

Flood Protection Tips

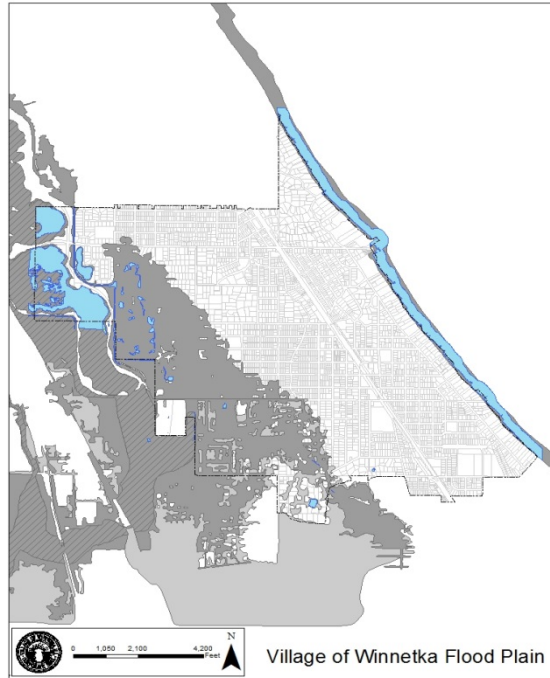
Develop a family emergency plan.

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

For more information on emergency preparation, talk to your insurance agent or visit Ready.gov.

The Village's website has a Flood Plain Information page with an abundance of flood plain related information. The website is at: www.villageofwinnetka.org

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



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 Manager is Susan Chen, Assistant Village Engineer, who can be reached at 847-716-3532 or schen@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

Protecting People from Flood Hazards



Public Works Engineering Department

Phone: 847.716.3568

Flood and Storm Safety

During a storm or flood event, please keep the following safety precautions in mind:

- Do not walk through flowing water. Currents can be deceptive; six inches of moving water can knock you off of your feet. If you have to walk through standing water, use a pole or stick to ensure that the ground is still there. Often times, the force of the water can lift manhole covers right off of the manhole, and whether the manhole is 2' deep or 15' deep, falling into one could cause serious injury or death.
- Avoid driving through a flooded area, as it could cause not only damage to the vehicle, but could potentially cause injury or loss of life. Don't drive around road barriers, as the road or bridge may be washed out or otherwise compromised.
- Stay away from downed power lines and electrical wires. The number two flood killer after drowning is electrocution. Electrical current can travel through water. Report downed power lines, power outages or water outages to 847-501-2531.
- Look out for small animals, especially snakes. Small animals that have been flooded out of their homes may seek shelter in yours. Use a pole or stick to poke and turn things over and scare away small animals.
- Look before you step. After a flood, the ground and floors are covered with debris including broken bottles and nails. Floors and stair that have been covered with mud can be slippery.
- Be alert for gas leaks. Use a flashlight to inspect for damage. Don't smoke or use candles, lanterns, or open flames unless you know the gas has been turned off and the area is well ventilated.

Flood Prevention and Protection

All residents can assist the Village of Winnetka's efforts to prevent and minimize flooding in Winnetka by doing the following:

- Do not dump or throw anything into ditches, swales, streams or other water conveyance systems. Dumping or altering grades is in violation with the Village's ordinance Sections 9.16.020.B.11; 14.04.130.A.1; 15.32.080.G and L; and 15.68. Even grass clippings, mulch and branches can accumulate and block drainage. When a drainage-way is obstructed, the water can get displaced onto adjacent properties, potentially causing flooding.
- If you see dumping or debris in ditches, swales or streams, or any filling within the flood plain (including the placement of mulch, soil, timbers, stone, raised gardens or patios, porches, sheds, or any other material or structure, please contact the Public Works Department at 847-716-3568, and the Village can investigate the situation and follow the necessary procedures to handle the violation. It is important to make the call while the activity is in process. Otherwise, it can be very difficult to assess whether it is a new or existing condition.

Flood Prevention and Protection (Continued)

- If you are considering development on your property, including altering, regrading or filling on your property, a permit will most likely need to be obtained through the Community Development Department, with approval by the Public Works Engineering Division, to ensure that there will be no fill in the flood plain and no adverse drainage impacts on adjacent properties. Contact the Village of Winnetka Permit Clerk at 847-716-3520 and Engineering at 847-716-3568 to determine whether a permit or approval will be required prior to the work commencing. Again, it is important to make the call while the activity is in process. Otherwise, it can be very difficult to assess whether it is a new or existing condition.
- If your property is adjacent to a drainage ditch or swale, please do your part and keep the area clear of brush and debris. The Village of Winnetka has a maintenance program which can help remove major blockages such as downed trees.
- If you see a building or filling without a Village permit posted, please contact the Community Development and/or Public Works Department at 847-716-3520 or 847-716-3568.