

# Home Flooding Prevention in Action

## Chicago's Rogers Park Neighborhood



Over the 25 years that John Stainthorp had owned his home in the Rogers Park neighborhood of Chicago, he had become accustomed to dealing with flooding issues. Any time there was a particularly heavy rain storm, sewage would backup out of the floor drain in his home's finished basement, and he would be stuck with an unpleasant cleanup project.

John turned to RainReady Home. The RainReady team conducted an assessment of the property and recommended that he install a backwater valve on the building sewer line and connected him with a contractor who was able to help complete the work. The valve stops the sewage backup problem by blocking water from flowing backward out of the city combined sewer and into the home. This means no more messy cleanup jobs after a heavy rain.

Our analysts also recommended some landscaping improvements that could reduce the issues of foundation seepage and overland flooding. John had already landscaped his property using a variety of native plants, which are beneficial for absorbing rainwater. As a next step, we recommended that he also adjust the slope of the ground around the home so that water would flow away from the foundation and collect in a recessed rain garden. John plans to put his gardening skills to work to complete this project on his own. This will help to ensure that he can continue to enjoy a dry, comfortable basement.



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)

*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.*

### ABOUT THE PROPERTY

- Single-family home constructed in 1917
- 1,550 square-foot house
- 5,560 square-foot lot
- Owned by John Stainthorp since 1988

### FLOODING ISSUES

- Sewage backup, foundation seepage, and overland flooding
- Average insurance claims for water backup in the ZIP code: \$5,232

### UPGRADES COMPLETED

- Backwater valve installed on the building sewer line to stop sewage backup
- Total cost of retrofit measures implemented: \$2,000

*Above: A backwater valve was installed on the building sewer line to prevent sewage from backing up into the basement of the home.*

