

Winter Wrap-Up...

When the snow begins to fall, the City of Urbana Public Works Department snow crews are ready to spring into action with a strategically organized snow removal plan designed to get the streets cleared and get you on your way as quickly as possible.

In heavy snow events, the City works around the clock towards this goal with a force of approximately 12 crew members per 12 hour period. The City has available 23 pieces of snow control

equipment, a salt storage facility with a capacity of 1400 tons, and maintains approximately 300 lane miles of streets in Urbana.

This past winter, the City used a quantity of **more than 1,200 tons** of salt and **4,000 gallons** of calcium chloride, addressing **12 snow events** from November through early March.

In total, the UPW snow fighters were on the streets more than **4,400 work hours** to keep the streets clear and safe.



Contact us at **217-384-2342**

www.urbanaininois.us



706 South Glover Avenue
Urbana, Illinois 61802

Public Works
DEPARTMENT

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Winter Wrap-Up



Spring
2015

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coming soon >>>

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Tree Planting
Recycling and Waste Diversion
MCORE Project

find information online >>>

City of Urbana Public Works
www.urbanaininois.us/departments/public-works

Public Works Projects
www.urbanaininois.us/projects

U-Cycle
www.urbanaininois.us/U-cycle

Sustainability in Urbana
www.urbanaininois.us/sustainability

Landscape Recycling Center
www.landscaperecyclingcenter.org

Citizens' Voice
www.urbanaininois.us/citizens-voice

Public WORKS



Letter from the Director



Bill Gray,
Public Works
Director and
City Engineer

May 17 - 23, 2015 has been designated as National Public Works Week. On a daily basis, public works professionals at the City of Urbana provide vital services to the citizenry that, for the most part, go unnoticed. Maintaining and designing our streets, sustaining environmental health, lighting streets, maintaining our urban forest, servicing the city's fleet of vehicles for public safety employees, and managing our public facilities are a few of the services performed by public works employees that impact our lives every day.

This newsletter focuses on some of the services and responsibilities handled by the Urbana Public Works Department looking at the ways the Urbana Public Works Department is "working for you."

Streets 101 *Basic Road Construction*

Like all infrastructure, City streets deteriorate over time due to age, wear and tear from traffic, and from the weathering by heat, freezing and thawing, and precipitation. The type of street repair and maintenance, whether via pavement preservation, seal coats, resurfacing or reconstruction, are determined by a multitude of factors.

The City conducts routine inspections to evaluate pavement conditions, and makes ratings based on the condition of the road surface, foundation and drainage, traffic volumes and whether it is a bike or bus route. Most of the time, the pavement condition of the street determines the order in which streets will be worked on next, but other factors such as funding and coordination of other projects and other assessments all come into play.

Pavement preservation applications (slurry seals, chip and seals, microsurfacing, etc.) address asphalt pavements that are beginning to show signs of distress such as cracking, peeling, oxidation, and potholes. These preservation applications generally extend the pavement life three to five years.

Resurfacing addresses more serious problems on the surface of the street by

replacing the top layer of asphalt pavement. It also addresses issues like numerous potholes, significant cracking, heaving, rutting, swelling, and settled street patches (created by utility and other underground work). Resurfacing is a less expensive, short-term method of maintaining the quality of existing streets. It usually takes about three months to complete and generally extends the pavement life over ten years.

Complete reconstruction of streets provides long-term (+20 years) upgrades to the street and the underlying infrastructure, addressing serious issues related to a street's condition, age, and design. Reconstruction replaces a foot or more of roadway below the street's surface and may either be a concrete or asphalt surface, depending on many factors such as traffic use. Immediately underneath the asphalt or concrete is a layer of gravel and/or a compacted soil subgrade. This process usually includes reconstruction of the curbs and sidewalk ramps as well. In some projects, additional elements are addressed such as realignment of the street to improve safety or operations; grading to improve storm water flow, underground utilities, traffic signals and street lights may be installed or relocated, and street trees, bike lanes, and pedestrian sidewalk ramps may be added.

Garbage Know How

Every occupant of a business, home or apartment must have garbage collected and properly disposed of at least once a week by haulers licensed by the City.

All garbage must be placed (and temporarily stored until collected) into containers made of impervious materials with a tight-fitting lid. Placing garbage out to be collected in plastic bags or into 55 gallon barrels is unacceptable.

Curbside collection of garbage is allowed only on designated days.

Waste may not remain upon City-owned or controlled right-of-way or in a front yard, except for the 40 hour period beginning at 6:00 p.m. on the day preceding collection and ending at 10:00 a.m. on the day following the designated day of curbside collection.

Landscape waste can be temporarily stored on private property or on City right-of way, only for a maximum of 7 days, before it must be collected and properly disposed of.

It is prohibited for anyone to burn garbage, landscape waste (leaves or brush) or other materials in the City.

For More Information

Licensed Garbage Haulers and Collection Zones can be found online at

www.urbanaininois.com/GarbageHaulers

or call the Recycling Coordinator at 384-2318



DIG SAFE!

Underground Utilities In Your Neighborhood

Tall Grass & Weeds

Grass and weeds in excess of 8 inches in height is not allowed on private or City property. If a lawn is reported as being overgrown, the Environmental Compliance Officer will perform an inspection to confirm the complaint.

If the complaint is valid the property owner is notified and is given 7 days to abate.

If the owner fails to abate or cleanup the property, costs associated with actions taken by the City to correct the violations will be charged to the property owner or those persons responsible. In addition, fines or legal action could result.

If you have questions or concerns about tall grass and weeds please contact the Environmental Compliance Officer at 384-2416.

Have you ever wondered what the rainbow of paint markings and flags that you see on City streets and in front yards are for?

To ensure safe digging and excavating, homeowners and contractors are required to contact JULIE (Joint Utility Locating Information for Excavators), which then directs utility providers to mark the locations for which they are responsible.

The marking is done within a 48 hour period and it's a free service. Each color represents a different utility:

Red - electric lines (street lights, traffic signals, power to homes)

Yellow - gas related (gas mains, service to homes and buildings)

Green - sewers (sanitary, storm, drain extensions from buildings)

Blue - water (water mains, water service to homes and buildings)

Orange - communication lines (telephone, cable TV, fiber optics)

White - proposed excavations

Pink - temporary survey markings (construction staking, property lines,)

Purple - irrigation lines

Contact JULIE at 811 or 800-892-0123 before you dig, or visit www.illinois1call.com

Nuisance Vegetation

The City of Urbana Municipal Code, Chapter 11, *Health and Sanitation, Article IV* states that trees, shrubs or plants (or portion thereof) that constitute a danger to the public by obstructing a sidewalk, street or street light, or the visibility of drivers are a nuisance.

In addition, the following types of vegetation are considered nuisances:

- Plants that cause the dispersion of pollen, which can cause hay fever
- Plants that promote the occurrence of toxic or injurious vegetation (like poison ivy)
- Noxious plants (such as Canada thistle)
- Vegetation that aid in the breeding and harboring of rats (or other pests)

If you have questions or concerns about vegetation nuisances please contact the Environmental Compliance Officer at 384-2416.



The Adopt Urbana Program provides resources for your group or organization to help keep our community litter-free.

Get Involved!

Volunteers pledge to arrange litter clean-ups at the adopted locations at least 3 times per year for a minimum of 2 years.

The City provides:

- Street Safety Signs
- Gloves & Safety Vests
- Garbage & Recycling Bags
- Pick-up of Collected Materials
- Adopt Urbana Street Sign

Contact Environmental Sustainability at 217-384-2416 or email jlarrasmith@urbanaininois.us.

[report a nuisance >>>](#)

The Environmental Sustainability Division is responsible for providing the community with environmental protection services through the enforcement of health, safety and welfare codes of the City. Keeping our neighborhoods a clean and pleasant place to live is a responsibility we all share.

The City encourages residents to help maintain and improve their neighborhoods by eliminating nuisance conditions such as tall weeds/grass, overgrown vegetation, and improper storing of refuse debris. You can help by reporting such conditions to the Environmental Compliance Officer at 384-2416.