

**1999 - 2000  
Water Quality  
Activities**

 northeastern illinois planning commission

# Water Resource Project Highlights ♦ 1999–2000

- ❖ Continued development of a Strategic Plan for Water Resource Management with the identification of over 125 strategies, including 43 responding to water quality issues.
- ❖ Completed *Protecting Nature in Your Community: A Guidebook for Preserving and Enhancing Biodiversity* for local government officials.
- ❖ Completed *Lake Notes* fact sheet on the subject of *Delineating Your Lake's Watershed*.
- ❖ Coordinated the 1999 Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program for 61 lakes in northeastern Illinois.
- ❖ Continued Illinois Clean Lakes Program Phase 2 restoration and protection project at Indian Lake in the Brookfield Zoo.
- ❖ Continued Illinois Clean Lakes Program Phase 2 restoration and protection work at Lake George in the Village of Richton Park.
- ❖ Completed Illinois Clean Lakes Program Phase 1 Diagnostic/Feasibility Study at the Chicago Botanic Garden Lakes.
- ❖ Continued Illinois Clean Lakes Program Phase 1 Diagnostic/Feasibility Study at the Cook County Forest Preserve District's Maple Lake.
- ❖ Co-sponsored "National Conference on Tools for Urban Water Resources Management and Protection," February 7 - 10, 2000.
- ❖ Co-sponsored thirteenth annual "National Conference on Enhancing the States' Lake Management Programs," April 25–28, 2000.
- ❖ Held a two day course on "Using Best Management Practices To Improve Water Quality And Reduce Flood Damages in Urban Watersheds," January 12 & 13 at the Chicago Botanic Garden.
- ❖ Conducted training sessions for Plan Commissioners and other local elected officials, co-sponsored by the American Planning Association.
- ❖ Developed a draft Watershed Restoration Action Strategy for the upper Des Plaines River.
- ❖ Assisted watershed planning efforts involving Blackberry, Waubensee, Salt, and Butterfield Creeks and the Chicago, Fox, Des Plaines, DuPage, and Kishwaukee Rivers.
- ❖ Completed another phase of restoration projects in the Flint Creek watershed.
- ❖ Reviewed 18 Illinois Water Quality Management Plan amendment requests including 14 FPA boundary changes, five new treatment facilities and two plant expansions. Also reviewed 34 requests for reissue, issue, modification, or termination of NPDES permits, facility plan amendments, and map corrections.

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For more information on the topics discussed in this report, please contact these individuals at NIPC (312/454-0400).

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Cover photo: Indian Lake at Brookfield Zoo

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# Sustainable Development Needed to Protect Water Quality

Northeastern Illinois is in a period of rapid population and employment growth. Population grew by seven percent between 1990 and 1998 and is forecasted to grow a total of 25 percent between 1990 and 2020. This growth points favorably to the economic vitality of the region. However, it also raises serious concerns about potential water quality and natural resource degradation, if the past is any indication.

The Commission in 1996 reported on a correlation between the population density in a watershed and the quality of its streams and rivers. More specifically, we noted that aquatic life, as measured by fish communities, was in fair to poor condition in nearly all of our urban and suburban rivers and streams, while our rural waterways generally were in relatively good condition. This same type of observation has been made in urban regions around much of the country. The potential impacts of new development are of particular concern in the region's outer counties, which are projected to grow by 70 to 100 percent by 2020, and where most of our high quality streams (class A and B) exist.

For this and other reasons, the Commission is playing an active role in several initiatives at the regional and state level that espouse "sensible" or "smart" growth. At the core of these initiatives is the understanding that new growth must be *sustainable* in the long term. Sustainability can be measured by the degree to which development minimizes disturbances to the surrounding environment (e.g., water quality, habitat, and flooding), maintains community values, and minimizes financial burdens such as future maintenance needs.

While sustainable development tools and techniques have been identified and successfully implemented at a small scale both regionally and nationally, much remains to be done to make sustainability the norm. Two ongoing initiatives at the Commission are advancing this objective. First, the Commission is developing a Strategic Plan for Water Resource Management, with the assistance of over 100 technical and policy experts, that will be released in draft this year. This draft plan will, for example, call for development designs that treat stormwater runoff as a resource that should be managed on a site and returned to groundwater aquifers, thereby minimizing offsite water quality and flooding impacts. The Commission's Regional Growth Strategy is a more broadly focused initiative that is developing over a dozen resource papers providing advice and direction on topics ranging from brownfields and transit-oriented development to protecting natural resources and agricultural lands.

The Commission also is playing leadership roles in three coalitions that espouse more sensible growth patterns. The Chicago Wilderness project is a coalition of over 100 public and private organizations, including NIPC, that advocate conservation objectives. Chicago Wilderness recently released its landmark "Biodiversity Recovery Plan" which, among other things, calls for the protection and restoration of streams, lakes, and wetlands throughout the metropolitan area. The Commission co-chairs another coalition, the Campaign for Sensible Growth. The Campaign has identified five principal objectives, including improved water quality, in its efforts to advance the understanding and implementation of more balanced growth practices. Finally, the Commission represents regional planning interests on the Illinois Growth Task Force. This task force, created by the Illinois General Assembly, is tackling growth issues of statewide significance, ranging from agricultural protection to water quality.

Our region faces a major challenge. We hope that the region will have the foresight to embrace new approaches that will sustain and enhance our communities and environment in a healthy and livable balance. We invite you to join us and our partners as we work toward this more sustainable and prosperous future.



Ronald L. Thomas, AICP  
Executive Director

## Strategic Plan for Water Resource Management

The Commission continued this past year its efforts to develop a coordinated, strategic plan for managing the water resources of the Chicagoland region. This planning process is being supported through funding provided by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs. It addresses issues related to water quality, water supply, and stormwater and flooding.

The timing of the plan is important because of the tremendous amount of new development in the region, as discussed in the preceding article. This development, if not adequately planned for, poses some very serious threats to our water quality, and water resources in general.

Our technical and policy experts have helped us to identify 35 key issues. Following are the top three water quality issues.

\* The cumulative impacts of nonpoint sources of pollution, particularly

urban stormwater runoff, pose significant water quality problems for the region.

\* The vast majority of the region's urban and suburban streams, rivers, and lakes still do not meet the "fishable/swimmable" goals of the Clean Water Act.

\* Nonpoint source pollution problems remain in agricultural areas, including historical impacts such as wetland loss and channelization and the on-going effects of nutrient, pesticide, and sediment runoff.

We have now completed the initial identification of over 100 high-priority strategies that respond to the various issues. Several examples of these strategies follow.

\* The Illinois EPA and Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) should establish scientifically-based biocriteria, in conjunction with water chemistry parameters, as the accepted

approach for evaluating use impairment and waterbody quality.

\* Local governments should adopt comprehensive plans and implement ordinances, based on NIPC and other suitable models, that better address water quality, runoff volume, and watershed issues, rather than just the rate of discharge leaving a development site.

\* Congress and the Illinois General Assembly should provide funding for increased education, technical assistance, and cost share assistance at the federal, state, and local levels to better address agricultural nonpoint source issues.

A draft strategic plan is scheduled for release in the fall of 2000. A successful plan will improve the way the region perceives and manages water, consistent with the principles of sustainability, multi-objectivity, and cost-effectiveness.

## Stream and Wetland Study Begins in Kane County



*Nelson Lake Marsh*

The Commission, under contract with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and in cooperation with the Kane County Development Department, is coordinating an Advanced Identification (ADID) study of streams and wetlands in Kane County. The study is intended to provide improved knowledge and

awareness of wetland and aquatic resources and ultimately further their protection and restoration. These objectives are supported by two important county plans: the Kane County *2020 Land Resource Management Plan* and the *Comprehensive Countywide Stormwater Management Plan*.

The study involves numerous agencies and organizations at the local, state, and federal level that have expertise in wetland biology, soil science, engineering, water quality, and computerized mapping. An inventory of existing streams and wetlands, utilizing geographic information system (GIS) technology, is currently underway. Other major study elements are the assessment of beneficial functions of individual streams and wetlands and the eventual identification of high quality sites.

The ADID team and advisors have determined that two categories of wetland and waterbody functions are of critical importance in Kane County: biological/habitat functions and water quality/stormwater storage functions. Evaluation methodologies are being developed for these functions and will then be applied to individual wetlands and streams.

# Watershed Management Activities

## Flint Creek Restoration Projects Completed

As reported in the last issue of Water Quality Activities, the Commission, the Village of Barrington, the Village of Lake Zurich, and Citizens for Conservation received a grant to continue restoration of the Flint Creek watershed. These projects continue work begun in 1995 to implement recommendations in the Flint Creek Watershed Management Plan prepared by the Commission and the Lake County Stormwater Management Commission. The projects, partially funded by the Illinois EPA through Section 319 of the Clean Water Act, were completed in the fall of 1999.

### Stream corridor restoration and stabilization:

Restoration measures were applied to two separate reaches of Flint Creek, one in a residential area of Barrington and another on property owned by Good Shepherd Hospital. The overall restoration objectives were to stabilize eroding channel banks and create a naturalized buffer along the stream edge to provide improved filtering of pollutants and improved aquatic habitat.

Restoration began with the clearing of undesirable woody vegetation and non-native turf and Reed Canary Grass. A variety of "soil bioengineering" techniques was installed to stabilize the streambanks and to address channel down-cutting that was beginning to occur. Treatments ranged from crib walls in the most severe erosion areas to coir fiber rolls, dormant willow stakes, and/or minor regrading in moderate erosion zones. The streambanks and a modest buffer were also seeded with native riparian vegetation.

In addition, artificial riffle structures were installed in areas of down-cutting to provide grade control, and improve aquatic habitat.

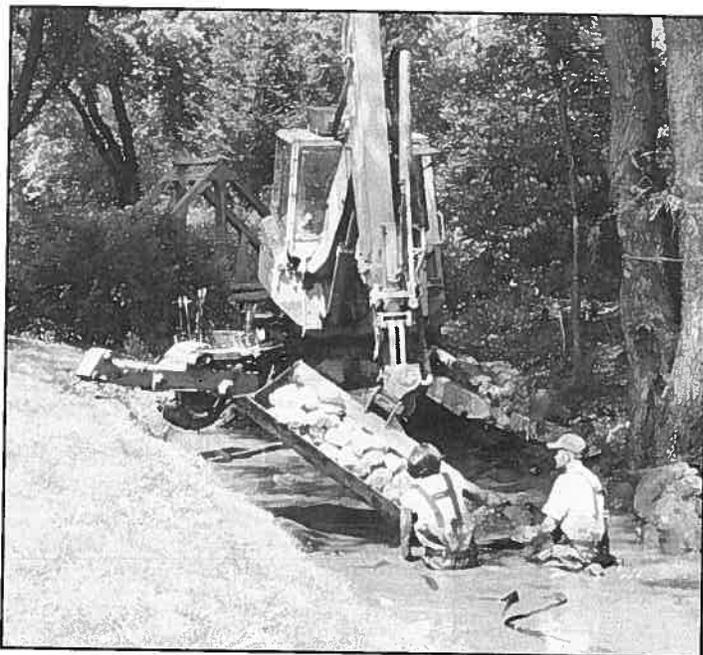
**Detention Basin Retrofit:** To address inadequate stormwater management in an older area of Lake Zurich, an existing detention basin was converted to a wetland basin,

generally meeting the water quality and runoff control standards in Lake County's Watershed Development Ordinance. The specific objectives of the project were to reduce the discharge of urban runoff pollutants and to reduce runoff rates that were causing erosive velocities downstream in Flint Creek. The retrofitted detention basin, adjacent to an elementary school, was re-designed as a shallow marsh with open water areas, a fringe of emergent wetland vegetation, and a prairie buffer on its side slopes.

To encourage environmental education opportunities at the elementary school, a wood chip access path was constructed around the basin and a walk way to the interior of the basin was added to facilitate water sampling.

## Upper Des Plaines Watershed Initiatives

In cooperation with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA), Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), and the Upper Des Plaines Ecosystem Partnership, the Commission is developing a Watershed Restoration Action Strategy (WRAS) for the upper Des Plaines River from its headwaters in southern Wisconsin to its confluence with Salt Creek in Riverside, Illinois. This WRAS is intended to begin the planning and implementation process for protecting, enhancing, and restoring the upper Des Plaines River basin to a healthy state. The WRAS addresses numerous issues, ranging from water quality and aquatic habitat to flood mitigation, open space and recreational opportunities. The WRAS also is a prerequisite to be eligible for



*Flint Creek Enhancement*

Clean Water Act Section 319 funds through the Illinois EPA. The Section 319 program provides funding to implement projects to control nonpoint source pollution and promote the public's knowledge and awareness of nonpoint source pollution.

In a broader initiative focused on the upper Des Plaines, the Commission is coordinating over 20 stakeholder organizations in the development of a multi-objective, watershed-based, mitigation plan. While this planning process focuses principally on flood mitigation, it also is addressing water quality, aquatic habitat, open space, and recreational opportunities.

## Nonpoint Source Funding Sought for Fox River

Illinois EPA has designated the Fox River as a high priority watershed and earmarked Section 319 funding for projects in the watershed. NIPC is working with the Fox River Ecosystem Partnership and local stakeholders to identify projects and assemble a watershed-wide grant application. Over the next two years, NIPC also will be responsible for coordinating the individual projects and assisting the Partnership in preparing a *Watershed Implementation Plan* that meets Illinois EPA specifications.

## Lake Restoration and Protection Projects

The Commission has assisted numerous local agencies in protecting and restoring their lakes. This assistance typically involves applying for grant funds, monitoring lake conditions and diagnosing problems, designing restoration plans, and assisting in the implementation of restoration and protection strategies. Highlights of recent and ongoing projects follow.

### Chicago Botanic Garden Lakes

A comprehensive Lake Enhancement and Protection Plan was completed for the Chicago Botanic Garden Lakes during 1999. Commission staff served as principal investigator and technical project coordinator to the Garden for this Illinois Clean Lakes Program Phase 1 Diagnostic and Feasibility Study, which began in spring 1997. The Plan outlines strategies for reducing nuisance levels of aquatic plants and algae, controlling shoreline erosion, diversifying native aquatic plant communities, and implementing education programs to enhance the public's knowledge of lake ecosystems.

In spring 2000, the Botanic Garden was awarded a Phase 2 cost-share grant from the Illinois EPA's Clean Lakes Program to implement the ambitious enhancement and protection plan. The Garden also has been awarded a cost-share grant through Illinois EPA utilizing Section 319 nonpoint source pollution funds. This grant will enable the Garden to restore approximately 1.6 miles of its shoreline. Bob Kirschner, formerly of the Commission's Natural Resources Department, will oversee these lake and shoreline projects as the Garden's new Curator of Aquatics.

### Maple Lake

Maple Lake, located within the Forest Preserve District of Cook County's Palos Preserve, also has been the focus of an Illinois Clean Lakes Program Phase 1 Diagnostic and Feasibility Study since spring 1997. While the lake is considered one of the better quality lakes in the region, attracting anglers, picnickers, and a variety of waterfowl and wading birds, the District was interested in studying the lake to determine the best ways for protecting and enhancing its attributes into the future. Interpretation of lake water quality data—along with

analyses of the lake's hydrology, fish and aquatic plant communities, watershed characteristics, and nutrient and sediment inputs—is guiding the development of protection, enhancement, and management alternatives. With the input of District staff, the management plan will be finalized during summer 2000. Strategies being

considered include nuisance and invasive aquatic plant management, underwater plant community diversification, stabilization of eroding shoreline areas, alternative fisheries management approaches, various watershed management practices, and public education initiatives.

### Lake George

An Illinois Clean Lakes Program Phase 2 restoration and protection program at the Village of Richton Park's Lake George continued. Like many urban lakes, Lake George has been plagued by degraded water quality, eroding shorelines, poor aquatic habitat, and impaired aesthetics. The purposes of the Phase 2 program include improving the lake's water quality and recreational uses, and providing for its long-term ecological health. The Commission is serving as technical project coordinator to the Village.

Shoreline stabilization activities got underway in 1999-2000. With Commission and Village input, designs were finalized by the contractor over the fall and winter. Construction along the 1,340 targeted feet of shoreline occurred in spring 2000. Following brush clearing, tree trimming, and shoreline regrading, emergent wetland vegetation was planted along the water's edge and native prairie vegetation was seeded on the side slopes. In several areas impacted by wave action, coir fiber rolls were installed slightly off shore to serve as wave breaks for the emergent plants behind them. Several bur and red oaks also were planted along the northern shore to eventually take the place of aging weeping willows in serving as a screen from the adjacent commercial properties. The oaks also are tolerant of controlled burns which are expected to be used in managing the prairie side slopes. A small island was cleared of its dying weeping willow and staked with live cuttings of red twig dogwood, sandbar willow, and nannyberry. Several starter colonies of submergent and floating-leaved aquatic plants also were planted around the lake to provide

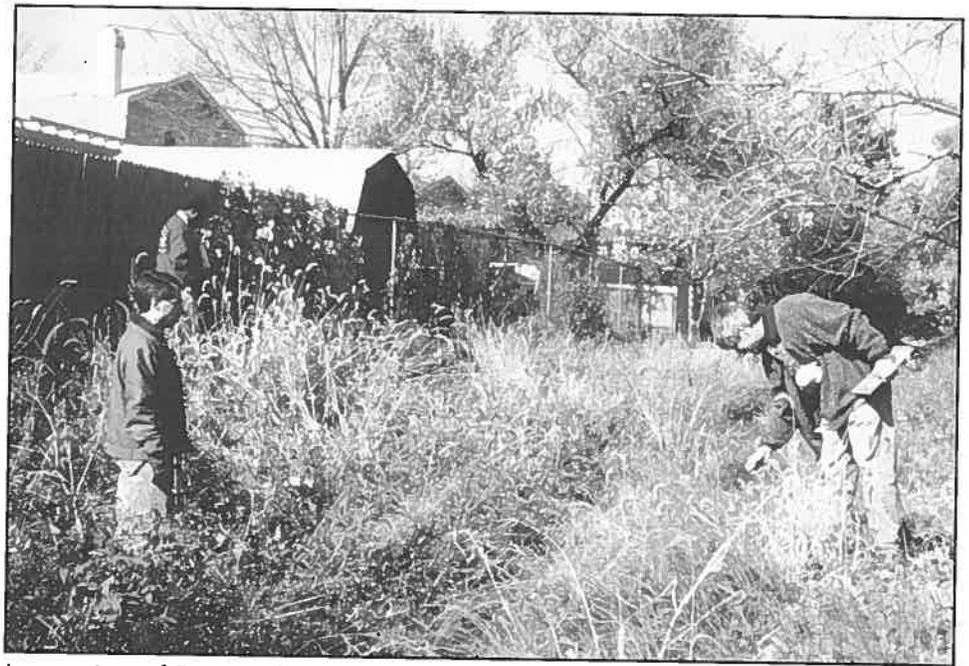


*Fishing on the Shores of Maple Lake*

much-needed aquatic habitat and bottom sediment stabilization. Because waterfowl can often be abundant at Lake George, the emergent and aquatic plantings have been placed within waterfowl exclusion "cages" so that the young plantings can mature before being exposed to the waterfowl's aggressive feeding. The shoreline contractor is responsible for monitoring and maintenance through the 2002 growing season.

A noticeable change in lake water clarity was seen in 1999 following the eradication of Lake George's overabundant carp population in September 1998. Water clarity readings recorded by the volunteer lake monitor improved to an average of 36 inches in 1999, up from an average of 21 inches in 1998. The greatest clarity recorded at Lake George since readings began in 1993 was observed in October at 66 inches. Low clarities of less than 12 inches were associated with sediment-laden stormwater runoff from upstream agricultural fields and a housing development, and a late summer algal bloom—not uncommon occurrences for many of our urban waterbodies. Reestablishment of the lake's fishery by the Illinois DNR began in September 1999 with the reintroduction of bluegill and channel catfish fingerlings. Largemouth bass are expected to be reintroduced in summer 2000.

Streambank stabilization measures installed during 1998-99 along the two tributaries entering Lake George were monitored and maintenance measures implemented during 1999-2000. Stabilization practices undertaken included bank regrading; toe-of-slope protection using rock, coir fiber roll, and A-jacks structures; removal of non-native and invasive bank vegetation; and seeding of the streambanks with native prairie vegetation. Site constraints including steep slopes, poor soils, shading, and an upstream source of nuisance and invasive plants, are providing challenges to the establishment of native vegetation in several locations. The application of a controlled burn in the management of the prairie



*Inspection of Restored Streambank Vegetation at Lake George*

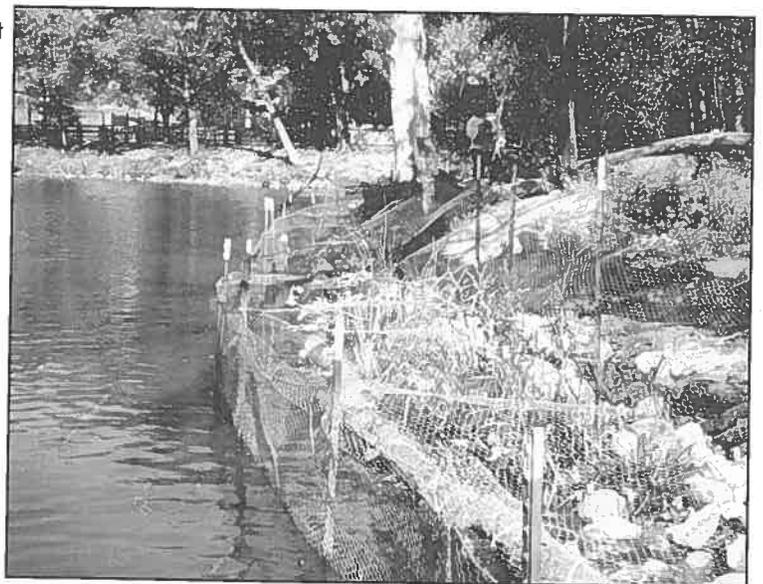
vegetation, while a common and typically-recommended practice, also proved challenging in the tight constraints of the stream channels within the residential neighborhoods. The shoreline contractor is responsible for monitoring and maintenance through the 2001 growing season, and will provide the Village with a recommended ongoing monitoring and management plan.

### **Indian Lake**

Another Phase 2 rehabilitation and protection program also has been underway at the Brookfield Zoo's Indian Lake, which was dedicated as part of the Zoo's Salt Creek Wilderness exhibit in August 1999.

Commission staff have been working with Zoo staff since spring 1998 to implement several initiatives. With the help of a cost-share grant from Illinois EPA's Clean Lakes Program, projects have included aeration to improve the

lake's dissolved oxygen levels, precipitation of lake nutrients to reduce algae blooms, and planting of a variety of shoreline and underwater plants to provide shoreline protection and additional aquatic habitat. Monitoring and assessment of these initiatives continued during 1999-2000, and will continue through 2001. The water quality sampling tasks were transferred to Zoo staff through training by Commission staff. New projects on tap for the coming year include assessing alternatives for maintaining lake water levels and the feasibility of introducing Illinois endangered and threatened fish species. A final project report will be developed by December 2001.



*Goose-proof Plantings at Indian Lake*

# Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program

Illinois' Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program (VLMP) continued in 1999 with its nineteenth season. This Illinois EPA-sponsored program brings together volunteer citizen scientists, state agency staff, and regional planning commissions to monitor and investigate the quality of Illinois' lakes. As program coordinator for the six-county northeastern Illinois region, NIPC provides volunteer training, technical assistance, educational materials, data management, fact sheet development, and assistance in annual report preparation. Of the 136 lakes monitored statewide at least four times during 1999, 51 were in northeastern Illinois involving 111 volunteers.

Volunteers measure water clarity (transparency) in a lake of their choosing using a Secchi disk (an 8-inch diameter plate painted black and white in opposite quadrants, attached to a calibrated rope). The disk is lowered into the water and the depth to which it is visible is recorded. Monitoring is typically done twice a month from May through October at three locations in the lake. The Secchi measurements are used to document changes in water transparency during the monitoring season as well as from year to year. In addition to Secchi disk monitoring, a subset of the volunteers (on a rotating basis) also collect water samples that are analyzed at an Illinois EPA laboratory.

VLMP data are used by the volunteers to learn about their lake's ecology. In particular, the data are helpful in understanding cause-and-effect relationships between pollutants (e.g., phosphorus) and observed signs of degradation (e.g., excessive algae growth). This improved understanding is beneficial in local lake and watershed management decision-making. The Illinois EPA uses VLMP data in its biennial assessment of the state's waters as required by the federal Clean Water Act.

The accompanying figure presents the average annual Secchi disk transparency values for the northeastern Illinois lakes

participating in the 1999 VLMP. As in the two previous seasons, Virginia Lake in Cook County exhibited the greatest average transparency—an extraordinary 196 inches. West Loon Lake in Lake County was next with an average clarity of 146 inches, followed by Lake County's Cedar Lake at 133 inches. Also exhibiting average transparency of greater than 100 inches were Highwood and Crystal Lakes in McHenry County; and Druce



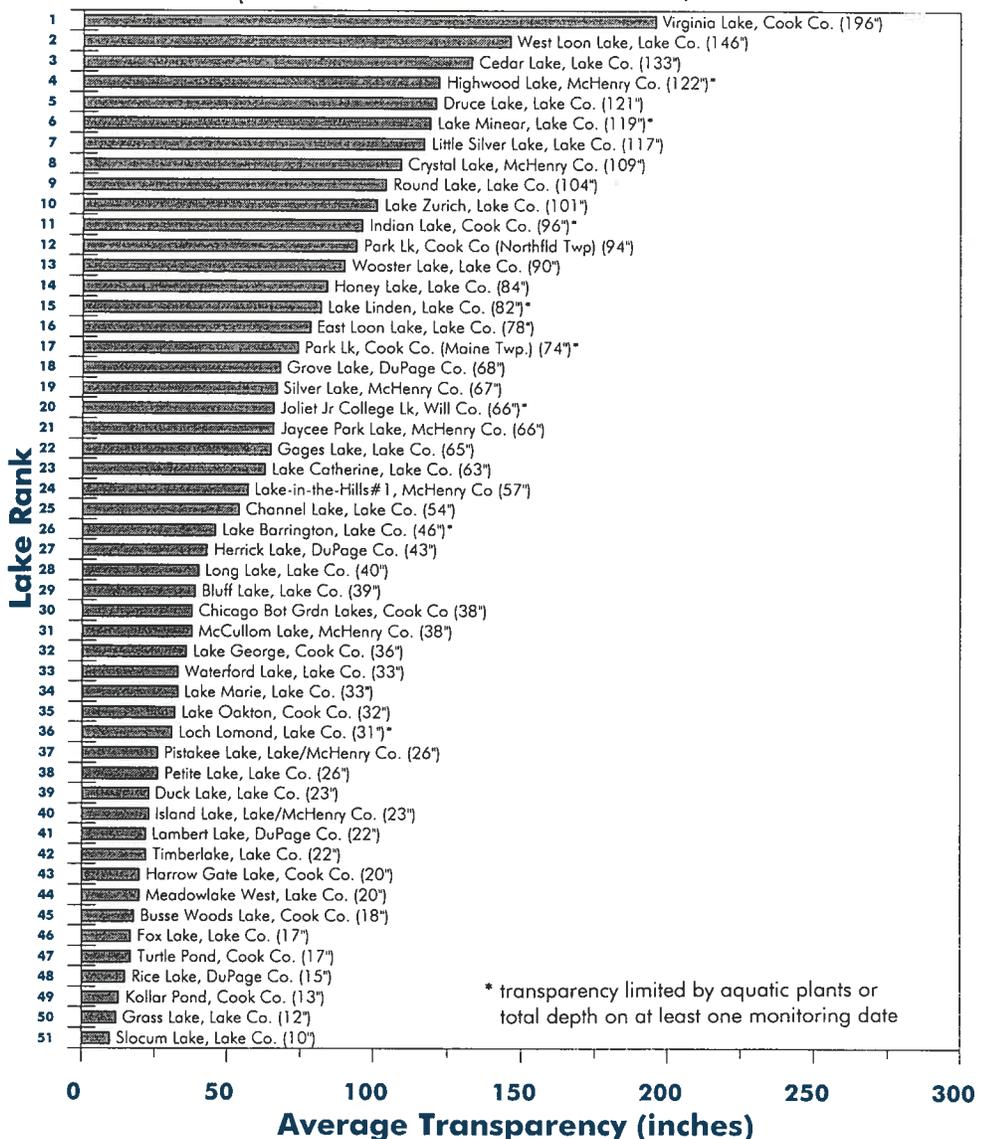
Secchi disk

Lake, Lake Minear, Little Silver Lake, Round Lake, and Lake Zurich in Lake County. The lowest average annual transparency of 10 inches was observed at Slocum Lake in Lake County, due to substantial suspended sediment and algae. Several other lakes had similarly low water clarity.

More information on the VLMP, as well as copies of the annual reports, are available from NIPC's Natural Resources Department.

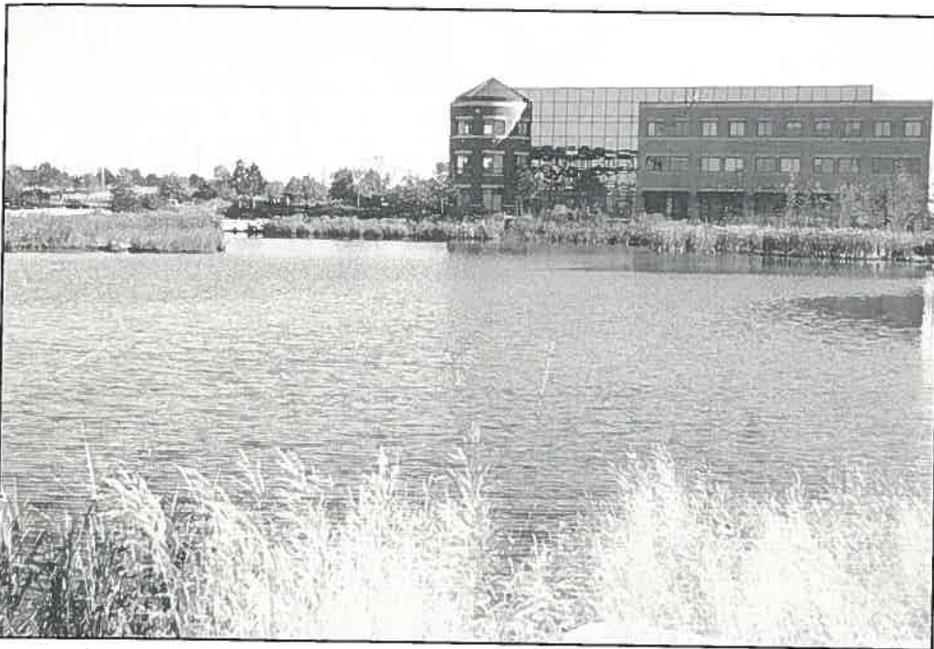
## Northeastern Illinois 1999 VLMP Lake Rankings

(lakes monitored four or more times)



\* transparency limited by aquatic plants or total depth on at least one monitoring date

## Other Activities



Natural Landscaping: Prairie Stone in Hoffman Estates

### Technical Assistance Provided to Local Governments

One of the important missions of the Commission is to provide technical assistance to local governments. With funding from the Illinois EPA and local government contributions, the Commission provides advice on a variety of water quality and water resource issues, including watershed management, urban stormwater management, nonpoint source control, stream, lake and wetland protection, and groundwater protection.

This assistance is provided in several ways. Presentations are made at numerous seminars and conferences sponsored by groups such as the Illinois Association of Floodplain and Stormwater Management, American Society of Civil Engineers, and Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Presentations also are made to village boards, planning commissions, and advisory committees. Staff regularly attend meetings of countywide stormwater management agencies. In addition, staff respond to numerous telephone inquiries from local governments and their consultants on issues ranging from local development ordinances to water quality protection issues. This year saw a continuing increase in requests

to provide assistance to watershed planning groups.

Telephone inquiries and requests for assistance may be directed to the Natural Resources Department at (312) 454-0400.

### Commission Assists Communities in Protecting Natural Habitats

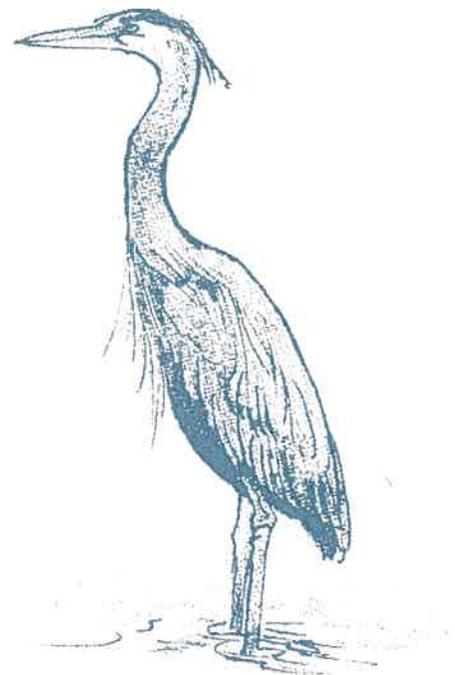
Northeastern Illinois is home to many special and unique natural areas, both aquatic and terrestrial. Unfortunately, many of our original ecosystems have been degraded due to impacts such as fragmentation, elimination of fire from the landscape, introduction of invasive non-native species, and disruption of natural hydrology. Continuing urban development further threatens to degrade the remaining natural areas.

Through an initiative called Chicago Wilderness, a consortium of organizations has produced a *Biodiversity Recovery Plan* that documents the state of the region's ecosystems and the actions necessary to protect and restore them. Implementation of the recommendations of the plan has already begun with the Commission's *Protecting Nature in Your Community*:

*A Guidebook for Preserving and Enhancing Biodiversity*. The guidebook is intended for local government audiences (counties, municipalities, park districts, and wastewater authorities) to assist them in preserving biodiversity in their jurisdictions.

The guidebook provides the rationale for protecting biodiversity and highlights the essential role of local governments in that effort. A number of strategies are presented, including comprehensive land use planning, compatible zoning and subdivision regulations, improved stormwater management, natural landscaping, and open space preservation. For each of the techniques, the guidebook provides a summary of benefits, local examples of successful implementation, and sources of additional information.

The Commission, through a grant from Chicago Wilderness, is providing continuing education and technical assistance to local governments on this topic.



## Conference and Course Highlights

For the thirteenth consecutive year, state agency lake program managers and leaders of statewide lake associations from across the country gathered in downtown Chicago to learn—and share—the latest in lake management. Coordinated by the Chicago Botanic Garden and cosponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, North American Lake Management Society, and NIPC, this **National Conference on Enhancing the States' Lake Management Programs** was held from April 25-28, 2000. A pre-conference workshop overviewing a new book on managing lakes and reservoirs was presented by a veritable "who's who" in North American lake management. Session topics during the body of the conference included proposed bacteria and nutrient criteria, analyzing project impacts, assessing priority waterbodies, lakeshore management, lake program funding, consensus building, and mercury in lake ecosystems. Attendees also were treated to an exclusive evening at the Chicago Academy of Sciences Nature Museum. Planning is already underway for next year's conference, scheduled for April 18-20, 2001. For more information, contact Bob Kirschner at the Chicago Botanic Garden (847/835-6837).

In February 2000, an overflow crowd of 450 individuals from 42 states and six foreign countries attended the **National Conference on Tools for Urban Water Resource Management and Protection** in Chicago. The conference, cosponsored by the Commission along with the Chicago Botanic Garden and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, was designed to facilitate the educational process, and to transfer state-of-the-art information on urban water resources techniques to state, regional, and local urban water quality practitioners. The timing of the conference coincided with the release of the Phase II NPDES Stormwater Program final rules in December 1999. The conference provided participants with practical, applied information on the most

effective tools and techniques for meeting NPDES permit requirements. The conference specifically emphasized the Phase II Program's six priorities: public education, public involvement, detection and elimination of illicit discharges, construction site runoff control, post-construction stormwater management, and pollution prevention for municipal operations.

The Conference also featured two special workshops: an intensive training course on the development of urban Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) and a workshop addressing site design and stormwater management techniques for urban communities. Copies of the conference proceedings, in either paper or CD-ROM format, are available free of charge from the U.S. EPA's National Center for Environmental Publications: telephone 800/490-9198, or visit their Website at <http://www.epa.gov/ncepihom/>.

### **Best Management Practice (BMP) Training Activities**

Commission staff, in cooperation with the Lake County Stormwater Management Commission, the Friends of the Chicago River, and the

Conservation Fund, sponsored several training opportunities for professionals and local elected and appointed officials. A two-day class on stormwater BMPs and sustainable site design was held in January at the Chicago Botanic Garden. Attendees included engineers, planners, permit review staff, and other professionals involved in the development process. Instructors included staff from the sponsoring agencies as well as local practitioners.

The same organizations also partnered with the Chicago Chapter of the American Planning Association to provide training to local elected officials and plan commissioners. Training was held on two Saturdays in March and April at the Botanic Garden. Topics included watershed planning, alternative site design measures to reduce the impact of urban development, and conservation development principles. Because the training session also included information on transportation planning, cell tower zoning, and other municipal issues, these sessions provided an opportunity to reach officials that might not ordinarily attend a workshop on water resources protection.

## Staff News

Dennis Dreher has been awarded the Smith Family Fellowship through Chicago Wilderness, beginning on July 17, 2000 and running for one year. In carrying out the objectives of the fellowship, Dennis will work extensively with local governments to develop the policies, tools, and programs necessary to better protect and restore biodiversity in the Chicago region. Dennis also will coordinate with ongoing regional initiatives, such as the Campaign for Sensible Growth, to highlight the importance of biodiversity and conservation to the future of the region. While Dennis will give up his principal departmental and project management responsibilities this year, he will continue to serve the Commission as a spokesperson for land and water conservation, improved water quality, and effective watershed management.

Tom Price, a 10-year NIPC employee who you may know from his work in watershed and stormwater management, has announced his departure from the Commission effective August 31, 2000. Tom has accepted a position as the principal water resources engineer with Conservation Design Forum, Inc. in Elmhurst, Illinois. Tom will focus his efforts on the design of environmentally sustainable landscapes and plans to continue his involvement in various regional water resource planning initiatives. We are saddened by Tom's departure but wish him well in his new venture. A search is underway for a Senior Water Resources Engineer/Planner to replace Tom.

## New Publications

A new fact sheet entitled "Determining Your Lake's Watershed" was added to the *Lake Notes* series. This brings the number of *Lake Notes* topics to 18. Each is designed to provide lake and watershed residents and public officials with a greater understanding of environmental cause-and-effect relationships, and efforts everyone can take to protect our lake resources. More new titles are in the works and will be available in the coming months.

*Protecting Nature in Your Community: A Guidebook for Preserving and Enhancing Biodiversity*, March 2000, \$15.00, plus handling and postage.

*Urban Stormwater Best Management Practices for Northeastern Illinois: A Course Notebook*, January 2000, \$40.00, plus postage. This publication provides in-depth design guidance for stormwater BMPs, including site planning and design, vegetated swales, filter strips, infiltration devices, detention basins,

and settling basins. It also discusses retrofitting and special small-site applications. The notebook is intended for design professionals and project review officials.

A complete listing of available publications is provided on the Commission's website: <http://www.nipc.cog.il.us>, or in printed form from the Commission's Publications Department (312/454-0400).

## Water Quality Management Plan Amendments

Under a contract with the Illinois EPA, the Commission reviews requested amendments to wastewater Facility Planning Areas (FPAs). A summary of review actions from July 1, 1999 through June 30, 2000 involving FPA boundary changes and/or new or expanded treatment facilities is presented below.

WQ#	Applicant	Request	Finding
97-WQ-086	Village of Orland Park	FPA Amendment	Reit. Support
99-WQ-016	Village of Huntley	FPA Amendment	Support
99-WQ-036	Village of Itasca	Plant Expansion	Support
99-WQ-039	Homer Township	Land Treatment System/Establish new FPA	Pending
99-WQ-040	Fox Metro WRD	FPA Amendment	Support
99-WQ-050	Village of Huntley	FPA Amendment/ Plant Expansion - Level I	Support
99-WQ-051	Village of Plainfield	New Plant	Support
99-WQ-053	Village of Hampshire	FPA Amendment	Support
99-WQ-055	Village of West Dundee	FPA Amendment	Support
00-WQ-001	Wadsworth Crossing - Steven Amdur	New Wastewater Treatment Facility	Support
00-WQ-005	Mill Creek Water Reclamation District	FPA Amendment	Support
00-WQ-012	Village of Elwood	FPA Amendment/New Plant - Level I	Pending
00-WQ-013	Village of Addison	FPA Amendment	Support
00-WQ-014	Village of Carpentersville	FPA Amendment	Support
00-WQ-015	Lake in the Hills S.D.	FPA Amendment	Support
00-WQ-016	Village of Coal City	New Plant	Support



# northeastern illinois planning commission

222 South Riverside Plaza Chicago, Illinois 60606 (312)454-0400



Northeastern Illinois is diverse in its land use and complex in its political structure. It has some of the most productive farms on earth—also one of the world's greatest cities. It contains 3,714 square miles of land and 38 square miles of water. It is home to 7 million people, organized in more than 1,250 units of government.

In 1957, following a decade of rapid urbanization in the Chicago suburban area, the Illinois General Assembly created the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission (NIPC) to conduct comprehensive planning for the six-county greater Chicago region.

The Commission has three statutory charges: conduct research and collect data for planning; assist local government; and prepare comprehensive plans and policies to guide the development of the counties of Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry and Will.

By necessity, regional planning deals with general development policies, not local land use detail. NIPC supports and coordinates county and municipal planning. The Commission has advisory powers only and relies upon voluntary compliance with its plans and policies.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**Herbert T. Schumann Jr.**  
*President*

**Olivia G. Gow**  
*Vice President*

**Rita R. Athas**  
*Secretary*

**Frank R. Miller**  
*Treasurer*

**Alan L. Bennett**  
*Vice President for Planning*

**James C. Berg**  
*Vice President for Water Resources*

**Jerry Butler**  
*Past Commission President*

**Charlie A. Thurston**  
*Past Commission President*

**Ronald L. Thomas**  
*Executive Director*

## WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE

**Lowell Anderson**  
*Commissioner*

**James C. Berg**  
*Vice President for Water Resources*

**Richard A. Clark**  
*Commissioner*

**Ann Gilman**  
*Commissioner*

**Michael K. Smith**  
*Commissioner*

**Terri A. Wintermute**  
*Commissioner*

**Patricia Young**  
*Commissioner*

## COMMISSIONERS

**Appointed by the Governor of Illinois**

**James C. Berg**

**Joseph F. Ligas**

**Hugh R. Murphy**

**Edward W. Paesel**

**Charlie A. Thurston**

**Appointed by the Mayor of Chicago**

**William F. Abolt**, *Commissioner, Department of Environment*

**Rita R. Athas**, *Director of Regional Programs*

**Patrick J. Levar**, *Alderman, 45th Ward, Chicago*

**Ed H. Smith**, *Alderman, 28th Ward, Chicago*

**Mary Ann Smith**, *Alderman, 48th Ward, Chicago*

**Elected by the Assembly of Mayors**

**Alan L. Bennett**, *Trustee, Village of Elmwood Park*

**Richard A. Clark**, *Trustee, Village of Lakewood*

**Thomas G. Coughlin**, *Mayor, City of Geneva*

**Kyle R. Hastings**, *President, Village of Orland Hills*

**Al Larson**, *President, Village of Schaumburg*

**Rae Rupp Srch**, *President, Village of Villa Park*

**Peter M. Sexton**, *Clerk, Village of Lake Bluff*

**Michael K. Smith**, *President, Village of New Lenox*

**Appointed by the County Board Chairmen**

**Jerry Butler**, *Member, Cook County Board of Commissioners*

**Herbert T. Schumann Jr.**, *Member, Cook County Board of Commissioners*

**Bobbie L. Steele**, *Member, Cook County Board of Commissioners*

**Olivia G. Gow**, *Member, DuPage County Board*

**Mary Richards**, *Member, Kane County Board*

**Pamela O. Newton**, *Member, Lake County Board*

**Ann Gilman**, *Member, McHenry County Board*

**Terri A. Wintermute**, *Member, Will County Board*

**Appointed by the Board of the Regional Transportation Authority**  
**Frank R. Miller**

**Appointed by the Board of the Chicago Transit Authority**  
**Karen Dichiser**

**Appointed by the Board of Metra**  
**Lowell Anderson**

**Appointed by the Board of Pace**  
**Thomas D. Marcucci**

**Appointed by the Board of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago**  
**Patricia Young**

**Appointed by the Board of the Illinois Association of Park Districts**  
**Judy Beck**

**Appointed by the Board of the Chicago Park District**  
**Gerald Sullivan**

**Appointed by the Board of the Illinois Association of Wastewater Agencies**  
**Wallace D. Van Buren**



Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission

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