

The City Manager's Annual Report to the Community



City of
BELOIT, Wisconsin

By: Larry N. Arft
City Manager
February, 2011



City Continues Transition to a High Quality Place

- Despite a continued weak economy, the City made notable progress in 2010.
- We are achieving our vision of becoming the gem of the Rock River Valley through the use of sustainable public policy and continued infrastructure improvements, all contributing to Beloit's transition to a high quality community, competitive in the 21st Century world.



The City's Strategic Plan Supports this Overall Vision

VISION STATEMENT:

- Beloit – The gem of the Rock River Valley, embracing sustainable public policy, service delivery and development in ways that protect the natural and built environment, maintain economic competitiveness and create a high quality living experience for current and future generations.

MISSION STATEMENT:

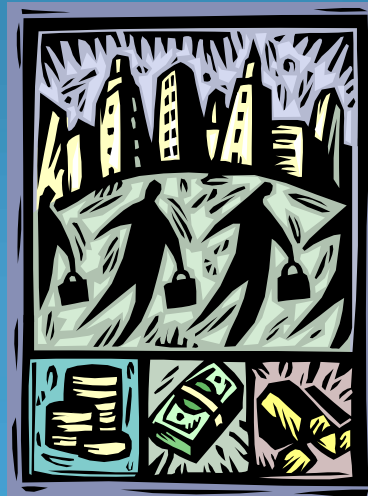
- The City of Beloit celebrates its proud heritage, diverse culture, entrepreneurial spirit and stewardship of a high quality of life; employing sustainable practices to continue its resurgence as the gem of the Rock River Valley.



Five Key Goals

1. As an eco-municipality, focus on the sustainable stewardship of City resources, services and infrastructure; to protect both our built and natural environment and enhance the quality of life for current and future generations.
2. Continue competitive and sustainable economic development focused on workforce development, retention, and recruitment to fully serve the business and entrepreneurial community resulting in private investment and job creation.
3. Proactively partner with individuals and businesses to promote a safe and healthy community, minimize personal injury, prevent loss of life and protect property and natural resources.
4. Apply sound, sustainable practices to promote a high quality community through historic preservation, community revitalization and successful new development.
5. Communicate and partner with other jurisdictions and organizations to coordinate effective and efficient service delivery and stimulate regional prosperity.

New Public Facilities, Infrastructure Upgrades and Economic Development Opportunities Continue to Redefine Beloit



Public Facilities

Transit Facility Dedication

The Transit Transfer facility was completed using Transit and Stimulus grants. The new Transfer facility has improved the overall quality of public transportation services, while adding notable new architecture with a “Heritage” flair to the City Center.



The Behr Property “Stateline Restoration Prairie” Completed

- Although not yet officially dedicated, the former Behr property Brownfield clean up and restoration are essentially complete.
- The area that was restored was renamed the “Stateline Restoration Prairie.”
- Several years will be required for the prairie to mature.



Canoe/Kayak Launch

- The John Rose Canoe and Kayak Launch in downtown Beloit was dedicated on June 5, 2010
- The launch is adjacent to the Chester Square Parking Lot, 534 Fourth Street
- Downtown Beloit Association awarded the City the “2009 Best Streetscape Project” for the launch, a progressive green project, promoting use of the Rock River and quiet water sports



- The Canoe/Kayak Launch in downtown Beloit inspired a new business to choose to locate in Beloit
- Paddle and Trail announced that they anticipate opening near the new launch site in February, 2011



Public Infrastructure

Gateway Boulevard

The Gateway Boulevard Extension was completed in mid-summer and dedicated on July 6, 2010.

- This project resulted in a new, industrial quality street and utilities extended through to a second interstate interchange at I-43.



Public Street

- Public Avenue from Pleasant Street to College was completely reconstructed this year, leaving only a few remaining streets in the downtown area that have not yet been redone. Those streets are scheduled for 2011.



Riverside Drive/Hwy. 51

Reconstruction and Ribbon Cutting

- Hwy. 51/Riverside Drive reopened on November 23, 2010 with a ribbon cutting ceremony
- The project reconstructed concrete pavement, curb and gutter, sidewalk, signals, lighting, landscaping and storm sewer
- Center boulevard created, along with new parking areas and bike path realignments





Additional Street Improvements

- Chapin and a portion of Central in the East Side Initiative area
- Substantial improvements to existing concrete streets in the I-90 Industrial Park
- Intermittent resurfacing projects in residential neighborhoods spread throughout the city



4th Street Parking Lot – pre and post construction

Horace White Park landscaping and lighting



Way finding signs updated and replaced



Utility Improvements

- Sludge/Dewatering and Odor Control at the Wastewater Treatment Facility
- Construction of new deep well #11, including a blending reservoir and well house for the water utility
- Construction of a mandated “settlement pond” at the Krueger-Haskell Golf Course



Economic Development

Kettle Foods

- Kettle announced the construction of an additional 45,000 sq. ft. production facility at their Beloit location, which will double production at this facility



Hampton Inn and Suites

- New construction on Milwaukee Road at Cranston Avenue
- 150,000 square feet
- Construction resumed in 2011, although no completion date for the project has yet been announced



O'Reilly Auto Parts

- New store constructed on Milwaukee Road
- O'Reilly Auto Parts entered the Beloit market with construction of a new 7,569 sq. ft. retail store located on Milwaukee Road near the Morgan Square shopping center
- 4 new jobs were created



Frito Lay

- This year, Frito Lay announced that, despite being 30(+) years old, their facility had received a LEEDS “Gold” certification from the Green Building Council. This prestigious national award came as the result of a sustainability initiative undertaken by the company in recent years.



What's Coming in 2011?

Beloit International Film Festival, February 17-20



Music at Harry's Place



Vision Beloit City Center



Plein Air Art Event

Downtown Farmers Market



Photos courtesy of Mark Preuschl



Infrastructure Improvements for 2011



City Center Projects Include:

- Reconstruction of Bushnell from Pleasant to College
- Reconstruction of State Street, including the use of brick pavers and other enhancements from Broad Street to Pleasant
- Reconstruction of few remaining streets, mostly south of Broad Street, that have not yet undergone reconstruction
- Continuation of the façade grant program administered by the Downtown Beloit Association
- Continuation of the second floor housing initiative implemented by the Downtown Beloit Association



City Wide Street Projects Will Include:

- **STREET CONSTRUCTION**
 - Cranston Road from south of Milwaukee to the railroad tracks will be reconstructed with a four-lane profile
- **STREET RESURFACING**
 - Intermittent resurfacing projects, similar in magnitude to the work done last year, will also be undertaken later in the construction season
 - Sidewalk repairs will also be completed in the designated section of the community



Other Improvements

- Funding is provided for continuing the City's property acquisition demolition program as needed
- Funds are allocated for TID financed improvements in the Gateway Business Park, including additional street lighting, a water main extension, and a second phase of improvements to Eagles Ridge Park
- Funding for sustainability projects is also included in the CIP and will be utilized along with Energy Block Grant Funds



Public Safety Upgrades Include:

- Replacement of cardiac monitor/defibrillator units for the Fire Department, and
- Communication upgrades required to comply with FCC narrow band mandates



Utility System Improvements to be Completed in 2011

- Wastewater Treatment Plant sludge dewatering/odor control
- Construction of new water system well (#14) and blending reservoir
- Construction of storm water settlement pond (located in Krueger-Haskell Golf Course)

Downtown Façade Renovations



Current image of 110 W.
Grand Ave.



WISCONSIN 108/110 WEST GRAND - BELOIT, WI
MAIN STREET JULY 19, 2010 JOE LAWNICZAK

Rendering of its restoration under the TID #5 Façade Grant, which includes restoring the old transom windows. Joe Lawniczak in the Main Street office at the Wisconsin Dept. of Commerce created the renderings.

Downtown Façade Renovations



GABRIELE BLDG. (PATIO)
JUNE 24, 2010

BELOIT, WI
JOE LAWNICZAK



Continue Sustainability (Energy Efficiency) Program

- Energy Efficiency Block Grant funding will be expensed in 2011
- Engineering to prepare energy efficient heating/cooling improvements for City owned facilities:
 - Solar Photovoltaic Technology for City Hall
 - Hot water solar for Fire Department Headquarters
 - Substantial energy upgrades to Grinnell Hall

Neighborhood Stabilization Program Continues

- The City hopes to sell the first round of single family homes remodeled under the Neighborhood Stabilization Program

- 1157 Elm Street
- 932 Ninth Street
- 827 Garfield Ave.
- 615 McKinley Ave.



- For further information, please contact Vicki Jentoft Johnson at American Dwellings, 608-364-5009
- A second grant application has been prepared requesting additional funding to continue this important initiative

Public Housing Remodeling and Energy Efficiency Projects

- The first phase of the remodeling and energy upgrades to public housing units is nearing completion
- Phase 2 will begin later this summer and result in remodeling of the remaining units (except 9 to be sold)

Before



After





Units were
modernized
and updated

Questions
or
Comments



Thank you!