota Valley Testing Laboratory (MVTL) to be analyzed. All results are measured in a concentration and the average is taken at the end of the sampling season.

During the three year grant period, most sites showed a decline in TSS and TP.