

Sustainable Watershed Action Team (SWAT)

The Sustainable Watershed Action Team (SWAT) project, funded by the Chicago Wilderness, provides technical assistance to local governments and developers in northeastern Illinois in designing and implementing environmentally sensitive construction projects using Low Impact Development and other sustainable development practices or developing comprehensive plans containing state-of-the art practices for such issues as stormwater management and natural resource protection.

A team of private consultants and other experts are assembled on a project-by-project basis to work directly with the local government or developer. This team of consultants has direct experience in successfully designing and implementing sustainable development practices and provides hands-on expertise on a wide range of projects. This involvement of experts with hands-on experience is pivotal to the success of SWAT projects.

Since March 2004, SWAT has worked with local governments and developers throughout northeastern Illinois, hosting workshops or public charrettes, critiquing proposed development plans, developing comprehensive plans or ordinances, providing guidance on parking lot design and other practices to better protect natural resources.

SWAT now focuses on working with local governments to strengthen their planning infrastructure which will lead to more sustainable developments that better protect natural resources. SWAT has worked with the City of Aurora, McHenry, Winnebago, Boone, DeKalb & Lake counties, Village of Richmond, the Village of Union and others to assist them to prepare their community for future development.

Biographies

Deanna Glosser, Ph.D. is the director of the SWAT initiative. Deanna Glosser is the president of Environmental Planning Solutions, Inc., a small, woman-owned business. She has a doctoral degree from the Department of Urban & Regional Planning at the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana. Dr. Glosser worked for the IDNR for 13 years where she was responsible for agency-wide strategic planning and performance measures, supervised the examination of development projects for adverse impacts to natural and cultural resources, and served as the agency lead on issues related to urban sprawl and growth management. She has been closely involved with the American Planning Association for over ten years.

Nancy Williamson is a SWAT founder & collaborator. She has worked for the IDNR since 2000 where she is now a Regional Watershed Coordinator. She has served as the C2000 Ecosystem Partnership Administrator and continues to work with C2000 Partnerships, local governments, and citizens across northern Illinois to help protect natural resources and provide technical assistance on sustainable development practices. She assisted in the development of the *Living with Wetlands* book, and is an accomplished graphic artist.

For more information about SWAT or to inquire about a potential project, please contact Deanna Glosser at 217-629-8949 or Deanna_Glosser@comcast.net.