



CITY OF
TRAVERSE CITY



THE PERFORMANCE

A Year in Review

2025

TABLE OF CONTENTS

05	City Commission
06-07	Financials
08	Strategic Action Plan
09-12	Transportation & Mobility Infrastructure
13-18	Wastewater & Water Systems Infrastructure
19-24	People & Place Connections
25-26	Housing & Homelessness
27-29	Environmental Sustainability
30-31	Public Safety
32-33	Honors & Awards
34-35	This is Us

WELCOME TO THE PERFORMANCE

The City of Traverse City's annual report highlights the progress, partnerships, and purpose that shaped the past year. This year marks a defining moment in our City's history with the adoption of Traverse City's first-ever Strategic Action Plan, a community-driven roadmap grounded in extensive public input and a shared vision for our future.

Over the past year, thousands of residents, stakeholders, and partners helped articulate what matters most to our community: intentional urban design, spaces that foster connection, safer and more accessible corridors, long-term solutions to housing and childcare challenges, and a steadfast commitment to environmental sustainability. The Strategic Action Plan reflects this collective voice and provides a clear framework to guide decision-making, investment, and action in the years ahead.

Alongside this important milestone, 2025 delivered tangible accomplishments across the City. A decades-long vision became reality with the opening of the new \$10 million Senior Center, an inclusive,

environmentally sustainable, and modern facility designed to serve residents for generations to come. We continued major investments in water and sewer infrastructure to strengthen essential services, protect our watershed, and build long-term system resilience. Improvements in large parks and neighborhood parks enhanced access, amenities, and gathering spaces, while residential road reconstruction projects prioritized safety, mobility, and connectivity for all users.

These achievements reflect not only progress, but alignment between community values and City action.

Looking ahead, the City will focus on fully aligning programs, policies, and initiatives with the Strategic Action Plan to ensure our work remains intentional, transparent, and measurable. Voter approval of the 2025 Brown Bridge Trust Fund ballot proposal allows up to \$3 million to be invested in park improvements, advancing equitable access to high-quality public spaces across the City. We will also move forward with the intentional design of streets and corridors guided by the City's newly adopted Complete Streets policy, supporting safer, more inclusive, and more connected neighborhoods.

As Mayor and City Manager, we are proud of what has been accomplished and deeply grateful to the residents, community partners, City Commissioners, and dedicated City staff whose collaboration made it possible. This report reflects not only a year of progress, but a shared commitment to shaping the City with purpose and care.



Amy Shamroe
MAYOR



Benjamin Marentette
CITY MANAGER



CITY COMMISSION
2025 - 2027



Amy Shamroe
MAYOR



Laura Ness
MAYOR PRO TEM



Jackie Anderson
CITY COMMISSIONER



Lance Boehmer
CITY COMMISSIONER



Kenneth Funk
CITY COMMISSIONER



Heather Shaw
CITY COMMISSIONER



Mitchell Treadwell
CITY COMMISSIONER

The mission of the Traverse City City Commission is to guide the preservation and development of the City's infrastructure, services, and planning based on extensive participation by its citizens, coupled with the expertise of the City's staff. The Commission will both lead and serve Traverse City in developing a vision for sustainability, and the future that is rooted in the hopes and input of its citizens and organizations, as well as cooperation from surrounding units of government.

FISCAL YEAR BUDGET & CIP


The City of Traverse City’s annual budget reflects a careful balance between maintaining the core services residents rely on every day and making strategic investments that support the community’s long-term goals. From public safety and infrastructure to parks, sustainability, and technology, each budget decision is guided by fiscal responsibility, transparency, and alignment with the City’s Strategic Action Plan and City Commission priorities.

The fiscal year 2025–26 budget covers the period from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. At the center of this plan is the General Fund, the City’s primary operating fund, which supports essential services such as police and fire protection, elections, tax collection, administrative operations, parks maintenance, and planning and zoning. The accompanying chart highlights how General Fund resources are allocated across these core services.


Police makes up just over 23% of the General Fund budget, followed by transfers to other funds, including a transfer to the new EMS Fund for Fire activity and 1.000 mil for street repairs in the Street Fund & approved capital projects in the Capital Improvement Fund. These 2 items alone make up over 50% of the general fund expenditures.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PLAN


The City Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) is a six-year schedule of public service expenditures that is updated annually by City staff, and coordinated with the City Manager. The CIP does not address all of the capital expenditures for the City, but provides for large, physical improvements that are permanent in nature, including the basic facilities, services, and installations needed for the functioning of the community. These include transportation systems, utilities, municipal facilities, and other miscellaneous projects.




50
PROPOSED
PROJECTS
FY '25 - '26



\$22M
ESTIMATED
PROJECT COSTS
FY '25 - '26

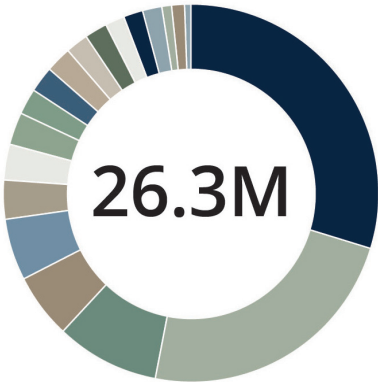


107
PROPOSED
PROJECTS
FY '25 - '31



\$136M
ESTIMATED
PROJECT COSTS
FY '25 - '31

GENERAL FUND - EXPENDITURES



TRANSFERS	\$7,831,200	29.80%
POLICE DEPARTMENT	\$6,122,200	23.30%
PARKS & RECREATION DIVISION	\$2,329,900	8.87%
ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT	\$1,455,700	5.54%
APPROPRIATIONS	\$1,409,300	5.36%
PLANNING AND ZONING DEPARTMENT	\$920,100	3.50%
CITY CLERK DEPARTMENT	\$789,300	3.00%
STREETS ADMINISTRATION DIVISION	\$703,100	2.68%
CITY TREASURER DEPARTMENT	\$620,200	2.36%
CITY MANAGER DEPARTMENT	\$589,000	2.24%
CITY ASSESSOR DEPARTMENT	\$541,500	2.06%
CITY ATTORNEY	\$534,700	2.03%
HUMAN RESOURCES FUNCTION	\$480,100	1.83%
OAKWOOD CEMETERY FUNCTION	\$473,400	1.80%
DPS DIRECTOR DEPARTMENT	\$450,500	1.71%
FACILITIES MANAGEMENT	\$377,500	1.44%
CITY COMMISSION	\$275,500	1.05%
COMMUNICATIONS	\$248,000	0.94%
CONTINGENCIES	\$125,000	0.48%

GRANTS & FUNDING AWARDED

\$3,199,039

TOTAL AWARDED

✓ \$1,248,867

TRAFFIC SIGNAL REPLACEMENTS

Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)

✓ \$30,160

STATE & LOCAL CYBERSECURITY

Michigan State Police and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

✓ \$367,861

HOUSING INITIATIVES

Community Block Development Grant

✓ \$211,276

COSSUP - COMPREHENSIVE OPIOID, STIMULANT, AND SUBSTANCE USE PROGRAM

Michigan State Police and Bureau of Justice Assistance

✓ \$250,000

PINE STREET BUILDING DEMOLITION & ABATEMENT

Grand Traverse County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority

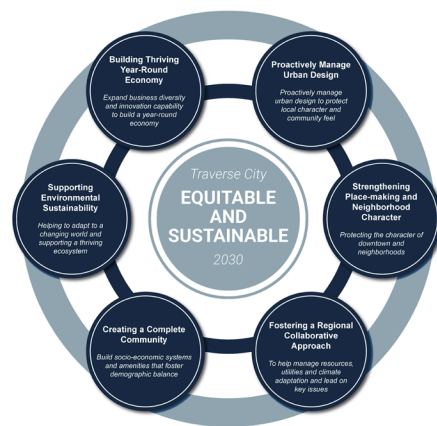
✓ \$1,090,875

GRAND TRAVERSE COMMONS WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

Grand Traverse County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority



STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN



In 2025, the City of Traverse City formally adopted its first Strategic Action Plan, marking a major milestone in aligning community priorities with long-term City decision-making. Developed through a nine-month, community-driven process that engaged more than 1,500 residents, partners, and stakeholders, the plan identifies key focus areas and actions to guide the City over the next five years.

On June 2, 2025, the City Commission unanimously adopted the Strategic Action Plan, affirming a shared commitment to a clear, values-based framework for the City's future.

Grounded entirely in community feedback—including surveys, workshops, visioning sessions, and stakeholder engagement—the plan is organized around six Strategic Pillars and 24 prioritized Action Items. Together, these priorities will guide policy direction, investment decisions, and organizational focus, reflecting community values related to urban design, housing, economic resilience, environmental stewardship, and overall livability.

LOOKING AHEAD

At its core, the Strategic Action Plan reflects a commitment to inclusive engagement, thoughtful growth, and sustainable prosperity. To move from vision to action, the City Commission has adopted a set of Objectives and Key Results (OKRs). These OKRs translate the Strategic Action Plan into clear, measurable outcomes that guide City operations, resource allocation, and performance, ensuring the community's priorities remain central to decision-making in the years ahead. The pillars, now embedded in the City's OKRs, will shape policymaking, budget decisions, and cross-departmental work plans moving forward.



TRANSPORTATION & MOBILITY INFRASTRUCTURE



In 2025, the City completed a strategically selected street reconstruction project that strengthened connections between neighborhoods while improving safety, accessibility, and long-term infrastructure performance. Guided by PASER ratings, utility needs, and the City's Mobility Action Plan, projects went beyond basic resurfacing—delivering corridor improvements that incorporated stormwater management, bicycle facilities, and pedestrian safety enhancements to better serve all users.

Looking ahead, future investments will be strategically aligned with the Strategic Action Plan and the City's new Complete Streets policy.





FOURTEENTH STREET

Cass Street → Maple Street

An in-house mill and overlay in select areas on Fourteenth Street addressed deteriorating pavement and frequent potholes, extending pavement life, and reducing maintenance needs as a short-term solution. A mill and overlay with ADA improvements is planned for 2028.



CAPE SEAL PROJECT

4 + Miles Treated Citywide

The Cape Seal treatment extended pavement life by an estimated 7–10 years on over 4 miles of City streets, improving ride quality while reducing long-term maintenance costs.

The project also included installation of new bike lanes on Carver Street, advancing the City's Vision Bike Network identified in the Mobility Action Plan. This corridor will serve as a key connection to the future east-side link of the Boardman Lake Loop Trail at the Millworks site on Sheffer Street, strengthening neighborhood and regional trail connectivity.



EASTERN AVENUE SIDEWALK

Peninsula Drive → Milliken Drive

A continuous, accessible sidewalk improving safety, and neighborhood and school route connectivity was created.



DOWNTOWN MOBILITY IMPROVEMENTS

Front Street near Railroad Avenue

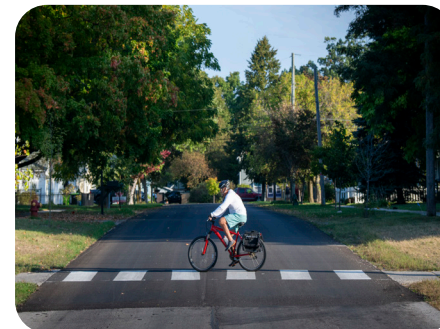
A new TART connection improved access within the regional system to Downtown Traverse City for cyclists and pedestrians.



DOWNTOWN STREET IMPROVEMENTS

Union and Cass Streets

Sections of Union and Cass Streets near E. Front Street received resurfaced treatments.



Reconstruction Projects

EAST NINTH STREET

Union Street → Cass Street



Reconstruction, new curb and asphalt, utility upgrades (water/sanitary/storm sewer), galvanized water service replacements, mobility improvements, bioswales, and parking adjustments

ELEVENTH STREET

Pine Street → Lake Avenue



Reconstruction, new curb and asphalt, utility upgrades (water/sanitary/storm sewer), galvanized water service replacements, mobility improvements, Rapid Rectangular Flashing Beacons at Union and Cass, bioswales, and parking adjustments

EAST TWELFTH STREET

Union Street → Cass Street



Reconstruction, new curb and asphalt, utility upgrades (storm sewer), galvanized water service replacements, mobility improvements, bioswales, new fire hydrants, and parking adjustments

FULTON STREET

Jefferson Avenue → Randolph Street



Reconstruction and new asphalt and curb for stormwater management

GRIFFIN STREET

Pine Street → South Union Street



Reconstruction, new asphalt, utility upgrades (water/sanitary sewer), galvanized water service replacements, mobility improvements, and new multi-use trail connection at Union

\$3.49M
INFRASTRUCTURE
INVESTMENT

LOOKING AHEAD

2026 Transportation & Mobility



In 2026, the City will continue investing in a safer, more resilient transportation system through a combination of major reconstruction, pavement preservation, and multimodal improvements.

COMPLETE STREETS POLICY

In late 2025, the Complete Streets Policy was adopted, establishing a framework to create safer, more connected, and more equitable streets for all users by prioritizing accessibility, sustainability, and non-motorized and public transportation across projects city-wide.

MONROE STREET

A key project being planned in 2026 is the \$4+ million Monroe Street reconstruction and utility upgrades (water/sewer/storm sewer), improving roadway conditions while modernizing critical underground infrastructure.

PAVEMENT PRESERVATION & CAPE SEAL

Pavement preservation efforts will include eleven cape seal projects and three mill-and-fill projects. Mill-and-fill improvements are planned for Oak Street (7th–13th Street), South Elmwood Avenue (Front–11th Streets), and Seventh Street (Elmwood–Division). All mill-and-fill locations—and six of the eleven cape seal projects—are identified on the Bike Vision Network. A buffered bike lane on the north side of East Front Street will be incorporated as part of this work. Any additional mobility enhancements will be reviewed in the future through the Complete Streets Committee.

IN-HOUSE MILL & PAVE

The City has expanded its in-house roadway capabilities using an Asphalt Zipper milling machine, which can reduce lane closures, lower reliance on contractors, and help deliver cost-effective and timely street improvements.



WASTEWATER SYSTEM & WATER INFRASTRUCTURE



In 2025, the City continued making investments in wastewater and water infrastructure to ensure reliable service, protect public health, and safeguard our waterways. Guided by long-term planning and data-driven evaluations, the City focused on reducing infiltration and inflow (I&I), modernizing aging systems, and strengthening resiliency across the network. These improvements help prevent overflows, reduce treatment costs, and ensure our wastewater and water systems remain dependable and environmentally responsible for decades to come.



Wastewater Treatment Plant

& ULTRAVIOLET DISINFECTION SYSTEM UPGRADES

A major multi-year, \$35.5 million investment began in 2025 to modernize critical infrastructure at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, which serves the City and surrounding communities.

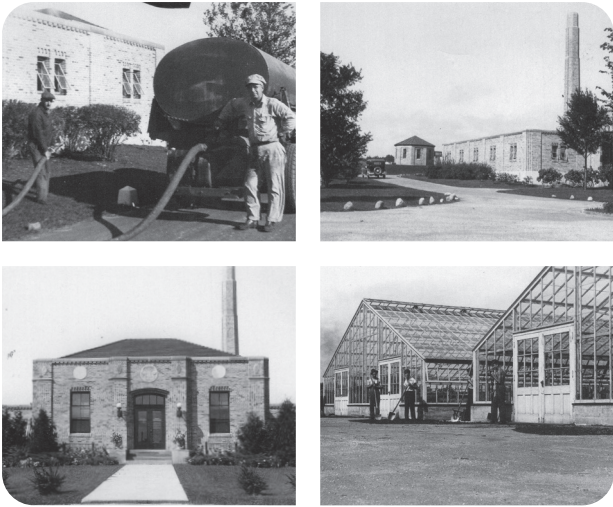
The project replaces aging components identified in a 2021 engineering study and strengthens system reliability, environmental protection, and regulatory compliance.

Key upgrades include a new headworks building with preliminary screening and grit removal, two new primary clarifiers, upgraded pumping systems, and replacement of the aging UV disinfection system. The new UV system will be elevated to protect against high-water events and uses light instead of chemicals to safely disinfect treated water.

The project is anticipated to be completed in 2028 and is funded through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, with repayment through the Sewer Fund.

2028

ANTICIPATED PROJECT COMPLETION



- ✓ **REPLACING AGING INFRASTRUCTURE**
Portions of the plant's treatment systems were originally built in the 1930s.
- ✓ **INCREASING RELIABILITY**
The new systems ensure consistent reliability during peak flow events
- ✓ **REDUCING RISK**
The new system must be elevated to prevent damage
- ✓ **ENSURING COMPLIANCE**
Current infrastructure is reaching end of life and under an Administrative Consent Order (ACO) from EGLE



\$35.5M
INFRASTRUCTURE
INVESTMENT

1
Grand Traverse Commons Water
System Upgrade

223
Galvanized Water Service Lines
Replaced in 2025

546
Galvanized Water Service Lines
Replaced Since 2023

9,000
Feet of Sanitary Sewer
Rehabilitated

\$50+ M
Water & Sewer Infrastructure
Improvement Investments

GT COMMONS WATER SYSTEM

- Major water system improvements advanced in 2025 at the Grand Traverse Commons campus
- Enhances water pressure, fire flow, and long-term system reliability
- Supports City of Traverse City and Garfield Township joint facilities, serving neighboring institutions including TBA-ISD, Greenspire School, and the Cathedral Barns
- \$1.1 million funded through the Water Fund, reimbursed by the Grand Traverse County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority

WATER SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT

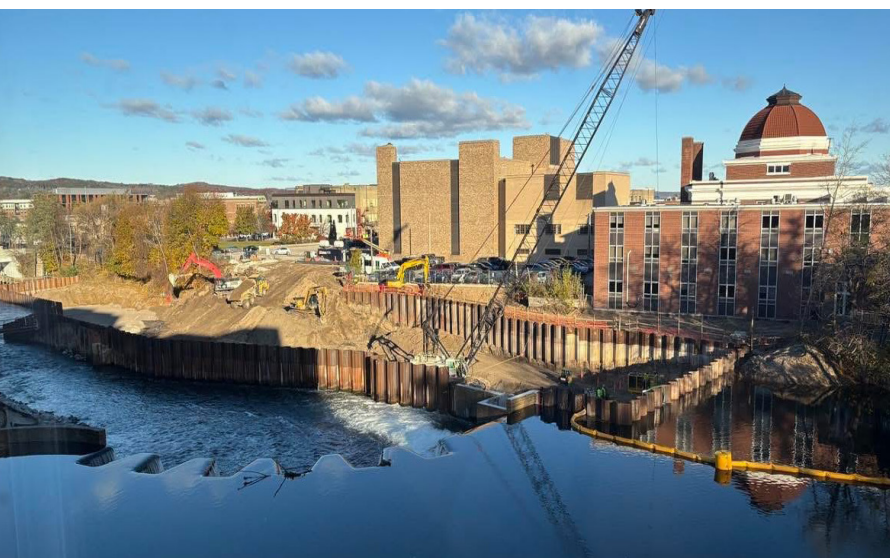
- Program addresses galvanized lines that meet replacement criteria required under Michigan's Lead and Copper Rule
- City has no known fully lead service lines
- 223 service lines replaced in 2025
- 546 galvanized service lines replaced since 2023
- \$5 million over three years funded through State Revolving Fund loans and state and federal grants

WEST SIDE SANITARY SEWER REHABILITATION

- Focused on reducing infiltration and inflow (I&I) and modernizing aging wastewater infrastructure
- Project extends system life by decades and lowers long-term treatment costs
- First five feet of private sewer laterals lined to reduce groundwater intrusion
- Approximately 9,000 feet of aging clay sewer mains rehabilitated, including a Downtown segment
- \$1.2 million investment funded through the City's Sewer Fund

SANITARY SEWER EVALUATION STUDY

- Field work uses smoke testing, dye testing, CCTV inspections, and field assessments continued on the west side of the City
- Identifies sources of stormwater and groundwater entering the sanitary sewer system
- Helps identify infiltration and inflow (I&I) areas
- Guides future sewer rehabilitation and targeted repairs
- Lowers the risk of sewer overflows
- \$250,000 through ARPA funds



FishPass

RECONNECTING THE BOARDMAN/OTTAWAY RIVER

In 2025, FishPass entered a pivotal new chapter as the project advanced into Phase 2, with continued focus on the construction of its critical in-stream components—including the fish passage and sorting channel. In early 2026, the project reached a major milestone, with these in-stream elements 50 percent complete. Construction remains on track for completion in 2026, with the full FishPass project anticipated to be complete in 2027.

CONSTRUCTION OVERVIEW

Phase 1: Complete

The first phase of construction completion included installation of the new arc-labyrinth weir, which serves as the modern replacement for the aging Union Street Dam. This new structure has been fully operational since June 2025.

Phase 2: Underway

Phase 2 construction is currently underway and centers on the fish sorting and passage channel, a core component of the FishPass system.

Phase 3: Ahead

The final construction phase will begin in late 2026 and will focus on upland and dry-site amenities, including a research and education building, outdoor pavilion, and native landscaping.

A REGIONAL RESTORATION EFFORT

FishPass represents the culmination of a more than 20-year restoration effort along the Boardman/Ottaway River. The project is designed to reconnect the river to Lake Michigan while preventing the upstream movement of invasive species. By replacing the obsolete Union Street Dam with an innovative, selective barrier, FishPass allows desirable native fish species to pass while blocking harmful invaders such as sea lamprey.

PARTNERSHIP AND LONG-TERM STEWARDSHIP

FishPass is the result of a long-standing partnership among local, tribal, state, and federal agencies, nonprofit organizations, and the City of Traverse City, supported by funding from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, the State of Michigan, NOAA, the Great Lakes Fishery Trust, and the Great Lakes Fishery Commission.

A Memorandum of Agreement between the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, the City of Traverse City, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and the Great Lakes Fishery Commission defines long-term roles and responsibilities, ensuring FishPass delivers lasting ecological, cultural, and community benefits.



LOOKING AHEAD

2026 Wastewater & Water System Improvements

FRONT STREET LIFT STATION AND FORCEMAIN UPGRADE

The Front Street Lift Station and Forcemain Upgrade is an \$4.68 million investment that is being planned to improve the reliability of the City's largest wastewater lift station and protect water quality. The project includes construction of a new 20-inch forcemain from the Front Street Lift Station along Wellington Street to the Wastewater Treatment Plant, upgrading aging infrastructure originally built in 1931. Once complete, the existing 16-inch forcemain will be rehabilitated in a future phase and retained as a redundant line, significantly improving system redundancy and resilience. Additional improvements include increasing the wet well storage to reduce the risk of sanitary sewer overflows and installation of a magnetic flow meter to enhance flow monitoring.

MEMBRANE REPLACEMENT REPLACEMENTS

In 2026, the City will advance a long-term membrane replacement program at the Traverse City Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant, a critical regional facility serving the City and surrounding townships. Several of the plant's eight membrane treatment units are reaching the end of their useful life, and a phased replacement strategy will ensure continued system reliability while avoiding large, single-year cost impacts.

The planned eight-year program replaces one membrane unit per year, providing predictable budgeting and protecting against future market volatility. Under the regional Water Sewer Agreement, approximately 45% of annual replacement costs will be shared by partner townships, helping reduce the impact on City ratepayers.

GALVANIZED WATER SERVICE REPLACEMENTS

In 2024, the City was awarded a \$2 million grant from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy to support continued replacements of galvanized water service lines through 2026. The program addresses galvanized lines that meet replacement criteria required under Michigan's Lead and Copper Rule.

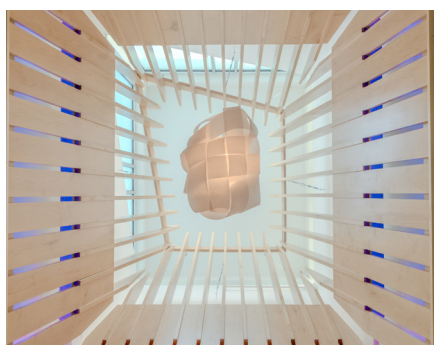
ROOTED IN COMMUNITY - PEOPLE & PLACE CONNECTIONS



In 2025, the City continued to invest in spaces and experiences that bring people together and strengthen connections to place. From the opening of the new Senior Center to targeted park improvements and expanded public art, these efforts enhanced everyday gathering spaces while celebrating the region's cultural history and identity.

Looking ahead, future investments will be guided by the Strategic Action Plan, with a focus on intentionally designing more community connection points and social spaces that serve residents of all ages—supporting a vibrant, inclusive community rooted in both people and place.





Senior Center Opens

ROOTED IN COMMUNITY

A long-awaited community vision came to life in 2025 with the opening of the new 18,000-square-foot Senior Center. Opening in February and celebrated with a Grand Opening in April, the facility marks a new era for senior recreation.

A BOLD NEW VISION FOR SENIOR ENGAGEMENT

Set along the scenic shores of West Grand Traverse Bay, the Senior Center expanded from 5,780 to more than 18,000 square feet. The re-imagined facility now offers a welcoming, modern environment for recreation, wellness, and community connection.

Modern Amenities: Commercial kitchen, updated furnishings, group fitness areas, game rooms, and multipurpose meeting spaces

Recreational Enhancements: Tennis and pickleball courts, shuffleboard, pool table, and outdoor patios

Improved Accessibility: ADA-compliant pathways, enhanced beach access, accessible restrooms, and a covered drop-off area

\$10M
INFRASTRUCTURE
& COMMUNITY
INVESTMENT

COMMUNITY DRIVEN INVESTMENT

The project vision became reality in 2022 with a \$7 million State of Michigan allocation. Construction began in September 2023, resulting in a more than \$10 million investment supported by State funding, City ARPA and local funds, the Brown Bridge Trust Fund, Friends of the Senior Center, the McCauley Trust Fund, private donations, and \$800,000 from Grand Traverse County for future operations and maintenance.

SUSTAINABILITY: FIRST OF ITS KIND IN MICHIGAN

The new Senior Center is the first clean-energy-powered community center of its kind in the State of Michigan. It serves as a model for environmentally responsible public facilities, incorporating innovative sustainable features such

Full Electrification: A fully electric design, eliminating fossil fuel use

Geothermal Heating and Cooling: Providing renewable and energy-efficient climate control

Green Roofs: Reducing stormwater runoff and improving insulation

Pervious Pavement: Supporting natural water filtration and minimizing surface runoff



Park Improvements



WEST END BEACH

New ADA-accessible restroom facilities were completed at West End Beach and the adjacent Volleyball Courts. Reconstruction of the West End parking lot was also completed following damage from high water levels in 2020. The project restored access while improving ADA accessibility and incorporating native dune grasses and natural stone.

PARK SIGNAGE

The City completed the new signage system across more than 30 parks, strengthening wayfinding, education, and park identity citywide. The project included park identification monuments, information kiosks, guide signs, trail markers, and regulatory signage—each thoughtfully scaled and designed to complement the character of individual parks.



ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS

Thanks to a generous community donor, two Mobi-Mats were installed in 2025 at Senior Center Beach and Clinch Park Beach, expanding access to the City's shoreline.

NEIGHBORHOODS PARKS

Ashton Park received a new nature-based playground built from reused Black Locust Trees removed from the Senior Center, along with improved trail connections linking the park to the Safe Routes to School sidewalk. Improvements at Jupiter Gardens included a bike fix-it station, bench, and fitness bar along the TART Trail. A covered shelter will be installed in the future.



Public Art & Cultural Markers



MURAL FESTIVAL

The Arts Commission hosted the inaugural mural festival in the North Boardman Lake District with seven murals changing the landscape of the commercial district. Mural locations include Oryana, the Filling Station, EB2 Vintage, Bay Family Vision Care, Silver Spruce Brewing, the Copy Shop, and the Box Building.

BOARDMAN LAKE TRAIL

Four Portals by Detroit-based artists Steve and Dorota Coy is part of the Arts Commission's Boardman Lake Trail Rotating Art Exhibition, which features long-term, temporary public art installations. The sculpture's vibrant portals shift in color with the changing angle of the sun. The work is located at the trailhead near Tenth Street, between Oryana and Riverine.



BOARDMAN-OTTAWA RIVER

Using his artistic talents, City DPS staff member Scott Chupp transformed a beloved cottonwood tree that was at its end of life at the mouth of the Boardman/Ottawa River into carved trout and sturgeon.

ANISHINAABE CULTURAL MARKERS

The City partnered with the Kchi Wiikwedong (Grand Traverse Bay) Anishinaabe Cultural Marker Project to install cultural markers at Clinch Park, Hannah Park, West End Beach, and the Brown Bridge Quiet Area, honoring Anishinaabe history and continued presence in the region. Clinch Park was selected due to its historical and cultural significance. The project is part of a broader regional effort in Grand Traverse and Leelanau Counties.



LOOKING AHEAD

2026 People & Place Connections

BROWN BRIDGE TRUST FUND

Voters approved a Brown Bridge Trust Fund charter amendment in November 2025, authorizing the City to invest up to \$3 million of Trust Fund principal over five years for City park capital improvements and accessibility enhancements. The project list guiding these investments was shaped through extensive public input, with an emphasis on access, usability, and broad community benefit.

Investments

- West Bay Lake Shore Stabilization: beach access, water quality, erosion
- Brown Bridge Quiet Area: Trail and trailhead development for recent land acquisition
- Hickory Hills Mountain Bike Trail Design & Development
- Park Essentials: Waste receptacles, picnic tables, benches
- Park Experiences: Playground equipment, sport amenities, interactive features, pavilions, pedestrian scale lighting
- Trees: Increased canopy and shade in parks
- Pickleball & Tennis Court Reconstruction at Slabtown Corners

Access

- Boardman Lake Loop Trail Access
- Bryant Park Access: Improved pedestrian and bicycle access
- ADA Access Improvements

FIVE YEAR PARKS MASTER PLAN

The Five-Year Parks & Recreation Master Plan, currently undergoing an update, will further inform the details of the proposed park projects. Having an approved plan is also a prerequisite for receiving critical state and federal funding—such as grants from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund and the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

DOWNTOWN PROJECTS

The Downtown Development Authority is planning to advance two transformative projects in Downtown Traverse City: Rotary Square and the Farmers Market. In 2025, a community-driven design for Rotary Square was finalized, positioning the future civic green space for possible development in 2026, while plans for the re-imagined Farmers Market include a new pavilion to enhance the vendor and customer experience and provide more potential opportunities for use of the space.



HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS



In 2025, the City of Traverse City continued advancing a coordinated, housing-first approach to addressing homelessness and housing instability—focused on safety, dignity, and long-term solutions. Working alongside regional partners, service providers, and individuals with lived experience, the City supported shelter services, permanent housing pathways, and critical community resources.



SHELTER & DAY SERVICES

In 2025, the City supported continued emergency and day shelter services by advancing year-round operations at Safe Harbor of Grand Traverse by approving an amended Special Land Use Permit. The City approved \$102,000 to ensure continued services at Jubilee House. Supportive investments ensured consistent access to overnight shelter and essential daytime services—such as showers, laundry, storage, internet access, and connections to community resources—helping meet immediate needs while supporting pathways to stable housing.

COMPASSIONATE TRANSITION AT THE PINES

In coordination with the Homelessness Collective, the Traverse City Police Department, social workers, and community providers, the City supported a phased, compassionate transition plan for individuals living at The Pines. Daily outreach and individualized transition planning focused on connecting people to shelter, healthcare, and supportive services while prioritizing safety and dignity.

COMMUNITY BLOCK DEVELOPMENT GRANT

In 2024, the City was designated as a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Entitlement Community, and began directly receiving federal funds to support affordable housing, homelessness services, and infrastructure benefiting low- and moderate-income residents.

Funding in the amount of \$294,289 supported affordable housing construction, rental assistance, shelter staffing, and community services for Goodwill Northern Michigan, Jubilee House, and Homestretch Nonprofit Housing Corporation.

\$522K
FUNDING
SUPPORT

LOOKING AHEAD

2026 Housing & Homelessness

The City will continue working with regional partners through the Homelessness Collective and Homelessness Task Force to advance coordinated, housing-first solutions and explore opportunities to better align and consolidate shelter services. These efforts prioritize data-driven decision-making, compassionate outreach, and permanent supportive housing as the path to ending chronic homelessness.

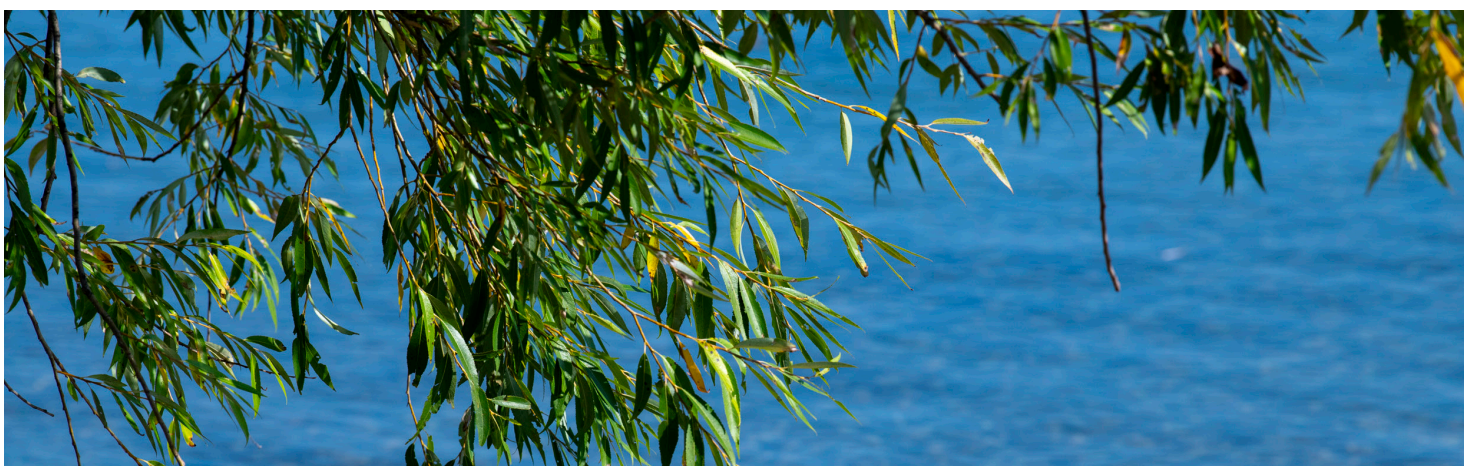
Continued funding through the federal COSSUP grant enables the Traverse City Police Department to sustain embedded social worker services and the Quick Response Team (QRT), strengthening connections to wraparound services and long-term housing stability.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY



In 2025, the City continued to advance meaningful sustainability initiatives—recognizing that small, intentional actions can add up to lasting impact. From opening the City's first fully electric Senior Center, to expanding food-waste composting, adding solar power and battery storage at a major public facility, and growing a more diverse urban tree canopy, these efforts reflect a practical, community-focused approach to environmental stewardship. Through continued collaboration with regional partners, the City is building momentum today while laying the groundwork for a more resilient, sustainable future.





YEAR ONE: COMPOST & FOOD WASTE REDUCTION PROJECT

The City's Compost & Food Waste Reduction Project completed its first year with strong participation and measurable environmental impact. Launched in partnership with SEEDS and local hauler Carter's Compost, the program diverts food scraps and organic materials from landfills and transforms them into nutrient-rich compost.

FOOD SCRAPS: 58,000 LBS
FINISHED COMPOST: 27.5 CUBIC YARDS



URBAN CANOPY: GROWING AND DIVERSIFYING

Each spring and fall, the City plants native trees across neighborhoods, parks, and public spaces to expand and diversify the urban canopy. These seasonal plantings improve air quality, strengthen climate resilience, and support local ecosystems through a more diverse, native tree population.

379
TREES & SEEDLINGS PLANTED



WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT: SOLAR & BATTERY STORAGE

The City is adding rooftop solar and battery energy storage at the Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant to reduce carbon emissions, lower energy costs, and improve operational efficiency. The system is projected to cut 350,000 pounds of carbon emissions annually and deliver \$2.4 million in lifetime utility savings.

350,000 LBS
CARBON EMISSIONS CUT ANNUALLY



ADVANCING A GREEN FLEET IN THE CITY

The City's fleet replacement program is carefully evaluated to prioritize green, electric, and hybrid vehicles and equipment whenever feasible, reducing emissions and long-term operating costs. Looking ahead, the City will work in coordination with Traverse City Light & Power to develop a more strategic, system-wide approach to its green fleet program.

7
GREEN FLEET VEHICLES & EQUIPMENT



LOOKING AHEAD

2026 Environmental Sustainability

KIDS CREEK RESTORATION

The City will advance the next phase of the Kids Creek Restoration Project by replacing the undersized Eleventh Street culvert while continuing long-standing regional partnerships to restore stream function, expand green infrastructure, protect water quality, and support the removal of Kids Creek from Michigan's Impaired Waters List.

MUNICIPAL SEPARATE STORM SEWER SYSTEM

Due to the most recent census, the City was designated as a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) community, requiring a state-issued permit and a formal stormwater management program. The City's MS4 Plan is seeking approval, and focuses on reducing pollutants in runoff through public education, runoff controls, pollution prevention, and enforcement measures, while promoting long-term water quality and community stewardship.

RIPARIAN BUFFER REGULATIONS

Following internal review, staff prepared draft riparian buffer regulations and presented them to the Riparian Buffer Committee, which requested revisions and a mapping tool to better evaluate real-world impacts. Additional refinements were completed by year's end, including development of an initial GIS-based mapping platform to support broader review. In 2026, the Planning Commission will prioritize final review and consideration of the proposed regulations.



TRAVERSE CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

Emergency Response & EMS Transport Transition



EMERGENCY RESPONSE & READINESS

TCFD responded to 4,094 calls for service in 2025—a 14% increase from 2024—meeting rising demand with professionalism and skill.



FIRE & EMS FIRST RESPONSE

Firefighter-paramedics provide integrated fire and medical response, answering every call with advanced training, compassion, and care.



EMS PRIMARY TRANSPORT TRANSITION

Following voter approval of a 20-year millage, the City advanced in-house EMS transport by hiring an EMS Administrator, expanding paramedic staffing, and placing two new ambulances into service.



PARTNERSHIPS & SERVICE CONTINUITY

While staffing and training are finalized, TCFD continues partnering with Mobile Medical Response to ensure uninterrupted emergency transport for the community.

TRAVERSE CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

A Community Policing Approach



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

TCPD strengthened collaboration through continued participation in the Homelessness Task Force, working with regional partners to address the root causes of public safety challenges.



EMBEDDED SUPPORT

Law-enforcement-embedded social workers and the Quick Response Team connected individuals in crisis with wraparound services, care, resources, and coordinated follow-up.



DOWNTOWN SUBSTATION

To enhance operational flexibility and improve Downtown presence, TCPD opened a Downtown Police Substation in 2025.



COMMUNITY-FOCUSED POLICING

TCPD emphasized prevention, de-escalation, and trust-based policing to support long-term community safety.

HONORS & AWARDS

THANK YOU

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

The City is supported by 20 Boards and Commissions made up of nearly 200 dedicated volunteers who generously give their time and expertise in service to the community. Their commitment, passion, and care help guide decision-making and strengthen every aspect of City government. We are deeply grateful to those who serve and share a common dedication to the community we call home.

CITY ACADEMY

Launched in 2023, City Academy is designed to educate and inspire residents about how City government works and how to engage meaningfully in civic life. The five-week program includes eight sessions held from April through May, giving participants direct access to City staff while exploring long-term planning, day-to-day operations, and opportunities for involvement. Graduates leave the program informed, empowered, and connected—many go on to serve on City boards, join community organizations, and even run for public office.

Now in its third year, City Academy continues to exceed its goals of expanding civic knowledge, strengthening community connections, and encouraging resident participation. The 2025 graduating class represented neighborhoods across the City and completed an eight-session curriculum covering municipal budgeting, elections, public safety, parks, and water infrastructure. Thank you to the City Academy Class of 2025!

Class of 2025

Marika Struik BeVier, Kelly Busley, Jim Dagwell, Paul Deyo, Margaret Garabelli, Heidi Mello, Jacob Morse, Laura Ness, Anya Nyson, Margaret Parsons, Sam Shore, Priscilla Walmsley, and Ann Wilkins



★ **2025 National Project of the Year**
SANITARY SEWER RELOCATION PROJECT
American Public Works Association

★ **2025 Project of the Year**
SANITARY SEWER RELOCATION PROJECT
Michigan Chapter of the American Public Works Association

★ **Humanitarian Business/ Organization Award**
MICHIGAN INDIAN LEGAL SERVICES & THE GRAND TRAVERSE BAND OF OTTAWA AND CHIPPEWA INDIANS
Human Rights Commission

★ **Sara Hardy Humanitarian Award**
HOLLY T. BIRD
Human Rights Commission

★ **Guardian Award**
COMMANDER KYLE T. RUSSELL
Traverse City Coast Guard Committee

★ **Gold Certification**
CITY OF TRAVERSE CITY
Michigan Green Communities Challenge

★ **TCFD Life Saving Award**
CAPTAINS: CHRIS JACKSON & ERIC JACKSON

LIEUTENANTS: TOM THOMPSON & JERRY WOJTANOWSKI

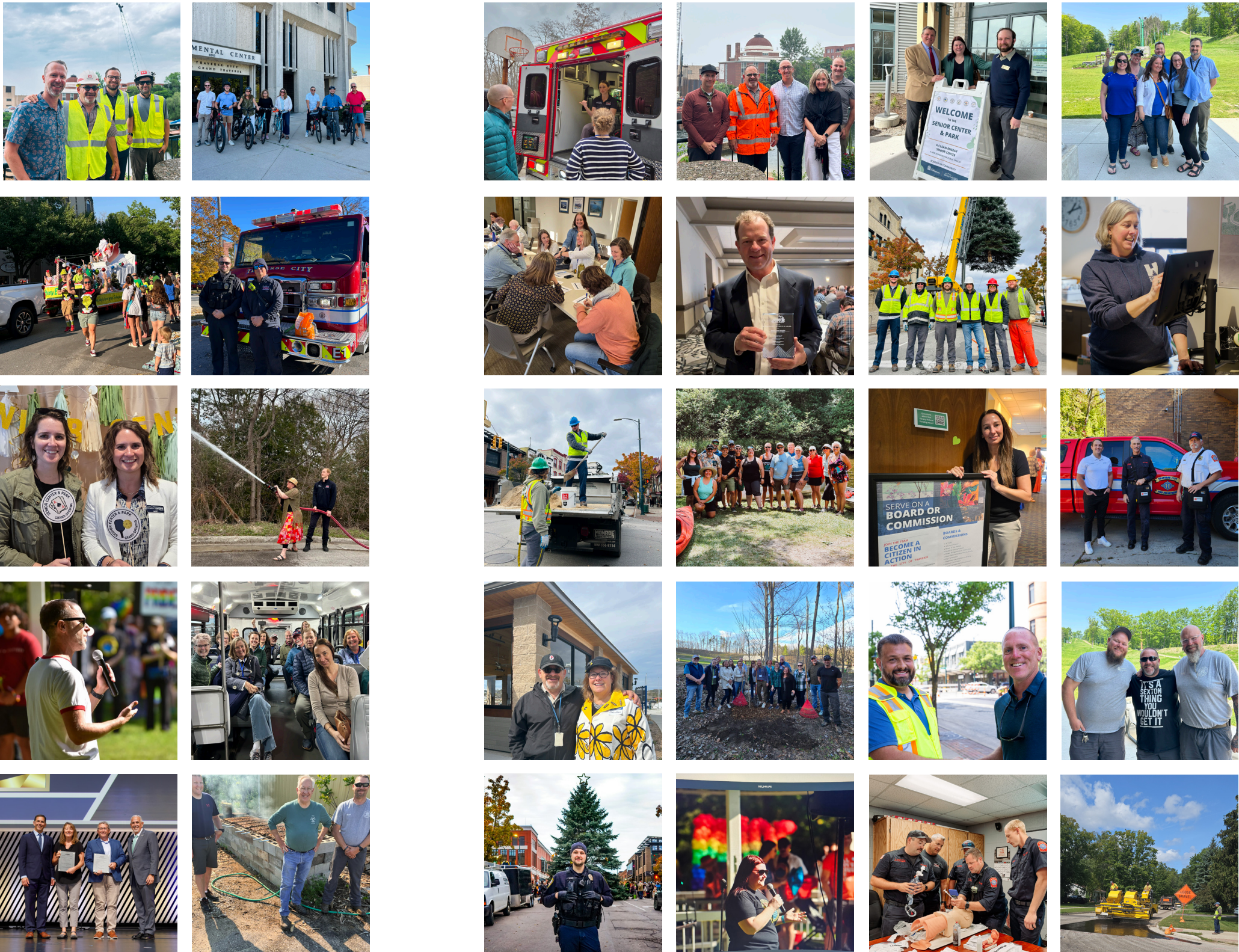
FIRE INSPECTOR: JACOB STEICHEN

FIREFIGHTERS/MEDICS: TJ TAYLOR, SPENCER DENNIS, CHAD CHINLUND, NATE MCKERCHIE, STEVEN RANG, WESTON WILLOUGHBY, & AARON SNAY

FIREFIGHTER/EMT: MICHAEL GOODMAN
Traverse City Fire Department

★ **Age Friendly Community**
CITY OF TRAVERSE CITY
American Association of Retired Persons

THIS IS US





CITY OF
TRAVERSE CITY

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