



CONTACT
Kristin Hill, Communications Specialist
City of Dubuque khill@cityofdubuque.org
563.690.6068

NEWS RELEASE

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Upper Bee Branch Creek Restoration Project Kick-Off Events on July 1

DUBUQUE, Iowa – The City of Dubuque will hold a groundbreaking and project kick-off on Wednesday, July 1, to celebrate the initiation of construction on the Upper Bee Branch Creek Restoration phase of the Bee Branch Watershed Flood Mitigation Project. The public is invited to attend.

The groundbreaking ceremony will begin at 4 p.m. in the Upper Bee Branch Project corridor near the corner of E. 24th St. and Elm St. The program will include remarks by project funding partners, neighborhood residents, and elected officials. In case of inclement weather, the ceremony will be held in the Comiskey Park Building located at E. 24th St. and Jackson St.

Following the groundbreaking, a project kick-off will be held in Comiskey Park from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. The event in the park's green space will include a "scale model" of the creek and free activities will represent the project's amenities. Families will enjoy face-painting and an 18-foot inflatable slide to represent the creek's future play area, apples and pears will be provided as a nod to the future community orchard, and the Pandemonium Steel Drum Ensemble will perform in a representation of the outdoor amphitheater that will be located near Audubon Elementary School. The event will also serve as an opportunity for residents to learn more about the project and speak with City staff members.

The Upper 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.

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

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