



Water Quality

Improvement Program

Funding Application Manual

FY09

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I. Introduction

Throughout the development of DuPage County's Stormwater Management program, water quantity and quality have been a significant focus. The quantity aspect of stormwater control has captured the majority of the County's attention for the past several years in its efforts to reduce the risk of flooding and flood related damages, but a shift towards addressing the County's water quality concerns is taking place. From current and impending federal regulations to the individual concerned homeowner, a strong water quality program has become not only a desire, but also a necessity.

A. Background

DuPage County has incorporated water quality concerns throughout the development of its stormwater management program. For example:

The Stormwater Management Plan (1989) – seeks to reverse increases in flood risk, flood damage, and environmental degradation due to urbanization. Three of six primary objectives concern water quality: ¹⁾ Protect and enhance the quality, quantity and availability of surface and groundwater resources, ²⁾ Preserve and enhance existing and riparian environments and encourage restoration of degraded areas, and ³⁾ Control sediment and erosion in and from drainage ways, developments and construction sites.

The DuPage County Stormwater and Flood Plain Ordinance (1991) – includes the following water quality components: ¹⁾ Stringent wetland protection (no minimum disturbance threshold for mitigation, includes development setbacks, requires quantitative classification of wetland habitat and vegetation, and prohibits impacts to "critical" wetlands unless denial of all economic use criteria met), ²⁾ Sediment and erosion controls (requires a sediment and erosion control permit and performance securities), ³⁾ Water quality best management practices (promotes the use of vegetated swales and basins, encourages the use of BMP design manuals, and requires compliance with the Clean Water Act), and ⁴⁾ Riparian corridor requirements (includes the 100yr floodplain in its entirety, protects the water quality functions of existing vegetation and soils, and provides for mitigation for unavoidable impacts).

Native Landscape Ordinance (2002) –joins native planting and stormwater controls together for new detention ponds. The Native Landscape Ordinance is currently limited in its jurisdiction to unincorporated DuPage County within the County's Building Code.

B. Federal Mandates

NPDES Permits

The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Program was established as the fundamental regulatory mechanism of the 1972 Clean Water Act (CWA), requiring all point sources discharging pollutants into waters of the United

States to obtain a permit. This legislation initially targeted wastewater dischargers from private industries and discharges from municipal wastewater treatment facilities.

Since the noted improvements resulting from the original NPDES program, pollution from diffuse (non-point) sources – such as stormwater runoff from urban areas, agricultural areas, construction sites, land disposal, and resources extraction (mining) – are now the leading cause of water quality impairment. This prompted the 1987 Section 402(p) amendments to the Clean Water Act, requiring the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to develop a comprehensive phased program to regulate stormwater discharges under the NPDES program.

Phase I targeted large and medium municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s) with populations over 100,000 as well as a variety of large construction activities over 5 acres. The Phase II storm water permitting will regulate small MS4s with populations less than 100,000 and construction activities between 1 and 5 acres in early 2003. DuPage County and all its municipalities fall into this category.

To comply with the federal regulations, state and local authorities are required to meet, at a minimum, six control elements: ¹⁾ public outreach and education on stormwater impacts, ²⁾ public involvement/participation in the program, ³⁾ illicit discharge detection and elimination, ⁴⁾ construction site stormwater runoff control, ⁵⁾ post-construction stormwater management in new development and re-development projects, and ⁶⁾ good housekeeping/pollution prevention for municipal operations. Each one of the control measures will need to be defined by: ^{a)} best management practices, ^{b)} measurable goals, ^{c)} implementation schedule and ^{d)} responsible parties.

TMDL Determination

Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act requires states to identify impaired waters, or those waters not meeting water quality standards and designated uses. In Illinois, the Illinois Pollution Control Board adopts water quality standards and designates uses (example: general use, secondary contact, etc).

To assist in attaining these uses on water bodies currently below the use standard, the EPA is requiring Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) determinations. A TMDL is the sum of the allowable amount of a single pollutant (nutrients, siltation, metals, etc.) that a waterbody can receive from all contributing point and nonpoint sources and still meet water quality standards or designated uses. It also consists of an implementation plan that outlines the pollutant reductions needed to meet water quality standards and allocates the reductions throughout the watershed.

TMDLs have been established for the East and West Branch DuPage Rivers and Salt Creek. To download these reports, please refer to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's website at <http://www.epa.state.il.us/>.

C. *The Streambank Stabilization Program Revitalized*

The Streambank Stabilization Program was formed in 1993 as an offshoot of DuPage County's Stream Maintenance Program. The Stream Maintenance Program financially supplemented County approved streambank stabilization projects, with potentially 100% of costs for Design Solution Reports and up to 20% of construction costs being recouped. This program has had great success using bioengineering techniques to restore severely eroded streambanks back to healthy, vegetated sideslopes.

Within the last few years, DuPage County has received several requests to participate in projects where the goal was to improve water quality, but streambank stabilization was not necessarily the desired solution. Such projects include wetland creation, storm sewer daylighting, and in-stream animal habitat enhancement. In order to encourage the implementation of similar projects in the future, the County found it necessary to expand the only program that addressed water quality concerns, the Streambank Stabilization Program, into the Water Quality Improvement Program.

II. Use of this Manual

This manual describes the submittal requirements for water quality funding assistance. Its primary objective is to discuss and clarify the funding and function of the Water Quality Improvement Program—it is not a water quality technical manual.

The types of projects that will be eligible for funding assistance are described below:

- Streambank stabilization involving bioengineering practices such as; soil lifts, bank reshaping and planting, coconut fiber rolls, live fascines, a-jacks, etc.
- In-stream habitat improvements including: pool-riffle complexes; lunger structures; weirs or sills; log, brush, rock shelters; etc.
- Channel Rehabilitation such as: removal of concrete lining, remeandering a previously channelized section of a stream, stabilizing streambank, etc.
- Riparian buffer rehabilitation including: daylighting a storm sewer, wetland plantings, etc.
- Wetland Creation
- “Green” Building Technologies that reduce/filter stormwater runoff, s.a. green roofs, rain gardens, bioswales, cisterns, permeable pavers and porous concrete, etc.

Projects that would not be eligible for funding under this program would include:

- Projects that are part of an applicant’s normal maintenance such as: properly maintaining a structural best management practice, repairs to flood conveying structures that are routine, etc.
- Activities that are required by a permit where the initial intent of the project is not to improve water quality, such as moving a section of stream to create more space for development or building a detention pond within a development/redevelopment to meet storage requirements (if the applicant can demonstrate that a portion of the project exceeds the permit or ordinance requirements for water quality then that portion of the project may be eligible for funding).
- Activities that are completed prior to signing an agreement or contract for County Water Quality Improvement Program assistance.

III. Funding Assistance – Two Types

A. *Large Project Funding*

The Water Quality Improvement Program funds eligible large projects at 20 percent of the total construction and final design. To be considered eligible for this funding, a Conceptual Design Report is required. The Conceptual Design Report (as discussed in Section IV) is a general overview of the project describing the existing and proposed conditions of the site in question. Using the Conceptual Design Report, each project is prioritized based on ranking criteria. Once approved by the Stormwater Management Committee, funds are encumbered for the top ranked projects for that fiscal year.

B. *Small Project Funding*

Small projects, generally undertaken by private homeowners, are as eligible for DuPage County funds as their larger counterparts. Unlike larger ventures, a private homeowner may not have the financial backing available to front the initial costs of a Conceptual Design Report. To encourage water quality projects on the small scale, the County will pay for the Conceptual Design Report through an active water quality design contract. Given funding approval by the County and access to alternative funding sources, the County would also contribute 20 percent of the final design and construction costs.

For a water quality project to receive “small” status, the project must not initially involve: a homeowner association, a corporation or business, a municipality, a non-profit agency or any other public agency. Small projects shall be strictly distinguished as an isolated homeowner or a limited grouping of homeowners (maximum limit of four homeowners) and, for streambank stabilization projects, a maximum limit of 1,000 linear feet of property. Small projects and large projects will be ranked together and judged upon individual project merit as determined by the criteria presented in Section V.

IV. Application Requirements - Conceptual Design Report

Each applicant; whether a private homeowner, association or municipality, will be required to submit a Conceptual Design Report. All reports are to contain:

- ❑ Location map showing the approximate location of the proposed work
- ❑ FEMA regulatory floodplain map depicting project location
- ❑ DuPage County wetland reference map depicting project location
- ❑ Plan view of the conceptual design plan at a maximum 1"=100' scale
- ❑ Photographs of the existing condition(s)
- ❑ Narrative of the condition of the reach and/or local watershed (as applicable)
- ❑ Narrative of the proposed solution(s), potential benefit(s), and methodology (how the benefits will be achieved)
- ❑ Cost estimate to include design, construction, maintenance, and monitoring
- ❑ Funding allocations by any/all individuals and agencies
- ❑ List of all project stakeholders

These are the minimum items required for consideration of Water Quality Improvement Program funding. The County reserves the right to disqualify a project from consideration should any of the above not be included in the final submittal.

Deliver **three (3) copies** of the completed Conceptual Design Report to:

Veronica Valladolid
DuPage County Stormwater Management
421 North County Farm Road (2nd floor – south)
Wheaton, Illinois 60187
Tel 630.407.6719
Fax 630.407.6701
Email: veronica.valladolid@dupageco.org

V. Project Prioritization

DuPage County staff will review the submitted applications and prioritize them based on the Funding Evaluation form below. It is in the best interest of all applicants to attempt to positively impact as many of the criteria as possible, and include that information in the application and Conceptual Design Report. As stated previously, all projects large and small will be ranked on individual project merit. Exceptions will not be made for small or large projects during the prioritization stage.

FUNDING EVALUATION FORM	
A. Water Quality	50% of Total Score
1. Reduces a pollutant of high concern (i.e. sediment, chloride, nutrients, heavy metals, etc.).	
2. Reduces point/and or non-point source pollutant loadings (i.e. storm sewer daylighting, industrial storm water discharge retrofitting, etc.).	
3. Reduces in-stream or streambank erosion.	
4. Improves in stream habitats (pool/riffle complexes, remeandering, etc.)	
5. Restores pre-development hydrology.	
B. Wetland and Riparian Areas	30% of Total Score
1. Rehabilitates or creates wetlands.	
2. Rehabilitates riparian habitat and/or the inclusion of buffers.	
3. Protects, restores and/or enhances wildlife habitats or native plant communities.	
C. Education	10% of Total Score
1. Educates community leaders, developers, consultants, and the general public about the water quality benefits of the project.	
D. Regional Benefits	5% of Total Score
Project benefits and /or involves multiple stakeholders.	
E. Funding Dedication	5% of Total Score
Project has listed all dedicated sources of funding including: grants, local shares, and requested funds expected	

VI. Funding Timetable

A. C2000 and 319 Grant Timetables

Please note that all deadlines for outside agencies referred to below may be subject to change. Please verify current deadlines with the particular agency.

If a project is proposed in the DuPage Watershed and the applicant is seeking C2000 funds, all applicants are encouraged to participate in the DuPage River Coalition Ecosystem Partnership review process. Draft applications should be submitted via The Conservation Foundation. Please access www.theconservationfoundation.org for specific dates and more detailed instructions. TCF can also provide assistance to applicants interested in applying for IEPA 319 grants in the DuPage River Watershed. Final applications for IEPA 319 grants should be submitted directly to the IEPA. Their website is www.epa.state.il.us.

Applications seeking C2000 grants for Salt Creek, Flagg Creek, or Sawmill Creek must be delivered to the Lower Des Plaines Ecosystem Partnership. For application information see www.dnr.state.il.us/orep/c2000/ecosystem/partnerships/lowerdes/. All Salt Creek and Sawmill Creek 319 applications must be made directly to the IEPA.

Applicants seeking C2000 grants in the Fox River Watershed must go through the Fox River Ecosystem Partnership. Their website www.FoxRiverEcosystem.org can provide exact dates and instructions. Applicants interested in 319 grants can also contact the Partnership for assistance. Final applications should be submitted directly to the IEPA.

B. DuPage County Funding Timetable – FY09

The application deadline for FY09 funding is December 1, 2008. However, the County encourages project applicants to seek outside funding sources such as C2000 and 319 grants so will endeavor to work its timetable around the C2000 and 319 schedules for this fiscal year as warranted. Please indicate on the application whether additional outside funding/grants are being sought.

Upon County approval of the actual funding agreements, it is anticipated that the project applicant should have enough time to acquire any necessary land rights and hire a contractor to do the specified work within that fiscal year. However, due to unforeseen circumstances, that may not always be possible. In such cases, the County will endeavor to extend completion dates to ensure successful construction of the project, within a reasonable timeframe. In addition, all WQIP contracts include either a 3 or 5-year monitoring timetable (in conjunction with the permit regulations) to ensure the overall success of the project.

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