The background image is a photograph of a residential street. In the foreground, there is a dense patch of yellow flowers, likely Black-eyed Susans, with green leaves. In the background, a house with light-colored horizontal siding and white window frames is visible. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting daytime.

# URBAN FLOODING ANALYTICS AND TOOLS AT CNT

For: National Academy workshop on Urban Flooding in Chicago

Sept. 19, 2017

Peter Haas — Center for Neighborhood Technology



# ABOUT CNT

- CNT is a national hub for research, strategies and solutions to help cities use resources more efficiently and equitably.
- We believe addressing problems like poverty, climate change and urban sprawl starts with making neighborhoods, cities and regions work better.

# ABOUT CNT

- Our main areas of impact are:
  - Economic Development and Poverty Reduction
  - Climate Resilience
  - Urban Analytics



# The Prevalence and Cost of Urban Flooding

*A Case Study of Cook County, IL*

Updated May 2014

# Prevalence and Cost

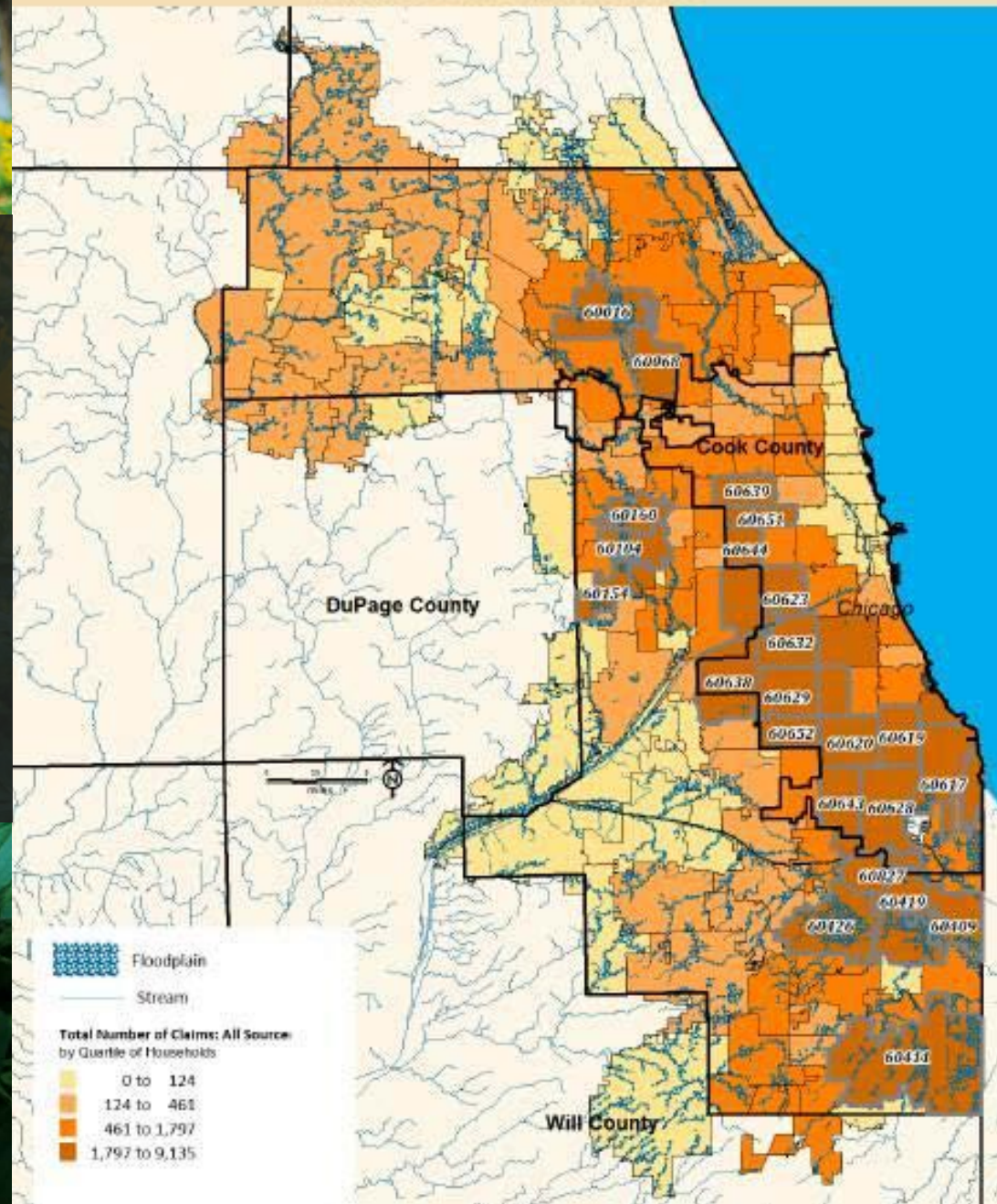
- ~~Mapped floodplains~~
- Flood damage insurance claims paid out
- 2007 – 2011, Cook County, IL, aggregated by zip code

# Study Findings:

- Claims in 97% of zip codes
- Most suffered repetitive losses
- Average pay-out: \$4,272
- Total pay-out: At least \$773,772,151

**Majority of  
claims  
outside any  
designated  
floodplain!**

Total Combined Payout: Private Insurance, National Flood Insurance  
Policy, Disaster Relief Assistance





State of Illinois  
Illinois Department of Natural Resources

# REPORT FOR THE Urban Flooding Awareness Act



JUNE 2015

# IDNR UFAA STUDY

## Illinois Flood Insurance Claims Data:

- 2007-2014
  - Total Claims Paid: 353,603
  - Percent of Counties Represented: 99%
  - Total Paid: \$2.319 Billion
  - Percent of Claims Outside Floodplain: 92.3%

# Tool Background

- Started in 2003-ish
- Developed the Green Values™ Calculator
- City of Chicago customized: Chicago Green Values™ Calculator
- USEPA commissioned: The National Green Values™ Calculator (2009)
- Primary audiences:
  - Developers – to learn how to meet local storm water goals
  - Municipal leaders – to demonstrate the benefits
  - Academics – to educate the next generation
- All rolled up into the: Green Values® Stormwater Toolbox

<http://greenvalues.cnt.org>

- What is Green Infrastructure?
- How Landscapes Work
- About This Site
- Resources



**GREEN VALUES<sup>®</sup>**  
STORMWATER  
CALCULATORS

About This Site

## Welcome to the Green Values<sup>®</sup> Stormwater Toolbox

*Learn what green infrastructure is and does.*

*Learn how the use of green infrastructure saves money.*

*Understand the costs and benefits of using green infrastructure and the need for different types of built water infrastructure and detention basins.*

*Search our comprehensive bibliography for more information.*

## How Great Lakes Landscapes



The Green Values<sup>®</sup> Stormwater Toolbox was originally developed by engineers and other municipal staff. As a result, we've included a lot of technical information. However, we recognize that in order to implement green infrastructure, both for individual sites and to inform policy, we need to make it easier to understand and use.

## Green Values Calculators

**GREEN VALUES<sup>®</sup>**  
STORMWATER  
TOOLBOX

- What is Green Infrastructure?
- How Landscapes Work
- About This Site
- Resources

## Wetlands Restoration

Wetlands are areas where water is present either at or near the surface of the soil all year or for varying periods of time during the year, including during the growing season.

## What is Green Infrastructure?

Green infrastructure is the interconnected network of spaces and natural areas, such as greenways, parks, forests, and wetlands, that manage stormwater, reduce flooding risk, improve water quality, and provide other benefits. Green infrastructure usually costs less than traditional forms of infrastructure and is often more effective. Green infrastructure projects also foster community engagement by engaging all residents in the planning, plant selection, and maintenance of the sites.

[What is Green Infrastructure?](#) [How Landscapes Work](#) [About This Site](#)

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When developers convert the land to impervious roofs and pavement, water from shallow-rooted lawns, pollutant laden water races into the streams. Now there are over 1,000,000 people in the Des Plaines River watershed and flood hazards increase with every new mall and subdivision. The Corps of Engineers predicts that flooding will increase faster than we can build flood control structures.

If we convert even a fraction of our lawns back to deep-rooted vegetation, we can rebuild the sod and reduce runoff so that flood hazards and pollution don't have to continue to increase. We can create a variety of neighborhood spaces and bring more nature into our daily lives.

# The National Green Values™ Calculator

- Released in 2009
- Funding: US EPA Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds (OWOW), Assessment and Watershed Protection Division, Non-Point Source Branch
- USEPA was a primary partner, and very involved in the tool's development
- IDEA: define a property for development; look at how to implement green solutions for storm water management
- GOAL: allow users to make better landscaping decisions to address storm water volume control

<http://ec2.greenvalues.cnt.org/national/calculator.php?s=2592>

## CALCULATOR

DISPLAY PRINTABLE FORMAT

CREATE A PERMANENT LINK

RESET VALUES

Getting Started

Lot Information

Predevelopment

Runoff Reduction Goal

Conventional Development

Green Improvements

Advanced Options

### Getting Started

The National Green Values™ Calculator is a tool for quickly comparing the performance, costs, and benefits of Green Infrastructure, or Low Impact Development (LID), to conventional stormwater practices. The GVC is designed to take you step-by-step through a process of determining the average precipitation at your site, choosing a stormwater runoff volume reduction goal, defining the impervious areas of your site under a conventional development scheme, and then choosing from a range of Green Infrastructure Best Management Practices (BMPs) to find the combination that meets the necessary runoff volume reduction goal in a cost-effective way.

A few important points to keep in mind:

- The National GVC is currently focused on runoff volume reduction. It does not produce any peak flow results. Volume reduction in this context implies infiltration, evapotranspiration and reuse, and does not include detention in ponds or vaults. All runoff volume captured in BMPs is assumed to be kept on site.
- The National GVC is meant for a single site or a campus of buildings contained on a single site. If you are interested in looking at the performance and cost/benefit analysis of Green Infrastructure BMPs applied on a neighborhood or watershed scale, consider using the original GVC and/or some of the other stormwater tools provided below.

To get started, select a tab at the top to enter site information. Default values (that can always be changed by the user) are provided throughout the calculator, so you can begin on any step. However, we recommend starting on the Lot Information page and proceeding through each step. Below is a brief description of the information you can provide on each page:

- Lot Information
- Predevelopment
- Runoff Reduction Goal



EPA Smart Growth

## RESULTS

The Green Stormwater BMP(s) applied in this scenario **decrease** the site impermeable area by **42.9%** and capture **300%** of the runoff volume required. Compared to conventional approaches, the green practices in this scenario will **decrease** the total life-cycle construction and maintenance costs by **8%** (in net present value).

Volume Control

Coefficients and Runoff

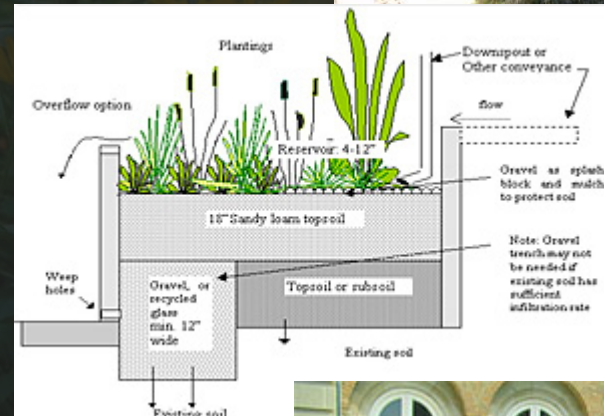
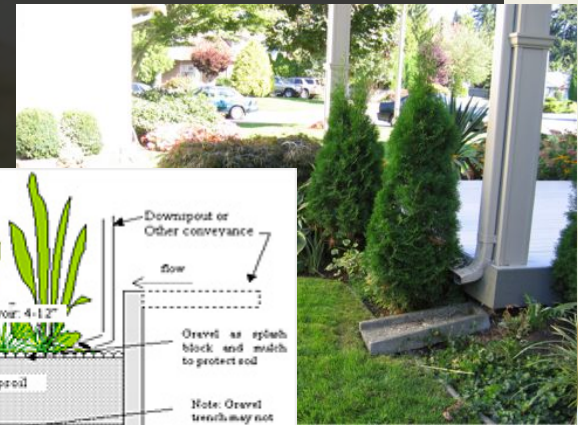
Land Use

Costs

Benefits

# Green Improvements

- Green Roof
- Disconnect Downspout
  - Planter Boxes
  - Rain Garden
  - Cisterns/Rain barrels



# Green Improvements

- Native Vegetation
- Vegetated Filter Strips
- Amended Soil
- Roadside Swales (elimination of curb and gutter)
- Trees/Tree Box Filters



# Green Improvements

- Swales in Parking Lot
- Reduced Street Width
- Permeable Pavement on:
  - Parking,
  - Driveways, and
  - Sidewalks



CALCULATOR

- Getting Started
- Lot Information
- Predevelopment
- Runoff Reduction Goal
- Conventional Development
- Green Improvements
- Advanced Options

Lot Information

Zip Code:

Annual Rainfall\* (in) :

Storm Type (in) :

Storm Rainfall\* (in) :

Size of Lot\* (acres):

Or give dimensions\*:
 

Length of Lot (ft):

Width of Lot (ft):

Soil Type:

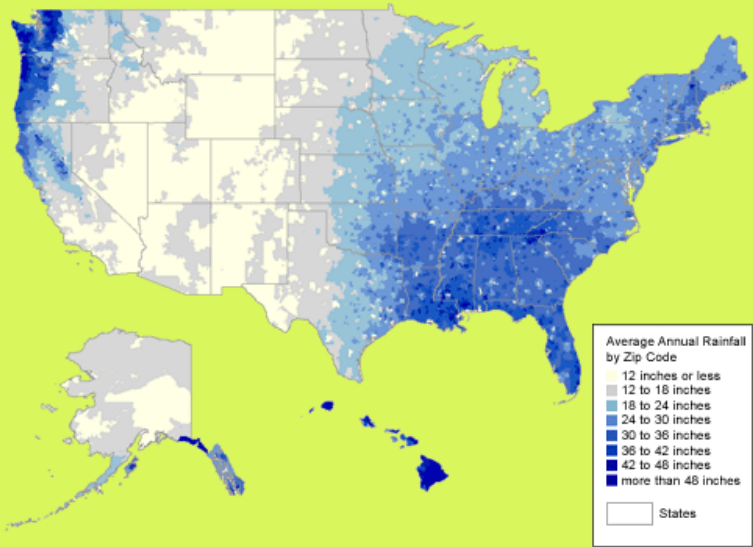
\* Required fields.

+ Must have at least one of these fields filled in.

Enter the site zip code to view the annual average precipitation and the 90% storm for your site. You can input any precipitation quantity into these values if you are interested in looking at the total runoff volume produced by each scenario under different precipitation conditions then those determined here. For example if you know the amount of precipitation for a particular design storm and are interested in seeing total runoff volume changes under those conditions, enter that value here as either the annual or 90% storm and see the results for that same category.

Rainfall estimates may not match other reported standard values. Please consult local regulatory authorities when designing or implementing projects. Please see the Green Values methodology for details on rainfall calculation.

Average Annual Rainfall by Zip Code



RESULTS

The Green Stormwater BMP(s) applied in this scenario change the site impermeable area by 0% and capture 0% of the runoff volume required. Compared to conventional approaches, the green practices in this scenario will change the total life-cycle construction and maintenance costs by 0% (in net present value).

CALCULATOR

[DISPLAY PRINTABLE FORMAT](#)
[CREATE A PERMANENT LINK](#)
[RESET VALUES](#)

- Getting Started
- Lot Information
- Predevelopment
- Runoff Reduction Goal
- Conventional Development
- Green Improvements
- Advanced Options

Predevelopment

Land Cover\*

Your land coverage totals 100%.

Impervious Area (%):

Lawn in good condition (%):

Lawn in fair condition (%):

Urban Fill (%):

Natural Desert Landscaping (%):

Newly Graded Areas, no vegetation (%):

Straight Row Crops in good condition (%):

Pasture in fair condition (%):

Meadow (%):

Woods in good condition (%):

Desert Shrub in fair condition (%):

Wetlands (%):

Water (%):

\* Required fields.  
 + Must have at least one of these fields filled in.

Local stormwater regulations may define the "predevelopment" condition as the existing condition of the site prior to the development project in question, OR as the original condition of the site prior to any human development (e.g. forest or meadow). Either definition can be satisfied here by defining the different land cover types represented on your site for either predevelopment condition. Check with local authorities to determine which definition you should use to define the predevelopment scenario in this calculator.

Most of the land cover categories below are chosen from the USDA Soil Conservation Service Technical Release 55 (TR-55): Urban Hydrology for Small Watersheds Table 2.2a-d. We tried to provide a short list of land cover categories that can be used in combination to describe a variety of sites around the country, and fit both interpretations of predevelopment. The land cover category is associated with a curve number (either a default value or user-specified) and the area assigned to each land cover type creates a composite curve number for the site under predevelopment conditions.

RESULTS

The Green Stormwater BMP(s) applied in this scenario change the site impermeable area by 0% and capture 0% of the runoff volume required. Compared to conventional approaches, the green practices in this scenario will change the total life-cycle construction and maintenance costs by 0% (in net present value).

CALCULATOR

[DISPLAY PRINTABLE FORMAT](#)
[CREATE A PERMANENT LINK](#)
[RESET VALUES](#)

- Getting Started
- Lot Information
- Predevelopment
- Runoff Reduction Goal
- Conventional Development
- Green Improvements
- Advanced Options

Runoff Volume Reduction Goal

Select a Goal:

Custom

Precipitation Depth Capture (in): 0.5

Volume Captured Over: Whole Site

Required Volume to Capture On Site: 1,094 ft<sup>3</sup>

\* Required fields.  
 + Must have at least one of these fields filled in.

Select a runoff reduction goal from the following drop-down list. The selected value defines the amount of precipitation (0.5 – 1.5 inches) over the impervious area of the site that must be infiltrated, evapotranspired, and reused on site with Green Infrastructure BMPs.

The example list on the right demonstrates how these goals are included in stormwater ordinances across the country. Click on any of the examples to open a brief summary of their language and a source where they can be found.

National Standards

The Energy Independence Security Act (ESIA). Section 438. Stormwater Runoff Requirements for Federal Development Projects. Option 1

LEED ND Green Technology and Construction Credit 9: Stormwater Management

1 - 5 certification credits available depending on how much precipitation from the impervious area is infiltrated, evapotranspired, or reused in arid, semi-arid, and humid watersheds. For semi arid (between 20"-40" rain/year) the minimum amount is 0.225 inch and the max is 1.125 inches. The maximum of all categories is 1.5 inches

Pilot Version: LEED for Neighborhood Development Rating System Updated June 2007, pg 115

State and Local Standards

- California: LA County Public Works
- California: Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board for Ventura County
- Connecticut: Town of Tolland
- Connecticut: Town of Deep River
- Illinois: City of Chicago
- Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
- Minnesota: Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District
- New Hampshire: Town of Thornton
- New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
- North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources
- Ohio Environmental Protection Agency: Big Darby Creek Watershed

RESULTS

The Green Stormwater BMP(s) applied in this scenario change the site impermeable area by 0% and capture 0% of the runoff volume required. Compared to conventional approaches, the green practices in this scenario will change the total life-cycle construction and maintenance costs by 0% (in net present value).

CALCULATOR

DISPLAY PRINTABLE FORMAT   CREATE A PERMANENT LINK   RESET VALUES

- Getting Started
- Lot Information
- Predevelopment
- Runoff Reduction Goal
- Conventional Development
- Green Improvements
- Advanced Options

Conventional Development

Impervious Area

Roof size* (ft <sup>2</sup> ):	20000
Or give dimensions*:	
Roof Length (ft):	
Roof Width (ft):	
Number of Parking Spots*:	10
Parking Lot Size* (ft <sup>2</sup> ):	700
Sidewalk:	
Length (ft):	175
Width (ft):	4
Streets:	
Length (ft):	
Width (ft):	
Driveways and Alleys:	
Length (ft):	
Width (ft):	

Other Land Cover\*

Your land coverage totals 100%.

Total Impervious Area (%):	60.1
Lawn in good condition (%):	39.9
Lawn in fair condition (%):	
Natural Desert Landscaping (%):	
Newly Graded Areas, no vegetation (%):	
Woods in good condition (%):	

RESULTS

The Green Stormwater BMP(s) applied in this scenario change the site impermeable area by 0% and capture 0% of the runoff volume required. Compared to conventional approaches, the green practices in this scenario will change the total life-cycle construction and maintenance costs by 0% (in net present value).

CALCULATOR

[DISPLAY PRINTABLE FORMAT](#)
[CREATE A PERMANENT LINK](#)
[RESET VALUES](#)

- Getting Started
- Lot Information
- Predevelopment
- Runoff Reduction Goal
- Conventional Development
- Green Improvements
- Advanced Options

Green Improvements

- ☒ **Green Roof**
  - Amount (%):
  - Depth (in):
  - Porosity (Void Ratio):
- ☐ **Planter Boxes** (disconnect downspout)
- ☐ **Rain Garden** (disconnect downspout)
- ☐ **Cisterns / Rain Barrels** (disconnect downspout)
- ☐ **Native Vegetation**
- ☐ **Vegetation Filter Strips**
- ☐ **Amended Soil**
- ☐ **Roadside Swales** (elimination of curb and gutter)
- ☐ **Trees**
- ☐ **Swales in Parking Lot**
- ☐ **Reduced Street Width**
- ☐ **Permeable Pavement on Parking**
- ☐ **Permeable Pavement on Driveways and Alleys**
- ☐ **Permeable Pavement on Sidewalks**

\* Required fields.

+ Must have at least one of these fields filled in.

Green Roof

Green roofs are vegetated roof covers, with growing media and plants taking the place of bare membrane, gravel ballast, shingles or tiles. Green roofs help to both absorb and evapo-transpire stormwater runoff, as well as delay and filter runoff flows that exceed the roofs runoff storage capacity. Green roofs have a variety of design options, including extensive and intensive and modular or non-modular.



Green Roof, Peggy Notebaert Nature Center

Green roofs also reduce building energy use and provide the resulting reduction in carbon emissions. This reduction is due to the green roofs' natural thermal insulation properties— structures are cooler in summer and warmer in winter.

The National GVC uses a default depth of 6 inches of growing media.<sup>1</sup> The user can specify any depth of subsurface storage but will incur additional cost if the soil media and/or aggregate exceed the default values.

1. "Design Guidelines for Green Roofs" Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.  
[http://egov.cityofchicago.org/webportal/COCWebPortal/COC\\_ATTACH/design\\_guidelines\\_for\\_green\\_roofs.pdf](http://egov.cityofchicago.org/webportal/COCWebPortal/COC_ATTACH/design_guidelines_for_green_roofs.pdf)

RESULTS

The Green Stormwater BMP(s) applied in this scenario **decrease** the site impermeable area by **93.5%** and capture **76.2%** of the runoff volume required. Compared to conventional approaches, the green practices in this scenario will **increase** the total life-cycle construction and maintenance costs by **111%** (in net present value).

## CALCULATOR

DISPLAY PRINTABLE FORMAT

CREATE A PERMANENT LINK

RESET VALUES

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Green Improvements

Advanced Options

### Green Improvements

- ☐ Green Roof
- ☐ Planter Boxes (disconnect downspout)
- ☒ Rain Garden (disconnect downspout)
  - Amount (ft<sup>2</sup>):
  - Prepared Soil:
    - Depth (in):
    - Porosity (Void Ratio):
  - Underlying Aggregate:
    - Depth (in):
    - Porosity (Void Ratio):
- ☒ Cisterns / Rain Barrels (disconnect downspout)
  - Cistern Capacity (gal):
  - Rain Barrel Capacity (gal):
- ☐ Native Vegetation
- ☐ Vegetation Filter Strips
- ☐ Amended Soil
- ☐ Roadside Swales (elimination of curb and gutter)
- ☐ Trees
- ☐ Swales in Parking Lot
- ☐ Reduced Street Width
- ☒ Permeable Pavement on Parking
  - Amount (%):
  - Material:
  - Underlying Aggregate:
    - Depth (in):

### Rain Gardens (disconnect downspout)

Rain gardens are bowl-shaped gardens filled with native plants. Runoff from a disconnected roof downspout collects in the bowl and infiltrates into the soil with the help of the long-rooted native plants. Rain gardens are a simple and affordable technique that communities can use to reduce damage from flooding and drainage overflow. The native plants in rain gardens provide valuable wildlife habitat and reduce irrigation needs and maintenance costs in comparison to traditional forms of landscaping. The National GVC uses a default depth of 18 inches of amended soil substrate and 12 inches of gravel aggregate.<sup>1</sup> The user can specify any depth of subsurface storage but will incur additional cost if the soil media and/or aggregate exceed the default values.



Rain Garden in Chicago, CNT

1. "Green Development Practices for Stormwater Management", City of Gresham, Oregon  
<http://www.greshamoregon.gov/city/city-departments/environmental-services/watershed-management/template.aspx?id=3268>

### RESULTS

The Green Stormwater BMP(s) applied in this scenario **decrease** the site impermeable area by **3.3%** and capture **127.3%** of the runoff volume required. Compared to conventional approaches, the green practices in this scenario will **increase** the total life-cycle construction and maintenance costs by **1%** (in net present value).

## Green Improvements

- ☐ Green Roof
- ☐ Planter Boxes (disconnect downspout)
- ☒ Rain Garden (disconnect downspout)

Amount (ft<sup>2</sup>):

Prepared Soil:

Depth (in):

Porosity (Void Ratio):

Underlying Aggregate:

Depth (in):

Porosity (Void Ratio):

- ☒ Cisterns / Rain Barrels (disconnect downspout)

Cistern Capacity (gal):

Rain Barrel Capacity (gal):

### Rain Gardens (disconnect downspout)

Rain gardens are bowl-shaped gardens filled with native plants. Runoff from a disconnected roof downspout collects in the bowl and infiltrates into the soil with the help of the long-rooted native plants. Rain gardens are a simple and affordable technique that communities can use to reduce damage from flooding and drainage overflow. The native plants in rain gardens provide valuable wildlife habitat and reduce irrigation needs and maintenance costs in comparison to traditional forms of landscaping. The National GVC uses a default depth of 18 inches of amended soil substrate and 12 inches of gravel aggregate.<sup>1</sup> The user can



Rain Garden in Chicago, CNT

## RESULTS

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### Volume Control

#### Coefficients and Runoff

#### Land Use

#### Costs

#### Benefits

### Volume Control

Required Volume Capture from 0.25" over Whole Site (ft <sup>3</sup> )	547
Volume Captured by current BMPs (ft <sup>3</sup> )	696
Rain Garden (ft <sup>3</sup> )	417
Cisterns / Rain Barrels (ft <sup>3</sup> )	134
Permeable Pavement on Parking (ft <sup>3</sup> )	146
Percentage of Required Volume Captured by current BMPs (%)	127
Decrease in Impervious Area (%)	3

Prepared Soil:

Depth (in): 12

Porosity (Void Ratio): 0.35

Underlying Aggregate:

Depth (in): 12


Porosity (Void Ratio): 0.25

☒ Cisterns / Rain Barrels (disconnect downspout)

Cistern Capacity (gal): 1000

Rain Barrel Capacity (gal):

the help of the long-rooted native plants. Rain gardens are a simple and affordable technique that communities can use to reduce damage from flooding and drainage overflow. The native plants in rain gardens provide valuable wildlife habitat and reduce irrigation needs and maintenance costs in comparison to traditional forms of landscaping. The National GVC uses a default depth of 18 inches of amended soil substrate and 12 inches of gravel aggregate.<sup>1</sup> The user can



Rain Garden in Chicago, CNT

RESULTS

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Volume Control

Coefficients and Runoff

Land Use

Costs

Benefits

Costs

	Construction Cost (\$)				Annual Maintenance Cost (\$)				Life Cycle Cost (\$, NPV)			
	Conventional	Green	Difference	%	Conventional	Green	Difference	%	Conventional	Green	Difference	%
Concrete Sidewalk	\$3,633	\$3,633	\$0	0%	\$20	\$20	\$0	0%	\$5,066	\$5,066	\$0	0%
Parking Lot	\$3,857	\$0	\$-3,857	-100%	\$105	\$0	\$-105	-100%	\$8,022	\$0	\$-8,022	-100%
Conventional Stormwater Storage	\$6,316	\$0	\$-6,316	-100%	\$16	\$0	\$-16	-100%	\$8,209	\$0	\$-8,209	-100%
Standard Roof	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$0	0%	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0	0%	\$214,283	\$214,283	\$0	0%
Permeable Pavement- Pavers	\$0	\$4,970	\$4,970	0%	\$0	\$25	\$25	0%	\$0	\$6,849	\$6,849	0%
Turf	\$1,019	\$977	\$-42	-4%	\$437	\$419	\$-18	-4%	\$15,071	\$14,450	\$-622	-4%
Rain Garden	\$0	\$1,400	\$1,400	0%	\$0	\$68	\$68	0%	\$0	\$3,859	\$3,859	0%
Downspout Disconnection	\$0	\$70	\$70	0%	\$0	\$1	\$1	0%	\$0	\$101	\$101	0%
Cisterns	\$0	\$1,450	\$1,450	0%	\$0	\$70	\$70	0%	\$0	\$3,983	\$3,983	0%
Additional Aggregate	\$0	\$3,500	\$3,500	0%	\$0	\$3	\$3	0%	\$0	\$4,346	\$4,346	0%
Total	\$164,825	\$166,000	\$1,175	1%	\$1,578	\$1,605	\$27	2%	\$250,651	\$252,936	\$2,285	1%

Detailed cost sheet.

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## Benefits Sheet

- Reduced Air Pollutants
- Carbon Dioxide Sequestration
- Tree Value
- Energy Use and Urban Heat Island Effect Reduction
- Groundwater Recharge
- Reduced Energy Use
- Total Suspended Solids and Total Phosphorus Removal
- Reduced Treatment Benefits
- Aesthetic
- [Erosion Prevention](#)
- Flood Protection
- Habitat
- Mobility
- Property Value
- Public Health
- Raingardens
- Recreation
- Salt Use Reduction
- Shelter
- Sound Absorption

---

### Reduced Air Pollutants

Value (\$): 0.181 per tree (Source: [http://cufr.ucdavis.edu/products/cufr\\_188\\_gtr186a.pdf](http://cufr.ucdavis.edu/products/cufr_188_gtr186a.pdf))

---

### Carbon Dioxide Sequestration

Value (\$): 0.12 per tree per year (Source: [http://www.fs.fed.us/ne/syracuse/Data/State/data\\_IL.htm#statesum](http://www.fs.fed.us/ne/syracuse/Data/State/data_IL.htm#statesum))

---

### Tree Value

Value (\$): 275 per tree (Source: [http://www.fs.fed.us/ne/syracuse/Data/State/data\\_IL.htm#statesum](http://www.fs.fed.us/ne/syracuse/Data/State/data_IL.htm#statesum))

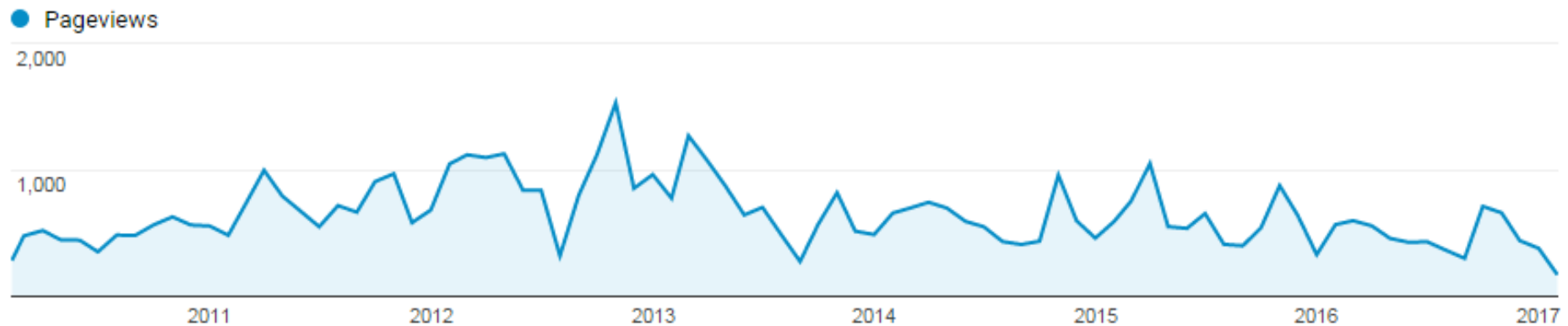
Value High Range (\$): 632 per tree (Source: Total value for trees in Chicago Region - we use \$275 for initial value and add \$9.65 per year for 37 years)

While we were able to estimate the total value of trees in the Chicago region, we were not able to value the hydrologic benefits of trees. It is commonly acknowledged that planting trees with a significant canopy on a site will reduce the amount of stormwater falling under the tree, at least initially, and reduce the runoff from the site. While there is little published data on the amount of the hydrologic benefits in the scientific literature, we did find one reference to such data in Stormwater Magazine.<sup>1</sup>

The article discusses a study done for Garland, Texas. The study "determined that increased tree cover could save even more. For example, a medium-size, 3.86-ac. residential site, with its 8 percent canopy cover, provided a 3 percent runoff reduction. If the site's tree canopy were increased to 35 percent, runoff reduction would quadruple, to 12.8 percent; a canopy cover of 45 percent would bring that number to 16.1 percent. (American Forests, a national nonprofit organization, recommends that cities maintain a 40 percent tree cover.) The study, however, did not recommend how a site with such home density would accommodate the resultant roots that would accompany the increased tree canopy.

# Current Use

- We get inquiries from:
  - Academics
  - Advocates
  - Interested individuals
- Track usage with Google Analytics



# RainReady Resilience Planning Tool

- Use LIDAR data to find catchments
- Use local knowledge and surveys to find problem areas
- Set stormwater capture goals
- Using local land cover, land use and flow paths design green improvements on an area basis to help develop a plan of action.

## CNT/RainReady Resilience Planning Tool

**Catchment: 420**

Area: 962,156 sqft [view data](#)

FLOOD RISK SCORE: 5 [expand](#)

OPPORTUNITY SCORE: 2 [expand](#)

Priority Score **7**

[Print Snapshot](#)  
[Generate Permalink](#)

### AVERAGE ANNUAL RAINFALL

Annual Rainfall (in): 35.8 [edit](#)

Design Storm Rainfall (in): 5.5 [edit](#)

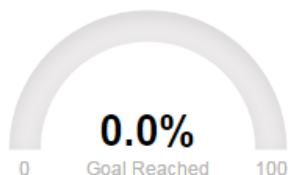
Design Storm Time (hrs): 24 [edit](#)

### REDUCTION GOAL

Precipitation Depth Capture (in): **1.0**



Volume Needed to Capture:  
80,180cuft (599,788 gallons)



Total Cost: **\$0**

[show detail](#)

### GREEN IMPROVEMENTS

Lifecycle Cost      % Towards Goal

#### Roof Water Capture:

☐ Green Roof      \$0      0%

#### Roof Water Redirection:

☐ Planter Boxes      \$0      0%

☐ Rain Garden      \$0      0%

☐ Rain Barrel      \$0      0%

☐ Cistern      \$0      0%

Map Layers

Community Areas

Enter an Address or Catchment ID

Map

Satellite

Streets

Transit

Bike

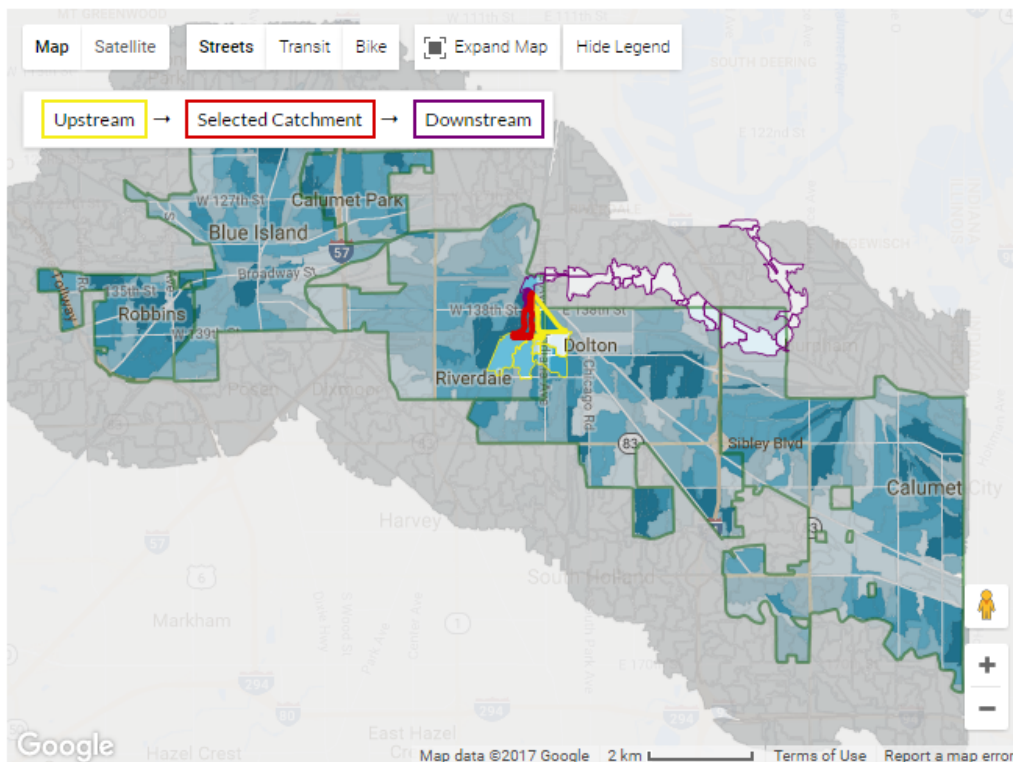
Expand Map

Hide Legend

Upstream →

Selected Catchment →

Downstream



### FLOOD RISK

low 0 1 2 3 4 5 high

### GREEN IMPROVEMENT CO-BENEFITS

**0%**

Runoff Reduction

**\$0**

Water Treatment Cost  
Reduction

**0%**

Volume Capture Increase

[Show Details](#)

## AVERAGE ANNUAL RAINFALL

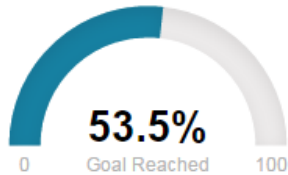
Annual Rainfall (in): 35.8 [edit](#)  
Design Storm Rainfall (in): 5.5 [edit](#)  
Design Storm Time (hrs): 24 [edit](#)

## REDUCTION GOAL

Precipitation Depth Capture (in): **0.5**



Volume Needed to Capture:  
40,090cuft (299,894 gallons)



Total Cost: **\$668K**  
[show detail](#)

## GREEN IMPROVEMENTS

Lifecycle Cost % Towards Goal

### Roof Water Capture:

☐ Green Roof \$0 0%

### Roof Water Redirection:

☐ Planter Boxes \$0 0%

☒ Rain Garden **\$535K** **43.5%**

Coverage: 29074 Sq. Ft.  
(11%) of 259,342 Sq. Ft.

[show details](#) [show details](#)



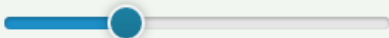
[show advanced options](#)

☐ Rain Barrel \$0 0%

☒ Cistern **\$133K** **10%**

Coverage: 30 Possible Cisterns  
(30%) of 101 Possible Cisterns

[show details](#) [show details](#)



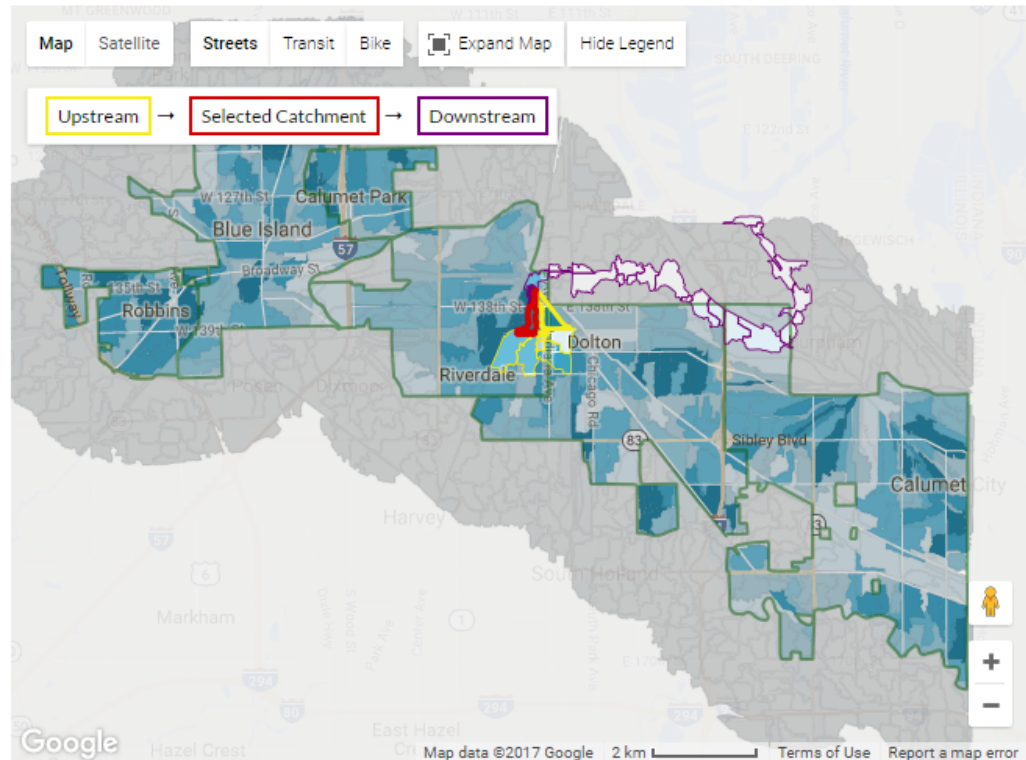
Map Layers

Community Areas

Enter an Address or Catchment ID

Map Satellite Streets Transit Bike Expand Map Hide Legend

Upstream → Selected Catchment → Downstream



## FLOOD RISK

low 0 1 2 3 4 5 high

## GREEN IMPROVEMENT CO-BENEFITS

**2.1%**

Runoff Reduction

**\$5**

Water Treatment Cost  
Reduction

**6.9%**

Volume Capture Increase

[Show Details](#)

# CNT/RainReady Resilience Planning Tool

Catchment: 420

Priority Score 7

Area: 962,156 sqft [view data](#)

[Print Snapshot](#)  
[Generate Permalink](#)

FLOOD RISK SCORE: 5 [hide](#)

Community Defined Risk Area: 1.7%  
Problem Area: 77.5%  
Impervious Area: 43.4%  
Depression Area: 41.1%  
Surveyed for Flooding: 88.2% (15/17)

OPPORTUNITY SCORE: 2 [hide](#)

### Land Based Assets

Vacant Land: 2.1%	Streets: 10.3%	Parks: 0.0%
Public Land: 0.0%	Alleys: 4.6%	Trees: 27.8%
Schools: 0.0%	Utilities: 0.4%	Large Residential: 2.2%

### Capital Projects

#### Greenways and Trails Plan

- Cal-Sag Trail (0.0 Miles) | Path | ITEP 2014 Program Includes some on-street segments | Status: Programmed
- Greenway (0.0 Miles) | | Status: Planned

### Planned Priorities

#### NDRC Project Areas

- NDRC No. 16 (16.4 Acres) intersect this catchment out of the total area of 123.8 acres. | Type: not affected by Phase II project

### AVERAGE ANNUAL RAINFALL

Annual Rainfall (in): 35.8 [edit](#)  
Design Storm Rainfall (in): 5.5 [edit](#)  
Design Storm Time (hrs): 24 [edit](#)

Map Layers

Community Areas

Enter an Address or Catchment ID

### CATCHMENT DATA

[close](#)

#### Land Cover

- Tree Cover: 267,073 sqft (27.8 %)
- Turf and Shrubs: 259,342 sqft (27 %)
- Bare Earth: 17,739 sqft (1.8 %)
- Water: 0 sqft (0 %)
- Buildings: 153,098 sqft (15.9 %)
- Public Road: 170,169 sqft (17.7 %)
- Other Paved Areas: 94,735 sqft (9.8 %)



#### Demographics

Median Income:  
% Minority

### GREEN IMPROVEMENT CO-BENEFITS

2.1%

Runoff Reduction

\$5

Water Treatment Cost  
Reduction

6.9%

Volume Capture Increase

[Show Details](#)

Volume Needed to Capture:  
40,090cuft (299,894 gallons)

Total Cost: \$668K

[show detail](#)

## GREEN IMPROVEMENTS

Lifecycle Cost % Towards Goal

### Roof Water Capture:

☐ Green Roof \$0 0%

### Roof Water Redirection:

☐ Planter Boxes \$0 0%

☒ Rain Garden \$535K 43.5%

Coverage: 29074 Sq. Ft.

[show details](#)

[show details](#)

(11%) of 259,342 Sq. Ft.



[hide advanced options](#)

### Land Cover Replaced

Land Cover: Turf and Shrubs

### Construction Specs.

Soil Depth: 12 (in)

Soil Porosity: 35 (Void Ratio)

Aggregate Depth: 12 (in)

Aggregate Porosity: 25 (Void Ratio)

### Costs

Cost per Sq. Ft.: \$ 8

Maintenance per Sq. Ft. per Year: \$ 38

Life Years: Years 30

☐ Rain Barrel \$0 0%

Map Layers

Community Areas

Enter an Address or Catchment ID

## GREEN IMPROVEMENT CO-BENEFITS

[close](#)

### Co-Benefits

	Tree Cover	Turf and Shrub	Bare Earth	Building	Public Road	Other Paved Area	Total
Volume Capture (CuFt)							
No BMP	111,073	88,476	1,941	2,728	3,033	1,688	175,425
BMP	111,073	96,001	1,941	6,739	3,033	1,688	187,567
% difference	0%	9%	0%	147%	0%	0%	7%
Runoff (Inches)							
No BMP	2.69	2.99	4.38	5.28	5.28	5.28	3.83
BMP	2.69	2.87	4.38	4.99	5.28	5.28	3.75
% difference	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Runoff Volume (CuFt)							
No BMP	59,910	64,543	6,470	67,407	74,924	41,711	307,437
BMP	59,910	61,937	6,470	63,687	74,924	41,711	300,862
% difference	0%	-4%	0%	-6%	0%	0%	-2%
Runoff Treatment Cost (\$/Storm)							
No BMP	41	44	4	46	51	29	211
BMP	41	40	4	44	51	29	209

## GREEN IMPROVEMENT CO-BENEFITS

2.1%

Runoff Reduction

\$5

Water Treatment Cost  
Reduction

6.9%

Volume Capture Increase

[Show Details](#)

# Lessons Learned

- Flooding does NOT only happen in floodplains!
- Good Tools Require Transparency!
  - Good documentation
  - Making complex concepts manageable by people who are not immersed in the subject matter
  - Start with something that works
- Green Infrastructure/Improvements Work and can be Cost Effective
- No One Size Fits All Solutions!

The background of the slide is a photograph of a garden with many yellow flowers, likely Black-eyed Susans, in the foreground. In the background, there is a house with light-colored horizontal siding and white window shutters. A dark semi-transparent rectangle is overlaid on the middle of the image to contain the text.

# THANK YOU

Peter Haas

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@CNT\_tweets