



# 2021 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 eighth year of City's new Sidewalk Poetry Program, with 44 poems stamped in 130 locations throughout the city.
- Implemented eleventh year of adopted City-Wide Bike Lane Plan, for a total of 24.4 miles of bike lanes.
- Added 1.0 miles of new bike lanes (W. Glendale Avenue and West Frontage Road) as part of the City's On-Street Bike Lane Plan.
- Maintained designation of Silver Level for Bicycle Friendly Community by the League of American Bicyclists.
- Implemented 4<sup>th</sup> year of new Crosswalk Marking/Enhancement Policy for Uncontrolled Intersection Crossings, upgrading crossings at Meade/Grant and Wisconsin/Bennett intersections.
- Valley Transit is operating 23 Clean Diesel (low emission) buses, reducing emissions by >90%.
- Implemented a Mobility Manager position to assist with removing individual transportation barriers.
- Implemented a Travel Training position to train individuals how to use the Valley Transit bus system.
- Implemented a Partners in Travel Training (PITT Crew) program to proficiently train other Travel Trainers. There are currently >50 PITT Crew members.
- Worked extensively with World Relief for the provision of transportation training for refugees.
- Conducted a pilot dock less electronic scooter program with Bird. We will have a second pilot in 2022 building off successes of 2021 pilot program which included 25,627 e-scooter trips.
- Obtained an Outagamie County Greenway Implementation Grant of \$20,627 towards the CTH E Shoulder Widening Project to accommodate bicycles.
- Joint project with Village of Harrison to pave Coop Road with widened shoulder on east side of roadway to accommodate bikes and pedestrians.
- Installed two new bike Fix-It stations on trails
- Completed trail connection in Memorial Park from Universal Playground to Witzke Blvd.
- Reconstructed trail segments on the Highview trail and Memorial Park trail
- Wayfinding signage approved at Eagle Point Senior Living Complex and John Street
- Completed Facilities ADA Audit update

## LAND USE

- Utilized mulch from damaged trees. Have used on playgrounds and various landscaping.
- Incorporated horticultural vinegar for weed control in park playgrounds.
- Utilize biosolids-compost to top-dress athletic fields reducing needs for fertilizers.
- Implemented eighth year of our Urban In-fill Tree Planting Program, for a total of 31,035 terrace trees.
- Received Tree City USA Award for 30<sup>th</sup> consecutive year.
- Remediated invasive plants in various locations. Also, in-house staff led an effort to eliminate buckthorn.
- Accessory dwelling units (ADUs) have become an important component of the housing stock in many communities – both large and small – in the United States. By providing housing on existing lots in developed neighborhoods, ADUs are a form of land use that makes good use of land and public infrastructure investment. ADUs provide a mix of housing that responds to changing family needs. The ADU ordinances were approved by Council on July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021, and went into effect on July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021.
- The C-1 Neighborhood Mixed Use District was updated to implement recommendations from the *Comprehensive Plan 2010-2030*. These changes created a zoning district to accommodate mixed-use infill and redevelopment that is pedestrian-oriented, including a 50% reduction in required parking spaces. The updated C-1 District was approved by Common Council.
- The R-3 Multi-Family District was updated to allow for increased residential density. The revised lot area requirement now allows for twice as many multi-family dwelling units on a parcel, leading to more efficient use of land. The updated R-3 District was approved by Common Council.
- Multiple sections of the Zoning Ordinance were amended to allow for zero lot line two-family dwellings, which provides an additional housing option for residents. This Zoning Ordinance amendment was approved by Common Council.
- Common Council approved a Zoning Ordinance amendment that allows for an administrative adjustment to reduce required parking spaces by up to 20%. In some cases, this will result in less impervious surface devoted to off-street parking.



## ENERGY

- The Appleton Wastewater Treatment Plant has installed a high efficiency turbine that has ensured the annual reduction of 1,576,800 kWh at the facility. This installation is the second-high efficiency turbine installation at the facility.



- Performed a solar analysis for the roof top of the 7,740 sq. ft. Biosolids Solids Storage Addition at the wastewater plant that will be constructed in 2022 – 2023.
- 204 LED fixtures replaced existing fluorescent fixtures throughout City facilities (see table below for details).
- 179 LED fixtures installed throughout Parks and Trails. (see table below for details)
- Installed a 296-kw photovoltaic system consisting of 631 – 475-watt solar panels on the Municipal Services Building.

<b>2021 City of Appleton Facility, Parks, and Trails - LED Fixture Installations</b>	
<b>Facility LED fixtures installed</b>	<b>Quantity</b>
Water Treatment Plant Interior	129
Wastewater Treatment Plant F2-bldg	18
Wastewater Treatment Plant S-bldg. Interior	56
Fire Station #2 Exterior	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>204</b>
<b>Park &amp; Trail LED fixtures installed</b>	<b>Quantity</b>
Appleton Memorial Park Jones Building Exterior	12
Appleton Memorial Park Parking Lots	20
Pierce Park Site (phase II)	10
Telulah Park Small Pavilion Exterior	6
Scheig Center Interior	131
<b>Total</b>	<b>179</b>



## **WATER**

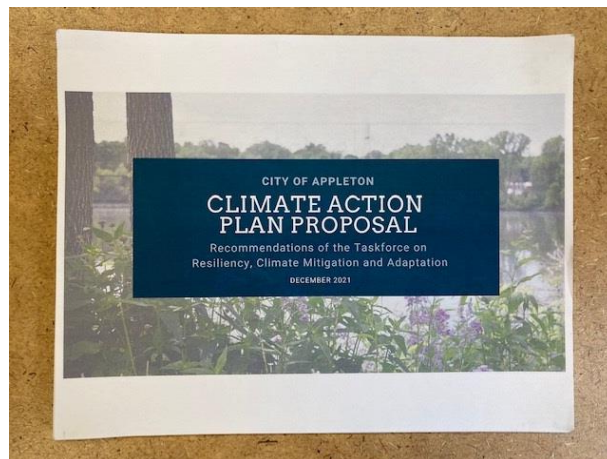
- Continued to maintain City's 56 wet ponds and 12 dry ponds to provide water quality and quantity benefits to the community.
- City mowers continue to be equipped with mulching decks. In addition, leaves are mulched in place on City properties.
- The Appleton Wastewater Treatment Plant removed 167,000 pounds of phosphorus and reduced phosphorus discharges to the Fox River by 96%.
- Relayed 3.2 miles of old leaking, undersized watermain.
- Utilized our new water correlator to proactively locate leaks to reduce overall water loss and damage to infrastructure.
- Continued our new private sanitary laterals replacement program from sewer main to the home on selected streets.
- Annual Fox Wolf Watershed Alliance clean-up was conducted.
- Developed a Lead Service Line Replacement Program and corresponding Ordinance.
- Council allocated \$1 million of ARPA funds towards the lead service line replacement program.

## **WASTE**

- The City's wastewater treatment plant operates the only WPDES permitted biosolids composting operation in Wisconsin. Over 95,000 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.
- Gained Council approval of operational changes to bulky overflow collection services to promote re-use of household items and reduce tonnage to the landfill.

## **HEALTHY COMMUNITY PLANNING**

- The Department of Public Works was a sponsor of the Fox River Cleanup Day on 5/1/2021.
- 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 2010-2030*.
- Police Department encouraged and/or partnered with others, such as the Chamber of Commerce to advance workplace wellness programs.
- 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 and completed an initial report "Climate Action Plan Proposal".



- The Appleton Fire Department upgraded its medical service level from Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) to Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) on January 1, 2021. This constituted over 100 hours of training for each employee that increased their certification level.
- The Appleton Fire Department is working toward upgrading its medical service from EMT to Paramedic. Paramedic is the highest level of pre-hospital care.
- Conducted a pilot on-street parklet with Appleton Downtown Inc. and now developing an On-Street Parklet Policy.
- The Library hosted a guided nature walk at Wild Ones to explore the benefits of native plants.
- The Library hosted a virtual Master Gardeners program series, highlighting topics such as growing vegetables organically, garden tours, invasive plants and controlling pests organically.
- The Library hosted a virtual Civic Conversation program on climate change, featuring Dr. Pablo Toral from Beloit College sharing ways to make state, national, and international impact, and Diane Perschbacher with the Sierra Club sharing tips for making an impact individually and locally.

- The Library hosted programs for all ages in city parks, including book clubs, an art workshop incorporating nature, a breathing session for improving physical and mental health, and a Kairos Alive dance and movement session.
- The Library held a community read featuring author Alex Gino’s book, *Melissa*, and companion programming related to transgender and other LGBTQ+ identities and experiences. The City of Appleton is involved in the “Imagine Fox Cities initiative” with multiple city staff serving on the leadership, engagement, and belonging committees. This is an ongoing regional community visioning project to increase well-being throughout the region.

### **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.