

## FLOOD HAZARD AREAS

The southeastern most portion of the Village of Roxana is located in or near the 100 year floodplain. These areas of Roxana may be affected by Indian Creek, Cahokia Creek, or the Cahokia Diversion Channel.

If the Mississippi River is at flood stage, interior ponding on the north side of the Wood River Drainage and Levee District's north bank may also create flooding concerns for this portion of Roxana during heavy rain events. This concern will pass, once the river stage drops to a level where the Cahokia Diversion Channel will again collect water that has been trapped north of the levee during heavy rain events.

The United States Army Corps of Engineers has completed the Grassy Lake Pump Station along Route 111, in an area adjacent to a portion of Roxana's floodplain area. This pump station will operate automatically during moderate levels of interior flooding to eliminate any flooding concerns.

Interior flooding in this area was a concern, but careful monitoring of the Grassy Lake Pump Station and Cahokia Diversion Channel water levels have minimized the impact of flooding in this area.

320 Publicity: Information on whether a parcel of property is in the 100 year floodplain can be obtained by coming into the Roxana Village Hall and having the Public Works Director review the property parcel with you. Maps are available to look at as well as other flood related information. The Village also has Elevation Certificates for new developments available back to 2001. Contact the Public Works Directors office at (618) 254-0980 for further assistance.

## FLOOD SAFETY

The following common sense guidelines can help keep you from the dangers of flooding:

- Do not drive through a flooded area. More people drown in cars than any where 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.

## ROXANA 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. Electrocutation is the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 a 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 the flood waters, ditches, culverts and storm drains.

Flood waters can carry unimaginable items that have dislodged themselves.

Culverts may suck smaller people in rendering them helpless.

- Clean everything that has been wet. Flood water will be 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 on 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.) is required to obtain a Village Development Permit for floodplain activities.

Applications must be made prior to doing any work in a floodplain area. Please contact the Public Works Directors Office to receive all the information you will need in order to properly develop in the floodplain at (618) 254-0980. You may report any illegal development activities to the above number as well.

## SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT/DAMAGE

The NFIP requires that 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 entire building must be brought up to current floodplain management standards. Building improvement projects include exterior and interior remodeling, rehabilitation, additions and repair and reconstruction projects. Additionally, the cost of currently planned improvements will be added to the cost of previously made improvements and compared to the existing market value to determine if the improvements exceed 50% of the structure's value. Please contact the Village Clerks Office at (618)254-4709 to reach our Building Inspector.

## **FLOOD INSURANCE**

If you do not have flood insurance, talk to your insurance agent. Most homeowner's insurance policies do not cover damage from floods. Flood insurance is only available to those participating communities in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Because of our floodplain management programs that attempt to protect us from the multiple flooding hazards, Roxana is part of the NFIP and thus, 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. Usually these 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, the purchase of flood insurance is mandatory if using a federally regulated/insured bank for a loan.

## **NATURAL & BENEFICIAL FUNCTIONS**

Floodplains play a valuable role in providing natural and beneficial functions to the area around and including portions of Roxana. Floodplains that are relatively undisturbed provide a wide range of benefits to both human and natural systems. These benefits provide aesthetic pleasure as well as function to provide active processes such as filtering nutrients. Indian Creek and Cahokia Creek that pass thorough some areas of Roxana are used as a means to filter farm chemical run-off so that these areas can maintain bio-diversity and ecosystem sustainability. Floodplains may contain historic and archeological sites that provide opportunity for education and study. Floodplains also enhance waterfowl, fish, and other wildlife habitats and provide

feeding/breeding grounds. And lastly, floodplains provide natural erosion control and open space so further flooding damage does not occur.

## **DRAINAGE SYSTEM MAINTENANCE**

As simple as it may sound, simply 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 our watercourses, please contact the Public Works Directors Office at (618) 254-0980.

## **FLOOD WARNING SYSTEM**

Many times, flooding along the Cahokia Diversion Channel within portions of Roxana can be predicted and controlled in advance, giving ample warning for preparation and evacuation if the need for such actions ever developed. However, in the event of a flash flood due a large rain event, you may be the first to notice the oncoming situation and have only a few hours to evacuate. Notify the Roxana Fire Department at (618) 254-8293, or 911 in case you are in immediate danger. The Village's Emergency Response Department will react accordingly. Also, please watch local St. Louis Television Stations during storm events to follow local and National Weather Service Updates. You will also see regular interruption on local radio and television stations advising you of dangerous weather situations.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

If you should require further or more detailed information regarding flood-related issues in Roxana, here are some additional sources:

- [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov) website
- Public Works Directors Office (618) 254-0980  
400 South Central Avenue, Roxana, IL 62084

- Floodplain FAQ page on the [www.Roxana-il.org](http://www.Roxana-il.org) website
- Roxana Public Library