

Flood Hazard Preparation Tips Before the Flood

1. Safeguard your possessions.

Create a personal flood file containing information about all your possessions and keep it in a secure and safe place, such as a safe deposit box or waterproof container. This file should have:

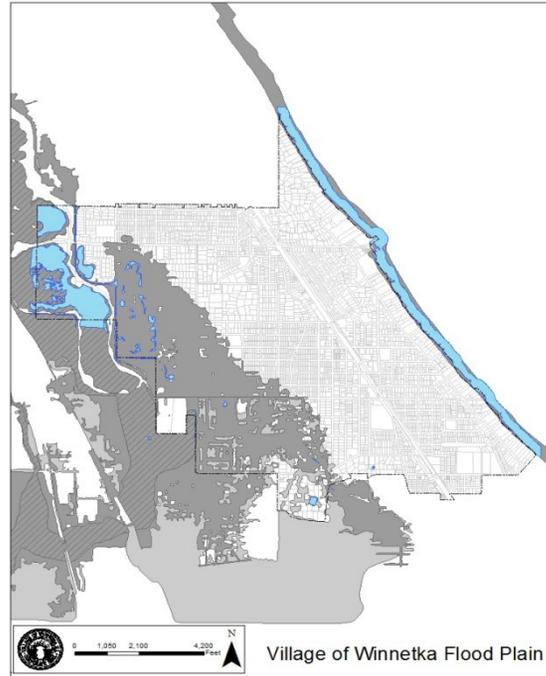
- A copy of your insurance policies with your agents contact information.
- **A household inventory:** For insurance purposes, be sure to keep a written and visual record of ALL major household items and valuables. Include serial numbers and store receipts for major appliances and electronics. Have jewelry and artwork appraised. These documents are critically important when filing insurance claims. For more information visit www.knowyourstuff.org.
- Copies of all other critical documents, including finance records or receipts of major purchases.

2. Prepare your house.

- Check to see that the sump pump is working properly and consider installing a battery operated backup and water alarm to let you know if water is collecting in the basement.
- Clean gutters, downspouts, inlets...
- Raise electrical components (switches, outlets, circuit breaker, furnace, water heater, washer/dryer) to the Flood Protection Elevation (FPE = BFE + 2'; or 627.3 NAVD 1988 – Skokie River)
- Move furniture and valuables to a safe place.

3. Develop a family emergency plan.

- Create a safety kit with drinking water, canned food, first aid kit, blankets, battery operated radio and flashlight.
- Post emergency telephone numbers by the phone and teach your children how to dial 911.
- Plan and practice a flood evacuation route and know safe routes from home, work and school that are on higher ground.
- Have an emergency family contact.
- Have a plan to protect your pets.



Flood plain inquiries can be directed to the Engineering Department of the Village of Winnetka, and can be made in person, by telephone, or by e-mail. The Engineering Department is located at the Village Yards, 1390 Willow Road, Winnetka. While any of our Engineering Staff can answer your questions, our Flood Plain Managers are Obaid Khalid, Assistant Village Engineer, who can be reached at 847-716-3532 or okhalid@winnetka.org; and James Bernahl, Director of Engineering, who can be reached at 847-716-3261 or jbernahl@winnetka.org. For flood plain inquiries, please provide the Village with the street address of the property in question.

For general questions or concerns regarding local flooding, drainage issues or sewer back-ups, contact 847-716-3568, and your call can be directed to the appropriate Public Works staff.

Village of Winnetka

Know Your Flood Hazard



Public Works Engineering Department

Phone: 847.716.3568

The Winnetka Flood Plain

A flood plain is land that is typically adjacent to a body of water that has its ground elevation at or below the 100-year base flood elevation (A 100-year storm event is one that has a 1% chance of occurring in any given year). In Winnetka, there are two sources of flood plain - the Skokie River and Lake Michigan. The Skokie River's 100-year base flood elevation (BFE) is 625.3 NAVD 1988, which is generally consistent throughout the limits of Winnetka, but does vary south of Hill Road. The BFE and Flood Zone Designation for Lake Michigan are presently undergoing revisions. Based upon the results of the Great Lakes Coastal Flood Study, FEMA is in the process of revising the BFE for Lake Michigan, which will be rising from a constant BFE of 585 NAVD 1988, to a variable BFE ranging from 587; 588; 591 and 594 NAVD 1988, depending upon where the property is situated along the lake front. The Flood Zone Designation will also be revised from Zone AE to Zone VE, which takes into account wave action. These revised Lake Michigan BFE's are proposed to take effect in March 2021.

The flood plain is made up of two components, the flood way and the flood fringe. The flood way is a more restrictive development area than the flood fringe. All of the residential areas within the Village of Winnetka that are located within the flood plain are located within the flood fringe.

If you are a recipient of this letter, then your property is either located within the 100-year flood plain; is immediately adjacent to the flood plain, and/or may be subject to flooding.

Previous Flooding Events

Although the Village of Winnetka has not witnessed a 100-year flood event in recent history, we have experienced several 100-year plus storm events, most recently in April of 2013, July of 2011 and September of 2008. There have also been several river bank overtopping events, but not up to the 100-year BFE.

If one were standing near the intersection of Hibbard Road and Ash Street, the elevation of a 100-year flood event would be approximately 2.3 feet deep, well above the knee of an adult.

Flood Causes

Probably the most common source of flooding occurs during heavy rainstorm events when the capacity of the storm sewers has been exceeded due to the increase of storm water flow. This situation can readily worsen if the storm sewer inlet structures or other storm water conveyance systems are covered or blocked with leaves, or other debris, as well as ice. Once storm water starts ponding on the street surface, the potential for that water to infiltrate into the sanitary sewer system, increases. As a result, basement back-ups can occur for those homes with a gravity sanitary sewer.

Flood Preventative Measures

It is important to remember not to dump or throw anything into ditches, swales, streams or other water conveyance systems, including storm inlets and manholes. Even grass clippings, mulch and branches can accumulate and block drainage.

Over the past several years, the Village of Winnetka has taken significant steps toward minimizing storm water runoff from developments, as well as requiring that storm water quality management techniques be implemented for each development. Every permit issued in the Village of Winnetka that results in an alteration of the existing drainage pattern requires that some form of storm water management and water quality control be implemented as part of the design. All permits issued in the flood plain require that compensatory storage be provided in the flood plain in order to maintain the existing capacity of our flood plain storage without having to increase its boundaries.

The Village has also undertaken several large scale storm water management projects, the details of which can be found on the Village's website www.villageofwinnetka.org, searching Stormwater Management Program or Monthly Reports.