



**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 February 2026

DATE: February 3, 2026

Watershed Planning

Prentiss Creek Watershed Plan:

Staff is currently assisting our consultant (ERA) with existing condition hydraulic model updates to relieve some of the stress on the project budget. This is a good opportunity for County staff to gain additional experience and training with hydraulic modeling. Staff has also received updated survey data from the County’s on-call surveyor and is reviewing that data for input into the hydraulic model. The model updates for the proposed projects and alternatives will start after the existing conditions are finalized. The Prentiss Creek Watershed includes portions of Downers Grove, Woodridge, Darien, Lisle, and Unincorporated DuPage County.

Facilities/Operations/ Shared Services Projects

Shared Services/Drainage Projects:

Staff continues to work on evaluation of small-scale drainage projects countywide. Feasible projects will be designed and permitted over the winter and spring months to allow for construction in Summer and Fall 2026 by the in-house crew.

The Cost Share Drainage Assistance Program was announced in early January. The program is designed to assist unincorporated residents with drainage problems that are not covered by the Department’s fully funded program. Awarded applicants will receive up to \$5,000 in funding to address single property issues such as structure flooding and/or localized ponding amongst multiple neighboring properties.

Facilities/Operations:

On Thursday evening, January 8th, the County received approximately 2.0 inches of rain over frozen ground. Due to this rainfall, the Spring Creek Reservoir in Bloomingdale and several smaller, gravity-drained facilities located throughout the County took in floodwater during this event. Staff continues to monitor rainfall forecasts, stream elevations and rainfall gages throughout the County and are prepared to operate the County’s flood control facilities as needed.

At the Elmhurst Quarry, a prebid meeting and site visits were held on January 23, January 26, and February 2, for contractors interested in bidding on the Highwall Stabilization Project. Bids are expected to be opened in February for a March Bid award.



The final piece of equipment (the transfer switch) has shipped for the emergency generator at the Armstrong Park Flood Control Facility. The remaining electrical work and final restoration will be completed in February.

Water Quality

The Watershed-Based Plan for the north half of the West Branch DuPage River was completed and submitted to IL EPA in December. Upon approval from IL EPA, the plan will undergo a Public Comment Period and be brought to the Committee for review and approval.

The FY 2026 Water Quality Improvement Program Grant application period ran through early January 2026. Six applications were received with a total funding request of \$269,861. The applications will be ranked, and funding recommendations presented to the Committee at the March meeting.

Regulatory

Demand for stormwater regulatory services remains exceptionally high. Staff are managing a substantial workload of core activities, including permit reviews, pre-application meetings, wetland boundary verifications, and ongoing consultations with applicants and their consultants. To address the increased demand for pre-application meetings, additional meeting slots continue to be offered each week, improving applicant access and helping to expedite early planning efforts. In addition to the day-to-day review workload, staff are making steady progress on development of the Stormwater Ordinance Guidance Document.

ARPA Projects

The St. Joseph Creek Condominiums flood gate and flood wall projects are nearing completion. ComEd has supplied energy to the pump stations, and the contractor continues to work with the flood gate manufacturer to certify all five gates. Upcoming work in early spring will include installation of the exit staircases and any final restoration necessary before the contractor demobilizes.

IEPA Section 319 Grant Project

The Winfield Creek/Campus Streambank Stabilization Project broke ground mid-July. As of December 2025, the contractor, Semper Fi Landscaping, Inc., has substantially completed the project. This includes placement of stone along the stream banks for stabilization, stabilized outfalls to prevent future erosion, new riffles constructed in the stream to provide better habitat and water quality, and native seed, trees, and shrubs installed within the project footprint. This project was made possible by an Illinois EPA Section 319 Grant that will reimburse the department for 60% of qualifying expenses. The project will remain in the vegetation management phase for the next five years.