

## **Wilmette Government Partners Approve Final Plans to Move Forward with Construction of Neighborhood Storage Project**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

WILMETTE, IL. (March 11, 2020) - The Village will soon break ground on the first phase of the West Side Neighborhood Storage Project, which will provide flood relief to thousands of Wilmette residents who live west of Ridge Road.

The entire project is the single largest public works investment ever made by the Village and includes three underground storage vaults to store excess stormwater, keeping it out of streets, yards and basements. The \$68 million project is being funded by a new stormwater utility fee assessed on all properties, which went into effect on Jan. 1. Construction will begin in April at Community Playfield to be followed by Hibbard Park (Phase 2) in 2021 and Thornwood Park (Phase 3) in 2022. In addition to these three underground storage basins, the Village will build over a mile of new stormwater relief sewers on Wilshire Drive, Wilmette Avenue and Meadow Drive. Additionally, the Village has already conducted underground storm sewer work to expand sewer capacity as part of this project (Phase 1A).



Photo courtesy of Baxter and Woodman

The Village Board initially approved the project in 2018 following five years of study and an intensive public education campaign. Since then, the Village has been working to obtain the necessary approvals to start construction, including agreements with the Wilmette Park District for use of their property at all three sites, as well as the Wilmette School District 39 for property easements.

“We truly appreciate the support of our fellow governmental agencies. This project would not be possible without their assistance,” Village President, Bob Bielinski said. “We are also thankful for the residents who live around Community Playfield who will endure a summer of construction. The Village is committed to doing whatever we can to minimize impacts from construction. We recognize this will present some temporary inconveniences, but the benefits of this project will last generations.”

Residents are invited to learn about the project at a construction Open House on Thursday, March 19 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Wilmette Public Works Facility located at 711 Laramie Ave. The event will have display boards, project plans and the construction team will be available to answer questions and discuss the project. For more information on the Neighborhood Storage Project, visit [wsnsp.com](http://wsnsp.com).

Staff contact: Brigitte Berger-Raish, P.E.  
Director of Engineering and Public Works  
[bergerb@wilmette.com](mailto:bergerb@wilmette.com) / 874-853-7627  
Village of Wilmette