



City of
Evanston™

2017

Annual Report



Cover photo credit: Lee Street Beach Cloud Tree by Louis Perlia

The City of Evanston is committed to promoting the highest quality of life for all residents by providing fiscally sound, responsive municipal services and delivering those services equitably, professionally and with the highest degree of integrity.

2017 Awards

National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) Gold Medal Finalist

The Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department was honored to be one of only four agencies nationwide named as a National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) Gold Medal Finalist in its population class.

The Gold Medal Awards program honors communities in the U.S. that demonstrate excellence in parks and recreation through long-range planning, resource management, volunteerism, environmental stewardship, program development, professional development, and agency recognition.

Savvy Silver Circle Awards from 3CMA

The City won two Savvy Silver Circle Awards from 3CMA, the City-County Communications & Marketing Association.

The awards recognized excellence in the following categories:

- Printed Publications
–Annual Report
- Best use of Facebook
–City’s Friday Forecast videos

Evanston Public Library STEM Initiatives

The Evanston Public Library (EPL) was awarded a two-year Institute of Museum and Library Services grant in partnership with Loyola University Chicago, Northwestern University, and the Chicago Children’s Museum in support of STEM learning for children and families in informal settings.

EPL was one of 75 libraries—out of 513 applicants—selected to participate in the NASA@ My Library initiative, a Science Mission Directorate, as part of its STEM Activation program.

2017 Design Evanston Award for Urban Design

A 2017 Design Evanston award for Urban Design was presented to the City in recognition of the Chicago Avenue Corridor Improvement Project.

A new two-way bike lane on the east side of Chicago Avenue starting at Davis Street connected existing east and west bike lanes at Davis Street to Northwestern University and will continue to the north city limits.

This segment of roadway was part of the larger Sheridan Rd./Chicago Ave. project.

Safe Routes to School Program Grant

A federal grant from the Safe Routes to School program in the amount of \$88,000 funded 80% of the cost of 20 radar speed feedback solar signs at various school crossings.

ReThink Your Drink Campaign

NorthShore University HealthSystem donated \$10,000 for the second consecutive year to support the Health and Human Services Department’s ReThink Your Drink public awareness campaign.

National Fish & Wildlife Foundation Grant

The City received a \$100,000 matching grant from the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation in March 2017 to fund improvements to the 3.75 acres of bird habitat along an 1,100-foot section of the North Shore Channel in the Ladd Arboretum, as well as to add bird-friendly plantings of native shrubs, understory trees, and forbs in four parks.

Work has been completed on a demonstration garden on the Morton Civic Center grounds and on the North Shore Channel overlooks in Twiggs Park and Harbert Park. Work is ongoing in the Ladd Arboretum and Harbert Park.

Sustainable Landscaping Award

The Public Works Agency received a Sustainable Landscaping award from the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) for the Morton Civic Center parking lot redesign, which includes permeable pavement, a rain garden and a bioswale.

National Endowment for the Arts’ “Big Read” Grant

The National Endowment for the Arts’ “Big Read” grant once again supported Evanston Public Library’s “Evanston Reads” program. The community considered issues of inequity and identity in society while reading “The Other Wes Moore.”

Illinois Housing Development Authority Grant

The City’s Health and Human Services Department was awarded a \$75,000 grant by the Illinois Housing Development Authority for the demolition and the maintenance of over 80 residential abandoned Evanston properties.

2017 Recognitions

- **Top 100 Cities in the U.S. to Raise Kids**

Evanston ranked 28th according to the National Council for Home Safety and Security.

- **25 Neighborhoods that ‘Have It All’**

Redfin’s analysts selected Evanston as 10th in the national list based on Affordable Homes, Highly Rated Schools, an Easy Commute and Plenty of Inventory categories.

- **2017 Overlooked Dream Cities**

Personal finance website *GoodCall* reviewed data from 461 small to mid-sized cities nationwide. Evanston ranked #26 (in the top 10%) based on its affordability, low crime rate, walkable neighborhoods, and plentiful amenities.

- **Top 5 Places to Retire**

Ranked by *USA Today*, the review said, “Being an hour or two outside of a big city gives you the best of both worlds. You can drive to the city for entertainment while enjoying the affordability of suburban life.”

- **One of the Best Neighborhoods for Empty Nesters and a Top Suburb for Raising a Family**

Neighborhoods.com ranked Evanston “One of the Best Chicago Neighborhoods for Empty Nesters” due to its strong inventory of affordable condos. The organization also ranked Evanston as the 28th best suburb in the nation for raising a family. The criteria included crime, income, population, education, and health insurance.

- **Top 6 Coolest Downtowns**

Expedia’s viewfinder travel blog searched for the coolest downtowns based on one-of-a-kind dining options, local arts venues, unique shopping experiences, fascinating historical sites, and access to urban greenspace.

- **3rd Annual Best Cities for K-12 Teachers in the U.S.**

Consumer research website *GoodCall.com* ranked Evanston for its educational values, K-12 teacher salaries and job availability, amenities, affordability, and low unemployment and crime rates.

- **The Country’s Best Suburbs for People Who Love Food**

According to *Thrillist.com*, Evanston’s “destination-worthy” establishments featured were Edzo’s, Found, The Peckish Pig, Ward 8, Claire’s Korner, 527 Café, Chicken Shack and Bennison’s Bakery.

- **Best Buffalo Wings in the Country**

Buffalo Joe’s wings made *Rare Chicago’s* list, at the 19th spot.

Community Development

Planning and Zoning Division

15-story Mixed-use Building

A planned development was approved for a 15-story mixed-use building with 273 dwelling units and 6,800 sq. ft. of commercial space at 1450 Sherman Ave. Fifteen units will be affordable to those earning between 50%-80% of Area Median Income.

Nine-story Mixed-use Building

A planned development was approved for a nine-story mixed-use building with 242 dwelling units and 3,300 sq. ft. of commercial space at 831 Emerson St. The developer will contribute \$2.4M to the City's Affordable Housing Fund as required by the Inclusionary Housing Ordinance.

Zoning Ordinance

A text amendment to the Zoning Ordinance was adopted to lower parking requirements in Transit-oriented Development areas.

Housing and Grants Division

The ETHS Geometry in Construction Program

The ETHS Geometry in Construction program aided affordable homeownership by constructing its fifth single-family home, which then was moved to a permanent site. Two previously developed homes were sold to income-eligible buyers.

Affordable housing preservation activities included:

- Funded acquisition and rehab of a two-flat
- Completed rehabs of three owner-occupied homes
- Began rehab on 14 rental units and four owner-occupied units
- Provided rent and utilities assistance to 19 households below 50% Area Median Income

Building Permits and Inspections



\$306,352,806
Construction Valuation



7,521
Inspections



4,052
Permits Issued



\$7,761,412
Permit Fees Collected



Participants in a National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) workshop rode Divvy Bikes while touring the new protected bike lanes.

Transportation

Evanston Divvy Bike Share

11	Divvy Bike stations
115	Divvy Bikes citywide
22,199	Divvy Rides starting in Evanston
30,509.38	Pounds of CO2 offset
1,929,270	Calories burned

Economic Development



Target announced plans to open a small-format store at 1620 Sherman Ave.

Entrepreneurship support program launched to provide small start-up grants

The Latinx Business Association was created

New murals were installed on rail viaducts at Dempster and Central Streets

New businesses on Howard Street included North Shore Cider and a new location for Good to Go

City Council approved the sale of a City-owned parking lot in downtown Evanston to be used for office development

City Council approved the Albion mixed-use development on Sherman Avenue

Howard Street Garden Center/ Residential project from two different perspectives.

Law Department



City Code

Revised and updated various City Code sections, including Administrative Adjudication, City Licenses and Registrations, and Parking and Traffic Regulations.

Body Cameras

Continued to collaborate with the Police Department for the deployment of body-worn cameras and drafted the Police Body Camera Policy.

Planned Developments

Assisted the Economic Development Division and Community Development Department with six major planned developments submitted to the City.



Evanston Fire Department

3,602 Fire Service calls	6,457 Emergency Medical Services (EMS) calls	10,059 Total calls
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3 min. and 15 sec.
response time



2017 average response times for both fire and EMS calls
well below 4-min. standard of National Fire Protection Association



Upgraded the Computer Aided Dispatch System and Fire Incident Reporting System

This improvement provides more reliable and timely mission-critical information. The new systems will reduce response time and improve data and records management.



City's All-Hazards Emergency Operations Plan

Completely revised the City's All-Hazards Emergency Operations Plan and received Illinois Emergency Management Agency approval.



Expanded Fire and Life Safety Education Programs

These programs are provided for all children in grades K-5.



NEW! ETHS Public Safety Program

Offered a new ETHS Public Safety Program and continued the Fire Explorer and Citizen CPR programs.



Department's Strategic Plan

Conducted a community satisfaction and expectations survey followed by community input meetings regarding the Department's strategic plan.



Advanced Cardiac Life Support

Offered Advanced Cardiac Life Support certification to all paramedics.



Evanston Police Department



Detective Kenneth Carter, School Resource Officer Mario Miller, and Problem Solving Team Officer Adam Howard with the newest Officer and Gentlemen Academy. Read more below.



Police Data

Police Dashboard

Community members can now quickly and easily view 10 datasets the department frequently receives questions about, including crime statistics.

Visit cityofevanston.org/dashboard.



Traffic Unit

The Traffic Unit expanded its use of social media to inform community members about road closures, special events and important traffic notifications.



Diversity and Inclusion Training Sessions

Seven diversity and inclusion training sessions were held in May, followed by four Town Hall meetings in June.



The Officer and Gentlemen Academy

The mentoring program for Nichols Middle School boys launched in 2017. The Academy was so successful that the program expanded in 2018 to include students from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Literary and Fine Arts School.



Police Explorer Program

After almost 30 years, the Police Explorer Program was reestablished. About a dozen high school and college-aged youth were recruited. Explorers receive instruction and participate in practical exercises related to law enforcement operations.



Citizen Police Academy

Over 800 adults who live or work in Evanston have graduated from the Citizen Police Academy (CPA), which was established in 1995.

Youth Citizen Police Academy

The Youth CPA enrolled 20 students.

Evanston Public Library



Digital Literacy Initiative

100 WiFi hotspots at Library locations, ETHS and Lincoln School were provided (up from 30 hotspots in 2016)

240 group classes held

136 one-on-one technology help sessions offered

13,000+ tech help questions were answered

Latino Engagement

10 Latino-focused public programs reached 650 community members

210 Spanish language books were added to the collection

1,039,585 books, DVDs, and digital materials were checked out

11,280 free-to-keep books distributed to 28 locations



Early Literacy

Summer Reading program:

847 children ages 0–5 participated (increase of 16% since 2015)

ABC Boosters program:

78 at-risk children ages 4–5 improved their letter recognition skills

354 new library cards were issued to D65 Kindergarten students during EPL/D65 Library Tours

11,198 attended storytime programs

Social Work Services

630 meetings with patrons were held

20 Evanston organizations collaborated

60 hours of supportive service to EPL staff, including training and consultations, was provided

317 volunteers

15,171 volunteer hours

Library photos credit: Lynn Trautmann, LTP Photo Evanston



1. Jill King's "Evanston Odyssey," installed at the Morton Civic Center in May of 2017.
2. The Evanston Arts Council launches its pilot sculpture leasing program with "Attached" by Janet Austin. 3. Mosaic mural art by Evanston artist Piloto Nieves Ruiz livens up a neighborhood in our historic 5th Ward.

Cultural Arts

Sculptures

Sculptures were installed at the Noyes Cultural Art Center, Clark Street Beach, Main Street CTA Station and in the Morton Civic Center stairwell. The first sculpture in the Arts Council's pilot Sculpture Leasing Program was installed at the lakefront.

Murals

Murals were installed on Church Street, Foster Street, Dempster Street, Emerson Street and Elmwood Avenue.

Public Art Map

maps.cityofevanston.org/apps/publicart/

The interactive online public art map was expanded and upgraded.

Evanston Made

In June, more than 100 artists participated in "Evanston Made," a community arts initiative that facilitates engagement between the public and Evanston creatives.

Funding

Funding was allocated to local artists and arts organizations (\$30,000 in grants and \$10,000 of Evanston Arts Council funding).

Public Works Agency



Road Project

The Chicago Avenue/Sheridan Road project from Davis to Lincoln Streets was completed. In the Chicago Avenue section, the street was widened to allow for protected bike lanes. In the Sheridan Road section, there was a complete reconstruction and widening of the street pavement, and installation of protected bike lanes and designated bus pull-out areas. See page 2 regarding the project design award.

Wholesale Water

The City executed an agreement to supply wholesale water to the Villages of Morton Grove and Niles. Water delivery is expected to begin in late 2018.

Food Scrap Collection Program

Evanston entered into a franchise agreement with Collective Resource, Inc. to establish a citywide, cost-effective and user-friendly food scrap collection program for all properties on a voluntary basis.

Solid Waste and Yard Waste Contract

Evanston entered into new contracts for solid waste and yard waste for residential and condo properties. Property owners will be able to include food waste in their yard waste container at no additional cost.

Native Habitat Projects

The Forestry Division, working with local Evanston volunteers, completed a demonstration garden and projects at the North Shore Channel overlooks. See page 2 regarding grant funding for this project.



Health and Human Services Department



42% ↑

Medical Reserve Corps volunteers



30% ↑

Food establishment and temporary food service inspections



32% ↓

Decrease in rodent complaints

311
EVANSTON

3,004

Responses to 311 requests



2,471

Property standards inspections of registered rental properties



45

Health emergency volunteers*

Public Health Emergency Training

A Mass Dispensing Training involving 23 staff members was successfully conducted in May. The training focused on responding to a public health emergency.

Housing Stabilization

Staff assisted 114 Evanston residents in averting homelessness or stabilizing their housing situation.

ReThink Your Drink (RTYD)

The 2017 ReThink Your Drink (RTYD) educational campaign, which raises awareness of added sugar in beverages, featured 10 educational workshops and had 1,250 participants.

Get Yourself Tested Campaign

"Get Yourself Tested," a campaign implemented to provide prevention measures and to encourage people to be screened for sexually transmitted infections, had a 20% increase in participation in 2017.

* Medical and non-medical volunteers trained to assist in a public health emergency (19 volunteers in 2016 and 45 in 2017)

Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department



Senior staff members of the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department accepted the Gold Medal Finalist Award: Matt Poole, Ann Marie Heiser, Melissa Parker, Lawrence Hemingway, Karen Hawk, Erika Doroghazi, and Bob Dorneker.



National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) Gold Medal Finalist

The Department was honored to be one of only four agencies nationwide named as a National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) Gold Medal Finalist in its population class. (See page 2 for details).



Evanston Athlete Selected for Special Olympics USA Games

Mike Daugerdas was one of only 12 players in the state selected to play for Team Illinois Basketball in the 2018 Special Olympics USA Games.



Black Theater Alliance/Ira Aldridge Awards

Fleetwood-Jourdain Theatre was nominated for 11 Black Theater Alliance/Ira Aldridge Awards, winning in three categories: Best Direction of an Ensemble (*Yellowman*); Best Actress in an Ensemble (*Yellowman*); and Best Lighting Design (*Sweet*).



The Downtown Evanston Farmers' Market

The Downtown Evanston Farmers' Market was voted 2017 Best Farmers' Market by *Make It Better* readers. The market has over 50 vendors and 5,000–7,000 visitors every Saturday. The market frequently offers special programming for adults and children.



New Youth Programming

New programming was established through partnerships with the McGaw YMCA, Northwestern University, and Youth and Opportunity United (YOU), including a wellness initiative, a coding program for girls, and a music program.



New Educational Programming

The Ecology Center now provides additional educational programming thanks to their apiary and indoor monarch butterfly house. In April, a four-hive apiary with approximately 40,000 bees was installed in Eggleston Park, adjacent to the Farmette and the Edible Evanston Orchard.

Youth and Young Adult Division



Overview

The Division facilitates effective public/private collaborative partnerships that ensure:

- Recruitment, training, and retention of an Evanston youth and young adult workforce that possesses the skill sets needed to compete in the 21st century economy;
- Academic, vocational, certificate and entrepreneurial internships, externships and apprenticeship programming opportunities;
- Coordination of City programs and projects that impact youth and young adults;
- Development and promotion of civic responsibility and engagement.

Mayor's Summer Youth Employment Program

The Mayor's Summer Youth Employment Program (MSYEP), for 25 years, has provided skills and workforce opportunities for thousands of Evanston youth ages 14–18 years.

As a workforce development initiative, the MSYEP emphasizes real-world labor expectations, increases the awareness of services offered by local community-based organizations, and provides opportunities for career instruction, financial literacy training, occupational skills training, and social/emotional growth.

1,180 Local summer jobs offered

150 Local year-round jobs offered

Who We Serve in Our Programs for Ages 18–26

889 Male

762 Female

1,504 African American

27 Caucasian

28 Latino

92 Unidentified

146 Have high school diploma or GED

193 Without high school diploma or GED

95 Attended some college

27 Have college degree

206 No response

Building Career Pathways to Sustainable Employment Program

Offered in partnership with Youth Job Center of Evanston

Initiated in 2012, this program offers 24 months of comprehensive job readiness training and education for under-skilled, at-risk, and re-entry adults. Receiving paid, on-the-job training, participants are prepared to graduate from roles as workplace "interns" to viable career-focused permanent employees.

106 Clients served

91 Clients who completed certification programs

86 Clients who secured permanent employment



NORTHWESTERN
UNIVERSITY



Northwestern University Skilled Trades Program

Northwestern University has hired young adults from Evanston as part of a training program in partnership with the City to teach skilled trades to local young people and prepare them for full-time jobs at Northwestern and elsewhere. Under the Northwestern/Evanston Skilled Trades Training Program, the University is committed to hiring six Evanston residents each year to participate in a one-year paid training program in the University's Facilities Management Division. At the end of the year, the young people are hired into full-time jobs at the University or have one year's worth of experience to help them find jobs elsewhere. The jobs also come with mentoring and life skills coaching from the University and the City.



Mr. David's Floor Installation Training and Apprenticeship Program

Initiated in 2015, the program provides up to 10 Evanston residents with an opportunity to become a unionized flooring installer. After completing one year of an on-the-job assistantship program, participants began a four-year apprenticeship culminating with union membership.



Certificate of Rehabilitation Expungement Records Sealing Clemency Program

Offered in Partnership with the James B. Moran Center for Youth Advocacy

Initiated in 2013, the program works to support a productive community re-entry for Evanston residents with a criminal record who have not offended in 24 months. Eligible participants can eliminate or reduce the impact of their history, thus lifting barriers to employment, licensing and housing.

- 374** Clients served
- 91** Petitions for sealing
- 26** Petitions for expungement
- 11** Healthcare worker waivers
- 3** Clemency
- 1** Certificate of Rehabilitation

Statistics

- 113** Employer partners
- 38** Community partners
- 1,651** Clients (all programs)
- 1,180** Summer Youth Jobs Program jobs
- 150** Year-round jobs provided for youth (ages 14–18)
- 27** Employment certifications awarded
- 36** Residents placed in permanent housing

Grants received

\$408,359 from Northwestern University Good Neighbor Fund, City of Evanston Community Development Block Grant, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services-Homeless and Runaway Youth Grant, Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) and Evanston Own It

2018 and Beyond

“Creating the most livable city”

Community Development

Staff will develop and implement diverse strategies to address the City Council goal to expand affordable housing options to address the needs of low-, moderate- and middle-income households. Staff also will be involved in the CTA’s Red/Purple Line Modernization Study.

Cultural Arts

The lighted sculpture, “Stitch,” will be installed beneath the Union Pacific viaduct at the Emerson/Ridge/Green Bay interchange. There will be a focus on installing additional murals in 2018 in order to have “art in every ward.”

Economic Development

Howard Street revitalization will continue, with openings of Cafe Coralie and Theo Ubique Theatre. Construction will begin on the “City Grange” mixed-use residential garden education center at 100-130 Chicago Ave.

Equity and Empowerment

The Language Access Policy and the “Welcoming City” campaign will be further developed and a four-hour equity training will be provided for all City staff.

Fire

Upgraded Pre-Incident Planning and EMS Emergency Patient Care Reporting software will be implemented. The software combines enhanced mapping and information management to help support critical decisions on the emergency scene. The department also will work with Northwestern University on a cooperative agreement to share an Emergency Operations Center.

Health and Human Services

Health equity will be advanced by engaging new allies in the health equity movement through policy, systems and environmental change. Staff will develop a comprehensive mental health resource and referral guide to share with City departments and community mental health partners.

Law

Staff will assist the Public Works Agency and the City Manager in water sales and ensure that the City’s rate of return on water sales is commensurate with capital investment, as well as work with the Community Development Department, City Council, and residents to expand and pursue affordable housing options within the City of Evanston.

Evanston Public Library

Under the leadership of the Community Engagement and Latino Outreach Librarians, staff will focus on delivery of library services to the immigrant and Latino communities in Evanston. The “Evanston Reads” program will lead the community in reading Claudia Rankine’s *Citizen*.

Parks, Recreation and Community Services

A new transit benefit program will be implemented to serve more seniors and people with disabilities. Technology will be implemented to allow online purchasing of fitness, skating and beach passes that can be downloaded onto a smartphone. Staff will continue to work to provide long-term community stabilization and support through street outreach and violence interruption/intervention services to youth and young adults who are directly exposed to and involved in violence.

Police

The Evanston Police Department fully implemented its body-worn camera program in January 2018. The communications system will be upgraded to allow digital voice logging of all police and fire radio traffic, 911 phone calls and non-emergency lines. This new system also will help telecommunicators provide pre-arrival instructions to 911 callers.

Public Works

Major projects include completion of the Chicago Avenue/Sheridan Road project and Fountain Square project, as well as the installation of HVAC and electrical upgrades at the Fleetwood-Jourdain Community Center. Staff will complete a citywide streetlight master plan that will set the lighting level standards for the city.



Values

- Excellent Customer Service
- Continuous Improvement
- Integrity
- Accountability

2018 City Council Goals

- Invest in City Infrastructure and Facilities
- Enhance Community Development and Job Creation Citywide
- Expand Affordable Housing Options
- Further Police/Community Relations Initiatives
- Ensure Equity in All City Operations
- Stabilize Long-term City Finances

Thank You!

The City of Evanston would like to thank the many public and private institutions and organizations that provided financial assistance and program support in 2017. They helped make possible many of the accomplishments listed in this report. We also appreciate the enthusiastic support provided by Evanston’s many volunteers.



Mayor
Stephen H. Hagerty

1st Ward
Judy Fiske

2nd Ward
Peter Braithwaite

3rd Ward
Melissa A. Wynne

4th Ward
Donald N. Wilson

5th Ward
Robin Rue Simmons

6th Ward
Thomas M. Suffredin

7th Ward
Eleanor Revelle

8th Ward
Ann Rainey

9th Ward
Cicely L. Fleming

City Clerk
Devon Reid

City Manager
Wally Bobkiewicz