

**City of Fishers Special Finance Committee Meetings
Minutes for August 23, 2023**

Meeting: Special Finance Committee Meeting
Date/Time: August 23, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.
Location: Thomas A. Weaver Municipal Hall Complex, Pavilion Conference Room
Ten Municipal Drive
Fishers, IN 46038

Chairman John Weingardt called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Present were David Giffel and Jocelyn Vare. Cecilia Coble was absent. Others present were City Clerk Jennifer Kehl, Deputy Mayor Elliott Hultgren, Brad DeReamer, Lisa Bradford, Mike Reuter, Larry Lannan, Tracy Gaynor and Tom Teitgen.

Mike Reuter discussed Property Taxes, Assessed Value of Homes and Local Option Income Tax.

Elliott Hultgren briefly went through the [2024 Municipal Budget presentation](#).

Committee Members would like the following directors to participate in the next special finance committee meeting on September 11, 2023, at 8:30 a.m.

Police Department, Fire Department, Engineering, Public Works, and Health Department

The meeting was adjourned at 5:59 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jennifer L. Kehl
Fishers City Clerk



RECOMMENDED BUDGET

2024



BUDGET TIMELINE

2024
Recommended
Budget

8/08

Budget Postcards Delivered to Homeowners

8/18

Media Notice Posted

8/21

**Introduction of Budget to City Council
(No Public Hearing)
+
Media Day @ 12:30 p.m.**

8/23

Finance Committee Discussion

9/07

**Last Day to Post Notice
Budget Hearing**

9/11

**Finance Committee
Department Budgets**

9/21

**1st Reading of Budget at City Council
+ Public Hearing**

10/9

**Final Reading of Budget at City Council
+ Final Adoption of Budget**

Notable Projects and Funding, Prioritized in 2023 Budget:

QUALITY OF LIFE:

- Geist Waterfront Park Completion
- Geist Greenway Commencement
- Nickel Plate Trail Completion
(106th- 96th Street)

PUBLIC SAFETY

- Station 97 Completed, Increasing Space for Personnel
- \$500K in Forensic Technologies
- Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)
Replacements

OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE

- Replaced fleet assets and equipment, including
18 PD vehicles, 1 Fire Engine, and 1 Fire Medic
- DPW Facilities Building (backup for EOC) –
Generator

2023 RECAP

CITY OF FISHERS 2024



Fishers AgriPark



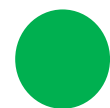
Newly Finished Station 97



FISCAL STRENGTH

2023 Awards & Audit Results

The City maintained its financial durability throughout 2023, upholding its AAA Bond Rating, while having the lowest municipal tax rate among the largest municipalities in Hamilton County.



Lowest municipal tax rate in Hamilton County*

* Among 4 Largest Municipalities in Hamilton County



AAA Bond Rating (less than 2% of governments have this rating)



Record Cash Reserves (\$38,418,370)

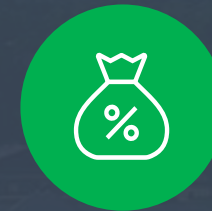


**Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA)–
34th Straight Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Report**

2024 Budget Highlights

Notable Upcoming Projects in 2024:

- Complete Fishers Municipal Center + Art Center
- Complete the Fishers Event Center
- Start Construction on the Community Rec. Center
- Finish SR 37 & 141st Street Interchange



DECREASE PROPERTY TAX RATE
3rd YEAR STRAIGHT



FIRST-EVER INVESTMENT IN SCHOOL
INNOVATION



HISTORIC INVESTMENT IN NEIGHBORHOODS



INCREASED INVESTMENT IN ROAD
INFRASTRUCTURE

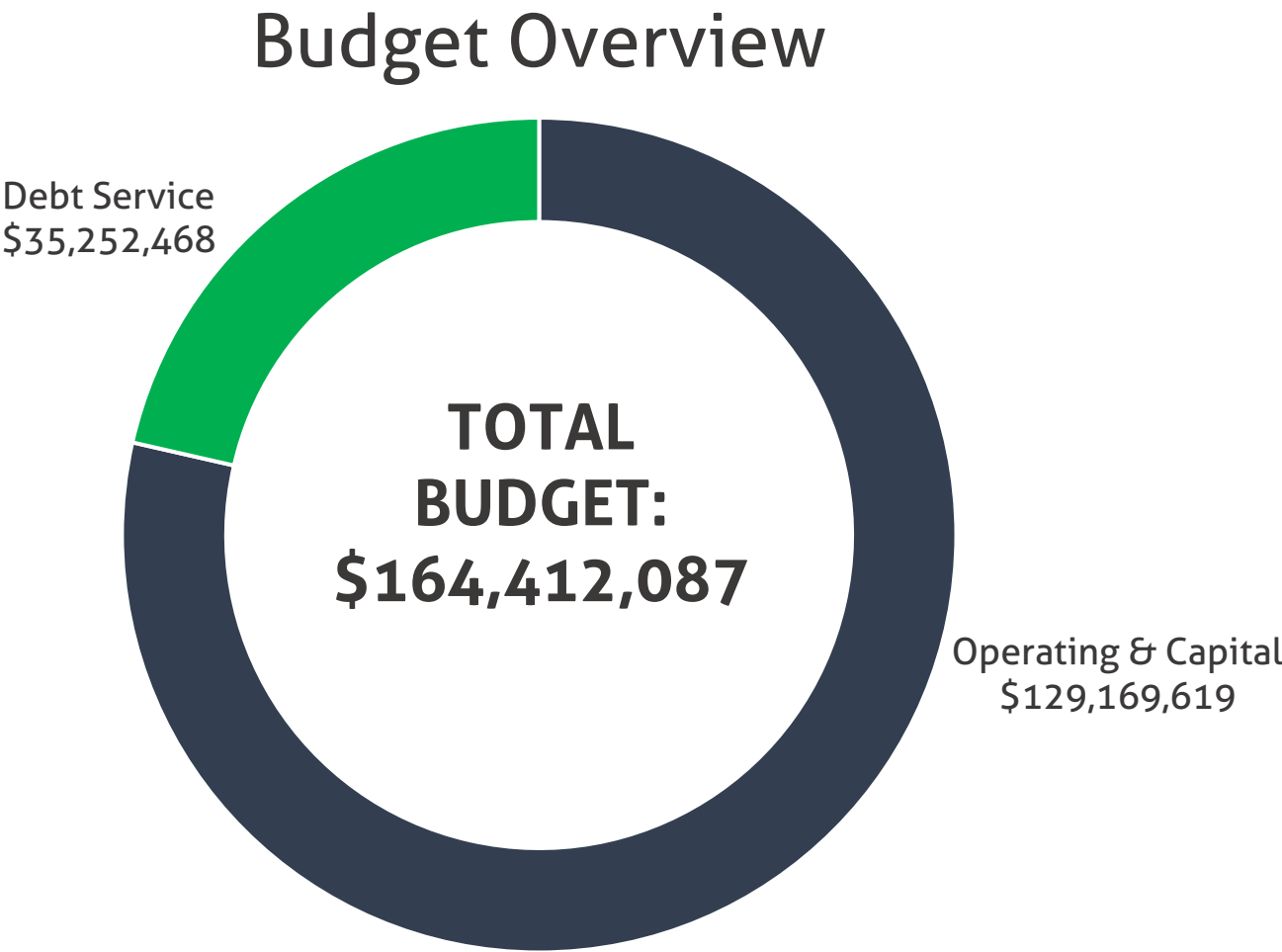


CONTINUING TO INVEST IN PUBLIC
SAFETY & CRITICAL SERVICES

2024 BUDGET OVERVIEW

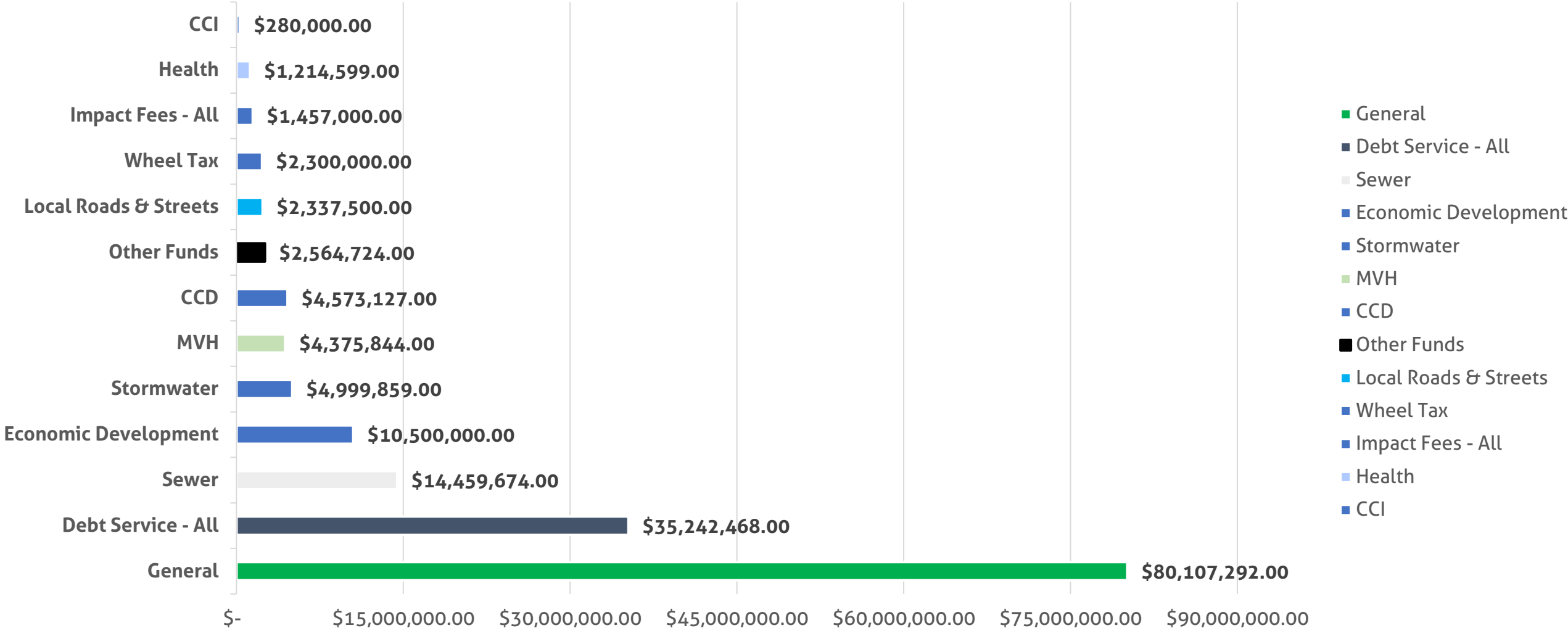
ALL FUNDS

-  **2024 Operating & Capital**
=\$129,169,619
-  **2024 Debt Service**
=\$35,242,468
-  **2024 Cash Reserves (All Funds)**
=\$72,704,790



2024 BUDGET OVERVIEW

BUDGETTED EXPENSE (AMONG ALL FUNDS)





General Fund



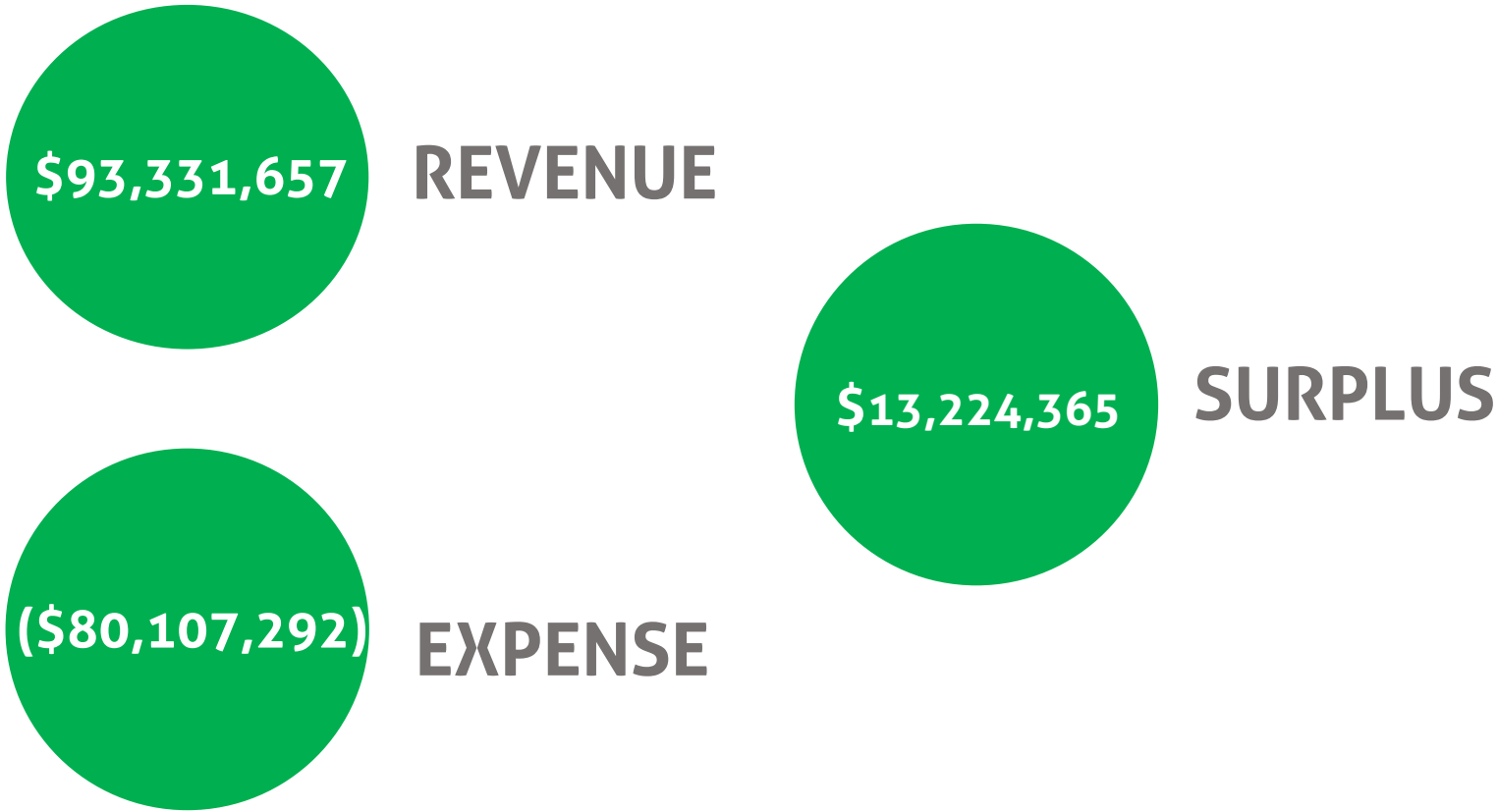
Geist Waterfront Park

THE CITY WILL BRING IN A BALANCED BUDGET WHILE MAKING SIGNIFICANT INVESTMENTS IN QUALITY OF LIFE, HEALTH & SAFETY, AND OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE.

RECOMMENDED BUDGET

2024

General Fund



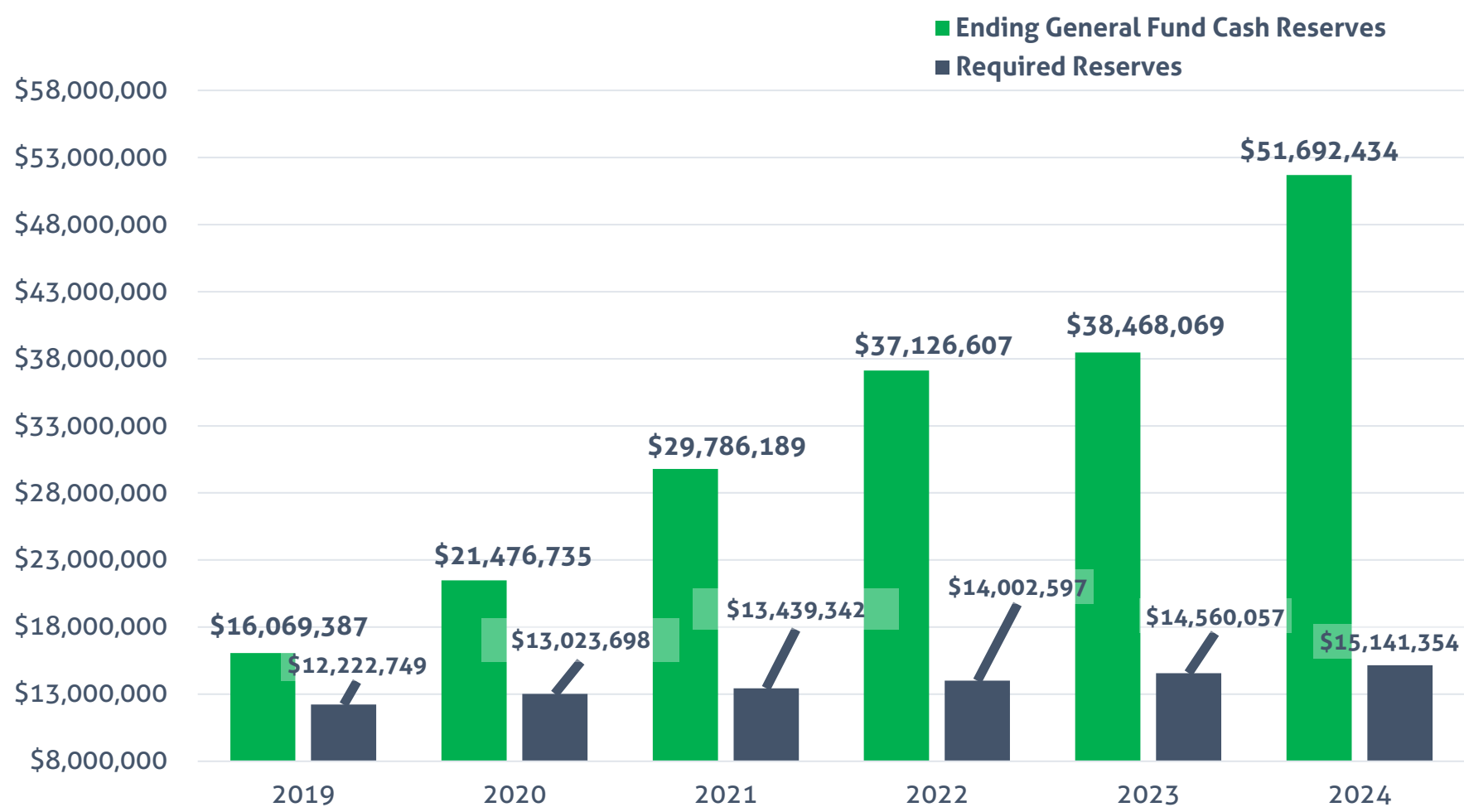


Flat Fork Creek Park

CASH RESERVES

2024 General Fund

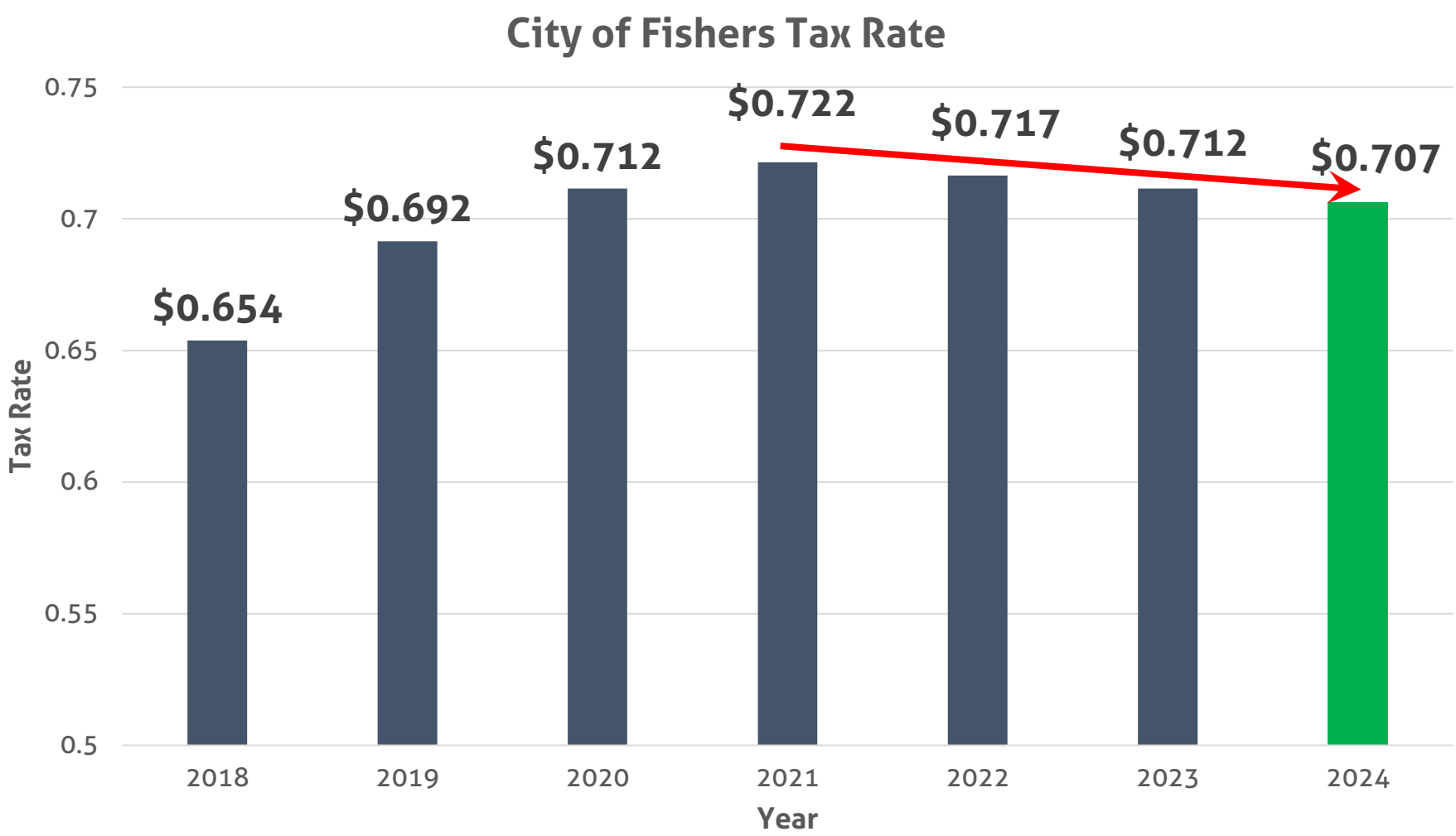
THE CITY WILL MAINTAIN ITS FISCAL DILIGENCE IN 2024, WITH **RECORD** CASH RESERVES.





TAX DECREASE

In 2024, the City will introduce a tax reduction for the 3rd year in a row. The proposed rate is the **lowest tax rate since pre- 2020.**





The Nickel Plate Trail

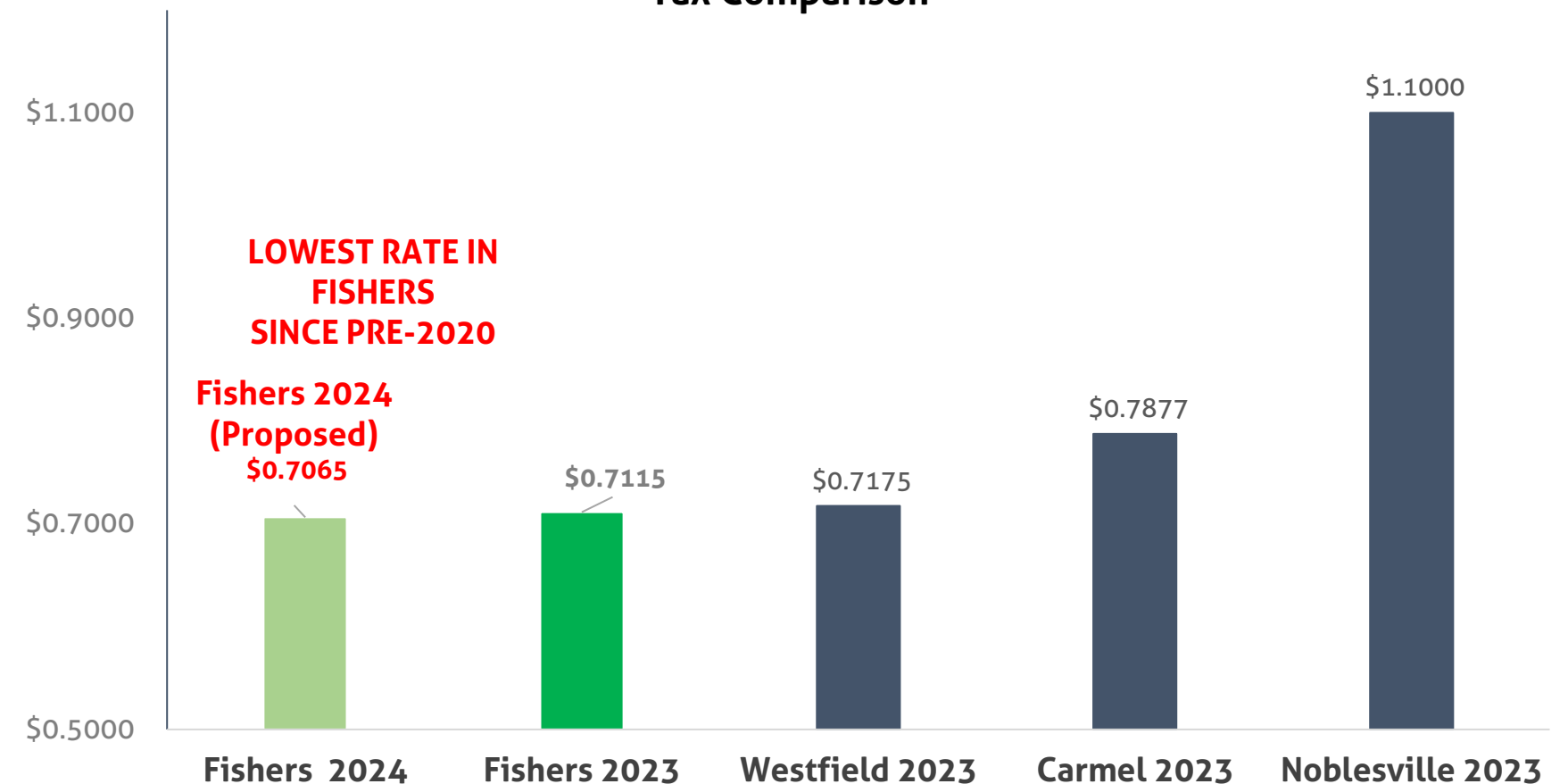
THE CITY OF FISHERS HAS MAINTAINED THE LOWEST TAX RATE, WHEN COMPARED TO THE LARGEST HAMILTON COUNTY MUNICIPALITIES.

CITY OF FISHERS BUDGET PRESENTATION 2024

TAX RATE

Comparison to Largest Hamilton County Municipalities

Hamilton County Municipal Tax Comparison



- Hamilton County 2024 Local Income Tax distribution will be \$233,998,470
- Cities & Towns will receive \$148,705,768 of that total
- Fishers will receive 23.6% of that amount; \$35,094,358

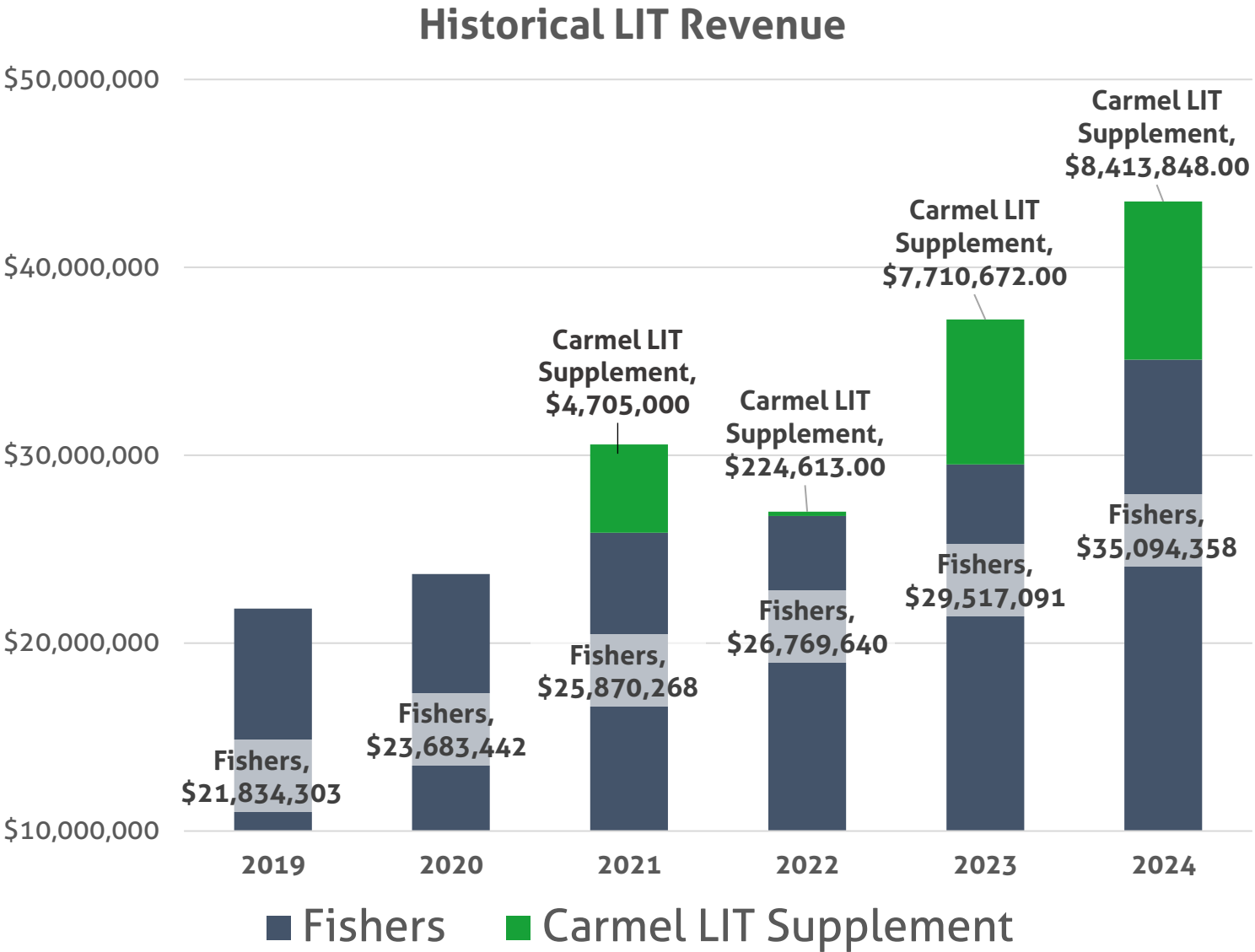


Nickel Plate Station Apartments

Local Income Tax

2024 General Fund

— —> Revenue





2024 Budget Priorities

OPERATIONAL INVESTMENT

Non-Infrastructure Investments

INVESTING IN HEALTH & SAFETY, OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE, & QUALITY OF LIFE

HEALTH & SAFETY

| Fire Department | Police Department | Health Department |
|-------------------------------|--|---|
| 3 New Firefighters (Q4 Start) | 3 New Police Officers 2 New SROs 1 Forensic Tech | 1 Full Time Health Inspector 1 Public Health Nurse 1 FTE (Billing & Grants) |



5% Salary Increase

OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE

| Department of Public Works | Information Technology |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 2 New Laborers (Sidewalk Repair) | Transition 1 Contractual Employee to FTE |



Increased Longevity Pay
for Public Safety Personnel

QUALITY OF LIFE

| Parks & Recreation |
|--|
| Transition 1 Part Time AgriPark Employee to FTE 1 Community Operations Manager (Q3 Start Date) 1 Community Center Membership Manager (Q3 Start Date) |



\$3M in Fleet Replacement
including police vehicles, DPW assets, and a medic

Infrastructure Investments

2024 Priority Road Projects

NEW PROJECTS

Roundabouts

- 126th & Southeastern Roundabout → (Construction Start Q2 2024)
- 96th & Allisonville Roundabout → (Construction Start Spring 2024)

Road Widening

- Cumberland Road Widening → (Construction Start Q4 2024/ Q1 2025)
- 136th Street --Southeastern to Prairie Baptist → (Construction Start Q4 2024)

Resurfacing Package (See Next Slide)

- 2 Resurfacing Packages (1st starts Spring, 2nd starts Summer)

ACTIVE PROJECTS (to be completed)

- Nickel Plate Trail → (Bridge construction anticipated Q2 2024)
- SR 37 & 141st Interchange

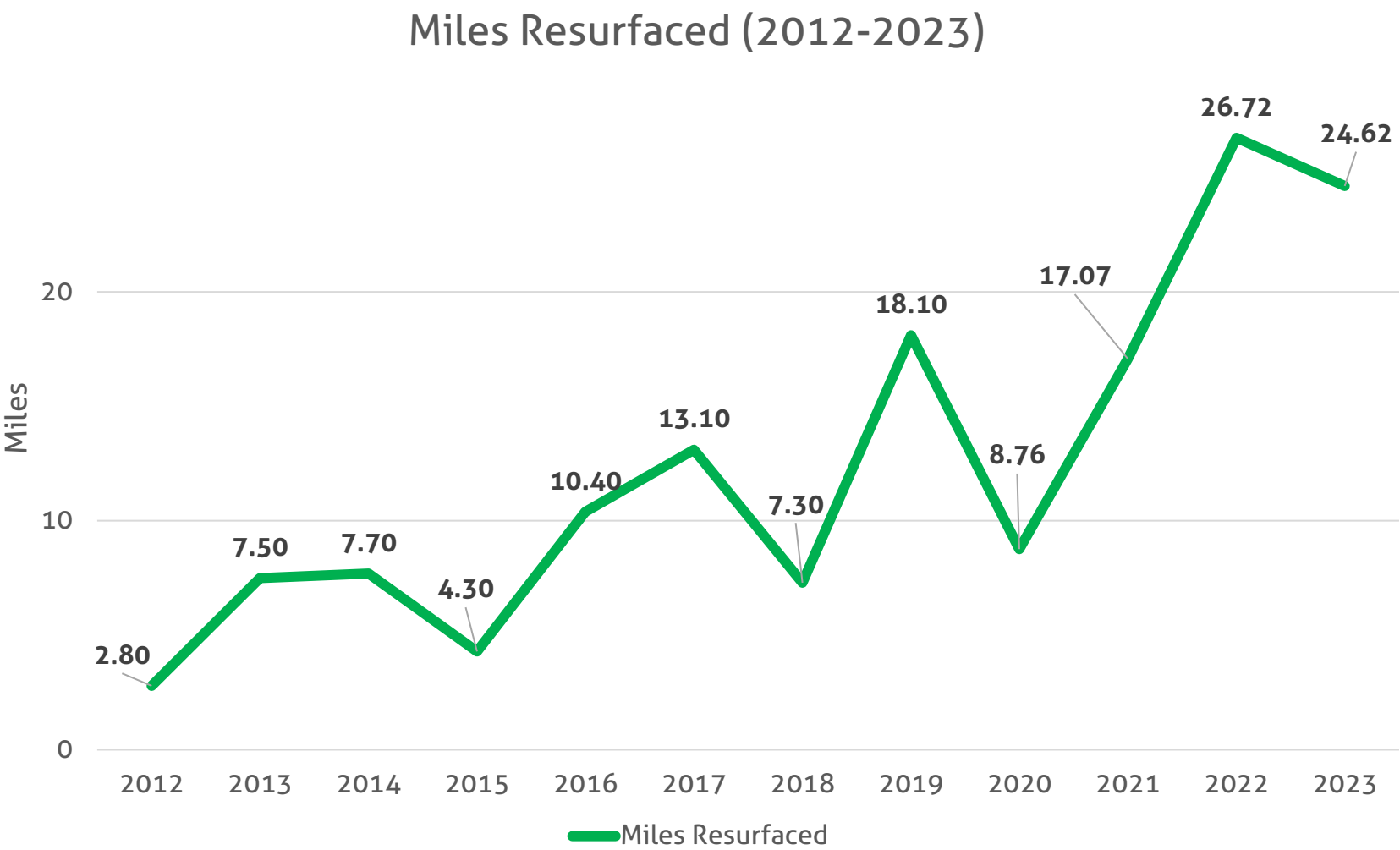
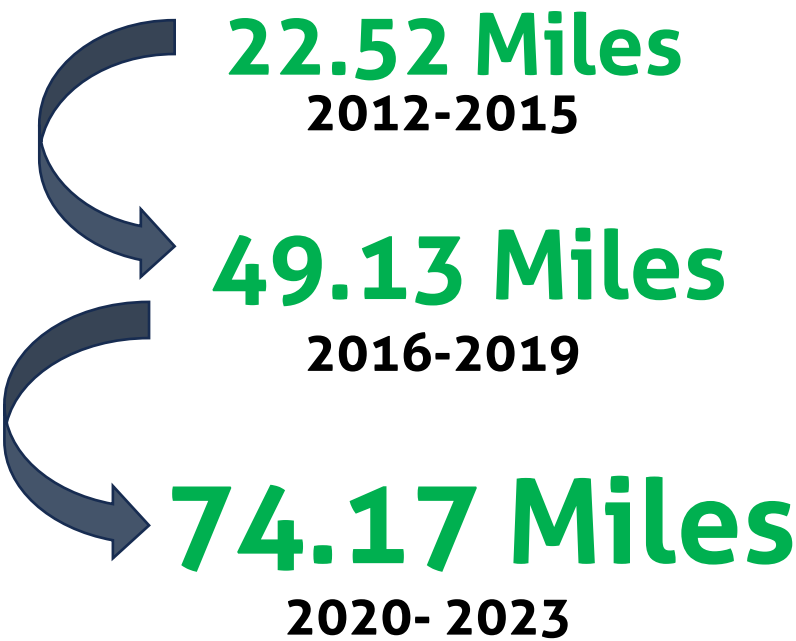


Infrastructure Investments

Roads Resurfaced Historically (2012-2023)

In 2024, the City will continue to prioritize road repairs, focusing on:

- Addressing neighborhoods wholistically, not partially
- Extending life of roadways with base repair

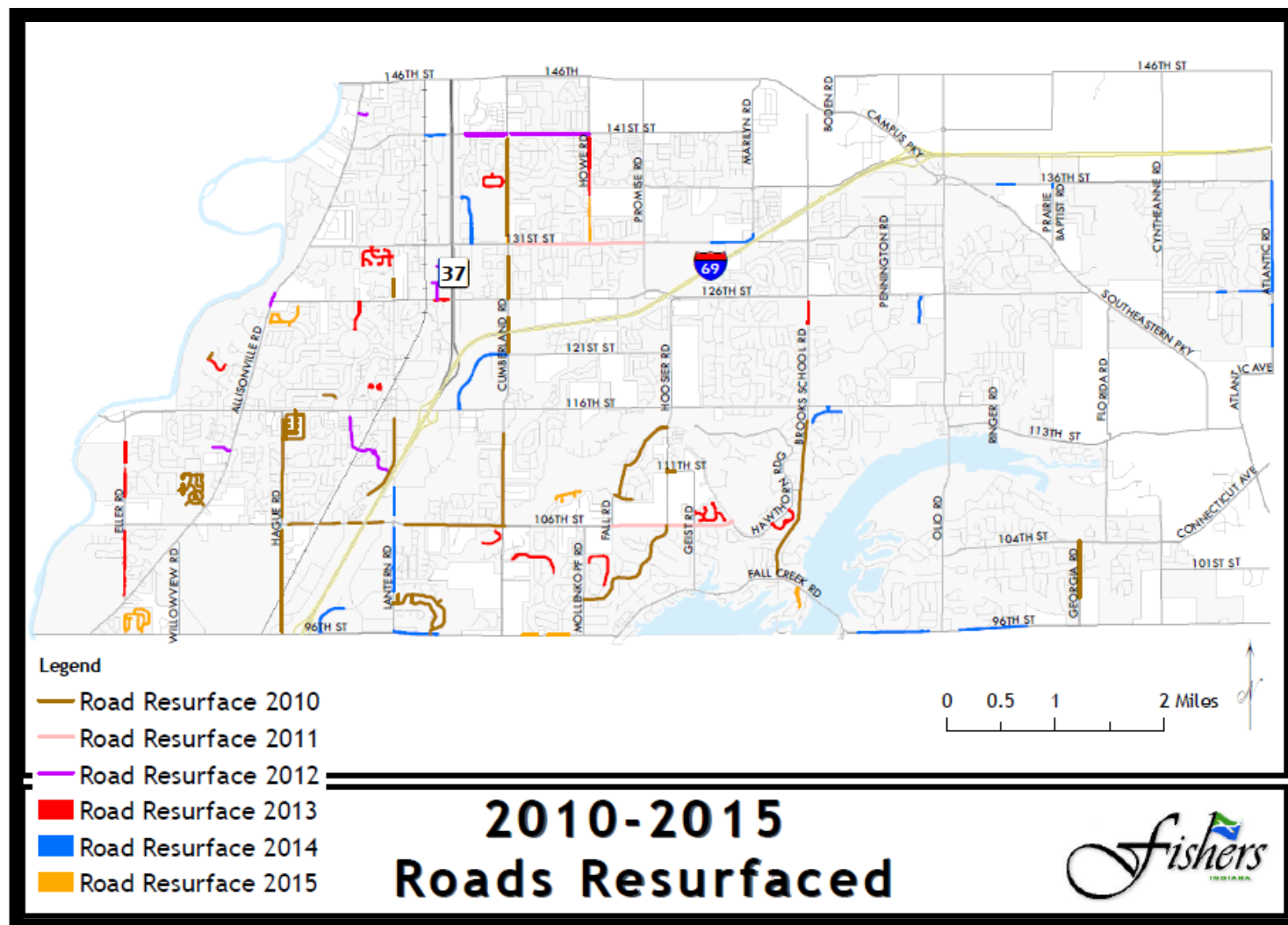


*8.76 mi (2020), 14.07 mi (2021), 26.72 mi (2022), 24.62 mi (2023)

Infrastructure Investments

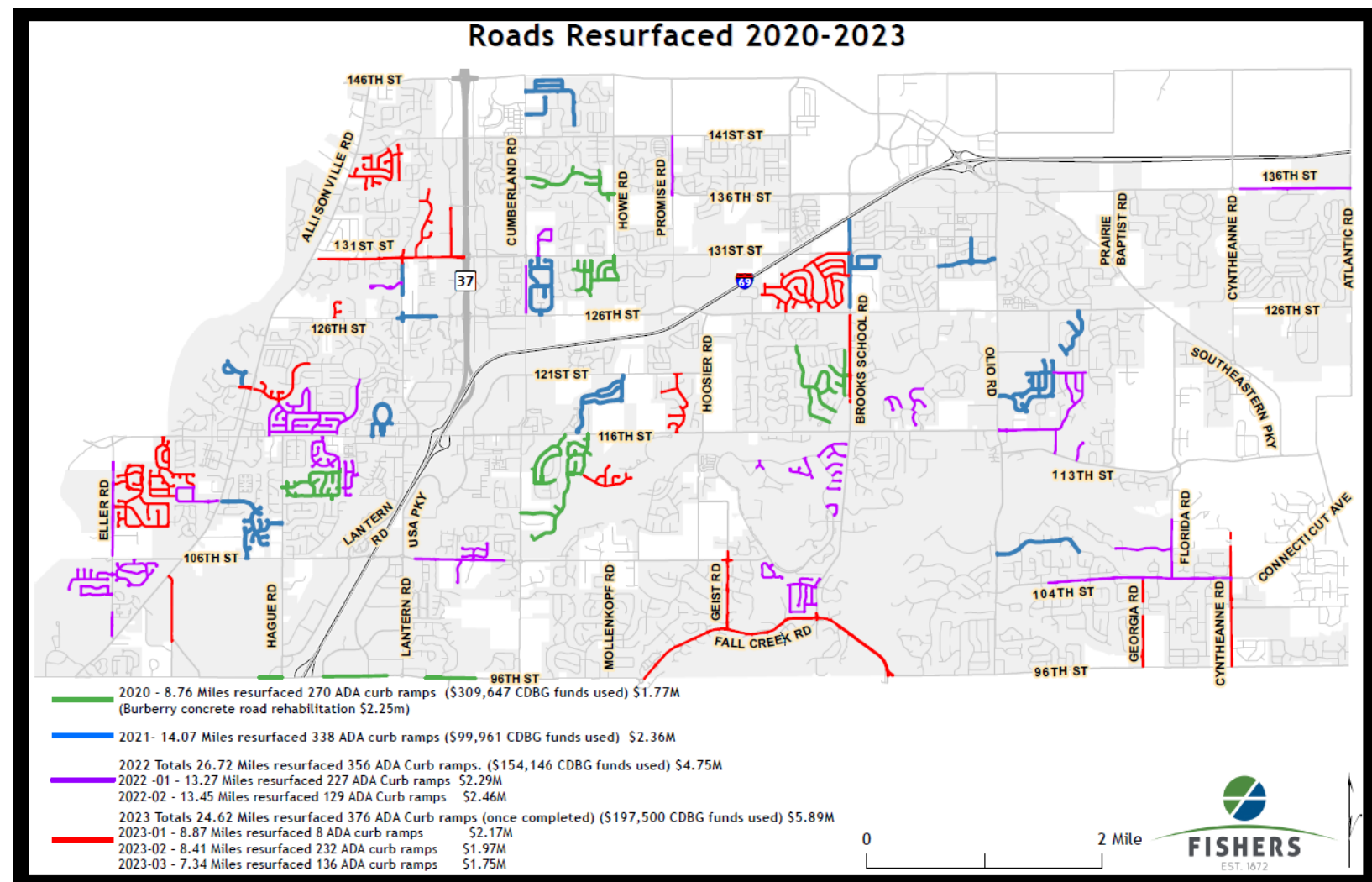
Roads Resurfaced 2010-2015 vs 2020-2023

2010-2015: 40.42 Miles



*15.58 mi (2010), 2.32 mi (2011), 2.84 mi (2012), 7.55 mi (2013), 7.76 mi (2014), 4.37 mi (2015)

2020-2023: 74.17 Miles



*8.76 mi (2020), 14.07 mi (2021), 26.72 mi (2022), 24.62 mi (2023)



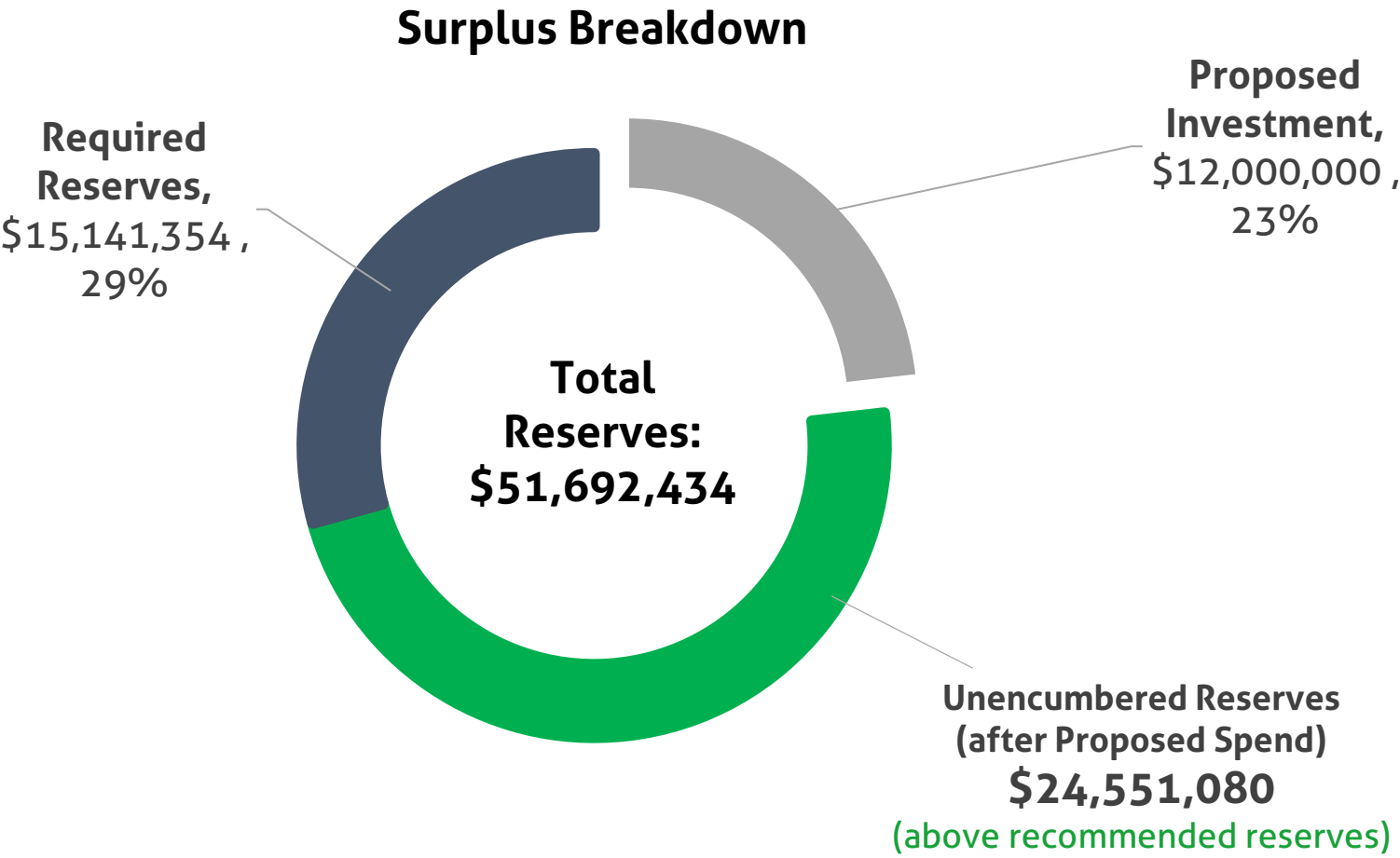
SURPLUS PLAN

INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITY

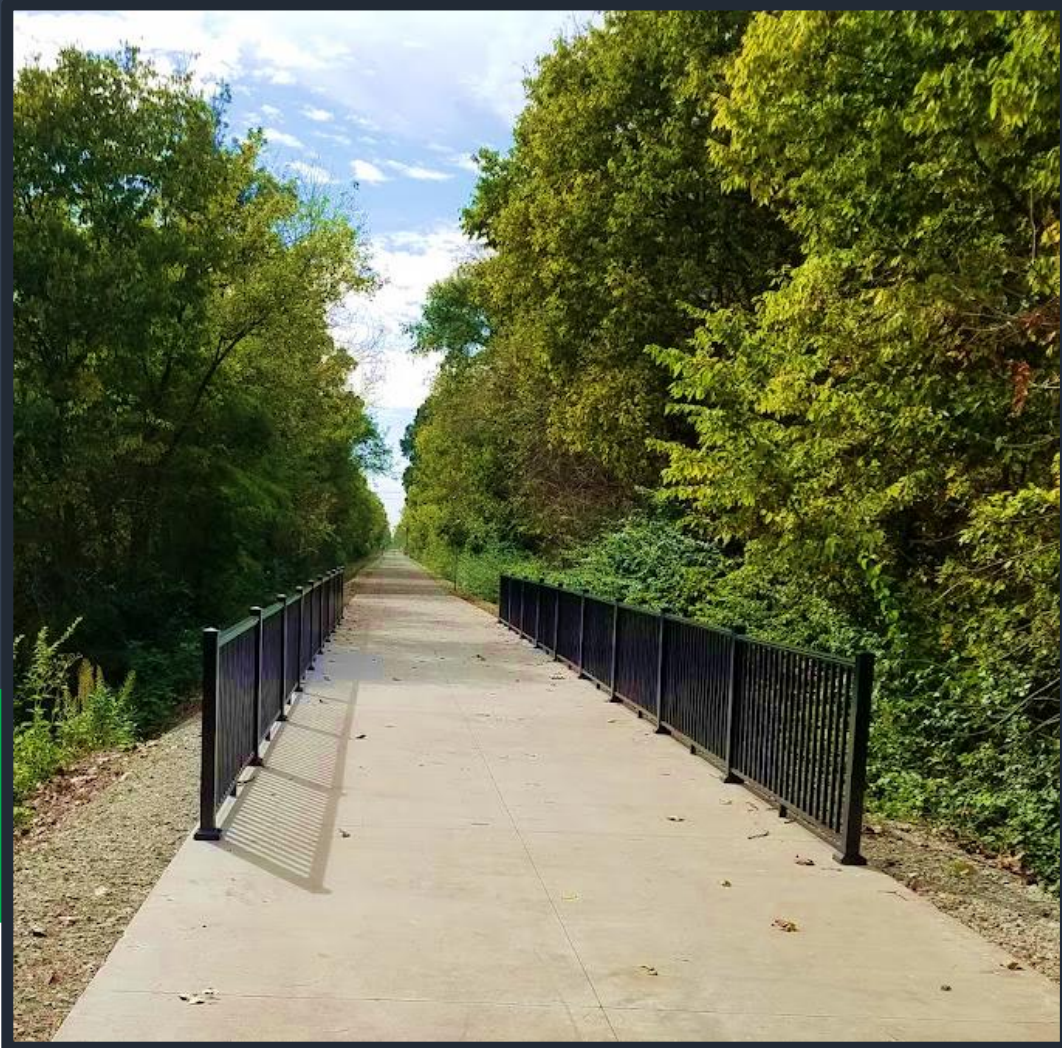
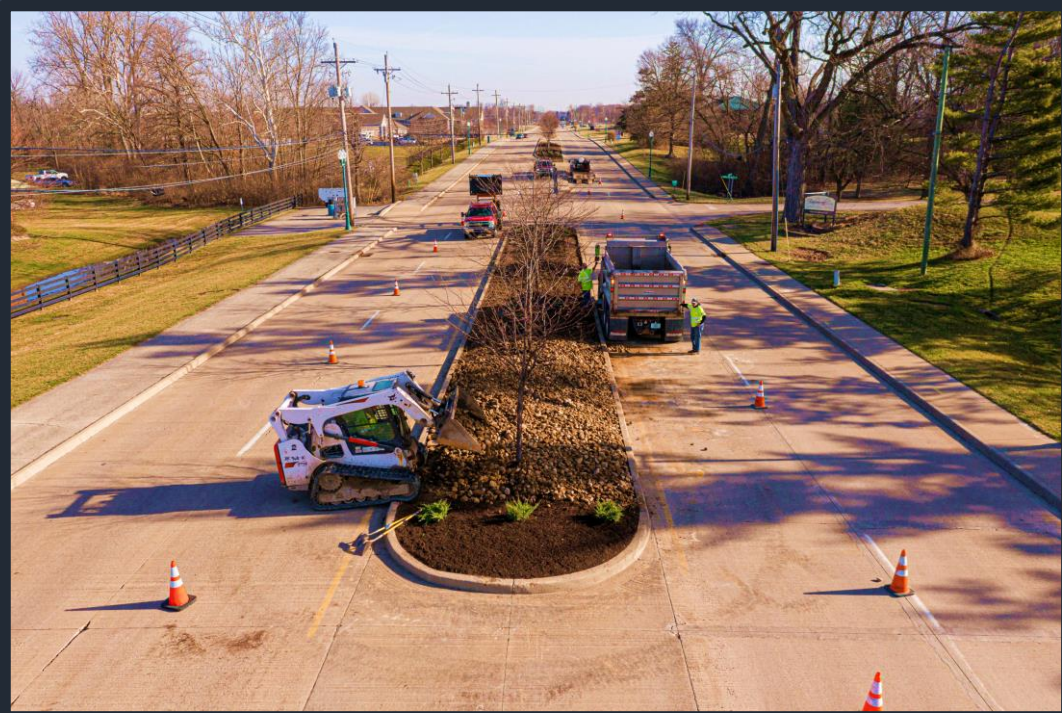
SURPLUS OVERVIEW

While utilizing a portion of the surplus to invest in our neighborhoods and quality of place, the City will continue to far exceed its required cash reserves*.

| Surplus Breakdown | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Current Reserves | \$51,692,434 |
| Total Proposed Investment | (\$12,000,000) |
| Remaining (Less Spend) | \$39,692,434 (+\$24,551,080) |
| | |
| Required Reserves* | \$15,141,354 |



*INTERNAL POLICY REGARDING CASH RESERVES



INVESTMENT PRIORITIES

2024

INVESTING IN QUALITY OF LIFE



EXPANDING TRAIL CONNECTIVITY & ENGAGEMENT

3 Impactful Trail Connections & 1 New Trail Node



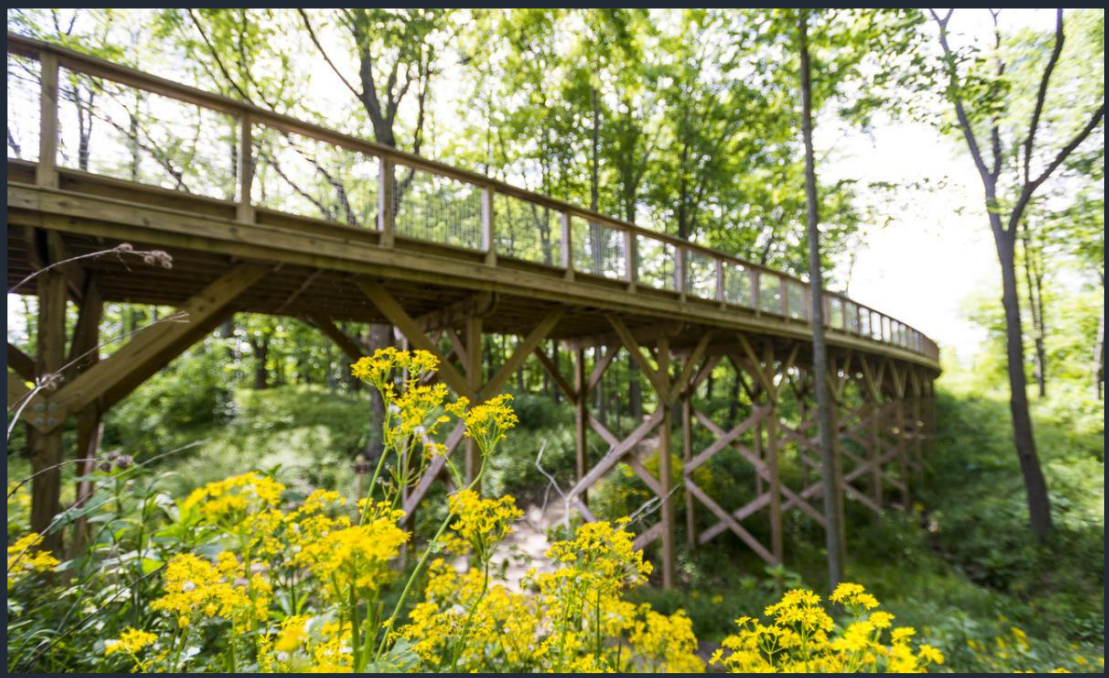
NEIGHBORHOOD & COMMUNITY VIBRANCY

Neighborhood Matching Grant Expansion, Landscaping Improvements, & Safe Sidewalks



INNOVATION IN OUR SCHOOLS

Introduction of a Micro-Grant Program to Fund Innovation in the Classroom



INVESTMENT PRIORITIES

2024

SURPLUS PLAN BUDGET

| Project | | Estimate |
|-----------------------------------|---|--------------|
| TRAIL CONNECTIVITY & ENGAGEMENT | Total Trail Connectivity | \$2,200,000 |
| | Hub & Spoke Trail Node (Restrooms + Engagement) | \$800,000 |
| NEIGHBORHOOD & COMMUNITY VIBRANCY | Landscaping | \$3,500,000 |
| | Sidewalk Repair | \$1,000,000 |
| | Neighborhood Vibrancy | \$750,000 |
| | Urban Forestry | \$250,000 |
| | 96 th Street Vibrancy | \$3,000,000 |
| INNOVATION IN OUR SCHOOLS | Teacher Innovation Micro Grants | \$500,000 |
| Total Project Costs | | \$12,000,000 |



TRAIL CONNECTIVITY

- 3 Impactful Trail Connections* + 1 Trail Node (Hub& Spoke)
- Connecting additional **2000+ Residents & 750+ Household Units** to Trails & Greenways

| Project | Estimate |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| Trail Connections | \$2,200,000 |
| HUB & SPOKE Trail Node | \$800,000 |
| Total Trail Investment | \$3,000,000 |

Trail Connectivity

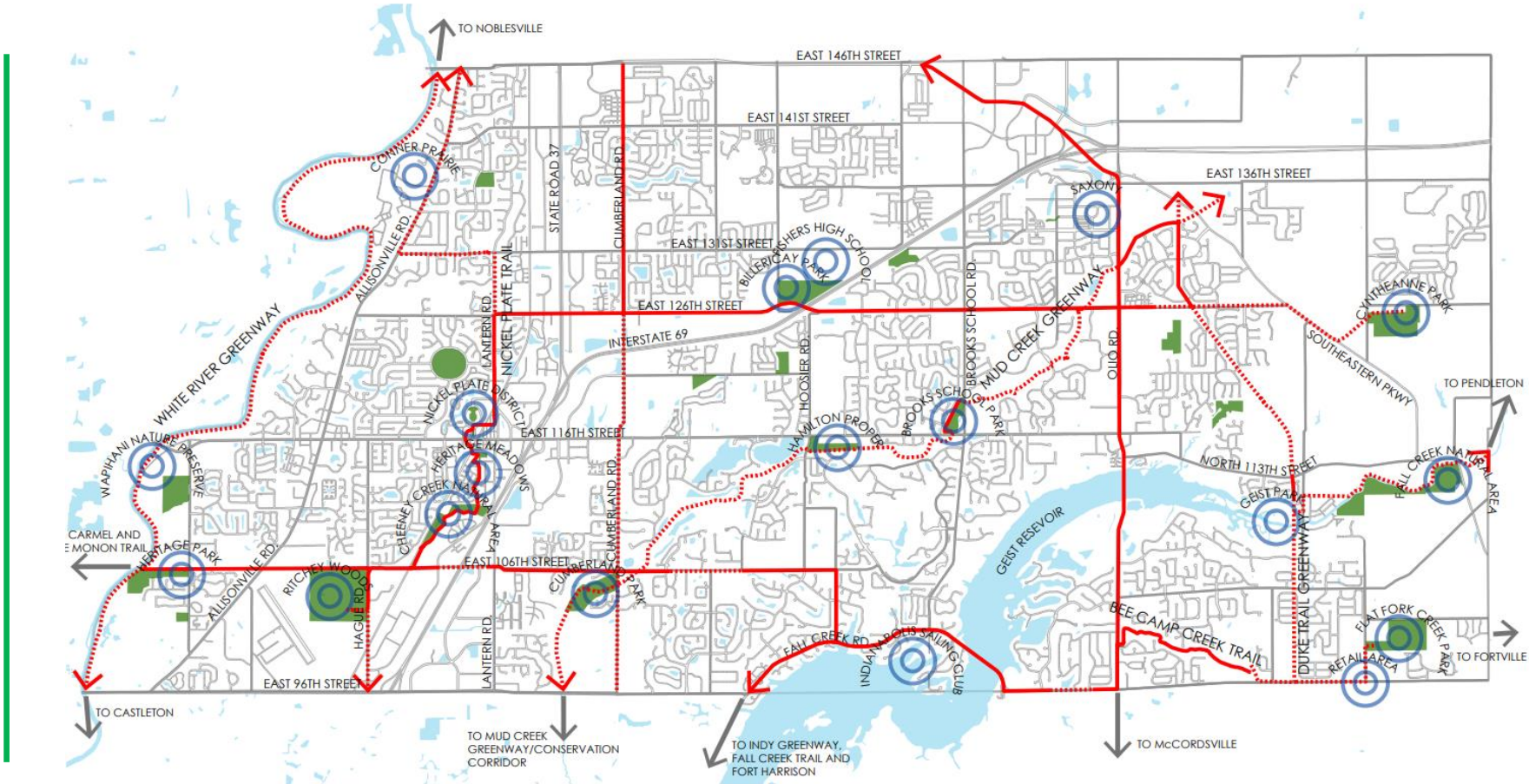
Trails Paved 2020-2023 +
2024 Priorities

In 2024, the City will invest in trail gaps and continue to work toward the trail plan outlined in Fishers 2040 Comprehensive Plan to connect residents to the major trail thoroughfares in Fishers.

| Fishers Trails & Greenways POPULATION & HOUSEHOLDS WITHIN 5 MIUNNTE WALKING DISTANCE | | |
|---|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | Population within 5 minutes walk | Household units within 5-minute walk |
| Existing Major Trail | 45,216 | 17,426 |
| Proposed 2024 Trails* | 2,000+ | 750+ |
| Total | 47,216 | 18,176 |

* Proposed trails includes Lantern Road Trail, 126th from Lantern to Allisonville, 106th from Hoosier to Cumberland (Detailed on Next Slide)
**Major Trail = 8' Trail

2040 Comprehensive Plan: Trail Plan Map



Trail Connectivity

Proposed Trail Connections 2024

Proposed Trail Connection Metrics:

2

Miles of Proposed Trail Connections

+2K

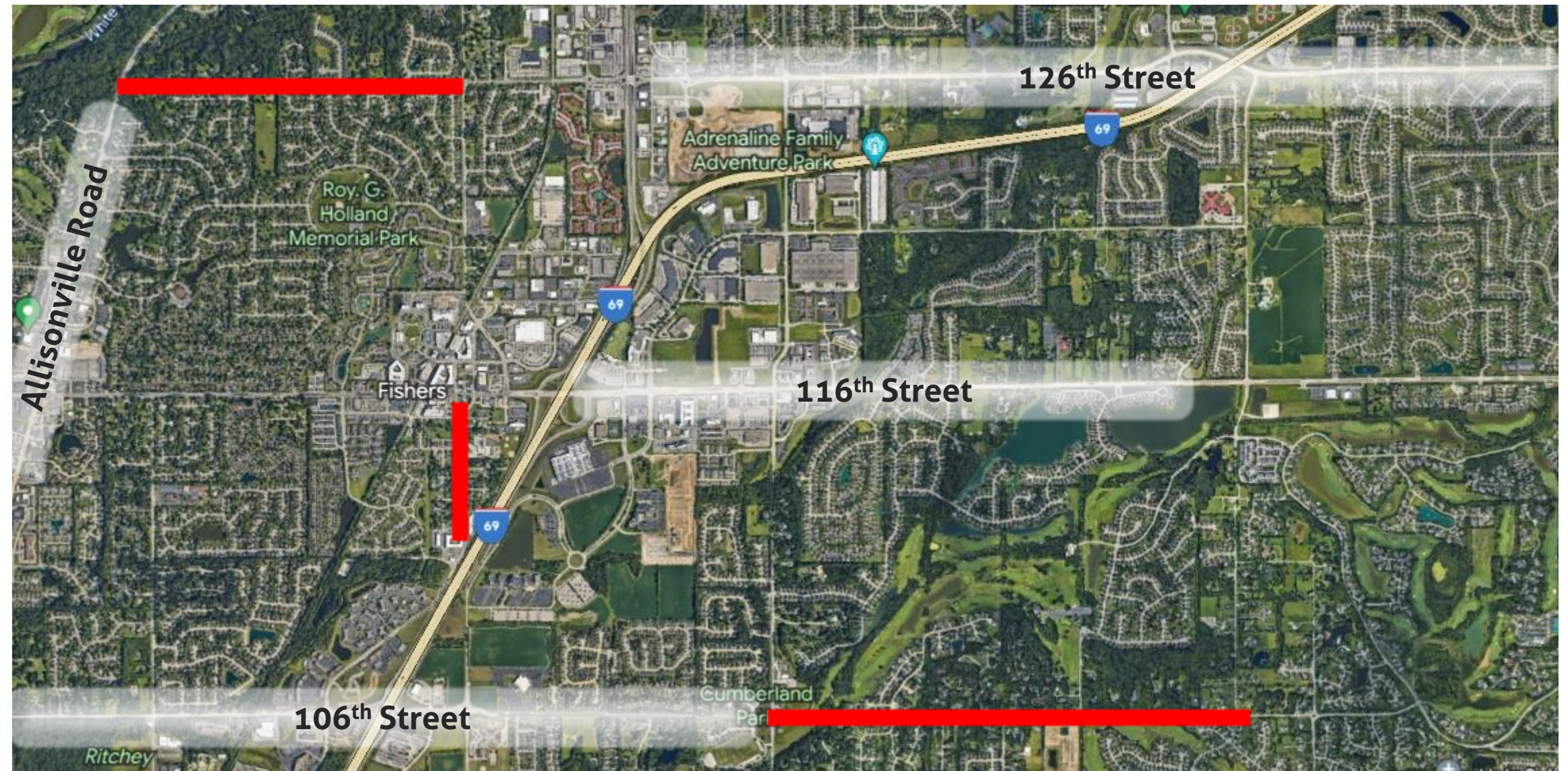
Residents Connected to Major Trail*

+750

Households Connected to Major Trails*

Trail Gap Projects**

- 126th from Lantern- Allisonville
- 106th from Hoosier to Cumberland
- Lantern Road 116th – Heritage Meadows Trail



* Within 5 Minute Walk

** Identified based on recent Trail Gap Analysis



HUB & SPOKE TRAIL NODE

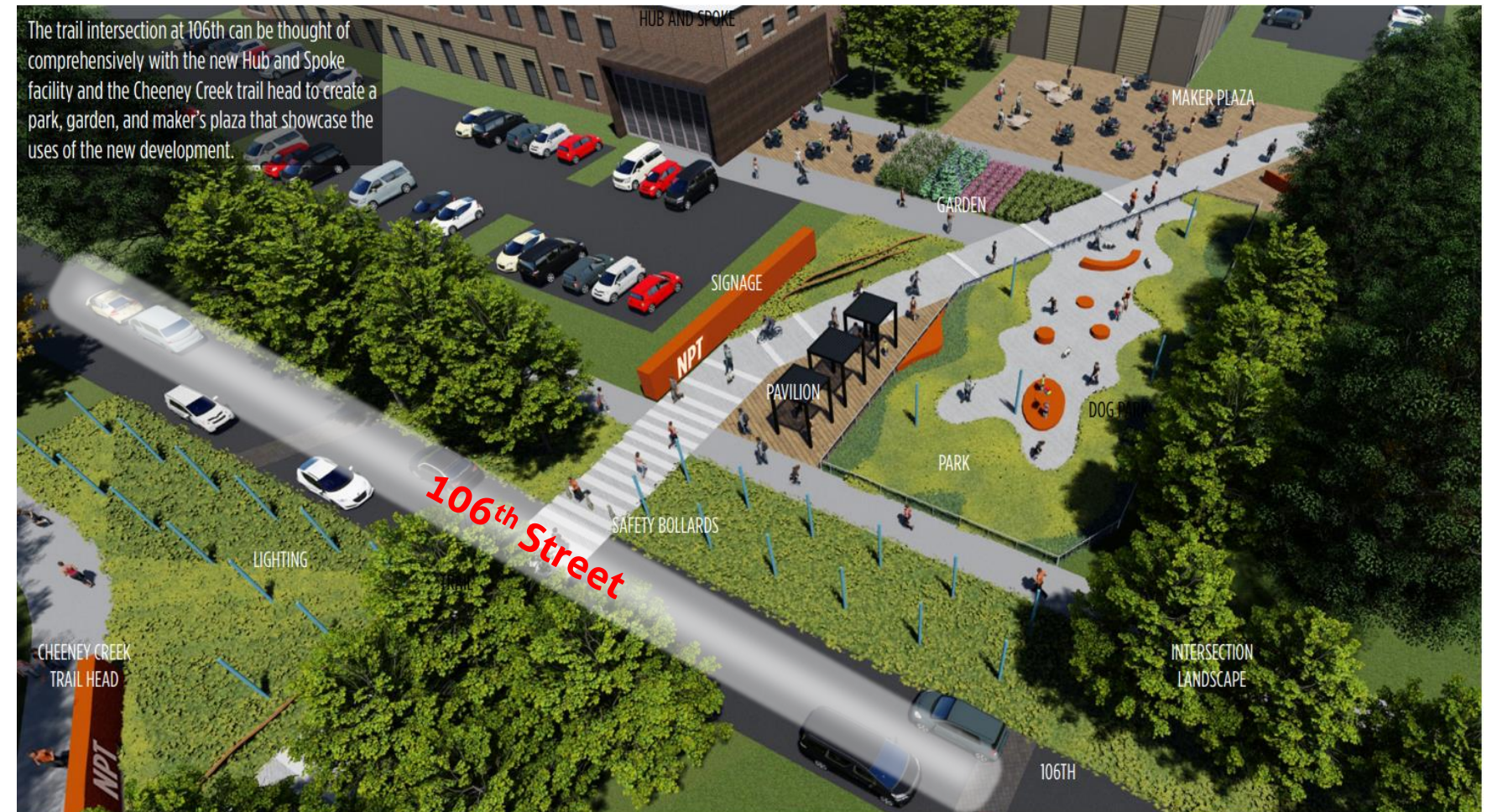
A key trail head @ 106th Street & the Nickel Plate Trail

As Fishers continues to develop the NPT to reflect the 2019 Masterplan, the City will prioritize the Hub & Spoke trail node in 2024, to connect the City's Makerspace to the NPT, while also providing an access and break area to trail goers.

Key Trail Node Elements:

- **NPT Access** from Makerspace + Hub & Spoke + Coffee Shop
- **Greenspace**
- **Programming Opportunities** for the Makerspace & Hub & Spoke, including food & beverage trucks
- **Public Restrooms** for Trail Goers
- **Public Seating and Site Fixtures**
- **Interactive Artwork**

Hub & Spoke Node, Nickel Plate Master Plan 2019



NPT and 106th - View 4

Nickel Plate Trail Master Plan 2040 | May 13th, 2019



NEIGHBORHOOD & COMMUNITY VIBRANCY

- Sidewalks & Landscaping
 - See breakdown on next slide
- Neighborhood Vibrancy Grants
 - Increasing allocation from \$100K→ \$750K
- Urban Forestry Efforts
 - 2,000 Trees Planted in Priority Areas of Fishers (see next slides)
- 96th Street Vibrancy
 - Funding for revitalization efforts on the 96th Street Corridor

| Project | Estimate |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| Sidewalks & Landscaping | \$4,500,000 |
| Neighborhood Vibrancy Grants | \$750,000 |
| Urban Forestry Projects | \$250,000 |
| 96 th Street Vibrancy | \$3,000,000 |
| Total | \$8,500,000 |

* See next slide for proposed program information
** See next slide for proposed program information



Recent Landscaping Improvements along Allisonville Road

NEIGHBORHOOD & COMMUNITY VIBRANCY

→ SIDEWALKS & LANDSCAPING

- Landscaping upgrades to bring 3 major thoroughfares in alignment with the Downtown Fishers landscaping
- Safer & Lower Maintenance than Full Grass Medians
- Sidewalk Repairs for 8 Neighborhoods*

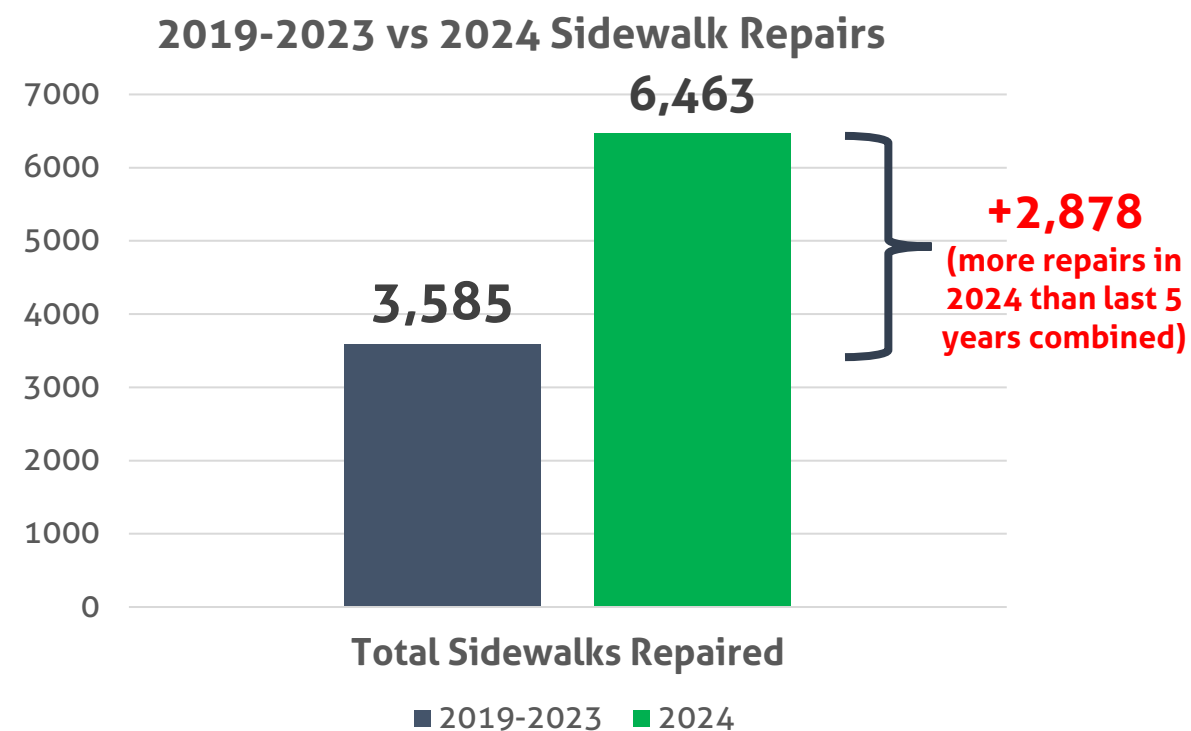
*Windermere, Sunblest, Brooks Chase, Pleasant View, Sweet Briar, Sweet Briar North, Britton Ridge, Ridgefield

| | Project | Construction Estimate |
|-----------------|--|-----------------------|
| Landscaping | Olio Road | \$450,000 |
| | 96 th street | \$700,000 |
| | 126 th Street | \$1,000,000 |
| | SR 37, 131 st , Misc. Medians & RAB | \$1,200,000 |
| | Parks Entrances | \$150,000 |
| Sidewalk Repair | 8 Neighborhoods* | \$1,000,000 |
| | Total Cost | \$4,500,000 |

SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS

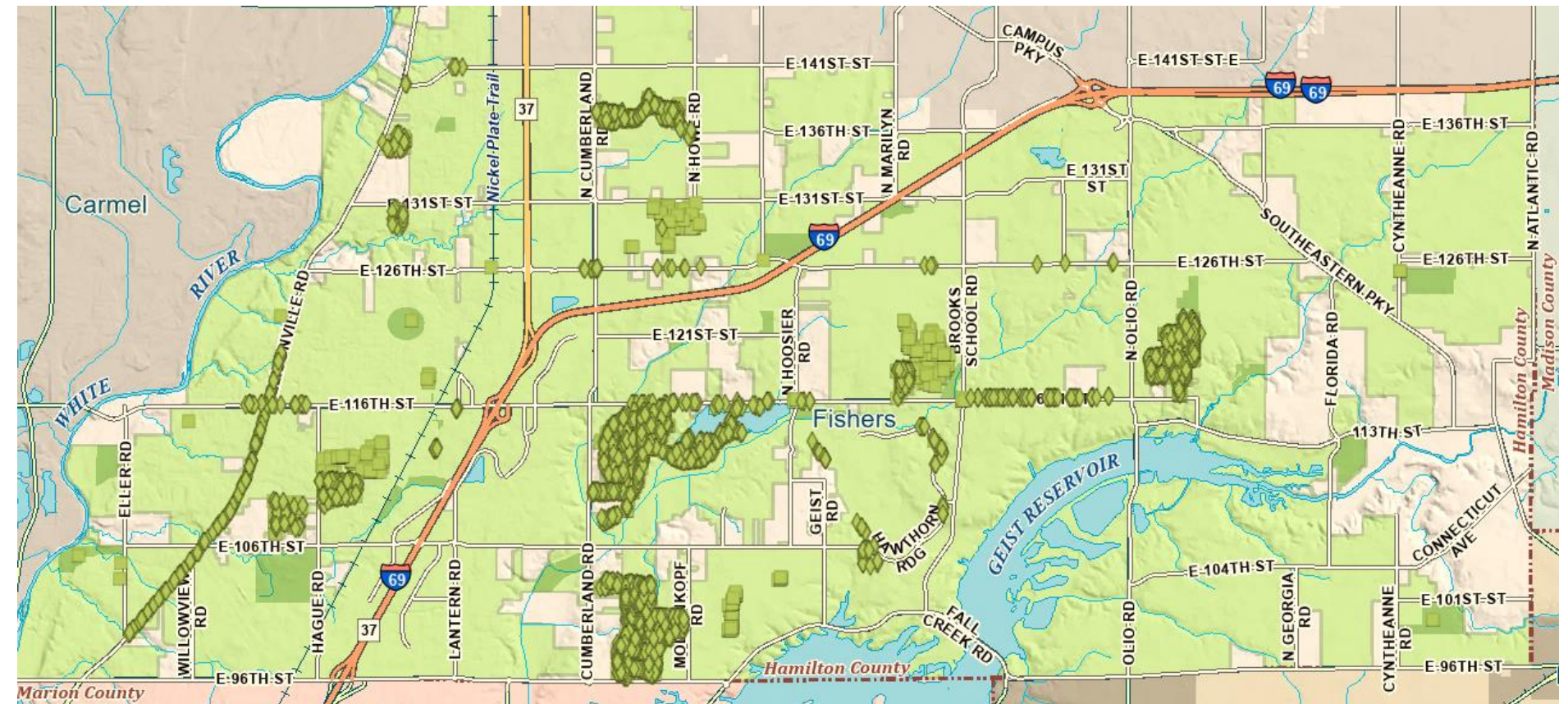
SIDEWALK REPAIRS (2019-2023) + PROPOSED 2024 REPAIRS

The City will continue to build on its efforts around sidewalk repair in neighborhoods, to create a more walkable community, targeting nearly 6,500 repairs in 2024. This exceeds the previous 5 years combined.



(Totals include both replacements + cutting/grinding repairs.)

SIDEWALK REPAIR MAP (2019-2023):



***2024 Priority Neighborhoods:** Windermere, Sunblest, Brooks Chase, Pleasant View, Sweet Briar, Sweet Briar North, Britton Ridge, Ridgefield

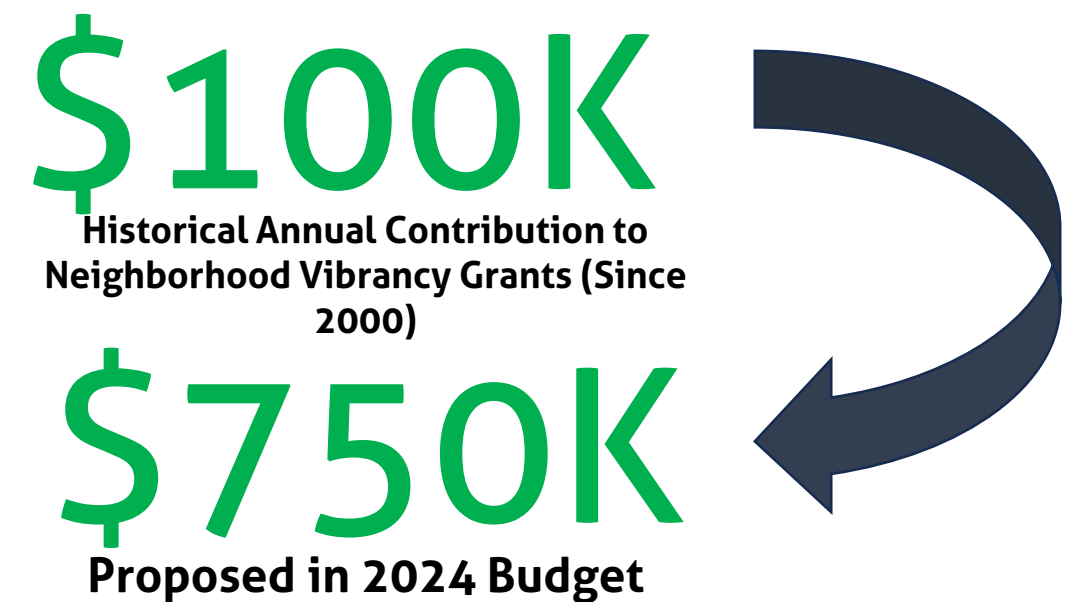
NEIGHBORHOOD VIBRANCY GRANT

DOUBLING DOWN ON NEIGHBORHOOD VIBRANCY INITIATIVES

In prioritizing the sustainability of our neighborhoods, the City is proposing \$750K be allocated to grants to fund projects related to **entrance upgrades, pond maintenance, greenspace maintenance, sidewalk connections, and community spaces**, within our residential neighborhoods.

Proposed Neighborhood Vibrancy Framework

- Increase allocation from \$100K → \$750K
- Neighborhoods may apply for eligible projects up to \$15,000 (80-20 match)
- Neighborhoods & HOAs will have the opportunity to submit eligible projects throughout 2024



50/50
Match



80/20
Match



Planting Guide + Urban Forestry Program

2021 Revision

URBAN FORESTRY INVESTMENT

Recognized as a Tree City USA since 2008, the City of Fishers has recently prioritized urban forestry efforts through its urban forestry program and planting guide for developers and land professionals. In 2024, the City proposes \$250K be allocated to urban forestry efforts in Fishers.

- \$250K IN THE 2024 BUDGET
- ~2000 TREES PROPOSED TO BE PLANTED IN PARKS, ROWS, AND AREAS WITH LOW MATURE TREE POPULATIONS

Urban Forestry Priority Areas

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 96 th Street | Harrison Thompson |
| Cyntheanne Park | Brooks School Park |
| Flat Fork Creek Park | Holland Park |
| Billericay Park | Heritage Park |

96TH STREET REVITALIZATION

VIBRANCY IN ALL CORNERS OF FISHERS

Building upon recent private investment along 96th street, in addition to road improvements along the corridor, the City of Fishers proposes a \$3M investment into revitalization efforts along 96th Street.

- The 96th Street & I-69 interchange is a key corridor and entrance into the City of Fishers
- Investment in the quality of place along 96th Street will continue to encourage private investment and economic development along the corridor

\$3 Million

Investment in 96th Street Revitalization



96TH STREET REVITALIZATION FOCUS AREA: I-69 to Lantern Road



TEACHER INNOVATION MICRO-GRANT PROGRAM

- \$500K allocated toward professional development and initiatives to jump start and enhance innovation in the classroom for HSE teachers
- Teachers and educators within HSE Schools may apply for grants to support innovative learning projects in the classroom

| Project | | Estimate |
|---------------------------------|--|-----------|
| Teacher Innovation Micro Grants | | \$500,000 |

2024 Budget Highlights

Notable Upcoming Projects in 2024:

- Complete Fishers Municipal Center + Art Center
- Complete the Fishers Event Center
- Start Construction on the Community Rec. Center
- Finish SR 37 & 141st Street Interchange



DECREASE PROPERTY TAX RATE
3rd YEAR STRAIGHT



FIRST-EVER INVESTMENT IN SCHOOL
INNOVATION



HISTORIC INVESTMENT IN NEIGHBORHOODS



INCREASED INVESTMENT IN ROAD
INFRASTRUCTURE





CONTINUING TO INVEST IN PUBLIC
SAFETY & CRITICAL SERVICES



NEXT STEPS

DATES & DETAILS:

Next Up:

-  **8/23 Finance Committee Meeting**
In-depth discussion of the budget and opportunity to ask any questions pertaining to the budget
-  **9/11 Finance Committee Meeting**
Discussion and questions related to department-specific budgets

Later:

-  **9/21 City Council Meeting**
Council Re-Engaged for 1st Reading & Public Hearing on Budget
-  **10/9 City Council Meeting**
Council Meets for Final Reading of Budget + Adoption

