Environmental Outcome—Improved Aquatic Life

Our approach to improve local rivers and streams begins with identifying the biggest stressors to aquatic life. That’s why we’ve developed a comprehensive monitoring program that includes water column and sediment chemistry, fish, macroinvertebrates, qualitative habitat evaluation, and winter chloride/conductivity monitoring. These, in addition to continuous dissolved oxygen and wastewater effluent data, are all included in our analyses. Using the same state approved data collection and analyses as other major watershed groups in the region, we will incorporate our data into a tool that will identify and rank restorability projects at the stream reach level.

Additionally, the LDWG is providing a mechanism for NPDES dischargers to work together to develop a common Nutrient Assessment and Reduction Plan (NARP) for the Lower Des Plaines River Watershed. This plan will fulfill regulatory requirements to address nutrient-related stream impairments and be implemented through future NPDES and MS4 permits throughout the watershed. Participation from all permit holders is critical to developing a plan that identifies meaningful and cost-effective ways to improve our local rivers and streams.

Watershed Facts:
1.5 million people
491 square miles of drainage
308 miles of stream
15 sub-watersheds
77 communities
3 counties
24 WWTP
85 Industrial Dischargers

Members

Wastewater NPDES Permit Requirements:
Common permit language related to NARP (Nutrient Assessment and Reduction Plan)
Watershed scale collaboration for permit discussions with the regulatory and environmental advocacy groups
Regional collaboration for additional resources and tools
Watershed scale in-stream monitoring program
Watershed scale point-source nutrient planning

ILR-40 (MS4) NPDES Permit Requirements:
Materials, events and trainings related to:
✓ Public Education & Outreach
✓ Public Involvement & Participation;
✓ Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping
Watershed scale in-stream monitoring program
Winter chloride/conductivity monitoring
Watershed scale nonpoint source nutrient planning

Chloride Time-Limited Water Quality Standard Requirements
The LDWG will provide assistance to variance petitioners to meet requirements including:
✓ Development of Pollutant Minimization Plans
✓ Training materials and opportunities
✓ Outreach materials
✓ Annual Reporting
The Lower Des Plaines Watershed Group (LDWG) is a non-profit organization formed by municipal stakeholders to cost effectively improve the health of the Lower Des Plaines River and its tributaries and to assist member agencies meet current and future NPDES permit requirements. Participation in LDWG is voluntary and our programs and services are prioritized and supported by dues-paying members.

We provide local coordination to develop and implement a long-term, comprehensive monitoring program to assess current stream conditions in the watershed and identify the biggest stressors to aquatic life. LDWG collectively represents member interests in discussions with the regulatory community and environmental advocacy groups.

Agency Members include any agency holding an NPDES permit for a discharge from a wastewater treatment plant or from a municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) into the Lower Des Plaines River or its tributaries (see watershed boundary). Associate Members include any agency, organization or company interested in the mission and objectives of LDWG that is not eligible for membership as an Agency Member.

Our data-driven approach will enable us to make informed management decisions and identify the most cost-effective ways to improve local water quality. The monitoring program also meets in-stream monitoring requirements for both wastewater and stormwater NPDES permits. Watershed scale participation to implement programs increases cost savings for members.

We can do more together.
Visit lowerdesplaineswatershed.org or contact us for more information:

Jennifer Hammer—Watershed Manager
jhammer@theconservationfoundation.org or 630-428-4500 X114
Lower Des Plaines Watershed Group • 10S404 Knoch Knolls Road • Naperville, IL 60565