

A CITIZEN'S GUIDE TO A **RAINREADY DOLTON**



A RainReady Dolton 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 Dolton's flooding risk, the Center for Neighborhood Technology (CNT), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the RainReady Dolton Steering Committee, and the Village of Dolton joined together in February 2016. Throughout the year, this group met regularly, hosted community meetings, went door-to-door in the neighborhood, held seven public education workshops, reviewed over 100 plans and studies, and held five Steering Committee meetings. 72 residents filled out our flooding survey.

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

A Path Forward

Dolton residents and municipal leaders are committed to addressing the flooding challenge in the Village. The path forward for the community includes targeted and coordinated investment in sewer maintenance and new green infrastructure projects that protect public and private property.

Equipped with the RainReady Plan, the Village now has a roadmap for reducing flooding issues in a way that also strengthens neighborhoods, increases economic activity, and brings new life to vacant areas. With modern and well-maintained infrastructure, the Village will be prepared to weather future storms—both large and small.

**KEEP READING FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE
PATH AHEAD FOR DOLTON!**



VILLAGE OF
DOLTON
"A Community Working Together"



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

Understanding the Problem

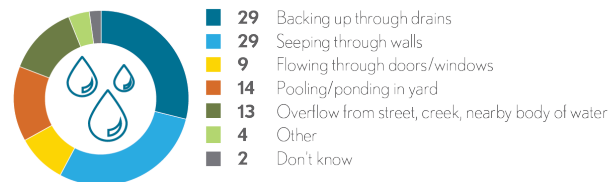
Like many of its neighbors, Dolton has been plagued by chronic floods for years. In recent years, the scope and severity of the floods have become significantly worse. A combination of increased impervious surfaces, aging and limited infrastructure, and changes in regional climate have left many Dolton residents, businesses, and infrastructure systems vulnerable to flooding. From 2007 to 2011, 4,047 flood-related insurance claims were filed, with more than \$10,500,000 dollars paid out in damages. Residents today suffer a mix of chronic basement backup, street and yard flooding, overbanking from the Little Calumet River, and foundation seepage. In 2015, the broader Calumet Corridor in which Dolton 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.

Additional investment will be needed to further protect residents across the Village of Dolton.

RainReady Dolton Survey Results



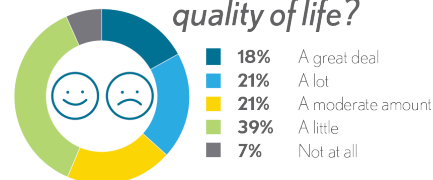
How does water enter properties?



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



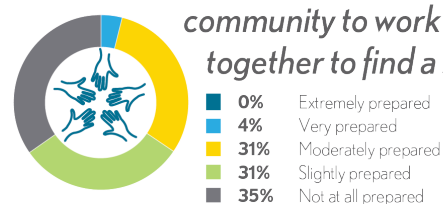
How much do heavy rains impact quality of life?



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.

Finding the Solutions

The path ahead for Dolton requires coordinated action at multiple levels. 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:

RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM

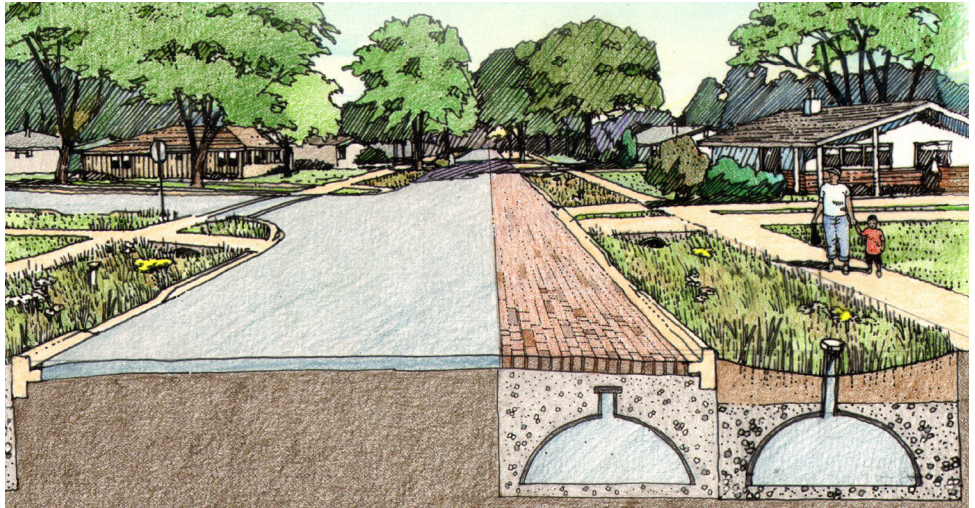
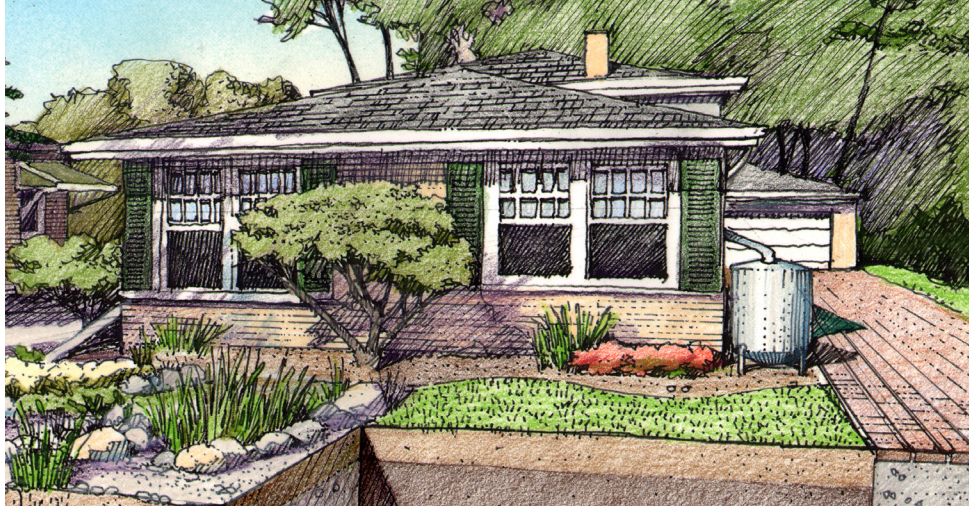
Establish a residential cost-sharing program to help homeowners recover from past storms and prepare for future storms. Under this program, residents would receive financial support for a complete home inspection and improvements targeted to reduce risk, such as check valves, overhead sewers, and rain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

NORTHEAST NEIGHBORHOOD

The neighborhood of northeast Dolton has experienced flooding for many years. Reduce flood risk through a neighborhood greening program. Create a network of beautiful residential streets built to capture stormwater, increase property values, and make streets safer for walking, biking, and playing. Sidewalk improvements, bioswales, and tree plantings would be designed and maintained by local residents, reflecting their vision for a healthy Dolton. Improvements can be installed on a street by street basis, as neighborhood streets are slated to be repaved.

GREEN SCHOOLS

Invest in healthy schoolyards that soak up stormwater while creating safe and educational places to play. Playgrounds can be redesigned with large underground storage tanks to hold stormwater and reduce neighborhood flooding. The design has been tested, and kid-approved!



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 prevent flooding and minimize the impact of water in your home and neighborhood, try to 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.**

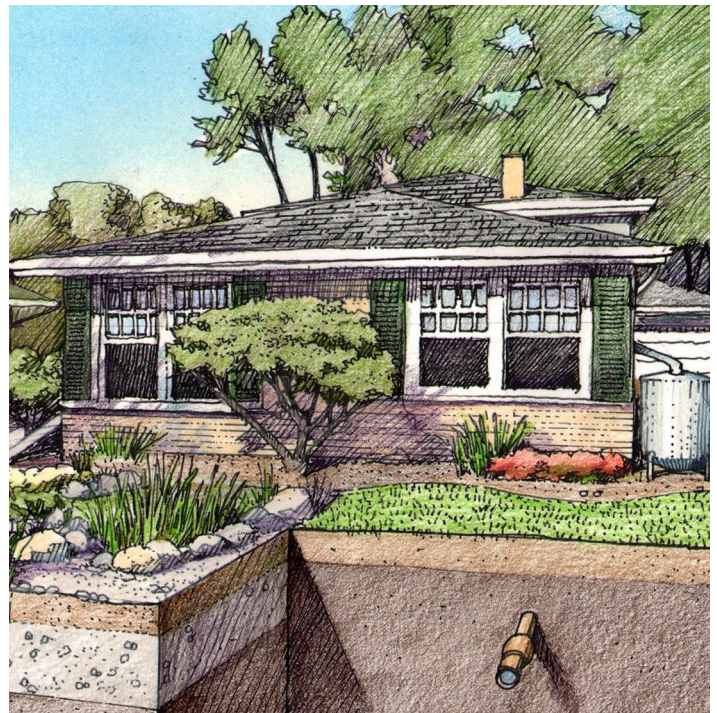
The strips between sidewalks and streets can be transformed into attractive green spaces that absorb stormwater runoff, reduce municipal maintenance costs, and beautify streets. Be sure to check your municipal code for which plants are permitted.

- **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 Dolton Steering Committee. The Committee will work in partnership with the municipality to implement the RainReady Dolton 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.

The RainReady Dolton Steering Committee meets monthly!

For more information contact Rebecca Raines at rraines@cnt.org or 773.269.2217.