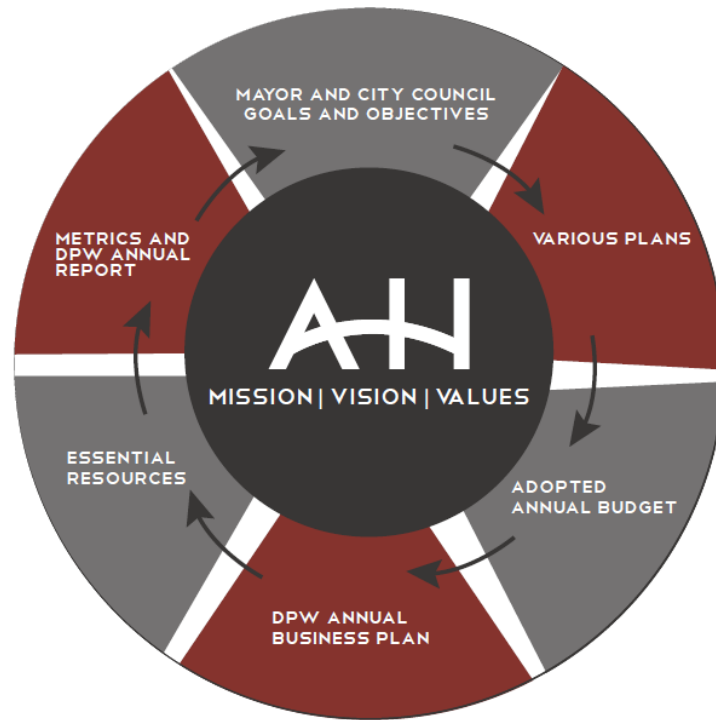




Department of Public Works 2024 Annual Report



Approved By: Steve Baldante, Director of Public Works

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Background

The purpose of this document is to provide an overview of City accomplishments that the [Department of Public Works](#) (DPW) assisted with in 2024. The DPW is comprised of 45 full-time and 8 permanent part-time employees. In addition, we are tasked with managing multiple contractors, including OHM Advisors, who support the public infrastructure, daily operations, maintenance, and capital improvement projects. Accomplishments are categorized by respective divisions. **Attachment 1** is an up-to-date organization chart of the DPW. For the first time in many years, DPW was fully staffed which allowed us to exceed all of our internal targets for maintenance activities for each division. Additionally, there were many large infrastructure projects in Roads, Water and Sewer and Municipal Properties. Our goals for 2025 are focused on improving internal metrics in maintenance related areas as well as 100% completion of forecasted projects. For the upcoming year, we are expecting approximately \$17 million in Capital Improvement projects as well as other infrastructure enhancements such as pathway and sidewalk repairs and completion of open 2024 project such as the South Boulevard Water Main project and the Public Square. Each year we look to increase the volume of maintenance related items by 5% across all divisions.

Fleet & Roads (Manager – Jason Hefner)

The Fleet Division (Fleet) is made up of three full-time personnel including two Master Mechanics, and one Maintenance Technician. In addition to supporting various initiatives and projects, Fleet is also responsible for the maintenance of more than 125 fleet units and over 150 pieces of equipment.

The Roads Division (Roads) is made up of seven full-time personnel. In addition to supporting various initiatives and projects, Roads are also responsible for the maintenance of more than 90 miles of roadway, over 120 miles of pathway, nearly 225 Miles of storm mains, 2,754 catch basins, and all City roadway and related signs. In addition, 2024 was extremely busy with multiple road projects and commencement of our long-line striping program. One incredible metric to highlight is that the Roads division applied almost 35,000 pounds of crack seal which helps extend the life of asphalt surfaces. This was an almost 300% increase from 2023. Some of the smaller projects that took place in 2024 underneath the Roads Division were extensive pathway repairs, with more to come in 2025 and 2026 as well as sidewalk repairs utilizing our new grinder machine.

In extension of the above, accomplishments from 2024 that Fleet & Roads assisted with include:

- Shimmons/Dexter - curve realignment.
- Dexter Road (Walton to Shimmons) - asphalt reconstruction
- Hunt Club - asphalt mill and overlay.
- Zelma/Hatton/Glenrose – asphalt pulverization and overlay
- Superior Court – asphalt reconstruction
- 1114 fleet work orders.
- 272 signs produced.
- 671 catch basins inspected. 129 repaired.
- 32 winter operations events.
- 116 tons of asphalt installed.
- 34,900 lbs. of crack seal applied.
- 293 miles of curb cleaned with 195 tons of debris.



Public Utilities (Manager – Jason Deman)

The Public Utilities Division is made up of 13 full-time personnel. In addition to supporting various initiatives and projects, Utilities is responsible for the maintenance of over 182 miles of water main, 118 miles of sewer main, 2,905 water system valves, 2,620 water hydrants, 2,904 sewer manholes, 4 sanitary sewer lift stations, 10 pressure reducing valves, a booster station, and a water tower. Additionally, Utilities is responsible for the City's Cross Connection Control Program, construction related inspections for water and sewer services, and metering water usage related to utility billing for 6,446 customers served. In 2024, we made significant progress utilizing our new GIS system, Cartegraph. The GIS mapping program has been extremely effective in helping to locate city assets and saving time and increasing efficiencies.

In extension of the above, accomplishments from 2022 that Utilities assisted with include:

- 2,929 MISS Dig requests.
- 300+ construction inspections.
- 113,443 feet of sewer inspection.
- 121,407 feet of sewer cleaning
- 638 hydrants inspected, 28 repaired.
- 710 meter interface units (MIU's) changed out.
- 801 valves inspected.
- 102 meters changed out.
- 85 new meter installations.
- 1 water main repair
- 11 Curb box/service repairs.
- 5 new service installations.
- Commencement of South Boulevard Water Main replacement.

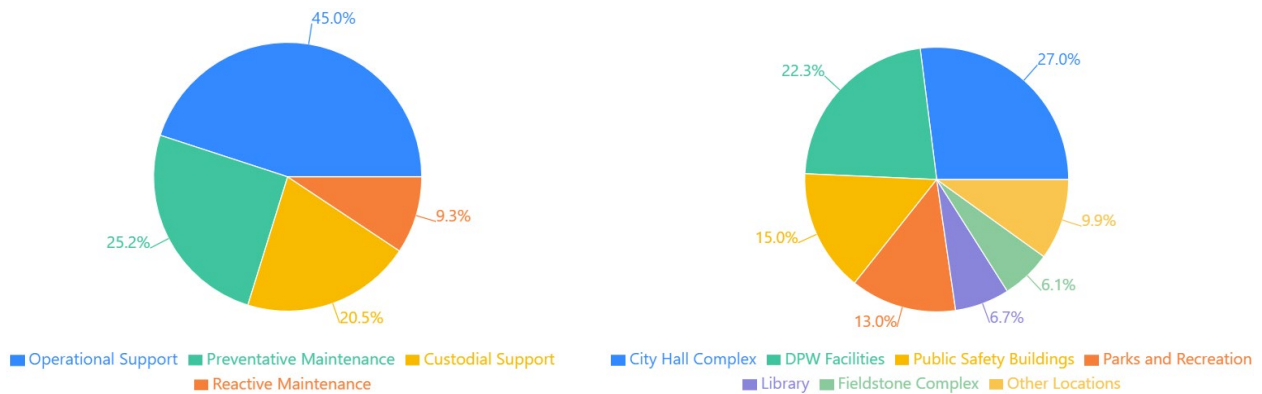
2024 Municipal Properties Accomplishments

The skilled nine-person Facilities Division team oversees maintenance across 44 municipal buildings and associated structures. Beyond their core maintenance duties, the division completed several major construction projects in 2024. These included a new teaching kitchen at the Community Center, Library bathroom renovations, Fieldstone Golf Club improvements (roof replacement and cart path renovations), and renovation of the Icehouse which serves as the civic center campus's utility hub. The team also installed new public art downtown, enhancing Auburn Hills' cultural landscape. While managing these capital projects, the division processed 3,048 work orders, implemented new preventative maintenance programs, and enhanced building security systems across the city.

The facilities team demonstrated exceptional operational efficiency throughout 2024, maintaining a 95% preventative maintenance compliance rate and 99% building systems uptime. Response metrics were equally



impressive, with an 85% same-day completion rate and 4.2-hour average response time. Work order distribution revealed concentrated activity at the City Hall complex with 825 orders (27%), followed by DPW facilities with 680 orders (22.3%), public safety buildings with 458 orders (15%), and parks and recreation facilities with 395 orders (13%). The library accounted for 205 orders (6.7%), the Fieldstone complex generated 185 orders (6.1%), with various other locations comprising the remaining 300 orders (9.9%).



The Electrical Division continued modernizing the city's lighting infrastructure in 2024, completing comprehensive LED upgrades across multiple facilities. Major building improvements included Administration Building LED retrofits, Community Center gym lighting upgrades that doubled light output, and significant enhancements to the Public Safety parking lot lighting. Infrastructure projects focused on power reliability and efficiency, with new transfer switches and generator systems installed at Hawk Woods Lodge and the Icehouse. The division also modernized citywide lighting controls with photo eye technology and installed the 3rd phase of our new decorative streetlights in Downtown Auburn Hills. Seasonal initiatives included the installation of downtown pear tree holiday lighting, citywide snowflake decorations, and power infrastructure for community events.

The Parks and Grounds Division, staffed by 9 full-time, 8 part-time, and 4 seasonal employees, maintained over 155 acres while achieving significant environmental milestones. The team notably eliminated the downtown winter maintenance contract, generating \$54,000 in annual savings while improving service quality and response times. Environmental achievements included a first-time net-positive tree balance with over 200 trees planted against 132 removals, and more than 1,000 trees trimmed. The comprehensive turf

and horticulture program installed 402 cubic yards of mulch, 36 cubic yards of landscape stone, 400 cubic yards of topsoil, and 1,000 pounds of grass seed. Water conservation efforts continued for the third consecutive year, while the city earned Tree City USA recognition for the 25th year.



Major park improvements transformed several key locations throughout 2024. Civic Center Park received a complete disc golf course rehabilitation including new equipment and bridge restoration. River Woods Park

saw extensive upgrades with boardwalk and playground replacement, invasive species removal, and new pedestrian entry gates. The Aaron Webster Cemetery underwent comprehensive improvements including headstone leveling, fence repairs, and complete turf restoration. Riverside Park benefited from fountain spillway rehabilitation and pathway repairs, while Hawk Woods Park received trail base reconstruction and drainage improvements.

Parks and Grounds continued annual community engagement through partnerships with local corporations and organizations. Earth Day events with Borg Warner engaged 50 volunteers in trail repairs and planting 58 trees, while Vitesco Technologies contributed 30 volunteers for additional plantings and landscaping work. River cleanup events partnered with Clinton River Watershed Volunteers and Trout Unlimited, while staff supported major community gatherings including Paddle-Palooza, Summerfest, Fall Fest, and the Winter Solstice Lantern Walk.

Through diligent infrastructure management, construction expertise, and environmental stewardship, the Municipal Properties team maintained and enhanced city facilities while elevating amenities for all residents. Their commitment to collaborative projects, community engagement, and operational efficiency ensures facilities and grounds continue to meet evolving community needs while maintaining the highest standards of maintenance and operation.

- Commencement of the Public Square project
- Disk golf course rehabilitation
- Aaron Webster Cemetery improvements
- Fieldstone Golf Course roof replacement

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Department Organization Chart