



CITY OF
TRAVERSE CITY

THE PERFORMANCE

A Year in Review

2024



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HELLO TRAVERSE CITY

Welcome to The Performance, the City's annual report showcasing the accomplishments of the past year that continue to propel Traverse City forward. We are proud of the progress and achievements that have shaped the City's evolution.

In 2024, we reached a historic milestone with the completion of the new senior center—a long-awaited project that enhances community spaces. Aligned with the City's electrification policy, the center operates without natural gas, furthering our commitment to sustainability. We also introduced a state-of-the-art in-vessel composting unit, setting a new standard for environmental stewardship and proving that small steps toward a greener future make a big impact.



Amy Shamroe
MAYOR

Significant investments in water and sewer infrastructure have strengthened essential services and prioritized watershed protection. Meanwhile, our collaboration with MDOT on the Grandview Parkway project resulted in a transformative \$24 million investment in this critical roadway. Enhancements to our trails and the adoption of both a new Master Plan and a Mobility Action Plan further emphasize our dedication to thoughtful urban planning and increased accessibility.

We also took meaningful steps to support our unhoused community members by dedicating resources, personnel, and financial support toward real solutions. While more work remains, this collaborative effort reflects our commitment to a more inclusive and compassionate Traverse City.

This year was not without its challenges. A cyber incident tested our resilience, but it also underscored the adaptability and professionalism of our City staff. Their dedication in navigating adversity is a testament to the strong foundation upon which our City stands.

As Mayor, I am honored to serve alongside City Manager Liz Vogel in extending our deepest appreciation to our residents, local businesses, community organizations, City Commissioners, and dedicated City employees. Their collaboration and commitment have been instrumental in our City's successes.

Looking ahead, our dedication to Traverse City's future remains unwavering. We will continue to strengthen essential services, invest in sustainable solutions, and foster a more inclusive community. By listening to the voices of our residents and aligning our efforts with shared values, we will shape a city that thrives for generations to come.



Elizabeth Vogel
CITY MANAGER



Amy Shamroe
MAYOR



Mark Wilson
MAYOR PRO TEM



Jackie Anderson
CITY COMMISSIONER



Heather Shaw
CITY COMMISSIONER



Mi Stanley
CITY COMMISSIONER



Mitchell Treadwell
CITY COMMISSIONER



Tim Werner
CITY COMMISSIONER

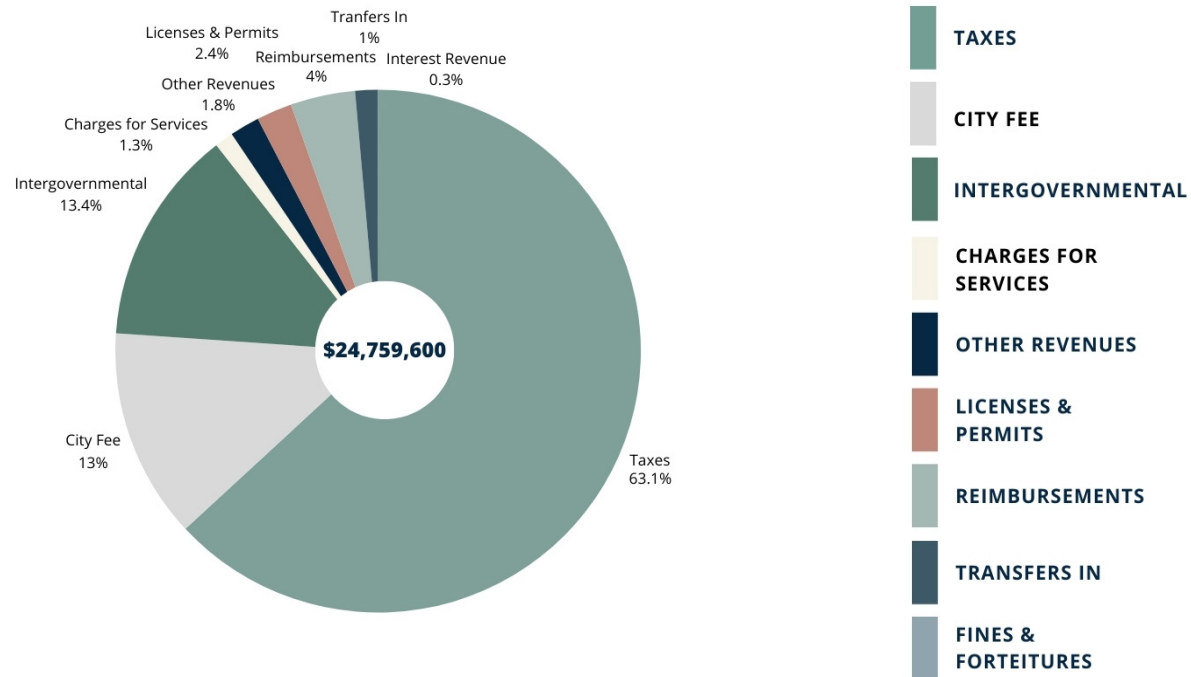


CITY COMMISSION 2023 - 2025

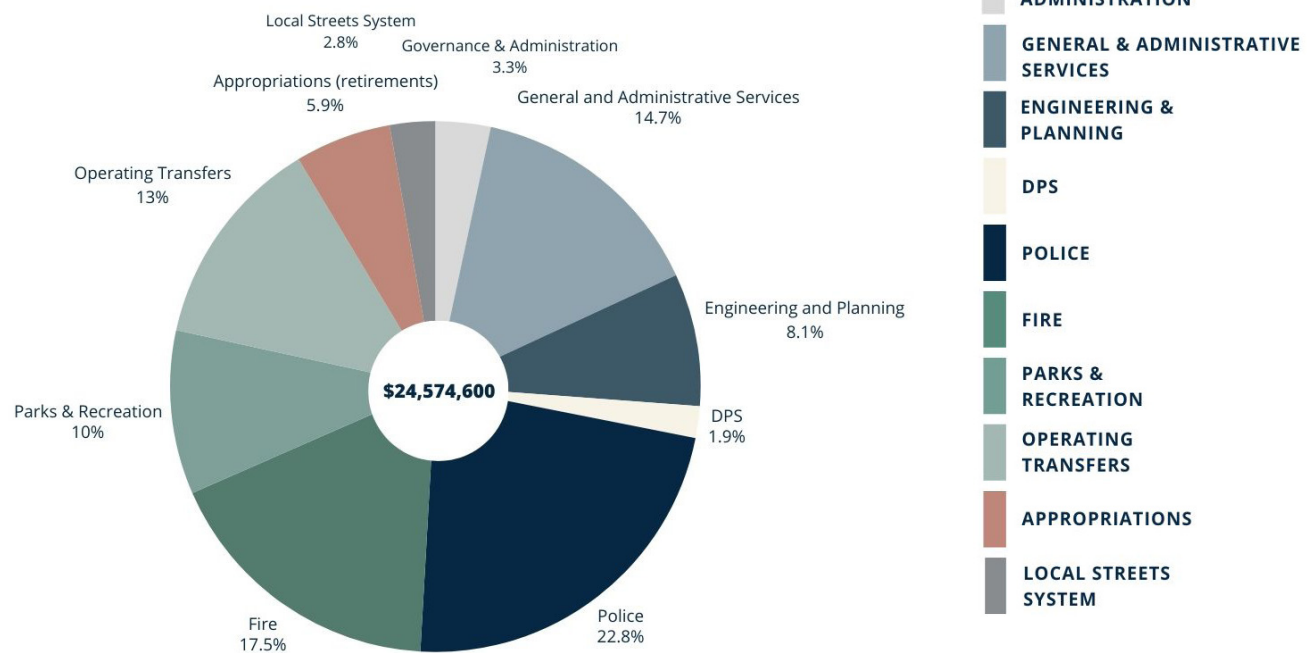
The mission of the Traverse City City Commission is to guide the preservation and development of the City's infrastructure, services, and planning based on extensive participation by its citizens, coupled with the expertise of the City's staff. The Commission will both lead and serve Traverse City in developing a vision for sustainability, and the future that is rooted in the hopes and input of its citizens and organizations, as well as cooperation from surrounding units of government.

'24-'25 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET

FY '24 - '25 Revenues - General Operating Fund



FY '24 - '25 Expenditures



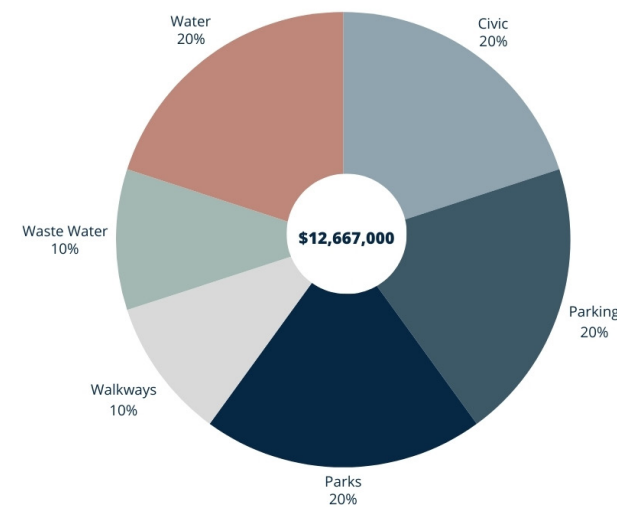
'24-'25 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PLAN

The City Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) is a six-year schedule of public service expenditures that is updated annually by City staff, and coordinated with the City Manager. The CIP does not address all of the capital expenditures for the City, but provides for large, physical improvements that are permanent in nature, including the basic facilities, services, and installations needed for the functioning of the community. These include transportation systems, utilities, municipal facilities, and other miscellaneous projects.

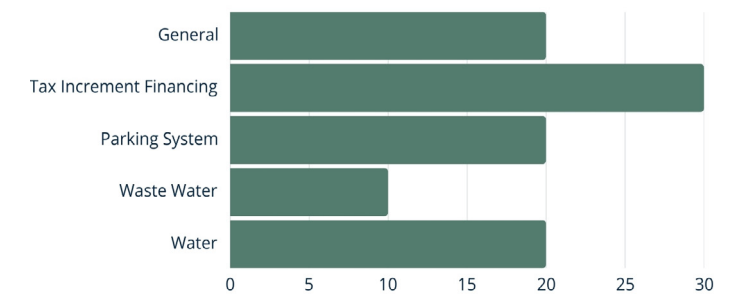
Of the 68 proposed projects, totaling \$131 million over six years, the City's share is about \$69 million, with the remainder allocated to projects associated with the Downtown Development Authority.



FY '24 - '25 CIP Projects



FY '24 - '25 CIP Projects by Fund



10
PROPOSED
PROJECTS
FY '24 - '25

\$12.7M
ESTIMATED
PROJECT COSTS
FY '24 - '25

68
PROPOSED
PROJECTS
FY '24 - '30

\$131M
ESTIMATED
PROJECT COSTS
FY '24 - '30



\$5,215,567

GRANTS & FUNDING AWARDED

\$1,127,594

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
State & Federal Dollars
Veterans Drive Reconstruction

\$1,000,000

Michigan Department of Great Lakes and Energy - Dam Risk Management Grant
FishPass

\$591,000

Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy - Nonpoint Source Grant
*In Cooperation with the Watershed Center
11th Street Kids Creek Culvert*

\$63,650

Michigan Labor and Economic Development Grant
TCFD Turnout Gear

\$2,000,000

Michigan Department of Great Lakes and Energy
Private Galvanized Water Services Replacement

\$365,323

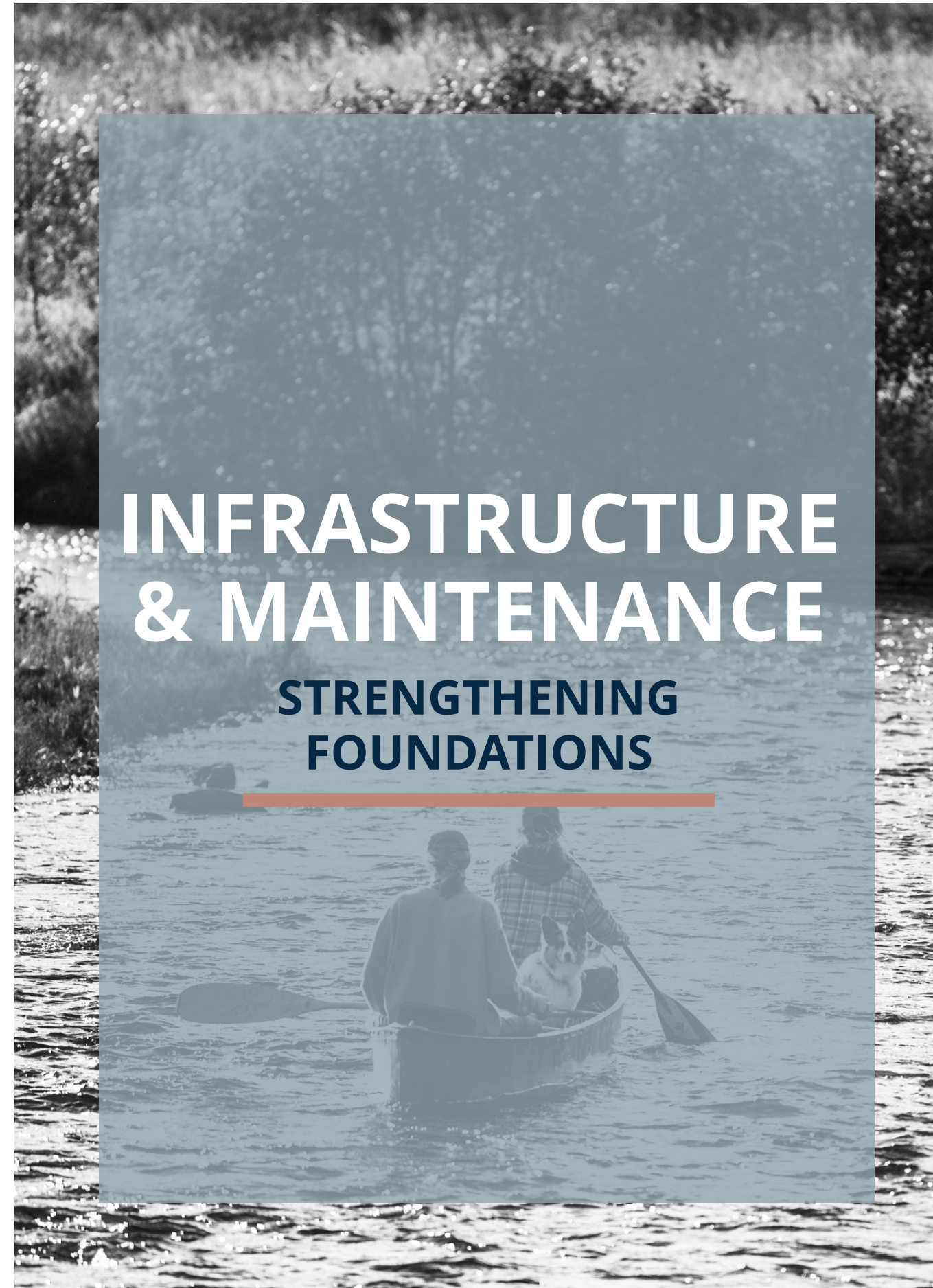
Community Block Development Grant
Community Housing Needs

\$18,000

Institute for Responsive Government
Election Administration

\$50,000

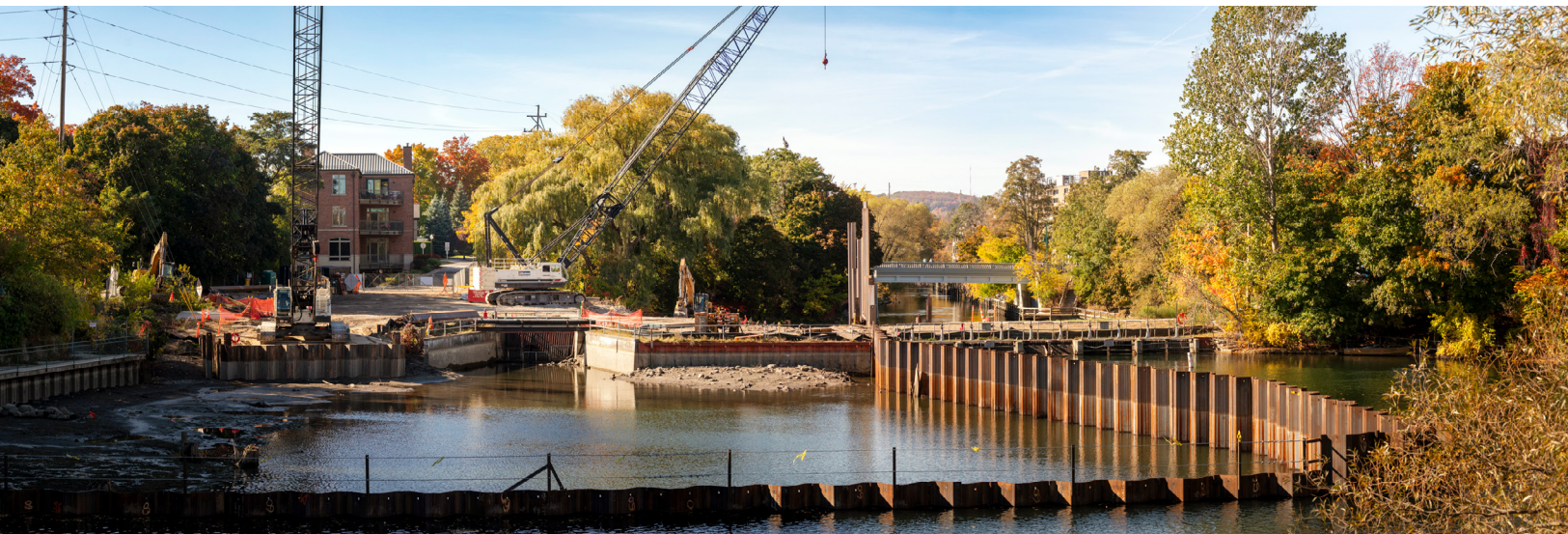
Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation & Partners
Benches & Solar Powered Charging Stations



INFRASTRUCTURE & MAINTENANCE

STRENGTHENING FOUNDATIONS

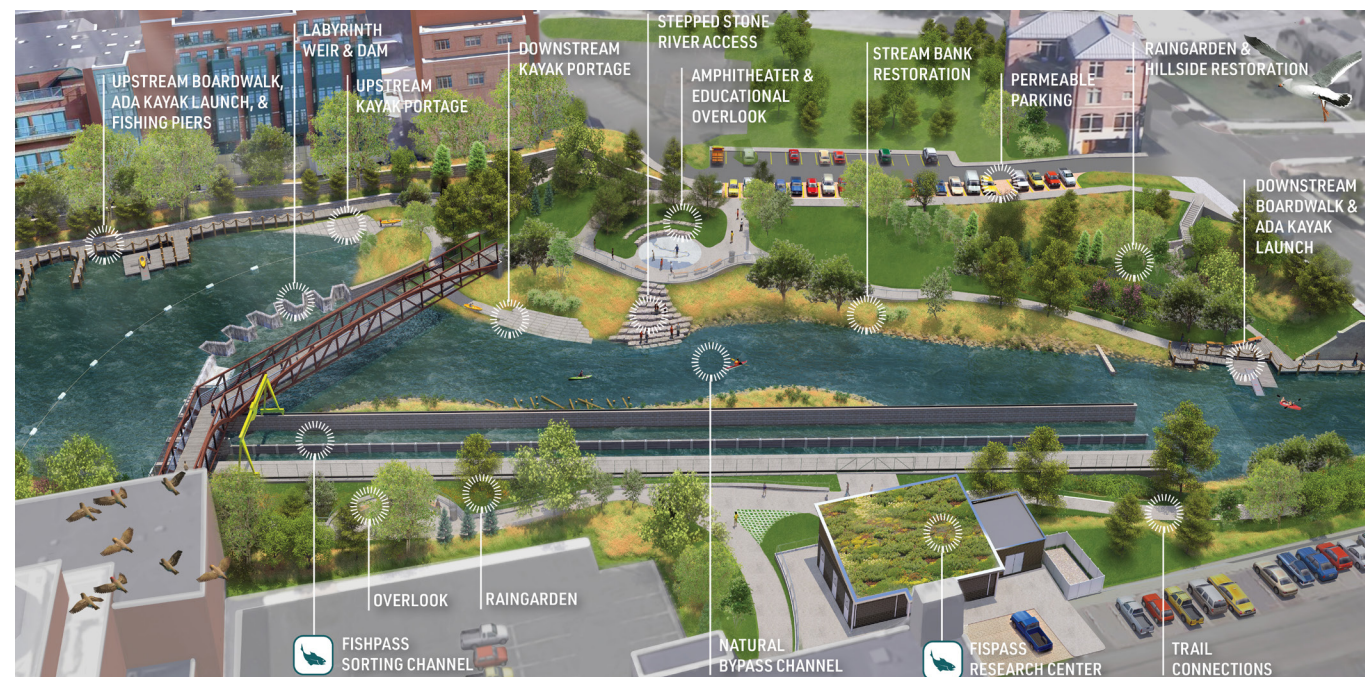
FISHPASS



FishPass is the capstone of a 20-year restoration effort to reconnect the Boardman/Ottaway River with Lake Michigan, replacing the aging Union Street Dam with an innovative system that balances ecological restoration and invasive species control. The project includes a fully functional vertical barrier, a fish-sorting channel, and a nature-like river channel, designed to allow selective passage of desirable native fishes, such as lake sturgeon and lake trout, while blocking invasive species like sea lamprey. During the first decade, fish passage will be coordinated with fishery management agencies, limited in scope, and focused on native species of the upper Great Lakes.

Construction of the critical in-stream components, including dam replacement and the fish passage channel, began in spring 2024 and is expected to be completed in 2026. Concurrently, efforts are underway to secure funding for “dry” elements, such as the education and research facility, landscaping enhancements, and naturalized features, with the entire project targeted for completion in 2027. FishPass represents a pioneering model of ecological restoration, scientific innovation, and community engagement.

The FishPass project represents a nearly \$30 million investment in waterway restoration, funded through federal and state agencies and grants, with the City committing to \$285,000 toward this transformative effort.

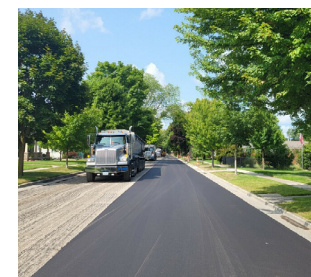
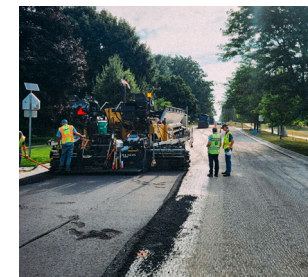


PAVEMENT PRESERVATION PROJECT

Aiming to improve safety, accessibility, and long-term functionality of the City's infrastructure, the Pavement Preservation Project kicked off in the fall of 2023 and completed all eight projects in 2024.

The City developed cost-effective strategies to enhance pavement conditions through the use of Capital Preventative Maintenance (CPM) techniques. This comprehensive approach combines cold milling and resurfacing with hot mix asphalt (HMA), as well as targeted street reconstructions and infrastructure improvements. In addition, the project incorporates innovative solutions, such as stormwater infiltration systems, to enhance groundwater recharge and protect surface waters. The Pavement Preservation Project also includes intersection reconstructions, sidewalk repairs, and upgrades to parking lot surfaces.

The total cost of the Pavement Preservation Project was \$2,577,831.26, supported by multiple funding sources, including the Road Commission Millage Fund and the Capital Projects Fund. Parking Lots C & G improvements were funded by the Parking Fund. The reconstruction of the E. Eighth Street Intersections at Union and at Cass was funded entirely through DDA Tax Increment Financing (Old Town TIF) Funds.



PROJECT LOCATIONS

CASS & EIGHTH STREET INTERSECTION

- Reconstruction and new brick work
- Completion Date: October 2023

UNION & EIGHTH STREET INTERSECTION

- Reconstruction and new brick work
- Completion Date: May 2024

MAPLE STREET (SIXTH TO GRIFFIN)

- Resurface of street
- Reconstruction of the brick intersection at Eighth Street
- Completion Date: June 2024

PARKING LOT C

- Pavement Repairs
- Completion Date: July 2024

TWELFTH STREET (DIVISION TO UNION)

- Resurface of street
- Completion Date: August 2024

EASTERN AVENUE (M-37 TO EASTERN TERMINUS)

- Resurface of street
- Completion Date: August 2024

RAILROAD AVENUE (STATION TO WOODMERE)

- Reconstruction on roadway with existing asphalt and gravel
- Installation of storm drainage structures and related piping
- Construction of concrete curb & gutter
- Completion Date: September 2024

PARKING LOT G

- Removal of two existing access driveways
- Partial removal of the parking lot's median divider,
- Replacement of drive approaches with new curb and gutter, infill with brick, and sidewalk replacement adjacent to the parking lot
- Completion Date: October 2024

VETERANS DRIVE

Veterans Drive from Fourteenth Street to the City limits reconstruction began in July 2024 and was completed in October 2024. Along with the new roadway, significant utility upgrades were completed. Coordinating these infrastructure improvements together helps minimize future disruptions and ensures everything is done efficiently.

The Veterans Drive reconstruction project was selected for the regional Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to receive funding support. Federal and MDOT dollars contributed \$1,127,594. The City contributed \$682,646.89 from the Road Fund, \$466,030.00 from the Water Fund, and a 10% contingency at \$212,627.09. In addition, the project had a requirement of field management and construction testing for Federal funding in the amount of \$116,595.00.



Project Summary

Roadway Reconstruction: Existing pavements, selective sidewalks, and sections of curb removed to facilitate new pavement. New aggregate base and asphalt.

Curb and Sidewalk Adjustments: Sidewalk bulb outs at intersections installed on side streets, reducing pedestrian crossing exposure, and promote traffic calming.

Water Main Installation: A new water main installed along the center line of the existing roadway at a depth of six feet.

Drainage Improvements: New leaching catch basins and dry wells added at low points and intersections to promote groundwater recharge and reduce the amount of stormwater runoff entering surface waters.

Curb and Sidewalk Replacement: New curbs and sidewalks replaced those removed during the project.

Sidewalk and Crossing Updates: New sidewalk installed along the west side from Fourteenth to Boughey, with new crossing.

Roadway Striping: Travel lanes narrowed to 10-feet to allow for wider bike lanes at 6 - 7 feet. Additionally, bike lane shields were marked for the first time, and a special emphasis crosswalk markings was made.

MPO

Metropolitan Planning Organization Status

In 2023, Traverse City and the surrounding region received the MPO designation, a federal status granted to urbanized areas with populations exceeding 50,000. This designation, based on U.S. Census data, enables the region to access federal funding for transportation improvements through a coordinated planning process.

As an MPO, the city collaborates with regional partners to develop long-term and short-term transportation plans that prioritize projects such as road improvements, transit infrastructure, and pedestrian and bicycle facilities. Federal funding sources available include programs like the Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG), Transportation Alternatives (TA), and Urbanized Area Formula Grants (5307).

The MPO designation is a significant milestone that positions the City to secure critical funding for sustainable and impactful transportation projects.

SENIOR CENTER REBUILD

The community has long sought a new Senior Center—an enhanced space fostering social connections, independence, and healthy living. In 2022, the City's vision for an enhanced Senior Center took a major leap forward with a \$7 million allocation from the State of Michigan. This funding made the long-envisioned rebuild possible, culminating in a groundbreaking ceremony in September 2023 and completion in 2024.

The new Senior Center expands from 5,780 to over 18,000 square feet, including covered patios and outdoor spaces. With a northward orientation, the building offers stunning views of park spaces, the public beach, and West Grand Traverse Bay. These design choices maximize outdoor enjoyment and functionality.

The project's total cost exceeded \$10 million. Funding included the State of Michigan (\$7,000,000), City ARPA funds (\$766,385), Brown Bridge Trust Fund (\$250,000), City Funds, Friends of the Senior Center, the McCauley Trust Fund, and private donations. Grand Traverse County provided \$800,000 for future maintenance and operations.



FEATURES & ENHANCEMENTS

EXPANDED SPACE

From 5,780 to over 18,000 square feet

OPTIMAL ORIENTATION

Maximizing views of the park and waterfront

SUSTAINABILITY

Green roofs, pervious pavement, electrification, and geothermal systems

ACCESSIBILITY

Enhanced access to the beach, outdoor spaces, and restrooms

MODERN FACILITIES

A commercial kitchen, furnishings, and equipment

RECREATION

New tennis/pickleball courts, pool table, meeting space, and fitness room

CONVENIENCE

Covered drop-off zones and patio



ELECTRIFICATION

PROJECT MEETS THE CITY'S ELECTRIFICATION POLICY

MAINTENANCE

Maintaining the City's infrastructure—including buildings, asphalt, catch basins, and more—is essential to ensuring the safety, functionality, and long-term sustainability of the City's assets.

Parking Structure Restoration

The restoration project on the Hardy and Old Town Parking Structures was conducted between May and November 2024. The project addressed the needs of aging infrastructure, aiming to prolong the usability and effectiveness of each location. Activities include concrete crack repairs, expansion joint repairs, traffic coating, sealants, windowsill repairs, pedestrian tower improvements, painting, and more.

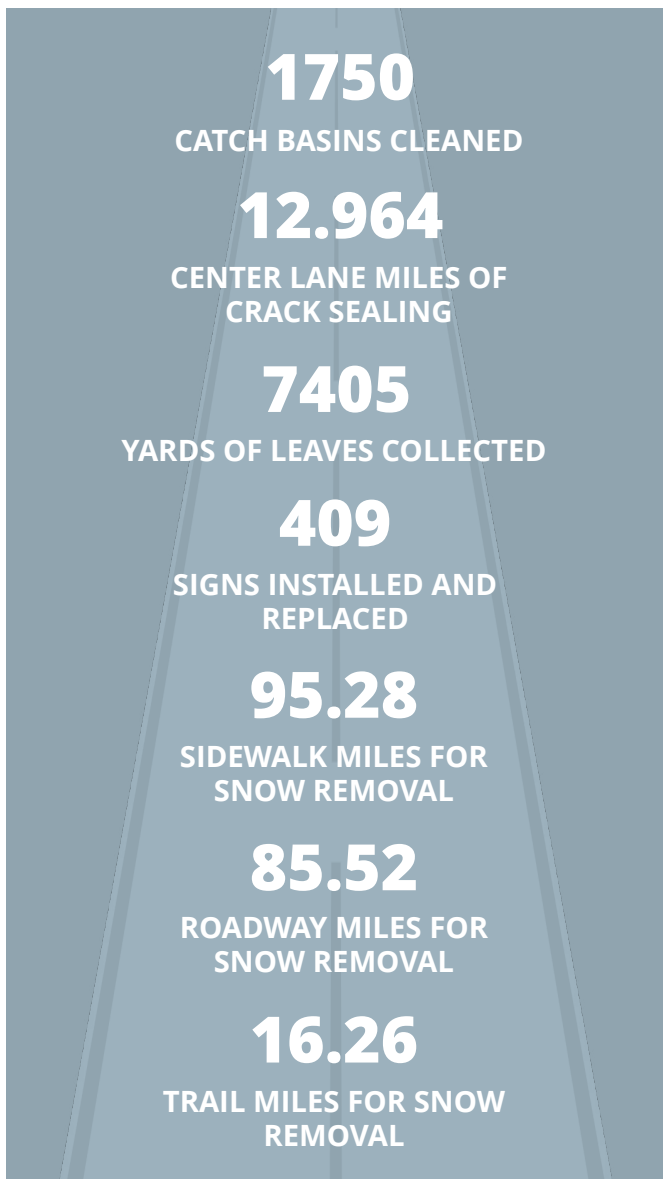
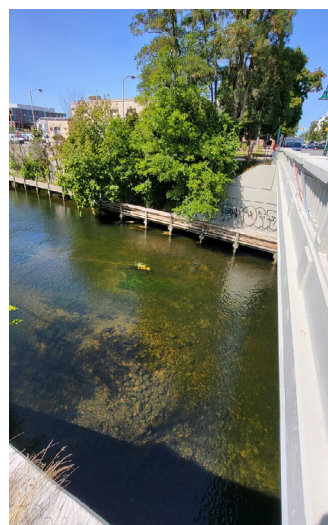
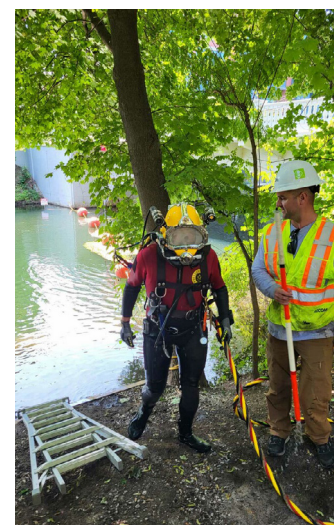
The \$909,180 project was funded by the Parking Fund, with a 10% contingency. This was the first set of restoration repairs in the 5-year plan with another \$1.2 million planned in 2027.

Streets Division

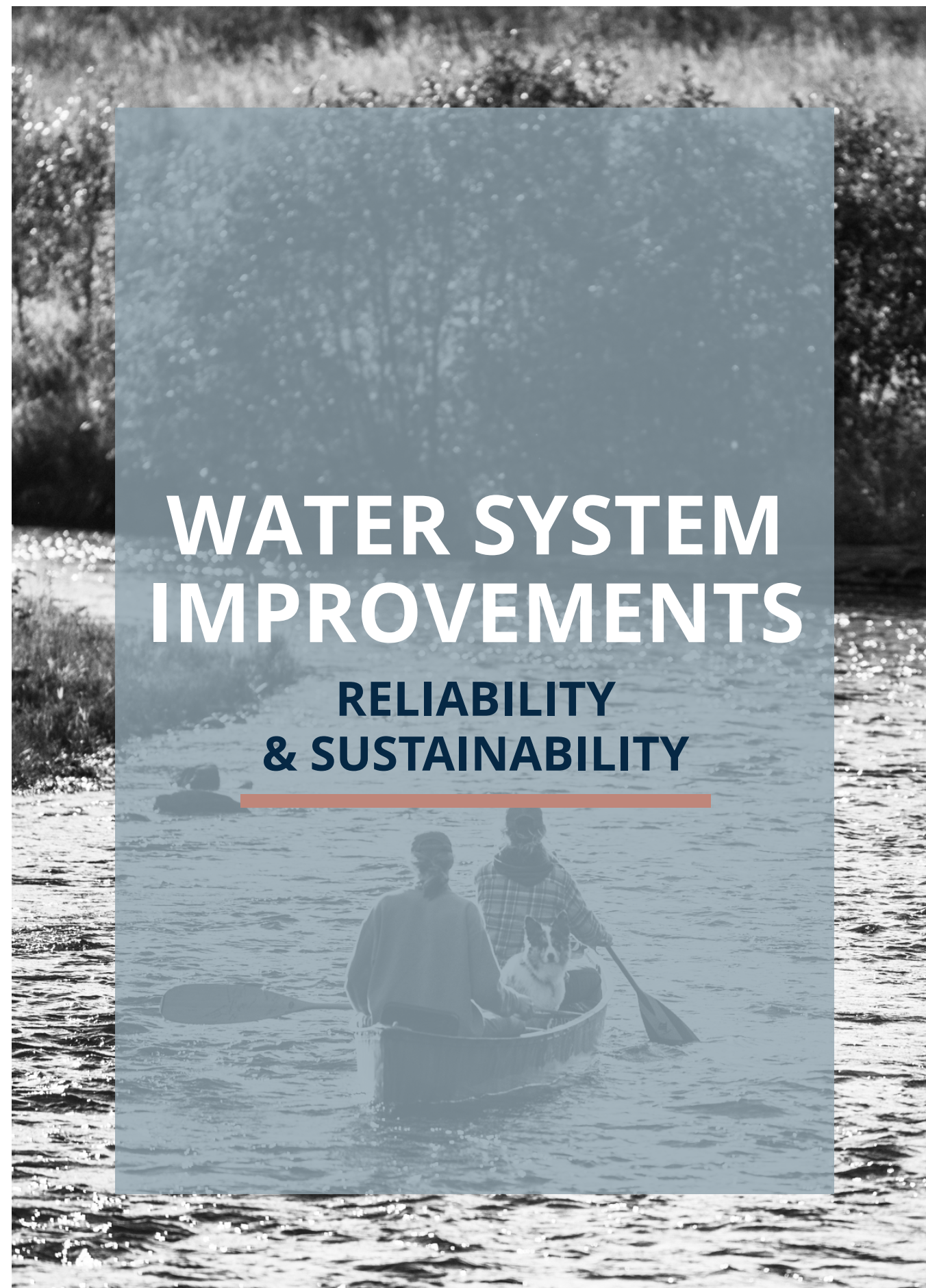
The Streets Division continues to diligently maintain our roads, sidewalks, alleys, and trails, often working through day and night, and in all weather conditions, to ensure a safe and accessible environment for the community.

Bridge Inspections

Required routine bridge inspections were conducted to ensure the safety and structural integrity of the City's bridges. Detailed underwater bridge inspections and river cross-section surveys assess the underwater portions of the City's bridges for condition rating and scour and meet MDOT/FHWA requirements. These special inspections were necessary to supplement annual routine safety inspections.



“
 I gave the Streets Department a list of sidewalks that had uneven, dangerous pavement. People trip and fall. They cause problems for wheelchairs, strollers, bikes and walkers. Leaves, ice and snow cover up the problems, making them even more dangerous. The Street Department shaved many sidewalks, leveled areas around grates and even began working on complex crosswalks, like in front of Fogarelli's. Thank you, Street Department. Means a lot.
 - City Resident



WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

RELIABILITY & SUSTAINABILITY

WATER & SEWER INVESTMENTS

Maintaining and enhancing water and sewer infrastructure is vital for public health and environmental protection, ensuring clean and safe water for consumption, proper sanitation, and safeguarding the environment from pollution. These efforts also enhance system efficiency by minimizing infiltration and inflow. Furthermore, they support economic growth by providing reliable water resources essential for business operations, while securing the long-term sustainability of the City's infrastructure to minimize disruptions and ensure continued functionality for future generations.

\$9.2 MILLION
TOTAL WATER, WASTE WATER, & SEWER INVESTMENTS

Infrastructure Upgrades & Highlights

SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT PROGRAM \$2.1 MILLION

Under Michigan's Lead and Copper Rule (LCR), private galvanized water lines previously connected to lead goosenecks must be replaced. While the City has no fully lead service lines, approximately 700 galvanized lines meet the replacement criteria. Since the program's inception, 333 service lines have been replaced.

2023: 116 service lines replaced.

2024: 217 service lines planned

2025: An additional 130 lines expected to be replaced using the remaining Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) loan.

DIVISION STREET WATER MAIN LINING PROJECT \$1.75 MILLION

The Division Street Water Main Lining Project involves rehabilitating 3,400 feet of 48-year-old, 12-inch cast iron water main using cured-in-place-pipe (CIPP) technology. This structural-rated liner will address damage from corrosive soils and ensure the longevity of the City's water infrastructure.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT IMPROVEMENTS \$1.4 MILLION

Improvements to the Wastewater Treatment Plant included the completed upgrade of the plant's dual fuel boilers to enhance efficiency and uptime. Additionally, the initial cleaning and condition assessment of the largest Anaerobic Digester (#5) were completed, removing significant amounts of grit and other unwanted materials to restore its design capacity while also identifying future maintenance needs. The SCADA/PLC upgrade project was initiated, and the membrane chemical feed room equipment was upgraded by replacing chemical feed piping, pumps, valves, and meters, along with replacing the existing natural gas heater with a more efficient electric heater.

VETERANS DRIVE UTILITY IMPROVEMENTS \$680,000

Improvements during the Veterans Drive project included the installation of a new water main, capping of the existing line, and drainage upgrades with new catch basins and dry wells.

WAYNE HILL BOOSTER STATION UPGRADES \$722,000

Constructed in 1945, the Wayne Hill Booster Station underwent essential improvements to enhance water pressure consistency and operational efficiency. Serving multiple pressure districts, including PD-4, the upgrades addressed hydraulic limitations, added pressure control measures, and incorporated backup power for reliable service.

WATER SERVICE PIPE VERIFICATION PROJECT \$280,000

Under the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy's (EGLE) Lead and Copper Rule (LCR), the City successfully completed a full Distribution System Materials Inventory (CDSMI) by the October 16, 2024 deadline. This process involved hydro-excavating and restoring 364 randomly selected curb stops to identify unknown service line materials. The completed inventory ensured compliance with state regulations and reinforced safe water delivery standards.

UTILITY IMPROVEMENTS: MDOT GRANDVIEW PARKWAY PROJECT

In 2024, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) undertook a \$24.7 million project to rebuild a 2-mile section of US-31/M-72/M-37 (Grandview Parkway/Front Street), spanning from South Garfield Avenue to Division Street. The project included operational upgrades at key intersections—Division Street, Hall Street, Front Street, and Peninsula Drive—along with drainage improvements, ADA compliance upgrades, repairs to the Murchie Bridge over the Boardman/Ottaway River, and the installation of new signs and pavement markings.

The project began in March 2024 and was divided into two segments. The first segment, from Garfield Avenue to Front Street, took place from March 2024 to June 2024. The second segment, from Front Street to Division Street, occurred from July 2024 to October 2024. The City worked closely with MDOT to improve communication with those impacted by the project. Safety measures were enhanced with additional crosswalk signs at controlled pedestrian crossings and speed feedback signs installed on residential streets adjacent to the project area.

Utility Improvements

During this project, the City conducted a \$3.2 million utility upgrade and replaced underground water and wastewater utilities. Executing major utility upgrades concurrently with the MDOT project allowed the City to capitalize on optimal timing and achieve cost savings by combining efforts and reducing redundancy in construction activities.

- New 12" water main replacing 6"
- Sewer upgrades, removing 9" and routing to 24"
- Eliminating joints in water service lines in highway

Photography provided by Team Elmer's





RECREATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS

CONNECTING THROUGH NATURE

GREEN SPACES, ACTIVE PLACES

Investments to enhance green spaces foster opportunities for the community to connect with nature and each other. These improvements promote health, wellness, and recreation, ensuring accessible and vibrant places where residents and visitors alike can gather, explore, and thrive. The City aims to create spaces that inspire connection, activity, and shared experiences for generations to come.



ANISHINAABE HISTORY PROJECT

The City partnered with the Kchi Wiikwedong (Grand Traverse Bay) Anishinaabe History Project to install the first marker within City limits at Clinch Park. Designed by Chris Cornelius of studio:indigenous, the weathering steel marker features a perforated design inspired by traditional Anishinaabe beadwork patterns, along with a bilingual plaque written in English and Anishinaabemowin by Grand Traverse Band Tribal Elders and cultural experts. Other markers are installed throughout the region, with additional installations planned for Hannah Park and West End Beach within the City.

HICKORY FOREST

The Rec Authority, a joint effort between the City of Traverse City and

Garfield Township, opened the Hickory Forest Natural Area, a 76-acre high-quality northern forest for public use in 2024. Acquired by the Rec Authority in 2023 with major funding from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, the property features hiking trails, a new parking area, and soon-to-come wayfinding signage, offering connections to Hickory Meadows and Hickory Hills for over 330 acres of contiguous public land.

HICKORY HILLS

After the Hickory Hills' Nordic course received homologation certification (course approval) from the International Ski and Snowboard Federation (FIS) in 2023, making it the sole homologated cross-country ski course in Michigan's lower peninsula, the City teamed up with the VASA Ski Club to host a Junior National Qualifier Race in January 2024.

HANNAH PARK

The Parks Division collaborated with the Grand Traverse Conservation District to build new stairs at Hannah Park, accessible from Sixth Street. The stairs are in preparation for the Hannah Park Overlook, a scenic resting spot by the Union Street Bridge that will undergo infrastructure, safety, and aesthetic improvements in 2025.

ART IN THE PARK

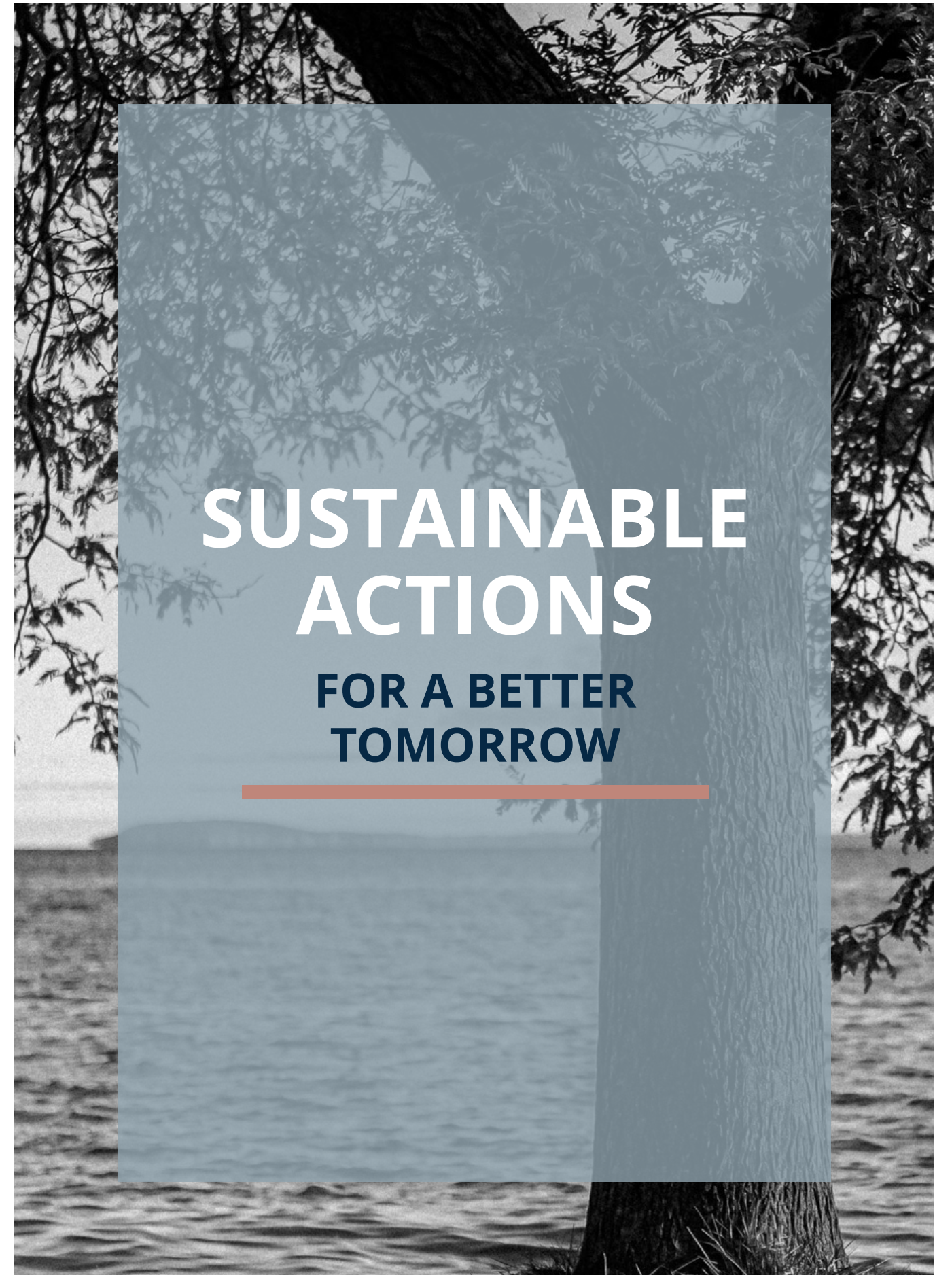
The Bryant Park mural commissioned by the Arts Commission was completed in 2024. The mural, titled "Our Neighborhood Spot" was painted by local artist Katherine Corden Bellisario. The mural is part of the Arts Commission's "Art in the Park" initiative, an annual collaboration with the Parks and Recreation Commission to fund and install public art in the City.

NEW PARK SIGNAGE

City parks received a significant update in 2024 with the installation of a comprehensive new signage system across the City's 30+ parks. The project addressed outdated, insufficient, or nonexistent signage by introducing a wide variety of sign types tailored to each park's unique landscape. These included park identification monuments, information kiosks, guide signs, trail markers, and regulatory markers. Additionally, a detailed message schedule was created to guide sign placement, quantities, and updates to regulatory text.

This cohesive signage system enhances both the visitor experience and park management. Clear and consistent messaging improves safety by effectively communicating park rules and warnings, while detailed wayfinding and educational materials promote environmental awareness and a deeper appreciation for the City's natural spaces.

The project was identified as a priority in the Parks and Recreation 5-Year Master Plan and was funded primarily through the Brown Bridge Parks Improvement Fund. The new signage system represents a significant step toward better educating the public, enhancing accessibility, and creating a unified look across the City's diverse parks.



COMPOST & FOOD WASTE REDUCTION PROJECT - COMPOSTING IS COOL



In 2023, the City of Traverse City was awarded a \$255,396 two-year grant from the United States Department of Agriculture to pilot a Compost and Food Waste Reduction project. Partnering with SEEDS Ecology & Education Centers, the City developed the program to manage food waste processing, coordinate logistics, oversee operations, and select the vendor for hauling through an RFP process that resulted in Carter's Compost. The program officially launched in September 2024.

Building on its existing curbside seasonal leaf pick-up and annual brush pick-up services, the City aimed to expand organic material collection to include food waste for residents and businesses. This initiative also sought to reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions by diverting organic waste from landfills to composting, aligning with the City's Carbon

Neutral Target. At full capacity, the program is projected to reduce emissions equivalent to removing twelve cars from the road annually.

The program's implementation included acquiring equipment, such as a 20-yard "In-Vessel" composter capable of processing nearly 150 tons of food waste annually, developing management processes, and conducting community outreach. The high-quality compost generated will be used for City parks, donated to food pantries and community gardens, or sold to the public. This initiative reflects the City's commitment to environmental sustainability and innovative waste management solutions.

Food Waste Hauler

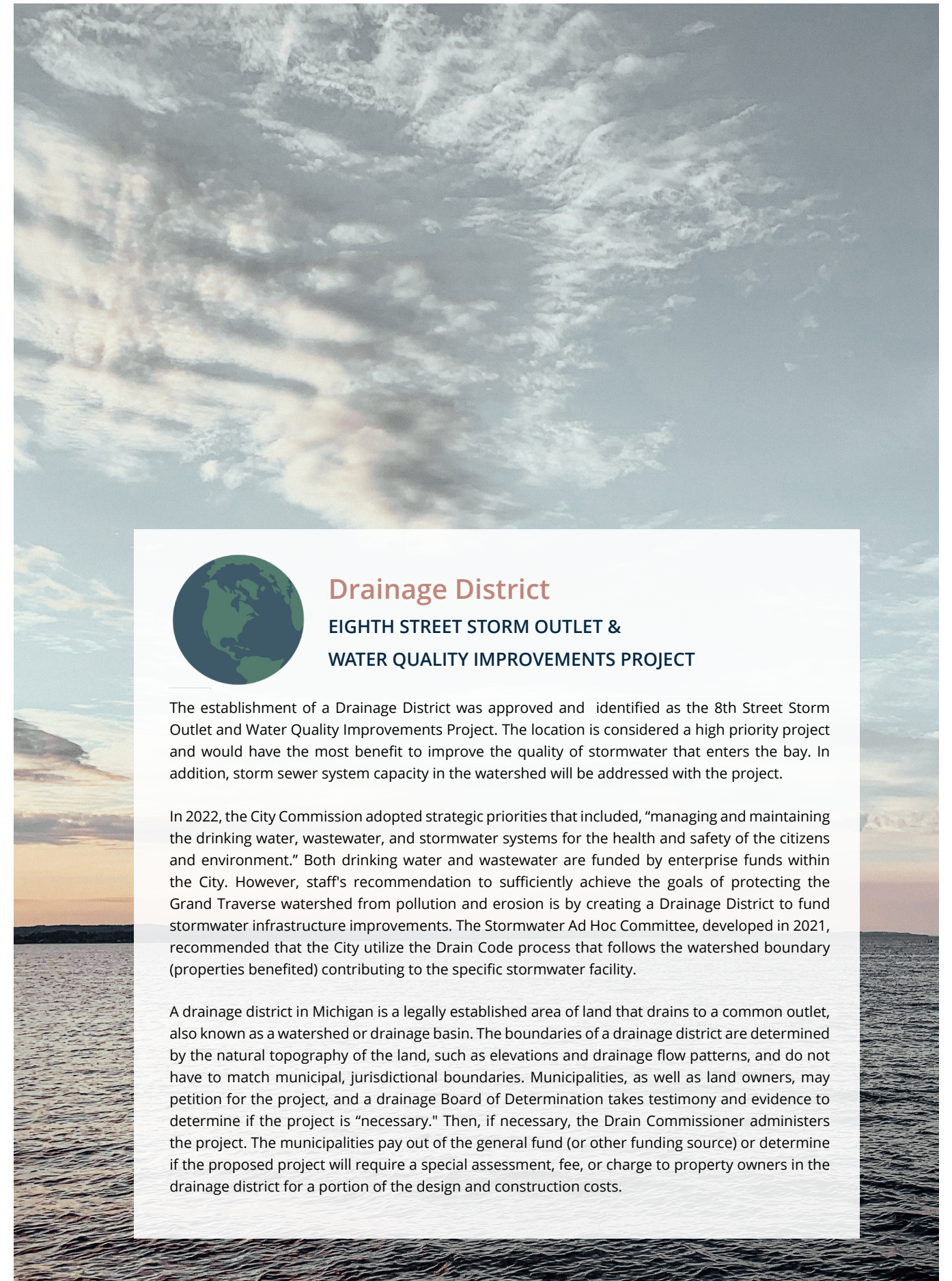
Carter's Compost serves as the food waste hauler for the City's Compost and Food Waste Reduction project.

Residential subscribers in the City limits can receive weekly kitchen scrap pickups. Subscribers also receive two bags of finished compost annually. For neighbors looking to share the subscription cost, Neighborhood Hubs allow 5-10 households to share a drop-off site. Carter's also offers commercial food waste collection tailored for businesses like restaurants, coffee shops, florists, and grocery stores.



A Smashing Success

The City partnered with Carter's Compost and SEEDS to host the Pumpkin Smashing Extravaganza in November 2024, at the City's in-vessel composting unit. This free event invited the community to smash pumpkins and learn about sustainability while contributing to smashing the City's goal of diverting one ton of pumpkins from landfills by diverting 3 times that amount! The initiative showcased the new 20-yard in-vessel composting system, and its annual waste capabilities, as part of the City's efforts to reduce emissions and promote food waste reduction.



Drainage District EIGHTH STREET STORM OUTLET & WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

The establishment of a Drainage District was approved and identified as the 8th Street Storm Outlet and Water Quality Improvements Project. The location is considered a high priority project and would have the most benefit to improve the quality of stormwater that enters the bay. In addition, storm sewer system capacity in the watershed will be addressed with the project.

In 2022, the City Commission adopted strategic priorities that included, "managing and maintaining the drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater systems for the health and safety of the citizens and environment." Both drinking water and wastewater are funded by enterprise funds within the City. However, staff's recommendation to sufficiently achieve the goals of protecting the Grand Traverse watershed from pollution and erosion is by creating a Drainage District to fund stormwater infrastructure improvements. The Stormwater Ad Hoc Committee, developed in 2021, recommended that the City utilize the Drain Code process that follows the watershed boundary (properties benefited) contributing to the specific stormwater facility.

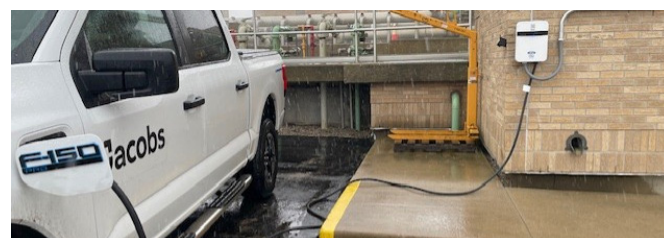
A drainage district in Michigan is a legally established area of land that drains to a common outlet, also known as a watershed or drainage basin. The boundaries of a drainage district are determined by the natural topography of the land, such as elevations and drainage flow patterns, and do not have to match municipal, jurisdictional boundaries. Municipalities, as well as land owners, may petition for the project, and a drainage Board of Determination takes testimony and evidence to determine if the project is "necessary." Then, if necessary, the Drain Commissioner administers the project. The municipalities pay out of the general fund (or other funding source) or determine if the proposed project will require a special assessment, fee, or charge to property owners in the drainage district for a portion of the design and construction costs.

SMALL STEPS, BIG IMPACTS

ELECTRIFICATION

The Senior Center project stands as a cornerstone of the City's electrification efforts, aligning with its Building Electrification Policy adopted in 2023. Designed with sustainability in mind, the facility operates without natural gas, relying instead on geothermal systems for heating and cooling. It also features green roofs and pervious pavement, further enhancing its environmental impact.

Beyond the Senior Center, the City continues to reduce its carbon footprint through electrification initiatives, including the replacement of a natural gas heater with an energy-efficient electric heater at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. These efforts are part of a broader strategy to transition from fossil fuel-based systems to cleaner, more sustainable energy sources.



RIPARIAN BUFFER COMMITTEE

The Planning Department established a Riparian Buffer Committee to explore the implementation of a Riparian Buffer Ordinance. Volunteers from areas near Kid's Creek, the Boardman/Ottaway River, and the Bayfront serve on the committee.

Since spring 2024, the committee has worked with staff to address the importance of riparian buffers—naturalized areas along shorelines that protect water quality, fish habitats, erosion control, and flood resilience. The committee's work has focused on exploring potential ordinance standards, public education initiatives, and management strategies for riparian properties.

TCLP MY CLEAN CHOICE

Traverse City Light and Power has launched "My Clean Choice," formerly known as the "Going Green" program, aimed at helping customers adopt environmentally friendly practices. The program offers tools, resources, and incentives for reducing carbon footprints, conserving resources, and embracing greener lifestyles. Key features include rebate programs for energy-saving products, on-bill financing for home improvements, renewable energy options, voluntary green pricing for renewable energy credits, and a time-of-use rate plan that encourages energy use during off-peak hours. TCLP also offers rebates for items such as E-Bikes and electric lawnmowers.

GREEN FLEET

The City's Garage Division maintains facilities at 535, 625, and 631 Woodmere Avenue and operates the fleet maintenance shop, parts storeroom, and fuel depot, prioritizing green vehicle acquisitions. The City's sustainable fleet grew in 2024 to include four Ford hybrid vehicles, two fully electric motorcycles, eight Ford Hybrid Interceptors for the Police Department, one hybrid loader for the Streets Division, two fully electric mowers for the Parks & Recreation Division, an electric pickup truck for both TCLP and Hickory Hills, and two hybrid aerial bucket trucks for TCLP. Additionally, an EV charging station was installed, and a fleet vehicle to a F-150 lightning was upgraded at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

TREES & PLANTINGS

591

TREES PLANTED IN THE CITY

6078

FLOWERS PLANTED IN THE CITY

400

TREE & SHRUB SEEDLINGS AT BROWN BRIDGE

3,192

WILDFLOWER PLUGS AT BROWN BRIDGE

47

MEDIUM/LARGE POTTED TREES AT BROWN BRIDGE



HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS

SUPPORTING THOSE IN NEED

SUPPORTING THE UNHOUSED

Chronic homelessness is among the most pressing and complex challenges facing the Grand Traverse region today. It jeopardizes the health and stability of individuals while placing substantial pressure on community resources. However, with the right strategies and strong partnerships, it is a challenge that can be overcome. Discover how the City, in collaboration with its dedicated partners, is addressing the complexities of homelessness through innovative, compassionate, and sustainable solutions.

Homelessness Collective

In spring 2024, Rotary Charities and the Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation assembled the Homelessness Collective. The Homelessness Collective includes the City and area organizations, community stakeholders, neighborhood representatives, the Traverse City Police Department, the City's social worker, and more, to address the housing crisis, particularly focusing on the Pines, where up to 120 unsheltered individuals resided in summer 2024. The initiative is focused on creating a new framework that actively involves individuals experiencing homelessness in the discussions to develop effective solutions.

The joint effort has convened to find solutions to end homelessness by identifying common goals and sharing information that emphasize that housing is the key to ending homelessness, with a particular focus on addressing the challenges at the Pines. To fully address these issues, discussions are underway regarding the feasibility of establishing a year-round shelter. This comprehensive approach aims to create sustainable solutions for the city's housing crisis with a data driven approach for long-term housing, increased night shelter beds, and increased day services.



RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT

Ending Chronic Homelessness

In December 2024, the City Commission adopted a resolution supporting the Northwest Michigan Coalition to End Homelessness' Effort to *End Chronic Homelessness Through Permanent Supportive Housing* at their meeting.

The Northwest Michigan Coalition to End Homelessness has committed to ending chronic homelessness in our region by 2028, recognizing that this goal is both urgent and achievable with the collaboration of local governments, community partners, and other stakeholders. Permanent supportive housing provides long term housing for individuals experiencing homelessness and provides wrap-around support services to help them stay in their homes.

Progress in 2024: Advancing Solutions

✓ SUPPORT & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Dedicated Police Effort & Staffing: Added a dedicated officer to the Pines and worked with the Quick Response Team (QRT) to engage with nearly half of the Pines residents.

Housing Successes: Collaboration between the QRT and housing providers such as the Northwest Michigan Coalition to End Homelessness, who successfully secured permanent housing for 47 individuals.

Expansion of Social Support Staff: Addition of a second police social worker position to enhance outreach and support efforts within the QRT.

Year-Round Emergency Shelter Support: The City Commission supported the operation of a year-round emergency shelter at Safe Harbor, which will require both the Planning Commission and City Commission approving changes to the Special Land Use Permit (SLUP) and operating agreement in the future.

✓ STRATEGIC PLANNING INITIATIVES

Homelessness Collective Efforts: Since early spring 2024, the Homelessness Collective has convened key stakeholders, neighborhood representatives, and individuals experiencing homelessness to create a collaborative framework for addressing the housing crisis, particularly at the Pines.

Permanent Shelter Location Planning: The Homelessness Collective, with support from the Community Cares Coalition, is working to secure a permanent location for a year-round emergency shelter, ensuring an inclusive and sustainable approach.

✓ SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS

PILOT Program Participation: Involvement in Annika II's permanent supportive housing initiative.

Funding for East Bay Flats: Allocation of \$360,000 to bridge funding gaps and fast-track housing for:

- 17 chronically homeless individuals by August 2024.
- 10 additional individuals by January 2025.



✓ COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & SHELTER SERVICES

CDBG Entitlement Community: Becoming a CDBG Entitlement Community with nearly \$1.8 million in funding, and adoption of a five-year plan to align with broader housing policies and leverage additional funding opportunities.

Day Shelter Funding: Commitment of \$120,000 from ARPA funds for the next two years to support day shelter services within the City.

✓ SAFETY & SANITATION EFFORTS

Safety Plan: The Traverse City Police Department developed a comprehensive safety plan to protect both the neighborhoods and unhoused individuals.

Restricting Growth in Specific Areas: Enforcement measures to minimize the impact of the Pines and ensure adherence to expectations for unhoused individuals.

Enhanced Sanitation Services: Installation of two portable restrooms and two sinks near the dumpster on Eleventh Street, supported by the Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation and local philanthropy.

Regular Servicing and Surveillance: Ongoing maintenance and monitoring of sanitation facilities to ensure cleanliness and accessibility.

Solar-Powered Charging Stations: Installation of two benches equipped with solar-powered charging stations near the same area to provide access to communication.

PROVIDING HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES

The City continues to engage in extensive discussions regarding the multifaceted challenges posed by our community's housing crisis, encompassing both availability and affordability. Recognizing that no singular action can serve as a comprehensive solution, it was acknowledged last year that the Planning Commission's jurisdiction primarily extends to land use, influencing availability and, in turn, potentially addressing affordability through supply and demand dynamics.

Dwelling Type Modifications

Housing variety is vital for creating affordable and inclusive communities, offering diverse options that meet the needs of varying family sizes, income levels, and lifestyles. By incorporating different housing types, such as apartments, multi-family dwellings, and single-family homes, the community fosters social inclusivity and ensures housing accessibility for a broader range of individuals.

In 2023, amendments were made to the Traverse City Code of Ordinances to allow additional dwelling types and to modify dimensional standards in the R-1a, R-1b, and R-2 residential zoning districts. 2024 was the first full year the housing reforms were in effect. In the approximately 15 months since the changes have been enacted, the City has issued a total of five land use permits under the new regulations.



Short Term Rentals

In 2024, the Planning Commission deliberated on establishing a diverse committee and conducting research to delve deeper into the prospect of implementing a cap on the percentage of dwellings allowed for short-term rentals within a building in commercial zoning districts.

Following is a list of districts and the percentage of dwellings in a building that may be used for short-term rental purposes:

- C-1 25%
- C-2 25%
- C-3 100%
- C-4 100%
- D-1 100%
- D-2 25%
- D-3 100%
- HR 100%
- I 100%

The Planning Commission will continue to review data related to the history and current state of short-term rentals in the City in an effort to provide direction for potential regulatory changes in 2025.

Exploring Housing Opportunities

The City continues to explore transforming underutilized properties into sustainable affordable housing. Lot O, a surface parking lot at 159 East State Street, remains in the feasibility stage with Homestretch Housing, a local nonprofit, considering a mixed-use project featuring 60 affordable units for individuals with mixed incomes.

Additionally, in 2024, the City Commission approved issuing a Request for Proposals for the Beitner Road property near Woodmere Avenue to explore future housing opportunities.

PILOT Arrangements

In Michigan, Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) is a financial arrangement authorized under state law that allows municipalities to establish an alternative tax structure for specific types of developments, typically affordable housing projects. Instead of paying traditional property taxes, the property owner agrees to make annual payments to the local government based on a fixed percentage of the project's annual rental income or other terms outlined in the agreement.

Since 2019, the City has approved PILOT arrangements that will add 463 inclusive housing units to the City's housing inventory. In 2023, approved PILOT arrangements included 35 permanent supportive housing units for the chronically unhoused.

ANNIKA PLACE II

In 2024, the City Commission approved a revised 6% PILOT arrangement for Annika Place II, extending the term from 16 to 50 years. The project at 1020 Hastings Street will feature a four-story, 56,146-square-foot building with 52 residential units, including 6 barrier-free units. Notably, 42% of the units will be designated for residents with incomes between 70-80% of the area median income.

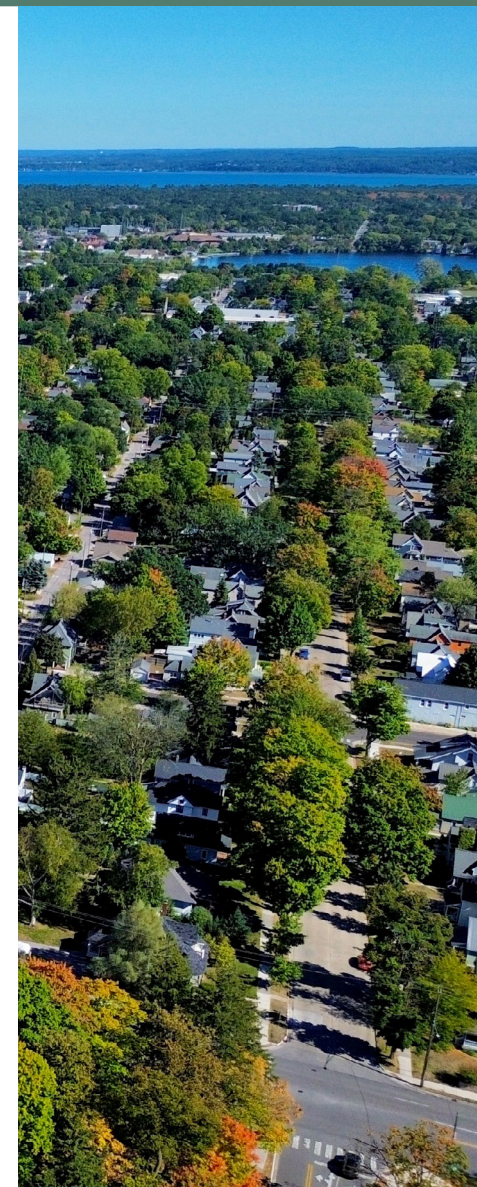
The development prioritizes permanent supportive housing, with 19 units allocated for individuals experiencing homelessness, in partnership with Goodwill Northern Michigan. Annika Place II also focuses on sustainability, pursuing LEED Silver certification, incorporating EV charging stations, and exploring electric heating options.

ORCHARDVIEW

In 2024, the City Commission approved a 4% Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) arrangement from the Traverse City Housing Commission at 10200 E. Carter Road, known as Orchardview. The PILOT arrangement is proposed for a term of 45 years, and the units will be less than 60% AMI.

The project includes the rehabilitation of 21 existing townhomes, and the construction of two apartment buildings with 30 units. The 51 unit development will include the following.

- Fourteen (14) are one-bedroom apartments
- Sixteen (16) are two-bedroom apartments
- Sixteen (16) are three-bedroom townhomes
- Five (5) are four-bedroom townhomes



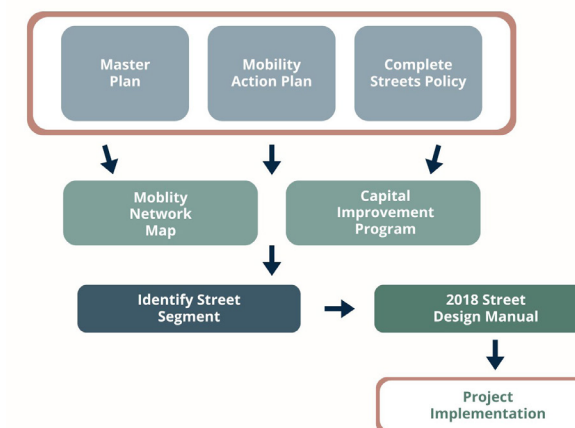


MOBILITY & TRANSPORTATION

CREATING CONNECTIONS

MOBILITY ACTION PLAN

The completion of the Mobility Action Plan in 2024 marks a significant step toward creating a more sustainable, efficient, and inclusive transportation system for the community. This plan addresses key mobility challenges, integrating infrastructure improvements with efforts to foster a culture of shared responsibility and respect among all transportation users. By pairing physical upgrades with a focus on cultivating a welcoming and safe mobility environment, the plan sets the foundation for a more connected and accessible future.



Existing Conditions & Network

Within Traverse City's 8.6 square miles, there are 80 miles of local and major streets, 7 miles of MDOT-controlled state highways, 23 miles of alleys, and 99 miles of sidewalks. These features form the basis of Traverse City's existing mobility network which is comprised of non-motorized trails (such as the Traverse Area Recreation Trail), dedicated cycle tracks (such as the one on Eighth Street), on-street bicycle lanes, and signed sharrows (such as TART in Town). There are roughly 31 miles of existing dedicated bicycle facilities in Traverse City, excluding streets that are marked with shared lane markings (aka "sharrows") which do not provide dedicated space exclusively for bicycling.

Mobility Network

Observing the City's current bicycle network, it can be noted that 73% of Traverse City lies within a quarter-mile distance of some form of bicycle facility. While desiring to bring mobility infrastructure to the entire city, there are topographical, right-of-way, and financial challenges that limit the feasibility of mobility infrastructure in select locations. Accounting for this, along with excluding the airport property where public mobility is strictly prohibited, the Mobility Network seeks to place 93% of the City within a quarter-mile radius of a bicycle facility.

VISION STATEMENT

Traverse City will be a place where people can access jobs, housing, amenities, and natural features using a safe and balanced mobility network that reduces the region's carbon footprint.

VALUES



PEOPLE



ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP



CONNECTIVITY



ADAPTABILITY



PROSPERITY

NETWORK PERSPECTIVES



I bike as much as I can. I live downtown. But I also drive a lot because unfortunately most of the things I need aren't within biking distance.



Well, right now the system of bike lanes in the town are disjointed. I think it would help if it was more cohesive, more consistent from one area to the next.

IMPROVEMENTS & CONNECTIONS



TART Improvement & Extension Project

In 2022, the City began the TART Improvement and Extension Project, targeting the area located between West End Beach and the intersection of Peninsula Drive and Eastern Avenue. The section of non-motorized trail between West End Beach and Murchie Bridge connects the TART, Leelanau Trail, and the Boardman Lake Loop Trail. Extending the trail to Eastern Avenue will connect the east side of the City and Old Mission Peninsula to the City center.

In 2024, the following work activities were completed:

- **Sunset Park to Senior Center:** North side of US 31, connecting the public properties with an improved trail, new 10' multi-use and 6' pedestrian facilities at Sunset Park and NMC's Hagerty Center transitioning to 12' multi-use at the Senior Center
- **Clinch Park to Murchie Bridge:** North side of Grandview Parkway with reconstruction of the asphalt TART Trail between Clinch Park and 200' east of the Park Street/Grandview intersection with separated 10' cycle/multi-use and 10' pedestrian facilities
- **Division to Hall Street:** Trail construction along the southern portion of Grandview Parkway with new 10' multi-use path between Division Street and the existing 8' sidewalk at Harbor View Centre (across from the volleyball courts)

The project was funded by a \$500,000 grant from the Michigan Economic Development Corporations RAP 2.0 Program. In addition, the City Commission approved an allocation of \$421,449.



Complete Streets Ad Hoc Committee

In 2024, the City Commission re-established the Complete Streets Ad Hoc Committee to advance safer, more accessible streets for all users, including pedestrians, cyclists, motorists, and transit riders of all ages and abilities. Speed is a leading factor in traffic fatalities, and lowering it through intentional street design is critical for public safety. Complete Streets is a flexible, context-sensitive approach to planning and design that prioritizes safety over vehicle speed while adapting to each community's unique needs.

The City's Infrastructure Strategy Policy already references Complete Streets, and in 2011, the City Commission adopted a resolution in support of the approach. However, adopting a policy is only the first step. Transforming street design practices is essential to making Complete Streets the standard, guiding future projects that create a comprehensive, safe, and efficient transportation network for everyone.



ADDITIONAL IMPROVEMENTS

VETERANS DRIVE

- Bulb-outs installed to shorten pedestrian crossing distances
- New sidewalk extending to Boughey Street, including a new crossing
- High-visibility crosswalk markings
- 6-7 foot bike lanes, and bike shields extending to the city limits

TART MAINTENANCE

- Improvements to eliminate roots and repave were performed along the TART from Hastings to the City limits

COMMUTER SUPPORT

- Screens installed in the parking structures Downtown, featuring real time BATA bus tracking

RAILROAD AVENUE

- Sidewalk infill at Railroad Avenue and E. Eighth Street



Eastern Avenue Sidewalk Approved

A long-requested initiative supported by neighbors received approval from City leadership in 2024. The project entails installing a sidewalk along the south side of Eastern Avenue, between Peninsula Drive and Milliken Drive, to enhance pedestrian safety and access. Construction will involve shifting the curb line northward and installing a 6-foot-wide sidewalk with an attached 1-foot buffer, resulting in a total of 7 feet of concrete.

This project aims to address safety concerns and improve connectivity to the crosswalk on Peninsula Drive. The estimated cost is approximately \$150,000. An Request for Bids for construction will be issued in 2025. Upon approval from City Commission, the work is slated to begin in 2025 and targeted for completion before the start of the 2025/26 school year.



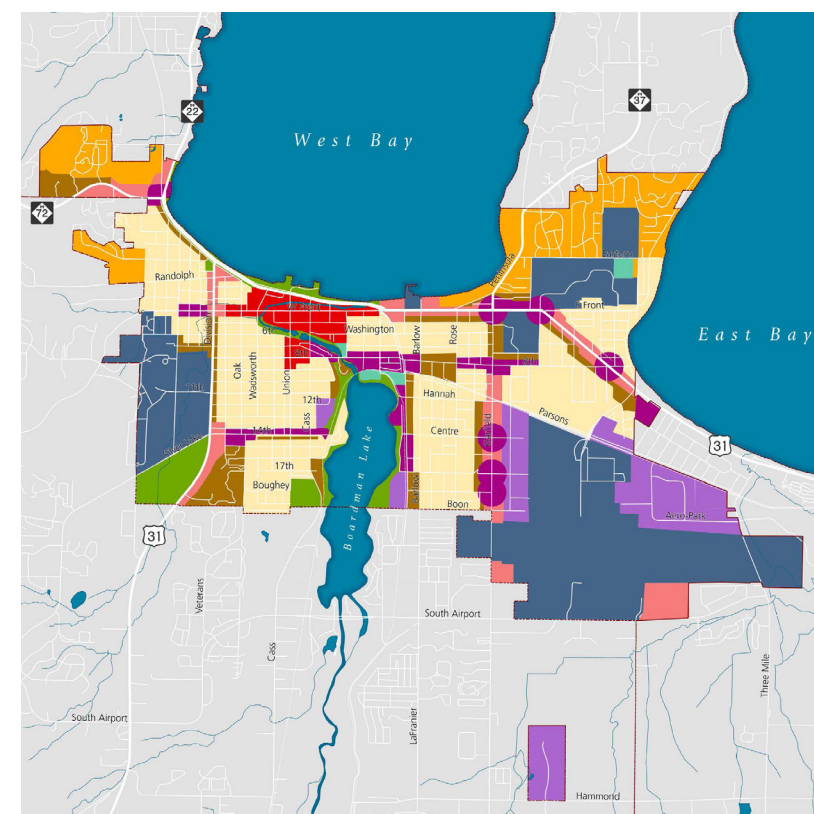
MASTER PLAN ADOPTION

The City adopted a new Master Plan in 2024. A Master Plan is a community's policy document that guides land use, infrastructure, and decision-making to enhance residents' quality of life. It inventories systems like demographics, housing, natural features, transportation, and economic development to identify improvements. The plan outlines priorities based on residents' feedback and helps guide policy actions, particularly through zoning updates. The Michigan Planning Enabling Act enables municipalities to create such plans to efficiently use resources, promote public welfare, and guide zoning decisions.

The Traverse City Master Plan consists of three components: the roadmap (guiding principles, land use, and action plan), supporting documentation (research and recommendations), and the appendix (including the Mobility Action Plan).

Action Plan

The Action Plan is a five-year guiding document outlining achievable tasks for the City to accomplish based on current departmental capacity. It should be reviewed every five years to remove completed items, evaluate remaining tasks, and add new ones. Developed through community engagement and stakeholder input, the plan was refined through feedback and collaboration with City staff to ensure feasibility and alignment with other City plans. The Planning Commission is reviewing goals for 2025 that are informed by the Action Plan.



Future Land Use Map

- Commercial Gateway
- Neighborhood Center
- Commercial Core
- Traditional Neighborhood
- Contemporary Neighborhood
- Transitional Neighborhood
- Innovation, Production, and Technology
- Institutional
- Public/Quasi-Public
- Recreation/Conservation

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Steward and cherish our natural resources and green spaces.

Honor our community heritage and create a welcoming environment for all people.

Encourage development and vibrancy in our commercial districts and corridors.

Encourage quality housing in locations of the city with access to non-motorized and public transportation.

Create safe and enjoyable transportation and recreation options year-round.

Maintain and connect our neighborhoods.

ENSURING FAIR & SAFE ELECTIONS

In 2024, the City Clerk's Office rose to the challenge of administering three elections, ensuring that every eligible resident had the opportunity to make their voice heard. From the Presidential Primary in the winter to the Statewide General Election in the fall, the Clerk's team worked tirelessly to uphold the principles of fairness, transparency, and security.

This included a rigorous review of absentee voting with the new permanent ballot list implementation, deploying more election workers with the launch of early voting, and hosting registration and informational workshops. Through these efforts, alongside close collaboration with local, state, and federal partners, the office maintained the integrity of each election and created a seamless, inclusive voting experience for eligible City residents.



Election Outreach & Education

During the 2024 election cycle, the Clerk's Office significantly increased outreach efforts to ensure city voters were well-informed about election changes and had access to resources for their questions. A key initiative, the "Registration Roadshow," featured 10 registration events at various community locations, including Central High School, West High School, Northwestern Michigan College, Cordia, Grand Traverse Pavilions, and Central United Methodist Church. Additionally, the City hosted an Election Town Hall with Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson, providing education on election processes and an opportunity for voters to participate in a Q&A session, further enhancing community understanding and engagement.

New in 2024

PERMANENT BALLOT LIST

Due to the 2022 passage of the statewide ballot proposal 22-2, all registered voters in Michigan may now join the Permanent Absentee Ballot List. This would mean, completing an application once, and receiving an absentee ballot for all elections moving forward. If you move within the State of Michigan, and update your voter registration address, your status on the Permanent Absentee Ballot List will remain.

EARLY VOTING

In November 2022, voters across Michigan amended the Michigan Constitution to give themselves the right to early in-person voting in all federal and state elections, and to have the option for early in-person voting at all other elections as determined by the local election official, in the City of Traverse City's case, the City Clerk.

Early in-person voting must be provided a minimum of 9 days (beginning the second Saturday before the election through the Sunday before the election) and for 8 hours per day for all statewide and federal elections, with the same minimum day requirement for all other elections where the local election official opts in, with flexibility in hours.



NOVEMBER 2024 ELECTION

75%
VOTER TURNOUT

36.4%
PERCENTAGE OF ABSENTEE VOTERS

1364.25
ELECTION HOURS WORKED:
POLLS & EARLY VOTING

3
MONTHS OF STAFF
PREPARATION

“High Fives to the Clerk's Office for their high level of diligence and attention to detail with the handling of absentee ballots. Our college student has an unusual campus address that is correct but lists two different street addresses. The Clerk's office flagged it and called our student to confirm its accuracy and that it wasn't a typo before mailing the ballot. Super impressed with their thoroughness that absentee ballots are delivered in a timely manner.”

- Traverse City Resident

PUBLIC SAFETY



Traverse City Fire Department

The Traverse City Fire Department is committed to protecting life, property, and the environment through exceptional emergency response, fire prevention, and community education. In 2024, the team of highly trained firefighters, paramedics, and emergency personnel responded to a wide range of incidents, from structure fires to medical emergencies, ensuring rapid and effective service. As TCFD adapts to the growing needs of the City, and prepares for Emergency Transport Services, they remain focused on continuous improvement, training, and innovation.



Traverse City Police Department

The Traverse City Police Department remains dedicated to ensuring the safety, security, and well-being of our community. Guided by our commitment to integrity, professionalism, and service, our officers strive to protect residents, visitors, and businesses. Over the past year, we have strengthened our community partnerships, implemented innovative crime prevention strategies, and enhanced our emergency response capabilities. Additionally, TCPD added a second law embedded social worker to the Quick Response Team. Through community policing, TCPD continues to build trust and legitimacy while creating a safer Traverse City for all.

TCFD STATS

7129.27	3507
TRAINING HOURS	TOTAL RESPONSES
48	3459
FIRE RESPONSES	EMS RESPONSES

TCPD STATS

745	13,256	2072
ARRESTS	INCIDENTS	CASES
325/282/201		
QRT REFERRALS/ELIGIBLE/PARTICIPANTS		

HONORS



CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE IN RELIABILITY

In 2024, Traverse City Light & Power was honored with the 2023 Certificate of Excellence in Reliability for achieving exceptional electric reliability by being in the top municipalities nationally.

The recognition comes from the American Public Power Association (APPA), a trade group that represents more than 2,000 not-for-profit, community-owned electric utilities.



SARA HARDY HUMANITARIAN AWARD

The City's Human Rights Commission honored Jane Lippert with the 2024 Sara Hardy Humanitarian Award. Lippert has served as the Community Outreach Coordinator at Central United Methodist Church and has been involved in humanitarian activities including Food Rescue, Northwest Michigan Food Coalition, Basic Needs Coalition, and Goodwill Outreach.



2024 CITY ACADEMY GRADUATES

Launched in 2023, City Academy aims to educate and inspire citizens about City government operations and how to engage meaningfully. The 5-week program featured 8 sessions from April to May, where participants connected with City staff, explored long-term planning and daily operations, and learned how to get involved.

Class of 2024: Laura Dagwell, Lauren Finch, Carrie Gray, Cheryl Pavic Henner, Jeff Leonhardt, Angus MacDonald, Scott Morey, Daniel Noller, Breanne Roberts, Richard Robbins, Barbara Robbins, and Paul Wilkins.



INSTRUCTOR OF THE YEAR

Training Officer Lt. James Smielewski was honored with Michigan Fire Service Instructor's Association Award "Instructor of the Year 2024." The award is given to a firefighter instructor who demonstrates excellence in their field.



GUARDIAN AWARD

The Traverse City Coast Guard City Committee honored AET3 Scott Wallace with the 2024 Guardian Award. The Guardian Award was established to recognize outstanding contributions to the community by individuals, families, or entire Coast Guard families active at Air Station Traverse City.



BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION HUMANITARIAN EFFORT AWARD

The City's Human Rights Commission honored two organizations, Grand Traverse Industries and J&S Hamburg South Airport: Project Feed the Kids, as their 2024 Business/Organization Humanitarian Effort Award recipients. The award was established to honor and give public recognition to a business or organization that has demonstrated an ongoing and sustained commitment to helping others in the Traverse City Region.

LOOKING AHEAD

Looking ahead, the City is committed to investing in infrastructure, public safety, housing, and recreation to improve quality of life. From wastewater upgrades to new housing and park improvements, these projects will strengthen our community. Strategic planning and environmental stewardship will ensure long-term growth and sustainability.

Strategic Action Plan in Development

In 2024, the City launched a community-driven Strategic Action Plan to guide programs and investments through 2035. This forward-thinking initiative aims to position Traverse City as a diverse, resilient, and innovative community.

Public engagement has been a key component of the process. It began in fall 2024 with Think Tank sessions, bringing together community members to explore the City's future direction. This was followed by community visioning sessions, where residents provided valuable input on priorities and opportunities. Public participation remains essential to shaping a successful plan that reflects the needs and aspirations of the community.

Expected to be completed by spring 2025, the plan will serve as a roadmap for future growth, sustainability, and collaboration, ensuring Traverse City remains a thriving and progressive City.



Emergency Transport Services

Traverse City Fire Department (TCFD) personnel, including EMTs and paramedics, respond to all emergency medical calls alongside the City's current contractor, but transport services remain outsourced. In the November 2023 election, City voters overwhelmingly approved an up to 1 mill tax levy to fund fire department emergency transport services and facilities.

This funding will support TCFD's transition to providing transport services, covering the addition of nine personnel, one captain, new equipment, and two ambulances. While it does not fund a new fire station, TCFD will begin phasing in transport services over the next 12-24 months.

NEXT STEPS/PROGRESS

New Ambulances: First ALS transport ambulance delivered January 2025; expected to be operational by March. Second ambulance arriving fall 2025.

Facility Updates: Lease approvals in progress for 520 W Front Street & 851 Woodmere Avenue, allowing Fire Administration relocation.

HVAC Repairs: System at 520 W Front assessed and repaired.

Hiring Efforts: Recruiting for 3 FF/EMT Basic and/or Paramedic positions per 2024-2025 budget.

EMS Leadership: New EMS Administrator hired, starting February 2025.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades To Move Forward

Major upgrades are planned for the Traverse City Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant to address aging infrastructure, improve reliability, enhance treatment processes, and incorporate green infrastructure.

ULTRA VIOLET DISINFECTION IMPROVEMENTS

Currently in the preliminary design phase, key improvements that include preliminary screening, grit separation, primary clarifiers, and a new UV disinfection system to meet state environmental standards are expected to be completed by summer/fall 2027. The City has been approved for a \$25 million low-interest loan through EGLE's Clean Water State Revolving Fund to help fund the project, which is estimated to cost between \$26.1 million and \$35.8 million. The project aims to address aging infrastructure, increase reliability, improve plant hydraulics, and resolve deficiencies in the UV disinfection system.

SOLAR & BATTERY STORAGE PROJECT

In 2023, the City was awarded a \$1.69 million Michigan Public Service Commission grant for a solar and battery storage project at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The project will install rooftop solar arrays and battery storage to reduce reliance on fossil fuels, lowering electricity costs by approximately \$41,000 annually and saving at least \$1.025 million over 25 years. It will also cut CO2 emissions by 300 metric tons per year, aligning with the City's climate goals and Traverse City Light & Power's Climate Action Plan. The solar installations is anticipated to begin in 2025.

Park Improvements

BROWN BRIDGE QUIET AREA LAND ACQUISITION

In 2024, the City finalized an agreement to acquire 528 acres of land adjacent to the Brown Bridge Quiet Area, expanding the natural area to 1,838 acres for quiet recreation. This \$3.1 million acquisition is funded by a \$2.35 million Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant and a voter-approved contribution of up to \$746,245 from the Brown Bridge Trust Fund.

The land includes a 228-acre parcel featuring Spring Lake and a 300-acre section from the Traverse City Rotary Camps and Services property. The City is working with the Brown Bridge Advisory Committee to update the Management Plan for sustainable use and recreation. In partnership with the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy, the City is finalizing next steps to close on the property, ensuring its long-term conservation and public enjoyment.

BROWN BRIDGE TRUST FUND

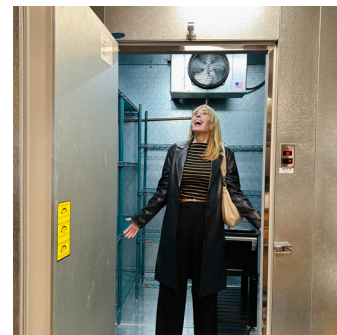
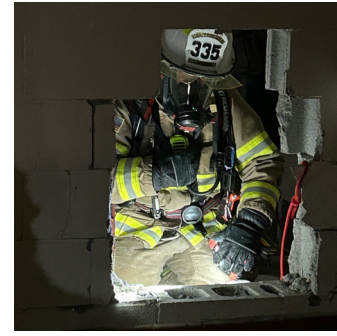
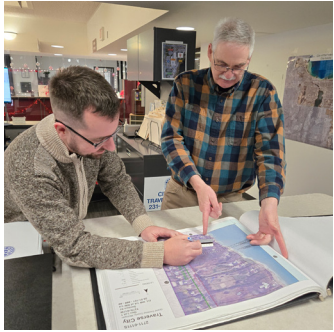
In 2019, voters approved using Brown Bridge Trust Fund dollars for park improvements and land acquisition, but this allowance expired in November 2024. In June 2024, the City Commission formed an Ad Hoc Committee to explore a new proposal for the November 2025 ballot. The committee is evaluating future park and recreation improvements, while prioritizing safety and accessibility, with final proposal language expected by May 2025 after public input.

WEST END BEACH

Significant improvements are planned for West End Beach in 2025. Following damage to the parking lot from high water levels, improvements will include reducing parking spaces by approximately half, and enhancing ADA beach access. Native plants, natural stone, and sustainable materials will be included. Additionally, new restroom facilities are planned for West End Beach and at the volleyball courts.



THIS IS US



2025

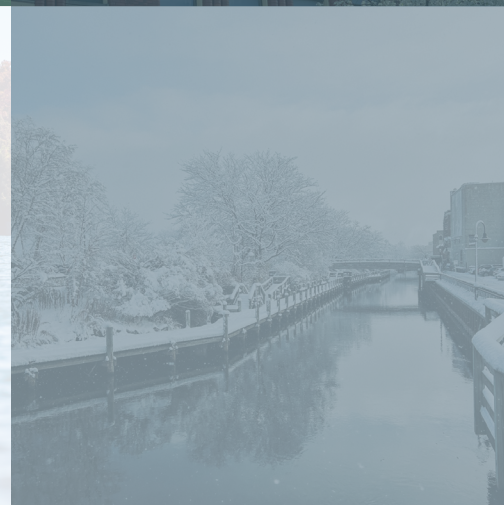
At A Glance



238
Employees




1,038
Trees & Seedlings
Planted




1
In-Vessel Composting
Unit



\$10M
NEW
SENIOR CENTER

1
New Master
Plan



463
PILOT UNITS
APPROVED SINCE 2019



\$360,000
Funding for Permanent
Supportive Housing



75%
VOTER TURNOUT
NOVEMBER 2024

3
Tons of Pumpkins
Diverted from
Landfills



\$730,000
Funds Committed
to Support Housing
Initiatives



1
MOBILITY ACTION
PLAN

\$5.2M
Pavement
Preservation & Road
Improvements

\$5.2M
GRANTS



86
New Park Signs

\$9.2M
WATER, WASTEWATER, &
SEWER IMPROVEMENTS



CITY OF
TRAVERSE CITY

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