

Glossary of Terms

Asset Mapping: A community's assets are specifically identified, described, and visualized on the map.

Community Assets: Any institution, organization, group, location, or space that community members value because it is a resource for members.

Capital Plan: The budget plan for the town's projects. Looking at a multi-year capital plan will inform readers of the town's priorities, what are sources of funding, and often focuses on the physical infrastructure the town is investing in.

Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP): Metropolitan planning agency that is responsible for developing long and short range plans for the Chicago region, distributing federal transportation dollars, and creating regional flood resources <https://www.cmap.illinois.gov/> (flooding resources [here](#))

Climate Equity and Jobs Act (CEJA): Passed by the Illinois General Assembly in September 2021 it includes ways for the state to phase out carbon emissions from the energy and transportation sectors. CEJA is a bold law that will put Illinois on a path to a 100% clean energy future by 2045, protect public health from pollution, provide economic development options for fossil-fuel dependent communities, enact tough utility accountability measures, and create jobs and wealth in Illinois' Black and Brown communities. The Illinois Clean Jobs Coalition brought this legislation to pass with lots of advocacy. <https://ilcleanjobs.org/>

Community Development Block Grants (CDBG): Program providing annual grants to states, cities, and counties to develop communities. CDBG's funds provide some flexibility to design and implement strategies tailored to their own needs and priorities. Some portion, if not all, is focused on funding communities with high numbers of vulnerable populations. The county is a main distributor of this funding source. <https://www.cookcountyil.gov/service/community-development-division>

Disaster Declaration: A formal statement by a jurisdiction that a disaster or emergency exceeds the response and/or recovery capabilities. When the president declares this, it can open additional immediate and long-term federal funding opportunities for the people and jurisdictions of those declared locations.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA): An agency within the United States Department of Homeland Security whose primary purpose is to coordinate the response to a disaster that has occurred in the United States that overwhelms the resources of local and state authorities <https://www.fema.gov/>

Grants: County, State, and Federal governments can apply for grants that can cover stormwater infrastructure. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (signed into law in 2021) makes federal funding available for infrastructure projects (including water infrastructure, learn here: <https://www.epa.gov/infrastructure/water-infrastructure-investments>). Private grants and foundations may also have funding available, depending on their focus.

Gray Infrastructure: Structures such as sewers, pipes, roads, water treatment plants, dams, or seawalls that support stormwater management.

Green Infrastructure (GSI): Structures or installations that filter and absorb stormwater where it falls as they copy natural systems like forests, wetlands and soils. This type of infrastructure provides additional benefits for human well-beings, for example- management of extreme heat by cooling down surrounding locations or better air quality.

Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT): State agency in charge of maintaining state-owned public roadways in Illinois as well as providing funding for transportation projects including federal funding to local jurisdictions. They can support GSI projects on certain roadways.

<https://idot.illinois.gov/>

Impermeable Surfaces: Also known as impervious surfaces, are solid surfaces that do not absorb water creating run off and contributing to overburdened sewer systems. These commonly include asphalt, concrete, and brick pavers.

Intercepting Sewers: The neighborhood sewer under the street, which carries water from multiple homes or buildings to a larger MWRD intercepting sewer.

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD): A government body operating in Cook County whose main purpose is the treatment of wastewater and flood management. Created by the State of Illinois with an elected Board of Commissioners. <https://mwrdd.org/>

Mutual Aid: Groups or systems that provide support to community members and can operate independent of government policies/actions.

OAI, Inc: Workforce development non-profit in the south suburbs. They have a program around training for green stormwater infrastructure maintenance. <https://oaiinc.org/>

Permeable Surfaces: Also known as porous or pervious surfaces, they allow water to filter into the soil or under-surface storage. These commonly include mulch, turf, and planting beds. It eases the immediate burden to sewer systems by slowing down how much water rushes into them.

Planning Staff: Municipal staff responsible for planning for land use, economic and community development, emergency preparedness, etc. They often work with other departments including public works, police, or fire to develop plans that include stormwater infrastructure. Some municipalities have their own in-house staff, whereas some hire a planning firm that provides a staff member to the municipality for a contracted period of time.

Public Private Partnerships (PPP): When a private organization (For-Profit entity) partners with the government to provide a service or project traditionally provided by government. The funding comes from the government's budget (originally from taxes), payments by those who use the service, and some private financing. Non-profits and community groups can also have similar relationships with government

Public Works: Municipal agency responsible for maintenance of infrastructure including roads, snowplowing, drinking water, and stormwater. Some communities have engineers on staff.

State-Revolving Loan Fund (SRF): Additional funding source for communities to address infrastructure repairs and upgrades, including green and grey infrastructure projects. When communities apply for funding, they have to pay back the SRF loan amount, though communities with lower median household income are offered partial or total loan forgiveness. <https://epa.illinois.gov/topics/grants-loans/state-revolving-fund.html>

The River Network has a [free course](#) to learn more about using SRFs to advocate.

Stormwater run off: Rainwater that flows overland or runs off streets, lawns and other impermeable surfaces.

Taxes: Largest source of finance for any municipality.

Property Taxes: Collected by the County and then paid out to the municipalities.

Sales Taxes: Additional source of revenue for communities, rate varies by community.

Topographic Wetness Index: Used to predict where water may collect, and pool based on a community's elevation changes (when the sewer system is full). Areas at the bottom of hills are where water will collect and pool.

Town Manager or Administrator: Oversees the budget and responsible for all of the town's departments. Ultimately responsible for stormwater management of the community's roadways and other public spaces and infrastructure. Also responsible for developing the capital plan. They will work with Mayor/Council and financial staff to develop a capital plan.

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA): Federal government agency on food, agriculture, natural resources, rural development, nutrition, and related issues. They provide some funding opportunities, especially for more rural communities. <https://www.usda.gov/>

Urban Flooding: Flooding that occurs when stormwater accumulates on streets, sidewalks, and yards, often due to the lack of absorbent land and overwhelmed sewer systems.