

CITY OF GALESBURG

ANNUAL REPORT

2025



www.ci.galesburg.il.us



Galesburg City Hall, 55 W. Tompkins Street



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Letter from the Mayor



Peter Schwartzman

Mayor, City of Galesburg

As I reflect on our shared journey in 2025, I am filled with immense pride in what we have built together. The true strength of Galesburg has always been its people, and this year, our collective efforts have blossomed into beautiful, tangible changes.

Our shared dedication to enhancing our community's quality of life has yielded wonderful results. Through the incredible dedication of volunteers and Project 350, we surpassed our goals and planted over 700 trees, deeply investing in our urban forestry and beautifying the spaces we call home. This commitment to our environment was honored once again as we celebrated our 25th consecutive year as a Tree City USA.

We have also seen the power of community-led fundraising and collaboration bring new life to our public spaces, such as the vibrant new developments and upcoming splash pad at Cooke Park.

Together, we are creating a city that honors its deep roots while looking boldly to the future. Our continued partnerships are weaving a stronger social fabric that supports our youth, the arts, and those in need of shelter and recovery.

I am deeply inspired by your continued engagement, passion, and resilience. As we look ahead, let us remain united in our vision for a thriving, inclusive, and beautiful Galesburg.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Peter D. Schwartzman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Peter" and last name "Schwartzman" clearly legible.

Letter from the City Manager



**Eric
Hanson**

City Manager, City of Galesburg

It is my privilege to present the City of Galesburg 2025 Annual Report. This past year has been defined by strategic growth, fiscal responsibility, and a steadfast commitment to continuous improvement. We have worked diligently to foster a high-performance culture that drives progress and delivers results for our residents.

Financially, the City remains on solid ground. Through proactive long-term budgeting and strategic planning, we achieved the lowest city property tax rate since 2008 (\$2.39 per \$100 Equalized Assessed Value) while maintaining our core services and investing heavily in capital improvements.

Our economic development initiatives yielded phenomenal results in 2025. We leveraged targeted development agreements to bridge the gap for vital projects, facilitating over \$86 million in private investment and the creation of over 225 full-time jobs.

Landmark achievements, such as the revitalization of the former Maytag plant by Western Smokehouse Partners and the expansion of Graham Health Systems, underscore Galesburg's growing appeal as a hub for industry and innovation.

Furthermore, securing a \$25 million RAISE Grant to install critical rail infrastructure at the Galesburg Logistics Park provides the necessary foundation to spur future commercial development.

Progress in Galesburg extends beyond commerce to the very foundation of our neighborhoods. We leveraged state and local grants as well as invested local funds to improve safety, accessibility, and quality of life in Galesburg homes and neighborhoods.

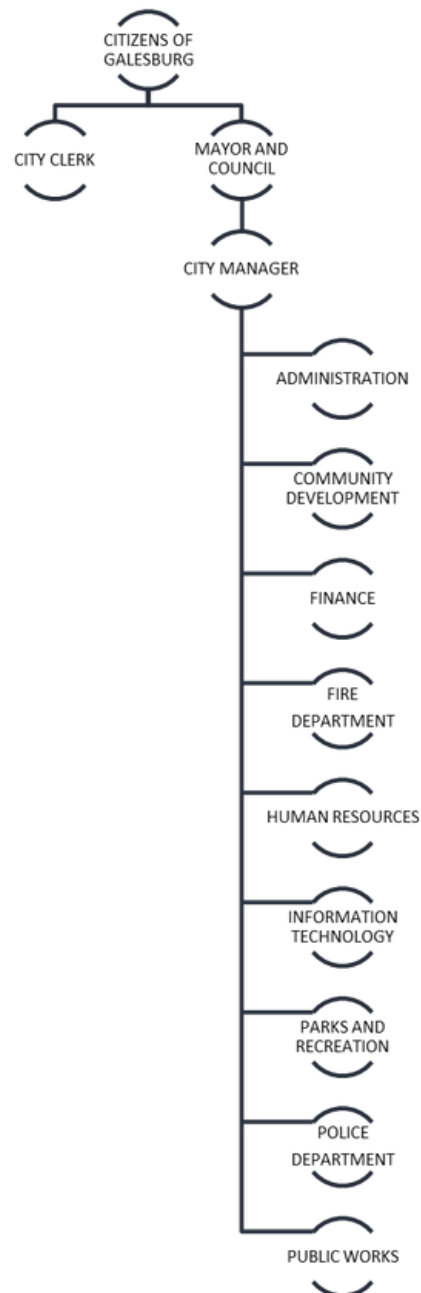
As we look toward 2026 and beyond, we remain intensely focused on modernizing our infrastructure, driving sustainable growth, and executing a proactive vision that ensures Galesburg thrives for generations to come.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Eric Hanson".

Organizational Structure

Organizational Structure

The City of Galesburg operates under the Council-Manager form of government, with a City Manager hired by the City Council to serve as the chief administrative officer. Galesburg is dedicated to providing its residents with a comprehensive range of municipal and community services, underpinned by responsible financial management, open & transparent governance, highly skilled professional staff, and unwavering accountability in all its operations.



Elected Officials



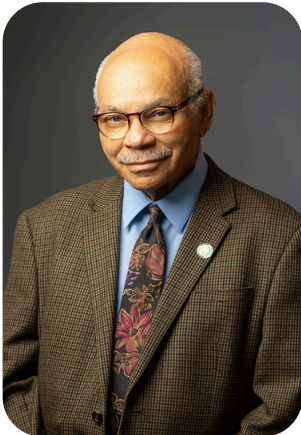
Peter Schwartzman
Mayor



Kelli Bennewitz
City Clerk



Angelica Mangieri
First Ward



Wendel Hunigan
Second Ward



Evan Miller
Third Ward



Dwight White
Fourth Ward



Heather Acerra
Fifth Ward



Greg Saul
Sixth Ward



Steve Cheesman
Seventh Ward

City Staff Leadership



Eric Hanson
City Manager



Cathy St. George
Assistant City Manager &
Public Information Officer



Steve Gugliotta
Community Development



Jennifer O'Hern
Finance



Chief Randy Hovind
Fire Department



Jessica Pease
Human Resources



Orlee Lucero
Information Technology



Don Miles
Parks & Recreation



Chief Kevin Legate
Police Department



Aaron Gavin
Public Works

Property Tax

Where do my taxes go?



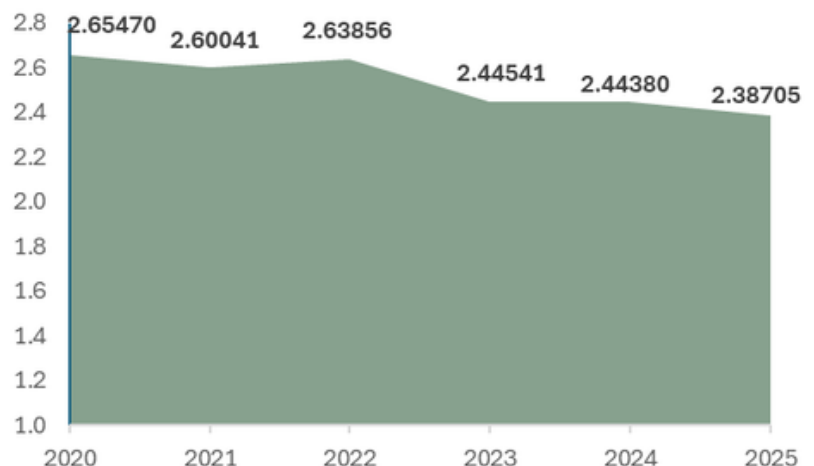
School District	→	49.66%	Public Library	→	4.79%
Knox County	→	13.34%	Sanitary District	→	3.19%
City of Galesburg	→	10.99%	Township	→	1.31%
Galesburg Fire	→	9.94%	Soil & Water Conseration	→	0.01%
Jr. College	→	6.77%			

The City of Galesburg receives 20.93% of the property tax levy total (Galesburg & Galesburg Fire). On the tax bill, it is expressed as Galesburg City, 15.78%; however, only 10.99% of the 15.78% goes to the City, with 4.79% levied and received by the independent Public Library Board, as illustrated above. The Fire Protection tax levy for the City is listed separately on the tax bill (9.94%), but is levied and received by the City of Galesburg for fire protection services.

City of Galesburg Tax Rates

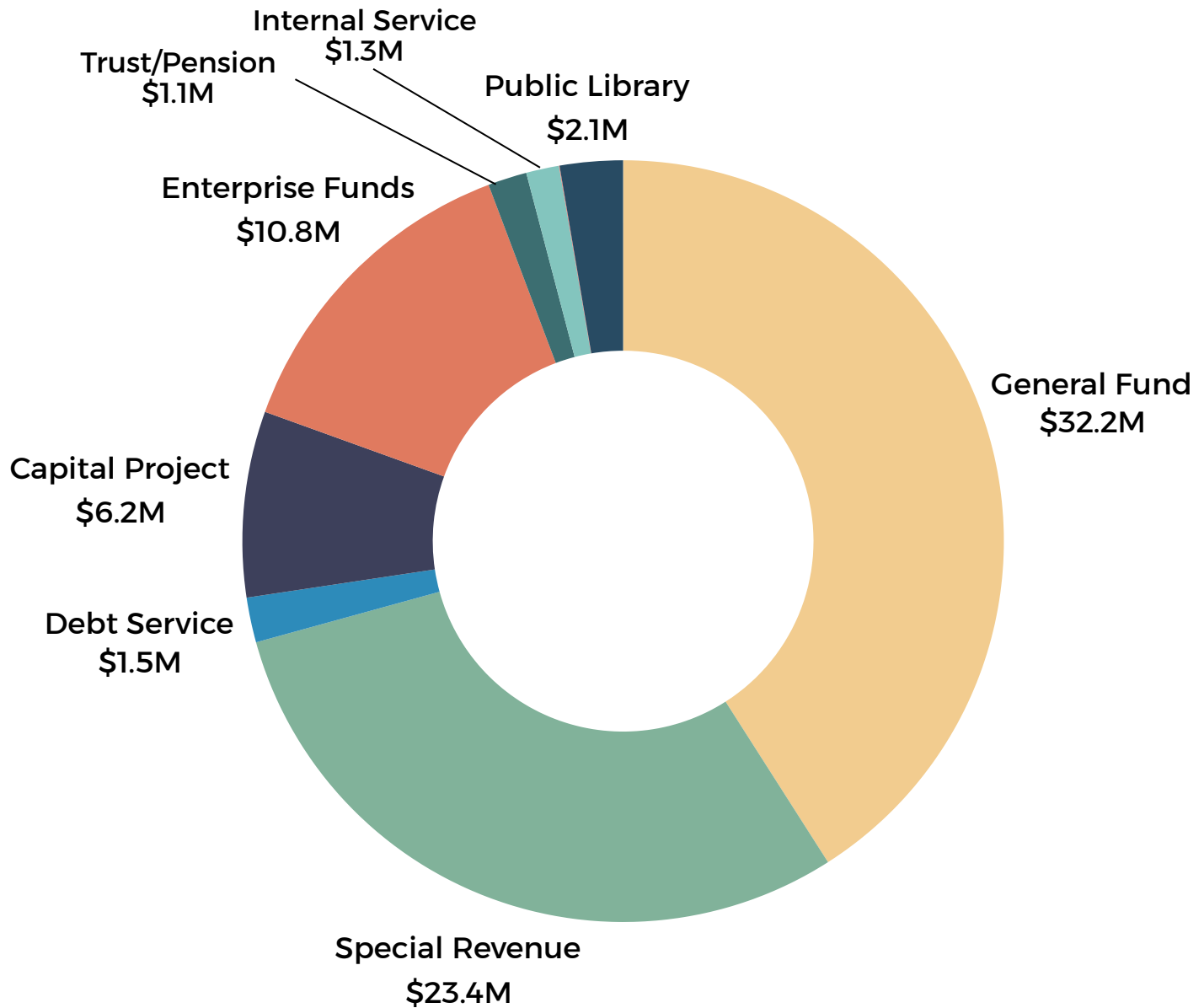
2020	→	2.65470
2021	→	2.60041
2022	→	2.63856
2023	→	2.44541
2024	→	2.44380
2025	→	2.38705

City Property Tax Rate Downward Trend



Financial Highlights

2025 Total Operating Budget

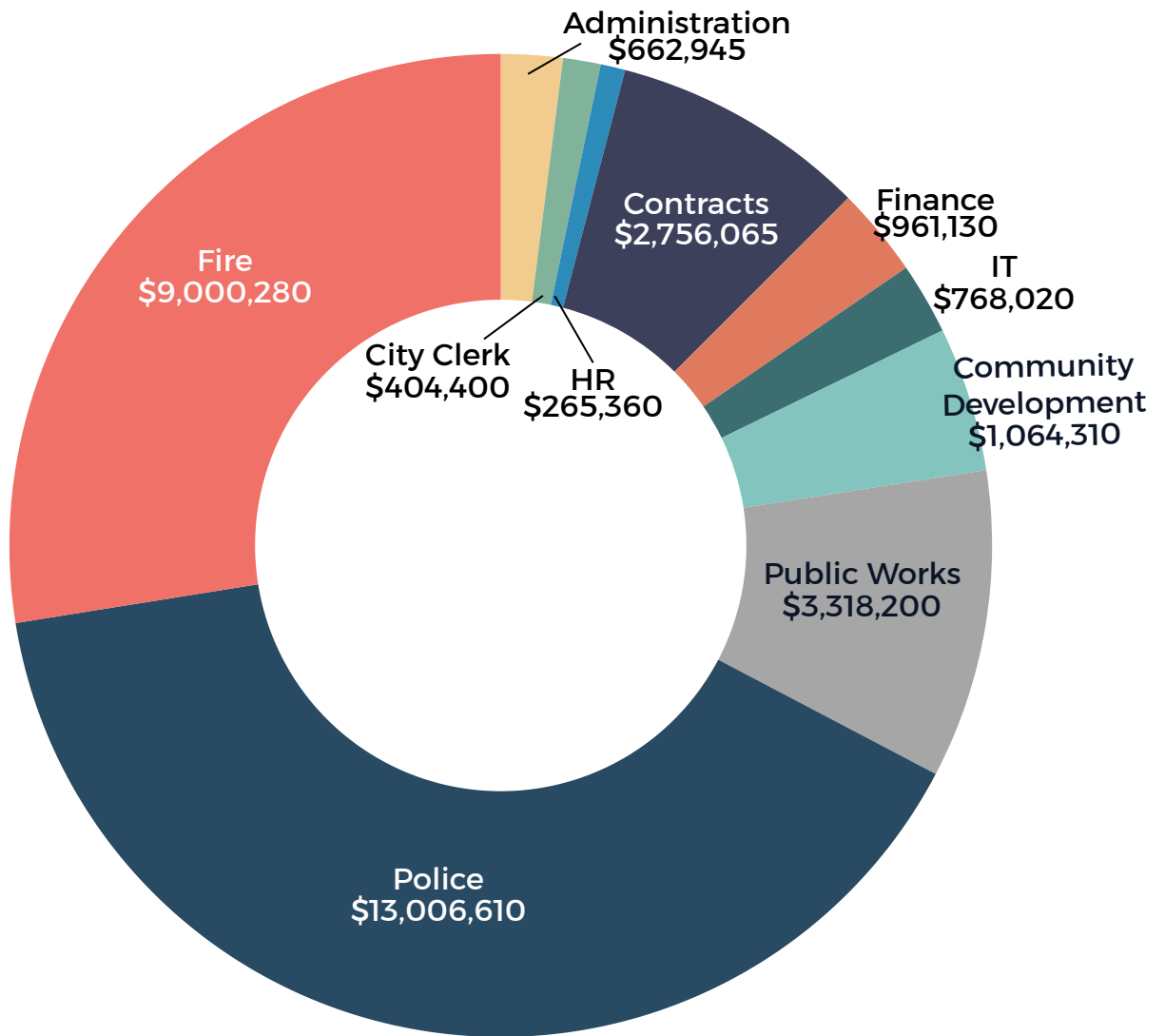


→ Total Operating Budget

\$78,759,480

Financial Highlights

2025 General Fund Expenses by Department



→ General Fund Budget

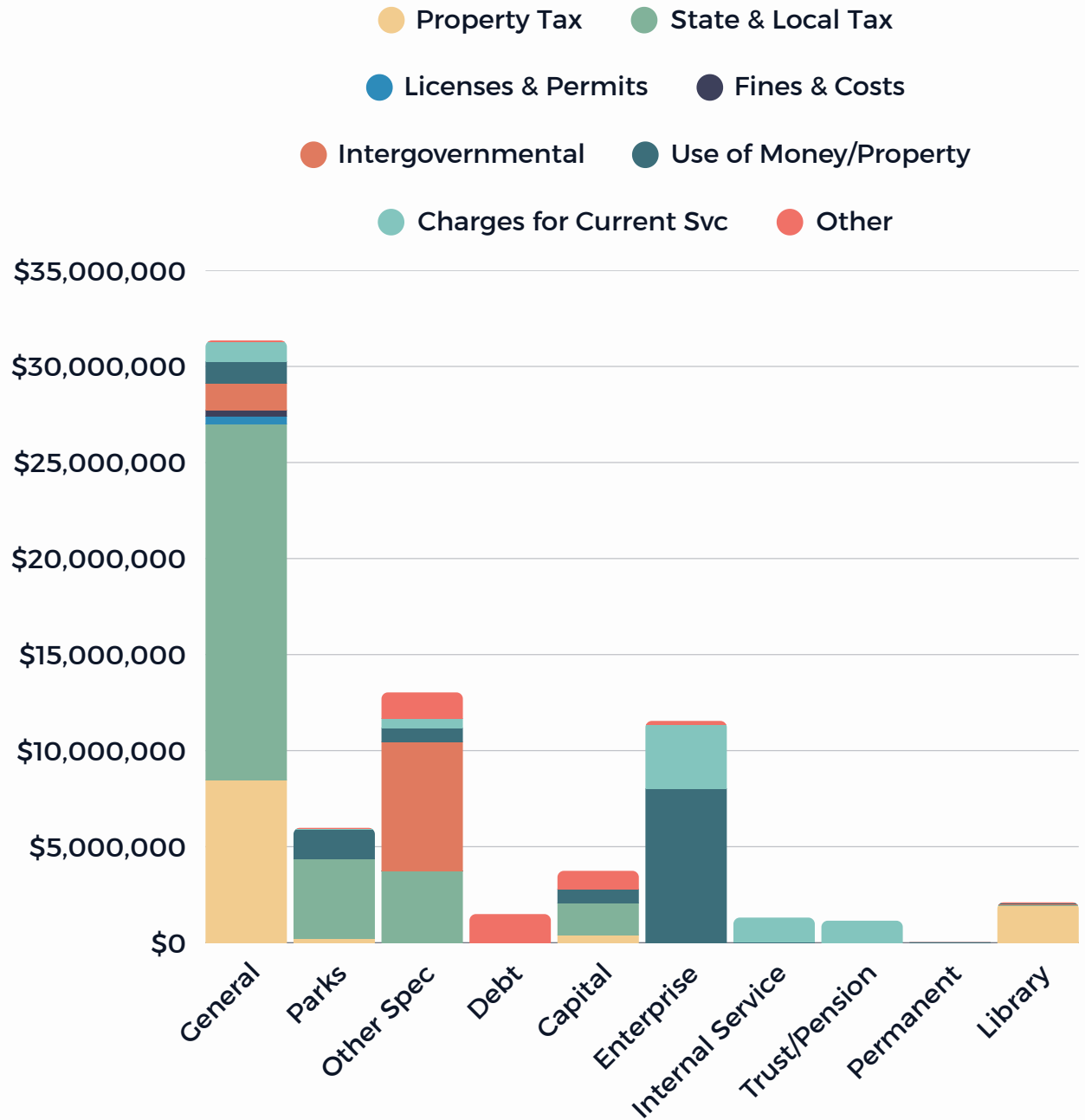
\$32,207,320

→ Parks & Recreation Budget

\$7,104,180

Financial Highlights

2025 Budgeted Revenue by Funding Source



→ Total Operational Revenue

\$71,729,830

Administration



The City Manager is hired by the City Council to oversee and manage all city staff and operations. The department also provides communication and legal services for the organization.

City Management

- Provided strategic leadership and daily operational oversight for 251 full-time employees across the city's core service pillars:
 - Public Safety - Police and Fire Services
 - Community Development
 - Public Works
 - Parks & Recreation
 - Administrative Services - Finance, City Clerk, Human Resources, and Information Technology
- Balanced growth and progress with fiscal responsibility, recommending a 2025 property tax levy that resulted in the lowest city tax rate since 2008 (\$2.39 per \$100 Equalized Accessed Value (EAV)).
- Spearheaded targeted and effective development agreements to drive growth, private investment, and job creation.
- Led long-term budgeting and planning for capital improvements, facility upkeep, and equipment replacement. This approach reduced last-minute repairs and backlogged maintenance by shifting to a more predictable, proactive schedule for maintaining and replacing facilities and assets.
- Championed a high-performance culture and filled critical leadership vacancies.
- Prioritized the structure and resources to drive high-impact quality-of-life improvements, including housing initiatives, new park developments, and city-wide beautification.

→ **Total Full Time Employees**

251

→ **Total Budget**

\$78.8 M

→ **General Fund Budget**

\$32.2 M

→ **Capital Improvement Budget**

\$14 M

Administration

Economic Growth

Leveraged eleven economic development incentives—including TIF Facade, Enterprise Zone, and Revolving Loan programs—to yield significant private investment and the creation or retention of local jobs.

↑ **FT Jobs Created 225**

225 new full-time jobs, 7 new part-time jobs, and 29 retained jobs were associated with 11 projects, which received city incentives in 2025. Eight projects received enterprise zone, one TIF Facade reimbursement, one revolving loan, and one major project grant.

↑ **Private Investment \$86 M+**

The eleven city incentives provided bridged the gap to facilitate over \$86 million in private investment. To drive this growth, the city strategically utilized \$118,525 in public funds, \$186,928 in permit fee waivers, and \$223,577 in estimated sales tax abatements.

Coffee Shops



Just another coffee shop? In 2025, the development of two coffee shops resulted in \$915,517 in commercial capital investment, as well as a \$850,000 property purchase. Over \$1 M invested in our community and great drinks - let's all cheers to that!

Beyond city-incentive specific projects, the City of Galesburg experienced widespread growth across the community, as reflected in the following summary of commercial capital investment and building permit activity.

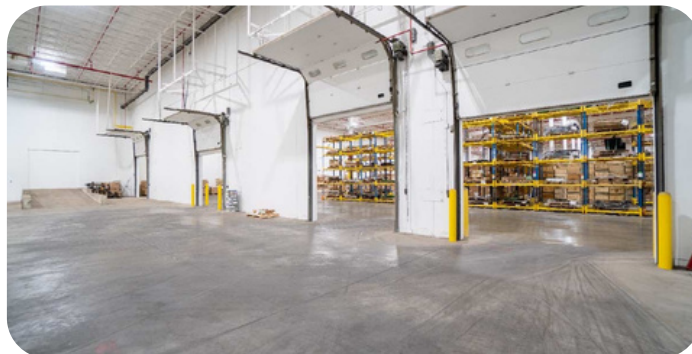
→ **New developments or expansions**

20+

→ **Commercial Capital Investment**

\$149 M+

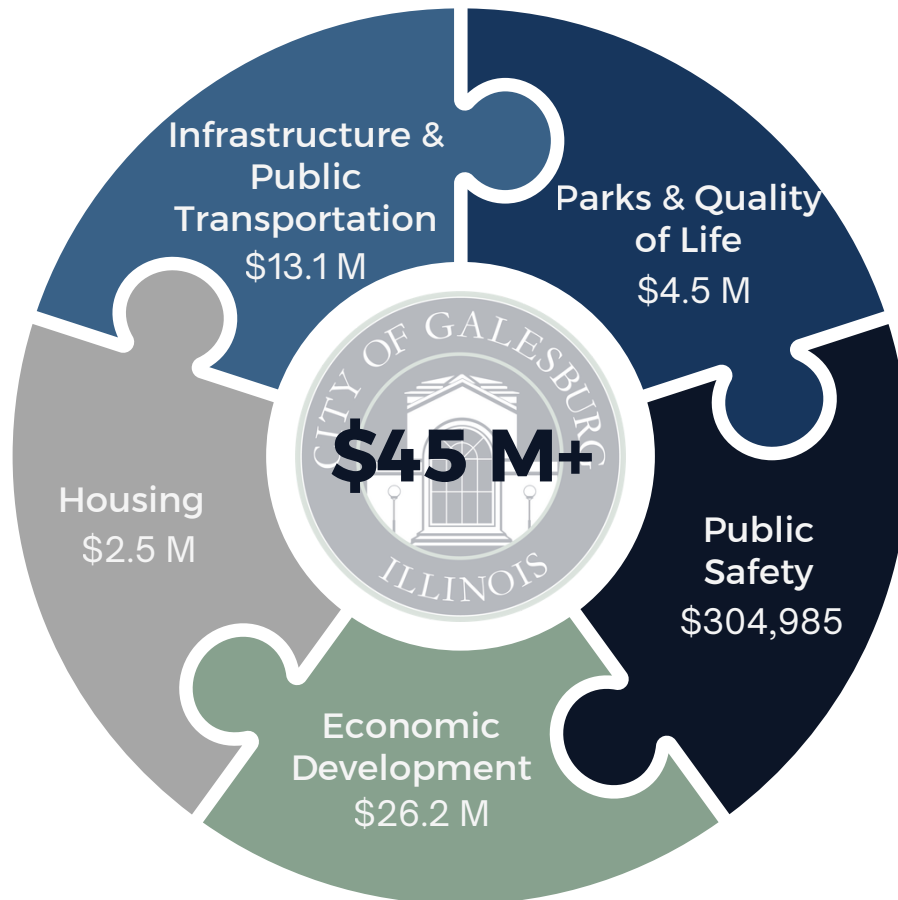
Western Smokehouse Partners opened their expanded Monmouth Boulevard facility in 2025, marking the full revitalization of the former Maytag plant for the first time since its 2004 closure. Supported by key city incentives to cross the finish line, the project successfully created over 150 high-quality manufacturing jobs.



Administration

Investing in our Community

During 2025, the City of Galesburg managed over \$45 million grant funds, strategically leveraging state and federal opportunities to complete vital local projects.



\$25M



The City of Galesburg was awarded a \$25 million RAISE Grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation to install rail infrastructure at the Galesburg Business Park. The funds will support the construction of a major containerized agricultural terminal and provide the necessary foundation to spur future development of the rest of the logistics park.

77%

77% of citizens selected attracting industry and jobs as a top priority for Galesburg in the 2022 Community Survey, ranking it the top item that should receive the most emphasis in coming years.

Administration

Communications

- Worked to build a culture of transparency by delivering consistent, multi-channel communications to the public, elected officials, and staff.
- Leveraged social media platforms to bridge the gap between City Hall and the community, resulting in increased follower engagement and real-time dissemination of critical news.
- Coordinated and produced comprehensive materials for 24 City Council meetings and one work session, including the development of detailed agendas and e-packets covering 266 distinct council action items.
- Enhanced public accessibility by live-streaming and digitally archiving all City Council meetings, ensuring residents can engage in the local democratic process in real-time or easily access a comprehensive archive of past discussions and decisions from any location.
- Managed the creation and distribution of prompt, professional press releases to local and regional media, ensuring key staff and stakeholders remained informed and strategically aligned.
- Ensured compliance with the Open Meetings Act (OMA) by managing the timely distribution of official meeting notices for all city boards and commissions.
- Oversaw website administration and content, including review and approval of 300+ digital updates to ensure consistent professional standards.
- Managed 471+ citizen inquiries via the website, ensuring professional, timely resolutions and accessible community engagement.
- Initiated and completed preliminary work for a 2026 website refresh, including overseeing design and sitemap architecture.

471+
Website Inquiries



266
Council Items



Community Partnerships & Engagement

- Reinvigorated purposeful engagement with community stakeholders to work collaboratively on projects and initiatives to benefit the community.
- Supported partnership opportunities with The Orpheum Theatre, resulting in increased programming and a resurgence of this community asset.
- Continued to partner with the Knox County Housing Authority to provide funding for a low-barrier shelter to provide safety and resources for recovery for unhoused individuals.
- Collaborated with the Knox County Area Partnership for Economic Development (KCAP) to bolster regional growth, job retention, and comprehensive workforce development strategies.
- Partnered with the Galesburg Area Convention and Visitors Bureau to execute tourism marketing initiatives, including providing strategic support for the successful recruitment of a new Executive Director.
- Partnered with the Knox County YMCA in support of the development and expansion of youth services at the Carl Sandburg Drive facility.

Administration

Social Media Communications

- Managed social media presence to promote transparency & inclusion through access to information on multiple platforms, with statistics noted below for City Facebook pages.
- Reinvigorated the City’s LinkedIn page for increased professional information sharing and HR recruitment.

Social Media Followers	Followers	Increase From Prior Year	Galesburg Citizens
City of Galesburg Government	8,436	7.30%	77.10%
KCEMA	6,066	5.90%	62.60%
Bunker Links Golf Course	1,191	19.80%	67.20%
Galesburg Police Department	22,001	4.10%	64.10%
Parks & Recreation	8,268	6.60%	64.90%
Total	45,962		

Engagement	Views	Interactions	Reactions	Comments	Shares
City of Galesburg Government	1,457,759	16,113	11,695	1,728	2,690
KCEMA	111,846	835	444	50	341
Bunker Links Golf Course	234,112	4,197	3,621	447	129
Galesburg Police Department	8,189,852	106,226	81,112	15,279	9,835
Parks & Recreation	2,203,557	15,581	10,408	2,017	3,156
Total	12,197,126	142,952	107,280	19,521	16,151



Total Views

All City Facebook pages

12 M +



Total Followers

All City Facebook pages

45,962

Administration

Legal & Administrative Adjudication

- Davis & Campbell, LLC served as primary legal counsel, managing over 90 case files, as well as providing comprehensive research, expert opinions, and strategic guidance on all municipal legal matters.
- Drafted and vetted complex contracts and intergovernmental agreements to ensure maximum protection of city interests.
- Directed a diverse legal portfolio, including labor relations, employment law, and litigation.
- Oversaw essential enforcement actions, including the prosecution of ordinance violations and demolition cases.
- Settlement of class action litigation with 3M, Tyco, DuPont, and BASF regarding PFAS contamination in the Mississippi River, resulting in a \$6 M+ settlement, to be utilized for PFAS remediation efforts.
- Administrative Adjudication hearings held twice a month at Galesburg City Hall.
 - 1,252 city ordinance violation cases processed, including property maintenance violations, license/registration violations, parking, nuisance, and impoundment hearings.
 - 354 cases brought into compliance and/or paid fines prior to the hearing.
 - 897 cases proceeded to a hearing with a judgment entered by the Hearing Officer.

Innovation & Improvement

- Reinvigorated direct engagement with state and federal legislators to advocate for key projects and initiatives, including infrastructure and economic development initiatives vital to Galesburg's growth and vitality.
- Prioritized collaboration, long-term planning, and the pursuit of funding for strategic infrastructure improvements, with significant focus on improvements to the South Street underpass and East Main Street corridor.
- Refined strategic approach to organizational and personnel management with a focus on modernizing technology and internal processes, as well as increased collaboration and accountability.
- Partnered with Central Illinois Municipal Aggregation (CIMA) group to successfully secure a favorable municipal energy contract.
- Evaluation and refinement of vehicle acquisition procedures to ensure a right-sized, quality fleet. Initiated a lease partnership with Enterprise, to decrease spikes in cost and improve the quality and value of the fleet.
- Continued the commitment to urban forestry and beautification through Project 350. Surpassing its original goal with over 700 trees planted, the initiative also engaged volunteers for community betterment projects, including new fencing at Cooke Park and updated signage at the Lake Storey Disc Golf Course.



City Clerk's Office



The City Clerk's Office serves as a key link between the City Council, City staff, and the community. The office supports transparent, accessible governance by providing responsive service and maintaining City records that ensure the public has reliable access to important information.

City Council & Records Management

- Managed and maintained all City Council records, including 23 Ordinances/Special Ordinances and 35 Resolutions.
- Digitized and indexed over 340 City Council meeting documents for improved accessibility.
- Updated and maintained the internal Traffic Appendix.
- Completed two online codifications of ordinances for the Municipal Code and provided supplement subscriptions to City departments.

FOIA Requests

- Managed 395 FOIA requests, marking a 38.6% increase.
 - Maintained an average completion time of 1.8 days per request.
 - Reviewed 10,675 attachments in conjunction with the requests.

Cemetery Operations

- Processed 40 cemetery deeds and seven scattering garden deeds.
- Sold 25 Veteran Memorial Bricks.



Licenses & Registrations

4,014



Animal License Tags

1,421



Record Requests

395

City Clerk's Office

Licenses and Registrations

- Liquor & Gaming: 120 Establishment Liquor Licenses, 26 Other liquor licenses, 35 Gaming Licenses.
- Contractors: 218 General, 21 Demo, 20 Electrical, 50 Excavation, 7 Tree.
- Housing & Rentals: 3,412 Rental Licenses (includes 140 new rentals), 3 Mobile Home Park Licenses.
- Business: 60 Peddler/Hawker, 15 Food Truck, 4 Weapons Dealers, 8 Sidewalk Café, 5 Transient Merchant.
- Transportation: 7 Tow Truck, 2 Taxi Cab Driver, 1 Taxi Cab Company License.

84 Special Event Applications Processed

Administrative & Regulatory Compliance

Administrative Court

- Registered 19 Dangerous Dogs.
- Submitted 425 code violations to Administrative Adjudication.
 - Including 295 animal cases.

Pension On-boarding

Managed the pension onboarding for 32 IMRF, Police, and Fire Employees.

Professional Development & Outreach

100+

The Clerk and Deputy Clerk taught education sessions to over 100 new Illinois municipal clerks at the Central Illinois Municipal Clerk's "Back to Basics" conference in Peoria in June.

Municipal Clerks Board

The City Clerk concluded a three-year term on the Illinois Municipal Clerks Board of Directors.

Notary Training

The Deputy City Clerk and Secretary I completed the new State-mandated three-hour Notary Public training.

Community Development



The Community Development Department supports Galesburg's growth and quality of life by administering planning & zoning, economic development, inspections & permitting, housing grants, code enforcement, buildings & grounds, public transit, and the residential refuse contract.

2025 Highlights

- Designated a property as a Local Landmark and recognized outstanding historic preservation efforts through P.A.V.E.R. awards.
- Facilitated \$86 million in private investment and provided incentives linked to 225 new full-time jobs, helping businesses grow and strengthen the local economy.
- Utilized the Local Housing Repair Assistance program to assist with repairs for 31 homes, enhancing safety, accessibility, and quality of life for residents.
- Expanded paratransit service with new vehicles and implemented CTS dispatch software, boosting efficiency and increasing ridership nearly 20%.
- Maintained high community recycling participation and achieved a 97% success rate for At Your Door collection of hard-to-recycle items.

The Future

- Expand public transportation with new medium-duty buses and introduce electric paratransit vehicles to improve mobility.
- Continue home rehabilitation and accessibility programs to support safe, code-compliant, & livable neighborhoods.
- Implement updated CTS dispatch software for fixed-route and paratransit services to streamline scheduling and enhance rider experience.
- Revise the development ordinance to simplify requirements and align city standards with modern planning practices.
- Enhance fleet management through Fleetmate software to improve vehicle safety, reliability, and reporting efficiency.



Staff

33 Full-time / 19 Part-time



Recycling

1,751 Tons



Housing Grants

\$2.5 M

Community Development

Economic Development

\$22M Expansion



Thrushwood Farms Quality Meats received a \$100,000 grant to expand operations in Galesburg. The \$22 million project, including new production facilities and equipment upgrades, is expected to create 50 new full-time jobs with competitive wages, contributing to the local economy and providing long-term employment opportunities.

\$63 Million



Enterprise Zone Incentives: The City facilitated approximately \$63 million in private investment across eight projects, creating 168 new jobs and retaining 29 existing positions. Enterprise Zone incentives helped exempt over \$1.3 million in sales tax and waived roughly \$185,000 in permit fees, supporting business growth while attracting new opportunities to Galesburg.

Facade & Downtown Support

Through TIF-funded façade grants, the City assisted Orange Cup Sidecar at 337 E Main Street with \$16,322 in support. The project revitalized a previously vacant location, generating three full-time and seven to ten part-time jobs, and strengthening the downtown business corridor.



\$1.2 Million



The City was awarded \$500,000 in assessment funds and \$713,600 in cleanup grants from the US EPA. These grants target historically contaminated properties, opening doors for redevelopment, community revitalization, and new economic opportunities in key areas.

1 Revolving Loan



A \$100,000 Downtown Gap revolving loan helped Dante & Dory's open a new location at 354 E Main Street, supporting working capital, inventory, and equipment needs. Programs like this encourage entrepreneurship and investment in the heart of the city.

Community Development

Housing & Neighborhood Revitalization

9 Homes / \$400,000

In March 2025, the City successfully concluded a \$400,000 IHDA Home Repair and Accessibility Program grant. Administered by WIRC, the grant provided for nine residential renovation projects, including six full rehabilitations, two roof replacements, and one accessibility modification.

5 Homes / \$650,000

The City leveraged a \$650,000 DCEO Single Family Owner-Occupied Housing Rehabilitation grant to fuel local home repairs. Administered by WIRC, five home renovation projects have been implemented thus far, with completion of the grant scope anticipated in 2026.

20 Rentals / \$300,000

The City was awarded a \$300,000 DCEO Healthy Homes grant in 2025 for the repair or replacement of HVAC systems in approximately 20 rental units. Administered by WIRC, a public meeting was held in October, and the grant scope is anticipated to be completed in 2027.

12 Homes / \$600,000

The City was awarded a \$600,000 IHDA Home Repair and Accessibility Round 2 grant in 2025 for critical housing repairs. The funds are expected to fund five roof projects, five full rehabilitations, and two accessibility projects. Administered by WIRC, a public meeting was held in November, and the grant scope is expected to be completed in 2027.

35 Buildings / \$562,000

During 2025, staff concluded a \$562,000 IHDA Strong Communities grant for the demolition of 35 blighted private properties. The grant reimbursed costs for eligible demolitions and remediation work to stabilize neighborhoods, reduce criminal activity, and open the door for future growth.

13 Lots

The City sold all 13 surplus lots offered in 2025, returning vacant or underutilized land to responsible owners for maintenance or development. Combined with IHDA demolition grants, these efforts reduce blight, stabilize property values, and open doors for future growth.



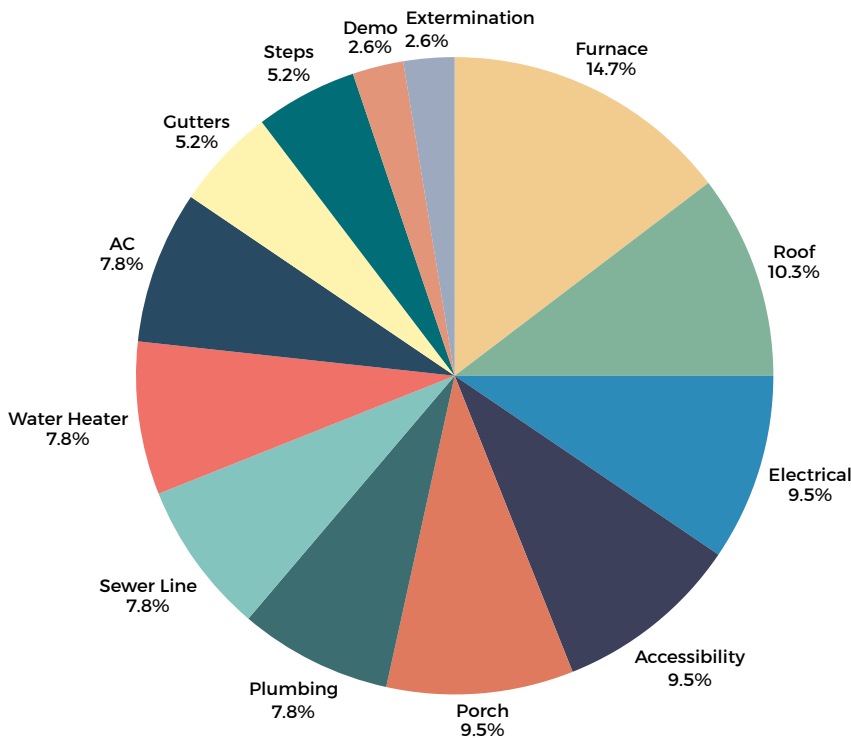
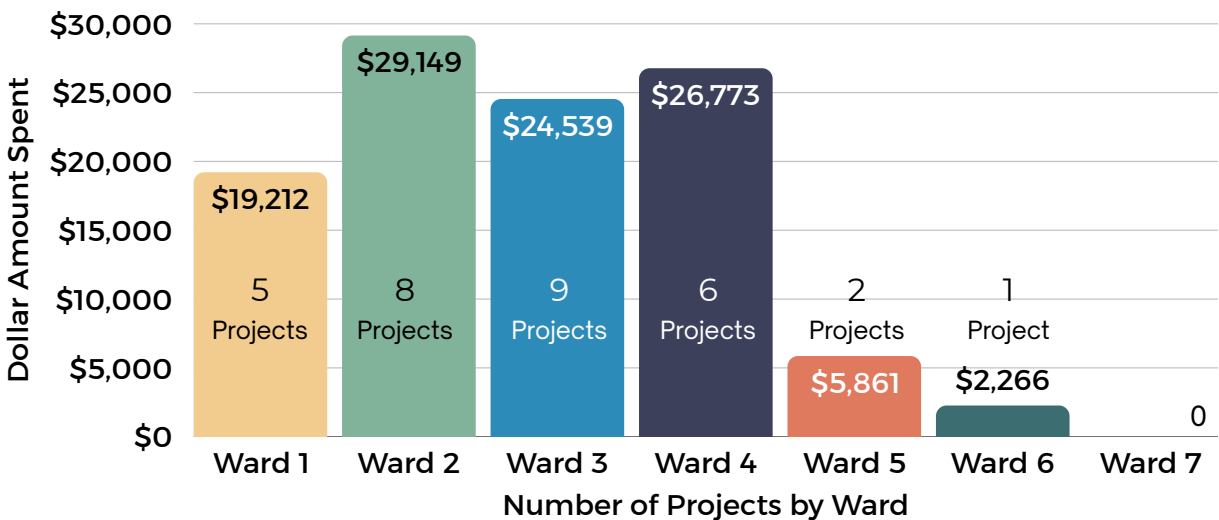
**Total Housing
Grants Leveraged**

\$2.5 M

Community Development

Housing Repair Assistance Program

The local Housing Repair Assistance Program helps income-eligible, owner-occupied, single-family homeowners bring properties up to housing standards, meet local codes, and add accessibility upgrades—enhancing both housing quality and residents’ quality of life. In 2025, the program supported 31 repair projects.



Community Development

Historic Preservation

PAVER Awards



The Galesburg Landmark Commission recognized outstanding preservation efforts with P.A.V.E.R. awards for:

- 57 S Cherry St – Kit Wilcox
- 748 E Main St – Michael Solotky
- 1175 N Broad St – Diane Krol

Local Landmark



325 N Prairie St was designated for its historical significance. The Webster family, original occupants, contributed to local business, education, and international relief efforts, including Inez Webster's work with the Near East Relief Service in Beirut.

Planning & Zoning

- Reviewed 13 site plans for new developments and additions, guiding growth and maintaining community standards.
- Approved four zoning amendments to update land use and support neighborhood needs.
- Issued two special use permits for concrete processing and community solar projects.
- Granted one variance to adjust parking requirements.
- Approved one minor subdivision (Knight Subdivision) for orderly expansion.
- Passed new ordinances regulating solar and wind energy systems to support sustainable growth.



Site Plans Reviewed

13



Zoning Actions

7



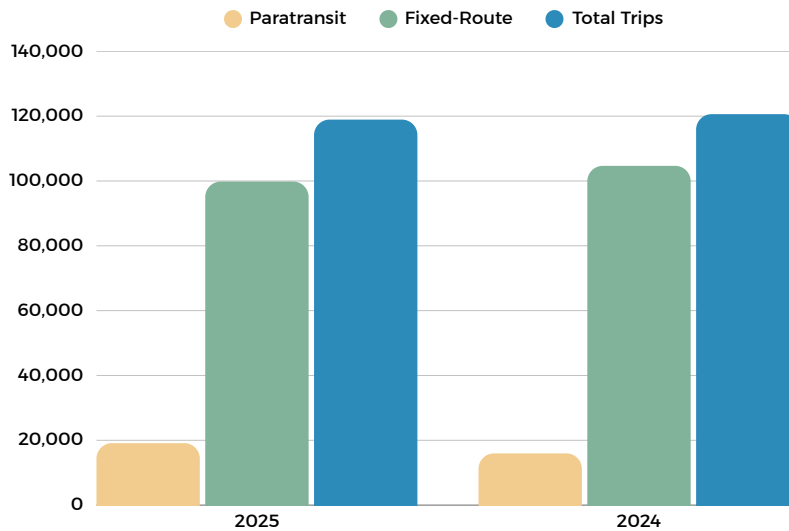
New Subvisions

1

Community Development

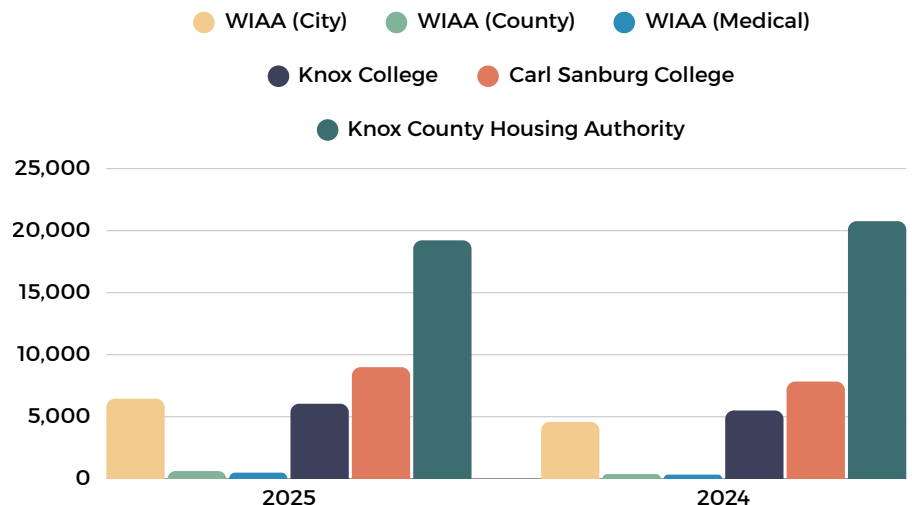
Public Transportation

- Implemented CTS dispatching software to improve paratransit scheduling and efficiency.
- Added seven new paratransit vehicles through the IDOT Consolidated Vehicle Procurement program.
- Secured interim fleet solutions, including one used fixed-route vehicle at no cost.
- Expanded partnerships with colleges, Knox County Housing Authority, WIAAA, and local medical providers.
- Completed fleet and facility inventory updates to improve reporting, scheduling, and future planning.



While fixed route ridership dipped slightly in 2025 (-4.6%), paratransit demand surged by 20% — a sign that the community's need for specialized transit is growing. Total ridership held steady at nearly 119,000 trips, reflecting a resilient and adaptable system.

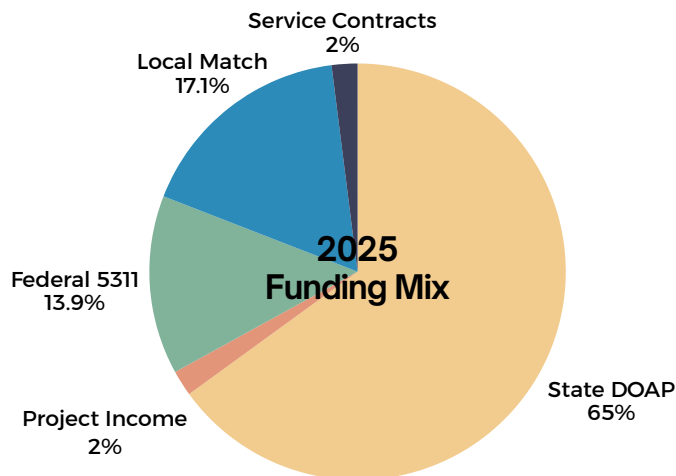
Five of six contracted partners saw ridership grow in 2025 — with WIAAA city trips up 41% and Carl Sandburg College climbing to nearly 9,000 rides. Knox County Housing Authority was the lone exception, dipping modestly from 20,766 to 19,223 — still the highest-volume contract by a wide margin.



Community Development

Financial Overview

Public transportation services are funded through a combination of federal and state grants, service contracts, project income, and a local City match. This funding structure allows the City to maintain reliable transit services while leveraging outside funding sources to reduce the burden on local taxpayers. The chart illustrates the proportional contribution of each revenue source supporting transit operations.



Service Enhancements

- Streamlined paratransit scheduling and reduced mileage while increasing trips.
- Upgraded facilities and fleet for safer, more reliable service.
- Expanded fare-free agreements for eligible riders at colleges and housing programs.
- Implemented fleet maintenance tracking software for improved reporting and vehicle longevity.
- Developed rider education & outreach materials, including short “how-to” guides for fixed-route and paratransit usage.



→ Fixed-Route & Para-Transit Trips

118,935

→ Carl Sandburg College & Knox College Rides

15,050

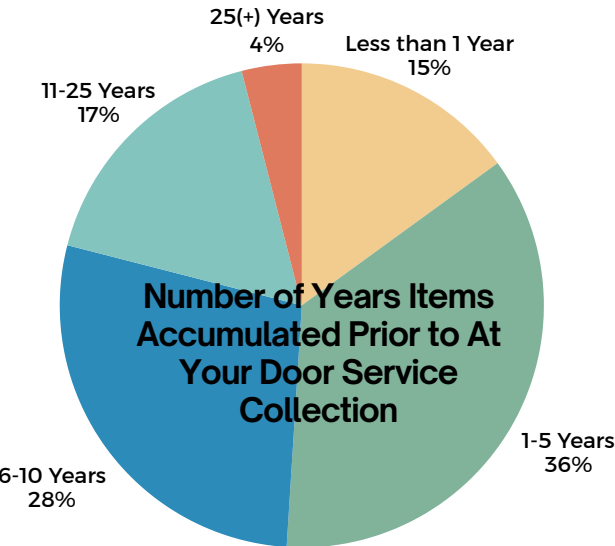
→ Miles Driven

292,746

Community Development

Refuse, Recycling & Yard Waste

The City partners with Waste Management (WM) to provide comprehensive refuse, yard waste, and recycling services. This includes the At Your Door Service for hazardous items and a weekly bulk collection program, which allows each household to schedule one oversized pickup per month.



2025 Residential Refuse, Yard Waste & Recycling	
Work Days	259
Refuse Loads	879
Refuse Tonage	8,524
Yard Waste Tonage	1,820
Recycling Tonage	1,751
Recycling participation	85.29%

Weekly Bulk Collection	
Appliances / Large Items Collected	2,649

2025 At Your Door Service (Items with disposal restrictions)	
Type	Pounds
Chemicals	5,842
Electronics	65,250
Not Classified (latex paint, sharps, etc)	15,278
Universal (aerosol, batteries, fluorescents)	1,378
Total Pounds	87,747
Percent Recycled	97%
Total Stops	995

Community Development

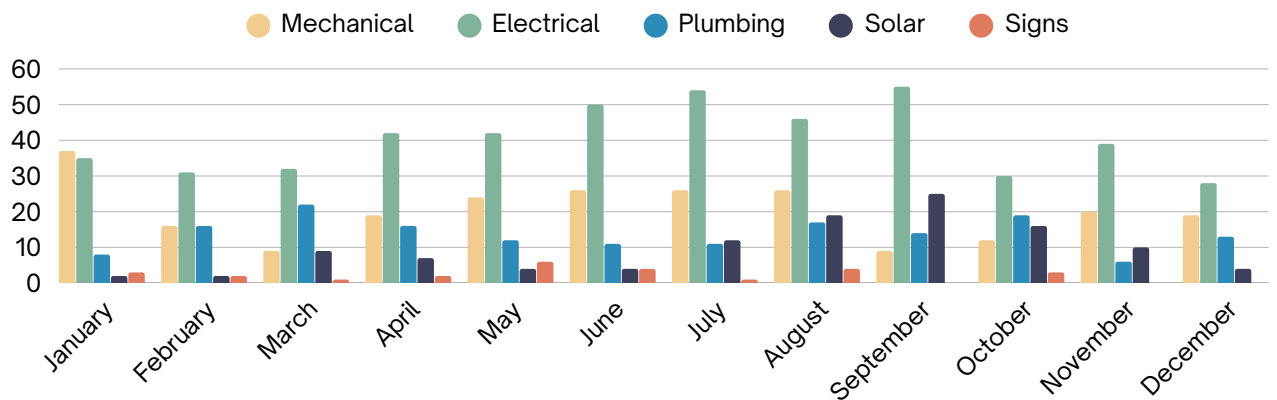
Construction & Demo

- 456 Building permits
- 243 Mechanical permits
- 484 Electrical permits
- 114 Solar permits
- 165 Plumbing permits
- 26 Sign permits
- 43 Demolition permits
- 30 Plan reviews of commercial projects
- 18 City demolitions of dilapidated structures completed
- 4 properties were brought into compliance after starting the demolition process

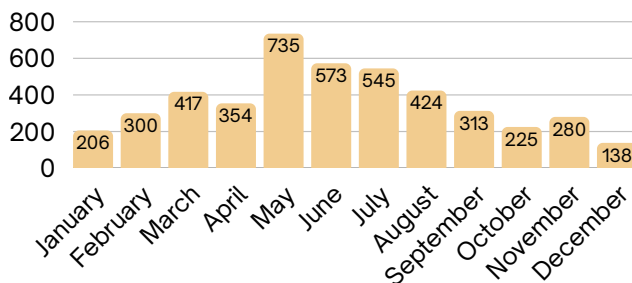
Property Inspections

- 4,510 Nuisance inspections
- 160 Housing violation inspections
- 139 Rental inspections
- 274 Cases referred to Administrative Adjudication
- 605 Code Violations resolved
- 510 Weed violations resolved

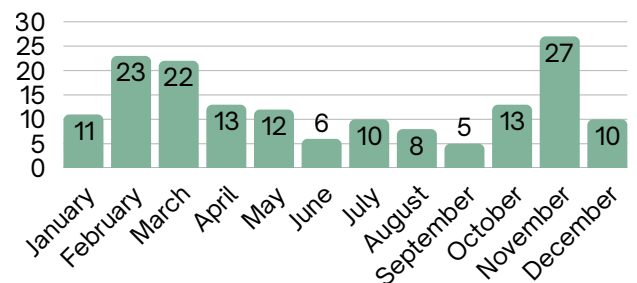
Construction Permits Issued, 2025



Nuisance Inspections by Month



Housing Inspections by Month



Finance Department

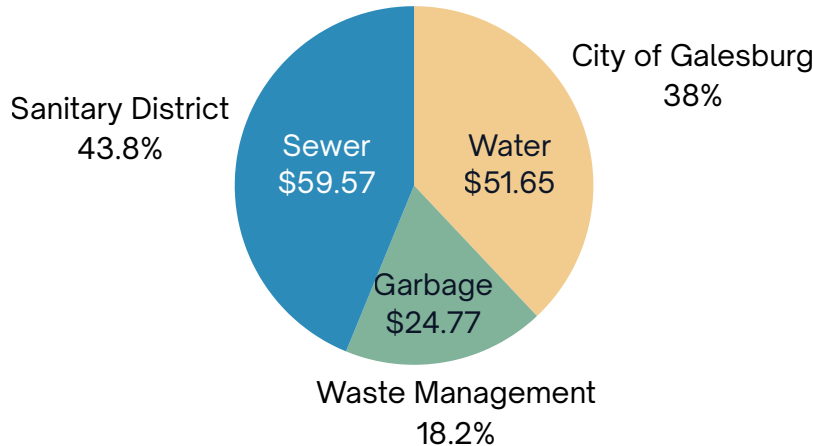


The Finance Department manages budgeting, payroll, utility billing, debt management, and investments, while maintaining the City's financial health and internal controls.

Monthly Utility Billing

12,000 customers

The average monthly utility bill in 2025 was \$136, which includes water, sewer, and refuse.



20,730



Managed purchasing, including 49 requests for bids and 15 requests for proposals. Approximately 20,730 transactions were entered to pay City, Library, Election, and ETSB vendors.

10,000



Processed over 10,000 bi-weekly and election payroll payments for City, Library, and Election employees in the amount of \$22.2 million.

\$7.6 Million



Prepared the 2026 fiscal year budget, which included over \$7.6 million for Capital Improvement Projects.

Property Tax



Property tax rates were lowered, reflecting the city's ongoing commitment to fiscal responsibility.

Certificate of Excellence

For the 29th consecutive year, the department received the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting for fiscal year 2023. The department also collaborated with an audit firm to complete the fiscal year 2024 audit and submitted the Annual Financial Report to GFOA for certification review.

Fire Department



The Fire Department delivers professional, compassionate emergency services to protect life and property. Through fire suppression, prevention, public education, and emergency medical care, staff work daily to keep residents, visitors, and businesses safe.

Staffing

Promotions

- Captain Brock Schmitt was promoted to Deputy Chief of Operations.
- Captain Matt Cain was promoted to Battalion Chief.
- Firefighters Kyle Harms and Josh Lenz were promoted to Captain.



New Hires

In February, GFD swore in three new Firefighters.

- Beau Lehnhausen
- Kyle Shaw
- James Nelson

They attended the Peoria Academy and have settled into their roles in the department.



→ Fire Services

5,404 total responses

→ Structure Fires

46

→ Average Response Time

3 minutes 38 seconds

Fire Department

2025 Highlights

In May, six members of the Galesburg Fire Department were honored at the 32nd Annual Illinois State Fire Marshal Firefighting Medal of Honor Awards Ceremony hosted by the Illinois Office of the State Fire Marshal.

Captain Kyle Harms, Firefighter Josh Webber, and Firefighter Kyle McGee received the OSFM Firefighter Unit Citation Award for their actions rescuing occupants from a burning balcony and apartment during a 2024 structure fire.

Captain Justin Moffitt, Firefighter Tyler Brackett, and Firefighter Nick Morrissey were awarded the OSFM Firefighter Excellence Award for rescuing a woman trapped in the basement of a residential structure fire in 2024.

These recognitions reflect the department's continued commitment to courageous service and the protection of life and property in the community.

Civic Excellence Award

In February 2025, resident Joseph Lamnert received a Civic Excellence Award from the Galesburg Fire Department in recognition of his quick and heroic actions in extinguishing a kitchen fire in a neighboring apartment, helping prevent further damage and potential injury.



MDA Fill the Boot

The Galesburg Fire Department ranked second in the State of Illinois for funds raised during the 2025 Fill the Boot campaign - collecting a total of \$34,139.



Fire Department

Emergency Management

On June 24, the Knox County Emergency Management Agency conducted a full-scale active shooter exercise in coordination with Knox College. Planning for the drill began in early 2023 and included numerous coordination meetings, side discussions, and tabletop exercises involving both college and City staff. The exercise was conducted as part of the county's emergency management accreditation requirements through Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA).

Approximately 50 participants from multiple agencies took part in the exercise, including Knox County EMA, IEMA Region 2 staff, Knox College personnel, OSF HealthCare staff, PSB Dispatch, City IT, the Galesburg Police and Fire Departments, the Knox County Sheriff's Office, GHAS, City Administration, and the City Street Department.

The on-duty crews from Galesburg Police and Fire performed exceptionally well throughout the exercise. PSB Dispatch effectively supported operations during the event, with Dispatcher Victoria Dowdal simulating dispatch functions from the Unified Command Post. City IT staff established the Emergency Operations Center in just seven minutes, and the Street Department assisted by placing signage to establish a staging area for incoming units. Cathy St. George worked alongside Knox College as a Public Information Officer to coordinate joint public messaging, and Steve Gugliotta from Community Development assisted by arranging transportation for students when a city bus was requested.

Special recognition is also extended to Fire Captain Joe Grodjesk, who designed the full-scale exercise and dedicated many hours to planning meetings and the extensive documentation required to complete the drill.



Human Resources



The HR Department focuses on employee recruitment, benefits, and personnel management to create and support a productive work environment.

- Hired 27 new employees.
- 19 employees left employment with the city, including eight retirements, reflecting a turnover rate of approximately 7.9%, demonstrating efforts to maintain a stable and committed workforce.
- The average time to hire new employees was 33 days, ensuring that positions were filled efficiently to maintain operations and support the team.
- 17 employees were promoted this year, illustrating a commitment to recognizing and advancing talent within the organization.
- Successfully negotiated a Memorandum of Understanding with AFSCME, which implemented a pilot program of 12-hour shifts for 911 dispatchers.
- Continued collaboration with legal counsel for management of approximately 30 new and ongoing workers' compensation claims.
- Responded to 19 FOIA requests to ensure ongoing transparency of operations.
- Renewal and oversight of liability and property insurance policies, and auto insurance for Police, Fire, and Transit vehicles.
- Reinstated the Safety Committee and continued to lead the Employee Relations Committee (ERC), which hosted a Trivia Night, an employee luncheon, and a Holiday party in 2025.

Employee Benefits Management

- Ongoing oversight and management of a full portfolio of employee benefits, including: health, dental, and vision insurance; 457 and Roth retirement accounts; retirement health savings accounts and life insurance; flexible spending and dependent care; payroll deductions; and employee assistance programs and wellness incentives.
- Quickly and successfully managed a shift to a comparable self-insured health insurance plan for employees upon receiving unfavorable renewal rates under the current fully insured health plan with Blue Cross Blue Shield, resulting in significant savings for both the City and employees.
 - Streamlined enrollment and increased employee access through the implementation of an online portal for employees to complete open enrollment, with a 100% completion rate.
 - Hosted seven open enrollment meetings at multiple city locations to provide convenient options for employee attendance.
 - Increased benefits of the new health care plan include free TeleDoc access, and the opportunity to source some pharmacy items from Canada at no cost to the participant.

654 Enrollees



Managed the successful switch of 654 members of the health plan, which includes city, library, and township employees, along with their dependents.

+ \$881,000



Switching employee health care plans saved the City \$881,000 as well as employees an average of 17% on annual premiums, while offering comparable plans & levels of service.

Information Technology (IT)



The Information Technology Department provides essential technical and administrative support to maintain the City's technology systems. By managing and securing critical infrastructure, the department helps ensure reliable operations and effective service delivery across all City departments.

Technology Initiatives

In 2025, the IT Department implemented Informacast software to enhance the City's VoIP system and emergency communications. Integration with Knox County EMA sirens and FEMA IPAWS alerts improves public notifications while reducing costs. An automated after-hours call-out system streamlined IT support, ensuring timely responses and expanding service to other departments.

Initiative	Benefits
Informacast software	Advanced intercom features, garage loud ringers, remote phone access
IPAWS module added to EMA sirens	Faster emergency alerts to residents, replacing Code Red
After-hours call-out system	Timely IT support, expanded coverage to Parks & Recreation
Flexible platform for future projects	Cost-effective, scalable, supports multiple communication initiatives



Computers & iPads Replaced

64



Meetings Streamed or Recorded

68



User Management

69

Information Technology

Device Upgrades

As part of the regular technology hardware replacement cycle, the Water Division was scheduled to replace eight ruggedized laptops for field personnel, originally estimated at \$20,000. During the planning phase, Water management requested an evaluation of tablets as a potential alternative for field use.

IT reviewed device capabilities, security, mobile management options, and confirmed compatibility with vehicle mounts and existing field systems. Water personnel also tested the devices to ensure full functionality with the City's information systems.

The result was the purchase of eight tablets at a total cost of \$6,472, saving approximately \$13,500. This initiative highlights the Water Division's commitment to efficient use of city funds and collaboration with IT to implement modern, cost-effective solutions.

→ Devices Replaced	8
→ Estimated Cost	\$20,000
→ Actual Cost	\$6,472
→ Cost Savings	\$13,528

Admin & Support

- Maintained the City Hall AV system, which streams City Council and Planning & Zoning meetings online, enhancing public transparency.
- Administration of VoIP telephone system, connecting 300 users across 13 locations.
- Expanded the city-wide fiber network, connecting all city facilities.
- Administration of cybersecurity and PCI training programs
- Provided technical support for all city users, including public safety and 911.
- Implemented robust backup and maintenance of disaster recovery systems to protect and quickly restore essential city data.
- Provided support for new 911 Dispatch Center, including technical specs and purchasing.
- Created an AI Usage policy and online training.
- Evaluated, purchased, and implemented a new camera trailer for Public Safety.

→ Help Desk Tickets	2,439
→ Recycled Waste	3,000+ lbs.
→ New Cameras	4
→ Systems Supported	8

Parks & Recreation



The Parks and Recreation Department manages parks, recreation centers, aquatic facilities, and other public spaces for outdoor activity and community events. These services enhance quality of life by offering safe, accessible places to gather, play, and enjoy the outdoors.

2025 Highlights

- Completed Phase II of Hawthorne Pool renovations, including a new boiler, humidity system, locker rooms, and LED lighting, increasing usage to 12,748 patrons.
- Expanded recreation opportunities with over 100 programs and special events, including outdoor education, festivals, youth programs, and free community offerings.
- Enhanced access and play opportunities with temporary and permanent pickleball courts at Hawthorne Gym and Lakeside Recreation Center.
- Invested in park and facility improvements, including Lake Storey Pavilion upgrades, ON Custer Park restroom replacement, Jimmy Issacson Field enhancements, and Cooke Park construction.
- Strengthened forestry and environmental stewardship with 128 unhealthy trees removed, 504 trimmed, 152 stumps removed, and 238 trees planted.

The Future

- Improve city entrances and public areas, prioritizing East Main Street and Standish Park.
- Complete remaining phases of Cooke Park, including splash pad construction, and finish playground/shelter projects citywide.
- Expand pickleball opportunities and evaluate recreation programs, retiring some to make room for new offerings.
- Continue golf course investments, including drainage improvements, bridge replacements, cart path resurfacing, and facility enhancements.
- Boost park maintenance efficiency and productivity, ensuring safe, clean, and well-maintained parks and facilities.

→	Mobile Playground	1,219 patrons
→	Park Shelters	348 reservations
→	Bunker Links Golf Course	31,174 rounds played

Parks & Recreation

Parks

\$750,000



Construction of Cooke Park began in August and is nearing completion. Most of the first phase of the park has been finished, with construction of the shelter and restroom facility remaining. A splash pad is scheduled to be installed in the spring, completing the initial phase of the park project.

The project was supported through a combination of grant funding and community support, including a \$500,000 Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) grant, a \$250,000 grant from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO), and additional funds raised through a neighborhood-led fundraising campaign organized by local residents.



HT Custer Park



Improvements continued at H.T. Custer Park, with significant upgrades completed at Jimmy Isaacson Field. A new backstop and baseline netting were installed, and material was added to the infield to allow for grading and improved drainage. Sod was placed in select areas, and the pitcher's mound was reconstructed to enhance field conditions. In addition, new dugouts were purchased and are scheduled to be installed in the spring ahead of the upcoming season.

ON Custer Park



The park received a new restroom facility, replacing a structure that had significantly deteriorated over time. The new building improves accessibility and meets current Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements, providing a safer and more comfortable amenity for park visitors.

Kiwanis Park



Several improvements were completed at Kiwanis Park during the year. The aging skate park surface was replaced to improve safety and usability, and new baskets were installed on the park's disc golf course, enhancing the playing experience for visitors and local enthusiasts.

Parks & Recreation

Dale Kelly Tot Lot



Improvements at Dale Kelley Tot Lot continued with the installation of a new shelter, providing shaded seating and a gathering space for families and visitors using the playground area.

500 Feet



An additional 500 feet of the North Lake Storey walking path was widened and resurfaced. These improvements enhance accessibility and provide a safer, more comfortable surface for residents who use the path for recreational activities around Lake Storey.

Rotary Park



Construction of new pickleball courts began at Rotary Park in response to the continued growth in popularity of the sport. Existing courts at Bateman Park were no longer able to meet the increasing demand for court time.

When completed, Rotary Park will feature eight new courts, which are expected to open before summer. The additional space will help accommodate the growing number of pickleball players and provide greater opportunities for residents to participate in the sport.

Forestry

In March, a new Arborist was hired to lead the division in increasing productivity and strengthening community engagement—a position that had been vacant since 2021.

During the year, the division:

- Removed 128 trees
- Trimmed 504 trees
- Removed 152 stumps
- Planted 238 trees

Galesburg also celebrated 25 consecutive years of Tree City USA certification and received the Growth Award for the 8th time, marking the third consecutive year. This recognition highlights the combined efforts of the Forestry Division and Project 350 in enhancing the city's urban forest and community green spaces.



Parks & Recreation

Recreation

The Parks and Recreation Department continued to provide a wide range of free programs and community outreach opportunities designed to engage residents of all ages. These events help make recreation accessible while encouraging families and neighbors to gather, stay active, and enjoy local parks and facilities.

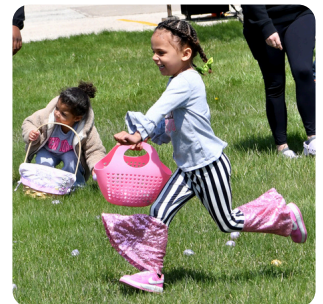
Free community programs offered throughout the year included:

- Valentine's for Seniors card drop-off
- Junior Lifeguard program
- Lifeguard Training
- Easter Egg Hunt
- Fishing Derby
- Movie in the Park
- Touch-A-Truck
- Monarch Migration Festival
- Yoga in the Park

Nature and environmental programming also remained popular. Programs such as Second Saturdays, Kindness Rock Garden painting, and other hands-on activities encouraged participants to connect with local parks and natural spaces.

During the summer months, the department hosted special themed activity days at Lakeside Water Park, while the Mobile Playground Truck traveled to various parks and community events to bring recreation directly into neighborhoods.

In total, the Recreation Division offers well over 100 programs each year, including daily, weekly, and monthly activities with multiple skill levels. These programs draw thousands of participants to city facilities and parks, providing opportunities for recreation, learning, and community connection throughout the year.



Parks & Recreation

12,748 Visitors



Hawthorne Municipal Pool

Phase II renovations at Hawthorne Municipal Pool were completed, marking the final stage of a multi-year investment in the facility. Improvements included:

- Installation of a new boiler and humidity control system
- New lockers and lavatories in the locker rooms
- New ceiling tiles and LED lighting

This phase concludes nearly \$4 million in upgrades made to the facility over the past three years. As a result, usage increased to 12,748 patrons, an increase of more than 2,500 visitors compared to the previous year.

Hawthorne Gym

The addition of three temporary indoor pickleball courts in the spring significantly increased activity at Hawthorne Gym. The facility recorded 6,454 patrons during the year, representing an increase of nearly 1,500 visits compared to 2024, demonstrating the growing demand for pickleball and indoor recreation opportunities.



84 Rentals



Lake Storey Beach

Lake Storey Beach welcomed 4,800 patrons this year. Boat rentals totaled 1,366 hours, generating \$22,596 in revenue, representing an approximate 15% decrease compared to last year. To enhance the visitor experience and maintain equipment quality, staff purchased two new paddleboats and additional kayaks to replace older, worn-out items.

Lake Storey Pavilion

The pavilion hosted 84 rentals, generating \$55,668 in revenue, a 15% increase from the previous year. In addition to rentals, improvements were made to the facility, including sealing the parking lot to extend its lifespan and improve overall appearance.

1,865 Participants



The Lakeside Nature Center continued to expand its community programs, offering monthly outdoor education, outreach, and recreational opportunities for 1,865 participants, an increase from last year. Accessibility improvements were also made, including the construction of an ADA-compliant walking path connecting the parking lot to the Nature Center, making it easier for all visitors to enjoy the programs and natural areas.

Nature Preschool



The Outdoor Nature Preschool, created in 2024 for children ages three and a half to five years, continues to grow. The spring session enrolled five students, while the fall session grew to nine students, reflecting increasing interest in outdoor, nature-based early childhood education in the community.

Parks & Recreation

\$136,349



Lakeside Water Park welcomed 15,863 patrons this year, generating \$136,349 in revenue, which included a \$7,554 transfer from the Campground for wristbands provided to campers. To enhance the guest experience, the seating area just outside the pool was upgraded with a new concrete patio, tables, and umbrellas.

507 Reservations



The Lakeside Recreation Center served 8,624 patrons this year, with 288 tennis court reservations and 219 multipurpose court reservations. Eight temporary pickleball courts were created during the winter months, significantly increasing facility usage.

Allison Campground

The campground recorded 1,430 reservations this year. Revenue totaled \$109,885 in overnight accommodations and \$5,675 in firewood and ice sales. After a \$7,554 transfer for waterpark passes, total revenue was \$107,884, about 20% lower than last year, reflecting normal fluctuations due to weather and economic conditions.

Reservations

1,430



Revenue

\$107,884

Linwood & East Linwood Cemeteries

There were 68 burials (full, cremation, and scattering) and 40 grave space sales at Linwood and East Linwood Cemeteries. The roads at East Linwood Cemetery were seal coated to help extend the life of the pavement and support ongoing maintenance of the cemetery grounds.

Number of Burials

68

Grave Spaces Sold

40

Bunker Links Golf Course

Improvements to the course continued, including the first phase of a major drainage project, bridge replacements, cart path resurfacing, and exterior improvements to the Golf Shop to enhance the overall experience for players.

Total Revenue

\$838,308



Rounds Played

31,174

Police Department



The Galesburg Police Department is dedicated to ensuring the safety of the community through proactive and effective law enforcement.

- Bolstered the capacity of the Galesburg-Knox County dispatch center through the development of a backup dispatch center, which was also utilized for normal operations during the renovation of the primary dispatch center.
- Cultivated strong community relationships through active participation in local events, including Shop with a Cop, the 9/11 Remembrance Stair Climb, and Treat Street.
- Partnered with the City of Galesburg IT Department to deploy a mobile video surveillance trailer, increasing our ability to monitor high-traffic areas and ensure community-wide safety.
- Secured an IDOT STEP Grant, providing critical funding for increased traffic enforcement and road safety initiatives throughout the year.
- Successfully hosted the annual National Night Out at Standish Park, fostering direct engagement between staff and residents.
- Delivered targeted safety presentations to local organizations, schools, and civic groups to enhance public awareness.
- Proactively engaged with the regional talent pool by attending recruitment fairs at Carl Sandburg College, Galesburg High School, Western Illinois University, and Knox College.



53,980 Calls for Service

20 Dispatchers



55 Police Officers



Police Department

Leadership

- Strengthened the department's command structure with the appointment of Kevin Legate to Police Chief, Ryne Sage to Deputy Chief, and the promotions of Lane Mings to Lieutenant and James Kubis to Sergeant.
- Celebrated the retirement of Lt. Paul Vannaken, honoring his 28 years of dedicated service to the Galesburg community.
- Officer Noah Harlan was named Crime Stopper Officer of the Year for his proactive community engagement and commitment to public safety.
- Officer Patrick Hayes received the Distinguished Officer Award at the PB&PA State Conference for his heroic, life-saving actions while off-duty.



Success Stories

- Following a proactive investigation, officers seized over eight pounds of methamphetamine, resulting in the arrest and charging of two suspects.
- Demonstrated investigative excellence by identifying and apprehending a suspect within 24 hours of a 2025 homicide.
- Successfully identified and captured a serial armed robbery suspect responsible for a 30-day crime spree. Through collaborative casework and vehicle identification, officers apprehended the suspect shortly after a final offense; the case is currently pending in court.

Public Works



The Public Works Department manages the operation, maintenance, and improvement of the City's roadway and water infrastructure.

- Surveyed, designed, and inspected a \$2.4 million grant-funded project, E Simmons Street Reconstruction. The scope included a complete upgrade of Public Parking Lot H – incorporating new asphalt, lighting, striping, pedestrian canopy, and EV charging station – alongside the resurfacing of E Simmons Street from Prairie Street to Kellogg Street. The project featured new concrete curb, gutter, and sidewalk infrastructure, revitalizing the downtown area.
- Started preliminary engineering work for a project to implement a road diet on E. Main Street from Grand Avenue to Walnut Street. In addition to needed pavement, curb, and storm sewer improvements, the project will greatly enhance accommodations for pedestrians and bicyclists through this corridor. Additional grant funding for preliminary engineering for the project was applied for in 2025, and staff are awaiting the award announcement.
- Completed the engineering and land acquisition for the first phase of the S Lake Storey Road shared-use path. Construction will begin in 2026 and will ultimately result in a full loop recreational walking path around the entirety of Lake Storey.

Simmons Street Reconstruction

\$2.4 M



Lake Storey Recreational Path



Public Works

Infrastructure & Facilities

- Upgraded lighting systems within the Council Chambers to improve energy efficiency and visibility for public meetings and televised broadcasts.
- Completed the installation of high-definition cameras and high-speed fiber optics for the Simmons Street parking facility, enhancing security and connectivity.
- Partnered with the Fire Department and IT to execute city-wide warning siren upgrades, ensuring robust emergency notification systems for residents.
- Improved air circulation and operational climate control at the Central Fire Station through the installation of industrial-grade ventilation fans.
- Responded to over 1,000 JULIE utility locate requests, accurately marking city-owned electrical and fiber optic lines to prevent service disruptions and ensure contractor safety during excavations.
- Installed a dedicated electrical service to power new lighting for the pickleball and basketball courts at Bateman Park, extending usable hours for residents.
- Provided technical expertise and inspection oversight for the Cooke Park construction project, ensuring all electrical and structural components met city standards.

Harrel W. Timmons Galesburg Regional Airport

- Initiated a comprehensive update to the Airport Master Plan, replacing the obsolete 2004 version. This strategic roadmap is essential for securing federal and state grants to fund critical infrastructure, including the rehabilitation of the primary runway and modernized lighting systems.
- Completed design and bidding for rehabilitation and expansion of the parking lot at the Airport. The existing parking lot was in poor condition and undersized for some of the larger events at the airport. The project will be constructed in 2026.
- Completed design and bidding for a new fuel farm at the airport. The existing underground fuel tanks frequently failed required testing and have reached the end of their useful life.
- Developed a hangar land lease agreement that will allow interested airport users and developers to lease land on airport property and construct their own private hangar. City staff have received interest from several parties since and expect to see continued development of new hangar infrastructure at the airport in 2026.
- Successfully relocated and upgraded the electrical service at the municipal airport to facilitate the upcoming parking lot expansion project.

Roadway and Stormwater Maintenance

- Designed and inspected the sealcoating of nine miles of bituminous surface-treated roadway, extending pavement service life and deferring costly reconstruction.
- Managed the annual Intermittent Resurfacing project: over one mile of roadway resurfacing and 47 ADA-compliant ramps constructed to ensure inclusive mobility.

Public Works

Roadway and Stormwater Maintenance

- Purchased and commissioned a new crack sealing machine; completed preventative crack sealing on 12 City streets during the summer season.
- Executed permanent repairs on 32 street openings and placed over 1,000 tons of asphalt for localized repairs and sealcoat preparation.
- Completed the street repair program, patching sealcoat streets with asphalt ahead of the annual sealcoating cycle.
- Implemented new pavement and sidewalk evaluation software to assess conditions citywide, enabling more accurate long-term budgeting and project prioritization.
- Completed permanent repairs to the Fremont Street railroad underpass, including four failing inlets and two manholes; painted the underpass at Fremont and Farnham Street.
- Enhanced drainage by replacing 160 feet of culverts and reshaping ditches to eliminate localized flooding, and repaired or replaced 17 deteriorated stormwater inlets and manholes.
- Replaced over 1,700 linear feet of deteriorated sidewalk throughout the City to improve pedestrian safety and accessibility.
- Continued the multi-year upgrade of City street name markers to larger, high-reflectivity signage; completed professional striping for all City streets and the Airport.
- Plowed and salted roadways through the winter season — including two early-season storms — distributing approximately 2,100 tons of salt to keep roads safe for residents.
- Hauled over 1,000 loads of leaves during the fall pickup season, keeping roadways and drainage clear heading into winter.



→ Pavement Sealcoated	9 Miles
→ New ADA Ramps	47
→ Salt on Winter Roads	2,100 Tons
→ Asphalt for Street Repairs	1,000 Tons +

Public Works

Grant Funding

- Applied for a grant to help improve flooding issues near Carl Sandburg Drive by expanding an existing detention pond.
- In partnership with BNSF, pursued funding for improvements to the South Street Underpass, including submittal of a BUILD grant application, with plans to apply for additional grant opportunities in 2026.

\$986,200



Secured a \$986,200 DCEO Community Development Block Grant to rehabilitate a large diameter brick storm sewer near Monmouth Boulevard and South Street.

LED Upgrade



Upgraded the lighting at Lakeside Pool with LED lights. Traffic Division staff applied for an Ameren grant and the new lights were provided at no cost to the City.

Safe Routes to Schools

- Surveyed, designed, and inspected the Safe Routes to School project that constructed approximately 1,800 feet of sidewalk, including 26 ADA-compliant ramps, along Fifer Street from Willard Street to Morton Avenue, significantly enhancing pedestrian safety and accessibility for students and parents.
- Surveyed, designed, and inspected the annual sidewalk improvement program. For 2025, this project constructed over 800 feet of new sidewalk along Willard Street and Beecher Avenue, successfully integrating local sidewalks into the regional Safe Routes to School initiative.

Safe Routes to School Grant Funds

\$235,376

Total Sidewalks

4,300 ft.

All sidewalks constructed or replaced through the Safe Routes to Schools program & regular City maintenance.



Public Works

Water Division

- Advanced the Strategic Plan goal to address PFAS contamination by drilling and sampling four test wells in Oquawka to identify a PFAS-free, sustainable location for a new production well.
- Successfully responded to and repaired 38 water main breaks and 57 service leaks, ensuring minimal disruption to City water services.
- Processed and completed 3,709 JULIE utility-locate requests to safeguard City-owned water mains and service lines during excavation.
- Replaced 17 fire hydrants and overhauled Gravel Pack Wells #4 and #5 by rebuilding critical motors and pumps to ensure peak operational capacity.
- Launched a pilot program using 25 Orbis acoustic caps to identify hidden distribution leaks; the trial has already successfully identified several leaking hydrants, directly reducing water loss.
- Performed 1,399 coliform tests and more than 5,000 chemical analyses to uphold the safety and purity of Galesburg’s drinking water.
- Read 154,075 water meters and replaced 734 meters to ensure billing accuracy and system integrity.
- Completed the total replacement of all remaining galvanized service lines citywide, eliminating the risk of historical lead accumulation.
- Installation of eight new water service taps and the replacement of 22 aging service lines.



→ Meters Read	154,075
→ Infrastructure Repairs	95
→ Water Quality Tests	6,399 +

Public Works

Central Garage

- Completed all spring preventative maintenance and service checks for the golf course, cemetery, airport, and parks departments, ensuring equipment readiness for the peak mowing season.
- Conducted biannual inspections and specialized preventative maintenance for the Fire Department fleet to ensure emergency response reliability.
- Executed comprehensive annual inspections and calibrations on all heavy-duty snow removal equipment and dump trucks prior to the winter season.
- Performed routine oil changes and mechanical repairs to maximize the lifespan of City assets.
- Integrated 33 replacement vehicles and pieces of specialized equipment into the City’s fleet across multiple divisions, including Public Works, Public Safety, and Community Development.
- Completed all custom upfitting for new arrivals—including the installation of emergency lighting, sirens, strobes, and power inverters—utilizing Central Garage staff to minimize external vendor costs.
- Installation of GPS tracking systems in 70 City-owned vehicles to improve route efficiency, fuel management, and asset security.
- Standardized the visual identity of the fleet by installing new City seals and decals on approximately 60 vehicles.
- Managed a high volume of unscheduled accident and breakdown repairs throughout the year, maintaining fleet availability while prioritizing cost-effective maintenance strategies.



→ Vehicle Replacements	33 Vehicles
→ GPS Installations	70
→ Updated City Decals	60

For More Information

Website

www.ci.galesburg.il.us



City Hall

55 W. Tompkins Street



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