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# CALUMET STORMWATER COLLABORATIVE

## Fundamental Challenges

The following fundamental challenges have been distilled from the system maps collectively created on June 6th. With the goal of identifying the key objectives for the Collaborative, we will examine the causes of these challenges, what is currently being done to address them, what else needs to happen, and who is key to addressing them.

- 1. Consequences of non-overbank flooding.**  
Examples: Property damage. Public health related to mold and direct sewage exposure. Excessive street ponding.
- 2. Consequences of overbank flooding.**  
Examples: Impaired right of ways as a result of flooded streets and underpasses. Stream channel erosion. Loss of recreational opportunities due to flooded ball fields and parks.
- 3. Drain on public resources from repeated, ineffective, partial interventions.**  
Examples: Costs of individual municipal rain barrel programs. Street patching as opposed to pipe repair. Demonstration projects that have not added up to anything greater.
- 4. Drain on private resources from repeated, ineffective, partial interventions.**  
Examples: Foundations and other private resources spent on disjointed efforts or temporary fixes.
- 5. Degraded water quality from non-point source pollution.**  
Examples: Algal blooms in surface waters from nutrient runoff.
- 6. Degraded water quality from point source pollution.**  
Examples: Public health implications of combined sewer overflows. Limited recreational use of the Chicago or Calumet Rivers.
- 7. Declining infrastructure performance and sufficiency over time.**  
Examples: Infiltration and inflow of stormwater in sewer pipes of separate systems. Loss of functionality of green infrastructure without maintenance.
- 8. Overconsumption of potable water for non-potable needs.**  
Examples: Rain not used as a resource. Algal blooms in potable water fed lagoons due to phosphorus additions. Treatment and energy costs associated with toilet flushing with potable water.
- 9. Underutilization of existing assets.**  
Examples: Loss of storage potential associated with non-"smart" sewer system that overflows before all pipes fill up. Some assets not yet recognized as potential assets: i.e., vacant land.

## For more information contact:

Josh Ellis  
Metropolitan Planning Council  
312.863.6045  
[jellis@metroplanning.org](mailto:jellis@metroplanning.org)

