



**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 August 2026

DATE: August 4, 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. Staff is also working through the economic model database to verify all survey information is complete and up-to-date. 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. Staff is also compiling information from the July 3-5 rainfall event and receiving flood damage questionnaires from concerned residents. The county has also received information from Darien regarding possible locations for stormwater projects within the city limits. 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 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:

The in-house maintenance crew broke ground towards the end of July to replace an existing aging storm sewer system in unincorporated West Chicago. This was made possible with the cooperation from the City of West Chicago, who owns the downstream storm sewer and Winfield Township who has jurisdiction of the local roads. The project will involve replacement of an existing storm sewer that helps convey stormwater and prevent widespread flooding amongst several properties.

Additional in-house projects are currently being evaluated and plans developed as necessary for locations 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 is also preparing to begin removal of a large stream blockage for the City of Naperville under the Shared Services Program.

Facilities/Operations:

DuPage County received significant rainfall totals ranging from approximately 3.5” to 7.5” during the July 2nd – 4th event earlier this month. The rainfall occurred in several very intense waves with the heaviest rainfall occurring in the northwest and southeast corners of the County. Average rainfall for the month of July in this area is approximately 3.5”. Many areas in the County greatly exceeded this total over the three-day rainfall event. All the County’s major and minor flood control facilities operated during this event and helped to reduce flood damages throughout the entire County. Most of these facilities have been dewatered and have been inspected for maintenance and debris related issues. Staff will continue to monitor the 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, is working on installation of new mesh and bolts 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 that is expected to last through the end of November.

Another activity recently took place at the Elmhurst Quarry, which does not occur very often. Filming crews set up for a one day shoot to include the County’s largest flood control facility in a pilot for an upcoming show. Staff was on site to assist film personnel with coordination at the lower level for the filming and both the east and west lobes for lighting and special effects.

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 workload remains very heavy as we continue to prioritize core functions, including permit reviews and processing, pre-application meetings, wetland boundary determinations, and support for waiver communities. In addition, heavy rains in early July have also affected our workload as additional attention has been shifted to addressing flooding and drainage complaints. Progress also remains steady in other areas, with the ad hoc group continuing to make headway on the Stormwater Ordinance Guidance Document.

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.