

## **From the Village of Winnetka website on Stormwater FAQ:**

### **What is the Village doing to address the problem?**

Clearly, addressing pervasive structural flooding in Winnetka is the Village's top infrastructure priority. The Village has been working in recent years to deliver relief to homeowners that will be effective, affordable, and sensitive to the environment. There has been progress on several fronts:

- It has adopted a Stormwater Master Plan, the Village's vision that guides future policy and strategy.
- It has hired engineers to identify ways to deliver the most relief to the highest number of homeowners.
- It has developed and implemented the Stormwater Utility Fee to fund system maintenance and needed improvements.
- And, it has already completed several projects to deliver relief to hundreds of homeowners.

### **Why is it taking so long to identify a workable solution?**

The Village has already implemented several measures to alleviate flooding in some areas. However, identifying the solution that will deliver relief to those impacted the most by structural flooding is underway.

Over the last 15 months, the Village was working with an engineering firm to evaluate the feasibility of a stormwater tunnel that would collect stormwater and treat it before depositing it into Lake Michigan. That option, however, has been tabled by the Village council due to rising cost estimates. Now, the Village is embarking on an effort to evaluate non-tunneling options that may incorporate drainage basins on the west side of town. That evaluation will include a community engagement process where engineers will seek community input on potential solutions.

### **What will all of this cost and how will the Village pay for it?**

Because the Village has not fully identified the entire solution that is feasible from environmental, cost, and construction standpoints, it is difficult to provide residents with a price tag that covers all the improvements.

However, the Village anticipates that current and future improvements will be paid for primarily via the Stormwater Utility Fee, which every property owner in Winnetka pays. Modern, effective stormwater infrastructure is an asset that benefits the entire community because it minimizes structural and surface flooding.