

***"Providing a Better
Environment for South
Central DuPage County"***

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Office Hours -

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

Emergency Response

Available 24/7

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New precast concrete valve vault being set at the Centex Lift Station. See more about the Centex Lift Station Replacement below.



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.

The District has a comprehensive I/I removal and sewer system rehabilitation program. Priority is given to areas identified as having high amounts of I/I through flow monitoring, field observations and backup or surcharge reports. State-of-the-art techniques are employed, ranging from open-cut replacement to various trenchless technologies such as cured-in-place lining and grouting. Ordinances regulating private property I/I sources are enforced, and rehabilitation is conducted on both public and private sources.

The District intends to complete a historic amount of work in the collection system for the 2023 construction season. As described in more detail herein, the District is in the process of replacing a lift station, replacing a section of forcemain, lining two different sections of sewer, doing open-cut replacement of a section of sewer and a section of the outfall pipe from our WWTC.

2023 CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Centex Lift Station Replacement

Replacement of the Centex Lift Station, which is located on Fairmount Ave. south of 63rd Street in Downers Grove, is currently underway. The lift station was originally installed in 1966 and has reached the end of its service life. The project is expected to be complete by the end of October.

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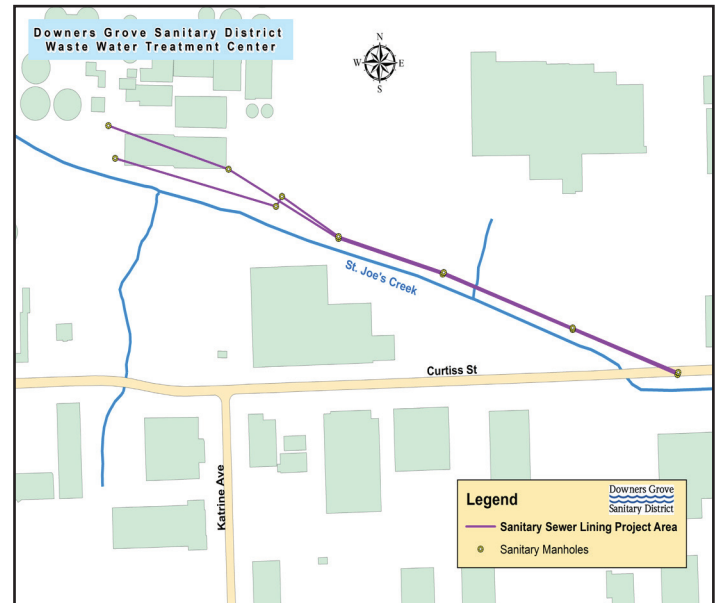
2023 CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS CONTINUED

Curtiss Street Trunk Sewer Rehabilitation

The District will be employing state-of-the-art trenchless sewer rehabilitation for the Curtiss Street trunk sewer in Downers Grove. 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 Curtiss Street trunk sewer is two parallel 42" reinforced concrete pipes that run from Curtiss Street along the St. Joseph Creek and into the District's WWTC. These pipes transport sewage that originates in the downtown areas and older sections of the Village of Downers Grove and the Village of Westmont to the WWTC. One of the pipes was installed in 1954, and the other was installed in 1987. Under this project, approximately 4,500 lineal feet of 42-inch reinforced concrete pipe will be rehabilitated using CIPP, which will prevent root intrusion, eliminating obstructions and lost capacity due to infiltration and inflow.

This project will be partially funded by a community grant received through the FY 22 Consolidated Appropriations Act (P.L. 117-103) and administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.



The map above shows the sewer lines that are included in the Curtiss Street sewer lining project.

Carpenter Street Sewer Rehabilitation

As part of the District's on-going I/I removal efforts in downtown Downers Grove, the sewer which runs beneath Carpenter St from Summit to Maple is also scheduled to be rehabilitated using CIPP. The 8" vitrified clay pipe was originally installed in 1928.

Venard Forcemain Replacement

Approximately 2,300 feet of 10" forcemain from the District's Venard Lift Station, which is located on Venard Rd. in Downers Grove, will be replaced.

Outfall Pipe Repair

The District will be replacing a defective section of the effluent discharge pipe that runs from the WWTC to the East Branch of the DuPage River. The proposed construction consists of installation of approximately 200 lineal feet of 42-inch reinforced concrete pipe, including connection to existing sewer, surface restoration, and other miscellaneous items of work. The District intends to use Local American Rescue Plan Act funds allocated to the District by DuPage County to fund a portion of this project.

NEW CUSTOMER BILLING PORTAL COMING SOON

The District will be launching a new and improved customer billing portal in July of 2023. The new billing portal provides District customers with a fresh and easy way to pay their sewer bill on any mobile device or computer.

The new billing portal will allow customers to:

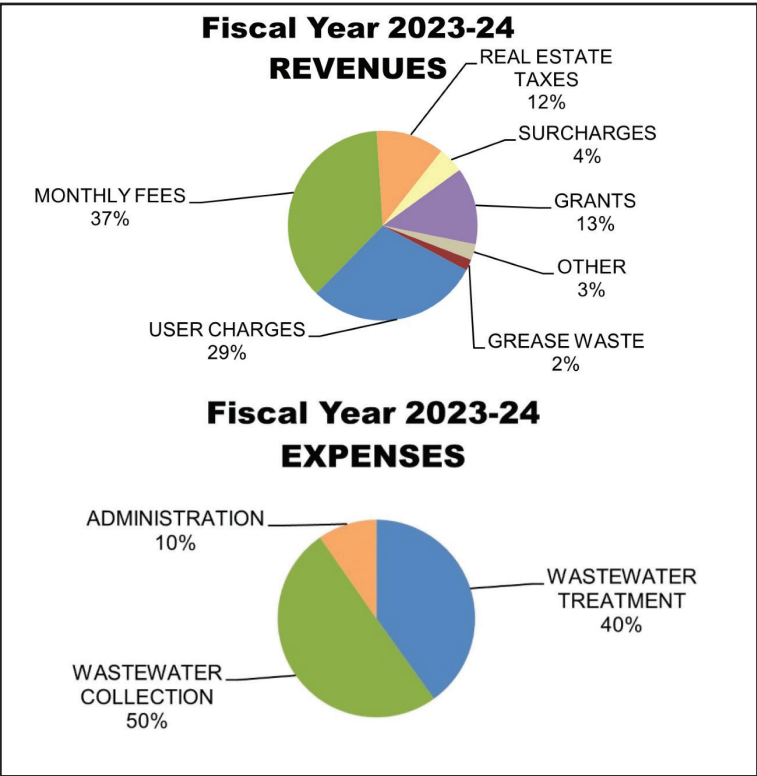
- Register accounts for residential and nonresidential properties;
- Make or schedule payments using a credit card or banking information;
- Sign up for AutoPay and Paperless Billing;
- Use the "Guest Pay" feature to pay account balances;
- Monitor payment and account history; and
- View and track water usage to more closely manage monthly expenses.

In addition to the new billing portal, customers will continue to be able to pay their bill through the District's EasyPay Program, a FREE automatic debit from your checking account. Enrollment may be done online or by returning the enclosed yellow enrollment form to the District. Bills can be paid by mail, in person or via dropboxes located throughout the District. Learn more about payment options at www.dgsd.org/your-account/payment-options.



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 \$12.08 million and expenses are projected to be \$14.50 million. The expenses include \$7,282,960 for the sewer system, \$5,811,621 for wastewater treatment and \$1,401,970 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 2023

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 \$2.25 from \$2.05 per 1,000 gallons of water consumption and the monthly fee increased to \$20.00 from \$19.00 per account. Sampling and monitoring charges assessed to commercial and industrial users increased, effective April 9, 2023. 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 \$1,429,025 for repairs to the sanitary sewer infrastructure, a 4.2% increase from last year. This levy results in a tax rate of \$0.0401 per \$100 of assessed value. A single-family residence with a market value of \$300,000 will pay \$40.10 in real estate taxes to the District in 2023.

SEWER PROBLEMS? OUR ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS CAN HELP!

Building Sanitary Service Repair Assistance Program

If you are having any issues with your sanitary service or are having 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 are usually only required to 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

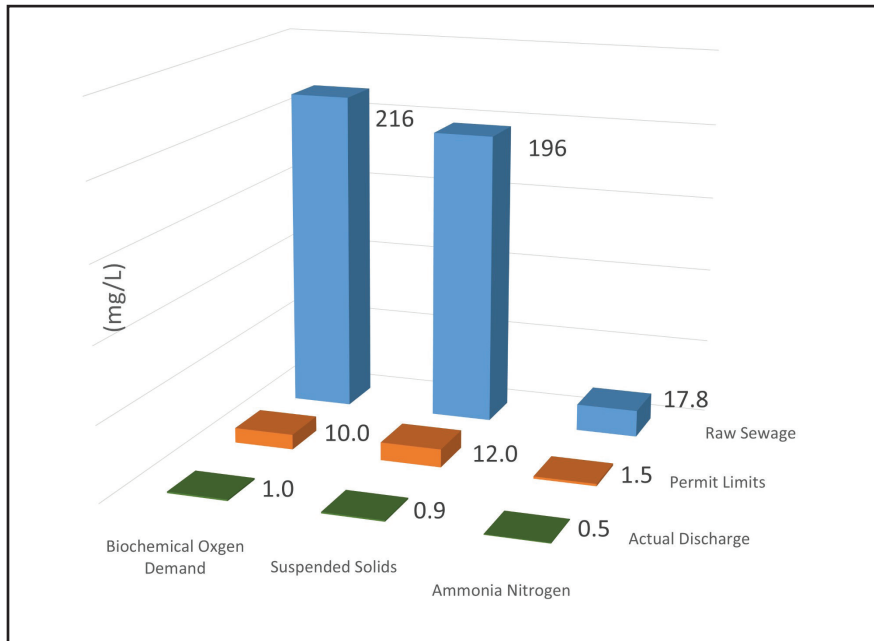
The District requires new construction to include plumbing features needed to protect property from backups that can occur at any time. Owners of older buildings should consider improvements needed to provide this level of protection. This cost sharing program is available for residents who have experienced 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.

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 2022 for three major NPDES permit parameters.



Watershed Group

The District is a founding member and active participant in the DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup (DRSCW), which is dedicated to managing the valuable stream resources of the East and West Branches of the DuPage River and Salt Creek. While other wastewater treatment plants in Illinois have recently received phosphorus limits in their NPDES permits, the District was able to negotiate with IEPA a schedule that provides additional time before implementation of phosphorus limits in exchange for active participation in the DRSCW to better understand the impacts of nutrients in our watershed and to help fund restoration projects in our receiving stream, with the goal of achieving the most cost-effective environmental improvements with limited available resources. For more information, visit www.drscw.org.

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 hazardous materials can corrode the sewer, while others complicate the treatment process. For more tips on how to maintain your sewer line, 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. 7, 2023, from 9 a.m. to noon. This Open House will be held only if we are able to safely do so by adhering to current regional guidelines for preventing the spread of COVID-19. 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.

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DOWNERS GROVE SANITARY DISTRICT