



**DUPAGE
COUNTY**

Watershed
Management

Water
Quality

Floodplain
Mapping

Regulatory
Services

Flood Operations
& Maintenance

Shared
Services



STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Stormwater Management Planning Committee

FROM: Sarah Hunn, P.E., Director- DuPage County Stormwater Management

SUBJECT: Stormwater Program Update March 2026

DATE: March 3, 2026

Watershed Planning

Prentiss Creek Watershed Plan:

County staff are currently assisting our consultant with the existing condition hydraulic model updates to relieve stress on the budget. This is a great opportunity for staff to gain additional experience and training with the hydraulic model. Staff has completed a review of the data received from our on-call surveyor and is incorporating that data into the hydraulic model. Model updates for the proposed projects and alternatives will start after the existing conditions are finalized. The Prentiss Creek Watershed includes portions of Downers Grove, Woodridge, Darien, Lisle, and Unincorporated DuPage County.

Sawmill Creek Watershed Plan

Staff have started work on the Sawmill Creek Watershed Plan. County staff are working with our consultant to identify existing problem areas and to develop the existing conditions hydraulic model to represent all current hydraulic structures. We have met with staff from the Village of Willowbrook and have reached out to other stakeholders for information on flooding within the watershed. The first stakeholder meeting is planned for later in the spring. The Sawmill Creek Watershed includes large portions of Willowbrook and Darien, as well as smaller areas of Downers Grove, Burr Ridge, Lemont, and Unincorporated DuPage County.

Facilities/Operations/ Shared Services Projects

Shared Services/Drainage Projects:

Staff continues to work on the evaluation of small-scale drainage projects countywide. Feasible projects will be designed and permitted over the winter and spring months to allow for construction in Summer and Fall 2026 by the in-house crew.

The Cost Share Drainage Assistance Program was announced in early January and will close on March 9. The program is designed to assist unincorporated residents with drainage problems that are not covered by the Department's fully funded program. Awarded applicants will receive up to \$5,000 in funding to address single property issues such as structure flooding and/or localized ponding amongst multiple neighboring properties.

Facilities/Operations:

Staff continues to monitor rainfall forecasts, stream elevations and rainfall gages throughout the County and are prepared to operate the County's flood control facilities as needed.

A bid opening for stabilization of the highwalls for the Elmhurst Quarry was held on Tuesday, February 17, 2026. The selected contractor is scheduled for County Board approval on March 10. Concurrently, staff is recommending approval of a consultant contract to assist staff with construction oversight of this specialty work

At the Armstrong Park Flood Control Facility, the final piece of equipment (the transfer switch) has been delivered, and the contractor worked with ComEd for final hookup at the end of February. This generator will supply backup electricity in the event of power failure at the facility.

Water Quality

Staff created a virtual public meeting space in accordance with DuPage County's NPDES Permit No. ILR40 from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency which allows us to discharge stormwater into waterways. The virtual public meeting space included a recorded presentation and public comment portal which was open from February 3rd through February 17th. A total of 7 comments were received.

Regulatory

Staff remain busy managing a heavy workload, including reviewing permits, holding pre-application meetings, assisting waiver communities with violations, and verifying wetland boundaries. The ad-hoc team continues to make steady progress on the new Stormwater Ordinance Guidance Document.

ARPA Projects

The St. Joseph Creek Condominiums flood gate and flood wall projects are nearing completion. ComEd has supplied energy to the pump stations, and the contractor continues to work with the flood gate manufacturer to certify all five gates. Upcoming work in early spring will include installation of the exit staircases and any final restoration necessary before the contractor demobilizes.

IEPA Section 319 Grant Project

The Winfield Creek/Campus Streambank Stabilization Project broke ground mid-July and reached substantial completion at the end of 2025. The contractor, Semper Fi Landscaping, Inc., will continue to manage the native vegetation and new woody plantings for approximately the next five years.