

# Winnetka Caucus Spring Town Meeting

2015 Village of Winnetka

*Platform Plank:  
Stormwater Management  
Program*

## **2015 Report on the State of the Village**

Presented at the Annual Caucus Council Spring Town Meeting, May 20, 2015

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[Slide #1 & #2 – Village of Winnetka Report]

Caucus Council Co-Chairs Flocco and Tucker, Executive Committee members, members of the Caucus Council, neighbors and friends: Good Evening. Thank you for this opportunity to report to you on the 2014 Caucus Platform Planks, and the state of the Village.

# Winnetka Caucus 2014 Platform Plank

- ▶ The Caucus recommends that the Village Council provide additional opportunities for public input into the storm water plan.



### [Slide #3 – Plank: Storm Water Plan]

- The 2014 Village Citizen Survey last fall confirmed that residents want to see improvements in our efforts to management stormwater more effectively. We have been actively working on our promise to find solutions.

# Stormwater– 2014 Year in Review

- ▶ Completed significant construction projects:
  - Northeast Winnetka– Lloyd Outlet
  - Northeast Winnetka– Tower/Old Green Bay
  - Winnetka Avenue Pump Station
- ▶ Adopted Stormwater Master Plan
- ▶ Obtained \$2 million MWRD funding for Northwest Winnetka project
- ▶ Completed Flood Solutions Project with funding from Illinois DCEO “IKE” grant

## [Slide #4 – STMW: 2014 Year in Review]

- In 2014, we delivered on substantive improvements throughout the community, including the projects you see listed here.
- We also cannot ignore the continued progress that goes on at the table rather than in the field, such as the adoption of a Stormwater Master Plan that had been in the works for over a year.
  - We are the proud recipients of \$2 million in funding from the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District that will help bring our major pipe and capacity improvements to fruition in Northwest Winnetka.

# Stormwater Management Program

- ▶ Funding committed to-date: \$10,196,327
  - Provides improved infrastructure to over 2,400 acres of drainage area
- ▶ Northwest Winnetka
  - Work began in March, 2015
  - Anticipated completion October, 2015
- ▶ Ash Street Pump Station
  - Completion Summer, 2015
- ▶ Sanitary Sewer
  - Lining program & manhole rehabilitation
- ▶ Stormwater Development Regulations
  - 64% of residents strongly support evaluating requirements

## [Slide #5 – Stormwater Management Program]

- The Village Council continues to be stewards of our financial resources—seeking the most cost-effective solutions to bring much needed flood protection to most affected areas of the community. Including the projects completed in 2014 and those that are in the works currently, we have to-date committed or spent over \$10 million on stormwater improvements.
- The projects, either in the ground or in development, bring improved infrastructure to over 2,400 drainage acres.
- Northwest Winnetka provides 100-year protection for overland flooding and roadway/neighborhood flooding for western Forest Glen area, Greenwood, Grove, Edgewood, and Tower.
- Other, smaller projects though, cannot be disregarded for the benefit they will provide, including the upgrades at the Ash Street Pump Station and sanitary sewer improvements.
- This summer the Council will be reviewing recommendations on stormwater zoning and development regulations. Respondents to our 2014 Village Citizen survey overwhelmingly told us they supported adding new home construction development requirements for the purpose of controlling runoff.

# Willow Road STADI Project

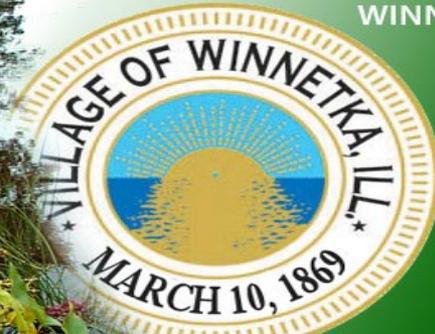
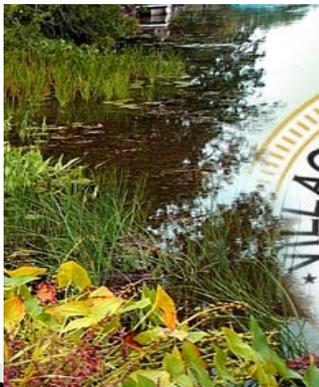
- ▶ MWH has completed two substantive “Review Points” of contract– allowing for intermediate decisions
  - June 24, 2014
  - April 28 and May 12, 2015
- ▶ Substantial increase in estimated construction costs
- ▶ Council authorized next steps: cost estimating, value engineering, and permit submittal
  - Seek to gather more data on western alternatives & ongoing water quality sampling program

## [Slide #6 – Willow Road STADI Project]

- The Village hired MWH Global as our professional engineers for the Willow Road Stormwater Tunnel and Area Drainage Improvements (STADI) project in January, 2014. This is the engineering phase of the project, where we further develop designs and details and gather information to best inform the next steps.
- The Council is advancing the project through intermediate Review Points so that we can make sure the eventual solution works and that it is cost effective.
  - The updated cost estimate took all of us, including me, by surprise. But we have taken the steps to share this information and to bring about conversation with the community. Now we are taking action to verify the costs and that the STADI project, as designed, is the most effective for Winnetka.
- Our public meetings in April and May brought about a great dialogue with the community about environmental concerns, the updated cost estimate, and how the Council will proceed. We will continue to be transparent and to listen as we work to deliver a solution to our number one infrastructure challenge.

# Stormwater Communications

- ▶ Increased dialogue and participation at meetings
- ▶ Maintaining dedicated website
  - [www.winnetkastormwaterplan.com](http://www.winnetkastormwaterplan.com)
- ▶ Condensed meeting summaries on each stormwater-related agenda item
- ▶ Continue Stormwater Monthly Reports
- ▶ Explore additional opportunities to engage & communicate with stakeholders



**WINNETKA STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

An effective stormwater management system is a vital aspect of the Village's overall vision to create and maintain a thriving and sustainable community. Pervasive flooding in recent years has caused extensive damage and financial loss for many. The Village's Stormwater Management Program outlines capital improvements that will modernize Winnetka's aging infrastructure and deliver much needed flood relief, as well as the means to equitably pay for improvements well into the future.

## [Slide #7 – Stormwater Communications]

- Our greatest resource to residents is our dedicated stormwater website, but the Village also heavily utilizes other communication methods, include Winnetka Report newsletters, E-Winnetka, Stormwater Monthly Reports, and press releases.
- The Village Citizen Survey reported that over 40% of respondents consider the Winnetka Report a major source of information, and we have relied on special newsletters to communicate about the Stormwater Management Program.

*Platform Plank:  
Commercial District  
Revitalization*

# Winnetka Caucus 2014 Platform Plank

- ▶ The Caucus recommends that the Village Council continue to study the revitalization of Winnetka's commercial districts, specifically:
  - Streamline permitting and approval process for new businesses and create a contact position to guide business owners through the process.
  - Based on the 2014 Caucus Survey, 57.9% of respondents either disagreed or had no opinion on changing the height/density codes in locations near Metra stations, so no change is recommended.
  - There was no clear consensus from respondents regarding the redevelopment of the existing Post Office site, therefore additional education and community involvement is needed before a direction is made regarding this very important community property.

[Slides #8 & 9 – Plank: Commercial District Revitalization]

- Following the two-part Urban Land Institute (ULI) Technical Assistance Panel (TAP) process in 2013, the Council has been intensely focused on a number of the resulting recommendations, many of which have been incorporated into our strategic plan.

# Economic Development

Guide to

DOING BUSINESS IN WINNETKA

510 Green Bay Road, Winnetka, IL 60093



- ▶ Economic Development Coordinator hired Oct. 2014
- ▶ Launched business-specific e-newsletter, E-Developments
- ▶ Expanded special events & coordination with Chamber of Commerce
- ▶ Business outreach, focus on retention & attraction efforts

## [Slide #10 – Economic Development]

- Most strategically, we hired our first Economic Development Coordinator, Denise Dahl, late last year. She has been an asset in coordinating with the business community—focusing on retention and attraction efforts.
- Stormwater communications are not our only area of strength. This year, we've launched a business-specific e-newsletter and started developing a business section of the Village website. In April, the Village published its first Guide to Doing Business in Winnetka. The new publication is available on our website for download.
- This year we look forward to continuing to sponsor the Chamber in its activities, but also to expanding events such as the North Shore Art League's Art in the Village and our upcoming TEDxWinnetka Women program.

# Downtown Master Planning

- ▶ 7 respondents to February, 2015 Request for Proposals
- ▶ Currently evaluating & conducting interviews
- ▶ Scope of work emphasizes: communications plan, market analysis & development opportunities for key sites
- ▶ Process anticipated to take 12 to 15 months



## [Slides #11 – Downtown Master Planning]

- At the end of 2014, Council and staff worked closely to develop an RFP for Downtown Master Planning services. We are excited to begin this process that will complete a missing component of the Village's 2020 Comprehensive Plan. Both the ULI TAP process and our citizen survey showed strong support for the Village integrating the many components of our commercial districts and supporting revitalization efforts for their long-term success.
- You can expect to see a Master Plan process with a strong public engagement component and communications plan. We are also focused on the data and analysis the Village requires to make future plans for key sites, such as our Post Office property.
- The Village is in the midst of the interview process now and hopes to bring a consultant forward for approval in June.

# Recent Village Actions– Regulatory

- ▶ Commercial district parking & building height regulations
  - Adopted February, 2015
- ▶ Streamlined application process for Special Use Permits within the Retail Overlay District
  - Adopted April, 2015
- ▶ Evaluation of Overlay District
  - To be part of Downtown Master Plan

## [Slide #12 – Recent Village Actions- Regulatory]

- In 2014 and early 2015, the Village's advisory board commissions, including the Business Community Development Commission, Plan Commission, and Zoning Board of Appeals, were tasked with recommendations related to our regulatory environment.
- Ultimately, the Council adopted new parking and building height regulations for the commercial districts.
- We also responded to feedback from our business community about the time it takes to go through the Village's approval process, especially for special use permits that arise in the Retail Overlay District. Council adopted a streamlined application process that will allow new businesses to open doors sooner.

## [Slide #13 – QUESTIONS]

# Questions?