



CITY OF EVANSTON

2025 Annual Report

A year of progress, partnership, and community impact.



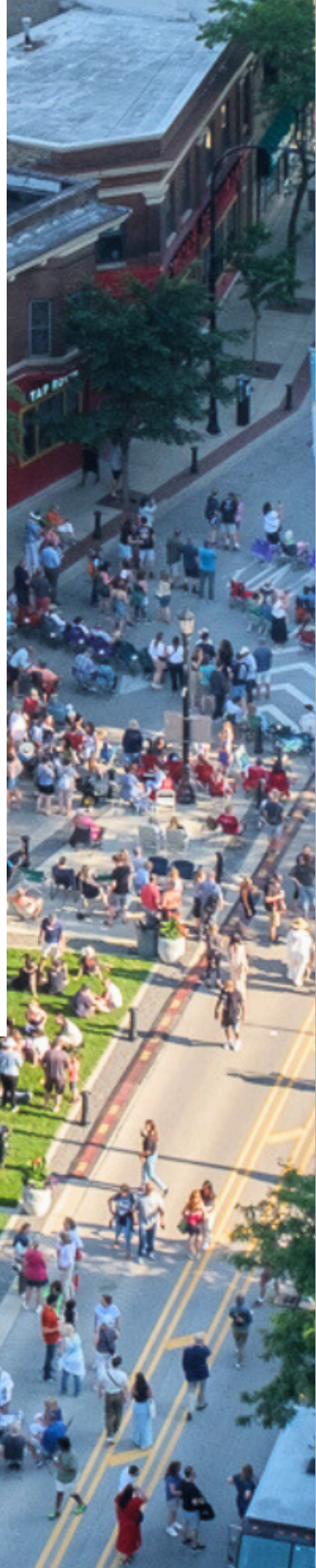
City of
Evanston™

YEAR IN REVIEW

2025 was a year of meaningful progress for the City of Evanston. Despite uncertainty at the national level, the community continued to move forward, advancing important work in housing, infrastructure, sustainability, economic development, and public safety.

In 2025, the City secured major grant funding to support affordable housing, mobility improvements, and neighborhood investment; completed the move to the new Lorraine H. Morton City Hall at 909 Davis Street; advanced critical infrastructure and public space projects; and continued leading on climate action and environmental equity. At the same time, the City supported local businesses, expanded community programs, and strengthened innovative public safety efforts through the Police, Fire, and CARE teams.

These accomplishments reflect what is possible when City staff, elected officials, community partners, and residents work together. Looking ahead, the City is dedicated to continuing to build a city that is inclusive, vibrant, and prepared for the future.



ABOUT EVANSTON

Nestled along the shores of Lake Michigan and bordering the northern edge of Chicago, Evanston is a diverse and dynamic community, blending urban vibrancy with suburban charm to create a truly unique living and working environment. Evanston is home to approximately 78,000 residents and renowned institutions such as Northwestern University and the award-winning Evanston Township High School. It is also the location of the corporate headquarters for Rotary International and the UL Research Institute. Known for its beautifully tree-lined neighborhoods, distinctive architecture, historic charm, lakefront beaches, and bustling commercial districts, Evanston's beauty and character delight visitors and residents of all ages.

The City governs a highly progressive community and takes pride in its innovative programs and initiatives, particularly its role as a national leader in discussions on racial equity, social justice, and environmental sustainability. Evanston celebrates the diversity of its opportunities and residents.

78K
Population

76
Parks

10
Business Districts

#17
Best Places to Live



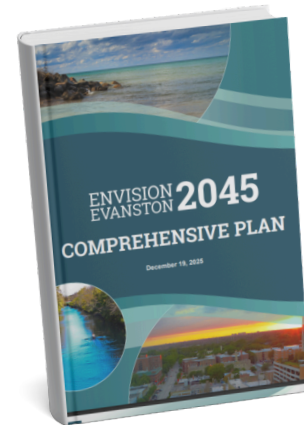
FEATURED INITIATIVES

ENVISION EVANSTON 2045 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The City continued its work on Envision Evanston 2045, a comprehensive planning process to guide the community toward a vibrant, sustainable, and inclusive future.

Envision Evanston 2045 Process

Launched in 2023, Envision Evanston 2045 is the City's long-range comprehensive planning initiative, designed to chart a course for Evanston's future over the next two decades. The process brought together residents, business owners, and community stakeholders to build a shared vision grounded in both data analysis and meaningful community engagement: surveys, workshops, pop-up events, stakeholder interviews, and expert-led studies.



After developing an initial draft in 2024, members of the City's boards, commissions, committees, and Council refined the plan in 2025 to reflect community input. The City Council adopted the final plan in early 2026. Through this collaborative approach, Envision Evanston 2045 created a roadmap that balances growth, equity, and sustainability. Next up: a zoning code update.

Strategic goals for the next two decades

Sustainable Development	Equity & Inclusion	Vibrant Neighborhoods	Smart Mobility	Community Well-Being
Balancing growth with environmental stewardship	Ensuring that all residents benefit from city services & resources	Enhancing public spaces, businesses, and cultural hubs	Expanding transportation options	Promoting social cohesion, health, and safety

CITY HALL MOVES TO DOWNTOWN EVANSTON

After more than four decades at the Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center on Ridge Avenue, the City officially relocated its municipal operations to a new downtown home at 909 Davis Street in early 2025.

Following years of discussion about the aging Civic Center building, the City Council approved a lease for office space at 909 Davis in January 2024, allowing the City to move administrative operations into a modern and more accessible downtown location. The move was phased throughout early 2025, with the Collector's Office opening first in February, followed by public-facing floors in March.

The City formally completed the move on April 1 and dedicated the newly operational Lorraine H. Morton City Hall shortly after. The new building sits steps from the Davis Street Metra and CTA Purple Line stops in the heart of downtown Evanston. It has enhanced security, improved accessibility, and proximity to the downtown district.



AWARDS & RECOGNITION

In 2025, Evanston earned local, regional, and national recognition for excellence in sustainability, public safety, data-driven governance, infrastructure, and quality of life.

Bloomberg Philanthropies What Works Cities Certification (Silver Level): The City was recognized for its strong use of data to inform policy, allocate funding, improve services, and engage residents.

Crain's Chicago Business Notable Leaders in Sustainability: Chief Sustainability & Resiliency Officer Cara Pratt was recognized for leadership in advancing a more sustainable, resilient, and equitable Evanston.

Illinois Crisis Intervention Team Department of the Year: The Evanston Police Department earned this statewide honor from the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board for outstanding crisis intervention work.

Livability & Niche Rankings: Evanston was recognized nationally for its exceptional quality of life, ranking #17 on Livability's 100 Best Places to Live and earning #1 rankings from Niche in Public Schools, Diversity, Good for Families, and Health & Wellness.

APWA Project of the Year (Structures Under \$5 Million): Evanston Skate Park was recognized by the North Suburban Branch and Chicago Metro Chapter of the American Public Works Association for its community-driven, sustainable, and equitable design.

Special Achievement Award: The Illinois Chapter of the American Council of Engineering Companies honored the Main Street Corridor Improvement Project for improving accessibility, safety, and walkability.

Climate Action Hero 2025: The City was recognized by the Climate Action Museum for leadership in climate action and sustainability initiatives.

ILACP Police Chief of the Year: Police Chief Schenita Stewart was honored for visionary leadership, community engagement, and a commitment to well-being and transparency.

Organizational Emerald Award for Climate Leadership: The City was honored by the Illinois Green Alliance for leadership in municipal climate policy, including passage of the Healthy Buildings Ordinance and adoption of the Illinois Stretch Energy Code.

GRANTS

The City was awarded a **\$10.06 million grant** from the U.S. Department of Transportation, in partnership with the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, to support the Chicago Avenue Multimodal Corridor Improvements Project.

The City received a **\$7 million PRO Housing Grant** from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Pathways to Removing Obstacles to Housing program to support affordable housing production and preservation. Evanston was one of only 18 jurisdictions nationwide selected for this competitive funding.

The City was awarded a **\$100,000 Love Your Block Grant** from the Bloomberg Center for Public Innovation to fund resident-led projects enhancing local neighborhoods across multiple wards.

The City received approximately **\$1.7 million in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) allocations** from the Department of Housing and Urban Development for public facilities, housing initiatives, and economic opportunity programs throughout the city.



2025 CITY COUNCIL



Daniel Biss
Mayor



Clare Kelly
1st Ward



Krissie Harris
2nd Ward



Shawn Iles
3rd Ward



Jonathan Nieuwsma
4th Ward



Bobby Burns
5th Ward



Thomas M. Suffredin
6th Ward



Parielle Davis
7th Ward



Matt Rodgers
8th Ward



Juan Geracaris
9th Ward



Stephanie Mendoza
City Clerk



CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

Kicked off Love Your Block: Evanston was selected as one of 16 U.S. cities to receive a Bloomberg Philanthropies Love Your Block grant, winning \$50,000 annually in 2025 and 2026 to fund resident-led neighborhood revitalization projects. In 2025, 32 projects were funded across beautification, safety, home improvements, and events.

Put Assets to Work: The City advanced its Putting Assets to Work initiative by evaluating underused properties to align public assets with community priorities, economic development, and long-term sustainability.

Enhanced immigrant resources: The City Council passed an updated Welcoming City Ordinance, making Evanston the first Illinois jurisdiction to prohibit sharing city databases with federal immigration agencies. The City also hosted "Know Your Rights" workshops and distributed printed materials to ensure that every community member understood their rights.

Embarked on a website redesign: The City began a comprehensive website redesign, prioritizing accessibility, usability, and improved digital engagement.

Economic Development

Implemented revitalization projects: Advanced \$3 million in ARPA-funded initiatives, including new business district gateways, Civic Plaza improvements, train bridge lighting, and placemaking enhancements.

Supported local businesses: Distributed grants totaling \$562,000 to 62 businesses through the Sustain Evanston, Storefront Modernization, and Entrepreneurship programs, while processing registrations for 83 new businesses.

Strengthened cultural engagement: Onboarded a new Arts & Cultural Engagement Specialist to implement the City's cultural arts workplan and coordinated with the Economic Development Committee on the 2026 work plan.

Transportation & Mobility

Expanded cycling education and access: Delivered free bilingual cycling programs, Anything But a Car Day events, and the Bicycle Access Vouchers and Earn-a-Bike pilot programs.

Influenced city mobility policy: Contributed to District 65's sustainability plan, passed Evanston's 2025 Transit Resolution, and launched the monthly Transportation and Mobility newsletter.

Finance

Earned national recognition: For the first time in City history, it received Triple Crown recognition from the Government Finance Officers Association, earning awards for excellence in financial reporting, budget presentation, and popular financial reporting.

Aligned budgets with city goals: Collaborated with City Council to adopt the FY 2026 budget, advancing priorities in housing, climate action, economic development, public safety, and health. Partnered with the Finance and Budget Committee to initiate a zero-based budgeting program for the Public Works Department.

Streamlined payments and transactions: Managed \$47 million in 35,447 transactions, processed online setup for seven departments totaling \$1.14 million, and implemented new visitor pass forms and payment tracking systems. Supported a citywide technological overhaul of cashiering systems to improve efficiency, transparency, and user experience.

Sustainability

Advanced environmental equity: Completed the community-led Environmental Equity Investigation to identify and address environmental injustices and engage residents in solutions-oriented planning.

Supported sustainability projects: Distributed \$500,000 to 34 Evanston-based organizations and awarded over \$750,000 to small businesses for sustainable transitions through the Sustain Evanston program, funding initiatives such as heat pumps, compost programs, and electrification of equipment.

Strengthened building performance: Achieved the highest-ever compliance rate for the Benchmarking Ordinance and developed a proposed Building Performance Standards program targeting the 500 largest buildings, accounting for roughly half of the city's greenhouse gas emissions.

Guided policy implementation: Launched the Healthy Buildings Accountability Board and Technical Committee to oversee equitable execution of the Healthy Buildings Ordinance.



FIRE DEPARTMENT

Enhanced apparatus and equipment: Placed Tower 22 into service, took delivery of Squad 21 through a Small Equipment Grant, and implemented new cardiac monitors on all response vehicles.

Strengthened operations and technology: Completed the department Policy Manual, transitioned to a new CAD system, and secured funding for a new RMS platform. Also awarded a Port Security Grant to purchase a new Safety and Security Vessel, bolstering lakefront response capabilities.

Invested in training and professional development: Staff completed thermal imaging training, hosted five OSFM in-house classes, and participated in the EFFTb Health Scan to support firefighter wellness. The department's Explorers program continued to mentor future firefighters.

Strengthened community engagement: Expanded involvement with the CERT team, supported the Local 742 Blood Drive, and participated in the Local 742 Coat Drive, demonstrating commitment to residents beyond emergency response.

Maintained staffing and leadership continuity: Welcomed seven new hires, added two Fire Chaplains, and ended the year fully staffed except for the Division Chief position. Marked leadership transitions, including the retirement of Deputy Chief Bill Muno and the promotion of Matt Smith to Deputy Chief.

Tracked workforce usage: Sick time increased from 7,132 hours in 2024 to 8,568 hours in 2025, while comp time rose from 3,349 to 6,377 hours. Professional development hours totaled 835.75, and mandatory hireback hours reached 1,554.75.

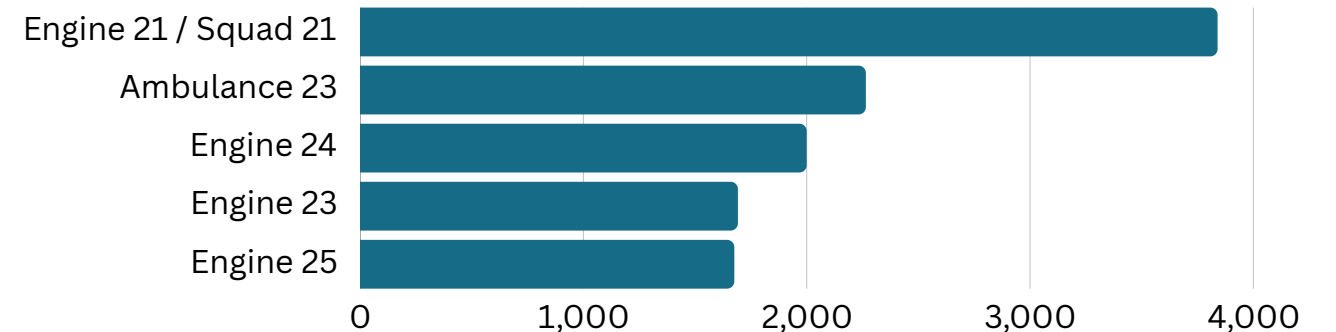
Celebrated departmental accomplishments: Successfully managed a mass casualty incident, maintained operational readiness, and demonstrated excellence through teamwork, dedication, and collaboration across all members, ensuring safety and service for the Evanston community.

BY THE NUMBERS

Emergency Response Activity Increased in 2025

Responded to **12,350** calls in 2025, reflecting a rise in service demand.

Top Responding Units



Special Incident Highlights



251

Motor Accidents



68

Cardiac Arrests



16

Working Fires



100

Special Rescues



51

Water Incidents



5

Vehicle Fires

PARKS & RECREATION

Modernized operations and digital access: Successfully launched the Amilia (SmartRec) online registration and management system in November 2025, streamlining administrative workflows, improving user experience, and reducing barriers for residents accessing programs and services.

Strengthened strategic partnerships: Formalized a Master Intergovernmental Use Agreement with Evanston-Skokie School District 65 to optimize facility use, resource sharing, and program collaboration across the community.

Enhanced community nutrition and wellness: Expanded After School, Summer Food, and Senior Congregate Meal Programs, providing 44,124 meals and ensuring vulnerable children and seniors have year-round access to healthy food.

Advanced cultural arts and equity: Established the Noyes Gallery Selection Committee to strengthen transparent, equitable, and community-informed exhibition review processes.

Promoted sustainability and environmental stewardship: Reopened the Ecology Center (tracking toward LEED Gold Certification), installed solar panels at Robert Crown Community Center, and secured a \$4,590 IDNR grant to remove invasive species and revitalize gardens at Dempster Street Beach Office.

Expanded STEAM, athletics, and program participation: Established Fleetwood-Jourdain Community Center as a STEAM Innovation Hub, increased participation by 16.5% with nearly 38,000 individuals engaged across 3,878 programs, and hosted over 40 department-sponsored events connecting with 11,000 community members. Highlighted athletic excellence included the Girls Xcel Gymnastics Team securing first place at the Spring Gymnastics Invitational.

Improved water safety and public protection: Enhanced lakefront safety at Dempster Street Boat Launch through a new ordinance mandating life jacket use and integrated programming with Parks & Recreation events.

Recognized for crisis response innovation: Celebrated the first anniversary of the CARE (Crisis Alternative Response Evanston) Program, responding to nearly 2,000 calls with trauma-informed, non-police emergency support.

Expanded senior services and accessibility: Partnered with the Illinois Secretary of State to offer on-site DMV services at the Levy Senior Center, opened a second sensory room at Robert Crown, and introduced accessibility tools, including social stories and noise-canceling equipment. A new Accessibility Advisor position now leads ADA training and facility evaluations.

Fostered digital literacy for seniors: Awarded an \$8,100 AARP Community Challenge Flagship Grant to bridge the digital divide, providing technology skill-building opportunities for older adults and enhancing community engagement.



LAW

Collaborated across departments: The Law Department drafted more than 115 resolutions and 75 ordinances in partnership with City departments, the policy team, and elected officials. Staff worked closely with the Evanston Police Department to prosecute hundreds of traffic and ordinance violations and responded to more than 500 requests for legal guidance from City departments.

Supported economic development: The department played a central role in advancing community and economic development initiatives, including major commercial and real estate projects. Staff supported Land Use Commission and Preservation Commission meetings and prepared ordinances for special use permits, major variations, and planned developments. The department also facilitated the successful closing of numerous real estate contracts.

Strengthened the City's financial position: In 2025, the Law Department managed 47 active litigation matters, handling 92 percent of newly filed cases in-house and reducing outside counsel costs by approximately 30 percent. The department secured multiple litigation dismissals, including a class action lawsuit and several slip-and-fall cases, through successful motions to dismiss and motions for summary judgment.

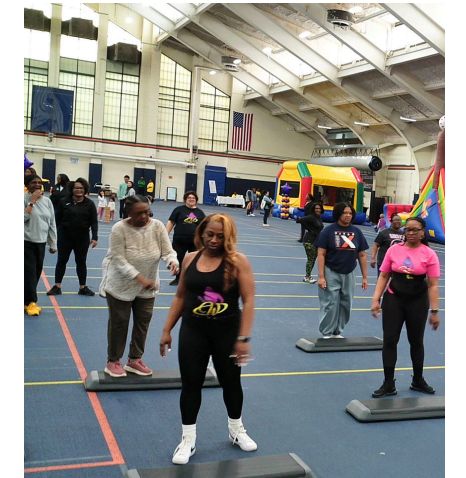
Enhanced employee safety: The department expanded employee safety training, continued medical surveillance programs for lead, silica, and hearing conservation, and completed the City's first comprehensive employee safety manual, reinforcing the City's commitment to a safe workplace.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Implemented the Mental Health Field Aid training: In partnership with the Naomi Ruth-Cohen Institute for Mental Health, the Department launched a Mental Health First Aid series teaching community members and staff to recognize and respond to signs of mental illness. In 2025, over 200 Evanston community members participated and completed the courses.

Explored new rodent control strategies: Partnered with Wisdom Good Works to launch a rat infertility program in select areas of the city. The program uses non-toxic, all-natural food and contraceptives to reduce the rodent population by making rats infertile rather than relying on traditional rodenticides.

Prevented communicable diseases: Conducted over 1,100 disease investigations and responded to 18 outbreaks in 2025 through ongoing monitoring, education, surveillance, and outbreak response.



Provided housing and wrap-around services: Housing stability and addressing homelessness remained a top departmental priority, with staff helping stabilize housing for over 200 Evanston households by connecting residents with vital resources and wrap-around services.

Relaunched the "We're Out Walking" initiative: Relaunched the We're Out Walking (WOW) initiative, a 16-week community program featuring fitness, wellness events, and community walks.

Embarked on community vaccinations: The Department worked on an effort to expand free access to COVID-19 and flu vaccines for Evanston community members who may otherwise face barriers to vaccination. Hundreds of Evanston community members were vaccinated through this effort.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

IT Division

Earned What Works Cities Certification: The City achieved Bloomberg Philanthropies' What Works Cities Silver Recertification for exceptional data capabilities supporting policy, funding, services, program evaluation, and resident engagement.

Upgraded public safety technology: Migrated 911, EPD, and EFD to a cloud-hosted CAD platform, improving real-time tracking, uptime, reliability, and system performance. Enhanced cybersecurity: Implemented DMARC, SPF, and DKIM email security, preventing phishing and fraud while improving legitimate email deliverability and protecting the City's reputation.

Expanded data capacity: Deployed 300 TB of enterprise storage to support growing data operations, including video camera feeds.

Maintained IT Service Desk performance: The Service Desk handled 5,188 support tickets in FY 2025 with a 98.7% satisfaction score, a slight increase from FY 2024.

Facilities

Upgraded LED Lighting: The City upgraded lighting in the Church Street Parking Garage drive ramps and 22 Sherman Plaza Garage lobbies, improving brightness, supporting CARP goals, and yielding over \$75,000 in energy cost savings.

Helped relocate City Hall: Facilities Management and IT coordinated the relocation of furniture, computer equipment, and employee workspaces into the new City Hall at 909 Davis.



Parking

Modernized Parking Systems: Installed a new TIBA Parking Access Revenue Control System (PARCS) in the three City-owned garages. The equipment is more reliable and offers improved back-end management, reporting, auditing, and user experience. The system now offers Google and Apple Pay, along with more integrations.



Improved parking around Ryan Field: Parking Services collaborated with City leadership and other departments to support event parking restrictions near Ryan Field, helping reduce traffic congestion, emissions, and blocked parking in surrounding neighborhoods while improving safety and quality of life for residents.

Refreshed Sherman Plaza parking garage lobbies: Parking Maintenance Techs repainted 22 lobbies at the Sherman Plaza Garage. The spaces look brighter and more inviting to Downtown patrons. The in-house labor helped to save over \$90,000 in contracted vendor services.

Improved operational efficiency: Evanston's 167 parking payboxes helped residents and visitors access public parking, supporting nearly 1.95 million parking sessions in 2025, or about 162,000 per month and 5,300 per day, through the ParkEvanston app and on-street paystations. Parking Services also responded to 481 meter and app-related 311 inquiries.

Fleet

Purchased a new fire tower truck: In 2025, Fleet Management added a Pierce Tower Truck to the City's fleet, providing safe aerial access for ventilation and rescue operations.





POLICE DEPARTMENT

Advanced technology systems and reporting tools: Implemented the Tyler Technologies platform to modernize computer-aided dispatch (CAD), report writing, and records management; improved internal policy and memorandum tracking through Axon Enterprise Standards; and began onboarding a new online citizen reporting portal scheduled for completion in 2026.

Enhanced lakefront safety: Established a joint partnership with the Evanston Fire Department by establishing a shared EPD/EFD Marine Unit to patrol Evanston’s lakefront, expanding water rescue and water safety response capabilities, and advancing plans to grow the unit in 2026 following its success in 2025.

Strengthened community engagement: Expanded community and youth engagement by supporting 75+ public events, completing 20+ security surveys for local businesses and organizations, attending 80+ neighborhood meetings, and connecting with Evanston youth through 40+ events, including Coffee with a Cop, National Night Out, and other community programs.

Reduced crime: Achieved year-over-year reductions in crimes against persons (-11.5%), property (-12.9%), and society (-18.1%). Seized 76 firearms and significant amounts of narcotics, executing 52 arrests via the Special Operations Group. There were zero homicides in Evanston in 2024 and 2025.

Strengthened community education: Hosted the two sessions of the Community Policing Academy, with 15–30 participants per class.

Invested in training: Participated in extensive training with over 16,700 total hours completed by sworn personnel in 2025, including nearly 10,000 hours of state-mandated training and 2,200+ hours of de-escalation training, covering active threat response, officer safety, use of force, high-risk vehicle stops, search and seizure law, and critical incident management.

BY THE NUMBERS



75+

Events supported

80+



Ward meetings attended



52

Special Operations Group arrests

16,700+



Hours of training completed by sworn personnel

Investigative Services Division

2,629

Cases investigated

194

Arrests made

Year-over-year reductions in crime



-11.5%

against persons



-12.9%

against property



-18.1%

against society

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Assessed housing needs: Determined that over 35% of Evanston households spend more than 30% of their income on housing.

Managed zoning cases: Reviewed 45 zoning entitlement cases, resulting in 449 residential units (90 affordable) and 24 new businesses, and handled 114 landmark property modification applications.

Secured major funding: Awarded \$7M PRO Housing grant from the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development, and two \$2M Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity grants for rehabs supporting unhoused populations.

Managed construction and compliance: Reviewed 3,370 permits generating \$12.2 million in revenue, managed \$1.5 billion in projects, and implemented Rental Registration & Routine Inspections (2,106 inspections, 632 code violations corrected).

Advanced energy efficiency: Adopted the Illinois Stretch Energy Code, requiring stricter energy efficiency for new buildings and major renovations. Evanston became the first municipality in the state to implement it.

Began the Housing4All process: Launched the City's first 10-year comprehensive housing framework in 2025 to address affordability and equity, setting a long-term goal to create or preserve 3,000–5,000 housing units by 2035 and reduce the number of cost-burdened households.



PUBLIC WORKS

Capital Planning Projects Completed

Green Bay Road improvements: Began construction on Green Bay Road from McCormick Boulevard to Isabella Street, bringing accessibility upgrades, utility replacements, improved transit stops, and more.

Evanston Ecology Center renovation: Modernized the 1974 facility with updated learning and public spaces, structural repairs, and new all-electric systems designed to achieve zero on-site carbon emissions and LEED Silver or higher.

James Park pickleball court conversion: Turned six tennis courts at James Park into 15 dedicated pickleball courts as part of a broader court improvement project, expanding recreational amenities in response to growing community demand.

Independence Park renovation: Added a larger playground, improved pathways and lighting, a new seating plaza and small stage, and streetscape enhancements.

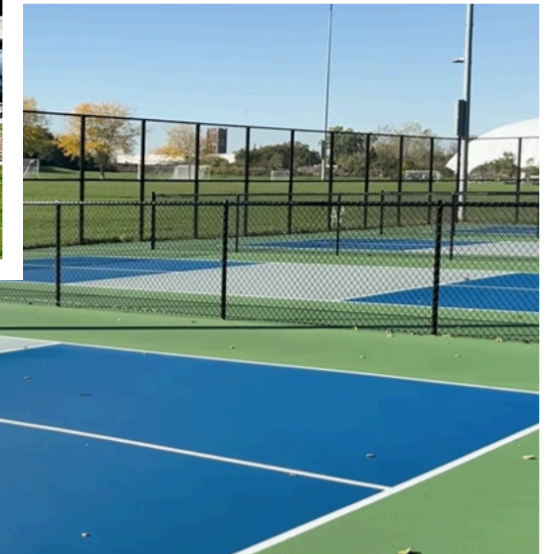
Bent Park Field House renovation: Restored and modernized the Bent Park Field House following 2022 fire damage, rebuilding the facility with upgraded systems, improved ADA accessibility, and a new all-electric design.

Downtown sidewalk improvements: Upgraded key streets with new accessible concrete sidewalks, decorative brick banding, updated driveways, and new trees, improving pedestrian safety and the downtown streetscape.

Safe Routes to School improvements: Replaced damaged sidewalks and upgraded curb ramps near Evanston schools, improving safety and accessibility for students and families. This project was federally funded.

Lead Service Line Pilot completed: The City replaced 100 private-side lead service lines in eligible homes at no cost and advanced an equity-focused model for citywide replacement beginning in 2027.

Oakton corridor improvements: Added new sidewalks, a shared-use pedestrian and bicycle path, safer crossings, upgraded signals, and LED streetlights, improving safety, accessibility, and multimodal travel.



Waste & Recycling

Expanded composting access: Updated the residential waste program to increase participation in composting by shifting to an opt-out service model, eliminating upfront startup costs, and extending service to year-round collection.

Added smaller cart options: Introduced a smaller residential waste cart option to help residents reduce landfill waste and better align service with household needs.

Improved public waste collection: Installed 50 new public litter stations downtown and standardized waste container designs in downtown areas and parks, with updated signage to better guide proper disposal and recycling.

Diverted materials from the landfill during City Hall move: In partnership with the Clerk's Office, Public Works recycled and securely destroyed more than 3.8 million documents during the move from the Civic Center to 909 Davis, keeping 19.25 tons of material out of the landfill.

Water & Sewer

Maintained exceptional water quality: Evanston's 2025 Consumer Confidence Report confirmed that the City's drinking water met or exceeded all federal standards, reflecting the Water Utility's ongoing commitment to safe, high-quality water service.

Delivered reliable treatment and testing: The Evanston Water Treatment Plant treated 17,683 million gallons of water and conducted more than 35,000 water quality tests, in addition to continuous online monitoring for turbidity and chlorine.

Sustained critical water infrastructure: The City maintained a water distribution system that includes 157 miles of water main, more than 2,000 valves, and 1,400 fire hydrants to ensure reliable service across the community.

Served Evanston and regional partners: Located on the shores of Lake Michigan, Evanston's municipally owned Water Treatment Plant has the capacity to produce up to 108 million gallons of drinking water per day and serves more than 492,000 people, including residents of Evanston and several neighboring communities and water commissions.

Streets & Forestry

Completed roadway maintenance and preservation work: Public Works patched 32,023.6 square yards of pavement, refreshed 137,475 linear feet of pavement markings, completed pavement rejuvenation across 24,390 square yards, and applied 47,620 pounds of crack seal material at approximately 65 locations citywide to extend pavement life and improve roadway safety.

Upgraded street lighting: Converted 525 Davit light poles and 150 Tallmadge light poles to energy-efficient LED fixtures.

Maintained alley infrastructure: Regraded 249 alley segments, completing a total of 747 alley regrades throughout the year.

Expanded the urban tree canopy: Forestry oversaw the planting of 256 trees across the city.





Standout/Highlighted Programs: In 2025, Evanston Public Library’s Children’s Department championed inclusion, early literacy, and joyful learning through programs like Hearts of Readers, an all-abilities storytime uniting young children, caregivers, and Misericordia Day-Service adults through music and shared storytelling.

MLK Day of Service: Each year, EPL’s IDL team honors Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day by hosting Stitch for Change, a hands-on day of service that brings volunteers together to sew reusable sanitary pads for Girls 4 Girls Ghana, helping girls stay in school while also reserving 20% of the pads to support Evanston patrons experiencing homelessness.

Sustainable Events: In 2025, Evanston Public Library hosted more than 80 sustainability-focused events that empowered residents to make environmentally friendly choices through practical, community-centered programs, including Repair Cafes, Cookbook and Puzzle Swaps, and programs highlighting climate-friendly actions at home—reducing waste and fostering a culture of collective care and environmental stewardship.

Celebrating our Roots: In the summer, the Evanston Public Library hosted a three-part event series that celebrated identity, culture, and connection through art and storytelling. Centered on the themes of Liberation and Music, Liberation and Food, and the power of Poetry, Storytelling, and Shared Experiences, the series highlighted the rich intersections between African and Latin diasporas while encouraging cross-cultural exploration.

BY THE NUMBERS



967,993

Items Checked Out

322,860



Physical Items Available



322,860

Total Visitors In-Person at the Main Branch

123,588



Total Visitors In-Person at Crown Branch



290

Number of Volunteers in 2025

1,718

Number of Programs



Total Program Attendance

41,905





2026 ADOPTED BUDGET

The General Fund is projecting \$136,695,336 in revenues (excluding transfers in of 11,090,182). Included among budgeted revenues is also \$12,050,000 use of fund balance. However, the use of fund balance is not a true revenue from an accounting standpoint and will not be recognized as revenue during FY 2026.

The FY 2026 budget incorporates contractual wage adjustments approved by the City Council in 2023, along with corresponding increases for exempt employees to align with union agreements. Across all employee groups, salaries and benefits in the General Fund are projected to rise by \$4.6 million.

The City's required contribution to public safety pensions continues to be a significant cost driver. Following the adoption of the new pension funding policy in July 2023, the City is committed to achieving 100% funding by 2040 through a combination of property taxes, General Fund reserves, and other sources. The annual contribution will increase to \$30.3 million in FY 2026, largely due to the impact of 2023 wage increases for Police (18%) and Fire (13%) personnel on total pension liability.

For more information, visit cityofevanston.org/budget.

GENERAL FUND

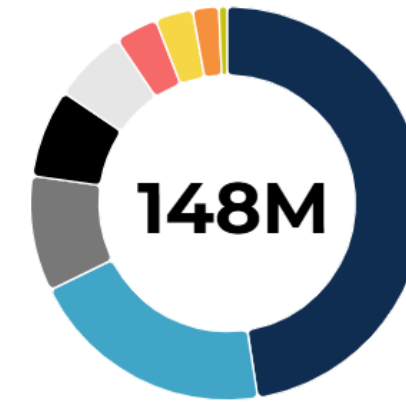
Revenue

\$147,785,518

Expenditures

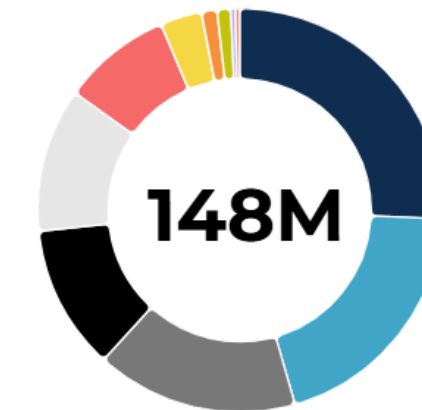
\$147,729,728

Revenues by Source



Other Taxes	\$70,195,000	47.50%
Property Taxes	\$29,939,902	20.26%
Other Revenue	\$14,002,000	9.47%
Interfund Transfers	\$10,740,182	7.27%
Licenses, Permits and Fees	\$8,988,300	6.08%
Charges for Services	\$5,163,700	3.49%
Fines and Forfeitures	\$4,593,000	3.11%
Intergovernmental Revenue	\$3,163,434	2.14%
Interest Income	\$1,000,000	0.68%

Expenditures by Department



Police	\$37,909,695	25.66%
Non-Departmental	\$29,448,839	19.93%
Fire Mgmt & Support	\$23,879,720	16.16%
Public Works Agency	\$17,114,669	11.59%
City Manager's Office	\$17,036,912	11.53%
Administrative Services	\$12,937,120	8.76%
Community Development	\$4,903,165	3.32%
Health	\$1,826,349	1.24%
Law	\$1,630,641	1.10%
City Clerk	\$540,681	0.37%
City Council	\$501,937	0.34%





City of
EvanstonTM

CITYOFEVANSTON.ORG