



NORTH BRANCH
CHICAGO RIVER
WATERSHED
WORKGROUP

Executive Board

President

Brandon Janes, Deerfield
Alternate: Mark Olszewski

Vice President

Matt Farmer, Northbrook
Alternate: Jim Baxa

Committee Chair

Rob Flood, NSWRD
Alternate: Joe Robinson

Members-At Large

Matt Ueltzen, LCFPD
Alternate: Jim Anderson

James Tigue, Glenview

Alternate: Robyn Flakne

Al Giertych, LCDOT

Alternate: Mike Zemaitis

Steve Saunders, Winnetka

Alternate: James Bernahl

Monitoring & Water Quality Impairment Abatement Committee

Committee Chair

Rob Flood, NSWRD
Alternate: Joe Robinson

Members-At-Large

Eric Otto, FPDCC
Alternate: Becky Collings

Kate Amoruso, Wilmette

Alternate: Dan Manis

Damon Cederberg, Libertyville Twp.

Alternate: Kathleen O'Connor

Larry Bridges, ESDD

Alternate: Bill Schrimpf

Wally Dittrich, Lincolnshire

Alternate: Marc Facchini

Jeff Nehila, Deerfield Park District

Alternate: Jay Zahn

North Branch Chicago River Watershed Workgroup Annual Newsletter

December 2018

The “Newly Established” NBWW

WHO/ WHAT?

The North Branch Chicago River Watershed Workgroup (NBWW) is a voluntary, dues-paying organization. The workgroup is governed by bylaws, an elected Executive Board, and voting dues-paying members. Membership dues are used to implement the water quality program, which includes: data collection, analysis and identification of potential water quality impairments based on collected water quality data.

WHERE/ WHEN?

The NBWW was officially formed on January 17, 2018 at the Kickoff Meeting. The NBWW monitors water quality in the North Branch Chicago River Watershed planning area, which includes the three subwatersheds: West Fork, Middle Fork and Skokie River. The North Branch Chicago River watershed boundaries are located in Lake and Cook County, starting at Route 132 in Waukegan to the north and extending south to Dempster Street in Morton Grove (where combined sewer systems begin). See Figure 1.

WHY?

In addition to meeting members' Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit requirements, the NBWW can prevent duplicated monitoring efforts and will accomplish more with less! For most NBWW members, the member dues will be less than current monitoring costs for an individual community or agency, and NBWW monitoring will provide a more complete picture of the problem so that remediation can be targeted to where it is needed most.

Workgroup Mission

To bring together a diverse coalition of stakeholders to preserve and improve water quality in the North Branch Chicago River and its tributaries through long term monitoring and gaining a better understanding of the stressors to the aquatic system.

2018 Accomplishments

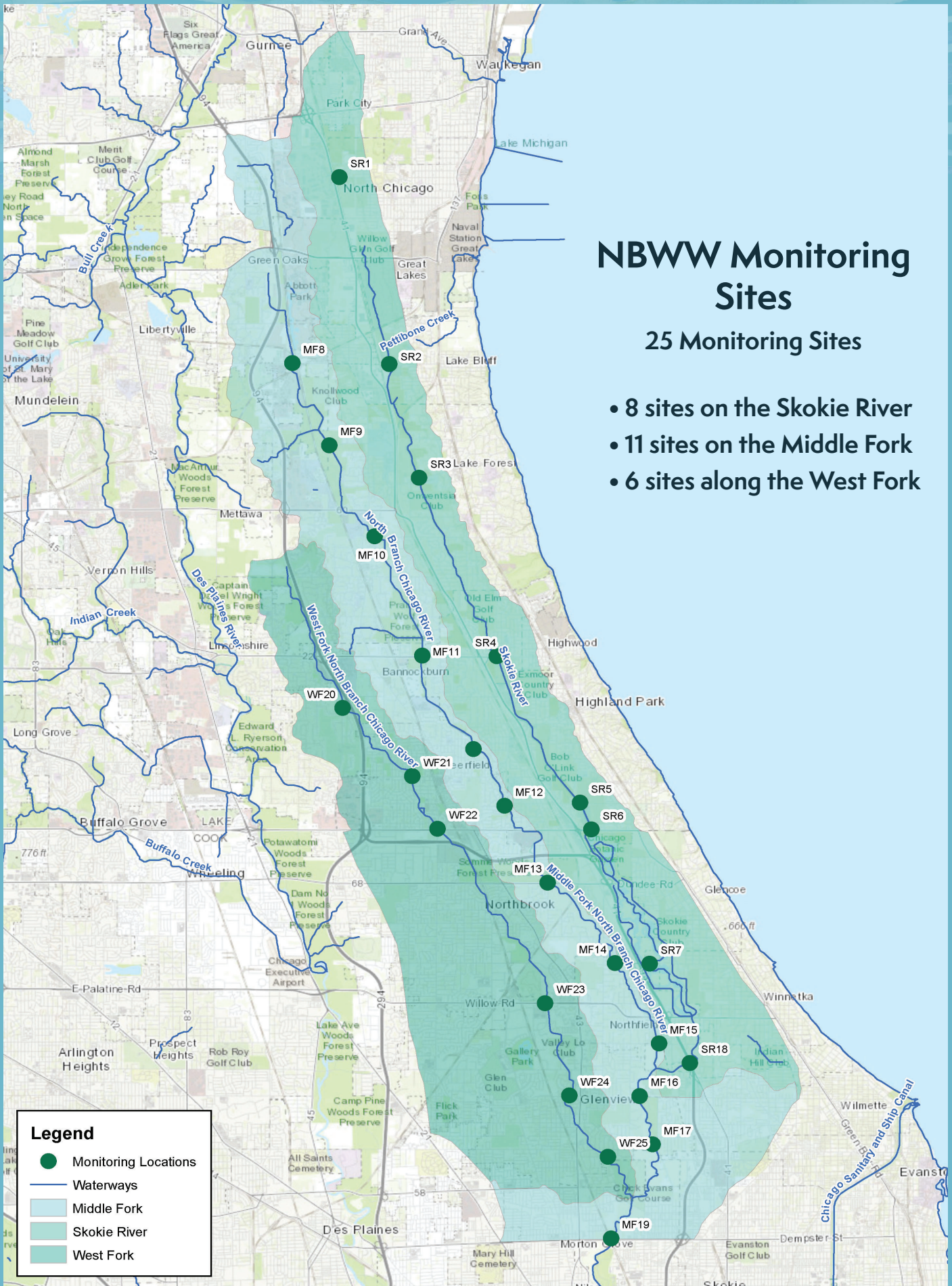
- **Designated 25 monitoring site locations** throughout the North Branch Chicago River watershed.
- Created workgroup by-laws and membership agreements.
- Support staff reached out to public and private sector stakeholders to inform them of the workgroup's activities and invite them to become workgroup members.
 - **37 new workgroup members.**
 - 7 newly elected Executive Board members
 - 7 newly elected Monitoring & Water Quality Impairment Abatement Committee members
- **Received Watershed Management Assistance Grant (WMAG)** funding through SMC.
- Created an NBWW website, www.nbwwil.org for posting information on the workgroup and distributing updates.
- Successfully collected **macroinvertebrate and sediment chemistry sampling at 11 monitoring sites** and **water column chemistry at all 25 monitoring sites.** See Figure 1.
- **Created a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) and Monitoring Strategy** to specify the methods and equipment that are used for all sampling, that are sufficiently effective so as to produce an appropriate and representative samples, ensure reproducibility, do so with a reasonable effort, and minimize potential bias from different operators, thus making the results of the assessment comparable.
- Created an NBWW Workplan (2018-2023) with a milestone scorecard to annually evaluate the workgroup's progress and **provide members with credits towards their NPDES ILR40 permit requirements.**
- Provided **letters of support for water quality improvement projects** to be implemented by three workgroup member's for an Illinois EPA Section 319 grant application submitted August 1, 2018.
- Entered into an agreement with the Stormwater Management Commission to use the **monitoring program as local match** towards an Illinois EPA 319 grant. More information on page 5.
- Provided input to the Illinois EPA regarding the Stage 3 TMDL report for the North Branch Chicago River watershed.

NBWW Contact Information

To subscribe to our meetings or get more information, please visit our website or email Ashley Strelcheck.

Website: www.nbwwil.org

Contact Person: Ashley Strelcheck, astrelcheck@lakecountyil.gov



NBWW Monitoring Sites

25 Monitoring Sites

- 8 sites on the Skokie River
- 11 sites on the Middle Fork
- 6 sites along the West Fork

Figure 1 North Branch Chicago River Watershed Planning Area & Monitoring Locations

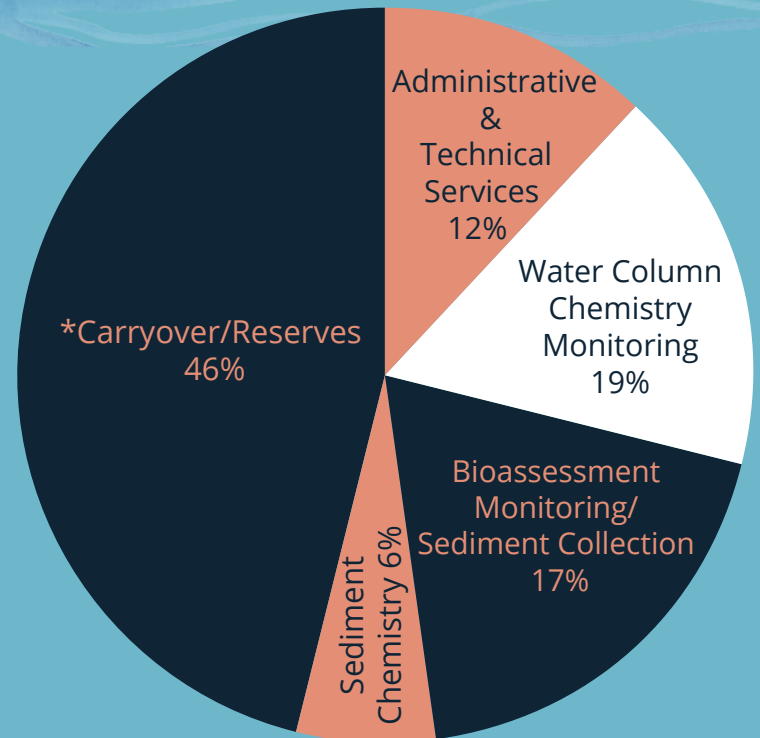
2018 NBWW Activities

Midwest Biodiversity Institute (MBI) was contracted to perform Bioassessment monitoring and sediment collection in the watershed.

MBI sampled 11 out of 25 monitoring sites for fish, habitat and sediment chemistry sampling, as well as macroinvertebrate sampling. A datasonde was deployed at 7 out of the 25 monitoring sites in the Middle Fork and Skokie River for collection of dissolved oxygen (D.O.), pH, temperature and specific conductance. Benthic chlorophyll a was also collected and analyzed.

North Shore Water Reclamation District (NSWRD) was contracted to conduct water column chemistry and sediment chemistry analysis with the watershed. NSWRD sampled water column chemistry in May, July, August, September and October 2018.

NBWW 2018 Expenditures



**Carryover/Reserves funds are designated for future modeling and water quality analysis*



2018 NBWW Administrative & Technical Services

- NBWW meeting coordination and facilitation to review monitoring data and provide educational presentations that can be used for NPDES permitting.
- Develop and maintain NBWW bylaws, contract documents, work plans, monitoring strategy, QAPP, etc...
- NBWW financial for membership dues and contractor billing.

NBWW Goals for 2019

- Develop a database of monitoring data including fish, macroinvertebrates, habitat, and water and sediment chemistry.
- Refine the monitoring program based on first-year implementation and advice from industry experts.
- Continue to support SMC with the update to the North Branch of the Chicago River Watershed-Based Plan through matching funds from the monitoring program.
- Continue to host meetings that provide education and outreach targeted towards achieving attainment of water quality standards and designated uses for the watershed.
 - Support the North Branch Watershed Planning Committee and the North Branch Watershed Consortium through fostering general membership forums.
- Support and sponsorship local deicing education and outreach efforts meeting NBWW bylaw goals and objectives.
- Analyze first-year monitoring results.
- Compile the monitoring data in a format to be included in an annual report prepared to satisfy the NPDES water quality monitoring permit reporting requirements.
- Provide input to the Illinois EPA regarding the TMDL report for the North Branch Chicago River watershed based on data obtained during the Workgroup's water quality monitoring effort.



Figure 3: Chicago Botanic Garden Native Buffer



Figure 4: Dalitsch Pond Enhancement Project, Lake Forest

NBWW Participates in Watershed Planning

November 2018, SMC was awarded an Illinois EPA Section 319 grant for updating the 2008 North Branch Chicago River Watershed-Based Plan. This 10-year update will maintain the plan's status as an Illinois EPA approved watershed-based plan and allow watershed stakeholders to apply for grant opportunities. The NBWW will support the development of the watershed-based plan by using membership dues to implement the monitoring program that will establish a baseline for biological, habitat, water and sediment chemistry parameters and will inform project identification and the watershed plan. The monitoring program costs will be used as grant matching funds. The NBWW exemplifies a cohesive local effort to achieve pollution reduction results and water quality improvement in the watershed.

The NBWW is now accepting new members. If you're interested in making a difference in the North Branch Chicago River Watershed, join the watershed workgroup. Contact Ashley Strelcheck at astrelcheck@lakecountyil.gov for more information.

NBWW Agency Members:

Any public agency holding an NPDES permit for a discharge into the North Branch Chicago River and its tributaries, either from a publicly owned treatment works or from a public municipal separate storm sewer system.

- City of Highland Park
- City of Lake Forest
- City of North Chicago
- City of Park City
- Cook County
- Cook County Division of Transportation and Highways
- East Skokie Drainage District
- Forest Preserve District of Cook County
- Lake County
- Lake County Division of Transportation
- Libertyville Township
- North Shore Water Reclamation District
- Union One West Fork Drainage District
- Vernon Township
- Village of Bannockburn
- Village of Deerfield

NBWW Associate Members:

An agency, organization or company interested in the mission and objectives of the Workgroup that is not eligible for membership as an Agency member.

- Christopher Burke
- Deerfield Park District
- Deigan & Associates
- Friends of the Chicago River
- Gewalt Hamilton
- Hey & Associates
- Lake County Forest Preserve District
- Lake County Stormwater Management Commission
- Lake Forest Openlands
- Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

2018 Membership

- \$122,478.74 Membership Dues
- 37 New Members
- \$12,000 Watershed Management Assistance Grant (WMAG)
- Village of Glencoe
- Village of Glenview
- Village of Green Oaks
- Village of Lincolnshire
- Village of Niles
- Village of Northbrook
- Village of Northfield
- Village of Riverwoods
- Village of Skokie
- Village of Wilmette
- Village of Winnetka

NBWW Support Staff

Administrative Services: Lake County Stormwater Management Commission
Mike Warner (Executive Director) & Ashley Strelcheck (Water Resource Professional)

Technical Services: Manhard Consulting, Marcy Knysz (Senior Project Manager)

2019 Meeting Dates

314 Meeting Attendees

- 56 Different Entities
- 94 Different Stakeholders

6 Executive Board Meetings

4 Monitoring & Water Quality Impairment Abatement Committee Meetings

4 General Membership Meetings



Figure 5: August 8, 2018 NBWW Annual Meeting & Glenview BMP Tour

General Membership

- February 13, 2019, 1:00 PM
Heller Nature Center Prairie Room
- May 8, 2019, 1:00 PM
Lake Forest Municipal Center
Training Room
- August 14, 2019, 1:00 PM
Lake Forest Municipal Center
Training Room
- November 13, 2019, 1:00 PM
Heller Nature Center Prairie Room

Executive Board

- January 9, 2019, 1:30 PM
Northbrook Village Hall Terrace Room
- March 13, 2019, 1:30 PM
Northbrook Village Hall Terrace Room
- April 10, 2019, 1:30 PM
Northbrook Village Hall Terrace Room
- June 12, 2019, 1:30 PM
Northbrook Village Hall Terrace Room
- July 10, 2019, 1:30 PM
Northbrook Village Hall Terrace Room
- September 11, 2019, 1:30 PM
Northbrook Village Hall Terrace Room
- October 9 2019, 1:30 PM
Northbrook Village Hall Terrace Room
- December 11, 2019, 1:30 PM
Northbrook Village Hall Terrace Room

Monitoring & Water Quality Impairment Abatement Committee

- September 11, 2019, 12:30 PM
Northbrook Village Hall Terrace Room
- October 9 2019, 12:30 PM
Northbrook Village Hall Terrace Room
- December 11, 2019, 12:30 PM
Northbrook Village Hall Terrace Room

NBWW Sampling Locations & Photos



NSWRD Water Column Chemistry Sampling



WF25 Monitoring Location



MF19 Monitoring Location



Largemouth Bass Collected During Fish Sampling



SR1 Monitoring Location