

## PRESS RELEASE

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### Contact Information

Eleanor Sweet McDonnell  
President  
[esweet@northbarrington.org](mailto:esweet@northbarrington.org)  
Phone: 224-633-8112

**Subject :** Grassmere, Haverton,  
Oaksbury ("GHO") Stormwater  
Drainage Project

John Lobaito  
Village Administrator  
[jlobaito@northbarrington.org](mailto:jlobaito@northbarrington.org)  
Phone: 847-381-6000

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The Village of North Barrington is pleased to announce that the start of the GHO Stormwater Drainage Project will begin the week of July 13, 2026, subject to favorable weather conditions as much of the work is within wetlands.

This past week, the Village received notice that all necessary permit from the regulatory agencies have been approved. This includes permits from IDOT, US Army Corp of Engineers, IEPA, and Lake County Stormwater Management Commission.

**Background** On April 22, 2026, the Village of North Barrington President and Board of Trustees approved a Resolution authorizing the execution of an agreement with Copenhaver Construction, Inc. for the construction of the Grassmere Farms, Haverton, and Oaksbury Drainage Project ("GHO") in the amount of \$2,172,980.

This moment in time is a culmination of incredible intergovernmental cooperation with multiple agencies including the Lake County Stormwater Management Commission ("LCSMC") under the direction of Kurt Woolford, Executive Director, Illinois Department of Transportation ("IDOT"), District 1 Engineer, Jose Rios, the US Army Corp of Engineers, Chicago District.

This area of IL Route 59 has seen chronic flooding which resulted in six (6) road closures due to stormwater impacts. Most recently closed on April 18, 2026, as hazardous driving conditions resulted from water overtopping the highway.

Additionally, the village's street infrastructure has experienced severe flooding for many years, and the failed storm water infrastructure is negatively affecting more than forty (40) properties and more than 250 acres within the watershed area.

In 2023, the Village of North Barrington took the lead in solving this regional problem and executed a design engineering agreement with Robinson Engineering to develop plans that would improve the safety of the motorists and provide flooding relief to impacted properties.

Project improvements include the replacement of a failed stormwater pipe under IL Rte. 59 and the installation of downstream stormwater conveyance systems. This includes construction of open channels and limited amount of piping.

**IL Rte. 59 is planned to be temporarily closed for a period of time during the project. The date and length of time of the closure have yet to be determined. Advanced notice will be provided as soon as the date has been decided.**

When completed this project will significantly reduce the more than 20-year flooding problem on IL Rte. 59 south of IL Rte. 22 in North Barrington, mitigate the flooding on a local street, and provide flooding relief to private property owners.

President Eleanor Sweet McDonnell said, “ This project would not have been possible without the cooperation of the other regulatory agencies and the property owners that willing provided easements through their properties to ensure the project would move forward. Anyone that has traveled the highway during flooded conditions owe a debt of gratitude to the residents that stepped up and became part of the solution to this 20-year unsafe regional flooding problem.”

Funding of the project came from two major sources. In partnership with Lake County Stormwater Management Commission, a grant was secured through the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity up to \$2.5 million. IDOT is also providing funding for the improvements in the state right-of-way of up to \$600,000.

Future updates will be provided as the project advances.