

SOMETHING TO Celebrate

Thanks to Congresswoman Underwood, the Grand Prairie Water Commission (GPWC) received \$1.092 million in federal funds for the Alternative Water Source Program. Funds were allocated through the Community Project Funding program in the 2026 federal spending bill.

"Congresswoman Underwood understands that reliable water infrastructure is essential to our health, quality of life, and economic future," said Shorewood Mayor Clarence "C.C." DeBold, chairman of the Grand Prairie Water Commission. "We are tremendously grateful for Congresswoman Underwood's leadership and unwavering support for this transformative regional project. Her efforts helped secure an investment that will benefit residents and businesses across our communities for generations. This grant will help build the infrastructure needed to provide a sustainable, reliable, and high-quality water supply."

An event was held last month where Congresswoman Underwood presented GPWC representatives with a big check to celebrate this award and the progress being made to bring Lake Michigan water to the member communities. "Clean and safe drinking water is the foundation of a healthy community," said Rep. Underwood. "I am so proud to secure these federal funds to strengthen our infrastructure in northern Illinois, support the Grand Prairie Water Commission, and make sure that our families have a healthy and reliable water source for generations to come."



Building the Infrastructure

Construction is underway on several major elements of the system, including a water tunnel, a water storage facility and two pump stations at Durkin Park in Chicago as well as eight water delivery structures in the GPWC communities where each member will obtain Lake Michigan water. During the next 12 months, GPWC expects to award nearly 20 additional construction contracts for more than 62 miles of water transmission main and other essential facilities.

With construction already underway on multiple project components and dozens of additional contracts expected in the coming year, the regional water system is moving steadily from vision to reality. The system is scheduled to begin serving member communities in 2030.



Community SPOTLIGHT

Shorewood has been busy with preparing for Lake Michigan water. Activities included:

- Construction for the new pumping station and an underground concrete reservoir began in mid-2025. Because of its subterranean construction, it will be shielded from storms and extreme weather. Completion is anticipated in mid-2027.
- Construction of 2 miles of new 16-inch transmission water main to convey water from the new pumping station to the northern areas of the Village is underway.
- Construction of 2 pressure reducing valve stations is near completion. These stations, along with the construction of our new pumping station, will create a 2-pressure zone water distribution system in 2027 to allow for future growth to the west.
- Replacement of approximately 3 miles of aging water mains with new PVC water main was completed in 2026.
- Over the past year, approximately 10% of residential water meters have been replaced. This will leave less than 10% of residential meters to be converted to the upgraded Automatic Meter Read (AMR) system in 2027.
- The required IEPA Corrosion Control Study was completed in 2026. The study helps ensure the system and water compatibility during the transition from well water to Lake Michigan water in 2030.



Conservation CORNER

As the season changes, so do the ways we use water at home. Fall offers an opportunity to make a few practical adjustments in how we handle yard cleanup, prepare meals, and manage everyday routines.

- Mulch or compost leaves when possible, to help keep them out of streets and storm drains.
- Plan ahead and thaw frozen foods in the refrigerator overnight instead of using running water.
- Rinse fruits and vegetables together in a bowl rather than under continuously running water. Leftover water can be used for houseplants.
- Measure the amount of water needed when cooking instead of automatically filling the pot.

Small changes this fall can help reduce unnecessary water use and make conservation part of your everyday routine.



COMMUNITY Events

The Grand Prairie Water Commission hosted booths at community events this summer. The big event was Water Conservation Day at the Slammers game on July 7th where representatives from the member communities greeted guests and provided information on the program. In addition to a fun night of baseball, there were games for the kids and plenty of giveaways.



Keep an eye out for us at future events and check out our new display where you can see how big the pipe is that will bring the water to your community.

