

“Providing a Better Environment for South Central DuPage County”

2710 Curtiss Street
Downers Grove, IL 60515
Phone: 630-969-0664
www.dgsd.org

Office Hours -

Monday-Friday: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Emergency Response

Available 24/7

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The District works with local schools throughout the year including elementary schools and high schools, as well as local environmental groups to educate them about wastewater treatment, the role of the sanitary district in the community and the value of water.

This spring we hosted tours of the wastewater treatment center for students from Downers Grove North and South High Schools, Harold Richards High School, and Henry Puffer Elementary School. We also partnered with SCARCE to host a tour for teachers in DuPage County.

If you are interested in touring the wastewater treatment center, call the office or visit www.dgsd.org/contact-us. Residents are also encouraged to visit the plant during our annual open house on Saturday, Oct. 5 from 9 a.m. to noon. See attached flyer for more information.

CARING FOR OUR INFRASTRUCTURE

The District’s most valuable asset is the sewer collection system, including more than 250 miles of gravity sewers. Beyond these sewers, there are nearly 300 miles of privately owned building service pipes connecting buildings to the public mains owned by the District. The District owns nine (9) lift stations which are spread throughout the collection system to pump sewage up to another gravity sewer where the sewers are too deep to transport the sewage by gravity to the District’s wastewater treatment center (WWTC). The District owns approximately 44,000 feet of forcemains, which are the discharge pipes from the lift stations that carry flow to the gravity sewers.

The system dates back as far as 1904 and requires a substantial commitment of resources to maintain the pipes and structures in satisfactory working condition, meeting residents’ expectations for service and regulatory requirements. The most significant challenge is the appearance of ground and storm water, known as infiltration and inflow (I/I), in sewers intended to carry only sanitary waste from plumbing fixtures. This extraneous water can cause backups and overflows by exceeding the capacity to carry sanitary waste and is costly to transport and treat.

Sewer Rehabilitation

As described in our 2023 Annual Newsletter, the District recently employed state-of-the-art trenchless sewer rehabilitation for the Curtiss Street trunk sewer in Downers Grove (pictured on the following page). The rehabilitation technique is called ‘Cured in Place Pipe’ or CIPP. An epoxy-laden felt liner is inserted into the existing pipe, and heat-cured in place, using the existing pipe as the exterior form for the new pipe. A new seamless sewer pipe can be installed without the disruption of digging a large trench to remove and replace the old sewer. The District will be employing the same technology this year for the Powell Street sewer rehabilitation and outfall pipe rehabilitation projects described on the following page.

2024 CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Powell Street Sewer Rehabilitation



Approximately 1,400 lineal feet of 27” reinforced concrete sanitary sewer in Downers Grove will be rehabilitated this year using cured-in-place sanitary sewer liner. The work will also include trimming service laterals, reinstatement of existing services, and replacement of a manhole. Although the manhole replacement at the corner of 67th and Powell St will require excavation, the installation of the public

main liner will not. This work will take place on Powell Street between 67th Street to the north and O’Brien Park to the south. See map above.

Outfall Pipe Rehabilitation

The District will be rehabilitating approximately 2,000 lineal feet of the effluent discharge pipe (or outfall pipe) that carries the treated water from the District’s Wastewater Treatment Center (WWTC) to the East Branch of the DuPage

River. The section to be lined runs through a heavily wooded area along the bank of the St. Joseph Creek. The pipe was originally installed in the mid-1950s when the WWTC was built. A section of the pipe that had sagged was replaced in 2023 in preparation for lining. While the rest of the pipe is in good condition, the joints in the section to be lined are deteriorating due to root intrusion. The CIPP will prevent root intrusion and is expected to extend the useful life of the pipe for another 100 years.

Venard Force Main Replacement

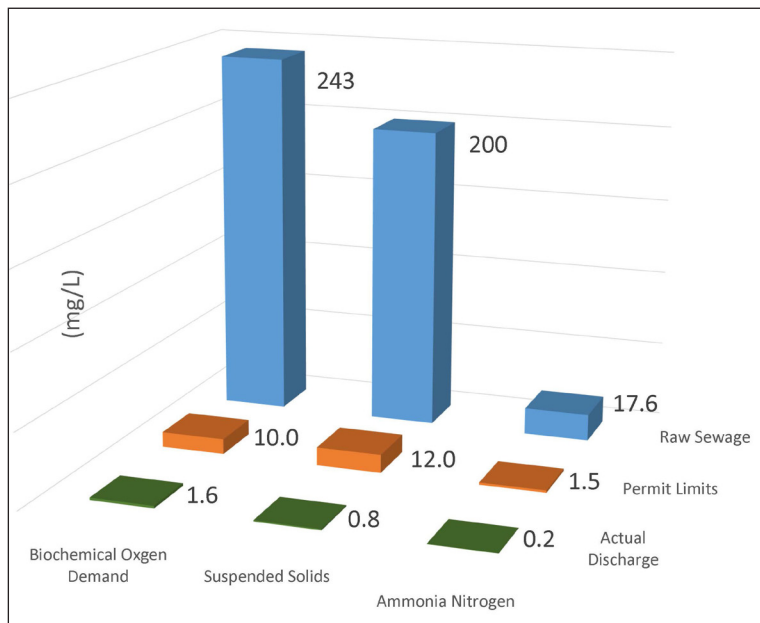
Approximately 2,300 feet of 10” force main from the District’s Venard Lift Station, which is located on Venard Rd. in Downers Grove, will be replaced.



‘Cured in Place Pipe’ technique being used for the Curtiss Street trunk sewer rehabilitation project. Photo courtesy of Visu-Sewer, LLC.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT

The District’s Wastewater Treatment Center (WWTC) operates under a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit issued by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA). The District’s WWTC discharges treated water to the East Branch of the DuPage River that is significantly better than the permit limits. The chart below indicates the successful treatment provided by the District during 2023 for three major NPDES permit parameters.



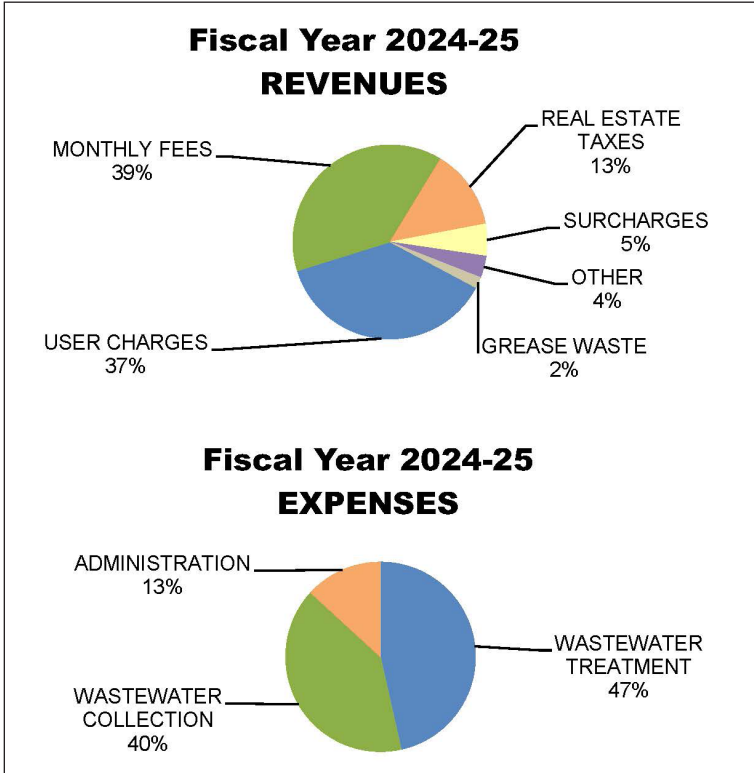
Illinois Wastewater Surveillance System

The Downers Grove Sanitary District has participated in the Illinois Wastewater Surveillance System (IWSS) since June of 2022. IWSS is a monitoring network that tracks COVID-19, influenza and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) by measuring the amount of viral RNA in wastewater throughout Illinois. Twice weekly, District staff collect samples of the raw wastewater entering our Wastewater Treatment Center and sends them to the University of Illinois-Chicago for analysis. The data is reported on the IWSS website at iwss.uillinois.edu/wastewater-treatment-plant/275.

The initiative is a collaboration between the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and the University of Illinois System’s Discovery Partners Institute (DPI). The program aims to deliver actionable information to public health decision makers. For more information on IWSS, visit iwss.uillinois.edu.

BUDGET AND FIVE-YEAR PLAN

The District has implemented a five-year plan, which projects revenues and expenses for all District activities, available for review on our website. For the current fiscal year, general corporate revenues are projected to be \$11.08 million and expenses are projected to be \$13.72 million. The expenses include \$5,539,100 for the sewer system, \$6,379,481 for wastewater treatment and \$1,805,820 for administration. The amount of expenses greater than revenues will result in a planned decrease in the District's operating fund balance. The charts below show the major types of revenues and expenses necessary for operations.



CHANGE IN SEWER BILL RATES 2024

The District's user charge consists of two components: a volume charge based on water consumption and a monthly service fee. The volume charge increased to \$2.75 from \$2.25 per 1,000 gallons of water consumption and the monthly service fee remains the same at \$20.00 per account. Sampling and monitoring charges assessed to commercial and industrial users increased, effective April 7, 2024. The user charge and the monthly fee is evaluated annually and is set to collect the revenues needed to cover the cost of sewer system and treatment plant operation, maintenance and replacement, and District administration.

REAL ESTATE TAXES

This year the District levied \$1,501,578 for repairs to the sanitary sewer infrastructure, a 5.1% increase from last year. This levy results in a tax rate of \$0.0406 per \$100 of assessed value. A single-family residence with a market value of \$300,000 will pay \$40.60 in real estate taxes to the District in 2024.

Watershed Group

The Downers Grove Sanitary District is a founding member and active participant in the DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup (DRSCW). The DRSCW is a consortium of local governments dedicated to managing the valuable stream resources of the East and West Branches of the DuPage River and Salt Creek. The DRSCW conducts state-of-the-art monitoring of stream biology, chemistry, and habitat, using the data to promote and implement projects and activities to cost-effectively restore these urbanized streams for the intended uses.

After receiving phosphorus limits in their NPDES permits for discharge, the District and other DRSCW members were able to negotiate with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) a schedule that provided additional time before implementing phosphorus limits in exchange for funding dam removal and stream restoration projects in our receiving streams.

Since 2015, the DRSCW has completed dam removals in the Oak Meadows Golf Course and on Spring Brook and Salt Creek as well as stream stabilization on Klein Creek. Additional dam modification and stream restoration/enhancement projects are in various stages of planning, design, and construction.

Between 2015 and 2025, it is estimated that the District will have avoided \$7.6 million in operations and maintenance expenses associated with phosphorus removal. During this same time period, the District will have contributed \$1.5 million to fund the DRSCW implemented projects, realizing a savings of approximately \$6.1 million. For more information, visit

www.drscw.org.



Aerial view of completed Spring Brook. Photo courtesy of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County.

SEWER PROBLEMS? OUR ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS CAN HELP!

Customer service is our first priority. We have several sewer assistance programs designed to help you with sanitary sewer backups or other problems with your sewer service. Technicians are available 24/7 to respond to emergencies, such as backups or sanitary sewer manhole overflows.

Building Sanitary Service Repair Assistance Program

If you are having any issues with your sanitary service or have to maintain it by frequently rodding, you may be eligible for a repair under the Building Sanitary Service Repair Assistance Program. The Program covers the entire building sanitary service from the building to the public sewer. To qualify for an initial investigation, property owners should submit a Program Application and a sewer rodding or televising invoice that occurred within the previous 12 months. The District will determine if the cause of repeated maintenance activity is a problem eligible for participation and, if so, the appropriate corrective measures. Most often this includes the installation of an outside cleanout access to help more effectively maintain your service. This Program is not a substitute for and does not cover routine maintenance of the building sanitary service such as periodic rodding. This Program also does not transfer ownership of the building sanitary service to the District.

Reimbursement Program for Installation of Overhead Sewer or Backflow Prevention Devices

The District requires new construction to include plumbing features needed to protect property from backups that can occur at any time. Owners of older buildings should consider improvements needed to provide this level of protection. This cost sharing program is available for residents who have experienced sewer backup problems and desire to convert to an overhead sewer system or install backflow prevention devices, offering to pay half the project cost up to a limit of \$3,000.

Reimbursement Program for Sanitary Sewer Backups Caused by Blockages of the Public Sanitary Sewer

If District personnel determine that the sanitary sewer backup was caused by a blockage of the public sanitary sewer, the resident may be eligible for reimbursement of some costs associated with the backup. Please note that sanitary sewer backups occurring as a result of precipitation-related high flow conditions in the public sanitary sewer are not eligible for reimbursement under this Program. Blockages or problems of any nature in the building sanitary service are not eligible for reimbursement under this Program.

TIPS TO REDUCE INTERNAL PLUMBING PROBLEMS

To help keep the sewer system flowing smoothly and keep the environment safe, residents are reminded that most everyday use items should not be disposed of into the sanitary sewer system. These items include: disposable wipes (sometimes labeled 'flushable' which are not flushable in our system), personal hygiene products, disposable diapers, cotton balls or swabs, tissues or paper towels. In addition, paint, engine oil, pesticides, pharmaceuticals and all household hazardous wastes should not be poured down the sink. Some of these materials can corrode the sewer, while others complicate the treatment process. For more tips, visit www.dgsd.org/maintain-sewer-line.

Used Cooking Oil Program -

The District collects and recycles used cooking oil in partnership with SCARCE. Our customers and residents in the surrounding area are encouraged to recycle their used cooking oil instead of pouring it down the drain or disposing of it in the garbage. Used cooking oil can be dropped off any time at the Administration Center at 2710 Curtiss St., Downers Grove, on the east side of the building (as shown on the right).



The Downers Grove Sanitary District is a separate unit of local government that provides sanitary sewerage service for you. We operate independently from your city or village. Our Board of Trustees meets monthly at the District office. These evening meetings are open to the public and include an opportunity for public comment. The District continues to evaluate and improve the transparency of its operations through increased reporting to the state and county, and provides extensive information on the District website.

We hope you will attend the Wastewater Treatment Center Open House on Saturday, Oct. 5, 2024, from 9 a.m. to noon. If you have any questions regarding any of the information in this newsletter or would like to learn more about the District, please call the District office at 630-969-0664 or visit our website at www.dgsd.org.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
DOWNERS GROVE SANITARY DISTRICT**