

Help Your Watershed!

Everyone lives in a watershed, and it takes a community to maintain and protect it! DuPage County is looking for input on water quality concerns or issues in your watershed. If you have any information, please provide it online at:

gis.dupageco.org/citizenreporter

However, no matter where you live in a watershed, you contribute to the health of local streams and rivers. If you don't have information to contribute, you can still help improve the health of your watershed by following the guidance in this brochure!

*“Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not.”
- Dr. Seuss, The Lorax*

DUPAGECOUNTY



DUPAGE COUNTY

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

DUPAGE COUNTY STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

421 North County Farm Road
Wheaton, IL 60187

(630) 407-6673

stormwatermgmt@dupageco.org

 @lovebluedupage

 @lovebluedupage

 @lovebluedupage

Tag Your Watershed! #LoveBlueDuPage

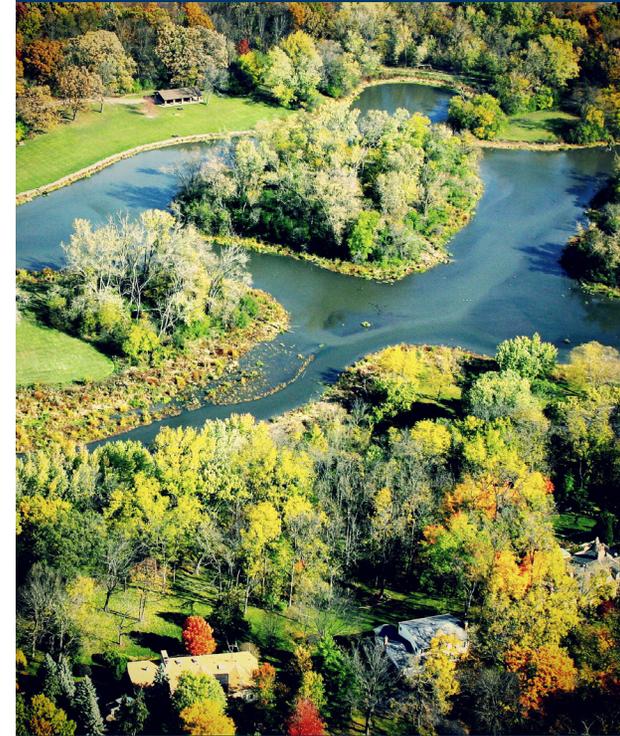


www.dupageco.org/swm



DUPAGE COUNTY

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT



WATER WHERE YOU LIVE

(630) 407-6673

stormwatermgmt@dupageco.org

www.dupageco.org/swm

BACK TO BASICS: LEARN ABOUT WATER IN YOUR AREA

TO LEARN MORE

Visit us at: www.dupageco.org/swm

— or —

Call us: (630) 407-6673

Q: What is a watershed?

A: A watershed is an area of land where all of the water drains into the same place. A watershed consists of surface water—lakes, streams, reservoirs and wetlands—and all the underlying ground water.

Q: What is stormwater runoff?

A: Stormwater runoff occurs when precipitation from rain or snowmelt flows over driveways, sidewalks, lawns and streets, preventing water from naturally soaking into the ground.

Stormwater runoff can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt and other nonpoint source pollutants before flowing into storm sewers or directly into a stream, river, lake, wetland or pond. Generally, anything that enters a storm sewer system is discharged untreated into local waterways that support aquatic habitat and human recreation.

Q: What is nonpoint source pollution?

A: Nonpoint source pollution is pollution that does not originate from a single source, but, instead, is carried by another source. When it rains, the water washes over the landscape and picks up bits of dirt, oil, fertilizer and even animal waste and carries it through storm sewer systems, untreated, to our rivers and streams. This pollution impairs habitat for native animal species and plants.

Q: What are the benefits of a healthy watershed?

A: Healthy watersheds provide ecosystem, economic and social benefits, including:

- **Improved water quality.** Natural landscapes and floodplains filter pollutants, promote nutrient cycling and help retain sediment.
- **Carbon storage opportunities.** Natural land cover and healthy soil resources can sequester carbon to offset greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Reduced costs** of water treatment infrastructure by filtering pollutants and protecting water quality.
- **Increased flood protection.** Healthy watersheds better hold precipitation where it falls, either absorbing it into landscapes or slowing the runoff.
- **Increased property values.** Housing near healthy watersheds has higher property values than those in or around degraded ecosystems and impaired waters.

Q: What can I do to help prevent nonpoint source pollution?

A: There are many opportunities to help local watersheds, including:

- Plant a rain garden using native plants. Water it from a rain barrel that harvests rainwater.
- Let your lawn grow to 3 inches before mowing.
- Compost or mulch yard waste. Don't leave it in the street or sweep it into storm drains.
- Fertilize your lawn less. Use a soil test to know what your lawn needs (or doesn't).
- Dispose of pet waste promptly by burying it, flushing it or throwing it in a garbage can.
- Use "just enough" road salt in the winter. Sweep up unnecessary product for reuse.
- Wash your car on your yard so the water infiltrates into the ground.
- Clear litter and debris from sidewalks and driveways, especially near storm drains.
- Consider green infrastructure projects, such as permeable pavers and green roofs, to reduce stormwater runoff.