


City of Traverse City



2010

The Performance

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Old Town Parking Deck

The City of Traverse City

GOVERNMENTAL CENTER
400 Boardman Avenue
Traverse City, MI 49684
(231) 922-4440



Office of the City Manager

Happy Holidays!

As the year is drawing to a close, it is a good time to review what has changed in 2010. It is easy to get focused on the day to day and forget to reflect on the big picture.

In the big picture, following are 100 things that have occurred in 2010. While the limit to 100 items is arbitrary, it allows a focus on the big picture. This is not intended to be a comprehensive review.

Despite the lousy economy, good things are happening in Traverse City. These successes are the result of the efforts of many, including the City Commission, City employees, members of the volunteer Boards and Commission, and the residents and businesses that call Traverse City home. To all who have helped in creating a better Traverse City, we say Thank You.

Best wishes for the Holidays and New Year! We look forward to the challenges and opportunities in 2011.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Ben Bifoss".

R. Ben Bifoss
Traverse City Manager

Increased Amenities /Community Enhancements

Celebrated the early opening of the Old Town Parking Deck on July 26, 2010, ahead of schedule, a \$10 million infrastructure investment.

Secured a \$ 50,000 grant to help pay for the engineering/design for a proposed pedestrian tunnel to the bayfront under Grandview Parkway to increase safe access.

Expanded swim areas along West Grand Traverse Bay for area residents and beachgoers to enjoy.

Adopted a Resolution in Support of U.S. Bicycle Route 35 in the City, providing a multi-state bicycle route from Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, to New Orleans, Louisiana. (photo on right)

Increased the number of bike racks for downtown use. (photo on right)

Authorized a new Clinch Park Concession/Vending Stand to include recreational opportunities/equipment (e.g. kayaks, bicycles) for beachgoers.

Installed a new boardwalk and installed large erosion control structures along Brown Bridge Pond.

Applied for a State Permit to provide neighborhood and area residents beach access to West End Beach, while maintaining the natural habitat.

Awarded a \$450,800 Natural Trust Fund Grant for the Traverse City Bayfront Plan: Clinch Park Phase. (photo below)

The Traverse City Bayfront 2010 Preliminary Engineering Plan for the nearly two miles of the bayfront was adopted. (photo below)

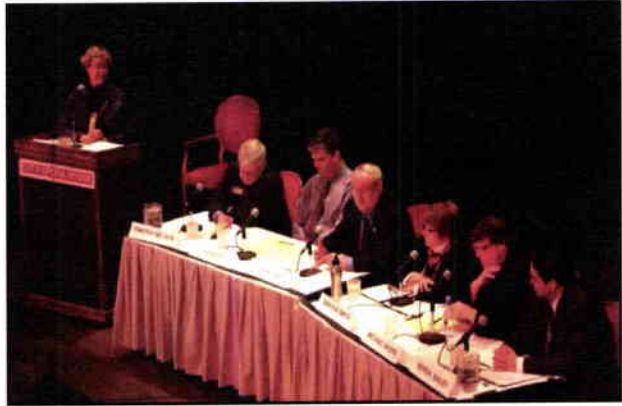


Accolades / Raising the Bar

Hosted the *Traverse City Tomorrow Event*, a special interactive event featuring a panel of local leaders sharing ideas for the future. (photo on right)

Documentarian AJ Schnack named Traverse City in the top 25 list of *Best Film Festivals for Documentaries*.

Hosted two delegations as part of the Traverse City-Koka Japan Sister City Program.



Traverse City was designated as a Tree City USA for the 21st consecutive year by The National Arbor Day Foundation.

Livability.Com, a recognized website for Discover America's Best Places to Live, ranked Traverse City as #1 in Foodie Finds-10 Surprise Food Cities.

Food and Wine Magazine featured a 4-page article on Michigan Wine Country and described Traverse City as the "hub of the wine region."

Midwest Living Magazine featured Clinch Park Beach in 2nd Place for *Our Top City Beaches* and Traverse City in 1st Place in the *Midwest's Five Top Food Towns*.

AOL Travel site featured Traverse City as one of *America's Top 10 Best Beach Towns*.

USA Today named Traverse City as one of its top 10 places for local wines.

TripAdvisor.com named Traverse City 2nd Place for "Our Top 10 Charming Small Towns" and "Top Ten Foliage Towns."



United States Coast Guard designated Traverse City as the "10th Coast Guard City" in the Nation, a highly distinguished designation approved by the United States Congress. (photo on left)

3rd year CALEA Recognition Program for the Police Department, awarded for excellence in policy and administration.

Hosted the 2010 Annual Fire Department Open House with over 800 attendees.

Bon Appetit on Yahoo Shine named Traverse City within the top 5 of *America's Foodiest Towns 2010*, inspired culinary culture.

Hosted The 12th Annual Citizens' Law Enforcement Academy, an eight-week academy held by the Police Department, where citizens see operations first hand.

Honored by the U of M-Dearborn iLabs as a Star Community in the 2010 eCities Project .

Wastewater Trade Magazine featured the MSU study of Traverse City Wastewater Treatment Plant's effectiveness at removing viruses.

Securing Our Future

Awarded a \$1 million Great Lakes Fisheries Grant to help finance the Brown Bridge Dam removal and restore trout stream, wetlands, and habitat— years ahead of schedule.

Working collaboratively with Grand Traverse County, received voter approval for equitable funding for Senior Center services. (photo on right)



Approved development agreement for new hotel along Grandview Parkway resulting in an investment of \$13 million.

To reduce environmental impact, banned the use or purchase of bottled water for City-sponsored events, except for emergencies.

Completed a two-year study determining that the count of protozoans in the City's water source is extremely low.

Fourth consecutive year in reducing electrical consumption and carbon footprint at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Completed Signage, Pavement Marking and Signal Case Sign (illuminated signs) LED Conversion Project in 27 locations citywide, with approximately 98% of project cost to be paid by federal funds.

Secured \$33,000 energy grant to reduce electric consumption for the Wastewater Treatment Plant.



Received a \$90,000 energy efficiency block grant to upgrade lights and increase mechanical efficiencies to reduce environmental impact at various City facilities.

Installed solar panels to the new Old Town Parking Deck to offset costs and reduce electrical consumption. (photo on left)

Utilizing a specially-trained canine, conducted detection efforts for E-coli and detergents in the City's stormwater system, as a result of hosting "Environmental Canine Services."

Teamed with local non-profit groups applying for a BetterBuildings for Michigan Grant of \$157,000 for energy efficiency audits and retrofits for residential homes.

With collaborative efforts, the Boardman River Dam Project secured an additional \$1 million in funding for the dam removal project.

Tax abatement approved for local industry to expand into the aerospace, defense, and oil and gas industries retaining local jobs, receiving a \$750,000 Community Development Block Grant.

Securing Our Future (continued)

Continued partnership with The Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay to monitor and explore methods to improve beach water quality.

Protected beaches by coordinating with groups preventing invasive species, funded by grant monies.

Formed collaborative relationship with Garfield Township for administering tax appeals, a savings to taxpayers.

Infrastructure Investments

Awarded a \$1.85 million Critical Bridge Funding Grant for Eighth Street Bridge rehabilitation and Front Street Bridge replacement.

Completed the Eighth Street Reconstruction Project, an \$875,000 major project including watermain and sewer replacement and secured grants to pay a substantial portion of the project.

Completed a \$137,000 sanitary sewer replacement project along Kelley Street.

Invested over \$144,000 in citywide sidewalk replacements.



Invested \$18,000 in repairs to surfaces, curbs, and sidewalks within public parking lots. (photo on left)

Completed the 2010 Fitzhugh Drive Check Valve By-Pass Project in the amount of \$19,000 to improve water pressure.

Completed Boardman Lake Trail extension to Eighth Street.

Reroofed the Public Services Facility and a portion of the Water Treatment Plant.

City Commission amended the Infrastructure Policy to increase City's share of alley paving to 50% to stimulate property owner requests for alley paving.

Planted over 160 trees to replace or supplement existing impressive inventory of trees in the cemetery and parks and along streets.

Invested over \$715,000 in street reconstruction, alley paving, and curbs and gutters. (photo below)

Before



After



Governance

Enacted a Non-Discrimination ordinance which prohibits discrimination in areas of employment, housing, public accommodations, and other practices.

With Garfield Township, adopted the Grand Traverse Commons Master Plan to guide the future of the Grand Traverse Commons. (photo on right)



Enacted specific zoning regulations to balance the rights of citizens and desire to regulate activities allowed under the Michigan Medical Marihuana Act.

Adopted a revised Tax Abatement Policy to ensure satisfaction of job and investment commitments made.

Regional Water System Master Plan finalized, guiding water system improvements for the next 20 years.

Administered two major elections.

City of Traverse City assisted the Great Start Collaborative in mock voting precincts and registration to "get young families out to vote."

Implemented tax assessment information and mapping link for ease of public access to important and current property information.



City Commission finalized various labor agreements to maintain service levels and manage costs.

Developed a new five-year Parks and Recreation Plan. (photo on left)

Appointed over 43 volunteers to serve on various City boards and committees.

Reestablished Division Street Steering Committee to continue the public process and to continue developing strategies for Division Street Corridor improvements.

Renewed contract with Grand Traverse County to continue code inspection services within the City for efficiency and cost control.

Increased amount of budget detail in the annual budget process to increase transparency of City operations.

City officials and staff presented projects and ideas for neighborhood input through the Neighborhood Liaison Program.

Operations

Fire Department responded to over 2,500 emergency calls. (photo on right)

The City-County Day Camp Program was a great success with a full camp most of the summer providing care and fun for the 10-week program.

Received \$100,000 grant for five City Neighborhood Corridor Revitalization Plans including East and West Front Streets, Garfield Avenue, 8th Street and 14th Street.

Upgraded 280 residential water service meters and 44 residential service connections.

Maintained safety and continued public utility service through a major wind storm, providing a supplemental brush pickup program to assist citizens in cleanup.

Cleaned 14.4 miles of sanitary sewer mains.



Treated 1.57 billion gallons of wastewater, continuing 100% compliance with environmental regulations. (photo on left)

Treated 1.8 billion gallons of water for consumption by the City and surrounding townships.

Flushed and flow-tested 1,217 fire hydrants.

For ease of use for the utility customers, approved services and software upgrade to accommodate new online access for utility accounts and credit card transactions.

Televised over 100 City Commission and other Commission/Board meetings live to promote public awareness and involvement.

Contracted professional diver team to inspect and remove zebra mussel encrustation from Water Plant intake to increase Water Plant operational efficiency.

Responded to 1,470 water service calls.

Secured over \$80,000 in grants to continue services such as a tracking and narcotics police dog, Traverse Narcotics Team, Underage Drinking Enforcement and police computer upgrades. (photo on right)

Transferred operations and maintenance of the street lighting system within the City to Traverse City Light and Power to help offset costs.



Operations (continued)

Issued 262 right of way permits, 42 soil erosion permits, 35 storm water run off control permits and 151 land use permits.

Six years of operating with original Wastewater Treatment Plant membrane modules (significant equipment) enabling cancellation of the maintenance contract resulting in major cost savings.



Two new sections of Oakwood Cemetery are now available to the public. (photo on left)

Conducted annual assessment review of approximately 8,500 parcels.

The Duncan L. Clinch Marina accommodated 833 boats for a total of 5,794 overnight stays.

Facilitated over 50 official City Commission meetings.

Audited and approved over \$210 million in insurance coverages from outside entities to protect the City's financial position and operations.

Smooth relocation and re-configuration of Public, Education and Government (PEG) channels insuring the public's access to vital programming.

Picked up 12,845 yards of leaves, converted them to 5,100 yards of compost, and picked up 675 tons of waste from Spring Cleanup.

Deregulated various commercial activities, which are archaic or regulated by other agencies, state statutes and ordinances.

In the spirit of celebration, assisted community events, such as the New Year's Eve Cherry Ball Drop , 2010 Cherry Capital Winter WonderFest in February, Paella in the Park, Bicycle Fest and many more. (photo on right)

Various City employees volunteered for CPR/First Aid training, along with various community activities.

Approved Amendment to the Brownfield Plan for the Boardman Lake Avenue and the Pathway for Trail System around Boardman Lake.

Implemented a pilot program transferring Hickory Hills Ski operation to the Grand Traverse Ski Club to offset costs.

Police Department active member of AAA Traffic Safety Committee, aimed at reducing traffic crashes, personal injury, and property damage.



DIRECTORY OF OFFICIALS - 2010

City Commission

Mayor Christopher M. Bzdok
Mayor Pro Tem Ralph Soffredine
Commissioner Jody A. Bergman
Commissioner Barbara D. Budros
Commissioner James Carruthers
Commissioner Michael J. Gillman
Commissioner MaryAnn Moore

City Officials

City Manager	R. Ben Bifoss
City Attorney	Karrie A. Zeits
City Assessor	Debra L. Chavez
City Clerk	Debra A. Curtiss
City Engineer	Timothy J. Lodge
City Treasurer	William E. Twietmeyer
Fire Chief	James Tuller
Police Chief	Michael Warren
Planning Director	Russell A. Soyring
Public Services Director	Robert Cole
DDA Executive Director	Bryan Crough
Light and Power Executive Director	Ed Rice



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EXPECT
THE
UNEXPECTED!



DOWNTOWN TRAVERSE CITY
Warehouse
DISTRICT



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