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DuPage County Stormwater Management News & Updates

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Luther High Ridge Drainage Project Reaches Substantial Completion



Work crews lay down fresh asphalt over the new storm sewer system installed in unincorporated Lombard as part of the Luther High Ridge Flood Relief project.

DuPage County Stormwater Management recently completed a drainage project in unincorporated Lombard that will provide substantial relief to the surrounding area during flood events. The Luther High Ridge Flood Relief project consisted of installation of approximately 2200 ft of storm sewer along Luther Avenue, north and south of Roosevelt Road. The project met substantial completion just before Thanksgiving, having laid down the new sewers, curb and gutter replacements, restoration of the shoulder on Luther Avenue, and final paving. The last phase of the project, which is expected to begin next spring, involves final native plant restoration on Forest Preserve property, where the storm sewer discharges into nearby Sugar Creek. This marks completion of yet another successful stormwater project fully funded through American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.

"Wetlands Provide \$23 Billion in Flood Control Across Wisconsin and Midwest. But They're in Distress."

This article was originally published in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel and a portion of it is shared here with express permission from the author, Madeline Heim. [Click this link to read the full article.](#)

Wetlands save Wisconsin and the upper Midwest almost \$23 billion per year that would otherwise be spent combating flooding, a new report has found. And that comes as the loss of wetlands has accelerated, and critical protections have eased.

The report, out Wednesday from the Union of Concerned Scientists, relies on a figure from a [2022 American Economic Review paper](#) to come up with that total: that one acre of wetland provides \$745 in flood control benefits to residential properties across the U.S.

Wisconsin is home to an estimated 6 million acres of

Around Town

With all the leaves fallen and snow (sometimes) on the ground, winter is a great time to notice things you might not have seen before. If you live near or spend time around a waterway, keep an eye out for signs of illegal dumping, streambank erosion, or major stream blockages caused by fallen trees and other debris. If you do see something, let us know through the [Citizen Reporter App!](#) It's the fastest and easiest way to bring our attention to water quality issues. We all have a part to play in keeping our

wetlands, according to the state Department of Natural Resources, adding up to about \$4.6 billion annually in natural flood mitigation, by the calculation in the report. The upper Midwest, which in the report also includes Iowa, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and Nebraska, has about 30 million acres of wetlands.

Floods [are the most common and most expensive natural disaster in Wisconsin](#), and are expected to get more frequent and severe [because of climate change](#). The state has experienced [four billion-dollar flooding disasters since 1980](#) — and as recent as this summer, severe flooding in northeastern Wisconsin caused Gov. Tony Evers to [declare a state of emergency](#).

Wetlands are described by some as "[nature's kidneys](#)" because they filter sediment and pollutants that would otherwise get into rivers, lakes and streams. They slow flooding during large rain events by storing excess water and [can also help in droughts](#) by gradually releasing that stored water back into the water table. And they're important habitats — [one-third of the country's threatened or endangered species depend on wetlands for their survival](#)...

Water Quality Grant Applications Due January 3rd

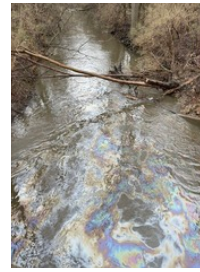


Click the image above to view the WQIP Story Map, an overview of the program and past projects.

SWM is currently accepting grant proposals for projects aimed at improving the quality of the County's streams and rivers. In its 25th year, the Water Quality Improvement Program (WQIP) grant awards 25% of funding for projects exhibiting a regional water quality benefit, such as green infrastructure, restoration and native plantings. Follow the link below to find everything you need to complete your application.

[More Info](#)

waterways clean!



See something, say something!
Report oil sheens like this one or any other abnormal water conditions using the county's Citizen Reporter App.

Upcoming Events

SAVE THE DATE: Green Infrastructure Seminar for MS4 Communities

Thursday, February 13, 2024, 8:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

SWM is hosting our annual training for municipal staff and consultants on Green Infrastructure in-person at Medinah Shriners Center in Addison this year. This seminar is for employees and contractors of DuPage County MS4 municipalities/townships, and not open for the public. Registration details coming soon!



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