

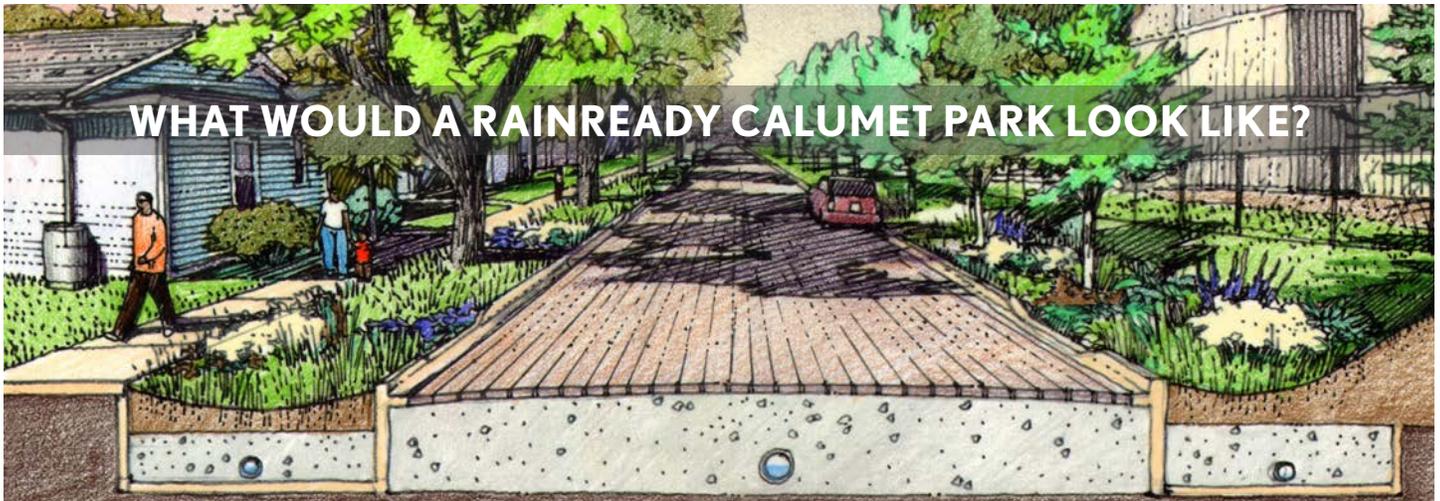
RainReady Calumet Corridor

Plan for Calumet Park, IL



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A CITIZEN'S GUIDE TO A RAINREADY CALUMET PARK



A RainReady Calumet Park would be a community where residents and businesses benefit from flood relief in a way that also brings neighborhood beautification, commercial activity, new jobs, recreation, and habitat conservation. Together, community residents, business owners, municipal staff, and elected representatives will coordinate their efforts to create a vibrant and resilient community. In order to better understand Calumet Park's flooding risk, the Center for Neighborhood Technology (CNT), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the RainReady Calumet Park Steering Committee, and the Village of Calumet Park joined together in February 2016. Throughout the year, this group met regularly, hosted community meetings, went door-to-door in the neighborhood, held seven educational workshops and five Steering Committee meetings, and reviewed a number of plans and studies. 144 residents filled out our flooding survey.

Together, we have established a shared vision and path toward a RainReady Calumet Park: The RainReady Calumet Park Plan. This Citizen's Guide to a RainReady Calumet Park covers the highlights of the plan, for more information visit www.rainready.org/calumet-corridor.

A Path Forward

In 2016, the Village took great steps forward with its sewer maintenance program, providing relief to many parts of town by televising, cleaning, and lining their public sewer. The Village also has a residential cost-share program on the books, which could be renewed and expanded to assist residents with funding for flood mitigation home improvements. The path forward for the community includes targeted investment in sewer improvements in West Calumet Park and the targeted installation of green infrastructure best management practices (BMPs) that reduce flooding and add to the character of Calumet Park.

Equipped with this RainReady Plan, the Village now has a roadmap for reducing local flooding issues in a way that strengthens neighborhoods and business districts, and bringing new life and vibrancy to all parts of town.

**KEEP READING FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE
PATH AHEAD FOR CALUMET PARK!**



Understanding the Problem

Like many of its neighbors, Calumet Park has long been plagued by chronic flooding. In recent years, the severity of flooding in the community has become significantly worse. A combination of aging and limited infrastructure and changes in regional climate have left Calumet Park's residents and infrastructure systems vulnerable to flooding. From 2007 to 2011, 3,362 flood-related insurance claims were filed in the 60827 zip code, with more than \$8,073,673 paid out in damages. In 2015, the broader Calumet Corridor in which Calumet Park is located was identified by Cook County as the area that was "most impacted and distressed" by the April 2013 flooding disaster (DR-4116). Strategic policy changes and coordinated investment in green and grey infrastructure capital projects and ongoing maintenance will be part of the mix of solutions necessary to mitigate chronic flooding issues and large storms.

RainReady Calumet Park Survey Results



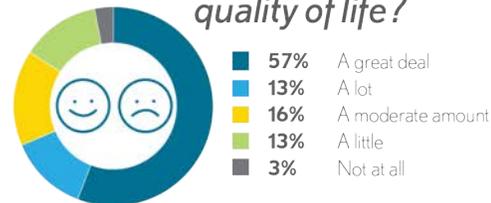
How does water enter properties?



What is the level of worry about flooding's impact on property value?



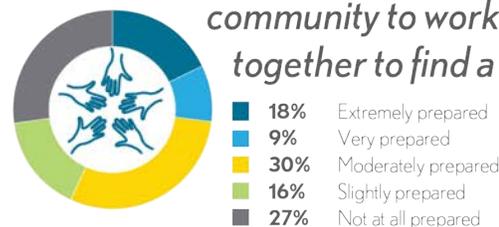
How much do heavy rains impact quality of life?



How much do heavy rains impact commute or other travel?



What is the preparedness of the community to work together to find a solution?



How effective will local government officials be in addressing flooding issues?



Data Source: CNT Survey, 2016

*Respondents who answered "Yes, I experience problems" and "I do not experience problems anymore" were grouped into the "Yes" category because both sets of respondents experience ongoing flooding problems or have experienced problems in the past, respectively.

Planning the Solutions

The path ahead for Calumet Park requires coordinated action at multiple scales. Fortunately, community residents, municipal staff, and elected representatives are aligned in their desire for a more beautiful, flood-resilient community. The RainReady Plan recommends the following priority projects, which are taken from a more comprehensive list of recommendations.

RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM

Renew Calumet Park continues to offer a residential cost-sharing program to help homeowners recover from past storms and prepare for future storms. Under this program, residents would receive financial support for a complete home inspection and improvements targeted to reduce risk, like check valves, overhead sewers, and a rain garden.



NEIGHBORHOOD GREENING

Create a network of beautiful residential streets and vibrant neighborhoods built to capture stormwater, increase property values, and make streets safer for walking, biking, and outdoor play. This program would help community members soak up rain by installing green infrastructure in their yards, parkways, parks, schools, and vacant properties in the neighborhood. Installations should be designed with community input and maintenance plans.



WEST CALUMET PARK NEIGHBORHOOD

The west Calumet Park neighborhood experiences severe and chronic flooding every year. The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) has developed a preliminary plan to reduce flooding using green and grey infrastructure. RainReady and the Village are working together to secure funding for the next step: developing detailed engineering designs.



Quick Steps

We know that residents experience flooding every summer, and the need for help is urgent. Here are 7 solutions that homeowners should consider to reduce their risk today:

- **ASSESS YOUR PROPERTY.**

The first step to solving your flood problem is to understand how water falls on your property and flows through your pipes. If you have significant problems, you may need the help of an engineer, plumber, electrician, or landscape designer.

- **MAKE YARD IMPROVEMENTS.**

In order to reduce flooding, capture stormwater runoff using rain gardens, swales, dry wells, permeable paving, rain barrels, or cisterns.

- **ELEVATE YOUR APPLIANCES.**

If water regularly enters your home, place appliances, furnaces, hot water heaters, and electrical panels above the typical flood level on wood or concrete blocks.

- **HAVE YOUR BUILDING SEWERS CHECKED.**

Faulty pipes connecting your home to the municipal sewer system can exacerbate foundation damage and flooding in your home. Ensure that grease, waste, or tree roots are not obstructing the pipe and preventing wastewater from leaving the house.

- **RECLAIM YOUR PARKWAY.**

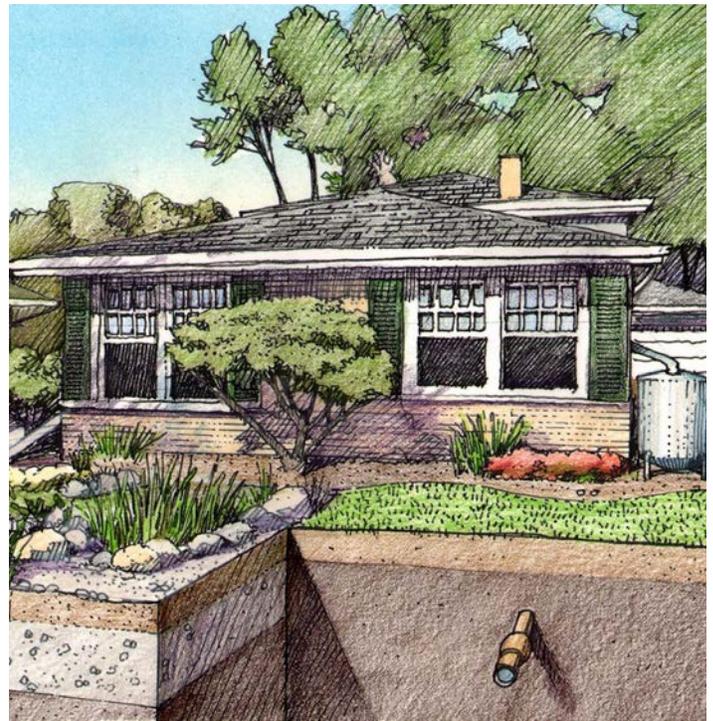
The strips between sidewalks and streets can be transformed into attractive green spaces that absorb stormwater runoff, reduce municipal maintenance costs, and beautify streets. Be sure to check your municipal code for which plants are permitted.

- **GET INSURED.**

There are several options available to protect you against the risk of water damage, including home insurance policies, flood insurance riders, and the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), established by FEMA and administered by your local insurance companies.

- **ADVOCATE FOR THE RAINREADY PLAN.**

This plan outlines solutions to community wide flooding. Get involved in your local Steering Committee to make sure the plan is implemented!



GET INVOLVED!

Community leaders joined together in 2016 to form the RainReady Calumet Park Steering Committee.

The Committee will work in partnership with the municipality to implement the RainReady Calumet Park Plan, focused on sewer maintenance and investment in green infrastructure installation. They are motivated to beautify the Village, create activities for youth, establish new employment opportunities, educate residents, and advocate for implementation of the new sewer maintenance plan. Join their efforts!

The RainReady Calumet Park Steering Committee meets monthly! For more information contact Rebecca Raines at rraines@cnt.org or 773.269.2217.

VILLAGE OF CALUMET PARK

COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT

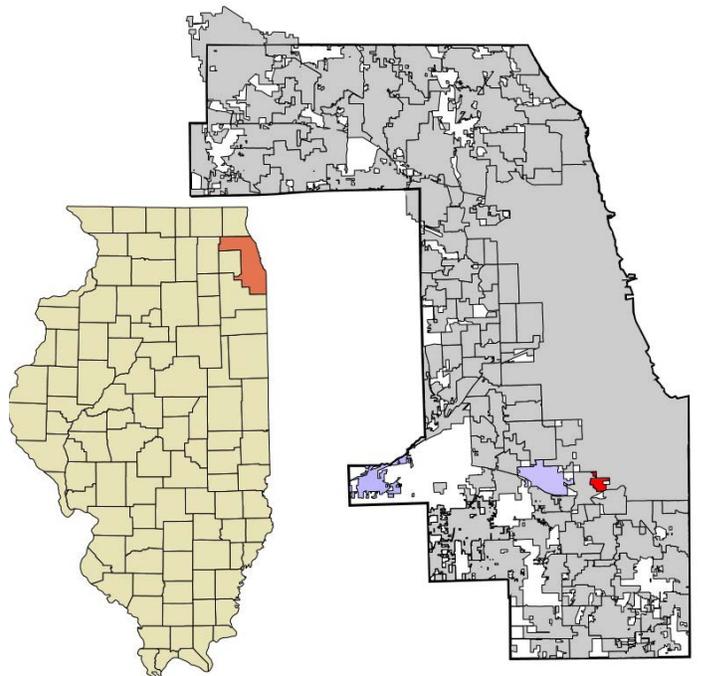
The Village of Calumet Park is a suburb of Chicago located immediately south of the city. It is bordered by Chicago to the north and the east, the City of Blue Island to the west, and the Little Calumet River to the south. The Village of Calumet Park has a total land area of 1.15 square miles and was incorporated as the Village of DeYoung in 1912.

Calumet Park has been a close-knit community since it first formed as a predominately Polish town named Caswell, which was officially incorporated as DeYoung in 1912. Soon after World War II, Interstate 57 gave Calumet Park direct access to downtown Chicago, leading to a boom in the construction of small brick homes and a large growth in population. The Village now boasts a new 911 Center, a popular Senior Center, and a strong network of community schools, excellent transportation access, and other strengths. The popular Community Festival brings residents and business owners together to celebrate Calumet Park each summer.

Today, Calumet Park experiences severe and repeated flooding. From 2007 to 2011, 3,362 flood-related insurance claims were filed in the 60827 zip code, with more than \$8,073,673 paid out in damages (CNT, 2014). The Village is being proactive in addressing these flooding concerns. Municipal leaders and staff have instituted an exemplary sewer inspection and maintenance program, which has been shown to effectively alleviate local flooding issues in problem areas. The Village has also worked closely with the RainReady team and community leaders in the development of this plan.

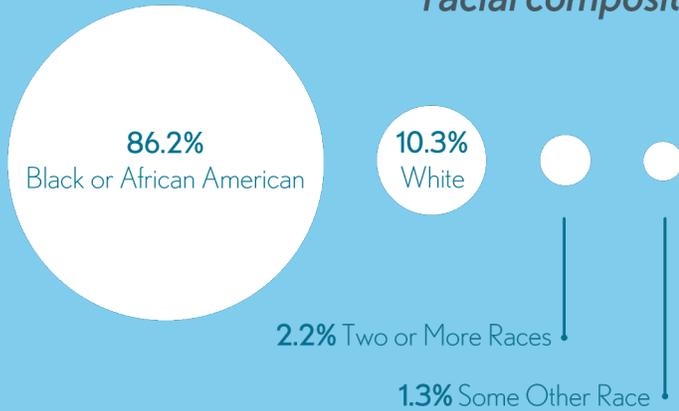


FIGURE CP-1:
Location of Calumet Park within Cook County



Calumet Park, IL AT A GLANCE

racial composition



8,189
total population



3,407
total number of households



89% of residents hold high school diploma

15% of residents hold college diploma



39
median age

Cook County \$54,828

Calumet Park \$47,212

Cook County \$30,468

Calumet Park \$22,498

median
per capita income

median
household income



18%
people below poverty level



24%
unemployment rate
(people age 16+)

Data Source: US Census

Flooding Risks and Resilience Opportunities

Residents and business owners in Calumet Park experience several types of flooding:

- **Basement backup** from the local sewer system and damaged private lateral lines, impacting several parts of town
- **Street flooding**, which occurs when local drainage systems are overwhelmed with stormwater and sewage causing water to pool in the street
- **Foundation seepage** in several areas of Calumet Park, causing rot and mold in basement walls

This risk and opportunity assessment provided the foundation for the strategies and recommendations presented in the RainReady Action Plan for Calumet Park. Proposed flooding solutions are also shown in Figure CP-8. These “green-grey” solutions were identified through a community-driven and analytically-rigorous process. The result is a plan that works, both in terms of its community support and physical and economic feasibility.

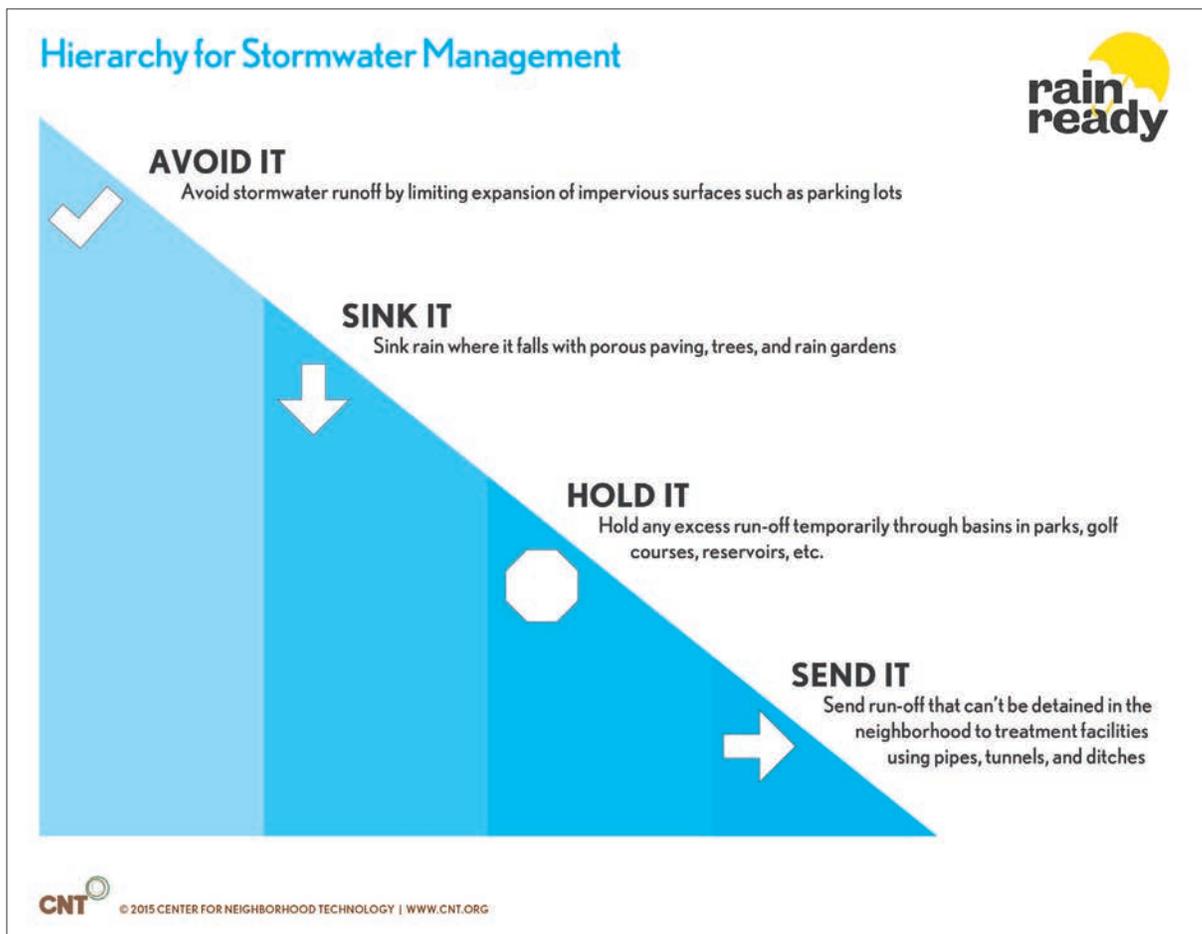


FIGURE CP-2:
Hierarchy of Stormwater
Management

Four main factors contribute to flooding in Calumet Park:

INCREASING IMPERVIOUS SURFACES

As Calumet Park developed over time, natural lands were converted to buildings, parking lots, streets, and other “impervious surfaces.” The increase in impervious surfaces resulted in fewer open areas for rainwater to sink into the ground. As Calumet Park takes steps to redevelop certain commercial and downtown areas (e.g., the Ashland TOD, 127th Street), efforts should be made to manage any additional stormwater runoff from any new developments as well as reduce runoff from existing impervious surfaces.

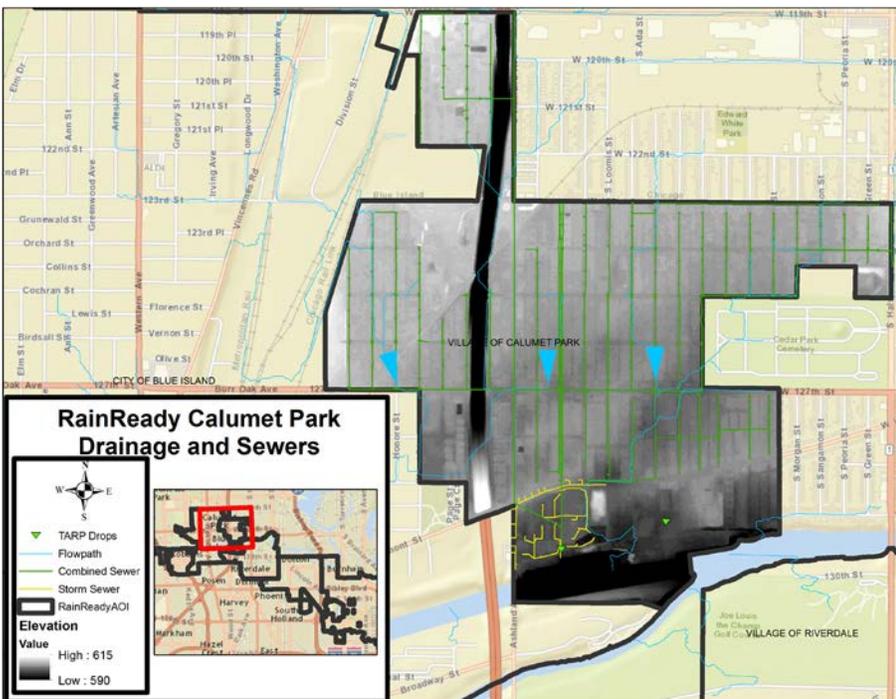
AGING AND LIMITED SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE

There is a small network of storm sewers (separate from sanitary sewer sewer) in the shopping center southeast of Ashland and Vermont Avenues. The rest of the

municipality is serviced by combined sewer systems that flow from north neighborhoods toward 127th Street, then south toward TARP interceptors at Throop and Laflin Streets. Combined sewer flows west of I-57 flow east down 121st Street and 127th Street to connect to the large capacity Ashland Avenue sewer line onto the TARP interceptor. As sewer systems age, pipes may collapse, causing local drainage issues. Residents report widespread basement back up and flooded manholes during storms, suggesting that there may be maintenance issues within the municipal sewer lines. Calumet Park should continue to document, inspect, rehabilitate (where necessary), and maintain their municipal sewer and stormwater drainage system so as to bring it up to a state of good repair.

MORE SEVERE STORMS

Climate change is bringing more frequent high-intensity storms to the region. In light of this, Calumet Park should not only prepare for storms like the one that





occurred in April 2013, but also much larger and more frequent storms, and more variable weather (e.g., intense storms followed by long droughts, more freeze/thaw cycles). Calumet Park should also equip their residents, municipal staff, and elected officials with the knowledge and resources needed to prepare for, mitigate, and recover from future storms—both large and small.

FLAT TOPOGRAPHY

Since stormwater is largely directed via gravity, Calumet Park’s flat streets create challenges for moving the water out of neighborhoods. Calumet Park has an overall slope <1% flowing from the northwest part of the village toward the Cal Sag Channel. The area to the west of I-57 (i.e., West Calumet Park) naturally drains toward Blue Island, however the sewer system routes runoff eastward. The relative flatness creates drainage problems throughout the village, causing ponding in streets and seepage into basement foundations.



FIGURE CP-4:
A typical residential street in Calumet Park

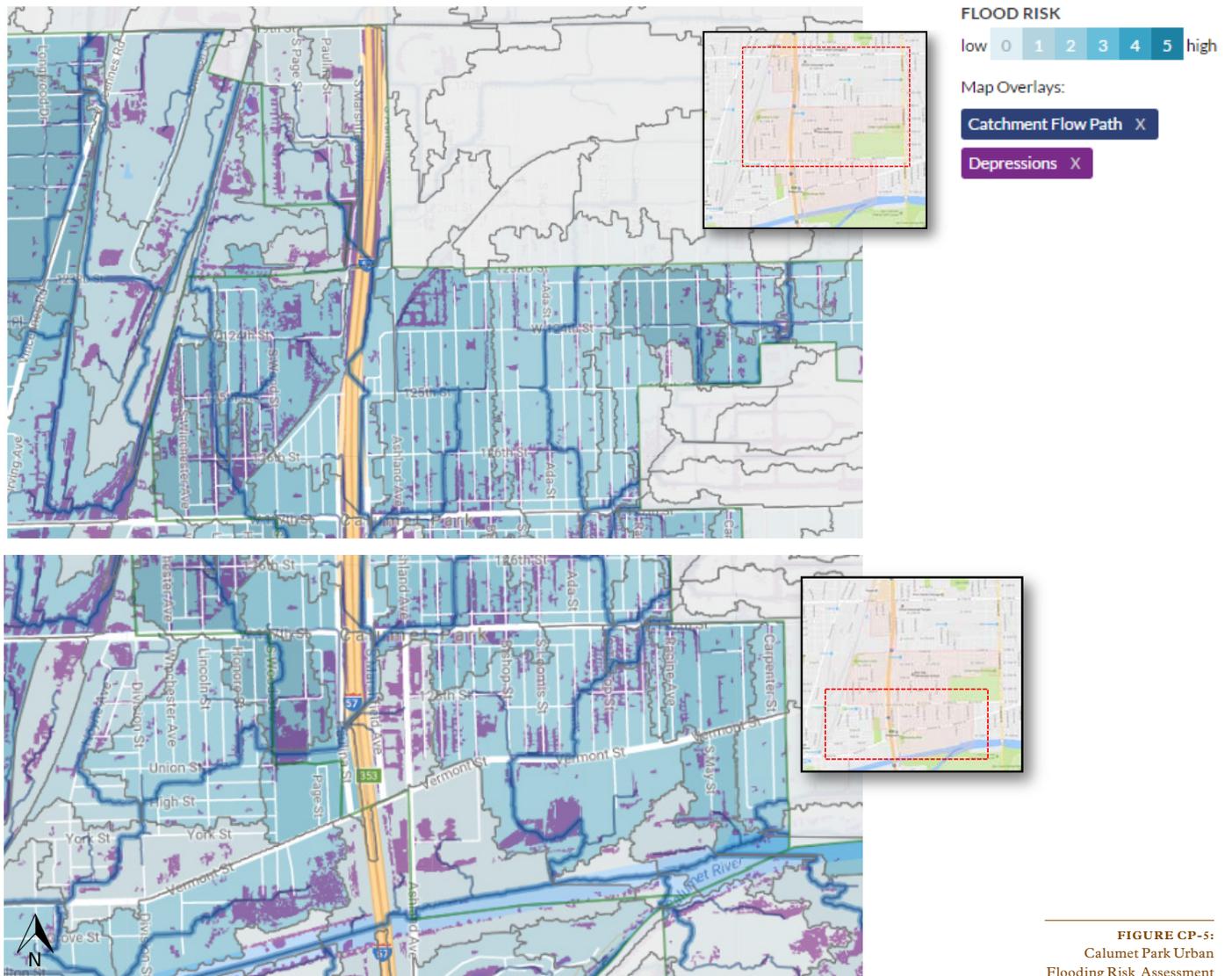


FIGURE CP-5:
Calumet Park Urban
Flooding Risk Assessment

These overland flow path and depression area maps show where stormwater is likely to flow and accumulate, or pool, in Calumet Park. These maps are based on high-resolution digital elevation models (DEMs) derived from Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) technology.

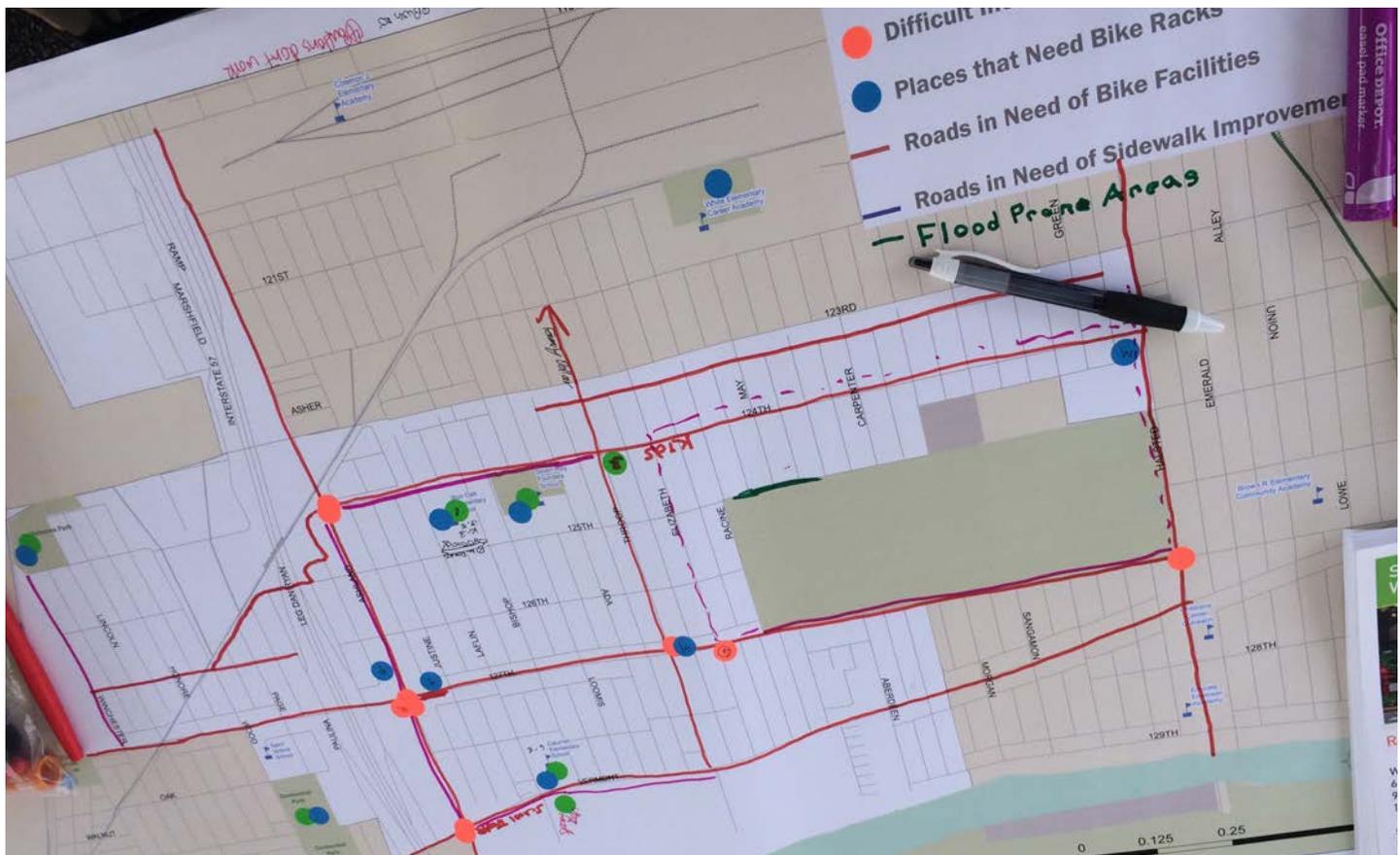
Although LiDAR provides very detailed information on land cover and topography, there are several factors that may result in discrepancies between these maps and how stormwater actually flows through a community (e.g., small landscape features like gutters, curbs, small hills that route water, which may not have been picked up in our flow path analysis). Also, each community has a sewer and drainage system that is designed to intercept and manage stormwater. Our team modelled the flow of stormwater over the landscape as if local sewer systems are at full capacity and could not handle any additional flows. In other words these maps only show the overland flow paths and accumulation of stormwater and do not factor in the underlying sewer network.

In spite of these limitations and assumptions, these maps represent a good approximation of how stormwater is likely to flow and accumulate in the Calumet Corridor. These maps were used alongside other information on flooding risk and solution opportunities to determine where green infrastructure retrofits could alleviate local flooding issues. This information informed each community's action plan.

FIGURE CP-6:
Key Plans Reviewed for Calumet Park

Name	Lead(s)	Year Completed / Status	Focus
A Planning Priorities Report for Calumet Park	CMAP	2016	Various
TOD Developer Discussion Panel	Village of Calumet Park, RTA	2016	Transportation
Stormwater Master Plan Project for the Little Calumet River/Cal-Sag Channel Drainage Area: Problem Area (West Calumet Park #7) Concept Memo	MWRD, Arcadis	2016	Watershed/Stormwater Management
Calumet Park Active Transportation Plan	ATA	In Progress	Transportation

The following section summarizes what we heard from Calumet Park’s residents, municipal staff, and elected representatives through the RainReady planning process as well as what we gathered from previous plans completed for the Village (see Figure CP-6). To make this information easier to digest, we organized it into community strengths, concerns, and land-based opportunities (i.e., planning priorities and capital projects) that apply to: 1) your homes and neighborhoods; 2) your business districts and shopping centers; 3) your industrial centers and railroad corridors; and 4) your open space and natural areas. We also created a community asset map to prompt ideas about how Calumet Park’s RainReady Action Plan can strengthen and build on existing community assets.



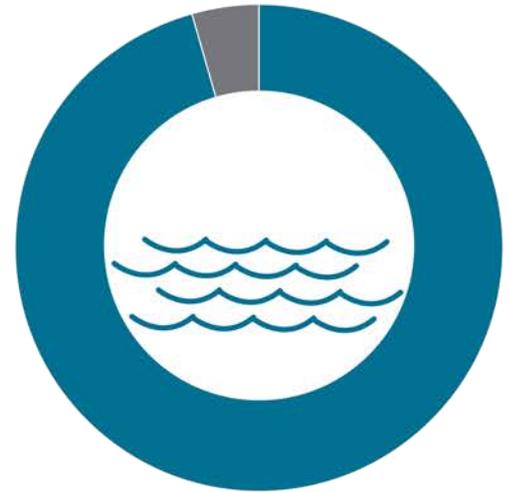
RainReady Calume Park COMMUNITY SURVEY

Respondents experiencing flooding problems

Respondents who answered "Yes, I experience problems" and "I do not experience problems anymore" were grouped into the "Yes" category because both sets of respondents experience ongoing flooding problems or have experienced problems in the past, respectively.

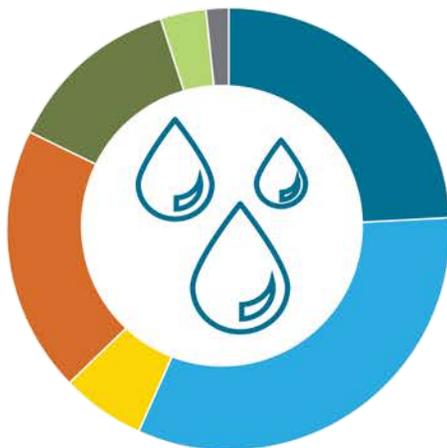
■ 96% Yes
■ 4% No

144 survey respondents



\$6,435 is the average amount spent on stormwater-related repairs

\$1,197 is the average amount residents are willing to invest to reduce risk of future damage



How does water enter properties?

■ 60 Backing up through drains
■ 81 Seeping through walls
■ 15 Flowing through doors/windows
■ 48 Pooling/ponding in yard
■ 32 Overflow from street, creek, nearby body of water
■ 8 Other
■ 4 Don't know

What is the level of worry about flooding's impact on property value?

Extremely worried 62% ■
Very worried 15% ■
Moderately worried 12% ■
Slightly worried 5% ■
Not at all worried 6% ■

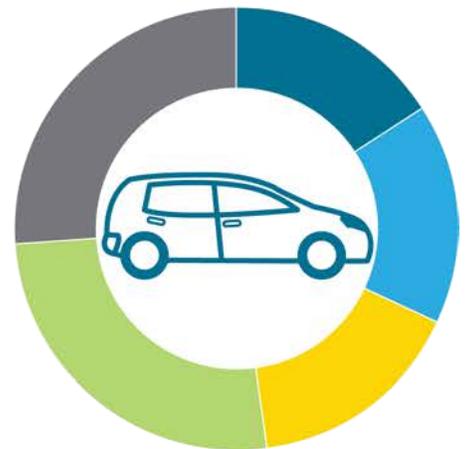




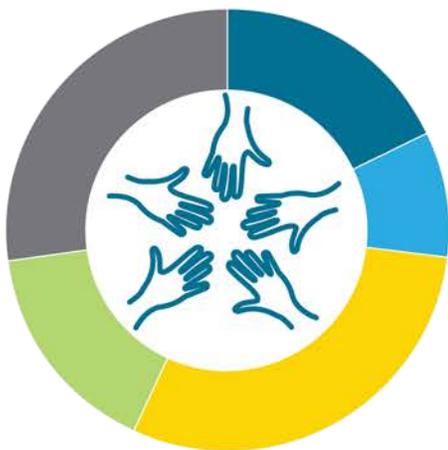
How much do heavy rains impact quality of life?

57%	A great deal
13%	A lot
16%	A moderate amount
13%	A little
3%	Not at all

How much do heavy rains impact commute or other travel?



A great deal	29%
A lot	11%
A moderate amount	24%
A little	21%
Not at all	15%



What is the preparedness of the community to work together to find a solution?

18%	Extremely prepared
9%	Very prepared
30%	Moderately prepared
16%	Slightly prepared
27%	Not at all prepared

How effective will local government officials be in addressing flooding issues?



Extremely well	2%
Very well	9%
Moderately well	30%
Slightly well	25%
Not at all well	35%

Data Source: CNT Survey, 2016

YOUR HOMES AND NEIGHBORHOODS



COMMUNITY STRENGTHS

- Recreational center for youth and seniors
- Community residents are united in their awareness of the Village's flooding problems and the need to find a solution
- Close to Chicago, easy access to downtown
- Strong sense of public safety
- CodeRED, a new rapid emergency notification system in Calumet Park, and Cook County iWatch, a mobile application for crime tips, are two new resources for residents to help report crimes and help reduce crime rates
- Residents report timely police response and attribute it in part to CodeRED and iWatch
- The Village's Home Beautification Program
- See Community Asset Map (Figure CP-7)

COMMUNITY CONCERNS

- Chronic flooding in residential areas throughout the Village
- Housing in some areas is in poor condition
- Lack of safe bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure
- Local churches and schools have been playing an active role in programming youth activities, but are in need of additional space for recreational activities
- Limited social services and resources exist in Calumet Park and residents often rely on Blue Island for health-related services
- Slow response time to non-emergency calls (e.g., fallen trees)
- Old trees on public and private land are a risk of falling, especially Ash trees (due to emerald ash borer)
- Increasing water rates
- Residents report a lack of workforce training opportunities and youth activities as contributors to gang activity, primarily for young men



- Water hydrant replacement is needed throughout the Village, especially between Aberdeen and Morgan Streets in Northwest Calumet Park
- See Urban Flooding Risk Assessment (Figure CP-5)

LAND-BASED OPPORTUNITIES (PLANNING PRIORITIES AND CAPITAL PROJECTS)

Here are some ideas that were uncovered through the RainReady planning process:

- The Village has demonstrated its support for Complete Streets and has adopted the Complete Streets Ordinance for the Village of Calumet Park in October of 2016
- The recent adoption of a local Complete Streets ordinance could also support the expansion of green infrastructure flood reducing strategies
- A home beautification program that was kicked off in June 2016 could be continued into 2017 and expanded to incorporate green infrastructure practices that reduce flooding



- Opportunity to create a local bicycle network that could connect neighborhoods to the planned Cal-Sag Trail and Major Taylor Trail
- Green infrastructure and improved bikeway and pedestrian infrastructure can be used together to create a friendly, safe, and walkable environment for residents and visitors
- The grid layout and uniform shape and size of Calumet Park's residential streets would enable the incremental installation (i.e., scaling up) of green infrastructure (e.g., rain gardens, bioswales, tree plantings) along parkways
- Investments in green infrastructure that reduce flooding would encourage longtime residents to stay in the community, attract interested homeowners, retain property values

YOUR BUSINESS DISTRICTS AND SHOPPING CENTERS



COMMUNITY STRENGTHS

- Calumet Park has been successful in recruiting new retail and commercial development
- Market-based study completed for development on 127th Street
- See Community Asset Map (Figure CP-7)

COMMUNITY CONCERNS

- In recent years, there have been several vacancies in the Raceway Park Shopping Center
- Concerns for pedestrian safety at the Raceway Park who need to travel to/from Pace Bus stops, especially near Vermont Street and Ashland Avenue where there are no crosswalks or sidewalks
- Concern about how the Ashland Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) might exacerbate flooding in surrounding areas
- See Urban Flooding Risk Assessment (Figure CP-5)



LAND-BASED OPPORTUNITIES (PLANNING PRIORITIES AND CAPITAL PROJECTS)

Here are some ideas that were uncovered through the RainReady planning process:

- A TOD project is underway at the Ashland Metra station
- There is a growing interest in mixed-use waterfront development throughout the Chicagoland region; with approximately 0.72 miles of waterfront property, Calumet Park could potentially benefit from this new development trend
- The grid layout and uniform shape and size of Calumet Park's residential streets would enable the incremental installation

(i.e., scaling up) of green infrastructure (e.g., rain gardens, bioswales, tree plantings); such green infrastructure (GI) improvements could create a unique character for the Village

- Residents request that the Village beautify the north side of 127th Street so that it matches the south side, this is aligned with the complete streets concept
- Connect with IDOT to pursue sidewalk and streetscape improvements adjacent to Raceway Park Shopping Center and on 127th Street

YOUR INDUSTRIAL CENTERS AND TRANSPORTATION CORRIDORS

Photo: Google Maps



COMMUNITY STRENGTHS

- Easy access to I-57 supports shipping and logistics businesses
- The Calumet-Sag Channel supports waterway-based industry
- Participation in the Calumet Green Manufacturing Partnership supports the Village's industrial jobs base
- Close access to a dense network of commuter transit and freight railroads
- See Community Asset Map (Figure CP-7)

COMMUNITY CONCERNS

- Industry along the Cal-Sag Channel is a barrier to using the waterfront for recreational and mixed-use development
- See Urban Flooding Risk Assessment (Figure CP-5)



LAND-BASED OPPORTUNITIES (PLANNING PRIORITIES AND CAPITAL PROJECTS)

Here are some ideas that were uncovered through the RainReady planning process:

- Several prior plans recommend that Calumet Park and Blue Island coordinate on matters related to the development and redevelopment along their shared border and commercial corridors (e.g., Marshfield Plaza and the Ashland Triangle, Blue Island's Northeast Site and the 119th Street Corridor, West Calumet Park and the vacant land north of Veterans Park, 127th Street Corridor). Coordinating planning and development efforts across jurisdictional borders—and leveraging each other's resources—could minimize costs, maximize benefits of projects, and leverage funding for flood mitigation projects for both municipalities

YOUR OPEN SPACE AND NATURAL AREAS



COMMUNITY STRENGTHS

-
- Centennial Park and Veterans' Park
-
- Green infrastructure pilot project at Veterans Park
-
- There is a general interest in increasing tourism in the Southland region
-
- See Community Asset Map (Figure CP-7)

COMMUNITY CONCERNS

-
- Limited access to parks
-
- Flooding in areas adjacent to Veterans Park
-
- See Urban Flooding Risk Assessment (Figure CP-5)

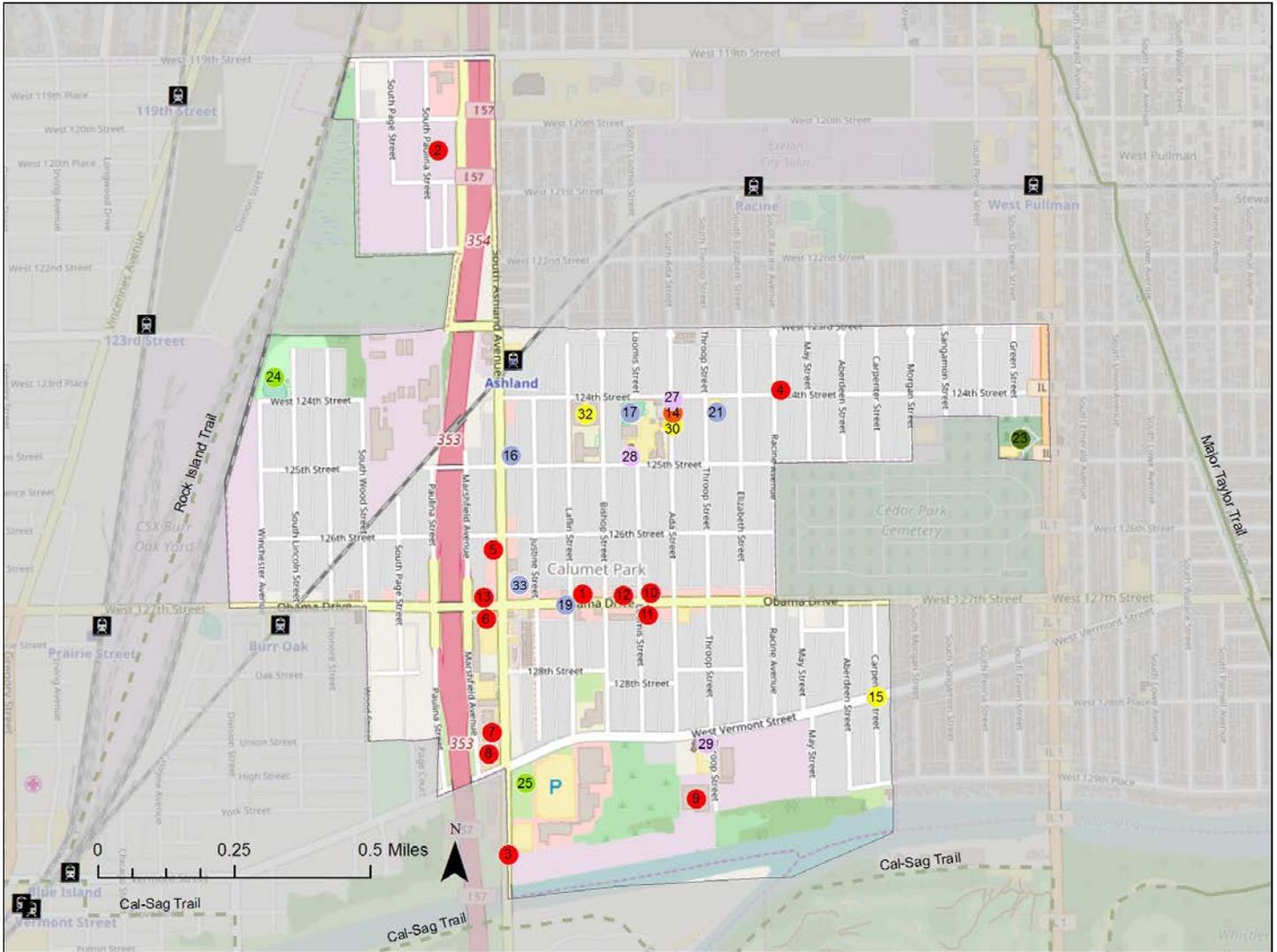


LAND-BASED OPPORTUNITIES (PLANNING PRIORITIES AND CAPITAL PROJECTS)

Here are some ideas that were uncovered through the RainReady planning process:

- In the future, the Village could potentially connect the forthcoming Cal-Sag Trail to a new waterfront trail or Riverwalk along the Cal-Sag Channel
- The Village could leverage the improving water quality of the Cal-Sag Channel and the expanding Calumet Water Trail system (e.g., boat launches, boat houses, liveries) to support an outdoor recreation industry
- The thin wedge of vacant land located between Ashland Avenue and I-57, (12279 South Ashland Avenue) presents an opportunity for expanding green infrastructure and beautification.
- Expanding green infrastructure best management practices (e.g., rain garden, bioswales) in and around Veterans Park could reduce the risk of flooding in the West Calumet Park neighborhood
- Opportunity to work collaboratively to preserve and restore the vacant land north of Veterans Park as a shared natural area, outdoor recreation amenity, and stormwater management facility that benefits both Blue Island and Calumet Park residents and attracts visitors to the area

COMMUNITY ASSETS



- Businesses
 - Community Organizations
 - Government Agencies
 - Health Organizations
 - Natural Areas
 - Public Parks/Park Districts
 - Religious Institutions
 - Schools & Colleges
 - Metra Stations
- Greenways and Trails**
- - - Proposed

FIGURE CP-7:
Calumet Park Community Assets

BUSINESSES

- 1 Ultra Foods
- 2 Valente Trucking
- 3 Aldi
- 4 Airport Towing
- 5 Family Dollar
- 6 McDonald's
- 7 Edible Arrangements
- 8 Walgreens
- 9 Live Wire, LLC
- 10 Ace Hardware
- 11 R&S Foods
- 12 Dillingers Restaurant
- 13 Shell Food Mart

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

- 14 Catholic Charities
- 15 New Life Outreach Ministry

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

- 16 Calumet Park Fire Department
- 17 Calumet Park Recreation
- 18 Calumet Park Police Department
- 19 Calumet Park Public Library
- 20 Calumet Park Public Works
- 21 Calumet Park Village Hall
- 33 Calumet Township Community Center

METRA STATIONS

- 22 Ashland Metra Station

NATURAL AREAS

- 23 Cedar Park Cemetery

PUBLIC PARKS

- 24 Veterans Park

RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS

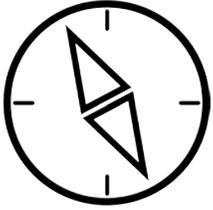
- 28 Community Covenant Church
- 29 Mt Calvary Lutheran Church

SCHOOLS & COLLEGES

- 30 Beacon Therapeutic
- 31 Calumet Elementary and Middle School
- 32 Burr Oak Academy

COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

Listed below are the community priorities we heard from Calumet Park residents, municipal staff, and elected representatives through the RainReady Planning Process. These community priorities were synthesized with the flooding risk and resilience opportunities assessment to develop Calumet Park's Action Plan.



REORIENT

- Increase collaboration, communication, and engagement between residents and local government
- Bring back block clubs and other social groups that foster cohesive communities, familiarity with neighbors, and safe streets
- Educate residents on water conservation, native plants, resilience, and emergency response



REPAIR (AND MAINTAIN)

- Create a maintenance plan and program for green and grey infrastructure installations
- Encourage maintenance of private property
- Continue to repair roads, sidewalks, and curbs



RETROFIT

- Create more jobs for youth
- Expand educational and recreational opportunities for youth
- Create a community garden that includes native plants and recreational amenities at the vacant land southeast of the intersection of Vermont Street and Ashland Avenue, east of the Ultra Shopping Center
- Where feasible, install bioswales along residential parkways and stormwater bulbouts intersections



FIGURE CP-8: Flood Risk and Resilience Opportunity in Calumet Park

The map above overlays flooding risk with proposed “Retrofit” recommendations. The colors correspond to the part of town where the recommendation is to be applied and the numbers correspond with the Retrofit recommendations in the Action Plan. Some recommendations in the Action Plan apply community-wide and are not shown on the map.

This map identifies locations where various green infrastructure projects could be integrated into Calumet Park’s community fabric (e.g., green streets along residential streets, commercial complete streets along commercial corridors, green schools, etc.). These locations were identified through a thorough

assessment of flooding risk (e.g., known problem areas, survey results, overland flowpaths, depression areas, and impervious coverage) and resilience opportunities (e.g., planning priorities, community assets, capital improvement projects) in Calumet Park.

Calumet Park should reference this map and the Action Plan to identify opportunities where green infrastructure retrofit projects could be integrated into forthcoming roadway improvements, planned developments, and other capital improvement efforts. This would ensure that future projects deliver multiple benefits, such as improved transportation and flood mitigation.

RAINREADY ACTION PLAN



Vision Statement

In a RainReady Calumet Park, the economic impact of small storms will be virtually eliminated and the impact of big storms will be greatly reduced. Community residents, business owners, municipal staff, and elected representatives will work together and coordinate their efforts to create a vibrant and resilient community. Public Investment decisions will be transparent, homeowners will be well-educated and aware of flooding risks, and there will be sufficient resources for emergency response (when needed). Burr Oak Elementary will be a model green school throughout the Southland region. Calumet Park will continue to be a tight-knit community and thrive, no matter what shocks and stresses may come its way.

RainReady Goals



Reorient Calumet Park so that the community is on a path toward resilience



Repair Calumet Park's municipal sewer and stormwater drainage systems



Retrofit the built landscapes throughout Calumet Park with green, grey, and green-grey infrastructure improvements, and restore natural landscapes

NOTE: This plan outlines a path forward toward a more resilient Calumet Corridor, but implementation of specific recommendations will have to occur at the local level. Adopting this plan demonstrates a local community's commitment to considering these recommendations during capital planning and decision-making efforts and implementing these recommendations as necessary resources become available. In many cases, the Village of Calumet Park is already actively engaged in a given project or program recommendation. In other cases, additional resources (e.g., external grant funds, dedicated revenue, partnerships, etc.) will be necessary to advance a project or program. The following action plan outlines the actions and associated implementation steps, implementation priority, estimated timeline, and identified potential project leads and resources needed. Further analysis is needed to estimate the costs of most recommendations. The specific details may change as communities take action to advance a recommendation and as new information and opportunities emerge.



COMMUNITY-WIDE STRATEGIES FOR CALUMET PARK

- **Strategy 1.** Build capacity to make well-informed decisions and execute them
- **Strategy 2.** Plan and implement projects collaboratively
- **Strategy 3.** Promote equitable and resilient development at all levels
- **Strategy 4.** Prepare your community for future shocks and stresses



COMMUNITY-WIDE STRATEGIES FOR CALUMET PARK

- **Strategy 1.** Map and document your municipal sewer and stormwater drainage system
- **Strategy 2.** Inspect and evaluate your municipal sewer and stormwater drainage system
- **Strategy 3.** Rehabilitate your municipal sewer and stormwater drainage system
- **Strategy 4.** Maintain your municipal sewer and stormwater drainage system



RETROFIT STRATEGIES FOR YOUR HOMES AND NEIGHBORHOODS

- **Strategy 1.** Implement a residential resilience program
- **Strategy 2.** Bring new life to vacant residential land
- **Strategy 3.** Create a network of residential green streets, green alleys, and complete streets
- **Strategy 4.** Expand on existing and create more green schools and churches
- **Strategy 5.** Reduce widespread flooding in the West Calumet Park neighborhood through coordinated green and grey infrastructure investments

RETROFIT STRATEGIES FOR YOUR SHOPPING AREAS AND BUSINESS DISTRICTS

- **Strategy 6.** Bring new life to underutilized parking lots
- **Strategy 7.** Expand Calumet Park's network of commercial complete streets

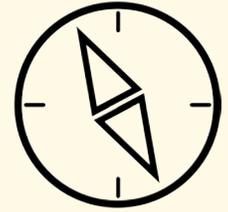
RETROFIT STRATEGIES FOR YOUR INDUSTRIAL CENTERS AND RAILROAD CORRIDORS

- **Strategy 8.** Improve the edges of large industrial sites and railroad corridors

RETROFIT (RESTORE) STRATEGIES FOR YOUR OPEN LAND AND NATURAL AREAS

- **Strategy 9.** Create a waterfront park along the Calumet-Sag Channel/Little Calumet River
- **Strategy 10.** Integrate green infrastructure into Calumet Park's park system

GOAL 1: REORIENT



COMMUNITY-WIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

STRATEGY 1: BUILD CAPACITY TO MAKE WELL-INFORMED DECISIONS AND EXECUTE THEM

RECOMMENDATION 1.1

Adopt the RainReady Calumet Park Plan; Update the plan every 2-5 years. Incorporate the plan's recommendations into forthcoming capital improvement planning efforts and decision-making efforts.

Where: Community-wide

How: Participate in the RainReady community planning process; convene a steering committee consisting of residents, municipal staff, and elected representatives; propose and adopt at a Village Board Meeting in 2017

How much: \$104,000 (this cost has already been paid for through CDBG-DR funds)

Who leads: CNT/RainReady (for initial plan); Village of Calumet Park (for adoption and plan updates)

Resources needed: Technical Assistance for planning updates

PRIORITY: 

PHASING: 

RECOMMENDATION 1.2

Engage in regional and local planning and coordination efforts (e.g., the Calumet Stormwater Collaborative, Millennium Reserve, CMAP's Comprehensive Regional Plans, SSMMA's various committees).

Where: Community-wide

How: Read and continually reference stormwater-related resources; align local strategies with regional initiatives to increase access to funding and technical assistance

How much: Varies

Who leads: The Village of Calumet Park and regional organizations/coalitions like CMAP, SSMMA, CSC, CHP

Resources needed: Internal: staff personnel and time; External: SSMMA could hire a stormwater/resilience-focused staff person to serve this role for all communities in their service area (proposed)

PRIORITY: 

PHASING: 

RECOMMENDATION 1.3

Continue to utilize Calumet Park's GIS database to document flooding issues. Incorporate best practices in data management and stormwater planning for local governments (e.g., continual process improvement, performance management, program evaluation, monitoring, ongoing collection and dissemination of useful data, open data and civic hacking).

Where: Community-wide

How: Use Calumet Park’s GIS system to collect, manage, and analyze data on water-related complaints and adopted solutions (e.g., type and source of flooding, damage costs, improvements made to property); partner with research institutions to install sensors that will monitor the performance of green infrastructure installations

How much: There will be initial costs to set up these systems, but these improvements could pay for themselves over time through increased operational efficiencies and improved outcomes

Who leads: Village of Calumet Park, regional 311 Call Center/Service (proposed)

Resources needed: Internal: GIS System, staff time; External: SSMMA (data sharing), the Village can expand their monitoring capacity through partnerships with research institutions (e.g., colleges/universities, Argonne National Labs, CNT, UI Labs)

PRIORITY: 

PHASING: 

STRATEGY 2: PLAN AND IMPLEMENT PROJECTS COLLABORATIVELY

RECOMMENDATION 2.1

Sustain the RainReady Calumet Park Steering Committee (SC) and engage this group in the ongoing planning and implementation efforts.

Where: Community-wide

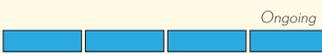
How: Continue to work with the RainReady team in early 2017 implement plan recommendations

How much: Approximately 2-3 hours per month

Who leads: Village of Calumet Park (e.g., community leaders, municipal staff, elected representatives), CNT/RainReady

Resources needed: CNT/RainReady (to start); ongoing collaboration is volunteer led

PRIORITY: 

PHASING: 

RECOMMENDATION 2.2

Incorporate updates on stormwater projects and other resilience-related topics into the Village’s various communication channels (e.g., official city websites and social media).

Where: Community-wide

How: When appropriate, include stormwater and resilience-related updates in the “Public Works” section of official Village communications

How much: Varies

Who leads: The Village of Calumet Park, local media outlets

Resources needed: The Village of Calumet Park (staff time)

PRIORITY: 

PHASING: 

RECOMMENDATION 2.3

Continue to coordinate (via the Illinois Public Works Association) with neighboring municipalities on stormwater-related planning and development projects, and the sharing of maintenance and emergency response equipment and services. Cross-jurisdictional coordination has been shown to reduce public costs, increase operational efficiencies, and improve/expand the delivery of municipal services.

Where: Community-wide and throughout the Calumet region

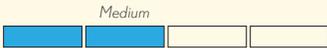
How: Where appropriate, pursue Intergovernmental Agreements (IGAs) with municipalities and other government agencies (e.g., MWRD, Cook County)

How much: The benefits of cross-jurisdictional coordination (e.g., reduced costs, improved response times) have been shown to outweigh the costs; therefore the investment of staff time in coordination efforts (e.g., approximately 5-10 hours/month) is a good investment

Who leads: Village of Calumet Park, neighboring municipalities, MWRD, CSC, SSMMA, CMAP

Resources needed: Internal: The Village of Calumet Park (staff time); External: the SSMMA could potentially hire a stormwater/resilience-focused staff person to serve this function for all communities in their service area (proposed)

PRIORITY: 

PHASING: 

**STRATEGY 3:
PROMOTE EQUITABLE AND RESILIENT DEVELOPMENT
AT ALL LEVELS—FROM THE HOME TO THE REGION**

RECOMMENDATION 3.1

Adopt (and comply with) current stormwater management requirements. Where feasible, improve local ordinances and building codes to promote resilient and equitable development.

Where: Community-wide

How: Conduct an audit of your local ordinances to evaluate areas for improvement; pass common-sense policy changes/ updates; adopt an incremental and adaptive approach to implementing green infrastructure and other resilience-building projects (e.g., the *Green Infrastructure Portfolio Standard*)

How much: N/A

Who leads: The Village of Calumet Park

Resources needed: Internal: The Village of Calumet Park (staff time)

PRIORITY: 

PHASING: 

**STRATEGY 4:
PREPARE YOUR COMMUNITY FOR
FUTURE SHOCKS AND STRESSES**

RECOMMENDATION 4.1

Educate the public on flooding risks.

Where: Community-wide

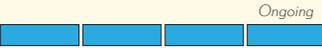
How: Continue to train and educate residents through Calumet Park's Emergency Service & Disaster Agency (ESDA); partner with American Red Cross, FEMA, and other organizations that can provide disaster preparedness training

How much: N/A

Who leads: Calumet Park's Emergency Service & Disaster Agency (other disaster preparedness organizations can provide support)

Resources needed: Many of these trainings are free and participation is voluntary

PRIORITY: 

PHASING: 

RECOMMENDATION 4.2

Continue to utilize an emergency alert system that alerts homeowners, businesses, and visitors when a flood will likely occur.

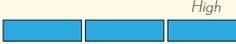
Where: Community-wide

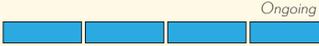
How: Continue to alert residents of flooding and other hazards through the Village's Code Red text-based alert system

How much: N/A

Who leads: Village of Calumet Park

Resources needed: This system is already set up. An external grant could enable the expansion of this service

PRIORITY: 

PHASING: 

RECOMMENDATION 4.3

Ensure that at least one Village staff person (or a consultant who does work on behalf of the Village) has one or more of the following certifications: Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM), National Green Infrastructure Certification Program (NGICP), LEED-ND.

Where: Community-wide

How: Incentivize the appropriate staff person (e.g., reimburse the costs) to earn and maintain certifications; require that Village contractors and consultants involved with land development in Calumet Park have these certifications

How much: Varies depending on certification(s)

Who leads: The Village Engineer

Resources needed: N/A

PRIORITY: 

PHASING: 

GOAL 2: REPAIR



COMMUNITY-WIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

STRATEGY 1: MAP AND DOCUMENT YOUR MUNICIPAL SEWER AND STORMWATER DRAINAGE SYSTEM

RECOMMENDATION 1.1

Ensure that Calumet Park has up-to-date sewer atlas information and a system for documenting information on the conditions of the overall system, specific elements (e.g., catch basins, curbs), and flooding problem areas.

Where: Community-wide

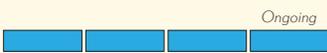
How: Continue to update this information and share it through SSMMA's GIS consortium (and other regional data-sharing portals) to facilitate more streamlined inter-jurisdictional stormwater planning efforts

How much: N/A

Who leads: The Village of Calumet Park's Village Engineer, SSMMA

Resources needed: Internal: the General Fund, Water Fund; External: The SSMMA's GPS mapping/training service; IDNR Coastal Management Program Grants (for expansion)

PRIORITY: 

PHASING: 

STRATEGY 2: INSPECT AND EVALUATE YOUR MUNICIPAL SEWER AND STORMWATER DRAINAGE SYSTEM

RECOMMENDATION 2.1

Develop and implement a comprehensive inspection program (e.g., visual inspection, closed circuit television inspection) to regularly assess the condition of Calumet Park's municipal sewer system (e.g., manholes, catch basins, sewers).

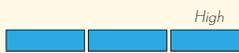
Where: Community-wide (inspect known problem areas first)

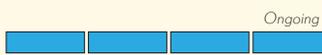
How: Establish a feasible, continuous, and cyclical inspection schedule (e.g., televise 10% of the sewers for 10 years, then repeat); use Calumet Park's Urban Flooding Risk Assessment (Figure CP-5) to identify and prioritize known flooding problem areas)

How much: N/A

Who leads: The Village Engineer

Resources needed: Internal: the General Fund, Water Fund, TIF Funds (where appropriate), External: CDBG, DCEO, IEPA State Revolving Loan Fund, USACE Section 219

PRIORITY: 

PHASING: 

STRATEGY 3: REHABILITATE YOUR MUNICIPAL SEWER AND STORMWATER DRAINAGE SYSTEM

RECOMMENDATION 3.1

Improve the drainage and conveyance of stormwater drainage system in the West Calumet Park neighborhoods.

Where: The West Calumet Park Neighborhood (the area south of Veterans Park, east of the railroad tracks/municipal border, north of 127th Street, and west of I-57)

How: Attain planning-level designs for this project (see the MWRD Concept Memo for this area); apply for external grant funds and/or incorporate this project into Calumet Park's capital improvement program; complete preliminary engineering designs and other necessary studies (engage community residents in this process); implement project

How much: TBD

Who leads: The Village Engineer, MWRD, Cook County

Resources needed: External: MWRD (for high-level plan); Cook County (for PE costs); MWRD, Cook County, and Calumet Park (for construction costs); other sources: CMAP's LTA program, HUD CDBG, IDNR Coastal Management Program Grants

PRIORITY: 

PHASING: 

RECOMMENDATION 3.2

Repair major sewer defects, such as collapsed sewers, identified through the inspection program (see Recommendation 2.1).

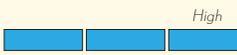
Where: Targeted repairs in known problem areas

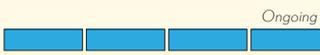
How: Complete +/- 5 repairs per year

How much: TBD

Who leads: The Village Engineer and Public Works Department

Resources needed: Internal: the General Fund, Water Fund, TIF Funds; External: CDBG, DCEO, IEPA State Revolving Loan Fund, USACE Section 219

PRIORITY: 

PHASING: 

RECOMMENDATION 3.3

Line deteriorated sanitary sewer mains observed by the inspection program (see Recommendation 2.1).

Where: Community-wide (inspect known problem areas first)

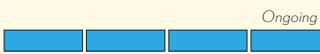
How: Line sewers in known problem areas; aim to line 3% of the sewers per year

How much: TBD

Who leads: The Village Engineer and Public Works Department

Resources needed: Internal: the General Fund, Water Fund, TIF Funds (where appropriate), External: CDBG, DCEO, IEPA State Revolving Loan Fund, USACE Section 219

PRIORITY: 

PHASING: 

STRATEGY 4:
**MAINTAIN YOUR MUNICIPAL SEWER
AND STORMWATER DRAINAGE SYSTEM**

RECOMMENDATION 4.1

Develop and follow a comprehensive maintenance plan describing how all green, grey, and green-grey infrastructure systems will be maintained.

Where: Community-wide

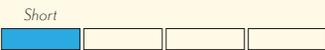
How: Apply for planning and technical assistance grants to develop this maintenance plan

How much: Approximately \$15,000 to \$20,000

Who leads: The Village Engineer

Resources needed: Internal: the General Fund, Water Fund, TIF Funds; External: CMAP's LTA program, HUD CDBG, IDNR Coastal Management Program Grants

PRIORITY: 

PHASING: 

RECOMMENDATION 4.2

Implement the comprehensive Green/Grey Infrastructure Maintenance plan program in tandem with the inspection program (see Recommendation 2.1). The entire sewer system should be cleaned on a ten-year cycle to ensure optimal function.

Where: Community-wide (inspect known flooding problem areas first)

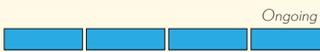
How: Televisive and clean 10% of Calumet Park's sewers every year; prioritize the most flood-prone areas

How much: N/A

Who leads: The Village Engineer and Public Works Department

Resources needed: Internal the General Fund, Water Fund, TIF Funds (where appropriate), External: CDBG, DCEO, IEPA State Revolving Loan Fund, USACE Section 219

PRIORITY: 

PHASING: 

GOAL 3: RETROFIT



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR YOUR HOMES AND NEIGHBORHOODS



STRATEGY 1: IMPLEMENT A RESIDENTIAL RESILIENCE PROGRAM

RECOMMENDATION 1.1

Establish a residential cost-sharing program to help homeowners recover from past storms and prepare for future storms. Under this program, residents would receive financial support for a complete home inspection and improvements targeted to reduce risk, like check valves, overhead sewers, and a rain garden.

Where: Community-wide

How: Partner with the delegate agencies/organizations tasked with implementing such programs in your region; renew and expand (if feasible) the Village’s residential cost-share program; program outreach and recruitment efforts should be targeted to the most flood-prone areas in Calumet Park, but open to the entire Village

How much: Varies – communities often provide a 50/50 cost-share

Who leads: The Village of Calumet Park

Resources needed: Internal: General Fund; External: Cook County’s Residential Resilience Program (CDBG-DR)

PRIORITY:

PHASING:

STRATEGY 2: BRING NEW LIFE TO VACANT RESIDENTIAL LAND

RECOMMENDATION 2.1

Where appropriate, bring new life to vacant residential land with native plants, tree planting, urban agriculture, and strategies to beautify neighborhoods. Ensure that community greening projects on public or private land fit with the community’s preferences for neighborhood aesthetics (e.g., size, color, and “look and feel” of installation), while also providing flood-reduction and other benefits.

Where: Community-wide

How: Create programs that incentivize residents and community groups to improve nearby vacant properties (via temporary use rights or permanent land ownership); such programs could be: Adopt-A-Lot, Side Yard/Large Lot programs, land banking, temporary transfer of use rights to a community group, community greening, and award programs

How much: Example: the City of Chicago’s “Large Lot Program” enables adjacent property owners, block clubs, and non-profit groups in select neighborhoods to purchase City-owned land for \$1 per parcel

Who leads: Current homeowners, community organizations, Steering Committee, master gardeners, SSLBA

Resources needed: The Village would effectively absorb the costs in terms of lost future property tax revenue on these particular parcels; however, the benefits of neighborhood stabilization, reduced flooding, reduced crime, and economic spillover effects (e.g., increased property values due to greening vacant lots) would likely offset these costs; residents and community groups could attain property at a very affordable price (e.g., \$1)

PRIORITY: Medium

PHASING: Short



STRATEGY 3:
CREATE A NETWORK OF RESIDENTIAL GREEN STREETS, GREEN ALLEYS, AND COMPLETE STREETS

RECOMMENDATION 3.1

Create a network of residential green streets that incorporate green infrastructure improvements (e.g., roadside swales, rain gardens, permeable pavement, tree plantings) along flood-prone residential streets. Ensure that any community greening projects on public or private land fit the community’s preferences for neighborhood aesthetics (e.g., size, color, and “look and feel”

of installations), while also providing flood-reduction and other benefits.

Where: Multiple: South Justine Street from 124th to 127th Street; South Throop Street from 123rd to 127th Street; Racine Avenue from 123rd to Cedar Park Cemetery; South Sangamon Street from 123rd to Cedar Park Cemetery; South Peoria Street from 123rd to Cedar Park Cemetery; South Laflin Street from 125th Street to 127th Street; Ada Street from 124th to 127th Street; stormwater bulbouts at: South Loomis and Vermont Street; 128th Street and South Throop; 126th Street and South Loomis; 126th and South Laflin

How: Use this RainReady Plan to identify potential locations where green streets can be piloted; where appropriate, incorporate green infrastructure BMPs into planned roadway improvements; monitor the performance of select green infrastructure installations; adjust the future implementation of green infrastructure projects based on monitoring data and community feedback

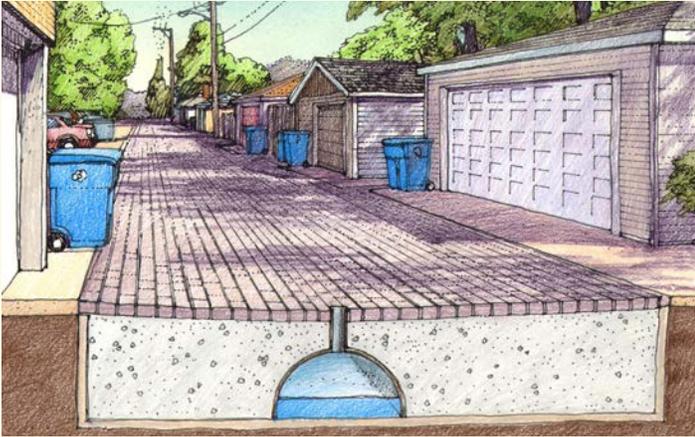
How much: TBD

Who leads: The Village of Calumet Park; organizations specializing in the installation and maintenance of neighborhood green infrastructure

Resources needed: Internal: the General Fund, the Water Fund, TIF funds (where appropriate); External: CDBG, DCEO, IEPA State Revolving Loan Fund, USACE Section 219; STP funds

PRIORITY: Medium

PHASING: Medium



RECOMMENDATION 3.2

Install green alleys that reduce wear-and-tear on cars (via re-grading and filling potholes) and manage stormwater runoff with permeable pavement and end-of-alley stormwater bulbouts.

Where: TBD

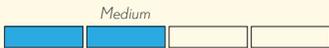
How: Identify flood-prone alleys; Implement pilot project(s); monitor these projects to see what works; expand green alleys to other flood-prone alleys

How much: TBD

Who leads: The Village of Calumet Park

Resources needed: Internal: the General Fund, External: CDBG, DCEO, IEPA State Revolving Loan Fund, MWRD, USACE Section 219

PRIORITY:



RECOMMENDATION 3.3

Create a network of residential complete streets that incorporate green infrastructure improvements (see Recommendation 3.1), bikeway improvements, traffic-calming road features, and place-making amenities (e.g., benches, “people spots”).

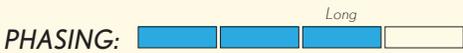
Where: Community-wide; 124th Street from Ashland Avenue South Halsted Street Burnham Greenway to the eastern municipal border; Pulaski Road from Burnham Greenway to the eastern municipal border; reference: Calumet Parks’ Active Transportation Plan

How: Use this RainReady Plan to prioritize related sidewalk and curb repair, roadway resurfacing, and streetscaping improvements recommended in Calumet Park’s Active Transportation Plan

How much: TBD - given the additional traffic engineering involved, implementing complete streets is more costly than implementing green streets, however, complete streets provide additional transportation benefits

Who leads: The Village of Calumet Park, Active Transportation Alliance (for initial plan)

Resources needed: Internal: the General Fund, the Water Fund, TIF funds (where appropriate); External: CDBG, DCEO, IEPA State Revolving Loan Fund, USACE Section 219, STP funds





STRATEGY 4:
EXPAND ON EXISTING AND CREATE MORE GREEN SCHOOLS AND CHURCHES

RECOMMENDATION 4.1

Create green schoolyards that: 1) manage stormwater with green infrastructure (e.g., rain gardens, permeable pavement, urban agriculture, rain barrels, and cisterns); 2) produce healthy foods; and 3) create spaces for more active play, physical education, and outdoor learning.

Where: Burr Oak Elementary

How: Reach out to the local school district and the administration to determine interest in such a program; If there is interest, establish a partnership in the spirit of Space to Grow in Chicago in which the capital and maintenance costs are shared between public and private partners

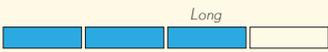
How much: TBD

Who leads: The Village of Calumet Park, local school districts, schools (e.g., administrations, faculty, students, families), the MWRD, Cook County, local environmental organizations

Resources needed: Internal: School district funds, General Fund; External: MWRD capital improvement funds, Cook County

CDBG-DR funds; Calumet Park should develop a public-public private partnership in which funds from multiple sources are leveraged and costs are shared

PRIORITY: 

PHASING: 

RECOMMENDATION 4.2

Create green churches that manage stormwater with green roofs, the de-paving of impervious surfaces (where feasible), rain gardens, parking lot bioswales, permeable pavement, and cisterns to capture water from roofs. In other communities church grounds and facility managers are incorporating these green improvements into the church’s mission (e.g., prayer trails, outdoor space for congregation gatherings).

Where: TBD

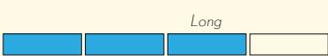
How: Educate church leaders, congregations, parishioners, etc. on the benefits of green infrastructure; streamline the permitting process for churches seeking to make green infrastructure improvements to their property; connect churches to the organizations that can provide financial and technical assistance

How much: TBD

Who leads: Individual churches and their congregations/parishioners

Resources needed: Internal: church capital funds and endowments; External: IDNR Coastal Management Grants, Chi-Cal Rivers Fund grants, other private foundation grants

PRIORITY: TBD LOCALLY

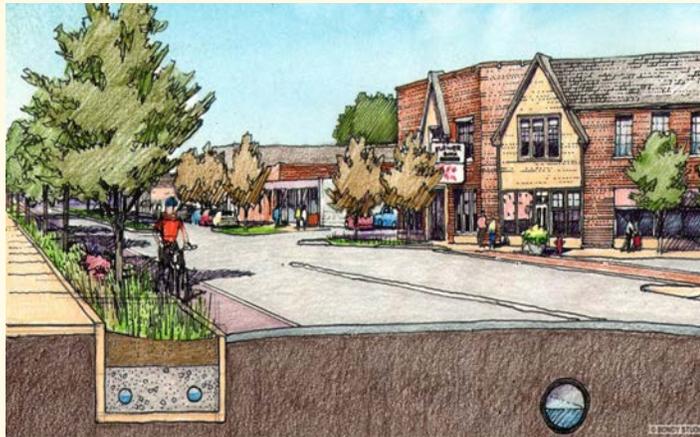
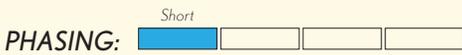
PHASING: 

and 4) removing minimum parking requirements and making other policy changes that ensure that new developments do not create excessive parking

How much: N/A

Who leads: Village of Calumet Park, local businesses, parking lot owners

Resources needed: Funding for improvements to public and private parking lots



STRATEGY 7:
EXPAND CALUMET PARK'S NETWORK OF COMMERCIAL COMPLETE STREETS

RECOMMENDATION 7.1

In 2016, the Village of Calumet Park adopted a complete streets ordinance (Ordinance 16-1145). The Village should continue their efforts to translate this policy into action through forthcoming roadway and sidewalk improvements that: 1) facilitate the safe transportation for all modes of transportation (e.g., walking, biking, transit, driving); 2) revitalize commercials

corridors with traffic-calming and place-making features; and 3) reduce urban flooding with green infrastructure BMPs (e.g., bioswales, permeable pavement, planter boxes, tree planting).

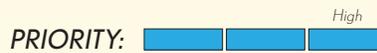
Where: See the Village's Active Transportation plan

How: Continue to implement transportation improvements (e.g., sidewalk and curb repair, bicycle improvements, streetscaping) put forth in the Village's Active Transportation plan; use Calumet Park's Urban Flooding Risk and Opportunity Assessment to identify (at a planning level) where GI BMPs can be integrated into the Village's growing network of complete streets

How much: TBD

Who leads: The Village of Calumet Park, IDOT, ATA, CMAP

Resources needed: Internal: the MFT, General Fund, TIF Funds (where appropriate), External: CDBG, special grants from DCEO, IDOT, STP



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR YOUR INDUSTRIAL CENTERS AND RAILROAD CORRIDORS

STRATEGY 8:
IMPROVE THE EDGES OF LARGE INDUSTRIAL SITES AND RAILROAD CORRIDORS

RECOMMENDATION 8.1

The storage yard and railroad tracks immediately west of South Winchester Avenue and Veterans Park may be contributing

to the overland flooding issues in the West Calumet Park neighborhood. The MWRD plan for the area calls for—among other things—improving the ditch along the western edge of South Winchester Avenue and installing additional green infrastructure BMPs at Veterans Park to alleviate overland flooding issues in the neighborhood. The Village should continue to work with the MWRD, Cook County, and other potential funding partners to advance plans to improve the West Calumet Park neighborhood (see Recommendation 5.1). Improvements to the edge of this industrial site should mitigate overland flooding issues (via improved infiltration and conveyance of stormwater) and beautify the neighborhood.

Where: South Winchester Avenue and Veterans Park

How: Review the alternatives put forth in the MWRD’s concept plan and other relevant plans for the area; acquire funding for detailed designs and other project-enabling activities; communicate with West Calumet Park residents throughout the process; use Growth Zone funds and other incentives to implement stormwater improvements at industrial centers and railroad corridors

How much: TBD

Who leads: Village of Calumet Park, MWRD, Cook County, SSMMA

Resources needed: The Village, the MWRD, and Cook County should explore a “public-public partnership” in which the capital costs are shared; the ongoing maintenance of any new green infrastructure could either be incorporated into the Village’s work plan or contracted out to an organization/firm that specialized in the maintenance of green infrastructure

PRIORITY: 

PHASING: 

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR YOUR OPEN LAND AND NATURAL AREAS

STRATEGY 9: CREATE A WATERFRONT PARK ALONG THE CALUMET-SAG CHANNEL/LITTLE CALUMET RIVER

RECOMMENDATION 9.1

Most of Calumet Park’s waterfront land along the Calumet-Sag Channel and Little Calumet River is occupied by industrial uses. However, there are a few waterfront parcels in southeast Calumet Park (south of the intersection of South Aberdeen Street and West 129th Street) that could potentially be developed into a public waterfront park and Riverwalk. Calumet Park should consider developing a small waterfront park that: 1) creates a new green space and outdoor recreation amenity for residents; 2) reduces flooding in the nearby residential neighborhood (e.g., improving the drainage of stormwater into the Little Calumet River via a chain of engineered wetlands); and 3) improves the water quality and ecological health of the Little Calumet River (e.g., restoring the streambank near the confluence of the Cal-Sag Channel and Little Calumet River).

Where: The waterfront land along the Calumet-Sag Channel and Little Calumet River (from South Throop Street to South Carpenter Street)

How: Identify who owns the land along the Calumet-Sag Channel and Little Calumet River (from South Throop Street to South Carpenter Street); if privately-owned, enter into discussions with the land owner regarding the potential purchase and/or use of their land; if Village-owned, initiate a process for redeveloping publically-owned land; review any plans that address the Calumet Waterway System (e.g., Our Great Rivers, The Northeastern Illinois Regional Greenways and Trails Plan); engage residents in the planning, design, and implementation of this project; Apply for grant funds; construct the project; explore

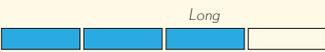
future opportunities to expand open space and waterfront amenities westward and to connect to the forthcoming Cal-Sag Trail

How much: TBD

Who leads: Village of Calumet Park, MPC (for technical assistance and alignment with the Our Great Rivers plan), the Calumet Park RainReady Steering Committee

Resources needed: There are often grants available for river-related improvements (e.g., at the time of publishing this plan, the Chicago Community Trust is inviting grant proposals for community-led projects that help our great rivers reach their potential); the Village should continue to keep an eye out for such grants and seek partners through the Calumet Stormwater Collaborative who can help plan and implement competitive grant proposals

PRIORITY: TBD LOCALLY

PHASING: 

RECOMMENDATION 9.2

In addition to the proposed waterfront park (see Recommendation 9.1), there are several other opportunities to create small neighborhood parks, or “stormwater parks” that could expand outdoor recreation opportunities for Calumet Park residents and reduce urban flooding.

Where: Multiple: the vacant lot at the southwest corner of West 124th Street and South Sangamon Street; the triangle-shaped area at the northwest corner of 123rd Street and Ashland Avenue, east of I-57

How: Identify vacant land that intersects with an overland

stormwater flowpath and/or is located in a flood-prone area; transform these parcels into stormwater parks that incorporate green infrastructure BMPs (e.g., rain gardens, bioswales, tree plantings; native plants); connect these stormwater parks into Calumet Park’s expanding network of complete streets

How much: TBD

Who leads: Village of Calumet Park, Director of Parks and Recreation; the Calumet Park RainReady Steering Committee

Resources needed: Funding to acquire land and invest in new parks

PRIORITY: 

PHASING: 

STRATEGY 10: INTEGRATE GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE INTO CALUMET PARK’S PARK SYSTEM

RECOMMENDATION 10.1

Improve the Village’s parks in a way that restores and connects natural ecosystems, manages stormwater, and expands outdoor recreation opportunities. Incorporate green infrastructure features like naturalized detention ponds, rain gardens, bioswales, tree plantings, and native plants, as well as new play structures.

Where: Veterans Park; proposed stormwater parks (see Recommendation 9.2)

How: Include project(s) in Calumet Park’s ongoing capital improvement planning and implementation efforts; implement a policy that encourages the conversion of underutilized lawns into native plant gardens; apply for grants as opportunities arise

How much: TBD

Who leads: Village of Calumet Park, Director of Parks and Recreation; the Calumet Park RainReady Steering Committee

Resources needed: Funding to acquire land and invest in new parks

PRIORITY:  High

PHASING:  Short

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