



2019 GTLC Annual Report

for Appleton's participation in the Sustainability Component of
the Green Tier Legacy Communities Charter

MISSION STATEMENT:

The City of Appleton is dedicated to meeting the needs of our community and enhancing the quality of life.

TRANSPORTATION

- Implemented sixth year of City's new Sidewalk Poetry Program.
- Began implementation of the City of Appleton Trail Master Plan.
- Installed Cedar Street trail connecting Alicia Park to Lutz Park.
- Completed design for Ellen Korte Park Trail.
- Completed trail at Vulcan Heritage Park to Water Street.
- Completed design for Appleton Memorial Park to McDonald Street trail connection.
- Added 2.17 miles of new bike lanes (Appleton St, Evergreen Dr and Telulah Av) as part of the City's On-Street Bike Lane Plan. Also added 0.66 miles of side-paths on Evergreen Dr and Cedar St.
- Total of 151 CEA vehicles equipped with GPS units. Original goal was 100.
- Maintained designation of Silver Level for Bicycle Friendly Community by the League of American Bicyclists.
- Partnered with Outagamie and Calumet Counties on a signal optimization project for the Calumet Street corridor.
- Total of 1.0 mile of sidewalk was added along various locations, for a total of 452 miles of sidewalk.
- Implemented 2nd year of new Crosswalk Marking/Enhancement Policy for Uncontrolled Intersection Crossings.
- Hired an engineering firm to perform design and permitting to convert newly acquired train trestles to trails.
- GIS worked with Transit to support a new bus route App. In 2019 this was completed and implemented.
- Installed new ADA paratransit scheduling software which found efficiencies in scheduling, thereby reducing pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.
- Replaced nine City busses with a new clean diesel model expected to be 90% cleaner in regard to emissions.
- Created a secure bicycle & motorcycle parking area in the Green Ramp
- Continued use of bike racks on City busses. Promotes multi-modal transportation.
- Created an improved pedestrian connection between Rocky Bleier Run and Appleton Street (Riverfront and Downtown)
- Added two bike Fix It Stations along Apple Creek and Newberry Trails.
- Purchased a new fire truck with lower emissions.

LAND USE

- Utilized mulch from damaged trees. Have used on playgrounds and various landscaping.
- Recognized by WDNR with a biosolids composting permit at the Wastewater Plant. This is the only facility in the state that operates a biosolids composting facility.
- Developed RFP for preliminary study of a City owned biosolids compost facility.
- All plastic bottles and containers are now accepted as part of the County's residential recycling program.
- Incorporated horticultural vinegar for weed control in park playgrounds.
- Utilize bio-compost to top-dress athletic fields reducing needs for fertilizers.
- Created a reforestation area as part of the Leona Pond Project scheduled for planting in 2020.
- Renovated Jones Park in downtown Appleton. Total project cost of \$4.5 million.
- Renovated the riverfront in Telulah Park. Improved the shoreline and installed a kayak launch and fishing pier. Required significant environmental clean-up. Total project cost of \$765,000.
- Implemented sixth year of our Urban In-fill Tree Planting Program.
- Received Tree City USA Award for 28th consecutive year.
- R/R Quiet Zone Plan implemented in 2019.
- Remediated invasive plants in various locations. Invested \$5,000 to hire Applied Ecological Services to cut and treat buckthorn.
- Updated the zoning code to allow residential uses on the first floor within CBD Central Business District zoning as long as the property is 120-feet off College Avenue.
- The Department of Community and Economic Development participates in the InDevelopment seminar each year to promote economic development and investment in our City. Appleton was the host community for the 2019 InDevelopment seminar and will be invited to showcase current development projects and future development opportunities as part of the formal presentation.
- Completed Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

ENERGY

- A third biogas boiler was installed at the Appleton Wastewater Treatment Plant which uses methane gas production from the anaerobic digestion process. The new boiler is a 5.5 million btu methane boiler which will eliminate the need for the Wastewater Plant to use utility gas for most of the time. Savings of are anticipated to reach \$400,000+ with the addition of the new boiler.
- The Appleton Wastewater Treatment Plant has now completed three full years of ultraviolet light disinfection. This process, in part, replaced the City ultrafiltration process. In doing so, the City has reduced chemicals, membrane associated materials or consumables, and 1,300,000 kWh of energy each year that in total equates to an annual savings of nearly \$1M.
- An ongoing construction improvements project at Appleton Wastewater Treatment Plant includes the installation of an additional high efficiency turbine that will ensure a reduction of 180 kW at the facility. Upon completion in 2020, this will be a second-high efficiency turbine installation.
- Continued streetlight LED conversation project. 1,290 city-owned lights of which 1,124 are now LED.
- Worked with WE Energies to convert 313 leased lights to LED.
- Installed 211 LED replacement fixtures at Wastewater
- Installed all new LED exterior lighting fixtures at the Police Station (102 fixtures)

- Installed new LED highbay garage lights at MSB (154 fixtures)
- Installed new LED light fixtures for the entire Yellow Ramp (539 fixtures)
- Monthly energy data monitoring to analyze energy use enables timely adjustments and or deploy energy efficiency upgrades.
- Installed LED fixtures at Facilities & Grounds Operations Center vehicle garage.
- Jones Park Redevelopment includes LED facility and site lighting.
- Lower Telulah Park trail and parking lot construction features LED lighting.
- Performed a solar analysis for our Municipal Services Garage.

WATER

- Constructed a stormwater retention pond at Leona Street to mitigate flooding in adjoining neighborhoods. City now has a total of 45 wet ponds and 12 dry ponds to provide water quality and quantity benefits to the community.
- City mowers continue to be equipped with mulching decks. In addition, leaves are mulched in place on City properties.
- The Appleton Wastewater Treatment Plant removed approximately 160,000 pounds of phosphorus and reduced phosphorus discharges to the Fox River by nearly 50% from that in 2018.
- Replaced 32 lead services.
- Relayed 4.3 miles of old leaking, undersized watermain.
- Promoted our new Aquahawk Program for customers to track their own water usage.
- Completed pilot project on Carpenter Street replacing private sanitary laterals from sewer main to the home.

WASTE

- The City's wastewater treatment plant operates the only WPDES permitted biosolids composting operation in Wisconsin. Over 80,000 cubic yards of the City's leaves, brush, and digested biosolids from the wastewater plant have been composted and then offered up to residents and projects.
- Utilized chips from street tree removals as playground and landscape mulch.
- Performed recycling in all City parks.
- Council approved fee increases to be implemented 1-1-2020 for the 30-gallon refuse carts to help promote recycling and reduce waste to the landfill.

HEALTHY COMMUNITY PLANNING

- Staff from the Department of Public Works participated in Fox River Cleanup Day on 4/27/2019.
- Continued to provide and expand recreational opportunities with a focus on health through the Parks and Recreation Department.
- Staff continued implementation of the recommendations within the City's *Comprehensive Plan 2010-2003*.
- Staff has developed a tool to track implementation and progress on accomplishing the goals and recommendations within the City's *Comprehensive Plan 2010-2003*.
- The City has prepared the City's "2020-2025 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing" report.

- Deputy Director of Community and Economic Development serves on the “Placemaking Committee” of the Appleton Downtown Inc and Business Improvement District Board. This committee furthers placemaking initiatives throughout the City’s downtown.
- Downtown Appleton saw the announcement and commencement of several new residential and mixed-use developments, furthering the City’s goal of creating over 465 new residential units in the downtown per the City’s Comprehensive Plan 2010-2030. These projects included the historic renovation and new construction at the site of several dilapidated buildings such as Gabriel Lofts (21 units), the former Northshore Bank Building (28 units), on Durkee Street of Avant Apartments (38 units), the Crescent Lofts (69 units), the Zuelke Building (10 units) and the 800 Block (20 units) .
- Utilization of the Central Business District (CBD) zoning in other areas of the City.
- Updated the Historic Preservation Ordinance in response to Wisconsin State Statute Amendments.
- Historic Preservation Commission recommended approval of the Appleton Post-Crescent Building to the National Register of Historic Places.
- 2019 saw construction start on a new 28-unit memory care facility at Eagle Point.
- Completed the 2020-2025 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing report.
- Assessors now utilize the NE Wisconsin Multiple Listing service to validate property sales as arms-length transactions. This has reduced the number of trips to residences and reduced mailings.
- The Transit Development Plan finalized and recommended for approval by the TDP Steering Committee.
- Other infill / redevelopment projects that we worked on in 2019 include the former Kmart site, Evergreen Credit Union, and Aldi.
- Two building additions for industrial uses that went through site plan review – 1000 S. Perkins Street and 2400 N. Sandra Street.
- Improved efficiency from an energy use standpoint at the new We Energies substations (like the one at 139 N. State Street).
- The Appleton Public Library provided the following educational opportunities:
 - Healthy Food Access
 - Seed Library (If they let us count it twice, it also fits here.)
 - Seed Packing Program
 - Film screening and discussion of seed saving documentary "Deeply Rooted"
 - Heirloom Tomato Tasting & Seed Saving Workshop
 - Edible Wild Plants Workshop
 - Fermentasting Workshop
 - Outagamie County Master Gardeners workshops on various gardening topics
 - Housing
 - Sponsored Community Read of 2017 Pulitzer Prize Winning Book Evicted by Matthew Desmond on the housing crisis including public presentations by the author. In collaboration with local libraries, housing agencies and agencies serving individuals experiencing homelessness. This began in 2018 and continued into 2019.
 - Physical Activity and Access
 - Yoga & Writing
 - Children’s programs that focus on movement, learning and literacy for different developmental stages
 - Climate Change

- Film screening and discussion of climate change documentary "Saving Snow"
- Community Energy Use
- Circulated Watt meters to the general public
- Police Department continued to implement Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CEPTED) and Active Threat Planning to make public spaces crime free.
- Police Department encouraged and/or partnered with others, such as the Chamber of Commerce to advance workplace wellness programs.
- The City of Appleton joined the Government Alliance for Racial Equity (GARE).
- The City of Appleton is an active participant in the Legacy Community Alliance for Health.
- The City of Appleton created a Climate Change Task Force.

LEGACY COMMUNITIES SUSTAINABLE STRATEGIES

A copy of the Legacy Communities Sustainable Strategy Spreadsheet (aka Appendix 3 of the Legacy Communities Charter) is included as an attachment to this report.