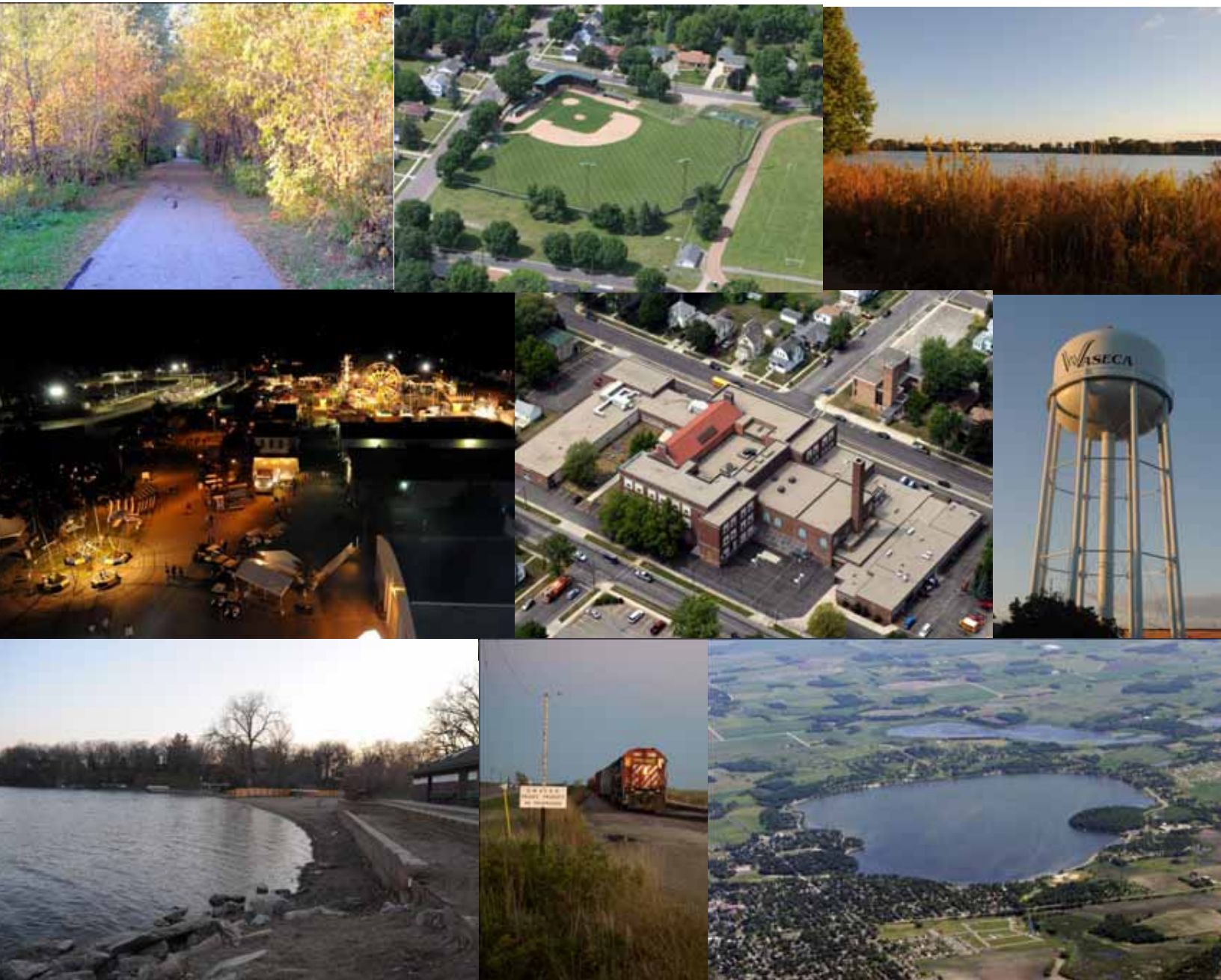




2011 *Waseca* City Council Priorities



City Council

Mayor, Roy Srp
Councilmember Mark Christiansen
Councilmember John Clemons
Councilmember Cindy Coy
Councilmember Larry Johnson
Councilmember Al Rose
Councilmember Les Tlougan

City Manager and Department Managers

J. Crystal Prentice, City Manager
Gary Conrath, Fire Chief
Penny Vought, Chief of Police
Carl Sonnenberg, Utilities Director
Nate Reinhardt, Finance Director
Kim Johnson, Planning Director
Russ Stammer, City Engineer

PRIORITY 1: WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

The City of Waseca's Wastewater Treatment Plant serves a population of almost 10,000 customers. The plant treats an average of 1,360,000 gallons of wastewater per day. Due to increased demand, the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant is nearing its treatment capacity in some key areas, and is over capacity for flow due to inflow and infiltration. Design plans for expansion will increase the current capacity by approximately 30% in key areas, treat phosphorus, and allows for almost doubling of pumping capacity for flow due to inflow and infiltration. Based on current growth projections, this total treatment capacity will be sufficient through the year 2030.

Goal:

Expected completion: August 2011

The completion of the wastewater system expansion to protect the health of our residents and safeguard our waters by treating our wastewater in compliance with state and federal rules and regulations.

Objective 1.1: Provide construction oversight to ensure we meet our construction schedule and budget.

PRIORITY 2: PUBLIC SAFETY

The City strives to provide our residents with a sense of well-being by ensuring a high level of public safety through the provision of police and fire protection and emergency preparedness services.

Goal:

Expected completion: on-going

Deliver high-quality public safety services by providing well-trained and equipped Police, Fire and Building Inspection personnel.

Objective 2.1: Collaborate with GIS and develop crime mapping and assign personnel to place crime mapping data on our website using Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

Objective 2.2: Meet NIMS requirements/compliance.

Objective 2.3: Maintain an offense clearance rate above the state average and maintain our response times to the community.

Objective 2.4: Create a Citizens Police Academy.

Objective 2.5: Begin long-term strategic planning for relocating the Police and Fire Departments to 303 South State Street.

Objective 2.6: Provide quality training to enhance the proficiency, quality and safety for full-time and volunteer fire fighters and includes specialized training opportunities that focus on individual, department and community needs.

Objective 2.7: Continue emergency management planning and working with local business/agencies on fire prevention and training.

Objective 2.8: To continue to improve services to achieve a lower fire insurance rating (ISO); to provide lower cost for fire insurance in the community.

PRIORITY 3: BUDGET PLANNING

The City of Waseca strives to develop a solid financial management system to ensure short-term and long-term financial security for our residents. Successful financial management systems allow us to better predict our financial standing, weather budget shortfalls, initiate new programs, and borrow funds at lower costs.

Goal: *Expected completion: on-going*
Operate in a fiscally prudent manner, assuring the most efficient expenditure of public funds.

Objective 3.1: Review and update financial and accounting controls, with special emphasis on the procurement process.

Objective 3.2: Explore all options for balancing revenues and expenditures. As part of the annual budget process, identify appropriate financial actions to be taken in support of the municipal services and capital improvements plan.

Objective 3.3: Maintain a commitment to a balanced budget and review actual expenditures to the budget amounts on a periodic basis and decide what action, if any, is needed to bring the budget into balance.

PRIORITY 4: CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The Capital Improvement Program (CIP) is a statement of the City of Waseca's policy regarding long-range physical development. This program is developed for a five year period and is updated and revised annually. To be included in the CIP, the project requires a total expenditure of at least \$5,000 and a useful life of at least 3 years. By providing a planned schedule, cost estimates, and location of public sector improvements, the Capital Improvement Program provides local elected officials and the public with valuable information concerning proposed public facilities and their associated costs. Ultimately, this coordination of orderly and efficient programs of private and public investment will benefit the City. The Capital Improvement Budget differs from the Operating Budget because of its "multi-year" nature, which means that a project can span more than one fiscal year and its budget is active until the project is finished.

Goal: *Expected completion: on-going*
Maintain and improve critical city infrastructure.

Objective 4.1: Develop multi-year CIP plan including long-term funding strategies maintain the City's current infrastructure assets.

Objective 4.2: Review City's Special Assessment policy.

PRIORITY 5: GENERATE REVENUE OPTIONS/GRANTS

The City has the uphill task of finding new and untapped sources of revenues to support city operations and projects.

Goal: *Expected completion: on-going*
Pursue one-time and sustainable revenue sources.

Objective 5.1: The City will pursue grant funding primarily to provide one-time funding for projects or services and will discourage using grants to fund new employee positions, programs or services that will become permanent and have ongoing costs not supported by revenue other than city tax dollars.

Objective 5.2: Review current fee schedules to ensure revenue supports the actual costs associated with providing those services, as well as comparing fees and rates with other City fee schedules.

Objective 5.3: Look for new and innovative ways to generate revenue to support city operations and projects.

PRIORITY 6: COMMUNITY AESTHETICS

A pleasant environment is a source of pride for its residents and an important component of the quality of life in an area. Community aesthetics take on an economic meaning, encouraging tourism and business recruitment. Efforts taken to enhance the appearance of the community often yield additional benefits; retaining open space enhances the city's natural beauty, and also helps promote water quality management. Restoring historic structures improves the appearance of the built environment, adds to property values, is environmentally positive and increases public awareness and appreciation of local history.

Goal: *Expected completion: on-going*
Protect neighborhoods from blighting and deteriorating conditions that have a negative impact on area property values and encourage residents/business owner's efforts to maintain the physical environment through standards set in local ordinances.

Objective 6.1: Encourage the maintenance of existing neighborhoods in order to preserve property values and a sense of place.

Objective 6.2: Review and revise existing codes and policies to ensure the encouragement of quality development and preservation of our historic assets. At the same time, the City should promote and encourage revitalization of substandard or deteriorating housing and commercial property through code enforcement and abatement.

Objective 6.3: Coordinate with MNDOT to complete Highway 14 landscaping and lighting project.

Objective 6.4: Conduct a Historic Sites Survey in key areas of the city to identify historic structures worthy of heritage preservation measures.

Objective 6.5: Review the State Housing Code and discuss potential costs and benefits of such regulations to determine if the city should adopt these standards and if so, to what extent.

Objective 6.6: Pursue MNDOT's Landscape Partnership Program to secure funding to undertake projects to enhance and beautify gateways into the City.

PRIORITY 7: EVALUATION CITY-OWNED PROPERTY

The City has purchased property for economic development activities, including five lots in the South Industrial Park (through the Economic Development Authority), three usable lots in the Marketplace subdivision, and three lots on the Brattrud property.

Goal: *Expected completion: on-going*
Continue to return City-owned property to the tax base to support revenue and economic development.

Objective 7.1: Actively market City-owned property to potential buyers.

Objective 7.2: Develop Data Sheets with base information, maps, and photos of all City or EDA owned properties.

PRIORITY 8: REDISTRICTING

Following the release of the Federal census data collected every ten years, the process of reapportionment (the determination of the number of seats in the US House of Representatives for each state for the next ten years) begins. Reapportionment is followed by state and local redistricting. The City Council initiates a process of redistricting.

Goal: *Expected completion: 2012*
Evenly distribute the City's population across its voting districts, equalizing the political representation of citizens.

Objective 8.1: Complete the decennial redistricting process.