

Illinois State Water Survey

PRAIRIE RESEARCH INSTITUTE



In Partnership with

Federal Emergency
Management Agency



FEMA

Kishwaukee Watershed Floodplain Study DeKalb, Kane & McHenry Counties, Illinois

Community Coordination Meeting

January 29th, 2026

Agenda

- Community Partners Roll Call
- Our Shared Purpose
- About Us
- Hazard Mitigation
- National Flood Insurance Program
- Project Scope
- Project Timeline
- Communications
- StoryMap Demonstration
- Questions

Community Partners

DeKalb County

Town of Cortland
City of DeKalb
City of Genoa
Village of Kirkland
Village of Kingston
City of Sycamore
Village of Maple Park ¹

Kane County

Village of Burlington
Village of Campton Hills
Village of Elburn
Village of Hampshire
Village of Lily Lake
Village of Virgil

McHenry County

City of Harvard
City of Marengo

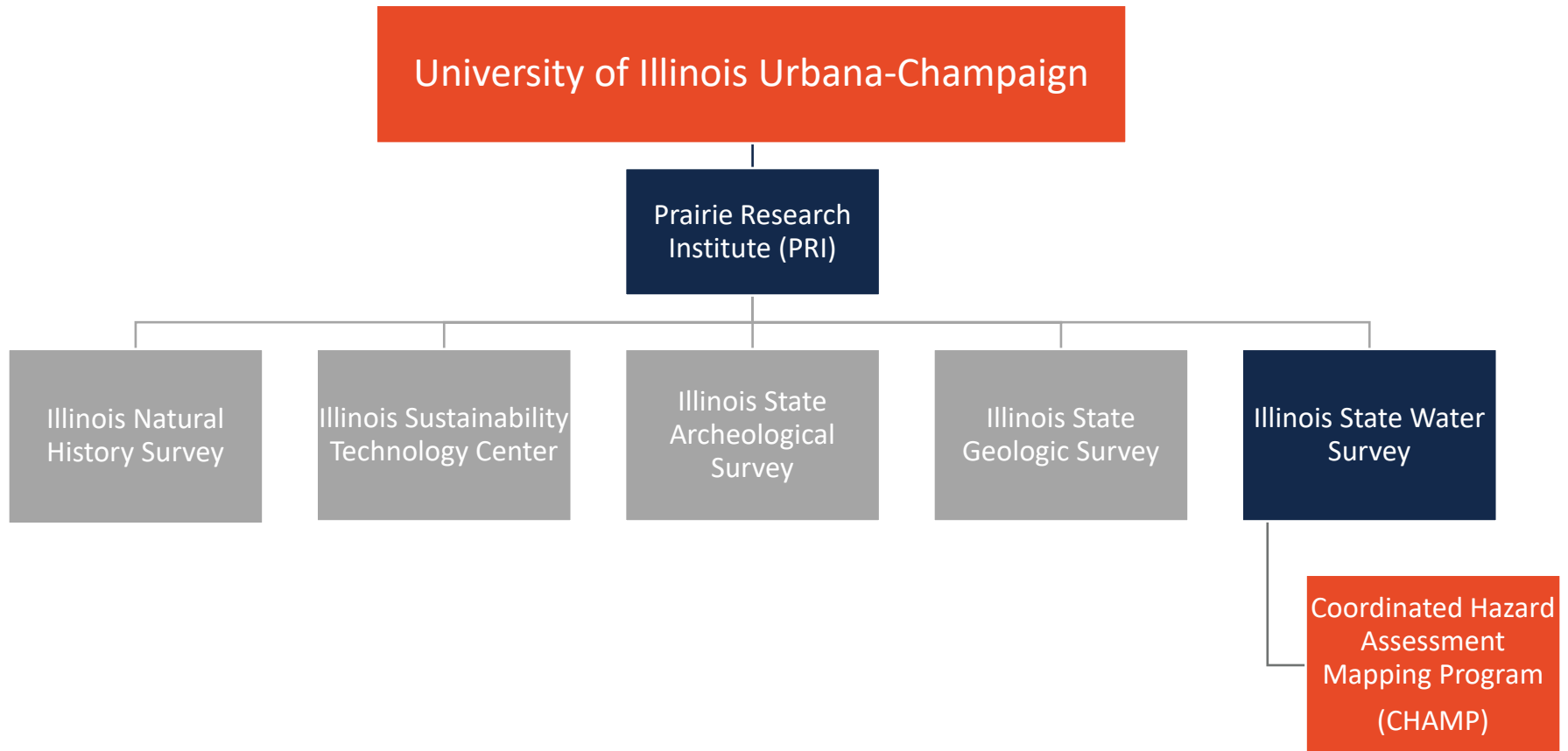
¹ also in Kane Co

Our Shared Purpose



About Us

About Us



www.illinoisfloodmaps.org

About Us

Our Partners



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FEMA

ISWS is a Cooperating Technical Partner (CTP) with the Federal Emergency Management Agency. (FEMA)



The Cooperating
Technical Partners (CTP)
Program

IDNR-OWR

ISWS partners with The Illinois Department of Natural Resources-Office of Water Resources (IDNR-OWR). Together we prioritize Illinois floodplain studies and mapping projects.



Your Community

ISWS provides ongoing engagement with state and local officials and watershed stakeholders to reduce flood risk.

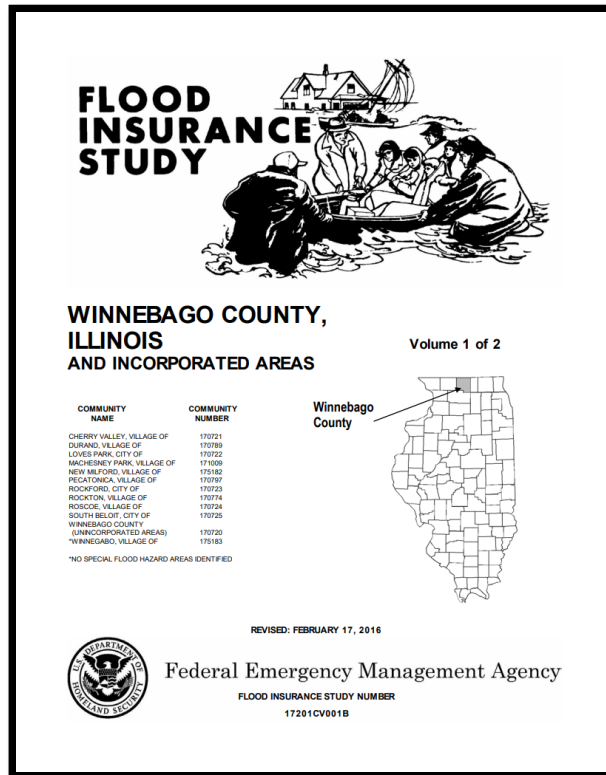
About Us

What We Do

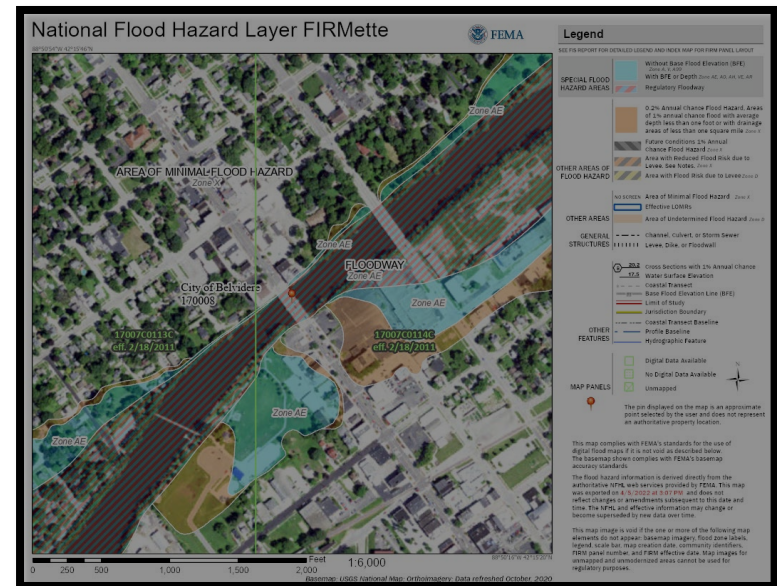
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PRODUCE FLOOD STUDIES

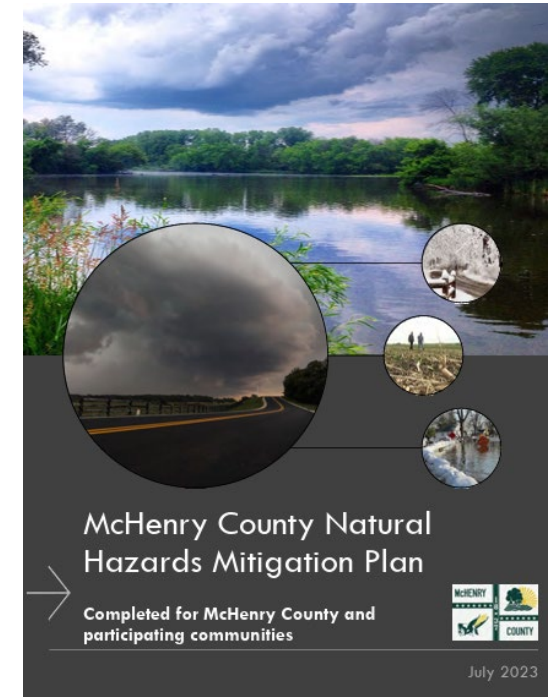
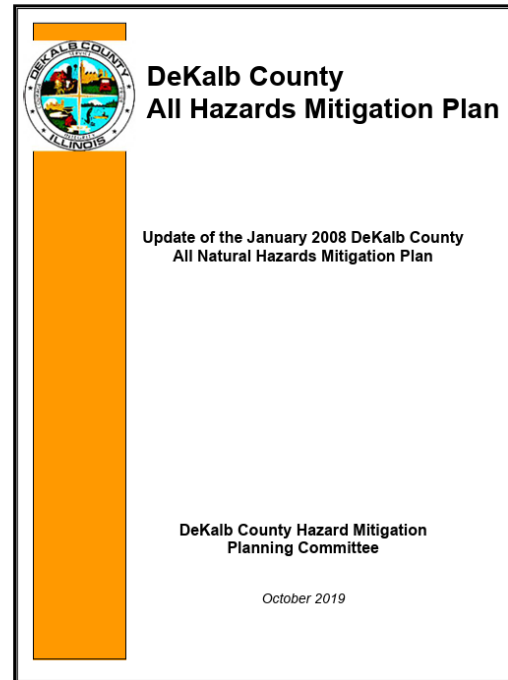


GENERATE FLOODPLAIN MAPS



Hazard Mitigation

Hazard Mitigation Plans



DeKalb County	Kane County	McHenry County
2021	2024	2023

National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)

National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)



The NFIP is a voluntary program based on a mutual agreement between the Federal government and a community.



In exchange for adopting and enforcing a floodplain management ordinance, Federally-backed flood insurance is made available to property owners throughout the community.

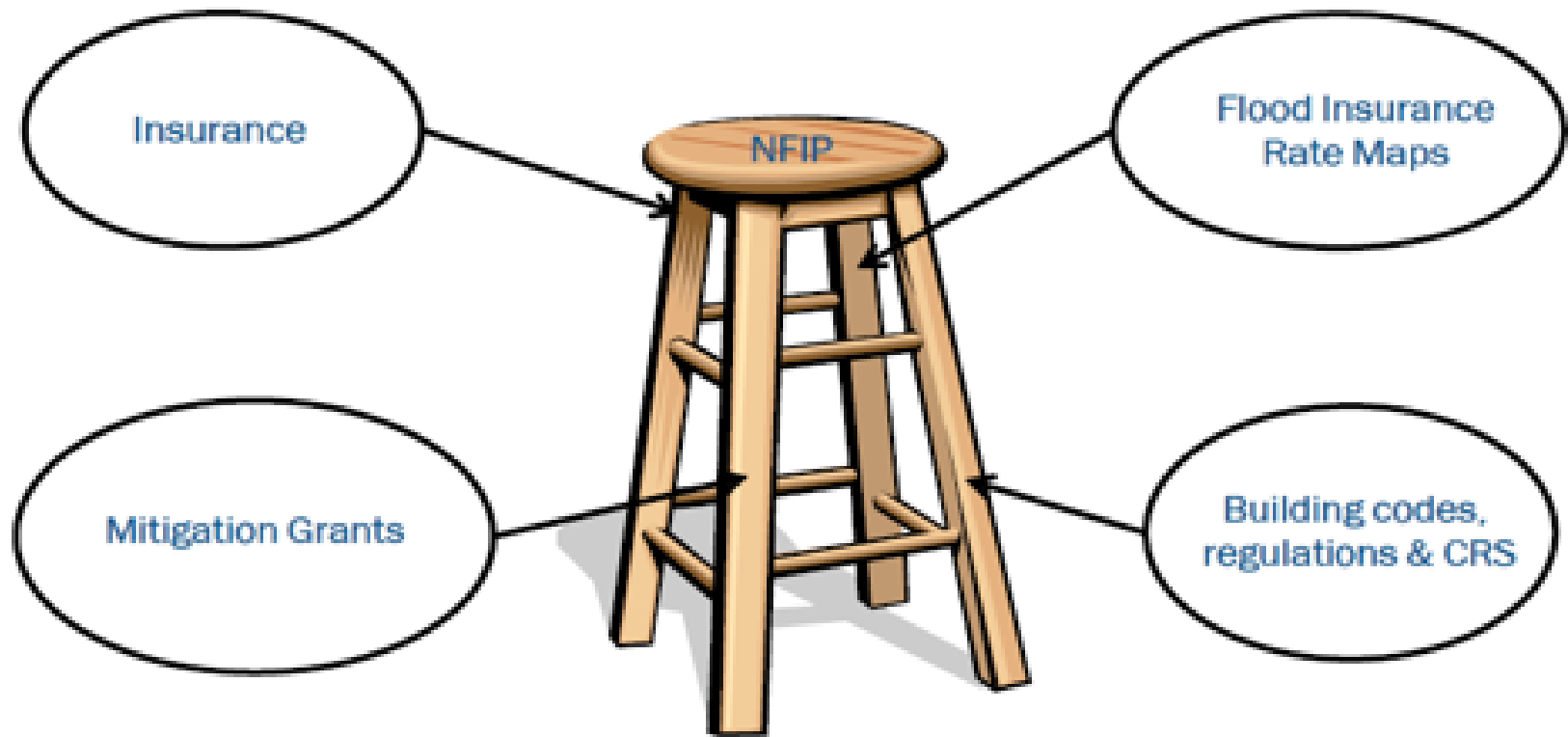


Erin Conley, NFIP State Coordinator erin.c.conley@illinois.gov

Steve Keenan, Downstate FP Coordinator steve.keenan@illinois.gov




Michelle Staff, NE FP Coordinator michelle.staff@illinois.gov


National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)








National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)

HTTP://WWW.FLOODSMART.GOV

An official website of the United States government [Here's how you know](#)  Languages   For Insurance Agents

Search FloodSmart 

Know Your Risk  Get Insured  Prepare for a Flood  Recover from a Flood  Flood Zones and Maps  [Get a Quote](#)

Flooding Happens Everywhere



Don't wait until it happens to you.



Almost anyone can protect their property with flood insurance.

Get started today.

[Get a Quote](#)

[Start a Claim](#)

 **HOW to be prepared?** 

 **WHAT is flood insurance?** 

National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)

[HTTP://MSC.FEMA.GOV](http://MSC.FEMA.GOV)



National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)

Mitigation

Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) – Office of Water Resources (OWR)
[Flood Hazard Mitigation Program](#)

Illinois Emergency Management Agency – Office of Homeland Security (IEMA-OHS)
[IEMA-OHS Mitigation Program](#) ema.mitigation@illinois.gov



National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)

IDNR-OWR Floodplain Management Program

- **State Coordination**: Acting as the liaison between FEMA and local communities.
- **Technical Support**: Providing expertise on flood hazard mapping, engineering, and building codes to local officials.
- **Regulatory Oversight**: Ensuring communities adopt and enforce necessary floodplain management regulations, such as elevating structures and restricting development in floodways.
- **Training & Education**: Educating local officials and the public on flood risks, insurance requirements, and proper construction techniques.
- **Policy Implementation**: Assisting in the adoption of higher, more resilient standards than the minimum NFIP requirements.



National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)

IDNR Floodplain Management Program Contacts

Erin Conley, CFM

Illinois State NFIP Coordinator

IDNR - Office of Water
Resources

1 Natural Resources Way
Springfield, IL 62702

erin.c.conley@Illinois.gov

Office: 217-782-4428

Steve Keenan, CFM

Illinois Downstate Floodplain
Program Coordinator

IDNR - Office of Water
Resources

1 Natural Resources Way
Springfield, IL 62702

steve.keenan@Illinois.gov

Office: 217-524-7200

Michelle Staff, CFM

Illinois NE Floodplain
Program Coordinator

James Pate Philip State Park
2050 W Stearns Rd.

Bartlett, IL 60103

michelle.staff@Illinois.gov

Office: 847-608-3181

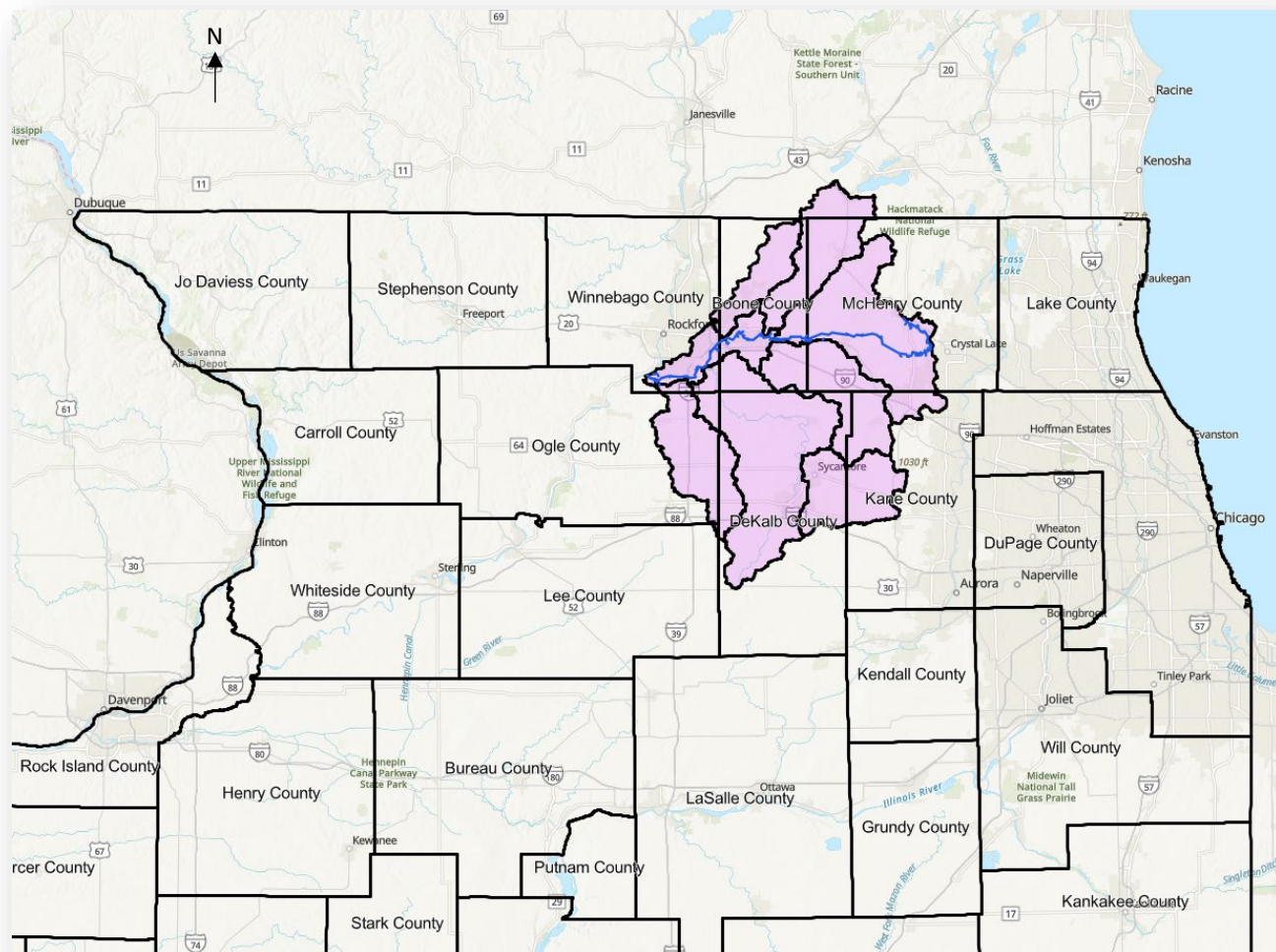
- Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry and Will Counties



Project Scope

Kishwaukee Watershed

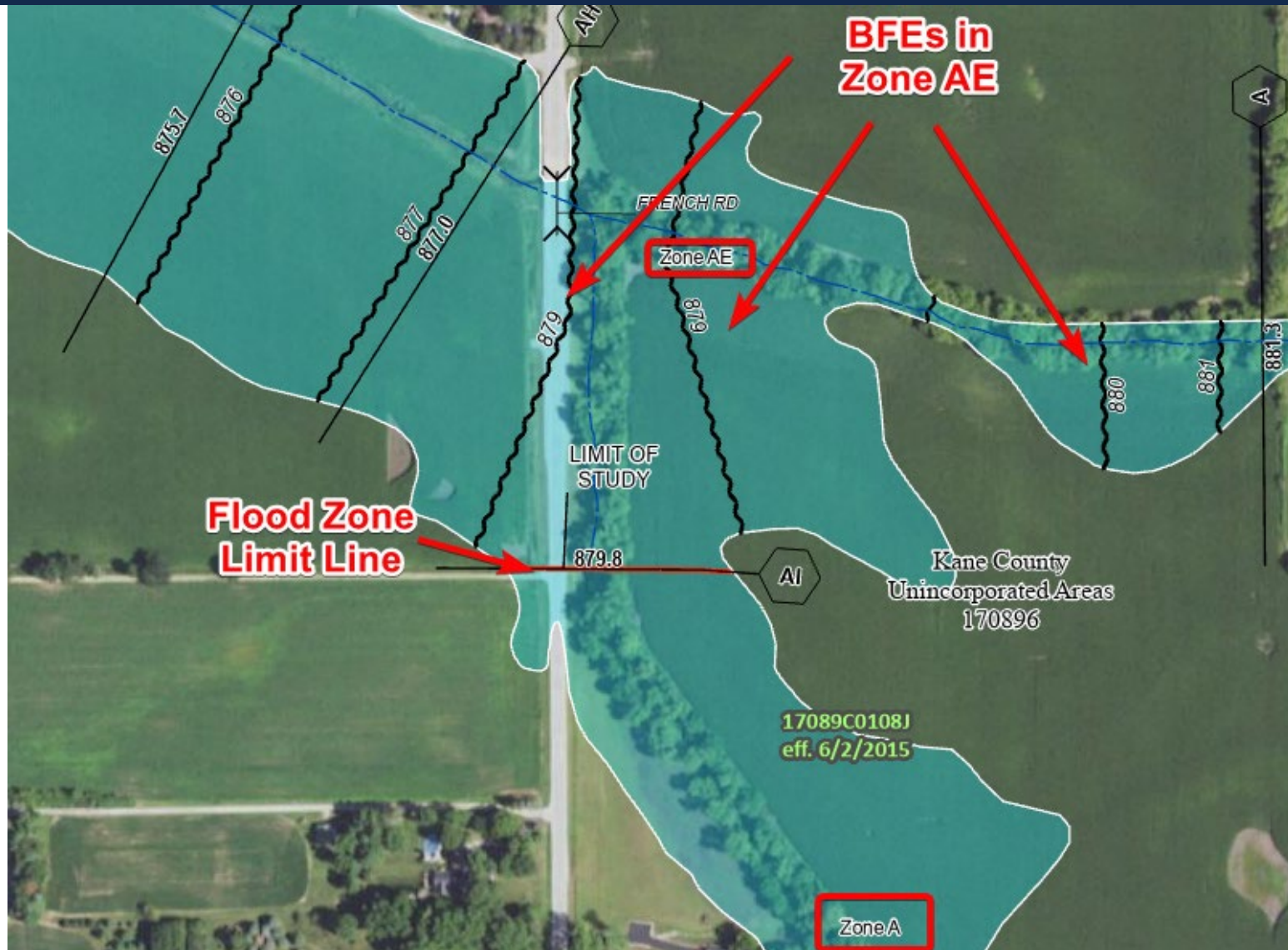
- 1,255 square mile watershed
- Kishwaukee River flows from east to west to the Rock River



Flood Zone Definitions

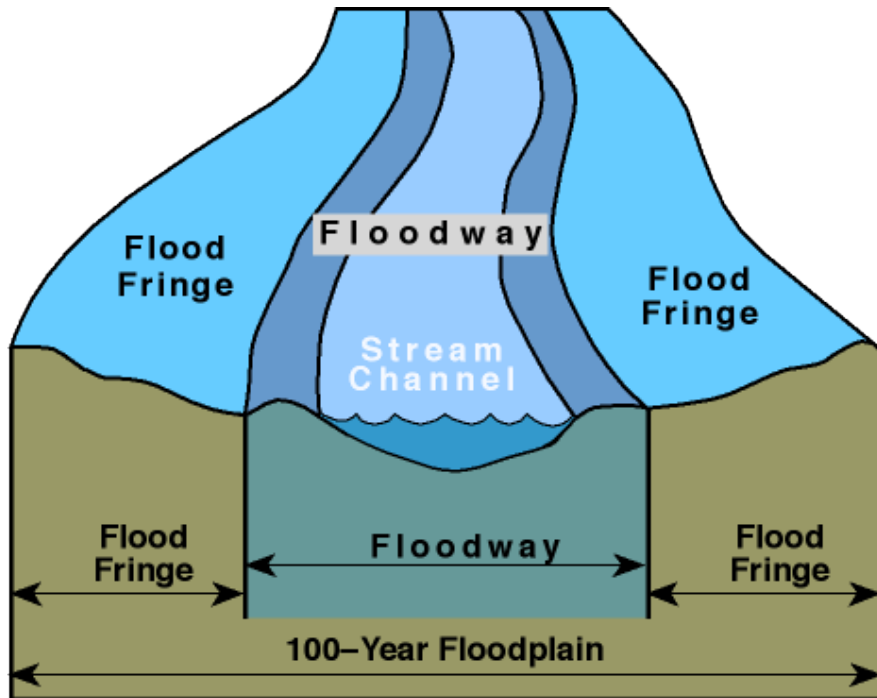
Base Flood Elevation (BFE)	The <u>Base Flood Elevation</u> (BFE) is the elevation of surface water resulting from a flood that has a 1% chance of equaling or exceeding that level in any given year.
Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA)	The FEMA <u>Special Flood Hazard Area</u> (SFHA) is the area that will be inundated by the flood event having a 1-percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year.
Zone A	Areas subject to inundation by the 1-percent-annual-chance flood event. Less detailed study methods. NO Base Flood Elevations are shown.
Zone AE	Areas subject to inundation by the 1-percent-annual-chance flood event. Highly detailed study methods. Base Flood Elevations ARE shown.

Flood Zone Definitions



Floodway

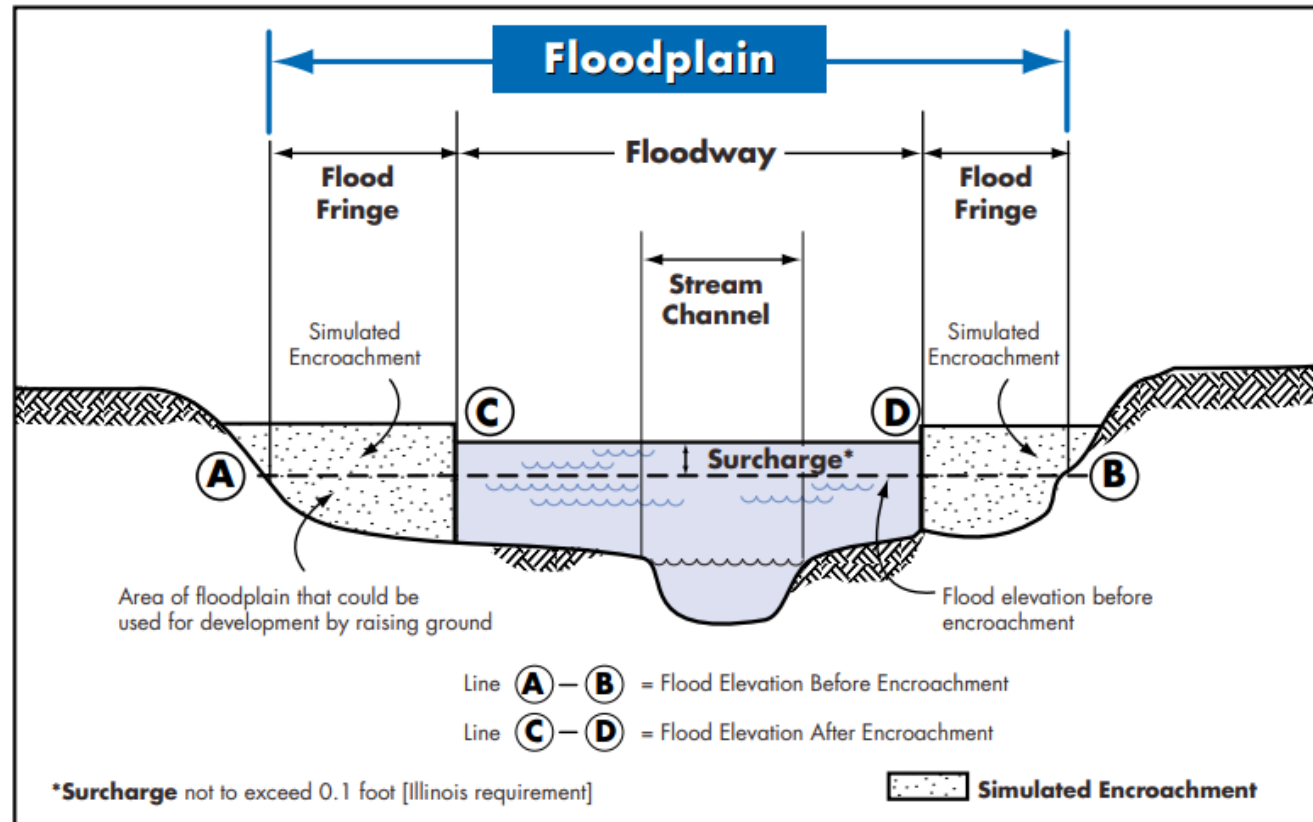
The **floodway** is the channel of a stream plus any adjacent floodplain areas that must be kept free of encroachment so that the 1% annual chance flood can be carried without substantial increases in flood heights.



Illinois Floodways

Illinois Floodway criteria:

- 0.1-foot maximum surcharge
- Max 10% reduction is storage volume
- Max 10% increase in flow velocity



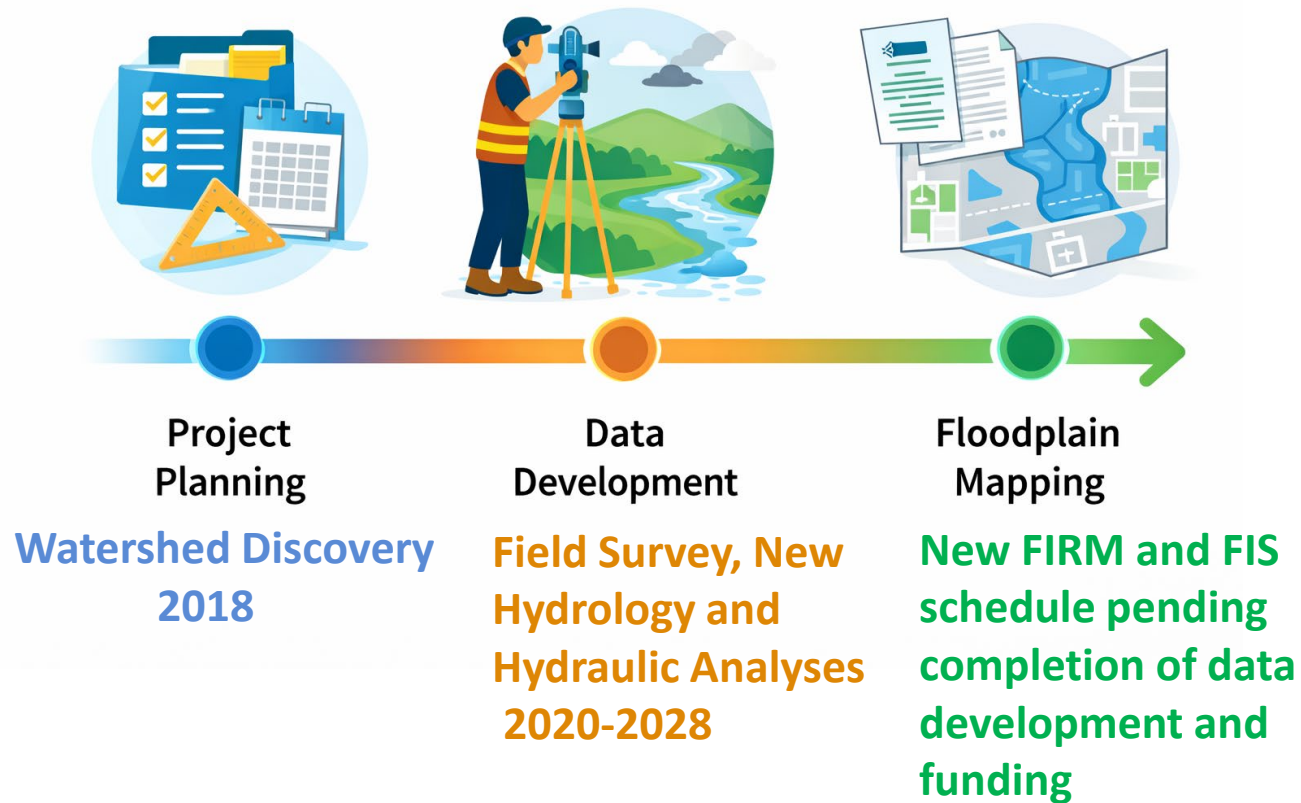
Credit: https://www2.illinois.gov/dnr/WaterResources/Documents/Resman_ILFPMQuickGuide.pdf

Kishwaukee Watershed Studies

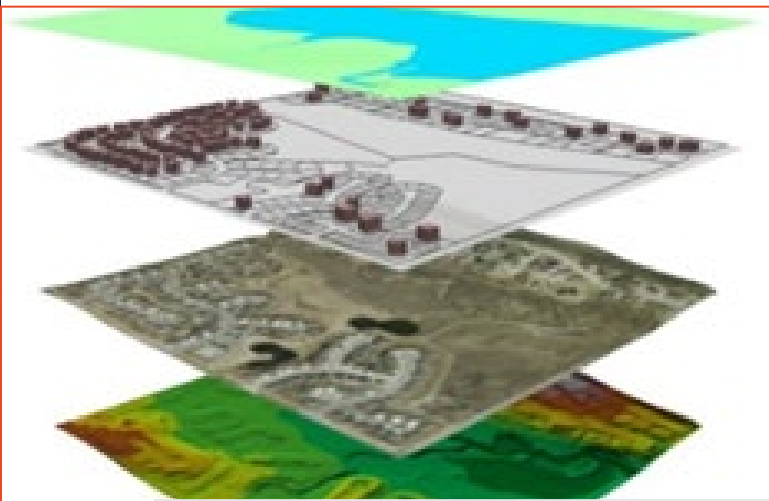
- Funding for studies provided in phases
- Phase 4 (Orange) and Phase 5 (Pink) stream lines in DeKalb, Kane, and McHenry Counties are the focus of this project
- Phase 6 (Blue) streamlines not yet funded



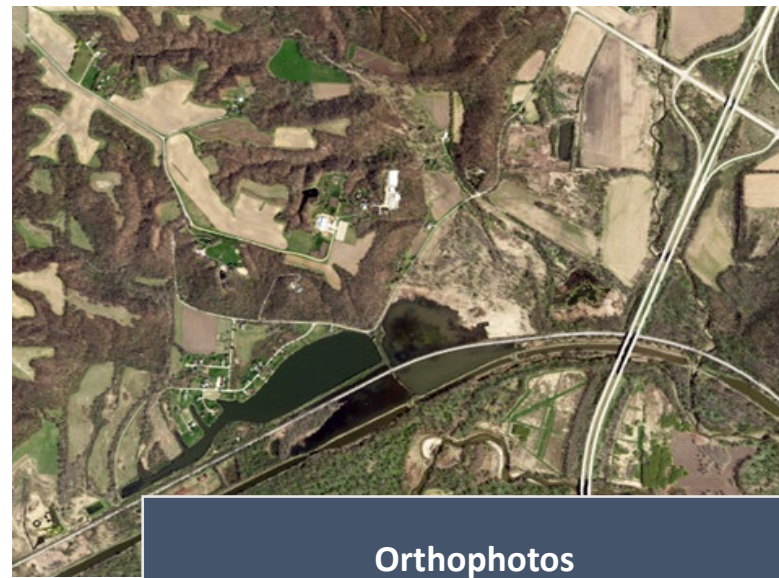
Project Objectives



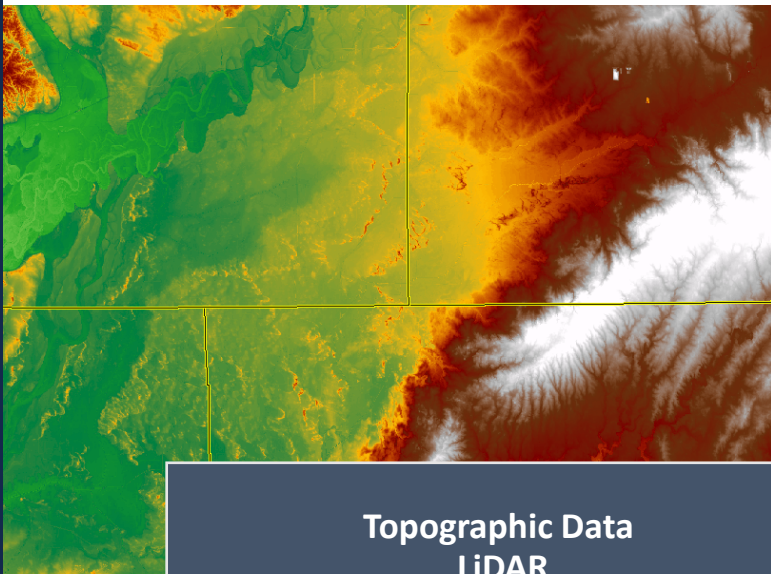
Study Data



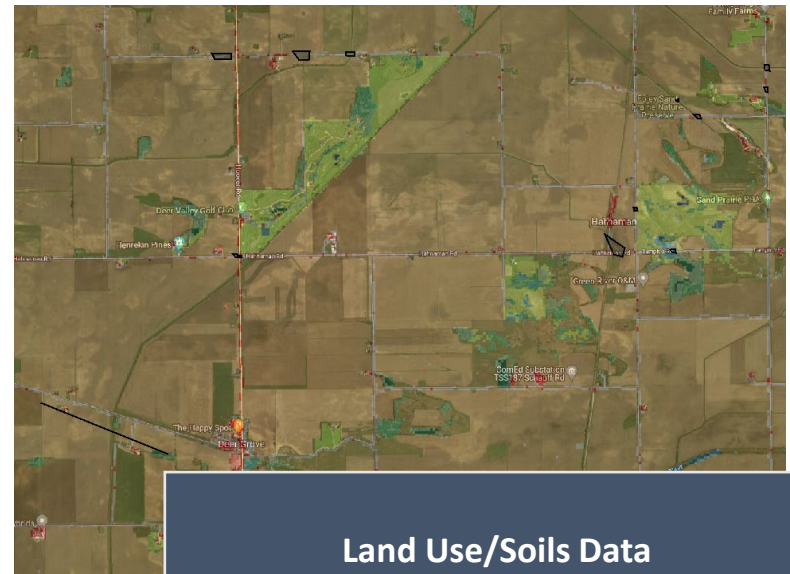
Mapping Data



Orthophotos



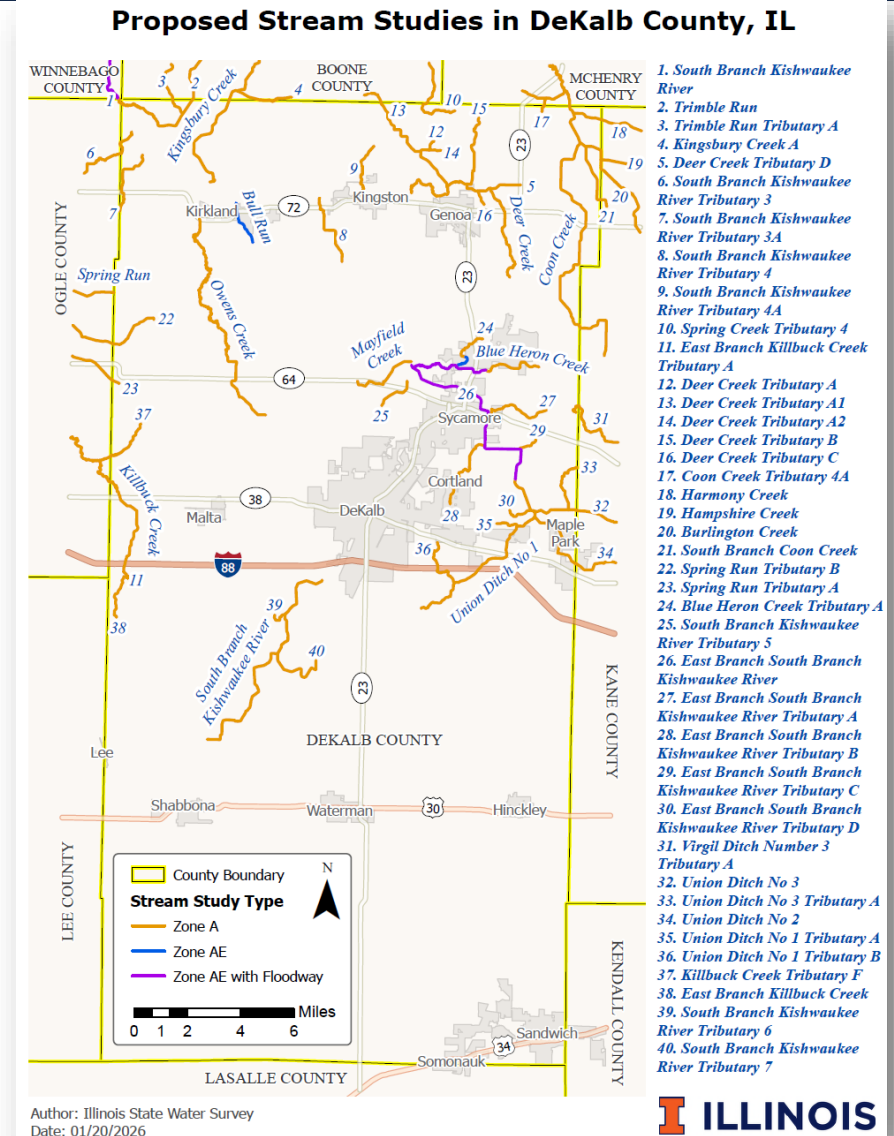
Topographic Data
LiDAR



Land Use/Soils Data

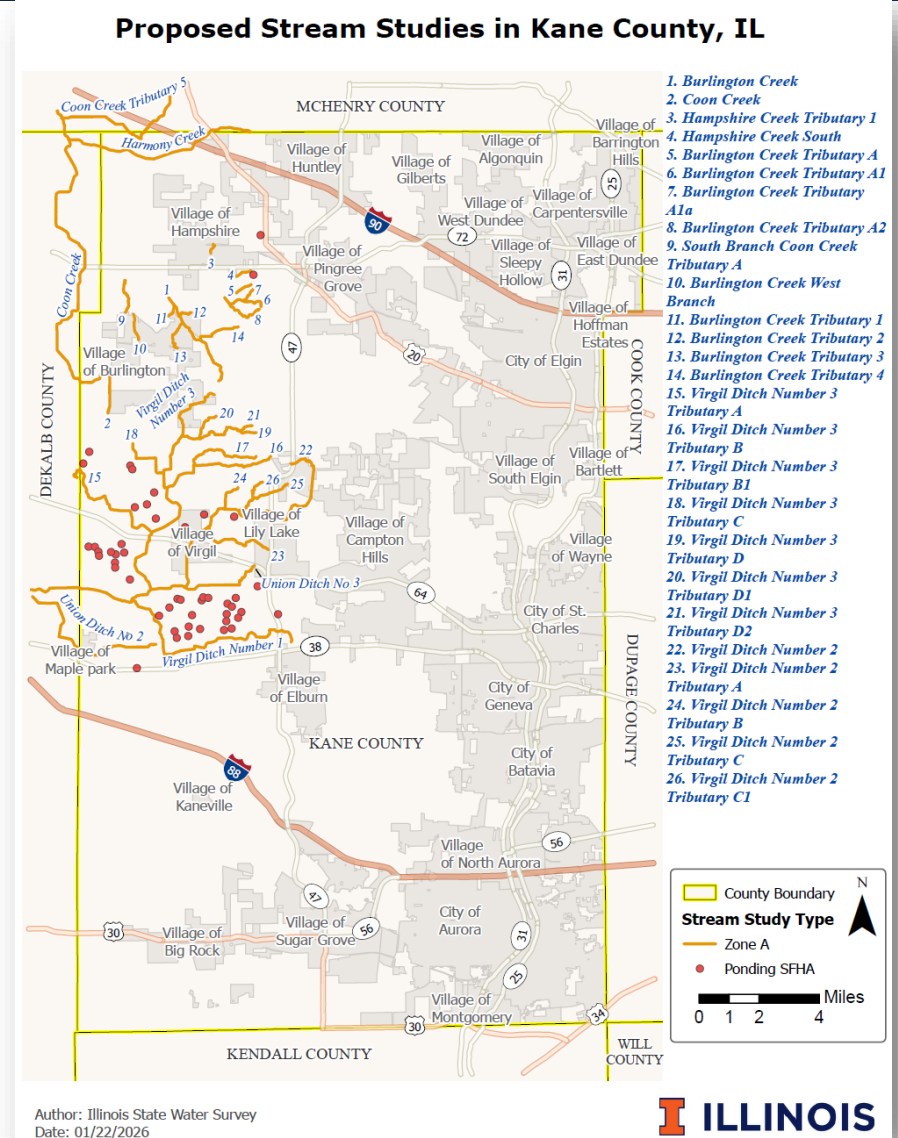
DeKalb Studies

- Zone A studies are less detailed than Zone AE studies
- Zone AE studies include detailed hydrology, field survey data, and include bridges and culverts



Kane Studies

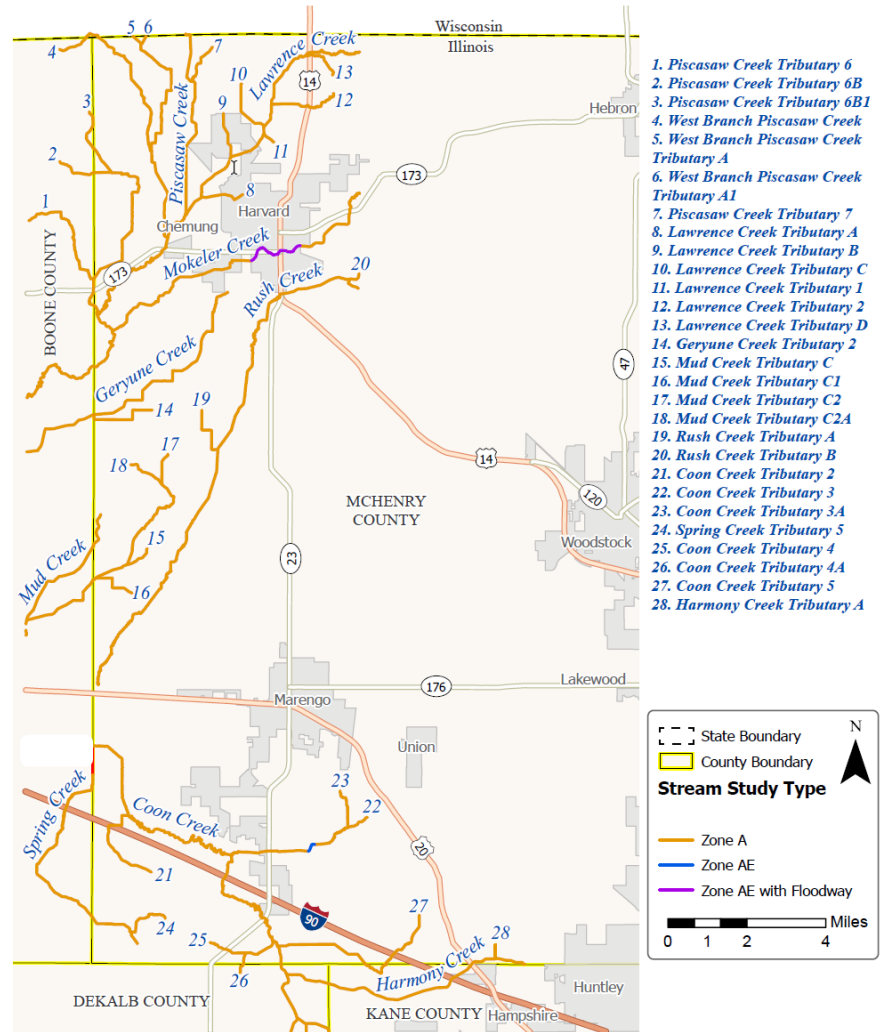
- Zone A studies are less detailed than Zone AE studies
- There are no proposed Zone AE studies in Kane County as part of this phase
- There are numerous isolated Zone A ponding areas that will be restudied as part of this project



McHenry Studies

- Zone A studies are less detailed than Zone AE studies
- Zone AE studies include detailed hydrology, field survey data, and include bridges and culverts

Proposed Stream Studies in McHenry County, IL



Author: Illinois State Water Survey
Date: 01/27/2026

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Project Timeline

Project Timeline

Today: Project
Initiation Community
Coordination Meeting

February 2026:
Proposed Engineering
Study Methods Letter &
30-day comment period

**Spring/Summer
2027:** Flood Risk
Review Meeting

Fall 2027: Completion
of draft FIRM Database

Summer/Fall 2027:
Flood Studies
submitted to IDNR-
OWR for review and
approval

2026

2027

Hydraulic Modeling throughout 2026

Communication

Communication Plan

- 1 Project Initiation Community Coordination Meeting (today)
- 2 Proposed Engineering Methods Notification Letter
 - 30-Day Comment Period
- 3 Flood Risk Review Meeting
 - 30-Day Comment Period
- 4 Data Submission Notification Letter
 - 30-Day Comment Period

Communication and Outreach

Proposed Engineering Methods Letter

FEMA Standard ID 620

What to expect: Letter will be emailed to CEO's, FPA's, and Community Engineers

When: February 2026

Your role: Acknowledge letter has been received & participate in 30-day community comment period

ISWS role: Acknowledgement and response or resolution of comments received

Communication and Outreach

Flood Risk Review Meeting

What to expect: Technical meeting to review *Draft Workmaps* with community officials, engineers, and floodplain managers

When: Spring/Summer 2027

Your role: Attend meeting & participate in 30-day community comment period

ISWS role: Acknowledgement and response or resolution of comments received

Communication and Outreach

Data Submission Notification

FEMA Standard ID 621

What to expect: Letter will be emailed to CEO's, FPA's, and Community Engineers

When: Spring/Summer 2027

Your role: Participate in 30-day community comment period

ISWS role: Acknowledgement and response or resolution of comments received

StoryMap Demonstration

Community Participation

- **Local Partners (your community) are key to project success**
 - **Share data or local information**
 - **Stay engaged in the project**
 - **Ask questions**



Collection

Kishwaukee Watershed Flood Studies - Community Coordination

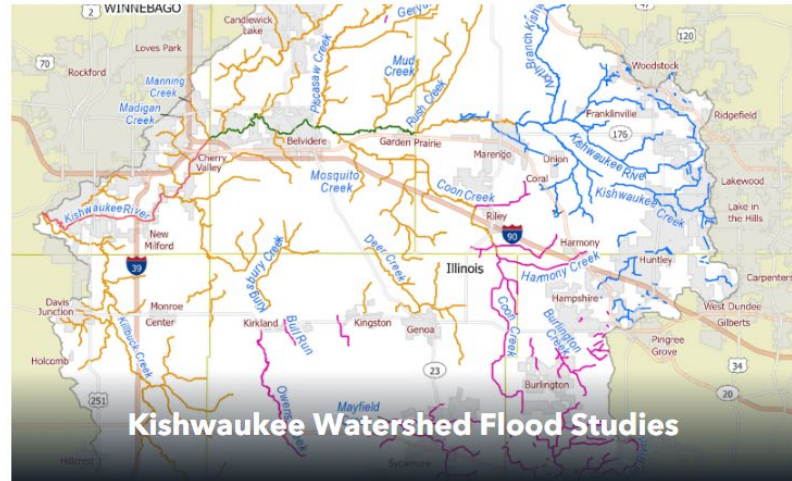
Building Better FEMA Flood Risk Maps for the Kishwaukee Watershed with Local Insights

January 2026

Click on the Kishwaukee Watershed Flood Studies for a project-level overview, or your County to review community-specific information.

As you navigate the StoryMap, please reflect on the following topics for your community:

1. Past Flooding Events
2. Areas of Flooding that Remain Unmapped
3. Recent and Future Land Developments
4. Other Flooding-Related Concerns



<https://arcg.is/1qm1b01>

Questions?

Illinois State Water Survey

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Project Manager: Chris Hanstad, P.E., CFM
hanstad@illinois.edu

Outreach and
Mitigation Planning: Camden Arnold, CFM
carnold3@illinois.edu

Mitigation Planning: Arpita Banerjee
arpitab2@illinois.edu

www.illinoisfloodmaps.org

Partners Contact Information

FEMA: John Wethington, Chief, Risk Analysis Branch,
FEMA Region 5
john.wethington@fema.dhs.gov

IDNR: Erin Conley, NFIP State Coordinator
erin.c.conley@illinois.gov

Michelle Staff, NE FP Coordinator
michelle.staff@illinois.gov

IEMA: Zak Krug, Mitigation Program Manager
zachary.krug@illinois.gov

Jeff Thompsen, State Hazard Mitigation Officer
jeffrey.thompson@illinois.gov