

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

Grand Prairie  
— T E X A S —



THIS YEAR WILL BE  
**EPIC!**





## MESSAGE FROM MAYOR RON JENSEN

It is a new day, a new year and 2018 will be Epic. With IKEA and Epic Waters open; and the Epic opening soon, development along SH 161 is skyrocketing. In fact, ground is moving on retail centers that will offer more than 50 retail stores and restaurants in 2018. The opening of the SH 360 extension to US 287 this summer introduces 1,200 new acres for development. Frontage roads on I-30 and I-20 are now under construction, which adds about 690 new acres for development. And our I-30 Vision lays out an incredible possible future on I-30 between SH 161 and MacArthur featuring mid-rise living, hotels, retail, office and restaurant space as a new node between Dallas and Fort Worth. I'm so proud to lead this great city during these years of growth and change and look forward to our bright future.



## MESSAGE FROM CITY MANAGER TOM HART

Your city continues to think out of the box to create Raving Fans by delivering world class service. Thanks to Councilwoman Jorja Clemson, Grand Prairie will be the first city in the nation to adopt the Texas A&M Big Event model, a one-day city-wide volunteer day. We are opening our expanded and remodeled Shotwell Library (Jan. 2018), Prairie Paws Animal Shelter (summer 2018), Charley Taylor Recreation Center (late 2018), and Warmack Library (early 2019) to meet and exceed customer needs. And, in May the city will ask voters to consider a Charter amendment, Proposition A, eliminating a 30-year restriction on the lease of city property. Your local government continues to seek ways to make Grand Prairie the best it can be, offering value for your tax dollar not available in other towns.

## 2017 YEAR IN REVIEW

1. IKEA OPENED in Grand Prairie expanding U.S. presence
2. Parks won NRPA Gold Medal for best parks in nation
3. Fire response was ranked an ISO 1, tops in country
4. Began expansion of Prairie Paws Animal Shelter
5. Formed a Police Bicycle Unit to patrol hotspots
6. Code compliance and police officers added body-worn cameras
7. Celebrated Fire Department's 100th anniversary
8. Began relocation of utilities for I-20 frontage roads from SH 161 to Belt Line Rd
9. Renewed by vote the 1/4 cent sales tax for street improvements for 8 years
10. Began Traffic Signal Box Art Program in which artists will paint or graphically wrap designated Traffic Signal Boxes all around town

## 2018 TOP GOALS

1. EPIC WATERS Indoor Water Park opened Jan. 2018; Wave Pool opens summer 2018
2. Open Epic Recreation Center this summer
3. Open extension of SH 360 to US 287
4. Open expanded and remodeled Charley Taylor Recreation Center, Shotwell Library and Prairie Paws Animal Shelter
5. Begin expansion of Warmack Library
6. Complete the automatic meter reading system, making water use information available to water customers at home
7. Widen Great Southwest Parkway from Sara Jane to Mayfield Road
8. Launch the city's first Big Event, city-wide volunteer day March 24
9. Open wider MacArthur Boulevard north of I-30
10. Welcome more than 50 new restaurants and retail stores along SH 161

## 2017 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Attained CAPRA certification for Parks and Recreation
- Implemented community policing in our retail areas
- Continued construction of the Epic mega-recreation center
- Continued SH 360 extension to US 287
- Began expansion of Tony Shotwell Library
- Designed Warmack Library expansion
- Increased Library program attendance by 79% from FY 2016 with a total attendance of 94,323 in FY 2017
- Achieved “Family Place Library” status at Main Library
- Added a 3D printer at Main Library, thanks to a Friends of the Library donation
- Increased Summer Reading Club participation, with citizens reading 115,390 hours in 2017, a 26% increase from 2016
- Opened a Free Little Library book box, compliments of the Friends of the Library, on the Estes Peninsula
- Began remodel and expansion of Charley Taylor Recreation Center
- Hosted state Arbor Day
- Partnered with Dallas County Jail to provide dogs for Home for Hounds training
- Installed new traffic signals at: N.E. Green Oaks and Riverside; IKEA and Mayfield Rd; Roy Orr and Oakdale; England Pkwy at Lake Ridge Pkwy; Lake Ridge Pkwy at S. Grand Peninsula; Camp Wisdom and Lynn Rd; MacArthur Blvd
- Upgraded city’s Traffic Management Center video wall
- Launched lockbox program for fire and police access to senior adults living alone or adults with medical issues
- Introduced Police Eagle Eye Camera Program in which residents may register their home security cameras with police to aid in crime investigations
- Implemented a Police Case Processing Office to reduce officer and detective administrative time
- Implemented a Family Violence Lethality Assessment program to help reduce family violence and recidivism
- Passed a convenience store/dollar store ordinance to improve safety, prevent crime, and increase criminal prosecutions at these locations
- Implemented the “Two-Way Street” program with GPISD, to promote respect and safety during interactions between youth and the police
- Assisted the Houston Police Department with Hurricane Harvey recovery efforts
- Implemented a SRO K-9 Program toward more effective drug detection in schools
- Installed Highway Memorial Signs for Lyndon King and Greg Hunter on I-30 and I-20
- Implemented “Week in the Life of a GPPD Recruit” videos to better educate our public on police recruit training
- Overhauled Planning and Development Review process, making it more efficient
- Reimagined and opened the “Trunk Stop”, a gift shop on the prairie, at the Tourist Center
- Upgraded and recreated the City’s GIS map application to enhance features available for public use and make the city’s public GIS maps available on mobile devices for the first time
- Implemented MicroMain software system, a work order management tool for the city’s Facility Services
- Enhanced city digital security for better protection from the outside world by implementing McAfee ePO software on a new server
- Changed management at our Airport’s Radial Café, now serving breakfast and lunch
- Reminded residents to trim trees “14’ high to let us by” for easy access by high profile vehicles, like fire trucks
- Introduced “Future Builders” program partnering the city’s Housing Department and GPISD students in the building trades to build homes for low income families
- Increased Homestead Exemption from \$5,000 to \$10,000
- Extended Oakdale Rd to Roy Orr Blvd.
- Repaired, improved 42 miles of roadway
- Landed auto parts maker Flex N’ Gate, who acquired a 430,000-square-foot facility on I-20 to house its \$140 million manufacturing equipment and 600 new employees
- Grand Prairie’s Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control designed the new U.S. missile defense system that protects America
- Coca-Cola awarded the Grand Prairie Dasani Water Plant its new SmartWater production line and is investing \$33 million in the 25,000-square-foot expansion
- Implementation of award-winning electronic Onboarding for city job applicants
- Achieved a flood control Community Rating System (CRS) score of 5, which represents a 25% discount on flood insurance policies
- Installed automated gates for water over road on Carrier Parkway using a FEMA grant
- Installed motors for the Dorchester Levee gates using a FEMA grant
- Developed a flood forecasting tool to aide city staff in flood fighting





## 2017-2018 CITY COUNCIL

(Standing, Left to Right) Jim Swafford, District 2; Jorja Clemson, District 1; Greg Giessner, At Large - Place 8; Mike Del Bosque, District 3; Tony Shotwell, District 5; Richard Fregoe, District 4.  
 (Seated, Left to Right) Jeff Wooldridge, District 6; Ron Jensen, Mayor; Jeff Copeland, At Large - Place 7



## 2018 GOALS

- Begin building PlayGrand Adventures all accessible playground to open mid-2019
- Open expanded Fleet Service Center for city vehicle services
- Unveil city's fully restored original 1939 fire truck
- Update Planning and Development Comprehensive Plan
- Overhaul residential and sign codes
- Revise planning and development code with regard to downtown to encourage new businesses, grow the residential base, and enhance nighttime amenities
- Move to digital development plan submittal and review
- Implement new inspection software for city departments
- Implement Six Sigma management techniques to improve business processes
- Incorporate drone technology to integrate new features and 3-D mapping into GIS maps and to visually document new city construction
- Open in summer 2018 newly improved and widened Fish Creek and Dechman roads from Belt Line Road to Interstate 20
- Extend Palace Parkway from Belt Line Road east to the Interstate 30 access road (complete winter 2018).
- Upgrade all city legacy computers and migrate city computers to Windows 10
- Implement a facial recognition software program for police to more effectively identify wanted persons
- Implement a Real Time Crime Center to more effectively identify and prosecute offenders
- Pass a local abatement ordinance to address chronic problem locations
- Pass a more extensive metal recyclers ordinance
- Pass a more comprehensive solicitation ordinance
- Implement a Certified Mental Health Coordinator position in GPPD to assist our citizens dealing with chronic mental illness
- Complete negotiation with TRA for the transfer of the south sector wastewater system lift station, force main and gravity trunk lines
- Construct Southwest Water Pumping Station and transmission line to provide additional water service to the south sector
- Provide public access to the new rain/stream gauge website
- Update the City's rain/stream gauge system at low water crossing sites



## CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

(Left to Right) Assistant City Manager Bill Crolley; Deputy City Manager Anna Doll; City Manager Tom Hart; Deputy City Manager Tom Cox; City Secretary Cathy DiMaggio

# 2017 BY THE NUMBERS

## Demographics

Land Area	Median Age
<b>81 sq. miles</b>	<b>32.2</b>
Population	Median Household Income
<b>187,050</b>	<b>\$57,734</b>

## Municipal Employees

Police/Fire Civil Service	Seasonal/Part-Time
<b>512</b>	<b>374</b>
General	Crossing Guards
<b>818</b>	<b>85</b>

## Operating Budget (2017-2018)

(Total appropriations and reserves)	
General Fund	Other Funds
<b>\$132,805,965</b>	<b>\$84,411,610</b>
Enterprise Funds	TOTAL
<b>\$112,749,481</b>	<b>\$329,967,056</b>

## Parks and Recreation

Acres of Park Land	Rounds of Golf Played
<b>5,009</b>	<b>84,564</b>
Number of Parksites	Special Events Attendees
<b>60</b>	<b>238,625</b>

## Libraries

E-resources	Physical Materials
<b>75,038</b>	<b>123,421</b>
Library Cardholders	Number of Visits
<b>90,060</b>	<b>624,432</b>

## Utilities

Water Production	Miles of Water Lines
<b>25.5 M gal/day</b>	<b>914</b>
Fire Hydrants	Miles of Collection Line
<b>7,638</b>	<b>897</b>
Customer Accounts	
<b>47,960</b>	

## Transportation

Municipal Airport Takeoffs/Landings	<b>77,389</b>
Grand Connection Bus Passengers	<b>49,929</b>

## Development

New Single-Family Building Permits Issued	<b>261</b>
Value of Average Single-Family Permit	<b>\$312,450</b>
New Commercial/Industrial Square Feet	<b>2,203,142</b>

## Retail Sales Tax Rates

City	<b>1.000%</b>
EPIC	<b>0.250%</b>
Park Improvements	<b>0.250%</b>
Street Improvements	<b>0.250%</b>
Crime Control District	<b>0.250%</b>
State	<b>6.250%</b>
TOTAL Sales Tax	<b>8.250%</b>

## Property Tax Rates

City of Grand Prairie	<b>\$0.669998</b>
Grand Prairie ISD	<b>\$1.505000</b>
Arlington ISD	<b>\$1.368700</b>
Cedar Hill ISD	<b>\$1.516000</b>
Mansfield ISD	<b>\$1.540000</b>
Dallas County	<b>\$0.656736</b>
Tarrant County	<b>\$0.627889</b>
Average Annual City Property Tax Paid on a \$115,000 home with homestead exemption	<b>\$846.72</b>

## Grand Prairie's Top Employers

Grand Prairie ISD  
 Lockheed Martin Corp.  
 Poly-America Inc.  
 City of Grand Prairie  
 Bell Helicopter Textron Inc.  
 Lone Star Park  
 Forterra Pipe and Products Inc.  
 Triumph – Vought  
 Republic National Distributing Bureau of Prisons Admin.  
 Airbus Helicopters  
 Walmart  
 Siemens Energy & Automation  
 Pitney Bowes Presort Services

## Grand Prairie's Top Taxpayers

Grand Prairie Outlets LLC  
 Lockheed Martin  
 Poly America LP  
 Bell Helicopter-Textron Inc.  
 Duke Realty PS  
 Republic Beverage  
 Oncor Electric Delivery  
 CHI/Wildlife 5 LP  
 2803 Riverside Apt Investors LLC  
 Office Depot of Texas LP

## AWARDS

- Achieved Texas Library Association Libraries Change Communities Award
- Received 3CMA President's Award for Best Marketing Campaign and Savvy Best in Nation award for Library's "Educate. Everyone."
- Farmers Market ranked #1 in Texas by American Farmland Trust
- Named one of Top 50 in U.S. Best Place to Raise a Family by WalletHub.com
- Received Government Treasurer's Organization of Texas award for city's Finance Department
- Achieved Automotive Service Excellence Blue Seal of Excellence Recognition for city's Equipment Services
- Named a Playful City USA
- Selected as a Hall of Fame winner by *The Knot*, the leading wedding magazine and website
- Snagged the Texas Association of Convention & Bureau People's Choice Award for Local Awareness: Tourism Division Hotel Bus Tours
- Honored with Convention and Visitor Bureau Partner of the Year from the Dallas County Hotel Association
- GPPD Citizens on Patrol won the 2017 Membership of the Year Award





# Grand Prairie

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[gptx.org](http://gptx.org)

