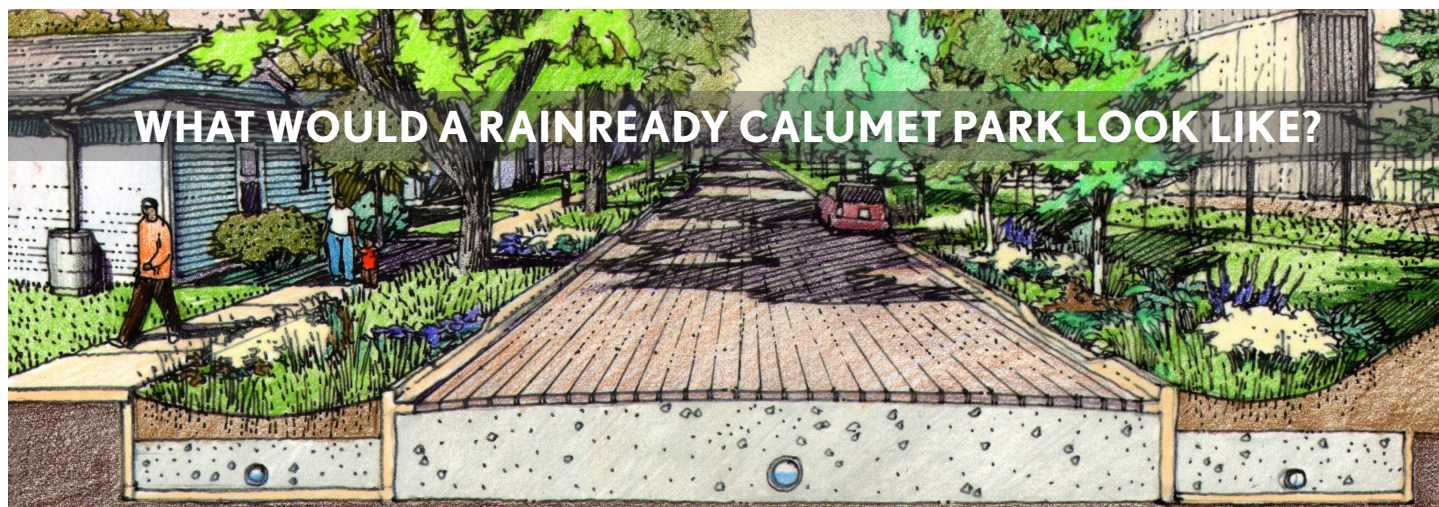


A CITIZEN'S GUIDE TO A RAINREADY CALUMET PARK



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!**



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

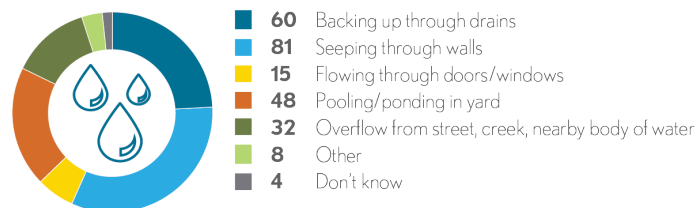
Understanding the Problem

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



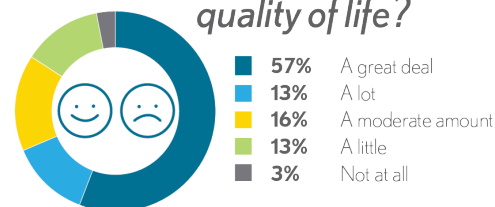
How does water enter properties?



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



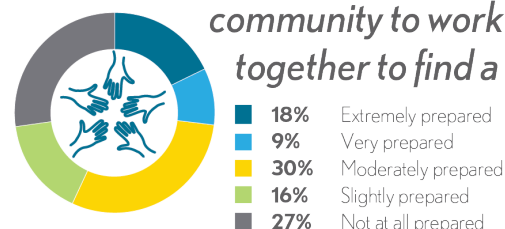
How much do heavy rains impact quality of life?



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

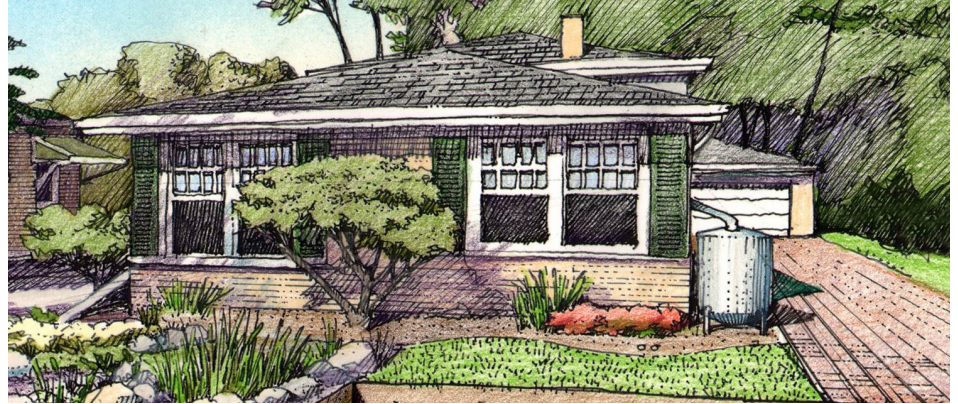
*Respondents who answered "Yes, I experience problems" and "I do not experience problems anymore" were grouped into the "Yes" category because both sets of respondents experience ongoing flooding problems or have experienced problems in the past, respectively.

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's 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.