



**DUPAGE
COUNTY**

Watershed
Management

Water
Quality

Floodplain
Mapping

Regulatory
Services

Flood Operations
& Maintenance

Shared
Services



STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

MEMORANDUM

Date: June 20, 2024

To: Stormwater Management Committee

From: Robert Covey, P.E., Senior Project Engineer

Re: Luther – High Ridge Drainage Project (ARPA) –Easement Agreement w/
Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

DuPage County Stormwater Management, through its Watershed Planning Program, has been working to implement various projects outlined in the Sugar Creek Watershed Plan. The watershed plan, which was approved by the County Board on August 21, 2018, includes several recommended projects to reduce flooding and improve water quality throughout the watershed. Staff from Stormwater Management have been working with staff from York Township, Village of Lombard, and the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County to implement one of the projects: the Luther – High Ridge Drainage Project. DuPage County has received ARPA funding in the amount of \$179,266,585 with a portion of these funds being allocated to Stormwater projects. The Stormwater Management Department has received a portion of the ARPA funds to be used for construction of new projects. The Luther – High Ridge Drainage Project will be funded through ARPA and will provide critical reduction in flood depth and duration along Luther Avenue in unincorporated York Township. Stormwater staff also worked with the Illinois Department of Transportation to expedite the storm sewer crossing of the Illinois 38 (Roosevelt Road) right-of-way.

Stormwater Management staff has worked with an engineering consultant to design and permit final construction documents of the proposed stormwater project. The proposed solution will include the installation of a new storm sewer to collect storm water from upstream of Roosevelt Road and convey the water downstream to the High Ridge Forest Preserve north of Edwards Street. The new reinforced concrete storm sewer will range in size from 27” diameter at the start of the project, up to 42” diameter at the downstream end of the project. There will also be several small pipe connections and local road inlets that will help alleviate some ponding water along the project route. Restoration of the pavement areas has been coordinated with York Township Highway Department so as not to duplicate pavement reconstruction work in the near future. Reductions in flood elevations upstream of Roosevelt Road provide for a 25-year level of service. In the case of a 25-year design storm event, Luther Avenue would have

some water on the pavement, but the road would still be passable for vehicle traffic. In addition, some tree clearing and vegetation removal will take place along the project route and within the High Ridge Forest Preserve in order to facilitate the construction of the improvements. As part of the final project restoration, the wetland buffer within the High Ridge Forest Preserve will be fully restored and improved over existing conditions.

An Easement Agreement is required between DuPage County and the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County in order to facilitate the construction of the drainage improvements. The majority of the improvements will be taking place within the township right-of-way, however the downstream portion of the work will take place in the High Ridge Forest Preserve. This Easement Agreement with the Forest Preserve District will include a permanent drainage easement which will provide DuPage County Stormwater Management the appropriate permissions to operate, inspect, and maintain the improvements on District property in perpetuity.

The Easement Agreement also outlines several fees required to be paid by DuPage County for the easements in the amount of \$41,677.38. Tree Value fees for the project have been negotiated with the Forest Preserve District and the District has agreed to waive these specific fees for this project.

Action Requested: Staff is requesting approval of the Easement Agreement with the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County for the Luther – High Ridge Drainage Improvement Project along with the corresponding Ordinance.

