

7.1 UNQUANTIFIED BENEFITS

In addition to the benefits quantified in **Table 8** the long term capital projects provide many benefits that cannot readily be quantified. These benefits include:

- Reduction in:
 - Street flooding: improved access during storm events would be realized by reducing the frequency, depth and duration that street flooding occurs.
 - Yard flooding
 - Infiltration and inflow into the sanitary sewer system: When storm sewers cannot handle the inflow, the storm sewer becomes surcharged and pressurized. The pressurized storm sewer has the ability to push water out of the storm sewers and into neighboring sanitary lines. The standing water in the streets and yards from the surcharged conditions also contributes to I&I. The alternatives outlined in this report could reduce the pressure or surcharged condition within the stormwater system.
 - Basement seepage
- Increased property values

CHAPTER 8 FUNDING OF LARGE TERM CAPITAL PROJECTS

The long term capital improvement projects require significant capital expenditures. The following funding sources have been used in other communities to fund infrastructure projects.

8.1 PAY-AS-YOU-GO CAPITAL FUNDING

The Village could dedicate a portion of the Capital Planning Budget each year to construct a portion of the selected project. The phasing and portion of the project constructed each year would depend on the budget that can be allocated to the stormwater improvements.

8.2 MUNICIPAL BOND

A municipal bond is a bond issued by a local government, or their agencies. The Village could issue bonds to cover all or part of the project. This would allow a greater portion of the project to be completed in a short period of time.

8.3 SPECIAL SERVICE AREA (SSA)

A Special Service Area (SSA) is a taxing mechanism that can be used to fund a wide range of special or additional services and/or physical improvements in a defined geographic area within the Village. The Village could develop a SSA that places a levy on the properties within the Separate Storm Sewer area. The revenues from the SSA could be used to fund drainage projects and repay Municipal Bonds.

8.4 STORMWATER UTILITY FEE

The concept of the stormwater utility fee is to collect from both residents and businesses within the entire Village based on the amount of impervious area on the property. The impervious area is directly related to the amount of stormwater runoff contributing to the storm sewer system. An equivalent residential unit (ERU) is the basis for the amount paid to the utility fee on a monthly basis and can be included on tax bills or water bills. Impervious areas for businesses and industries in the Village should be calculated to determine the number of ERUs within a specific non-residential parcel. The Stormwater Utility could be used to fund drainage projects and repay Municipal Bonds. The utility fee per ERU would be set based on the cost of the project, length of time for repayment and additional reserves needed for maintenance, etc. Other communities in the area have recently been successful in establishing a stormwater utility fee to help fund water resource related projects, including: Rolling Meadows, Downers Grove, Highland Park, and Winnetka.

8.5 OUTSIDE FUNDING SOURCES

Federal, State and County funding of stormwater projects has been successfully used by communities. However, these outside funding sources are limited and the competition for the resources is fierce. The application process can be rigorous and take months or years to complete. Given the flooding problems and potential improvement projects, the following two outside funding sources have the highest likelihood of success.

8.5.1 [Federal Emergency Management Agency \(FEMA\)](#)

To be eligible for FEMA funding, the Village or County must have an approved Hazard Mitigation Plan. It is our understanding the Cook County completed this plan in November 2014.

8.5.1.1 [Hazard Mitigation Grant Program \(HMGP\)](#)

This program provides grants to states and local governments to implement long term hazard mitigation measures after a major disaster declaration. The program will pay for 75% of mitigation projects that meet a minimum benefit/cost ratio of 1.0. In the event that a major disaster for the State is declared in the future, it is our recommendation that the Village apply for this grant. The funding available is only a portion of the total losses for a particular disaster, which makes this a very competitive grant with an application process that can take up to 24 months.

8.5.1.2 [Flood Mitigation Assistance \(FMA\)](#)

This nationwide FEMA program provides funds for projects to reduce or eliminate risk of flood damage to buildings that are insured under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) on an annual basis. Unlike the HMGP program, this is a nationwide competition that focuses on Repetitive Loss properties as defined under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The program will pay for a percentage of mitigation projects that meet a minimum benefit/cost ratio of 1.0. The competition for this grant is nation-wide and is very competitive.

8.5.2 Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRDGC)

MWRDGC has limited cost-sharing funding opportunities for watershed-scale projects. Projects have recently been funded by MWRDGC in Elmwood Park, Winnetka and Glenview. Based on our November 2014 meeting with MWRDGC staff, a large regional storage or trunk sewer project could qualify for cost sharing, however the funds available are small in comparison to the scale of the required drainage projects. The cost sharing program is extremely competitive and requires a benefit/cost analysis.

CHAPTER 9 SEPARATE STORM SEWER SYSTEMFACTS, SPECIFICS AND REALITIES

The final chapter of this Stormwater Management Report (SMR) of the western portion of the Village is intended to highlight facts, answer common questions and dispel myths about the Village's separate storm sewer network. The following statements have been provided to help the general public understand why flooding occurs in western Wilmette and understand what the Village is doing to address the issues through the Stormwater Action Plan and the proposed improvements outlined in this SMR.

9.1.1 Is the Village drained by a combined sewer?

No, the Village west of Ridge Road is drained by a separate storm sewer system that conveys only stormwater. The east side of the Village is drained by a combined sewer, which conveys storm and sanitary water in the same sewer.

9.1.2 Will my street continue to flood if the project is constructed?

A large scale capital project will reduce frequency, depth and duration of street flooding. However, given the flat topography of the Village, during the most extreme storm events there will likely still be street flooding.

9.1.3 What are the benefits of spending Millions of dollars on a capital improvement project?

The benefits of a large scale capital improvement project include reduction in the frequency, depth and duration of flooding of streets, yards and homes. It will also reduce the likelihood of inflow and infiltration to the sanitary sewer.

9.1.4 Can the Village solve the flooding problems in western Wilmette using only green infrastructure, i.e. rain barrels and rain gardens?

While we strongly recommend the implementation of green infrastructure, it will not significantly reduce flooding by itself.