



**DUPAGE  
COUNTY**

Watershed  
Management

Water  
Quality

Floodplain  
Mapping

Regulatory  
Services

Flood Operations  
& Maintenance

Shared  
Services



# STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

## MEMORANDUM

Date: October 27, 2023

To: Stormwater Management Committee

From: Christopher C. Vonnahme, P.E., Deputy Director

Re: Memorandum of Understanding – Fawell Dam Fish Passage Project

---

**Action Requested:** Staff is requesting Stormwater Management Committee approval of the Memorandum of Understanding between DuPage County, the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County and the DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup for the installation of a fish passage system at the Fawell Dam Flood Control Facility.

DuPage County owns and operates Fawell Dam for flood control and property protection purposes. The dam is located within the McDowell Grove Forest Preserve in Naperville, which is owned by the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County (FPDDC). Aquatic life surveys of the West Branch DuPage River commissioned by the DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup (DRSCW) have shown that fish species downstream of Fawell Dam are more abundant than those upstream of the dam. DuPage County, the FPDDC and the DRSCW all have complimentary missions that include the preservation and enhancement of existing aquatic and riparian environments. The parties have identified a potential solution for improving aquatic life and are in agreement that fish passage through Fawell Dam can improve aquatic life upstream of the dam. The fish passage system will consist of a fish ladder to be installed within the eastern most box culvert at Fawell Dam along with the placement of upstream debris protection and the regrading of the downstream riprap.

Attached, please find a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between DuPage County, the FPDDC and the DRSCW for the installation of a fish passage system at Fawell Dam. This MOU defines the design, construction, operation and maintenance responsibilities for the fish passage system. In general, the DRSCW will be responsible for the design and construction of the fish ladder as well as any maintenance required for 5 years following substantial completion of the project. DuPage County will be responsible for the bidding of the improvements, construction oversight and debris removal after construction has been completed. In addition, the County will take over ownership and maintenance responsibilities of the fish ladder after the 5-year period

following substantial completion. The fish passage system should not impact the operation of the dam as a flood control facility. However, if operations are negatively impacted or if the fish ladder adversely affects the integrity of the dam, the County will have the option to remove the fish passage system in its entirety.

Staff is requesting approval of the Memorandum of Understanding between DuPage County, the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County and the DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup for the installation of a fish passage system at the Fawell Dam Flood Control Facility.

