Our CR

Living 5 Seasons | August 2015

7th MOST LIVABLE CITY

1st in State to install protected bike lanes p. 14

Budget receives national recognition p. 6

TOP 10% Nation's Best Affordable Places to Live

TOP 6 NATION'S BEST PLACE TO START A BUSINESS

#4 of 10 Bucket List Destinations

www.CityofCR.com

CITY OF CEDAR RAPIDS
City Manager's Office
101 1st Street SE
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401

PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
ST. JOSEPH, MI
PERMIT NO. 335

POSTAL CUSTOMER
ECRWSS

Table of Contents

SPECIAL SECTION: Where Cedar Rapids Excels 4
News You Need to Know 21
Mark Your Calendar 25
Cedar Rapids City Council & City Services Directory 27

About Our CR Magazine

Our CR magazine is published four times a year by the City of Cedar Rapids, Iowa. It is distributed to over 66,500 households and businesses in Cedar Rapids, Robins, Hiawatha and surrounding communities that benefit from City services.

The magazine is printed by Walsworth Publishing of Michigan because the company provided the lowest bid in a competitive bidding process with local and national printing companies. Each magazine costs approximately $60,000 to design, produce, print and mail, which means each edition costs about 90 cents per household or business location. Our generous advertisers offset a portion of those costs.

Contact the City Manager's Office at 319-286-5080 or CityManager@Cedar-Rapids.org about this publication. To read previous editions, visit CityofCR.com/Magazine.

SIGN UP to get more frequent City news updates

From the City Manager

Cedar Rapids has a lot to offer as a home and a destination. Those of us who live and work here understand its appeal. With the amenities of a big city minus the big-city hassles, Cedar Rapids is a safe, affordable community with short commute times and plenty to see and do. No matter your age or lifestyle, our city has something to offer.

Experience culture with a visit to Grant Wood's studio, the Museum of Art, the National Czech and Slovak Museum, and the historic Czech Village and New Bohemia neighborhoods. Take in a show at the historic Paramount Theatre, Theatre Cedar Rapids, or our vibrant new McGrath Amphitheatre. We have world class parks, trails, and recreational offerings, as well as high quality city services like water, solid waste and recycling collection, and public safety. These are just a few of the many benefits of being a Cedar Rapids resident.

But we're not the only ones who have noticed. This issue will highlight some of the national recognition our City has received this year, as well as what you and your neighbors are saying about why you love Cedar Rapids. This is a perfect issue to pass around to friends and family around the country, and show them why you choose to call Cedar Rapids home – and why they should too!

Jeffrey Pomeranz
Cedar Rapids City Manager

Like it then love it

A mortgage loan that builds in money for home improvements.

Here's how it works:

- We take into account the value of the house
- Look at the value increase with proposed home improvements
- Provide financing for your purchase and potential all at once

Contact the Home Team, today!
319-395-6454 or www.collinscu.org

COLLINS COMMUNITY CREDIT UNION

1/2 Price Appliance & FREE Tire Disposal

Watch for a coupon in your utility bill and present it at either Cedar Rapids/Linn County Solid Waste Agency location to receive 1/2 off your appliance disposal and free disposal of up to eight car or small truck tires.

NOW THROUGH AUGUST 31, 2015

Two Locations
2250 A Street SW
Cedar Rapids, IA
(Near Czech Village)

Open Monday–Saturday 7 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
1954 County Home Rd.
Marion, IA
(Near Hwy 13 on County Home Road)

Appliances: The normal disposal fee for appliances is $9 each.
Air Conditioners, Dehumidifiers, Dishwashers, Dryers, Freezers, Furnaces, Humidifiers, Microwaves, PCB Ballasts, Refrigerators, Stoves, Trash Compactors, Washers, Water Heaters

Tires: The normal disposal fee for tires is $1 per tire without rims and $2 per tire with rims.
Limit of 8 car or small truck tires per customer
Normal fees will apply to additional tires
Both tires with the rims on and without rims are accepted

clean UP CR

iGreenCR.
investing in Cedar Rapids' next generation
Do U?
www.iGreenCR.com
www.Facebook.com/iGreenCR

WHERE CEDAR RAPIDS EXCELS

Cedar Rapids is being noticed and recognized for its wonderful qualities and strengths. As a rapidly changing city, we routinely look at standards, benchmarks and national leaders to see how we measure up. This issue focuses on some of the areas where Cedar Rapids shines. For details on the rankings below, go to **CityofCR.com**.

7th MOST LIVABLE CITY

Cedar Rapids ranked 7th Most Livable City

Cedar Rapids is No. 7 on the Most Livable list for medium cities (pop. 100,000 to 500,000) because of innovative programs like the one that transforms empty lots in struggling neighborhoods into vegetable gardens. Cedar Rapids also ranked No. 4 as one of the Best Cities for Making New Friends because research indicated it is a city where residents look out for family and neighbors, join civic groups, and vote often. (Livability.com)

1 2 3 **4** 5 6 7 8 9 10

Ranked #4 of top 10 Ultimate Bucket List Destinations in the U.S. by FOODIE HEAVEN

Cedar Rapids ranked #4 for foodies looking for frugal feasting destinations. They looked at average cost of a meal on the go, a three-course date night and great beverages one might enjoy while out.

Cedar Rapids Public Library received 2015 American Institute of Architects/American Library Association Library Building Award

The library was one of six recipients selected for the 2015 AIA/ALA Library Building Awards by the American Institute of Architects (AIA) and the American Library Association (ALA). The awards encourage excellence in the architectural design and planning of libraries and recognize accomplishments in library architecture.

TOP 10% Nation's Best Affordable Places to Live

Ranked 10th in the nation for Best Affordable Places to Live 2015

A high concentration of public libraries, museums, parks and college graduates; below-average cost of living; and a healthy economy make Cedar Rapids one of the Best Affordable Places to Live. Inexpensive housing is a big selling point for Cedar Rapids. The median home value in Cedar Rapids is $133,900, which is nearly $44,000 below the national median. Grocery, transportation and utility prices are also lower than in most cities. (Livability.com)

Cedar Rapids ranked 65th in 2015 Top 100 Places to Live

Livability.com worked with globally known partners to analyze the best public and private data sources. They were advised by the leading thinkers, writers and doers in the placemaking space. More than 2,000 cities were ranked, so every city on this list is in the top 5 percent of livable U.S. communities.

TOP 6 NATION'S BEST PLACE TO START A BUSINESS

6th BEST PLACE TO START A BUSINESS in the nation

NerdWallet, a consumer finance site, examined 183 metro areas with 15,000 or more businesses and found that Cedar Rapids is the 6th best place in the nation to start a business. NerdWallet analyzed the following factors:

- Business climate: They considered the average revenue of businesses, percentage of businesses with paid employees and number of businesses per 100 people.
- Local economic health: They considered median annual income, median annual housing costs and unemployment rate.

Cedar Rapids ranked 6TH BEST BUDGETERS in the U.S.

WalletHub searched for the best and worst budgeters in the United States. They did so by examining 16 key metrics, ranging from the average credit score to the percentage of unbanked households. Using the most recent data available, they ranked 150 metropolitan statistical areas in the United States to gauge the overall budgeting capability of their residents.

How Cedar Rapids measured up in the Best Budgeters rankings:

- Ranked 6th for average credit score
- Ranked 23rd for non-mortgage debt as a percentage of income
- Ranked 29th for foreclosure rate
- Ranked 4th for credit usage percentage

Have Some Fun While Reading Our CR

We've hidden a picture of the Parks and Recreation Department's mascot, Otto the River Otter, on one of the pages in this magazine. **Find him and email where he is to ambroz@cedar-rapids.org.** We'll draw one name from everyone who finds Otto's hiding place and present the **winner with a $100 gift certificate** good toward any recreation program, pavilion rental, golf pass or pool pass in the next 12 months.

Cedar Rapids Budget Consistently Receives Accolades

Adoption of the budget is one of the most important tasks of any city government, and Cedar Rapids city leaders take this responsibility extremely seriously. It is the goal of the City of Cedar Rapids to provide a budget document that serves as an effective policy document, financial planning and operational tool and an important communication tool between the city organization and the citizens we serve.

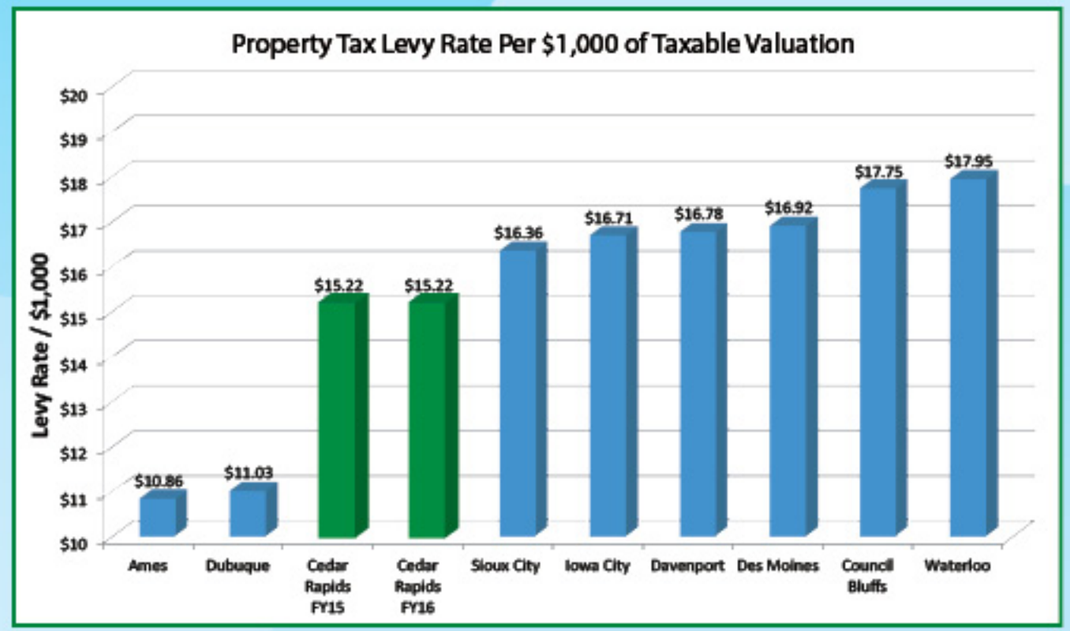
We are extremely proud of the fact that Cedar Rapids has received national recognition for our budget preparation for several years. The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada has awarded Cedar Rapids a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for 33 consecutive years. In order to receive this prestigious award, a government must publish an easily readable and efficiently organized comprehensive annual financial report that satisfies both accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America and applicable legal requirements.

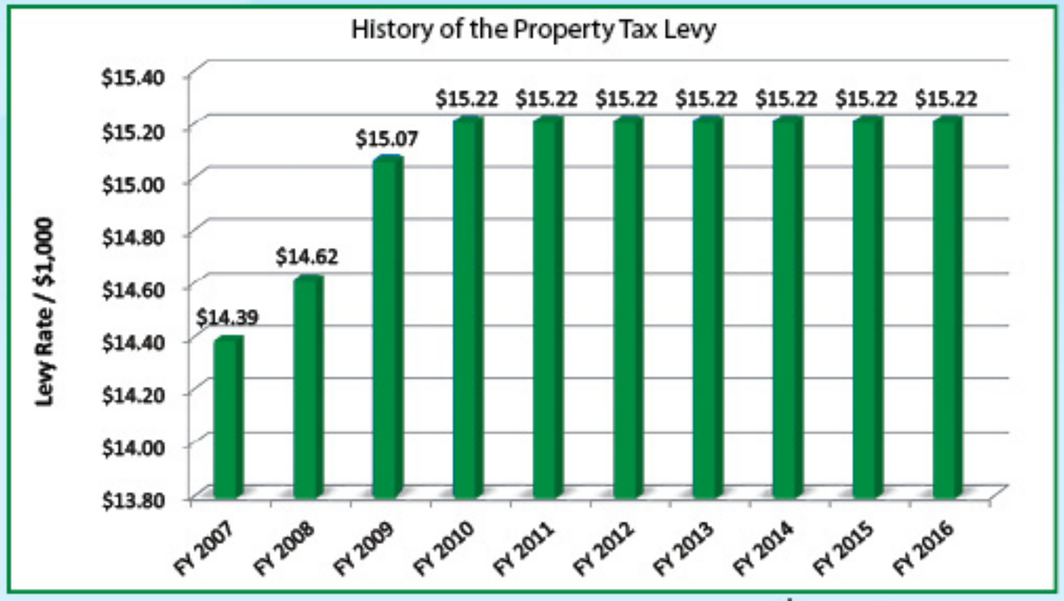
The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) also awarded Cedar Rapids the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the fourth consecutive year. This award requires a budget document that meets program criteria as a policy document, financial plan, operations guide and communications device. In addition, the City received Special Performance Measures Recognition from GFOA for the fiscal year 2015 budget.

Citizens are encouraged to view the budget documents on our website at CityofCR.com.

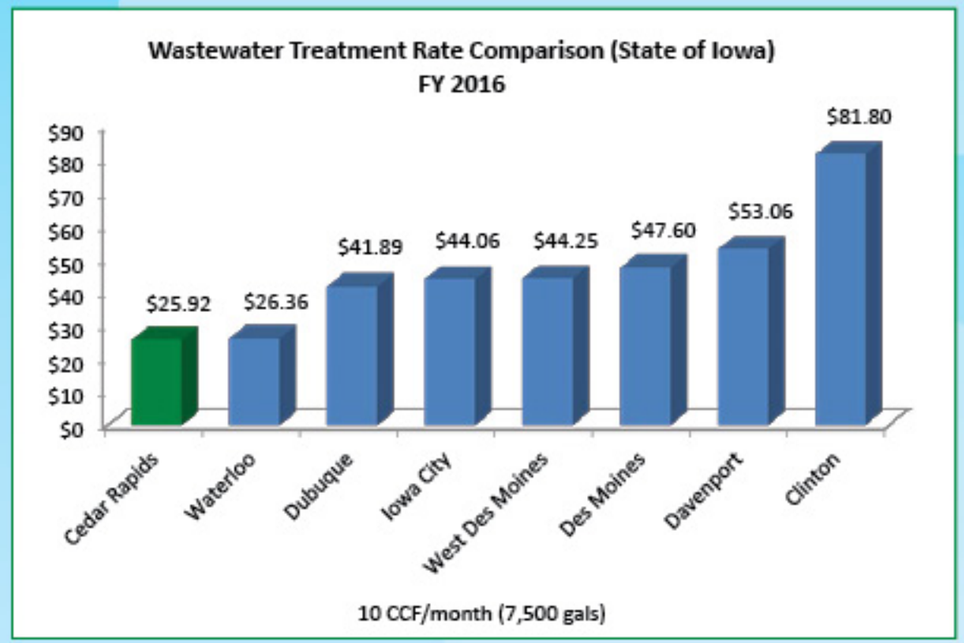
Fiscal Year 2015 Property Tax Levy Review

In fiscal year 2015 the City's overall property tax levy rate compared favorably with other cities in Iowa. Below are the property tax levy rates for fiscal year 2015, and recent history of the Cedar Rapids Property Tax Levy.





The chart below shows current wastewater treatment rates for 10 CCF per month for several cities in the state of Iowa.



4th Best Mid-Sized City for EDUCATION

Cedar Rapids was ranked 4th by movoto.com for Best Mid-Sized Cities for Education. The ranking takes student-to-teacher ratio, money spent per year per student, high school graduation rate and test scores into consideration. Cedar Rapids ranked 18th among all cities for student-to-teacher ratio and 13th for highest high school graduation rate.

#9 Healthiest Small Cities

With low levels of disease, good insurance coverage and high marks for exercise and nutrition, there's every reason for Cedar Rapid's citizens to feel above-averagely optimistic. Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index included frequency of exercise, consumption of fresh produce, low incidence of diabetes and obesity, health care coverage and optimism to determine the scores. (dailyfinance.com)

5th HAPPIEST ZIP CODE in America

Cedar Rapids ZIP code **52411** ranked 5th as the Happiest ZIP code in America. Items taken into consideration included the unemployment rate, average commute, income, home ownership, population with at least a college degree and percent married.

Recognizing Outstanding Citizens

Citizen efforts and contributions lead the way in making positive improvements in Cedar Rapids. Each year, the Mayor and City Council recognize outstanding citizens who have demonstrated exceptional support for the community, exhibited strong citizenship and developed projects or initiatives that benefit other Cedar Rapids residents. This year, six individuals were chosen to receive the 2015 Five Seasons Citizenship Award. The University of Iowa Community Credit Union sponsors the award and provides each award recipient with a $1,000 donation to the charity of their choice. The following individuals received the award this year.

Ron Gonder – Ron has been a community volunteer for over 20 years in a variety of roles. He has served on the Cedar Rapids Professional Baseball Club Board of Directors; as a member of the Parks, Waterways and Recreation Commission; on the Fifteen in Five Committee, putting together a plan for a multi-generational recreation center; on the SKATE Committee that helped make the ice arena possible in Cedar Rapids; and as past president and member of the board of directors of the ARC of East Central Iowa. Ron donated his $1,000 award to the ARC of East Central Iowa.

Joe Lock – Joe has demonstrated extensive community involvement and overwhelming commitment to improving the Wellington Heights neighborhood. He is president of the Cedar Rapids Public Library Board of Trustees and serves on the SAFE-CR Advisory Board, Library Foundation Board, PUSH-CR Homeless Advisory Board, Midway Housing Board and the Blairs Ferry Housing Board. He is an active volunteer with the Metro Economic Alliance and McKinley Middle School. Joe chose the Eastern Iowa Health Center to receive his $1,000 donation.

Emily Montelius – Emily just completed her junior year at Jefferson High School and has proven that you are never too young to help people and contribute to your community. At Jefferson, Emily started J's Closet, a no-questions-asked, judgment-free environment dedicated to providing needed clothing and supplies to help kids feel confident at school, knowing they fit in with their peers. Emily is also involved with Special Olympics, Camp Courageous, Spread the Word to End the Word and her school recycling program. Emily gave her $1,000 contribution to Jefferson High School J's Closet.

Al Pierson – Al's civic responsibility is exemplified by his volunteer service to organizations promoting quality of life in Cedar Rapids' core neighborhoods. As a board member of the Northwest Neighbors Neighborhood Association, Al has been an advocate for neighborhood cohesion and rebuilding in one of the area's most heavily impacted by the 2008 flood. Al is a member of the volunteer board of the Neighborhood Development Corporation (NDC), has served on the City's Neighborhood Planning Process Steering Committee and the EnvisonCR Steering Committee. The Northwest Neighbors Neighborhood Association received Al's $1,000 award.

Mike and Felicia Wyrick – Mike and Felicia Wyrick are a volunteer "team" committed to enhancing the quality of life of all Cedar Rapidians by enhancing our ecological experiences. They have been instrumental in creating and sustaining the annual NewBo Eco-Fest celebration, promoting the Eye-380 Corridor Beautification project, and working toward sustainable and top-notch parks, trails and waterways through a multitude of efforts. They serve on the Linn County Conservation Board, Cedar Rapids Parks, Waterways and Recreation Commission and Friends of Cedar Lake. Mike and Felicia chose to donate to the Friends of Cedar Lake.

2015 Five Seasons Citizenship Award winners Ron Gonder, Al Pierson, Joe Lock, Emily Montelius, Mike Wyrick and Felicia Wyrick were recognized on June 6.

The City is proud to recognize these citizens who are committed to making our community a better place for all residents.

CHARITIES IMPACTED

- ARC of East Central Iowa
- Eastern Iowa Health Center
- Friends of Cedar Lake
- Jefferson High School J's Closet
- Northwest Neighbors Neighborhood Association

Here's what YOU, our residents, are saying about why you love Cedar Rapids

David S. Cedar Rapids is a beautiful city!

Cheryl K. Moved to Cedar Rapids from Detroit in 2008 right before the flood. The people here are strong and united. Not only is this a great city to call home it's a city that represents community and growth. I truly love it here and am thankful we call Cedar Rapids home.

Kim B. Cedar Rapids is wonderful because you get a great cost of living along with great schools, a great community and so many family friendly activities! Moved here from the East Coast and have no plans to go back!

Bri D. Cedar Rapids is a family city but it also has all the accommodations/events for a night out! Love it here!

Darci K. I love the bike trails and the better downtown area that is being built up. Keep it up!

Ginger H. We love Cedar Rapids because there are a variety of things for my kids and I to do there!

Lexi C. Love that Cedar Rapids has so much to do for families. Between the parks, splash pads, events, etc., we are always keeping busy. Best of all, most of it is affordable.

Tanya P. When we moved back to Iowa, we chose Cedar Rapids not just because of the job market but because of the family friendly places.

Paul S. Great jobs, entertainment, schools, affordable housing. Hard combo to beat!

Kayla H. I recently moved here from a very small town for college and I absolutely love the city life! Wouldn't change it!

Ann E. We enjoy the bike trails and parks, Jazz Under the Stars, Theatre Cedar Rapids, the NewBo neighborhood and the cheap movie theater!!

Liz W. I liked Cedar Rapids enough to grow up here, go away to college and return to raise my own children in such a fine place!

Kimberly P. Cedar Rapids is a great place to live great schools. Wonderful activities for families all year round. Friendly town to raise your family in.

Find more great comments like these throughout this issue.

Placing a Priority on Engaging Citizens

Over the past year, the City of Cedar Rapids has engaged residents in conversation and has solicited feedback on a variety of different programs and policy decisions. These outreach efforts have included everything from traditional open houses to online discussion boards, Google Hangouts and social media streams. These efforts have ensured that thousands of residents are approached and asked for feedback on how they'd like the City to invest funds, select road repair projects or develop flood control.

For major planning initiatives, the City solicits the expertise of professional design, planning and engineering firms. These consultant teams come alongside City staff to help encourage community engagement on issues that impact the entire community.

Our consultant teams share some reflections on the efforts City departments make to ensure residents are invited to participate in programming and decisions that impact their everyday lives.

The City's commitment to reaching residents with information has often led to creative outreach ideas, including text voting, visual preference surveys and online chats.

Team: Morningside
Initiative: Housing 5-Year Plan
How We're Different:

"The public outreach in Cedar Rapids for the Five-Year Consolidated Plan was very successful – the public meeting and focus group were well attended and the survey response was high compared to the other communities in which we have worked. The involvement of a communications coordinator in the outreach efforts was unique and had a significant impact on the success of the outreach effort. We have recommended this model to other clients."

– Sheri Holland, M.P.Aff, President, Morningside Research and Consulting

Team: RDG Planning & Design
Initiative: EnvisionCR Comprehensive Plan
How We're Different:

"Cedar Rapids developed a comprehensive communications plan to lead correspondence with the public, which is unlike other cities. This initiative resulted is an excellent turnout and many new faces for a city that is constantly working on projects. The public had an opportunity to contribute online or in person. I thought the City's commitment to promoting the events was strong – and that promotion helped feed the interest and prep for participation in the next event. I also thought the City did a good job of experimenting with a variety of tools to gather information from wide-ranging audiences."

– Pat Boddy, PE, Project Director; and Cory Scott, AICP, Project Manager, RDG

Cara Lausen I was born and raised in Cedar Rapids and I am happy and proud to CHOOSE to raise my daughters here as well! Excellent schools and a definite sense of community.

City Facts:

PARKS AND RECREATION

ACRES OF PARKLAND **4,171**

ACRES OF PUBLIC LAND MOWED **2,465**

Plants produced at the Noelridge Greenhouse **55,000**

Square feet of **PRAIRIE** landscapes in parks **4 MILLION**

Games held at the Tuma Sports Complex annually **3,000**

VOLUNTEER HOURS donated to Parks and Recreation **27,817**

Average golf rounds played on municipal courses **108,532**

Number of trail miles **47.1**

Number of Special Olympic sports offered **17**

CITY SERVICES

Total number of City vehicles **1,000**

Pieces of snow-fighting equipment **92**

Number of street lane miles plowed annually **1,400**

TONS of street debris picked up each year **4,000**

Number of street lights **1,200**

Feet of roadway markings **1.4 MILLION**

24,339 Number of building inspections last year

Number of traffic signals **220**

WHERE CEDAR RAPIDS EXCELS

CITY SERVICES

Number of illegal guns taken off the street by patrol officers in the last 12 months **89**

Police Department safety presentations **1,040**

Police and Fire Department Child Safety seats checked **140**

159 BATTERY UP smoke alarm installations

Average amount of water treated and distributed per day **35-40 MILLION GALLONS**

Number of water meters in service **51,472**

VOLUNTEERS helping CleanUpCR in fiscal year 2015 **776**

70 MILES of litter picked up in fiscal year 2015

600 miles of water main pipe maintained

212 Water main leaks repaired in fiscal year 2014

MILES of sanitary sewer system **CLEANED ANNUALLY** **200** —nearly the same driving distance from Cedar Rapids to Chicago

Utilities customer service phone calls answered last year **67,824**

667 MILES of sanitary sewer lines

WHERE CEDAR RAPIDS EXCELS

Leading the Way in Bike-Friendliness

Cedar Rapids is one of only seven cities in Iowa to have adopted a Complete Streets policy – directing transportation planners and engineers to design road improvement projects that enable safe access for all users, regardless of age, ability or mode of transportation.

By operating under a Complete Streets policy, residents will now start to see bike lanes and sidewalks added to road projects. The goal is to design and build infrastructure with all modes of transportation in mind; not just cars, but bikes, pedestrians and buses.

Nationwide, a total of 712 jurisdictions now have Complete Streets policies in place, including 30 states, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia. Fifty-eight regional planning organizations, 58 counties and 564 municipalities in 48 states have adopted such policies to create safer, multimodal transportation networks. The policy is one of several points of pride for Cedar Rapids, which has been leading the way in bike-friendliness.

BIKE PRIDE

- First in the state to install green bike lanes
- Second in the state to install in-street bike corral
- Recognized by League of American Bicyclists as Bronze Bicycle Friendly Community
- First in the state to install protected bike lanes during summer 2015

Bike Symbols and Pavement Markings

As Cedar Rapids continues to lead the state in biking amenities, bike safety education will remain a top priority. You'll see these pavement markings appear in more places throughout Cedar Rapids.

SHARED LANE MARKINGS

A shared lane marking, also known as a sharrow is intended to highlight a designated bike route, outline where cyclists should be positioned on the road and remind drivers to watch for cyclists. In addition to shared lane marking, a "May Use Full Lane" sign is typically present to remind motorists to share the road with cyclists. Motorists may operate their vehicles as usual but should always be aware of approaching bicyclists.

Victoria V. So many options for sports, entertainment, shopping and kid friendly

GREEN BIKE LANES

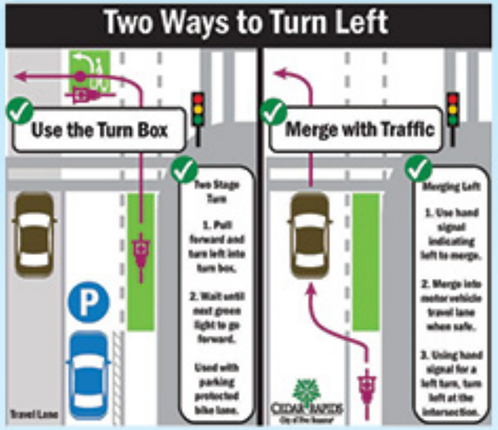
The green pavement may extend throughout a bike lane or just a small section of the lane, such as an intersection or conflict areas. The green pavement is intended to increase the visibility of the lane, alert motorists and cyclists to potential areas of conflict and reinforce that cyclists have the priority in highlighted areas. Like a conventional bike lane, motorists must first yield to oncoming cyclists prior to passing through a green bike lane.

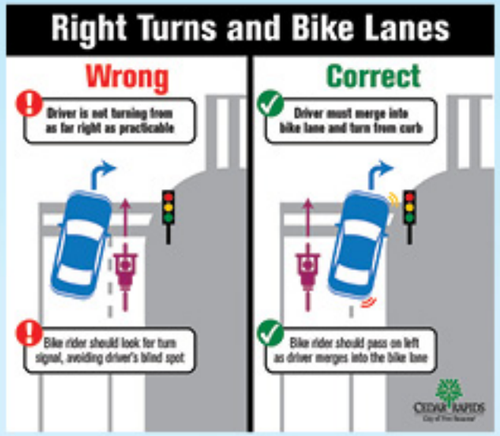
PROTECTED BIKE LANES

Protected Bike Lanes use planters, curbs, parked cars or posts to separate bike and auto traffic. This provides additional safety for cyclists, decreases incidents of "dooring", and helps them feel more comfortable while riding next to travel lanes. Protected bike lanes will be used on Third Avenue, from Sixth Street west to Third Street east.

MAKING TURNS

As bike lanes become available at more intersections, learning how to make proper right- or left-hand turns is an important safety component for both motorists and cyclists. This summer on Third Avenue, green turn boxes will be installed to help make it easier for cyclists to navigate a left-hand turn on a bike lane.





Want to learn more about bike lanes and pavement markings? Visit CityofCR.com/BikeCR.

Tiered Response Positively Impacts Patient Survival Rates

When a victim has sudden illness or traumatic injury, Cedar Rapids is able to achieve patient survival rates higher than national standards because of a tiered emergency response system.

Trained dispatchers receive the 9-1-1 call, provide emergency medical instruction as appropriate and dispatch first responders. Police officers, because of their mobility, regularly arrive first at the scene, and all officers have defibrillators in their squad cars. Firefighters, who are trained as Emergency Medical Technicians and paramedics, also quickly respond from one of the City's nine fire stations. Police and Fire work with Area Ambulance Service personnel as a team to give patients in our community the best possible hope for a successful recovery.

The most striking example of the success of this tiered response system is survival rates for cardiac arrest. Cardiac arrest occurs when a patient's breathing and heartbeat stop. The Chain of Survival is a metaphor for Emergency Cardiovascular Care, which can improve the chances of survival and recovery for victims of a heart attack. The Chain of Survival has five links for an adult patient including:

1) Immediate recognition of cardiac arrest and activation of the emergency response system; 2) Early cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) with an emphasis on chest compressions; 3) Rapid defibrillation; 4) Effective advanced life support; and 5) Integrated post-cardiac arrest care.

Nationwide, 9.6 percent of cardiac arrests patients are discharged from the hospital. This includes patients who walk out without neurological deficit and those transferred to long-term care, bed or wheelchair.

Locally, in 2014, 12.3 percent of cardiac arrest patients were walk-outs with no neurological deficit.

Year	Number of Walk-Out Saves	Percentage of Cardiac Arrest Victims
2010	7	9.6
2011	10	12.5
2012	15	16.0
2013	9	11.0
2014	13	12.3

Police officers and firefighters reunite with Wendling Quarry employees to celebrate an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest save when an employee had a heart attack.

Jennifer T. We have moved 12 times in the last 15 years from city to city all around Iowa. Cedar Rapids is the first place that has felt like home. I love how much is offered for my family to do together and I love feeling like part of a community.

Dealing with Emergencies Efficiently

Your house is on fire, a crime is in progress, someone was just injured in an automobile crash or someone is having a heart attack. You pick up the phone and call 9-1-1. A trained dispatcher quickly gathers information and sends appropriate emergency responders to the scene.

Emergency dispatchers are one of the key reasons for a successful outcome to any emergency incident. They dispatch police officers, firefighters and animal control officers to the tune of over 6,000 9-1-1 calls per month and over 500,000 non-emergency calls annually.

Dispatch staff strive to meet two national standards when it comes to answering a 9-1-1 call, including the National Emergency Number Association (NENA) standard that 90 percent of all 9-1-1 calls are answered in less than 10 seconds and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standard that 95 percent of all 9-1-1 calls are answered in less than 15 seconds and 99 percent of all 9-1-1 calls are answered in less than 40 seconds.

During a recent seven-month period, there were 38,109 9-1-1 calls. Dispatchers were able to meet the NENA standard 97.15 percent of the time and the NFPA standard 98.95 percent (within 15 seconds) and 99.98 percent (within 40 seconds).

During a recent severe weather event, there were 252 phone calls, 73 police calls for service, 36 fire calls for service and 18 medical calls for service in just a three-hour period. Meeting and exceeding recognized standards on a regular basis and in extraordinary circumstances underscores the professionalism of the dispatch staff.

Firefighters Help Preserve Nearly $58 Million in Property Value

The Cedar Rapids Fire Department was able to preserve nearly $58 million in property value through fire suppression efforts in 2014. Total fire dollar property loss during the calendar year was $4.7 million. Meanwhile, the total value of properties involved with a fire was $51.8 million and property contents were valued at $10.9 million.

Firefighters were able to confine a building fire to the room or object of origin in 41 percent of all structure fires. Fire Chief Mark English said, "The high percentage of fires confined is a direct reflection of our personnel's training, skills and abilities."

Aggressive, efficient fire suppression efforts mean that firefighters stop the fire, heat and smoke from spreading throughout a structure, which minimizes damage and also increases the likelihood of successful rescues if required. The department recorded 16,913 fire and rescue-related training hours in 2014 – more than any previous year in the history of the department, which demonstrates the evolving complexity and diversification of emergency responses required.

Last year, the Fire Department responded to 10,589 incidents. Based on response data, you are most likely to see a Cedar Rapids fire apparatus responding to an emergency on a Monday between 5 and 6 p.m. The leading cause of residential fires was unattended cooking.

The Fire Department provides around-the-clock fire, hazardous materials and emergency medical services. There is a Central Fire Station and eight neighborhood fire stations throughout the 71.8 square miles of the department's response district.

Firefighters are able to contain fire to the room or object of origin in over 40 percent of all structure fires.

16,913 fire and rescue-related training hours in 2014

responded to **10,589** incidents

71.8 square miles of response district

Building Services Focuses on Vacant Structures

Over the last year, the Building Services Department has renewed its focus on ensuring our neighborhoods are free from the blight of vacant or neglected homes. Their efforts on strengthening the building ordinance came to fruition last July, when City Council adopted the new Vacant and Neglected Building Ordinance, making Cedar Rapids one of only a handful of communities in Iowa that have adopted such an ordinance.

The code changes came as the result of months of research to help review similar ordinances from 20 other cities from across the Midwest. Staff identified similarities and common themes from across multiple communities as they updated the Cedar Rapids ordinance to successfully identify and register vacant structures.

The new requirements to help support the City's commitment to safe neighborhoods include:

- A registration process for vacant and neglected structures
- New procedures to safely secure structures
- Additional inspections to ensure the building is given attention
- Requirement for owners to submit plans to bring structure into conformance
- Various administrative processes related to updating an ordinance

In addition to researching the practice of other communities, the Building Services Department also invited community members to take part in a focus group concerning this important topic. The focus group included representatives from neighborhood associations, housing advocates, real estate organizations, Historic Preservation Commission members, the Cedar Rapids Police Department, the City's Community Development Department and various staff members from the Building Services Department.

Staff identified similarities and common themes from across multiple communities as they updated the Cedar Rapids ordinance to successfully identify and register vacant structures.

Engineers Identify Approach that Saves $400,000

A water main traveling under C Street NE between Collins Road and Blairs Ferry Road became a point of focus when major road improvements were being planned. The street would be widened, with a boulevard park strip in the middle and center turn lanes added. The proposed changes would benefit travelers; however, these improvements would pave over a 24-inch water transmission main originally installed in 1989, which could mean the new pavement would need to be cut into if the aging water main broke.

Rather than invest more than $500,000 to relocate a water main to an area that would not be paved, the engineers in the Cedar Rapids Utilities Department started evaluating innovative options that would add to the main's lifespan and reduce the likelihood of future breaks. The option with the most promise – anodes.

After excavating a few locations near the main and examining its condition, the water distribution and engineering teams determined that the pipe was in good condition, and a budget was calculated to install cathodic protection, or sacrificial anodes. The anode is made from a highly active metal alloy to prevent corrosion of the less active metal of the water main it is protecting. As a result, the sacrificial anode material corrodes in preference to the water main pipe.

Approximately 70 sacrificial anodes were installed along the C Street water main, each protecting a 40-foot segment. The bid price for that work was $88,000 and is expected to add 25 years to the life of the pipe – all at a cost significantly less than moving the infrastructure to accommodate the roadway improvements.

A Dog's Life

A stroll through the Downtown Farmers' Market is all the proof you need that Cedar Rapidians love their dogs. They expect to enjoy activities during their leisure time that include their furry family members. Across the country, dogs and their owners have created a fast-paced trend in park development. While dog parks have been around for almost three decades, they are currently the fastest growing segment of city parks.

Dog owners love dog parks for the friendly atmosphere, where both dogs and their owners can socialize. Off-leash dog areas provide spacious grassy areas for dogs to play and run off extra energy. There are an estimated 1,200 dog parks in operation in the United States, with a 34 percent increase in dog parks created in the 100 largest cities from 2005 to 2010. Cedar Rapids currently has two parks and has identified locations for two additional parks.

Cedar Rapids began working on its first dog park at the request of citizens. Cheyenne Park was created out of undeveloped park land and opened in 2001. The park consists of 13.8 acres of fenced canine recreation yards. K9Acres is an 11-acre fenced facility. Both parks feature main off-leash yards, training yards for dogs not yet fully socialized enough to use the main area, and small dog yards.

Cheyenne Off-Leash Dog Area
Cedar Bend Lane SW
(off Old River Road)

K9 Acres
5200 Golf Course Road
Squaw Creek Park

K9COLA is an organization that advocates for off-leash dog parks in the Cedar Rapids metropolitan area. They assist with recall testing that allows dog owners to purchase a permit at a discount, ongoing monitoring and light maintenance of the parks and donations of funds and equipment.

When greenway plans were developed last year, K9COLA immediately began fundraising for a new dog park identified in the Time Check greenway. Parks and Recreation staff, who recognized that dog enthusiasts would have a wait for the greenway off-leash area, met with K9COLA leaders and offered a shorter term addition at Beverly Park. The department is working on conceptual designs and funding for this dog park anticipated to open in the next couple of years.

While you wait for your pet's future playgrounds to be built, enjoy both existing parks. Better yet, join forces with K9COLA and help with dog park planning and ongoing monitoring and maintenance. Cedar Rapids also allows dogs on leashes in "people" parks, but counts on dog owners to be responsible by keeping Fido under control and picking up his waste, so the parks stay clean for all the two legged creatures.

DID YOU KNOW THAT CEDAR RAPIDS

- Had the first municipal skate park built in the state.
- Has four Parks and Recreation Department staff who have been selected to present at the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) conference in October. This national conference hosts 7,000 attendees.
- Received national recognition for Zombie Survival Camp at Ushers Ferry.

Parks and Recreation Leading the Pack

- The median population per playground reported by over 500 parks and recreation departments was 3,910. Cedar Rapids population per outdoor playground is 2,071.
- According to the National Recreation and Parks Association, acres of parkland per 1,000 residents nationwide are 9.1. Cedar Rapids acres of parkland per 1,000 residents are 31.
- Nationally, the median acres of parkland maintained per FTE (full-time equivalent employee) are 9.1 acres. In Cedar Rapids it is 30.
- The median population per outdoor swimming pool reported by over 500 parks and recreation departments was 53,501. Cedar Rapids' population per outdoor swimming pool is 25,686. In Cedar Rapids, 4,358 swimming lessons are offered annually and 173,000 people use the outdoor pools.
- Only 50 percent of 500 reporting parks and recreation departments across the country operate aquatic centers. Historical properties are operated by 50 percent of agencies, and 46 percent offer community gardens. Cedar Rapids operates all three.
- The national average maintenance cost for maintaining a municipal golf course is $400,000. Cedar Rapids courses are maintained for $250,000 to $300,000.

Everyday Extraordinary

Every day throughout the year, over one thousand City employees perform various functions that, when isolated, may not seem significant. However, collectively, the tasks performed provide a backdrop for more than 128,000 lives. This year, Cedar Rapids will shine a light on many municipal positions that you might not be aware of. We will draw attention to these everyday heroes and how their efforts make a quiet difference in your life.

Name: Miles Keesy

Title: Aquatics Coordinator

What I Do: I help to make sure everyone at the Cedar Rapids pools stays safe. I lead lifeguarding classes so our lifeguards are prepared to save lives. In training classes, future lifeguards learn to rescue people from the water, perform CPR and do first aid. Before summer starts I train over 100 lifeguards for Bever, Bender, Cherry Hill, Ellis, Jones and Noelridge pools. I also supervise the staff at Bender Pool year-round.

Favorite Part of My Job: I love that I get to be outside interacting with people!

My Secret Super Power: Aquatic Adaption – the ability to transform human teenagers into life savers.

Name: Heidi D'Arcy

Title: Public Safety Telecommunicator

What I Do: I am a first-line public safety professional who assists as a first responder, responding to every class of emergency for which public safety services are requested. My primary responsibility is to receive, process and dispatch emergency and non-emergency calls for police officers, firefighters, emergency medical and other public safety services.

Favorite Part of My Job: I love that every day is different.

My Secret Super Power: Invisibility! You can't see me, but I'm always there helping.

Name: Kelly Seery

Title: Environmental Specialist

What I Do: I work with the industries in Cedar Rapids to protect the Cedar River watershed from being polluted. I do this by collecting, inspecting and monitoring wastewater samples on a regular basis. If I notice increasing levels of chemicals or pollutants, I work with the organizations to reduce the amount of pollutants in discharged wastewater.

Favorite Part of My Job: Cooperatively working with the industries in Cedar Rapids to reduce pollution and increase the safety of the Cedar Rapids Utilities workers and our customers.

My Secret Super Power: Protecting the environment from pollution and toxic chemicals.

Paving for Progress 10-Year Plan Unveiled

The City's 10-year plan will be reviewed with fresh pavement condition data and updated every two years.

The City of Cedar Rapids has developed a Capital Improvement 10-Year Plan in order to efficiently carry out the Paving for Progress program and use the funds to create the greatest impact to the public's roadways. The plan outlines improvements to 150 miles of roads in the next 10 years. Creating a strategic 10-year plan enables the City to allocate funding to the best and highest use, relying on a prioritization list that is data driven, impartial and measurable. The plan will also guide the City's preservation efforts and balance the need to preserve the community's fair roads while also reconstructing and rehabilitating poor roads. Without the Paving for Progress program, 90 percent of the Cedar Rapids road network would likely fall below the "Poor" condition threshold sometime in the next 10 years.

Residents can stay informed on Paving for Progress by signing up for text message or email alerts, at CityofCR.com/Subscribe.

The City's First Historic Preservation Plan

The City of Cedar Rapids is developing a Historic Preservation Plan that will guide community preservation efforts. The plan will focus on historic preservation and identify strategies and various initiatives to help preserve Cedar Rapids' architectural, archaeological, cultural and historic resources. Over the course of several months, the Community Development staff has been reaching out to various stakeholders through focus group meetings and public workshops. Meetings to discuss the plan before the City Planning Commission and Historic Preservation Commission are anticipated in August 2015, with review and adoption by the City Council in September 2015. To learn more, please visit CityofCR.com/hpc or contact Anne Russett at 319-286-5075 or a.russett@cedar-rapids.org.

The City's first Local Historic Landmark, the Aussalle Building

New Mobile Phone Payment Option for Utility Bills

A new mobile payment app is available to customers with smartphones. If customers use the Internet on a smartphone to pay their utility bills, they will automatically be routed to a new mobile site hosted by U.S. Bank.

In addition to this new mobile site, customers can also make their payment in person at multiple locations around the city or through any of these options:

Automatic Payment:
When you sign up for the Automatic Payment Program, your payment is automatically deducted from your checking or savings account on the due date.

Electronic Payment:
Initiated by you through your own bank's bill payment program.

By Phone – 319-286-5900:
The Cedar Rapids Municipal Utilities accepts credit card payments (Visa, MasterCard and Discover) by phone. You may also initiate an e-check payment where an amount designated by you is deducted from either a savings or checking account.

Mail payment to:
Cedar Rapids Municipal Utilities
PO Box 3255
Cedar Rapids, IA 52406-3255

More information on utility bill payment options, including enrollment forms for auto pay, can be found by visiting the "Utility Bills" quick link at CityofCR.com.

Greene Square Under Construction

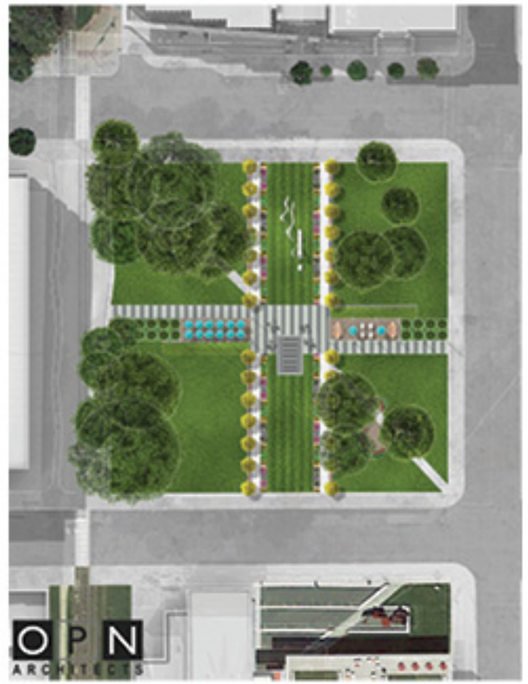
Construction is underway on a historic downtown square in Cedar Rapids. Greene Square, the 172-year-old park, has been redesigned with new elements following a two-year public input process and fundraising campaign. Approximately $1.7 million in improvements will be made, with the park anticipated to reopen this fall.

The project will include a redesign of the park into four quadrants with unique programming elements. Two quadrants will feature large open space areas as requested by the public for programming such as yoga, tai chi and outdoor children's activities.

Two other quadrants of the park will feature curved seat walls that follow the historic, tree-lined diagonal walkway. A wide corridor of lawn will run through the center of the park, connecting the Cedar Rapids Museum of Art on one side of the park with the Cedar Rapids Public Library on the other. Some features from the public's wish list that have been included are seating and tables for 100 people to eat and play board games, and an interactive water feature. The City's official holiday tree will receive a permanent home in the lawn directly across from the library.

"We've been working on this project for several years, but now people will see things change quickly. While we will still have some tree planting and flower beds to install in the spring, we can't wait to host the tree-lighting ceremony in a newly renovated Greene Square in December," said Sven Leff, Parks and Recreation Director.

The Hall-Perrine Foundation has donated $250,000 toward the project, and another $550,000 has come from private contributions raised by the City and Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance. The Linn County Board of Supervisors has contributed more than $200,000 for art to assist in making Greene Square an attraction for residents and visitors.



Greene Square's new design includes four quadrants and a lawn connecting the Cedar Rapids Museum of Art and Cedar Rapids Public Library.

Angela H. Cedar Rapids is a great place to raise a family because the schools are amazing, the family events are great, and there's always something for everyone going on. The people are friendly and willing to help with anything...I am a Cedar Rapids native and will always live here.

Partners Make Improvements in Parks

With a well-loved and vast public park system, the Parks and Recreation Department is often challenged to meet resident's desires for new features. Community leaders, local businesses and organizations have not been hesitant to fill the gap and offer funding and expertise to expand the resources of the department. Two recent examples of these partnerships are listed below.

Cherokee Park Exercise Stations
The Cedar Rapids Realtors Association approached the department about making a donation of benches or equipment. Parks Superintendent Daniel Gibbins knew that fitness zones, areas within parks with multiple outdoor exercise stations, are a popular trend in the country but something that wasn't currently within the parks budget.

He shared the idea with the Realtors Association. While the project exceeded the amount they originally intended to donate, they enthusiastically took up the challenge. They raised additional funds and brought in Croell Concrete as a partner to finish the project. The exercise stations opened in June with plans for the Association to partner on several more fitness zones in parks over the next few years.

Seminole Valley Park Cross-Country Trail
Individuals within the cross-country running community identified the need for a permanent cross-country course that could be used by high school and college teams in the Cedar Rapids metropolitan area and for competitive meets that would draw individuals to Cedar Rapids. In cooperation with the Cedar Rapids Convention and Visitors Bureau, running leaders organized to create a new course within the park system. Twelve individuals and organizations, including the Cedar Valley Running Association, Mount Mercy University, F & M Bank, Kennedy Booster Club, Jefferson Booster Club, Mississippi Valley Conference, Coe College and Fleck Sales contributed $7,000 for the construction of a course in Seminole Valley Park. The course will be complete at the end of this summer. It will host high school and college local and regional meets.

Is Your Mower Pointed in the Right Direction?

Keep your grass clippings on the lawn to help protect our water quality.

When you are rolling along, make sure your mower is pointing in the right direction - toward the lawn at all times. Grass clippings decompose in a matter of days, adding nutrients your lawn needs, like nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium. Pointing your mower in the right direction also keeps clippings out of our streets and storm drains, preventing eventual delivery to our streams, where they cause water quality problems.

In addition to polluting the water, grass clippings and leaves can block drains and cause flooding. Storm water pollution can be reported 24 hours a day to the City of Cedar Rapids, 319-286-5826.

On the Path to Safe and Walkable Neighborhoods

The City is committed to a safe and accessible walking environment for all residents, whether they are walking, pushing a stroller or using a wheelchair. To accomplish this, the City is refocusing its efforts on sidewalk maintenance and repair. City Engineering Staff will review sidewalks on a rotating basis by quadrant so one quarter of the City is reviewed every four years. If a sidewalk is found in need of repairs, property owners will be notified. While sidewalk maintenance is the responsibility of the property owner, the City does offer reimbursement opportunities for those who undertake the repairs themselves or hire a contractor to undertake the repairs. You can learn more about sidewalk repairs and reimbursement options at **CityofCR.com/SidewalkRepair.**

Maintaining good sidewalks is an important part of the City's goal for staying connected and walkable.

Cedar River Flood Control System Master Plan Finalized

City Council formally approved the Cedar River Flood Control System Master Plan on June 23, approving a plan to guide construction over the next 20 years. The plan includes details on the alignment, the initial timeline and implementation, budget and acquisition and disposition policies. The plan will change over the years as funding, grants or development opportunities arise, and the public can view the document and any changes to the plan on the City's website at any time. The final alignment protects as many flood-vulnerable properties as possible, while integrating into neighborhood characteristics. The plan maximized the use of removable walls in order to maintain access and enjoyment of the river. City and consultant teams would like to thank the countless residents, property owners and business leaders who invested time and attention into the development of the plan.

See full renderings and aesthetics at CityofCR.com

Beautification Projects Hit the Road

The Collins Road beautification project will be completed in 2016.

The City of Cedar Rapids has partnered with the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) in a maintenance and beautification project to enhance curb appeal throughout our community. The project areas include segments of First Avenue and Third Avenue under the Interstate, Williams Boulevard at 16th Avenue, and segments of Collins Road, which is set for completion in 2016. The goal of the project is to address maintenance and improve the look and feel of some of our main corridors. Residents will notice pavers, prairie grasses and trees in these areas, supporting the City's green initiative.

Mark Your Calendar

Back to School Bash
Saturday, August 8
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
McGrath Amphitheatre

City Week Open House
Wednesday, October 14
5 to 7 p.m.
500 15th Avenue SW

Safe Halloween
Sunday, October 25
1 to 4 p.m.
Ushers Ferry Historic Village

August

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

September

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

October

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Don't miss these events at the McGrath Amphitheatre

AUGUST 20
Garrison Keillor's
A Prairie Home Companion
America the Beautiful Tour

AUGUST 25
Brit Floyd

SEPTEMBER 26
ZZ Top with Special Guest
Blackberry Smoke

Fall Loose Leaf Vacuum Collection Begins September 28

Fall Loose Leaf Collection will begin September 28 and run through December 4. Leaf collection will follow the schedule below, which is organized by quadrant. All homes will have leaves collected every other week.

Tips for a successful fall leaf collection:

- For Monday and Tuesday collection (SW and NW), all leaves must be raked to the curb no later than 7 a.m. on Monday morning.
- For Thursday and Friday collection (SE and NE), all leaves must be raked to the curb no later than 7 a.m. on Thursday morning.
- Rake leaves into long piles on the parking area or grass next to the street. Leaves must be kept out of the street.
- Keep leaf piles away from obstacles like your collection carts, mailboxes, cars and utility poles.
- During fall loose leaf collection, brown paper lawn and leaf bags are collected every week with the YARDY cart. The bags cannot exceed 40 pounds.
- Collect brush and branches to put in your YARDY cart for collection.

City Service	Location	Phone Number	Email Address
Animals	900 76 Avenue Drive SW	319-398-5913	AnimalControlMgmt@Cedar-Rapids.org
Bid opportunities	City Hall, 101 1st Street SE	319-398-5021	L.Carter@Cedar-Rapids.org
Building and housing codes	City Services Center, 500 15th Avenue SW	319-398-5831	J.Canaday@Cedar-Rapids.org
Buses	4th Avenue and 1st Street SE	319-398-5575	CRTransit@Cedar-Rapids.org
Fire safety inspections	713 1st Avenue SE	319-398-5106	CRFire@Cedar-Rapids.org
Garbage, recycling and yard waste collection	City Services Center, 500 15th Avenue SW	319-398-5817	SolidWaste&Recycling@Cedar-Rapids.org
Homestead and military credits	City Services Center, 500 15th Avenue SW	319-398-5800	CityAssessor@Cedar-Rapids.org
Housing assistance programs	City Hall, 101 1st Street SE	319-398-5872	Development@Cedar-Rapids.org
Land development	City Hall, 101 1st Street SE	319-398-5822	DevelopmentServices@Cedar-Rapids.org
Park rentals	Ambrose Recreation Center, 2000 Mt. Vernon Rd. SE	319-398-5751	Ambrose@Cedar-Rapids.org
Potholes and street maintenance	City Services Center, 500 15th Avenue SW	319-398-5812 or 200-5126 for emergencies	Street@Cedar-Rapids.org
Recreation programs	Ambrose Recreation Center, 2000 Mt. Vernon Rd. SE	319-398-5751	Ambrose@Cedar-Rapids.org
Sewer backup or problems	City Services Center, 500 15th Avenue SW	319-398-5812 or 200-5126 for emergencies	Sewer@Cedar-Rapids.org
Traffic signals and street lighting	City Services Center, 500 15th Avenue SW	319-398-5812	Traffic@Cedar-Rapids.org
Utility billing	City Hall, 101 1st Street SE	319-398-5900	WaterMail@Cedar-Rapids.org

For more information about the City of Cedar Rapids and its services, call 319-286-5080 or visit www.CityofCR.com.

City Council

To leave a voice message for a City Council member, call 319-296-5051.
To find your district, go to www.CityofCR.com, click on City Council and look for the Find Your District link.

MAYOR Ron Corbett
Ron.Corbett@Cedar-Rapids.org

DISTRICT 3 Pat Shey
Pat.Shey@Cedar-Rapids.org

AT LARGE Ralph Russell
Ralph.Russell@Cedar-Rapids.org

DISTRICT 1 Kris Gulick
Kris.Gulick@Cedar-Rapids.org

DISTRICT 4 Scott Olson
Scott.Olson@Cedar-Rapids.org

AT LARGE Ann Poe
Ann.Poe@Cedar-Rapids.org

DISTRICT 2 Monica Vernon
Monica.Vernon@Cedar-Rapids.org

DISTRICT 5 Justin Shields
Justin.Shields@Cedar-Rapids.org

AT LARGE Susie Weinacht
Susie.Weinacht@Cedar-Rapids.org

Too much fun in the sun?

Urgent care clinics are open.

Hours:
Monday – Friday:
8 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Saturday – Sunday:
8 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Urgent Care locations

Hiawatha
1001 N. Center Point Road, Suite C
Hiawatha | (319) 375-6100

Marion
2996 7th Avenue, Suite B
Marion | (319) 377-4844

Westside
2375 Edgewood Road SW
Cedar Rapids | (319) 396-1983

UnityPoint Clinic

MAYO CLINIC CareNetwork Member

The point of unity is you.

Check wait times at unitypoint.org/cedarrapids.