RainReady Home
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Key Projects

- Cook County Residential Resilience Program
- City of Chicago Residential Flood Assistance Program
- RainReady Oak Park
Virtual Home Flood Risk Assessment

My RainReady
Enter your address to start the online assessment of your home flooding risks

Enter your address to begin

Note: My RainReady does not collect or share any information about you or your building.
My RainReady

The selected property is located within a RainReady Community Plan area and includes the following information:

- Year property was built: 1928
- FEMA flood risk: Minimal Risk
- RainReady neighborhood flood risk score: High

Please complete the remaining survey questions about your location, home and flood history.

Learn more about Riverdale’s Resilience Opportunities here: Riverdale RainReady Plan
FEMA National Flood Hazard Layer
Resilience Planning Tool
RainReady Riverdale Survey

Respondents experiencing flooding problems:
- 97% Yes
- 3% No

87 survey respondents

$4,109 is the average amount spent on stormwater-related repairs

$1,533 is the average amount residents are willing to invest to reduce risk of future damage
Parcel-specific data

Guided questionnaire to determine type of flooding or flood risk (19 questions)

Tips for answering questions and reducing flood risk

Do your neighborhood **streets flood** when it rains?

- Yes
- No
- I don’t know

Tip: Take a look at your street when it next rains, and take photographs. Look to see if it is flooding in areas where there is a street **sewer grate**. This might help identify the cause of the street flooding. The sewer grate could be clogged with litter or leaves. If the sewer grates are clear, but street flooding still occurs, your municipality may have installed restrictor valves in the street’s sewer inlet. The purpose of these devices is to slow the flow of water entering the sewer system. This reduces the risk of sewage and stormwater runoff backing up into your basement.
Resilience Opportunity
- Business Districts, Shopping Centers, and Downtown
- Houses and Neighborhoods
- Industrial Centers and Railroad Corridor
- Open Land and Natural Areas

Learn more about Rivervale’s Resilience Opportunities here: Rivervale

Do your neighborhood streets flood when it rains?

☐ Yes  ☐ No  ☐ I don’t know

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(example photos)
Questions about property to assess risk factors:

- home age
- sewer system
- yard ponding
- slope of yard
- erosion
- etc.
Questions about flood history:
- How many times?
- What type?
- Estimated damages?

Tip: If water has entered the property in the past, it is can happen again unless the problem has been solved. In a survey of homeowners in Cook County, Illinois, most respondents said they flooded repeatedly - 70% said they had flooded at least 3 times in the last 5 years. And flooding isn't limited to the FEMA-mapped floodplain. Read more in CNT’s report, "The Prevalence and Cost of Urban Flooding (PDF)."
My RainReady Report

Property Location
13845 S Wabash Ave, Riverdale, IL 60827, USA

Survey Summary

13845 S Wabash Ave, Riverdale, IL 60827, USA

Your Location
- FEMA flood risk: Minimal Risk
- Home is at lower elevation
- Flooding in streets

Your Home
- Year Built: 1929 (older building)
- Lot: 50% impervious (high risk)
- Backyard ponding / erosion
- More than one year since rodding home's sewer line
- Drains or catchbasin always full / collapsed or have sheen inside
- Clogged or damaged gutters and/or downspouts
- Inadequate downspout discharge
- Foundation damage (efflorescence, mold, spalling or water stains)
- Windows susceptible to stormwater
- Door or window frames susceptible to stormwater
- Basement plumbing

Your Flood History
- Previous flooding (5 times)
  - Water backup through drains (ex., floor drains, bathtubs, sinks)
  - Water seeps through basement walls
- Estimated Cost of Damages: $4,200

View Your Report
19 of 19 questions answered
### Flood Risk Indicators

#### Your Location
- Home is at lower elevation
- Served by old sewer system
- Flooding in streets

#### Your Home
- High % of impervious surfaces
- Yard or concrete slopes towards building
- More than one year since rodding home's sewer line
- Drains or catchbasin always full / collapsed or have sheen inside
- Connected Downspouts
- Inadequate downspout discharge
- Foundation damage (efflorescence, mold, spalling or water stains)
- Door or window frames susceptible to stormwater

#### Your Flood History
- Previous flooding (3 times)
  - Water backup through drains (ex., floor drains, bathtubs, sinks)
  - Water seeps through basement walls
- Estimated Cost of Damages: $10,000

- Risk indicators based on location and on questionnaire
Add nature-based solutions to your yard

Recommended because you indicated:
- Your property has a high percentage of surfaces that are impervious to rain
- Your home has areas that show efflorescence, mold, spalling or water stains or damage
- Water seeps through your basement walls

Your yard offers many opportunities to manage flooding. Many of these solutions are do-it-yourself and cost-effective. Others should be done by an experienced landscape contractor.

- Let rain soak into a rain garden or bioswale that uses porous soil and water-loving plants. Rain gardens are bowl-shaped; bioswales are line-shaped.
- Capture and store rain in a rain barrel, cistern or dry well. Rain barrels and cisterns sit above ground; dry wells are an underground chamber.
- Reduce stormwater runoff by replacing concrete or asphalt with permeable paving.

Nature-based solutions work best when they capture the rain water from your roof. You can do this by disconnecting your downspout and directing it into the rain garden or bioswale. If you use a rain barrel or cistern, be sure to empty it before heavy rains. Some homes use multiple rain barrels to increase the amount of rain that can be stored. Stored rain can be used to water your yard.

See our factsheets, "Making Your Yard RainReady (PDF)" and "Options for Flood Prevention (PDF)" to learn more about nature-based solutions. Check out our videos of homeowners using nature-based solutions to address seepage and yard ponding.

Typical costs (Chicago, IL):
- Rain garden or Bioswale: $500 to $4,000, depending on size and if you want to do-it-yourself
- Dry well: $2,500

- Nature-based solutions based on location and questionnaire
- Links to informational resources (next slide)
- Typical costs
Add nature-based solutions to your yard

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- Rain garden or Bioswale: $500 to $4,000, depending on size and if you want to do-it-yourself
- Dry well: $2,500
Avoid pouring fats, oils or grease into drains and catch basins

**Recommended because you indicated:**
- It has been more than one year since rodding home's sewer line
- Your drains or catchbasin are always full / collapsed or have sheen inside

Fats, oils and grease can clog drains and cause sewer backup. Read our factsheet, “Your Building’s Sewer Pipe” for more information.

*Typical cost:* Free

Rake sewer grates to clear out any leaves and litter

**Recommended because you indicated:**
- Your neighborhood streets flood when it rains
- Drains or catchbasin always full / collapsed or have sheen inside
- It has been more than one year since rodding home’s sewer line

Leaves and litter can clog sewer lines and contribute to street flooding. If you anticipate a heavy rain or snow thaw, it’s a good idea to clean the grates along your street beforehand.

*Typical cost:* Free

- Behavior-based solutions based on location and questionnaire
Install basement window well covers or replace basement sliding windows with glass block windows

**Recommended because you indicated:**
- You have plumbing in your basement, such as floor drains, a sink or toilet
- Your windows or doors are below or at grade or you have sliding windows without a window well

Window well covers keep rain, leaves and animals out of your window wells. Glass block windows are less prone to water intrusion than sliding glass windows.

**Typical Cost (Chicago, IL):** Window well covers: $600

Install a sewer backup prevention system

**Recommended because you indicated:**
- You have plumbing in your basement, such as floor drains, a sink or toilet
- Your windows or doors are below or at grade or you have sliding windows without a window well
- Your home has previously flooded
- Water backs up through drains (ex., floor drains, bathtubs, sinks)

There are multiple types of sewer backup prevention systems. Sewer backup prevention systems must be installed and maintained by a licensed contractor. See our factsheet "Options for Flood Prevention" for more information.

1) **A backwater valve** prevents sewer backup by installing a one-way flap in your private building sewer. Think of it as a one-way swinging door – water can flow out, but if your system backs up it cannot flow back in. Backwater valves can be installed inside your...
Recommendations for Your Home

- Add nature-based solutions to your yard
- Avoid pouring fats, oils or grease into drains and catch basins
- Rake sewer grates to clear out any leaves and litter
- Clean your gutters and downspouts seasonally, and repair as needed
- Create a soil berm or concrete lip around the home
- Disconnect and extend your downspouts
- Maintain your foundation walls with tuckpointing, crack repair and/or waterproofing
- Install a sewer backup prevention system
- Install foundation drain with sump pump and sump pit
- Purchase a sewer backup rider for your home insurance policy
- [...]
**Recommendations for Your Community**

- **Northeast Sewer Separation/Flood Relief Project**  
  Strategy: Reduce widespread flooding in the Northeast Riverdale neighborhood through concentrated and integrated green (e.g. stormwater) and gray (e.g. transportation) infrastructure investments.

- **Riverdale Prairie Industrial Redevelopment**  
  Strategy: Redevelop industrial sites in a way that reduces nearby flooding.

- **Riverdale Marsh Nature Preserve**  
  Strategy: Develop the Cal-Sag Trail other outdoor recreation amenities.
My RainReady

For those who do not qualify for the RainReady program, My RainReady allows homeowners to virtually assess their parcel.

- Homeowner self-diagnosis to identify what type of flooding they are experiencing and recommend appropriate solutions.
- Educates and empowers homeowners to make the best decisions about appropriate interventions for their specific issues.
- Particularly useful for homeowners in the Calumet region.

http://my.rainready.org/