



# 2018 ANNUAL REPORT



*Taylor*  
*Texas*

CITY OF TAYLOR TX

## Contents

4	TAYLOR CITY COUNCIL
6	STRATEGIC VISIONING
8	FINANCE
10	DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
12	FIRE DEPARTMENT
14	POLICE DEPARTMENT
16	PARKS & RECREATION
18	INTERNAL SERVICES/HUMAN RESOURCES
20	PUBLIC WORKS
22	LIBRARY/MAIN STREET

# 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

# Introduction

Taylor is a quintessential Texas town. We've got stunning sunsets, fields of cotton, the best barbecue in the world, and plenty of horseback-riding cowboys—but we're also so much more than that. Since 2009, more than 20 companies have expanded or relocated to Taylor because of our small-business-friendly attitude.

That's just how we operate here in Taylor. We have the diverse culture, the natural beauty and the opportunity every city seeks. When you visit us, you're not just visiting another Texas town—you're visiting a city that is something truly special. You're visiting Taylor Made Texas.

The 2018 Annual Report will give you a sense of what Taylor is all about. It includes highlights from 2018 from our various departments, as well as information about our elected officials, our mission and values, and all of the things that make Taylor, Texas a fantastic place to live, work, and play.

Enjoy!

# Taylor City Council

Taylor is a Home Rule city, which means the Council can enact legislation, adopt budgets and determine policies, subject only to limitations imposed by the Texas State Constitution and the City Charter. The City Council is also guided by an Ethics Policy and a Council Relations Policy to ensure a commitment to preserving the integrity of local government.

## OUR MISSION

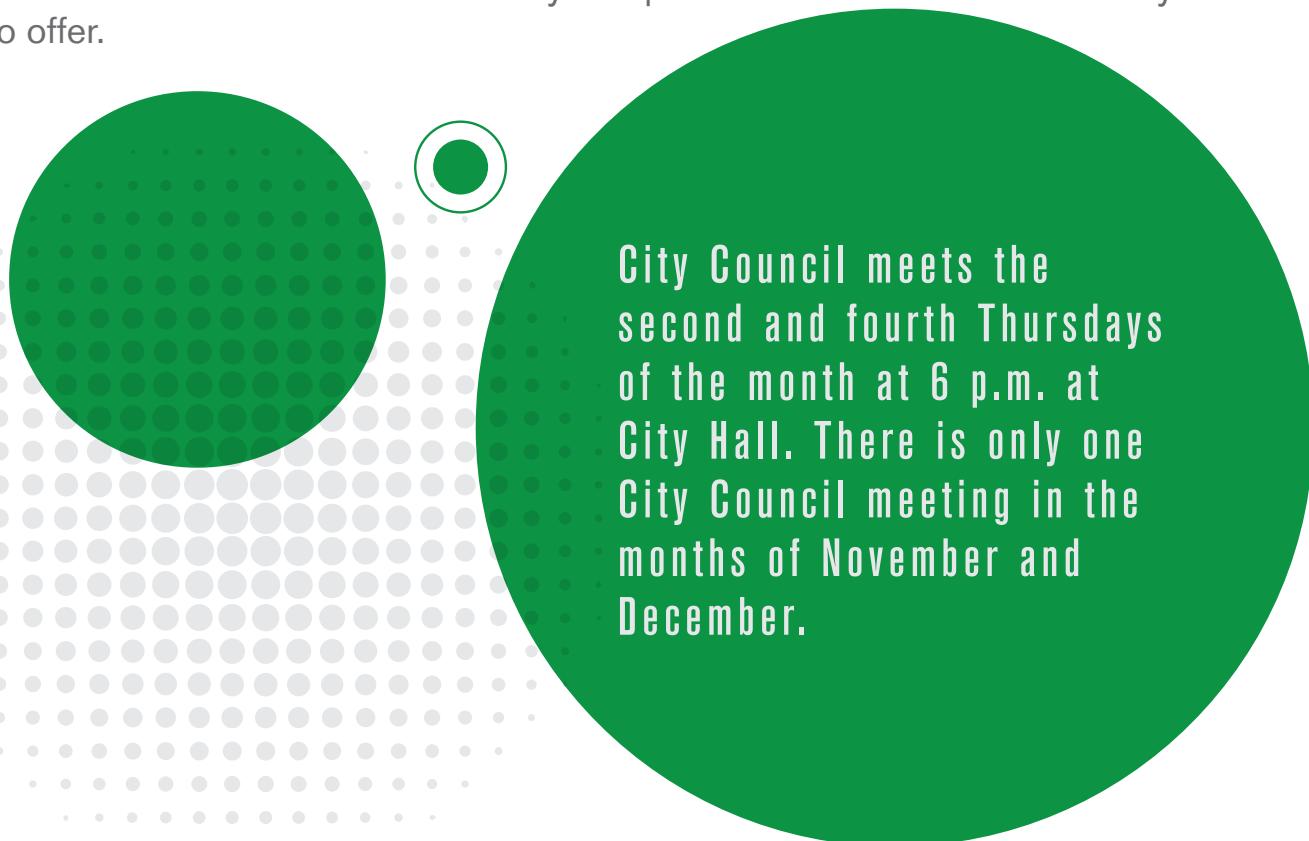
### Serve Residents

To be a productive, fiscally responsible organization that takes proactive steps to ensure economic growth and the safety, well-being, and success of Taylor residents and the growth of business.

## OUR VISION

### A Vibrant Community

Taylor is a vibrant and diverse community that provides residents the best lifestyle Texas has to offer.



City Council meets the second and fourth Thursdays of the month at 6 p.m. at City Hall. There is only one City Council meeting in the months of November and December.



**Mayor Brandt Rydell**  
District 3



**Mayor Pro Tem Christine Lopez**  
District 1



**Mitchell Drummond**  
District 2



**Robert Garcia**  
District 4



**Dwayne Ariola**  
At Large



**Isaac Turner**  
City Manager  
(retired 1/25/19)



**Jeffery Jenkins**  
Assistant City Manager  
(serving as Interim City  
Manager in 2019)

# Strategic Visioning Plan

The wise man bridges the gap by laying out the path by means of which he can get from where he is to where he wants to go.

- *J.P Morgan*

The Taylor City Council and staff follow a Strategic Visioning Plan that is driven by three pillars: **Quality of Life, Economic Vitality, and Mobility & Infrastructure.**

These pillars form the foundation of all of our efforts for the Citizens of Taylor, and we strive to keep them in mind when we create policies, train our staff, and enforce the law.



# FOCUS AREAS

## NEIGHBORHOODS/DIVERSITY & POPULATION SIZE

- Historical preservation
- Housing diversity in option/styles, size
- Retaining historic/history perspective
- Varied and unique identities
- Forging a sense of community
- Connectivity and overall sense of identity to Taylor
- Increase population; growth rate
- Attracting/retaining diverse population and incomes
- Addressing dynamics of household income
- Encourage creative class
- Residential development incentives; trade-offs to other neighborhoods



## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

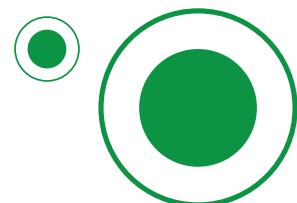
- Youth Council
- Boards and committees: participation; diversity; support of goals
- Foster dialog and communication
- Outreach: push out city information
- Civic participation in community events
- Participation on Boards and Commissions
- Proud to be part of Taylor
- Well maintained, attractive neighborhoods (Code enforcement/neighborhood financial health)

## PUBLIC SAFETY

- Safe feeling in Taylor
- Maintain policy/community relations
- Traffic enforcement and traffic calming
- "Perception of Safety"
- Pedestrian safety
- Adequate staffing
- Community policing; value of hiring seasoned officers v. rookies; college education standards
- Revisit goals; impact of civil service system

## CUSTOMER SERVICE

- Put the customer first
- Support a culture that consistently delivers exceptional service
- Focus on business friendly practices
- Responsiveness/follow-up
- Transparency
- Accountability
- Clear, concise, complete
- Consistent



## INFRASTRUCTURE/TRANSPORTATION/FACILITIES

- Rebuild/invest
- Planned (approach - Strategic Facilities Plan - current and growth; past and future)
- Multimodal; Including trails, rails, sidewalks, and bike lanes
- Master planning and implementation
- R.O.W. issues (Transportation/Thoroughfare Plan)
- Commuter rail/ride-sharing options, depot
- Regional access
- Accessibility to metro area/regional
- Intergovernmental: Partnerships; TxDOT, County, CAMPO, CAPCOG, etc.
- Cemetery roads
- Prepare for growth
- Address current needs
- Current/modernize for accessibility

## ART

- Entertainment District (Arts/Culture/Entertainment/Dining District)
- Grow/attract arts in Taylor
- Receptiveness/brace
- Market Taylor to people interested in the arts
- Destination for arts
- Preserve arts legacy: private partners, museums, etc.
- Branding of Taylor

## ECONOMIC VITALITY/FINANCIAL HEALTH

- Increase industrial parks and business parks
- New businesses, industries, and development investments
- Retail/restaurant spaces - receptive image
- Downtown as barometer of health
- Entertainment district
- Partnerships with economic development stakeholders; including TISD, TEDC, and Chamber
- Rate of growth: Need sufficient development to do what is being asked
- Bond ratings
- Reserves
- Spend within our means
- Sustainability

## PARKS, TRAILS & OPEN SPACES

- Accessibility - inclusiveness and connectivity
- Completion of Master Plan Projects
- Reinvestment and upgrades to existing parks
- Options for open space to deal with future need; set asides for municipal needs
- Clean and family friendly

# Finance Department

Management responsibility for all of the City's financial activity, including debt management, is centralized in the Finance Department. Major areas of responsibility including accounting, reporting, payroll, utility billing and collection, purchasing, budget operations, and treasury management.

The Director of Finance advises the City Manager, Mayor and City Council Members on budget, financial, and accounting matters. Major areas of responsibility include financial administration and planning, accounting, payroll, utility billing and collection, risk management, and budget operations.

## 2018 HIGHLIGHTS

- Completed the Annual Audit (Comprehensive Annual Financial Report)
- Received the GFOA Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting
- Reimbursement Resolution Passed for the Heritage Square Project
- Completed financing for the Series 2018 for \$5,440,000 for New Pumper Fire Truck, Radio and Record Management System for Public Safety.
- Completed financing for the Series 2018 for \$3,020,000 in Refunding Obligations for tax dollars savings
- Tax Rate lowered by one cent
- Automated pay by phone system for utility billing was established in October 2018

The City of Taylor is dedicated to best accounting practices for municipalities and financial transparency. The City continues to receive annual recognition for its solid financial reporting.

**Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting**  
**10 CONSECUTIVE YEARS**

**Distinguished Budget Award**  
**5 CONSECUTIVE YEARS**



## PROPERTY TAXES

Property Values UP by 9%

City of Taylor Residential  
Median Value = \$157,517

Residential Median Values UP  
by 10%



## SALES TAX REVENUES

FY 16 \$2,962,203  
FY 17 \$2,989,454  
FY 18 \$3,133,934



## GENERAL FUND OPERATING BUDGET TOTALS

REVENUES \$13,639,343  
EXPENDITURES \$13,576,7091



# Development Services



Development Services serves the citizens of Taylor through consistent, courteous, professional enforcement of adopted community codes and standards.

We prepare for the future of Taylor and the surrounding region by encouraging quality growth, while striving to protect the unique features of our community that make it an outstanding place to live, work, shop, and play.

## 2018 HIGHLIGHTS

- 65 single-family residential new construction permits issued
- 4 HOME program houses permitted
- 592 permits issued not including new, single-family residential permits
- 102 Development Review Committee appointments with property owners, developers, etc.
- 15 new subdivision applications received
  - » 12 subdivision plats recorded in 2018 to date
  - » 4 non-residential lots created
  - » 27 residential lots created

# 2018 DEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTS



## **BURGER KING (3509 MAIN STREET)**

Opened 10/10/18



## **HOLIDAY INN (180 NW CARLOS G. PARKER)**

Under Construction



## **RETAIL CENTER (MAIN STREET & CARLOS G. PARKER)**

COMPLETED



## **ERCOT Training Building (830 AIRPORT)**

Substantially Complete



## **OFFICE/WAREHOUSE (1009 W. 2ND STREET)**

Under Construction



## **AVERY GLEN SUBDIVISION (FM 973)**

Infrastructure nearing completion

# Fire Department

The Taylor Fire Department provides fire suppression functions as well as EMS first response, rescue, fire prevention public education, fire investigation, hazardous materials response, wildland response, and pre-fire mitigation services.

In addition to fire suppression and emergency management, the City of Taylor Fire Department also oversees the following programs throughout the year:

- Citizen's Fire Academy
- Honor Guard Academy
- Red Santa Program

## 2018 HIGHLIGHTS

- Continued to maintain all necessary components of our recently improved Public Protection Class Rating (ISO) with a specific focus on continuing that effort toward further improvement to a rating of 2 (from the current 3) which would result in further reducing the annual insurance cost to every business and homeowner.
- Maintained Fire Hydrant Maintenance Program by GPS and Geoprox location of all fire hydrants within the City of Taylor boundaries.
- Continued training and enhanced firefighter skill levels on the new Truck 1 with a 105' aerial ladder, greatly improving fleet readiness.



**Serving with Pride  
Taking Ownership  
Seeking Excellence  
Making a Difference**



**Taylor Firefighters are trained to respond to fire and medical calls for service and to protect citizens and property at a moment's notice.**

- Honor Guard members continued to set the standards for others to follow, assisting with several firefighter and public official funerals throughout the state. They also developed and delivered the 7th Annual Taylor Honor Guard Academy, offering the classes to over 40 students from fire departments across the state.
- Delivered fire prevention/public service training and programs to more than 2,800 of Taylor ISD's elementary age students.
- Successfully completed TCFP certification training for newly promoted drivers and certified drivers in Blue Card Command (a nationally recognized communications and command and control model).

# Police Department

## CITY OF TAYLOR POLICE DEPARTMENT VALUES

INTEGRITY • EXCELLENCE •  
FAIRNESS • PRIDE • HONESTY  
• SERVICE • COMPASSION •  
INNOVATION

For ten consecutive years, the City of Taylor has been nationally ranked for its participation in the annual National Night Out event, thanks to the efforts of the residents working alongside the police and fire departments. In 2017, Taylor ranked 43rd in the nation and 9th in the state for cities with a population between 15,000 and 49,999!

National Night Out involves more than 38.6 million neighbors across 16,500 communities from all 50 states, U.S. territories, Canadian cities, and military bases worldwide.

It is the mission of the Taylor Police Department to provide the highest level of proactive and responsive service to the City of Taylor in partnership with neighborhoods and the entire community. We shall endeavor to detect and solve problems to thereby afford the citizens of Taylor the highest quality of life possible. This service shall be provided with honor, integrity, and pride.

The City of Taylor Police Department consists of 27 sworn members (averaging 15.86 years of law enforcement experience as of April 2010) and 12 non-sworn personnel serving a vibrant and growing community.



## 2018 HIGHLIGHTS

- With funding primarily from a grant from the Office of the Governor, we established the position of Victims Services Coordinator, who assisted 237 victims of crime in 2018.
- The Police Department hosted quarterly Coffee with a Cop events at various locations in January, April, July, and October.
- In collaboration with City Code Enforcement, our Criminal Investigation Division was instrumental in the closing of the Johnson RV Park (1319 W. Third) due to excessive narcotic activity and code violations.
- A terroristic threat at Legacy High School was investigated, and a student was promptly arrested.
- A terroristic threat at Taylor High School was investigated, resulting in the prompt arrests of three Taylor High School students.
- An investigation into a narcotics case at a local restaurant resulted in the seizure of \$5,760 in cash, as well as 14.8 ounces of marijuana.

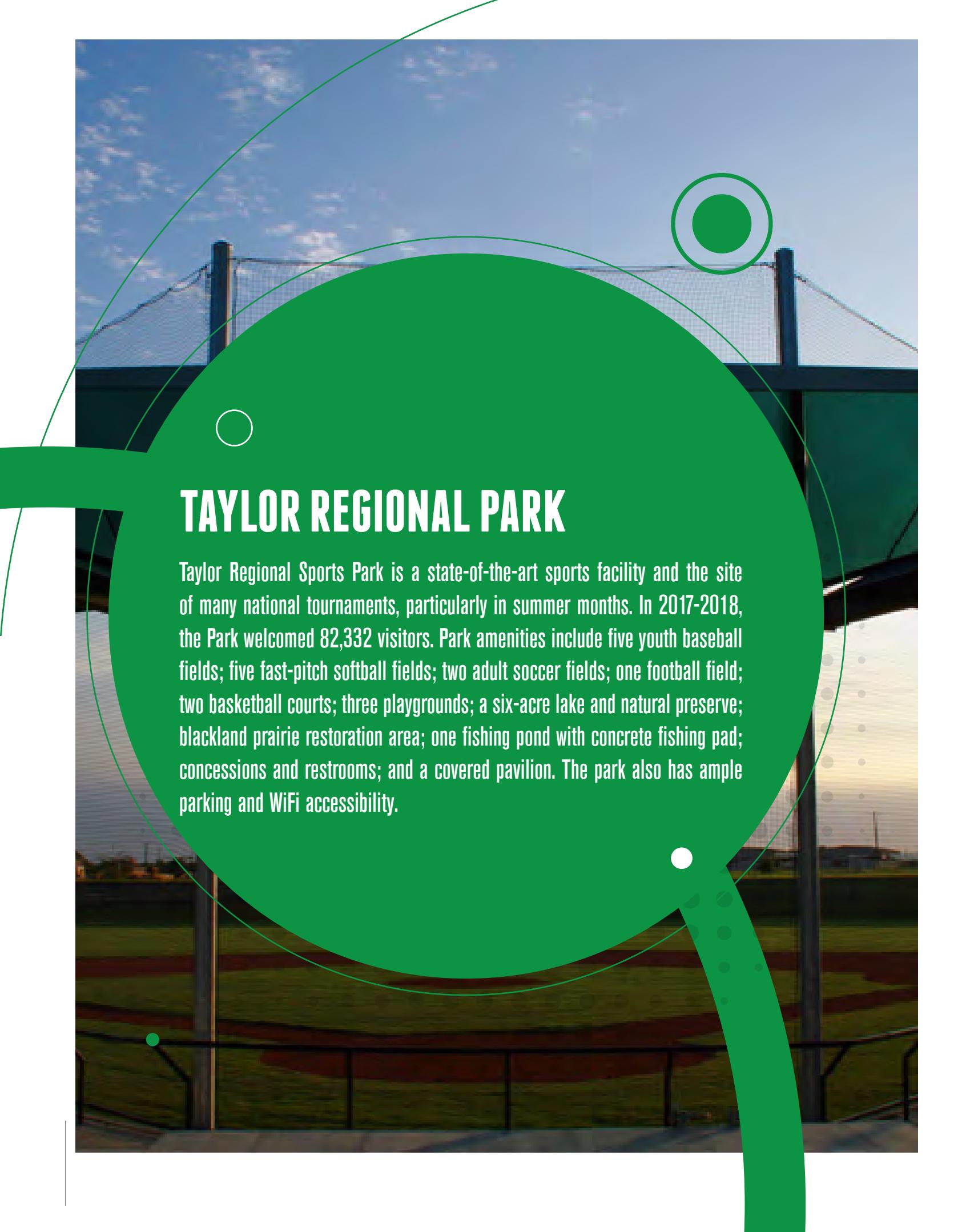
# Parks & Recreation

The 10 parks in the City of Taylor provide more than 200 acres of green space for our residents and visitors to enjoy.



## 2018 HIGHLIGHTS

- Heritage Square renovations complete and open to the public
- Pierce Park (Skate Park) substantially completed (opened to the public in early 2019)
- Splash pad at Robinson Park completed and open to the public
- Awarded a grant from Texas Parks and Wildlife for Doak Park ball field, part of \$500,000 Taylor Regional Parks and Sports Complex Phase II grant
- New lighting at the Pickle Ball courts
- Tennis courts at Murphy Park resurfaced



## TAYLOR REGIONAL PARK

Taylor Regional Sports Park is a state-of-the-art sports facility and the site of many national tournaments, particularly in summer months. In 2017-2018, the Park welcomed 82,332 visitors. Park amenities include five youth baseball fields; five fast-pitch softball fields; two adult soccer fields; one football field; two basketball courts; three playgrounds; a six-acre lake and natural preserve; blackland prairie restoration area; one fishing pond with concrete fishing pad; concessions and restrooms; and a covered pavilion. The park also has ample parking and WiFi accessibility.

# Internal Services

The Internal Services Department oversees all City of Taylor building maintenance, information technologies and city-owned fleet vehicles. Services include routine preventive maintenance, welding and fabrication, and general repair work.

## 2018 HIGHLIGHTS

- Upgraded citywide phone system.
- Upgraded internet services at City Hall, Police Department, and Cemetery.
- Built two additional offices and conference room at City Hall.
- Replaced vehicles and equipment.
- Implemented Accela Citizen Relationship Management software.
- Renovated City Hall Council Chambers.



## LEAD TAYLOR

*Each year the City of Taylor, through the Internal Services Department, recruits engaged citizens who want to learn more about their city for the LEAD Taylor program. The program, a joint venture between the City of Taylor and the Taylor Chamber of Commerce, is a community-focused, collaborative program that provides participants an in-depth look at government operations, community planning and awareness, and the opportunity to learn about civic culture from the inside.*

*This year marks the third year that the City and Chamber have collaborated on the LEAD Taylor program. The first class of 2019 began on January 17, 2019. The Class of 2019 classes include information about how City government works, the operations of the various City departments and Taylor ISD. Classes also cover civic organizations, the history of Taylor, the Taylor Chamber of Commerce and Tourism, the Taylor Economic Development Corporation, Main Street, and downtown businesses. Participants who complete all of the program requirements will graduate on June 27, 2019.*



# Human Resources

The City of Taylor is a progressive and exciting place to work. We have a culture of innovation where our employees can make a difference, and we are looking for like minded, dynamic individuals to come and join our team.

Job vacancies are posted online as well as at 400 Porter. An online application is required for each position for which you are applying. Applications will be accepted for only posted positions.

## 2018 HIGHLIGHTS

- Implemented 2017 Compensation Plan including new pay scales to support employee retention
- Implemented new On Call Pay program, Certification Pay program including bilingual pay and Tuition Reimbursement Program to support employee development and retention
- Provided Customer Service Training to City employees. Provided EEOC and Performance Management training to City supervisors. Conducted Civil Service Police and Fire entrance exams, and promotional exams for Police Corporal and Fire Driver / Operator
- Hiring of new leadership:
  - » **Dianna Barker**, City Clerk
  - » **Larry Foos**, Parks & Recreation Director
  - » **Tom Yantis**, Development Services Director
  - » **Debbie Charbonneau**, Main Street Manager
  - » Began recruiting for **City Manager, Fire Chief and Finance Director**

# Public Works

The Public Works Department is responsible for the overall direction and administration of the various public works functions including street and parks maintenance, solid waste collection and disposal, parking, storm water drainage facility maintenance and public facility (building) maintenance. In addition to these general fund activities, Public Works is responsible for administration of the water / wastewater utilities, airport, and cemetery maintenance and equipment services.

Administrative staff is responsible for coordinating the preparation of the annual operating budget for each of the divisions and directing the distribution, allocation and use of resources among the various divisions.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

## DRAINAGE PROJECTS

\$25M

FOR DRAINAGE

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

## WATER/WASTEWATER PROJECTS (UTILITY)

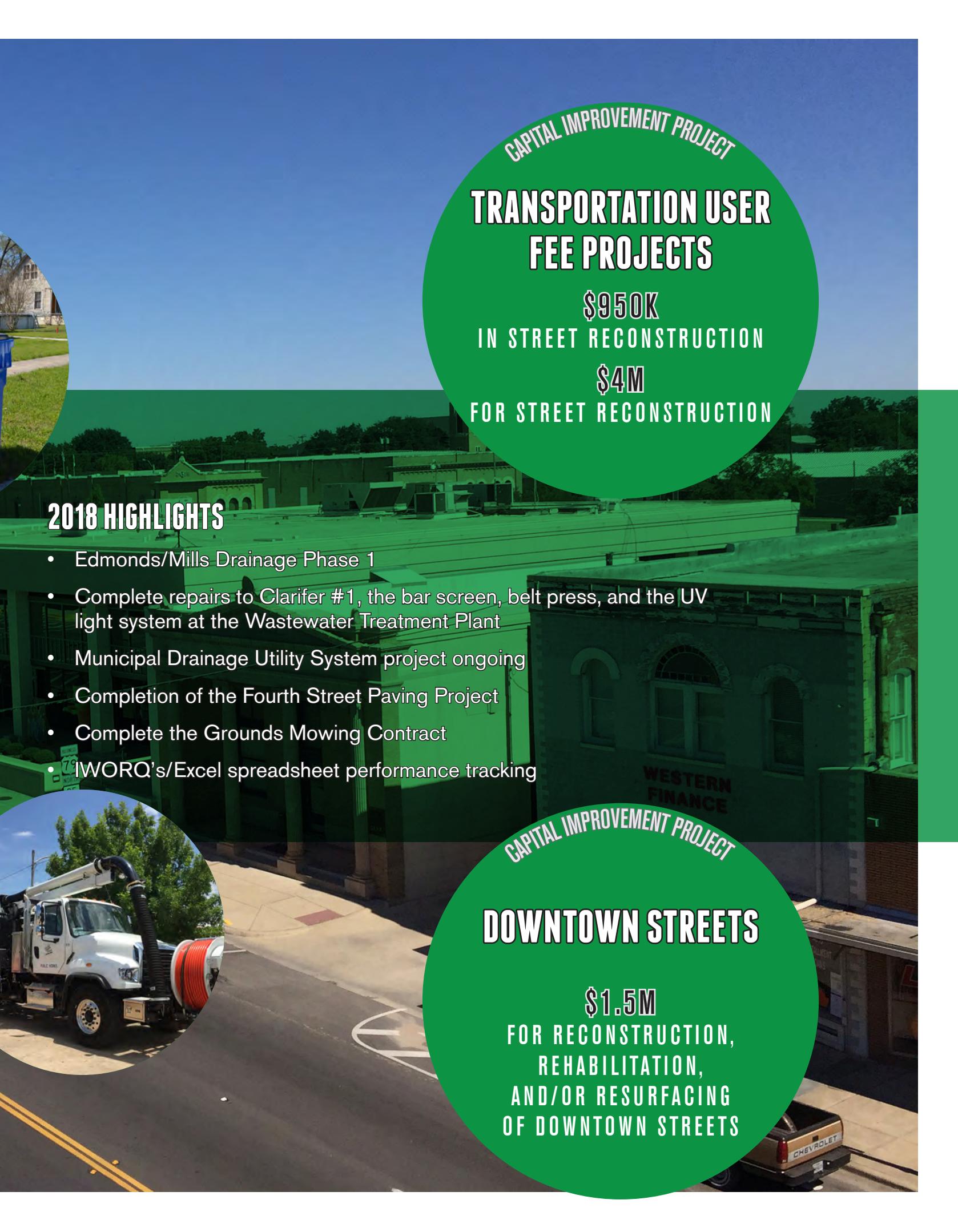
\$950K

IN STREET RECONSTRUCTION

\$4M

BOND ISSUANCES FOR  
WATER/WASTEWATER  
PROJECTS





CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

## TRANSPORTATION USER FEE PROJECTS

**\$950K**  
IN STREET RECONSTRUCTION

**\$4M**  
FOR STREET RECONSTRUCTION

### 2018 HIGHLIGHTS

- Edmonds/Mills Drainage Phase 1
- Complete repairs to Clarifier #1, the bar screen, belt press, and the UV light system at the Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Municipal Drainage Utility System project ongoing
- Completion of the Fourth Street Paving Project
- Complete the Grounds Mowing Contract
- IWORQ's/Excel spreadsheet performance tracking

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

## DOWNTOWN STREETS

**\$1.5M**  
FOR RECONSTRUCTION,  
REHABILITATION,  
AND/OR RESURFACING  
OF DOWNTOWN STREETS



# Public Library

The mission of the Taylor Public Library is to promote a life-long love of reading and to provide educational, informational, and recreational resources to patrons of all ages and of all cultural and economic backgrounds.



## 2018 HIGHLIGHTS

- Conducted annual inventory (January 2018)
- Provided IRS tax forms to the public (February 2018)
- Began offering AARP Tax Assistance with use of Library laptops and printer
- Made revisions to the Library's Collection Development Policy, with Council's approval
- Began offering PayPal as an alternative payment option for fines and fees
- Hosted navigators for the Health Insurance Marketplace, who helped members of the public with health insurance enrollment (November 2018)
- Published Taylor High School Yearbooks online (December 2018)

# Main Street

Taylor's Main Street district is the cultural hub of the City and a gathering place for visitors and residents alike. The Main Street Program strengthens business, historical preservation, and culture in downtown Taylor by using a comprehensive approach of design, economic restructuring, organization, and promotion.

The vision of the City of Taylor Main Street Program is to establish a resilient downtown community in Taylor, diverse in experiences for local residents and visitors, that includes retail, dining, parks, and cultural history.

## 2018 HIGHLIGHTS

- SRSLY Chocolate took possession of its building on Third Street and opened to the public in late 2018
- Sam's Home Bakery opened 317 N. Main St.
- Renovation began on SE corner of Second and Main – building purchased by Doug Moss
- Hawt Spot relocated onto Main Street
- Liberty's Consigned Finds (formally Little Liberty's) relocated onto Main Street



## ANNUAL MAIN STREET EVENTS

**Blackland Prairie Days**  
**MAY**

**Main Street Car Show**  
**OCTOBER**

**Main Street Wine Swirl**  
**DECEMBER**

**Christmas Bazaar**  
**DECEMBER**



# CITY OF TAYLOR

**400 PORTER STREET  
TAYLOR, TEXAS 76574  
PHONE 512-352-3675**

**VISIT US ONLINE AT**  
[www.taylortx.gov](http://www.taylortx.gov)

## **REPORT ISSUES OR CONCERNS**

Use the City of Taylor Mobile App on  
IOS or Android Devices

## **STAY IN TOUCH! FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA**

**facebook**  
cityoftaylortexas

**twitter**  
@CityOfTaylor

**instagram**  
@cityoftaylortx

**youtube**  
city of taylor, texas