



Lower Grand River Watershed
Progress Report

KENT COUNTY DRAIN COMMISSIONER

Reporting Period: August 1, 2018 - July 31, 2019

PREPARED BY THE

GVMC

GRAND VALLEY METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

Department of Environmental Programs

678 Front Ave. NW.

Suite 200

Grand Rapids, MI 49504

616-776-7702

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List of Abbreviations/Acronyms

AWRI	Annis Water Resources Institute
BMP	Best Management Practice
CoC	Certificate of Coverage
DPW	Department of Public Works
EGLE	Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (Prior to April 7, 2019, this Agency was known as MDEQ)
GI	Green Infrastructure
GVMC	Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
HD	Health Department
ICMA	International City/Country Management Association
IDEP	Illicit Discharge Elimination Plan
I&E	Information and Education
KCDC	Kent County Drain Commissioner
KCRC	Kent County Road Commission
KIH	Kent Innovation High School
LGROW	Lower Grand River Organization of Watersheds
LGRW	Lower Grand River Watershed
LID	Low Impact Development
MACC	Macatawa Area Coordinating Council
MGROW	Middle Grand River Organization of Watersheds
MS4	Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System
MSUE	Michigan State University Extension
MWEA	Michigan Water Environment Association
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NPS	Nonpoint Source
O&M	Operation and Maintenance
OCWRC	Ottawa County Water Resources Commissioner
PCC	Post-Construction Controls
PEP	Public Education Plan
POS	Point-of-Sale
SEMCOG	Southeast Michigan Council of Governments
SESC	Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control
SWPPI	Stormwater Pollution Prevention Initiative
TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Load
TSS	Total Suspended Solids
USEPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
WMEAC	West Michigan Environmental Action Council
WMP	Watershed Management Plan
WMSECN	West Michigan Soil Erosion Control Network
WMSRDC	West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission
WQI	Water Quality Index

Purpose

This Lower Grand River Watershed MS4 Progress Report was developed by the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's (GVMC) Department of Environmental Programs in collaboration with the regulated communities within the Lower Grand River Watershed. This document satisfies the requirement set forth in the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Wastewater Discharge General Permit, Storm Water Discharges from Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s) Subject to Watershed Plan Requirements as outlined in Section B(3).

Part 1 – Contact Information

Contact Information for Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE):	
Please provide current contact information for EGLE to use regarding stormwater issues.	
Permit Application Contact	
Name	Douglas Sporte
Title	Deputy County Drain Commissioner
Address	1500 Scribner Ave NW
City, State, Zip	Grand Rapids, MI 49504
Telephone (with area code)	616-632-7910
Fax (with area code)	616-632-7915
E-mail	doug.sporte@kentcountymi.gov
Stormwater Program Manager	
Name	Douglas Sporte
Title	Deputy County Drain Commissioner
Address	1500 Scribner Ave NW
City, State, Zip	Grand Rapids, MI 49504
Telephone (with area code)	616-632-7910
Fax (with area code)	616-632-7915
E-mail	doug.sporte@kentcountymi.gov
Stormwater Permit Fee Billing Address	
Name	Douglas Sporte
Title	Deputy County Drain Commissioner
Address	1500 Scribner Ave NW
City, State, Zip	Grand Rapids, MI 49504
Telephone (with area code)	616-632-7910
Fax (with area code)	616-632-7915
E-mail	doug.sporte@kentcountymi.gov

Part 2 – Municipal Stormwater Pollution Prevention Initiatives (SWPPI) Commitments

Committees have been working to address different subject areas to make program implementation as efficient as possible. Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permittees participate in the Lower Grand River Organization of Watersheds (LGROW) committees. Committee meetings have also been used to update everyone on the progress of the other committees and the program in general. The committees are as follows:

- Public Engagement Committee
- Stormwater Ordinance Committee (SWOrd)
- Technical Committee
- Sustainability Committee
- Fund Development and Membership Committee
- LGROW Executive Committee
- Subwatershed Committee

The list of committee members who have served on the committees during this reporting period are indicated in Table 1 below. Members denoted with an asterisk are not MS4 permitted representatives.

Community	Representative	Public Engagement	Stormwater Ordinance (SWOrd)	Technical	Sustainability	Fund Development & Membership	LGROW Executive
Cascade Charter Township	Steve Peterson						
East Grand Rapids, City of	Doug LaFave						
Forest Hills Public Schools	Ron Boezwinkle						
Fruitport, Village of	Justin Clish						
Georgetown Charter Township	Rod Weersing	X					
Grand Haven, City of	Cheryl Davidson	X					
Grand Rapids Charter Township	Bob Versluys						
Grand Rapids, City of	Carrie Rivette	X	X	X	X	X	X

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Table 1. LGROW Committee Membership List as of July 31, 2019

Community	Representative	Public Engagement	Stormwater Ordinance (SWOrd)	Technical	Sustainability	Fund Development & Membership	LGROW Executive
Grand Rapids, City of	Michael Staal	X					
Grand Rapids, City of	Dan Taber			X			
Grandville, City of	Ken Krombeen		X			X	X
Grandville, City of	Todd Wibright			X			
Grandville, City of	Matt Butts		X				
GVSU*	Shannon Sullivan						
Hudsonville, City of	Jill Frielink	X					
KCDC	Brad Boomstra		X				
KCDC	Angie Latvaitis		X	X			
KCRC	Bruce Schutte	X					
KCRC	Andrew Reinhardt	X					
Kent County Health Department*	Brendan Earl	X					
Kent County Resource Recovery*	Isaac Thaler	X					
Kentwood, City of	Jim Beke		X	X			
Kentwood, City of	Dan Vanderheide		X				
Kentwood, City of	Kelsey Sloan	X		X			
EGLE*	Amanda St. Amour	X					
EGLE*	Michelle Storey	X				X	
EGLE*	Dana Strouse	X		X			
OCWRC	Dennis Cole	X					
OCRC	Jerry Olman	X					
Plainfield Charter Township	Rick Solle		X				

Table 1. LGROW Committee Membership List as of July 31, 2019

Community	Representative	Public Engagement	Stormwater Ordinance (SWOrd)	Technical	Sustainability	Fund Development & Membership	LGROW Executive
Plainfield Charter Township	Mary Trapp-Gunst	X					
Spring Lake, Village of	Chris Burns						
Walker, City of	Scott Connors		X			X	X
Walker, City of	Rachell Nagorsen	X	X	X	X		X
Wyoming, City of	Aaron Vis	X		X			X
Wyoming, City of	Myron Erickson		X				

Public Engagement Committee

The Public Engagement Committee met on September 12, 2018, October 10, 2018, November 14, 2018, January 9, 2019, February 13, 2019, and May 8, 2019 during the reporting period. Agendas and minutes for the meetings are posted to <https://www.lgrow.org/public-engagement>. Throughout the reporting period, the group focused on implementation of the Public Education Plan (PEP) approved in February of 2013, available here: <https://www.lgrow.org/ms4information>.

The Public Engagement Committee has been functioning as a joint committee of the Lower Grand River Organization of Watersheds (LGROW) and the permitted Lower Grand MS4 communities since January of 2014. The goals of LGROW, the Lower Grand River Watershed Management Plan, the strategic plan, and the MS4 Public Education Plan align closely, and through this joint committee's combined efforts, the result has been a larger group of involved stakeholders. This group shares the common goals of raising awareness about the Lower Grand River Watershed (LGRW) and improving the stormwater quality within the watershed. The group focuses on messaging and outreach events that address the target messages of: Personal Watershed Stewardship, Ultimate Stormwater Discharge, Public Reporting of Illicit Discharges, Personal Actions that can Impact the Watershed, Waste Management, Management of Riparian Lands. A detailed list of these events and the outreach conducted during this reporting period is provided in Part 3.

SWOrd Committee

The Storm Water Ordinance (SWOrd) Committee met on September 26, 2018, November 28, 2018 and May 29, 2019 during the reporting period. Meetings were focused on follow up items related to the LGRW alternative approach, the model ordinance, the standards manual, maintenance agreements, and the stormwater design spreadsheet for MS4 permittees to utilize in their implementation of the new post-construction stormwater control requirements outlined in the 2016 NPDES Permit Application.

The committee finalized templates for the standards manual, the standards manual BMP design criteria appendix, and the LGROW Design Spreadsheet. The standards manual follows the steps outlined in the flow chart submitted with the permit applications for the design, review, and permitting of sites with post construction controls. The standards manual was developed in tandem with a LGROW Design Spreadsheet to assist site designers and reviewers to ensure site designs meet all the regulatory criteria outlined in the permit. The development of maintenance agreements per the stormwater post-construction controls is ongoing, and will continue through the next reporting period.

The manual and Design Spreadsheet tools are also designed to ensure that the alternative approach is only utilized when all other green infrastructure practices have been considered, but are not feasible, due to site constraints as defined in the flow chart. Since this work began in 2015, much of this reporting period was spent editing, revising and finalizing the permit application documents to accurately reflect how each community implements their MS4 program, accounting for new stormwater regulations under the next MS4 permit.

Technical Committee

The Technical Committee met on August 15, 2018, October 31, 2018, December 19, 2018, April 17, 2019, and June 19, 2019 during this reporting period. Agendas and minutes from the meetings are available at the following site: <https://www.lgrow.org/technical-committee>. During the reporting period, the committee members focused on the development of the LGROW Data Repository, which will serve as a resource for the sharing and viewing of water quality data collected throughout the watershed. The Data Repository can be accessed here: <https://www.lgrow.org/data-repository/>

The Committee also continued work on the watershed monitoring manual to guide the collection, processing, and storage of data in the Lower Grand River Watershed and the Lower Grand River Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) monitoring, as required by the MS4 permit. The committee is coordinating the TMDL monitoring in the stream reaches identified in the MS4 Permit application letters. GVMC has hired LimnoTech to complete watershed modeling for TMDL requirements, and to update the TMDL

Implementation Plan. The Technical Committee has been involved in the work that LimnoTech is completing. At the October 2018 meeting, the committee enjoyed a Green Infrastructure tour around the City of Grand Rapids. IDEP outfall screening was also a focus of the Technical Committee, since most MS4's in the watershed were completed this work during the summer of 2018. A presentation at the April meeting was given by a representative from Encompass, LLC regarding water quality monitoring in the Grand River for the river restoration project, and a presentation from LinmoTech was given at the June meeting regarding watershed modeling for upcoming MS4 permit requirements.

Sustainability Committee

The Sustainability Committee met on August 6, 2018, October 1, 2018, December 3, 2018, February 11, 2019, and June 3, 2019 during this reporting period. Agendas and minutes from the meetings are available at the following site: <https://www.lgrow.org/sustainability-committee>. During the reporting period, the committee members focused on three main topics: Sustainable Agriculture, Natural Connections, and the Grand River Water Trail. Sustainable agriculture is addressed through members participating and offering planning assistance for the USDA Regional Conservation Partnership Program grant activities in the Indian Mill Creek and Rogue River watersheds. The members also discussed current efforts of concerned citizens to highlight the importance of preserving farmland in Kent County. LGROW's Natural Connections Map was updated by creating a StoryMap that included regional and site specific green infrastructure practices being implemented in the MS4 communities. The planning of the Grand River Water Trail is supported by the members through reviewing the trail development plans that have been produced by the Upper Grand River Watershed Alliance and MGROW. Members are strategizing about how to fund a trail development plan for the Lower Grand River and submitting an application to the State to have it designated as a State Water Trail.

Fund Development & Membership Committee

The Fund Development & Membership Committee did not meet in 2018 or 2019. The Committee Chair discussed possible restructuring of the committee at the Board Meetings. The goals of the Committee are being revised to better reflect the current state of LGROW's membership structure.

Board of Directors and Executive Committee Meetings

LGROW's Board of Directors held meetings on December 6, 2018, and April 30, 2019. The semi-annual meetings are a chance for the Board to discuss the progress and participation of members in LGROW's Committees and the overall challenges and successes of LGROW's initiatives.

The Executive Committee of the Board continued to meet once a month, as much as possible, to assist in guiding LGROW's efforts and ensuring that projects and programs aligned with LGROW's Strategic Plan.

Training

GVMC provides multiple training documents and DVDs for Permittee use. Documents are available at: <https://www.lgrow.org/ms4information>. Training materials, including newsletter articles for communities to provide to residents, can be found on the LGROW website, and are available upon request by MS4 communities. In addition, GVMC has hosted or partnered on several training events during the reporting period including:

- 16th Annual Grand River Spring Forum
 - Held on May 17, 2019 at Blandford Nature Center
- Stormwater General Awareness, Watershed Awareness, IDEP, and P2GH for:
 - Ottawa County Road Commission
 - September 19, 2018 at Grand Haven Garage
 - September 25, 2018 at Holland Garage
 - Ottawa County Road Commission, Ottawa County Water Resources Commission, Village of Spring Lake, Georgetown Township
 - March 1, 2019 at Hemlock Nature Center
 - Hudsonville and Georgetown Township
 - March 20, 2019 at Hudsonville City Hall
 - Grand Haven, Ferrysburg, and the Village of Fruitport
 - April 10, 2019 at Grand Haven DPW
 - Rockford
 - May 13, 2019 at Rockford DPW
 - Sparta
 - May 13, 2019 Village of Sparta offices
- Lunch and Learn
 - Offered at GVMC on June 19, 2019 hosted by Contech Engineered Solutions

Attendance at the live events and completion of other training is recorded in each MS4's individual training logs (Part 2D).

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Newsletters

GVMC sent out seasonal MS4 Newsletters to communities to provide information regarding upcoming training, events, regulatory deadlines, committee meetings, and general program information during the reporting period.



Thank you for attending the 16th Annual Grand River Spring Forum!

Attached to this electronic newsletter, you will find an informational brochure about ways to prevent pollution during the summer, and a green cleaning newsletter article. Please post and/or distribute to your employees and community as you see fit.

SPRING FORUM

The 16th Annual Spring Forum was held on May 17, 2019 at Blandford Nature Center. There were a record-setting 350 attendees, including students and teachers from 4 schools in the watershed that participated in the first-ever Student Forum and Poster Session.

Keynote speaker, Dr. Don Carpenter, spoke about removing the barriers to green infrastructure implementation. LGROW committee updates were reported, and exciting 'Shed Talks' covered Rainscaping, the RCPP program, community engagement, and the new Adopt a Drain program. Attendees had the option of attending different green infrastructure walking tours after lunch.

Without your continued support of LGROW's programs, our work would not be possible. We would like to extend our gratitude to the 2019 Spring Forum sponsors, that made this wonderful event happen. If you, or anyone you know, would be interested in sponsoring or presenting at next year's Spring Forum, please let us know.

More information can be found on the LGROW website

**LUNCH & LEARN
 STORMWATER BMPs**

Representatives from Contech Engineered Solutions LLC (<https://www.conteches.com>) will be at GVMC on Wednesday June 19 from 11:30 am - 1:00 pm, holding a lunch and learn to inform us about their company's products that help manage stormwater. There will be discussion about how these products can help your community meet the water quality and quantity requirements under the new MS4 permit. Please RSVP to Cara at cara.decker@gvmc.org so we can get an accurate headcount.



Following the Lunch and Learn at 1:00 pm, the LGROW Technical Committee will welcome representatives from LimnoTech to present the watershed modeling they have been completing in regards to new TMDL requirements under the upcoming MS4 permit.



MS4 Upcoming Events

Please Click Each Event For More Information

August 15th, 1-2:30 Pm
LGROW Technical Committee Meeting
 Location: GVMC

August 23rd, 1-4 Pm
Green Infrastructure Seminar
 Location: City Flats Hotel, Holland

August 24th, 8 Am-12 Pm
Farm Conservation Practices Bus Tour
 Location: Schwallier's Country Basket

September 6th, 4-6 Pm
Citizen Science Workshop
 Location: Blandford Nature Center

September 8th, 8:30 Am-1Pm
Mayor's Grand River Cleanup
 Location: 6th Street Park, Grand Rapids

September 12th, 2-3:30 Pm
LGROW Public Engagement Committee Meeting
 Location: GVMC

September 13th, 4:30-6:30 Pm
Watershed Jamboree
 Location: Richmond Park Shelter



www.lgrow.org Winter 2019

MS4 UPDATE

Information for MS4 Permittees in the Lower Grand River Watershed



The Lower Grand River Organization of Watersheds (LGROW) participated in the World of Winter festival in Grand Rapids in February

2018 LGROW Annual Report

The 2018 LGROW annual report can be accessed electronically through LGROW's website at www.lgrow.org. The annual report highlights events, projects, and grant work from the past year. It is a celebration of the organization's success. It also sets goals for 2019 that are in alignment with the three long-term goals that are outlined in LGROW's strategic plan:

- #1: Healthy Watersheds
- #2: Engaged Community
- #3: Robust Organization

Please share and distribute this annual report. We are proud of what we have accomplished in the past year, and are excited to continue to expand our programs with your support!



Monitoring

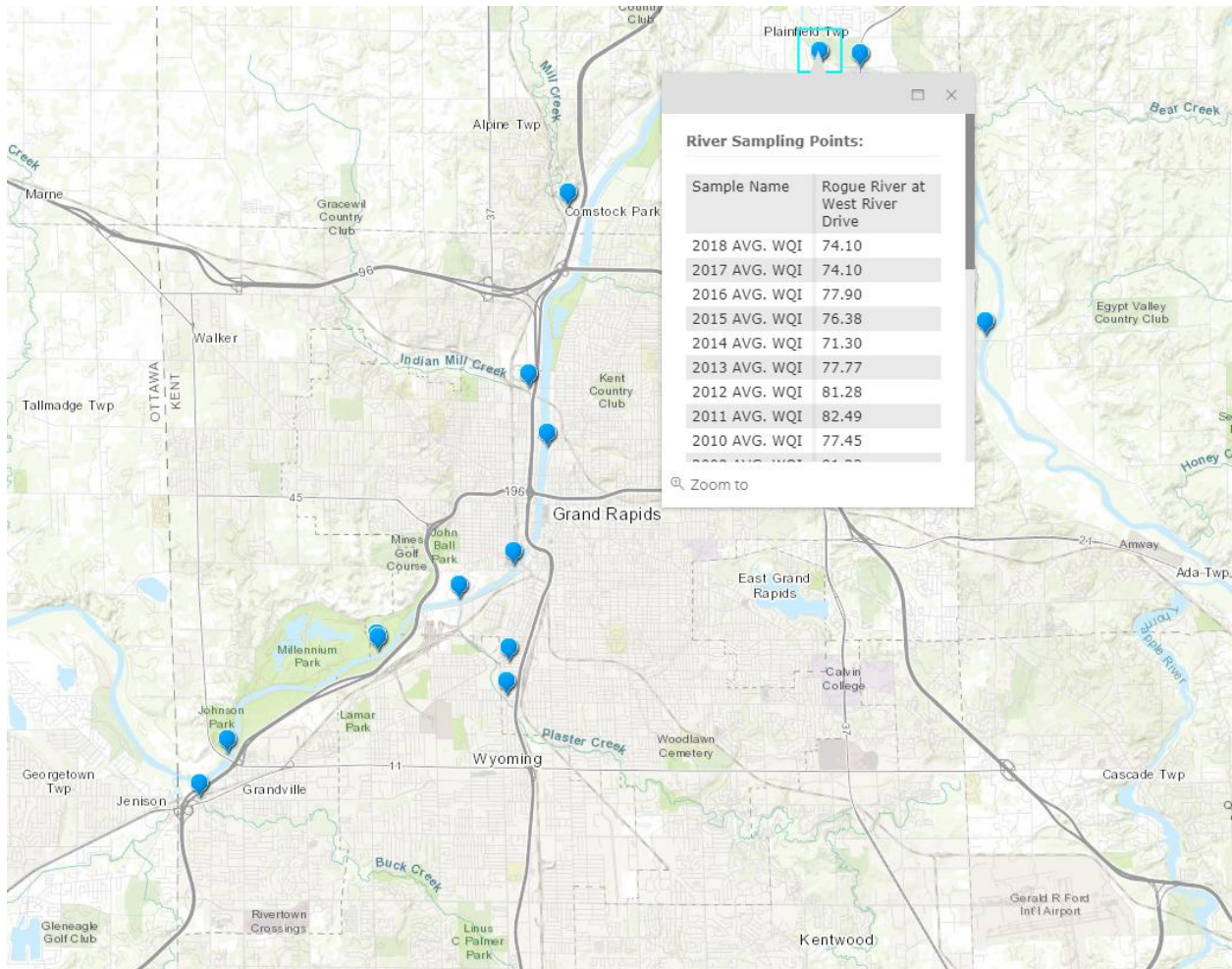


Figure 1 Grand Rapids Water Quality Index Web Interface

The Grand River Water Quality Index (WQI) is used to show the trend of Grand River water quality downstream of Grand Rapids. A WQI of 71-90 indicates good water quality with high diversity of aquatic life and very few limits for recreational use. Grand Rapids has been monitoring the Grand River for forty years and all of the data are available upon request. A record of the WQI for Rogue River at West River Drive is provided as an example of water quality in the Grand River. An interactive map and data from sampling events can be viewed as follows:

https://grandrapids.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Embed/index.html?webmap=b58bd9f6cda949599b15753b888a7048&extent=-85.8676,42.8116,-85.4244,43.0326&zoom=true&scale=true&search=true&searchextent=false&legend=true&disable_scroll=false&theme=light

Data Repository

The LGROW Technical Committee finished working on the design for a watershed-wide data repository with the help of GVMC’s Regional Geographic Information System (REGIS) department. Using data collected by the Friends of Buck Creek as part of their 319 monitoring grant, and Indian Mill Creek, as part of GVSU Graduate Students’ research, the committee designed a landing page, which provides access to the collected data via an Arc GIS online interface – a free online GIS software that allows users basic viewing and searching capabilities. The group also finalized a tutorial for data repository users. The long-term goal is that the data repository will be a central location to access water quality data from all sampling events in the Lower Grand River Watershed. With this goal in mind, the Technical Committee also developed submittal tools to allow users to share collected scientific water quality data. The data will be reviewed and checked by LGROW before it is uploaded into the data repository for public viewing at this site: <https://www.lgrow.org/data-repository/>. Some students and teachers in local school districts have already begun to use the repository to aid classroom learning.

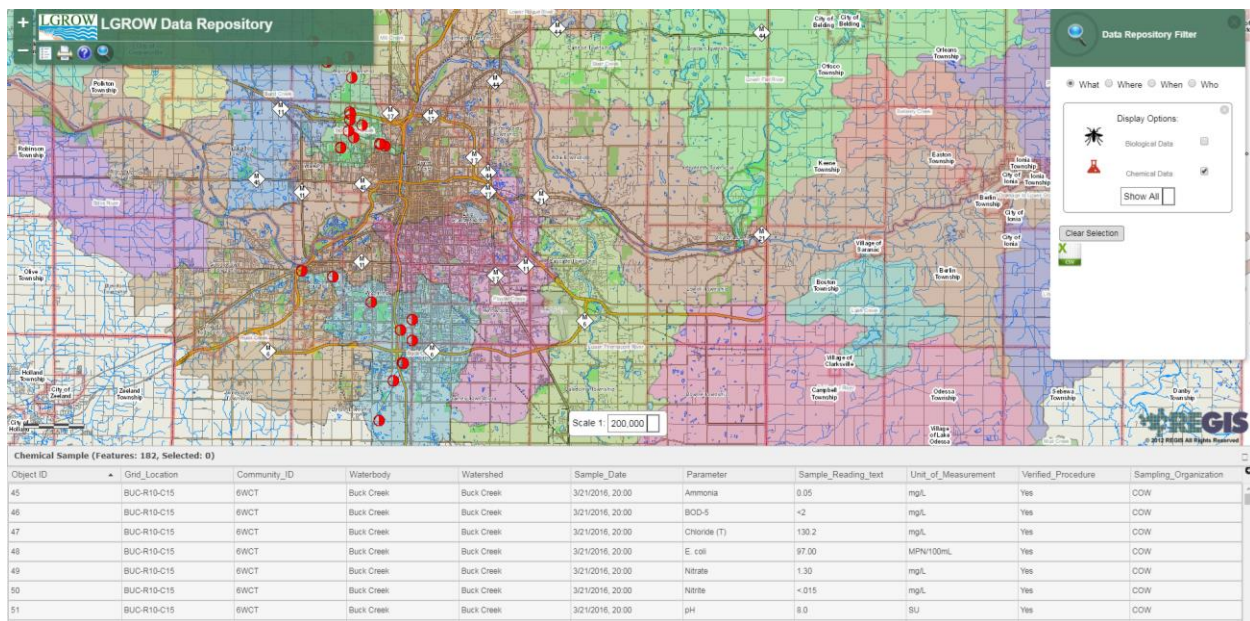


Figure 2 LGROW Data Repository

Adopt a Drain Grand River

LGROW expanded the City of Grand Rapids “Basin Buddy” adopt-a-catch-basin program to MS4 communities throughout the watershed. This is described in the PEP Implementation section below and can be found here: <https://www.adoptadrain-lgrow.org/>

Part 2A - Lower Grand River Watershed Management Plan Prioritized Objectives

Encouraging proper septic tank maintenance

Each year a portion of the public education materials distributed address proper septic tank maintenance. Detailed information regarding the nature of these materials is included in Part 3 - PEP of this progress report. Additionally, communities in both Kent and Ottawa Counties work collaboratively with their respective Health Departments to report and ensure correction of failing or failed septic systems. Individual communities track this data in Part 4 – IDEP of this progress report.

The US EPA hosts SepticSmart Week once a year, and LGROW uses the materials provided to encourage of proper septic system care. SepticSmart Week 2018 was held on September 17-21, and focused on educating homeowners and communities on the proper care and maintenance of their septic systems.

Encouraging septage ordinance

The Ottawa County Health Department presently has an ordinance in place requiring point-of-sale inspections. The permitted communities located within Ottawa County collaborate with and rely on the Ottawa County Health Department for ongoing enforcement of the ordinance.

Kent and Muskegon Counties have not passed an ordinance requiring point of sale septic system inspections. The permitted entities within Kent and Muskegon County rely on implementation of the IDEP and reporting/enforcement through their stormwater ordinances and the Health Department to follow up on failing or failed septic systems. In the case of a failed septic system, a connection to sanitary is typically required if a sanitary sewer connection is available within 250 feet.

Implement vegetative buffering practices and restore and protect the stream buffer and canopy

Several communities including the City of East Grand Rapids and the City of Grand Rapids have instituted or evaluated the potential for buffer ordinances. The Cities of Hudsonville and Rockford have included buffer provisions within their zoning ordinances. Many other communities have adopted mowing buffer procedures on the properties they own and maintain. These procedures are identified in Part 2C.

Implement sanitary sewer maintenance practices

Sanitary sewer service is provided by several communities to residents in expanded service areas. Through these partnerships, many communities are able to utilize sanitary sewer infrastructure instead of

relying on septic systems. The City of Grand Rapids collaborates with Cascade Charter Township, the City of East Grand Rapids, Forest Hills Public Schools, Grand Rapids Charter Township, Kent County, Kentwood, and the City of Walker. The City of Wyoming collaborates with the City of Kentwood and portions of the City of Grandville. The City of Grandville collaborates with the City of Hudsonville and portions of Georgetown Charter Township. The City of Grand Haven collaborates with the City of Ferrysburg and the Village of Spring Lake. The North Kent Sewer Authority collaborates with Plainfield Charter Township and the City of Rockford. All of the MS4 LGROW community members have procedures to inspect and maintain their sanitary sewer systems, which are independent of their MS4 systems. Information related to the maintenance and upgrades of sewer infrastructure is included in Part 2B of the report.

Implement Low Impact Development Practices

Low Impact Development (LID) and Green Infrastructure (GI) are critical components in both the SWPPI and the PEP. Detailed information on the training related to LID practices and implementation is detailed in Part 2D. Tracking of the installation and consideration of LID practices by Permittees is tracked in Part 2E. The PEP incorporates messages on the implementation of LID practices such as rain gardens, buffer strips, and native plantings for their direct benefits to water quality. The PEP focuses on LID practices that are feasible for individual homeowners to implement, rather than large scale development.

Implement watershed focused land-use planning

Throughout the watershed, construction in FEMA mapped floodplains is regulated by the Michigan Building Code to ensure that construction below the base flood elevation does not occur. This is accomplished by providing prescribed release rates for Bank Erosion Control, as well as Flood Control. Water Quality control is addressed with detention and infiltration, where possible, or delayed and restricted release where it is not.

As the Stormwater Ordinance Committee worked on developing the model stormwater ordinance for the next MS4 permit, many of the design requirements needed to prevent or mitigate flooding in site designs were left intact. Though these were not required as part of the MS4 permit application, permitted communities recognize the need for flood protection for the protection of downstream residences and receiving waters.

Implement proper soil erosion and sedimentation control techniques

Part 91, Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control (SESC), of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (NREPA), 1994 PA 451, as amended, regulates the activity of earth work and mandates that projects disturbing an area greater than one acre in size or an area less than 500 feet from a lake or stream obtain a soil erosion permit from the regulatory agency with jurisdiction over the area in which they are working. Table 2 details which Permittees work collaboratively with the county enforcing agent (CEA), which Permittees administer their own program as a municipal enforcing agent (MEA), and which Permittees have the authority to oversee their own projects as authorized public agencies (APA). MEA, CEA, and APA programs implement a thorough soil erosion and sediment control plan review and regular site inspections in their programs for permitted sites. Plan review and site inspections are conducted by staff with either a comprehensive or inspector construction site stormwater operator certification respectively.

Training on topics related to construction site stormwater runoff is detailed in Part 2D. Training ensures that even if a community does not oversee their own program, field staff will be informed regarding observations on a construction site and the appropriate entity to report to if there is an offsite discharge or poorly maintained SESC measures. Many LGRW MS4 permitted communities who administer a Part 91 program also work closely with the West Michigan Soil Erosion Control Network, a professional network that provides regular training, panel discussions and field demonstrations on BMPs and new technologies in this field.

Community	Part 91 Contact Info		MEA	Utilizes CEA			APA
	Name	Phone		Kent	Muskegon	Ottawa	
Cascade Charter Township	KCRC	616-242-6914		X			
East Grand Rapids, City of	KCRC	616-242-6914		X			
Ferrysburg, City of	OCWRC	616-994-4530				X	
Forest Hills Public Schools	KCRC	616-242-6914		X			
Fruitport, Village of	Muskegon County DPW	231-724-6411			X		
Georgetown Charter Township	OCWRC	616-994-4530				X	
Grand Haven, City of	OCWRC	616-994-4530				X	
Grand Rapids Charter Township	KCRC	616-242-6914		X			
Grand Rapids, City of	Environmental Services Dept.	616-456-3057	X				X
Grandville, City of	KCRC	616-242-6914		X			
Hudsonville, City of	OCWRC	616-994-4530				X	
Kent County Drain Commissioner & Administration	Deputy Drain Commissioner	616-632-7910					X
Kent County DPW	Kent Co. DPW	616-336-3694					X
Kent County Road Commission (Kent County CEA)	KCRC	616-242-6914		X			X
Kentwood, City of	Engineering Dept.	616-554-0737	X				X
Ottawa County Water Resources Commissioner & Administration (Ottawa County CEA)	OCWRC	616-994-4530				X	X
Ottawa County Road Commission	Engineering Dept.	616-842-5400					X
Plainfield Charter Township	KCRC	616-242-6914		X			
Rockford, City of	Public Services Dept.	616-866-9631	X				
Sparta, Village of	KCRC	616-242-6914		X			
Spring Lake, Village of	OCWRC	616-994-4530				X	
Walker, City of	Engineering Dept.	616-453-6311	X				
Wyoming, City of	KCRC	616-242-6914		X			

Implement channel and stream bank stabilization, bio-engineering and erosion control techniques

EGLE requires a joint permit from the State of Michigan for all work performed in channels that are designated as waters of the state. Any work that occurs within 500 feet of a lake or stream requires a soil erosion control permit from the authorized Part 91 agency, as referenced above. These permitting procedures work in tandem to prevent negative impacts during and after construction, as well as to ensure adequate restoration. Permitted communities in the Lower Grand River Watershed have policies in place to ensure protection of drainage systems from construction site runoff as detailed in Part 2C and perform regular training as referenced in Part 2D related to construction site stormwater runoff and water quality protection.

Implement turf management and proper fertilizer application practices

Permitted communities within the Lower Grand River Watershed have developed procedures for managing vegetation and using fertilizers on Permittee owned properties as outlined in Part 2C. These policies and procedures were reviewed as permittees prepared their individual permit applications in Spring 2015. All staff at the communities and their subcontractors adhere to these procedures. These practices were also covered in training given by GVMC staff, and more details can be found in Part 2D.

**Part 2B - Stormwater Controls Inspection, Maintenance and Effectiveness
 August 1, 2018 to July 31, 2019**

63RD District Court 1950 East Beltline NE				
Structural Storm Water Control	Inspection Frequency	Maintenance Schedule	Inspection and Maintenance Conducted and Location of Log (if applicable)	Effectiveness of Control and Support Documentation
Bio Filtration Area	1 year	Sediment removal as needed per inspection	June 2019. Removed debris.	Performing as intended.
Bio Filtration Sediment Swale	1 year	Sediment removal as needed per inspection	June 2019. Removed debris.	Performing as intended.
Cobblestone Check Dam & Downspout	1 year	Restore if necessary as needed per inspection	Inspected June 2019. No maintenance required.	Performing as intended.
Yard Drains w 2 ft sumps.	4 year	Vactor as needed per inspection	Inspected June 2019. No maintenance required.	Performing as intended.
Catch Basins w 2 ft sumps	4 year	Vactor as needed per inspection	Inspected June 2019. No maintenance required.	Performing as intended.
Pretreatment Basin	3 year	Sediment removal as needed per inspection	June 2019. Removed debris.	Performing as intended.
Circuit Court 180 Ottawa Ave. NW				
Structural Storm Water Control	Inspection Frequency	Maintenance Schedule	Inspection and Maintenance Conducted and Location of Log (if applicable)	Effectiveness of Control and Support Documentation
Trench Drains	4 years	Vactor or w/ hand tools as needed per inspection	May 2019. Hand cleaned.	Performing as intended.
Catch basin	4 years	Vactor as needed per inspection	Inspected June 2019. No maintenance required.	Performing as intended.

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Vertical drop connection into catch basin	4 years	Vactor or w/ hand tools as needed per inspection	Inspected June 2019. No maintenance required.	Performing as intended.
Grate inlet	4 years	Vactor or w/ hand tools as needed per inspection	May 2019. Hand cleaned.	Performing as intended.
Concrete drain	4 years	Vactor or w/ hand tools as needed per inspection	May 2019. Hand cleaned.	Performing as intended.
Yard drain in lawn	4 years	Vactor or w/ hand tools as needed per inspection	May 2019. Hand cleaned.	Performing as intended.
North Kent Landfill & South Kent Landfill 2908 10 Mile Rd. NE; 300 100th St. SW				
Structural Storm Water Control	Inspection Frequency	Maintenance Schedule	Inspection and Maintenance Conducted and Location of Log (if applicable)	Effectiveness of Control and Support Documentation
Detention Pond	4 year	Remove sediment as needed per inspection	July 14-30. Removed sediment.	Performing as intended.
Catch basin	4 years	Vactor as needed per inspection	April 18. Removed sediment & debris.	Performing as intended.
Underdrains & outfalls	5 year	Jet pipe and collect sediment as needed per inspection	Inspected April 18. No maintenance required.	Performing as intended.
Drainage ditches	5 year	Remove sediment as needed per inspection	Inspected August 20, 2019. Ongoing maintenance.	Performing as intended.
Treatment basins	4 year	Remove sediment as needed per inspection	Inspected 8/20/19. No maintenance required.	Performing as intended.
Waste to Energy Facility 950 Market Ave. SW				
Structural Storm Water Control	Inspection Frequency	Maintenance Schedule	Inspection and Maintenance Conducted and Location of Log (if applicable)	Effectiveness of Control and Support Documentation
Catch basins	4 year	Vactor as needed per inspection	Inspected 8/7/19. All vacuumed out.	Performing as intended.

**Part 2C - Procedures Status
 August 1, 2018 to July 31, 2019**

The following Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping procedures were adopted by various departments of the County of Kent. Dates of revised procedures are listed and revisions attached.

Procedure	Date Adopted	Date Revised (if needed)
Procedure to Ensure Protection of Drainage Systems from Construction-Site Runoff	February 27, 2012	
Procedure to Dispose of Storm Sewer System Operation and Maintenance Waste	February 27, 2012	
Procedures to Construct, Operate, and Maintain Streets, Roads, Highways, and Parking Lots	February 27, 2012	
Procedure to Reduce Runoff of Total Suspended Solids (TSS)	February 27, 2012	
Procedure to Prevent Salt and Sand from Entering Receiving Streams	February 27, 2012	
Procedure to Control Dust and TSS in Runoff	February 27, 2012	
Procedure for Managing Vegetation on Permittee Owned Properties	February 27, 2012	
Procedure for Using Fertilizers on Permittee Owned Properties	February 27, 2012	

**Part 2D - Staff and Contractors Training on Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping
 August 1, 2018 to July 31, 2019**

Training Topic Area	Employee Group to Receive Training	Training Frequency	Training Type
SWPPI Requirements			
Maintenance activities, maintenance schedules, and inspection procedures	Parks, Facilities, DPW, Drain Comm.	4 years	Written O&M Procedures Storm Watch - Municipal Storm Water Pollution Prevention - DVD from Excal Visual, LLC
Training completed:			Watched DVD March 2015
Controls on streets, parking lots, maintenance garages, and storage yards	Parks, Facilities, DPW	DVD: 4 years Brochure: Annual	Storm Watch - Municipal Storm Water Pollution Prevention - DVD from Excal Visual, LLC Kent County Brochure: What Every Contractor & Employee Must Know About Storm Water
Training completed:			Watched DVD March 2015
Disposal of O&M waste	Parks, Facilities, DPW, Drain Comm.	4 years	Written O&M Procedures
Training completed:			Reviewed O&M procedures March 2015
Water quality protection in flood control projects (detention basins, dams)	Drain Commissioner	Annually	Presentations at State & District drain commissioner conferences.
Training completed:			Drain Commissioner and staff attended 2 state and 3 district Michigan Association of County Drain Commissioners conferences.

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Training Topic Area	Employee Group to Receive Training	Training Frequency	Training Type
Controls to reduce discharge of pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers	Parks, Facilities, DPW, Drain Comm.	DVD: 4 Years Brochure: Annual	Kent County Brochure: What Every Landscaper Must Know About Storm Water. Storm Watch - Municipal Storm Water Pollution Prevention - DVD from Excal Visual, LLC
Training completed:			Watched DVD March 2015. Distributed brochures to departments' employees.
Other Topics			
Construction site stormwater runoff	Parks, Facilities, DPW Drain Comm.	DVD: 3 Years Brochure: Annual	Storm Watch - Municipal Storm Water Pollution Prevention - DVD from Excal Visual, LLC Kent County Brochure: What Every Contractor & Employee Must Know About Storm Water
Training completed:			Watched DVD March 2015. Distributed brochures to departments' employees
IDEP	Parks, Facilities, DPW, Drain Comm.	DVD: 3 Years Brochure: Annual	WaterPollutionReportForm.doc Storm Watch - Municipal Storm Water Pollution Prevention - DVD from Excal Visual, LLC Kent County Brochure: What Every Contractor & Employee Must Know About Storm Water
Training completed:			Watched DVD March 2015. Distributed brochures to departments' employees

Part 2E - Post Construction Controls Activities

August 1, 2018 to July 31, 2019

All new plat developments reviewed by the Kent County Drain Commissioner within Kent County are required to be equipped with detention facilities for stormwater. This requirement may be waived if it can be demonstrated to the Drain Commissioner's satisfaction that the off-site drainage facilities exist and are adequate. This is provided that easements and water quality issues have been addressed.

The stormwater detention facility shall be designed in accordance with criteria established by the County Drain Commissioner. The Commissioner may determine the need to incorporate more stringent design requirements into the stormwater drainage system for either water quantity control or water quality control in response to local need.

The purpose of stormwater management is to prevent flooding, minimize property damage, prevent erosion, eliminate nuisance conditions, lower overall costs, and improve overall water quality. Stormwater management is required to provide protection from flooding by limiting the post-developed peak rate of discharge (volume, velocity, & concentration shall also be considered); recharge groundwater where possible by allowing for retention of runoff where soils are compatible; and pollution abatement by retention with percolation or detention without infiltration (wet detention).

The design storm serves as the basis for design. The selection of the storm duration and distribution affects the resulting runoff volume and peak discharge rate.

The basin discharge controls shall be based on the peak release rate of 0.13 cfs/acre or at times 0.05 cfs/acre and the first 0.5" of runoff shall be held for not less than 12 hours or more than 24 hours.

If deemed necessary to insure adequate maintenance of the proposed stormwater facilities, the Commissioner may require the Proprietor to establish, in whole or in part, the proposed storm water facilities as a county drain upon their completion.

The county does not have planning and zoning authority and therefore relies upon the local unit of government to direct growth to identified areas, to protect sensitive areas such as wetlands and riparian areas, to maintain and/or increase open spaces, and to encourage infill development in higher density urban areas and areas with existing infrastructure.

The Kent County DEVELOPMENT DRAINAGE RULES are available at
<http://www.accesskent.com/YourGovernment/DrainCommissioner/pdfs/DrainageRules.pdf>

The Kent County STORM WATER DESIGN CRITERIA are available at
<http://www.accesskent.com/YourGovernment/DrainCommissioner/pdfs/appB.pdf>

Explain the enforcement activities of your comprehensive storm water management program for post-construction controls completed during this reporting period:

**Reviewed 32 development plan submissions for post construction controls.
Reviewed 28 applications for permit to connect to County drains.**

How many developments were approved with storm water controls according to PCC?

**15 developments were granted final approval.
27 permit applications were approved.**

Have any long-term operation and maintenance agreements been signed?

N/A – The Drain Commissioner’s Office does not enforce private systems.

How many inspections or enforcement/compliance of O&M agreements were conducted?

N/A – The Drain Commissioner’s Office does not enforce private systems.

Explain how the Post Construction Controls have addressed other issues, such as protecting sensitive areas, directing growth to identified areas, encouraging infill development in higher density urban areas and areas with existing infrastructure, and/or maintaining or increase open spaces:

Post construction controls have been protecting the integrity of streams, wetlands, lakes and other bodies of water.

Part 3 – Public Education Plan

Regional PEP

The updated Public Education Plan (PEP) was approved by MDEQ in February 2013. The purpose of the PEP is to promote, publicize, and facilitate education for the purpose of encouraging the public to reduce the discharge of pollutants in stormwater to the maximum extent practicable. This section provides a report of public education activities implemented between August 1, 2018, and July 31, 2019.

Public Engagement Committee

The LGRW Public Engagement Committee was formed in 1999 to begin development and implementation of the PEP. Since that time the committee has met on a regular basis to discuss and plan activities scheduled for implementation in the PEP and the LGR Watershed Management Plan. In addition to MS4 communities, the 2018-2019 Public Engagement Committee consisted of the following actively attending community partners:

Table 3. Non-MS4 Partner Organizations	
Agency	Representative
EGLE	Amanda St. Amour
GVMC – West Michigan Clean Air Coalition	Andrea Faber
Ottawa Co. Conservation District	Benjamin Jordan
East Jordan Ironworks	Kevin Spyhalski
GVMC	Eileen Boekestein
Trout Unlimited	Jamie Vaughan
Groundswell, GVSU	Joanna Allerhand
Groundswell, GVSU	Jessica Vander Ark
Kent County Resource Recovery	Isaac Thaler
EGLE	Michelle Storey
GVMC	Courtney Cromley
WMEAC	Kyle Hart
WMEAC	Thea VanGoor
GVMC/GVSU	Carlos Calderon
GVMC	Rachel Frantz
Grand Rapids Public Museum	Stephanie Ogren
American Rivers	Shanyn Viars
GVMC	Wendy Ogilvie
Kent County Health Department	Brendan Earl
Kent Conservation District	Jessie Schulte
Citizen Labs	Allen Clark
Cannon Township	Tricia Anderson
GVMC	Cara Decker
EGLE	Dana Strouse

The goals of the Public Engagement Committee are: To support programs, events, materials, and activities that help communities meet the educational requirements of the NPDES stormwater permits; To document successful implementation of the Information and Education Plan of the federally-approved Lower Grand River Watershed Management Plan; and, To cooperate and collaborate with LGROW's network to foster public education and outreach regarding shared environmental priorities. During this reporting period, the Committee met six times. Each committee meeting is organized around these three goals, with specific activities scheduled throughout the year to meet those goals as follows:

January: Place orders for PEP giveaway materials and discuss distribution plan

February: Pick up orders, Plan for the year's outreach events

May: Ongoing business, Committee updates, Planning for summer events

September: Review event year, Ongoing business

October: Choose focus areas for following year, Discuss changes for next year, Ongoing business,

November: Finalize giveaway order options for next year

During the October Committee meeting, the group chooses which PEP topics to focus on for the next year. Information regarding all topics covered in the PEP may be discussed and promoted by communities throughout the year, as described in detail in the remainder of this section of the report. The committee decided that if more energy is focused on a few key topics each year, then education regarding those specific topics can be thoroughly explored. Educational materials and giveaways are then designed around the key topics. While each year focuses on a particular set of topics, all six education categories will still be addressed in detail at least once during each reporting period.

Additional information regarding the Public Education Committee is available at: <https://www.lgrow.org/ms4information>. Materials, training opportunities, and other resources are available via this webpage.

PEP Implementation

This section describes the public education activities implemented by the Permittees from August 1, 2018 through July 31, 2019 to meet the requirements of the 2013 approved PEP. Target audiences, messages, and delivery mechanisms are described for each Public Education Topic.

Public Education Topic 1 - Personal Watershed Stewardship

PEP Objective 1: Educate the public about their responsibility and stewardship in their watershed.

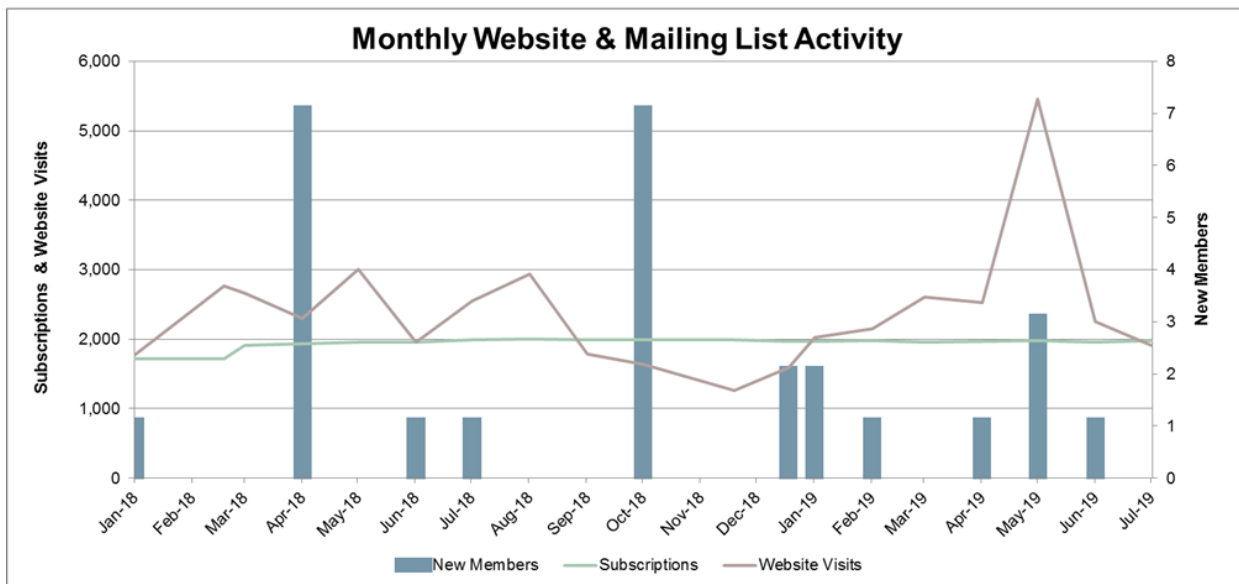
Target Audience: Residents, visitors, and public employees

Content of Message: 1) A watershed is an area of land draining to a common point. You live in the LGRW, you impact the watershed. 2) Learn more about the LGROW by visiting LGROW.org. 3) Reasons for protecting the watershed. 4) Ways individual can affect the watershed through their activities.

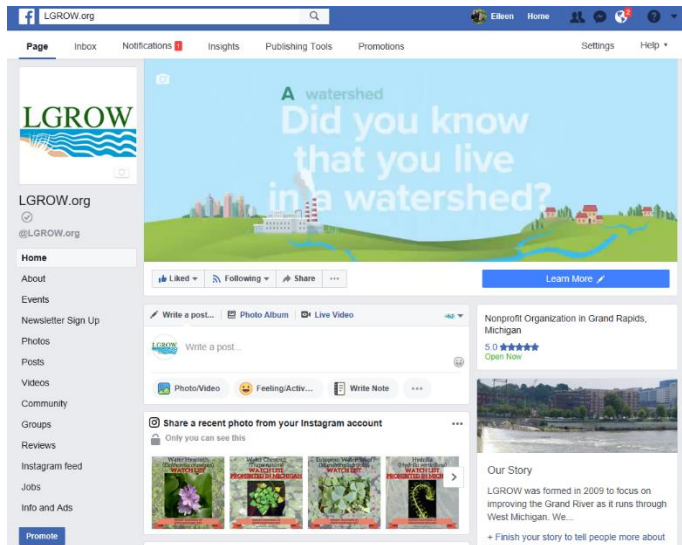
Delivery Method:

- Permittees’ websites link to LGROW’s website, www.lgrow.org. The watershed website provides information on non-point source (NPS) pollution, local watershed issues, water science education, and watershed management. The LGROW website was accessed by an average of 913 unique visitors each month. The website logged 10,959 unique visitors and 28,120 total page views over the entire reporting period.
- LGROW also sends out a seasonal email newsletter with information about the watershed, upcoming educational events, and stormwater educational articles. Newsletter subscriptions and website traffic by month are displayed in Figure 3.

Figure 3. Website and mailing list activity by month

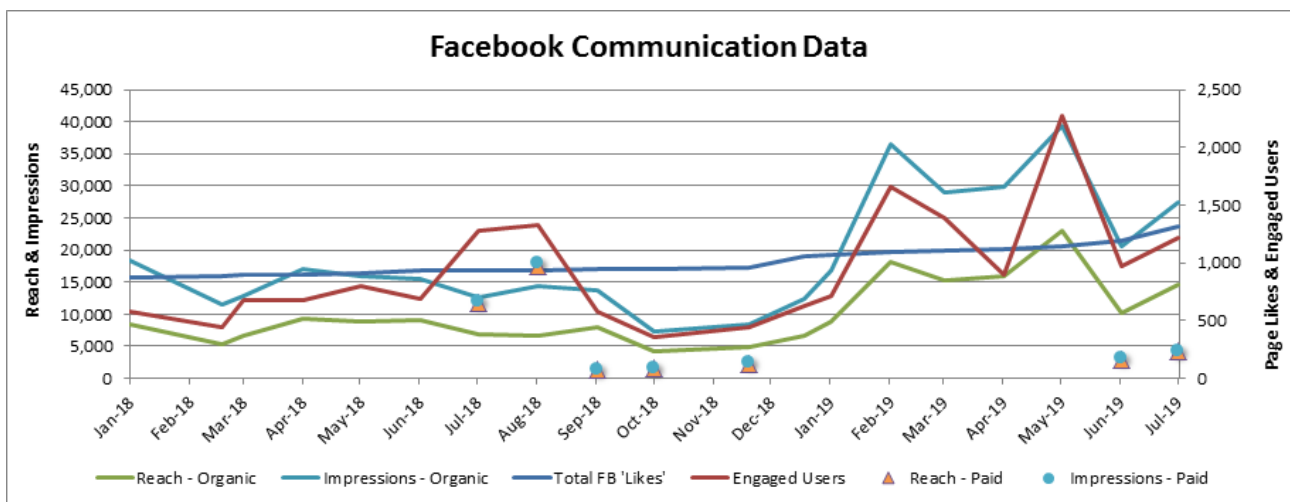


- LGROW worked to promote participation through its Facebook page with a regular posting schedule including watershed project highlights, upcoming events, and volunteer opportunities. Throughout the reporting period, LGROW Facebook posts have reached 166,087 people. As of the end of the reporting period, the Facebook page reached 1,313 Likes (this number has increased from the last reporting period). Facebook



user engagement has shown consistent growth over the reporting period with the average number of Likes, Shares, and Comments. LGROW promoted its Facebook page three times during the reporting period using paid promotions, which increased its audience significantly. Facebook activity is displayed by month in Figure 4.

Figure 4 Facebook Communication Data by Month



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- Permittees distributed LGROW, stormwater, and watershed education materials listed below to residents in the LGRW at multiple events, and venues. Materials were distributed according to the type of event and the target audiences in attendance. Listed below are the number and type of educational materials ordered by permittees to distribute throughout the reporting period:

- 1300 LGROW Lip Balms
- 1550 Gardening Gloves
- 750 Rainbow Trout "Only rain in the drain" stress balls
- 1400 Pet Waste bag dispensers
- 1400 Floating Key Chains with Illicit Discharge Reporting Information
- 1300 Funnels with Waste Disposal Information
- 900 Medication Containers with Waste Disposal Information
- 1500 Native Seed Packets
- 1100 Magnetic "Only rain in the drain" Note Pads
- 200 LGROW-Great Lakes Transfer Stickers

Other public education materials ordered during previous permit cycles were also distributed by permittees, including:

- Keep Your Lakes Great and Your Rivers Grand Magnets
- Keep Your Lakes Great and Your Rivers Grand vinyl stickers
- "Keep your Lakes Great and your River Grand" dry bags
- "Keep your Lakes Great and your River Grand" magic scarves
- Watershed Temporary Tattoos
- Paint by number Watershed Maps
- Troutie Coloring Books
- Car Wash Pledges and Shammies
- Reusable LGROW Water Bottles
- Reusable LGROW Tote Bags
- LGROW Brochures
- LGROW Pens



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- Many Permittees displayed lamppost banners when purchased in 2012 or 2018 to advertise the presence of the Grand River, Rogue River, Buck Creek, Thornapple River and Plaster Creek Watersheds. The banners featured the LGROW logo and the message “Yours to Protect.” In early 2018, 4 communities ordered additional banners for display, including new banners for Buck Creek and the Thornapple River.



Banners on display in Spring Lake

- Through cooperation of staff in permitted MS4 communities, Public Engagement Committee participants, GVMC staff, and other members of LGROW, about 50 events around the watershed had representation from the Lower Grand River. Event participation by community is detailed in Table 4. Community-specific event activities are detailed in each Permittees’ PEP questionnaire. Events attended by more than one MS4, or that were coordinated through LGROW, are discussed in the section following Table 4, and in the Delivery Method section of corresponding objectives.

Table 4 LGROW and MS4 Participant Events		
MS4 Community	Event/ Activity	Date
East Grand Rapids, City of	LGROW Spring Forum	5/17/19
	Touch a Truck Event	5/22/19
Ferrysburg, City of	ReLeaf Tree Planting	6/8/2019
Forest Hills Public Schools	Classroom Programming	Ongoing
Fruitport, Village of	Old Fashioned Days	5/22-5/28/19
Georgetown Charter Township	Jenison Public Schools Collaboration	Ongoing
	Ottawa County Water Quality Forum	11/19/2018
	LGROW Spring Forum	5/17/2019
Grand Haven, City of	Earth Day Festival	4/27/2019
	Whitecaps	7/28/2019
	Robinson Elementary	10/10/2018
	Coast Guard Festival	7/27-8/5/2018; 7/26 - 8/4/2019

Table 4 LGROW and MS4 Participant Events		
MS4 Community	Event/ Activity	Date
	Salmon Festival	9/14-15/18
Grand Rapids, City of	Home and Garden Show	3/7-3/10/19
	Mayors Grand River Cleanup	9/8/18
	Ottawa County Water Quality Forum	11/19/18
	MWEA Watershed & Stormwater Seminar	12/4/18
	MWEA Watershed Summit	3/27/19
	Dia del Nino	4/27/19
	LGROW Spring Forum	5/17/19
	Water Resource Recovery Facility Tours	Ongoing
	Rainbarrel Workshops	5 in 2019
	Grand River Water Festival	6/22/19
	MWEA Annual Conference	6/23-6/26/19
	Rain Garden/GI Workday	October 2018 and February 2019
	National Green Infrastructure Certification Pilot Program	Ongoing
Grand Rapids Charter Township	Partner with FHPS	Ongoing
Grandville, City of	Buck Creek Cleanup	8/18/18
	Mayors Grand River Cleanup	9/8/18
	Michigan Week Community Event	5/15/19
	MWEA Annual Conference	6/23-6/26/19
	LGROW Spring Forum	5/17/19
Hudsonville, City of	Ottawa County Water Quality Forum	11/19/18
	DPW Days	5/4/19
	LGROW Spring Forum	5/17/19
	MWEA Watershed & Stormwater Seminar	12/4/18
	MWEA Watershed Summit	3/27/19
Kent County Road Commission	Facility Tours	Ongoing
	LGROW Spring Forum	5/17/19
	MWEA Annual Conference	6/23-6/26/19
Kent County Drain Commission	Riparian Planting at Shadyside Park	5/15/19
Kentwood, City of	Buck Creek Cleanup	8/18/18
	Rain Garden/GI Work Day	1/11/19
	Earth Day, Blandford Nature Ctr.	5/20/19
	Presentation @ Byron Ctr.	5/19

Table 4 LGROW and MS4 Participant Events		
MS4 Community	Event/ Activity	Date
	Charter School for rain garden	
	LGROW Spring Forum	5/17/19
Ottawa County Administration and Water Resources Commissioner	LGROW Spring Forum	5/17/19
	Ottawa County Water Quality Forum	11/19/18
Plainfield Charter Township	LGROW Spring Forum	5/17/19
Sparta, Village of	Partnership with Sparta Schools	Ongoing
	LGROW Spring Forum	5/17/19
	ReLeaf Tree Planting	6/8/19
	Nash Creek Cleanup	Multiple from 2018-2019
Spring Lake, Village of	LGROW Spring Forum	5/17/19
Walker, City of	MWEA Watershed & Stormwater Seminar	12/4/19
	LGROW Spring Forum	5/17/19
	Storm Drain Stenciling Event	6/1/19
	Indian Mill Creek Cleanup	6/2/2018
	Walker Carnival	6/10/19
	Green Infrastructure Seminar	8/23/18
	Green Infrastructure Tour	10/31/18
Wyoming, City of	Buck Creek Cleanup	8/18/18
	Partnership with Godwin and Wyoming Schools	Ongoing
	Facility Tours	Ongoing
	LGROW Spring Forum	5/17/19
	LGROW Watershed Jamboree	9/13/18
	Grand River Water Festival	6/22/19

- The Quiet Water Symposium promotes non-motorized outdoor recreation and a shared concern for our Great Lakes environment. The 24th Annual Symposium was held on March 2nd, 2019. LGROW hosted a booth with several watershed displays and distributed information and giveaways focused on watershed awareness and the development of a Water Trail throughout



the Grand River. Although this event takes place outside the LGRW, many of the attendees travel through the Lower Grand during their excursions. The Symposium also presents a valuable opportunity to partner with our upstream watershed, the Middle Grand River Organization of Watersheds (MGROW), who is actively involved in public outreach through their own MS4 program.

- LGROW hosted a table at the Blandford Nature Center Earth Day event on April 20, 2019. This was a public event designed to connect residents of the Grand Rapids metro area with their local community conservation resources, information on new and upcoming projects, and highlight volunteer opportunities to get involved. LGROW hosted a table with information on the watershed, the Friends of Indian Mill Creek watershed group, and stormwater educational materials focusing on proper disposal of household hazardous wastes, alternatives to HHW, and reporting of illicit discharges.



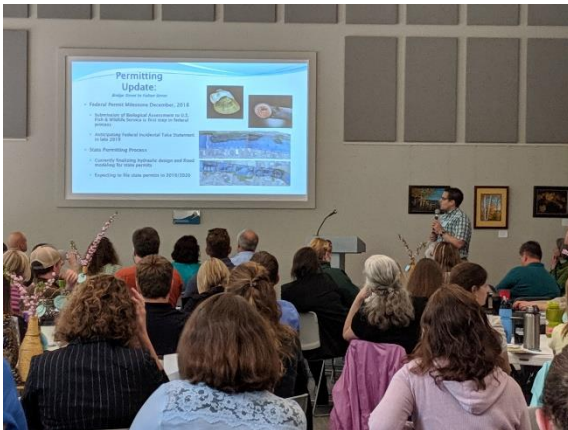
- LGROW hosted its 16th Annual Grand River Spring Forum in the Blandford Nature Visitor Center, Friday May 17th, 2019. The event had a record-setting 150 attendees and attracted many great sponsors. During the morning portion of the Forum, attendees were welcomed by GVMC Director, John Weiss, Blandford Nature Center Land Stewardship Manager, Julie Batty, and the Chair of the LGROW Board, Carrie Rivette. LGROW Committee Chairs gave brief updates on their committee accomplishments, goals, and work being done. Don Carpenter, PhD, PE, LEED AP, the keynote speaker, presented his findings with the presentation, 'Determining Strategies for Removing Barriers to Green Infrastructure Implementation.'



While the adults were enjoying LGROW updates and the Keynote presentation, student groups from five local schools presented their own projects to each other in the Star Schoolhouse. During the break, the students brought their posters to the Visitor Center for the Forum attendees to view and ask questions about their projects.



Finally, the 'Shed Talks featured multiple presentations celebrating LGROW projects and partnerships. The 'Grand River Rainscaping Program & Workforce Development,' presented by Revery Landscape Architect, Rebecca Marquardt and Al Pennington from Moore & Bruggink, gave an overview of the National Green Infrastructure Certification Course which piloted this past winter at Grand Rapids Community College. Matt Chapman, Grand Rapids Whitewater, and Reverend Nurya Love Parish of



Plainsong Farms, presented on the Lower Grand River Habitat Restoration & Farmland Conservation Project. Nichol DeMol of Trout Unlimited and Paco Ollervides from River Network gave a presentation on 'Community Engagement in Restoration' which highlighted partnerships in the watershed and diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts and future goals. The final 'Shed Talk was the unveiling of the Grand River Adopt-a-Drain program by GVMC's Stormwater Coordinator, Cara Decker, and James

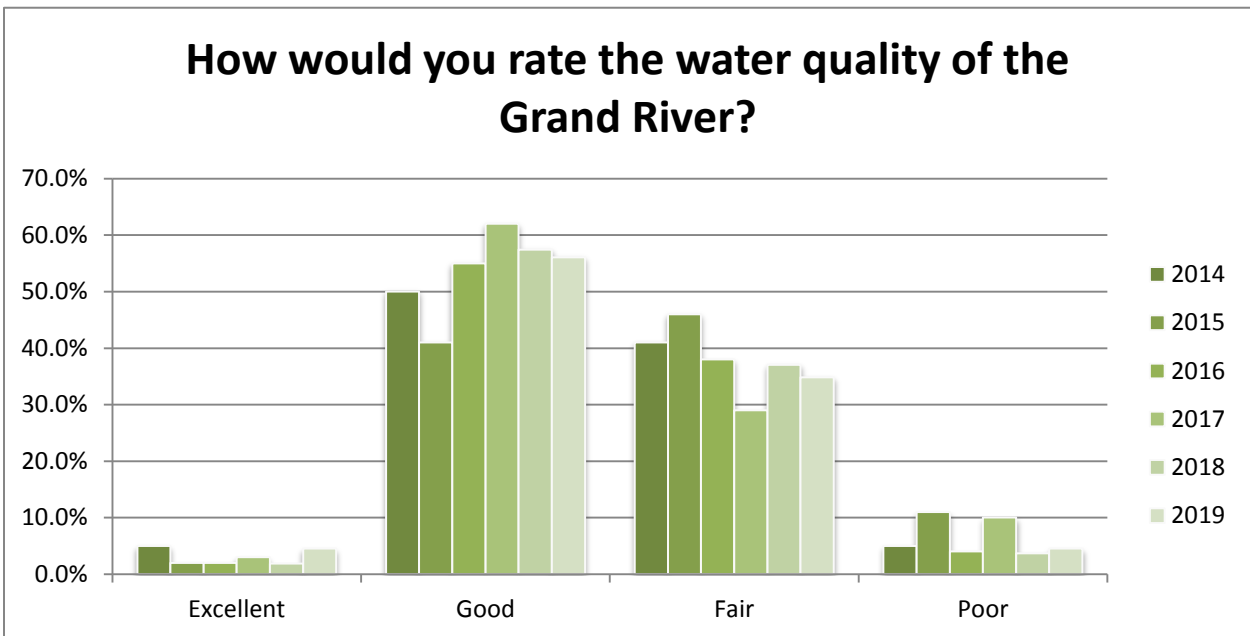
Wilfong of Citizen Labs, who have been working on the program. This program is an extension of the existing City of Grand Rapids Basin Buddy Program, where citizens 'adopt' a storm drain and promise to keep it clear of trash and debris.

After lunch was served, attendees were invited to attend one of two walking tours. The Highlands tour, led by the Land Conservancy, explored the site of the Highlands Restoration Project. The former Highlands Golf Course has begun to return to its natural state and will soon have a daylighted stream running through it, which is currently piped underground. The second walking tour featured a bioswale demonstration site, funded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation 5 Star and Urban Waters Grant, located adjacent to Blandford Nature Center's trail along Milo Street. The bioswale

slows, filters, and captures stormwater runoff from the street before it enters the Brandywine Creek, a tributary to Indian Mill Creek.

Each forum participant completed surveys after both registering and attending the event. A selection of the questions from each survey is asked annually to determine if there is a measurable change in people's attitudes toward and perception of the river. Figure 5 shows very similar numbers of respondents identifying the Grand River as "Poor", "Fair", or "Good" but a slight increase in number of respondents identifying the Grand River as "Excellent" from 2018 to 2019.

Figure 5. 2019 Survey Results: How would you rate the water quality in the Grand River?



- LGROW sponsored the Grand River Water Festival on June 22, 2019, at Riverside Park, which was attended by approximately 3,000 people. The festival is a free-of-charge, day-long, music driven, environmental festival featuring traditional folk, country, bluegrass, Cajun, blues, and world beat music performed by Michigan musicians. Visitors to the LGROW booth identified their location in the watershed by referencing handed out 1-page watershed summaries to each visitor who identified their Subwatershed. The LGROW booth's educational



materials focused on how homeowners can reduce stormwater runoff from their properties by installing green infrastructure practices through the LGROW Rainscaping program.

- LGROW hosted a concourse table at a WhiteCaps game on Sunday, July 28, 2019. The public was welcome to bring their dogs to the ballpark during that game. GVMC staff and volunteers from the City of Grand Haven (a MS4 permitted community) helped run a booth. Volunteers handed out LGROW pet waste bag dispensers to coincide with that night's theme. Volunteers discussed the importance of watershed protection with attendees of the game. Human attendance at the ballpark was 6,443 people that night.



- LGROW worked with students from schools throughout the watershed to educate about stormwater runoff and the connections between land use and water quality. Throughout the permit cycle, LGROW worked with 2,399 students living in MS4 communities. These activities can be seen in the table below. LGROW also led a professional development session for 25 educators from within the watershed, 21 of whom work in communities covered by an MS4 permit. Teachers were trained in



Students learn to play "Pollution or Solution" chutes and ladders game focusing on stormwater runoff and BMPs at River City Water Festival

the use of Project WET materials, which teach students about a variety of water issues including watersheds, water quality, stormwater, and best management practices. LGROW also participates as a member of the Groundswell advisory council, which supports schools in the Lower Grand River Watershed as they implement place-based education and stewardship projects in the watershed. Groundswell reaches approximately 500 students annually through its programs focused on the Lower Grand River Watershed, including supporting

projects at 4 schools in the nested jurisdiction of Kentwood Public Schools, at 5 schools in the permitted district of Forest Hills Public Schools, and at 1 school in the nested jurisdiction of Grandville Public Schools in 2018-2019.

2018-2019 Student Outreach & Education Metrics (8/1/2018-7/31/2019)

Date	Event	Location/School	Subwatershed	Youth Reached	MS4 Community
9/14/2018	Bioswale Maintenance Day	North Park Montessori	Lamberton Creek	50	Grand Rapids
10/15/2018	Water Quality Monitoring (10/15, 10/29, & 10/30/19)	Grand Rapids Public Museum School	Lamberton Creek, Mill Creek, and Indian Mill Creek	50	Grand Rapids
10/17/2018	River Walk Tour: Rapids Restoration & Grand River Water Quality	Kent Innovation High	Lower Grand	75	Various
10/17/2018	Rainscaping Site Assessment Activity & Native Plantings along Buck Creek Riparian Area	Grandville Middle School	Buck Creek	75	Grandville
10/18/2018	River City Water Festival: "Chutes and Ladders" Stormwater Pollution & Green Infrastructure Game	23 classes from schools throughout the watershed	Lower Grand	661	Various
10/19/2018	Sustainable Agriculture & Watershed Health Field Days at Plainsong Farm (10/19/18 & 5/30/19)	Sparta Middle School	Rogue River	110	Sparta
10/19/2018	Bioswale Planting at Blandford Nature Center/Milo St.	Blandford School (GRPS) 6th, CA Frost Middle/High, CA Frost Elementary	Indian Mill Creek	130	Grand Rapids
10/26/2018	Sustainable Agriculture & Watershed Health Field Days at Plainsong Farm (10/26/18, 12/4/18, 3/14/19, 5/28-29/19)	East Rockford Middle School	Rogue River	118	Rockford
11/02/2018	Water Quality Monitoring	Kent Skills Career Center	Lamberton Creek	25	Various
11/29/2018	Chutes and Ladders Stormwater Pollution & Green Infrastructure Game	Northern Trails 5/6 (Forest Hills)	Lower Grand	30	FHPS
12/13/2018	Watershed Presentation & "Chutes and Ladders" Stormwater Pollution & Green Infrastructure Game (12/13/18) & Watershed/Water Quality Monitoring Field Day @ Buck Creek (4/30/19)	Grandville Christian School	Buck Creek	55	Grandville
3/26/2019	Watershed Presentation and Assistance developing Groundswell project on Rain Gardens and Native Plantings (3/26/19, 4/18/19)	Central Woodlands 5/6 (Forest Hills)	Buck Creek	30	FHPS
04/08/2019	Watershed Presentation; Training high school seniors to teach watershed concepts to 2nd graders (4/8/19) & Project Showcase Assistance with Seniors and 2nd Graders (5/16/19)	East Lee Campus	Plaster Creek	25	Wyoming
5/6/2019	Macroinvertebrate Sampling in Grand River @ Canoemobile (5/6-5/6/19 & 5/14/19)	Grand Rapids Public Schools	Lower Grand	400	Grand Rapids
5/21/2019	Watershed & Stormwater Field Trip @ Plaster Creek	Vista Charter Academy	Plaster Creek	90	Grand Rapids
5/16/2019	Stormwater & Green Infrastructure Presentation and Model Building	Jenison Junior High	Rush Creek	405	JPS
05/22/2019	Stream Habitat Assessment (for erosion) on Forest Hills Northern Campus	Northern Trails 5/6 (Forest Hills)	Lower Grand	30	FHPS
06/28/2019	River Walk Tour: Rapids Restoration & Grand River Water Quality	TRIO Upward Bound (GVSU program to encourage GRPS students to attend college)	Lower Grand	20	Grand Rapids
06/10/2019	Indian Mill Creek and Coldbrook Creek Cleanup	Kenowa Hills High	Indian Mill Creek	50	KHPS
		TOTAL YOUTH REACHED		2399	

- LGROW's 30-second "Find my watershed" advertisement was played throughout the summer at Downtown Grand Rapids Inc.'s "Movies on Monroe" series. The advertisement was played at 4 events, with each night averaging over 4,000 people.



- On September 13, 2018, watershed groups across the LGRW came together to collaborate, share accomplishments and struggles, and to meet the public at the first annual Watershed Jamboree. There were representatives from the Rogue River, Plaster Creek, Indian Mill Creek, Flat River, Buck Creek, Coldwater River, Sand Creek, Thornapple River, and Rush Creek watersheds, who brought displays, brochures, and other materials to help spread information and involve the public in their work. After the meeting, the public was invited to join the fun for free hot dogs, games, macroinvertebrate identification, soil painting, fly fishing for land trout, and live music from the B-Side Growlers. There are 31 subwatersheds within the LGRW, only 11 of which have established watershed groups or representatives. LGROW is encouraging the success of established groups and fostering the establishment of new subwatershed groups. A Subwatershed group supporting the Coldbrook Creek watershed was formed as a result of this event. A Subwatershed Committee, representing the leadership of Subwatershed groups throughout the LGRW was also formed to give subwatersheds a voice on the LGROW Board.



- Seasonal Watershed 'Tip' fliers were distributed to communities. These fliers focused on positive actions that Department of Public Works employees and citizens alike could take to improve the water quality in the watershed. Tips focused on different actions that were relevant to that respective season.



Public Education Topic 2 - Ultimate Stormwater Discharge Location and Potential Impacts

PEP Objective 2: Education on the location of residential stormwater system catch basins, where the system discharges, and impacts from pollutants.

Target Audience: Landscapers/lawn care companies, auto repair shops, commercial power washers, carpet/floor cleaning companies, commercial operations, industries, residents, and local businesses

Content of Message: 1) Storm drains connect to your local lakes and streams, not a water treatment plant. 2) Prevent pollution from entering your storm drains and protect the health of your family, your community, and the Grand River. 3) Education on the impacts of stormwater pollutants. 4) Education on the stormwater system and receiving water bodies in a person's or company's neighborhood.



Storm drain markers

Delivery Method:

- Permittees installed the plastic storm drain markers designed by the Public Engagement Committee. The drain markers carry the messages "Keep your Lakes Great and your Rivers Grand." Some Permittees also engaged with community partners to do storm drain stenciling events which are detailed in the PEP Questionnaire. This image was also used on several giveaways including vinyl stickers and magnets. In total, 28 drain markers were installed and 63 new catch basins pre-stamped with the message "No Dumping: Drains to Waterway" were installed in the watershed. Over 2,000 pre-stamped catch basins were already in place prior to this reporting period.
- Permittees utilized a variety of stormwater displays including the drop toss game, the watershed pushpin map, the LGROW banners on non-point source pollution, Car Wash and Pet Waste Pledges, and the "Grand River Yours To Protect" informational poster board at a variety of events and locations throughout the Watershed. The PEP Questionnaire included in this report details when and where these materials were used by individual Permittees.
- Troutie Stress Balls were provided for communities to distribute. The fish shaped stress balls had the message: 'Only rain in the drain, it leads directly to my home!' This give-away allowed people to easily make the connection between storm drains and water quality as it relates to aquatic habitat.

Public Education Topic 3 - Public Reporting of Illicit Discharges

PEP Objective 3: Encourage public reporting of the presence of illicit discharges or improper disposal into the stormwater system.

Target Audience: Residents, public employees, businesses, construction activities, industries, and septic system owners/haulers.

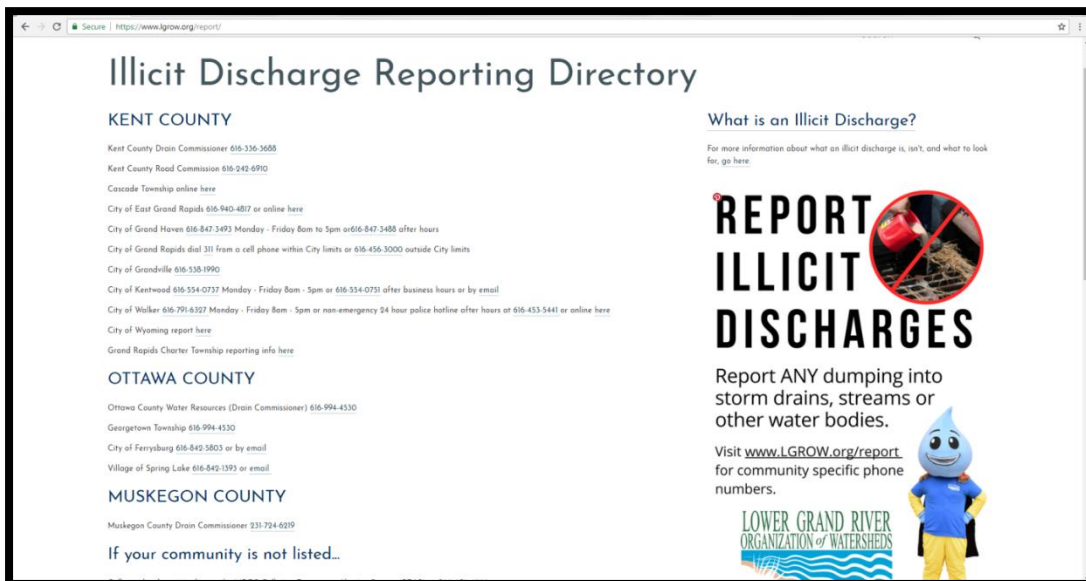
Content of Message: 1) How to identify illicit discharges. 2) How to report illicit discharges. 3) Water quality impacts from illicit discharges. 4) Consequences/penalties associated with illicit discharges and improper waste disposal. 5) Proper septic system care and maintenance. 6) How to recognize system failure. 7) Impacts failing systems have on water quality. 8) Where to go for assistance.



Coasters

Delivery Method:

- LGROW's Reporting Directory website for MS4 communities across the Lower Grand River Watershed was updated to include current information for DPW employees or citizens seeking information about how to report illicit discharges. This website can be found at: <https://www.lgrow.org/report/>. Communities were encouraged to share this information on their municipal webpages, and on social media. Permittees made information about how to report illicit discharges available to residents and staff through a variety of channels, including by linking to this website.



- Illicit discharge magnets and coasters were distributed to promote use of the website and to raise awareness for DPW employees and citizens, encouraging them to report illicit discharges.
- Newsletter articles titled, 'Septic System Maintenance Protects Human Health and Water Quality' and 'Greening Your Spring Cleaning' were published for all MS4s to distribute to their employees or citizens. These articles highlighted steps the public can take to reduce illicit discharges from failing septic systems or improperly managed household hazardous waste.
- Some communities promote the Citizens Reporting form developed previously by LGROW, while others use an online reporting form. The method each community used to distribute this information is detailed in PEP Questionnaires.
- Permittees distributed copies of USEPA's "Do your Part - Be Septic Smart!" brochure to their residents. This brochure describes what a septic system is, how it works, and how to maintain it. LGROW participated in SepticSmart week September 17-21, 2018, by publishing a blog post and daily social media posts about proper septic maintenance. MS4 communities participated by using EPA's SepticSmart Week Social Media Guide or by sharing LGROW information via their social media channels.

Public Education Topic 4 - Personal Actions that can Impact the Watershed



PEP Objective 4: Education on the need to minimize the amount of residential or non-commercial wastes washed into the storm sewer system.

Target Audience: Residents, schools, non-profit groups conducting carwash fundraisers, public employees, visitors, recreational users, riparian

landowners



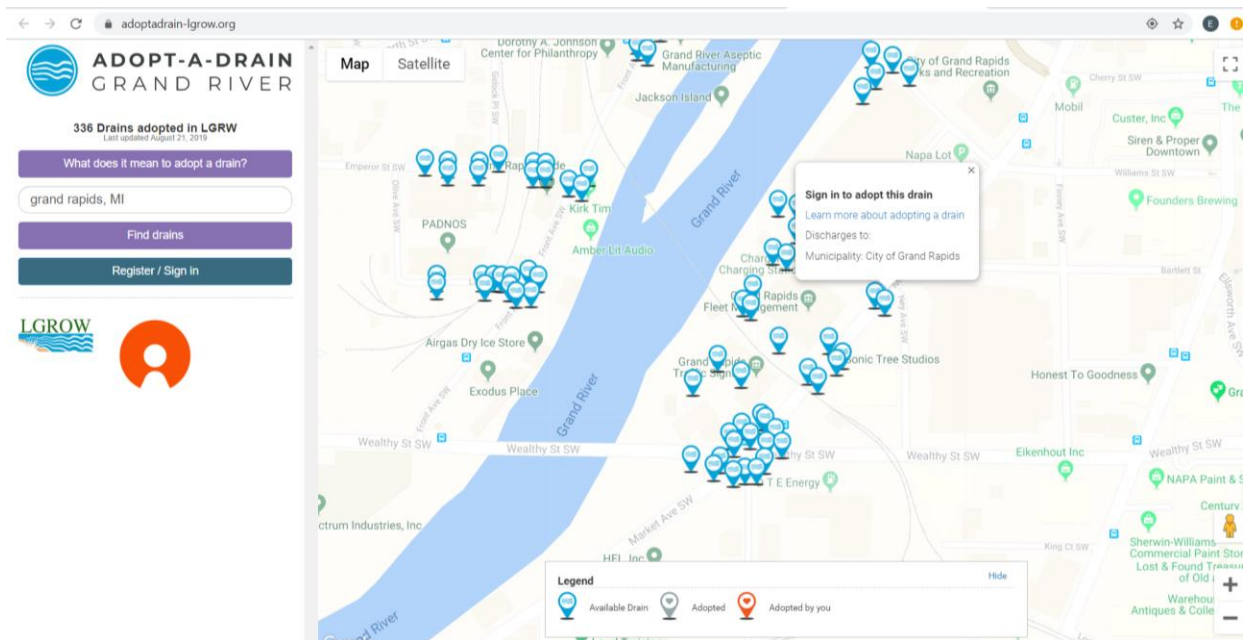
Content of Message: 1) BMPs for car, pavement, power washing. 2) Preferred cleaning materials and practices, "phosphate free as important as biodegradable". 3) BMPs for pesticide use, fertilizer use and their disposal. 4) BMPs for proper management of grass clippings, leaf litter, and animal wastes. 5) BMPs for residential deicer use. 6) BMPs for native vegetation on residential properties as an alternative to turf grass. 7) Effects of residential wastes on our waterbodies. 8) Education on low impact development techniques.

Delivery Method:

- Permittees distributed the brochure “*Make your Household the Solution to Water Pollution*” at events and in municipality offices. This brochure is available in English and Spanish.
- Several communities hosted rain barrel events or rain garden work days as detailed in their PEP Questionnaires.
- LGROW and Permittees distributed pet waste bag dispensers to hook to the pet’s leash. The dispensers came with a waterproof card providing information on dog parks in the Watershed and discussing the connection between picking up pet waste and protecting stormwater.
- Permittees also distributed a shammy to use for home car washes along with a brochure including the following information about car washes: *There’s no problem with washing your car, it just matters how and where you choose to wash it. The average homeowner uses 116 gallons of water to wash a car. If you wash your car in your driveway, all that water, along with the soap, grease, brake dust, oil, and dirt that you wash off your car flows directly into the nearest storm drain. From there, it’s just a short trip to the Grand River and eventually Lake Michigan.* The brochure also provides other environmental friendly car care tips.
- Some permittees distributed a flyer describing proper procedure for draining residential swimming pools in the fall. This was distributed publicly online via www.lgrow.org and made available for customization by MS4 communities. The flyer can be downloaded at <https://www.lgrow.org/ms4information>.
- LGROW partnered with the nonprofit volunteer group Citizen Labs to expand the City of Grand Rapids’ “Basin Buddy” program to MS4 communities throughout the LGRW. Adopt a Drain Grand River (<https://www.lgrow.org/adopt-a-drain>) provides education to citizens on the locations, ownership, and discharge location of storm drains in the watershed. It also allows citizens to assist municipalities by volunteering to “adopt” a catch basin by keeping it clear of trash, organic debris, and snow throughout the year. Currently 13 MS4 communities are participating in the program and 336 catch basins have been adopted.



Kent County Drain Commissioner and Administration
Lower Grand River Watershed
2018-2019 MS4 Progress Report



Public Education Topic 5 - Waste Management Assistance

PEP Objective 5: Education on proper disposal of household hazardous waste (HHW), travel trailer/boating sanitary wastes, chemicals, motor vehicle fluids, and unused medications.

Target Audience: Residents, visitors, and public employees

Content of Message: 1) Protect your family's health: dispose of unwanted paints, solvents, and cleaners at your county collection center. 2) Recycle used oil and automotive fluids. Just one gallon of used motor oil dumped down a catch basin can contaminate one million gallons of your drinking water. 3) Education on types of HHW and available alternatives. 4) Education on disposal locations of HHW, travel trailer/boating sanitary wastes, chemicals, motor vehicle fluids and unused medications.

This topic was chosen as one of two key topics by the Public Education Committee to focus on during this reporting period.

Delivery Method:

- Permittees and LGROW.org shared the newsletter article 'Greening Your Spring Cleaning' This article encourages residents to dispose of pet waste, paints, motor oil, etc., in the appropriate locations, not in the storm drains.

- Permittees distributed the flyer “*Make Your Household the Solution to Stormwater Pollution*” in both English and Spanish, which also details the importance of proper disposal of household hazardous waste.
- Both Kent and Ottawa County communities distributed household hazardous waste flyers at events and provided information on recycling household hazardous waste via the phone and websites. Many permittees also opted to distribute these materials at their respective community events. Kent County’s expanded household hazardous waste collection hours to allow more Kent County residents to take advantage of this service.
- Many communities hosted clean up days to encourage proper disposal of unwanted materials. Details of these events, as applicable, are provided in individual PEP Questionnaires and Part 7.

Public Education Topics 6 - Management of Riparian Lands

PEP Objective 6: Education concerning management of riparian lands to protect water quality.


Target Audience: Riparian landowners, construction activities, landscapers

Content of Message: 1) Importance of riparian corridors/stream buffers. 2) How to landscape for better water quality. 3) Education on shoreline stabilization techniques, stream buggers, filter strips, conservation easements, and bioengineering techniques.

This topic was chosen as one of two key topics by the Public Education Committee to focus on during this reporting period.

Delivery Method:

- LGROW continued to promote its Grand River Rainscaping: Treating Stormwater Naturally program. This program aims to promote installation of green infrastructure and native landscaping practices to reduce stormwater runoff from residential properties and improve water quality. Residential site assessments were performed on 24 properties, 22 of which were in MS4 communities. Residents who have a site assessment completed receive a customized report of what green



Grand River Rainscaping
An LGROW Program

TREATING STORMWATER NATURALLY

WHAT IS RAINSCAPING?
Rainscaping is a method of watershed restoration that promotes green infrastructure awareness and implementation among homeowners, landscapers, and contractors that highlights both the benefit of green infrastructure practices and the skills required for installation and maintenance.

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE
Green infrastructure is the practice of infiltrating stormwater by use of natural systems in order to reestablish a healthy water flow and improve water quality. These systems allow for the infiltration of stormwater before it is released into conventional storm sewer systems, protecting our lakes, rivers, and streams from harmful pollutants. These practices lead to vital community features such as public parks, forests, rivers, wetlands, and lakes. Using these natural systems to treat stormwater will result in clearer water, improved air quality, healthy wildlife habitats, and safe recreation sites. Urban areas are beginning to face new state and federal regulations to clean up rivers and reduce stormwater runoff. With green infrastructures these communities can create comprehensive plans, determine new development areas, and redevelop other areas to improve their local communities.

HOW RAINSCAPING CAN HELP YOU!

- Make your yard a haven for bees and butterflies
- Make your community healthier and more livable
- Improve wet problem areas in your yard
- Meet regulatory and economic goals
- Reach cost-effective and sustainable green decisions
- Manage your natural resources more effectively
- Redesign urban landscapes for environmental health

GETTING STARTED

RAIN GARDENS—Rain gardens are filled with specifically selected native plants that absorb untreated stormwater with their deep root systems, preventing it from polluting our waterways.

STREAMSIDE BUFFER/RIPARIAN AREAS—Streamside buffers, or riparian areas, are made up of native plants that surround a river or waterway in order to control erosion, filter pollutants, protect fish, reduce flow, and provide suitable wildlife habitat.

NATIVE PLANTS—Native landscaping utilizes indigenous plant species that attract pollinators and other beneficial insects. They have deep root systems which help infiltrate stormwater and require less water, fertilizer, and overall care, once established.

TREES—Trees are increasingly recognized for their importance in managing runoff. Roots take up water and help create conditions in the soil that promote infiltration. Depending on the size and species, a single tree may store 100 gallons, or more, of stormwater.

RAIN BARRELS—Rain barrels capture and store rainwater for future use. They can be bought or made from recycled drums of various sizes and connected directly to a downspout.

Find your watershed at
www.LGROW.org/watershedmap

CONTACT US! | P 616-776-7605 | E INFO@LGROW.ORG

LGROW.org/rainscaping