

# Bellwood Climate Resiliency Plan

The [Village of Bellwood](#) is working with Cook County to create a climate resiliency plan. The plan will follow a community-driven process, engaging residents and stakeholders to understand climate hazards, set goals, and identify and prioritize actions. Completing and implementing the plans will improve Bellwood's resiliency to the effects of climate change, including severe weather events such as heavy rain, flooding, high winds and extreme heat. Through the partnership, Bellwood will also receive funding to support actions to manage stormwater through green infrastructure, plant and maintain trees, promote residents' health and well-being, and bolster community assets to lessen negative impacts from a changing climate.

## What is a climate resiliency plan?

A climate resiliency plan helps guide a community's investments strategically and with an eye toward evolving conditions, ensuring that projects provide benefits to the people and neighborhoods most affected by climate change. Communities throughout Cook County are already experiencing the effects of climate change. More frequent and severe weather events such as intense rainstorms have led to damaging and disruptive flooding. Extreme heat has caused health concerns and loss of life. Through a climate resiliency plan, a local government can strategically map out the investments and programs it will pursue to prepare for hazards, reduce potential damage and protect residents' health and well-being. A climate resiliency plan helps a community understand where they are most vulnerable to the effects of climate change, set goals for the future, and establish and prioritize measures that can help it achieve its resiliency goals.

The Village will be considering the following issues and opportunities, along with other community priorities that emerge through the planning process, as part of the resiliency plan:

- Frequent stormwater management issues and flooding
- Aligning economic development and redevelopment efforts with resiliency goals
- Creating a community where residents and families can grow

## Community Engagement

As a community-driven effort, the climate resiliency plan will establish Bellwood's priorities and needs through public input and participation. The Village, in partnership with Cook County and a team of consultants, will host a series of workshops, interviews, focus groups and meetings with a wide range of community stakeholders and residents. Through these forums, members of the community can voice their top concerns and issues, generate ideas for solutions, define a vision and priorities, and provide feedback on the plan.

Public events and other opportunities to voice your concerns and priorities will be publicized through the Village's and Cook County's website, newsletters and social media. We encourage you to contact [environment@cookcountyil.gov](mailto:environment@cookcountyil.gov) to sign up for updates, including opportunities for you to participate in and help shape the Bellwood climate resiliency plan.

## Implementation

The climate resiliency plan will include recommendations for potential projects and how to implement them. The recommendations will identify different projects that will help the community achieve their resiliency goals. Cook County is committed to helping Bellwood secure funding so that projects can be designed and constructed. Recommendations in the plan may include projects that address flooding like green infrastructure and stormwater improvements, projects that address the impacts of heat such as tree plantings, and steps to build local capacity to adapt to climate impacts.

## Timeline

The climate resiliency planning process will take place from early 2024 through early 2025. The majority of community input events will occur in spring and summer 2024.

## Get involved

Email questions or sign up for updates by contacting [environment@cookcountyl.gov](mailto:environment@cookcountyl.gov).

## Contacts

## More information

*[Read more](#) about Cook County's partnership with five suburban communities to develop and implement climate resiliency plans that prepare them to thrive in a changing climate.*