

Joint Statement on Bartlett Prairie Wetland
Village of Oswego and Oswegoland Park District
August 7, 2018

On Tuesday, August 7, 2018, staff from the Village of Oswego and the Oswegoland Park District met to discuss the wetland detention basin in Lakeview Estates commonly called Bartlett Lake or Bartlett Prairie Wetland.

When Lannert Group & Engineering Inc. designed the wetland detention basin in 1992, its purpose was to collect storm water runoff and reduce the likelihood of flooded homes. At last Tuesday's meeting, staff determined that the detention basin, regardless of whether the water level looks like a lake or looks like a wetland, effectively performs its most important function -- protecting homes against flooding. Whether natural or manmade, the character of wetlands like this one will naturally change from year to year, depending on rainfall, sunlight, and the amount of fertilizer, salt and other contaminants that run off from surrounding properties. This is the natural, healthy cycle of this constructed wetland habitat.

On Tuesday, the Village of Oswego and the Oswegoland Park District re-committed to their respective roles in maintaining the wetland detention basin. The Village will continue to regularly maintain the storm sewer structures and the restrictor plate controlling the release of water from the basin, while the Park District will continue contracting to control the algae and aquatic weeds that grow each year.

Residents can also contribute to the health of the wetlands by reducing the amount of fertilizers, grass clippings, tree leaves, salts and oils that are generated in the neighborhood and contribute to algae blooms and other undesirable effects. Though the water level will continue to rise and fall year to year by nature's design, these combined efforts will ensure that, whether it looks like a lake or a wetland in a given year, the land will continue to perform its essential flood control functions while also adding to the beauty and character of the neighborhood.