

**Village of Downers Grove
New Water Service Connection
Frequently Asked Questions**

The Village of Downers Grove is dedicated to providing quality drinking water to all residents. This FAQ Document provides important information regarding completing the new water service connection to your home.

How do I determine if I'm eligible to connect to the Village of Downers Grove's water system?

All Village of Downers Grove residents within the Liberty Park Subdivision (on the east side of Williams Street between Ogden and 39th Street) are eligible to connect to the Village's water system. Please contact Water Manager, Francisco Orrantia, at (630) 434-5460 or forrantia@downers.us, if you are unsure.

When can I connect to the Downers Grove water system?

The Village will be constructing a new water main along Williams Street in May, 2022. At that time there will be an opportunity to reduce your total cost of connection by participating in a cost sharing program with the Village. This program will be available to all Downers Grove residents within Liberty Park for a limited time. All interested residents must submit a Plumbing Permit Application and New Water Service Application by **April 15, 2022**. This program represents roughly \$6,000 to \$9,000 savings to you.

You will also have the ability to connect to the Village's water system at any point after that date, however you would be responsible for all of the work and expenses associated with a new water service from your house all the way to the Village's water main, including street patching, parkway restoration, etc.

What are the costs associated with connection to the Downers Grove water system?

The costs are as follows:

- Plumbing Permit fee is \$295.00.
- New Water Service Application/Capacity and Meter Fee is \$3,189.00 and can be paid using the following options:
 - The full amount of \$3,189.00 can be paid at the time of Plumbing Permit.
 - \$1,774.00 (Meter fee and 1/2 of the amount of the capacity fee) can be paid at the time of Plumbing Permit, and the remainder (\$1,415) can be paid in full when the new water service is installed.
 - \$1,774.00 (Meter fee and 1/2 of the amount of the capacity fee) can be paid at the time of Plumbing Permit, and the remainder (\$1,415) can be paid in

12 equal payments over a 2 year period which will be reflected on future utility bills.

- The cost of installing a water service from the Village-installed b-box to your home (see details below) will be directly between you and your plumbing contractor. This will vary based on your situation, but it is estimated that this work will cost you between \$3,000 and \$5,000.

How will my water bill change once I connect to the Village of Downers Grove water system?

Residents of Liberty Park currently pay a flat rate for water, regardless of usage. The Village of Downers Grove charges a bi-monthly fixed charge for service, based on meter size, together with a variable monthly charge based on each customer's water consumption. Most single family homes have a 5/8" meter, currently \$13.72 bi-monthly. Water consumption is metered in units. One unit is equal to 750 gallons of water, currently \$6.33 per unit. The average home in Downers Grove pays \$90 - \$130 every two months.

If I decide to connect with this project, when will my plumber need to do the work to connect my house?

The Village's work is scheduled to be completed around June of 2022. Your plumbing contractor will then have until October 31, 2022 to complete the work to connect your house to the Village's b-box, and disconnect your service from the Liberty Park water system.

Where do I go to apply for the permit?

You can apply for the permit in person at either Village Hall, 801 Burlington Avenue, or Public Works, 5101 Walnut Avenue, in Downers Grove.

What work will my plumber have to do?

This may vary based on the configuration of your current service and plumbing within your home. Generally, the plumber will need to install a new copper water service from the shut-off valve (b-box) installed in the parkway by the Village, to your home. The size of the new service will be determined at the time of permit application, but typically they are 1" diameter. Inside your home, the plumbing will need to be reconfigured to receive a Village water meter. This must occur immediately inside the home before any pipes branch off from the water service, and must be accessible in the future for the Village to perform maintenance, replace the meter, etc.

Can I do this work myself to save money?

No. Your portion of this work must be performed by a plumber licensed by the State of Illinois.

Can the Village recommend a plumber?

The Village cannot recommend a plumber, but any plumber licensed by the State of Illinois should be able to complete this work. If a plumbing contractor has questions about what is required, they may contact the Village's Water Manager, Francisco Orrantia, for details at (630) 434-5460 or farrantia@downers.us.

Can I use my existing water service?

In most cases, no. If your water service was installed in compliance with current plumbing codes, with a plumbing permit from the Village of Downers Grove, then you may be able to reuse it. Please contact the Village's Water Manager, Francisco Orrantia, at (630) 434-5460 or farrantia@downers.us if you are unsure.

Where does the Village's water come from?

The Village provides Lake Michigan water. This is purchased from the DuPage Water Commission, which receives the water from the City of Chicago.

Do I have to disconnect my old water service from the Liberty Park water system?

Yes, in order to connect to the Village's water system, you will also need to disconnect from the Liberty Park water system.

How do I disconnect from the Liberty Park water system?

You will need to contact the Liberty Park Homeowners Association directly to start that process.

Will my Downers Grove Sanitary District bill be affected?

Once you switch to Downers Grove's water system, the Downers Grove Sanitary District will bill you based on your actual water usage, as reported by the Village to the Sanitary District. For more information, visit www.dgsd.org or call (630) 969-0664.

What if I have an inground sprinkler system?

If you have an inground sprinkler system you will need to have a backflow preventer, which will need to be inspected by a licensed plumber on an annual basis.

What if I still have questions?

The Village Water Team looks forward to assisting you on a new water service connection. If you have any questions, please contact Water Manager, Francisco Orrantia, at (630) 434-5460 or forrantia@downers.us.