City of Superior

Special Area Management Plan

SAMP-II
Geology of the City of Superior

- Wetlands established in the northern Douglas County as a result of geological impacts from glaciation 10,000 years ago.
- The Superior Lobe of the Laurentian Sheet (Wisconsin Ice Age) left behind fine clays and flat lake bottom-like topography.
Wetlands in the City of Superior

• Wetlands in the City of Superior formed as a result of flat topography and clay sediment deposits left from the advancement and recession of the Superior Lobe.
Wetlands provide many valuable social and ecological functions:

- Plant Habitat Integrity
- Wildlife Habitat Integrity
- Flood and Stormwater Attenuation
- Water Quality Integrity
- Hydrologic Integrity
- Recreational/Educational/Scientific/Cultural/Aesthetics
Development in the City of Superior

• The City of Superior was founded in its location due to several reasons, including:
  – access to Lake Superior for shipping and port activities
  – flat topography to facilitate construction and operation of railroads
  – The port was sheltered from Lake Superior by Minnesota and Wisconsin Points
Development in the City of Superior

- Long term development in the City has contributed to impacts to the functional values of wetlands.
- Passage of the Clean Water Act limits where and how development can further impact wetlands (1972).
- Many projects within the City require State and Federal Wetland and Water Regulatory permits.
- Permitting can be very time consuming and costly and limit the attraction to building homes and businesses in the City.
- The City must manage growth and economic development in a manner that enhances the community and its natural resources.
What is a Special Area Management Plan (SAMP)?

- Began with the Coastal Zone Management Act
- Planning tool for communities to manage wetland resources
- Federal/State Agencies must consider local plans in permitting decisions
- Most are simply a planning tool
- Few incorporate permitting
  - Anchorage
  - Superior
  - San Diego County
Goals of the Superior SAMP II

- Predictability for landowners/developers.
- Reduction in permit processing time and increased efficiency.
- Objective criteria defining the eligibility of wetlands in the City for development.
- Plans for mitigating wetland losses.
SAMP I

- Crystal Ball Approach
- Limited to specific areas with high development pressure
- 143 acres deemed eligible for development
- 93.93 acres permitted in 10 years
SAMP II

- Comprehensive approach

- Assessed the functions of over 7000 acres of wetlands in the City

- 1,097 acres were deemed eligible (low-med quality) ~20%

- Only 140 acres may be permitted (< 2%)
SAMP-II COE General Permits

• 4 General Permits
  – Residential  40 Acres
  – Industrial/Commercial  75 Acres
  – Institutional  10 Acres
  – Public  15 Acres

• COE & DNR must review all applications before issuance

• Wetland mitigation is required (no \textit{de minimus})
Compensatory Wetland Mitigation

• The City is committed to providing compensatory wetland mitigation meeting the high standards of the Wisconsin DNR Guidelines.

• SAMP I wetland mitigation projects included a wide variety of wetland creation, restoration, enhancement, and preservation projects.
  – 51.35 acres of wetland creation and enhancement in the Superior Municipal Forest
  – 75 acres of purple loosestrife control in Pokegama Bay plus 70 acres of upland buffer preservation
  – 445 acres of preservation in the Moccasin Mike area
SAMP I Mitigation Projects
SAMP I Mitigation Projects
Compensatory Wetland Mitigation

- City strives to continue implementing mitigation projects that will restore and enhance wetland and water resources in the Lake Superior Watershed
  - 126 acre wetland restoration and riparian enhancement project
  - Additional purple loosestrife control projects
  - Restoration and Enhancement of municipal and county wetlands and former wetland areas

- Mitigation standards are met based on the Guidelines for Compensatory Wetland Mitigation in Wisconsin (WDNR 2002).
Compensatory Wetland Mitigation
Conclusion

• The City’s intention is to:
  – promote economic development
  – protect natural resource functions
  – protect of the health and interests of citizens, visitors, and businesses

• Questions?