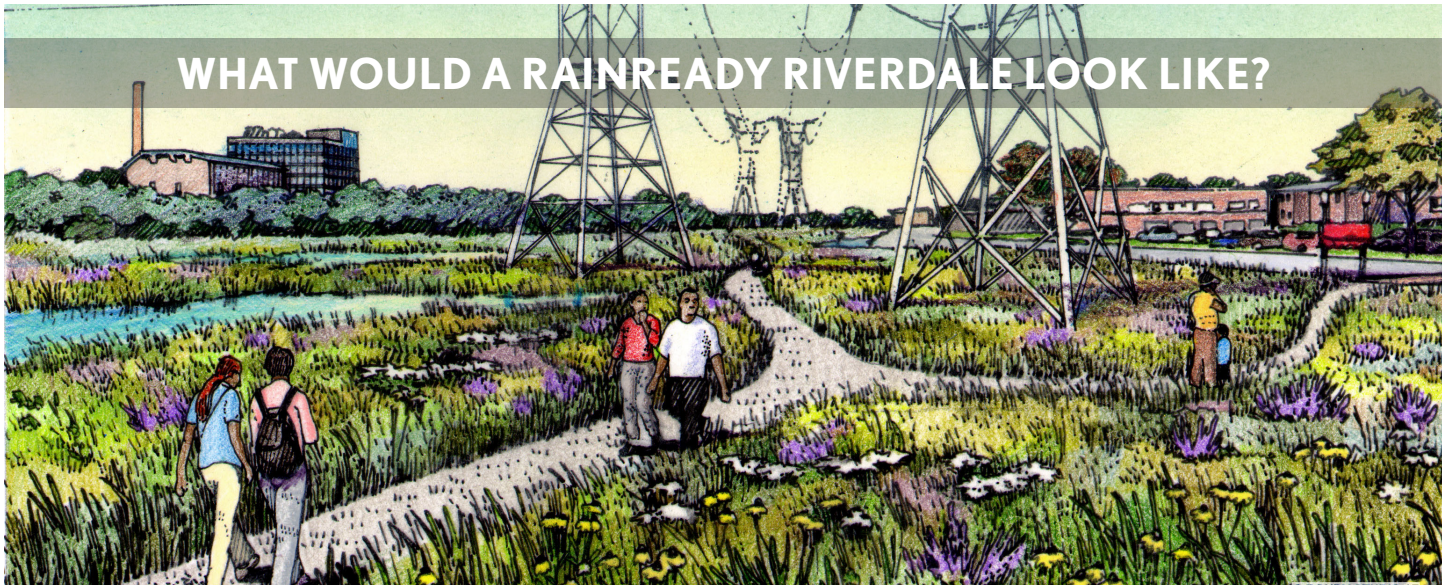


A CITIZEN'S GUIDE TO A **RAINREADY RIVERDALE**



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

In order to better understand Riverdale's flooding risk, the Center for Neighborhood Technology (CNT), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the RainReady Riverdale Steering Committee, and the Village of Riverdale joined together in February 2016. Throughout the year, this group met regularly, hosted community meetings, went door-to-door in the community, held seven public workshops, held five Steering Committee meetings, and reviewed over a hundred plans and studies. 87 Riverdale residents filled out our flooding survey.

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

A Path Forward

In 2016, Riverdale secured a \$7.4 million grant from Cook County to address flooding in the northeast neighborhood. The project will pay for sewer separation, and is expected to greatly reduce flooding in the northeast neighborhood.

The Village is also working with public and private partners to redevelop key industrial and commercial sites in a way that brings in new jobs and economic activity while simultaneously reducing flooding in surrounding areas.

Equipped with the RainReady Plan, the Village 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 Village will be prepared to weather the storms of the future—both large and small.

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



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

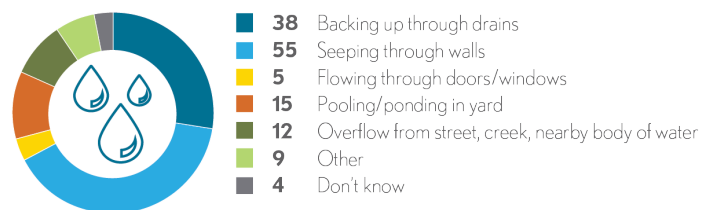
Understanding the Problem

Like many of its neighbors, Riverdale has long been plagued by chronic flooding. In recent years, the scope and severity of the floods have become significantly worse. A combination of impervious surfaces, aging and limited infrastructure, and changes in regional climate have left Riverdale residents vulnerable across the village. 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. Residents suffer a mix of basement backup, street and yard flooding, and foundation seepage. In 2015, the broader Calumet Corridor in which Riverdale was identified by Cook County as the area “most impacted and distressed” by the April 2013 flooding disaster (DR-4116). Strategic policy changes and coordinated investment in green and grey infrastructure will mitigate chronic flooding issues in Riverdale.

RainReady Riverdale Survey Results



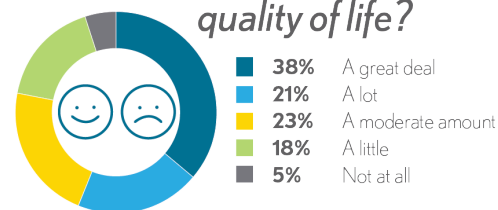
How does water enter properties?



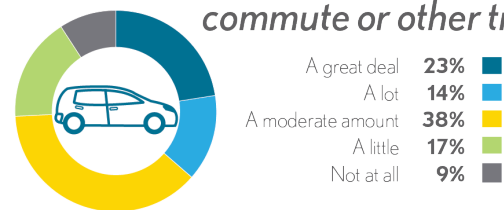
What is the level of worry about flooding's impact on property value?



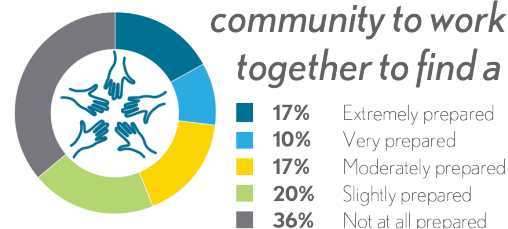
How much do heavy rains impact quality of life?



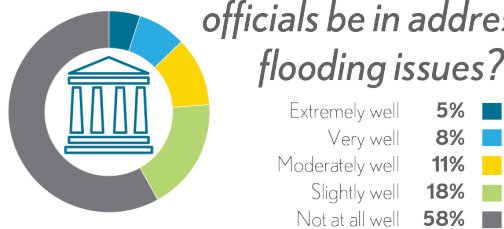
How much do heavy rains impact commute or other travel?



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 Riverdale 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 Calumet Corridor Plan recommends the following priority projects from a comprehensive list of recommendations:

NORTHEAST NEIGHBORHOOD

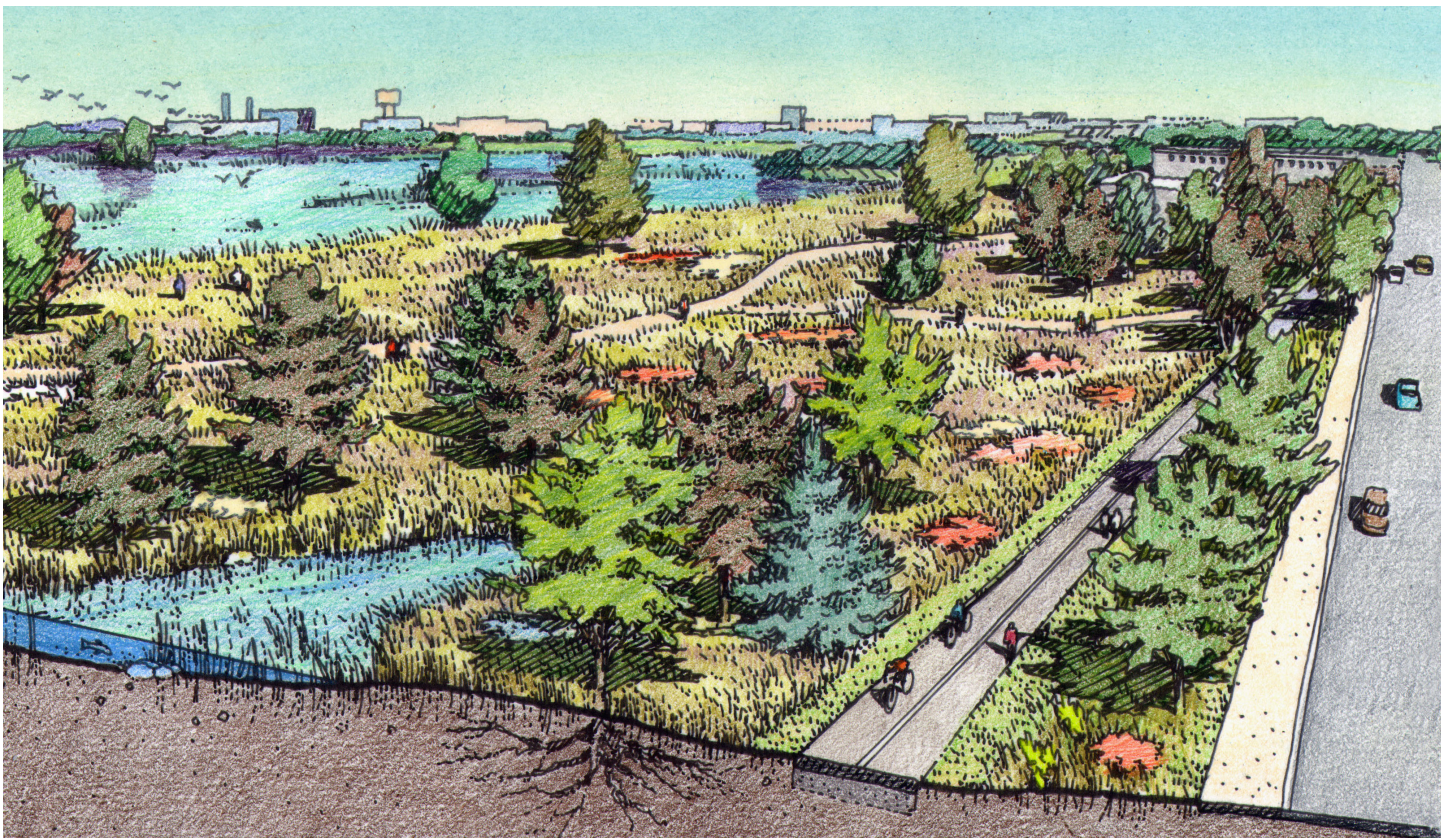
In 2017, plans will move forward to separate the sanitary sewer from the stormwater sewer in northeast Riverdale. The project area is defined by the Metra tracks, East 140th Street, the municipal border, and the Little Calumet River. This project will bring much needed flood relief to residents in the northeast neighborhood of Riverdale who have been struggling with basement backups and other local flooding challenges for years.

THE CAL-SAG TRAIL

The Village of Riverdale recently green-lighted the expansion of the Cal-Sag Trail into town. The extension of the Cal-Sag Trail into Riverdale will spur a whole host of new opportunities for economic development, recreation, and even flood mitigation. Residents and local leaders should work together to make sure the forthcoming project includes green infrastructure like bioswales, vegetated swales, and tree plantings, in places where these improvements will alleviate local flooding issues.

OPEN UP RIVERDALE MARSH

Plans are in the works to improve Riverdale Marsh, a 75 acre site just northwest of 138th Street and Halsted Avenue. The current plan aims to create new opportunities for residents and visitors to get outside for a picnic, a walk, birding, and biking. It could even connect to the forthcoming Cal-Sag Trail and other commercial corridors, opening up a vast network of outdoor play and shopping.



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.**

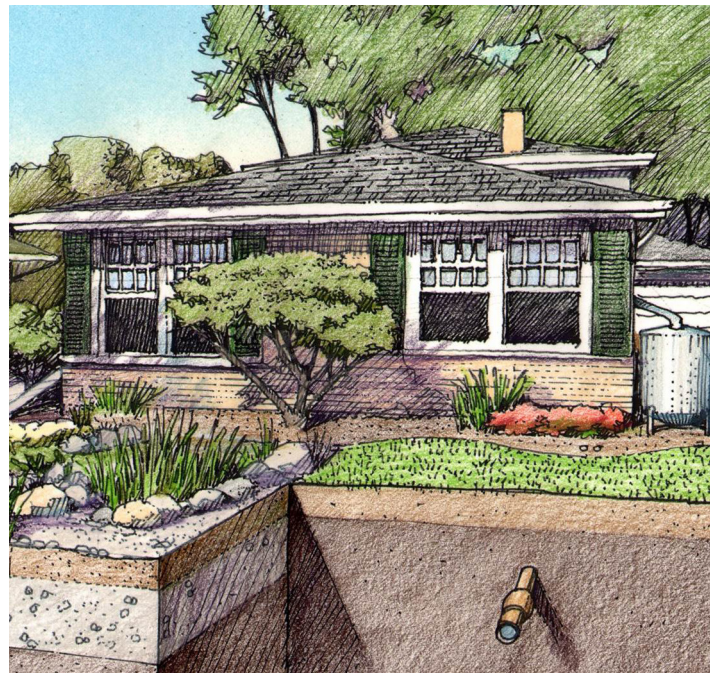
The strips between sidewalks and streets can be transformed into attractive green spaces that absorb stormwater runoff, reduce municipal maintenance costs, and beautify streets. Be sure to check your municipal code for which plants are permitted.

- **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 Riverdale Steering Committee. The Committee will work to implement the RainReady Riverdale Plan by building an ongoing beautification and economic development effort. They are committed to investment in infrastructure improvements, improved transportation assets, complete streets, and community gardens across the Village. The Committee wants to preserve Riverdale's natural areas and bring new life to vacant areas. They are motivated to raise employment rates, increase the availability of healthy foods, and create more retail with TOD areas and infill. The Committee will also work to open lines of communication throughout the community.

RainReady Riverdale Steering Committee meets monthly!

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