

PUBLIC WORKS

ANNUAL REPORT



LINCOLNWOOD PUBLIC WORKS JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2024

The Village of Lincolnwood Public Works Department is at the heart of our community, providing essential services that touch every resident's daily life. Whether 80 feet up in a bucket truck trimming trees or 8 feet down in a trench repairing underground utilities, these employees work tirelessly to maintain the infrastructure and services that keep Lincolnwood running smoothly. From clearing streets during the snowstorms to maintaining ball fields under the summer sun or ensuring the pool operates seamlessly, Public Works is there. This 2024 Annual Report highlights the dedication and contributions of each Public Works division—streets, water, parks, trees, engineering, and administration. Together, these teams play a vital role in supporting the quality of life in Lincolnwood, ensuring that every street-driven, faucet-turned, and park-enjoyed reflects the pride and commitment of our Village.

This 2024 annual report demonstrates the dedication of each division of Public Works and the essential role each plays in maintaining the vital functions of daily life. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please call Public Works at 847-675-0888.



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FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



REFLECTING ON 2024 A YEAR OF DEDICATION

As we close out another busy and productive year, I am proud to reflect on the incredible work accomplished by the Public Works team in 2024.

This year was marked by growth, transition, and significant achievements across all divisions.

Internally, we welcomed new faces and celebrated milestones. Anthony transitioned from a seasonal role to a full-time position, bringing fresh energy and commitment to the team. Kiko rejoined us as a seasonal laborer, a familiar and welcome addition, and we bid farewell to Oleg, whose retirement marked the end of a long career. Witnessing the team grow, adapt, and excel is one of the most rewarding aspects of my role as director.

On the infrastructure front, 2024 was a year of impactful updates. We installed new water mains, lined sewers, planted trees, and implemented safety improvements such as new stop signs, road striping, and speed bumps. Key building updates and innovative projects, like renting a salt conveyor to ensure winter preparedness, showcased our ability to adapt and find creative solutions.

Public Works touches every facet of life in Lincolnwood—from plowed streets and safe water, and maintaining essential facilities like the pumping station, police, and fire departments. The dedication of this team ensures the Village runs efficiently and safely, and it's an honor to lead such an outstanding department. This report is designed to highlight the remarkable contributions of each division and provide insight into the vital role Public Works plays in the Village. Thank you for your continued support as we work together to build a thriving Lincolnwood.



JOHN M. WELCH P.E.
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

P.E. stands for Professional Engineer. The designation can only be granted after passing strenuous state licensure exams.



VILLAGE OF LINCOLNWOOD
PUBLIC WORKS FACILITY

QUICK HIGHLIGHTS

JANUARY TO DECEMBER

3,816 WORK ORDERS

251 BUSINESS DAYS

HIGHEST MONTH: JUNE 415

LOWEST MONTH: JANUARY 232

AVERAGE WORK ORDER PER MONTH:

318

AVERAGE WORK ORDERS PER DAY: 15

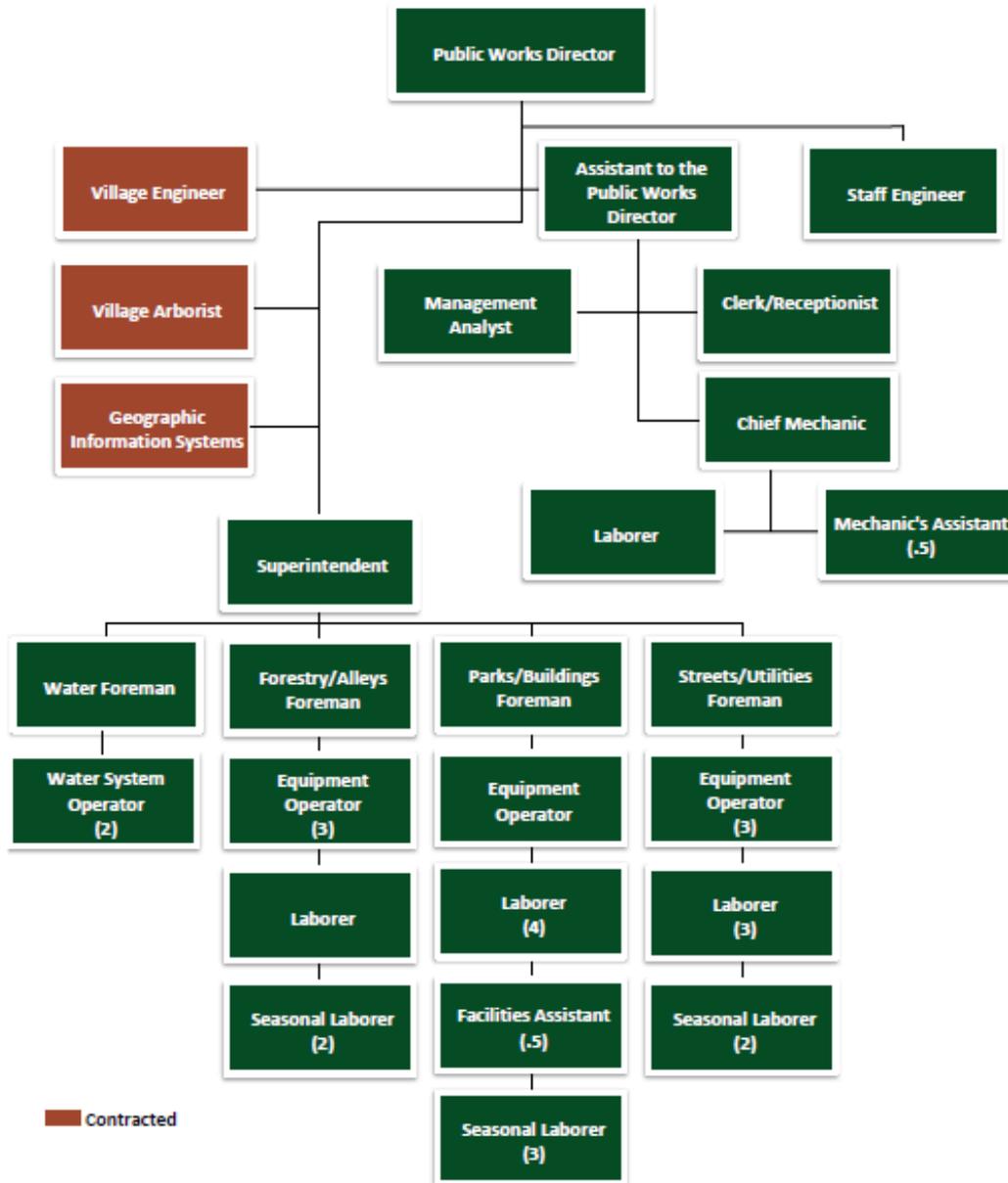
TOP REQUESTS:

1. TREE EVALUATIONS 501
2. BUILDING MAINTENANCE 387
3. PARK MAINTENANCE 352
4. VEHICLE MAINTENANCE 319
5. FALLEN TREE LIMBS 303
6. ROADWAY REPAIR 163
7. DEAD ANIMALS 145
8. ALLEY MAINTENANCE 92
9. POOL MAINTENANCE 65
10. INSTALL A SIGN 61



DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

2024



PUBLIC WORKS STAFF

The Department is comprised of 31 dedicated full-time and part-time employees, supported by up to 7 seasonal labor positions during peak times. With an average tenure of 8 years, the team demonstrates a strong commitment to serving the community. The longest-tenured employee has contributed 29 years of service, the newest joined just a few weeks ago.



STREETS AND UTILITIES



The underground water system is a network of water mains (pipes) and valves. Seasonally, the valves are inspected and exercised.



STREETS AND UTILITIES ENSURING CLEAN AND SAFE STREETS

WORK ORDER HIGHLIGHTS

- 163 Roadway Repairs
- 36 Damaged Signs
- 61 Sign Installations
- 2 drainage issues
- 10 Hydrant Repairs
- 54 hearing signs
- 17 Sewer Cleaning Requests
- 7 Sewer Televising Requests
- 49 Sidewalk Maintenance Requests
- 26 Storm Sewer Repairs
- 20 Street Sweeping Requests
- 11 Reported Watermain Breaks
- 7 Actual Breaks
- 14 Water Valve Repairs



Periodically water mains break. Pictured above is a repair sleeve about 7 feet under the road

The Streets and Utilities team plays a vital role in maintaining Lincolnwood's infrastructure, including roadways, traffic signals, water systems, and sewers. Annually, their duties include flushing fire hydrants to prevent sediment buildup, exercising water valves for repair readiness, cleaning catch basins to ensure proper stormwater flow, performing leak detection to minimize water loss, and installing and maintaining street signs for clear and safe navigation.

WHY DID MY WATER GET SHUT OFF?

If your water bill is current and you have no water it may be due to a water shut-off for infrastructure updating or an emergency shut-off for a water main break repair. To learn more about planned infrastructure updates please visit: Lincolnwoodil.org/infrastructure

WHY IS MY STREET FLOODED?

It's better in the street than in your basement. The Village's stormwater system uses inlet restrictors and street storage berms to manage the flow into the combined sewer system. These berms, resembling rolling hills in the road, temporarily hold water to prevent overloading the system and protects homes.

STREET SWEEPING

Street sweeping is a vital seasonal service, running from April to mid-December. With 66 miles of Village-maintained roadways, our sweepers collectively cover over 600 miles each season, ensuring clean and safe streets. Operating in tandem, two sweepers work diligently to keep Lincolnwood looking its best year-round. You can find your street sweeping day online at lincolnwoodil.org/streetsweeping

DIVISION RESPONSIBILITIES

- 775 FIRE HYDRANTS
- 60 HYDRANT FLUSH
- 658 WATER VALVES
- 60 MILES OF WATER MAINS
- 2096 CATCH BASIN
- 1588 CURBLETS
- 1258 SEWER MANHOLES
- 67 MILES OF COMBINES SEWER MAINS
- 41 MILES OF ROADWAY
- 356 SIDEWALK SQUARES

WATER OPERATIONS



LINCOLNWOOD WATER SYSTEM

This division's duties include maintaining safe drinking water, ensuring a steady flow, and keeping the entire system in good working order. The water system consists of five pumps, two storage tanks, and a water tower. The underground infrastructure includes water mains and water service lines. The diameter of the water mains ranges from 4 to 20 inches depending on the location and area serviced.



CERTIFIED WATER OPERATORS

This division is served by Certified Water Operators to ensure the safety and quality of water delivered. These Operators complete comprehensive testing by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) to ensure proficiency in chemical dosing, pressure systems, pumping operations, and overall public water supply management. Operators are required to complete continuing education credits and stay current with water quality standards.



WATER QUALITY

One of the Public Works Department responsibilities is to ensure all residents and businesses have access to safe water. The Village takes pride in maintaining a clean and reliable water operation, prioritizing the health and well-being of the community. Each spring, the Village publishes its Consumer Confidence Report providing residents with detailed information on the safety and quality of their water.

PROMOTIONS



RAMIRO WAS PROMOTED TO WATER FOREMAN.

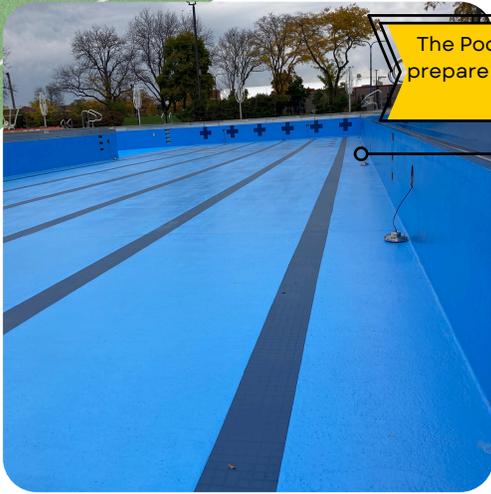
WATER DEPARTMENT IN NUMBERS

- FULL TIME STAFF 2
- PUMPS OPERATED AND MONITORED 5
- MILLION GALLONS OF WATER IN THE WATER TOWER 1.5
- MILLION GALLONS OF STORAGE CAPACITY 3.75
- WATER SERVICE CONNECTIONS 4,256
- NEW COMMERCIAL METERS INSTALLED 10
- CHLORINE RESIDUALS TESTED PER MONTH 40-50
- BACTERIOLOGICAL SAMPLES COLLECTED PER MONTH 10



The stand pipe assists in pressurizes the water system

PARKS AND BUILDINGS



The Pool was painted to prepare for the 2025 pool season



2024 was the inaugural year for the new batting cages in Proesel Park

FACILITIES, POOL, PARKS, AND SPECIAL EVENTS

WORK ORDER HIGHLIGHTS

in 2024 this department had over 800 requests including:

- 12 bike path maintenance
- 348 building maintenance
- 7 graffiti removals
- 9 beautification projects
- 342 park maintenances
- 65 Pool Maintenance
- 9 cleanings
- 44 event support requests
- 19 special projects



STAFF HIGHLIGHTS



Anthony was hired on full time after working as a seasonal employee over the summer



Steve began working as the Facilities Assistant after working in the vehicle maintenance division.

The Parks and Buildings team is responsible for maintaining 13 village parks, 2 bike paths, and 7 buildings, including the aquatic center and pool. This team is integral to village events like Turkey Trot, Lincolnwood Fest, and Lincolnwood Lights. This division inspects all Village facilities to ensure safety and system operations. They work to maintain the landscaping, pool, and fields at Proesel Park as well as maintaining the various sports court surfaces throughout all the parks. Annual plant flowers and perform other beautification endeavors that you see throughout the Village Hall complex and parks.



This team works 40-80 feet in the air to hang the lights for Lincolnwood Lights



SPECIAL EVENTS INCLUDE:

- Memorial Day Parade
- Pool Opening
- Concerts in the Park
- 4th of July
- Fire Department Open House
- 9/11 Ceremony
- Lincolnwood Fest
- Turkey Trot
- Lincolnwood Lights

SPECIAL FACILITY PROJECTS INCLUDED:

- HVAC Repairs
- Weather Station Wiring
- Community Center Painting
- Police Department Painting
- Electrical Work
- Pool painting
- Locker Room Renovations
- Pool Repairs

CALENDAR YEAR 2024

FORESTRY AND ALLEYS



The stump grinder uses a 32 inch blade to grind out stumps.



The Village owns and cares for over 8,000 trees located within its right-of-way and parks, with the right-of-way extending 33 feet from the road's center in either direction. The dedicated Forestry team of five skilled employees ensures the health and safety of these trees through trimming, maintenance, plantings, and removals as needed. Equipped with bucket trucks, chainsaws, and specialized tools, this team plays a critical role in sustaining Lincolnwood's urban canopy.

Beyond tree care, the Forestry team showcases its versatility by managing seasonal alley grading, line-of-sight mowing, scavenging, snow plowing, hanging flags along Pratt and Lincoln Avenues, and assisting with special events.

TREE CITY USA

For the 26th consecutive year the village has been recognized as being a 'Tree City' by the US Arbor Day Foundation. This recognition highlights the Village's commitment to the urban canopy.



The Forestry team cleaned and enhanced the butterfly gardens along the UP Path.



STAFFING CHANGES



AFTER 23 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE OLEG RETIRED



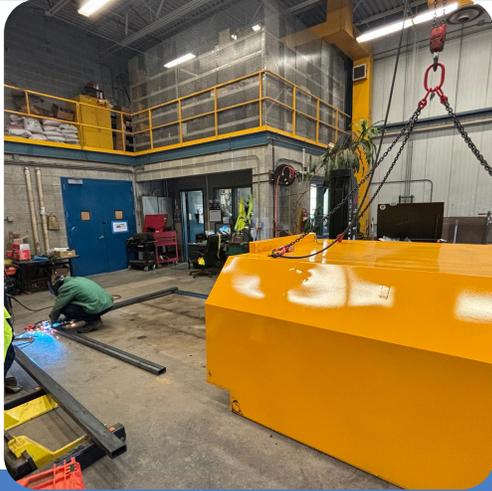
NEW HIRES FOR 2024 INCLUDE JUAN WHO JOINED THE TEAM AS AN EQUIPMENT OPERATOR

FORESTRY IN NUMBERS

- FULL TIME STAFF 5
- SEASONAL STAFF 2
- VILLAGE OWNED TREES 8,691
- TREE EVALUATION WORK ORDERS 501
- TREES PLANTED 129
- TREES REMOVED 141
- ANIMALS SCAVENGED 145
- MILES OF ALLEY MAINTAINED 10.5
- STREET LIGHTS MAINTAINED 849

10 Street Lights were hit by cars and repaired by Public Works in 2024

VEHICLE MAINTENANCE



FLEET FACTS

The Village Fleet, serving Police, Public Works, Fire, and Community Development, is maintained by two full-time and one part-time employee in this division. They ensure peak performance through routine maintenance, emergency repairs, and seasonal preparations, keeping operations running smoothly year-round. The fleet has over 70 vehicles including:

23 Police Cars

3 Ambulances

4 Fire Trucks

15 Public Pick Up Trucks

7 Big Trucks/Snow Plows

9 Administrative Vehicles



Also serviced by the garage are 120 pieces of specialized equipment including a stump grinder, chainsaws, two wood chippers, back hoes, aerial trucks, multiple mowers, multiple tractors, and bobcat loaders.

The annual Touch-A-Truck is a great event to attend to see the Village Fleet up close

VEHICLE MAINTENANCE

The entire Village fleet is serviced in the Public Works Vehicle Maintenance Garage, where the Chief Mechanic ensures that all routine maintenance is completed on schedule. This role involves seasonally transitioning Public Works trucks into snow plows and salters, performing emergency repairs, assisting divisions with specialized training, ensuring specialized equipment functions properly and managing fuel operations.



SMART FLEET OPERATIONS

The fleet has been enhanced with telematic dash cameras. These systems support maintenance scheduling, promote employee safety, and strengthen risk management practices, ensuring the fleet operates at peak performance.

FLEET FUELING OPERATIONS

The Vehicle Maintenance Division is vital to the Village's operations, overseeing tasks like managing and maintaining the Village's fuel station. Among the Chief Mechanic's many responsibilities is ensuring fueling operations safely function. This year, the Village pumped over 50,000 gallons of fuel, keeping the fleet operational and ready to serve.



ELECTRIFICATION

The Village fleet expanded with the addition of two electric vehicles, with another EV planned for 2025. The 2024 acquisitions included two Nissan Leafs, now assigned to the Community Development Team.



CALENDAR YEAR 2024

SNOW OPERATIONS



A Conveyor was used to fill the dome for winter preparations



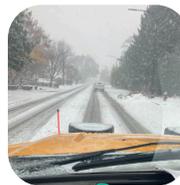
The Salt Dome can hold up to 800 tons of salt.

WINTER WEATHER OPERATIONS

The Village of Lincolnwood's Public Works Department maintains 75 lane miles of roads during winter weather events. To manage snow removal efficiently, the village is divided into various plow routes, aiming to clear all village-owned streets within eight hours following a four to six-inch snowfall. The major thoroughfares are the primary focus of the snow removal effort followed by clearing the municipal complex, residential streets, Proesel Park sidewalks, and ending with alley ways.

SNOW FLEET

When it snows, Public Works is ready to clear the roadways. The response level depends on the severity of the weather. The Village has 7 big plow trucks that can hold tons of salt and many smaller pick-up trucks with plows and salter spreaders.



4 Steps to Be Salt Smart

- 1 **Shovel first.** Clear all snow from driveways and sidewalks before it turns to ice.
- 2 **Size up.** More salt does not mean more melting. A 12-ounce coffee mug of salt should be enough for a 500 sq ft driveway or about 10 sidewalk squares.
- 3 **Spread.** Distribute salt evenly, not in clumps.
- 4 **Switch.** Rock salt stops working if the temperature is below 15 degrees. When temperatures drop that low, switch to a different deicer formulated for colder temperatures.

SALT SMART

The Village recently joined a coalition of communities working to reduce chloride (road salt) runoff into the local waterways. The chloride working group is comprised of 30 groups and municipalities in Cook County that meet to discuss the challenges and best practices of snow removal and salting. Residents can assist in this endeavor by salting smart. One 12-ounce coffee cup of outdoor salt is enough to cover a 20-foot driveway. Learn more at saltsmart.org

SNOW PLOW TRACKER

2024 was a year of many technological improvements. The addition of GPS and telematic cameras in the Village fleet allows us to turn on the snow plow tracking system so residents can see when their street was last plowed or salted. Find it on Lincolnwoodil.org



Learn more at saltsmart.org

ADMINISTRATION AND ENGINEERING



PUBLIC WORKS ADMINISTRATION AND ENGINEERING UPDATES

SAFETY INITIATIVES

This year, the Public Works team implemented several safety initiatives to support employees and maintain a secure workplace.

Safety hatches were installed at roof access points, all employees renewed their OSHA flagger training certification, and multiple divisions completed specialized training to reinforce workplace safety practices. The Public Works Department is committed to ensuring a safe and well-trained workforce.

STAFF PROMOTIONS



Monique was promoted to be the full-time Public Works clerk in 2024

In 2024, Public Works led various projects such as the Lead Service Line Replacement program where 34 lead service lines were replaced. Sidewalk Installation and planning for the future accessibility of the Village, there were approximately 26,000 square feet of new sidewalks were added, a public survey for residents to voice their opinions on Village sidewalks and two public workshops to discuss sidewalks and neighborhoods of concern.

SEASONAL CLEAN UP EVENTS

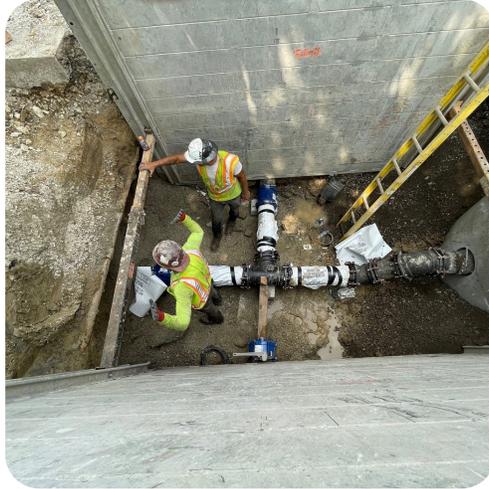
The Village hosts two clean-up events each year with Public Works, the Environmental Commission, and volunteers. 2024 had over 25 extra large garbage bags of debris and trash get picked up from the Union Pacific Bike path and Centennial Park. Keep an eye out on the Village's social media for the 2025 events!



SUSTAINABILITY PLANS AND GRANTS

The Village is working on sustainability through various initiatives. In 2024, the Village secured funding from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program to develop a comprehensive energy reduction plan. This plan will focus on reducing fossil fuel use, improving energy efficiency, and engaging residents in creating a more sustainable future. The project, which will move forward in 2025.

2024 INFRASTRUCTURE



SEWER LINING, NEW WATER MAINS, AND ROADWAY RESURFACING

2018 INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN



In 2018 an Ad-hoc committee met to review and plan out the Village’s future infrastructure improvements. The findings of the report assist in guiding each years infrastructure programing. Events such as the pandemic and responsible financial stewardship have transformed the 10 year plan to be a 12-14 year plan. Staff is constantly evaluating the existing infrastructure and needs of the Village.

In 2024, the Village saw significant improvements through infrastructure projects, including:

- Roadway Resurfacing: 2.94 miles of streets were repaved, enhancing road quality and safety.
- Water Main Installation: 2.82 miles of new water mains were installed, strengthening water distribution.
- Sewer Repairs and Lining: 3,161 feet of sewer repairs and 488 feet of sewer lining were completed, improving sewer reliability.
- Lead Service Line Replacements: 34 lead service lines were replaced, promoting higher water quality.
- Sidewalk Installation: Approximately 26,000 square feet of sidewalks were repoured, improving walkability.



LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

Since 2023 the Village has replaced 50 service lines. During 2024, Public Works teams worked to identify all unknown service line materials submitting a complete inventory to the IEPA. Ending year 2024 there are 1123 lead service lines in the village to be replaced by 2040.

RESIDENT RESOURCES

RESIDENTIAL REBATE PROGRAMS



1 SEWER REPAIR
 The sewer line repair rebate assists residents when repairs or replacements are needed due to Village owned tree root infiltration.

2 FLOOD CONTROL
 The Flood Control and Drainage Rebates assist with addressing flooding and drainage issues on private property.

3 PRIVATE DRAINAGE
 The private drainage rebate assists residents in managing backyard and property flooding.

4 ANIMAL CONTROL
 The Animal Control Rebate reimburses residents for the capture of select nuisance animals.

5 LEAD WATER LINE REPLACEMENT
 The Lead Service Line Replacement Rebate is for residents to replace lead water service lines ahead of the 2040 deadline.

**\$43,260
 granted in 2024**



Public Works manages a residential rat control program designed to help residents eliminate rat burrow holes in their yards. In 2024, the program saw increased participation, reflecting a rise in the local rat population. The exact cause of the growth remains uncertain, factors such as the cicada brood and easy access to food sources likely contributed to supporting the rat population.

QUESTIONS? COMMENTS? CONCERNS? PLEASE CONTACT US

Village of Lincolnwood Public Works

7001 N Lawndale Ave

7:00 am - 3:30 pm
Monday-Friday

847-675-0888

PublicWorks@lwd.org

lincolnwoodil.org/PublicWorks



EMERGENCY?

If you're unsure, call 911 and speak with Dispatch. Emergencies include: Sudden water loss or sudden street flooding, fallen trees or large branches blocking roads, and downed streetlights or traffic signals.

Public Works is here to ensure community safety.

THANK YOU LINCOLNWOOD