

CITY OF BOWLING GREEN 2006 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The following represents a compendium of the policies, projects and initiatives the City of Bowling Green completed, advanced or initiated in 2006.

MORE JOBS/MORE DIVERSE ECONOMY

- Economic development incentive policy revised
- Kentucky TransPark and ITA Board collaboration and new oversight provided
- ITA rezoning and legal appeal completed
- JDIF incentive guidelines revised
- LifeSkills bonds financing approved
- Chamber Headquarters building started with City involvement, collaboration and financial contribution for parking
- Gander Mountain project assisted

IMPROVED TRAFFIC FLOW

- Bale Boulevard completed
- 14th Street Project completed
- Turner Court realigned with new stoplight for Moss Middle School
- Downtown signalization engineering completed and decision making process advanced
- Sidewalk program and policy drafted
- Alley repaving program created
- Modern Way/Industrial Drive connector designed
- Local funding increased for road repaving
- Shive Lane Extension project advanced
- Lovers Lane underground utility project partnership advanced
- Southwest Parkway right-of-way purchases continued
- Broadway Road Curve project advanced
- Westen Road realignment designed and funded
- Fields Drive connection designed and funded(Phases I & II)
- Bus transportation strategic plan advanced

THRIVING DOWNTOWN & RIVERFRONT

- Lee Square construction started
- Recreation Center expansion project started
- Skate Park construction started and is near completion
- Fountain Square Park restoration project completed
- Elderly Housing project at Third & Chestnut streets completed
- SKYPac property purchases continued; Center Street properties demolished

- Historical arch preserved for Broadway gateway
- Booth Fire purchase, relocation, and building sale negotiated
- City took lead in addressing environmental issues at 601 State Street
- City worked with consultant to develop downtown financing strategy
- City staff became more involved in DRA; the Board of Commissioners is redefining DRA's role
- White Water park concept advanced
- Heritage Trail project advanced

STRONG NEIGHBORHOODS

- The Crossings neighborhood park completed
- Greenways link completed at Kereiakes Park
- New greenways loop strategy budgeted and approved
- City hosted Regional Neighborhood Network Conference
- Building Division/Code Enforcement ISO compliance/evaluation recommendations implemented
- Brookshore burned house demolished
- City, HANDS and Housing Authority collaborated to address strategic rehabilitation of west side housing
- Rental inspection white paper drafted
- Code enforcement policy drafted pertaining to demolition due to fire
- Renaissance West housing completed
- Agreement with The Housing Fund developed to increase the pool of private investment for affordable housing
- Code Enforcement procedural improvements implemented
- Planning process initiated for "Envision Forest Park" and Old Morgantown Road corridor
- Home ownership counseling program implemented

SUSTAINABLE CITY GOVERNMENT

- **New/Replaced Facilities/Equipment**
 - Two new fire trucks purchased
 - Over 300 PC's replaced and sold at auction
 - Police Headquarters expansion project closed out
 - Kerieakes shelter replaced
 - Greenway trail head park completed
 - Hills Bark Park completed and playground installed at HP Thomas Park
 - 911 System Uninterrupted Power Source upgraded to extend power in the event of a power failure
 - Tasers purchased by the Police Department
 - Improvements designed for ball field dugouts at Lampkin and Pedigo parks
 - Development of Fairview II cemetery initiated
 - Public safety wireless backbone project advanced

- Redundant computer system planning initiated for disaster recovery
- Greenwood Fire Station planning commenced
- **Revised/Improved Policies/Procedures/Processes**
 - Revised managerial budget process implemented
 - Diversity Program implemented, employees trained, and marketing campaign launched; minority applications increased
 - Administrative Code updated
 - Hiring policies reexamined
 - Three new step pay plans developed and implemented (general employees, public safety, and senior management)
 - COLA rate for employee pay increases adopted, as established by GOLD
 - Annexation white paper drafted
 - City property purchases white paper drafted
 - Animal control policy implemented
 - FY07 budget summary printed
 - Purchasing Policy updated
 - Demolition delay ordinance approved
 - Erosion and sediment control manual published for contractors and developers
 - Public Works and HCD worked with development community to streamline permit process
 - Police and fire chief promotion process revised
 - PRO Team policy changes drafted
 - Mutual Aid agreement with Glasgow Fire Department in final draft stage
 - Next “right-of-way strategy” under development
- **Collaboration**
 - Student Solutions program implemented
 - Citizen audit committee created
 - New Town/Gown Committee created
 - New Comprehensive Plan work initiated
 - The City leased a vehicle to County EMS
 - City staff worked with Greenways and Lost River Cave on agreement concerning mutual project
 - Strong relationships established with HANDS and Housing Authority of Bowling Green
 - The L&N Depot is under new management
 - Employee Health committee created
- **Reorganization/Streamlining**
 - New Chief Financial Officer hired, treasurer position abolished
 - Assistant City Manager/City Clerk appointed (jobs combined)
 - Internal Auditor position created and professional hired
 - Finance Department reorganized segregating Purchasing from Finance

- Assistant Parks & Recreation Director function reorganized
- ABC enforcement transferred to the Police Department
- “Senior management team” created, revising new roles and expectation for all members

- **Efficiencies/Cost Savings**
 - Occupational license fee cut from 2% to 1.85%
 - City and US Bank settled claim (Cooper)
 - Number of cell phones reduced
 - Number of vehicles in take home fleet reduced
 - Significant changes made to the employee health insurance plan including universal premium and premium increase
 - Enterprise software protocol developed and bid
 - Police vehicles re-bid adopting new functionality strategy
 - Secret shopper program implemented (customer service survey)
 - Closing of offices during lunch period eliminated
 - Employee insurance agent of record rebid
 - GM Warranty approved for in-house servicing of City vehicles
 - FY2004 and FY2005 audits completed
 - Convention Center management and catering contracts renegotiated; investigation into past finances continued
 - New street de-icing agent utilized
 - Servers/Switches replaced for faster service
 - GIS and Asset Management data bases are being integrated
 - Access to GIS data bases expanded for internal staff
 - Fall protection system installed at RiverWalk at Mitch McConnell Park
 - Bar coding (hand held) implemented in Fleet for parts inventory control; and in Police for evidence
 - License Division brought in additional \$100,000 through business license inspections and audits
 - Billing system initiated for unpaid parking tickets
 - One year extension and banking services renegotiated, with 5 ½% return on checking
 - Parks & Recreation saved the equivalent of \$729,056 due to volunteers (free labor) and donations
 - 52 full-time job vacancies advertised; City dealt with increase in employee retirements
 - Parks & Recreation had 4.8% participation increase and 3.4% revenue increase
 - New Police Chief and interim appointed
 - New Fire Chief and interim appointed
 - New Chief Information Officer director appointed
 - More firefighter and police officer positions added
 - Discussions on Voice Over IP telephone system initiated

- **Communication with Citizens**

- City website redesigned and band width doubled; external and internal websites are now hosted in-house
- *Spotlight on Bowling Green* program producer re-bid
- Growth forums undertaken; the first forum held
- Wireless forum held
- City Hall in the Mall implemented
- Cable Franchise Agreement renewed and extended
- City now has it's own government access channel
- *Manager's Annual Report* drafted

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

- Cans for Cash (Joint Project with Bowling Green Technical College) - received two awards from U. S. Conference of Mayors, Keep America Beautiful Inc., and Novelis Corp., for city population 50,000 – 99,000: 1) Most cans collected (78,310 lbs); and 2) Most Innovative Program (“Drive to a Million”)
- Historic Preservation – National Trust for Historic Preservation recognized Bowling Green as one of a Dozen Distinctive Destinations in 2006, the first so-named in Kentucky
- Mayor’s DollarWise Campaign – U. S. Conference of Mayors recognized this financial education program with a \$15,000 grant, one of three awarded nationally
- Parks & Recreation Department – Kentucky Recreation & Park Society named the City’s department Kentucky’s Outstanding Parks & Recreation Department for 2006 (for department with over 16 full-time employees)
- Best Small Places for Business 2006 – Forbes.com Report named Bowling Green #14 of smaller metropolitan areas; 11th in Cost of Doing Business
- Workforce Diversity Campaign - Professional Marketing Association in Bowling Green granted the City a “Markie Award” for Best Direct Mail Piece (poster & video)
- Family Self-Sufficiency Program – HUD gave the City’s program Honorable Mention for Program of the Year, and for Best Program Initiative
- Housing Choice Voucher Program – HUD awarded the City’s program a Certificate of Excellence in Management Performance for the second consecutive year
- Kaleidoscope Program – Kentucky Recreation & Park Society recognized the Parks & Recreation Department’s support of the program with an Arts & Humanities Program Award
- School to Work Opportunities for People with Disabilities – Kelly Autism Program at Western Kentucky University granted Parks & Recreation the Alliance Award
- Fleet Division – National Institute for Automotive Excellence recognized the Fleet Division with the Blue Seal of Excellence for the third consecutive year. The City is one of 14 Kentucky businesses and the only Kentucky public agency to hold this certification.