



2020

ANNUAL REPORT



A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR STEPHEN MASON



2020 in Cedar Hill began with our annual city-wide block party and the opening of a state-of-the-art fitness court in Calf Pasture Park before the world changed with the onset of the coronavirus pandemic. From our emergency management response to keep the community safe and healthy to our work to support small businesses during this difficult economy, I am proud of our efforts this year in the face of unprecedented challenges.

We were also able to continue the important work of advancing the city council's priorities in public safety, bond implementation, planning and development, neighborhood engagement, and communications. There is a lot to celebrate in Cedar Hill.

Through the many ups and downs of this year, we have weathered the storm in a uniquely Cedar Hill way - one that reflects our values of people and relationships; stewardship; highest ethical standards, behavior and integrity; and servant leadership. I have never been so proud to be your mayor and a member of the Cedar Hill community.

CEDAR HILL CITY COUNCIL

Cedar Hill is a home rule city with a council-manager form of government. The mayor and city council members are the elected officials and policymakers, representing citizens as they focus on community goals, major projects, and long-term considerations like community growth, land-use development, capital improvement plans, and strategic planning.

Council members are volunteer servant leaders and residents, just like you. The city council typically meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month. Agendas are available 72 hours in advance of the meeting at cedarhilltx.com/agenda.



From left: Gregory Glover, Daniel C. Haydin, Jr, Mayor Pro Tem Clifford R. Shaw, Mayor Stephen Mason, Chad A. McCurdy, Shirley Daniels, Alan E. Sims

A PREMIER CITY

VISION

We envision Cedar Hill as a premier city that retains its distinctive character; where families and businesses flourish in a safe and clean environment.

MISSION

The mission of the City of Cedar Hill is to deliver the highest quality municipal services to our citizens and customers consistent with our community values.

PURSUING PREMIER

The city council envisions Cedar Hill as a premier city defined by the following characteristics:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER



SAFE



CLEAN



VIBRANT PARKS, TRAILS & NATURAL BEAUTY



ENGAGED COMMUNITY



STRONG & DIVERSE ECONOMY



EXCELLENT, SAFE & EFFICIENT INFRASTRUCTURE



TEXAS SCHOOLS OF CHOICE

WE VALUE

The city council believes that by communicating its values to the community, others will begin reflecting, articulating, promoting, and protecting the distinctive character of Cedar Hill.



PEOPLE & RELATIONSHIPS



STEWARDSHIP



HIGHEST ETHICAL STANDARDS, BEHAVIOR & INTEGRITY



SERVANT LEADERSHIP

PUBLIC SAFETY

Safety is a top priority in Cedar Hill, and more than 65% of the City's general fund budget is invested in public safety. The importance of public safety in our daily lives has never been more apparent than in 2020. The city council continued to build on a strong foundation of safety through recruiting and retaining high quality personnel, investing in neighborhood safety, growing community relationships, and enhancing our regional partnerships.

NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY

In 2020, the Cedar Hill Police Department launched new online tools to increase transparency and improve access to information and services. Residents can now report certain types of crimes online at cedarhilltx.com/police. Crime data and maps are also available online through crimemapping.com.

The Department has also redirected resources to enhance traffic safety initiatives in neighborhoods, moving two patrol officers to a traffic unit to support full-time traffic safety and adding two electronic speed monitors to increase visibility and awareness.

COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS

The relationship between the Cedar Hill community and its police department is the reason the City is the safest in the Best Southwest. CHPD continued to focus on relationship building through bimonthly neighborhood walks, where officers and city staff go door to door to talk with residents. The Department also adapted community events during the COVID-19 pandemic, hosting a drive-thru National Night Out and participating in birthday parades for residents throughout the city.

REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

The Cedar Hill Fire Department was honored by the North Central Texas Council of Governments for leading a regional approach to COVID-19 response with our partners, the cities of DeSoto, Duncanville, and Lancaster. The Department also worked with state and local organizations to support COVID-19 testing and vaccination for the region.



BOND IMPLEMENTATION

In November 2017, Cedar Hill voters approved the issuance of \$45 million in general obligation bonds to finance infrastructure, parks and recreation, and library improvements to be initiated over five to seven years. 2020 marks the third year of implementation and the completion of three more neighborhood park renovations and conceptual design for the new library and signature park and a new community outdoor pool. Find more information about upcoming projects and opportunities to get involved at cedarhilltx.com/bond.

LIBRARY & SIGNATURE PARK

In May, the City selected a design team for the library and signature park project after a competitive selection process that attracted nation-wide interest and 16 proposals. The team led a public input process through the fall that collected more than 1,000 surveys that will drive the project's design. The design process is expected to continue through 2021, when the city council will approve a final design and construction documents.



NEIGHBORHOOD PARK IMPROVEMENTS

Over the summer, the City celebrated the completion of three neighborhood park renovations with pop-up Party in the Park events. Kingswood, Liberty, and Longhorn Parks are home to new playgrounds, landscaping, exercise equipment and other amenities. The parks department also engaged the public on the next round of improvements at Dot Thomas and Windsor parks and Windmill Hill greenbelt.



OUTDOOR COMMUNITY POOL

In October, Cedar Hill received a \$750,000 grant from Texas Parks and Wildlife to help fund the new community outdoor pool at Virginia Weaver Park. This year, the City engaged consultants on the design of the pool, which will be released for bid in late 2021.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Cedar Hill has a culture of deliberate planning for strategic goals and priorities. From land-use and economic development to parks and open space, City leaders are always engaging the public in conversations about what the future holds and how to achieve our goals. This year was a major year for planning and development as we completed plans for downtown streets, continued work on the comprehensive plan, and supported businesses through the pandemic with the Cedar Hill Strong program.

DOWNTOWN STREETS

The city council adopted a plan for a series of improvements to downtown streets to enhance walkability with sidewalks, drainage and utilities improvements, landscaping, and street furniture. The City included funding for design and construction in the FY2021 budget and has completed design of the first phase of the project (Cedar Street west of Broad Street and Broad Street from Cedar Street to Belt Line Road). The project will be released for bid in 2021.



COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

In 2019, the City engaged a consultant to begin work on a new comprehensive plan for the Cedar Hill. A comprehensive plan is a playbook that details the City's long-term goals and outlines the steps needed to achieve them. After a several months of public input and engagement, the consultant created a first draft of the plan. City staff, boards and commissions, the city council, and the public will review the draft and make revisions before it is adopted.

CEDAR HILL STRONG

2020 was a difficult year for Cedar Hill small businesses as they were challenged by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Cedar Hill Economic Development Corporation (EDC) stepped up for them in a big way. In partnership with the Cedar Hill Chamber of Commerce, the EDC created the Cedar Hill Strong program to provide resources and information. Using CARES Act funding, the EDC awarded grants and loans to more than 70 small businesses to help them survive and thrive.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION

Cedar Hill values people and relationships, and the City's community engagement and neighborhood revitalization initiatives are built around those values.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

The pandemic temporarily changed the way residents connected with each other in 2020, but the Cedar Hill community rose to the occasion. Drive-thru events, virtual programming, and socially distanced pop-up parties replaced traditional events like Scare on the Square, Holiday on the Hill, and National Night Out.



NEIGHBORHOOD INTEGRITY & EMPOWERMENT

Neighborhoods are the foundation of daily life in Cedar Hill, and the city council has invested heavily in engaging and organizing neighborhoods. In 2020, the city council adopted a new single-family rental registration program to improve code compliance and enhance the appearance of neighborhoods. The City also provides support for neighborhood organizations like HOAs, Public Improvement Districts, and crime watches where residents can organize and address neighborhood issues.

SENIOR LIVABILITY

In 2020, the city council initiated a study of senior livability in Cedar Hill. Along with a professional consultant, a citizen focus group engaged the public on issues related to seniors and made a series of recommendations to improve quality of life for older adults in Cedar Hill. Implementation of the recommendations is included in the City's 2021 work plan including additional programming focused on health, wellness, and social interaction; more transportation options; and increased outreach to older adults. Find more information at cedarhilltx.com/55.

COMMUNICATION

Communication has been a top priority for the city council for several years. In 2020, the City's investment in communications infrastructure was put to use to share critical health and safety information, to provide access to services and programs virtually, and to engage citizens on major projects and initiatives online.

TRANSPARENCY & ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Cedar Hill residents and stakeholders can now watch city council meetings live or on-demand at cedarhilltx.com/live. Agendas for city council and board or commission meetings are available online 72 hours in advance of the meeting at cedarhilltx.com/agenda.

LET'S TALK, CEDAR HILL!

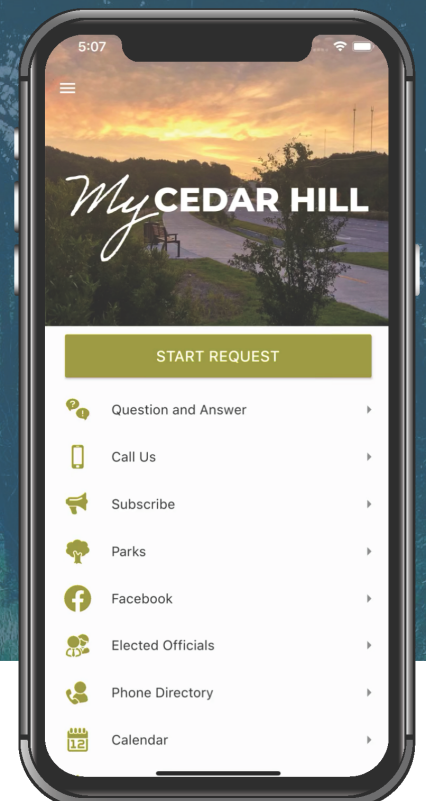
Cedarhillians staying home and staying safe during the COVID-19 pandemic were able to stay engaged in City projects and initiatives through Let's Talk Cedar Hill, the City's online engagement platform. Surveys and news updates about the new library, the comprehensive plan, and neighborhood park improvements were shared at letstalkcedarhill.com.

MY CEDAR HILL MOBILE APP

In 2020, it got easier to report issues and stay connected with the City of Cedar Hill with the launch of the My Cedar Hill mobile app. The app is available to download on the Apple Store or on Google Play, and those without smart phones can make requests or report issues at cedarhilltx.com/request.

My CEDAR HILL MOBILE APP

Tap into the City of Cedar Hill to make requests, find contact information, and stay connected with local events and meetings.



DOWNLOAD ON THE
APPLE STORE



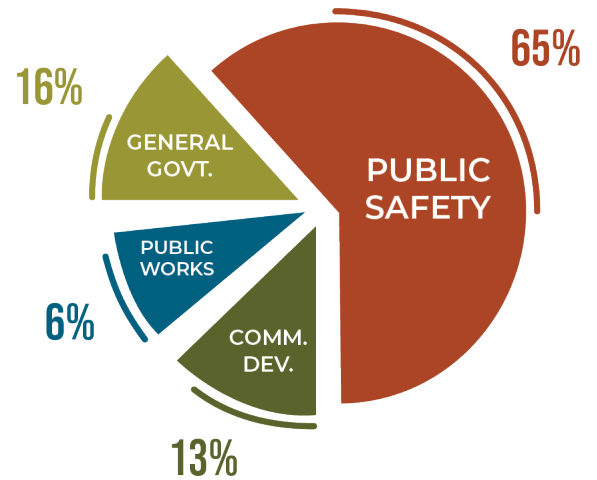
GET IT ON
GOOGLE PLAY

BUDGET & FINANCE

The City of Cedar Hill's budget reflects the community's priorities and the strategic goals set by the city council to provide the services, facilities, and infrastructure that make Cedar Hill a premier city. You can view the detailed budget at cedarhilltx.com/budget.

2020-2021 GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES

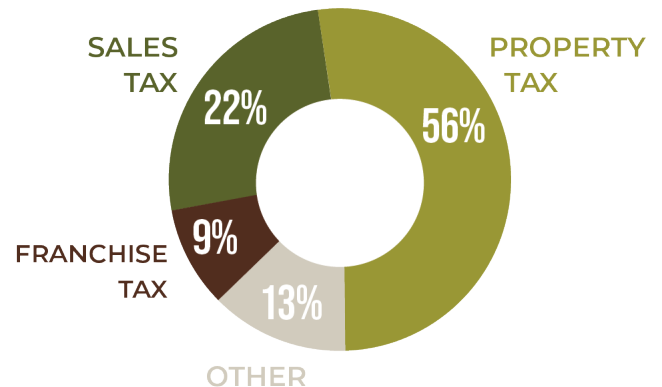
For Fiscal Year 2020-2021, the City Council approved \$39.7 million in General Fund expenditures. General Fund expenditures provide support for most traditional city services, including public safety, parks and recreation, library, planning and zoning, neighborhood services, and public works.



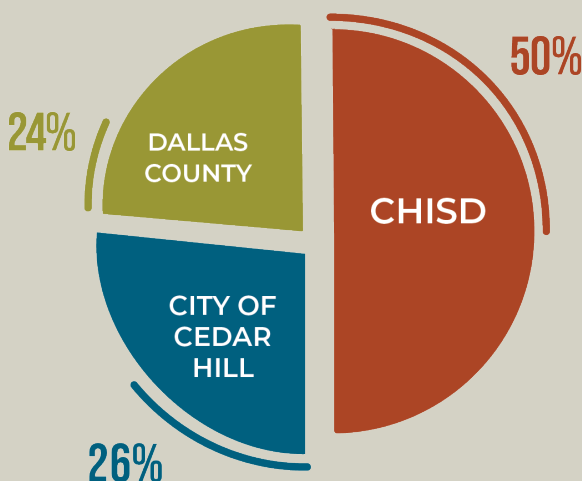
2020-2021 GENERAL FUND REVENUES

The majority of General Fund revenue comes from property, sales, and other taxes. The City's property tax rate for 2020 is \$0.688102, a slight reduction from prior years. Cedar Hill has one of the lowest tax rates among similar-sized cities in the area.

The average daily property tax cost for residents is \$3.91, less than a small latte or lunch at a local fast food restaurant.



WHERE YOUR PROPERTY TAX DOLLARS GO



Property taxes are the largest revenue stream for the City and pay for a variety of services essential for a strong community. The average homeowner pays about \$119 per month in property taxes towards these services.

Property taxes also pay for county and school district services. The chart to the left reflects the breakdown of the average homeowner's tax bill in Cedar Hill.

STAY CONNECTED

CEDARHILLTX.COM

Visit our website to find information about city services, events, jobs, pay your water bill and more.

LET'S TALK!

Get engaged and share your feedback about the projects and initiatives that shape our future at letstalkcedarhill.com

THIS WEEK IN CEDAR HILL

Do you know what's happening this week in Cedar Hill? Visit cedarhilltx.com/twch to sign up for emails or text notifications to stay in the loop!

MY CEDAR HILL APP

Need to report a pothole or a fence in disrepair? Report the issue fast with the My Cedar Hill app. Select your issue, take a picture, and we'll take care of it. Learn more at cedarhilltx.com/request.

NEWSLETTER

Visit cedarhilltx.com/highlights to read our monthly *Highlights* Newsletter, or check it out in your monthly water bill.

AGENDAS & MINUTES

City council, board, and commission agendas are posted online 72 hours in advance of meetings. Find them at cedarhilltx.com/agenda.

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