



# DUPAGE COUNTY

## Stormwater Management 2023 Annual Report



DUPAGE COUNTY  
STORMWATER MANAGEMENT  
PLANNING COMMITTEE

Deborah A. Conroy, *County Board Chair*

Jim Zay, *Committee Chair*

**County Board Members:**

Dawn DeSart

Grant Eckhoff

Paula Deacon Garcia

Lucy Chang Evans

Sam Tornatore

**Municipal Members:**

Paul Hinterlong

David Brummel

Steve Nero

Chester Pojack

Nunzio Pulice

Asif Yusuf

The DuPage County Stormwater Management Department focused its efforts in 2023 on continuing to efficiently use American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for stormwater infrastructure.

Last year, we had entered into agreements with the Municipalities and Townships to achieve the common goal of utilizing ARPA funds to make the County more resilient and offset the impacts of flooding.

I am pleased to report that the Department as well as the Municipalities and Townships have shown great success in partnering to achieve these goals.

In 2023, the County's in-house program reduced flooding for 23 homes by expanding flood storage capacity and installing nearly 10,000 ft of new or upsized storm sewers. Additionally, our local partnerships ensured the successful installation of over 23,000 ft of storm sewers and stabilized an estimated 3600 ft of streambanks to prevent erosion and improve water quality.

Approximately 50% of the Department's total allocation of \$22 million was spent in 2023. This investment has included the creation of 6 million gallons of new flood storage, reduced flooding impacts on 225 households, and will drastically improve our localized stream water quality.

I look forward to another robust year working hand in hand with our agency partners to duplicate these benefits as the remaining Stormwater ARPA funds are invested in valuable infrastructure projects.

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 grant from the Department of Commerce and Economic Development for the **Winfield Creek Stream Stabilization Project** to restore a portion of the creek to a natural state. Another section of Winfield Creek will be restored using a Section 319 grant from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, with construction expected to begin in 2024.

SWM used a portion of the \$22 million allotted from the American Rescue Plan Act in 2023 to complete major projects in unincorporated areas like the **Smith & Cambridge Drainage Improvement Project** in unincorporated West Chicago.

SWM completed the **Danada Wetland Mitigation Project**, which both restored and created a total of 21 acres of wetlands and 23 acres of prairie. The project was turned over to the Forest Preserve District for continuous management.

## IN-HOUSE PROJECTS

In 2023, SWM's in-house maintenance crew completed construction of three drainage improvement projects: including right of way drainage improvements in unincorporated Glen Ellyn, and two drainage conveyance improvements in unincorporated Wheaton. These projects were possible with collaboration from the Milton Township Highway Dept.

## 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 allocation, the SWM Planning Committee doled out funds to a large variety of projects with our municipal partners. 16 of the 26 municipal ARPA projects have been completed to date, and the rest will begin in 2024.



*Lufkin Pond Drainage Project in Villa Park mid-progress, funded entirely through ARPA.*

### COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE



SWM's crew responded to 107 service calls for drainage issues, as well as provided staff and equipment to assist three local agencies.



SWM responded to 39 reports of spills into waterways across the County, an 8% increase from 2022.



Five of the seven township projects awarded through the Township ARPA grant were completed in 2023, totaling \$750,000.

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, 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

- Progress continues on the **Lacey Creek Watershed Plan** to address flooding concerns, with stakeholder meetings coming up in early 2024.
- Unincorporated DuPage County improved its rating under FEMA's Community Rating System (CRS) from a Class 6 to a Class 5.

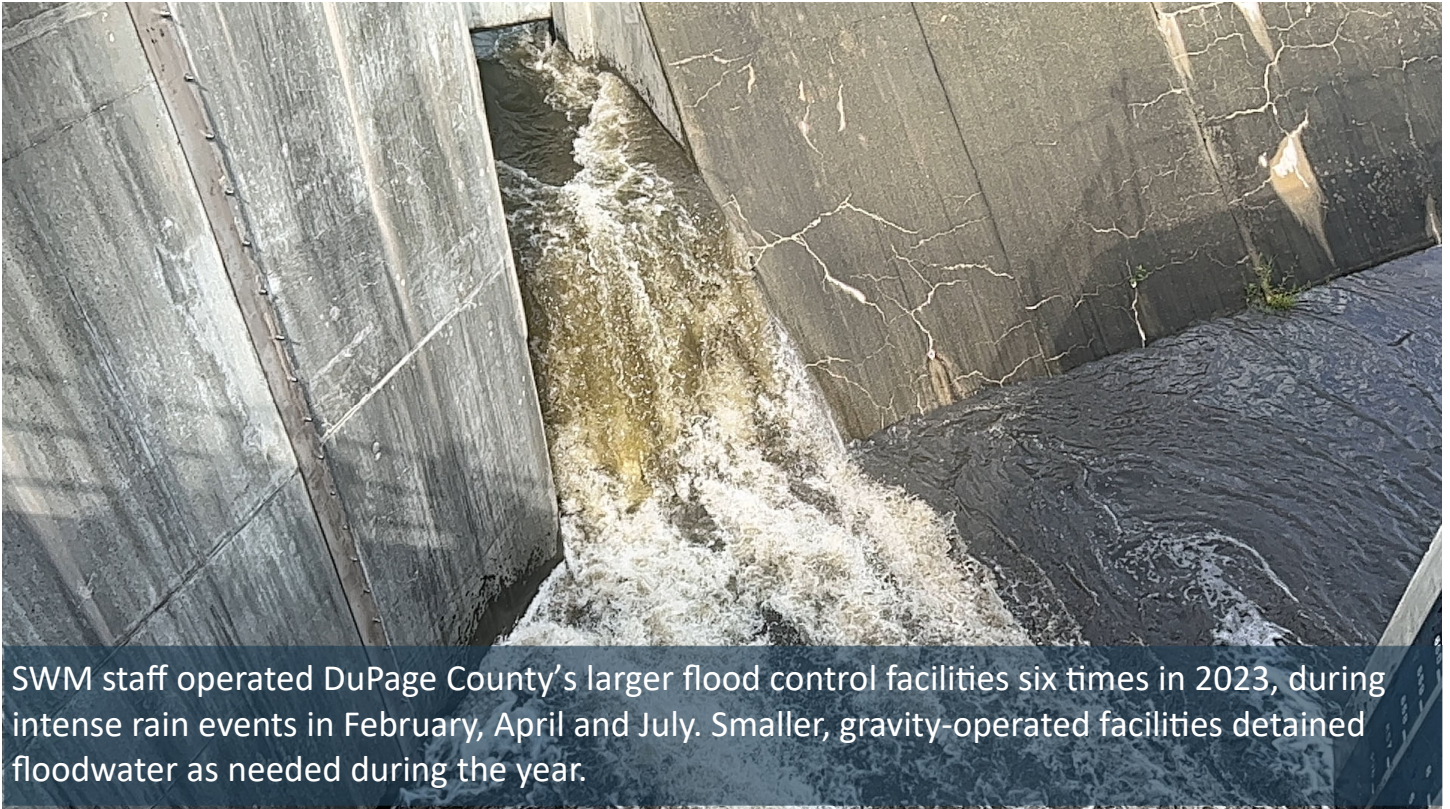
### WATER QUALITY PLANNING

- Participating in the development of the **Indian Creek Watershed Water Quality-Based Plan** lead by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP).

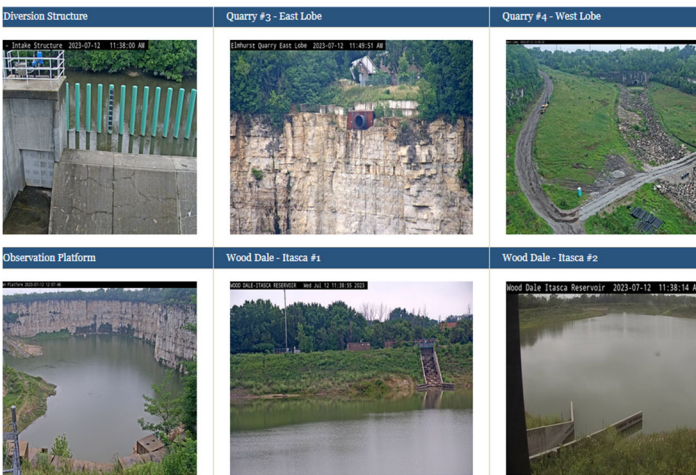
*Pictured Here: The Danada Wetland Mitigation Project (pg. 2) restored over 21 acres of critical wetland and prairie habitat.*



**SWM maintains and operates 17 flood control facilities countywide. In total, these facilities have the capacity to divert nearly six billion gallons of floodwater.**



SWM staff operated DuPage County's larger flood control facilities six times in 2023, during intense rain events in February, April and July. Smaller, gravity-operated facilities detained floodwater as needed during the year.



New cameras were mounted at nearly all major flood facilities, to replace dysfunctional or outdated cameras. High-Res output allows SWM to monitor conditions closely, and images are shared to the Real Time Conditions page on our website.

Three large stormwater pumps were purchased and imported from Sweden to replace existing pumps in the West Lobe of the Elmhurst Quarry. They will be installed during a larger rehab project on the West Lobe scheduled for 2024.

**SWM fosters partnerships between local agencies, organizations and residents to help advance stormwater goals throughout the region.**



In partnership with SCARCE, SWM awarded Water Quality Flags to two local organizations, including the students and faculty at Walker Elementary School in Clarendon Hills. Pictured are all the members of the school's Eco Club.



SWM brought back in-person staff trainings for all MS4 agencies in 2023, hosting two professional seminars and an FEQ class.



In 2023, SWM participated in several community events, including the Wood Dale Public Works Open House.



GIS Analyst Laura Sheetz (middle) painted a special rain barrel for this year's raffle at STEM-a-Palooza. The winner (left) was overjoyed!

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

- Over 15,000 E-Newsletter Subscribers
- Partnered with SCARCE and The Conservation Foundation to Engage Community
- Nearly 2,000 Social Media Followers
- New Nextdoor Account Allows SWM to Connect with Over 250,000 Neighbors!

## Staff in all SWM's divisions accomplished a significant amount in 2023.

### **Regulatory**

- Performed 285 stormwater management permit reviews for development in the County, resulting in a 25% increase in permitting revenue from 2019.
- Issued 112 stormwater authorizations and certifications.
- Conducted 189 stormwater pre-application meetings, which is a 10% increase from 2022.
- Monitored more than 350 wetland mitigation and enhancement projects.
- Granted regulatory sign-off on 31 wetland mitigation, enhancement and BMP sites.
- Performed vegetation monitoring on more than 60 County-owned sites and 2 wetland banks.
- Completed 112 wetland boundary verifications and 6 wetland determinations.

### **Flood Mitigation**

- Field crew managed nearly 180 County-owned properties, spanning more than 750 acres of land countywide.
- Removed 28 major stream blockages to alleviate flooding.

### **Water Quality**

- Awarded \$364,558 in funding under the Water Quality Improvement Program Grant to:
  - ◇ Glen Ellyn Park District
  - ◇ Village of Downers Grove
  - ◇ Village of Willowbrook
  - ◇ Village of Westmont
  - ◇ Williamsport Condo Assn.
  - ◇ Bloomingdale Church
  - ◇ Glendale Heights
  - ◇ Lake Hinsdale Village
  - ◇ Fairfield IV Community
- Responded to 39 reports of spills occurring in or near waterways and storm sewers.

- With the help of summer interns, inventoried and monitored 970 storm sewer outfalls for the Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE) program. Of these, 75 were monitored via kayak along nearly 16 miles of stream.

