

City of Valparaiso

Accomplishments & Goals for 2023-2024

Department	2023 accomplishments	2024 goals
Building & Code Enforcement	• Issued 1,250 permits totaling \$146+ million, 167 new residences • Performed 4,584 building inspections • Managed 1,150 code enforcement cases • Continued successful Property Maintenance/Rental Housing Codes hearing process with 26 active cases, resolving 12 in 2023 • Continued Unsafe Building Code hearing process for 12 properties, resulting in 7 demolitions to enhance safety and property values	• Move full-time fire inspector to Building Department office, enhancing coordination and safety • Focus on properties operating in violation of city ordinances • Continue to strengthen safety, property values and neighborhoods through monitoring and enforcing city codes • Coordinate permitting of 4 new single-family home developments and 10 established subdivisions representing 800+ homes
City Services	• Installed 770+ solar panels to 5 City facilities, saving taxpayers more than \$5.2 million in electrical costs over life of panels • Completed Phase II Well Project • Completed State Road 2 Water Main Replacement • Hatch Lake Sewer and Storm Upgrade • Industrial sewer line expansion design completed • Completed Detention Basins at The Brooks • Completed designs and construction for stormwater projects at Powderhorn, S. Franklin and Vale Park. • Amended trash/recycling rates and service for sustainability. • AIM 2023 Green Community of the Year Award.	• Study options for augmenting current groundwater sources to add redundancy and supplementation. • Studying ways to make services more sustainable. • Prioritizing capital projects to replace aging process systems. • Phase III Water Project and Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades. • Complete Lead-Safe service line inventory of service lines on customer side • Continue sound financial management to maintain cash reserves, strong debt coverage ratios while maintaining infrastructure and offering competitive rates.
Clerk Treasurer	• Retained “AA” bond rating, based on strong financial oversight and resources • Created a strong team while managing retirement of key personnel; choosing a new Chief Deputy during this process • Received a stellar audit from the State Board of Accounts, on both financial and grant accounting	• Continue strong financial oversight in working with a new administration and council • Work on refinancing a bond to save the City money over the remaining payment years
Communications	• New branding and application guide • Published 2 community-wide newsletters • Added new followers to Valparaiso Now, now reaching 16,700 • Distributed 56 news releases to keep community informed	• Resume quarterly community newsletters • Enhance website for better user experience • Pursue new tools to share content and keep community informed

Community Engagement	• Presented 20 Neighborhood Improvement grants totaling \$216,175 • Facilitated engagement through Mayor's Youth Council, City Government Academy, Good Neighbor Award • Launched March Disability Awareness Month with calendar of events • Hosted My Point of View gathering, bringing together families from disability community • Advanced public art displays at Valparaíso Art Walk and utility boxes	• Present Neighborhood Improvement grants • Present fresh agenda for Disability Awareness Month • Continue engaging community groups, such as families of disability community, neighborhoods, working to unite • Refresh Neighborhood Toolkit • Launch Welcome Guide • Connect neighborhoods with mayor • Launch a Volunteer Valpo Task Force
Development	• Supported economic development (expansion of Lake Cable) • Expanded TIF district along West Street and Northland Drive • Saw groundbreaking for The Linc (\$30+ million mixed-use project of 127 residential units and 7 commercial sites) • Launched construction of Lincoln Highway Garage (\$17 million project to include 361 public/private parking spaces) • Celebrated opening of Journeyman after 7 years of activity • Advanced Grand Gardner Hotel project (\$40 million project to include 58 guest rooms and boutique hotel)	• Advance ValpoNet fiber infrastructure • Prepare Park 30 East as next location for industrial development • Advance development of 16-18 Indiana Avenue (historic police station) • Develop vision and redaptive use for key downtown project • Advance meaningful annexations • Pursue opportunities in Barrel District • Maximize Transit Development District near Journeyman • Advance transformative projects, such as Grand Gardner Hotel and other key prospects
Engineering	• Completed Vale Park Road and Stormwater Management Basin improvements, providing a reduction in peak flow • Introduced traffic-calming measures in Beauty Creek and Keystone Commons • Completed 7.8 miles of roadway improvements and 2.8 miles of sidewalk replacement/installation • Launched project page at tinyurl.com/ValpoInfra2023	• Advance pavement preservation program • Support update of pathways master plan • Bank stabilization at Beauty Creek-Candlewood • Ransom Road improvements • Support updates to Stormwater Master Plan • Identify and pursue grant opportunities for stormwater, pathways and roadway projects
Fire	• Maintained favorable ISO 2 rating for fire territory • Hired 9 new firefighters • Introduced full-time truck company • Met all needs within budget without need to seek rainy-day funding	• Work toward achieving ISO 1 rating • Station alerting system • Pursue plans for a 4th station • Work on Public Safety Local Income Tax
Human Resources	• Completed thorough analysis of the City's HR staffing & support needs • Created position of Deputy Chief HR Officer • Collaborated with City leadership on organizational design and development	• Identify and implement an HCM solution that best meets the needs of the City • Revise employee handbook and develop HR policies • Develop enhanced pre-boarding and onboarding processes

	initiatives (e.g., streamline workflow and operations)	Continue to focus on employee development & engagement opportunities (e.g., career advancement, learning, recognition)
Information Technology	- Strengthened security measures - Upgraded servers - Installed new fiber circuits - Upgraded file services - Upgraded camera systems - Upgraded phone systems	- Continue to monitor and upgrade security - Continue server migrations - Continue migrating information to cloud - Redesign remote access - Create and implement IT policies
Planning & Transit	- Saw .4% population growth - Completed annexation process for voluntary IN 49 and Vale Park Road and super-voluntary Franciscan Alliance - Upgraded downtown façade and sign grant program - Saw record restaurant participation in outdoor dining program - Completed trailhead improvements in advance of Journeyman opening - Partnered with Engineering to secure \$6.3 million in federal funding for 4-block downtown creative district - Successfully promoted transit, reached about 78% of pre-COVID levels - Took possession of 3 new Dash coaches, replacing aging buses - Ordered 3 new V-Line buses in a new low-floor model for accessibility	- Manage landscape, gateway and signage improvements along US 30 with Engineering Development - Complete master planning for Health/Technology campus - Continue design, coordination and ROW acquisition for federally funded barrel district trail - Manage improvements surround The Linc and Lincoln Highway Garage - Partner with Redevelopment Commission to design pedestrian-focused block of Lincolnway - Initiate Comprehensive Plan Update - Continual improvement of Unified Development Ordinance through regular updates
Police	- Hired 11 new police officers - Promoted 11 (5 sergeants, 2 lieutenants, 2 detectives, 1 captain, assistant chief) - Added a School Resource Officer in partnership with VCS - Expanded Emergency Medical Responder program to include outside agencies - Boosted technology	- Demonstrated continued proficiency by earning reaccreditation through CALEA (Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies), the gold standard for law enforcement agencies - Advance technology - Continue to develop leaders - Facility improvements - Continue to enhance training
Parks	- Broke ground and opened \$2.5 million Flounder & Friends Skatepark - Installed new playground at Will Park - Added solar safety lights at Rogers Lakewood, Will Park and Foundation Meadows - Added accessibility ramps at Will Park, Tower Park, Westside Park - Add fountain and aerators at Rogers Lakewood to improve water quality	- Enhance offerings at Rogers Lakewood - Develop action plan for legacy parks, with focus on Kirchhoff - Continue advancing ADA and safety within parks - Develop sustainable funding for future park investment - Develop land acquisition strategy to meet the needs of a growing and active community

	• Added 3 miles of multi-purpose trails at Creekside • Major facility improvements at Creekside and Forest Park Golf Courses • New director and leadership team	
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