



City of
Evanston™

2016

Annual Report

PHOTO CREDIT: Carl Larson

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.



2016 Awards & Recognitions



Evanston won a variety of accolades, including being named one of only six local governments in the nation to receive the Public Technology Institute's (PTI) 2016 ["Tech Savvy"](#) award designation, which recognizes PTI member local governments that use technology to address issues, current challenges and future opportunities across the enterprise. This is the third consecutive year Evanston received the award.

The Evanston Fire Department was awarded \$221,091 from the [Department of Homeland Security Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program](#). This highly competitive grant will be used to purchase self-contained breathing apparatus compliant with the latest industry standards, allowing firefighters to work more effectively and safely in hazardous breathing environments.

The Evanston-Ridge-Green Bay project received the American Public Works Association North Suburban Branch [Project of the Year](#) in the category of \$5 million to \$25 million transportation projects.

A \$100,000 grant from the Chi-Cal Rivers Fund of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation will be used to create and enhance migratory bird habitat along the North Shore Channel in the Ladd Arboretum and four nearby Evanston parks.

The League of American Bicyclists renewed Evanston's designation as a [Silver Bicycle Friendly Community](#).

The Health and Human Services Department received \$10,000 in 2016 (and \$10,000 in 2017) from NorthShore University HealthSystem for the annual [ReThink Your Drink](#) public awareness campaign. This was in addition to a \$500 award to support enforcement of our [Tobacco21](#) program.

The producer of the City's documentary film, [The Arts in Evanston](#), was nominated for a Chicago/Midwest Emmy Award.

What's the [best place to live in Illinois?](#) *Rentapplication.com* weighed census, education, wealth and happiness before ranking Evanston as #1. Their report said, "Evanston is a leader in sustainability and cultural and lifestyle inclusion."

RentLingo named downtown Evanston among the top 15 ["most charming"](#) small cities, while *Livability.com* ranked it one of the 10 [Best Downtowns](#).

College Rank named Evanston [one of the top 50 great college towns](#), praising its "small-town vibe with access to the big city." *Top Value Reviews* ranked Evanston as the nation's [ninth smartest city](#).

Community Development

Building Permits and Inspections



\$537 million
Construction Valuation



3,811
Permits Issued



7,870
Inspections



\$10,317,588
Permit Fees Collected

Planning and Zoning



Architect's rendering of 1815 Ridge/Oak Avenue Project

Approved a planned development for a 10-story, 163-unit residential assisted living and memory care building at 1815 Ridge/Oak Avenue. The development will provide two on-site affordable units and contribute \$400,000 to the City's Affordable Housing Fund.

Housing and Grants



112
Affordable housing units rehabbed



38
Households receiving rental assistance



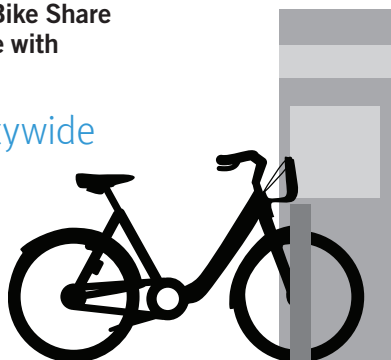
Presented
at the 2016 American Planning Association
Illinois State Conference



4 affordable units
Approved the first development covered by the City's amended Inclusionary Housing Ordinance

Transportation & Mobility

Evanston Divvy Bike Share launched in June with
10 stations
100 bikes citywide



- Divvy Rides Starting in Evanston: 10,444
- Carbon Offset: 15,665 pounds
- Calories Burned: 990,555
- Silver Bicycle Friendly Community award was re-designated to Evanston by The League of American Bicyclists.
- Transit Planning 4 All awarded the City a \$85,000 grant for inclusive transit planning research and analysis



Evanston Fire Department

3,826

Fire Service calls

10,267

Total calls for service

6,441

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) calls

3 min. and 2 sec. response time



2016 average response times for both fire and EMS calls

well below 4-min. standard of National Fire Protection Association



- The **Emergency Management Division** led a citywide effort to prepare all City departments to act, continue to function, and recover, should natural or manmade events adversely affect the city.

Evacuation procedures for all City facilities were completed.



- Ongoing success with the **Evanston Fire Explorers** and **Citizens Fire Academy** programs

- Initiated an **"After the Fire" assistance program** through the Fire Prevention Bureau.



- Established **Google video conferencing link** among all Fire Stations and Fire Department Headquarters to improve communications and training.



- Participated in **Special Olympics Unified Sports Programs** this summer, in partnership with Special Recreation staff.



Evanston Police Department

24 officers participated in **Procedural Justice Training** conducted by the Chicago Police Department;

3 are now in-house trainers for **Deescalation and Procedural Justice**

Upgraded Computer-aided Dispatch System (CADS)

Part I crimes

Include murder, criminal sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault/battery, burglary, theft, motor vehicle theft and arson



7.2% 141 fewer victims than 2015

12% (approx.) Theft reduction, accounting for 70% of Part 1 crimes

25% Robbery reduction

9.1% aggravated assault/battery report increase

Supported safe road usage

through education and enforcement

1,488 cellphone citations issued

30 (approx.) cyclist traffic citations



New C.L.E.A.R. program

Promotion of new program began in March 2016

C.L.E.A.R.

Method of Risk Reduction

Call the police if you observe any suspicious people or activity

Lock doors and windows (vehicle, home, garage)

Encourage neighbors to be alert

Avoid having valuables visible to potential burglars (GPS device, cell phone, purse, etc.)

Record serial numbers of property (bicycles, televisions, laptops, etc.)

Evanston Public Library (EPL)



601,343

patrons
visited EPL in person



450,802

EPL website visits

67,458

Internet sessions
on EPL computers

205,236

EPL Wi-Fi users



1,080,109

items checked out
(books, e-books, movies,
music, and more)

1,590

donors
supported the Library

- Provided books to Evanston summer camps to support **20 minutes of reading each day**.
- Expanded the ABC Boosters program to strengthen letter recognition for young readers.
- Produced the first **Refugee Family Resource Fair** at District 65.
- Partnered with Y.O.U. to offer after-school enrichment sessions at Chute Middle School and a summer program at Nichols Middle School.
- Participated in the **EvanSTEM 5th Ward STEM fest** in May.
- Concluded the citywide reading program, **The Big Read**.
- Piloted a **free Wi-Fi hotspot program** allowing patrons to “check out the Internet” for two weeks.
- Provided free classes for adults on how to use computer/mobile devices and software, and how to create resumes and cover letters.
- Continued providing “pop-up” library services and computer training classes for residents at Blake Manor and Primm Tower, and expanded the program to the 1900 Sherman Ave. building.
- Established new programs to encourage the love of reading, including:
 - **Winter Words**, which encourages talking and reading with children ages birth to three.
 - A **Middle School Lit Fest**, in partnership with District 65, connected more than a dozen young adult authors with students.
 - **Literary salons**, hosted by Betsy Bird, connected patrons with authors and interesting discussion topics.
 - **Talk Read Sing** provides regular text messages for parents to promote healthy communication habits and brain development in our youngest children.



Computer lab at Primm Towers



Middle School Lit Fest

LIBRARY PHOTOS CREDIT: Lynn Trautmann, LITPhoto Evanston



“Outside the Box” public art

Cultural Arts

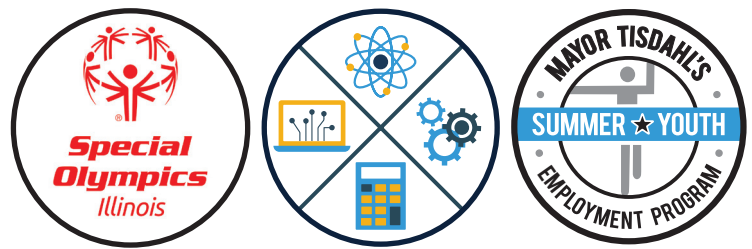
- **Evanston Made**, a month-long arts celebration, debuted in June. Studios, galleries, museums, workshops and businesses opened their doors to showcase works and host events by Evanston creatives.
- An **interactive online public art map** was created. **Public art murals** were installed on Church Street, Main Street and Washington Street. A local **Girl Scout project** refreshed and repaired the mural on Greenleaf Avenue with help and mentorship of original artist Jim Parks.
- Church St. at Sherman Ave. was the site of the first installation of the “**Outside the Box**” project to cover electrical boxes with photography. (photo at left).
- A Mitchell Museum “**Indigenous Peoples**” exhibition and Annette Patko’s “**Woman of Substance**” exhibition were installed at the Morton Civic Center

Parks, Recreation & Community Services

- The Summer Youth Food Service Program served **45,039** meals to Evanston youth. The program is funded through a grant from the Illinois State Board of Education.
- Evanston Special Recreation was one of two programs chosen by [Special Olympics Illinois](#) to implement a new wellness program for athletes, supporting healthy habits in regards to eating, sleeping and more.
- New computer labs opened at [Mason Park](#) and the [Fleetwood-Jourdain Community Center](#), expanding access and opportunities for students and adults.
- In conjunction with District 65, Family Focus and Evanston Public Library, Fleetwood-Jourdain Community Center hosted a [STEM Fest](#) for over **100** students.
- **153,510** people visited Evanston beaches, the second largest season attendance in 10 years.
- The Mayor's Summer Youth Employment Program provided **608 jobs** to Evanston youth.








Children at play during summer camp



Health and Human Services

- Over **200** City of Evanston staff participated in a full-day regional and interagency point of dispensation (POD) drill focused on emergency preparedness in the event of a public health crisis.
- [The 2016 ReThink Your Drink \(RTYD\)](#) educational campaign, which raises awareness of added sugar in beverages, included **18** educational workshops that reached over **820** participants. Analysis from **5** Evanston sites showed a significant reduction in the number of sugar-sweetened beverages sold from vending machines.
- [Get Yourself Tested](#)—a youth-centric sexually transmitted infection testing and prevention campaign implemented at Evanston Township High School—had a **31% increase** in participants in 2016.
- Staff averted homelessness, or helped stabilize housing, for **100** Evanston residents.
- Staff submitted the [Evanston Plan for Local Assessment of Need \(EPLAN\)](#), the 5-year strategic plan the Illinois Department of Public Health required for recertification of the department, and received recertification for 2016-2021. The process included the successful completion of four communitywide assessments that required significant staff time and participation from over **90** community members.

 <p>\$77,896</p> <p>Value of dental services provided to 108 patients at 7th Annual Dental Access Days' 2-day clinic</p>	 <p>2,740</p> <p>property standards inspections of registered rental properties</p>
 <p>City of Evanston</p> <p>39% ↑</p> <p>increase in WOW walking program participants</p>	 <p>1,350</p> <p>Food establishment and temporary food service inspections</p>
<p>311</p> <p>EVANSTON</p> <p>3,300</p> <p>Responses to 311 requests</p>	 <p>13% ↓</p> <p>decrease in rodent complaints</p>

Public Works Agency



\$6 million in federal funding was secured for **Emerson/Ridge/Green Bay improvements**.

The transformative project included pedestrian and transit improvements, bicycle accommodations, enhanced landscape/streetscape, drainage and utility improvements, and traffic signal coordination.

The Isabella Street bridge deck was rehabilitated, including the installation of a protective epoxy concrete layer to mitigate future corrosion.

Vehicular and pedestrian access improvements were completed on **Howard Street**, from Hartrey Avenue to the North Shore Channel. The project included traffic signal installation and modernization, and access drive and intersection improvements.

A new, simplified **street cleaning schedule** was implemented to ease parking congestion, increase cooperation, and improve operations efficiency. Redesigned parking signage was installed throughout the city.



3,000 free rain barrel orders were processed in partnership with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, helping to reduce stormwater runoff and potable water consumption.

A new **benchmarking ordinance** was adopted by the Evanston City Council requiring large Evanston buildings to track and report their annual energy and water consumption.



City Manager's Office

In early 2016, Evanston's City Council recommended the City and Evanston Public Library proceed with a fundraising campaign for a renovated or new **Robert Crown Community Center, Ice Complex and Library**.

In early 2017, Council approved a contract for architectural/engineering services for programming/investigation and schematic concept design services only.

An intensive community engagement program to discuss the building's design will take place through May 2017 (see image on page 8).

More information is available at cityofevanston.org/robertcrownproject or by calling **311**.

Law Department



- Drafted revisions to **City Code nuisance premises regulations** to promote neighborhood integrity and engage landlords in community improvement.
- Revised outdated, 40-year-old **taxicab regulations**, providing a level playing field for cabs and Transportation Network Providers, and eliminating regulatory costs for City cab licenses.
- Assisted staff in approval of the **1571 Maple planned development**.

Economic Development Division

Major new businesses:

- **Accuity** (financial services firm; 200 jobs)
- **Hyatt House**
- **Goodwill, Dollar Tree, Crossfit Factorial**, and **Studio 5** in Evanston Plaza
- **Autobarn Tech Center** at 2201 Autobarn Place
- **First Slice Pie Café** in Gibbs-Morrison Cultural Center

86 new businesses (vs. 68 in 2015 and 43 in 2014)
41% are food establishments

5% Commercial vacancy rate (lowest in 10+ years)

60+ Evanston entrepreneurs graduated from **Sunshine Enterprises' Community Business Academy**

1,250+ Real Estate Transfer Tax collections generated **over \$3.4 million** in revenue

\$16.2 million in home rule, municipal and vehicle rental sales tax from local retail operations



PHOTO CREDIT: WTA + MJMA

Friends of Robert Crown Center are raising funds for a new facility, which will include an ice complex and library. At press time, total gifts and pledges approached \$7 million. The image above is a concept illustration only and not an approved design.

2017 & Beyond

“Creating the most livable city in America”

- Major 2017 public works projects include Chicago Ave./Sheridan Rd.; Fountain Square; and Water Treatment Plant reliability, as well as installation of Safe Routes to School speed radar signs.
- The Evanston Police Department will have more officers attend the 40-hour Crisis Intervention Training.
- The Fire Department will work with other departments on a state-of-the-art emergency notification system and emergency operations center, along with continued preparedness training for City staff.
- The Facilities Management and Fleet Services Divisions will implement apprenticeship programs to help students interested in pursuing a building trade or vehicle maintenance career.
- Public access Channel 6 will be relaunched to better serve the community and a video production studio will be installed at the Morton Civic Center to be used by community members and City of Evanston staff.

- A Cultural Arts Master Plan will be developed, including “arts mapping” to assess accessibility to arts and culture in our neighborhoods.
- The Evanston Public Library will focus on delivery of services to the immigrant and Latino communities in Evanston. While remaining open for public service, renovation of the main library will begin.
- The Health and Human Services Department will establish cross-cutting strategies to conduct operations through the lens of health equity and increase shelter payments for rental assistance in the General Assistance Program in recognition of market values.
- Law Department staff will pursue training and establish compliance procedures for the anticipated body camera technology implementation at the Police Department.
- The Economic Development Division will create an entrepreneurship support program for Sunshine graduates and other early-stage Evanston entrepreneurs.
- The Building and Inspection Services Division will increase online permitting opportunities and develop an implementation schedule for Electronic Document Review.



Values
 Excellent Customer Service
 Continuous Improvement
 Integrity
 Accountability

2017 City Council Goals
 City Facilities
 City Streets
 Economic Development
 Financial Policies and City Debt
 Services for At-risk Families
 Water and Sewer
 Violent Crime Reduction

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 2016. 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 Elizabeth B. Tisdahl	1st Ward Judy Fiske	2nd Ward Peter Braithwaite	3rd Ward Melissa Wynne	4th Ward Donald Wilson	5th Ward Delores A. Holmes
6th Ward Mark Tendam	7th Ward Eleanor Revelle	8th Ward Ann Rainey	9th Ward Brian Miller	City Clerk Rodney Greene	City Manager Wally Bobkiewicz