Blackberry Creek Watershed Impairments

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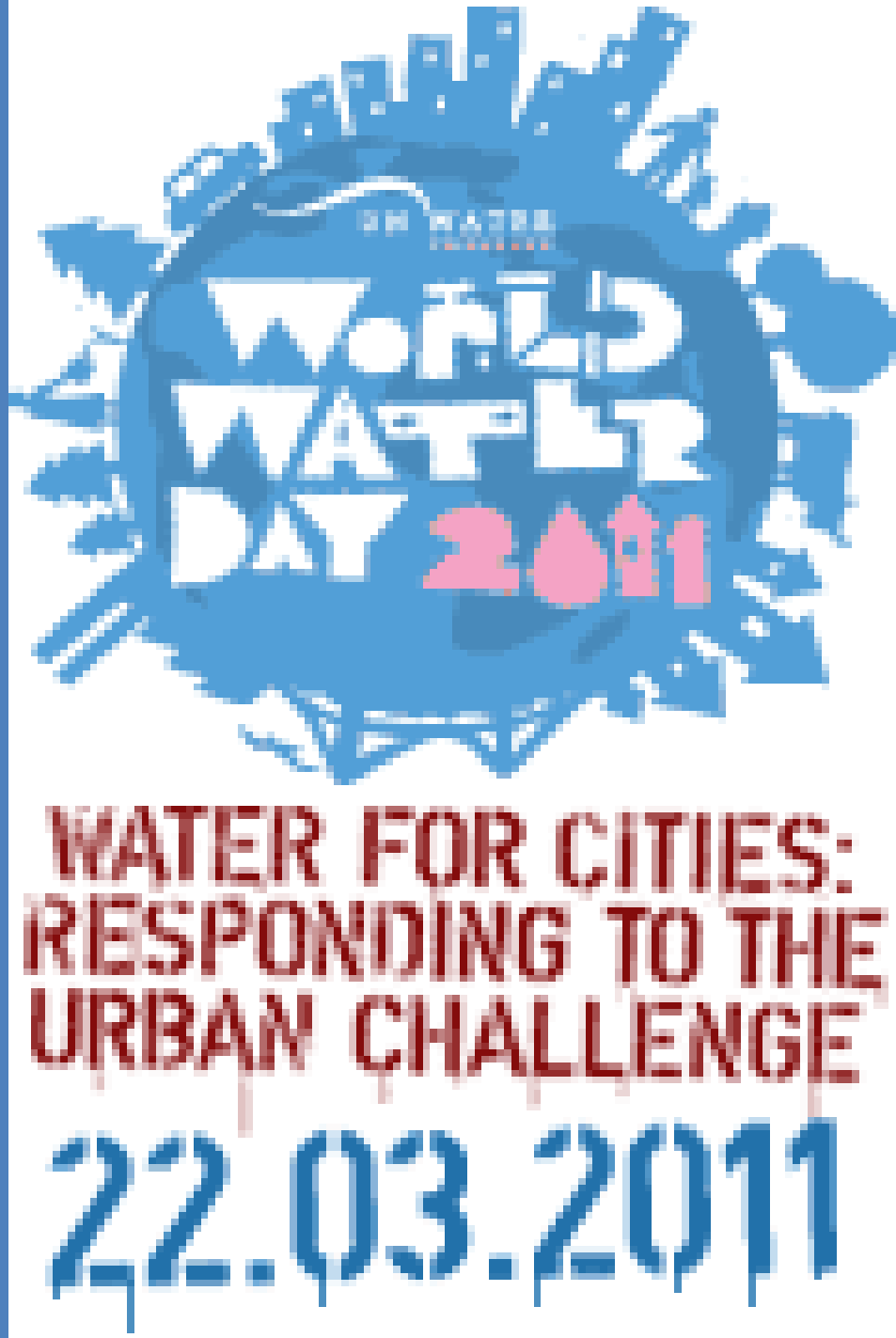
CHICAGO METROPOLITAN AGENCY FOR PLANNING

Happy World Water Day!!!!



Blackberry Creek Assessment

- Introductory discussion to understand terms and conditions in preparation for model output discussion next month
- Blackberry Creek: assessed for aquatic life & primary contact
- Not assessed for: fish consumption, secondary contact, aesthetic quality

Blackberry Creek Use Attainments

- Fully supporting: Aquatic Life
- Not supporting: Primary Contact*
- Cause: Fecal Coliform
- Source: Unknown

*: *"any recreational or other water use in which there is prolonged and intimate contact with the water involving considerable risk of ingesting water in quantities sufficient to pose a significant health hazard, such as swimming and water skiing."* 35 Ill. Adm. Code

Lower Fox River

- Not supporting: aquatic life, fish consumption, and primary contact
- Causes: sedimentation/siltation, TSS, total P, aquatic algae, PCBs, and fecal coliform
- Sources: contaminated sediments, dam/impoundment, urban runoff/storm sewers, agriculture, municipal point source discharges, and unknown sources

Definition of Terms

- Degree of support/attainment depends on designated use, determined by analyses of information/data collected from sampling
- Designated/Beneficial Uses: aquatic life, aesthetic quality, fish consumption, primary contact, secondary contact, etc.
- Degree of Support: Fully supporting, Not Supporting/Impaired

Pollution

- "*Man-made or man-induced alteration of the chemical, physical, biological, and radiological integrity of a water body.*" CWA Section 502(19)
- Pollutants: "*substances, chemical, materials or wastes and their components that are discharged into the water.*" IL Integrated Water Quality Report, 2010

Standards

".. protect existing uses of all water of the State of Illinois, maintain the quality of waters with quality that is better than water quality standards, and prevent unnecessary deterioration of waters of the State." IPCB antideg. statement

- Fecal coliform:
  - Unit: count (Colony Forming Units) per 100 milliliter
  - General use standard*: 200- 400 count/100 ml
- Total Phosphorus:
  - Unit: milligrams per liter
  - General use standard: 0.05 mg/L

*: established by the IL Pollution Control Board, apply to almost all waters of the state and are intended to protect aquatic life, wildlife, agricultural, primary contact, secondary contact, and most industrial uses.

Economic Benefits of Water Quality Improvements

- Increased opportunities for water-based recreational activities
- Enhances commercial and sport fisheries
- Recovery of damaged aquatic environments
- Reduced costs of water treatment to municipal and industrial users