

# *Benbrook, Texas*

2018 ANNUAL REPORT



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# Message From

## Investing in our future, Building a Better Benbrook....

On behalf of Benbrook City Council, thank you for choosing to call Benbrook home. As a Small Town, Big Backyard, Benbrook offers superb quality-of-life through recreational amenities, exceptional public safety and city services, business-friendly practices, and civic pride.

Your investment in Benbrook may take the form of purchasing a home, running a business, providing a service, volunteering your time, or educating our youth. Whatever your investment, we hope to match your enthusiasm in our community by always serving our citizens with integrity and commitment.

This annual report marks the twelfth consecutive year that Benbrook has provided a written update on the state of our city. Added rooftops, increased commercial interest, improved mobility, infrastructure improvements, and a new community facility are part of the 2018 Benbrook story. Benbrook is experiencing unprecedented growth and opportunity,

and we look forward to continuing to craft thoughtful policy initiatives that guide our future toward sustainable growth while maintaining our unique small town appeal.

As we look toward a bright and prosperous new year, it is important to also reflect on our past, honor our heritage, and build upon the experiences, accomplishments, and challenges we've encountered in previous years.

We are pleased to outline our efforts to maximize community assets and resources, prioritize projects, improve service delivery, and meet the needs of our community in efficient and effective ways.

For your review, we offer this report as a summary of 2018 highlights and a snapshot of goals for the coming year, and as part of a larger effort to engage, inform, and partner with our citizens to invest in Building a Better Benbrook.



# *City Council*



# 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 serves the community with 31 full-time, 3 Auxiliary City Fire Support Unit (ACFSU) members, and 1 volunteer.

In 2018, the Benbrook Fire Department improved its Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating from a "3" to a "2", on a 10-1 scale, with "1" being exemplary for fire readiness. A "2" rating is a significant accomplishment for the department (top 4% in the country); indicating exceptional fire suppression and control resources in the community, and allowing Benbrook residents to qualify for lowered homeowners insurance premiums.

During the year, the Fire Department transitioned a part-time Administration Clerk to full-time. The Fire Department also promoted the EMS Captain to EMS Operations Chief to oversee EMS/ambulance operations. The Fire Department purchased five new sets of firefighting bunker gear, new fire hose, 40 new self-contained breathing apparatus masks for firefighters, and replaced an ambulance.

The Fire Department responded to an overall call volume of 3,561 calls for service. The Fire Division responded to 1,256 calls for service in 2018 and reported a total fire loss of \$5,464,697. The EMS Division responded to 2,573 calls for service and transported 1,788 patients to area hospitals. Fire and EMS personnel jointly responded to 268 calls for service.

Average response times to calls for service within Benbrook City limits was slightly decreased to 5.55 minutes in 2018, down from 5.56 minutes in 2017. There was an increase in average response times to calls for service within unincorporated Tarrant County; from 9.3 minutes in 2017 to 10.7 minutes in 2018.

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



# 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 the lowest crime rates in Tarrant County. During 2018, there was a slight decrease in crimes within the City. There were a total of 460 Part I crimes, a decrease from 513 reported in 2017. The majority of Part I crimes in Benbrook represent theft and burglary crimes.

In 2018, the Patrol and Criminal Investigations Sections logged 253,438 miles and responded to 14,869 calls for police service. Average response time was 2.87 minutes per call, up slightly from 2.76 minutes reported in 2017.

Vehicle accident investigations totaled 265, a 30.81% decrease from 383 accidents investigated in 2017. Accidents included 176 minor accidents (with no injuries) and 89 major accidents resulting in injuries. A total of 118 persons were injured, down from the 175 persons injured in 2017 – a decrease of 57 persons or 32.57%. There was one fatality accident in 2018.

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

A total of 1,229 arrests were made, down from the 1,244 arrests in 2017, a decrease of 15, or 1.21%. The arrests included 1,064 adults and 165 juveniles. Officers cited a total of 7,048 violations during the year, down from the 9,247 citations issued in 2017.

The Communications Section (Police and Fire 911 operations) dispatched 20,626 calls for service during the year, to include calls for Patrol and Criminal Investigations, Fire calls, ambulance calls, dual Fire/EMS calls, and animal control calls.

In 2017, Police Department personnel attended a total of 3,886 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 2019.

Benbrook Citizens on Patrols (COP) recorded a total of 1,996 hours of volunteer service, logged 14,009 miles, and filed 586 reports. COP is comprised of citizen volunteers who assist the Police Department by patrolling targeted areas of the city and performing community services.

# Helping Benbrook Soc

## Building a Better Benbrook

Investing in Building a Better Benbrook requires thoughtful planning and the implementation of projects that meet the growth and safety needs of a community. The City of Benbrook invests in infrastructure projects, community facilities, roadways, and storefront and site improvements that lay the groundwork for desired, sustainable growth.

The City of Benbrook prepares a Capital Improvement Program (CIP) each year to list planned capital projects, along with anticipated costs and methods of financing, for the upcoming five-year period. The CIP is a dynamic document that may change over time based on community needs, citizen expectations, and unanticipated strategic opportunities. Capital Improvement Program projects and others are outlined on these pages.

## Community Facilities and Equipment

### New Animal Shelter

In 2018, Benbrook celebrated the opening of the new animal shelter located at 469 Winscott Road. The shelter consists of approximately 4,300 square feet of building area; 3,000 square feet of interior space to include solar tube skylights in the kennels, and 1,300 square feet of outdoor space for dog runs and play areas.

### New Equipment/Amenities

For 2019, the City is moving forward with the installation of three park shade structures, updating the emergency responders and field services radio system, and a jail renovation. Additional future projects include the purchase of two fire trucks, improving city hall and the police station, and the possible construction of a pedestrian tunnel under Benbrook Boulevard/U.S. 377 near Overcrest Drive.

## Residential and Commercial Growth

In a recent study, Our Small Town, Big Backyard ranked among the top healthiest housing markets in Texas. Benbrook offers the housing affordability, community amenities, and desirable city services that new residents seek. In 2018, 72 single-family permits and multi-family (301 unit) permits were issued for new construction. Construction of the new multi-family project fronting Vista Way is expected to begin in early 2019.

The Benbrook Economic Development Corporation (BEDC) reports an uptick in interest in the Benbrook market from commercial developers and retailers. BEDC investments in roadway, infrastructure, and site improvements prepare land for quality commercial growth.

The BEDC Storefront Improvement Grant offers financial assistance with building façade improvements that help improve the overall appeal of our community.

BEDC efforts in 2018 resulted in an executed 15-year lease with Hoffbrau Steak and Grill House at 8501 Benbrook Boulevard. Additional initiatives included the purchase, preparation, and subsequent sale of property at 8909 Benbrook Boulevard to Braum's Ice Cream and Dairy store. These businesses are expected to begin operations in 2019.

Also in 2019, plans are in the works for a new Audi car dealership in Hawkins Business Center, redevelopment of the Benbrook Plaza shopping center, and the possibility of master planned mixed-use developments. BEDC is adopting a new 2019 strategic plan to update priorities and offer guidelines to continue strategic investments in the commercial future of Benbrook.



# *ur* A Growing Community...

## Improved Mobility

### Benbrook Boulevard/U.S. 377

The reconstruction of Benbrook Boulevard/U.S. 377 from I-20 to Winscott/Lakeside Drive is nearing completion. The remaining utility relocations and installation of the traffic signal on Benbrook Boulevard/U.S. 377 at Benbrook Field Drive are anticipated to be completed by early 2019. Plans for 2019 include an irrigation, landscape, and signage project to beautify the boulevard and create a sense of place.

### Vista Way Extension

A Tax Increment Finance (TIF) project, the extension of Vista Way began in 2018. The project extends Vista Way from Mercedes Street to the I-20 Service Road. The project also includes extending water, sanitary sewer, storm drains and sidewalks. These improvements are expected to greatly enhance mobility and future commercial development in several areas north and south of I-20.

### Clear Fork Emergency Access Bridge

The Clear Fork Emergency Access Bridge interlocal agreement with Fort Worth was approved by both City Councils in 2018. The emergency access bridge will span the Clear Fork Trinity River within TXDOT right-of-way just north of where the river intersects with I-20 and connects the I-20 service road to Bellaire Drive. The bridge will serve only as transport for public safety emergency vehicles. Engineering design of the emergency access bridge is approximately 60% complete and expected to be 100% complete by spring of 2019. Construction of the emergency access bridge is expected to begin by fall 2019 and completed by fall 2020.

## Roadway, Lighting, Sidewalk, and Drainage Improvements

The City of Benbrook annually partners with the Tarrant County Road and Bridge Department to overlay asphalt along Benbrook roadways. Cost savings for Benbrook occur because Tarrant County is able to coordinate with Benbrook for the use of equipment already slated for nearby Fort Worth projects. Asphalt overlays were completed on five streets in 2018. For 2019, thirteen roadways are expected to undergo new asphalt surfacing.

In 2019, funding from the 43rd year Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) will allow the installation of streetlights on portions of Bellaire Drive and Watercourse Drive. For future CDBG grants, streetlight installations are proposed along portions of Crosslands Road, and sidewalks are proposed along Bellaire Drive and Crosslands Road.

Drainage improvements help manage flooding and improve the safety of a community during storm events. Funding for all drainage projects is from the Storm Water Utility Fund. The Plantation West drainage project was completed in 2018. Van Deman and Chapin Road drainage projects are under design and scheduled for construction in summer 2019.

# Financial Report

For the 2017-2018 fiscal year, Benbrook reduced the property tax rate 1 cent to 64.00 cents per \$100 valuation. Two and three-quarter cents are allocated towards the payment of debt; 61.25 cents finances general operations.

2017-2018 fiscal year expenditures exceeded revenues as budgeted, due to the funding of the Asset Replacement Fund, Capital Facilities Fund, and the planned transfers of reserves from the General Fund for the Animal Shelter. General Fund unaudited expenditures for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018 totaled \$19,406,342. Police expenditures represented 33.49% of total expenses. Fire Department expenditures were 17.72%.

Total unaudited revenues for the 2017-2018 fiscal year were \$17,953,143; General Fund revenue was 94.79% of the budget projection. Property taxes accounted for 63.01% 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 34th 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 2018, City Council adopted the budget for the 2018-2019 year based on keeping the property tax at 64.00 cents. A summary of the revenues and expenditures are depicted on the following page.



Source	Revenue	% of Budget
Property Taxes	\$13,584,458	63.40%
Sales and Other Taxes	\$2,454,400	11.46%
Franchise Fees	\$1,630,000	7.61%
Service Charges	\$963,350	4.50%
Fines and Forfeitures	\$860,000	4.01%
Licenses and Permits	\$658,350	3.07%
Transfers	\$604,744	2.82%
Revenue from Other Agencies	\$485,000	2.26%
Use of Money and Property	\$145,000	0.68%
Other Revenue	\$40,000	0.19%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$21,425,302</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

Source	Expenditure	% of Budget
Police	\$6,951,926	31.63%
Fire and Ambulance	\$3,710,120	16.88%
General Government	\$2,304,213	10.48%
Transfers/Special Projects	\$1,670,000	7.61%
Public Works	\$1,917,075	8.72%
Staff Services	\$1,158,428	5.27%
Public Services	\$1,081,452	4.92%
Parks and Recreation	\$1,066,652	4.85%
Debt Service	\$973,740	4.43%
Community Development	\$801,894	3.65%
Municipal Court	\$252,850	1.15%
Code Compliance	\$89,569	0.41%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$21,977,919</b>	<b>100.00%</b>



City of Benbrook  
P.O. Box 26569  
911 Winscott Road  
Benbrook, Texas 76126-0569

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# *Benbrook, Texas*

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## City Council

Jerry Dittrich, Mayor  
Renee Franklin, Place 2  
Larry Marshall, Place 3  
Dustin Phillips, Place 4  
Jim Wilson, Place 5  
Laura Mackey, Place 6  
Ron Sauma, Place 7

## City Hall

(817) 249 - 3000  
City Manager  
City Secretary  
Community Development  
Public Services  
Budget / Finance  
Economic Development  
Visitor's Center  
Municipal Court

## Police Department

(817) 249 - 2752  
Administration  
(817) 249 - 1610  
Dispatch

## Fire Department

(817) 249 - 1727

## Benbrook Economic Development Corporation

(817) 249 - 6990