

Staff Responses to Council Questions

February 16, 2015

12. Manager's Report

A. Information: Stormwater Utility Discussion

How does deferring maintenance on the stormwater system affect replacement costs? Is it similar to the street system cost relationship of 4 or 5 to 1?

Unlike the street system, the cost of maintaining the stormwater system does not increase dramatically if maintenance activities are deferred. Generally, infrastructure replacement and maintenance activities cost the same today as it will in the future, plus inflation -- as opposed to the road system where deferring maintenance can cause the cost of repairing the road to increase by up to four times. While deferring maintenance does not dramatically increase the future cost of owning and operating the stormwater system, it does increase the likelihood of flooding. There is no compelling reason to prioritize maintenance activities over new capital projects or vice versa. Therefore, the Village may choose to allocate funds to both maintenance activities and capital projects in an effort to move closer to the recommended service level.

How does the Village's current level of service compare to other municipalities in the Chicago area?

Staff discussed this question with John Wills of WBK Engineering, who prepared the 2014 Stormwater Project Analysis and has worked with DuPage County for many years. Staff is not aware of any other communities who have really thought this through as Downers Grove has and use the term "level of service" to describe the stormwater system as we do. For the most part communities address design standards when there is new construction or reconstruction, rarely looking at the town as a whole.

With respect to the level of service for stormwater, Downers Grove is likely comparable with other communities of the same development age and characteristics as other communities in the Chicago area. One of the major factors that determines the level of service, as the Village has defined it, is the percentage of the community that was developed after modern day stormwater requirements and the topography of the community. Including stormwater management as part of new developments started in the early 1970's and became required in DuPage County by the early 1980's. Communities that experienced a large amount of growth during and after this time were developed to a higher level of service with respect to stormwater. These include communities like Naperville, Carol Stream, Schaumburg, Bolingbrook, etc. Because of the ordinances that were in place, infrastructure after this time was designed to accommodate specific storm sizes, included overflow routes for when the storm sizes were exceeded, and

required that the lowest openings into habitable structures were set above flood levels. While development before this period generally included ditches, drain tiles and some storm sewers, it was not subjected to the same level of design and modeling as was later required.

Of the estimated 2200 properties not meeting the RLOS, what percentage are located in the floodplain?

Staff estimates that approximately 10% of the properties that do not meet the RLOS are located within the 100 year floodplain.

ATTACHMENTS

rEmarks are attached.



rRemarks Data for February 16, 2016 Village Council Meeting

Agenda Section	Agenda Item	Comment	Commenter
Public Comment	COMMENTS OF A GENERAL NATURE	Has the change to Lake Michigan water contributed to the flooding in the village? It seems logical that the normal ground water tables would be higher since we no longer tap into that water source.	Thomas Liss, 1209 62nd St, Downers Grove
Manager's Report	A. INF 2016-6689 Stormwater Utility Discussion	<p>The latest floodplain map shows high water on the corner of Warren & Prospect. It is my opinion that may be why no one is looking at that 48 unit building, potentially, for sale on that corner.</p> <p>An effort to better stormwater flow in that area would:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. better the residents already in that area 2. invite potential tax income with that corner lot/building 3. potentially coincide with updating warren road, since its damage after the metra platform construction project. <p>Thanks!</p>	David C, Downers Grove, IL