



PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

2024 Annual Report

Keith Grantland
Director,
Public Works

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FROM THE DIRECTOR

I proudly present the 2024 Willow Springs Public Works Annual Report to the Honorable Mayor Neddermeyer, the Village Board, and the residents of Willow Springs.



Throughout 2024, Public Works stepped up to a variety of challenges and opportunities. We strived to fulfill our responsibilities, to meet our obligations, and to go above and beyond. While demonstrating our flexibility and fluidity, we maintained smoothly operating services and we continued to promote an alluring and appealing image throughout the village.

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

In a proud summary, we have contributed 13,858 labor hours. These labor hours comprised 1,770 activities via a total of 534 work orders that have been completed and processed as of the writing of this report.

In a more detailed fashion, this report will outline and highlight various aspects of the projects and tasks we have undertaken, as well as our achievements throughout the year.

I am honored to lead the Public Works Department. The team effort and dedication of our humble and relatively small crew reflect positively upon our department as well as the Village of Willow Springs.

Respectfully,



Keith Grantland

Director, Willow Springs Public Works



OUR MISSION, OUR GOAL, 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 excellence in the services we provide:

<i>NAME</i>	<i>POSITION</i>	<i>TIME in POSITION</i>
Keith Grantland	Director	7 ½ years
Paulie Freyman	Assistant Director	2 ½ years
Kevin Phillips	Laborer	6 ½ years
Steven Vanderstuyf	Laborer	4 years
Tyler Norkus	Laborer	3 ½ years
Jeremy Pappalardo	Laborer	1 ½ years
Marijo Kristie	Laborer (part time)	6 ½ years
James Uckerman	Laborer (part time)	6 ¾ years
Patti Gallinaro	Laborer (part time)	2 ¾ years
Mary O’Heron	Admin Professional (part time)	6 ¾ years

FLEET and EQUIPMENT

The following graphic displays a snapshot of the Public Works vehicles and equipment inventory. While it is not all-inclusive, the graphic depicts some of our commonly used inventory.

						
Ford F350 (2021) Pickup crew cab	Ford F250 (2024) Pickup w/plow	Ford F250 (2022) Pickup w/plow	Ford F250 (2013) Pickup w/plow	Ford F350 (2012) Pickup w/plow	Chrysler Town & Country (2014) Landscape van w/water tank & pump	GMC C6500 (2000) Utility/boom
						
Ford F250 (2022) Sewer & utility w/hoist & generator	International 7400 (2016) Dump & plow	International RT700 (2008) Dump w/branch chipper box	Ford F550 (2023) Dump & plow w/liquid de-ice dispensing system	Ford F550 (2021) Dump & plow	Ford F550 (2012) Dump & plow	John Deere Gator (2012) ATV w/snowplow
						
Caterpillar 430-07A QC (2021) Backhoe w/bucket, fork, & snow push box	Case SV280 (2017) Skid loader w/bucket, tow, & sweep ability	John Deere 2025 (2024) Tractor w/snow, mowing, planing attachments	New Holland TC35D (2004) Tractor w/bucket & mower attachments	John Deere Z970R (2021) Zero Turn mower (60" deck)	John Deere Z950M (2018) Zero Turn mower (72" deck)	John Deere Z915B (2016) Zero Turn mower (48" deck)
						
John Deere 997 (2014) Zero Turn mower (60" deck)	Morbark M15R (2011) Woodchipper w/winch	American Road 1500 (2008) Leaf vacuum trailer	ODB SCL800TM25 (2000) Leaf vacuum trailer	Harben E-Series (2008) Sewer Jetter	Falcon 2021 Hot Box (2020) Asphalt trailer	Wacker RD11A (2008) Roller

PUBLIC WORKS RESOURCES

Accounting for and preserving our resources is a responsibility we take to bolster our efforts to maintain the village’s services, facilities, and image. We enhance the abilities of our crew through training and on-the-job experience. The maintenance, improvement, and accountability of our fleet and equipment are also key factors to continue our mission and reach our goals. Review some of the 2024 highlights below.

🚩 Training:

- Safety (general)
- Vehicle, tool, and equipment operation

🚩 Public Works yard improvements:

- Installation of electrical and heating elements in the Public Works garage addition
- LED lighting improvements in Public Works vehicle and maintenance areas
- Reorganization of the tool and equipment maintenance workshop



Public Works garage addition

🚩 Equipment Upgrades/Purchases:

- Boss VSI 1000-gallon liquid de-ice/anti-ice dispenser (detailed later in this report)
- Stihl power tools
 - Auger, Landscape edger, Extendable pole saw
- Genie scissor lift (32-ft reach)

🚩 Vehicles, Equipment, and Supplies:

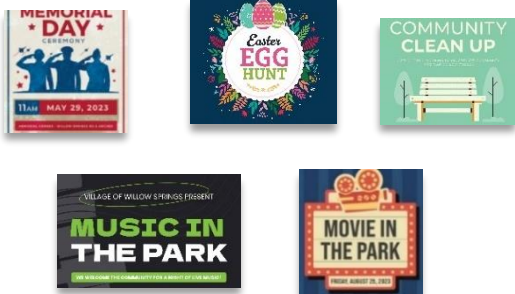
- Vehicle maintenance and service (includes police fleet)
- Vehicle cleaning/detailing
- Maintenance and inventory of Public Works equipment

PUBLIC WORKS RESOURCES: LABOR HOURS	
Personnel Training	24
Equipment Training	44
Vehicle Maintenance & Cleaning	205

SPECIAL EVENTS

The Public Works crew contributed to the success of a variety of events in 2024. We focused our efforts during various stages of the event process to include planning, set-up, operation, clean-up, and take-down.

Our busiest events are Willow Fest and Winter Fest, with the latter requiring solid hours of installing festive illumination and décor.



SPECIAL EVENTS: LABOR HOURS	
Willow Fest & Car Show	387.5
Willow Springs Blues Fest	98
All Other Willow Springs Events	160
Winter Fest & Christmas Decorations	2008
Combined Total	835.5



TRASH/DEBRIS SERVICES

Public Works regularly collects stray trash to maintain a presentable image and promote the safety of village corridors.

Areas covered and duties include the following:



- ▶ Village properties and easements
- ▶ All locales where mowing operations occur
- ▶ Portions of state and county rights-of-way
- ▶ Trash receptacles at village properties
- ▶ Debris or hazards on village, county, and state roadways

TRASH and DEBRIS SERVICES	
Total Labor Hours	822.75

MOWING OPERATIONS

Mowing operations occur generally from April through September. These operations cover approximately 32 acres throughout the village on a weekly basis. Mowing operations include:



- ▶ String trimming
- ▶ Backpack blowing
- ▶ Stray trash pick-up

MOWING OPERATIONS	
Total Labor Hours	1976

BRANCH CHIPPING

The Public Works branch chipper is a true, all-season workhorse. Scheduled chipping runs were made weekly as a village service. Additionally, our tree removal and tree and brush trimming services also require branch chipper usage.



With the exception to some heavier winds, nature spared our village of heavy-duty debris clean up. However, we assisted the village of Justice in debris clean up after an EF-1 tornado touched down within its village limits.

“We worked fast to have all streets passable. We had help from Willow Springs Public Works. They had three of their guys and their chipper truck helping us. We have a very good relationship with them.”

Joe Cekus
Director of Justice
Public Works

BRANCH CHIPPING: LABOR HOURS	
Scheduled Chipping Runs	518.5
Storm/Wind Debris Clean-up	16.5
Tornado Clean-up Assistance (to Justice, IL)	45

TREE and BRUSH SERVICES



A variety of tasks fall into the mix of our tree, brush, and trimming services conducted on village properties and easements. Our arsenal of power tools and our crew can own up to those tasks.

Such tasks include the following:

- ▲ Tree or tree limb removals
- ▲ Trimming road shoulder and sidewalks for improved sight lines and safety
- ▲ General brush trimming and pruning to maintain a pleasing appearance

TREE and BRUSH SERVICES: LABOR HOURS	
Tree Removal/Trimming	287.75
Brush and Hedge Clearing/Trimming	188.75
Usage Hours: All Saws, Trimmers, Brush Cutters	278.25

LANDSCAPING

Landscaping is important to maintain the curb appeal of our village. Many of the plantings and floral adornments have been established and maintained by the Public Works landscape crew.

Landscaping includes the following duties:

- 🔺 Flora cultivation and preservation at our greenhouse
- 🔺 Planting/transplanting
- 🔺 Weeding/watering
- 🔺 Mulching and soil enhancement
- 🔺 Edging, trimming, pruning

Our projects also include hardscaping. Some of those projects are detailed here:

**Drainage Channel Improvement
(8318 Archer Avenue)**




- Project completed entirely by Public Works
- Removal of decrepit chain link fence
- Thinning of brush/tree overgrowth
- Installation of decorative metal fence

**Willowshire Entrance
(Stratford Drive at Wolf Road)**



- Project was contracted locally but aided by Public Works
- Removal of Willowshire sign and all existing landscaping, soils, and paver blocks
- Installation of decorative landscape lighting
- Addition of native shrubs, grasses, and tree
- Addition of flagstone & refreshed mulch
- Reinstallation of Willowshire sign

Veterans Corner





- Under-eave lighting at the pavillion
- Border and layout improvements
- Floral improvements at the "V"

LANDSCAPING	
Total Labor Hours	939.75


VILLAGE FACILITY PROJECTS

This year presented many opportunities to update and upgrade portions of our village facilities and properties. Many projects were completed by Public Works staff while others were coordinated through contract work. Each project enhanced the appearance, accessibility, and sustainability of village assets. Presented below are some of the noteworthy improvements which occurred in 2024.

Community Center		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated lighting and ceiling fans in main hall and balconies New tile flooring in main hallway and the kitchen Painting of Senior Club office Cleaning, storage installation, and painting of janitorial closet Replacement of all furnace units Roof repairs Restroom fixture updates to include installation of baby changing stations 	



Dog Parks	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Installation of new dog waste bag bins Removal of decaying trees in small dog park; replaced with three native trees

Historical Society	
	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Layout improvements in the foyer Installation of decorative ceiling tile and light fixtures in the classroom display area 	

Healing Waters Park	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sanding, power washing, and repainting of the gazebo and the pond deck

Willow Park	
 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refreshed playground mulch • Resurfacing of basketball court with pickleball courts and nets installed • Installation of new basketball backboards, rims, and nets • Installation of two sets of bags (cornhole) games

Lions Park	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refreshed playground mulch • Resurfacing of basketball, tennis, and pickleball courts • Installation of new basketball backboards, rims, and nets • Installation of two sets of bags (cornhole) games • Installation of two charcoal grills (purchased by the Willow Springs Lions Club) 	  

Village Hall		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Misc. clean up and reorganization of storage and supply areas • New paint, trim work, and carpeting and/or flooring throughout halls, offices, and board rooms 	

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 consists of tending to these areas:

- 🔺 Residences
- 🔺 Village owned properties and easements
- 🔺 Storm sewer manholes
- 🔺 Street curb lines



LEAF COLLECTION	
Total Labor Hours	527
Leaf Tonnage	640K pounds

SIGNAGE and LIGHTING

Public Works maintains a variety of roadway signs and illumination systems. Some of the 2024 highlights include the following:


- 🔺 Installation of multiple “No Truck” signs on village street junctions with Archer Avenue
- 🔺 Restriping of parking stalls on Market Street
- 🔺 New LED lighting at Village Business Parking (old Metra) lot
- 🔺 New LED lighting at Willow Park
- 🔺 100% replacement of road signs and posts on Forest Woods Drive



SIGNAGE and LIGHTING: LABOR HOURS	
Sign/Marking Maintenance	111
Lighting Maintenance	110.75

ROADWAY MAINTENANCE

Various roadway projects occurred during 2024. Many improvements, resurfacing, and patchwork repairs involved budgeted/contracted work as well as I-294 Tollway Project Restoration work (detailed below).

Budgeted / Contracted Street Resurfacing and Improvements	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 85th Street west of Wolf Road Park Street and new parking lanes at Lions Park Vinewood Avenue between Elm and Hilton Streets Total lane mileage resurfaced: 3840 feet Total footage of patchwork repairs: 3800 square feet

I-294 Restoration Project (Resurfacing)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Willow Boulevard from 8700 Archer Avenue to the main Metra parking lot Total lane mileage: 1800 feet Village Business (old Metra) Parking Lot Total footage: 40,075 square feet

Budgeted / Contracted Street Resurfacing and Improvements	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sealcoating and restriping of parking lots at the Village Hall and both Metra lots Total footage: 45,738 square feet

Public Works crews also performed various roadway projects, facilitated by use of our Falcon Hotbox asphalt trailer. Such projects included pothole repair, cut-and-patch projects, and application of roadway crack sealant.



PUBLIC WORKS ROADWAY MAINTENANCE	
Street Repair & Maintenance (Labor Hours)	142
Hot Patch/Cold Patch Usage (Tons)	13.1

SANITARY and STORM SYSTEMS

To ensure smooth operations and services, our crew performs checks, preventative maintenance, repairs, and service calls throughout our vast sanitary and storm systems. We monitor and maintain 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



Some of the 2024 projects and additional improvements include the following:

▲ Park Street storm sewer	Replacement of a 100-foot section of deteriorated line
▲ Renaissance Lift Station	Installation of two new pumps
▲ Kean Avenue Lift Station	Installation of new floats, purchase and installation of a refurbished pump
▲ Sanitary sewer camera inspections	Approximately 25% of sanitary sewer lines have been inspected for damage or flow-related issues
▲ Sanitary sewer line repairs	Two segments repaired after discovery of gas service line penetration in the sanitary line (100 block of South Nolton)



SANITARY & STORM SYSTEMS: LABOR HOURS	
Lift Station Maintenance and Repair	146.75
Sewer Jetter Usage (clearing sewer lines)	70
Inspection/Cleaning: Sanitary Sewer	102
Inspection/Cleaning: Storm Sewers & Curbs	106.5

WINTER WEATHER OPERATIONS



The 2023-2024 winter season was a relatively mild season, yet our crew rolled out to pre-treat roads for winter conditions and/or conduct full snow removal operations.

While we still apply road salt, we have shifted toward brine and/or liquid solutions for ice prevention and de-icing. This is cost effective, and it is less intrusive to stormwater/meltwater drainage systems and their outlets. Our liquid solution supply station capacity stands at 6000 gallons.

We have upgraded our liquid anti-ice/de-ice capability to the Boss model VSI 1000 system. This 1,000-gallon tank sprayer system supplements our 600-gallon application system. The VSI 1000 allows for automated dispensation—meaning it can apply more material on inclines, declines, and at intersections, while regulating a lesser flow on areas with little to no incline.

We maintain approximately:

- ▲ 25 miles of streets and alleys
- ▲ 4.6 miles of pedestrian passageways
- ▲ 4 miles of village-owned properties (i.e.: parking lots and entrances)



Brine storage station at Public Works

We continue to monitor our solar-powered weather station (with camera and road temperature sensor)



located on Glenwood Avenue. Manufacturer-end enhancements to the system enable weather- and surface-related textual alerts to key Public Works staff, thus expanding our ability to monitor such conditions.

WINTER WEATHER OPERATIONS	
Labor Hours (Winter 2024)	486.25
Brine Usage (gallons)	16,801
Salt Usage (tons)	486.25



**Willow Springs Public Works
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Willow Springs, Illinois
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