

2019 Des Plaines River Watershed Workgroup (DRWW) Annual Accomplishments

The DRWW continues to fulfill the required IEPA regulatory monitoring requirements of its members. 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 developing a tool to identify water quality improvement. 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.

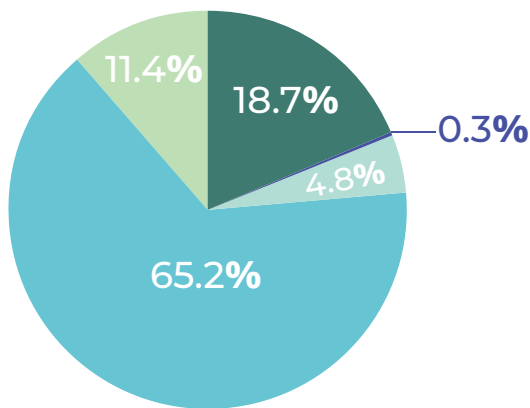
Welcome New Members!

In 2019, the DRWW welcomed four new members for a total of 32 and collected \$242,595.00 in membership dues.

2019 New Members:

- Ela Township
- Fremont Township
- Town of Vernon
- Village of Round Lake Park

Let's Talk Budget Numbers



- Water Quality Monitoring (65.2%)
- Nutrient Assessment Reduction Plan (NARP) (18.7%)
- Development of IPS (11.4%)
- Administration/Technical Services (4.8%)
- Public Education (0.3%)

Powerful Decision Making Tool

- The DRWW is excited about the Integrated Prioritization System (IPS) tool that is being developed with the Midwest Biological Institute and should be ready for early testing in January 2020.
- The IPS tool will address new municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4) and National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) regulatory requirements set by the IEPA.
- 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 reclamation facility upgrades.

2019 Priorities

- The DRWW, with the help of Geosyntec, developed a Nutrient Assessment Reduction Plan (NARP) workplan. The implementation strategy for this workplan will be conducted in 2020.
- Continue watershed water quality monitoring. This data will support the implementation of the NARP and IPS Tool.

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 was developed and completed with DRWW's input on time and on budget in June 2018.

September-November 2018:

IEPA approves the DRWW supported watershed-based plan, the Lake County Stormwater Management Commission (SMC) and the Lake County Board officially adopt the plan aiding in DRWW's goals of improving the watershed.

2019:

The DRWW worked with Geosyntec to develop a Nutrient Assessment Reduction Plan workplan to provide the DRWW with a multi-year plan to complete the NARP in 2023.

Committee Reports:

Executive Board:

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

Lakes Committee:

- Conducted water quality monitoring on the inlets and outlets of Lake Charles, Big Bear and Little Bear Lakes, to determine nutrient and pollutant sources. Compared field data with lake models and to the 2018 study on glacial lakes to determine external and internal phosphorus contributions.
- Sponsored and assisted implementing the 2019 Lake County Deicing Workshop which was attended by 177 people, 46 were from DRWW member communities.
- Sponsored an aquatic plant identification workshop.

Monitoring/Water Quality Improvement Committee:

- Continued water and sediment sampling analysis programs at 73 monitoring locations.
- 31 monitoring locations studied for the bioassessment monitoring program.

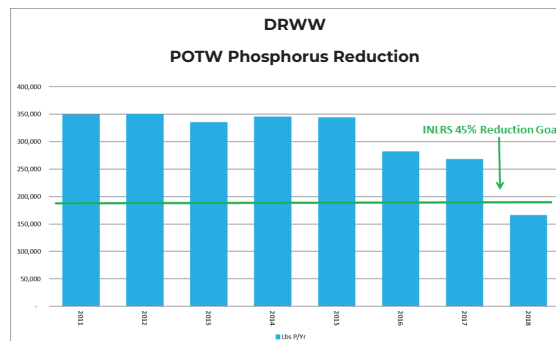
319 Grants:

In 2018, the DRWW began partnering on three 319 grant applications in the watershed. The Workgroup has provided letters of support and committed approximately \$2,800 of in-kind effort for education and public outreach. All three 319 grant applications received funding and updates on the projects can be found on the DRWW website:

- 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:

- The Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy has proven successful as DRWW has achieved the short-term 25% reduction by 2025 and the long-term 45% reduction goals.



DRWW Membership

Agency Members

- City of Lake Forest
- Ela Township
- Fremont Township
- Lake County
- Lake County Division of Transportation
- Lake County Forest Preserve District
- Lake County Public Works
- Libertyville Township
- North Shore Water Reclamation District
- Town of Vernon
- 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 Riverwoods
- Village of Round Lake Beach
- Village of Round Lake Park
- Village of Third Lake
- Village of Vernon Hills

Associate Members

- Applied Technologies, Inc.
- Christopher B. Burke Engineering
- Lake County Stormwater Management Commission
- Hey & Associates
- Sierra Club

