



City of Highland Park

Annual Report

2018

*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 Roter
Mayor
2015-2019

Letter from the Mayor

We achieved many milestones in 2018. In addition to enhancing our community's overall quality of life, we protected the city's on-going fiscal sustainability, invested in hundreds of infrastructure projects to improve our neighborhoods, and kept our city safe. We worked hard to advance business development, increase communications, and support human services, environmental sustainability initiatives, and cultural arts plans. My City Council colleagues and I are proud to work with City staff, government partners, residents, and local businesses focusing on issues that matter to all of us.

Recognizing that collaboration and synergies benefit the public and improve efficiencies, we continue to meet regularly with government partners, local clergy, and multiple citizen advisory task forces and community groups. Conversations result in collaboration on a multitude of initiatives that benefit our daily life, achieve synergies, and provide representative government at its best.

Notably, we finalized the sale of the Highland Park Country Club golf course to the Park District, helping them achieve an objective in their long-range plan as well as keeping an eye on using part of the land for flood mitigation. We have taken the lead working with government partners including the US Army Corp of Engineers on a long-term flood mitigation solution. With the City's assistance, North Shore School District 112 implemented new traffic plans addressing increased enrollment at its middle schools and successfully completed the addition of a road at Edgewood Middle School. Additionally, sister governments worked together to promote a culture of inclusivity, and supported human and social services.

Partnerships with our business community support our 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. We are eagerly awaiting the completion of the redevelopment of the former Highland Park Movie Theater site to help revitalize the east end of Downtown Highland Park, the addition of a new Experience Center at Ravinia Festival, and we are looking forward to a new apartment building in the Ravinia Business District.

As the New Year begins, we remain deeply committed to meeting the needs of our community now and in the future. In 2019, we head into a year's worth of celebrating Highland Park's 150th Anniversary. We invite you to join with us as we reflect on our rich history and bring the community together to celebrate our future. A number of fun, family-friendly, community-wide events and programs are planned. Thank you for being our partners and our neighbors.



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



Fiscal
Stability

Public
Safety

Community
Vibrancy

Infrastructure
Investment

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Government Structure

The City operates under the council-manager form of government that combines the strong political leadership of elected officials with the strong managerial experience of an appointed local government manager. City council appoints a professional city manager to carry out policy objectives and oversee the day-to-day operations of the City.

The City has six departments including police, fire, public works, finance, community development and the city manager's office.



Ghida Neukirch
City Manager

Proud Past, Bright Future

As we close one good year, we embark on another with a talented and professional work force and a clear mission. I take such pride in representing Highland Park as the City Manager and being part of a passionate community that continually exceeds expectations. I am fortunate to work with a Mayor and City Council who set policy based on the best interest of Highland Park, 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 2019 budget. This comprehensive, user-friendly document provides a wealth of information pertaining to the community, our organization, 2018 accomplishments, 2019 major initiatives, performance metrics, and the City's priorities.

The City boasts 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 us 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 look forward to celebrating 150 years of achievements in 2019.



Senior Staff

City Manager's Office

Assistant City Manager Rob Sabo

Community Development

Director Joel Fontane

Finance

Director Julie Logan

Fire Department

Chief Larry Amidei

Police Department

Chief Lou Jogmen

Public Works

Director Ramesh Kanapareddy





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

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.

Public Safety

Public Safety

The City's nationally-accredited Fire, Police and Public Works Departments are known for expedited response times and high-quality service. All three departments work together to strengthen community relations, provide on-going education, and improve the daily lives of residents.

Community Vibrancy

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.

Infrastructure Investment

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 addressed sidewalks, water mains, sewers, and bridges. Environmentally-sustainable strategies are actively considered in all projects. Residents can learn about 2018 capital improvement plan progress at www.cityhpil.com/construction.

Continued Regional Stormwater Management Efforts

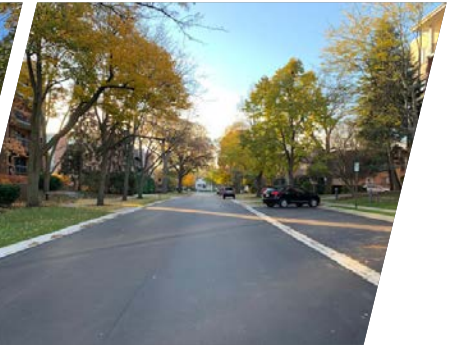
The City has been working with a number of government agencies including the US Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) on a long-term flood mitigation solution for the residents who live along the Skokie and Middle Fork Rivers. City Council approved an agreement with ACOE for a preliminary study related to regional flood mitigation solutions. The preliminary study is currently being initiated by ACOE.

**Tree City USA Growth Award and Arbor Day Event**

The City received the 2018 Growth Award from the Arbor Day Foundation in recognition of the City's innovative programs and projects. The City hosted an expanded community Arbor Day event to celebrate the achievement. The City's Forestry Section is responsible for the maintenance of about 30,000 public trees.

**2018 Asphalt Rehabilitation Program**

The Asphalt Street Rehabilitation Program is an annual program designed to extend the life of existing pavements and also provide a new, smooth riding surface for motorists. Streets are prioritized as part of the annual 5-year Capital Improvement Plan budget, based on life safety, age of infrastructure, economies of scale, functional deficiencies and with regard to the reduction of longterm expensive repairs. Learn more at www.cityhpil.com/construction.

**Sidewalk Repairs and Replacements**

The annual sidewalk repair program addresses tripping hazards and replacement of deteriorated sidewalk panels. The City maintains 120 miles of public sidewalk including walkways within Business Districts, public parking lots, and other specified areas. The City received Railroad Safety Funds through the IDOT for the construction of a new sidewalk along the north side of Clavey Road. The new sidewalk begins at Barberry Road at the west end, and continues east to the Skokie Valley Bike Path.





Highland Park Country Club

Four agreements were approved between the City and Park District finalizing the long-term future of the Highland Park Country Club (HPCC). The City will retain ownership of the HPCC building and Route 41 properties. Banquet operations and meeting room rentals at the HPCC will continue. In addition to banquet events, the City plans to move the Senior Center from its current location on Laurel Avenue to the HPCC within the next few years.



Ravinia Business District Streetscape Improvement

The City gathered input through a robust public input process that included focus groups, a public workshop, neighborhood meetings, and close coordination with the Ravinia Business District Association to establish final designs for the Ravinia Business District Streetscape Improvement project. Lighting and banner poles will be installed in the spring, 2019.



Designated Bike Friendly Community

The City has been awarded a Bicycle Friendly Community designation by the League of American Bicyclists. The League reserves this award for select communities with impressive commitments to bicycling. The City's BikeWalk HP 2030 Plan set forth actions and strategies for improving access and safety for walkers and bicyclists of all ages and abilities.



"I'll Be There For You"

The Police Department hosted its first National Night Out event, hosted "Coffee with a Cop" events, and released an incredibly popular public service video reinforcing their commitment to the community. The Police Department's increased outreach aligns with the department's mission to be involved in the community, build trust, and to always be there for residents in need.



City Financial Overview



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 24th year and the 34th 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. The City's Aaa bond rating was also confirmed, reflecting sound fiscal management.



Did you know?

The City receives less than 7 cents for every \$1 of your property tax bill.



Revenues

Diversified revenue is important in ensuring a stable budget. In 2018, the City's total revenues were budgeted at \$86 million. In 2018, the City budgeted 15% of its total revenue from property taxes.



Expenditures

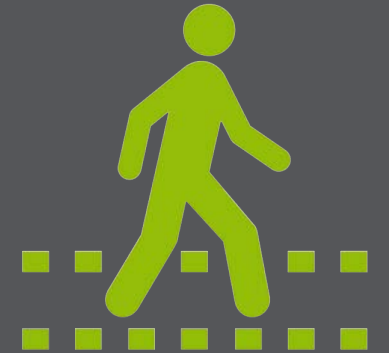
The City employees 277 employees; a 12% reduction in staffing from 2008. The City regularly explores opportunities to reduce costs and improve services.

By the Numbers

14 Major City
Sponsored Events



4,544
Facebook likes



345
Panels of Sidewalk Replaced



The City Received **25,000+**
Calls for Police or Fire Service



Approximately **30,000** Residents Served

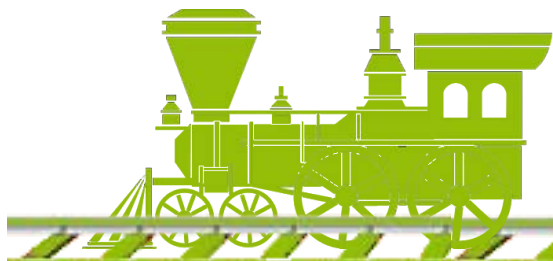


1
New
Arbor Day Event

225+ Senior Programs

874
Highland Park Businesses

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



HP150 PLANNING

Highland Park will celebrate its sesquicentennial (150th anniversary) in 2019 with highly visible special events, concerts, City tours and more. Information about the celebration can be found on the City's website at www.cityhpil.com/HP150. Join us in 2019 for all the fun!

1 Steering Committee **1 Master Plan**

9 Subcommittees

Including Communications, Art, Architecture,
Service, Commemorative Book, Big Bash,
History & Archives, Business, and Fundraising

100+ Volunteers

20 Planned Events & Initiatives



The Official Mark of the Sesquicentennial

The official mark of the sesquicentennial was released in October 2018. Aesthetic elements of the City's sesquicentennial celebration paint a picture of Highland Park's distinction by commemorating the City's past, honoring its present accomplishments, and reflecting the City's future ambitions. The archives yielded a logo used by the City in the late 60s which is historical, modern, and uniquely Highland Park.

Connect with the City

City Council Meetings

City Council Meetings, typically held the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month, 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.

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.

The City strives to continually improve and enhance communication, transparency, and accessibility. In 2018, the City sent out **89** eNewsletters, **54** press releases, 11 newsletters, and over **1000** social media posts.

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.

Questions?

City Manager's Office
847.926.1000

Finance Department
847.432.0800

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

After Hours Assistance

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

eNews

The City has three different 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 about the business community.

Public Safety Alerts -sent in critical emergency situations for public information.

Residents can also sign up for the City's Emergency Voice Notification System - a high-speed telephone communication service for emergency notifications at cityhpil.com/signup.

Want to get involved?

- Apply to join a City Commission, Board, Committee, or Advisory Group
- Apply for an Educational Program such as Citizen Fire or Police Academy
- Attend City Events
- Volunteer

Learn more at
www.cityhpil.com.

