

How to Use Capital Crossroads Stormwater Management Document

This document contains consensus language for standards for the future management of stormwater in the Des Moines metro area. The language is a baseline standard, meaning that an individual jurisdiction may choose to adopt something more restrictive if desired.

The language is not proscriptive with regards to tools and techniques used. Standards for stormwater quality and quantity are established and a designer may choose from a suite of tools and techniques to best accomplish the standard on their development site. If there is a given tool or technique not desired by an individual jurisdiction, that jurisdiction may indicate in their code that a given tool or technique is not allowed within their jurisdiction.

Whenever language appears that is **[bold and bracketed]** this represents an area where a jurisdiction needs to insert language specific to their jurisdiction, or an area that was discussed but was not a consensus item. In these cases, sample language has been given for those jurisdictions that choose to adopt that standard.

Capital Crossroads Stormwater Management Process

In February 2018, Capital Crossroads met with MIALG, a group of central Iowa mayors, along with their city managers, to determine the next topic for Capital Crossroads Local Governance Collaborative (LGC). MIALG identified stormwater management as of regional importance and in need of improvement.

Following MIALG, an education series was held. This series brought together staff and other interested parties from across the metro to learn about stormwater management methods and tools that are being done both in Iowa and in surrounding states and the improved outcomes derived from adopting new standards. Specifically discussed were the Iowa Stormwater Management Manual (ISWMM) and the Unified Sizing Criteria. After nine education sessions, it was decided that the project should continue and should develop new stormwater management standards for the metro area. Staff presented what they learned to the Des Moines Area HBA twice and to the Iowa Commercial Real Estate Association sharing lessons and inviting members of both groups to participate in the next phase developing standards.

Prior to convening to develop standards, two of the three Tri-Chairs for Capital Crossroads LGC, Mayor Sara Kurovski of Pleasant Hill and Mayor Bob Andeweg of Urbandale spent the summer of 2019 visiting all of the city councils in the metro to inform them of the education their staff had received and the next steps for the project. There was agreement from all councils that the status quo of stormwater management in the region needed to change and approval was given for staff from each city to spend time working to develop new standards. Also heavily involved in this project have been Gretchen Tegler and Art Whitmack from the Central Iowa Taxpayers Association and Jim Sanders, City Manager for Johnston who has served as the city manager liaison for Capital Crossroads.

Key Lessons Learned

1. Since 2004 and projected through 2024, local governments have spent in excess of \$415 million on stormwater projects and operation.
2. The amount expected to be expended is increasing for most cities.
3. Previous design standards are no longer sufficient and new standards are needed in order to avoid costs associated with perpetuation of designs and standards that are known to cause future problems.
4. Proactive design is cheaper and less disruptive in the long term.
5. There are tested best management practices (BMPs) that are available in the Iowa Stormwater Management Manual, that provide real long-term benefit to cities and their taxpayers.

6. Watershed Management Authorities (WMAs) are proactively working upstream with Ag interests to address stormwater before it reaches metro communities.
7. For every 100 acres of land to be developed, moving from current standards to those proposed by Capital Crossroads would likely require an additional 0.4 to 1.5 acres of the land to be set aside for stormwater management (variance is based on local soil conditions and proposed land uses).