


SITE VISIT SCHEDULE: OCTOBER 11, 2024

As we visit each site today, we'll see first-hand how Calumet City has committed to protecting its residents from the challenges of a changing climate through infrastructure interventions seeking to bring sustainable solutions to communities vulnerable to flooding.

FIRST STOP: 10:25 AM
2068 Stewart Ave

Green Alleys and how to fund them

SPEAKER:
Matt Buerger, City Engineer




THIRD STOP: 11:05 AM
South Yates Avenue & 143rd Street

Detention Ponds: how to fund them, and what happens without maintenance.

SPEAKERS:

- Matt Buerger, City Engineer
- Calumet City Water Superintendent




SECOND STOP: 10:45 AM
Stanley Blvd & 163rd Pl

Lead Service Line Replacement

SPEAKERS:


- Matt Buerger, City Engineer
- Calumet City Water Superintendent



FINAL STOP: 11:30 AM
204 Pulaski Rd | Calumet City Hall

SPEAKERS:

- Thaddeus Jones, Mayor of Calumet City
- Kendra Freeman, MPC Vice President of Programs and Strategic Impact



Map labels: LINCOLN AVE, WENTWORTH AVE, ILLINOIS, INDIANA, Forest Preserves of Cook County, Calumet City Prairie and Marsh Nature Preserve.



Scan for interactive map

A Journey Through Calumet City's Stormwater Resilience

Calumet City has long lived under the threat of flooding. Located in a low-lying area, the city has faced storms, each leaving behind damaged homes, streets transformed into rivers, and neighborhoods grappling with the aftermath. The heavy rain event on September 17, 2023 is still fresh in memory. That day, an intense storm battered the city, bringing downpours so severe that entire blocks were submerged, and a state of emergency was declared.

Yet, Calumet City is also a place of resilience. As the frequency of these extreme weather events grows with climate change, the city has been working hard to safeguard its future. A series of projects, from green alleys to sewer upgrades, are setting the foundation for a flood-resilient city. Today, we'll walk through these transformative efforts—projects that stand as a testament to the city's determination to adapt, protect, and thrive.

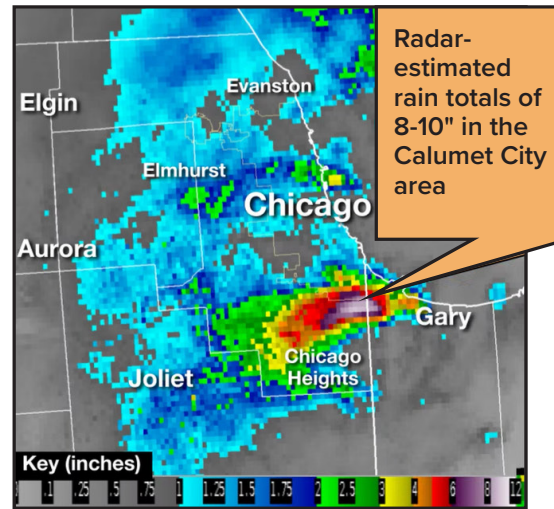
Our journey begins in the heart of the neighborhood, where we'll visit the **green alleys**. These aren't your typical back streets. Instead of cracking asphalt and puddled water, these alleys are paved with permeable surfaces that allow rainwater to infiltrate into the ground. They might look simple, but these green alleys are essential to managing stormwater, reducing the burden on the city's drainage systems and preventing localized flooding.

Next, we'll move on to the **lead service line replacement** efforts—a vital but often overlooked part of the city's infrastructure. Lead pipes pose serious health risks, especially in older communities like Calumet City. During this stop, we'll discuss the city's ongoing efforts to replace these hazardous pipes, focusing on how funding opportunities are being leveraged to make replacements affordable—or even free—for the private component of the service line. These initiatives are not only protecting public health but also ensuring that all residents, regardless of income, have access to safe, clean water.

Our third stop is the **detention pond**, a serene yet powerful piece of infrastructure. At first glance, it looks like a typical body of water. But during a storm, this pond becomes an essential tool for flood control, temporarily storing excess rainwater that would otherwise overwhelm the city's drainage systems. By holding back water during heavy downpours, the detention pond reduces the risk of downstream flooding, protecting homes and businesses in its path.

Together, these projects are part of a broader, coordinated effort inspired by initiatives like RainReady, which seek to bring sustainable solutions to communities vulnerable to flooding. Each intervention—whether it's a green alley, an upgraded sewer, or a well-placed detention pond—is a critical piece of Calumet City's climate resilience puzzle. These projects don't just respond to the flooding problems of today; they anticipate the storms of tomorrow.

As we visit each site today, we'll see first-hand how these interventions are not just infrastructure—they are the physical embodiment of Calumet City's commitment to protecting its residents from the challenges of a changing climate.



Green Infrastructure Grant Opportunities

Scan the QR codes below to learn more!

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) is seeking proposals for projects to construct green infrastructure best management practices (BMPs) that prevent, eliminate, or reduce stormwater runoff, reducing localized or riverine flooding in Illinois' rivers, streams, and lakes. Projects that implement treatment trains (multiple BMPs in series) and/or multiple BMPs within the same watershed are encouraged as they may be more effective and efficient than a single large green infrastructure BMP. BMPs may be located on public or private land. **Submission Close Date: 11/20/2024**



NOAA Great Lakes Fish Habitat Restoration Partnership Grants

Funding to support habitat restoration projects (up to 3 year award period) that will lead to significant and sustainable benefits for Great Lakes native fish species. Proposed activities may include future project development and feasibility studies; engineering and design; permitting; on-the-ground restoration; pre- and post-removal implementation monitoring; stakeholder engagement, including in tribal, indigenous and underserved communities; building the capacity of new and existing restoration partners to manage multi-faceted project design and construction; and education and outreach.

Proposal Deadline: 10/28/2024

