In 2022, DuPage County Stormwater Management renewed its resolve to implement flood control and water quality projects countywide.

Notably, DuPage County was allotted nearly $180 million through federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding, approximately $22 million of which was allocated to stormwater management initiatives countywide. Using this funding, the Stormwater Management Department launched two grant programs – one for municipalities and one for townships – to assist in funding stormwater projects throughout the County.

Under the municipal grant program, the DuPage County Stormwater Management Planning Committee awarded more than $8 million to 26 projects in 17 municipalities. When complete, the selected projects, which total nearly $50 million, will improve flood control and water quality throughout DuPage County. The Committee also awarded more than $1 million to five townships to fund seven local drainage projects.

In addition, the Stormwater Management Department completed one capital project using the ARPA funding in 2022. Several additional projects, totaling approximately $10 million, are currently in design with plans to break ground on a few in 2023.

We are proud of our accomplishments in 2022, and we invite you to learn about them in this annual report. We look forward to growing this work in 2023.

Sincerely,
Jim Zay, Chairman
Stormwater Management Planning Committee
DuPage County Stormwater Management (SWM) plans, designs and constructs regional flood control, wetland restoration and water quality projects countywide.

SWM received a nearly $1 million grant from FEMA for the St. Joseph Creek Condominium Flood Control Project, which, when complete, will reduce chronic flooding along St. Joseph Creek in Lisle. The project is currently under design.

SWM awarded a bid for construction of the Smith & Cambridge Drainage Improvement Project in unincorporated West Chicago. Using APRA funding, this project will provide upgraded storm sewers and stormwater detention to reduce flooding.

In 2022, SWM was allotted approximately $22 million of DuPage County’s American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. Using these funds, SWM is currently designing and constructing capital projects countywide. In 2022, the Country Club Highlands Drainage Improvement Project in unincorporated Elmhurst was completed using these funds.

IN-HOUSE PROJECTS

In 2022, SWM’s in-house maintenance crew completed construction of four drainage improvement projects, including Sycamore Avenue in unincorporated Roselle, Elinor Avenue in unincorporated Downers Grove, Prairie Avenue in unincorporated Glendale Heights and Village Road in unincorporated Hinsdale.
SWM’s Shared Services Division assists municipalities and townships in meeting water quality and stormwater management initiatives through the shared use of equipment and personnel.

Using SWM’s ARPA funds, DuPage County’s Stormwater Management Planning Committee awarded more than $8 million in grant funds to 26 projects from 17 municipalities to construct flood control and water quality improvements. In addition, five townships were awarded more than $1 million in grant funding for seven drainage projects countywide.

SWM’s crew responded to 105 service calls for drainage issues, as well as provided staff and equipment to assist four local agencies.

SWM developed a harmful algae bloom monitoring program. In 2022, 10 sites were checked three times during peak risk season.

SWM’s crew assisted Addison Township, Downers Grove Township and Milton Township in flushing and repair of storm sewer.
To identify countywide projects, SWM works with local agencies to develop watershed plans with both flood mitigation and water quality recommendations, as well as map floodplains.

**Floodplain Mapping & GIS**

- Currently updating floodplain maps for the Klein Creek, West Branch Tributary No. 1, Black Partridge Creek, Kress Creek and Ferry Creek watersheds, as well as updating hydraulic models for the Spring Brook and Spring Brook No. 1 watersheds.
- Working with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to automate the hydrologic procedures involved in the development of the County’s historical time series of storm events, which will create a more efficient process that will allow for more frequent updates.

**Flood Control Planning**

- The Stormwater Management Committee approved the Wards Creek Watershed Plan.
- Began development of the Lacey Creek Watershed Plan to address flooding concerns.
- Completed a flood inundation map for the West Branch DuPage River Watershed from Fawell Dam to North Avenue.

**Water Quality Planning**

- Participating in the development of the Indian Creek Watershed Water Quality-Based Plan.

- Using a $244,010 grant from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, completed the East Branch DuPage River Watershed Water Quality-Based Plan.
SWM maintains and operates 17 flood control facilities countywide. In total, these facilities have the capacity to divert nearly six billion gallons of floodwater.

Significant upgrades were made at several of the major flood control facilities to aid with monitoring, communication and remote operation of the facilities, including new computers, new stream gages and upgrades to the pump systems.

SWM finished construction of a second gate at the Elmhurst Quarry Flood Control Facility, as well as upgraded the controls. Adjacent to Salt Creek, the moveable gate improves efficiency by allowing additional floodwater into the facility.

SWM staff operated DuPage County’s larger flood control facilities three times in 2022, including larger, two-day operation in May. Smaller, gravity-operated facilities detained floodwater as needed during the year.
SWM fosters partnerships between local agencies, organizations and residents to help advance stormwater goals throughout the region.

In partnership with the Elmhurst History Museum, SWM opened its Elmhurst Quarry Flood Control Facility to a sold-out crowd in October 2022. Nearly 500 people registered in a matter of minutes to get a rare, inside look at this DuPage County landmark.

Members from MABAS Division 12 participated in a water rescue training at SWM's Elmhurst Quarry Flood Control Facility.

In 2022, SWM participated in several community events, including the 3-day Stem-A-Palooza at the DuPage County Fair.

In partnership with SCARCE, SWM awarded Water Quality Flags to three local organizations in 2022 for their sustainability efforts.

**Community Engagement**

- Nearly 15,000 E-Newsletter Subscribers
- Partnered with SCARCE and The Conservation Foundation to Engage Community
- Nearly 1,700 Social Media Followers
- 104 YouTube Videos with 89,000 Views, which is up nearly 200% from 2021
Staff in all SWM’s divisions accomplished a significant amount in 2022.

**Regulatory**
- Performed 254 stormwater management permit reviews for development in the County, resulting in a 10% increase in permitting revenue from 2021.
- Issued 113 stormwater authorizations and certifications.
- Conducted 170 stormwater pre-application meetings, which is a 6% increase from 2021.
- Monitored more than 300 wetland mitigation and enhancement projects.
- Granted regulatory sign-off on 26 wetland mitigation, enhancement and BMP sites.
- Performed vegetation monitoring on more than 60 County-owned sites and 3 wetland banks.
- Completed 92 wetland boundary verifications and 13 wetland determinations.

**Flood Mitigation**
- Field crew managed nearly 180 County-owned properties, spanning more than 750 acres of land countywide.
- Removed 17 major stream blockages to alleviate flooding.

**Water Quality**
- Awarded $245,057 in funding under the Water Quality Improvement Program Grant to:
  - Village of Carol Stream
  - Village of Downers Grove
  - City of Wood Dale
- Responded to 30 reports of spills occurring in or near waterways and storm sewers.

- With the help of summer interns, inventoried and monitored 353 storm sewer outfalls for the Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE) program. Of these, 61 were monitored via kayak along nearly 11 miles of stream.