

City of Grand Rapids

MS4 Progress Report

Aug. 1, 2019-July 31, 2020

Prepared by:

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Purpose

This Lower Grand River Watershed Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (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.

Municipal Stormwater Pollution Prevention Initiatives (SWPPI) Commitments

Committees

Committees have been working to address different subject areas to make program implementation as efficient as possible. 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
- Subwatershed Committee
- LGROW Executive Committee

More information regarding each committee, including meeting agendas and minutes can be found here: <https://www.lgrow.org/committees>.

Public Engagement Committee

The Public Engagement Committee has been functioning as a joint committee of 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, and Management of Riparian Lands. A detailed list of these events and the outreach conducted during this reporting period is provided in this document.

SWOrd Committee

Meetings of the Stormwater Ordinance (SWOrd) Committee 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 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. LGROW continued to coordinate the Post Construction Control efforts for the region, and worked with Fishbeck, Inc. on the LGROW Design Spreadsheet, at the direction of the SWOrd Committee. On December 10, 2019 the SWOrd Committee attended the ASCE monthly luncheon at Calvin University to roll out the Kent County stormwater standards.

Technical Committee

During the reporting period, the Technical Committee members continued to focus 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 Lower Grand River Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Implementation Plan and submitted it to EGLE for approval and incorporation into the new MS4 permits. GVMC 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 time this report was written, EGLE had not reviewed the Plan. LimnoTech and EGLE also gave TMDL presentations throughout the reporting period to the Committee.

Sustainability Committee

During the reporting period, the Sustainability 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 and can be found at: <https://www.lgrow.org/natural-connections>. 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.

Board of Directors and Executive Committee Meetings

LGROW's Board of Directors met multiple times in the reporting period. The 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. Discussion and work on more robust Diversity, Equity and Inclusion values will be incorporated into the Strategic Plan.

Subwatershed Committee

The LGROW Subwatershed Committee met throughout the reporting period and focused on coordinating efforts between the subwatersheds by sharing ideas and resources. The goals of this committee are to improve public awareness, increase membership and activity and provide support for leadership in subwatershed groups, and also to improve water quality in all tributaries of the Lower Grand River by implementing best management practices identified in the LGR Watershed Management Plan and influence real long term changes in land use and agricultural practices.

Training

GVMC provides multiple training documents and DVDs for Permittee use. Training materials, including newsletter articles for communities to provide to residents, can be found on the LGROW website and YouTube channel, and are available upon request by MS4 communities.

A training video was created for tips on Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping. The video talks about different stormwater best management practices that you might come across during a day while working on school grounds or facilities. An additional word document was created as guidance to discuss operations that are specific to each MS4 facility. The video can be watched in a group or individual setting. Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Ybqial4ptw&t=7s>

Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Requirements will be a new permit requirement. While LGROW will assist with collecting samples and water quality analysis, everyone needs to understand the pollutants that we need to reduce in our waterways. This presentation explains the TMDL Implementation Plan, and the path forward that is a part of the stormwater program. It was provided to MS4s as a training opportunity and can be viewed here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=INrF-gNkok8>

Other training is recorded in each MS4's individual training logs attached in MiWaters.

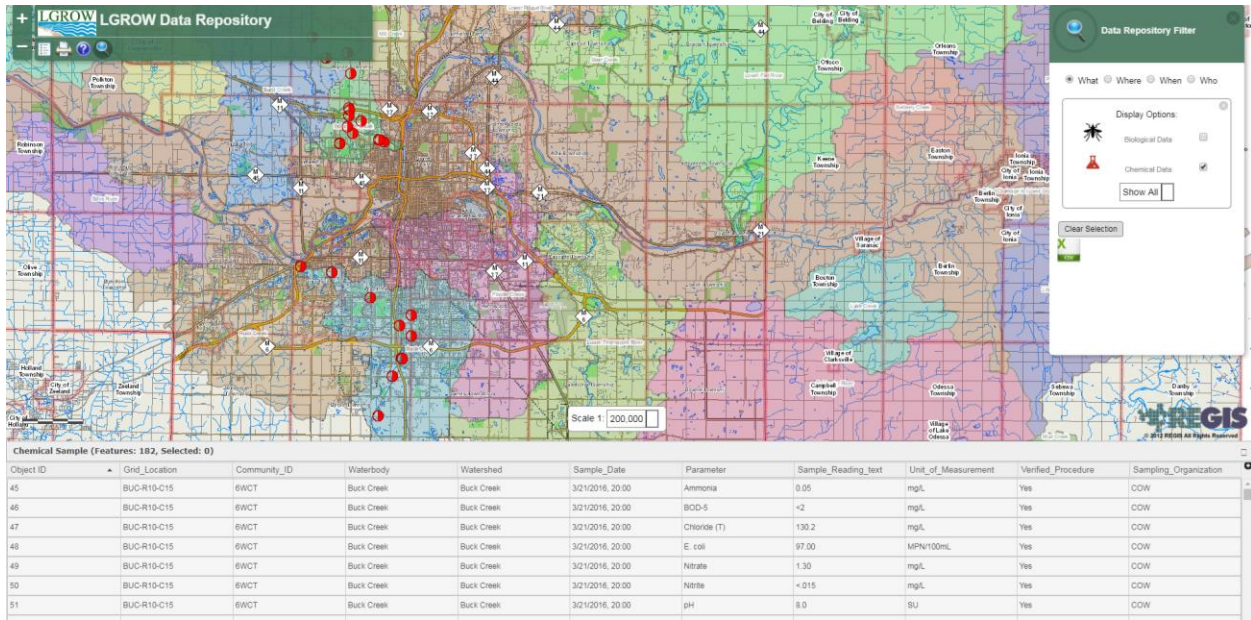
Newsletters

LGROW 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. LGROW newsletters can be found here: <https://www.lgrow.org/lgrow-newsletter-archive?rq=newsletter>.

Other Initiatives

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. 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.



LGROW Data Repository

Adopt a Drain Grand River

LGROW continued to work on, and promote, the adopt-a-catch-basin program to MS4 communities throughout the watershed. The program can be found here: <https://www.adoptadrain-igrow.org/>

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. 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 the IDEP section of the 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 2019 was held on September 16-20, 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 have instituted or evaluated the potential for buffer ordinances. The Cities of Grand Rapids, 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.

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, Kentwood, Tallmadge Township,

Wright Township, Gaines Township, 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.

Implement Low Impact Development Practices

Low Impact Development (LID) and Green Infrastructure (GI) are critical components in both the SWPPI and the Public Engagement Plan (PEP). 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 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. Permittees work collaboratively with the county enforcing agent (CEA), some Permittees administer their own program as a municipal enforcing agent (MEA), and other 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 are followed to comply with the Part 91 program. 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 (WMSECN), a professional network that provides regular training, panel discussions and field demonstrations on BMPs and new technologies in this field.

The City of Grand Rapids is an MEA and an APA, with representation on the WMSECN board.

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. 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 and perform regular training related to construction site stormwater runoff and water quality protection. Other riparian outreach and education is referenced later in this report.

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. 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 are also covered in training when given by GVMC staff.

Public Education Plan

Regional PEP

The Public Education Plan (PEP) was approved by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (now EGLE) 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. An update of the PEP was led by the LGROW Public Engagement Committee and work on the update occurred over the past 2 reporting periods. An updated PEP was approved by EGLE on July 8, 2020. The 2020 PEP is what all MS4s in the LGRW will use moving forward. The document can be found here:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/595e6f5a197aea91c1bedd/t/5f46716764d73155fa378346/1598452073064/PEP+Master.pdf>

Public Engagement Committee

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. Some meetings were cancelled in the 2019-2020 year due to COVID-19 and lack of outreach events occurring.

PEP Implementation

This section describes the public education activities implemented by the Permittees from August 1, 2019 through July 31, 2020 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.

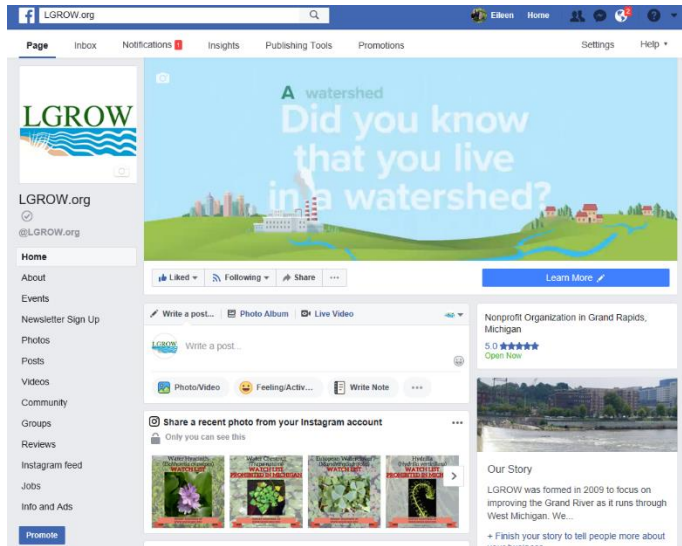
Target Audience: Residents, visitors, and public employees

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, Outputs, and Evaluation Metrics:

- 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 1,051 unique visitors each month (up from the 913 average of the last reporting period). The website logged 12,614 unique visitors (up from last year's 10,959) and 30,154 total page views (up from 28,120) 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. 1,942 people are subscribed to LGROW's newsletter mailing list.

- 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 195,772 (up from 166,087 people last reporting period). As of the end of the reporting period, the Facebook page reached 1,488 Likes (this number has increased from 1,313 Likes in 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 once during the reporting period using paid promotions, which increased its audience.



- 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 examples of the type of educational materials ordered by permittees to distribute throughout the reporting period. Specific giveaway's for Grand Rapids are listed in the PEP section of the Progress Report.

- LGROW Lip Balms
- Rainbow Trout "Only rain in the drain" stress balls
- Pet Waste bag dispensers
- Floating Key Chains with Illicit Discharge Reporting Information
- LGROW reusable straws
- LGROW reusable tote bags
- Native Seed Packets
- LGROW Magnets with Household Hazardous Waste disposal information
- Snap bracelets "Only rain in the drain"
- 'Stormwater Rock' coloring books
- Keep Your Lakes Great and Your Rivers Grand vinyl stickers
- Watershed Temporary Tattoos
- Paint by number Watershed Maps
- Troutie Coloring Books
- Car Wash Shammies
- Reusable LGROW Water Bottles
- LGROW Brochures (in English and Spanish)
- LGROW Pens



- LGROW Education efforts in Grand Rapids during this reporting period include:
 - LGROW presentation to GRPM middle school – Chutes and Ladders game, Water Quality Monitoring, LGROW intro – 10/2/20 – 60 kids
 - LGROW site assessment of Museum property with GRPM middle after school environmental club – 11/12/19 – 6 kids
 - LGROW presentations to LOOP after school programs at MLK and Dickinson middle schools (5th-8th gr) – 10/8, 10/9, 10/15, 10/16 – total 69 kids
 - LGROW supports the work of GREEN, the community collaboration to provide consistent, connected, environmental education experiences to all K-12 GRPS students

- The Quiet Adventures Symposium promotes non-motorized outdoor recreation and a shared concern for our Great Lakes environment. The 25th Annual Symposium was held on February 29, 2020. 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 its 17th Annual Grand River Spring virtually on Friday May 8th, 2020. The event had about 200 attendees and attracted many great sponsors. The Forum focused on Watershed Resiliency, and all presentations were recorded and can be found here: <https://www.lgrow.org/spring-forum>

- On September 19, 2019, watershed groups across the LGRW came together to collaborate, share accomplishments and struggles, and to meet the public at the second annual Watershed Jamboree. Subwatershed groups brought displays, brochures, and other materials to Wilcox Park, in the Coldbrook Creek Watershed, to help spread information and involve the public in their work. After the meeting, the public was invited to join the fun for free food, games, fly fishing for land trout, and live music from the B-Side Growlers. LGROW is encouraging the success of established groups and fostering the establishment of new subwatershed groups.



- 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.



Summer Seasonal Tips Flier

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, Outputs, and Evaluation Metrics:*
- Troutie Stress Balls and snap bracelets 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. The same message was printed on snap bracelets to hand out at events.

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

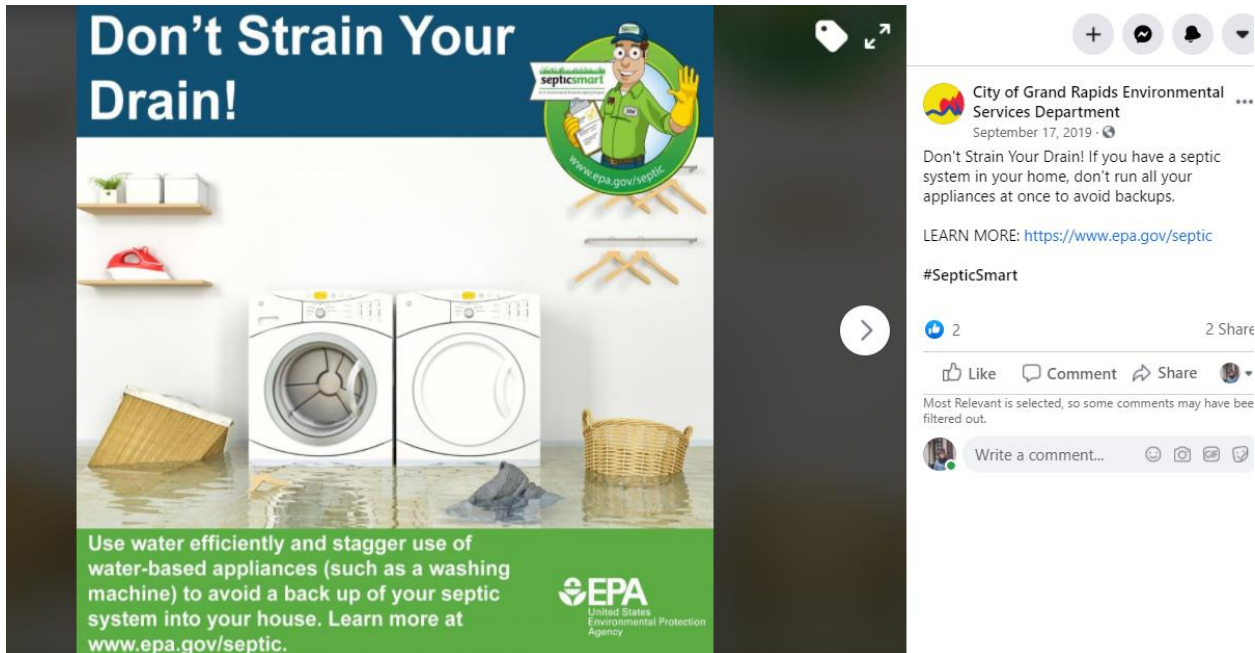
Delivery Method, Outputs, and Evaluation Metrics:

- 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.



- Some communities promote the Citizens Reporting form developed previously by LGROW, while others use an online reporting form.

- LGROW participated in SepticSmart week September 14-18, 2019, 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.



- Efforts to educate the public about illicit discharges will continue in order to raise awareness and encourage citizen reporting. Of the 3 illicit discharges reported in Grand Rapids, all were investigated, and eliminated. The report on Lake Michigan Dr. resulted in 2 separate illicit connections being fixed.

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, Outputs, and Evaluation Metrics:

- 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.
- 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.
- 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 continued to partner 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 853 catch basins have been adopted.



Public Education Topic 5 - Waste Management Assistance

PEP Objective 5: Education on proper disposal of household hazard 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 wasters, chemicals, motor vehicle fluids and unused medications.

Delivery Method, Outputs, and Evaluation Metrics:

- 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. Green Cleaning workshops were scheduled to occur in many communities, but have been postponed until social distancing guidelines allow for a gathering of this kind.
- 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 provided information on recycling household hazardous waste via the phone and websites. Kent County's expanded household hazardous waste collection hours to allow more Kent County residents to take advantage of this service.
- LGROW continues to work closely with the Kent County Department of Public Works. The February Public Education Committee and Technical Committee meetings were held at the Kent County Recycling and Education Center. Attendees were able to tour the facility and learn more about the waste, recovery and recycling process in order to report back to their communities.

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.

Delivery Method, Outputs, and Evaluation Metrics:

- 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. The Rainscaping program is aimed at both shoreline and non-shoreline properties.

- In the Fall of 2019, postcards were sent to 2,500 riparian landowners in MS4 communities. These postcards encouraged homeowners to maintain riparian buffer areas, and they could contact LGROW for a free package of native purple coneflower seeds. As a result of this mailing, about 50 residents were sent native seeds to plant. The postcard is shown in the photograph, and reach is shown below in two different maps. 'Riparian Buffer Mail Reach' displays where the postcards were sent, while the 'Riparian Buffer Reach' shows which residents actually requested seed packets from LGROW.

