

**III. GOALS AND POLICIES**

The Elm Creek Watershed Management Commission (Commission) has developed a number of goals and policies that conform to the overall purpose that is specified in Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.201. These goals and policies have also been developed to preserve and use natural water storage and retention systems.

The goals of the Commission are to:

1. Protect, preserve, and manage surface water and groundwater resources.
2. Minimize property damages and economic losses through water resource management.
3. Manage public expenditures needed to study and control and/or correct flooding and water quality problems.
4. Educate and inform the public on pertinent water resource management issues and increase public participation in water management activities.
5. Identify and plan for means to effectively protect and improve surface and groundwater quality.
6. Establish more uniform local policies and official controls for surface and groundwater management.
7. Reduce erosion of soil into surface water systems.
8. Promote groundwater recharge.
9. Protect and enhance fish and wildlife habitat and water recreational facilities.
10. Reduce and control/prevent stream degradation through land protection measures, runoff restrictions, and pollutant restrictions.

These goals and policies have been developed to address issues related to water quantity, water quality, recreation, fish and wildlife, enhancement of public participation, information and education, public ditch system management, groundwater management, shoreland management, wetland management, and soil erosion management. Outlined below are the policies that have been developed for each of the above areas of concern. The standards associated with these policies are outlined in **Appendix F**. The member communities will need to adopt the goals, policies, and standards outlined within this Plan.

**A. WATER QUANTITY**

**Policies:**

1. The Commission adopts the current FEMA study as part of the Elm Creek floodplain for parts of Hassan and Dayton that drain to the Crow and Mississippi Rivers. This study is available in the Water Resource Library.
2. The Commission adopts the Elm Creek Watershed Study and its associated flood elevations. This study is available in the Water Resource Library.
3. The Commission shall establish floodplain management standards.
4. The Commission shall establish water quantity management standards.
5. The Commission shall develop standards to reduce the severity and frequency of flooding and high water by preventing the loss of floodplain storage below the established 100-year flood elevation.
6. The Commission shall develop standards to manage the change in conveyance and the timing of flood waters.
7. The Commission shall develop standards to reduce the severity and frequency of flooding and high water by avoiding the loss of wetland storage.
8. The Commission shall develop standards to reduce the severity and frequency of flooding and high water by minimizing development in 100-year floodplains.
9. Costs associated with floodplain management studies or projects shall be borne by all communities in the watershed in an equitable manner, as determined by the Commission and Joint Powers Agreement.
10. The Commission prefers that stormwater rate control be provided through the use of regional stormwater retention systems when it is reasonable and practical to do so. The Commission also supports site-by-site retention systems when regional systems are not reasonable and practical.
11. The Commission shall promote infiltration of precipitation and runoff.
12. The Commission shall establish a water quantity monitoring plan.
13. The local communities shall be responsible for removing deadfall in creek channels as appropriate provided that the deadfall is no longer attached

## SECTION III

---

to the land. For deadfall that remains attached to the land, it is the responsibility of the landowner to remove the deadfall. The Commission shall mediate deadfall removal issues as requested by the member communities.

### **B. WATER QUALITY**

#### **Policies:**

1. The Commission encourages the adoption of the DNR's model shoreland ordinance.
2. The Commission adopts the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's Best Management Practices and Metropolitan Council's Minnesota Urban Small Site BMP Manual by reference.
3. The Commission shall establish standards for stormwater treatment practices to prevent further degradation of lakes, streams, and wetlands.
4. The Commission will establish a comprehensive water quality monitoring plan for area lakes and streams.
5. The Commission will establish water quality goals for judging the adequacy of its water quality protection programs.
6. The Commission shall promote the management of stormwater runoff quality on a regional basis in areas where it is reasonable and practical to do so. The Commission shall also manage stormwater runoff quality on a site-by-site basis when regional methods are not feasible.
7. The Commission will coordinate with other agencies' efforts in monitoring, maintaining, and improving surface water quality within the watershed.
8. The Commission shall provide services to assist the member communities in obtaining National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II permits once this program is implemented by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, if requested by the local community.
9. The Commission shall establish manure management standards.
10. The Commission shall develop standards and/or a model ordinance related to manure management, feedlots, and fencing/setback standards for livestock near water bodies.
11. The Commission shall review progress and policies relating to Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL's) as they become available.

**C. RECREATION, FISH, AND WILDLIFE**

**Policies:**

1. The Commission encourages fish and wildlife habitat protection and enhancement opportunities as part of surface and groundwater management practices.
2. The Commission shall establish standards for the protection of water based recreational activities.
3. The Commission will work with and support to the maximum extent practical the efforts of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the US Corps of Engineers, the US Environmental Protection Agency, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the Hennepin Conservation District, and Three Rivers Park District and other appropriate agencies in promoting public enjoyment and protecting fish, wildlife, and recreational resource values in the watershed.

**D. ENHANCEMENT OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION, INFORMATION, AND EDUCATION**

**Policies:**

1. The Commission shall establish a public education program regarding watershed management practices. Information about this program can be found in **Appendix G**.
2. The Commission encourages member cities to develop coordinated water resource public education programs to avoid duplication of effort and cost.
3. The Commission will work with and support to the extent deemed necessary the efforts of the Hennepin Conservation District, Department of Natural Resources and others to develop and enhance public education programs.

**E. PUBLIC DITCH SYSTEMS**

**Policies:**

1. The public ditch systems within the Commission will be managed by Hennepin County, which is the public ditch authority.

## SECTION III

---

2. The Commission shall work with Hennepin County in resolving any issues associated with management of the public ditch systems in the watershed.

### F. GROUNDWATER

#### Policies:

1. The Commission shall develop standards to improve and protect the groundwater within the watershed.
2. The Commission will promote and coordinate with other agencies the continuation of existing groundwater monitoring, inventories, and/or permitting programs.
3. The Commission will encourage member cities to develop and implement wellhead protection plans.
4. The Commission will assist member communities or other governmental agencies in resolving groundwater quality problems.
5. The Commission shall promote groundwater infiltration and recharge.

### G. WETLANDS

#### Policies:

1. The Commission shall act as the Wetland Conservation Act's Local Government Unit (LGU) for those communities that choose to utilize this service.
2. The Commission will protect and manage wetlands in conformance with the State Wetland Conservation Act (WCA).
3. The Commission will support the local cities' efforts to become qualified to assume the LGU role to manage wetlands.
4. The Commission shall promote and facilitate the creation of new wetland banking areas within the watershed.
5. The order of descending priority for the location of replacement wetlands, including the use of wetland bank credits, is as follows:
  - a. On-site;
  - b. With in the same subwatershed;

## SECTION III

---

- c. Within the Elm Creek Watershed; and
- d. Outside the Elm Creek Watershed within major Watershed No. 20 only under extreme and unusual circumstances.

### H. EROSION

#### **Policies:**

1. The Commission shall develop standards to minimize erosion due to development activities.
2. The Commission will coordinate, where appropriate, with other agencies' efforts to implement Best Management Practice regarding erosion and sedimentation control.
3. The Commission will identify locations for erosion control improvement projects.
4. The Commission encourages the implementation of the NRCS standards for cropland erosion control.
5. The Commission shall coordinate with the Hennepin Conservation District and the Natural Resource Conservation Service to provide technical assistance and cost share programs regarding erosion control for farmers.