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DuPage County Stormwater Management News & Updates

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DuPage County, SCARCE Award Design Challenge Winners



Waubonsie Valley team sponsor Sara Young, SWM Director Sarah Hunn, and SCARCE Founder Kay McKeen award "Best Overall LEED Design" to Symphony Taylor, Varshaa Selvaraj, and Aviya Pinto (not present) from Waubonsie Valley High School.

During their May meeting, members of the SWM Planning Committee presented awards to winning student groups chosen from this year's 20th annual Sustainable Design Challenge. Director Sarah Hunn was joined by SCARCE Founder Kay McKeen in recognizing the top student groups. Sponsored by SWM, SCARCE coordinates the annual event, which encourages students to construct building and landscape models using environmental and water-friendly design practices. Students competed not only for recognition, but also cash prizes of up to \$500. Awards went to students from Waubonsie Valley High School (Aurora), York Community High School (Elmhurst) and Glenbard East High School (Lombard).

[Read More](#)

Addison Park District Earns Water Quality Flag

Around Town

With the recent spring rain, SWM field crews have been hard at work helping our government partners across the County. Through our Shared Services program, municipalities and townships can contract with the County's personnel and



DuPage County Board member Michael Childress, SCARCE Founder Kay McKeen, and SWM Deputy Director Chris Vonnahme present the Water Quality Flag to Addison Park District staff.

This week, DuPage County and SCARCE awarded a Water Quality Flag to Addison Park District in recognition of its stewardship and efforts to improve the health of local streams. Initiatives that earned them the flag include community clean ups, rain barrel installations at various community gardens, construction of two rain gardens at Lake Manor Nature Preserve and Centennial Park, and much more. DuPage County Board member Michael Childress and SWM Deputy Director Chris Vonnahme joined SCARCE to present the flag at the District's board meeting.

[More Info on the Water Quality Flag Program](#)

Longtime SWM Employee Retires After 25 Years of Service



SWM Chair Jim Zay and nearly the entire Stormwater Department gathered for a lunchtime retirement party for Clayton Heffter, also gifting him with a farewell present signed by the whole department.

At this month's County Board meeting, SWM Committee Chair Jim Zay recognized Stormwater Permitting Manager Clayton Heffter, who will be retiring on June 1st after 25 years of dedicated service to stormwater management. Chair Zay remarked on how Clayton has been a constant presence in the Regulatory group through decades of legislative changes and historic weather events. Stormwater staff, Chair Zay, and colleagues from the Public Works and Building & Zoning departments gathered to celebrate his well-earned retirement. Congratulations Clayton, we'll miss you!

equipment for various maintenance activities related to stormwater management and water quality. Recently, the SWM crew assisted Downers Grove Township in flushing out a storm sewer that was blocked with debris and sediment. Routine inspections also continue with municipal partners including the Village of Westmont and Carol Stream Park District to ensure that stormwater facilities remain operational during storm events.



SWM equipment and personnel deployed to Peters Court in Downers Grove Township to assist with flushing out a blocked sewer.

Registration is now open for the Illinois Soil Classifiers Association's "Field Indicators of Hydric Soils", a two-day training course sponsored in part by DuPage Stormwater Management. The course is taking place at Lake County's Stormwater Management Commission Headquarters and various field locations across the County's forest preserves. All levels of background and experience are welcome. The class is limited to 50 participants, so reserve your place today!

[Register Here](#)

Upcoming Events

Bensenville Public Works Open House

Thursday, May 21, 2026, 3:30 P.M. - 6:30 P.M.

Join Bensenville Public Works for a behind-the-scenes look at the skills, tools, and equipment required to maintain the Village's infrastructure. At this family fun-filled event, you can participate in activities and visit booths to learn more about Public Works departments: Water, Streets/Forestry, Wastewater, Fleet & Building Services, Stormwater, and Engineering.

[More Info](#)

Wood Dale Public Works Open House

Thursday, June 4, 2026, 3:30 P.M. - 6:30 P.M.

SWM tabling event! Bring the family and enjoy a fun afternoon of learning about the City's Public Works department. Kids (and those young at heart) will love climbing on, exploring and taking pictures inside City vehicles and big trucks like snow plows, lifts and more! You can meet our Public Works crew, partake in crafts and giveaways. Plus K-9 Officer Bane from the Wood Dale Police Department will be there.

All this, plus food for the whole family. Fun for all!

[More Info](#)

Naperville Children's Safety Expo

Saturday, June 6, 2026, 9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

Illinois Senate Minority Leader John Curran is encouraging residents to join in on the family-friendly fun at his FREE Children's Safety Expo on Saturday, June 6, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to noon at Madison Junior High School in Naperville.

The Expo is an "action packed" morning including Tollway Tykes Child I.D.'s from the Illinois Tollway, face painting, Crew the Comfort Dog, Selfies with Sue the Dinosaur from the Field Museum and many resources available to families for a "one stop shop".

[More Info](#)



Stormwater Management Planning Committee

Deborah A. Conroy, Chair | Jim Zay, Committee Chair

David Brummel | Dawn DeSart | Lucy Chang Evans

Grant Eckhoff | Gary Fasules | Andrew Honig

Paul Hinterlong | Steve Nero | Nunzio Pulice

Edward N. Tiesenga | Sam Tornatore

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