



STORMWATER MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

FY2026 STAFF RECOMMENDED PROJECTS

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT BOARD (WMB) COST-SHARE PROGRAM

WMB/WMAG: \$236,100 available for FY26; 10 projects recommended, with a total grant value of \$232,100.

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE GRANT (WMAG)

The WMAG supports the growth and sustainability (i.e., organizational capacity) of local watershed partnerships in Lake County. For this program, a "watershed partnership" is defined as an inclusive, enduring, diverse, community-based group organized to identify and resolve watershed problems and issues. The work carried out by each grant recipient targets and fulfills the above purpose. There is no local match requirement for WMAG.

Lake Aldo Leopold Lake Management Plan (Prairie Crossing HOA)

\$12,000 WMAG Grant Recommendation

\$20,000 Estimated Project Cost

The proposed project would create a lasting lake management plan for Lake Aldo Leopold as a guide for stewardship for future HOA board members. The management plan would address nutrient levels, aquatic vegetation and water quality impairments. The plan also includes a monitoring and reporting component. Outreach efforts to collaborate with the homeowner's association, the Village of Grayslake, and Libertyville Township would nurture the growth of watershed partnerships and amplify the benefits on the watershed as a whole. Identification of lake management actions that can be implemented within the HOA's budget would support the sustainability of the local watershed partnership. The WMB and SMC staff **RECOMMEND** this project for **WMAG** funding.

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT BOARD (WMB) GRANT

The WMB helps fund local drainage improvement, flood reduction, and water quality projects. Project applications are assessed and prioritized based on nine benefit criteria: inter-jurisdictional, flood hazard reduction, structural damage, water quality, natural resources, nuisance flood reduction, multiple use, outside funding utilization, and phosphorous public education component. The WMB is a cost-share program and requires at least 50 percent local match.

DES PLAINES RIVER WATERSHED

Wellington Avenue Drainage Improvements (Village of Mundelein)

\$65,000 WMB Grant Requested

\$133,000 Estimated Project Cost

The proposed project would create a 0.35 acre foot detention basin at 101 Wellington Avenue, install 250 feet of 12-inch storm sewer, and install three storm sewer structures. The proposed work would relieve structural flooding impacts at 31 and 102 Wellington Avenue and partially address storm sewer capacity limitations in the U.S. Route 45 Illinois Department of Transportation right-of-way. The WMB and SMC staff **DO NOT RECOMMEND** this project for **WMB** funding. This project was forwarded to the SMC Executive Director for consideration for Stormwater Infrastructure Repair Fund (SIRF) funding.

**Sustainable Landscapes: Demonstrations,
Data, and Outreach Phase 2
(Openlands)**

\$33,677 WMB Grant Recommendation
\$930,143 Estimated Project Cost

The proposed project would install four residential scale aesthetically traditional and ecologically impactful demonstration landscapes in the Grayslake Village center, collect and share data on the sustainable landscaping practices implemented, and provide education and outreach to local landscapers. The proposed project would provide natural resource benefits, water quality benefits, and flood problem reductions at the demonstration sites. The proposed project would also serve as a regional demonstration site for education and outreach for landscaping contractors. The WMB and SMC staff **RECOMMEND** this project for **WMB** funding.

**Rt. 45 Preserve Hydrological & Ecological
Restoration Project Phase 2
(Libertyville Township)**

\$23,058 WMB Grant Recommendation
\$123,660 Estimated Project Cost

The proposed project would restore 0.93 acres of sedge meadow, 1,118 linear feet of stream, 8 acres of upland prairie, and 3.2 acres of wetland prairie at an approximately 70 acre abandoned tree nursery in the Liberty Prairie Reserve. The proposed work would reduce stormwater, sediment, and excess nutrient runoff in the Bull Creek watershed. The proposed work would also enhance wildlife habitat and ecological resilience of the Liberty Prairie Reserve which has four Illinois nature preserves, and multiple state threatened and endangered species. The WMB and SMC staff **RECOMMEND** this project for **WMB** funding.

**Lincolnshire Drive (South) Flood Reduction
(Village of Lincolnshire)**

\$110,000 WMB Grant Requested
\$11,000,000 Estimated Project Cost

The proposed project would include the installation of a large relief storm sewer, storm sewer laterals along Cumberland and Wiltshire Drive, and the installation of a 30 cubic feet per second pump station. The improved stormwater infrastructure would provide a 10-year level of service resulting in the reduction of property damage at 59 properties, reduced road flooding, increased access to residential properties, and a reduction in the need for emergency services and public to respond to road flooding. The WMB and SMC staff **DO NOT RECOMMEND** this project for **WMB** funding. This project was forwarded to the SMC Executive Director for consideration for Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) funding.

**University of Saint Mary of the Lake
Shoreline Wellness Initiative
(University of Saint Mary of the Lake)**

\$12,000 WMB Grant Recommended
\$42,000 Estimated Project Cost

The proposed project would stabilize 4,289 linear feet of shoreline erosion at St. Mary Lake and remove approximately 1.18 acres of buckthorn. The proposed project would reduce sediment accumulation in St. Mary Lake, reduce erosion of trails, and reduce nutrient loads to St. Mary's Lake. The WMB and SMC staff **RECOMMEND** this project for **WMB** funding.

Daybreak Farm Shoreline Restoration Phase 1**(Daybreak Farm Community Association)**

\$23,765 WMB Grant Recommended

\$47,531 Estimated Project Cost

The proposed project would stabilize 600 linear feet of shoreline with riprap, install a 69 linear foot French drain, remove invasive vegetation, and install 600 square feet of native buffer. The proposed project would reduce nutrient and sediment loads to Libertyville Township open space, reduce flooding at Daybreak Drive, and reduce flooding and damage of a multiuse trail. The WMB and SMC staff **RECOMMEND** this project for **WMB** funding.

Des Plaines River Forest Preserves Hydrologic Analysis Project**(Lake County Forest Preserve District)**

\$30,000 WMB Grant Requested

\$171,150 Estimated Project Cost

The proposed project would perform engineering and analysis for detailed restoration plans at three Lake County Forest Preserve Sites. Engineering and analysis would include plans to remove and abandon drain tile systems, reconfigure and stabilize overland flow paths, maintain and improve critical drainage systems to protect on and off site concerns, and reconfigure drainage systems and overland flow paths to maintain conveyance. This would provide forest preserve staff sufficient information to perform the hydraulic restoration at the Wright Woods, Ryerson Conservation Area, and MacArthur Woods forest preserves. The WMB and SMC staff **DO NOT RECOMMEND** this project for **WMB** funding.

NORTH BRANCH CHICAGO RIVER WATERSHED**Del Mar Woods Drainage Improvement Concept Plan****(Lake County Stormwater Management Commission)**

\$46,200 WMB Grant Requested

\$46,200 Estimated Project Cost

The proposed scope involves SMC contracting a consultant to coordinate cooperations the West Deerfield Township and the Del Mar Woods community to identify flooding concerns and provide recommendations in a phased approach based on priority. The proposed concept design will identify whether drainage improvements can be addressed within the community and/or the need for easements and or access into adjacent property(s) for drainage access and/or storage for stormwater runoff to the Middle Fork. Concept design will be presented to the community for comments and determining next steps. SMC staff **RECOMMENDS** this project for **WMB** funding.

Bannockburn Court Storm Sewer Project (Village of Bannockburn)

\$40,000 WMB Grant Requested

\$154,137.50 Estimated Project Cost

The proposed scope includes installing 310 linear feet of storm pipe to improve drainage in a persistently flooded area in the Bannockburn Court neighborhood. The proposed project includes performing earth excavation, laying new storm drainage pipe ranging from 15" to 36" in size, and restoring the disturbed area with topsoil and native plantings. The installation of the proposed stormwater utilities will help manage runoff more effectively, reducing the risk of structural damage and protecting both private property and overall water quality in the surrounding area. SMC staff **DOES NOT**

RECOMMEND this project for **WMB** funding. This project was forwarded to the SMC Executive Director for consideration for Stormwater Infrastructure Repair Fund (SIRF) funding.

FOX RIVER WATERSHED

Tower Lakes Gateway Vegetated Streambed Restoration Project (Tower Lakes Improvement Association)

\$15,000 WMB Grant Recommendation

\$36,000 Estimated Project Cost

The proposed project is a cooperative effort between the Village of Tower Lakes, the Tower Lakes Community Foundation, and the Tower Lakes Improvement Association. The proposed scope of work includes removing non-native invasive vegetation along a stream channel near Kelsey Road; restoring the area with native trees, shrubs, and grasses; installing meanders and rock/riprap features to reduce flow velocity and promote infiltration; and establishing a 5-year maintenance plan with invasive species control. The proposed project has significant water quality, natural resource, multiple use, and interjurisdictional benefits. The WMB and SMC staff **RECOMMEND** this project for **WMB** funding.

Petite Lake Drainageway Sediment and Erosion Control Phase 2 Project (Lake Villa Township)

\$46,200 WMB Grant Recommendation

\$155,000 Estimated Project Cost

The proposed project is a cooperative effort between Lake Villa Township, Lake Villa Township Highway Department, and the Petite Lake Park Association, and is the second phase of a larger plan. The proposed scope of work includes removing invasive vegetation and overgrowth from a ravine, installing six (6) stone grade control structures with heights of 2-3 feet along the centerline of the ravine, restoring the ravine side slopes with native vegetation, and installing an outlet scour pool at the culvert outlet from Park Avenue to the ravine. The proposed project has substantial interjurisdictional, water quality, natural resource, and multiple use benefits. The WMB and SMC staff **RECOMMEND** this project for **WMB** funding.

Ray Lake Hydrologic Analysis Project (Lake County Forest Preserve District)

\$10,000 WMB Grant Recommendation

\$224,250 Estimated Project Cost

The proposed project would perform engineering and analysis for detailed restoration plans at the Ray Lake Forest Preserve. Engineering and analysis would include plans to remove and abandon drain tile systems, reconfigure and stabilize overland flow paths, maintain and improve critical drainage systems to protect on and off site concerns, and reconfigure drainage systems and overland flow paths to maintain conveyance. This would provide forest preserve staff sufficient information to implement restoration efforts at the Ray Lake Forest Preserve. The WMB and SMC staff **RECOMMEND** this project for **WMB** funding.

East Main Pump Station Bank Stabilization (Lake County Public Works Department)

\$10,200 WMB Grant Recommendation

\$197,923 Estimated Project Cost

This project proposes targeted streambank stabilization along the east streambank of the East Main Pump Station. Without intervention, erosion of this streambank threatens not only the stream corridor but also the pump station's access driveway

and, ultimately, the building itself. Three methods of streambank stabilization are proposed, with the methods chosen due to the available area to work: gabion baskets, rock slope with a native cap, and full native slope. The proposed scope of work also includes removal of buckthorn. The proposed project has substantial structural damage reduction and water quality benefits. The WMB and SMC staff **RECOMMEND** this project for **WMB** funding.

Fox Point Landing Improvements (Fox Point Homeowners Association)

\$46,200 WMB Grant Requested
\$133,750 Estimated Project Cost

The project proposes to address ongoing shoreline erosion and settlement at an existing community boat landing and park space adjacent to Lake Louise, an impoundment on the Lake Louise Drain. The proposed scope of work includes installing 195 feet of hybrid sheet pile/stone shoreline stabilization and 40 feet of native planted shoreline, adding site fill, and compensating for the fill at a location along the Lake Louise Drain immediately downstream of the adjacent dam. The compensatory storage area along the stream is proposed to include native vegetation restoration. The proposed project has moderate interjurisdictional, natural resource, and multiple use benefits. The WMB and SMC staff **DO NOT RECOMMEND** this project for **WMB** funding.

Depot Landings Retention Ponds (Depot Landings Homeowners Association)

\$2,485 WMB Grant Requested
\$4,970 Estimated Project Cost

The proposed scope of work includes application of systemic herbicide to cattails or phragmites, cutting of cattail or phragmites with an amphibious machine, and removal of cut material off-site. The intention is to reestablish drainage and prepare Depot Landings Pond #2 for future native planting and seeding anticipated for September 2027. The proposed FY2026 project has some flood hazard reduction, water quality, and natural resource benefits. The WMB and SMC staff **DO NOT RECOMMEND** this project for **WMB** funding. **This** project was forwarded to the SMC Executive Director for consideration for the Small Grant Project Fund.

LAKE MICHIGAN WATERSHED

No Project Submissions

SMC did not receive any applications for projects in the Lake Michigan Watershed. The available funding for projects in the Lake Michigan Watershed for Fiscal Year 2026 is \$35,200. SMC staff recommends the funding be allocated to an 'above minimum score project' in the Fox River watershed.



STORMWATER MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

FISCAL YEAR 2026

WMAG/WMB APPLICATION SUMMARY & RECOMMENDATIONS

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE (\$12,000 Available)							
Project	Applicant	Score	Total Project Cost	Requested Amount	Funds Available	WMB Recommended Funding	
Aldo Leopold Lake Management Plan	Prairie Crossing HOA	285	\$20,000	\$12,000			\$12,000
WMAG TOTAL			\$20,000	\$12,000	\$12,000		\$12,000
					\$12,000		\$12,000
DES PLAINES RIVER (\$92,500 available)							
Wellington Avenue Drainage Improvements	Village of Mundelein	386	\$133,000	\$65,000			Recommended for SIRF
Sustainable Landscapes: Demonstrations, Data, and Outreach Phase 2	Openlands	340	\$930,143	\$92,000			\$33,677
Rt. 45 Preserve Hydrological & Ecological Restoration Project - Phase 2	Libertyville Township	304	\$123,660	\$23,058			\$23,058
Lincolnshire Drive (South) Flood Reduction	Village of Lincolnshire	255	\$11,000,000	\$110,000			Recommended for DCEO Round 3
Phase 4 University of Saint Mary of the Lake Shoreline Wellness Initiative	The University of Saint Mary of the Lake	253	\$42,000	\$12,000			\$12,000
Daybreak Farm Shoreline Restoration Phase 1	Daybreak Farm Community Association	250	\$47,531	\$23,765			\$23,765
Des Plaines River Forest Preserves Hydraulic Analysis Project	Lake County Forest Preserve District	249	\$171,150	\$30,000			
DES PLAINES RIVER WATERSHED TOTAL			\$12,447,484	\$355,823	\$92,500		\$92,500
					\$92,500		\$92,500
NORTH BRANCH CHICAGO RIVER (\$46,200 available)							
Del Mar Woods Drainage Improvement Concept Plan	SMC Internal	250	\$46,200	\$46,200			\$46,200
Bannockburn Court Storm Sewer	Village of Bannockburn	148	\$154,138	\$40,000			Recommended for SIRF
NORTH BRANCH CHICAGO RIVER TOTAL			\$46,200	\$46,200	\$46,200		\$46,200
					\$46,200		\$46,200
FOX RIVER (\$46,200 available)							
Tower Lakes Gateway Vegetated Streambed Restoration Project	Tower Lakes Improvement Association	386	\$36,000	\$15,000			\$15,000
Petite Lake Drainageway Sediment and Erosion Control Phase 2 Project	Lake Villa Township	378	\$155,000	\$46,200			\$46,200
Ray Lake Hydrologic Analysis Project	Lake County Forest Preserve District	250	\$224,250	\$10,000			\$10,000
East Main Pump Station Bank Stabilization	Lake County Public Works Department	237	\$197,923	\$75,000			\$10,200
Fox Point Landing Improvements	Fox Point Homeowners Association	187	\$133,750	\$46,200			
Depot Landings Retention Ponds	Depot Landings Homeowners Association	125	\$4,970	\$2,485			Recommend for Small Grant Project Fund
FOX RIVER WATERSHED TOTAL			\$751,893	\$194,885	\$46,200		\$81,400
					<i>Unallocated Funds from Lake Michigan Watershed</i>	\$35,200	\$35,200
					TOTAL FOX RIVER WATERSHED FUNDING	\$81,400	\$81,400
LAKE MICHIGAN (\$35,200 available)							
No Applications Received							
LAKE MICHIGAN WATERSHED TOTAL			\$0	\$0	\$35,200		\$0
					<i>Unallocated Funds to Fox River Watershed</i>	-\$35,200	
					TOTAL LAKE MICHIGAN WATERSHED FUNDING	\$0	\$0
FY2026 TOTAL WMB (\$236,100 AVAILABLE)	\$4,000 Contingency Funds Not Included	GRAND TOTAL	16	\$13,265,577	\$608,908	\$232,100	\$232,100