



**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 July 2026

DATE: July 7, 2026

Watershed Planning

Prentiss Creek Watershed Plan:

Our consultant has completed extensive updates to the existing conditions hydraulic model. Work was done to re-delineate the watershed drainage areas, creating 22 new depression/storage basin areas, and identifying new hydraulic features to create an updated existing conditions model. County staff are working through SWMM models for areas with extensive storm sewer networks located outside the floodplain limits. The project team is investigating options to complete the proposed conditions modeling, and the subsequent watershed plan. The Prentiss Creek Watershed includes portions of Downers Grove, Woodridge, Darien, Lisle, and Unincorporated DuPage County.

Sawmill Creek Watershed Plan:

Staff continues to work with our consultant to identify existing problem areas and to develop the modified existing conditions hydraulic model to represent all current hydraulic structures within the watershed. County staff and our consultant participated in a field visit on Friday, June 12th to various areas in the watershed to meet with residents and to investigate flood prone areas. We anticipate additional site visits throughout the summer to survey, obtain pictures, and acquire additional information related to our modeling efforts. The Sawmill Creek Watershed includes large portions of Willowbrook, 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 ready to begin a drainage project both within the municipal limits of West Chicago and unincorporated areas. The project will involve replacement of an existing storm sewer that helps convey stormwater and prevent widespread flooding amongst several properties.

Staff also recently completed final restoration of the 90th and Kaye drainage improvement project. The project was fully funded through a grant secured through Senator Curran and will provide much needed conveyance and flood relief to the intersection, while also allowing an uninterrupted flowpath from parkway and private properties.

Staff continues to work both in-house and with on-call consultants to evaluate drainage concerns countywide. Feasibility of potential projects through site investigations and surveys continue in unincorporated Lombard, unincorporated Willowbrook, unincorporated Winfield, and unincorporated Downers Grove.



Staff also continues to work with three (3) property owners who were awarded funds by Stormwater Committee in March 2026 for drainage improvements through the **new** Cost Share Drainage Assistance Program. Projects are expected to be completed this year.

The department's in-house maintenance crew recently completed storm sewer maintenance as part of a shared responsibility with Downers Grove Township and cleaned a total of thirteen (13) flood gates based on an agreement with a HOA in Hinsdale.

Facilities/Operations:

Our Armstrong Park Reservoir in Carol Stream and the Spring Creek Reservoir in Bloomingdale took in floodwater following severe thunderstorms that occurred on Wednesday and Thursday, June 10th and 11th. These severe storms also included very high winds and tornados. Both reservoirs have been dewatered to normal levels, and all facilities have been inspected for downed trees and other debris blockages that could impact operations. Staff will continue to monitor the spring/summer rain events and ensure facilities are operational should the rivers, lakes, and streams rise to levels that necessitate operation.

Work on the Elmhurst Quarry Highwall Stabilization Project continues. The County's contractor, Access Limited Construction, has completed all scaling activities, where loose rock on the highwalls is scraped off so a stable surface remains. Test areas for new bolts were set and completed and the contractor is now working in the keyway, where new mesh and bolts will be installed to hold the high walls in place and minimize rockfall. The department's consultant, Black and Veatch, along with in-house staff have been overseeing this specialty work.

Water Quality

The NPDES annual report was submitted to the IEPA on behalf of DuPage County and 41 co-permittee municipalities and townships by the June 1 deadline. Work continues on updating our program to meet the requirements of the recently updated permit.

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.

In addition, Jenna Fahey has been promoted from Wetland Supervisor to Wetland Program Manager in our Stormwater Regulatory group.

ARPA Projects

Staff is thrilled to report that all ARPA projects are now complete. More than \$9.7 M in these federal funds were used to help fund eleven (11) projects countywide. In addition, another \$2.0 M was awarded through the competitive grant process made available to DuPage County Municipalities.

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.