Watershed Planning, Activities, What's New, Things You Should Know!

Des Plaines River Watershed Workgroup (DRWW)
Tuesday, August 26, 1-3 p.m.
Village of Libertyville, 118 E. Cook, Libertyville
For more information on DRWW, contact Andrea Cline, acline@lakecountyil.gov, 847.377.7710.

Bull Creek Bull's Brook Watershed Council
Thursday, August 28, 1-3 p.m.
Libertyville Township Center, 359 Merrill Court, Libertyville
Featured speaker: Andrea Cline, SMC, will talk about the newly formed Des Plaines River Watershed Workgroup (DRWW).
See meeting agenda.
August Council E-News

Buffalo Creek Clean Watershed Partnership
Wednesday, September 3, 2014, 7-9 p.m.
Alcott Community Center, 530 Bernard Drive, Room 10, Buffalo Grove
Agenda topics include flood survey results and programs to address flooding.

Flint Creek Watershed Partnership
Thursday, September 11, 10 a.m.
Barrington Hills Village Hall, 2 Algonquin Road, Barrington Hills
Mark your calendar for the December 11 meeting, too!
For more information: Kurt O. Thomsen, Coordinator
information@flintcreekwatershed.org, 262.880.5272

North Branch Planning Committee
The August 13 annual NBPC meeting featured Susie Hoffmann, Director of Center for Conservation Leadership, who talked about the efforts of Lake Forest Open Lands to educate and involve 9th and 10th grade students in conservation; and Matt Ueltzen, Restoration Ecologist for the Lake County Forest Preserve District, talked about the restoration efforts that have been going on at Middlefork Savanna and provided a tour of the Savanna. See their presentations.
Next meeting: November 12, location TBA. This will be a combined meeting with the North Branch Watershed Consortium (formerly the Skokie River Consortium) and the topic will be flooding.

4th Annual Des Plaines River Clean-up and Treasure Hunt
Help us clean up the Des Plaines River on Saturday, September 13.
In Lake County: 9 a.m. at Riverwoods Town Hall, 300 Portwine Road, Riverwoods
In Cook County: 9 a.m. at Dam No. 1 Woods, enter off Dundee Road, east of Routes 45/21
For more information: Tom Reckels, thomasreckels@gmail.com, 847.863.7046
See Event Flyer

New: 9 Lakes Initiative Watershed Plan
The 9 Lakes Planning Committee and Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning completed the watershed plan for southwestern Lake and southeastern McHenry Counties in June and you can now view the plan on-line. The plan includes the 9 elements of a watershed-based plan and provides details on BMP costs and implementation timeframe priority level (1 = short-term, within 5 yrs., 2 = longer term, within 10 yrs.), and identifies a lead entity for BMP implementation. Most BMPs, however, will require collaboration for grant applications and implementation success. The resource inventory offers a wide range of data and analyses to support an informed implementation effort.

Conserve Lake County’s Conservation @ Home program is offering a special price for nonmembers!
Spend an hour walking and assessing your property with one of our professional biologists.
$99 Limited Time Offer! Save 45% off our regular non-member rate during our Summer Special!
Offer good for property visits through September 30, 2014.
See Conserve’s latest Land Matters magazine
### 2014 Deicing Workshops - October 7 (roads) and October 8 (parking lots, sidewalks)

7 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., Lake County Central Permit Facility, Libertyville

$35 per workshop.

Does your homeowners association, business or government entity use a private contractor? Pass this workshop information along to them! The annual workshop focuses on effective winter deicing practices; saving money and reducing environmental impacts of chloride. There will be a “how-to demonstration” on calibrating equipment to optimize deicing application.

Watch the SMC website for details

2014 workshop sponsors include: Lake County Health Department, Public Works, and Division of Transportation, SMC, Beet Heat®, and American Public Works Association – Lake Branch. For more information: Susan Vancil, svancil@lakecountyil.gov, 847.377.7714 or Mike Adam, madam@lakecountyil.gov, 847.377.2008.

### What’s Happening in Our Watersheds

#### 319 Applications Seek Funding for Projects, and Des Plaines Watershed Plan and SWAAP

Lake County Stormwater Management Commission (SMC) submitted two Clean Water Act Section 319 (h) applications for financial assistance this July. One application focused on the Des Plaines River watershed and combined three Best Management Practices implementation projects from existing sub-watershed based plans, an umbrella watershed-based plan for the entire Des Plaines River watershed, and a Small Watershed Assessment and Action Plan pilot study. The three BMP projects are proposed by local project sponsors and include: the Mundelein Park District’s streambank stabilization and riparian buffer installation in Community Park along Bull Creek, the College of Lake County’s installation of bioswales in five parking lots, and the Lake County Forest Preserve District’s effort to implement agricultural BMPs on their land within the North Mill Creek Watershed.

Watershed-based plans will be developed for the remaining sub-watersheds in the Des Plaines basin: Newport Drainage Ditch, the Upper Des Plaines mainstem, the Lower Des Plaines mainstem, and Apaktisic Creek. The existing and ongoing sub-watershed based plans will be folded into this umbrella plan. In addition, this application provides for the completion of a Small Watershed Assessment and Action Planning (SWAAP) pilot study in two catchments within the Des Plaines River watershed. The SWAAP will serve as a bridge from watershed-based planning to implementation by providing more detailed on the ground assessment and concept design work. The SWAAP results will engage stakeholders and provide them with project designs and cost estimates for implementing projects to reduce nonpoint source pollution.

The entire application will support the efforts of the newly formed Des Plaines River Watershed Workgroup. A portion of the match required for the grant will be provided by DRWW annual dues and will be used to develop and implement a watershed wide monitoring program that will examine water and sediment chemistry, fish, and macroinvertebrates.

The second application was to continue our support in the North Branch Chicago River watershed and was on behalf of the Village of Glenview and Glenbard South High School to continue their efforts to retrofit dry detention basins into wetland bottom detention basins that improve water quality through increased residence time and native vegetation assisting in filtering out pollutants. The Village of Glenview has been the recipient of several 319 grants and has retrofitted three detention basins using 319 funds.

### Back To Basics Workshops and Seminar September 9 - 10

Registration is underway for Beyond the Basics Workshops and Seminar on September 9 at Morton Arboretum, and Sept 10th at Woodridge. Beyond the Basics is focused on how to get stormwater management done right in our region through pre-seminar workshops and a full day seminar. Be sure to attend a pre-seminar workshop on September 9 focused on watershed based plans (led by SMC) and ordinance reviews or tour local green stormwater projects in Aurora.

The full day seminar on September 10 has 3 concurrent tracks with 4 sessions plus a keynote session on innovative funding options for green stormwater projects and programs, led by Charlotte Kaiser, The Nature Conservancy, and Eron Bloomgarden, EKO Asset Management Partners. The concluding presentation by Rebeca Bell, Bluestem Communications, is on developing better public communication strategies to increase long-term success of green infrastructure projects. There are a number of registration options available, including a 2-day price break.

Workshop and seminar information
Looking for funding to help support a local project?
SMC is accepting proposals for 2015 Watershed Management Board (WMB) cost-share grants for local in-the-ground projects like stormwater best management practices (e.g., stream restoration, rain gardens, detention pond retrofits), local drainage engineering analysis, and alternate solution evaluation, design, capital construction, and repairs. In addition, the Watershed Management Assistance Grant (WMAG) is available for the primary purpose of supporting the growth and sustainability (i.e., organizational capacity) of local watershed partnerships in Lake County. See WMB RFP.

For more information or if you need assistance with the application process, please contact:
Fox River Watershed – Mike Novotney, mnovotney@lakecountyil.gov, 847.377.7715
Des Plaines River Watershed – Neil Schindelar, nschindelar@lakecountyil.gov, 847.377.7730
Lake Michigan Watershed – Juli Crane, jcrane@lakecountyil.gov, 847.377.7708
North Branch Chicago River Watershed & WMAG – Andrea Cline, acline@lakecountyil.gov, 847.377.7710
Proposals due October 10, 2014
Annual WMB meeting is December 11, 7 p.m., Lake County Central Permit Facility, Libertyville

Dead Dog Creek Phase II Stream Restoration Project Completed - Walking Tour Sept. 23

SMC and its contractor, V3 Construction Group, finished Phase 2 of the Dead Dog Creek Restoration Project in Winthrop Harbor in early July. The 2,600 foot project reach extends east from Sheridan Road to a point approximately 100 feet east (downstream) of Ravine Drive. The project continues similar work that was completed in 2013 on the west side of Sheridan Road, with the cumulative result being the restoration of nearly 1 mile of Dead Dog Creek, a tributary to Lake Michigan. Best management practices (BMPs) installed in Phase 2 include 16 rock riffles, 1 array of stepped pools, 2,345 feet of rock bank toe, 15 tree rootball revetments, 4 rock points, 4 wing deflectors, 300 linear feet of vegetated geogrid lifts, 4,200 feet of reshaped stream bank, the creation of an oxbow wetland, and the removal of a defunct spillway structure.

The project also resulted in the restoration of 2.11 acres of riparian areas with native vegetation, including the installation of more than 12,000 native plant plugs. The project was constructed in partnership with the Village of Winthrop Harbor, the primary landowner, as well as 5 private property owners along the reach, and was funded by the U.S. EPA Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

SMC will host a walking tour of the project on September 23, please contact Mike Prusila, mprusila@lakecountyil.gov, to be added to the invitation list.