



Metro Stormwater Geodata Project (MSWGP)

>> What is the Metro Stormwater Geodata Project (MSWGP)?

The **MSWGP** is a *voluntary* multi-agency effort in the Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Region to develop a means by which geospatial data representing assets important to the work of managing stormwater can be assembled, standardized across jurisdictions, and made available to the stakeholders and data consumer community to meet their various business needs.

>> What will the MGWSP do?

The work of the **MSWGP** will include the following components:

- Documentation of the general and specific business needs of the stakeholder community;
- Development of a data exchange/transfer standard resource for stormwater geodata that meets the needs expressed by the stakeholders, data producers and data consumers;
- Research on the legal and policy aspects of stormwater geodata availability and sharing;
- Identification and documentation of obstacles, needs (funding, personnel, resources) or technical gaps in the data producer community that inhibit the creation and maintenance of robust stormwater geodata;
- Creation of a pilot project or proof-of-concept project to test the efficacy and usefulness of the data standard developed;
- Examination of data aggregation, validation and publishing workflows for completed datasets;

>> What individuals and agencies are involved in the work of the MGSP?

Participation in the **MSWGP** effort is open to any individual, agency or interest in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Region with a business need for geodata representing stormwater features.

The work of the **MSWGP** will be guided by a Steering Team; composed of individuals representing city, county, regional, state, federal, watershed district, special district, private sector and academic interests. The Steering Team will work toward consensus decisions—both general and specific—in moving forward on the work of the **MSWGP**.

The effort will be guided by a Coordination Team, who will be tasked with research, scheduling meetings, documenting meeting proceedings, publication of documents, management of communications and general administrative support. This Coordination Team is composed of:

- Alex Blenkush, GIS Analyst, Hennepin County GIS Office
- Carrie Magnuson, GIS Technician, Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District
- Geoff Maas, MetroGIS Coordinator, MetroGIS/Metropolitan Council

Members of the MSWGP Steering Team will be encouraged to assist with Coordination Team duties as their schedules and interests allow.

>> Why is this being done?

All government agencies in Minnesota—either as part of their mandate and in the work of their various departments—manage and deal *directly* with a range of water issues from water supply, surface and ground water quality, runoff management, regulatory work or constructing and maintaining physical stormwater infrastructure and *indirectly* through land use and land management decisions that impact water. Many of these agencies are leveraging geospatial technology as a means of conducting their work and having consistent, standardized geodata representing stormwater assets to meet clearly defined shared business needs assists them in working more efficiently and effectively.

>> Has any prior project like this taken place?

Yes. The **MSWGP** effort builds upon prior studies, reports and work conducted from 2008 to 2010 by stakeholders from local and state government agencies and the private sector to create a data exchange standard in Minnesota. This draft standard is an important starting point for the work of the **MSWGP**. From 2013, informal interviews were conducted around the metro with over twenty stakeholder agencies about their potential need for a project of this nature. As other regional project priorities successfully transitioned into ‘maintenance mode’, capacity was freed up for work to begin anew on a regional stormwater data standard and dataset solution.

>> Is there support from agencies and leadership to conduct this work?

Yes. The **MSWGP** has been identified as a priority project by the MetroGIS collaborative, ranking as Priority #2 on its 2019 Work Plan. The **MSWGP** has as its ‘project champion’ Hennepin County Commissioner Debbie Goettel and has received support from the MetroGIS Policy Board (comprised of both elected and appointed senior officials), leadership at the Metropolitan Council, management level leadership at the Seven Metropolitan Counties and the Board of the Metro Chapter of the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts. As the project begins to take shape and the Steering Team conducts its work and begins to produce deliverables from its actions, the **MSWGP** Coordinating Team will extend its outreach to other agencies to garner their support.

>> Who can I contact if I have questions or wish to participate?

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