
From: Isabel Daniels <isabel.daniels@vhscougars.org>

Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2026 10:43 AM

To: StormWater <Stormwater@lakecountyil.gov>

Subject: Flooding in Lake County

Dear Kurt Woodfield,

I am a high school student who lives in Lake County and I have seen how flooding has affected my community and made it harder for people to feel safe in their homes. There have been times where I was driving home from school or work and had to take different routes home due to the flooding causing certain roads to be closed. I have grown up in this area and I have noticed that flooding has become a lot more common and more serious over time which is concerning for my future and the future of my community.

Many areas in Lake County are at risk with over 14,000 properties expected to face flooding in the next 30 years and about 20% of all properties already at risk. Flooding is caused by heavy rain, flat land that doesn't drain well, and rivers and lakes that overflow during storms. When storms bring large amounts of rain in a short amount of time, the water builds up quickly and causes flooding in neighborhoods, buildings, roads, and other important areas. The current infrastructure is not strong enough to be able to handle these conditions because many storm drains and sewer systems are too old or too small to manage the amount of water from the stronger storms. As a result, water backs up into the streets and into people's homes which creates dangerous and expensive situations for families. Flood control reservoirs are meant to store extra water to reduce the flooding but during major storms, they fill up quickly and stop being effective. Wetlands have also decreased over time which makes the flooding worse because they are designed to help absorb water and reduce runoff.

Lake County already has plans in place to address these issues such as the All Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan which is designed to create projects that can help reduce flood damage. However, these projects take many years to complete and during that time, residents continue to deal with flooding and all of its effects. Roads can become unsafe to drive on and can close and homes can be damaged which costs a lot for a family to fix so people have to deal with serious costly repairs and stress. Flooding is not just an inconvenience, but a serious safety concern and economic issue for many families.

Flooding also has wider impacts beyond property damage. It can interfere with school, work,

and daily lives for many people. It can also create dangerous situations for drivers and pedestrians because even a small amount of moving water can cause vehicles to lose control and for people to slip and fall. Many people also don't have flood insurance because it is separate from regular homeowners insurance and not everyone is aware of the risks until they have to deal with their homes being flooded. Without proper coverage, families struggle to recover for a long time after a flood.

I am asking you to continue to improve flood prevention efforts in Lake County by supporting faster updates to infrastructure and adding stronger investment to drainage systems and flood control projects. Improving flooding systems and expanding water storage solutions can help reduce the impact of heavy rainfall. Protecting and restoring wetlands can also help absorb more water naturally to reduce runoff. Supporting programs that help residents prepare for flooding and understanding their risks can also be very helpful. Taking action on this issue is not only for current residents but also for future generations and as a student, I care about the safety of my community and I want to live in an area where people do not have to worry about flooding every time it rains heavily.

Investing in flood prevention now can help reduce damage in the community and create a safer environment for everyone as well as saving money in the long run. Thank you for your time and for the work that you do to help Lake County. I appreciate your attention to this issue and I hope you will continue to take action to help improve flood prevention and infrastructure in our community.

Sincerely,
Izzy Daniels