



# 2016 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.*

## **STRATEGIC PLAN (KEY STRATEGIES):**

#6 – Encourage Sustainability

### **TRANSPORTATION**

- Added over 1.25 miles of new bike lanes as part of the City's On-Street Bike Lane Plan (John Street).
- Added one mile of sidewalk where it currently did not exist along Lake Park Road, Plank Road and various other locations.
- Implemented third year of City's new Sidewalk Poetry Program.
- Adopted a Complete Streets Policy in July, 2016.
- Constructed pedestrian improvements along Midway Road.
- Created the Fox Trot Trail connecting downtown to the riverfront.
- Adopted a Wheel Tax to replace special assessment revenue for street reconstruction projects.
- Constructed Jackman Street Stairs connecting Prospect Avenue to Water Street.
- Completed a Downtown Mobility Study approved by Council in August, 2016.
- Adopted the City of Appleton Trail Master Plan.
- Installed a new Bike Fix-It Station at the Library.

### **LAND USE**

- Implemented third year of our Urban In-fill Tree Planting Program.
- Received Tree City USA Award for 26th consecutive year.
- Council approved R/R Quiet Zone Plan to be implemented in 2018/2019.
- Remediated invasive plants at Pierce Park, Telulah Park and various trails (multi-year initiative).

### **ENERGY**

- Wastewater Treatment Plant – A project was completed to use an alternate mode of mixing for the (2) 2.2 million gallon digesters. The project resulted in sliding vane compressors with valve and gas metering upgrades and all of which is reducing energy consumption by 1,300 kWh/day.
- Water Plant - Ultraviolet Light Process Project – In 2016 the City completed an upgrade to the water plant with an ultraviolet light process. The process effectively reduces water borne pathogens and has replaced the ultrafiltration process. The new UV process uses less consumables including chemicals, labor and electrical (approximately \$450,000 annually). The reduced electrical consumption is estimated to be 21.2 kW in a peak water production scenario.
- Relamped existing fluorescent fixtures with LED lamps for entire vehicle garage at Facilities & Grounds Operations Center.
- Relamped existing fluorescent fixtures with LED lamps throughout Water Treatment Plant.
- Installed (7) new LED light fixtures above softener tanks at the Water Treatment Plant.
- Installed (4) new LED parking lot light fixtures at Reid Municipal Golf Course.

- Installed (8) new LED exterior light fixtures at Mead Pool.
- Upgraded 54 HID light poles to LED.
- Replaced 10 HID light bollards with LED light bollards.
- Replaced 42 HID wall packs with LED wall packs.
- Replaced 100 T8 Light fixtures with LED fixtures.
- Removed 26 exterior lights that caused excessive light pollution.
- Installed new energy efficient HVAC system that serves over 21,500sf.
- Completed second year of LED street light retrofit project.

## **WATER**

- Staff from the Department of Public Works participated in Fox River Cleanup Day held on Saturday, April 23, 2016.
- Appleton's third full year installing Advanced Metering Infrastructure system for water meter reading and residential cross connection survey.
- Relayed over 2.6 miles of old, leaking water main.
- Replaced 32 lead services.
- Phosphorus Reduction Project – Phosphorus is a nutrient that leads to algal blooms and reduced water quality. Appleton continues to optimize and remove phosphorus from the waste stream prior to discharge to the Fox River. The use of iron salts has proved successful. Utilizing this technology, 2016 saw a reduction of 350 lbs of phosphorus to the Fox River (i.e., 2016 vs 2015 phosphorus load).
- The plant staff continue to study “outside the plant” alternatives to further reduce phosphorus to the Fox River. Currently, staff are involved in the following programs and initiatives:
  - Lower Fox River Dischargers Association – service positions include president, treasurer and secretary
  - Fox Wolf Watershed Alliance – service position board of directors member
  - The Fox P Trade Initiative – participant in training exercises
  - Adaptive Management Assessments, w/Great Lakes Alliance – participant in training scenarios
- The City of Appleton agreed to contribute \$832,708 for clean-up activities related to PCBs in the Fox River.

## **WASTE**

- At no cost, the City executed an agreement with Outagamie County for use of 6 acres of county property. The site is being used for composting wood, yard brush, leaves, and biosolids (from the Appleton wastewater plant). Appleton is the only composting facility in the State that uses biosolids in a composting process. In 2016, Appleton had a production of 6,750 cubic yards of compost. The mixture of yard waste and biosolids was placed into windrows and allowed to compost (and be biologically reduced). The material is turned and ultimately reaches temperatures in excess of 160 degrees F. The 6,750 cubic yards of finished compost was used by landscapers, contractors, and public giveaways.
- Purchased 10 additional automated recycling carts for College Avenue in Downtown Appleton.
- Worked with a company to exchange our wood chips for their labor and equipment to screen our pile of stump grinding material providing a nice top soil type material for use on city projects.
- Utilize chips from street tree removals as playground and landscape mulch.
- All City mowers are equipped with mulching decks.
- Perform recycling in all City parks.

## **HEALTHY COMMUNITY PLANNING**

- Provided continued support to Riverview Gardens which includes 15 acres of certified organic farmland with 20 passive solar greenhouses providing locally grown, healthy produce through Community Supported Agriculture

(CSA) shares, as well institutional and retail sales. The urban farm supports job training, youth programming and community volunteers.

- Adopted the City of Appleton Trail Master Plan as noted under transportation.
- Continued to provide and expand recreational opportunities with a focus on health through the Parks and Recreation Department.

### **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.