

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you would like more detailed information regarding flood-related issues here are some additional resources:

- FEMA website [www.FEMA.gov](http://www.FEMA.gov)
- Lake County Stormwater Management Commission [www.lakecountyil.gov](http://www.lakecountyil.gov)
- Village of Gurnee [www.gurnee.il.us](http://www.gurnee.il.us)

Reference material is also available at the Warren Newport Public Library at 224 N. O'Plaine Road, Gurnee

**Be aware. Be prepared. Be safe.**



### Village of Gurnee

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## Flood Information



## Flood Hazards



Flooding in the Village of Gurnee can be the result of isolated drainage problems or river flooding from the Des Plaines River and its tributaries. River flooding is especially hazardous and is frequently associated with a floodplain or Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). The watershed for the Des Plaines River begins in Union Grove, Wisconsin and consists of over 224 square miles upstream of IL Route 120. Flooding along the Des Plaines River is usually the result of snow melt or rainfall over a large portion of the watershed area including Wisconsin. Flooding along the tributaries is usually a result of a large rainfall in the Village itself.

Questions regarding isolated drainage problems and information on whether your property is in the SFHA can be directed to the Village of Gurnee Engineering Division. The Village maintains copies of the Federal Insurance Rate Maps and Elevation Certificates for individual properties.

## FLOOD SAFETY

The following common sense guidelines can help you from the dangers of flooding:

- Do not drive through a flooded area. More people drown in cars than anywhere else.
- Do not walk through flowing water. Currents can be deceptive. Six inches of water can knock you off your feet.

- Stay away from power lines and electrical wires. If your house is about to be flooded, turn off the power at the service box.

Be alert to gas leaks. Turn off the gas to your house before it floods. If you smell gas, report it to North Shore Gas.

- Keep children away from the flood waters, ditches, culverts, and storm drains. Culverts are capable of sucking people into them.

- Clean everything that has been wet. Flood water will be contaminated with sewage and other chemicals which pose severe health threats.

- Look out for animals. Small animals that have been flooded out of their home may seek shelter in yours.

- Do not use gas engines, such as generators, or charcoal fires indoors during power outages. Carbon monoxide exhaust can pose serious health hazards.

{ Tel: 847.599.7550 }

# Flood Information for the Village of Gurnee

## PROPERTY PROTECTION MEASURES



Flooding on Kilbourne

If your property is susceptible to flooding, there are many flood damage reduction measures you can employ.

- Watertight seals can be applied to brick and block walls to protect against low-level flooding.
- Utilities such as heating and air conditioning systems, water heaters, and other major appliances can be elevated to higher floors in the structure or on raised platforms.
- Temporary measures such as moving furniture and other valuables to higher floors or sandbagging exterior openings will also help.
- Elevating or relocating the entire structure may also be a feasible option.

## FLOODPLAIN PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

All development within the SFHA (not just construction of buildings, but filling, excavation, fences, etc.) is required to obtain a Watershed Development Permit. Applications must be made prior to doing any work in a floodplain area. You may also report any illegal development activities to the Village of Gurnee.

## SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT / DAMAGE

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) requires that if the cost of improvements to a building or the cost to repair damages (from any cause, not just flooding) to a building exceeds 50% of the market value of the building (excluding land value), the entire building must be brought up to current floodplain management standards. Building improvement projects include any additions, remodeling, repairs, or reconstruction projects. The cost of improvements are cumulative over time and will be added to the cost of previously made improvements and compared to the existing market value to determine if the improvements exceed 50% of the structure's value.



## NATURAL & BENEFICIAL FUNCTIONS

Undeveloped floodplains provide beneficial functions to the Des Plaines River watershed by improving water quality, reducing runoff, and protecting the land from erosion. Walking on the Des Plaines River Trail you can see an ecosystem that is tolerant of flooding and capable of filtering runoff water using nothing more than natural vegetation.

## FLOOD INSURANCE

If you do not have flood insurance, talk to your insurance agent. Most homeowner's insurance policies do not cover damage from floods. Flood insurance is only available to those participating communities in the

NFIP. Because of our floodplain management programs Gurnee is part of the NFIP and thus, residents are able to obtain flood insurance. Be sure to check your policy to ensure you have adequate coverage. Usually these policies cover the building structure, but not the contents. Contents coverage can also be obtained by asking. There is a 30-day waiting period before flood insurance coverage becomes effective. Plan ahead; do not wait until a flood is predicted before purchasing flood insurance. If you are inside the floodplain, the purchase of flood insurance is mandatory if using a federally regulated / insured bank for a loan.

## DRAINAGE SYSTEM MAINTENANCE

As simple as it may sound, simply keeping storm sewers, ditches, and streams free of debris can dramatically improve the run-off capacity of low-lying areas, as well as greatly reduce the occurrence blockage that significantly contributes to flooding. It is illegal to dump materials into a waterway and violators may be fined. If you see someone in the act of dumping please contact the Gurnee Police Department immediately. To report debris in one of our watercourses please contact the Gurnee Public Works Department for cleanup.

## FLOOD WARNING SYSTEM

Many times flooding along the Des Plaines River within Gurnee can be predicted days in advance, however, in the event of a flash flood due a large rain event, you may be the first to notice the oncoming situation and have only hours to execute your plan. Notify the Village if there is question as to the severity of the problem.

The Village's Emergency Operation Plan will be implemented any time people or property are threatened by flooding. Public notification will occur using the most effective means possible and may include in-person contact, Connect-CTY phone calls, press releases to local news organizations, Emergency Warning System sirens, etc.

## HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The Village of Gurnee maintains historical flood information from the 1986 Des Plaines River flood through the present day. Damage assessment data and photographs are available to be viewed at the Village Hall during normal business hours.

## FLOOD PROTECTION ASSISTANCE

The Village of Gurnee has professional staff available to assist property owners with drainage or flooding problems, flood map interpretation, flood insurance requirements, and building protection guidance. Please contact the Engineering Division with any questions or concerns that you may have.