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## DuPage County Stormwater Management News & Updates

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### DuPage SWM Wins National Award for Water Quality Grant Program



*SWM Committee Chair Jim Zay and Carol Stream Mayor Frank Saverino visit a recently restored section of Klein Creek located in Carol Stream. This streambank stabilization project received a WQIP grant in 2024.*

DuPage County Stormwater Management recently received an Achievement Award from the National Association of Counties (NACo) for its Water Quality Improvement Program Grant. The NACo awards honor innovative and effective county programs that strengthen services for residents. The WQIP is a competitive grant that provides up to 25% of eligible construction costs for projects that produce a regional water quality benefit. In 26 years of its existence, the program has awarded over \$6.6 million to 112 different projects across the County.

[Learn more about the program and examples of past projects.](#)

## **SWM Hosts Exclusive Tour of Churchill Woods Restoration Project**

### **Around Town**

Construction work continues steadily at the Elmhurst Quarry. The contractor continues to work on upgrades to the new motor control center on the west lobe, which is the primary source for pumping stormwater back into salt



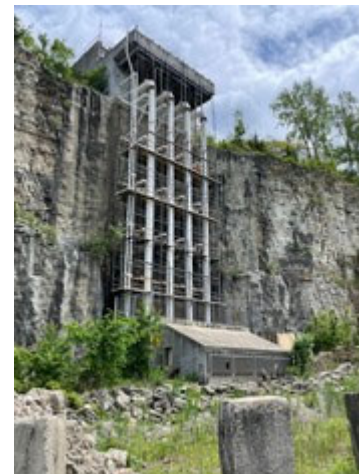
*SWM Wetlands Supervisor Jenna Fahey explains the restoration work done at Churchill Woods to a large group of visitors.*

In early June, SWM hosted a public tour of the Churchill Woods Forest Preserve, for the second time ever. In 2010, SWM began a project to remove the dam along the East Branch DuPage River and restore the preserve to a more natural state, which meant turning much of the old fishing ponds back into wetlands. In collaboration with the Conservation Foundation, participants learned directly from SWM staff who had worked on the project over a decade ago! As a result of the project and continuous restoration work completed by Forest Preserve volunteers, this site has become a success story for wildlife and water quality. The tour continues to be popular with lots of great engagement from attendees, and staff are excited to open up more SWM project sites to tour groups in the future!

## **SWM Staff Learn about Toxic Plants, and You Should Too**

creek. Crews also continue to work on the riser pipes that will be painted prior to installing three new stormwater pumps later this summer.

Construction crews at the Saint Joseph Creek Flood Control Project finished the first of five flood gates to be installed and have begun working on the second. Once constructed, these gates and flood walls will provide several feet of protection to the condo complex when stormwater surges from the creek.



*Construction crews have installed scaffolding for upcoming work at the west lobe of the Elmhurst Quarry. All four pipes, which transport stormwater back into salt creek, will be stripped and painted as part of the ongoing improvements at the County's oldest (and largest) flood control facility.*





*Senior Wetland Specialist teaches SWM staff about toxic plants they might encounter in their field work, such as poison ivy and hemlock.*

Just about every Stormwater employee spends some time doing fieldwork in the summer, including: outfall monitoring, surveying, facility inspections, property maintenance, etc. Since a lot of this work can be located in overgrown, weedy areas, it's important our staff know about potential hazards they could come across. Last week, SWM staff spent an afternoon with Senior Wetlands Specialist Luke Engel, learning about the various toxic and noxious plant species they might encounter. Luke went over key ways to ID plants easily, and steps to treat poisonous contact. If you're going out into the woods this summer, take some time to learn how to avoid toxic plants like poison ivy with [this handy guide created by the University of Maryland Extension](#).

## Upcoming Events

**Conservation@Home DuPage Garden Showcase**

*Saturday, July 19, 2025, 9:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.*

Join us for a self-guided garden showcase and be inspired by our community's stunning Conservation@Home certified gardens! Explore a variety of landscapes featuring native plants, water-wise gardening techniques, thriving wildlife habitats — even edible gardens.

This free event is part of the [Conservation@Home program](#), designed to help homeowners create more sustainable, environmentally friendly yards that contribute to a healthier ecosystem while adding some extra beauty to our everyday lives.

Come ready to gather ideas, connect with nature, and get motivated to start your own journey toward a greener lifestyle!

[More Info](#)

## **DuPage County Fair STEM-a-Palooza**

*Thursday, July 24 - Sunday, July 27, 2025, All Day*

In partnership with SWM, SCARCE is hosting STEM-a-Palooza at the DuPage County Fair! Check out over 3,700 square feet of fun, hands-on environmental activities and make-and-take crafts that bring science, technology, engineering and math to life. SWM staff will also host an interactive booth for children and adults alike. Located at the DuPage County Fairgrounds (2015 Manchester Rd., Wheaton), access is included with Fair admission.

[More Info](#)



### **Stormwater Management Planning Committee**

Deborah A. Conroy, Chair | Jim Zay, Committee Chair

David Brummel | Dawn DeSart | Lucy Chang Evans

Grant Eckhoff | Andrew Honig

Paul Hinterlong | Steve Nero | Chester Pojack

Nunzio Pulice | Sam Tornatore | Asif Yusuf

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