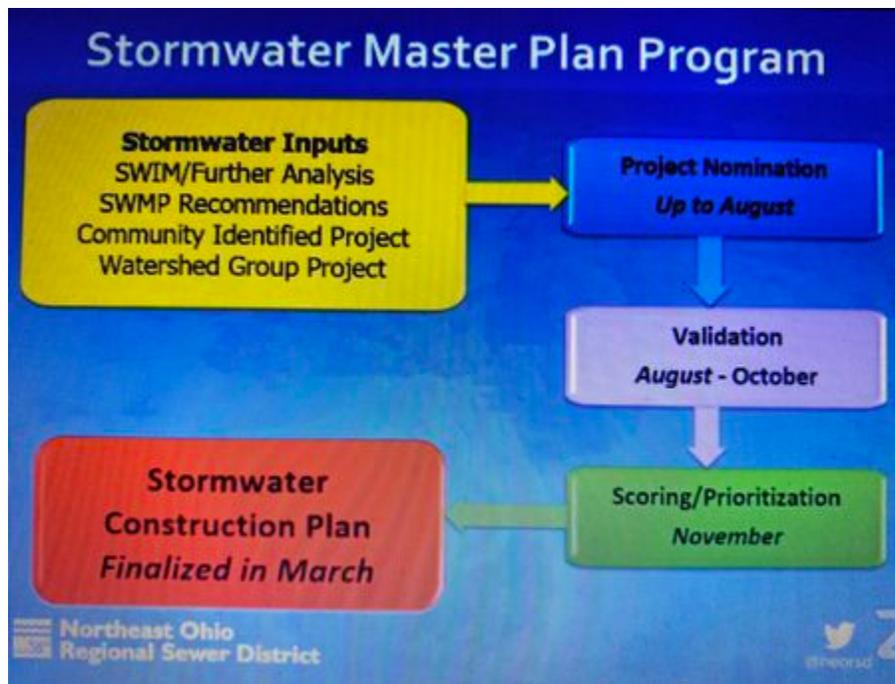


# Regional sewer study outlines Brook Park flooding situation

Updated Sep 28, 2:38 PM; Posted Sep 28, 2:38 PM



This Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District chart shows the process by which stormwater projects are selected to alleviate flooding. (NEORSRD)

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By **Beth Mlady**, Special to [cleveland.com](http://cleveland.com)

BROOK PARK, Ohio -- A recent [Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District](#) study outlines various problematic residential flooding areas in Brook Park.

NEORSRD Watershed Team Leader Meiring Borchers presented study findings during a [livestreamed Sept. 22 community informational meeting](#). Brook Park City Council, Mayor Mike Gammella and other city officials also attended.

Field and flow monitoring took place from 2018 to 2020, Borchers said. A model was created of streams flowing through the local sewer system. That information continues to be evaluated to identify specific problem areas, whether caused by basement backups or sanitary sewer overflows.

A final detailed Brook Park community report, with feasible solutions, won't be ready until spring 2021.

“Brook Park has been using its ([NEORSD community cost-share program](#)) money very wisely and very well in the last four years by cleaning out catch basins and helping to supplement its local stormwater management program in the city,” Borchers said, noting communities get 25 percent of total cost-share fees collected from their property owners.

“We will make sure we do our best to create capacity in the regional system for the local system to go into,” he added. “But I believe all the issues you see here are very much related to local system issues.”

Regional streams are those that drain 300 acres or more. Any stream that drains less acreage is considered a local system, which could be a pipe in the road or a small creek through a resident's backyard. Property owners generally maintain the local systems, Borchers emphasized.

NEORSD District Project Manager Michael Blair said “four large problem areas cover much of the northern half of Brook Park, primarily residential areas.”

A county project to fix Sheldon Road flooding, which involves raising the road to alleviate problems with “tail water from the railroad crossing downstream,” is in its preliminary design phase, Blair said.

In a Sept. 23 interview with [cleveland.com](#), Mayor Gammella said he has been working with the NEORSD for at least a year. He would like to see a detention or retention basin constructed at Wedo Park.

“We don't have a flooding problem in Brook Park. We have a flooding issue,” Gammella said. “It's not citywide, and it's only in certain areas.”

“We've had these issues for many, many years,” he continued. “We're working with the sewer district because I'm not going to spend a dime of the taxpayers' money until I'm absolutely certain it's going to remedy the situation.”

Another meeting with the NEORSD will be scheduled in the coming months.

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