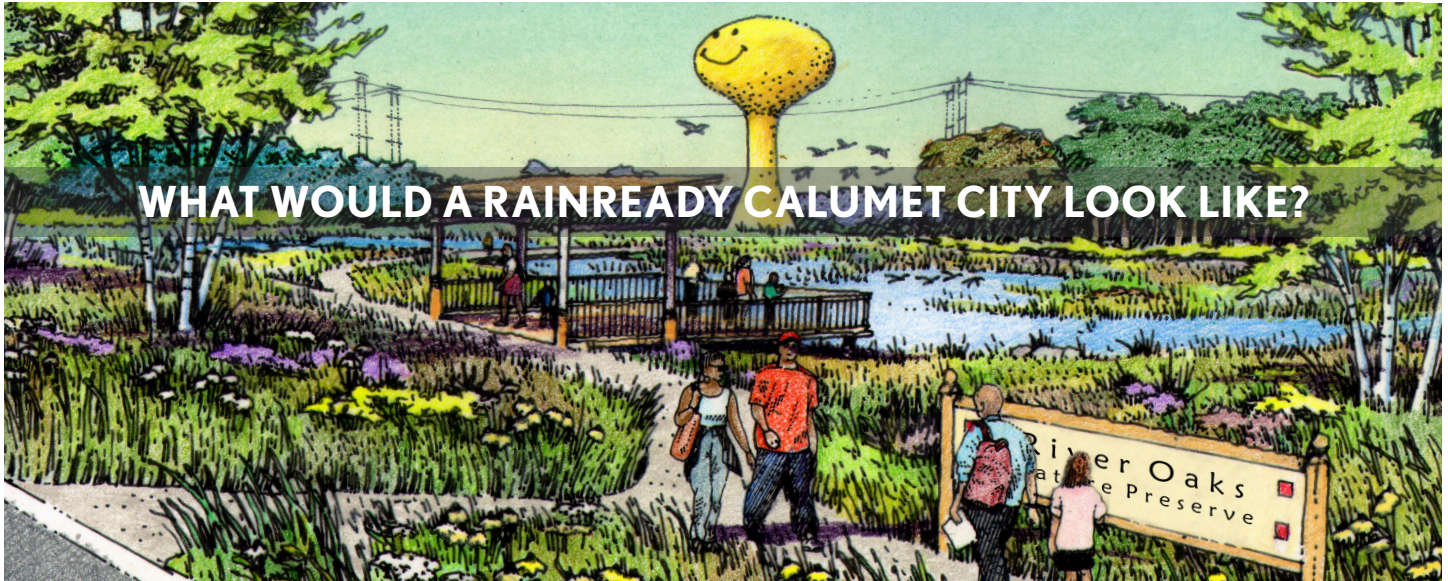


A CITIZEN'S GUIDE TO A RAINREADY CALUMET CITY



A RainReady Calumet City would be a community where all residents and businesses benefit from flood relief in a way that also brings neighborhood beautification, retail activity, new jobs, recreation, and habitat conservation. In this community, public investment is transparent and fair.

In order to better understand Calumet City's flood risk, the Center for Neighborhood Technology (CNT), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the RainReady Calumet City Steering Committee, and Calumet City joined together in February 2016. Throughout the year, this group met regularly, hosted community meetings, went door-to-door in the neighborhoods, held seven educational workshops, held five Steering Committee meetings, and reviewed over 100 plans and studies. 104 Calumet City residents filled out our flooding survey.

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

A Path Forward

Calumet City has been proactive in developing a robust sewer maintenance plan and setting up a cost-share program to assist homeowners who experience flooding. The path forward for the community includes building on the community's strengths as well as coordinating investments in sewer maintenance and new green and grey capital infrastructure projects that protect public and private property.

Equipped with the RainReady Plan, the City now has a roadmap to reduce flooding in a way that strengthens neighborhoods and businesses, and brings new life to vacant areas of town. With modern and well-maintained infrastructure, the City will be prepared to weather future storms—both large and small.

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



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

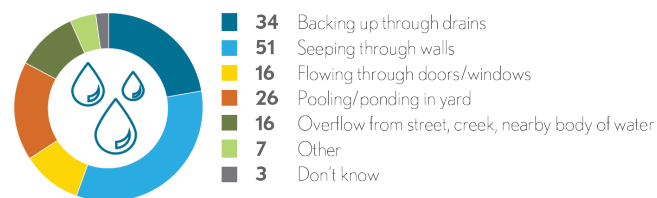
Understanding the Problem

Like many of its neighbors, Calumet City has long been plagued by chronic flooding. In recent years, the scope and severity of the floods have become significantly worse. A combination of aging and limited infrastructure and changes in regional climate have left many Calumet City residents and infrastructure systems vulnerable to flooding. From 2007 to 2011, 4,620 flood-related insurance claims were filed, with more than \$12,603,844 dollars paid out in damages (CNT, 2014). Residents suffer a mix of basement backup, street and yard flooding, overbanking from the Little Calumet River, and foundation seepage. In 2015, the broader Calumet Corridor in which Calumet City is located was identified by Cook County as the area that was “most impacted and distressed” by the April 2013 storms (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 City Survey Results



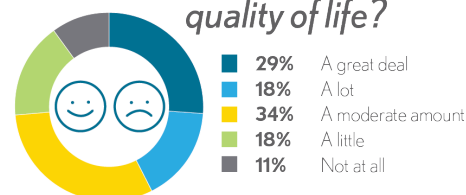
How does water enter properties?



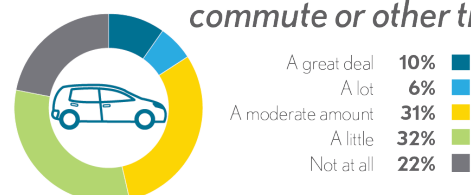
What is the level of worry about flooding's impact on property value?



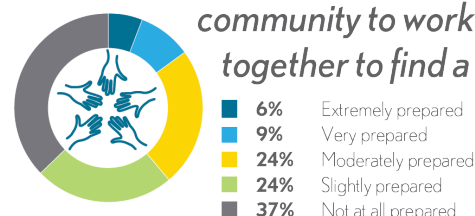
How much do heavy rains impact quality of life?



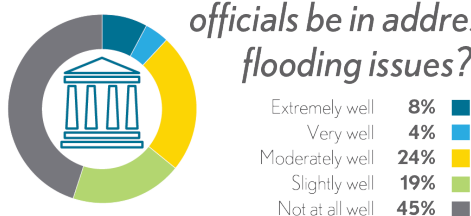
How much do heavy rains impact commute or other travel?



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

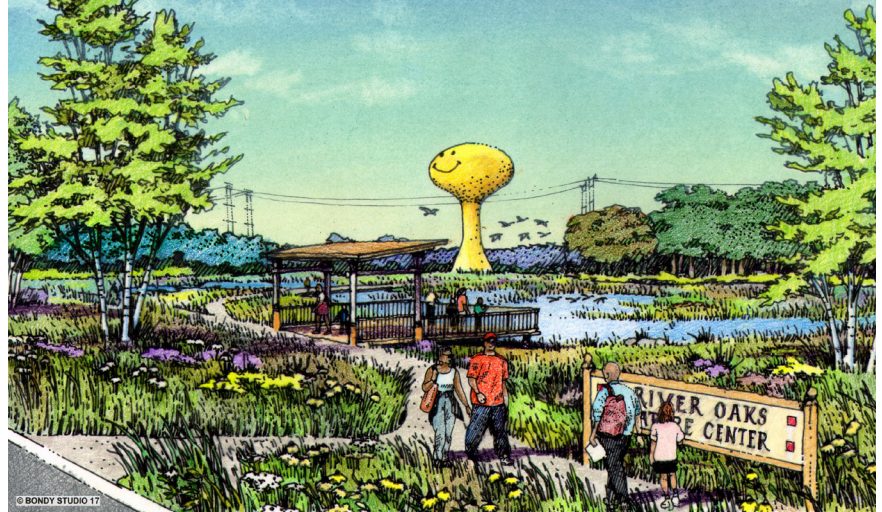
*Respondents who answered “Yes, I experience problems” and “I do not experience problems anymore” were grouped into the “Yes” category because both sets of respondents experience ongoing flooding problems or have experienced problems in the past, respectively.

Planning the Solutions

The path ahead for Calumet City 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 from a comprehensive list of recommendations:

RETROFITTING PARKING LOTS

Calumet City has many large parking lots. When a big storm hits the city, rainwater runs off these parking lots in sheets, often overwhelming the local sewer and sending pollutants into local waterways. While access to safe and convenient parking is necessary to support Calumet City's commercial corridors, many of these lots sit vacant most of the time. Fortunately, it is possible to retrofit parking lots in a way that creates a safer and more inviting pedestrian environment, increases economic activity, and mitigates local flooding issues.



NEIGHBORHOOD GREENING

Create a network of beautiful residential streets built to capture stormwater, increase property values, and make streets safer for walking, biking, and playing. This program would help community members soak up rain by installing green infrastructure in their yard, parkways, parks, and vacant properties in the neighborhood. RainReady recommends concentrating efforts in the neighborhoods south of Pulaski Road between Burnham Avenue and State Line Road where there is a large concentration of vacant parcels.



INVEST IN THE NEW TOWN CENTER

Calumet City is already working to bring fresh energy to its Town Center. RainReady recommends that these improvements incorporate strategies to reduce flooding while creating beautiful public spaces. This could include community gardens, improvements to Memorial Park, bike lanes adjacent to bioswales, and rain gardens at existing and proposed government buildings.



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.**

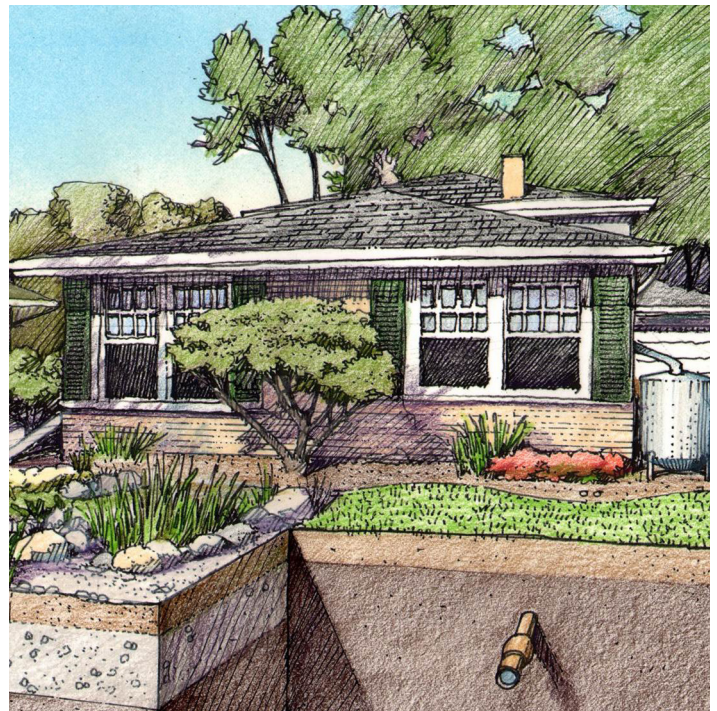
The strips between sidewalks and streets can be transformed into attractive green spaces that absorb stormwater runoff, reduce municipal maintenance costs, and beautify streets. Be sure to check your municipal code for which plants are permitted.

- **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 City Steering Committee. The Committee is particularly focused on retrofitting vacant lots, alleys, and vast concrete districts with green infrastructure. They also seek to expand social and youth activities. Join in!

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