

Stormwater Pollution & Illicit Discharges

Protecting Our Lakes, Rivers & Streams

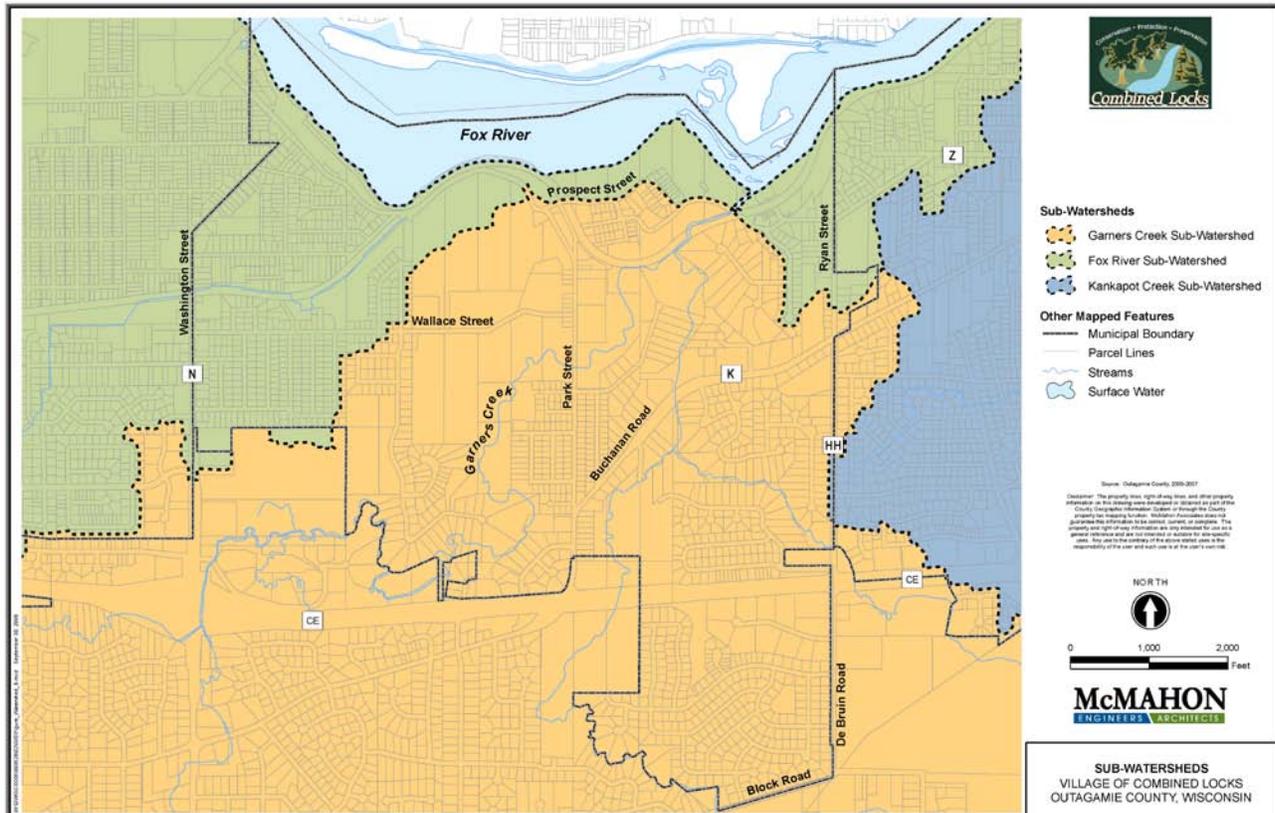
The Village of Combined Locks is required by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to reduce the amount of stormwater pollutants discharging into the Fox River, Garners Creek and Kankapot Creek. Stormwater pollutants include sediment, phosphorus, nutrients, bacteria, motor oil, toxins, solvents, pesticides, litter and other pollutants.

Decreasing the amount of sediment, phosphorus and other pollutants is anticipated to reduce algae blooms in the receiving water bodies. Reduced algae will increase the amount of oxygen available for fish and aquatic species survival. Also, greater water clarity and decreased algae will improve recreational opportunities and scenic beauty.

The Village's stormwater drainage system is a network of grass swales, underground pipes and catch basins that carry stormwater pollutants directly to the Fox River, Garners Creek and Kankapot Creek without treatment. The drainage divides within the Village of Combined Locks are shown on the attached Watershed Map.



Fox River: Algae & Poor Water Clarity



The Village is required to reduce stormwater pollution by implementing an illicit discharge detection and elimination program. As part of the program, the Village is required to adopt an ordinance, search for illicit discharges, investigate any known or suspected illicit discharges, respond to spills, eliminate sanitary leakage and remove any illicit connections.



Potential sources of illicit discharge include illegal business discharges, boat and marina discharges, overflows from sanitary sewer systems, illegal plumbing connections, illegal dumping of waste materials, and spills associated with roadway accidents and industrial activity. Illicit discharges can contribute high levels of pollutants, toxins, oil, grease, solvents, nutrients, viruses, and bacteria to receiving waterbodies. Pollutant levels from illicit discharges are concentrated and may be high enough to significantly degrade receiving water quality and threaten aquatic, wildlife, and human health.

Discharges that are not considered illegal or illicit include water line / hydrant flushing, landscape irrigation, stream flows, uncontaminated pumped groundwater, discharges from potable drinking water sources, foundation drains, air conditioning condensation, irrigation water, lawn watering, individual residential car washing, flows from riparian habitats and wetlands, fire fighting and discharges authorized under a WPDES permit unless identified by the Village as a significant source of pollutants.

What are Illicit Connections, Discharges, Dumping and Spills?



- **Illicit Connections** involve illegal pipe or other direct connections that have the potential to discharge pollutants into the Fox River, Garners Creek, Kankapot Creek or the Village's drainage system (i.e., grass swales, storm sewer system). Examples include floor drains piped to a sump pump pit or sinks connected to a storm sewer lateral.



- **Illicit Discharges** involve the discharge of pollutants into the Fox River, Garners Creek, Kankapot Creek or the Village's drainage system. Examples include leaky garbage dumpsters, leaky sanitary sewer laterals, and overland flow of wash water from laundromats or carwashes.



- **Illicit Dumping** involves the intentional and improper disposal of waste materials. Examples include restaurants dumping mop water onto the parking lot and homeowners dumping used motor oil in or around a storm sewer inlet.



- **Illicit Spills** involve accidental spills that have the potential to discharge pollutants into the Fox River, Garners Creek, Kankapot Creek or the Village's drainage system. Examples include traffic accidents and industrial accidents.

