

KVCC - STORMWATER NEUTRAL[®] VERIFIED KALAMAZOO, MI

Kalamazoo Valley Community College (KVCC) has demonstrated a strong emphasis for sustainability through tackling stormwater runoff challenges on its Texas Township campus. KVCC is a permitted Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) within the Portage-Arcadia Creek Watershed in Kalamazoo, Michigan. As such, it falls within the nonpoint source (NPS) load allocation for a phosphorus total maximum daily load (TMDL) developed for the Kalamazoo River and Lake Allegan. The Kalamazoo River TMDL was established in 2001 and requires a 50% reduction in total phosphorus (TP) originating from NPSs, using the 1998 load as a baseline. The original timeline outlined in the TMDL set 2009 as the target date for meeting the NPS reduction goal. To date, only one other MS4 entity in the 1,600 square-mile watershed above Lake Allegan has been able to document attainment of this load allocation goal. However, KVCC has gone above and beyond this requirement.

KVCC has built a reputation for incorporating sustainable practices on their main campus with multiple green roof areas, low impact development landscaping with native vegetation, environmental curriculum offerings, a wind turbine, 2011 LEED Silver building additions, electric car plug-in ports, and on-site stormwater treatment.

KVCC set out to become the second MS4 to document progress as well as achieve the TMDL 50% TP reduction goal. With a stormwater footprint of approximately 80 acres (58% impervious), including more than 9 acres of building footprint and approximately 9,700 students, this was a substantial challenge. Throughout the past five years, KVCC has been an active partner and a leader in implementation of stormwater controls on its campus and within the watershed. The College's efforts have utilized federal/state grant funding and strategic MS4 partnerships to implement stormwater



controls identified within an EPA-approved Watershed Management Plan. KVCC has not only achieved the TMDL 50% reduction goal, but also systematically eliminated all stormwater outfalls from the main campus. This entire campus is now Stormwater Neutral[®] verified (i.e., net-zero phosphorus discharge from their stormwater footprint). As a result, KVCC has now become the second MS4 within the Kalamazoo River Watershed to achieve this unique distinction.

STORMWATER NEUTRAL[®]

KVCC has achieved Stormwater Neutral[®] verification status through strategic, cost-effective planning. The project team leveraged State and Federal grants for the implementation of these projects. Quantifying the water quality benefits for each potential project has allowed the project team and University to implement the most cost-effective stormwater controls. This noteworthy accomplishment has been conducted voluntarily by KVCC and is above and beyond any MS4 stormwater program requirements.

Contact:

Mr. Mike Collins
Executive V.P. for Enrollment & Campus Operations
Kalamazoo Valley Community College
6767 West O Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI 49009
(269) 488-4298

