



Year in
Review

Town of Mammoth Lakes

2019 Town Accomplishments

Photo: Josh Wray/Mammoth Lakes Tourism

PROUDLY SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

“2019 was a successful and busy year for the Town of Mammoth Lakes. As Mayor, I am proud to present the many capital and facility improvements, planning efforts, and strategic investments accomplished this past year. Town Council, our dedicated employees, and our committed volunteers all worked hard to provide the very highest quality of life for our residents and a great experience for our visitors.” – Bill Sauser, Mayor

The following provides a summary of the more significant accomplishments aligned with the Town Council strategic priorities and key objectives adopted on December 5, 2018.

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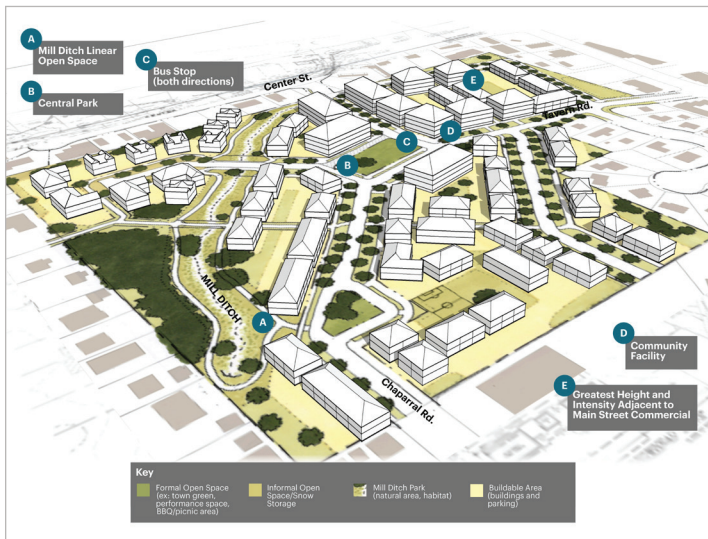
Photo: Josh Wray/Mammoth Lakes Tourism

STRATEGIC PRIORITY: EXPAND AVAILABILITY AND AFFORDABILITY OF COMMUNITY HOUSING

★ **OBJECTIVE:** Initial Planning for 'The Parcel' is complete and ready to proceed to development and funding through the development of a community-based master plan

ACCOMPLISHED:

- Developed a final conceptual land use plan with community participation
- First phase funding plan support approved by Town Council
 - Committed \$1 Million in reserves
 - Policy direction to set aside potentially \$6.25 Million in TOT revenues over two years (FY19-20 & FY20-21)
- Development Team selection in process – to be complete first quarter 2020
- Environmental review and entitlement process to proceed in 2020
- First phase of 130-140 units scheduled for 2024 completion or sooner. 400-450 total units planned for The Parcel



★ **OBJECTIVE:** Partner with Mammoth Lakes Chamber of Commerce, Mammoth Lakes Housing (MLH) and others to implement short-term housing opportunities (Goal is to house 50 employees)

ACCOMPLISHED:

- New Chamber position created: \$149,000 funding secured and work program developed, and employees, employers and homeowners engaged
- “Missing middle” \$100,000 grant program to be managed by MLH
- Town Council set aside \$2,000,000 to invest in short term housing solutions. Two units were purchased and are currently focused on housing new Town employees. Remaining \$1,352,000 may be expended in 2020 to meet housing goals
- Revolving Loan Program to secure deed restricted units increased from \$300,000 to \$600,000
- Allocated up to \$300,000 to assist Mammoth Lakes Housing with 238 Sierra Manor Road Project construction if needed



Photo: Josh Wray/Mammoth Lakes Tourism

★ **OBJECTIVE:** Identify and pursue sustainable funding source(s) for housing (such as, increased in-lieu fee, inclusionary housing policy, or dedicated tax measure)

ACCOMPLISHED:

- Modest increase in housing impact fee implemented
- Tax Measure concepts presented to Town Council December 2019 with direction to consider a 1% increase in Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) dedicated to affordable housing

HOUSING ALLOCATIONS – PRIOR THREE FISCAL YEARS:

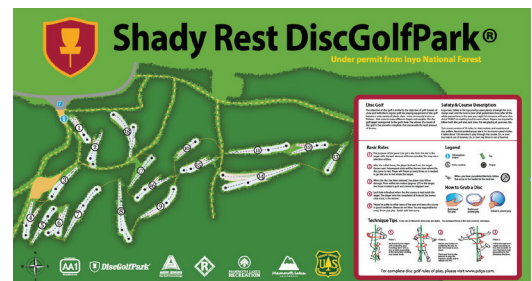
Fiscal Year	Amount	Notes
FY2016-17	\$685,590	Implementation of Reserve account plus MLH Contract and HOME loan payment
FY2017-18	\$7,688,578	Full Housing allocation .85 of TOT plus purchase of The Parcel
FY2018-19	\$4,164,231	Full Housing allocation .85 of TOT plus \$2M for Housing Partnership from General Fund, \$250,000 for Parcel Development from General Fund, \$300,000 MLH Grant Match - Sierra Manor Road, \$300,000 increase to Revolving Loan Fund (RLF)
Total Housing Investment	\$12,538,399	

STRATEGIC PRIORITY: ENHANCE OUR RECREATIONAL BASED ECONOMY THROUGH AMENITY INVESTMENT

★ **OBJECTIVE:** Fund construction of Multi-Use Recreational Facility (Year-Round Community Recreation Center). Define site, plans and phasing

ACCOMPLISHED:

- Council direction for new, less costly tensile fabric project alternative completed. Final design and updated cost estimate presented in the first quarter of 2020
- Funding plan for a \$13 million project approved by Town Council
- Shady Rest DiscGolfPark completed adjacent to Shady Rest Park under permit from Inyo National Forest



★ **OBJECTIVE:** Through partnerships with Mammoth Lakes Recreation, Mono County and the Forest Service, the Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership will have defined grant funded projects and programs

ACCOMPLISHED:

- Town obtained a \$618,750 Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) grant and contracted with consultants to assist with the completion of the work program to define potential projects. Three-year grant and work program
- Town Special Use Permit for trail maintenance approved by Council and submitted to USFS
- Challenge Cost Share Agreement for enhanced restroom cleaning in the Lakes Basin approved and completed a successful first season by Parks Maintenance

★ **OBJECTIVE:** Enhanced public experience with improved access points to the natural environment
(Define at least 3 access points for improvements and improve at least 1)

ACCOMPLISHED:

- One new trail section within the Sherwin Area Recreation Plan (SHARP) was completed
- SHARP Trail Head design is waiting USFS Decision Memo, along with modified trail alignments and next phase of construction. Submitted Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) Grant for construction in 2020
- Re-routed the Panorama Dome mountain bike trail to enhance sustainability and improve access area
- Preliminary approval for Green Sticker Grant for Trail and access points planning in Shady Rest/Inyo Craters area
- Improvements to Shady Rest Park including new regulatory signs and a winter parking/staging area has preliminary approval from the Inyo National Forest
- USFS approval to replace the fishing dock at Twin Lakes which will be completed by the Lions Club as a Community Project
- Identified a work program for improved access to Twin Lakes through rehabilitation of existing infrastructure with potential grant program funding. A 2020 grant application is planned along with final project design
- New Horseshoe Lake Trail bridge completed – community funded project



★ **OBJECTIVE:** Finalize Agreement with Mammoth Lakes Foundation (MLF) for Mammoth Arts & Cultural Center (MACC) operational funding to be provided through Measure U

ACCOMPLISHED:

- The Town will complete an operational funding agreement in 2020 with the Mammoth Lakes Foundation
- Project capital funding program is underway, MACC groundbreaking scheduled in 2020



STRATEGIC PRIORITY: CAPITAL INFRASTRUCTURE NEW INVESTMENT, IMPROVEMENTS AND MAINTENANCE

★ **OBJECTIVE:** Invest in pavement rehabilitation, replacement, and expansion (Roads, Multi-use Paths (MUPs), Sidewalks, and Parks). (Complete minimum MUP rehabilitation and prepare for next road rehabilitation project)

ACCOMPLISHED:

- Multi-use path repairs completed summer 2019
- Main Street sidewalks and new transit shelters completed fall/winter 2019. This multi-year \$8.1 Million project increased overall public parking spaces, added new bus shelters and completed sidewalk connections from Old Mammoth Road to The Village at Mammoth
- Three older transit shelters to be replaced in 2020; funding has been allocated
- Mammoth Creek Park Inclusive Playground (Phase 2: \$75,000) completed Fall 2019
- Community Center rehabilitation project completed Fall 2019
- Shady Rest Park improvements and Whitmore Pool improvements completed summer 2019
- Municipal Signage and Wayfinding program phase I implemented fall 2019, with removal of old signage to be completed 2020



★ **OBJECTIVE:** Implement the Airport Capital Improvement Program (ACIP) with near term projects under construction (Airport Ramp, Safety Elements, and pavement improvements)

ACCOMPLISHED:

- Town of Mammoth Lakes and Inyo County awarded prestigious Herman C. Bliss Partnership Award for regional Air Service work
- Segmented Circle project completed Fall 2019
- Environmental work initiated in 2019 for pavement projects, terminal area plan, and associated support improvements such as expanded apron areas, parking, and building for fire and maintenance equipment



Photo: Josh Wray/Mammoth Lakes Tourism

★ **OBJECTIVE:** Focused implementation of a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) that supports facilities to advance approved accepted Town Plans with projects to define “all-in” costs with complete projects.

ACCOMPLISHED:

- Updated CIP to be completed March/April 2020
- Reduced operating costs of Whitmore Pool through completion of \$100,000 deferred maintenance work program
- Project Study Reports for two new multi-use path sections and road rehabilitation approved and ready for future grant funds
- Main Street Sidewalk program included new staff, snow removal equipment and contracts to meet snow removal requirements
- Received SB1 per capita funds and implemented curb and gutter repairs on Meridian Boulevard and received SB1 planning grant to complete a parking and transit/mobility hub study and recommendations



STRATEGIC PRIORITY: IMPLEMENTATION OF ENHANCED AND REQUIRED MUNICIPAL SERVICES

★ **OBJECTIVE:** Development and approval of integrated Solid Waste Program and Services to be implemented

ACCOMPLISHED:

- Staff and Mammoth Disposal working on updated franchise agreement which will address the closure of the Benton Crossing Landfill and include development of a new transfer station and materials recovery facility (MRF). To be completed in summer 2020
- Ongoing feasibility work regarding potential biomass facility using US Forest Service Wood Innovations Grant, to be finalized in fall 2020
- Coordinating with Mono County on future joint operational options, pending Mono County selected option(s) related to solid waste in 2020. Work program will address solid waste management services upon closure of Benton Crossing Landfill as of January 1, 2023
- Beverage recycling grant acquired. Provides recycling bins, outreach and new equipment

★ **OBJECTIVE:** Plan for new Public Safety Communications System is refined and funding options presented

ACCOMPLISHED:

- Report by Federal Engineering completed and presented to Town Council and Mono County Board of Supervisors
- Staff reviewing funding and governance options, to be complete in 2020
- Final technology selection will be made in 2020 to manage costs, long term viability, and overall communication improved systems into the future
- Regional discussion underway for Dispatch/911 services, with recommendations to be made in 2020

★ **OBJECTIVE:** Increased level and diversity of police services with focus on achieving 24/7 coverage

ACCOMPLISHED:

- Plans for 24/7 coverage to be implemented 2020
- Increased officer staffing from 13 to 15
- Acquired Tobacco grant covering full-time School Resource Officer (SRO)
- Increased part time staffing by 2 civilians for parking, code enforcement and customer service support



★ **OBJECTIVE:** Enhanced long-term financial stability (reserves, revenue and expenditure management) with focus on State and Federal mandates and revenue opportunities

ACCOMPLISHED:

- The Town of Mammoth Lakes has enjoyed several years of strong economic performance through visitation, enhancing Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) revenue. The Town Council has strategically allocated a portion of this excess revenue to the long term health and resiliency of the Town by investing in reserves. Below are some key reserve elements and their current status

Vehicle Replacement Reserve	\$8,722,831
Airport Capital Reserve	\$1,441,677
Operating Reserve (OR)	\$1,864,838
Reserve for Economic Uncertainty (REU)	\$3,744,293
Code Enforcement Abatement	\$300,000
Workforce Housing – Partnership Funding	\$1,333,936



- Vehicle Replacement Reserve – The Town’s vehicle replacement fund accrues necessary revenue to replace fleet assets once they have reached the end of their useful life. The balance in this reserve is the actual cash balance available for replacement. The plan incorporates key elements such as: original purchase price, annual cost inflation for purchase, and life expectancy for each piece of equipment. The fund is generated through charges to the department’s operating budgets where the equipment is utilized
- Airport Capital Reserve – These funds are available for capital investment. To leverage these funds, the Town plans to use funds as a grant match with FAA funds on major airport projects
- Operating Reserve (OR) – OR target is 9% of General Fund budgeted revenue determined on an annual basis. Status = 89.2% funded to target. Purpose is to weather short term economic impacts or to take advantage of unanticipated funding needs such as grant opportunities, response to damaged facilities, unanticipated short term declines in revenue or new state and federal cost mandates
- Reserve for Economic Uncertainty (REU) – REU target is 16% of General Fund budgeted revenue determined on an annual basis. Status = 100% funded to target. Purpose is to reduce the impact to Town services in the event of a long-term revenue shortfall from an economic downturn or other localized events that negatively impact the Town’s revenue sources
- Code Enforcement Abatement – Funding for program to remove blighted buildings
- Workforce Housing – Partnership funding: Includes a \$2M allocation to housing that purchased two units. Remaining funds available for future partnership to develop workforce housing
- Received SB1 per capita funds and implemented curb and gutter repairs on Meridian Boulevard and received SB1 planning grant to complete a parking and transit/mobility hub study and recommendations
- Request for SB2 housing planning funds approved, which will provide \$160,000 for housing program
- Provided one-time match funding for new Trolley(s). State grants and funds added to vehicle replacement reserves

OTHER WORK PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

- Completed employee negotiations resulting in three-year Memorandum's of Understanding (MOU's) for all employee groups
- Completion and approval of the FY19-20 budget. Town Council continued its conservative approach to financial management which will provide funding for The Parcel and other one-time needs
- Adopted state mandated General Plan Housing and Safety Elements
- Adopted Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazards Mitigation Plan (State and FEMA approved)
- New Municipal Elections moved from June to November, 2020
- Supported the Fire Safe Council's Lakes Basin Fuels Reduction Project (\$65,000)
- Adopted a Legislative Platform to guide Town Council and staff positions on proposed legislation
- Provided staff support to the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments (ESCOG) for proposed Joint Power Authority (JPA)
- Approved pilot project for new decorative winter street lighting (animated snowflakes)
- Adopted updated Building Codes and addressed longstanding issues related to lofts and snow loads
- Coordinated response to Southern California Edison's Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) program with Mono County, Mammoth Lakes Fire Protection District and others– will continue working on this program in 2020
- Participated with Mono County Office of Education, Mammoth Unified School District, Mammoth Resorts, and Mammoth Hospital on childcare options
- Preliminary direction provided for potential funding of new Town Office Facility

LAKES BASIN HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION PROJECT

FUNDING
Mammoth Lakes Fire Safe Council received a \$1,200,000 grant from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy

TIME LINE
Fall 2019 & Fall 2020

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Project Area
Map showing the project area in the Lakes Basin, including the Inyo National Forest and surrounding communities.

What is Fuel Reduction?
Fuel reduction projects remove vegetation (fuel) from project areas. This project will thin the forest in the Lakes Basin by removing live and dead trees, cutting dense brush and raising branches along roads and around cabins. Fuel will be disposed of by chipping and burning, chipping, and/or removal from the area.

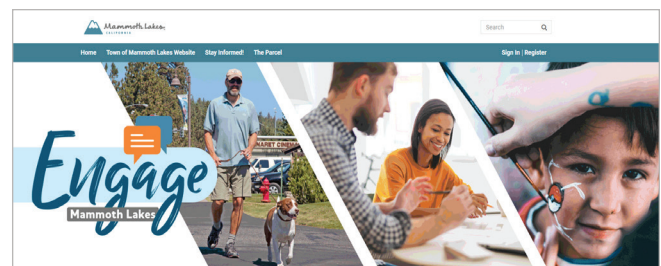
Why is Fuel Reduction needed?
Over the past decade wildfires in California have become larger and burned at higher severity. An analysis conducted by the Inyo National Forest in 2018 concluded that the Lakes Basin is likely to burn at high severity under the right weather conditions. The project aims to reduce wildfire severity, improve public and firefighter safety, protect infrastructure and Mammoth Lakes' drinking water supply. Fuel reduction work will also improve forest health and reduce the future likelihood of tree mortality from pests, pathogens, and drought by making more nutrients available to remaining trees, this will preserve the natural beauty of the area.

Will the wood be available to the public?
Yes! Some wood from the project will be made available for public wood cutting. USFS personnel fuelwoodcutting permits will be required for collecting the wood.

BEFORE → **AFTER**

Working together to protect Mammoth

Building Right: Right to Life and Property. The Town of Mammoth Lakes is a member of the California Fire Safe Council, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, and the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments. Building Right is a project of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy and is supported by the Sierra Nevada Watershed Improvement Program.



TOWN OF MAMMOTH LAKES EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER
JANUARY 2019

Town Council Sets Strategic Priorities
On December 5, 2018 the Town Council adopted a set of strategic priorities and key objectives to guide the Town's work program over the next eighteen months. The Council set four broad Strategic Priorities and 14 key objectives as follows:

Strategic Priority: Expand availability and affordability of Community Housing

- Initial Planning for 'The Parcel' is complete and ready to proceed to development and funding through the development of a community based master plan
- Partner with Chamber, MLH and others to implement short-term

The new Mammoth Creek Park Gap Closure Project Multi-use Path (L) and Upper Main Street sidewalk (see story page 2).

Enhanced public experience with • Implement the Airport Capital Im...

- Approved additional funding for improvements to the current Town Offices – ongoing enhancements/repairs will continue to be necessary
- Began providing clerk assistance to non-governmental organizations (NGO's) as well as ESCOG with the addition of a new Assistant Town Clerk
- Secured additional conference room space (The Parcel) room for meetings
- Code enforcement on the La Sierra dilapidated building removal has progressed and asbestos testing has been completed with remediation scheduled in 2020
- Sam's Wood Site litigation has been resolved with Mammoth Lakes Tourism
- Professional development through a variety of organizations occurred (e.g. League of California Cities, ICMA, APA, CJPIA, training provided through Human Resources)
- Quarterly employee staff newsletter has been well received
- Application to convert Sierra Center Mall to a hotel was approved
- Implemented new online engagement platform: EngagementHQ that utilizes 8 tools and 14 communication/participation widgets that can be easily deployed on individual project pages, such as The Parcel, to increase public participation
- Town awarded Sierra Nevada Conservancy Sustainable Recreation and Tourism Grant in the amount of \$618,750
- Mayor Hoff presented the Spirit of Mammoth Award to Barbara Richter, a 36-year resident and active volunteer
- The Town hosted another successful Town Clean Up Day event on June 8 that resulted in the removal of 102 tons of waste (trash, green waste and metal)
- The Building Division processed 840 permits (up from 703 in 2018) with a total valuation of \$72,444,641. This includes 19 single family dwelling units and 46 multi-family dwelling units
- Authorized a community destination strategy planning report to be presented in 2020
- Fiscal year 2020/21 budget process to consider options to address CalPERS unfunded liability



LEADERSHIP

TOWN COUNCIL

Bill Sauser, Mayor

Lynda Salcido, Mayor Pro Tem

John Wentworth

Cleland Hoff

Kirk Stapp

PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Michael Vanderhurst, Chair

Jennifer Burrows, Vice Chair

Paul Chang

Greg Eckert

Jessica Kennedy

RECREATION COMMISSION

Elizabeth “Betsy” Truax, Chair

Sean Turner, Vice Chair

Laurel Martin

Dan O’Connell

Christi Contois

TOWN ADMINISTRATION

Daniel C. Holler, Town Manager

Andrew Morris, Town Attorney

Jamie Gray, Town Clerk

Pam Kobylarz, Assistant to the Town Manager

Al Davis, Chief of Police

Grady Dutton, Public Works Director

Rob Patterson, Administrative Services &
Finance Director

Sandra Moberly, Community & Economic
Development Director

Stuart Brown, Parks and Recreation Director &
Public Information Officer



CONTACT INFORMATION



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Main Phone: (760) 965-3600

Mammoth Lakes Police Department: (760) 965-3700

Public Information Line: (760) 965-3612 (updated during emergencies)

Engage Mammoth Lakes: <https://engage.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov>

Notify Me: <https://www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov/list.aspx>

Website: www.TownofMammothLakes.ca.gov

Email: Initial of first name and last name...@townofmammothlakes.ca.gov
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Photos: left - Todd Robertson; top right - Dakota Snider; bottom right - OPP Creative / all Mammoth Lakes Tourism