## I FLOOD AND I VOTE

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## Stop the Flooding NOW!, Virginia Beach, VA

Virginia Wasserberg and William Jennings

## RainReady Chatham, Chicago, IL

Lori Burns

# **Coalition for Wetlands and Forests**, Staten Island, NY, *Gabriella Velardi-Ward*

**Residents Against Flooding**, Houston, TX *Ed Browne* 

### **Our questions**

- What are the state and national legislation/policies we should be pushing for?
- Who can we work with? (organizations/individuals)
- How do we build political influence? (national/state/local)





Communities and scientists working together, using Earth and space science, to advance local priorities relating to climate change, natural hazards & natural resources.

www.thrivingearthexchange.org @ThrivingEarth tex@agu.org

- Community Impact
- Over 80 Projects; 25 completed
- Impacting over 12 million people
- 12 projects with Flood Forum, more to come









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Ocean City, NJ



Port Arthur, TX



Houston, TX





Connellsville, PA



Virginia Beach, VA

Lafayette, LA

# Our Process



### How we make a difference together:

- With new knowledge gained, community leaders demonstrate increased confidence in speaking with local elected officials about flooding issues and advocating for change
- Working alongside a pro-bono hydrologist can:
  - Increase a community leader's credibility
  - Clarify confusing terminology
  - Encourage communities to think on long-term horizons
  - Help communities think outside the box when it comes to solutions
- Scientists can leverage their science for good, learn new skills, develop new friends and colleagues, and reach new communities





EXISTING DEVELOPMENT EXISTING OPEN SPACE AND PARKS







In Illinois, 92% of flooding occurs outside of the floodplain.

In Chatham, 100% of flooding occurs outside the floodplain, as there are no floodplains in the neighborhood.

The majority of flood victims, whose homes and businesses flood after rainwater overwhelms drainage systems, are an invisible majority left with few resources.



#### **Urban Flooding**

2007-2014 insurance claims were submitted in 99% of Illinois counties.

National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) claims were only 2.9% of the total.

Average claim was \$6,559

Illinois insurance payouts and federal relief for urban flooding **totaled more than \$2 billion** in the period of 2007-2014, according to the UFAA study conducted by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

#### **Urban Flooding**



#### Ideally:

Chatham can reduce the volume of storm water from streets, driveways, roofs, and parking lots in the neighborhood, to have a significant impact on reducing its flooding problems.

#### **Objective:**

Improve local storm water management through protective ordinances, workforce development, and improved data sharing.

#### **Challenges:**

- 1. Low-lying topography
- 2. Increasing impervious surfaces
- 3. Changing climate
- 4. Aging infrastructure
- 5. Insufficient resources

#### **Urban Flooding**

# The City of Chicago has the necessary programs in some form, such as:

- Residential Flood Assistance Program
- Complete Streets and Green Alleys
- Chicago Public School's Space to Grow
- Basement Flooding Partnership
- Private Drain Program
- Capital Improvement Program
- GreenCorps Chicago workforce development program
- Thrive Zone Development Grants
- Tax Increment Fund
- Neighborhood Housing Services
- Chicago Park District partnerships

## What we lack is a coordinated policy campaign with designated leadership,

high-visibility public outreach, and engagement for application of these programs in the communities.



# The City of Chicago has the leadership, expertise, partnerships and track record to help Chatham's residents.

CLICK:

https://www.bigmarsh.org/ http://rainready.org/chicago-pioneers-rain-ready-practices https://chicagotonight.wttw.com/2017/10/11/woodlawn-ground-approach-healthier-safer-community

# SAVE Graniteville Wetlands and Forest DON'T FLOOD T OUR HOMES NW.SICWF.OR

## **GRANITEVILLE FLOOD MAP**





















CLOMR 17-06-297R - Jones & Carter submitted (8 months after LOMR 15-06-0275P became effective), on behalf of MetroNational, the request for a conditional map revision. With lowered BFEs, most of the property is taken out of the floodplain; no mitigation for fill required.

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Interactive map showing all the groups on our website floodforum.org!