

# RainReady Community helps neighborhoods fight flooding and keep homes and businesses dry.



We offer support in making practical and affordable neighborhood improvements that help communities address:

- Water or sewage backup in your home
- Seepage or moisture in your basement
- Flooding or standing water in your yard or street
- Cracked or blocked private sewer pipes
- Overland flooding from a creek or ditch

Our approach prioritizes strategies that bring multiple benefits to the community, such as incorporating stormwater management into downtown improvement plans in a way that also provides transportation amenities and economic revitalization.

## A FULL-SERVICE APPROACH

The RainReady Community service is available to any community that wishes to participate in the program. Towns or cities wishing to participate will draw up a memorandum of agreement with CNT and agree to cover the costs. Communities will receive support throughout the process:



## COORDINATED IMPROVEMENTS

We work with partner organizations, non-profits, public agencies, private contractors and grassroots organizations to help bring the resources and skills you need to implement your community's RainReady Plan. We will help you to prioritize your investment, and we'll provide guidance in selecting the right mix of improvements for your neighborhood.

Proposed improvements may include:

- Home improvements, including landscaping and paving, plumbing and sewer repairs, and foundation repairs
- Street enhancements to reduce runoff
- The creation of pocket parks and wetlands to store and infiltrate stormwater
- The restoration of tree canopies and river corridors
- Expanding capacity for program implementation, such as hiring a planner or pursuing stormwater fees
- Improved emergency planning and flood warning systems

## SERVICE PROVIDER

RainReady Community is an initiative of the Center for Neighborhood Technology (CNT), a Chicago-based non-profit. Our staff includes engineers, landscape designers, lawyers, planners, outreach specialists and community organizers.

To learn more about the program, visit: [WWW.RAINREADY.ORG](http://WWW.RAINREADY.ORG)

If you have questions about the program, please contact: [INFO@RAINREADY.ORG](mailto:INFO@RAINREADY.ORG)  
773.269.4042





## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **What types of problems does this program address?**

- Sewage backup that comes up from floor drains, sinks, tubs, and toilets in your basement
- Water seepage that comes in through floors or walls, or flows through cracks in your building foundation
- Water that pools in your yard and against your foundation, or water that flows into your home through window wells and doors
- Cracked, blocked or incorrectly connected private sewer pipes that result in water flowing into your home
- Overland flooding from a creek or ditch

### **How does my community participate in the program?**

RainReady Community – and our accompanying RainReady Home service – is available to communities in Cook County, IL and is in the process of expanding to other cities in the U.S. If you would like your community to participate, you can ask your mayor or relevant public works official to contact the RainReady team.

### **How will my home or business benefit?**

Recognizing that residents and public officials need help tackling sewer backups and flooding, the RainReady service provides tailor-made services to home and communities. If you and your neighbors' properties are affected by flooding, we'll conduct a neighborhood-by-neighborhood assessment, create a plan of action, and provide implementation and monitoring support.

### **What types of improvements do you recommend?**

Flooding fixes are often complex. RainReady Community recommends a combination of improvements that include measures to protect homes from flood risk, improve water management in public rights of way, and engage partners to improve the function of regional sewer systems. We help you to prioritize improvements that meet your community's needs and budget and compile these recommendations in a RainReady Plan.

### **What happens after the neighborhood assessment?**

As we do the risk assessment, we'll work with your community to set up a steering committee of affected property owners, residents and public officials. We'll help you review your options, identify funding sources, and prioritize your investments into a RainReady Plan for the community. As you move forward in implementation, we can help your community solicit bids from qualified contractors and select a contractor that best suits your needs.

### **How quickly will the improvements be made?**

Tackling neighborhood and property flooding requires immediate and ongoing investment. While many of the improvements we recommend can be installed in a matter of months, rolling out these improvements comprehensively across a community is likely to take several years and will require refinement and maintenance.

### **Does RainReady Community provide the contractors?**

While we offer guidance and support in selecting contractors and identifying project partners, any improvements will require municipalities and/or property owners to hire contractors directly to make the improvements on public or private property. RainReady Community and CNT will not be part of any contractual agreement.

### **Is there a charge?**

The cost of developing a RainReady Plan for your community is typically paid for by your town, city, or a relevant government agency or charitable foundation. The cost of implementing any improvements in the public rights of way is usually covered by a line item on residents' utility bills, or through an agency or foundation grant. Any improvements on private property can be paid, either in part or in full, by the property owner(s).

### **What happens after improvements are complete?**

Communities that receive a neighborhood risk assessment and RainReady Plan may be eligible to participate in our monitoring program to help us learn about how your improvements perform after significant rainstorms.

### **Can I prevent flooding forever?**

The potential for sewer backups and flood damage is a risk that cannot not be completely eliminated in any home or community. You and your municipality can, however, make investments that will significantly reduce that risk. We help you identify the most effective improvements.

### **I live near a river that sometimes rises to the point that it floods my neighborhood and property. Can RainReady Community help?**

Yes, the type of flooding that you experience when a river overflows on your property is best addressed at the neighborhood scale. RainReady Community's neighborhood assessments can help identify the most cost-effective improvements for tackling these problems.

*RainReady<sup>SM</sup> is a program of the Center for Neighborhood Technology (CNT), a Chicago-based nonprofit research and advocacy organization committed to improving urban economies and environments across the United States.*

