



FISCAL YEAR 2013 - 2014

BUDGET IN BRIEF



CITY OF
Bloomington
ILLINOIS

Jewel of Midwest Cities

On the Cover

In FY 2012, the City made a commitment to devote resources and investments in the infrastructure of the City's Fire Department. The infrastructure consisted of vehicle and equipment replacement, fire station renovation projects, construction of a regional fire training facility, addition of three firefighter/paramedics, and the initial stages of a progressive modernization of the fire department facility plan through the Illinois Fire Chief's Association and Five Bugles Consulting Firm.



Cover and above photograph by Rich Batka, Bloomington Fire Department

Through the integration of the facility and service analysis, conducted by the Illinois Fire Chief's Association and Five Bugles Consulting Firm, the City has developed a solid roadmap for the direction of Fire Department's staffing, equipment, and facilities to serve City residents over the next fifty years. In FY 2013, the City began to design the renovation of Station #4 which serves the south west portion of the City. In FY 2014, the City will begin to renovate living quarters in other stations and install life saving devices such as fire sprinklers and vehicle exhaust drops in all City fire stations. These facility upgrades will improve the air quality and enhance the safety and long-term viability of all City Fire Stations.

The Bloomington City Council approved the purchase of 4 heavy-duty ambulances to replace the City's worn fleet of ambulances during FY 2012. These new ambulances include additional room and storage which will allow City firefighter/paramedics to address the various needs that arise within the City of Bloomington, including carrying SCBA and Firefighting gear. Furthermore, the City has purchased and placed in service a 2012 Pierce Fire Engine pumper that has been positioned at Station #6 which serves the eastern side of the community as well as Central Illinois Regional Airport. This fire engine has been designed with supplemental storage to enhance the City's advanced medical response in this section of the City. Finally, in FY 2013 the City purchased and ordered a 75ft aerial ladder truck which will be stationed out of Station #1 that serves Downtown Bloomington and Illinois Wesleyan University.

Through the assistance of 88th District State Representative Daniel P. Brady, the City has completed the construction of a Regional Fire Training Tower located at Station #2 within the City of Bloomington. The facility will allow the City and area fire departments to undergo live fire training exercises and other emergencies scenarios in a real world environment. The facility is open to all paid and volunteer fire departments in the general area. Through new leadership within the Fire Department and through the dedication of multiple employees these new enhancements in public safety will create a first-rate opportunity for the future of the Bloomington Fire Department and the citizens of our community.

See Last Year On the Cover update of the Miller Park Zoo Master Plan on page 17.





The Bloomington City Council adopted its fiscal year 2014 budget on April 8, 2013. The budget is the City’s business plan to reflect the community’s priorities and values through funding the services, programs, and projects that maintain the quality of life in Bloomington. The City’s total budget of \$169.4 million funds essential services through the enaction of key one-time initiatives and critical utility infrastructure repair and upgrade projects.

The FY 2014 budget is the fifth annual spending plan developed during the worst economic downturn since the

Great Depression. During periods of slow growth, minimal development activity, and high unemployment, there is still a demand for consistent, reliable, and quality local government services. However, like many cities who have dealt with these conditions, we face a persistent challenge of continual operations in an environment where the growth of expenditures outpaces the growth in revenues. A continuous review of our baseline services and the realignment of resources to fund the needs and priorities of the community at the appropriate level will be an ongoing necessity of staff, city administration, elected officials, and you, the citizens.

As we look toward the challenges ahead, the City’s budget and finance teams will monitor the fluctuating conditions so the quality of life our residents expect can be sustained in a timely and financially prudent manner for the City of Bloomington for the next one hundred years.

This Budget in Brief document presents summary information which you can find in greater detail in the FY 2014 Adopted Budget document. Within these pages you will find high-level information in regards to City revenues and expenditures, departmental budget information, and planned capital improvement projects. The full budget document can be viewed online at www.cityblm.org or you can request to pick up a hard copy through the City’s Finance Department at 434-2233.

We hope all stakeholders find this document informative. On behalf of the City Council and staff team, I look forward to implementing your financial plan this fiscal year.

Sincerely,

David A. Hales
City Manager

Table of Contents

- Message from the City Manager 1
- The City at a Glance 2
- The Budget Process 4
- Organizational Chart 5
- City Council 6
- Where the Money Comes From 7
- Where the Money Goes 8
- The City’s General Fund 9
- Property Taxes..... 11
- For Every Property Tax Dollar 12
- Capital Improvement Plan..... 13
- Road Resurfacing 14
- Traffic Signals..... 15
- Sidewalk Maintenance 16
- Performance Measurement Program .. 17
- Budget Recognition 18
- Last Year On The Cover 19
- Frequently Asked Questions 20
- Glossary 21
- Boards & Commissions..... 22



The City of Bloomington at a Glance

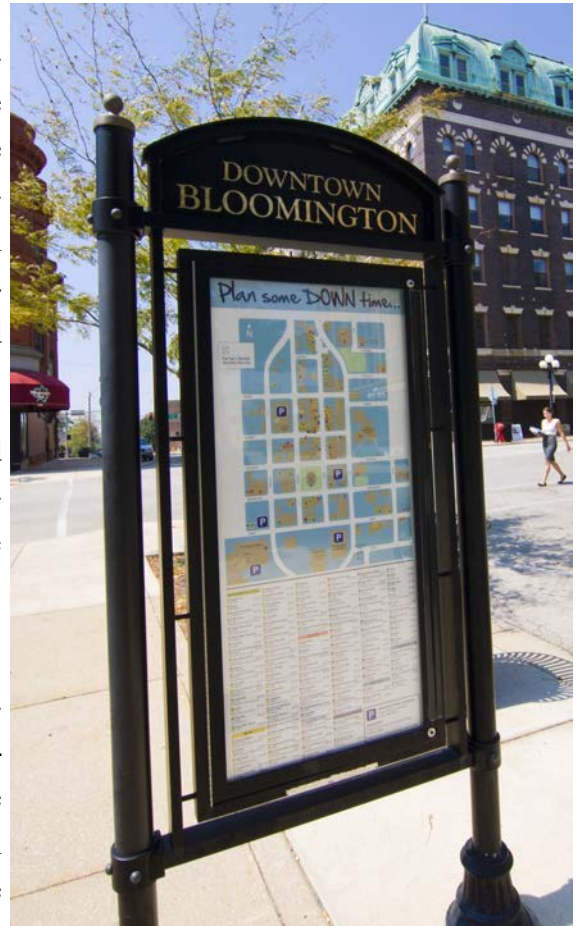
The City of Bloomington is located in the heart of Central Illinois, approximately 125 miles southwest of Chicago, 155 miles northeast of St. Louis, and 64 miles northeast of Springfield, the State Capital. Bloomington is the County Seat of McLean County, the largest county in Illinois (approximately 762,240 acres). Bloomington (pop. 76,610 (2010 Census)) is a twin city with the Town of Normal (pop. 52,497 (2010 Census)). Interstates 39, 55 and 74 converge in Bloomington-Normal, as well as US Route 51 and State Route 9.

The Twin Cities is serviced by two major railroad lines and Amtrak, as well as air transportation at the Central Illinois Regional Airport. This airport has been recognized as one of the fastest growing airports in the country, which serves commuter, corporate, and private aircraft.

Bloomington is located in one of the utmost productive agricultural areas in the nation, however, the economy is diverse and well-balanced. In addition to major manufacturers and industries there are two universities, two colleges, two hospitals, a convention center, a coliseum, a recreational ice center, one indoor mall, one outdoor mall, and multiple financial institutions located within Bloomington-Normal.

The City of Bloomington is organized and operates under a council/manager form of government. The nine Alderman on the council are elected by their nine respective wards and the Mayor is elected at-large. Collectively, the council serves in a leadership capacity such as, provides policy direction responsive to citizens' needs and wishes, approves the allocation of City resources, and appoints a City Manager.

The City Manager serves the Mayor, City Council, and the community. This position offers the benefits of training and experience in the administration of local government projects and programs on behalf of the governing body. The manager prepares a budget for consideration by the Mayor and Council; recruits, hires, and supervises the City staff; serves as the chief adviser to the Mayor and Council; and carries out policies. The Mayor, City Council and citizens rely on the manager to provide complete and objective information, pros and cons of alternatives, and long-term consequences.



City Services

The City of Bloomington is a full service city which provides Police, Fire & EMS, Public Works, Planning & Code Enforcement, Parks, Recreation & Cultural Arts, Library, and Water services to all residents. The City is comprised of 11 unique departments, which work collectively to accomplish the goals established by the City Council and citizens. City Departments include: Office of the City Manager, Parks, Recreation & Cultural Arts, Planning and Code Enforcement (PACE), Information Services (IS), Clerk, Legal, Human Resources, Finance, Public Works, Fire, Police and Water.

Mission Statement

The Mission of the City of Bloomington is to be financially responsible providing quality, basic municipal services at the best value. The city engages residents and partners with others for community benefit.

Strategic Plan

The City's Strategic Plan was formally presented and unanimously adopted by the City Council on January 25, 2010. The City's Strategic Plan comprises 6 goals which serve as a guide toward the allocation of City resources: 1) Financially Sound City Providing Quality Basic Services 2) Upgrade City Infrastructure and Facilities 3) Strong neighborhoods 4) Grow the Local Economy 5) Great Place to Live—Livable, Sustainable City 6) Prosperous Downtown

Demographics

Bloomington Population Facts		Cost of Living	
Population (2010):	76,610	Average Household Income (2011):	\$80,200
Median Age (2011):	32.1	Average Home Sales (2011):	\$169,413

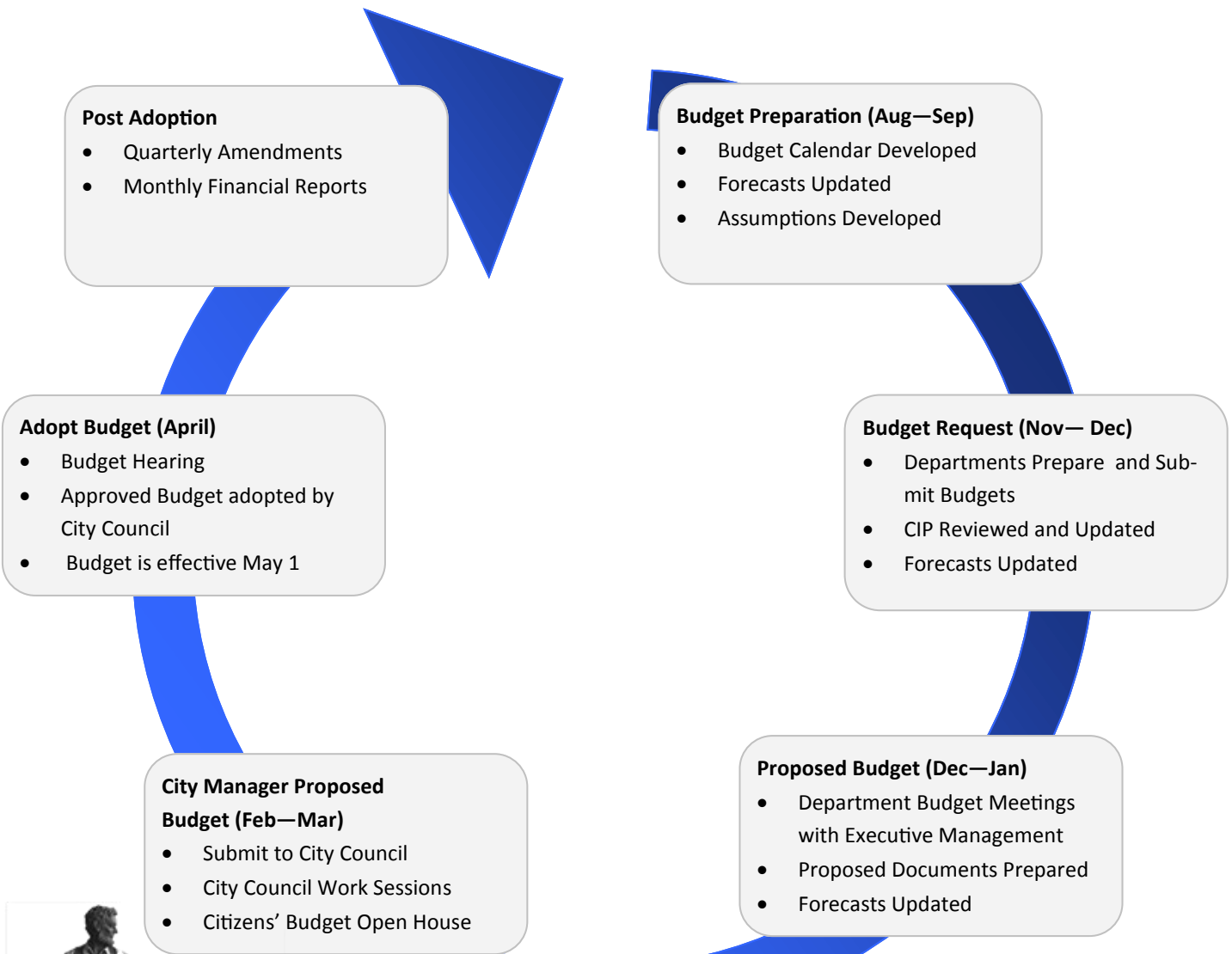
Top Ten Employers in Bloomington

Employer	Employees	Percentage of Total City Employment
State Farm Insurance Company	14,528	18.96%
Country Financial	2,049	2.67%
Mitsubishi Motors North America, Inc.	1,270	1.66%
Growmark, Inc.	932	1.22%
OSF St. Joseph Medical Center	832	1.09%
McLean County Government	806	1.05%
Afni, Inc	778	1.02%
City of Bloomington	755	0.99%
School District #87	693	0.90%
Illinois Wesleyan University	527	0.69%

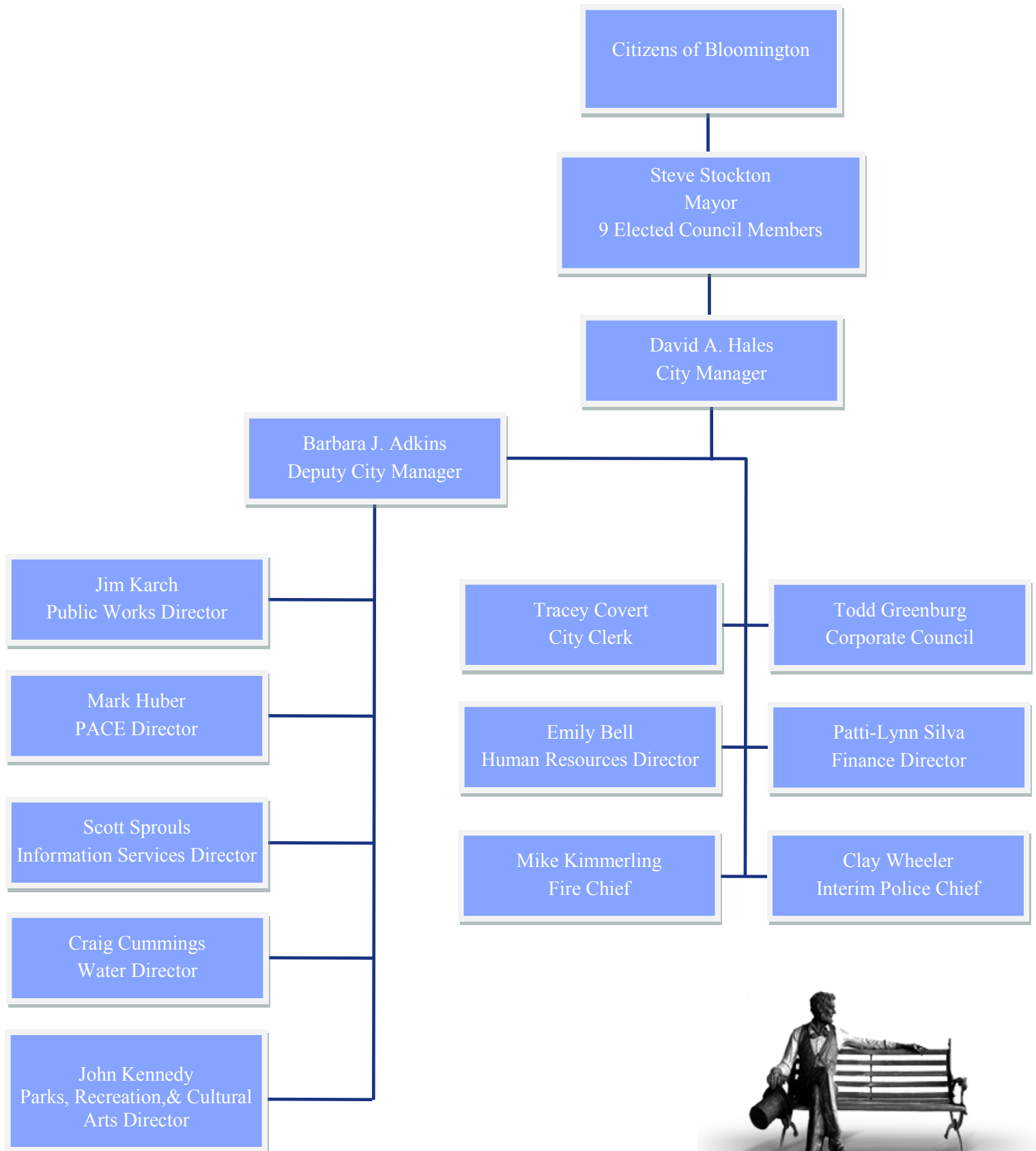


The Budget Process

The City of Bloomington adopts a legally binding annual budget in accordance with Chapter 65 of the Illinois Compiled Statutes. The City's Fiscal Year runs from May 1st to April 30th. The City's budget serves as a roadmap for the fiscal year's expenditures and reflects the goals and priorities of the City's elected officials. The budget is formulated with the aid, support and input of the citizens of Bloomington, City staff, and various boards and committees. The City's budget process begins in August with the formation of a budget calendar and ends in April with the final budget adoption by the City Council. Formulation of the budget is a critical and difficult process that involves analyzing citizen input and data, projecting available revenue sources, identifying priorities, allocating resources and expenditures, reviewing City performance data, negotiating and anticipating department budgets and establishing the fees, charges and taxes necessary to provide adequate levels of services to the citizens of Bloomington.



Organizational Chart



City Council

City of Bloomington Mayor and Council Members Elected to Four Year Terms



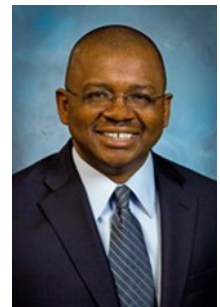
Mayor Stephen Stockton
(2009—2013)



Ward 1—Jamie Mathy
(2013)



Ward 2—David Sage
(2011—2015)



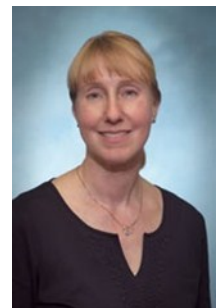
Ward 3—Mboka Mwilambwe
(2011—2013)



Ward 4—Judy Stearns
(2011—2015)



Ward 5—Jennifer McDade
(2009—2013)



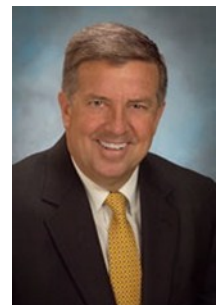
Ward 6—Karen Schmidt
(2011—2015)



Ward 7—Steven Purcell
(2009—2013)



Ward 8—Rob Fazzini
(2011—2015)

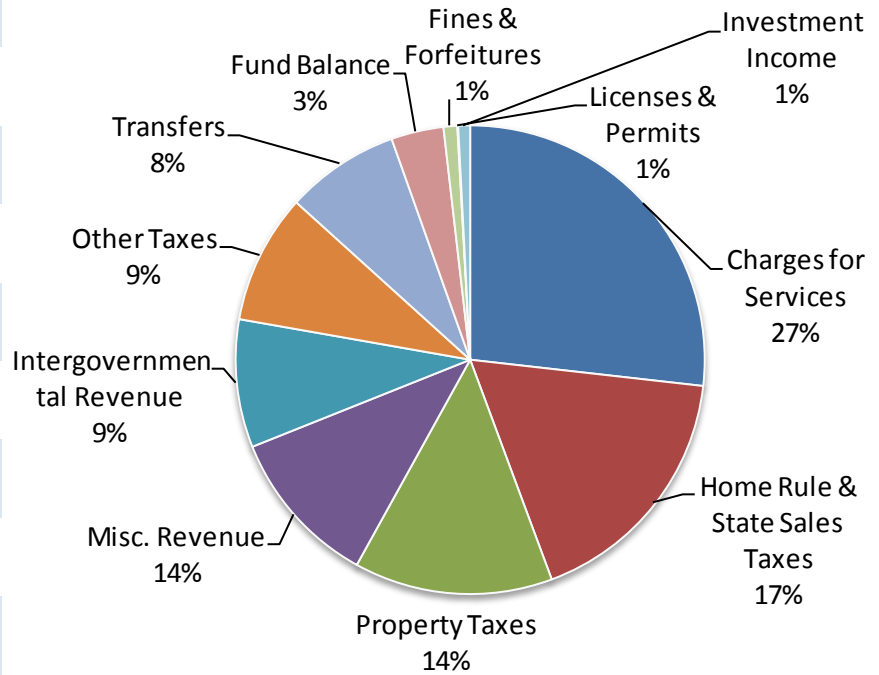


Ward 9—Jim Fruin
(2009—2013)

Where the Money Comes From

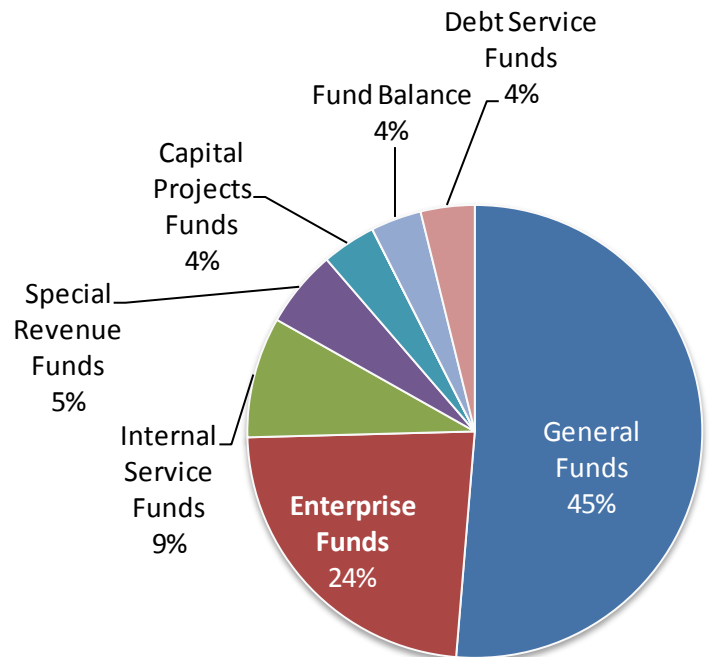
Revenues Combined by Source

Charges for Services	\$45,393,449
Home Rule & State Sales Taxes	\$29,743,826
Property Taxes	\$23,185,833
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$18,494,299
Intergovernmental Revenue	\$14,959,260
Other Taxes	\$15,146,998
Transfers	\$13,305,913
Fund Balance	\$6,125,069
Fines & Forfeitures	\$1,603,271
Investment Income	\$95,556
Licenses & Permits	\$1,384,305
Total	\$169,437,779

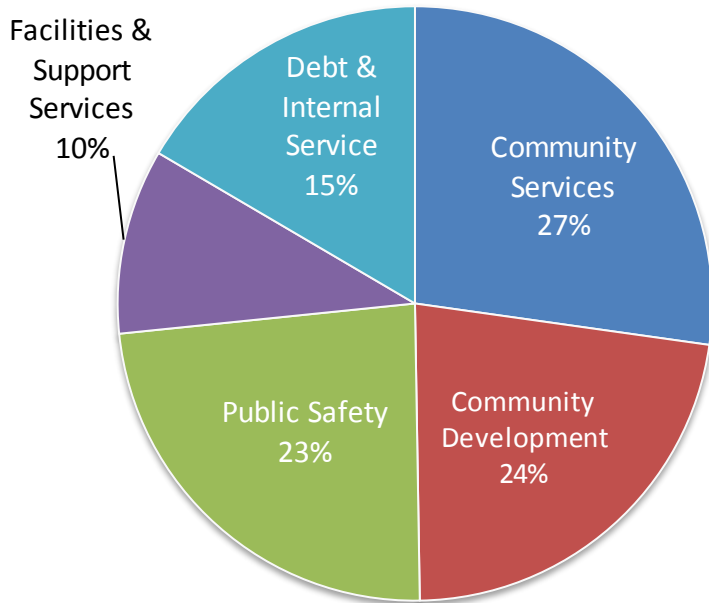


Revenues by Fund Type

General Funds	\$86,950,792
Enterprise Funds	\$39,426,351
Internal Service Funds	\$14,546,729
Special Revenue Funds	\$9,330,558
Capital Projects Funds	\$6,529,087
Fiduciary Funds	\$1,000
Fund Balance	\$6,125,069
Debt Service Funds	\$6,528,193
Total	\$169,437,779



Where the Money Goes



Expenditures by Service Area

\$18,867,908	Fire
\$21,180,612	Police
\$40,048,519	Public Safety
\$572,163	Public Transportation
\$1,115,101	Other ¹
\$919,721	Parking
\$5,400,842	Library
\$14,675,751	Parks & Recreation & BCPA
\$23,450,547	Public Works
\$46,134,125	Community Services
\$1,919,915	US Cellular Coliseum
\$2,293,164	Economic Development
\$3,491,598	Building Safety
\$8,342,000	Capital Projects
\$1,708,087	Capital Lease
\$20,390,282	Water

\$38,145,046 Community Development

\$320,305	City Clerk
\$942,701	Legal
\$1,164,209	Administration
\$1,471,695	Finance
\$1,277,466	Human Resources
\$1,342,500	Other ²
\$2,792,886	Information Services
\$2,728,361	Risk Management
\$5,023,966	Facilities & Fleet

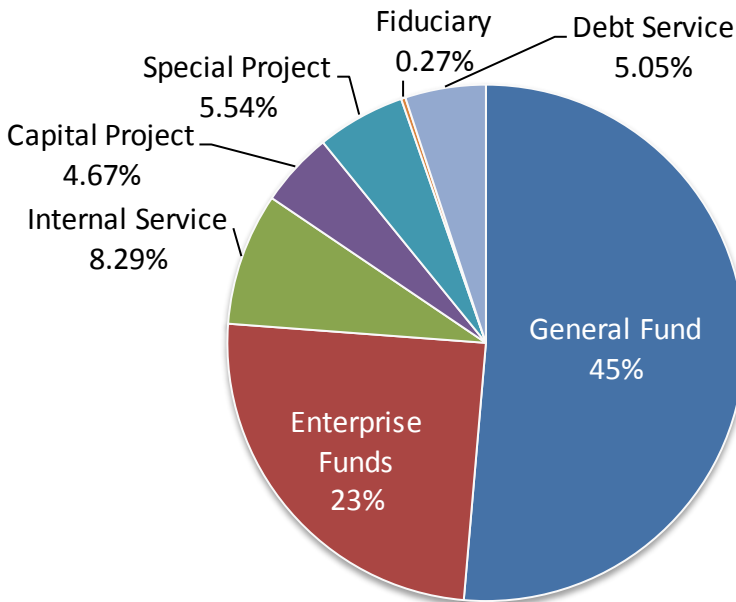
\$17,064,088 Facilities & Support Services

\$8,548,235	Debt Service
\$8,180,932	Transfers
\$9,634,466	Employee Health Care
\$1,682,368	Retiree Health Care

\$169,437,779 Total

¹ - Sister City & Board of Elections & Unemployment & JM Scott Health Resources

² - Non-Departmental & Contingency & Health Savings Flex Cash



Expenditures of All Funds Combined by Category

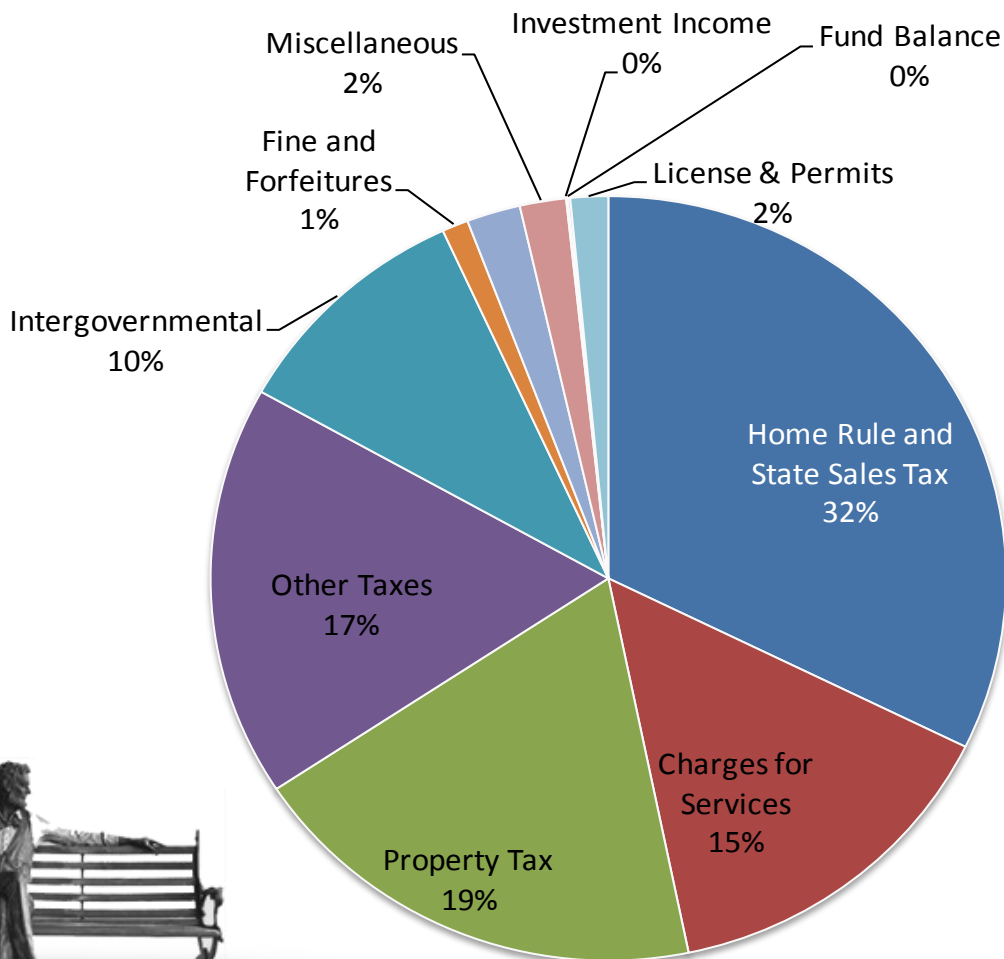
\$87,033,497	General Fund
\$42,050,787	Enterprise Funds
\$14,045,195	Internal Service
\$7,920,087	Capital Project
\$9,378,791	Special Project
\$461,187	Fiduciary
\$8,548,235	Debt Service

\$169,437,779 Total

The City's General Fund

The General Fund is the primary operating fund of the City. It accounts for the resources used to pay for the services traditionally associated with local government. Included are police and fire protection, parks and recreation, planning and economic development, general administration of the City and any other activity for which a special fund has not been created. The water, sewer, storm water, golf operations, US Cellular Coliseum, and Abraham Lincoln parking funds are self-supporting, so the revenue from and expenses incurred by these funds are excluded from the General Fund. Revenues that exceed the cost of providing General Fund services are added to the General Fund Unreserved Fund Balance. This excess revenue can be used to finance future capital improvements and/or provide a reserve for future emergencies.

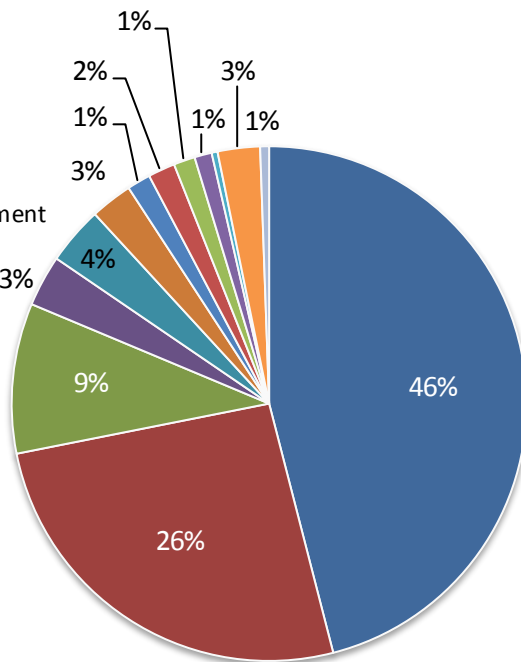
General Fund Revenues by Source	
Home Rule and State Sales Tax	\$ 28,078,782
Charges for Services	\$ 12,622,165
Property Tax	\$ 16,492,213
Other Taxes	\$ 15,146,998
Intergovernmental	\$ 8,751,090
Fine and Forfeitures	\$ 928,048
General Fund Transfer	\$ 1,900,384
Miscellaneous	\$ 1,638,357
Investment Income	\$ 61,450
Fund Balance	\$ 82,705
License & Permits	\$ 1,331,305
Total	\$87,033,497



General Fund Expenses by Department and Category

Police	\$17,827,959
Police Pension	\$3,186,581
Fire	\$15,954,435
Fire Pension	\$2,913,472
Public Safety	\$39,882,447
Parks, Recreation & Cultural Arts	\$7,903,741
BCPA	\$3,259,087
Public Works	\$10,709,514
Public Transportation	\$572,163
Community Services	\$22,444,505
Transfers	\$8,180,932
Information Services	\$2,792,886
Planning & Code Enforcement	\$3,154,481
Economic Development	\$2,293,164
Human Resources	\$1,277,466
Finance	\$1,471,695
Administration	\$1,164,209
Legal	\$942,701
City Clerk	\$320,305
Non-Departmental	\$1,452,500
Government Center	\$803,758
Contingency	\$50,000
Other	\$2,306,258
Parking Maintenance & Operation	\$482,710
SOAR	\$292,538
Sister Cities	\$27,201
Total	\$87,033,497

- Public Safety
- Community Services
- Transfers
- Information Services
- Planning & Code Enforcement
- Economic Development
- Human Resources
- Finance
- Administration
- Legal
- City Clerk
- Other
- Parking



Library



Fire



Parks



Police



Property Taxes

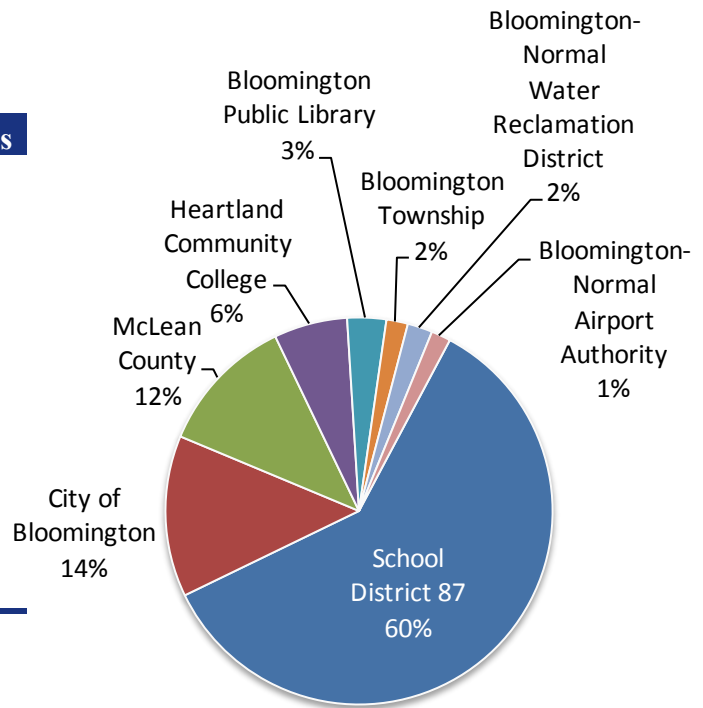
The amount you pay in property taxes is based on the fair cash value of your home as identified by the Bloomington Township Assessor. The Property Tax Code states that each property shall be assessed at 33.33% of fair cash value. This means that property owners pay taxes on one-third of their respective property. The taxable value is then calculated by the tax rates established by the various taxing bodies within corporate limits. The City of Bloomington's 2012 tax rate payable in 2013 is 1.0599. Therefore, City taxes collected in FY 2014 on a \$169,413 home, which is the City average, is \$596.22 based on the adopted tax rate of \$1.0599 per \$100 valuation. The total amount of property taxes paid based on a \$169,413 home is \$4,440.46. Seen below as distributed to each taxing district.



Taxing Body	Tax Rate	Amount Collected
School District 87	4.7232	\$2,666.98
City of Bloomington	1.0599	\$596.22
McLean County	0.9117	\$519.48
Heartland Community College	0.4826	\$265.39
Bloomington Public Library	0.2562	\$147.94
Bloomington Township	0.1415	\$79.87
Bloomington-Normal Water Reclamation District	0.1640	\$92.61
Bloomington-Normal Airport Authority	0.1275	\$71.97
Total	7.8664	\$4,440.46

2012 Payable 2013 City of Bloomington Fund Levy Rates

Fund Name	Levy Rate	Levy Amount
General Corporate	0.16468	\$2,901,180
Bonds and Interest	0.12375	\$2,180,143
Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund	0.14207	\$2,502,907
Fire Protection	0.06716	\$1,183,228
Fire Pension	0.16509	\$2,908,472
Police Protection	0.07688	\$1,354,421
Police Pension	0.18060	\$3,181,581
Public Parks	0.05684	\$1,001,415
Social Security	0.08282	\$1,459,009
Total:	1.05990	\$18,672,356



For Every Property Tax Dollar



Top Ten Property Tax Payers in Bloomington 2011

Tax Payer	Taxable Assessed Value	Rank	Percentage of Total City Taxable Assessed Value
State Farm Insurance Company	\$172,094,180	1	9.56%
Eastland Mall	\$17,666,667	2	0.98%
Country Financial	\$13,503,698	3	0.75%
Illinois Agricultural Association	\$9,566,667	4	0.53%
Brickyard Complex	\$8,685,070	5	0.48%
Wingover Apartments	\$6,570,667	6	0.37%
Westminster Village	\$6,075,669	7	0.34%
US REIF Parkway Fee LLC	\$5,745,450	8	0.32%
Wal-Mart	\$5,570,522	9	0.31%
Turnberry Village	\$4,467,419	10	0.25%
Totals	\$249,946,009		13.89%

* Latest figures taken from 2012 audit

Capital Improvement Plan

The Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) details the City’s investment in large construction, acquisition, and maintenance projects as well as large capital expenditures for replacement equipment. The expenditures in the CIP are not accounted for in the General Fund expenses and are kept separate from routine operational costs. This separate fund structure enhances an understanding of the City’s capital activities, and helps to avoid confusion in financial resource trend information when capital and operating activities are mixed.

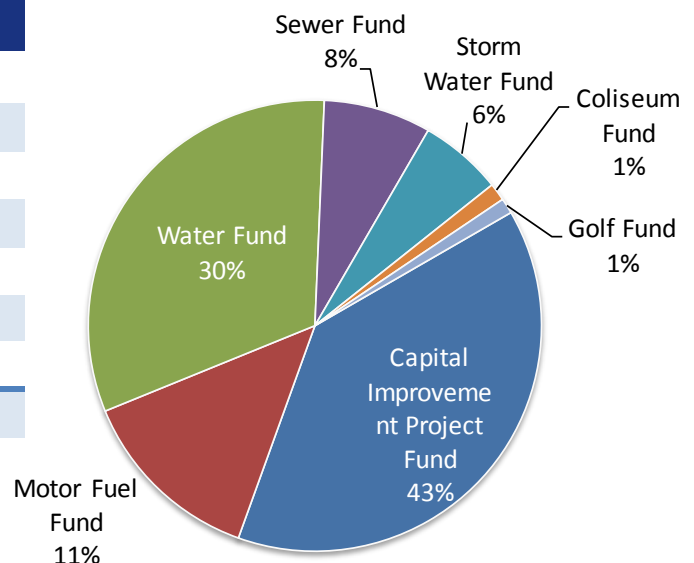
The City has five capital project funds which represent the City’s Capital Improvement Plan in the 2013 fiscal year budget. The following provides a brief description of each fund:

- **Capital Improvement Project Fund**—This fund accounts for revenue and expenditures related to infrastructure projects financed as part of the City’s capital improvement plan.
- **Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) Fund** - This fund accounts for the revenue and expenditures related to motor fuel tax collected by the State of Illinois and distributed to the City of Bloomington based on population.
- **Water Fund** - This fund accounts for revenue and expenses related to infrastructure projects financed as part of the City’s water improvement plan.
- **Sewer Fund** - This fund accounts for revenue and expenses related to infrastructure projects financed as part of the City’s sewer improvement plan.
- **Storm Water Fund** - This fund accounts for revenue and expenses related to infrastructure projects financed as part of the City’s storm water improvement plan.
- **Coliseum Fund** - This fund accounts for revenue and expenses related to infrastructure projects financed as part of the City’s Coliseum Fund.
- **Golf Fund**— This fund accounts for revenue and expenditures related to infrastructure projects as part of the City’s Golf Fund .

Capital Improvement Plan	
\$6,202,000	Capital Improvement Project Fund ¹
\$2,130,000	Motor Fuel Fund ²
\$5,082,000	Water Fund ²
\$1,229,000	Sewer Fund ²
\$949,000	Storm Water Fund ²
\$202,000	Coliseum Fund ²
\$175,000	Golf Fund ²
\$15,969,000	Total

¹- Does not include 2011 - 2012 Capital Lease and TIF Fund

²- Located in Enterprise Funds



Capital Improvement Plan: Road Resurfacing

Among sixteen capital projects scheduled in the City's Fiscal Year 2014 Capital Improvement Plan, and illustrated in the City's FY 2014 Budget Document, is the City's annual Road Resurfacing Program, which is funded through an inter-fund transfer from the City's General Fund. The plan includes the resurfacing 17.6 lane miles of roads within the City of Bloomington. In FY 2014, the City plans to allocate \$200,000 for the maintenance of alleys within the City.

Pavement Surface Evaluation and Rating (PASER)

In 2006, the City's Engineering Department initiated the project to evaluate and assign every road and intersection within the City a rating between 1 to 10 based upon the condition of the pavement. This program was integrated into the City's GIS System and served as a guide to coordinate and plan future street resurface projects based on a set system rather through staff judgment.

City staff has informed the City Council that in according to the 2011 street PASER rating assessment it would take \$18 million a year to maintain the City at a 6 (Good) out of 10 rating. Although the City has yet to reach this level, the City has gradually increased road resurfacing dollars over the past five year period as demonstrated below:

- FY 2010 \$1.5 million
- FY 2011 \$2.0 million
- FY 2012 \$3.0 million
- FY 2013 \$3.5 million
- FY 2014 \$4.0 million

In order to comply with the American with Disabilities Act the City is required to bring sidewalk ramps into compliance when resurfacing a street. In FY 2014, the City has allocated an additional \$375,000 to bring these ramps into compliance.



A section of Clinton Avenue before the road was resurfaced through the Road Resurface program.



The same section of Clinton Avenue after the road was resurfaced through the Road Resurface program.

Capital Improvement Plan: Traffic Signal



Example of a Traffic Signal

Among seven capital projects budgeted within the City's Fiscal Year 2014 Motor Fuel Tax Budget is the installation of three traffic signals. The City currently maintains 142 Traffic Signals within the City of Bloomington. Traffic Signals are important because these traffic control devices regulate traffic safely and assist in the movement of traffic in a smooth and efficient manner at intersections.

Staff has determined Traffic Signals are warranted at three intersections within the City of Bloomington. The total budget includes the design and installation of a Traffic Signal at each warranted intersection. The three intersections selected for the FY 2014 include:

GE Road @ Keaton Place/Auto Row Drive: The existing intersection has an arterial road (GE Road) with over 18,000 vehicles per day while the cross road (Keaton Place) has over 3,000 vehicles per day. The intersection current is stopped controlled for Keaton Place and open flow for GE Road. During peak usage there is significant delay to vehicles which turn onto GE Road. Traffic signals are warranted at this location and will reduce delay and driver frustration especially at peak times of day.

Hershey Road @ Arrowhead Drive: The existing intersection is an arterial with over 12,000 vehicles per day and is an all-way stop. This location is near Stevenson Elementary School and will provide pedestrian signals to increase safety for children crossing the street.. Traffic signals are warranted at this location and will reduce delay especially at peak times of day and enhance the safety of this intersection.

Hershey Road @ Clearwater Avenue: The existing intersection is an arterial with over 12,000 vehicles per day and is an all-way stop. This location is near Stevenson Elementary School and will provide pedestrian signals to increase safety for children crossing the street.. Traffic signals are warranted at this location and will reduce delay especially at peak times of day and enhance the safety of this intersection.



Example of traffic signals within a Bloomington intersection

Capital Improvement Plan: Sidewalk Maintenance



Picture before installation of sidewalk on Clayton Street.

Among sixteen capital projects scheduled in the City's Fiscal Year 2014 Capital Improvement Plan, and illustrated in the City's FY 2014 Budget Document, is the City's annual Sidewalk Repair Program, which is funded through an inter-fund transfer from the City's General Fund. City sidewalk and sidewalk ramp replacement is addressed in the following three programs:

Sidewalk Repair Program (\$300,000): An annual program that provides for repair of public sidewalks not addressed by the 50/50 program to correct hazardous conditions. Most public sidewalks in residential areas are 4 or 5 feet in width and 4 inches thick except at driveways where they are typically 6 inches thick. The cost to replace 4 inch thick sidewalk is about \$7.25 per square foot.

Sidewalk Ramp Replacement Program (\$375,000):

An annual program that provides for replacement of public sidewalk ramps in order to comply with Federal ADA - American with Disabilities Act requirements. Most upgraded locations follow the City's annual resurfacing contract. Other locations are determined by citizen request and then by public benefit. A typical ramp replacement costs about \$1,000. A typical intersection has 8 ramps which means about 47 intersections are fixed per year. About half of the public sidewalks in Bloomington have been inventoried and rated. When the sidewalk inventory is complete we will know how many ramps need to be built or replaced citywide.

Sidewalk Replacement 50-50 Program (\$100,000):

An annual program that provides for replacement of public sidewalk in conjunction with participation of the property owner. This program is voluntary based on first come first served until available money runs out. Based on the same criteria used in the Side walk Repair Program approximately 3000 lineal feet of sidewalk can be replaced based on a \$100,000 budget. There is existing backlog for the program.

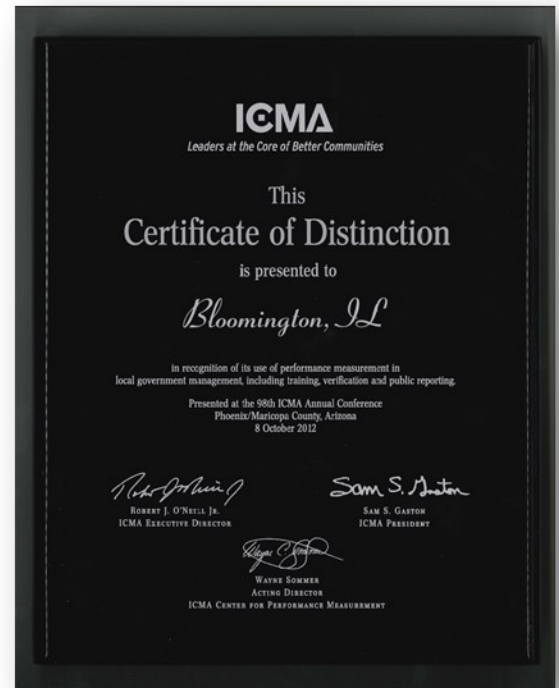


After installation of sidewalk on Clayton Street

Performance Measurement Program

The City utilizes performance data to identify efficiencies and potential inefficiencies for the purpose of improving services, responsible budgeting and enhancing transparency in local government. On a monthly basis, each department/division that comprise City government report key performance indicators to City leaders for the purpose of monitoring performance levels and tracking progress on established goals. In FY 2013, the City was recognized by the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) Center for Performance Measurement™ (CPM) for superior performance management efforts and awarded a Certificate of Distinction. Bloomington joined an elite group of only 15 other jurisdictions nationwide in achieving this accomplishment.

The ICMA CPM program assesses a local government's performance management program and encourages analysis of results by comparing to peers and gauging performance over time. Performance management aids in cost reduction, program prioritization, and quality improvement. It also encourages accountability and transparency.



Criteria for the Certificate of Distinction include:

- Reporting of performance data to the public through budgets, newsletters, and/or information provided to elected officials
- Data verification efforts to ensure reliability
- Staff training
- Use of performance data in strategic planning and operational decision-making
- Sharing of performance measurement knowledge with other local governments through presentations, site visits, and other networking.

In FY 2014, the City will be participating in the ICMA CPM Comprehensive Performance Management Program, a nationwide performance analysis program which analyzes 18 unique service areas provided by the City. The program then compares the City's performance levels and costs for service to other participating jurisdictions. The outcome allows City leaders to make evidence-based decisions, set appropriate budget targets, and implement proven cost and time saving practices.

Citizens may view the City's monthly performance data by downloading the City Manager's Monthly Report located on the City's website: www.cityblm.org.

Budget Recognition

Annually, the City produces a Budget Document detailing the City's expected revenues and planned expenditures. The City's Budget Document is modeled after the best practices in governmental budget presentation as recognized by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). The City's FY 2013 Budget Document was awarded GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation. The award represents a significant achievement by the City. It reflects the commitment of the governing body and staff to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting. In order to receive the budget award, the City had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation. These guidelines are designed to assess how well the City's budget serves as:

- a policy document
- a financial plan
- an operations guide
- a communications device

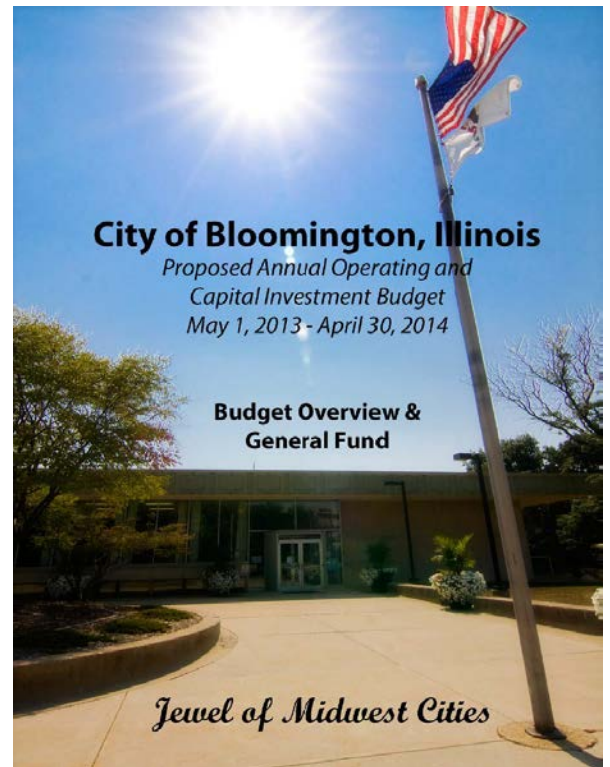
The City's FY 2014 Budget Document will again be considered for the award and would mark the 3rd consecutive year in a row the City has received this honor. The City's FY 2014 Budget Document includes a 21 page strategic plan which outlines the priorities of the City and gives citizens an idea of what long-term goals and plans are; and a 132 page Capital Improvement Plan that authorizes and provides the basis for control of expenditures in the acquisition of significant City assets and construction of all capital facilities. These two plans, along with the City's Comprehensive Plan, guide both policy and budgetary decisions each budget cycle.

City Manager Hales stated, "The City will continue to utilize best practices in finance management and budget preparation. The City's robust and comprehensive budget process seeks to foster the critical input from City leaders and responsibly allocate citizen tax dollars for the betterment of the community. The City's Annual Budget Document serves as a one stop information source to anyone interested in learning about where our community is now and where we plan to go in the future."



QR CODE 

Use your QR scanner on your smart phone to be taken to the City's FY 2014 Budget Document



Last Year On the Cover: Miller Park Zoo Master Plan

The Miller Park Zoo in Bloomington has been open to the public since 1891. The Zoo is home to more than 150 species of animals and features several large exhibits such as the Zoo Lab, Children's Zoo, Animals of Asia, Wallaby Walkabout and the Katthoefer Animal Building. Miller Park Zoo also provides educational programs for local students interested in learning more about zoology. Its Junior Zookeeper program has been in operation since 1972.

The FY 2013 Budget in Brief highlighted the Miller Park Zoo's plans for the development of a Master Plan which would provide direction for future facility developments and exhibit enhancements. There have been great strides made in this effort and Miller Park Zoo advocates are beginning to see the fruits of their labor. On September 12, 2011 City Council approved a \$126,230 contract with WDM Architects to prepare a master plan for Miller Park Zoo. The Miller Park Zoological Society (MPZS) agreed to fund \$116,230 for the master plan, with the remaining \$10,000 funded within the Miller Park Zoo's operating budget. The development of the Master Plan took approximately 12 months and was formally adopted by the City Council on October 8, 2012.

A Master Plan was needed for the Miller Park Zoo to demonstrate a roadmap for what the facility will look like over the next twenty years. The Master Plan also includes a business plan element to help project attendance, admission rates and analyze the competitive market throughout the region. The purpose of the Master Plan is to provide a tool for future facility development that provides a dynamic vision and realistic plan for improvement. The Zoo Master Plan seeks to develop a viable strategy for facility and program development that encompasses the most current zoo trends and best practices that will enhance the guest's experience and enhance the Zoo's conservation and education programming.

A very important aspect in the success of Miller Park Zoo is its accreditation status with the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). Miller Park Zoo has been AZA-accredited since 1978 and goes through a thorough review process every five years. Being accredited is the only way the Zoo can house many of its featured animals and assures that the management practices meet the highest standards within the industry. Without the accreditation Miller Park Zoo would most likely not be able to have such a diverse and interesting animal collection. In FY 2012, the City Council approved funding for a Zoo Curator position in order to satisfy one of the findings in the AZA Accreditation report. Another concern of the AZA was the lack of a Master Plan. Completion of the Miller Park Zoo Master Plan will greatly improve the Zoo's ability to again receive accreditation in the AZA's next five year review process.

Most recently, COUNTRY Financial, GROWMARK and the Illinois Farm Bureau pledged \$100,000 toward the Zoo's Master Plan. John Kennedy, Director of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts for the City of Bloomington stated, "Their generous contribution will help the Zoo kick-start the implementation of its Master Plan and ensure the Zoo remains a valuable community amenity and regional attraction for many years to come."



Frequently Asked Questions

What do my property taxes Pay For? Property Taxes pay for Police, Fire, Parks & Recreation, Public Works, Library, and Planning.

Who is responsible for assessing my property's value? Your property value is assessed by the County. For more information on your property assessment visit: <http://www.wevaluebloomington.org/>

Why do my property taxes increase when the market value of my house has decreased? Property taxes are assessed by the County and are based on your property's assessed value, not your property's real market value at any given time.

Why has my property assessment changed?

Illinois law requires the assessor to update values at least once every four years. The tax year 2008 falls in the four-year cycle. When your property was reviewed, the assessor may have found updates not previously on the record that added to value. Your property appraisal was completed using the most recent sales transaction in your area. If the old value was out of line with transactions over the past three years, your value was changed to reflect changes in market condition since your property was last valued.

What are the legal requirements for my assessment?

The Property Tax Code states that each property shall be assessed at 33 1/3% of "Fair Cash Value".

What method (s) are used by the assessor to value my property?

The process and methods used by the assessor are very similar to those used by private appraisers. Property transactions over the past three years are studied in the market area where your property is located. These transactions are then compared to your property to help the appraiser estimate your property value.

For more information please visit:

<http://www.wevaluebloomington.org/>

Contact Information

City of Bloomington
109 East Olive Street
Bloomington, IL 61701
www.cityblm.org

City Hall General Information 309-434-2509

City Management 309-434-2210

City Clerk 309-434-2240

Finance 309-434-2233

Human Resources 309-434-2215

Legal 309-434-2213

Library 309-828-6091

Fire (non-emergency) 309-434-2500

Police (non-emergency) 309-434-270

PR&CA 309-434-2260

Public Works
Engineering 309-434-2225
Streets & Solid Waste 309-434-2220

Water Department
Water Billing 309-434-2495
Water Payment 309-434-2338
Inquiries

Glossary

Adopted Budget: The budget as finally adopted by the City Council and representing the financial plan of the City for the fiscal year identified, which forms a basis for appropriations. The adopted budget document includes Budget Committee and City Council revisions; however, certain changes to the adopted budget are allowed during the fiscal year via resolution or ordinance. The adopted budget becomes effective May 1st and is submitted to the State for filing within 30 days after adoption of each year.

Approved budget: The budget that has been approved by the City Council. The data from the approved budget is published in the Budget Message before the budget hearing.

Assessed Valuation (AV): The value set on taxable property determined by the Bloomington Township Assessor as a basis for levying property taxes.

Capital Improvement Program (CIP): Annual appropriations from specific funding sources are shown in the City's budget for certain capital purposes such as street improvements, building construction, and some kinds of facility maintenance. These appropriations are supported by a multi-year allocation plan detailing all projects, fund sources, and expenditure amounts including many multi-year projects that require funding beyond the one-year period of the annual budget.

Charges for Service: Revenues received as compensation for a service provided or cost recovery for mandated compliance, such as fire inspection fees.

Fees: General term used for any charge levied by local government in connection with providing a service, permitting an activity, or imposing a fine or penalty. Major types of fees include building permits, business and non-business taxes, fines, and user charges.

Fiscal Year: A 12-month period to which the annual operating budget applies. The fiscal year is May 1 through April 30 for The City of Bloomington.

Full Time Equivalent (FTE): A calculation used to convert part-time hours to equivalent full-time positions. Full time employee salaries are based on 2,080 hours per year. The full-time equivalent of a part-time employee is calculated by dividing the number of hours budgeted by 2,080. For example, a .5 FTE budgeted position will work 1,040 hours. Staffing levels are measured in FTE's to give a consistent comparison from year to year. In most cases, 1.00 FTE is one full time position filled for the entire year; however, in some instances an FTE may consist of several part time positions.

Fund: A fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. Records cash and other financial resources together with all related liabilities and residual equities or balances and changes therein. These are segregated for the purpose of carrying on specific activities or attaining certain objectives in accordance with special regulations, restrictions, or limitations.

Levy: Gross amount of property taxes imposed on taxable property. The net amount received by a government will be less than the gross levy as a result of delinquent or uncollectible payments or early payment discounts. Budgets are developed on the basis of the projected amount of property taxes to be received.

Proposed Budget: Financial and operating plan proposed and submitted by City Staff for Council consideration and adoption.

Resources: Total of revenues, interfund transfers in, and beginning fund balance.

Revenue: Monies received during the year to finance City services. Such as property taxes, franchise fees, license and fees, charges for services, revenues from other governmental agencies, fines and forfeitures, and transfers.

Working Capital: The amount carried over from year to year. It is based on the difference between estimated revenues to projected expenditures.

Volunteer Opportunities

Have you ever thought about using your unique skills and talents to serve your community and make Bloomington a better place? Perhaps you're interested in personal and professional growth and want additional networking opportunities. Or maybe you just love Bloomington and want to engage your community to enhance your civic pride. Volunteering may be just what you are looking for.

Bloomington is seeking volunteers who can make a commitment to bettering our community by serving on our standing boards and commissions. These groups serve as advisory bodies and make recommendations to the City Council. Please consider joining the group of dedicated volunteers who help our City run smoothly.

How to Apply

Appointments are made as vacancies occur. Call 309-434-2210 for a list of current openings, the application form, or for answers to questions you may have about the appointment. Appointments are at the discretion of the Mayor, with the approval of the City Council, and are made at a Council meeting.

Applications are also available online at our website and can be downloaded electronically and submitted by hand, fax, e-mail, or postal mail. Once you submit your application, you will be contacted by a member of City Staff, and he or she may want to schedule an interview.

Boards and Commissions

Beautification Committee: Recommends to the City Council all programs of any description or variety calculated to enhance the appearance of the City of Bloomington, including but not limited to recommendations for priorities of City action, and changes in both the Bloomington city or other ordinances adopted by the City Council". 12 - member committee which meets the fourth Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Bloomington Library Community Room.

Building Construction Board: Reviews appeals of the building code, demolition orders, repair orders, and updates to City building codes. 7-member committee which meets the second Tuesday of each month at 3:00 pm at the Bloomington City Hall.

Cultural District Committee: Recommends programs calculated to enhance the viability of the Cultural District, working in conjunction with appropriate City personnel to elicit public participation and support. 14-member committee which meets the second Thursday of each month at 7:30 am at the BCPA.

Fire and Police Commission: Appoints all ranks of the Fire and Police Departments of the City. 5 - member board which meets the first of the month of each month at 4:00 pm in the Police Conference Room.

Historic Preservation Commission: Issues certificates of appropriateness. Certificates are required for work being conducted on the exterior of homes in the historic district. 7 - member commission which meets the third Thursday of each month at 5:00 pm at the Bloomington Council Chambers.

Library Board: Serves as the governing body for the Library functions and budget. 9 - member board which meets the third Tuesday of each month at 4:30 pm in the Library Conference Room.

Liquor Commission: Serves as an advisory commission to the Mayor and City Council. 6 - member commission which meets the second Tuesday of each month at 4:00 pm in the City Hall Conference Room.

Planning Commission: Prepares and recommends to the City Council changes or alterations in the City's Comprehensive Plan. 10 - member commission which meets the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 4:00 pm in the City Hall Council Chambers.

For More Information: Contact Us

Website: www.cityblm.org

Phone: 309-434-2210

