



Village launches Stormwater Action Plan public education push

Open houses, new website key efforts to gather feedback on proposed stormwater improvement options

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WILMETTE, IL. – Wilmette village officials today announced that it is embarking on a public education and listening initiative to inform residents about its Stormwater Action Plan and solicit feedback about the potential infrastructure improvements currently under consideration.

The storm sewer system west of Ridge Road was built nearly 70 years ago and no longer has the capacity to properly manage stormwater following rainstorms, resulting in pervasive overland and structural flooding that impacts up to 1,300 homes. The Village has invested nearly \$50 million to upgrade the sewer system west of Ridge Road over the last two decades. Given that the frequency and intensity of storms has increased in recent years, further improvements to the storm sewer system may be necessary.

In 2013 the Village began studying potential infrastructure investments to improve the storm sewer system so it can deliver relief to residents effectively and affordably. Now, the Village is seeking input, ideas and participation from residents as it prepares to make a final decision on a path forward.

The Village Board anticipates that it will make a final decision regarding stormwater improvements at its April 17th meeting.

“We are launching this effort because transparency and engaging the public are critical elements of our decision making process. Feedback from Wilmette residents is essential for making a fully informed decision about what steps should be taken to deliver relief to west Wilmette neighborhoods,” said Wilmette Village President Bob Bielinski. “We look forward to sharing information with and hearing from everyone who wants to have a voice in this important decision.”

Open Houses

The Village will be hosting two open houses for residents to interact with Village Staff and project engineers and provide feedback on the proposed projects. The open

houses, which will be held at Village Hall, are scheduled for the following dates and times:

- Thursday, February 8th from 4:00pm – 8:00pm
- Tuesday, March 13th from 4:00pm – 7:00pm

Dedicated Stormwater Improvements Website

The Village has launched a website that will serve as residents' "one stop shop" for all matters related to stormwater improvements. Residents can visit that site at <http://www.wilmettestormwater.com> to learn about the project, provide input directly to the Village, and view archived documents that have been produced throughout the four years improvements have been under consideration.

Public Education Materials

A series of communications will be sent to all addresses in Wilmette in the coming months. The first special newsletter, which will lay out the proposed solutions in detail, will be mailed to residents before the end of the month.

Providing Feedback- The Village Wants to Hear from Residents

Residents can provide feedback in a number of ways:

- Utilize the Village's online community engagement platform (coming soon)
- Send an email to sewers@wilmette.com
- Visit www.wilmettestormwater.com and complete an online comment form
- Send a letter to 1200 Wilmette Avenue, attn.: Stormwater Project
- Attend a Village Board meeting

Village of Wilmette: Contact Wilmette Assistant Village Manager Michael Braiman, 847-853-7506, braimanm@wilmette.com or Director of Engineering and Public Works Brigitte Berger-Raish, 847-853-7627, bergerb@wilmette.com.

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