



MESSAGE FROM THE PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

2022 proved to be a challenging, yet successful year for the public works department. Staffing shortages and aging equipment breakdowns tested the flexibility and ingenuity of staff. In order to successfully navigate these formidable challenges, responsibilities were redefined, regular maintenance assignments were rerouted, and creative equipment repair solutions led us through this period of transition. The resiliency of the department as a whole was put to the test, and in my estimation passed with flying colors. Sometimes we all need a good reminder of what we're really capable of in order to find our maximum potential. The public works department is looking forward to serving its residents and visitors efficiently, effectively, and professionally in 2023.

Notable accomplishments in 2022 include:

- Water tower rehabilitation project
- Initiating a Tree Care Program
- Maintaining Tree City USA recognition by the Arbor Day Foundation for five consecutive years
- Awarded a community forestry intern
- Completing the annual Consumer Confidence Report for drinking water quality
- Annual events: branch chipping, rain barrel program, two cardboard recycling events, and Spring Clean-Up Day



WATER TOWER REHABILITATION

The city's water tower underwent rehabilitation in the summer of 2022. A 2020 inspection found the water tower had extensive interior and exterior metal corrosion, rusted welds, collected sediment, topcoat paint delamination, and non-compliance with current OSHA standards. The city proposed a complete repair project for public bid to have the structural deficiencies repaired, and the interior and exterior of the water tower repainted. The city issued a poll for residents to vote on paint designs, with the winning design being two-toned blue and white with city logos.

TREE CARE PROGRAM

In 2022 the city initiated a Tree Care Program to address the needs of the city's tree canopy within the right-of-way, city parks, and city properties. The program includes an Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan, updating the city's Geographic Information System mapping tool, and pursuing a Climate Action Corp Forestry Intern on a temporary basis. The program will provide guidance for treatment or removal of ash trees and outline responsible planting options.



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STREETS DEPARTMENT

The streets department consists of six full-time staff and is responsible for the maintenance and repair of the approximately 25 centerline miles of city streets and 18 miles of sidewalks and trails within St. Anthony. These responsibilities include pothole repair, snow plowing, street sweeping, boulevard tree planting and maintenance, and sign installation and repair.



12 full city plow events



100 tons of asphalt to repair pavement



8 city-wide street sweepings



45 trees planted in city right-of-way and parks



UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

The utilities department consists of two full-time employees responsible for the production and distribution of safe drinking water, the maintenance of the sanitary and storm sewer systems, and the operation and maintenance of the city's fire hydrant network.

Drinking water in the city is sourced from the Jordan Aquifer 500 feet below ground. Two wells simultaneously pull the water into a transmission line that delivers the water to the Water Treatment Plant (WTP). The water is then treated by a three-step process to remove impurities, stored in a 2-million gallon reservoir, and pumped into the 250,000-gallon water tower before being delivered to approximately 2,500 water service connections in the city.



The water treatment plant produced 283.6 million gallons of water in 2022



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PARKS DEPARTMENT

The parks department is responsible for the maintenance and repair of the city's parks system including operations of the parks buildings, maintenance of park grounds and playground equipment, operation and repair of irrigation systems, maintenance of athletic fields and ice rinks, and maintenance of the grounds at city buildings. The city has four parks that provide playground amenities and two parks that provide leisurely recreation. The parks department consists of three full-time employees and a variable number of part-time seasonal employees in the summer and winter months.

In 2022 the city partnered with Minnesota Native Landscapes on a three-year vegetation restoration project. The project includes removing invasive species and planting native wetland and pollinator vegetation at Mirror Lake, the Central Park Bio-Swale, and Salo Park. Plantings include lakeshore mix and prairie mix. An establishment management plan and ongoing maintenance are included in the project.



Vegetation restoration



FLEET MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT

The fleet maintenance department consists of one full-time employee. The department services, maintains, and repairs the city's entire vehicle and equipment fleet including public works, the police department, and the fire department. There are currently over 60 vehicles and pieces of major equipment, and many smaller pieces that are serviced and repaired by the department. Equipment purchases are scheduled on the city's Capital Improvement Program and are primarily selected from the Minnesota Department of Transportation's Equipment Purchasing contract.



Parks department maintenance truck



Streets Dept. Skidsteer

ENGINEERING

The City of St. Anthony partners with WSB & Associates, Inc. for engineering and consulting services on many of the city's construction and improvement projects. Engineering activities in a typical year include street and utility reconstruction, storm water quality and flood improvements, mill/overlay and pavement preservation, and other infrastructure-related improvements. In 2022 the city completed a number of these infrastructure projects including:

- Substantial completion of the 2022 Street and Utilities Improvement Project on Rankin Rd from 31st Ave NE to 33rd Ave NE
- Completion of Pavement Preservation Mill & Overlay Projects on Armour Terrace, Bell Lane, Crestview Dr, Eastgate Rd, and alleys adjacent to Coolidge St, St. Anthony Blvd, and 29th Ave NE



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2022 PUBLIC WORKS ANNUAL REPORT

Public works is the combination of physical assets, management practices, policies, and personnel necessary for the city to provide and sustain structures and services essential to the welfare and quality of life of St. Anthony residents, visitors, and businesses.

We are relied on for water distribution, sanitary sewer and storm sewer systems, parks maintenance, equipment maintenance, and street systems maintenance. In addition, we respond to emergencies from windstorms and blizzards, to watermain breaks and public safety.

Public works consists of six divisions, with 14 full-time staff in addition to partnering with our engineering consultant, WSB & Associates.

Our department takes pride in delivering quality service to the residents, visitors, and businesses of this great community, while working collaboratively with all city departments.

