

Resident Stormwater Survey – Comments:

Many residents responded to the Resident Stormwater Survey with letters and, in some cases, very detailed hand drawn maps. An effort was made to contact and visit each survey respondent that identified persistent stormwater issues. Below are comments that the Commission thought would help frame the issue. Names and addresses have been omitted:

- “My biggest question is why does this always happen to my house and why does my houses plumbing system always clog up. What does the city’s main sewer line have to do with my houses plumbing line?”
- “The apartment owners should have been responsible for proper drainage and Niles inspectors should have held them responsible for it.”
- “Our street floods after every rain and I get extremely upset when the flooding goes up past the sidewalk towards the front of my home.”
- “Neighbor to my right has his sump pump piping facing my driveway, neighbor behind me has the garage gutters draining into my backyard, and neighbor to my left has his asphalt driveway above grade and pitched toward my property and my backyard always floods.”
- “Ottawa street floods badly, and then I get water in my basement (seepage) due to the backup. It causes a major hazard to traffic, as cars get stuck, do not see the flooding, and push more water onto my property.”
- “The park behind my house has been putting in an ice skating rink and when this melted on December 27, 2008, I had water running down my basement steps. The year before, I had the same problem and was told that it wouldn’t be put in last year, but it was.”
- “Back yard (sic) floods as a result of the Chateau Ritz Banquet Hall’s extremely large asphalt parking lot and restricted inlets for stormwater.”
- “I have an electric box (ComEd transformer) in my backyard that serves the whole neighborhood. Since my neighbors have built up their yards, it is under water many times.”
- “Our backyards are constantly flooding! The problem is when these homes were built they allowed the builder to excavate and build lower than the cemetery there fore (sic) in my backyard is lower and the cemetery is higher...”
- “The storm pipes in the back of our house were never installed. The yard always floods.”
- “The village put another sewer in years ago, but it ran into the same line as the original one and it has served no purpose to alleviate the problem. The

- sidewalk was raised years back too, but it wasn't raised high enough to solve the problem we have experienced.”
- “I feel the village is totally responsible for this house being built where it is and for our drainage problem.”
 - “The water level goes past the sidewalk. I have called 311 and I understand they can not do anything about this problem. But something as simple as road blocks/no thru traffic signs would HELP greatly. Every time a car drives through, the water gets pushed closer to our homes (this affects 8 homes).”
 - “Cars gun their engines and fly down the street. These cars cause huge waves and push the water even further toward the house. It causes a dangerous situation for anyone standing or trying to walk. The village has said they cannot block access to the street during this time. Although they did once place a warning flare.”
 - “Niles is a good village to live in, but flooding on Crain Street has been a problem for a long time. How do you sell a house that floods? Installed flood control, but lots of \$\$.”
 - “Niles, in my opinion, should force them (neighbor) to lower their lot elevation and put drainage underneath the driveway to re-direct their water to front street storm sewer.”
 - “Back yards are flooding more now that two homes on New England built out in their back yard and also put up new garages.”
 - “Our address has always experienced some seepage and water in yard and especially recently since the home built immediately north of this address is especially large for the lot size bordered by a huge fence.”
 - “My basement used to flood until I got flood control system.”
 - “It seems to take less and less rain to cause flooding in our yards than it used to.....Does the village have any plans to help the residents of the south side of Greenleaf?”
 - “My back yard (sic) is lower than my front yard and houses around me have built up their yards when they put in new driveways and garages. The result is their yard water drains into my backyard.”
 - “The Maryhill Cemetery property behind our home is 18 inches higher than the property our homes were built on. So all the field water from Maryhill Cemetery drains through to our property and causes severe backyard flooding and causes our ejector pump to run continuously.”

- “No blockades are put up by the street corners so cars cannot pass. That creates bigger waves of water surging onto the properties and cars getting stuck in the water.”
- “Village employees drive as fast as they can through the standing water causing wakes that splash in our front doors.”
- “I don’t even know why I took time to fill this out because this survey is probably just another pacifier to make it look like you want to help us.”
- “The properties on the block of Oconto are lower then the properties behind us there fore (sic) the rain waters flow into our yards and street. The sewers get full, the street floods and water comes up and surrounds our houses and fills crawl space.”
- “I would like to know why some of my neighbors get clear drain water and I get sewage backup.”
- “I can understand a 100-year rain; but it seems that we have to deal with these “100-year rains” 2-3 times in an average year.”
- Can you please have improvements made in our basement so that the water does not backup in our basement every time the street flash-floods?”
- “The street floods every time we have heavy or even moderate rain, we can’t even leave our homes.”
- “Water comes from the drainage tile into our sump pump hole so fast the pumps cannot keep up with it.”
- “The water comes up through the drain on the basement floor, through the toilet, and through the laundry room sinks.”
- “Every time we have 2 inches of rain in an hour or two, I get some backup from sewer. We are 85 years old now and the ordeal is too much to handle. I think we need larger sewers?”
- “The first time we were bailed out, we were told that the “locks” had to be closed so the water had to backup in the sewers so it came up in the basement.”
- “The village has to do something about the sewer problems in Grennan Heights because sooner or later no one will want to live there.”
- Although everyone in the village seems to cite 100 year rains, these rains are getting more frequent – case in point, the last two consecutive years – and I think it’s time something is done about the problem.”

- “Every year our street, Courtland, gets flooded about three or four times a year. It is happening because the sewers on the street are not working properly. Ever since I moved in this house, my family and I don’t have peace. Every time it’s raining, I cannot sleep..”
- “We have sewer in front of the house. The street floods high and then backs up into our front lawn toward the house. We are tired and upset at this always happening to us.”
- “I am a realtor. I seriously think property values in our area will even devaluate more because it seems that we have replaced Des Plaines as the top flood zone.”
- “Neighbors on both sides have large additions to homes. One neighbor positions the pipe from their sump pump so that it empties about one foot from our property.”
- “Is flooding of neighbor’s property considered at all when large additions are approved?”
- “Every time it rains, I pray that the water won’t backup from the sewer. What kind of flood control would you recommend?”
- “Why would village allow all this paving of “green space” and not figure that somewhere along the line, it would not cause flooding?”
- “We have a very bad situation with water flooding our back yard (sic). It should be draining down the easement to the street.”
- “Pump runs every ten to fifteen minutes even when there is not rain under sunny conditions.”
- “In the past four years, street floods have become more frequent.”
- “Since liner in the sewer were put in, flooding has gotten worse.”
- “My neighbor got flood control and now I flood.”
- “My yard floods because of the improperly graded yards of my neighbors.”
- “The problem (flooding) occurs not only during heavy rains, but also in the winter if there is a fast thaw and again the sewer is not able to handle the water draining from the park.”
- “The deep tunnel is useless unless the city opens it up!!”