

## FLOOD HAZARD AREAS

The Village of Bartlett has some flood plain areas. On the northwest side of town is the Brewster Creek Tributary. In the middle of town there is some floodplain in the Wayne Grove Forest Preserve. The northeastern part of the Village has the Brewster Creek floodplain, which flows to the West Branch of the DuPage River floodplain.

Flash-flooding is the general type of flooding caused by heavy rain events. A flooding event can occur with 2 to-4 inches of rain in a 3 to-4 hour time period on some streets throughout the Village. Several detention areas may rise during these events. However, all of the Village streets are designed to additionally store storm water for a period of time.

The Village experienced a record rain event in September of 2008; almost 9 inches of rain occurred in less than a 24- hour period. The Village has made several drainage improvements since then and is continually making improvements in the community.

## INFORMATION

Information on whether your property is in the 100-year floodplain can be obtained by coming into the Village of Bartlett Building Department. Maps are available for viewing, as well as other flood-related information. Contact the Village of Bartlett Building Department. (630) 837-0800 for further assistance.

## FLOOD SAFETY

The following commonsense guidelines can protect you from the dangers of flooding:

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

# BARTLETT FLOOD INFORMATION

- Stay away from power lines and electrical wires. If your house is about to be flooded, turn off the power at the service box. Electrical current can travel through water. Electrocution is the second leading cause of death during floods.
- Be alert to gas leaks. Turn off the gas to your house before it floods. If you smell gas, report it to the Fire Protection District, Village official or your gas company. Do not use candles, lanterns or open flames if you smell gas or are unsure if your gas has been shut off.
- Keep children away from flood waters, ditches, Culverts and storm drains. Flood waters can carry unimaginable items that have dislodged themselves. Culverts can suck in smaller people, rendering them helpless.
- Clean everything that has been wet. Flood water is contaminated with sewage and other chemicals which pose severe health threats.
- Look out for animals, especially snakes. 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.

## PROPERTY PROTECTION MEASURES

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 onto 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 100-year floodplain (not just construction of buildings, but filling, excavation, fences, etc.) requires a Village Development Permit. Applications must be made prior to doing any work in a floodplain area. Please contact the Village Building Department, (630) 837-0800, to receive all the information you need to properly develop in the floodplain. You may report any illegal development activities to the above number as well.

## SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT/DAMAGE

If the cost of improvements to a building or the cost to repair damages (from any cause) to a building exceeds 50% of the market value of the building (excluding land value), the NFIP requires that the entire building be brought up to current floodplain management standards. Building improvement projects include exterior and interior remodeling, rehabilitation, additions and repair and reconstruction projects. Please contact the Village of Bartlett Building Department at (630) 837-0800 for further information.

## FLOOD INSURANCE

If you do not have flood insurance, talk to your insurance agent. Most homeowner insurance policies do not cover damage from floods. Flood insurance is only available to communities participating in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Because of

Bartlett's floodplain management programs which attempt to protect property owners from multiple flooding hazards, the Village is part of the NFIP and residents are able to obtain flood insurance. Additionally, because the Village participates in FEMA's CRS program, flood insurance premiums are discounted.

Be sure to check your policy to ensure you have adequate coverage. Typical 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 building inside the floodplain and are using a federally regulated/bank for a loan, the purchase of flood insurance is mandatory.

## **NATURAL & BENEFICIAL FUNCTIONS**

Floodplains play a valuable role in providing natural benefits to the Village of Bartlett and the surrounding area. Floodplains that are relatively undisturbed provide a wide range of benefits to both human and natural systems. These benefits besides as being open spaces also provide aesthetic pleasure as well as function to provide active processes such as filtering nutrients.

**Wayne Grove Forest Preserve and Hawk Hollow Forest Preserve** floodplains are used as a means to filter farm chemical run-off so that these areas can maintain biodiversity and ecosystem sustainability. Both floodplains contain historic and archeological sites that provide opportunity for education and study. Both enhance waterfowl, fish and other wildlife habitats and provide feeding/breeding grounds. And lastly, both floodplains provide natural erosion control and open space so further flooding damage does not occur.

## **DRAINAGE SYSTEM MAINTENANCE**

As simple as it may sound, keeping smaller 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 required waterway and violators may be fined. If you see someone in the act of dumping or see debris in one of Bartlett's watercourses, please contact the Village Public Works Department at (630) 837-0811.

## **FLOOD WARNING SYSTEM**

Many times, flooding of streets and parking lots in Bartlett can be predicted, allowing ample time for preparation and evacuation. However, in the event of a flash flood due to a large rain event, there may only be hours to execute a plan. Once the Bartlett Police and Bartlett Fire Protection District are notified of an oncoming flood event, the Village's Emergency Alert System will be activated. The Village can send a Code Red or mass emergency notification system alert to the entire Village or a specific neighborhood. Community alerts and additional safety information will also be posted to the Village website and cable television station.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Here are some additional resources for flood-related issues in the Village of Bartlett:

- FEMA.gov website
- Village Office (630-837-0800)  
228 S. Main Street  
Bartlett, IL 60103
- Floodplain FAQ page on the [www.village.bartlett.il.us](http://www.village.bartlett.il.us)
- Bartlett Public Library