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A mostly unfrozen Credit River in Savage creates a picturesque wintry scene in January 2019. The river was added to Minnesota's impaired waters list in 2018.

FILE PHOTO

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IMPAIRED WATERS

Chloride pollution remains a top concern; Local resources aim to reduce salt usage during winter months

BY CHRISTINE SCHUSTER
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Over 70 water bodies in Scott and Carver counties are proposed to be listed on Minnesota's latest impaired waters list.

Bevens Creek in Carver County, which flows to the Minnesota River, is proposed to be added next year due to the presence of chlorpyrifos, a neurotoxic pesticide.

The creek, proposed to become the 39th listing in Carver County, is among 305 water bodies statewide proposed to be added in 2022.

In Scott County, 34 water bodies are

proposed to remain listed, but no local waters are proposed to be added next year.

MONITORING EFFORTS

The state's impaired waters list is updated every two years by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency in accordance with the federal Clean Water Act.

Minnesota's list is proposed to top 2,900 impaired water bodies in 2022.

In the southwest metro, some water bodies — including the Minnesota River, Picha Creek and Fish Lake — have been listed for around two decades.

However, in Scott County, the most impaired waters were added to the list in 2018, including Credit River, Lower Prior

Lake, O'Dowd Lake, Spring Lake, Sand Creek, Raven Stream, Robert Creek and a dozen streams.

Melissa Bokman, a senior water resources planner with Scott County, works with the Scott Watershed Management Organization.

Bokman explained the wave of new listings in 2018 relates to a large state-conducted study that increased the amount of water monitoring infrastructure in Scott County.

The Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy, or WRAPS, study is only conducted in Scott County about once a

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