

Lake County Stormwater Management Commission
**Comprehensive Stormwater Management
Plan Update**

Aug 6, 2026

Comprehensive Stormwater Management Plan Update

- Recommendations have been developed for updating the 2002 Lake County Comprehensive Stormwater Management Plan
 - Revision is a statutory authorization
 - Baxter & Woodman, Gewalt Hamilton Associates, SMC Staff

The screenshot shows the website of the Stormwater Management Commission. The header includes the logo and navigation links: About Us, Permits, For Landowners, For Local Government, and How Do I... A sidebar on the left lists: Annual Reports, Online Permitting Resources, All Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan (ANHMP), Lake County Comprehensive Stormwater Management Plan, Watershed Planning Documents, and Wetland Restoration & Preservation Plan. The main content area features a large banner image of a construction site with a yellow excavator. Below the banner is the title 'Lake County Comprehensive Stormwater Management Plan' and a section titled '2025 Lake County Comprehensive Stormwater Management Plan (In Progress)'. The text describes public meetings held to gather feedback for updating the 2002 plan. It mentions that SMC staff received input from Technical Advisory and Municipal Advisory Committees. A paragraph states that SMC is now developing proposed updates to the Comprehensive Stormwater Management Plan, which will include a detailed breakdown of services into seven functional areas and supporting activities, including a 10-year action plan. Below this is a link for 'OPEN HOUSE PUBLIC MEETING PRESENTATION'. At the bottom, there is a section titled 'Main Components of Our Program' with a bullet point: 'Manages Lake County's floodplains and watersheds by administering floodplain and stormwater management standards.' To the right of this text are three small images: a house with a flooded yard, a 'Watershed Planning' graphic, and a landscape with a drainage system.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

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Lake County Comprehensive Stormwater Management Plan

2025 Lake County Comprehensive Stormwater Management Plan (In Progress)

The Lake County Stormwater Management Commission (SMC) hosted 4 public meetings this year across Lake County to receive feedback from residents to assist in updating the 2025 Lake County Comprehensive Stormwater Management Plan. SMC would like to express a **BIG THANK YOU** to those who came to these meetings to talk with our staff and provide valuable input! SMC staff also received input from the Technical Advisory and Municipal Advisory Committees to the Stormwater Management Commission. Thanks to the members of those committees for sharing their professional expertise in this effort.

SMC is now in the process of developing proposed updates to the Comprehensive Stormwater Management Plan. The updated Comprehensive Stormwater Management Plan will include a detailed breakdown of services into seven functional areas and supporting activities, including a 10-year action plan, that comprise the Stormwater Management Commission program. See the project timeline below to check out the next steps!

[OPEN HOUSE PUBLIC MEETING PRESENTATION](#)

Main Components of Our Program

- **Manages Lake County's floodplains and watersheds** by administering floodplain and stormwater management standards.

Watershed Planning:
Flood Hazard Mitigation
Water Quality Improvements
Natural Drainage System Management
Restoration

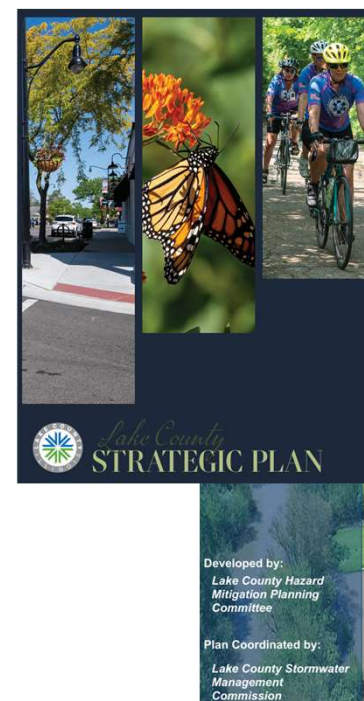
Comprehensive Stormwater Management Plan Update

■ The recommendations were developed thorough:

- Review of current and past plans
 - Lake County Strategic Plan – seven plan elements align, especially Adaptive Infrastructure and Sustainable Environment
 - 1990 Comprehensive Stormwater Management Plan, 2002 Comprehensive Stormwater Management Plan
 - 2022 All-Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan
- Public survey to gauge preferences and interest in program areas
- Six public meetings, as well as Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), Municipal Advisory Committee (MAC)
- Review of other local and regional programs

■ Data-driven assessment and public input was used to evaluate and recommend updated operational, programmatic, and staffing needs for the future

- Recommendations for Comp Plan updates are presented in memo format



Lake County
All-Natural Hazards
Mitigation Plan
Lake County, Illinois

October 2022

Comprehensive Stormwater Management Plan Update

■ Recommendations were developed for the following Comp Plan sections:

- Section 4.3 SMC Partners in Stormwater Management
- Section 4.4 Summary of SMC Roles and Responsibilities
 - Table 4.1 Functional Roles with Recommendations
- Section 5.3 Typical Costs for Stormwater Management Programs
- Section 5.4 Cost Development of Future Full-Service SMC Management Program
- Section 6 Action Plan
 - Table 6-1 Lake County SMC Fiscal Year Budget Breakdown
 - Table 6-2 Action Plan Summary
- Appendix D SMC Stormwater Management Funding Alternatives
- Appendix E Survey Results

Public Survey Findings

- **142 responses; 92% of which live or work within the County**
- **Flooding remains a top concern across the county – 50% of respondents rank it the top concern**
- **33% reported flooding at their own home**
- **65% felt that the County lacks an adequate program for maintaining drainage systems**
- **73% indicated that protecting water quality in local streams was important - having a significant impact on public health and ecology**
- **66% felt that wetlands and natural areas were critical assets for stormwater management, and not adequately protected**
- **46% favored incorporating more green infrastructure alongside traditional stormwater practices**
 - 36% favored green infrastructure as the primary form of stormwater management

Public Survey Findings

- **35% indicated a desire for more public education on the impacts of stormwater and individual contributions to its management**
 - 76% selected email as their preferred method for receiving updates
- **Responses were mixed on the effectiveness of current funding sources**
 - 39% supported a stormwater utility fee, a dedicated source to improve and maintain infrastructure
 - 38% were not sure
 - 21% did not support a dedicated fee
- **Of those who supported a stormwater utility fee**
 - 27% support a \$1 to \$5 fee
 - 23% support a \$6 to \$10 fee
 - 13% support a \$11 to \$20 fee

Comprehensive Plan Priorities

1. Funding - Capital Improvement Program
2. Reduce - Flood-damaged structures
3. Regulatory – WDO Updates
4. Update - Urban Flooding Mitigation Statutory Language
5. Enhance - Natural Resources/Water Quality/Economic Development
6. Increase - Wetland Mitigation
7. Provide - Expert Water Resources Public Information
8. Plan – Complete/Update Watershed Plans
9. Continue - Qualifying Local Program for the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
10. Consolidate – Countywide GIS database for stormwater management (Asset Management)



SMC Partners in Stormwater Management

■ Partner Agencies / Groups	Added from 2002 Plan
■ County Agencies	McHenry-Lake Soil and Water Conservation District
■ Local Governments	
■ Neighboring Counties	MWRD, McHenry County Stormwater
■ State Agencies	Illinois State Water Survey, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
■ Federal Agencies	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
■ Private and Non-Profit Organizations	Friends of the Chicago River
■ Watershed Workgroups	Des Plaines River, North Branch Chicago River, Fox River Study Group
■ Regional Collaboratives	Great Lakes Commission, Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant
■ Elected Officials	County/Municipal, State Representatives/Senators, U.S. Congressmen/Senators

Summary of Expanded SMC Roles and Responsibilities

■ 7 Functional Programmatic Areas

- Administration
- Planning
- Engineering
- Regulatory
- Public Information
- Capital Improvements
- Maintenance

■ Table 4-1 Recommendations/Clarifications

- Status Quo: Same Operational Framework as Today
- Enhance: Smaller Level Up of Budget/Effort
- Expand: Level Up Budget/Effort - Potentially + FTE ↑

■ +3 FTE's +\$400k Budget

- 1 Capital Program Manager +1 FTE
- 1 Communications Specialist +1 FTE
- 1 Water Resource Professional +1 FTE

Table 4-1, Functional Roles with Recommendations

5. Capital Improvement (Future: Expanded Effort + FTE)

	PROGRAM FUNCTION AND RESPONSIBILITIES	Task Details	Expanded/Enhanced Effort
5.1	Federal, State, County, Municipal Local Sponsor Coordination	Coordinate with all levels of government and project sponsors to align funding, permitting, and project approvals for stormwater capital improvements	Recommends additional staff support (.04 FTE) to enhance coordination with funding agencies and project sponsors, as existing DCEO funding commitments are exceeding current SMC capacity
5.2	Grant Procurement, Administration, Compliance & Legal Services (Intermittent)	Secure and administer grant funding, ensuring compliance with federal and state requirements while managing legal and contractual obligations	Recommends dedicated Capital Project Manager staff support (.2 FTE) and sustainable funding
5.3	Project Identification, Financial Planning, Implementation & Management (Future Program Item)	Identify and prioritize stormwater projects, develop financial strategies, and manage implementation to deliver effective flood mitigation and water quality improvements	Recommends dedicated Capital Project Manager staff support (.2 FTE) and sustainable funding
5.4	Professional Services/Consultant Contracting and Bidding (Future Program Item)	Procure and manage consultant and contractor services through competitive bidding to support design, permitting, and construction of stormwater projects	Recommends dedicated Capital Project Manager staff support (.2 FTE) and sustainable funding
5.5	Post-Project Obligations (Future Program Item)	Fulfill reporting, monitoring, and long-term maintenance to ensure project compliance and performance.	Recommends dedicated Capital Project Manager staff support (.2 FTE) and sustainable funding
5.6	Project Design and Construction (Phase 1/2/3) (Future Program Item)	Concept and Final Design, permitting, and construction of capital improvement projects for flood damage reduction and water quality improvement.	Recommends dedicated Capital Project Manager staff support (.2 FTE) and sustainable funding

Stormwater Program Costs

- SMC 2025 budget includes 22 full-time staff, two part-time, and intern positions
- Operating budget of \$4,169,452, at an annual cost of \$5.88 per capita and \$14.67 per acre
- Lake County remains lower than the yearly costs of other comparable programs
- Table 5.2

Jurisdiction/ Municipality	Total Costs (Millions)	Population	Area (Sq. Mi)	Annual Cost per Capita	Annual Cost per Acre	Primary Source of Funding
Lake County	\$ 4.2 M	708,760	444	\$5.88	\$14.67	Property Tax
DuPage County	\$15.4 M	921,213	336	\$16.73	\$71.66	Property Tax
Mundelein	\$1.4 M	31,632	9.7	\$42.76	\$217.87	Stormwater Utility Fee, Liquor Tax
Libertyville	\$20.1 M	20,493	8.81	\$980.82	\$3,573.36	Stormwater Utility Fee
Fort Worth, TX	\$58.3 M	976,932	350	\$59.67	\$260.22	Stormwater Utility Fee

Cost Development - Future Service

- **The recommended future program calls for three additional full-time staff (FTE), a total of 25 FTE, two part time staff, and intern positions**
 - Capital Program Manager
 - Communications Specialist
 - Water Resources Professional
- **Additional staffing costs of approximately \$400,000 per year, to a total of approx. \$4,570,000 per year**
 - The cost for an FTE was estimated as the average personnel and benefits cost from the Lake County 2025 Fiscal Year Budget
- **Table 5-3, Estimated Costs for Functions and Activities for the Full-Service Program**

Funding Alternatives

- **The recommended level of services and activities will require an increase in program funding, and the ability to implement a stable funding model**
 - The recommended ten-year program is still less than similar comprehensive stormwater programs in the Midwest
- **Appendix D has been updated to include information on several future funding alternatives**
 - Property tax revenues
 - Recommended stormwater user fee
 - Previous Comp Plans recommended a user fee as SMC's primary funding source
 - Special Assessment Districts / Special Service Areas (SSA)
 - Other sources: sales tax, permit fees, impact fees, HOA assessments, grants, TIF districts, and more
- **Future programmatic considerations**
 - Countywide infrastructure needs assessment
 - Asset management program development that works with County Online Geographical Information System (GIS)
 - Create data-driven budgets and capital improvement plans
 - An asset management system would also enable SMC to utilize the data for future grant applications

Questions & Discussion

