





Notes  
 Stakeholder Meeting – New Trier School District  
 Western and Southwestern Stormwater Evaluation  
 Village of Winnetka  
 November 18, 2015

Meeting Location: Winnetka Village Hall	Job No.: 1619.010
Meeting Purpose: Initial Stakeholder Meeting	

**Discussion:**

1. Introductions

<u>Name/Representing</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Contact Information</u>
• Linda Yonke, Superintendent New Trier High School District	7 Happ Road, Northfield	yonkel@newtrier.k12.il.us 847-784-6109
• Steve Linke, Facilities Manager New Trier High School District	7 Happ Road, Northfield	847-784-2074
• Rob Bahan, Village Manager Village of Winnetka	510 Green Bay Road, Winnetka	rbahan@winnetka.org 847-716-3541
• Steve Saunders, PWD and Village Engineer, Village of Winnetka	1390 Willow Road, Winnetka	ssaunders@winnetka.org 847-716-3534
• Jim Bernahl, Asst. PWD Village of Winnetka	1390 Willow Road, Winnetka	jbernahl@winnetka.org 847-716-3261
• Mike Waldron, Project Manager Strand Associates, Inc.	1170 Houbolt Road, Joliet	mike.waldron@strand.com 815-744-4200
• Mark Shubak, Project Engineer Strand Associates, Inc.	910 Wingra Drive, Madison, WI	mark.shubak@strand.com 608-251-4843
• John Lyons, Project Engineer Strand Associates, Inc.	615 Elsinore Place, Ste. 320, Cincinnati, OH	<a href="mailto:john.lyons@strand.com">john.lyons@strand.com</a> 513-861-5600
• Gary Wolnitzek, Project Consultant Human Nature, Inc.	990 St. Paul Drive, Cincinnati, OH	gwolnitzek@humannature.cc 513-281-2211

2. Items of Discussion – General

- a. The New Trier School District representatives (NTHSD) indicated that they do not have a long-range plan for their field uses and facilities.
- b. The NTHSD indicated that they are not currently coordinating their field needs with the Park District.

3. Items of Discussion – Duke Childs Field

- a. The NTHSD indicated that they were open to working with the Village to identify stormwater and flood control opportunities as long as the NTHSD’s requirement of no net loss in useable field land is met.
- b. The NTHSD expressed that they have problems with the Duke Childs Fields that they would like to address.
  - i. They have problems with foul balls being hit onto Willow Road. The NTHSD approached the Village in the recent past to request approval to build netting but the Village did not approve the request.
  - ii. There is not enough parking on the site, or at least not conveniently located for the NTHSD’s use of the site.
- c. The baseball and softball fields are used frequently. The baseball field is the home site of the school’s varsity and junior varsity baseball teams.

- d. The rectangular north-south fields (lacrosse/soccer fields) parallel to Hibbard Road are used in the spring for lacrosse and in the fall for football. There do not appear to be any significant organized sport uses of these fields, only practice use.
  - e. The NTHSD said that they do not use the Park District fields. In particular the Skokie Playfields north of Duke Childs Field.
  - f. The NTHSD indicated that their fields (assumedly including their baseball/softball fields) are typically out of use for one or two weeks a year due to wet conditions.
  - g. The NTHSD said they would love synthetic fields, but later said they would want to discuss that with their baseball and softball coaches.
  - h. The only planned improvements for Duke Childs Field is possibly replacing the building on the site that was previously used for team meetings and concessions, but has not been used to this level in recent time and replacement is not a critical item for them.
  - i. The NTHSD looked at swapping locations of the baseball and softball fields to address the foul ball issue but couldn't get the layout to work for their needs.
  - j. Duke Childs Field is a good location logistically for the NTHSD (it is located on the primary travel route between the East and West Campuses).
  - k. We discussed the potential for relocating their lacrosse/soccer fields to the Village's landfill. The NTHSD did not seem to be averse to this option.
4. Items of Discussion – East Campus (Soph-Senior Campus in Winnetka)
- a. This is the NTHSD's main campus located in the Lake Michigan watershed.
  - b. They are in the process of completing \$10M in improvements on the site including two new underground stormwater storage vaults. Copies of these engineering drawings were requested from the NTHSD.
  - c. The parking lot along Essex Road has underground stormwater storage.
5. Items of Discussion – West Campus (Freshman Campus in Northfield)
- a. The NTHSD had considered moving their fields to the West Campus, but the open area to the southwest of this campus is Forest Preserve District property, is low, and would require significant grading work. They don't feel they can make the layout here work.
6. Items of Discussion – Other NTHSD Property
- a. The NTHSD uses the Fox Meadow parks (at Waukegan and Willow Roads in Northfield) for their sports activities and invested \$1.3M to these fields in 2000.
7. Potential Opportunities Identified
- a. Any reuse of the site that maintains the current net field use.
  - b. The NTHSD did not seem to be opposed to reconfiguration of Duke Childs Field in conjunction with other Park District and Forest Preserve District uses on site as long as their current uses are maintained. Although, there were undertones of requiring a net benefit to the NTHSD in whatever changes are made.
  - c. Relocation of the current lacrosse/soccer fields to the top of the Village's landfill and using the existing fields for above ground stormwater detention. This would still allow use of the existing fields except during wet conditions and should be recognized as a net gain for the High School.
  - d. The NTHSD seemed to be acceptable to creating underground storage under the baseball/softball fields with new artificial turf fields, contingent upon agreement with their baseball and softball coaches.



- e. The Village posed a “campus” type of improvement that would entail reworking the entire site layout of both NTHSD and Park District uses on the site. This may result in more space for detention.
- f. The Village wants to be sure that the NTHSD is pursuing potential field uses with the Park District as a way of maintaining their net land use. This may allow one or more of the existing baseball/softball fields to be eliminated.
- g. The Village wants to be sure that other open spaces in the NTHSD have been investigated for use or improvement for use by the NTHSD in place of the current uses on Duke Childs Field and thus eliminate the use of Duke Childs Field and turn it into a stormwater facility.

8. Action Items

- a. Develop concept layout for new lacrosse/soccer fields on the Village landfill and determine stormwater storage at the current fields.
- b. Develop concept layout for campus use of Duke Childs Field, Park District, and Forest Preserve District property.
- c. Develop concept layout for underground storage under baseball/softball fields.
- d. Village to obtain and provide to Strand copies of the NTHSD’s stormwater management improvements at the Main Campus.
- e. Village to investigate current programming of sports activities between the NTHSD and the Park District.
- f. Strand or the Village (?) to investigate alternative field locations within the NTHSD boundaries.

9. Proposed Next Steps

- a. Provide landfill field/new storage concept to Village for consideration and then to NTHSD for their consideration.
- b. Provide concept layout for campus alternative to Village of consideration and then to Forest Preserve followed by Park District followed by NTHSD.
- c. Provide concept layout for underground storage to Village for consideration and then to NTHSD.





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— SINCE 1889 —

**DUKE CHILDS FIELDS**  
WEST AND SOUTHWEST WINNETKA STORMWATER MANAGEMENT STUDY · APRIL 2016



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# NEW TRIER TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 203



*To commit minds to inquiry, hearts to compassion, and lives to the service of humanity.®*

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TO: Board of Education  
FROM: Linda Yonke  
RE: Village of Winnetka Storm Water System Study  
DATE: April 14, 2016

The Village of Winnetka has been studying flood mitigation for a number of years. After the decision to abandon the “Deep Tunnel” approach for storm water management due to feasibility questions and high cost estimates, the Village hired Strand Associates, Inc. to study other options.

Last spring, representatives from Strand and from the Village invited administrators from the Cook County Forest Preserve District, Winnetka Park District, Winnetka Elementary District 36, and New Trier District 203 to meet with them separately to discuss the challenge of flooding in the Village and to see the preliminary results of their study. The Village and consultants had decided to focus only on the area of Winnetka west of Green Bay and south of Tower Road, with the primary objective being to relieve flooding in the “tree” streets of the Village as well as the area east of Hibbard and south of Willow Road. They are studying storage and conveyance methods for managing storm water – retention ponds, underground detention, underground conveyance, and pumping systems. Since the very first meeting, I have made clear that all of the land at Duke Childs Field is important to the extracurricular program at New Trier, and that any plans would have to result in no loss of acreage and no cost to District 203. New Trier owns the entire area known as Duke Child Fields, including the two baseball fields, the softball field, and these soccer/lacrosse fields. The fields under consideration are used for lacrosse and soccer practice and occasional contests, with softball sometimes using space at the north end of the field for pitching or batting practice (especially since the loss of space at Winnetka). In addition, we allow use of the fields by some AYSO Soccer teams and the Winnetka Park District. We use the fields in spring, summer, and fall, though not every day.

This winter, Village officials have invited me to two meetings to preview their plans. Their plans impact Duke Childs Field in a significant way. This past Tuesday, the Village and Strand Associates conducted a public meeting at Washburne School to present their study results and the conceptual plans, including a preliminary budget. I have attached five slides from that presentation, which Greg Robitaille and I attended.

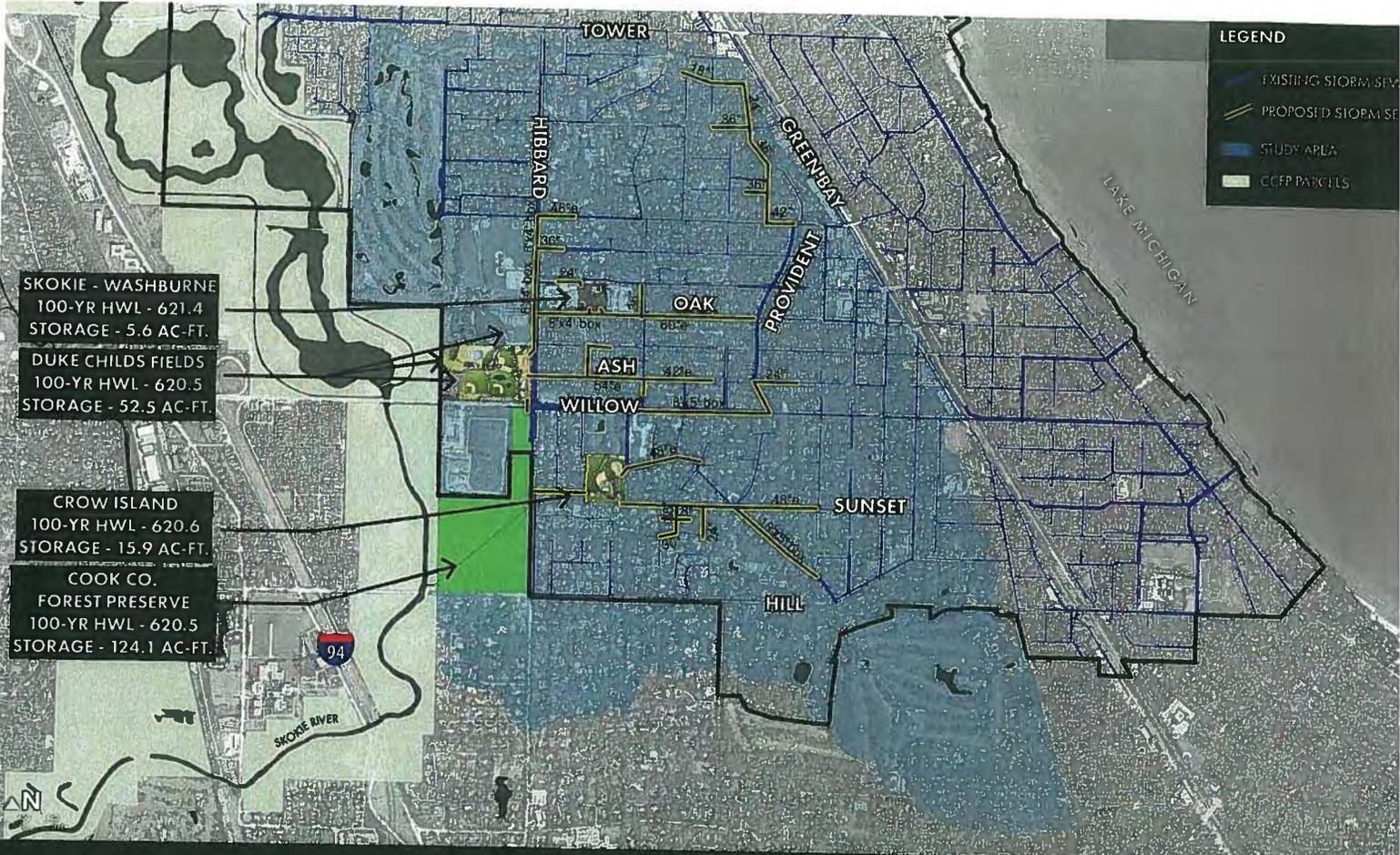
1. The first slide shows an overview of the areas being studied, with insets showing where work would be done to mitigate flooding. Those areas include the Skokie-Washburne play fields; Duke Childs Field; Crow Island Woods; and Cook County Forest Preserve land north of Winnetka Avenue, west of Hibbard, and south of Willow Road. Each of these areas was described as critically important to the success of the project, though there is no formal agreement between the Village and any other governmental entities at this time.
2. The second slide shows the plans for Duke Childs Field. The baseball and softball fields would remain intact in Phase 1 of the project, but New Trier is being asked to give up the soccer/lacrosse fields that are located adjacent to the baseball/softball fields running along Hibbard from Willow Road to the Cherry Street extension. The Village would like to significantly lower these fields and create a retention pond that would have 5-6 feet of water at all times at the south end and would be sloped around this pool to hold storm water runoff after significant rainfalls.
3. The third slide shows a street-level view/rendering of the proposed retention pond at Duke Childs Field.
4. In considering our stipulation that we cannot lose any acreage due to this project, the Village and Strand are proposing that they replace our lost acreage with newly-constructed fields on top of the Willow Road landfill. The fourth slide shows the fields and surrounding parking and access road, as well as a new Forest Preserve retention pond. Part of the road around the landfill is already in existence, but their plan is to use the land that is excavated at Duke Childs and the Forest Preserve to build up the landfill and level the top to make the new fields. This slide also shows the retention pond that would be created in the Hibbard Road Woods where water from Duke Childs and the Crow Island Woods would flow, eventually ending up in the river. This entire area of the forest preserve would be cleared, excavated, and recreated as a wetland space, similar to what it was in the 1930s when the Skokie Lagoons were created.
5. The fifth slide shows plans from Phase 4 of the project. If work from the first three phases does not mitigate the flooding issues in Winnetka, the plan is to continue with Phase 4, including lowering the Duke Childs baseball and softball fields five to six feet, reconstructing all facilities and fields, thereby creating more detention area for storm water runoff in significant rain events.

Concerns about the project proposal include the following:

1. Loss of contiguous field space: Having the fields adjacent to the baseball and softball spaces makes for easier transport of students to the site, supervision of students, and access to trainers. Students on those fields have easier access to the amenities that are on Duke Childs Field that would not be easily accessible from across the busy street.

2. **Underground detention:** In our meetings with the Village, we have proposed underground storm water detention instead of the creation of the permanent pool and retention pond. They cite the increased cost of that solution, but that is what they are doing at the Skokie playfields and that is what the Park District did in their reconstructed fields to the north of Duke Childs. I am concerned that the cost of building the fields on the landfill has been underestimated with a price tag of around \$2.1M, and that perhaps the cost of building underground detention would not be as prohibitive as first estimated.
3. **Landfill fields:** In addition to the high cost of construction and the decreased accessibility of landfill fields, other concerns arise. Will the environment be safe for students who play on the landfill? Will the landfill continue to sink? (It has dropped 10 feet since it was closed and capped in 1994, mostly in the first ten years.) Will the additional dirt added for construction accelerate its rate of sinking? Can any amenities be included in the field construction, including restrooms and shelters in case of storms? Will there be handicapped accessibility?
4. **Timing/Logistics:** Strand representatives indicate that they expect it to take two or more years to secure all the needed permissions from the Cook County Forest Preserve, assuming they do agree to include their land in the project. Winnetka would like to begin the project by excavating at Duke Child and then constructing the landfill site. New Trier would be without those fields for up to two years.
5. **Baseball/Softball field reconstruction:** I have serious concerns about lowering the height of the baseball and softball fields, including the amount of down time that would occur and the fact that they would be flooded more severely and more frequently in significant rain events. There is no substitute location for our baseball and softball fields to use either temporarily or permanently.
6. **Ownership/Lease:** New Trier District 203 owns the land at Duke Childs Field. We would not own the fields on the landfill; the Village cannot sell landfill space. Questions about ownership of the Duke Child fields as well as control of the new fields, if that option were to occur, would need to be worked out.

The purpose of presenting this item is to inform the Board about the storm water planning in the Village and to seek guidance about working with the Village on the project. We want to be good neighbors, and we recognize that flooding is a significant issue in much of the Village of Winnetka. However, we also have a strong interest in providing space for our athletic program and protecting land that we own. How to balance these interests will be an ongoing discussion as Winnetka further develops its plans for storm water management.





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**DUKE CHILDS SOCCER FIELD WET DETENTION**

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