

## 19. Solid Waste Transfer Station (Map M)

Site number: M-1

Overall size: 48.53 acres

Ownership: Other Public

Subwatershed: Des Plaines River

### Mapped Land Cover on Site:

**Emergent Wetland/Marsh (0.74 acre):** Small depressional area at northwest corner of site along N. Des Plaines River Road; dominated by common reed.

**Wet/Wet-Mesic Forest (26.78 acres):** Young wet woods primarily associated with Des Plaines River corridor; dominated by green ash, cottonwood, box elder, walnut, buckthorn, and garlic mustard.

**Prairie (4.84 acres):** Small restored prairie west of Waste Station building; dominated by native prairie grasses.

**Old Field (8.20 acres):** Fallow ground east of waste station building dominated by cool-season grasses and goldenrod.

**Wet-Bottom Detention Basin (1.32 acres):** Stormwater storage area south of waste station building; surrounded entirely by turf grass.

**Developed (6.67 acres):** Roads, employment parking, trailer parking, and waste station building.



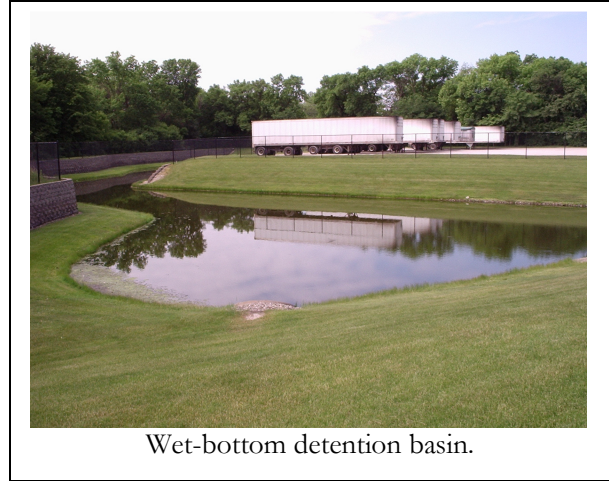
**Existing Ecological Conditions:** The Solid Waste Transfer Station is located within the Des Plaines River environmental corridor. The developed portion of the site is centrally located. Much of the southern and eastern portions of the site consist of wet/wet-mesic forest along the Des Plaines River. Old field vegetation lies immediately east of the waste station, while restored prairie lies just west. A small emergent wetland area is located in the northwest portion of the site along N. Des Plaines River Road. Stormwater runoff from the site discharges to a wet-bottom detention facility to the south of the developed area. The



basin slopes are lined with turf grass, and the shoreline is lined with gravel rip rap.

**Restoration and Management Recommendations:** Various land management and restoration opportunities present themselves at this site. First, the restored prairie is being invaded by teasel and other weedy species. Spot herbiciding followed by controlled burns conducted at least every three years could be implemented to improve the health of the prairie. Species diversity could be increased in the prairie by supplemental seeding with native forb species.

A second restoration opportunity presents itself in the old field area. Old fields are generally good prairie restoration areas. Wet-bottom detention basins with turf slopes, such as the one observed at the waste station, do not generally help to improve the quality of stormwater runoff and do not provide wildlife habitat. Thus, a third opportunity is introducing a native prairie buffer to this basin is a relatively easy and inexpensive retrofit.



Wet-bottom detention basin.

Lastly, the wet/wet-mesic forest along the Des Plains River could be brushed of invasives to help stabilize the soils and increase the overall health of the community.