



# Grand Prairie Water Commission **Alternative Water Source Program Update** June 2025

# PRESENTATION AGENDA

- Background
- GPWC Alternative Water Source Program (AWSP) Overview
- Recent Accomplishments
- Look Ahead – next 12 months
- Questions





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# Background



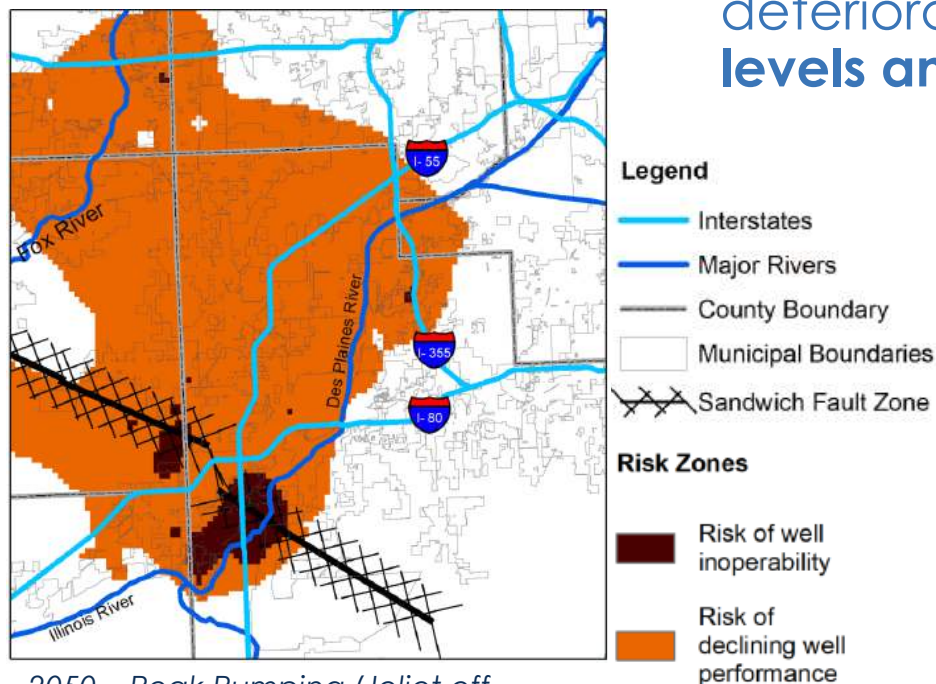
# Regional Problem

Groundwater sources in the region are in jeopardy:

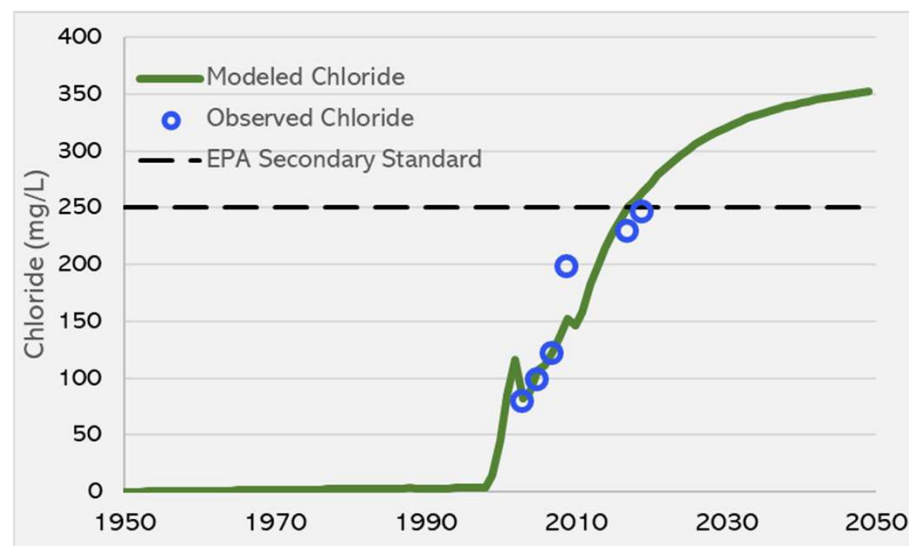
- **deep sandstone aquifer** is being depleted to the point of inoperability
- shallow aquifer water quality is deteriorating due to **increased chloride levels and presence of PFAS**



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2050 – Peak Pumping (Joliet off aquifer) (From ISWS)



There are observed and modeled increases in chloride levels in regional shallow wells (From ISWS)



Existing Water Supply-8 shallow Wells

Wells are 350-500 ft Deep

Existing wells running 24 hours a day

Since 2015, City has been looking to expand number of wells  
To address future growth  
Reduce run time on each well  
Address increasing Chloride Levels

# Crest Hill Alternative Water Source Studies



## EVALUATION:

Phase I Report

2020

## PUBLIC OUTREACH

Phase II Outreach

2022

## FORMAL FORMATION

Phase 3- Formation

2024

MID 2020-Oct 2021

- Evaluation of **Alternates water source**
- Evaluation Criteria
  - **Quality**
  - **Quantity**
- **PFAS Removal**

JAN 2022 – Aug 2022

City Held Public Hearing on AWS

- *Chaney-Monge; Carillion Lakes; Richland;PW Building*

*City Signed Preliminary Agreement Formation Water Commission*

July 2023-DEC 2024

City executed contracts for design of 2 new receiving stations and 2.5 million ground storage Tank.

Formally Joined and created the GPWC (June 2024)

# New Water Source Selection



- ✓ Purchase treated water from the City of Chicago and pump to the southwest suburbs for distribution
- ✓ Final Water Supply Agreement between the City of Chicago and City of Joliet effective May 1, 2023 (assignable to the Commission)



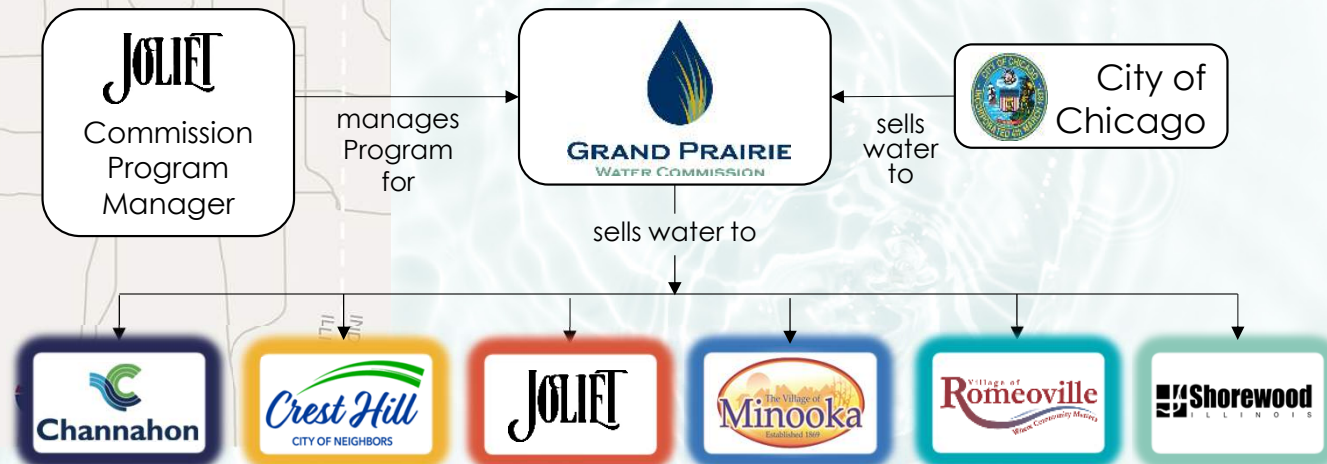
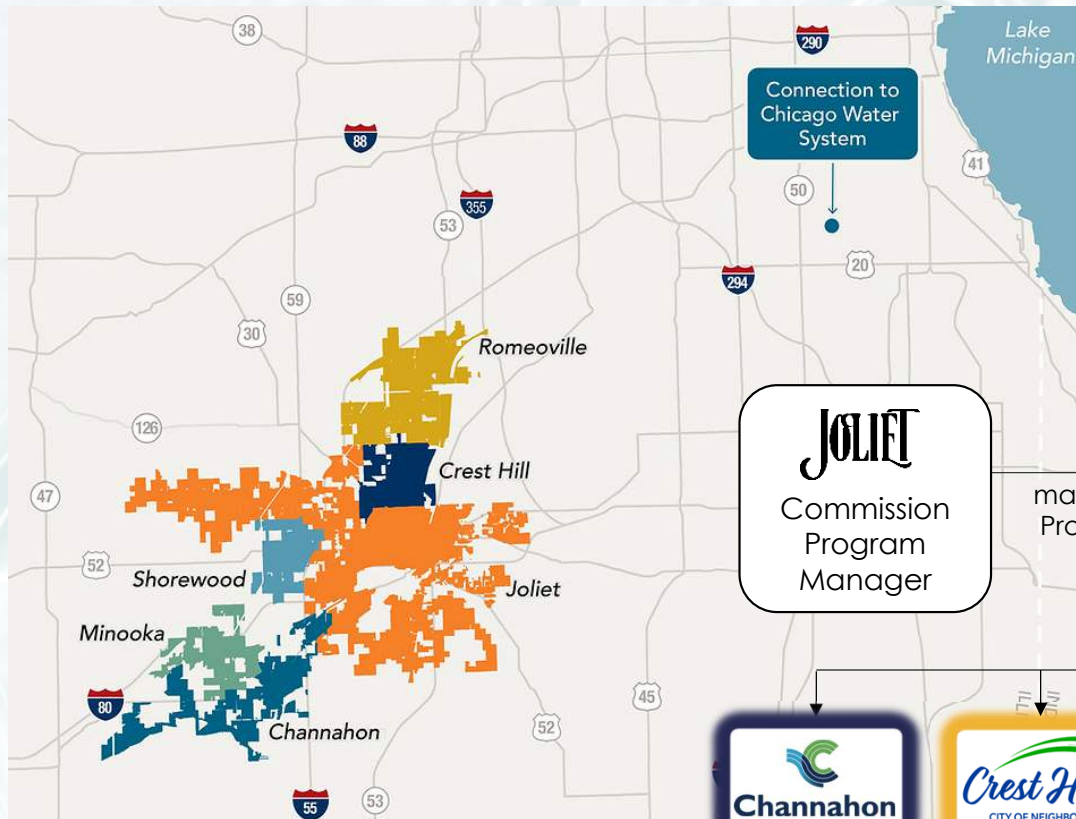


# Regional Solution



## Grand Prairie Water Commission

- 6 Member Communities
- over 250,000 people





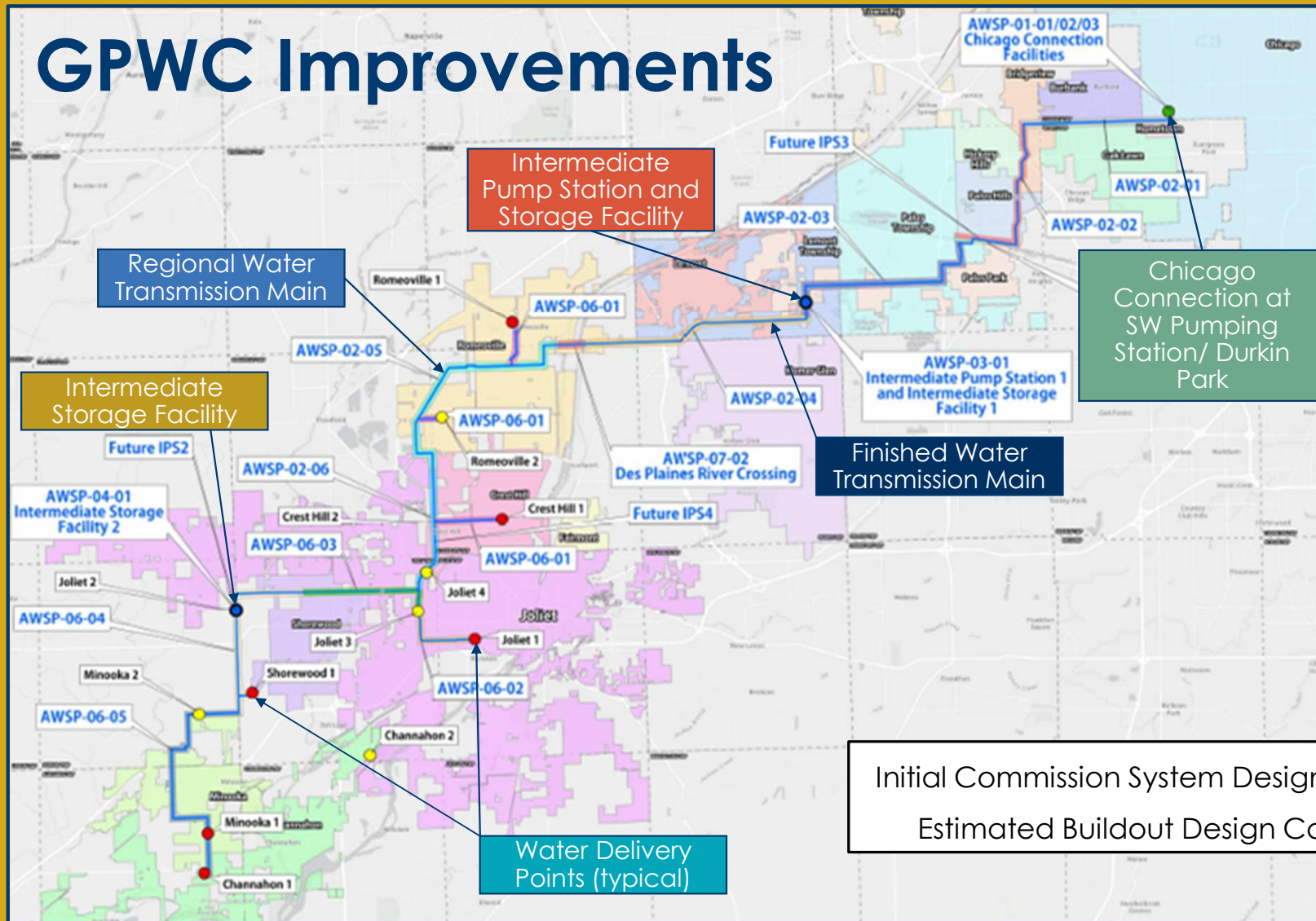


# Alternative Water Source Program (AWSP) Overview

# GPWC Improvements



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- Transmission Main
- Delivery Point
  - Chicago Connection
  - Primary
  - Non-Primary
  - Intermediate Location
- Member Community
  - Channahon
  - Crest Hill
  - Joliet
  - Minooka
  - Romeoville
  - Shorewood

Initial Commission System Design Capacity = **55.3 MGD**,  
Estimated Buildout Design Capacity = **103.7 MGD**

# GPWC Improvements Schedule

Early 2026 to Mid 2028

Intermediate Pump Station and Storage Facility

Mid 2026 to Mid 2029

Regional Water Transmission Main

Late 2026 to Late 2028

Intermediate Storage Facility

Late 2024 to Late 2029

Finished Water Transmission Main

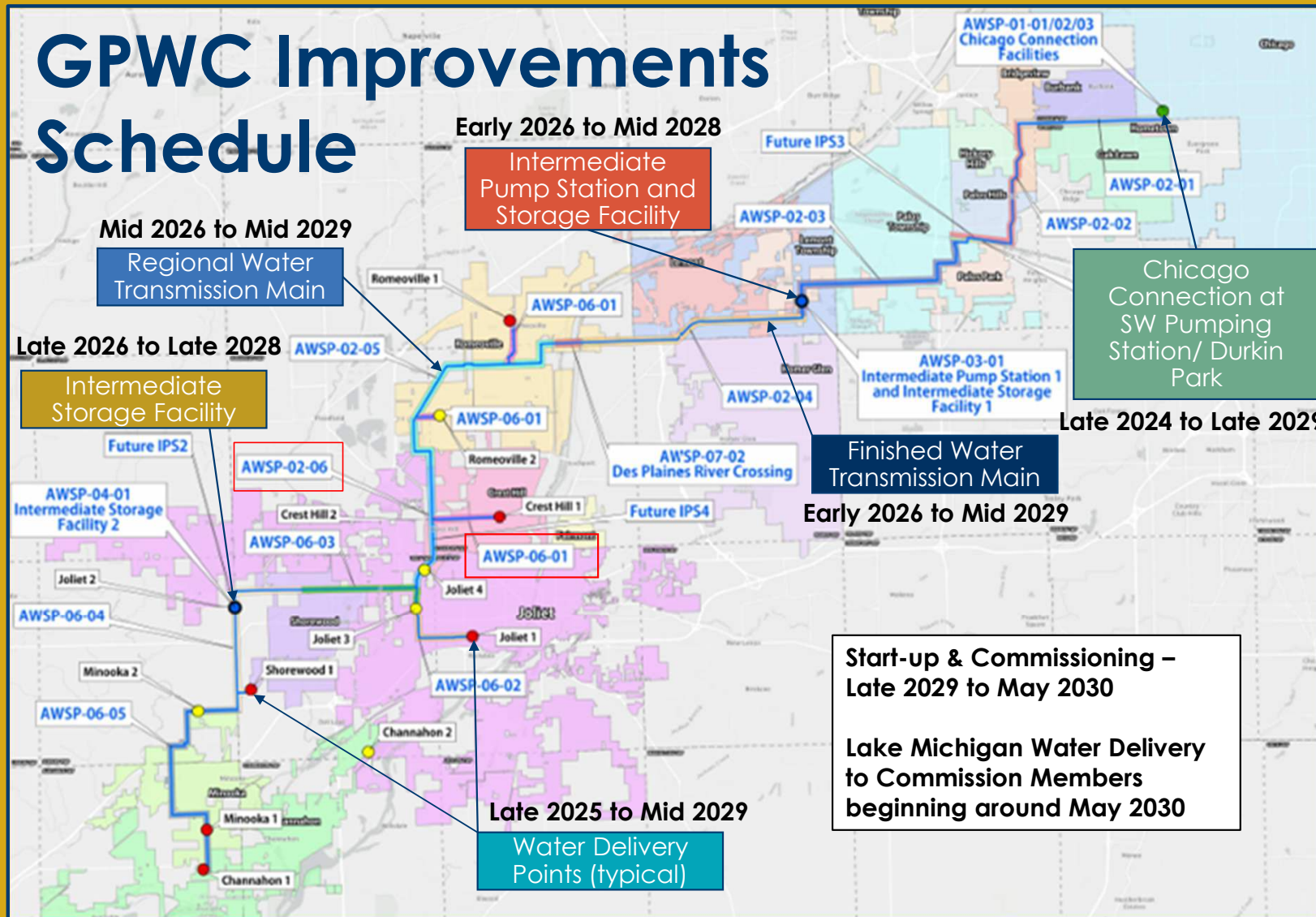
Early 2026 to Mid 2029

Start-up & Commissioning –  
Late 2029 to May 2030

Lake Michigan Water Delivery  
to Commission Members  
beginning around May 2030

Late 2025 to Mid 2029

Water Delivery Points (typical)

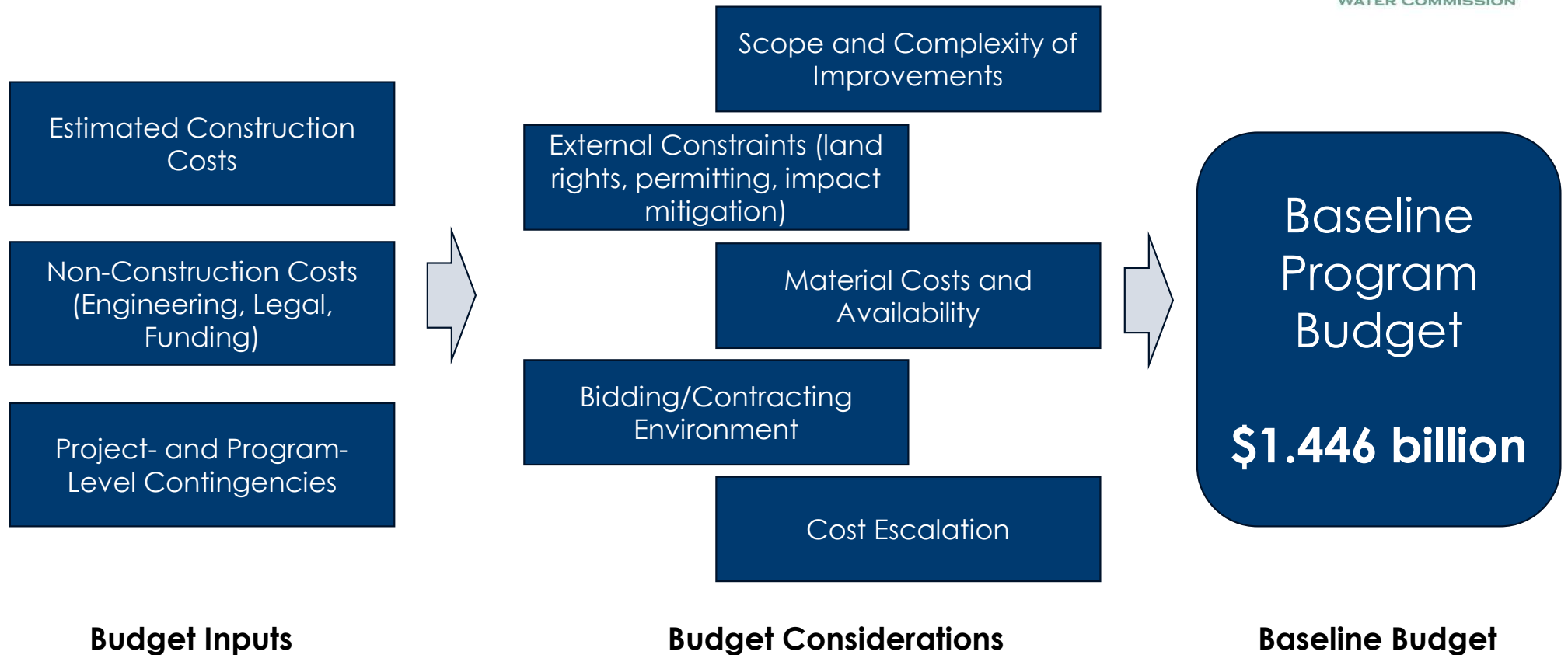


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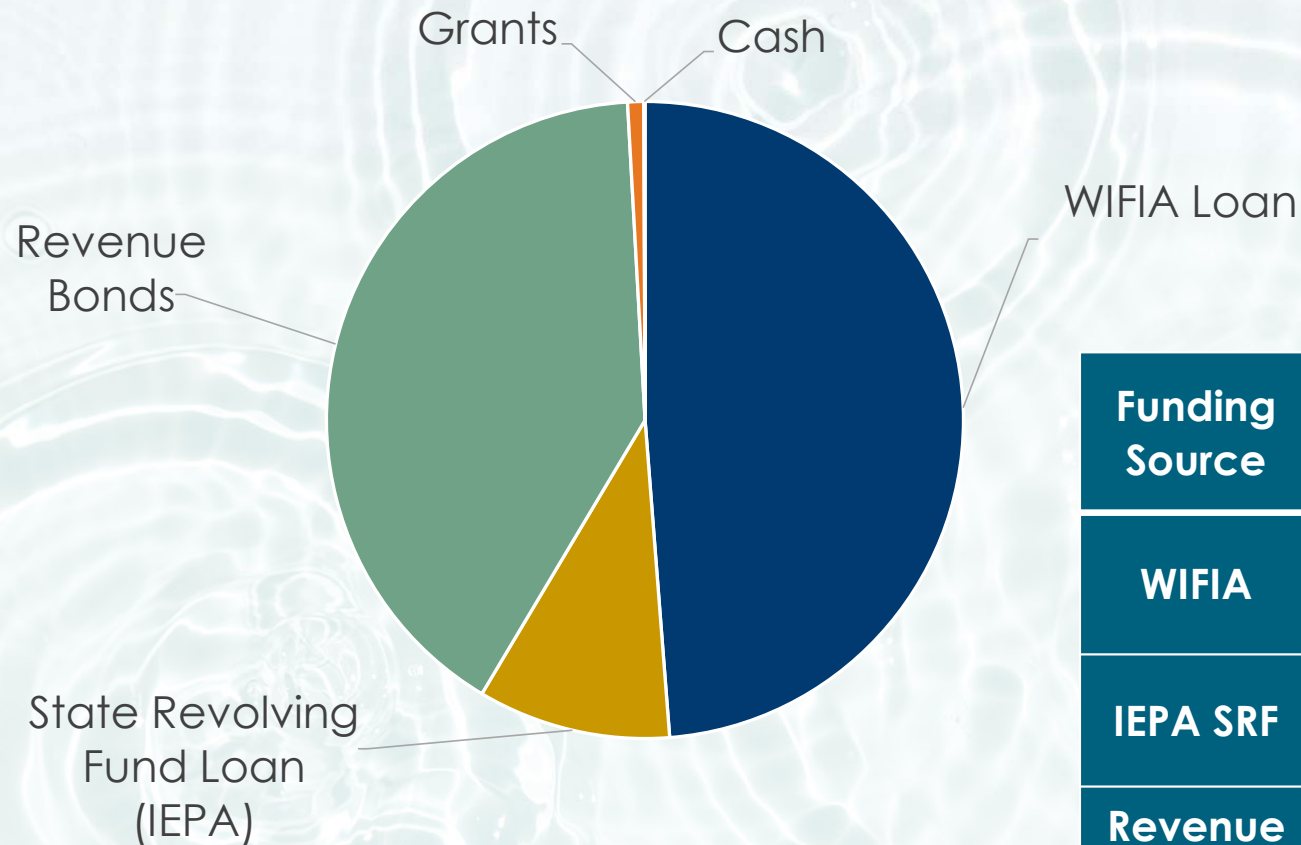
# Baseline Budget 3.0

(Approved by Board of Commissioners 5/8/25)





# Program Funding Strategy



Funding Source	Assumed Interest Rate	Maturity
WIFIA	4.5%	35 years after substantial completion
IEPA SRF	2.0%	30 years
Revenue Bonds	5.31% first issuance, then 4.5%	30 years

# GPWC Member System Improvements



In addition to Commission work, each commission member community must complete improvements within their own system to accept new water source

- Two days storage in system
- Additional distribution pipe, storage tanks, and booster pump stations
- Non-revenue water reduction
- Corrosion control studies & Water Source Transfer Planning
- Decommissioning of existing system





# Recent Accomplishments





# Highlights



- Grand Prairie Water Commission Formed ([June 2024](#))
- Received IEPA recognition as a Public Water Supply ([March 2025](#))
- Completed design and bidding of first Work Package AWSP-01-01 Tunnel Extension at Chicago Connection Facilities ([Notice of Award – December 2024](#))
- CIP Final Design Progressing (including field investigations)
- Land Acquired for 2 GPWC Facility Sites ([August 2024](#))
- Funding Progress with WIFIA, SRF & Grants
- Completed Annual Rebaselining – Baseline Budget & Schedule 3.0 ([May 2025](#))
- Established online map for construction updates on GPWC website ([April 2025](#))





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# Look Ahead - Next 12 months



# 12 Month Look Ahead



- Continued Construction of AWSP-01-01 Tunnel Extension
- Continue progressing Final Design of remaining 26 AWSP Work Packages
- Continue coordination for land acquisition - easements, permits & intergovernmental coordination
- Bid out 7 Work Packages
- Assignment of Chicago-Joliet Water Supply Agreement to GPWC
- Continue to hold Contractor & Public Outreach events

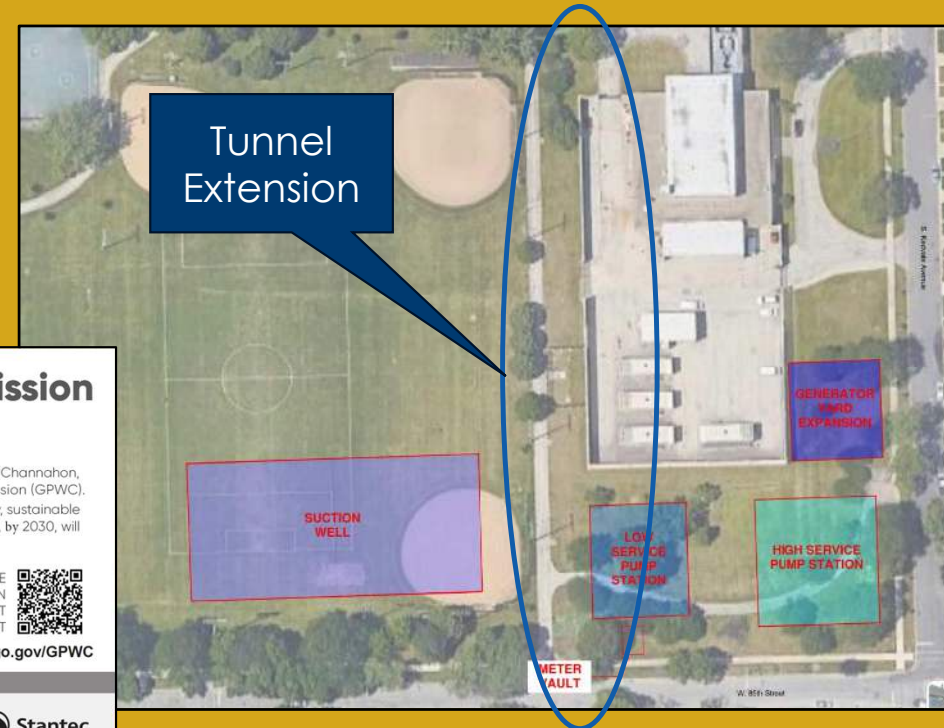


# Construction Underway!



## AWSP-01-01: Tunnel Extension

- 10-ft finished diameter
- 510 feet long, 120 feet below grade
- Notice to Proceed Issued 1/27/25
- Excavation beginning in June
- Final Completion by 12/18/26



### Chicago & Grand Prairie Water Commission WATER SUPPLY PROJECT

This historic project is a partnership between the City of Chicago and six southwest suburban communities (Channahon, Crest Hill, Joliet, Minooka, Romeoville, and Shorewood), which comprise the Grand Prairie Water Commission (GPWC). Funded by the GPWC, this water infrastructure project will enable these communities to receive high-quality, sustainable Lake Michigan water from Chicago – replacing underground aquifers that are rapidly depleting and which, by 2030, will no longer meet the water needs of the region.

Thank you, Durkin Park Community, Durkin Park Elementary, Alderman Curtis and the 18th Ward for your partnership and support of this important project!

CONSTRUCTION UPDATES 800-815-GPWC • [www.gpwc-il.org/construction](http://www.gpwc-il.org/construction)

FOR MORE  
INFORMATION  
ABOUT  
THIS PROJECT



<https://chicago.gov/GPWC>

#### PROJECT PARTNERS





# Anticipated Design Status: End of 2025



Legend	Conceptual Design	Siting / Routing Analysis	30% Design	60% Design	90% Design	100 % Design	Bidding / Contracting	Construction	Start-up & Commissioning
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Task pending</li> <li>Task in progress/ongoing</li> <li>Task complete</li> </ul>									
CIP #1 Chicago Connection Facilities	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○
CIP #2 Finished Water Transmission Main	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	○	○
CIP #3 Intermediate PS 1, Storage Facility	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	○	○
CIP #4 Intermediate Storage Facility 2	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	○	○
CIP #5 System-wide SCADA/Comm	●	●	●	●	○	○	○	○	○
CIP #6 Regional Transmission Network	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○
CIP #7 Transmission Main Mega Crossings	●	●	●	●	●	○	○	○	○





# Land Acquisition & Coordination



- Easement acquisition
  - More than 400 temporary and permanent easements required
- Permitting
  - More than 260 local, state, and federal permits required
- Intergovernmental Coordination
  - Adjacent municipalities, districts

# Capital Improvement Projects (CIPs) Bidding in the next 12 months



- CIP#1: Chicago Connection Facilities
  - AWSP-01-02/-01-03: Suction Well and Low & High Service Pump Stations (Aug. 2025)
- CIP#2: Finished Water Transmission Mains
  - AWSP-02-01: Segment A (Jan. 2026)
  - AWSP-02-06: Segment F (Jan. 2026)
- CIP#3: Storage and Pump Stations
  - AWSP-03-01: Intermediate Pump Station 1 and Storage (Jan. 2026)
- CIP#6: Delivery Structures
  - AWSP-06-06: Water Delivery Structures 1 (July 2025)
  - AWSP-06-07: Water Delivery Structures 2 (Feb. 2026)
- CIP#11: Commissioning and Startup
  - AWSP-11-01: Program Commissioning and Startup (Oct. 2025)



# Chicago-Joliet Water Supply Agreement



- Final Agreement was approved by the City of Chicago and the City of Joliet in April 2023
- **This Agreement is a culmination of Chicago's new approach to wholesale customers with cost-of-service rate methodology and formation of an Advisory Council.**
- **Agreement is in the process of being assigned to Grand Prairie Water Commission**

# Water Management

DWM is committed to providing the highest level of professional services to the community.

## OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

### Chicago Improvements at Southwest Pumping Station & Durkin Park

- Monthly Social Media Posts
- Quarterly Chicago Community Engagement Meetings
- Annual Contractor Outreach Event

What is this project about?

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

As work at Southwest Pumping Station & Durkin Park progresses, DWM, Joliet and the Chicago Park District will continue to work with 18<sup>th</sup> Ward Alderman Derrick Curtis and to communicate with the community about this important project. We stand ready to answer your questions! Please feel free to reach out to the following contacts at any time.

ALDERMAN DERRICK CURTIS  
18<sup>TH</sup> WARD SERVICE OFFICE  
(773) 284-5057  
<https://www.facebook.com/aldermancurtis18ward>

CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF WATER  
MANAGEMENT  
(773) 744-8846  
[DurkinParkComments@cityofchicago.org](mailto:DurkinParkComments@cityofchicago.org)

CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT  
42 - PLAY (7529)  
[www.chicagoparkdistrict.com](http://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com)

JOLIET  
CITY OF PUBLIC UTILITIES  
(815) 744-4220  
[www.rethinkwaterjoliet.org](http://www.rethinkwaterjoliet.org)

We fully acknowledge Durkin Park  
School Principal Charles E. Beavers  
for facilitating our Community  
about this project.

#### Timeline: Improvements at Southwest Pumping Station & Durkin Park

**2022-2024**  
*Design & Engineering*  
*Improvements & new  
amenities completed at  
Rainey, Bogan, and  
Scottsdale Parks*

**2025-2027**  
*Construction at Durkin Park*

**2028**  
*Durkin Park restored with  
new athletic/soccer field*

**2024-2030**  
*Construction at Southwest  
Pumping Station*

**2030**

#### Chicago-Joliet Water Supply Agreement, Improvements at Southwest Pumping Station & Durkin Park:

Background, Facts &  
Benefits to the Community



#### Water Source Program

##### Contractor Outreach Event

Wednesday, November 14, 2024  
08:30-11:00 AM CST

**AT**  
Joliet Junior College  
1215 Harold Road, Joliet, Illinois 60431  
Event Center Room: EC2001/EC2002

**FOR**  
Qualified contractors interested in future  
infrastructure construction opportunities.

**TO LEARN**  
The members of the Grand Prairie Water Commission  
(currently in formation) invite contractors to receive  
updates and ask questions regarding the proposed  
Alternative Water Source Program (AWSP) planned  
to bring Lake Michigan water to Channahon,  
Crest Hill, Joliet, Mokena, Romeoville, and  
Shorewood. Information on local projects planned  
by the individual commission members will also be  
presented.

**ABOUT THE PROGRAM**  
The AWSP will include construction of a new,  
publicly-owned drinking water infrastructure system  
needed to provide the region with a sustainable,  
long-term source. The Commission will own and  
operate the AWSP infrastructure. Treated Lake  
Michigan water will be purchased from the City of  
Chicago and conveyed through a regional water  
transmission system to delivery points for the six  
Commission member communities. The \$2.3 million  
publicly owned (AWSP) system of water transmission  
pipeline, pumping stations, storage facilities,  
and delivery/distribution stations will be used to  
provide drinking water to a projected 2000 service  
population of 388,000 people.


For more information related to the Grand Prairie  
Water Commission, please visit our website at  
[www.gpwc.org](http://www.gpwc.org).

**AGENDA (GMT)**  
08:30-09:30: Welcome  
09:30-09:45: Opening Remarks





# For more Information, visit the GPWC Website:




GRAND PRAIRIE  
WATER COMMISSION

SEPT 2024 | ISSUE 8

Current  
CONNECTIONS

CHannahon | CREST HILL | JOilet | MINOOKA | ROMEOVILLE | SHOREWOOD



GPWC Secretary Mayor John Hoek,  
Program Leg at Council Barbara Adams,  
GPWC Chair Mayor OC DeBolt

### Inaugural MEETING HELD

The first Board of Commissioners meeting of the Grand Prairie Water Commission was held on July 2, 2024. Their first order of business was to approve the Commission Bylaws, confirm Officers and appoint a Deputy Secretary and Deputy Treasurer, approve the Water Supply Agreement, and approve an intergovernmental agreement for program management. Moving forward, meetings will be held on the first Thursday of each month at the Village of Shorewood.

### WHAT'S YOUR Type?


When you think about where your water comes from, where do you picture it being stored? Most people have seen many water towers, but likely don't know why different types of storage are used. The Grand Prairie Water Commission and its member communities will use different types of water storage facilities. Let's start with the basics. Three of the most common types of storage tanks are ground reservoirs, standpipes, and spheroids. In this newsletter, we will introduce standpipes.

Standpipes are large cylinder shaped structures typically made of welded steel that are taller than they are wide. Standpipes are a durable design and can be customized to various heights and diameter, based on needs. Depending on their height, they can help maintain pressure in a system by gravity or be paired with a pump station to supply water at pressure. Both the GPWC and the City of Joliet will be constructing standpipes as part of their alternative water source improvements.

All three types of water tanks offer efficient, reliable, and versatile water storage. Stay tuned for the next newsletter where we will provide more information on the other types of storage tanks.

### LAND ACQUIRED

The first two parcels of land needed for GPWC infrastructure outside of Chicago have been acquired. The first parcel is a 15-acre site in Lemont where the Intermediate Pump Station and a 4-million-gallon water storage standpipe will be located. The second parcel, located in unincorporated Will County, will provide space for new water facilities for GPWC and local water infrastructure including a 1.5-million-gallon elevated water storage tank. Federal grant funding secured with the assistance of local legislators is being used to support the purchase of these parcels.



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## "Like roots finding water, we always wind up moving towards what sustains us."

— Mark Nepo —

Six communities in the southwest suburbs of Chicago have formed the Grand Prairie Water Commission to provide a sustainable and reliable water supply to meet water needs and support continued growth and development in the region. They are:

- Village of Channahon
- City of Crest Hill
- City of Joliet
- Village of Minooka
- Village of Romeoville
- Village of Shorewood

For the past several years communities in the southwestern suburban region have been evaluating alternative water sources due to water quantity and water quality challenges with their existing water supplies. Lake Michigan water purchased from the City of Chicago was selected to achieve the vision of these municipalities of being leaders in providing sustainable, reliable, and high-quality water in an innovative, collaborative, fiscally responsible and efficient manner for their communities.

[Read More](#)

The mission of the Grand Prairie Water Commission is to provide a sustainable, reliable, and high-quality water supply for the member communities by 2030 and beyond in order to support public health, safety, economic interests, and quality of life.

Visit  
[www.gpwc-il.org](http://www.gpwc-il.org):

- Program Overview
- Document Library
- News and Announcements
- Anticipated Bidding Schedule
- Quarterly Newsletter



# QUESTIONS?

Visit us at [www.gpwc-il.org](http://www.gpwc-il.org)

## 2030



**Delivering  
Lake Michigan Water  
to a Growing Region**



**CHICAGO**

65 miles of  
Water Transmission Main

66"  
PIPE



**WATER  
COMMISSION  
MEMBERS**