Cecily Cunz, AICP
Environmental Planner

EDUCATION

M.A., Urban Planning & Policy, University of IL - Chicago
B.S., Business Administration, University of IL – Urbana-Champaign

Joined Firm in 2023

Years of Experience: 13

TRAINING/CERTIFICATION

Latino Management Accelerator: Adaptability & Resilience (Dec 2022); Problem Solving (Feb 2023); Strategy (March 2023)
AICP Certification #029193
APA, ILAPA
Geospatial Analysis & Visualization Certificate, University of IL, Chicago

Cecily is a seasoned professional who brings a wealth of expertise in planning and policy development. She has become a recognized expert in watershed and green infrastructure planning, helping communities navigate complex environmental challenges and achieve meaningful restoration outcomes. As an AICP-certified senior environmental planner, Cecily's track record of success is underscored by her ability to lead diverse stakeholder groups in driving impactful environmental improvements within their localities. Her dedication to sustainable solutions has resulted in significant contributions to various projects that have left a positive mark on the communities with which she has worked.

Cecily has partnered with communities to develop over a dozen watershed plans across the Midwest. She served as Project Manager for the Pike River Watershed Plan, the first USEPA-approved watershed plan in Wisconsin, the Fredonia-Newburg Watershed Plan in Fredonia, WI, the Catfish Creek Watershed Management plan in Iowa, Keith Creek Watershed-Based Plan, and the Upper South Branch Kishwaukee River Watershed Improvement Plan in Illinois. She also helped develop the Keith Creek, Little Rock Creek, Mahoney Creek, Long Run Creek, Wind Point, Spring Creek, Flint Creek, and Woods Creek watershed plans across Illinois and Wisconsin. In addition, Cecily led a planning and visioning process to develop a trail and greenway network in Coles County, Illinois, and another to develop the Sugar Creek Greenway Vision Plan in McLean County, Illinois.

REPRESENTATIVE PROJECTS

WATERSHED PLANS

DeKalb County Soil & Water Conservation District
Central South Brank Kishwaukee Watershed-Based Plan
Cecily and her team are working closely with the District and stakeholders to develop an IEPA-approved Watershed-Based Plan for the Central South Branch Kishwaukee River Watershed. This watershed includes the City of Genoa, Villages of Kirkland and Kingston, and unincorporated communities of Wilkinson, Five Points, and Colvin Park. The watershed boasts uncommon ecosystems in need of protection, including floodplain forests, a fen, grassland birds, fish, and mussels.

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

Bloomington and Normal Water Reclamation District, IL
Sugar Creek Greenway Vision Plan
Cecily is working with the District to determine the initial feasibility of creating the Sugar Creek Greenway – a connected conservation greenway corridor along Sugar Creek in McLean County, Illinois. Project goals include identifying ways the greenway could serve as a nutrient sink for the District, a brief study of existing conditions within the Greenway project area, determining potential restorations that could occur on each parcel, expanding McLean County's trail network and recreational opportunities, identifying potential connections to existing and planned trails, prioritizing parcels for acquisition and restoration, and identifying potential sources of funding available to create the Greenway.

STORMWATER

Bloomington, IL
East Street Basin
The City is split between MS4 areas and Combined sewer areas. Flooding has plagued the City, especially in the combined sewer areas, for decades; with records of flooding going back over 100 years. Much of the flooding issues are due to the local topography with many small to moderate hills creating many low pockets with overland flow routes. As the undersized sewers reach and excited their capacity, the stormwater will pond up in the low-lying pockets flooding homes and impeding roadways. Baxter & Woodman converted the original XPSWMM model to ICM and expanded the model to include a more detailed consideration of the watersheds tributary to the proposed East Street Basin. Hydrologic and Hydraulic modeling and cost-benefit considerations were performed to determine the improvements that would be both the most efficient and economical, as well as best consider future projects in the area. Design is currently underway for a multi-phased, holistic remedy that includes an approximately 22-acre stormwater detention basin at the site of the current City Public Works Yard.

Glenview, IL
2023 Stormwater Management
Provide on-call stormwater, planning, and grant writing assistance, provide for the Local Drainage Inspection Program, maintain the Villages NPDES MS4 program and CRS program, and lead stormwater grant application efforts.

Flossmoor, IL
Road Detention Assessment
A preliminary design memorandum and plan were developed by Baxter & Woodman in 2020 to address flooding along Berry Lane, and at the viaduct east of the intersection of Flossmoor Road and Sterling Avenue. At the time, the preferred route was to direct the new relief sewers to a proposed detention facility behind Heather Hill School. Since then, the Village has developed interest in a potential route and detention along Flossmoor Road. This assessment took a detailed look at potential sewer routes and detention options along Flossmoor Road to Butterfield Creek.