



City of Highland Park

2017



Annual Report

Table of Contents



Meet the Mayor and City Council	2
State of the City by Mayor Rotering	3
Events and Initiatives Overview	4
Year in Review by City Manager Neukirch	5
City of Highland Park Core Priorities	7
Financial Summary	9
Connect with the City	10

City Mission:

The mission of the City of Highland Park municipal government is to provide fiscally responsible, high-quality services through effective, transparent and collaborative governance.



Nancy R. Rotering
Mayor
2015-2019

Mayor & City Council



Anthony E. Blumberg
Councilman
2015-2019



Michelle L. Holleman
Councilman
2015-2019



Daniel A. Kaufman
Councilman
2017-2021



Alyssa Knobel
Councilman
2017-2021



Adam Stolberg
Councilman
2017-2019



Kim Stone
Councilwoman
2017-2021

Planning for a Bright Future

Mayor Nancy R. Roterling

As the New Year begins, my wish is that we continue to use our collective passions to work together, crafting a vision that plans for decades to come. My City Council colleagues and I work alongside City staff, government partners, residents, and businesses focusing on issues that matter to all of us. Together, we strive daily to strengthen our community.

In 2017, we achieved many milestones. In addition to enhancing our overall quality of life, we focused on maintaining the City's on-going fiscal sustainability, invested in hundreds of infrastructure improvements, and kept our community safe. We worked tirelessly as we advanced business development, increased communications, supported human services, environmental sustainability initiatives, and cultural arts plans.

Recognizing that collaboration and synergies benefit the public and improve efficiencies, we met regularly with government partners, local clergy, and multiple citizen advisory task forces and community groups. Conversations resulted in partnerships on a multitude of initiatives that benefited our daily life, achieved synergies, and provided representative government at its best.

Partnerships with our business community continue to support our strong local economy, create new jobs and reduce property tax burdens on residents. Our development process has been streamlined, bringing new market-driven housing to our downtown, and in-fill development throughout neighborhoods. The long awaited sale of the Highland Park Movie Theater was completed and will bring an exciting development to help revitalize the east end of Central Avenue in Downtown Highland Park. In addition, after an extensive public process, we look forward to an updated Ravinia Festival with the addition of a new Experience Center.

As we dive into 2018, we remain deeply committed to meeting the needs of our community now and in the future. On the horizon, we are planning for the future of our Public Library, Ravinia Fire Station, Senior Center, the celebration of our sesquicentennial/HP150 and more. It is our job to keep our finger on the pulse of our community. We invite you to work with us, and thank you for being our partners and our neighbors.

Nancy R. Roterling
Mayor



Events and Initiatives

The City of Highland Park hosted and sponsored various community events and initiatives throughout 2017 including several new initiatives. Community events can be found on the City's website calendar at www.cityhpil.com. Join us in 2018 for all the fun!

Food Truck Thursdays

Ravinia District's Food Truck Thursdays, which brought thousands of people from local neighborhoods and surrounding communities for live music and al fresco dining, was a new offering in Highland Park in 2017. The event ran throughout the summer in Jens Jensen Park. The immensely popular happening will return in 2018 with additional vendors and entertainment.

Flood Relief Efforts

In 2017, the Mayor and staff met with representatives from the Lake County Stormwater Management Commission, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, neighboring communities, the Army Corps of Engineers and other entities to explore and advance flood mitigation solutions following the summer storms that devastated dozens of communities throughout Lake County.

Neighborhood Meetings

In 2017, the City hosted several neighborhood meetings with government partners (Park District of Highland Park, Highland Park Public Library, North Shore School District 112, Township High School District 113, Moraine Township, and Lake County). These meetings gave residents the opportunity to meet with elected officials and staff, ask questions, share feedback and provide input.

Website Redesign

The City launched a modernized site that makes it easier for users to access frequently requested services and information, improves navigation, better-integrates social media, and is mobile-friendly. Among several new features, is the Non-Emergency Service Request function, which allows residents to submit service requests online or through their smart phone or device.

Food Drive for Moraine Township Fire Department Blood Drives Memorial Day Observance Independence Day Parade & Fireworks Food Truck Thursdays Taste of Highland Park Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service Fire Department Pancake Breakfast and Open House Holiday Lighting Ceremony Business Summit Citizen Fire Academy Veteran's Day Observance Flood Relief Efforts Art in City Hall Citizen Police Academy Resident Photo Contest No Shave November Coal Tar Ban Highland Park Career Exploration Bike Fair Lead Testing of Public Water Fixtures Resident Fair at How-to Fest Port Clinton Art Festival Government Partner Meetings Junior Police Academy HP 150 Planning French Market Rain Barrel Program Recognition in the Illinois Local Government Best Practices Guide Website Redesign Bike Fair Mayor Clergy Meetings Domestic Violence Awareness Day Art Is Alive in Highland Park Non-Emergency Request Tracker Voice of the People Award Farmers Market

Year In Review

City Manager Ghida S. Neukirch

It's an honor to represent the City of Highland Park. I have the great privilege of working with a Mayor and City Council who set policy based on the best interest of the community, and a dedicated and professional staff of 277 employees who embrace the mission to provide fiscally responsible, high-quality services through effective, transparent and collaborative governance.

I encourage individuals to review the City's Fiscal Year 2018 budget. Within this comprehensive and user-friendly document is a wealth of information pertaining to the community, our organization, 2017 accomplishments, 2018 major initiatives, 2018 performance metrics and the City's priorities, along with the associated costs for advancing the priorities for the upcoming year and long-term.

In 2017, the City was awarded the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the 23rd year and the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the 33rd consecutive year. The Certificate is the highest recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management. The City's Aaa bond rating was also confirmed, reflecting sound fiscal management.

Highland Parkers should also be proud to have three nationally accredited departments in Police, Fire, and Public Works. The accreditation is a testament to the high caliber professionals representing our community, City operations, and our commitment to public safety.

On a regular basis, we evaluate our operations and services to ensure we are effectively and efficiently serving our community. These rigorous review processes allow the City to proactively plan future work efforts. Each year, the City also completes more than 150 major projects that are outside of our daily operations. Our website, www.cityhpil.com, lists these initiatives and others, as well as a wealth of information about the services and programs planned and currently underway.

Our community progress would not be possible without the leadership of our elected officials; the professionalism, integrity and dedication of our staff; collaboration with our public and private partners; and the public whose feedback, recommendations, and insights are greatly appreciated.

Highland Park continues to be one of the best communities in the nation because of our collective efforts. I'm blessed and honored to be part of it!

Ghida S. Neukirch
City Manager



Senior Staff

Joel Fontane, Community Development
Ramesh Kanapareddy, Public Works
Julie Logan, Finance
Dan Pease, Fire Department
Rob Sabo, Assistant City Manager
Paul Shafer, Police Department
Mark Fleischhauer, Police Department

2017 By The Numbers

233 Adopted
Ordinances and
Resolutions



4,114
Facebook likes

903

Highland Park Businesses

13

Major City
Sponsored Events



91
Press
Releases



1,755 Twitter Followers

202 Senior Programs



4,791
Building Permits Issued

12,343
Inspections Performed



20,000+
Calls for Police or Fire
Service

Three

Nationally Accredited Agencies
(Fire Department, Public Works
Department and Police Department)

143 Volunteers Serving on...

17 Commissions with...

4 Advisory Groups and...

29 Student Representatives

11,600
Linear Feet of
Sanitary Sewer
Lining

One
Newly
Designed Website



The City received over
\$1 Million in grants towards
infrastructure investment



Fiscal Stability

Public Safety

Infrastructure
Investment

Community
Vibrancy

Core Priorities

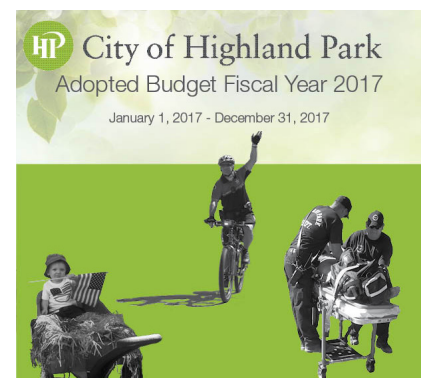
Four major priorities and organizational objectives guide the City of Highland Park's policy and direction - Fiscal Stability, Public Safety, Infrastructure Investment and Community Vibrancy. In 2017, the City completed more than 150 major projects and initiatives outside of the City's day-to-day operations that are based on the foundation of the four priorities.

Fiscal Stability

Fiscal stability is a critical component of effective City Management. The City reviews its operations, seizes opportunities to improve its financial health, and encourages development and cost-sharing opportunities to better serve the community.



Youth and Senior transportation services were merged to improve efficiency, while reducing cost. The merger entailed reducing the number of fleet vehicles allotted for each service thereby providing savings in fuel and labor. The savings allowed for the purchase of a new ADA-compliant Senior Connector bus.



The City's 2017 budget received the Government Finance Officers Association's (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Presentation Award reflecting the City's commitment to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting.

The City frequently publishes joint bids with neighboring communities to increase efficiency and share costs. The City's sewer lining program contract was bid through the Municipal Partnering Initiative (MPI). An MPI contract uses economies of scale quantities and standard specifications among participating communities to obtain cost savings and efficiency. With a competitive bidding process, the cost savings is used to increase bid quantities within the allotted budget.

Public Safety

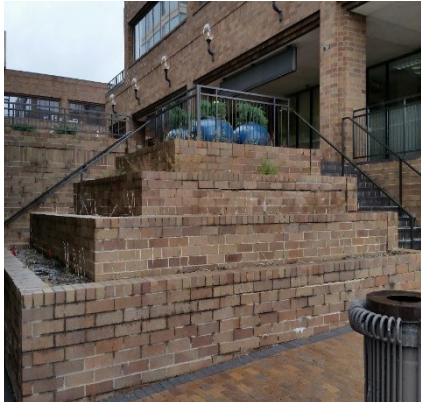
The City's nationally-accredited Police and Fire Departments are known for expedited response times and high-quality service. Both departments continue to strengthen community relations, enforce laws and provide on-going education to residents.



The Highland Park Police Department reinforced its strong community relations through the Citizens Police Academy. 17 residents completed the program, which focused on enhancing public safety, promoting public trust, and fostering mutual respect through collaboration and partnership.



The Highland Park Fire Department achieved Accredited Agency status with the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI) for the 16th year in a row. To receive this status, departments must meet the highest criteria.



The Port Clinton Place planter located on First Street, just north of the intersection at Laurel Ave. was showing signs of structural failure with poor drainage. The planter area was designed to withstand the structural load of the planting and landscaped.



Infrastructure Investment

Infrastructure investment is a key component in ensuring a community's economic growth and vitality. In 2017, the City addressed aging infrastructure by doubling our investment in our streets. The \$12 million investment in infrastructure also addressed sidewalks, water mains, sewers, and bridges.



The Ravine Dr. and Hawthorne Ln. watermain and roadway reconstruction project entailed upsizing of an aged watermain, installation of new curbs, and reconstruction of roadway.



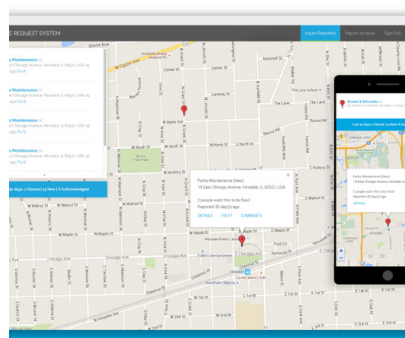
The Charal Ln. Watermain Replacement Project improved water circulation in a closed pressurized watermain distribution system, improved the storm sewer, and replaced the old concrete pavement with new asphalt.

Environmentally-sustainable strategies are actively considered in all projects.

Residents can learn about 2018 capital improvement plan progress at www.cityhpil.com/construction.



Planning for the City of Highland Park's Sesquicentennial Celebration began in 2017 with the HP 150 Idea Summit, a HP 150 logo contest, and the establishment of HP 150 Planning Committee. The City will celebrate this 150-year milestone in 2019. www.cityhpil.com/HP150



The Non-Emergency Service Request function on the City website allows residents to submit service requests online or through their smart phone. After submitting a request, residents are updated throughout the resolution process via email. www.cityhpil.com/service

Community Vibrancy

The City continued to support human services, cultural arts, and sustainability efforts within the community. Business development efforts continue to foster a thriving business community relative to the economy by providing business retention, support, and attraction efforts.

Financial Summary

Did you know?

Property taxes are levied by a number of separate taxing bodies. The City receives less than \$7 for every \$100 of your property tax bill. The City has a diversified revenue portfolio in an effort to keep property taxes low.



Revenues

In 2017, the City budgeted 15% of its total revenue from property taxes. Diversified revenue is important in ensuring a stable budget. In 2017, the City's total revenues were budgeted at \$83 million.

- 17% Other Taxes
- 16% Enterprise Revenues
- 16% Sales Tax
- 15% Property Tax
- 14% Other Revenues
- 10% Reimbursements
- 6% Sale of Assets
- 4% Bond Proceeds
- 2% Transfers

Expenditures

The City is a service-oriented organization, which is why the majority of the 2017 budgeted expenditures went toward personnel costs and contractual services. The City regularly explores opportunities to reduce costs.

- 34% Personnel Costs
- 24% Contractual Services
- 20% Capital Outlay
- 11% Transfers
- 7% Debt Service
- 3% Materials and Supplies
- 1% Reserves

Awards and Recognitions

The Government Finance Officers' Association awarded the City the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award and the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the 23rd year and the 33rd year, respectively. These are the highest recognitions in government accounting, financial reporting, and budgeting, and their attainment represent significant accomplishments by a government and its management.

Connect with the City

Highlander

The City newsletter is mailed to all Highland Park residents and businesses each month. Additional copies are available at all City facilities and on the City website.



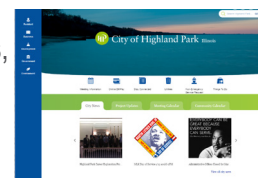
eNews

The City has three different email groups, which residents can sign up for on the City website:

- **City eNews** -sent weekly, comprised of major stories or updates and upcoming events
 - **Business Development eNews** -sent biweekly, features events and information from the business community
 - **Public Safety Alerts** -sent in critical emergency situations when the community may be at risk
- Residents can also sign up for the City's **Emergency Voice Notification System** at cityhpil.com/signup

Website

The website continues to be the primary source for the City's most up-to-date information for residents, business owners, visitors and all other stakeholders. Updates are made daily in order to provide the most up-to-date information to the public and provide transparent communication at all times.



Social Media



The City engages the community through Facebook (facebook.com/HighlandParkIL) and Twitter (@CityHPIL).

City Council Meetings

City Council Meetings are held every other week at City Hall. All meetings are open to the public. Meetings may be viewed live on Comcast Channel 10 or on the City website. Meetings are also archived on the website. Agendas for all City meetings are available at www.cityhpil.com/meetings.

Get Involved

Residents are encouraged to get involved. Residents can:

- Apply to join a City Commission, Board, or Committee
- Apply for an Educational Program (i.e. Citizen Fire or Police Academy)
- Attend City Events
- Volunteer



Questions?

City Manager's Office
847.926.1000

Finance Department
847.432.0800

After Hours Assistance

If you need to contact the City outside of business hours, call 847.432.7730 for a non-emergency situation. Always dial 911 for an emergency.

Public Works
847.432.0807

Community Development
847.432.0808 - Building
847.432.0867 - Planning

Police Department
847.432.7730

Fire Department
847.433.3110

Shop Local

DOWNTOWN HIGHLAND PARK HAS EXTRA SPARKLE
THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!

**Bright Lights, Big Fun &
BRAND NEW SHOPS**

Shop Local

NIC & ZOE | BOTANIKA | VINTAGE BLISS | ALCHEMY & CLOTH
SANCTUARY BY VINTAGE NEST | FLYING LIZARD

 City of Highland Park | www.cityhpil.com/ThingsToDo

The City of Highland Park Business Development Division markets our City to attract new businesses and visitors. In 2017, the City started an ad campaign to build awareness of the City's diverse and growing business community, with nine commercial districts. Help ensure the City maintains a vibrant business community by shopping local!

To learn more about what the City is doing to attract and retain businesses, check out the City's Business Development Strategic Plan at www.cityhpil.com/business.

