



Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

Bureau of Water • 1021 N. Grand Avenue E. • P.O. Box 19276 • Springfield • Illinois • 62794-9276

ANNUAL FACILITY INSPECTION REPORT

for NPDES Permit for Storm Water Discharges from Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4)

This fillable form may be completed online, a copy saved locally, printed and signed before it is submitted to the Compliance Assurance Section at the above address. Complete each section of this report.

Report Period: From March, 2019 To March, 2020

Permit No. ILR40 0510

MS4 OPERATOR INFORMATION: (As it appears on the current permit)

Name: City of Belvidere Mailing Address 1: 401 Whitney Blvd.
Mailing Address 2: _____ County: Boone
City: Belvidere State: IL Zip: 61008 Telephone: 815-544-9256
Contact Person: Brent Anderson Email Address: banderson@ci.belvidere.il.us
(Person responsible for Annual Report)

Name(s) of governmental entity(ies) in which MS4 is located: (As it appears on the current permit)

City of Belvidere

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS MUST BE ADDRESSED.

A. Changes to best management practices (check appropriate BMP change(s) and attach information

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Public Education and Outreach <input type="checkbox"/> | 4. Construction Site Runoff Control <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Public Participation/Involvement <input type="checkbox"/> | 5. Post-Construction Runoff Control <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Illicit Discharge Detection & Elimination <input type="checkbox"/> | 6. Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping <input type="checkbox"/> |

B. Attach the status of compliance with permit conditions, an assessment of the appropriateness of your identified best management practices and progress towards achieving the statutory goal of reducing the discharge of pollutants to the

C. Attach results of information collected and analyzed, including monitoring data, if any during the reporting period.

D. Attach a summary of the storm water activities you plan to undertake during the next reporting cycle (including an implementation schedule.)

E. Attach notice that you are relying on another government entity to satisfy some of your permit obligations (if applicable).

F. Attach a list of construction projects that your entity has paid for during the reporting period.

Any person who knowingly makes a false, fictitious, or fraudulent material statement, orally or in writing, to the Illinois EPA commits a Class 4 felony. A second or subsequent offense after conviction is a Class 3 felony. (415 ILCS 5/44(h))

Owner Signature:

Brent Anderson

Printed Name:

5/26/20

Date:

Director of Public Works

Title:

EMAIL COMPLETED FORM TO:

or Mail to: ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WATER POLLUTION CONTROL
COMPLIANCE ASSURANCE SECTION #19
1021 NORTH GRAND AVENUE EAST
POST OFFICE BOX 19276
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62794-9276



CITY OF BELVIDERE

**ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
ANNUAL FACILITY INSPECTION REPORT
NPDES PERMIT FOR STORM WATER DISCHARGES
FROM MUNICIPAL SEPARATE STORM SEWER SYSTEMS (MS4)**

**2020 ANNUAL FACILITY INSPECTION REPORT
MARCH 2019 TO MARCH 2020 REPORTING PERIOD**

A. CHANGES TO BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

There were no changes to the Best Management Practices (BMPs) commitments in the City of Belvidere's Notice of Intent (NOI) for the reporting period.

B. STATUS OF COMPLIANCE WITH PERMIT CONDITIONS

The City of Belvidere committed to implement several BMPs in order to meet the requirements of the NPDES MS4 Permit. This section summarizes the implementation of the BMPs during the reporting period. The status or progress for each of the measurable goals related to these BMPs is presented below.

Along with the City's implementation activities, the City works with other agencies that also implement MS4 program activities:

-) The Boone County Conservation District and the Boone County Soil and Water Conservation District provide public education activities for all County residents.
-) The Boone County Soil & Water Conservation District reviews all subdivision plans and conducts on-site inspections during construction on behalf of the City for sediment and erosion control.
-) The Belvidere/Boone County Planning Department administers the Boone County Comprehensive Plan.
-) The Boone County Soil and Water Conservation District, along with the City, administers the regulation of storm water runoff facilities and improvement of

stormwater quality through the use of structural BMP's for all new developments and redevelopments

-) The Boone County Health Department inspects, reviews and permits septic systems within the City.

BMP No. A.1 Distribute Paper Material

Measurable Goal(s), including frequencies: Improve access to information and provide a resource for citizens.

Milestones: Monitor distribution/availability of material, add new material and update website as needed. Place pollution prevention messages on water bills.

BMP Status: The City continues to maintain a kiosk of information in the entry of City Hall, including stormwater and pollution prevention. The City also includes pollution prevention messages on water bills.

BMP No. A.3 Public Service Announcement

Measurable Goal(s), including frequencies: The City will promote pollution prevention on its cable channel by public service announcement annually.

Milestones: Post advertisements on the cable channel prior to events.

BMP Status: Stormwater pollution prevention information is provided on local cable access Channel 20.

BMP No. A.6 Other Public Education

Measurable Goal(s), including frequencies: The City will educate local citizens at public forums to discuss proposed public improvement projects.

Milestones: Provide public forums annually.

BMP Status: Storm sewer pollution prevention was discussed during an annual budget presentation.

BMP No. B.1 Public Panel

Measurable Goal(s), including frequencies: The City will attend meetings and local partnership functions. Representatives of the BCSWCD and BCCD have permanent seats on the Kishwaukee River Ecosystem Partnership Council.

Milestones: Attend Regional Storm Water Management Committee and Northern Regional Groundwater Committee functions.

BMP Status: Two representatives from the City are on the Regional Storm Water Management Committee, which is tasked with developing and maintaining the Boone County Comprehensive Stormwater Management Plan.

One representative from the City is on the Northern Regional Groundwater Protection Planning Committee, which is tasked with public education and local government assistance in protecting the ground water resources of the northern region of Illinois.

A link is maintained on the City's website for the Kishwaukee River Ecosystem Partnership (KREP).

BMP No. B.6 Program Involvement

Measurable Goal(s), including frequencies: Participation in events and public involvement programs sponsored by the BCSWCD and BCCD.

Milestones: Work release cleanup of specific areas of the City. BCCD & BCSWCD to continue their public education and outreach activities.

BMP Status: BCCD conducted numerous public outreach and involvement events in the reporting period that reached thousands of people, and included pollution prevention and stormwater BMP information. A summary report of these events is attached to this report.

BMP No. C.1 Storm Sewer Map Preparation

Measurable Goal(s), including frequencies: Map the complete system and integrate map into City-wide GIS database.

Milestones: Complete 10% of database.

BMP Status: Work continues on developing the City-wide GIS database storm sewer system map. During the reporting period, 47 sub-divisions were added in part or in full to the GIS database.

BMP No. C.2 Regulatory Control Program

Measurable Goal(s), including frequencies: Boone County Health Department reviews and administers permits for septic systems. The City will screen stormwater outfalls, and report discharges to City Attorney for enforcement.

Milestones: Monitor elimination of illegal septic systems and update regulations as needed. Continue outfall screening.

BMP Status: The Boone County Health Department continues to inspect, review and permit septic systems within the watershed.

The City inspected 45 outfalls. No illicit discharges were found.

BMP No. D.1-D.6 Construction Site Runoff Control

Measurable Goal(s), including frequencies: All new development and redevelopment projects within City limits comply with Ordinances 151.42 and 151.45 which regulate storm water runoff and sediment and erosion control.

Milestones: BCSWCD annual report of activities submitted to City.

BMP Status: The City continues to enforce local ordinances 151.42 and 151.45 regulating stormwater runoff, sediment and erosion control. The Boone County Soil & Water Conservation District continues to review all subdivision plans and conducts on site inspections during construction on behalf of the City for sediment and erosion control.

BMP No. E.1 Community Control Strategy

Measurable Goal(s), including frequencies: Review plan annually and update for new issues. 100% of new developments to comply with the plan.

Milestones: Monitor compliance at all Planning & Zoning Board meetings.

BMP Status: The Belvidere/Boone County Planning Department continues to administer the Boone County Comprehensive Plan.

BMP No. E.2/E.4 Regulatory Control Program & Pre-Construction Review of BMP Designs

Measurable Goal(s), including frequencies: All new developments and redevelopments comply with ordinance.

Milestones: BCSWCD and City will continue reviewing plans.

BMP Status: The City and the Boone County Soil and Water Conservation District continue to administer the regulation of storm water runoff facilities and improvement of stormwater quality through the use of structural BMP's for all new developments and redevelopments

BMP No. E.5/E6 Site Inspections During Construction & Post-Construction Inspections

Measurable Goal(s), including frequencies: All construction site inspections routinely and finished developments inspected annually.

Milestones: Continue annual inspection of detention ponds that have been completed and accepted by the City.

BMP Status: Completed maintenance inspections on active detention ponds along with outfall screening.

BMP No. F.1 Employee Training Program

Measurable Goal(s), including frequencies: Train City employees annually on identifying illicit discharges and other pollution prevention measures.

Milestones: Continue employee training in pollution prevention.

BMP Status: Training of City employees on stormwater pollution prevention is ongoing. The City's MS4 program consultant provided stormwater pollution prevention and illicit discharge detection and elimination training on November 13, 2019.

BMP No. F.2 Inspection and Maintenance Program

Measurable Goal(s), including frequencies: Sweep 100% of streets twice per year. Perform annual fall leaf pickup program for 100% of corporate limits. Control dumping and runoff from snow storage site.

Milestones: Continue tracking and reporting sweeper hours monthly and leaf pickup crew hours annually. Continue monitoring runoff and retrain employees at the annual snow-meeting. Control dumping and runoff from snow storage site.

BMP Status: The City continues to sweep streets on a regular basis, conduct the fall leaf pickup program as well as conducting a branch pickup program twice a year. Staff have been trained on winter deicing material and salt storage and handling.

BMP No. F.4 Municipal Operations Waste Disposal

Measurable Goal(s), including frequencies: Properly collect and recycle waste fluids.

Milestones: Review existing recycling effectiveness and renew contract.

BMP Status: All fluids from City equipment maintained at the Street Department are properly collected and recycled.

C. INFORMATION AND DATA COLLECTION RESULTS

Water quality sampling was performed upstream and downstream of the City's storm sewer system area. Quarterly samples were taken on January 4, March 15, July 3, and December 30, 2019. Data is available from the City for review. Stormwater outfalls were inspected, including visual observations, and no illicit discharges or other issues were identified.

D. SUMMARY OF NEXT REPORTING PERIOD STORMWATER ACTIVITIES

The following activities are planned to be performed during the next reporting period:

BMP No. A.1 Distribute Paper Material

Measurable Goal(s), including frequencies: Improve access to information and provide a resource for citizens.

Milestones: Monitor distribution/availability of material, add new material and update website as needed. Place pollution prevention messages on the water bills.

BMP No. A.3 Public Service Announcement

Measurable Goal(s), including frequencies: The City will promote pollution prevention on their cable channel by public service announcement annually.

Milestones: Post advertisements on the cable channel prior to events.

BMP No. A.6 Other Public Education

Measurable Goal(s), including frequencies: The City will educate local citizens at public forums to discuss proposed public improvement projects.

Milestones: Provide public forums twice per year.

BMP No. B.1 Public Panel

Measurable Goal(s), including frequencies: The City will have 90% attendance at meetings and Partnership functions. Representatives of the BCSWCD and BCCD have permanent seats on the Kishwaukee River Ecosystem Partnership Council.

Milestones: Attend Regional Storm Water Management Committee and Northern Regional Groundwater Committee functions.

BMP No. B.6 Program Involvement

Measurable Goal(s), including frequencies: Monitor and obtain annual report from annual events and programs sponsored by the BCSWCD and BCCD.

Milestones: Work release cleanup of specific areas of the City. BCCD & BCSWCD to continue their public education and outreach activities.

BMP No. C.1 Storm Sewer Map Preparation

Measurable Goal(s), including frequencies: Map complete system and integrate map into City-wide GIS database (approximately 50% complete to date).

Milestones: Complete 10% of database.

BMP No. C.2 Regulatory Control Program

Measurable Goal(s), including frequencies: Boone County Health Department reviews and administers permits for septic systems. The City will inspect outfalls and report violations to City Attorney for enforcement.

Milestones: Monitor elimination of illegal septic systems and update regulations as needed. Continue outfall inspections.

BMP No. D.1-D.6 Construction Site Runoff Control

Measurable Goal(s), including frequencies: All new development and redevelopment projects within City limits comply with Ordinances 151.42 and 151.45 which regulate storm water runoff and sediment and erosion control.

Milestones: BCSWCD annual report of activities submitted to City.

BMP No. E.1 Community Control Strategy

Measurable Goal(s), including frequencies: Review plan annually and update for new issues. 100% of new developments to comply with the plan.

Milestones: Monitor compliance at all Planning & Zoning Board meetings.

BMP No. E.2/E.4 Regulatory Control Program & Pre-Construction Review of BMP Designs

Measurable Goal(s), including frequencies: All new developments and redevelopments comply with ordinance.

Milestones: BCSWCD and City will continue reviewing plans.

BMP No. E.5/E.6 Site Inspections During Construction & Post-Construction Inspections

Measurable Goal(s), including frequencies: All construction site inspections routinely and finished developments inspected annually.

Milestones: Continue annual inspection of detention ponds that have been completed and accepted by the City.

BMP No. F.1 Employee Training Program

Measurable Goal(s), including frequencies: Train City employees annually on identifying illicit discharges and other pollution prevention measures. Estimated two hours annually.

Milestones: Continue employee training in pollution prevention.

BMP No. F.2 Inspection and Maintenance Program

Measurable Goal(s), including frequencies: Sweep 100% of streets twice per year. Perform annual fall leaf pickup program for 100% of corporate limits. Ensure no illicit discharges from snow disposal site.

Milestones: Continue tracking and reporting sweeper hours monthly and leaf pickup crew hours annually. Continue monitoring runoff and retrain employees at the annual snow-meeting.

BMP No. F.4 Municipal Operations Waste Disposal

Measurable Goal(s), including frequencies: All waste fluids are collected and recycled.

Milestones: Review existing recycling effectiveness and renew contract.

E. NOTICE OF RELIANCE ON ANOTHER GOVERNMENT ENTITY

The City coordinates with and relies on the Boone County Soil & Water Conservation District to satisfy BMP D.1-D.6, Construction Site Runoff Control, and BMP E.2/E.4 Regulatory Control Program & Pre-Construction Review of BMP Designs.

The City coordinates with and relies on the Boone County Conservation District to satisfy BMP B.6, Public Participation and Involvement. BCCD provides an annual report of activities, which supplements this report.

F. CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS CONDUCTED DURING REPORTING PERIOD

City owned projects greater than one acre that were active during the reporting period:

) Belvidere Brownfield Project, Permit #ILR10P521

Summary Report For 2019

Boone County Conservation District (BCCD) Public Outreach Efforts Relative to:

1. Stormwater management best management practices
2. Erosion and sediment control
3. Preservation of surface and groundwater quality
4. Acquisition of important conservation lands to preserve and enhance ecological functions & values
5. Conversion of acquired cropland to native plant communities to implement Illinois State Wildlife Action Plan goals and objectives

Educational Programs:

| Program | Program Description | Target Audience | Date(s) | Number of Participants |
|---|---|---|--|---|
| Groundwater Festival | More than 360 Fourth and Fifth Grade Students, teachers, and chaperones from Boone and Winnebago Counties attended the annual Groundwater Festival held at Rock Valley College. This event is organized and sponsored by several local agencies and organizations. The students, teachers, and guests travel to four different learning stations that have an expert demonstrator to discuss issues associated with water quality, groundwater infiltration and stormwater runoff, and much more. | Fourth and fifth grade classes from school districts within the region. | March 23, 2019 | Approximately 360 |
| Trout Unlimited Highschool Project (Six classes from | Trout Unlimited funds students from Chicago area schools to visit the Kinnikinnick Creek Conservation Area for a water ecology field experience. | Six High School Classes from six different schools. | April 30 through May 4 th , 2018 | Approximately 200 students, parents and teachers |
| Boone County Water Preservation and Protection Action Committee | <p>A group of local officials representing the City of Belvidere, Boone County, Boone County Conservation District, Boone County Soil and Water Conservation District, Farm Bureau, the local Parks & Conservation Foundation, citizens at large and other organizations.</p> <p>This Committee has formed several subcommittees and is working to develop tools (maps) that identify sensitive aquifer recharge areas, funding to assess and develop 3-Dimensional groundwater modeling, and establish measures to protect and sustain water resources in this area.</p> | On-going effort – public officials, general public, municipal water supply, and local/regional community outreach | Monthly meetings or meetings as needed to facilitate momentum and progress | Active membership consists of local agency staff and other committee members – approximately 12 people. |

| Program | Program Description | Target Audience | Date(s) | Number of Participants |
|--|--|---|---|---|
| Belvidere Noon Rotary | Presentation on Regional Groundwater Issues with a focus on how the deep sandstone aquifers are influenced by a regional cone of depression emanating from an epicenter located at Joliet, Illinois | Community Business People | March 27, 2019 | Approximately 30 People |
| Environmental AP Class – Hononegah High School | Field Experience at Kinnikinnick Creek Conservation Area. Aquatic assessment of Kinnikinnick Creek. | AP Environmental Science Students | Wednesday, April 17, 2019 | 40 students, teachers and chaparones |
| Comcast Cares Community Clean-up Event | BCCD organizes an annual volunteer trail clean-up trash and debris at Spencer Conservation Area & Belvidere Park District sites . This clean-up removes debris that might otherwise degrade local, high quality streams. The volunteers also clean and remove debris from the City of Belvidere stormwater conveyance ditch that outlets into a high quality wetland. And the volunteers cleaned trash and debris from the banks of the Kishwaukee River at both the Belvidere Park and Spencer Conservation Area. | General Public, Bike Clubs, Scout Groups, other Youth Organizations and Service Clubs. Regional Audience | April 27, 2019 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. | 150 Volunteers |
| Illinois Extension Service – Master Naturalist Certification Program | Course runs seven weeks meeting once each week. A wide range of natural resource topics are covered. BCCD Staff taught several sessions of this course including: Environmental Ethics; Native Habitats of Northern Illinois; Geology and Soils of Northern Illinois; and Native Cultural History. | U of I Extension Master Naturalist Training Program participants | April - May 2019 Four, three-hour sessions | 12 Participants at each training session |
| | | | | |
| R1 Metropolitan Agency Planning Technical Committee | Provide natural resource and environmental perspective to regional transportation and infrastructure planning. | Local & Regional Public Officials, Transportation Professionals, Municipal and County Planning Agencies | Monthly Meetings (3 rd Thursday of each month) | 35 – 40 regular participants |
| R1 Environmental Committee | The Committee has been structured to function with several subcommittees. The BCCD participates in the Subcommittee focused on water. | Local & Regional Public Officials, Transportation Professionals, Municipal and County Planning Agencies | Meetings occur on a quarterly basis with subcommittees meeting as needed to accomplish goals and objectives | Approximately 30 regular participants. The water subcommittee has 5 to 8 regular committee members. |

| Program | Program Description | Target Audience | Date(s) | Number of Participants |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Boone County Fair | The BCCD and the Northern Regional Groundwater Planning and Protection Committee rent a large tent and set-up a display. This year's theme was focused on reducing single-use plastics and their effect on water quality. BCCD properties provide many ecological functions and values including: storage and filtration of floodwaters; enhanced groundwater recharge due to native vegetation; habitat for a diverse range of plant and animal species, including many species listed as species of concern; all sites are located within an Illinois designated Conservation Opportunity Area; and most sites are open to passive public uses. | General Public – Regional Audience | August 6 th - 11 th , 2019 Fair Booth was staffed from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. each day | Several Thousand visitors stopped at the booth |
| | | | | |
| Northern Regional Groundwater Planning and Protection Committee | This committee, established by the Illinois Groundwater Protection Act, serves as a regional resource to educate and promote BMP's that preserve the quality and quantity of our local groundwater resources. BCCD Executive Director serves as the Chairperson of this committee. | General Public – Regional Audience Local Public Officials – Regional Audience Youth and Adult Education – Regional Audience | Monthly, 2018 | 1000's annually |
| Hooked on Fishing | BCCD in partnership with the Coon Creek Casters, a local conservation group, hosts an event to expose youth and their parents to fishing and appreciation of outdoor experiences. Ethical behaviors associated with natural resources are stressed as part of this experience. | Regional youth and their parents and guardians | June 1st, 2019 Annual Event | 200 youth 106 adult parents and guardians Dozens of mentors |
| BCCD Summer Camp Programs | BCCD runs three different camps for different age levels throughout the summer. Each week-long camp involves a conservation education theme. Every camp includes discussions on waste generation, proper disposal of their waste, and consequences of their actions relative to the natural environment and wildlife. | Camp Redwing – 5 weeks, ages 6 to 11 Camp Ducktails – 5 weeks, ages 4 & 5 Camp Redtail – 2 weeks, ages 12-15 | Summer 2019 | 200 participants 10 staff 5 volunteers |
| Belvidere Jeep Assembly Plant Wellness and Environmental Fair | BCCD participated with a staffed booth to engage Assembly Plant employees over two days and three shifts. The BCCD provided information about programs, facilities, and conservation projects to several thousand employees. | Jeep Assembly Plant Employees | June 21 and June 22 at the Belvidere Jeep Assembly Plant | Several Thousand |

| Program | Program Description | Target Audience | Date(s) | Number of Participants |
|---|--|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Green Cities Campaign – IDNR Update to the State Wildlife Action Plan; And – Local Implementation Efforts | BCCD staff participated in a series of meetings with the Natural Land Institute, IDNR Technical Staff, the Winnebago County Forest Preserve District Staff, Rockford Park District Staff, and others to review and update the Green Cities Campaign (urban component of the State of Illinois Wildlife Action Plan). | BCCD Staff – on going effort – Native Seed Exchange; Collaborative Habitat Restoration; Pollinator Habitat; Removal of Invasive Species... | Monthly Meetings | ~ 20 participants |
| Belvidere High School Environmental Club | BCCD staff assisted the BHS Environmental Organization (KARE) to conduct a clean-up at Spencer Conservation Area | KARE Club, including Advisor, BCCD staff | Tuesday, May 23rd 3:30 – 5:30 pm | ~ 20 participants |
| Belvidere High School Envirothon Team | BCCD staff sponsored and co-coached the BHS Envirothon Team's participation in the Soil & Water Conservation Districts regional competition | High School Students | October 2018 – April 2019 | Team of 5 2 coaches |
| Meehan Elementary Blue & Green Club | BCCD staff sponsored and was a co-advisor for Meehan's Environmental club meeting 2/month to engage students in environmental education thru programs, projects, and outdoor activities | 4 th & 5 th grade students | Sept. 2018 – May 2019 | 25 club members 3 advisors |
| Natural Land Institute Family Nature Day | BCCD staffed a booth demonstrating a groundwater model to program participants | Local family groups | June 22, 2019 | ~ 300 participants |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| Northwest Illinois Land & Water Strategic Planning | Regional review of water supply initiated by IEPA and IDNR. | Regional Officials | On going | 50-75 people |

Other Activities of the Boone County Conservation District that affect water quality preservation efforts:

➤ **Land Acquisitions:**

- The BCCD did not purchase any new properties in 2019..

➤ **Natural Resources and Habitat Management Projects for 2019:**

- **All Conservation Areas:** Invasive plant species that can hinder biodiversity are removed in high quality habitat areas. BCCD staff analyze and prioritize areas that are treated.
- **Piscasaw Fen Wetland Mitigation (1.5 acres)** – 2019 marked the second year of monitoring this site for the United States Army Corp of Engineers. Five years of monitoring will be completed.
- **LIB Conservation Area:** Invasive tree and brush removal took place on 25 acres in the winter of 2019. The BCCD continues to monitor this restoration site to control re-sprouts of these invasive plant species.

- **Kinnikinnick Creek Conservation Area:** An expansion of the previous United States Fish and Wildlife Service habitat restoration grant is nearing completion. This project is 17 acres of grassland and scrub/shrub habitat. Once completed, weeds will be intensively controlled for two growing seasons. This new project will focus on restoring native habitat for pollinator species, including Rusty Patch Bumble Bees (Federally Endangered), Monarch Butterflies and other species in greatest need of conservation.
- **Flora Prairie Nature Preserve:** A five-year management plan for this site was updated and approved by the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission.
- **Sewell Conservation Area:** Approximately 200-acres of cropland is being restored to native habitat. This work continued in 2019 with 25 acres being restored back to wetland and grassland.
- **Kishwaukee Valley Conservation Area:** 10 acres of wetland and grassland were planted on the east end of this conservation area. For two years, intensive weed management will take place.
- **Spencer Conservation Area:** The BCCD has implemented and continues to expand a Memorial Woodland Habitat Program. This program allows groups or individuals to contribute memorial funds toward the restoration of native habitat at BCCD Conservation Areas with a focus at the Spencer Conservation Area in Belvidere. Memorials can be established to create ¼ to 1-acre native plantings with up to 125 species of native plants. There have been several memorial plantings established. Larger scale plantings can also be arranged for those willing to invest more funding.
- **Prescribed Burning:** BCCD staff conducted prescribed burning at Piscasaw Fen Conservation Area, Distillery Road Conservation Area, Spencer Conservation Area, Kinnikinnick Creek Conservation Area, Edwards Park and Conservation Area, O.O. Stimes Memorial Park, and other sites to control invasive species and improve native habitats. A total of 284 acres were burned in 2019.
- **Flora and Fauna Monitoring:** A focus for 2019 was on the Rusty Patch Bumble Bee and herptiles throughout many conservation areas.
 - Herptile monitoring was completed using visual surveys and cover boards placed on permanent transects.
 - The Federally Endangered, Rusty Patch Bumble Bee has been discovered on many BCCD sites. The BCCD is working closely with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to record data. This data will help in determining population location and density. The data will also aid in efforts to recover the species.
- **Native Seed Collection:** A total of 277 pounds of seed was collected from 225 native species of plants. Fair market value of this seed is estimated to be \$62,457.00. This seed was collected throughout the growing season of 2019. Seed is collected by staff and volunteers and used in native habitat restoration projects at conservation areas managed by the BCCD.