Dear Alderman \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

Based on the results of the special Flood Reduction vote taken on March 8th, 2014 it is our understanding that the city is working towards three items from the Burke Engineering Study for Park Ridge. These projects deal with large scale engineering plans that hope to improve the current flood issues in our town.

Go Green Park Ridge, the environmental community group for Park Ridge, would like to encourage our city’s decision makers to continue to respond to the current issues at hand as well as look further towards sustainable flooding solutions in our future.

There are many additional options that perhaps this town can benefit from someday. Please help us raise environmental awareness and begin to look more closely at alternative solutions. Many resources are known that can support the vision of restoring the natural ability of landscapes to manage stormwater. Neighboring communities are already responding to flooding challenges with the inclusion of green infrastructure: rain gardens, bioswales, and permeable pavement. These can be more cost effective compared to gray infrastructure.

Please read the following from the EPA website that offers an explanation of traditional stormwater management and a more emerging blend of Low Impact Development (LID) and green infrastructure. We encourage this approach on new developments in Park Ridge:

***Traditional stormwater management design has been focused on collecting stormwater in piped networks and transporting it off site as quickly as possible, either directly to a stream or river, to a large stormwater management facility (basin), or to a combined sewer system flowing to a wastewater treatment plant.***

***Low impact development (LID) and wet weather green infrastructure address these concerns through a variety of techniques, including strategic site design, measures to control the sources of runoff, and thoughtful landscape planning.***

***LID aims to restore natural watershed functions through small-scale treatment at the source of runoff. The goal is to design a hydrologically functional site that mimics predevelopment conditions.***

***Wet weather green infrastructure encompasses approaches and technologies to infiltrate, evapotranspire, capture, and reuse stormwater to maintain or restore natural hydrologies.***

Given that the city is planning for a Stormwater Management Master Plan, we feel that it is only prudent to ask the city to pursue getting future proposals from alternative engineering firms with some of these fresh ideas and more non-traditional approaches that include best management practices during this time of climate change. We also ask that the city consider reconstituting the Flood Task Force so that residents can be included in recommending these types of solutions down the road. Perhaps residential input can also be achieved by instituting an overall Environmental Commission for our town.

Thank you for your willingness to think outside the pipe!

Sincerely,