



**DUPAGE
COUNTY**

Watershed
Management

Water
Quality

Floodplain
Mapping

Regulatory
Services

Flood Operations
& Maintenance

Shared
Services



STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

The public comment period for the Upper West Branch DuPage River Water Quality Watershed Plan began May 5, 2026, following Stormwater Management Committee approval. A press release was posted on the County's website, published in the Daily Herald, and distributed to the affected communities with details on accessing the full report and how to access the public comment portal. The comment period officially ended June 4th, 2026. Four public comments were received (numbered), along with the response (italicized), as follows:

1. Michael Zbinovec

The erosion at Evergreen Lakes is severe. The Carol Stream Park District commissioned an engineer report 2 years ago to determine the condition of the Evergreen Lakes shoreline. The engineers found severe erosion of the two areas of Evergreen Lakes. Please update your assessment of the area as the erosion is far from "good condition". The Evergreen Lakes area needs immediate restoration of the shoreline in addition to dredging to deepen the area to reduce flooding risk to the 60 or so homes surrounding the lakes. I have attached a link to the engineering report: https://www.csparks.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/EvergreenLakesBankAssessment_10.16.24_Combined-Reduced.pdf

The plan has been revised to include this additional information on the shoreline erosion at Evergreen Lakes.

2. Ravin Asar

I think this is a wonderful project, and I appreciate the attention it is getting, and the effort put in by all concerned. From a practical perspective, however, I would strongly suggest distilling the 513 page document down to a few pages that can be easily digested by the general public.

This will serve 2 purposes; first to catch the attention of a larger audience, instead of getting a rolling-eye reaction like I did when I first saw the size of the document, and second to make readers aware of the purpose of the project. It was only because I have some time, and I appreciate nature and its obvious impact on life that I convinced myself to at least breeze through some of the content.

I say this because most citizens are now so disinterested in anything and anyone outside themselves, that greater-good and necessary projects like this are outside their comprehension if presented as an encyclopaedia-sized information package. It is in my, and frankly, everyone's best interest that such efforts get the attention they deserve, but they won't if they are thrown at people like a bag of rocks.

I don't think that should be difficult to do, and will add hopefully increase the population of folks who understand and benefit from the knowledge. It will also differentiate Illinois and DuPage County from those states and areas who are going in the other direction and destroying nature and our surroundings.

The Executive Summary provides a shorter, user-friendly summary of the findings of the plan. It has been posted on our website:

https://www.dupagecounty.gov/government/departments/stormwater_management/water_quality/watershed-based_plans.php

3. Jerry Hinckley

Thank you for completing the work. I noticed that several other regional river survey work projects had been done in the past. Is there any data from those studies on BMP's or changes made by Cities or the County that have had a major positive impact in making changes in practices that work in urban/suburban environments? Since one of the two largest sources of the water flow in the upper West Branch River region comes from water treatment facilities, how can individual households work to improve impacts to the wastewater treatment systems? Is there a household BMP that can be added to the report as well as a BMP plan for home residential yard care maintenance? This information could compliment the information provided on goals for salt reduction for the region which were clearly outlined in the report.

DuPage County has seen positive impacts from implementation of practices, including the removal of a segment of the West Branch DuPage River from the Impaired Waterways list for aesthetic quality in recent years. While work remains to be done, this is an indicator of the positive impact implementation of practices, such as those outlined in this plan, can provide.

This scope of this plan does not include wastewater facilities. For more information on impacts to wastewater facilities, please contact your local treatment facility or municipality.

Many of the BMPs listed in this plan can be implemented on a household scale. These include rain barrels, rain gardens, and planting native plants. More information on residential yard care and BMPs can be found on our website:

https://www.dupagecounty.gov/government/departments/stormwater_management/water_quality/outreach_materials.php

4. Scott Meister

I reviewed the Upper West Branch watershed plan. I was surprised at how comprehensive the plan was, and I can't imagine the effort necessary to pull that together; nicely done. A few thoughts:

1. Page 415 describes agencies that monitor water quality. The Forest Preserve District description isn't 100% accurate anymore. Below is an edited paragraph, but if it's too late to incorporate edits, maybe you can use the description in a future

report. FPDDC: The Forest Preserve District of DuPage County conducts stream monitoring as part of their ~~Office of Natural Resources~~ Aquatics Monitoring & Research Program. This bio-assessment monitoring includes fish, ~~macroinvertebrate~~ and mussel surveys as well as ~~water chemistry analysis using Sondes~~ and surveys of physical stream characteristics such as cross section, pebble counts, ~~and~~ longitudinal profiles, and Qualitative Habitat Evaluation Index (QHEI) analysis.

2. Per our email discussions last October, I see you removed projects such as wetland enhancement and wetland creations from the list of green infrastructure projects within forest preserves, thanks. We had discussed removing bioswales and permeable paver projects within forest preserves from the project list too, and I highlighted those projects on the attached list I sent you. I see bioswales and pavers were not removed from the final report. I don't think those projects are feasible. Is there a strategy to leaving bioswales and pavers in the project list?

3. I also did not find a BMP drainage improvement project at our Blackwell Native Nursery in the report, see below. Did I miss it?

The plan has been revised to include these suggestions.