



# 2018 Des Plaines River Watershed Workgroup (DRWW) Annual Accomplishments

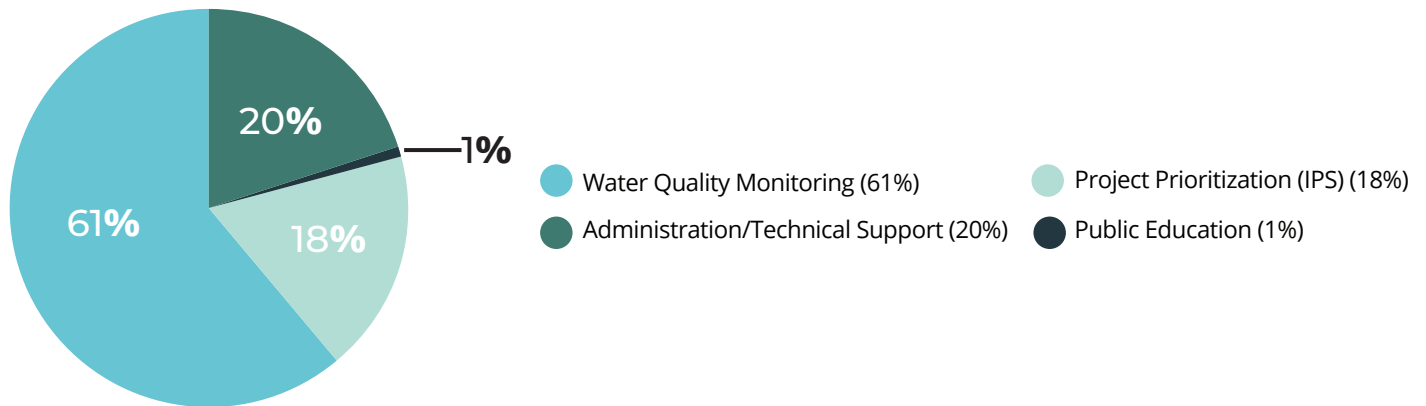
The DRWW continues to fulfill the monitoring requirements of its constituents. According to the Illinois EPA (IEPA), almost all the waterways within the Des Plaines River Watershed are impaired. To remove the watershed from the IL EPA's list of impaired waters, the Midwest Biodiversity Institute is determining the most cost-effective watershed-wide restoration projects. In anticipation of the permit renewal process in 2021 by the IEPA, the workgroup is addressing the regulatory requirements of its constituents. The DRWW also provided professional development opportunities to members, stakeholders and constituents.

## Welcome New Members!

In 2018, the DRWW welcomed two new members for a total of 30 members and collected \$242,464 in membership dues.

- 2018 new members:
- Hey & Associates
  - Libertyville Township

## Let's Talk Budget Numbers



### Powerful Decision Making Tool

- The DRWW is excited about the Integrated Prioritization System (IPS) tool that is being developed with the Midwest Biological Institute (MBI).
- Several other watershed groups in Illinois have found enormous success with the IPS tool. The DuPage Salt Creek Watershed Group, for example, has saved millions of dollars using the IPS tool in lieu of implementing costly water treatment upgrades.

### 2018 Priorities

- The DRWW's IEPA approved Water Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPP) will be streamlined in 2018.
- The IPS tool will meet the new municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4) and National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) regulatory requirements set by the IEPA.

## Major Accomplishments

### 2015:

IEPA awards a 319 grant to develop a watershed plan. DRWW monitoring costs of \$279,000 were utilized as grant matching funds.

### 2016-2018:

The watershed plan is developed and is completed on time and on budget in June 2018.

### September-November 2018:

IEPA approves the watershed-based plan, the Lake County Stormwater Management Commission (SMC) and the Lake County Board officially adopt the plan.

*This guidance document substantially increases the odds of 319 funding for projects listed in the work plan.*

# Committee Reports:

## Executive Board:

- The Executive Board is on track to create an IEPA approved Nutrient Assessment and Reduction Plan (NARP) by 2023.
- The NARP will keep MS4 permits and NPDES permits compliant, and the watershed plan meets prerequisites for project funding in the watershed.

## Lakes Committee:

- Conducted extensive water quality monitoring on the inlets and outlets to Gages, Druce, and Third lakes to determine nutrient and pollutant sources. Compared field data with lake models to determine external and internal phosphorus contributions.
- Sponsored and assisted implementing the 2018 Lake County Deicing Workshop which was attended by over 180 people, 44 were from DRWW member communities.
- Sponsored an aquatic plant identification workshop.

## Task Force:

- In collaboration with Applied Ecological Services (AES), the task force hosted a Green Infrastructure Training Seminar.
- Tailored to the needs of MS4 communities.
- The seminar was attended by 50 members and 17 non-members.

## 319 Grants:

The DRWW is partnering on three 319 grant applications in the watershed. The Workgroup has provided letters of support and committed to approximately \$2,800 of in-kind effort for education and public outreach for the following projects:

- Lake County Health Department: \$66,750  
(Removal of Carp to Reduce Nutrient Enrichment in Impaired Lakes in Lake County)
- Lake County Forest Preserve District: \$400,341  
(Van Patten Woods Hydrologic Restoration and Enhancement Project)
- Village of Libertyville: \$806,507  
(Charles Brown Park Wetland Detention Project)

## Appreciating Our Work:

In May, at the General Membership Meeting, attendees took a tour of Rollins Savanna Forest Preserve. The Lake County Forest Preserve District partnered with SMC and the Lake County Division of Transportation to monitor, research, and provide education on the restoration of 1,225 acres at Rollins Savanna. This enormous project cost more than 1 million dollars and implemented prairie reconstruction, drain tile removal, invasive species control, and reforestation activities.

## 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  
Libertyville Township  
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

