

Have questions or want more information? We want to hear from you!

As work on this historic project progresses, DWM, GPWC, Joliet and the Chicago Park District will work with the 18th Ward Service Office and community organizations to keep residents informed and address questions and concerns. Please feel free to reach out to the following contacts at any time.

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(312) 890-3316

CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF WATER MANAGEMENT
DurkinParkComments@cityofchicago.org

CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT
(312) 742 - PLAY (7529)
<https://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com>

CITY OF JOLIET
(815) 724-4220
<https://www.rethinkwaterjoliet.org>

GRAND PRAIRIE WATER COMMISSION
<https://www.gpwc-il.org/>

We gratefully acknowledge Durkin Park Elementary School Principal Charles E. Beavers and his staff for facilitating our Community Meetings about this project.

Timeline: Construction at Southwest Pumping Station & Durkin Park

2022-2024

Design & Engineering

2024-2029

*Construction at
Southwest Pumping Station*

*Improvements and new
amenities at Durkin, Rainey,
Bogan, and Scottsdale Parks*

2025-2028

*Construction of Underground
Reservoir on south side
of Durkin Park*

2028

*South side of Durkin Park
restored with multi-purpose,
natural turf field*

2030

*Water Service to Grand Prairie
Water Commission Begins*

Chicago-Grand Prairie Water Commission Water Supply Project, Improvements at Southwest Pumping Station & Durkin Park:

Background, Facts &
Benefits to the Community



What is this project about?

This project creates a connection allowing Chicago to provide drinking water to residents of Joliet, Channahon, Crest Hill, Minooka, Romeoville, and Shorewood, that have joined together to form the new Grand Prairie Water Commission (GPWC). These communities' current water source – an underground aquifer that has served the region for more than 100 years – is rapidly depleting and by 2030 will no longer provide enough water to meet residents' needs. To address this situation, the GPWC has entered into an agreement with Chicago to obtain treated Lake Michigan water. Joliet is leading the project on behalf of GPWC.

Why Chicago?

Through its Department of Water Management (DWM), Chicago provides treated Lake Michigan water to 5.3 million people in northeastern Illinois through a water system with a capacity of nearly 2.1 billion gallons per day. As a steward of this vital resource, Chicago is assisting the GPWC to ensure communities in our region have access to sustainable drinking water. This project also will provide additional revenue to Chicago's Water Fund, which will help maintain the City's water system and reduce costs for Chicago residents.

Why Durkin Park?

DWM's Southwest Pumping Station (next to Durkin Park) is the closest point where the GPWC can connect to Chicago's water system. To achieve this, the project will construct a new connection at that location.



When will construction begin, and how long will it last? Which areas of Durkin Park will be affected? During construction, how will residents' access to recreational space be ensured?

The project (see graphic above) includes above ground additions – shown in yellow and red – on the Southwest Pumping Station (SWPS) site, and construction of an underground water reservoir on the south side of Durkin Park (shown in blue).

Initial construction begins in 2024 on the SWPS site and does not affect Durkin Park. In 2025, construction begins on the south side of Durkin Park and is expected to last approximately three years, during which that area of the park will be unavailable (the rest of the park will remain open).

To benefit area residents, GPWC is funding improvements by Chicago Park District at Durkin Park as well as at nearby Rainey, Bogan and Scottsdale Parks, enhancing these important community parks and ensuring access to recreational space.

How will Durkin Park be restored after construction and how will the community benefit?

Once construction of the water reservoir underneath Durkin Park is complete, the park surface above will be restored with natural grass turf (based on community input received by the Chicago Park District) and returned to recreational use, together with the newly added park amenities at Durkin and surrounding parks.



How will residents be kept informed about construction?

In partnership with 18th Ward Alderman Derrick Curtis' office, DWM will host community meetings and provide emailed updates throughout the construction process. Residents are invited to sign up for updates by providing their email address at our community meetings or through the webpages that DWM and the Chicago Park District maintain on the Durkin Park project to keep residents informed.

