Project Description:

The Village of Niles completed two rounds of stormwater planning in the Village, both times the Village focused on larger scale conveyance and storage project. Green Infrastructure (GI) was tabled during the last stormwater plan development due to time constrains. Our LTAP proposal is to formalize a green infrastructure master plan which will holistically consider green infrastructure applications in the Village and make a plan of where to implement it. Possible strategies and study features would include: 1) Supporting lot level GI 2) Incorporating GI into Village owned property 3) Incorporating GI into normal capital improvement projects.

The Green Infrastructure master plan would build on the 2018 Stormwater master plan which stated the following:

The Village has historically supported green infrastructure with projects such as the Community Rain Garden, Neva Avenue Bioswale, Oak Park Bioswale, Oak Park permeable pavement, and Community Garden (Farm on Franks). Upcoming projects include naturalized plantings at the Franks Avenue Stormwater basin and the Milwaukee Avenue Permeable paver parking lot.

Green Infrastructure generally comes at a premium price as compared to traditional construction methods. Therefore, the Village must be wise in how green infrastructure is implemented including 1) Pursuing grant funding when available, and 2) Implementing green infrastructure in locations that provide the most benefit. A future task for the stormwater commission will be to develop a Green Infrastructure master plan that will to help the Village to implement the most effective types of green infrastructure that also maximize the return on investment. Proactively identifying the best opportunities for green infrastructure enhances the village’s ability to attract future grant funding for these types of projects.

The end deliverable would be a green infrastructure master plan which would detail where it makes sense to implement green infrastructure within the Village. The plan would determine target areas for GI and identify synergies with existing Village programs. The GI Plan advances the following principals of Go To 2050: Infill Infrastructure, environmental sustainability, spending public dollars wisely, creating vibrant communities, building on existing data driven approach, strengthening green infrastructure, transforming transportation, addressing highly susceptible urban flood areas, and building natural resources.

Project Location: Village of Niles