



# Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

Bureau of Water • 1021 N. Grand Avenue E. • P.O. Box 19276 • Springfield • Illinois • 62794-9276

## Division of Water Pollution Control ANNUAL FACILITY INSPECTION REPORT

### for NPDES Permit for Storm Water Discharges from Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4)

*This fillable form may be completed online, a copy saved locally, printed and signed before it is submitted to the Compliance Assurance Section at the above address. Complete each section of this report.*

Report Period: From March, 2024 To March, 2025

Permit No. ILR40 0252

#### MS4 OPERATOR INFORMATION: (As it appears on the current permit)

Name: Village of Vernon Hills Mailing Address 1: 490 Greenleaf Drive

Mailing Address 2: \_\_\_\_\_ County: Lake

City: Vernon Hills State: IL Zip: 60061 Telephone: 847-918-3544

Contact Person: Christopher Venatta Email Address: ChristopherV@vhill.org  
(Person responsible for Annual Report)

#### Name(s) of governmental entity(ies) in which MS4 is located: (As it appears on the current permit)

Libertyville Township Lake County  
Vernon Township

#### THE FOLLOWING ITEMS MUST BE ADDRESSED.

A. Changes to best management practices (check appropriate BMP change(s) and attach information regarding change(s) to BMP and measurable goals.)

- |                                              |                          |                                           |                          |
|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Public Education and Outreach             | <input type="checkbox"/> | 4. Construction Site Runoff Control       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Public Participation/Involvement          | <input type="checkbox"/> | 5. Post-Construction Runoff Control       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Illicit Discharge Detection & Elimination | <input type="checkbox"/> | 6. Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping | <input type="checkbox"/> |

B. Attach the status of compliance with permit conditions, an assessment of the appropriateness of your identified best management practices and progress towards achieving the statutory goal of reducing the discharge of pollutants to the MEP, and your identified measurable goals for each of the minimum control measures.

C. Attach results of information collected and analyzed, including monitoring data, if any during the reporting period.

D. Attach a summary of the storm water activities you plan to undertake during the next reporting cycle ( including an implementation schedule.)

E. Attach notice that you are relying on another government entity to satisfy some of your permit obligations (if applicable).

F. Attach a list of construction projects that your entity has paid for during the reporting period.

**Any person who knowingly makes a false, fictitious, or fraudulent material statement, orally or in writing, to the Illinois EPA commits a Class 4 felony. A second or subsequent offense after conviction is a Class 3 felony. (415 ILCS 5/44(h))**

  
Owner Signature:

Christopher Venatta

Printed Name:

5/27/25  
Date:

PW Director and Village Engineer

Title:

EMAIL COMPLETED FORM TO: [epa.ms4annualinsp@illinois.gov](mailto:epa.ms4annualinsp@illinois.gov)

or Mail to: ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WATER POLLUTION CONTROL  
COMPLIANCE ASSURANCE SECTION #19  
1021 NORTH GRAND AVENUE EAST  
POST OFFICE BOX 19276  
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62794-9276

This Agency is authorized to require this information under Section 4 and Title X of the Environmental Protection Act (415 ILCS 5/4, 5/39). Failure to disclose this information may result in: a civil penalty of not to exceed \$50,000 for the violation and an additional civil penalty of not to exceed \$10,000 for each day during which the violation continues (415 ILCS 5/42) and may also prevent this form from being processed and could result in your application being denied. This form has been approved by the Forms Management Center.

**Illinois Environmental Protection Agency  
Annual Facility Inspection Report  
for General Permit for Discharges from Small MS4s**

**Village of Vernon Hills  
Permit No. ILR400252**

**Permit Year 22: March 1, 2024 to March 1, 2025**

## Table of Contents

<b><u>Part A. Changes to Best Management Practices.....</u></b>	<b><u>A-1</u></b>
<b><u>Part B. Status of Compliance with Permit Conditions.....</u></b>	<b><u>B-1</u></b>
<b><u>Part C. Information and Data Collection Results.....</u></b>	<b><u>C-1</u></b>
<b><u>Part D. Summary of Year 23 Stormwater Activities.....</u></b>	<b><u>D-1</u></b>
<b><u>Part E. Notice of Qualifying Local Program.....</u></b>	<b><u>E-1</u></b>
<u>Part E1. QLP Changes to Best Management Practices, Year 22</u>	
<u>Part E2. QLP Status of Compliance with Permit Conditions, Year 22</u>	
<u>Part E3. QLP Information and Data Collection Results, Year 22</u>	
<u>Part E4. QLP Summary of Year 23 Stormwater Activities</u>	
<u>Part E5. QLP Construction Projects Conducted During Year 22</u>	
<b><u>Part F. Construction Projects Conducted During Year 22.....</u></b>	<b><u>F-1</u></b>

## Part A. MS4 Changes to Best Management Practices, Year 22

**Note: “X” indicates BMPs that were implemented in accordance with the MS4’s SMPP**  
**✓ indicates BMPs that were changed during Year 22**

Year 22	
MS4	
<b>A. Public Education and Outreach</b>	
X	A.1 Distributed Paper Material
	A.2 Speaking Engagement
	A.3 Public Service Announcement
X	A.4 Community Event
	A.5 Classroom Education Material
X	A.6 Other Public Education
<b>B. Public Participation/Involvement</b>	
	B.1 Public Panel
	B.2 Educational Volunteer
X	B.3 Stakeholder Meeting
X	B.4 Public Hearing
	B.5 Volunteer Monitoring
X	B.6 Program Coordination
X	B.7 Other Public Involvement
<b>C. Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination</b>	
X	C.1 Storm Sewer Map Preparation
X	C.2 Regulatory Control Program
X	C.3 Detection/Elimination Prioritization Plan
X	C.4 Illicit Discharge Tracing Procedures
X	C.5 Illicit Source Removal Procedures
X	C.6 Program Evaluation and Assessment
X	C.7 Visual Dry Weather Screening
	C.8 Pollutant Field Testing
X	C.9 Public Notification
X	C.10 Other Illicit Discharge Controls

Year 22	
MS4	
<b>D. Construction Site Runoff Control</b>	
X	D.1 Regulatory Control Program
X	D.2 Erosion and Sediment Control BMPs
X	D.3 Other Waste Control Program
X	D.4 Site Plan Review Procedures
X	D.5 Public Information Handling Procedures
X	D.6 Site Inspection/Enforcement Procedures
	D.7 Other Construction Site Runoff Controls
<b>E. Post-Construction Runoff Control</b>	
	E.1 Community Control Strategy
X	E.2 Regulatory Control Program
X	E.3 Long Term O&M Procedures
X	E.4 Pre-Const Review of BMP Designs
X	E.5 Site Inspections During Construction
X	E.6 Post-Construction Inspections
	E.7 Other Post-Const Runoff Controls
<b>F. Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping</b>	
X	F.1 Employee Training Program
X	F.2 Inspection and Maintenance Program
X	F.3 Municipal Operations Storm Water Control
X	F.4 Municipal Operations Waste Disposal
	F.5 Flood Management/Assess Guidelines
X	F.6 Other Municipal Operations Controls

## **Part B. MS4 Status of Compliance with Permit Conditions, Year 22**

### **Stormwater Management Activities: Year 22**

The stormwater management activities that the MS4 performed during Year 22, including the MS4's BMPs and measurable goals, are described in detail in the MS4's Storm Water Management Program (SWMP). A brief summary of the status of the MS4's SWMP, as of the end of Year 22, is provided below. The SWMP is provided as reference in this report.

The Village of Vernon Hills revised their SMPP to coincide with the March 2016 ILR40 permit. As described in the revised SMPP there are extensive monitoring efforts already underway across the County, refer to Part C of this report for additional information. The QLP section of the report describes the Status of Lake County waters using information gathered by active workgroups and the Lake County Health Department along with a discussion on TMDL status within the County. The Status of Lake County Waters provides insight as to the overall effectiveness of countywide efforts to improve water quality. As an active MS4 within the County, the countywide findings reflect the individual efforts of each MS4. Additionally, the SMPP identified impaired waters based on the June 2022 303(d) list. The inclusion or exclusion of water bodies on the IEPAs 303(d) list, published bi-annually, is a direct reflection of the program's effectiveness.

The Village and Park District worked with Lake County Health Department (LCHD). Water samples were taken from Lake Charles and Big & Little Bear Lakes to draw comparisons of natural lakes versus man-made lakes and nutrient loading. LCHD compiled their findings in the referenced Lakes Summary Report. This cooperative interagency effort has led to the implementation of action items such as carp removal, which has been very successful.

A Water Quality Improvement Feasibility Study was conducted on Lake Charles. The study revealed upstream sedimentation concerns. Findings were shared with the stakeholders and ultimately led to a grant commitment from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. Three projects upstream and including Lake Charles have been selected and the design process has begun.

### **A. Public Education and Outreach**

**As part of its stormwater management program, the Village of Vernon Hills conducts a number of Public Education and Outreach activities that educate and inform the public about the impacts of stormwater runoff on receiving water bodies and the steps that the public can take to reduce those impacts. In coordination and collaboration with the QLP, the Village of Vernon Hills utilizes a variety of best management practices (BMPs) to educate and inform the public about these issues, including: distributing**

**paper material containing information about stormwater management; sponsoring and/or attending community outreach events, including meetings, to provide information about stormwater management; publicizing household hazardous waste collection events sponsored by the Solid Waste Agency of Lake County (SWALCO) to encourage the public to participate in such events; upon request, providing classroom education on stormwater management to local students and teachers; upon request, providing training and information to local students and teachers interested in conducting storm drain stenciling; and, providing, on its website, information about stormwater management and its stormwater management program.**

**BMP No. A.1 – Distributed Paper Material**

**Brief Description of BMP:** In addition to the QLP's efforts to distribute informational materials throughout Lake County, the Village of Vernon Hills works to compile and distribute within the Village of Vernon Hills a variety of materials related to stormwater management from a variety of sources, including the Lake County Stormwater Management Commission (i.e., QLP), IEPA, US EPA, the Center for Watershed Protection, and other agencies and organizations. The Village of Vernon Hills maintains a list of the types of materials it has made available to the public and the methods through which such materials have been distributed.

**Measurable Goal:** Distribute informational materials from the “take away” rack at Vernon Hills Village Hall annually, at a minimum.

**BMP No. A.4 – Community Event**

**Brief Description of BMP:** In addition to the QLP's efforts to sponsor or co-sponsor workshops and provide educational presentations, the Village of Vernon Hills sponsors and/or attends community outreach events, including meetings, to provide information on stormwater management-related topics. Audiences attending such events may include homeowners' associations, lake management associations, businesses, and neighborhood groups. The Village of Vernon Hills maintains a list of the stormwater management-related community outreach events, including meetings, that it has attended.

Solid Waste collection programs continue to be supported for our residents. The Village of Vernon Hills supports the efforts of the Solid Waste Agency of Lake County (SWALCO) to implement programs throughout Lake County that increase reuse, recycling, and composting and reduce reliance on landfills. As part of these waste management efforts, SWALCO conducts dozens of household hazardous waste collection events each year at various locations throughout the county. SWALCO and the Village continue to hold an annual

program for Household Waste Collection and in cooperation with our Park District, a Recycle-A-Rama which collects electronics, latex paint, etc. The Village of Vernon Hills publicizes these hazardous waste collection events to encourage the public to participate in such events.

The Village continues to be the Clearinghouse for ReUseAShoe whereby shoes collected throughout Lake County are delivered to our Public Works facility to divert shoes from our waste stream. Our facility is also available for residents to drop off gasoline and used motor oil as well as clothing.

**Measurable Goal:** Sponsor and/or attend stormwater management-related community outreach events, including meetings annually, at a minimum. Provide notice of SWALCO household hazardous waste collection events on Village of Vernon Hills website as needed.

#### **BMP No. A.6 – Other Public Education**

**Brief Description of BMP:** In addition to the QLP's efforts to distribute information via its website, the Village of Vernon Hills maintains a website that contains materials and resources related to stormwater management. The website includes a web page that provides information about IEPA's NPDES Stormwater Program, information about the Village of Vernon Hills stormwater management program, including its SMPP, NOI, Permit, and Annual Reports, and links to a number of other stormwater management-related resources, including the Lake County Stormwater Management Commission's (i.e., QLP's) website.

**Measurable Goal:** Maintain and update the portion of the Village of Vernon Hills website dedicated to its stormwater management program as needed.

### **B. Public Participation/Involvement**

**As part of its stormwater management program, the Village of Vernon Hills conducts a number of Public Participation/Involvement activities that involve and engage the public in the implementation of its stormwater management program. In coordination and collaboration with the QLP, the Village of Vernon Hills utilizes a variety of best management practices (BMPs) to involve and engage the public in these efforts, including: attending and encouraging public participation in stakeholder meetings; presenting information about stormwater management and its stormwater management program at public meetings; attending and participating in Municipal Advisory Committee (MAC) meetings to discuss and coordinate on the implementation of IEPA's NPDES Stormwater Program; and, providing a phone number and maintaining a process for receiving and processing information about**

**stormwater-related problems and concerns from the public. For example, on October 3, 2021, the Village of Vernon Hills worked with a local Girl Scout Troop on a rain garden project. The Village will continue to pursue and support similar activities.**

**BMP No. B.3 – Stakeholder Meeting**

**Brief Description of BMP:** Watershed stakeholder meetings are regularly held throughout Lake County as part of new and/or ongoing watershed planning and/or project implementation efforts. When the Village of Vernon Hills is a stakeholder in a watershed planning and/or project implementation effort (i.e., any part of the MS4 is located within the boundaries of a watershed subject to a planning and/or project implementation effort), the Village of Vernon Hills participates in scheduled stakeholder meetings and publicizes the meetings to encourage other stakeholders (i.e., homeowner associations, lakes, management associations, landowners) to participate.

**Measurable Goal:** As appropriate, attend and provide notice of stakeholder meetings on Village of Vernon Hills website.

**BMP No. B.4 – Public Hearing**

**Brief Description of BMP:** The Village of Vernon Hills coordinates and conducts public meetings as well as committee meetings that are open to the public. A bi-monthly Village Board Meeting is open to the public and involves the Village Board, which includes seven publicly elected representatives. Periodically, information about the Village of Vernon Hills stormwater management program is presented at such meetings. At the Village Board Meetings, the Village of Vernon Hills staff regularly presents information related to NPDES and stormwater quality.

**Measurable Goal:** Present information about the Village of Vernon Hills storm water management program at a public meeting at least once each year.

**BMP No. B.6 – Program involvement**

**Brief Description of BMP:** SMC serves as a Qualifying Local Program (QLP) for all Lake County MS4s. In this role, in 2002, SMC proactively formed the Municipal Advisory Committee (MAC) to provide a forum for representatives of local MS4s to discuss, among other topics, the implementation of IEPA's NPDES Stormwater Program. SMC plans to continue to facilitate quarterly MAC meetings to bring Lake County MS4s together to discuss the implementation of IEPA's NPDES Stormwater Program. The Village of Vernon Hills continued to attend Lake County's SMC MAC meetings throughout the year.

The Village continues to partner with the Lake County Stormwater Management Commission on training, education and watershed matters. The DRWW has made good progress in sampling and data collection over a few years which will be very useful in the near term in determining “hot spots” within our watershed. These efforts will assist in improving impairments through their identification and in grant applications.

**Measurable Goal:** Continue to attend and participate in MAC meetings.

**BMP No. B.7 – Other public involvement**

**Brief Description of BMP:** The Village of Vernon Hills provides and publicizes a phone number that the public can use to submit information about stormwater-related problems and concerns. The Village of Vernon Hills documents and tracks the resolutions of problems and complaints reported by the public, including reports of illicit discharges and illegal dumping.

**Measurable Goal:** Provide phone number that the public can use to submit information about stormwater-related problems and concerns. As needed, follow up on reports of stormwater-related problems and concerns received from the public.

**C. Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination**

- **As part of its stormwater management program, the Village of Vernon Hills conducts a number of activities related to Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination. In accordance with the current version of the Permit, the Village of Vernon Hills' Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination program includes:**
- **A storm sewer system map showing the locations of all outfalls and the names and locations of all waters that receive discharges from those outfalls;**
- **An ordinance or other regulatory mechanism that prohibits all non-stormwater discharges into the storm sewer system and provides the authority for appropriate enforcement procedures and actions;**
- **A plan to detect and address all non-stormwater discharges, including illegal dumping, into the storm sewer system;**
- **A program to educate public employees, businesses, and the general public about the hazards associated with illegal discharges and improper disposal of waste; and,**

- **Periodic (annual is recommended) inspection of storm sewer outfalls for detection of non- stormwater discharges and illegal dumping.**

**BMP No. C.1 – Sewer Map Preparation**

**Brief Description of BMP:** The Village of Vernon Hills has prepared a storm sewer system map showing the locations of all outfalls and the names and locations of all waters that receive discharges from those outfalls. The storm sewer system map is periodically maintained and updated to include outfalls associated with development projects and any previously unidentified outfalls.

**Measurable Goal:** Maintain and update storm sewer system map as needed.

**BMP No. C.2 – Regulatory control program**

**Brief Description of BMP:** The Village of Vernon Hills has adopted an illicit discharge ordinance that prohibits all non-stormwater discharges into the storm sewer system and provides the authority for appropriate enforcement procedures and actions. In addition, the Watershed Development Ordinance (WDO) includes provisions that prohibit illicit discharges to the storm sewer system during construction (i.e., prior to final site stabilization) on development sites.

**Measurable Goal:** Continue to administer and enforce the illicit discharge ordinance. Continue to administer and enforce the WDO.

**BMP No. C.3 – Detection/Elimination Prioritization Plan**

**Brief Description of BMP:** The Village of Vernon Hills has developed and implemented a plan to detect and address all non-stormwater discharges, including illegal dumping, into the storm sewer system. Methods used to detect illicit discharges include annual visual dry weather screening, employee reporting, and public reporting. Outfalls with suspicious discharges are assessed to determine whether or not flow is observed and whether or not any indicators of an illicit discharge are present. The results of each inspection are recorded on a form, and based on such results, appropriate follow-up actions are prescribed. Such follow-up actions may include additional inspections, additional water quality sampling and analysis, source tracking, and source removal. Follow-up activities are generally prioritized based on the scope and magnitude of the associated illicit discharge.

**Measurable Goal:** Conduct annual inspections of storm sewer outfalls for detection of illicit discharges. Continue to investigate potential illicit discharges identified by employees conducting day-to-day activities and operations (e.g., storm sewer cleaning and maintenance). Continue to investigate potential illicit discharges identified through public reporting.

**BMP No. C.4 – Illicit Discharge Tracing Procedures**

**Brief Description of BMP:** The Village of Vernon Hills has developed procedures for tracking illicit discharges to their source. Methods that can be used to track illicit discharges to their source include drainage area investigations, storm sewer network investigations, and on-site investigations, which may involve smoke testing, dye testing, and/or video inspection to pinpoint the exact source of an illicit discharge. When an illicit discharge is identified, appropriate source tracking procedures are selected and used to track the discharge to its source.

**Measurable Goal:** As needed, implement procedures for tracking illicit discharges to their source.

**BMP No. C.5 – Illicit Source Removal Procedures**

**Brief Description of BMP:** The Village of Vernon Hills has developed procedures for removing illicit discharges from the storm drain system once they have been tracked to their source. These procedures generally include: using an independent third-party to confirm the presence of an illicit discharge; notifying the landowner of the presence of an illicit discharge; requesting and conducting a site inspection with the landowner to pinpoint the source of the illicit discharge and to identify potential remedial actions; notifying the landowner of the need to take corrective action; and, if necessary, enforcing the provisions of the illicit discharge ordinance to have the illicit discharge removed from the storm sewer system.

**Measurable Goal:** As needed, implement procedures for removing illicit discharges from the storm drain system.

**BMP No. C.6 – Program Evaluation and Assessment**

**Brief Description of BMP:** The Village of Vernon Hills periodically evaluates and assesses the effectiveness of its Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination program. This evaluation is generally based on the results of the Village of Vernon Hills visual dry weather screening program and on the number of non-stormwater discharges and illegal dumping incidents identified through both employee and public reporting. If the Village of Vernon Hills Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination program is effective, it is logical

to assume that, over time, the number of non-stormwater discharges and illegal dumping incidents identified through visual dry weather screening, employee reporting, and public reporting will decline.

**Measurable Goal:** Conduct annual evaluation and assessment of illicit discharge detection and elimination program.

**BMP No. C.7 – Visual Dry Weather Screening**

**Brief Description of BMP:** In accordance with the current version of the Permit, the Village of Vernon Hills conducts annual inspections of storm sewer outfalls for detection of non-stormwater discharges and illegal dumping. During such inspections, outfalls are assessed to determine whether or not flow is observed and whether or not any indicators of an illicit discharge are present. The results of each inspection are recorded on a form, and based on such results, appropriate follow-up actions are prescribed. Such follow-up actions may include additional inspections, additional water quality sampling and analysis, source tracking, and source removal. Follow-up activities are generally prioritized based on the scope and magnitude of the associated illicit discharge.

**Measurable Goal:** Conduct annual inspections of storm sewer outfalls for detection of illicit discharges.

**BMP No. C.9 – Public Notification**

**Brief Description of BMP:** The Village of Vernon Hills provides and publicizes a phone number that the public can use to submit information about stormwater-related problems and concerns. The Village of Vernon Hills documents and tracks the resolutions of problems and complaints reported by the public, including reports of illicit discharges and illegal dumping.

**Measurable Goal:** Provide phone number that the public can use to submit information about stormwater-related problems and concerns, including illicit discharges. As needed, follow up on reports of illicit discharges and illegal dumping received from the public.

**BMP No. C.10 – Other Illicit Discharge Controls**

**Brief Description of BMP:** As part of its Public Education and Outreach program, the Village of Vernon Hills distributes informational materials to businesses and the general public about the hazards associated with illegal discharges and the improper disposal of waste.

**Measurable Goal:** Distribute informational materials about the hazards of illicit discharges and illegal dumping from "take away" rack at Village Hall and through the Village of Vernon Hills website.

#### **D. Construction Site Runoff Control**

**In accordance with the current version of the Permit, the Village of Vernon Hills has developed and implemented a Construction Site Runoff Control program to reduce the amount of pollution contained in construction stormwater runoff that enters the Village of Vernon Hills storm sewer system from development sites. The Village of Vernon Hills has adopted the Lake County WDO and is currently certified by SMC to administer and enforce the provisions of the WDO. The Village of Vernon Hills designated Enforcement Officer is responsible for reviewing and permitting development plans and for administering and enforcing the provisions of the WDO within the Village of Vernon Hills.**

##### **BMP No. D.1 – Regulatory Control Program**

**Brief Description of BMP:** The WDO is the regulatory mechanism that requires the use of soil erosion and sediment controls on development sites throughout Lake County. The soil erosion and sediment control provisions of the WDO are included in Article IV, Section B.1.j. of the ordinance. At a minimum, these standards apply to any development project that hydrologically disturbs 5,000 square feet of land or more. As a Certified Community, the Village of Vernon Hills is responsible for the administration and enforcement of the WDO within the Village of Vernon Hills.

**Measurable Goal:** Continue to administer and enforce the WDO.

##### **BMP No. D.2 – Erosion and Sediment Control BMPs**

**Brief Description of BMP:** Article IV, Section B.1.j of the WDO specifies the soil erosion and sediment control measures that must be used in conjunction with any land disturbing activities conducted on a development site. It specifies the use of a variety of soil erosion and sediment control BMPs including: minimize soil disturbance; protect adjoining properties from erosion and sedimentation; complete installation of soil erosion and sediment control features prior to commencement of hydrologic disturbance; stabilize disturbed areas within 7 days of active disturbance; avoid disturbance of streams whenever possible; use controls that are appropriate for the size of the tributary drainage area; protect functioning storm sewers from sediment; prevent sediment from being tracked onto adjoining streets; limit earthen embankments to slopes of 3H:1V; identify soil stockpile areas; and utilize statewide standards and specifications as guidance for soil erosion and sediment control. As a Certified Community, the Village of Vernon Hills is responsible for

the administration and enforcement of the WDO within the Village of Vernon Hills. The Village has 3 staff members who have maintained their Designated Erosion Control Inspector (DECI) Certification and who also attend Sensible Salt Practices for training.

**Measurable Goal:** Continue to administer and enforce the WDO.

**BMP No. D.3 – Other Waste Control Program**

**Brief Description of BMP:** Article IV, Section B.1.j of the WDO includes provisions related to the control of waste and debris during construction on development sites. As a Certified Community, the Village of Vernon Hills is responsible for the administration and enforcement of the WDO within the Village of Vernon Hills. Village Public Works staff attended online de-icing training coursework to maintain their certification.

**Measurable Goal:** Continue to administer and enforce the WDO.

**BMP No. D.4 – Site Plan Review Procedures**

**Brief Description of BMP:** A community's designated enforcement officer is responsible for reviewing and permitting development plans and for administering and enforcing the provisions of the WDO. Within certified communities (i.e., communities certified by SMC to administer and enforce the provisions of the WDO), responsibility for reviewing and permitting development plans and for administering and enforcing the provisions of the WDO lie with the MS4; within non-certified communities, the designated enforcement officer is SMC's chief engineer. Since the Village of Vernon Hills is a Certified Community, the Village of Vernon Hills designated enforcement officer is responsible for reviewing and permitting development plans and for administering and enforcing the provisions of the WDO within the Village of Vernon Hills.

**Measurable Goal:** Continue to administer and enforce the WDO.

**BMP No. D.5 – Public Information Handling Procedures**

**Brief Description of BMP:** The Village of Vernon Hills provides and publicizes a phone number that the public can use to submit information about stormwater-related problems and concerns. The Village of Vernon Hills documents and tracks the resolutions of problems and complaints reported by the public, including reports of soil erosion and sediment control issues on development sites. Since the Village of Vernon Hills is a Certified Community, the Village of Vernon Hills designated enforcement officer is responsible for investigating

reports of soil erosion and sediment control issues on development sites within the Village of Vernon Hills.

**Measurable Goal:** Provide phone number that the public can use to submit information about storm water-related problems and concerns, including soil erosion and sediment control issues. As needed, follow up on reports of soil erosion and sediment control issues received from the public.

### **BMP No. D.6 – Site Inspection/Enforcement Procedures**

**Brief Description of BMP:** Article VI of the WDO contains both recommended and minimum requirements for the inspection of development sites. Within certified communities, the community's designated enforcement officer is responsible for conducting these inspections; within non-certified communities, SMC's chief engineer is responsible for conducting these inspections. Per the ordinance, these inspections may be conducted by a community's designated enforcement officer at any stage in the construction process. For major developments, as defined by the WDO, the enforcement officer conducts site inspections, at a minimum, upon completion of installation of soil erosion and sediment controls, prior to the start of any other land disturbing activities, and after final stabilization and landscaping, prior to the removal of soil erosion and sediment controls. Since the Village of Vernon Hills is a Certified Community, the Village of Vernon Hills designated enforcement officer is responsible for conducting site inspections within the Village of Vernon Hills. Article VII of the WDO specifies the legal actions that may be taken and the penalties that may be imposed if the provisions of the WDO are violated. If development activities on a development site are not in compliance with the requirements of the WDO, the enforcement officer may issue a stop work order on all development activity on the development site or on the development activities that are in direct violation of the WDO. In addition, failure to comply with any of the requirements of the WDO constitutes a violation of the WDO, and any person convicted of violating the WDO may be fined.

**Measurable Goal:** Continue to administer and enforce the WDO.

## **E. Post-Construction Runoff Control**

**In accordance with the current version of the Permit, the Village of Vernon Hills has developed and implemented a Post-Construction Runoff Control program to reduce the amount of pollution contained in post-construction stormwater runoff that enters the Village of Vernon Hills' storm sewer system from development sites. The Village of Vernon Hills has adopted the Lake County WDO and is currently certified by SMC to administer and enforce the provisions of the WDO. The Village of Vernon Hills designated Enforcement Officer is responsible for reviewing and permitting**

**development plans and for administering and enforcing the provisions of the WDO within the Village of Vernon Hills.**

**BMP No. E.2 – Regulatory Control Program**

**Brief Description of BMP:** The WDO requires all applicants to adopt stormwater management strategies for controlling post-construction stormwater runoff on development sites. As outlined in Article IV, Section B.1 of the WDO, all applicants must adopt stormwater management strategies that minimize increases in stormwater runoff rates, volumes, and pollutant loads from development sites. Proposed stormwater management strategies must address the runoff volume reduction requirements described in Article IV, Section B.1.d of the WDO and must include appropriate stormwater BMPs to address the other applicable post-construction runoff control requirements of the WDO. As a Certified Community, the Village of Vernon Hills is responsible for the administration and enforcement of the WDO within the Village of Vernon Hills.

**Measurable Goal:** Continue to administer and enforce the WDO.

**BMP No. E.3 – Long Term O & M Procedures**

**Brief Description of BMP:** The Village of Vernon Hills has developed long-term operation and maintenance procedures to help reduce the amount of pollution contained in post-construction stormwater runoff that enters the Village of Vernon Hills storm sewer system. The procedures address both new and existing development.

The Village of Vernon Hills long-term operation and maintenance procedures address new development via the WDO. The WDO requires that maintenance plans be developed for all stormwater management systems designed to serve major developments, as defined by the WDO. Such maintenance plans must include: a description of all maintenance tasks; an identification of the party or parties responsible for performing such maintenance tasks; a description of all permanent maintenance easements or access agreements, overland flow paths, and compensatory storage areas; and a description of dedicated sources of funding for the required maintenance. The WDO also requires that all stormwater management systems be located within a deed or plat restriction (e.g., easement) to ensure that the system remains in place in perpetuity and that access to the system is maintained in perpetuity for inspection and maintenance purposes. As a Certified Community, the Village of Vernon Hills is responsible for the administration and enforcement of the WDO within the Village of Vernon Hills.

The Village of Vernon Hills long-term operation and maintenance procedures address existing development via an inspection and maintenance program. The Village of Vernon Hills periodically inspects all existing post-construction stormwater management facilities (e.g., detention facilities), including those that have a maintenance plan (i.e., facilities

located within developments regulated by the WDO) as well as those that do not (i.e., facilities located within developments predating, and therefore not regulated by, the WDO), to identify any maintenance tasks and/or any repairs that need to be completed. Responsible parties are notified of the inspection results and of the need to complete any maintenance tasks or repairs.

**Measurable Goal:** Continue to administer and enforce the WDO. Conduct inspections of existing stormwater management facilities on a five-year basis to identify the need for maintenance and/or repairs.

#### **BMP No. E.4 – Pre-Construction Review of BMP Designs**

**Brief Description of BMP:** As described above, a community's designated enforcement officer is responsible for reviewing and permitting development plans and for administering and enforcing the provisions of the WDO. This includes a review of the stormwater BMPs that will be used to meet the post-construction runoff control requirements of the WDO. Since the Village of Vernon Hills is a Certified Community, the Village of Vernon Hills designated enforcement officer is responsible for reviewing and permitting development plans and for administering and enforcing the provisions of the WDO within the village.

**Measurable Goal:** Continue to administer and enforce the WDO.

#### **BMP No. E.5 – Site Inspections During Construction**

**Brief Description of BMP:** As described above, Article VI of the WDO contains both recommended and minimum requirements for the inspection of development sites. Per the ordinance, these inspections may be conducted by a community's designated enforcement officer at any stage in the construction process. For major developments, as defined by the WDO, the enforcement officer conducts site inspections, at a minimum, upon completion of installation of soil erosion and sediment controls, prior to the start of any other land disturbing activities, and after final stabilization and landscaping, prior to the removal of soil erosion and sediment controls. Since the Village of Vernon Hills is a Certified Community, the Village of Vernon Hills designated enforcement officer is responsible for conducting site inspections within the village.

**Measurable Goal:** Continue to administer and enforce the WDO.

**BMP No. E.6 – Post-Construction Inspections**

**Brief Description of BMP:** As described above, Article VI of the WDO contains both recommended and minimum requirements for the inspection of development sites. Per the ordinance, these inspections may be conducted by a community's designated enforcement officer at any stage in the construction process, including after final stabilization and landscaping, after the removal of soil erosion and sediment controls. For major developments; as defined by the WDO, the enforcement officer conducts site inspections, at a minimum, upon completion of installation of soil erosion and sediment controls, prior to the start of any other land disturbing activities, and after final stabilization and landscaping, prior to the removal of soil erosion and sediment controls. Since the Village of Vernon Hills is a Certified Community, the Village of Vernon Hills designated enforcement officer is responsible for conducting site inspections within the village.

**Measurable Goal:** Continue to administer and enforce the WDO.

**F. Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping**

**In accordance with the current version of the Permit, the Village of Vernon Hills has developed and implemented a Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping program to reduce the amount of pollution generated by municipal activities and operations. The program includes: an employee training program; an operation and maintenance program that incorporates pollution prevention and good housekeeping practices into day-to-day activities and operations; stormwater pollution control and non-stormwater discharge control procedures; waste management and disposal procedures; and, spill prevention, control, and cleanup procedures.**

**BMP No. F.1 – Post-Construction Inspections**

**Brief Description of BMP:** The Village of Vernon Hills has developed and implemented an employee training program to help educate employees about the impacts of the pollution generated by municipal activities and operations and the steps that they can take to reduce those impacts. The employee training program teaches employees about the following: the impacts of stormwater runoff on receiving water bodies; the activities and operations that may be sources of stormwater pollution and/or non-stormwater discharges; the roles and responsibilities of each department and each individual employee in reducing the amount of pollution generated by municipal activities and operations; selecting and implementing stormwater best management practices; and, managing and maintaining green infrastructure practices.

Employees are subjected to a software-based employee training program, which provides baseline training on municipal pollution prevention/good housekeeping and are

encouraged to attend relevant training opportunities that appear on the list of known employee training resources and opportunities provided by the QLP. Additionally, the Village of Vernon Hills works to identify and develop employee training resources and opportunities that contain educational materials tailored to those activities and operations conducted by specific departments and employees.

**Measurable Goal:** Continue to develop and implement employee training program.

### **BMP No. F.2 – Inspection and Maintenance Program**

**Brief Description of BMP:** The Village of Vernon Hills regularly inspects and maintains municipally owned or operated properties and infrastructure, including streets, parking lots, stormwater management facilities, storm sewers, landscaped areas, and maintenance facilities. The primary goal of the operation and maintenance program is to address municipal infrastructure repair and maintenance needs in a way that reduces the amount of pollution that collects or that is generated on municipally owned or operated properties. Consequently, the Village of Vernon Hills works to incorporate pollution prevention and good housekeeping into its day-to-day activities and operations. During Permit Year 22, the Village of Vernon Hills repaired/cleaned 30 catch basins, performed 12 before/after storm patrols, televised and cleaned 2262 linear feet of storm sewer ranging from 12”-42” and cleaned, 5 occurrences of cleaning of dams/abutments and inspected 11 CDS structures. The Village streets were swept multiple times in 2024, totaling 8,400 lane miles of swept roadway significantly reducing the amount of pollutants entering the storm sewer system.

**Measurable Goal:** Continue to implement inspection and maintenance program. Continue to incorporate pollution prevention and good housekeeping practices into day-to-day activities and operations.

### **BMP No. F.3 – Municipal Operations Storm Water Control**

**Brief Description of BMP:** As part of its pollution prevention/good housekeeping efforts, the Village of Vernon Hills has identified municipal activities and operations with the potential to cause stormwater pollution or result in a non-stormwater discharge (e.g., vehicle maintenance, winter roadway maintenance). One such activity is continuous deflective systems (Hydro-Carbon) cleaning, of which 11 structures were cleaned in 2024. The Village of Vernon Hills works to incorporate pollution prevention and good housekeeping practices into these activities and operations. The Village has reduced our Rock Salt purchases from over 2000 tons to 1600 tons on an annual basis. The use of Beet Juice and related ice control products are utilized to reduce impacts to our Lakes and Streams.

**Measurable Goal:** Continue to incorporate pollution prevention and good housekeeping practices into day-to-day activities and operations.

**BMP No. F.4 – Municipal Operations Waste Disposal**

**Brief Description of BMP:** Waste management consists of implementing non-structural (i.e., procedural) and structural pollution prevention and good housekeeping practices for handling, storing, and disposing of wastes generated by municipal activities and operations. Through its employee training and operation and maintenance programs, the Village of Vernon Hills works to incorporate these waste management practices into its day-to-day activities and operations to prevent the release of waste into the storm sewer system.

**Measurable Goal:** Continue to incorporate waste management practices into day-to-day activities and operations.

**BMP No. F.6 – Other Municipal Operations Controls**

**Brief Description of BMP:** The Village of Vernon Hills has developed spill prevention, control, and cleanup procedures to prevent and respond to spills that result from municipal activities and operations. Through its employee training and operation and maintenance programs, the Village of Vernon Hills works to incorporate these spill prevention, control, and cleanup procedures into its day-to-day activities and operations to prevent the release of spills into the storm sewer system.

**Measurable Goal:** Continue to incorporate spill prevention, control, and cleanup procedures into day-to-day activities and operations.

## Part C. MS4 Information and Data Collection Results, Year 22

### Annual Monitoring and Data Collection, Year 22

Information and data that the MS4 collected to meet the monitoring requirement of the version of IEPA's General NPDES Permit No. ILR40 that applied to the reporting period are summarized below.

The MS4 revised their SMPP to coincide with the March 2016 ILR40 permit. As described in the revised SMPP there are extensive monitoring efforts already underway across the County. The MS4 is located in and participates in the Des Plaines River Watershed Workgroup (DRWW), supports Lake County Health Department (LCHD) efforts. The QLP section of the report describes the status of Lake County waters using information gathered by these workgroups, the LCHD and IEPA.

In compliance with the deicing activities permitting requirement in the General NPDES Permit No. ILR40, Part III, Item D, this MS4 satisfies the permit requirement of participating in the watershed group(s) by maintaining membership in the following workgroup(s):

- The Des Plaines River Watershed Workgroup (DRWW)

The following is a brief summary of the efforts described in more detail in the SMPP.

- The Des Plaines River Watershed Workgroup (DRWW) monitors water quality in the Des Plaines River and tributaries to accurately identify the quality of the river ecosystems as well as stressors associated with non-attainment of water quality standards and designated uses. During the current YR22 reporting period, DRWW's monitoring program included Water/Sediment sampling and analysis at 73 Monitoring Locations for 2024; 20 sites were sampled for biota and habitat, 14 sites for short-term data sonde deployment and 17 sites for benthic chlorophyll a; Continuous water quality and flow monitoring with data sondes and Chlorophyll a sampling and analysis at 3 Monitoring Locations. An annual water chemistry monitoring report was submitted to Illinois EPA on behalf of DRWW members in March 2024, which covers the NPDES II monitoring requirements for MS4 communities that are DRWW members. The DRWW continued development of the Nutrient Assessment Reduction Plan (NARP) that was submitted to the Illinois EPA on December 29, 2024. Current DRWW member list is located at (URL: <http://www.drww.org/members>).
- The North Branch Watershed Workgroup (NBWW) monitors water quality in the North Branch Chicago River and tributaries to accurately identify the quality of the river ecosystems as well as stressors associated with non-attainment of water quality standards and designated uses. Monitoring data will allow for a greater understanding of water quality impairments, identify priority restoration activities, and track water quality improvements. The Workgroup is committed to an approach for attaining water quality standards that focuses on stakeholder involvement, monitoring, and locally led decision-making based on sound science. Comprehensive baseline monitoring has been completed at all 25 sites for water column chemistry. Analysis and reporting of 2020-2021 fish, habitat, macroinvertebrate, and sediment chemistry was completed March 2023. The NBWW will continue to support the North Branch Watershed Planning Committee and the North Branch Watershed Consortium through regular discussion at

general meetings. An annual water chemistry monitoring report was submitted to Illinois EPA on behalf of NBWW members on January 23, 2025, which covers the NPDES II monitoring requirements for MS4 communities that are NBWW members. The NBWW continues to progress on developing a NBWW Nutrient Assessment Reduction Plan (NARP) based on the NBWW NARP Workplan submitted to the Illinois EPA on December 31, 2021. NBWW deployed continuous monitoring data sondes to measure dissolved oxygen (D.O), pH, temperature, and specific conductance at 3 sites upstream, within and downstream of the Skokie Lagoons. Progress made on the NBWW NARP is summarized in the annual water chemistry monitoring report submitted to the Illinois EPA. The NBWW has continued to coordinate with the Illinois EPA on the progress of the NBWW NARP Workplan and NARP development. Current NBWW member list is located at (URL: [www.nbwwil.org](http://www.nbwwil.org)).

- The LCHD Ecological Services Department has been collecting water quality data on Lake County lakes since the late 1960s. Since 2000, 176 different lakes have been studied and data collected on temperature, dissolved oxygen, phosphorus, nitrogen, solids, pH, alkalinity, chloride, conductivity, water clarity, the plant community and shoreline characteristics. Lake summary reports can be found (URL: <https://www.lakecountyil.gov/2400/Lake-Reports>).
- Lake Michigan Beaches have a significant portion of the Lake Michigan Beaches listed as impaired. The LCHD samples beaches from approximately Memorial Day to Labor Day. These results are used by the LCHD, in concert with other data collected by IEPA, to determine if TMDL implementation recommendations have resulted in load reductions and improved overall beach health.
- Inland Beaches are monitored bimonthly from May to September by Lake County Health Department's Ecological Services Department. Bacteria concentrations at inland beaches and recreational areas resulting in high concentrations of E coli bacteria are the basis of swim bans. The IEPA uses the number and duration of swim bans to assess whether or not the beaches support designated uses for primary contact recreation.

## Part D. MS4 Summary of Year 23 Stormwater Activities

The table below indicates the stormwater management activities that the MS4 plans to undertake during Year 23. Additional information about the stormwater management activities that the MS4 will perform is provided in the section following the table.

**Note: “X” indicates BMPs that will be implemented during Year 23**

**✓ indicates BMPs that were changed during Year 23**

Year 23	
MS4	
<b>A. Public Education and Outreach</b>	
X	A.1 Distributed Paper Material
	A.2 Speaking Engagement
	A.3 Public Service Announcement
X	A.4 Community Event
	A.5 Classroom Education Material
X	A.6 Other Public Education
<b>B. Public Participation/Involvement</b>	
	B.1 Public Panel
	B.2 Educational Volunteer
X	B.3 Stakeholder Meeting
X	B.4 Public Hearing
	B.5 Volunteer Monitoring
X	B.6 Program Coordination
X	B.7 Other Public Involvement
<b>C. Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination</b>	
X	C.1 Storm Sewer Map Preparation
X	C.2 Regulatory Control Program
X	C.3 Detection/Elimination Prioritization Plan
X	C.4 Illicit Discharge Tracing Procedures
X	C.5 Illicit Source Removal Procedures
X	C.6 Program Evaluation and Assessment
X	C.7 Visual Dry Weather Screening
	C.8 Pollutant Field Testing
X	C.9 Public Notification
X	C.10 Other Illicit Discharge Controls

Year 23	
MS4	
<b>D. Construction Site Runoff Control</b>	
X	D.1 Regulatory Control Program
X	D.2 Erosion and Sediment Control BMPs
X	D.3 Other Waste Control Program
X	D.4 Site Plan Review Procedures
X	D.5 Public Information Handling Procedures
X	D.6 Site Inspection/Enforcement Procedures
	D.7 Other Construction Site Runoff Controls
<b>E. Post-Construction Runoff Control</b>	
	E.1 Community Control Strategy
X	E.2 Regulatory Control Program
X	E.3 Long Term O&M Procedures
X	E.4 Pre-Const Review of BMP Designs
X	E.5 Site Inspections During Construction
X	E.6 Post-Construction Inspections
	E.7 Other Post-Const Runoff Controls
<b>F. Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping</b>	
	F.1 Employee Training Program
X	F.2 Inspection and Maintenance Program
X	F.3 Municipal Operations Storm Water Control
X	F.4 Municipal Operations Waste Disposal
	F.5 Flood Management/Assess Guidelines
X	F.6 Other Municipal Operations Controls

## **Stormwater Management Activities: Year 23**

During Year 23, the Village of Vernon Hills plans to continue to perform a variety of stormwater management activities, as described in the MS4's SWMP and in brief below. The MS4's SWMP is attached for reference.

### **A. Public Education and Outreach**

As part of its stormwater management program, the Village of Vernon Hills conducts a number of Public Education and Outreach activities that educate and inform the public about the impacts of stormwater runoff on receiving water bodies and the steps that the public can take to reduce those impacts. In coordination and collaboration with the QLP, the Village of Vernon Hills utilizes a variety of best management practices (BMPs) to educate and inform the public about these issues, including: distributing paper material containing information about stormwater management; sponsoring and/or attending community outreach events, including meetings, to provide information about stormwater management; publicizing household hazardous waste collection events sponsored by the Solid Waste Agency of Lake County (SWALCO) to encourage the public to participate in such events; upon request, providing classroom education on stormwater management to local students and teachers; upon request, providing training and information to local students and teachers interested in conducting storm drain stenciling; and, providing, on its website, information about stormwater management and its stormwater management program.

#### **BMP No. A.1 – Distributed Paper Material**

**Brief Description of BMP:** In addition to the QLP's efforts to distribute informational materials throughout Lake County, the Village of Vernon Hills works to compile and distribute within the Village of Vernon Hills a variety of materials related to stormwater management from a variety of sources, including the Lake County Stormwater Management Commission (i.e., QLP), IEPA, US EPA, the Center for Watershed Protection, and other agencies and organizations. The Village of Vernon Hills maintains a list of the types of materials it has made available to the public and the methods through which such materials have been distributed.

#### **BMP No. A.4 – Community Event**

**Brief Description of BMP:** In addition to the QLP's efforts to sponsor or co-sponsor workshops and provide educational presentations, the Village of Vernon Hills sponsors and/or attends community outreach events, including meetings, to provide information on stormwater management-related topics. Audiences attending such events may include homeowners associations, lake management associations, businesses, and neighborhood groups. The Village of Vernon Hills maintains a list of the stormwater management-related community outreach events, including meetings, that it has attended.

Additionally, the Village of Vernon Hills supports the efforts of the Solid Waste Agency of Lake County (SWALCO) to implement programs throughout Lake County that increase reuse, recycling, and composting and reduce reliance on landfills. As part of these waste management efforts, SWALCO conducts dozens of household hazardous waste collection events each year at various locations throughout the county. The Village of Vernon Hills publicizes these household hazardous waste collection events to encourage the public to participate in such events.

**BMP No. A.6 – Other Public Education**

**Brief Description of BMP:** In addition to the QLP's efforts to distribute information via its website, the Village of Vernon Hills maintains a website that contains materials and resources related to stormwater management. The website includes a web page that provides information about IEPA's NPDES Stormwater Program, information about the Village of Vernon Hills stormwater management program, including its SMPP, NOI, Permit, and Annual Reports, and links to a number of other stormwater management-related resources, including the Lake County Stormwater Management Commission's (i.e., QLP's) website.

**B. Public Participation/Involvement**

As part of its stormwater management program, the Village of Vernon Hills conducts a number of Public Participation/Involvement activities that involve and engage the public in the implementation of its stormwater management program. In coordination and collaboration with the QLP, the Village of Vernon Hills utilizes a variety of best management practices (BMPs) to involve and engage the public in these efforts, including: attending and encouraging public participation in stakeholder meetings; presenting information about stormwater management and its stormwater management program at public meetings; attending and participating in Municipal Advisory Committee (MAC) meetings to discuss and coordinate on the implementation of IEPA's NPDES Stormwater Program; and, providing a phone number and maintaining a process for receiving and processing information about stormwater-related problems and concerns from the public.

**BMP No. B.3 – Stakeholder Meeting**

**Brief Description of BMP:** Watershed stakeholder meetings are regularly held throughout Lake County as part of new and/or ongoing watershed planning and/or project implementation efforts. When the Village of Vernon Hills is a stakeholder in a watershed planning and/or project implementation effort (i.e., any part of the MS4 is located within the boundaries of a watershed subject to a planning and/or project implementation effort), the

Village of Vernon Hills participates in scheduled stakeholder meetings and publicizes the meetings to encourage other stakeholders (i.e., homeowner associations, lakes management associations, landowners) to participate.

**BMP No. B.4 – Public Hearing**

**Brief Description of BMP:** The Village of Vernon Hills coordinates and conducts public meetings as well as committee meetings that are open to the public. A bi-monthly, Village Board Meeting is open to the public and involves the Village Board, which includes seven publicly elected representatives. Periodically, information about the Village of Vernon Hills stormwater management program is presented at such meetings.

**BMP No. B.6 – Program involvement**

**Brief Description of BMP:** SMC serves as a Qualifying Local Program (QLP) for all Lake County MS4s. In this role, in 2002, SMC proactively formed the Municipal Advisory Committee (MAC) to provide a forum for representatives of local MS4s to discuss, among other topics, the implementation of IEPA's NPDES Stormwater Program. SMC plans to continue to facilitate quarterly MAC meetings to bring Lake County MS4s together to discuss the implementation of IEPA's NPDES Stormwater Program. The Village of Vernon Hills will continue to attend and participate in the quarterly MAC meetings.

**BMP No. B.7 – Other public involvement**

**Brief Description of BMP:** The Village of Vernon Hills provides and publicizes a phone number that the public can use to submit information about stormwater-related problems and concerns. The Village of Vernon Hills documents and tracks the resolutions of problems and complaints reported by the public, including reports of illicit discharges and illegal dumping.

**C. Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination**

As part of its stormwater management program, the Village of Vernon Hills conducts a number of activities related to Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination. In accordance with the current version of the Permit, the Village of Vernon Hills' Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination program includes:

- A storm sewer system map showing the locations of all outfalls and the names and locations of all waters that receive discharges from those outfalls;

- An ordinance or other regulatory mechanism that prohibits all non-stormwater discharges into the storm sewer system and provides the authority for appropriate enforcement procedures and actions;
- A plan to detect and address all non-stormwater discharges, including illegal dumping, into the storm sewer system;
- A program to educate public employees, businesses, and the general public about the hazards associated with illegal discharges and improper disposal of waste; and,
- Periodic (annual is recommended) inspection of storm sewer outfalls for detection of non-stormwater discharges and illegal dumping.

**BMP No. C.1 – Sewer Map Preparation**

**Brief Description of BMP:** The Village of Vernon Hills has prepared a storm sewer system map showing the locations of all outfalls and the names and locations of all waters that receive discharges from those outfalls. The storm sewer system map is periodically maintained and updated to include outfalls associated with development projects and any previously unidentified outfalls.

**BMP No. C.2 – Regulatory Control Program**

**Brief Description of BMP:** The Village of Vernon Hills has adopted an illicit discharge ordinance that prohibits all non-stormwater discharges into the storm sewer system and provides the authority for appropriate enforcement procedures and actions. In addition, the Watershed Development Ordinance (WDO) includes provisions that prohibit illicit discharges to the storm sewer system during construction (i.e., prior to final site stabilization) on development sites.

**BMP No. C.3 – Detection/Elimination Prioritization Plan**

**Brief Description of BMP:** The Village of Vernon Hills has developed and implemented a plan to detect and address all non-stormwater discharges, including illegal dumping, into the storm sewer system. Methods used to detect illicit discharges include annual visual dry weather screening, employee reporting, and public reporting. Outfalls with suspicious discharges are assessed to determine whether or not flow is observed and whether or not any indicators of an illicit discharge are present. The results of each inspection are recorded on a form, and based on such results, appropriate follow-up actions are prescribed. Such follow-up actions may include additional inspections, additional water quality sampling and analysis, source tracking, and source removal. Follow-up activities are generally prioritized based on the scope and magnitude of the associated illicit discharge.

**BMP No. C.4 – Illicit Discharge Tracing Procedures**

**Brief Description of BMP:** The Village of Vernon Hills has developed procedures for tracking illicit discharges to their source. Methods that can be used to track illicit discharges to their source include drainage area investigations, storm sewer network investigations, and on-site investigations, which may involve smoke testing, dye testing, and/or video inspection to pinpoint the exact source of an illicit discharge. When an illicit discharge is identified, appropriate source tracking procedures are selected and used to track the discharge to its source.

**BMP No. C.5 – Illicit Source Removal Procedures**

**Brief Description of BMP:** The Village of Vernon Hills has developed procedures for removing illicit discharges from the storm drain system once they have been tracked to their source. These procedures generally include: using an independent third-party to confirm the presence of an illicit discharge; notifying the landowner of the presence of an illicit discharge; requesting and conducting a site inspection with the landowner to pinpoint the source of the illicit discharge and to identify potential remedial actions; notifying the landowner of the need to take corrective action; and, if necessary, enforcing the provisions of the illicit discharge ordinance to have the illicit discharge removed from the storm sewer system.

**BMP No. C.6 – Program Evaluation and Assessment**

**Brief Description of BMP:** The Village of Vernon Hills periodically evaluates and assesses the effectiveness of its Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination program. This evaluation is generally based on the results of the Village of Vernon Hills visual dry weather screening program and on the number of non-stormwater discharges and illegal dumping incidents identified through both employee and public reporting. If the Village of Vernon Hills Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination program is effective, it is logical to assume that, over time, the number of non-stormwater discharges and illegal dumping incidents identified through visual dry weather screening, employee reporting, and public reporting will decline.

**BMP No. C.7 – Visual Dry Weather Screening**

**Brief Description of BMP:** In accordance with the current version of the Permit, the Village of Vernon Hills conducts annual inspections of storm sewer outfalls for detection of non-stormwater discharges and illegal dumping. During such inspections, outfalls are assessed to determine whether or not flow is observed and whether or not any indicators of an illicit discharge are present. The results of each inspection are recorded on a form, and based on such results, appropriate follow-up actions are prescribed. Such follow-up actions

may include additional inspections, additional water quality sampling and analysis, source tracking, and source removal. Follow-up activities are generally prioritized based on the scope and magnitude of the associated illicit discharge.

**BMP No. C.9 – Public Notification**

**Brief Description of BMP:** The Village of Vernon Hills provides and publicizes a phone number that the public can use to submit information about stormwater-related problems and concerns. The Village of Vernon Hills documents and tracks the resolutions of problems and complaints reported by the public, including reports of illicit discharges and illegal dumping.

**BMP No. C.10 – Other Illicit Discharge Controls**

**Brief Description of BMP:** As part of its Public Education and Outreach program, the Village of Vernon Hills distributes informational materials to businesses and the general public about the hazards associated with illegal discharges and the improper disposal of waste.

**D. Construction Site Runoff Control**

Lake County has adopted a county-wide Watershed Development Ordinance (WDO) that in accordance with the current version of the Permit, the Village of Vernon Hills has developed and implemented a Construction Site Runoff Control program to reduce the amount of pollution contained in construction stormwater runoff that enters the Village of Vernon Hills storm sewer system from development sites. The Village of Vernon Hills has adopted the Lake County WDO and is currently certified by SMC to administer and enforce the provisions of the WDO. The Village of Vernon Hills designated Enforcement Officer is responsible for reviewing and permitting development plans and for administering and enforcing the provisions of the WDO within the Village of Vernon Hills.

**BMP No. D.1 – Regulatory Control Program**

**Brief Description of BMP:** The WDO is the regulatory mechanism that requires the use of soil erosion and sediment controls on development sites throughout Lake County. The soil erosion and sediment control provisions of the WDO are included in Article IV, Section B.1.j. of the ordinance. At a minimum, these standards apply to any development project that hydrologically disturbs 5,000 square feet of land or more. As a Certified Community, the Village of Vernon Hills is responsible for the administration and enforcement of the WDO within the Village of Vernon Hills.

**BMP No. D.2 – Erosion and Sediment Control BMPs**

**Brief Description of BMP:** Article IV, Section B.1.j of the WDO specifies the soil erosion and sediment control measures that must be used in conjunction with any land disturbing activities conducted on a development site. It specifies the use of a variety of soil erosion and sediment control BMPs including: minimize soil disturbance; protect adjoining properties from erosion and sedimentation; complete installation of soil erosion and sediment control features prior to commencement of hydrologic disturbance; stabilize disturbed areas within 7 days of active disturbance; avoid disturbance of streams whenever possible; use controls that are appropriate for the size of the tributary drainage area; protect functioning storm sewers from sediment; prevent sediment from being tracked onto adjoining streets; limit earthen embankments to slopes of 3H:1V; identify soil stockpile areas; and utilize statewide standards and specifications as guidance for soil erosion and sediment control. As a Certified Community, the Village of Vernon Hills is responsible for the administration and enforcement of the WDO within the Village of Vernon.

**BMP No. D.3 – Other Waste Control Program**

**Brief Description of BMP:** Article IV, Section B.1.j of the WDO includes provisions related to the control of waste and debris during construction on development sites. As a Certified Community, the Village of Vernon Hills is responsible for the administration and enforcement of the WDO within the Village of Vernon Hills.

**BMP No. D.4 – Site Plan Review Procedures**

**Brief Description of BMP:** A community's designated enforcement officer is responsible for reviewing and permitting development plans and for administering and enforcing the provisions of the WDO. Within certified communities (i.e., communities certified by SMC to administer and enforce the provisions of the WDO), responsibility for reviewing and permitting development plans and for administering and enforcing the provisions of the WDO lie with the MS4; within non-certified communities, the designated enforcement officer is SMC's chief engineer. Since the Village of Vernon Hills is a Certified Community, the Village of Vernon Hills designated enforcement officer is responsible for reviewing and permitting development plans and for administering and enforcing the provisions of the WDO within the Village of Vernon Hills.

**BMP No. D.5 – Public Information Handling Procedures**

**Brief Description of BMP:** The Village of Vernon Hills provides and publicizes a phone number that the public can use to submit information about stormwater-related problems and concerns. The Village of Vernon Hills documents and tracks the resolutions of problems and complaints reported by the public, including reports of soil erosion and sediment control

issues on development sites. Since the Village of Vernon Hills is a Certified Community, the Village of Vernon Hills designated enforcement officer is responsible for investigating reports of soil erosion and sediment control issues on development sites within the Village of Vernon Hills.

**BMP No. D.6 – Site Inspection/Enforcement Procedures**

**Brief Description of BMP:** Article VI of the WDO contains both recommended and minimum requirements for the inspection of development sites. Within certified communities, the community's designated enforcement officer is responsible for conducting these inspections; within non-certified communities, SMC's chief engineer is responsible for conducting these inspections. Per the ordinance, these inspections may be conducted by a community's designated enforcement officer at any stage in the construction process. For major developments, as defined by the WDO, the enforcement officer conducts site inspections, at a minimum, upon completion of installation of soil erosion and sediment controls, prior to the start of any other land disturbing activities, and after final stabilization and landscaping, prior to the removal of soil erosion and sediment controls. Since the Village of Vernon Hills is a Certified Community, the Village of Vernon Hills designated enforcement officer is responsible for conducting site inspections within the Village of Vernon Hills. Article VII of the WDO specifies the legal actions that may be taken and the penalties that may be imposed if the provisions of the WDO are violated. If development activities on a development site are not in compliance with the requirements of the WDO, the enforcement officer may issue a stop work order on all development activity on the development site or on the development activities that are in direct violation of the WDO. In addition, failure to comply with any of the requirements of the WDO constitutes a violation of the WDO, and any person convicted of violating the WDO may be fined.

**E. Post-Construction Runoff Control**

In accordance with the current version of the Permit, the Village of Vernon Hills has developed and implemented a Post-Construction Runoff Control program to reduce the amount of pollution contained in post-construction stormwater runoff that enters the Village of Vernon Hills' storm sewer system from development sites. The Village of Vernon Hills has adopted the Lake County WDO and is currently certified by SMC to administer and enforce the provisions of the WDO. The Village of Vernon Hills designated Enforcement Officer is responsible for reviewing and permitting development plans and for administering and enforcing the provisions of the WDO within the Village of Vernon Hills.

**BMP No. E.2 – Regulatory Control Program**

**Brief Description of BMP:** The WDO requires all applicants to adopt stormwater management strategies for controlling post-construction stormwater runoff on development sites. As outlined in Article IV, Section B.1 of the WDO, all applicants must

adopt stormwater management strategies that minimize increases in stormwater runoff rates, volumes, and pollutant loads from development sites. Proposed stormwater management strategies must address the runoff volume reduction requirements described in Article IV, Section B.1.d of the WDO and must include appropriate stormwater BMPs to address the other applicable post-construction runoff control requirements of the WDO. As a Certified Community, the Village of Vernon Hills is responsible for the administration and enforcement of the WDO within the Village of Vernon Hills.

**BMP No. E.3 – Long Term O & M Procedures**

**Brief Description of BMP:** The Village of Vernon Hills has developed long-term operation and maintenance procedures to help reduce the amount of pollution contained in post-construction stormwater runoff that enters the Village of Vernon Hills storm sewer system. The procedures address both new and existing developments.

The Village of Vernon Hills long-term operation and maintenance procedures address new development via the WDO. The WDO requires that maintenance plans be developed for all stormwater management systems designed to serve major developments, as defined by the WDO. Such maintenance plans must include: a description of all maintenance tasks; an identification of the party or parties responsible for performing such maintenance tasks; a description of all permanent maintenance easements or access agreements, overland flow paths, and compensatory storage areas; and a description of dedicated sources of funding for the required maintenance. The WDO also requires that all stormwater management systems be located within a deed or plat restriction (e.g., easement) to ensure that the system remains in place in perpetuity and that access to the system is maintained in perpetuity for inspection and maintenance purposes. As a Certified Community, the Village of Vernon Hills is responsible for the administration and enforcement of the WDO within the Village of Vernon Hills.

The Village of Vernon Hills long-term operation and maintenance procedures address existing development via an inspection and maintenance program. The Village of Vernon Hills periodically inspects all existing post-construction stormwater management facilities (e.g., detention facilities), including those that have a maintenance plan (i.e., facilities located within developments regulated by the WDO) as well as those that do not (i.e., facilities located within developments predating, and therefore not regulated by, the WDO), to identify any maintenance tasks and/or any repairs that need to be completed. Responsible parties are notified of the inspection results and of the need to complete any maintenance tasks or repairs.

**BMP No. E.4 – Pre-Construction Review of BMP Designs**

**Brief Description of BMP:** As described above, a community's designated enforcement officer is responsible for reviewing and permitting development plans and for administering and enforcing the provisions of the WDO. This includes a review of the

stormwater BMPs that will be used to meet the post-construction runoff control requirements of the WDO. Since the Village of Vernon Hills is a Certified Community, the Village of Vernon Hills designated enforcement officer is responsible for reviewing and permitting development plans and for administering and enforcing the provisions of the WDO within the village.

**BMP No. E.5 – Site Inspections During Construction**

**Brief Description of BMP:** As described above, Article VI of the WDO contains both recommended and minimum requirements for the inspection of development sites. Per the ordinance, these inspections may be conducted by a community's designated enforcement officer at any stage in the construction process. For major developments, as defined by the WDO, the enforcement officer conducts site inspections, at a minimum, upon completion of installation of soil erosion and sediment controls, prior to the start of any other land disturbing activities, and after final stabilization and landscaping, prior to the removal of soil erosion and sediment controls. Since the Village of Vernon Hills is a Certified Community, the Village of Vernon Hills designated enforcement officer is responsible for conducting site inspections within the village.

**BMP No. E.6 – Post-Construction Inspections**

**Brief Description of BMP:** As described above, Article VI of the WDO contains both recommended and minimum requirements for the inspection of development sites. Per the ordinance, these inspections may be conducted by a community's designated enforcement officer at any stage in the construction process, including after final stabilization and landscaping, after the removal of soil erosion and sediment controls. For major developments; as defined by the WDO, the enforcement officer conducts site inspections, at a minimum, upon completion of installation of soil erosion and sediment controls, prior to the start of any other land disturbing activities, and after final stabilization and landscaping, prior to the removal of soil erosion and sediment controls. Since the Village of Vernon Hills is a Certified Community, the Village of Vernon Hills designated enforcement officer is responsible for conducting site inspections within the village.

**F. Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping**

In accordance with the current version of the Permit, the Village of Vernon Hills has developed and implemented a Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping program to reduce the amount of pollution generated by municipal activities and operations. The program includes: an employee training program; an operation and maintenance program that incorporates pollution prevention and good housekeeping practices into day-to-day activities and operations; stormwater pollution control and non-stormwater discharge control procedures; waste management and disposal procedures; and spill prevention, control, and cleanup procedures.

### **BMP No. F.1 – Post-Construction Inspections**

**Brief Description of BMP:** The Village of Vernon Hills has developed and implemented an employee training program to help educate employees about the impacts of the pollution generated by municipal activities and operations and the steps that they can take to reduce those impacts. The employee training program teaches employees about the following: the impacts of stormwater runoff on receiving water bodies; the activities and operations that may be sources of stormwater pollution and/or non-stormwater discharges; the roles and responsibilities of each department and each individual employee in reducing the amount of pollution generated by municipal activities and operations; selecting and implementing stormwater best management practices; and, managing and maintaining green infrastructure practices.

Employees are subjected to a software-based employee training program, which provides baseline training on municipal pollution prevention/good housekeeping and are encouraged to attend relevant training opportunities that appear on the list of known employee training resources and opportunities provided by the QLP. Additionally, the Village of Vernon Hills works to identify and develop employee training resources and opportunities that contain educational materials tailored to those activities and operations conducted by specific departments and employees.

### **BMP No. F.2 – Inspection and Maintenance Program**

**Brief Description of BMP:** The Village of Vernon Hills regularly inspects and maintains municipally owned or operated properties and infrastructure, including streets, parking lots, stormwater management facilities, storm sewers, landscaped areas, and maintenance facilities. A primary goal of the operation and maintenance program is to address municipal infrastructure repair and maintenance needs in a way that reduces the amount of pollution that collects or that is generated on municipally owned or operated properties. Consequently, the Village of Vernon Hills works to incorporate pollution prevention and good housekeeping into its day-to-day activities and operations.

### **BMP No. F.3 – Municipal Operations Storm Water Control**

**Brief Description of BMP:** As part of its pollution prevention/good housekeeping efforts, the Village of Vernon Hills has identified municipal activities and operations with the potential to cause stormwater pollution or result in a non-stormwater discharge (e.g., vehicle maintenance, winter roadway maintenance). Through its employee training and operation and maintenance programs, the Village of Vernon Hills works to incorporate pollution prevention and good housekeeping practices into these activities and operations.

**BMP No. F.4 – Municipal Operations Waste Disposal**

**Brief Description of BMP:** Waste management consists of implementing non-structural (i.e., procedural) and structural pollution prevention and good housekeeping practices for handling, storing, and disposing of wastes generated by municipal activities and operations. Through its employee training and operation and maintenance programs, the Village of Vernon Hills works to incorporate these waste management practices into its day-to-day activities and operations to prevent the release of waste into the storm sewer system.

**BMP No. F.6 – Other Municipal Operations Controls**

**Brief Description of BMP:** The Village of Vernon Hills has developed spill prevention, control, and cleanup procedures to prevent and respond to spills that result from municipal activities and operations. Through its employee training and operation and maintenance programs, the Village of Vernon Hills works to incorporate these spill prevention, control, and cleanup procedures into its day-to-day activities and operations to prevent the release of spills into the storm sewer system.

## Part E2. QLP Status of Compliance with Permit Conditions, Year 22

IL EPA issued its General NPDES Permit No. ILR40 effective March 1, 2016 (the first day of Year 14). SMC reviewed the permit, compared it to the previous permit, summarized the changes, and evaluated what the changes appear to mean for Lake County MS4s. Based on these findings, SMC revised its SMPP template that it provides to Lake County communities in August 2016; the final draft was provided in November 2016. SMC has provided annual updates to the Annual Facilities Inspection Report template since 2016.

Please note the permit effective on March 1, 2016, expired on February 28, 2021, and is currently being administratively continued by the IL EPA. In order to comply with the General NPDES Permit No. ILR40 issued in 2016, the Year 22 Annual Reporting Template includes updates on SMC QLP activities, DRWW and NBWW activities, and various text references of the 2016 permit.

The Lake County Stormwater Management Commission (SMC) serves as a Qualifying Local Program (QLP) for MS4s in Lake County. In accordance with IL EPA's NPDES General Permit No. ILR40, as a QLP, SMC performs activities related to each of the six minimum control measures. The stormwater management activities that the QLP performed during Year 22 are described below.

### **A. PUBLIC EDUCATION AND OUTREACH**

---

#### **A.1 Distributed Paper Material**

Measurable Goal(s):

- Distribute informational materials from the “take away” rack at SMC. Upon request, distribute materials directly to municipalities for local distribution.

Year 22 QLP activities:

- SMC distributed a variety of informational materials related to stormwater management through its “take away” rack and website.
- Upon request, informational materials are distributed directly to Lake County MS4s in PDF format for use on community websites, in community newsletters, and in community “take away” racks.
- During Year 22 SMC distributed over 2,100 paper informational materials during public outreach, community events, stakeholder meetings, and its “take-away” rack. The materials consisted of a variety of topics related to stormwater management, water quality, flood mitigation, and winter best management practices.

#### **A.2 Speaking Engagement**

Measurable Goal(s):

- Provide educational presentations related to Illinois EPA's NPDES Stormwater Program at MAC meetings. Upon request, provide educational presentations related to Illinois EPA's NPDES Stormwater Program to Lake County MS4s.
- Upon request or download “The Big Picture: Water Quality, Regulations & NPDES” to Lake County MS4s.

Year 22 QLP activities:

- SMC continued to provide and make available NPDES related information on our website, social media platforms, and email distribution list.
- SMC continued to provide educational presentations related to Illinois EPA's NPDES Stormwater Program at MAC meetings on April 2, 2024 and November 20, 2024.
- SMC staff hosted the 2024 Homeowners Association Workshop and Vendors Expo on September 12, 2024. SMC staff presented the following topics:
  - Stormwater Facility Maintenance
  - Watershed Management Board Grant Program

- SMC staff presented at the Annual All-Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan meeting held on November 20, 2024
- SMC staff presented at the DECI 101 Webinar: Introduction to the Designated Erosion Control Inspector Program held on January 18, 2025
- SMC staff presented at the Kane-DuPage Soil & Water Conservation District Stream Diversion & Causeways Workshop on a panel January 29, 2025
- SMC staff presented the following topics at the Enforcement Officer-Certified Wetland Specialist (EO-CWS) Workshop on January 22, 2025
  - Permitting for Permeable Surface Development, Artificial Turf Fields, and Permeable Pavements
  - Commercial Solar Farm Development
  - Threatened and Endangered Species Compliance Requirements for WDO Permitting
  - Updates available on Maps Online

### **A.3 Public Service Announcement**

#### Measurable Goal(s):

- Include public service announcements highlighting community accomplishments related to IL EPA’s NPDES Stormwater Program on social media platforms and via email list distributions.
- Post watershed identification signage with Lake County Division of Transportation (LCDOT) on Roads maintained by the LCDOT.

#### Year 22 QLP activities:

- SMC included announcements highlighting community accomplishments related to IL EPA’s NPDES Stormwater Program on its website, in its monthly newsletter, and through other media outlets ([URL hyperlink](#)).
- SMC continued to coordinate with LCDOT on maintaining watershed identification signage on roads maintained by the LCDOT.
- Watershed identification signage is located throughout the county.
  - Signage updates and name change awareness was provided to Lake County residents during SMC meetings and email notifications based on the USGS renaming of Squaw Creek to Manitou Creek in Lake County. Corrected identification signage has been posted throughout the county.

### **A.4 Community Event**

#### Measurable Goal(s):

- Sponsor or co-sponsor workshop on a topic related to IL EPA’s NPDES Stormwater Program.

#### Year 22 QLP activities:

SMC sponsored or co-sponsored workshops and events on stormwater-related topics, including:

- SMC sponsored the hybrid 2024 Homeowners Association Workshop and Vendor’s Expo held on 09/12/2024 (48 In-person and 30 virtual participants)
- SMC co-sponsored nine (9) winter best management practices (de-icing) workshops with over 1,300 participants and one (1) in-person calibration event with sixteen (16) participants in the Northeastern Illinois region:
  - Winter Best Practices (De-icing) Workshop for Public Roads (6): September 17, 2024 (In-person), September 24, 2024 (In-person), October 3, 2024 (In-person), October 8, 2024 (virtual), October 15, 2024 (virtual), and November 19, 2024 (virtual).
  - Winter Best Practice (De-icing) Workshop for Parking Lots and Sidewalks (3): September 26, 2024 (virtual), October 1, 2024 (In-person), and November 13, 2024 (virtual).
  - Lake County Calibration Event (In-person): October 23, 2024
- SMC sponsored an education table for It’s Our Fox River Day (IOFRD) Port Barrington RiverFest on 9/21/2024. Two (2) SMC staff participated; fifty-four (34) attendees visited the education table during the course of the event.

- SMC sponsored one (1) DECI 101 Webinar held on 1/18/2025 (88 participants), one (1) Designated Erosion Control Inspector (DECI) Workshop held on 2/11/2025 (320 participants), and one (1) Make-Up DECI Workshop on 3/21/2024 (59 participants).
- SMC sponsored one (1) hybrid Enforcement Officer & Certified Wetland Specialist Workshop held on 01/22/2025 (28 In-person and 113 virtual participants).

#### **A.5 Classroom Education**

##### Measurable Goal(s):

- Develop and compile information for stormwater educational kit for distribution upon request.
- Provide materials and training on storm sewer inlet stenciling kits to teachers upon request.

##### Year 22 QLP activities:

- SMC continued to offer educational stormwater materials.

#### **A.6 Other Public Education**

##### Measurable Goal(s):

- Maintain and update the portion of the SMC website dedicated to IL EPA's NPDES Stormwater Program with resource materials such as model ordinances, case studies, brochures, and web links.

##### Year 22 QLP activities:

- As new information and resource materials become available, they are posted to the SMC website and/or distributed directly to Lake County MS4s, ([URL hyperlink](#)).
- SMC continued to update and maintain an ArcGIS geospatial web tool for Lake County MS4 programs that indicates TMDL, 303(b), 305(d), HUC-12 watershed information and other information within an MS4 defined boundary, ([URL hyperlink](#)).
- SMC maintained an ArcGIS geospatial web tool for Lake County watersheds where inventoried, allowing the public to see inventory's of ravine, stream and detention basin information ([URL hyperlink](#)).
- SMC maintained an ArcGIS geospatial web tool for Lake County Des Plaines River Watershed Water Quality Improvement Project recommendations, ([URL hyperlink](#)).
- SMC maintained an ArcGIS geospatial web tool for Lake County North Branch Chicago River Watershed Water Quality Improvement Project recommendations, ([URL hyperlink](#)).
- SMC maintained reference documents for stormwater best practices, BMPs and green infrastructure practices on its website, ([URL hyperlink](#)).
- SMC continued to make available via the Lake County SMC website, Community Awareness Illicit Discharge Education and Elimination Videos. The online videos are available in English and Spanish; English version, ([URL hyperlink](#)); Spanish version ([URL hyperlink](#)).
- SMC staff maintained a webpage reference resource to Lake County citizens and organizations. The website identifies a list of potential funding sources that communities can utilize and pursue based on the function and characteristic of their project goals: last updated August 2023 ([URL hyperlink](#)).
- SMC made the following videos available to the public on its County YouTube channel:
  - Park City Capital Improvement Project Finalized – June 10, 2024 ([URL hyperlink](#))
  - Sylvan Lake Dam Modifications Ceremonial Groundbreaking ([URL hyperlink](#))
  - Sylvan Lake Dam Modifications Ceremonial Groundbreaking – Full Version ([URL hyperlink](#))
  - SMC INFLOW Webinar Tutorial ([URL hyperlink](#))
  - 2024 Homeowner Association Workshop ([URL hyperlink](#))
  - SMC 2024 Homeowners Association Workshop Quick Clip ([URL hyperlink](#))
  - A How-to Calibration Event for Winter Maintenance Vehicles ([URL hyperlink](#))
  - Winter Maintenance and Best Practices Annual Workshop Explained ([URL hyperlink](#))
  - Round 2.0 DCEO Grants in Action ([URL hyperlink](#))
  - 2025 Designated Erosion Control Inspector 101 Training ([URL hyperlink](#))

- SMC distributed (11) Mainstream Newsletter via email distribution to 52,464 recipients with an opening rate of 54%.
- SMC distributed (9) NPDES related informational emails to 1,908 recipients with an opening rate of 73%.
- SMC distributed (78) stormwater related informational emails to 255,245 recipients with an opening rate of 66%.
- SMC continues to maintain website outreach to the Lake County Community.
  - The following SMC webpages had the following visitors in Year 22:
    - Stormwater Management Commission | Lake County, IL- 7,399 total views
    - Local Watersheds | Lake County, IL- 1,010 views
    - Watershed Development Ordinance Program | Lake County, IL- 3,476 views
    - Stormwater Best Practices | Lake County, IL- 955 views
    - National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II | Lake County, IL- 185 views

## **B. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION/INVOLVEMENT**

---

### **B.1 Public Panel**

#### Measurable Goal(s):

- Provide notice of public meetings on SMC website. Track number of meetings conducted.

#### Year 22 QLP activities:

- Notice of all public meetings continued to be provided on the SMC website and through direct mailings and e-mailings to distribution lists.
- SMC tracked the number of Stormwater Management Committee (SMC) Board meetings, Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meetings, Municipal Advisory Committee (MAC), and Watershed Management Board (WMB) meetings conducted during Year 22. Per records, there were (10) SMC Board meetings, (4) TAC meetings, (2) MAC meetings, and (1) WMB meetings were conducted.
- 4 CIRS community inquiries were received and processed by SMC staff.

### **B.3 Stakeholder Meeting**

#### Measurable Goal(s):

- Provide notice of stakeholder meetings on SMC website.
- Track number of watershed planning committee meetings conducted.
- Establish watershed planning committees for each new watershed planning effort.

#### Year 22 QLP activities:

- Notice of all stakeholder meetings continued to be provided on the SMC website and e-mails to stakeholder lists.
- SMC hosted two (2) public meetings informing stakeholders of the update of the Lake County Comprehensive Stormwater Management Plan.
- SMC tracked the number of stakeholder meetings conducted for the various watershed planning committees during the reporting period. The list below summarizes the watershed planning committee meetings that were conducted during Year 22:
  - Des Plaines River Watershed Workgroup held two (2) General Membership meetings – August 15, 2024, and February 20, 2025. Including (8) Executive Board, (8) Monitoring Committee, and (3) Lakes Committee meetings.
  - Des Plaines River Watershed Workgroup released a newsletter in May 2024 & an annual accomplishments January 2025.
  - North Branch Chicago River Watershed Workgroup held two (2) General Membership meetings – August 14, 2024 and February 19, 2025. Including (8) Executive Board and (6) Monitoring Committee meetings.
  - North Branch Chicago River Watershed Workgroup released a newsletter in January 2025.

- SMC continued to establish and/or assist watershed planning committees for each new watershed planning effort.

## **B.6 Program Coordination**

### Measurable Goal(s):

- Track number of MAC meetings conducted during Year 22.
- Prepare annual report on Qualifying Local Program activities at end of Year 22.

### Year 22 QLP activities:

- SMC tracked the number of Municipal Advisory Committee (MAC) meetings: According to records, there were (2) MAC meetings conducted during this reporting period (04/02/2024 and 11/20/2024).
- The stormwater management activities that SMC performed as a QLP are described in the Annual Facility Inspection Report (i.e., Annual Report) template provided to Lake County MS4s.
- The stormwater management activities that SMC plans to perform as a QLP during Year 23 are described in Part E4 of the Year 22 Annual Report template.

## **C. ILLICIT DISCHARGE DETECTION AND ELIMINATION**

---

### **C.2 Regulatory Control Program**

#### Measurable Goal(s):

- Continue to enforce the countywide WDO.

#### Year 22 QLP activities:

- SMC continued to enforce the countywide WDO.
- SMC continued to provide the Lake County Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE) Manual on the SMC website, ([URL hyperlink](#)).

### **C.10 Other Illicit Discharge Controls**

#### Measurable Goal(s):

- Sponsor or co-sponsor and track the number of attendees at an Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination workshop or other training workshop related to IL EPA's NPDES Stormwater Program.

#### Year 22 QLP activities:

- SMC sponsored or co-sponsored trainings, workshops, and events on stormwater-related topics. Such training, workshops, and events are described below.
- SMC continues to make available the Excal Visual "IDDE - A Grate Concern" software to Lake County MS4s. During the reporting period there were four (4) registrants.
- SMC continued to make available on the Lake County SMC website, Community Awareness Illicit Discharge Education and Elimination Training Videos. The online videos are available in English and Spanish; English version, ([URL hyperlink](#)); Spanish version ([URL hyperlink](#)).

## **D. CONSTRUCTION SITE RUNOFF CONTROL**

---

### **D.1 Regulatory Control Program**

#### Measurable Goal(s):

- Continue to enforce the countywide WDO.
- Administer the Designated Erosion Control Inspector (DECI) program outlined by the WDO.

#### Year 22 QLP activities:

- SMC continued to enforce the countywide WDO.
- SMC continued to administer the Designated Erosion Control Inspector (DECI) program as outlined by the WDO, ([URL hyperlink](#)).
  - Total DECI's who have passed the exam (to date): 956.
  - DECI's who have passed the exam between 03/01/2024 – 03/01/2025: 40.
  - Total listed DECI's (to date): 249 (DECI completed certification process).
  - DECI's have a recertification process every three (3) years. Current cycle 2023-2026.

## **D.2 Erosion and Sediment Control BMPs**

### Measurable Goal(s):

- Continue to enforce the countywide WDO.

### Year 22 QLP activities:

- SMC continued to enforce the countywide WDO.
- SMC continued to provide technical guidance and reference materials to support the administration and enforcement of the countywide WDO.
- SMC staff distributed 50 precipitation weather notifications. The rainfall reports indicate county rain events with observed precipitation for guidance on construction site runoff SE/SC inspections.

## **D.3 Other Waste Control Program**

### Measurable Goal(s):

- Enforce WDO provisions regarding the control of waste and debris at construction sites.

### Year 22 QLP activities:

- SMC continued to enforce the countywide WDO.

## **D.4 Site Plan Review Procedures**

### Measurable Goal(s):

- Track number of enforcement officers who have passed the exam.
- Track number of communities that undergo a performance review.
- Complete ordinance administration and enforcement.

### Year 22 QLP activities:

- SMC continued to track the number of enforcement officers (EOs) who have passed the EO exam and have become EOs. Per records, as of the end of Year 22, there are 28 EOs certified in Lake County.
- The list of EOs representing Certified Communities is continually updated and is maintained on the SMC website, ([URL hyperlink](#)).
- In accordance with the amended countywide WDO, the certification process is every 5 years, ([URL hyperlink](#)). The community re-certification process includes a performance review of all 53 certified and non-certified communities for permitted development compliance.
- SMC continued to update the website to include guidance information to supplement WDO interpretation as well as ordinance administration and enforcement.

## **D.5 Public Information Handling Procedures**

### Measurable Goal(s):

- Track number of complaints received and processed related to soil erosion and sediment control (SE/SC).

### Year 22 QLP activities:

- SMC continues to track the number of complaints received and processed related to soil erosion and sediment control as a component of inspections.

## **D.6 Site Inspection/Enforcement Procedures**

### Measurable Goal(s):

- Track number of site inspections conducted by SMC.

### Year 22 QLP activities:

- SMC continues to track the number of site inspections conducted by SMC staff.
- According to records, 907 site inspections were conducted by SMC staff.

## **E. POST-CONSTRUCTION RUNOFF CONTROL**

---

### **E.2 Regulatory Control Program**

#### Measurable Goal(s):

- Continue to enforce the countywide WDO.

#### Year 22 QLP activities:

- SMC continued to enforce the countywide WDO.

**E.3 Long Term O&M Procedures**

Measurable Goal(s):

- Continue to enforce the countywide WDO.

Year 22 QLP activities:

- SMC continued to enforce the countywide WDO.

**E.4 Pre-Construction Review of BMP Designs**

Measurable Goal(s):

- Continue to enforce the countywide WDO.

Year 22 QLP activities:

- SMC continued to enforce the countywide WDO.

**E.5 Site Inspections During Construction**

Measurable Goal(s):

- Continue to enforce the countywide WDO.

Year 22 QLP activities:

- SMC continued to enforce the countywide WDO.

**E.6 Post-Construction Inspections**

Measurable Goal(s):

- Continue to enforce the countywide WDO.

Year 22 QLP activities:

- SMC continued to enforce the countywide WDO.

**E.7 Other Post-Construction Runoff Controls**

Measurable Goal(s):

- Conduct annual Watershed Management Board (WMB) meeting.
- Contribute funding to flood reduction and water quality improvement projects, including stormwater retrofits, through the WMB.

Year 22 QLP activities:

- The annual WMB meeting was held on November 20, 2024.
- At the annual WMB meeting, eight (8) Projects were selected to receive \$189,150 of funding through the SMC grant program. These projects include planning and in-the-ground project efforts that support flood hazard reduction, drainage and water quality improvement, and stormwater retrofit projects.
  - 8 WMB project grants awarded.
  - 2 projects referred to the Stormwater Infrastructure Repair Fund (SIRF) grant program for funding.
  - 2 projects referred to the Maintenance program for funding.

**F. POLLUTION PREVENTION/GOOD HOUSEKEEPING**

---

**F.1 Employee Training Program**

Measurable Goal(s):

- Provide list of available resources to MS4s.
- Sponsor or co-sponsor employee training workshops or events.
- Make available the Excal Visual “Storm Watch: Municipal Stormwater Pollution Prevention Everyday Best Management Practices” training video and testing.
- Make available the Excal Visual “IDDE - A Grate Concern” training video and testing.

Year 22 QLP activities:

- SMC continued to provide information on training opportunities and training resources for Lake County MS4s.
- SMC continued to make available the Excal Visual “Storm Watch Municipal Stormwater Pollution Prevention” software to Lake County MS4s. During the reporting period there were five (5) registrants.

- SMC continued to make available the Excal Visual “IDDE - A Grate Concern” software to Lake County MS4s. During the reporting period there were four (4) registrants.

**F.5 Flood Management/Assess Guidelines**

Measurable Goal(s):

- Track number of projects that are reviewed for multi-objective opportunities.

Year 22 QLP activities:

- SMC continued to evaluate all SMC-sponsored projects for multi-objective opportunities, such as flood control and water quality.

**F.6 Other Municipal Operations Controls – Winter Roadway De-Icing**

Measurable Goal(s):

- Advise MS4 communities of watershed groups addressing issues associated with the use of chlorides (i.e. road salt).

Year 22 QLP activities:

- SMC co-sponsored nine (9) winter best management practices (de-icing) workshops with over 1,000 participants and one (1) in-person calibration event with sixteen (16) participants in the Northeastern Illinois region.
- SMC continued to make available chloride reduction documents.
  - Too Much Salt in Our Winter Maintenance Recipe - Tips for Managing Snow and Ice at Home, ([URL hyperlink](#)).
  - Lake County Winter Parking Lot and Sidewalk Maintenance Manual, ([URL hyperlink](#)).
  - Winter Maintenance Practices and the Environment ([URL hyperlink](#))
  - Less Salt Equals Less Money, Clean Water, Safe Conditions - Tips for Effective Road Salting, ([URL hyperlink](#)).

## Part E3. QLP Information and Data Collection Results, Year 22

The QLP did not collect any monitoring data on behalf of Lake County’s MS4s during Year 22. However, SMC has reviewed information presented by the Illinois EPA (IL EPA) in the Illinois Integrated Water Quality Report and 303(d) List, 2024 Draft and has developed the brief “State of Lake County’s Waters” report provided below.

### State of Lake County’s Waters March 2025

This brief report is based on information contained in the Illinois EPA’s 2024 Draft Illinois Integrated Water Quality Report (IIWQR) and Section 303(d) List (dated June 2024) that was partially approved by the U.S. EPA. IL EPA submitted its 2024 Section 303(d) list to the U.S. EPA on October 2, 2024. U.S. EPA evaluated IL EPA’s submission and determined that it was not fully consistent with the requirements of Section 303(d) of the CWA and the U.S. EPA’s implementing regulations. On December 11, 2024, U.S. EPA partially approved and partially disapproved IL EPA’s 2024 303(d) list submission. The purpose of the IIWQR is to provide basic information to Lake County’s MS4 communities on the condition of surface waters within Lake County. More detailed information about the condition of surface waters in Lake County can be found in the Illinois EPA’s 2024 Illinois Integrated Water Quality Report and Section 303(d) List and U.S. EPA’s Partial Approval of Illinois’ 2024 303(d) List of Impaired Waters.

The IL EPA’s Draft 2024 IIWQR and Section 303(d) List assesses the condition of surface water within streams, inland lakes, and Lake Michigan waters. The IL EPA assessment of surface water conditions is based on a degree of support (attainment) of a designated use within a stream segment, inland lake or within Lake Michigan. Determination of designation is accomplished through an analysis of various types of information: including biological, physicochemical, physical habitat, and toxicity data. Illinois waters are designated for various uses including aquatic life, wildlife, agricultural use, primary contact (e.g., swimming, water skiing), secondary contact (e.g., boating, fishing), industrial use, public and food-processing water supply, and aesthetic quality. When sufficient data is available, the IL EPA assesses each applicable designation as Fully Supporting (Good resource quality), Not Supporting (Fair or Poor resource quality), Not Assessed or Insufficient Information. Uses determined to be Not Supporting are called “impaired,” and waters that have at least one-use assessment as Not Supporting are also called impaired as designated within the 303(d) list.

#### Streams

An analysis of the 2024 impaired streams to the 2020/2022 impaired streams indicates new pollutants added to four (4) stream segments from the 2024 303(d) list previously not listed in the 2020/2022 303(d) list:

Assessment ID	Name	Cause	New Use Attainment Impairment Added
IL_DTK-04	Nippersink Creek	Cause Unknown	Aquatic Life Use
IL_G-08	Des Plaines River	Cause Unknown	Aquatic Life Use
IL_G-08	Des Plaines River	Fecal Coliform	Primary Contact Use
IL_HCCB-05	West Fork North Branch Chicago River	Cover Loss, pH	Aquatic Life Use
IL_HCCC-02	Middle Fork North Branch Chicago River	Cover Loss, pH	Aquatic Life Use

An analysis of the 2024 impaired streams to the 2020/2022 impaired streams indicates listed pollutants removed from seven (7) stream segments from the 2024 303(d) list that were previously listed in the 2020/2022 list:

Table E3.2 Stream Segments: Pollutants removed from 2024 303(d) list, previously listed in 2020/2022			
Assessment ID	Name	Parameter Code Name	Reason for Removal
IL_DT-06	Fox River	Dissolved Oxygen	No standard violation in new data for 2024 cycle
IL_DT-22	Fox River	Chloride, Copper	No standard violation in new data for 2024 cycle
IL_DT-22	Fox River	Fecal Coliform	Segment is Fully Supporting for 2024 cycle
IL_DTK-04	Nippersink Creek	Dissolved Oxygen	No standard violation in new data for 2024 cycle
IL_G-08	Des Plaines River	Dissolved Oxygen	No standard violation in new data for 2024 cycle
IL_HCCB-05	West Fork North Branch Chicago River	Endrin, Flow Alteration, Stream Alteration	No standard violation in new data for 2024 cycle
IL_HCCC-02	Middle Fork North Branch Chicago River	Habitat Alteration, Stream Alteration	No standard violation in new data for 2024 cycle

### **Lakes**

An analysis of the 2024 impaired lakes to the 2020/2022 impaired lakes indicates new pollutants added to one (1) lake previously not listed in the 2020/2022 303(d) list are located in Lake County:

Table E3.3 Inland Lakes: Pollutants added to 2024 303(d) list, not previously listed in 2020/2022			
Assessment ID	Name	Cause	New Use Attainment Impairment Added
IL_WGZJ	STERLING	Mercury, Dieldrin	Fish Consumption

### **Lake Michigan**

Lake Michigan is monitored by the Illinois EPA through the Lake Michigan Monitoring Program. Bordering Cook and Lake Counties, the State of Illinois has jurisdiction over approximately 1,526 square miles of open water, 13 harbors, and 64 shoreline miles of Lake Michigan.

Along Illinois' Lake Michigan coastline, two of the 13 harbors assessed in the 2024 IIWQR and Section 303(d) list are located in Lake County.

Table E3.4 Use Attainments of Lake Michigan Harbors in Lake County: 2024 data vs. 2020/2022 data				
Assessment ID	Name	2024 303(d) data	2020/2022 303(d) data	Summary:
IL_QH	North Point Marina Harbor	Fully Supporting: Aquatic Life, Aesthetic Quality, Primary Contact Not Supporting: Fish Consumption Not Assessed: N/A	Fully Supporting: Aquatic Life, Aesthetic Quality Not Supporting: Fish Consumption Not Assessed: Primary Contact	Added in 2024: Fully Supporting Primary Contact

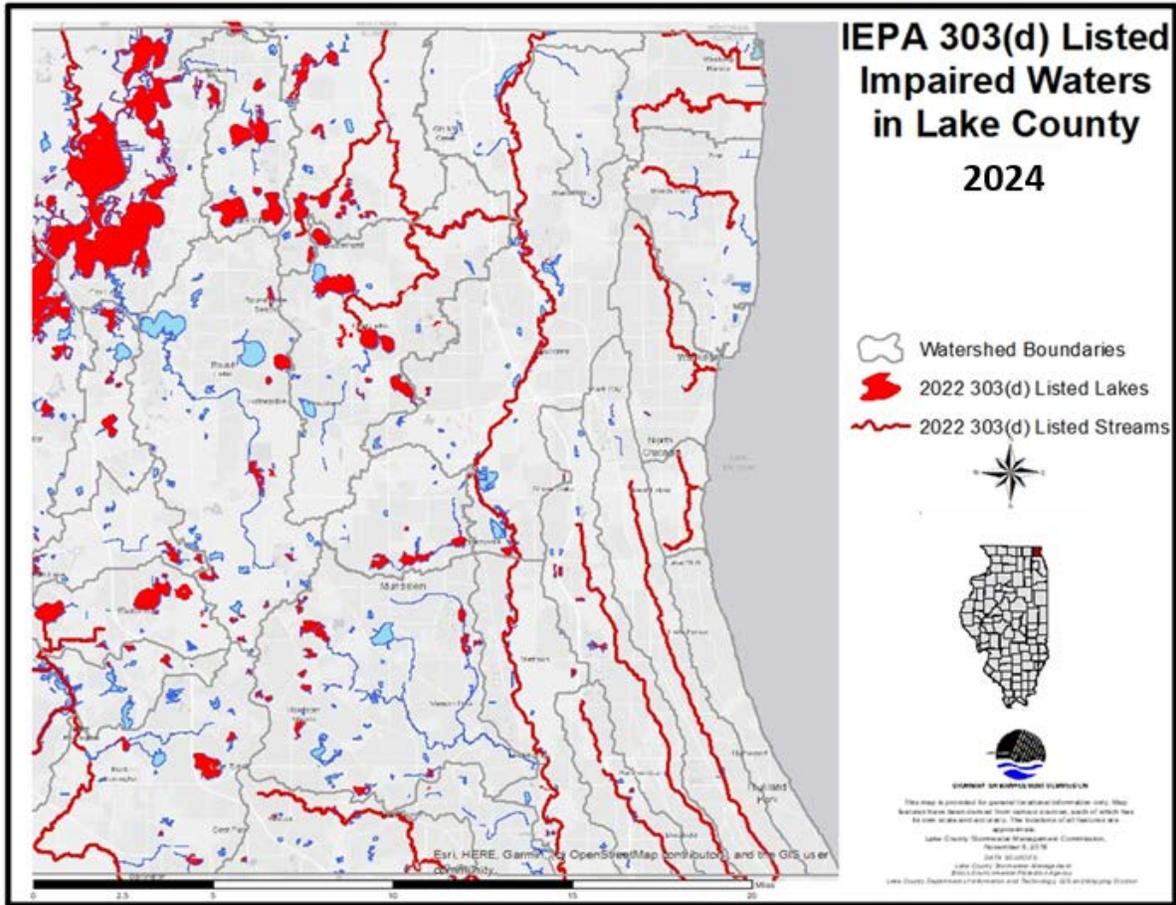
IL_QZO	Waukegan Harbor	Fully Supporting: Aesthetic Quality, Primary Contact Not Supporting: Aquatic Life, Fish Consumption Not Assessed: N/A	Fully Supporting: Aquatic Life, Aesthetic Quality Not Supporting: Fish Consumption Not Assessed: Primary Contact	Added in 2024: Not Supporting Aquatic Life, Fully Supporting Primary Contact
--------	-----------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Appendix A-3 of the IIWQR, lists potential causes of impairment in the harbors of Lake Michigan that can include polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and mercury.

Table E3.5 Causes of Impairment of Lake Michigan Harbors in Lake County: 2020/2022 data				
Assessment ID	Name	2024 303(d) data	2020/2022 303(d) data	Summary:
IL_QH	North Point Marina Harbor	Mercury, Polychlorinated biphenyls	Mercury, Polychlorinated biphenyls	No change.
IL_QZO	Waukegan Harbor	Mercury, Polychlorinated biphenyls, Temperature	Mercury, Polychlorinated biphenyls, Zinc	Added in 2024: Temperature

Appendix A-3 of the IIWQR, lists potential causes of impairment to Lake Michigan Shoreline Waters that can include E. coli, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), and mercury. Aquatic Life Use and Aesthetic Quality Use is Not Assessed.

IL Beach State Park North IL_QH-03	IL Beach State Park South IL_QH-09	Lake Bluff Beach IL_QI-06
Lake Forest Beach IL_QI-10	North Point Beach IL_QH-01	Park Ave. Beach IL_QJ-05
Rosewood Beach IL_QJ	Waukegan North Beach IL_QH-04	Waukegan South Beach IL_QH-05



**Figure E3.1**

Note: 2024 303(d) GIS data is unavailable for public use. Map represents 2020/2022 303(d) available GIS data.

## **Monitoring**

The **Des Plaines River Watershed Workgroup (DRWW)** monitors water quality in the Des Plaines River and tributaries to accurately identify the quality of the river ecosystems as well as stressors associated with non-attainment of water quality standards and designated uses. The Workgroup's mission is to bring together a diverse coalition of stakeholders to work together to improve water quality in the Des Plaines River and its tributaries in a cost-effective manner to meet Illinois EPA requirements. During the YR22 reporting period, DRWW's monitoring program included Water Quality sampling and analysis at 73 Monitoring Locations for 2024. Analysis and reporting of 2022 fish, habitat, macroinvertebrate, and sediment chemistry were completed June 2024. An annual water chemistry monitoring report was submitted to Illinois EPA on behalf of DRWW members for 2023 monitoring on March 27, 2024, and for 2024 monitoring on March 31, 2025, which covers the NPDES II monitoring requirements for MS4 communities that are DRWW members. The DRWW submitted the DRWW Nutrient Assessment Reduction Plan (NARP) to the Illinois EPA on December 29, 2023, and looks forward to continuing discussions with the Illinois EPA during this next phase. Current DRWW member list is located at ([URL hyperlink](#)).

The **North Branch Chicago River Watershed Workgroup (NBWW)** monitors water quality in the North Branch Chicago River and tributaries to accurately identify the quality of the river ecosystems as well as stressors associated with non-attainment of water quality standards and designated uses. Monitoring data will allow for a greater understanding of the water quality impairments, identify priority restoration activities, and track water quality improvements. The Workgroup is committed to an approach for attaining water quality standards that focuses on stakeholder involvement, monitoring, and locally led decision-making based on sound science. Comprehensive baseline monitoring has been completed at all 25 sites for water column chemistry. The NBWW will continue to support the North Branch Watershed Planning Committee and the North Branch Watershed Consortium through regular discussion at general meetings. An annual water chemistry monitoring report was submitted to Illinois EPA on behalf of NBWW members for 2023 monitoring on January 23, 2024, and for 2024 monitoring on February 12, 2025, which covers the NPDES II monitoring requirements for MS4 communities that are NBWW members. The NBWW continues to progress on developing a NBWW Nutrient Assessment Reduction Plan (NARP) based on the NBWW NARP Workplan submitted to the Illinois EPA on December 31, 2021. Progress made on the NBWW NARP is summarized in the annual water chemistry monitoring report submitted to the Illinois EPA. The NBWW completed a 2018-2023 Water Quality Summary Report for NBWW members to utilize to assess water quality trends for different water quality parameters. The NBWW has continued to coordinate with the Illinois EPA on the progress of the NBWW NARP Workplan and NARP development (deadline December 31, 2025). Current NBWW member list is located at ([URL hyperlink](#)).

The **LCHD Ecological Services Department** has been collecting water quality data on Lake County lakes since the late 1960s. Since 2000, 176 different lakes have been studied and data collected on temperature, dissolved oxygen, phosphorus, nitrogen, solids, pH, alkalinity, chloride, conductivity, water clarity, the plant community and shoreline characteristics. Lake summary reports can be found on the Lake County Health Department website, ([URL hyperlink](#)). This data is used as part of ongoing watershed planning efforts throughout the county, which result in specific programmatic and site-specific recommendations throughout the county. SMC is currently developing an application to assist communities in identifying potential site-specific recommendations within their jurisdictional boundaries.

## Part E4. QLP Summary of Year 23 Stormwater Activities

The table below indicates the stormwater management activities that the QLP plans to undertake during Year 23. Additional information about the BMPs and measurable goals that the QLP will implement during Year 23 is provided in the section following the table.

**Note: “X” indicates BMPs that will be implemented during Year 23**

Year 23		Year 23	
QLP		QLP	
	<b>A. Public Education and Outreach</b>		<b>D. Construction Site Runoff Control</b>
X	A.1 Distributed Paper Material	X	D.1 Regulatory Control Program
X	A.2 Speaking Engagement	X	D.2 Erosion and Sediment Control BMPs
X	A.3 Public Service Announcement	X	D.3 Other Waste Control Program
X	A.4 Community Event	X	D.4 Site Plan Review Procedures
X	A.5 Classroom Education Material	X	D.5 Public Information Handling Procedures
X	A.6 Other Public Education	X	D.6 Site Inspection/Enforcement Procedures
			D.7 Other Construction Site Runoff Controls
	<b>B. Public Participation/Involvement</b>		<b>E. Post-Construction Runoff Control</b>
X	B.1 Public Panel		E.1 Community Control Strategy
	B.2 Educational Volunteer	X	E.2 Regulatory Control Program
X	B.3 Stakeholder Meeting	X	E.3 Long Term O&M Procedures
	B.4 Public Hearing	X	E.4 Pre-Const Review of BMP Designs
	B.5 Volunteer Monitoring	X	E.5 Site Inspections During Construction
X	B.6 Program Coordination	X	E.6 Post-Construction Inspections
	B.7 Other Public Involvement	X	E.7 Other Post-Const Runoff Controls
	<b>C. Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination</b>		<b>F. Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping</b>
	C.1 Storm Sewer Map Preparation	X	F.1 Employee Training Program
X	C.2 Regulatory Control Program		F.2 Inspection and Maintenance Program
	C.3 Detection/Elimination Prioritization Plan		F.3 Municipal Operations Storm Water Control
	C.4 Illicit Discharge Tracing Procedures		F.4 Municipal Operations Waste Disposal
	C.5 Illicit Source Removal Procedures	X	F.5 Flood Management/Assess Guidelines
	C.6 Program Evaluation and Assessment	X	F.6 Other Municipal Operations Controls
	C.7 Visual Dry Weather Screening		
	C.8 Pollutant Field Testing		
	C.9 Public Notification		
X	C.10 Other Illicit Discharge Controls		

The Lake County Stormwater Management Commission (SMC) is a Qualifying Local Program for MS4s in Lake County. SMC has been providing services under four of the six minimum control categories since it began implementing a comprehensive, countywide stormwater program in 1991. The revised SMPP template clarifies and emphasizes the significant efforts by SMC related to each of the six minimum control measures. These QLP commitments provide Lake County with a baseline Countywide stormwater management program that can be built upon by each of the individual MS4s.

During Year 23, SMC remains committed to performing a variety of stormwater management activities across the County, these commitments are now specifically outlined in the SMPP template. SMC program is continually evolving, to better assist Lake County MS4s in meeting the requirements of the most recent effective MS4 Permit.

## **A. PUBLIC EDUCATION AND OUTREACH**

---

SMC will continue to support Lake County MS4s in the development and implementation of their stormwater management programs by performing activities related to the Public Education and Outreach minimum control measure, as described below.

### **A.1 Distributed Paper Material**

SMC compiles, develops, and distributes throughout Lake County a variety of materials related to stormwater management.

#### Measurable Goal(s):

- Develop and distribute informational materials from “take away” rack at SMC.
- Upon request, distribute informational materials directly to Lake County MS4s for local distribution.

### **A.2 Speaking Engagement**

SMC provides educational presentations related to IL EPA’s NPDES Stormwater Program on a regular basis at Municipal Advisory Committee (MAC) meetings. Upon request, SMC will provide educational presentations related to IL EPA’s NPDES Stormwater Program to Lake County MS4s.

#### Measurable Goal(s):

- Provide educational presentations related to IL EPA’s NPDES Stormwater Program at MAC meetings.
- Upon request, provide educational presentations related to IL EPA’s NPDES Stormwater Program to Lake County MS4s.

### **A.3 Public Service Announcement**

SMC performs extensive Social Media Outreach & Announcement Activities. Public service announcements related to IL EPA’s NPDES Stormwater Program or Stormwater BMPs are posted periodically on SMC’s social media platforms and sent via email list distributions. SMC also coordinates with the Lake County Department of Transportation (LCDOT) to distribute information regarding watershed identification signage in watersheds where watershed planning activities have occurred or are occurring.

#### Measurable Goal(s):

- Include public service announcements highlighting community accomplishments related to IL EPA’s NPDES Stormwater Program or stormwater BMPs on social media platforms and via email list distributions.
- Post watershed identification signage in cooperation and collaboration with LCDOT on roads maintained by the Lake County Dept. of Transportation.
- Provide information in its newsletter, via social media (Facebook and Twitter), and through other media outlets (URL hyperlink).

#### **A.4 Outreach Events**

SMC sponsors and co-sponsors educational and technical training workshops on a variety of stormwater management-related topics. Each year, SMC will sponsor or co-sponsor at least one workshop on a topic related to IL EPA's NPDES Stormwater Program, such as soil erosion and sediment control, illicit discharge detection and elimination, or stormwater best management practices (BMPs) that can be used to protect and improve water quality.

Measurable Goal(s):

- Sponsor or co-sponsor workshop on stormwater-related topics.
- Track workshops and events.

#### **A.5 Classroom Education Material**

Upon request, SMC will contribute to the development and compilation of material for inclusion in a stormwater education kit that can be distributed to local students and teachers and/or other local stakeholders. Additionally, upon request, SMC will provide information, materials, and training to local students and teachers and/or other local stakeholders interested in conducting storm drain stenciling.

Measurable Goal(s):

- Upon request, develop and compile materials for inclusion in a stormwater education kit.
- Upon request, provide information, materials, and training to local students and teachers and/or stakeholders interested in conducting storm drain stenciling.

#### **A.6 Other Public Education**

SMC maintains a website that contains a variety of materials and resources related to stormwater management. The website provides information about IL EPA's NPDES Stormwater Program, provides information about stormwater best management practices (BMPs), allows for the download of stormwater management-related publications and documents, provides notices of upcoming meetings and ongoing projects, includes watershed plans and watershed workgroup information, and provides links to a number of other stormwater management-related resources.

Measurable Goal(s):

- Maintain and update the portion of the SMC website dedicated to IL EPA's NPDES Stormwater Program with resources such as model ordinances, case studies, brochures, and links including information related to climate change.
- Make "The Big Picture: Water Quality, Regulations & NPDES" presentation available to Lake County MS4s.
- Make available via the Lake County SMC website, Community Awareness Illicit Discharge Education and Elimination Videos. The online videos are available in English and Spanish; English version, ([URL hyperlink](#)); Spanish version ([URL hyperlink](#)).

### **B. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION/INVOLVEMENT**

SMC will continue to support Lake County MS4s in the development and implementation of their stormwater management programs by performing activities related to the Public Participation/Involvement minimum control measure, as described below.

#### **B.1 Public Panel**

SMC provides procedural guidance and implements its Citizen Inquiry Response System (CIRS) for receiving and acting on information provided by the public regarding post-construction stormwater runoff control. SMC coordinates and conducts public meetings as well as committee meetings that are open to the public.

Measurable Goal(s):

- Implement and provide guidance on existing CIRS procedures.
- Provide notice of public meetings on SMC website.

- Track number of meetings conducted.

### **B.3 Stakeholder Meeting**

SMC is actively involved in watershed planning throughout Lake County. SMC believes that the watershed planning process cannot happen and will not be successful without the input, interest, and commitment of the watershed stakeholders. Watershed stakeholders may include municipalities, townships, drainage districts, homeowner associations, lakes management associations, developers, landowners, and local, county, state, and federal agencies.

Measurable Goal(s):

- Provide notice of stakeholder meetings on SMC website.
- Track number of watershed committee meetings conducted.
- Establish watershed planning committees for each new watershed planning effort.

### **B.6 Program Involvement**

Consistent with Lake County’s comprehensive, countywide approach to stormwater management, SMC serves as a Qualifying Local Program (QLP) for all Lake County MS4s. In this role, in 2002, SMC proactively formed the Municipal Advisory Committee (MAC) to provide a forum for representatives of local MS4s, which include municipalities, townships, and drainage districts, to discuss, among other topics, the implementation of IL EPA’s NPDES Stormwater Program. SMC will continue to facilitate MAC meetings and will continue to provide general support to Lake County MS4s as they continue to develop and implement their stormwater management programs. SMC will prepare an annual report on its stormwater management activities and will provide guidance to Lake County MS4s in preparing their own annual reports.

Measurable Goal(s):

- Track number of MAC meetings conducted.
- Prepare annual report template for use by Lake County MS4s including a description of the Qualifying Local Program stormwater management activities.
- Prepare/maintain SMPP template for use by Lake County MS4s in creating their own SMPP.

## **C. ILLICIT DISCHARGE DETECTION AND ELIMINATION**

---

SMC will continue to support Lake County MS4s in the development and implementation of their stormwater management programs by performing activities related to the Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination minimum control measure, as described below. Note, however, that the primary responsibility for the implementation of the Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination minimum control measure lies with the MS4.

Measurable Goal(s):

- Continue to make available information regarding prioritization of outfalls for illicit discharge screening activities.
- Continue to make available compiled GIS data related to the County’s existing stormwater infrastructure (e.g. storm sewer atlases, stream inventories and detention basin inventories).

### **C.2 Regulatory Control Program**

SMC provides local MS4s with model and example illicit discharge ordinances that prohibit all non-stormwater discharges, including illegal dumping, to the storm sewer system. Additionally, the WDO includes provisions that prohibit illicit discharges to the storm sewer system during construction (i.e., prior to final site stabilization) on development sites.

Measurable Goal(s):

- Provide model and example illicit discharge ordinances to Lake County MS4s.
- Continue to administer and enforce the WDO.

### **C.10 Other Illicit Discharge Controls**

SMC regularly sponsors and co-sponsors educational and technical training workshops on a variety of stormwater management-related topics.

#### Measurable Goal(s):

- Sponsor or co-sponsor and track the number of attendees at an Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination workshop or other training workshop related to IL EPA's NPDES Stormwater Program.
- Distribute informational materials about the hazards of illicit discharges and illegal dumping from "take away" rack at SMC and SMC website.

## **D. CONSTRUCTION SITE RUNOFF CONTROL**

Lake County has adopted a countywide Watershed Development Ordinance (WDO) that establishes the minimum stormwater management requirements for development in Lake County, including requirements for construction site runoff control.

### **D.1 Regulatory Control Program**

The WDO is the regulatory mechanism that requires the use of soil erosion and sediment controls on development sites throughout Lake County. SMC has also created a Designated Erosion Control Inspector (DECI) program, a program designed to closely mirror the inspection requirements of IL EPA's General NPDES Permit No. ILR10.

#### Measurable Goal(s):

- Continue to administer and enforce the WDO.
- Continue to administer the Designated Erosion Control Inspector (DECI) program outlined by the WDO.

### **D.2 Erosion and Sediment Control BMPs**

§600 of the WDO specifies the soil erosion and sediment control measures that must be used in conjunction with any land disturbing activities conducted on a development site. SMC maintains technical guidance resources and documents to accompany the WDO.

#### Measurable Goal(s):

- Continue to administer and enforce the WDO.
- Continue to maintain technical guidance documents.

### **D.3 Other Waste Control Program**

The WDO includes several provisions that address illicit discharges generated by construction sites. The applicant is required to prohibit the dumping, depositing, dropping, throwing, discarding, or leaving of litter and construction material and all other illicit discharges from entering the stormwater management system.

#### Measurable Goal(s):

- Continue to administer and enforce the provisions of the WDO related to the control of waste and debris during construction on development sites.

### **D.4 Site Plan Review Procedures**

A community's designated enforcement officer is responsible for reviewing and permitting development plans and for administering and enforcing the provision of the WDO. Within certified communities the responsibility lies with the MS4; within non-certified communities the designated enforcement officer is SMC's chief engineer. SMC administers this enforcement officer program, providing training on an as-needed basis to all enforcement officers to assist them in passing the exam, and maintains an up-to-date list identifying each community's designated enforcement officer. In addition to administering the enforcement officer program, SMC periodically reviews

each community's WDO administration and enforcement records, using the results of such review to evaluate the performance of certified communities and designated enforcement officers.

Measurable Goal(s):

- Administer the Enforcement Officer (EO) program outlined by the WDO.
- Maintain an up-to-date list identifying each community's designated enforcement officer.
- Periodically review each community's WDO administration and enforcement records. Re-Certification Procedure.
- Continue to maintain technical guidance documents.

**D.5 Public Information Handling Procedures**

SMC provides a number of opportunities for the receipt and consideration of information submitted by the public.

Measurable Goal(s):

- Document and track the number of soil erosion and sediment control-related complaints received and processed by SMC.

**D.6 Site Inspection/Enforcement Procedures**

Article 11 of the WDO contains both recommended and minimum requirements for the inspection of development sites. Within certified communities, the community's designated enforcement officer is responsible for conducting these inspections; within certified communities, SMC's chief engineer is responsible for conducting these inspections. Article 12 of the WDO specifies the legal actions that may be taken and the penalties that may be imposed if the provisions of the WDO are violated.

Measurable Goal(s):

- Document and track the number of site inspections conducted by SMC.

**E. POST-CONSTRUCTION RUNOFF CONTROL**

---

As described above, Lake County has adopted a countywide Watershed Development Ordinance (WDO) that establishes the minimum stormwater management requirements for development in Lake County, including requirements for post-construction runoff control.

**E.2 Regulatory Control Program**

Proposed stormwater management strategies must address the runoff volume reduction requirements described in §503 of the WDO and must include appropriate stormwater BMPs to address the other applicable post-construction runoff control requirements of the WDO.

Measurable Goal(s):

- Continue to administer and enforce the WDO.

**E.3 Long Term O&M Procedures**

§401 of the WDO requires that maintenance plans be developed for all stormwater management systems and, §500 further details deed or plat restriction requirements for all stormwater management systems.

Measurable Goal(s):

- Continue to administer and enforce the WDO.

**E.4 Pre-Construction Review of BMP Designs**

As described above, a community's designated enforcement officer is responsible for reviewing and permitting development plans and for administering and enforcing the provisions of the WDO. This includes a review of the stormwater BMPs that will be used to meet the post-construction runoff control requirements of the WDO and adherence to the Runoff Volume Reduction standards of §503.

Measurable Goal(s):

- Continue to administer and enforce the WDO.

**E.5 Site Inspections During Construction**

As described above in MCM D.6 Article 11 of the WDO contains both recommended and minimum requirements for the inspection of development sites.

Measurable Goal(s):

- Continue to administer and enforce the WDO.

**E.6 Post-Construction Inspections**

SMC has collaborated on a number of watershed-based plans throughout the County. These watershed plans included a stream and detention basin inventories. The plans also include a list of site-specific best management practices within various communities based on an assessment of these inventories and other data. SMC is currently developing an application to assist communities in identifying potential project sites, recommended in adopted watershed plans, within their jurisdictional boundaries.

Measurable Goal(s):

- Continue to administer and enforce the WDO.
- Develop an application, for use by MS4s, to identify adopted watershed plan recommendations within their communities.
- Watershed Planning Status Map, ([URL hyperlink](#)).
- Lake County Watershed Based Plans, ([URL hyperlink](#)).

**E.7 Other Post-Construction Runoff Controls**

Through the Watershed Management Board (WMB), SMC provides partial funding for flood damage reduction and surface water quality improvement projects. The WMB, which includes representatives from the Lake Michigan, North Branch of the Chicago River, Fox River, and Des Plaines River watersheds, meets annually to review potential projects and to make recommendations on BMP project funding for stormwater. Members of the WMB include chief municipal elected officials, township supervisors, drainage district chairmen, and county board members from each district found within each of Lake County's four major watersheds. The goal of the WMB program is to maximize opportunities for local units of government and other groups to have input and influence on the solutions used to address local stormwater management problems. Previous WMB-funded projects have reduced flooding, improved surface water quality, and enhanced existing stormwater management facilities throughout Lake County.

Measurable Goal(s):

- Conduct annual WMB meeting.
- Contribute funding to flood damage reduction and water quality improvement projects through the WMB.

**F. POLLUTION PREVENTION/GOOD HOUSEKEEPING**

SMC will continue to support Lake County MS4s in the development and implementation of their stormwater management programs by performing activities related to the Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping minimum control measure, as described below. Note, however, that the primary responsibility for the implementation of the Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping minimum control measure lies with the MS4.

**F.1 Employee Training Program**

SMC will assist Lake County MS4s with the development and implementation of their employee training programs by maintaining a list of known employee training resources and opportunities,

making available a software-based employee training program, and providing technical assistance to local MS4s. In addition, each year, SMC will sponsor or co-sponsor training workshops.

Measurable Goal(s):

- Maintain a list of known employee training resources and opportunities.
- Make available the Excal Visual Storm Watch: Municipal Storm Water Pollution Prevention software-based employee training program.
- Make available the Excal Visual IDDE: A Grate Concern software-based employee training program.
- Sponsor or co-sponsor a training workshop related to pollution prevention/good housekeeping or other training workshop related to IL EPA's NPDES Stormwater Program.

**F.5 Flood Management/Assess Guidelines**

In working toward meeting its primary goals of flood damage reduction and surface water quality improvement, SMC follows a set of stormwater management policies that were created to define its roles and responsibilities for stormwater management in Lake County. One of these policies is to integrate multi-objective opportunities (e.g., flood damage reduction, surface water quality improvement, environmental enhancement) into SMC-sponsored projects. In accordance with this policy, SMC will evaluate all SMC-sponsored projects for multi-objective opportunities.

Measurable Goal(s):

- Track number of SMC-sponsored projects that are reviewed for multi-objective opportunity.

**F.6 Other Municipal Operations Controls**

SMC develops and distributes chloride reduction documents and materials. Each year, SMC will sponsor or co-sponsor at least one workshop on a topic related to winter de-icing. Lake County also publishes a "Lake County Winter Maintenance Preferred Providers" list. Providers included on this list have successfully completed a Lake County Deicing Training Workshop and passes the associated course exam.

Measurable Goal(s):

- Advise MS4 communities of watershed groups addressing issues associated with the use of chlorides (i.e. road salt).
- Sponsor or co-sponsor at least one workshop on a topic related to winter de-icing.
- Make available chloride reduction documents on take-away racks and the website.

**Part E5. QLP Construction Projects Conducted During Year 22**

Project Name	Project Size (acres)	Construction Start Date	Construction End Date
Park City Flood Mitigation Storm Sewer, Park City	1.25	8/2023	9/2024
Talbot Avenue Drainage Improvements, Shields Township	0.54	5/2023	9/2024
Wildwood Area Stormwater Infrastructure Improvements, Warren Township	2.0	8/2023	9/2024
Sylvan Lake Dam	0.41	6/2024	Ongoing

