

Village of Western Springs Flood Protection and Mitigation Information Sheet



Many of Chicago's suburbs are affected by flooding when a large amount of rain falls in a short period of time or when the ground is already saturated as a storm moves into the area. This type of weather pattern creates difficulties as the storm water and sanitary sewer systems become overloaded and unable to handle the water. Please keep in mind that no system is large enough to protect against every storm. If you are a homeowner who experienced flooding, please be aware of the health and safety issues associated with the environment in these conditions. Fortunately, weather patterns of this magnitude do not occur often and, when they do, the Village works with residents to help mitigate the inconvenience they cause.

There are a number of measures homeowners can take to help prevent severe flooding on their property. The purpose of this information is to provide information to citizens which will aid in the efforts towards flood prevention. Village staff is available to answer any questions residents may have. Additionally, the information below contains references to guidelines provided by the State of Illinois which may be of assistance to those seeking to minimize flood issues on their property.

Health and Safety Concerns

Because floodwaters may contain multiple bacteria, fecal material, viruses and other organisms that may cause disease, certain basic precautions should be taken in a flooded environment. Most importantly, avoid direct skin contact if possible especially open cuts or wounds and do not eat or drink anything exposed to floodwater.

For additional details on protecting your family and yourself during flooding, please refer to the Illinois Department of Public Health's web site publication, [Health and Safety Recommendations for Flooding](#), and [After the Flood](#).

Prevention and Protection

The goal of property owners should be to capture and control the flow of water to the desired location to minimize problems. Suggestions for the management of storm water on property in the Village include:

- the existence of standpipes or overhead sewers
- drain tile alongside home foundation to help channel the water
- waterproofing the foundation and basement walls
- proper sump pump discharge and back up electrical source for pump
- backflow preventer installed in home sewer/storm water system
- refrain from dumping anything into street or alley sewers. Leaves, grass clippings, motor oil and other items pose a hazard to people working in the sewers.
- make sure that curbside gutter boxes are not covered by trash, leaves, papers or other items. When these structures are blocked, water cannot drain from the street and will cause street flooding.

For additional information and suggestions, please refer to the following two sites:

[Guide to Flood Prevention](#) (Illinois Association for Floodplain and Stormwater Management)

[Guide to Floodproofing](#) (Department of Natural Resources)

Questions or concerns regarding flooding on your property or within your neighborhood can be directed to the Director of Community Development, Martin Scott at (708) 246-1800 ext. 175 or mscott@wsprings.com.

Important Note:

For severe flooding issues which require immediate attention but are not life threatening, please call (708) 246-8540, the nonemergency Village Police phone number.