

CHAPTER 4.0 Goals and Policies

City of St. Louis Park Surface Water Management Plan

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Chapter 4.0 Goals and Policies

This chapter presents the goals and policies developed for the management of water resources within St. Louis Park. Goals are provided for water quality, flood control, groundwater protection, and erosion and sedimentation control. Goals propose the desired end, policies provide the means to achieve the goals, and ordinances allow for implementation of the policies. The implementation program discussed in **Chapter 5** provides more specific detail on how these goals and policies will be implemented.

4.1 Surface Water Quality

Goals:

1. Manage surface water resources within the City of St. Louis Park, with input from the public, so that the beneficial uses of wetlands, lakes, and streams remain available to the community, including aesthetic appreciation, wildlife observation, swimming, and boating.
2. Maintain or improve the quality of water in lakes, wetlands, streams, and rivers within or immediately downstream of the City of St. Louis Park.
3. Manage surface water on a regional basis to protect designated waterbodies and meet regional water quality standards in concert with the watershed organizations and the Metropolitan Council.
4. Reduce illicit discharge to the city's storm sewers and receiving waters.
5. Work to meet the phosphorous load reductions required by the city's NPDES permit, the BCWMC, and the MCWD for the City of St. Louis Park.

To work toward these goals, the City of St. Louis Park will do the following:

Policy 4.1.1: Work to meet or exceed all water-related regulations that apply as promulgated by the Federal Government, the State of Minnesota, Hennepin County, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission (BCWMC), Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD), and the Metropolitan Council.

Policy 4.1.2: Implement all aspects of the city's NPDES Phase- II MS4 permit SWPPP (see **Appendix B**) and nondegradation report (see **Appendix E**) as feasible.

Policy 4.1.3: Require development to comply with the conditions and policies of the city's SWPPP (see **Appendix B**), nondegradation report (see **Appendix E**), and the SWMP.

Policy 4.1.4: Continue to use the MCWD to permit activities within the city that fall under the jurisdiction of these agencies.

Policy 4.1.5: Coordinate with the BCWMC on the implementation of the BCWMC AIS Rapid Response Plan for Westwood Lake.

Policy 4.1.6: Cooperate with the MPCA, the BCWMC, the MCWD, and other stakeholders in the preparation and implementation of TMDL studies for waterbodies in the city or waterbodies that receive water directly from the city that are on the MPCA's current or future impaired waters [303(d)] list.

Policy 4.1.7: Cooperate with the WMOs in water quality monitoring, modeling, and planning to protect priority resources; provide city staff for surveying; provide information on storm drainage features, topographic information, and inventory data; serve as a liaison between the WMO and city residents; and implement prescribed education programs and BMPs.

Policy 4.1.8: Work with stakeholders to manage waterbodies and work toward attaining MPCA, BCWMC, MCWD, and city water quality goals.

Policy 4.1.9: Manage stormwater consistent with the water quality standards (see Chapter 2).

Policy 4.1.10: Work with the BCWMC and the MCWD to implement the WMO capital improvement programs based on feasibility, prioritization, and available funding.

Policy 4.1.11: Require that temporary and permanent stormwater basins incorporate recommendations from the Nationwide Urban Runoff Program (NURP).

Policy 4.1.12: Strive to meet water quality goals for phosphorus, bacteria and chloride and other pollutants of concern.

Policy 4.1.13: Review and maintain the water quality management classification (see Chapter 2) of the city's waterbodies.

Policy 4.1.14: Reduce phosphorus loading from development and redevelopment sites by 50 percent, in accordance with city and watershed management organizations standards/rules.

Policy 4.1.15: Explore the feasibility of providing regional stormwater treatment facilities to treat stormwater runoff from multiple redevelopment sites; if feasible, construct and/or install these facilities as opportunities arise and as funding allows; seek grants, cost-share funds, and so on from regional, state, and federal agencies as well as other sources (e.g., watershed management organizations) to support the funding of these projects.

Policy 4.1.16: Continue the cash-dedication policy requiring developers to pay into a fund to cover costs for the installation and/or construction of regional stormwater treatment facilities.

Policy 4.1.17: Promote a reduction in runoff rates from new developments.

Policy 4.1.18: Use existing natural retention and detention areas for stormwater management to maintain and/or improve existing water quality to the extent possible.

Policy 4.1.19: Continue to require BMPs such as wet and dry detention ponds, underground storage, bio-engineering techniques, infiltration basins, trenches, and rain gardens, as physical conditions allow.

Policy 4.1.20: Encourage homeowners to apply stormwater BMPs on their individual properties.

Policy 4.1.21: Update surface water quality modeling of major subwatersheds and diagnose potential problems, as resources allow.

Policy 4.1.22: Continue the implementation of procedures for site plan review that incorporate reduction of potential water quality impacts.

Policy 4.1.23: Work to reduce phosphorus (and other pollutants of concern) loading to receiving waters per requirements of the city's NPDES permit, the BCWMC, and the MCWD.

Policy 4.1.24: Continue to implement, inspect and enforce its ordinances and SWPPP tasks regulating illicit discharge to the stormwater system.

Policy 4.1.25: Update storm drainage systems based on appropriate surface water quantity and quality modeling, as opportunities allow; the design shall consider potential flood, wetland, and surface water quality impacts to upstream and downstream areas.

Policy 4.1.26: Ensure stormwater collection and management systems are maintained, as resources allow.

Policy 4.1.27: Inspect, maintain, operate, and clean structural, publicly owned BMPs such as sedimentation and detention structures as needed to preserve the intended performance.

Policy 4.1.28: Continue and develop a regular pond cleaning and dredging schedule.

Policy 4.1.29: Continue street-sweeping program and vacuum cleaning of settlement devices and manholes as described in the city SWPPP.

Policy 4.1.30: Adopt the lake classification scheme and set goals according to the information provided in Chapter 2.

Policy 4.1.31: Coordinate with the BCWMC and MCWD to develop a comprehensive chloride management plan as part of the city's SWPPP compliance efforts.

4.2 Streams

Goals:

1. Maintain or enhance the natural beauty, public access, and wildlife habitat value of the Minnehaha Creek running through St. Louis Park.
2. Implement stream restoration measures in partnership with MCWD wherever feasible to maintain health, safety, and ecological integrity.
3. Minimize the volume of stormwater runoff entering streams.

To work toward these goals, the City of St. Louis Park will do the following:

Policy 4.2.1: Continue to evaluate opportunities to enhance recreational opportunities and access to streams.

Policy 4.2.2: Reduce areas of impervious surfaces by considering changes to city ordinances and policies; encourage the use of innovative materials to reduce impervious surfaces and enhance infiltration.

Policy 4.2.3: Implement a streambank stabilization program using bioengineering and natural products in partnership with the WMOs as opportunities arise.

Policy 4.2.4: Cooperate with the MCWD on the implementation of stream restoration projects.

4.3 Wetlands

Goal:

1. Protect and restore wetlands to improve or maintain their functions and values in accordance with the Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act and the city's Wetland Management Plan.

To work toward these goals, the City of St. Louis Park will do the following:

Policy 4.3.1: Continue to defer LGU authority for administration of the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) to the MCWD and BCWMC.

Policy 4.3.2: Manage wetlands in a way that is consistent with the city's Wetland Management Plan (see **Appendix D**) and other local, state, and federal wetland regulations.

Policy 4.3.3: Maintain and periodically update the wetland inventory data and the wetland management classifications provided in the St. Louis Park Wetland Management Plan (see **Appendix D**).

Policy 4.3.4: Work to achieve zero net loss of wetland quantity, quality, and biological diversity.

Policy 4.3.5: Work to protect wetlands from chemical, physical, biological, or hydrological changes so as to prevent significant adverse impacts to the following designated wetland functions: maintaining biological diversity, preserving wildlife habitat, providing recreational opportunities, erosion control, groundwater recharge, low flow augmentation, stormwater retention, stream sedimentation, and aesthetic enjoyment, as specified in Minnesota Rules 7050.

Policy 4.3.6: Improve or enhance wetlands when feasible.

Policy 4.3.7: Require that the normal elevation of all wetlands be maintained at the existing invert elevation level or at the established wetland elevation level.

Policy 4.3.8: Require avoidance of wetland hydrologic impacts by maintaining proper inundation periods and storm bounce.

Policy 4.3.9: Continue to coordinate with other agencies involved in the protection of wetlands.

4.4 Surface Water Quantity and Flooding

Goals:

1. Manage the rate and volume of runoff entering rivers, streams, lakes, and wetlands within the City of St. Louis Park.
2. Manage floodplain areas to minimize flooding and protect and restore the functions of the floodplain.
3. Protect the public from flooding through measures that ensure public safety and prevent inundation of occupied structures.
4. Minimize flooding potential in a cost-effective manner.

To work toward these goals, the City of St. Louis Park will do the following:

Policy 4.4.1: Require that stormwater conveyance systems, in design and function, follow the standards and criteria specified by the city engineer.

Policy 4.4.2: Manage the rate and volume of runoff in general accordance with the stormwater management criteria set by the BCWMC and the MCWD and as presented in this SWMP.

Policy 4.4.3: Continue to use the MCWD to permit activities within the city that fall under the jurisdiction of these agencies.

Policy 4.4.4: Require new and redevelopment to apply best management practices to reduce the rate and volume of stormwater runoff to the maximum practical extent.

Policy 4.4.5: Promote and support a reduction in runoff volumes and seek opportunities to retrofit sites under redevelopment with low impact development techniques.

Policy 4.4.6: Consider assuming authority for the three county ditches (#14, #17, and #29) located within the City of St. Louis Park.

Policy 4.4.7: Maintain, clean, and replace public storm drainage systems as needed to preserve the design capacity, as feasible.

Policy 4.4.8: Seek opportunities to reduce flows in storm drainage systems that experience capacity problems (i.e., through reductions in stormwater runoff rates and volumes).

Policy 4.4.9: Require owners of private stormwater systems to maintain, clean, and replace systems as needed to preserve design capacity.

Policy 4.4.10: Notify the BCWMC of any proposed maintenance to Westwood Lake, which is part of the BCWMC's designated trunk system.

Policy 4.4.11: Allow outlets from landlocked basins only when such outlets are consistent with state and federal regulations and when the downstream, riparian, and habitat impacts of such outlets have been analyzed and no detrimental impacts have resulted.

Policy 4.4.12: Review development and redevelopment proposals for consistency with this plan.

Policy 4.4.13: Continue to implement its Floodplain District ordinance (Chapter 36, Article IV, Division 9) and manage activities within the floodplain in accordance with state and federal regulations as well as criteria set by the BCWMC and the MCWD.

Policy 4.4.14: Require all new permanent structures located within or around the 100-year floodplain to meet the following minimum building elevations outlined in the Floodplain District ordinance (Chapter 36, Article IV, Division 9) and BCWMC's standards.

Policy 4.4.15: Continue to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program and seek opportunities to improve the City's level of flood protection and readiness.

Policy 4.4.16: Maintain zero net loss of floodplain storage and manage floodplains to maintain critical 100-year flood storage volumes.

Policy 4.4.17: For areas within the city where the city's modeled flood elevation is higher than the established Flood Insurance Study elevation, use the city's designated floodplain elevation for the application of floodplain regulations.

Policy 4.4.18: Evaluate flood control in conjunction with minimization of impacts to wetland areas and surface water quality management.

Policy 4.4.19: Continue to prohibit expansion of existing nonconforming land uses within the floodplain unless they are fully floodproofed in accordance with existing codes and regulations.

Policy 4.4.20: Obtain flood and drainage easements as well as easements for maintenance access and emergency overflow routes during development and/or building permit processes.

Policy 4.4.21: Correct existing flooding problems within available funding constraints by upgrading the storm drainage system, flood protection, or acquiring the property; develop and follow operation and maintenance plans to minimize flooding potential around landlocked areas.

Policy 4.4.22: Assist the BCWMC, the MCWD, and other agencies with development and distribution of educational materials or support programs that provide information regarding floodplain locations, protection, and floodplain land use and land alteration restrictions.

Policy 4.4.23: Review and update the city's floodplain ordinance to be consistent with the requirements of the watershed management organizations and this plan.

4.5 Groundwater

Goal:

1. Protect groundwater quality and quantity to preserve it for sustainable and beneficial purposes.
2. Manage surface water runoff to meet requirements for groundwater protection from Hennepin County, the MPCA, and/or the MDH.

To work toward these goals, the City of St. Louis Park will do the following:

Policy 4.5.1: Continue implementation of the City of St. Louis Park Wellhead Protection Plan (WHPP).

Policy 4.5.2: Cooperate with the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), Hennepin County, and other agencies to periodically assess the vulnerability of groundwater used for drinking water supplies.

Policy 4.5.3: Promote the infiltration of stormwater and resulting groundwater recharge where it is feasible and does not pose a threat to groundwater quality; develop infiltration systems in accordance with the MDH's Evaluating Proposed Storm Water Infiltration Projects in Vulnerable Wellhead Protection Areas (2007), and the MPCA's Minnesota Stormwater Manual (2005) for guidance for potential stormwater hotspots.

Policy 4.5.4: Work to see that groundwater quality is not sacrificed to manage surface water; design holding ponds, wetlands, and other surface water storage areas to protect groundwater.

Policy 4.5.5: Avoid watershed diversion to sustain water levels in other watersheds and surface water.

Policy 4.5.6: Cooperate with Hennepin County Health Department to ensure that abandoned wells are properly sealed according to the MDH Well Code.

Policy 4.5.7: Cooperate with other agencies to promote and coordinate groundwater monitoring and inventorying.

Policy 4.5.8: Cooperate with efforts to educate the general public concerning the importance and proper use of BMPs to prevent contamination of groundwater supplies.

Policy 4.6.9: Share groundwater elevation data with WMOs.

4.6 Erosion and Sedimentation

Goal:

1. Prevent sediment from entering the city's surface water resources and to minimize and control the erosion and sedimentation in drainageways within the city.

To work toward this goal, the City of St. Louis Park will do the following:

Policy 4.6.1: Require land use planning and development that minimizes sediment yield through compliance with established city, BCWMC, and MCWD policies.

Policy 4.6.2: Continue to require and review erosion and sedimentation control plans for all new development and redevelopment to ensure consistency with the NPDES General Stormwater Permit for Construction Activity, MPCA's Minnesota Stormwater Manual (2008 update), the city's NPDES MS4 Permit and Storm Water Pollution Prevention Program, and the city's erosion control ordinance (Chapter 12, Division, Article V, Sections 12–156), as amended.

Policy 4.6.3: Continue to actively administer the program for controlling sediment erosion from single-family home construction sites.

Policy 4.6.4: Inspect construction sites and provide enforcement for conformance to the site's approved erosion and sediment control plans.

Policy 4.6.5: Continue its program to control construction site debris storage and waste disposal.

Policy 4.6.6: Continue to enforce its tree protection ordinance.

Policy 4.6.7: Continue and enhance its street-sweeping program.

Policy 4.6.8: Require the installation of treatment devices or other devices that do not flush sediment during large precipitation events in lieu of sump manholes, where appropriate.

4.7 Recreation, Habitat, and Shoreland Management

Goals:

1. Maintain and enhance recreational facilities within St. Louis Park.
2. Protect and enhance fish and wildlife habitats within St. Louis Park.
3. Preserve or enhance the ecological function of shoreland areas within St. Louis Park.

To work toward these goals, the City of St. Louis Park will do the following:

Policy 4.7.1: Work to support, to the extent practical, the efforts of the MnDNR, the COE, EPA, and the USFWS in promoting public enjoyment and protection of fish, wildlife, and recreational resource values in the watershed.

Policy 4.7.3: Encourage landowners to maintain wetlands, open spaces, and natural areas for the benefit of wildlife, recreations, and aesthetics.

Policy 4.7.4: Continue to seek opportunities to enhance and restore wetlands based on its Wetland Management Plan.

Policy 4.7.5: Require infiltration of runoff from developed and redeveloped areas creating new impervious surfaces.

Policy 4.7.6: Prevent fertilizers from entering waters through planting vegetation, creating berms, and/or altering grades.

Policy 4.7.7: Limit excavation and grading activities near waterbodies.

Policy 4.7.8: Prevent the water resource impacts of development and redevelopment by requiring appropriate structure setbacks from water.

Policy 4.7.9: Encourage riparian vegetation along creeks, streams, and wetlands.

Policy 4.7.10: Maintain, enhance, and provide new open spaces and/or habitats as part of wetland creation or restoration, stormwater facility construction, development, redevelopment, and other appropriate projects.

4.7.11: Encourage compliance with the state of Minnesota's Shoreland Management requirement through implementation of the city stormwater management design guidelines in Appendix M.

4.8 Education and Public Involvement

Goals:

1. Involve and educate the residents of the city in water-resource-related issues.
2. Offer programs, educational opportunities, and information that facilitate an understanding of water resource issues in St. Louis Park and downstream.

To work toward these goals, the City of St. Louis Park will do the following:

Policy 4.8.1: Continue the educational components outlined in the city's Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program via regular articles in the city newsletter, instructional classes at local schools, presentations to neighborhood groups and businesses, and via the city's website.

Policy 4.8.2: Develop and implement a strategic education program that identifies key water resource stakeholder groups and outlines an educational strategy for each group.

Policy 4.8.3: Continue to support and facilitate existing volunteer programs in St. Louis Park such as the CAMP, the Volunteer Stream Monitoring Program (VSMP), and the WHEP.

Policy 4.8.4: Seek new opportunities for collaboration with volunteer groups.

Policy 4.8.5: Continue and improve the surface water quality monitoring program for city lakes and streams.

Policy 4.8.6: Educate St. Louis Park residents about household BMPs to protect the city's water resources.

4.9 Funding

Goal:

1. Provide sufficient funding to implement measures and policies contained in this plan.

To work toward this goal, the City of St. Louis Park will do the following:

Policy 4.9.1: Continue to use a combination of funding sources to fund the stormwater-related activities identified in this plan. The city will use its stormwater utility fee for stormwater infrastructure maintenance and repair, implementation of the city's NPDES Phase-II MS4 SWPPP requirements (including education), and implementation of larger projects (e.g., flood mitigation, pipe replacement), as funding allows. The city will use its general fund, bonds, and funding from other sources (e.g., developers, tax increment financing, state aid funds, grants) to complete larger projects. In situations where funding is inadequate, the city will defer the proposed projects.

Policy 4.9.2: Consider increasing stormwater utility fees to increase the available funding for implementation of stormwater-related activities.

Policy 4.9.3: Seek grant programs to leverage city contributions.