

Springfield’s “7 Key Outcomes for Stormwater”

The Springfield City Council adopted the 7 Key Outcomes for Stormwater in 1999, as a guide to stormwater management in the City. The policies provide specific direction, consistent with local goals and State and Federal requirements, and support implementation of the Metro Plan and PFSP Policies.

In that way, the Outcomes function as guidance for stormwater planning as well as operations and maintenance procedures, and are included as Goals in the City’s adopted Stormwater Management Plan. The Goals are listed below, along with a summary overview of how each is implemented.

Goal 1 – Protect citizens and property from flooding

- Maintain surface drainage in the City to reduce the threat of flooding, through proper maintenance of the City’s stormwater drainage system infrastructure, with practices that are protective of water quality.

GOAL 2 - Ensure compliance with State and Federal requirements to reduce risks of third party lawsuits or enforcement actions.

- Implement feasible changes to any applicable City practices and programs to reduce pollutants regulated under the CWA and effectively address applicable provisions of the ESA.

Goal 3 – Improve surface and subsurface waters for aquatic life and other beneficial uses

- Monitor and implement practices and programs of improving surface and groundwater quality to meet State water quality standards, protect threatened and endangered wildlife, meet State guidelines, and comply with the State Antidegradation Policy.
- Maintain open waterways in a manner protective of their natural habitat functions for the benefit of the citizens of Springfield and local wildlife, including threatened or endangered species, and for future generations.

Goal 4 – Preserve and maintain surface waters, wetlands, and riparian areas as functional and attractive for people, fish, and wildlife.

- Through the development review process, ensure that development is protective of significant open waterways, wetlands, and riparian areas. Implement permitting programs, educational outreach, compliance inspections and enforcement activities to reduce erosion, sedimentation, illicit discharges, and other pollution impacts to the City’s waterways.

Goal 5 – Citizens, businesses, and industries understand the need to protect water quality.

- Develop education, outreach, and technical assistance programs for keeping pollutants out of the stormwater system. Train stakeholders in appropriate erosion control and sediment prevention practices, as well as stormwater management BMPs.
- Seek partnerships with neighborhoods or groups interested in providing stewardship of local waterways (such as Friends of [“xx”] Creek).
- Develop appropriate building, design, and Municipal Codes to address water quality issues, including pollution, habitat, and aesthetic issues, to encourage the development of urban waterways that are positive amenities in the community.

GOAL 6 - Provide regulatory certainty for the development community while ensuring that growth is not constrained by lack of planning or facilities.

- Develop and implement Codes addressing water quality and natural resource management, consistent with State and Federal requirements, to provide clear and objective standards for development.
- Develop, within fiscal constraints, adequate stormwater infrastructure, and maintain a Stormwater Facilities Master Plan that identifies public and private infrastructure needed to facilitate planned growth patterns.

Goal 7 – Urban drainageways become community amenities

- Conduct education and outreach activities to increase understanding of the importance of maintaining safe and clean drainageways, and seek volunteers willing to be caretakers for water features near them.
- Through the Development Code and Engineering Design Standards and Procedures Manual, protect open waterways and encourage site planning that enhances the attractiveness and natural functions of the water features. Maintain urban drainageways in a manner that provides for safe and attractive conditions within the limits of fiscal constraints.