

2018 Annual Report Public Works Department Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas

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Annual Report

A message from Public Works Director, Jeff Fisher

I am so excited to be serving this community. This report concludes 2018 and my 2nd full year with the UG Team. The Wyandotte community has much to be proud of and excited about. It also has some challenges ahead; some very much like other communities and some unique to this community. We will focus on Public Works services in this report.

Before I get into some of the highlights of 2018, I want to recognize your employees in the multiple divisions of Public Works: Water Pollution Control; Engineering; Administration; Fleet; Solid Waste/Recycling; Buildings & Logistics; and Streets. They have an essential job to do, and 2018 was a solid year. We focused a lot this year on how we work in each division, and collectively, to conduct the business of Public Works, and how that can translate into great services to the community going forward.

In my experience, we must give a great deal of attention to the development of personnel and the systems they need to deliver at a high level. In the last two years, we have moved some people around to get them into roles they will excel in, and as we lost good people to retirement or otherwise, we have promoted and added new faces. In 2018, we promoted from within and brought some exciting talent to the team in multiple places throughout the organization. We will continue to identify highly talented people within the team and in the industry that bring great attitude and ability to serve you.

The team is becoming, and with excellent support from UG Leadership, much more data-driven. The

citizen surveys have been very useful in guiding staff and are referenced often in business cases made to the Commission. Developing a system for determining capital and maintenance needs and schedules, based on data, allows staff to utilize resources more effectively. The UG has purchased equipment that it never had before that is critical to maintaining the public assets at an acceptable level. The team has researched best practices to develop the right methods for maintaining those assets.

The team has several key initiatives that started in 2018 and will continue into the next year. Some of these are very well received and some are not as popular. However, they are all important to the essential services Public Works is charged with providing; and I will say, we should be expected to provide them at the highest level we possibly can. The Department did develop its first Strategic Plan in 2017, and it is viewable on the Public Works portion of the website.

Thank you for your interest and we look forward to serving you in 2019.

Sincerely,

Jeff Fisher Executive Director of Public Works

913-573-5400



About Public Works

The Public Works Department is responsible for the management, maintenance, and replacement of public infrastructure, including public buildings. The Department consists of the divisions of Buildings & Logistics, Engineering, Fleet Maintenance, Solid Waste & Recycling Management, Street Maintenance, and Water Pollution Control. Public Works' 2018 budget was approximately \$75 Million.

During 2018, Public Works focused on three important initiatives to provide Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas with a higher level of service: the Departmental Strategic Plan, Asset Management, and Project Management.

Developed in 2017, the department's Strategic Plan was fully implemented in 2018. The major themes of the plan in its first two years are: building public confidence, responding to resident input, making data-driven decisions, utilizing technology at a high level, accountability at all levels, and adopting a new asset management approach to business operations.

The new Asset Management team is working closely with both the Engineering and Streets Divisions to create a more organized and effective roadway preservation program. An automated data collection vehicle was deployed in 2018 to collect critical information about the county's infrastructure. Public Works is pleased to announce that every

segment of the streets system was inspected and evaluated by the second quarter of 2018. The data collected will facilitate Asset Management's goal of maximizing the life of every segment of roadway and ensure public funds are utilized when, where, and how the community needs them in 2019 and beyond.

Improved asset management ultimately allows for better project management and customer service. In 2018, Public Works went live with a customer service management software called Lucity. Lucity allows each division to issue, track, and follow up on work orders and activities like sewer replacement & repair, road maintenance, pothole patching, and customer service requests. In addition to Lucity, the Engineering Division acquired more robust project Management software that makes tracking the status of construction activity easy and highly accurate.

Outside the broad realm of strategic planning and asset management, Public Works continues to work with the Environmental Protection Agency in coming to a long-term solution on the Consent Decree, and large construction projects for 2019 continue to line up. The community can expect to see work begin on projects such as the Wolcott Treatment Plant, the Wolcott Interceptor, a new biosolids initiative, completion of a new Juvenile Justice Center, a Downtown Grocery Store, and a new Fire Station in western Kansas City, Kansas.

Buildings & Logistics

The Buildings & Logistics Division oversees, manages, and performs maintenance on all Unified

Government owned and operated facilities to provide accessible and convenient locations for citizens and visitors, while simultaneously providing comfortable and safe environments for employees. Buildings & Logistics' 2018 operating and maintenance budget was approximately \$5.6 Million.

The 89 facilities include police buildings, fire stations, recreation centers, the Wyandotte County Health Department, the Criminal Justice Complex, Juvenile Detention, Court Services, the Wyandotte County Courthouse, Memorial Hall, and City Hall.



The department includes administrative and maintenance staff.



Juvenile Justice Center Construction

Ground broke on Wyandotte County's new Juvenile Justice Center in late 2018. Currently, juvenile and adult offenders are housed in separate areas of the same building creating operational challenges. When complete, the new 47,000 square-foot Juvenile Justice Center will separate juvenile and adult offenders. When complete in 2020, the three-story center will contain classrooms, a courtyard, detention housing, a gymnasium, medical suite, visitation rooms, and family courtrooms.

The Mayor's Holiday Lighting Festival

Every year, thousands of community members gather at City Hall to 'flip the switch' on the Mayor's Christmas tree. A community favorite, entertainment is provided by local schools, non-profit groups, and businesses. While not as visible as a Christmas tree, the Buildings & Logistics team begins critical work on the event weeks in advance. From lighting and seating to decorating City Hall and coordinating staff, they are the unsung heroes that keep this tradition working behind the scenes.





New Fire Station Coming Soon

A new fire station is coming to western Kansas City, Kansas near Hutton & Leavenworth roads. Arch Images completed design drawings during 2018, and Haren Holdings was selected as the Construction Manager at Risk. The new fire station will improve resident safety and will begin construction in early 2019.

Engineering

The Engineering Division is responsible for the design, construction supervision, and the inspection



of streets, bridges, traffic signals, storm sewers, and sanitary sewer infrastructure projects in Kansas City, Kansas. If it looks like construction, Public Works' Engineering team is involved. Engineering's 2018 operations and maintenance budget was approximately \$2 Million.

This division includes the County Engineer, the City Traffic Engineer, the city's Stormwater Engineer, Project Engineers, and Project Managers. Working together, they are responsible for establishing systems for managing complex projects and supporting other Unified Government Departments.

Leavenworth Road Modernization

Championed by residents, the modernization of Leavenworth Road is a Public Works project supported by local investment and more than \$8M in Federal grants administered by the Kansas Department of Transportation. Construction began in 2018 with improvements including upgraded storm drainage, new curbs, spacious sidewalks, pedestrian signals, and new intersections. Construction between 63rd and 38th Streets will be complete in 2020.





Data-Driven Road Improvements

As mentioned earlier, to better understand the condition of roads, sidewalks, pavement, curbs, and gutters, Public Works deployed an automated data collection vehicle to gather critical information about the county's infrastructure in 2018. The information collected will be used to create systems that allow the Unified Government to make data-driven decisions about road repair, budgeting, and capital improvement.

Stormwater

The city's Stormwater Utility is designed to minimize flooding, reduce pollution, protect life & property, and sustainably manage your stormwater infrastructure. In 2018, the Public Works team began studying the possibility of transitioning the current fee system to one used by cities throughout the United States: Impervious Area or "hard surfaces." Community outreach and proposed program refinement will continue into 2019.



Fleet Maintenance

The Fleet Services Division coordinates the maintenance and operation of more than 1,300

cars, trucks, commercial construction equipment, tractors, trailers, and emergency vehicles operated by the Sheriff's Office, Police Department, and city staff. More than 30 employees are involved with equipment repairs, engine overhauls, and maintenance like tune-ups, brake jobs, clutch and transmission repair & replacement, electrical system diagnostics, hydraulic system repair, and tire maintenance.

Like many of the Public Works' Divisions, Fleet Maintenance operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Fleet's operations and maintenance budget in 2018 was approximately \$4 Million.





Work Orders

Your fleet is built for hard work, and along with that comes the need to provide everything from regular maintenance to complex repair on specialty equipment. Last year, Fleet completed 13,649 jobs on 6,277 work orders. Equipment repairs can include things like engine overhauls, brake jobs, power steering pump replacement, hydraulic system repair, or tire replacement. With a full-service shop at their disposal, there isn't a job your Fleet employees can't handle.

Gallons of Fuel

Fleet operates a 24/7/365 fueling station to keep cars, trucks, heavy equipment, and emergency vehicles working for you. During 2018, vehicles utilized 183,852 gallons of diesel and 5,39,987 gallons of unleaded fuel. To lower costs and help reduce smog, 34,254 gallons of propane was dispensed to displace more than 29,116 gals of unleaded fuel that would have otherwise been used.





Miles Traveled

In 2018, your fleet traveled 9,377,133 miles. That is enough miles to traverse every lane mile of road in Kansas City, Kansas more than 3,900 times. All of that travel will get a vehicle pretty dirty. Interestingly, washing vehicles contributes to their overall longevity. To reduce costs and extend the life of vehicles, more than 23,000 carwashes were performed.

Solid Waste Management

The Solid Waste Division manages and administers all programs related to solid waste including contracted weekly trash disposal, weekly curbside recycling, residential household

hazardous waste collection, and disposal.



Solid Waste Management also develops green activities and clean-ups like Earth Day, and provides e-waste collection events. The Division assists residents, business, and community organizations with graffiti removal and neighborhood clean-ups.

All of the activities in this regard are performed under the guidance of regulatory agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency and Kansas Department of Health & Environment.

Graffiti Removal

Operation Brightside provides services that assist residents and local businesses with cleaning up graffiti vandalism by providing expertise, labor, and recycled supplies at no cost. During 2018, team members completed 1,137 graffiti removal projects – a 26% increase over 2017. In order to receive assistance, victims must complete an authorization for abatement. Download a copy of this form online at bit.ly/OperationBrightside.





Household Hazardous Waste

Not sure what to do with hazardous waste like paint, gasoline, used oil, pesticides, and propane cylinders? Wyandotte County residents can safely dispose of household hazardous waste every third Saturday From April through October at 2443 South 88th Street. This service is free, and during 2018, more than 760 people disposed of 46.6 tons – an increase of more than 37% over 2017. Way to go WyCo! Learn more online at bit.ly/OperationBrightside.

Yard Waste & Recycling

Located at 3241 Park Drive, the Yard Waste & Recycling Center is a popular option for residents wanting to properly dispose of cumbersome yard waste, recycling, and storm debris. Open year-round for Wyandotte County Residents; the center accepts a variety of items like grass clippings, leaves, branches, newspaper, cardboard, and beverage cans. During 2018, 2,065 people used this free service to dispose of more than 390 tons of waste. Learn more online at bit.ly/SolidWasteManagement.



Street Maintenance

The primary goal of the Street Maintenance Division is to provide a safe, clean pavement

surface on city streets that is both visually attractive and as free of trash & debris as possible. In order to accomplish this goal, the Street Division provides pavement maintenance, mowing of Unified Government-owned properties, traffic sign maintenance/installation, snow removal, street sweeping, and right-of-way management for more than 2,400 lane miles of improved roadway and alleys.

The Division is one of the first responders to emergencies and is the primary resource for everything related to roads. The Division also provides support for special events such as neighborhood clean-ups, parades, and other community activities. Their 2018 operations and maintenance budget was approximately \$7 Million.





First Full Year with New Patcher

As long as paved roads exist, so too will potholes. The Street Division used the new hot asphalt patching truck for the first full year during 2018. The new patcher improves the quality and response time of pothole repairs by allowing for the transport of hot asphalt during the winter months. Onboard attachments like a jackhammer and tack oil application wand enable team members to apply long-lasting and more uniform repairs in very short periods.

Snow Storms Managed

Snow removal in the Midwest is always a hot topic. During 2018, members of the city's Snow Crew battled 11 storms and applied more than 10,000 tons of salt to streets. During the November Snow Emergency, crews traveled more than 14,500 miles clearing and treating roadways. That distance is enough to fly from Los Angeles to New York City 6 times. Did you read this far? Thank you! Be the first to email deptpw@wycokck.org and claim a \$10 Gift Card.





First 3D Crosswalk in the Region

Working in conjunction with the city Traffic Engineer, the Street Division designed, tested, and implemented the Midwest region's first fullyfunctional three-dimensional crosswalk. 3D crosswalks are designed to increase pedestrian safety and calm the flow of vehicle traffic by catching a driver's attention. This creative project made national news and resulted in numerous requests from the community for more.

Water Pollution Control

The Water Pollution Control Division is funded through two enterprise sources: the Sanitary Sewer user



fee and the Storm Water Utility user fee. Water Pollution Control is primarily responsible for sewer service, protecting water quality, and providing local stormwater management service.

The Division's business is to protect the public health of Kansas City and Wyandotte County residents and to safeguard the environment through wastewater and stormwater management. For more than 100 years, residential customers, businesses, and visitors have benefited from reliable, and cost-effective wastewater & stormwater treatment. The Division's 2018 operations and maintenance budget was approximately \$18.5 Million

Levels of Service

Water Pollution Control is constantly working for the community. Levels of service are used to gauge how productive a team is, and when it comes to productivity, Water Pollution Control is big! In 2018, Water Pollution Control treated 7.12 billion gallons of water, sent 20,507 tons of sludge to the landfill, cleaned more than 330 miles of subterranean pipe, and performed nearly 60 miles worth of televised inspection.





Fairfax Force Main Project Complete

Force mains are large pipes that send pressurized wastewater to discharge points like treatment plants. In 2018, the Water Pollution Control team replaced the 36" Fairfax Industrial District Force Main that delivers sewage and stormwater to the Kaw Point treatment plant. Maintaining and improving the city's complex wastewater system keeps our community healthy by preventing pollutants from entering lakes, streams, and rivers.

Three Treatment Plants Nominated

Keeping pollutants, like sewage, out of the environment is tough work, but the Water Pollution Control team does a great job of it! For excellence in keeping our water safe, Treatment Plants 3, 14, and Kaw Point were nominated for the National Association of Clean Water Agencies' prestigious Gold Award. Gold Awards are presented to facilities with no permit violations for an entire calendar year. Way to go Water Pollution Control!





Pause – Crawl – Walk – Run