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Illinois' first green-designed public works facility to welcome public

The public is invited to tour Oak Park's new Public Works Center following a ribbon-cutting ceremony scheduled for 10 a.m., Sat., Nov. 17. The facility, located on South Boulevard at Lombard Avenue, will be open until 1 p.m.

As Illinois' first green-designed public works facility, the ribbon cutting is expected to attract a wide range of residents, elected officials and sustainability proponents from throughout the region.

The new facility contains 155,000 square feet of space meticulously designed to be energy efficient, environmentally friendly and at home in its predominantly residential neighborhood. The design and construction approach has the building poised to earn a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) silver rating from the U.S. Green Building Council for high-performance, sustainable buildings.

Everything, including winter road salt, is housed on the three floors of space inside the building, which covers about two acres. Only the top two floors of the building are visible above ground.

Low-emission paints, adhesives, coatings, sealants and carpeting were used throughout, and large windows take advantage of natural light. Other features include a green roof and ultra-efficient mechanical heating and cooling equipment.

For more information on the building or tour call 358.5700 or e-mail publicworks@oak-park.us.

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