



The Bee Branch Watershed Flood Mitigation Project is a multi-faceted approach to address the severe and frequent flash flooding experienced in the Bee Branch Watershed.

Flood disasters have repeatedly impacted residents and employees of businesses within the watershed. Between 1999 and 2011, six Presidential Disaster Declarations were issued with total damage estimates of almost \$70 million.

The project consists of several infrastructure improvements that will reduce the volume of stormwater, slow the rate of stormwater through the upper watershed, increase the safe conveyance of stormwater through the flood-prone area, and provide floodwater protection to the City's water treatment plant on Hawthorne Street.

For more information, visit www.cityofdubuque.org/beebranch.



Bee Branch Watershed

Flood Mitigation Project News

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Upper Bee Branch Creek Restoration Construction Update

Construction of the Upper Bee Branch Creek Restoration began in early-June. Over the past three months Portzen Construction, Tricon Construction Group, and their sub-contractors have been busy installing shoring, dewatering, relocating utilities, and constructing the box culverts at Garfield Avenue. Crews have also been working to remove tree stumps throughout the entire project corridor.

In July, construction also took place west of Audubon Elementary School. The work included re-grading the soil and prepping the area for landscape restoration.

While subject to change, the Garfield Avenue road closure is scheduled to open in early-October. Construction will then progress north to Rhomberg Avenue and Lincoln Avenue. Residents can expect Rhomberg Avenue to be closed from Elm Street to Johnson Street for up to eight months while the new bridge is constructed. Garfield Avenue will be used as the primary detour route.

Throughout the project, one-minute construction update videos will be aired on CityChannel Dubuque and shared via social media and email. The videos are a quick and easy way for residents to see the progress being made from month-to-month. To receive the construction update videos and to stay up-to-date on other project news such as road closures and detours, "like" the Bee Branch Project on Facebook at www.facebook.com/beebranchdbq, follow it on Twitter at www.twitter.com/beebranchdbq, or subscribe to Bee Branch Project Notify Me email and/or text alerts at www.cityofdubuque.org/notifyme.

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Grading near Audubon Elementary School.



Pouring concrete for the floor of the triple box culverts at Garfield Avenue.

Archaeological Dig in the Upper Bee Branch

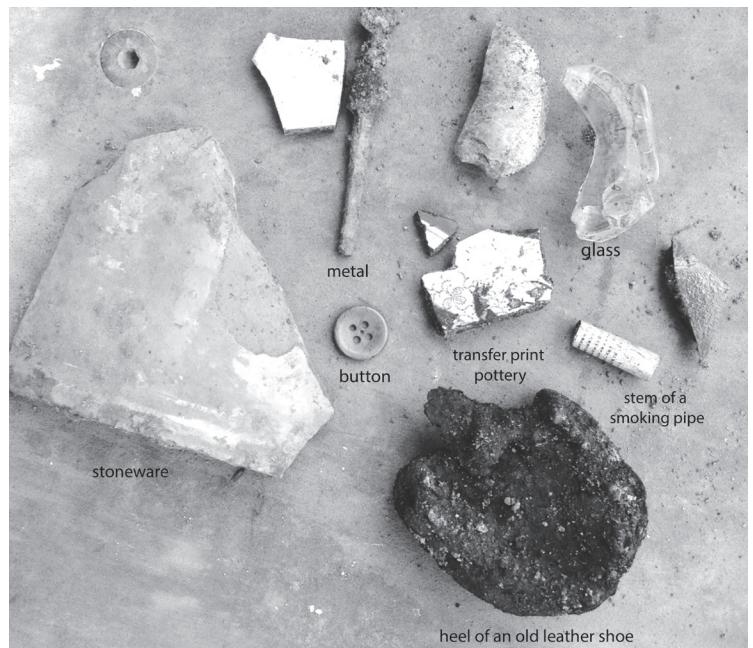
As part of the requirements of the City's Programmatic Agreement with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, an archaeological dig was conducted in the Upper Bee Branch Creek Project corridor.

The purpose of the dig was to develop and preserve knowledge of Dubuque's human past. The City hired Tallgrass Historians from Iowa City to do the research. They worked in several different locations between Garfield Ave. and E. 22nd St. through the end of July.

Much of the research was focused on locating and documenting old residential and commercial wells, cisterns, and privies. Back before the days of curbside collection, people had to dispose of their own trash. Privies were a very close and convenient place for people to toss unwanted items. This is one of the reasons privies are so important to archaeologists. Another reason is because the layers of soil in a privy tell us about a person's diet and seasonality of use.

Once the structures were uncovered, the field technicians created drawings and took photos, measurements, and material samples before combing through the soil to look for historical artifacts. The most commonly found items included ceramics, dishes, stoneware, buttons, smoking pipes, bottles, and miscellaneous metals.

All of the artifacts found in the Upper Bee Branch corridor will be curated at The Office of the State Archaeologist at the University of Iowa.



Artifacts found on June 8 between Garfield Ave. and Rhomberg Ave.



A partially uncovered well.



Field technicians mapping the profile of a privy.

Bee Branch Watershed Signs



By now you've probably noticed the new Bee Branch Watershed signs, and you may be wondering what they mean and why they were installed. A watershed is an area of land that drains to one major body of water such as a river, lake, or ocean. Almost all of the water in the 6.5 square mile Bee Branch Watershed drains to the Bee Branch Creek which then enters the Mississippi River at the 16th St. detention basin.

The watershed signs were installed to help residents understand where the Bee Branch Watershed is located. Signs were placed near the watershed boundary lines, where water crosses roadways, and on frequently traveled roads within the watershed. All of the stormwater runoff in this area flows to Dubuque's downtown and north end neighborhoods, contributing to the severe and frequent flash flooding.

The signs are also meant to serve as a reminder to residents to help protect our waters. Any pollutant put on the land or down storm drains within the watershed, including uncollected yard waste and trash, will end up in the Bee Branch Creek and ultimately the Mississippi River. Our actions have a direct impact on Dubuque's water quality and the health of the Bee Branch Watershed. All communities depend on lakes, reservoirs, rivers, and ground water for clean drinking water and we all have a responsibility to protect it.



Upper Bee Branch Kick-Off Events Held on July 1

Over 200 people attended the Upper Bee Branch Groundbreaking and Project Kick-off on July 1. The groundbreaking ceremony was led by Mayor Roy D. Buol and speakers included Iowa Senate President Pam Jochum, Ward 3 City Council Representative Joyce Connors, Bee Branch Citizen Advisory Committee Member Audrey Morey, Bill Ehm from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, and Carolann Jensen from the Iowa Flood Mitigation Board and the Iowa Finance Authority. Following the groundbreaking, a project kick-off was held in Comiskey Park. A “scale model” of the creek was created in the park’s green space and free activities represented the project’s amenities. An inflatable slide represented the creek’s future play area, music by the Pandemonium Steel Drum Ensemble represented the outdoor amphitheater, and pears and apples were given out as a nod to the community orchard. The event also served as an opportunity for residents to learn more about the project and speak with City staff members.

Green Alley Reconstruction

Green alleys reduce stormwater run-off, improve water quality, and provide better access to properties.

Green alley reconstruction focuses on reducing the volume of stormwater in the watershed. Over the course of the project, approximately 240 alleys in the Bee Branch Watershed will be converted to green alleys. This conversion is expected to reduce stormwater runoff within the watershed by up to 80 percent.

Traditional concrete, asphalt, and packed gravel surfaces are impervious. An impervious surface does not allow stormwater to soak into the ground. Green alleys feature permeable pavement with pores or openings that allow water to pass through the surface and filter gradually into the soil below. In Dubuque, we are utilizing specially designed interlocking concrete pavers.

A total of 38 alleys in the Bee Branch Watershed have been converted with approximately 35 more alleys planned for the 2015 and 2016 construction seasons. Local contractors and vendors are being utilized. On average there are 15 people working on four to five alleys each week. To date, the City has hired East Iowa Construction, Drew Cook & Sons Excavating, McDermott Excavating, and Portzen Construction. Materials have been supplied by J&R Supply, Stetson Building Products, Bard Concrete, River City Stone, and County Materials.

To see a list or map of the green alleys scheduled for reconstruction, visit www.cityofdubuque.org/greenalleys. Reconstruction typically takes six to eight weeks to complete. During this time, the alley is closed. The City makes every effort to notify residents when an alley project is starting. A letter with the anticipated construction start date and a tentative construction schedule is mailed to both property owners and current residents, informational cards are hung on the door of every property, and, if necessary, we notify residents by phone.

For questions or for more information, call (563) 690-6068.



Spaces between the interlocking pavers allow water to infiltrate the surface.



Green alley before photo.



Green alley after photo.

Construction Zone Safety

City of Dubuque Develops "Stay clear. Stay safe." Campaign



Audubon Elementary School students help with the "Stay clear. Stay safe." presentation.

The Upper Bee Branch Creek Restoration is in a residential neighborhood where children play and walk to and from school. The City of Dubuque developed a construction zone safety campaign called "Stay clear. Stay safe." to help children understand the dangers of construction zones and the importance of practicing safe behavior.

This spring safety presentations were held at Audubon and Holy Ghost Elementary Schools. The children learned about the Bee Branch Project, construction zone safety tips, the meanings of construction signs, and to stay clear of construction zones. Communications Specialist Kristin Hill also spoke to children and parents about construction safety at Marshall Elementary School's Passport to Summer event and Fulton Elementary's parent-teacher conferences. In addition, every student at Audubon, Holy Ghost, Marshall, Fulton, and Prescott elementary school received a Bee Branch construction zone safety activity book.

As we approach the new school year, an effort is being made to remind students about the importance of construction safety. In August, the Bee Branch Project participated in both National Night Out and the Back to School Bash in Comiskey Park. In September, the Dubuque Police Department will conduct high visibility patrol near all schools at arrival and dismissal times during the first week of school. Their number one priority will be the safety of students returning to school. The officers will monitor crosswalks and address any traffic violations they observe, such as speeding or not using seat belts.

We Need Name Ideas! for the Bee Branch Bee

The Bee Branch bee will be visiting with children at local schools and community events. There is just one problem! The Bee Branch bee needs a name! Submit your ideas to khill@cityofdubuque.org. To determine the bee's name, we'll compile a list of the top name choices from the ideas you provide. The public will then be invited to vote for their favorite. You never know! Your suggestion might be the winner!!



It's a bird!
It's a plane!
No, it's a drone!



The City of Dubuque is purchasing a drone to capture aerial video of City projects and landscapes, including the Bee Branch Project. You may see the drone flying near the project area before the end of the year. The footage will be used in construction update videos, in programs on CityChannel Dubuque, and more.

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