

Durkin Park Water Project:
Community Questions & Answers



(NOTE: the following is a list of questions received from residents and responses following initial community meetings at Durkin Park School. Additional community meetings will be held on an ongoing basis throughout the design and construction process.)

1. For what purpose will the additional revenue generated by the Chicago-Joliet Water Supply Agreement be used? Is it coming back into the community, and how will it benefit Durkin Park?

A: By City ordinance, all funds from sales of water go directly to Chicago's Water Revenue Fund – one of the dedicated "Enterprise funds" in the City's budget – and can be used **only** for operation and improvement of the water system. The additional annual revenue generated by selling water to Joliet, therefore, will help maintain our water system and reduce costs to Chicago residents.

The Chicago Park District will receive from Joliet funding to construct significant, lasting improvements to Durkin, Rainey, Bogan and Scottsdale Parks to benefit the community for decades to come.

2. What is the timeframe during which the construction will occur? Will it include weekends?

A: The projected timeframe for construction at Durkin Park is from the fall of 2025 through the fall of 2027, and as of 2028 the Park will be restored and fully re-opened for public use. Construction at the Southwest Pumping Station, which will not affect the main areas of Durkin Park, is scheduled from 2024-2030.

The City of Chicago's standards for construction work hours in residential neighborhoods will be used as a starting point for the development of detailed requirements that will be included in the project specifications. The City's current noise ordinance prohibits the use of motorized equipment at construction sites between 8 PM and 8 AM. At this time, no work on weekends is anticipated. Contractor requests for variances from the specified working hours will have to be reviewed and approved by Joliet and Chicago in advance.

3. Is Joliet responsible for covering construction expenses of the project that exceed projected costs?

Joliet is responsible for all costs for the construction of the facilities that it will own. The total cost for construction of facilities to be owned by Chicago will be used in the calculation of the rate that Joliet will pay Chicago for the purchase of water.

4. Will the Joliet be responsible for future maintenance and repairs to underground equipment and restoration of park as needed?

A: The City of Joliet is responsible for the operation and future maintenance of the meter vault, underground reservoir, the low service pump station, and the transmission main from the site to Joliet. Chicago is responsible for the operation and future maintenance of the tunnel connection, tunnel extension and low service pump station. The O&M costs associated with these Chicago-owned improvements will be incorporated into the water rate that Chicago charges Joliet. Joliet is also responsible for restoration of Durkin Park following construction and is paying the Chicago Park District to construct new features and amenities at Durkin Park and other nearby parks, which are managed and will be maintained by the Chicago Park District going forward.

5. How often during the water project will the City have rodent patrol servicing the area to address increased rat activity due to construction?

A: The City is very sensitive to this concern. Chicago will monitor closely any incidence of increased rodent activity associated with construction activity and will work aggressively to proactively address and resolve such problems.

Joliet is aware of and will comply with all provisions of Chicago's Building Code that address rodent abatement for new construction. Their design team is committed to working with City and neighborhood representatives during project design to incorporate best practices into the construction specifications for the proposed water supply improvement projects.

6. With construction equipment being brought into the community for the project, will added air quality testing be done on a regular basis?

A: Yes. Protecting air quality is a priority and City ordinances require the construction contractor to conduct operations in a way that limits potential impacts. Among other provisions, specifications include requirements for the contractor to operate a "Clean Diesel Fleet" in accordance with Sec. 2-92-595 of the Chicago Municipal Code and to develop and implement appropriate dust control measures (water sprays, street sweeping, etc.). Details of these measures will be developed during design.

Joliet's consultant team is familiar with practices used for monitoring of environmental conditions at construction sites and looks forward to working with the City of Chicago and neighborhood representatives to develop and implement appropriate processes for monitoring and reporting on air quality during the proposed construction effort.

7. What about construction noise mitigation efforts and sound quality for students attending Durkin School? What is going to be done to minimize noise that could cause disruptions in teaching and learning for students?

A: Joliet, the Department of Water Management and project construction managers will take steps needed to minimize excessive noise and prevent any disruption of classroom instruction at Durkin Elementary School, which may include installation and use of noise monitoring equipment.

Joliet and its consultant team are committed to working with the City, Durkin Park School, and community representatives to understand schedules and routines for student, faculty, staff, and parent activities so that efforts to manage impacts from construction can be incorporated into the project design and construction documents.

8. What will be done to address the impact of construction on traffic in the neighborhood, especially before and after school?

A: Joliet and Chicago have already begun conversations about this with the Principal of Durkin Elementary School. We are committed to addressing traffic issues during construction to facilitate dropping off and picking up students and to ensure this important process goes smoothly at the beginning and end of the school day.

Design documents for the projects will include separate, clearly defined traffic control plans for construction vehicles and for school traffic. Joliet and its consultant team are committed to working with City, school, and community representatives to understand schedules and routines for student, faculty, staff, and parents to address any construction related impacts upon traffic around Durkin Park School.

9. There are existing drainage issues at the Southwest Pumping Station caused by water that accumulates on the ground following heavy rains or when snow melts. Will these be addressed as part of this project?

A: Yes. Joliet's design team is actively involved in discussions with the Department of Water Management regarding stormwater management requirements for the project.

10. How will updates be provided on the progress of construction so that residents are aware of what's going on?

A: The Department of Water Management, Joliet, and the Chicago Park District are working closely with the office of 18th Ward Alderman Derrick Curtis and plan ongoing communication with residents to keep them informed of construction progress via emails, websites, and regular community meetings to address project status and specific topics of concern. We encourage residents to provide their email addresses for this purpose.

Community members may find the latest information about the Durkin Park Water Project on the Department of Water Management's webpage (https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/water/supp_info/durkin-park-water-project.html).

In addition, a dedicated email address has been established for submitting concerns or questions about the project: DurkinParkComments@cityofchicago.org

11. How can the community provide its input on restoration of and improvements to Durkin Park and other area parks that will occur as part of this water project?

A: The Chicago Park District is leading discussions with the community to obtain views from residents about specific improvements and new amenities they would like to see at Durkin Parks and other nearby parks.

Community members are encouraged to contact the Park District at play@chicagoparkdistrict.com or by calling 312-742-PLAY (7529).