
1.0 Introduction

1.1 Location and History

The City of Richfield a suburb of the Twin Cities metropolitan area, located just south of the City of Minneapolis. The City contains diverse areas of residential neighborhoods, commercial and industrial developments, and park and recreation facilities. The City of Richfield is unique in that it contains several valued water resources and natural areas, such as Wood Lake, Richfield Lake, and Legion Lake, while at the same time existing as an inner metro area urban-suburban community. The City recognizes the value of the water and natural resources within and downstream of its borders. The goals, policies, and implementation activities included in this SWMP are tailored to ensure the responsible stewardship of these resources.

Richfield officially became a city in 1908. Much of Richfield's seven square mile area was occupied by rich farmland until a residential housing boom in the 1940s and 1950s. From 1940 to 1960, the City's population increased from about 10,000 to over 40,000, triggering much of the residential development now present. The current population is approximately 35,000. More detailed census and demographic information is available in the City's Comprehensive Plan and from the City's website at: <http://www.richfieldmn.gov/>

Today, the City of Richfield is fully developed. Low density residential land use is the predominant land use. Areas commercial, industrial, and institutional development also exist within the city. The City has 21 parks covering over 460 acres. The City is located within three watershed management organizations (WMOs):

- Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) – 2.1 square miles within the City
- Nine Mile Creek Watershed District (NMCWD) – 0.6 square miles within the City
- Richfield-Bloomington Watershed Management Organization (RBWMO) – 4.2 square miles within the City

1.2 SWMP Purpose and Scope

This *Surface Water Management Plan* (SWMP) has been developed to provide a complete and detailed guide and reference for managing water resources and within the city. This SWMP replaces the *2008 Surface Water Management Plan* (2008 SWMP). The SWMP will assist the City with policy decisions, water resource management, implementation priorities, regulatory program references, and capital improvement budgeting to address water resource issues.

The SWMP is a local water management plan prepared in accordance with Minnesota Statute 103B.235 and Minnesota Rules 8410. The purpose of this SWMP includes those purposes given in Minnesota Statute 103B.201 for metropolitan water management programs. According to statute, the purposes of these water management programs are to:

- Protect, preserve, and use natural surface and groundwater storage and retention systems;

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- Minimize public capital expenditures needed to correct flooding and water quality problems;
 - Identify and plan for means to effectively protect and improve surface and groundwater quality;
 - Establish more uniform local policies and official controls for surface and groundwater management;
 - Prevent erosion of soil into surface water systems;
 - Promote groundwater recharge;
 - Protect and preserve fish and wildlife habitat and water recreational facilities; and
 - Secure the other benefits associated with proper management of surface and ground water.

This SWMP will guide the City in protecting, preserving, and managing its surface water resources and stormwater system. This SWMP has been developed consistent the requirements of Minnesota Statutes 103B.235, Minnesota Rules Chapter 8410. This SWMP has also been developed consistent with the goals, strategies, policies, and requirements outlined by:

- Minnehaha Creek Watershed District
- Nine Mile Creek Watershed District
- Richfield-Bloomington Watershed Management Organization
- National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) requirements for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4)
- Metropolitan Council Water Resource Management Policy Plan

1.3 Water Resource Management Agreements

The City has entered into water resource-related agreements that govern in part how the City must manage its water resources. These agreements include agreements between the City and adjoining communities or agreements it may have with other governmental units or private parties. Listed below is a description of the water resource related agreements which the City has entered into. Copies of these agreements or appropriate portions thereof are included in Appendix A.

City of Bloomington

- Joint Powers Agreement with the Richfield-Bloomington Watershed Management Organization
- Agreement with Bloomington to construct storm sewer from Bloomington Avenue and TH 494 to a ponding area on the south side of 80th Street.
- Agreement relative to the interconnection of storm sewers.

Metropolitan Airports Commission

- City of Richfield / Metropolitan Airport Commission Letter of Understanding.

City of Minneapolis

- City of Richfield / City of Minneapolis - Grass Lake Letter of Understanding.
- City of Minneapolis NPDES Joint Application Permit

Minnesota Department of Transportation

- City of Richfield / Minnesota Department of Transportation - Wood Lake Outfall Letter of Understanding
- Cedar Point Pond Maintenance Agreement No. 89989 – maintenance of pond west of TH 77, north of 63rd Street, and east of Cedar Avenue

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

- City of Richfield / Minnesota Department of Natural Resources - Letter of Understanding regarding the management of Wood Lake.

City of Edina

- City of Richfield / City of Edina - Adam's Hill Pond Letter of Understanding.

Minnehaha Creek Watershed District

- City of Richfield/Minnehaha Creek Watershed District – Cooperative Agreement regarding the Taft-Legion Lake volume and load reduction project, as amended.
- Memorandum of Understanding – Local Water Planning and Regulation (2009)

1.4 Plan Development and Public Input

This SWMP was developed consistent with the requirements and procedures described in Minnesota Statutes 103B.235 and Minnesota Rules 8410 and with consideration for the requirements of the Metropolitan Council, MCWD, NMCWD, and RBWMO. This SWMP was reviewed by the Metropolitan Council and WMOs and approved by the WMOs following the City's response to provided comments.

In addition to official 60-day review required by statute, the City sought public input from residents during SWMP development. City staff distributed a water resource management survey between May 2017 and August 2017. The survey included eight questions intended to identify residents' principal water resource management concerns and gauge the degree to which residents are willing to perform (or already practice) good water resource stewardship through their actions.

Survey results indicate that residents are concerned about surface water quality. Concerns about lakes, ponds, and wetlands frequently identified among survey responses included:

- Pollutant loading
- Health of fisheries and wildlife
- Trash

Survey results suggest that many residents are willing to perform, or already perform stormwater best management practices on their own to improve the quality of water resources.

The concerns identified through the public survey are generally consistent with the priority issues identified by City staff. Responses suggest residents are concerned with issues related to conservation and sustainability (e.g., groundwater supply, wildlife diversity). The absence of water quantity issues (e.g., flooding) among the top concerns of residents reflect the City's efforts to address historical flooding issues and indicate that the City's stormwater system is operating as intended.

The City has considered input from the public in establishing the goals, policies, and implementation items included in this SWMP. The City will continue to strive to satisfy its storm water and surface water management obligations with consideration for the concerns and interests expressed by its residents.

1.5 Plan Update and Amendment Procedures

This Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP or Plan) will guide the City of Richfield's surface water and stormwater activities through 2027, or until superseded by adoption and approval of a subsequent SWMP. The City will begin the process of updating this plan one to two years before its expiration date in coordination with the City's comprehensive planning process.

The City may revise this SWMP through an amendment prior to the scheduled SWMP update, if either minor changes are required, or if problems arise that are not addressed in the SWMP, or if prioritization criteria need to be modified per City Council direction. However, this SWMP remains in full force and effect until an updated SWMP is approved by the MCWD, NMCWD, and RBWMO and adopted by the City.

This SWMP has been approved by the MCWD, NMCWD, and RBWMO. Any significant changes to this SWMP must be approved by WMOs prior to City adoption. Minor changes to this SWMP will not require WMO approval and can be made by City staff and supplied to the WMOs for their information. Minor changes to the Plan shall be defined as changes that do not modify the goals, policies, or commitments expressly defined in this plan by the City. Examples of minor changes include:

- Inclusion of updated hydrologic modeling results and mapping, as long as the changes do not negatively affect the rate or quality of intercommunity stormwater runoff.
- Inclusion of new/updated water quality monitoring data.
- Adjustment to subwatershed boundaries provided that the change will have no negative impact on the rate or quality in which storm water runoff is discharged from the City boundaries.
- Minor changes to the City's implementation program, such as added projects, schedule changes, and revised cost estimates, as long as there are no intercommunity impacts of such changes and the changes are consistent the goals and policies in the SWMP.

If it is unclear whether a proposed SWMP change is minor or not, the City will bring the issue to the WMOs for their determination. Significant changes to the SWMP may be proposed by the following parties:

- City Manager, Director of Public Works, and City Engineer
- Affected Watershed Management Organizations and Watershed Districts within the

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- City
 - Metropolitan Council
 - Public within the City through a public hearing process

The City's amendment procedure for significant changes to the SWMP is as follows:

- City staff preparation and review of SWMP amendment.
- City council consideration of SWMP amendment. The City council would either approve submittal of the amendment for WMO review and approval, or decide not to move forward with the amendment. If the City Council decides to submit the amendment for WMO approval, the Council would also need to determine when/if a public hearing or other public process should be undertaken.
- Submittal of proposed SWMP amendment to MCWD, NMCWD, and RBWMO for review and approval. The City must also submit the proposed SWMP amendment to the Metropolitan Council. The proposed SWMP amendment would also be distributed to appropriate City staff. The review process for a SWMP amendment is the same as for the original SWMP—the WMOs have 60 days to review and comment on the proposed SWMP amendment.
- City council adoption of SWMP amendment, after WMO approval of the SWMP amendment.

Amendments to this SWMP may be required following the adoption of an updated Watershed Management Plan from any of the WMOs with jurisdiction in the City, following the process described in the WMO plans.