

Illinois Urban Flooding Awareness Act - Report Summary

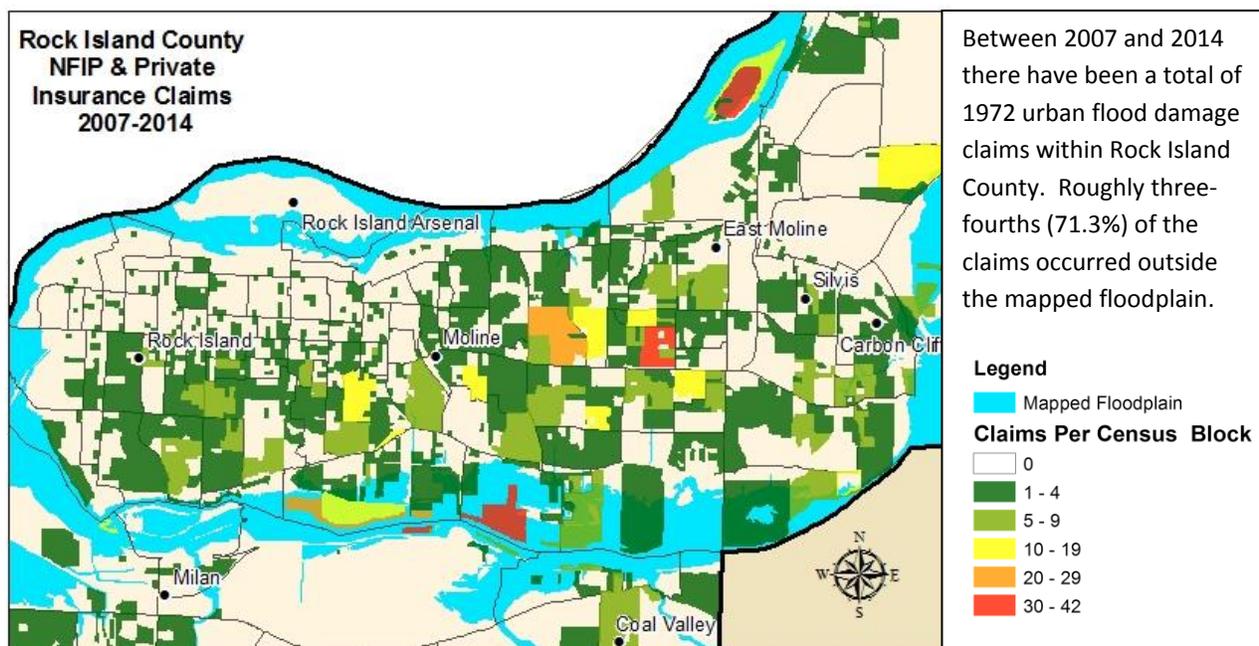
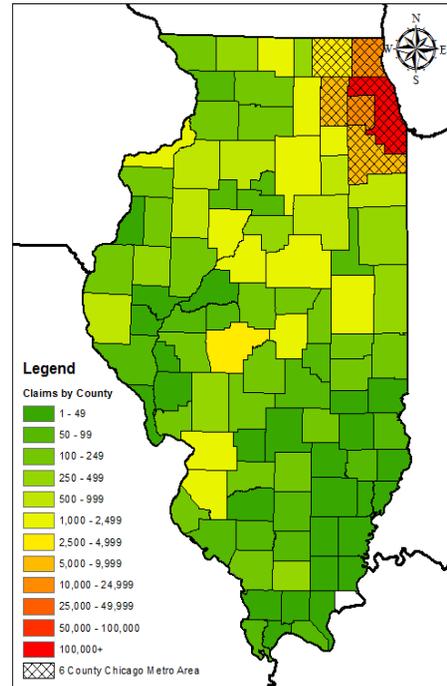
Urban flooding is a serious concern across all of Illinois. Urban flood damages are increasing. In August 2014, the Illinois General Assembly through PA98-0858 tasked the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) to prepare a report on the extent, cost, prevalence, and policies related to urban flooding. In addition, IDNR was tasked to identify resources and technology that may lead to mitigating the impacts of urban flooding.

Background Data:

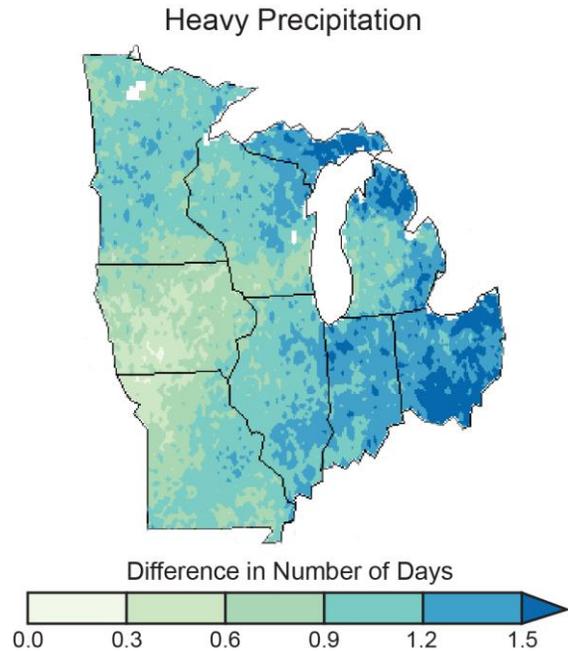
- **Urban Flooding occurs statewide; not just in NE Illinois.**
- **\$2.3 billion in damages occurred between 2007 and 2014.**
- **\$1.2 billion paid for sewer backup damage in basements.**
- **Over 90% of urban flooding damage claims occur outside of mapped floodplains.**

Findings:

- **Causes are unique to the specific location.** Urban flooding is most common where: storm sewers are not designed to current standards and urbanization has increased runoff.
- **Climate change** is trending to more frequent and intense storm events.
- **Countywide stormwater authority is only allowed in 16 counties**, the majority of counties in the state are not allowed to pass any stormwater regulations.
- Communities have the authority to impose design standards and ordinances but, **often do not have the legal authority to establish a dedicated funding stream** which makes sustainability difficult.



- **Urban flooding is expected to increase** with annual rainfall trending upward over the last 100 years and more heavy rain events predicted in the future.
- **There are many options to mitigate urban flood damages**, such as adopting stormwater regulations, updating aging and undersized storm sewers, green infrastructure, and increasing open areas in areas of redevelopment.
- **Changes to infrastructure and the urban landscape will take years; however, communities and individuals can take action now to reduce risk and damages.** Education and training for communities, insurance agents, and property owners is critical to understanding risks and how to mitigate and correctly insure those at risk.
- **The state can provide leadership for communities.** The state can develop tools, provide technical and financial assistance, and raise awareness.



Possible increases in the heaviest 2-percent storms from the 1971-2000 base period to the period 2041-2070 based on the A2 high emission scenario. Source NCA (2014).

The responsibility for urban flooding lies at all levels.

From state government to community regulation to individual property owners, a tiered approach is required for all aspects of stormwater management to be successful.

The recommendations listed in the report address the need for authorities, education and awareness, local regulations, collaboration between government agencies and communities, and funding for programs and data collection efforts to reduce future flood damage costs in the State of Illinois.



Harlem & Irving Park, April 2013, (WGNTV)



Lake Zurich basement, June 2013 (Chicago Tribune, Dan Waters)

The full [Urban Flooding Awareness Act Report](#) and the [State Model Local Stormwater Ordinance](#) are available at the IDNR website by searching "Urban Flooding Awareness".