

STILLWATER REDUCES WATER UNDER THE BRIDGE

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Abstract

As the birthplace of Minnesota, the City of Stillwater has seen a progression of storm sewer improvements since its settlement in 1843. Stillwater's initial infrastructure was comprised of dirt roads, railroads, lumber mills, and sawdust. A combined sewer system was constructed throughout the historic Stillwater area between 1890 and 1930. This system discharged combined storm and sanitary sewer flows directly to the Saint Croix River.

An interceptor sewer and treatment plant were constructed in 1959 to treat discharge prior to entering the Saint Croix River. An extensive sewer separation project was constructed in the early 1970s so that storm sewer discharge would not overwhelm the capacity of the treatment plant, particularly during storm events. New developments since the 1980s have treated storm runoff primarily with storm water ponds.

With new watershed and MPCA regulations in recent years, the City is now required to manage not only the quality but also the quantity of its storm runoff. These regulations apply to both new development and reconstruction projects. The City has been installing rain gardens in the right of way during the past 4 years of street reconstruction projects to meet watershed infiltration requirements.

In this presentation you will hear about the various storm sewer regulations facing the City of Stillwater. A variety of steps are being taken to achieve reductions in storm water runoff volumes and pollutant levels. You will gain a greater sense of the significant challenge posed by achieving infiltration requirements in existing confined right of ways. Finally, you will hear how upcoming storm water regulations could affect the City of Stillwater and other municipalities.