



SMALL TOWN,
Big Backyard

BENBROOK, TEXAS



Annual Report

• 2017 •



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A MESSAGE FROM City Council

On behalf of Benbrook City Council, thank you for choosing Benbrook to live, work, and play! This annual report marks the eleventh consecutive year that Benbrook has provided a written update on the state of our city.

Benbrook is experiencing welcome, managed growth, while maintaining our small town appeal. As a *Small Town, Big Backyard*, Benbrook offers superb quality-of-life through recreational amenities, exceptional public safety and city services, and growing commercial opportunities.

As you browse these pages, our goal is to provide a summary of 2017 achievements, challenges, and hopes for the future of Benbrook. We continue to work toward Building a Better Benbrook, and we are pleased to provide this report on efforts to improve safety and mobility for our citizens, tackle important public works projects, improve infrastructure for future commercial endeavors, and to meet the needs of...

...A Growing Community

2017 marked a significant uptick in the Benbrook housing market with new homes constructed in five new subdivisions. The community development department issued 80 residential building permits in 2017. The new subdivisions feature high quality housing, concrete streets, and masonry perimeter walls.

A 2017 housing report ranked six Tarrant County cities among the healthiest housing markets in Texas. Of those cities, Benbrook ranked first. Added 'rooftops' are key to attracting new business. Benbrook welcomed several new businesses in 2017, including Sherwin Williams, ShootSmart, Planet Fitness, and AT&T. Construction of the Gateway Center shopping strip near Starbucks, on the corner of Benbrook Boulevard/U.S. 377 and Loop 820, was completed and nearly fully leased. Working in partnership with the Benbrook Economic Development Corporation, the developer offers this commercial site as a 'gateway' into our city from I-20/Loop 820.

The end of 2017 marked the substantial completion of the widening and improvement of Benbrook Boulevard/U.S. 377 by the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT). In conjunction with lane openings, unsightly overhead utility poles also began coming down. Landscaping and new monument signs will be installed once the TXDOT contractor has completed all road work.

Near the north entrance to the corridor, Benbrook Field Drive was completed to provide improved access to commercial land west of Benbrook Boulevard/U.S. 377.

While Benbrook Boulevard/U.S. 377 construction created challenges to motorists and temporarily affected access to businesses, sales tax numbers remained stable throughout the project, and consumers continued to support our business community. Since the beginning of the project, 14 businesses along the corridor chose to close their doors, while 18 new businesses opened; a net total of 4 businesses gained.

As 2017 came to an end, and the roadway lanes opened, there was increased interest in business development along the corridor.

As your City Council, we look forward to safer mobility along the boulevard, a new walkable space, and an attractive urban parkway that will create a more appealing business corridor and will help in our long-term efforts to Build a Better Benbrook (see page 6-7, 'Building a Better Benbrook' for more details on all projects).

Also in 2017, construction began on the new Benbrook Animal Shelter on Winscott Road, directly in front of the Benbrook Public Works facility. The modern, accessible animal shelter replaces a nearly 40 year-old facility.

A new neighborhood park was completed in South Benbrook. The 'South Benbrook Park' features a playground, benches and walking track. The Benbrook United Methodist Church donated the land for the park, which is the first public park in the area.

In 2017, a sidewalk was constructed on Vista Way Drive to more safely accommodate pedestrians in this busy residential and commercial area. Also, significant drainage projects were initiated on Sundown Drive in north Benbrook and behind Timberline Drive in the Timber Creek subdivision to prevent flooding. In addition, federal funds were leveraged to add street lights on Bellaire Drive to enhance vehicle and pedestrian safety.

Engineering and construction plans were developed for the extension of Vista Way Drive from Mercedes Street to the I-20 frontage road, just west and parallel to Benbrook Boulevard/U.S. 377. This roadway is another project intended to improve access and encourage commercial development.

Finally, Benbrook City Council approved moving ahead with a gated, one-lane emergency access-only bridge over the Clear Fork Trinity River to improve and protect emergency response times to residents living in northeast Benbrook.

All of Benbrook's capital projects highlighted in this annual report were constructed with cash reserves, rather than issuing debt. Our organizational commitment to operate in a lean, responsive, and financially sustainable way offers us flexibility in making sound funding decisions. As a result, Benbrook enjoys an 'AA+' credit rating. According to Standard & Poor's Financial Services, "Benbrook offers a consistently strong financial profile indicated by its very strong budgetary flexibility and liquidity, supported by strong management practices."

An honor to serve...

Benbrook City Council understands that each citizen has a tangible investment in our community through the payment of taxes, volunteerism, business ventures, and other community-minded endeavors. As such, providing an outstanding return on your investment is our first priority. It is our overriding goal to provide the very best quality-of-life possible, at the lowest possible cost to the taxpayers.

It is our honor to serve, and we thank you for choosing to invest in this *Small Town, Big Backyard*.



Benbrook

Roadways/Sidewalks

Construction of Benbrook Field Drive, just south of McDonald's, is nearing completion. This new roadway is being constructed to provide access to existing businesses and for potential future development of property behind the businesses along the Benbrook Boulevard/U.S. 377 frontage.

The road is 36-feet wide, and includes a 4-way traffic signal at the intersection of Benbrook Boulevard/U.S. 377 and Benbrook Field Drive (with a permanent median break). Water lines, sanitary sewer, and a storm drain system have been installed as part of this project. Sidewalks are also being constructed from Benbrook Boulevard/U.S. 377 to the end of Benbrook Field Drive.

The City of Benbrook annually partners with the Tarrant County Road and Bridge Department to overlay asphalt along Benbrook roadways. Asphalt overlays

were completed in 2017 on the following streets: Tobie Layne (from Winscott Road to Timberline Drive); Cottonwood Trail (from Timbercreek Drive to Mercedes Street); Estes St. (from Cozby South to Vernon Castle); and Leland Lane (from Covington Drive to Rhineland Road). The City also reclaimed Palomino Drive (from Chapin Road to the concrete section) and Brookdale Road (from Chapin Road to Circle S Road).

Funding from the Community Development Block Grant will be used for the addition of street lights on Bellaire Drive from Crosslands Road to the trailhead near SH-183.

The City of Benbrook also installed a new sidewalk in the 9200-9300 blocks of Vista Way in August 2017. This sidewalk completes the walking circuit on Vista Way.

Drainage Projects

The City is currently in the design phase of several drainage projects scheduled to be completed within the next 3-5 years. These projects are funded through the Stormwater Utility Fund. The Sundown Drive drainage project was completed in 2017. The Timberline Drive drainage project is currently under construction. Staff is reviewing plans for the following projects: Van Deman Drive drainage project; Chapin Cross Culvert replacement project; and the Plantation West drainage project.

New Animal Shelter

Construction of a new animal shelter is underway. The new shelter consists of approximately 4,300 square feet of building area, including 3,000 square feet of interior space, and 1,300 square feet of covered, outdoor runs. The shelter will also provide areas for outside play, office space, a lobby area, work areas, and solar tubes to bring in natural light to the kennel. The anticipated completion date for construction is May 2018.

Benbrook Boulevard/U.S. 377

The widening of Benbrook Boulevard/U.S. 377 by the Texas Department of Transportation has been a lengthy project, and not without challenges. The project is now substantially complete and most all lanes are open. The contractor is completing remaining items, including installation of sidewalks, street lights, and traffic signals.

The City of Benbrook and the Benbrook Economic Development Corporation have worked with utility providers to relocate utilities from along the roadway to the rear of several businesses that front Benbrook Boulevard/U.S. 377. Work is currently underway to remove old utility lines and poles from the right-of-way. The City of Benbrook and the Benbrook Economic Development Corporation have also set aside funds to construct new lighting, signage, hardscaping, and landscaping along the boulevard, which is expected to begin in 2018.



BENBROOK

Police Department

The Benbrook Police Department is a nationally recognized, award-winning law enforcement agency, providing community outreach, community volunteer programs, crime prevention and education, criminal investigation and patrol services, and animal control services.

Benbrook continues to maintain one of the lowest crime rates in Tarrant County. During 2017, there was a slight decrease in crimes within the City. There were a total of 513 Part I crimes, a decrease from 515 reported in 2016. The majority of Part I crimes in Benbrook represent theft and burglary crimes.

In 2017, the Patrol and Criminal Investigations Sections logged 267,744 miles and responded to 15,445 calls for police service. Average response time was 2 minutes and 45 seconds per call, down from 2 minutes and 48 seconds per call in 2016.

Vehicle accident investigations totaled 383, a 12.65% increase from 340 accidents investigated in 2016. Accidents included 261 minor accidents (with no injuries) and 122 major accidents resulting in injuries. A total of 175 persons were injured, a 12.18% increase from the 156 persons injured in 2016.

A total of 1,244 arrests were made in 2017, an increase of 254, or 25.66% from the 990 arrests during the previous year. Arrests included 1,109 adults and 135 juveniles.

The Communications Section (Police and Fire 911 operations) dispatched 21,061 calls for service during the year, including 15,445 Patrol and Criminal Investigation Section calls, 883 Fire calls, 2,279 ambulance calls, 287 dual Fire/EMS calls, and 2,167 animal control calls.

In 2017, Police Department personnel attended a total of 3,165 hours of specialized and advanced training.

Police Officer recruitment remains a high priority. Nationally recognized for exceptional service, the department seeks top-notch police officers who exhibit qualities that mirror those of the department. These efforts continue through 2018.

Benbrook Citizens on Patrols (COP) recorded a total of 2,308 hours of service, logged 17,730 miles, and filed 664 reports. COP is comprised of citizen volunteers who assist the Police Department by patrolling targeted areas of the city and performing community services.

Benbrook Police Department
1080 Mercedes Street
Non-Emergency Phone: 817-249-2752
Dispatch: 817-249-1610

BENBROOK

Fire Department

The Benbrook Fire Department is charged with preserving and protecting lives and property from fire and other disasters. The Fire Department fights fires, performs rescue operations, controls hazardous spills and leaks, promotes fire prevention through education, conducts annual fire inspections of Benbrook businesses, and enforces fire codes.

In addition, the Fire Department manages Emergency Medical Services (EMS/ambulance service), providing emergency medical treatment and transportation of sick and injured persons. Personnel also teach First Aid and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) classes to the community, as well as conduct special courses to train residents in life-saving techniques.

The City of Benbrook Fire and EMS Department currently serves the community with 28 full-time, 6 Auxiliary City Fire Support Unit (ACFSU) members, and 1 volunteer.

In 2017, Fire Department personnel inspected a total of 449 businesses, spent approximately 402 hours on fire prevention education, and spent 1,778 hours in training; an increase of 79 combined hours in training from 2016.

During the year, the Fire Department hired three Firefighter/Paramedics and one full-time Administration Clerk. The Department purchased ten new sets of firefighting bunker gear, a new set of rescue tools, new fire hose, and six Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) for Police Department patrol cars, and obtained grant funding to replace six ambulance cardiac monitors.

The Fire Division responded to 1,150 calls for service in 2017, and reported a total fire loss of \$1,260,395, which represents a decrease of \$933,893 in total fire loss from 2016. The EMS Division responded to 2,590 calls for service, and transported 1,688 patients to area hospitals. Fire and EMS personnel jointly responded to 260 calls for service.

Average response times to calls for service within Benbrook city limits slightly increased to 5.56 minutes in 2017, up from 5.50 minutes in 2016. There was a decrease in average response times for calls for service within unincorporated Tarrant County, from 10.3 minutes in 2016 to 9.3 minutes in 2017.

Benbrook Fire Department
528 Mercedes Street
Non-Emergency Phone: 817-249-1727



Community Spirit

The City of Benbrook, along with community partners, hosted several events in 2017. Community spirit in Benbrook is strong; the enthusiasm and support of local volunteers and organizations ensure our success, and make possible our desire to host family-friendly events.



In March, the City hosted the American Veterans Traveling Tribute Wall (AVTT). Benbrook residents gathered along Winscott Road, waving American flags to welcome the traveling tribute caravan. The American Veterans Traveling Tribute Wall is an 80% scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C. This event honors veterans and active members of America's armed forces, and Benbrook is honored to have twice hosted this event.

In April, Benbrook residents participated in the Benbrook Police Officers Association's annual Easter Egg Hunt at Dutch Branch Park. Also in April, the American Cancer Society Relay for Life took place at Dutch Branch Park. Relay for Life is an annual event that supports the fight against cancer, honors cancer survivors and their caretakers, and remembers those who have lost their battle to cancer.



In May, the City of Benbrook hosted a Picnic in the Park food truck event at Dutch Branch Park. Residents enjoyed food truck fare and lawn games during the two-day event.

Over the summer, Benbrook city staff again welcomed FWISD Vital Link students to City Hall. Vital Link is a week long, half-day internship offered by the Fort Worth Independent School District to expose students to daily business operations, and helps "link" academics to job skills. Teachers are on-site with students to supervise and assist in incorporating school lessons into workplace application.



In September, over 350 youth and adult volunteers joined together to help clean litter and debris from Benbrook Lake and Dutch Branch Park areas at the 25th annual Benbrook Trinity Trash Bash. As a member of the Trinity River Environmental Educational Society (T.R.E.E.S.), Benbrook is part of a network of municipalities that participate in the event, which is an annual volunteer cleanup of the Trinity River and its tributaries.

Throughout the year, 17 groups have volunteered to participate in the My Benbrook Mile program, adopting over 15 miles of roadway, and over 21 acres of parkland in Benbrook. The City of Benbrook encourages residents to consider volunteering for the My Benbrook Mile program, as part of our efforts to Keep Benbrook Beautiful.

Residents and visitors celebrated the 11th annual Heritage Fest "Cowboy Roundup" in October. Heritage Fest brought several thousand visitors to Dutch Branch Park to celebrate our western heritage, enjoy music and other performances, and browse and purchase arts and crafts. Also in October, the annual National Night Out event welcomed residents in an effort to build police-community partnerships, and keep our neighborhoods safe.

In November, the City of Benbrook hosted a second Picnic in the Park event, which featured a movie on the lawn. Residents enjoyed dinner from several food trucks while catching a screening of "Angels in the Outfield". Also in November, the City held a ribbon cutting for the new South Benbrook Park. This new pocket park was built through a partnership between the Benbrook United Methodist Church and the City of Benbrook.

The 26th annual Christmas Tree Lighting and Fireworks Show was held in December. Immediately following the Fireworks Show, Benbrook residents watched the Winter Wonderland display come alive with twinkling lights and holiday decorations capturing the spirit of the Christmas season.

Benbrook citizens consistently volunteer their time and talents in an effort to better their community.

As we reflect on 2017, we thank all volunteers, participants, and partners that helped make our events a success.



Financial Summary

For the 2016-2017 fiscal year, Benbrook maintained the property tax rate at 65.00 cents per \$100 valuation. Two and three-quarter cents are allocated towards the payments of debt for streets, parks, and drainage; 62.25 cents finances general operations.

2016-2017 fiscal year expenditures exceeded revenues, due to the replacement of public works equipment, the creation of the South Benbrook Park, and the planned transfers of reserves from the General Fund for the Animal Shelter, the Vista Way Sidewalk project, and the Clear Fork Emergency Access Bridge. General Fund unaudited expenditures for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017 totaled \$18,462,699. Police expenditures represented 34.48% of total expenses. Fire Department expenditures were 17.62%.

Total unaudited revenues for the 2016-2017 fiscal year were \$17,440,348; General Fund revenue was 99.64% of the budget projection. Property taxes accounted for 61.18% of total revenue collected.

The City retained a strong credit rating of Aa3 from Moody's and maintained an AA+ from Standard and Poor's. These ratings are indicators of the private sector's view of Benbrook's solid financial condition and future prospects. The City's sound credit rating results from Benbrook's ample reserves, proven financial controls, and professional staff.

For the 33rd consecutive year, the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) recognized Benbrook with its Certificate of Achievement for Financial Reporting for the City's annual financial report. Benbrook again received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for excellence in municipal budgeting from GFOA.

In September 2017, City Council adopted the budget for the 2017-2018 year based on lowering the property tax to 64.00 cents. A summary of the revenues and expenditures are depicted on the following page.

Source	Revenue	% of Budget
Property Taxes	\$12,378,661	57.68%
Sales and Other Taxes	\$2,303,502	10.73%
Franchise Fees	\$1,608,000	7.49%
General Fund Reserves	\$1,534,459	7.15%
Service Charges	\$1,047,660	4.88%
Fines and Forfeitures	\$821,500	3.83%
Licenses and Permits	\$614,600	2.86%
Transfers	\$555,273	2.59%
Revenue from Other Agencies	\$450,000	2.10%
Use of Money and Property	\$92,250	0.43%
Other Revenue	\$56,500	0.26%
Total	\$21,462,405	100%

Source	Expenditure	% of Budget
Police	\$6,861,162	31.97%
Fire and Ambulance	\$3,484,285	16.23%
General Government	\$2,314,251	10.78%
Transfers	\$2,000,000	9.32%
Public Works	\$1,519,562	7.08%
Staff Services	\$1,137,291	5.30%
Public Services	\$1,056,618	4.92%
Parks and Recreation	\$1,039,676	4.84%
Debt Service	\$957,076	4.46%
Community Development	\$778,106	3.63%
Municipal Court	\$231,131	1.08%
Code Compliance	\$83,247	0.39%
Total	\$21,462,405	100%



A Year In Review

January

City Council approves Bellaire Drive street light project for Community Development Block Grant program.

February

City Council approves contract for design of new animal shelter.

Benbrook Economic Development Corporation begins redevelopment project at 9301 Westpark Drive.

March

City Council accepts Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for fiscal year 2016.

City hosts Household Hazardous Waste/Electronic Waste Collection Event at Dutch Branch Park.

City hosts American Veterans Traveling Tribute Wall at Dutch Branch Park.

April

City Council approves Ground Lease Agreement with Benbrook United Methodist Church for construction of South Benbrook Park.

City Council approves contract for construction of Benbrook Field Drive.

Police and Fire Departments partner to host "National Take-Back Initiative" for safe disposal of over-the-counter and prescription medications.

May

City Council renews Interlocal Agreement with the Fort Worth Transportation Authority to provide transportation for elderly and disabled residents.

Benbrook Economic Development Corporation purchases property at 9454 Benbrook Boulevard for the purpose of redevelopment.

June

City Council approves construction contract for Sundown Drive Drainage project.

City hosts students from the Fort Worth ISD Vital Link summer program.

July

City Council approves Hotel Lodging Licensing Ordinance.

City launches redesigned website with increased user functionality and mobile capabilities.

Benbrook Economic Development Corporation begins redevelopment project at 9454 Benbrook Boulevard.

August

City Council approves Interlocal Agreement with Fort Worth ISD to provide police officers for the annual School Safety Initiative.

City hosts Electronic Waste Collection/Document Shredding event at Dutch Branch Park.

September

City Council authorizes agreement with City of Fort Worth to continue participation in the Household Hazardous Waste program.

City Council approves budget for Fiscal Year 2017-2018.

City Council awards contract for construction of new animal shelter.

City Council accepts certification of unopposed candidates and adopts ordinance cancelling 2017 Municipal Election.

October

City Council amends Subdivision Ordinance to include new Tree Preservation Amendment.

November

City Council approves construction contract for Timberline Drive drainage project.

City receives the 2017 Planning Excellence Award from the Texas Chapter of the American Planning Association.

City holds ribbon cutting for new South Benbrook Park.

City Council hosts public open house to provide information regarding Clear Fork emergency access bridge.

December

City Council approves the Clear Fork emergency access bridge, and directs staff to secure Interlocal Agreements with the City of Fort Worth and the Texas Department of Transportation for the construction of the one-lane, emergency access bridge.

City Council makes appointments to City Boards and Commissions.



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[City Council]

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Renee Franklin, Place 2
Larry Marshall, Place 3
Rickie Allison, Place 4
Jim Wilson, Place 5
Mark Washburn, Place 6
Ron Sauma, Place 7

[City Hall]

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City Manager
City Secretary
Community Development
Public Services
Budget / Finance
Economic Development
Visitor's Center
Municipal Court

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