



DuPage County Stormwater Management News & Updates

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SWM Accepting Water Quality Grant Applications



Click the image above to explore the Water Quality Improvement Program Story Map.

The DuPage County Stormwater Management Planning Committee voted in October to begin accepting grant proposals for projects aimed at improving the quality of the County's waterbodies. In its 27th year, the Water Quality Improvement Program (WQIP) grant awards funding for projects exhibiting a regional water quality benefit, including green infrastructure and ecological restoration projects. Under the program, organizations and individuals may apply for reimbursement of up to 25 percent of construction costs for portions of projects that improve water quality. Since the program began, SWM has awarded over \$6.9 million

dollars to 120 projects across the County. The application deadline is Friday, January 2, 2025. Click below for more information and a link to the online application.

[More Info](#)

Around Town

This month, SWM and SCARCE awarded a Water Quality Flag to Warrenville Park District for their efforts to protect water quality. Warrenville Park District has accomplished much to earn their flag, including installing water filling stations and rain barrels, planting native plants across facilities, applying storm drain medallions, and other initiatives. SWM Chair Jim Zay and SCARCE staff presented the flag to the District's Environmental Awareness Committee at their Board of Commissioners Meeting.



SWM Chair Jim Zay, SCARCE Founder Kay McKeen, SCARCE staff and Warrenville Park District staff hold up the Water Quality Flag at a board meeting in Warrenville.

SWM Hosts Successful Professional Training for Pollution Prevention



SWM Chair Jim Zay welcomes the crowd of professionals from across the County before presentations at NIU Naperville Conference Center.

In early October, SWM hosted the annual Pollution Prevention Seminar for MS4 Communities. Municipal engineers, field crews and consultants gathered at NIU Naperville Conference Center to hear presentations revolving around the new MS4 permit issued by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA), as well as best practices around deicing roads while reducing salt use.

Since 2018, SWM has led a countywide water quality program, partnering with 41 municipalities and townships on meeting the requirements of the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. ILR40 for Stormwater Discharges. This program aligns water quality goals countywide, eliminates redundancies, and reduces the reporting and paperwork burden on communities. As part of this program, SWM hosts staff training for public agencies each year, saving approximately \$400,000 in taxpayer dollars annually.

Leaf Management = Stormwater Management



Leaves left on your yard or sidewalk can clog storm drains, which spells trouble when the rain comes!

SWM is encouraging DuPage County residents to dispose of leaves properly this fall. When leaves blow into storm sewers and waterways, they leach excess nutrients which can pollute waterways. Leaves can also block storm drains, which can cause localized flooding. Residents can avoid these issues by composting, bagging and mulching leaves. Check out the video below for helpful tips!

[More Info](#)

Upcoming Events

Winter Chloride Watchers Training in Hinsdale

Wednesday, October 29, 2025, 6:30 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.

Join the Conservation Foundation at Hinsdale Public Library to learn how to be a Winter Chloride Watcher! The program is a once-a-month commitment through the winter to testing a local waterway for chlorides, and reporting your results. This training session will teach you everything you need to know to make your work as easy as possible. Click the link below to register!

[More Info](#)

Be Salt Smart and Protect Your Native Landscaping (Virtual)

Tuesday, November 4, 2025, 12:00 P.M. - 1:00 P.M.

Winters in Northeastern Illinois bring the challenge of dealing with snow and ice, which generally means using salt. While we need to keep everyone safe, salt is very damaging to both our natural and built environments. Once salt goes down, it doesn't go away. Excess salt harms plants and soil, degrades our rivers, wetlands and groundwater, and damages

vehicles and buildings. Learn from the Salt Smart Collaborative about practices that use less salt as well as salt-tolerant plant selections you can use to protect your home or business while not sacrificing safety during the winter. Sponsored by DuPage County Stormwater Management

[More Info](#)

Green Infrastructure Seminar for MS4 Communities

Thursday, November 13, 2025, 8:00 A.M. - Noon

SWM is hosting our annual training for municipal staff and consultants on Green Infrastructure in-person at the DuPage County Campus Auditorium. This seminar is for employees of DuPage County MS4 municipalities/townships, and not open for the public. If you are a community employee or consultant and have not received an invitation to register, please contact Raul Galvan at raul.galvan@dupagecounty.gov.

Public Roads Deicing Virtual Workshop

Various dates, check link below for details

The DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup is partnering with multiple organizations to host virtual and in-person winter deicing workshops for public agencies. The purpose of the workshops is to educate attendees on alternatives to traditional salting practices and methods that may reduce the presence of chloride in waterways, while keeping roads safe. Registration is \$35 for in-person attendance and \$85 for virtual, and attendance is only necessary at one of the six workshops.

[More Info](#)

Parking Lots & Sidewalks Deicing Workshops

Various dates, check link below for details

The DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup is partnering with multiple organizations to host virtual and in-person winter deicing workshops for public agencies. The purpose of the workshops is to educate attendees on alternatives to traditional salting practices and methods that may reduce the presence of chloride in waterways, while keeping parking lots and sidewalks safe. Registration is \$35 for in-person and \$85 for virtual attendance, and attendance is only necessary at one of the two workshops.

[More Info](#)



Stormwater Management Planning Committee

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

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Grant Eckhoff | Gary Fasules | Andrew Honig

Paul Hinterlong | Steve Nero | Nunzio Pulice

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