



The Performance

2015



City of Traverse City



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The City of Traverse City

Office of the City Manager

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Happy New Year!

As we enter into the year 2016, the City staff and I would like to point out some of the accomplishments of 2015. It has been a year of transition, with many changes ranging from a new look on West Front Street to newly-elected Mayor Carruthers and the City Commission.

This year is ending with finishing touches of conceptual planning along Front Street to preparation of working on major corridors within the City, including 8th Street and Garfield Avenue. We look to the future by adding housing units for our new residents and growing community.

A new Arts Commission has established a plan that will lead the community into continued appreciation of the Arts. Through public and private investments, Traverse City continues with “placemaking,” establishing Traverse City as a World Class City in which you enjoy, and many of your family and friends visit every year to appreciate.

It is because and for you that the many dedicated staff members of the City serve diligently and with integrity. We appreciate so many of you who serve on the various Boards and Commissions, dedicating your time and resources to your community.

May you be blessed in the New Year, and thank you for the opportunity for all of us to serve.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marty Colburn".

Marty Colburn
City Manager

Increased Amenities / Community Enhancements:

To **construct a more pedestrian-friendly and aesthetic street design**, the City invested over \$2 Million to redevelop West Front Street.

With the help of TART Trails, **wayfinding signs were installed** along the TART to ensure proper and trouble-free directionality along the trails.

Expanded the allowable areas in the city for building of Accessory Dwelling Units, to continue growth of available housing in the area.

Held a ribbon cutting ceremony for the West End Beach Trail and Access Project, signifying the opening of the **expanded access trail to users and enhancing our trail system**.

The City and City Police Facebook pages were launched, to **ensure quick and efficient sharing of news and updates to the community**.

Authorized a Payment in Lieu of Taxes for a development on Eighth Street and Railroad, **increasing rental units for our senior population**.

Negotiated a contract for **continuous management of the Banner Program** for all City streets.



To **increase mobile payment options for parking**, entered into an agreement to offer a more efficient service to the community.

The City was **successful in its renewal as a Coast Guard City**, for our continued support the men and women of the Coast Guard, which is designated by the United States Congress.

The **Boardman Lake Trail West** was **opened to the public**, giving greater access to the trail network across the community.

120 permits were issued for new residential dwellings, **expanding community housing options** in the area.

Increased Amenities / Community Enhancements (cont):



Implemented the Resolution Banning the Possession and Consumption of Alcoholic Beverages at Clinch Park Beach, **ensuring an enjoyable experience for families at the beach.**

Restriped two portions of Cass Street in an effort to **calm traffic and create a more efficient traffic flow.**

The City **designated Jack Coppens Drive as a secondary name of Airport Access Road** in honor of the United States Coast Guard.

Installed additional Water Bottle Filling Stations throughout the Community with the help of generous sponsors **to increase reusable water bottle drinking options.**

Traverse City Light & Power achieved over 4.6 million kilowatt hour savings through its Energy Smart programs, **exceeding the state mandate by over 64%.**

Traverse City Light & Power and Cherryland Electric Coop finalized the exchange of service territory to include Hickory Hills Ski Area, **to ensure the most comprehensive coverage for City services.**

Invested over \$1 million for the design and construction for the Pine Street Pedestrian Bridge and Overhead to Underground Conversion Project, **to enhance the pedestrian walkways for citizen enjoyment.**

Securing our Future:

The Police Department received the Byrne Grant funding for **continued operation of the Traverse Narcotics Team.**

Adopted a Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan resolution, ensuring funding options in cases of natural disasters.

To keep parkland adjacent to Silver Drive natural and undeveloped, City voters authorized a conservation easement on the 3.61 acres by city-wide vote.



Securing our Future (cont):

Partnered with the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians as well as the Conservation District to plant **riparian forest buffer within the Brown Bridge Quiet Area.**

The Duncan L. Clinch Marina was designated a *Clean Marina Michigan* by various agencies including the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, **demonstrating our commitment to sound environmental practices** that enhance the water quality for the health of current and future recreation boaters.

Partnered with a local organization to update the Boardman Lake Watershed Study and Watershed Protection Plan **ensuring proper use and development of the watershed.**

Accepted a \$50,000 grant from the Michigan Municipal League for “PlacePlans” which **provided professional placemaking services** while implementing West Front Street Corridor improvements.

Updated the Freedom of Information Act Policy to align with changes in Public Act 442 of 1976, **ensuring transparency through proper release of public records.**

Accepted the DTE Energy Foundation Grant for the purchase of 80 trees, to be planted **for enhancement of environmental quality across the City.**

Adopted the Public Arts Master Plan, **to have a guiding principle for enhancing the City’s art in the public sphere.**

Actively working with Michigan Economic Development Corporation on becoming a **Redevelopment Ready Community** to position the City for more redevelopment through policy enhancements.

Governance:

The Traverse City Police Department investigated several major crimes leading to the arrest and conviction of numerous suspects, **ensuring the safety** of our Traverse City community.

Enacted the Public Arts Ordinance, establishing an Arts Commission to **oversee public art placement** in Traverse City.

Began the Adopt-A-Commissioner Youth Engagement Program, **to get students actively and positively engaged in their local government** for their lifetime.

Issued **151 various** permits and licenses throughout the calendar year to ensure proper coordination of activities, safety and



Governance (cont):

Adopted various Traffic Control Orders, **increasing public safety on our City streets.**

Reviewed and approved 45 special events in the city, **coordinating the logistics and ensuring safe events for the community.**

To **ensure compliance with ordinances aimed at preserving quality of life**, addressed over 660 code enforcement complaints.

Planned, organized, and conducted two elections, executing extensive legal and procedural requirements to **ensure proper and efficient conduct of elections.**

Approved 6 liquor licenses, **expanding economic activity in the City.**

Processed over 6,000 voter related transactions, including moves within and out-side of the City.

Organized and provided comprehensive meeting packets to facilitate over 44 official sessions of the City commission, **supporting open access and transparency of City government deliberations and decisions.**



Adopted an Accessory Dwelling Unit ordinance **to allow up to 10 accessory dwellings to be developed** within the single family zoning districts each calendar year.

Authorized purchase of a new ladder truck for use in the Fire Department to ensure **efficiency and safety while fighting fires.**

The American Planning Association recognized the City's Mobile Food Vending Ordinance **as a model ordinance for cities across the country.**

Infrastructure Investments:

Invested over \$2 million to ensure the proper pavement preservation and resurfacing of our streets **to enhance driver experience.**

Approved over \$400,000 in funds **to replace and restore sidewalks in the City**, revitalizing the appearance and use of our City sidewalks.

Infrastructure Investments (cont):

Authorized an investment of over \$2 million to **ensure proper functionality of the Wastewater Treatment Plant** by purchasing 3 new membrane trains.

Invested over \$400,000 in funds to update and replace sanitary sewer systems throughout the City.

Appropriated over \$725,000 to update and replace water distribution mains throughout the City, **improving distribution for community use.**

Sanctioned over \$200,000 to construct a maintenance building at Oakwood Cemetery to **ensure efficient and effective maintenance and preservation of the cemetery and its records.**



Invested over \$70,000 relating to the repair of the Clinch Park Shoreline, **safeguarding safety and updating the aesthetics of our shorelines for future generations.**



To enhance the reliability and quality of drinking water, the **City invested \$1,000,000 at the Water Treatment Plant for mechanical upgrades and improvements to Plant monitoring and controls.**

To further enhance the reliability of drinking water, the City invested \$45,000 to repair and refurbish two existing vertical turbine pumps.

Connected the Water Treatment Plant to the City fiber communications network and server **for security and communication reliability.**

Appropriated approximately \$1.665 million to upgrade the West Transmission Line, to ensure proper energy distribution across the City.

Operations:

Renegotiated a five-year contract extension with a single waste hauler to ensure **lower prices for the community and to minimize wear and tear on City streets.**



Negotiated contracts **working towards improvements, upgrades and maintenance** for the Wastewater Treatment Plant, all to protect the health of our water and environment.

Various City Departments teamed up together and with outside contractors to **effectively and efficiently clean up storm damage to City trees after the August 2, 2015 wind storm.**

Purchased two new snow groomers for use at Hickory Hills Ski Area, **for efficient grooming of our winter recreational areas.**

The Water Department teamed up with various local companies **to thaw numerous City customer water lines during the 2015 winter freeze** to ensure running water was readily available.

Audited and reviewed over \$500 million in required insurance policies, protecting the City's financial poise.

To increase consumer access, the **City began using an online auction service to offer for sale surplus items.**

To increase safety in our area, City Police re-structured community policing service areas **to implement team policing for 24-7 complete coverage.**



The Police Department implemented "Operation Chill" in order **to build positive relationships with the youth in our community by promoting safety.**

Conducted 17 speed studies, to accurately determine safe speed limits throughout the City.

Planted 215 new street and park trees City-wide, extending our commitment to being a natural Tree City.

Accolades / Raising the Bar:

One of the most beautiful towns in Michigan, Traverse City ranks number two on the list according to the Culture Trip.

Conde Nast Traveler magazine dubbed Traverse City as one of nineteen cities around the world as an **“up-and-coming” food scene**.

Michigan Vacation Getaway says if you’re looking for a romantic getaway, **Traverse City is a place to be for the weekend**.

Love the beach? Country Living named Traverse City as one of the twenty **most charming beach towns across America**.

The City was successful in its **26th straight renewal as a Tree City**, designated by the National Arbor Day Foundation due to its robust urban forest.

Traverse City broke into the **top 100 best small towns in the nation**, according to Livability.com.

Traverse City, according to The Daily Catch, is one of the **top ten best American beach towns to celebrate the Fourth of July**.

People Magazine and Mario Batali both agree that Traverse City is the **perfect small town to treasure for its waterfront views and flourishing food scene**.



Thrillist.com named Traverse City **one of the nine best small beer cities** that deserve national attention.

Huffintonpost.com acknowledges that Traverse City is one of the 12 **cutest small towns**.

Noted for its great destination for travelers, TheCultureTrip.com added that Traverse City is among the **10 most beautiful towns in Michigan**.

The Traverse City Parks and Recreation division was put in the spotlight for its **great attention to beautifying and maintaining our many city parks** in the September Issue of Mparks.org.

Dubbed one of the 20 Best Small Towns in America, by the Smithsonian.

The Huffington Post named Traverse **one of eleven perfect small towns to enjoy the long weekend**.

DIRECTORY OF OFFICIALS - 2015

City Commission

Mayor James Carruthers
Mayor Pro Tem Ross Richardson
Commissioner Brian Haas
Commissioner Gary L. Howe
Commissioner Richard I. Lewis
Commissioner Amy Shamroe
Commissioner Tim Werner

Mayor Michael Estes—term ending November, 2015
Mayor Pro Tem Barbara Budros—term ending November, 2015
Commissioner Jeanine Easterday—term ending November, 2015

City Officials

City Manager
City Attorney
City Clerk
City Treasurer/Finance Director

Marty Colburn
Lauren Tribble-Laucht
Benjamin C. Marentette
William E. Twietmeyer

Department Directors

City Assessor
City Engineer
Fire Chief
Police Chief
Planning Director
Public Services Director
Downtown Development Authority Executive Director
Traverse City Light and Power Executive Director

Polly Cairns
Timothy J. Lodge
James Tuller
Jeffrey O'Brien
Russell A. Soyring
David Green
Robert Bacigalupi
Timothy Arends



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