

# West Branch Panther Creek Watershed Project

Woodford County, IL



## Project Information

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Village of Roanoke, as the local project sponsor, will be developing a watershed plan/environmental assessment (Plan/EA) for the West Branch Panther Creek, Woodford County, Illinois. The Plan/EA will analyze flood reduction alternatives for the Village of Roanoke. Planning studies will take place through 2024 and a Plan/EA is scheduled to be completed in 2025. The planning process will be conducted in accordance with the rules and guidelines of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ).

The Plan/EA development is funded under the NRCS Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations (WFPO) Program. Funding authority is through Public Law 83-566, which allows NRCS to provide technical and financial assistance to help communities protect, improve, and conserve natural resources. Information on the WFPO Program can be found at <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/watershed-and-flood-prevention-operations-wfpo-program>.

## Alternatives to Evaluate

IL NRCS will contract with a private architect and engineering (A&E) firm to develop the Plan/EA. The A&E will assist NRCS in identifying and evaluating feasible alternatives to reduce flooding within the Village of Roanoke. Feasible alternatives will be described in detail in the Plan/EA along with associated impacts and probable benefits of each alternative. The A&E will consider an array of possible structural and non-structural alternatives such as wet dam construction, dry dam construction, retention basins, improved urban stormwater infrastructure, wetland creation, wetland enhancement, voluntary property buyouts, flood proofing of buildings, and the implementation of voluntary conservation practices on farmlands throughout the upper watershed.

## Public Engagement and Information Opportunities

Both NRCS and the Village of Roanoke are committed to informing and engaging tribes, stakeholders, and local residents throughout the watershed planning process. In an effort to keep interested parties updated, a project website will be created once the project is underway. Key documents, such as meeting notes and project updates, will be posted throughout the life of the project. Additional information on NRCS programs can be found on the websites listed below.

### NRCS Websites

For assistance and questions regarding NRCS conservation programs—

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/conservation-basics/conservation-by-state/illinois>

For general NRCS watershed planning information—

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/watershed-programs>





# West Branch Panther Creek Watershed Project

Total Acres: 38,027.02  
Percent Agricultural Land: 93.42%  
HUC 12: 071300040403

Date: 7/2023  
Agency: NRCS



Prepared with assistance from USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service

- HUC071300040403
-  Watershed Project Boundary
-  Stream

