



DUPAGE COUNTY

Stormwater Management 2024 Annual Report



2024 DUPAGE COUNTY STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLANNING COMMITTEE

Deborah A. Conroy, *County Board Chair*

Jim Zay, *Committee Chair*

County Board Members:

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Grant Eckhoff

Lucy Chang Evans

Paula Deacon Garcia

Sam Tornatore

Municipal Members:

David Brummel

Paul Hinterlong

Steve Nero

Chester Pojack

Nunzio Pulice

Asif Yusuf

The DuPage County Stormwater Management Department saw notable successes in 2024. The Department was recognized by the National Association of Counties (NACo) for the Township and Municipal Stormwater Infrastructure Match Share Program and the America Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) for the completion of the Smith & Cambridge Flood Reduction Project.

The Township and Municipal Match Share Program is already having a positive impact countywide, with the installation of nearly 27,000 feet of storm sewer projects and an estimated 4,000 feet of streambank stabilization to prevent erosion and improve water quality.

In addition, the Department's construction group completed three large flood reduction projects and several smaller projects which will reduce flood impacts for an estimated 227 homes by creating 5 million gallons of new flood storage and installing nearly 6,000 feet of new or upsized storm sewers.

With projects like these, the Department strives to not only protect neighborhoods but also improve the environment and restore healthy streams to the County.

I look forward to another robust year for Stormwater Management by striving to protect the residents and businesses of DuPage County by achieving our goals of reducing flooding and improving water quality.

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.



DuPage County and V3 Companies, Ltd received the 2024 Award in Engineering Excellence from the American Council of Engineering Companies of Illinois for the **Smith & Cambridge Drainage Improvement Project** in unincorporated West Chicago.



SWM completed three major projects this year using almost \$4.5 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. These projects collectively provide over 4.7 million gallons of floodwater storage in unincorporated areas of Elmhurst, Lombard and incorporated Lisle.



A major stream restoration project is being planned for a portion of **Winfield Creek** running through the DuPage County campus. Utilizing a Section 319 grant from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, construction is expected to begin in 2025.

IN-HOUSE PROJECTS

In 2024, SWM's in-house maintenance crew completed construction of four localized drainage improvement projects: three in unincorporated Medinah, and one in unincorporated Downers Grove. These projects were possible with cooperation from the Bloomingdale Township Highway Department and DuPage County Division of Transportation.

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 provided nearly \$9 million in funds to a large variety of projects with our municipal and township partners. All 25 funded projects were constructed and reimbursed by the end of 2024.



Lufkin Pond Drainage Project in Villa Park post-restoration, funded entirely through ARPA.

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE



SWM's crew responded to 83 service calls for drainage issues, as well as provided staff and equipment to assist six local agencies.



SWM responded to over 30 reports of spills into waterways across the County.



SWM assisted the Village of Bartlett in replacing a failing storm sewer located in Leiseberg Park.

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

- The DuPage County Board approved the Lacey Creek Watershed Plan in November.
- Stakeholder outreach began for the Prentiss Creek Watershed Plan, which will address flooding concerns in portions of Downers Grove, Woodridge, Lisle and Darien. The final Plan is expected to be completed in 2026.

WATER QUALITY PLANNING

- Fieldwork and outreach was completed for the Upper West Branch DuPage River Water Quality-Based Watershed Plan, including assessment of 408 basins and 62 miles of stream.

Fieldwork for the Upper West Branch Watershed Plan often involved kayaking long stretches of river and identifying areas of significant bank erosion and sources of urban pollutants.



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 operated DuPage County's larger flood control facilities two times in 2024, including **Wood-Dale Itasca Reservoir** pictured above, during intense rain events in January and July. Smaller, gravity-operated facilities detained floodwater as needed throughout the year.



SWM completed a five-year Capital Assessment Report that identifies recommended maintenance needs for the 17 County-owned flood control facilities. This report will help the Department plan ahead based on level of urgency.



Facility and equipment upgrades conducted this year include pump station upgrades at Liberty Park in Westmont and preparations at the Elmhurst Quarry to install a new motor control center, new vault piping, and new pumps.

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 record-breaking crowd in September. Nearly 600 people came out in the rain to get a rare look at this DuPage County landmark.



In partnership with SCARCE, SWM awarded a Water Quality Flag to Edison Middle School in Wheaton.



In 2024, SWM participated in several community events, including the four-day STEM-a-Palooza at the DuPage County Fair.



SWM staff led a special tour of Churchill Woods Forest Preserve, where a major dam removal and restoration project took place.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Over 15,000 E-Newsletter Subscribers
- Partnered with SCARCE and The Conservation Foundation to engage the community for water quality education.
- 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 2024.

Regulatory

- Performed 296 stormwater management permit reviews for development in the County, resulting in a 27% increase in permitting revenue compared to 2019.
- Issued 131 stormwater authorizations and certifications.
- Conducted 220 stormwater pre-application meetings, which is a 14% increase from 2023.
- Monitored more than 400 wetland mitigation and enhancement projects.
- Granted regulatory sign-off on 69 wetland mitigation, enhancement and BMP sites.
- Completed 131 wetland boundary verifications and 17 wetland determinations.

Flood Mitigation

- Field crew managed nearly 180 County-owned properties, spanning more than 750 acres of land countywide.
- Removed 41 stream blockages to alleviate flooding.

Water Quality

- Awarded \$310,000 in funding under the Water Quality Improvement Program Grant to:
 - ◇ Village of Willowbrook
 - ◇ Village of Glendale Heights
 - ◇ Village of Carol Stream
 - ◇ Naperville Park District
- Responded to over 30 reports of spills occurring in or near waterways and storm sewers.

- With the help of summer interns, monitored 1,403 storm sewer outfalls primarily along the West Branch DuPage River for the Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE) program. Of these, 143 were monitored via kayak along nearly 31 miles of stream.

