

INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND

The City completed its Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP) and it was adopted in May of 2005 with amendments in 2008. The plan serves as a comprehensive planning document to guide the City in conserving, protecting and managing its surface water resources. The plan has been developed to meet the requirements of Minnesota Statutes 103B and Minnesota Rules 8410, to be consistent with the goals and policies of the Metropolitan Council’s Water Resources Management Policy Plan, and the goals and policies of the two watershed management organizations that have jurisdiction within the City: Rice Creek Watershed District and Comfort Lake Forest Lake Watershed District.

The plan and its amendments will be adopted by the City as an element of this Comprehensive Plan.

The SWMP includes a detailed description of the City’s natural resources, including water resources, past studies and inventories, and current surface water management. An assessment of the existing and

potential water resource and stormwater related concerns within the City and associated corrective actions are provided. The SWMP also includes goals and policies to address the long-term surface water management needs in the City, and outlines the regulations, standards, practices; projects and funding that will be needed to implement the goals and policies. The SWMP also includes an inventory and classification of the City’s wetlands, and a plan for management of those resources.

LAND & WATER RESOURCES INVENTORY

The SWMP provides an inventory of land and water resources within the City including a description of the physical setting, available and pertinent water resources data, regulatory setting, and past studies and agreements related to surface water resources.

The LSWMP summarized the City’s and other agencies’ respective regulatory controls related to surface water management and protection (Table 10.1).

**Table 10.1-
Regulatory Control**

Regulation	City ¹	RCWD	CLFLWD ²
Land Use (zoning, subdivision approval, etc)	X		
Grading	X	X	
Wetland Conservation Act ³	X	X	
Stormwater rate and volume control, quality treatment	X	X	
Erosion and sediment control, shoreland management	X		
Floodplain, stream crossing, wetland buffers & restoration, project maintenance	X	X	

- 1) It is not the intent of the City to pursue gaining local regulatory authority at this time. However, the City reserves the right to gain local regulatory control and assume permitting authority under the terms detailed under Section 5.2 of the SWMP.
- 2) CLFLWD does not currently regulate within the City of Forest Lake, but is in the process of updating its rules and Water Management Plan to gain this authority.
- 3) Forest Lake is the LGU for WCA projects in the CLFLWD. The city will also be LGU for WCA projects within the RCWD should the city chose to gain local regulatory control as detailed in Section 5.2. The City and/or RCWD should be contacted to verify the current LGU for WCA administration at the time of permitting.

The MPCA has designated the City of Forest Lake as an NPDES Phase II MS4 community (MN Rules 7090). The City has completed and submitted its NPDES Phase II Permit Application and Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan. The SWMP notes that implementation of the SWPPP has and will be a cornerstone of the City's efforts to control pollution from surface water runoff, manage its stormwater system, and educate its residents and developers on these issues.

Forest Lake's most recent application for NPDES coverage was submitted in 2006. The permit application outlined Forest Lake's Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) to address six minimum control measures:

1. Public education
2. Public involvement
3. Illicit discharge detection and elimination
4. Construction site runoff control
5. Post-construction runoff control
6. Pollution prevention in municipal operations

PROBLEMS & CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

The SWMP provides an assessment of the existing and potential water resource and stormwater related concerns within the City and associated corrective actions. The identified problems and possible corrective actions are organized by Watershed District and relate to both water quality and quantity.

SURFACE WATER SYSTEM GOALS & POLICIES

The SWMP notes that the City has a strong interest in protecting and managing its valuable water and natural resources, recognizing the relationships between resource protection, land use management, development, redevelopment, and fiscal responsibility. The key, overall goals of the SWMP include the following:

Goal 1: Flood Protection

Goal 2: Stormwater Runoff Quality

Goal 3: Protection of Valuable Water Resources

Goal 4: Surface Water System – Design, construction, regulation and use

Goal 5: Surface Water System – Operation and management

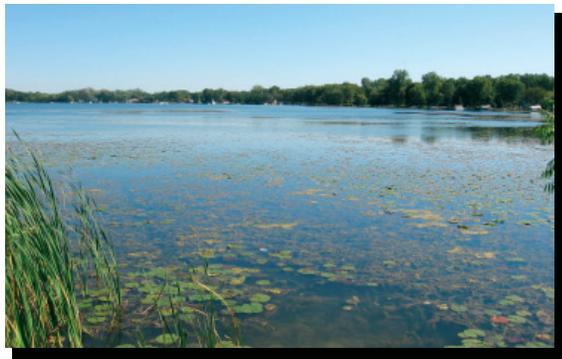
Goal 6: Natural and Recreational Resources – Preservation, enhancement and maintenance

Goal 7: Erosion and Sediment control- The plan identifies a variety of policies that the City will use to achieve its goals for surface water management. These include using existing provisions of the City Code, or updating some provisions to achieve goals for surface water management, protection of wetlands, shorelands and floodplains, and controlling erosion and sedimentation.

The plan also notes that the completion of several plans or efforts that are recently completed or currently in process that will influence future management of surface waters in the City. These include the CLFLWD updated Water Management Plan and Rules, RCWD Judicial Ditch 4 Resource Management Plan, RCWD updated Water Management Plan and Rules and MPCA efforts to complete TMDL studies. The City has and will continue to incorporate the results of these efforts in the SWMP and its goals and strategies as they are completed.

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WETLAND INVENTORY & ASSESSMENT REPORT

The preparation of the SWMP included an inventory and assessment of wetlands within the City. This effort built on previous work by RCWD and the City. The City's assessment focused on wetlands near the High School and Industrial Park areas. For areas not included in the Wetland Inventory and Assessment Report, Section 5.3.2 of the SWMP lists the steps necessary to determine a wetland's stormwater susceptibility.

The wetland assessment used the Minnesota Routine Assessment Method (MnRAM 3.0) to assess the values of the wetlands in Forest Lake based on their ability to perform desired functions, such as improv-

ing water quality, reducing flow rates, and providing fish and wildlife habitat. The assessment evaluates characteristics such as plant community diversity and structure, connectivity to other habitat types, location in the watershed and a wide range of other factors.

The SWMP includes policies for managing wetlands in Forest Lake. The City is the responsible LGU for management of wetlands in CLFLWD, and will administer the Minnesota WCA. The city will also be LGU for WCA projects within the RCWD should the city choose to gain local regulatory control as detailed in Section 5.2 in the SWMP. The City and/or RCWD should be contacted to verify the current LGU for WCA administration at the time of permitting. This will include assuring no net loss of functions and values of wetlands within the City. Local watershed management organization requirements will be applied to wetlands included in their management plans.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The SWMP includes a list of surface water management related activities that the City needs to continue or commence implementation of and their related costs (Table 10.2).

**Table 10.2-
Implementation Activities**

Activity #	Project	Improvement Cost Estimate ¹ (thousands of dollars)	
		Low	High
1	190 th Street North Drainage Improvements	100	150
2	Heath Avenue Court North Drainage Improvements	50	100
3	Green Valley Estates Drainage Improvements	100	300
4	1 st Avenue & Broadway Redevelopment	350	500
5	Community Center	50	200
6	Industrial Park/Airport	300	400
TOTAL		950	1,650
<i>¹Cost estimates include only stormwater related improvements.</i>			