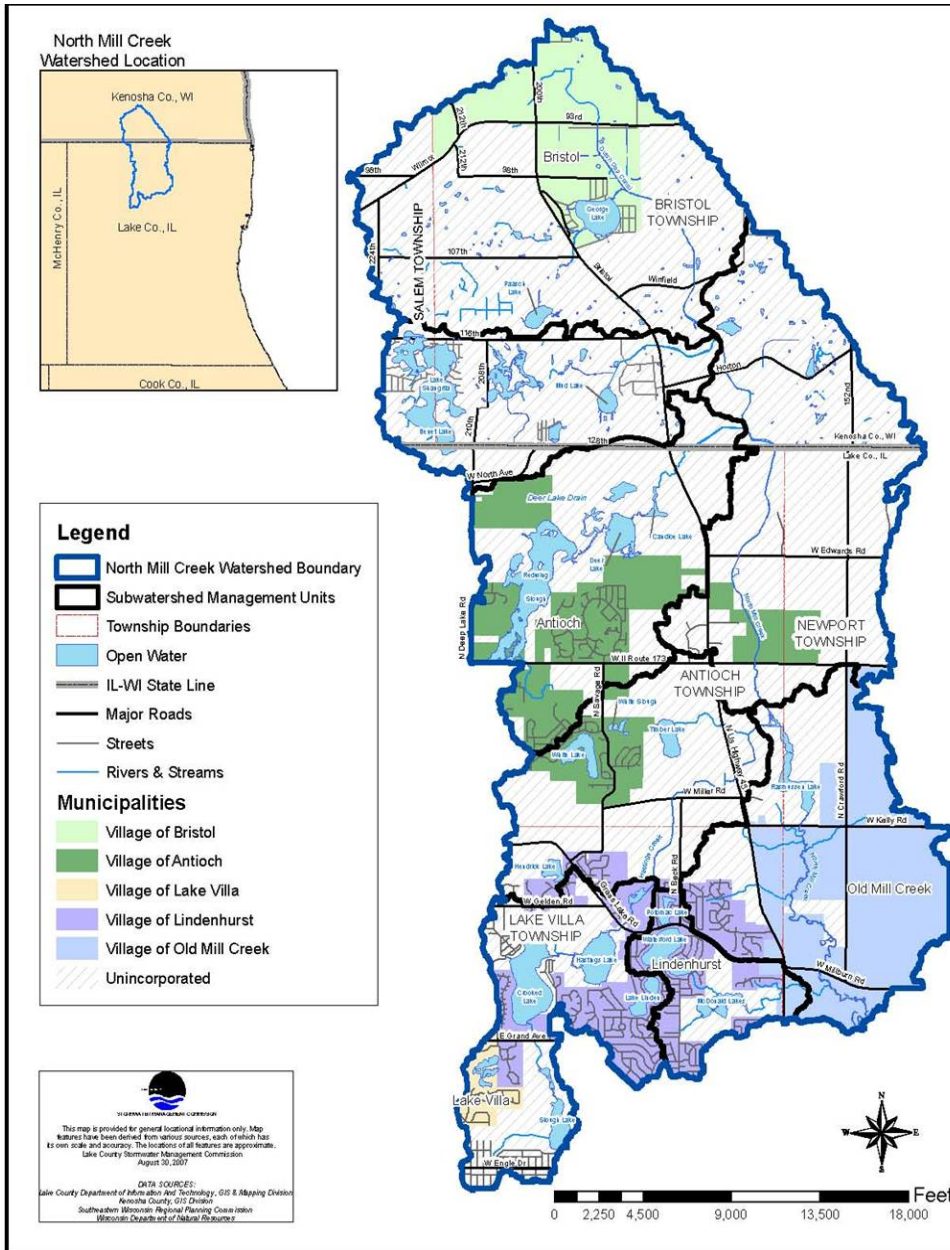


Municipalities & Townships in North Mill Creek/Dutch Gap Watershed



YOU ARE INVITED

The **Lake County, IL Stormwater Management Commission** cordially invites you to attend the North Mill Creek/Dutch Gap Canal watershed management planning kickoff meeting.

Thurs., Feb. 25, 2010 1:30 – 4:00 p.m.

Or

Thurs., Feb. 25, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Lake Villa Public Library, 1001 E. Grand Ave.,
Lake Villa, IL

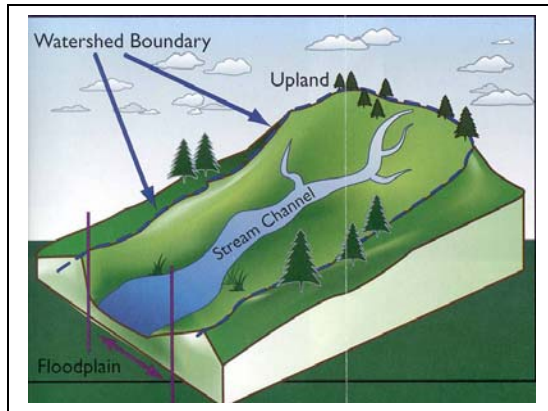
North Mill Creek and a number of the lakes in the watershed have been identified as having impaired or poor water quality. In addition flood damage is a significant problem along the Des Plaines River downstream. A watershed plan will address these problems, as well as identify the high quality natural resources that need to be protected in the watershed as the land continues to develop. To do this, the watershed plan will identify practices, projects and programs that can be implemented by watershed residents, farmers, businesses, and community stakeholders to:

- Prevent and reduce flood damage,
- Improve water quality in streams, lakes and wetlands,
- Protect and enhance the watershed's natural resources, and
- Identify desirable green infrastructure areas to maintain open space for flood damage prevention, water quality protection, recreation and education.

Please join us and help create the vision for future management of the watershed. To RSVP, contact: Darcy Hertel, dhertel@lakecountyil.gov or call (847) 918-5260

Everyone lives in a watershed.

What is a Watershed?



You can follow the planning process and view meeting documents at:

<http://www.lakecountyil.gov/Stormwater/LakeCountyWatersheds/NorthMill.htm>

Contact Darcy Hertel at dhertel@lakecountyil.gov if you would like to be included in the email update list.

A watershed is the area of land that drains to a given stream, lake, river or wetland. The health of a waterbody is a direct reflection of how the land in the watershed is used and managed.

Some of the benefits of a healthy watershed are:

- improved water quality
- fewer flooding problems
- enhanced wildlife habitat
- opportunities for education and recreation
- aesthetic value and increased property values.



North Mill Creek/Dutch Gap Canal Watershed Challenges

The watershed spans the Wisconsin and Illinois state line. The drainage area, about 15 square miles, drains to a stream Dutch Gap in Kenosha County, WI and North Mill Creek in Lake County, IL. Both eventually drain to the Des Plaines River in Lake County. In addition to the stream system, the watershed landscape is a complex of 19 lakes, and wetlands, upland prairie and woodland that includes homes, farms, businesses, and forest preserves. Approximately 45% of the watershed is developed and over 46% is agricultural.

Watershed challenges:

- Preserving good water quality – erosion, excess nutrients and road salt are threats
- Protecting the natural resource base
- Maintaining and restoring degraded lakes and stream channels
- Preventing negative impacts from poor development practices



North Mill Creek/Dutch Gap Canal Watershed Planning Process

Community Coordination

Stakeholder involvement is key to the success of any planning initiative. This is an opportunity for landowners, townships, villages, park districts/departments, the counties of Lake and Kenosha, Lake County Forest Preserve District, farm community, state agencies, non-profit organizations, private landowners and other stakeholders in the watershed to coordinate land and water protection and management activities for the benefit of all watershed residents.

The Meeting

The background, scope and timetable for the watershed plan will be presented at the meeting. In addition, SMC and other representatives will be on hand to meet local stakeholders and help the group identify watershed issues/opportunities. We hope you will join and assist us in this planning process so that your community and/or organizational needs are adequately represented in the watershed plan. Please RSVP to Darcy Hertel at dhertel@lakecountyil.gov. If you cannot make it to one of the meetings but would like to be included on our email list for updates or results, please also let Darcy know and we will add you to our regular contact list.

