



2025 ANNUAL REPORT



Welcome to the Village of Lincolnwood



A COMMUNITY CENTER

• PARKS & RECREATION

B VILLAGE HALL

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• COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
• FINANCE
• COMMUNITY EVENTS
• BOARD & COMMISSION MEETINGS
• GENERAL INFORMATION
• UTILITY BILLS
• BUSINESS LICENSES
• BUILDING PERMITS
• CODE ENFORCEMENT
• CONTRACTOR LICENSING
• ZONING

C POLICE DEPARTMENT

D FIRE DEPARTMENT



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VILLAGE LEADERSHIP

Elected Officials

The Village of Lincolnwood is governed by an elected Mayor, six Trustees, and a Village Clerk, all serving four-year at-large terms. The Mayor and Village Board set policy and pass legislation. Lincolnwood is a home rule community operating under a Council-Manager form of government, with a full-time Village Manager appointed by the Mayor and Village Board.



Standing, left to right: Trustee Chris Martel, Trustee Craig Klatzco, Mayor Jesal Patel, Village Clerk Sokol Delisi, and Trustee Neal Gussis.

Seated, left to right: Trustee Atour Sargon, Trustee Jean Ikezoe-Halevi, and Trustee Grace Diaz Herrera.

Senior Management Team

The Senior Management Team is comprised of the Village Manager and the seven Department Directors. The Village Manager serves as the chief administrative officer overseeing the day-to-day operations of the Village with seven departments led by Department Directors reporting directly to the Manager.



Standing, left to right: Fire Chief Barry Liss, Community Development Director Patrick Ainsworth, Parks and Recreation Director Karen Hawk, Finance Director/Treasurer Elizabeth Holleb, Public Works Director John Welch, and Police Chief Jay Parrott.

Seated, left to right: Village Manager Anne Marie Gaura, Assistant Village Manager Madeline Farrell.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Affordable Housing

The Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA) notified the Village that it determined Lincolnwood was a “Non-Exempt Local Government” under the State of Illinois’ Affordable Housing Planning and Appeal Act (AHPAA). This required the Village to prepare, adopt, and submit an Affordable Housing Plan (Plan) to IHDA by June 14, 2025.

Lincolnwood was selected, at no cost to the Village, to participate in the Homes for a Changing Region program which assisted the Village in assessing local housing needs and opportunities through meetings with local stakeholders, analysis of trends in the local housing market, and input through a community survey. The Village’s Plan was reviewed and approved by IHDA in December 2025.

PC/ZBA Begins Meeting

Established in late 2024, the Plan Commission/Zoning Board of Appeals (PC/ZBA) held 10 meetings in 2025. Agenda items included preliminary discussions on signage and parking pads.

The PC/ZBA makes recommendations to the Village Board on zoning variations, text amendments, special uses, variations, and appeals.

Hotel Update

Construction on the five-story, 152 room, dual-branded Marriott hotel is near completion with an anticipated opening by May. The Residence Inn/Springhill Suites hotel located in the District 1860 development on Lincoln Avenue will feature an indoor pool, fitness center, dining area and outdoor lounge.

New Businesses

In 2025, Lincolnwood welcomed several new businesses including Burger Buz, The Trendy Table, A & B Wireless, Pregnant Planet, Edward Jones, Sylvan Learning, and Neon Gaming Hub. Several businesses also expanded and relocated within Lincolnwood including Dunkin’ at 4010 W. Touhy Avenue and Skinfection Spa.





Bonds and TIF Certificates

The Village issued direct placement bonds totaling \$3,500,000 to fund the 2025 Infrastructure Program in the Water Fund. A direct placement allows the Village to avoid public offering issuance costs such as rating and underwriting fees, a savings of nearly \$40,000.

Pursuant to the redevelopment agreement for the North Lincoln Redevelopment Project Area, the Village issued \$12,300,000 Tax Increment Allocation Revenue Note 2025B. Repayment of this note will be from pledged incremental property taxes generated as a result of the District 1860 project.



Financial Reporting

Both the Stub Year 2023 and Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Comprehensive Financial Reports (ACFR) were published. The Finance Department will complete the FY2025 Audit and publish the FY2025 ACFR by June 30, 2026.

Assist-a-Family Donations

In 2025, approximately \$1,150 was distributed to Lincolnwood residents in financial distress who needed assistance with their water and utility bills. The Village continues to promote the program and opportunity to donate.

Grocery Tax

Public Act 103-0781 had eliminated the State's 1% grocery tax effective January 1, 2026 and provided that municipalities and counties could impose their own local sales tax.

The Village Municipal Code was amended to establish a 1% municipal grocery tax that replaced the State's tax in order to continue to support general Village operations.

Five Year Financial Forecasting

In 2025, the Village developed five-year financial forecasts for key operating and capital funds of the Village, which are incorporated in the FY2026 Budget to enhance long-term financial planning. The financial forecasts identified challenges that will require the Village to contain expenditure growth, look for saving opportunities, and grow revenues to sustain Village operations.

Policy Updates

The Village amended its accounts payable, investment, and financial policies, providing clarity to staff and the public regarding the Village's obligations, goals, and financial practices.

Fully Staffed Operations

In Fall 2025, the Fire Department reached full staffing levels for the first time in at least three years. The Village Board approved an amendment to the contract with Paramedic Services of Illinois (PSI) in 2024 increasing the base salary for employees, helping make the Village a more attractive employer.



New Ford SUVs

The Village replaced two existing Fire Department vehicles with a new Deputy Fire Chief vehicle and Fire Prevention Bureau vehicle. Similar to the Fire Chief's vehicle, these new Ford SUVs are equipped with the latest lighting and audio technology, multiple mobile radios to ensure interoperability, and an onboard computer for CAD connectivity. These two vehicles provide a safe, reliable, and effective platform for the Deputy Fire Chief and Fire Inspector.



New Haas Alert system

The Village installed HAAS Alert transponders on all five front-line Fire apparatus. The system is designed to send real-time digital alerts to motorists as they approach emergency scenes, as well as alerting motorists to approaching emergency vehicles from any direction.

The free service is compatible with many types of fleet vehicles and delivers alerts to drivers via smartphone navigation apps and in-car infotainment screens. The new technology, which has no cost to the public, should help minimize future collisions between the public and Village first responders.

LUNAR Software

A key component of the newly purchased self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) used by fire personnel is the LUNAR tracking device. The LUNAR device is equipped with Firefighting Assisting Search Technology, which provides directional and distance guidance to locate firefighters rapidly during emergency situations.

LUNAR significantly enhances firefighter safety. It is particularly helpful when crews enter and operate within toxic or immediately dangerous to life and health atmospheres while on air.



Annual Open House

The Annual Fire Department Open House welcomed approximately 150 people who enjoyed live demonstrations, close and personal tours of vehicles, food, refreshments and interaction with Fire personnel.

PARKS & RECREATION

ComEd Dog Park

An opportunity to construct a Village-owned dog park in the ComEd Right-of-Way east of the Valley Line path next to Goebelt Park became available. The Village Board reviewed a concept plan for space that includes a drive path on the park's east side and an option for a secondary path to the dog park further north on the Valley Line path.

The Village is still awaiting ComEd's conditional approval for the dog park but assuming approval is received in 2026, construction is anticipated for 2027.



Recreation Center & Aquatic Center Feasibility Study

Both the Community Center and Aquatic Center require significant financial investment to continue operations. Following two community surveys that showed strong support for a recreation center and pool replacement, the Recreation Center and Aquatic Center Feasibility Study began in 2024 with a visioning workshop, public engagement session, interviews with key stakeholders, and sessions with School District 74 students.

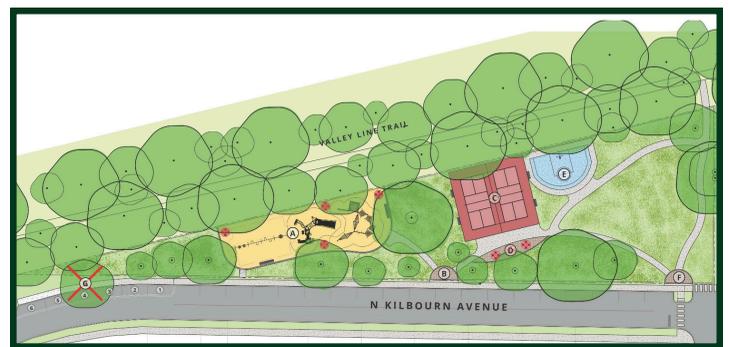
In 2025, the Village Board reviewed site options, stakeholder input, and initial concepts, ultimately supporting a conceptual design with two separate facilities, an aquatic center and a recreation center.



OSLAD Grant for Proesel

Planning and design for the Proesel Park project took place in 2025. Construction is set to begin in the spring of 2026 as part of a significant renovation project partially funded by an Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) grant through the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR).

Planned enhancements include a universally accessible playground, upgraded tennis and sand volleyball courts, two dedicated pickleball courts, a renovated inline skate court, improved basketball courts, and enhanced pedestrian pathways. Total cost of renovations is \$1,533,000 with the OSLAD Grant covering \$600,000.



Goebelt Park

Following multiple revisions to the Goebelt Park design developed with Confluence, Inc., Village Staff prepared and released bid documents for park construction to take place in Fall 2025. The returned bids were significantly higher than budgeted, nearly double, requiring the Village to delay renovation of the park until funding is available.

PARKS & RECREATION



Community Center Upgrades

Three large windows at the Community Center were replaced due to age and deteriorating condition. The new units enhance the building's appearance and improve insulation and UV protection. In addition, the Community Center's large rental space was improved with a fresh coat of paint.



ARCHITECTURE RIVER TOUR

Senior Events

A \$50,000 donation from Barry and Taffy Berger enabled Parks and Recreation to offer year-round trips and activities for participants 55+ at an affordable rate.

The five summer trips, including an Architecture River Tour at Navy Pier, Chicago Botanic Garden with lunch at PF Chang's, Chicago Cubs Game, Drury Lane, and Lunch at The Foxtail on the Lake, all sold out. Other senior activities have included Sip N' Paint events and pottery painting classes.



POLICE

Additional ALPRs

The Village installed three additional Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) on the Village right-of-way. The ALPR units are strategically placed throughout the Village based on where criminal incidents are reported and historical locations that see a frequency of incidents reported to police.

ALPR data is only used to investigate reported crimes, recover stolen vehicles, and assist in locating missing and/or endangered persons. State law, which the Police Department strictly adheres to, will never allow ALPR use for Civil immigration enforcement or any other improper use.



Police Patrol Vehicles

Three vehicles "squads" were replaced in the patrol division. These are all fully marked units and as a result of the replacements, a replaced vehicle from patrol was rebranded as the new community service officer vehicle.



Less Than Lethal Training

The Police Department hosted training for the Axon Taser 10 instructor program. This allowed for the Police Department to re-certify two instructors and certify two new instructors in the less than lethal devices at a significant savings to the Village by hosting this training in cooperation with Axon.

Over the next two years, the Police Department will begin transitioning to the more effective Taser 10 as the current device, the X2 Taser, is being discontinued. This transition will be assisted by grant funds awarded from the Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System (ILEAS).

Low-Speed E-Bikes

Regulations regarding low-speed electric bicycles, commonly referred to as e-bikes, were adopted in late 2025 following discussions by the Village Board and Traffic Commission. The new regulations define a low-speed electric bicycle, require users to be 16 years or older, prohibit use in all public parks except Centennial Park, limit the speed to 15 mph on the paths, and prohibit use of e-bikes that operate faster than 28 mph and have a motor greater than 750 watts.

POLICE



Veterans' Day

The Lincolnwood Police and Fire Honor Guard performed the presentation of colors at School District 74's Veterans Day recognition. The Honor Guard performed at both Rutledge Hall and Lincoln Hall. Additionally, the Honor Guard did a presentation of colors for the residents at The Carrington.



Lincolnwood Fest Safety

Walk-through metal detectors were implemented at both entrances to Lincolnwood Fest. As at many other outdoor festivals, the walk-through detectors were used as a precaution to prevent unsafe situations. Lincolnwood Fest remained a safe and inviting event for the community and visitors.



National Night Out

The Village hosted an estimated 250 people for the annual National Night Out. Local businesses provided support by offering food and information on their services and Nilus Township, the Lincolnwood Public Library and the North Shore Mosquito Abatement District were also present with information.



Coffee with a Cop

Police personnel met with community members and morning commuters at the Coffee with a Cop event at the Starbucks on Touhy Avenue. Starbucks staff were very inviting and appreciated the presence of Police personnel.

PUBLIC WORKS

ADA Transition Plan

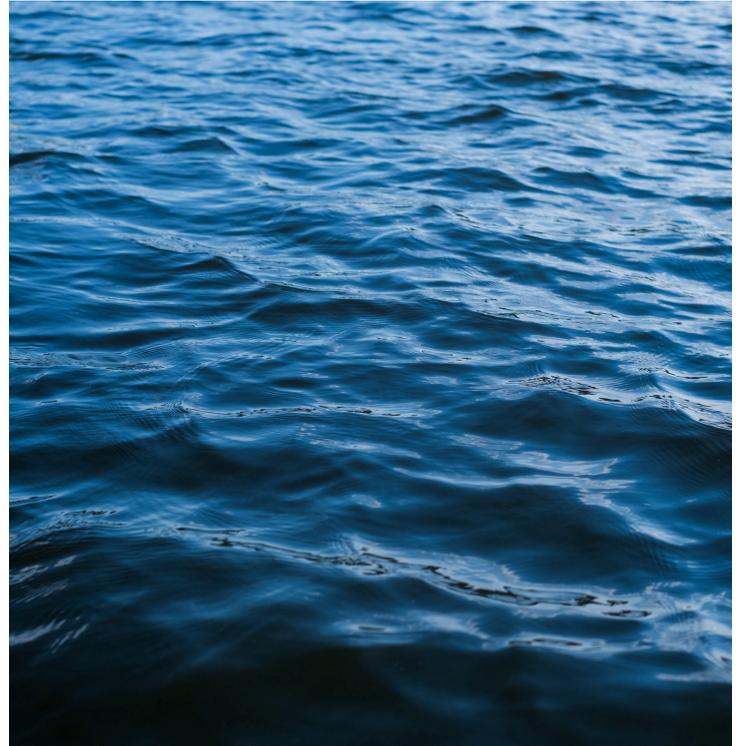
To remain eligible for federal transportation funding and ensure compliance with federal statutes, the Village is required to develop and implement an ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan (Plan). The Village successfully secured free technical assistance from Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP).

Concurrently to the Village-wide ADA transition plan, a separate Parks and Recreation Transition Plan was developed and approved to address ADA compliance within the Village's Parks. In future budgets, funding will be requested to address the issues identified in both Plans.



Lead Service Line Replacement

The 2025 Lead Service Line Replacement project included 151 lead service line replacements (13% of total project). Construction costs are reimbursed via a loan through the Illinois Public Water Supply State Revolving Fund at 0% interest. This is a portion of the pre-approved \$6.2 million to be spent during the five-year (2024-2028) approval period.



Water Rate Study

Raftelis was hired to analyze current and future expenditures including ongoing maintenance (salaries, water main replacements, facility improvements, etc.) and lead service line replacements and propose a financing plan.

In late 2025, the Water Rate Study was adopted with a 10% rate increase effective January 1, 2026. Modifications will be made to simplify the utility bills to reflect three rates, a fixed charge, water volume charge, and sewer volume charge. In addition, a change from quarterly to bi-monthly billing for residential customers will be implemented.

Engineering Services

Following a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process, the Village approved a five-year agreement with Christopher B. Burke Engineering (Burke) for general engineering services. The Village retains a professional engineering consulting firm to serve as Village Engineer and to provide engineering services.

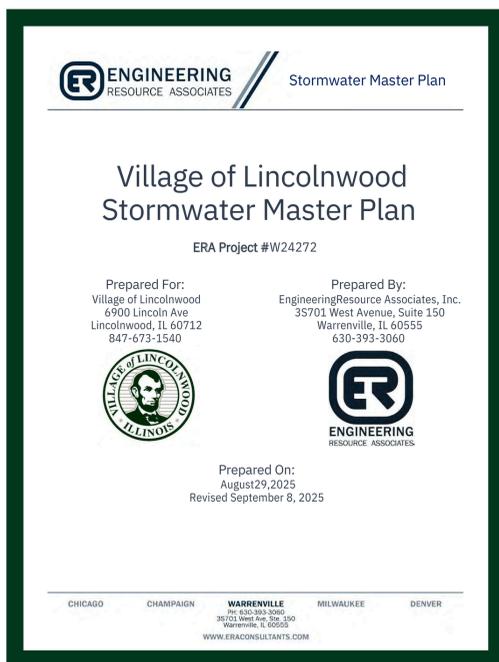
Burke has provided general engineering services to the Village since 2014 and offers significant institutional knowledge.

PUBLIC WORKS

Completed Tier 1A Projects

Following the Facilities and Space Needs Assessment, facility and space deficiencies were categorized into three tiers for repairs, maintenance, renovation, and expansion. Tier 1 improvements included priority items that need to be repaired or improved and are required to keep the facilities functioning.

An additional breakdown of Tier 1 into 1A, 1B, and 1C identified recommended completion dates. In 2025, all Tier 1A projects, including new or replacement emergency exit signage and lighting, ADA compliant water fountains, and roof limestone cap repairs, were completed.



Stormwater Plan

Engineering Resource Associates (ERA) was hired to update the Village's 2012 Stormwater Master Plan. All major projects identified in the 2012 Plan are complete including the North Shore Channel Storm Outlet and Street Storage Program.

The Update identifies potential improvements to the combined and separate sewer areas, which will be presented for next steps as funding is available. In addition, an increased cost-share (from \$2,000 to \$5,000) for residents to install a flood-control system or convert their sewer service to an overhead sewer service has been included in the FY2026 Budget.



Streetlight/Sidewalk Surveys

The 2024 Community Survey indicated inadequate street lighting and the condition of Village sidewalks were the two lowest-rated services for Public Works.

Staff will continue to make necessary repairs to sidewalks with grinding, removal, and replacement. The installation of new streetlights will need residential support as well as a funding mechanism for installation and maintenance.

No Mow 'Til Mother's Day Pilot Program

The first year of the pilot No Mow 'til Mother's Day program took place with six registered participants. Participants were provided a flyer indicating they were participating in the pilot program.

VILLAGE MANAGER'S OFFICE

Technology Upgrades

The Village engaged a third-party provider to conduct Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP), HR/Payroll, and Enterprise Asset Management (EAM) system assessments and selection processes. The assessments revealed several challenges including manual, paper-based processes, disconnected systems, limited automation opportunities, and poor visibility and tracking.

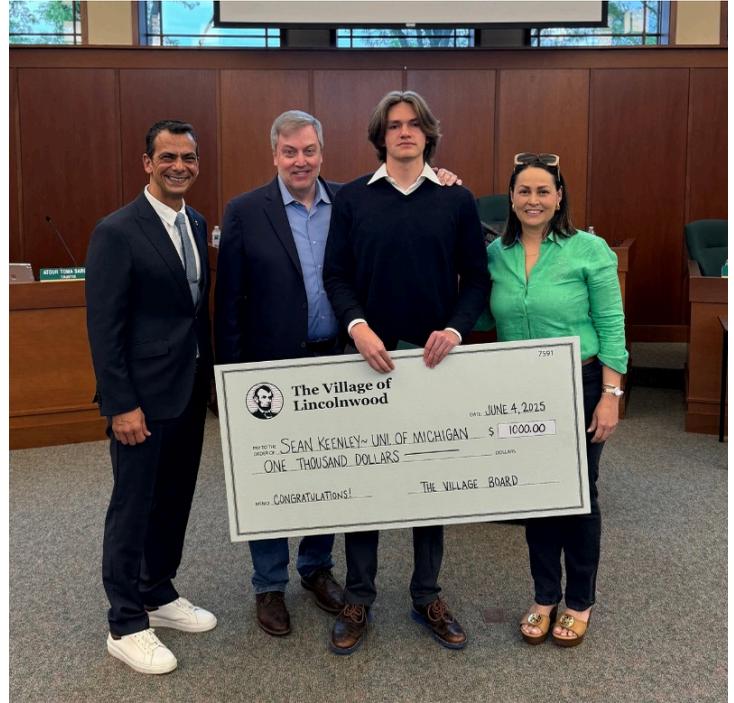
The FY2026 Budget includes funding for ERP and HR/Payroll systems. Modern features and functionality will improve efficiency and effectiveness for all users, which ultimately improves staff's ability to provide good customer service to all parties.



Restrictions on Unregulated Substances & Flavored Vapes

The Village Board held extensive discussions on potentially restricting the sale and possession of unregulated intoxicating substances such as Delta-8 THC, Delta-10 THC, and Kratom, as well as flavored liquid nicotine products (vapes) within the Village of Lincolnwood.

Following movement on the topic at the Federal level and in the City of Chicago, the Village Board's consideration of regulations and/or restrictions will continue in early 2026. The Village currently has eight licensed Tobacco and Vape Shops in addition to multiple gas stations that sell these products.



Student Achievers Fund

Student Achievers, Lincolnwood residents and high school seniors named Illinois State Scholars, have been recognized by the Village of Lincolnwood for 40 years.

Student Achievers are recognized at a Village Board meeting with a certificate and small gift. The top male and female students also receive a \$1,000 scholarship which has historically been funded by local banks. In 2025, the Village began soliciting donations for the Student Achievers Fund. The most successful fundraiser included a dunk tank at Lincolnwood Fest which raised \$2,786.



VILLAGE MANAGER'S OFFICE

AV System Replacement

Originally installed in 2016, the Gerald C. Turry Village Board Room's audio, video and broadcasting equipment experienced hardware failures requiring extensive replacement.

The system replacement modernized and expanded the systems' broadcasting capabilities, enhanced the audio/visual quality, and improved system reliability to meet the Village's needs.



New IT Managed Service Provider Contract

To meet changing expectations of the Village, IT industry, and technological needs of staff, the Village conducted a competitive process to select a new IT Managed Service Provider. Orbis Solutions has been providing Village-wide IT Services since January 2025.

Department Directors Hired

Two key Department Director positions were filled this year after extensive searches. Elizabeth Holleb was selected as Finance Director having spent the majority of her career specializing in municipal finance. She joined Lincolnwood after most recently serving the Village of Lake Forest as Finance Director for over 12 years. Patrick Ainsworth joined the Village as Community Development Director with more than 13 years of experience in urban planning and economic development.



Communications Specialist

With the position vacant, the Village reviewed the roles and responsibilities of the Marketing Coordinator and determined it was in the Village's best interest to transition the role to a Communications Specialist within the Village Manager's Office.

The Communications Specialist hired in Spring 2025 is the Village's first full-time, Village-wide Communications professional. The position is responsible for the newsletter, social media, e-newsletter, website, sponsorships, and graphic design.



BY THE NUMBERS

\$45M

value of construction from permits issued

1.31mi

Water Main Replaced

2.14mi

Roadway Resurfaced

600ft

Re-poured Sidewalk

172

Lead Service Lines Replaced

12,092
Police Calls

1,404
Fire Calls

2,105 EMS Calls

100

Resolutions

7,647

Vehicle Stickers

3,240

Building Inspections

1,376

Adjudicated Cases

49

Ordinances

349

Freedom of Information Requests Completed

50

Board & Commission Meetings

1,335

Summer Camp Registrants

373

Business Licenses Issued

35k

Lincolnwood Fest Attendees

851

Opened

906

Closed

Code Enforcement Violations

Note: More cases were closed than opened due to carryover violations from the previous year.

2,400

Turkey Trot Runners

WHAT'S COMING IN 2026?



TIF Revitalization Pilot Project

To assist with the economic revitalization of the Devon Lincoln Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Area, the Village will use \$300,000 from the Devon - Lincoln TIF to launch several initiatives including the recruitment of sales tax generating businesses, assist with renovating older buildings within the TIF through the establishment of a grant program, and to market this area that follows Illinois TIF regulations.

All actions associated with the utilization of these funds is to attract tax generating uses in underutilized spaces.

Lincolnwood Town Center

The Lincolnwood Town Center property sold to a local development group affiliated with Prairie Ridge Development and Xroads Real Estate Advisors, a Chicago-based real estate company.

While the Village has not received any specific development plans, the Village anticipates a series of improvements to the Lincolnwood Town Center property in the future.

Public Safety Facility Improvements

The Police and Fire Department's locker rooms have been identified as an immediate concern due to the current conditions and staff growth of each Department. The locker rooms, staff and public restrooms, as well as the showers, will also be repaired or replaced as part of this project. State grant funding in the amount of \$2,130,000 was received for this project.



Pratt Avenue Bike Lane

Pratt Avenue improvements will take place in 2026, adding 1.97 miles of east-west bike lanes from Lincolnwood Drive to McCormick Boulevard. This will create the Village's first uninterrupted east-west bikeway, connecting to the Valley Line Trail, Union Pacific Trail, and Centennial Park Path. Parking and sidewalk changes will improve safety for all users.



Water Fund Expenditure Consultant

As a follow up to the water rate study completed in 2025, the Village will engage a consultant to conduct a comprehensive analysis of the expenditures in the Water & Sewer Fund.

This analysis will provide feedback on the current long-term expenditure forecasts of both operating and capital expenditures for the water utility, with an emphasis on cost projections for water main and lead service line replacements. This analysis will help to project future water rate increases required to maintain this self-supporting operation.