



City of Rockville Fiscal Year 2026

Annual Report

JULY 1, 2025 TO JUNE 30, 2026

A Message from the City Manager

On behalf of our dedicated city staff, I'm pleased to present this annual report on the City of Rockville's progress during Fiscal Year 2026. The accomplishments within reflect the leadership of the Mayor and Council, the engagement of our community and the commitment of city employees.

Throughout Fiscal Year 2026, following the Mayor and Council's focus areas and core commitments, Rockville's employees continued to deliver the everyday services our community relies on while advancing projects that will shape the city for years to come.

This report offers a broad view of that work, organized around the focus areas of public safety, economic development and housing, and the core commitments of effective and efficient service delivery, and stewardship of the environment and infrastructure.

One of the year's most significant accomplishments was the Mayor and Council's adoption of the zoning ordinance rewrite and comprehensive map amendment. The culmination of a multiyear effort, the updated regulations implement recommendations from the Rockville 2040 Comprehensive Plan and Town Center Master Plan, modernize the city's development regulations and provide new opportunities for housing. The state of Maryland designated the Rockville Metro station area as a transit-oriented development, a move expected to support future growth and housing near transit.

Work also continued on two major initiatives intended to make Rockville more equitable and responsive. The city advanced its five-year justice, equity, diversity and inclusion strategic plan throughout the fiscal year, with the Mayor and Council adopting the plan shortly after the fiscal year ended.

A comprehensive rewrite of the city's landlord-tenant code also moved through research, community engagement and Mayor and Council review before adoption in July. The updated code includes Maryland's first municipal ban on algorithmic rent pricing, increasing transparency, giving tenants more say and supporting greater housing stability.

We also made it easier for residents and businesses to work with the city. A pilot express permit program now allows eligible residential permits to be reviewed and issued within the same business day. Rockville also launched SolarAPP+, which automates review for eligible residential rooftop solar and energy storage systems. Later this fall, about 3,000 randomly selected residents will receive Rockville's biennial community survey, another important opportunity to tell us what is working and where the city can improve.

Public outreach and participation remain essential to this work. The city improved access to information and services with a redesigned rockvillemd.gov, launched in October, featuring a mobile-friendly layout, improved accessibility and clearer navigation. The community can follow Rockville's progress on major initiatives through Results Rockville, a group of online dashboards that show the status of plans and initiatives that include housing strategies, Vision Zero, the Climate Action Plan and Rockville 2040.

The year brought important investments that serve the community. The F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre reopened in September 2025 following improvements to accessibility, sound and visitor spaces. Renovation of Lincoln Park Community Center continued through the fiscal year, with the center reopening July 1 with updated program areas, new restrooms and accessibility improvements. The Mayor and Council also adopted the King Farm Farmstead Master Plan, establishing a path for preserving and reusing the historic property as a community gathering place.

Public Works continued a federally required inventory of drinking water service-line materials, completing another round of customer surveys and beginning field investigations of lines whose materials remain unknown. The work is part of Rockville's continuing responsibility to protect drinking water and comply with federal lead and copper regulations.

Our employees' work again earned recognition. Underscoring the city's commitment to its taxpayers, the Government Finance Officers Association honored Rockville's budget and financial reporting and, shortly after the fiscal year ended, named Rockville a 2026 Triple Crown winner. Recreation and Parks was again selected as a finalist for the National Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management.

This year also brings opportunities to reflect and celebrate as Rockville marks America's and Montgomery County's 250th anniversaries and the 100th anniversary of the historic Glenview Mansion, a centerpiece of the city.

Looking ahead, the adopted Fiscal Year 2027 budget maintains city services, keeps the property tax rate unchanged and supports 56 capital projects. About \$11 million in new funding will advance the Vision Zero Action Plan and Pedestrian Master Plan. We remain attentive to broader economic conditions and potential changes in state and federal policy that could affect shared revenues and grant funding, while continuing to plan carefully and invest in Rockville's priorities.

On behalf of the Mayor and Council and city staff, thank you for your interest, participation and support as we work to rise together in Rockville.

Respectfully,

Jeff Mielich



Mayor and Council



Above pictured, left to right: councilmembers Adam Van Grack, Izola (Zola) Shaw, Barry Jackson, Mayor Monique Ashton, councilmembers Marissa Valeri, Kate Fulton and David Myles.

Guiding Principles Adopted by Mayor and Council to Help Lead the Way

Rockville's budget in Fiscal Year 2026 was informed by five guiding principles agreed to by the Mayor and Council.

These principles, which also guided the Fiscal Year 2027 budget process, include three focus areas: public safety, economic development and housing. These focus areas "represent opportunities to make positive change in specific arenas that the Mayor and Council care deeply about and where the city has considerable leverage to make an impact and produce improved outcomes for our residents, businesses, and visitors," states the "Guiding Principles and Strategic Initiatives for FY 2026" section of the budget document.

The two other guiding principles, called "core quality of life commitments," are effective and efficient service delivery and stewardship of the environment and infrastructure.

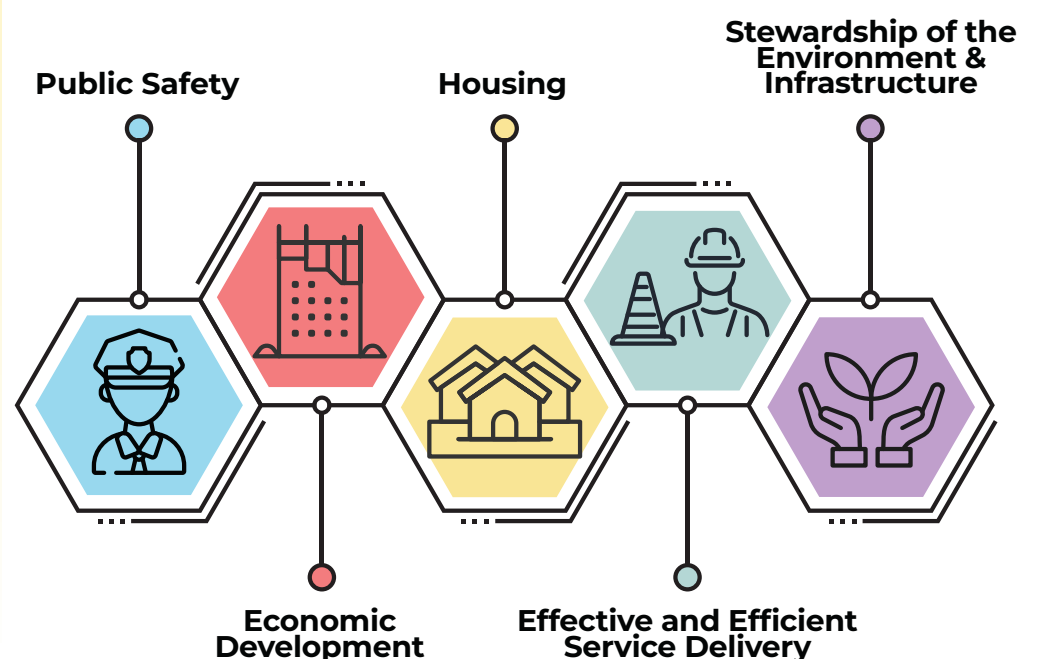
"The two Core Commitments broadly represent the most vital work of the city that directly contributes to Rockville being an outstanding place to live, work, play, and thrive," the budget states. "They reflect the ongoing provision of excellent municipal services and programs, responsibility for the resources entrusted to the city, and the resulting shared quality of life that is valued and expected by the community."

Focus Areas

- Public Safety.
- Economic Development.
- Housing.

Core Commitments

- Effective and Efficient Service Delivery.
- Stewardship of the Environment and Infrastructure.



WHAT IS THE ANNUAL REPORT?

The annual report is a requirement of the city's code and is a review of administrative activity from the preceding fiscal year, submitted to the Mayor and Council by the city manager. The accomplishments presented here cover progress made by Rockville from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026.

FORGING A PA



PUBLIC SAFETY



The Rockville City Police Department **reached full staffing** during FY26, hiring new recruits and certified lateral officers. The department also received a record number of applications for sworn positions.

Among the department's new officers is **K-9 Dare**, a bloodhound trained to track missing children and other vulnerable people. Dare gives RCPD a specialized search resource and another way to connect with the community. "She is loved by everyone," Chief Jason West said.



The RCPD also added a state-of-the-art **Mobile Incident Command Unit** to strengthen emergency response and command operations. The unit includes computer-aided dispatch consoles and



360-degree cameras.

At the department's annual gun buyback in November, **community members voluntarily turned in 305 firearms** for safe disposal.

ROCKVILLE CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT IN THE COMMUNITY

RCPD **launched a police education program** to give community members a hands-on look at police work and department operations. Participants took part in exercises involving traffic stops, use-of-force decision-making, K-9

operations and crime-scene investigation. The program supports the department's



efforts to explain law enforcement practices and strengthen relationships with residents.

The department also introduced a **10-week D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program at St. Mary's School**. The program teaches students about the dangers of drug and alcohol misuse, encourages healthy choices and provides positive interactions with officers.

Working with county and state partners, the city **launched opioid use disorder de-escalation and response training** for Rockville police officers, strengthening the city's coordinated response to substance use disorders and preparing officers to respond more effectively.

IMPROVING SAFETY ON CITY STREETS

The city **completed traffic-calming improvements at 10 locations**, including three as part of the Mannakee Street Complete Streets improvements. On Rollins Avenue, the city installed edge lines and a speed-feedback sign, and completed a Complete Streets study through a grant from the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments.

STRENGTHENING FACILITIES AND FIRE SAFETY

The Department of Information Technology **deployed smart cameras at city facilities** as part of a two-year closed-circuit television modernization initiative.

The city **completed 650 fire inspections** and **updated chapter 9 of city code**, adopting the 2024 editions of NFPA 1, the fire code, and NFPA 101, the life safety code, comprehensive model standards published by the National Fire Protection Association to safeguard buildings and occupants.



HOUSING

Making Rockville **a national leader in landlord-tenant policy**, the city updated the Rental Facilities and Landlord-Tenant Relations chapter of city code following more than a year of research, stakeholder engagement and Mayor and Council work sessions. The revisions improve clarity, increase transparency, and offer more agency for tenants and greater housing stability.

The city **developed and implemented an enhanced inspection program for rental properties** with substantial violations. The program increases inspections at properties requiring closer oversight and strengthens the city's ability to address conditions affecting residents' health and safety. During FY26, the city completed **953 single-family rental license inspections and inspected 2,005 multifamily units**.

EXPANDING HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES

Development plans approved during FY26 included **more than 800 new housing units at locations across Rockville**. The approvals represent progress toward expanding the city's housing supply and providing more housing choices.

The city completed a **comprehensive Housing Needs Assessment** examining existing and future housing needs across the community. Findings will help guide future housing policies, programs and planning decisions.

A multidepartment city team **developed a plan to increase affordable housing through the Government Alliance on Race and Equity**. The Department of Community Planning and Development Services began preparing guidance and processes to make accessory dwelling units a more viable housing option.

These smaller, independent homes can provide additional housing while allowing homeowners to adapt properties to changing needs.

The city **also participated in the Government Alliance on Race and Equity's Upward Mobility Project** and began developing a small-scale development program intended to expand housing opportunities and support economic mobility.

SUPPORTING HOMEOWNERS AND RENTERS

A new down payment assistance program **helped 14 households purchase homes in Rockville**, reducing one of the largest financial barriers to homeownership.

The Rockville Emergency Assistance Program **helped 100 families avoid eviction or utility shutoff**. The program also coordinated targeted outreach at two properties with high numbers of eviction filings, connecting residents with assistance intended to reduce displacement and improve housing stability.

The Community Development Block Grant program **funded rehabilitation projects at properties serving low- and moderate-income households**. The projects addressed safety and code compliance concerns, helping ensure that residents have access to safe, healthy housing.

City staff also worked with residents of one apartment building to **resolve duplicate monthly trash fees**. The president of the Reed Tenant Association estimated that eliminating the additional charge would collectively save residents about \$95,000 each year.

"Your assistance has made a meaningful difference in my life. It has given me the opportunity to move forward, focus on my employment, continue my education and rebuild financially after a very challenging period."

— Rockville Emergency Assistance Program client.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Following a multiyear effort, the Mayor and Council **adopted the zoning ordinance rewrite and comprehensive map amendment**, implementing recommendations from the Rockville 2040 Comprehensive Plan and the Town Center Master Plan. The updated regulations streamline the development process, provide more opportunities for new housing and reorganize the zoning code to make it clearer and easier to use. By modernizing its regulations, the city is meeting the changing living, working and recreational trends of the community in the 21st century.

The city **secured a state transit-oriented development designation for the Rockville Metro station area**. The designation supports development near

the station and provides access to financing tools for projects that include market-rate and affordable housing.

The Department of Procurement again hosted **Rockville Means Business**, an annual event for companies interested in competing for city contracts and learning more about Rockville's procurement process. The event drew 58 registrants. Representatives from minority-, female-, disabled- or veteran-owned businesses were encouraged to attend.



EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT SERVICE DELIVERY

The city continued to **improve how residents access information, complete transactions and participate in programs and public life**.

A **citywide analysis identified strengths and barriers in municipal services** and informed development of an Americans with Disabilities Act compliance program strategic plan. Staff also arranged reasonable accommodations for residents and visitors attending city meetings, activities and events, and provided guidance to residents, employees and partner organizations on equity, safety and access.

The city **launched its first fully**

digital budget document, designed to be accessible to people with disabilities and easier to translate, search and navigate. Moving from a print-centered publication also **reduced printing costs and supported the city's sustainability goals**.

Residents gained another tool for following city priorities through **new online dashboards for the Rockville 2040 Comprehensive Plan**. The dashboards allow the public to track the implementation status of every action in the plan. Visit rockvillemd.gov/resultsrockville for that and other progress dashboards.

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EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT SERVICE DELIVERY

MAKING CITY PROCESSES FASTER AND EASIER

The city **completed 16 of 33 action items in its initiative to make development review and permitting faster, more accountable, smarter and more transparent** (aka, FAST). A new express permit program also allows certain small permits to be issued the same day.

The city moved **fire and building code modification and fire safety license applications** for fireworks, family daycare, nursing centers and group homes into its **online application system**.

The Inspection Services Division issued **1,536 building and trade permits** and completed **10,635 building and trade inspections** during the fiscal year.

The Department of Information Technology created a **bulk residency address checker** to replace manual entry and verification of individual addresses for nonprofit grant programs. The tool improves accuracy and allows nonprofit partners and city staff to spend less time on administrative work and more time delivering critical services.

Other new digital tools included an **apartment rental license map and a centralized certificate of insurance system**. The insurance system provides automated notifications and a searchable record of active certificates, helping reduce duplicate submissions and streamlining vendor onboarding.

The city also completed more than half of its Fiscal Year 2025-2027 **Procurement Strategic Plan, with improvements focused on consistent processes, customer service and more effective use of procurement systems**.

STRENGTHENING TECHNOLOGY AND CONTINUITY

The city **increased the reliability of essential communications** by adding backup capability to the utility billing call queue, increasing redundancy in the city's phone system and moving phone circuits at City Hall, Elwood Smith Community Center and the Rockville Senior Center to fiber.

The Department of Information Technology **maintained and tested plans for incident response, business continuity and disaster recovery**, and deployed advanced domain-name system security controls to identify and block online threats.

City employees conducted **6,678 hybrid and virtual meetings totaling 316,934 minutes** with support from the IT department.

The Department of Public Works **installed telematics equipment** on more than 50 operations and maintenance vehicles, including snowplows and leaf-collection vehicles. The city also piloted a public-facing map that allowed users to **view snow vehicle locations on city streets in real time**.

IT **donated 55 laptops for community use**: 33 to the Rockville Science

Center and 22 to the city's Latino Youth Development Program.

INVESTING IN COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

The city **distributed \$1.79 million in grant funding**, supporting community organizations. In FY26, the city managed 40 grant projects — 48 in Fiscal Year 2027 — spanning healthcare, food, housing and arts and culture.

The second annual **City of Rockville Nonprofit Symposium**, co-hosted with Nonprofit Montgomery, drew 122 attendees representing 72 organizations. The event connected nonprofit leaders with funding organizations, city staff and other community partners.

The city established its first **collective impact manager position to coordinate grants, partnerships and cross-sector initiatives** around shared priorities, including housing stability, access to community services, youth and family success, and economic mobility.

The city **relaunched the Bank On Rockville coalition**, bringing together government agencies, financial institutions, schools, nonprofits and community organizations to expand access to financial education and services.

Additional funding increased the city's **annual Career Catchers contract from \$8,000 to \$13,000**. Six residents used the employment service, five of whom found work and one of whom earned a promotion.

Recreation and Parks secured **\$270,313 in grants**, including a \$26,813 Maryland State Arts Council grant supporting programs for the Rockville Civic Ballet, Rockville Concert Band, Rockville Chorus and Glenview Mansion Art Gallery.

SUPPORTING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

The city's **Holiday Drive served 629 families in November and 454 families, including 1,135 children, in December**. A record 236 volunteers supported the drive. The December event was redesigned as a toy-shop experience, allowing participating family members to select gifts and books for their children.

The city **doubled its Linkages to Learning Edutainment programming**. One after-school arts program offered twice a week in Fiscal Year 2025 grew to two programs offered four days a week in FY26. Capacity in Linkages to Learning and RockKidz Mentoring after-school and summer programs increased by more than 30%.

Participants in the **Latino Youth Development Program completed more than 200 student service-learning hours** through volunteering, and took part in college visits and other enrichment activities. **All eight participating high school seniors graduated**. The program's high school soccer team also won its league championship in consecutive fall and spring seasons.

RECREATION, CULTURE AND COMMUNITY LIFE



Recreation and Parks recorded **203,465 participants in programs and events** (a figure that excludes participation at the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center). The city's recreation facilities recorded 674,494 visits and:

- 40,907 class registrations.
- 4,355 camp registrations.
- 9,211 sports registrations.
- 4,914 teen and outdoor adventure registrations.
- 1,844 volunteers contributing 64,727 hours.

Major community events included:

- 20,000 attendees at the Independence Day celebration.
- 13,000 attendees at the Antique and Classic Car Show.
- 10,000 attendees at Hometown Holidays

and Memorial Day activities.

- 7,500 attendees at Rocktoberfest.
- 1,470 registrants for the 50th Rockville 10K/5K, the race's largest field.

Recreation facility visits included:

- 440,364 at the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center.
- 101,000 at the Rockville Senior Center.
- 43,375 at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre and social hall.
- 37,642 at Twinbrook Community Recreation Center.
- 29,859 at Croydon Creek Nature Center.

SERVING ROCKVILLE'S OLDER ADULTS

The **Rockville Senior Center offered 920 programs and reported 1,962 center members and 1,073 fitness members**. Personal training increased 46%, with 3,500 sessions booked during the fiscal year.

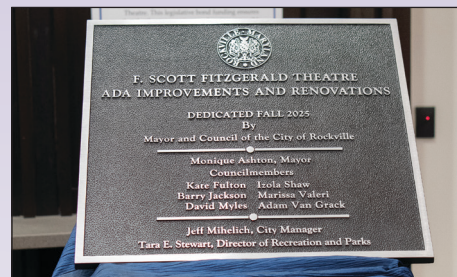
The center **served 17,019 hot and cold lunches**. Rockville Villages **held 350 gatherings, meetings and events, recording attendance of 5,700**, helping older adults stay connected to their neighbors and community.



STEWARDSHIP OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Fifty-six percent of Climate Action Plan actions and 35% of Electric Vehicle Readiness Plan actions have been completed or incorporated into ongoing operations. Rockville's net greenhouse gas emissions decreased 34% from 2005-2023, compared with 20% across the Washington metropolitan area.

EXPANDING CLEAN ENERGY



The city **completed design of its first rooftop solar project at Lincoln Park Community Center**.

Rockville introduced **SolarAPP+, an expedited permitting option for eligible residential solar projects**, to help reduce the time needed for review.

1,573: light-emitting diode retrofits at Thomas Farm Community Center, Croydon Creek Nature Center, F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre, the police station and Rothgeb Maintenance Facility.

Eight low-emission vehicles were added to the municipal fleet, bringing the city's total to 25 battery-electric vehicles, two plug-in hybrids and eight hybrids.



Four Level 2 charging ports were installed at the Recreation Services Building, and five fleet and public charging ports were designed for the Taft Center.

The city **strengthened green building requirements and incorporated climate, energy and electric-vehicle considerations** into land-use and development regulations. Amendments to the Forest and Tree Preservation Ordinance strengthened reforestation and tree replacement requirements, public notification, and protections for priority retention areas.

PREPARING FOR FLOODING AND SEVERE WEATHER

The city **completed the first phase of modeling and community engagement for its Flood Resiliency Master Plan**.

Through the **Flood Mitigation Assistance Program**, the city **supported improvements at six private properties**, including basement

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STEWARDSHIP OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

waterproofing, drainage and grading work, a flood wall, and a custom window well.

The city completed **303 inspections of public and private stormwater management facilities** and **716 sediment and erosion-control inspections**.

During 16 stream cleanups, 238 volunteers removed **143 bags of litter**. The city held 35 Weed Warrior workdays, engaging 398 volunteers in removing non-native invasive plants, and distributed 400 native trees.

INVESTING IN WATER AND SEWER SYSTEMS

The city completed a **Water Treatment Plant Facility Master Plan**, regulatory compliance report and related feasibility studies.

Design was completed for **5.3 miles of water main rehabilitation** and the city awarded a multiyear construction contract for the work. Both **city water tanks were inspected** and **two rounds of customer surveys** were completed to support the city's **lead service line inventory**.

The city replaced **chemical feed systems for fluoride, phosphate and potassium permanganate** at the water treatment plant, and completed safety improvements.

The Department of Public Works repaired **62 water main breaks** and resolved **52 sanitary sewer backups**.

MAINTAINING STREETS, SIDEWALKS AND BRIDGES



The city completed **22.5 lane miles of asphalt rehabilitation and constructed sidewalks** on Potomac Valley Road, Gail Avenue, Crawford Drive, Brooke Court and Welsh Park Drive.

Design and assessment work advanced several future projects, including:

- Traffic signal upgrades at seven intersections.
- Sidewalks on Nelson and Charles streets, and Carr Avenue.
- Safe Streets and Roads for All intersection studies.
- Repairs to the West Gude Drive bridge.
- Assessments of 45 pedestrian bridges.
- Large-diameter storm drain assessments.
- Improvements at three stormwater management facilities.



REDUCING WASTE

The city collected **17,322 tons of material** from 14,411 customers, including **3,897 tons of recycling** and **2,881 tons of yard waste**.

A **fourth food-scrap composting drop-off site** opened at Potomac Woods Park. Together, the four city sites collected 231 tons of food scraps for composting.

CARING FOR PARKS AND PUBLIC SPACES

Recreation and Parks **pruned more than 3,780 street trees** in Lincoln Park, Maryvale, East Rockville, Burgundy Knolls and Rockville Town Center. Crews removed **393 trees, ground 316 stumps and planted 519 trees**.



The city planted **30,000 flowering annuals, 45,000 bulbs and 388 perennials**, and removed non-native invasive plants at 15 locations.

Major recreation facility improvements included:

- Renovation and accessibility improvements at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre.
- Renovation and reconfiguration of Lincoln Park Community Center.



- An inclusive playground at Falls Grove Park.
- A replacement playground at Horizon Hill Park.
- Renovation of Welsh Park baseball field No. 2.
- Accessible restroom improvements at Twinbrook Community Recreation Center.
- Playground safety-surface work at Calvin Park and Twinbrook Community Recreation Center.

The Falls Grove Park playground was developed through three meetings with neighborhood residents. Its features include accessible swings and surfacing, sensory and musical elements, a communication board, and shaded areas.



AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

The Government Finance Officers Association presented the Department of Finance with the **Distinguished Budget Presentation Award** for the FY26 Operating Budget and Capital Improvements Program. Finance received the **Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting** for the FY25 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report and the **Popular Annual Financial Reporting Award** for the FY25 Popular Annual Financial Report.

Rockville was named a **2026 National Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management** finalist for its programs and services. The Maryland Municipal League presented the department a **2026 Award for Diversity**,

Equity and Inclusion for the work of its Access Team.

The Maryland chapter of the American Planning Association **recognized the Town Center Master Plan** for innovation and impact in planning.

The Maryland Department of the Environment presented the water treatment plant with a **2024 Annual Area-Wide Optimization Program Silver Award** for work to optimize clarifier and filter performance.

Rockville received its **37th Tree City USA Award**.

The Rockville Senior Center received the **Maryland Association of Senior Centers' 2026 Program of Excellence** award for

Next Step Fitness Beyond Rehab, which helps participants transition from physical therapy to independent exercise.

The Rockville Swim and Fitness Center was recognized as an **American Red Cross Top Training Provider** and a **USA Swimming Silver Medal Club**.

Senior center manager Terri Hilton and program access supervisor Sharon Norcio received the Maryland Recreation and Parks Association's **2026 Committee of the Year** award for their work on the ADA Summit, an all-day training focused on programs and access for people with disabilities.

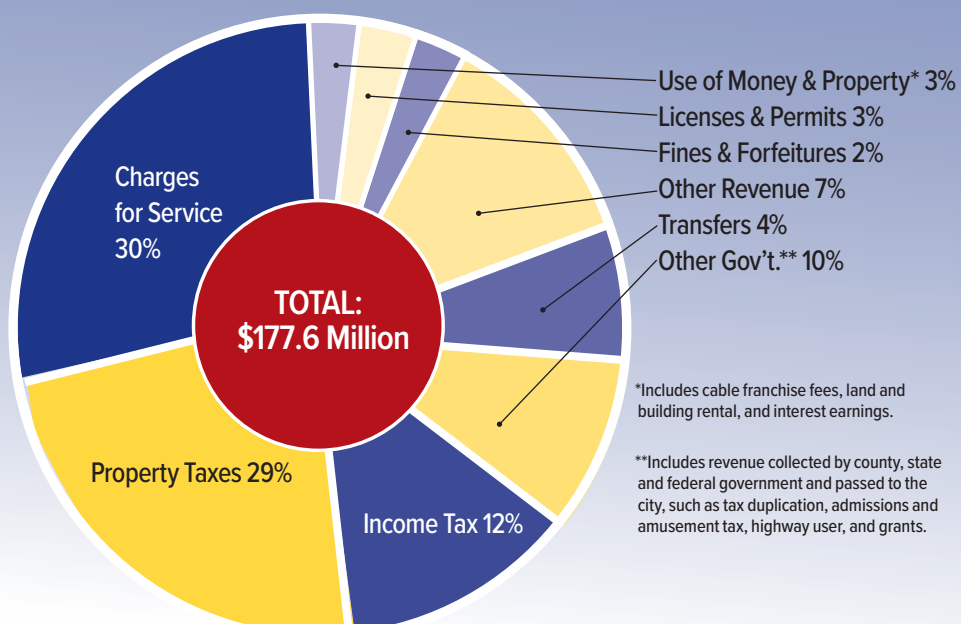
Norcio received the **Outstanding Recognition Award** from the association's

Therapeutic Recreation Branch for significant long-range contributions and exemplary service to therapeutic recreation.

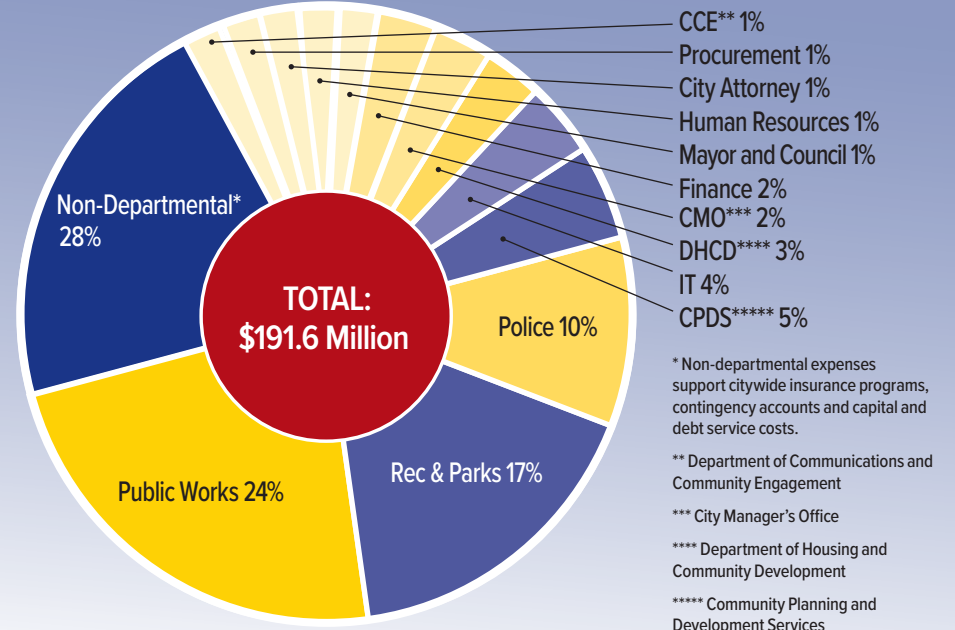
Senior center supervisor Sheryl Roff was inducted **as secretary of the Maryland Recreation and Parks Association's 2026-2027 executive board**.

The Latino Youth Development Program's high school SAM's Select Soccer Team **won league championships in fall 2025 and spring 2026**, the program's first championships since 2017. The team also **received a Fair Play Please sportsmanship award** based on votes from opposing coaches and observations by league management.

FY 2026 OPERATING REVENUES BY CATEGORY



FY 2026 EXPENDITURES BY DEPARTMENT



Expenditures may exceed revenues in a year for a range of reasons, including planned uses of reserves and capital outlays.