



Accomplishments for 2024 are as follows:

The Engineering Department had another busy year designing and managing nearly \$9.2 million of construction projects of which approximately 40% were grant funded.

PAVING & SIDEWALKS

The 2024 Annual Paving Program consisted of approximately 1.97 miles of asphalt resurfacing, 895 square yards of concrete roadway repairs, 907 feet of curb replacements, and 3,328 square feet of sidewalk (approximately 835 linear feet) and ADA curb ramp replacements. The crack sealing maintenance program sealed approximately 5.64 miles of City streets. The annual striping program continued, striping all long lines and symbols within City limits. This Department also assisted the Ohio Department of Transportation for their project of resurfacing Main Street. To date, 65.83% of the 52 miles of City streets have been resurfaced or replaced since the passing of the Paving Levy in 2016.

The Alternate Sidewalk Program had the most participation since 2022, reimbursing participating residents and business owners approximately \$2,256.00 for replacing 863 square feet of sidewalk. This program reimburses property owners for the cost of concrete to replace sidewalk while the owners or their selected contractor provide the labor, tools, and equipment. It is an excellent way for the City and Residents to work together improving access, safety, and the appearance of our City.

STORM

Both the 2024 Stormwater Improvements and 2024 Annual Paving Program contracts replaced just under 400 feet (397LF) of collapsed and/or undersized piping, replaced a City outfall and headwall, installed 4 new catch basins, and reconstructed 3 existing catch basins. This Department has mapped and listed stormwater related flooding over the course of 2024 and has improvements included in the 2025 Annual Paving Program and plans for the 2025 Storm Infrastructure Improvements. We are continuing to pursue grants to financially assist improvements to our aging stormwater infrastructure such as at Jones and Williams Avenue.

SANITARY

An I&I reduction project at Avon Court replaced 75 feet of deficient sewer to mitigate backups to residents and sewer cleaning frequency by our Street Department due to root intrusion. This Department is currently assessing engineering consultants to design new sanitary piping and improve the Chestnut Street Lift Station to help reduce sanitary backups in Ward 4.

The Foxwood Estates Sanitary Extension was completed this year. Under Ohio EPA orders, this office assembled plans and specifications and performed the contract administration for a 100% grant funded project to extend the City sewer 1175 lineal feet into Ravenna Township. This project connected 9 residential properties to the sewer and decommissioned their failed and dated septic systems along Bryn Mawr and Seabury Drive.

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WATER

Prior to resurfacing Linden Street, 20 feet of water pipe that experienced 5 breaks in 2022 was removed and replaced.

Replaced the water system and installed new sidewalks on Spruce Avenue from Diamond Street to Maplewood Street. Eliminated the old parallel water main on Jefferson Street from Main Street to south of Spruce Avenue. Eliminated 3 unflushable dead-end lines as a result of this project. Received an OPWC \$250,000 grant and \$50,000 loan for this project.

Completed design plans and specifications for the Central, Freedom, Spruce and Walnut water and sidewalk project. Applied for an OPWC \$250,000 grant and \$150,000 loan for this project for 2025 construction.

Completed the surveying work for the water line replacement and sanitary sewer project on King Street (2026 construction).

Prepared specifications for a new water tank on State Route 14. Bid out and awarded a contract for the new tank. Removed existing 3,000,000 gallon tank and prepared to install new tank in 2025. Obtained self-certification for preparing water system distribution plans without submittal to the Ohio EPA.

Collected \$29,966.67 from insurance companies for 7 claims.

Obtained easement for power line to new LG plant and stymied attempts by property owner to make the City responsible for private sewer system on former General Electric property.

Completed plan review and corrections for the water system for Forest Ridge Phase 6.

The Engineering Department performed a total of 47 utility inspections for repairs to or installation of water services and sewer laterals at residential and commercial properties.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT 2024

The Building Department's primary focus is adhering to the Ohio Building Code, processing permits, plan reviews, inspections, and zoning reviews.

The Planning Commission heard nine applications and the Board of Zoning Appeals heard sixteen applications. The Design Review Commission worked with Perspectus Architects to draft

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new guidelines and review ordinance 1434 along with the historic sign code. Sixty percent is being paid by a grant we received from the State Historic Preservation Office.

This year saw a total project valuation of nearly 7.13 million of private commercial construction and nearly \$2.84 million in residential construction. There were a combined 536 inspections conducted by our building inspectors and 733 permits issued. Contractor registration totaled 330.

We continue to identify vacant, blighted structures and seek the courts authorization to demolish those homes with the assistance of the Portage County Land Bank. Our Property Maintenance Inspectors continue to methodically canvass the City recording violations, and meeting with residents firsthand for resolve. Should that not work, the issue is turned over to the law director. Multiple property maintenance items were submitted to the law director to pursue resolution. We continue to work with the Portage County Land Bank for assistance with property acquisition and demolition.

In total 1,274 rental units were inspected.

Upcoming projects in 2025:

During 2024, the engineering department is queued up to handle approximately \$7 million in construction (this includes the bulk portion of the water tank). Of which nearly 40% will be funded from grants and nearly \$1,400,000 from the paving levy.

We continue to support other departments with their construction endeavors and ways to improve water/wastewater distribution throughout the system. Request for qualifications were sent out to consultants to design discharge piping from Chestnut St. lift station directly to the treatment plant. A Water Pollution Control Loan Fund was secured from the EPA to assist in paying for this project. We will assist the Parks Dept. with resurfacing tennis, basketball and skate courts along with constructing pickle ball courts. Phase two of the roof replacement will be completed at the street garage and planning for additional façade repairs will begin. We will continue working on how to fund the new safety buildings.

Both the engineering and building department continue to support economic development within the city assisting potential new businesses and existing businesses with growth where we can. We supply utility information, land and zoning information, vacant or underutilized buildings, building code support, etc. Two new projects this year are the Coleman Crisis Center and the new VA Clinic will be constructed, totaling approximately \$15M.

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The engineering department will continue to seek grant money. The annual OPWC water line grant application will include King St. water and sanitary sewer piping from Riddle Ave. to Main St. and a Critical Infrastructure grant will be pursued for the Jones Ave. storm pipe project.