

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE WOODS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS



ANNUAL REPORT
2025

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Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236**

This report provides a general summary of the many services provided by the Department of Public Works. The department is responsible for water/sewer operations, major and local street maintenance, signs and parking meters, forestry, maintenance of city vehicles, and the oversight of solid waste disposal. In addition, the DPW is responsible for the maintenance of all city buildings and grounds including all city parks.

During 2025, the Public Services/Public Works staff included 26 full-time employees and four part-time employees. Department management includes the Director and Assistant Director of Public Services. Full-time Public Works employees include one Water/Sewer technician, six Crew Chiefs, 13 Operator II's, two Mechanics, one Confidential Administrative Assistant and one Administrative Clerk at the DPW. Part-time employees include one contractual Forester, one contractual Mechanic and two contractual Geographic Information System (GIS) Technician who inputs information for permanent city records.

In 2025, Department of Public Services management, together with the city's consulting engineering firm, Anderson, Eckstein & Westrick (AEW), supervised approximately \$4.53 million in city infrastructure construction projects. These projects included:

- Resurfacing of Wedgewood (Vernier to Hawthorne)
- Sidewalk repairs caused from city issues, e.g., sewer/water main repairs, city trees, etc. throughout city as needed
- Sewer Structure Repairs throughout the city (lining and open cut)
- Install new water meter readers throughout city
- Miscellaneous Concrete Pavement Repairs throughout the city, including various parking bays throughout the city
- Asphalt patching and concrete joint patching throughout the city
- Joint and crack sealing throughout the city
- Mack and Vernier intersection improvements
- Ghesquiere Park walking path
- Ghesquiere Park restroom improvements
- Lake Front Park old concession stand improvements

The following report offers information on special projects and tasks accomplished during 2025, as well as general tasks completed by DPW employees during 2025 as compared to 2024.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Department of Public Works employees worked on several special projects during 2025. These projects included:

Robert E. Novitke Municipal Center

- Assembled chairs for Public Safety
- Changed out water filters in water fountains
- Electrical repairs throughout Municipal Complex
- Moved boxes to basement for permanent record storage
- Plumbing repairs throughout Municipal Complex
- Preparation, clean up and set up/take down for Annual Flower Sale
- Preparation, clean up and set up/take down for Fall Fest
- Preparation, clean up and set up/take down for Music on the Lawn events
- Preparation, clean up and set up/take down for Polar Express
- Preparation, clean up and set up/take down for Winterfest
- Preparation, clean up and set up/take down for Woods Aglow
- Repaired door at Community Center entrance
- Repaired door handle at Court entrance
- Repaired employee parking lot gate arm
- Repaired hot water pipe in Community Center kitchen
- Replaced batteries in soap dispensers and paper towel dispensers
- Replaced ceiling tiles
- Restocked paper and plastic bags at City Hall and Public Safety
- Set out ant traps in hallways and kitchens
- Set up voting booths and stanchions for election
- Winterized sprinklers

DPW

- Changed filters in server room monthly
- Electrical repairs
- Monitored Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) System and monitor for Torrey Road Pump Station
- Monitored water reservoir and resetting fill times for spring/summer and fall/winter operations
- Preparation, clean up and set up/take down for biannual Hazardous Waste Day/Shredding Service, assisted 478 vehicles on April 26, 2025 and 365 vehicles on October 18, 2025
- Repaired and oiled chain on DPW yard gate

Torrey Road Pump Station

- Annual inspection and oversight on pump and motor maintenance
- Monitored level sensors and Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) System
- Monitored pump activity daily
- Removed the fencing for preparation of the generator, and regraded the yard after it was installed

- Switch gear maintenance and repairs

City Streets

- Annual replacement of batteries in parking meters along Mack Avenue
- Assisted the building department with miscellaneous inspections
- Changed out parking meter lenses as needed
- Delivered and picked up barricades for block parties
- Hot patch street repairs throughout the city
- Hung 75th Anniversary banners along Mack Avenue
- Installed 129 flower pots in baskets on streetlights on Mack Avenue and Vernier Road and keep watered
- Painted fire hydrants throughout the city
- Removed “Free Parking” bags from parking meters
- Removed roadkill from city streets
- Replace signs removed or damaged throughout the city
- Winterized sprinklers

Lake Front Park

- Electrical repairs throughout park
- Excavated the sewer and water main for preparation of the new service connection to the new garage
- Preparation, clean up and set up/take down for Egg Stroll
- Preparation, clean up and set up/take down for Hob Nobbin’ with Goblins
- Ran a new fiber optic line throughout the park underground
- Regraded the grounds around the new garage was completed

Chene-Trombley Park

- General maintenance and repairs to park and playground
- Preparation, clean up and set up/take down for Spring Fest

Ghesquiere Park

- General maintenance and repairs to Cook Schoolhouse
- Demolished and prepared the bathrooms for the addition of two new family bathrooms including removing the concrete and excavating and repairing the sewer
- Supervised and assisted with construction for the ball diamonds upgrades, including removing all the Little League fencing, built bleachers and dugout benches, regrading the field for better drainage, and installing a fence topper
- Relocated the irrigation and several trees and arborvitaes for the new walking path
- Installed benches along the path
- Planted new trees at the entrance to the park
- Removed concrete for replacement on pickleball and ice rink
- Reset scoreboard
- Weeded batting cages

Sweeney Park

- Repaired play scape
- Replaced wood on benches

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

DPW employees perform many routine repairs and maintenance services for city buildings and grounds as well as general services to other city departments as needed.

These repairs and services include, but are not limited to:

- Custodial, maintenance duties, and repairs at City Hall, Public Safety, DPW and all city parks
- Report streetlights out to DTE as reported by residents
- Raise and lower flags
- Set up/take down signs and voting booths at precincts and errands for city clerk's office during elections
- Water line repairs, rubbing out and polishing water slide, and regular building and grounds repairs and all general maintenance at Lake Front Park
- Plant shrubbery and perform all general grounds maintenance at Chene-Trombly Park, Ghesquiere Park, Jules De Porre Park, and Sweeney Park
- Refresh play surface material around play equipment in city parks
- Maintain tennis courts in city parks

WATER / SEWER

The DPW is responsible for the water distribution system of approximately 68 miles of various size water mains. The State of Michigan requires our city to have at least one certified water distribution operator with a title of S-2 or above. Department of Public Works employees currently hold two S-1, two S-2, two S-3 and four S-4 licenses. The DPW generates the water quality report, or Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) that provides water customers information on the quality of the drinking water and the sources of the water.

In 2025, DPW employees staked 680 water service locations for Miss Dig, a 9% decrease of the 749 staked in 2024 and completed 16 sprinkler system repairs compared to 13 in 2024. Employees installed one new water meter in 2023, a decrease of 11 new meters in 2024. No new MTU reading devices were installed in 2025, compared to three in 2024. DPW employees did not repair any meters or MTU reading devices in 2025, compared to two in 2024. Employees repaired or located 47 stop boxes in 2025, compared to 16 in 2024. In addition, 15 water services were shut off and back on in 2025, a 58% decrease from the 36 shut off in 2024. Seventeen water services were checked for leaks in 2025 compared to 17 in 2024.

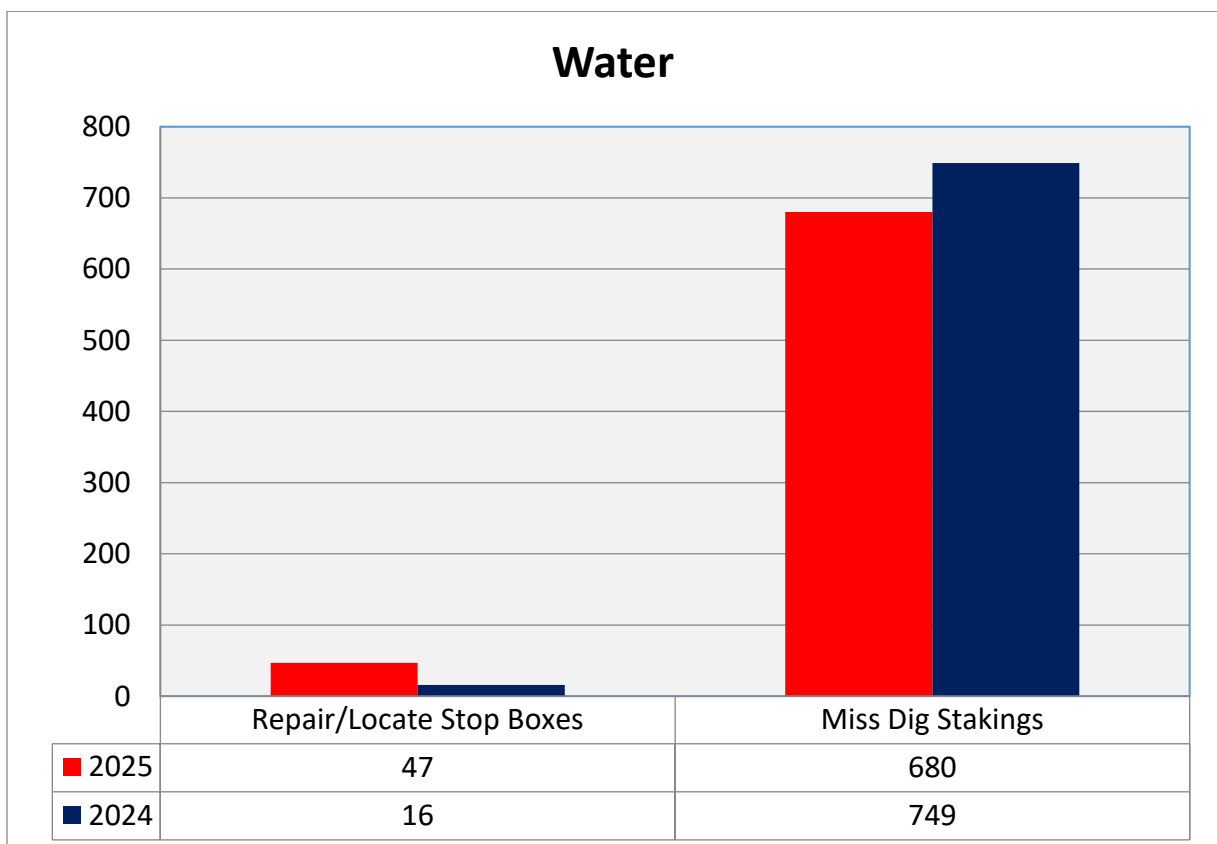
In order to be compliant with the first requirement of new Lead and Copper Rule that was adopted in June of 2018 by the State of Michigan, DPW employees began a program to inventory all water service lines, including the portions on both public and private property, throughout the city. The second requirement is the city must replace all lead and/or galvanized service lines completely, at an average rate of five percent per year, not to exceed 20 years.

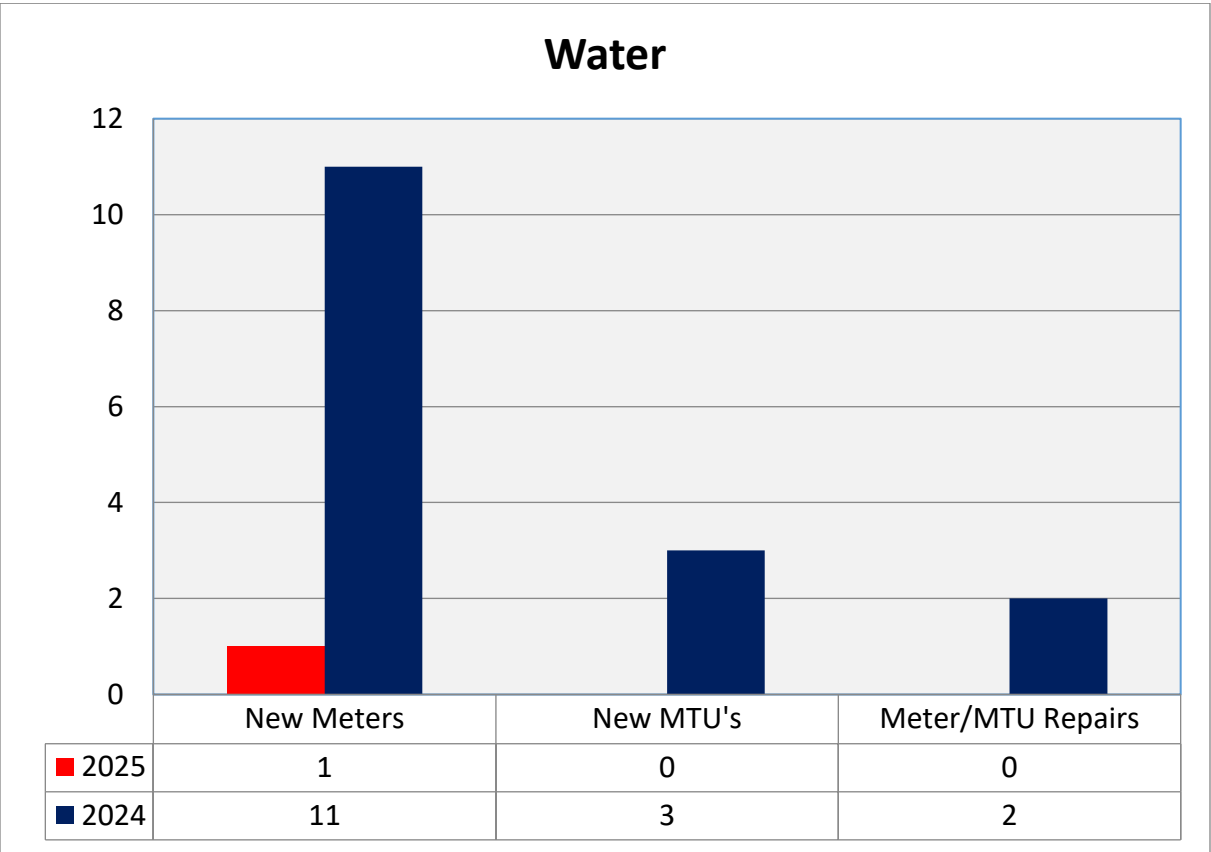
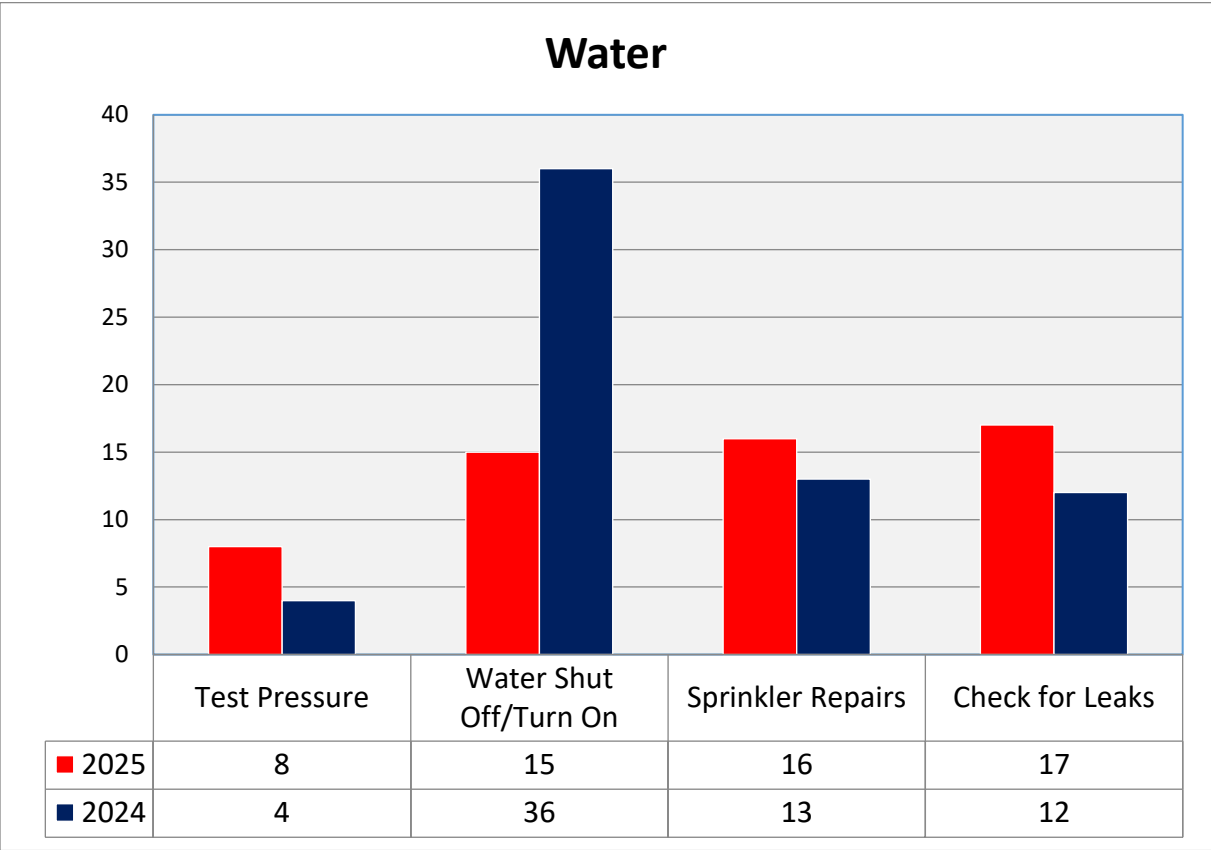
Galvanized service lines are assumed to be hooked up to a portion of a lead line by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE). In 2025, the DPW had 6,397 service lines of unknown material, 30 lead service lines, 31 galvanized lines previously connected to lead, and 57 non-lead lines out of a total of 6,874 service lines after completed inspections. The DPW mailed out 6,458 letters to residents to notify them of their water service line material required annually to any lead, galvanized and unknown service line with help from the Finance Department.

In 2025, the DPW contracted with Utility Metering Solutions to start the replacement of all water meter reading devices (meter heads and transponders) throughout the city's residential home and commercial accounts. The current system was outdated and no longer supported. The new readers are cellular and will not have to use repeater antennas, that are obsolete as well.

Other water related services performed on a regular basis include:

- Assist in the daily operations of the Water Reservoir
- Testing malfunctioning water meters as requested
- Testing water pressure as requested throughout the city
- Regular maintenance, repairs and winterizing the city irrigation system
- Replacing lead water services between water main and stop box as needed





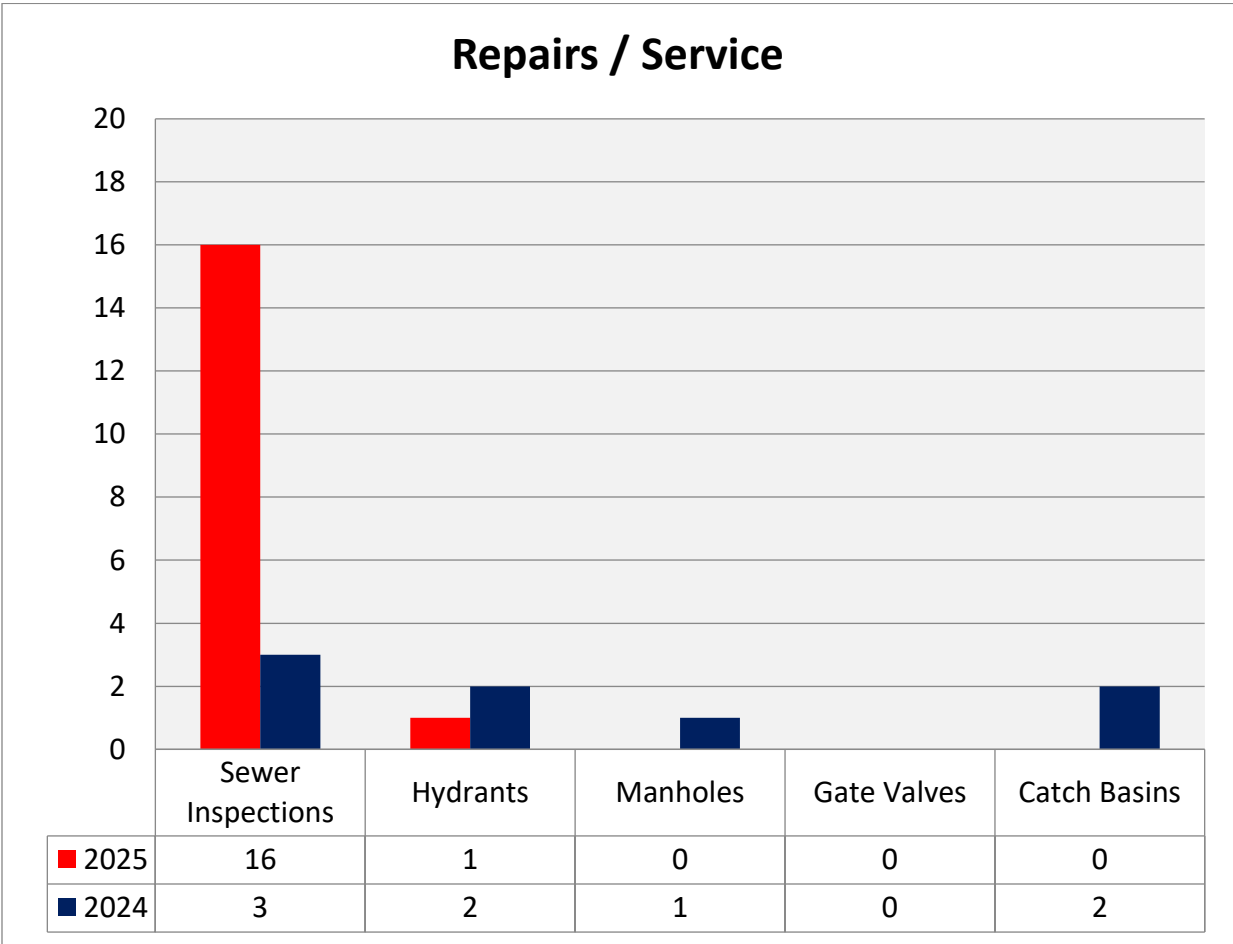
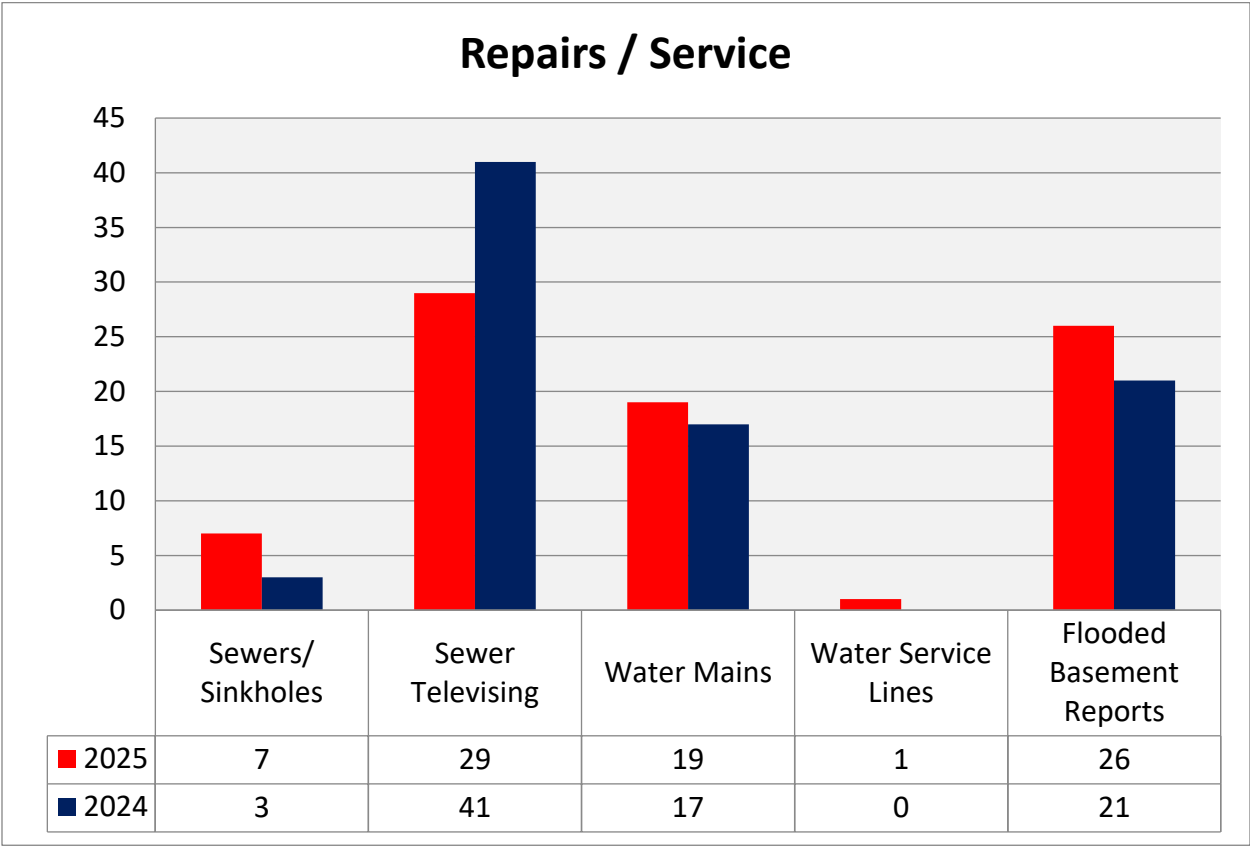
WATER & SEWER REPAIRS/SERVICE

In 2025, DPW employees repaired 19 water main breaks compared to 17 in 2024. No catch basins needed to be repaired in 2025, a decrease from the two completed in 2024. One new water service connection was made in 2025, compared to none in 2024. As part of our 8-year rotating maintenance schedule, hydrants in District #1 (north side of Vernier to north city limit, between Wedgewood and the east city limit) were pressure tested, flushed and greased in 2025 as scheduled. During October and November of 2025, all 605 hydrants in the city were checked, pumped and winterized.

The department is also responsible for maintaining approximately 95 miles of sewer, 1,297 manholes, and the Torrey Road Pump Station (TRPS), which pumps sanitary, and storm water from Grosse Pointe Woods to the Milk River Pump Station. Department sewer related functions include repairing storm and sanitary sewer breaks, maintaining and rebuilding manholes and catch basins, and cleaning city sewer lines. Regular cleaning of catch basins and removal of debris after storms ensures proper street drainage. Sixteen sewer inspections were performed in 2025 compared to three in 2024, and seven sewer/sinkhole repairs were made in 2025 compared to three in 2024. Twenty-six flooded basements were reported in 2025 compared to 21 in 2024. Sewer-televising requests decreased in 2025 with 29 requests compared to 41 in 2024. There was one concrete inspection in 2025 and none in 2024.

Other repairs and services provided in 2025 included:

- Assist in the daily operations of the Torrey Road Pump Station
- Exercise water valves throughout the city so in an emergency the mains can be isolated for necessary repairs
- Sewer jetted/cleaned in various city locations
- Annual District sewer jetting to maintain free and clear running lines
- Annual cleaning of all catch basins throughout the city
- Repair damaged sod and/or square and lay sod at water main and sewer repair sites
- Flushing and pressure testing hydrants
- Winterizing hydrants
- Rebuilt spare hydrants



TREES

The DPW forestry crew is responsible for maintenance and care of all city trees including trees in city parks, on all city properties and islands, and between the sidewalk and curb in residential neighborhoods. Crews regularly trim and remove trees and stumps, trim shrubbery and mulch city trees. In 2025, the Forester condemned all city and private diseased trees.

The City planted 103 trees with help from Landscape Source throughout the city. One tree was adopted in 2025 and the city's Tree Commission held its memorial tree dedication ceremony on April 2, 2025 to recognize the recipient of the memorial tree in 2025.

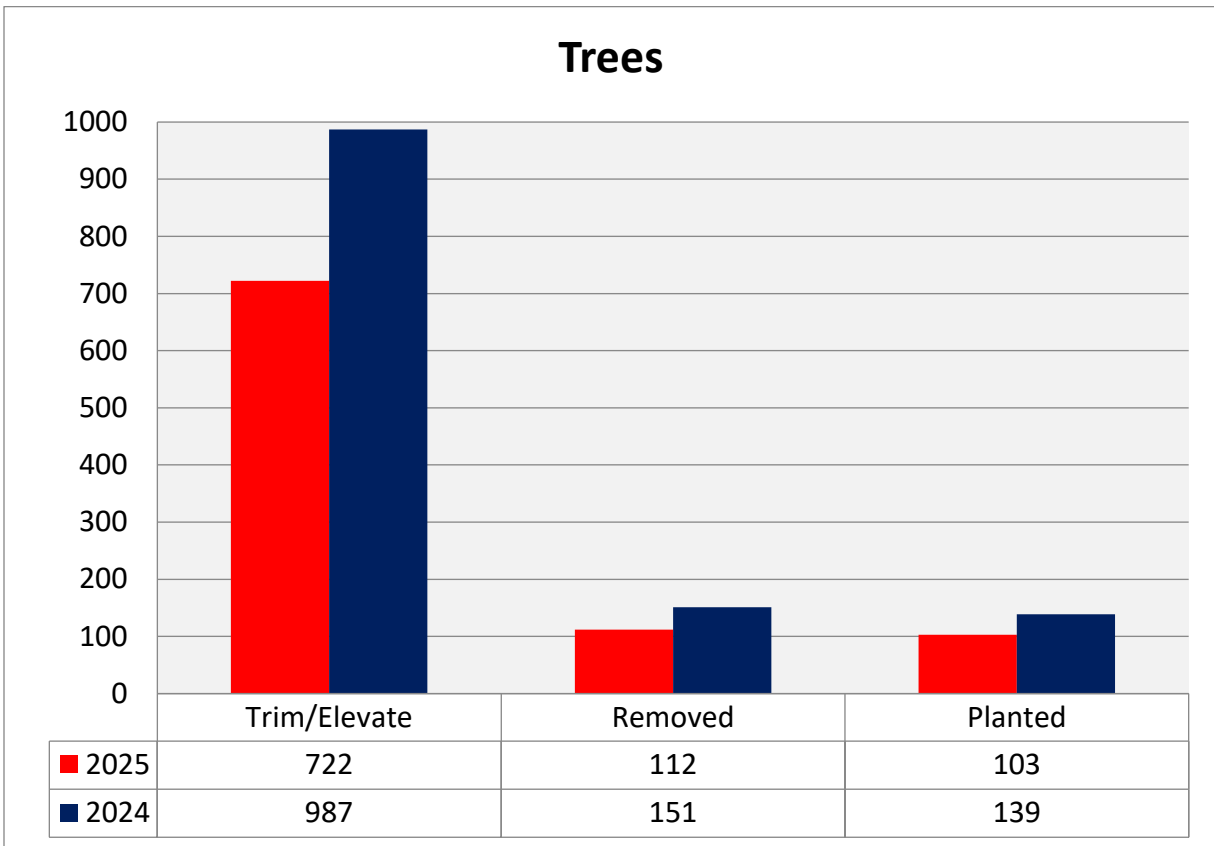
The DPW staff and city contractor Arbor Pro Tree Service removed 112 trees in 2025, a 25% decrease from the 151 trees removed in 2024.

In January and February of 2025, DPW crews trimmed and elevated trees in District #3 (Vernier to north city limits, between Mack and Marter). By year-end, 7227 city trees were trimmed and elevated as part of the regular annual maintenance program and throughout the city as needed.

DPW employees also provide a chipping service to residents for 39 weeks on a four-day schedule, or as needed after a storm event. In 2025, DPW spent 1,972 hours chipping brush, compared to 2,480 hours in 2024.

The DPW grounds crew also performed the following annual duties:

- Clean landscape beds on Mack and Vernier and all planting beds throughout the city
- Regular grounds clean up in city parks
- Restore dirt and seed where tree stumps are removed
- Grass cutting and weed whipping, till, fertilize and weed city beds
- Plant annual flowers throughout city and water regularly throughout the season
- Install memorial tree markers



STREETS

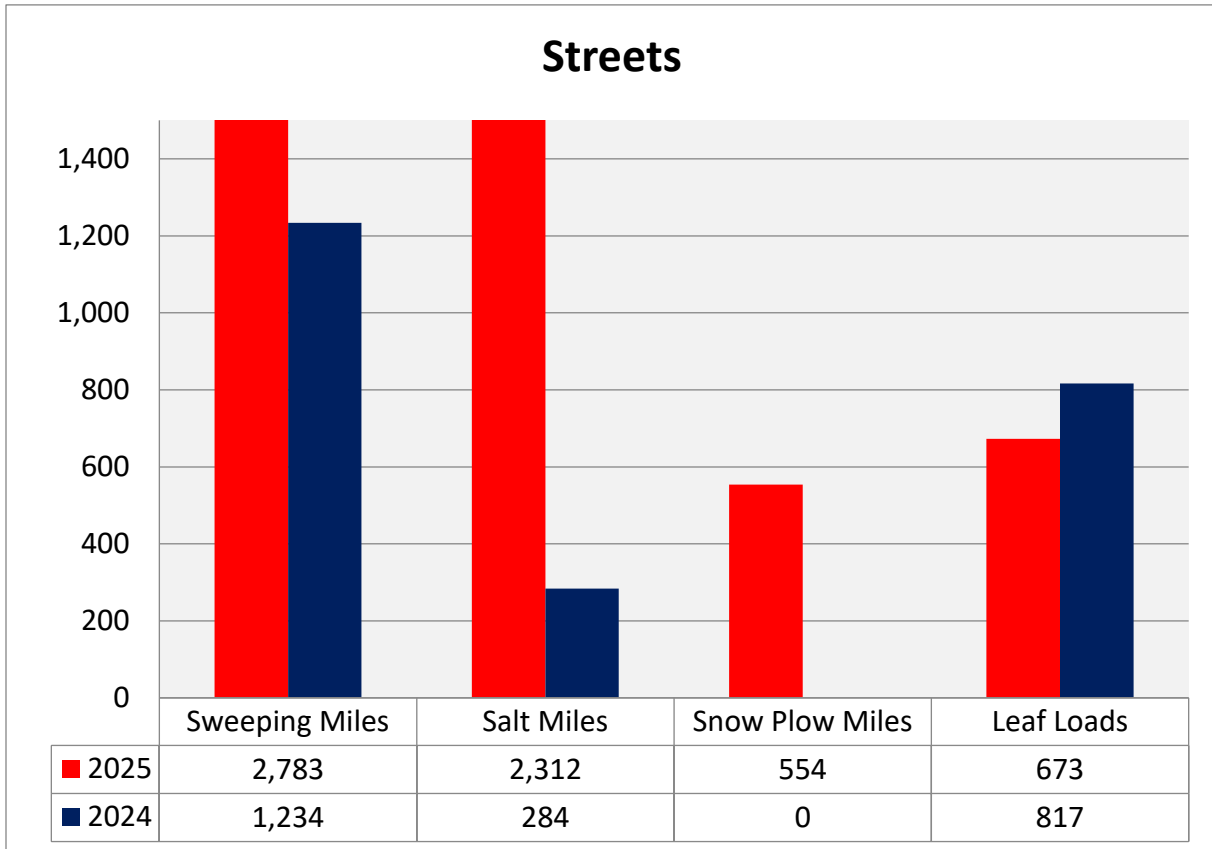
The Department of Public Works staff is responsible for approximately 54 miles of city streets. Regular duties consist of street sweeping, cleaning debris from alleys, parking lots and city boulevards, street painting/marketing, and pothole repairs. The DPW administers the city's yearly sidewalk replacement program and street repairs including maintenance of both concrete and asphalt streets and curbs. DPW employees continued to inspect all District 5 (west of Mack between City Hall and south city limit) in 2025, ground trip hazards wherever possible and added flags requiring replacement to the miscellaneous concrete street repair program. During the winter months Public Works employees plow and clear snow from city streets, school crossings, city hall, parking lots and bays, and sidewalks and roads are salted as needed to ensure public safety.

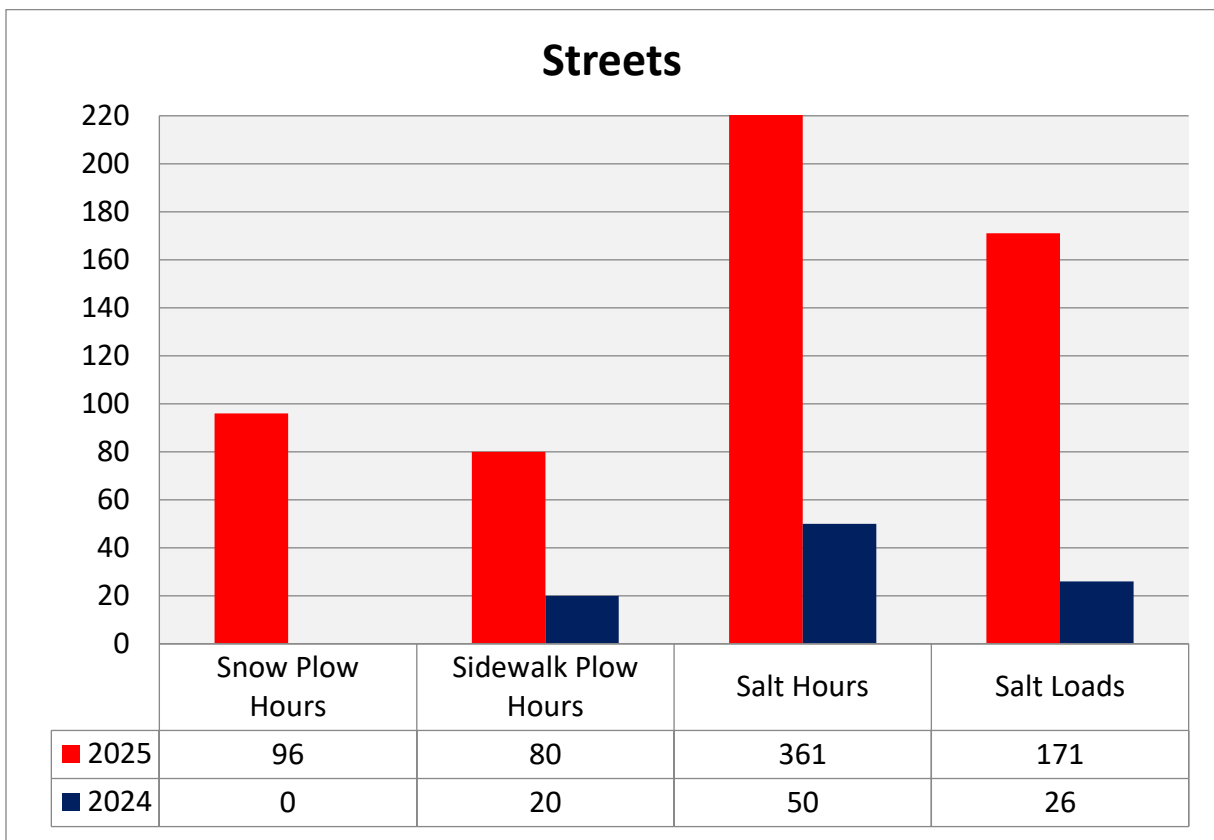
From October to December of 2025, 673 leaf loads, weighing slightly over 1,465 tons, were collected curbside. During the year, the city's street sweeper registered 2,783 sweeping miles. Salt loads used in 2025 increased by 85% compared to 2024 because of the winter weather. In total, DPW crews spread 1,278 tons of salt on city streets and sidewalks as needed, more than six times what was needed in 2024. Snowplow miles and hours also increased significantly due to the severe winter weather in 2025.

Other tasks performed in 2025 included:

- Cleaning up debris in streets after accidents
- Painting curbs and striping street and the parks' parking lots
- Painting and applying 3M reflective materials at school crossings

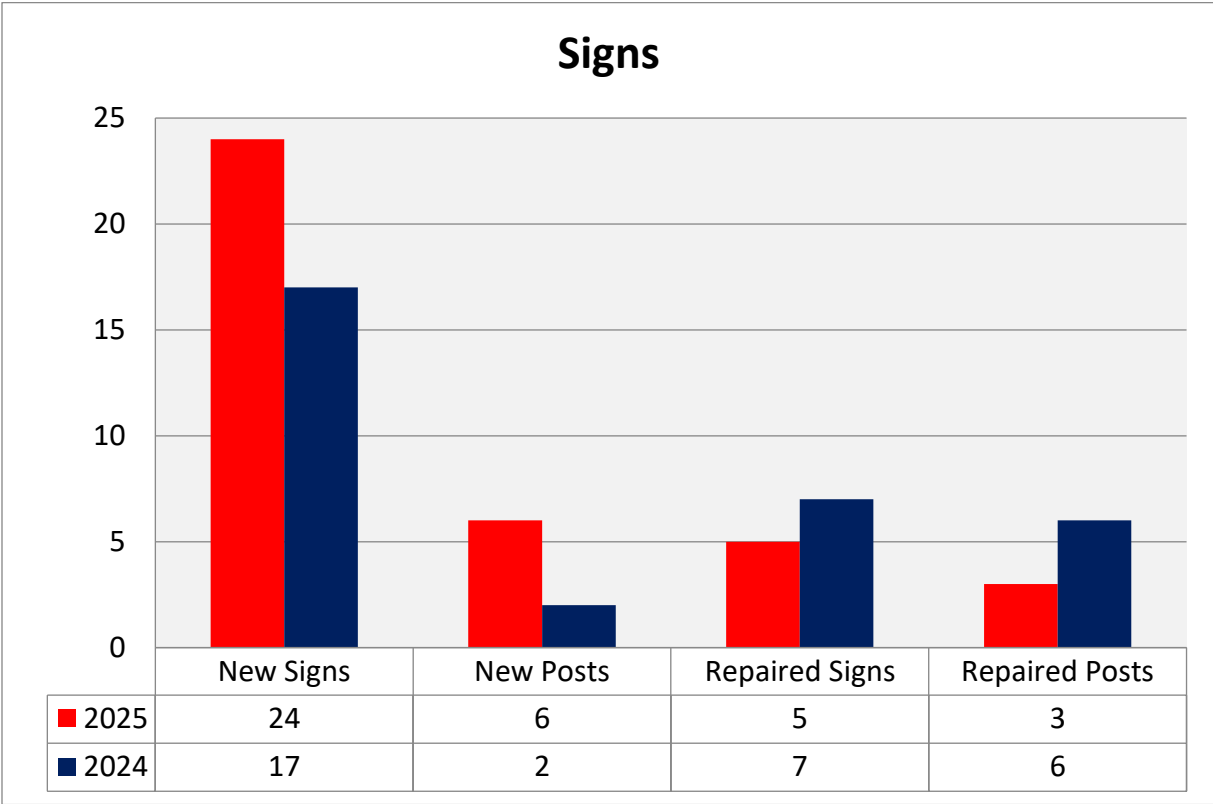
- Mulching leaves in city parks and island landscape beds
- Mulching trees in islands and city parks
- Put up and remove holiday decorations throughout the city, including installing 24 snowflakes to streetlights on Mack Ave
- Flood city park ice rinks and maintain throughout the winter
- Cleaning landscape beds on Mack, Vernier and at Lake Front Park
- Grass cutting and weed whipping
- Rototill, fertilize and weed islands and beds throughout city
- Plant annual flowers throughout city





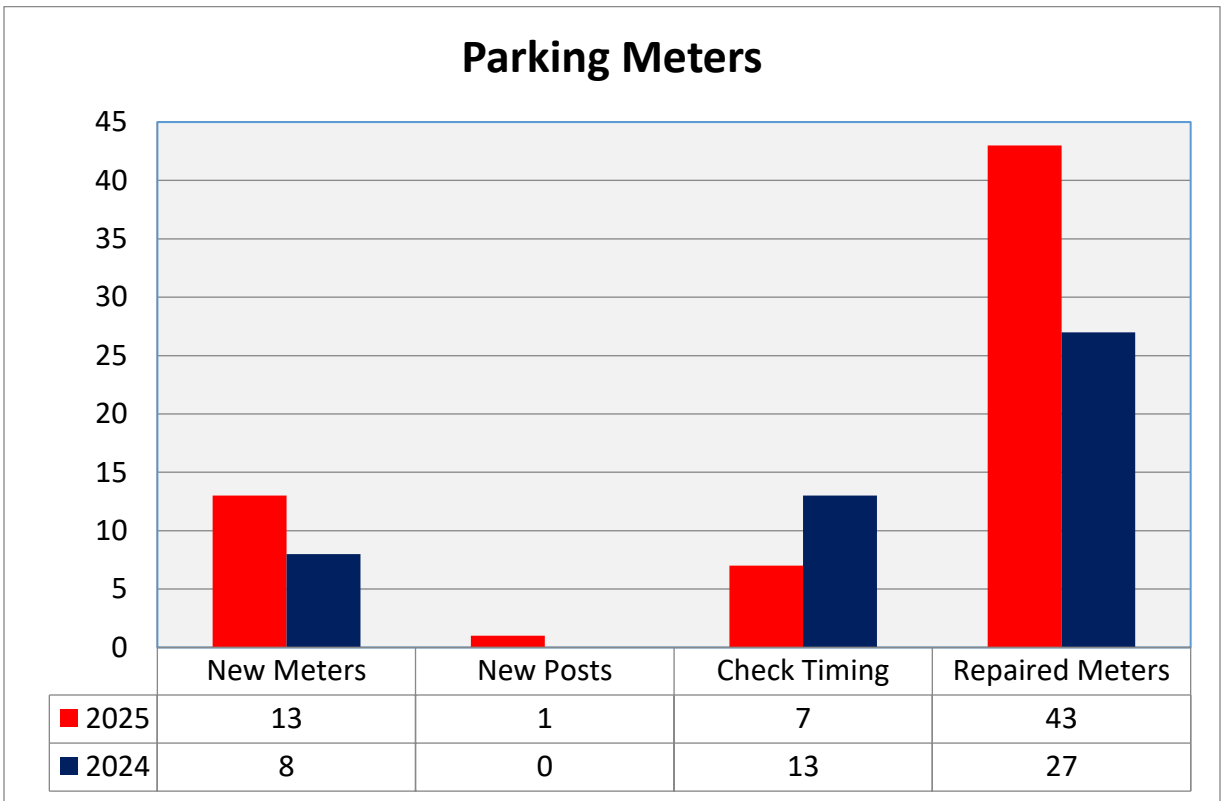
SIGNS

Department of Public Works employees are responsible for the installation and maintenance of all city signs. During 2025, a physical inspection of all city street signs was performed in District #4 (City Hall to north city limit, west of Mack) to determine the need for replacement. As signs need replacement, they are being replaced with high-intensity prismatic signs to comply with federal laws. During 2025, 30 new signs and posts were installed, a 76% increase from the 17 in 2024. In addition, eight sign and post repairs were completed in 2025 compared to 13 repairs completed in 2024.



PARKING METERS

Parking meter repairs and maintenance, as well as the weekly collection of parking meters, also falls under the responsibility of the Department of Public Works. During 2025, 13 new meters were installed compared to 2024 when eight new meters were installed. Forty-three meters were repaired in 2025, a 59% increase from the 27 meters repaired in 2024. DPW employees also checked the timing on seven meters in 2025, compared to 13 in 2024.



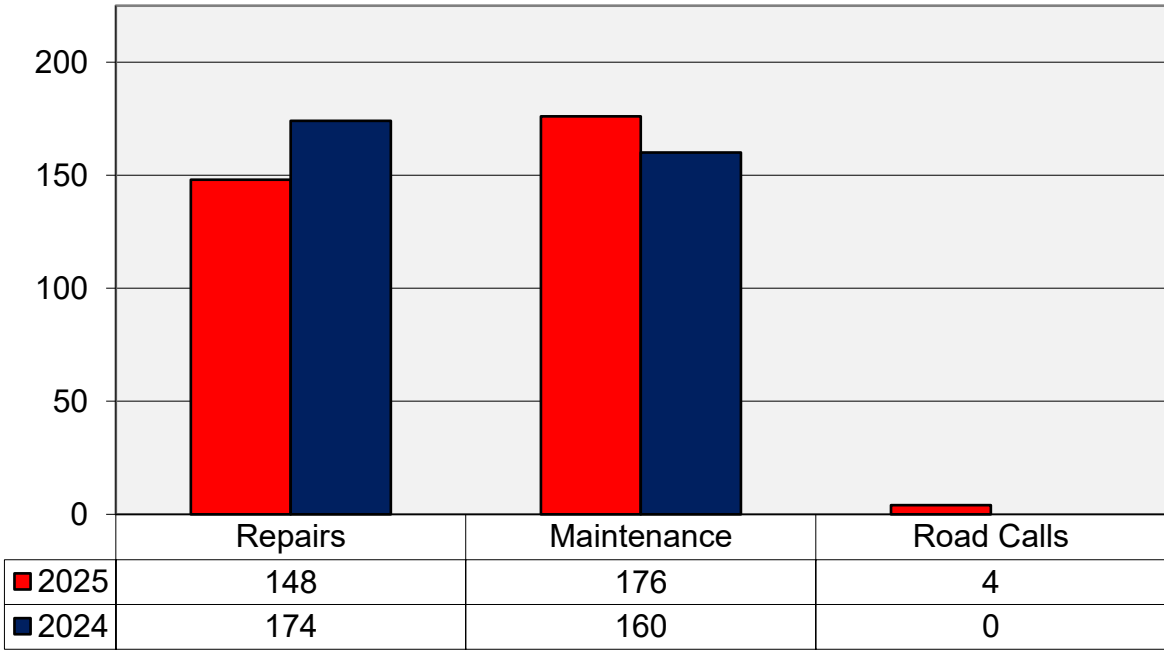
VEHICLES & EQUIPMENT

The Public Works Department is responsible for providing preventative maintenance and daily repairs on approximately 175 vehicles and pieces of equipment that include autos, a bus, trucks, lawn mowers, tractors, street cleaning equipment, water/sewer equipment, fire trucks, and all other miscellaneous vehicles and equipment. All Public Safety vehicles are scheduled for safety inspections, oil changes and lubrications once a month. Other vehicles and equipment are rotated throughout the year for preventative maintenance. Repairs are made as needed.

The DPW mechanics completed 148 vehicle and equipment repairs in 2025, a 15% decrease to the 174 repairs completed in 2024. In 2025, 176 vehicles were serviced for regular maintenance.

In 2025, the DPW updated the fleet with a new rubbish truck, a new ¾-ton pickup truck, and a small tractor with a V-plow. The purchase of the new 2025 Mcneilus Heavy Duty Rear Loader Rubbish Truck ensures the City is able to provide curbside leaf pick up to residents from October to December help clean up brush during storm events on a timely matter. The new 2025 Ford F-250 regular cab pickup truck with a plow and salt spreader replaced a 2013 3/4-ton that was experiencing an increasing number of mechanical issues and rotted out. The new 2025 John Deere 3033R Compact Utility Tractor with V-Plow replaced the 2003 John Deere Tractor with V-plow that was rusted inside and out and becoming hazardous.

Vehicles & Equipment



The Grosse Pointe Woods Department of Public Works continually strives to provide the highest quality of service to our residents and fellow employees. On behalf of the DPW staff and myself, I would like to thank the Mayor, the City Council, the City Administration and all of our residents for your continued support.