



Tackling failing community sewage treatment systems

Why it's important

Statewide efforts to better manage sewage treatment is a critical part of protecting and restoring water quality in our lakes and streams.

What we did

- ▶ Inventoried communities
- ▶ Began determining current status of treatment
- ▶ Prioritized communities
- ▶ Gained management support for the program.
- ▶ Developed a process for the work, the process allows 3 to 5 years per project
- ▶ Dedicated staff time
- ▶ Began using the process with 5 communities

What's the issue?

Many Communities have failing sewage treatment systems.

The agency has never completed a statewide effort to inventory, track, and eliminate failing community sewage treatment systems.

Past efforts to collect data and documents have been sporadic and did not cover all 87 counties. Definitions for "unsewered communities" were vague and misunderstood, or improperly used.

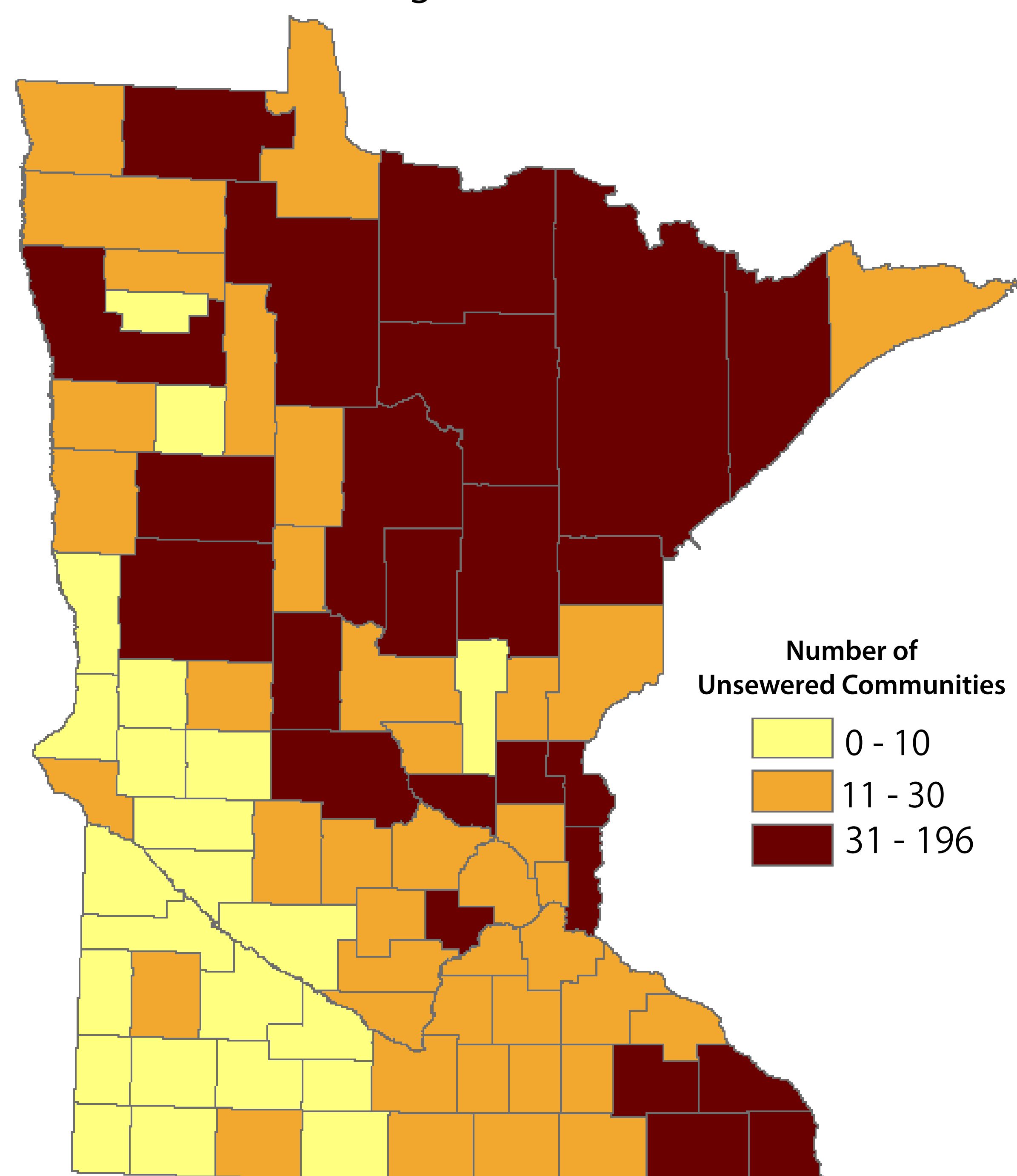
Difficulties included:

- ▶ Lack of management commitment
- ▶ No defined program priorities
- ▶ Process not integrated into both NPDES compliance staff and SSTS compliance staff workplans

Results

- ▶ Statewide inventory database, using known unsewered communities, county inventories, 2010 census data, and regional databases
- ▶ Database includes all 87 counties.
- ▶ We are able to apply program priorities to address unsewered communities.

Unsewered communities by county
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