

Spring/Summer Flooding Reminders

Remembering back to 2013, the Village of Lombard had a substantial flood event on April 18. Flooding occurred in areas both in and outside of the regulatory flood plain limits or special flood hazard areas. Spring and summer are seasons when flooding is more likely to occur. In the spring, the ground may still be frozen (water can't soak in to the ground like it can in the summer and fall), the snow is melting, plus intense spring rain storms can occur. All of these combine into an increased risk for flooding.

Please keep the following items in mind this spring and summer to help reduce the chances of localized flooding issues:

- Many properties include drainage swales or ditches within their boundaries. It is illegal to grade, excavate or fill in any property in the Village of Lombard without a fill and grade permit to ensure that projects do not cause problems for you or your neighbors. Always check with the Community Development Department before you build on, alter, re-grade, or place fill on your property.
- Report construction or filling without a Village permit posted to the Community Development Department at 630-620-5750.
- Even small projects, such as a raised flowerbed or a shed, can block drainage paths and cause immediate localized flooding problems.
- Keep leaves and other items from blocking the lids of the drainage structures on your property and in the street fronting your property. Drainage structures are designed to collect the runoff and storm sewers transport the stormwater away from the area. If the drainage structure lids are blocked, they can't function properly.
- Roof drains/downspouts shall be directed away from adjacent properties and, if directed underground, must discharge no further than 15-feet from the structure.

Other useful information to keep in mind:

- Every rainfall event is unique. Each storm has rainfall that falls over varying durations and intensities. A shorter rainfall event with more intense downpours may cause flooding faster than a longer rainfall event with less intense downpours.
- The current design standard for separated storm sewer systems is approximately a 4.5" rain event occurring over a 24-hour period. During rain events greater than this length and intensity, you should expect to see some stormwater backing up and running down the streets and other drainage ways.
- Lombard still has some areas of the Village that have combined sanitary and storm sewers. These sewers, when constructed decades ago, were not sized for the current design standards.
 - Sanitary sewer backups tend to occur in greater frequency in these areas.
 - The Village has an Overhead Sewer Grant available to assist homeowners who experience chronic sanitary sewer backups in their homes. More information is available on the Village's website or by calling the Public Works Department at 630-620-5740.
- The Village also has a Backyard Drainage Grant. The grant is for homeowners who have flooding that remains for 72 hours or longer which affects at least two contiguous properties. If you are considering this grant, date stamped photos help when qualifying for the grant. More information is available on the Village's website.
- There are areas in the Village with low, depressional, areas that during rain/runoff events that hold water and may cause flooding as the water fills these low areas.
- If you are interesting in obtaining flood insurance, there is a 30-day waiting period for flood insurance to go into effect. Therefore, don't wait until the water is rising to get protection, if you want it.
 - Why purchase flood insurance if not in a floodplain? 25% of all claims paid out by NFIP are for properties not in a Special Flood Hazard Area.
 - Sewer backup insurance is not the same as flood insurance.

Questions?

On private property, please contact Community Development at 630-620-5750.

On public property, please contact Public Works at 630-620-5740.