



DUPAGE COUNTY

Stormwater Management 2025 Annual Report



2025 DUPAGE COUNTY STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLANNING COMMITTEE

Deborah A. Conroy, *County Board Chair*

Jim Zay, *Committee Chair*

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Municipal Members:

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Nunzio Pulice

The DuPage County Stormwater Management Department achieved significant successes across its operations in 2025. The Department received national recognition from the National Association of Counties (NACo) for its Water Quality Improvement Grant Program (WQIP), which has leveraged nearly \$7 million to support 120 projects that improve water quality throughout DuPage County.

The Department also made notable strides in operational efficiency, particularly within the Regulatory Group. Building on five years of steady productivity and enhanced customer service, the team set multiple workload records in 2025. Certified permits increased by 58 percent, from 113 to 179, while pre-application meetings rose by 59 percent, from 170 to 271—clear indicators of a team prepared for continued growth and demand.

In addition, the Department completed numerous flood reduction and stream stabilization projects—both large and small—across the County. By leveraging grant funding from State and Federal Agencies, these projects delivered meaningful improvements for flood control while restoring and protecting our natural resources.

Looking ahead to 2026, I am confident the Department will continue its momentum as we advance watershed planning efforts, expand grant opportunities for the public, and provide essential flood control services that protect residents, businesses, and communities throughout DuPage County.

Sincerely,

Jim Zay, Chairman
Stormwater Management Planning Committee

DuPage County Stormwater Management (SWM) plans, designs and constructs regional flood control, wetland restoration and water quality projects countywide.

The **St. Joseph Creek Condominium Project** in Lisle was completed this year. Five floodgates were installed at the underground parking entrances to three condominium buildings. The gates automatically operate when nearby St. Joseph Creek overflows its banks and begins to flood the adjacent property.



This project was the final American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funded project completed by the County. Additional funds for the project came from a Hazard Mitigation Grant from the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA). In total, the Department spent nearly \$7.4 million in ARPA funds on County-led projects to protect residents and businesses from flooding.



SWM performed a repair to the **Cotuit Court drainage system** in unincorporated Glen Ellyn that was installed by the County’s Drainage Division in the early 2000s. Crews replaced a short section of pipe in coordination with the Milton Township Highway Department.



SWM completed the **Winfield Creek Streambank Stabilization Project**, restoring the creek along the DuPage County campus. Crews enhanced 3850 feet of streambank and 8 acres of wetland, funded in part by an Illinois EPA Section 319 grant of \$472,452.

SWM’s Shared Services Division assists municipalities and townships in meeting water quality and stormwater management initiatives through the shared use of equipment and personnel.

SWM broke ground this year on a project to address chronic flooding at the intersection of Kaye Ln. and 90th St. in unincorporated Willowbrook. With cooperation from the Downers Grove Township Highway Department, new storm sewer inlets and pipes were installed, and an existing pipe was lined to preserve its integrity.



COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE



SWM’s crew responded to 108 service calls for drainage issues, and provided staff and equipment to assist six local agencies.



SWM responded to 17 reports of spills into waterways across the County.



SWM assisted Downers Grove Township with widespread flash flooding at the end of July, which threatened buildings and roadways.

SWM works with local stakeholders to develop watershed plans and update floodplain maps throughout the County. These plans recommend impactful flood control and water quality projects.

FLOODPLAIN MAPPING & GIS

- Currently updating floodplain maps for the **Klein Creek, West Branch Tributary No. 1, and Ferry Creek** watersheds.
- **West Branch Tributaries 2, 3, 6 & 7** were selected for surveying. Once surveys are complete, hydraulic modeling, GIS mapping and floodplain map updates will follow.

FLOOD CONTROL PLANNING

- Stakeholder outreach was initiated for the **Sawmill Creek Watershed Plan**, expected to be completed in 2027.
- Began work on the **Prentiss Creek Watershed Plan**, which will address flooding concerns in portions of Downers Grove, Woodridge, Lisle and Darien. The final Plan is expected to be completed in 2026.

WATER QUALITY PLANNING

- Completed the Upper West Branch DuPage River Watershed Water Quality-Based Plan. The Plan provides project recommendations that will best improve the water quality in the area. Work was funded with a \$125,600 grant from the Illinois EPA Section 604(b) program.

Fieldwork for the Upper West Branch Watershed Plan often involved kayaking long stretches of river to identify areas of significant bank erosion and sources of urban pollutants.



SWM maintains and operates 17 flood control facilities countywide. In total, these facilities have the capacity to divert nearly six billion gallons of floodwater.



SWM operated DuPage County's larger flood control facilities two times in 2025, including the **Elmhurst Quarry Flood Control Facility** pictured above, during intense rain events in July and August. Smaller facilities detained floodwater as needed throughout the year.



In order to respond quicker to emergency spills and flooding, SWM purchased two enclosed trailers. Each one has been fully equipped with all the necessary supplies to address hazardous spills and aid in pumping efforts as quickly as possible.



Equipment upgrades for the Elmhurst Quarry Flood Control Facility were completed in 2025, including a new motor control center and three new pumps. A permanent backup generator (pictured) was also installed at the Armstrong Park Flood Control Facility.

SWM fosters partnerships between local agencies, organizations and residents to help advance stormwater goals throughout the region.



In partnership with SCARCE, SWM took part in a special Water Immersion Day at Jay Stream Middle School in Carol Stream. Chair Jim Zay welcomed the 6th grade class, and staff used floodplain models and pictures to explain how nearby Armstrong Park Reservoir works.



In partnership with SCARCE, SWM awarded a Water Quality Flag to Warrenville Park District for their sustainable actions.



SWM staff attended several community events, including the Children’s Safety Expo in Darien, sponsored by State Senator John Curran.



SWM staff saw great turnout for the second-ever tour of the wetland enhancement and stream restoration project at Churchill Woods.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Over 15,000 E-Newsletter Subscribers
- Partnered with SCARCE and The Conservation Foundation to engage the community in water quality education.
- Nearly 2,000 Social Media Followers
- New Nextdoor account allows SWM to connect with over 250,000 Neighbors!

Staff in all SWM's divisions accomplished a significant amount in 2025.

Regulatory

- Performed 327 stormwater management permit reviews for development in the County, resulting in a 13% increase in permitting revenue compared to 2024.
- Issued 179 stormwater authorizations and certifications.
- Conducted 271 stormwater pre-application meetings.
- Monitored more than 400 wetland mitigation and enhancement projects.
- Granted regulatory sign-off on 54 wetland mitigation, enhancement and BMP sites.
- Completed 153 wetland boundary verifications and 12 wetland determinations.

Flood Mitigation

- Field crew managed nearly 180 County-owned properties, spanning more than 750 acres of land countywide.
- Removed 24 stream blockages to alleviate flooding.

Water Quality

- Awarded \$275,960 in funding under the Water Quality Improvement Program Grant to:
 - ◇ Village of Downers Grove
 - ◇ Village of Carol Stream
 - ◇ Village of Itasca
 - ◇ Associa Chicagoland
 - ◇ Benedictine University
 - ◇ Three projects by the Village of Westmont
- Responded to 17 reports of spills occurring in or near waterways and storm sewers.

Wetlands

- Two staff members have become International Society of Arborists (ISA)-Certified Arborists with Tree Risk Assessment Qualifications. They will work together to maintain the tree inventory and tree risk management plan for all properties owned by SWM.

