

About This Guide

Purpose

This guide is for state and local public works managers who are interested in integrating watershed management into their strategic municipal asset management process.¹ Using this guide, these managers can

- identify municipal infrastructure assets and activities that can adversely affect the surrounding watershed (reducing asset values) and
- mitigate these potential effects.

Using the guide's step-by-step approach, municipal managers can integrate watershed management into strategic asset management, using current asset management techniques to achieve municipal strategic goals.

The guide addresses the key environmental conditions within a municipality's watershed that influence strategic asset management decisions. The guidance consists of a series of self-assessment forms, which, when completed, create a municipal watershed impact assessment and action plan. This plan, which should be incorporated into the strategic municipal asset management process, includes the following:

- A description of the designated uses for the municipality's waterbodies and associated impairments
- A baseline of municipal land-use categories and activities that can contribute to the waterbody impairments or adversely affect general watershed health
- A prioritized inventory of discrete municipal activities that can impact the environment and contribute to known impairments within the watersheds

¹ Property owners interested in assessing their property's impact on the watershed will also find this guide useful.

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- Project-based solutions for cost-effectively mitigating the environmental burden of each activity—with a focus on low-impact development, bioengineering, and pollution prevention—in an easy-to-use format with all the necessary information (such as justification, benefits, regulatory drivers, appropriate funding sources, cost estimates, schedules, and potential project partners)
 - A baseline from which to monitor progress over time.

Note: Watershed assessment approaches vary. Municipal managers can integrate the results of other watershed assessment approaches into their asset management approach as long as the assessment results in a prioritized list of activities and projects derived from a quantitative scoring method.

Organization

Chapter 1 explains how to integrate watershed management into strategic asset management. It begins with an overview of typical municipal asset management issues and their impacts on watersheds. It then examines the strategic asset management approach, explains why watershed management is a critical dimension, and describes how to integrate watershed management into the strategic process.

Chapters 2 through 6 contain a series of self-assessment forms and technical information, which give municipal managers the tools necessary to develop a municipal watershed impact assessment and action plan that can be incorporated into their strategic municipal asset management process. Text in sidebars emphasizes action items, tips, and useful tools.

Chapter 7 tells how to implement the action plan, track its progress, and update watershed projects as required.