



2025



# State of the City

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*Presented by City Manager Fidel Maltez to the Chelsea  
City Council and the Residents of Chelsea*







Dear Residents,

In this report, we reflect on the achievements and highlights of the City’s efforts throughout 2024 and early 2025.

I want to extend my deepest gratitude to all the hardworking public officials who have been instrumental in Chelsea’s progress over the past year, including the members of the City Council, the School Committee, and our dedicated State delegation.

To our City staff, public safety teams, and volunteers, thank you for all that you do to keep our city running.

And most importantly, thank you to the residents of Chelsea who continue to make this city a place of vibrancy and pride.

Sincerely,

Fidel Maltez,  
City Manager



# 2024-2025 Chelsea City Council



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The City Council is a legislative body that sets the policy-making agenda for the City of Chelsea through official votes and resolutions, enactment of ordinances, appropriation orders and loan authorizations.

You may contact all city councilors by email with any inquiries. For more information call (617)-466-4060 or visit [chelseama.gov/city-council](https://chelseama.gov/city-council)



# From Chelsea's 400th to Chelsea Pa'Lante



## Celebrating Chelsea's Past, Planning Chelsea's Future

An extraordinary milestone we celebrated in 2024 was the 400th anniversary of our city's settlement.

Over a 12 month period, we came together more than 20 times to celebrate our history and honor the resilience of the generations that have come before us. From the 400th Gala to Chelsea Day and the Chelsea 5k Road Race, this year was a testament to our collective spirit.

A special thank you to the Chelsea 400th Committee, our Law Department, Recreation Department, Fire, Police, Emergency Services teams, the Chamber of Commerce, and all the volunteers and partners who helped make this year-long celebration a success.

Just as we honored the past, we also began looking toward the future. In alignment with the City Council's priorities, we announced Chelsea Pa'Lante, Chelsea Onward - our first comprehensive plan since 1970.

This plan, which is in the early stages of development, will serve as a road map for the community over the next 10-15 years. It is a community-driven initiative designed to enhance the quality of life in Chelsea through a comprehensive, collaborative planning process. Pa'Lante, meaning "forward" in Spanish, Chelsea Pa'Lante reflects the City's commitment to progress, inclusion, and equity as it plans for the future.

We hope to set the stage for a city where every resident has an opportunity to thrive.

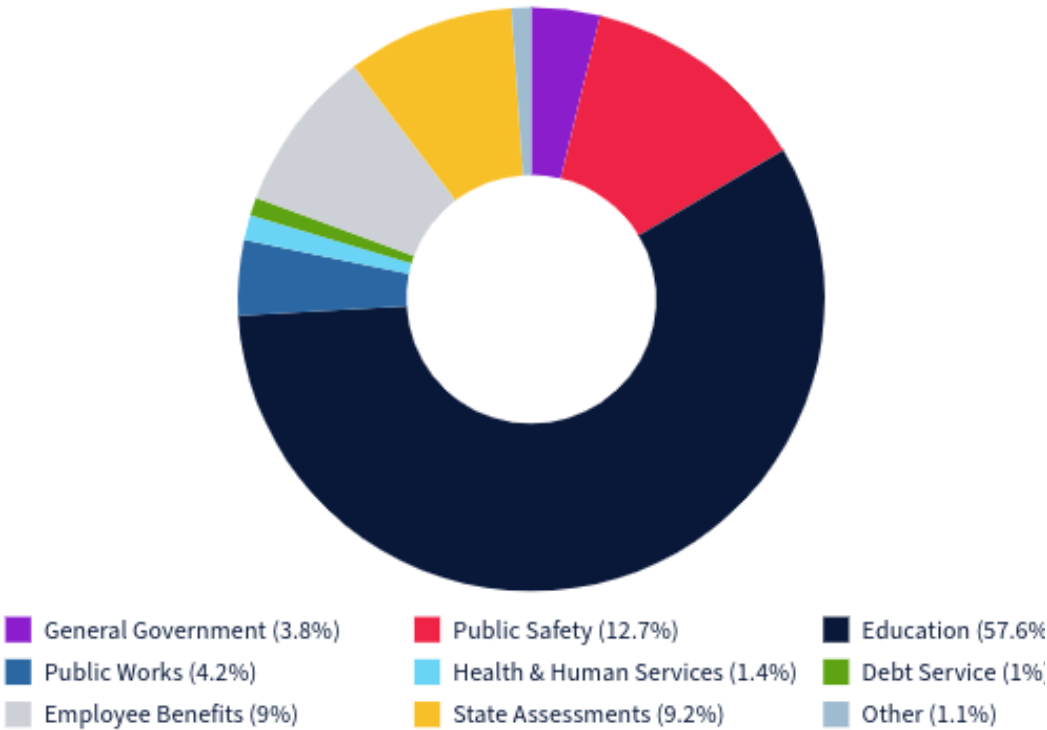
# Chelsea by The Numbers

The City's finances are stronger than ever. Over Fiscal Year 2024, we generated over \$33 Million in Free Cash that will be used to complete major capital improvements and replenish our general stabilization rainy day accounts.

| CATEGORY              | TOTAL        |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| General Stabalization | \$9,407,250  |
| Free Cash             | \$33,834,080 |
| TOTAL                 | \$43,241,330 |

| CATEGORY                     | TOTAL     |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| School Capital Stabilization | \$754,086 |
| TOTAL                        | \$754,086 |

## PROJECTED 2025 EXPENDITURE: 245M





# Opiod Abatement Grant Program

## A Strategic Approach to Combatting Opioid Use

*In the fall of 2024, we launched an Opioid Abatement Grant Program made possible by the Statewide Opioid Settlement cases. Chelsea is in receipt of over \$2 Million to support local efforts focused on opioid use prevention and intervention in our community.*

### How it Works

The City of Chelsea will allocate approximately \$2 Million in State Opioid Settlement Funds to distribute Opioid Abatement Grants to local organizations and individuals committed to delivering activities and events designed to promote the prevention and intervention of opioid use in its community. The funds, which are part of a settlement between Massachusetts and companies involved in distributing opioids, will be paid out to the City in increments over time through the year 2038.

Over this period, Chelsea will earmark Opioid Abatement Funds to launch an Opioid Abatement Micro Grant Program open to Chelsea-based organizations and individuals who aim to deliver activities or events focused on opioid prevention and intervention. Each year, grants of up to \$2,500 will be available to support these efforts as funding allows.

### Grant Recipients as of February 2025

In September 2024, Chelsea awarded grants to two key local organizations: An award to Roca in the amount of \$123,989.57 and a grant to Community Action Programs Inter-City, Inc (CAPIC) in the amount of \$525,600.

**Roca, a violence intervention and behavioral health program for the young people with headquarters in Chelsea, will use its award to deliver life-saving cognitive behavioral theory (CBT) therapies, as well as education and workforce readiness programming, employment, and more to 16-24 year old young people with opioid and substance use disorders.**

**CAPIC, a Chelsea-based organization that delivers equitable harm reduction interventions, connection to care and wrap-around services to individuals with substance use disorders, will use its award to connect individuals with substance use disorders to appropriate and equitable interventions in a coordinated way and to increase their quality of life and their ability to lead a self-sustaining life.**

**Chelsea will also allocate \$13,333.50 to fund its Critical Incident Management System**

# Lead Task Force

*In 2024, the City took a significant step forward with the creation of our Lead Task Force. This task force, composed of key City staff, is driving immediate action to raise awareness about the dangers of lead and to eliminate lead service lines in Chelsea's water system.*

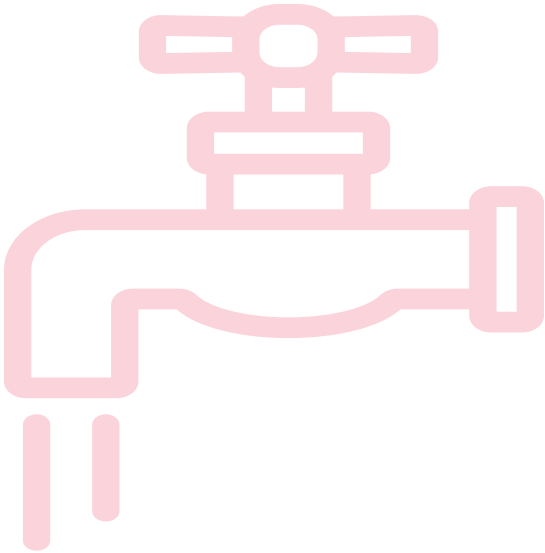
## Progress & Aspirations

The Task force is leading our holistic approach to protect its residents from lead exposure. This includes the Public Health Department's partnerships with local healthcare providers to ensure that all children under age 5 are screened for lead annually and our Water & Sewer Division's Lead Service Replacement Program to replace every public and private lead service line (and galvanized lines) in the city of Chelsea. Through this program, residents have their lead pipes replaced at NO COST to them.

### Over the past year, our Task Force has:

- Launched a digital inspection request form to make it easier for residents to get their service lines checked.
- Created a dedicated webpage to provide our Lead Service Line Replacement Program and information on the dangers of lead.
- Partnered with local groups like Clean Water Action and GreenRoots, as well as the Federal Environmental Protection Agency to enhance community outreach and education.
- Knocked on over 1,000 doors, engaging directly with residents.
- Booked more than 300 service line inspection appointments since October 2024 alone.

While we are pleased to report that over 200 lead service lines have been replaced, and more than 3,000 safe copper lines have been confirmed in our system, our ultimate goal is to completely eliminate lead from Chelsea's water system and ensure that every resident has access to safe drinking water.





# Eviction Task Force & Community Support

Over the past year, we have strengthened our efforts to hold Chelsea’s landlords accountable. We heard loud and clear from our community that the City has to fight for our residents, and I am proud to share that we are working to address the community’s concerns around housing together.

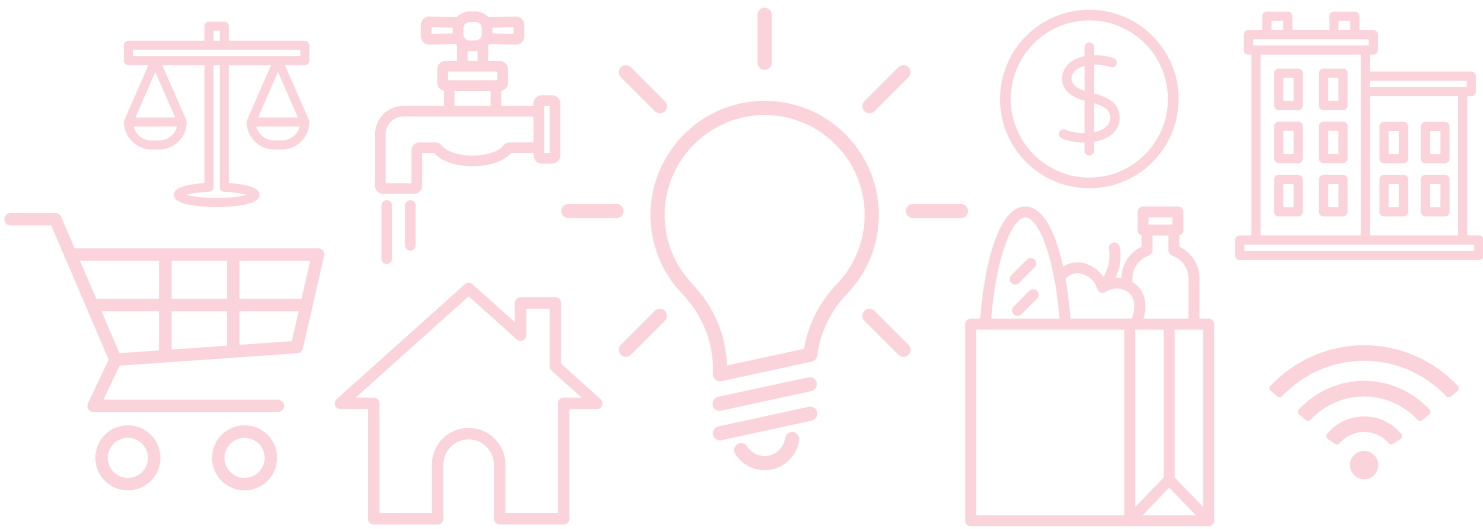
## HOUSING TASK FORCE

In 2024, we formed a Housing Task Force, bringing together staff from our Housing and Community Development, Inspectional Services, the Law Department, Fire and Police Departments, and La Colaborativa. This team has been focused on finding practical solutions to Chelsea’s housing challenges and ensuring that our residents are protected. This group operates with a ‘boots on the ground’ approach around problem properties. We are looking at systemic issues, and leveraging permitting and tracking software as well as creating a new licensing process to hold property management companies accountable.



## HOUSING STABILITY & LEGAL SERVICES

One of the key outcomes of this effort has been our partnership with La Colaborativa by supporting free eviction defense for Chelsea residents. In addition, we’ve partnered with La Colaborativa to host weekly Greater Boston Legal Services Housing Clinics at the Survival Center on Sixth Street. In the next few months we will launch Made App, a free, self-guided web tool that helps tenants prepare for eviction cases. We will continue empowering our residents and ensuring they have the resources they need to stay in their homes. La Colaborativa has been an invaluable ally in our work to tackle the housing crisis in Chelsea.



## FOOD SUPPORT

Over the last year, the Department of Housing & Community Development has been working behind the scenes with a consultant to launch an outreach campaign to encourage and incentivize Chelsea residents to apply for SNAP. SNAP is a federal program that provides food benefits to low-income families, helping them supplement their grocery budget to afford nutritious food essential for health and well-being. The City of Chelsea believes no one should go hungry. Beyond that, eating well and feeling satisfied contribute to emotional well-being, fostering comfort, joy, and the readiness to move forward and make progress in life. Good food nourishes both the body and the mind. The digital and in-person activation campaign is expected to launch in spring 2025.



## CHELSEA ELECTRICITY CHOICE

We launched Chelsea Electricity Choice, our municipal aggregation program, that provides our residents and small business owners with more stable and competitive electricity prices. This program offers some of the most competitive rates in the greater Boston area and securing this for our residents was a huge accomplishment. This program has brought savings to our small businesses and residents, and most importantly, Chelsea Electricity Choice helps residents manage their energy costs over time and reduces financial uncertainty around energy costs.





# Chelsea Public Schools

## Serving the Underserved



Chelsea Public Schools is a gateway school system that welcomes and educates all students and families.

Our district takes great pride in embracing every individual, and is dedicated to serving our city's most underserved populations, and does so through the Chelsea Opportunity Academy and our Intergenerational Literacy Program.

In 2024, the City of Chelsea purchased a vacant church to serve as the future home for Chelsea Opportunity Academy and the Intergenerational Literacy Project.

The purchase of this building will open up space at Chelsea High School, which is experiencing over enrollment, and will open up classrooms at the Early Learning Center for Pre-K.

## Renovation of the Chelsea High School Cafeteria

In the summer of 2024, we renovated the Chelsea High School Cafeteria to increase seating capacity. The project also involved expanding the kitchen and adding new student bathrooms.

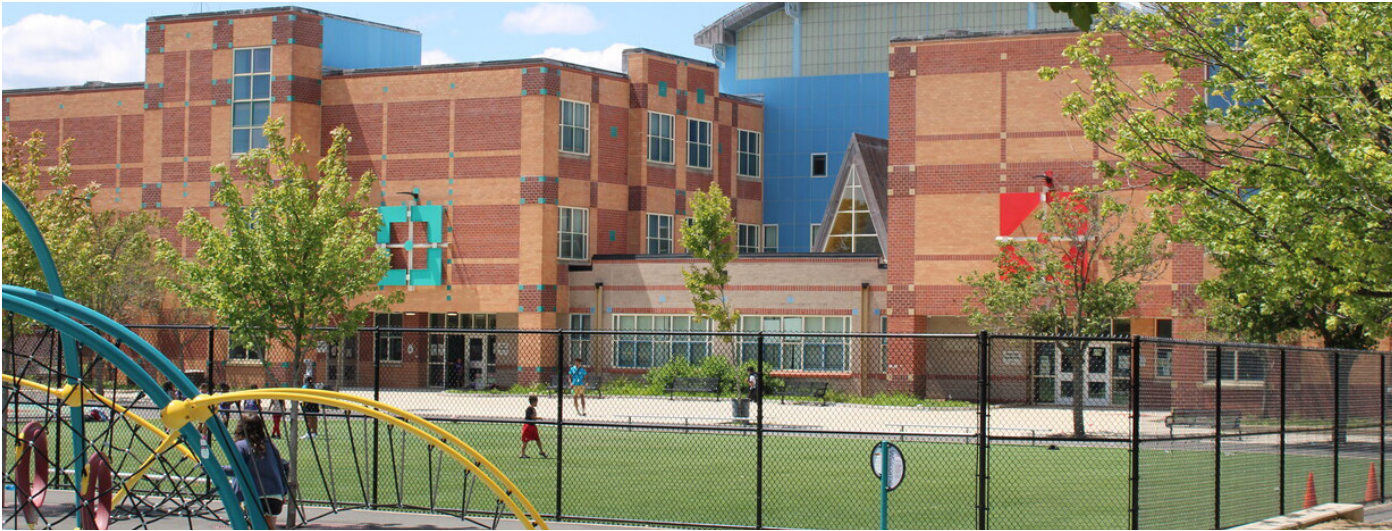
As a result of these upgrades, students are now able to eat lunch in the cafeteria, rather than in other spaces in the building.



## Berkowitz Elementary School Recognized by DESE

On the 2024 MCAS, three out of four elementary schools in the Chelsea Public Schools experienced growth across all subject areas, highlighting that investment in a curriculum that is aligned to state standards is working.

Among the elementary schools, the Berkowitz Elementary School distinguished itself by achieving double-digit gains in every tested area. This outstanding performance earned the Berkowitz recognition from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE).



## Innovation in Teaching and Learning

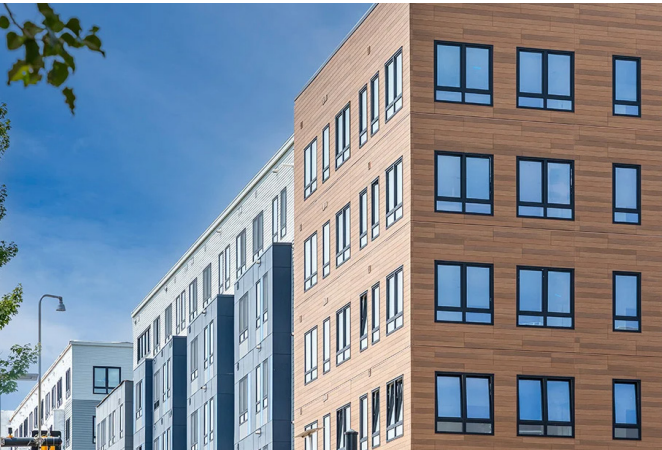


Thanks to a competitive grant of almost \$1 million awarded by the One8 Foundation, Chelsea Public Schools has been able to innovate in providing high dosage tutoring in literacy through Ignite Reading. Research clearly shows that both tutoring and structured literacy are two of the most powerful strategies available to move student achievement. CPS is excited about this opportunity to see tremendous potential for student impact and was highlighted in the Boston Globe for this innovative way to deliver high dosage tutoring online.



*Addressing the housing crisis, which looms large in Chelsea, requires a multifaceted approach, comprising of the creation of new affordable, accessible housing, housing stability initiatives, and initiatives designed to foster economic mobility, such as workforce development programs. Through major developments that will see real progress this year, the City will add significantly to our affordable housing stock, yielding a range of contemporary, environmentally friendly housing opportunities.*

**Recently Completed Projects**



**180 CENTRAL AVE**

In fall 2024, we celebrated the grand opening of the DUO Apartments on Central Ave., a \$155 Million development project that transformed the aging Innes Public Housing Development into a premier, 330 unit mixed-income apartment housing community in Chelsea. DUO replaced 96 units of aging public housing with brand new, energy efficient and ADA accessible affordable units.

This redevelopment also provides 40 units of moderate-income housing, creating a vibrant and diverse community where people at all income levels can live and contribute to the growth of Chelsea.

We're proud to have partnered with the Chelsea Housing Authority and private developers to bring this project to fruition.



**25 SIXTH STREET**

The Neighborhood Developers (TND) finished construction on 62 affordable homes at 25 Sixth Street, the former location of La Colaborativa's food pantry. The project created 56 affordable rental apartments, including 8 at 30% AMI, 36 at 60% AMI and 12 at 100% AMI. This is in addition to six (6) affordable condos for sale to buyer's with incomes at 80% and 120% of AMI.

25 Sixth Street property amenities include a community room, a 4,000 square foot outdoor public space on the second level, 40 at-grade parking spaces, common laundry facilities on three floors, and public bicycle parking. The development's architectural details emphasize energy efficiency, with details meeting the standards for Passive House Certification.

**IMPROVED CONNECTIONS**

This project has not only increased Chelsea's affordable housing stock, but has also improved the streetscape along Sixth Street and created a walking path from the site to the Silver Line Station, providing for a better connection between the Station and Bellingham Square (Chelsea's downtown core).





Upcoming Developments



**41-43 ORANGE STREET**

This project will transform a vacant lot into 5 affordable ownership units. The project will be a multi-family affordable homeownership opportunity (at or below 80% AMI) with one ADA accessible unit and onsite parking.

The project partners, Chelsea's Affordable Housing Trust Fund Board, Comunidades Enraizadas, and Habitat for Humanity, held various engagement opportunities with the community in 2024 to effectively uplift the project and the Chelsea community.



**170 COTTAGE STREET**

The Neighborhood Developers (TND) are currently developing 66 affordable homes adjacent to the Chelsea Greenway, offering residents access to a multi-modal pedestrian and bike path. This project will be completed in fall of 2025.



**440 BROADWAY**

The 440 Broadway project is a development of affordable housing and accessible retail space at the former Salvation Army located at 440 Broadway that began in January 2025.

The City of Chelsea, through the Department of Housing & Community Development, oversaw site planning and procurement, and Traggorth Companies was selected as the Developer of the site in the Fall of 2021.

The proposal includes 29 units (18 rental and 10 homeownership). All rental units will be at or below 60% AMI, while the 10 affordable condos will be set at 80% AMI. At grade, 20 parking spaces and a 4,100 square foot retail space will serve the property, which will be designed to meet Passive House standards, the highest benchmark for environmental sustainability and health.

At the ground level, in partnership with Alberto Calvo of Stop and Compare, the project encompasses retail space designed as an incubator for culinary entrepreneurs and local residents establishing food oriented businesses.

**375 BROADWAY**

This project is located on approximately 24,447 square feet of land at 375 Broadway and 15 Fourth Street. The project, led by Arx Urban, will consist of the construction of 43 mixed income residential units catering to both individuals and families (9 income restricted at 30% AMI, 29 at 60% AMI, and 5 market rate).

The building will include a 25 space parking garage on the ground floor, a residential lobby/leasing office, a community room, fitness center, and bicycle storage.

The project is fully permitted, received its federal and state tax credit awards, and is targeting closing/start of construction at the start of 2025.



*Public safety is always top of mind in our community. Chelsea has seen a decline in crime rates over the past year. This achievement is a testament to the hard work of our dedicated law enforcement officers, community members, and City staff, who prioritize the safety and well-being of our residents.*



**Chelsea Police 2024**

**Safe Streets Task Force**

The Safe Streets Task Force, a partnership between the Chelsea Police Department and the FBI, made significant strides in dismantling gang leadership and reducing gang activity in Chelsea. Through Operation Eight Ball, the task force disrupted organized crime, leading to significant arrests and the seizure of weapons, currency, and property.

**Downtown Task Force**

The Downtown Task Force, a collaboration with the City Manager's Office, Chelsea Police department, local businesses, and service providers worked together to reduce graffiti, public drinking, and criminal activity.

**Chelsea HUB**

The Chelsea Police-led HUB initiative addressed complex social issues in 2024 via coordinated interventions. The HUB provided resources and follow-up care to over 1,000 residents, improving safety and strengthening community trust.

**Evolving Community Policing Initiatives**

Our public safety efforts extended beyond just response in 2024. Over the past year, the Chelsea Police Department has invested in robust community policing initiatives that foster trust and communication between officers and residents. **These programs include, but are not limited to:**

- **Our Community Services Division**
- **Downtown Broadway Task Force**
- **Our Chelsea Youth Academy**
- **Our Coffee with a Cop Initiative**
- **Annual National Night Out events; and**
- **Our Faith & Blue community event series with local faith-based organizations.**

**Chelsea Fire 2024**

**Innovation Under New Leadership**

This past year, our Fire Department welcomed Fire Chief John Quatieri. Under his leadership, collaboration and innovation have flourished, particularly with the launch of our SafetyNet Tracking Program. This program equips individuals with cognitive impairments with a tracker bracelet, allowing emergency personnel to locate them within 30 minutes of being reported missing. We are grateful for Chief Quatieri's foresight in launching this program and our staff from Fire, Police, Emergency Management, and Health & Human Services who made this program a success.



**Fire Safety Education Program**

In the fall of 2024, the Fire Department introduced a Fire Safety Education Program aimed at teaching residents and local organizations critical fire prevention techniques. This includes in-person visits from the Fire Prevention team and tours of the Central Fire Station to help our community stay safe.



**Heroic Actions**

We celebrated the heroic actions of several firefighters, including: Lieutenant Omar Frometa, Firefighters Jamal Ahmed, Andrew Cerretani, and Christian Avellaneda for their bravery in rescuing two colleagues from a burning building; Firefighter Jeff Flores for saving lives while off duty; Firefighter Euclides Barahona for rescuing three occupants from a fire; and Firefighter Miguel Acosta for performing life-saving CPR after a car accident.





# Capital Improvement Plan FY2026

Strategic capital investments play a pivotal role in ensuring the sustainability and prosperity of our beloved Chelsea. A well-planned and well-executed infrastructure program is the cornerstone upon which a thriving and resilient city is built.

Our Fiscal Year 2026 - Fiscal Year 2030 Capital Improvement Plan continues the City’s commitment to utilize City Reserves and reaffirms our fiscal strength to enhance the quality of life for our residents. The Plan highlights our commitment to pursue outside funding and leverage grant opportunities that can offset City expenses. The proposed total investment for FY26 is in excess of \$19 million.

The list of projects includes major building and roadway investments, climate resiliency efforts and open space improvements. We firmly believe that these priorities align with the needs of our community. This plan can be viewed by visiting [www.chelseama.gov/financedocs](http://www.chelseama.gov/financedocs).

## ELC CLASSROOM HVAC REPLACEMENT

Using \$1.8 Million in ESSER III funds, the Chelsea Public Schools District will replace all rooftop HVAC units at the ELC in summer 2025. Additional work is required in each classroom to ensure that the full HVAC system is updated and made more energy efficient. This work is proposed to take place over several years.

The renovated ELC opened in 1997 and is now more than 25 years old and major building systems need replacement at this time. The District has leveraged significant grant funds for this project, but additional funds are needed to complete work within the building.

This work will result in improved air quality for students and staff.



## ROADWAY SAFETY ENHANCEMENTS

The City of Chelsea will begin the design and installation of traffic calming and safety measures such as speed tables, raised crosswalks, rectangular rapid flashing beacons, speed radars, traffic signage, pavement markings, line striping, curbing/geometric realignment, and sidewalk/roadway reconstruction. Traffic studies and assessments may be conducted that are associated with the implementation of traffic calming and safety countermeasures. The implementation of traffic calming measures will boost pedestrian safety, reduce property damage and minimize vehicular accidents by enhancing mobility and visibility in densely-populated neighborhoods throughout the city.

## PARK & PEARL ROADWAY DESIGN

This project calls for the design and engineering of comprehensive surface enhancements to Park Street and Pearl Street. This project is crucial to address concerns of vehicular congestion, chronic roadway safety issues, poor air quality, extreme heat, and multi-modal transportation needs. Presently, the area exhibits signs of deterioration, including damaged sidewalks and degraded pavement that compound the area's chronic safety deficiencies.

## DOWNTOWN BROADWAY EASEMENTS

As part of the downtown Broadway project, Chelsea must acquire a number of temporary easements and some permanent easements in the project area to provide our contractor the space needed to complete construction work. This funding will pay for necessary technical work in the easement taking process and will cover legal fees and the cost of property rights.

## PRATTVILLE INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT DESIGN

This project will evaluate and design upgrades to the water, sewer and stormwater utilities in the area surrounding the Chelsea Housing Authority buildings in Prattville located off Normandy Road and Burman Road. The overall goal of the project is to improve water, sewer, and stormwater services for existing residents and to support future development.





# Communications & Community Engagement

*Our efforts to improve communication and engagement between the City and our community members paid off in 2024.*

## ENHANCED COMMUNICATION CHANNELS

In collaboration with Chelsea Community Cable, City Manager Fidel Maltez launched a monthly public service announcement (PSA) video series called *Our Community*. These PSAs improve communication by keeping residents informed on city updates, events, and initiatives.

In September 2024, we hired a full-time communications manager, Lillian Martin, who launched a weekly newsletter called the City News and re-invigorated our other communication channels. Martin has plans to continue to improve communication between the City and its residents in 2025 and beyond.

## LISTENING & COLLABORATING WITH COMMUNITY PARTNERS

We held more than 20 listening sessions with Chelsea's local organizations. These conversations helped identify local needs, concerns, and priorities, and fostered stronger relationships between the city government, the community, and our residents.

We're excited to continue these sessions in 2025, demonstrating our commitment to being present, accessible, and responsive to the needs of the community.

## ONLINE ENGAGEMENT GROWTH

In the last quarter of 2024, our online engagement has skyrocketed, with Facebook and Instagram reaching new audiences.

Our Facebook visits alone increased by 65%, link clicks by 346.4%, and we've gained just under 400 new followers.

Our Instagram page has also seen link clicks increase by 125% and followers by 8%.

## IN-PERSON COMMUNITY BUILDING

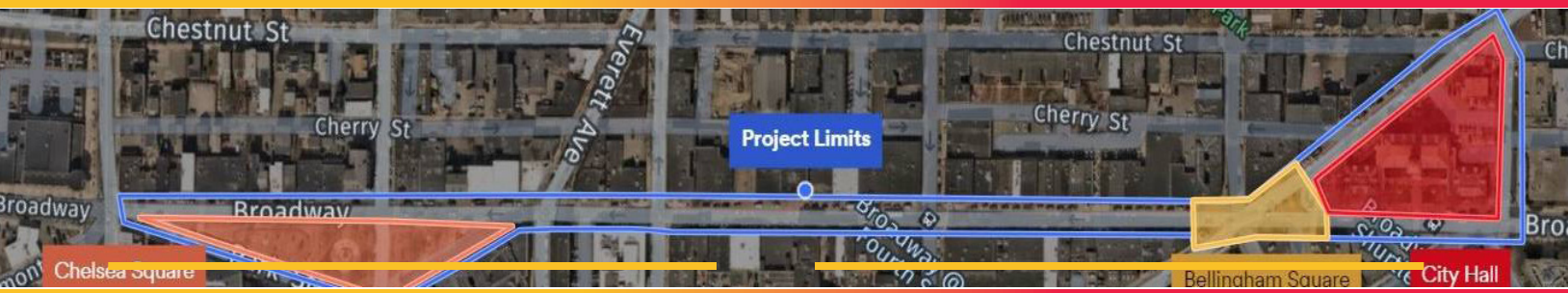
In 2024, we did more than just connect online: we brought people together in person.

We partnered with the Chelsea Police Department and local houses of worship to hold several Faith & Blue events. These gatherings fostered stronger community bonds and enhanced public safety by encouraging meaningful dialogue between residents and law enforcement.

We also held various open houses, ribbon cutting celebrations, and partnered with the Chelsea Chamber of Commerce and other organizations to host impactful city-wide events.



# Re-imagining Broadway



We have made significant progress on the Downtown Broadway Project, a \$30 Million investment aimed at revitalizing our city’s downtown with new roads, utilities, and pedestrian-friendly spaces. This will transform our city’s downtown and make it more accessible, vibrant, and welcoming.

We look forward to completing Phase 1 of this project and beginning Phase 2, the beautification of Downtown Broadway, in 2025, through which we aim to create more opportunities to enjoy downtown Chelsea, including informal meetings with friends, programming, and new ways to experience local art and culture.

## PHASE 1

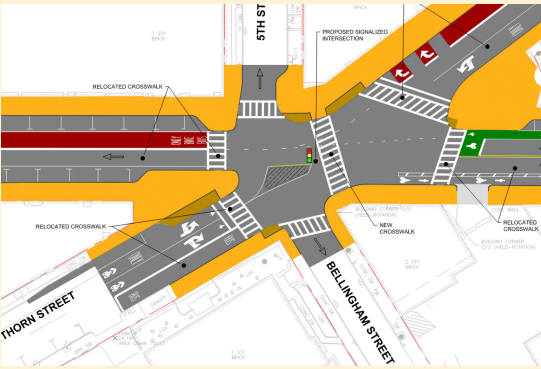
Construction for Phase 1 began in 2024 and is projected to finish in late 2025. This phase of the project focuses on utility reconstruction that will result in water, sewer, drainage, and fiber optic improvements. The project will bring an estimate of 6,250 feet of new sanitary sewer and storm drains for sewer separation, 1,250 feet of upgraded water lines to improve our local water supply system and replace lead service pipes, and 3,000 feet of new conduit to expand the City's fiber optic network.

These reconstructive measures will protect the drinking water supply for all businesses and residents in the area, prevent flooding, reduce sewage flowing to the Mystic River, and minimize sewer backups.

## PHASE 2

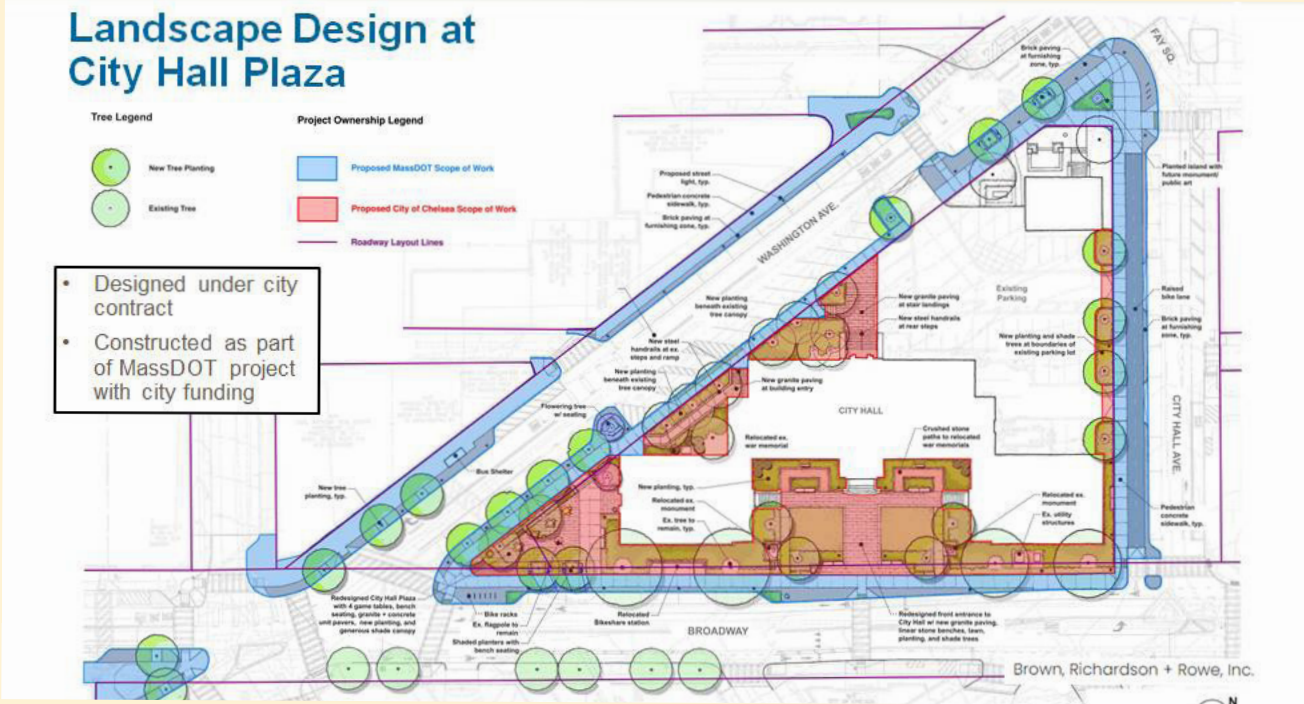
Phase 2 is expected to begin in spring 2026 and finish in 2027. This phase of the project will be executed as a state Transportation Improvement Project through MassDOT and a local project by the Chelsea Department of Housing and Community Development and will address surface improvements.

Phase 2 will advance the goals of the 2018 Re-Imagining Broadway Plan, including the reconfiguration of Bellingham Square to allow left turns from Hawthorne Street to 5th Street, a permanent dedicated bus/bike lane on Broadway, and the renovation of City Hall Plaza.



## NEW TRAFFIC RECONFIGURATION AT HAWTHORNE STREET AND 5TH STREET

Phase 2 will also include sidewalk and roadway reconstruction, bus stop improvements, traffic signal installation, and pedestrian safety measures focusing on improved access, safety, and mobility for everyone.



## LANDSCAPE DESIGN AT CITY HALL PLAZA

While a renovation is not set to begin in 2027, the City is in the process of re-imagining how Bellingham Square could be more inviting for a wide range of residents, from youth to seniors, downtown workers to commuters. The goal is to create more opportunities to enjoy downtown Chelsea, including informal meetings with friends, programming, and new ways to experience local art and culture.



# Climate Resiliency Efforts

*The City of Chelsea has an obligation to address climate hazards and reduce our carbon footprint to benefit the safety of our residents and to ensure a sustainable future for our community. The City has made great strides in combating extreme heat and flooding, which are our community’s two primary risks related to climate change, and in planning for a more sustainable future.*



## ELECTRIC VEHICLE IMPLEMENTATION

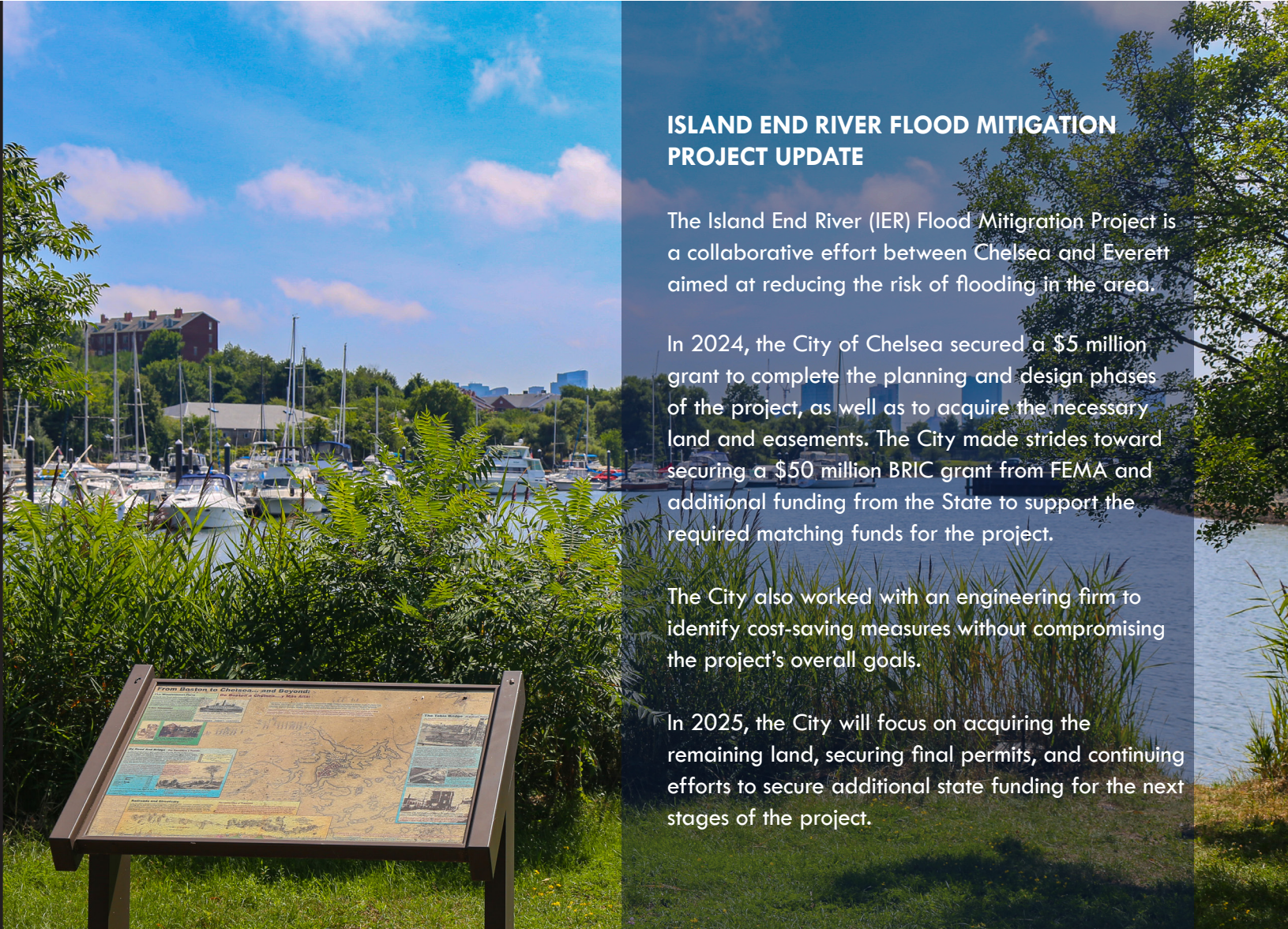
The North Suffolk Office of Resilience & Sustainability (NSORS), in partnership with the City of Chelsea, City of Revere and Town of Winthrop, completed an Electric Vehicle Implementation Plan, or electric vehicle (EV) charging station infrastructure plan, for the North Suffolk region. The project was funded by a \$100,000 grant from Massachusetts Community Compact Cabinet Energy Efficiency & Regionalization Program.

EVs are an important part of the region’s strategy to reduce emissions through the electrification of infrastructure.

## MICROGRID PROJECT UPDATE

We made significant progress with our Chelsea Community Microgrid Project, installing solar panels on the Department of Public Works City Yard building and designing external battery solutions for City Hall and the Chelsea Police Department. This project is made possible by the City of Chelsea’s Department of Housing & Community Development in partnership with GreenRoots, Climable and RUN-GJC.

Once completed, Chelsea’s microgrid will be an innovative system enabling the City to adapt to climate risks and achieve energy resilience to benefit municipal operations and the wider community. When extreme weather disrupts the grid, the microgrid will ensure participating buildings maintain their power supply.



## ISLAND END RIVER FLOOD MITIGATION PROJECT UPDATE

The Island End River (IER) Flood Mitigation Project is a collaborative effort between Chelsea and Everett aimed at reducing the risk of flooding in the area.

In 2024, the City of Chelsea secured a \$5 million grant to complete the planning and design phases of the project, as well as to acquire the necessary land and easements. The City made strides toward securing a \$50 million BRIC grant from FEMA and additional funding from the State to support the required matching funds for the project.

The City also worked with an engineering firm to identify cost-saving measures without compromising the project’s overall goals.

In 2025, the City will focus on acquiring the remaining land, securing final permits, and continuing efforts to secure additional state funding for the next stages of the project.



## MILL CREEK ENGAGEMENT EFFORTS

In 2024, the City of Chelsea has actively engaged with the community via public meetings and surveys to inform them and collect input about planned improvements to Mill Creek, Chelsea’s largest salt marsh that is home to a variety of plants and animals. The improvements aim to enhance the community’s access to the waterway through the development of a waterfront boardwalk and revitalize the area’s ecological habitat via the removal of debris and invasive species, and planting of native species.

Improvements will also include a potential community kayak launch at 88 Clinton Street, and creating new spaces for community engagement with the waterfront.

This work will be completed in partnership with community organizations in collaboration with Weston & Sampson Engineers, GreenRoots, the Nature Conservancy and the Mystic River Watershed Association.



# Open Space

The City of Chelsea continued to enhance our parks and open spaces to improve our community’s well-being in 2024. The Department of Housing and Community Development also updated its Open Space and Recreation Plan to set priorities for the future of parks, recreation, and open space in Chelsea.



## CHELSEA'S FIRST PARK & OPEN SPACE MANAGER

In May 2024, we also hired our first Park and Open Space Manager, Bladimir Hernandez. This role manages all municipal parks, trees, and open spaces in Chelsea and oversees grants for park improvements and ADA upgrades.

## TRANSFORMATION OF FORSYTH POCKET PARK

We also made tangible improvements to our parks and open spaces. We took an underused lot and transformed it into Forsyth Pocket Park, a vibrant space with a patio, umbrellas, shade trees, native plants, and improved drainage.



## BOSSON PARK RENOVATION

We renovated Bosson Park, which now boasts shaded lawns, amphitheater seating, new play equipment, a picnic area with a splash pad, a new half-basketball court, and, thanks to our dedicated DPW workers, dozens of healthy shade trees.

## HIGHLAND PARK UPGRADES

Highland Park underwent major upgrades to renew the lifespan of this heavily-used facility, which now features a new synthetic turf soccer field, improved drainage, bleachers, and new drinking fountains and bike racks. This much anticipated project was funded by American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.







## Chelsea City Manager's Office

Michael Mason, Deputy City Manager of Finance (Left)

Fidel Maltez, City Manager (Center)

Devon Fields, Deputy City Manager of Operations (Right)

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