

most of the remaining wetland sites near proposed improvements in the watershed are relatively low quality, although higher quality wetlands are present.

### 2.4.4 West Branch DuPage River Watershed

An estimated 20.8 acres of wetlands in the West Branch DuPage River Watershed are near the proposed transportation improvements. Of that, approximately 12 percent (2.5 acres) are wetland mitigation sites. Most of the other wetlands identified during field reconnaissance are of low quality.

### 2.4.5 Willow Creek Watershed

An estimated 35.9 acres of wetlands in the Willow Creek Watershed are near the proposed transportation improvements. Approximately 82 percent (29.4 acres) of that area includes emergent wetland, vegetated drainage ditch/channel, or wetland bottom stormwater management facilities. Most of the wetlands are manmade or induced; are in channelized corridors adjacent to roads, buildings or parking lots in developed areas; or have an open water component. Based on field reconnaissance, most of the wetland sites are of low quality, although higher quality wetlands are present.

## 2.5 Floodplains

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs)<sup>15</sup> for Cook and DuPage counties show 673 acres of 100-year floodplain (including Zone A floodplain) proximate to the project improvements. Table 2-18 lists watersheds containing 100-year floodplain near the proposed improvements. Some waterways have regulatory floodways.<sup>16</sup> Exhibit 2-9 shows the 100-year floodplain from the FEMA FIRMs.

TABLE 2-18  
Summary of Floodplain Areas Located near Proposed Improvements

Watershed	Floodplain (acres)	Contributing Floodplains
Addison Creek	96	Addison Creek and Addison Creek Tributary 2.
Des Plaines River	215	Bensenville Ditch, Crystal Creek, Crystal Creek Tributary, Industrial Tributary, Motel Tributary, Sexton Ditch, and Silver Creek.
Salt Creek	192	Devon Avenue Tributary, Meacham Creek, and Salt Creek.
West Branch DuPage River	16	West Branch DuPage River.
Willow Creek	154	Higgins Creek, Higgins Creek Tributaries A and B, Willow Creek, Willow Creek South Tributary, and Willow Creek North Tributary.

Sources: CBBEL, 2006; FEMA, 2004a; FEMA, 2008a.

<sup>15</sup> The FEMA FIRMs used for the portions of the proposed study area located in Cook County became effective on August 19, 2008 while the FIRMs for DuPage County were effective December 16, 2004. The floodplain of the Willow Creek North Tributary and Willow Creek South Tributary were refined based on the *DuPage County Countywide Stormwater and Flood Plain Ordinance Stormwater Management Report for the Willow Creek Tributaries Improvements, Bensenville, DuPage County, Illinois* (CBBEL, 2006).

<sup>16</sup> The floodway is defined as the channel of a waterway and its adjacent land areas that must be preserved to discharge the base flood (the 100-year flood) without cumulatively increasing the water surface elevation more than a designated height.