

MESSAGE FROM MAYOR RITA ALI



There is a great sense of optimism in the air in Peoria. I sense it. I feel it. I hear it. I see it! Part of this optimism, no doubt, comes from our ability, post-pandemic, to socialize, network and come together in person once again. But another part comes from the many things that are happening in Peoria, Illinois.

Peoria is on the move with major investments in our infrastructure, neighborhoods, downtown and small businesses. Our workforce is growing across several sectors. Our fiscal health is strong and our financial future looks promising. The Peoria Civic Center is bringing world-class entertainment to the region, and arts and cultural events are abundant. This is truly an exciting time for Peoria.

The level of collaboration among Peoria stakeholders continues to exceed common expectations. We work together to apply for external funding opportunities, reduce crime, close disparities, and provide educational and job opportunities to youth. We leverage our resources in support of mental health, social equity and quality of life. And for most Peorians, we count it as a privilege and a blessing to live in the City of Gratitude.

U.S. News and World Report, once again, named Peoria as one of the best and most affordable cities to live in the nation. We have an exceptional healthcare system. We have excellent schools, parks and quality-of-life amenities. Still, we can be an even *Greater Peoria*.

We will plan to be greater by engaging Peoria stakeholders to help shape our new five-year strategic plan: "Creating the Roadmap to Our Future." More than 400 dedicated individuals participated in the June strategic planning kickoff event, and activities will continue over several months until the plan is adopted by the City Council in the fall of 2023. This level of engagement is solid proof that Peorians care about their city and its future. That, alone, gives me tremendous hope and further assures me that Peoria is well positioned for growth and prosperity. This report reflects our recent efforts to get the basics right: safety, schools, workforce, infrastructure, economic vitality and livability. We will continue to think big, work hard and be inclusive for the City — and for the Greater Peoria region — that we love.



Rita Ali
Mayor of Peoria

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PEORIA CITY COUNCIL

The Peoria City Council is comprised of the Mayor and 10 Council members, one for each of five districts and five at-large members. All are elected to four-year terms. Council meetings are held at Peoria City Hall on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. and streamed live on WCBU 89.9 FM.



Denise Jackson
District 1



Charles V. Grayeb
District 2



Timothy Riggenschach
District 3



Andre W. Allen
District 4



Denis Cyr
District 5



Dr. Bernice Gordon-Young
PhD, LCPC
At-Large



John L. Kelly
At-Large



Zachary M. Oyler
At-Large



Dr. Kiran Velpula
PhD, MBA
At-Large



Michael P. Vespa
At-Large

PEORIA CITY GOVERNMENT

The City of Peoria has a Council-Manager form of government, which combines the political leadership of elected officials with the professional experience of an appointed manager. The Mayor and ten Council members work together with the City Manager, who implements policy decisions, oversees City operations, and leads a team of 685 total employees.



Patrick Urich
City Manager

Police

Eric Echevarria, Police Chief

Fire

Shawn Sollberger, Fire Chief

Public Works

Rick Powers, Director

Community Development

Joe Dulin, Director

Economic Development

Kimberly Richardson,
Assistant City Manager

Emergency Communications Center

Brandon Blayney, Director

Information Systems

Jessica McKean, Director

Equal Opportunity

Melodi Green,
Chief Diversity and
Inclusion Officer

Human Resources

Mary Ann Stalcup, Director

Legal

Patrick Hayes,
Corporation Counsel

Finance

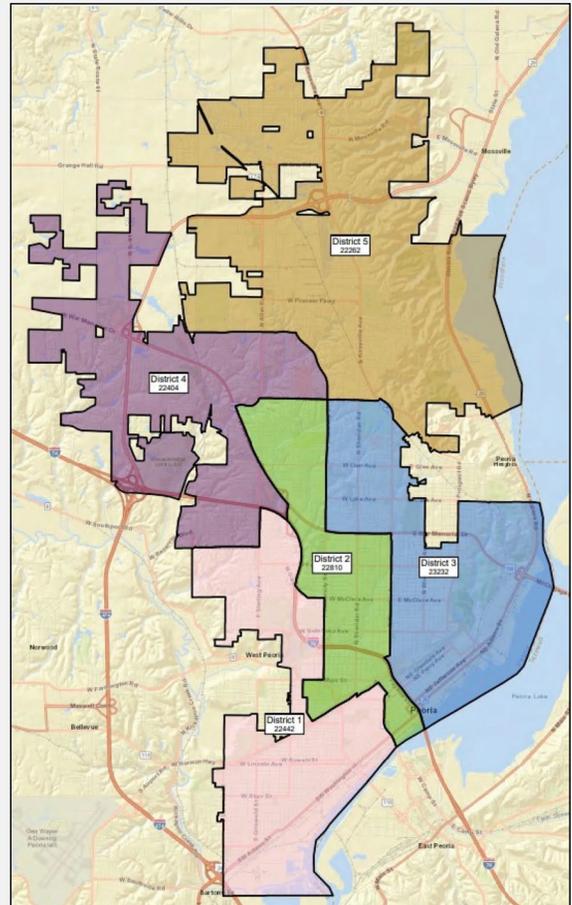
Kyle Cratty, Director

City Clerk

Stefanie Tarr

City Treasurer

Stephen Morris

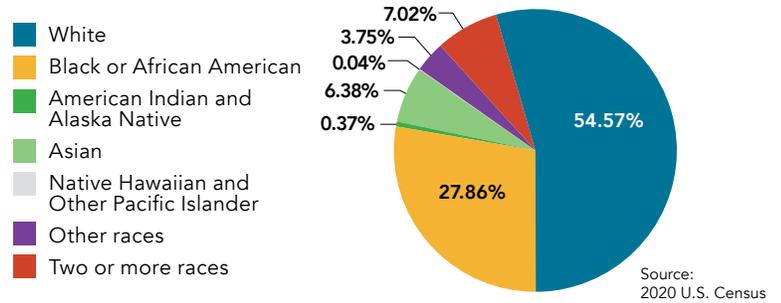


Every ten years, the Peoria City Council must approve new district boundaries based on the most recent U.S. Census population data. Each district is required to include a nearly equal number of residents. After a series of policy sessions and public hearings, the Council approved a new district map in February that balances the City's population while maintaining the relative compactness of each district.

PEORIA BY THE NUMBERS



Racial Distribution



2023 City Budget

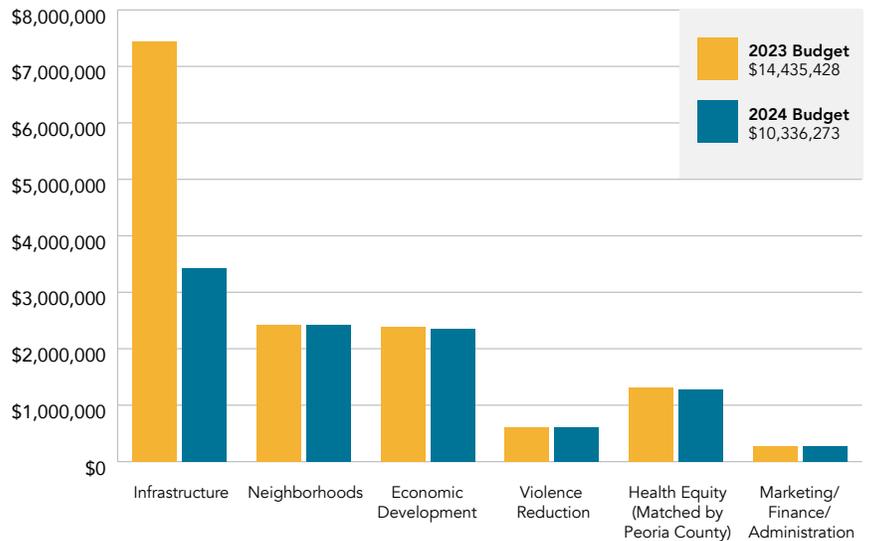
Revenues	2023 Budget	%
Local Taxes	\$94,998,030	35.86%
Licenses & Permits	\$3,188,100	1.20%
Fines & Forfeitures	\$835,000	0.32%
Fees & User Charges	\$39,743,375	15.00%
Misc./Other Charges	\$18,157,080	6.85%
Federal Sources	\$25,261,424	9.53%
State Sources	\$72,666,618	27.43%
Bonds & Loans	\$10,095,000	3.81%
Total Revenues	\$264,944,627	100%

Expenditures	2023 Budget	%
Salaries & Wages	\$72,331,924	27.26%
Employee Benefits	\$38,172,633	14.39%
Contractual Services	\$66,729,732	25.15%
Supplies	\$4,765,734	1.80%
Capital Expenses	\$62,775,390	23.66%
Debt Service	\$20,567,816	7.75%
Total Expenditures	\$265,343,229	100%

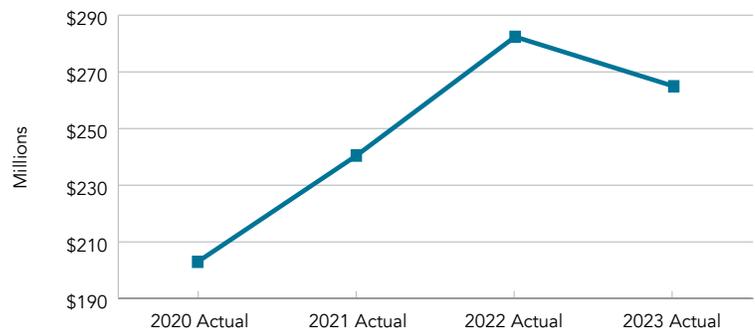
2023 Capital Improvement Plan

Expenditures	2023 Budget	%
Development	\$1,585,000	2.50%
Equipment	\$4,159,700	6.50%
Facilities	--	0.00%
Parking	\$5,596,000	8.70%
Sewers/Drainage	\$26,038,070	40.60%
Sidewalks	\$810,000	1.30%
Streets	\$19,074,462	31.90%
Traffic/Lighting	\$3,712,500	5.80%
Vehicles	\$1,800,000	2.80%
Total Capital	\$62,775,732	100%

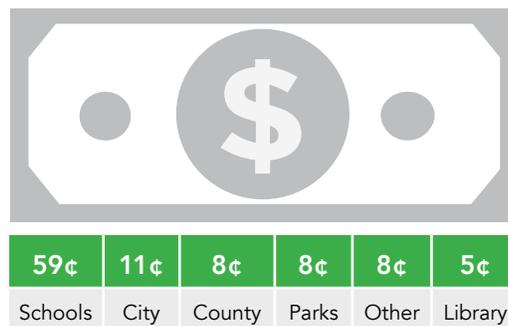
Fiscal Recovery Funds Spending



Revenue Trends



Property Tax Breakdown





IMPROVING OUR INFRASTRUCTURE

From streets to sidewalks to broadband, the City is dedicated to maintaining and improving its infrastructure in a manner that respects historical architecture, the community and the environment. Significant milestones over the past year include:



\$5 MILLION

Combined Sewer Overflow Control

Completed the first year of this long-term initiative to reduce sewage discharge into the Illinois River using green infrastructure

\$15 MILLION

Western Avenue Reconstruction

Included "Complete Streets" design concepts, green infrastructure, a permeable bike path and more

\$6.8 MILLION

Glen Avenue Reconstruction

Worked jointly with the County to reconstruct Glen between Sheridan Road and Knoxville Avenue



\$3.4 MILLION

Mill and Overlay Projects

Resurfaced Allen Road, Orange Prairie Road, Pioneer Parkway/University and Pioneer Parkway/Knoxville intersections

\$3.2 MILLION

Sidewalk Improvements

Designed sidewalk improvements in Council Districts 2, 3 and 5 and received \$2 million from HUD for work in the 61605 zip code

\$2.1 MILLION

Rock Island Greenway Expansion

Constructed a multiuse path from Harvard to Park Avenue, including a crossing over War Memorial Drive



\$750,000

Riverfront Park Expansion

Expanded the park south of Spring Street, including construction of a multi-use path and parking area

\$10 MILLION

Broadband Infrastructure

Partnered with I3 Broadband on a grant application to install broadband infrastructure throughout 61605

\$10 MILLION

Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure

Leading a local consortium to bring electric vehicle charging infrastructure to the region



SECURING PASSENGER RAIL SERVICE

Several milestones were reached in the City's efforts to secure passenger rail service from Peoria to and from Chicago:

- The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) determined the route is feasible and projected ridership is sufficient to warrant consideration for Illinois' Intercity Rail Passenger Service. IDOT has included passenger rail service from Peoria to Chicago Union Station in its 2023 State Rail Plan.
- An economic development analysis determined the project would support existing businesses and workforce needs, provide economic opportunity for residents and bolster tourism. It may also catalyze transit-oriented development and additional regional investments.
- A bipartisan group of legislators at the local, state and federal levels endorsed the project, alongside top business, education, labor and nonprofit leaders throughout the proposed corridor.
- The City, Peoria County and other partners are developing a grant application for the Federal Railroad Administration's Corridor Identification and Development Program. The grant, expected in September 2023, would provide federal funding and technical support to implement the new corridor.





SUPPORTING CAPITAL INVESTMENTS

Peoria Civic Center: The City supported capital investments in the Peoria Civic Center by issuing \$20 million in bonds. This funding will complement \$25 million in state funding and address the ice plant to ensure that professional hockey stays in Peoria.

Downtown: Design work was completed on the conversion of Adams and Jefferson to two-way streets from Fayette Street to Kumpf Boulevard. The project will be bid in the fall of 2023, with construction through 2024.

Riverfront Park: The City is finalizing the Riverfront Master Plan — a renovation plan for Riverfront Park from the Bob Michel Bridge to the Murray Baker Bridge. Funding for implementation will come from a \$15 million State of Illinois grant.



Riverfront Master Plan



DRIVING ECONOMIC GROWTH

RISE Grant: More than \$1.4 million in ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds were distributed to 120 businesses through the RISE Grant program. Businesses in all sectors received funding, including entrepreneurial startups, restaurants, retail, barbershops, gyms, lawncare, daycare and more. Over 82% of recipients were a Minority Business Enterprise (MBE), Women’s Business Enterprise (WBE) and/or Veteran-Owned Small Business (VOSB).

Commercial Rehabilitation/Facade Improvement Grant: The City aided businesses seeking to invest in commercial properties using the Commercial Rehabilitation Grant, which committed over \$400,000 in ARPA funding to stimulate more than \$950,000 in permanent property improvements.

Innovation Technology Grant: Preparing to launch in mid-2023, this grant will leverage Peoria’s innovation network to support the expansion of tech startups and stimulate growth in this emerging sector.



DEVELOPING THE WORKFORCE

Regional Workforce Alliance: The City continues to partner with the CEO Council and Illinois Central College through the Regional Workforce Alliance. The Alliance connects employers, educators and community-based organizations with high school graduates, undercredentialed community members and adults with job barriers to ensure 60% of the region’s population has the certifications needed to obtain gainful employment.

Choose Greater Peoria: The City participated in strategy sessions and workshops which led to the creation of Choose Greater Peoria. This collaboration with the business community and civic organizations is intended to help local companies fill critical job openings, attract and retain top talent, and help secure the region’s future economic health.

Mayor’s Summer Youth Employment and Internship Program:

This program enrolled 130 students, ages 14 to 18, in the summer of 2022, with another 100 enrolled in the summer of 2023. The students are assigned to worksites throughout the city for eight weeks, earning money for their work while gaining important job and life skills.





IMPROVING PUBLIC SAFETY

Violence Reduction Grants: The City awarded \$700,000 in grants to five organizations to undertake violence reduction strategies in 2023. This year, the City will award \$1.5 million in grants for violence reduction strategies in 2023-24.

Police Co-Response Unit: The City received \$3.1 million to establish a Co-Response Unit within the Police Department to address victim services, cognitive and developmental services, and mental and/or behavioral health issues. This unit is a partnership with the Health Department and Carle Health Services.

Greater Peoria Auto Crimes Taskforce: The City was awarded \$2.15 million in funding to create the Greater Peoria Auto Crimes Taskforce (GPACT). In collaboration with state and county officials, GPACT will work to address auto theft, chop shops, carjackings, identity fraud, fraudulent vehicle documents, rogue towing agencies and insurance fraud.

Police Recruitment: The Peoria Police Department expanded its recruiting efforts, assigning an officer and a sergeant to full-time recruiting positions. Recruitment efforts focused on women have also been a priority.

Edward B. Gaines Jr. Fire Station 4: The three-year construction of the City's newest fire station was completed in October 2022. The \$3.1 million Edward B. Gaines Jr. Fire Station 4 is named after Peoria's first African American firefighter and will allow the City's fire crew to serve south Peoria more quickly and efficiently.

SAFER Grant: The Peoria Fire Department was awarded the 2022 FEMA SAFER grant to hire 11 firefighters and pay their wages and benefits for three years. With \$4.09 million in grant funding, it reopened Engine 2 on the south side of Peoria, which had closed due to budget cuts during the COVID pandemic.



Edward B. Gaines Jr. Fire Station 4

School Demolitions: The former Harrison and McKinley schools were demolished at a cost of \$2.4 million. The projects were funded through a \$1 million federal earmark and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

Land Bank: The Peoria Land Bank manages vacant and abandoned properties and works to create opportunities for affordable housing development and increased property tax revenue. In 2022, 114 residential structures were demolished, 99 parcels were acquired to arrest blight and 32 parcels were transferred back onto the tax rolls through the Side Lot Program.

Housing Support: The City supported Phoenix Community Development Services with \$600,000 of federal HOME funding for their Madison III project. Aimed at those aging out of foster care, the renovated apartment building will include 16 units for youth experiencing homelessness. The City also provided \$200,000 for a workforce development hub for clients receiving homeless services, and additional funding to Dream Center Peoria for various improvements, including on-site washers and dryers.

Lead Abatement: The City partnered with the Health Department to fund a match for their Lead Abatement Program. In 2022, 12 lead match projects were completed for a total of \$110,438.

Roof Replacement: The City will replace 40 roofs for income-eligible residents using \$350,000 of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds and a \$300,000 grant from the Illinois Housing Development Authority.

Utility Assistance: The City provided \$165,000 to approximately 275 residents to assist with utility payments from November 2022 through February 2023. In addition, 16 programs received \$278,000 through CDBG Public Services to deliver services to low-income residents.

Nonprofit Capital Program: The City used ARPA funds to provide more than \$1 million in 14 grants to local nonprofits to help low-income residents with capital repairs.

Home Down Payment Assistance: The City awarded 34 Down Payment Assistance Grants using ARPA funds.

Neighborhood Mini-Grants: The City awarded \$202,000 in ARPA funds for 40 Neighborhood Mini-Grants to support neighborhood associations.

Brownfield Site Clean-Up: The City released an RFP for site clean-up work at 3560 SW Adams that will remove all known environmental issues and provide a ready-to-market building for future development.



Park Improvements: The City partnered with the Peoria Park District on \$600,000 of improvements to Trewyn Park, including a new shelter, picnic tables, an accessible playground area, basketball courts, grading and accessible paths. The City will provide \$875,000 of funding in 2023 for improvements to Logan Park and Morton Square Park.



Improvements at Trewyn Park

Choice Neighborhoods Grant: The City is partnering with the Peoria Housing Authority (PHA) to apply for a grant to begin the transformation process around Harrison Homes and to re-envision the far south side as part of the planning process.

BUILDING EQUITY IN OUR COMMUNITY

Racial Justice and Equity Commission Annual Report: The Peoria City/County Joint Commission on Racial Justice and Equity presented its first annual report to the community in 2023, establishing a baseline for racial inequities in the City and County of Peoria. It is the collective work of more than 160 community members who were tasked with developing data sources, gathering community input, collaborating with community partners and suggesting action plans going forward.

Peoria Equity Accountability Program: The City launched its Peoria Equity Accountability Program (PeAP) to promote equitable access to Minority and Women-Owned Businesses within procurement and contracting activities. The PeAP established Peoria's first City-issued M/WBE certificate as well as a new M/WBE Directory, which is free to members and easily accessible to the public.



INVESTING IN HEALTH, EDUCATION & THE ARTS

Health Equity Fund: The City, Peoria County and local health partners are working to address the social determinants of health to increase health equity across the community. The Peoria Health Equity Fund will invest in the process of improving equity for sustained and integrated improvements in health outcomes, with a focus on housing within Qualified Census Tracts (QCTs).

Cradle to Career Initiative: The Peoria Cradle to Career Initiative (CCI) is a partnership between Illinois Central College, Peoria Public Schools, the City and over 50 community partners designed to transform the distressed 61605 zip code area. The Peoria CCI received \$500,000 to jumpstart the project and lay the groundwork for reapplication of a \$30 million federal Promise Neighborhoods Grant.

Support for the Arts: The City continues to provide support for foundational efforts to sustain a vibrant arts community. This includes funding for ArtsPartners of Central Illinois and Discover Peoria, the availability of City resources for Sculpture Walk Peoria, use of the building at 1318 SW Adams for the Hello Peoria mural and support for Peoria's library system. In the spring of 2023, the City worked with area stakeholders to apply for a grant through the Bloomberg Public Art Challenge. The grant would provide up to \$1 million in funding for public art projects designed to address challenges within the City.

CONNECT WITH THE CITY

In late 2022, the City launched a new, mobile-friendly website at peoriagov.org, offering improved navigation, multiple language options and faster access to meetings and agendas. In the spring of 2023, new, interactive features were added to the **Peoria Cares platform**, which provides a convenient way for community members to connect with the City and report non-emergency service requests. Peoria Cares can be accessed at peoriagov.org, by app (iPhone or Android) or by calling (309) 494-2273 (8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Mon-Fri; 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Sat).

