

KNOW YOUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

A Resident's Guide to the Northfield Township Road District

Serving Every Corner of the Community Since 1850

A STATEMENT FROM YOUR HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER

Illinois law makes this office independently elected for a reason: so that no board, no supervisor, and no law firm can remove the person responsible for your roads. Only you can. I have learned firsthand, behind closed doors, exactly why that independence matters. This referendum would end it — and move this office's powers and its taxing authority to the same board that put the question on your ballot. This is the same board that votes together, ~99.5% unanimous, including every increased Road District and Township Levy (property tax) request in 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2025.

— Michael "Mike" Korman, Highway Commissioner

Who we are — and why it matters to you

The Northfield Township Road District is an independent unit of local government — with its own elected Highway Commissioner, crews, and equipment — serving this community since 1850. We maintain and plow the public roads in the **unincorporated** parts of the township (the neighborhoods not inside a village), manage drainage and flooding, and run parkway-tree and recycling programs any resident can use.

1850

Serving the community since

~23 mi

Roads we maintain

~78,000

Township residents served

4.6%

Tax levy cut this year

What we do: maintain & plow roads • manage drainage & flooding • care for parkway trees • brush pickup & mailbox repair • free resident recycling • sewer-conversion & flood-grant help

Not sure whether a road is ours?

Four different agencies maintain roads in Northfield Township. Page 2 shows exactly who to call for your street — or just call us at **847.724.7055** and we'll point you to the right place.

Who maintains your road?

One of the most common questions we hear is simply *"who plows my street?"* The answer depends on where you live. Use this guide to find the right agency — and the right number to call to report a pothole, downed sign, flooding, or a plowing problem.

Who's responsible	What they maintain	Report a problem
Northfield Township Road District (that's us)	Dedicated public streets in the unincorporated areas of the township	847.724.7055 or 847.471.7055
Your Village	All streets inside village limits — Glenview, Northbrook, or Northfield	Glenview 847.724.1700 Northbrook 847.272.4711 Northfield 847.446.9200
Cook County Dept. of Transportation	High-volume county roads — e.g., Lake-Cook, Sanders, Happ, Harms, Wagner, Winnetka Rd	847.827.1164
Illinois DOT (State)	State highways — e.g., Willow, Waukegan, Dundee, Milwaukee, Pfingsten, River, Greenwood	847.705.4222
Your HOA	Private / non-dedicated streets inside a subdivision (plowing & paving)	Your homeowners association

A quick rule of thumb

If your mailing address is **unincorporated** (you don't pay village taxes) and your street is a public road, it's almost certainly ours. When in doubt, call — we'll check the map for you.

Emergency road conditions

For a downed tree, washout, missing manhole cover, or signal outage that makes a road dangerous, call the responsible agency above right away. For life-threatening emergencies, always call **911** first. Before you dig for any project, call **J.U.L.I.E. at 811** to have underground utilities marked — it's free and it's the law.

Your roads & your tax dollars

The Road District is funded by a dedicated property-tax levy — a single line on your tax bill, separate from your schools, village, and county. We take that responsibility seriously, and this year we did something the district hadn't done in a generation.

4.6%

We cut the property-tax levy — our first reduction in more than 30 years.

Approved unanimously by the Board and taking effect for the 2027 tax year, with no cut to service levels.

We reached that reduction the same way any household does — by questioning every line item. We reviewed contracts, staffing, and recurring expenses and asked whether each dollar was truly earning its keep. The savings are real, and the goal is simple: ease the burden on taxpayers and help seniors and longtime residents stay in the community they helped build — while still investing in the infrastructure you depend on.

A \$2 million capital plan for 2026–27

~\$1 Million

Roadwork

Asphalt resurfacing, pavement preservation, crack sealing, patching, drainage-structure repairs, new signs and markings — **targeted by a pavement-condition assessment** so we fix roads before they fail and avoid costlier reconstruction.

~\$1 Million

Operations facility

Modernizing our Melvin Drive garage that houses crews, trucks, and salt — new roof, electrical upgrades, fire and life-safety systems, and energy-efficiency work to cut deferred-maintenance costs and keep crews storm-ready.

Fighting neighborhood flooding

- **Local drainage work** is planned for the Northbrook West and Central Avenue areas of south Northfield Township, where heavy rain has caused repeated flooding — storm-sewer and culvert work, ditch regrading, new inlets, and added detention capacity.
- A **\$55 million regional partnership** with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) and Cook County is rolling out over the next three years to reduce flooding across the township.
- **Help for individual homes:** our Overhead Sewer Conversion Program and Flood Disaster Grant help homeowners guard against basement backups (see page 7).

Financial Strength & Flood Protection

The Road District is fiscally strong and actively pursuing outside dollars and partnerships to protect your neighborhoods — so more gets done without leaning harder on your property taxes. Recent highlights:

\$8.68M

Cash reserves (May 2026)

\$55M

MWRD stormwater projects

\$2.07M

IEPA grant (conditional)

4.6%

Property-tax levy cut

Fiscal stewardship

- **A strong cash position.** As of end-of-May 2026 reporting, the Road District held **\$8,677,041.17** in reserves — a solid cushion that lets us invest in roads, snow operations, and flood control without over-relying on your property taxes.
- **\$2,069,073 IEPA grant for plow-truck electrification (conditional approval).** We secured conditional approval of an Illinois EPA (IEPA) grant to begin electrifying our snow-plow fleet — modernizing operations while cutting long-term fuel costs and emissions, largely with outside dollars.

Stormwater & flood protection

- **A \$55 million MWRD partnership.** Through our partnership with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD), **\$55 million** in stormwater-mitigation projects are being delivered to benefit Northfield Township residents.
- **Northbrook West / Citation Lake mitigation project.** This MWRD stormwater project targets one of the township's most flood-prone areas — **Phase 1 is underway and Phase 2 is in review.**

Programs, Recycling & Safer Streets

We're also modernizing the everyday services residents rely on — keeping them free, convenient, and up to current standards:

Recycling & environmental programs

- **Revitalized battery recycling.** Residents can safely recycle household and medium-format batteries — free — under the Illinois Portable and Medium-Format Battery Stewardship Act, the statewide, producer-funded program that took effect January 1, 2026.
- **Free leftover-paint drop-off — PaintCare & "Second Coat."** In accordance with the Illinois Paint Stewardship Act, the District offers public paint drop-off to recycle leftover house paint, stain, and varnish and keep it out of the landfill.

Roads, signs & safety

- **New Street Sign Management Program.** We created a program to inventory, assess, and replace street signs to meet federal FHWA *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices* (MUTCD) standards — improving nighttime visibility and consistency across the township.

Battery and paint drop-off are available at the Road District, 237 Melvin Drive, Northbrook, during recycling-program hours (see page 7).

Strong reserves. Smart partnerships. Lower taxes.

Healthy reserves, competitive grants, and partnerships that bring in outside dollars are how we cut the property-tax levy 4.6% — our first reduction in more than 30 years — while still investing in safer roads and drier neighborhoods.

Snow, ice & storm response

When winter weather hits, our crews are often the first ones out. Here's how we work — and how you can help us keep your street safe.

Our goal: every township road cleared by 6:00 a.m.

Salt trucks roll the moment a storm begins. Plan on about an hour from the first call-out until trucks are on the road, and remember the first pass is about safe passage — full curb-to-curb clearing comes as the storm winds down.

How winter operations work

- Crews salt and plow their **pre-assigned routes** continuously, monitoring conditions until the roads are clear.
- Every street is plowed **curb to curb** with corners pushed back, so there's room to store snow from the next storm.
- Our operators train regularly and take **special care at railroad crossings** and cul-de-sacs.
- **Private (non-dedicated) roads are plowed by the homeowners groups**, not the Road District.

When a big storm hits

In a major event — roughly 8 inches or more of wet snow with drifting, or storms in rapid succession — we follow a set priority order:

1	Emergency & main routes — arterials and streets used by police, fire, and ambulance
2	Essential services — hospitals, clinics, utilities, food and fuel, and schools
3	Residential streets
4	Widening & corners — pushing back for full clearance once lanes are open

During round-the-clock storms, crews run two 12-hour shifts until the township is clear. State, county, and village roads are cleared by those agencies (see page 2).

How you can help

- **Observe the overnight parking ban** — no on-street parking Nov 1–Apr 1, 2 a.m.–7 a.m. It lets us plow curb to curb. (Enforced by the Cook County Sheriff.)
- **Clear space around hydrants** and storm drains near your home when you can.
- **Give plows room** — stay well back, and don't shovel snow back into the street.
- **Plow hit your mailbox?** Call us — we have a mailbox-replacement policy and repair parkway damage our crews cause.

Services for residents

Beyond roads and snow, the Road District offers programs that any Northfield Township resident can take advantage of. Here are the highlights:

Free Recycling Center Electronics, batteries, paint, tires, clothing & more. April–October, 7 a.m.–3 p.m. weekdays, at 237 Melvin Dr. Township residents only — bring ID.	Household Hazardous Waste Safe drop-off for oils, fluorescent tubes, and other hazardous items through the recycling program.
Paper Shredding Free, secure document-shredding events to help protect your identity.	Parkway Trees Annual parkway-tree planting offer plus routine trimming and hazard removals.
Brush Pickup Seasonal curbside brush collection in the unincorporated township.	Mailbox Repair Replacement of mailboxes damaged by our snow-plowing operations.
Overhead Sewer Conversion Cost-share help to convert your home's sewer setup and reduce basement backups.	Flood Disaster Grant Financial assistance for residents recovering from qualifying flood damage.
Block Party Barricades Free barricades to close your street safely for a neighborhood block party.	Permits Driveway, parkway, and right-of-way work permits for unincorporated properties.
Free Township Maps Detailed maps showing which roads fall in which jurisdiction.	Call J.U.L.I.E. — 811 Always call before you dig; we'll help you understand the right-of-way.

How to reach us

Office 237 Melvin Drive Northbrook, IL 60062 Hours Monday–Friday, 7:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. Board meetings Open to the public; the budget is public record. Call or visit the website for the schedule.	Phone 847.724.7055 (fax 847.724.7058) Email ntroad@northfieldtownship.com Online ntroad.com Facebook & X: @NorthfieldRoads
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Northfield Township Road District — an independent unit of local government led by elected Highway Commissioner Michael Korman.
Coming Together. Making a Difference.