

Stormwater Credit Trading in Cook County + StormStore™

Piloting Trades in (2) MWRD Watershed Planning Areas
Lower Des Plaines River + Little Calumet River

CALUMET STORMWATER COLLABORATIVE
MARCH 6, 2020

What is StormStore™ ?

- *...a partnership between **The Nature Conservancy** and **Metropolitan Planning Council**...*
- *...a collaborative effort to enable and improve...*
- *...a **Model Marketplace** for Stormwater Credit Trading...*

What is Stormwater Credit Trading?

- *...an infrastructure siting and capacity development tool...*
- *...a market-based approach to distributing excess capacity...*

Key Updates

2020 is a Inflection Point for StormStore

- MWRD is set to vote on enabling policy (late March)...
- Our work is shifting in Cook County...
 - ... from Research + Advocacy
 - ... to Market Development + Administration
- In the City of Chicago, we're still in Research + Advocacy mode...

How did we get here?

The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) began developing the Watershed Management Ordinance (WMO) in 2007...

2014 MWRD Watershed Management Ordinance (WMO) Update

- Established stormwater management requirements for new real estate development
 - Volume Control - retain water on site via green infrastructure
 - Detention - detain water to slow release back to sewer system
- Allowed for offsite stormwater **detention** facilities with site constraints

2019 MWRD WMO Update

- Allowed for offsite stormwater **retention** facilities with site constraints

Current Challenges to building Offsite Facilities

Despite these previous updates to the WMO...

...No offsite facilities have been permitted in Cook County

Risks to participation:

- Trades must occur within a novel (untested) marketplace
- Developers do not have a simple way to identify supply sites
- Offsite retention/detention facilities involves a specific agreement between the development site and a mitigation site
- **Participants must demonstrate that site constraints prevent them from providing onsite retention/detention**

Upcoming Offsite Stormwater Controls Opportunity

To remedy the limitations of the WMO...

2020 MWRD WMO Update (~late March)

- Enables offsite stormwater retention and detention for development without site constraints in two MWRD Watershed Planning Areas
 - Little Calumet River
 - Lower Des Plaines River
- Authorizes a 5 year window for development of offsite facilities

Goals of MWRD Pilot Study

- A. To determine if allowing offsite retention or detention controls results in increased risk of flooding to downstream area

- B. To determine if allowing offsite retention or detention controls for developments in two sample watersheds without requiring developers to prove they have a site constraint or limitation
 - a. leads to more development in these watersheds, and/or
 - b. leads to construction of stormwater retention facilities in flood prone areas within the watershed planning area

- C. To determine whether additional conditions should be placed on developments that seek to use offsite detention and volume control facilities, in order to protect adjacent properties or to administer the program more effectively.

Lower Des Plaines Priority Communities

Bellwood

Berwyn

Broadview

Cicero

Des Plaines

Elmwood Park

Franklin Park

Leyden Township

Lyons

Maine Township

Maywood

Melrose Park

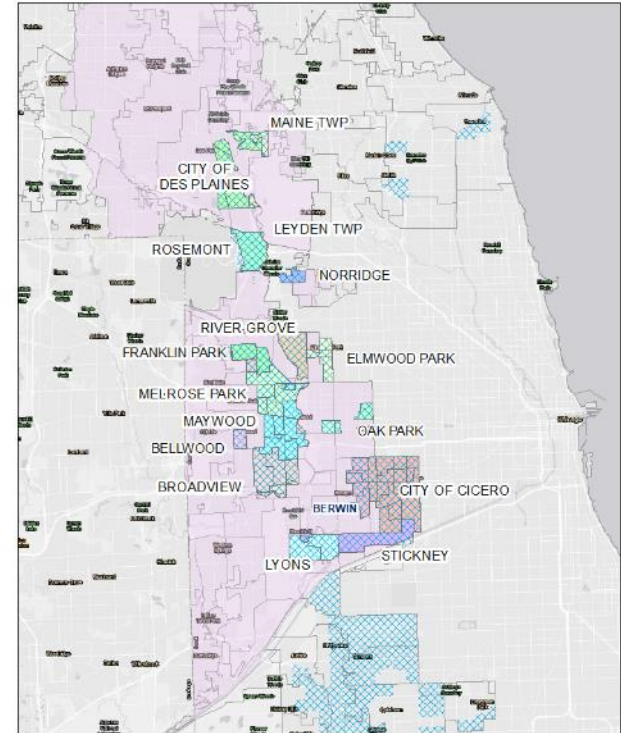
Norridge

Oak Park

River Grove

Rosemont

Stickney



 Flood Risk Target Areas (Greenprint)
 Des Plaines Watershed

Des Plaines Watershed Pilot Study
Priority Communities

Little Calumet Priority Communities

Blue Island

Burnham

Dixmoor

Dolton

Calumet City

Hazel Crest

Harvey

Lansing

Markham

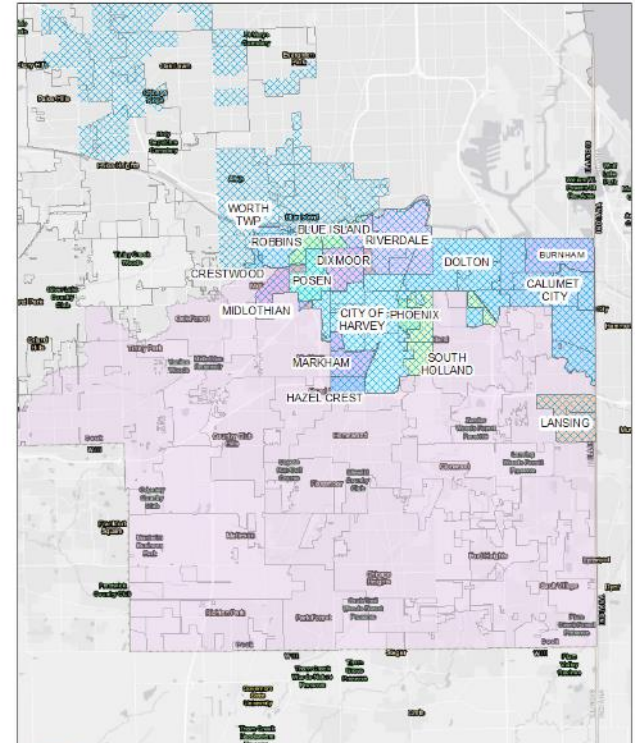
Midlothian

Posen

Riverdale

Robbins

South Holland



Blue cross-hatch pattern: Flood Risk Target Areas (Greenprint)
Purple background: Little Calumet Watershed

Little Calumet Watershed Pilot Study
Priority Communities

Next Steps + How can you help?

- **We are looking for potential sites to participate in Pilot**
 - *Do you know a site? A developer? A municipal or institutional partner?*
- **We are resurrecting the StormStore™ Advisory Committee**
 - *Is there someone in one of these watersheds we should engage?*
- **We want to get the word out, especially to the pilot watershed communities**
 - *Are there networks? Publications? Coalitions?*



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