

Ward 2 Meeting

April 11, 2024



Ted

Thank you for joining us tonight.

Meet Your Aldermen – 2nd Ward



Alderman Ted Notz
notze@cityoflakeforest.com
(847) 830-6689



Alderman John Powers
powersj@cityoflakeforest.com
(847) 274-5809

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Ted and John

Introduce yourselves



Agenda

- Introductions
- What's New
- What's Ahead
- Get Involved
- Q&A



- Here's our agenda for the evening.
- We're keeping the presentation high-level so that we can reserve time at the end for questions and conversation.
- We'll start with an introduction to the City, then talk about what's new in Lake Forest.
- Then, we'll talk about some projects and initiatives that are in the works
- We'll highlight a few upcoming opportunities for you to get involved.
- Importantly, there will be time for you to ask questions at the end.



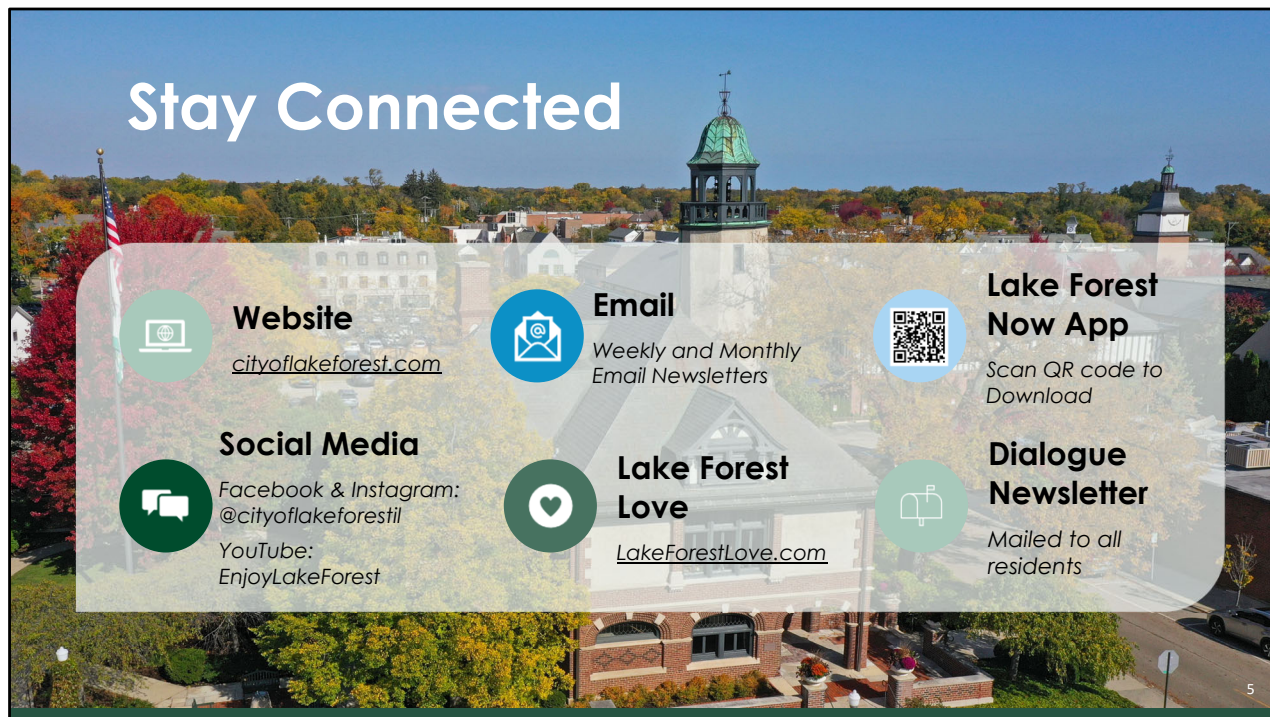
Audience Question

What topics do
you want covered
tonight?

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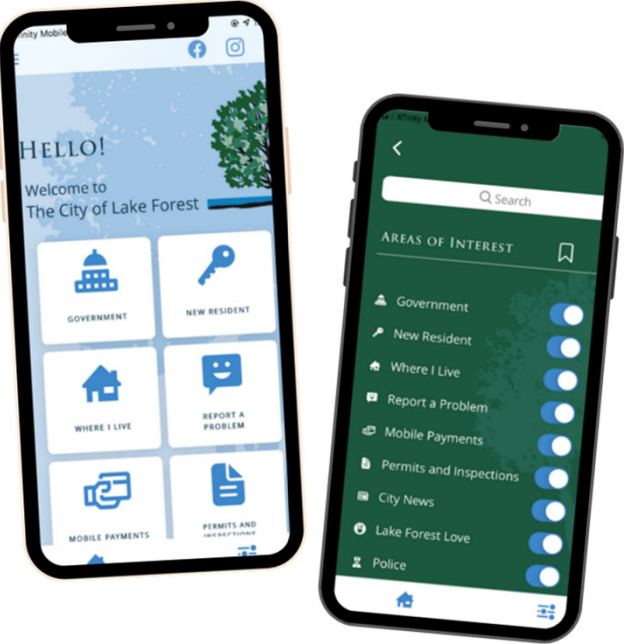
That's what we have planned, but we'd like to know what you're interested in hearing about.

Write down on a flip chart what topics people want covered.




How did you hear about this Ward Meeting?


- The City uses a variety of platforms to communicate with our residents.
- You can find lots of information on the City's website.
- If you haven't already, sign up for the weekly eNews to get news and updates delivered to your inbox every Friday. You can sign up on the City's website or email cityhall@cityoflakeforest.com.
- The Lake Forest Now App is another way to stay in the loop, you can Report a Problem, make online payments, and more. You can sign up for push notifications on areas of interest to you. For example, you can get reminders about public meetings, events, and more.
- Follow the City on social media for information about city projects, upcoming events, feature stories, and more.
- Lake Forest Love is the City's blog where we share stories about people, organizations, and businesses in our community.
- In addition to digital channels, the City has a quarterly print newsletter called the Dialogue that is mailed to all Lake Forest residents.



Lake Forest Now Mobile App



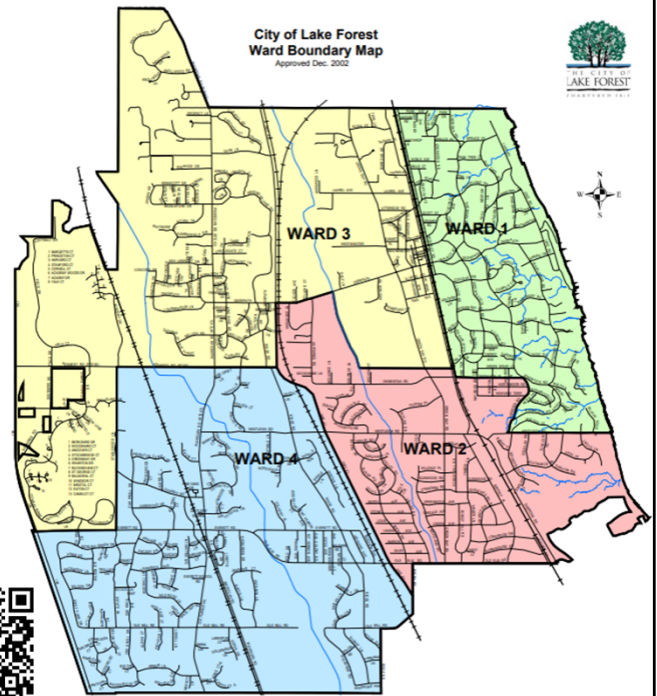
- **Launching pad** for applications of interest for Lake Forest residents
- Sign up for **push notifications**
- Download Lake Forest Now today!



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City Overview

- "Be the **best-managed, fiscally-responsible** and **appealing community** and promote a community spirit of **trust, respect** and **citizen involvement.**"
- Council-Manager Form
- City Council includes the **Mayor** and **two Aldermen** from each of the City's four wards
- **20 Boards and Commissions**
- Scan QR code to **complete a volunteer profile sheet** to serve on a Board or Commission



- For those new to town, we want to start with a quick introduction to the City of Lake Forest.
- "Be the best-managed, fiscally-responsible and appealing community and promote a community spirit of trust, respect and citizen involvement."
- Lake Forest government operates under the Council/Manager system.
- The City Council is the legislative and policy-making body and includes the Mayor and two Aldermen from each of the City's four wards.
- As we mentioned, we are your aldermen for the second Ward.
- The City is also fortunate to have more than 125 residents generously contribute their time and expertise each year to serve on the City's various boards, commissions, and committees.



There's a lot happening in Lake Forest.

First we're going to talk about what's new and what's happened recently, then we'll shift to what's ahead.

FY2024 YEAR IN REVIEW

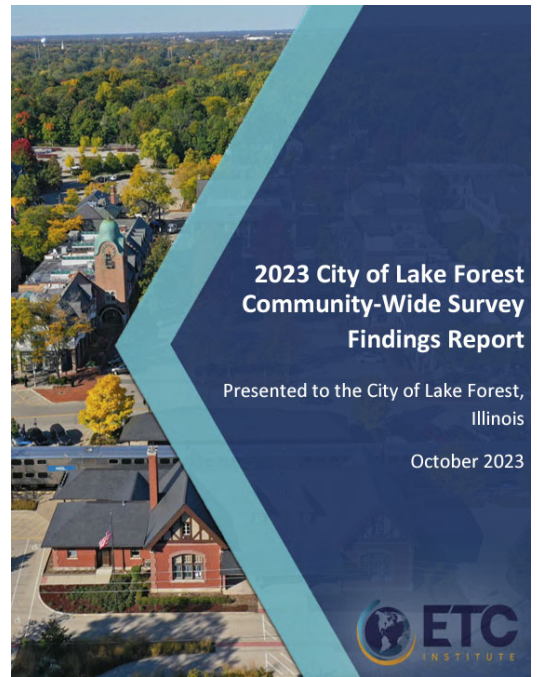


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- This past year has been a busy one for the City!
- This graphic illustrates a sample of the activities that occurred this year.
- A few things I'd like to highlight:
 - Over 4,500 permits have been issued, demonstrating that there's a lot happening in town!
 - The Police Department responded to over 15,000 service calls.
 - Nearly 600 requests were made through the Report a Problem feature in the Lake Forest Now App and the City's website.

Community-Wide Survey

- Conducted **Summer 2023**
- **1,450** completed surveys
- View the **findings report** and check out the **interactive dashboard** at cityoflakeforest.com/Survey
- Watch for ongoing “**pulse surveys**”



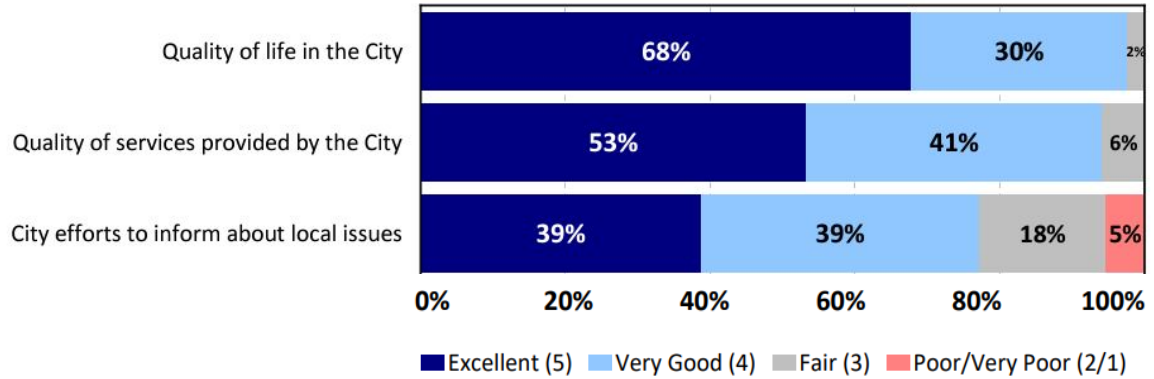
- Last summer, the City conducted a Community-Wide Survey to gather insights and perspectives from residents.
- Surveys were mailed to 7,014 households and 1,450 surveys were completed, which represents a **20.6%** response rate.
- A response rate above 20% is phenomenal for a project like this (***NOT a random sampling***). The expected margin of error is based on 400 completed surveys; however, with 1,450 completed surveys the overall margin of error is much smaller based on the high response rate.
- There’s a lot of interesting information in the survey findings report. If you want to learn more, you can find the findings report and an **interactive dashboard** on the City’s website.
- When the City’s performance was compared to nation-wide averages for similarly sized communities, the City rate above the US Average in all 25 areas assessed.
- Keep an eye out for ongoing pulse surveys that dig deeper into what was heard in the survey.

Community Survey Findings



Q3. Perception of the City of Lake Forest

by percentage of respondents who rated the item as a 1 to 5 on a 5-point scale (excluding "don't know")



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The overall perceptions of the City that had the most positive ratings, based upon the **combined percentage** of "excellent" and "very good" responses were:

- Quality of life in the City (98%)
- Quality of services provided by the City (94%)
- City efforts to inform about local issues (77%)

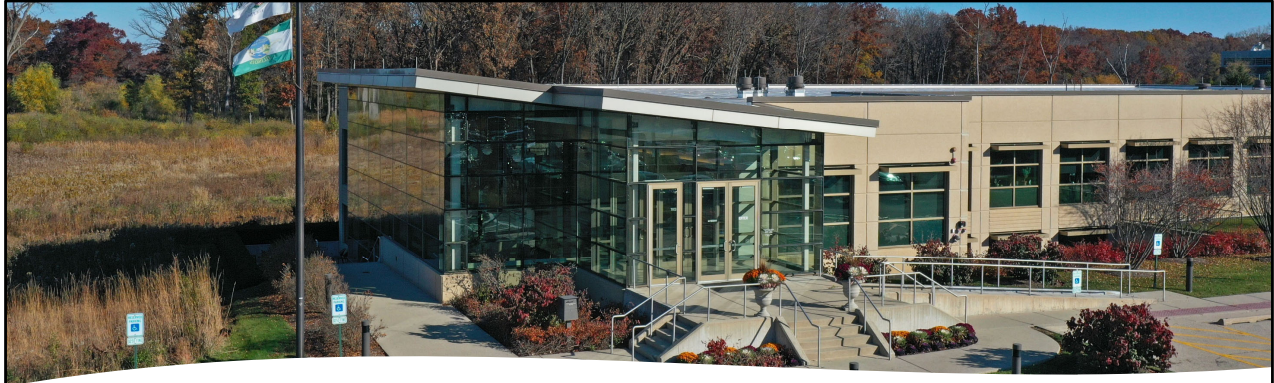


Community Survey Findings

- The overall city services with the highest levels of satisfaction, based upon the combined percentage of “very satisfied” and “satisfied” responses among residents were:
 - fire and emergency medical services (97%)
 - parks and trails (93%)
 - police services (93%)
 - sanitation services (93%)
 - library programs and services (90%)
 - customer service from City employees (86%)
- Based on the sum of their top three choices, the overall categories of City services that residents thought were most important to their household were:
 - (1) parks and trails
 - (2) fire and emergency medical services
 - (3) police services
- Based on the sum of their top three choices, the public safety services that residents thought were most important to their household were:
 - (1) how quickly the Police department responds to emergencies
 - (2) how quickly the Fire department responds to rescue/EMS calls,
 - (3) how quickly the Fire department responds to fire/public safety calls

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If the City wants to improve its overall satisfaction rating, it should prioritize investments in services with the highest Importance-Satisfaction (I-S) ratings. Details regarding methodology for the analysis are provided in Section 3 of this report.

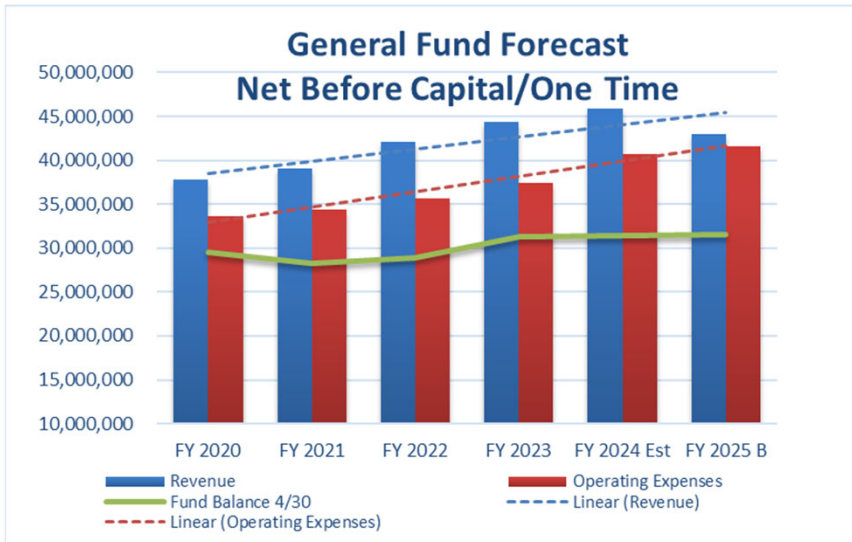


City Finances Overview

- Balanced Budget for FY2024 and Proposed FY2025
- Aaa Bond Rating by Moody's Investors Service
- Healthy Financial Reserves
- Proactive Strategy to Address Pension Costs
- Record Level Capital Asset Investments for current fiscal year (\$32m)
- \$19.5 million in grant funding awarded over the last 5 years

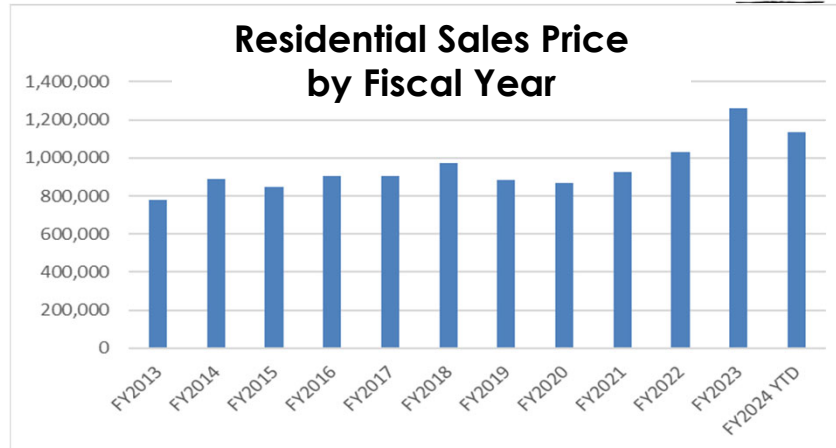
- Overall, the City's finances are in great shape.
- The City continues to have a balanced budget for the current Fiscal Year 2024 and proposed budget for next year.
- Moody's Investors Service assigned a Aaa bond rating to the City's outstanding debt, which is the highest rating possible for municipal bonds. It was last affirmed with Deerpath Park bond issue in April 2023.
- The City has strong financial reserves.
- The City continues with a proactive strategy to address public safety pension costs, funding well in excess of the minimum required by State Statutes.
 - Recognizing that the State-mandated approach to funding fire and police pension obligations is not fiscally sustainable, the City has established a more prudent approach. While this required increased funding in recent years, it will avoid significant tax levy increases in later years. Additional funding of \$3.2 million is projected to save the City \$25.5 million over the long term.
- This year is another record level of capital asset investments – \$32 million in current fiscal year.
- Over the last five years, the City has sought out and received \$19.5 million in grant funding.

City Fund Balance





Residential Real Estate



- The City experienced record-setting volumes of real estate transfers in FY21 and FY22.
- Sale volume has returned to more normal levels, but a reduced inventory of homes for sale is resulting in an increase in sales price.



FY2024 Capital Investments Highlights



Deerpath Community Park



Beach Crane Replacement



McCormick Ravine Repair



Sir William Watermain Replacement



Forest Park Bluff Slope Stabilization

- As I mentioned, this was another record year for Capital Investments.
- The Sir William Watermain Replacement took place last summer.
- Various ravine restoration and repair projects took place.
- The Forest Park Bluff Slope Stabilization is complete. The new retaining wall will help stabilize the bluff well into the future.
- **The Elawa Parking Lot Improvement Project is underway and expected to be complete in early May.**

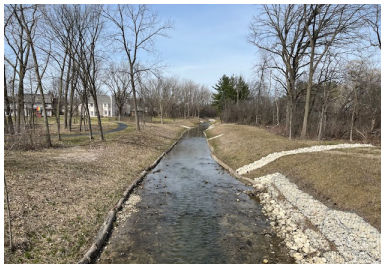
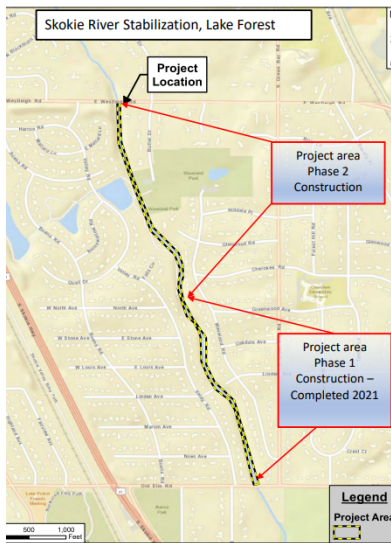


Deerpath Community Park

- Watch games live and recordings at [WatchLFSports.com](https://www.watchlfsports.com)
- Save the Date - **Deerpath Park Showcase** on Saturday, May 4

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- Deerpath Community Park was completed in November and has been seeing consistent use since early February.
- One of the exciting features of the park is the ability to watch games live and find recordings at [WatchLFSports.com](https://www.watchlfsports.com).
- The City piloted the sports cameras tech at Everett Park last year and it was very well received.
- Find more about Deerpath Park in the Lake Forest Now App.
- If you haven't had a chance to check out the park, please do!
- Also, join us for the Deerpath Park Showcase on Saturday, May 4 to learn more about what the park has to offer.



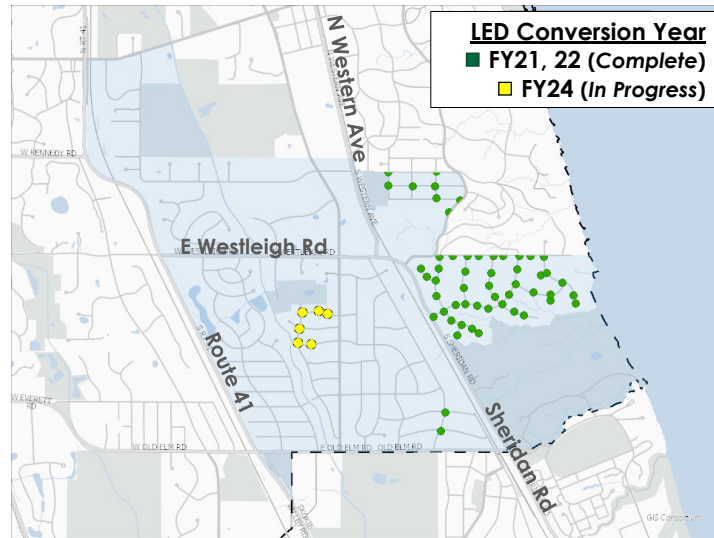
East Skokie Drainage Ditch

It's not a City project, but I wanted to mention that the East Skokie Drainage District completed improvements to the East Skokie Drainage Ditch last year.

Gas Light to LED Conversion Program



- Began **summer 2018**
- **50+ gas lights** have been converted in Ward 2 to date
- Once completed, City anticipates **saving \$50,000/year** in natural gas costs and **saving \$27,000/year** on maintenance costs



- The gas light to LED conversions began during summer 2018
- The switch doesn't change to the light's illumination or fixture, but it does provide significant cost savings for the city in terms of natural gas and maintenance costs
- A majority of the conversions occurring now are in Ward 1.
- In Ward 2, 50 total gas lights have been converted to LED since the program started
 - Over the last few years – 45 lights in the Villa Turicum neighborhood
 - Last year – 5 lights in the South Park area (45 additional completed in Ward 1)
 - This April is planned by Waveland Park
- Once completed, City anticipates **saving \$50,000/year** in natural gas costs and **saving \$27,000/year** on maintenance costs
- Timeframe regarding Gas Light Conversion
 - 430 total gas lights in the community, 140 have been converted

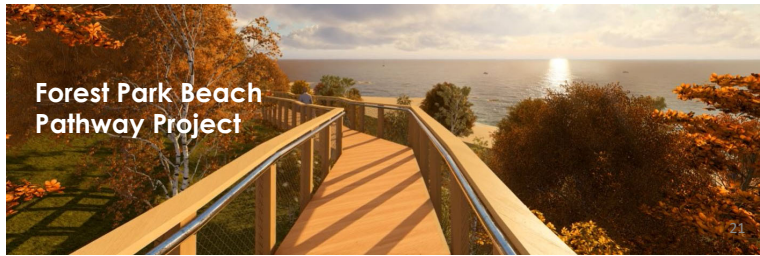


That's what's new, let's talk about what's planned this year.



Upcoming Capital Investment Highlights

Ahwahnee Road Storm Sewer



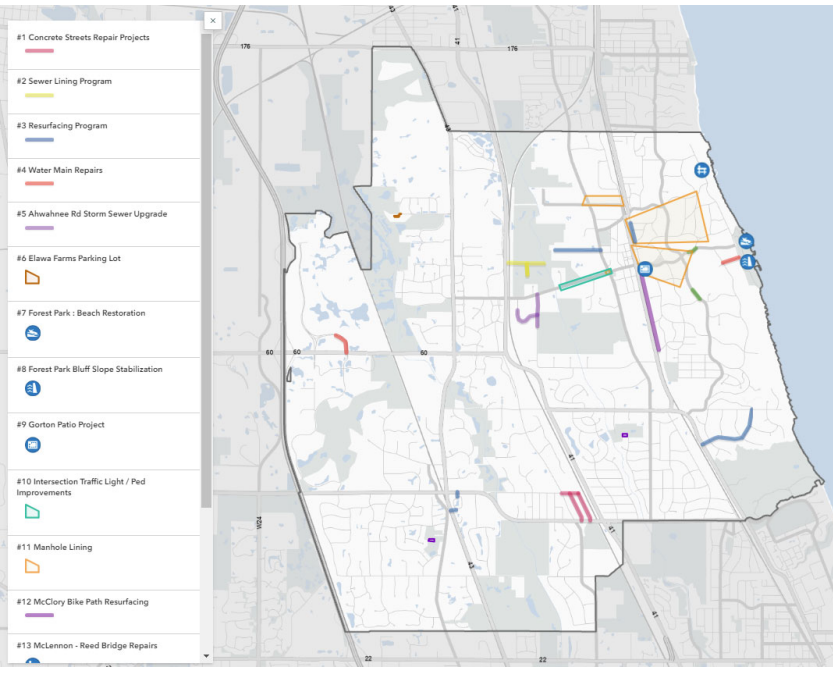
- There are quite a few capital projects planned for the coming year, which include two bridge replacement projects along Lake Road.
- The Ahwahnee Road Storm Sewer Project will help with stormwater management south of Deerpath Road.
- Also, the Forest Park Beach Pathway Project is expected to begin later this year. **Note - We'll update you on timing prior to the presentation**
 - Lake Forest has a rich history of public-private partnerships and this project is yet another example of the community's philanthropic spirit.
 - In addition to a lead donation from the Diana & David Moore family, the Lake Forest community stepped up to donate nearly \$1 million over a roughly three-month period.
 - Later this year, you'll be able to walk down to Forest Park Beach on this new ADA-compliant, stroller-friendly boardwalk.

Construction Projects Map



Find City Construction Project Updates on the interactive map at: cityoflakeforest.com/ConstructionProjects

...or in the Lake Forest Now App!





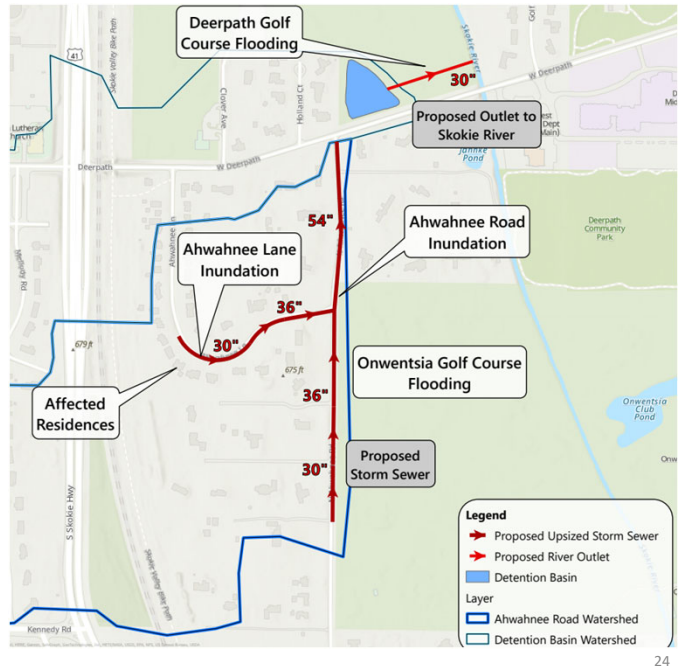
- **Ahwahnee Road Storm Sewer - \$4,345,000**
- Forest Park Beach Pathway Project - \$2,600,000
- Lake-Woodbine Bridge Replacement - \$2,800,000
- McLennon Reed Bridge Rehabilitation - \$1,700,000
- Seminary Ravine Improvements - \$1,600,000
- Spring Lane Watermain Replacement - \$525,000
- West Park Tennis Court Reconstruction - \$540,000
- Design for Central Business District Enhancements - \$500,000
- McClory Bike Path Resurfacing (Ryan to Illinois) - \$350,000
- Forest Park Beach Sand Nourishment - \$300,000
- Water Plant Membrane Module Replacement - \$180,000
- Water Meter Replacement Project (Phase I) - \$2,000,000
- **Annual Programs**
 - Street Resurfacing - \$1,000,000
 - Sanitary Manhole Lining and I&I Repairs - \$500,000
 - Sewer Lining (Sanitary & Storm) - \$275,000
 - Water Valve Repairs - \$155,000
 - Concrete Sidewalk, Curbs, and Streets Repairs - \$235,000
 - And other smaller projects

Totaling over \$23M, including \$5.7M in grant funding

- Here's the full list of the bigger capital projects planned for fiscal year 2025.
- I won't read through them all, but I do want to draw your attention to the variety of projects.
- The City intentionally invests in a variety of capital areas, including storm sewers, watermains, ravine improvements, parks, and roadways.
- The bolded projects are taking place in Ward 2.
- The City works with the Ferguson Group to help identify grant opportunities.
- For upcoming FY25 capital projects – grant funding of \$5.7m represents 24.4% of planned \$23.35m in expenditures

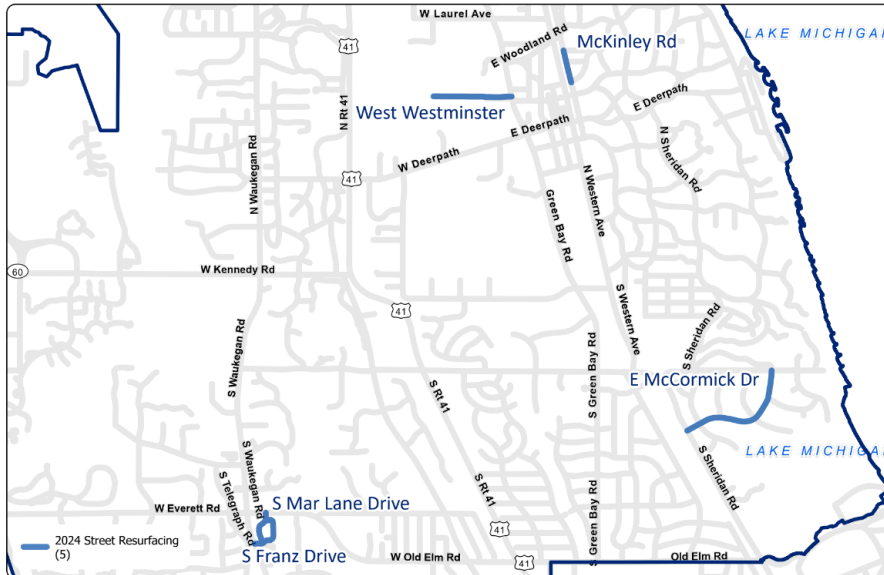
Ahwahnee Rd Storm Sewer Upgrade

- Priority project in both the 2013 and 2019 Storm Water Masterplan
- Several streets flood (affects emergency response)
- Storm sewer replacement and upsizing (and resurfacing)
- Design will increase capacity from 2-year event to 10-year storm event
- Submitted for Lake County SMC grant October 2022
- Tentative construction is still December 2024-Spring 2025 pending either being awarded the SMC grant or using local funds



- The Ahwahnee Road Storm Sewer Upgrade project is planned for later this year
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- Several street floods in recent years (affects emergency response)
- Project involves storm sewer replacement and upsizing (and resurfacing)
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Street Resurfacing in Ward 2



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E McCormick Drive is planned for resurfacing this year, as well as a few other streets around town.



Police Facility Exploration

- Current Public Safety Building was **constructed in the 1960s** for Police and Fire
- Exploring opportunities for a new police station designed to accommodate **modern police practices**, technology, training, and equipment
- Learn more at cityoflakeforest.com/PoliceStation

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- The City of Lake Forest is **prioritizing planning for a new police station** by beginning to explore how to provide the facilities necessary to support the Lake Forest Police Department.
- Public safety is important to Lake Forest residents, affirmed by **95% of Community-Wide Survey respondents ranking overall safety as a very important factor** when choosing to live in Lake Forest.
- The Lake Forest Police Department currently operates out of the Public Safety Building on Deerpath, which was **constructed in the 1960s as a combined facility** for the Police and Fire Departments.
- Looking to the future, the **current building is not adequate** to meet the space needs of both departments.
- In order to maintain the highest level of public safety services, the **police department needs a new police station designed to accommodate modern police practices, technology, training, and equipment.**
- There are **challenges** in planning for a new police station, which include identifying available land or a building that could be adapted to this use.
- It's important to ensure that this project is done in a **fiscally responsible manner**, and once completed, will serve the community long into the future.
- Unique market conditions make it **financially advantageous** to begin discussions about a new police station now instead of in the future, particularly given the importance of public safety expressed in the Community Survey.
- As the **City explores opportunities**, we want to make the community aware of this work.
- Find more information and FAQs at cityoflakeforest.com/PoliceStation



Waveland Park Pavilion Redesign

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- Feedback was provided at the coffee in the park event that occurred this past fall
- As a result of feedback provided, the City has budgeted funds to complete a redesign of space this summer.
- Design work is anticipated to occur over the upcoming summer months with construction anticipated to begin early summer of 2025.
- The City intends to engage residents to hear thoughts on the space as part of the design process. Stayed tuned for more info!

Planning & Development

- Bank Lane Streetscape Enhancement Plan
- Comprehensive Land Use Plan - Housing Assessment
- Northwestern Medicine Lake Forest Hospital – Parking Garage is Open
- Restaurants – Coming Soon
 - Tocco – Simple, Fresh Italian
 - Once Upon a Bagel



- Work is underway on the Bank Lane Streetscape Enhancement plan, which was a result of the update to the Central Business District Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan.
- Comprehensive Land Use Plan Wrap-up
 - Housing – Inventory and Filling the Gaps
 - Remaining Buildable Land – Challenges/Opportunities
 - Housing to Support Business District
- There's been a lot of activity at Northwestern Lake Forest Hospital in recent years. The parking garage is open and the hospital expansion is underway.
- Lake Forest has a growing number of wonderful dining opportunities. Some restaurants coming soon include:
 - Tocco – Simple, Fresh Italian
 - Once Upon a Bagel

Deerpath Streetscape



OF
EST
1881


DEERPATH STREETScape: SKETCHES OF DESIGN INTENT

THE ART OF
LANDSCAPE DESIGN
CRAIG BERGMANN
Landscape Design, Inc


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- Here's a rendering of the Deerpath Streetscape.
- The project includes the renewal of infrastructure, increasing plantings and the planting of trees, improving pedestrian safety, maintaining and enhancing the pedestrian experience, retention of the parallel parking on both sides of the street, highlighting historic building architecture and storefront windows, and maintaining Deerpath as a primary vehicle thoroughfare to and through the Central Business District
- This project is expected to begin in Spring 2025 and is partially funded by \$2 million IDOT grant.

Recycling Reminders




RETHINK
RECYCLING
WITH BART THE CART




BARTTHECART.COM


Follow these four guidelines and you'll help make our Lake Forest recycling program a major success!




1 Empty & rinsed




2 No plastic bags



3 No styrofoam



4 No tangles



Compost & Recycling Center Summer Hours

Saturdays, 8am – 5pm

Sundays, 9am – 5pm

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- The City's award-winning Rethink Recycling with Bart the Cart continues to educate residents about what can and cannot be recycled curbside in Lake Forest.
- Following the four guidelines on the screen here will help make our recycling program a success.
- **Paper towels, tissues and napkins are NOT recyclable.**



Now we'll talk through some opportunities for you to get involved in our community.

Upcoming Events

- **Police, Fire, and Public Works Citizen Academies**
- **Deerpath Park Showcase:** May 4
- **Annual Fred Jackson Golf Classic:** June 7
- **Meet the Fleet:** June 7
- **Summer Outdoor Concert Series:** June - August
- **Lake Forest Festival & Fireworks:** July 4
- **Lake Forest Day:** Aug. 6 & 7
- **Public Safety Open House:** Sept.



As you can see here, there's a lot happening in Lake Forest! Here's a list of a few upcoming events and activities.

Feel free to highlight a few events!

Public Works Citizen Academy: Wednesday evenings, from June 12 through July 24 (no class the week of July 4).

Strategic Planning




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- The community survey kicked off the City’s Strategic Planning process.
- The last Strategic Plan was developed with community input in 2017 and established a high-level vision for the community and detailed action steps for future implementation.
- The strategic planning process is an opportunity to step back and assess community priorities, being informed by the past, while looking forward and thinking strategically about the future.
- There are some upcoming opportunities to get involved in the process with public engagement sessions.
 - **In-Person Community Workshop:** Wednesday, May 1 at 6:30 pm
 - **Online Community Engagement Sessions (Virtual):** Tuesday, April 30 at 3 pm and Wednesday, May 15 at 7 pm
- I hope you’ll participate in the process.

Lake Forest 101

- A four-session series on Local Government
- Deeper insight into Lake Forest and City Operations
- Sessions available at no cost, registration required



Session Description		Date	Time	Registration
1	Lake Forest Government 101 and Boards & Commissions	Thursday, May 2	7:00 pm-9:15 pm	
2	Finance and Legal	Thursday, May 9		
3	Communications and Community Partners	Tuesday, May 21		
4	Bus Tour - Development Activity (Limited Capacity)	Thursday, May 30	4:30-6:30 pm	

- If you're looking to learn more about your City government, sign up for Lake Forest 101.
- From an in-depth dive into the City's budget process to a tour of development projects, Lake Forest 101 provides residents a deeper understanding and behind-the-scenes look at City operations over a four-session series.
- You can attend all sessions or just one – registration available on the City's website or through QR code.

Presenters:

- (1) City Manager, Jason Wicha
- (2) Finance Director, Elizabeth Holleb & City Attorney, Julie Tappendorf
- (3) Communications Manager, Dana Olson & Community Partners
- (4) Community Development Director, Cathy Czerniak



Thank You!

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Alderman John Powers

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Questions?