



Spring and Summer Flooding Reminders

In 2013, the Village of Lombard experienced a significant flood event on April 18, with flooding occurring both inside and outside designated floodplain areas.

Spring and summer are times when flooding is more likely to occur. In the spring, the ground may still be frozen, preventing water from soaking into the soil as it can in the summer and fall. Snowmelt combined with intense rainfall can further increase runoff. Together, these conditions can raise the risk of flooding across the community.

Reducing Localized Flooding

Please keep the following in mind to help reduce the risk of localized flooding:

- Many properties include drainage swales or ditches. It is illegal to grade, excavate, or place fill on any property in the Village of Lombard without a fill and grade permit. These requirements help prevent drainage issues for you and your neighbors. Always contact the Community Development Department before making any changes to your property.
- Report construction or filling activity that does not have a Village permit posted to the Code Enforcement Department at 630-620-5757.
- Even small projects, such as a raised flowerbed or shed, can block drainage paths and cause immediate flooding problems.
- Keep leaves and debris from blocking drainage structures on your property and along the street. These structures are designed to collect runoff and carry stormwater away. When blocked, they cannot function properly.
- Roof drains and downspouts should be directed away from adjacent properties. If directed underground, they must discharge no more than 15 feet from the structure and no closer than 15 feet from the public sidewalk.

Other Useful Information

- Every rainfall event is different. Storms vary in duration and intensity. Short, heavy downpours can cause flooding more quickly than longer, lighter rain events.
- The current design standard for separated storm sewer systems is approximately a 5.15-inch rainfall over a 24-hour period. During larger storms, some water backup and street flooding should be expected.
- Some areas of Lombard have older combined sanitary and storm sewer systems that were not designed to current standards.
 - Sanitary sewer backups may occur more frequently in these areas.
 - The Village offers an Overhead Sewer Grant to assist homeowners who experience chronic sanitary sewer backups. For more information, visit the Village website or contact Public Works at 630-620-5740.

- The Village also offers a Residential Drainage Program with potential grant assistance for properties where flooding remains for 72 hours or longer and affects at least two contiguous properties. Date-stamped photos can help support eligibility. Additional information is available on the Village website.
- Some areas of the Village contain low or depressional areas that may temporarily hold water during rain events, which can lead to localized flooding.
- If you are considering flood insurance, keep in mind there is a 30-day waiting period before coverage takes effect. Do not wait until flooding is imminent to obtain protection.
 - Approximately 25% of flood insurance claims occur outside designated floodplain areas.
 - Sewer backup insurance is not the same as flood insurance.

Questions?

Private property:

Private Development Engineer
630-620-5972
PES@villageoflombard.org

Public property:

Public Works Department
630-620-5740