

CHAPTER 10
SURFACE WATER MANAGEMENT

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The City of Chaska has a Local Surface Water Management Plan (LSWMP) that serves as a comprehensive planning document to guide the City in conserving, protecting, and managing its surface water resources. In addition to providing the primary guide for managing the surface water system throughout the City, the LSWMP brings the City into compliance with Minnesota Statutes Section 103B (M.S. 103B) requiring a local water management plan and serves to meet the rules and guidance of the Metropolitan Council per Minnesota Rules Chapter 8410. Chaska's current LSWMP was last updated in December 2007 by Bonestroo and formally adopted by the City Council on February 4, 2008. The current LSWMP is intended to provide guidance for the City's surface water system through the end of 2016. Periodic amendment to the LSWMP will likely occur in the intervening 10 years so that the plan remains current with all watershed plan amendments and revisions, as well as any "state of the art" practices in surface water management.

Chaska is located within multiple watersheds, which are under the jurisdiction of three (3) watershed management organizations. The watersheds consist of the Carver County Watershed Management Organization (CCWMO), the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District (LMRWD), and the Riley-Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District (RPBCWD). The CCWMO watershed plan was approved by the Minnesota Board of Water & Soil Resources (BWSR) in 2001, the LMRWD watershed plan was approved in 1999, and the RPBCWD watershed plan was approved in 1997. Chaska's LSWMP meets the requirements of all three of these watershed plans. As part of updating the current LSWMP, the City of Chaska submitted the draft plan to the three watershed agencies, as well as the Metropolitan Council. All comments received were addressed in the revised final plan document. Meeting watershed requirements ensures that the City is in compliance with local and regional expectations.

The current LSWMP is an update to the 1990 Stormwater Management Plan, the 1994 Stormwater Quality Management Plan, and the 2001 Stormwater/Natural Resources Management Plan for Lower West Chaska Creek.

The LSWMP establishes the City's goals and policies regarding surface water management in Chaska and its environs. The City's goals were established using the guidelines of the goals developed by the Metropolitan Surface Water Management Act (M.S. 103B). The City of Chaska has been successful in maintaining its natural drainage patterns throughout most of its development.

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The City's goal is to foster continued optimum use of that natural drainage system while enhancing the overall quality of water entering lakes and wetlands. The intent is to prevent flooding while using identified Best Management Practices (BMPs) to enhance surface water quality with minimal capital expenditures by the City.

Chaska has been designated by the State Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) as a Local Government Unit (LGU) with the authority to regulate wetland activities as mandated in the Wetland Conservation Act and within the City's subdivision authority. The City is committed to avoidance and protection of wetlands as part of its development review process.

The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II Storm Water Permit Program is a federal regulatory program that requires owners of Municipally Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s) to prepare and implement a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Program (SWPPP) and apply for the permit with the administrative agency. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) administers the Phase II MS4 program in the state. The City has an approved SWPPP, which was most recently updated in May 2006, and an approved NPDES Phase II MS4 permit.

The LSWMP also contains a Natural Areas Inventory and Management section that provides an inventory of wetlands and uplands. The inventory identifies natural areas that should be prioritized for preservation and restoration opportunities as development occurs. The inventory was created for planning purposes only; therefore, regulation of activities potentially impacting individual wetlands must be based on a site-specific delineation of the wetland boundary as part of a proposed project.

The complete LSWMP document is on file at City Hall and was previously submitted to the Metropolitan Council as part of the 2007/2008 review and adoption process. It is also included in the Appendix of this document as Appendices E and F.