



2017 Des Plaines River Watershed Workgroup (DRWW) Annual Accomplishments

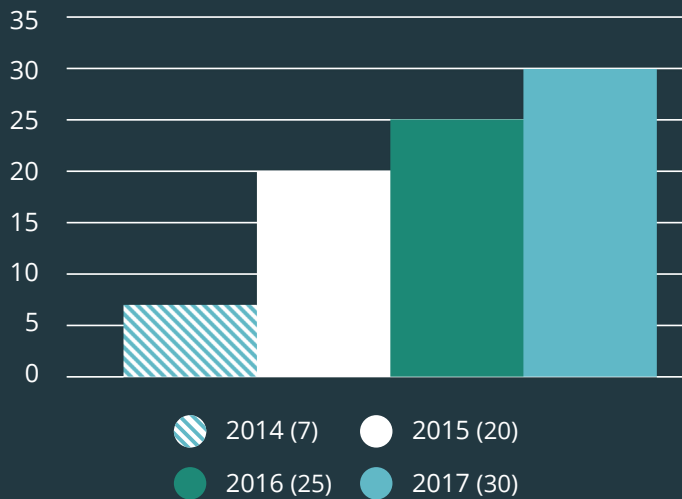
The DRWW is continuing to focus on implementing a comprehensive water quality monitoring program to meet permit requirements and study watershed stressors. According to the Illinois EPA, almost all of the waterways within the Des Plaines River Watershed are impaired.

The DRWW began conducting water sampling in 2015, sediment and bioassessment sampling in 2016, and has continued to collect data at 69 sites in 2017 and 71 sites in 2018. This data collection helps the DRWW understand and locate stressors, and helps determine the priority of correcting each stressor.

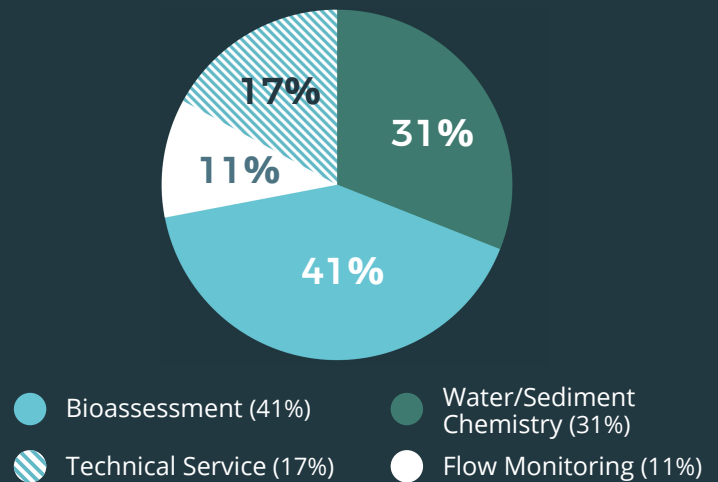
Membership and How the DRWW is Spending their Dues

The DRWW welcomed eight new members in 2017. All 2016 members renewed their membership for a total of 30 members bringing in \$249,437 in dues (up 7.2% from 2016).

DRWW Membership



DRWW 2017 Expenses



DRWW Executive Board

In the fall of 2017, the DRWW Executive Board formed a task force to explore how data collected from the watershed can be used to simplify reporting under the federal Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Program.

- The task force is working on a plan to prepare and submit one annual MS4 report to the Illinois EPA on behalf of DRWW members.
- The task force initiated discussions with the Illinois EPA regarding a watershed-wide MS4 report and will work with watershed groups in other counties, state officials, and federal officials to develop the report.

DRWW Lakes Committee

- Surveyed lake groups to determine most critical needs
- Summarized lake recommendations from previous water quality reports
- Participated in coordinating the 2017 Lake County Deicing Workshops
- Conducted two public meetings on DRWW lakes to seek input from lake property owners, managers and the general public
- Coordinated two Illinois Lake Management Association "Point of Discussion" events, one on the use of alum for phosphorus reduction and one on the manual removal of aquatic plants

DRWW Monitoring/Water Quality Improvements Committee

- Water and Sediment Chemistry at 50 locations and Biological Monitoring at 23 locations
- Flow Monitoring at 21 locations
- Chlorophyll-a sampling and continuous monitoring at 14 locations
- "Biological and Water Quality Assessment of the Upper Des Plaines River and Tributaries (2016)" report was completed in December 2017

Major Causes Associated with Aquatic Life Impairments: Upper Des Plaines

Data retrieved from the "Biological and Water Quality Assessment of the Upper Des Plaines River and Tributaries 2016" by the Midwest Biodiversity Institute.



- Siltation (37.9%)
- ▨ Chlorides/Conductivity (23.3%)
- Habitat Related (16.1%)
- ▨ Org.Enrich./D.O./Nutrients (14.4%)
- PAH/Manganese (8.3%)

Lake County Forest Preserve District (LCFPD)

The LCFPD is continuing work on the following restoration projects in the watershed:

- \$420,232 on Des Plaines River dam removals (MacArthur Woods and Captain Daniel Wright Woods)
- \$657,562 on tributary restoration (North Mill Creek)
- \$40,000 on native trees and shrubs (planted at Van Patten Woods, Captain Daniel Wright Woods, and Grainger Woods)
- \$80,000 on native seed (sown at Van Patten and Wadsworth)
- \$140,000 on herbaceous invasive plant control (multiple sites within the watershed)
- Grand total towards improving water quality: \$1,337,794

Watershed Planning

In 2015, the DRWW helped the Lake County Stormwater Management Commission secure a Clean Water Act Section 319 grant through the Illinois EPA to complete a Watershed Plan, using DRWW monitoring data expenditures as a match.

In 2017, the DRWW received a reimbursement of \$47,500 from the 319 grant for costs associated with preparing Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPP) and a Monitoring Strategy.

The final Watershed Plan is expected to be released in September 2018.

Wastewater Treatment Plants (WWTPs)

WWTPs have committed the following capital expenditures over several years to reduce phosphorus levels within the watershed:

- North Shore Water Reclamation District (2 plants): \$9.73M
- Lake County (3 plants): \$7M
- Libertyville: \$2.5M
- Lindenhurst: \$1.0M

Clean Water Act Section 319 Grants Awarded in 2017

- Lake County Forest Preserve District: \$1M (North Mill Creek Restoration at Ethel's Woods)
- Lake County Stormwater Management Commission: \$363,962 (University of Saint Mary of the Lake, Grayslake Park District, Libertyville Township)
- Village of Buffalo Grove: \$170,205 (Buffalo Creek Nature Preserve)

DRWW Membership

Agency Members

- City of Lake Forest
- City of Park City
- Lake County
- Lake County Division of Transportation
- Lake County Forest Preserve District
- Lake County Public Works
- North Shore Water Reclamation District
- Village of Buffalo Grove
- Village of Deer Park
- Village of Deerfield
- Village of Grayslake
- Village of Green Oaks
- Village of Gurnee
- Village of Hawthorn Woods
- Village of Kildeer
- Village of Lake Zurich
- Village of Libertyville
- Village of Lincolnshire
- Village of Lindenhurst
- Village of Long Grove
- Village of Riverwoods
- Village of Round Lake Beach
- Village of Third Lake
- Village of Vernon Hills

Associate Members

- Applied Technologies, Inc.
- Christopher B. Burke Engineering
- Lake County Stormwater Management Commission
- Sierra Club
- Vernon Hills Park District
- Wetlands Research Inc.