

## Steeple Run Watershed Spotlight

Land use studies are done with an appreciation for the fact that the area being studied is part of at least one *watershed*. A *watershed* is an area of land wherein water “shed” from the land after rain falls and snow melts to the same place. Drop by drop, water is channeled into soils, groundwaters, creeks, and streams, making its way to larger rivers and eventually the sea.

The Steeple Run Watershed begins east of Naper Boulevard and flows southwest, emptying into the DuPage River at North Central College. Since the devastating flood in 1996, the City of Naperville, in partnership with DuPage County and the Naperville Park District, has been working to make improvements to address flood potential in the Steeple Run Watershed. The improvements determined by engineering studies and public input have been undertaken to modify the drainage in the area and relocate flood waters that occur as a result of major rainstorms in open areas in Country Commons Park and Old Plank Park. The excess water will be temporarily held in these detention areas until the downstream sewers can reasonably accept the flow. These measures are intended to protect all houses in the Steeple Run Watershed from flood waters.

The City of Naperville takes a three part approach to stormwater management to ensure that changes in land use do not have an adverse affect on those living downstream.

### **Municipal Projects**

The on-going improvements to the Steeple Run Watershed are a great example of infrastructure designed to provide a comprehensive solution to stormwater not tied to any particular development request.

### **Planning Documents**

Recommendations for future land uses within a planning study are developed with consideration given to stormwater management. The Plank Road Land Use Study will integrate stormwater management as a consistent theme to appreciate historic concerns, corrective actions that have been taken, and the requirement that any new development not exacerbate stormwater issues.

### **Development Review**

The city’s planners and engineers work together to review any new development request to ensure that its stormwater systems are designed to comply with established engineering standards and will not impact downstream locations.