

# Municipal Stormwater Management Assessment



## INTRODUCTION

Thank you for your interest in answering 45 questions that assess the degree to which your city is taking both simple and innovative actions to improve stormwater management, improve water quality, and adapt to climate changes in Minnesota. Questions in this Snap Surveys tool cover broad green infrastructure areas that are generally not covered by government regulatory programs. After completing this questionnaire, a score between 1 and 100 percent will be reported. A second score, based on your answers to 23 questions related to resilience to climate change, will also be reported.

Taking this assessment and receiving a score can be used in several ways:

- (1) To quickly learn about a wide range of stormwater management options, via the questions and associated informational links to the MPCA's Stormwater Manual site
- (2) To see Minnesota Cities' collective stormwater management efforts
- (3) To gather a baseline measure of actions, and to compare that to a subsequent year (which could be 2 or 3 years later) when you retake the assessment
- (4) To report your score, and subsequent improvement, to community members and to your city council
- (5) To claim credit for the GreenStep best practice # 17, under [BP action 17.2](#)
- (6) To claim credit for GreenStep Metric # 9, which is required for recognition at [Step 4 and Step 5](#) in the GreenStep Cities program. 9.1 Stormwater Assessment Score (%) and 9.2 Climate Adaptation Stormwater Score (%).

## INSTRUCTIONS

In order to accurately score your assessment, the questionnaire requires you to answer all questions, and as such, you may select "I don't know/not specified" for most questions. Please note that selecting this option will assign a score of 0, but you may return to earlier questions and amend their answers as needed.

Upon completion of the assessment, you will receive your scores and be asked to submit these results under one or both of the GreenStep best practice action 17.2 and the GreenStep Step 4/5 metrics 9.1 and 9.2. Anonymous responses from all cities may be shared with MPCA staff, but NOT associated with your city name, in order for staff to provide better stormwater assistance to cities. Your honesty in answering these questions is important, and your privacy will be respected. The goal of this assessment is city self-directed improvement complementary to improvements pursued under city programs and under various government regulatory programs.

Should you have any questions or comments about this assessment or individual questions in it, feel free to use the GreenStep Cities [contact page](#). The GreenStep Cities and MPCA program staff value your feedback and will use it to improve the assessment questions (and points per question) each year.

### Contact Information

Name of community

Your name

Your email address

Time period associated with this assessment

### SECTION ONE - Planning & Preservation

#### Water Friendly Development Patterns

Q1 Does your community comprehensive plan allow sprawl-limiting strategies?

(variable) Yes

(0 points) No

(0 pts) I don't know / not specified

Q1a Please select all that apply:

(1 pt) Mixed-use development by right

(1 pt) Compact development outside of the downtown zoning district (greater than 3 residential units/acre)

(1 pt) Transfer of development rights

(1 pt) Other applicable

Q2 Does your community have any incentives specifically targeted to 'brownfield' development and redevelopment sites?

(variable) Yes

(0 pts) No

(0 pts) I don't know / not specified

Q2a Please select all that apply:

(1 pt) Density bonus

(1 pt) Funding for remediation

(1 pt) Streamlined permitting

(1 pt) Reduced impact fees

(1 pt) Tax increment financing

Q3 In your stormwater ordinance, is there a definition of green infrastructure or low-impact development (LID) -- better management of stormwater while aiming to achieve other environmental, public health, social, and economic benefits?

(Select one)

(1 pt) Yes

(0 pts) No

(0 pts) I don't know / not specified

Q4 Does your community have a climate adaptation plan in place to address potential impacts of climate change on community water resource management?

(Select one)

(1 pt) Yes, we have our own plan

(1 pt) Yes, we follow a regional plan for another agency

(0 pts) No

(0 pts) I don't know / not specified

### **Natural Resource Preservation & Management**

Q5 Does your community comprehensive plan include an inventory of high quality natural resource areas and are land-use decisions guided by the natural resource inventory in order to protect these areas from development?

(Select one)

(4 pts) Yes, a Natural Resource Inventory or Natural Resource Assessment is incorporated into the subdivision or development process

(1 pt) Yes, inventoried

(0 pts) No

(0 pts) I don't know / not specified

Q6 Does your community allow filling for development within the floodplain and if so, are restrictions imposed that include excluding storage of hazardous materials and requiring compensatory flood storage to offset fill?

(Select one)

(3 pts) No fill within FEMA and locally defined floodplain allowed

(2 pts) No fill within FEMA floodplain allowed

(1 pt) Fill allowed with the above restrictions

(-1 pt) Fill allowed without restrictions

(0 pts) I don't know / not specified

(N/A) Not applicable in my community

Q7 Does your community protect high quality or sensitive wetlands through a resource management plan or wetland management plan?

(Select one)

(2 pts) Yes, plan exceeds state Wetland Conservation Act standards

(1 pt) Yes, plan meets state standards

(0 pts) No

(0 pts) I don't know / not specified

(N/A) Not applicable in my community

Q8 Do your buffer standards for lakes, streams, constructed ponds, and wetlands include any floodplain, steep slope, vegetation or resource quality considerations?

(variable) Yes

(0 pts) No

(0 pts) I don't know / not specified

(N/A) Not applicable in my community

Q8a Please select all the buffer standards that apply:

(1 pt) Additional buffer width to encompass 100-year floodplain

(1 pt) Additional buffer width in areas with slopes 9% or greater

(1 pt) Buffer language clearly specifies vegetated cover requirements

(1 pt) Expanded stream buffer requirements for sensitive resources, such as high-quality wetlands, trout streams and/or Outstanding Resource Water Bodies (ORVWs)

Q9 Does your community have land use protections and/or development restrictions that preserve slopes 18% or greater in a stable, undisturbed vegetated state?

(Select one)

(2 pts) Yes

(0 pts) No

(0 pts) I don't know / not specified

(N/A) Not applicable in my community

Q10 Does your community encourage the establishment and sustainability of urban forests through the following strategies?

(Select all that apply)

Insect & disease control, including ash preservation

Increased care during tree establishment

Increased indigenous diversity of tree species

Tree protection and replacement ordinance

Street reconstruction (including road diet lane conversions) that increases width of boulevard tree right-of-way

Standards that address soil compaction during and after development/redevelopment of private land, and of public land like street boulevards

Stable funding for shade tree program, goals for increasing canopy coverage, or Tree City USA

The urban forest strategies above score as follows:

- (8 pts) At least 5 of the above strategies including soil compaction standards
- (5 pts) At least 4 of the above strategies including tree program/goals/Tree City
- (3 pts) At least 4 of the above strategies
- (2 pts) At least 3 of the above strategies
- (1 pt) At least 2 of the above strategies
- (0 pts) One or none of the above strategies

### **Stormwater Management Funding & Incentives**

Q11 Does your community have any of the following stable, ongoing, yearly stormwater management funding mechanisms?

(Select one)

(3 pts) Stormwater Utility User Fee

(3 pts) Other

(0 pts) No

(0 pts) I don't know / not specified

Q12 Does your community provide incentives (e.g. a reduced stormwater utility fee for sites that reduce their impervious surface) for retrofitting stormwater best management practices in previously developed sites?

(Select one)

(3 pts) Yes for commercial, industrial, institutional and residential

(2 pts) Yes for only commercial, institutional and industrial

(1 pt) Yes for only residential

(0 pts) No

(0 pts) I don't know / not specified

Q13 Has your community adopted a stable funding mechanism for land acquisition of high quality natural resource and/or riparian buffer areas?

(Select one)

(5 pts) Yes, land is placed in a trust

(1 pt) Yes

(0 pts) No

(0 pts) I don't know / not specified

## **SECTION TWO - Stormwater Management Standards, Policies & Practices**

### **Impervious Cover Management**

Q14 For public, residential access and sub-collector streets (with fewer than 500 average daily trips) what is the minimum roadway pavement width allowed in your community?

(Select one)

(4 pts) 24 feet or less

(2 pts) 25-26 feet

(1 pts) 27-28 feet

(-1 pt) Greater than 28 feet

(0 pts) I don't know / not specified

Q15 Does your community allow proof-of-parking or shared driveways to minimize impervious surface?

(Select one)

(1 pt) Yes

(0 pts) No

(0 pts) I don't know / not specified

Q16 Does your community have any of the following off-street parking lot/ramp regulations (for example, number of required parking spaces per 1000 sq. ft. or per seat) in its zoning/development code?

(Select one)

(8 pts) Parking space maximums exist and there are no parking space minimums city-wide

(6 pts) Parking space maximums exist city-wide and there are no parking space minimums in select zoning districts/for select development types

(4 pts) Parking space maximums and parking space minimums exist in select zoning districts/for select development types

(2 pts) City has parking space minimums city-wide, or in select zoning districts/for select development types, AND gives a parking stall reduction credit for installed bicycle parking

(1 pt) City only has parking space minimums city-wide, or in select zoning districts/for select development types

(0 pts) I don't know / not specified

Q17 What are your standard parking space dimensions?

(Select one)

(3 pts) Stalls 8.5' x 18' with 22' maximum aisle and driveway widths

(2 pts) Stall width 9 feet or less

(1 pt) Stall width 9.1 to 9.9 feet

(0 pts) Stall width greater than 9.9 feet or dimensions not regulated

(0 pts) I don't know / not specified

Q18 Does your community encourage curb-cuts, ribbon curb, roundabouts, or right of way swales for infiltration and conveyance of stormwater runoff in lieu of curb-and-gutter along residential roadways?

(Select one)

(5 pts) Yes, allowed and encouraged

(2 pts) Yes, allowed

(0 pts) No

(0 pts) I don't know / not specified

Q19 For new residential lots, does your community require or encourage impervious surfaces like roofs and driveways to drain to vegetated areas?

(Select one)

(3 pts) Required

(1 pt) Encouraged

(0 pts) No

(0 pts) I don't know / not specified

Q20 Does your community require or encourage parking area landscaping with vegetated practices (e.g. bioretention, curb-cuts, ribbon curb, tree trenches, or swales) for stormwater volume and/or water quality management?

(Select one)

(3 pts) Required

(1 pt) Encouraged

(0 pts) No

(0 pts) I don't know / not specified

Q21 Does your community allow & encourage pervious/permeable surfaces on residential/commercial area sidewalks and parking lots?

(variable) Yes

(0 pts) No

(0 pts) I don't know / not specified

Q21a Please select all that apply:

(1 pt) Yes on residential/commercial sidewalks

(1 pt) Yes on residential/commercial parking lots

Q22 How does your community address native vegetation and turf alternatives on residential and commercial sites?

(Select one)

(3 pts) We incentivize native plantings, including turf replacement

(2 pts) We promote native plantings, including turf replacement

(1 pts) We allow native plantings, including turf replacement

(0 pts) Not addressed

(0 pts) I don't know / not specified

Q23 Does your community encourage green roof installations as part of its building permit process?

(Select one)

(3 pts) Yes, green roofs (with or without a cistern) are incentivized by financial and/or regulatory measures



(2 pts) Yes, green roofs are encouraged and allowed by-right if they meet certain engineering standards

(1 pt) Yes, green roofs are allowed and information about green roofs is made available to developers

(0 pts) No mention/encouragement of green roofs

(0 pts) I don't know / not specified

### **Stormwater Management Policies**

Q24 For new development, does the permitting agency apply community stormwater management standards to all new impervious surfaces, or is a minimum threshold (de minimis) included?

(Select one)

(10 pts) Standards apply to all new impervious surfaces

(8 pts) Standards apply to 10,000 sq. ft. or more of new impervious surface

(4 pts) Standards apply to .5 acres or more of new impervious surface

(1 pt) Standards apply to 1 acre or more of new impervious surface

(1 pt) Standards apply to any net increase of impervious surface in a development project

(0 pts) No

(0 pts) I don't know / not specified

Q25 For new development, does the permitting authority apply community stormwater standards requiring rate control based on the difference between a baseline-condition and post-development runoff condition?

(Select one)

(5 pts) Yes, our baseline condition is Pre-European settlement

(3 pts) Yes, our baseline condition approximates woods/prairie grass in good condition

(2 pts) Yes, our baseline is pre-development (existing) conditions and it is consistent with MIDS

(1 pt) Yes, our baseline is pre-development (existing) conditions

(1 pt) Yes, our baseline is consistent with MIDS

(0 pts) No

(0 pts) I don't know / not specified

Q26 Does your community require best management practices (BMPs) for all new development that will result in at least 90% reduction in total-suspended-solids (TSS) and/or at least 60% reduction in total phosphorous (TP)?

(Select one)

(3 pts) Yes, my community follows MIDS or a more stringent/protective standard

(2 pts) Yes

(0 pts) No

(0 pts) I don't know / not specified

Q27 Are post-construction sediment and nutrient loading requirements customized to downstream water resources, such as critical habitat, impaired waters, Outstanding Resource Water Bodies (ORVWs)?

(Select one)

(3 pts) Yes

(0 pts) No

(0 pts) I don't know / not specified

Q28 Are there post-construction runoff volume requirements for downstream river erosion protection?

(Select one)

(6 pts) Yes, no runoff volume increase for the 10-yr, 24-hr event

(4 pts) Yes, no runoff volume increase for the 5-yr, 24-hr event

(2 pts) Yes, no runoff volume increase for the 2-yr, 24-hr event

(0 pts) No

(0 pts) I don't know / not specified

(N/A) Not applicable in my community

Q29 [For non-MS4s only] Has your community adopted an erosion and sediment control ordinance that align with MS4 permit requirements?

(Select one)

(10 pts) Yes

(0 pts) No

(0 pts) I don't know / not specified

(N/A) MS4 - not applicable in my community

Q30 Do your community stormwater management standards specify pretreatment sizing standards for stormwater prior to discharge into all permanent structural best management practices (BMPs)?

(Select one)

(2 pts) Yes

(0 pts) No

(0 pts) I don't know / not specified

Q31 Do your community stormwater management standards apply to all redevelopment, which includes reconstruction of linear projects?

(Select one)

(9 pts) Yes, we apply MIDS or a more stringent/protective standard to all redevelopment

(7 pts) Yes, standards apply to all redevelopment

(4 pts) Yes, standards apply only to redevelopment projects with a net increase in impervious surface

(0 pts) No

(0 pts) I don't know / not specified

Q32 Does your community encourage or require water conservation strategies?

(variable) Yes

(0 pts) No

(0 pts) I don't know / not specified

Q32a Please select all water conservation strategies that apply:

(5 pts) Stormwater water reuse incentives

(3 pts) Stormwater water reuse standards

(2 pts) Encourage or require irrigation systems to be retrofitted with Smart irrigation systems that track weather patterns and mitigate unnecessary watering

(1 pt) Use of low-water vegetation

(1 pt) Water Conservation Rate Structure that exceeds DNR minimum requirements

(1 pt) Other water conservation strategies

Q33 Does your community require & enforce maintenance agreements for privately maintained stormwater facilities?

(Select one)

(3 pts) Yes

(0 pts) No

(0 pts) I don't know / not specified

## SECTION THREE - Stormwater Pollution Prevention

### Education & Community Programs

Q34 Does your community participate in stormwater pollution prevention education & outreach programs?

(variable) Yes

(0 pts) No

(0 pts) I don't know / not specified

Q34a Please select all programs that apply:

(1 pt) Metro Blooms educational workshops or Blue Thumb program participation (within last 3 years)

(1 pt) The NEMO Program (within last 3 years)

(1 pt) The Clean Water Minnesota Media Campaign (annually)

(1 pt) Other similar programs

Q35 Does your community have residential and business education efforts?

(variable) Yes

(0 pts) No

(0 pts) I don't know / not specified

Q35a Please select all that apply:

(2 pts) Educational stormwater pollution prevention workshops for residents

(2 pts) Education and outreach program for local businesses

(2 pts) A storm drain stenciling program

(2 pts) Sponsorship of community education events and/or clean ups

(2 pts) Adopt-a-Storm Drain program

(2 pts) Stormwater BMP demonstration sites with educational signage

(1 pt) Regular utility bill inserts with stormwater educational messages

(1 pt) A city newsletter or social media effort that regularly includes a variety of stormwater pollution prevention messages at least 4- 6 times each year

(1 pt) A city website with that regularly includes a variety of stormwater pollution prevention messages at least 4- 6 times each year

Q36 Does your community promote and/or provide financial assistance for the implementation of stormwater pollution prevention & treatment practices and projects for residents or local businesses?

(Select one)

(3 pts) Yes, promotion & financial assistance

(1 pt) Yes, promotion only

(0 pts) No

(0 pts) I don't know / not specified

Q37 Does your community provide certification and training opportunities to municipal staff on a regular basis?

(variable) Yes

(0 pts) No

(0 pts) I don't know / not specified

Q37a Which of the following certification and training opportunities are available?

(Select all that apply)

(1 pt) MIDS training (e.g. MIDS calculator, ordinance and BMP trainings)

(1 pt) Erosion & sediment control certification

(1 pt) Illicit Discharge detection & elimination training

(1 pt) NEMO "Stormwater U"

### **Inspection & Enforcement**

Q38 [For non-MS4s only] Is your community's (public and any private) stormwater system mapped?

(Select one)

(1 pt) Yes

(0 pts) No

(0 pts) I don't know / not specified

(N/A) MS4 - not applicable in my community

Q39 [For non-MS4s only] Does your community have an inspection & maintenance schedule for stormwater management practices - including catch basin sumps & stormwater ponds?

(Select one)

(2 pts) Yes

(0 pts) No

(0 pts) I don't know / not specified

(N/A) MS4 - not applicable in my community

### Source Control

Q40 Does your community provide certification and training opportunities to municipal staff on a regular basis?

(variable) Yes

(0 pts) No

(0 pts) I don't know / not specified

Q40a Which of the following certification and training opportunities are available?

(Select all that apply)

(2 pts) MPCA Smart Salting Level 2 Training

(1 pt) MPCA Smart Salting Level 1 Training

(1 pt) Other Smart Salting Training

(1 pt) Fertilizer & Pesticide use minimization training for staff and/or for institutional, parks, residential or commercial property managers

Q41 Which of the following salt management strategies does your community use?

(Select one)

(3 pts) Salt Savings Assessment tool (SSAt) to track BMPs related to chloride use

(3 pts) 5-year BMP implementation plan to improve salt or chloride management practices

(2 pts) Salt or Chloride Management Plan

(1 pt) Salt use tracking

(0 pts) None

(0 pts) I don't know / not specified

Q42 Does your community street sweeping program include sweeping more than twice per year and/or utilizing vacuum sweeping technology?

(variable) Yes

(0 pts) No

(0 pts) I don't know / not specified

Q42a Please select all that apply:

(2 pts) Sweep four or more times per year

(1 pt) Sweep two or three times per year

(1 pt) Utilize vacuum sweeping technology

Q43 Does your community prioritize street sweeping in areas where water flows directly into lakes, streams, wetlands and Wellhead Protection Areas?

(Select one)

(2 pts) Yes

(0 pts) No

(0 pts) I don't know / not specified

Q44 Does your community prioritize inspections of permitted businesses storing/using hazardous and/or toxic chemicals that are in areas where water flows directly into lakes, streams and wetlands, and to Wellhead Protection Areas?

(Select one)

(2 pts) Yes

(0 pts) No

(0 pts) I don't know / not specified

Q45 What type of residential yard waste collection program does your community have?

(Select one)

(5 pts) Curbside pick-up available to all residents by default

(3 pts) Elective pick-up available

(2 pts) Collection site at which residents drop off yard waste

(0 pts) None

(0 pts) I don't know / not specified