



CITY OF ANN ARBOR 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

PREPARED BY
MILTON DOHONEY JR.,
CITY ADMINISTRATOR

www.a2gov.org

Dear Mayor and City Council,

Message from the City Administrator. It will continue to be my practice to provide you with a year-end communication to wrap up each calendar year. This document touches on a variety of topics to either provide updates or information on our current areas of focus.

Organizational Stability. During 2024 we continued to add and support leadership. In addition to the technical expertise these professionals bring, their service continues to enhance the diversity of our leadership structure. We successfully welcomed our new Human Resources and Labor Relations Director and Police Chief. We moved forward with recruiting the positions of Deputy City Administrator, Economic Development Director, Public Services Area Administrator and Transportation Manager, which will be filled in early 2025.

Bicentennial – 2024 Year of Celebration. 2024 marked Ann Arbor’s 200th Anniversary. We organized an internal and external Bicentennial Collaboration Committee to plan a year-long celebration of Ann Arbor. The Ann Arbor Bicentennial celebrates the rich history and cultural heritage that make our city the dynamic and vibrant place that it is today. As we look back on the past 200 years, we are proud of the progress we have made and the community we have built. We are excited about the future, and the opportunities that lie ahead. The year is archived at <https://www.a2gov.org/ann-arbor-bicentennial/>



ANN ARBOR BICENTENNIAL
1824-2024

Table of Contents

Message from the City Administrator	Page 2
City Administrator’s Office	Page 4
City Clerk’s Office	Page 7
Communications	Page 10
Community Services	Page 12
Financial & Administrative Services	Page 16
Fire	Page 17
Information Technology	Page 21
Police	Page 21
Public Services	Page 28
Safety	Page 44
Sustainability and Innovations	Page 46
Ann Arbor Housing Commission	Page 46

Supplemental Reports:

- **[Ann Arbor Fire Department](https://www.a2gov.org/media/j3ofwdz4/2024-aafd-annual-report.pdf)** <https://www.a2gov.org/media/j3ofwdz4/2024-aafd-annual-report.pdf>
- **[Ann Arbor Police Department](https://www.a2gov.org/media/ud3pfx00/2024-annual-report-final.pdf)** <https://www.a2gov.org/media/ud3pfx00/2024-annual-report-final.pdf>
- **Supportive Connections**
- **Sustainability & Innovations**
- **Ann Arbor Housing Commission**

City Administrator's Office

- Led a collaborative community effort to determine a solution for downtown public restrooms – The Throne.
- Coordinated an economic development effort that enabled Briarwood Mall to complete their plans for a major expansion.
- Launched and completed the project to provide a major upgrade to Council Chambers.
- Conducted an extensive national effort to secured the City's next Police Chief.
- Completed the Economic Development Report and presented it to City Council.
- Purchased the Election Center, and successfully lobbied for \$1 million in state money to help with the renovations.
- Worked with EGLE to ensure tougher pollutant discharge standards were implemented for the Wixom Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- Actively and successfully participated in lobbying efforts to codify LGBTQ rights in the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act, repeal the so-called "Right-to-Work" Law, a series of alternative energy and sustainability laws, and legislation to improve ballot access and voting rights in Michigan.
- Have made significant progress on legislation pending passage including the new Polluter Pays bills, repealing the preemption of local plastic bag and container bans, legislation allowing local governments to set safer speed limits, and legislation to ban source of income discrimination in housing.
- Set in motion a process to finally bring a resolution on the future of the Kline's Lot.
- Initiated a collaborative rebranding effort that enabled the community to be better organized when large numbers of first time visitors come to Ann Arbor.
- Provided leadership to the prep work necessary to create a framework for the SEU.
- Launched an extensive process to investigate, design, and fund a new Unarmed Response program.
- Coordinated the process for establishing a formal relations with the Ukrainian community of Lubny.
- Designed a new budget processed to enhance horizontal communication and breakdown silos.
- Invested considerable time conducting recruitment efforts to fill out our leadership team.

Supportive Connections/Deflection Program

- [\[See Attached Supplemental 2024 Report \]](#)



Department of Organizational Equity (DEI)

In alignment with the City of Ann Arbor’s mission, the Office of Equity and Engagement (OOE) continued its collaborative efforts with various City departments and enhanced its outreach with community members, organizations, and groups.

City Workforce Initiatives

OOE partnered with City Improvement Plan (CIP) teams to integrate equity and accessibility into the planning and evaluation of CIP projects. This initiative ensures that equity principles are embedded in the City's infrastructure development and improvement efforts.

The OOE, in collaboration with the City Clerk’s Office, conducted over 20 audits of polling locations. These audits aimed to assess and improve accessibility, ensuring that all community members can participate in the electoral process with ease and dignity.

Additionally, the OOE provided support to various city staff and their managers by facilitating workplace accommodations. These efforts underscored the City’s commitment to fostering an inclusive and supportive work environment for all employees.

A significant milestone for 2024 was the launch of the OOE Ambassador Program. This initiative is designed to train city staff from every department on key concepts related to accessibility, diversity, equity, and inclusion. Ambassadors serve as liaisons, offering diverse perspectives and guidance to the OOE while promoting a culture of equity and inclusion throughout the City’s workforce.

To further promote a shared understanding of core principles, the OOE established and published formal definitions for the terms “Diversity,” “Equity,” and “Inclusion.” These definitions were made accessible on the employee SharePoint site as well as the City’s external website, ensuring clarity and alignment across internal and external stakeholders.

In support of the City’s Bicentennial celebrations, OOE staff actively participated in workgroups and contributed valuable feedback to various initiatives, highlighting the role of equity and inclusion in commemorative activities.

Community Engagement and Partnerships

For the ninth consecutive year, the City of Ann Arbor earned a perfect score of 100 on the Human Rights Campaign’s Municipal Equity Index (MEI). This achievement reaffirms Ann Arbor’s reputation as an inclusive and supportive city for LGBTQ+ individuals.

A key highlight of 2024 was the OOE’s collaboration throughout the planning process of the Ann Arbor Art Fair. By working closely with the University of Michigan’s disability office and engaging with all relevant offices and organizations, the OOE helped ensure that accessibility was prioritized from start to finish. This collaborative approach set a new standard for inclusivity at large-scale community events.

In celebration of Disability Pride Month in July, the OOE partnered with the Disability Network to host an art show at City Hall. This event showcased the artistic talents of individuals with disabilities, fostering greater awareness, inclusion, and community pride. The exhibition highlighted the creative contributions of individuals with disabilities and reinforced the City’s commitment to celebrating diverse perspectives and talents.

Through these efforts, the OOE has demonstrated its dedication to promoting equity, inclusion, and accessibility both within the City’s workforce and throughout the broader Ann Arbor community. (See photos below.)

Office of Organizational Equity in Action





City Clerk

- City Clerk Jacqueline Beaudry was elected by her peers to serve as President of the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks for a one-year term beginning June 2023.
- Secured six locations for 2024 early voting in Ann Arbor, including a new partnership with the Ann Arbor District Library and continuation of partnership with the University of Michigan.
- City Clerk Jacqueline Beaudry and staff member Sarah Alanis accepted the Stars and Stripes Award in Orlando, FL from the Election Center National Conference for recognition of the City's partnership with U-M on the satellite city clerk offices on campus.
- Added new secure 24/7 drop boxes at Arrowwood Hills Community Center and Huron Hills Golf Course clubhouse.
- Worked with Deputy City Administrator John Fournier to finalize purchase of building at 3021 Miller Road for the City's new election center facility with plans to begin operations at the site in February 2024.
- City Clerk Jacqueline Beaudry completed her term as President of the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks (MAMC) in Traverse City in June.
- The Clerk's Office was awarded an MI Excellence Award for Overall Best Practice by the MAMC for our Voter Participation Program.

- Successfully conducted 2024 Presidential Election year including the Presidential Primary, August Primary and November 5 General Election.
- Implemented early voting in Ann Arbor at 6 locations, including a new partnership with the Ann Arbor District Library and expansion of the satellite city clerk offices on the campus of the University of Michigan.
- Piloted the State’s first Election Day Vote Centers for voters registering to vote on Election Day. This and other legislative and policy changes led to almost no wait times for same-day voter registration on November 5.
- Worked with former Deputy City Administrator John Fournier and the City’s lobbyist in partnership with the Cities of Grand Rapids and Lansing to secure an additional \$2,000,000 in funding for the renovation of the City’s new election center facility.
- The Clerk’s Office applied for and received approval from the Michigan State Historical Society for a State historical marker to recognize the election of Kathy Kozachenko to City Council as the nation’s first openly LGBTQ elected official.

City Clerk’s Office in Action



2024 Election Activities

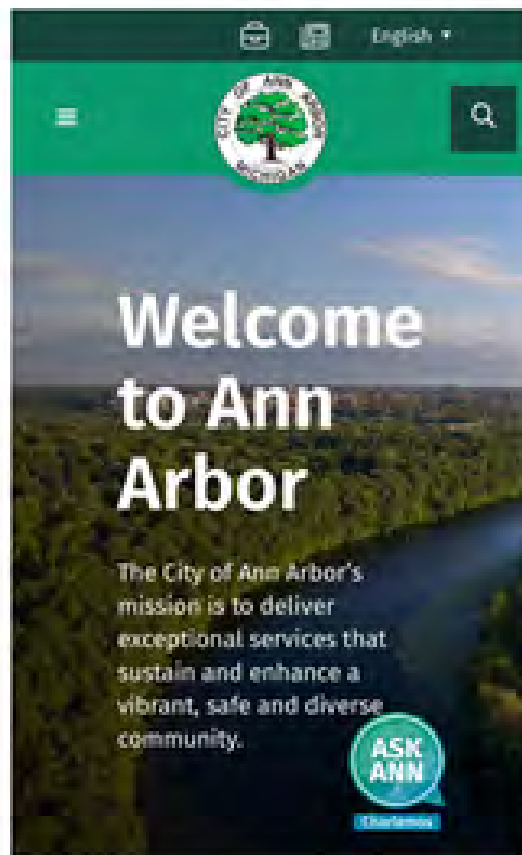


2024 Election Activities

Communications

- Promoted and captured Ann Arbor’s Bicentennial celebrations all year long www.a2gov.org/a200
- Implemented new content management software to enhance ADA and accessibility features and enhance A2gov website design and features.
- Completed 2024 bi-annual National Community Survey [2024 NCS results](#).
- Ann Arbor’s Community Television Network staff won four regional Philo T. Farnsworth video competition awards and an Overall Excellence Hometown Media Award from the Alliance for Community Media Foundation.
- Participated in emergency preparedness trainings and events to support public information during an active shooter, dam failure, water contamination or severe weather event.
- Led county-wide virtual Joint Information Center bi-annual meetings to increase communication coordination between agencies.

Communications Office in Action





Good Morning America Visist July 2024 - Happy Birthday Ann Arbor!

Community Services

- Solicited bids and approved a contract for the demolition of several obsolete and blighted City properties including 415 W. Washington and 721 N. Main. is under way and scheduled to be finished in 2025.
- Successfully approved and located 10 Throne Public Restroom Facilities



Highlighting A2

Throne is setting A2 apart as a leader in bathroom access and smart city innovation

Opportunity:

Attract residents, staff and students to Ann Arbor by highlighting Ann Arbor's innovation in national media, industry publications and conferences.

"It was really powerful to see the city push forward public restrooms that can raise popular at first, but it just worked really well even in a space where they have had historic issues"

Sarah Poulton
Senior Project Manager,
City of Chapel Hill



Planning

- UDC Amendments to increase the permissibility and reduce barriers to childcare center development, height exceptions for elevator overruns, TC1 District modifications for additional flexibility, clarifying transportation impact analysis content criteria for improved transparency, increasing location potential of personal scale solar energy systems, and adding new uses to the UDC to increase flexibility.
- Completed community engagement prior to drafting the Comprehensive Plan .



35,000+ website views
 3,000+ survey participants
 19 interviews (49 individuals, 15 agencies)
 7 events at downtown and branch libraries
 380+ attendees
 27 stakeholders in small group meetings
 Pop up events at Green Fair, Summer Party, Farmers Market and Meeting in a Box

- Onboarded and integrated 3 new FTEs, to fill positions vacated by previous staff members with a collective 75 years of experience with the City.
- Completed video highlighting what a Comprehensive Plan is: <https://youtu.be/VSG3D2Rnn1I>
- With full grant funding support, completed an update to the Old Fourth Ward Historic District Survey
- Supported 65 Board & Commission Meetings throughout the year

Developments Under Construction

- 52,000 square feet of commercial
- 564 hotel rooms
- 1,934 apartments (399 affordable)
- 294 Condominiums
-

Developments Approved (Not Under Construction)

- 184,000 square feet of commercial
- 395 hotel rooms
- 3,106 apartments (33 affordable)

Building & Rental Housing

- Successfully hired a new City Building Official
- Recruited and hired a new Building Department Liaison position designed to assist customers navigating the plan review, permit issuance, inspection and occupancy process.
- Achieved a 5% improvement in plan review delivery, ensuring feedback and/or completed plans were returned to customers within five days.
- Enhanced building and trades permit insurance by 10% with EnerGov support, facilitating online permit applications and payments.
- For the second year, building inspectors have maintained next-day inspections that assisted several projects meet short timing and deadlines that directly impacted funding and budget.
- Improved the rate of first-time compliance for rental housing inspections, with the aid of inspectors, delivering excellent service and educating the public.

- Commercial and Residential Building and Trade Permits Issued: **23,623**
- Building and Trade Inspection Completed: **27,727**
- C of Os Issued: **1,474 (802 temps, 672 final)**
- Rental Certificates issued **2,714**
- Rental Inspection Completed: **2,811(units inspected 9,803)**
- Total Construction Value:
- Commercial Building Permits: **\$352,639,552**
- Residential Building Permits: **\$284,096,643**

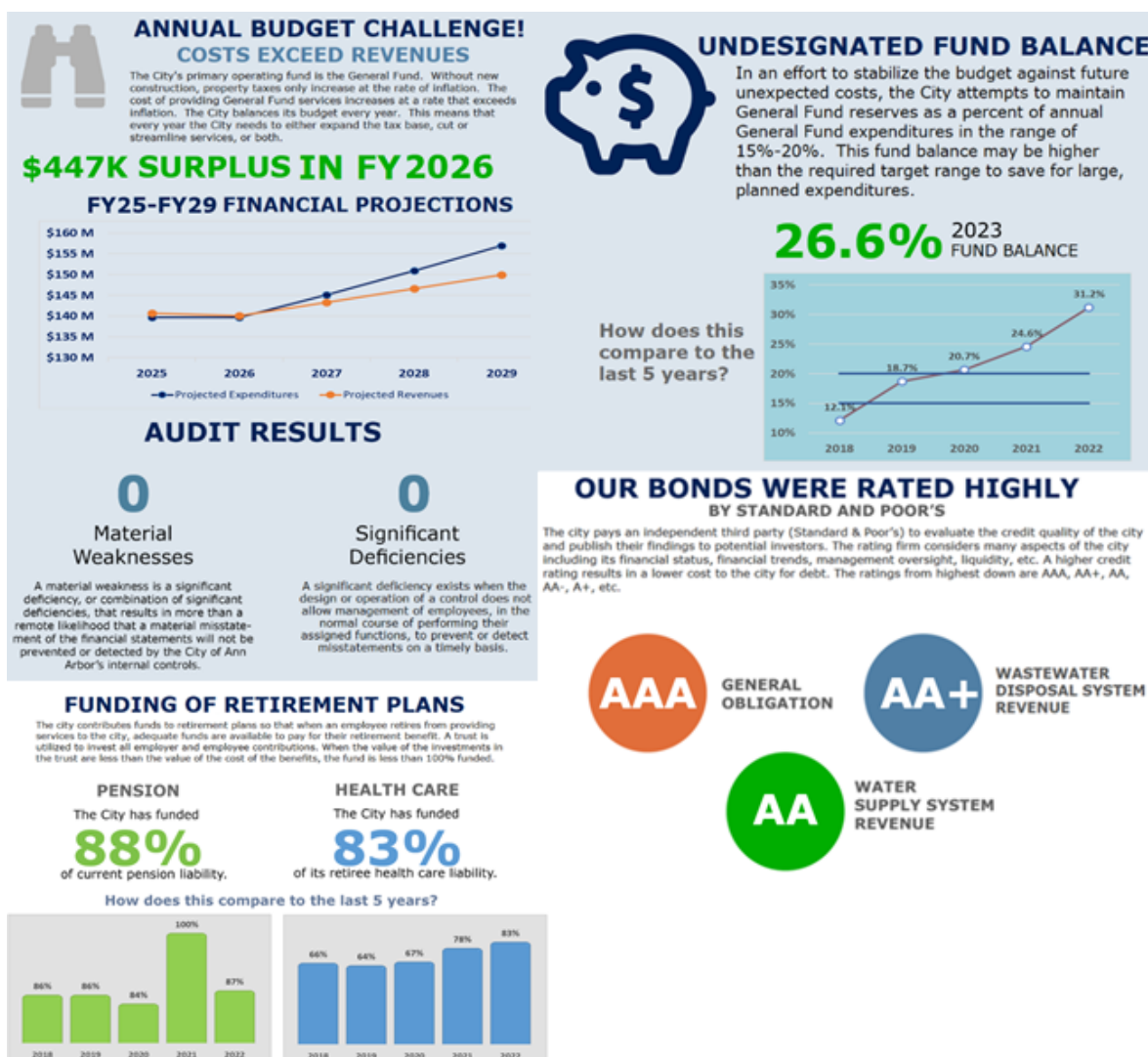
Parks – Natural Area Preservation - Greenbelt

- Successful bond renewal, extending the life of the bond to 20 years, allowing for additional flexibility in financing Parks operation.
- Parks & Recreation launched a new “Diversity in the Outdoors” speaker series in partnership with the Ann Arbor District Library. This new platform gave community members an opportunity to engage with underrepresented or emerging perspectives on the natural world.
- Parks and Recreation ADA Transition Plan was adopted, formalizing a commitment to improving access for all users to Ann Arbor’s parks.
- Park capital asset management plan was initiated to evaluate the condition and projected costs associated with all park infrastructure.
- Reorganization of Park, Give 365, and NAP volunteer activities into a single volunteer group, streamlining and increasing impact of Park’s volunteers.
- A key segment of the Border to Border trail network was completed through Barton Nature Area.
- The Barton Nature Area nature playground was created as an additional recreation amenity at the Barton Nature Area trailhead.
- New bridge was constructed in Gallup Park, providing vehicle and pedestrian access, increasing pedestrian space, and improving safety and comfort for all users. Additionally, the project re-aligned and improved the adjacent Border to Border Trail crossing.
- Burns Park tennis and pickleball courts were rehabilitated.
- Summer Day Camps at Gallup, Argo, Fuller and Buhr once again operated at 99% capacity.
- GIVE365 volunteers donated 6325 hours through workdays and other volunteer activities.
- 13,095 volunteer hours were reported in FY23, far exceeding NAP’s annual goal of 10,000 volunteer hours.
- Significant increase in pool admissions in FY 24 – 92,910 compared to 79,119 in FY23.
- Southeast Area Park was renamed as Bicentennial Park to celebrate the City’s Bicentennial. Significant improvements to Chapter 42 of the City Code (Open Space & Parkland Preservation) were proposed by staff and adopted by City Council, paving way for new innovations for the City's Greenbelt program.
- The Greenbelt program directly secured \$840,360 in USDA grant funding.

Finance & Administrative Services

- Awarded the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Presentation Award.
- Unmodified audit opinion and receipt of the GFOA Certificate of Achievement award.
- ARPA Funding Overview: <https://www.a2gov.org/departments/finance-admin-services/financial-reporting/Pages/ARPA-Funding.aspx>
- Financial Snapshot – See attached document for the graphic.

Financial Snapshot



Fire Services - Ann Arbor Fire Department (AAFD)

Highlights & Accomplishments

- Tentative agreement with IAFF 693 on a four-year collective bargaining agreement.
- Planning and response to the University of Michigan National Championship Football game and resulting celebratory fires and related incidents. This was followed by planning for the victory parade in freezing temperatures and the potential for power outages due to a forecast wind event.
- Fire recruit program continued with hiring of the third class. Four recruits have transitioned to firefighter positions.
- Held third Blaze and Blue Camp with AAPD to interest young females in a public safety career. Thirteen participants attended a four-day camp.
- New fire boat was placed into service. This boat responded on numerous rescues in the Huron River this summer and has already significantly improved our ability to respond on river incidents.
- Worked with a consultant along with several manufacturers to write the specification for the tractor drawn aerial apparatus (tiller ladder truck).
- Hosted regional training on high-rise operations with instructors from the Chicago Fire Department.
- Conducted Election Day tabletop exercise that was attended by the City EOC team, Washtenaw County Clerk's Office, U-M, the State of Michigan Bureau of Elections, and the Michigan Department of State.
- Four firefighters attended the National Women's Weekend Program at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland. This was a joint program with Women In Fire. The program consisted of a two-day course on a variety of fire service topics.
- Second ambulance purchased and placed in service with ARPA funds.
- Construction started on new Emergency Operations Center with APRA funds.
- Planning, coordination, and response to numerous dignitary visits ahead of the 2024 Presidential election.
- Planning, coordination, and emergency operations center activation for the 2024 election.

Grants

- Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity (LEO) Firefighters Turnout Gear Grant funding. This grant was applied for and awarded for in FY24. However, it will be implemented in FY25 and FY26. The grant allocated \$3,500.00 per set of turnout gear for each firefighter. Thirty-four sets will be purchased in FY25 (\$119,000.00) with the remaining thirty-three sets in FY26 (\$115,500.00). The FY25 cost per set of gear that the fire department has been using is \$3,846.64. The fire department will cover the delta of \$11,785.76 in our FY25 budget.
- Applied for an Assistance to Firefighter Grant via FEMA for \$30,000 to replace thermal imaging cameras. We did not receive this award.

Ann Arbor Fire Department in Action



New Ann Arbor Ambulance



New Boat



High Rise Training



National Championship Parade



Spray Park with State Street District on July 4,
2024



Kamala Harris Rally

Information Technology

- Data center facilities improvements
- Secondary UPS connected to generator
- Replaced Wheeler cooling - improved data center level protection
- A2Gov website redesign
- Public Engagement Hub Launch (note, this is just a soft launch)
- Housing Green Baxter Apartments added to fiber network
- DDA Office and Staff moved to City network
- NAC (Network Access Control) for wireless network authentication
- WTP SCADA Network upgrade
- WWTP SCADA Network upgrade
- WTP Booster station added to fiber network
- WTP Remote Sites added to their own fiber ring for resiliency
- Election Center buildout including all the technology and connected to the fiber network
- Merit redundant internet connection
- Council Chambers Upgrade
- 15th District Courts Upgraded the entire court system hardware and software - Four courtrooms in total
- Supported City Clerk and Primary Elections

Police Services - Ann Arbor Police Department (AAPD)

Police Services in Action

Shared Vision

Rolled out the department's new Shared Vision. This rollout included city leaders, police employees, and community members meeting and finalizing a shared vision. The shared vision can be seen here: <https://aapd.a2gov.org/SharedVision>



Vision Zero

Developed and implemented out a new traffic plan. The 2024 AAPD Traffic Safety Plan reaffirmed our agency’s commitment to Vision Zero. The full Traffic Safety Plan can be seen here: <https://aapd.a2gov.org/TrafficSafetyPlan>

Hiring Plan

Implemented a two-year hiring plan, which includes a diversity plan. Year to date the department has added 8 officers, 4 cadets, and 3 civilian employees to grow a more diverse agency.

Fair & Impartial Police Training

Hosted ‘Policing with our Community’ workshop. This program included nationally known instructors coming to Ann Arbor and designing a workshop for community neighborhoods to interact with officers for a more productive and transparent relationship.

Community Policing Beats

Implemented a restructuring of personnel to “police beat” deployment. This included the creation of a ‘Downtown Resource Team.’

Blaze & Blue Camp

Held third annual Blaze and Blue camp in coordination with AAFD. The four-day camp is for young women interested in public safety careers.



Silent Witness

Created a new anonymous tip platform called 'Silent Witness.' Silent Witness allows for potential witnesses to upload photos or videos and provide information about incidents that have or will occur within the city of Ann Arbor. Anyone submitting a tip has the option to remain anonymous.

Special Events

AAPD staffed more than 250 special events in 2024 with attendance totaling more than 3 million people.

Game Day in Ann Arbor

Created 'Game Day in Ann Arbor' for visitors attending University of Michigan football games. This included a special section on the police website dedicated to sharing helpful game day information, as well as officers wearing lanyards with a QR code to direct visitors to the website. The full website can be seen here: <https://aapd.a2gov.org/GameDayAnnArbor>



Burns Park Presidential Campaign Rally

The Kamala Harris presidential campaign rally was attended by an estimated 20,000 people. Our agency successfully implemented a plan to secure Burns Park.

Office of Community Policing

Created the Office of Community Policing. This new section contains Community Engagement, Community Standards, and the department's Public Information Officer.

Technology Sergeant

Created a new position of Special Projects and Technology Sergeant. This new position reports directly to the Office of the Chief and will play a vital role in the new technology within the department.

Election Day - Incident Command System (ICS)

Successfully implemented a unified command structure for election day. This structure included 4 total law enforcement agencies, as well as various members of the AAPD and city government.

Community Police Academy

The department is bringing back the Community Police Academy in early 2025. The free academy is designed to give community members a personal look into the administrative and operational functions of the police department.

Community Events

Our Community Engagement Unit attended more than 50 community events this year. Our department also held a series of “Keeping the Community Informed” public meetings. In August, the department hosted its first Community Basketball game at Bicentennial Park. The game involved teams comprised of community members playing against members of the Ann Arbor Police Department. The event collected donations for Bryant Community Center.







Alice Training

Hosted yearly ALICE training for Ann Arbor Public Schools. This involves hundreds of teachers and staff being trained in a research-based active shooter response program.

2024 Public Services Year in Review

Public Services' annual review provides a year-to-date status of the operating and capital budgets, summarizes major grants received, describes several significant initiatives that are underway, and provides a 2024 timeline of milestone events. The Public Services Area provides a variety of services to the city's residents.

Public Services in Action



Water Resource Recovery

- Complied with all Federal and State regulations for National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit final effluent limits (4,191) with the exception of 8, which was due to operational activities, equipment malfunction, or sample issues.



- Headworks Replacement Project construction was substantially completed.



- Arbor Landing Lift Station Replacement Project construction was completed.
- Centrifuge Centrate treatment: A process utilizing existing equipment was tested to confirm effective sidestream treatment. Also, a model of the process to aid in meeting our phosphorus and other permit limits was populated and calibrated.
- Ultraviolet disinfection replacement bidding was completed, and a contractor is currently performing construction of the new system.
- MCC E and F design, bidding, and contract letting was completed for project start in January 2025.
- Grant
- The Water Resource Recovery Facility (WRRF), Fleet and Facilities, and Office of Sustainability and Innovation jointly applied for and won a grant of \$57,326.36 to replace a diesel forklift located at the WRRF with an electric version, including a charger.

Water Treatment Services

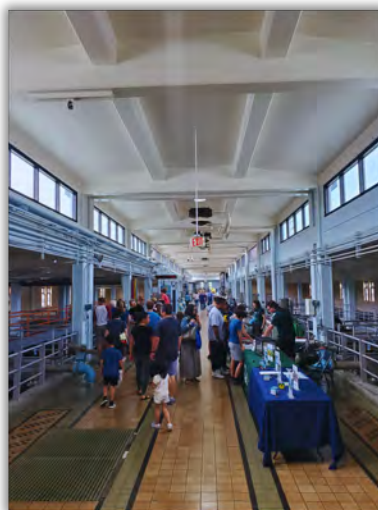
- Completed improvements to the city's 6 million gallon finished water reservoir. This \$2M Capital Improvements Project included replacement of aging valves, access hatches and piping.
- Completed Ann Arbor's first Comprehensive Source Water Protection Plan. This \$214,000 project provides recommend actions to work regionally to better protect our drinking water sources.



- Secured funding to fully fund the \$12.4M Barton Right Embankment Remediation Project, including Council authorization of ARPA funds to cover a portion of this Federal Energy and Regulatory Commission (FERC) required Capital Project. The project will mitigate seepage in the embankment, improving dam safety.



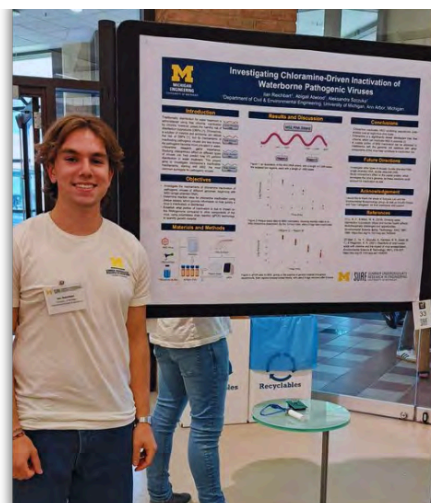
- Provided plant tours to 728 members of the public.



- Participated in tree giveaway and other outreach events like Green Fair to raise awareness of the drinking water system, source water protection efforts, and the value of water.
- Participated in regional Career Fairs to promote the City of Ann Arbor as a great place to work.
- Kicked off the inaugural Public Services Mentorship Program. Participants commit to one-year of paired mentor/mentee meetings, goal setting and quarterly learning sessions.



- Participated in 5 research projects, three of which as Principal Investigator or Co-PI. The research was showcased in three conference presentations and three peer reviewed papers that were selected for publication.



Environmental Services

- The city continued to advocate for appropriate monitoring of, and response to, the [Gelman Sciences 1,4-dioxane groundwater contamination](#).
- Submitted public comments to the Michigan Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) regarding the reissuance of Gelman’s National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit (Permit No. MI0048453) on February 23, 2024. Staff also provided [verbal comments](#) during a public meeting on June 20, 2024 which advocated for stronger protections of Barton Pond, the city’s main source of drinking water. EGLE issued the final discharge permit to Gelman Sciences on September 30, 2024. Submitted public comments to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in support of the agency’s proposed inclusion of the Gelman site on the Superfund National Priorities List (NPL) on May 6, 2024. The EPA is [still evaluating public comments](#).
- As a result of the [city’s enforcement of a 2006 Settlement Agreement with Gelman Sciences](#), the second of two additional monitoring wells was installed in spring 2024 near the Montgomery Well, a former drinking water source for the city that was discontinued in the early 2000’s due to 1,4 dioxane contamination.
- Staff continued to participate in regular stakeholder meetings to address the 1,4 dioxane contamination, such as the [Coalition for Action on Remediation of Dioxane \(CARD\)](#).
- Staff continues to track the Gelman contamination and will take steps as necessary to protect Barton Pond.

Engineering

- 110: site plans reviews for Private Development (as of 12/9)
- 1,413: right-of-way permits reviewed by Private Development
- 86: construction plan reviews for Private Development
- 32,926: feet of sewers lined (through 12/4)
- 4,843: sidewalk panels repaired (replaced, trimmed, lifted)
- 21.6: lane miles of road resurfaced



- 16.2: lane miles of road receiving preventative maintenance treatments
- 0.72: miles of new sidewalk constructed



- 100%: Percentage of Road Bond money spent
- 38: crosswalks improved (signage, RRFBs, bumpouts, lighting, etc.)
- 6: new crosswalks installed
- 1.0: miles of on-street bike facilities added or improved

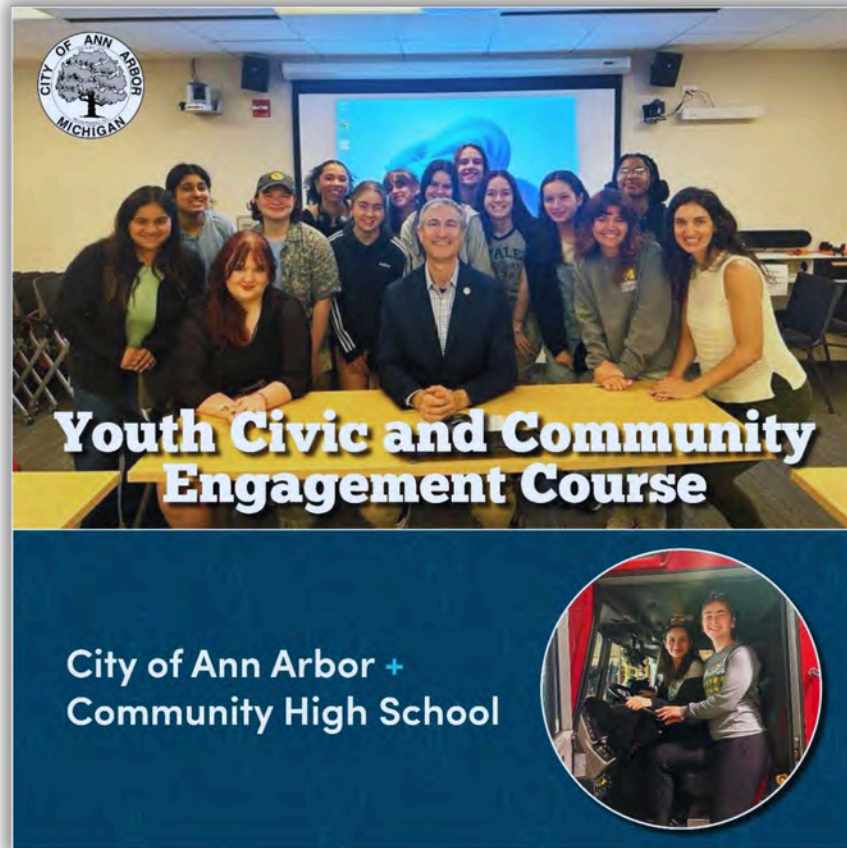


Engineering has obligated our ARPA money, \$1.35M, for the Miller Avenue Bikeway, which will be built in 2025.

Staff have also secured a \$143,000 Highway Safety Improvements Grant for various traffic and pedestrian safety improvements.

Systems Planning

- Coordinated with 50+ internal staff and external partners to update the six-year Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) for FY26-31, to be submitted to the Planning Commission in January 2025.
- Evaluated and revised the prioritization criteria for all infrastructure asset groups in the CIP, with a specific focus on Sustainability and Equity prioritization criteria.
- Built "Youth Civic & Community Engagement" course with Community High School students. The course was designed to educate and empower young minds about their personal values, local government, and civic participation. The course had 13 students, ranging from 10th to 12th grade. The course will be offered again in Spring, 2025.

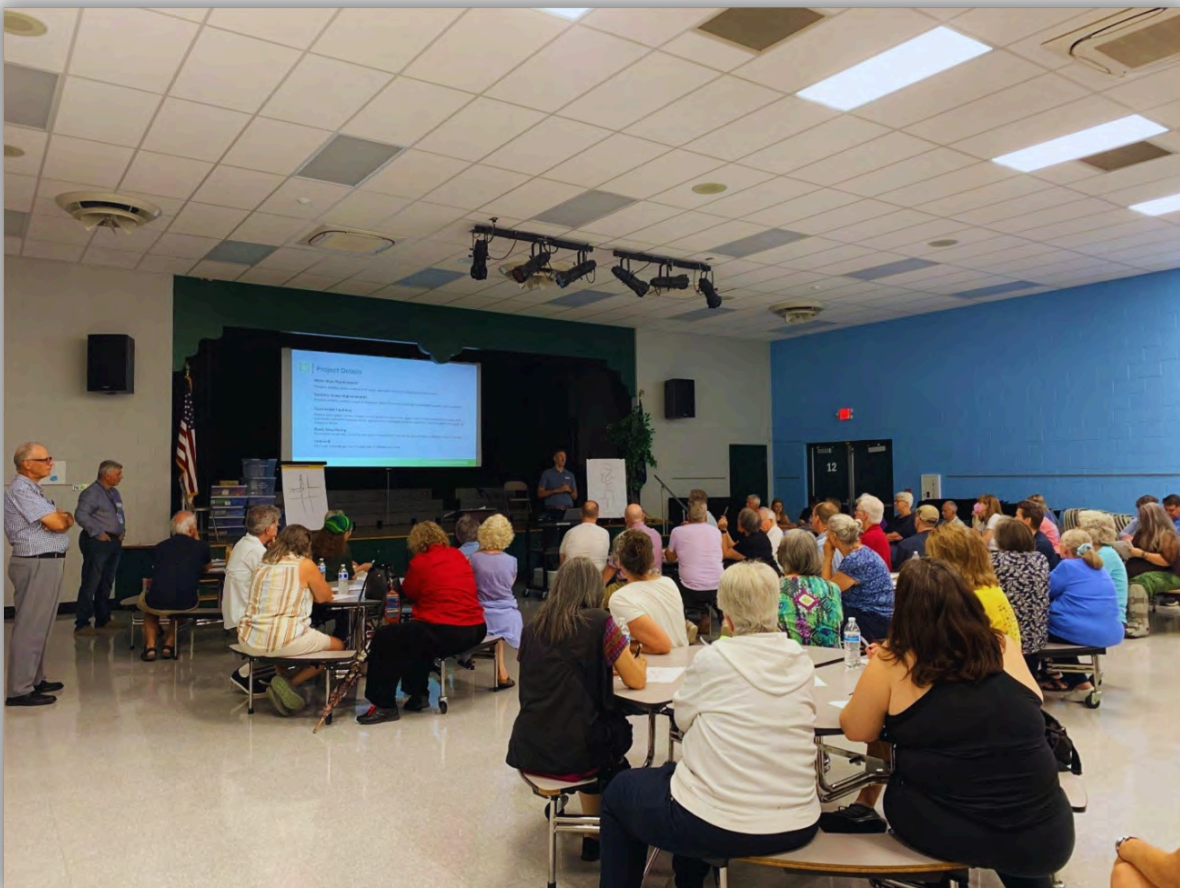


- Established and hired a Stormwater and Water Resources Regulatory Coordinator to ensure compliance with the city’s MS4 Stormwater Permit and expand stormwater education, outreach and technical assistance to private property owners.



- Executed the Wheeler Compost Pond Dredging project to reduce phosphorus loading to Swift Run Creek, re-establish stormwater storage volume, and created just over 6 acres of native landscape and habitat for pollinators and wetland species.
- Four members of the Systems Planning team completed the Michigan Infrastructure Council’s Asset Management Champion program.
- Updated impervious surface GIS data based on 2023 aerial imagery and building permit/project data (last done in 2020) and collaborated with Customer Service to incorporate the relevant increases and decreases into stormwater utility billing.

- Updated Green Streets Policy to Infiltration Standards for Projects in the public rights-of-way: After ten years of implementation, staff worked with the Environmental Commission to update and strengthen the existing Green Streets Policy to an Infiltration Standard for all projects in the public right of way. The updates included addressing not just roads projects, but all utility projects within the public right of way. Nomenclature was changed to lessen confusion in design and implementation.
- Kicked off major long-term comprehensive planning efforts for each of the three water utilities.
 - Water Distribution System Comprehensive Plan
 - Sanitary Sewer Collection System Comprehensive Plan and Capacity Analysis
 - Stormwater Comprehensive Plan with a focus on long-term resiliency and adaptation.



Solid Waste (Trash, Recycling and Compost)

More Life, Less Stuff ([A2morelife.com](https://www.a2morelife.com))

On Earth Day 2024, Solid Waste staff, in partnership with their education contractor, The Ecology Center, launched a social-based marketing campaign entitled “More Life, Less Stuff.” This campaign arose from a year-long engagement initiative with a diverse group of Ann Arbor community members to discuss motivations and barriers to waste reduction activities like reuse, recycling, and composting. Those conversations revealed two themes: 1) reducing waste lifted as a shared community value; 2) the need to spur an ongoing discussion about how to reduce waste while bettering our lives through experiences and each other, rather than stuff. The campaign has published personal stories around reducing food waste, the impact of micro-plastics in clothing on the environment and how stuff can be reused and shared to welcome and build community. There have been ads placed on local radio, TV, social media, MLive, on transit buses, and a billboard on North Main Street near Summit.



New EV's

Solid Waste staff, in partnership with Fleet and OSI, received two fully electric rear-load collection vehicles. Staff are now working to bring them into operations full time for 2025.

Move Out Ann Arbor

In January, Solid Waste staff gathered with a group of stakeholders, including the University of Michigan, campus property owners/managers, non-profit reuse/service organizations and local campus-based service providers, to network and form partnerships to recover materials that students no longer needed or wanted and get them to people and organizations who could use them.

The new partnerships combined with existing programs yielded the following outcomes for 2024:

1. Over 1,215 volunteer hours to collect and process materials for reuse/repurposing.
2. 67 truckloads of materials (roughly 14 tons) were loaded from approximately 85 addresses. This included bedding, towels, dressers, desks and beds for repurposing through HouseN2Home, ultimately contributing to furnishing about 400 households serving people moving out of homelessness.
3. ZeroWaste.Org, working with 11 local sororities and 9 high-rises, collected 112 bags of used clothing (about 2 tons) for donation to the Kiwanis Thrift Sale.
4. The University of Michigan collected about 11 tons of material from on-campus housing, donating these materials to several non-profits in the area.



5. The city provided several days of free drop-off opportunities for students and campus property managers for bulky items, trash, scrap metals and other recyclables. Over 150 tons of materials were delivered with at least 24 tons diverted for recycling or reuse.



Public Works

Forestry

- 568 trees planted
- 4,377 trees pruned

The city has formalized a partnership with Urban Ashes to launch Michigan's first high-level municipal wood waste recycling program. Instead of only chipping, mulching or composting tree logs, this wood waste would be diverted into a market where it could be used for lumber, flooring, furniture, art, architectural design, or household goods. Through this program, the city will reduce its carbon emissions, reduce landfill use and help provide economic opportunity for formerly incarcerated individuals through Urban Ashes Circular UrbanWood Triconomy™ (CUT) model.

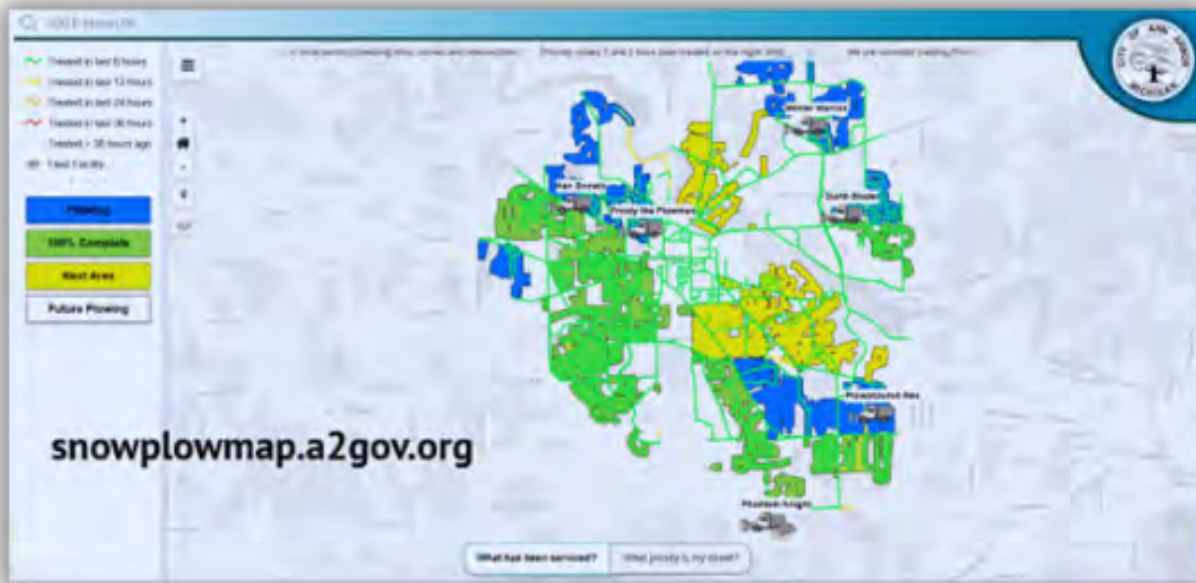


Urban wood is defined as wood sourced from trees removed for reasons other than their wood value, such as storm damage, disease, or decline or to facilitate city projects. The program will not increase the speed of removal of trees from the city’s urban forest, nor will it lead to trees being removed any sooner than necessary.

In general, trees qualified for diversion will be hardwoods or white pine that can produce a mill log that is at least 8.5 feet long and have a diameter of 15 inches or more. The program plays an important part in the city’s A2ZERO emissions goals by sequestering carbon, storing it in the wood indefinitely. For 2024, the city estimates the program will continue to sequester an estimated 20 metric tons and avoid the release of 73 metric tons of CO2 emissions, which equates to planting an additional 1,203 trees and growing them for 10 years.

Streets

Public Works is excited to announce a new public facing [snowplow map](https://snowplowmap.a2gov.org). The new map uses Etch software, in conjunction with the city's AVL technology, allowing users to: view the movements of each plow as they service routes, routes that have been previously serviced, and determine a street's service priority level. In addition, the public can now view snowplows names that were chosen by the public at the annual Public Works Open House.



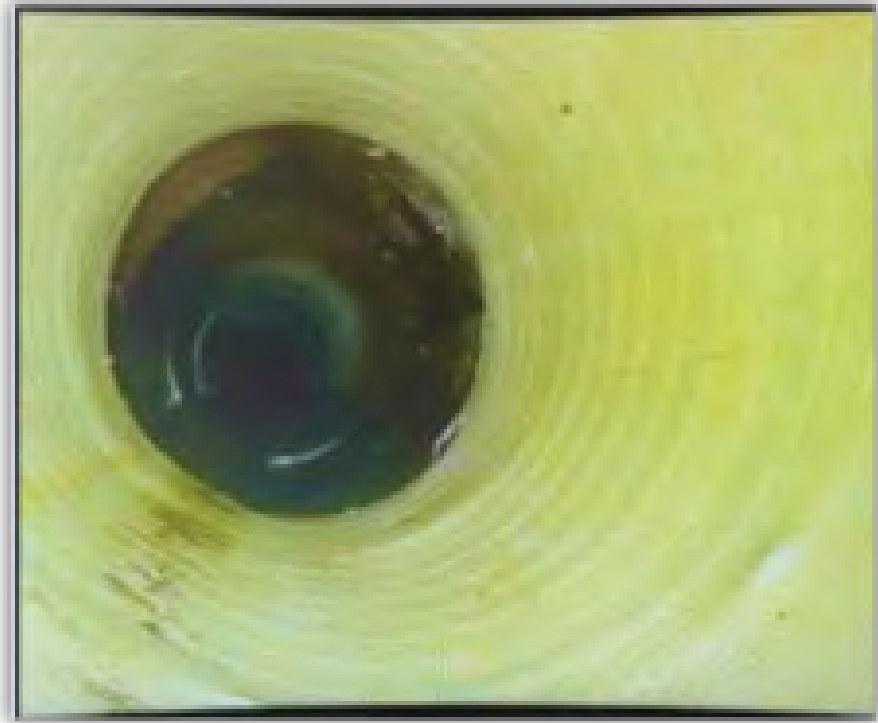
Water

Purchased a new Pacific Tech water main gate turning/exercising unit. The new equipment combines traditional valve exercising equipment with a power vac and onboard power washing equipment. This gives staff the ability to clean out gate valves that are full of debris to exercise or operate them the first time they visit without having to add it to a separate list for a large vac truck to clean out later. This has improved efficiency and eliminated multiple return trips.



Sanitary

- 84 miles of the sanitary sewer pipes inspected.
- Contracted with Doan Construction to raise 230 manhole structures up to grade.
- 129 miles of sanitary sewer pipes cleaned.



The department secured equipment to perform internal pipe lining repairs that will eliminate the need to perform excavations to repair holes or defects that could cause blockages in the sewer system.

Storm

- 2,400 catch basins and 38 storm water separators cleaned. This routine maintenance keeps the stormwater system flowing.
- Inspected all 18,243 catch basins as well as 25.5 miles of pipe for condition and asset details.

Safety Unit

- Transitioned the city to a new Safety Training Learning Management System (UKG).
- Completed risk analysis of all work activities in Forestry, Water Utilities, Stormwater Utilities, and Natural Areas Preservation work areas. The goal of the program is to evaluate, quantify, and when necessary, develop efficient risk mitigation strategies for routine and irregular work tasks.
- Hosted a Safety Take a Stand Day for employees at the Wheeler Center, which included an inspection of the site by MIOSHA as well as a luncheon where Wheeler Center employees were recognized for their commitment to safety.
- Hosted 30 in-person safety courses with more than 350 participants focused on hands on training to address a variety of workplace hazards. The city also achieved a greater than 96% completion rate for all assigned safety training.
- Facilitated health and safety committees and training activities throughout the city resulting multiple improvements to workplace safety, communication and culture.
- Designed and implemented a metrics dashboard for the city's incident management system to better track incident trends.
- Integrated secure workers compensation data reporting and OSHA 300 log functions into the city's incident management system to streamline processes.
- Provided annual medical surveillance testing services to more than 450 city employees.
- Completed planning activities for remediation and demolition of 415 W. Washington and 721 N. Main Street, including completion of hazardous building materials surveys, generation of project specifications, and oversight of remediation activities.
- Installed secure sharps containers in public restrooms in the Municipal Center.
- Revised Administrative Policy 303 and introduced Administrative Policy 304.

Safety in Action



Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) Training at the Water Treatment Plant



Take a Stand Day Safety Luncheon at the Wheeler Center

Office of Sustainability & Innovations (OSI)

[See Attached Supplemental 2024 OSI report]

Ann Arbor Housing Commission (AAHC)

In addition, attached to this document are accomplishments provided by Executive Director Jennifer Hall on behalf of the Ann Arbor Housing Commission.

[See Attached Supplemental 2024 AAHC report]

City of Ann Arbor 2025 and Beyond!

We look forward to continuing our progress in 2025. Should you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to let us know via City Administrator Milton Dohoney Jr. mldohoney@a2gov.org or Director of Operations Sara Higgins shiggins@a2gov.org.

Sincerely,

Milton Dohoney Jr.

Milton Dohoney Jr.,
City Administrator



Report Prepared By:

Milton Dohoney Jr., City Administrator

Sara Higgins, Director of Operations



Supportive Connections Annual Report

2024 has been an exiting year for Supportive Connections. After the remodel of the former Tasty Green Space, Supportive Connections has moved into our new program space on the first floor of the Ann Arbor City Hall. In this new, more welcoming space, residents will no longer need to go through security in the Justice Center to find support and resources. The program space provides a comfortable, safe space not only for the clients but for Supportive Connections Staff to provide supports and build and manage resources provided to residents such as Naloxone, Fentanyl Testing Kits, Hygiene Kits, tents, and sleeping bags.

We continue to provide support and referral resources to community agencies such as Dawn Farm, Home of New Vision, SOS Community Services, and A Brighter Way. Supportive Connections has received unique 147 referrals from across the community this year. Throughout the year, in addition to self-referrals, we received referrals from Shelter Association of Washtenaw County (SAWC), Dawn Farm, Home of New Vision, A Brighter Way, the Public Defender's office, AAFD, AAPD, 15th District Court, 22nd Circuit Court, Community Mental Health, SOS Community Services, Ann Arbor Public Schools, Avalon Housing, Feonix Mobility, HAWC, Washtenaw Housing Authority, Ann Arbor Housing Commission, Children's Protective Services, Trinity Health, and Michigan Medicine.

Through those referrals we have been able to impact the community in the following ways:

- Helped to house 63 individuals and their families in the Ann Arbor Metro area
- Provided for 64 Months of Transitional Housing at Dawn Farm and Home of New Vision
- Provided for 6 months of inpatient treatment at Dawn Farm
- Supported 81 weeks of outpatient treatment and therapy at Dawn Farm and Home of New Vision

This was the year that we were able to implement the purple "Barney Boxes" in the parking structures and parks across the City for widespread Naloxone distribution. This year we expanded from 494 Naloxone Kits to 2946 kits given out to the residents of Ann Arbor. With the success of the Naloxone Distribution from the vending machine at City Hall we have expanded to include free Locking Pill Bottles, Hygiene Kits, and Fentanyl Testing kits with 90, 127, and 141 of each respectively going out. We continue to develop new methods of providing resources to reduce the impact of substance use and overdose in our community.

This year is ending with the start of a new Supportive Connections Program Director. The program will be hiring a new Clinical Case Manager to support the residents referred for services. With the award of the MSP CBCRP grant Supportive Connections will be adding two new Outreach Case Managers. These two Social Workers will actively provide follow up support to the mental health and substance use related encounters from first responders, linking those individuals to services in the community to deflect from further contact with the justice system.



THE CHARGING STATION

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF A²ZERO AND
THE ANN ARBOR OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY AND INNOVATIONS



IN THIS ISSUE:

- WELCOME.....1
- LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.....1
- LOOKING BACK ON 2024.....2
- GREEN GIFT-GIVING.....6
- ANNOUNCEMENTS.....8
- UPCOMING EVENTS.....9

ABOUT THE EDITOR



From the team (pictured here with the visiting delegation from Tuebingen, Germany in September)! Have a safe, comfortable, and warm holiday season and we'll see you in 2025.



Bandemer Park in the winter.

WELCOME

Welcome from the City of Ann Arbor’s Office of Sustainability and Innovations (OSI). In this issue of the Charging Station, OSI is delighted to share details about how to celebrate the holidays with your most sustainable foot forward. If you are interested in learning more about any of the organizations featured in this issue and how you can get involved, more detail can be found on our website: www.a2gov.org/sustainability. As always, thank you for your interest in sustainability activities in Ann Arbor!

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Equity and justice are at the center of A²ZERO and staff in OSI are continuing to ground our work in these critical principles. In that light, we’d like to take a moment to honor the geographic and historic space we share. We acknowledge that the land the City of Ann Arbor occupies is the ancestral, traditional, and contemporary lands of the Anishinaabe and Wyandot peoples. We further acknowledge that our city stands, like almost all property in the United States, on lands obtained, generally in unconscionable ways, from indigenous peoples. The taking of this land was formalized by the Treaty of Detroit in 1807. Knowing where we live, work, study, and recreate does not change the past, but a thorough understanding of the ongoing consequences of this past can empower us in our work to create a future that supports human flourishing and justice for all individuals.

A BRIEF LOOK BACK ON 2024

HERE'S WHAT WE'VE ACCOMPLISHED SINCE OUR YEAR FOUR UPDATE IN JUNE

As we gear up to say goodbye to 2024 and welcome 2025, the Ann Arbor Office of Sustainability and Innovations wants to take a moment to reflect on some of the highlights of our shared work to advance A²ZERO this past year. Below are some of the activities the Office of Sustainability and Innovations (OSI), and many of you, have been working hard to advance. This is not a complete list of activities underway but an illustrative example of some of the things we are working on to help us achieve our goal of a just transition to community-wide carbon neutrality by 2030. If you're got ideas for actions we should be considering in 2025, send us a note at sustainability@a2gov.org.

STRATEGY 1. 100% Renewable Energy

- On November 5, 2024, Ann Arborites overwhelming voted (79%) to authorize the creation of a new Sustainable Energy Utility. This SEU will be stood up over the next 18-24 months and will provide renewable energy services, along with energy efficiency and electrification support, to anyone interested within the City of Ann Arbor. This novel and creative concept will help the City advance our clean energy, affordability, reliability, resilience, and sustainability goals. To learn more about the SEU or to join the waitlist and see how the SEU can help you, see www.a2gov.org/a2seu.
- OSI, along with Community Action Network, the residents of Bryant, IMEG, and numerous other collaborators submitted a grant to the U.S. Department of Energy to install the City's first networked geothermal system.
- For the first time in the City's history, OSI intervened in the two gas cases before the Michigan Public Service Commission, calling for a "Future of Gas" proceeding that outlines a path to decarbonized heating and cooling solutions throughout DTE's service territory.
- Through the Solarize Ann Arbor program, OSI helped residents install over 5.2 MW of solar on over 700 homes. A new group buy for early 2025 is forming now. Find out more and join at: www.a2gov.org/solar!
- In late fall the City welcomed two new ground mounted solar arrays at the Ann Arbor municipal airport. This brings the total amount of solar on City facilities to over 700 kW and growing --- with many more projects in design!
- In November we broke ground on a geothermal system for the Bryant Community Center. The hope is that this system will be one of the anchors for a future neighborhood geothermal system!



Solar panels installed through the Solarize Ann Arbor program this past year.



The Bryant Community Center, where geothermal drilling began recently.

A BRIEF LOOK BACK ON 2024

HERE'S WHAT WE'VE ACCOMPLISHED SINCE OUR YEAR FOUR UPDATE IN JUNE

STRATEGY 2. Switch our appliances to electric

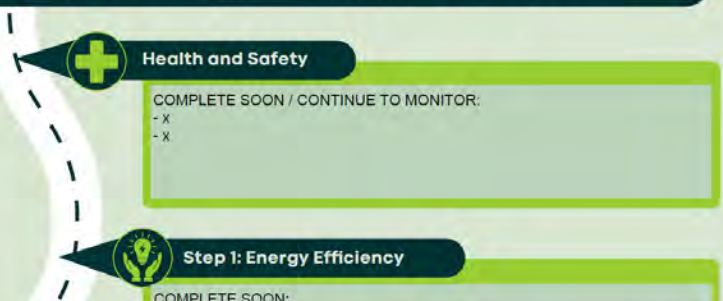
- [The A²ZERO Home Energy Rebate program](#) has distributed over \$200,000 to Ann Arbor residents for home weatherization, heat pumps and heat pump water heaters, electrical panel upgrades, energy storage and e-bikes as of October 2024, with much more in the works. Sign up for your rebate at the website above.
- The 3rd Annual Electrification EXPO was a success with hundreds of attendees and dozens of vendors, helping residents learn about electrification, energy efficiency and on-site solar.
- Work began with Stantec to assess the feasibility of district geothermal in Ann Arbor. The team is currently mapping and analyzing which parts of Ann Arbor are well suited for district geothermal and where it could have the biggest impact. Information gleaned from this analysis will help inform the City's future energy initiatives.
- [The Commercial EV Charger Program](#) launched with the goal of increasing the availability of publicly accessible EV chargers in the community. The call for applications is now closed for this first round but, if successful, the Office anticipates running multiple more rounds of funding support.
- OSI hosted a Sustainable Lawn Care Learning Session and developed a case study guide to showcase the stories of several companies who have had success with electric lawn care to support [the community transition to electric lawn care equipment](#).
- OSI received a \$2.9 million grant to support the expansion of electric vehicle charging throughout the community. Funding from the grant program will help support a city-wide electric vehicle charging deployment plan as well as the installation of significantly more charging infrastructure community wide. The program is expected to begin in mid 2025.
- [City fleet electrification](#) continued in earnest, with the City nearing 50% electrification of light duty vehicles and the continued integration of heavy-duty electric vehicles, such as refuse trucks and street sweepers, into the fleet. And with the recent winning of \$667,000 to help support two more electric refuse trucks, this work maintains its momentum into 2025.

STRATEGY 3. Energy Efficiency

- [The A²ZERO Home Energy Advisor](#) has delivered "Path to Zero" customized home decarbonization plans to over 200 Ann Arbor households, in addition to assisting dozens with contractor connections, bid reviews, rebate and financing information and project assistance. If you haven't yet, [sign up for your free A²ZERO Home Energy Assessment](#).
- [The Green Rental Housing program](#) received a resolution of support from the Ann Arbor Energy Commission and OSI is preparing to bring the program to City Council for consideration in early 2025.
- OSI and Community Action Network received \$3.1 million from the Michigan Public Service Commission to continue work to decarbonize as many homes as possible in the Bryant neighborhood as part of the effort to make the neighborhood the first existing carbon neutral neighborhood in America.
- OSI helped secure a grant to transition all streetlights to LEDs.
- [The Home Energy Rating Disclosure \(HERD\) team](#) continued to work with Real Estate professionals to maximize compliance and improve processes to help ensure that everyone has fact-based information regarding their home's energy performance. In 2025, the team will be working on some additional support services for new home buyers.
- [The Ann Arbor Green Business Challenge](#) just brought on Fresh Coast Climate Solutions to help business owners efficiently develop their own customized sustainability strategies so they can devote their time and energy to running their business.

YOUR PATH STARTS HERE

Below is a summary of recommended steps for you. Following this sequence will help you realize your health, comfort, and savings goals one step at a time. Taking these steps in order is generally recommended, but going outside of order does not prevent you from achieving improvements and enjoying benefits within your home.



A blank example of the HEA Path to Zero Report.

A BRIEF LOOK BACK ON 2024

HERE'S WHAT WE'VE ACCOMPLISHED SINCE OUR YEAR FOUR UPDATE IN JUNE

• **STRATEGY 4. Reduce VMT by 50%**

- OSI continued to fund and build the installation of bike facilities and bike intersection improvements across the City.
- Efforts continued to update the City's [comprehensive land use plan](#), which includes the three core values of affordability, equity, and sustainability.
- OSI supported the creation of a e-bike loan program where residents [can check-out an A²ZERO branded e-bike while doing errands around town](#).
- OSI continued efforts to adopt the 2021 building code in Michigan through outreach, education, and engagement with elected officials.

STRATEGY 5. Circular Economy

- Undertook a deep exploration into the feasibility of creating a citywide returnable container program. Through this work, submitted a grant application to launch a city-wide program.
- [The Ann Arbor Sustainable Food Business Coalition](#) kicked off the first full year of collaboration with the Ann Arbor food business community which is now comprised of more than 40 member businesses representing the restaurant, bar, cafe, food artisan, retail, and non-profit sectors. In 2025, the SFBC is looking forward to cultivating additional opportunities for coordinated sustainability action.
- Through the first year of our contract with VegMichigan, we have reached over 3,715 Ann Arbor residents with educational programming designed to increase our community's awareness of the carbon impacts of food and promote the benefits of more plant-forward diets!
- OSI teamed up with ZeroWaste.org to host [the week-long Food Waste Challenge](#), which educates participants about the impacts of wasted food and provides practical food waste reduction strategies, including changes to shopping, storage, cooking, and food disposal practices. In total, 533 residents participated in the challenge.
- OSI and community partners hosted [the 3rd Annual Ann Arbor Local Food Festival](#), which was a success, with hundreds of residents and over 40 food business and non-profit collaborators attending.
- OSI staff continue efforts to research, draft, and develop a Sustainable Food Purchasing Program, which will provide a detailed framework and strategic support for sustainable food purchasing by the City of Ann Arbor.
- In late 2024 OSI launched planning efforts for [a community cookbook](#), which will feature recipes, tips, and stories contributed by Ann Arbor residents to provide a practical, actionable resource for sustainable eating in the Ann Arbor Area. More details on how to contribute recipes can be found below.
- Our first electronics takeback event collected more than 6400 lbs. of electronic devices to be reused, repaired, refurbished, and recycled. In 2025 we plan to host multiple more take back events!
- The City of Ann Arbor Office of Sustainability and Innovations won a small grant from the U.S. EPA to initiate a refrigerant management and recycling program. More details about this program will be available in 2025.



Main Street Ann Arbor with the winter lighting on display.

A BRIEF LOOK BACK ON 2024

HERE'S WHAT WE'VE ACCOMPLISHED SINCE OUR YEAR FOUR UPDATE IN JUNE

STRATEGY 6. Resilience

- [The 10,000th tree](#) was distributed this fall through the 10,000 Trees Initiative. A survival study was launched to determine the status of the trees distributed so far. Thanks to a [\\$1 million grant from the US Forest Service and American Forests](#), we will be working to advance tree equity through plantings and maintenance work on private property in EPA disadvantaged communities.
- More than 440 households are participating in [the Pollinator Aware Yard Care program](#), helping us keep pollinators safe and healthy in our community.
- OSI supported the installation of two air quality monitors and is actively working to install eight more; a public dashboard displaying the data is available at a2gov.org/airdata.
- [The A²ZERO Ambassador program](#) graduated its 100th+ Ambassador this summer, achieving the program goal of training 100 neighborhood Ambassadors by 2025. Applications for the 7th Cohort of A2ZERO Ambassadors will open in December 2024, with training beginning in March 2025.
- Ann Arbor's 4th and 5th Resilience Hubs have been identified as Peace Neighbor Center and Green Baxter Court Community Center and work is underway to transition these community sites through efficiency improvements, adoption of renewable energies, and community partnership.
- OSI staff is partnering with the City of Ann Arbor's Office of Emergency Management to prepare for a robust preparedness engagement strategy in 2025 to help distribute household preparedness and emergency kits.



A tree planted at the Ann Arbor Bicentennial Tree Planting in September.

STRATEGY 7. Other

- In 2024 we launched our [A²ZERO Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages and since then, we've seen engagement on the rise. If you haven't yet, follow us at [@A2Zero2030](#) on Instagram and A2Zero on Facebook!
- [The newsletter](#) has continued to grow, with 377 new subscribers since June!
- Since June, [five more episodes of Green Light](#) have been released, with viewership growing – and [the most recent episode on the UM Community Read](#).
- In collaboration with the Leslie Science and Nature Center and Neutral Zone, OSI helped create Youth Now Climate Action, a small group of high school students representing various Ann Arbor Public Schools focused on highlighting environmental problems and coming up with solutions.
- 8 AmeriCorps members completed their service term as the inaugural cohort of OSI's AmeriCorps program. Members added significant capacity to OSI's events and outreach.
- In 2024, OSI sponsored and hosted its first ever sustainability focused film series in partnership with Michigan Theater! More than 250 residents attended the screenings, and 8 experts shared their thoughts and reflections in post-film speaker panels.
- Coming up in 2025, OSI will be hosting its monthly [Sustainability Forums](#) speaker series at the downtown Ann Arbor District Library, featuring OSI staff and other local experts.



The most recent episode of Green Light on the University of Michigan Community Read.

GREEN HOLIDAY GIFT-GIVING

IT'S THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF YEAR!

This time of year is all about staying cozy and letting your loved ones know you care, so we put together this list of sustainable gift-giving and celebration suggestions to help you maximize time with those you love while helping advance sustainable-practices. Stay warm, stay safe, and stay happy this season! We're looking forward to seeing you in 2025.

STAYING COZY FOR THE WINTER: HEA and Rebates

Stay cozy this winter by improving the comfort and cost savings of your home with the Home Energy Advisor and Home Energy Rebates. With the launch of these two programs in 2024, there's never been a better time to do energy efficiency work and upgrades to your home. The Home Energy Advisor is a free concierge service offered by the City of Ann Arbor to help you create a customized home energy report and personalized support on your home decarbonization journey. The A²ZERO Home Energy Rebate program can also support this work – available to any Ann Arbor resident. Residents who will be or have done eligible home energy efficiency work in the past 60 days are encouraged to apply for these rebates! Learn more about how you can make your home cozier this winter at osi.a2gov.org/rebates and a2zerohea.org.



THRIFTING: Check out community spaces such as Kiwanis

One Ann Arbor resident's thrift store drop-off is another Ann Arbor resident's treasure! Ann Arbor is home to many thrift and charity shops, saving unwanted items from the landfill and giving them new homes. With a city so full of these thrift stores, they provide a great opportunity to find something unique for someone you love at an affordable price. Check out the list of A²ZERO Collaborators to find reuse stores like Kiwanis at osi.a2gov.org/collaborators.

REDUCE WASTE: Gift an experience instead of an item!

Ann Arbor is full of fun things to do, especially at this time of year! Instead of gifting an item, gift your loved ones an experience: a trip to the Leslie Science and Nature Center, an afternoon at the Ann Arbor Hands On Museum, see a movie at the Michigan or State Theaters, visit the Humane Society of Huron Valley's Tiny Lions Cat Cafe, or, if none of these strike your fancy, visit Destination Ann Arbor's website to get even more ideas!

LEARN A SKILL TOGETHER: Repair Collaborators

Give a friend a fish and they'll have dinner for a night, teach a friend to fish and they'll have dinner for a lifetime! While we don't have any fishing instructors as A²ZERO Collaborators (yet!), we do have lots of Collaborators teaching valuable skills, such as how to repair bikes, household items, clothes, and more. Learn a new skill with a friend and then take those skills out into the world this winter!

GREEN HOLIDAY GIFT-GIVING

IT'S THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF YEAR!

FOOD: Local restaurants & markets are great sources of sustainable, yummy food

Speaking of experiences, we can't think of a better experience than visiting a local restaurant, market, or farm stop to eat or gather ingredients for a local, sustainable meal. Ann Arbor is full of good food, to be enjoyed both at a restaurant and at home at the dinner table. Check out our list of Collaborators to find local, sustainable restaurants and markets at osi.a2gov.org/collaborators.

PLUS! If you're interested in sharing your climate-friendly food habits to help your community eat more sustainably, we encourage you to consider contributing to the A²ZERO Community Cookbook by submitting a recipe, sharing a climate-friendly food tip, or nominating a community food leader to have their story featured in the cookbook. Learn more and submit your recipes at osi.a2gov.org/cookbook.

RESILIENCE: Host a neighborhood potluck, get to know your neighbors, & build community

Celebrate your community and your neighbors with a neighborhood potluck. Neighborhood resilience in times of extreme weather or disruption is at its strongest when neighbors are familiar with each other, and there's no better time to get to know your neighbors than during the festive season! Bake your favorite food, make a warm drink, and get to know all the beautiful people that make Ann Arbor the lovely place it is.



RESILIENCE: Host a neighborhood swap

Once you've received all your new-to-you gifts, learned some new skills, had new experiences, and gotten to know your neighbors, host a neighborhood swap! Like a yard sale, neighborhood swaps are opportunities for neighbors to get rid of items they no longer want – together. For free! Get rid of what you don't want by giving your neighbors what they do want. Check out our guide for hosting a neighborhood swap!

If you want to stay up-to-date on the latest sustainability events, actions, and tips, follow A2ZERO online on [Instagram at @a2zero2030](#) and on [Facebook at A2Zero!](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Save Money & Save the Planet - Home Energy Efficiency & Electrification | Sunday, January 12, 3 – 4:30PM | Westgate Branch, Ann Arbor District Library

Learn about how home energy efficiency & electrification will reduce your energy costs and your carbon footprint. Learn about the multitudes of incentives – federal, state, local & utility – that will lower the cost of your investments. Plus, you'll receive an update on what to expect to happen to federal incentives under the new presidential administration. [RSVP here.](#)

Meet with OSI staff and Ann Arbor ClimateCorps at the below dates to learn about **the A²ZERO Ambassador Program** and how to get involved in local climate action. Community members are welcome to interview in-person for the next cohort beginning March 2025. Applications are also accepted online. Learn more at osi.a2gov.org/ambassadors. December 17, 5 – 7PM (Downtown AADL Branch), December 18, 10 – 11:30AM (Traverwood Library AADL Branch), December 18, 12 – 2PM (Malletts Creek AADL Branch), and December 19, 5 – 7 PM (Westgate AADL Branch).

Sustainability Forum: Natural Features and Me | Thursday, January 30, 6:00 – 7:30PM | Downtown Branch, AADL
OSI is bringing the Sustainability Series back in 2025 for another season at the downtown branch of the Ann Arbor District Library! Attend these public events to learn more and ask questions about exciting new programs, initiatives, and updates from our office and our amazing community collaborators.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

New episode of Green Light: Alan Piñon, Director of Communications & Marketing, and Jenna Steele, Sustainability Program Assistant, both from the University of Michigan, join to discuss the University's Community Read of *Not Too Late: Changing the Climate Story From Despair to Possibility*.

Energy Rebates Available: We've still got [A²ZERO Home Energy Rebates](#) available, so if you're considering home improvement work, we encourage you to work with [the Home Energy Advisor program](#) to decarbonize your home and take advantage of opportunities like the Rebates.

UM Community Read: OSI is delighted to be collaborating with the University of Michigan to promote their community read of *Not Too Late: Changing the Climate Story from Despair to Possibility* which is available to anyone connected to internet in the State of Michigan until December 13 for free!

Calling all Food Lovers and Home Cooks: Contribute to the A²ZERO Community Cookbook! OSI is compiling a community cookbook! Do you enjoy cooking from scratch with local, seasonal ingredients, have creative ways of using up food scraps, or have a tasty plant-based recipe you love? Contribute recipes and sustainable food tips to the A²ZERO Community Cookbook at osi.a2gov.org/cookbook.

Ambassador applications now open! Join [the 7th Cohort of A²ZERO Ambassadors](#) to gain increased knowledge, tools, and resources to discuss sustainability broadly and specific actions you and your community can implement to advance carbon neutrality.

For more information on our upcoming events, please visit www.a2gov.org/sustainability/events.

**CONNECT WITH THE OFFICE OF
SUSTAINABILITY AND INNOVATIONS**

sustainability@a2gov.org | a2zero.org
[JOIN OUR MAILING LIST](#) | [YOUTUBE](#)

HOUSING COMMISSION Accomplishments CY2024

Grant Awards

Grantor	Use	Amount
Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation	Lurie Tenant Services & Technology	\$10,000
Michigan State Housing Development Authority	Broadway Renovations	\$800,000
HUD	Rental Vouchers for Low-Income Households	\$25,059,333
HUD	Family Self-Sufficiency Program	\$243,907
HUD	Administrative Fees	\$2,261,207
City OSI Climate Millage	121 Catherine Development - Sustainability	\$475,000
Michigan Economic Development Corporation	121 Catherine Development, DDA 4 th Ave Redevelopment, 2 Ypsilanti housing development subgrants to J29:7	\$8,037,830
Federal Home Loan Bank	121 Catherine housing development & Lurie Terrace renovations	\$1,458,872
DDA Funds	Fire Suppression Baker Commons	\$650,000
Michigan EGLE	121 Catherine housing development brownfield remediation	\$1,000,000
DTE	Lurie Terrace roof insulation and S. Industrial EV charger rebates	\$31,600
Washtenaw County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority	121 Catherine Development – Brownfield remediation & 1510 E Stadium site assessment	\$974,406
Total:		\$41,002,155

Housing Commission

Accomplishments

DEVELOPMENT

- Acquired 350 S 5th Avenue and hired co-developer , Related Midwest, through RFP process, submitted a \$133 million application to MSHDA for 4% LIHTC, bond financing and gap financing for a \$197 million 302 unit affordable housing project
- Acquired 404 N. Ashley, renovations completed for SAWC & IHN offices, to increase capacity for 5 more homeless single women at the Delonis Center and to increase Alphas House's capacity to serve 6 additional homeless families
- Acquired 1510 E. Stadium Blvd (Fire Station #2)
- Acquired 121 Catherine, construction underway. Twenty-four 600-foot geothermal wells installed, stormwater and foundations installed, construction underway. Hired architect for non-residential community space
- Executed a Letter of Intent with Arbor South developers to build ~200 affordable apartments
- Issued RFP for Affordable Housing Millage Development funds: for private developments:
 - Awarded \$3 million loan to the Annex Group for the development of 250 affordable apartments at Commerce Drive
 - Awarded \$500,000 grant to Avalon Housing for Hickory Way III for 39 apartments, 20 for homeless households
 - Awarded \$500,000 loan to Lockwood for State street development for 66 apartments



121 Catherine Affordable Housing Construction – also known as Dunbar Tower

Housing Commission

Accomplishments

RENOVATIONS and MAINTENANCE

- Lurie Terrace RFP's issued and work completed to add a fire pump, fire control panel and fire alarms in apartments at Lurie
- Baker Commons RFP issued and work is underway to install fire suppression in all the apartments
- Baker Commons renovations completed: new boiler, resurfaced parking lot, renovated common areas, nano-bubbler
- Solar panels installed at Creekside and State Crossing and new roof installed at Lurie
- Completed full renovations of Garden Circle property, including solar and adding an additional bedroom and bath
- All the common areas painted at Miller Manor
- Lurie Terrace ground and first floor common areas painted and new carpet first floor
- Lurie design completed to create an accessible walkway from the front door to the sidewalk on Huron
- Miller design completed to replace roof, repair infrastructure, and add solar
- Radon mitigation installed at Siller Terrace, Broadway, and Upper Platt
- City rental inspections completed at most properties, and remainder underway
- Passed investor and MSHDA inspections at LIHTC properties
- West Arbor RFP's issued and awarded to consolidate electric meters and install solar panels
- Mallet's Creek on Main Street new parking lot



Jabari O Neal, AAHC Facility & Maintenance Technician exercising the fire pump at Miller Manor



Greg Walker, AAHC Facility & Maintenance Technician, replacing drip pans at Lurie Terrace resident apartment



Eric Sexton, AAHC Facility & Maintenance Technician clearing a sink clog at Baker Commons resident apartment



Solar @ Creekside Court
AAHC Affordable Housing



Solar @ Creekside Court
Community Center



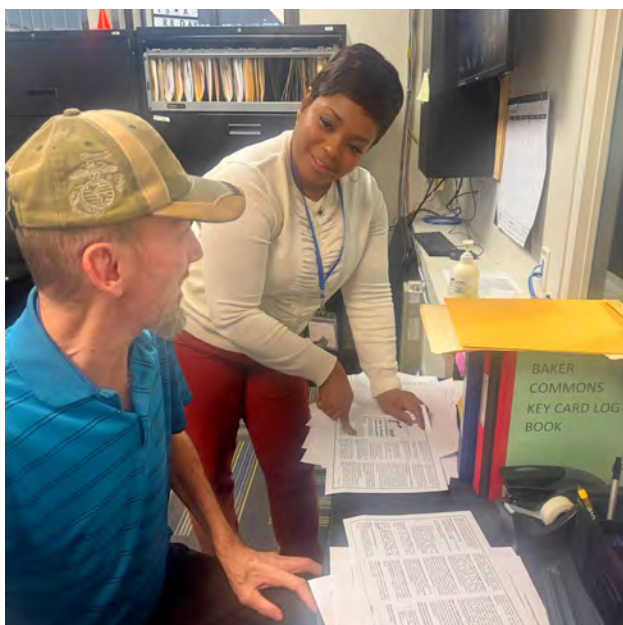
Solar @ State Crossing
AAHC Affordable Housing

Housing Commission

Accomplishments

PROGRAMS

- Eviction Prevention Program provided assistance to 455 households
- HUD awarded the AAHC 6 new tenant-based vouchers for foster youth experiencing homelessness
- HUD awarded the AAHC 66 new vouchers to administer for Charring Square apartments in Monroe County, which is owned and operated by a private developer
- 25 contracts were executed for \$2.8M with nonprofits to provide eviction prevention, youth and family services, and trauma informed case management services to low-income residents
- 190 new households were provided housing in AAHC apartments and through the voucher program
- 4 Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) rental households purchased homes through the HCV Homeownership program
- 15 Families completed and graduated from the Family-Self Sufficiency Program
- RFP issued and 8 project-based vouchers to Ypsilanti Housing Commission for Hamilton Crossing for homeless households
- Partnered with the Washtenaw Housing Alliance to hold Landlord Advisory Group Meetings
- Partnered with Local lenders and realtors and to hold homebuyer work shops for low-income residents
- Passed HUD assessment of Moving to Work program
- Partnered with Ozone House, Washtenaw County, and MDHHS on a \$4.3 million Homeless Youth Demonstration Grant awarded to County



LaTonya Brown, Property & Compliance Specialist, working with a resident at Baker Commons



Mindy Dolan, Family Self-Sufficiency Specialist, working with a FSS participant



Resident at Lurie Terrace helping to serve lunch for seniors



Dunbar ground-breaking ceremony



Jennifer Hall, Executive Director,
and Community Leadership
Council at Dunbar (Catherine)
Ground-Breaking Event

Housing Commission

Accomplishments

ADMINISTRATIVE

- \$48 million budget adopted for 9 legal entities
- Adopted Investment Policy and investing with Michigan Class generated \$287,798 in investment income
- Purchased Yardi Procure to Pay, Repayment Agreement and Job Cost to streamline accounts payable, to manage repayment agreements with program participants, and to track construction jobs, grants, and service contracts
- 7 clean audits: no material weaknesses or deficiencies
- Purchase offer to AAPS to acquire a property to consolidate AAHC office and maintenance facilities and expand capacity
- Partnered with OSI on EPA grant which included turning the Green-Baxter Court Community Center into a Resiliency Hub (\$180,000)
- All staff completed a Fair Housing Training