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SWM Launches New Cost-Share Drainage Assistance Program for Unincorporated Residents



Ponding is a constant problem for this backyard in Bloomingdale Township. The new program was created to assist homeowners with the costs of fixing issues like this.

For many years, DuPage County has had a fully-funded Drainage Program that has helped residents tackle flooding on their properties that mainly impacts septic fields, primary structures, and nearby roads. However, many homeowners with persistent but minor flooding concerns do not qualify for the program and have been left unsupported. To bridge this gap, SWM launched the **Cost-Share Drainage Assistance Program** in early January, designed specifically for smaller-scale projects that provide relief to unincorporated property owners. The County is offering 50% cost-sharing for selected projects, with a maximum of \$5,000 per project. **Applications will be accepted now through March 9**, and will require a \$200 nonrefundable fee with each submission. Find the eligibility requirements, payment options and application info in the link below. Please note that this is a competitive program and applicants are not guaranteed an award.

[Learn More](#)

SWM Sponsoring "Beyond the Basics" Conference February 26th

Around Town

SCARCE is hosting their "Wonder About Your Water?" event for Teacher Institute Day on Friday, February 27, sponsored by SWM. Spend



SWM is sponsoring The Conservation Foundation's "Beyond the Basics" seminar Thursday, February 26. This is a professional-gear event that will delve deeper into various problems and solutions for managing stormwater in a variable climate. Expert speakers will share updates on tools for assessing and mitigating emerging risks, explore the latest technological advancements through real-world case studies, and discuss actionable solutions to shaping local and regional stormwater management. The event is free, but advanced registration is required. Find the agenda and registration info at the link below.

[More Info](#)

the day immersed in various environmental issues affecting our community, and the role sustainable solutions can play in solving these problems. Ideas to protect our water, conserve energy, improve soil, and preserve natural resources will be covered. The class will include professionally led tours of local environmental facilities including the Elmhurst Quarry, DuPage Water Commission, and Jardine Water Purification Plant in Chicago. Professional Development hours will be earned and content is applicable to all grade levels. Register online with the link below!

[More Info](#)

SWM Sponsoring Annual River Sweep



SWM Committee Chair Jim Zay and SWM staff helped Antunes clean up Gary-Kehoe Reservoir during the 2024 DuPage River Sweep.

This year marks the 35th annual DuPage River Sweep, which is a countywide self-coordinated stream cleanup and restoration event coordinated by The Conservation Foundation in partnership with SWM. Since its inception in 1991, more than 16,000 volunteers have removed nearly 300 tons of garbage from DuPage County streams. The River Sweep will be on Saturday, April 18th, and you can sign up easily right now for yourself, your family, or a whole group of people!

[More Info](#)

Upcoming Events

Webinar: Native Woody Plants for Urban Spaces

Thursday, February 5, 2026, Noon - 1 P.M.

Sponsored by DuPage County Stormwater Management. Part of the Conservation@Home Professional training series and held in partnership with [Possibility Place Nursery](#), join Possibility Place Nursery owner and botanist Kelsay Shaw as he highlights native trees and shrubs perfect for small-scale urban spaces. Native plants are often treated as an all-or-nothing option or confined to a narrow list of "acceptable" species. But the world of natives — especially woody plants — is far more versatile and exciting than traditional plant lists suggest.

In this webinar, Kelsay Shaw will break open old assumptions and show how native plants can thrive in a wide range of landscapes and design contexts. You'll learn how to move beyond rigid species lists and single-use ideals, and instead plan intentionally for the places where natives naturally excel. Discover how thoughtful selection and strategic placement can elevate your projects, better serve your clients, and strengthen local ecosystems.

[Register Here](#)

Webinar: Small-Scale Native Landscape Design

Thursday, February 12, 2026, Noon - 1 P.M.

Sponsored by DuPage County Stormwater Management. Part of the Conservation@Home Professional training series and held in partnership with [PlanIt Landscape Perspectives, LLC](#), join designer and business owner Amanda Arnold as she showcases her eco-focused, resilient native plants gardens.

This webinar introduces the essentials of designing with native plants to create healthier, more resilient landscapes. Participants will learn how to choose the right species, plan effective layouts, and avoid common "native no-nos" that can hinder success. The session also shares practical tips and tricks for planting and maintaining native gardens. Ideal for beginners and seasoned designers alike, this webinar offers clear guidance for thriving with native plants.

[Register Here](#)

Beyond the Basics 2026

Thursday, February 26, 2026, 8:30 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

SWM is sponsoring The Conservation Foundation's "Beyond the Basics" seminar Thursday, February 26. This is a professional-gearred event that delves deeper into various problems and solutions in stormwater management. The event is free, but advanced registration is required. Find the agenda and registration info at the link below.

[Register Here](#)



Stormwater Management Planning Committee

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

David Brummel | Dawn DeSart | Lucy Chang Evans

Grant Eckhoff | Gary Fasules | Andrew Honig

Paul Hinterlong | Steve Nero | Nunzio Pulice

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