

STREET/FORESTRY OPERATIONS

Within the Operations Division, Street activities include the maintenance of more than 86 miles of roadway. Responsibilities include: Maintenance of streets, curbs, signs and pavement markings, snow and ice management, the sidewalk improvement program, contracted line striping and pavement crack sealing programs, street sweeping, parking meter maintenance, parking lot and street light maintenance in the CBD and other areas, as well as support for special events such as the Taste of Glen Ellyn, Fourth of July Parade and Holiday Walk.

Forestry activities include the maintenance of more than 14,500 trees on parkways and on Village-owned green space. Staff is responsible for the implementation and oversight of numerous Forestry Programs including: annual winter pruning; "Available Space Parkway Tree Planting;" landscape maintenance contracts; and the "Parkway Reforestation Program." Our Forestry staff also participates in a number community activities by providing informational talks to garden clubs and grade schools; participating with volunteers in neighborhood beautification projects, and the organization of the annual Arbor Day Celebration. Daily operations consist of tree planting, tree pruning, tree removals, cabling and cable inspection, stump grinding, and performing a variety of tree related service requests.

Another responsibility of our forestry staff consists of the ongoing development and enforcement of the Village's Tree Preservation Ordinance. Our staff is very knowledgeable in accurately inspecting our inventory for insect and disease concerns. These inspections include testing for Dutch Elm, gypsy moth and Oak Wilt disease. Staff also updates and manages a computerized tree inventory program.

Street Forestry Accomplishments for FY 2005/06

1. Central Business District improvements – Staff worked with the Economic Development Corporation to install a new banner bracket system, along with 60 new banners. Staff also worked on the flower-planting program that included the use of more perennials and grouping of sidewalk planters to reduce maintenance costs.
2. Pavement maintenance programs emphasis – Twenty-three streets were reconstructed during calendar year 2004 as part of the Street and Storm Sewer Improvement Program. Preventive maintenance work was completed on these streets to prolong the life expectancy of the new streets. The work includes asphalt surface treatments and crack sealing.
3. Staff focused on a program to bring all traffic signs into compliance with the current State of Illinois traffic sign code. Work included installing new signposts and sign faces on Village of Glen Ellyn streets that were paved during the during the 2005 construction season.

4. Traffic signal upgrade – Through a grant from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation and in conjunction with the DuPage County Division of Transportation, staff oversaw the upgrade of 5 traffic signals within the Village. The upgrade consisted of changing the incandescent light bulbs to a more energy efficient L.E.D. (Light Emitting Diode). This upgrade will reduce future energy and maintenance costs. The work was done at a cost of \$22,235, with the village receiving \$11,375 in grant funds.
5. Street/Forestry staff conducted an extensive pavement patch program on portions of Bryant Avenue, Surrey Drive, Grand Avenue, Hawthorne Boulevard, and Turner Avenue. This program was conducted in an effort to prolong the life of these roadways until they are reconstructed. During this program, staff placed approximately 1,350 tons of asphalt.
6. The in-house tree-pruning program was completed well ahead of schedule this year. Staff finished pruning by the end of January 2006, well ahead of the March 15, 2006 goal. Staff pruned 1,433 trees (6” diameter or less) while our private contractor completed 2,725 trees (greater than 7” diameter).
7. Received the Tree City USA award for the 22nd year in a row.
9. Continue with the restoration work in the Ada Harmon wildflower preserve at the north end of Taylor Avenue.
10. Developed and installed new landscaping along the south side of Pennsylvania from Western Avenue to the Village limits.

Street Forestry Goals for FY 2006/07

1. Review the current forestry ordinance in regards to tree preservation with the Environmental Commission and provide recommendations to the Village Board.
2. Develop a maintenance and follow-up program for trees that are stressed during construction.
3. Continue with the Ada Harmon Wildflower Preserve restoration.
4. Reinstate the “Available Space Parkway Tree Program.” The planting of 100 trees is anticipated for this program in the upcoming year.
5. Upgrade 260 of the concrete street marker posts, out of about 550 total, using retro-reflective sign materials in place of paint. This will be done in an effort to increase the visibility of the street names for emergency responders and reduce the maintenance by eliminating the need for annual painting. This will be the first year of a two-year plan.

6. Upgrade all the fuses and electrical outlets on the Central Business District streetlight poles in preparation for upcoming special events such as the annual Sidewalk Sale and the Holiday Walk.
7. Complete the painting of the signposts and sign replacements in the Central Business District.
8. Re-stripe the off street parking facilities in the Central Business District.
9. Upgrade the parking collection facilities at our Main/Penn and Duane/Lorraine parking lots.
10. Begin a 5 year program to convert the approximate 55 benches in the Central Business District from wood/recycled material to all metal for reduced long-term maintenance costs.