



STABLE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

GOAL 1



Facilitate regional collaboration regarding ground water supply for the future of McHenry County

OBJECTIVE A 	
Raise public awareness of groundwater issues	
Tasks	Accomplishments
1) Promote low use water industries and conservation practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ On October 18th and 19th of 2018, the McHenry County Division of Transportation and the Department of Planning & Development, with assistance from the City of Crystal Lake and the Village of Algonquin, held the Tenth Annual McHenry County Sensible Salting Workshop to promote Sensible Salting Best Management Practices and to preserve safe drinking water from the County's waterways and ground water aquifers. ✓ Planning & Development held McHenry County Water Day on September 12, 2018. Water Day provided residents, businesses, elected officials and municipal staff an opportunity to learn what makes our local water supplies unique and what we can do to ensure that clean and sustainable water resources are available in the future. Water Day included a Groundwater Field Trip, with 45 participants and the 2nd annual Water Forum, which was attended by approximately 90 people. On the field trip, Dr. Jason Thomason, a noted geologist from the Illinois State Geological Survey, provided a first-hand view of how geologic events of the past shape our land and water today. James Patchett, Founder and President of the Conservation Design Forum gave the keynote address. ✓ See Goal 2, Objective A ✓ Educated the public using groundwater model demonstrations at the McHenry County Fair, Woodstock Farmers Market, and the Crystal Lake Johnny Appleseed Day.
OBJECTIVE B 	
Facilitate regional collaboration of ground water and water resources	
Tasks	Accomplishments

<p>1) Monitor and plan for effective drainage ways and storm water management to promote healthy communities and provide essential systems for economic growth and a sustainable quality of life</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The Unified Development Ordinance amendments adopted by the County Board in March include the updated SARA maps and add additional protection to groundwater recharge areas. ✓ The SARA Map has been updated based on the 3-Dimensional Geologic mapping that the Illinois State Geologic Survey developed for McHenry County. ✓ McHenry County has moved from a Class 8 to a Class 7 community within the FEMA Community Rating System. The Class 7 rating qualifies flood insurance policy holders a savings up to 15 percent on flood insurance premiums. In total, the upgrade in class rating level accounts for a total savings of \$112,713 annually for citizens of unincorporated McHenry County. For the typical homeowners, the average estimated savings for a flood insurance policy will go from \$138 to \$205. ✓ In fulfillment of a contract with McHenry County, the U.S. Geologic Survey completed an analysis of hydrogeology and quality of the McHenry County aquifer and provided findings. ✓ The Planning & Development Department (P&D) approached the McHenry County Council of Governments (MCOG) and advocated for the re-instatement of the Water Policy Task Force in 2017. While MCOG did not re-instate the Water Policy Task Force, it reaffirmed its commitment to the Northwest Water Planning Alliance of which P&D staff is actively involved. ✓ Advocated for water resource conservation at regional events including the Friends of the Fox River “Vision Cruise” ✓ Participated in planning meetings with multi-county and citizen group water resource organizations such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northwest Water Planning Alliance • Northern Regional Protection Planning Committee • Environmental Defenders of McHenry County
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GOAL 2

Balance growth with environmental protection

OBJECTIVE A 	
Promote sustainable development that is balanced with preservation of the County's open space, agricultural land, and water supply	
Tasks	Accomplishments
1) Remain committed to the careful use of water resources in and across the County; monitor developments at the community, County, regional and state level to determine impacts on groundwater, surface water and water supply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ On August 29, 2018, the Planning & Development department hosted a public open house for the corridor plan, which provide an opportunity for members of the community to review the draft plan and provide feedback. The open house was attended by approximately 30 persons. The final plan will be presented to the County Board for adoption later this fall. ✓ Staff submitted the annual National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit and the Stormwater Management Program Plan (SMPP) meeting the minimum standards required by the USEPA under the NPDES program. ✓ Planning & Development Staff discovered a grant that could help fund the County's parking lot improvements as it employs stormwater best management practices. The ISF Committee approved staff's request to pursue the grant. ✓ Staff has accepted an invitation to present on water resources for two additional community groups. ✓ McHenry County and the Crystal Lake Park District entered into an Intergovernmental Agreement for the Stern's Fen Restoration – Phase II Project. ✓ Staff presented McHenry County Water Resources Challenges and Opportunities at the McHenry County Green Drinks meeting on April 4, 2018. ✓ Staff has created a comprehensive 30-minute overview presentation of McHenry County Water Resources Challenges and Opportunities, which is available for presentation to community groups.
OBJECTIVE B 	
Increase open space conservation efforts	
Tasks	Accomplishments
1) Balance growth with environmental protection and conservation of the County's open spaces and fundamental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Demolition of 7503 Carlton Drive, Spring Grove has been completed using funding provided by the State of Illinois Housing

<p>land-based/production agriculture and agri-businesses in a vital corridor of the state's northern tier</p>	<p>Development Authority (IDHA) Staff is working with the State's Attorney's Office and McHenry County Trustee to transfer the property to the McHenry County Conservation District to be maintained as permanent open space as it is located in the Nippersink Creek floodplain.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Environmental Health partnered with the Division of Transportation to provide a tire recycling event for County residents. In all, 17 tons of tires were collected and recycled. ✓ The County Board passed the McHenry County Conservation District's Budget at its May meeting. ✓ The newly adopted Unified Development Ordinance supports agriculture and agribusiness by reducing regulations as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Widening the definition of agriculture to include retail sale of products grown on site, including farm stands, u-pick operations, and community supported agriculture ✓ Establishing limited agritourism as a permitted use in agricultural and business zoning districts ✓ Creating an expanded Intensive Agritourism use category that is allowed as a conditional use in the agricultural, B-1, and B-2 zoning districts and by-right in the B-3 zoning district ✓ Expanding farm stand use to allow the sale of: fresh fruits and vegetables without limitations as to the source; nursery stock, eggs, meat, and dairy products produced on property owned by the farm stand owner; and agricultural crafts ✓ Exempting farm stands from building codes ✓ Expanding home occupations to include food processing such as the preparation, processing, canning, and packaging of food products ✓ Reducing limits on the use of agricultural exempt structures to allow up to 50% of the floor area to be used for non-agricultural purposes ✓ Granting home occupations the ability to use accessory structures and up to 50% of an agricultural exempt structure
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Allowing landscape businesses without outdoor storage to be a permitted use in A-1, office, and industrial zoning✓ Planning and Water Resources staff will be assisting MCCD with a study documenting the impact of various agricultural practices on their agricultural land holdings. The study will allow the district to have a continually updated picture of the implementation of its conservation plans with local operators. The study will also help the District identify where specialty farming such as organics and grazing operations might fit best into its agricultural lands.
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