



# PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

## 2023 Annual Report

**Keith Grantland**  
**Director,**  
**Public Works**



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## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

I present this Willow Springs Public Works 2023 Annual Report to the Honorable Mayor Neddermeyer, the Village Board, and the residents of Willow Springs.

The year for Public Works offered numerous challenges and many opportunities; we are proud to have stepped up to our responsibilities while sustaining our flexibility and fluidity along the way. We strived to maintain smoothly operating services while promoting an appealing image for and within the village.

We have also accomplished many other tasks with the cooperation of and/or in conjunction with various entities and groups. Furthermore, we have otherwise represented Willow Springs in nearby villages based on their needs and their events.



In a proud summary, we have contributed 12,726.55 labor hours. These labor hours comprised 5,954 activities via a total of 1,528 work orders that have been completed and processed as of the writing of this report.

In more detailed fashion, this report outlines and highlights various aspects of the projects and tasks we have undertaken throughout 2023—both within village boundaries and beyond.

I am honored to lead the Public Works Department and its crew. We are a humble and relatively small crew, yet our team effort and dedication positively reflect upon our department and—more importantly—upon the Village of Willow Springs.

Respectfully,



**OUR GOAL and OUR TEAM**

The services provided by the Public Works Department are essential for maintaining a secure and modern lifestyle. Our goal is to preserve public improvements by investing in our infrastructure before the onset of major problems.



We are dedicated to working as a team to ensure our residents receive the highest quality of services today and in the future. Please meet the humble team which strives to achieve or exceed these goals.

NAME	POSITION	TIME in POSITION
Keith Grantland	Director	6 ½ years
Paulie Freyman	Assistant Director	1 ½ years
Kevin Phillips	Laborer	5 ½ years
Steven Vanderstuyf	Laborer	3 years
Tyler Norkus	Laborer	2 ½ years
Marijo Kristie	Laborer (part time)	5 ½ years
James Uckerman	Laborer (part time)	5 ¾ years
Patti Gallinaro	Laborer (part time)	1 ¾ years
Jeremy Pappalardo	Laborer (part time)	4 months
Mary O'Heron	Admin Professional (part time)	5 ¾ years



## FLEET and EQUIPMENT

The following table displays a portion of our vehicle fleet and equipment. It is not all-inclusive of the Public Works inventory, but it offers a snapshot of such vehicles and equipment in use on a regular basis.

MAKE	MODEL	YEAR	DESCRIPTION
Ford	F250	2022	Sewer & utility truck w/hoist
Ford	F550	2021	Dump & plow truck
Ford	F550	2012	Dump & plow truck
Ford	F550	2002	Dump & plow truck
Ford	F250	2022	Pickup truck w/plow
Ford	F350	2021	Pickup truck
Ford	F250	2013	Pickup truck w/plow
Ford	F350	2012	Pickup truck w/plow
GMC	Sierra	2010	Pickup truck w/plow
International	7400	2016	Dump & plow truck
International	RT700	2008	Dump truck (with branch chipper box)
GMC	C6500	2000	Utility truck with boom bucket
Caterpillar	Cat 430-07A QC	2021	Backhoe w/bucket, fork, & snow push box
Case	SV280	2017	Skid loader w/bucket, tow, & sweep ability
New Holland	NHTC35D	2004	Tractor w/bucket & mower deck
John Deere	Gator	2012	ATV w/snowplow
John Deere	Z970R Zero Turn	2021	Riding mower (60" mowing deck)
John Deere	Z950M Zero Turn	2018	Riding mower (72" mowing deck)
John Deere	Z915B Zero Turn	2016	Riding mower (48" mowing deck)
John Deere	997 Zero Turn	2014	Riding mower (60" mowing deck)
Morbark	M15R	2011	Woodchipper w/winch system
American Road	1500	2008	Leaf vacuum trailer
ODB	SCL800TM25	2000	Leaf vacuum trailer
Falcon	2021	2020	Hot Box/asphalt trailer
Wacker	RD11A	2008	Roller
Harben	E Series	2008	Sewer jetter



*International model RT700  
and 7400*



*Falcon Hot Box*



*F250 Sewer & Utility Truck*

## PUBLIC WORKS RESOURCES

To bolster our efforts to maintain the village’s services, facilities, and image, we account for and preserve our resources. We enhance the abilities of our crew through training and on-the-job experience. The maintenance and improvement of our fleet and equipment are also key factors to reach or exceed our goals. Review some of the 2023 highlights below.

🚩 Training:

- Safety (general)
- Confined Space, Safety harness, and Tripod hoist
- Vehicle, tool, & equipment operation



🚩 Public Works yard improvements:

- Addition of a 26’ by 26’ garage, built in-house by some of the Public Works crew
- Eagle Power Wash System with soap and salt-neutralizing liquid tanks
- Brine storage station expansion (detailed later in this report)



*New Public Works garage addition*

🚩 Equipment Upgrades:

- Curb sweeper and collection system (with 40-gallon water tank) attachment for our Case skid loader
- Purchase of Stihl MS-500i 28-inch chainsaw (fuel injected)

🚩 Vehicles, Equipment, and Supplies:

- Vehicle maintenance and service (includes police fleet)
- Vehicle washing (includes police fleet)
- Misc. equipment maintenance and inventory
- Public Works and other village facility inventory/accountability

<b>PUBLIC WORKS RESOURCES: LABOR HOURS</b>	
<b>Personnel Training</b>	92
<b>PW Yard Improvements &amp; Shopkeeping</b>	180.75
<b>Equipment Maintenance &amp; Inventory</b>	177.5
<b>Vehicle Maintenance &amp; Cleaning (Hours)</b>	257

## VILLAGE FACILITY PROJECTS

Public Works directly undertakes projects to enhance and improve village facilities and properties. We also participate in cooperation with other groups and entities to conduct similar projects. Lastly, we help to arrange contract maintenance and upgrade projects. Presented below are some of the noteworthy tasks and improvements which occurred in 2023.



### Community Center

- New carpeting, tables, and chairs in main hall
- Fresh painting in main hall and balconies
- Furnace upgrades
- Parking lot repaving and striping
- Exterior lighting – LED upgrades



### Village & Facility Signs

New signs have been installed at these locations:

- Village limits on Archer Avenue (east & west)
- Village limits on Willow Springs Road at 79<sup>th</sup> Street
- Public Works yard entrance on Willow Springs Road
- Police Department
- Lions Park



### Veterans Corner

- Structural repair and stone border installation at Iwo Jima mural
- Turf improvement & sod placement
- Floral layout improvements & additions



### Lions Park

- New toddler-age playground playset
- Refreshed playground mulch
- Water fountain installation
- Addition of soccer nets
- Grading & seeding of unused baseball diamond



### Willow Park

- New playground playsets
- Refreshed playground mulch
- Water fountain installation



### Legacy Garden Park

- Concrete pad and gazebo installation
- Assistance to Boy Scout Troop 69 pathway installation project

## **SNOW and ICE OPERATIONS**



The winter 2022-2023 season was a relatively mild season, yet members of our crew were out to pre-treat roads for winter conditions, and/or conduct full snow removal operations.

Our crew and our fleet are ready to take on winter's challenge. We maintain approximately 25 miles of streets and alleys, four miles of village-owned

properties (i.e.: parking lots and entrances), and 4.6 miles of pedestrian areas.

While we will still use road salt, we are shifting toward brine solutions for ice prevention/de-icing. We've upgraded our brine supply station with an additional 3000-gallon tank, thus doubling our brine supply capacity to 6000 gallons.



In 2024, we anticipate an upgrade to a 1,000-gallon tank sprayer system which will supplement the present 600-gallon application system.



*Brine storage station at Public Works*

We have purchased and installed a solar-powered weather station with camera and road temperature sensor. With its current location on Glenwood Avenue near Archer Avenue, the station offers a snapshot image of Glenwood and a ground temperature reading of the pavement. This information is accessible to our crew via cell phone, enabling real-time monitoring of road conditions. It is a valuable tool in the arsenal of snow and ice operations.

<b>STATS: SNOW and SALT OPERATIONS</b>	
<b>Labor Hours (Winter 2022-2023)</b>	225.25
<b>Salt Usage (tonnage) - All Areas</b>	215.70
<b>Brine Usage (gallons) - All Areas</b>	6700



## LEAF COLLECTION



The leaf crews and our two leaf vacuum trailers stood up to autumn’s annual test! Leaf collection runs were conducted on a daily/near-daily basis—to include concurrent operation of both leaf vacuum trailers in different areas of the village.

Leaf collection involved more than residential areas; we collected leaves from village owned properties, we cleared curb lines, and we vacuumed leaves from storm sewer manholes.



STATS: LEAF COLLECTION	
<b>Labor Hours</b>	545.5
<b>Leaf Tonnage</b>	440k pounds

## BRANCH CHIPPING



*WS Public Works in Countryside, assisting with tornado cleanup.*

The Public Works branch chipper is a true, all-season workhorse. We’ve made multiple, scheduled runs during the branch chipping season. Tree removal and tree and brush trimming also require chipping services. Furthermore, we have assisted the villages of Countryside and McCook during storm/tornado debris clean-up.

BRANCH CHIPPING: LABOR HOURS	
<b>Scheduled Chipping Runs</b>	361
<b>Storm Debris Clean-up: Countryside</b>	63
<b>Storm Debris Clean-up: McCook</b>	5

**TREE, BRUSH, and TRIMMING SERVICES**



A variety of tasks fall into the mix of our tree, brush, and trimming services, and our arsenal of power tools can own up to those tasks.

We've conducted several tree or tree limb removals on village easements and properties, trimmed road shoulders and sidewalks for improved sight lines and safety, and we've otherwise maintained a neatly trimmed appearance of other easements and areas throughout the village.

<b>TREE, BRUSH &amp; TRIMMING: LABOR HOURS</b>	
<b>Tree Removal/Trimming</b>	294.25
<b>Brush and Hedge Clearing/Trimming</b>	136.5
<b>Usage Hours: All Saws, Trimmers, Brush Cutters</b>	243.25

**MOWING OPERATIONS**

Mowing operations are one of our busiest tasks and seasons, generally running from April through September. Mowing occurs weekly at many sites while other areas are mowed on a bi-weekly or as-needed basis.

Mowing operations include:

- ▲ String trimming, backpack blowing, and stray trash pick-up.
- ▲ Approximately 22 mowed acres on a weekly basis.
  - Approximately 10 additional mowed acres when including the rights-of-way of Com-Ed, Kinder Morgan, and certain IDOT and County easements.



<b>MOWING OPERATIONS</b>	
<b>Labor Hours (total)</b>	1942.5

## LANDSCAPING

Various landscape projects have occurred around village areas to enhance the image of Willow Springs to its residents, visitors, and passers-by.

The 6-foot by 10-foot greenhouse at the Public Works yard has been quite useful in the preservation and cultivation of plants and flowers for future seasons. This practice also mitigates the costs and purchasing of new decorative flora each season.

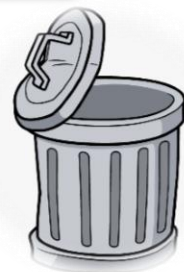


*Spreading mulch at Legacy Garden Park*

<b>STATS: LANDSCAPING</b>	
<b>Total Labor Hours</b>	575
<b>Greenhouse Cultivation</b>	41.5
<b>Planting, Mulching, Soil Enhancement</b>	256.41
<b>Weeding and Watering</b>	318.5
<b>Soil and Mulch (cubic yards)</b>	66.3

## TRASH and DEBRIS SERVICES

Public Works collects stray trash regularly so as to maintain a clean image for the village. We attend to village properties and easements, all areas where mowing operations occur, and some state and county rights-of-way. We also attend to trash cans in the village circle area, Community Center, and Legacy Garden Park. Moreover, we bring trash cans at our parks to curbside for regular waste disposal company service.



<b>TRASH SERVICES - LABOR HOURS</b>	
<b>Stray Trash, Road Debris, Etc.</b>	417.75
<b>Trash Services at Village Owned Properties</b>	354.8

## SANITARY and STORM SYSTEMS



*The pond at Healing Waters Park*

Our crew keeps things flowing smoothly with our sanitary and storm system checks and maintenance. We've made some additional improvements to aid in preventative maintenance and to ensure smooth operations and services.

Public Works monitors and maintains the following:

- ▲ Six sanitary sewage lift stations
- ▲ More than 30 miles of sanitary sewer lines
- ▲ 50-plus miles of storm sewer lines, culverts, and pond or ditch inlets and outlets



*Renaissance Lift Station with new generator in background*

In December, the Omni SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) was installed at the Fairway I lift station. The system allows for remote monitoring of the station's operation such as flow rates, pump and float information, current power draw, and more. We anticipate the system's installation at other lift stations in 2024.

Another improvement was the installation of a new generator at the Renaissance lift station. Being our "busiest" lift station—especially with additional output via new residential development—this generator is a necessary upgrade to maintain operation in case of a power outage.

<b>SANITARY &amp; STORM SYSTEMS: LABOR HOURS</b>	
<b>Lift Station Maintenance and Repair</b>	159.75
<b>Sewer Jetter Usage (clearing sewer lines)</b>	24.5
<b>Inspection/Cleaning: Sanitary Sewer</b>	88.66
<b>Inspection/Cleaning: Storm Sewers &amp; Curbs</b>	71.5

## STREETS, SIGNAGE, and LIGHTING

Street-related projects were a major part of 2023. Many of these projects have been completed by contract and other external agencies based on infrastructure upgrades. Approximately 2.5 miles of village streets have been resurfaced, to include the following:

**Budgeted/Contracted:**



*85th Street*

- 85<sup>th</sup> Street (east of Wolf Rd)
- Hess Street
- Maple Avenue
- Oakwood Avenue

**I-294 project restoration:**



*Rust Trail Area near I-294*

- Blackstone Avenue (300-400 blocks)
- Beverly Lane
- Louis Drive
- Rust Trail North, East, and West
- Vana Drive

**Water Main Repair:**



*Charleton Avenue near Cedar Street*

Charleton Avenue from Vinewood Avenue to 87<sup>th</sup> Street (200-600 blocks). Road rebuild/restoration affected by the Justice-Willow Springs Water Commission water main project

Many other street-related projects—completed by Public Works—include street surface cutting and patching and/or pothole repair, made simpler using the two-ton capacity Falcon Hotbox (asphalt trailer).

The crew also conducts signage, road marking, and lighting maintenance as needed. We also maintain a traffic sign and traffic cone trailer for emergencies and events, as well as a varied inventory of street name signs and other commonly replaceable road signs.

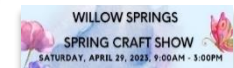


<b>STATS: STREETS, SIGNAGE, LIGHTING</b>	
<b>Street Repair &amp; Maintenance (Labor Hours)</b>	153.5
<b>Hot Patch/Cold Patch Usage (Tons)</b>	23.7
<b>Sign/Marking Maintenance (Labor Hours)</b>	75
<b>Lighting Maintenance (Labor Hours)</b>	17

## SPECIAL EVENTS

The Public Works crew stepped up to ensure the success of a variety of events in 2023. We contributed efforts to various stages of the event process to include planning, set-up, operation, clean-up, and take-down.

We also represented Willow Springs at other events outside of our community, such as the Justice Touch-A-Truck event and the Westmont Car Show which featured local Public Works and other municipal departments.



SPECIAL EVENTS: LABOR HOURS	
Willow Fest & Car Show	358.5
Willow Springs Blues Fest	123
All Other Willow Springs Events	200.5
Events in Other Communities	11
<b>Combined Total</b>	<b>693</b>

## CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS



The Public Works crew devotes itself to decorating village properties (and other areas through agency agreements) with the Christmas spirit. To facilitate this project, we have developed a layout guide which includes power supply locations, power cord placement, and more.

We also appreciate the volunteers who have decorated village signs and neighborhood entrances.

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS	
<b>Labor Hours (total)</b>	<b>311</b>

## IN GRATITUDE



In the spring of 2023, we honored John DeHaan, who retired after 38 years of service for Willow Springs.

John was the Director of Public Works for many years, which included duties as village mechanic. John was also the final fire chief to serve and lead the Willow Springs Fire Department.

John has a level of knowledge and expertise which is—and will be—difficult to match. He is still a valuable resource, and he is willing to lend that knowledge as needed to Public Works staff, especially since we still see him around town.



*Thanks, John!*



## IN MEMORIAM



In April 2023, we were suddenly, tragically, and sadly forced to say goodbye to one of our prized employees, Tyler Gallo.

Tyler (or “T2”) was engaged to his long-time love, Grace, and a loving father of Cameron and Carter. As our youngest employee, he demonstrated an admirable level of maturity. He was eager to learn, well-

motivated, and very dedicated to his tasks and assignments. We will continue to miss his quirks, his smile, and his presence on our team.

*Rest in peace,*

*Tyler*





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