



CONTACT:
Deron Muehring
Civil Engineer
dmuehrin@cityofdubuque.org
563.589.4276

NEWS RELEASE

Jan. 2, 2015 – For Immediate Release

Upper Bee Branch Creek Restoration Set to Begin in 2015

DUBUQUE, Iowa – The City of Dubuque will begin work on the Upper Bee Branch Creek Restoration during the 2015 construction season. The two-part project will begin at Garfield Avenue and proceed north to East 24th Street near Comiskey Park.

Part one of the project includes the removal of the buried Bee Branch storm sewer which will be replaced with a 2,300-foot long creek and green space. This portion also includes two vehicular bridges located at Rhomberg Avenue and East 22nd Street, utility relocations, parking, a multiuse trail, a stepped amphitheater, a play area with slides, a community orchard, and the East 24th Street headwaters and overlook.

Part two of the project involves the Canadian Pacific railroad property and the placement of large diameter pipes under the railroad yard. The pipes will allow stormwater to drain more efficiently from the Upper Bee Branch Creek to the existing Lower Bee Branch Creek and 16th Street Detention Basin.

Starting with the improvements north of Garfield Avenue allows the project to move forward while the City of Dubuque works to finalize negotiations with the railroad.

Project update meetings will be held at 12:15 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 11, at the Prescott Neighborhood Resource Center; and 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 12, and Thursday, Feb. 19, at the Audubon Elementary School library. City staff will provide a project overview, explain the Upper Bee Branch Creek Restoration design, and share the tentative construction schedule. The meetings also provide an opportunity for the public to ask questions and share information.

The Bee Branch Creek Restoration is one of several infrastructure improvements Dubuque is making as part of the 20-year Bee Branch Watershed Flood Mitigation Project to address severe and frequent flash flooding in the Bee Branch Watershed. The \$200 million project is being funded with a combination of the city stormwater fee and \$127 million in federal and state grants. The Bee Branch Watershed is a 6.5 square mile area of Dubuque where over 50 percent of the city's residents either live or work. Based on a 2009 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) study, 1,373 homes and businesses in the watershed are prone to flooding, including 70 businesses that employ over 1,400 people.

When combined, the infrastructure improvements will reduce the volume of stormwater, slow the rate of stormwater, and increase the safe conveyance of stormwater. The Bee Branch Creek Restoration is aimed at moving stormwater safely through the flood-prone area. By itself, the Bee Branch Creek Restoration will provide some benefit, but all infrastructure improvements of the project must be complete to mitigate the flash flooding.

Several improvements are already completed, including two detention basins, a complete streets project in the Millwork District, and the Lower Bee Branch Creek Restoration. In addition to the Upper Bee Branch Creek Restoration scheduled to begin in 2015, future infrastructure improvements include increasing the capacity of multiple storm sewers, and converting all 240 alleys in the Bee Branch Watershed from traditional impervious surfaces to permeable pavers that allow water to pass through its surface and filter into the soil below. Twenty-three green alley conversions were completed in 2014 with approximately 50 scheduled for reconstruction in 2015.

For additional details on the Bee Branch Watershed Flood Mitigation Project, visit www.cityofdubuque.org/beebranch or call 563-690-6068.

#

MAP ATTACHED



Upper Bee Branch Creek
(Part 1)

**Bee Branch Creek
Railroad Crossing**
(Part 2)