



**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 May 2026

DATE: May 5, 2026

Watershed Planning

Prentiss Creek Watershed Plan:

County staff has completed existing condition hydraulic model updates and provided the input data to our consultant. Our consultant is currently reviewing the work completed by County staff and finishing the updates to the existing conditions. 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:

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. The first stakeholder meeting took place on April 29 at the Community Resource Center of Willowbrook from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. The meeting was conducted as an in-person, open-house format with a detailed presentation by county staff and our consultant. This first meeting was primarily used to obtain information related to current and existing flooding problems within the watershed. 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 is waiting on permits to remove and replace a failing system in unincorporated West Chicago. In addition, staff is evaluating feasibility of a project in unincorporated Lombard. Both of these projects will be constructed by the in-house crew.

The **new** Cost Share Drainage Assistance Program received a total of four (4) applications from DuPage County residents. The three (3) applications recommended by staff were approved by Stormwater Committee at the March 2026 meeting. As such, staff is working with the residents to award the funds. Projects are expected to be completed this year.



Facilities/Operations:

Due to significant rainfall that occurred over a period of several days from Tuesday, April 14th through Saturday, April 18th all the County's major flood control facilities operated except for Fawell Dam. County staff monitored stream elevations and the operation of our facilities over this period to make sure operations went smoothly and were successful to help alleviate the flooding of homes, businesses and roadways in DuPage County. Currently, the Elmhurst Quarry, Spring Creek Reservoir, and Armstrong Park Reservoirs have all been dewatered. Pumping operations to dewater the Wood Dale – Itasca Reservoir are on-going and should be completed soon. 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.

Staff is working with the awarded contractor, Access Limited Construction, to schedule a preconstruction meeting that will kick off the Elmhurst Quarry Highwall Stabilization Project. The scope of the project includes installation of new rock bolts and anchors, along with removal and replacement of netting along the high walls and through the keyway that connects the east and west lobes. Black and Veatch will be assisting the department with oversight of this specialty work.

Water Quality

Staff has been meeting with communities on implementation of the updated Illinois EPA Permit No. ILR40. The permit was reissued last year and requires that our program be updated by August 2026. The reissued permit includes several new requirements involving facility inspections, education and outreach, public participation, illicit discharge detection and elimination, construction site erosion and runoff control, as well as additional tracking, recordkeeping, and reporting provisions.

Outfall monitoring of the Des Plaines River, Fox River, Sawmill Creek, and DuPage River watersheds within the county will begin this month. Since 2008, Stormwater Management has been conducting these inspections on behalf of municipalities to comply with the Illinois EPA Permit No. ILR40 requirements.

Regulatory

Staff capacity remains heavily committed as we continue to prioritize core functions, including permit reviews and processing, pre-application meetings, wetland boundary determinations, and support for waiver communities. At the same time, progress remains steady in other areas, with the ad hoc group continuing to make headway on the Stormwater Ordinance Guidance Document.

ARPA Projects

The contractor for the St. Joseph Creek Condominiums flood gate and flood wall projects is back on site working on punch list items for the project. Installation of five (5) exit staircases and three (3) pumps, final restoration and site cleanup are all expected to be completed in the upcoming weeks. The contractor is expected to demobilize by May 31.

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.