

Waukee uses Voyager to Ease Compliance with Unfunded Mandate

Jenny Corkrean, Waukee's Storm Water Coordinator, purchased two GIS Group Voyagers for this city of 9,000 to help with compliance of the NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) regulations.

Foremost, Voyager is being used to create the map for the watershed assessment, one of six minimum control measures required by the EPA for an NPDES MS4 permit.

This summer two interns took the Voyager into the field to photograph and compile the data. Usually, capturing more than 50 images a day of the storm water systems (that includes all city right-of-way), Corkrean had estimated that it would take until December to gather all the data, but the task was completed by the end of July. "Remarkable really," Corkrean said of the speed with which the inventory was accomplished.

She attributes this achievement to the reliability of the Voyager equipment and simplicity of the on-screen data forms. The interns were able to learn to use the equipment in a half-day training session.

In addition to gathering watershed assessment data for Waukee's compliance, Corkrean also uses the Voyager to inspect construction sites to make sure that the developers are following the DNR regulated NPDES compliance plans. All MS4 operators are required to develop procedures for site inspection and enforcement of control measures to deter infractions caused by construction.

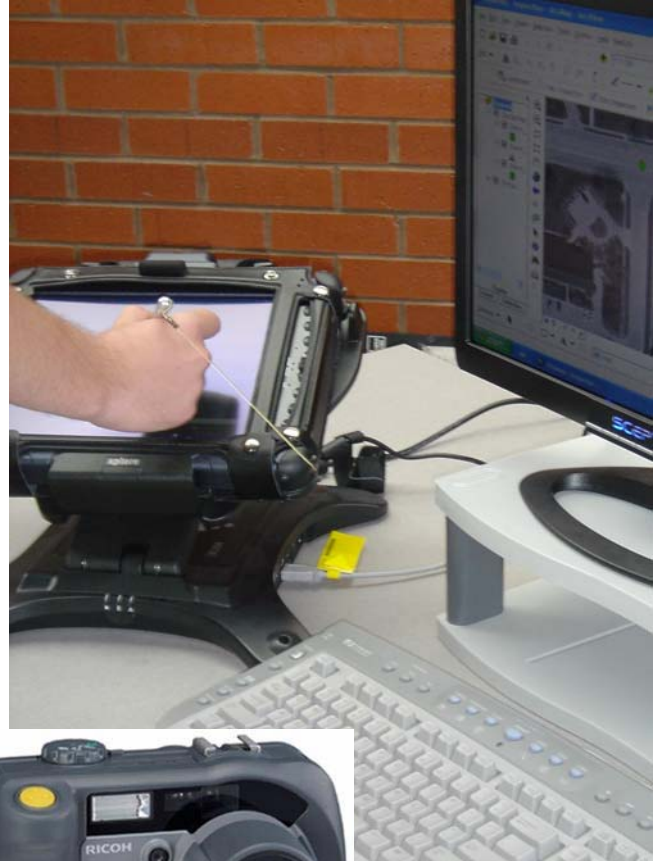
Inspections give the MS4 operator an opportunity to provide additional guidance and education, issue warnings, or assess penalties. To conserve staff resources, Corkrean makes use of the Voyager. Some municipalities use the same inspector to perform all inspections required on a site because the Voyager applications are integrated with the GIS data. The forms can also be customized to fit the needs of the municipality.



Corkrean also finds that her reporting duties are less-stressful and time consuming, “When the DNR or EPA request an audit, I’m able to get the information very quickly.”

In the past, she would have had to compile the reports from many sources, “Doing the initial data gathering and inspection with the Voyager creates a complete file that is linked to the map.” She can call up a report form, select the parameters for the report, and the Voyager application creates the report. “I’m very pleased with the progress.”

(For more information contact Jim Petro, 888-447-0808 or jpetro@newcomtech.com)



VOYAGER

Durable Mobile Inspection

Hardware

Rugged Voyager Tablet PC
Integrated GPS – for map tracking and routing
AllVue screen technology for reading in direct sunlight
Bluetooth enabled for printing to a mobile printer
Internal wireless 802.11b/g



Digital Camera

Wireless for remote connection to the Voyager Tablet PC

Software

ArcView 9.2
Windows XP Pro operating system
Microsoft Office 2003 Pro – suite
Voyager application customized for the user’s needs.