Stormwater Credit Trading in Cook County + StormStore™

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

Blue Island  Lansing
Burnham     Markham
Dixmoor     Midlothian
Dolton      Posen
Calumet City Riverdale
Hazel Crest Robbins
Harvey      South Holland
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 the networks? Publications? Coalitions?

Ryan Wilson
rwilson@metroplanning.org

Jen Jenkins
jennifer.jenkins@tnc.org