



Manitou Creek-
Fish Lake Drain
Watershed-Based Plan



STORMWATER MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

Mike Prusila

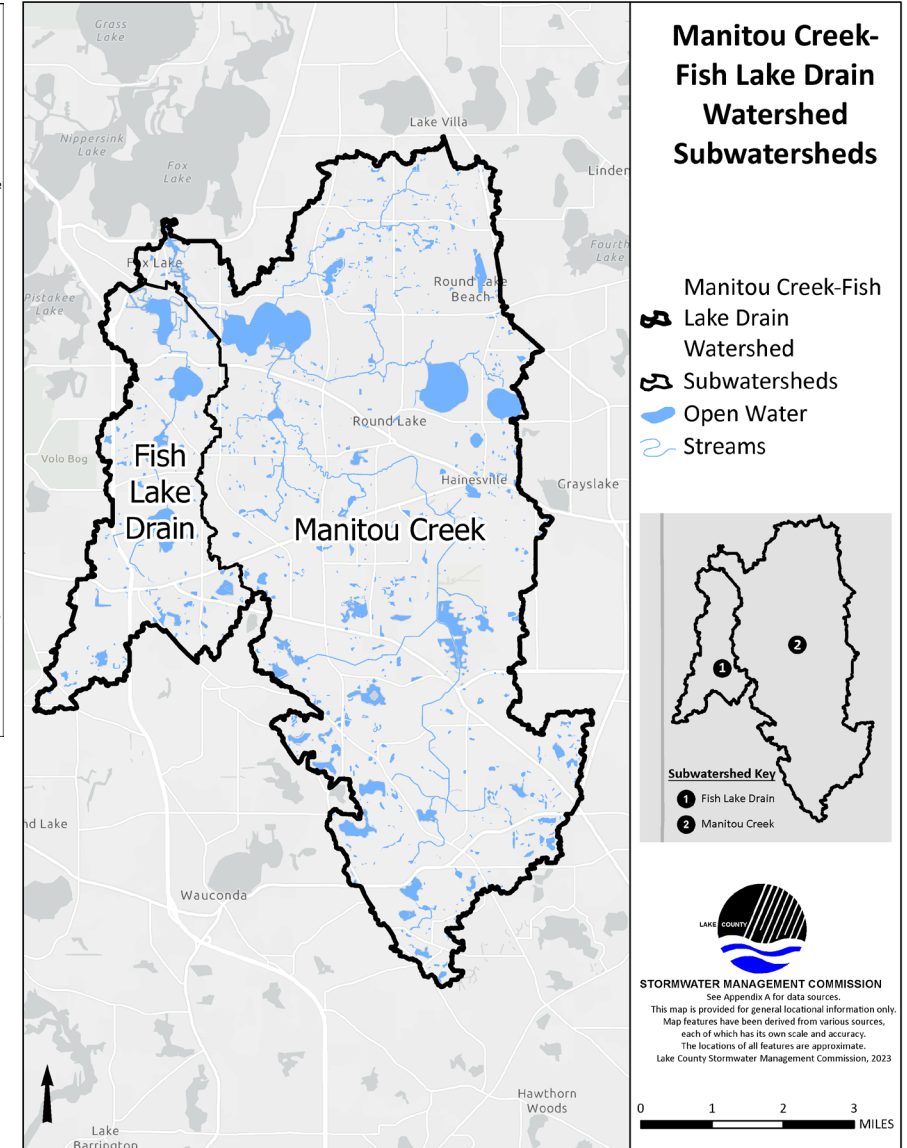
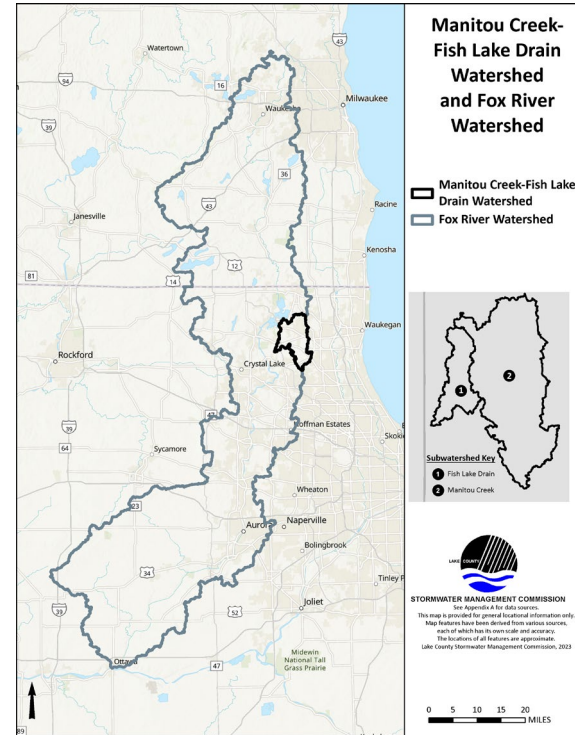
Jacob Jozefowski

April 29, 2026



Watershed Location

- 50 square miles
- Lake County, Illinois
- 14 Municipalities
- 5 Townships
- ~49% of area unincorporated
- 8 Lake County Forest Preserves
- 4 Park Districts
- Manitou Creek Drainage District



Why Develop a Watershed-Based Plan?

“Roadmap” for **ALL** stakeholders to accomplish watershed goals

Water does not generally flow according to political boundaries

Comprehensive summary of existing watershed conditions and trends

Identify potential projects & funding

Implementation is **VOLUNTARY**

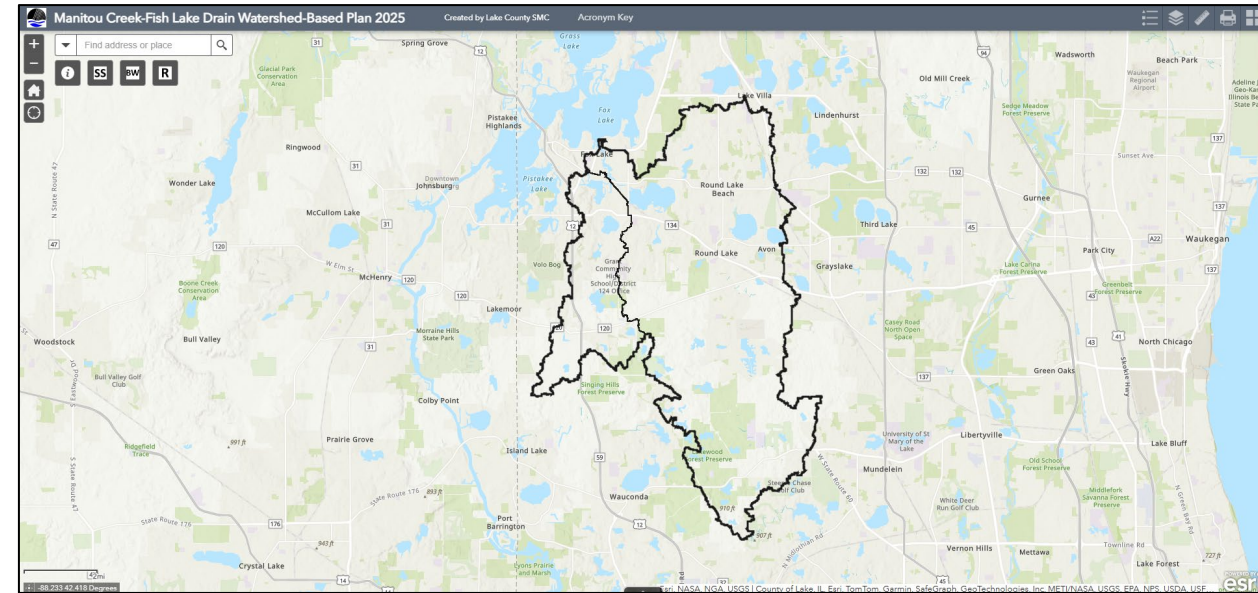
Watershed Plan Components

Executive Summary

1. Introduction
2. Watershed issues, opportunities, goals & objectives
3. Watershed characteristics assessment
4. Watershed problem assessment
5. Flood problem assessment
6. Prioritized action plan summary
7. Plan implementation and evaluation
8. Education and outreach strategy and tools

Appendices A-K, including action plan tables

Web-based mapping application



Watershed Goals & Objectives

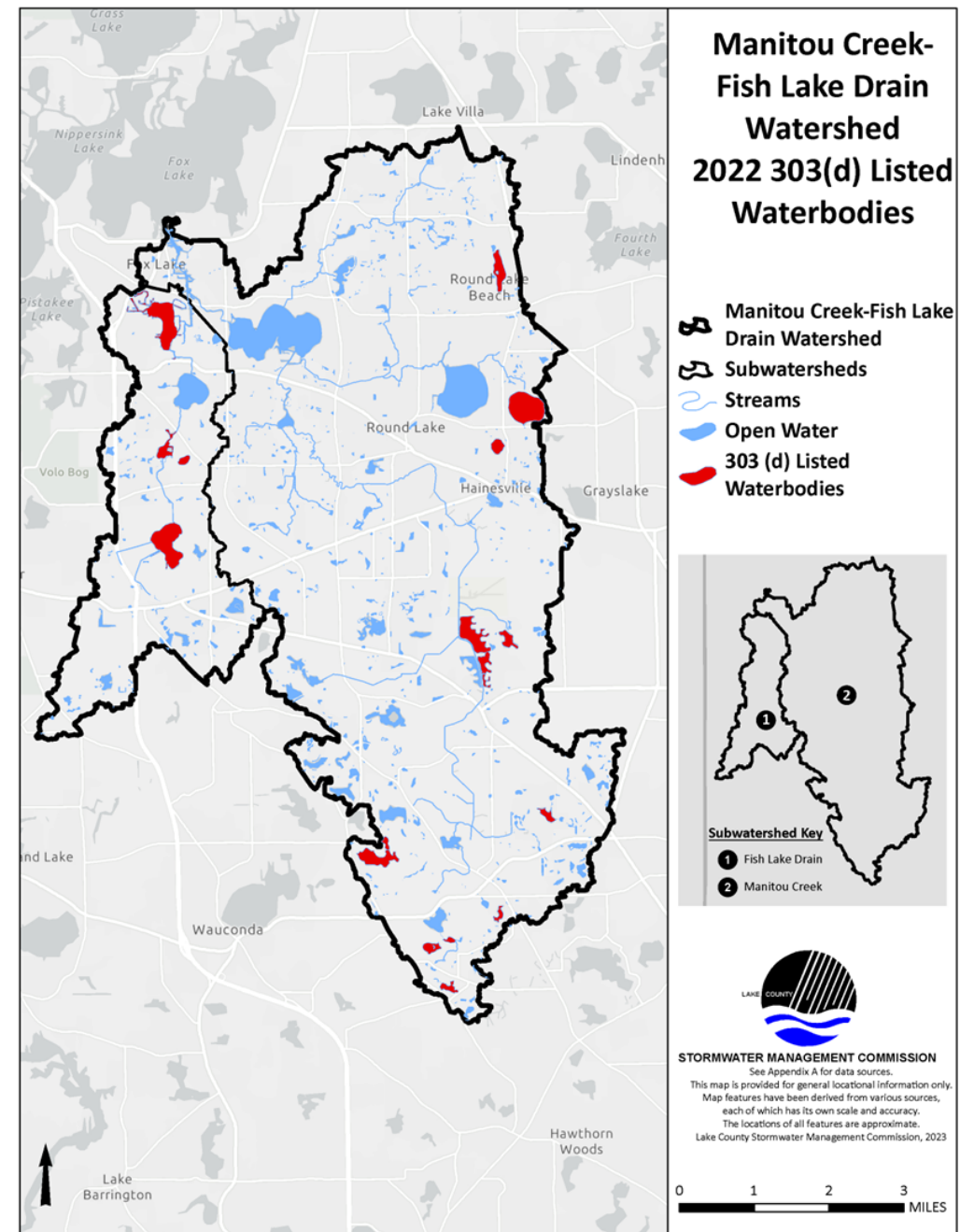
CATEGORIES

1. Water Quality
2. Stormwater Management, Flood Risk, and Flood Damage
3. Natural Resource Management
4. Watershed Education and Outreach
5. Watershed Coordination and Partnerships



Watershed Issues

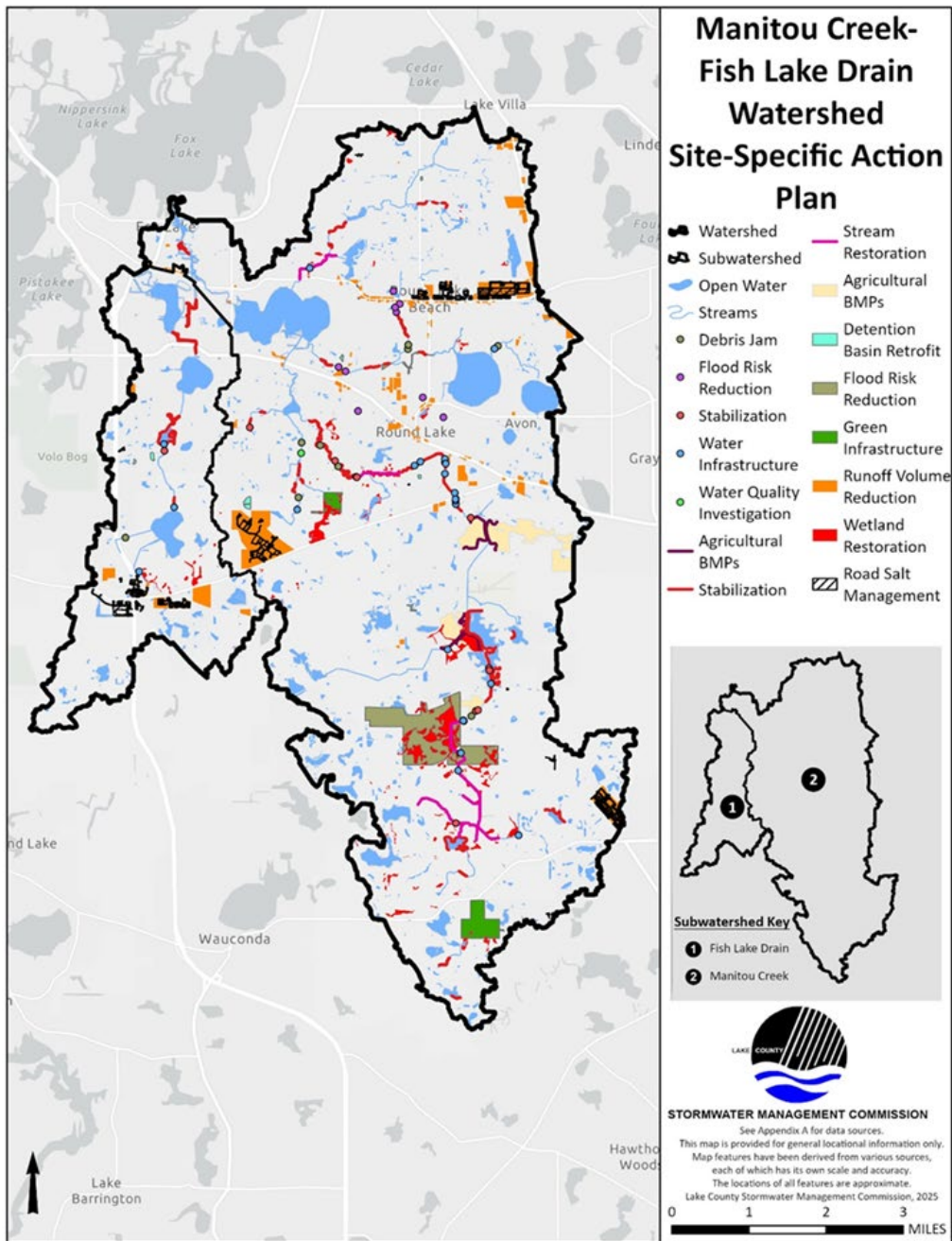
- 18 impaired lakes (as designated by Illinois EPA)
- 83 Flood Problem areas identified by SMC
- More than 1,000 structures in mapped FEMA Flood Hazard Areas
- Critical erosion areas (5.4 miles of lake shores and 15.7 miles of stream banks)



Action Plan

TYPES OF ACTIONS

- Programmatic
- Basin-wide Site-specific
- Site-specific



Site-Specific Actions

**Total cost all BMPs:
\$85 – 201 million**

>700 projects

Best Management Practice Types (projects/units)

Agricultural BMPs (346.3 ac, 2.8 mi)

Debris Jam – (10)

Detention Basin Retrofit (12) & Water Infrastructure (18 ea, 80 ft)

Flood Risk Reduction (380.8 ac, 1.6 mi, 9,260 cu yd)

Golf Course Management (644.5 ac)

Green Infrastructure (136.3 ac)

Streambank/Shoreline Stabilization (19.4 mi)

Stream Restoration (5.0 mi)

Road Salt Management (180.3 mi)

Wetland Restoration (417.4 ac)

Public Involvement & Stakeholder Input



- Series of public stakeholder meetings and local government meetings



- 60-day public comment period including 2 informational meetings



- 2 public hearings



- More than 160 comments received (a watershed plan record!)

Next Steps...



- Adoption by Lake County Board



- Work with local partners and stakeholders to adopt and implement plan



- Evaluate plan performance every 5 years using developed milestones and scorecards



- Update in 10 years

Questions

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