

City of Traverse City 2019 Performance

A reflection of the highlights and accomplishments of the past year.

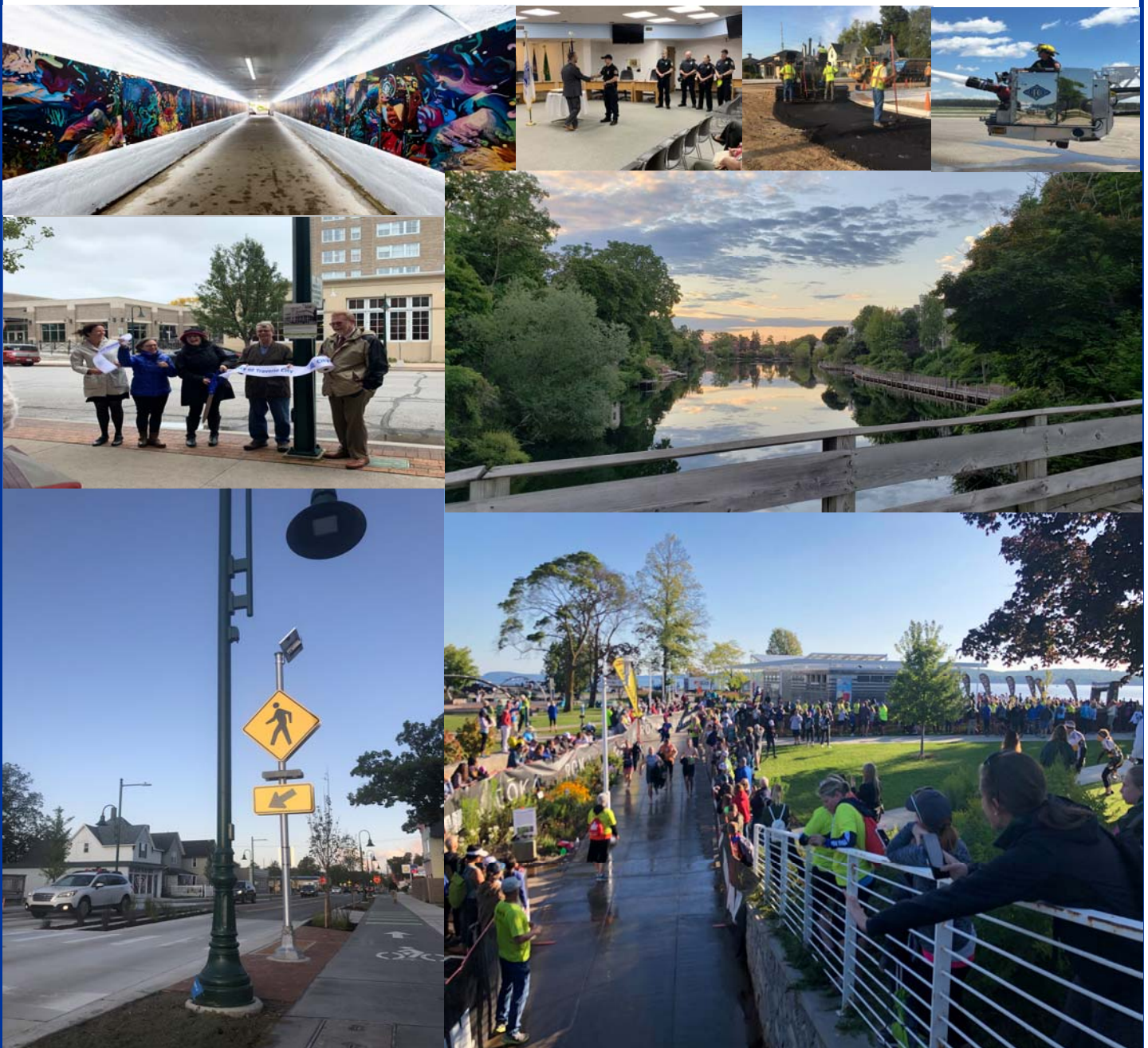


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Welcome, 2020!



2019 was another exciting and progressive year for the City of Traverse City. Our continued support and effort from our staff, volunteer board and committee members, non-profit groups, local companies and businesses, and of course community members has made for another amazing year in a City that continues to grow and serve its residents.

Traverse City is an ever evolving community; and as such we focus on projects to help build and better our area. This year the transformative reconstruction of Eighth Street was a major effort to aid our residents in transit. Several sidewalks and utilities were also improved, and plans were made for future improvements.

We are sure the new year will show us even more exciting progress, and we welcome 2020 with enthusiasm. Thank you all for a successful 2019!

Marty Colburn
City Manager

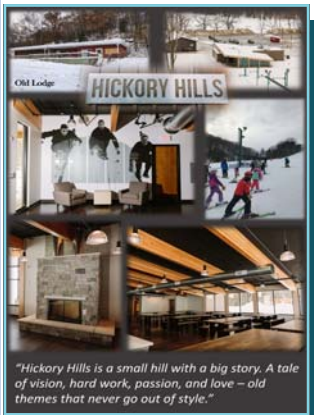
Jim Carruthers
Mayor

Funding our Future: How Grants help shape our community

- **The City received a grant** from DTE Energy and ReLeaf of Michigan **to plant trees** with volunteers from TCAPS, the DNR, the US Forest Service, the US Coast Guard, the Grand Traverse Conservation District, FoodCorps and AmeriCorps.
- The Consumers Energy Foundation awarded **Preserve Hickory with a \$30,000 Grant** for improvements toward the Hickory Hills Ski Area. The lodge has so far received major upgrades including new kitchen equipment, furnishings, racks and seating that will



provide years of enjoyment for patrons.



- **The City of Traverse City was awarded a \$540,000 grant from the Highway Safety Improvement Program** toward creating a roundabout at Parsons Road, adding ramps compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act, crosswalks, sidewalk and more.
- **The Great Lakes Fishery Trust awarded a \$100,000 grant toward the Kids Creek Stream Corridor Restoration Project.**
- An anonymous donor donated funds for a **new explosives detection K-9 dog** complete with ballistic vest.
- In conjunction with Grand Traverse County, **a grant for \$300,000 was received from the Michigan DNR for**

completion of the Boardman Lake Loop Trail for items such a pedestrian bridge, lighting, landscaping, benches, signage, access pathway and shoreline stabilization.

- The Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians **awarded a \$43,755 grant for the Clinch Park Tunnel Mural** project to the Arts Commission.
- A grant from The Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians made possible the purchase of a TruNarc handheld narcotics analyzer for the City Police Department. Sergeants and Crime Scene Technicians have become certified to use this important device, **which protects our Police Officers from coming into contact with lethal drugs.**
- The Downtown Development Authority was **awarded a \$15,000 SEED grant from Rotary Charities** for the Lower Boardman River Leadership Team.
- Through a federal grant provided by the Michigan Bureau of Fire Services, and Michigan State Fire Marshal's Office, the Fire Department **installed over 300 smoke alarms and over 50 carbon monoxide alarms at no cost to residents.**



Community Enhancements

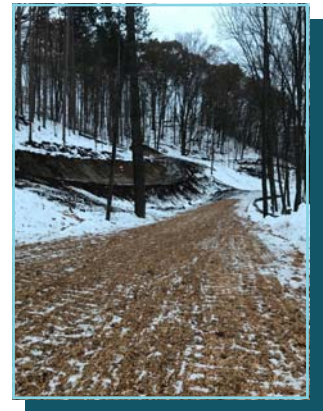
- A new **pedestrian bridge** was constructed at the Brown Bridge Quiet Area to connect the recreational trail system.



- Parking Services funded **multiple bus shelters throughout the City** and installed a **covered bike shelter and bike fix-it station** at the Hardy Parking Garage.
- Funds were designated for improvement of **Hannah Park**, including upgrades to the pedestrian/bicycle path, installation of a paver system near the Perry Hannah statue, and an irrigation system for part of the park.

Four Police Interceptor Hybrid Vehicles, a low emission street sweeper, three clean diesel zero turn mowers, two low emission diesel plow/dump trucks, a hybrid large loader, two clean diesel medium loaders, and three low emission clean diesel trackless snow blowers were purchased in keeping with the **City's commitment to environmental sensitivity.**

- Lease agreements were authorized for J&S Hamburg, Sparks BBQ, and The Workshop Brewing Company for **outdoor dining purposes on City property, adding to the vibrancy of and activating our street scene.**
- The Arts Commission collaborated with the Michigan Legacy Art Park to install **four sculptures along the TART Trail. The sculptures are on loan for two years.**
- The Traverse City Arts Commission worked with the Traverse Historical Society and the Traverse Area District Library to install the Then & Now Project; a series of 10 plaques **showing photos of the landscape in the early days of Traverse City beside photos of the current scene.**



- An 18 hole disc golf course was designed, constructed, and open for play in Summer of 2019 at Hickory Hills South.
- Improvements were made on the **Hickory Hills Nordic Trail**, allowing the hosting of National Qualifier events.
 - The Municipal Utilities Department **installed over 5,200 new water meters for City water customers** as part of the ongoing Automated Metering Infrastructure project, which will provide an energy consumption dashboard for customers, thus **promoting energy conservation.**
- The Downtown Traverse City Association hosted over 20 community events, and Shop Your Community **donated over \$26,000 back to local charities.**

Infrastructure Investments

- More than 1.5 miles of new sidewalk were constructed as part of the Sidewalk Gap Infill Project, as a continuation of the **City's efforts to increase our pedestrian friendliness.**
- Thanks to the Sidewalk Preservation Project, **over 44,000 square feet of sidewalks in poor condition were replaced.**
- Over 5,525 tons of asphalt were placed on city streets and roadways during the 2019 construction season in an effort to **maintain and extend the life of our street network.**
- A four million gallon water reservoir on Barlow was rehabilitated; **ensuring availability of drinking water for City residents,** and an additional two million gallon water reservoir was constructed.
- Professional design services for a new Senior Center were engaged **to help shape future plans for a new Senior Center building.**



- **The Streets**

Department re-paved sections of Fitzhugh Dr., Barlow St., and 10th Street, **using in-house resources.**

- **638 street signs were replaced** for reflectivity and effectiveness.
- 540 catch basins were cleaned this year, **to protect our watershed.**
- The City **reconstructed Eighth Street between Boardman Avenue and Woodmere Avenue.**

Construction lasted from May through October, and

included the replacement of a water transmission line along 8th and Franklin Streets.

- A high service pump was rebuilt and a variable frequency drive was installed on a motor at the Water Treatment Plant **to help reduce energy costs and ensure the reliability of the water distribution system.**
- Traverse City Light and Power completed a half million dollar project rebuilding a mile of 3 phase overhead line along East Bay Boulevard and Eastern Avenue, to **provide better reliability at the base of Old Mission peninsula for the Water Treatment Plant, schools, and residents.**
- The Traverse City Fire Department replaced two gas powered positive pressure ventilation fans with high performance electric fans to be used during fire attack and post-fire extinguishment operations. **They also clear structures of carbon monoxide and other hazardous gasses.**



Governance

- Duncan L. Clinch Marina was re-certified as a State Clean Marina, **certifying the city's practices of operating the marina are environmentally sound and protect water quality.**
- The City went from printed paper agendas to digital format for Commission and several boards, **saving approximately 40,000 sheets of paper annually, and improving transparency.**
- PILOT (Payment in lieu of taxes) programs are in process for housing developments, which will help **create affordable workforce housing for the area.**
- The City electorate approved Proposal 1, **which allows for the improvement of smaller neighborhood parks and the acquisition of new parks, a benefit to the residents of the City,** made possible by being authorized to use Brown Bridge Trust Fund dollars. The proposal passed overwhelmingly.
- The City Police Reserve Unit logged **1800 hours of volunteer service for 2019.** The Reserve Unit offers assistance to certified police officers.
- The Landscaping and Trees Ordinance Amendment was enacted to provide standards that will help the Traverse City area's urban tree canopy **be protected and prosper into the future.**
- Thanks to a partnership with National Take Back Prescription Drug Day, **over 3,000 lbs. of discarded medications were properly destroyed** from the "POD" in the lobby of the Dennis Finch Law Enforcement Center. This "POD" is available for public dropoff of medications Monday—Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Implemented Guardian Tracking and Statistical Analysis system to aid in tracking various activities and providing input and feedback via access throughout the Police Department. This system allows for **more efficient management** of cases, including progress tracking, and provides accurate, real-time information.
- The City Clerk's Office held a lottery for provisional licenses for 13 Medical Marijuana Provisioning Centers, **so medicine can be provided to patients locally and throughout the region.**
- The Downtown Development Authority entered into an inter-governmental agreement to **provide staff services to the Arts Commission and Art Selection Panel, leveraging their talents for a city-wide program.**
- A resolution was adopted in partnership with Grand Traverse County authorizing the refinancing of Traverse City Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Refunding Bonds, **saving approximately \$80,000 in interest over 3 years.**
- Several public input meetings were held in regard to the FishPass project, which will **optimize various sorting technologies and techniques below the barrier to maximize efficiency of passing desirable fishes and removing invasive fishes.**
- The Downtown Development Authority, Traverse City Parking Services and the Downtown Traverse City Association launched separate websites in an effort to be **more user-friendly and communicate projects more efficiently.**

City Operations

- As the source for hydration and water for Traverse City and our surrounding townships, the Water Treatment Plant treated and provided over **1.975 billion gallons of quality drinking water**.
- The Traverse City Police Department retired explosive detecting K-9 Luk after **8 years of dedicated service**.
- **More than 15,000 skiers visited Hickory Hills** during the 2018-2019 winter season.
- Traverse City hosted the Ironman 70.3 Triathlon for the first time. **Nearly 2,500 competitors from around the world ran, biked and swam in Traverse City and surrounding areas** to compete for the Ironman title.
- The City Clerk's Office issued **over 200 new and renewal vacation home licenses, over 90 tourist home licenses, 25 new and redevelopment liquor licenses, and nearly 50 special event permits**, among various other licenses and permits.
- Oakwood Cemetery was honored to receive the remains of **Army Corporal Charles Lawler, who was killed in the Korean War and returned to the United States**. Several members of the community attended the burial service in July of 2019.
- City Planning and Engineering Departments hosted a public input session for Safe Routes to School, which **invited the community to view the proposed sidewalk plans** anticipated for construction in 2020.
- A public open house for the Street Design Manual draft was hosted by City Planning and Engineering Departments, where **community members were invited to comment and provide valuable feedback on their neighborhoods** and what features they would like to see in their streets and walkways.
- Oakwood Cemetery performed nearly 130 services.
- The Wastewater Treatment Plant received the Michigan Water Environment Association Large Facility Safety Award.
- The Municipal Utilities Department responded to and remedied **75 emergency sewer back up calls and 6 emergency water main breaks, as well as cleaned 12 miles of sewer pipeline**.



- The Downtown Development Authority collaborated with the City to hire **a community police officer for the Downtown area**.
- The Traverse City Fire Department hired **two Firefighter/Paramedics** for their 24 hour Suppression Crews.

Securing our Future



- The City introduced an innovative program allowing employees to bring infants to the workplace **to promote employee retention.**
- The Water Treatment Plant completed testing for PFAS (Per and polyfluoroalkyl substances) with **no detection found** in samples.
- Traverse City, in collaboration with Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), installed two HAWK (High Intensity Activated crossWalk) signals in early June **to make crossing Grandview Parkway safer for all.**

Light & Power **to grow our tree population**, and on Arbor Day, when the Parks and Recreation Department also provided free native tree seedlings.

- City Parks crews pruned nearly 400 trees and removed 100 dead or diseased trees throughout the City, and over 450 trees were planted in City Parks and in City right-of-ways along streets to **expand our urban forest.**
- **Over 1,000 volunteer hours** were logged in collaboration with Parks and Recreation crews to plant trees, plant and maintain flower beds, and collect debris along the shoreline.
- The Clean Energy Financing Plan was introduced, a 0% loan (with a modest administration fee) for **energy efficient improvements**, funded with federal dollars.
- Asset management software is now in place, **maintaining and cultivating our Urban Forest**, in excess of 12,000 trees.
- The City developed an Adopt-A-Catch Basin program, an interactive program encouraging City residents to keep the catch basins on our streets clean and free of debris, **promoting a cleaner watershed.**
- Partnered with the Michigan Supreme Court, the City held a hearing at Traverse City Central High School, **giving students and our future leaders a front-row seat to the judiciary.**
- Thanks to Traverse City Light and Power's Energy Optimization program, the commercial and industrial segment **saved nearly 5 million kilowatt hours in 2019.** One of the biggest years for this program, **it reached almost 200% of its goal.**
- The Water Treatment Plant completed mandated lead and copper testing of our drinking water, with **results well below EPA action levels.**
- The Insurance Services Office, Inc., reviewed the City's readiness for response to fires, and moved the City's Public Protection Classification from a 5 to a 3, indicating **a great improvement in the preparedness to respond to fire-related emergencies.** This could result in savings on insurance premiums for the City and its residents, as many carriers factor a community's rating regarding premiums.



National Accolades

- According to The Travel magazine, we ranked #2 on the list of “Top 10 small towns in America that should be on your travel bucket list.
- Traverse City is the #1 Lake Beach Town in the US, according to Wallethub.com
- Where to Retire magazine rated us as a Top 8 place to retire.
- Where to Retire magazine also said we were a Top 8 City for Food and Wine Lovers!
- USA Today’s Money cites Traverse City in their 50 best cities to live in the US.
- Runner’s World magazine placed Traverse City among their 25 best Running Trails in the US!
- According to the Travel Channel, Traverse City is in the Top 10 Places to Visit in Michigan.
- Country Living magazine lists Traverse City as one of the Top 20 Beach Towns you NEED to visit this summer!
- Travel and Leisure magazine said we have the best 4th of July Fireworks in the State of Michigan!

Accolades at the Local Level

- Raymond Minervini, Sr. was presented with a key to the City in recognition for his vision and tenacity, which were a catalyst for restoration and transformation of the Grand Traverse Commons.



- Sally Van Vleck was presented with the 2019 Sara Hardy Humanitarian Award for her work in the areas of community resilience, non-violent communication, anti-racism, and environmental sustainability.

- The City of Traverse City’s 2019 Employee of the Year was Parks and Recreation Superintendent Derek Melville, and the 2019 Department of the year was the Treasurer’s Department. Awards were presented in January of 2020.



Directory of City Officials

City Commission

Jim Carruthers, Mayor
Amy Shamroe, Mayor Pro Tem
Brian McGillivray
Christie Minervini
Roger Putman
Ashlea Walter
Tim Werner

Michele Howard—service ended
September 2019

Richard I. Lewis—term ended
November 2019



Appointed City Officials

City Manager	Marty Colburn
City Attorney	Lauren Tribble-Laucht
City Clerk	Benjamin Marentette
City Treasurer	William E. Twietmeyer

Department Directors

Light & Power Executive Director	Tim Arends
Human Resources Director	Kristine Bosley
City Assessor	Polly Watson-Cairns
Director of Public Services	Frank Dituri
Director of Municipal Utilities	Arthur Krueger
City Engineer	Timothy Lodge
Police Chief	Jeffrey O'Brien
Planning Director	Russell Soyring
Fire Chief	James Tuller



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