



2025 FOREST PARK PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT ANNUAL OPERATIONS REPORT

Reporting Year: 2025

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Public Works Department remains committed to its mission of delivering safe, reliable, and efficient infrastructure and essential services that support the community's daily life and long-term sustainability. The department's core responsibilities include maintaining road infrastructure, managing our sewer & water system, maintaining our tree canopy, supporting municipal facilities, and maintaining the Village's vehicle and equipment fleet. Through these services, Public Works plays a vital role in protecting public health, ensuring mobility, and preserving the community's built environment.

Over the past year, the department has achieved several key accomplishments across all divisions. Street maintenance teams improved roadway quality through targeted pavement repairs, enhanced snow and ice operations, and upgraded traffic signs and pavement markings. Water Department staff ensured continued delivery of safe drinking water by completing scheduled infrastructure maintenance, responding quickly to main breaks, and upholding all regulatory standards. Fleet and Facilities Departments completed critical preventative maintenance, replaced aging fleet, improved equipment uptime, and advanced energy-saving measures across municipal buildings.

The department also faced several significant challenges, including aging infrastructure, staffing constraints, supply chain delays, rising operational costs, and increasingly severe weather events. One other challenge was the ongoing collection of shopping carts throughout the village & the constant need to attend to litter, in order to maintain a clean & attractive Village. These challenges were addressed through targeted resource allocation, expanded use of preventative maintenance programs, cross-training of staff, strategic scheduling adjustments, and close coordination with contractors and suppliers.

Despite external pressures, the department successfully maintained core service levels while strengthening resilience across operational areas.

Performance metrics for the year highlight the department's continued effectiveness. Response times for high-priority work orders remained strong, pavement conditions were maintained or improved, water system reliability stayed high with minimal service disruptions, catch basins and sanitary sewer main lines were cleaned & jetted. Fleet reliability has begun to show strong signs due to proactive maintenance planning.

Financially, the department operated within its approved budget, balancing operational needs with responsible fiscal management. Operating funds were used efficiently to support essential services, while capital dollars were strategically invested in long-term infrastructure improvements. Grant funding and alternative revenue sources were leveraged where it is possible to offset costs and extend the value of local tax and utility ratepayer contributions.

Through the dedication of its staff, strategic planning, and a continued focus on service excellence, the Public Works Department delivered reliable, high-quality services while advancing the community's infrastructure needs. The department remains committed to improving operations, investing wisely in public assets, and preparing for the challenges and opportunities of the year ahead.

2. DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

The Public Works Department is responsible for planning, constructing, operating, and maintaining the community's essential infrastructure and municipal services. As one of the Village's core service providers, the department supports public safety, mobility, environmental stewardship, and overall quality of life. Public Works oversees a wide range of critical functions—including streets and transportation systems, alleys, streetlights/traffic lights, Municipal lots, tree maintenance, sewer & water utilities, fleet and facilities maintenance, and support for capital infrastructure improvements. The Public Works Department is also responsible for all setup, maintenance & take down of all Village community events.

2.1 ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Public Works Director

- └─ **Street Division**
 - └─ Street Sweeper Operator
 - └─ Road Maintenance Crew Member (2)
 - └─ Traffic Crew Member (2)

- └─ **Water Division**
 - └─ Water Operator (2)

- └─ **Sewer Division**
 - └─ Sewer Crew Member (2)

- └─ **Forestry Division**
 - └─ Boom Truck Operator
 - └─ Forestry Crew Member (2)

- └─ **Grounds Division**
 - └─ Grounds Crew Member (2)

- └─ **Fleet Management Division**
 - └─ Fleet Manager

2.2 CORE SERVICE AREAS

- Streets maintenance, street/traffic lights maintenance, traffic markings & sign maintenance
- Sewer & Water Utilities
- Facilities Maintenance
- Forestry Maintenance
- Fleet Management
- Municipal Lots, Parks and Grounds Maintenance

Street Division

The Street Division ensures the city's roadway network remains clean, safe, and well-maintained. Core services include:

- **Street Sweeping:** A dedicated Street Sweeper Operator performs routine sweeping to remove debris, seasonal sweeping during leaf removal, enhance roadway safety, and support environmental compliance.
- **Road Maintenance Crew (2):** Performs pavement repairs, pothole patching, and water main/sewer main repair restoration.
- **Traffic Crew (2):** Installs, repairs, and maintains traffic signs, pavement markings, curb painting and temporary traffic-control devices essential for safe transportation flow. Maintains all Village streetlights and select traffic lights (Contracted).

These services collectively support efficient mobility and roadway safety throughout the community.

Water Division

The Water Division oversees the safe operation of the municipal drinking water system. Two certified Class C water operators are responsible for:

- Maintaining water distribution infrastructure including mains, hydrants, valves, and meters
- Conducting regulatory sampling and water quality monitoring
- Responding to leaks, main breaks, and customer service issues
- Supporting/overseeing planned utility upgrades and preventive maintenance
- Responding to JULIE locate requests
- GIS water infrastructure maintenance

This division ensures residents and businesses receive clean, safe, and reliable drinking water every day.

Sewer Division

The Sewer Division maintains the community's combined (Sanitary/Storm) collection system to protect public health and prevent environmental contamination. Responsibilities include:

- Routine cleaning, jetting, and CCTV inspection of sewer lines & catch basins
- Maintaining manholes, service laterals, and other collection system infrastructure
- Quick response to blockages, backups, or emergency repairs
- GIS sewer infrastructure maintenance

A two-person sewer crew performs both preventive and corrective maintenance to ensure reliable system performance.

Forestry Division

The Forestry Division manages public trees and vegetation in rights-of-way and city-owned properties. Staff include a boom-truck operator and a two-person forestry crew, responsible for:

- Tree trimming and hazard-tree removal
- Brush and storm debris clearing/Christmas tree pick-up
- Tree planting, health monitoring, and stump removal
- Parkway restoration
- GIS tree canopy inventory maintenance

These services promote public safety, support storm readiness, and contribute to a healthy urban forest.

Grounds Division

The Grounds Division supports the maintenance and appearance of public spaces, Village owned parks, and municipal property. A two-person grounds crew provides:

- Mowing and trimming
- Litter pickup and beautification work
- Seasonal tasks including leaf removal, landscaping, and ornamental planting
- Maintenance of city gateways, medians, recreational areas, Municipal parking lots and facility grounds

This division ensures community spaces remain welcoming, safe, and attractive.

Fleet Management Division

The Fleet Management Division maintains the vehicles, equipment, and machinery necessary to support all Village Services. Responsibilities include:

- Preventive maintenance, repairs, and diagnostics for trucks, loaders, sweepers, utility vehicles, specialty equipment, Police vehicles, Fire Vehicles & Community Center vehicles
- Ensuring regulatory compliance for vehicle inspections and safety requirements
- Managing fuel usage, parts inventory, and maintenance records
- Supporting equipment replacement planning and long-term lifecycle management

Fleet Management plays a vital role in minimizing downtime, extending equipment life, and ensuring all Village departments have the resources needed to perform their duties efficiently.

3.1 STREETS & TRANSPORTATION

- Street and alley miles maintained: 30 street miles and 16 alley miles. 2.4 square miles total

- Pavement repairs: Daily (Weather permitting)

- 45.14 tons of HMA: **\$2,889.00**
- 15 tons of cold patch: **\$2,400**

- Snow and ice operations

- Salt: 1,244 tons - **\$79,231**
- Overtime
 - Public Property: 269hrs x 1.5 - **\$14,163**, 116hrs x 2 - **\$8,143**
 - Streets: 192hrs x 1.5 - **\$10,109**, 121hrs x 2 - **\$8,494**
 - Water: 155hrs x 1.5 - **\$9,318**, 48hrs x 2 - **\$3,816**
 - Fleet: 113hrs x 1.5 - **\$6,670**, 32hrs x 2 - **\$2,518**

- Street signage and markings installed/repaired: **\$11,346**

- Streetlight maintenance: 410 lights maintained - **\$176,143**

- Traffic light maintenance: 5 intersections maintained - **\$31,938**

3.2 WATER UTILITY OPERATIONS

- Water production and distribution
- 33 miles of water main maintained
 - Purchased water: **433,183,538 gallons - \$2,141,068**
- Water main breaks and repairs: **8 -\$54,809**
- Hydrant maintenance: **\$1,963**
- Water quality testing: Monthly Bac-T, HAA5, THM, Lead & Copper, Stage 5 - **\$16,029**
- Overtime
 - Community Events: 29hrs x 1.5 - **\$1,766**
 - Water/sewer repair and miscellaneous: 130hrs x 1.5 - **\$7,917**, 12hrs x 2 - **\$974**

3.3 WASTEWATER /STORM SEWER OPERATIONS

- Sewer line jetting and catch basin cleaning
- 70 miles of sewer mains maintained
- Sewer repairs: **8 - \$56,482**
- Leaf removal: **233 tons - \$15,846**
 - Overtime
 - Public Property: 133hrs - **\$7,003**, Night Premium – 45 Days - **\$1,451**
 - Streets: 116hrs - **\$6,107**
 - Water: 30hrs - **\$1,705**
 - Fleet: 97hrs - **\$5,725**

3.4 FLEET SERVICES

- Number of vehicles maintained: **84**, not including equipment, trailers and hand tools
- Preventative maintenance records: All Data & CFA: **\$6,000**
- Fleet replacement schedule progress
 - Police Cruisers - **~75K each** (Outfitted)
 - Fire ladder truck - **\$2.1M**
 - Public Works: Chipper truck - **\$95K**, Bobcat - **\$40K x 2**
- Fuel usage summary
 - Unleaded: **40,813 gallons - \$137,440**
 - Diesel: **3,699 gallons - \$14,153**
- Overtime: 39hrs - **\$2,066**

3.5 FACILITIES MAINTENANCE

- Buildings maintained: **9**
- Energy efficiency upgrades: All municipal buildings outfitted with LED
- HVAC maintenance & repair
- Roof repairs & inspection
- Electrical repairs & inspections

3.6 FORESTRY

- Average work order completion time: 3-5 business days
- Trees Pruned in house: **75+**
- Trees removed in house: **30**
- 2025 Tree Pruning Program (Contracted): **884 - \$37,435**
- Trees removed (Contracted): **17 - \$43,625**
- Trees Pruned (Contracted): **12 - \$4,685**
- Trees Planted: **60 - \$16,105**
- Tree stump grinding: **\$5,700**

3.7 OVERTIME

- Public Property
 - Community Events: 68hrs x 1.5 - **\$3,580**, 16hrs x 2 - **\$1,123**
 - Trees & Miscellaneous: 533hrs x 1.5 - **\$28,080**, 12hrs x 2 - **\$842**
- Streets
 - Community Events: 63hrs x 1.5 - **\$3,317**
 - Trees and Miscellaneous: 90hrs x 1.5 - **4,739**, 16hrs x 2 - **\$1,123**

4. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (CIP)

4.1 COMPLETED PROJECTS

- 400 and 500 Ferdinand Ave. water main & road resurface
 - Bolder Construction: 1,123 ft of water main & 40 water services - **\$1,442,367.10**

- 800 Thomas/Hannah Green Alley

- Narduli Construction: **\$632,079.50**

- Balance of Stage 1 & majority of Stage 2 lead service line replacement

- Joel Kennedy Construction: 275+ water services - **\$2,035,840**

- 2025 sidewalk replacement

- Robert Andreas Concrete: 28 locations - **\$41,537.50**

4.2 PROJECTS IN PROGRESS

- Balance of Stage 2 lead service line replacement

- 5 Star Construction: 275+ water services - **\$2,821,326**

- Village wide water meter replacement

- Veregy Consultants: 3329 Sensus water meters & smart points/1 antenna/VX Smart Portal/Sensus Analytics/Training - **\$3,689,577**

4.3 UPCOMING PLANNED PROJECTS

- Stage 3 lead service line replacement

- Jackson Blvd. water main & road resurface

- 600 Thomas/Hannah Green Alley

- 2026 Sidewalk replacement/grinding

5. SUSTAINABILITY & ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES

- Public Works continues to purchase electric/battery powered tools/equipment

- LED lighting in all municipal buildings

- In-house ice & water machine

6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNICATIONS

- Yearly Bulk Pick-Up & Electronics Recycling Week

- Arbor Day Celebration

- Tree Planting Grant Ceremony

- Recreation Board Clean Up Events (Spring & Fall)

- Recreation Board Pumpkin Smash

- 2025 Public Works Open House

- Yearly Casket Races participants
- Weekly Newsletter information. Newsletter/Social Media alerts for snow
- Welcome field trips from local schools and organizations
- Striving for a dedicated Public Works Social Media page

6.1. COMMUNITY EVENTS REQUIRING PUBLIC WORKS SERVICES

- St. Patrick's Day Parade
- Arbor Day
- Community Clean Up (Spring/Fall)
- Juneteenth Celebration
- Pride Celebration
- Hispanic Heritage Celebration
- Park District 4th of July Celebration
- German Fest (Cancelled)
- Summer Fest/Music Fest (Cancelled)
- Groovin' In The Grove
- Garage Galleries
- Rib Fest (Cancelled)
- Living Word 5K
- Casket Races
- Pumpkin Smash
- Holiday Walk
- Menorah Lighting

7. CHALLENGES & RISKS

- Public Works departments are experiencing significant cost pressures driven largely by rising prices for key construction materials, including steel, aluminum, concrete, and lumber, many of which saw sharp increases through 2025 and into 2026. Industry data show average year-over-year material cost increases of around **5%**, with major commodities such as steel and aluminum rising **20–30%**, largely due to tariffs and supply chain volatility.

Supply constraints are compounded by labor shortages, especially in skilled trades, which delay projects and increase labor-related costs for municipalities. Persistent workforce gaps and weakened labor supply have been cited as long-term structural issues that continue to elevate wages and extend delivery timelines.

Meanwhile, Public Works infrastructure projects remain vulnerable to uncertainty related to federal funding cycles, tariffs, and shifting policy priorities. Reports highlight that 2026 may bring further cost escalation as trade-policy-related increases become more pronounced, placing additional financial strain on Public Works departments managing road, utility, building, and fleet maintenance programs.

Overall, Public Works departments face a tightening environment of higher material prices, longer lead times, strained budgets, and persistent labor shortages, all of which complicate planning, procurement, and execution of essential infrastructure projects.

8. GOALS & PRIORITIES

- **1. Maintain Safe and Reliable Infrastructure**

Ensuring roads, bridges, sidewalks, traffic systems, water systems, and public facilities remain safe, functional, and compliant with current standards.

2. Deliver Efficient Public Services

Providing core services such as snow removal, tree maintenance, road maintenance, street sweeping, fleet maintenance and sewer/water operations in a timely and cost-effective manner.

3. Financial Responsibly

Managing budgets, equipment, materials, and staffing efficiently.

4. Support Long-Term Asset Management

Planning maintenance schedules, capital improvements, and lifecycle replacements to extend the useful life of infrastructure and reduce long-term costs.

5. Improve Community Safety and Quality of Life

Responding quickly to hazards, maintaining clean public spaces, and supporting safe transportation networks for drivers, pedestrians, and cyclists.

6. Strengthen Emergency Preparedness

Ensuring the department can respond to severe weather, infrastructure failures, and other emergencies through coordinated planning and readiness.

7. Transparency and Community Engagement

Communicating clearly with residents about projects, service interruptions, and long-term plans while incorporating public input where appropriate.

8. Streamlined Water Meter System

The ability to monitor the Village's entire water system. Conserving water and reducing the risk of elevated water bills, through staff and a customer portal.

9. APPENDICES

- A. Equipment Inventory

Unit #	Truck Description	Year	Tasks/Division
49	Caterpillar IT24F Loader	1999	Leaves/Salt/Various tasks w/ forks
30	Case 621F Loader	2016	Leaves/Salt/Various other tasks
55	International	1999	Forestry - Brush Chipper Truck
66	Ford F250 Pick-Up	2024	Garbage/Grass/Various tasks/Plowing
54	International HV Dump	2024	Leaves/Plowing
42	International HV Dump	2024	Leaves/Plowing
46	International Vac/Jet Truck	2023	Sewer Division
60	Ford F550 Bucket Truck	2024	Forestry/Banners
58	Jeep Wrangler	2022	Parking meters/Paint/Lot Plowing
B2	Bobcat Skidsteer	2002	Break outs/Trees/Sidewalk Plowing
B3	Bobcat Skidsteer	2002	Break outs/Trees/Sidewalk Plowing
B4	Bobcat Skidsteer	2002	Break outs/Trees/Sidewalk Plowing
36	Ford F350 Utility Truck	2024	Street Signs/Painting/Plowing
56	Ford F350 Dump Truck	2006	Garbage/Various tasks
50	Ford F350 Pick-Up	2006	Fleet Manager
39	Ford F450 Dump Truck	2007	Garbage/Various tasks/Plowing
44	Elgin Street Sweeper	2023	Street Sweeping
41	Ford F250 Pick-Up	2011	Water Tank/Hot Patcher
48	International Large Dump	2011	Leaves/Plowing
V2	Vermeer Brush Chipper	2015	Forestry
H60R	Hustler Riding Mower	2007	Grass
R2	Asphalt Roller	2016	Street repairs
T1	Enclosed Green Trailer	2025	Grass/Trees/Bobcat transport
T2	Hot Patch Trailer	2012	Street Repair
T3	Roller Trailer	2016	Street Repair/Bobcat Transport
L1	Line Lazer Striper	2018	Curb Painting
61	Ford Explorer AWD SUV	2022	Director
62	Ford 250 Super Duty Pick-Up	2021	Grass/Various Tasks/Plowing
47	International HV Dump	2022	Leaves/Plowing
H60Z	Hustler Riding Mower	2022	Grass
32	Ford F450 w/ Utility Build	2013	Water

- B. Pictures



Forest Park Community Clean-Up

NOW SCHEDULED FOR:
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27TH
 9am to Noon

ROOS RECREATION CENTER
 Pavilion @ 7329 Harrison St

50 T-Shirts will be distributed to volunteers on the 27th while supplies last!
 Thank you to our generous sponsor

AGES 18+ UNDER 18 MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT. ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST SIGN A WAIVER.



OFFICE OF
FOREST PARK
ALL CITY SERVICES QUALITY LIFE DIVISION

COMMISSIONER JESSICA VOOGD
 RECREATION BOARD & PUBLIC WORKS





SCAN ME







