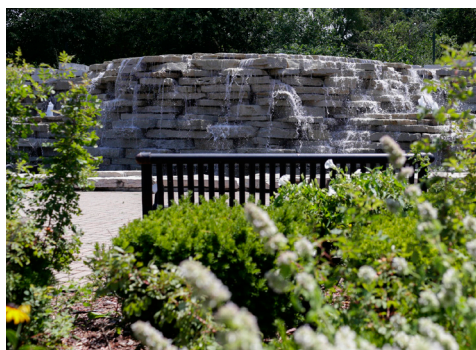


RainReady Dolton

A Snapshot of Resilience



RainReady helps people manage flooding in a time of climate change. Our team includes urban planners, engineers from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, economic development experts, outreach specialists, and lawyers.

Just 23 miles south of downtown Chicago, Dolton is known as ‘The Gateway to the South Suburbs’. Since George Dolton’s first ferry trip across the Little Calumet River in 1835, the Village has linked Chicago’s industrial southland to national rail and water transportation networks. The Village has grown to support long-standing residential neighborhoods and a strong network of schools, parks, and churches.

Today, Dolton experiences severe and repeated flooding. From 2007 to 2011, 4,047 flood-related insurance claims were filed, with more than \$10,500,000 dollars paid out in damages (CNT, 2014). Flooding in Dolton exacerbates existing challenges, such as maintaining older homes, economic divestment, and aging public infrastructure.

RainReady Dolton is bringing new attention to the fight against flooding. In 2015, Cook County collaborated with Village staff to identify flooding solutions for a competitive federal grant application. The County’s application was beat out by other U.S. cities, but the County remains committed to providing relief in Dolton through RainReady.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS

The 2013 floods left Loretta Broughton with little hope for a dry basement. That April night, she sat in her kitchen for hours watching smelly water creep from her first floor bathroom. The power was out, the sump pump had failed, and the rain showed no signs of slowing.

Ms. Broughton has spent thousands of dollars rodding pipes, sealing her foundation, and installing a drain tile around her building, but the flooding continues.

Meanwhile, her insurance premiums rise. Around that time, Ms. Broughton gave up use of her basement, and

began making plans to move, “I know that there’s nothing I can do about it. I don’t have the finances to do what needs to be done.”

“Every time it rains now, honestly, when they say rain, I’m like, Oh God please, Jesus please, don’t let the lights go out, because if the lights go out the power goes out and the sump pump will not work.”

Ms. Broughton loves her house, but the floods make it feel much less like home.

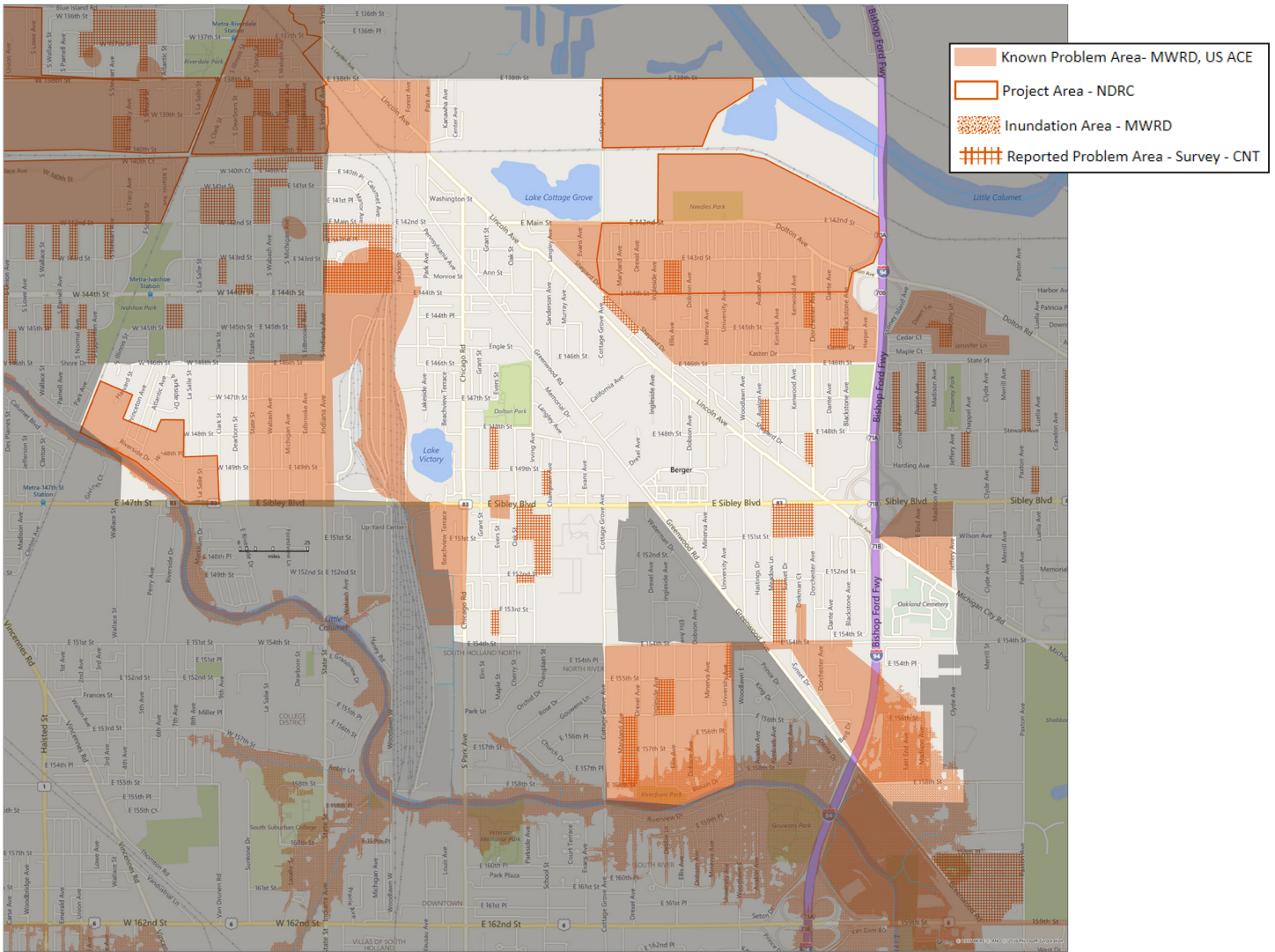


In the backyard of the Resurrection House Baptist Church in Dolton sits a large grassy field, complete with a baseball backstop and a swing set. Unfortunately, most days the field cannot be used due to flooding.

“This part of Dolton has no park,” explained Founding Pastor Marcus Randle. “So these kids that live around here have nowhere to go. This is it.”

According to Pastor Randle, the Church purchased the property with plans to make the field a community space, imagining barbecues and summer ball games. “We don’t have to go to the park. We could do all of our stuff right here,” explained Pastor Randle. “Well, right after that we began to get this flooding.”

WHERE IS IT FLOODING?



Residents and business owners in Dolton experience several types of flooding:

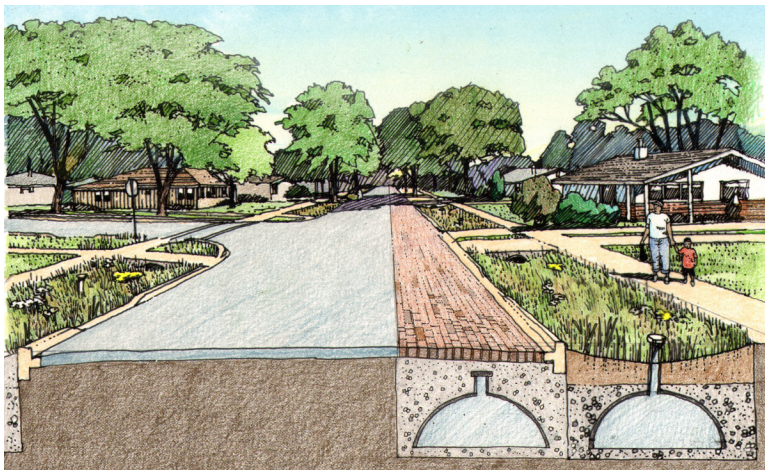
- ✓ **Basement backup** from the local sewer system and private lateral lines, impacting several parts of town, including the residential neighborhood south of 142nd St. in northeast Dolton.
- ✓ **Street flooding** from local drainage issues, causing pooling in the street at depths of 2-3 feet.
- ✓ **Foundation seepage** in several areas of Dolton, causing rot and mold in basement walls.
- ✓ **Riverine flooding** from the Little Calumet River, impacting neighborhoods in southwest Dolton.

Four main factors contribute to flooding in Dolton:

- 1) **Increasing impervious surfaces:** as open lands are converted to parking lots, streets, and rooftops, rainwater finds fewer places to sink into the ground.
- 2) **Aging sewer infrastructure:** as sewer systems age, pipes may collapse causing local drainage issues.
- 3) **More severe storms:** climate change is bringing more frequent, high-intensity storms to the region.
- 4) **Flat topography:** most stormwater is directed via gravity, so Dolton's flat streets create challenges for moving the water out of neighborhoods.

PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

Several ideas have been proposed to resolve the flooding challenge in Dolton.

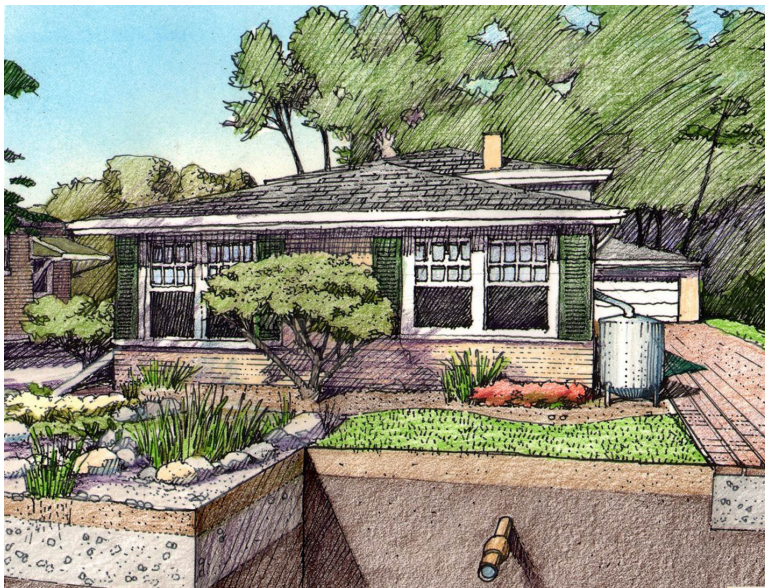


GREEN STREETS NEAR NEEDLES PARK:

Location: The residential neighborhood south of 142nd Street in northeast Dolton

Description: To reduce stormwater runoff and create a more beautiful neighborhood, permeable pavement and native plants could be installed along roadways.

Benefits: Fewer basement backups and less street flooding, neighborhood beautification, increased property values, new jobs created.



RESIDENTIAL RESILIENCE PROGRAM:

Location: Across the Village

Description: Sometimes, flooding is best addressed at the level of the individual household. Cook County has developed a program to help survivors of the 2013 floods retrofit their homes. To be considered for this program, complete the survey linked on the final page of this document or visit: <http://www.nhschicago.org/flood/cook-county-flood-damage-assistance/>.

Benefits: Drier basements, more livable neighborhoods, reduced stress

The success of this effort depends on your active participation. RainReady provides expertise in stormwater management and financing strategies, but residents, business owners, and local officials must help by identifying flood-prone areas and guiding investment decisions.

RainReady is working with the communities of Blue Island, Calumet City, Calumet Park, Dolton, Riverdale, and Robbins to better understand the impact of heavy rain on the community in order to reduce or eliminate flooding.

This work builds upon the County's Disaster Resilience effort in 2015.

Have you completed the survey yet?

You may be eligible for a free risk assessment and home upgrade.

All residents are encouraged to complete the survey here:

<http://bit.ly/RainReadySurvey> or in Spanish here: <http://bit.ly/RRSespanol>

5 WAYS TO REDUCE YOUR FLOOD RISK TODAY

- ✓ **ASSESS YOUR PROPERTY:**
To reduce risk, you must understand the way water moves across your property. An engineer, plumber, electrician, or landscape designer can help, but often you can identify the cause of flooding by walking the property and taking photos during a storm.
- ✓ **MAKE YARD IMPROVEMENTS:**
Plant trees, native grasses, and native plants to soak up the water in your yard and parkway. Regrade the earth around your building so that water drains away from the structure, and disconnect your gutter downspout to reduce basement backup.
- ✓ **MANAGE WATER WITHIN YOUR HOME:**
Prepare your basement for water. Lift appliances off the floor, put valuables in plastic storage bins, and consider investing in a sump pump, backup generator, backwater valve, overhead sewer, or drain tiles.
- ✓ **GET INSURED:**
Educate yourself about insurance policies and invest in the best policy for your flood risk. Home insurance policies do not typically cover damage from flooding, basement backup, sump pump failure, or seepage. You can purchase a sewer rider to cover basement backup, or look into the National Flood Insurance Program if you experience riverine flooding. No insurance covers damage from foundation seepage.
- ✓ **EXPECT AND PREPARE FOR EXTREME WEATHER:**
If the experts predict rain, prepare your home. Clear your drainage areas, secure your windows and doors, and ensure your sump pump is working. If there is severe damage, call your flood insurance company to file a claim. Even if you aren't covered, note the date and time as well as the depth of the water. Document and photograph items that were damaged, including their estimated value.

UPCOMING EVENTS

RAINREADY HOME: SOLUTIONS TO BASEMENT FLOODING AND INSURANCE 101

September 7 | 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm | Blue Island Public Library, 2433 York Street, Blue Island
September 13 | 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm | Dolton Public Library, 14037 Lincoln Avenue, Dolton

ORGANIZING FOR RESILIENCE: WORK WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS TO STOP FLOODING

September 28 | 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm | Midlothian Public Library, 14701 Kenton Avenue, Midlothian

HOW TO MANAGE FLOODING: TOUR OF BEST PRACTICES

September 15 | 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm | SSMMA, 1904 W. 174th Street, East Hazel Crest

[RainReady.org/SouthSuburbs](https://rainready.org/SouthSuburbs)

Questions? Contact Rebecca Raines: RRaines@CNT.org or 773.269.2217



@RainReadyPlan



Rain Ready

