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## **Elmwood Park holds public meeting about flood mitigation plan**

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ELMWOOD PARK – Well over 100 people turned out for a public informational meeting Thursday night to hear about the Village’s latest flood mitigation plan. Village officials assured residents that property taxes would not have to be raised to pay for the project for at least five years.

We will have sufficient revenue from the Village’s Water Fund to finance the general obligation bonds that will be issued for the project for at least five years and maybe beyond,” Village Manager Paul Volpe explained. “The S&P’s recent AA rating for the Village reflects the strong financial position and management of Elmwood Park, and that will be reflected in the costs of borrowing associated with the project.”

The S&P rating assigned to Elmwood Park is higher than the rating assigned by S&P to many close-by communities including Oak Park, River Grove, Cicero and Rosemont. It is also higher than the ratings assigned to the City of Chicago and the State of Illinois.

The current cost estimate of the project is \$19.7 million. This will likely change as the scope of the project is refined. Certain options are being considered to bring direct relief to additional areas in the community. The Metropolitan Water and Reclamation District (MWRD) has already earmarked \$5.7 million toward the project. The Village is exploring additional state and federal funding sources as well.

The proposed plan would reduce the risk of flooding in many flood prone areas: the Westwood Subdivision and portions of Armitage Avenue, Cortland Parkway, Cortland Street, Dickens Avenue, 77th Court, 77th Avenue and 78th Avenue that are considered at risk from overbank flooding from the Des Plaines River. The Village is also exploring ways to assist areas to the east of the Westwood Subdivision around 75th and Diversey.

“We were thrilled with the large turnout,” Village President Pete Silvestri said. “It is important for us to get feedback from the residents. For the most part, people were supportive of the project, many wanting us to do more, not less. We will continue to explore all options and look for additional ways we can address flooding concerns with this plan.”

Additional information will be available on the Village website at [www.elmwoodpark.org](http://www.elmwoodpark.org).

*Elmwood Park is located approximately 12 miles from downtown Chicago. Incorporated in 1914, the Village is primarily a residential community of single-family homes, newer condominiums and town homes, but also includes several business districts and a small light industrial area.*