

PUBLIC SERVICE

PUBLIC SERVICE DEPARTMENT Annual Report 2020



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March 22, 2021

Dear Community Members,

The New Albany Public Service Department provides a broad range of services to our community, some that are very visible and others that are not. In either case our motivation to perform follows the City motto "Community Connects Us". The service department strives to do this through professionalism, integrity, reliability, quality and pride. Each day our team members seek to provide the highest levels of customer service through the most cost effective means for our citizens and businesses.

We continually seek community input relative to our programs, projects and service delivery. Our sense of community is a key factor in what makes New Albany a great place to live and work.

As you review the details in our tenth year of annual reporting, please take interest in the services that are most important to you and contact us for any specific needed additional information. One of our continuing goals is to provide transparency in all the things that our City organization does for its citizens, and likewise we can only get better through active community involvement.

An annual report, by definition looks back, however we are always looking forward. In 2020, despite delays in operation due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, we were able to complete our goals for; overseeing the expansion of the Service Facility Garage, developing a community Urban Forestry Program and assessing the New Albany Leisure Trail System for needed repairs and improvements.

I am proud to work alongside the employees of the service department in our efforts to serve New Albany and we are grateful to have the opportunity to provide services to the residents. If at any time you have questions about these services, suggest improvements, or just want to let us know how we are doing, please contact our office via the city website at www.newalbanyohio.org.

Sincerely,

Mark Nemec Director of Public Service



Mission Statement

Providing high quality services to the community and maintaining the public infrastructure is the mission of the New Albany Public Service Department. With knowledge, innovation and collaboration services like snow removal and leaf collection are performed and assets like roadways and utilities are managed. Through the efforts of a motivated and professional workforce and citizen involvement our mission is carried out.

Vision Statement

The New Albany Service Department pledges to be the organizational leader in providing benchmark services and infrastructure management to the community. With a strong commitment to its citizens and business partners we serve to ensure safety and quality of life in New Albany. Working collective-ly we find success in solving problems confronting our community so we can move forward for a better tomorrow.



Value Statement

As members of the New Albany Public Service Department and partners with the community we hold to these core values:

Professionalism

Being the employees of a highly trained force we maintain the skill, competence and character expected in delivering services to the community.

Integrity

In the performance of our duties we remain steadfast in adhering to high moral principles and standards of our profession.

Reliability

As a trusted member of the community we carry out our work in a manner that is timely and dependable.

Quality

Setting high standards in the performance, workmanship and completion of our duties is essential in the way we operate.

<u>Pride</u>

Taking ownership and satisfaction in achievements made as individuals and as a team is the foundation for our success.

Public Service Department

Organizational Chart



City of New Albany 2020 Statistics

16.828 Square Miles Area: 10,889 Population: Residential Units:

Streets:

Highways (US, SR) Community Arterials Local & Residential Roads

<u>Water</u>: Fire Hydrants Waterlines

Sewers: Sanitary Sewers Storm Sewers

Transportation:

Bridges Streetlights Traffic Signals

Leisure Trails: Leisure Trails

3,587 (Single family)

38 Lane Miles 161 Lane Miles 275.564 Lane Miles

1,412 93.29 Water Miles

85.83 Miles 116.89 Miles

22 1,527 25 Intersections

53 Miles



Public Service Department Work Activity

The graph below depicts the number of work hours dedicated to each service performed by the maintenance staff of the public service department. As highlighted in the pie chart below the top three categories of work performed are street maintenance, servicing utilities and maintaining building and grounds facilities.



Street Maintenance includes tasks like ADA ramp repair, roadside berming, guardrail repair, bridge culverts and pedestrian bridge maintenance, pothole repair, right of way mowing, repairs to street lights and traffic signals, street repair, street sweeping, street tree pruning, traffic sign replacement and trash/ animal pick up.

Utility work includes repairs and maintenance on fire hydrants, sanitary sewers, storm sewers, wye installations and marking city owned utility infrastructure such as fiber optic lines and water mains.

Buildings and Grounds encompasses any repairs made to the city owned properties which includes the police department, public service department, village hall, the water tower as well as surrounding properties.

Leaf Collection is a seasonal city service that is offered to residents during an eight week period from mid-October to early December. Service crews will collect leaves that have been raked into piles at the curb or in the tree lawn area.

Snow & Ice Control operations are performed generally from December to March whereby crews plow snow and salt roads during winter storm events.

Fleet Maintenance of all city owned vehicles and equipment is performed by the public service department through the labor of it's fleet mechanic and service workers.

Requests for Service

When residents and businesses require maintenance services or become aware of infrastructure problems they contact the public service department for assistance. Staff members routinely take calls and emails covering a wide range of requests such as traffic signs down, streetlights out, potholes in the roads, sewer backups, missed trash collection, flooding in backyards, etc. These requests are recorded and tracked as work orders in a database management system. They are assigned to maintenance crews for resolution.



Buildings and Grounds Maintenance

The public service department is responsible for the management and repair of all publically owned buildings and grounds. Crew members work on various building repairs as part of their regular maintenance duties which can include tasks related to painting, plumbing, electrical, heating and cooling and structural repairs. Grounds maintenance involves caring for building properties, cemeteries, parks, memorials and nature preserve areas. Service department staff oversees mowing, landscaping and general horticulture activities at all public properties during the growing season of April through November.







Fleet Repair Services

Maintenance and repair of all city owned vehicles and equipment is the responsibility of the public service department fleet division. This includes more than 200 pieces of equipment used by the city departments of community development (CDD), police (PD), and public service (PSD). Items include police cruisers, cars, pickup trucks, dump trucks, mowers, tractors, plows, salt spreaders, generators, pumps, chainsaws, weed trimmers and other specialty equipment. Services performed are scheduled preventive maintenance and repair, welding and fabrication, diagnostic and system testing, auto parts purchasing and inventory functions. Providing quality, timely and economical maintenance and repair services is our goal.





Fire Hydrant Maintenance

City fire hydrants provide active fire protection and a source of water for firefighters to use in extinguishing fires. Most hydrants require routine inspection and maintenance to ensure they are operating properly and that an adequate supply and pressure of water can be obtained when is use. While the Plain Township Fire Departments performs bi-annual flushing of New Albany's hydrants, it is the public service department who is responsible for maintaining, repairing and replacing fire hydrants when they are damaged by motorists, show signs of normal wear or become inoperable. The City of New Albany has a total of 1,412 hydrants, an increase of 76 from last year as a result of continued new development within the community.





Leaf Collection

The Public Service Department offers a convenient and efficient curbside leaf collection service to all New Albany residents during an eight week period from mid-October to early December. Service crews collect leaves that have been raked into piles at the curb or in the tree line. Leaf vacuum machines are pulled by trucks housing large volume boxes for collection. These trucks will pass each New Albany home to collect leaves at least eight times during leaf collection season. In 2020, 690,000 pounds of leaves were collected and delivered to a yard waste processing facility that coverts the leaves to organic compost. This amount is a 40% decrease over the prior year and is attributable to a very dry autumn season making the leaves lighter in weight.





Roadside Mowing

The public service department is responsible for the maintenance of roadsides along highways and arterial collectors within the community. This consists of mowing grass from the edge of the road to the ditch line or city right-of-way line. Mowing crews are also responsible for trimming grass and vegetation around guardrails, bridges and traffic signs. Routine mowing maintains the community's appearance, provides positive drainage and reduces animal and insect habitation along the road. The amount of mowing required each year depends heavily on the weather and the quantity of rainfall received between the months of April through August. The city utilizes both in-house staff and contracts with landscape vendors to maintain the turf and vegetation along designated Village Center streets and rural roadsides.





Sanitary Sewer Maintenance

The City of New Albany Public Service Department manages an extensive sanitary sewer collection system serving more than 3,500 customers within the city. The system consists of more than 86 miles of main line sewers and 2,050 manhole structures. New Albany ensures reliable sewer service by providing a well-maintained system through routine cleaning and video inspection of all public lines. These preventative measures help to avoid obstructive build up that may cause service problems for both residential and commercial customers. In 2020, as reported to the Ohio EPA, the city incurred no main line sanitary sewer overflows, however one residential home experienced sewer backups in their basement structure.





Snow and Ice Removal

The Public Service Department provides effective snow and ice removal service through the utilization of up-to-date vehicles, equipment, de-icing materials and GPS/AVL technology. From November through April each year, snow removal operations are scheduled for 24 hour service as crews work shifts in order to make roads safe and passable during winter weather events.

New Albany maintains approximately 276 lane miles of roads during winter months by placing de-icing liquids, plowing snow and dispensing salt. This represents 290 total streets including residential, commercial and highway roads. Crews also clear snow from public parking lots and sidewalks on publicly owned property. For each snowfall event it is our goal to have every street cleared within 24 hours after the snow stops falling.





Storm Sewer Maintenance

The public service department is responsible for the management of an extensive storm sewer system covering both residential and commercial developments within the city and totaling more than 117 miles in length. Storm water is conveyed through many different methods such as curb drains, catch basins, wye installations, structural pipes, culverts, ditches, swales, dry ponds and wet ponds. These systems are used to control storm water run-off during rain events by removing water quickly from surface areas, thus reducing flooding on roads and properties. Through annual maintenance and inspection of these systems, service crews preserve the integrity and operational effectiveness of the city's storm water collection system.





Streetlighting

Streetlights provide increased visibility at residential intersections and along commercial roadways for drivers traveling at night or during inclement weather. Service department crews perform monthly inspections to identify inoperable lights for repair. A well maintained street lamp and pole should last for more than 50 years. Streetlight repainting projects occurs every year during the summer months and requires the use of specialized aerial lift equipment. Approximately ten percent of the city's streetlight inventory is repainted annually which equates to over one hundred and fifty light fixtures, poles and bases. The service department has successfully converted every city streetlight to an LED style fixture to save on energy and maintenance costs.





Street Repair and Maintenance

Service crews are responsible for the general oversight of roadway maintenance, to keep city streets clean and in good working condition. Making repairs to potholes in the pavement and replacing berm material along roadside edges is a year round function of the department. In 2020, approximately 497 potholes were fixed and 5 lane miles of roadway berm was redressed with stone aggregate. Street maintenance activities also includes the placement of pavement markings for stop bars and crosswalk lines and repairs to roadway culverts, guardrails and wood pedestrian bridges.

The City of New Albany performs routine roadway repair and maintenance practices through it's annual Street Improvement Program which is a large scale capital construction project. This program is designed to prolong the life of city roads by performing pavement replacement, curb repair, handicap ramp improvement and roadway restriping. Using a pavement condition rating system combined with field inspections, streets are inspected annually and ranked based on their condition ranging from very good to poor. With the information gathered and available funding a list of street repair work is determined and placed in a formal document for construction bidding.





Street Sweeping

Street cleaning removes dirt, debris and other hazards from the road and storm sewer systems. It promotes the health, safety and appearance of our community. The Environmental Protection Agency considers street sweeping a Best Management Practice in protecting water quality. Modern street sweepers are equipped with water tanks and sprayers used to loosen particles and reduce dust. The brooms gather debris into a containment box that glides over the pavement, then it is vacuumed through a tube and dumped into a collection hopper at the back of the truck. New Albany roadways are routinely swept once a month as warm weather permits, typically the months of March through November. In 2020, service crews collected a total of 198,302 pounds of sediment and debris along curbed streets within the city.





Street Tree Maintenance

Street trees benefit the community in many ways. They add character to our neighborhoods, cool our homes and cities, clean our air, increase property values and provide aesthetic beauty just to name a few. New Albany is a Tree City USA community and has maintained that designation since 2010. For these reasons the city places a high priority on the responsibility for proper care of street trees within the public right-of-way. During the months of December through April the forestry crew actively prune trees along city streets to encourage growth of strong, healthy and attractive trees. In 2020, a total of 3,898 street trees were pruned. Once tree limbs and branches are removed, crews use a wood chipper to pulverize the brush into fine chips. The chips are then processed for use in mulch and topsoil. Proper clearing of lower lying branches provides the needed clearance for emergency vehicles, delivery trucks, snow plows, city street sweeper and trash collection trucks.





Sign Maintenance

Both traffic signs and street name signs are critical elements of the roadway system because they communicate the rules, warnings, guidance and other important information that drivers need to safely and efficiently navigate roads and streets. Well maintained signs are essential as they help drivers make good decisions. The public service department is responsible for insuring that signs are maintained to meet the needs of the road user. Crew members are involved in implementing a sign management system which involves inspection, inventory, maintenance and replacement. In 2020, service crews completed a three year project to improve existing city street name signs on public roads to meet new design standards set by city council. Old signs were replaced with new streets signs featuring black lettering on a reflective white background.





Traffic Signals

These electronic signaling devices are positioned at road intersections, pedestrian crossings and other locations to control competing flows of traffic. Traffic signals assign the right of way to road users through the use of lights in standard colors (red - yellow - green). Traffic technicians annually respond to equipment malfunction, replace defective parts and make adjustments to signal timing. This responsibility covers more than 291 signaling devices located at 25 different intersections within the city. Also, to meet green initiatives as established by the city, service technicians have converted all incandescent traffic signal lights to LED style bulbs which reduces energy and maintenance costs and increases brightness.





Locating Utilities

When doing projects around your house, digging without knowing where underground utility lines are buried can be very risky. When underground lines are damaged, vital services and everyday conveniences can become disconnected, not only to your home but to entire neighborhoods and, sometimes, whole subdivisions. The service department dedicates staff for locating city owned utilities such as water lines, sewer lines, electric to street lights and traffic signals and underground fiber optic cables. Being a member of the Ohio Utility Protection Service (OUPS), the City of New Albany is assured of getting notification before excavation begins. Electronic maps of the city's utilities are maintained using GIS technology and service crews operate sophisticated equipment that can locate underground infrastructure within precise accuracy.





Public Service Projects 2020

Leisure Trail Drainage Improvement

Maintenance Workers Kenny Geiger and Ian Hurst use the service department hydro excavator to install a 4" drain tile along a section of leisure trail on Innovation Way. The pathway was holding water along the sides causing the asphalt to deteriorate. The new drain tile was connected to the roadway under drain located beneath the curb. The service department is responsible for maintenance of leisure trails in the city right-of-way.



Workers use the hydro excavator to install new drain tile.

Ditch Drainage Improvements for Walnut Street

Supervisor Steve Kidwell and crew members Carl McNeal and Tyler Ashcraft work on the installation of new catch basins and drainage tile on Walnut Street to improve storm water drainage along the roadway. The new stormwater system will control water run-off during rain events by removing water quickly from surface areas, thus reducing flooding on the roadway and at adjacent properties.



Crews install new catch basins and drainage tile on Walnut Street.



Rose Run Pedestrian Bridge gets routine structural inspection.



Veteran War Memorial gets repairs and painting.

Pedestrian Bridge Inspections

Maintenance crews got an early start on performing pedestrian bridge inspections in February, due to light winter weather. Workers look for broken, missing or decayed wood and check handrails to ensure they are structurally sound. Also, crews document whether the bridge is in need of power washing and staining. Similar to play equipment inspections, a comprehensive map and inspection form assist workers with their annual bridge inspections.

Veteran War Memorial Repair

Maintenance worker Andrew Love worked on a project which included concrete and stucco repair and painting at the Veteran War Memorial located on US 62 between Second Street and Cherry Alley. Utilizing a plastic tarp to keep the work area dry, Andrew was busy for several days making patch repairs and repainting the entire wall structure.

Public Service Projects 2020

Fire Hydrant Maintenance

City fire hydrants provide active fire protection and a source of water for firefighters to use in extinguishing fires. Most hydrants require routine inspection and maintenance to ensure they are operating properly and that an adequate supply and pressure of water can be obtained when needed. It is the public service department who is responsible for flushing, maintaining, repairing and replacing fire hydrants when damaged by motorists, show signs of normal wear or become inoperable.

Doggy Waste Station

As part of the City Stormwater Management Program, the public service department installs and maintains doggy waste stations throughout the city. This year service crews have collected 236 waste bags which equates to approximately 1.3 tons of dog waste. Maintenance Worker Andrew Love recently installed a total of three new waste stations at designated entrances to the Rose Run Park.



Maintenance crew Carl McNeal and Curtis Reed flush a city fire hydrant.



New Doggy waste stations were installed in the Rose Run Park.

Healthy New Albany Parking Lot

The public service department is responsible for the maintenance of city grounds and properties. Seasonal worker Colin Ryan is shown here cleaning up after removing overgrown shrubs at the end of the parking spaces at the Healthy New Albany Building. The shrubs were causing sight issues for vehicles which prompted the removal. Other crew members involved were Catherine Ryan, Andrew Love and Ian Hurst.



August storms caused some tree damage in the city. A tree weakened by emerald ash borer activity was blown over and blocked a leisure trail near Lambton Park Road. Forestry Specialist Nick McPherson and Maintenance Worker Shaun Bush worked together to clean up the fallen tree so that residents could resume use of the trail. The job was made easier and safer by the use of the new larger capacity wood chipper.



Overgrown shrubs were removed at the Healthy New Albany parking lot.



A fallen ash tree was removed from a leisure trail near Lambton Park Road.

Public Service Projects 2020

Pedestrian Bridge Maintenance

Seasonal crew member Catherine Ryan was tasked with re-staining the wooden guardrail at the SR605 Pedestrian Bridge just off New Albany Condit Road. The service department maintains many wooden pedestrian bridges throughout New Albany. These structures provide important connections for the vast network of leisure trails that the city has developed.

Street Catch Basin Repair

Maintenance Workers Carl McNeal and Jerry Smith work together to repair two broken street catch basin frames. Using a partner saw, they made square cuts in the pavement to better remove the asphalt that surrounds the heavy metal frame. Once the new frame were placed, then concrete was poured to secure the catch basin in position. The final step included placement of hot mix asphalt and the use of a plate compactor to level the new asphalt with the road surface. Prior to performing any digging or excavation the Ohio Utilities Protection Service (OUPS) was notified.

Sidewalk Repair on Johnstown Road

Maintenance workers Carl McNeal and Curtis Reed worked with acting Operations Manager Steve Kidwell to remove and replace two sections of uneven sidewalk panels on the west side of Johnstown Road just south of Keswick Drive. The city received several complaints from residents regarding the settlement of the sidewalk which created a tripping hazard for pedestrians. While the repair of the sidewalk panels was the responsibility of the New Albany Country Club HOA, the city offered to assist them with the needed repair.

Tree Replacement on Central College Road

In November, Forestry Specialists Nick McPherson and Chase Loughman began replacing several street trees along Central College Road which had been recently deteriorating. The first four trees planted were swamp white oak which is a long-lived, large growing shade tree capable of surviving both flood conditions and drought. Each tree was staked and watered after planting.



Seasonal Worker Catherine Ryan helped stain pedestrian bridges .



Crews perform catch basin repair on New Albany Road East.



Service crews replace two bad sidewalk panels on Johnstown Road.



Street tree replacement on Central College Road.

Completed Construction Projects 2020

2020 City Sidewalk Improvement Project

- Cost of construction: \$134,886.96
- General contractor: Decker Construction
- Construction period: June 2020 to August 2020
- Scope of improvements: The city sidewalk improvement project is an annual program where unsafe public sidewalks are replaced for residents at the discretion of city council. The sidewalk replacement program exists in order to improve pedestrian safety and walkability throughout the community.



Sidewalks in Hampsted Village were improved for safety.

2020 City Street Improvement Project

- Cost of construction: \$856,221.97
- General contractor: Decker Construction
- Construction period: June 2020 to September 2020
- Scope of improvements: This is an annual capital improvement project that covers both preventative maintenance and full scale pavement replacement. Construction activity includes crack sealing, curb repair, ADA ramp replacement, pavement patching, asphalt mill and overly and pavement striping.



Bevelhymer Road was repaved as part of the city street improvement work.

Miracle Field Parking Lot

- Cost of construction: \$67,000.00
- General contractor: Decker Construction
- Construction period: July 2019 to August 2019
- Scope of Improvements: In order to provide handicap access to the future Miracle Field Ball Park new ADA curb ramps were installed with redesigned at-grade curbing, sidewalk and ADA compliant handicap parking stalls.



ADA complaint parking was installed for the Miracle Field Ball Park.

Department Goals

The Public Service Department uses goal setting as part of its operational performance management process and to achieve citywide organizational objectives. Departmental goals help to guide specific employee tasks and projects for the year.

2020 Goals Achieved

• To address growth in staffing, equipment and increased levels of service, the service department will oversee an expansion project of the service facility garage.

The New Albany Public Service Facility was constructed in 2006 and sized appropriately for the needs of the city to support the services provided to the growing New Albany community. However, due to the city's unprecedented rapid growth from 2007 to 2017, a significant increase in roadway lane miles and associated infrastructure took place. In order to maintain the same level of services for the growth areas of the community such as snow removal, sewer cleaning, fire protection, street lighting, traffic signalization, and other essential services, the city hired additional staff and purchased additional trucks and equipment. To accommodate the need to store the additional trucks and equipment within the existing Public Service Facility an expansion of the garage space was necessary. Construction began in November of 2019 on a 10,000 square foot addition and was completed in July of 2020. The project was awarded to the R.W. Setterlin Building Company for a bid price of \$1,564,246.13.

• The public service department proposes to development an urban forestry program for the proper care and management of city street trees.

Similar to the quality and care that is taken for other city infrastructure like roads, sewers and buildings, trees provide value to the community, therefore staffing and strategic planning are needed to properly care for the city's 20,000 and growing number of street trees. New Albany has the potential to be a regional leader in Urban Forestry by developing a sustainable and cost effective urban forestry program focused on regular preventive maintenance of the city street trees. Building a small crew of tree care workers dedicated to New Albany's Urban Forest is the first step. Approved by city council for the 2020 budget, two full-time forestry specialist positions were created and filled. The forestry division is now staffed with three employees who are responsible for the timely pruning, removal, replacement and overall care of city owned trees.

• The service department proposes to complete a pavement assessment of city leisure trails and development a long range plan for future maintenance and management.

Leisure trails require periodic inspection and maintenance to keep them safe and to preserve system longevity. The city hired the Transmap Corporation to perform an evaluation of the pavement condition of the city's 35 miles of leisure trails and provide a report. This information was used to develop a maintenance program for the city's leisure trail system. The Transmap Corporation is a national provider of professional, technical, and management support services to the transportation industry. Their services are directed towards city-owned and county-owned transportation systems in order to provide the highest quality infra-structure management solutions. Transmap specializes in the mobile data collection, processing, analysis and inventory of roadway assets.

Field inspections were performed in early July utilizing ground-based LiDAR driving the city's entire leisure trail system. After the data was collected and processed, then a report was prepared detailing the varying conditions of the trail pavement sections. This report will be used to develop a five year capital improvement project to improve the condition of the city's trail system.

2021 Department Goals Proposed

• Solar energy is an abundant, renewable, and non-polluting energy resource. It is the intention of the city to foster and encourage the adoption of alternative energy sources within the community for the purpose of achieving the multiple economic, health, environmental, and educational benefits of solar energy, while maintaining the community character, design standards, and livability. The deployment of solar energy facilities and the pursuit of environmental sustainable strategies can greatly reduce the cost and consumption of energy, while lowering carbon emissions and reducing fossil fuel consumption in the city.

The public service department proposes to investigate the construction of a solar photovoltaic energy generation system at the Public Service Facility that will reduce electric service costs and demonstrate leadership to the New Albany community in the area of clean energy.

• In 2004, as part of a collaborative effort to reduce the increasing costs of residential waste collection New Albany joined with seven other central Ohio communities (Bexley, Dublin, Gahanna, Mifflin Township, Plain Township, Westerville, Washington Township) to form a consortium group to collectively bid and contract for refuse collection. The volume based bid process proved to be successful in lowering trash collection costs. In 2018, as a consortium member the City of New Albany successfully bid and awarded a collection contract to Rumpke of Ohio for a three (3) year term beginning January 1, 2019 and ending December 31, 2021.

The public service department will work again with consortium communities in order to prepare for a new cooperative bid for residential waste collection and recycling processing services. The current contract with the city's waste & recycling hauler does not have a provision to extend trash collection beyond December 31, 2021.

• In 2020, the public service department completed the goal of assessing the pavement condition and developing a long range plan for future maintenance and management of New Albany's existing 35 miles of leisure trails. Utilizing the assessment work that has already taken place and long range management plan the public service department will implement a five year capital improvement project to upgrade the condition of the city's trail system.