



DES PLAINES RIVER WATERSHED WORKGROUP

10 Years of the Des Plaines River Watershed Workgroup

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DRWW President and DRWW Treasurer
Des Plaines River Watershed Workgroup



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Des Plaines River Watershed

- Covers 130,000 acres, 200 square miles
- Starts west of Kenosha, becomes Lower Des Plaines in Cook
- Flows into the Kankakee, then the Illinois and eventually the Mississippi
- Nine subwatersheds in Lake County: North Mill, Mill, Newport, Upper, Bull, Indian, Lower, Buffalo, Aptakisic





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What was the problem?

- Water quality
- Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs)
- National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting
- Limited Monitoring

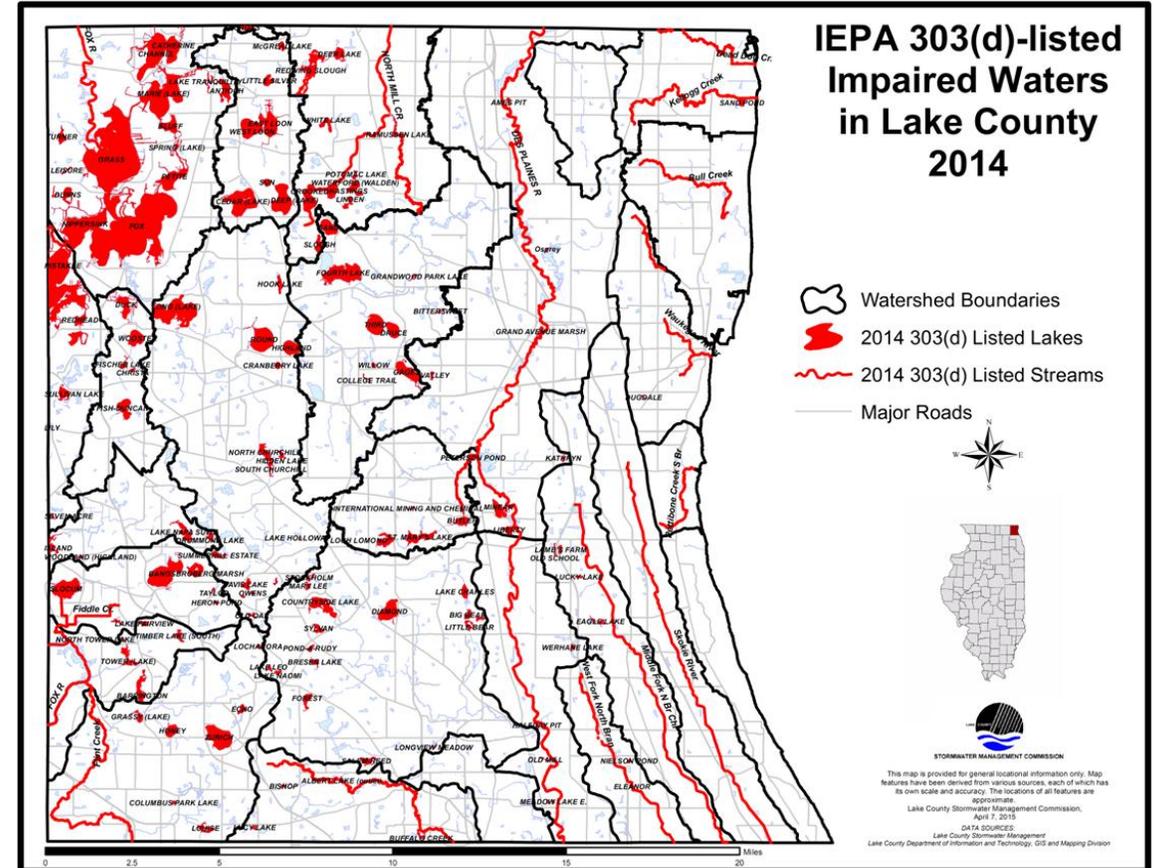




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Water quality

- Portions were listed as impaired by Illinois EPA for
 - Arsenic
 - Chloride
 - Dissolved oxygen
 - Fecal coliform
 - Iron
 - Manganese
 - Methoxychlor
 - Mercury
 - Phosphorus
 - Polychlorinated biphenyls
 - Total suspended solids

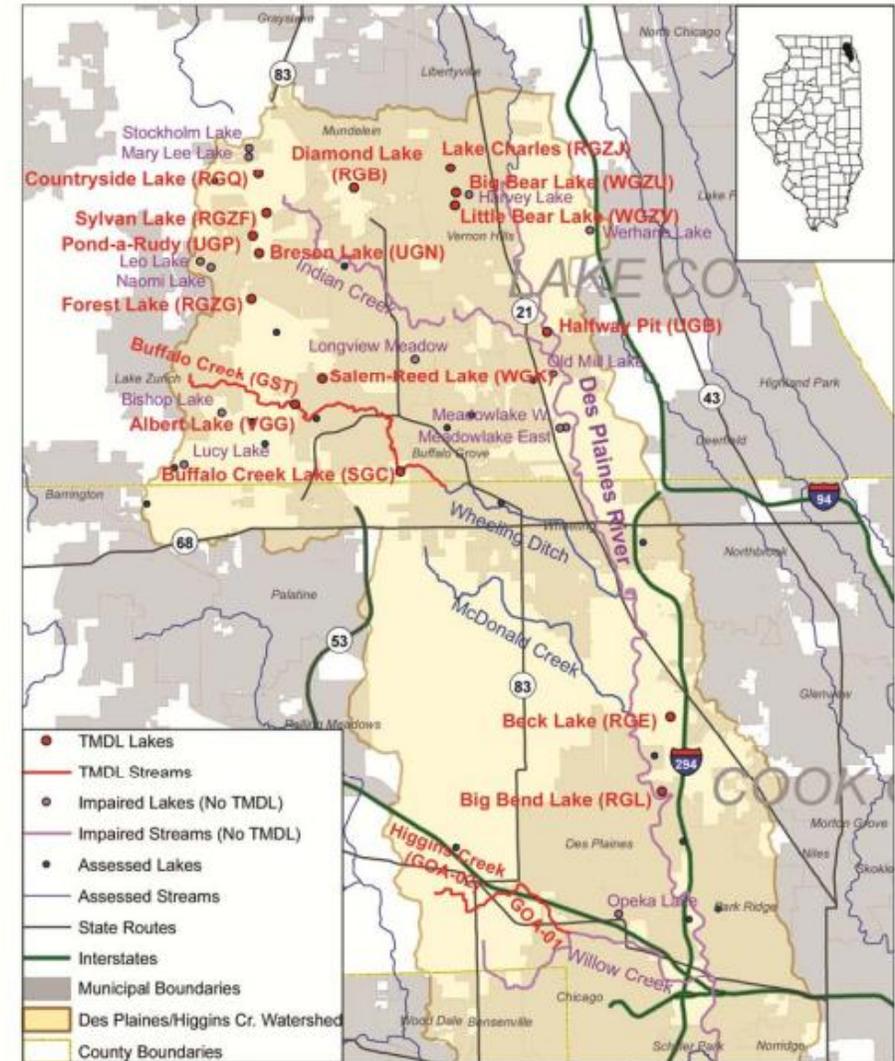




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Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)

- Des Plaines River/Higgins Creek Watershed TMDL Report approved in May 2013
- 13 water bodies in the Des Plaines were listed:
 - Albert Lake
 - Big Bear Lake
 - Bresen Lake
 - Buffalo Creek
 - Buffalo Creek Lake
 - Countryside Lake
 - Diamond Lake
 - Forest Lake
 - Halfday Pit Lake
 - Lake Charles
 - Little Bear Lake
 - Pond-A-Rudy
 - Sylvan Lake

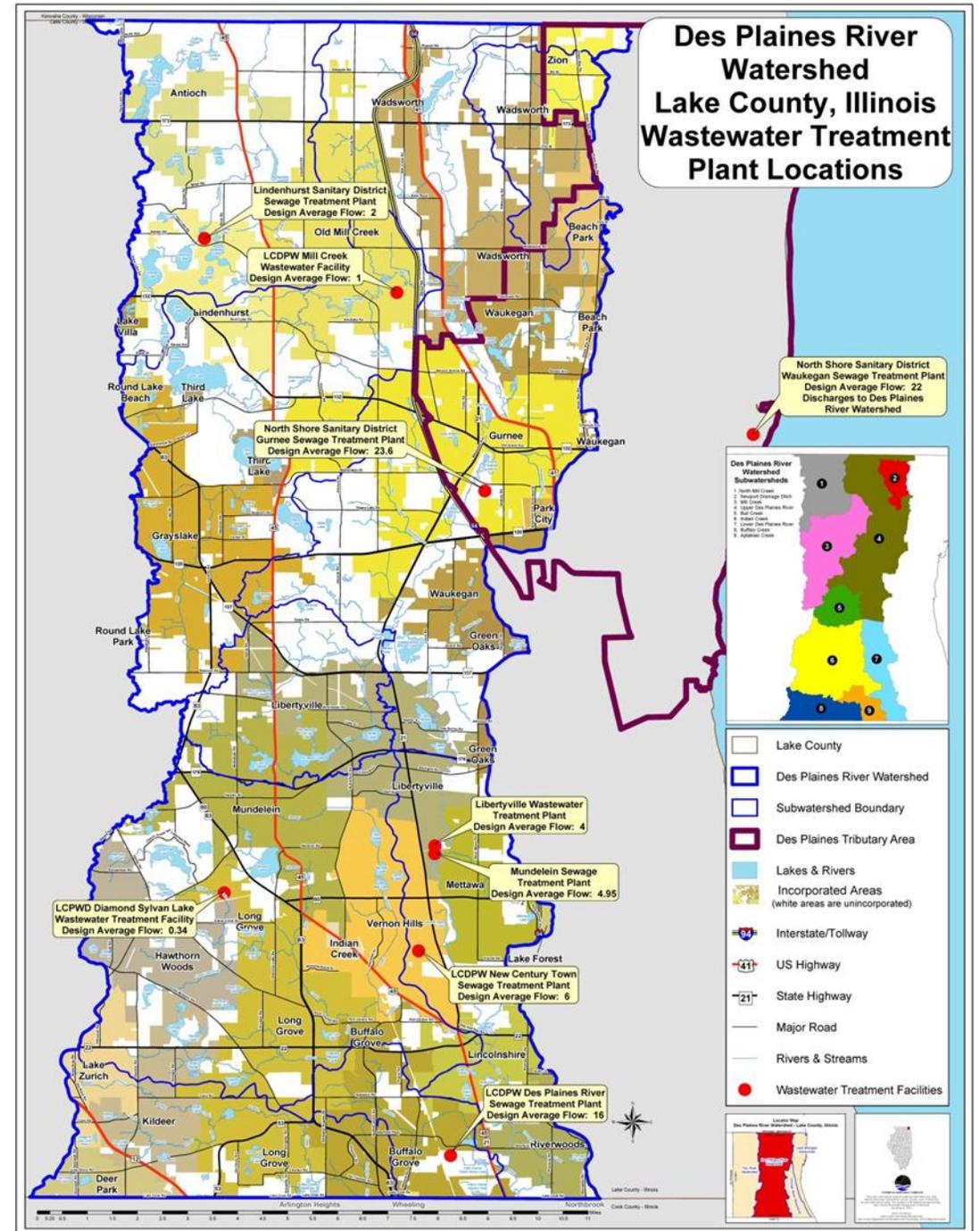




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National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permits (NPDES)

- A permit program authorized under the Federal Clean Water Act
- Requires permits for the discharge of treated municipal effluent, treated industrial effluent, and stormwater
- Permit establish conditions under which discharge may occur, and establish monitoring and reporting requirements





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- Pre-Formation period 2013-2014
- Modeled after local watershed groups
 - DuPage River-Salt Creek Workgroup
 - Lower DuPage River Watershed Coalition
 - Fox River Study Group
- Why form a watershed workgroup?
 - Strongly encouraged by regulating bodies
 - Local level decision making
 - Holistic approach – solving the problem not just treating the symptoms
 - Cost effective – instead of millions of dollars of WWTP upgrades, thousands of dollars of water quality improvements



DRWW Founding Members

- Buffalo Grove
- Deerfield
- Green Oaks
- Gurnee
- Kildeer
- Lake County
- Lake County Forest Preserve District
- Lake County Public Works
- Lake Forest
- Lincolnshire
- Lindenhurst
- Libertyville
- North Shore Sanitary District
- Round Lake Beach
- Third Lake
- Vernon Hills
- Wadsworth



DES PLAINES RIVER WATERSHED WORKGROUP

- Officially formed in 2015 with 18 members
- Mission – *Improving water quality through a collaborative, locally led process*
- Goals –
 - Water quality improvements
 - Local decision making on watershed issues
 - Cost savings/sharing
 - NPDES permit compliance
 - Education and outreach

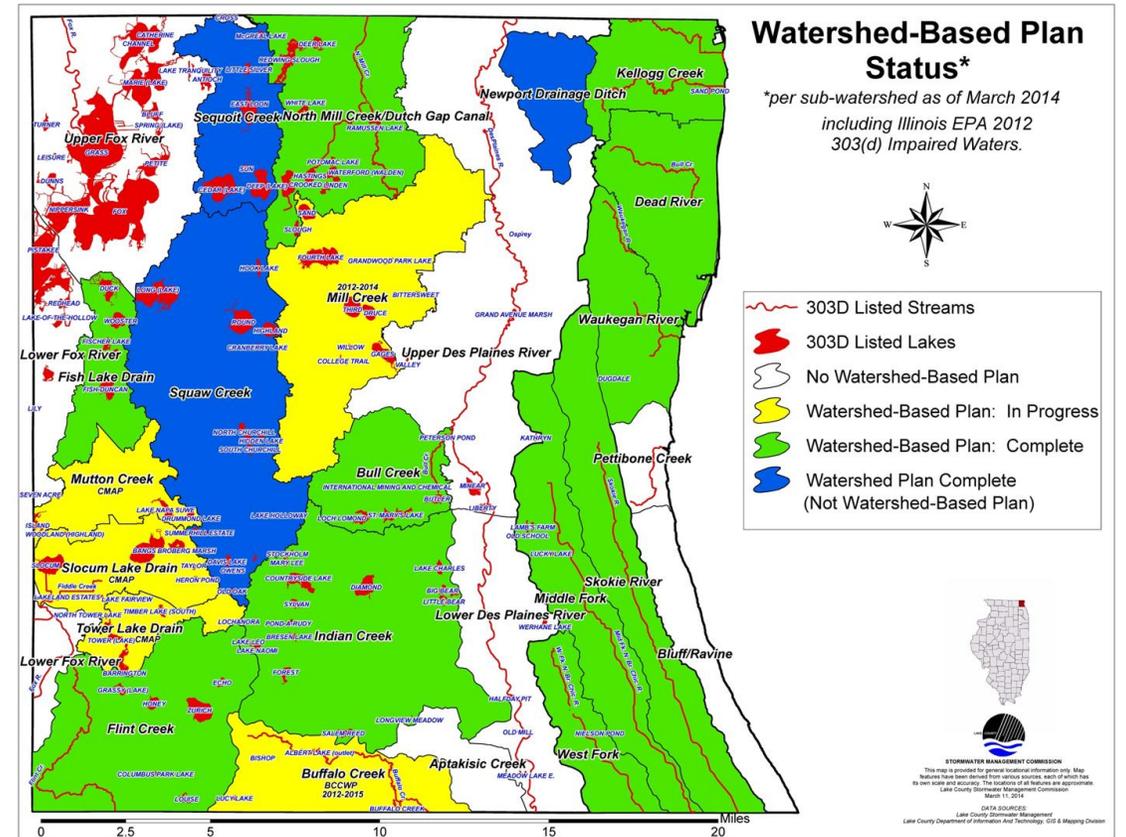




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2015 Accomplishments

- Grant Funding and Watershed Planning
 - DRWW provided matching services through its monitoring efforts for a Watershed-Based Plan in the Des Plaines Watershed
- NPDES Permitting
- Monitoring Established
 - Flow Monitoring
 - Bioassessment Monitoring
 - Water Chemistry Monitoring

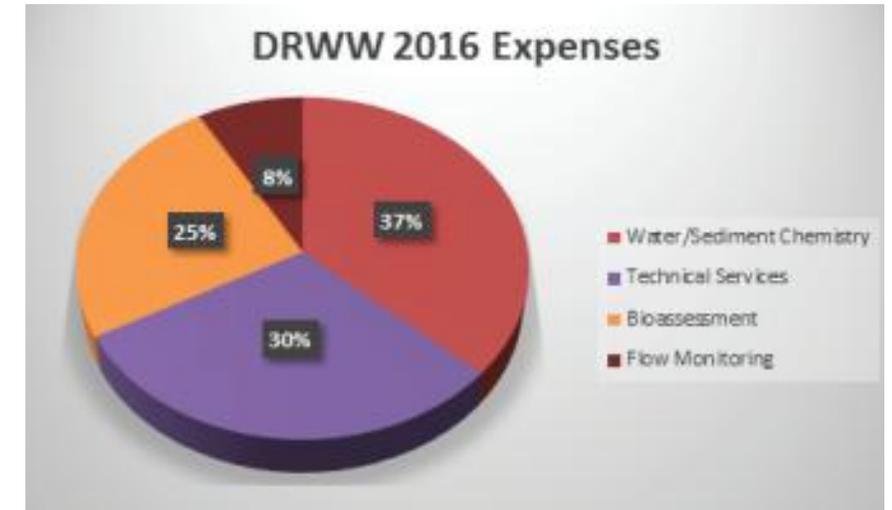




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2016 Accomplishments

- Membership up 22% from 2015 to a total of 22 members
- Grant Funding and Watershed Planning
- Received IEPA approval for its Monitoring Strategy and Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP)
- NPDES Permitting
 - First Annual Monitoring Report for submitted to the IEPA
 - MS4 permit reissued on March 1, 2016 expanding monitoring requirements
- Monitoring
 - Baseline Monitoring for was collected for 69 sites

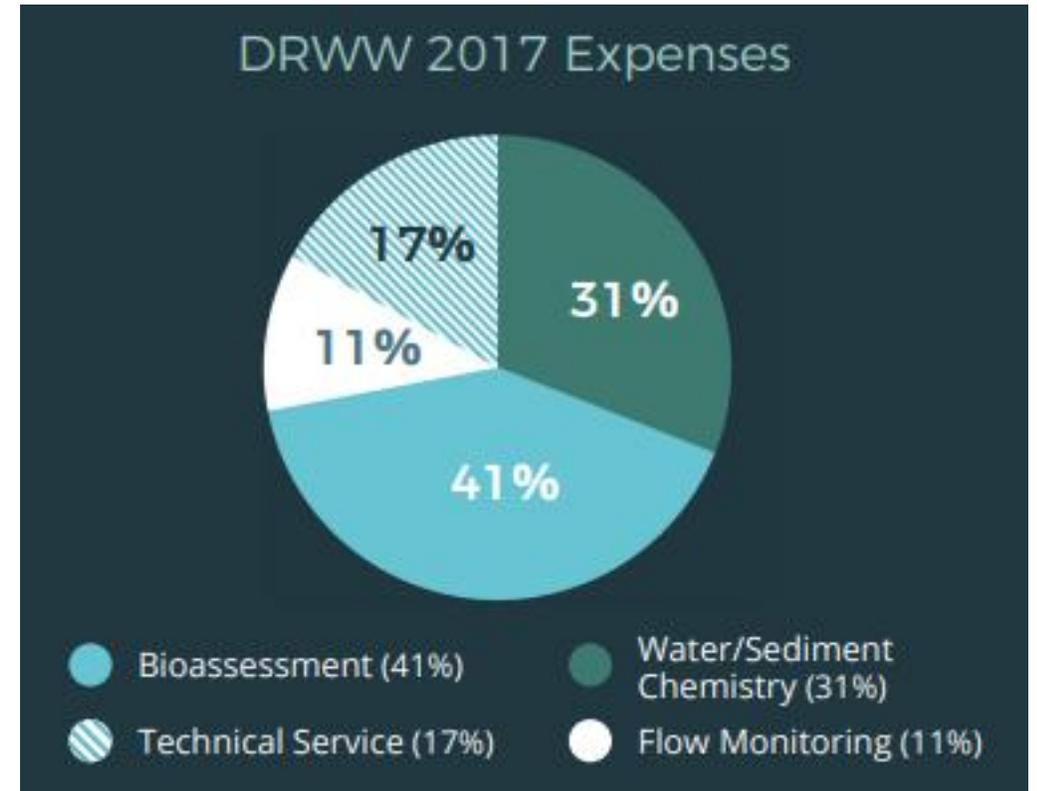




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2017 Accomplishments

- Welcomed 8 members in 2017 for a total of 30 members!
- DRWW received a reimbursement from the 319 grant for costs associated with preparing QAPP and a Monitoring Strategy for the Des Plaines River Watershed Based Plan
- Participated in coordinating the 2017 Deicing Workshops

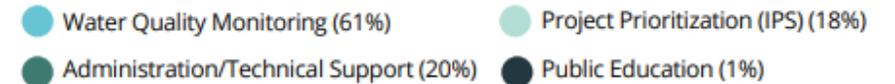
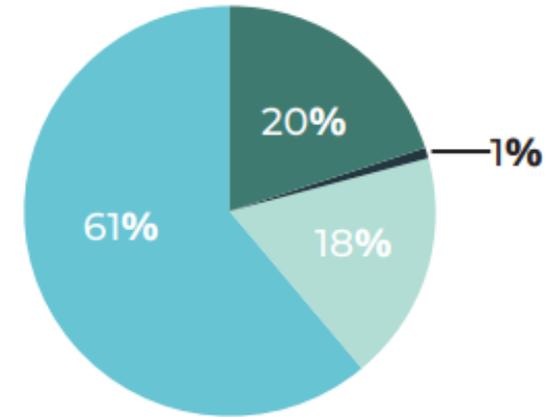




2018 Accomplishments

- Des Plaines River Watershed Plan Completed
- Integrated Prioritization System (IPS) Tool Development
- Partnered on three 319 grant applications
- Lakes Committee conducted Water Quality Monitoring on 3 lakes
- Sponsored and assisted the 2018 Lake County Deicing Workshop, Plant ID Workshop, and the Green Infrastructure Training Seminar

DRWW 2018 Expenses

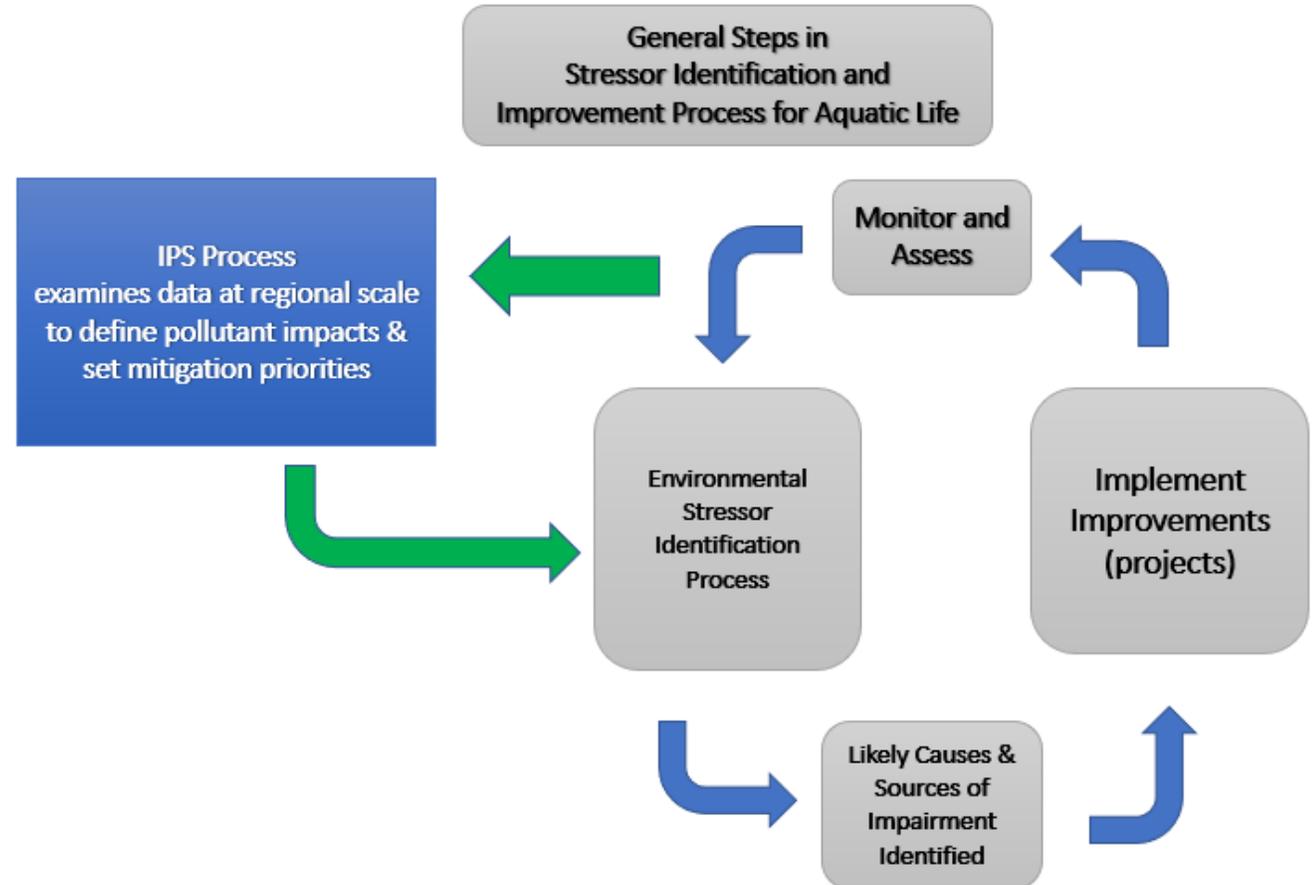




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What is the IPS Model?

- Allows users to visualize and rank aquatic life use aspects of Clean Water Act (CWA) water quality issues
- A standardized approach to viewing data linked to attainment of aquatic life uses
- Sites, reaches, and watersheds ranked by restorability for impaired waters and susceptibility and threat for attaining waters



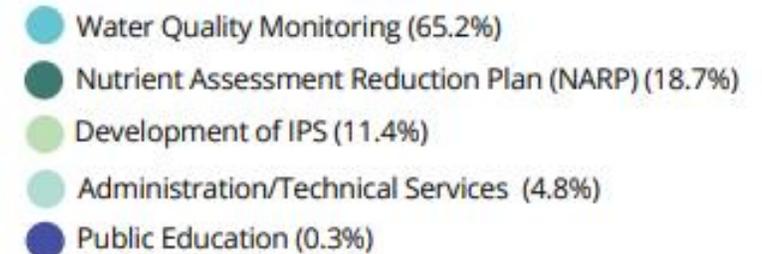
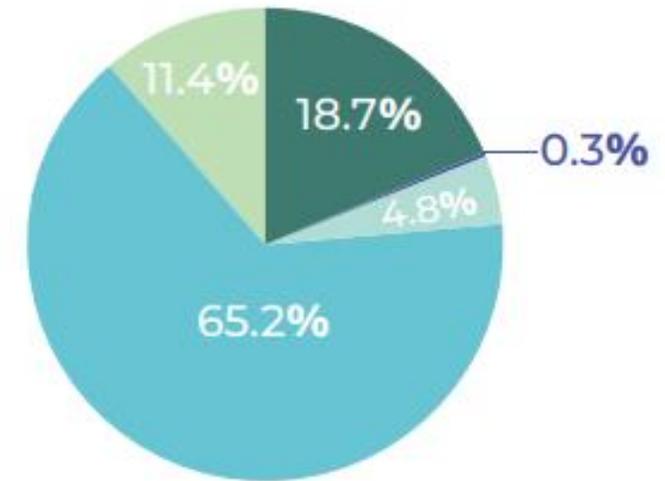


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2019 Accomplishments

- Development of the NARP Workplan
- Continued development of the IPS tool
- Lakes Committee conducted water quality monitoring on 3 lakes
 - Lake Charles
 - Big Bear Lake
 - Little Bear Lake

DRWW 2019 Expenses



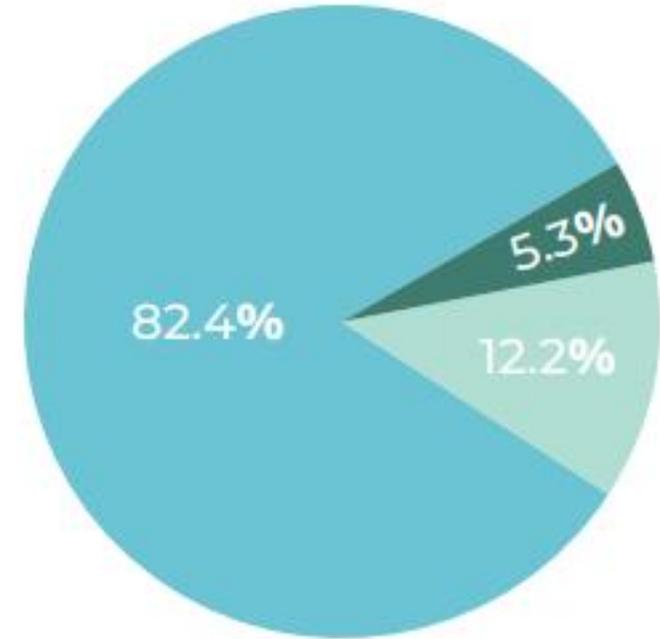


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2020 Accomplishments

- Continuous Monitoring Program
 - 3-Year program
 - Data to be used to support the NARP, and assess winter road and sediment impacts
- Updated By-Laws and Membership Dues structure
- Welcomed 5 new members for a total of 37 members!

2020 DRWW Expenses



- Biological & Water Quality Monitoring (82.4%)
- Nutrient Assessment Reduction Plan (NARP) (5.3%)
- Administration/Technical Services (12.2%)

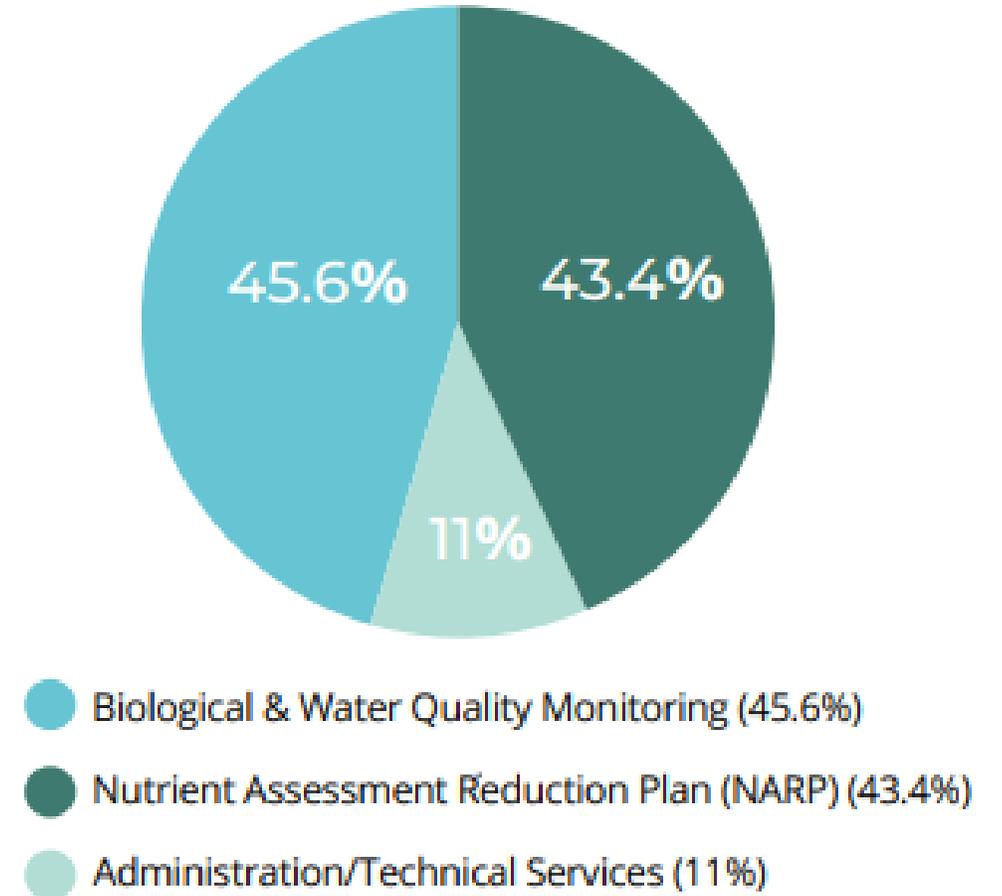


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2021 Accomplishments

- NARP
 - Preliminary findings strong influence of upstream loading
- DRWW partnered with Salt Smart Collaborative to host Virtual Deicing Workshops
- DRWW 2021 Monitoring Strategy
 - Included water column, sediment, chlorophyll, and bioassessment sampling
 - Continuous monitoring at 3 sites

2021 DRWW Expenses



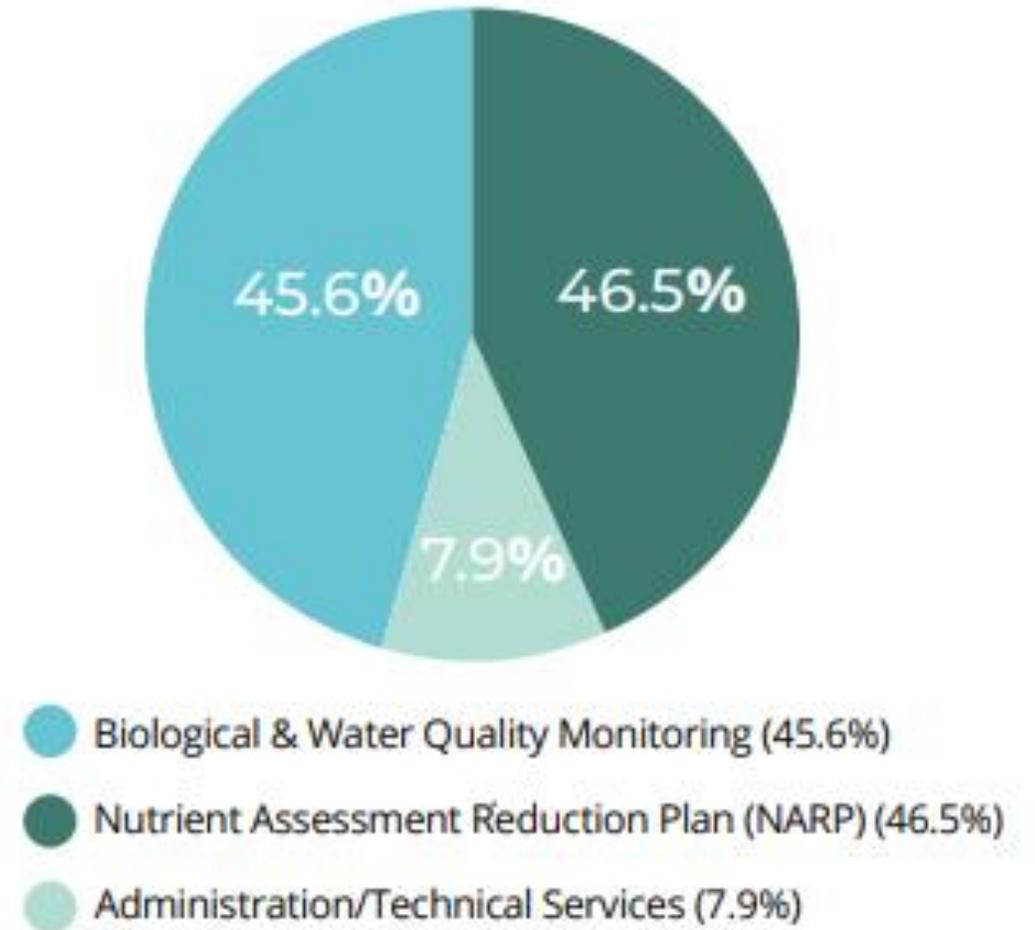


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2022 Accomplishments

- NARP
 - Development of Modeling Tools
 - Evaluation of Management Scenarios
- DRWW partnered with Salt Smart Collaborative to host Virtual Deicing Workshops
- Welcomed 3 new members for a total of 41 members!

2022 DRWW Expenses



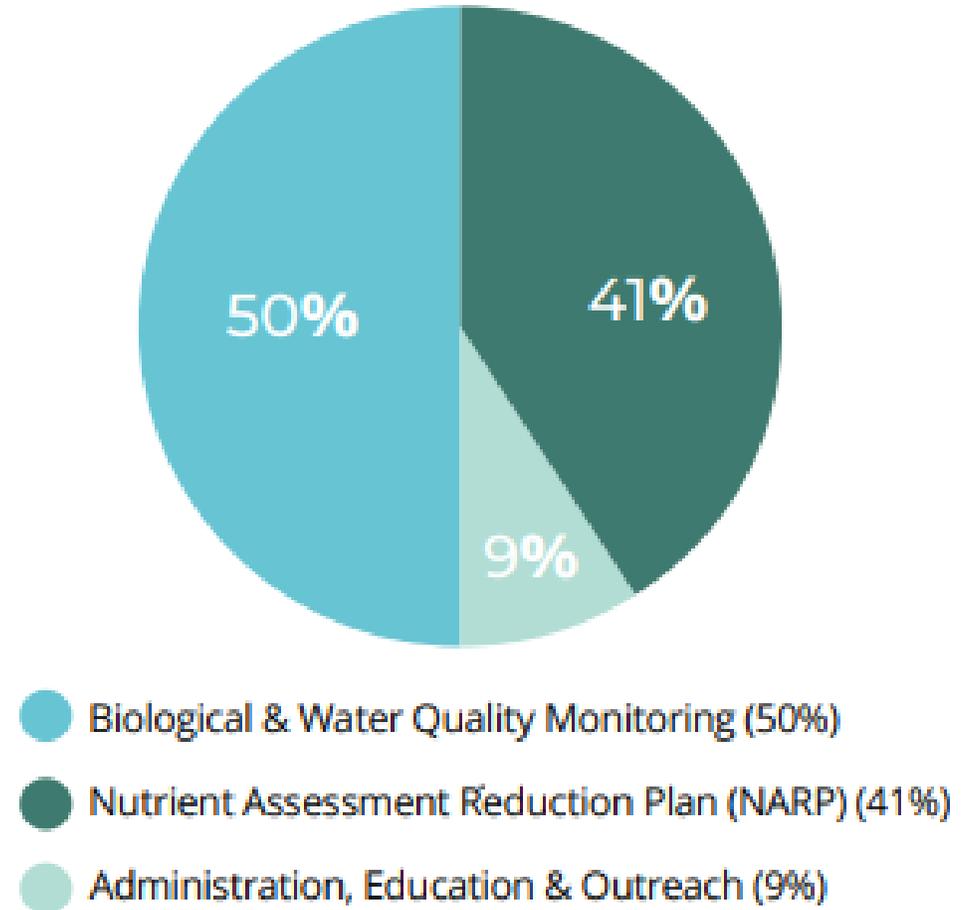


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2023 Accomplishments

- NARP Complete!
 - Submitted to IEPA December 29, 2023
- DRWW partnered with Salt Smart Collaborative to host Virtual Deicing Workshops and a Deicing Calibration Day
 - The virtual workshops trained over 1,000 people

2023 DRWW Expenses





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2024 Accomplishments

- NARP Implementation Discussion
- Comments Received on the NARP
 - In November reached out to one of the commentators
 - Continued discussions with the IEPA
- Sponsored the Lake County Calibration Event
 - Municipalities were able to calibrate their trucks with Force America
 - Event was full within 2 weeks of opening

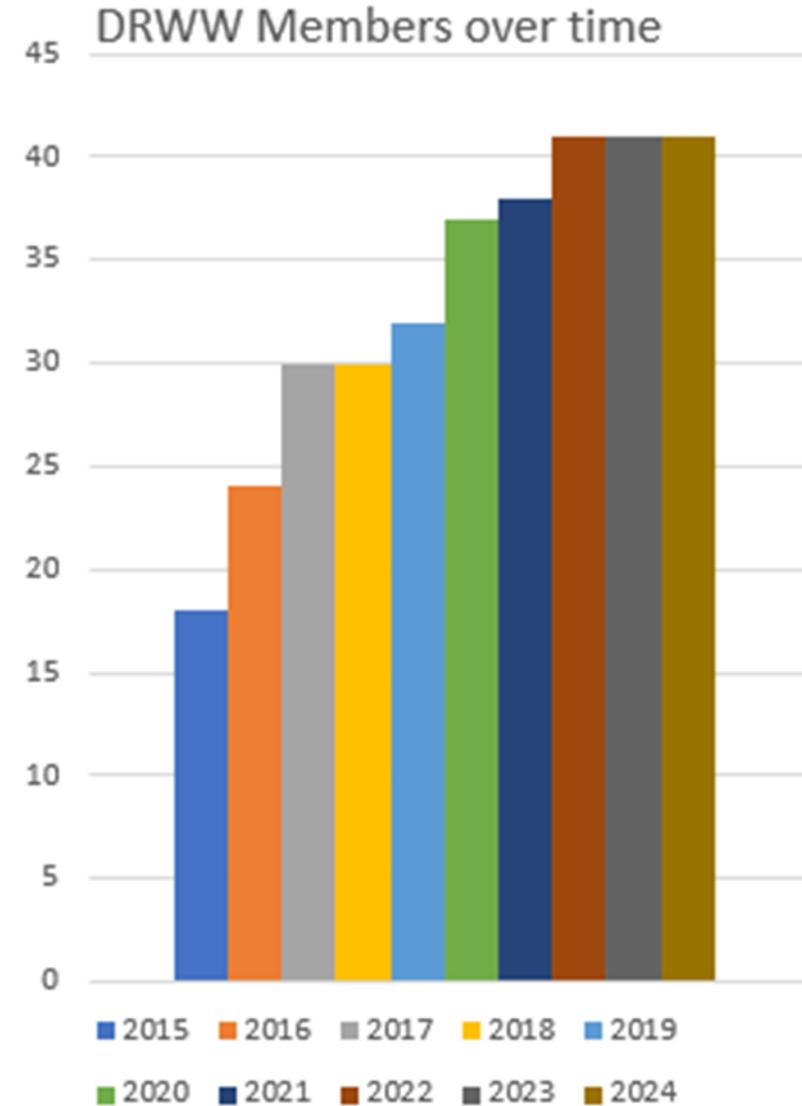




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DRWW By the Numbers

- Membership started with 18 members in 2015 and ended with 41 members in 2024
- Budget since 2015
 - 64% of membership dues have gone towards monitoring
 - 20% of dues towards the NARP
 - 14% of dues have gone towards administrative support and education & outreach

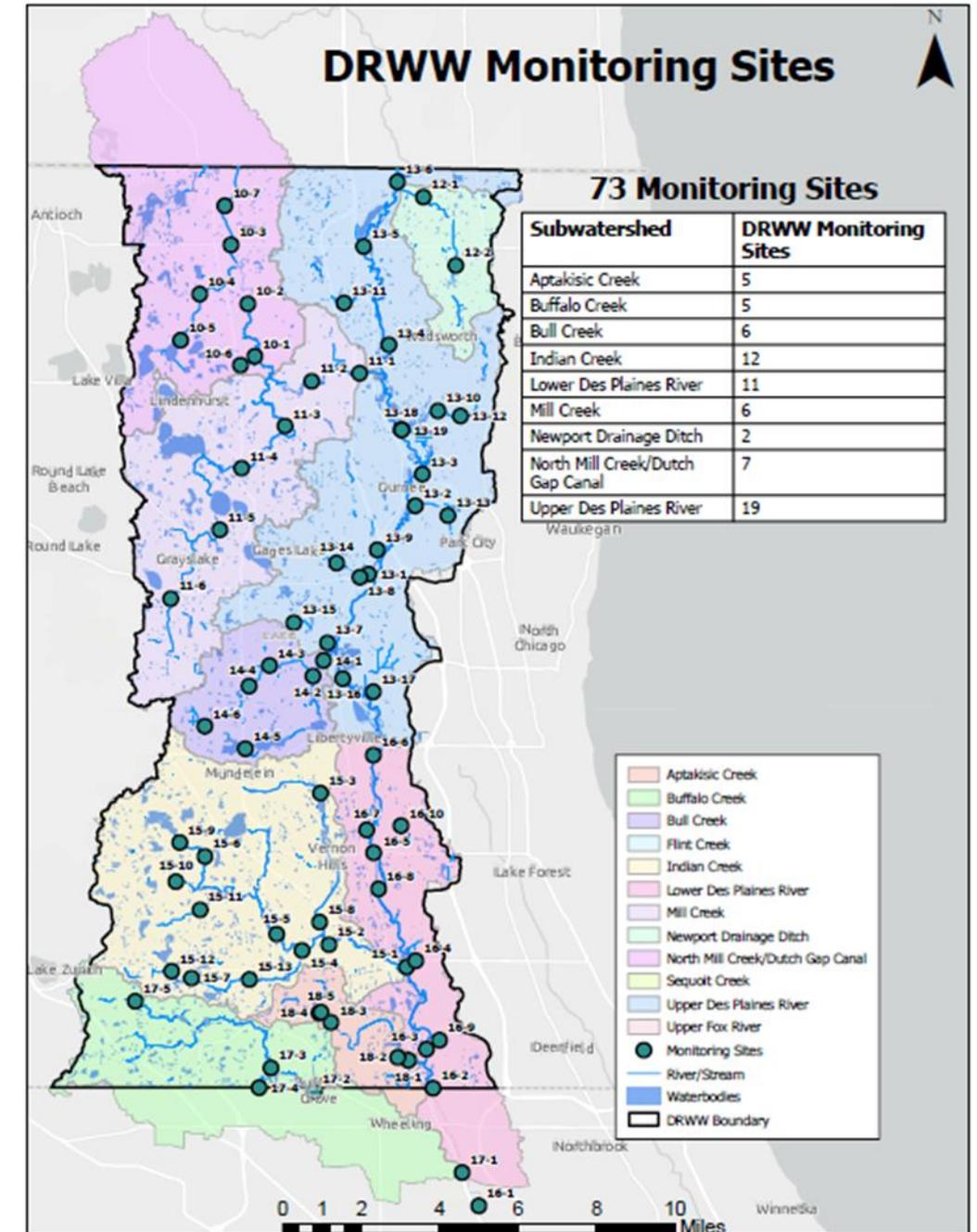




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• Monitoring by the numbers

- In 2016 started collecting at 69 Sites - main stem (17) and tributaries (53)
 - 9 Subwatersheds – 200 square miles
- Since 2019 collecting water quality samples at 73 sites 5 times a year
- Over 2,930 water quality samples have been collected since 2016
- 10 Annual Water Quality Monitoring Reports submitted to IEPA which fulfill NPDES monitoring requirements
- 6 Bioassessment and Water Quality Reports





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- Education, Outreach, and Public numbers
 - DRWW held over 175 Public Meetings
 - Sponsored, implemented, partnered on over 41 workshops, seminars, and training events that fulfill MS4 training requirements. Including:
 - Deicing Workshops
 - In-Person Calibration Events
 - Green Infrastructure
 - MS4 Pollution Prevention





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Thank you to the members of DRWW.
This organization is only possible
through the support the membership
has provided over the last decade!

