



## GETTING TO KNOW PUBLIC WORKS



HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT PUBLIC WORKS? LET'S GET TO KNOW THIS VERY  
IMPORTANT GROUP OF PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY AND HAVE SOME FUN ALONG THE WAY!



In honor of Public Works Week,  
the following pages will help you learn about the Romeoville  
Public Works Department and what they do for our community.



# First Responders

When you think of first responders, you probably think of firefighters, police officers, and paramedics, but that list includes Public Works too! In 2003, President George W. Bush issued a directive stating so!

**PUBLIC WORKS**

**FIRST RESPONDER**

Think about all the damage a storm can do. It's Public Works who goes out to begin cleanup through fallen tree removal, securing downed powerlines (even before ComEd gets on site), and other storm damage cleanup. When roads flood, public works is one of the first groups on site to shut down the road, clear the sewer overflows and sandbag if necessary. When a water main breaks, cutting off water to people's homes, they are out there fixing it, no matter the time of day or the weather. When a sanitary sewer backs up, they are on the call, preventing a backup into the homes of residents. Public Works monitors the quality of our water, the operation of our sewage collection, and our wastewater treatment. They can handle hazardous material situations and, of course, they maintain our roads. They repair potholes, patch cracks, and sometimes repave an entire street! They maintain our street signs and keep the road clear from snow, ice, and debris. Without these important things, the police, fire, and paramedics wouldn't be able to get where they need to be. You may not think about them often, but Public Works does things to keep us safe everyday, even in an emergency.

***Proudly serving the community!***



# Administration Division

The Administration side of Public Works is essential in keeping the whole operation running. They handle calls from the public, manage budgets, and send out work orders, among other things.



## Work Orders

If you have a Public Works related issue and call 815-886-1870, you will speak to the wonderful people in Administration. They can field everything from reports of streetlights being out to obstructions in the road, water meter problems, and requests to have water turned off for plumbing reasons. Once a resident's call is received, the people in Administration will notify the members of the Public Works team who will be assigned the issue. Administration

will submit a work order and the job will be handled. Public Works averages 20 work orders per day.

## Water Meters

Water meters count how much water you use every month. Flushing the toilet, brushing your teeth, taking a shower... it's all counted! The people who read these meters are in the Utilities Division and those same people also handle the replacing of these meters when they get old. The village is divided into sections and they work through the sections one by one. A given section takes about two months to complete and may contain 80-120 water meters. Residents who will be having their meters replaced are notified beforehand. The typical life of a water meter is 13 years and Public Works does their best to replace them in a timely manner so that reads do not have to be estimated. If a resident has an older meter and is having a problem with it, like a leak, they may have their meter replaced sooner. Notify Administration and they will have someone come out to take a look. Nearly 2,090 water meters are replaced in Romeoville during a typical year!





# PUBLIC WORKS WORD SEARCH

W R B E B E T C G C S I D E W A L K T H  
A M U W A Z F W A T E R P R E S S U R E  
T A D C R I L C O M M E R C I A L X L J  
E I G W R B E L G R C T B U X B N G R B  
R N E R I K E A R E U R H P P F M H W I  
C B T E C W T D A P S O B F U Y V E R L  
O R L S A D U M V A T G O W B U H N O O  
N E A T D Y T I E I O R U V L T U F A S  
S A N O E R I N L R M G S S I O V L D A  
U K D R C R L I G N E T T I C I W A W N  
M W S A O E I S W X R V R N W L O W A I  
P E C T M S T T A P S X E K O E R N Y T  
T L A I P I Y R T N E O E H R T K M Q A  
I L P O U D Y A E A R P T O K Q O O O T  
O H E N T E E T R S V V S L S U R W I I  
N O T O E N G I M P I A I E X F D I R O  
F U P D R T N O E H C L G Q N N E N H N  
K S R F Z I Z N T A E V N E U S R G U I  
S E Q V N A P X E L L E L K N W A Q P F  
Y U L N L L G S R T V B F I N V O I C E



budget	customer service	fleet	restoration
public works	administration	water pressure	residential
lawn mowing	street sign	water meter	main break
sanitation	commercial	barricade	landscape
sidewalk	well house	computer	invoice
asphalt	sink hole	utility	roadway
valve	repair	gravel	toilet

# Fleet & Maintenance Division



When it comes to keeping village vehicles running and village buildings clean, the Fleet & Maintenance Division is on the job.

## Fleet

They maintain well over 374 village vehicles and equipment, from firetrucks and police cars to snowplows and street sweepers. They can change oil, swap out brakes, change out full suspensions, and replace electronics, among other things. It's not just cars either. Work orders can be submitted to repair equipment like chainsaws and salt spreaders. The team of three mechanics are also trained in fabricating parts. Occasionally things will have to sent out to a dealer, like software work on vehicles or trucks with extra large tires, but outside of these occurrences, the shop is very self-sufficient.

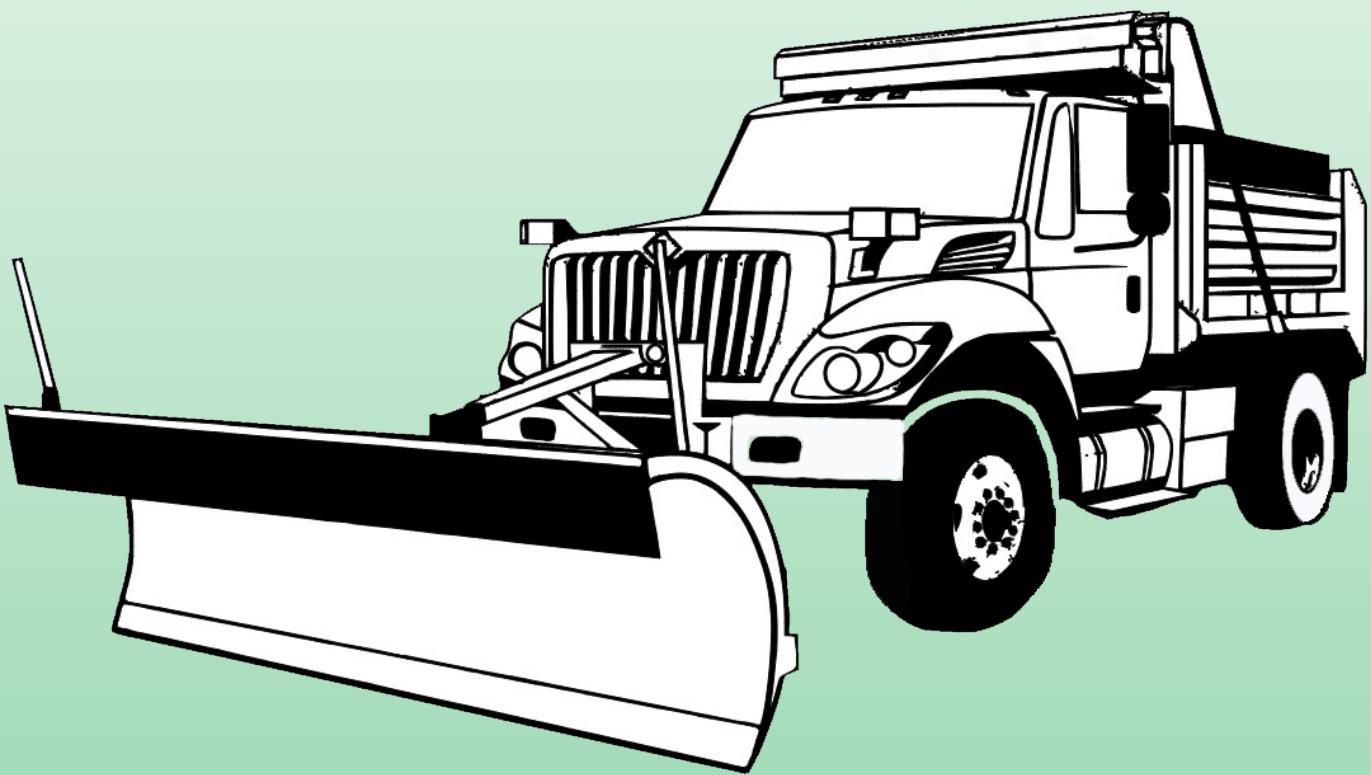


## Maintenance

Throughout the village, Fleet & Maintenance maintains 13 buildings. This includes fire stations, village hall, and the various athletic centers. There are three maintenance workers on staff who can do most of the work themselves, including all of the plumbing, most of the electrical work, and handling 90% of the AC and heating equipment. They change all their own blower motors and pumps and maintain air quality by changing filters (127 filters get changed every three months!), cleaning ducts, and keeping grills clean. They keep the lights on by not only changing bulbs, but also by updating them with LEDs. The maintenance crew can also strip a room down and build it back up. That includes drywall repairs, painting, tile, and drop ceiling work. Janitorial is part of routine building maintenance and falls to the six custodians on staff.



# COLORING



# COLORING

# Streets & Grounds Division

The Streets & Grounds Division is responsible for much of the ground we play on and roads we drive on. They cut it, pave it, clear it, decorate it, and sweep it, in addition to other tasks.

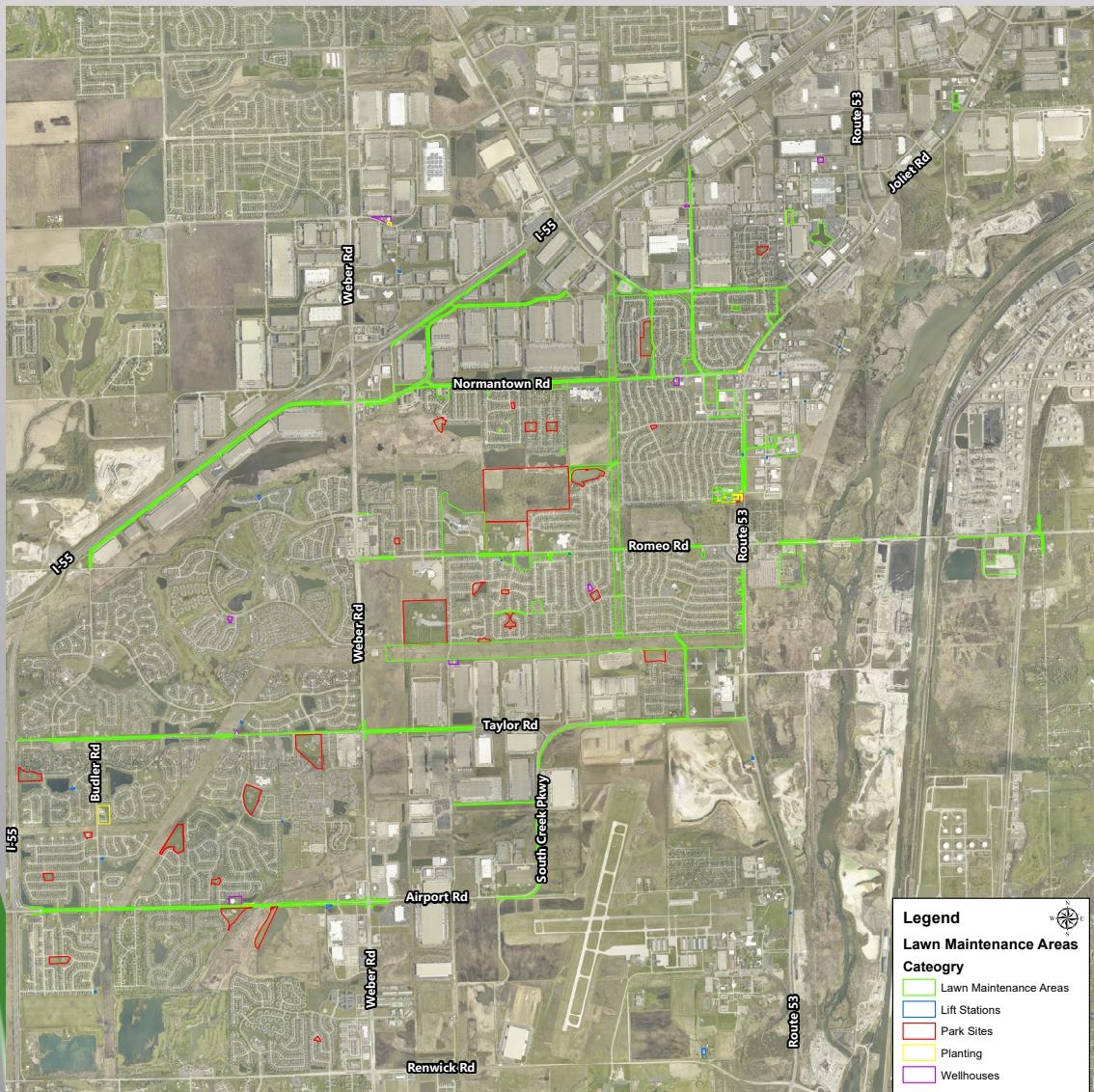
## Maintaining the Grounds

Grounds is responsible for cutting and maintaining the grass throughout the village. This includes roadsides, grass surrounding municipal buildings and the Metra station, 360 acres of parks, and 31 miles of trails. This work is covered by 10 full time employees with the help of seasonal employees. They are divided into teams of two and each team is given one of four routes. As long as nothing gets in the way, the teams are able to complete their routes in a week. In addition to mowing, the crews will weed whack, trim trees, pick up garbage, and spray pesticides in the non-park areas.



These tasks in the parks are handled by the Recreation Department.

See map to the right for the areas that Public Works maintains the lawn.



# Clearing the Way This Winter.—

## PLOWING

Crews begin an all-out plowing operation once 1" of snow has accumulated and is still falling.



Depending on the duration of the snow event, plow drivers can spend 2-16 hours behind the wheel at a time. During long events, many drivers work multiple 16 hours shifts with 8 hour breaks in between.



- Drivers are assigned to one of fourteen routes to cover all areas of the village.
- The routes cover collector and side streets and cul-de-sacs.
- Multi-use paths are cleared after the streets have been cleared.
- Route 53 and Weber Road are not plowed by the village. Route 53 is a state roadway that is managed by Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and Weber Road is a county roadway.

## TWO TYPES OF SALT APPLICATION:

Brine (salt) Solution is added to roadways prior to a forecasted snow event to keep the initial precipitation from freezing. It also prevents the snow and ice from bonding onto the pavement so it is easier to remove.

1

Rock salt is a cost-effective method to keep streets clear of ice after winter precipitation has been cleared.

2



### DID YOU KNOW

Romeoville's two salt domes hold **5,300 TONS** of road salt!

### HOW YOU CAN HELP:



Clear area around fire hydrants



Try not to park on the street



Do not put cans in the street



Do not clear snow from the driveways by discarding it back into the street

**OUR GOAL —** We work to clear all 270 lane miles of roadway AND 160 cul-de-sacs within 10 hours after snow stops falling. Heavier snows can take longer to clear.



# Streets & Grounds Division



In addition to the roads, Streets and Grounds removes snow from the sidewalks around municipal buildings, the Metra station walkways, crosswalks throughout town, and if time allows, bike paths and certain sidewalks around the village.

## Street Paving

When a street needs to be redone, the first thing to happen is any concrete in the area is replaced and curbs are redone. Next, a grinder will be brought in to take off the layers of the old street. Finally, the new asphalt gets put down. Asphalt is a special mixture of rock that is heated to 350 degrees as it is being put in place. A steamroller will follow the asphalt machine to compact the mix. Once a street is complete, it will typically last 12-15 years before needing to be redone.

Besides total repavements, Streets also does 30-60 big patching projects each year. These typically accompany water main breaks when the Water Department needs to dig through the street to address the leak. Patching entails repaving a small section of road.

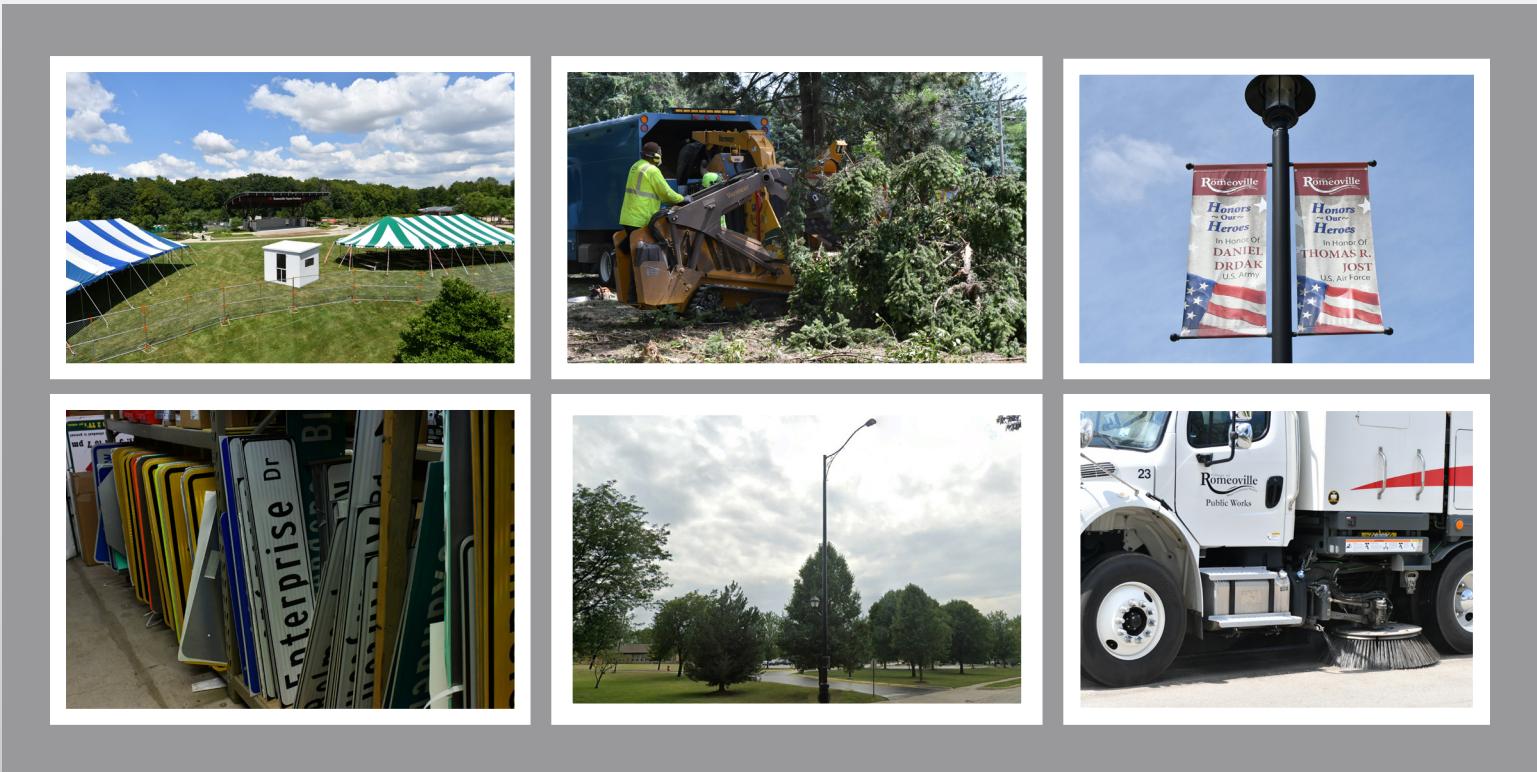


## Stormwater



Romeoville has 155 miles of pipe that run through the village. Above is an example of a storm drain you will see throughout the village. These pipes take the rainwater and runoff and return it to the Des Plaines River. No treating, no filtering, no purifying. This is why it is so important that we don't dump anything in these drains. Think about leaks from your vehicle and soap from when you wash your car. If you wouldn't dump it in the river, don't dump it in the storm drain. It's also important that we keep the storm drains clear of debris like sticks, garbage, and leaves. If the drains are blocked, rainwater has nowhere to go and your street can flood.

# Streets & Grounds Division



## Other Responsibilities

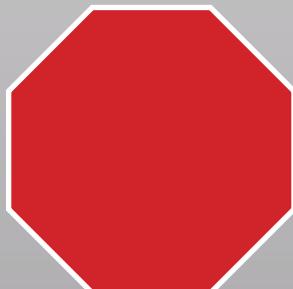
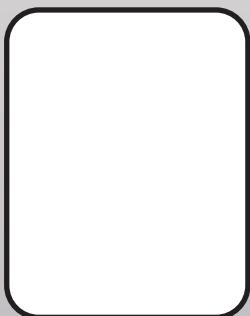
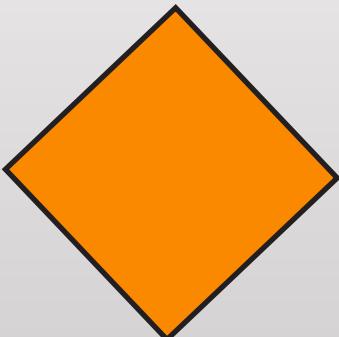
Streets and Grounds is responsible for pitching the tents you see at Romeoville events like Romeofest. They put up and take down the banners on the light poles around town. You may have seen their handy work at the Metra station, in front of village hall, or near the schools. Speaking of light poles, they drive around each month and do a light check, making sure none of the streetlights are burned out. They operate the street sweepers that run throughout the village, keeping the streets clean. The sweepers are especially active in the fall, removing leaves that threaten to block storm sewers and clog up gutters. They will

repair those same storm sewers when needed and also trim parkways trees to promote healthy growth, keep branches from sticking out onto sidewalks, and to ensure there are not branches hanging in the street that are in danger of being struck by plows. They are responsible for the 4,900+ street signs that are maintained by the village; everything from Stop and No Parking signs to street name signs. Finally, they also handle land clearing. The ability for them to clear the land for Pine Trial Park was a major reason the park was able to move forward.

# STREET SIGN

# SHAPE MATCH

Draw a line from the shape of each street sign to the name of the sign.



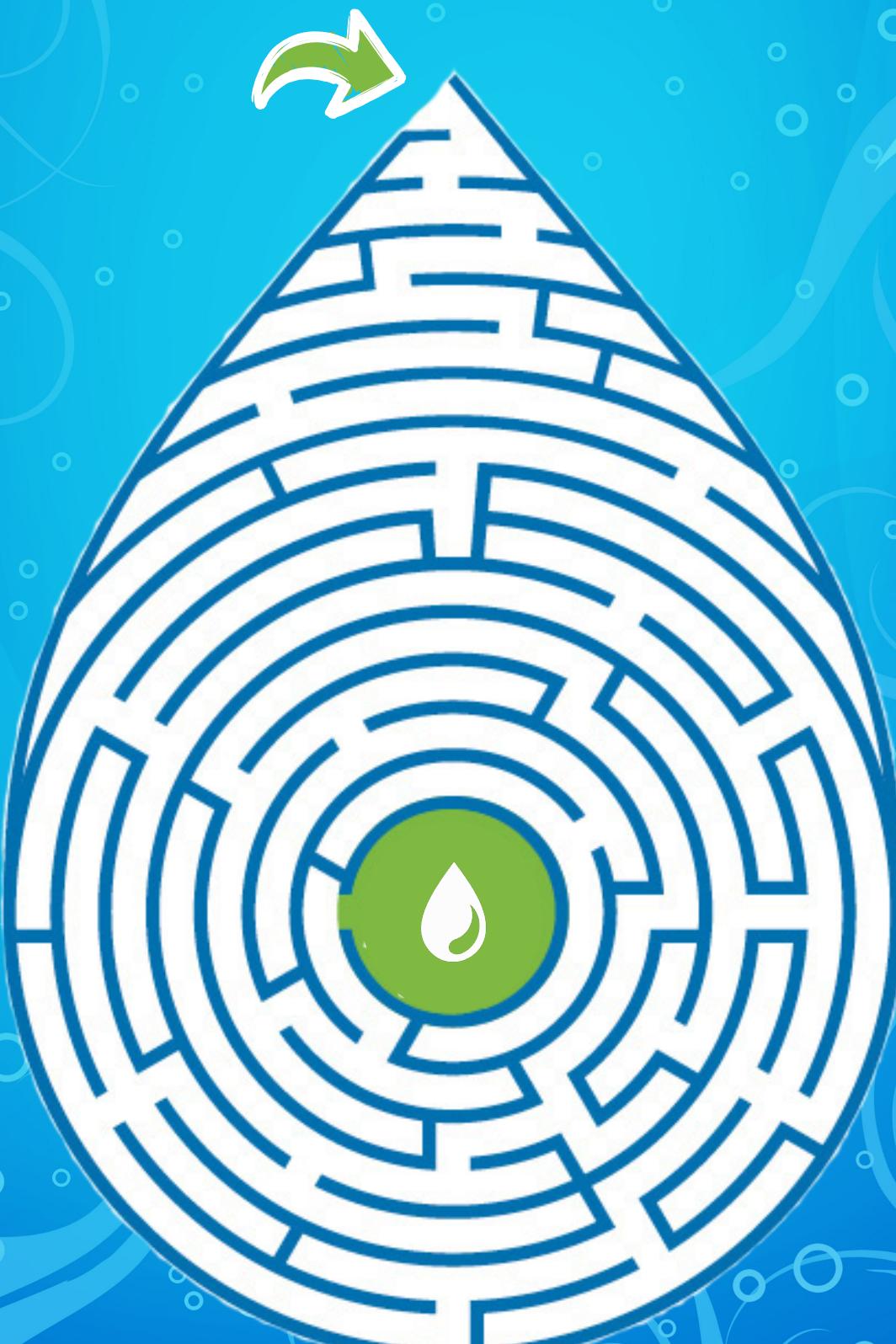
Railroad Crossing

STOP

Speed Limit

Construction Ahead

Find your way through this  
**A-MAZE-ING** water droplet to the center.



# Utilities Division

The Utilities Division of Public Works handles drinking water and wastewater. It also maintains the fire hydrants in town and the watermains below ground. How much do you actually know about where your water comes from and where it goes? It's time for a lesson from the Utility Division!



## Drinking Water

When we turn on the sink, where does the water come from? The Village of Romeoville has six deep wells (1,500 feet deep) and seven shallow wells (between 150 to 300 feet deep) located throughout the village that pump water from underground aquifers, which are the source of our drinking water. After being pumped, the water is treated through a variety of processes including ion exchange softening, chlorine addition and at some facilities UV light. In 2014, Romeoville became the first city in Illinois to use UV disinfection on groundwater. We sample the water during several steps of the process to ensure safe high-quality

drinking water. The water is then pumped and distributed to homes throughout the area. On average, 4.1 million gallons of water are pumped every day through 247 miles of water main!

Romeoville's water is rigorously tested during the year. 80 bacteriological samples are taken each month at the treatment plants and throughout the village. Dozens of additional contaminants are also monitored on a quarterly and annual basis. There are seven state certified drinking water treatment operators on staff and Romeoville has met the highest standard of compliance for water fluoridation since 2002.

## Fire Hydrants

There are 4,058 fire hydrants in town that are managed by the Village of Romeoville. This means they are repaired, painted, and flushed by Public Works. There are two reasons for the flushing of fire hydrants. One is to remove naturally occurring sediments that settle in the bottom of water mains. The second is to verify the proper operation of fire hydrants.



# Utilities Division



## Wastewater

What happens to the water that goes down the drains in your house? Bath water, toilet water, sink water... it all goes to the same place. Your sewage is sent to one of 20 lift stations spread around the village. The lift stations collect the waste from various neighborhoods and businesses, then pump it towards gravity sewer mains. Sometimes workers find some interesting things caught in the pumps and filters, from bills and coins, to jewelry, cell phones, and even tools like wrenches and screwdrivers! These mains lead to the wastewater treatment plant, which has four state certified wastewater treatment operators on staff.

At the plant, the wastewater goes through many different processes including physical separation, biological processes, and UV light sterilization. Once the water has been thoroughly cleaned, it

is discharged into the Des Plaines River. Not all of the water ends up in the river, however. The village has a water re-use station which can fill trucks with non-potable water to be used for tasks like field irrigation and similar applications.

The solids that settled out during clarification are processed at our North Treatment Plant, dewatered via centrifuge, and placed in storage until they can be hauled away by local farmers and used as fertilizer on the fields. The liquid water that was separated from the solid waste during dewatering is then returned to the south treatment plant for processing. On average, six million gallons of raw sewage, moving through 196 miles of sewer mains, is treated every day!





## Public Works

615 Anderson Drive  
Romeoville, IL 60446  
[www.romeoville.org](http://www.romeoville.org)

*Connect With Us!*

