



## **West Branch of the DuPage River Watershed Plan Study**



Although the County has historically experienced flooding along the West Branch of the DuPage River, a series of very rainy years beginning in 2008 has highlighted the need for increased flood control efforts within the watershed. One of the hardest hit areas in recent years has been the City of Warrenville with floodwaters affecting many properties along the entire reach through the City. To begin the process of addressing the flood control needs of the area, DuPage County Stormwater Management has initiated the development of the West Branch of the DuPage River Watershed Plan Study through the City of Warrenville.

The County's Stormwater Management Program is responsible for providing flood control mitigation to address regional stormwater issues such as those affecting Warrenville. The County's stormwater management process includes first developing a watershed plan with the cooperation of local officials and residents to identify projects or strategic voluntary acquisitions to most cost effectively address the flooding issues. The County then develops a project funding plan and implements the plan as funding becomes available. The County then actively manages the flood control improvements to ensure they provide the flood control benefits into the future.

DuPage County Stormwater Management is in the process of updating its existing flood simulation computer model of the West Branch to ensure that it contains all river and land use changes that have occurred since its original development. Once the model is updated and calibrated, the County will perform a series of storm simulations to identify the flood prone areas and the root causes of the inundation in those areas. The next step will be to incorporate flood relief alternatives to determine the most cost effective combination of projects and acquisitions to address the flooding concerns. The County will work with the City on the project evaluation portion of the process. A public information meeting followed by a public comment period will be held within the City prior to the adoption of the plan by the County Board. The County is in the process of finishing the update and calibration process and is scheduled to be completed with initial project alternative evaluations by the end of August, 2010.