

Village of Downers Grove  
Stormwater and Flood Plain Oversight Committee Meeting

Monday, November 28, 2022  
7:00 PM

Downers Grove Public Works Facility  
Main Conference Room  
5101 Walnut Avenue  
Downers Grove, Illinois

AGENDA

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. ROLL CALL / WELCOME NEW MEMBERS
- III. MEETING MINUTES
- IV. PUBLIC HEARING  
Preliminary Environmental Impacts Determination (PEID) by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) for Downers Grove Public Water Supply IEPA Loan
- V. NEW BUSINESS
  - 2023 Meeting Dates
  - CRS Program for Public Information (PPI)
- VI. STAFF REPORT
- VII. OLD BUSINESS
- VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS
- IX. ADJOURN



VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE  
Stormwater and Flood Plain Oversight Committee Meeting  
January 24, 2022, 7:00 p.m.

Downers Grove Public Works Facility  
5101 Walnut Avenue, Downers Grove, Illinois

**I. CALL to ORDER**

Chair Scacco called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. A roll call followed, and a quorum was established.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Chair Scacco, Ms. Borman, Mr. Iovinelli, Ms. Mills

Members Absent: Ms. Schultz, Mr. Wicklander

Staff Present: Julie Lomax, Stormwater Administrator  
Andy Sikich, Director of Public Works

Public Present: None

**III. APPROVAL of July 20, 2020 Minutes**

Ms. Borman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Iovinelli, to approve the July 20, 2020, minutes. **Motion carried by a voice vote 4-0.**

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**V. NEW BUSINESS**

New member, Kelly Mills, was welcomed to the SWFPOC.

The 2021 SWFPOC Year End Report was reviewed. No meetings were held in 2021.

Community Rating System (CRS) Program for Public Information (PPI) was reviewed, including the project list. The goal of the PPI is to inform and educate the public about floodplain, flooding, disaster preparedness, and flood insurance.

**VI. STAFF REPORT**

**A. Nan Newlon**

Nan Newlon was the Director of Public Works from 2009 – Feb 2020. Nan was awarded the American Public Works Association (APWA) Top 10 Public Works Leaders in 2018. As Director of Public Works, Nan championed environmentally sustainable and green initiatives, such as solar panels at Public Works, hybrid and CNG vehicles, rain gardens and pollinator gardens, and recycling events. Nan passed away on January 15, 2021, from brain cancer.

**B. Stormwater Capital Plan 2022-24**

The Village Long Range Plan includes the Stormwater Capital Project Plan 2022-2024 with an estimated cost of \$7.5 million. The Plan recommends 12 stormwater projects over the next 3 years. The following projects are planned for 2022: Wisconsin Avenue Drainage Improvements (east of Belmont), Lyman and 62<sup>nd</sup> Drainage Improvements, Otis / Grant / Florence Drainage Improvements, and Sterling & 39<sup>th</sup> Drainage Improvements.

### **C. Bioswale Program**

The bioswale program was introduced about 10 years ago and was revitalized in 2021 with public outreach - a new brochure and a video. After the video was sent out in the weekly e-news and information was included in the fall DG Times newsletter, over 40 residents reached out with interest in the program. In 2021, six (6) bioswales were installed. The Village continues to include \$30,000 in the annual budget for the bioswale program.

### **D. Stormwater Utility Fee (SWU)**

When the SWU was created in 2013, the plan called for an increase of 8.7% every year to slowly meet the financial needs to maintain and expand the stormwater management system. The SWU rate for 2020 did not increase. The SWU rate for 2022 increased to \$14.65 per ERU. One ERU (Equivalent Runoff Unit) is 3,300 square feet of impervious – the average impervious for a single family home. The projected revenue from the SWU for 2022 is \$5.48 million.

### **E. ComEd Open Lands Grant**

The Village was awarded a ComEd Open Lands Grant to create a rain garden / native planting area at the Public Works facility. The project will provide living exhibit to educate and inspire residents. The project will be done this year.

### **VII. OLD BUSINESS**

None

### **VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

Ms. Borman made a motion, seconded by Ms. Mills to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

**Motion carried by voice vote of 4-0.**



# ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

1021 NORTH GRAND AVENUE EAST, P.O. BOX 19276, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62794-9276 • (217) 782-3397

JB PRITZKER, GOVERNOR

JOHN J. KIM, DIRECTOR

## Project Summary and Preliminary Environmental Impacts Determination

Date: OCT 11 2022

Loan Applicant: Downers Grove

IEPA Loan Project Numbers: L176103, 6104, 6105  
6106, and 6107

To all interested persons:

Section 662.330 of the Illinois Procedures for Issuing Loans from the Public Water Supply Loan Program requires that the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) conduct an assessment of the environmental impacts of proposed public water supply projects to be funded with loans. This review is carried out in conjunction with the Agency's review of the applicant's project plan.

Prior to final approval of the project plan, the public's comments are sought regarding environmental impacts of the proposed project. Unless new information obtained through the public comment process causes reconsideration, the Agency will approve the project plan at the close of the public comment period.

The applicant will make the attached Project Summary and Preliminary Environmental Impacts Determination (PEID) available for public inspection. Within 60 days of receiving this letter, the applicant must conduct a public hearing regarding both the PEID and project planning. Advertisement of the hearing must be made at least 10 days in advance. The advertisement must include the purpose of the project along with the date, time, and location of the hearing. A comment period of at least 10 days shall be provided after the hearing in which written comments may be submitted to the loan applicant or to the IEPA contact person identified in the attached document.

For information purposes only, a copy of this document is being provided to your local newspaper of record.

Your participation in this process is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Heidi Allen  
Pre-Construction Unit Manager  
Infrastructure Financial Assistance Section  
Bureau of Water

HA:lc, drinking water\_peid cover letter\_downers grove 1176103,6104,6105,6106,6107.docx

### Attachment

2125 S. First Street, Champaign, IL 61820 (217) 278-5800  
1101 Eastport Plaza Dr., Suite 100, Collinsville, IL 62234 (618) 346-5120  
9511 Harrison Street, Des Plaines, IL 60016 (847) 294-4000  
595 S. State Street, Elgin, IL 60123 (847) 608-3131

2309 W. Main Street, Suite 116, Marion, IL 62959 (618) 993-7200  
412 SW Washington Street, Suite D, Peoria, IL 61602 (309) 671-3022  
4302 N. Main Street, Rockford, IL 61103 (815) 987-7760

**Project Summary and  
Preliminary Environmental Impacts Determination (PEID)**

Information in this report is based on information submitted to the IEPA by the Village of Downers Grove. The source of information includes the following document: Water Model Update and Five-Year Project Plan: Report Village of Downers Grove, IL written by Strand Associates dated December 2021. Additional documentation was obtained from loan application documents and compiled by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.

**Part I – Applicant and Project Information**

**Loan Applicant:** Village of Downers Grove

**Project Name/Loan Numbers:**

L176103 Phase 1: Demolition and Replacement of Well House No. 14 and New Water Mains

L176104 Phase 2: New Water Mains

L176105 Phase 3: Demolition and Replacement of Well Houses #9 and #12, Rehabilitation of 71<sup>st</sup> Street Elevated Storage Tank, and New Water Mains

L176106 Phase 4: Replacement of Meters and New Water Mains

L176107 Phase 5: Replacement of Meters and New Water Mains

**County:** DuPage

**Current Population:** 50,247

**Future Population (20 years):** 54,167

**Background Information:** The Village of Downers Grove currently receives its supply of drinking water from the DuPage Water Commission. DuPage Water Commission receives the supply of water from the Jardine Water Purification Plant in Chicago. The water supply is treated by the Jardine Water Purification Plant in Chicago prior to it being pumped to the DuPage WC who then pumps the water to Downers Grove. Downers Grove also maintains 3 shallow wells (Well Nos. 9,12, and 14) for emergency potable water supply use only. In addition, Downers Grove does own, operate, and maintain a water distribution system which supplies water to the customers of Downers Grove.

**Project Description:** The proposed project will include several upgrades to the water distribution system over a 5-year period.

L176103 Phase 1: This phase includes the demolition and replacement of Well House No. 14 and the installation of approximately 6,941 linear feet of water main ranging in size from 8-inch diameter to 12-inch diameter.

L176104 Phase 2: This phase will include the installation of approximately 7,176 linear feet of water main ranging in size from 8-inch diameter to 12-inch diameter.

L176105 Phase 3: This phase will include the demolition and replacement of Well Houses #9 and #12, the rehabilitation of the 71<sup>st</sup> Street 1 million gallon (MG) elevated storage tank (EST), and the installation of approximately 7,320 linear feet of water main ranging in size from 8-inch diameter to 12-inch diameter.

L176106 Phase 4: This phase will include the replacement of several meters throughout Downers Grove and will also include the installation of approximately 6,576 linear feet of water main ranging in size from 8-inch diameter to 12-inch diameter.

L176107 Phase 5: This phase will include replacement of several meters throughout Downers Grove and will also include the installation of 7,785 linear feet of water main ranging in size from 8-inch diameter to 12-inch diameter.

There is a possibility that some of the items listed for each phase may change from one phase to another phase throughout the 5-year period as needed. The Village is not wanting to exceed the amount of \$3,500,000.00 per project per year.

**Project Location:** This project will occur at several locations throughout the Village of Downers Grove. See attached map for locations.

**Project Justification:** The water mains located within the distribution system in several locations are beyond their useful life. Water main breaks are a common occurrence after harsh winters and periods of severe drought. Replacement of the water mains will eliminate water loss and provide a more dependable supply of potable water to the customers. In addition, the elevated storage tank (EST) located at 71<sup>st</sup> Street has several items that have reached the end of their useful life and will need rehabilitation completed. Rehabilitation of items located within/on the EST will prolong the tanks performance and increase its life span. Replacement of the meters will allow for a more accurate read on the water use of the customers and will increase the operating efficiency of the system.

The only emergency source of water supply for Downers Grove are Wells #9, #12, and #14. The demolition of the existing well houses for these three wells will allow for upgrades in communication and controls. A new SCADA system will be installed to help with control of the system. New pumping equipment, electrical, piping, valves, and a sodium hypochlorite system will bring the well houses up to date and allow for the control of them in the case of a power failure.

**Estimated Construction Start/Completion Dates:**

	L176103	L176104	L176105	L176106	L176107
<b>Construction Start</b>	<b>September 2023</b>	<b>September 2024</b>	<b>September 2025</b>	<b>September 2026</b>	<b>September 2027</b>
<b>Construction Complete</b>	<b>December 2023</b>	<b>December 2024</b>	<b>December 2025</b>	<b>December 2026</b>	<b>December 2027</b>

**Project Cost Estimate:** \$17,500,000.00

**Part II – Project Affordability for Residents and Utility Customers**

Downers Grove plans on funding approximately \$17,500,000.00 through the PWSLP Loan Program. Based upon the total project cost of \$17,500,000.00, the annual loan payment for a term of (20) years based on the existing regular rate of 1.24% would be approximately \$988,429.77. Interest rates change annually on July 1<sup>st</sup>. All loans are subject to the interest rate in effect at time of loan issuance.

**Source of Loan Repayment:** User fees

**Current Average Monthly Residential Cost of Service: \$38.78**

**Projected Average Monthly Residential Cost of Service: \$44.71**

**Average Monthly Residential Water Use: 7,150 gallons**

Bimonthly rate per Unit Consumed (1 Unit=750 gallons)	FY 2021 Price	FY 2022 Price	FY 2023 Price	FY 2024 Price	FY 2025 Price
Inside Village Limits	\$6.33/unit	\$6.57/unit	\$6.82/unit	\$7.08/unit	\$7.35/unit
Outside Village Limits	\$7.26/unit	\$7.53/unit	\$7.81/unit	\$8.10/unit	\$8.40/unit

Bimonthly Fixed Charge by Water Meter Size					
5/8-inch (most common size for single family homes in the Village)	\$13.73	\$14.95	\$16.30	\$17.77	\$19.37
1-inch	\$20.59	\$22.44	\$24.46	\$26.66	\$29.06
1 1/2-inch	\$68.64	\$74.82	\$81.55	\$88.89	\$96.89
2-inch	\$109.81	\$119.69	\$130.46	\$142.20	\$155.00
3-inch	\$205.91	\$224.44	\$244.64	\$266.66	\$290.66
4-inch	\$343.18	\$372.07	\$407.74	\$444.44	\$484.44
6-inch	\$686.33	\$748.10	\$815.43	\$888.82	\$968.91
10-inch	\$1,647.19	\$1,795.44	\$1,957.03	\$2,133.16	\$2,325.14

FY=fiscal year

**Table 7.08-1 Existing Water Rate Structure**

**How the current and proposed monthly residential rate/cost of service is calculated:** Water users are billed on a bi-monthly basis. A rate increase was proposed over a five-year period. Two years of rate increases have already been completed (see Table 7.08-1 above) to help fund these projects. Currently, Downers Grove residents pay a flat fee of \$14.95 per 5/8-inch meter (most common meter used) and a rate of \$6.57 per unit (750 gallons) inside Village limits. Based on an average use of 7,150 gallons current monthly charges are:  $\$14.95 + (\$6.57 \times 9.53) = \$77.56/2 = \$38.78$ . With the final rate increase implemented the monthly charges will be  $\$19.37 + (\$7.35 \times 9.53) = \$89.42/2 = \$44.71$ .

**Number of Customers or Service Connections:** 7,150 customers

**Median Household Income (MHI):** \$97,197

**Percentage of MHI needed to pay the projected average annual residential cost of service:** 0.55%

**Financial evaluation of the proposed projects:** To evaluate the costs of the proposed projects for the community, a percentage comparison of the MHI to the average, annual cost for water service is utilized. The MHI listed above is from the current fiscal year's census information. The proposed annual water cost of \$536.52 is 0.55% of the MHI for the area. The percentage is for comparison only and has no impact on whether a project qualifies for funding from the IEPA. The percentage

comparison and MHI are two of several criteria used to determine whether a loan project qualifies for interest rate reductions or principal forgiveness.

### **Part III – Environmental Review and Impacts**

**Project Construction Impacts:** Construction will take place within the community in previously disturbed areas. Best management practices will be followed throughout the project construction. The construction process will cause some minor erosion and wind-blown dust from excavated materials. There will also be the normal noises associated with this type of construction. The probability of any damage or pollution to surface water due to erosion during construction is low.

**Illinois Department of Natural Resources:** The loan applicant submitted their project information to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) EcoCAT website to determine compliance with the Illinois Endangered Species Act, Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act, and the Illinois Wetlands Act. Initially, the review results indicated that protected resources may be in the vicinity of the locations submitted and the project will need to be evaluated further. An October 14, 2021 letter by IDNR states that the project is in the vicinity of records for the state listed threatened northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*). Due to the potential presence of the bat on the project site, IDNR recommends any tree removal should occur between November 1<sup>st</sup> and March 31<sup>st</sup> when this bat is likely hibernating off site. If these dates cannot be accommodated, a field visit should be performed by a qualified individual (biologist, forester, or others that have been trained accordingly) to determine if suitable trees are present to provide northern long-eared bat habitat. If suitable habitat trees are found within the project area, they should be clearly flagged and/or marked and shall not be cut between April 1<sup>st</sup> through October 31<sup>st</sup> when the bat is most likely to be present. These mitigative measures must be added to the project plans and specifications. In addition, upon further review of the project, IDNR also determined adverse wetland impacts are unlikely and they terminated their consultation for both 17 Ill. Adm. Code Parts 1090 and 1075.

Because this project involves construction in or near a floodway, a jurisdictional river or stream without a mapped floodway, and/or floodplain, the loan applicant also submitted their project information to IDNR's Office of Water Resources (OWR) to determine whether a permit is required to comply with the Illinois Lakes, Rivers, and Streams Act. IDNR OWR determined that the proposed projects located at the following three locations will all cross floodways and can be constructed under Regional Permit #3 and Statewide Permit #8. They are:

- VDG #8 - Curtiss Street at St. Joseph Creek
- P44 - Turvey Lane at St. Joseph Creek
- P47 – Carpenter Street at St. Joseph Creek

These projects have also been reviewed by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) for compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106. SHPO's review indicated that negative impacts to historical or archaeological resources are not expected as a result of this project.

**United States Army Corps of Engineers:** The Village of Downers Grove submitted their project information to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for their review and determination of requirements related to placement, or excavation, of any dredged or fill materials into rivers, lakes, ponds, large and small streams with perennial, intermittent, or ephemeral flow, artificial water bodies, and wetlands adjacent to these waters and associated permitting. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

(USACE) correspondence dated August 11, 2022, determined the scope of the distribution system upgrades project complies with the terms and conditions of Nationwide Permit #58 (Utility Line Activities). The Nationwide Permit #58 conditions will be listed in the final plans and specifications and followed throughout the project.

**Public comments are invited on the proposed project. For further information contact:**

Lanina Clark, Project Manager  
Infrastructure Financial Assistance Section  
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency  
Bureau of Water  
1021 North Grand Avenue East  
P.O. Box 19276  
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276  
(217)782-2027





## **Stormwater & Flood Plain Oversight Committee Proposed 2023 Meeting Dates**

Meetings are scheduled for the third Monday of each month (except as noted below)

All meetings begin at **7 PM**

Meeting held at Public Works Main Conference Room (5101 Walnut Ave)

Changes to be notified/posted at least 48 hours prior to the meeting

January 23 – 4<sup>th</sup> Monday due to Martin Luther King Jr Holiday

February 20

March 20

April 17

May 15

June 19

July 17

August 21

September 18

October 16

November 20

December 18

# The Village of Downers Grove, Illinois Program for Public Information (PPI)



Revised November 2022  
Original September 2018



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# Village of Downers Grove Program for Public Information (PPI)

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## Village of Downers Grove Program for Public Information (PPI)

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### **Background:**

The Village of Downers Grove is located in DuPage County about 20 miles west of Chicago, and encompasses about 14.5 square miles. The current population is 50,247 (based on the 2020 census). Downers Grove has three main watersheds – Lacey Creek in the northern section, St. Joseph Creek in the central section, and Prentiss Creek in the southern section (see Exhibit 1). All three creeks are tributary to the East Branch of the DuPage River. Each of these creeks has FEMA floodplain and floodway associated with it.

Downers Grove was founded in 1832, and officially incorporated in 1873. The first subdivision was constructed in 1863 (over 150 years ago). Just before the first subdivision, the railroad (currently BNSF) was extended from Chicago through Downers Grove out to Aurora. This made Downers Grove and the western suburbs more accessible, and also blocked some overland drainage to St. Joseph Creek.

The Village continued to grow and expand into the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In 1958, the interstate (I-88) was extended from Chicago to the west – at the very northern part of Downers Grove. This, again, made the Village more accessible and growth continued.

By the time the first Stormwater Plan was adopted in 1961, the Village had nearly 50% of its current population. Much of the population growth after that time resulted from expansion of the Village limits. The first Stormwater Plan focused on conveying runoff to the creeks. It was not until 1971 when the second Stormwater Plan was adopted that the Village required detention. Between 1976 and 1983, the Village constructed Barth Pond, which was designed to provide 100 acre feet of storage.

In response to the flood of 1987 the DuPage County Stormwater Group was created. Out of this came the 1992 DuPage County Stormwater Ordinance, which added the requirement of detention for developments adding 25,000 sf or more of impervious area.

In addition to the flooding from the floodplain associated with the creeks, the Village also has a number of depressional areas that cause flooding. In response to this localized flooding, the Village mapped these Localized Poor Drainage Areas (LPDAs). Between 1975 and 1977 Downers Grove had aerial photography with 1' topo taken with the intention of mapping the LPDAs. The Village used the information from the new topographic maps along with information from actual flood events to define and regulate LPDAs. The LPDAs were initially shown on a Drainage Control Map (see Exhibit 2). The LPDAs are now incorporated into the Village GIS system and are readily available to the public through parcel navigator.



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# Village of Downers Grove Program for Public Information (PPI)

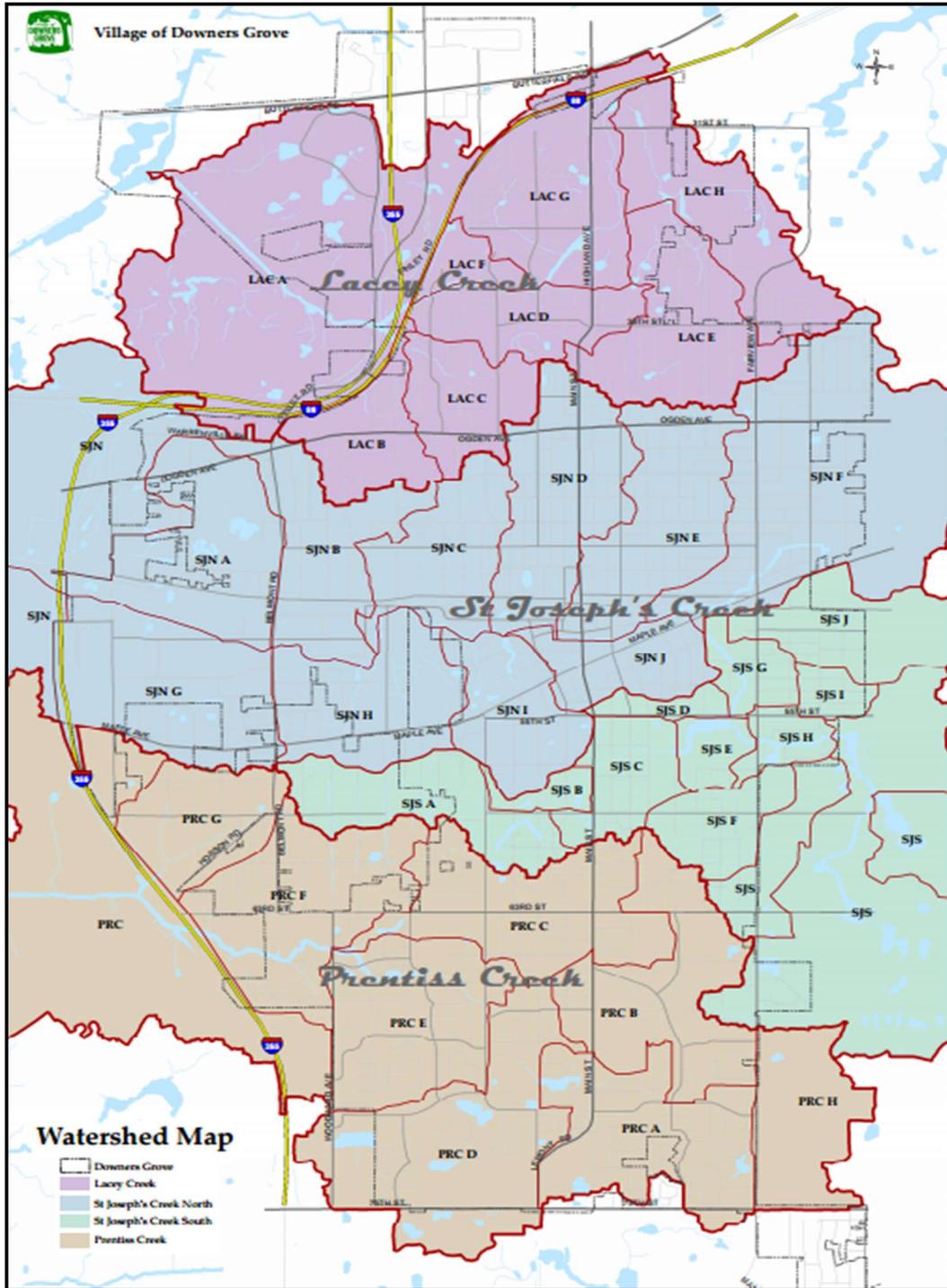


Exhibit 1 – Downers Grove Watershed Map



# Village of Downers Grove Program for Public Information (PPI)

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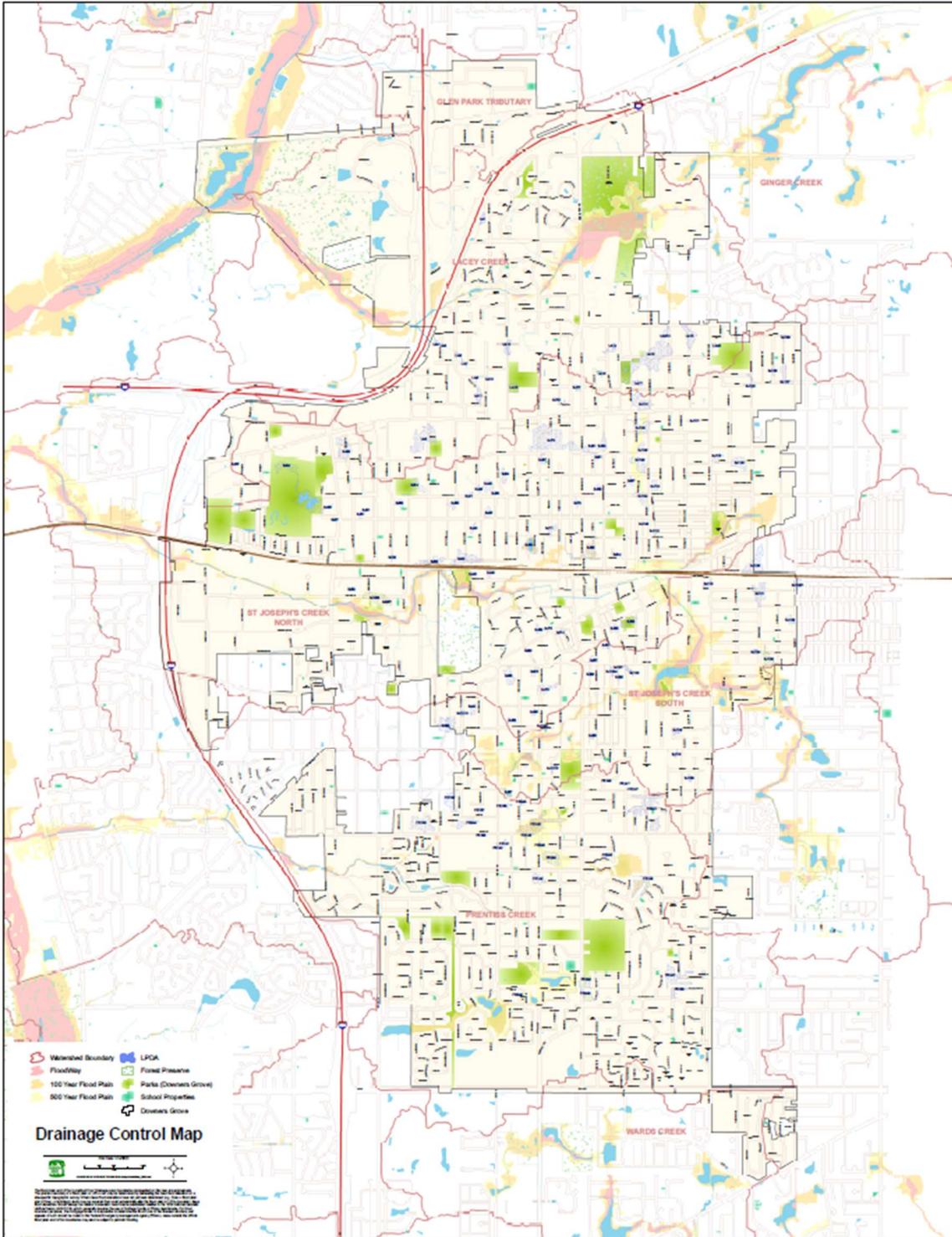


Exhibit 2 – Drainage Control Map



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## Village of Downers Grove Program for Public Information (PPI)

In 1981 the first National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) floodplain map was issued for Downers Grove. The maps mainly addressed riverine flooding and some still water, but not all the areas where flooding was occurring. The Village continued to maintain the LPDAs and regulate them essentially the same as floodplain. Many structures had already been constructed in what was now mapped floodplain – pre-FIRM, as they were built prior to the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). Similarly, many houses were constructed prior to the identification and regulation of LPDAs.

In response to widespread flooding in 2006, Downers Grove approved the Watershed Infrastructure Improvement Plan (WIIP) in 2007. The WIIP provided an analysis of the existing drainage conditions of the three primary watersheds – Lacey Creek, St Joseph Creek, and Prentiss Creek. The goal of the WIIP was to improve the Village's stormwater management system in terms of conveyance, storage and water quality. The WIIP recommended specific solutions, many of which were implemented. A small part of WIIP included a detailed study of the LPDAs, including the establishment of a base flood elevation (BFE) for the 100-year (or 1% chance) storm event. The LPDAs were more firmly established in the WIIP, including the definition of an LPDA, location, depth of flooding, and ordinance updates.

The Village has Floodplain regulations more stringent than the NFIP guidelines - including increased freeboard and regulating LPDA's similar to floodplain. Freeboard is the height above the base flood elevation used for the Flood Protection Elevation – the elevation to which the lowest floor and lowest opening must be constructed.

The Village GIS information is available to the general public through our online maps at [maps.downers.us](http://maps.downers.us) or through our website ([www.downers.us](http://www.downers.us)) – see Exhibit 3. Parcel Navigator has a wealth of information, including LPDAs (approximate location and BFE), storm sewers, floodplain, wetlands, water mains, and zoning information.

Downers Grove joined the NFIP on June 1, 1973 as an “Emergency Entry” and on April 15, 1981 as a “Regular Entry.”

Downers Grove joined the Community Rating System (CRS) in November 2004. Downers Grove is currently a Class 6 community, which allows our residents and property owners a discount of 20% on flood insurance.

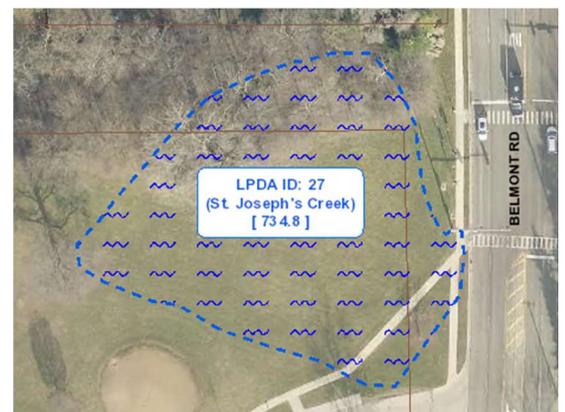


Exhibit 3 – LPDA on Parcel Navigator



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## Village of Downers Grove Program for Public Information (PPI)

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### **PPI Committee**

#### **Stormwater and Flood Plain Oversight Committee (SWFPOC)**

The Stormwater and Flood Plain Oversight Committee (SWFPOC) was created in 1992. The purpose of the SWFPOC is to hear appeals; to hold public hearings and make decisions or recommendations regarding appeals, variations or amendments to the Stormwater and Flood Plain Ordinance; review and recommend fees; and perform other such duties as requested by Village Council.

The SWFPOC consists of seven members from the community plus a staff liaison. The staff liaison is the Stormwater Administrator who is also the Floodplain Manager and CRS Coordinator. The community members are appointed by the Village Council for a 3-year term. One member is designated as the Chair. The Committee has a monthly meeting scheduled for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month.

The Program for Public Information (PPI) was reviewed and approved at the SWFPOC meeting on September 17, 2018. Per CRS requirements, the PPI will be reviewed at least annually and updated/revised as necessary.

Current members of the SWFPOC (as of 09/20/2022):

Will Wicklander, Chair  
Scott Bobo  
Kelly Borman  
Joseph Iovinelli  
Kelly Mills  
Kathryn Richert  
Marissa Schultz

Julie Lomax, VODG Stormwater Administrator

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## Village of Downers Grove Program for Public Information (PPI)

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### **Goals:**

The current Village Ordinance prohibits new development in the floodplain and LPDA unless properly elevated and protected. However, pre-FIRM (and pre-LPDA regulations) structures can be susceptible to flooding. The goal of the PPI is to educate the public as to the benefits of the floodplain and LPDA, the importance of flood insurance, and bring more awareness to emergency preparedness.

Specifically, the goals are as follows:

- Educate the general public about flooding issues and water quality
  - Ensure property owners in a SFHA and LPDA are aware of the flood hazard
  - Inform residents of the function of floodplain, LPDAs, and wetlands
  - Educate property owners about the benefits of flood insurance...and what happens if there is a flood and you don't have flood insurance
  - Notify residents of the resources available within Village staff
  - Bring awareness of the information available on Parcel Navigator
  - Encourage residents to submit Elevation Certificates to the Village
  - Encourage residents to develop an emergency plan
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## Village of Downers Grove Program for Public Information (PPI)

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### **Flood Hazards**

Downers Grove has three main watersheds – Lacey Creek in the northern section, St. Joseph Creek in the central section, and Prentiss Creek in the southern section. All three creeks are tributary to the East Branch of the DuPage River. Each of these creeks has FEMA floodplain and floodway associated with them. The majority of Lacey Creek and Prentiss Creek are located within Village right-of-way or subdivision common area. However, St. Joseph Creek is located mostly on private property.

In addition to the flooding from the floodplain associated with the creeks, the Village also has a number of depressional areas that cause flooding. In response to local flooding, between 1975-1977 Downers Grove had aerial photography with 1' topo taken with the intention of mapping these depressional areas (Localized Poor Drainage Areas – LPDAs). In addition to the maps, the Village also used information from actual flood events to regulate LPDAs.

As the Village continues to develop – and re-develop – “urban flooding” becomes more of an issue.

Currently, there are approximately 147 insurable structures in the SFHA, and approximately 313 structures are located within an LPDA. The Village enforces the Stormwater and Floodplain Ordinance for all development, including new construction and substantial damage/substantial improvement. All non-elevated properties located in the floodplain are pre-FIRM properties (or prior to LPDA regulations). This means the structures were built before any regulations were in place for floodplain or LPDA. Any structures built in the floodplain/LPDA since the regulations have been in place met all the standards at the time of construction.

Substantial damage is when the damage from any source (flood, fire, tornado, etc.) is more than 50% of the value of the structure (not the land). Substantial improvement is any improvements to the structure (addition, renovation, etc.) worth more than 50% of the value of the structure (not the land). Substantial damage and substantial improvements are tracked cumulative for any 10 year period.

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## Village of Downers Grove Program for Public Information (PPI)

### Flood Insurance Assessment

The Village of Downers Grove has 194 NFIP flood insurance policies in place, which includes 10 non-residential and 184 residential. Of those policies, 136 are for structures outside the SFHA.

	Policies in Force	Premiums	Insurance Coverage in Force
Single Family	137	\$89,594	\$39,727,300
2-4 Family	2	\$988	\$700,000
Other Residential	45	\$28,075	\$9,499,600
Non-Residential	10	\$29,167	\$4,342,300
<b>Total</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>\$147,824</b>	<b>\$54,269,200</b>

Table 1: Flood Insurance Coverage by property type as of January 13, 2022

	Policies in Force	Premiums	Insurance Coverage in Force
A01-30 & AE Zones	21	\$30,821	\$5,025,100
A Zones	37	\$50,828	\$10,362,400
AO Zones	0	\$0	\$0
B, C & X Zones			
-Standard	55	\$25,538	\$15,044,700
-Preferred	81	\$40,637	\$23,837,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>\$147,824</b>	<b>\$54,269,200</b>

Table 2: Flood Insurance Coverage by Flood Zone as of January 13, 2022

Of the 147 structures in the SFHA, 58 (or 39%) have flood insurance. One goal of the PPI is to educate property owners about the benefits and cost effectiveness of flood insurance. Ideally every structure in the SFHA or LPDA would have flood insurance.

### Repetitive Loss

According to the FEMA records, Downers Grove has seven (7) repetitive loss properties. A repetitive loss property has two or more flood insurance claims each of \$1,000 or more in any 10-year period. Since the CRS reverification in 2012, Downers Grove purchased and demolished two (2) repetitive loss properties – both located in the St. Joseph Creek floodplain. We continue to seek opportunities to purchase/demolish repetitive loss properties.



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## Village of Downers Grove Program for Public Information (PPI)

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### **Target Areas**

Downers Grove is separated into three main watersheds – Lacey Creek to the north, St. Joseph Creek in the center, and Prentiss Creek to the south.

Most of Prentiss Creek was developed after the NFIP was created and floodplain regulations had been implemented. In addition detention was required for most of the developments in the Prentiss Creek watershed, so this area experiences much less structural flooding.

Some of the developments in the Lacey Creek watershed to the north were developed with detention, though not necessarily to the current standards. Much of this area was developed as unincorporated DuPage County prior to floodplain regulations and later annexed into the Village. Even though the vast majority of the creek is within common areas for the subdivisions, some structures in this area are prone of flooding.

The St. Joseph Creek watershed area has very little detention. This area also has the most LPDAs. The majority of St. Joseph Creek is on private property.

In addition to floodplain associated with the three creeks, Downers Grove also has Localized Poor Drainage Areas (LPDAs). These areas are regulated similar to floodplain.

These are the four main target areas – SFHA in Lacey Creek, St. Joseph Creek, Prentiss Creek, and LPDAs.

### **Target Audiences**

- \* Property owners in or near the SFHA and/or LPDA
- \* Residents in apartments in SFHA / LPDA
- \* Real Estate agents, Insurance Agents, Lenders
- \* Builders / Developers / Contractors / Landscapers
- \* Subdivisions / HOA
- \* All residents (and potential residents)



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## Village of Downers Grove Program for Public Information (PPI)

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### **Priority Topics:**

1. Know your flood hazard / flood risk
2. Insure your property for your flood hazard
3. Protect your property from the hazard
4. Protect people from the hazard
5. Build responsibly
6. Protect natural floodplain functions / water quality / wetlands

### **Additional Downers Grove Topics:**

7. Develop a family emergency plan
8. Stay informed
9. Flash flooding
10. Drainage issues / Cost Share
11. Basement flooding

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### **Annual Evaluation**

At a minimum, the SWFPOC will evaluate the PPI annually, as required by the CRS program. The committee will evaluate the goals and review the updated flood insurance information. In addition, the committee will review the outreach projects completed and make any necessary revisions.

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### **Outreach Projects / Initiatives**

See PPI Project table

**Village of Downers Grove - Program for Public Information (PPI) - Project Table**

Target Audience	Topic	Message	Project	Desired Outcome	Schedule/Frequency
Properties in the SFHA / LPDA	Know your flood risk Insure your property Protect your property from flooding Floodplain functions	Your structure is in a SFHA/LPDA - check the maps/ call PW (320)	send letter/postcard	awareness, insurance	annually
Residents in apartments in SFHA/LPDA	Know your flood risk Insure your contents from flooding	Your apartment building is in a SFHA/LPDA - insure your contents	send letter	awareness, insurance	annually
All residents	Know your flood risk Insure your property Protect people Basement Flooding	Anyone can flood Basement flooding	e-News, facebook, Nextdoor, Twitter, Inside DG	awareness, insurance	annually
All residents	Develop an emergency plan	Are you prepared for an emergency?	FEMA brochure: e-News, facebook, Nextdoor, twitter, Inside DG	preparedness	annually
All residents	Stay informed	Sign up for Community-wide notification system	Water Billing, e-News, facebook, Nextdoor, Twitter, Inside DG	preparedness	annually
All residents	Protect natural floodplain functions	Only stormwater down the drain (fertilizers and leaves)	e-News, facebook, Nextdoor, Twitter, Inside DG	less trash, sediment, chemicals in the storm sewers/creeks	semi-annually (Spring and Fall)
Flood prone areas All residents	Protect people from the hazard	Turn around, don't drown	e-News, facebook, Nextdoor, Twitter, Inside DG	keep people and vehicles safe	annually - Spring
RE agents	Know your flood risk Insure your property Protect your property Protect people	check Parcel Navigator (320), call PW	send letter/flyer to RE agents	awareness	annually
Flood insurance providers	Know your flood risk Insure your contents from flooding	Get the right insurance policy	send letter/flyer to insurance agents	awareness, insurance	annually
Everyone	Build responsibly	Do I need a permit?	e-News	awareness	annually
Builders, Developers, Landscapers, Homeowners	Know your risk Build responsibly	Any work in properties in SFHA/LPDA require permit	Website, e-news	permits for all work in floodplain/LPDA	ongoing

**Village of Downers Grove - Program for Public Information (PPI) - Project Table**

Target Audience	Topic	Message	Project	Desired Outcome	Schedule/Frequency
Neighborhood Meetings	Know your flood risk Insure your property Protect your property from flooding Drainage Issues Basement flooding	Protect your property	slide for presentation and flyers, offer to meet with individual homeowners	awareness, insurance	ongoing with stormwater CIP projects
Everyone	all topics		Brochures and flyers at DG Library	awareness	ongoing
Everyone	all topics	PW staff available, brochures available, water table presentation	PW Open House	awareness	annually
Everyone / Floodplain areas along creeks	Flash flood risks		FEMA brochure: e-News, facebook, Nextdoor, twitter, Inside DG	awareness	annually - Spring
Everyone	Drainage Issues / Cost Share Program	Village staff available to help	website, e-news, Inside DG	awareness	ongoing, annually
<b>Other Organizations</b>					
DuPage County	Protect DuPage		<a href="https://dupageco.org/OHSEM/ProtectDupage/57687/">https://dupageco.org/OHSEM/ProtectDupage/57687/</a>		
The Conservation Foundation			<a href="https://www.theconservationfoundation.org/">https://www.theconservationfoundation.org/</a>		
FEMA			<a href="https://www.floodsmart.gov/">https://www.floodsmart.gov/</a>		

**Priority Topics:**

- 1) Know your flood hazard
- 2) Insure your property for your flood hazard
- 3) Protect your property from the hazard
- 4) Protect people from the hazard
- 5) Build responsibly
- 6) Protection natural floodplain functions / water quality / wetlands

**Other Topics:**

- 7) Develop an emergency plan
- 8) Stay informed
- 9) Flash Floods
- 10) Drainage Issues / Cost Share
- 11) Basement Flooding

**Avenues:**

- e-News
- Hometown Times / Inside DG
- Facebook
- Twitter
- YouTube
- NextDoor
- Water Billing
- DGTV
- Website
- Brochures
- PW Open House
- Letters/mailings
- Resident/Neighborhood Meetings

VODG SWFPOC  
Staff Report  
November 28, 2022

**A. 2022 Stormwater Projects**

The following stormwater capital projects were completed in 2022: Wisconsin Avenue Drainage Improvements (east of Belmont), Lyman and 62<sup>nd</sup> Drainage Improvements, Otis-Grant-Florence Drainage Improvements, Sterling & 39<sup>th</sup> Drainage Improvements, Downers-Lee Bike Path Drainage Improvements.

**B. DuPage County Water Quality Grant**

The Village was awarded a water quality grant for a mechanical separator to be installed in the grassy area on the west side of Mochel Drive. Design is in progress and the project will be completed in 2023. A mechanical separator will remove pollutants from the storm sewer before entering St Joseph Creek in the 11' diameter pipe.