
VILLAGE OF LA GRANGE, ILLINOIS
NPDES PERMIT NO. ILM580009



COMBINED SEWER OVERFLOW SENSITIVE AREA CONSIDERATION PLAN

NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM PROGRAM
ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Division of Water Pollution Control
1021 North Grand East
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VILLAGE OF LA GRANGE
CSO SENSITIVE AREA CONSIDERATION PLAN

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1. OBJECTIVES OF THE PLAN

This plan was developed in compliance with the requirements of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit No. ILM580009 issued by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) to the Village of La Grange for the operation of its Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) outfall structures. The primary objective of this plan is to ensure that the protections implemented for the CSO are consistent with the use and characterization of the receiving stream or waterway.

2. SENSITIVE AREA CONSIDERATIONS

Pursuant to Section II.C.3 of the Federal CSO Control Policy of 1994, sensitive areas are any water likely to be impacted by a CSO discharge which meet one or more of the following criteria:

- a. designated as an Outstanding National Resource Water;
- b. found to contain shellfish beds;
- c. found to contain threatened or endangered aquatic species or their habitat;
- d. used for primary contact recreation; or,
- e. within the protection area for a drinking water intake structure.

The Village of La Grange CSO outfall structure discharges to the Salt Creek tributary to the Des Plaines River, which functions largely as a regional urban drainage waterway. The CSO does not discharge to sensitive areas such as wetlands and beaches, or Outstanding Natural Resource Waters, National Marine Sanctuaries, shellfish beds, or waters with threatened or endangered species. Salt Creek and the downstream Des Plaines River are not used as a potable water source. There are no water intake structures within these waterways. No boating or other primary contact recreation activities occur in Salt Creek due to inadequate water depth, stream bed soil and shoreline characteristics, limitations of public access, and due to physical obstacles such as logs, dams, and bridge pier structures. As a result human contact is largely limited to accidental exposure.

3. RECEIVING STREAM CHARACTERISTICS

The portion of Salt Creek receiving discharges from the Village of La Grange CSO is officially classified as a general use water way. The CSO discharge point is located about 1,600 feet upstream of the confluence with the Des Plaines River. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) has evaluated the biological character of the waterway and has assigned ratings as to the biological diversity, integrity, and significance of the water way. The values assigned as shown in the following table, reveal that Salt Creek is presently not regarded as a waterway of biological significance.

VILLAGE OF LA GRANGE CSO#001 - RECEIVING STREAM CHARACTERISTICS								
CSO	Size	CSO Location		Receiving Stream	Stream Classification	IDNR Biological Characterization Rating		
		Latitude	Longitude			Diversity	Integrity	Significance
#001	72"	41°49'09"N	87°50'16"W	Salt Creek	General Use	B	C	No

The IDNR created the current biological stream rating system to combine, update, and enhance the two previous approaches for assessing the condition of Illinois streams. The new rating system replaces the Biological Stream Characterization (BSC) and Biologically Significant Streams (BSS) systems used previously. The rating system provides a mechanism for identifying high-quality examples of all stream communities that can help guide management and restoration activities throughout the state.

The new stream rating system is considered to be an important tool in identifying which streams are the most biologically diverse and have a high degree of integrity. These ratings are regularly used by the IDNR and watershed and environmental groups that focus on stream protection and enhancement. The ratings system uses fish, macro-invertebrates, crayfish, mussels, and threatened and endangered species information to generate an overall score of biological diversity and integrity in streams. The purpose behind the new ratings was not only to update outdated information, but to establish baseline conditions against which change promoted by the Wildlife Action Plan could be measured and understood. Since the Wildlife Action Plan broadly addresses all types of wildlife including fish, mussels, amphibians, and reptiles, these new ratings will help resource managers to determine if aquatic organisms are responding to management activities promoted by the plan. The information contributing to integrity and diversity ratings is then used to identify a sub-set of stream reaches as “biologically significant”.

4. SENSITIVE AREA PLAN

In that the receiving waters are not classified as sensitive, there is no plan required for special measures of mitigation. This said, it is recognized that the quality of the waterway can be improved over time by continued diligence on the part of communities and individuals responsible for drainage discharges. As conditions improve, Salt Creek has the potential for improving water quality and being recognized as a waterway of biological significance. As such, some time in the future, the waterway may be able to be regarded as a sensitive area. The Village of La Grange will through its long term control plan, continue to manage the operational use and maintenance of its combined sewer system to reduce risk polluted discharges through the CSO, and promote environmental responsibility for future generations.

A sign that advises the public of the current potential for pollutant discharge at the location of the CSO outfall to Salt Creek, has been posted by the Village in accordance with its plan.