

History

Revitalization to Downtown Holland

The late 80's and early 90's brought a revitalization to the City of Holland. Downtown Holland business owners rallied together with the City of Holland and Holland Board of Public Works to develop a plan that focused on parking, pedestrian friendly streets and new utilities.

Holland native and Prince Corporation founder, Edgar D. Prince, approached the city about an idea he had discovered in Europe - a snowmelt system for the streets and sidewalks of downtown Holland. The idea was bold, as it had been only used in smaller applications with boilers for building entrances. Throughout the years, the snowmelt footprint and capacity has been expanded to meet growing needs. The City of Holland, MI now has over 1,050,000 sq. ft. of snowmelt.

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10/26

Snowmelt System

City of Holland, MI





How it works

Holland's city-owned snowmelt system is the largest publicly owned municipal snowmelt system in North America, keeping downtown streets and sidewalks ice-free all winter.

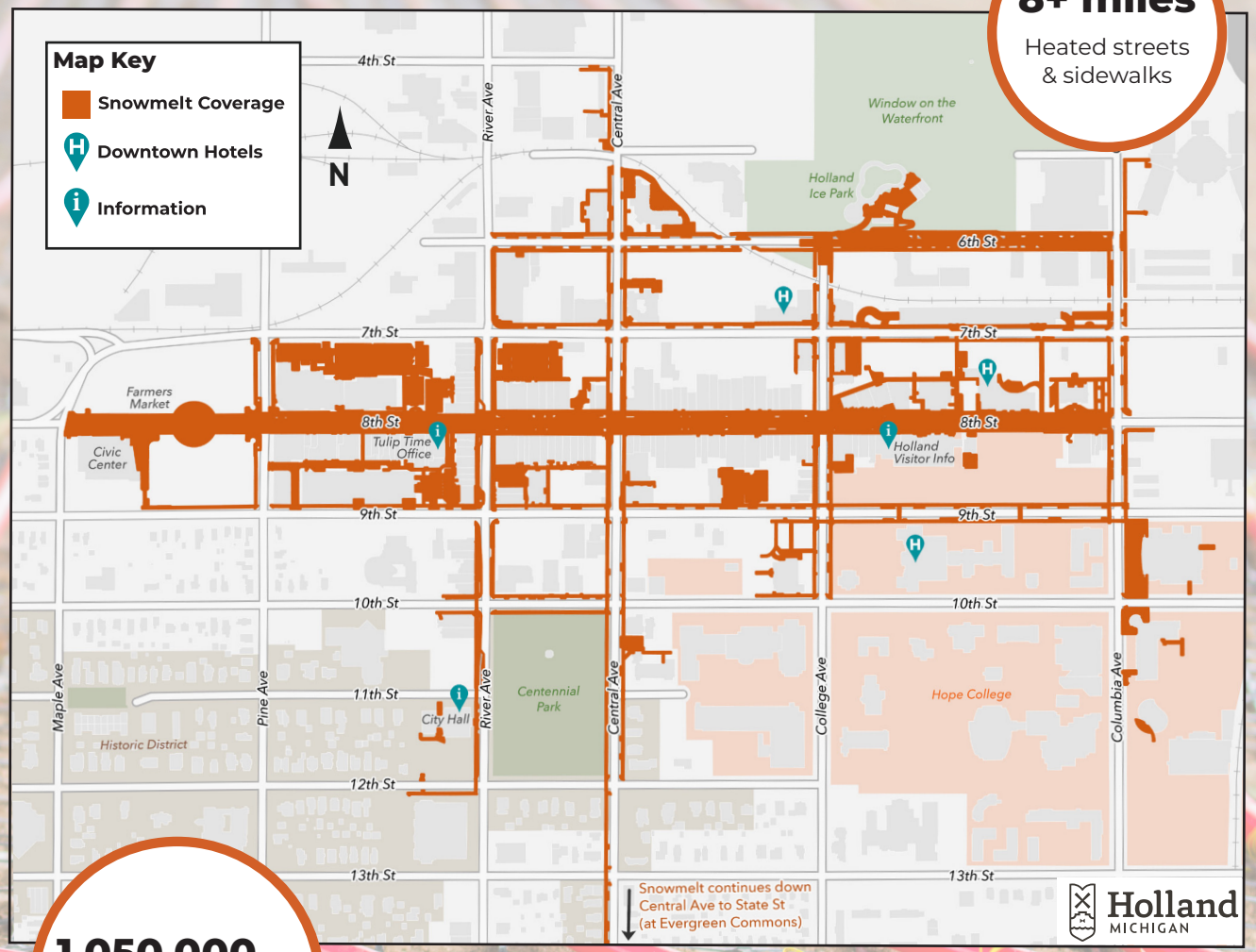
The system works by recycling waste heat from Holland Energy Park, the power plant operated by Holland Board of Public Works, our local municipal utility. As the power plant generates electricity, it produces waste heat that is captured to warm water up to 95°F (35°C).

This heated water is pumped through a massive network of over 400 miles of plastic tubing buried underneath the downtown sidewalks and streets. The radiating heat melts up to 1 inch of snow per hour, even in temperatures of 20°F (-6.6°C) and 10 mph winds.

Once the water circulates and cools down, it returns to the energy park to be reheated and reused. This sustainable loop eliminates the need for salt and plows, protecting the environment while ensuring safe, walkable streets year-round.

Snowmelt System

8+ miles
Heated streets & sidewalks



1,050,000 sq. ft.
Heated streets & sidewalks