

STEVENS COUNTY

SUBSURFACE SEWAGE TREATMENT SYSTEMS ORDINANCE

1. GENERAL PROVISION

1.1 PURPOSE AND AUTHORITY

The purpose of the Subsurface Sewage Treatment System (SSTS) Ordinance is to provide minimum standards for and regulation of Individual Sewage Treatment Systems (ISTS) and Midsized Sewage Treatment Systems (MSTS) including the proper location, design and construction; their necessary modification and reconstruction; their operation, maintenance and repair to protect surface water and groundwater from contamination by human sewage and waterborne household and commercial wastes; to protect the public's health and safety, and eliminate or prevent the development of public nuisances pursuant to the authority granted under Minnesota Statutes sections 115.55, 145A.05, 375.51, 394.21-394.37, and 471.82, the County Comprehensive Plan and the County Land Use Ordinance.

1.2 INTENT

It is intended by the County that this Ordinance will promote the following:

- A. The protection of lakes, rivers and streams, wetlands, and groundwater in Stevens County essential to the promotion of public health, safety, welfare, socioeconomic growth and development of the County.
- B. The regulation of proper SSTS construction, reconstruction, repair and maintenance to prevent the entry and migration of contaminants, thereby protecting the degradation of surface water and groundwater quality.
- C. The establishment of minimum standards for SSTS placement, design, construction, reconstruction, repair and maintenance to prevent contamination and, if contamination is discovered, the identification and control of its consequences and the abatement of its source and migration.
- D. The appropriate utilization of privy vaults.

1.3 JURISDICTION

The jurisdiction of this Ordinance shall include all lands of the County except for incorporated areas or townships that administer a Subsurface Sewage Treatment System (SSTS) program by Ordinance within their jurisdiction, which is at least as strict as this Ordinance.

1.4 EFFECTIVE DATE

The provisions set forth in this Ordinance shall become effective after its passage, approval, publication and recording in the office of the County Recorder.

1.5 SCOPE

This Ordinance regulates the siting, design, installation, alterations, operation, maintenance, monitoring, and management of all SSTS within the County's applicable jurisdiction including, but not necessarily limited to individual SSTS and cluster or community SSTS, and privy vaults. All sewage generated in unsewered areas of the County shall be treated and dispersed by an approved SSTS that is sited, designed, installed, operated, and maintained in accordance with the provisions of this Ordinance or by a system that has been permitted by the MPCA.

