

Grand Prairie

T E X A S

D r e a m B i g ★ P l a y H a r d

STATE OF THE CITY 2009-2010

Relaxed pace.

unpretentious.

easy. growing.

business friendly.

Known for fun.

comfortably casual.

Top Ten 2009 Accomplishments

- 1 Celebrated 100 years of incorporation with festivals, special events, displays, brochures and more.
- 2 Approved a new city logo reflecting the city's casual, friendly, unpretentious, fun, family personality as evidenced by research; and tagline: Dream Big ♦ Play Hard.
- 3 Opened Market Square in October to thousands excited about the new weekly farmers market and event venue.
- 4 Landed big industrial and distribution economic development deals:
 - Solo Cup distribution center
 - Discount Tires distribution center
 - Lady Primrose Cosmetics distribution center
 - Farley's & Sathers Candy Co. warehouse
- 5 Began driving on State Highway 161 between SH 183 and Interstate 30.
- 6 Opened the fabulous outdoor Gardens at the Ruthe Jackson Center, offering a new element to the popular conference center.
- 7 Built Fire Station 214 with Cedar Hill in April 2009, serving Lake Ridge and the southern sector.
- 8 Connected Kingswood Boulevard from Lake Ridge Parkway to SH 360; extended Warrior Trail from Carrier to Great Southwest Parkway; achieved a Railroad Quiet Zone through downtown; and opened the Belt Line Road Overpass over Main and Jefferson streets.
- 9 Renewed by vote of the people the ¼ cent sales tax for street improvements.
- 10 Celebrated the opening of a John Peter Smith Public Health Clinic at Sherman St. and Great Southwest Parkway.

Top Goals for 2010

- 1 Open the new 60,000-square-foot Summit Activity Center for active adults age 50+ at SH 161 and Warrior Trail in summer 2010.
- 2 Open the new Public Safety Headquarters at SH 161 and Arkansas Trail in summer 2010.
- 3 Open the Lake Parks Operations Center near Lynn Creek Park entrance in summer 2010.
- 4 Finalize transition of Lone Star Park from Magna Entertainment to new management.
- 5 Open Central Park at SH 161 between Warrior Trail and Arkansas Lane, a 172-acre park with lakes, waterfalls and trails.
- 6 Clear former Army-Navy store site to make way for a new Dallas County Courthouse to be built downtown.
- 7 Work with downtown merchants to renovate the facades to their 1950s glory; and operate a farmers market at Market Square Saturdays Feb. 6-Dec. 18.
- 8 Complete Mayfield Road widening from SH 360 to Great Southwest Parkway.
- 9 Open Arkansas Lane as a widened four-lane divided road from Robinson and Carrier.
- 10 Begin extension of Lake Ridge Parkway from Great Southwest/Polo to I-20 in late 2010; and widen from Polo to Lake Joe Pool.

www.gptx.org

produced by the Marketing Department
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Voters approved the 1/4 cent sales tax for streets in 2009.



Grand Prairie Parks received Best in USA Gold Medal Award and named a Playful City USA.



Historic Uptown Theater enjoyed a successful first year of operation.

2009 Accomplishments

- ◆ Invested ¼ cent sales tax for parks:
 - Charley Taylor playground; new picnic tables, trash cans;
 - McFalls entrance repaired, drainage improved, fencing replaced, restroom improved, parking lot lit with solar power;
 - New Loyd Park playground;
 - Pool repairs and water slides/climbing walls installed;
 - Lynn Creek Park retaining wall installed;
 - Turner Park retaining wall repaired, disc golf course installed;
 - Planted 2,400 trees at Prairie Lakes Golf Course for the 28-acre woodland mitigation requirements for the extension of Lake Ridge Parkway.
 - Mike Lewis athletic field drainage improved and youth baseball field converted for upper age.

- ◆ Built 316 new homes worth an average of \$222,000.
- ◆ Issued permits for 450,000 new square feet of business.
- ◆ Upgraded bond ratings to AA+ Standards and Poor's; AA Fitch.
- ◆ Generated more than \$400,000 in Lake Park revenues, which receives no general fund tax support.
- ◆ Made a \$2 million economic impact to the community through Parks and Recreation sport tournaments.
- ◆ Prairie Lights drew 120,000 people from 200 different cities; featured 4 million lights and hundreds of new lighted displays.
- ◆ Enjoyed 227 event days at the Uptown Theater, 77 of which were live performances seen by 13,000 patrons.
- ◆ Earned Good Sam designation as a quality RV park and campground at Loyd Park.

- ◆ Closed Municipal Court on Fridays to save money and increase customer convenience with before and after hours.
- ◆ Approved a new Water Conservation Plan that outlines year-round measures.
- ◆ Closed libraries on Friday and recreation centers on Sunday due to budget cuts.
- ◆ Put garage sale permits online.
- ◆ Hosted state Arbor Day.
- ◆ Launched the 4-Home and 4-Gov home purchase assistance programs.
- ◆ Put Grand Prairie on Facebook.
- ◆ Redesigned the city's Web site.
- ◆ Added low-cost spay and neuter shuttle service at the Prairie Paws Animal Shelter.
- ◆ Tangle Ridge was named a "Top 50 Course in the USA" by Golf Week Magazine.
- ◆ Prairie Lakes earned "Best Places to Play" status from Golf Digest.



The Summit Adult Activity Center for residents age 50+ kicks into play in summer 2010.



Lone Star Trinity Trail meanders through the Entertainment District.



Farmers Market in Market Square offered Saturdays 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

2009-2010 Grand Prairie City Council

(standing left to right)

Greg Giessner, At Large • Richard Fregoe, District 4 • Jim Swafford, District 2
Bill Thorn, District 3 • Tony Shotwell, District 5

(seated, left to right)

Mark Hepworth, District 1 • Ruthe Jackson, At Large, Deputy Mayor Pro Tem
Mayor Charles England • Ron Jensen, District 6, Mayor Pro Tem



- ◆ Offered the first annual Ultimate Outdoor Experience at Loyd Park, featuring music, RVs, boats, watercraft, ATVs, food and fun.
- ◆ Underwent \$4 million in budget cuts to curtail the city's budget in light of the declining economy.
- ◆ Earned five regional and state awards for our outstanding parks and recreation programs.
- ◆ Announced the inaugural 2010 Fall Indie Fest independent film and music festival.
- ◆ Decreased employee health insurance costs after only two years of operating the city's employee wellness program.
- ◆ Awarded eight state and national awards for communication programs leading their field:
 - World Class Wisdom book of customer service culture
 - Annual photo calendar
 - Billboards
- ◆ Offered citizens online access to crime statistics for their area.
- ◆ Awarded Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Ruthe Jackson the 2009 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Texas Urban Forestry Program.
- ◆ Built in one day, with the help of 450 volunteers, a new mega playground at Charley Taylor Park, designed by students at South Grand Prairie 9th Grade Center.
- ◆ Named a Playful City USA for the second year in a row.
- ◆ Launched, with actress Janine Turner, the Lois Weber Film Collection at the Main Library, featuring films by female directors.
- ◆ Began expansion of Great Southwest and I-20 intersection.
- ◆ Purchased land for future Fire Station #10 at the corner of Grand Peninsula Blvd. and Balboa St.
- ◆ Replaced three ambulances, removing older units from the fleet.
- ◆ Successfully completed the Texas Commission on Fire Protection department compliance inspection.
- ◆ Received renewal license from the Texas Department of State Health Services EMS division.
- ◆ Took in record revenues from the EMS billing office (best year since inception in 2000).
- ◆ Unveiled a new Green Grand Prairie Web site, www.gptx.org/green.
- ◆ Celebrated completion of new fence walls in Oak Hollow/Sheffield Village Public Improvement District.
- ◆ Launched a new downtown Grand Prairie Web site, www.gptx.org/downtown.
- ◆ Reduced number of cases waiting for trial in Municipal Court from 602 to 48 and reduced wait time from five months to three weeks.
- ◆ Hosted a Texas City Attorneys Association Video Replay Conference at the Uptown Theater for area attorneys.
- ◆ Implemented a paperless records management system in the City Attorney's Office.



GPISD opened Dubiski Career High School in 2009.

City Manager's Office

(left to right)

Assistant to the City Manager Mike Foreman
Assistant to the City Manager Andy White
City Secretary Cathy DiMaggio
Deputy City Manager Anna Doll
City Manager Tom Hart
Deputy City Manager Tom Cox





Celebrated the city's 100th year of incorporation.

- ◆ Designed a strong new black and white look for our police cars.
- ◆ Sold 231 spaces, conducted 125 burials, installed 89 markers at the Grand Prairie Memorial Gardens.
- ◆ Introduced two new annual runs: the Prairie Lights Sneak-a-Peek 5K Run/Walk and Destination Grand Prairie 5K Fun Run.
- ◆ Put 10 families in homes through Home Choice Voucher program.
- ◆ Took four homes out of foreclosure and sold them to government employees through the 4-Gov housing assistance program.
- ◆ Put 15 families in formerly foreclosed, newly remodeled homes through the 4-Home purchase assistance program.
- ◆ Worked 35,638 Code Enforcement cases.
- ◆ Investigated 113 illegal dump sites; prosecuted six, got violators to clean up 27, while city cleaned up remaining 86 sites.
- ◆ Welcomed a John Peter Smith Public Health Clinic in town.



Completing the Lake Parks Operations Center in summer 2010.



Unveiled the beautiful new Gardens at the Ruthe Jackson Center.

Goals for 2010

- ◆ Conduct the first annual Fall Indie Fest independent film and music festival for Texas film and music makers in October 2010.
- ◆ Replace one ambulance, firetruck and engine.
- ◆ Applaud Westchester PID for construction of new fence walls.
- ◆ Construct Park and Ride on south side of I-30 and Belt Line Road.
- ◆ Add a 112-niche columbarium at Grand Prairie Memorial Gardens.
- ◆ Complete main lanes and frontage roads on SH 161 between I-30 and SH 183.
- ◆ Build four Habitat homes.
- ◆ Begin building SH 161 main lanes from I-20 to I-30 once agreement with TxDOT and Union Pacific Railroad is finalized.
- ◆ Build I-30 frontage roads between Belt Line Road and MacArthur Boulevard.
- ◆ Finish right and left turn lanes on Great Southwest Parkway at I-20.



Designed by the SGP 9th Grade Center students, the Charley Taylor park was built in one day by 450 volunteers.



City and Cedar Hill built a joint fire station.

- ◆ Improve intersection entrance to Lynn Creek Park and add a traffic signal.
- ◆ Add left and right turn lanes at Carrier Parkway and SH 360 in conjunction with the city of Arlington's widening of Green Oaks Boulevard to the west.
- ◆ Begin extension of Crossland and Forum across SH 161 as four-lane divided thoroughfares.
- ◆ Extend Sara Jane Parkway connecting the current Sara Jane Parkway north to Forum Drive.
- ◆ Work to house those experiencing homelessness in cooperation with Grand Prairie non-profit organizations.
- ◆ Begin construction on a new Grand Prairie Municipal Airport Terminal.
- ◆ Install artwork at the new Central Park, Summit Activity Center and Public Safety Headquarters.
- ◆ Work with Parkland Hospital to locate a Parkland Clinic at site of current police building.



The new Public Safety Headquarters begins operations in summer 2010.

Grand Prairie by the Numbers 2009



DEMOGRAPHICS

Land Area	81 sq. miles
Population	168,500
Median Age	32
Avg. Price of a New Home	\$212,000
Avg. Household Income	\$46,955

DEVELOPMENT

New Single Family Building Permits Issued	316
Value of Average Single Family Permit	\$222,668
New Commercial/Industrial Sq. Ft. (projects underway)	449,206

TOP TAXPAYERS

Bell Helicopter, Inc.
Republic Beverage
Hanson Pipe
Oncor Electric/Texas Utilities
Cardinal Health 200, Inc.
AT&T Communications
Prologis
Lockheed Martin
Catellus Development Corp.

PROPERTY TAX RATES

(Per \$100 Assessed Property Value)	
City of Grand Prairie	\$0.669998
Grand Prairie ISD	\$1.465000
Arlington ISD	\$1.272000
Cedar Hill ISD	\$1.500000
Mansfield ISD	\$1.450000
Dallas County	\$0.22810
Tarrant County	\$0.26400

RETAIL SALES TAX RATES

City	1.000
AirHogs Ballpark	0.125
Active Adult Center	0.125
Parks Improvements	0.250
Street Improvements	0.250
Crime Control District	0.250
State	6.25%
Total Sales Tax	8.25%

TOP EMPLOYERS

Grand Prairie ISD	3,400
Lockheed Martin	2,800
Poly-America, Inc.	1,800
Bell Helicopter	1,300
Lone Star Park	1,200
City of Grand Prairie	1,000
Vought Aircraft Industries, Inc.	700
Siemens Energy	500
Hanson Pipe	500
Wal-Mart	500
American Eurocopter	500
Arnold Transportation Services	500
SAIA Motor Freight Line, Inc.	500
Turbomeca Engine Corp.	400

OPERATING BUDGET (2009-2010)

(Total appropriations and reserves)	
General Fund	\$98,097,926
Water/Wastewater	\$50,787,116
Other	\$49,622,352
TOTAL	\$198,507,394

MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES

Police/Fire Civil Service	411
Full Time General Employees	701
Seasonal/Part-Time Employees	159

LIBRARIES

Main Library Collection	149,177
Warmack Total Collection	43,086
Bowles Total Collection	10,844

PARKS AND RECREATION

Acres of Park Land	5,002
Number of Parksites	58
Rounds of Golf Played	80,740
Ruthe Jackson Center Events	919
Loyd Park Campers	19,306
Lynn Creek Park Attendance	203,250
Cemetery Spaces Sold	231

UTILITIES

Water Production (Avg. Gallons/Day)	24.5 million
Fire Hydrants	7,134
Miles of Water Lines	776
Miles of Collection Line	752
Customer Accounts	44,228

SOLID WASTE

Tons of Garbage Disposed	168,387
Tons of Commercial Recycling	24,732
Tons of Residential Recycling at the Landfill	4,754
at the Curb	3,738
at Drop Sites	1,091

TRANSPORTATION

Municipal Airport Takeoffs/Landings	82,482
Grand Connection Bus Passengers	44,800

