



VILLAGE OF POPLAR GROVE

"A Great Place to Call Home"

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<https://www.poplargo-il.gov/>

Public Works Report, April 2025

Parks & Recreation

- Renovated Diamond 2 at Lions Park. Prior to renovation, the field was unusable due to safety concerns. With this upgrade, all four fields at the park are now in good condition and suitable for both softball and baseball use.
- Removed sediment buildup and debris from the drainage swale and culverts beneath the Lions Park driveway to improve water flow and site cleanliness.
- Cleared debris, overgrown brush, and broken irrigation pipe from the Prairie Green berms along Woodstock Road.
- Edged landscape beds at Village Hall to better hold mulch and provide clean edge for mowing.
- Replaced a damaged tunnel structure and repaired digging toy at West Grove Park to ensure safe play conditions.
- Applied the first round of weed control treatment across all park locations.
- We began weekly mowing operations for regular grounds maintenance.
- Installed concrete pads for portable restrooms at Mansfield and Sherman Parks. Awaiting confirmation from United Sanitation regarding the delivery date of the units.

Roads & Infrastructure

- Cleared drainage swales along Whiting and Woodstock Roads, focusing on the radiuses at neighborhood entrances.
- Filled low shoulder areas along Woodstock, Orth, Whiting, and Quail Trap Roads at their intersections of Poplar Grove Road and IL 76 with millings. These locations are prone to erosion due to vehicles cutting corners.
- Removed fallen trees and debris from the drainage swale on State Street, north of the storage units. The area had been blocked due to improperly discarded trees by adjacent property owners. Cleanup around the outlet culverts was also completed to improve water flow.
- Collected filled garbage bags from Immanuel Lutheran Church's roadside cleanup along Whiting Road.

Administration & Planning

- Met with Kristi to review the FY26 budget. We spent several hours working through the Public Works Department sections and were able to complete the majority of the entries.

- Continued collaboration with Chris on the 2025 Road Maintenance Program. The final proposal will be presented to the Board for approval in June following budget completion.
- Ongoing discussions with Ion and Jason regarding 2025–2026 operational needs at the Plants, including SCADA system upgrades. We are currently awaiting a few final figures, but a cost estimate for SCADA improvements should be available soon.
- Held discussions with Kristi regarding the DCEO grant for capital improvement projects. Kristi has assumed the administrative lead on this grant initiative.
- Obtained quotes for audio/visual upgrades to the Village Hall boardroom. These quotes will be presented at the May 14th Board meeting.
- Secured quotes for tree replacement at NBFD3. This continues to be an active topic of discussion.
- Continued engagement with Surf Internet regarding their proposed fiber optic installation project within the Village. We are currently awaiting revised plans that meet Village codes and ordinances.
- Reorganized the cubicle office area to better accommodate the needs of two employees. Staff also provided assistance with some setup in Kristi's office.

Training & Certification

- Staff completed the Illinois Department of Agriculture Pesticide Certification exams. All four team members passed the General Standards test. Additionally, Kyle and Dan earned applicator licenses, authorizing them to supervise, mix, and apply pesticides. Stephen and Zach obtained operator licenses, allowing them to apply pesticides under the supervision of either myself or one of the certified applicators.

As always, do not hesitate to contact me with any additional questions or concerns. I am always open to going into more detail on past, current, or future projects and work my department is doing.