

Chapter 2.0 Goals and Objectives

2.1 WCWIPSC Goals

The Winnebago County Watershed Improvement Plan Steering Committee (WCWIPSC) is a consortium of municipalities in the Madigan Creek watershed, resource agency professionals, environmental advocates, and local residents dedicated to the development of strategies to protect and restore Madigan Creek and its tributaries. WCWIPSC's primary goal is to work effectively to reduce nonpoint source pollution inputs in the Madigan Creek watershed, reduce flooding and improve habitat, while engaging a wide range of audiences in the WCWIPSC's efforts.

2.2 Watershed Goals and Objectives

One of the WCWIPSC's first tasks was the discussion and establishment of goals for the Madigan Creek watershed. Prior to setting goals, stakeholders were asked to communicate their concerns and vision for the Madigan Creek watershed. Stakeholder concerns included:

- Stormwater
 - Too much runoff and not enough infiltration and/or detention leading to flooding
 - Non-point source pollution
 - Hydromodification leading to erosion and sedimentation
- Need for recreational, greenway, and open space
- Lack of education for landowners along the creek, need to encourage riparian best management practices to prevent illicit dumping and bad-housekeeping
- Groundwater contamination/impacts
- Water quality impacts from the Sand and Gravel Quarry
- The ecological condition of the stream channels including lack of fish and wildlife habitat

Goals were drafted directly from the concerns expressed by the stakeholders. The final goals were adopted on November 2, 2011 and capture the desired outcomes and vision for the Madigan Creek watershed. Objectives assigned to each goal are intended to be measurable so that the WCWIPSC can assess future progress made towards each goal. The goals are not listed by order of importance.

- A. Protect and enhance overall surface and groundwater quality in the Madigan Creek watershed

Objectives

- 1) Reduce sediment loading in streams by stabilizing stream banks.
- 2) Implement stormwater best management practices (BMPs) throughout the watershed to improve water quality and reduce runoff.
- 3) Retrofit existing stormwater management facilities and design new facilities within urbanized areas to reduce nutrient and sediment loading.
- 4) Restore riparian buffers along Madigan Creek and its tributaries.

- 5) Restore perennial base flow to Madigan Creek.
- 6) Implement infiltration BMPs throughout the watershed to provide groundwater infiltration.
- 7) Educate the public about the need for groundwater protection.

B. Reduce existing flood damage in the watershed and prevent flooding from worsening

Objectives

- 1) Encourage decision makers to undergo a detailed hydraulic and hydrology study of the watershed.
- 2) Mitigate for existing flood damage by identifying parcels suitable for flood mitigation projects such as compensatory storage basins.
- 3) Reconnect channelized stream segments to the floodplain where feasible.
- 4) Implement stormwater best management practices (BMPs) throughout the watershed designed to reduce runoff and encourage infiltration.
- 5) Protect undeveloped floodplain from development.

C. Improve aquatic and wildlife habitat in the Madigan Creek watershed

Objectives

- 1) Identify opportunities for improving habitat along degraded stream channels using a natural channel design.
- 2) Restore riparian buffers along Madigan Creek and its tributaries.
- 3) Encourage local residents to utilize native species in their landscapes.
- 4) Identify opportunities for habitat improvements at parks and natural areas.

D. Develop open space in the Madigan Creek watershed and provide recreational opportunities

Objectives

- 1) Identify open space along the waterways that would provide access to the waterway.
- 2) Identify open space for natural resources and provide passive recreational opportunities.

E. Increase coordination between decision makers and other stakeholders in the watershed.

Objectives

- 1) Ensure communities adopt the Madigan Creek Watershed-Based Plan.
- 2) Encourage the adoption and/or revision of comprehensive plans and ordinances that support the watershed plan's goals and objectives.
- 3) Encourage communities to continue to be an active member of the WCWIPSC following plan development.

- F. Raise stakeholder awareness (residents, public officials, etc) about the importance of best management practices of watershed stewardship

Objectives

- 1) Encourage stakeholder to join the Kishwaukee River Ecosystem Partnership.
- 2) Encourage stakeholders to participate in WCWIPSC activities and educational workshops.
- 3) Provide watershed stakeholders with an education plan that gives them the skills needed to implement the watershed plan.