



Downspout Disconnection Assistance Program

Village of La Grange Park

Program Overview

January 2017

Downspout Disconnection

- A downspout is a pipe that carries rainwater/snowmelt from the roof of your home or gutters into the sewer system via a drain pipe connection.
- Disconnecting rooftop gutter downspouts can greatly reduce the amount of stormwater entering the sewer system. It is also an important step in reducing the risk of basement flooding and releasing polluted rainwater into our local waterways.



Background - Why Disconnect?

- One of 8 Flood Mitigation Strategies identified by the Village.
- A Village Survey demonstrated that 47% of homes connected to combined system.
- Residential roofs contribute approximately 12% of the flow during a heavy rain event.
- Downspout connections centralize the roof runoff into the system causing peak discharges.
- Disconnection will increase the capacity of the sewer and allow the water to infiltrate the soil, reducing peak flow, minimizing the surcharging of the sewer.



Village Requirements

- A mandatory downspout disconnection has been the law for several years in La Grange Park.
 - All gutter downspouts must be disconnected from the combined sewer system at the point of sale of the home.
 - This required disconnection is the responsibility of the seller of the home.
- Recently, the Village updated the ordinance to ensure that single family home disconnections are complete by January 2019.
- *Exemptions may be granted if the disconnection causes a substantial hardship.*
- The Downspout Disconnection Assistance Program provides incentives in the form of reimbursements to help owners meet the deadline.
- Funded in large part by a \$416,000 State grant, reimbursements assist homeowners with simple and challenging disconnections, and Best Management Practices such as rain gardens. All reimbursements are first come, first served.

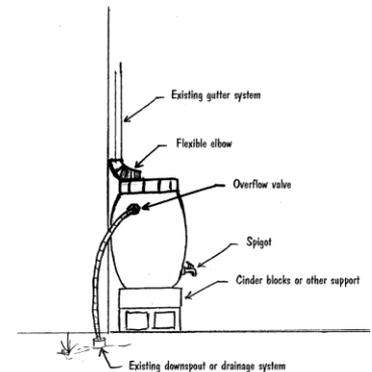
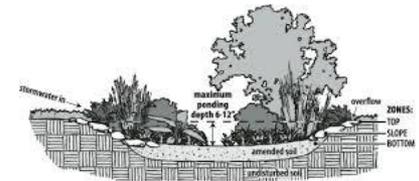
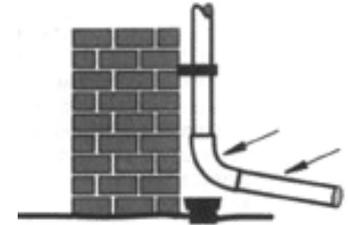
How Disconnection Program Helps

- Mandatory disconnect by a date certain – more efficient to monitor.
- Best possible outcome for community-wide benefit where water quality is improved (reduction in pollutant run-off).
- Mitigates overflow into Salt Creek and Des Plaines River.
- Rainwater would not have to be treated, resulting in reduction in energy costs.
- Program offers incentives to residents to comply with ordinance and assist with complex disconnections.
- Program offers funding for BMPs to manage impacts onto personal property.

Assistance Program – General Overview

The Assistance Program includes incentives to residents for:

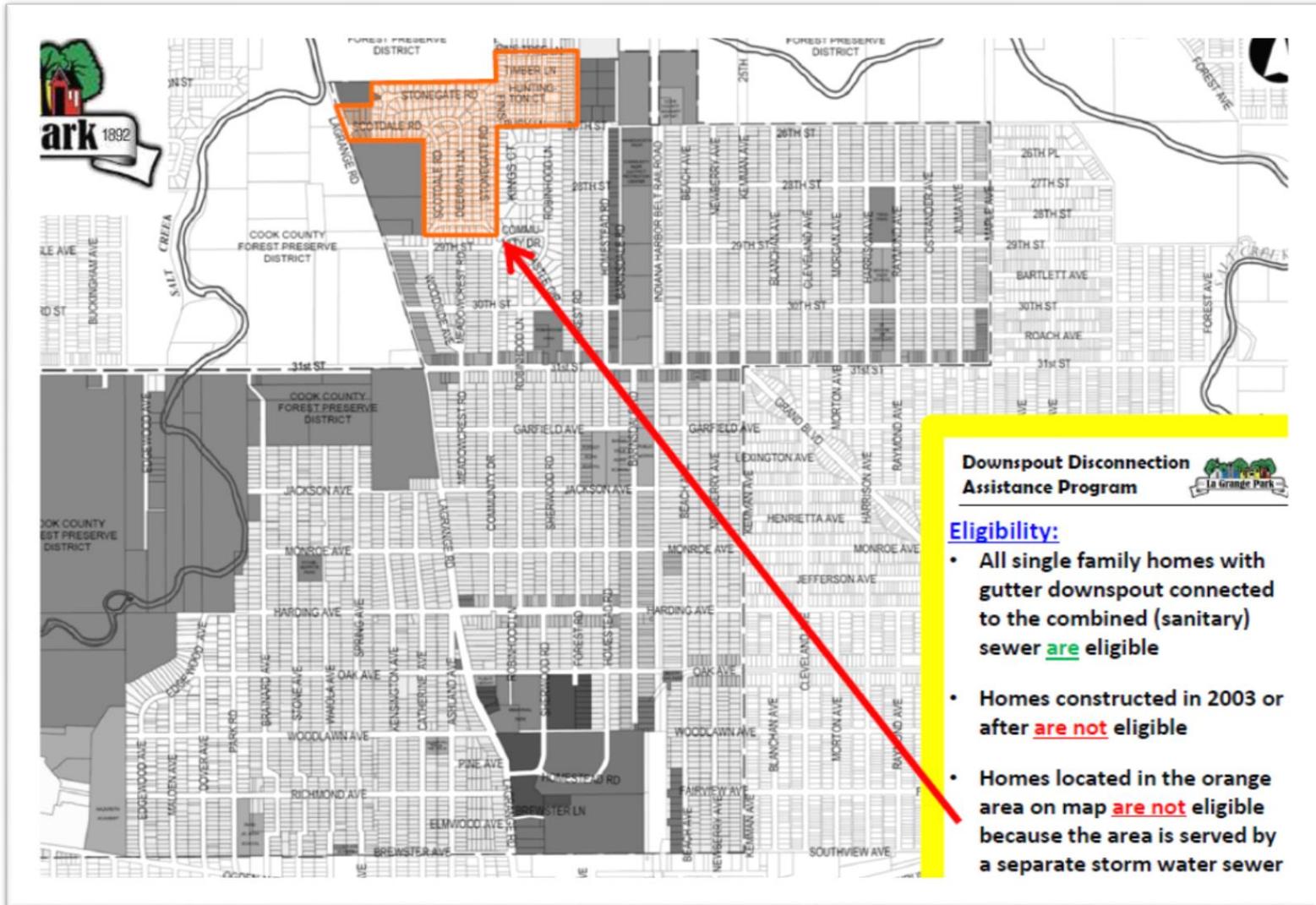
1. Costs associated with downspout disconnections.
2. A maximum rebate for costs associated with installing a rain garden. This additional rebate program is for qualified residents whose disconnection would result in overland pooling.
3. Free rain barrels for residents who have disconnected downspouts. This program is in partnership with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District.



Eligibility

- All single family homes with gutter downspouts connected to the combined (sanitary) sewer are eligible.
- Homes constructed in 2003 or later are not eligible (the Village already verified that there is no connection).
- Homes located in the orange area on the Eligibility Map are not eligible because the area is served by a separate storm water sewer.

Eligibility

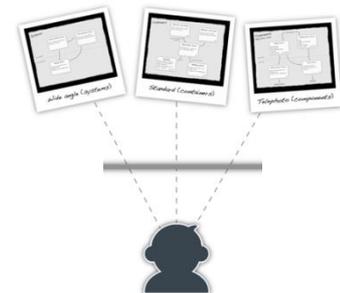


Assistance Program - Detail

| Downspout Disconnection Assistance Program Types | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|---|--|---|
| Plan | Parameters | Materials | Description | Reimbursable at |
| A/B Simple Disconnection | Materials Only | A: Elbows splash pad, discharge extension | Does not include Rain Barrels Does not include labor | 100% of costs are reimbursed, capped at \$100 per household |
| | Materials Only | B: Elbows splash pad, discharge extension, small section of new roof gutter | Does not include Rain Barrels Does not include labor | |
| RAINBARREL | Materials and Delivery Only | Rain barrels are available for purchase directly from Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) via their website www.mwrdd.org | Does not include labor | Not eligible for reimbursement |
| Plans Below require Program Permit | | | | |
| C Complex Disconnection & Simple Reroute | Materials @ 100% | Includes materials in Plan A & B as well as costs associated with rerouting portion of roof gutters to new viable discharge location | Requires completion of a Program Permit and Village Approval | Capped at \$400 per household |
| | Labor @ 75% | | | |
| D Complex Disconnection & Complex Reroute | Materials @ 90% | Includes materials in Plan A & B as well as costs associated with rerouting portion of roof gutters to new viable discharge location | Requires completion of a Program Permit and Village Approval | Capped at \$800 per household |
| | Labor @ 70% | | | |
| E (BMPs) | All Materials & Labor | Materials associated with rain garden or infiltration swale | Requires completion of a Program Permit and Village Approval | Capped at \$400 per household |

Process – The BIG PICTURE

- Roll out program – education
- Program Survey for residents
- Identify a pilot group for Village sponsored disconnections
- Letters to residents
- Workshops & How Tos
- HELP volunteers
- Reports to the State
- Progress Reports to the Village



State Grant Requirements

This program is funded in large part by the State (IEPA).

- The Village must complete the program over a two year period
- New Ordinance language
- Education / outreach
- Program Forms
- Tracking / evaluation
- Compliance checks
- Final Report



Process – For Residents

- **Evaluate your downspouts** – locate, take notes where the downspout goes or where it is connected.
- If residents are unsure about their downspouts, **contact the Village** – we are here to help!
- If you are a senior or disabled homeowner, **participate in the Pilot Program** – contact the Village.
- **Respond to the Survey** – online or in your next Rose Clippings, or contact the Village and one will be sent to you.
- **Attend a workshop** to learn how to disconnect – or call the Village.
- **Disconnect your downspouts.**
 - Simple Disconnection under \$100 – Reimbursement Form
 - Complex Disconnection – Complete a Program Permit
- Receive your incentive in the form of reimbursement.

Reminders – For Residents ✓

- ✓ Incentives are first come and first served. Do not wait to participate!
- ✓ The state grant requires progress to maintain the grant, so participate towards compliance.
- ✓ Email or call with questions. 
- ✓ If concerned about overland water pooling, contact the Village.
- ✓ Keep your receipts!
- ✓ All homeowners must disconnect before your home is sold.
- ✓ Single family homes must disconnect by Jan 2019.
- ✓ Disconnections must be permanent.
- ✓ The Village will conduct compliance audits.

Resources – For Residents

- Village Staff to assist – contact Forrest Tucker.
- Documents and video links at the website.
- Detailed materials and how-tos for disconnections, rain gardens, and Rain Barrels.
- FAQ document online and by request.
- Product and purchasing guide online and by request.
- Loaner tools for disconnections.
- Engineering assistance for complex disconnections.



Program Challenges

- Resident concerns regarding overland standing water after a rain event
- Costs to the homeowner
- Awareness of program or its benefits
- KSAs to compliance
- Lack of compliance or delay in compliance
- Staff time to coordinate, do field work, answer questions, track compliance
- Resident participation and support will help overcome challenges.

How to Meet those Challenges

- Effective communications plan.
- Village resources to answer questions and assist.
- Program provides for incentives to make compliance manageable.
- Workshops and educational materials for the “how tos.”
- Pilot Program.
- Hire a part-time employee in the Building Department.

Summary

- Downspout Disconnection Assistance Program will be an effective measure for:
 - Mitigating pollutants in our waterways
 - Reducing the discharge of the large volume of rooftop water into our sewers, leading to increased sewer capacity and reduction in the incidence of sewer backups for residents
 - Easing the impacts of compliance for residents
 - Introducing effective BMPs to some homeowners to mitigate overland water

Questions

Please contact the Village with questions or assistance regarding this program.

All questions to:



Forrest Tucker

Special Projects Coordinator

Downspout Disconnection Program

Village of La Grange Park

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Next Steps

- Written Education & Outreach (website, E-Briefs, Rose Clippings)
- Launch Survey to gather data
- Assemble a list for Pilot Program
- Host Weekend Workshops
- Update forms (minor updates)