



Sylvan Lake Shoreline

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Publishing Dates: April • June • August • October • December

Millions to be spent on Dam and Road improvement projects near our community

DAM PROJECT

Dam History

- The dam was built around 1928 – 1929; roughly 91 years ago.
- The dam was never submitted or classified with the State of Illinois as a “constructed dam.” This led to confusion about its existence when petitioning to enable reconstruction.
- The spillway opposite the dam has been deteriorating and could break through, flooding Midlothian Road and adjacent communities downstream.

Project Details

- Fremont Township is working to acquire permits from different government agencies.
- The project will take approximately six (6) months.
- Highland Drive will remain 14’ wide over the dam.
- If there is any delay, it would be the result of utility or permitting issues. This is not anticipated, but always a possibility.

Project Benefits

- All aspects of the Sylvan Lake water level (normal, winter and emergency) will be controlled by a state-of-the-art valving system, which will be managed by Fremont Township.
- A 5-foot-wide concrete walkway will be created on the lake side allowing pedestrians to cross the dam safely
- The spillway side of the dam will also be graded to have a 2.5:1 slope instead of the almost 5:1 slope that currently exists
- Vegetation in the spillway will be cleaned up. A low-profile “no-mow” type grass will be planted allowing for easier maintenance by Fremont Township.

Project Requirements

- Highland Drive at Midlothian Rd will be closed to traffic for the entire project

Swim Lessons Success!

Once again our kids and their friends were given the very important lessons in swimming in a lake, building their confidence and abilities!



Swimming in a lake presents different challenges than swimming in a pool. Rachel Finerty, who has been teaching the children of the neighborhood for the last 8 years, returned again this year to teach, build confidence and pass along some lake survival skills.

Thank you Rachel, for your skills and helping to make Sylvan Lake a safer place for our new swimmers!

Take Precaution Against Theft

There has been a recent influx of theft around the neighborhood with items being stolen out of cars parked in driveways, garages, and the street.

Please take extra precaution to lock your car doors and remove valuables from your car.

If you see anything suspicious, please call the police.

Sincerely, SLIA Board

Continued on page 2

Millions to be spent ~ continued

- The only community entrance/exit will be Crescent Drive at Gilmer Road for the length of the project.
- Schools, Countryside Fire, Lake County Sheriff and all waste haulers will be notified of the single entrance/exit.
- Nicor gas main, Lake County Public Works sanitary sewer and a Sylvan Lake water main all currently run within the construction zone. All will need to be permanently relocated before the dam and spillway can be deconstructed
- Over a span of 1-2 weeks, the lake will be lowered from “normal” water level to approximately 6 feet. This will leave the lake at about 50% of its normal size.
- The reduction in lake level could result in some fish kill.
- The lake level will remain reduced at about 50% of its normal size for the full length of the project. We are encouraging lakefront homeowners to make improvements to their seawalls and shorelines during this time.
- The Association will also look for opportunities to make improvements to Association property and will address any other issues with the lowered lake as necessary.

See Congresswoman Underwood's Press Release on page 13.

Road work on Sylvan Dr South

W Sylvan South and **curbs** will be replaced in the upcoming project which is being bid out in conjunction with Lake County for the Gilmer/Midlothian Improvements. (See Below)

The road work is going to include **curb replacement** which means that home owners should be prepared for a minimum of 14” to 18” needed for forming and pouring new curbs.

This work is all in the right-of-way but any homeowner plants/shrubs should be moved if you think that they are in danger of the work area. **It is also suggested that personal driveway improvements be postponed until after the roadwork is completed.**

Bid letting is expected to happen this fall, resulting in likely a 2022 time-frame for S Sylvan work to be completed.

Reprint from Sunday,
July 18, 2021
Daily Herald Suburbs
(Gilmer & Midlothian Intersection)



Funds for bottleneck in Hawthorn Woods

Lake County officials have appropriated \$17.5 million to address a long-standing traffic bottleneck at Gilmer and Midlothian roads in Hawthorn Woods. The project will add a second through lane in each direction, left-turn lanes at every corner and right-turn lanes at two corners.

Bacteria Lake Testing

With some neighboring lake beaches recently being closed for bacteria and some member concern, we reached out to our Lake County Health Department (LCHD) to inquire on the bacteria levels of Sylvan Lake.

The LCHD monitors Sylvan Lake Beach every two weeks from Memorial Day to Labor Day. You can find their monitoring schedule here:

<https://www.lakecountyil.gov/DocumentCenter/View/35358/2021-Beach-Monitoring-Schedule?bidId=> (Sylvan Lake Schedule is: 5/26, 6/7, 6/21, 7/6, 7/19, 8/2, 8/16, 8/30). Our last test was on 6/7 and the next test is this Monday, 6/21.

LCHD will post any beach closures on their website : <https://www.lakecountyil.gov/2385/Beach-Advisory>, will notify the SLIA Board and post a beach closure sign.

All historical data also gets added to the IDPH website. It's not the most user friendly site, but here is the direct link for Sylvan Lake (feel free to bookmark!) <http://www.idph.state.il.us/envhealth/ilbeaches/public/BeachDetail.aspx?BeachID=50>. If you click on “Results” you’ll see test results from this year. We currently have a green flag, which means no advisory. If there was a beach closure this would be a red flag. Any measurement over 235 cfu/100ml would trigger a beach closure. Our test results from 6/7 was 69.1 cfu/100ml, hence the green flag.

We hope this information helps everyone stay informed and safe.

Sincerely,
SLIA Board

Maple Park Project

Maple Park

As you may know, the Maple Park project was completed a few years ago that removed all the railroad ties & poles, graded and removed all trees from the shoreline, and installed a coconut roll to provide an edge for plant growth. This entire project was intended to use native plants to control erosion. Since then the area has been left to grow untouched with volunteers dedicating time to plant native plant seeds in parts of the area. Earlier this year, we started getting feedback from some members that the area had become unusable for fishing and general accessibility.

We as a board decided it was best to engage the members in the area on how to best provide usability and accessibility, but also protect our investment in native erosion control along the shoreline. We primarily solicited feedback from members that use Maple Park as their main access point to the lake that do not have lakefront property and members that have participated in environment-focused improvements around the lake.

Here's some of the feedback received:

- Keep the area untouched with no changes
- Maintain a minimum 15' of native plant growth for shoreline erosion control
- Provide wider paths with access to a pier
- Provide fishing areas with a bigger pier

- Install a boat launch pier for launching canoes and kayaks
- Plant maple trees
- Provide a budget to plant plugs, not seeds
- Provide homeowner access to the area
- Install signs in the native plant areas to provide educational information
- Provide an area for a future boat rack if necessary
- Provide off-shore managed flower beds
- Provide some open areas for kids that include picnic tables and benches

The board reviewed all the feedback received and decided a balanced approach to meet the needs of most people would be implemented in two phases as depicted in the high-level plan below.

- **Phase I:** Focus on shoreline buffer areas, piers, and fishing areas.
- **Phase II:** Focus on off-shore areas, managed flower gardens, picnic tables, benches, TBD. Phase II is still being discussed, but while Phase I is being developed, the off-shore areas are to be mowed so it doesn't become just long grass and weeds.

Next year, we plan on focusing on Phase I.

Sincerely,
Dan Trahan, SLIA President



Parks & Easements

by Renee DelMissier Jeri Swanson

Sylvan Lake parks and easements have been places for children and families to connect and we are hoping that you all are enjoying them. Each of our parks and easements are unique and provide a place to interact with others. In the June newsletter we provided a map of Sylvan Lake parks and easements. Please take advantage of such great resources! Jeri and I welcome suggestions, and appreciate volunteers that help to keep our shared properties inviting to all Sylvan Lakers.

Lately, there have been large trees needing to be cut down and unfortunately, some healthy ones have fallen down due to the weather. Please watch for leaning trees on your property! The most recent tree, a large oak, came down in Ravinia. It took other trees down with it. We are working on getting estimates to remove it. In the meantime, Alex Grandt kindly jumped right in and cleared the path! The top portion of the tree was in the bay, he not only removed it, but also cut up the sections into moveable pieces. If you are wanting some firewood from a nice oak, go down Oak Terrace off of Crescent, cross over the bridge into the woods and you'll see it neatly piled. We suggest bringing a tarp to drag several pieces at a time. Thank you again, Alex Grandt, you are appreciated!

If you see a tree that needs to be cut down, please let us know. The township recently took down a large Hickory tree that was by the curbside off of W. Sylvan Rd. Thank you to those who called the township. There are two dead trees in Bjorklund Park that will be taken down soon.

The Schwerman Park drainage job is working well. The areas surrounding the basketball court have been dry. There are new basketball nets, thank you Dan Capasso for your generous donation! Thank you to the Brasher and Stempian families for sanding the benches around the park. This is an extension of work that they began on Cleanup Day. If you can volunteer to help paint the benches, please contact Jeri or Renee.

The Grandt family donated another flagpole that will go up at Point Comfort Park. The Grandt family's generosity is greatly appreciated. If you wish to volunteer to help install the pole, please contact Jeri or Renee.

Dam Project

The Eco-Chicks continue to work with the township as they prepare to do the dam project. Prior to Lauren Underwood's visit, another cleanup and clearing in the dam area was completed by the township. The Eco-

Chicks moved Water Willow woodland plants, several boulders, and rocks to areas that will not be disturbed during construction. We received woodland seed from Tori Trauscht of Indian Creek Watershed Project. The seeds were planted throughout the safe zone area. Thank you Tori for being a great Sylvan Lake advocate. Several water loving rush grasses donated by Eco-Chicks were also planted along the creek.



We are looking for volunteers to remove boulders and rocks away from the dam construction zone so they can be saved. If we do not move them, they will be buried during construction. The boulders and rocks are an important part of the ecosystem. If you can help, please contact Jeri or Renee.

As always, thank you for doing your part to keep our neighborhood beautiful, it is noticed and appreciated greatly!

Special thanks to these workday volunteers

First workday was at the beach area removing invasive Reed Canary grasses and weeds at the sailboat prep pier and along the swale that leads to the shoreline from No. Sylvan Drive. We dug out as much as we could the last week of June to give a bigger area of sand for the 4th of July. We worked about 5 hours over a 2 day period. Thanks to these volunteers: Gary Goldblatt, Mike Trahan, Jenn Cameron, Sandy Washburn, Linda Mihel, Sara Owen, Natalie O'Brien and Jeri Swanson & Renee Del messier.

Continued on next page

ECO-CORNER #19

by Jenn Cameron

Where does our lake water come from?

Sylvan Lake is a man-made impoundment lake as was explained in the last Eco-Corner article. Sylvan Lake receives its water from a number of sources, including melted snow and ice or rain flowing into Sylvan Lake as it runs off our neighborhood roads, driveways, yards, parks, and easement lands. We cannot control how much snowfall or rainfall Mother Nature bestows upon us each season, and we know that any body of water - especially an impoundment lake - is susceptible to seasons that are particularly dry or wet. In addition, Sylvan Lake is a low spot for this local area and collects some runoff streamed in from nearby neighborhoods, roadways, and business developments. This is how a watershed area generally functions to transport and store water.

The Sylvan Lake dam is operated to regulate the water depth of the lake by controlling the water either held in the lake/basin or released to spill over the dam. Anything that is dripped or sprayed and anything solid that is dropped or sprinkled on land or into a retention pond near Sylvan Lake has the potential to be picked up through surface water runoff and transported to and mixed in with our existing lake water. Each time this in-flow occurs, Sylvan Lake then has modified water chemistry

retained in the basin over a period of time before it either evaporates, spills over the dam, or it seeps into the ground. Additionally, it can be a challenge to maintain reasonable lake levels along with healthy water chemistry and wetland ecosystems all through the year to satisfy the variety of enjoyments around Sylvan Lake.

Sylvan Lake has continued to collect water from many sources and transport the excess over the dam for *decades of seasons*. What happens to a lake in a summer like the current one (i.e. periods of high temperatures, significant rainfall, fluctuating lake water depth, water movement and sediments washed in/out, etc.) can affect the lake and its wetlands (including both plants and wildlife) for the next season and even beyond that. The healthier an impoundment lake ecosystem is overall, the better it is able to withstand stressful environmental and/or man-made factors. What we can do in any season is to educate ourselves and take actions when and where we can to protect Sylvan Lake from contaminants channeled into it.

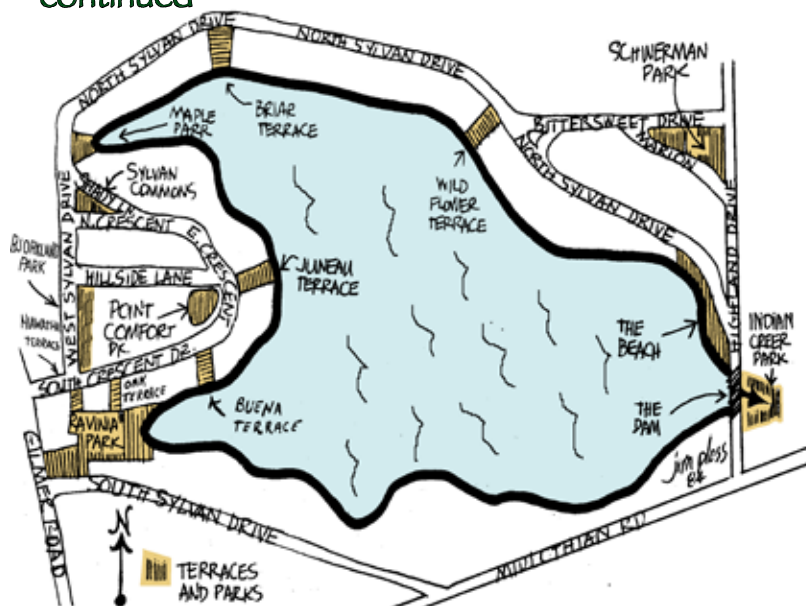
- https://cfpub.epa.gov/watertrain/moduleFrame.cfm?parent_object_id=586
- <https://www.lakecountyil.gov/2375/Watersheds>
- <https://www.nap.edu/read/1807/chapter/6>

Parks & Easements ~ continued

Second: Eco-Chics had a planned workday to spread donated woodland seed in Indian Creek Park and it just so happened to be the same day Lauren Underwood and other County officials came to visit Sylvan Lake to view the dam/spillway proposed work. We were done, just as they pulled up.

Seed was donated by Tori Trauscht of the Indian Creek Watershed Project. Workers were: Renee Delmissier, Jenn Cameron, Sara Owen, Linda Mihel, Sandy Washburn and Jeri Swanson. We also transplanted a few things so that they would be out of harms way when construction begins.

Renee and Jeri



*Sylvan
Lake
2021*

4TH OF JULY



Sylvan Lake

4TH OF JULY



Photos by Steve Mongelluzzo



Photos by Steve Mongelluzzo



Photos by Steve Mongelluzzo





VENETIAN NIGHT

Sunday , Sept. 5th
starts at 7pm.
rain date , Sept. 6th
**Meet at the beach
to start the train!**

Sylvan Lake

2021

Garden Club Sponsored



Sylvan Lake

TRIVIA NIGHT

AUGUST 2, 11, 23,
SEPT. 1

HOSTED BY
Lucya and Steve
Mongelluzzo
and Bob Mihel

**6pm on
the beach
deck**

**BRING A SNACK TO
SHARE IF YOU CAN**

BYOB

Getting to know your neighbor Patsy Sweeney

Interview with Patsy Sweeney, July, 2021

Written by: Peggy Delacruz

When I talk to people who have raised families here in Sylvan Lake, I find that while things have changed over the years, many things have remained the same. Patsy Sweeney and her late husband Jim bought the house she still lives in today on August 10th, 1967. Before that, her husband Jim was working as a Pilot in the Airforce out in California. Jim decided to take a job flying for United Airlines and that's what brought them both out to Illinois. They found the house in Sylvan Lake and it had everything they wanted. Patsy told me that her now, adult daughters and son (Dianne, Lynne, David and Susan) all say that Sylvan Lake was the best place to grow up.

Patsy was and still is very much involved in the Sylvan Lake Community. Jim was also involved when he wasn't flying. Patsy told me that Jim was active on the water board and dedicated a lot of time and resources to helping keep the well in working condition. Having clean water and a system that was reliable was very important to him. If you are ever in the park between Shady Lane and Crescent (where the well is located) you will see a plaque with Jim's name on it right below a beautiful maple tree. That tree was donated by the Association and planted in Jim's name. The location is fitting because of his passion and dedication to the water system.



Patsy Sweeney

Patsy has long been involved with the community in different ways. She was a member of the Garden Club for many years and has played many roles during that time. She was once the treasurer, is known for her delicious baked goods, and to this day organizes and bakes for the Bake Sale at the Annual Oktoberfest each year. Her only rule about the bake sale is that if

you bring something, it cannot be store bought! She holds herself to this same standard. Everyone loves her homemade Mrs. Fields Cookies served at the Fourth of

July and her Rice Crispy Treats. By the way, if you've ever wondered why her Rice Crispy treats taste so good, she adds more butter and

more marshmallows than the recipe calls for and on top of that adds 8 oz. of white chocolate. For the record, I did get her permission to give away her secret! Patsy is also known for her home canned jams and jellies that are also sold at the Bake Sale and although not everyone will know this, she has, on occasion made jello shots (made in the form of jello jigglers) for some of the adult gatherings. Patsy said she has about 10 different recipes for her jello shots!

I asked Patsy to tell me about the Garden Club back when she was a member. She remembers the Garden Club involved in plantings around the lake (sometimes working with the Association), putting in fresh sand at the beach, purchasing new benches and beach patrol. I asked her about beach patrol, which new members will not know about because we really don't practice this anymore. Back when Patsy was raising her kids, moms would take turns during the week as beach patrol. Each resident needed to carry a beach tag with them to the lake at that time. The beach patrol person would check tags, make sure people at the beach either lived here or knew someone living here and they also spoke to anyone causing any kind of trouble. They hired a resident teen to patrol on the weekends but she credits John Chesney who did a great job at making sure people at the beach were residents.

Some of the traditions we have today were started when she was involved. They started the Santa visit (which began as Santa visiting door to door) and was changed to meeting Santa at the park the way we do it today. They also were responsible for planning the food and workers for the Fourth of July celebration.

Along with some of these traditions that we still continue



Susan Sweeney dressed as the Statue of Liberty Fourth of July

Getting to know your neighbor Patsy Sweeney ~ continued

today she told me about some other events they planned that got lost over the years. The "Come As You Are" breakfast was supposed to be a surprise. Women would knock on doors and gather people in the neighborhood to come to breakfast at a designated house and the idea was to show up as you were. So, if you were in your pajamas, that's how you went. Although Patsy did say how many times the word got out but some people got dressed and prepared for the "surprise" breakfast. She specifically remembers Barb Tonkery hosting one and serving coffee and donuts.

Another social event that they planned was a progressive dinner from house to house. People who lived on the lake would ride in their rowboats from one house to another. One house started with appetizers and they continued this way with more appetizers, drinks, dinner and dessert. Patsy doesn't live on the lake so she planned the dessert and everyone had to walk or drive to her house.

She also told me of a time that couples from the lake met at the Sundance in Mundelein, hopped on a bus and took a ride to Lake Geneva for a dinner cruise. I told her I think this is a tradition that needs to be brought back.

I always enjoy hearing about how the landscape of Sylvan Lake has changed over the years. Patsy talked about each house sitting on three or four lots back before the sewers were put in. Once the sewers were put in and people no longer needed the land for septic, people sold off the lots and there was a building boom. She told me that the family who lived in the Rollinger's house owned cows. Occasionally Patsy's son would look out his bedroom window and say, "mom, there's a cow in our yard." Different times for sure. Patsy also talked about the Chicago Park District behind her house. The Park District grew a variety of trees for Chicago. Several acres of land were filled with trees. I can imagine how beautiful that must have been especially during sunset.



I loved the story she told me of how she met her husband. Patsy went to an all girls Catholic College. When they wanted to have a dance, the nuns would call out at the Airbase and ask the Priest if he could get a bus and send some boys over. Although the girls were 20 and 21 years old and the Priest was

sending 18 year old boys out, the girls asked for older guys... I mean, you really can't blame them. She went on to tell me about a time she met a guy at one of the dances and he took her on another occasion to the Officer's Club to a dinner. It was there at the Officer's Club that she met Jim. About three months later, he called her, and they went on their first date. They dated for about a year and a half and married in May of 1958.

It's difficult to capture all the important parts of a person's life in a few paragraphs. There is so much about Patsy's life that is admirable. She earned a Bachelors Degree in Art Education and Math, raised four children to be successful adults, and obviously was and continues to be an active participant in this community as well as the community outside of Sylvan Lake. If you grew up here you may remember her volunteering to help in the Learning Center at St. Mary's as well as their annual bake sale.

Patsy is vibrant and funny and sharp. Today she belongs to a book club, here in Sylvan Lake, continues to organize the Annual Bake Sale, goes to church, enjoys cooking and baking, occasionally sews and makes crafty things, and if you walk by her house you can see how well she cares for her plants and flowers. Her yard is impeccable and you will often see her outside watering and gardening. I'm certain there is more that didn't reach the conversation but there is one thing we all now know..... if you need a recipe for jello shots, ask Patsy! In all seriousness, I'm certain if you needed a recipe for just about anything.... Patsy would have it! Thank you Patsy for sharing your time and stories. What a delightful morning it was!!!

**LIFE
IS BETTER
AT THE LAKE** 

Rag Weed Season!

Giant Ragweed

This is giant ragweed, **from 6-9' tall**. The seeds are at the top. Notice the large 3 fingered leaves. Right now around Sylvan Lake it is between 3-4' tall and no seed heads. Perfect time to pull them, the ground is moist and they slip out real easy. Please place in garbage. If you or anyone you know has allergies to this, get rid of it for them, or ask someone for help. Handling it can cause their allergies to react. Not only is this a problem for human allergy sufferers, but our pets as well. Besides that, it robs surrounding plants of air flow and moisture.



Dog Waste Management

Dog waste is a major pollutant and contaminant of the water supply (serious health issue). Proper clean up of pets limits the amount of pathogens that can be washed into waterways. Appropriate disposal includes bringing a bag, pick up the waste and then disposing it in the trash.

Benefits

- Results in less organic debris and bacteria in waterways, which can lead to high nutrient levels and low dissolved oxygen levels in streams and lakes.
- Preventing serious health issues to humans and other animals

*Thank You
Dan Trahan*



Please Remember to Keep the **Lead Out**

Fishermen, please remember about the dangers of using lead-based tackle! Wisconsin DNR has put out a lot of warnings regarding this problem. Especially for our waterfowl, we need to be aware of the problem. Thank you!

Please
Welcome
all of our New
Neighbors and
invite them
to join in our
Sylvan Lake
activities!

Garden Club

Tammie Trahan **President**
Laurie MacKay **Vice President**
Karen Finerty **Treasurer**
Nancy Hanson **Secretary**

Other Board Members

Kathy Ford
Nancy Hanson
Jen Crow
Peggy Delacruz
Lauren Rollinger
Fran Pacheco
Mariann Mortenson
Kelly Dickenson
Debbie Pomazol
Marianne Michnowski

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Jeri Swanson
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Lake Tom Truffer
Beach Peter Lind
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Congresswoman Underwood Press Release:

UNDERWOOD ANNOUNCES THAT INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT TO PROTECT HUNDREDS OF LAKE COUNTY HOMES FROM IMPENDING DAM FAILURE ADVANCES IN THE HOUSE; \$1.3 MILLION FOR SYLVAN LAKE DAM WOULD PROTECT PUBLIC SAFETY

July 1, 2021 Press Release

WASHINGTON—Congresswoman Lauren Underwood (IL-14) announced that over \$1.3 million in federal funding for Lake County's Sylvan Lake Dam advanced in the House of Representatives. The Sylvan Lake Dam Modification Project is crucial to ensure public safety and protect hundreds of Lake County homes from impending failure of a 100-year-old embankment dam. Recent record flooding and erosion damages across the county have accelerated the urgency of this project, which would benefit homeowners in the Village of Long Grove and Fremont Township, Lake County public utility infrastructure, and the Illinois Department of Transportation while shielding the public from the impacts of future extreme weather and climate change. Once approved by the House Appropriations Committee, the project will advance to the full House of Representatives for consideration.

"There are tragedies that we don't see coming, and then there are the ones right in front of our eyes—like Lake County's Sylvan Lake Dam, which has the potential to displace hundreds of families. A dam failure would be extremely detrimental to public health and safety in addition to the property damage and disruption to transportation and utilities. I won't let that happen to our community—that's why I'm pushing for this critical project so we can

act now and prepare for the future to keep our families and neighbors safe. I'm pleased that my colleagues approved over \$1.3 million in federal resources to support this project, and I'll continue to push for these priorities and more to help improve the safety of our communities in 14th District," said Underwood.

The project advanced in the House Committee on Appropriations' Subcommittee on Homeland Security as part of the Community Project Funding (CPF) process. CPF is a new initiative for Fiscal Year 2022 that allows Members of Congress to request direct funding for projects that benefit the communities they represent. Underwood submitted ten projects for consideration overall; similar decisions on her remaining five projects are expected in the coming weeks.

PROJECT SPONSOR: Lake County Stormwater Management Commission

LOCATION: Sylvan Lake Dam, 26083 N Highland Drive, Mundelein, Illinois 60060

AMOUNT FUNDED: \$1,342,500

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION: The Sylvan Lake Dam Modification Project is a cost-effective project to ensure public safety and increase resilience by mitigating the impending failure of a 100-year-old earthen embankment dam, making it an appropriate use of taxpayer funds. This project will protect the 137 homes in the Indian Creek Club subdivision, the 289 homes near Sylvan Lake serviced by above-ground sanitary sewer, Highland and Midlothian roadways, and preventing further damage along the Sylvan Lake Drain. Lake County experienced countywide record flooding in 2017, and erosion damages to this infrastructure have been accelerating as increased precipitation/climate change impacts our region. This project benefits the following local, county and state jurisdictions: Village of Long Grove (including single family homeowners), the unincorporated Fremont Township around Sylvan Lake, Lake County public utility infrastructure, and Illinois Department of Transportation (Midlothian Rd).



*Congresswoman Lauren Underwood speaking at Sylvan Lake dam about the purpose and justification for federal funding.
Pictures by Steve Mongelluzzo*

